

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

il Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America

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Welcome to volume 4.2 of the Calandra Institute's *il Bollettino*! Numerous events have taken place since I last wrote, and you will read about their successes in the following pages. This issue also marks four years of publishing *il Bollettino* and five years of my tenure at the Institute. Both have been most rewarding and, I would add, challenging in various ways.

Il Bollettino is truly more than your run-of-the-mill newsletter, as I am confident you will agree. Our goal from the outset was for *il Bollettino* to inform and inspire, as such publications should do. One example, in this regard, is the rubric "Personaggi" and the inclusion of the likes of Angela Bambace, Pete Panto, Rose Pascale, Peter Sammartino, and, in this issue, George Graziadio. These individuals represent a spirit of activism and largesse we seem to have forgotten. Thus, we wish to remind our readers of certain aspects of our past, especially as those events often prove relevant to current concerns. The importance of education was so significant for Sammartino that he founded Fairleigh Dickinson University. Social issues affecting the working class and their progeny were personal challenges for Bambace, Panto, and Pascale. Women's and workers' rights, civil rights for children, and issues of social justice occupied the efforts of the leaders we have highlighted here. Finally, the outstanding activity of substantial philanthropy is herein represented by George Graziadio, who occupies a special category of the very few Italian Americans who have given more than \$1,000,000 to support education, specifically Italian culture and language in the United States. Graziadio, Joseph Coccia (Montclair State's Coccia Institute and the Coccia Foundation),

and Baronessa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò (NYU's Casa Italiana) are among a select group in this regard. Through the substantial support of these and other individuals and foundations, the study of Italians in America and our culture and language can make leaps and bounds nationwide. This is one of our most crucial challenges: to continue to sponsor the expansion of the teaching and learning of Italian language and culture.

To keep *il Bollettino* vibrant and exciting from issue to issue means that a number of people among the staff has to be attentive to our surroundings. Among others, Drs. Maria LaRusso and Joseph Sciorra have been of great assistance on the editing side of things. Of course, all contributing authors have proven to be most collaborative. We look forward to bringing you a substantial *il Bollettino* every six months, with current news about the Calandra Institute's groundbreaking work in Italian American education, history, art, and culture.

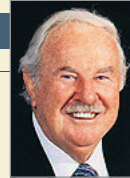
Our colleagues and friends within CUNY are most helpful, and many in the Italian-American community are equally encouraging. Much still needs to be done, and our future activities will continue to explore the multifarious sectors of our extended community as we move forward.

As I have stated before, we continue to benefit from the unyielding support from both Chancellor Matthew Goldstein's Office of CUNY and President James Muysken's Office of Queens College. They and their staff have cleared many a path throughout these first five years. *Buon'estate a tutti!*

— Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean

GEORGE GRAZADIO (1920–2002)

PERSONAGGI



The Graziadio name is recognized as one of the most dynamic reputations in philanthropy today. George Graziadio and his wife Reva worked tirelessly for nearly sixty years to support and celebrate the achievements of Italian Americans in all areas of society.

George L. Graziadio founded and opened the first Imperial Bank in Los Angeles in 1963, and went on to become one of Southern California's most successful financial entrepreneurs. Infused with George's savvy business acumen was a deep sense of community involvement and philanthropy. Under George's direction, Imperial Bank supported hundreds of charities and organizations over the years, including the United Way, YMCA, March of Dimes, and American Red Cross. George spearheaded many national professional and service organizations, and was a member of several influential business and cultural organizations in California. He received many honors including the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award, Boy Scouts Good Scout Award, Horatio Alger Award, OSIA Marconi Award, and Pugliese Targa d'Oro Award. Both George and Reva were named Humanitarians of the Year by the House Ear Institute.

George endowed the Pepperdine University Business School in 1996, named the Graziadio School of Business and Management, and the Graziadios continued to support it through several grants including the Reva Graziadio Endowed Scholarship Fund. Their grandchildren later established the Graziadio Legacy Scholarship in their grandparents memory.

In 1999, George and Reva founded the George L. Graziadio Center for Italian Studies at California State University, Long Beach. The Center continues today as a tangible expression of George and Reva Graziadio's philanthropic educational vision and their commitment to Italian studies as a global resource in all professional endeavors.

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THE 3Fs IN FOCUS

Rosangela Briscese

The Calandra Institute's fourth annual conference was held April 28-30, 2011. This year's proceedings examined "The 3 Fs in Italian Cultures: Critical Approaches to Food, Fashion, and Film."

Thursday evening's welcome and reception featured *Esquire* food and travel correspondent John Mariani presenting his recent book, *How Italian Food Conquered the World* (Palgrave MacMillan 2011). Mariani's historical overview examined the increasing prevalence of Italian food in a fine dining context long dominated by French cuisine.

During the course of two days, more than thirty participants offered exciting explorations of food, fashion, and film from the perspectives of history, psychology, sociology, folklore, poetry, memoir, and more. A small sample of the diverse and engaging papers follows.

The panels "Fooding Italy" and "The 3 Fs in Verse" opened the conference. In her presentation "Another Gourmet Meal Shot to Hell and Other Recipes My Italian Mother Shared with Me," poet Paola Corso described her mother's antipathy towards cooking as "anything but a joy," and her own inheritance of this trait: "I don't cook. I burn." Corso joked that her experience offers the conference theme a fourth "F" for "fire."

Donald Tricarico's paper, "Recognition and Respect for Guido?: The Social Trajectory of a Low Italian-American Style," traced guido fashion from disco culture to the present and positioned it in opposition to middle-class hippie and rock styles. He noted the influence of gym wear on club style, linking the two venues as sights of performance.

In her analysis of Louise DeSalvo's memoir *Crazy in the Kitchen*, Alessandra Coccopalmeri emphasized the book's exclusion from the "joyous memorializing" of Italian-American family and food memoirs. Rather, the three generations of women in DeSalvo's book grapple with the rejection or acceptance of Italian food, and by extension Italian identity, in suburban America.

Dominique Padurano discussed famed bodybuilder Charles Atlas (born Angelo Siciliano in Calabria in 1892) and the importance of the visual image, particularly in film, in his career as a bodybuilder, trainer, and artists' model. She drew a connection between Atlas' coming of age in the context of a gay New York subculture and his films' "homoaestheticism as normative heterosexual masculinity."

Folklorist Joan Saverino unpacked the tensions represented by the *pacchiana* traditional costume donned upon marriage by many Calabrian women in the town San Giovanni in Fiore (Cosenza province) well into the 1940s. Since upper-class women had adopted fashionable contemporary dress by the 1920s, the *pacchiana* located social identity and place.

Alissa Merksamer surveyed the history of Sicilian-Jewish cuisine and suggested that the cookery associated with Roman Jews, and Italian-Jewish cuisine in general, has its roots in pre-Inquisition Sicily. After the expulsion of Jews from Sicily in 1492, many resettled in Rome's ghetto, bringing with them dishes, such as *carciofi alla giudia*, which are now strongly associated with Rome.

Mary Jo Bona and Jennifer DiGregorio Kightlinger's paper, "Feast or Famine?" explored the presence and absence of food in Italian-American literature and film. For instance, in Josephine Gattuso Hendin's *The Right Thing to Do*, the character Gina's rejection of food is a metaphor for the rejection of the Italian-American family. Eating disorders are linked to acculturation, and silence and starvation become tools of rebellion.

In his account of an annual *soppressata*-making ritual undertaken by the men in his family each Super Bowl weekend, Peter Naccarato described a way in which Italian-American men embrace kitchen duties, without undermining their masculinity, to strengthen their sense of identity. The men's work is perceived as methodical—relying on recipes, measurements, and procedure—in contrast to the perception of women's work as instinctual.

Nancy Caronia analyzed Anne Bancroft's film *Fatso* (1980) and its complicated notions of violence in Italian-American communities. Stressing that the film has been understudied, Caronia demonstrated that Italian-American violence is not restricted to the image of the gangster, and the protagonist Dom DiNapoli can be viewed as a precursor to Tony Soprano.

Food, fashion, and film are keys points of encounter in the network between Italy and its diaspora, instrumental in exploring Italian-American identity and the perception of

Italy around the world. The Calandra Institute thanks all the conference participants for contributing to a vibrant discussion of these cultural fora.



Seated: Anna Guarascio Peluso in traditional *pacchiana* dress of San Giovanni in Fiore, Calabria. Son Tommaso on her lap with daughter Caterina standing. At left, her brother Vincenzo; standing at right, Anna Guarascio (sister of Anna Guarascio Peluso's father Salvatore), c. 1912-13. Archivio Fotografico Saverio Marra, Museo Demologico dell'economia, del lavoro e della storia sociale silana.

ITALICS: THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN TV MAGAZINE BUILDS INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS

William Schempp

Italics completed its twenty-fourth season of production, fulfilling its mission to educate and inform audiences on both sides of the Atlantic regarding issues of interest and importance to Italian and Italian-American communities. This year the team was especially pleased to expand its role as producers of Italian and Italian-American news on the Internet. The roster of new programs—*Italics 2.0*, *Italics TU* (recorded live in Italian), and *Nota Bene* (hosted by Professor Fred Gardaphé)—delivers news and information to viewers on demand. These new media formats, coupled with live and archived coverage of the Institute's programs, provide viewers with continuous engagement and international communication.

Newsworthy coverage included a dialogue with John Fratta, President of the Little Italy Restoration Association, regarding efforts to resolve community controversy surrounding a proposed shortening of the historic annual Feast of San Gennaro, due to alleged disruption to local business owners. Dean Anthony Julian Tamburri discussed with Ruth Sergel, founder of Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, her community activism in creating a nationwide commemoration of the fire's centennial. Viewers also had the opportunity to witness the powerful and poignant ceremony held at the factory site. The memorial brought thousands of people to the street including family members of the victims, political leaders, and the New York City Fire Department—all in efforts to pay tribute to the victims as well as commit to the prevention of workplace and factory accidents.

Italics was on hand to cover the extraordinary life and legacy of former Queens Congresswoman Geraldine A. Ferraro, which included film clips on the occasion of her 75th birthday surrounded by friends and family at the renaming of

a post office in her honor. Also documented was the exhibition *Guitar Heroes: Legendary Craftsman from Italy to New York*, examining the history of Italian and Italian-American luthiers, creators of stringed instruments, on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Viewers were treated to a "Writers Read" segment with Dr. Joseph Sciorra who shared excerpts from his book *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian American Lives*, providing insight on how individuals reproduce and contest identities through expressive means.

Italics joined His Excellency Cardinal Sepe of Naples on his *Dire Napoli* Visit of Hope in New York to bring attention to the plight of migrants in Italy, the United States, and throughout the world. The Cardinal called for global humanitarian response to the needs of the marginalized, while heightening awareness of universal struggles for dignity and respect in the acculturation to new host societies.

The team traveled to the US Capitol in Washington DC to join the Honorable Nancy Pelosi and Italian Ambassador Giulio Terzi Di Sant'Agata at the congressional ceremony honoring the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification. *Italics* also visited New Orleans for a film screening of *Forever Blues*, directed by Franco Nero. While in Louisiana, Frank Maselli provided viewers with an update on his efforts to rebuild the former Maselli Museum, named in memory of his father.

Join *Italics* in October to celebrate Italian Heritage and Culture Month! Stay tuned to CUNY-TV or Livestream.com. as we develop international crossroads to Italian and Italian-American programming.



STAFF NEWS

LUCIA GRILLO, founder of Calabrisella Films, is launching a feature-length film, *A Tigered Calm*, shot on location in New York and Calabria, Italy. *A Tigered Calm* is the first film to examine the Mafia through the lens of a woman who, as an outsider, courageously attempts to effect change. Grillo's work as a filmmaker is rooted in her immigrant family. She tells stories for Italian-American audiences but her tales also have a unique appeal for the universal values engendered in the lives of ordinary people. For more information about the film, visit www.atigeredcalm.com. You can also follow the film's progress at twitter.com/atigeredcalm and on facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/A-Tigered-Calm/204170566260660. For more information about Grillo and her work, visit www.calabrisellafilms.com.

JOSEPH SCIORRA was invited to present his paper "The Italian-American Imaginarium in the Digital Era" at the Center for Folklore Studies, Ohio State University. He presented his paper "Vernacular Exegesis of the Gentrifying Gaze: Saints, Hipsters, and Public Space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn" at the Cultural Studies Association conference at Columbia College in Chicago. Sciorra was invited to present his edited anthology *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian-American Lives* (Fordham University Press, 2011) at the Italian Cultural Center at St. John's University, the Morgagni Medical Society at the Tiro A Segno of New York, the Italian American Writers Association, and Casa Belvedere on Staten Island. His essay "The Mediascape of Hip-Wop: Alterity and Authenticity in Italian-American Rap" was published in *Global Media, Culture, and Identity: Theory, Cases, and Approaches* (Routledge), edited by Rohit Chopra and Radhika Gajjala.

CALANDRA'S EYES AND EARS ON THE CAMPUSES: The Italian American Faculty Staff Advisory Council

Donna Chirico

This is an exciting time for the Italian American Faculty Staff Advisory Council (IAFSAC) as CUNY completes a comprehensive diversity study under the supervision of Jennifer Rubain, University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity. Dean Rubain visited campuses to assess diversity practices, and met with the IAFSAC executive committee and collaborated with Dean Anthony Julian Tamburri to educate the CUNY community regarding the history of discrimination against Italian Americans at the university and beyond. As part of this effort, Tamburri spoke at a meeting of the affirmative action and compliance officers and included illustrations depicting harsh portrayals of Italian Americans in the press dating back to the early twentieth century. Historical information was provided, describing the process by which Italian Americans came to be recognized as an underrepresented group at CUNY, in addition to statistical data provided by CUNY illuminating the present status of ethnic diversity at the university.

There has been ample opportunity for faculty and staff to express their concerns regarding diversity issues at CUNY. Cambridge Hill Partners had oversight of the process which included hearings, focus groups targeting all underrepresented constituencies, individual interviews and an online survey. According to the CUNY website, the diversity study will “assess the experiences of underrepresented groups and identify the best recruitment and retention practices within the University and at peer institutions.” Individuals interested in learning how their campus fares on issues pertaining to diversity in the workplace can learn more about this project by logging onto: www.cuny.edu/diversitystudy.



Council Close Up:

PROFESSOR MARIA ENRICO

Borough of Manhattan Community College

Professor Maria Enrico was born in the United States, grew up in Europe, returned to New York for undergraduate studies at Barnard College, and completed masters and doctoral work at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Enrico began a multidisciplinary career working in the international music copyright industry for American rock groups; as translation bureau chief for Berlitz; legal assistant for Coder Brothers law firm; and adjunct professor at Catholic University and American University. In addition, she worked as the cultural attaché to the Consulate General of the Republic of San Marino and executive director of the American University of Rome. Upon her return to New York, Dr. Enrico directed the modern language program at Mercy College, has been a radio producer, opera coach, interpreter, and award-winning translator. Currently, Enrico is an associate professor in the modern languages department at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Students and faculty are fortunate to have this outstanding scholar and practitioner to learn from and work with. Professor Enrico has served on the IAFSAC for many years as an alternate and campus delegate and now its first Vice Chair.

To learn more about the IAFSAC or express your interest in becoming a campus delegate, contact chairperson Dr. Donna Chirico at dchirico@york.cuny.edu.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

We never met our grandmother Maria Concetta Sutera (left) and great-aunt Carmela Magistro (right), but their personalities—legendary in our family lore—shine through in this 1916 photo. These sisters-in-law were known to be as different as night and day: directed, indomitable Maria Concetta, versus dreamy, ideological Carmela. Yet these spirited, independent young women also had much in common, defying conventions of the times. Leaving behind their humble roots and unfortunate family circumstances in their hometowns of Cerami (Enna province) and Sant’Angelo di Brolo (Messina province) in Sicily, both had the talent and initiative to make their way to New York in the same year, 1912, and find work as accomplished seamstresses. Carmela became active in the labor movement, and Maria Concetta ensured that both her son (Elise’s father) and, even more surprisingly, her daughter (Ruth’s mother) would pursue a college education. In this recently discovered photograph, they convey their definitive essence, unaware of the brief time left to them. Carmela would succumb to tuberculosis in 1920 at age 28, and Maria Concetta to rheumatic heart failure some years later at age 45.

— ELISE MAGISTRO and RUTH KUNSTADTER

SPOTLIGHT: CUNY STUDENTS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Former Italian Club Presidents Share Their Passion for Italy

Nancy Ziebler

CUNY students Gabrielle Pati and Salvatore Inzerillo each visited Italy to travel, observe, and discover the source of their language and culture. Gabrielle served as president of the Hunter College Italian Club from 2008–2009. Salvatore was president of the Italian Society at Baruch College from 2007–2009. Both continued their participation in student organizational life by forming graduate cultural associations on their campuses and maintaining contact with Calandra Institute counselors.



Salvatore traveled to Italy as part of the tutoring program sponsored by Associazione Culturale Linguistica Educational (ACLE). Each summer ACLE sends close to 400 English-speaking tutors to approximately 250 camps throughout Italy.

Salvatore spent ten weeks teaching English to Italian children in seven camps near Naples, Matera, Calabria, and Altavilla Milicia. He noted that ACLE's unique philosophy of teaching English by way of songs, games, and theater was effective and fun for students and tutors alike. Salvatore described his most memorable experiences "at the end of each two-week camp, when tutors directed a show or play based on the camp's theme. The students became characters and performed in English at their level of language ability. Some shows were held in town squares while others were performed in smaller theater-like venues. One performance in Sicily was similar to a movie production with a narrator, costumes, songs, dancing, stage crew, and more than one hundred people in attendance. The experience was magical from the first day of orientation to the last day of camp!"

Gabrielle set out for a two-week trip to Rome and Naples, to further develop her language acquisition skills as a future Italian teacher by practicing her Italian speaking ability in a naturalistic setting. Reflecting on her excursions in Italy, Gabrielle expressed, "my most memorable experience in Italy was my visit to the ruins of Pompeii. Located about an hour outside of Naples, Pompeii was a huge city destroyed by an eruption of the volcano Vesuvio in 79 AD.



The ruins are enormous, and I spent hours wandering through the cobble-stoned streets, crumbling villas, and grandiose forums. I observed casts of preserved humans and animals, household artifacts, furniture, murals, and mosaics. It was only after visiting Pompeii that I became aware of Italy's cultural antiquity and the human history that, although destroyed by the power of nature, continues to influence and permeate the Italian peninsula. In my future lesson plans, I look forward to heightening students' awareness of Naples and Pompeii and the cultural gemstones they represent to our Italian roots."

The current Italian and Italian-American clubs at Baruch and Hunter College are fortunate to host Gabrielle and Salvatore as frequent visitors who inspire members to develop their passions for Italy and the Italian language through personal sojourns and formal experiences, such as ACLE, and CUNY's Study Abroad and International Exchange programs.

Lehman College Student Wins Jermone Weinstock Essay Prize

Maria LaRusso



Macaulay Honors student Peter Esposito won the 2011 Weinstock Essay contest organized by the philosophy department at Lehman College. Peter was presented with a three hundred dollar award at the Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society initiation ceremony, where he was officially inducted into the organization. Esposito, a philosophy and Italian major from the Bronx, won the competition for his essay titled "Global Poverty: The Obligation of Rich Countries to Their Own Poor." Phi Sigma Tau aims to recognize high achieving students who demonstrate an interest in philosophy and encourages advanced study in the field.

Brooklyn College Student Receives Martin J. Golden Award

Dominick Carielli

Jack DeLorenzo earned a bachelor's degree in health and nutrition sciences from Brooklyn College. While attending college he served as president of the Italian Culture Club and a founding member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. In May 2010, DeLorenzo received the Senator Martin J. Golden Award for Leadership from the Center for Italian American Studies. Jack plans to complete his master's degree in community health and continue his career as a public health educator.



DeLorenzo was recently a contestant on the quiz show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* He made it to the seventh question but decided not to answer and walked away with half of his accumulated winnings totaling \$16,550.

GERALDINE FERRARO: A Woman of Consequence Who Did “Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” (1935–2011)

Aileen Riotta Sirey

Proud of her Italian ethnic background, she was a compassionate and humanistic woman, a great mother and wife. In her private and public life she never lost the courage to struggle against injustices. Geraldine Anne Ferraro was a doer. She saw needs, and she made things happen. Recent news programs spoke of her outstanding achievements. They told of the dynamic prosecutor in the Queens District Attorney’s office, the hard working Congresswoman, the bright protégé of Speaker Tip O’Neil, the formidable debater, the tough vice presidential candidate, and the sharp, quick woman in the later stages of her career who bowled over the barriers to women’s empowerment.

The speakers at Geraldine’s funeral were President Bill Clinton, Vice President Walter Mondale, former and current Secretaries of State Madeline Albright and Hilary Clinton, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Congresswoman Jane Harmon. Other notables in attendance were Governor Andrew Cuomo, Matilda and former Governor Mario Cuomo, Senators Chuck Schumer, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Multiple myeloma found a formidable opponent in Geraldine Ferraro. When she was diagnosed with the disease, she immediately went to war. She waged not only

a strong defensive battle—winning back years from the original prognosis of her fatal illness—but a powerful offensive campaign as well, pulling together people and resources to raise awareness, support research, and provide education. She was instrumental in shaping legislation to benefit victims of the disease.



It was Geraldine Ferraro who triggered the start of the National Organization of Italian American Women. The first time we met, I asked if she knew of any groups for women of our heritage. She said there were none, and asked, “Why don’t you start one?” Then she added, “I’ll help.” We bonded initially around a mutual desire to establish a support network for Italian-American women, but it was Geraldine’s humanity and ability to care that commanded affection far beyond her career successes.

Geraldine Anne Ferraro exemplified all the positive traits we hope for in our public servants. She was also an exceptional human being. She will be deeply missed.

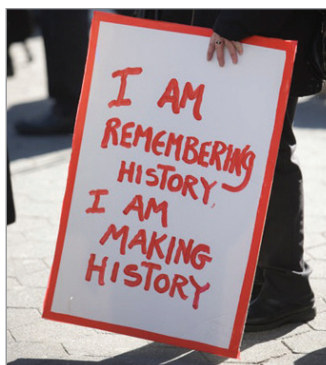
THE TRIANGLE FIRE COALITION OBSERVES CENTENNIAL

Ruth Sengel

On March 25, 1911, one hundred forty six workers perished in a tragic accident known as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, an event that compelled labor organizers to fight for and win critical worker rights. One hundred years later, this past spring, Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition brought together more than 250 partners nationwide who created hundreds of activist, art, and educational events. United in an act of communal memory, this bold engagement testified to a collective insistence on the importance of each worker and the pursuit of social and economic justice for all.

The Triangle Waist Company was located one block east of Washington Square Park and employed more than 500 people. When the infamous fire broke out on the eighth floor, workers ran to the fire escape, which collapsed, dropping them to their death. On the ninth floor, a critical exit was locked. Fire trucks arrived but their ladders only reached the sixth floor. People on the street watched in horror as workers began to jump out the windows. 146 people, mostly young immigrant women, perished. There was a trial but the factory owners, long known for their anti-union activities, were acquitted. The fire galvanized the progressive movement.

For the 2011 centennial, Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition built a national network of diverse communities and merged old school organizing with new social media tools to empower civic participation. Creative efforts included original music, plays, poetry, lectures and educational events, alongside paintings and exhibitions of interest to all ages. One hundred forty six shirtwaists floated in the air as the people took to the streets to honor the victims and stand with current struggles in New York, Bangladesh, and across the globe. We extend our sincere appreciation to all who participated in the centennial.



The coalition is moving on to the next chapter—the creation of a public art Triangle Factory Fire Memorial—and invites collaborators to help build the memorial and create the traditions that will help shape the next 100 years of commemoration. For more information, visit: www.rememberthetrianglefire.org.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Fred Gardaphé

I'm writing this report from the field in Italy where I am teaching for a semester at the University of Salerno in the American Studies Program on a Fulbright Senior Fellowship. While I have been in Italy many times over the last thirty years, I have never had the opportunity to view it from the point of view of a worker, and it's quite different. The romance of the tourist is lost on the native, and after a few weeks of settling in I have come to see things quite differently than I had all those times before.

Unlike Americans, who are used to tighter precision in their scheduling, Italians are in no hurry to arrive or leave. I asked an old man when the buses stopped; he simply said, "They come when they come; they stop and you get on. And that's all. *Buon giorno*." At first I thought this was rather dismissive, but when I asked someone else who responded similarly, I realized they were really being friendly, and that schedules are flexible guidelines more than fixed realities.

I usually show up for my classes fifteen minutes early to set up the technology I need each day. The students stroll in comfortably up to fifteen minutes late without apology. I took it rather personally until I learned from a colleague that there is something here called the *quart'ora academico*—the academic fifteen minutes. After that, those students who arrive do so with apologies. I invited friends over for dinner one night, my first *cena* in my new place, and they arrived more than an hour later than they said they would, without

apologies, and greeted me with grins and gifts, as though they had arrived early. I guess you could call this *l'ora sociale*. They stayed long into the night and left reluctantly. So while I came here to teach, it seems I need to learn more about the culture before I could teach in it.

One thing that strikes me is the passion that people display for the little things in life. Whether it's selecting vegetables from a local vendor, stirring sugar into a *caffè normale*, or discussing the national news, Italians take their time to make sure their opinions are expressed and heard. They do it with very little attention to how much time it takes. I don't think most Americans would have the patience to wait in a line in which everyone in front of you has a full conversation with the employee that exceeds what's needed for their transaction. People linger longer at the end of nearly every encounter, like they usually do in my family when we say goodbye at the end of a celebration.

Another thing I've noticed is that people acknowledge your presence. They don't need greeters, like those old folks you see in America's Walmarts, as you are expected to greet the store's workers when you walk in. I have started to slow my life down to a pace that would leave me in the dust back in the states. I take more time to do less and find myself less stressed and more satisfied. So I guess I'm learning more about life than I am teaching about American identities as expressed through humor—the course I came here to teach.

SAVE THE DATE!

SYMPOSIUM

Italian American Mental Health: Research and Praxis October 14, 2011, 2–5 pm

This afternoon symposium will explore research and treatment issues with Italian Americans. First, Donna Chirico, Ph.D., York College, CUNY, will discuss her research on Italian American racial and ethnic identity, and its critical impact on psychological development. Next, three psychotherapists, Anthony F. Tasso, Ph.D., ABPP; Dana Kaspereen-Guidici Pietro, Ph.D., LPC; and Jennifer L. Tursi, M.A., will present clinical case vignettes that examine their psychotherapeutic work with three Italian American clients. The cases presented will illuminate Italian-American cultural factors that are relevant to ethnotherapy.

Admission is free and open to the public. Reception to follow.

RSVP: (212) 642-2094 or calandra@qc.edu

EVENT INFO: (718) 951-5000 ext. 6264 or dominick.carielli@qc.cuny.edu

AUDIENCE PROFILE

GIULIA PRESTIA AND ANTHONY SCOTTO

Rosangela Briscese

Giulia Prestia and Anthony Scotto met at the Calandra Institute when they participated in a writing workshop offered in 2004. Two years later, they married and presently live in Bensonhurst, next door to the home where Giulia was raised. Her parents, originally from Gioiosa Ionica (Reggio Calabria province), immigrated to Canada in 1959 before settling in the US in 1968. Anthony grew up in Floral Park, NY. His great-grandparents immigrated from Castelbuono (Palermo province) and Ischia (Naples province) in the early twentieth century. A freelance grant writer and landscaper, Anthony appreciates the Institute's diverse events. Among his favorites is John Cicala's lecture on sculptor Silvio Barile (5/16/05).



Giulia, who works in communications and student services at the New School, feels the Institute "represents the Italian American community accurately" and cites Sabina Magliocco's presentation on Italian vernacular healing (9/27/07) as a memorable event.

Graces Received: Painted and Metal Ex-votos from Italy

EXHIBITION

September 16, 2011, to January 6, 2012

GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM-5 PM

The works featured in the exhibition date from 1865 to 1959 and are from the collection of Professor Leonard Norman Primiano of Cabrini College. Within Catholicism, ex-votos are votive objects offered in thanks for heavenly intercession with a misfortune such as an accident or illness. Historically, objects in Italy included metal ex-votos that took the shape of persons (e.g., a soldier, a swaddled infant), afflicted body parts, or hearts representing the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In addition, painted narrative tablets (*tavolette*), usually on wood, often depicted the dramatic moment of crisis for which intercession was requested. Ex-votos were an important part of the Italian-American religious practices in New York City in the first half of the twentieth century. A publication of the same title will feature color photographs of the exhibited objects and scholarly essays.

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, September 16, 2011 at 6 pm

PUBLIC LECTURES

Thursday, October 27 at 6 pm: Ex-votos' Influence on Contemporary Art

Monday, December 19 at 6 pm: Ex-votos Before and After the Second Vatican Council

RSVP: (212) 642-2094 or calandra@qc.edu



The Calandra Institute announces its fifth annual conference, to be held on April 27–28, 2012 at the Institute offices. This conference situates European-American ethnicities in relation to recent scholarship on whiteness, transnationalism, and diaspora. It positions collectives such as Greek America, Irish America, Italian America, Polish America, and others as historically distinct yet interrelated cultural fields, whose complexity has not been sufficiently recognized by scholarship. Globalization and multiculturalism have contributed to significant new developments in the cultural expression of these ethnicities, including revitalization of heritage, institution building, transnational exchanges, hybridities, and progressive cultural politics that remain severely underresearched. Multiracial, multiethnic, and transnational scholarship, as well as cultural work and political activism, have changed former concepts of white ethnicity.

The conference enters into a dialogue with dominant representations of white ethnicity as expressions of primarily individual albeit surface identities, politically conservative anti-minority politics, and full assimilation into the ideology of whiteness. Though particularly valuable in the understanding of power relations and racial hierarchies, these latter trends have neglected emerging and alternative cultural and political expressions of white ethnicity. As a result, European-American ethnicities have largely been devalued as a subject in a number of academic disciplines.

The conference seeks to reclaim white ethnicity as a complex and historically situated site inviting reflections on those heterogeneous and hybridic identities that challenge hegemonic narratives and histories.



The conference theme is concerned with a broad range of groups, not Italian Americans in particular as has been the case with the Calandra Institute's past conferences. This conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY.

The deadline for submissions is September 16, 2011. Abstracts for scholarly papers (up to 500 words, plus a note on technical requirements) and a brief, narrative biography should be emailed as attached documents, by September 16, 2011, to calandra@qc.edu, to whom other inquiries may also be addressed.

We encourage the submission of organized panels (of no more than three presenters). Submission for a panel must be made by a single individual on behalf of the group, including all paper titles, abstract narratives, and individual biographies.

COMING THIS FALL!

BOOKS



Italian American Students in New York City, 1975–2000: A Research Anthology

Edited by Nancy L. Ziebler

The ten research reports presented in this anthology examine the experiences of Italian-American high school, undergraduate, and graduate students throughout New York City. Culling more than thirty years of scholarship, *Italian-American Students in New York City* addresses a gap in the vast body of multicultural counseling literature pertaining to students of diverse populations and cultural contexts. Readers will derive a preliminary understanding about a specific population whose experiences may differ substantially from their own and that of the “standard American culture.” The data and analyses of these findings provide critical insights for counselors, psychologists, and educators of Italian-American students.

To order a copy, contact the Institute at 212-642-2094 or calandra@qc.edu.

LIVING THE REVOLUTION: ITALIAN IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S CULTURES OF RESISTANCE

Jennifer Guglielmo

At the close of the nineteenth century, a visionary movement began to take shape in the New York–New Jersey area. It was led by those on the margins: impoverished, semi-literate, Italian immigrant women who worked in the many sweatshops and mills scattered across the urban-industrial landscape. Inspired by dreams of international working-class solidarity, they joined together to leave their mark on the historical record. In venues ranging from newspapers and pamphlets, to theatrical performances, festivals, and community-wide meetings, they exposed the exploitation they experienced as low-wage workers within the expanding capitalist world system. They made visible their daily struggles with family members, bosses, priests, labor leaders, politicians, and the ladies in “perfumed drawing-rooms.” They organized alongside men, but also on their own, in women’s groups they called *gruppi femminili di propaganda*. Such groups first formed—in New York City and across the Hudson River in Hoboken and Paterson—within the anarchist movement. They quickly spread to Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, New Haven, and the mining communities of Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. Since the network of groups reflected patterns of Italian labor migration and political exile, they also extended across oceans, to connect with similar groups in Buenos Aires, Milan, Paris, Rome, and beyond.

Out of this diasporic working-class movement, a cast of characters emerged: Angela Bambace, Maria Barbieri, Ninfa Baronio, Ernestina Cravello, and Maria Roda are just some of the dozens of women whose stories are chronicled in *Living the Revolution*. Each of these women devoted lives to radical political movements because revolutionary activism generated a sense of hope in the face of despair. Such activism opened their lives to a rich intellectual and cultural milieu, in which to form new kinds of relationships and develop ideas about capitalism, nationalism, racism, colonialism, militarism, religion, feminism, socialism, anarchism, and love. Each infused the labor movement and their own communities with collectivist values that grew out of their distinct experiences as migrants, peasants, industrial workers, and women. As a result, they provided a point of entry for other working-class women to join the revolutionary movement for social change.

This commitment came at great risk. Activists faced continual harassment and surveillance from the state, employers, family members, and others. They also lived through beatings, arrests, and the loss of loved ones. Yet, they argued that a world without exploitation, oppression, and coercive authority, and without extremes of rich and poor, required fundamental societal transformation on all levels. It necessitated dismantling the existing governing political institutions and methods of economic production. It also demanded a new consciousness. As a result, they focused

much of their energy on their sister workers, on teaching women how they internalized and propagated oppressive ideologies of subservience, self-sacrifice, prejudice, and victimization. As Maria Barbieri, a member of a Hoboken anarchist group, wrote in 1905, “A struggle continues each and every day, to pull out the deep roots that a false education has cultivated and nourished in my heart.” They called on men in the movement too, to fully practice what they preached, and to do so in their most intimate relationships. In the process they learned to trust their own experiences and refute the many disparaging projections they received from all directions. Revolution was not something they worked toward; it was a new way of being. In this way, they came to recognize the power they had to emancipate themselves, to embody and *live* revolution.

Participation in the anarchist movement was just one of many ways Italian immigrant women and their daughters survived the challenges of the early twentieth century with their spirits intact. *Living the Revolution* chronicles how these two generations confronted the colossal dislocations of this period, including the industrial revolution, transatlantic labor migration, and violence of state formation. Their methods of survival and resistance included a wide range of practices, both formal and informal, and a spectrum of activism from the left to the right. In learning the complexities of this history we can begin to understand how these two generations of marginalized immigrant and working-class women claimed space, resources, political, and social identities, and possibly learn from their choices.



Excerpted from *Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-1945* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), which was recently awarded the Theodore Saloutos Prize for best book in US immigration history. Jennifer Guglielmo is associate professor of history at Smith College and descended from immigrants from Naples and Basilicata.



Above left: Labor organizer Angela Bambace with her mother Giuseppina, ca. 1930. Immigration History Research Center. University of Minnesota.

Above right: Anti-fascist rally on Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, ca. 1930. Immigration History Research Center. University of Minnesota.



ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

In January 2011, the Calandra Institute relaunched its biannual journal the *Italian American Review (IAR)*, featuring scholarly articles about Italian American history and culture, as well as other aspects of the Italian diaspora. The journal embraces a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations in the social sciences and cultural studies. Volume 1, Number 2 features the essays “‘We Only Done What Any Red-Blooded American Boys Would Do:’ The Making of Italian Americans in East New York, 1966” by Maria C. Lizzi, and “The Pitfalls of the ‘Italian Diaspora’” by Stefano Luconi. The *IAR* publishes book, film, and digital media reviews, and is currently accepting article submissions. For more information see <http://www.qc.edu/calandra/italrev>.

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MONTHLY SERIES CALENDAR

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Italian Jews from Emancipation to the Racial Laws
 CRISTINA M. BETTIN, Ben Gurion University
 of the Negev

Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Italian Immigrant Radical Culture
 MARCELLA BENCIVENNI, Hostos Community College

Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6 p.m.

The Songs of the Ancestors: Singing, Nostalgia and
 Local Migration in a French-Italian Border Village
 CYRIL ISNART, Universidade de Evora

Monday, December 5, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Mafia Movies: A Roundtable Discussion
 DANA RENGA, The Ohio State University

WRITERS READ SERIES

Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 6 p.m.

VINCENT PANELLA reads from *Lost Hearts* (Apollo's
 Bow, 2010)

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 6 p.m.

SUZANNE CORSO reads from *Brooklyn Story*
 (Gallery Books, 2011)

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 6 p.m.

ADRIANA TRIGIANI reads from *Don't Sing at
 the Table: Life Lessons from My Grandmothers*
 (Harper Paperbacks, 2011)

Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 6 p.m.

TONY ARDIZZONE reads from *The Whale Chaser*
 (Academy Chicago Publishers, 2010)

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

Monday, September 26, 2011 at 6 p.m.

19 Arrests, No Convictions (2007), 29 min.
 JUDY IRVING, dir.

I Knew It Was You: Rediscovering John Cazale (2009),
 39 min.

RICHARD SHEPARD, dir.

Monday, October 3, 2011 at 6 p.m.

The Anatomy of Vince Guaraldi (2010), 118 min.
 ANDREW THOMAS and TOBY GLEASON, dirs.

Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Mi Pogolotti Querido (2010), 57 min.
 ENRICA VIOLA, dir.

Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Passione: A Musical Adventure (2010), 95 min.
 JOHN TURTURRO, dir.

> All events held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan
 Events are free and open to the public. Please RSVP by calling 212-642-2094. Photo ID requested by building concierge.

