



# La Notizia Italiana



The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

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## FENDI TO RESTORE TREVI FOUNTAIN



14 July, 2014

Fashion house Fendi kicked off the restoration of Rome's famed Trevi Fountain by unveiling a transparent suspended walkway (*pictured above, left*) which will give tourists a whole new vantage point of the historic monument.

Though the fountain has been drained for the renovation, a small basin has been set up at the rim so that visitors can continue the tradition of throwing a coin into the waters with their back turned – a custom which is said to bring good luck.

“The restoration works are invasive and will be disruptive for the thousands of tourists who come every day, but we thought the walkway would be the best way to show off the fountain,” Fendi's CEO Pietro Beccari said. The plexiglass bridge “is a way to show people the fountain from a position no-one has been in before,” he said.

While much of the elaborate Baroque facade is now hidden under scaffolding, tourists crossing the basin on the walkway will be able to get a close look at the restoration as it takes place.

The \$3 million repairs on the nearly 300-year-old fountain will take 18 months.

While some tourists said they were curious to try out the bridge, others complained about finding one of the most iconic monuments in Italy under wraps.

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“We were very surprised because we thought we were just going to throw a penny in the fountain. But I’m kind of excited to see what is going on here,” said American tourist Pat, while Coco from Hong Kong said he was “really quite disappointed” to find the basin empty of water.

There had been concern about the state of the Trevi Fountain, which is visited by millions of tourists every year, particularly after bits of its elaborate cornice began falling off in 2012 following a particularly harsh winter.

“Patronage is essential in maintaining and restoring our marvelous works of architecture, archaeology and art,” Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino said, as he chucked a coin over his shoulder into the temporary basin.

Fendi, founded as a leather goods business in Rome in the 1920s and now part of French luxury giant LVMH, will also be funding the restoration of the Quattro Fontane, late Renaissance fountains which grace each corner of a busy intersection in the capital.

It is not the only fashion house to fund the renovation of the eternal city’s monuments: luxury jeweler Bulgari announced earlier this year that it would help clean up the city’s famous Spanish Steps, while shoe-maker Tod’s is financing works at the Colosseum.

Under the deal with Rome city authorities, Fendi’s logo can be displayed on building site signs during the repairs and the company can hang a plaque near the monuments for four years after completion.

The Trevi Fountain, or Fontana di Trevi in Italian, is Italy’s largest and most famous Baroque fountain, standing 85 feet high and 65 feet across.

The Trevi Fountain was built in the 15th century to mark the ending destination of the Aqua Virgo, the manmade channel erected in 19 B.C. that brought fresh water to Roman bathhouses. The water comes from Salone Springs, eight miles outside of the city, but the length of the aqueduct is about 14 miles.

Pope Urban VIII consulted Gian Lorenzo Bernini, a prominent Italian sculptor and architect, in 1629 to suggest ways to embellish the underwhelming Trevi Fountain that was commissioned in 1453 by Pope Nicholas V. Although Pope Urban died before his aspirations to improve the fountain could be realized, some of Bernini’s sketches survived and made the final design.

The Trevi Fountain that stands in Trevi Square today was designed by Roman architect Nicola Salvi. Building began in 1732 and concluded three decades later.

Before his death in 1751, Salvi chose young artist Giuseppe Pannini as his successor. The fountain that stands today has work expressed in the original sketches from Bernini, Salvi and Pannini.

The scene depicted on Trevi Fountain tells the story of how the fountain was named. “It was a virgin shepherdess who showed the spring to soldiers seeking water,” according a 16th-century author quoted on the website Garden Fountains.

Water flows from the mouth of the dominating figure—Neptune, god of the sea—standing atop a shell-shaped chariot drawn by two sea horses and two gods. The horses represent the changing mood of the sea. The larger statue on the left is a representation of the goddess Abundance, above whom is a bas-relief depiction of Agrippa, the son-in-law of the 19 B.C. emperor, approving the plans for construction of the aqueduct. On the right is the god Salubrity, topped by a representation of the virgin directing soldiers toward the water.



*Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino, along with the management of the Fendi fashion house, have opened restoration work on the world-famous Trevi Fountain.*

The fountain famously featured in a scene of Federico Fellini’s iconic film *La Dolce Vita* in which Marcello Mastroianni and co-star Anita Ekberg share a kiss while wading through its pristine waters.

## **Sophia Loren to Celebrate 80th Birthday with Release of Autobiography**



World renowned Italian actress Sophia Loren has finally decided to pen her autobiography in celebration of her upcoming 80th birthday.

“Throughout the years many editors have asked me to tell my story,” says Loren. “But I never thought it was the right time to go down memory lane. I’m not sure what made me change my mind.”

The title of the book will be “Ieri, Oggi, Domani” (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow), which was the name of the 1963 film directed by Vittorio De Sica and starring Loren and Marcello Mastroianni. The international rights to the book have been sold to Italian publishing company Rizzoli.

Loren will celebrate her birthday and the release of her book on September 20.

## Passaic Historical Group Pushes Effort to Restore Paterson Sculptures by Federici



*Members of the Federici family with a statue of Federici's maternal grandmother.*

**LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014, 12:07 PM**  
BY PATERSON PRESS STAFF  
PATERSON PRESS

PATERSON - The Passaic County Historical Society recently held a reception as part of its ongoing efforts to conserve works by Gaetano Federici, the artist who created many of the public sculptures scattered throughout the city.

In 2013, the historical Society began raising funds for the Gaetano Federici Restoration and Exhibition project. So far, the effort has produced sponsors for 19 of the 27 works targeted by the society.

Some of the conserved pieces were revealed for the first time at the historical society's reception. Contributors to the project include the Knights of Columbus (St. Philip the Apostle Council 11671 of Clifton and Juan Perez Council 262 of Passaic), the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 657, the North Jersey Federal Credit Union, UNICO (Passaic-Clifton Chapter), the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council, members of the Federici family and several private individuals.

For more information on the Gaetano Federici Restoration project visit the Passaic County Historical Society's website at [lambertcastle.org/federici.html](http://lambertcastle.org/federici.html) or call (973)247-0085.



## Google Celebrates Italian Mathematician

15 June, 2014 at 15:34

Google has celebrated the 296th birthday of Italian mathematician and philosopher Maria Gaetana Agnesi with a Doodle in her honor which shows the Witch of Agnesi curve.

Agnesi is believed to be the first woman in the Western world to gain a reputation as a mathematician. The mathematical curve named after her is achieved by drawing a line from the source through the circle of radius. Its real-life uses were only fully recognized in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, by physicists and mathematicians working with x-rays, optical lines, and electrical circuits.

Born in 1718 to a wealthy Milanese silk merchant, Agnesi mastered several modern languages, as well as Latin, Greek, Hebrew, in her childhood. Her parents were known to be proud of her intellect, and her father would host parties where she would demonstrate her knowledge.

Her best-known work, *Instituzioni analitiche ad uso della gioventù italiana*, or the Analytical Institutions for the Use of Italian Youth, explored algebra and analysis in two volumes, and is where the name the Witch of Agnesi came about.

In the text, Agnesi discussed the curve which was studied by Pierre de Fermat in 1630, and given a construction by Guido Grandi. Grandi had suggested the curve should be given the Latin name *versoria*: the rope which adjusts the trim of a sail on a boat.

It is believed that a mistranslation by Angesi's English contemporary John Colson saw the concept keep the name the Witch of Agnesi, as *versoria* looks similar to the Latin word *versiera*, meaning 'witch' or 'devil.'

Towards the end of her life, Agnesi turned to religion and devoted herself to charitable work and theological study. She founded various hospices and died aged 81 in one of the poorhouses that she had once directed.

### ***Articles from the Italian Tribune:***

*Fendi to Restore Trevi Fountain*

*Sophia Loren Celebrates 80th Birthday*

*Google Celebrates Italian Mathematician*



## 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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## Calendar

### IGSNJ Future Meetings:

**November 1, 2014**

*Presentation by Angela Raimos*

### Passaic County Genealogy Club:

#### Genealogy Club Meetings

**September 13, 2014**

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle

*The Quack's Daughter,*

*Presented by Greta Nettleton*

### Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

#### PCHS Quarterly Meeting

**August 13, 2014**

7 PM, Lambert Castle

*Letters From the Civil War*

*Presented by Dennis Buttacavoli*

*Free admission to the PCHS members.*

*Museum admission to non-members.*

#### **For more information:**

**973- 247-0085 ext 200**

[www.lambertcastle.org](http://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*

#### 'NAPOLI' Exhibit

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

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

*155 Mulberry St., [www.italianamericanmuseum.org](http://www.italianamericanmuseum.org)*

## THE ITALIAN TRIBUNE

The Premier Italian American Weekly Newspaper Since 1931

Since 1931, the *Italian Tribune*, has been one of the country's largest and most influential Italian American weekly newspapers. While the vast majority of our readers are in the Northeast, the paper, published every Thursday is mailed across the United States with a second class periodical USPS mail permit. In addition, the newspaper, which is printed in English, can be found on more than 5,000 newsstands in the New York metropolitan area.

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