

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

il Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America



VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2012

CONTENTS

- 2 Dean's Letter • Personaggi: Ralph Fasanella 3 Updated website • Friends of the Institute 4 *Italics* • Staff News
5 Miracle Art • Calandra Publications 6 Eyes and Ears on the Campuses: IAFSAC 7 2012 Conference: Reimagining White Ethnicity
8 Student Club Activities 9 Italian American Mental Health Symposium • Audience Profile
10 Ad Memorium 11 American Italian Historical Association 2011 Conference • From the Archives 12 Calendar of Events

Welcome to volume 5.1 of the Calandra Institute's *il Bollettino*! This issue marks the beginning of our fifth year publishing this newsletter and nearly six years of my tenure at the Institute. As I look through this issue, I am reminded of so much we have accomplished. Our staff has responded to many new challenges with adroitness and aplomb. As dean, I look back on this period with a great deal of satisfaction and pride, as we all bring along this Institute to the level of university-wide research institute that it should indeed be. In this sense, we toot not our own horn, rather those of the Italian-American academic community as well as our community at large.

As you read through this issue of *il Bollettino*, you will find Ralph Fasanella as our *personaggio*. I first met Ralph in 1982 at Smith College when he gave a slide-lecture on his work. With the professor who invited him, we all then went out "for a beer," as Ralph had suggested. It was the beginning of a long correspondence that included his painting, *Family Supper*, on the cover of the anthology, *From the Margin*, that I co-edited in 2000. When you come to the Institute, you will also see reproductions of his paintings on the walls outside our conference room.

I would also point out our "Friends of the Calandra Institute" rubric, where you will find the names of the people and organizations that have supported us financially in recent

years. Their generosity has allowed us to do things our basic budget would not have. Friends of the Calandra Institute, in fact, is the abbreviated name of our nascent foundation.

There is much more in *il Bollettino*: updates on our advisory council, counseling services, *Italics*, publications, new website, and more. You will also find the 2012 annual conference program, as well as coverage of our recent Italian-American mental health symposium.

Some of you noted that our assistant director of administration, Rosaria Musco, was not around this past fall. Well, she has returned to full-time status as the proud mother of a healthy baby boy, Anthony Salvatore Talone, born on August 30, 2011. *Ben arrivato Antonio Salvatore!*

In April and May, I am off to the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, as part of a faculty exchange and research program we established in 2010-2011. I will teach a six-week graduate course on Italian-American literature and film. In turn, Professor Roberto Dolci will be with us in the fall, teaching a course on language pedagogy at Queens College. I plan to report on my stay in Perugia in the next issue of *il Bollettino*.

We continue to enjoy great support from all. As always, we are indebted to the invaluable support of Chancellor Matthew Goldstein's Office of CUNY and President James Muysken's Office of Queens College.

— ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, DEAN



RALPH FASANELLA (1914–1997)

Paul D'Ambrosio, Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, NY

Ralph Fasanella (1914-1997) was born to Italian immigrants on Labor Day in 1914 and spent his youth working with his father delivering ice in lower Manhattan and the Bronx. It was back breaking work, slinging huge blocks of ice over the shoulder with ice tongs and hauling them up tenement stairs. His mother, the real influence in his life, worked in the garment trades and was an active union member and early antifascist. Ralph became a garment worker and truck driver, among other things, and in the late 1930s fought in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. After returning from Spain he became a union organizer before finally turning to painting in the late 1940s. Over the course of the next fifty years, until his death in 1997, Fasanella created a body of work that celebrated working people, their neighborhoods, and their communities, and protested the injustices done to them in American history. His paintings cause us to remember where we come from, who sacrificed for us so that we wouldn't have to, and who and what truly sustains us. Fasanella's paintings remind us that we enjoy far more than previous generations could wish for, and that we are indebted to those who struggled and suffered to make all that we enjoy possible.



UPDATED CALANDRA INSTITUTE WEBSITE

Gabrielle Pati

Through an Institute-wide collaboration, and in coordination with i-Italy, the Calandra Institute website has been completely revamped and updated, giving the public greater access to information about Institute activities, current programs, and upcoming endeavors. Visitors to the site can now browse a calendar of events, including academic and cultural programs, as well as past, present, and future conferences, and view *Italics* programming of the past four years. Links to the Institute's research programs and sociodemographic studies can be perused for statistical data and reports. Under the site's education menu, viewers can find information on scholarship opportunities, the Italian-American studies program at Queens College, and study abroad programs in Italy. Visitors can also learn about the Institute's history, counseling services, library collections, and gallery exhibitions. Institute publications and *Italian American Review* journal subscriptions can be ordered directly through the website, and a convenient staff directory includes bios and contact information. Visit the beta site at www.calandra.i-italy.org, and be sure to join our mailing list to receive weekly news and event updates via email.



www.calandra.i-italy.org

il Bollettino is published by the
John D. Calandra
Italian American Institute,
Queens College, CUNY
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor
New York, NY 10036
PHONE: 212-642-2094
FAX: 212-642-2030
EMAIL: calandra@qc.edu
WEBSITE: qc.cuny.edu/calandra

DEAN: Anthony Julian Tamburri
MANAGING EDITOR: Lisa Cicchetti

CONTRIBUTORS:

Rosangela Briscese, Todd Cambio,
Dominick Carielli, Antoinette Carone,
Donna Chirico, Paul D'Ambrosio,
Joseph Grosso, George Guida,
Maria LaRusso, Gabrielle Pati,
William Schempp, Joseph Sciorra,
Nancy Ziehler

FRONT COVER:

Hatmakers, Philadelphia,
photographer and date unknown.
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

FRIENDS OF THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE

Over the past five years we have been most fortunate to secure financial support from community members, whose generous contributions have enabled us to do more than our regular budget would allow. We are most appreciative of the people and associations listed below. In addition to their monetary largesse, many of our patrons also attend our conferences and events. The Institute extends its sincere gratitude to all. If you are interested in joining the *Friends of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute Foundation*, please call 212-642-2094 or email calandra@qc.edu.

- Agnus Noster Foundation
 - American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit
 - Atlantic Philanthropies
 - Eusic
 - Representative Ginny Fields
 - Elizabeth Fray
 - Angela Greenman
 - William & Joanna Herman
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura
 - Italian American Studies Association
 - Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
 - Maria LaRusso
 - Representative Joseph Lentol
 - Senator Serphin Maltese
 - Kathryn McGrath-Oliver
- National Italian American Foundation
 - Robert Oppedisano
 - Senator Frank Padavan
 - Provincia di Palermo
 - Maria Tamburri
 - Aldo Timballini

ITALICS: THE ITALIAN AMERICAN TV MAGAZINE

William Schempp

This spring *Italics* begins its twenty-fifth year of monthly programming for the CUNY and Italian-American communities. Its premiere program was broadcast on February 28, 1988. *Italics* was CUNY-TV's first regularly scheduled, self-produced remote program, created primarily on location. To ensure timely delivery, the first six episodes were completed a year in advance. The initial production team consisted of two Brooklyn College graduates, Jeffrey Baskin and me, employed full-time to develop and produce the show.

As senior producer and director of *Italics*, I am honored to have been involved since the program's conception. *Italics'* silver anniversary brings a true sense of accomplishment, but also a deep sense of melancholy. Many of the people I have been privileged to collaborate with and report on are no longer with us. I myself have gone from a brash young college graduate to a graying middle-aged man.

When the Institute was formed, it was deemed necessary to create a media outlet whose purpose was to present positive, nuanced images of Italian Americans, which were considered to be lacking in the media of the era. *Italics: The Italian American Magazine* became that program. Twenty-five years later, with representations of Italian Americans on "reality television" shows such as *Jersey Shore*, *Mafia Wives*, and now, *Brooklyn 11223*, the need for such programming, that is *Italics*, is necessary now more than ever.

Italics has interviewed numerous scholars of Italian-American studies and a multitude of athletes, artists, clergy, musicians, politicians, and everyday people who have

accomplished extraordinary things. Many of these personalities have critically and creatively enhanced *italianità* and global culture. Early *Italics* programs featured people and topics that have since become widely recognized, such as Brooklyn's feast of the *giglio* honoring Saint Paulinus; Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum's research on the Black Madonna; the paintings of the late artist Ralph Fasanella; and the contributions of Congress members Geraldine Ferraro and Vito Marcantonio, and New York City's mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. With many of these people now gone, the element of posterity has become apparent, an aspect of the job I did not appreciate in the early days, when I was pressed to meet the monthly deadline.

Today's digital technology allows this history to be available to a wider audience, and soon every episode of *Italics* will be viewable on demand via the Internet. *Italics* has the responsibility of not only documenting Italian-American history but also educating the public about the unique and vital contributions by Italian Americans to society at large.

Italics staff includes producer Bill Schempp, associate producer and host Lucia Grillo, and executive producer Anthony Julian Tamburri.



STAFF NEWS

ROSANGELA BRISCESE joined the Juglaris Publication Commission and attended their meeting at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing. The commission is working to publish the translated autobiography of Italian immigrant artist Tommaso Juglaris (1844-1925), who painted the eight monumental muses which crown the State Capitol rotunda, though he was never publicly acknowledged as the artist in his lifetime. On a personal note, Rosangela married Luis Rodriguez at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Manhattan in October 2011.

LUCIA GRILLO joined the award-winning 68 Cent Crew Theatre Company, founded by actor Ronnie Marmo, for which she directed the drama, *Old Wife Tale*, for the company's first New York production. She did a voice recording for Aziz+Cucher's "The Time of the Empress" exhibit at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Lucia performed in Richard Vetere's production, *An Epic Story of Love and Sex in 10 Minutes: Chapter One*, at the Cherry Lane Theatre, and taped interviews of fellow actors Vincent Pastore and Federico Castelluccio for *Italics*. She directed "The Toe," a music video for Kings Destroy. Lucia also acted in the antiwar play, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, during the Midwinter Madness short play festival.

JOSEPH SCIORRA presented his paper "The Italian American Political and Moral Bocce Club of Paradise: Parodic Alternatives and Re-inventing Community in the Digital Era" at the American Folklore Society and the American Italian Historical Association conferences in Bloomington and Tampa, respectively. He also presented "'Core 'ngrato': Mediated Renderings and Diasporic Musings of a WOP Song" at Hofstra University's conference "Delirious Naples: For a Cultural, Intellectual, and Urban History for the City of the Sun." Sciorra was invited to present his edited anthology *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian American Lives* (Fordham University Press, 2011) at Brooklyn's Old Stone House and the Gotham Center, CUNY Graduate Center. Sciorra's article "Miracles in a Land of Promise: Transmigratory Experiences and Italian American Ex-votos" was published in *Graces Received: Painted and Metal Ex-votos from Italy*, edited by Rosangela Briscece and Joseph Sciorra (Calandra Institute, 2012).

ANTHONY TAMBURRI delivered eight lectures nationwide, published three essays, authored *Re-viewing Italian Americana: Generalities and Specificities on Cinema* (Bordighera Press, 2011), and co-edited with Graziella Parati, *The Cultures of Italian Migration: Diverse Trajectories and Discrete Perspectives* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2011). He was also re-elected to the executive council of the Italian American Studies Association (formerly AIHA).

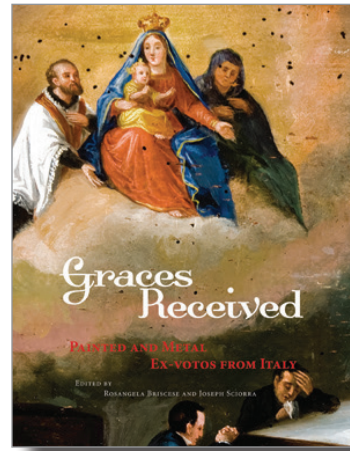
MIRACLE ART

Antoinette Carone and Joseph Sciorra

On September 16, 2011, the Calandra Institute inaugurated its exhibition “Graces Received: Painted and Metal Ex-votos from Italy.” Curated by the Institute’s Rosangela Briscese and Joseph Sciorra, the exhibit features twenty-four paintings and twenty-nine metal ex-votos dating from 1832 to 1959 from the private collection of folklorist and religious studies scholar Leonard Norman Primiano of Cabrini College.

Within Catholicism, ex-votos are objects offered in thanks for heavenly intercession with a misfortune such as an accident or illness. Historically, these 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 the intercession was requested.

Two public programs took place in conjunction with the exhibit. On October 27, Kate Wagle of the University of Oregon in Portland discussed Italian laminae ex-votos (embossed metal sheets) produced both mechanically and by individual craftspeople and their influence on two contemporary American artists. The December 19 event was the book launch for the exhibit catalogue edited by the curators. The book consists of three essays: Primiano’s “Catholiciana Unmoored: Ex-votos in Catholic Tradition and Their Commercialization as Religious Commodities,” Sciorra’s “Miracles in a Land of Promise: Transmigratory Experiences and Italian American Ex-votos,” and Wagle’s “Laminae Ex-Votos: Resonant Objects, Spiritual Materialism.” Together



these three essays address a set of specific issues: a general history of ex-votos and their place within Catholic thought, their creation and use by Italian Americans, and the ex-votos’ social life beyond their original religious context, in particular, as collectibles and inspiration for contemporary studio-trained artists.

The catalogue was designed by Polly Franchini who generously volunteered her services. Franchini operates Oronzo Editions, an independent book publisher, which produced “Italy’s Food Culture,” a series of regional Italian cookbooks originally published as “Cucine Regionali.”

The exhibit, originally scheduled to close January 6, has been extended to May 25, 2012. As a result, the Institute scheduled two additional public lectures: “Votive Offerings in Edible Media” by Diana Fane (Brooklyn Museum) on Tuesday, March 6, and “Living with the Sacred” by Kay Turner (Brooklyn Arts Council) on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

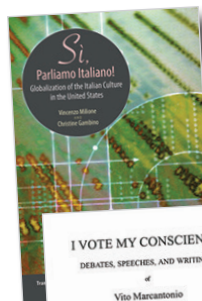
The exhibition is free of charge and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am–5 pm. For more information contact the Calandra Institute at 212.642.2094 or calandra@qc.edu.

CALANDRA PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS



Uncertainty and Insecurity in the New Age
Edited by
Vincent Parillo



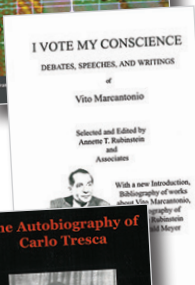
Si, Parliamo Italiano!
Christine Gambino &
Vincenzo Milione



Freeing the Angel From the Stone
Jerry & Eleanor Koffler



Mediated Ethnicity: New Italian American Cinema
Edited by
Giuliana Muscio,
Joseph Sciorra,
Giovanni Spagnoletti,
Anthony Tamburri



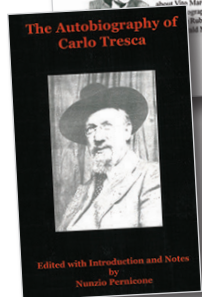
I Vote My Conscience: Debates, Speeches, and Writings of Vito Marcantonio
Edited by
Annette Rubenstein



The Italians of New York
Edited by
Philip Cannistraro



Italian American Students in New York City, 1975–2000: A Research Anthology
Edited by
Nancy Zieher



The Autobiography of Carlo Tresca
Edited by
Nunzio Pernicone



Italian American Review
Edited by
Joseph Sciorra

2012 CONFERENCE: Reimagining White Ethnicity: Expressivity, Identity, Race, April 27–28, 2012

PROGRAM (subject to change)

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012
6–8 PM: WELCOME & RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

9:30–10:45 AM

REPRESENTING ITALIAN AMERICANS

Images of Italian Americans in African-American Literature during Jim Crow, SAMUELE F. S. PARDINI, Elon University

Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* and the Erasure of Italian American Experience, NANCY CARONIA, University of Rhode Island

Homespun History, Youngstown Style: Ethnic Representation in Do-It-Yourself Narratives, ANTHONY D. MITZEL, Università di Bologna

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: THE 1970s RESURGENCE OF WHITE ETHNIC IDENTITY AND THE LEFT

The Threat of a Good Example: Twentieth-Century Solidarity Identities in Working-Class White Communities, JAMES TRACY, San Francisco Community Land Trust

White Lightning: Organizing the White Working Class in the Bronx, 1971–1975, GIL FAGIANI, Italian American Writers Association

Beyond Whiteness, LYNN LEWIS, Picture the Homeless

11 AM–12:15 PM

KEYNOTE: Ethnic Acts: On "European Ethnicity" Cultural Politics, YIORGOS ANAGNOSTOU, Ohio State University

1:30–2:45 PM

NEGOTIATING SCANDINAVIAN IDENTITIES

Lox and Lax: How Marcus Samuelsson Merges Ethnicities for Consumption, JONATHAN BEAN, The New School

Latex, Hijabs, and the Refiguration of the Swedish Folk Costume, ANNA BLOMSTER, University of California, Los Angeles

Heritage Envy: Selecting the "Danish Days" Maid in Solvang, California, HANNE PICO LARSEN, Columbia University

FAMILY, FOOD, AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

Traditional Greek-American Child-Rearing, MARILYN ANN VERNA, St. Francis College

Italian Foodways as a Marker of Ethnicity: Italians Are What They Eat, PATRIZIA LA TRECCIA, University of South Florida

Italian American Cultural Capital, PAOLA MELONE, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

3–4:15 PM

THE GREEKS OF NEW YORK CITY: CONTEMPORARY TRENDS AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

Greek Americans of Queens: Ethnic Identity in the Second Generation of Post-1965 Immigrants, NICHOLAS ALEXIOU, Queens College, CUNY

Greek Immigrants and Greek Americans in New York City Observed Through the National Census, ANNA KARAPATHAKIS, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

Films about Greek Americans in New York: A Case Study of the Greek-American Image in American Cinema, DAN GEORGAKAS,

Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY

CLEF NOTES ON MUSIC

The Wanderers: Italian American Doo Wop, Sense of Place, and Racial Crossovers in Postwar New York City, SIMONE CINOTTO, Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche

Living the Dance in Tarpon Springs, PANAYOTIS LEAGUE, Hellenic College

Polishness in Terms of Authenticity, Social Conservatism, and Whiteness in Buffalo, New York, MARTA MARCINIAK, University at Buffalo, SUNY

4:30–5:45 PM

WHITE PRIVILEGE

Beyond Racism, Beyond Whiteness: A Critical Investigation of White Privileged Discourse, KATHRYN PETERSON, New York University

The Dialectic of White Privilege: Resisting Habits of Privilege with Merleau-Ponty, KRISTIN ANNE RODIER, University of Alberta

Antiracism as Rhetoric: Arizona's House Bill 2281 and Saving Ethnic Studies through a "Dis-Knowing" Critical Pedagogy, JULIA ISTOMINA, Ohio State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

9:30–10:45 AM

HISTORICIZING ITALIAN AMERICANS AND RACE

"Fatti di sangue": Italian Americans, Race, and Justice in the Late Nineteenth Century, BÉNÉDICTE DESCHAMPS, Université Paris Diderot

A Race Destined to Expire: *Prominenti*, Native Americans, and the Boundaries of Civilization and Race, PETER G. VELLON, Queens College, CUNY

The Social Construction and Contestation of Whiteness in York County, Pennsylvania, JUSTIN D. GARCIA, Millersville University

THE BODY AND SEXUALITY

The Sports Race: Alexi, Cioffari, and Body Versus Brain, DENNIS BARONE, Saint Joseph College

"I Must Maintain This Rigid Posture or All is Lost": The Trials and Tribulations of R. Crumb's Whiteman, JOSEPH COSCO, Old Dominion University

Public Sexuality and Whiteness in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: A Comparative Case Study in Williamsburg and Park Slope, Brooklyn, LAURA BRASLOW, Graduate Center, CUNY and LIDIA K. C. MANZO, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

11 AM–12:15 PM

KEYNOTE: White Ethnicity and the Discourse of Authenticity in Modern Paganisms, SABINA MAGLIOCCO, California State University, Northridge

1:30–2:45 PM

QUESTIONING RACE AND WHITENESS

How Ethnicity Trumps Race in the Struggle for Self-Identity, DONNA M. CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Italian Americans and Whiteness through the Lens of Americanization: Towards a Critique of Racial Reason, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

From Oppressed to Oppressor without Even Trying, JAMES S. PULA, Purdue University North Central

IMAGINING GREEK AMERICANS

Changing Images of Greek Immigrants within American Mainstream Society: A Historical Overview Based on Documentary Sources and Case Studies, CONSTANTINE G. HATZIDIMITRIOU, New York City Department of Education

The Book Culture of Greek Americans, MARIA KALIAMBOU, Yale University

Schadenfreude, Anxiety, and Representation in the Era of the Greek Debt Crisis in a Greek Diasporic Community, LEO VOURNELIS, Southern Illinois University

3–4:15 PM

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN ITALY'S RACIAL IDENTITY

An Anthropological Perspective on Italian Ethnicity from the Colonial Age to Post-Colonialism, MOIRA LURASCHI, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Varese

The Construction of Italianness: Masculinity and Race in Liberal and Early Fascist Italy, GAIA GIULIANI, Università di Bologna

Spotless Italy: Hygiene, Advertisement, and the Ubiquity of Whiteness, CRISTINA LOMBARDI-DIOP, Loyola University Chicago

COMPARATIVE APPROACHES

White on Arrival?: A Comparison of the Racial Status of Italian Immigrants on the East and West Coasts, STEFANO LUCONI, Università degli Studi di Padova

"What if I'm too spicy-Italian for them?": Italian Canadians and Whiteness Studies, KRISTA PANDOLFI, York University

Foreign Shades of White: The Transnational Experience of Greek and Italian Communities in Australia and the United States, ANDONIS PIPEROGLOU, La Trobe University

4:30–5:45 PM

HERITAGE FESTIVALS AND ROOTS JOURNEYS

Czech Heritage Festivals in the Midwest: Symbolizing Ethnicity in Rural Spaces, KAREN KAPUSTA-POFAHL and ELIZABETH NECH, Washburn University

The Lost Apostrophe: Race and the Irish-American Roots Journey, SINEAD MOYNIHAN, University of Exeter

Reconsidering White Ethnic Revivals: Italian Americans and Italian Immigration in the 1950s and 1960s, DANIELLE BATTISTI, Colby College

DECONSTRUCTING AND RECONFIGURING ITALIAN AMERICANS

Race and Taste in the Olive Garden: On the Tuscanization of American Culture, DAVID MICHALSKI, University of California, Davis

"Calling Myself Olive": Italian Americans as Mediterranean Americans, JIM COCOLA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Beyond the Ghetto: Deconstructing White Italian American Ethnicity, DORA LABATE, Rutgers University

Cosponsored by the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY

CUNY STUDENT CLUB ACTIVITIES



At BARUCH COLLEGE, Italian American Association treasurer Marino Sorbara, secretary Daria Cavalli, vice president Giovanni Simione, and student Erasmo Messina recruit new members to the association with a display board depicting various aspects of the Italian-American experience.



In celebration of Italian Heritage and Culture Month, Jerome Krase, Emeritus and Murray Koppelman Professor of Brooklyn College, CUNY, visited BARUCH COLLEGE on October 27, 2011 to present a slide show and lecture entitled, "Images of America's Little Italies." Pictured above: Professor Krase (center) with Italian American Association secretary Daria Cavalli and president Christian Iezzi.



LEHMAN COLLEGE students dialogue with Mario Fratti about his career in theater. Fratti, internationally acclaimed playwright and drama critic is known for his musical *Nine* (inspired by Fellini's famous film, *8 1/2*) which in its original production in 1982 won the O'Neill Award, the Richard Rodgers Award, two Outer Critics Circle Awards, eight Drama Desk Awards and five Tony Awards.



On November 10, 2011, the Italian American Association of BARUCH COLLEGE held a symposium to discuss research on Italian-American college students. Nancy Ziehler (center), club advisor and a Calandra Institute counselor, presented findings contained in the volume she edited, *Italian American Students in New York City, 1975-2000: A Research Anthology* (Calandra Institute, 2011). Doctoral students Paola Melone (left) of Università degli Studi del Molise, and Cristina Dorazio (right) of Teacher's College, Columbia University, presented preliminary findings from their dissertations and recruited students to participate in their current research projects.



New York City council member Peter Vallone, Jr., with incoming QUEENS COLLEGE student Joelle Grosso, and Joseph Grosso, Calandra Institute counselor and Queens College Study Abroad coordinator, at the 2011 Columbus Day Parade.



CUNY Italian American club students greet Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio at the 2011 Columbus Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

ITALIAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH: RESEARCH AND PRAXIS

Dominick Carielli

In October 2010, the Calandra Institute held its first conference on Italian-American mental health and wellness. The three-day conference, which began with a keynote address by Richard Gambino, was designed to spur further research; allow people from the field to connect with one another; encourage researchers and practitioners to publish their work; and inspire additional conferences and symposia focused on Italian-American psychology.

Since that meeting, several initiatives have been launched. Counselors Dominick Carielli and Joseph Grosso are in the process of editing the conference proceedings into a volume on Italian-American mental health. Another team of scholars, Kathryn Alessandria, Dominick Carielli, and Donna Chirico, have begun a research project examining Italian-American college students' attitudes toward seeking professional psychological help. Other scholars are actively engaged in new research and publication.

In addition, the Calandra Institute hosted a symposium on October 14, 2011, entitled *Italian American Mental Health: Research and Praxis*. Dean Anthony Julian Tamburri opened the Friday afternoon symposium with welcoming remarks, followed by a presentation by Donna Chirico, York College, CUNY, on her research regarding ethnic and racial identification. Her presentation, "The Importance of Self-Identification in a Multi-Ethnic Social Environment," examined Italian Americans and educational attainment in relation to ethnic and racial identity.

Chirico argued that Italian Americans have experienced blurred lines of racial and ethnic categorization, and reiterated the ongoing question of whether or not Italian Americans can be considered white. She noted that Italian Americans and Irish Americans have been found to have the lowest levels of educational attainment among those groups who emigrated from Western Europe. In addition, Italian Americans have been observed to traditionally value economics before education and, along with African Americans and Latinos, are perceived to distrust institutions.

Chirico reflected on the perplexity of stereotypical roles that have been superimposed on Italian Americans, and

suggested that Italian Americans have not developed a sense of "transcendent imagination" that would allow them to go outside the bounds of familial and institutional roles and expectations. Chirico reasoned that, whereas imagination, as central to identity development, can enable individuals to move beyond stereotypes and recognize other options, a lack of clear identity and inability to access transcendent imagination may prevent Italian Americans from achieving that which other immigrant groups have attained.

The following panel, "Psychotherapy with Italian Americans: A Clinical Examination of the Role of Ethnocultural Themes in Treatment," presented three mental-health professionals who discussed their clinical work with three different Italian-American clients.

In the first vignette, Jennifer Tursi, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, explored the roles of religion and gender stereotyping in her clinical work with a woman struggling with marital difficulties. Next, Dana Kaspereen-Guidici Pietro, Fairleigh Dickinson University, discussed her treatment of an anxious adolescent girl. She addressed gender roles and the social structure of traditional Italian-American families, and their impact on developing children. Last, Anthony Tasso, Fairleigh Dickinson University, presented his work with a man experiencing bipolar disorder. This report centered on adult parent-child relationships and the characteristic ways in which heightened closeness can stymie individuation and foster feelings of anger and rage for the client and family members.

Each presentation addressed Italian-American cultural themes that emerged during the respective treatments. Specific attention was given to ethnocultural transferential and countertransferential dynamics.

At the conclusion of the presentations, audience members had an opportunity to converse with one another and the presenters. The symposium served as a unique venue for scholars and practitioners of Italian-American and multicultural psychotherapy to exchange information and ideas. The Calandra Institute wishes to express its appreciation to all whose attendance and participation helped make the symposium a great success.



EDWARD JACKSON

Rosangela Briscese

"My experience is an American one," Edward Jackson said. "I don't call it unique because that is how America is supposed to operate." A born and bred New Yorker, Ed was introduced to Italian language and culture while living in his Bronx River neighborhood among "the Costas, the Ferraras, the Cosenzas, and the Licaris." In time, he went on to become fluent in Italian—"people tell me I have a Neapolitan accent." He earned a BA in Italian and MA in TESOL at Hunter College, where he studied with Mario Fratti. Ed has been attending events at the Calandra Institute since the 1990s, and fondly remembers the documentary film *Chippers* (September 21, 2009) about Italian immigrants who own fish and chips shops in Dublin.

AUDIENCE PROFILE

AD MEMORIUM

ANTHONY AMATO, founder and artistic director of New York City's Amato Opera Theater, died at the age of 91, on December 13, 2011, at his home on City Island in the Bronx. Mr. Amato's memoir, *The Smallest Grand Opera in the World*, was published in 2011 by iUniverse. Amato Opera, founded by Amato and his wife Sally in 1948, produced full-staged opera for 61 years. In its first decades, the Amato Theater was known as a proving ground for talented young singers. Many alumni went on to sing with major companies, including the Metropolitan Opera. Antonio Amato was born on July 21, 1920, in Minori, on the Amalfi coast. At age seven, he moved with his family to New Haven, Connecticut. His love of opera blossomed into a career when he began appearing as a tenor and conducting opera workshops. In 1948, the Amato's first production, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, opened in the basement of the Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Greenwich Village. In 1964 the company moved to its Bowery home. Amato Opera was known as the Off-Broadway of the opera world and a beloved mainstay of New York's cultural life.

GARY BRAGLIA passed away at the age of 67, on November 7, 2011. Mr. Braglia was at the forefront in establishing study abroad programs at CUNY. He directed the study abroad program at Hunter College for ten years and in 2005 moved to Queens College where he became director of the education abroad office. He also brought to the college the National Student Exchange, providing students from Queens College and partner schools throughout the United States the opportunity to live and study for a semester or year in a new location. His passion was to give all students the opportunity to travel and study in a secure environment, and to encourage faculty to create and lead programs throughout the world. Gary attended Queens College and was a graduate of Hunter College.

UMBERTO EVANGELISTA passed away at the age of 90, on November 26, 2011. Born in the province of Bari in 1921, Umberto grew up during the fascist era and studied for a career in agriculture. He immigrated to New York in the 1960s, where he became a factory worker, determined to provide for his wife Luisa and four children while acclimating to life in a new country. Throughout the years, he wrote and published poetry for which he received numerous awards. The film *Umberto E*, directed by his son Anton, depicts the poet's journey from working a tractor in rural southern Italy to immigrating to the United States and becoming a man who used words to express his perceptions of the world.

NEW YORK BY NIGHT

Miriadi di luci nella notte
inebriano la metropoli cosmopolita,
veloci limousine, fra grattacieli, come fantasmi in sortita,
portano preziose gioie con solo veli e gonne corte
sulla sexy nudità di donne eccentriche e misteriose,
profumate, belle, eleganti e vanitose!

Lussuose macchine si fermano at teatri, ai festival,
sono Cadillac, fuori serie, e Lincoln Continental,
lui con monocolo, in frach, lei in seta luna,
le limousine fermano anche ai ritrovi, ai night, lì l'attrazione,
la vita piccante, lo champagne più gustoso dopo l'una,
inebria i sensi la danza conturbante del ventre, è l'esaltazione!

Su eleganti vaporette ristoranti, con piste da ballo, i notturni navigano l'Hudson
New York e le isole, visitano il tempio della Boxing Madison Square Garden
Le Rocchettes a Radio City, al Capocabana le noti voci, a Times Square, la varietà
è una catena spendente più del sole, il Jazz in questa fantastica città
il turista giunge all'Aureo Prometeo, ben in vista
sulla pavesata Rochfeller Ski, la polare pista!

Il traffico continue veloce, sempre, fra le colossali costruzioni,
nei bassifondi gli alcoolizzati, supini sul selciato, con le guance di fuoco,
sono vittime di sogni lunatici, del vizio e della corruzione,
all'alba sagome di volti pallidi e sguardi daltonici lasciano le sale da gioca,
gli affamati rapinatori si lanciano come avvoltoi, su una preda qualunque,
è la legge del taglione che, a quell'ora, lì, impera minacciosa dunque!

— *Umberto Evangelista*

NEW YORK BY NIGHT

Myriads of light in the night
inebriate the metropolis.
Limousines zip between skyscrapers like ghosts in folly,
bringing precious joy cloaked in veils and skirts,
eccentric and mysterious women,
perfumed and elegant, yet vain.

Luxury cars stop at the theaters and festivals—
antique Cadillacs and Lincolns.
He has a monocle, and she, a silk dress.
The limos stop at gatherings and clubs:
with champagne flowing, this is the high life,
and the exalting belly dancers intoxicate the senses.

On elegant steamboats, the nocturnal creatures navigate the Hudson,
New York and its islands; they frequent the Garden, listen to
the night calls of the Copacabana, worship the Rockettes at Radio City,
and the Times Square variety shows and Jazz players.
And while in sight of Rockefeller Center's polar rink,
the visitors approach and mount a golden promenade.

Yet the flow of traffic speeds ahead to other places, in between colossal towers,
to alcoholics spread on pavement. With faces in flames,
they are victims of lunatic dreams, of vice and corruption;
and at dawn the silhouettes of pallid faces and mocking glances rise.
But the starved bandits launch forward and seize—something—anything,
because at that hour, the birds of prey reign.

Translated by Gabrielle Pati

2011 American Italian Historical Association Conference Marks a New Era

George Guida

On October 20, 2011, the American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) convened its forty-fourth annual conference. The gathering, held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Tampa Convention Center, included a keynote address by Gary Mormino, director of the Florida studies program at the University of South Florida. Sharing the program with Mormino were more than seventy international presenters, among them leading scholars of Italian-American history and culture, critics of Italian-American literature, and creative writers and artists whose work explores Italian-American experiences.

The three-day conference featured thirty panels covering a wide range of topics, from the contextualized Tampa history of Mormino's talk "From Dago Hill to Ybor City: Reflections of an Immigrant Historian" to "New Directions in Italian American History" to "Global Healing: Contemporary Italian American Men, Women, and Everyone Else." Among the panel participants were Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Dominic Candeloro, Nancy Carnevale, Rita Ciresi, Rachel Guido DeVries, Jean Feraca, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Fred Gardaphé, Josephine Gattuso Hendin, Joanna Clapps Herman, Marisa LaBozzetta, Stefano Luconi, John Mitrano, Joseph Ricapito, Laura Ruberto, John Paul Russo, Frank Salamone, Joseph Sciorra, and Anthony Tamburri. In addition to attending panels at the Marriott, conference-goers took part in a tour of the landmark L'Unione Italiana, located in historic Ybor City, the former Italian/Spanish/Cuban immigrant quarter; and a banquet at the Tampa Convention Center on the

Hillsborough River. Conference sponsors included Bordighera Press, the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, the Order of the Sons of Italy, Tampa's Unione Italiana, and the University of South Florida.

Laura Ruberto, president of AIHA's western chapter, remarked, "The conference was a great example of what I like best about [the association]—an opportunity to connect with a vibrant mix of scholars and writers, working across different disciplines. And the tenor of the conference was such that there was a collegial, friendly air throughout the day and evening, made more so by Tampa's sun and warmth." Rita Ciresi, long-time AIHA member, and author and director of creative writing at the University of South Florida, echoed Ruberto's sentiments, noting that the conference in Tampa was defined by "great weather, a beautiful hotel, friendly crowd, and fascinating conversations." Although this may not have been the association's largest conference—due in part to the sluggish economy and cuts in university funding—it was one of the more spirited ones.

Members recently voted by a margin of nearly four to one to change the name of AIHA to the Italian American Studies Association (IASA), effective January 2012. A redesigned website will coincide with the name change. The association's new identity reflects the current multidisciplinary focus of its conferences and annual volumes.

The Italian American Studies Association's next conference will convene at Hofstra University, in Hempstead, New York, from November 29 to December 2, 2012.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Loretta, Silvio, and Fenezia, and in the back row Ermida, Francesca, Angelina (my grandmother), Anunziata, and Egidio. I keep it in my office where it reminds me daily of the strength, perseverance, and importance of family.

—TODD CAMBIO



ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

The *Italian American Review (IAR)* features 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. The *IAR* publishes book, film, and digital media reviews, and is currently accepting article submissions.

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 includes:

- “Garlic Eaters: Reform and Resistance a *Tavola*” by Rocco Marinaccio
- “Considerations of *Esaurimento Nervoso*: A Cultural Model of ‘Nerves’ for Italian-American Patients Suffering from Mental Illness” by Silvia Fiammenghi

For more information, go to the publications menu on our new website at www.calandra.i-italy.org

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$15 Student/Senior; \$20 Individual; \$40 Institution; \$50 International Airmail

TO SUBSCRIBE BY MAIL, send a note including your postal address and check made payable to “Queens College/Italian American Review” to: Italian American Review Subscriptions, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, New York, NY 10036.

TO SUBSCRIBE ONLINE, go to calandra.i-italy.org. Under the publications menu, click on *Italian American Review* and scroll down to the subscribe button, where you can make a secure PayPal purchase by credit card.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS SPRING 2012

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Appreciating Don DeLillo

PAUL GIAIMO, Highland Community College

Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo

MICHAEL SCHIAVI, New York Institute of Technology

WRITERS READ SERIES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Readings from *Sweet Lemons 2: International Writings with a Sicilian Accent* (Legas, 2010)

Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 6 p.m.

JOSEPH SALVATORE reads from *To Assume a Pleasing Shape* (BOA Editions, 2011)

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

Monday, March 12, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Mulberry St. (2009), 87 min.

ABEL FERRARA, dir.

Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Le Mamme di San Vito (2010), 65 min.

GIANNI TORRES, dir.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Votive Offerings in Edible Media

DIANA FANE, Brooklyn Museum

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Living with the Sacred: The Home Altar as Ex-voto

KAY TURNER, Brooklyn Arts Council

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Reconciliation

S. BILLIE MANDLE, New York Foundation for the Arts Artists & Audiences Exchange Program

> Free and open to the public. All events are held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan. RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094. Please note that seating is limited and seats cannot be reserved in advance.

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

QUEENS COLLEGE IS 