

# AIHA Newsletter

**A Publication of the American Italian Historical Association**

An Interdisciplinary Association to Promote Understanding of the Italian Experience in America



169 Country Club Road • Chicago Heights, IL 60411 • 708.756.7168

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## President's Message

I write this current message during the second half of the second year of my two-year term. It has been an intriguing and exhilarating experience, to be sure. I have worked with some excellent people, and they have all done their best to continue to bring forward the Association, building on the positive energies of those who have preceded us.

Much of what still needs to be done – I would submit to our members that the administration of an organization that is AIHA is always, *de facto*, in some sort of flux – is nicely detailed in Angela Danzi's minutes of the May 15, 2004 Executive Committee held at the John D. Calandra Institute in New York.

I believe we have succeeded to a measurable degree in the commitment to centralization and all that it entails. Finances, for instance, will be centralized while certain accounts will remain dedicated to their special targets. In like fashion, the Publications Committee will be more involved with the organization of the annual proceedings. It will work with conference organizers to select candidates for editor, as well as prepare a time-line for submissions, selection of papers, editing process, etc. These are two examples of such efforts to coordinate the Association's activities. I underscore these

two items since they are both related to the overall financial welfare of the Association.



With regard to the Proceedings, I am happy to report that the CUNY/Hunter and the Lowell volumes are, as I write, in final stages of production. If the schedule continues without glitches, one, if not both, may

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**37<sup>TH</sup> Annual AIHA Conference**

**November 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**Annapolis, Maryland**

**Italian American before Mass Migration:**

**We've Always Been Here**

**REGISTRATION FORM AND  
PROGRAM INSIDE!**

indeed be ready in a couple of months. The Chicago volume nicely moves along, and the Boca volume, in turn, is at mid-Point. Some essays for this last proceeding are still out to authors for revision, while others are now in the first-stage of page proofs. This volume, I suspect, may indeed be available in mid-spring 2005.

The finances for these volumes are now all secured. The CUNY/Hunter volume has

a generous contribution from the John D. Calandra Institute; the Lowell volume has also received its contribution; and monies for the Chicago Boca volumes have been secured, protected from those ominous forces that sometimes sweep up funds if they lay around too long...

We have also set up a procedure for future publications that will involve the Publications Committee, as I mentioned above, and the Treasurer, as you will read herein. In so doing, we hope to assure the membership of a timely publication of the proceedings that will, in turn, be accompanied by fiscal responsibility.

In my first message I mentioned certain issues that I thought needed tending with regard to the proceedings, issues that dealt with, for instance, the mechanics of their production. I asked that we reconsider the nature of conference publications, precisely because each volume is somewhat distinct in nature – some in the guise of “conference proceedings,” others in the guise of more stringent collections of essays. We have discussed the possibility of a digital “conference” publication; the jury, to some degree, is still out, as there seems to be a notable resistance.

I also asked AIHA members, specifically the members of the Executive Committee, to consider seriously the inception of a peer-reviewed, periodic publication of the Association that would be of an inter-, cross-, and multidisciplinary nature. This, too, is still a discussion in process. This, too, I would submit, is a necessity; for we are a field of intellectual inquiry without an orga-

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nic publication, and AIHA is *de facto* an – if not the – official intellectual voice of Italian America as a community. I said then and feel compelled to repeat here that such a publication would add to the greater validation, in the eyes of the greater population of ethnic studies in the United States, of the material we study. We should not, from this perspective, remain on the sidelines. Again, as I wrote almost two years ago, we may have surely arrived, but we should not deceive ourselves that we are already on an equal plane; much more work still needs to be done, and such a peer-reviewed publica-

tion will add significantly to this goal. Such a publication, I submit, would add to the greater validation, in the eyes of the greater population of ethnic studies in the United States, of the material our community creates and that we study.



With an eye toward AIHA's future activities, the regularization of conferences was something the Executive Council addressed during my first year. When we met in Boca, we had already secured Annapolis as the 2004 site and were in discussions with Dr. Luisa Del Giudice for Los Angeles in 2005. As we get ready for this fall's conference, we should now all think to 2006, which remains open. We "traveled" from Chicago to Boca, and will soon be on our way to Annapolis, while looking forward to Los Angeles.

Let me ask those of you who can, to consider the possibility of organizing a conference. Florida may indeed prove to be an option once more in the future. But I am confident there are other places we might want to visit before returning to a familiar spot such as Boca Raton. The commitment is indeed of a timely and economical nature, and it is incumbent upon many of us to do what we can to help out those who organize conferences, especially the uninitiated.



I believe AIHA has succeeded nicely, I am happy to say, to build greater relationships with other cultural organizations. NIAF and OSIA have surely demonstrated their willingness to support AIHA events in their support of our more recent conferences and activities. Even greater success of such collaboration will be evident in Annapolis. Frank Alduino and Frank Pesci, our local coordinators, have garnered the support of numerous organizations and entities for our 37<sup>th</sup> conference. A big "hats off" to them and their assistants!

There is still much work to do in the various arenas mentioned above as well as other activities (e.g., a sort of capital campaign) that will allow us to raise better still the awareness of the Italian experience in North America. In order to do so, I am hopeful that we can, in building on the efforts of those who have preceded us, bequeath to those who follow a more solid Association as it continues to move forward in its mission of interrogating the socio-historical, cultural, and artistic phenomena of what we can also call the Italian *diaspora* in North America.

A final note of thanks to George, Dominic, and Paul for their work on the *Newsletter*, and a heartfelt "grazie" to Anne Arundel Community College for its generous support of the production of the AIHA *Newsletter*!

I look forward to discussing all of the above and more with the membership in attendance at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Annapolis. As I stated before, and at the risk of repetition *ad nauseam*, as a believer in the old adage, "nothing ventured nothing gained" – for *satis verborum et labor omnia vincit* – I am hopeful we can continue on the road to progress during our Fall 2004 Executive Council and general membership meetings.

*Arrivederci a novembre!*

---Anthony Julian Tamburri



# 2004 AIHA Conference Program

## *Italian Americans Before the Mass Migration: We've Always Been Here*

**November 4<sup>th</sup>-November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Annapolis, Maryland**

**Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Calvert Hotel

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, 1:00-4:00 p. m.  
AIHA • NIAF RECEPTION, 6:00-8:00 p. m.

**Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Miller Senate Building

REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST, 8:00-9:00 a. m.

**Session 1, 9:00-10:30 a. m.**

**a. Italian Americans in the American Civil War**

Chair: Jeanne Heidler, U.S. Air Force Academy

John Perella, Coccia Institute, Montclair State University, "The Legacy of Gaetano Carusi: The 200 Year History of the President's Own Marine Corps Band"; Frank Alduino, Anne Arundel Community College, "Francis Spinola; A Reevaluation of this Civil War General and Tammany Politician"; David Coles, Longwood University, "John Garibaldi: An Italian Soldier in the Stonewall Brigade"; Ernesto Milani, "Ferdinando Guscetti, 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, 1864. How Genoa, Wisconsin, Population 266, Came to Be"

Commentator: David Heidler, Colorado State University

**b. Early Italians in the United States**

Robert Immordino, "William Albertus and Giovanni Batista Sartori: Two First in New Jersey, 1701-1800"; James Periconi, "Lorenzo Da Ponte and the Italian Colony in New York from 1805-1838"; Mario Aste, University of Massachusetts/Lowell "Early Italian Cultural Influences"

**c. Mid-Twentieth Century**

Anthony Cavaluzzi, Adirondack Community College, "Frank Sinatra and the Politics of Cool"; Salvatore LaGumina, Nassau Community College, "The Home Front in World War II: A Brooklyn Perspective"

**d. Assimilation and Identity**

Norma Bouchard, University of Connecticut, "Screening the Silent Film: Reginald Barker's *The Italian* and the Resurgence of American Nativism"; Charles J. Scalise, Fuller Theological Seminary, "Retrieving the 'WIPS': Exploring the assimilation of White Italian Protestants in America"; Michael T. Ward, Trinity University, "*La Tribuna Italiana: A Celebration of Italian Identity*"

**e. Reading: Italy to America, America to Italy: History in Poetry and Prose**

Chair: Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg University

Rita Ciresi, Helen Barolini, Fred L. Gardaphe, George Guida, and Maria Mazziotti Gillan.

BREAK, 10:30-10:45 a. m.

**Session 2, 10:45 a. m.-12:15 p. m.**

**a. Panel Discussion: William Paca: His True Ethnic Identity**

Chair: Salvatore LaGumina, Nassau Community College

Panelists: Lou Iorizzo, SUNY Oswego, Frank Cavaoli, SUNY Farmingdale, Jean Russo, Historic Annapolis; Fred Rotondaro, National Italian American Foundation

**b. Perspectives on Italian Culture**

Chair: Emily T. Gear, Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

Carol Bonomo Albright, University of Rhode Island, "Joseph Rocchietti's References in His 1835 Novel, *Lorenzo and Oonalaska*"; Aleandri Emelise Aleandri, Frizzi & Lazzi The Olde Time Italian-American Music & Theatre Company, "Italian Theatrical Entertainments in NYC Before the Mass Migration"; Fred Misurella, East Stroudsburg University, "Why Columbus Matters: The Evolution of an Icon in Literature and History"

**c. Panel Discussion: Language, Literacy, and Assimilation among Italians in Early Twentieth-Century America**

Chair: Nunzio Pernicone, Drexel University

Panelists: Nancy Carnevale. "Language in the Racial Construction and Assimilation of Italian Immigrants and their Children"; Mary Anne Trasciatti, "Literacy, Citizenship and Americanization: American and Italian American Views from the Early Twentieth Century"; Benedicte Deschamps, "English as a Trojan Horse: Il Progresso Italo-Americano's Efforts to Reach Second-Generation Immigrants in the 1930s"

Commentator: Rudolph J. Vecoli, University of Minnesota.

**d. Readings: Lewis Turco, *A Book of Fears, Poems, Shaking the Family Tree: A Remembrance, A Sheaf of Leaves: Literary Memoirs, and The Collected Lyrics of Lewis Turco***

AIHA • OSIA LUNCHEON, 12:30-1:45 p. m.

Phillips Seafood Restaurant

Featured Conference Lecture: Phil Cannistraro, Queens College, CUNY

**Session 3, 2:15-3:45 p. m.**

**a. Italians in the West**

Chair: Paola Sensi-Isolani, Saint Mary's College of California.

Adele Maiello, University of Genoa, "Northern Italians in Agriculture in California between the Gold Rush and the Mass Migration"; Gerald McKeivitt, Santa Clara University, "'Se Habla Espanol': Italian Priests and Hispanics in the Nineteenth-Century Far West"; Paola Sensi-Isolani, Saint Mary's College of California, "'E me ne vado in California, dove fanno il pane senza la legna, dove fanno all'amore senza la donna'": The Italian immigrant presence in California 1849-1875"

**b. New Approaches to Italian American Studies**

Richard R. Peppe, "IQ of Italian Americans"; Laurie A. Buonanno, SUNY Fredonia and Michael D. Buonanno, Manatee Community College, "Teaching *The Italian-American Experience* On-Line via the SUNY Learning Network"

**c. Italian American Women's Spirituality Has Always Been Here: Find Your Mother And The Rest Will Follow**

Chair: Joseph Sciorra, Calandra Institute/Queens College

Fred Gardaphe, SUNY Stony Brook, "From Macho to Zero: Redesigning Italian American Masculinities"; Chickie Farella, "Desperate vs Disgraceful Women's Path to Pleasing the Patriarch"

**d. Reading: Sweet Lemons: Writings with a Sicilian Accent**

Maria Fama, Rita Ciresi, Susan Lloyd, Edvige Giunta, Gil Fagiani, and Dina Gerasia.

**Session 4, 4:00-5:30 p. m.****a. Panel Discussion: The Waning Story of the Italian American Experience in History Textbooks**

Panelists: Teri Ann Bengiveno, Las Positas College, Lawrence DiStasi, and John Marino, National Italian American Foundation.

**b. Poetry Reading in English and Italian Translation: “Vignette di vita italoamericana”**

Chair: Maria Elisa Ciavarelli, Rowan University

Panelists: Maria Fama, Temple University; Rachel Guido de Vries, Syracuse University; Leo Luke Marcello, McNeese State University; Albert Tacconelli, Artist/Poet; Mary Ann Mannino, Temple University

**c. Panel Discussion: Helen Barolini’s Umbertina**

Panelists: Anthony J. Tamburri, Florida Atlantic University, Fred Gardaphe, SUNY Stony Brook, Mary Jo Bona, SUNY Stony Brook, Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University

**d. New Perspectives on Italian American Studies**

Chair: Vincenzo Milione, John Calandra Italian American Institute

Gaetano Rando, University of Wollongong, “Italian Australians before Mass Migration”; Stefania Longo, University of Scranton, “The Italians of Northeastern Pennsylvania”; George Guida, New York City College of Technology (CUNY), “A Greenhorn’s-Eye View of Depression-Era Italian Americans: A Translation and Commentary on Mario Soldati’s *America primo amore*”

DINNER on your own

**Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Miller Senate Building

REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST, 8:00-9:00 a. m.

**Session 5, 9:00-10:30 a. m.****a. Early America**

Frank Cavaoli, “Italian American Historiography: Colonial Period”; Michael Di Vigilio “Italians in St. Augustine, Florida”; Rudolph Vecoli, University of Minnesota, “Celso Caesar Moreno (1901-1991): Explorer, Reformer, Montebank”

**b. Panel Discussion: Alba and Yee’s *Remaking the Mainstream and Its Applications/Implications for Italian Americans: A Sociological Conversation***

Chair: Angela D. Danzi, SUNY Farmingdale.

Participants: Joseph Conforti, SUNY Old Westbury, Dawn Esposito, St. John’s University, and William Egelman, Iona College.

**c. Italian Spaces**

James Pasto, Boston University, “North End Boston”; Giovanna P. Del Negro, Texas A&M University “The Passeggiata in an Abruzzese Town: Walking, Seeing, and a Uniquely Italian Modernity”; Alessandro Buffa, SUNY Stony Brook, “Italian-American Youths and Space of Identity: Local Culture, Metropolitan Connections New York, 1950s and 1960s”

**d. Reading: “The Voices of Our People: By Our Stories, They Will Remain”**

Chair: Susan Bucci Mockler.

Maria Fama and Mary Bucci Bush.

**e. Vito DeSimone, Brooklyn College, Interviews, “Italian American Writers,” Part I**

BREAK, 10:30-10:45 a. m.

**Session 6, 10:45 a. m.-12:15 p. m.**

**a. Italian Contributions to Young America**

Barbara A. Wolanin, Curator, Architect of the Capitol, "The Contributions of Italian Artists to the United States Capitol, with a Focus on Constantino Brumidi"; Pamela Potter-Hennessey, Ursinus College, "Brief Encounters in the New World: Italian Sculptors in the Early Years of the Republic"

**b. Panel Discussion: Humor in Italian-American Women's Narrative**

Moderator: Rita Ciresi

Panelists: Rosette Capotorto, Rita Ciresi, Rachel Guido de Vries, Kathleen Zamboni McCormick.

**c. Psychoanalytic and Psychological Considerations on Italy and on the Italian American Experience**

Chair: Lina Unali

Lina Unali "D.H. Lawrence's 'The Birth of Consciousness' and the Vitality of the Italian Landscape"; Elisabetta Marino, "Psychoanalytic Themes in Robert Viscusi's Astoria;" Rob Marchesani and Elizabeth Messina, Fordham University, "Histories in our families as they often unfold on the couch in psychoanalysis"; Louisa Calio "Artistic Texts, Contexts of the Evolving Creative, Feminine and Masculine Archetypes"; Franco Mulas and Maria Paola Malva, University of Sassari, "Mental wonderings in Carol Maso's Ghost Dance"

**d. Folkloristic Approaches to Italian American History, Expressivity, and Belief**

Chair: Joseph Sciorra

Joan Saverino, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, "Dissonant Discourse, Hidden Histories: Color and Class at Play in a Philadelphia Landscape"; Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College, "'Her Greatest Gift To All Of Us': The Negotiation of Institutional and Vernacular Catholicism in the Religious Traditions of Italian-American Women in Gloucester, Massachusetts"; Joseph Sciorra, Calandra Institute/Queens College, "Of Dreams and Photographs, Of Saints and the Dead: Visual Piety in the Religious and Social Life of Sicilian Gloucester, Massachusetts"

**e. Vito DeSimone, Brooklyn College, Interviews, "Italian American Writers," Part II**

LUNCH, 12:30-1:45 p. m.

**Session 7, 1:45-3:15 p. m.**

**a. Exploration and Pioneering**

Katharine Emsden, "Henri de Tonti"; Cesare Marino, Smithsonian Institution, "Count Paolo Andreani: 'No Longer a Forgotten Traveler'"; Annette Wheeler Cafarelli, Historiography of the Frontier: Italian American Pioneers."

**b. Remembering the Past: Italian American Literature and the Meaning of Ethnicity**

Chair: Fred Gardaphe, SUNY Stony Brook

Presenters: Yvonne Mattevi, SUNY Stony Brook, "Italian-American Children's Literature: Teaching Children to Remember"; JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Work, Vengeance and the (Un)American Way: Guido D'Agostino's *My Enemy, the World*"; Jenna DiGregorio Kightlinger, SUNY Stony Brook, "'Mangiando, ricordo': Italian American Women and Food in Josephine Gattuso Hendin's *The Right Thing to Do* and Tina DeRosa's *PaperFish*"; Michele Fazio, SUNY Stony Brook, "Dueling Heritages: Multiethnic Identities in Italian American Literature"

**c. Panel Discussion: Stories in the Stone: Italy and Vermont**

Moderator: Nicole T. Librandi, Community College of Vermont

Panelists: B. Amore, Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, Vermont, "A Stone Story: Carrara and Vermont"; Ilaria Brancoli Busdraghi, Middlebury College, "The Italian 'stone-men' in the Green Mountain State: from Italy to Vermont, 1880-1915"; Nicole T. Librandi, Community College of Vermont and Katie Green, Community College of Vermont, "The Stories in the Stone of Italy and Vermont: Study Abroad in Italy"; Karen Lane, Aldrich Public Library; Barre, VT., "Preserving the Historical Record: the Role of Community Organizations."

**d. "She is Everywhere!": Italian/American Participants in a 2004 Anthology of Feminist Spiritual Writings**

Chair: Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum,

Panelists: Louisa Calio and Chickie Farella

BREAK, 3:15-3:30 p. m.

**Session 8, 3:30- 5:00 p. m.**

**a. The Mid-Nineteenth Century**

Helen Barolini, "Garibaldi in Hastings"; Stefano Luconi: "Italian Americans for Ulysses S. Grant: The 1872 Campaign as a Case Study of Political Mobilization before Mass Migration"; Henry Veggian, University of Pittsburgh, "Garibaldi in America"

**b. Panel Discussion: Maps of Memory: Ancestry and Geography in Italian American Poetry and Music**

Moderator: Gina Miele, Coccia Institute, Montclair State University

Panelists: Rosette Capotorto, Hoboken, NJ, Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University, Peter Covino, University of Utah, Michela Musolino, Clifton, NJ

**c. Literary Perspectives**

Mary Ann Mannino, Temple University, "Writings of Sister: At the End of the Santa Fe Trail"; Roseanne Giannini Quinn, Santa Clara University, "Encountering Crime: Thrillers of Lisa Scottoline"; Joseph Ricapito, ISU, "Cesare Pavese and His View of America"

**d. Reading: *Italian Heart, American Soul: An Anthology***

Fred Gardaphe, SUNY Stony Brook, Louisa Calio, Maria Fama, Joseph Conforti, SUNY Old Westbury, Marisa Labozzetta, Ed Maruggi, Rochester Institute of Technology.

**Session 9, 5:00-6:30 p. m.**

**a. *Italian Americana* Presents Its Authors**

Chairs: Carol Bonomo Albright, University of Rhode Island and John Paul Russo, Univ of Miami  
Lewis Turco, Joanna Clapps Hermann, George Guida

**b. Reading: Marisa Labozzetta, "Surprise at the Copa"**

BUSINESS MEETING, 6:30-7:30 p. m.

OPEN BAR, 7:30-8:00 p. m.

Calvert Hotel

AIHA • Italian Cultural Institute DINNER/BANQUET, 8:00

**Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Guided Tours of Historic Annapolis, 11:00-2:00 p. m.

# AIHA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Mail this registration form to: Anne Arundel Community College,  
Administration Bldg, Room 210, 101 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012-1895

(Please use black ink)

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*NEW AIHA PUBLICATION! ORDER TODAY!*

# Italian Immigrants Go West: The Impact of Locale on Ethnicity

Edited by Janet Worrall (University of Northern Colorado) Carol Bonomo-Albright (Editor of *Italian Americana*), Elvira DiFabio (Harvard University), 2003, 232 pages, Volume 34 of the American Italian Historical Association Proceedings.

ISBN 093467552x. \$20 paper, \$22 hardcover. 15% discount on 5 or more copies

Immigrants are often thought of as arriving in New York and settling there. This volume of essays focuses on a variety of topics including the internal migration to the western areas of America--and to other countries, such as Australia and South America, and presents interesting information on the religious emigration of the Waldensians, the relationship between Italians and Mexicans in the Arizona copper industry; major league baseball players from the West Coast; opposing fascism in San Francisco in the late '30s; locale in Italian Australian writing; and the role of religion in emigration and assimilation of Waldensians and Mormons. The book also treats communities in Pueblo, Colorado; San Diego, Mendocino County, Calaveras County, and Oakland, California; Westchester County, New York; and Galveston, Texas.

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Mail this form with your check payable to AIHA to: AIHA, Dominic Candeloro, 169 Country Club Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 or email [D-Candeloro@govst.edu](mailto:D-Candeloro@govst.edu) Phone 708-756-7168.

For a complete list of AIHA books visit [Http://www.aiha.fau.edu](http://www.aiha.fau.edu)

### **ALSO AVAILABLE NOW! ASK YOUR LIBRARY TO ORDER:**

*The Peasant and the Pen:*

*Men, Enterprise, and the Recovery of Culture in Italian American Narrative*

**By George Guida**

(Peter Lang, 2003), ISBN 0-8204-6730-8

An important study of Italian American literature and culture, this book offers insights into the burdens and benefits of Italian American manhood through careful readings of Italian, Italian American and other narrative texts. Available now from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.peterlangusa.com](http://www.peterlangusa.com).

## *AIHA BOOK SETS*

We invite all Italian Americans and their organizations to join with us in distributing authentic and scholarly information about Italian Americans. To this end, we have enriched the offering of AIHA books. Through the courtesy of the National Italian American Foundation we are able to include a 500-page study guide for the teaching of Italian American History and Culture, the *NIAF Timeline CD*, prepared by Salvatore LaGumina and John Marino, and the Coffee Table format *Italian Americans—A Celebration*, by Gay Talese. Moreover, our scanning project has made it possible for us to offer many out-of-print volumes of the AIHA proceedings on politics, religion, labor, social class, and relations with Jews on compact disks at low prices. We also are offering hard and soft copies of the latest AIHA volume (34) on Italians Immigrants in the West.

Dissemination of this literature is a core value for all who profess an interest in Italian American Studies. If you are a member of an Italian American organization, I know that you will jump at the chance to get these publications into libraries and to individuals and organizations. Please take a half-hour to forward the message below to every appropriate person in your address book. Print multiple copies and send them to your academic and public library, Italian cultural center, and Italian American clubs. It's a win, win, win, win situation. Good books get out to people at a good price, and that benefits AIHA financially. You will have the satisfaction of bringing authentic information about Italian Americans to a larger audience. We will be standing by for your orders.

### **The American Italian Historical Association Book Set includes 1-17 for \$100:**

1. *Italian American Radicalism: Old World Origins New World Developments*. Ed. R J. Vecoli (1972), 80 pp.
2. *Italian Americans in the Professions*. Ed. Remigio U. Pane, Intro. Giovanni Schiavo (1983), 290 pp.
3. *Italian Immigrants in Rural and Small Town America*. Ed. Rudolph J. Vecoli (1987), 204 pp, ISBN 093467147.
4. *The Italian Americans Through the Generations*. Ed. R Caporale (1986), 250 pp, ISBN 093467155.
5. *The Interaction of Italians and Irish in the United States*. Ed. Francis X. Femminella, Intro. Geno Baroni (1985), 308 pp, ISBN 093467513.
6. *Italian Americans: Struggle and Support*. Ed. J Tropea, James E. Miller, Cheryl Beattie Repetti (1986), 200 pp, ISBN 0934675171.
7. *The Melting Pot and Beyond: Italian Americans in the Year 2000*. Ed. J Krase & Wm Egelman (1987), 250 pp, ISBN 093467518x.
8. *Italian Americans: The Search for a Usable Past*. Ed. R. Juliani and P. Cannistraro (1989), 304 pp, ISBN 0934675198.
9. *Italian Ethnics: Their Languages, Literature and Life*. Ed. Candeloro, Gardaphe, & P Giordano (1990), 478 pp, ISBN 093467521X.
10. *A Century of Italian Immigration, 1890-1990*. Ed. Harral Landry (1994), 250 pp, ISBN 0934675279.
11. *New Explorations in Italian American Studies*. Ed. Richard N. Juliani and Sandra P. (1994), 246 pp, ISBN 0934675317.
12. *Through the Looking Glass*. Ed. Mary Jo Bona and Anthony J. Tamburri (1996), 344, ISBN 093467535x.
13. *Industry, Technology, Labor and the Italian American Communities*. Ed. Mario Aste, Jerome

- Krase, Louise Napolitano-Carman, and Janet Worrall (1997), 294 pp, ISBN 0934675406.
14. *Italian Americans: A Retrospective on the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Paola Alessandra Sensi-Isolani and A.J. Tamburri (2001), 273 pp, ISBN 9-9434675-50-3. [Available only on CD. CD also contains AIHA vol. 1 on Politics, and vol. 6 on Religion.]
15. LaGumina, Salvatore. *WOP: A Documentary History of Anti Italian Discrimination*. (1973), 319 pp, ISBN 1550710478. \$20.
16. Margherita Marchione, Ed. *Philip Mazzei: My Life and Wanderings* (1980), 437 pp, ISBN091632204.
17. Rita Ciresi, *Pink Slip* (1999), 353 pp, ISBN 038532362X.

**The AIHA Deluxe Book Set includes the above plus six of the following for \$150:**

18. Edward Cifelli, ed. *The Selected Letters of John Ciardi* (1991), 475 pp, ISBN 1-55728-171-8. \$15.
19. *Italian Immigrants Go West: The Impact of Locale on Ethnicity*. Worrall, Bonomo-Albright, DiFabio (2003), 232 pp, ISBN 093467552x. \$20.
20. *Italian Americans: Looking BackùMoving Forward, A Study Guide for All Levels Prepared by the State Education Department of New York*, 541 pp. Supplied to AIHA through the National Italian American Foundation. \$20.
21. Gay Talese (with a forward by Leon Panetta), *Italian Americans: A Celebration* (2001), 207 pp, Coffee table format, published by and supplied to AIHA by NIAF. \$25.
22. *Milestones of the Italian American Experience, 1492-2003*, CD Rom, produced by NIAF.
23. CD Rom of AIHA out-of-print volumes 4 (*Power and Class*), 11 (*Pane e Lavoro*), 21 (*Italian Americans in Transition*), 22 (*Italian Americans Celebrate Life*), 24 (*Italian American Public/Private Lives*). Total approximately 1000 pp.
24. Vincent Lapomarda. *Charles Nolcini: Life & Music of an Italian American in the Age of Jackson* (1997), 100 pp, LC #96-095222.

**Just Published, Offered Separately:**

25. Ed Maruggi, ed. *Italian Heart, American Soul* (2004), 256 pp, ISBN 0965887014. \$15.

## ORDERING AIHA BOOKS

Ask your librarian to purchase the set, have your local Italian American club buy a set for the library, and buy a set for yourself. Unless specified, each book is available individually for \$12. We offer a SET of 17 titles for only \$100 including shipping. The Deluxe set includes 23 books for \$150.

Mark the list above to complete your order. Send the list and your check (payable to AIHA) to AIHA Books, 169 Country Club Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411, (708) 756-7168, D-Candeloro@govst.edu.

## Member News

**Giorgio Bertellini** (giorgiob@umich.edu)

Some Recent Publications

*24 Frames: Italy. Wallflower Critical Guide to Italian Cinema* (London: Wallflower Press, 2004)

“Divo/Duce: Displaced Rhetorics of Masculinity, Racial Identity, and Politics Among Italian-Americans in 1920’s New York City,” *Journal of Urban History* (2004).

“Black Hands and White Hearts. Italian Immigrants as Urban Racial Types in Early 20th Century American Cinema,” in *Urban History* (August, 2004).

“Ethnic Self-Fashioning at the Cafè-Chantant: Italian Immigrants at the Movies in New York, 1906-1916,” in William Boelhower and Anna Scacchi eds., *Public Space/Private Lives: Race, Gender, Class and Citizenship in New York, 1890-1929* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2004), pp. 39-66.

“Colonial Autism: Whitened Heroes, Auditory Rhetorics, and National Identity in Interwar Italian Cinema,” in Patrizia Palumbo ed., *A Place in the Sun: Africa in Italian Colonial Culture* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003), pp.255-278.

**Giovanna Capone** (Gca5113859@aol.com)

Giovanna Capone lives in Oakland, California and is currently completing her master’s degree in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University, CA, with an emphasis on children’s and young adult services.

Her recent publications, art exhibits, and activities include: Her original poem entitled “My Mother,” appeared in the winter, 2003 issue of *Rattle*, entitled *A Tribute to Italian Poets*. Her review of the traveling photo exhibit: *Con Le Nostri Mani (With Our Hands)*, was published in *The Piedmont Post*, January 28, 2003, entitled: “East Bay Italians in photo exhibit at Temescal Library.” This historic photo display documented the lives of Italians in Oakland

and beyond in the early 1900’s. It was researched and created by the Italian American Heritage Committee. Her original short story “Rock Bottom” appeared in volume 4 of the anthology *Hot & Bothered*, lesbian short short fiction, edited by Karen X. Tulchinsky, c. 2003, for Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver. Her collection of children’s poetry, entitled *I Am the Black Orpheus, The Poetry of Oakland’s Youth* was produced by the Oakland Public Library in conjunction with a grant from Partnership for Change, c. 2001. This volume of original poems was written by children and teens, and edited by Giovanna Capone as a result of an after-school creative writing workshop she taught at the Golden Gate Branch Library. As an exhibiting collage artist, Giovanna’s mixed media work, entitled “Be different, follow a drumbeat for peace,” appeared in a moving art installation traveling throughout Alameda County during 2003-2004, sponsored by *Health Through Art: Signs of Recovery*, a project of the Health & Human Resource Education Center, Oakland, CA. Additional collage art of hers also appeared in an exhibit of over 200 artists at the San Francisco Public Library, entitled *Reversing Vandalism*, from Jan. - May, 2004, at the Jewett Gallery, James C. Hormel Center, Main Library. This art exhibit was in response to over 600 lesbian/gay books that were vandalized by a local resident of San Francisco charged with a hate crime. The artists’ varied responses represented a community’s desire to transform hate into healing. *Hey Paesan! Writing by Lesbians and Gay Men Of Italian Descent*, the first-ever anthology examining Italian American ethnicity and gay identity, was co-edited by Giovanna Capone, Denise Nico Leto, and Tommi Avicelli Mecca, for Three Guineas Press, c. 1999. It was selected as a Lambda Literary Award finalist for the year 2000.

**William Connell** (connelwi@shu.edu)

William Connell, Professor of History and La Motta Chair in Italian Studies at Seton Hall University was elected to the Board of Editors of the *Journal of the*

*History of Ideas*, and that he was honored at the annual gala of the Federation of Italian American Societies of New Jersey.

### **George Guida**

George Guida is the featured poet in the latest issue of *Italian Americana*. His poem, "Napolitan," read at last year's AIHA conference, will appear shortly in *VIA*.

He was also featured at the 2004 Genoa Poetry Festival, alongside fellow Italian American poets Sandra Mortola Gilbert, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, and Robert Viscusi.

A few remaining copies of his chapbook, *Low Italian*, printed exclusively for the Genoa festival, will be available at this year's AIHA conference.

His essay on Louis Prima's 1950s stage show, "Las Vegas Jubilee," is due to appear in this fall's issue of *The Journal of Popular Culture*.

### **Jerry Krase** (JerryKrase@aol.com)

Jerry Krase, Professor Emeritus published an article "Italian American Urban Landscapes: Images of Social and Cultural Capital" and a review of "Ralph Fasanella's America" by Paul S. D'Ambrosio in *Italian Americana*. His "Seeing Community in a Multicultural Society: Theory and Practice" appeared in *Croatian Commission for UNESCO's Perspectives of Multiculturalism: Western and Transitional Countries*. He also published a review essay of Mariella Nocenzi's *Vivere l'incertezza Sociologia, politica e cultura del rischio ambientale nelle insicurezze da inquinamento elettromagnetico* in the *International Review of Sociology*, as well as "Chinatown: A Visual Approach to Ethnic Spectacles" in the Proceedings of the Asian American Conference "Education: Challenges and Perspectives," Asian American/Asian Research Institute of The City University of New York. In addition, he published the entry "Little Italies" in the *Encyclopedia of Community: From Village to the Virtual World*.

He presented illustrated lectures on "Gentrification: Poland and Polonia" at the

Polish American Historical Association and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America annual meetings. His illustrated paper, "What Does Community Look Like?" was at the Bill Cecil-Fronsman Teaching Panel: Aural and Visual Literacy in the Social Science Classroom H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online at the annual Meeting of the American Historical Association and "Senses of Place: Urban narratives as Public Secrets" Conference of the Pace University Institute for Environmental and Regional Studies.

In Brooklyn he has been serving on the Brooklyn Borough President's Task Force for Equity for Brooklyn.

### **Vincent A. Lapomarda** (vlapomarda@holycross.edu)

Vincent A. Lapomarda has just published *The Jesuits in the United States: The Italian Heritage*. (Worcester, MA: The Jesuits of Holy Cross College, Inc., 2004).

### **Julia Lisella** (lisella@fas.harvard.edu)

This year as a Lecturer on History and Literature at Harvard University Julia Lisella was awarded the John Clive Teaching Prize. In addition she completed a chapbook of poems appearing this fall called *Love Song Hiroshima* (Finishing Line Press) that deals with Italian American themes. Another, full-length collection of poems entitled *Terrain* will be published by Manifold Press in the spring.

### **Margherita Marchione**

(sr.margherita.marchione@worldnet.att.net)

Born in Little Ferry, New Jersey, Margherita Marchione earned the M.A and Ph.D. from Columbia University. She is Professor Emerita of Italian Language and Literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University. A Fulbright Scholar and recipient of a Michael from the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame, she is an internationally-known author of more than fifty books on Pope Pius XII, Clemente Reborra, Giuseppe Prezzolini, Philip Mazzei, Peter and Sally Sammartino, and others.

Among her books in defense of Pius XII: *Yours Is a Precious Witness: Memoirs*

*of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy* (1997), *Pius XII: Architect for Peace* (2000), and *Consensus and Controversy: Defending Pius XII* (2002), all published by Paulist Press (New York/Mahwah, NJ), as well as *Shepherd of Souls: A Pictorial Life of Pius XII* (Inside the Vatican, 2002) containing over 250 photographs and sketches of the wartime Pontiff. Many that have rarely been seen. There are anecdotes, human-interest stories, and the most important historical facts that celebrate Pius XII's life and capture his role during the Holocaust. An adaptation of this book, *Man of Peace: Pope Pius XII* (with a Teachers' Guide for classroom use), is now available (Paulist Press, 2003). Italian editions of all these books, as well as bi-lingual Spanish-English and Italian-English Coloring books for Children are now available.

The stated purpose of these books is to provide "definitive, conclusive and inspirational proof of Pius XII's efforts to protect the victims of Nazism." In Chapter Eleven, "Defending Pius XII" of *The Fighting Nun: My Story* (Cornwall Press, London/ Cranbury, NJ, 2000), Sister Margherita refutes John Cornwell and defends the honor of the Pontiff.

The author succeeds admirably. Her books collect first-hand eyewitness accounts of Pius XII's contemporaries; English translations of primary material (from diplomatic and Vatican sources) available nowhere else; and reveal the utter hatred the Nazis had for Pius XII, because of his defense of persecuted Jews and uncompromising stand on behalf of Christian principles. These books have drawn considerable attention from historians and religious leaders of many faiths.

Sister Margherita was among the first to answer the modern critics of Pius XII and deserves much credit for provoking other scholars into re-assessing the Papacy's role during World War II. In a field filled with biased historians hiding behind the façade of "objectivity," she is refreshingly honest and declares her unambiguous support for Pius XII at the outset of all her books. In her judgment, not only has the wartime Pontiff

been defamed, but there is more than enough evidence to prove that he was a genuine saint.

Sister Margherita lectures and participates in radio and television programs in Europe and in the United States. Besides honorary citizenship in Poggio a Caiano (Prato) and Pontecagnano (Salerno), among her numerous honors, she is a Knight of the Star of Solidarity of the Republic of Italy. She recently received the prestigious award, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, from His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Sister Margherita is found in *Dictionary of American Scholars*, *Contemporary Authors*, *World Whose Who of Women*, *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*, and *Lives of Contemporary American Nuns*.

A member of the Religious Teachers Filippini, Sister Margherita-educator, scholar, historian-is treasurer at Villa Walsh in Morristown, New Jersey, where she resides.

**Marie-Christine Michaud** (marie-christine.michaud@univ-ubs.fr)

Last May, a symposium entitled "Minoritie(s): Ideological Construction or Reality?" was organized in Université de Bretagne-Sud (Lorient, France). Marie-Christine Michaud, the co-organizer of the symposium, delivered a paper about the change of status of minority groups when new immigrants arrive. It focused on the role of Americanizing agents that the Irish adopted by becoming the bosses of Italian railroad workers in America at the end of the nineteenth century. The proceedings should come out by early 2005.

**Stanislao Pugliese** (Stanislao.Pugliese@hofstra.edu)

Stanislao Pugliese, Associate Professor of History at Hofstra University, recently published *Fascism, Anti-Fascism and the Resistance in Italy, 1919-Present* (Rowman & Littlefield). His edited volume, *Frank Sinatra: History, Identity and Italian American Culture* is due out in October from Palgrave Macmillan.

In July 2004, he was a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford.

**Lewis Turco** (mathom@gwi.net)

Recent Publications and Activities

CONCERT: Two songs, "Autumn Lines," and "Winter," from "Elegy for a Japanese Garden: Three Songs for Soprano, Alto Flute and Piano" by the Dutch composer Walter Hekster, texts from *First Poems* by Lewis Turco (1960); *World Premiere Performance* by Trio Il Castello: Ilse van de Kasteelen, Jan van der Meer, Koos Verheul, Programma T+ Concert, Cantina Vocaal, Amsterdam, Holland, 19 January 2003.

AWARD: Co-winner of the Gretchen Warren Award of the New England Poetry Club for the best poem published by a member in the previous year; the judge was Rhina Espaillat who chose "Herb Plays with the Blues" from *The Formalist*, 13:1, 2002, pp. 105-106. PUBLICATION: A 1989 Christmas card made of a poem, "The Xmas Blues," by Lewis Turco, with accompanying lithograph by printmaker George O'Connell, a part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art since 2002, was posted on the Archive's web site at [www.AAA.si.edu/exhibits/mullenxmas](http://www.AAA.si.edu/exhibits/mullenxmas) during the 2003 holiday season.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "A Medicine for Melancholy," reprinted from *The Compleat Melancholick* (Bieler, 1985) in *Pipes and Tobaccos*, viii:1, Spring 2003, p. 20.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "Wall," in the "celebrity haiku section" of the SUNY alumni magazine *Oswego*, xxix:1, 2003, p. 28. PUBLICATION: A poem, "For Jessica Shanahan Living in Alaskan Woods," *The Formalist*, xiv:1, 2003, p. 111.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "The Joint, *The Text for George O'Connell's Series of Monoprints, 'The Jazz Joint,'*" in *The New York Quarterly*, No. 59, Spring 2003, p. 50.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "Homophobia," in *Antioch Review*, Vol. 61, No. 3, Summer, 2003, p. 564.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "Spelling Module," in *The English Record*, 54:1, Fall 2003, p. 7. PUBLICATION: An essay-

memoir, "Our Friend, Dan Chaucer," in *The English Record*, liii:3, Spring-Summer 2003, pp. 47-54. PUBLICATION: A poem, "The Dead Letter Office," *The Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*, Winter, 2003, p. 47.

PUBLICATION: A book, *The Book of Dialogue: How to Write Effective Conversation in Fiction, Screenplays, Drama, and Poetry*, Lebanon: University Press of New England, February.

PUBLICATION: A book, *A Sheaf of Leaves: Literary Memoirs*, Scottsdale: Star Cloud Press, April 27th. PUBLICATION: *Lewis Turco and His Work: A Celebration*, edited by Steven E. Swerdfeger, Scottsdale: Star Cloud Press, April 27th.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "Colds in Season," *The Edge City Review*, no. 19, vol. 6, no. 3, (3/04), p. 60. PUBLICATION:

"Four Reviews," Portland, Maine, Public Library Guest Picks Internet web page, May.

PUBLICATION: A poem, "Abandophobia: The Fear of Divorce," *The Formalist*, Vol. 15, Issue 1, 2004, p. 94. PUBLICATION:

An essay, "Angle of Ascent: The Poetry of Robert Hayden" (reprint), in *Robert Hayden* (Bloom's Modern Critical Views), ed. Harold Bloom, Broomall: Chelsea House Publishers, August. PUBLICATION: A book, *The Collected Lyrics of Lewis Turco / Wesli Court*, Scottsdale: Star Cloud Press, Fall. House Publishers, August.

PUBLICATION: A book, *The Collected Lyrics of Wesli Court*, Scottsdale: Star Cloud Press, October.

**Lawrence D. P. "Larry" Vellani**

(vellani@elon.edu)

Lawrence D. P. "Larry" Vellani has more than twenty years' experience in building and funding research, education and direct service organizations in Indiana, North Carolina and Ohio, and has served as a technical consultant to public and private agencies in more than a dozen additional states. In January 2003, he joined Elon University's Office of Institutional Advancement as Director of Foundation Relations to strengthen Elon's commitment from foundations and other philanthropic institutions, and to work with senior faculty

and administrators on major university initiatives.

From September 1994 through March 2002, he served the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), assisting local jurisdictions and community-based organizations with the establishment and continuous quality improvement of sentencing programs, and coaching public and private agencies in organizational development and change.

Since January 1996, he has served as an adjunct lecturer in Elon University's Center for Public Affairs, a program of the University's Department of Political Science and Public Administration. In addition to supervising interns and advising the University's mock trial team, he has authored and taught courses on organizational behavior, judicial administration and comparative criminal justice. His judicial and criminal justice courses include overnight residence on the Qualla Indian Boundary, the sub-national jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

The immediate descendant of Italian immigrants, he collects melodies and lyrics from family and friends reflective of the reality of the uprooted and resettled. A solo as well as an ensemble musician, he performs a unique blend of *musicamericana* from yesteryear to tomorrow. His musical performances draw upon source material from lands and peoples on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as the waters of the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico.

WE WELCOME YOUR  
"MEMBER NEWS" SUBMISSIONS OF  
200 OR FEWER WORDS.

## BOOK PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

*Republican Ideals in  
the Selected Works of Italian-American  
Joseph Rocchietti, 1835-1845*

by Carol Bonomo Albright  
& Elvira G. DiFabio

Preface by Werner Sollors

This work offers scholars of immigration history embellished understandings of Italian immigration prior to the mass migrations of 1880-1920, allowing revision regarding this earlier Italian-American culture. It also is of importance to scholars of 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature, of the Italian novel, and to those interested in the influence of Italian writing on other national literatures. Finally it provides useful information about the early 19th century to scholars of literature, history and cultural studies.

It includes a Preface by Prof. Werner Sollors of Harvard University, an Introduction by Carol Bonomo Albright and Elvira DiFabio, with translations of citations by Rocchietti by Elvira DiFabio, the novel *Lorenzo and Oonalaska*, the essay "Why a National Literature Cannot Flourish in the United States of North America" [reviewed by Edgar Allan Poe] with a selected bibliography and an index.

## Minutes of Executive Council Meeting

### Minutes of Executive Council Meeting

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Present: Anthony Tamburri, President, Carol Bonomo Albright, Vice-President, Frank Sorrentino, Treasurer, Dominic Candeloro, Executive Secretary, Angela Danzi, Secretary; Angelo Tripicchio, Curator; John Paul Russo, Mary Jo Bona, Josephine Gatuso Hendin, Elizabeth G. Messina, Dawn Esposito, Joseph M. Conforti, Teresa Cerasuola, Frank Alduino, Mario B. Mignone, Emelise Aleandri.  
Regrets: Salvatore LaGumina, Stefano Luconi, Frank Cavaioli, Jerry Krase.

**President's Report:**

President Tamburri opened the meeting at 10:15 am, and indicated that we should feel free to discuss any issues within the bounds of expediency. His message appears in the current Newsletter.

With regard to the Boca Raton conference, the final budget will be known when the proceedings are complete. At the very least, it is estimated that we will break even. The intake was \$19,000 – 20,000, expenses were \$16,000, and the commitment from FAU was \$5,000 to help with proceedings.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Sorrentino presented the Financial Statement, dated April 20, 2004, about our current level of expenditures and resources certified by the accountant. This is as close as we can come at present to an audit.
- Form 990 has been filed with the Federal Government, and report for charitable organizations has been filed with the Attorney General, State of New York. These materials will be scanned and distributed by Candeloro.
- The monies coming in and our expenditures are about the same. Since the April 20<sup>th</sup> statement we paid for proceedings and allocated grant money for journals, and the endowment to University of Minnesota [expenditures approved by Council at previous meetings]. (There is still some question as to exactly where to send our contribution to the endowed chair in honor of Rudolph Vecoli.)
- As of May 15, 2004, our resources are now \$34,000, \$10,000 less than April 20<sup>th</sup>. We earn only about \$300 – 400 in interest per year. Our financial situation is tentative. We hope for replenishment as the year goes on. We are in a difficult situation with respect to subsidizing any future programs.
- The financial report does not include \$24,000 Memorial Fund, and \$1,500 Executive Directors fund for current operations. These are not part of our discretionary funds at our disposal. Our past report recommended consolidation of the

Memorial Fund. Further our accountant found that while it is not illegal, it is highly unusual that these funds are placed outside the control of the Treasurer. His recommendation is that funds be consolidated.

After lengthy discussion the following motion was made and carried:

1. We will require that all funds be centralized including the Memorial Fund
2. The Chairperson of the Memorial Fund will remain as cosigner along with the Treasurer and or/ President.
3. Funds will remain dedicated to the Memorial Scholarship.

It was acknowledged that signature changes may take several months.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted with an additional WELL DONE!

**Secretary's Report:**

Danzi noted that the current Newsletter omitted the minutes from the Boca Raton General Meeting, but that they can be obtained by contacting her. Minutes from the November 2003 Executive Council Meeting were accepted with a correction to the list of attendees (Hendin was in attendance), and the suggestion that future minutes indicate a category of EXCUSED for those who are unable to attend. {Note: These minutes use a more standard category, "Regrets". Please comment.}

**Curator's Report:**

- The Curator's Report (see attached) includes an update about our holdings at the Center for Migration Studies. They have indicated that a \$2000 donation would assist in processing and cataloging our materials dating from 1990.
- After discussion, the treasurer suggested that we make a \$2000 donation to the CMS in early 2005 to ease the current fiscal situation. We voted to follow this recommendation.
- We also discussed the creation of a special fund to raise monies to support specific

projects that further the core mission of the organization. A motion was made and carried that we embark on a campaign to establish a Special Projects Fund, and that its first expenditure should be \$2000 in 2005 for CMS archival project.

- A suggestion was made that the President form a committee to coordinate the campaign to raise funds and prepare a fund-raising letter. After discussion, it was agreed that the committee will consist of five people, Tamburri, Candeloro, Esposito, Hendin and Conforti. They will draft a letter asking for donations for a special fund off -budget. Each of us can also create letters to make a personal appeal.

- Candeloro notes that the committee should be proactive, but that our record here is not promising since most committee efforts, with the exception of the Elections Committee, have not been successful.

- Tripicchio raised the question of the retention of manuscripts published and not published from previous conferences. After discussion, it was agreed that the Curator is the gatekeeper, and should approve of any materials donated to our CMS collection, that the Curator will provide a list of acceptable materials, and that no one should simply send or drop off materials without prior approval.

#### **Newsletter:**

-Tamburri: the Newsletter is in trouble. Tamburri and Candeloro put the last edition together since Paul Giamo is unable to take on the Newsletter without more support.

-After discussion, it was agreed that we will trust Tamburri and Candeloro to seek out a solution to the publication of the Newsletter/editor problem by the end of the summer.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

- See report attached. Thanks to Frank Alduino for underwriting the Newsletter. Dues received this year totaled \$13,500, which represents a shortfall in the projections. Our conferences generate new memberships after September, while other

new memberships come in mid-year. Other income is generated from book sales, which includes new proceedings and book sets. Several suggestions were made to increase revenues including:

-Use census data to locate concentrations of Italian Americans and to argue that local library collections should reflect this demographic.

-Place ads for our materials in academic journals and library association publications.

-Create an ad, 4 x 7" text for *ItalianAmericana* and other journals.

-Prepare press releases of publications for *America Oggi*, etc.

#### **Proceedings:**

1. 1998, New York City, Cannistraro and Krase:

No information available.

A motion was made that since proceedings are the cultural capital of the organization, and that since this particular issue has been delayed beyond all reasonable expectations, that the Executive Council revoke editorship of this volume, and re-appropriate materials so that we can appoint another editor or editors, so that this volume may finally see the light of day.

After some discussion, Tamburri stated that by week's end he will contact the editors and determine the status, locate disks, with an aim to digitalize this volume. Tamburri will contact members to apprise them of the status of this proceeding.

2. Aste, #33:

The third set of proofs has been with the editors for the past two months. It was noted that two contributors had two essays accepted for this volume, and that this sets an undesirable precedent. After intervention by Tamburri, one of these essays was eliminated, and the other was combined with the first essay. Funding for this volume is to come from U Mass. at Lowell. We also have an electronic version of these proceedings on disk.

3. Mormino, #35:

The editor indicates that the articles will be assembled by the end of summer. It was pointed out that the editor has not contacted anyone, so those who have made submissions still do not know if their work has been accepted. Tamburri indicated that he will call and ask for a list of accepted papers.

4. Tamburri, #36:

There were 24 submissions. The final report from readers will be completed in the next few weeks. Rewriting and revisions should be completed by the end of summer. If all goes well, the estimate is that the edition should go to press within six to nine months.

5. #34 Albright

Just published; \$10,174 total cost of printing. We discussed the unforeseen cost of producing this volume and the possibility of moving toward electronic publishing.

With respect to future proceedings, Tamburri announced the following:

-People who work on proceedings must be members of the organization.

-We need to decide what the word "Proceedings" means; are they selected essays or a complete record of the papers given, etc.

-Editors must be in consultation with officers for editorial and financial decision-making.

-A Letter of Agreement between the editor(s) and the organization should be prepared before any work on the proceedings is undertaken.

The Publications Committee should do the following:

a. Work with conference organizers to select candidates for editor, prepare a time-line for submissions, selection of papers, editing process, etc. A two-year schedule from beginning to publication is reasonable.

b. The lead editor must make a semester report as to the status of the process, articles accepted, etc.

c. The treasurer and officers must be involved in the production of the volume so

that we can hold costs down. (See report for suggestions for minimizing costs.)

d. The treasurer must be involved in the final decision-making.

e. A letter of agreement should exist between the editor(s) and the organization about a timely production. If after three years, production of a volume has not taken place, the organization can revoke the agreement and re-appropriate the volume, etc.

Tamburri asked the Publication Committee to coordinate these efforts and formulate a policy by the next Executive Council meeting.

Further, the Publications Committee is charged with investigating the costs and benefits of an electronic publication of the proceedings, and with making a recommendation on this question at our November meeting.

**Future Conferences:**

Annapolis, Nov. 2004: Frank Alduino noted the following:

-Garibaldi-Meucci Museum will lend an exhibit to the Conference.

-The Constantine Brumidi Lodge, OSIA, will bring an exhibit.

-Proposals coming in are slow and steady. Highlights will be a roundtable session on William Paca and a discussion and debate about his supposed IA status.

-Accommodations are \$119 per night. A minimum total of 120 rooms must be paid for over three days.

-Southwest airfare is \$39 from Islip, NY to Baltimore BWI, and a shuttle available to Annapolis. Drive from NYC is 3 \_ hours.

-PowerPoint and other facilities are available to presenters.

-Reception at hotel with music, lunch at Phillips Seafood Restaurant, with Cannistraro as speaker.

-NIAF has made a donation and Sons of Italy is a possibility. \$12,500- \$14,500 in funds has been raised not including fees.

-Expenses will include reception, lunch, dinner, wine tasting, and tours. "Annapolis

by Candlelight” will coincide with conference dates and reduced rates for this may be possible.

Some concerns:

-We must fulfill 120 total rooms, 40 per night for three nights. The hotel will provide meeting rooms and AV equipment, morning coffee, gratis. After October deadline, room rates go up to \$200 per night. Hotel has only 52 rooms.

-To counter low session attendance, there is the possibility of allowing non-members to attend for a reduced or no fee. This would include Sons of Italy, local NIAF members, and students.

-Local Chamber of Commerce will mail information about Annapolis to our members. The text needs to be prepared.

-No response on sponsorship has been received to date from the Italian Embassy.

-Alduino may be contacted at home about conference at (410) 758-2218.

Members are urged to send in conference proposals before the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline so that chairs can organize sessions, and to encourage graduate students and others to attend.

Los Angeles, 2005:

Proposal received from Luisa DelGuidice which was circulated to council members via email. Some comments and concerns:

-We will request that no sessions be held on Sunday, and tours be rescheduled for Sunday.

-Concern about timing of Thursday Executive Council Meeting to allow time for travel from the east coast.

-Budget is a highest-case scenario. One conference day is scheduled at UCLA, and another at the hotel.

-The cost of proceedings will not be covered by the registration fees.

-Approximately \$9000 in support has already been obtained.

We agreed that Candeloro, Sorrentino, and Tamburri will go over the numbers and

approve on the condition that the budget is solidified.

It was also noted that Richard Juliani prepared a guidebook for planning conferences that may be helpful and should be consulted.

We also discussed future conferences beyond 2005 and the possibility of changing the timing of the conference. A suggestion was made that we create a questionnaire to ask members about conference preferences.

Candeloro is discussing the possibility of a future conference in New Jersey in 2006. We also discussed the proposal to meet in Genoa in May 2005 as noted in previous minutes.

#### **Publications:**

The committee has already been charged as above.

#### **Elections:**

Elections were held and results tabulated and published. Candeloro will provide the correct expiration dates for current council members. Officer's terms expire this year. We will determine if Worrall will continue as chair of this committee, or appoint a chairperson.

**Membership:** Candeloro reports the following:

-We have many seniors and fewer younger members.

-Raising dues has been helpful, and no members have complained.

-Members are urged to make gift memberships to friends and family, to send letters to friends to promote membership

-We offer three books to new members.

**-WE NEED NEW MEMBERS!**

**Scholarship:** Esposito, Miglione, Worrell and Bona. Bona reports that:

-The award was raised to \$1000 to encourage more submissions.

-Handouts were prepared to inform students about the scholarship opportunity.

Suggestion that *America Oggi* and other publications are notified, and that information be disseminated to graduate programs around the country.

### **Chapter Reports:**

Long Island Regional Chapter:  
Cerasuola, Tripicchio, and Danzi reporting for the chapter:

The chapter is planning its annual luncheon with music and a speaker. Members recently visited the Enrico Caruso Museum in Brooklyn, NY. Recent programs included discussions of Italian Americans and WW II, and Italian Americans and foodways. The Book Club is active and doing well under the direction of Al Russo. Currently the chapter has 300 + members on its mailing list.

New York City Regional Chapter:  
(See attached report)

California Regional Chapter:  
(Report forthcoming)

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Angela D. Danzi, Secretary*  
(Danziad@farmingdale.edu)

### **Other AIHA Business**

The following were elected to the Executive Council in December 2002. Their three-year term will expire on Dec. 31st, 2005: Frank Alduino, Mary Jo Bona, Maria Luisa Ciavarelli, Joseph M. Conforti, Louise DeNaro Bender, Luciano Iorizzo, Stefano Luconi, Elizabeth Messina, Ernest E. Rossi, John Paul Russo.

The following were elected to the Executive Council in December 2003. Their three-year term will expire on Dec. 31, 2006: Emelise Aleandri, Bruno Arcudi, Frank Cavaoli, Teresa Cerasuola, Dawn Esposito, Fred Gardaphe, Paul Giaimo, Josephine Hendin,

Jerry Krase, Salvatore LaGumina, Ed Maruggi, Mario Mignone, Frank Pesci, Stan Pugliese.

There will be no election for Executive Council members this year. Only officers are up for election. The following are eligible for re-election: President Anthony Tamburri, Secretary Angela Danzi, Treasurer Frank Sorrentino. Vice-President Carol Bonomo Albright and Curator Angelo Tripicchio are finishing a second term and therefore are ineligible for re-election.

All nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Curator should be submitted as early as possible, but no later than November 6, 2004. Officers are limited to two terms. Please nominate members for officer positions. Be sure that you obtain their consent. Self nominations are welcome. Nominations should be made prior to the AIHA meeting in November. Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting of the AIHA in November, but if done then must be accompanied by the signature of ten AIHA members in good standing. All candidates must forward a biographical statement no longer than fifty words to be included with the ballot by November 8. Please forward all nominations and biographical sketches either as an email or written copy to Election Committee Chair Janet E. Worrall, P.O. Box 116, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley CO 80639, [janet.worrall@unco.edu](mailto:janet.worrall@unco.edu).

### ***Altretalie* Conference Report**

The *Altretalie* International Conference  
March 29-30, 2004  
Re-thinking Italian Migrations: Diaspora,  
Transnationalism and Generations  
(Emigrazione italiana: percorsi interpretativi  
tra diaspora, transnazionalism e generazioni)

This is a report on the latest conference sponsored by the Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli (together with the Fondazione CRT and the Regione Piemonte), Via Giacosa 38, Torino.

Organizer and editor of *Altreitalie* Maddalena Tirabassi invited fifteen international scholars to explore the concepts of “diaspora” “transnationalism” and “generations” as seen in various Italian migrations. The Fondazione Agnelli is particularly interested in public diffusion of this “memoria storica” (“historical memory”), especially now that “l’immigrazione é diventata un argomento di moda” (“immigration has become a popular topic”).

English and Italian were both official languages of the conference; simultaneous translation was provided for the more than 100 attendees.

Here is a brief comment on each paper:

Sociologist Robin Cohen from the University of Warwick discussed “internationalism,” “transnationalism,” and “cosmopolitanism,” stressing that the term “transnationalism” is by its very nature subversive of the concept “nation-state.” Samuel L. Baily from Rutgers University, New Brunswick emphasized the importance of his “village outward” approach comparative studies) to the study of immigration in general. His research concentrates on Latin America. Federico Romero from the Università di Firenze discussed the reasons for the lack of integration of the field of international relations, his expertise, with historiography. He is not hopeful that things will change. Bruno Ramirez from the Université de Montreal showed how “la frontiera” in Canada facilitated the Italian sojourner movement and helped lead to the multiculturalism that has marked Canadian politics since 1971. Emilio Franzina from the University of Verona explicated metaphors historically used by scholars to describe immigration. These motifs are nature: such as “fiume” or river; sickness, such as “emoraggia” or hemorrhage; perfection, such as “eldorado;” and finally, “colonia.” The immigrant himself usually identified with his “paese” and “provincia.” Regional identification was tacked on by the Italian politics of the 1970’s. Donna Gabaccia from the University of Pittsburgh advocated cross-disciplinarity. She used the characteristics of Robin Cohen’s 1997 definition of “diaspora” to show that the phenomenon is not inevitable. Rather, it should be looked at as a particular of some migrations. Claudio Gorlier from the Università di Torino described writers including di Donato, Mangione, Puzo, Fante, Ferlinghetti, Ciardi, Viscusi, DeLillo, as part of

the American literary tradition— even if they are called Italian-American. Patrizia Andendino, Università di Milano, and Paola Corti, Università di Torino, discussed their work on the “emigrazione biellese” to all parts of the world. Anna Maria Martellone from the Università di Firenze contends that a sense of Italian identity appeared in Italy only after World War II. Werner Sollors of Harvard gave a review of theories of “generations” in immigration studies. He also explored the lure that Italian-American identity holds as an ancestry choice for Americans. Jean Charles Vegliante of the Université Paris III spoke of Italian immigration to France as a model of “integrazione totale.”

Rudolph Vecoli, director of the IHRC in St. Paul, discussed the utility of “whiteness studies” as a concept applied to Italian immigration, especially in the U.S. Fernando Devoto of CEMLA in Buenos Aires discussed three stages of Italian immigration to Argentina, showing how at each point identity varied, depending upon the conditions of the immigrants and those of the receiving country. Luigi De Rosa from the Istituto Universitario Navale di Napoli discussed “birds of passage” from Campagna, during 1890-1906, when “fare una casa decente” (“to build a decent house”) became the goal of returning immigrants.

The most spirited debate arose over the question of whether or not transnationalism is an ideology or a descriptor of l’emigrazione italiana.

Tirabassi made mention of a plan for next year’s Torino conference: a seminar in Migration Studies with the focus on the research of young scholars. Young members of AIHA, take note.

---Gloria Nardini (nardini@uic.edu)

### **On the Road with *Una Storia Segreta***

*Una Storia Segreta* arrived in Milwaukee (and not a minute too soon, after it had been misplaced by the shipping company!) on March 26, where it was exhibited at the Milwaukee County Historical Society until May 30. An opening night event with a talk by Lawrence DiStasi, strolling Sicilian musicians, Italian folk dancers, pizza, wine and more, drew 125. While DiStasi was in town, he did radio interviews for the local NPR affiliate and a

college station and did some newspaper interviews, too.

The morning of the opening, AIHA member Bobby Tanzilo—who coordinated the exhibit’s appearance in Milwaukee—did two appearances on a morning news show. Other media attention has come from a number of sources. As a result, Tanzilo has been able to gather some more information about Frank Fragale, the editor of *Il Corriere Italiano*, who was arrested on Dec. 9, 1941 and was the sole internee from Milwaukee.

Two related events were also held. One with Mario Carini, president and historian of the Italian Community Center and another with Dominic Candeloro and Betty Cowley, who is the author of *Stalag Wisconsin*, a book about World War II POW camps in Wisconsin.

A number of Italian-language high school classes made trips to view the exhibition, whose appearance was sponsored by Monferrini in America, WisItalia and OSIA’s local chapter and grants were received from NIAF, Wisconsin Humanities Council and the Birnschein Foundation. A number of local businesses and other groups donated food, wine, music, signage, brochure design and dance.

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(bobby@staff.onmilwaukee.com)

### Helen Barolini Recent College & University Theses

- Cossu, Giovanna, “L’Immagine dell’Italia nei romanzi di Helen Barolini,” Università degli Studi di Torino, 1999-2000 (Italy);  
D’Ambrosio, Claudia, “Search for Identity of Italian American Women as shown in the works of Helen Barolini,” Università di Roma (Italy);  
Hanlon, Mary, “Reconstructions of Self in the Italian American Novel,” Bates College, 1992;  
Hassel, Eva, “Culture and Memory in the Writings of Contemporary Italo-American

- Women Authors,” University of Bonn, 1999 (Germany);  
Iusco, Maria, “Linguistic Links to Italy in *Umbertina*,” Università di Bari, 1997 (Italy)  
Papa, Cristina Migliaccio, “Ambivalence & Italian American Women,” Queens College (CUNY), 2003;  
Pipino, Mary Frances, “*I Have Found My Voice: Italian American Women Writers*,” Xavier University, 1998;  
Piras, Rita, “Signs of Ethnicity, Italianità, in Contemporary Italian American Fiction,” University of Nijmegen, 1998-99 (Netherlands);  
Portorico, Isabella, thesis on Helen Barolini novels, Università di Genova, 2003 (Italy);  
Romeo, Caterina, thesis on Italian American autobiography and memoir, Università degli Studi di Padova, 1998-99 (Italy);  
Scarpati, Carmen “Il problema dell’identità nella letteratura italo/American contemporanea,” Università degli Studi di Siena, 1997/98 (Italy);  
Simoncelli, Sabrina, “The Development of the Female Self in an Italian American Novel: *Umbertina* by Helen Barolini,” Siena College, 1993;  
Solbiati, Daniela, “Italian American Women Writers,” Università IULM di Milano, 1999 (Italy);  
Vendramin, Anna, “From Saga to Bildungsroman: Helen Barolini’s Novel *Umbertina*,” Università degli Studi di Padova, 1997-98 (Italy).

### Book & Film Reviews

*Rules of Hunger*, by Lois Roma-Deeley  
Scottsdale: Star Cloud Press, 2004  
ISBN 0965183556, 120 pp  
\$12.95 Quality Paperback

In 1990 Bill Baer founded *The Formalist*, A Journal of Metrical Poetry. When he had seen it, the playwright Arthur Miller wrote him, “I am sure I will not be the only one who will be grateful for it. Frankly, it was a shock to realize, as I looked through the first issue, that I had very nearly given up the idea of taking pleasure from poetry.” That is the trouble with American poets these days. They have forgotten how to entertain the reader. The result is that almost no one reads poetry—it isn’t fun anymore. That’s why running across someone like Lois Roma-Deeley is soul-satisfying. Her new book of poetry titled *Rules of Hunger* is not only readable, it is enjoyable

to read. She is a *paesan*' but not only that. She is a *paesan*' who can conjure up a world in words. You don't believe me? Look at these lines from "The Apostle of Wax and Shine":

"If St. Paul should ever lose his way  
on this road that leads through 1959  
to my seven-year-old self sitting on the front  
steps  
staring into the nothingness that would become  
my future,  
he would find a rag top convertible and my  
father  
the Apostle of Wax and Shine."

Perfect!

---Lewis Turco

***Queen of the Big Time*, Adriana Trigiani**

New York: Random House, 2004  
ISBN 1400060060, 272 pp  
\$24.95 Hardcover

Adriana Trigiani's latest novel, *Queen of the Big Time*, brings us to the small Italian American community of Roseto, Pennsylvania, where we meet Nella Castelluca. Nella is the middle sister in a family of five daughters and has aspirations of attending college and becoming a school teacher. As Nella quickly learns, however, sometimes dreams are quashed by circumstances beyond her control and she must learn to seek happiness where she can find it.

Trigiani's pages are filled with references to traditional Italian American communities and customs. For example, she explains how the town of Roseto was settled by northern Italian immigrants who could not get work among Italians in New York or New Jersey because of their distinctive dialects. Instead, these Italians settled in Pennsylvania to work in quarries and mines. They carried with them their old customs, even recreating the geography of their Italian town in Roseto, down to replicating which families lived next to each other. They also brought their religious festivals, including the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (from which the title *Queen of the Big Time* is derived). Many of these historical details have been passed down through Trigiani's own family. In a recent interview, Trigiani revealed that Nella is based on her grandmother who grew up in Roseto and who passed down her stories through the generations.

*Queen of the Big Time*, more than any other of Trigiani's novels, draws the reader into the

traditional Italian American family. Nella's struggle between self-sacrifice for the sake of the family and her own happiness mirrors a dilemma that faced (and still faces) many Italian American women. Trigiani manages to reveal how the family can be simultaneously supportive and demanding, even to the extent of suffocating its individual members for the common good; however, Trigiani's characters are never bitter; they accept their lot in life with humor and warmth, making the best of what they have accomplished and relying on the love of those around them.

Trigiani is to be commended for producing novels that accurately and positively reflect on the Italian American experience while appealing to a wide audience. *Queen of the Big Time* is no exception and is a must-read for those interested in Italian American issues as well as for those simply looking for a heartwarming story of life and love.

---Jennifer Schettino

***The Napoleon of New York: Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia*, by H. Paul Jeffers**

New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2002  
ISBN 0-471-02465-1, 392 pp  
\$30.00 Hardcover

Fiorello H. LaGuardia is the best-known Italian American politician. Countless studies have focused on him or have at least dealt with some aspect of his multifaceted political career. One, therefore, can reasonably wonder if we really need another biography of LaGuardia, especially if such a volume draws exclusively on secondary literature and adds nothing to what we already know about the "Little Flower."

Yet *The Napoleon of New York* meets that challenge. A former broadcast journalist and a prolific author, H. Paul Jeffers does not intend to offer a scholarly book. His popularizing but detailed account of LaGuardia's life carefully follows him from his childhood in Arizona to his frustrated presidential ambitions and his last months as a radio commentator. Anecdotes and colourful quotations from LaGuardia himself fill the book. Still Jeffers provides a perceptive portrait of New York City's mayor that highlights the contrast between LaGuardia's ruthless personality and his enticing public image.

The biography is not, however, without flaws. Jeffers overemphasizes LaGuardia's achievements in the revitalization of New York. The mayor did accomplish the unification of the

transit system, the clearance of slums, and the completion of public housing projects, as Jeffers remarks, but such transformations also implied a growing debt for the city, especially because the infrastructures that LaGuardia created with the cooperation of the federal administration were very costly to maintain. Likewise, Jeffers overstates La Guardia's rejection of machine politics. Indeed, while the mayor fought Tammany Hall and implemented civil service regulations, he also resorted to patronage to consolidate his political following at the polls. Finally, key studies are missing in Jeffers' bibliography, most notably Ronald H. Bayor, *Neighbors in Conflict* (1978) and *Fiorello LaGuardia* (1993).

Still, these remarks aside, *The Napoleon of New York* is a pleasant read that will help keep LaGuardia's memory alive within the general public.

---Stefano Luconi

***Stati Uniti e Italia nella Grande Guerra, 1914-1918*, by Liliana Saiu**

Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2003  
ISBN 8822252268, 255 pp  
\$ 27.00 Quality Paperback

Most studies of U.S.-Italian relations circa World War I have focused on the controversy at the Paris Peace Conference between American President Woodrow Wilson, on one side, and Italy's Prime Minister Vittorio Emanuele Orlando and Foreign Affairs Minister Sidney Sonnino, on the other. Conversely, Liliana Saiu's insightful and well-researched volume examines the reciprocal misperceptions and misunderstandings between the U.S. and Italian governments during the war. It offers an illuminating analysis of a latent clash that pitted Wilson's democratic ideals against Sonnino's *realpolitik* at wartime and eventually became evident after the end of the conflict.

Saiu shows that such disagreement dated back to the period of the Italian and American neutrality. At that time, Wilson bypassed Italy in his peace initiatives, while Sonnino distrusted the U.S. President's efforts because he thought that they were motivated only by personal ambitions. Moreover, conflicting interpretations of the fight characterized the initial months of the American participation in the war. To progressive Wilson, the enemy of democracy was Germany, but to conservative Sonnino, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was the foe more dreadful because inimical to Italy's

expansionism. Sonnino even tried to prevent the United States from entering the war, because he feared that the American participation would overshadow Italy's allegedly decisive role in the defeat of the Central Empires.

Still Sonnino intermittently thought of Wilson as a political partner. He pressured the U.S. president into defusing Pope Benedict XV's criticism of the conflict as "useless bloodshed" and subsequently urged Wilson to declare war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Such openings, however, hardly resulted from Sonnino's recognition of Wilson's statesmanship; rather, they were the temporary expression of the Foreign Affairs Minister's expediency. Likewise, Wilson misread his popularity in Italy as a cleavage between the expansionistic claims of Rome's government and the Italian people's real aspirations. He, therefore, appealed directly to the Italians in the name of the principle of nationality and turned the dispute between Washington and Rome into an irremediable split.

---Stefano Luconi

***Men of the Cloth*, Produced and Directed by Vicki Vasilopoulos**

22 minutes  
[vickiv34@comcast.net](mailto:vickiv34@comcast.net)

Vicki Vasilopoulos's independently produced documentary film project, *Men of the Cloth*, chronicles the history of Italian master tailors whom Vasilopoulos describes as men of "humble upbringing" who make "exalted clothing." While the film honors the devotion of master tailors to their craft and their struggle to keep their ancient tradition as artisans alive in an automated era, it is also an immigrant story.

By weaving the sagas of Nino, Renato, Checchino, and Giacomo into the fabric of her film, Vasilopoulos unravels history, offering her audience both a comprehensive account of the sartorial tradition in Italy and the United States, as well as a glorious glimpse into the struggles and successes of Italian immigrants.

The protagonists of *Men of the Cloth* literalize the metaphors "to spin a yarn" and "to spin a tale." Fingers encased in thimbles, necks bent low over fine Italian fabrics, eyes squinting to see each delicate stitch, these men document their life stories while hand-tailoring custom-made suits. It is easy to imagine something of their very souls being transposed into the garments they fashion. In a craft where textiles represent a sort of silent communication between

tailor and customer, the fabrication of cloth becomes a metaphor for the fabrication of a life. Replete with archival footage, family photographs, confessional interviews, slice of life imagery, and music that evokes the old country, *Men of the Cloth* will undoubtedly resonate with the experience of the Italian American community. Moreover, because the film is interdisciplinary in scope, scholars from a variety of fields will appreciate its contextualization of the sartorial craft in terms of history, economics, sociology, and art.

In *All's Well That Ends Well*, Shakespeare wrote, "The web of life is a mingled yarn, good and ill together" (IV, iii). Vicki Vasilopoulos' fascinating project, once completed, will bring a rich tapestry, woven by threads of many lives, to the American public.

---Gina M. Miele, Ph.D.

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- Dr. Andrew Meyer, Vice President for Learning, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Maryland;
- Dr. Jean Turner-Schreier, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Anne Arundel Community College;
- Mr. Eric Seaborg, Chief Administrative Officer, Anne Arundel Community College;
- Dr. Frank Alduino, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Maryland.
- Dr. Frank Pesci, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Maryland.

Their largesse is further coupled by their hosting of the 2004 annual conference, which will be organized by Dr. Alduino.

#### American Italian Historical Association (AIHA)

- publishes a newsletter
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