dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America



Celebrating 45 Years of the Calandra Institute

2024 • VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 1

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear All,

Welcome to Volume 17.1 of the Calandra Institute's il Bollettino! Since I last wrote, numerous significant events have taken place, and you will read about many successes in this issue related to those events and the individuals involved.

Unfortunately, I shall first address the passing of our colleague Dr. Vincenzo Milione. Enzo, as many of us knew him, succumbed to cancer on November 1, 2023. You will read herein of his admirable, decades-long commitment to Italian-American civil rights. He was a friend to many and shall be missed.

Of the many developments along the way, I would underscore two here. In November 2023, we hosted the first two Calandra Institute fellows of the James J. Periconi Collection of Italian-Language American Imprints. Mr. Periconi's largesse in donating his collection, as well as funding an annual fellowship or two, adds to the Calandra Institute's greater profile as a research institute dedicated to the Italian-American and Italian diaspora experience.

Of similar significance to promoting research of the Italian diaspora is the newly created Pietro "Pete" Panto Italian Diaspora Labor Dissertation Fellowship. You will read more about it herein as well.

Our future activities will continue to explore the many sectors of our community. To stay up to date with our activities, please join our mailing list on the home page of our website.

I wish to thank the Calandra Institute staff for their continued dedication to the various projects and programming we organize. Overall, they have proven to be exceptional.

I am delighted to reiterate once more that we continue to benefit from the unyielding support of both Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez of CUNY and President Frank Wu of Queens College. They and their staffs have cleared many a path throughout their respective tenures.

Con viva cordialità, antlong Randomi

Anthony Julian Tamburri Dean and Distinguished Professor

STAFF NEWS

STEPHEN CERULLI collaborated on two recent podcasts exploring complex narratives of the Italian American diaspora. The Februray 7, 2024, episode of Danielle Romero's series "Italian Americans: Beyond Black and White" is available on Romero's YouTube NYTN channel. The inaugural episode of the Unlearn Podcast, in partnership with Accento, was screened at the Calandra Institute on February 24, 2024, and is available at accento.world/unlearn/.

NIC GROSSO received the Emerging Scholar Award from Information, Medium & Society—The Publishing Studies Research Network. The award was granted for the network's twenty-second international conference, Traveling Concepts: Publishing Systems and the Transfer and Translation of Ideas, held at Sapienza University of Rome, June 26-28, 2024.

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI received the Italian American Leadership Award, and colleague and CUNY Board of Trustees member ANGELO VIVOLO received the Christopher Columbus Award, at the October 2023 Italian Charities of America's 87th Annual Dinner Dance. The awards honor Italian American individuals who are instrumental in preserving Italian and Italian American culture and heritage.

2024 ITALIAN DIASPORA STUDIES SUMMER **SEMINAR**

The Calandra Institute's Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar will take place June 10-28, 2024. The annual threeweek professional development program is held in Rome in collaboration with Roma Tre University.

The seminar is the recipient of a recurring gift from Alexandra de Luise and Normand Tourangeau and a five-year grant from the Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation. Additional supporting institutions past and present include the American Association of Teachers of Italian, Italian American Studies Association, Italian Language InterCultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, Order Sons of Italy Grand Lodge of New York, Unico Brookhaven, Unico National, and CUNY's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

COVER ARTIST DENISE SFRAGA works in a variety of genres including photography, paintng, and mixed media. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts in photography from Long Island University, C.W. Post College in Brookville, NY. Featured on the cover is her painting *Bloom diversi mix*, 2021.

denisesfraga.com

FUORI COLLANA AT THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE

RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

October 31-November 2, 2023

Il Cinema La Puglia L'Italiano

Master classes with Tom Means, Domenico Mongelli, and Anthony Tamburri. This program was created by the Levante International Film Festival Cultural Association and Turesinel Mondo, and was sponsored by the United Pugliesi Federation and Promotion Section of Commerce, Crafts, and Business Internationalization.

January 23-31, 2024

Giorno della Memoria

Events include ceremonies, film screenings, roundtables, an exhibition, book presentation, interview, and musical performance. Cosponsored by the Calandra Institute, Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, Center for Italian Modern Art, Consulate General of Italy, Italian Cultural Institute, Magazzino Italian Art, and Centro Primo Levi.



Intergenerational Memories of World War II: Italian and Italian American Captivities

Panel discussion with Yemane Demissié, New York University; Elisa Longarato, Italy; Mark Pedri, United States; Anton Pulvirenti, Australia; Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College. This event is part of a series on "Memory, Memories, and Memorialization of WWII Italian Captivity" organized by Giorgia Alù, University of Sydney, and Elena Bellina, New York University, and cosponsored by the Calandra Institute of Queens College, CUNY, Center for Italian Modern Art, Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò of NYU, and University of Sydney.



ITALICS: TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



Donna Chirico and Vincenzo Marra at the Italian Language InterCultural Aliance conference

SPRING 2024 EPISODES

In JANUARY, Italics visited food entrepreneur Pietro Toscano at Julietta Gelato Cafè in New York City's Greenwich Village. Later in the month Italics attended the Italian Language InterCultural Alliance's twentyseventh annual conference and gala celebrating "Italian Americans: Past, Present, and Future" at the Midtown Loft & Terrace in Manhattan.

In FEBRUARY, Italics interviewed Michael Dante, who has had a prolific acting career with appearances in 30 films and 150 television shows.

In MARCH, Italics interviewed Mary Jo Bona, an Italian American literary scholar who has written extensively on Italian American literature and its history.

Italics airs Monday through Thursday at 9:30 am on Spectrum/Optimum 75, Antenna 25.3, RCN 77, and Verizon FiOS 30







ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW 14.1 ABSTRACTS

SPECIAL ISSUE: Transatlantic Modern Consumerisms: Italian Goods and Commercial Cultures in Postwar America, 1949–1972. SIMONE CINOTTO and CRISTINA IULI, guest editors

Fashion Films in the Newsreels of the Settimana Incom (1946–1953): Culture and Politics in a Transatlantic Context **EUGENIA PAULICELLI**

The crucial role cinema had in Italy's reconstruction and rehabilitation after the havoc left by World War II, a civil war, and the Fascist regime has been studied extensively and continues to be examined today. Fashion and the launch of Made in Italy on a global scale played an important role in this process of rehabilitation and cultural and economic reconstruction. This essay will critically examine a selection of newsreels on fashion that were produced by the Settimana Incom. These fashion films created both a discourse on and an image of the new Italy and italianità. They also document how innovation in design and fashion greatly contributed to Italy's rebirth.

Consuming Italian: Transatlantic Actors and Infrastructures of Italian Exports to Postwar America, 1957–1962 **GIULIA CRISANTI**

This essay looks at the main networks, drivers, and consumers of Italian exports to postwar America. Focusing on the core years of Italy's economic miracle and adopting a circulatory point of view, the article investigates what Italian products arrived in the US, how they were advertised and spread, and where and by who were they consumed. In doing so, it argues that Made in Italy's growing presence and influence in the US was inherently related to the parallel Americanization underway in Italy, thereby linking Italianizing and Americanizing dynamics within a single process of mutual exchanges and reciprocal transformations.

From Museum to Marketplace: Displaying the Italian Lifestyle PAOLA CORDERA

This essay focuses on the exhibition *Italy at Work: Her* Renaissance in Design Today, which toured to twelve museums across the United States between 1950 and 1953. Organized under the auspices of the European Recovery Program and sponsored by the Compagnia Nazionale Artigiana, this exhibition proved to be an extraordinary stage for promoting new Italian crafts and design (including items such as furniture, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, glass, metalwork, and small home appliances) together with their artistic, historical, and cultural values. During its tour, museums and department stores displayed newly designed objects alongside outstanding contemporary decorative artworks that merged industrial products with the Italian "fare a regola d'arte" and showed that beauty could apply to mass consumption objects.

Ambassadors of Italy MARTA AVERNA

This text explores the transmission of national identity through the things that a nation is capable of producing and the environments that it is capable of creating through a specific case study—post-World War II Italy—and a specific vector—large passenger ships. It examines in particular the things that are created as part of a unitary project of objects, furnishings, works of art, materials, new technologies, and references to history in the carefully designed rooms of the large ships that maintain—as almost the only means of connection until 1958—relations between the two sides of the Atlantic: ocean liners.

Before 1951: Setting Up the Network of G.B. Giorgini and the Launch of Made in Italy CHIARA FAGGELLA

Expanding upon the existing scholarship on Giovanni Battista Giorgini (1898-1971) and his pivotal role in the promotion of Italian fashion, this article contextualizes Giorgini's professional activities and personal connections prior to 1951 in order to set up a comprehensive approach to the case study of his later fame. Moving Giorgini's biography from its circumscribed place in fashion history, the article contextualizes his business culture in a transdisciplinary analysis of the intermediaries that established the postwar fame of Italian products in the United States and, as a consequence, internationally.

PIETRO "PETE" PANTO ITALIAN DIASPORA LABOR DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The Calandra Institute has established a fellowship for graduate students whose dissertations cover Italian emigrants, Italian ethnic labor, or working-class life in the United States or within the Italian diaspora.

The fellowship is named after labor activist Pietro "Pete" Panto (1910– 1939), who was murdered for leading rank-and-file stevedores' protests for safe and democratic working conditions on Brooklyn's waterfront.

Joseph Sciorra, the Calandra Institute's director for academic and public programming, says, "Financial support to erect a tombstone at Panto's unmarked grave was overwhelming, from the public and the Giambelli Foundation and the Italian Heritage and Culture Month Committee, so we decided to honor Panto's legacy while furthering our educational mission."

Submissions may come from relevant fields of study in social sciences and humanities. The fellowship runs for six years with one \$1,000 award given annually. This year's application deadline is May 1, 2024. For further information, please write to: calandra@qc.cuny.edu.

QUEENS COLLEGE ACQUIRES JAMES J. PERICONI COLLECTION OF ITALIAN-LANGUAGE AMERICAN IMPRINTS

The Calandra Institute is pleased to announce the acquisition of the James J. Periconi Collection of Italian Language American Imprints by Queens College, The City University of New York. The collection offers unique insight into what Italian immigrants to the United States were reading, writing, and thinking about at the end of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. The collection is housed at the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, Special Collections & Archives, on the Queens College campus and can be accessed at: https://italianamericanimprints.omeka.net/.

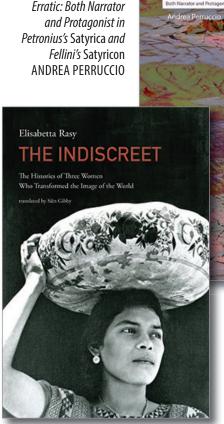
CALANDRA INSTITUTE INAUGURAL FELLOWS

In November 2023, the Calandra Institute's inaugural fellows, Lindsey Kingston and Carmen Petruzzi, helped catalog the James J. Periconi Collection, working with Annie Tummino, Head of Special Collections & Archives at Queens College, and James Periconi.

LINDSEY KINGSTON is Associate Professor of International Human Rights at Webster University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and directs the Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies. CARMEN PETRUZZI holds a Ph.D. in Education and is a research fellow at the University of Foggia.

NEW FROM BORDIGHERA PRESS

Show-Off, Unreliable, Erratic: Both Narrator



The Indiscreet: The Histories of Three Women Who Transformed the Image of the World **ELISABETTA RASY** Translated by Siân Gibby

SHOW-OFF, UNRELIABLE, ERRATIC

IN MEMORIAM



DR. VINCENZO MILIONE, 1950-2023

Vincenzo Milione passed away on November 1, 2023. Enzo was a long-time staff member of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and a strident defender of Italian Americans as a protected class within The City University of New York. He was the premier statistician of Italian American employment demographics in the country and a champion for affirmative action and equality for all people.

Milione began working at the Institute in 1986 and served as Director of Demographic Studies up until his passing. He was responsible for social science research on Italian Americans and conducted institutional research on CUNY faculty, administrative staff,

and students. His research included the educational and occupational achievements of Italian Americans; Italianlanguage studies at the elementary and secondary levels; high school non-completion rates; negative media portrayals of ethnic populations; and student exchange programs between Italy and the US.

Milione received his PhD from SUNY Buffalo in civil engineering, specializing in socioengineering systems. He earned his BS in physics and MS in Earth and Space Sciences from Stony Brook University, SUNY. Milione received four honorary doctorates and five honorary professorships. He was board director of both the Association of Italian American Educators and the Council of Latin American Educators, as well as a technical civil rights expert designated by Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley.

Milione was a man of principle and conviction and an old-fashioned gentleman and scholar. While he treasured his Italian identity, it was his devotion to and love for his children and grandchildren that provided him infinite joy. He is survived by his wife Maria, son Giovanni, daughters Catalina, Eleanor, and Marina, and six grandchildren.

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: TRANSLATING ITALIAN MOBILITIES

Program subject to change

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 -

9:30-10:45 am

Translation On Stage

Translating Theater in the United States: Saving History and Exchanging Culture, Laura Caparrotti, **Kairos Italy Theater**

Translating and Supertitling Contemporary Italian Theater for the New York Stage, Donatella Codonesu, In Scena! Italian Theater Festival NY From Stria, to Strega, to Witch: Which Witch Is Which?, Fred L. Gardaphé, Queens College, CUNY

11am-12:15 pm

Keynote Discussion: New Translations, New Readers

Rescue, Restore, Redeem: On Translating I Promessi Sposi, Michael F. Moore, Translator

The Bourgeois Shudder: Translating Dino Buzzati's Politics of Fantasy, Lawrence Venuti, Temple University

Discussant: Loredana Polezzi, Stony Brook University, SUNY

1:30-2:45 pm

Translating Regional Languages, I

Translating Two Different Popular Voices from the Province of Cosenza, Peter Carravetta, Stony Brook University, SUNY

Catching the Tone: Experiences in Translating Dialect Poetry, Michael Palma, Translator

Translating Francesco Paolo Borazio's Dialect Poetry, Joseph Perricone, Fordham University

Local Languages

Reimagining Italianness through Literary Translingualism, Mariagrazia De Luca, University of California, Berkeley

Translating the Translation: Carmine Abate's // Ballo Tondo Written with an Arbëresh Mindset, Michelangelo La Luna, University of Rhode Island

The Case of Tuscan Towns during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei, North Park University—Chicago

3-4:15 pm

Cecchinel * D'Angelo * Tusiani

(Auto-)Translation and the Italian American Diaspora, Fabio Fantuzzi, Ca' Foscari University

Novel Means [of] Translation: A Midrashic Reading of Pascal D'Angelo's Son of Italy, Siân Gibby, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

Joseph Tusiani and the Art of the Poetic Translation, Rosina Martucci, University of Salerno

4:30-5:45 pm

Mediating Differences In and Through Translation of Diasporic Writing

Reversing the Gaze: A Collaborative Project, Simone Brioni, Stony Brook University, SUNY, Giovanna Bellesia Contuzzi, Smith College, and Victoria Offredi Poletto, Smith College

Framing and Reframing Ethnicity: Kym Ragusa between Italian American and Black Italian Studies, Loredana Polezzi, Stony Brook University, **SUNY**

Mediating São Paulo's Racial Hierarchies for an Italian Audience: The Case of Zélia Gattai's Anarquistas, graças a Deus, Giulia Riccò, University of Michigan

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 ——

9:30-10:45 am

Sonic and Culinary Translations

What Happens When Music Travels?: Transcultural Transfers in Italian Song, George De Stefano, Independent Scholar

Unsettling Italian: Absent, Sonic, and Distorted Translations in the Poetry and Performances of Wissal Houbabi, Isabella Livorni, New York University

"Platano e fasoi:" Tracy Eboigdobin's Translation of Transnational Food in Her Recipe Book Soul Kitchen: Le mie ricette per nutrire l'anima, Daniele Laudadio, University of Toronto

11am-12:15 pm

Translating Regional Languages II

Translating Dialect Poetry, Luigi Bonaffini, Brooklyn College

Retranslating the Poems of the Sicilian School into Sicilian, Gaetano Cipolla, St. John's University A Sicilian Wish for Italy, Eryk Wdowiak, Arba Sicula

1:30-2:45 pm

Cinematic Translations

Translating Sound Cinema, Giuliana Muscio, University of Padua

Cinematic Translation: Silent Films and Immigrant Experiences, Giusy Di Filippo, College of the Holy

Foreign Exchange: American Stories and Italian Films, Mary Ann Carolan, Fairfield University

Memoir and Museums

Feminism and Anti-Catholicism in Translation: The Memoirs of Enrichetta Caracciolo, Diana Moore, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Translating Meaning through Infographics in Italian Museum Settings, Antonella Poce, Tor Vergata University of Rome, Maria Rosaria Re, Roma Tre University, Mara Valente, Roma Tre University

3-4:15 pm

Interpreting the Printed Word

Dante and Dialect Abroad, Giancarlo Tursi, University of California, Santa Barbara

Translating Italian American Tourist Experiences in Fascist Italy in the Connecticut Newspaper La Verità, Martina Di Florio, Trinity College

The Italian-Language Press and Cultural Politics in the Era of European Totalitarianism, Stefano Luconi, University of Padua

BASILICATE: A CELEBRATION OF LUCANIAN CULTURE

Basilacatë is a research project to document Lucanian culture worldwide. The project is developed in collaboration with the Lucanian communities in New York City, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo. The final result will include: an international exhibition held in four different locations, workshops, activities for Lucanians abroad, conferences, and an in-depth publication. Basilacatë is made possible by the Federazione delle Associazioni e dei Circoli dei Lucani in Piedmonte, thanks to the support of the Basilicata Region, the coordination of the Centro dei Lucani nel Mondo Nino Calice, and the artistic direction of the Architecture of Shame group. lucaninelmondo.org

NEWS FROM BORDIGHERA PRESS AUTHORS

NICHOLAS DICHARIO's short story "Faces," from his collection *Giovanni's Tree*, was recognized as the 2023 runner up for the Calvino Prize, administered by the English Department of the University of Louisville.

FRANK GIOIA's story "Craps," featured in his memoir *The Mercury Man:* Remembering Brooklyn was performed by Jacob Guitierrez Montoya at Stories on Stage Sacramento on February 9, 2024.

LUISA DEL GIUDICE was interviewed for Italian Radio Hour on December 8, 2023, where she discussed her publication *In Search of Abundance: Mountains of Cheese, Rivers of Wine, and Other Gastronomic Utopias*.



Bruno Sammartino at Madison Square Garden / Focus On Sport Getty Images

Text compiled from: https://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/literary-cultural-heritage-map-pa/bios/Sammartino_Bruno; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruno_Sammartino; and https://www.postandcourier.com/sports/wrestling/an-incredible-life-bruno-sammartino-was-the-real-people-s-champion/article_02a7c728-4a1e-11e8-bda0-9760b07e51bb.html

BRUNO SAMMARTINO, CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE

The March 16, 2023, episode of Italian Radio Hour (khbradio.com, youtube.com/@theitalianradiohour) honored Bruno Sammartino, beloved everyman, champion of the people, and one of the greatest wrestlers of all time. Bruno Leopoldo Francesco Sammartino was born in Pizzoferrato, Abruzzo, Italy, on October 6, 1935, the youngest surviving child of Alfonso and Emilia Sammartino. Soon after, Bruno's father moved to Pittsburgh in 1936 in hopes of setting a foundation for his family. In 1944, during World War II, Pizzoferrato was invaded by troops of the Waffen SS, forcing its villagers to retreat to the mountain above, where they lived for nearly fourteen months. Bruno's mother protected her children and risked her life to trek down the mountain into the occupied village at night to snatch food she had hidden in the family home. The months of suffering left Bruno frail and weak, and when the family immigrated to the United States in 1950 Bruno weighed less than 100 pounds. Bruno's poor physical health and inability to speak the English language made him a focus of ethnic ridicule and an easy target of schoolyard bullies. He was drawn to the gym and weightlifting and built himself into a powerhouse who was later dubbed "The Living Legend." "I remember my mother holding me up and all she kept saying was not to be afraid, that we were going to be happy and no more suffering, no more hunger, no more cold," Bruno said in a 2015 interview. "Everything that I am, everything that I've done, everything that I hope to be is because of my mom." He held the World Wide Wrestling Federation's heavyweight championship record for the longest reign (1963-1971) (1972-1977) and in 2013 was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2013. Bruno Sammartino passed away on April 18, 2018, at the age of eighty-two.



For more information, go to calandrainstitute.org. Under the Publications menu, click on *Italian American Review*.

The *Italian American Review* 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 *Italian American Review* publishes book, film, digital media, and exhibition reviews.

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

Special Issue: Transatlantic Modern Consumerisms: Italian Goods and Commercial Cultures in Postwar America, 1949–1972 SIMONE CINOTTO and CRISTINA IULI, Guest Editors

ARTICI FS

- Fashion Films in the Newsreels of the *Settimana INCOM* (1946–1953): Culture and Politics in a Transatlantic Context, EUGENIA PAULICELLI
- Consuming Italian: Transatlantic Actors and Infrastructures of Italian Exports to Postwar America, 1957–1962, GIULIA CRISANTI
- From Museum to Marketplace: Displaying the Italian Lifestyle, PAOLA CORDERA
- Ambassadors of Italy: Italian Transatlantic Ocean Liners to the United States, 1946–1958, MARTA AVERNA
- Before 1951: Setting Up the Network of G.B. Giorgini and the Launch of Made in Italy, CHIARA FAGGELLA

SPRING 2024 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Italian Squad: The True Story of the Immigrant Cops Who Fought the Rise of the Mafia PAUL MOSES, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Thursday, April 11, 2024

In Search of Abundance: Mountains of Cheese, Rivers of Wine, and Other Gastronomic Utopias LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Partners in Gatekeeping: How Italy Shaped U.S. Immigration Policy over Ten Pivotal Years, 1891–1901

LAUREN BRAUN-STRUMFELS, Cedar Crest College

All events are free and open to the public. Events begin at 6 pm at the Calandra Institute. RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094.

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

WRITERS READ

Monday, March 25, 2024

RICHARD VETERE reads from *She's Not There* (Bordighera Press, 2023)

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

LORENZO CARCATERRA reads from Nonna Maria and the Case of the Lost Treasure: A Novel (Bantam, 2024)

"DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Italy in Bocca (2021), 21 minutes
Disco Sauce: The True Story of Penne alla Vodka
(2023), 30 minutes
Roberto Serrini, director

Wednesday, April 16, 2024

Stonebreakers (2022), 70 minutes Valerio Ciriaci, director

EXHIBITION

September 27, 2023—April 30, 2024

A Legacy of Making: 21 Contemporary Italian American Artists Curated by Joanne Mattera and Joseph Sciorra Gallery hours: Monday—Friday 9am—5pm

ARTISTS'TALKS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

A Conversation About Identity and Art John Avelluto, Joanne Mattera, Timothy McDowell, Sheila Pepe

Monday, April 8, 2024

Immigrants and Diasporic Italians Angelica Bergamini, Gianluca Bianchino, Diana González Gandolfi

