

# The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

## ALBERT MAROTTA

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey met on August 5, 2017 at the Clifton Public Library. Sixteen people attended.

Maria Carparelli opened the meeting by sharing correspondence sent to the Society. She noted that the Italian American Museum in Manhattan announced a film screening of "Italians in America", which will be presented at the museum on August 10<sup>th</sup>. A screening of the 2000 documentary film, "Italian American Internment: A Secret Story", will be featured on August 17<sup>th</sup>. This film chronicles the internment of Italians and Italian-Americans in the U.S. during World War II. Maria then mentioned topics for potential future presentations and received feedback from members.

Judy Bonzkowski presented the treasurer's report. The ending balance as of August 5, 2017 is \$455.00. The chapter has 40 members; however, only 27 people have kept their membership current with the payment of dues.

Both Carolyn McNamara and Annita Zalenski alerted the Society about an important announcement from the FamilySearch Family History Library of the LDS. FamilySearch has decided to end its rental service of microfilmed genealogy records, available at local FamilySearch Centers, on August 31, 2017. However, there are over 1.5 million microfilm rolls already digitized and accessible at no cost from the FamilySearch website ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)). FamilySearch plans to have all of its microfilms digitized by the end of 2020. Still, the FamilySearch online catalog of its library's books and microfilm records remains very useful.

Kathy Grimshaw, the Reference Librarian at the Clifton Public Library, gave the presentation about the library's collection as it pertains to local history and genealogy research. A genealogy researcher herself for about thirty years, she has been with the Clifton Public Library for 14 years and librarian at the Passaic County Historical Society for three years.

The library has an archival room dedicated to local history, which is not open to the general public; however, a librarian can retrieve whatever a researcher requests. In addition to the local history collection, the library has genealogy periodicals such as *Family Tree*, *Your Genealogy*, and *GSNJ Newsletter*. Local newspapers, in both paper and microfilm formats are available. These include the *Passaic Daily News* (1891-1932) and *The Herald News* from 1932 to present (including a partial index). Clifton newspapers from 1926 and microfilmed newspaper clippings related to Clifton politics as early as 1920 are also at the library.

Clifton City Directories (sometimes including nearby communities) from 1882-1974, Reverse Directories and Business Directories are included in this vast collection. Clifton High School Yearbooks from 1918 to present and items from other schools are available.

Local newspaper clipping notebooks, Clifton company catalogs, tax microfiches and tax maps for Passaic County, historic maps, historic photographs, and the New Jersey State Census for Passaic County (1855-1905) are all found at the library.

The Clifton Public Library also subscribes to *Ancestry.com Library Edition* and other databases including *Proquest* and *JerseyClicks*. If a book or other item is not in the library collection, an Interlibrary Loan request can be made for Clifton residents. Other researchers can ask their local library for this valuable service.

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**(August 5, 2017 / continued)**

The Clifton Public Library is a member of PALS Plus, a consortium of about twenty public and academic libraries located in Passaic and Essex Counties. These libraries have an agreement to share library and computer resources.

Contact Ms. Grimshaw at 973-772-5500 or [grimshaw@cliftonpl.org](mailto:grimshaw@cliftonpl.org) for more information concerning local genealogical and local history research at the Clifton Public Library.

Future meetings will be held on:

February 3, 2018  
May 5, 2018  
August 4, 2018  
November 3, 2018

For details, see our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njigc/>