

AITHA

Southern Exposures *Locations and Relocations of Italian* *Culture*

42nd Annual Conference
of the
American Italian Historical Association



October 29 – November 1, 2009

Louisiana State University
Marriott Hotel Baton Rouge

PROGRAM

Thursday, October 29th

REGISTRATION

3:00 – 6:00 PM

Marriott Hotel, Baton Rouge, Lobby

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Room: AZALEA

RECEPTION

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Room: SALON 1

**Music by Dr. Garrett McCutchan
Instructor of Italian**

**Entertainment: Chef Nino, Restaurateur, Caterer
Teacher of Italian and Stand-up Raconteur**

Friday, October 30, 2009

REGISTRATION: 8:00: AM – 5:00 PM

Marriott Hotel Lobby

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 8:00–8:40 AM

FLOWER FOYER

OPENING CEREMONY: 8:45 – 10:15 AM

Room: SALON II

Dr. Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York Univ., President AIHA
Dr. Emily Batinski, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures
Dr. Gaines Foster, Interim Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. John Lowe

Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Louisiana State University

“Tutto è Burla: Humor and Identity in Italian American Culture”

BREAK: 10:15 – 10:30 AM

I. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:30 – 11:45 AM

A1. ITALIAN LIFE AND CUSTOMS IN LOUISIANA

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: Denise Scannell (New York City College of Technology, CUNY):

Nara Crowley (Louisiana State Univ.), “The Tradition of Saint Joseph Altars in Southern Louisiana”

Michael Dell’Aquila (Brooklyn College, CUNY), “Long Ways To Go: Sterling A. Brown, Diane DiPrima and the Specter of the American South”

B1. READING LOUISE DE SALVO

Room: AZALEA

Organizer: Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City Univ.)

Chair: Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City Univ.)

Mary Jo Bona, “Louise DeSalvo and Literary Revisionism”

Joshua Fausty (New Jersey City Univ.), “Louise DeSalvo: Essaying Memoir”

Margaux Fragoso (SUNY Binghamton), “States of Vertigo: Dirt and Dishonor in Latino and Italian Households”

C1. ITALIAN AMERICANA: From Italy to the United States

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: Giulia Centineo (Univ. of California at Santa Cruz)

William Boelhower (Louisiana State Univ.), “Cabrini in New Orleans”

Peter Carravetta (SUNY Stony Brook), “From Calabria with Unlove: On the Rhetoric of Indifference in Post-Unification Italy

Ottorino Cappelli (Univ. Orientale Napoli/Calandra Institute), “Politics in (Italian) America.”

D1. ITALIAN, ITALIAN/AMERICAN HISTORY I

Room: NAPOLEON

Organizer: Edward Maruggi (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Chair: Edward Maruggi (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Edward Maruggi “The Allied Catastrophe at Bari, Italy”

Ernesto R. Milani (Associazione dei Mantovani Nel Mondo, Mantova), “From the Banks of the Po River to the Mississippi: Mantovani in the Cotton Plantation of the Mississippi in the early 1900s”

Saverio Giovacchini (University of Maryland), “The Fortune of Cinematic Neo-Realism outside Italy: The Case of Alberto Lattuada’s and John Kitzmiller’s *Senza Pietà*”

BREAK: 11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

II. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 12:00 – 1:15 PM

A2. FROM THE NEW ORLEANS LYNCHING TO GEORGE WALLACE: New Historical Perspectives on Italian Americans, Race, and the South

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer: Nancy Carnevale (Montclair State Univ.)

Chair: John Gennari (Univ. of Vermont)

Stefano Luconi (Univ. of Rome, “Tor Vergata”), “The Lynching of Italian Americans: A Reassessment”;

Maria C. Lizzi (Univ. at Albany), “Look Away, Dixieland: Italian Americans for George Wallace”
Respondent: **Nancy Carnevale** (Montclair State Univ.)

B2. TEACHING ITALIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE, FILM, AND POPULAR CULTURE I: A Roundtable Discussion by the Authors. Focus on Literature

Room: AZALEA

Organizer: Kathleen Zamboni McCormick (SUNY Purchase)

Chair: Courtney Ruffner (State College of Florida)

Mary Jo Bona (SUNY Stony Brook), “Rich Harvest: An Overview of Italian American Fiction”

John Paul Russo (Univ. of Miami), “Religion in Don DeLillo’s *White Noise* and *Underworld*”

Josephine Gattuso Hendin (New York Univ.), “Avant-Garde/Experimental Italian American Writing”

Ilaria Serra (Florida Atlantic Univ.), “Travel Literature: Negotiating the Gaze”

LUNCH: 1:15 – 2:45 (*on your own*)

III. Concurrent Sessions: 3:00 – 4:15 PM

A3. TEACHING ITALIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE, FILM, AND POPULAR CULTURE: A Round Table Discussion by the Authors, Part II: Focus on Popular Culture and Memoir

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer: Kathleen Zamboni McCormick (SUNY Purchase)

Chair: Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City Univ.)

Giulia Centineo (Univ. of California at Santa Cruz), “Language and Dubbing in the Filmic Representation of Italian (American)s”

Luisa Del Giudice (Independent Scholar), “Oral History, Oral Culture and Italian Americans”

Courtney J. Ruffner (State College of Florida), “Images of Italian American Colonization”

David Del Principe (Montclair State Univ.), “Challenges Facing Instructors Teaching Italian-American Memoir”

B3. CORPUS: ITALIAN AMERICAN WRITERS AS ONE BODY

Room: AZALEA

Organizer and Chair: Joanna Clapps Herman (Manhattanville College)

Jeanne Feraca (National Public Radio News), “My Body, My Body of Work”

Annie Rachele Lanzillotto (Independent Writer and Performer), “Cent’Anni”

Joanna Clapps Herman (Manhattanville College), “Potions, Lotions, and Solutions”

George Guida (New York City College of Technology, CUNY), “I Was the Fat Kid”

C3. ROUND TABLE ON THE BOOK, “*Essere e non Essere Italoamericani*”: A special issue of the literary journal *Nuova Prosa*, a collection of articles and stories edited by Emanuele Pettener (Florida Atlantic Univ.)

Room: NAPOLEON

Organizer and Chair: Emanuele Pettener (Florida Atlantic Univ.)

Emanuele Pettener (Florida Atlantic Univ.); **John Domini** (Visiting Writer, Grinnell College);

Chiara Mazzucchelli (Univ. of Central Florida); **Ilaria Serra** (Florida Atlantic Univ.)

D3. REPORTS OF THE STATISTICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE I

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer and Chair: Vincenzo Milione (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY)

Christine Gambino (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY), “Italian American Geographical Distribution in the United States. Participants”

Steve Mezzio (New York Univ.), “Changing Demographics of Italian American Women”

Vincenzo Milione (Calandra Institute), “The Last Connection: The Italian American Elderly”

BREAK: 4:15 - 4:30 PM

IV. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 4:30 – 5:45 PM

A4. ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS: Recollecting and Representing Individual and Collective Trauma

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer/Chair: Jessica Maucione (Gonzaga Univ.)

JoAnne Ruvoli (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), “Memory Lost and Found in Savarese’s *The Weak and the Strong*”

Jessica Maucione (Gonzaga Univ.), “[T]here are some places you never leave behind’:
Change and Changelessness in Octavia Waldo’s *A Cup of the Sun*”

Alison Graham-Bertolini (Louisiana State Univ.), “Based on Actual Events: The Lynching
of Italian-American Immigrants in Tallulah, Louisiana, as depicted by Donna Jo Napoli
in *Alligator Bayou*”

B4. RECONCEPTUALIZATIONS OF ITALIAN AMERICAN LITERARY STUDIES

Room: AZALEA

Organizer and Chair. Kathleen Zamboni McCormick (SUNY Purchase)

Robert Viscusi (The Wolfe Institute, Brooklyn College, CUNY) “The History of Italian
American Literary Studies”

Discussants: **Teresa Fiore** (Cal. State Univ., Long Beach); **Matthew Frye Jacobson** (Yale
Univ.); **Laura Ruberto** (Berkeley City College); **Peter Carravetta** (SUNY Stony Brook)

C4. MUSIC AND ITALIANS

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: David Del Principe (Montclair State Univ.)

Jennifer Caputo (Univ. of Alabama), “‘Tammurriata Nera’: Musical *Contaminazione* in a
Neapolitan Song from Jazz to Reggaeton”

Christine F. Zinni (SUNY Brockport), “From Rags to Swing: Italian American Musicians,
the Technology of the Piano Accordion and Jazz”

Joseph Sciorra, “Mediated Renderings and Diasporic Musings: ‘Core ‘ngrato,’ a WOP Song”

D4. IN THE LAND OF FLOWERS, STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM: The Italian-American Blend in Tangipahoa Parish over Time I

Room: NAPOLEON

Organizers: Lucia Guzzi Harrison (Southeastern Louisiana Univ.), Francesco Fiumara
(Southeastern Louisiana Univ.)

Chair: Francesco Fiumara

Francesco Fiumara, “The Sicilian-American Way of Life: What the Local Newspaper
Might Tell Us about Daily life in Independence during the 1950s”

Lucia Guzzi Harrison, “Le nuove donne del Focolare: Women’s Role in Preserving Italian-
American Traditions in Tangipahoa Parish”

Elisabetta Violi Lejeune (Southeastern Louisiana Univ.), “From Cucina to Kitchen:
Italian Cooking vs. Italian-American Cooking in Tangipahoa Parish

Karen Williams (Louisiana State Univ.), “St. Expeditio’s Role in the Italian American
Community of Independence, Louisiana”

DINNER: 6:30 PM

On your own, but arrangements are being made for an authentic Creole and Cajun dinner
at Boutin’s Restaurant, with dancing. We may arrange a bus to take people to and from the
restaurant. You must sign up for this and you will be paying for the dinner on your own.



Saturday, October 31, 2009

REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Marriott Hotel Lobby

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 8:00–8:40 AM

FLOWER FOYER

V. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 9:00 – 10:15 AM

A5. FANTE AT 100: READINGS AND PROPOSALS

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer and Chair. Teresa Fiore (Cal. State Univ., Long Beach)

Stephen Cooper (Cal. State Univ., Long Beach), “John Fante in the Library (Readings from *Ask the Dust*)”

Fred Gardaphè (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY), “Fante in the High Schools (Readings from *1933 Was a Bad Year*)”

Chiara Mazzucchelli (Univ. of Central Florida) “Fante in Italy (Readings in Italian from *Il Meridiano* – Mondadori)”

Daniel Gardner (Univ. of California, Los Angeles) “Wait until Google, Bandini”

B5. SUBMERGED BELIEFS OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

Room: AZALEA

Organizer and Chair, Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum (California Institute of Integral Studies)

Mary Beth Moser (California Institute of Integral Studies), “Women. Food, and Spirits: Carriers of Submerged Culture from the Alps to Trentino to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado”

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum (California Institute of Integral Studies), “A Work in Progress: ‘Future Has an Ancient Heart. Transformational Legacy of African Migration Paths through the World. Case of the Mediterranean’”

Judy Bessette (Rhode Island) “Paolino Pistacchio and North Providence, RI”

C5. REPORTS OF THE STATISTICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE II

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer and Chair. Christine Gambino (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY)

Carmine Pizzirusso (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY), “Italian American Federal Political Representation and the Italian American Regional Constituency”

Vincenzo Milione (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY), “Thirty Years of Italian American Employment at the City Univ. of New York”

BREAK: 10:15 – 10:30 AM

VI. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:30 – 11:45 AM

A6. MEDIA AND RELATED THEMES

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: JoAnne Ruvoli (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago)

Valeria Franco (SUNY Stony Brook), “Miss-Representation: Stereotypes of Italian-American Women in the Media”

Fred Gardaphè (Calandra Institute, Queen’s College, CUNY), “George Panetta’s ‘*ciuccio bianco*’ and Early (Italian American) Humor”

Anthony Julian Tamburri (Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY), “Michael Corleone’s Tie: Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather* and the Rhetoric of Antinomy”

B6. *Italian Americana* PRESENTS ITS AUTHORS

Room: NAPOLEON

Organizer and Chair John Paul Russo (Univ. of Miami)

Alan J. Gravano (Univ. of New Orleans), “Mapping New York City in Don DeLillo’s Novels”

George Guida (New York City College of Technology, CUNY)

John Paul Russo (Univ. of Miami), “An Excerpt from ‘Nostalgia: Wanderings in Italy’”

C6. ITALIAN AMERICAN CREATIVE PERFORMANCE

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer and Chair: Joseph V. Ricapito (Louisiana State Univ.)

Chickie Farella (Performance Artist and Singer)

Annie Rachele Lanzillotto (Independent Scholar and Performance Artist)

BREAK: 11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

VII. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 12:00 – 1:15 PM

A7. “THIS MOURNING OF MINE”: Writing Grief and Death in the Italian American Memoir

Room: AZALEA

Organizer. Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City Univ.)

Chair: Joanna Clapps Herman (Manhattanville College)

Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City Univ.), “Following Sonia”

Kathleen Zamboni McCormick (SUNY Purchase), “At the Kitchen Window”

Maria Giura (Montclair State Univ.), “Telling Papa”

B7. ITALIAN-AMERICAN VARIA I

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: James Periconi (Independent Scholar)

Dominic Candeloro (Casa Italia Chicago Library), “Working Against the Clock: Building a Digital Archive and Library of Italian Americana in Chicago”

James Periconi (Independent Scholar), “Italian Language Book Publishers in the United States before World War II”

Marie Saccomando Coppola (Independent Scholar), “Overseas Sisters: Italian American Women Religious and Emigration to the United States”

C7. ITALIAN-AMERICAN VARIA II

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: Christine F. Zinni (SUNY Brockport)

Cale Lasalata (Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), “Was it Something We Said? The Southern Italian Dilemma”

John Gennari (Univ. of Vermont, “Killer Vees’ Whistling Dixie: Jim Valvano, Dick Vitale and ACC Basketball as Ethnic Schtick”

Luisa Del Giudice (Independent Scholar), “The Watts Towers Common Ground Initiative”

LUNCH: 1:15 – 2:45 (*on your own*)

VIII. CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 3:00 – 4:15 PM

A8. ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES AND THE SEE-SAW OF DISCRIMINATION AND ASSIMILATION

Room: AZALEA

Organizer: Laura E. Ruberto (Berkeley City College)

Chair: Nancy Carnevale (Montclair State Univ.)

Denise Scannell (New York City College of Technology, CUNY): “ ‘Once you put a stamp ... forget about it’”: (Re)Framing Ethnic Identity and Media Stereotypes”

Laura E. Ruberto (Berkeley City College), “Always Italian, Still Foreign: Connecting Women’s Lives Through Transnational Migration”

B8. MUSIC, ITALIANS AND PAINTING

Room: MAGNOLIA

Organizer: AIHA

Chair: Jennifer Caputo (Univ. of Alabama)

Anthony D. Cavaluzzi (Adirondack Community College), “I Found My Heart in Benedetto: The Paintings of Tony Bennett”

Kirby Pringle (Loyola Univ., Chicago), “Spaghetti Hillbilly: Italian-Americans and Country Music, 1925-1965”

C8. IN MEMORIAM—LEO LUKE MARCELLO, LOUISIANA POET

Room: CAMELLIA

Organizer: **Stella Nesanovich** (McNeese Univ.)

Chair: Paolo Giordano (Univ. of Central Florida)

Angelina Oberdan (McNeese State Univ.), “Celebrating the Poetry of Leo Luke Marcello.

Stella Nesanovich (McNeese Univ.), “In memoriam—Leo Luke Marcello, And A Reading of His Poetry”

Joseph V. Ricapito (Louisiana State Univ.), “A Reading of New Fiction Dedicated to the Memory of Leo Luke Marcello”

D8. AN ITALIAN/AMERICAN STATE OF MIND IN THE INTERNET AGE: Blogging, Facebooking, and Twittering.

Room: NAPOLEON

Organizer and Chair: **Ottorino Cappelli** (Univ. Orientale Napoli/Calandra Institute),

Letizia Airos Soria (Italian/American Digital Project); **Ottorino Cappelli** (Univ. Orientale Napoli/Calandra Institute); **Rodrigo Praino** (Univ. of Connecticut); **Joseph Sciorra** (Calandra Institute, CUNY); **Robert Viscusi** (The Wolfe Institute, Brooklyn College, CUNY)

Business Meeting: 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Room: Salon II

Cash Bar: 6:30 pm

Room: Salon I

Dinner: 7:30-10:00 pm

Room: Salon I

(pre-registration and pre-payment required)

Dinner Entertainment



Bobby Lonero, New Orleans Musician

AIHA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Josephine Gattuso Hendin

VICE PRESIDENT

Teresa Fiore

SECRETARY

George Guida

TREASURER

Dawn Esposito

CURATOR

Victor Basile



WEB-SITE MANAGER

JoAnne Ruvoli

Local Arrangements Committee

Joseph Ricapito

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

William Boelhower

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Paolo Chirumbolo

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Jeannie Williamson

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Program Committee

Joseph Ricapito

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Teresa Fiore

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Fred Gardaphè

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE & QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

Josephine Gattuso Hendin

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Anthony Julian Tamburri

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

AIHA gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their kind assistance and support:

Rosaria Musco

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE. QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

Carmine Pizzirusso

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

Marianna Prestigiacomo

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY

JoAnne Ruvoli

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

INDEX OF PRESENTERS BY SESSION

Bessette, Judith – B5
Birnbaum, Lucia Chiavola – B5
Boelhower, William – C1
Bona, Mary Jo – B1, B2

Candeloro, Dominic – B7
Cappelli, Ottorino – C1, D8
Caputo, Jennifer – C4, B8
Carnevale, Nancy – A2, A8
Carravetta, Peter – C1, B4
Cavaluzzi, Anthony D. – B8
Centineo, Giulia – C1, A3
Coppola, Marie Saccomando – B7
Cooper, Stephen – A5
Crowley, Nara – A1

Del Giudice, Luisa – A3, C7
Dell'Aquila, Michael – A1
Del Principe, David – A3, C4
Domini, John – C3

Farella, Chickie – C6
Fausty, Joshua – B1, B6
Feraca, Jeanne – B3
Fiore, Teresa – A5, B4
Fiumara, Francesco – D4
Fragoso, Margaux – B1
Franco, Valeria – A6

Gambino, Christine – C5, D3
Gardaphè, Fred – A5, A6
Gardner, Daniel – A5
Gennari, John – A2, C7
Giovacchini, Saverio – D1
Giunta, Edvige – B1, A3, A7
Giura, Maria – A7
Graham-Bertolini, Alison – A4
Gravano, Alan J. – B6
Guida, George – B3, B6

Harrison, Lucia Guzzi – D4
Hendin, Josephine G. – Opening
Ceremony, B2

Herman, Joanna Clapps – B3, A7

Jacobson, Matthew Frye – B4

Lanzillotto, Annie Rachele – B3, C6
Lasalata, Cale – C7
Lejeune, Elisabetta Violi – D4
Lizzi, Maria C. – A2
Lowe, John – Keynote Lecture
Luconi, Stefano – A2

Maruggi, Edward – D1
Maucione, Jessica – A4
Mazzucchelli, Chiara – C3, A5
McCormick, Kathleen Zamboni – B4, A7
Mezzio, Steve – D3
Milani, Ernesto R. – D1
Milione, Vincenzo – C5, D3
Moser, Mary Beth – B5

Nesanovich, Stella – C8

Oberdan, Angelina – C8

Periconi, James – B7
Pettener, Emanuele – C3
Pizzirusso, Carmine – C5
Praino, Rodrigo – D8
Pringle, Kirby – B8

Ricapito, Joseph V. – C6, C8
Ruberto, Laura E. – B4, A8
Ruffner, Courtney J. – B2, A3
Russo, John Paul – B2, B6
Ruvoli, JoAnne – A4, A7

Scannell, Denise – A1, A8
Sciorra, Joseph – C4, D8
Serra, Ilaria – B2, C3
Soria, Letizia Airos – D8

Tamburri, Anthony Julian – A6

Williams, Karen – D4

Viscusi, Robert – B4, D8

Zinni, Christine F. – C4, C7



Notes

Notes

Notes



Anti-Italian lynching in New Orleans, 1891. Rioters breaking in to parish prison.

SPONSORS

Baton Rouge Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Coccia Foundation
College of Arts and Sciences, Louisiana State University
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Louisiana State University
Federation of Italian-American Clubs of the Southeast
Louisiana State University Alumni Association
Fresina's Italian Specialties
Grandsons of Italy, Baton Rouge, LA
Greater Baton Rouge Airport District
Greater Baton Rouge American Italian Association, Inc.
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY
Manda Fine Meats Co.
Mockler Beverage Co.

