

# CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Italics

i-Italy.

# a Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2008





The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is a University Institute under the Aegis of Queens College/The City University of New York

## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the second issue of the Calandra Institute's newsletter, *il Bollettino*! Since I last wrote, I am happy to say the Calandra staff continues to meet the challenges of the numerous initiatives and projects we are undertaking, and then some. These projects provide gratifying experiences and a sense of accomplishment as we move into new levels of productivity.

The Italian-American communities of the greater New York metropolitan area are most encouraging in various ways. Our events attract a growing audience and support for projects has been forthcoming. This enthusiastic community support inspires us to undertake new programs and collaborations.

We continue to enjoy the generosity of New York Senator Serphin Maltese, Justice Dominic Massaro, and the National Italian American Foundation. We have recently benefited from the largesse of New York Senator Frank Padavan, Assemblywoman Ginny Fields, and Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, who join Senator Maltese in funding a new project, the Oral History Archive of Italian-American Elected Officials. It is difficult, if not impossible, to study the history of Italian-American elected officials, except for those few who have been covered regularly and widely by the media. An oral history archive provides the researcher and the general public a firsthand account of such topics as why the elected official decided to seek office, what his or her political stance is and how it developed over time, and how his or her Italian-American background affected (or didn't) the elected official's political formation.

The Calandra Institute staff has been enhanced by new hires. I am delighted to announce Lucia Grillo, associate producer and correspondent for *Italics*, whose insightful editing and on-screen presence have already left their mark. And joining us most recently is Christine Gambino, assistant for demographic studies, who brings new expertise to the Institute and is highlighted on page six.

Our research, in turn, is enhanced by the appointment of Fred Gardaphè as Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies. As you will read in his profile on page seven, Professor Gardaphè's utmost experience will bring a new level of intellectual rigor to the Calandra Institute. Much of his work over the years has been dedicated to creating a public conversation with Italian-American communities, and the U.S. community at large, in an effort to further bridge gaps that all too often divide sectors of Italian Americans.

As you will learn in this issue, we conceptualized and organized an international conference on the theme of "Italians in the Americas." The papers presented were diverse in subject matter and most informative, and we look forward to compiling a collection of these essays. We are pleased to announce next year's conference, "The Land of Our Return: Diasporic Encounters with Italy," which will take place April 23–25, 2009.

We are in the midst of organizing a four-day film festival dedicated to "New Italian American Cinema." This is a continuation of a component of the 2007 Pesaro Film Festival in Italy that we helped organize. The festival is scheduled for September 24–27, 2008.

To be sure, much still needs to be done, and our future activities will continue to explore the multifarious aspects of our extended community. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance. Also, be sure to join our electronic and postal mailing lists.

*Dulcis in fundo*: All of what we have accomplished could not be done without 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 two years of my tenure.

— Anthony Julian Tamburri

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## P E R S O N A G G I

#### Peter Sammartino (1904–1992)

Dr. Peter Sammartino was an educational visionary with a long record of scholarly and cultural accomplishments, whose commitment to higher education and public service is noteworthy.

Dr. Sammartino and his wife Sylvia produced one of the great success stories in American higher education. In 1942, they founded Fairleigh Dickinson University, as an institution "of and for the world," where students were called upon to apply theory to praxis by working in a range of multicultural settings and international study, groundbreaking initiatives at the time.

Believing that education and universities have the power to unify diverse ethnic and racial groups, Dr. Sammartino's value for the importance of international partnerships resulted in his recruitment of faculty and visiting professors from around the world. Through his pedagogy Fairleigh Dickinson University was the first institution to offer course work in Italian-American studies. This innovative curriculum served as a model to future programs across the nation.

Dr. Sammartino's appreciation for Italian-American history inspired him to initiate the renovation of Ellis Island, culminating in a nationwide campaign to restore this national landmark. His unique and invaluable contributions to higher education and Italian-American studies instituted cultural diversity as academic practice.

## **ITALICS** THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN TV MAGAZINE

The Calandra Institute is proud to announce the twentieth season of *Italics, The Italian American TV Magazine*. For the past two decades *Italics* has been airing monthly on channel 75, the City University of New York cable station. During September and October, *Italics* will feature highlights from past programs in celebration of its twentieth anniversary.

Over the years, *Italics* has featured notable Italians and Italian Americans including First Lady Matilda Cuomo, painter Ralph Fasanella, the Honorable Geraldine Ferraro, mayor of Palermo Leoluca Orlando, chef Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, actor Chaz Palminteri, and Governor George Pataki. The program has created special segments documenting the lives of New York City Mayor Fiorello Laguardia, and New York Congressman Vito Marcantonio. The show has presented various aspects of the Italian experience in America such as Italian-American radicalism, Italian Americans at CUNY, the Brooklyn *giglio* feast, and the College Board's inclusion of an Italian language advanced placement test.

In July 2007, Dean Tamburri became host of *Italics*. Innovations included creating a new on-air look and changing editing platforms to allow greater efficiency and flexibility. In October 2007, Lucia Grillo joined the team as associate producer and correspondent. Dr. Fred Gardaphé, Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies, Queens College, will be a frequent contributor to and rich resource for future programming.

*Italics* collaborates with the internet portal www.i-Italy.org by having video

segments posted to its website. Recently, Italian author Roberto Saviano discussed his book *Gomorrah*, about organized crime in Naples, on both www.i-Italy.org and *Italics*.

For the past two decades, television viewers have come to appreciate and enjoy the depth and breadth of *Italics*, the only regularly scheduled show about Italian Americans. Programming for Fall 2008 is well underway and will continue to be informative and substantive. Stay tuned!



## Staff News

DR. JOSEPH SCIORRA presented at:
Montclair State University's "Italian Festival of the Arts and Humanities" on visual artist B. Amore's exhibition and publication "Filo della vita/Lifelines," February 7, 2008;
the Italian Culture Institute of New York on Italian-American devotional arts as part of journalist Olivia Fincato's photographic documentary of Brazilian religious practices, March 3, 2008;

• Stony Brook University's symposium "Italian-American Youth Culture: Recent Reappraisals," on "The Ethnoscape of Hip Wop: Alterity and Authenticity in Italian North American Hip Hop," March 11, 2008.

• the Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Fresno, California, on "Built with Faith: Place Making and the Religious Imagination in Italian New York City," May 7–10, 2008, with a grant from Professional Staff Congress/CUNY.

DEAN ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI delivered a series of lectures this spring. He delivered one of three keynote lectures entitled "Aldo Palazzeschi and the Transgression of Humor," for the Hofstra University Conference on Romance Literatures, April 10, 2008. He served as the first Esposito Visiting Faculty Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, where he met with students and faculty and delivered a public lecture entitled: "The Italian/American Writer in 'Exile': Here, There, Wherever!," April 29–30, 2008. *i-Italy* is an online editorial and social network dedicated to Italy and Italian America. *i-Italy: Italian American Digital Project*, is an open, accessible multimedia tool that enhances the discoursive power of those interested in Italian-American issues.

The dynamic interaction between the editorial portal (www.i-Italy.org) and the social network (www.i-Italy.us), which have reached a combined audience of 20,000 unique vistors in the first six months of its existence, is the reason for the project's success.

*i-Italy* is an innovative experiment in interaction between professional journalists and citizen journalists, bloggers, and public intellectuals—academics and experts willing to leave the university's ivory tower and become involved in public debate. They all seek to enhance the exchange of information and cultural discussion while encouraging a deeper understanding of Italy and a greater awareness of the historical and contemporary experiences of Italian Americans.

*i-Italy* is inspired by the principles of user-created content and social interaction—the so-called "Web 2.0" revolution. This approach, which bridges the gap between high culture and popular culture, authors and readers, seems particularly significant for Italian America—large as it is in numbers and cultural energies—which has not had, until now, a firmly established presence online.

i-ITALY

*i-Italy* is a catalyst for a fruitful synergy between "old" media, such as existing Italian-American newspapers, radio, and televison (first among them *Italics*) and the "new" digital formats such as podcasts.

The thematic structure of *i-Italy* encompasses a broad spectrum of subjects: cinema; cuisine; current events; fashion; history; language; literature; politics; tourism; and visual arts, among others.

This unique and ambitious project needs the contribution of everyone with an interest in the larger conversation of Italian America. There are myriad ways to collaborate with *i-Italy*: request a blog, open a discussion forum, send in articles, publish videos or photographic reportage. CUNY students can intern and assist in the daily workings of this project.

Visit www.i-Italy.org and www. i-Italy.us, or write to i-Italy in care of the Calandra Institute.



# *II GIORNALINO*

During the 2003–2004 academic year, Calandra Institute counselor Joseph Grosso and Queens College Italian Professor Giovanna DeLuca discussed strategies to promote the literary productions of students enrolled in Italian language courses. They agreed to highlight student writings in special editions of the Queens College monthly newsletter, *ciao-queens college*. These editions received a tremendous response from both the college and surrounding communities. The positive reaction encouraged Grosso to continue this endeavor and to invite submissions from New York high school students studying Italian.

With the generous support of State Senator Serphin Maltese, Grosso established the publication *il Giornalino, The Italian Journal.* Senator Maltese noted that *il Giornalino* "allows this rich linguistic culture to be showcased through the writings of talented students and shared by the members of our community." The publication supports the Calandra Institute's mission to foster higher education among Italian Americans and to educate the larger community regarding Italian heritage. The journal exposes high school students to, and fosters interest in, the Italian language while strengthening Italian language programs in high schools. The goals of the journal are to: facilitate communication between high school Italian teachers; foster the exchange of information between schools; assist in the development of linkages with the participating high schools and colleges that offer Italian programs; and identify careers in which knowledge of Italian is an asset.

Submissions to il Giornalino include essays, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. This year's edition (volume 4) includes writings by CUNY students and high school students from New York City and Long Island. The issue is divided into five sections: "La Famiglia e Amici" (Family and Friends), "Italia America," "La Vita," "Sport e Hobby," and "Quattro Stagioni" (Four Seasons). Regarding this special edition, Dean Tamburri said, "The young women and men who have contributed their work only prove how students can arrive at a successful linguistic and, I dare to say, literary goal." The current edition of il Giornalino can be found at www.qc.cuny. edu/studyabroad/Il Giornalino 2008.pdf. For information on the Italian language program, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/studyabroad.



HICKORY WITH HANDS, 2004 Carved and painted wood with gold leaf and encaustic, 5' x 3' x 1'

I have been carving sculpture in wood for a long time. It has felt like a good "fit" for me as I have always admired trees and I often—even as a child—felt that they held a metaphor for my experience of life. Most recently my work has been about the cycle of time, about the death of my mother, about the birth of my granddaughter, and my own aging.

– NANCY AZARA

For more information visit www.nancyazara.com

#### NOTEVOLE

## WHY DO PUBLIC PROGRAMS?

Over the past decade, we have been conceptualizing and implementing a rich panoply of public programs exploring the diverse histories and cultures of Italian Americans. Monthly programs include the "Seminar Series," "Writers Read," and "Documented Italians." Symposia, conferences, and exhibitions are presented throughout the year. These events are stimulating and critical channels for circulating ideas and engendering discourse among a wide range of people. The Calandra Institute is committed to conducting such intellectual and cultural inquiries in the public sphere.

As part of CUNY, the Calandra Institute is a public institution with a mandate to serve the citizens of New York City and New York State. Presenting the work of scholars and artists in forums free and open to the public is one of the ways we serve that mission. Our public events offer possibilities for presenting the research of Calandra staff, in ways that are not always feasible with publications. The 2003 exhibition "Sacred Emblems, Community Signs: Historic Flags and Religious Banners from Italian Williamsburg, Brooklyn" was based on two decades of work conducted by Dr. Joseph Sciorra on a little studied but fundamental aspect of Italian-American religious artistry.

These forums also provide intellectual venues that foster research on sparsely documented topics, as with the 2002 symposium "Biancheria: Critical and Creative Perspectives on Italian American Women's Domestic Needlework" and the March 2009 symposium "Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject." The objective is to open up a scholarly space where new research can be nurtured and presented, and ultimately brought to publication.

The creative work of authors, film directors, performers, and visual artists has

a critical place at the Calandra Institute. Italian-American cultural production is a dynamic and ongoing venture that we support by inviting individuals to publicly present their work.

The Calandra Institute has become a significant node in a network of individuals and institutions across the United States, Canada, Europe, and elsewhere with whom we collaborate in various ways. We are enhancing the global dissemination of information via the Internet, as with the recent podcasts of our "Seminar Series" lectures. Our programs help link like-minded individuals throughout the world, who encounter each other through our programs and initiate their own collaborations.

These programs are designed to provide nuanced, in-depth presentations about the myriad experiences of Italian communities in the United States and throughout the diaspora. Our audiences have come to expect such engaging and superlative presentations from the Calandra Institute.

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# ITALIANS IN THE AMERICAS

Scholars in the United States have made great progress in investigating, preserving, and presenting stories of Italian Americans. Until recently, the focus of most of the research has been on Italian experiences in the United States. One of the earliest attempts to move the discussion to other sites of the Italian diaspora was a conference sponsored by the Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli together with the Center for Migration Studies in 1992. The publication Columbus Children grew out of the conference and was the first collection of essays that reflected the Italian diaspora on a large scale. One result of these events was an expanded definition of the hyphenated phrase "Italian-American." Since then, much work has been done in all regions of the world where Italians have emigrated.

In an effort to air new ideas and approaches, and to bring together scholars studying global Italian immigration, the Calandra Institute organized an interdisciplinary conference dedicated to the myriad experiences of Italians in the western hemisphere, aptly entitled, "Italians in the Americas." The conference took place on April 24–26, 2008.

Fred Gardaphé, recently appointed Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies at Queens College and the Calandra Institute, delivered the opening keynote address. Professor Gardaphé surveyed the ways in which Italian-American identities have been fashioned and presented, arguing that Italian Americans inevitably move beyond the immigrant experience as contemporary notions of ethnic identity evolve. He suggested that rethinking the fields of Italian, American, and Italian-American Studies as an overarching Italophone Studies will make it possible for various components of the Italian diaspora to be studied and appreciated in a more comparative manner.

During the subsequent two days, twelve sessions with over forty scholars, writers, and artists from Europe, Canada, and the United States presented papers on a wide variety of subjects. The panel "Contested Identities in Italian America" featured discussions of sexual orientation by Joseph LoGiudice and Michael Carosone, and disconnections in the family by Angela Danzi and Marilyn Blumenthal. In "Working Aesthetics," Javier Grossutti, Christine Francis Zinni, and Jerry and Eleanor Koffler discussed the work of Italian immigrant artisans in the United States.

"Italians in the Americas" featured David Aliano and Stefano Luconi discussing Italian communities in Argentina. Vincenzo Milione and Maddalena Tirabassi presented an inventory of the Italian diaspora in the Americas, in which Milione proposed a model for studying assimilation that focuses on sociocultural changes taking place in Italian communities throughout the world.

Donna DiCello, Elizabeth Messina, and Antonio Terracciano constituted the panel "Reflections in Psychology." They presented personal experiences and offered critical research demonstrating how their recent work in the field of psychology contributes to both historical investigations and contemporary analyses of stereotyping of Italian Americans. In another session of a different tone, "Re-Imagining/Re-Presenting," Marion Jacobson and Simona Frasca discussed the impact of Italian immigrant music inside and outside Little Italys. Political scientists Ottorino Cappelli and Rodrigo Praino, and sociologist Jerome Krase, presented their work on the Italian-American politic. Cappelli referred to "Italian American politics" as a "black hole" that has rarely been studied. The panel shed light on this important area of research, bringing attention to the more recent phenomenon of the transnational "Italian vote abroad" and its relationship to local Italian-American politics.

"First Encounters, First Conflicts," with Teresa Fava Thomas, Peter Oliva, and Geoffrey Drutchas, examined the tribulations of early immigrants. Esther Romeyn, Joan Saverino, and Vincenzo Pascale explored how memories and histories are imagined and constructed based on shifting perspectives and changing contexts. Francesca L'Orfano, Danielle Battisti, and James Pasto presented on post-World War II experiences in the United States and Canada by exploring cinema, politics, and interpersonal relationships.

The literary arts were represented by panels of writers and educators, including John Calabro, Licia Canton, Nancy Caronia, Venera Fazio, Frances Gendimenco Kaufmann, and Rosanna Micelotta-Battigelli. They presented accounts of the impact language and writing have had on the development of Italian-American and Italian-Canadian identities.

Jana Vizmuller-Zocco presented her preliminary research on Italian and Italian-American representations on facebook.com, the online social network. Patrizia La Trecchia presented her experiences as an Italian immigrant inside and outside the university classroom. Daniela Gioseffi discussed the exploitation of stereotypes and its impact on Italian-American identity.

Papers from this conference will be collated into a book, as part a developing series of Calandra Institute publications.



## From the Archives

I had always heard about this photograph and fell in love with it when my Uncle Vito gave it to me recently. It's of my grandfather, Michael Chiarappa, who ran an ice delivery business in New York City from the late 1920s to his untimely death shortly after World War II. My father Michael Jr. always remarked on the arduous nature of my grandfather's work hauling ice up countless tenement steps. My grandfather married my grandmother, Anna Sabino, both of Bari, in 1931. The family, including a third son John, eventually moved from their home at East 84th Street to Clason Point in the Bronx. Of that generation only Uncle Vito survives and, fortunately for all of us, carries an abiding devotion to our family's history.

— PROFESSOR MICHAEL J. CHIARAPPA, Western Michigan University

## IN PIAZZA

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN

The National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) is a network of women from varied professional backgrounds, including artists, businesswomen, doctors, educators, lawyers, scientists, and women working in the home. NOIAW is the only national membership organization for women of Italian ancestry. The organization now accepts men and women of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

NOIAW was founded in 1980 through the initiative of Dr. Aileen Riotto Sirey. At that time a small group of women, including Roseanne Coletti, First Lady Matilda Cuomo, Donna deMatteo, the Honorable Geraldine Ferraro, and Bonnie Mandina, created this network to support the educational and professional aspirations of its members and to combat ethnic stereotypes by promoting positive role models.

Today, the organization sponsors educational, cultural, and social programs that focus on issues of interest to, and feature and promote the accomplishments of, Italian-

## The Staff at Calandra

CHRISTINE GAMBINO joined the Institute's staff in February as assistant for demographic studies. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), an M.A. in Applied Developmental Psychology from Fordham University, and is currently a doctoral candidate in the psychology department at Fordham. Ms. Gambino's previous experience includes researcher, statistician, and instructor in the psychology department at Fordham University and Fordham Graduate School of Social Services. In addition, she has taught at New York University and has engaged in research at the Administration for Children's Services, Agenda for Children Tomorrow, Lighthouse International, the UCSD Community Pediatrics, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Ms. Gambino's research interests include cognitive development, evaluating the effects of poverty on at-risk youth, and Italian-American college student achievement levels.

American women. NOIAW has evolved into an international organization connecting women of Italian ancestry from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the United States and women in Italy through conferences, events, and programs.

The Mentor Program matches graduate and undergraduate students with NOIAW members in the same field who, in turn, mentor these young women.

Annual academic scholarships are awarded to Italian-American women to assist them in achieving their education and career goals. In 2008, NOIAW granted eight scholarships supporting graduate and undergraduate study. In addition, grants were provided to Italian women completing their Ph.D. degrees at the University of Pisa, enabling them to attend the "Fifth Italo-American Social Science Conference" held at both the Calandra Institute and William Paterson University in New Jersey.

In June 2007 NOIAW established the Cultural Exchange Program in partnership with the Italian Foreign Ministry. The program sponsors visits to Italy and the United States by women college students. This program was launched with sixteen Italian students from Campania, Lazio, Sardinia, and Sicily who spent two weeks living with family sponsors in the greater New York area. These accomplished young women, ranging in age from eighteen to twenty-two, visited civic, business, and cultural sites in New York and Washington, D.C. This summer NOIAW will send a group of young Italian-American women to visit Italy and stay with host families to experience Italian life and culture.

Recent NOIAW member events have included presentations on "The Holocaust in Southern Europe," "I Remember Nonna" storytelling exchange, and "Italian-American Women Writers," among others. In spring 2007, NOIAW members visited the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. to view the exhibit "Italian Artists from the Renaissance to the Baroque." The exhibition featured drawings, paintings, prints, and sculptures by prominent Italian women artists, including Sofonisba Anguissola, Lavinia Fontana, Artemisia Gentileschi, and Elisabetta Sirani.

To learn more about the National Organization of Italian American Women, visit www.noiaw.org.



BYZANTINE HOMAGE (1), 2005 Cloth, acrylic paint, wax, thread, 35 x 35 x 3 inches



CROSS SECTION (2), 2002 Cloth, acrylic paint, wax, thread, 33 x 36 x 7 inches

For the past twenty-five years I have made work that alludes to the body, nature, and personal memory. My recent work is entirely constructed by hand sewing together many, sometimes hundreds, of flat rectangular units or hollow vessel-like elements to form larger configurations. Made of layers of cloth (or cloth and paper) that are laminated and stiffened with acrylic paints and mediums, the tension created by sewing these individual components results in structures that undulate and billow, as if animated from within. Seams define form, and stitches create lines, marks and surface. The absence of an understructure should be noted; these pieces are held together with thread alone.

My family had many embroidered textiles, made by female ancestors. My maternal grandmother did masterful hand embroidery for a living, and I learned to embroider as a child. I have an abiding interest in images created by accretion from Byzantine mosaics to votive accumulations to multi-cellular organisms. I think of my work as representing a point in time, more in process than finished, implying a simultaneous state of expansion, growth, and disintegration.

— ELISA D'ARRIGO

Elisa D'Arrigo is represented by Elizabeth Harris Gallery, 529 West 20th St. 6th floor, New York, NY 10011, 212-463-9666.

# PENSARE AUSCHWITZ

On February 26, 2008 a consortium of institutions provided an Italian persepctive to the Holocaust in its presentation of the symposium "Pensare Auschwitz" (To Think Auschwitz) at the CUNY Graduate Center. Sponsors were the Calandra Institute, Centro Primo Levi, the Ph.D. Specialization in Italian Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, and the Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II. Scholars, clergy, and a Holocaust survivor's son contributed to our collective memory of the Holocaust.

Dr. Vincenzo Pascale moderated the symposium's overall discussion of Italian Jews during World War II and the challenges in remembering and understanding their suffering. Dr. Pascale acknowledged the courage Jews demonstrated in the face of utter despair, proclaiming their resiliency a "true testament to the invincible human spirit to triumph over tragedy."

Professor Herman Haller, Director of the Doctoral Specialization in Italian delivered welcoming remarks and expressed his optimism that this program be the "first of many such collaborations." Dean Tamburri expressed his gratitude to the program co-sponsors and acknowledged the significance of such an undertaking. Dean Tamburri extolled the importance of Italian Americans educating themselves about the Holocaust. Building on this theme, Queens College President James Muyskens posed several provocative questions: "Who has the right to forgive?" and "Can a mother forgive a man who has tortured her child?" President Muyskens suggested that "discussions of such philosophical questions are complicated and sometimes unknowable, and, in fact, may raise more questions than answers."

Dr. Andrea Fiano, journalist and Centro Primo Levi board member, shared his memories as the son of an Auschwitz survivor. As a child, Dr. Fiano's Italian family told stories about Nazi soldiers who enforced racial laws in Germany calling for the destruction of Jewish-owned property and the roundup of Jews for deportation to concentration camps. Dr. Fiano often asked himself why and how such atrocities could happen. Rhetorically, Dr. Fiano asked how we can learn from this experience. For Dr. Fiano, healing is only possible if we continue to "bear witness" for the weak, for those who were once voiceless. Dr. Fiano's writings and lectures, explaining what occured, are his tools for disseminating knowledge in the hope of curtailing and preventing future discrimination and genocide.

The Honorable Franceso Maria Talò, Consul General of Italy, encouraged attendees to reflect upon Italian history as a source of both "pride and shame," stating that such a duality provides impetus for cultural change and transformation. Consul General Talò acknowledged that Italian Jews suffered grievously under Mussolini, while at the same time, at great personal peril, Italian citizens participated in resistance efforts to hide Italian Jews from the Nazis. He spoke about various public memorials and commemorative events in Italy honoring victims of the Holocaust. The Italian government sponsors an annual recitation, by young children, of the names of the deceased in an effort to ensure the collective memory for future generations. The Consul General warned that we face grave danger if we are ignorant and indifferent to history.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer to the Holy See to the United Nations, reiterated that "indifference to suffering is our worst enemy," and that awareness of and empathy for the pain and suffering of others can harness political will to eradicate discrimination. He highlighted several outreach programs under the aegis of the United Nations whose aim is to protect against human rights violations worldwide. Archbishop Migliore hopes the phrase "Never again" will become a reality for all people.

Rabbi David H. Lincoln, of Park Avenue Synagogue, reflected on the unique mass movement of Hitler's "Final Solution" organized to annihilate every Jew, everywhere. Rabbi Lincoln cited ancient religious history concerning bigotry against Jews for not recognizing Jesus as the messiah. He attributed such prejudice among Christian Germans in the first half of the twentieth century as the foundation for a "racist ideology that cast Jews as subhuman," making anti-Semitism virulent.

Dr. Fiano concluded the symposium with a poem dedicated to his mother. Devoting his life's work to speaking the unspeakable truth, Dr. Fiano's words and poetry served to ammeliorate the anguish that we feel grappling with inhumanity.

The symposium is an example of the Calandra Institute's commitment to

sponsoring programs that increase knowledge and awareness of significant events in Italian and Italian-American history.

#### Mamma,

Mi avvicino a te, dopo queste pagine di orrori, perchè ancora una volta cerco le tue carezze e vivo ancora nel nostro passato.

Il tempo mi ha avvicinato sempre di più alla sventura della nostra famiglia, distrutta nella notte del mondo.

Dal nostro ultimo abbraccio sulla banchina di Birkenau, poche ore prima che ti uccidessero, sono sceso e salito per molte scale, fra timori e speranze.

Nel rumore del mio tempo, ho speso la mia vita come ho potuto, ma il mio pensiero è sempre stato "li," con te, papà e Enzo.

Ho ancora tanto bisogno di te . . . Il tuo Ricciolino

### Mamma,

I draw close to you after pages of horrors, because again I seek your caresses, and still live in our past.

Time has drawn me ever closer to our family's tragedy, destroyed in the night of the world.

Since our last embrace on the bench at Birkenau, a few hours before they killed you, I have descended and ascended many stairs, between fear and hope.

In the noise of my time, I spent my life as I could, but my thoughts have always been "there," with you, papa, and Enzo.

I am in such need of you still . . . Your Ricciolino



Dr. Andrea Fiano

## A FESTIVAL OF NEW ITALIAN AMERICAN CINEMA SFPTEMBER 24–27, 2008

In June 2007, the Calandra Institute co-sponsored a retrospective of new Italian-American cinema as part of the 43rd Festival of New Cinema in Pesaro, Italy, under the artistic direction of Giovanni Spagnoletti. Film scholar Giuliana Muscio of the University of Padua curated a selection of films made after the so-called "new Hollywood" generation of Italian-American filmmakers such as Michael Cimino, Francis Ford Coppola, Brian De Palma, and Martin Scorsese. In addition to feature films, the festival presented short films and documentaries. Scholars presented on Italian-American history, culture, and cinematic artistry during the conference component of the festival. A volume of critical essays addressing Italian-American cinema and its contribution to American cinema, *Quei bravi ragazzi*, edited by Muscio and Spagnoletti, was published in Italian by Marsilio Editori.

In September 2008, the Calandra Institute and the Pesaro Festival of New Cinema will present an updated version of the retrospective in New York City. The Calandra Institute will publish an English translation of *Quei bravi ragazzi*.

During the New York festival, many of the questions raised in Pesaro will continue to be investigated: What is an Italian-American film language? What are the elements of its style, its recurrent visual motifs, the poetics of its images? How does Italian-American cinema find its place among other hyphenated American cinema? What are its specific and shared themes? Please join us in exploring these and other relevant topics with directors, actors, scholars, and film aficionados, and in viewing this series of fresh and revealing cinematic works.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan

## FILM SCREENINGS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Borough of Manhattan Community College, Richard Harris Terrace, 199 Chambers Street, Manhattan

10 AM *Trees Lounge* (Steve Buscemi, 1996; 95 min.)

NOON *Che bella famiglia* (Diane Frederick, 1993; 30 min.) *Lena's Spaghetti* 

(Joseph Greco, 1994; 23 min.) 1PM Roundtable with directors

and actors 2 PM *Fifty Cents* (Philip Botti, 2008,13 min.) *Bust A Move* (Philip Botti, 2000; 28 min.) *True Love Waits* (Dina Fiasconaro, 2004; 17 min.)

- 3 PM *Two Family House* (Raymond De Felitta, 2000; 108 min.)
- 5 PM *Brooklyn Lobster* (Kevin Jordan, 2005; 94 min.) 7 PM *True Love*
- (Nancy Savoca, 1989; 104 min.)
- 9PM Roundtable with directors and actors

9 AM Coffee & Pastries Opening Remarks10 AM Roundtable discussionN00N Lunch

## FILM SCREENINGS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

CUNY Graduate Center, Proshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan

10 AM *The Sweet New* (Raymond Rea, 2007; 52 min.) *The Blinking Madonna* (Beth Harrington, 1994; 56 min.)

NOON *Pishadoo* (Michael Canzoniero & Marco Ricci, 1997; 22 min.) *Tiramisù* (Len Guercio, 2002; 17 min.)

Nunzio's Second Cousin (Tom De Cerchio, 1994; 18 min.)

1 PM *Puccini for Beginners* (Maria Maggenti, 2006; 82 min.)

- 3 PM Dirt (Nancy Savoca, 2004; 91 min.)
- 5 PM Dinner Rush (Bob Giraldi, 2001; 99 min.)

7 PM *Canvas* (Joseph Greco, 2006; 101 min.)

9PM Roundtable with directors and actors

RSVP/INFO: call 212-642-2094 or EMAIL calandra@qc.edu

- 1PM Roundtable discussion
- 3 PM Roundtable discussion
- 5 PM Roundtable discussion
- 7 PM Reception

## FILM SCREENINGS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Hunter College, Ida K. Lang Recital Hall, Room 424 Hunter North, East 69th Street between Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan

10 AM *Goat on Fire and Smiling Fish* (Kevin Jordan, 1999; 90 min.)

NOON A pena do pana (Lucia Grillo, 2005; 19 min.) *Touch* (Dina Ciraulo, 1995; 17 min.) *Mio paese—My Town* (Katherine Gulla 1986; 26 min.)

1 PM Knock on Wood (Tony De Nonno, 1982; 24 min.)

Baggage (Susan Caperna Lloyd, 2001; 32 min.) Uncovering

(Mariarosy Calleri, 1996; 14 min.);

- 3 PM *Household Saints* (Nancy Savoca, 1993; 124 min.)
- 5 PM *Pane amaro* (Gianfranco Norelli, 2007; 104 min.)
- 7 PM *Romance and Cigarettes* (John Turturro, 2005; 105 min.)
- 9PM Roundtable with directors and actors

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

## NEAPOLITAN POSTCARDS CANZONE NAPOLETANA AS TRANSNATIONAL SUBJECT

The Calandra Institute and the International Centre for Music Studies at Newcastle University, UK, in collaboration with the Archivio Sonoro della Canzone Napoletana, RAI, Naples, Italy, will present a two-day conference dedicated to the Neapolitan song. The conference will be held in Manhattan on March 20–21, 2009.

The *canzone napoletana* has been one of the first international popular musics of the modern era, traveling beyond the city of Naples and the borders of Italy. Its success was due, to a large degree, to Italian immigrants in the New World who composed, performed, recorded, sold, and consumed the music in the forms of sheet



music, piano rolls, 78 rpm recordings, and performances. Classic songs like "Core ngrato" (1911), "Senza Mamma" (1925) Charles Aznavour, Count Basie, Elvis Presley, Caetano Veloso, Frank Zappa, and

Logo for Edizione Pennino, New York City, courtesy of Simona Frasca.

others would record and further disseminate the Neapolitan song internationally. This conference is a unique opportunity to address the relatively unknown transnational aspects of the Neapolitan song.

## THE LAND OF OUR RETURN DIASPORIC ENCOUNTERS WITH ITALY

The Calandra Institute announces its annual conference, to take place April 23–25, 2009 in Manhattan, on the theme of "The Land of Our Return: Diasporic Encounters with Italy."

For Virgil's Aeneas, Italy was "the land of our return," the place his ancestor Darnanus left generations earlier. *The Aeneid* is thus an epic recounting of the Trojan hero's return, or *nostos*, to Italian soil. This poetic conceit offers numerous opportunities to explore the political, economic, social, and cultural impact of historical and contemporary travel and communication by Italian emigrants and their descendants to Italy.

Italian emigration was one of the largest movements of free labor in world history with over twenty-six million people immigrating from the 1870s to the 1970s. Italian emigrants' objective was, for the most part, to make enough money to return home. Forty-nine percent of the emigrants traveling to the Americas returned between 1905 and 1920. According to historian Donna Gabaccia, "The paese had created its diaspora, but the diaspora in turn transformed the paese." What was the impact of returning emigrants and their descendants on the home society?

The political dimensions of return are evident in the transnational movement of anarchists, as well as *Risorgimento* and later anti-fascist refugees. Religious belief and practice have long been a critical aspect of immigrant return, with remittances sent as donations pinned to the processed religious statue and post-World War II workers visiting the hometown during the annual *festa*.

After World War II, Italian Americans traveled to Italy increasingly as tourists and by the 1970s tourist companies began catering to this "ethnic roots" market. There they experienced the disparity between personal connections to an ancestral paese and the ever changing reality of the larger nation. In recent years, a growing number of descendants of Italian immigrants are reclaiming their Italian citizenship.

The imagined and actual "return" has historically been a source of creativity in all genres, from comedian Eduardo "Farfariello" Migliaccio's 1917 song "Pascale è Turnato d'all'Italia," to author Helen Barolini's 1979 novel *Umbertina*, to director Frank Ciota's 2002 film *Ciao America*. This interdisciplinary conference is open to authors, cultural studies scholars, filmmakers, literary critics, performers, social scientists, and visual artists. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Return migration;
- Economic impact;
- Return of political refugees;
- Return as religious pilgrimage;
- Reclaiming Italian citizenship;
- Metaphoric and mediated returns, e.g., radio, film, television, web sites;
- The senses of return, e.g., nostalgia, curiosity, displacement;
- Return as "ethnic roots" tourism;
- Italian reception of cultural imports by artists such as Fante, Piazzolla, Scorsese;
- Return as creative inspiration, e.g., literature, photography, cinema;
- Reclamation of folk culture, e.g., music, dance, storytelling;
- Comparative experiences from different diasporic communities.

Paper abstracts are due September 1, 2008. Email abstracts of up to 250 words, plus audiovisual requirements and a brief curriculum vitae, to calandra@ qc.edu. Include title, name, affiliation, and postal and email addresses. Authors will be advised of their acceptance or otherwise by November 15, 2008.

## DR. FRED GARDAPHÉ



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES JOINS QUEENS COLLEGE FACULTY & CALANDRA INSTITUTE

Fred Gardaphé was born in Chicago to Anna Rotolo and Fred Gardaphé. His maternal grandparents emigrated from Castellana Grotte, Bari province, Puglia. His paternal grandmother's family emigrated from Calabria, while his paternal grandfather's family was Canadian. Raised in the predominantly Italian-American town of Melrose Park, Illinois, Fred attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Fenwick Preparatory High School in Oak Park. He subsequently earned an associate degree from Triton College (1973) and received a B.S. in Education from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1976). Fred continued his academic studies, completing an M.A. in English at the University of Chicago (1982), and a Ph.D. in Literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago (1993) with an emphasis on cultural criticism and American multicultural literature. In 1982, he married Susan Stolder in Castellana Grotte. They are the proud parents of Frederico and Marianna, and grandparents of Michaelangelo born in November 2007.

Professor Gardaphé, a leading scholar of American Studies, comes to the City University of New York from SUNY Stony Brook, where he was Director of the Italian-American Studies Program and a professor in the Department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures. His previous professional experience includes teaching high school English and communication arts in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, Mason City, Iowa, and at Prologue, an alternative school in Chicago. He also taught writing, educational studies, and Italian-American literature and film at Columbia College, Chicago.

One of our nation's most prolific and talented writers, Dr. Gardaphe's works include academic essays, book reviews, drama, fiction, film and video scripts, and poetry. His edited books include: New Chicago Stories (1990); Italian American Ways (1989); From the Margin: Writings in Italian Americana (1991); and Shades of Black and White: Conflict and Collaboration Between Two Communities (1999). He has published two one-act plays: Vinegar and Oil, produced by the Italian American Theatre Company in 1987, and Imported from Italy, produced by Zebra Crossing Theater in 1991. He worked for ten years as a video scriptwriter and is credited with more than fifty commercial and educational productions. His study Italian Signs, American Streets: The Evolution of Italian American Narrative is based on his doctoral research that earned the Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli/Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dissertation award in 1993 and was subsequently published by Duke University Press in 1996. Choice magazine named the book Outstanding Academic Book for its groundbreaking examination of Italian-American fiction in the twentieth century. Professor Gardaphé's additional publications include Dagoes Read: Tradition and the Italian/American Writer (1996), Moustache Pete is Dead!: Italian/American Oral Tradition Preserved in Print (1996), and Leaving Little Italy: Essaying Italian American Culture (2004). His most recent text From Wiseguys to Wise Men: The Gangster and Italian American Masculinities (2006) was widely acclaimed for its thorough and provocative study of the gangster figure in American culture. He is currently at work on a memoir to be titled Living with the Dead.

Professor Gardaphé believes in connecting the academy to the "streets." In efforts to infuse the theoretical with practice, he works as associate editor of *Fra Noi*, an Italian-American monthly newspaper. As editor of the *Series in Italian/American Culture* at State University of New York Press he diligently maintains cultural connections to the university and Italian-American communities. Professor Gardaphé is a founding editor of *Voices in Italian Americana*, a literary journal and cultural review. He served ten years as board president of Prologue Learning Center, and as vice president and programming chairperson of the Illinois Ethnic Coalition. Professor Gardaphé is president of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States, past president of the American Italian Historical Association, and served as vice president of the Italian Cultural Center in Chicago.

Along with U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Professor Gardaphé was presented the 1999 Lehman-LaGuardia Award for Civic Achievement by the Commission for Social Justice of the Order Sons of Italy in America and the Triborough Long Island region of B'nai B'rith International. In 1999, he served as a visiting professor at the University of Sassari in Sardegna, and in 2000 he gave the McDonald-Currie Distinguished Lecture at McGill University in Montreal. In 2001, he and author Helen Barolini were honored by the American Italian Cultural Roundtable for their distinguished service to Italian-American culture. In 2005, the New York State Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America awarded Professor Gardaphé the John Fante and Pietro di Donato Literary Award for his contributions to Italian-American literature.

Professor Gardaphé's professional memberships include: National Book Critics Circle; Modern Language Association; the American Studies Association; the Society of Midland Authors; and Midwest Modern Language Association. He also served in official capacities for the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (elected program chair, 1999–2003); American Association of Italian Studies; National Writers Union (Chicago co-chair, 1996–1998); American Italian Historical Association (vice president, 1992-1996; president, 1997-2000); and Illinois Ethnic Coalition (vice president, 1997-1998). He is a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America at the Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge 2319 of Smithtown, New York and the Brookhaven Chapter of UNICO National.

The Calandra Institute is honored to have Dr. Fred Gardaphé in residence as the Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies.

SPRING PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT On May 5, 2008, Professor Elise Magistro, Scripps College, presented her translation of Maria Messina's short stories, collected in *Behind Closed Doors: Her Father's House and Other Stories of Sicily* (2007). Messina (1887–1944) focused on the repressive treatment of Sicilian women and the toll wrought by emigration. Magistro discussed Messina's stories about Sicilian emigration, tragic and detailed portraits highlighting a phenomenon largely neglected by Messina's more famous contemporaries. Additionally, Magistro demonstrated how the author transformed the literary principles of Italian *verismo* (a form of realism) to meet her artistic objectives. For Magistro, Messina's strikingly modern narratives moved beyond the subject of Sicily's poor and destitute to explore the lives of middle class women "too polite to speak out; too weak to rebel."

## INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

## Research Anthology Soon to be Published

The Calandra Institute is pleased to announce a forthcoming publication, *Italian American Students in New York City: A Research Anthology*. Edited by Dr. Nancy Ziehler, the anthology brings together more than thirty years of scholarship examining the experiences of Italian-American high school, college, and graduate students in New York City.

Little research about Italian-American students has appeared in social science publications. This anthology supplements the vast multicultural counseling literature addressing students' diverse cultural contexts and respective sets of values and needs.

Contributors to the volume include past and present CUNY faculty and Calandra Institute scholars. This compilation provides an introduction to a body of research literature addressing various aspects of Italian-American student life in New York City.

## Essays Addressing Concerns of New Era

The forthcoming text, *Uncertainty* and Insecurity in the New Age, edited by Professor Vincent Parillo, is a volume of thirty papers from social science professors, including promising young scholars. This publication is the result of the three day conference "Fifth Italo-American Social Science Conference" held in May 2007, jointly sponsored by the Calandra Institute and William Paterson University.

These critical essays address such issues as the impact of migration and globalization on cultural identity, work and security, power and politics, community and isolation, and race, gender, and sexuality.

This compilation offers insights into postmodernity and the similarities and dissimilarities faced by Italians and Italian Americans. One theme that permeates the publication is how one experiences changes of postmodernity in which the past no longer serves as a guide to planning the future.

## Document of Piccirilli Stone Carvers

Recently published by the Calandra Institute is a comprehensive guidebook depicting the marble works of the Piccirilli family of architectural modelers and carvers. *Freeing the Angel from the Stone: A Guide to the Piccirilli Sculpture in New York City* by Jerry and Eleanor Koffler is a thorough tribute to the Piccirilli brothers whose work adorns many of New York City's most recognizable buildings.

The Kofflers rediscovered the history of a father and his six sons, sculptors who emigrated from Massa Carrara, Tuscany, in 1888 and established a successful studio in Mott Haven, the Bronx. Carving primarily in white marble, their works include the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. and the Memorial Arch in Washington Square Park. Those interested in art and sculpture will appreciate this publication documenting these immigrant stone carvers and their extraordinary public art.

#### ORDER BOOKS FROM THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE

- The Autobiography of Carlo Tresca Edited with introduction and notes by Nunzio Pernicone 265 pages, softcover, \$10
- Freeing the Angel From the Stone: A Guide to Piccirilli Sculpture in New York City Jerry and Eleanor Koffler 122 pages, softcover, \$12
- The Italians of New York: Five Centuries of Struggle and Achievement Philip V. Cannistraro, Editor 177 pages, hardcover, \$35
- I Vote My Conscience: Debates, Speeches, and Writings of Vito Marcantonio
   Selected and edited by Annette Rubenstein and Associates, with a new introduction by Gerald Meyer 515 pages, softcover, \$15

ADD shipping cost: 1 book=\$3; 2-5 books=\$5; 6-10 books=\$10

TO ORDER send a check or money order, payable to John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, to:

> Calandra Italian American Institute Attn: Book Orders 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor New York, NY 10036



## LITTO'S HUBCAP RANCH

Emmanuele "Litto" Damonte (1892–1985) was born in Arenzano, Genova province, Liguria, and immigrated to California as a young man. He was a mason in San Francisco, buying land in Pope Valley where he moved with his family. Around 1932, Damonte began hanging errant hubcaps that had fallen from cars passing on the curved, unpaved road near his house. Soon people began intentionally leaving unwanted hubcaps for Damonte. The site evolved as he artistically arranged thousands of hubcaps on trees, his driveway fence, and the walls of his house, barn, and sheds. He also incorporated other found objects into the decorated and expanding site, including soda and beer cans, bowling balls, and garden tools. Today his grandson and family maintain the grounds, contributing to Damonte's site-specific assemblage.

Adapted from Laura E. Ruberto's blog at www.i-italy.org. Photograph by Laura E. Ruberto.



John D. Calandra Italian American Institute Queens College CUNY 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor New York, NY 10036

QUEENS COLLEGE IS NY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES

Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 6 p.m. The Intrepid Giuseppe Pitrè and his Collection of Sicilian Folk Tales JACK ZIPES (University of Minnesota) and JOSEPH RUSSO (Haverford College)

## Monday, October 20, 2008 at 6 p.m.

From "Terrone" to "Extracomunitario": The Evolution of Racism in Italian Cinema GRACE RUSSO BULLARO (Lehman College)

Monday, November 17, 2008 at 6 p.m. Magic in the Mezzogiorno: The Anthropology of Ernesto De Martino DOROTHY LOUISE ZINN (Università degli Studi della Basilicata)

Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6 p.m. Italy Today: Facing the Challenges of the New Millennium MARIO B. MIGNONE (Stony Brook University)

> SEMINARS take place at: John D. Calandra Italian American Institute 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan

All events are free and open to the public. Pre-registration required/Info: 212.642.2094. Photo ID requested by building concierge.

## WRITERS READ SERIES FI

Monday, September 15, 2008 at 6 p.m. KAREN TINTORI reads from Unto the Daughter: The Legacy of an Honor Killing in a Sicilian-American Family (St. Martins Press, 2007)

Monday, October 27, 2008 at 6 p.m. MARISA LABOZZETTA reads from *At the Copa* (Guernica, 2007)

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 6 p.m. SUZE ROTOLO reads from A Freewheelin' Time: A Memoir of Greenwich Village in the Sixties (Broadway Books, 2008)

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 6 p.m. ROBERT TINNELL presents his graphic novel *Feast of the Seven Fishes* (Allegheny Image Factory, 2005)

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# 5 DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 6 p.m. "Buddy: The Rise and Fall of America's Most Notorious Mayor" (2007), 86 min. CHERRY ARNOLD, director

### Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6 p.m.

"Beyond Wiseguys: Italian Americans and the Movies" (2007), 58 min. STEVEN FISCHLER, director

#### Monday, November 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. "Poetry in Action: A Portrait of Vincent Ferrini" (2000), 58 min. HENRY FERRINI, director

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6 p.m.

"Se la pietra sapesse parlare/If Stone Could Speak" (2007), 67 min. RANDY CROCE, director

> FILMS screened at: CUNY Graduate Center 365 Fifth Avenue. Room C198. Manhattan

except September 4th screening in Sigel Hall

- All events are free and open to the public. Pre-registration required/Info: 212.642.2094.
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## UPCOMING

## CALANDRA INSTITUTE EVENTS:

### September 24–27, 2008

A Festival of New Italian American Cinema BOOK PRESENTATIONS:

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. Jerry and Eleanor Koffler, Freeing the Angel from the Stone

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. Anthony Valerio, *The Little Sailor* 

CONFERENCES: March 20–21, 2009: "Neapolitan Postcards" April 23–25, 2009: "The Land of Our Return"

## OTHER EVENTS:

## October 3-4, 2008

Forum on Italian American Criticism 10/3 at Stony Brook Manhattan, 401 Park Avenue South, NYC; 10/4 at Calandra Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, NYC; Info: 631-632-7440

## October 29, 2008

Gotham History Forum: The Fortunate Pilgrim and Hell's Kitchen CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, NYC Info: 212-817-8460, www.gothamcenter.org

## November 6–8, 2008

AIHA Annual Conference, New Haven, CT Info: www.aihaweb.org