

AITHA

Small Towns, Big Cities
The Urban Experience of Italian Americans

41st Annual Conference
of the
American Italian Historical Association



November 6-8, 2008

Southern Connecticut State University
New Haven, Connecticut

Program

Thursday, November 6

Registration

Adanti Student Center

Executive Council Meeting: 1:00–4:00 PM

Room 309

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 4:30–6:30 PM

Session 1A

Room 306

Writers Reading 1 - Tri-State Memoirs

Mary Donnarumma Sharnick, Beacon Falls, CT
Paul Giaimo, New Haven, CT
GiGi Edwards, New York, NY
Maria Giura, Brooklyn, NY
Rose De Angelis, East Harlem, NY
Marie Saccomando Coppola, Buffalo, NY
Florence Gatto, Long Island, NY

Session 1B

Room 326

Writers Reading 2 - Growing Up With Italian Mothers, Grandmothers and Godmothers

Ed Maruggi, Rochester Institute of Technology
Louise Calio, New York, NY
Fred Gardaphè, Queens College
Marisa Labozzetta, Northampton, MA
Al Tacconelli, Philadelphia, PA

Reception

7:00 PM • Location 308

Friday, November 7

Registration

Adanti Student Center

Continental Breakfast: 7:30–8:30 AM

Theater, P24 Plaza Level

Opening Ceremonies: 8:45–10:15 AM

Theater, P24 Plaza Level

Welcome: Mary Jo Bona, AIHA President, Stony Brook University

Keynote Address

“Figuring Out the Place of Little Italy: Down Mott Street and into the City”

Dr. William Boelhower

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:30–11:45 AM

Session 2A

Room 301

On View: Into the American Scene

Chair: Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Italian Americans in the Media: Familiar Images, New Directions”

Michael Parenti, Author and Scholar

“New Haven Reassessed: Robert A. Dahl and Italian Americans’ Political Assimilation between Ethnic Identity and Class Mobility”

Stefano Luconi, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

“The Columbus Day Parade in New York City: A New Form of Marketing or an Ethnic Festival?”

Marie-Christine Michaud, Université de Bretagne Sud

Session 2B

Room 306

New York State of Art

Chair: Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg University

“The Legacy of Piccirilli Sculpture in New York City”

Jerry Koffler and Eleanor Koffler

“An Italian-American Life in Documents: Joseph Rocchietti”

Raymond C. Niro, Simmons College

“The End of the Old World”

David Fasano, Blaze Productions

Session 2C

Room 309

Italian and Italian American Poets

Chair: George Guida, New York City College of Technology

“Travels in New York: Pasolini’s ‘Guerra civile’”

Anthony Cavaluzzi, Adirondack Community College

“An Analysis of Italian American Poets”

Lina Unali, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

“An Analysis of Italian American Poets”

Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

Session 2D**Room 326****Writers Reading 3 – Italian American Women Writing Across Disciplines**

Moderator: Carla Anne Simonini, University of Rhode Island, Feinstein Providence Campus

Mary Giaimo, New York, NY

Kathleen Ossip, New School

Carla Anne Simonini, University of Rhode Island, Feinstein Providence Campus

Carrie Anne Tocci, Georgia College and State University

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 12:00–1:15 PM**Session 3A****Room 306****Walking Spirits, Identity, and Religious Sensibilities**

Chair: Luisa Del Giudice, Los Angeles, CA

“Ephemeral Identities: Religious Festive Practices in Boston’s North End”

August Ferraiulo, Boston University

“Ethnography as Spiritual Practice”

Luisa Del Giudice, Los Angeles, CA

Session 3B**Room 301****Italian American Freedom of Speech**

Chair: B. Amore, Founder of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in VT

“Love and Death in Italian American Writing”

Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College

“The Impact of Exploring My Italian Identity on My Development as a Writer”

Gil Fagiani, Brooklyn, NY

“What I Have Learned from Being Vice President/Newsletter Editor of IAWA”

Vittoria Repetto, New York, NY

“Forming and Sustaining the First Gay and Lesbian Italian American Organization in New York City and the U.S.”

Ron Illardo, New York, NY

Session 3C**Room 326****Liminal Spaces: The City in Literature**

Chair: Yvonne Mattevi, CUNY Graduate Center

“DeLillo and the City: Imagining the Apocalypse”

Michele Fazio, Stony Brook University

“Southern Encounters in the City: Reconfiguring the South from the Liminal Space”

Evelyn Ferraro, Brown University

“Inferno on Earth: The Italian Immigrant’s Experience in New York City”

Yvonne Mattevi, CUNY Graduate Center

“‘Managing the Locals’: The Italian Foreign Office, Festivals, and Italian Identity in Vancouver, Canada, 1973-2000”

Stephen Fielding, University of Victoria

Session 3D

Room 309

Writers Reading 4 – Northeastly Writers

Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg, PA
Marisa Labozzetta, Northampton, MA
Joseph Ricapito, Louisiana State University

LUNCH: 1:15–2:45 PM (on your own)

Film Showing: 1:30 PM

Theater P24 Plaza Level

Documentary, “DisCanto Viene a Pittsburgh ”
Michael Di Lauro, Director. Academic Media Center-Robert Morris University

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 3:00–4:15 PM

Session 4A

Room 301

Legitimate and Illegitimate Work

Chair: Dawn Esposito, St. John’s University

“Drug Addiction, Violence, and Denial in an Italian American Neighborhood”

James Pasto, Boston University

“The Problem of Smuggling Aliens Has Become a Game Almost on Par with the Bootleg Industry”

Maddalena Marinari, University of Kansas

“The Work of Education: Italian American Women as Teachers in New York City 1908-1945”

Sarah DeMott, New York University

“Investigators, Social Workers, and Italian Migrant Women in United States Urban Settings”

Maddalena Tirabassi, Centro AltreItalie

Session 4B

Room 326

Multiple Tasks in a Transatlantic Mirror: The Italian American Man or Woman of Letters, A Panel Discussion

Chair: Fred Gardaphè, Queens College

Rita Ciresi, University of South Florida

Joseph Bathanti, Appalachian State University

Dennis Barone, St. Joseph College

Paola Corso, Western Connecticut State University

John Domini, Grinnell College

Session 4C

Room 306

Writers Reading 5 – Location and Dislocation in the Italian American Landscape

Moderator: Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Juxtaposition of Space and Stories”

Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

“Surprising Alternative Spaces”

Joanna Clapps Herman, Manhattanville College

“Boiler Room”

Annie Rachele Lanzillotto, New York, NY

“Basement Memories”

Maria Laurino, New York, NY

Session 4D**Room 308****Writers Reading 6 – Italian Americana Presents Its Authors**

Co-Moderators: Carol Bonomo Albright, editor-in-chief, *Italian Americana*
John Paul Russo, University of Miami

George Guida, New York City College of Technology

Raymond C. Niro, Simmons College

John Paul Russo, University of Miami

Salvatore Scibona, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown

Alan Gravano, University of New Orleans

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 4:30–5:45 PM**Session 5A****Room 309****Regional Connections**

Chair: Salvatore LaGumina, Nassau Community College

“The Impact of the Messina Earthquake on New York City’s Italian Americans”

Salvatore LaGumina, Nassau Community College

“Veneziani in Massachusetts: Migration from the Veneto to Central Massachusetts 1895-1910”

Teresa Fava Thomas, Fitchburg State College

“The Italian Immigrant Experience in California’s Central Valley: From the Farm to the City”

Teri Ann Bengiveno, Las Positas College

Session 5B**Room 308****Italian American Urban Landscapes Real and Imagined: A Panel**

Chair: Joseph J. Inguanti, Southern Connecticut State University

“Writings in Stone and Textile”

Christine Frances Zinni, SUNY Brockport

“Mapping Ethnicity and Change in Philadelphia’s Ninth Street Market”

Joan Saverino, Historical Society of Pennsylvania

“The Encounter with Manhattan in Italian American Poetry and Prose”

Vincenzo Pascale, Rutgers University

“From Hortus Conclusus to Garden of Earthly Delights: Garden Imagery in Immigration-Era *Biancheria di Letto*”

Joseph J. Inguanti, Southern Connecticut State University

Discussant: Luisa Del Giudice, Los Angeles, CA

Session 5C**Room 306****Literary Crossings in Italian American Literature**

Chair: Paolo A. Giordano, University of Central Florida

“History as Novel, the Novel as History”

Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg University

“Equally Iconic Books of Our Italian American Sociological History and Urban Life:

The Right Thing to Do and *The Fortunate Pilgrim*”

Daniela Gioseffi, Brooklyn, NY

“Spiritual seasonings [are] as necessary to a frail humanity as salt and pepper and garlic to insipid food’: Food and Faith in Mari Tomasi’s *Like Lesser Gods*”

Jennifer-Ann DiGregorio Kightlinger, Stony Brook University

Session 5D

Room 326

Writers Reading 7 – Four Philadelphia Poets

Moderator: Mary Ann Mannino, Philadelphia, PA

Rosemary Petracca Cappello, Philadelphia, PA

Mary Ann Mannino, Philadelphia, PA

Amy B. Barone, New York, NY

Al Tacconelli, Philadelphia, PA

Session 5E

Room 301

Revelations: Decoding the Silence of “inconvenient truths”

Chair: B. Amore, Founder of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in VT

“Crossing the Great Divide”

Jean Feraca, Wisconsin Public Radio

“Italian American Women in the Sweatshops of New Haven”

Anthony Riccio, Sterling Memorial Library

“Setting Out”

Peter Carravetta, Stony Brook University

“Passion and Aggression – Italian American Family Opera”

B. Amore, Founder of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in VT

“Snapshots in Conflict & Lust”

Vittoria Repetto, New York, NY

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 6:00–7:15 PM

Session 6A

Room 309

Quantifying the Experience: Italian American Political Visibility

Chair: Joseph Conforti, SUNY at Westbury

“Italian/American Studies and Political Science”

Ottorino Cappelli, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale” and Rodrigo Praino, University of Connecticut at Storrs

“Mathematical Model of the Italian Diaspora”

Vincenzo Milione, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Italian American Games of Chance: Magic Number and Mythic Dreams of Community”

Denise Scannell, New York City College of Technology

Discussant: Sal LaGumina, Nassau Community College

Session 6B

Room 326

Stoop, Sidewalk, Street: The City in the Work of Annie Lanzillotto

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey State University

Annie Lanzillotto, New York, NY

Respondents:

Mary Cappello, University of Rhode Island

John Gennari, University of Vermont

Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Session 6C

Room 306

Writers Reading 8 - Wild Dreams: The Best of *Italian Americana*

Moderator: Carol Bonomo Albright, editor-in-chief *Italian Americana*

Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island

Kevin Carrizo di Camillo, New York, NY

Lucia Mudd, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College

DINNER: (on your own)



Saturday, November 8

Registration

Adanti Student Center

Continental Breakfast: 7:30–8:30 AM

Theater, P24 Plaza Level

Plenary Session: 9:00–10:15 AM

Theater, P24 Plaza Level

In Honor of Dr. Rudolph J. Vecoli

Chair: Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University

Jerry Kruse, Brooklyn College

Donna Gabaccia, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota

Dominic Candeloro, Italian Cultural Center, Chicago

Benedicte Deschamps, Université Paris 7-Denis Diderot

Discussant: Vincenza Scarpaci, Independent Scholar

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:30–11:45 AM

Session 7A

Room 309

The (Un)Settling of Italian America

Chair: Teri Ann Bengiveno, Las Positas College

“Dorothea’s House: From an ‘Italian Settlement House’ to a ‘Casa di Cultura Italiana’ 1914-2008”

Robert B. Immordino, Lawrenceville, NJ

“Italian Americans and the Promotion of Italian Migration through the 1953 Refugee Relief Act”

Danielle Battisti, SUNY Buffalo

“Secrets in Unearthing Your Family Roots”

Marilyn Verna, St. Francis College

Session 7B

Room 326

Men of Honor: The Faces of Italian and Italian American Masculinities

Chair: John Paul Russo, University of Miami

“Erotic Exposure and *Flagrante Delicto*: Men Gommorra and the Neapolitan Camorra”

Jason Pine, SUNY Purchase

“Men of Honor at Home and Abroad”

Linda Reeder, University of Missouri

“‘What’ya mean I’m funny?’: Humor and Italian American Masculinities”

Fred Gardaphè, Queens College

Session 7C

Room 306

Quantifying the Experience: Italian American Youth

Chair: Jerry Kruse, Brooklyn College

“Sì, Parliamo Italiano; Globalization of the Italian Culture and Language”

Christine Gambino & Vincenzo Milione, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Italian American Educational Achievements in the 21st Century and the Impact of Negative Stereotypes”

Carmine Pizzirusso, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Robert

Marchesiani, Westchester Institute & Vincenzo Milione, Calandra Institute

Discussants:

Elizabeth Messina, Social Psychologist

John Marino, National Italian American Foundation

Session 7D

Room 301

Writers Reading 9 – City Girls Speak Out

Moderator: Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Binghamton University

Rachel Guido DeVries, Cazenovia, NY

Maria Fama, Philadelphia, PA

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Binghamton University

Daniela Gioseffi, Brooklyn, NY

LUNCH: 11:45–1:15 PM (on your own)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 1:30–2:45 PM

Session 8A

Room 306

Material Culture, Folk Art and the Making of Italian American Spaces

Chair: Circe Accurso Sturm, University of Oklahoma

“Built with Faith: Place Making and the Religious Imagination in Italian New York City”

Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Urbanization, the Hubcap Ranch, and Napa Valley’s Italian Flavor”

Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College in California

“Texas Tavola: The Object as Subject in a Sicilian American Festa”

Circe Accurso Sturm, University of Oklahoma

Discussant: Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach, and New York University

Session 8B

Room 301

Jersey Girl: Perspectives on the Work of Louise DeSalvo

Chair: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

“Fixing Things: What Louise DeSalvo Has Taught Me About Writing”

Emily Bernard, University of Vermont

“Living as Counterforce: Louise DeSalvo’s Memoirs”

Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University

Discussant: Nancy Caronia, SUNY Brockport

Session 8C

Room 309

Statistical Research Committee Meeting

Moderator: Vincenzo Milione, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“Identifying Italian Foreign Born and Multiple Generation Italian Ancestries within the United States Census Data”

Itala Pelizzoli & Christine Gambino, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Respondents: Ottorino Cappelli; Università degli Studi di Napoli “l’Orientale”

Rodrigo Praino, University of Connecticut at Storrs

Session 8D**Room 326****Writers Reading 10 – Geography as Muse**

Moderator: Gil Fagiani, Long Island City, NY

Louise Calio, New York, NY
Maria Fama, Philadelphia, PA
Venera Fazio, Bright's Cove, Ontario
Maria Lisella, Long Island City, NY
Joseph Farina, Sarnia, Ontario

Concurrent Sessions: 3:00–4:15 PM**Session 9A****Room 301****Ethno-racial Encounters in Italian America**

Chair: Stefano Luconi, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

“‘Three Kinds of People’: Blacks, Italians, and Whites in Suburban New Jersey, 1900-1968”
Nancy Carnevale, Montclair State University
“Learning from the Japanese: Italian Americans and the Search for World War II Internment Compensation”
Benedicte Deschamps, Université Paris 7–Denis Diderot
“‘Why Should I Close My Mouth?’: Contested Space and Italian American Identity in the Murder of Manuel Mayi”
Maria Lizzi, SUNY Albany

Discussant: Marcella Bencivengi, Hostos Community College

Session 9B**Room 326****Pop Goes the Culture**

Chair: Fred Gardaphè, Queens College

“From the Tenement to the Courthouse: Lisa Scottoline’s Ethnic Legal Thrillers”
Chiara Mazzucchelli, University of Central Florida
“Bruce Zirilli: The Italian Sides of Bruce Springsteen”
Samuele F.S. Pardini, Elon University
“New Jersey’s Other ‘Wise’ Guy: Bruce Springsteen and the Urban Multi-Cultural Landscape”
Nancy Caronia, SUNY Brockport

Session 9C**Room 306****Writers Reading 11 – Remembering Place: Students’ and Teachers’ Perspectives on the Memoir as a Pedagogical Genre in Italian American Studies**

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

from “The Edge” by Gina DiRenzi
from “Never from Scratch” by Jaclyn Foglio
from “Grace” by Matt Fondanarosa
from “Bald” by Loryn Lipari

Respondent: Emily Bernard, University of Vermont

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 4:30-5:45 PM

Session 10A

Room 306

Outsiders or Insiders in the Urban Establishment of the 1930s? Economic Deals, Artistic Experimentations, and Housing Reforms

Chair: Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach, and New York University

“A Tale of Two Cartels: Mafia Entrepreneurship in the Past Industry in Chicago and in the Cartage Industry in New York City”

John Alcorn, Trinity College

“Italian American Artists in New York City between Ethnic Urban Enclaves and National Projects (Guglielmi, Stella, and di Donato)”

Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach, & New York University

“Home Rule: The Italian Americans of New York, Housing, and Ethnicity in the 1930s”

Simone Cinotto, University of Gastronomic Sciences & New York University

Discussant: Gerald Meyer, Hostos Community College

Session 10B

Room 301

Shaping Migration: From the Old Country to Some Newer Kind of World

Chair: Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University

“Negotiating a Place in the Delta: Italian Immigrants and their Embassy in the Cotton Fields of Arkansas, 1895-1989”

Lauren H. Braun, University of Illinois at Chicago

“An Agricultural Colony in Alabama: Hull House and the Chicago Italians”

JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Stories from my Father”

Roxanne Christofano Pilat, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Returning to ‘The Neighborhood’”

Jessica Maucione, Gonzaga University

Session 10C

Room 326

Writers Reading 12 - Guys with Verses: Poetry and Performance by Four Italian American Men

Moderator: Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island

Michael Cirelli, New York, NY

Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island

George Guida, New York City College of Technology

Gerry LaFemina, Frostburg State University

Session 10D

Room 309

Writers Reading 13 - City as Memory and Community: Perspectives by Italian American Women Memoirists

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, SUNY Purchase

Mary Cappello, University of Rhode Island

Business Meeting: 6:00–7:00 PM

Room 301

Cash Bar: 7:00–7:30 PM

Grand Ballroom 313

Banquet: 7:30 PM

Grand Ballroom 313

(pre-registration and pre-payment required)

AIHA Officers

PRESIDENT: Mary Jo Bona
VICE PRESIDENT: Josephine Gattuso Hendin
SECRETARY: George Guida
TREASURER: Dawn Esposito
CURATOR: Victor Basile
WEBSITE Manager: JoAnne Ruvoli
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Giulia Prestia

Local Arrangements Committee

Michael Vena, Southern Connecticut State University
Laura Sabatino, Vice President of the Italian American Historical Society of CT
Dr. Gene Fappiano, Italian American Historical Society of CT
Julie Giordano, Italian American Historical Society of CT
Joanne Ludwig, Italian American Historical Society of CT
Peter Desio, Italian American Historical Society of CT
Julia Nicefaro, Italian American Historical Society of CT
Rich De Palma, President, Italian American Youth Organization

Program Committee

Mary Jo Bona
Anthony Julian Tamburri
Fred Gardaphè
Josephine Gattuso Hendin
Dawn Esposito
Victor Basile
John Paul Russo

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Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Rosaria Musco, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Marianna Prestigiacomio, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
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Eric Simms, Assistant Director Michael J. Adanti Student Center, SCSU
Ronald Herron, Vice President of Student Affairs, Michael Adanti Student Center, SCSU
Cheryl J. Norton, President, Southern Connecticut State University

INDEX OF PRESENTERS BY SESSION

Albright, Carol Bonomo - 4D, 6C
Alcorn, John - 10A
Amore, B. - 3B, 5E

Barone, Amy B. - 5D
Barone, Dennis - 4B
Bathanti, Joseph - 4B
Battisti, Danielle - 7A
Bencivengi, Marcella - 9A
Bengiveno, Teri Ann - 5A, 7A
Bernard, Emily - 8B, 9C
Boelhower, William - Fri. Keynote
Bona, Mary Jo - Fri. Opening, Sat. Plenary, 10B
Braun, Lauren H. - 10B

Calio, Louise - 1B, 8D
Candeloro, Dominic - Sat. Plenary
Cappelli, Ottorino - 6A, 8C
Cappello, Mary - 6B, 10D
Cappello, Rosemary Petracca - 5D
Carnevale, Nancy - 9A
Caronia, Nancy - 8B, 9B
Carravetta, Peter - 5E
Cavaluzzi, Anthony - 2C
Cinotto, Simone - 10A
Cirelli, Michael - 10C
Ciresi, Rita - 4B
Conforti, Joseph - 6A
Coppola, Marie Saccomando - 1A
Corso, Paola - 4B
Covino, Peter - 6C, 10C

De Angelis, Rose - 1A
Del Giudice, Luisa - 3A, 5B
DeMott, Sarah - 4A
Deschamps, Benedicte - Sat. Plenary, 9A
DeVries, Rachel Guido - 7D
di Camillo, Kevin Carrizo - 6C
Di Lauro, Michael - Fri. Film
DiRenzi, Gina - 9C
Domini, John - 4B

Edwards, GiGi - 1A
Esposito, Dawn - 4A

Fagiani, Gil - 3B, 8D
Fama, Maria - 7D, 8D
Farina, Joseph - 8D
Fasano, David - 2B
Fazio, Michele - 3C
Fazio, Venera - 8D

Feraca, Jean - 5E
Ferraiulo, August - 3A
Ferraro, Evelyn - 3C
Fielding, Stephen - 3C
Fiore, Teresa - 8A, 10A
Foglio, Jaclyn - 9C
Fondanarosa, Matt - 9C

Gabaccia, Donna - Sat. Plenary
Gambino, Christine - 7C, 8C
Gardaphè, Fred - 1B, 4B, 7B, 9B
Gatto, Florence - 1A
Gennari, John - 6B
Gaiimo, Mary - 2D
Gaiimo, Paul - 1A
Gillan, Maria Mazziotti - 7D
Giordano, Paolo A., - 5C
Gioseffi, Daniela - 5C, 7D
Giunta, Edvige - 4C, 6B, 8B, 9C, 10D
Giura, Maria - 1A
Gravano, Alan - 4D
Guida, George - 2C, 4D, 10C

Hendin, Josephine Gattuso - 8B
Herman, Joanna Clapps - 4C

Illardo, Ron - 3B
Immordino, Robert B. - 7A
Inguanti, Joseph J. - 5B

Kightlinger, Jennifer-Ann DiGregorio - 5C
Koffler, Eleanor - 2B
Koffler, Jerry - 2B
Krase, Jerry - Sat. Plenary, 7C

Labozzetta, Marisa - 1B, 3D
LaFemina, Gerry - 10C
LaGumina, Salvatore - 5A, 6A
Lanzillotto, Annie Rachele - 4C, 6B
Laurino, Maria - 4C
Lipari, Loryn - 9C
Lisella, Maria - 8D
Lizzi, Maria - 9A
Luconi, Stefano - 2A, 9A

Mannino, Mary Ann - 5D
Marchesiani, Robert - 7C
Marinari, Maddalena - 4A
Marino, Elisabetta - 2C
Marino, John - 7C
Maruggi, Ed - 1B

Mattevi, Yvonne - 3C
Maucione, Jessica - 10B
Mazzucchelli, Chiara - 9B
McCormick, Kathleen Zamboni - 10D
Messina, Elizabeth - 7C
Meyer, Gerald - 10A
Michaud, Marie-Christine - 2A
Milione, Vincenzo - 6A, 7C, 8C
Misurella, Fred - 2B, 3D, 5C
Mudd, Lucia - 6C

Niro, Raymond C. - 2B, 4D

Ossip, Kathleen - 2D

Pardini, Samuele F.S. - 9B
Parenti, Michael - 2A
Pascale, Vincenzo - 5B
Pasto, James - 4A
Pelizzoli, Itala - 8C
Pilat, Roxanne Christofano - 10B
Pine, Jason - 7B
Pizzirusso, Carmine - 7C
Praino, Rodrigo - 6A, 8C

Reeder, Linda - 7B
Repetto, Vittoria - 3B, 5E
Ricapito, Joseph - 3D

Riccio, Anthony - 5E
Ruberto, Laura E. - 8A
Russo, John Paul - 4D, 7B
Ruvoli, JoAnne - 10B

Saverino, Joan - 5B
Scannell, Denise - 6A
Scarpaci, Vincenza - Sat. Plenary
Scibona, Salvatore - 4D
Sciorra, Joseph - 4C, 6B, 8A
Sharnick, Mary Donnarumma - 1A
Simonini, Carla Anne - 2D
Sturm, Circe Accurso - 8A

Tacconelli, Al - 1B, 5D
Tamburri, Anthony Julian - 2A
Thomas, Teresa Fava - 5A
Tirabassi, Maddalena - 4A
Tocci, Carrie Anne - 2D

Unali, Lina - 2C

Verna, Marilyn - 7A
Viscusi, Robert - 3B, 6C

Zinni, Christine Frances - 5B

Notes

Notes



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