



La Notizia Italiana



POINTers in Person: Lou Costello Chapter #15

In This Issue:

Gaetano Federici

*Sculptor Laureate
of Paterson*



- *Gaetano Federici*
- *Luigi Del Bianco Update*
- *Calendar*



Gaetano Federici:

Sculptor Laureate of Paterson

New Documentary by University Professor Vincent Parrillo on Acclaimed Paterson Sculptor Gaetano Federici Aired on NJTV on April 23

--Film wins award for best documentary at two-day Ridgewood Film Festival



Paterson native Lou Costello views his sculpture created by Gaetano Federici at right.

A new documentary by William Paterson University sociology professor Vincent Parrillo on the prominent Italian American sculptor Gaetano Federici, whose many works are located throughout the city of Paterson, received the award for best documentary at the the Ridgewood Film Festival.

The film was shown at Clearview Cinema, in Ridgewood, N.J. on April 17 as part of a two-day film festival where 33 films were shown. Parrillo's film aired on NJTV on Tuesday, April 23 at 10 p.m.

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Parrillo served as author, narrator, and co-producer with Jaroslaw Ziaja of *Gaetano Federici: The Sculptor Laureate of Paterson*. Federici depicted with historical realism many leading civic and religious leaders of the city between 1904 and 1957, including U.S. Senator Charles Hughes, Rep. James F. Stewart, Attorney General Thomas McCran, Mayors Nathan Barnert and Andrew McBride, Bishop Thomas McLaughlin, Dean William McNulty, and comedian Lou Costello. More than a dozen of the sculptures are within a quarter-mile radius of Paterson's City Hall.

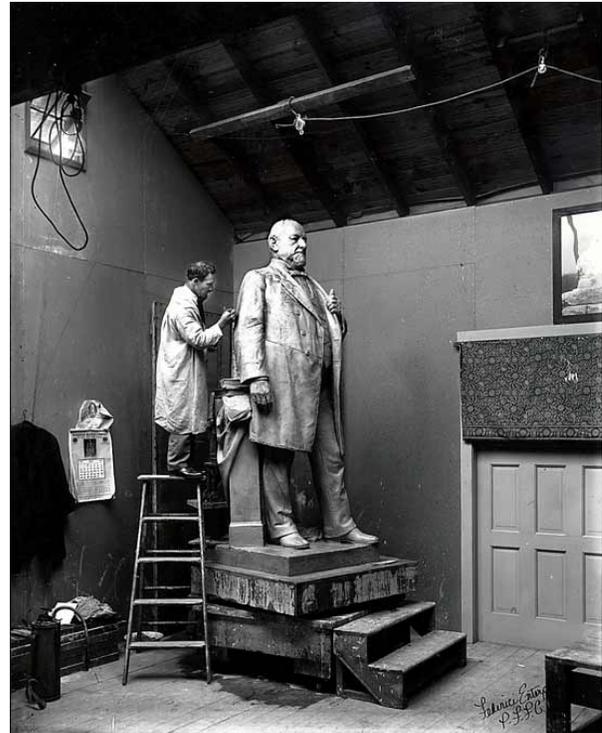
Passaic County Historian Edward A. Smyk and Federici biographer Flavia Alaya served as consultants. The documentary was produced with support from the William Paterson University Alumni Association.

Parrillo is the author of many books and journal articles, some of which have been translated into nine different languages. He was the writer, narrator, and co-producer of two previous documentaries: *Smokestacks and Steeples: A Portrait of Paterson*, and *Ellis Island: Gateway to America*. Both were aired on the former New Jersey Network and on other cable stations, and have won awards for excellence in educational programming.

Professor Parrillo's film will be shown at Lambert Castle on June 23 at 7PM.

Gaetano Federici

Gaetano Federici (1880-1964) was a prolific Paterson sculptor, working from around 1900 until shortly before his death in the early 1960s. Federici's portfolio includes private statues and cemetery stones, as well as many of the public statues found in the Great Paterson area. Forty Federici pieces can be found within a two mile radius of Paterson city hall, including two of the three statues in front of city hall itself. Most of these pieces are still in place today. Many of Federici's subjects are themselves notable figures, both on a local and national level, including politicians, philanthropists, religious leaders and comedians. The artist worked in many mediums, including stone, bronze and plaster and many of his plaster scale models have also survived, several are held in the PCHS collection.



Gaetano Federici was born on September 22nd 1880 in Castlegrande Italy, the first child of to Antonio and Theresa Federici. Sometime after his son's birth, Antonio Federici immigrated to America in an effort to support his family. Gaetano and his mother followed Antonio to Paterson later, when Gaetano was seven. The family resided in several areas of Paterson including a house on Totowa Ave. and, in 1894, the family moved to Antonio's business quarters in Paterson. Gradually Gaetano was joined by his six siblings: Albert, Antonio, Domenick, Antonetta, Marie, Giuli, Rosa, and Loretta.

In 1894, Gaetano began school at age nine, attending first School 14, followed by School 6 and finally Paterson High School. During these years Gaetano was known to his classmates as "Tom Fredericks," a name developed by his father to mask the family's immigrant origins. At first glance it appeared that Gaetano would follow in the footsteps of his father and pursue a career in architecture. However, it soon became clear that the younger Federici was more interested in the decorative embellishments of his father's projects than the architecture itself. It was Gaetano's mother Theresa who fostered and encouraged his artistic development.

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Gaetano left high school to apprentice in New York City under sculptor Giuseppe Moretti in 1897. His training would progress quickly with Moretti and in 1899 he entered formal studies at the Arts Student League. He also apprenticed to Henry Bonnard Foundry and the Roman Bronze Works as a bronzecaster, to round out his skills.

As his career progressed, Gaetano decided to return to Paterson, despite potential opportunities elsewhere. His first commission came in 1905, for the James F. Stewart memorial. Part of the success of Federici's career is timing, as he began creating public statues for a city which was rebuilding and revitalizing after a major flood, fire and several large strikes in early 1900. Gaetano married Orsola Alois on April 29, 1908. His parents were not thrilled with the match of this mill worker's daughter to their talented son. In 1909 Orsola gave birth to a son, Antonio Canova. Antonio was joined by Teresa Maria in 1914. Gaetano Federici died on February 15, 1964 and is buried with other members of his family in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Totowa, under a sculpture of his own creation.

For more information on the life and work of Gaetano Federici, refer to Gaetano Federici (1880- 1964): The Artist as Historian, edited by Flavia Alaya, 1980. Above article courtesy of Passaic County Historical Societ

“The Spirit of the Resurrection” - Gaetano Federici



Gaetano Federici's "Spirit of the Resurrection" (pictures at left) is considered his most ambitious and expressive work. A female figure in a long gown appears to be rising upwards into the air. Her bare feet extend downwards, her arms are bent upwards at the elbows with palms open.

This piece is also known as the "Federici Fountain and Statue".

Sadly the fountain is no longer operational. The statue is beautiful (these photos do not do it justice).

“The Spirit of the Resurrection” was commissioned by the Laurel Grove Memorial Park in 1936. It is located by the entrance to the Laurel Grove Cemetery - Totowa Road in Totowa, NJ --



Gaetano Federici with his sculpture *The Virgin and his son, Tony, 1909.* — Jay Levin

The Passaic County Historical Society has a collection of 21 Federici sculptures in need of restoration. If you would like to sponsor one of the sculptures, contact our Curator, Heather Cunningham at: (973) 247-0085.

Luigi Del Bianco Update:



We are happy to announce plans to erect a permanent memorial honoring Luigi Del Bianco, Mount Rushmore's Chief Carver. Michael Keropian, a talented sculptor, has already finished the

preliminary sketch so you can get an idea of what the memorial will look like. The final plaque will be a 2 tone bronze relief sculpture inside a piece of natural stone in the traffic island on North Regent St / Elizabeth St (The site was chosen by Luigi's granddaughter, Andrea Daur)

The Del Bianco clan has raised a portion of the project costs which is estimated at \$15,000.00-\$20,000.00. We are reaching out to the many friends and associates who have been so supportive of this Port Chester artist who, after so many years, is finally being recognized.

To make a contribution: Your tax deductible check can be made payable to "The Port Chester Council for the Arts". Please write in the memo line, "Luigi Del Bianco Memorial Fund". All checks can be sent to Lou Del Bianco, 16 Village Green Port Chester NY 10573.



POINTers in Person

The POINTers In Person program, an autonomous branch of **POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)** was founded in 1992. Our group, Chapter 15, was organized in September 1996. The 21 nationwide chapters of POINTers In Person provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertinent to Italian research. Each chapter is independent and sets forth its own procedures and schedules of events.

We cordially invite Italian genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings our group takes occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

Membership in our parent organization, POINT, is not a prerequisite to joining our group; however, it is highly recommended

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The Lou Costello Chapter

POINTers In Person
Chapter 15
Northern New Jersey
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OFFICERS

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Your letters and comments are welcomed.
We reserve the right to edit submitted materials.

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Calendar

POINT Chapter 15 Future Meetings:

Future Meetings:

Elmwood Park Municipal Building, 10 AM

Aug. 3, 2013:

Program: *TBA*

Passaic County Genealogy Club:

May 11, 2013

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle Museum:

Genealogy Club Meeting:

Program: *"Good Deeds: Unearthing Your Ancestor in Land Records," presented by Joe Grabas.*

June 8, 2013

Genealogy Club Bus Trip

NY Hudson Valley:

"Locust Grove (the Samuel Morse estate), the historic Beekman Arms Hotel and Inn, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Enjoy a fabulous lunch at the Beekman Arms, America's oldest inn. Bus departs from Lambert Castle at 8:30 a.m. \$65 per person.

Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

May 8 - October 6:

We Had to Be Rebels::

Remembering the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913

This year marks the 100th anniversary of this watershed moment in labor relations and industrial history. This intriguing exhibit reveals the stories behind the struggle on both sides

May 10, 2013

Exhibit Opening Reception:

7PM, Lambert Castle

Guest Speaker: Evelyn Hershey from the American Labor Museum

May 11, 2013

An Afternoon of English Social Dance

1-5PM, Lambert Castle

The North River Colonial Dancers demonstrate the beautiful and unique art form of social dance. Free admission.

May 19, 2013

In Concert: CJSO On the Go

5PM, Lambert Castle

Artists from the [Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra](#) performing a wide selection of traditional and new music. \$15 admission benefits the Passaic County Historical Society

June 23, 2013

Film Screening:

Gaetano Federici: Sculptor Laureate of Paterson

7PM, Lambert Castle

Vincent Parillo's PBS documentary on the Italian-American sculptor who carved a place in local history. The film includes works from the Passaic County Historical Society collection, and was partially filmed at Lambert Castle.

**For more information on
PCHS & Lambert Castle Events:
973- 247-0085 ext 200
www.lambertcastle.org**