

ADMIRER MAESTRO

The Cegliesi Italo American Association will honor an acclaimed conductor at its 44th annual dinner dance on Oct. 21 at Alta Villa Banquets in Addison.

Maestro Raffaele Cardone was born in Ceglie del Campo, Puglia, in 1934. A child soloist in churches and the cathedral in Bari, he studied operatic repertoire and classical music with distinguished vocalists and conductors in Italy and abroad.



Cardone

He enjoyed a successful international singing career before moving to Florida in the mid-1980s when he launched a second career as

a voice teacher, opera coach, stage director and clinician.

He founded the Miami Lyric Opera in 2003 to provide local artists with performing opportunities. Beginning with just a few singers and a piano, the MLO now delivers fully staged operas. The 2018 season included performances of Giacomo Puccini's "La bohème" and Georges Bizet's "Carmen."

He was recently honored by the President of the Republic with the title of Ufficiale Dell'Ordine Della Stella D'Italia for his cultural contribution to the arts and for the promotion of friendship and good relations between Italy and foreign countries. For the rest of the story, turn to page 68.



Allen

LOYOLA LOYALIST

Gemma B. Allen of the family law firm Allen & Glassman received Loyola University Chicago's 2018 Felice Award from the school's John Felice Rome Center at Loyola's annual Founders' Dinner. Named after the Rome Center's founding director, the award is among the highest honors given by the university.

Allen received her bachelor's degree magna cum laude in 1966 from Loyola and was a student at the Rome Center. Allen's "commitment to the field of family law and her active participation on multiple councils and boards" were among the reasons noted by University President Jo Ann Rooney in her letter informing Allen of the award.

Allen notes that "her family heart and roots are with Loyola," where her father, Dr. Frank Cassaretto, was a renowned professor. She has served on the Rome Center's Alumni Board almost since its inception, and currently serves on the Center's Director's Council.

LABOR LEADER

The Italian American Labor Council of Greater Chicago will honor Ralph Affrunti on Oct. 13 at Alta Villa Banquets in Addison.

"Ralph is a rising star in the labor movement, establishing himself as a leader every step of the way," says IALC President Anthony Guida. "We're proud to present him with this year's Man of the Year Award."

Affrunti was elected president of the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council in February 2016. He started his apprenticeship in the Terrazzo Trade in the fall of 1989 with the Carpenters International Union.

In 2012, Affrunti was elected secretary-treasurer of the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council, and in 2016 he was elected president of the council, which represents 24 trades unions and 100,000 members.

Affrunti sits on the board of Chicago's Infrastructure Trust Fund in the labor advisory position. He is co-chair of the Labor Advisory Board of Amalgamated Bank, a director on the Italian American Labor Council and an advisory board member for Choose Chicago Labor and the Bank of Labor.

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Affrunti

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