



# *La Notizia Italiana*

*The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey*



## *In This Issue:*



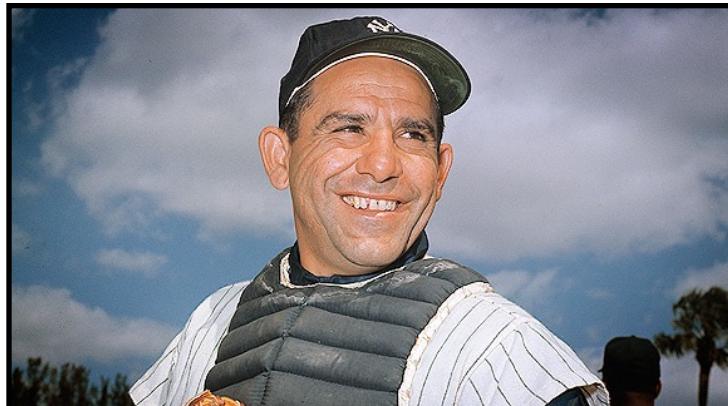
***Yogi Berra  
(1925-2015)***



***Genealogy:  
Italian Immigration***

***Event Calendar***

## ***YOGI BERRA***



***(May 12, 1925 – September 22, 2015)***

Yogi Berra was born Lorenzo Pietro Berra in a primarily Italian neighborhood of St. Louis called "The Hill" to Italian immigrants Pietro and Paolina (née Longoni) Berra. Pietro, originally from Malvaglio near Milan in northern Italy, arrived at Ellis Island on October 18, 1909, at the age of 23.

Yogi grew up on Elizabeth Avenue, across the street from boyhood friend, Joe Garagiola. That block, also home to Jack Buck early in his Cardinals broadcasting career, was later renamed "Hall of Fame Place." Berra was a Roman Catholic, and he attended South Side Catholic, now called St. Mary's High School, in south St. Louis with Garagiola. Berra has been inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame.

He began playing baseball in local American Legion leagues, where he learned the basics of catching while playing outfield and infield positions as well. While playing in American Legion baseball, he received his famous nickname from his friend Jack Maguire, who said he resembled a Hindu yogi whenever he sat around with arms and legs crossed waiting to bat or while looking sad after a losing game.

Berra followed his dream of playing minor-league baseball until enlisting in the U.S. Navy after he turned 18. He fought in several theaters of World War II, taking part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944.

Upon his return from the war, the stocky Berra saw his baseball career take off. He turned down a \$1,000 signing bonus with his hometown Cardinals in order to sign with the New York Yankees, making his major-league debut in September 1946. It would not take long for Berra to become a fixture in the Yankees' dynasty of the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

By the time he moved to Montclair in 1959, Yogi was already a star, having already earned three Most Valuable Player awards and eight of his eventual 10 World Series championships with the Yankees.

*(cont' on p. 2)*

(cont'd from p. 1)

He had married the love of his life, Carmen, in 1949, and the couple had three sons, Larry, Tim and Dale. In the summer of 1959, the Berras purchased a two-story house in Montclair, on Sutherland Road, moving into the 15-room Tudor-style dwelling in September of that year. The family lived there until 1974, when Yogi and Carmen moved into a six-bedroom colonial house on Highland Avenue, near the famous "fork in the road" - of Yogi-ism lore - where Edgewood Road meets Edgewood Terrace. The Berras sold the Highland Avenue house in 2014 following Carmen's death. Its listed price was \$888,888, reflecting his famous No. 8 jersey.

### **Cornerstones of the Community**

Yogi and Carmen were active members of the Montclair community. The couple dutifully attended Mass at Immaculate Conception each week, and were regulars at area diners and restaurants.

Carmen and Yogi were busy and giving people during their half-century in Montclair, helping to raise money for a wide range of groups, including the Montclair YMCA, the Montclair Public Library, Montclair Art Museum, the United Way and Mountainside Hospital.

Yogi was particularly active with the Boy Scouts of America. He established the Yogi Berra Celebrity Golf Classic in 1991 as a fundraiser for special-needs Scouts. Over the years, the tournament attracted athletes and entertainers, and raised more than \$1 million. Berra's commitment to the Scouts earned him the Boy Scout's Silver Buffalo Award, its highest honor for volunteer service to youth, in 2003.

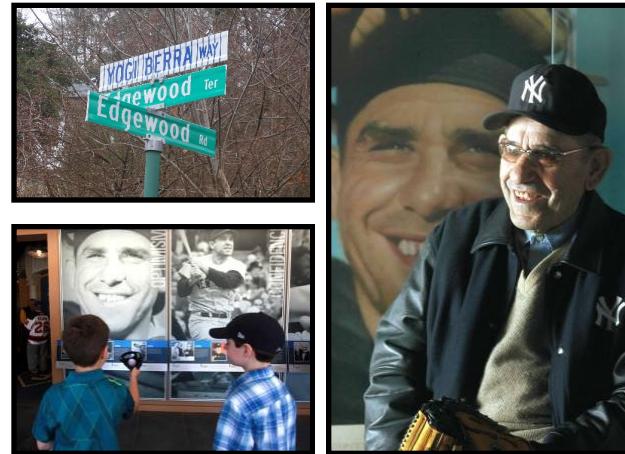
### **New chapters.**

Yogi continued his playing career until the end of the 1963 season, when he moved into the manager's role with the Yankees. New York reached another World Series in 1964, but Yogi was removed as manager after the season.

He caught on as a coach with the New York Mets, serving as an assistant on the "Miracle Mets" 1969 championship team. Berra became the Mets' manager in 1972, the same year he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and he led the club to the 1973 World Series. Berra would return to manage the Yankees in 1984, but he was controversially fired by George Steinbrenner early in the 1985 campaign.

That led the proud Berra to shun the organization for 14 years, until Steinbrenner apologized in a highly public event at the then-new Yogi Berra Museum.

***The above article is a compilation from Wikipedia and an article by RICARDO KAULESSAR AND KEVIN MEACHAM in the MONTCLAIR TIMES.***



On September 22, 2015, Berra died of natural causes during his sleep, at an assisted-living facility in West Caldwell, New Jersey, 69 years to the day after his MLB debut. To honor Berra, the Yankees added an "8" patch to their uniforms, and the Empire State Building was lit with blue and white vertical "pin-stripes". New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio ordered all flags in the city to be lowered to half-staff for a day in tribute. A moment of silence was held before the September 23 games of the Yankees, Dodgers, Astros, Mets, Nationals, Tigers, Pirates, and his hometown St. Louis Cardinals, as well as the ALPB's Long Island Ducks.

Berra's funeral was held on September 29, and was broadcast by the YES Network. Directly outside the church, U.S. Navy officers stood guard, a tribute to Berra's military service in World War II. Across the street, fans intermingled with reporters. Among the speakers during the service were his son Dale and former Yankees manager and longtime friend Joe Torre.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, his family - including his sons and granddaughter Lindsay - gathered at the Berra Museum to celebrate and appreciate Yogi's life. Lindsay teared up as she spoke about how her grandfather will exist forever through the outpouring of love and support of Yankee fans that the Berra family received after his passing.

"He will always be in Yankee Stadium, he will always be here in Montclair, and always be in the museum. He is going to be with all of us forever."

***A public memorial was held at the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center on the campus of Montclair State University Oct. 4, 2015.***



## Genealogy Immigration/Migration: Italian Immigration

By Barry J. Ewell

### Italian Immigration

Italians were the largest single nationality to have immigrated to the United States in the era of mass migration, with more than four million immigrating from 1890 to 1924.

Southern Italy was one of the poorest regions of Europe in the nineteenth century. The island of Sicily and the region around Naples, both in the south, accounted for over half the Italians who moved to the United States looking for a way to earn money. The combination of crop failure, a tax on basic food, and population growth, coming on top of an economic structure barely able to support many people in the best of times, led many Italians in the late 1800s to decide that their best, and perhaps only, solution was to immigrate to another country. About 70 percent of Italians from southern Italy could not read or write, and few spoke English upon arrival in New York. The lack of money and education often drove them into low-paying jobs, particularly in construction.

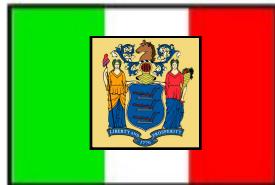
Many Italian emigrants saw their voyage to the United States as a temporary solution to their economic problems. They planned to find a job in the United States that would provide money to tide over their family in Italy until better times. About one fourth of the Italians who moved to the United States between 1880 and 1920 eventually did return home. In some cases, Italians worked outside Italy for part of the year, then returned home to live with their extended families for the rest of the year. Other Italians left for the United States with the intention of returning after a few years, but they ended up staying a lifetime.

Many Italian immigrants did not feel a strong need to fit into their new culture, since they planned to remain in the United States only temporarily. Whenever possible, Italian immigrants connected with people to whom they were related. They preserved their native culture by setting up Italian communities, often called Little Italy, in the United States. Little Italy made it possible to maintain a culture and lifestyle that was familiar and distinctly Italian rather than American.

Even inside Italian ethnic neighborhoods, residents from the same village or region stuck together. Often, it was only after immigrants found themselves living in cities filled with people who did not speak Italian and had no relationship to Italy that Italians developed a sense of being the more general term "Italian," rather than relating to a more specific region, such as Sicilian or Neapolitan (from Naples).

While people of other nationalities who immigrated to the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries became widely dispersed around the United States, the 1990 U.S. census showed that 86 percent of Americans of Italian ancestry were concentrated in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.





## 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.

### **La Notizia Italiana**

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### **The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey (201) 803-9117**

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Maria Carparelli

**Vice President:** Susan Berman

**Treasurer:** Judi Bonzkowski

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**Recording Secretary:** Albert Marotta

**Newsletter Editor:** Maria Carparelli

**Web Master:** Annita Zalenski

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/%7Enjigc/>

## Calendar

### IGSNJ Future Meetings:

**February 6, 2015**

Program: *Member Exchange of Information*

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

#### Passaic County Genealogy Club:

**November 14: Genealogy Club Meeting**

10 a.m. at Clifton Public Library, Piaget Avenue  
Free Admission

Program: *Navigating Ship's Manifests*- Find out what information is needed to locate manifests, the markings to learn which immigrants were detained and why, who they left behind, the address where they were headed and who they were coming to see..  
Presented by Toni McKeen

**November 14: Genealogy Club Meeting**

**January 9, 2016**

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle  
Free Admission

After the business portion of the meeting, members bring projects that they have been working on, photos, documents or something in their family history that has been passed down through the generations, The presentations are most informative and entertaining.

### PCHS Quarterly Meetings:

**November 10, 2015**

7 p.m. at Louis Bay II Library  
345 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne  
Free Admission

Program: *The Garden State: Where Things Grow*  
Learn about the many inventions and innovations that came from the minds of Garden State people.  
Presented by Linda Barth

### Lambert Castle Holiday Boutique

**November 11 - 29, 2015**

Open Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 pm.  
(Closed Thanksgiving Day).

No strollers or carriages, please.

Admission is \$6 and includes two return visits.

*For more information:*

973- 247-0085 ext 201

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

## • IN MEMORIAM •

*Dolores "Dee" Cobianchi*

*Longtime Member*

*IGSNJ & POINTers in Person*