

The Person Behind the Mask: Guide to Performing Arts Psychology (Publications in Creativity Research (Paperback))

Preview the current edition of PRIMO

First edition 2022 is published and en route to readers. On the cover...Lou Costello!

This is an awesome edition! Late because of supply chain paper shortage. Call with your questions or comments at 866-677-7466 or email help@flprimo.com. Special offers: Buy one-year subscription and receive a free poster. Buy a two-year subscription and receive an Italian language phrase book. Buy a three-year subscription and receive a coffee mug.

The Latest News from an Italian American Perspective: Note: Content on the PRIMO web site is different from the print edition of PRIMO magazine. To read the latest articles in the newest print edition of PRIMO, please subscribe today.

Please remember to update your browser in order to view all material on our web site.

Primo Exclusive

JOHN M. VIOLA

Organizer of First-Ever Italian American Youth Conference

Scheduled January 13-16, Italian American Future Leaders

- Unprecedented National Event

- "visionaries, disruptors, creators and can-doers"

- "So this is my tribe. This is where I'm safe. This is where it feels familiar." By Truby Chiaviello

Destinazione Florida! Such is the call nationwide to start 2023 with the first-ever national gathering of young Italian Americans from January 13-16 in Sunrise, Florida. Italian American Future Leaders is the titled event to organize, inspire and reinvigorate young Italian Americans to embrace their Italian heritage. No conference is comparable. Italian American Future Leaders is a unique idea to belong to John M. Viola, a key figure in today's Italian America. Still in his 30s, Mr. Viola has a resume synonymous with the most important organizations and events in our burgeoning ethnic community. He is an unapologetically proud Italian American. "We have a phenomenal culture and community that is surprisingly vibrant, yet never gets the credit for its vibrancy," said Mr. Viola in a recent interview with PRIMO. "We have the best of the U.S. and the best of Italy, and I wouldn't want to be born anything else. You know, with all the respect that I have as an anthropologist for other

P

cultures, I'm so glad that I was born Italian American. The lands south of Rome is from where Mr. Viola's family originates. I have a grandmother from Salerno in Campania, he says. My grandmother's family is from the town of Sansa. And then I have my dad's father. Although he was born near my grandmother, his family actually came from Basilicata. My mom's mother from Bari and my mom's father from Palermo. So I got a whole southern mix in my DNA. Married with a child, Mr. Viola says his wife is a dual citizen of the United States and Italy. She is a daughter of immigrants. Her dad came here from Abruzzo and she also has some Lazio in her DNA. And her mom's family is Tuscan. To cover all of Italy, We hope our daughter marries somebody from Piedmont or Valdosta or Milan and we will be in good shape. To inspire children and grandchildren to embrace the in-depth history and culture of Italy becomes increasingly challenging in the multitude of diversions brought upon by today's technology. Hence, this is a key reason to create an annual event for people from 21-35 to celebrate the culture of their Italian ancestors. We tend to forget that the experience changes over generations, says Mr. Viola. I think of myself as kind of the last tail end of the generation that was sort of staking our claim to mainstream America. For these kids, they don't have to do that. They don't have to join the community because of any need; but, rather, because of an enthusiastic desire to participate and hopefully give back. Italian American Future Leaders hopes to bridge the gap between a digitized existence most appealing to Millennial and Z Generations with a more traditional forum of in-person networking and camaraderie. On their web site, Italian American Future Leaders seeks conference attendees who are visionaries, disruptors, creators and can-doers. Disruptors? Mr. Viola says these are people who are not necessarily doing things in the organs of the lodge or the club or the foundation but creating their own initiatives, utilizing modern technology, new opportunities, new identity. Mr. Viola admits to being someone most comfortable in established settings. He likes to be the doer inside an organization with deep roots. He is a born leader with Hollywood looks and an approachable demeanor to bring people together to get

things done. He was, perhaps, the youngest person to ever head a major non-profit organization. At 28, he was elected chief operating officer and president of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). He served in that position for some six years with subsequent involvement in Italian American activities. A simple Google search displays an impressive work history: Host of the Italian American podcast, co-vice president for New York City of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA), member of Boards of Directors of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in Chicago, La Scuola d'Alitalia-Guglielmo Marconi in New York City, the Two Sicilies in America Foundation, and the American Initiative for Italian Culture (AIFIC) in Washington, DC. Of all the organizations, however, it remains the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (COPOMIAO), under the dynamism of President Basil M. Russo, where Mr. Viola has likely found his true calling. He is chairperson of that organization's Youth Committee, where the idea of a youth conference was conceived and developed. Mr. Viola was called upon to plan the event and provide the necessary details for support among members of COPOMIAO. The Cleveland chapter of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America and Judge Russo provided seed money for the conference. They agreed to pay hotel rooms for young people coming to the event. Member organizations of COPOMIAO were invited to sponsor an attendee with only having to pay for the plane fare to the location outside Fort Lauderdale. How Mr. Viola conceived the idea of a national gathering of Italian American youth has a lot to do with what he learned about contemporary society in college. As an anthropology major in Fordham University, he knew well how the alienation of modernity made harder the selling of civic participation. "Everybody told me that the 'bowling alone' conundrum was what was going to be the death of institutional organizations within the community," Mr. Viola says. "The idea that nobody joins bowling leagues anymore. They all go out, you know, when and if they want. As a person who participates in a lot of different identity groups, I started to feel like the way people interact in person nowadays is less about a weekly meeting and more about an annual event."

It was at an annual gala for NIAF in Washington, D.C. where Mr. Viola had his epiphany. As a young adult, he realized the fullness of his ethnic identity to embark on a path of greater involvement and eventual leadership in the Italian American community. He recalls, "A dear friend of our family who had worked with my dad said to me, Oh, you know, you should be my date for the NIAF gala. And I had never heard of it. Well, I was at the adult table, and frankly, I thought it was pretty boring. I didn't know there was a youth gala downstairs. It was only after I got to the lobby of the Hilton where somebody was playing Jerry Vale on the piano, and all of a sudden, all these kids my age came up from the youth gala and started singing and it was like, okay, I am really cool right now because I know all the words. So this is my tribe. This is where I'm safe. This is where it feels familiar. And I started going with my friends from college every year after that and, you know, subsequently got more and more and more involved. I think we need that again, but we need it where that portion of it is not necessarily an accidental overflow of excitement. A goal in place for Italian American Future Leaders has already been reached, according to Mr. Viola. The number of hotel rooms, originally slated, were filled at total capacity with 100 attendees. More rooms had to be added to house sponsors and staff. Such is the better-than-expected outcome for a national conference without precedence in the Italian American community. "This is all new," admits Mr. Viola. "Other models that we've tried to benchmark against were very different. So I think if it grows the way we would like to see it grow, I think eventually having a the multiple components to it, maybe one of them that is high school and college leadership, part of the problem that we encountered as we discussed it was, you know, get the scheduling and getting people in high school and college that were free at the right time to come in and participate." Mr. Viola is optimistic that Italian American Future Leaders can become an annual event in the years to come to help sustain our Italian American way of life. "I think it's just a matter of getting people's attention and then delivering to them an experience that's worth the time. And I hope we can do that. That's the big goal." Photographs: John M. Viola co-hosts the Italian American Podcast with Rossella Rago and Patrick O'Boyle, pictured, and Dolores Alfieri Tarantino and Anthony Fasano. Mr. Viola is pictured next to Basil M. Russo, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, who is a key sponsor of the Italian American Future Leaders. Mr. Viola was, likely, the youngest person, at 28, to lead a major non-profit, as he did for the National Italian American Foundation. Editor's Note: To learn more about Italian American Future Leaders and how young Italian Americans can participate, please log on to <https://www.iafuture.org>. To read John M. Viola's bio and other offices of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, please log on to <https://copomiao.org/>

VICTORY IN BROOKLYN

The Christopher Columbus Memorial Stays in Place in Front of Borough Hall

- Spotighting Sculptress Emma Stebbins Proved Decisive

- "Rest assured, we will continue to reach out, build bridges and protect our statues, holidays, and heritage." By Angelo Vivolo Pioneering 19th-century artist Emma Stebbins might well have been the latest victim of the irrational frenzy that seeks to wipe away all memory of Christopher Columbus. Stebbins, a trailblazer who was gay, was the first woman awarded a New York City art commission for her interpretation of the Great Admiral of the Ocean Sea. In 2021, a small group known as Take Down Columbus set their sights on ridding Stebbins' Columbus statue, commissioned in 1863 and one of her earliest works. Determined to prevent Stebbins and Columbus from being carried off into the night, a group of courageous New Yorkers stepped forward, demanding that Community Board 2 in Brooklyn Heights reject Take Down Columbus. Nearly two years later, I am proud to report that Emma Stebbins and her Columbus memorial in Columbus Park have prevailed, thanks to a coalition of activists and their appeal to drop the hate and seek the truth. As we begin 2023, we thank all who have supported the Columbus Heritage Coalition and its mission, as we say, to "Drop the hate. Seek the truth." We are proud of what we all have achieved together. The new year will bring new challenges, including a proposal in the New York State Legislature that abolishes Columbus Day and renames the holiday Indigenous Peoples' Day. Rest assured, we will continue to reach out, build bridges and protect our statues, holidays, and heritage. Editor's Note: Mr. Vivolo is the president of the Columbus Heritage Coalition. The organization's web site is <https://www.columbuseritagecoalition.org/leadership/> THANK YOU, ITALIANS

The Parliamentary Representative for Italians Living in North America Looks Forward to 2023

A Christmas & New Year's Message By Andrea Di Giuseppe First, I want to give you my thanks for 2022. You shared and followed my political activity and you are the reason for my change of life. The legislative session, now underway in Italy, seeks to solve the main problems of our country. The budget law was approved before Christmas. This is a fundamental measure for the economic planning of Italy. Some weeks ago, I felt it appropriate to present a bill to the Foreign Affairs and Budget committees. My proposal will amend article 17 of the law of February 5, 1992, number 91, re-opening the terms of reacquiring citizenship. This bill will now follow the amendment process. I am sure that it can see the light as a state law in a short time. The theme, which I consider central to my political activity, will be carried forward with other important legislative initiatives. The challenges that await us in the next year will not discourage us from following our fixed objectives. I have no intention of backing down from realizing the program

for which you have voted me (in), and which for me is the only possible compass to guide me in my parliamentary activity. From me, you will have only the facts and not empty promises. For me, it is a great honor to represent the fundamental political challenges that allow the various generations of Italians abroad to obtain the many rights they have been seeking for many years. With the new center-right government, these battles will finally be won, making us feel, notwithstanding the ocean that divides us, even more proud of being Italian. I also want to thank my family, who, notwithstanding the sacrifices related to the distances due to my parliamentary commitments, continue to support me. I thank my staff who, with professionalism and dedication, allows me to achieve the predefined political goals. Thanking you for your trust and support, I send to you, to your families and to all my staff a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

With affection,

Andrea Editorâ€™s Note: Mr. Di Giuseppe is a member of the Brothers of Italy party and represents Italian citizens who live in North America in Chamber of Deputies, lower house of Italyâ€™s parliament. His letter was written in Italian and translated to English by Dr. Christopher Binetti. Mr. Di Giuseppeâ€™s web site is [https://andreadigiuseppe.com/en/Primo Exclusive](https://andreadigiuseppe.com/en/Primo-Exclusive), 12-19-22

Lâ€™ONOREVOLE ANDREA DI GIUSEPPE

- New Parliament Member Represents Italian Citizens in North America
- Member of the Fratelli dâ€™Italia

He and his party were the restorers of Italian Democracy By Christopher Binetti, Ph.D. I was honored to interview, last week, Lâ€™Onorevole (The Honorable) Andrea di Giuseppe, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Italyâ€™s parliament. Mr. di Giuseppe currently represents Italian citizens who live in North and Central America. He is a member of the Fratelli dâ€™Italia (Brothers of Italy), now led by Giorgia Meloni, Italyâ€™s current and first female prime minister. The interview was conducted primarily in English, but my ten main questions were in Italian. I was very excited to speak with an Italian parliamentarian, as being a dual citizen is one of my life goals. I was not disappointed.

The international media may unfairly brand members of Fratelli d' Italia as bigots, racists, misogynists, Fascists and far-right. I believe, after talking to Mr. di Giuseppe for almost an hour, that none of these labels are accurate. I say this as a left liberal. While I found Mr. di Giuseppe to be very conservative, I did not see him as a threat to liberal democracy, defined as majority rule with minority rights. He persuaded me that his party seeks neither a radical agenda for Italy, nor for the European Union nor NATO.

Mr. di Giuseppe referred to the European Union as "Europe" multiple times in the interview, without any trace of irony or bitterness. His best line was "more Europe in Italy and more Italy in Europe." He made clear his opposition to European federalism, defined specifically as the European Union being able to undermine Italian sovereignty. Unlike me, he does not oppose a European army. He wants to look at the details and mechanisms to ensure any military structure serves Italy's best interests and not just those of France and Germany. Mr. di Giuseppe is less concerned about qualified-majority voting than I am. He made clear the preservation of Italian sovereignty must underline all negotiations on the expansion of current power within the European Union. The Eurozone, he argued, was ultimately good for Italy, as long as small and medium-sized businesses, which, he claims, makes up 85 percent of his country's total, were protected. The ability of Italy to control, to some extent, her own economy, while participating fully in the "European" economy is very important to him. Mr. di Giuseppe's openness to the European Union was unexpected. Frankly, I think that he was more open to it than I am, and I am a leftist. However, despite our differences, I grew quickly to like and respect him. He is reasonable, pragmatic and, although very conservative, he did not strike me as radical or reactionary in any way. I was a little surprised by this, to be honest. Mr. di Giuseppe said point-blank that he and his party will not change the abortion or LGBT civil rights laws. He made clear that racism in immigration policy had no place in Italy. I am skeptical that Matteo Salvini, current deputy prime minister and leader of Lega Nord, will obey such a doctrine. Nevertheless, I remain impressed at how moderate on immigration are the Fratelli. Mr. di Giuseppe acknowledged that unauthorized entry by foreigners in unlimited numbers, plus a lack of support from the European Union for Italy and Greece, were the only major issues on immigration for his party; not race, religion or culture. In terms of foreign policy, Mr. di Giuseppe endorses military aid to Ukraine, and, along with Prime Minister Meloni, remains extremely supportive of NATO. The sole radical element of L'Onorevole di Giuseppe and Prime Minister Meloni is a fierce commitment to democracy. This is my observation. For instance, Mr. di Giuseppe supported my interpretation of liberal democracy. I simply asked if democracy was "majority rule with minority rights," and he supported the definition wholeheartedly, right away. He does not like to get stuck on words; but, rather, he cares deeply about concepts. Mr. di Giuseppe blames the coronavirus crisis and subsequent disarray in Italy for the rise of Giuseppe Conte and Mario Draghi to absolute power

status. "The professors," as he referred to both former prime ministers, were not dictators, and Italy was not a dictatorship, he said. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that democracy disappeared for a while in his country. I agree with Mr. di Giuseppe that Fratelli d'Italia restored democracy to Italy. That is the fundamental truth here; that conservatives, with whom I fervently disagree on many things, were more supportive of my core liberal democratic values than the Democratic Party of Italy or the center-left parties. It is a sobering thought. Mr. di Giuseppe supports Italian federalism. He insists regions must not lose their power no matter the claims of any strong willed prime minister. This actually happened under Prime Ministers Conte and Draghi during the coronavirus crisis. Mr. di Giuseppe argues that the word "federalism" is less important than the concept. Many in Southern Italy may associate federalism with the bad old days of Lega Nord's racism towards them. As I wrote before, "Onorevole di Giuseppe does not obsess over words, but cares about concepts. According to Mr. di Giuseppe, a federal Italy will allow regions true sovereignty and autonomy in local matters, while retaining power to the national government on national matters. This works with his nuanced approach toward the European Union. The lawmaker wants certain powers to be delegated by Italy to the European Union. Think not a three-tiered federation, but, rather, a confederal or hybrid approach in the Italian-European Union direction and a federal approach in the national-regional direction within Italy. He wants Italian sovereignty to show itself internally in two levels and externally on a third level. All of this adds up to a strong vision for Italy, NATO and the European Union, even if I do not personally agree with some proposals. Fratelli's platform, as offered by Mr. di Giuseppe, will seek to make Italian conservatism more modern. These are not the ideas of reactionaries, whether one disagrees with them or not. These are the ideas of the restorers of democracy in Italy, like it or not. Editor's Note: Dr. Christopher Binetti is a Political Commentator and Op-Ed writer for PRIMO, a political scientist and an Italian American civil rights activist. He can be reached at 732-549-2635 and cbinetti@terpmail.umd.edu.

Give It Up, Mr. Mayor!

BOCHETTO - 2

JIM KENNEY - 0

- Appeals Court Rules In Favor of The Italians
- Columbus Monument to Stay in Philadelphia

The plywood box to imprison the statue is to to be torn down. Now! By Truby Chiaviello Second time is a charm! Not, so, if you're Mayor Jim Kenney. He lost again. On appeal. The Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania issued their ruling today in favor of the Italians: The Christopher Columbus Monument, inside Marconi Plaza, Philadelphia, stays. It's another victory for George Bochetto. The attorney extraordinaire, former candidate for the U.S. Senate, won at the initial trial phase in August, 2021. Judge Paula Patrick, of First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Civil Trial Division, ruled, then, that the Columbus statue at Marconi Plaza, as sculpted by Emanuele Caroni, was to be kept where it has been in Philadelphia since 1876. Mayor Kenney's effort to take down the statue was not supported by law, ruled Judge Patrick. Instead of settling the matter, Mayor Kenney opted for a rematch. He boarded up the Columbus statue in a spiteful display; only for the Italians to one-up him. They painted the box in the colors of the Italian flag, red, white and green. The mayor appealed Judge Patrick's decision to the three-paneled Commonwealth Court. Arguments were heard from both sides in June. Now comes the appeals court decision: No ifs, ands or buts. The Christopher Columbus Monument is to remain in Marconi Plaza. The plywood box to imprison the statue is to to be torn down. Now! Mayor Kenney has wasted a lot of taxpayers' money with this petty, unnecessary fight. The cancel culture premise to wipe out Columbus' legacy in Philadelphia has been nullified. The basis for a villainous spin of Columbus by Howard Zinn, in his polemic rant titled, "A Peoples History of the United States," has been proven false and libelous. The Italian American community in Philadelphia will not to be intimidated by the woke mob. They will not sacrifice their worthy hero, Columbus, for the sake of political correctness. They are right to retain attorney Bochetto and his outstanding legal team, most notably, Matt Minsky, to advocate effectively, backed by sound precedent. Now, what will Mayor Kenney do? Will he demand a rematch to the rematch he lost? He can appeal this decision to the State Supreme Court," says Joe Mirarchi, a loyal son of Philadelphia and petitioner in the case. "But it is not likely to be successful." Attention Philadelphians: The time has come to demand your mayor give up this charade. There are more important matters at hand; instead of fighting a losing case to divide the city. Crime is out of control. Living standards have plummeted in the City of Brotherly Love. Residents want to regain what they lost in Covid-19 lockdowns. Now is the time to move forward with sound city management. The case against Columbus is nothing more than an effort by Mayor Kenney to deflect attention away from his failure to alleviate social problems to plague the city. Philadelphia deserves better. Any appeal is frivolous. Move on. Let it go. Give it up, Mr. Mayor!

Editor's Note: Marconi Plaza is located in Philadelphia at 2800 South Broad Street. To learn more about George Bochetto and his legal work, please log on to www.bochettoandlentz.com. To learn more about ongoing activities by the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, please log on to www.copomiao.org FORGET IT GALICIA, COLUMBUS WAS ITALIAN

An Expert on Columbus Blasts The Latest Attempt to Deny Columbus' Ethnicity

- Recap: The 500-year-old body of a Spanish nobleman was exhumed in November, 2022, for purposes of DNA comparison with biological relics of Columbus. The project is sponsored by the Galician Columbus Association, an organization in Northwest Spain that seeks to prove Columbus was Spanish, not Italian. By Rafael Ortiz Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy. Anyone who says otherwise is not a historian but a conspiracy theorist. There is NOT one single primary source that says Columbus was NOT from there. All primary sources, including Columbus himself, claim he was from Italy. Here is what the primary sources say: 1. Andrés Bernaldez (1450 - 1513) said, "There was a man of Genoa" that was called Christopher Columbus. ("Obo un hombre de Génova" que llamaban Christoval de Colon" "Historia de los Reyes Católicos," by Andrés Bernaldez, Tomo I, Cap. CXVIII, p. 269. Translation from Archaic Spanish to English by author, Ortiz.) The Archbishop of Seville, Bernaldez was a historian, not to mention, also, a good friend of Columbus. The explorer was a guest at Bernaldez's house on several occasions. 2. Fray Bartolomé de las Casas (1484 - 1566) described Columbus, "the illustrious Genoese Christopher Columbus" "History of the Indies," by Las Casas, Book One, Ch. 3, p. 15. Las Casas was a friar, priest, bishop and historian who personally knew Columbus. He testified Columbus had a foreign accent. 3. Peter Martyr d'Anghiera (1457 - 1526) wrote that, "A certain Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, proposed to the Catholic King and Queen, Ferdinand and Isabella, to discover the islands which touch the Indies, by sailing from the western extremity of this country." "De Orbe Novo," by Peter Martyr, The First Decade, Book I, p. 57. Martyr was a historian, scholar and chaplain in the court of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel. A friend of Columbus, he was also Italian. Martyr was born in Arona, Piedmont, almost 120 miles from Genoa. If anyone knew Columbus was not Italian, it was him. 4. Christopher Columbus, himself, said he was born in Genoa, Italy. In a letter he wrote in 1498 to secure his eldest son's rights of primogeniture (institución de mayorazgo), he said, "I was born in Genoa [and] I came to serve you [the king and queen] here in Castile." ("... que siendo yo nacido en Génova les vine a servir aquí en Castilla." "Relaciones y Cartas de Cristóbal Colón," p. 248) In the same letter, Columbus requested his heir to always help someone of "our lineage" in the "city of Genoa" because "from there I came and from there I was born." ("... que tenga y sostenga siempre en la ciudad de Génova una persona de nuestro linaje que tenga allí casa y mujer, y le ordene renta con que pueda vivir honestamente, como persona tan llegada a nuestro linaje, y haga pie y raiz en la dicha Ciudad, como natural della, porque podrá haber de la dicha Ciudad ayuda a favor en las cosas del menester suyo, pues della salió y en ella nació." "Relaciones y Cartas de Cristóbal Colón," p. 254) Part of the above quote was used in the meme at the top of this article. The ellipsis was made to fit the sentence in the meme. The full letter is available here (in Spanish):

https://www.cervantesvirtual.com/obra-visor/relaciones-y-cartas-de-cristobal-colon--0/html/010bc306-82b2-11df-acc7-002185ce6064_275.html 5. Amerigo Vespucci (1451 - 1512), from whom America's name is derived, was another Italian explorer who had met Columbus. Vespucci himself delivered a letter Columbus wrote to his eldest son, Diego, in 1505. Like Martyr, Vespucci would have known for sure if Columbus was Italian or not. 6. Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo (1478 - 1557) wrote: "Christopher Columbus, according to what I know from people of his nation, was a natural of the province of Liguria, which is in Italy, where Genoa is." ("Chripstbal Colom, segun yo he sabido de hombres de su nascion, fue natural dela provincia de Liguria, que es en Italia, en la qual cae la cibdad setoria de Gnova." "Historia General y Natural," by Oviedo, Lib. II, Cap. II, p. 12. (Translation from Archaic Spanish to English made by author Ortiz)

At the time, Genoa was a republic. Today, Genoa is the capital of Liguria, Italy. Oviedo was a Spanish historian who served in the king and queen's court during the times of Columbus's discoveries. If Columbus was a Spaniard, then how come neither his Spanish friends nor Spanish historians knew about it? Were they that foolish? Columbus's Italian friends knew he was Italian. Were they duped? Or, were they just plain dumb? 7. Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas (1549 - 1625 or 26) wrote: "Don Christopher Colombo, which for easier pronounciation was called 'Coln', born in the city of Genoa." ("D. Chriftoval Colombo,  quien por mas comoda pronounciacion, dixeron Coln, nacido en la Ciudad de Genova." "Historia General," by Herrera, Dcada I, Lib. I, Cap. VII, p. 11. Translation from Archaic Spanish to English made by author Ortiz) Though Herrera was not alive during the times of Columbus, his historical work is considered one of the best. Italian historian, Paolo Emilio Taviani, brings more evidence of Columbus being born in Genoa in his book, "The Grand Design." He shares the testimonies of several ambassadors from this period: 1. Pedro de Ayala was the Spanish Ambassador to the English court. In 1498, he wrote to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella concerning John Cabot, (who was Italian as well) and his discoveries. In the same letter, Ayala affirmed Columbus's Genoese birth. 2. Nicolo Oderico was ambassador of the Republic of Genoa to Spain. In a letter on April, 1501, he praised Spain for their discoveries under Columbus's leadership by saying, "our fellow citizen, illustrious cosmographer and stedfast leader." 3. Angelo Trevisan was chancellor and secretary to Domenico Pisano, the Venetian Republic's envoy to Spain. Trevisan wrote to Domenico Malipiero, a member of Venice's Council of Pregadi, "I have succeeded in becoming a great friend of Columbus... Christoforo Colombi, Genoese, a tall, well-built man, ruddy, of great creative talent, and with a long face." 4. Gaspar Contarini was Venice's ambassador to Spain and Portugal. In November, 1525, as he was reporting to the Senate of the Venetian Republic on the whereabouts of Hispaniola, he spoke of Admiral Diego Columbus, who was Columbus's son. He said, "This Admiral is son of the Genoese Columbus and has great powers, granted to his father." All of the above is in Chapter II of

Taviani's book. In Chapter III, Taviani brings more evidence of Columbus's Genoese origins, where he, his father, grandfather and other family members are mentioned in Genoan contracts, documents, deeds of sale and the like. Here are a few examples: A 1429 contract mentions Columbus's grandfather, Giovanni. Another document indicates he was dead by 1444. Columbus's father, Domenico, is mentioned as a master weaver in 1447. Records indicate Domenico was appointed as a warder of Porta dell'Oliviola, in Genoa. At some point, Domenico moved, as he is mentioned as working in Savona in 1470, but six months later he moved back to Genoa with Columbus. Both names, Domenico and Columbus, are mentioned in a contract. Another document shows Domenico selling his house in Genoa in 1473. In another, Domenico was a witness to a notarial deed drawn up in Genoa on 30 September 1494, etc. Taviani reminds the reader that subsequent historians and geographers, who affirmed Columbus was a Genoan, came from Spain, Portugal, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France and Turkey. The house Columbus grew up in as a child is now a museum in Genoa, Italy. I'm not writing any of this because of my heritage since I'm not an Italian American. I'm writing all this because facts are facts, and truth still matters. Editor's Note: Rafael Ortiz has written a number of informative books on Christopher Columbus, available at the following web site:
<http://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/p/shop-now.html> 11-25-22

GIVE HIM A STAMP

Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp Sought for Father Vincent R. Capodanno, Jr.,

- The Italian American Alliance Leads The Effort

- A Maryknoll Missionary and Navy Chaplain

- A Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Who Served with the U.S. Marines in Vietnam By Truby Chiaviello We have stamps for all kinds of Americans. Celebrities. Politicians. Inventors. Even cartoon characters. How about heroes? We have them, also. Over the years, the U.S. Postal Service has issued a number of stamps depicting a unique class of American warriors. John Basilone immediately comes to mind. He was a World War II Marine gunnery sergeant commemorated on a U.S. stamp in 2005. Basilone was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor as were others to be adorned on stamps such as Navy Lieutenant Commander John McCloy and Marine Sergeant Daniel Daly. The time has come, now, for Father Vincent R. Capodanno, Jr. to get his stamp. The Italian American Alliance has taken up a special cause for all Italian Americans to support. On November 16th, the Newton, Massachusetts based organization initiated a campaign to

persuade the U.S. Postal Service to bestow a stamp for Father Capodanno. "We, as leaders of some of the leading Italian organizations ask the Congress of the United States to recognize Navy Chaplain Lieutenant Fr. Vincent Capodanno with a Memorial United States Stamp. Like many Italian Americans, he served his country in the manner in which he was called, and he did it well," so reads part of the formal request as conveyed by Tommy Damigella, chairman of the strategic planning committee of the Italian American Alliance. Count this one of many commendable crusades continuously undertaken by the Italian American Alliance. The group made headline news earlier this year when they defeated proposed legislation in the Commonwealth to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. An active member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, the Italian American Alliance is a key frontline fighter in defense of our Italian American legacy in Massachusetts. Dominic Amara, Ph.D., chairman of the Italian American Alliance, considers a stamp to commemorate Father Capodanno, "a worthwhile endeavor in which ordinary Americans of every stripe can have a voice. We have no standing "committee" as such. Just a group of individuals and groups who are trying to highlight the life of a great American who exemplified the best of American, Italian American values." The effort for a Father Capodanno stamp was announced at a recent ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial in Newton. "Many individuals and organizations have already voiced their support of the initiative," says Dr. Amara. "Although the Italian American Alliance and the Pirandello Lyceum got the ball rolling, so-to-speak; since then many others have become equal participants. If you or your organization would like to participate please contact us." Since this is the first time the alliance has tried to win a stamp for an Italian American hero, "we sincerely solicit suggestions and hands-on assistance. This is very grass roots," says Dr. Amara. Colonel Vincent Basile, (RET), currently heads the effort on behalf of the alliance, "to recommend to the U.S. Postmaster General that a commemorative stamp be created to keep alive the memory of this outstanding Italian American who gave the last full measure of his life for God, family and country," says Dr. Amara. Father Capodanno remains one of the great heroes of the Vietnam War. Serving as a chaplain in the 1st Marine Division, 5th Marine Regiment's 3rd Battalion, he was there to witness heavy combat on September 4, 1967. Father Capodanno left his post to assist a Marine unit in the field, soon to be overrun by the enemy. His self-sacrifice encompassed rescuing comrades, caring for the wounded, bestowing rites and prayers for the seriously injured. He was hit by mortar fire but refused medical care. He gave up his breathing mask to one Marine pinned down in a trench when poison gas was unleashed by the enemy. That day of battle proved the last for Father Capodanno. He was killed by enemy fire when he tried to rescue a medic. Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, in 1969, Father Capodanno's name has since been attached to many landmarks inside and outside the military; most famous, perhaps, is the USS Capodanno, a navy frigate, commissioned in 1973. Born on Staten Island in February 13, 1929, Vincent Capodanno was the 10th and youngest child to an immigrant father from Gaeta, Italy, and an Italian American mother. As a young adult, he took night courses at Fordham

University while employed as an insurance clerk. He became a priest in 1958 after he entered the Maryknoll Missionary Seminary in Ossining, New York. Although a number of military men and women may have stamps to commemorate their service, Father Capodanno will, nonetheless, be a unique addition if approved by the postmaster general. "Only a handful of chaplains have earned the Medal of Honor," claims Mr. Damigella. "Navy Lt. Vincent Capodanno, whose bravery and selflessness were exemplified during the Vietnam War, is one of them." A stamp to commemorate Father Capodanno will not only highlight his courage under fire, but, underscore the important contributions made by priests, ministers and rabbis in service to the military. Mr. Damigella says, "Chaplains are not just religious advocates for service members. They're also relied upon for moral and spiritual well-being, with an ability to be calm in the most harrowing of circumstances." A Navy chaplain by definition, Father Capodanno saw himself a full-fledged Marine. "He earned the nickname 'Grunt Padre' for living, eating and sleeping in the same conditions as the Marines with whom he served," says Mr. Damigella. "In the community where they were stationed, he organized outreach programs, started libraries and gathered and distributed gifts for the local people. He spent hours reassuring the weary, consoling the grieving and listening to confessions." Father Capodanno requested, and was given, a six month extension when the original period of his service ended. He had two months remaining in Vietnam when battle ensued to take his life. Editor's Note: If your organization wants to support the effort underway by the Italian American Alliance to bestow a stamp for Vincent R. Capodanno, Jr., please contact Dominic Amara, Ph.D., at domamara@aol.com and/or Virginia Gardner at virginiagardner@aol.com. THE GALL OF GALICIA

Grave Digging in the Spanish Region Seeks to Disprove Columbus Was Italian

- A Morbid Phase in Columbus Hate

- Testing Bones of a Corpse

- Has Any Ethnic Group Ever Had a Hero of Theirs Suffer Such Abuse? By Truby Chiaviello Italian Americans have had to endure the ignominies of their hero more than any other ethnic group in history. Christopher Columbus. His holiday erased. His statues and monuments toppled. His legacy falsely libeled. Now his ethnic identity is up for denial. The best and brightest of Europe cannot accept that Columbus was Italian. The latest phase turns to the morbid affair of grave digging. A small, select group of researchers in Spain have, for years, claimed Columbus is not Italian. Since evidence is lacking, the bones of a dead man are sought to verify their theory. The gravesite of a Spanish nobleman named Johan Marinho de Soutomaior was exhumed on November 21st in Galicia, an autonomous region in northwest Spain.

The endeavor is sponsored by the Galician Columbus Association, a group who believes the cousin of Columbus is a 15th century Spaniard buried in the grounds of the church of San Martiñ de Sobrã in Vilagarcã-a de Arousa. They plan to dissect the carcass for comparison with the available remains of Columbus and his sons. They hope to prove, once and for all, that Columbus was never from Italy, Genoa to be exact; instead, the explorer was from - right there - in one of their beloved hometowns in Galicia. Never mind the established fact of Columbus's birth in Genoa in 1451. Regional fervor gives way to nationalistic obsessions. A minority of people from different parts of Spain will claim the explorer came from their specific towns and provinces. Meanwhile, there are Portuguese who claim Columbus came from Portugal. There are Greeks who claim Columbus came from Greece. There are Poles who claim Columbus came from Poland. And so on. Back in 2004, a set of relics of Columbus with biological material were collected for purposes of DNA analysis. The technology was only recently available to cross examine and compare burial remains, according to Spanish scientists. The effort to disprove Columbus's ethnic identity by way of an obscure corpse reveals the zealotry of haters, deniers and doubters of the great Genoese explorer. Nothing is off bounds in the ongoing effort to besmirch and redefine the discoverer of the New World. Italian Americans are right to be outraged by this latest endeavor. One wonders how the Irish would feel if a body of an obscure Irishman was retrieved from inside a crypt in Dublin to debunk Saint Patrick was Irish. Or, how might the French feel if the grave of a historically insignificant figure was exhumed from the Pã're Lachaise cemetery in Paris to disprove Charles DeGaulle was French. Or, how might the Russians feel if a coffin containing the body of a little known aristocrat was unlatched in Moscow to try and prove Leo Tolstoy was not Russian. And so on. The defense of Columbus continues to challenge the patience of Italian Americans. The assaults are seemingly endless. Historical revision and political opportunism were once the sole domain of insults cast at our worthy hero. Now, the boundaries of mortuary science are to be trespassed. Sacred ground is to be unearthed. The dead are to be probed. The call of Columbus haters can be heard throughout the land: Non riposare mai in pace Colombo! ITALY'S LITTLE AFRICAS

African Communities Arise in Rome and Naples

- Most are from North Africa
- Most Come to Start Businesses

• The entrepreneurial dreams of immigrants convey a certain sense of rebirth in Italy. • By Laura Ghiandoni

There are about 1 million Africans who, after leaving their homeland, have chosen Italy as a nation to seek a better life. Discovering these communities means going beyond stereotypes. Wonderful stories of redemption will color an undergrowth of migration little known to most Italians. It is worth taking a look at the numbers released by Italy's Ministry of Labor and Social Policies. The Moroccan community holds first place for the number of inhabitants with 429,000 people, followed by the Egyptians, 141,000, the Tunisian and Nigerian communities, 100,000 and 98,000, respectively. The numbers, even if essential, tell of protagonists who embrace the momentum towards private initiative. The entrepreneurial dreams of immigrants convey a certain sense of rebirth in Italy. First up is the Moroccan community. Some 65,000 individual companies in the industrial and commercial sectors were started by immigrants from Morocco. Their businesses are found in all parts of Italy, especially in the regions of Piedmont, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna. The second position goes to the Egyptian community, where some 20,000 companies have been set up in the construction sector. The third place goes to the Tunisian community with 16,000 companies engaged in both industry and construction. The employment figures speak for themselves: There is a substantial difference between female and male employment, the former accounting for less than a third of the latter. Dr. Laila Maher stands out among the few Moroccan female entrepreneurs with a pharmacy she owns in the territory of Rome. "The role of Moroccan women in Italy is mostly still limited to childcare," says Dr. Maher, recipient of a medal from the president of the Italian Republic for becoming the first Arab woman in the business and social sector. "Integration?" she asks rhetorically. "It is something that works if both parties commit themselves. The question of the country's language is fundamental: Sometimes Moroccans do not speak Italian even after many years in the country." Dr. Maher, after the excellent results obtained with the pharmacy, is expanding her activity in other sectors such as imports, exports and alternative energies. "Before the 90s most people came for study or tourism," she says, "but after the 90s illiterate people arrived, who cannot write in Arabic and do not learn Italian. For these people, it is often impossible to understand what they can and cannot do in Italy." While active women such as Dr. Maher are an exception among Moroccan immigrants, the Nigerian community offers a completely different perspective. Some 16,000 companies in Italy are currently owned by immigrants from Nigeria. Women make up 40 percent of the managers employed in Nigerian businesses. Vivian, who has been in Naples for about 10 years, tells us what it means to arrive in Italy to open her business. "In Italy it is not easy to start your own restaurant," she explains. "There are an infinite number of laws and procedures to be respected, many security measures today are also linked to the Covid-19 epidemic." She resides in Naples' San Lorenzo district, a small African enclave of stalls and street traders. "Most Africans feel a lot of nostalgia for their country. They come to eat at my restaurant to savor the flavors of home. Here, we all feel like brothers and sisters. In Naples, there is the culture of hospitality. I like it." Although satisfied with her new life in Italy, she acknowledges a consistent obstacle. What is it? The language: "I

still have difficulty speaking Italian well; I can't express myself.â€• Korie Chidimma is a nurse who specializes in transplants and dialysis treatments in Rome. She currently serves as president of the association titled, â€œBreak Your Bread for the Less Privileged.â€• We meet her in the parish of Saint Ambrose after the celebration of Mass. "We volunteer at the Policlinico Umberto I to promote the health of those who do not speak Italian,â€• Korie says. "When Nigerian patients arrive in the emergency room or in the hospital ward, we help them understand medical prescriptions and book medical examinations.â€• Not mastering the Italian language will be a key reason for difficulty in becoming a well-integrated immigrant. According to the latest Ipsos survey, Italians perceive Nigerians as one of the largest groups of foreigners currently in the country. Yet, they remain a modest community to represent only two percent of the total population. According to another survey, carried out by MigrAction, a majority of Italians, in 2019, were convinced that all foreigners represented over 30 percent of Italyâ€™s population. In fact, the figure is just seven percent. Hence, newspapers and media tout a distortion of the Italian perception regarding the presence of foreigners. Italy joins other European countries to restrain from offering new policies to better manage the integration process. In addition, various disputes between Italy and several African countries has pushed for more enforcement measures to block migration. The internal dynamics of the world of immigration was introduced by Souad Sbai, president of the association of Moroccan women titled, Acmid. â€œThe immigrant in Italy has no opportunity to arrive legally,â€• she says. â€œEven those who want to visit Italy or stay for tourism purposes have difficulty to get a visa.â€• Also for this reason, some immigrants risk traveling by sea to land in Lampedusa, an island off the coast of Sicily. The reconfirmation of the controversial agreement between Italy and Libya, for the reduction of migration flows, was signed in July, 2021. This treaty guaranteed the Libyan Coast Guard to help stop illegal migration. The arrangement costs Italy some 10.5 million euro while migrants in Libya are locked up in prison-like "centersâ€• to suffer mass violence and torture. Other laws protecting migrants have been stationary in recent years. Starting with the Ius Solis, a rule to allow citizenship for those born in Italy with one parent who might be foreign and the other an Italian citizen. Even the "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,â€• signed in 1990 by 20 United Nations member countries, has never been signed by Italy. As European countries become increasingly reluctant to welcome foreigners. The resilience, strength and courage of migrants becomes increasingly evident to all. Such qualities lead to the growth of nations whose economic stability has been widely demonstrated. Stories that Old Europe tends to forget, while on other coasts they are much easier to be remembered. FOR THE REPUBLIC

The poem is offered on the occasion of the coming elections this November 8th.

By Gerardo Perrotta I am for the republic

But am not a republican

I am for democracy

But am not a democrat

I am for social justice

But am not a socialist

I am for the common good

But am not a communist

I am for liberty

But am not a libertarian

I am for tradition

But am not a conservative

I am for progress

But am not a progressive

I am for freedom

But am not a liberal

I am for a good party

But am not a partier

Whatever else I may need to be for

Let it be for content

And not discontent

For in the great hall of opposites

better to face the music face to face

than to tweet and shout. Editor's Note: Gerardo Perrotta is retired from the University of Cincinnati Department of Pathology where he worked in various capacities. He researches, writes and gives presentations on Italian American history in the Greater Cincinnati area, where he currently resides. SHE'S IN A NEW YORK - GLOOMY - STATE OF MIND

State Senator Jessica Ramos Seeks to Replace Columbus Day with a Depressing, Dispirited and Divisive Indigenous People's Day

- No flag waving, no floats, no parades

Indigenous People's Day is an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide.

- Sound like fun? By Truby Chiaviello Everyone loves a good parade. Except Jessica Ramos. The New York Democratic state senator, from the 13th district, in Queens, wants to put an end to good times on October 12th, or its equivalent date. She sponsors a bill, still in finance committee, to end Columbus Day as an officially recognized holiday in New York. In place of the Italian American celebration will be Indigenous People's Day. Not a holiday, mind you, in the traditional sense. Indigenous People's Day, as envisioned by Ramos and some others in the legislature, will reject festooned floats and marching bands up Fifth Avenue. Don't expect folks to trade in their mariner hats for feathered

headwear. Don't expect children with smiling faces. Indigenous People's Day is to be a day of commiseration. Angelo Vivolo, president of the Columbus Heritage Coalition, held nothing back in his email late September informing Italian Americans about the pending legislation. He wrote that the "flawed legislative language relies on an invidious, divisive construct that pits one group against others. The bill cynically ignores the many positive contributions of the Spanish and Latino cultures to the Western Hemisphere and the hundreds of millions of immigrants who followed Columbus in search of a better life." The effort in the state legislature to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day is not to be ignored, according to Mr. Vivolo. There is an identical bill in the state assembly to indicate passage in both chambers for a governor to sign or veto the bills. Senator Ramos is the sponsor of Senate Bill S2759. She seeks October 12th, or its equivalent, the second Monday in October, to be a 24-hour period of mass resentment at the history of the United States. Ingratitude, not gratitude, is the overriding theme. Instead of thanking Columbus for connecting the New World with the Old, people are urged to curse the day Europeans made their way across the Atlantic. Is the proposed legislation really that bad? Judge for yourself. The summary of the bill reads accordingly: Christopher Columbus did not discover America. Indigenous People's Day reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous people in the Americas, to organize against current injustices and to celebrate indigenous resistance. Sound like fun? Neve mind the lamentable spirit of the proposed legislation. Most disturbing is how violence can be interpreted from the last line: "to organize against current injustices and to celebrate indigenous resistance." In what way, senator, do you foresee such "resistance"? Do you want native Americans and their supporters to riot in New York on said day? Do you see October 12th as a day to vandalize and, perhaps, destroy landmarks that, in your mind, represent "colonialism"? Senator Ramos is, no doubt, angry at America. The reason remains mystifying. From all accounts, the United States has treated her well. She needs to be more grateful. She needs to ask herself, where else can a daughter of immigrants from South America rise to lawmaker status. By the age of 33?! Speaking about Ramos' background, what country did her parents come from? You guess it—the country named after Columbus—Colombia! All Italian Americans in New York are urged to contact their state representatives to request this bill be tossed onto the ash heap of failed legislation. That's Senate Bill S2759. A similarly worded bill, A10728, is also pending in the second legislative chamber, the state assembly. That bill is sponsored by Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, who represents District 51, Red Hook and parts of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn. The senate and assembly bills to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day are currently in finance committee. If passed in committee, the bill is to be scheduled for a vote in the Senate and Assembly. If the bill passes both chambers, then the governor has a choice to sign or veto the bill. Editor's Note: Please contact your New York State representatives to vote against changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. You can log on to the following

web sites to monitor the proposed bills. Senate bill: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s2759>

Assembly bill: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/a10728> Primo Interview

THE MOB GOES TO WASHINGTON

George Vercessi Weaves an Intriguing Story of Mafia High Crimes and Misdemeanors in "King of the Hill."

- "Nothing indicated a criminal presence in the Washington, D.C. area. Consequently, I felt it was a perfect setting to depict the mob's transition into "white collar" crime."

George Vercessi caught Potomac fever while on the faculty at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Subsequently stationed in the Pentagon, he went on to achieve the rank of captain in the Navy. Now residing in the middle Atlantic region, he puts his knowledge of Washington, D.C. to good use in his entertaining crime novel, "King of the Hill." Please tell us where your family came from in Italy.

Both sets of my grandparents were born in Italy. My father's parents were from San Damiano al Colle, in the Lombardy Province of Pavia. My mother's parents were from Chiaromonte, in the Basilicata Province of Potenza. I was born and raised in the Bronx. "King of the Hill" is a crime novel unlike most others. Not to give away too much of the plot, Julius Vittorio is the main character, a young lawyer who gets involved with organized crime while he networks his way in Washington, D.C. in the 1960s. What led you to write this novel? The idea for this historical novel came from a claim I heard in the early seventies while stationed in San Diego with the Navy. At the time, it was rumored that U.S. organized crime families wanted to install someone of high moral character in the White House. They believed such a person would direct his administration's efforts to noble social causes which, in turn, would allow organized crime greater opportunities to pursue its criminal activities. At first, the notion sounded fanciful but the more I read about the size and scope of the criminal empire and its infiltration in society, the more I believed I could craft a credible story. Most stories about organized crime and the Mafia are usually set in New York or Chicago. Although "King of the Hill" includes scenes in New York, much of the story takes place in Washington, D.C. Considering ours is the home to the FBI and Secret Service, one does not connect mafiosi to the nation's capital. How involved was organized crime in Washington, D.C.? During my research phase I read many books and news articles about organized crime activities leading up to, and during the period in which my story is set. Nothing indicated a criminal presence

in the Washington, D.C. area. Consequently, I felt it was a perfect setting to depict the mob's transition into "white collar" crime. Furthermore, I was able to use my knowledge of the region to add additional color to the story. What did you find most challenging and most rewarding in writing "King of the Hill"? One of the most challenging aspects of writing this story was developing a credible plot to explain how to skim a steady stream of millions of dollars from the federal government and launder it without detection. Doing so required submerging myself into computer operations and anti-theft measures. This, at a time when computers were being introduced to day-to-day business operations. Locating and interviewing government technocrats who could help me explain in nontechnical terms how to accomplish the skim was rewarding in itself.

What are your plans for the future? In response to positive feedback from readers, I am developing another novel in my NCIS Agent Jerzy Shore series. Editor's Note: Are you looking to read an entertaining and informative novel about organized crime? Look no further than George Vercessi's "King of the Hill," available at Amazon WRITING & DRAWING

Children's Author, Robert DiDonato, Give Us an Inside Look at Creating Stories for Children

"The challenge has been in trying to connect to these very young readers and to present the story on their level in an interesting way."

By way of Pittsburgh, Robert DiDonato pens two wonderful children's books, titled "The Evergreen Tree" and "Giraffe Has a Bug." Not just a writer, Mr. DiDonato is also a skilled illustrator. PRIMO interviewed him about his passion for conveying stories for children, of all ages. Please tell us where your family came from in Italy. My father, Aladino DiDonato, and his family came from the region of Abruzzo in the town of Manoppello. My mother, Rose Marie Ereditario, and her family came from the region of Campania in the city of San Salvatore Telesino. What led you to write (and illustrate) both children's stories? I have taught elementary school for over 30 years and would hear first-hand the situations that would arise in the classroom. "Giraffe Has a Bug" tells the tale of discussing problems in a calm manner, while "The Evergreen Tree" is about not being envious of others. Do you write first, or illustrate first? Tell us some of the process in creating your stories. I decide on the story to tell first, with an arc to capture the interest of a young reader. Then I usually storyboard the illustrations to get a feel for the characters and how they move on paper. The final step, after editing the text, is to draw all final copies while including specific color and movement to create an exciting narrative. All children's stories try to impart a bit of wisdom to

children. "The Evergreen Tree" and "Giraffe Has a Bug" does this in rhyme and colorful illustrations. Without giving away too much of the respective plots, please tell us what children can learn both stories? In "Giraffe Has a Bug" children can learn to 'talk out' their problems. In "The Evergreen Tree" children can learn to be proud of who they are and to not be jealous of others. What did you find most challenging and most rewarding in writing "The Evergreen Tree" and "Giraffe Has a Bug"? For both of these books, the challenge has been in trying to connect to these very young readers and to present the story on their level in an interesting way. The most rewarding experiences have always been watching their reactions of being read to and seeing the excitement in their faces. What are your plans for the future? Any other books in the making? My plans for the future is to find a publishing house that believes in my work as much as I do and to then market and distribute my work. I have two other books I am writing and illustrating and hope to have completed by the end of 2023. Editor's Note: You can purchase Robert DiDonato's "The Evergreen Tree" and "Giraffe Has a Bug" at Amazon.com FOR THE LOVE OF LUPA

Cincinnati Residents Optimistically Embrace The Effort to Replace The Stolen Statue

- A Newly Made Bronze Sculpture of The Capitoline Wolf Could Be Installed as Soon as February, 2023

- No eyewitnesses? By Truby Chiaviello The people of Cincinnati love their Lupa. That's one way to interpret the latest developments in the replacement of the stolen statue. The bronze replica of the she-wolf of legend, who nurtured Romulus and Remus, was detached and abducted from Eden Park in Cincinnati in the dead of night on June 17th. What was left was a pedestal to display the sudden abandonment of the suckling founders of Rome. A new animal statue is sought by a partners in the cause, Cincinnati Parks Foundation and a local lodge of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy. "Capitoline Wolf - Returning a Classic to Eden Park" is the title of a web page to gain donations. The Capitoline Wolf, along with "educational signage, is to come back to Twin Lakes at Eden Park, where the statue has stood for nearly 100 years." Joe Mastruserio, president of the Sons of Italy Cincinnati Lodge 1191, reports, "\$30,000 of the initial replacement budget of \$50,000 has already been received from two anonymous donors!" All Italian Americans can make a donation to help restore the Capitoline Wolf. The abduction of the bronze sculpture might have been disastrous if not for the discovery of a "plaster copy in Florence" verified as a near-exact replica of the Eden Park statue," claims Mr. Mastruserio. A foundry can now recreate the figure in Italy. "We will be sending the remaining base with the twins to Florence to have the wolf replaced. The remaining paws that were removed will be sent along with the base and melted into the new casting. The foundry in Florence will send us back a ready-statue for installation in its original location in Eden Park." A positive outlook is the only outcome in what remains an

unsolved crime. The thieves are still out there. Law enforcement is stumped: No arrests. No suspects. No leads. The Capitoline Wolf is not the type of contraband to be easily hidden. Surely, there must be an eyewitness somewhere in the city who saw the crooks transport the heavy bronze out of Eden Park. What was the motive? Greed, maybe. Melted bronze can sell on the black market; albeit not the easiest way to make a dollar considering the haphazard nature of the crime and felonious penalties. More likely, the culprits were moved by political considerations. The Capitoline Wolf was one of many statues created in Italy under orders of Benito Mussolini to celebrate the legacy of Ancient Rome. One could imagine a member of Antifa or some likeminded group hellbent to destroy the statue once a spurious connection is made to Fascism. Historical context is lost in a heated environment of radical politics. For the record, the statue was not a gift from Fascists. Rather, the Italian community in Cincinnati sought a means to show their appreciation to the land of opportunity. The statue was acquired from Italy at little or no cost to eventually be dedicated in 1932. Prevention of future crimes in and around the bronze sculpture is a key priority. "Security features such as lighting, cameras and alarms are being planned for the site and will be finalized prior to the installation," said Mr. Mastruserio. He informed members of Sons and Daughters of Italy via email that "we hope to have the statue ready by the end of February in time for the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy Cincinnati Lodge's 100th Anniversary celebration." Editor's Note: To read the latest on replacement efforts for the stolen Capitoline Wolf of Cincinnati and to donate to help the cause, please log on to <https://cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org/projects/the-capitoline-wolf/> THE HISTORY OF MY NAME

One's Identification Derives from a Host of Factors

- Many Italian families had to change their last names because they sounded "too ethnic".

By Alfonso Guerriero

When I was growing up, I never liked my name. It was always mispronounced. Anytime a teacher called attendance he/she/they always butchered my name. Every morning, I would slowly sink into my chair and brace for the inevitable; "Alfanzo Gurer" I mean, "Gua-ri-ero".

The awkwardness brought on by adults sounding out my name was usually followed by some hesitation, "How do you say your name?" No doubt, my forename and surname did not sound very American. I was not John Peterson, Peter Smith or George Washington. One day in elementary school, a classmate of mine called out, "Hey Al." Uncertain to who he

was addressing, I did not turn around. When he tapped me on the shoulder, I realized he was calling - me - Al. I immediately liked the moniker. It was quick and concise. My identification now arose from just two letters and one syllable, instead of the multisyllabic and very ethnic-sounding, Alfonso. Retrospectively, the acceptance of my new nickname was a way to deflect the unwanted attention, that I firmly believed, my birth name attracted. It was not until my mid-twenties, when I joined the American Society of Geolinguistics, that I began to realize: We all have beautiful names and we should be proud of their origins. In America (and most likely other parts of the world), first and last names that sound "too ethnic" will push a family away from their ancestral roots to choose a different name. Such decisions are made, in part, because of the assimilation process. This notion forced me to ponder the question: Did my name automatically make me Italian-American, or American (without the hyphen) Italian? The duality of cultures through my name was truly an awakening. I am my father's namesake. Hence, I am identified as Alfonso Junior (Jr.). The etymology of Alfonso is Germanic, brought over by Visigoth invaders to Spain after the fall of the Roman Empire. In German, Alfonso derives from hildis-funs (always ready) in English. In the 6th century, the Visigoths became the rulers of the Iberian Peninsula. The name became popular, pushing aside many of the current Latin names that were already utilized by the Romans. Popular names have influenced families for centuries. In this case, many Spanish nobles named their sons Alfonso. It was the name of several kings of Aragon (a region in Spain) from the 11th to the 15th centuries. During this period, the name Alfonso was brought over to Southern Italy.

The Hohenstaufen family from Germany ruled much of the territory below Rome in the 12th and 13th centuries. A daughter from the German family married a Spanish prince from Aragon consolidating the two noble clans. They reigned for more than 500 years in Southern Italy. An influencing figure in the region was King Alfonso V (1442-1458), nicknamed the Magnanimous. The monarch's popularity encouraged my paternal family to adopt his name for generations. My great-grandfather's first name was Alfonso. My father was the second son and was, thus, named after his maternal grandfather. He had several cousins named Alfonso and a female cousin named Alfonsina. My paternal uncle named his last son, Alfonso, and, years later, my brother named his first-born, Alfonso. Alfonso is not only popular in my family, but, today, is a popular first name and surname in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and parts of Latin America. A number of variants have arisen to include: Alfonzo, Alonzo, Alfonsi, Alfonseca, D'Alfonzo, Fonzo, Fonsato, Fonsatti and many more. The name's long and distinguished history even applies to food and wine. There are olives called Alfonso. In Spain, as well as in Italy, there is a delicious red wine called Principe Alfonso. Although the last King of Spain, Alfonso XIII, abdicated in 1931, his legacy lives on with a cocktail named, The Alfonso. My last name is equally interesting. Many think it is Spanish (Guerrero) or Portuguese, but it is spelled with an i--- Guerriero. In Italian, guerriero, (or in Spanish) means "warrior," as derived from guerra, "war" in Latin. There are several

ways how European last names developed. Prior to the Modern Age, some English surnames derived from the father's trade like Miller, Baker or Carpenter. My last name may have originated from this category since guerriero was a hired soldier during Ancient Rome. His identification may have begun as a nickname "to describe a personality trait of a belligerent (argumentative) person. Surnames may have also arisen from patronymic descriptions. The father's Christian name applied to his offspring, such as Peterson, the son of Peter, or Fitzgerald, the son of Gerald. This is like Spanish last names that end in ez, which means the "son of." Hence, Gonzalez was the son of Gonzalo, Ramirez, the son of Ramiro, and so forth. Place can be another factor. For example, Leonardo da Vinci, the famous Renaissance painter, really means Leonardo from the town of Vinci. Italian locative surnames include Tarantino, Romano and Abruzzo. This method of naming should not be confused with surnames derived from monikers. English surnames that began as nicknames are Armstrong, Goodfellow, Lowell and Darling. As the European population expanded, last names became just as important for common folk as for aristocracy. The subject of names continues to fascinate me with a popular story about my paternal grandfather. He was a captured soldier in World War II, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Every morning, roll was called to make sure everyone was accounted for in the prison barracks. His name was Liberato Guerriero, translated to mean, liberated warrior or soldier. One day, the officer did his usual rounds. He called out my grandfather, who immediately stood at attention and said, "Present!" The officer followed by saying, in a sardonic tone, "We should all be Guerriero, Liberato," liberated soldiers. The jailer's remark is a valuable reminder of the profound meaning behind our names. Never mind the mispronunciation that triggers a level of discomfort in ourselves especially when we are young. We should all embrace our names. Editor's Note: Alphonso Guerriero is a professor at Baruch College in New York. He has written an outstanding book about the history of Italian monikers and nicknames, titled, "From Fra Angelico to Frankie One Eye." The book can be purchased at www.lulu.com. Pictured is the author, who shares his name with King Alfonso V, a type of olive and wine. RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

Artemisia Gentileschi's "Allegory of Inclination" Descends from Casa Buonarroti Ceiling in Florence

- In-progress restoration on public view until April 2023 By Linda Falcone Florence's home-museum dedicated to the memory of Michelangelo embarks on the restoration of Artemisia Gentileschi's "Allegory of Inclination" (1616), one of the first paintings the artist created during her seven-year sojourn in Florence. From now until April 2023, the painting will be restored in public view, at the Casa Buonarroti Museum, following its removal from the gallery ceiling. Artemisia's allegorical figure depicting "the inclination to produce art" was originally painted nude, only to be censored, in the 1680s, with the addition of drapery and veils. This conservation project, dubbed "Artemisia Unveiled," and co-funded by British not-for-profit Calliope Arts and British philanthropist Christian

Levett, will use modern diagnostic and imaging technologies, to discover what the painting looked like, as Artemisia created it. The project includes an exhibition at Casa Buonarroti, from September 2023 to January 2024, spotlighting the project's findings, for the refurbishment of select areas of the museum, including a full re-design of the Galleria's lighting, so that Artemisia's painting – part of a cycle celebrating the glories of Michelangelo that includes paintings by 14 other up-and-coming Tuscan artists of her time – will be revealed in their full splendour.

International Support for Casa Buonarroti

“To see Artemisia's painting come down from the ceiling was very emotional, because none of us had ever seen a painting descend from there before,” says Casa Buonarroti Foundation president Cristina Acidini, “Most likely, it has never been taken down, since it was painted in 1616. So, this is the first step of a great adventure, for which we are extremely grateful to our generous donors.” “Artemisia Unveiled” was created in conjunction with Casa Buonarroti Museum and Foundation, as supported by Calliope Arts, a not-for-profit organization based in Florence and London. Founded in 2021, it promotes public knowledge and appreciation of art, literature and social history from a female perspective, through restorations, exhibitions, education and a magazine and YouTube broadcast “Restoration Conversations.” The project's major donors are Calliope Arts co-founders, British/Canadian philanthropists and retired lawyers Margie MacKinnon and Wayne McArdle, and British art collector Christian Levett, founder of the Mougins Museum of Classical Art in France and the Levett Collection home-gallery in Florence, featuring artworks by major female Abstract Expressionists.

Artemisia uncensored

“Artemisia Gentileschi lived in a world where women were excluded from the study of anatomy – a gender-based limitation that continued until the early 1900s. Her painting of the nude figure representing “Inclination” not only proved she was up to the challenge of anatomical drawing and painting – but that, as a woman, she could very skillfully put the female body at the centre of the canvas,” says donor, Margie MacKinnon. The drapery and veil were added in the 1680s by Tuscan artist Baldassare Franceschini, known as Il Volteranno, by order of Lionardo Buonarroti who lived in the palazzo and wanted to protect the decorum and modesty of his wife and children. “This project aims to restore Artemisia's first Florentine painting and investigate what lies beneath Volterrano's later additions,” McArdle adds. “What is the condition of the original paint and canvas? What will we learn about Artemisia unveiled? These are the project's guiding questions, and we are excited to support and follow the

conservation process, in hopes of finding the answers.â€•

In-progress at the Museum

From October 2022 to April 2023, during museum opening hours, the art-loving public will have the opportunity to see the "Allegory of Inclination" restoration in progress, thanks to a worksite set up in Casa Buonarroti's Model Room. The conservator will be available to answer questions from the public, on Fridays. This home-museum, brainchild of Artemisia's patron Michelangelo the Younger, was a venue Artemisia herself frequented during her stint as a court painter in Florence, hobnobbing with her patron " whom she called "godfather" " and renowned members of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno, Europe's first drawing academy, of which Artemisia became a member in 1616. Her fellow members include Galileo, with whom the artist corresponded, even after his exile. The compass her allegorical figure is holding is thought to be a nod to the renowned scientist and his controversial theories. As a sidebar, just steps from the in-progress restoration, visitors will find the museum's Marble room, newly restored by Friends of Florence and Michelangelo's Madonna della Scala and Battle of the Centaurs, from whose central figure Artemisia sought inspiration for the positioning of her allegorical figure.

Detective work

"Through working photographs, diagnostic imaging and analysis, we will be able to determine the exact technique Artemisia used, correctly map the work's condition, and monitor our treatment plan for the painting," says US Florence-based conservator Elizabeth Wicks, who heads the project's state-of-the-art team comprising expert technicians and restoration scientists, under the supervision of Casa Buonarroti Director Alessandro Cecchi and Jennifer Celani, official for the Archaeological Superintendence for the Fine Arts and Landscape for the metropolitan city of Florence. "Due to the historic nature of the repaints, it is not possible to remove them from the surface, but the scope of our diagnostics will facilitate the creation of a virtual image of the original that lies beneath the surface of the painting, as we see it today," Wicks explains. "Next week, we start our virtual journey "beneath the veil" under diffuse and raking light sources, followed by UV and infrared research. Hypercolormetric Multispectral Imaging and examination by digital microscope will then help us learn as much as possible about the condition of the original painting technique and the later repaints. X-ray and high-resolution reflectography and other analytical techniques will follow.â€•

Refurbishment and TLC for Casa Buonarroti

“We’d like to look at this project as the start of something bigger,” says project co-donor Christian Levett. Beyond the painting’s restoration, the project includes a refurbishment of the museum entrance, the renewal of its signage, and the redesign of the Gallery room’s lighting. This museum has an amazing story to tell, and we want to shed more light on it—literally. This “tender-loving-care” for the gallery will be completed by the end of 2023, and enhance the visitor experience, particularly of the seventeenth-century wing, a treasure trove designed by Michelangelo the Younger over the course of 30 years, whose genius conceived the first-ever architectural and artistic tribute to an artist, his great uncle, “Michelangelo the Divine”.

“A” is the beginning

“The conservation and research project surrounding Artemisia’s “Inclination” is the start of a wider project that will transform into a future exhibition at Casa Buonarroti, scheduled to run from September 2023 to January 2024,” says museum director Alessandro Cecchi. “The show will spotlight conservation findings and explore the context surrounding the painting’s creation, including the significance of her Florentine debut and her key relationships with Grand Duke Cosimo de’ Medici and the city’s cultural milieu.” Its English language exhibition catalogue (The Florentine Press, 2023) will be flanked by the Italian language publication “Buonarrotiana” series (2023 edition) featuring specialist studies on Artemisia and her time, followed by a lecture series with major scholars in response to the show.

Who’s involved?

The project brings together restoration scientists, technicians, photographers and filmmakers to compile, analyse, document and share findings. The project’s players include: Italy’s National Research Council (CNR) and National Institute for Optics (NIO), Teobaldo Pasquali for X-ray and radiographs, Ottaviano Caruso for diagnostic images; Massimo Chimenti of Culturanuova s.r.l. for digital image creation; Olga Makarova for video and reportage photography. Editor’s Note: The article was submitted by The Florentine and Restoration Conversations. Their web sites are <https://www.calliopearts.org/> and <https://www.theflorentine.net>

FRANCESCO PONTORIERO WINS GARIBALDI AWARD

Son of Calabrian Immigrants Praises The Importance of Family Traditions

His essay was a superb exposition of Italian traditions and family values remarkably interwoven within themes of personal identity and contributions to America. The Silvio Laccetti Foundation has announced Francesco Pontoriero of Warren, New Jersey as this year's winner of their prestigious Garibaldi Award. Finalists were chosen from among 14 North Jersey high schools whose students excel in Italian Studies and who have advanced the Italian American legacy in their communities. Francesco is a junior honors student at The Delbarton School in Morristown, New Jersey. For years, Francesco has been active in school and community theater groups. He currently has the lead in Delbarton's version of Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost."

Francesco's essay was a superb exposition of how Italian traditions and family values are remarkably interwoven within themes of personal identity and contributions to America. It has been published in several Italian American publications More Than Maiale

By Francesco Pontoriero It's 7:00 a.m. on a Saturday. I groan at the sound of my alarm clock as I suddenly remember why the heck I woke up so early. It is "nduja weekend. I eat a Stella D'Oro cookie, drink a cappuccino and depart on the half hour pilgrimage down Route 78 to the house of Vincenza Pontoriero, my nonna. The weather is cold and overcast. I feel winter's aggressive breeze as I stroll through the Ironbound. I step along the dirty, tobacco-filled sidewalks to the only house with a tile roof on Garden Street: number 96. I open the black, rusty gate to walk up bluestone steps. I ring the old, deteriorated bell. The door opens. Bello mio! Come ti senti? Sei tanto grande! I'm flooded with the aggressiveness and excitement of an old, Italian woman who I know like the palm of my hand. Facciamo la "nduja oggi! It is about eight in the morning when I enter my nonna's basement in Newark. Her kitchen is dilapidated. An old table in the middle of the room is accompanied with dusty, lightly stained cabinetry to contain an encyclopedia's worth of pictures inside drawers. A massive pig lays on the table wrapped in a large translucent bag. My nonna opens it while holding a footlong knife. She begins to butcher the animal: piece by piece, cutlet by cutlet. This goes on for hours until there is no longer a pig, but mounds of pink pork and white intestines; not one piece to go to waste. My nonna brings out the grinder. The machine is turned on for me to hand her pink filets. She throws the large lumps of meat into the steel contraption. The grinder groans on to transform the carcass into a massive pile of ground pork. At this point you may be wondering: what is this "nduja? "Nduja (pronounced an-doo-sha) is a spreadable sausage that originates from my family's village of Spilinga in Calabria. Once considered an underground and underrated delicacy, the cured meat has become popular in the United States in

recent years. What you may find sold in supermarkets is far less authentic than what my family has made since the time we emigrated from Italy in 1971. A second day of labor is necessary in the creation of â€˜nduja. We fill the sausage liner (the pigâ€™s intestines) with the ground meat, before tying ends with withered string. Tubes of meat are hung inside a smokehouse in my nonnaâ€™s backyard. A few weeks must pass for the curing process inside a dark and cold chamber of blackened walls, the remnants of newspapers, cardboard and pork bits on the floor. I grab a piece of â€˜nduja to place in the smokehouse, strategically based on its length and girth. Longer in the corners, shorter in the middle, since the shorter ones are further from the fire, my godfather once told me. I put the â€˜nduja on a two-by-four slat to hang. The tube suddenly swings. POOMPH! The two pound piece of raw â€˜nduja falls down from the ceiling to hit me in the face with its foul odor and cold, mushy texture. My uncle comes quickly to my aid only to laugh hysterically at my being slapped by sausage. Throughout the â€˜nduja process every year, 80â€™s Italian music blares into worn speakers while my uncles make vulgar jokes about each other, their childhoods and society. Few people understand why this tradition holds such great value for my family. Most just take it at face value: your family makes sausage out of a pig for fun every year. What they donâ€™t realize is that although the process may come off as gross, the work unites us with pride in ourselves, our origins and each other. Whether your sister is working the press or your uncle is pretending to be productive while watching a soccer game, a family connects through work. Although making â€˜nduja takes hours out of a weekend I could be spending with my friends, I make lifelong memories with my family.

Making â€˜nduja reminds me of the rolling hills of western Calabria, where clocks roll at a slower pace, where the elderly are refreshed by the ocean breeze through olive groves. When I eat â€˜nduja I am reminded that Spilinga, in the province of Vibo Valentia, is my home, even though Iâ€™ve only been there once. Making â€˜nduja reminds me of the sacrifices my nonni made to come to the United States with nothing but a bagâ€™s worth of clothes. I remember the conditions that my dad, uncles and grandparents endured living in a one-room apartment in Newark, opening a pizzeria and praying for its success. When I taste â€˜ndujaâ€™s I remember my familyâ€™s accomplishment in attaining the American dream - coming from nothing and becoming something. Making â€˜nduja doesnâ€™t just serve as a bonding experience in the unnecessary murder of a pig. Itâ€™s my past. Families all over the world share intimate customs from their homelands. Unfortunately, many traditions fade away through generations, as people get caught up in their daily lives and seemingly important activities. The preservation of the past is one of the most important and beautiful things a family can do. Traditions reassert the importance of a connected family, the value of knowing oneâ€™s origins. Traditions give people a sense of pride, a sense of belonging that no job or school can fulfill. Wherever I go, I consistently seek to show others the importance of such traditions, and encourage them to maintain their own

family traditions, no matter how frivolous they may seem. Editor's Note: We congratulate Francesco on his wonderful essay. Pictured is the young writer hanging sausage for curing, with his grandmother and family and with Silvio Laccetti at Delbarton Courtyard in New Jersey. Letters to the Editor

MOST ACCURATE PORTRAIT OF COLUMBUS

- Strong and Resolute Depiction With all of the fanfare about Columbus Day with all of the portraits and statues of him, one would hope that someone besides our good man, Professor Robert Petrone, would have a real portrait for our hero. Some of those said portraits are hilarious. My favorite is that bug eyed fat banker. There was only one artist who actually lived during Columbus's lifetime and ever saw, met and painted him at the Spanish Court. His name was Lorenzo Lotto and Columbus's son upon seeing the portrait, commented and marveled at the likeness. Columbus had red hair and green eyes. The only person I know who, without knowing any of the people in the lineup of portraits of Columbus, picked out the right one, passed away a few years ago. When I asked him how he guessed it he said "All of those other guys look like wimps. In those days to be the Captain of a ship, one had to be a tough S.O.B."

Actually, he was right. Rich Russo

Pleasanton, Texas

PHILLY CROONER JOHN PRIMERANO PENS COMPLAINT TO BANK OVER COLUMBUS DAY Thought you two might like to see the email I sent to my bank upon its closing for Columbus Day/Indigenous People's.

I was angered by the double "holiday" and wanted to make my ire known. I'm still in the fight. To Santander Bank:

Thank you for this new information.

It has always been a pleasure banking with the people at Santander. Their friendliness and helpfulness are exceeded by no one.

So, this is not about them.

210.0015555556

Today, I went to my branch, forgetting it was a holiday, to do some business, to find it closed, with the sign about the bank's closing saying, "Closed for Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day".

This raised my ire in such heights as to make me want to write to you.

There is NO Indigenous People's Day Federal Holiday, no matter how many people deride Christopher Columbus.

There IS a federal holiday for Christopher Columbus, the founder of The New World.

Your inclusion of this so-called "indigenous People's Day" on the same day we celebrate the founder of the North and South American continents is an insult to me. It is not only an insult as an Italian American but an insult to me as an AMERICAN who sees your bank, and the people who have the authority to use the term of which I am writing about, as part of the Cancel Culture that has become so pervasive in our country.

I have no problem with Indigenous People's Day, as long as it is celebrated on any other day than COLUMBUS DAY. Why this has to overlap on a long-standing, Federal holiday honoring a great man is just another way to divide us as a nation.

Again, I have no problem with Indigenous People's Day being another day during the year, but your collusion in the Cancel Culture does not help these problematic matters, it only serves to throw the proverbial oil on the fire. At least it did on mine, and I wanted you to know it.

I certainly am not going to end my relationship with my branch of Santander. But I wanted to pass along the anger I felt seeing the double reason my branch was closed.

To me, and countless others, COLUMBUS DAY is the RIGHTFUL reason Santander should be closed. Any other is just plain nonsensical. Very truly yours, John Primerano

Philadelphia, PA MESSAGE RECEIVED LOUD & CLEAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Basil Russo Wins a Revision in the Annual White House Proclamation

- Italian Americans Flooded the Executive Branch's Communication Network

- Columbus Day 2022 Showed Intense Outpouring of Enthusiasm

- Oh No! Biden Issues a Supplemental Proclamation for Indigenous People's Day By Truby Chiaviello What a day! Maybe the best Columbus Day of the 2000s. Italian Americans came out in glorious enthusiasm for festivals, ceremonies and parades, from Boston to Baltimore, from Syracuse to San Francisco. Amateur photographs and videos from endless smart phone uploads flooded social media yesterday to show hundreds of thousands of participants in this year's Columbus Day. The weekend celebration began with a bang. Big news from Washington. Victory! The outcome was at hand over the annual Columbus Day proclamation by the White House. Would the message be a repeat of 2021? Would President Joe Biden again insert text to taint the legacy of Christopher Columbus with reminders of past injustices committed by others against native Americans? Niente da fare! Basil M. Russo came through. He sent out a call for all Italian Americans to get involved. As president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (COPOMIAO), Judge Russo structured a well-managed grass roots campaign. Italian Americans were urged to contact the White House by emails, texts and phone calls. The mission was to demand this year's proclamation be about Columbus, only. Italian Americans flooded the communication lines of America's executive branch. The message was heard loud and clear inside the West Wing. The White House Office of Public Engagement turned to Judge Russo about the specific wording of this year's Columbus Day Proclamation. Unacceptable was any wording to diminish the legacy of Columbus or taint the celebration of a day of great importance to Italian Americans. No repeat of 2021: There was no of Indigenous People's Day or the past injustices of native Americans. This year's White House proclamation, posted on October 8th, praised the courage and vision of Columbus, along with the acknowledgement of contributions made by Italian Americans to the United States. That was what we wanted. The effort is indicative of what Italian Americans can do when mobilized. When we speak up, we will be heard by our elected officials. Victory is to be cherished. Defeatism avoided. Cynicism contained. There will be those to remind us that, not one, but, two, White House proclamations were made this year. One for Columbus Day, the other for Indigenous People's Day. This was also done in 2021. Yet, unlike last year's, the proclamation set aside for this Columbus Day was solely focused on the Genoese explorer and Italian Americans. That's a big step forward in lieu of a Democratic president and administration tied to a host of interest groups to embrace political correctness and historical revision. President Biden is, no doubt, an experienced politician. He knows the ways of Janus. He turned one side to Italian Americans to ensure Columbus Day was exclusively issued as our ethnic holiday. Another side was turned the other way toward American Indians and supportive minority groups to claim the duality of October 10th, for Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day. Machiavelli would be

proud. Like it or not, Columbus Day has become a hot button political issue. Hence, leaders such as Basil Russo and others, with experience in politics and grass roots campaigns, are to be supported and followed. The struggle continues. We have to keep up the pressure in all corners of the United States. From City Hall to the Halls of Congress. From Governors' Mansions to the White House. Italian Americans are called upon to petition their elected leaders to ensure the survival of Columbus Day for future generations. We must educate ourselves about the true achievements of Columbus to defend our hero against any and all revisionists who seek to destroy his reputation. We must engage. We must stay on offense. We take heart in the Italian American One Voice Coalition, as founded by the late Dr. Manny Alfano. Here is a group that is unceasing in their frontline advocacy. They have Andre DiMino, a natural born speaker, with the necessary charm and eloquence, who was on more radio and television shows this year than in years past to offer his vital defense of Columbus Day. Moving forward is a theme to make this year's Columbus Day so special. The Columbus Day parade up 5th Avenue in New York remains the stellar event. An incredible display of Italian American pride was in full force with festooned floats, boisterous bands and fervent flag wavers. Shown on local television, the occasion marked a time when the federal holiday was one of the city's top events. The Columbus Citizens Foundation, an organization devoted to all things Italian American, as founded by Generoso Pope in 1944, once again did an outstanding job in organizing the Columbus Day parade. Meanwhile, the Columbus Heritage Coalition, as led by Angelo Vivolo, has established wide range political support. Vivolo was most pleased to hear Mayor Eric Adams say on the Arthur Aidala Power Hour radio show, yesterday, "Uplifting the heritage of groups doesn't have to tear down other groups. We have room in this country to uplift all groups because all of us contribute to what we call the American Dream." Festivals from Boston to San Francisco saw more attendees than in years past. The reason was, in part, due to a continued reduction in Covid-19 restrictions, not to mention conducive weather in most places. Sunny blue skies were seemingly everywhere. Here are some highlights: Columbus Day Italian American Heritage Parade in Philadelphia started at the 1700 block of south Broad street between Moore and Morris on Sunday, October 9, high noon. This year's grand marshal was Deana Martin. Also, in Philadelphia, was the first-ever Acme Festa Italiana at 1901 Johnston St in South Philly from 12-4pm, October 8. In Baltimore, the Italian Heritage Festival convened from 1-5 p.m., along Stiles and Exeter Streets in Little Italy on October 9. In Hunterdon County, New Jersey, the Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 9, in Seaside Heights. The grand marshal was the Honorable Gilda Rorro Baldassari. In Chicago, the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans hosted the 70th annual Columbus Day Parade up State Street, from Wacker Drive to Van Buren Street, on October 10th, 1 p.m. The parade saluted Angelo and Romana Caputo. In San Francisco, the Italian Heritage Festival & Parade was held in North Beach. In St. Louis, The Italian American Heritage Festa and Parade, formerly known as the Columbus Day Parade, begins at 12 noon on the Sunday before Columbus Day at the corner of Macklind and Botanical. In Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, The Pittsburgh

Columbus Day Parade was held on October 8 at 11 a.m. near the West Penn Hospital on Liberty Avenue with a reviewing stand in front of Saint Joseph Church. In Watertown, Massachusetts, a whole month's worth of events have been ongoing in celebration of Italian American Heritage Month. In East Boston, The Columbus Day event at Tall Ship Park had thousands in attendance. In Cleveland, the Columbus Day Parade began at noon on October 10th after a morning Mass at Holy Rosary Church in Cleveland's Little Italy neighborhood. The parade was sponsored by the Italian Sons and Daughters of America with grand marshal Paola Allegra Baistrocchi, Consul of Italy in Detroit. Special parade guests were Phyllis Lippardo, Marie Frank and Joe Frank. In Queens, New York, the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens, Inc. presented the 45th Annual Queens Columbus Day parade, Saturday, October 8, 2022. This year's grand marshall was Vito Giannola, executive vice president, chief retail banking officer of Provident Bank. In Manhattan, the 2022 Columbus Circle Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was held on Sunday, October 9, in Columbus Circle as organized by the National Council of Columbia Associations and the Columbus Citizens Foundation. In Manhattan, the 78th Annual Columbus Day Parade began at 11:30 am along Fifth Avenue. This year's grand marshal was Tom Golisano, founder of Paychex. In Washington, D.C., the Holy Rosary Church and Piazza Italiana held a Columbus Day ceremony on October 9. In Washington, D.C. the National Christopher Columbus Association held a ceremony at the National Columbus Memorial on October 10th. Honored was the Ambassador to Italy to the United States Mariangela Zappia and the Ambassador of Spain to the United States Santiago Cabañas. In Syracuse, New York, the Columbus Monument Corporation hosted their annual Columbus Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Columbus Circle with a luncheon celebration that followed. In Fairfield, New Jersey, the Italian Columbus Festival was presented by Unico National on October 9 at the Fairfield Recreation Center from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Below is the full text of President Joseph Biden's 2022 Columbus Day proclamation and excerpts from White House proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day. WHITE HOUSE PROCLAMATION - COLUMBUS DAY 2022

In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from the Spanish port of Palos de la Frontera on behalf of Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II, but his roots trace back to Genoa, Italy. The story of his journey remains a source of pride for many Italian Americans whose families also crossed the A

Reference

[The Social World of Children Learning to Talk](#)

[Practicing Psychotherapy in Constructed Reality: Ritual, Charisma, and Enhanced Client Outcomes](#)