

il Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America



2017 • VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 1

Cari Amici,

Welcome to volume 10.1 of the Calandra Institute's il Bollettino! This issue marks the beginning of our tenth year publishing this newsletter and slightly longer with regard to my tenure as Dean of the Institute.

As I look through this issue, I am reminded of how much we do and have done as an institute. Already impressed by the breadth and depth of research our staff members have produced, I see that we continue to push the envelope. Our conference themes are increasingly bold and innovative; *Italics* continues to offer significant programming with a recent interview with Dr. Anna Pizzuti, whose database of foreign Jews interned in Italy educates the world about storie segrete that people tend to shun; our counselors offer workshops and other services to CUNY students; our exhibits are all the more thought provoking of which "Beyond Borders: Transnational Italy" is a perfect example.

A few years ago we made history! Through our CUNY/ Italy Exchange program, we signed an agreement with the University of Calabria with regard to teaching and research. This summer we shall hold the third annual three-week

seminar dedicated to the Italian diaspora. Eight CUNY professors, two CUNY counselors, and an array of doctoral students will total nineteen participants. The teaching staff, in turn, includes two Calandra staff members.

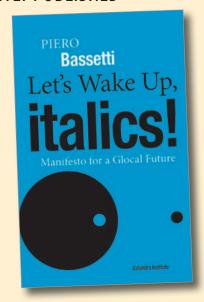
We continue to enjoy substantial support from all. Our colleagues and friends within CUNY are most helpful, and the Italian American community of the New York metropolitan area is greatly encouraging. Much still needs to be done, and our future activities will address many important concerns of our community as we move forward.

As always, we are extremely appreciative of the unyielding support of both Chancellor James Milliken's Office of CUNY and President Félix Matos Rodrîguez's Office of Queens College. They and their staff continue to facilitate our greater development as the foremost institute of its kind anywhere in the world.

Alla riscossa!

Anthony Julian Tamburri Dean and Distinguished Professor

RECENTLY PUBLISHED



Let's Wake Up, Italics! Manifesto for a Glocal Future Piero Bassetti Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 12 2017, ISBN 978-1-939323-08-8

Call for Submissions SPECIAL ISSUE OF VOICES IN ITALIAN AMERICANA: THE CONTEMPORARY FOLKTALE

The journal Voices in Italian Americana is seeking essays for a special issue honoring Italian folktales. Writers may submit an original folktale of their own creation, or choose a folktale from an existing source (such as Calvino's Italian Folktales, Italian American Folklore by Malpezzi and Clements, Italian Folktales in America by Mathias and Raspa) and rewrite it from a modern Italian American perspective, taking into account how Italian culture, traditions, ethnicity, and family life have changed.

Submit your finished story, of no more than 1,500 words, via email to issue editor Nick DiChario at ndichario@gmail.com.

Include a brief paragraph explaining why you want to write or rewrite the folktale. Only previously unpublished work will be accepted. Contributing authors will receive one copy of the special issue and a discount on purchased copies. Submissions are due June 1, 2017. For more information visit bordigherapress.org.



Cover photograph, "Roast Sheep!," from By-Paths in Sicily, Eliza Putnam Heaton, E.P. Dutton & Company, 1920.

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Corporeal Restrictions, Embodied Freedoms: Italian Interventions on the Body

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Calandra Institute is accepting abstracts for its eleventh annual conference, "Corporeal Restrictions, Embodied Freedoms: Italian Interventions on the Body," which will take place April 26–28, 2018.

The 1935 song "Faccetta Nera," a paean to the Fascist imperialist enterprise in Africa, addresses the "little black face" that is the anonymous Abyssinian woman, an object of Italian colonial desire. This jaunty march with its suggestive miscegenation proclaims a gendered liberation of African women with the line "our law is slavery of love" (*la legge nostra è schiavitù d'amore*). The song was made famous by tenor Carlo Buti and eventually became a stable of *festa* band repertoires among the diaspora. In contemporary Italy black women are routinely taunted and humiliated with this Fascist-era tune.

The song is but one example of the myriad ways in which the body figures in discourses and cultural productions concerning Italy's histories and identities, within and well beyond the country's geopolitical boundaries. This interdisciplinary conference recognizes the body in its literal, metaphorical, and hybrid constitutions as found in the modern nation-state of Italy, the larger Italian diaspora, and among former colonies. It builds on the array of seminal work on body politics mainly developed in women's and gender studies—French feminist theories of *jouissance*, Donna Haraway's cyborgs, Judith Butler's gender trouble, post-colonial conceptions of subaltern racialized bodies, and contemporary trans theories—where corporeal imaginaries construct and reposition identity and agency. Italy and *italianità*, with its complex position within a Western hegemony—connected to colonialism, transnational migration, and larger discourses of power—is a particularly interesting locus for focusing a series of critical interventions around the body.

The deadline for submitting paper or panel abstracts for consideration is September15, 2017. Complete submission instructions are available at www.gc.edu/calandra.

ITALICS: TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Highlights from recent *Italics* broadcasts include a January 2017 interview with veteran photographer Tony Vaccaro, best known for his photographs taken in Europe during 1944 and 1945 and in Germany immediately after World War II. He later became a renowned fashion and lifestyle photographer for U.S. magazines. *Italics* conducted an in-depth interview at Vaccaro's studio where the conversation covered a wide range of topics, from humanity and war to Instagram and selfies.

In April the *Italics* Women's History Month Special featured two historians: Anna Pizzuti, creator of an historical online database on Jews interned in Italy during Fascism; and Marcella Bencivenni, professor at

Hostos Community College and editor of the Calandra Institute's scholarly journal, *Italian American Review*.





Italics premieres the last Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 11:00 PM, and is rebroadcast on the first Saturday of every month at 8:00 PM and the first Sunday at 10:00 AM, on CUNY-TV Channel 75 and RCN Channel 77, in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx.

Italics can be viewed on demand at







@ltalicsTV



youtube.com/ItalicsTV

The Revolution Just around the Corner: Italian American Radicals and the Mexican Revolution, 1910–1914 by Michele Presutto

In 1911, Italian radicals from the United States crossed the border with Mexico to go and fight in Tijuana. Their presence in revolutionary Mexico was brief, and they soon returned to California. In the United States, a series of debates and controversies began about the true nature of the Mexican Revolution that would last until the beginning of the First World War.

The author uses Italian, Mexican, and American sources to reconstruct the debate among several groups in Italian, Spanish, and English. Among the factions, we find on one side the newspapers L'Era Nuova of Paterson and Regeneración of Los Angeles (which also printed a supplement in Italian), and on the other side Cronaca Sovversiva of Barre.

This article is a historic reconstruction rooted in the relationship between Italian and Mexican immigrants in the United States, encompassing their political experiences in the receiving society as well as in their places of origin. It addresses diverse groups, newspapers, and personalities, among them Luigi Galleani, Ludovico Caminita, and Umberto Postiglione.



This article also analyzes the impact of immigrant workers, particularly Italians, on the movement for solidarity with the Mexican Revolution in the United States. At the same time, it studies the evolution of the Italian American radical movement at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Cartoon by Ludovico Caminita, "The True Causes of the Mexican Revolution," 1913.

On Being Ethnic in the Twenty-First Century: A Generational Study of Greek Americans and Italian Americans by Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei

Throughout the course of history, the cultural exchange between Greeks and Italians has been an ongoing phenomenon. The impact both groups have left on each other's soil and the fusion between these two cultures are reflected in much of their art, architecture, music, food, and language. In the United States, Greek Americans and Italian Americans have shared similar immigrant experiences that have shaped their current ethnic identities and representations in American society.

Although during the past century numerous studies have been performed on each group, few are currently being conducted. Also, comparative studies focusing on these two similar groups are nonexistent. Such studies are important for documenting and understanding similarities and differences between the two Mediterranean groups while also examining the recent generational changes within each community. Furthermore, comparative studies can help each community gather new ideas for promoting and maintaining their ethnicity.

This article aims at initiating this work through a comparative study that examines and compares the stance on identity of second-, third-, and third-plus-generation Greek Americans and Italian Americans. Through the distribution of a questionnaire designed specifically for each community, the project looks at ways these two groups interpret various issues affecting their community and ethnicity while also determining the characteristics that constitute being a Greek or Italian American today. The study additionally seeks to compare the generational increase or decrease of ethnicity markers in both groups.

SYMPOSIUM: GIUSEPPE DE SANTIS CENTENNIAL

This spring the Calandra Institute hosted a three-day symposium celebrating the work of Giuseppe De Santis and his contributions to cinema, film studies, and intellectual engagement. De Santis's creative writings as a young critic stimulated discussion of a new concept of cinema that could explore cinematic and cultural innovations as well as promote democracy, equality, and social justice. His films have left an indelible mark on international cinema. The event was organized by the online Italian cinema journal Rivista Luci e Ombre, with the special participation of Gordana Militic-De Santis, Plinio Perilli, and Marco Grassi. Two De Santis films were screened: Bitter Rice (1950), and Roma ore 11 (1952). The symposium closed with a screening of the documentary Giuseppe De Santis (2008) by Carlo Lizzani.

BEYOND BORDERS: TRANSNATIONAL ITALY

This spring the Calandra Institute galleria presented a multimedia exhibition Beyond Borders: Transnational Italy / Oltre I Confini: Italia Transnazionale, with an opening reception on March 28.

Beyond Borders is one of the principal research outputs of the initiative Transnationalizing Modern Languages: Mobility, Identity, and Translation in Modern Italian Cultures (TML). This multiyear project examines the ways in which modern Italian culture has developed around the world and intends to forge a new framework for the discipline of modern languages.

The exhibition displays the processes and results of research conducted by TML over the last three years. It demonstrates how Italian language and culture exceed geographical and territorial confines and operate through a constant process of rewriting and reworking of familiar ideas of tradition, nation, and narration.

The multimedia installation is presented as a domestic environment divided into areas corresponding to shared living spaces. The "house" visitors are invited to enter is intended, metaphorically, as the space culture and language offer us in which to inhabit our lives and relations with other people.

Beyond Borders also presents Italy Is Out, a photographic essay by Mario Badagliacca, artist in residence for the TML project.

The exhibition was first shown in Italy at the British School at Rome (October-November 2016) and traveled to the Italian Cultural Institute in London (December

2016–January 2017). After its run at the Calandra Institute, the exhibit will move to the Museo Italiano in Melbourne, Australia, and Italian Cultural Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The exhibition was curated by Viviana Gravano and Giulia Grechi of Routes Agency-Cura of Contemporary Arts. The setup of rooms was designed by architects Carmelo Baglivo and Laura Negrini, interactive systems and software development by Giulio Pernice, postproduction and video editing by Simone Memé, and graphic design and communication by Carolina Farina.

For more information visit: http://www.transnationalmodernlanguages.ac.uk/mediacollection/exhibition-beyond-borders-transnational-italy/



STAFF NEWS

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Dean, delivered the Italian section keynote lecture at the 48th Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association in Baltimore, Maryland, March 25, entitled "Re-appropriating the Forget-Me-Nots: Italian Cultural Hegemonic Privilege and Disregard for Diasporic Cultural Production."

CELEBRATING POETRY & TWO ITALIAN AMERICAN JOURNALS

On April 7, 2017, the Calandra Institute hosted a poetry reading to celebrate National Poetry Month. In attendance were poets whose work has been recently published by two Italian American creative writing journals, Italian Americana and VIA: Voices in Italian Americana. Participants included B. Amore, John Bargowski, Phyllis Capello, Terese Coe, Peter Covino, Gil Fagiani, Marisa Frasca, Mary Giaimo, Joanna Clapps Herman, Maria Lisella, Susan Miller, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Michael Palma, Richard Parisio, Vittoria Repetto, Carla Simonini, and Maria Terrone, among others.

The mission of the Italian Garden Project is to celebrate the joy and wisdom inherent in the traditional Italian American vegetable garden, preserving this heritage, and demonstrating its relevance for reconnecting to our food, our families, and the earth.

The Italian Garden Project was founded by Mary Menniti in 2010. The project began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, inspired by Menniti's paternal grandfather, Antonio Martone, who immigrated to the United States in 1912 at age sixteen. Martone had a large garden in the backyard of Menniti's home, and she grew to admire his extensive knowledge and wise use of resources. Of the project participants, Menniti says, "Most of the gardeners are Italian-born Americans who came to the U.S. after World War II and grew up in families that gardened as a way of life. . . . Today, they continue to live much closer to the earth and more lightly on the earth than most anyone. I always say they are so old-school that they are cutting edge. They are living a lifestyle that many of us are trying

to get back to. The modern American lifestyle has left us craving their simpler, less fragmented way of life." As a result of Menniti's work, the first Italian American backyard vegetable garden was included in the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens. The garden, in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, is preserved through photographs, sketches, written description, and other details, ensuring this information is available to researchers and the general public now and in the future. Two additional Smithsonian documentations are currently underway, in Long Island, New York, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Other gardens are being identified for documentation in Brooklyn, Baltimore, and Washington D.C., with plans for several more in California.

Though traditional Italian American gardens were taken for granted in the 1900s, there are fewer every year now. As the gardeners age, the traditions are not being passed down as they were in prior generations. However, as Menniti observes, "I've found that many people are looking for a way to connect with their food and with the earth. When reminded of their rich agricultural history and its relevance for today, they are inspired."

The project continues to grow and expand its work across the country, shining a light on the Italian American gardener, past and present, telling the story of a people closely connected to the earth. In the past year, the project has traveled from east to west, forging friendships and learning from the gardeners. The project's Legacy Fig Tree Garden and Heirloom Seed Collection have expanded with important new additions from New York and California.

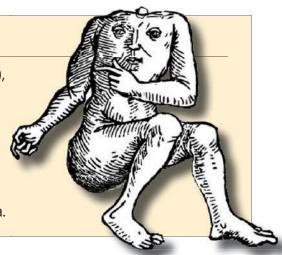
Menniti is developing two books, a children's book about a grandfather's love for his fig trees, and a coffee table book titled Food, Family, and the Earth: Reflections on the Italian American Vegetable Garden.

For more information visit: www.TheItalianGardenProject.com

Literaturhaus

Following in the tradition of Aldo Manuzio and his Venetian publishing house (Aldine Press), Nicholas Grosso has founded Literaturhaus. A federally recognized 501(c)(3), not-for-profit literary organization, incorporated in the state of New York, Literaturhaus seeks to publish handcrafted books to play with and challenge structures and forms, an antidote to our struggle to come to terms with our digital selves. Literaturhaus calls out to writers, artists, journalists and the like to not squander the abundance of mediums available to us but to strive for context, insight, illumination.

For more information, visit literaturha.us, email read@literaturha.us, or find us @literaturha.



IN PIAZZA

2017 CONFERENCE PROGRAM ITALIAN SONORITIES AND ACOUSTIC COMMUNITIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

9:30-10:45 am

Recorded Sound

Chair: GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College / "Parla Comme T'Ha Fatta Mammeta"? Multilingualism, Codeswitching, and Oral Performance in Ethnic Italian Records, ISABELLA LIVORNI, Columbia University / Redefining Bel Canto: Vocal Manifestations of Italian Opera in the Evolution of Frank Sinatra's Recordings, ANTHONY CAVALUZZI, SUNY Adirondack / "That's Amore": Sprezzatura and Parody in an Italian American Pop Song, TAD TULEJA, Independent Scholar

11 am-12:15 pm

Keynote: Mediations on Italian American Soundfulness, JOHN GENNARI, University of Vermont

1:30-2:45 pm

Italian Folk Music Revival in Italy

Chair: ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Independent Scholar / Evolution and Dissemination of Italian Community Music, MARIE DICOCCO and CELEST DI PIETROPAOLO, Independent Scholars / Sociocultural Aspects of Sounds, Rituals, and Dance in Southern Italy, JANET MICHELLO, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY / La Notte della Taranta: Musicking as a Social Act and Metaphor for Social Relationships, GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

Histories and Border Crossings

Chair: CHRISTINE ZINNI, The College of Brockport, SUNY / Italophilia vs. Italophobia: Five Centuries of Cultural Exchange Viewed through the Prism of Language, EDWARD TUTTLE, University of California, Los Angeles / What did Early Modern Italy Sound Like?, DARIO DEL PUPPO, Trinity College

/ From Bayreuth to Fiume: Gabriele D'Annunzio's Visions of an Italian Tragic Theater, MATTIA ACETOSO, Boston College

3-4:15 pm

Women and Workers

Chair: DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY / "Female Voices and Whispers": Gendered Migration Narratives of Italian and Greek Women Immigrants to Australia after World War II, DANIELA COSMINI, MARIA PALAKTSOGLOU, DIANA GLENN, and ERIC BOUVET, Flinders University / Oral History and the Documentation of the Italian Worker, GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College, CUNY / From Appennini to Appalachia: Oral Histories of Italian Americans in Appalachian Coal Fields, ENRICO GRAMMAROLI, University of Rome Tor Vergata

Southern Italian Soundscapes

Chair: JACQUELINE MAGGIO-MAY, Florida Humanities Council / Conjuring Southern Italian Soundscapes, TIZIANA RINALDI CASTRO, Independent Scholar / Southern Italian Oral Culture in a Postmodern World, DAVID MARKER, Independent Scholar

4:30-5:45 pm

Disco, Hip Hop, and Mina

Chair: GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar / Ideas of Italy: Mina and La Canzone Italiana on Tour in the 1960s, RACHEL HAWORTH, University of Hull / Disco to Hip Hop: Italian and American Diasporic Journeys, CLARISSA CLÒ, San Diego State University / Can the Subaltern Rap? A Gramscian Revision of Contemporary Italian Hip Hop, ENRICO ZAMMARCHI, The Ohio State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

9:30-10:45 am

Sound in Film

Chair: ANNEMARIE TAMIS-NASELLO, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY / " 'O Sole Mio" and the Neapolitan Synecdoche in Film, GIULIANA MUSCIO, University of Padua / Listening to Cinema: Music in the Films of Martin Scorsese, JACQUELINE MAGGIO-MAY, Florida Humanities Council / Words of Justice in Italy: Interpretation and Misinterpretation in the Real Courtroom and in the Movies, MARIA GIUSEPPINA CESARI, Italian Ministry of Justice

11 am-12:15 pm

Oral Histories and Recorded Voices

Chair: MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center / Orality and Microhistory: Italian Americans in Florida, VINCENZA IADEVAIA, VIVIANA PEZZULLO, and FEDERICO TIBERINI, Florida Atlantic University / The World in a Voice: An Oral History of a Southern Italian Migrant, VINCENT ANDRISANI, Simon Fraser University / Italian/ American? Second-Generation Voices in Search of an Identity, ANN DIBELLA JABLON, Marymount Manhattan College, and LORI DIBELLA WALLACH, Queens Memory

Tanao v Los Italianos

Chair: FRED GARDAPHÈ, Queens College, CUNY / Beyond Borders: Tango as Transnational Movement of Sound and Steps, LOREDANA POLEZZI, Cardiff University / Dancing the Diaspora: Tango as a Little Italy, ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

1:30-2:45 pm

Accordions and Feste

Chair: JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University / Ethnography as Storysinging: The Spoken Word and the Currency of Piano Accordion Music, CHRISTINE ZINNI, The College at Brockport, SUNY / Lasciateci Suonare: Listening to the Sounds of Italianitá on Accordion, DAMIEN LAFRAMBOISE, Memorial University / A Fickle Soundscape: The Fisherman's Feast in Boston's North End, MICHELE SEGRETARIO, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

3-4:15 pm

Discourse and Language

Chair: TAD TULEJA, Independent Scholar / The Sounds of Racism and Counter-Racism: Contrast and Comparison Structures in Tuscans' Discourses on Recent Immigrants, ROBERT GAROT, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY / Is There an Italian American Vernacular English?, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University / Sounds of Silence: The Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Community as Linguistic Minority among Italians and Italian Americans, DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Nature, Memory, and Place

Chair: CLARISSA CLÒ, San Diego State University / La Voce d'Italia: A History of Italian-Language Radio Programs in Rhode Island, ALFRED R. CRUDALE, University of Rhode Island / Resounding Nature in the Works of Michelangelo Antonioni, Pinuccio Sciola, and Filippo Minelli, ANTONELLA SISTO, Brown University / The Transmemoric Process: A Journey of Italian Québécois Artists, ANITA ALOISIO, Independent Scholar

4:30-5:45 pm

Italian Folk Music Revival in the United States

Chair: DIANA GLENN, Flinders University / "Quel Mazzolin di Fiori": I Campagnoli and the Italian Folk Revival, MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center / The Villa Palagonia Music Ensemble: Reimagining Italian Folk Music for American Audiences, ALLISON SCOLA and JOE RAVO, Villa Palagonia Music Ensemble / Beating the Drum: Italian Traditional Music Advocacy in the Diaspora, LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar



For more information, go to gc.edu/calandra. Under the publications menu, click on Italian American Review.

ITAI IAN AMFRICAN RFVIFW

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 7, NUMBER 1 includes:

- Note from the New Editor, MARCELLA BENCIVENNI
- The Revolution Just around the Corner: Italian American Radicals in the Mexican Revolution, 1910–1914, MICHELE PRESUTTO
- On Being Ethnic in the 21st Century: A Generational Study of Greek Americans and Italian Americans, ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI

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SPRING 2017 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Bevond Memory: Italian Protestants in Italy and America, DENNIS BARONE, University of Saint Joseph

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Flavor and Soul: Italian America at Its African American Edge, JOHN GENNARI, University of Vermont

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject, ROSANGELA BRISCESE, ANA CARA, and JOSEPH SCIORRA

WRITERS READ SERIES

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The Young and the Reckless: Emerging Italian American Writers, CHLOE DEFILIPPIS, MARC POLLIFRONE, and ANGELICA ROMAN, followed by a roundtable discussion with EDVIGE GIUNTA, New Jersey City University. Cosponsored by New Jersey City University.

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

The Barese Ice Men of New York (2015), 80 min., CARLO MAGALETTI, dir. Post-screening discussion led by MARK NAISON, Fordham University.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Sicily Jass: The World's First Man in Jazz (2015), 73 min., MICHELE CINQUE, dir. Post-screening discussion with the director led by independent scholar GEORGE DESTEFANO.

March 28-April 7, 2017

Galleria exhibition: Beyond Borders: Transnational Italy Opening reception Tuesday, March 28 at 6 pm

PRESENTATIONS BEGIN AT 6 PM. ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Events take place at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, New York NY 10036. RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094. Seating is limited; seats cannot be reserved in advance.



