



La Notizia Italiana



POINTers in Person: Lou Costello Chapter #15

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**PATERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REINSTATES COLUMBUS HOLIDAY
IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM
ITALIAN AMERICAN ONE VOICE COALITION**



President Andre' DiMino: "We are so pleased that we prevailed in getting Paterson to do the right thing."

NEW JERSEY- October 4, 2011 After being contacted late last week by concerned citizens, parents and teachers from Paterson who were outraged over Paterson's cancellation of the Columbus Day Holiday observance, Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition President Andre' DiMino mobilized the organization to correct this insult to the Italian American community. "Columbus Day is extremely important for all Italian Americans and, actually, to all Americans," stated DiMino. "Paterson is being completely insensitive by disrespecting this holiday." After unsuccessful attempts to reach officials in the Paterson School system, DiMino activated the Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition to begin emailing and calling Paterson and State officials. He also issued a letter to Governor Christie and the State Department of Education asking them to intervene and have the holiday reinstated. The campaign by DiMino and ONE VOICE attracted media attention early Monday morning with Fox 5 News, WCBS TV News, WPIX-TV News, News 12 NJ and WINS 1010 Radio conducting interviews and investigations.

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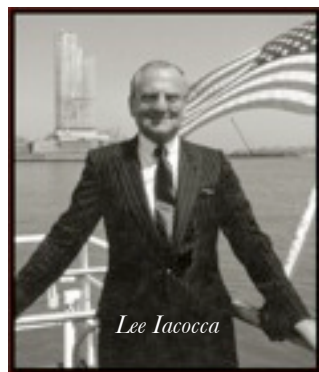
By midday Monday, the news came that the campaign was a success. "I was so pleased to receive calls from the reporters to let me know that they had just heard back from Paterson School officials stating that they had received numerous calls and communications about this issue and that they decided to reinstate the holiday. What a great victory for all of us," declared DiMino. He noted that a number of Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition supporting members, such as UNICO National's Anti-Bias Committee, The Italian American Museum, The Coccia Foundation, The Petrosino Association in America, The Belleville, Woodcliff Lake and Brick Chapters of UNICO and many ONE VOICE activists from across the country barraged Paterson School officials with emails and phone calls. "It appears that our collective voices were heard as we spoke out in one voice against this outrage."

ONE VOICE is different from all other Italian American groups in that its sole focus and objective is to fight bias, stereotyping and discrimination against Italian Americans. It is the only national Italian American organization with this mandate.

ONE VOICE's stated mission is to "... secure the rightful representation of Americans of Italian origin and of all peoples whose paths toward social equality have been impeded. The powers of intellect, wisdom and due process of law will be brought to bear on all inequities." ONE VOICE issues a regular email newsletter, "The Alfano Digest," to more than 5,000 individuals and Italian American organizations nationwide.



Sgt. John Basilone



Lee Iacocca



Happy Italian-American Heritage Month From Sons of Italy Foundation

Posted on October 10, 2011 by [admin](#)

Dear friend, "***I am an Italian-American.*** My roots are deep in an ancient soil, drenched by the Mediterranean sun, and watered by pure streams from snow capped mountains. I am enriched by thousands of years of culture." These are the opening words of the poem "I am an Italian-American."*

As proud Italian-Americans, we are reminded of those words of declaration each October when we pause to honor our heritage. We stop not only to think about the famed explorer Christopher Columbus, but to reflect on the accomplishments of the Italians and Italian-Americans that came before and have come since. Those who planted the seeds of our beloved heritage in the United States, and those who have nurtured them for centuries.

We think about William Paca, Mother Cabrini and Constantino Brumidi ... Ella Grasso, Enrico Fermi and John Basilone, and their historical and ground-breaking achievements.

The **Commission for Social Justice (CSJ)** and the **Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF)** want to ensure that all Americans, especially those of Italian ancestry, also remember these trail-blazers and their contributions to the political, social, cultural, and scientific fabric of America and the world.

The CSJ, the Sons of Italy's anti-defamation arm, does its part to educate about the positive contributions of our community often while simultaneously battling negative stereotypes. Recently, our fight took us to New Jersey, in a campaign against the MTV series "Jersey Shore." We consider the campaign a success – a number of major national companies pulled their advertising, recognizing the damaging stereotypes the show perpetuates. **Those "Jersey Shore" characters are not the Italian Americans we honor every October!**

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The SIF, the Sons of Italy's philanthropic arm, helps strengthen our heritage in part by supporting projects and groups that celebrate Italian culture. Among them, the SIF's very own **Garibaldi-Meucci Museum**, which maintains historical exhibits, conducts Italian language classes and offers a speakers' bureau; and the **Columbus Citizens Foundation**, which is responsible for coordinating the nation's largest Columbus Day parade in New York.

As we continue our essential work – not just in October, but every day of every month, year-round - we think of these (excerpted) closing words of the poem mentioned above:

"I will not be told that my contribution is any less nor my role not as worthy as that of any other American.

"I am an Italian-American."

We identify with these words, embrace them, and we recite them proudly. We think them worth celebrating by staying true to our heritage, by honoring our families and ancestors, and by doing our part to promote the collective accomplishments of nearly 26 million Italian-Americans today.

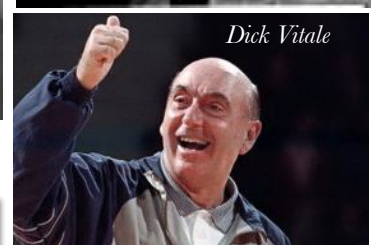
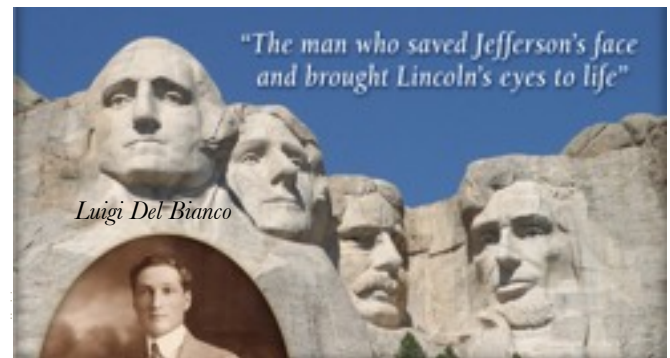
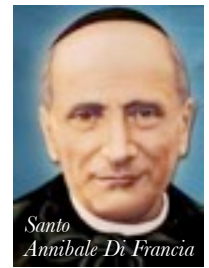
Happy Italian-American Heritage Month!

* *"I am an Italian-American"* by Angelo Bianchi, Esq., Sons of Italy Foundation trustee and Commission for Social Justice past president.

**Italian Flag Raised on Columbus Day
City Hall, Clifton, NJ**



Passaic-Clifton UNICO sponsored the raising of the Italian flag at Clifton City Hall on October 10, Columbus Day. On hand for the celebration was UNICO President Dave D'Arco, Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik, Congressman Bill Pascrell, and the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra.





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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POINTers In Person
Chapter 15
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OFFICERS

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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

February 4, 2011:

Member Exchange of Information

Passaic County Genealogical Society: November 12, 2011

10 a.m. at Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne:

Genealogy Club Meeting:

William (Billy) Neumann:

"Preserving Old Photographs and Documents"

December 10, 2011

9:30 a.m. at Louis Bay Library, Hawthorne:

Holiday Brunch & Silent Auction

Admission: Brunch Dish or \$10 Donation

Passaic County Historical Society: November 9, 2011

7 PM. at Hawthorne Public Library:

Society Quarterly Meeting:

Program: *"Someone Has to do the Dishes"*

Presenter: Michelle La Rue

Lambert Castle Events:

November 5-27

Holiday House Boutique

Tues. - Fri.: 10AM - 9PM

Sat. & Sun.: 10AM - 5PM

Closed Mondays & Thanksgiving Day

Admission: \$6 (includes 3 visits)

December 9, 2011

Holiday Wine Tasting Party

7 PM, Lambert Castle

Admission by Reservation, \$50 per person

December 10, 11

Christmas at the Castle:

Self-Guided Holiday Tours

Saturday & Sunday 1-4PM; 6-9PM

Admission: Adults: \$12, Seniors: \$10,

Children over 6 yrs: \$8

December 30

New Year Champagne Social

An Evening of Champagne and Sweets

Admission by Reservation, \$25 per person

For more information on PCHS

& Lambert Castle Events:

973- 247-0085 ext 200

www.lambertcastle.org