

Urso-Biondo



My name is Pauline Ann Urso, I am the daughter of Mario and Josephine Urso. My father was born in Altavilla Milicia (Sicily) on September 1st, 1939. My mother Josephine Biondo was born in Santa Ninfa, Trapani (Sicily) on November 25th, 1943. My father came to America in July of 1955 then flew from New York to Chicago. My grandfather Giuseppe Urso passed away in Sicily in 1943 so my grandmother Apollonia (3/10/1910-1/24/2005) (Viso) Urso came as a single parent not speaking any English. Along with my father came his older brother Loui and younger sister Patrina. His older siblings Vince and Sarah were both married so they stayed in Sicily with their families and came at a later date. My mother came to New York on the Olympia in May of 1955. My grandparents Antonio (2/27/1904-7/10/1988) and Antonia (2/2/1909-4/1/1988) (Bonura) Biondo traveled with their three daughters Florence, Josephine (my mother) and Joanne. My Uncle Vito stayed in Sicily until Florence went back two years later with a friend Adriane. My uncle Vito married Adriane Ciulla and aunt Florence married Rosario Baldassone in a double wedding and eventually came back to America.

My parents met through friends and were married on September 19th, 1964. My father worked in a factory as a die setter and my mother became a beautician. I was born on September 12th, 1965 and I was named after my two grandmothers, Pauline for Apollonia and Ann for Antonia. My brother was born on August 23rd, 1978 and he was named Joseph after my grandfather Giuseppe. On September 22nd, 2007 my brother married Angela Kim and on February 11th, 2013 they gave birth to my beautiful niece Amelia Antonina Urso.

I moved to Rockford in December of 1989 where I started my teaching career in elementary education. I became active in the dance community of Rockford and have taught, danced and/or choreographed for many of the areas performance groups and high schools. This includes Rockford Dance Company, Rock Valley College Studio and Starlight Theater, New American Theater, Children's Theater Project and many more. One of my greatest joys is dancing with Amici Italiani Dance Troupe and co-directing the Amici Italiani Youth Troupe. In October 2012 the Amici Dance Troupes were inducted into the Rockford Italian American Hall of Fame through the Greater Rockford Italian American Association.

Submitted on July 15th, 2013 by Pauline Urso for the Genealogy Project-Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA-"Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families".