



La Notizia Italiana



The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

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ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM SEEKS PASSENGERS FROM SS GIUSEPPE VERDI



Original 1914 Builder's Model of the SS Giuseppe Verdi Currently on display at the Italian American Museum through October 15, 2014

The Italian American Museum is seeking to establish contact with immigrants who made the journey to America aboard the Giuseppe Verdi passenger ship from 1915 to 1928. Passengers who were on board the ship as young children would likely be in their late 80's and 90's today. Many settled in the greater New York City area, and may have remained here.

According to IAM president Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, the Museum is planning a special program about the Giuseppe Verdi and would like to have passengers present if possible. The ship made numerous transatlantic trips during its years of operation, carrying as many as 2,200 passengers per journey, mostly from the ports of Naples, Genoa, and Palermo to Ellis Island.

The Giuseppe Verdi was built in 1914 and was owned by Transatlantica Italiana S.A. di Navigazione. In 1928, it was sold to Japanese owners and renamed Yamato Maru. It was torpedoed and sunk by a US submarine in the Philippines in 1943.

Passengers or their families are urged to contact the Italian American Museum's public relations representative at 212-262-8800, or by email, mail@jjcpr.com.

NJ's Most Italian Town

It started with a single Sicilian farmer in 1863.

Now Hammonton has the highest percentage of Italians in the Garden State.

Posted January 17, 2012 by Nick DiUlio



Italian specialties fill the refrigerated case at Bagliani's Market on Bellevue Avenue in Hammonton.

Photo by Elena Parker.

Large signs leading into Hammonton inform visitors they are about to enter "The Blueberry Capital of the World." What the signs don't say is that visitors are also entering the unofficial Italian-American capital of Jersey.

According to the 2010 census and the latest American Community Survey figures, 44.6 percent of Hammonton's 14,791 residents are of Italian ancestry, the highest percentage in New Jersey. (Toms River has the most residents of Italian ancestry, 29,313, but that is just 33 percent of the town's population.)

"Italian heritage is a huge part of our identity here," says Kristin Keating (nee Colasurdo), president of the Hammonton Historical Society. "We've kept a lot of traditions alive from generation to generation, and we take great pride in our past."

The roots of Hammonton's Italian heritage can be found literally in the ground. Officially incorporated in 1866, Hammonton was the product of an agrarian vision shared by two Philadelphia land-development partners, Charles Landis (founder of nearby Vineland) and Richard Byrnes. "[The soil] was mostly sand, but it had a very high organic content," says Harry Stafford, trustee of the historical society and Hammonton resident of 40 years. "They called it green sand. With enough water, you could grow almost anything." By the late 1800s, Hammonton was one of the country's largest exporters of all kinds of berries.

By almost every account, the unprecedented Italian influx can be attributed to one man, an Italian farmer named Salvador Calabrese who came to Hammonton in 1863 from tiny Gesso, Sicily. Calabrese wrote to two of his countrymen in Gesso, petitioning them to come start farms of their own. Within a few years

most of the town of Gesso had relocated to Hammonton. Additionally, an organization called the Italian Labor Bureau was contracted at the time to supply Italian day laborers from nearby Philadelphia to harvest crops and work the fields. Slowly but surely, says Stafford, these laborers began buying land of their own and encouraging family members in Italy to join them.

By 1920, Stafford says, Italian surnames comprised more than 60 percent of the population. This new generation played a major role in Hammonton's growing textile industry. By 1930, Hammonton was home to about a dozen different garment factories.

Today, for all its ethnicity, Hammonton has just an average number of Italian restaurants, delis and pizzerias. But the standout event on the calendar is the annual Italian Festival sponsored by the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society. What began in 1875 as a traditional Roman Catholic two-mile long procession of saints has evolved into the longest running Italian festival in the country, with a weeklong carnival and festivities erupting every July.

Agriculturally, winemaking has emerged in recent decades as one of Hammonton's most vibrant industries. The town is home to three celebrated South Jersey vineyards: Plagido's Winery, DiMatteo Vineyards and Tomasello Winery, which was started by one of the town's oldest Italian families and has been making wine for almost 80 years.

"We are the next generation of leaders, and we have a sense of pride in our heritage," says Keating. "We're all Americans, but we will also continue to preserve our past."



Members of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society escort religious statues in Hammonton's annual Italian Festival, the longest-running in the country.

Photo by Elena Parker.



Those who donate to the society and church by pinning money to the statues receive a prayer card in return.

Photo by Elena Parker.



The disgraceful ArmaLite ad.

Even When It Comes To Great Art, There Are No Limits to Offensive Media Campaigns:

Defacing Michelangelo's

David

By Corrado Gigante

In its efforts to shine light on the many media campaigns that demean and defame the Italian American community, The IAOVG often issues press releases and writes article to expose the perpetrators. We have seen the mocking ads, the commercials glorifying ignorant and boorish behaviors, etc, etc. But now we learn of an ad that has caused the Italian government to contemplate legal action. Dario Franceschini, Italy's Minister of Culture has threatened legal action against ArmaLite, an American firearms manufacturer based in Illinois.

What got Minister Franceschini and other Italians upset was an ad published by ArmaLite on its Twitter account depicting Michelangelo's statue of David wielding an AR-50A1 rifle as part of its a Work of Art ad campaign. The original statue is housed in the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence, Italy. The ad substitutes David's sling and stone with an ArmaLite's weapon. The ad has also been placed in gun and ammo magazines published in the United States.

Cristina Acidini, superintendent of Florence's museums, was very upset with the ad and warned the company not to continue using the image. The issue is not only the bizarre image created but also that Florence museums do not allow use of their art works for commercial purposes without permission. The message got across quite quickly as Mark Johnson, the chief executive officer of ArmaLite's parent company, Strategic Armory Corps, LLC, said, "I believe that an advertisement utilizing an altered photograph of a masterpiece such as David is in poor taste. We deeply regret that ArmaLite offended anyone by this media campaign, which we ended upon our acquisition of the company. We will make every effort to be sure that any remnants from the campaign are removed from the public."

In this case the response from ArmaLite's parent company was swift and clear. The image that had been publicly defaced in print is one of the world's greatest art treasures. Yet, one must ask just how could any advertising manager conjure up this idea to use such a universally acclaimed masterpiece without permission and for such a product and not expect negative response? The

answer may very well lie in the history of image distortion of things Italian. Is it just coincidental that a weapon and its associated image is at the heart of this ad or is it just tastelessness?

What was telling in the many blog postings associated with the news media's coverage of this story, were first, the many posts arguing a First Amendment right of the gun manufacturer to publish the ad. The second were the many posts attacking the Italian government for its outrage and the associated anti- Italian tone of some of the posts. One post on Huff Post put it this way, "who really cares what Italians think? It's not exactly like they are the powerhouse in the EU or have much else to say anywhere." Another wrote, "I know Italy used to be fascist but come on guys it's time to get re-acquainted with free speech."

What is clear is that respect for the sensibilities of others is often lacking in these blogs. Writers vent their political and personal feelings in rapid response mode without much thought and reflection to the consequences. This is much like the advertising manager who decided that using the image of Michelangelo's David armed with a powerful weapon would be just fine. Or maybe the intent was to stir up controversy and coverage. In either case, the consequences were not well considered.

The IAOVG applauds the actions of the Italian government in attacking this bizarre image. The constant fallback position of supporters of these types of shock images, that free speech trumps all else is patently false. Advertisers need to reexamine their ethos. The American Association of Advertising Agencies revised its Creative Code in 2011 which commits its members to five codes. Two of these codes are applicable in this matter. The Creative Code reads as follows, "Specifically, we will not knowingly create advertising that contains: (a) False or misleading statements or exaggerations, visual or verbal, and, (e) Statements, suggestions, or pictures offensive to public decency or minority segments of the population." The Creative Code also contains provisions for disciplining members. The Code reads as follows, "Clear and willful violations of these Standards of Practice may be referred to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Advertising Agencies for appropriate action, including possible annulment of membership as provided by Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution and By-Laws." The IAOVG will soon test the application of this rule by the industry in policing its members. Stay tuned.

Italian-American One Voice Coalition

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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. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings we take occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

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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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Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/%7Eniigc/>

Calendar

IGSNJ Future Meetings:

Programs to be announced

August 2, 2014

November 1, 2014

Passaic County Genealogy Club: Genealogy Club Meetings

May 10, 2014

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle

Preserving Old Memories to Digital Images,

Presented by Larry Scheer.

Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

PCHS Annual Meeting

May 7, 2014

7 PM, Lambert Castle

Blueberries: New Jersey's Wonder Fruit.

Presented by Judith Krall-Russo, Food Historian.

Free admission to the public.

For more information:

973- 247-0085 ext 200

www.lambertcastle.org

Italian-American Museum Events:

12th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, September 29, 2014

Glen Oaks Club, Old Westbury, New York

Join Us to Support the Italian American Museum Capital Fund

Italian Festival: Hammonton New Jersey

July 16: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: 609/561-4818

Sponsors of the Longest Running Italian Festival in the United States and a Hammonton, NJ Tradition Since 1875!

www.mountcarmelsociety.homestead.com

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

Owned by Sons of Italy Foundation, Inc.

Administered by Grand Lodge

of NY Board of Commissioners, OSIA

ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW GALLERY SPACE WITH 'NAPOLI' EXHIBIT BY PHOTOGRAPHER JANINE COYNE

Brooklyn-born photojournalist Janine Coyne's exhibit, "Napoli," will be on display at the

Italian American Museum in Little Italy

(155 Mulberry St., www.italianamericanmuseum.org)

Friday, May 9 through Columbus Day, October 13, 2014.