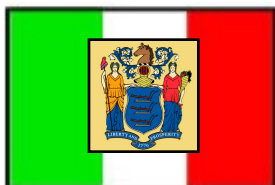




La Notizia Italiana

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey



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LOU DUVA, BOXING PROMOTER, MANAGER AND TRAINER, DIES AT 94



*Lou Duva, front left, a trainer for Evander Holyfield, after Holyfield captured the heavyweight title with a knockout of Buster Douglas in 1990.
(Credit: Douglas C. Pizac/Associated Press)*

Article courtesy of: NY Times
Richard Goldstein
March 8, 2017

Lou Duva, one of boxing's most formidable figures as a promoter, manager and trainer in a ring career spanning seven decades, died on March 8 in Paterson, N.J. He was 94. His death, at St. Joseph's Hospital, was confirmed by his son Dino, a spokesman, John Cirillo, said.

Duva had ties to more than a dozen world champions, among them the heavyweight Evander Holyfield, the middleweight Joey Giardello, the welterweights Meldrick Taylor and Mark Breland and the lightweight and welterweight Pernell Whitaker.

He was the patriarch of boxing's first family in the 1980s and '90s through Main Events promoters, founded by his son Dan to challenge the powerful Don King and Bob Arum.

For Lou Duva, who possessed one of the ring's most recognizable faces — bushy-browed, with a fleshy, pug-nosed face lined by scar tissue and capped by a mane of white hair in his later years — boxing was a passion.

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Duva, right, helping Floyd Patterson from the ring after his loss to Muhammad Ali in 1965. (Credit: Associated Press)

"I've been fighting all my life, so I know what it's like to catch a punch," he once told *Sports Illustrated*. "You don't think I got this face being a ballet dancer, do you?"

Duva — 5 feet 7 inches and 145 pounds or so as a young man — had a forgettable career fighting professionally as a welterweight. He had a record of five victories, seven losses and a draw, according to the Box-Rec website. By his own account, he fought 22 times and may have won 18 of those bouts.

Louis Duva was born in Manhattan on May 28, 1922, the second youngest of seven children of immigrants from Foggia, Italy. The family moved to Paterson when he was 4, and his father, Salvatore, worked in a dye house there.

His older brother Carl, a New Jersey club fighter, let Lou carry his gym bag and spit bucket. By age 15, Lou was boxing in barroom smokers for \$5 a bout and working as a bowling alley pin boy. He dropped out of school at 15 and forged a birth certificate saying he was 18 so he could work in the Pacific Northwest for the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program begun under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. There he learned to drive trucks and shoot craps, as he told it. While in the Army during World War II, he was a boxing instructor at Camp Hood, Tex.

Duva opened a Paterson-based trucking company to support his family when he quit fighting, but he was not prepared to forsake the boxing world. After completing his deliveries to Manhattan's Garment District,

he went to Stillman's Gym on Eighth Avenue, near Madison Square Garden, to watch legendary trainers like Ray Arcel and Whitey Bimstein handle their fighters while managers concocted deals on pay phones.

Duva opened a gym above a theater in Paterson and signed up fighters. He sold his trucking business in the early 1960s, then worked as a bail bondsman and was the president of a Teamsters local. In the 1970s, he began promoting fights at Ice World in Totowa, N.J.

His son Dan formed Main Events, in Totowa in 1978, soon after graduating from Seton Hall Law School. Two years later, when the United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics, Main Events signed Johnny Bumphus, a future junior welterweight champion — the first recruit in its quest to find talented amateurs.

When Duva represented his fighters in deals with Main Events, it was all a family affair:

"My son Danny is the promoter and his wife, Kathy, does the publicity."

"My daughter Donna is the office manager and also handles the travel and hotels. My son Dino is the comptroller. My daughter Deanne is the bookkeeper, and my other daughter, Denise, used to work here."

The Duva family's big break came when Main Events won promotional rights to the Sugar Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns welterweight unification title fight in Las Vegas in September 1981. (Leonard held the World Boxing Council title; Hearns the World Boxing Association's.) In arranging the deal, Lou Duva received considerable financial help from Shelly Finkel, a rock promoter, beginning their promotional alliance.

In 1984, Main Events signed Holyfield, Taylor, Whitaker, Breland and Tyrell Biggs off the Olympic team.

The firm continued to thrive, but Dan Duva died of brain cancer in 1996. Four years later, a family feud led to an organizational breakup, with Dan's widow, Kathy, running Main Events and Lou Duva's four surviving children creating Duva Boxing.

Besides his son Dino, Duva is survived by his daughters, Donna Duva Brooks, Deanne Boorman and Denise MacPhail; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Duva's wife, the former Enes Rubio, died in 1986. He was a longtime resident of the Paterson area.

Duva was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1998.

"There's an old Italian proverb," he said. "If you love what you're doing, you don't have to work a day in your life."

Italy's Emma Morano, the World's Oldest Person, Dies at 117



The world's oldest person, Emma Morano, has died at her home in northern Italy.

At the age of 117, her life spanned three centuries, having been born in the 1800s. Morano was also one of the five oldest people in recorded history.

Her doctor, Carlo Bava, said he had called her caretaker, only to be told that she had passed away on Saturday afternoon while sitting in an armchair at her home in Verbania on the shores of Lake Maggiore.

He said he had last visited Morano on Friday, and she had talked to him and held his hand as she normally did. He said: "She thanked me and held my hand."

Morano's extraordinarily long life began on 29 November 1899. She was one of eight children born to a couple in Civiasco in the Piedmont region of northern Italy. It was the same year in which Guglielmo Marconi first transmitted a radio signal across the Channel and four years before the Wright brothers first took to the skies. She lived through two world wars and more than 90 Italian governments.

Her last birthday was marked by a party and concert recounting her life – from her experiences during the first and second world wars to her work in a factory making jute sacks, and her decision to separate from an abusive husband at a time when such action was frowned upon.

She attributed her longevity to leaving her husband in 1938 shortly after the death of her only child at the age of seven months, and to the inclusion in her daily diet of two raw eggs and a little raw minced meat.

Bava, her doctor for 27 years, said Morano rarely ate vegetables or fruit. "When I first met her she ate three eggs a day, two raw in the morning and then an omelette at noon, and chicken at dinner."

Over the years she also worked as a cook in a boarding school until she retired at the age of 75, and remained single, although she never divorced her husband. In later life as her contemporaries died and both her sight and hearing deteriorated her social circle became more restricted. But last year Rosi Santoni, one of the relatives who helped look after her, said she had plenty of family to care for her and had many friends in the town.

Morano was officially recognized as the world's oldest person after Susannah Mushatt Jones died in New York in May last year. She was not the only member of her family to live a long life. Her mother, an aunt and some of her siblings all made it into their 90s and one of her sisters, Angela Morano, died aged 102. Morano became the oldest living person in Italy and Europe after the death of Maria Redaelli in early 2013.

*Reprinted from **The Guardian***

Lin Jenkins

Saturday 15 April 2017 13.52 EDT

Last modified on Saturday 15 April 2017 16.44 EDT

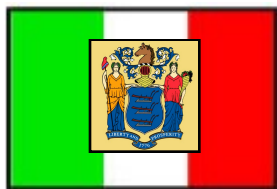
Italian Language and Culture Day 2017



Pictured above: Clifton HS students attend Italian Language & Culture Day at Montclair State University. They were sponsored by Passaic Clifton UNICO. Chapter President Dave D'Arco is pictured in the center.

"Paese che vai, usanza che trovi: Regional Customs, Traditions and Superstitions"--The theme of this year's collaboration between ITANJ and the Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America at Montclair State University!

A full house of 350 students and teachers from four middle and 10 high schools participated in this annual showcase/competition among schools throughout New Jersey. Featuring original skits in Italian, written by the students themselves, complete with elaborate costumes, scenery and musical accompaniment. Additionally, an Italian-themed online game of Kahoot! added to the merriment, after the rousing chorus of Italian and American national anthems. Congratulations to all our participating students and their justifiably proud teachers. This year's performances were absolutely phenomenal. BRAVI!!! Grazie mille, our terrific panel of judges, our enthusiastic student volunteers and our ace ITANJ Organizing Committee!



The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey began as a chapter of POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together). When POINT officially dissolved in December 2013, our members voted to continue on as an independent organization. We are now known as

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey.

The group, originally organized in September 1996 as a POINT chapter, will continue to provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertaining to Italian research and culture.

We cordially invite genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings, now held at the Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Avenue. Membership is open to all. In addition to our regular meetings we take occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

La Notizia Italiana

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**The Italian Genealogy Society
of
New Jersey**
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Your letters and comments are welcomed.
 We reserve the right to edit submitted materials.

The Italian Genealogy Society of NJ does not accept responsibility for errors, omissions, or opinions expressed or implied by contributors.

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Calendar

IGSNJ Future Meetings:

August 5, 2017

10AM, Clifton Public Library

Program: *Genealogy Resources at the Clifton Library*

Presenter: *Kathy Grimshaw-Haven*

November 4, 2017

10AM, Clifton Public Library

Program: *TBA*

Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

PCHS Genealogy Club:

May 13: Genealogy Club Meeting

10AM at Lambert Castle

Free Admission

Program: *"More Stories Form Ellis Island"*

Presenter: Fred Voss

June 10: Genealogy Club Bus Trip

8:15AM: leaves from Lambert Castle

Lyndhurst Mansion

Lunch at Confetti, Piermont, NY

Brotherhood Winery

Lambert Castle Events

Annual Meeting

May 3

7PM at Lambert Castle

Free Admission

Annual meeting, election of officers & Trustees.

Program: *"Women Justices of the Supreme Court"*

Presenter: Trish Chambers

Quarterly Meeting

August 2

7PM at Lambert Castle

Free Admission

Business meeting of the Society

Program: *"Theodore Roosevelt: American in the Arena"*

Presented by: Horizon Speakers Bureau

For more information:

973- 247-0085 ext 201

www.lambertcastle.org

