ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

Visit our web page: **www.italiangen.org**

Volume 18, No. 1 **September, 2011**

President's Message

Welcome to a new year of genealogical research. The IGG has some exciting programs planned for this year, including speakers who will help you in beginning your research, instruct you in investigating new avenues of exploration, and assist you in breaking through your brick walls. We will continue our Help Desk in the small meeting room downstairs before each meeting, and we will add a monthly Beginning Genealogy Workshop in the upstairs library reference room. Both sessions will run each month simultaneously from 9:30 to 10:15 AM.

We would like our members' feedback about our programs and our newsletter. Attendees at September's meeting will be asked to respond to a brief survey, and those members for whom distance precludes attendance are asked to email me (alagi10105@AOL.com) about your needs from our organization. You may also write to me at our PO address.

On the flip side of the coin, as much as we need your input and ideas, we also need your service to keep our group alive and growing. Everyone knows the old adage, "Many hands make light work." We need your hands to bake, set up coffee, buy supplies, clean up after meetings, and man the reception table and our booth at the Hofstra Italian Experience. We need members who are willing to be groomed for leadership positions in IGG. Finally, we need volunteers to type info for the databases we put online. If everyone did a small task, it would make the burden lighter for those who have been performing these "behind the scenes jobs" for many years. (Note my email address above.) I will be happy to hear from anyone who wishes to offer his or her services.

Lastly, some of our members are actually expert or certified genealogists.***(Continued on Page 2)***

Inside this issue:

Computer Corner	**Page 2**
Little Mickey Comes Home	**Page 3**
Profiles from the Four Corners	**Page 5**
Guest Speaker: Robert T. Spiotto	**Page 6**
IGG Scholarship Awards	**Page 8**
Calendar Events	**Page 9**
Another Case Study	**Page 10**

Computer Corner

More websites from **Anthony DiMarino,** and **Barbara Florio.**

This site, the Civil War research database, is the largest, most in-depth and fully searchable database of American Civil War soldiers and events. There is an annual fee. Go to <http://www.civilwardata.com/>

Mapping the 2010 U.S. Census-Just guide your cursor over the map, and it displays every county. Imagine how long it took to create this map! Go to <http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/map?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=thab1>

Check this out to understand abbreviations on military headstones. Go to <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/calverton.asp> Slide your mouse over to the link near top of page reading "Veterans Services." Slide mouse down to "Burials and Memorials," then click on "Headstones and Markers." On the "Headstone and Markers" page, scroll to bottom and click on "Headstone and Marker Abbreviations." Make your selection here for abbreviation explanation.

For those who are interested in the Civil War , this site includes research on soldiers, sailors, regiments, cemeteries, battles, prisoners, medals of honor and national parks. <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

(President's Message continued from page 1) I hope you will you consider sharing your expertise by writing occasional "How to…" articles for our newsletter. Don't worry if your writing skills lack polish. That's what editors are for! Submit your articles as Microsoft Word attachments to our newsletter facilitator, **Joe Battagliese** at jbattag123 @AOL.com. Please limit your article to one full page (single spaced), 12 point type.

We look forward to your input, and we thank you for your continued support of IGG.

Angela LaGiglia
Co-President IGG

ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

P. O. Box 626
Bethpage, New York 11714-0626

Co-Presidents	Anthony DiBartolo
	Angela LaGiglia
Vice President Programming	Barbara Florio
Vice President Public Relations	Anthony DiBartolo
Vice President Publicity	Ann Holland
Vice President Special Projects	John Martino
Recording Secretary	Joseph Battagliese
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Verna
Treasurer	Art Filete
Directors:	
Immediate Past Co-Presidents	Nicholas A. Rossi
	Marie Pastore
Chairperson Newsletter	Tony Sasso
Chairperson Auditing	Bud Pape
Committees:	
Facilities	Armand Tarantelli
	Bill Amadio
FGS Delegate	Bill Gimello
Genealogical Database	Mike Genovese
Help Desk	Linda Carco
Hospitality	Louise Perrotta
Library	Philip Figario
LI Federation Rep.	Art Filete
Meeting Reception	Barbara Florio
Membership	Mike Genovese
Newsletter Production	Joseph Battagliese
Scholarship	Angela LaGiglia
Social	Barbara Florio
Webmaster	Angela Kunz
Web Respondent	Ed Hess

Annual Membership: Individual $22 per year;
Family $27 per year; Outside U. S. Membership $27 per year
Newsletter is published 10 times a year.
Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, Sept. to June at 10:30 AM

1. The Editor/Publisher assume that all correspondence and articles sent to the Italian Genealogical Group Newsletter are intended for publication, unless the writer specifically says otherwise.
2. In publishing news items, articles, etc. the Editor and the Italian Genealogical Group assume no responsibility or liability for facts, recommendations, or opinions of contributors.
3. Unless indicated otherwise, by the Editor and Publisher, original articles and material may be quoted or reprinted by genealogical or Italian interest publications, providing that they acknowledge and furnish the date of the issue.
4. However, no commercial use may be made of the contents of the Italian Genealogical Newsletter, its database, or membership lists, "handouts," etc.

Little Mikey Comes Home

Carol Simone Galgano

This bit of family history was told many times over the years by Grandma and others, but always from an adult viewpoint. It wasn't until the 1990's that I heard Mikey's version. It was strange to hear a child's side of things from someone who was already past ninety!

Gram, Mikey & Mamie

In August 1910, my grandparents Vincenzo and Rosina Simone, with their two children, Mikey and Mamie (Filomena), returned to Castellana, Italy, for an extended visit. While there, Grandma realized that she was pregnant. When the three months that they intended to stay had passed, Grandpa left for America by himself because Grandma's parents felt it was unsafe for her to take an ocean voyage in her delicate condition. In September of 1911, after thirteen months in Italy, it was time for the rest of the family to return home. Seven other relatives, all going to America for the first time, traveled with them.

Mikey (my uncle Vito Michele Simone) told me what it was like to pass through Ellis Island at the age of 6 years. At the time he shared his story with me, I had never been been to Ellis Island. When I did get to the Great Hall a few years later, I finally could grasp the enormity of his experience.

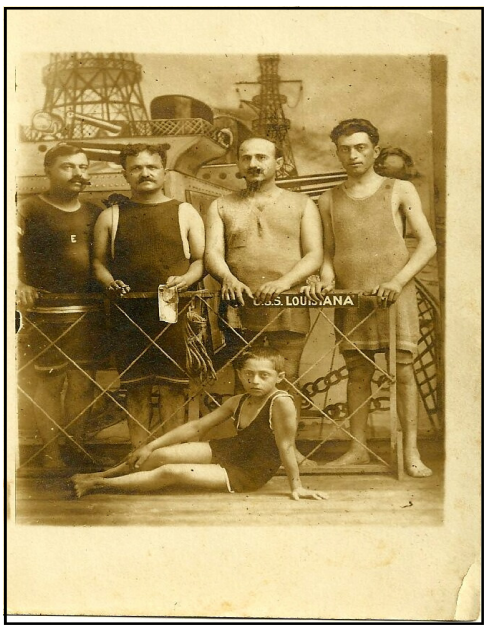
Grandma walked up to him holding his 4 year old sister's hand. "Mikey," she said," you will have to go that way." She indicated the appropriate direction. Of course she spoke to him in Italian as her English was poor and he had forgotten all the English he had known. "But what about you?" the six-year-old had asked. "No, we are not citizens. We can't go with you," she had told him. "Here!" she said, as she put his American passport in his left hand and transferred Mamie to his right hand, "Don't let go of your sister or the passport, no matter what"! As he stood there just staring at her, she continued, " You and Mamie were born here so you can just walk into America, but for the rest of us, it is not so easy. See the line there, follow them!" Mikey's eyes gazed around the Great Hall, and still he did not move. Finally his mother said, "Look up there. That's Poppa. He is waiting for you." Mikey strained to see if Poppa was there. "See!" his mother had said, "The man in the suit, that's Poppa." Mikey saw a man in a suit leaning against the chain link up very high, so far away that he couldn't see his face. "Follow those people," she said, "and Poppa will come to get you. Now go!" With that, she turned and disappeared into the crowd.

Mikey moved forward, now that she was gone, he had no other choice. As he walked, he tried to keep his eyes fixed on the man in the suit as much as possible. When he got closer, he could see the man in the suit's arms were raised high over his head. Was it Poppa? He wasn't even sure that he remembered what Poppa looked like as he hadn't seen him in a long time. He worked his way across the room following the others, always trying to keep his eyes on the man in the suit. Finally, Mikey and Mamie came to the place where Poppa was, and he took them away with him.

The noise level in the Great Hall has been documented. With the large numbers of people who were in there at the same time, it must have been overwhelming to the senses of a six-year-old left alone, but Mikey was no ordinary child.

To understand Mikey better, we need to go back in time to Castellana ten months before, when he was still 5. Grandpa was all for law and order, too strict maybe by today's standards, but parenting was looked at differently back then. Once his father returned to America, Mikey cut loose. He teamed up with his cousin Nicola who was three years older. Grandma was pregnant and caring for little Mamie. Her parents, already around seventy, were unable to help keeping track of Mikey. Word soon got to the Baccarelli household that Mikey was up to no good. Grandma went out looking for him and found the two cousins smoking. She banged both their heads together to teach them a lesson. I guess back then it was believed that it could somehow impart sense!

Grandma realized that Mikey had too much time on his hands so she decided to find him a job. She took him down the street to the blacksmith's shop. The blacksmith needed someone to hold the horses' hooves while he shoed them. Mikey was small, but the blacksmith agreed to give him a try. Grandma brought him to the shop the next morning. He must have done a good job, because at 12:00, when he was sent home, Mikey was handed a few coins. He was told he could come back the next day. He raced home and hid the coins under the carpet. Grandma was pleased to hear that he was to be occupied and would have less time to get into trouble.



Rockaway Beach, Mikey in front

This started a lifetime of full employment. Even during the Great Depression, he never missed so much as one day of work. He always had a job. My father says that even at age six, Mikey would run errands for the businesses along Steinway Street after school. For one so little and so eager, the tips were very good. Another lifetime habit was also started back then. He saved his coins to buy more cigarettes!

At one point during his stay in Italy, Mikey climbed up into his grandfather's favorite fig tree and managed to split it right down the middle. On that occasion, he was given the nickname by which he would always be known in Italy, it was *Diavolo Americano*, "the Little American Devil."

It was time to return to America. Mikey's baby brother had been born healthy and strong. (He was to die one month after their return home. Grandma said she could not keep him clean due to the conditions on the ship.) She and her children would not be traveling alone. They brought Grandpa's sister-in-law Maria Simone, her oldest daughter Filomena, son Nicola (the infamous smoking eight year old), and three younger daughters. Grandpa's niece Angelina Montinaro, age 16 years, completed the group.

Grandma had already made three previous crossings, but they were nothing like this trip. The seas were terrible. On previous trips, she had been able to spend time out on the open decks, which helped with the seasickness. This time it was so rough that she was barely able to raise her head. She told me that there were two separate compartments, one for the men, the other for the woman and children. Coming through the compartment was a trough that entered on one side and left through the other. Seawater flowed in and out through the trough. This was the place for all forms of human waste. Mothers held onto their children lest they fall in! Ladies wore big full skirts which at least helped with some modesty. Everyone was sick, so sick that sometimes they couldn't make it to the trough to throw up. None of the females from our family left their compartment for the duration of the trip. Grandma had one word to describe it. "Stink!" she said.

By some miracle, neither Mikey nor his cousin Nick were afflicted with seasickness. The six-year-old found himself without anyone watching him. He and Nick had figured out how to leave the steerage area and go any place on the ship. He told me that there were very few of the crew about, and no passengers out in the public areas. Perhaps sickness was not limited to the steerage area. With a bit of caution, Mikey and Nick could go anywhere unnoticed. They knew where to find food to eat and where they could sleep comfortably. They knew how to avoid the crew. With a big grin on his face, Mikey assured me that there was not one place on that ship that they had failed to reach!

All good things must come to an end however, and so it was for Mikey's adventure. The two pirates had to turn the ship over to the rightful, authorities, leaving their marvelous prize behind. When they all finally reached solid ground, I can imagine many "Thank Gods!" being uttered by the sick and exhausted adults.

Finally off the ship little Mikey and his sister, had to go it alone. After all, he was the little AMERICAN devil!

Profiles from the Four Corners

Michael S. Genovese

Welcome back to Profiles from the 4 corners! We can start with a wonderful article submitted by Chris Renz, a Dominican friar and active member of IGG. Chris has submit an article about his Italian roots on his mother's side as well as his fascinating interest in *genetic genealogy*.

Chris, currently a resident of Berkeley, California, was born and raised in Teaneck, NJ, not far from North Bergen and Union City (Hudson County), where his parents were raised. His love of and curiosity about the world around him led him to obtain undergraduate and doctoral degrees in microbiology. After working as a research scientist at the University of Washington in Seattle, he decided that the 24/7 life of a research scientist was not for him and entered a Catholic community known as the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). He currently serves as Academic Dean of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California. Though he has formally left the world of science, he still dabbles in it through his study and teaching in the area of sustainable food production and consumption. Let's read what Chris has to say about his family's roots and his interest in genetic genealogy.

My Maternal Family Roots in Gombitelli di Camaiore—Part I

While the ancestry of my paternal side is German and English, my upbringing was more regularly influenced by my mother's family, who immigrated from a small mountain-top village in Italy, located in the Apuane Alps (the backdrop for the Versilia Riviera, which includes the famous Viareggio and Lido di Camaiore resort areas and the home of Carrara marble) near the town known as Camaiore. Located about 20 miles northwest of Lucca, Gombitelli di Camaiore had a peak population of about 700 people towards the end of the 19th century, but today has a mere 80-90 residents (which is just a bit *smaller* than the community of Dominican friars in Oakland where I have spent the past twelve years!)

Historically, Gombitelli has been known for three things: 1) as a "linguistic island" (*isole linguistica*) whose particular *gallo-romano* dialect – the subject of significant academic research but now extinct – is thought to have roots in the Etruscan language; 2) for its craftsmen skilled in iron works (lavorazione di ferro e chiodi); and 3) for it artisian *salumi*. While there are only one or two metal craftsmen left in the village, the *salumi* is readily available at nearby markets. In a recent visit to the village, I was told by my cousin that most of the houses are empty, the younger generation having moved to the larger cities for work.

The cemetery at Gombitelli with the village church of S. Michelle in the background

Standing at the Hotel Cerú, located near the entrance to the village, one can look towards the east to see the city of Lucca in the valley below. Towards the west, there is a breath-taking view of the Mediterranean and the Versilia Riviera.

My maternal grandparents were Angelo Cerú and Armida Toni. While there were relatively few families with the surname Toni, *many* Cerú families populated the village for over 500 years. As best as the historians can determine, the progenitor was one Bernardo Cerú, who arrived about 1441, bringing with him the famed artisans of iron, whose specialization was the manufacturing of iron nails (*fabrri o fabbricanti di chiodi*). According to one source, an oil painting exists of the genealogical tree of the house of Cerú, in which there can be seen a man dressed in a long red robe and turban, with an inscription at the base of the tree reading, "Bernardo del Mondovi left from Cerruto in Parma to come to Lucca in 1450."

In my own research, I have found three generations of "Bernardo Cerú," though I have no information about how these males would relate to the Bernardo from Cerutto. In fact, as I have gone deeper and deeper into the Cerú families, I have found myself more and more confused. Not only are there several generations of *Bernardos*, there are also numerous *Paolinos*, *Luigis*, etc. As best as I can determine, there are four or five primary lines of Cerú families which can be traced back to the 1600's. The charts on my wall are both confusing and fascinating.

Chris Renz at the village of Gombitelli

Perhaps there are many genealogists who find themselves in a similar situation, wondering how to differentiate the lines when everyone has the same name? How does one distinguish legend from fact? And, *can* you hope to ever find the answers if there are no extant records?

In the face of this type of dilemma, there is one relatively new method which can offer us some hope: *genetic* genealogy. With my background in molecular biology, I have been fascinated by this genealogical research tool, originally developed for forensic purposes, i.e. as a means to identify criminals. Researchers at the University of Arizona eventually found genetic markers which were particularly useful for tracing male ancestors. The tool is limited to males because they contain only one copy of the Y chromosome, whereas there are two copies of all other human chromosomes, making it impossible to determine which one came of the father and which from the mother. Using genetic markers on the Y chromosome, however, it is possible to uniquely identify people living today who trace their ancestry back several hundred years through their male line. ***(To be continued next issue)***

Guest Speaker for June: Robert T. Spiotto

Joe Battagliese

Robert T. Spiotto of Hofstra University presented his one man performance of *Garibaldi's Gotham* in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy. His performance incorporates stories, poetry, music and images. In his performance, Bob Spiotto is Giuseppe Garibaldi, he wears the uniform of Garibaldi's Red Shirts, he looks like Garibaldi with the beard and blue eyes, and he projects himself as Garibaldi.

Robert T. Spiotto

Mr. Spiotto calls Giuseppe Garibaldi, also known as the hero of two worlds who successfully fought against great odds for the unification of Italy. He gave us some insight into Garibaldi through a timeline of his life.

July 4, 1807-Garibaldi was born in Nice; at that time part of France, the Kingdom of Piedmont and Sardinia. Giuseppe was the son of Domenico Garibaldi, a fisherman and costal trader. His birthplace was part of Italy until it was ceded to the French in 1796. As a young man, Garibaldi became conscious of the need for Italy to be free from Austria, the Bourbons and other foreign countries, unified as a country, with Rome as the capital.

1814-the Congress of Vienna put Nice under the rule of Victor Emmanuel I.

1824-1833-Garibaldi lived as a sailor in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. In 1833, on a layover in Russia, Garibaldi learned of Giuseppe Mazzini's

secret movement, *La Giovine Italia*. Garibaldi joined and took an oath to liberate his homeland.

1834-Garibaldi participated in a failed Mazzini insurrection in Piedmont and was sentenced to death, but he fled to Marseilles.

1840 South American Period- Garibaldi joined the gaucho rebels against the newly independent Brazil. There he met Ana Ribeiro da Silva (Anita), who was as brave as her husband, fighting by his side. In 1842, Garibaldi formed an Italian Legion for the Uruguayan Civil War. It was here that the Legion first wore the symbolic Red Shirts.

1848 Return to Italy- Pope Pius IX opposed Italian Unity. At Mazzini's urging, Garibaldi took command of the defense of Rome against the French. The French prevailed. Garibaldi withdrew from Rome with 4,000 troops and fled to Venice. Anita, who was carrying their 5th child, died during the retreat.

1850 America-Garibaldi was in exile, semi-retired in Staten Island NY. The inventor, Antonio Meucci employed Garibaldi in his candle factory during this period.

1854-Garibaldi returned to Genoa and in 1855, he bought half of the isolated Italian Island of Caprera, which is north of Sardinia.

1859 The Second Italian War of Independence (Piedmont vs Austria) broke out. Garibaldi won victories over the Austrians at several places. He was displeased with Count Cavour, the Piedmonta Prime Minister, for ceding his home city of Nice to the French in return for crucial military assistance.

1860 Campaign- Uprisings in Messina and Palermo in the Kingdom of Two Sicilies provided Garibaldi with an opportunity. He gathered about 1,000 Red Shirts and sailed to Marsala. A victory over enemy forces at Calatafimi established Garibaldi's power in Sicily. He declared himself dictator of Sicily, in the name of Victor Emmanuel II of Italy. The next day he advanced to Palermo and bombarded the City. The British intervened and facilitated an armistice. Six weeks later he marched against Messina and conquered Sicily.

On September 7, he entered Naples. He was not able to defeat the Neapolitan army at the Battle of Volturno, but the outcome was decided by the arrival of the Piedmontese Army. Garibaldi handed over his gains in the south to the Piedmontese and withdrew to Caprera and temporary retirement.

1861-At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Garibaldi volunteered his services to President Abraham Lincoln.

1864 –Garibaldi was welcomed to London, where his presence was received with enthusiasm by the population.

1866 Astro-Prussian War- The Austro-Prussian War broke out, and Italy allied with Prussia against Austria-Hungary in the hope of taking Venice from Austrian rule. Garibaldi took up arms again with support of the Italian government, and he defeated the Austrians at Bezzecca and made for Trento. An armistice was signed in which Austria ceded Venice to Italy.

1870 Franco-Prussian War-When the Franco-Prussian war broke out, and the French garrison was recalled from Rome. The Italian Army captured the Papal States without Garibaldi's assistance. Rome ceased to be governed by the Popes and became the capital of the new Italy.

1882 Death-Garibaldi spent much of his late years on Caprera. He died on June 2, 1882 at the age of 74. He is buried on his farm on the island

September IGG Meeting

For our September 10, IGG meeting the speaker will be **Marie Scalisi**, a full time professional researcher with twenty-seven years experience. Marie will speak about the *Assets at the Plainview FHC, Geared Toward Italian-American Researchers and Other Genealogical Gems.* She will also discuss some less-utilized websites. Marie is always ready to help researchers at the Family History Center

IGG Scholarship Awards

June 11, 2011 at the Bethpage Library

Dominick Porcella and Family, East Islip HS

Vincent DeSio and Family, Southside HS

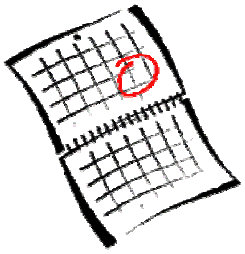
Alexa White and Family, Riverhead HS

Danielle Valentino and Family, Riverhead HS

Chiara Gerek and Mom, Garden City HS

IGG Scholarship Award Winners-Standing, Chiara Gerek, Vincent DeSio, Dominick Porcella, Anthony DiGirolomo and Alexa White. Sitting. Sabrina Brengel, Danielle Valentino and Christina Barbera

Italian Genealogy Events-Fall 2011



On Saturday, September 16th, **Tony Di Bartolo**, presents *Mezzo Siciliano-Mezzo Napolitano* at the Casa Belvedere, the Italian Cultural Foundation, Inc. on Staten Island. The admission of $50 per person includes tasting, film, wine, cheese and light fare. Space is limited. Reservations recommended. For more information, call 718-273-7660 or go to <www.casa-belvedere.org> Tony will also be hosting an IGG booth at the Staten Island Snug Harbor Italian Cultural Program on **Saturday, October 15th.**

On Tuesday, September 20, June C. DeLalio, CG, will present her lecture *New Avenues to Italian Genealogy Research* at the New York Public Library at the request of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. It will be held in the South Court classrooms, in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, NYC, at 5:30 PM. The lecture is on some of the new and improved venues for research on the internet and elsewhere. This is a free program and should be of interest to anyone working on Italian family history.

On Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 PM, the Connetquot Public Library 760 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, New York, 631-567-5079 will present *Genealogy Questions and Answers*. The panel will consist of **John Martino**, **Don Eckerle**, and **Kathy McGee**. They will to answer your questions or offer you advice.

To guarantee that your questions are addressed during this program, it is recommended that you email them a week in advance to: familyhistory@connetquotlibrary.org.

On Saturday, October 1, at 6 PM there will be a presentation at Stony Brook University offered in collaboration with the Alfonse M D'Amato Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies.

The multi-media show is in Italian with English subtitles. Journalist, Gian Antonio Stella will recount the stories of Italian immigration (1876-1976) from his best selling book. This free presentation, accompanied by images and songs, will be the Wang Center Theatre. For additional information call 631-632-7444; or go to the web page: <www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies>

Tony Lauriano will present his *Beginning Genealogy* to *Writing the Family Story Series* on Thursdays, **October 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3**, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Tappan Zee High School, 15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962. Call 845-494-4290.

Tony will also present his *Writing the Family Story*, **Saturday, October 8**, 10:00 AM, at the Passaic County Genealogy Society Lambert Castle, 3 Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503. Call 973-291-6748.

Registration is required at both locations.

For our **October 8th** IGG meeting, our guest speaker will be **Toni McKeen,** who will present *Beginning Genealogy and Establishing a System for the Documents that You Already Have*. Toni is an experienced genealogy researcher, a teacher of genealogy courses, and popular lecturer in the tri state area.

This lecture will describe how to begin successful, systematic genealogy research. For those already researching, she will offer important tips on organizing your files so you can keep track of what you have.

For the **November 12**, IGG Meeting our guest speaker will be Dorothy Dougherty, from NARA's North Regional Office. Dorothy will be *Exploring the 1940 US Census*.

Professor AJ Tamburri of Queens College, sends us advanced notice of the *7th Annual Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance,* to be held from **November 9th through 11th**. The event is sponsored by ILICA and co-sponsored by St. John's University and the Calandra Institute. The location is New York University-St. John's University-Pier Sixty in New York. For more information, see the ILICA website.

Case Study

Anthony Lauriano

Problem: Finding the cause of death of a foreign war hero, who came to America in the early 20th century.

Information Provided: The man's name was Antonio Muzzarelli, He died between 1900 and 1910. He was a war hero, supposedly in Italy, and a teacher during his years in New York City.

Solution: Since he died in New York City I decided to travel to the NYC Archives on Chambers Street, NYC. Other options would have been to use the website for the New York City Archives (nyc.gov.) or the Italian Genealogical Group website (italiangen.org) for Vital Records for all nationalities in New York City.

The index at the Archives listed an Antonio Muzzarelli who died on October 15, 1908. The actual death certificate indicated the man had been from France, not Italy. Therefore, the given name could actually be Antoine. The Certificate further stated :

- Mr. Muzzarelli was a tutor by profession in America
- The place of burial was the US Crematory, Long Island, New York
- The undertaker was A.J. Sullivan – 135 West 34 Street, New York City
- The cause of death was not filled in, but a coroner was listed. This added to the mystery.

The only Sullivan Funeral Home I could find on the internet search engine was in California and they said they weren't in business in 1908.

My next step was to try to locate the crematory. I learned it was now doing business as the Fresh Pond Crematory in Middle Village, Queens, New York City. The records at the Fresh Pond Crematory indicated the remains were picked up by a Mr. Otto Wilson of the Sullivan Funeral Home. Here I was back to nearly where I started the search.

Considering that Mr. Muzzarelli had died in New York, I tried the *New York Times* obituary archives (nytimes.com). After inserting the name Muzzarelli with a death date of October 15, 1908 it revealed:

"Antoine Jules Cesar Venceslas Ermanigilde Muzzarelli …native country an Officer of the French Academy … a veteran of the Franco – Prussian War …ended his life today, by shooting himself through the head with a revolver."

A "Dear John" letter was by his side, it further stated in an article.

Problem solved!

Elected Officers for 2011-2012 Year

Co-Presidents:	Anthony DiBartolo & Angela LaGiglia
VP Programs	Barbara Florio
VP Public Relations	Anthony DiBartolo
VP Publicity	Ann Holland
VP Special Projects	John Martino
Recording Secretary	Joseph Battagliese
Corresponding Sec.	Marilyn Verna
Treasurer	Art Filete

Nominating Committee
Barbara Florio and William Gimello

New IGG Members for September 2011

Robert Mitroff	Layfayette, CA
Erny Bonistall	Norcross, GA
Tony DiNucci	North Merrick, NY
Thomas Brennan	Seaford, NY
Kathleen Luckie	Mercerville, NJ
AnnMarie DeBiase	Catonville, MD
Robert T. Koehler	Tampa, FL
Michael McCue	Pearl River, NJ
Christopher Marvin	Scarsdale, NY
Patti Crispo	New Milford, CT
Dexter D. Eustis	Eustis, FL
Victor Bonnano	Portland, CT
Liana Pasquinucci	Tucson, AZ
Vincent Hartnett	Chester Springs, PA
Rosemary Siegel	Astoria, NY

ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL 2011 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2011

FILOMENA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
1034 HEMPSTEAD TURN-PIKE
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK
516-437-4919

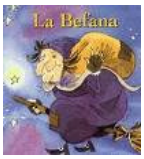
MENU:

HOT ANTIPASTO

PENNE PASTA

CHOOSE ONE:
CHICKEN FRANCESE
CHICKEN PARM
EGGPLANT PARM
BROILED SALMON

COFFEE, TEA, ESPRESSO



$35.00 PER PERSON
PLEASE PAY BY DECEMBER 1 ST

PARKING:
RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS PARKING LOT
NORTH OF HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE
2 BLOCKS WEST OF NEW HYDE PARK ROAD

CHECKS ADDRESSED TO:
ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP

MAIL TO:
MRS. BARBARA M. FLORIO
259 NORTH BEECH STREET
NORTH MASSAPEQUA, NEW YORK 11758
516-557-2917

Pittsburgh Chapter News

The Michael Musmanno chapter is slowly increasing its membership. The chapter went on a trip to a PA Winery and to Little Italy in NYC for the St. Anthony festival. This trip was sponsored by the Mercante Gift Store in Pittsburgh.

The May meeting was devoted to honoring mothers and their immigrant experience. Rose Gevaudan recalls eating cardoone as a youngster. She is now growing a plant in her yard.

News was offered concerning the Italian music and news programming, Italian language class in the library, new ancestry sites that feature Agrigento, Modena, Caserta, Potenza and Falerna.

In June, the chapter hosted a seminar attended by 90 people. Ruth Merriman from the Family History Center in Salt Lake City was the presenter of the day. She spoke about reading Italian civil and church records, research on the internet, and Italian marriage documents. Kathy Rosella encouraged the attendees to join POINT and join in next August at their conference in SLC.

Bill Gimello presented a IGG Service Award to Marie Pastore in honor of her service as Co-President at the June 11th meeting

Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group

September 10, October 8, and November 12, 2011

All meetings start at 10:30 AM

Directions to the Bethpage Library, 47 Powell Ave, Bethpage, NY:

By Train: The Bethpage Library may be reached by taking the Long Island Railroad to the Bethpage Station. You can then walk east one block to Broadway, turn left, go (north) 3 blocks on Broadway; then (at the second traffic light) turn right on Powell Avenue; the Library is about 500 ft on your right.

By Car: Use the Southern State Parkway or the Long Island Expressway. If using the Southern State Parkway take exit 28A and go north on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135). If using the Long Island Expressway take Exit 44S and go south on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135). Exit Route 135 at the Powell Avenue Exit. Proceed in a westerly direction towards the village, about 3 blocks. There is ample parking across the street from the Library. Our meeting will be in the downstairs meeting room.