

AITHA

*Advocacy & Activism
Italian Heritage and Cultural Change*

*43rd Annual Conference
of the
American Italian Historical Association*



November 11-13, 2010

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
(Queens College, CUNY)
New York University

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 11 November 2010

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò
24 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10011
New York University

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

2:00 – 4:00

WELCOME

Dr. Stefano Albertini, Director
CASA ITALIANA ZERILLI-MARIMÒ

Professor Ruth Ben-Ghiat, Chair
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN STUDIES, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean
JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE/CUNY

Josephine Gattuso Hendin, Professor of English &
Tiro A Segno Professor of Italian American Studies
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN ITALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Adriana Trigiani

*Don't Sing At the Table:
Adriana Trigiani Talks Family, Books, and More*

5:30–6:45 PM • Auditorium

Reception 7:00-8:30 PM

Friday and Saturday sessions will take place at

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College, CUNY
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10036
212.642.2094

FRIDAY, 12 November 2010
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College, CUNY
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10036
212.642.2094

9:00-9:30AM Coffee & Registration

9:30-10:45AM

Dr. Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York Univ., President AIHA
Dr. Anthony Julian Tamburri Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Gerald J. Meyer
Hostos Community College, CUNY

**“Fiorello La Guardia (1882-1947), Leonard Covello (1887-1982),
and Vito Marcantonio (1902-1954):
Collaborators for Progress”**

Conference Room

11:00AM-12:15PM

A. Faith, Education, and Protest:

Means to Ends in the Practice of three Advocates for Equity

Organizer and Chair: Dennis Barone, St. Joseph College.

Conference Room

Dennis Barone, “By Twos and by Threes: The Italian Baptist Church
Mission at Monson, Massachusetts”;

Erica Moretti, Brown University, “Investigating Maria Montessori’s Early
Years of Activism”;

JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois/Chicago, “Can’t Fight City Hall:
Florence Scala and the Holy Guardian Angel Church”;

Maria Palandra, Italian American Committee on Education, “A Study of
Italian American School Superintendents.”

B. Writers Read

Organizer and Chair: **Joseph Ricapito**, Louisiana State University

Classroom

Joseph Ricapito, Louisiana State Univ.;

Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg University;

George Guida, New York City College of Technology/ CUNY,

“Readings from *The Pope Stories and Other Tales of Troubled Times*”;

Annie Lanzillotto, Author, Performance Artist, Songwriter: Poetry from her unpublished book, *Schist*, and debut rock album, *Blue Pill*.

C. Italian Perspectives

Organizer and Chair: Dominic Candeloro, Curator, Casa Italia Library (Chicago, IL).

Galleria

Cale LaSalata, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “*Il Risorgimento: Naples, Napoleon and the rise of the Liberal Left*”;

Mario Toglia, “*Discovering, Preserving and Celebrating our Heritage: The Rewarding Experience of one Italian American Community*”;

Meo Carbone, Artist, Rome, “*The Dream: per non dimenticare: A video presenting Italian emigration to the USA to contemporary Italians*”;

Gina M. Di Liegro, Director, International Msgr. Luigi Di Liegro (social welfare) Foundation, “*Italian Heritage and Cultural Change: Contemporary In-migration to Italy.*”

12:15-1:30PM *Lunch on your own*

1:30-2:45PM

A. Varieties of Memoir

Organizer and Chair: Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, SUNY Purchase

Conference Room

Rosette Caportoro, poet and writer and **Sophia Caportorto-Weiss**, filmmaker and student, Sarah Lawrence College, “*A Mother/Daughter Dialogue about Connections between Documentary History and Memoir: Sophia Capotorto-Weiss’s 10 minute documentary, Old Hoboken*”;

Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, “*Satan, The Holy, and a Fart in a Mitten: A Memoir of Italian Heritage, Religious Movements and Identity*”;

Maria Giura, Montclair State University, “*The Long Loneliness.*”

B. Three Psychologists Address Gender Role Relationships in Italian America and Italy.

Organizer and Chair: Elizabeth G. Messina, Lenox Hill Hospital, Dept. of Psychiatry.

Conference Room

Elizabeth G. Messina, “*A Cross National Survey of Attitudes towards Egalitarianism in Gender Roles Among Italian and Italian American Men and Women*”;

Harold Takooshian, Fordham University, "Feminism Among Italian American Women";
Respondent: **Edward Robins**, private practice.

C. The Construction of Identity Through Writing:

Italian Americans and the Way We Write Our Way toward Definition

Organizer and Chair: Joanna Clapps Herman, Manhattanville College.

Galleria

Joanna Clapps Herman, "Building an Italian Writer: Or How to Build a *Ciacchierona Professionista*";

George Guida, New York City College of Technology / CUNY, "Diane Di Prima's Cosmic Joke";

Jean Feraca, Wisconsin Public Radio, "*The Dream Book: A Gift to All Italian American Women Writers.*"

3:00-4:15PM

A. Pop Goes the Culture

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Dawn Esposito.

Conference Room

Mark Rotella, *Publishers Weekly*, "The Songs of Assimilation: *Amore: The Story of Italian American Song*";

Michele Fazio, University of North Carolina, Pembroke, "Red Wine: Teaching Italian American Radicalism Through Folk Music";

Simone Cinotto, University of Pollenzo, "Italian Americans and The Politics of Consumption";

Lawrence Baldassarro, University of Wisconsin, "A. Bartlett Giamatti: Immigrants, Baseball, and American Identity."

B. *Such Is Life/Ma la vita e' fatta cosi: A Memoir by Leonilde Frieri Ruberto*

Organizer and Chair: **Laura E. Ruberto**, Berkeley City College.

Classroom

Edvige Giunta New Jersey City University; **Lucia Grillo**, Calandra Institute; **Ilaria Serra**, Florida Atlantic University.

C. "I Take People to the Bronx, Brooklyn... Harlem":

Italian American Identity in Don DeLillo & Martin Scorsese

Organizer and Chair: Alan J. Gravano, Xavier University of Louisiana

Galleria

Paul Giaimo, Highland Community College, "The Evolution of Don DeLillo's Italian Americans";

Mike Dell'Aquila, Brooklyn College, "Empire in Translations: Examining the Historical Imagination of Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*";

Alan J. Gravano, Xavier University of Louisiana, "New York City as Place in the Works of Don DeLillo and Martin Scorsese."

4:30-5:45PM

A. Constraint and Inspiration:

Feminist Advocacy and Activism in the Memoirs of Italian American Women Authors

Organizer and Chair: Daniela Gioseffi.

Classroom

Daniela Gioseffi, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Rachel Guido de Vries.

B. Re-Gendering Ethnicity

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Dawn Esposito.

Conference Room

- Bénédicte Deschamps**, Université Paris 7, Paris Diderot Institut Charles V, "Where she used to be a servant, let her now be a partner": Arturo Giovannitti and the 'woman question'";
- Fran Claro**, "The Nonnas of Brooklyn and their Recipes (1947)";
- Blossom S. Kirschenbaum**, Brown University (Retired), "All Fall Down: Mary Caponegro's New Fiction."

C. From Italy to America and Back

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Fred Gardaphé, Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY

Galleria

- Samuele F. S. Pardini**, Elon University, "New World, Old Woman. Emanuele Crialesse's film, *Golden Door*";
- Marilyn Ann Verna**, St. Francis College, "The Misteri Pageant of Campobasso";
- Chiara Mazzucchelli**, University of Central Florida, "When Their Children Go Back: Nat Scammacca and the *Antigruppo Siciliano*."

6:00-7:15PM

BUSINESS MEETING

Conference Room

SATURDAY, 13 November 2010
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

9:00-9:30AM Coffee and Registration

9:30-10:45AM

A. Reassessing the Work of Diane DiPrima

Organizer and Chair: Maria Mazziotti Gillan, SUNY Binghamton.

Conference Room

Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island, "Diane di Prima's Poetry in a Global-Digital Age";

Rachel Guido deVries, Independent Scholar/Writer. "*Loba* di Prima's Feminist Epic Poem in Context";

Daniela Gioseffi, Independent Scholar/Writer, "Pioneer Woman Poet of Italian American Heritage: An Inspirational Force of the 1970's Feminist Movement";

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, SUNY Binghamton, "Diane di Prima's Self-Representation in *Recollections of my Life as woman.*"

B. Italian and Italian-American Book:

Where Literature and Experience Intersect

Organized by AIHA; Chair: James Periconi, Esq. Independent Scholar.

Galleria

Alexandra de Luise. Queens College/CUNY, "Italian Immigrant Reads: Evidence of Reading for Learning and Reading for Pleasure: 1890s-1920s";

Daniel Walden, Penn State University, "Where Are the Italian American Novels? Again";

James Periconi, Esq. Independent Scholar, "Finding New Keys to Understanding Italian America Through The Recovery of Lost Italian Language Texts: The Pre-World War II Italian-Language Book Industry in America."

C. Building an Interethnic Community through the Pedagogy of Memoir Workshops

Organizer and Chair: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University.

Classroom

Melida Rodas, "Semana Santa";

David Sansevere, The New School, "Sam";

Jessica Witte, New Jersey City University, "Venison Stew";

Krystal Sital, Hunter College, "Mala";

Respondent, **Kathleen Zamboni McCormick**, SUNY, Purchase.

11:00 AM-12:15PM

A. Images of the Old Country from the New World:

Problems and Purposes in Writing about Italy

Organizer and Chair: Fred Misurella East Stroudsburg University.

Galleria

Mary Giaimo, La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi, NYC; **Franco D'Alessandro**; **Fred Misurella**, East Stroudsburg University; **Dennis Barone**, St. Joseph College.

B. Ethnicity of Place

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Joseph Sciorra, Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY

Galleria

Judy Bessette, Independent Scholar. Presentation of DVD: *Textiles and Immigration History: The Italians of Lymansville, RI*;
Michael L. Mullan, Swarthmore College, "The Civic Life of Abruzzi Transferred to Philadelphia: The Italian American Voluntary Association, 1890-1924."

C. Roundtable on Membership Development

Organizer: John Paul Russo, University of Miami.

Co-Chairs: George Guida, New York City College of Technology/CUNY and John Paul Russo.

Classroom

Alan Gravano, Xavier University of Louisiana; **Josephine Gattuso Hendin**, New York University; **Laura Ruberto**, Berkeley City College, **Anthony Julian Tamburri**. Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY.

12:15-1:30PM **AIHA Banquet Lunch**; reservations required

1:30-2:45PM

A. Voluntary Ethnicity in Memoir: How Italian Are You?

Organizer: Carrie Anne Tocci, Fordham University

Chair: Ned Balbo, Loyola University, Maryland.

Galleria

Carrie Anne Tocci, Fordham University, "Real Mothers, Real Motherhood";
Nikki Toler, University of Rhode Island, "Namesake";
Gigi Maniscalchi Edwards, University of Rhode Island, "I Used to Be Italian."

B. Louise DeSalvo: The Art of Memoir and Italian American Identity

Organizer and Chair: Nancy Caronia, University of Rhode Island.

Classroom

Jeana DelRosso, College of Notre Dame of Maryland, "Catholic Memoir and Imaginings: Louise DeSalvo's *Vertigo*";
Lia Ottavino, Hunter College CUNY, "In the Classroom: Louise DeSalvo and Italian American Tradition";

Pamela Redmond Satran, Journalist, "Living, Thinking, Feeling, Writing Every Day: Louise DeSalvo's Blog About Writing."

C. A Round-Table Discussion of the Forthcoming Book:

Anti-Italianism: Essays on a Prejudice, William J. Connell & Fred Gardaphé, eds.

Organizer: William J. Connell, Seton Hall University;

Chair & Respondent: **Anthony Julian Tamburri**, Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY

Conference Room

Fred Gardaphé, Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY;

Susanna Tardi, William Paterson University;

Jerry Kruse, Brooklyn College/CUNY;

Elizabeth G. Messina, Lenox Hill Hospital, Department of Psychiatry.

3:00-4:15PM

A. Italian American Poets Read

Organizer and Chair: Alan J. Gravano, Xavier University of Louisiana.

Classroom

Ned Balbo, Loyola University, Maryland; **Gerard LaFemina**, Frostburg State University; **Peter Covino**, University of Rhode Island; **Alan J. Gravano**, Xavier University of Louisiana.

B. Italian Americana Presents Its Authors

Co-Chairs: Carol Bonomo Albright, University of Rhode Island and John Paul Russo, University of Miami.

Galleria

Carol Bonomo Albright, "Some Thoughts about Italian American Women from the Book *American Woman, Italian Style*";

Marc Fasanella, "Canvas Legacy of Ralph Fasanella";

John Paul Russo, University of Miami, "Nostalgia: Wanderings in Italy."

C. The Prose Memoirist as Satirist of Old World Ways:

Acceptance of Transition to the New World

Organizer and Chair: Geraldine Salvatorelli, Independent Memoir Writer, Stand-up Comic, Pianist, Member IWWG, WNBA.

Conference Room

Geraldine Salvatorelli, "The Myriad Ways I keep Trying to Get Out and My Annoying Family Keeps Pulling Me Back In!";

Annie Lanzillo, Writer & Performance Artist, "18 Rules of Eating";

Carl Capotorto, Actor, Playwright, Screen-writer, and Author, "Papa Can You Hear Me: Paladino, Cuomo & The Influence of the Father on Political & Personal Style"

4:30-5:45PM

A. Donne in Fuga: Stories of the Recent Wave of Migration from Italy

Organizer. Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University.

Chair: Laura Ruberto, Berkeley City College.

Galleria

Liliana Rosano, *America Oggi*, "Porta Uzeda";
Edvige Giunta, "Furriannu";
Tiziana Rinaldi Castro, Montclair State University, "Wings to Lose:
Flight to the Center of One's Own Otherness."

B. Art and Ethnicity

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Elizabeth G. Messina, Lenox Hill Hospital
Conference Room

Anthony D. Cavaluzzi, SUNY Adirondack, "Reconciling Immigration
and Emigration: The Writings of Joseph Stella";
Maria Protti, Independent Scholar, "Eat, Drink and Make Art: Papa
Coppa and the California Bohemian Movement";
Marc Fasanella, Stony Brook University, SUNY, "Ralph Fasanella: Artist
as Activist."

C. Representations of Home in Contemporary Italian-American Fiction

Organizer and Chair: Rita Ciresi, University of South Florida.

Classroom

Rita Ciresi, University of South Florida, "In the Bedroom: Where the
Baltimore Catechism meets the Kama Sutra";
Paola Corso, Western Connecticut State University, "Catina's Haircut: A
Novel in Stories";
Marisa Labozzetta, Independent Scholar / Writer. "In the Kitchen:
Turning up the Heat in *Stay With Me, Lella*."

6:00-7:15PM

A. Italy and the New World

Organized by AIHA; Chair: Daniela Gioseffi, ItalianAmericanWriters.com

Galleria

Daniela Gioseffi, ItalianAmericanWriters.com, "Italy and Italian Images as
Symbolic of Emotional Freedom in the Work of Emily Dickinson,
America's Most Iconic Poet";
Giuseppe Faustini, Skidmore College, "William De Rohan and the
American Participation in the Unification of Italy";
Rossana del Zio, Independent Scholar, "Either Brigands or Emigrants";
Fabio Pesaresi, University of Urbino, "Lorenzo Da Ponte: *Don Juan* in
New York (1805-1838)."

B. Italian Americans vs. Italian Americans:

When Politics Becomes an Intra-ethnic Matter

Organizer and Chair: Ottorino Cappelli, Visiting Scholar, Calandra Institute,
Queens College/CUNY

Conference Room

Ottorino Cappelli, Calandra Institute, Queens College/CUNY,
"Conquering New York, 2010: The Paladino-vs-Cuomo Race and the
Meaning of Italian-American Politics";
Jerry Kruse, Brooklyn College/CUNY, "Does Being Italian American
Matter in New York City Politics?";

Sal LaGumina, Nassau Community College, "The 1950 Impelliteri-Corsi-Pecora Mayoralty Race: A Classic Intra-ethnic Political Contest";
Stefano Luconi, University of Rome, Tor Vergata, "When East Harlem's Politics Was an Italian-American Matter: The Lanzetta-Marcantonio Congressional Races, 1934-1940";
Rodrigo Praino, University of Connecticut, "How Do Italian Americans Vote — and Does it Matter?"