



Natalino Arrigoni, the oldest child of Eugenio and Giovanna (Lina) (nee Rapacioli) was born in New York City in 1934. At the age of five, his mother Lina took him and his sister Rita to San Michele di Morfasso, Italy. The plan was for Natalino and Rita to spend two years with his maternal grandparents so that they would learn Italian. Unfortunately, World War II happened so they were not able to return to the United States as planned.

In July 1942, they received a telegram that his father had passed away in the United States. After the war ended, his heartbroken mother returned to San Michele to reunite with Natalino and Rita. In the meantime, a childhood sweetheart, Giovanni (Nino) Negrotti, who had emigrated to Argentina, heard that Lina was a widow and returned to San Michele to convince her to marry him. Lina, Natalino and Rita returned to New York City where Lina married Nino. In 1949, the family moved to Argentina where many of Nino's family had settled.

In Argentina, Natalino studied agriculture at the university. He became disenchanted with the Peron politics and decided to move to New York City in 1958. He left his mother and stepfather behind in Argentina, as well as his sister Rita. Rita went on to become a Dominican nun (Sister Irene Ines) who dedicated her life as a Principal for over 50 years and at the direction of Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (now known as Pope Francis) serving the poor.

In New York City, Natalino lived with his Aunts Adele Magnani and Gina Schiavi. He worked in construction but worked weekends as a dishwasher at the Laurent Restaurant to earn extra money. He soon worked full time at the Laurent in various roles eventually becoming an owner with his childhood friend Jimmy Rapacioli. As owner, Natalino was responsible for buying all the food for the restaurant. He would leave the house at 3 a.m. to go to the Fulton Fish market, Hunts Point food market, and flower market. After he left the restaurant in 1991, he worked with his son and son-in-law until he happily retired in 2009.

In 1959, Natalino's friend Remo Prati introduced him to his sister Anna. Anna and Natalino married on October 7, 1961. In 1965, they settled in Pelham Bay, in the Bronx where they still live today. They have two children, Rita (now married to Philippe Flory) and Eugene, and five grandchildren: Stephanie and Marc Flory and Michael, Christopher and Jessica Arrigoni.

Although born in the United States, Natalino's heart is in San Michele. He has spent the last 22 summers there. He enjoys visiting his childhood friends and relatives that still live there, not to mention playing briscola while enjoying a nice glass of Lambrusco, good coppa and formaggio. Everyone has learned to never interrupt him while he watches a soccer game – especially if it is a Juventus match.

As a member of the Societa Val Trebbia e Val Nure, Natalino served as a Dance Chairman for many years and collected ads in NY and Italy for the Scholarship journal. In 2006, he received an award from I Piacentini Nel Mondo and received an award from the Communita Montana Valli del Nure e dell'Arda. He wishes to see the continued success of the Societa and has help ushered in the next generation of members: his daughter Rita, his son-in-law Philippe and his grandson Marc (the Societa's webmaster). Natalino wishes to thank all the members who have had an influence on his life and very much thanks the Societa for recognizing him with this award.