

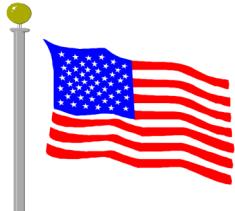


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## Message from the Co-Presidents



It's been a year of growth for the IGG, and - as always - we couldn't do it without our devoted members and many volunteers. As this is the final newsletter of the 2021-22 year, we thought we'd spotlight some of the folks who keep things running smoothly.

**Ann Kurz** is finishing her (extended!) term as our Recording Secretary, and also spent a number of months chairing our Governance Committee, leading to a newly-ratified iteration of the IGG By-Laws. **Kelly Barbano-Bodami** has offered the IGG a great bit of time in a number of capacities (on top of her full-time work at Ancestry ProGenealogists) and, with co-chair (and IGG Past President) **Marcelle Manteria**, the Scholarship Committee has moved to a completely digital format for applications and adjudication.

The IGG newsletter remains a highlight of everyone's month, and it couldn't happen without the dedicated work of our incredible team: Editor **Dr. Richard Graziano**, Layout Designer (and IGG's First Vice President) **MaryAnne Yenoli** and Advisor and long-time Editor **Joe Battagliese**. As always, they are eager for your contributions - perhaps it's time to preserve a family story or research experience for posterity? E-mail [newsletter@italiangen.org](mailto:newsletter@italiangen.org).

Through our webinars, we've been able to reach an entirely new audience - one that grows with each presentation. We've now moved into the exciting world of "hybrid" meetings - where in-person meetings are once again being held with a live webinar stream taking place concurrently. We hope this will continue to be the best of both worlds, for our members near and far! Our thanks to the IT squad, including **Peter De Pippo** and **Vito La Barca** for their tireless contributions to these efforts.

And, while we're on the topic, how about that past year of speakers? We've received tremendous response to this year's lineup and all of the interesting talks, and we must thank **Pamela J. Vittorio**, Vice President of Programming, for all of the excellent ideas she has brought to the group in her first year on the Board.

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These are only a few of the people that keep this organization running. **Mike Genovese**, **Angela LaGiglia**, **Mario Toglia**, **Dr. Marilyn Verna** are some of our long-time leaders who have continued to serve in many capacities. Our Treasurer, **Dr. John Affisco**, has done a terrific job of updating a number of financial processes.

And our great thanks to **Louise Perrotta** and **Trish Stipo**, both of whom are stepping down from their formal positions after many, many years of service to the organization. We applaud them, and all of our members and volunteers - we couldn't do it without you!

Cordiali saluti,

**Michael Cassara and Gail Cinelli**, IGG Co-Presidents

## Meeting News

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 AM (Eastern). Included will be the general membership meeting and election of officers for 2022-2023 and the announcement of the scholarship winners.

The featured presentation will be **“Researching NARA Onsite and Online, From census to military to naturalization records.”** This presentation covers some of the most informative genealogical records both online and on site at NARA: what you need to know about accessing and analyzing the information, and where to find these important record sets. Presented by two professional genealogists and familiar faces: **Alec Ferretti**, and IGG Vice President of Programming, **Pamela J. Vittorio**.

To register, go to the Meetings & Events section of the IGG website.



## Our Mission Statement

The Italian Genealogical Group (est. 1993) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to encouraging an interest in genealogy and educating our members and the general public about Italian genealogy, research, and culture. We assist in preserving, indexing and computerizing historical records, making them available to all members of the genealogical community.

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*Annual Membership:*  
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Newsletter is published 10 times a year.  
Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month,  
September to June at 10:30 AM

# A Visit to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

Richard Graziano Ed.D.

While reexamining a few records of my paternal ancestry, I noticed that my grandparents were married and their first son, my father Nicholas Graziano, was baptized at Holy Rosary Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Surmising that there was a definite connection between my family and that church, I wanted to see if its records were available anywhere. A Google search revealed that the registry books from Holy Rosary and the other parishes in the Scranton Diocese had been copied and digitized by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (NEPGS) as part of the Theresa M. McAndrew Memorial Catholic Record Collection. The NEPGS website states that its mission is “to preserve resource materials of genealogical and historical significance pertaining to ancestors and families throughout Northeast Pennsylvania”. In addition to the Catholic Church registers, the Society had a myriad of other records such as cemetery maps and transcriptions, mining accident reports and other items related to the mining industry, assorted court records, high school yearbooks and many others. For me, however, the records of Holy Rosary Church and a few other parishes in the area are certainly of the greatest genealogical significance.

Unfortunately, because of the agreement between NEPGS and the Scranton Diocese, the records are not available on-line and can only be viewed at the Society’s office in Wilkes-Barre. Currently, they are only open on Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM and an appointment is necessary. One must be a member or pay a daily fee to conduct research there. I made an appointment, and with my laptop, flash drive and a check in hand, I set off on the drive to Wilkes-Barre to do some research.

The office is housed in a fine old building on North Franklin Street. Entering their office, I was required to sign an agreement to follow their rules, which included a prohibition against copying any of their records. Any copies of documents that you want must be made by them, for which there is a considerable fee. I joined the organization to allow me to do research.

I soon learned their computer system and became engaged in researching the registers of Holy Rosary and some other churches that were relevant to the extended Graziano/Merola families. Relatively quickly, I found the entry for my grandparents’ marriage.

I then found the baptismal registries for many of my father’s first cousins. Searching the records of Holy Rosary is a somewhat haphazard process since apparently the pastor at the time, Father Luigi Cecere, was not the most meticulous of record keepers. In fact, one of the volunteers told me that she had learned that he had been admonished by the Scranton Diocese for inadequate recording of sacramental records. As a result, many of the records are missing and sometimes grouped together as he apparently scrambled to recreate some of the missing entries.

That would turn out to be a bonanza for me. Looking at the record set of baptismal records 1905-1930, I came across the document at right. There were the baptismal records of my father and seven of his eight siblings, all on one page! It confirmed their birthdates, gave me baptismal dates ranging from 1915-1928 and the names of the sponsors. It also provided alternate given names for a few of them that linked them to their grandparents. Finally, at the bottom, it listed my parents’ marriage in St. Pius V Church in Queens, N.Y. This was a great genealogical find! On the downside, since they charge to copy by the entry not by the page, getting a copy of this page was quite expensive.

48 Court St	313
Giuliano Nicola di Angelo s/o Enrica Merolla Nata il 15 Luglio 1915 Battes. il 26 Settembre 1915	
Padre Bartolino Maria Madrina L. Consolata Merello	
Maria Maria Rosa di Angelo s/o Enrica Merolla Nata il 17 Novembre 1917 Battes. il 17 Marzo 1918	
Padre Giuseppe Flora Madrina Barbara Flora	
Giuseppe Vincenzo di Angelo s/o Enrica Merolla Nato il 24 Giugno 1919 Battes. il 28 Settembre 1919	
Padre Giuseppe Berrino Madrina Elisabetta Berrino	
Nicola Consiglio di Angelo s/o Enrica Merolla Nato il 4 Gennaio 1921 Battes. il 12 Marzo 1921	
Padre Bartolomeo Salvatore Madrina G. Bartolini	
Nicola Damiano di Angelo s/o Enrica Merolla Nato il 30 Novembre 1922 Battes. il 5 Agosto 1923	
Padre Giuseppe Flora Madrina Barbara Flora	
Nicola Antonino di Angelo s/o Enrica Merella Nato il 19 Luglio 1925 Battesimato il 31 Maggio 1925	
Padre Nicola Giacchia Madrina Concetta Giacchia	
Nicola Elisabetta di Angelo s/o Enrica Merella Nata il 22 Gennaio 1927 Battesimato il 27 Febbraio 1927	
Padre Giacomo Bosco Madrina Virginia Giacomo	
Nicola Eleonora di Angelo s/o Enrica Merella Nata il 3 Settembre 1928 Battesimato il 23 Settembre 1928	
Padre Leonardo Giacchino Madrina Virginia Giacchino	
Eligio M. Graziano married Clementine Curtis, b. 1891 1946, St. Joseph’s Church Brooklyn, N.Y.	8
Eligio M. Graziano married Lucy Letellier Nov. 20, 1941 in St. Pius V, Jamaica, N.Y. by Rev. F. J. Garey	

This trip allowed me to fill in some important gaps in my family history, and, since my membership won't expire until next year, I intend to return to look through some of their other records. Those of you who have ancestors and relatives who settled in Pennsylvania, may want to consider a trip to the NEPGS. For others, you may want to investigate whether there is a local genealogical society that focuses on the area where you ancestors lived and worked. It may be well worth your time to visit them.

## Breaking Through My Brick Wall

Rita Messer

For years, I tried to find information about my grandparents' families. My mother's parents, Antonio Potente and Enrica Agus, (for whom I am named) were both Italian-born, but their specific place of birth was a mystery. So I started my research with documents available in the United States, hoping that one of them would provide an answer. I immediately found their ship manifests. Antonio came on March 21, 1913, on the SS *Venezia*, while Enrica arrived on October 6, 1913, on the SS *Europa*. My luck expanded when I found their marriage certificate, their death certificates, a deed, and census records. None of these, however, gave the actual town of birth but only listed Bari or Italy. Finally, I located Antonio's draft card and his petition for naturalization, which listed a village called Pezze di Greco in the province of Brindisi in Puglia as his birthplace. The petition stated that both Antonio and Enrica came from the same town but did not marry until after they arrived in New York. That's where the trail ended. I could not find any Italian records on in Ancestry, Family Search, or *Antenati*.

I had hit a brick wall. Then, with the help of Joan Warner from my local genealogy group, I was connected to Marilyn Verna of the Italian Genealogical Group, and I was on the road to discovery. We discussed using social media like Facebook and possibly finding a website dedicated to that area in Puglia that has a chat room. We turned to the Italian white pages. Marilyn immediately went on [www.paginebianche.it](http://www.paginebianche.it) and found several individuals in the town with the Potente surname. I

couldn't believe it! Next step, write letters. Marilyn wrote a letter of introduction in Italian, explaining who I was and the nature of my quest. I sent four letters to possible relatives of my grandfather.

The anticipation was building when, in just over two weeks, I received an email from someone who said she is my cousin. Her great grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. I'm in total amazement over this. I just can't stop smiling. We message almost every day. She even sent me a photo of my great grandparents. I had never seen them before. I'm learning more about my family all the time.



Great Grandparents Giovanna Triscuzzi and Paolo Potente

My brother and I are planning a trip to Italy to meet with our newly found family next spring, so now I need to learn some Italian. I would like to thank my friends Joan and Marilyn for all their help.

## Scholarship Contest Winners

The winners of the 2022 IGG Scholarship Competition have been announced. Since its inception, the scholarship program has awarded more than \$63,000 to deserving high school seniors who have conducted research into their Italian family history. Each applicant was required to write an essay about their research, create a family tree going back at least four generations and submit a letter of recommendation from an active IGG member. While all the entries demonstrated evidence of genealogical research, several merit being selected as this year's winners.

The 2022 Scholarship winners are:

First Prize (\$2000)

Second Prize (\$1000)

Award in memory of

Josephine and Vito Battista (\$500) **Hillary Cross**

**Talia Archer  
Mallory Doyle**

Congratulations to all! An excerpt from the winning essay will be published in the September IGG newsletter.

## May Speaker Anne Sibert Buiter

Pamela J. Vittorio



There is general agreement that about forty percent of Americans can trace their ancestry through the Port of New York and Ellis Island. So, in addition to those of us who do genealogical research in the New York area, many across the country could find relevance in the presentation

by Anne Sibert Buiter on **Tracing Immigrants Through the Port of New York.**

Her informative talk was based on her book, *Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York: Early National Period to 1924*. In her research, Dr. Buiter sought out more than just names of people who arrived on ships. She wanted to know about their lives and wanted to “be them.” She provided answers for researchers, i.e., when record-keeping started, where records are held (or where digitized records on databases are available), and explanations as to why researchers may not find what they’re looking for.

The U.S. Congress created the Customs Service to serve an urgent need to produce revenue. The earliest records covered goods on ships, not people. Dr. Buiter stated that “passengers were being transported in ships that were designed for animals, not people, and they weren't properly provisioned with food,” giving the audience a realistic perspective on the conditions for people who traveled in steerage. That changed in 1819 with the passage of the Steerage Act, which had a reporting requirement, and, at the beginning of 1820 “... any shipmaster arriving in New York or any other American port from a foreign port, was to present the customs inspector with a manifest or list of the passengers on board.”

Dr. Buiter displayed an example from Ancestry’s database of an early manifest for an arrival at the port of New York. This showed information that included name, age, sex, and occupation, as well as origin and destination of the passenger. Passengers’ names were often arranged in household groups, but relationships were not specified on these lists. The shipmaster was also supposed to include how many people died enroute, a key information item for

anyone wondering what happened to an ancestor who should have arrived in NY, but perhaps, disappeared. Researchers should keep in mind that clerks created manifests at the port of origin.

We learned that Congress passed additional immigration laws. The 1882 Immigration Act formalized the immigration process but banned whoever it deemed to be “undesirable.” This list later expanded over the next thirty-five years, to include “lunatics, idiots, those likely to become a public charge, polygamists, political extremists, and... illiterates under 16.” While the government continued to make changes to immigration regulations, New York’s Ellis Island opened in 1892. A new Immigration Act in 1893 required that lists must be created at place of embarkation and the manifests must be turned over to immigration officials at the port of arrival and landing. At Ellis Island, perhaps a researcher’s most familiar point of entry for our immigrant ancestors, we learned that the immigrant experience, even until 1957, was not much improved from that of the late nineteenth century.

In her discussion of how to locate these documents, Dr. Buiter modeled how to use the Ancestry database to search for her third great grandfather. She demonstrated that using filters for date, place, or names of family members may narrow down the results. She also explained that in NARA’s online collection, there are transcriptions that can be used to identify family members. You cannot, however, restrict dates or use filters, and there are no images. For specific Italian-oriented records, Dr. Buiter pointed to the “Italians to America Passenger Data File 1855 –1900 on the NARA database.” As the immigration rate of Italians rose in the late 1880s, some of the formal enactments would have an impact on our ancestors. She provided us with some excellent tips for using wild cards and filters if we are unable to find an ancestor.

She concluded by mentioning topics included in her book: the court system, passport applications, military records, and census records that provide immigration information. In addition, there are chapters on other searchable databases, departure records for different ports as well as information about many of immigrant groups, including the Italians.

Dr. Buiter’s description of the immigrant experience was almost like taking the journey alongside our own ancestors—the fulfillment of Anne Sibert Buiter’s original wish... to *be them*.

## The “Dash” in a Person’s Life Pasquale Ciorciari (1822 – 1900)

Carol DeAngelis Proven

We've all gone to graveyards and read the inscriptions on the tombstones, but have you ever stopped to think about the “dash” between the date of birth and the date of death? That “dash” is a person’s life! For example, let’s take the dates 1822 – 1900. This is the timeline belonging to Pasquale Ciorciari, the father of Rosaria, the second wife of my paternal great grandfather. He isn’t my direct ancestor, but while researching at the Family History Library in Utah, by chance I came across Pasquale’s death certificate. What fascinated me about this record was the answer to the question, how long was he a resident of the City of New York? As you can see below, the answer was: “Not officially landed.” What did “Not officially landed” mean? There must have been something in Pasquale’s “dash” that can help us understand.

Date of Death.	Feb 18 1900
Full Name.	Pasquale Ciorciari
Age, in years, mos. and days.	77 years
Color.	white
Single, Married or Widowed.	
Occupation.	Laborer
Birthplace.	Italy
How long in U. S. if foreign born.	Immigrant arrived 2/18/1900
How long resident in City of New York.	Visited

The ship on which Pasquale travelled, the SS *Archimede*, arrived in New York on February 16, 1900. Pasquale was admitted to Long Island City Hospital the same day, suffering from acute pneumonia. Dr. J. W. Toppa treated him from February 16 to 18. He declared Mr. Ciorciari deceased on February 18, at 8:00 AM and stated that the cause of death as cardiac failure. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, N.Y. on February 21. I think the entry on his death record could mean that he went directly to the hospital from the ship without being processed so he never “officially landed” in the United States.

I was interested in finding out why Pasquale was travelling to New York at that point in his life? Who was he going to see? Who was supposed to meet him? Did they see him before he died, or did he die alone? What was his history? While I know some of my ancestors had been detained on Ellis Island, he is the first immigrant I had researched who went from the ship straight to the hospital and died shortly thereafter. I felt great sympathy for him and was compelled to search for more details about his life.

This is what I found. Pasquale Ciorciari was born August 26, 1822 in Sanza, Salerno, Italy. His parents were Pedro Ciorciari and Rosaria “Mary” Abbondanza. In 1845, he married Felicia Maria DeLuca. They had three children, Rosaria, Giuseppe and Francesco. Giuseppe emigrated to America in 1896 with his wife Maria. They had three children, but none survived. Felicia died in October 1898. That is probably what motivated Pasquale to travel to the United States a little more than a year later, so, at age 77, on a cold winter day in early February 1900, Pasquale boarded the SS *Archimede*. The ship departed the Port of Naples and was scheduled to arrive in New York on February 16. His occupation was listed on the ship’s manifest as a laborer. He was travelling with his son Francesco, 28 years old. He was planning to meet Giuseppe, who was living in Brooklyn. As we have seen, Pasquale never made it there.

While it’s important to know the bookends of people’s lives, when they were born and died, the most interesting stories are in their “dashes”. Pasquale Ciorciari certainly had a long, full life in Italy about which I will probably never know much more. I only know about these small pieces of his “dash,” but I hope it will be enough to keep his memory alive.



June 14

## Culture Column: June is Bustin' Out All Over (from the play *Carousel*, 1945)

Marilyn A. Verna Ed.D.

June, leading into the summer, is a busy month in Italy. It commences with June 2, when Italy became a Republic. The day is celebrated with military parades and laying a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. There are parades throughout the month for the feasts of San Rocco and San Antonio. On these days, the statues of the saints are carried through the streets and citizens pin money to the saints' clothing. During St. Anthony masses, bread is distributed. In July and August, one day per month is dedicated to a famous horse race in Siena called the Palio. Representatives from the various town wards or *contrade* participate in the colorful pageantry. The race lasts for only 90 seconds. During the summer, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, marks the beginning of *Ferragosto*, a time when families take two weeks to spend at the beautiful white sand beaches. Further information on summer in Italy can be found in the IGG Newsletter of June 2020. The words for this month are:

June 2	<i>Il due giugno</i>
Day of the Republic	<i>il Giorno della Repubblica</i>
Military parade	<i>la sfilata militare</i>
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	<i>La Tomba del Soldato Ignoto</i>
Feast of Saint Rocco	<i>Festa di San Rocco</i>
Feast of Saint Anthony	<i>Festa di Sant' Antonio</i>
Statue	<i>La statua</i>
Money	<i>Il denaro</i>
Summer	<i>L'estate</i>
Bread	<i>Il pane</i>
Beach	<i>La spiaggia</i>
Ice Cream	<i>Il gelato</i>
White sand	<i>La sabbia bianca</i>
August holiday	<i>Ferragosto</i>

This month's challenge: fill in the blanks with the correct words. (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

1. Durante \_\_\_\_\_ me piace mangiare \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Per la Festa di San Antonio nel mese di \_\_\_\_\_, i panettieri cuocono al forno \_\_\_\_\_ speciale.
3. La famiglia va \_\_\_\_\_ per il \_\_\_\_\_.

Have a wonderful summer, see you in the fall!

### Do You Shop at Amazon?

If so, you can support the IGG by placing your order through AmazonSmile. Visit:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-3302825>

A portion of all order proceeds will benefit the IGG.



### Rosanna M. Giammanco, Ph.D.

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***“verba volant, scripta manent”***

Answers: 1. l'estate, il gelato; 2. giugno, pane; 3. la spiaggia, Ferragosto

## How-To Find 1950 Census Records Using Various Functions on Ancestry

Kelly Barbano-Bodami

In past how-to columns, we have noted that until the census is indexed, in order to find the 1950 census records of our ancestors and relatives, we would need to first determine their Enumeration District (ED), then use one of several sites such as Steve Morse's Universal 1950 Census Image Viewer to view the record. Well, the indexing process is progressing quickly. So, it may now be possible to get directly to the records by using a number of methods, such as the hints function on ancestry.

Here's how. First, by reviewing the hints for individuals on your tree, you may find that a hint has already been made available to get you to that person's 1950 Census record. When you click on Review, a box will appear on the right that includes a thumbnail image of the census record that you can examine. Then, if you decide that this is the correct record, you can click on Save, then Save to My Tree.

Another route is to use the All Hints function. When in your ancestry tree, at the top right is the leaf symbol. Click on it. On the dropdown menu, click on See All Hints. On the left side of the resulting page, there will be a list of hint types such as Records, Photos, Stories, and Member Trees. A new option is 1950 Census. Click on that and a list of 1950 Census records for some people on your tree will appear. Clicking on Review will bring you to a page that summarizes the record and provides a thumbnail image of the record. Clicking on the image will bring you to the actual record. Once you have reviewed the information on the page, you can save the record and the image to your tree.

Another option is to use the Search function at the top of the page. Go to a person's profile page on your tree. After clicking on Search, from the dropdown menu, choose Census and Voter Lists. Then fill in the search criteria and click Search. A list of results will appear. If the name you are searching for is a common one, you may get many potential hits. To locate the correct person, you can hover your mouse over the blue record reference to see if the record is for the correct person.

As the year progresses, more and more records will be indexed and will become available through

the search function without requiring you go through the process of identifying the ED.

The 1950 Census can provide a great deal of information about your ancestors. Just as reminder, additional questions were asked about every fifth person on the page. So, if the person you are researching happened to be entered on one of those lines, be sure to check the bottom of the page for more information.

### Ask the Experts

**Mario Toglia:** A friend asked me to find out where her grandfather, who died in New York in September 1914, was buried. I was able to find his death certificate online from NYC Municipal Archives but it does not give the cemetery. I noticed that there was a corrected certificate dated December 22 but again there's no mention of a cemetery. So where would one find the name of the cemetery?

**Alec Ferretti:** In my experience, any poor Italian who died in the Diocese of New York should be presumed to be in Calvary Cemetery. I'd call them and see if he's buried there. You'll need his name and date of death/burial.

**Kelly Bodami:** I agree with Alec - unless they were so poor that he was buried at the potter's field.

**Editor's Note:** Is there a topic or question you would like our How-To Columnists, Kelly Bodami and Alec Ferretti, to address in the future? If so, please send it to [newsletter@italiangen.org](mailto:newsletter@italiangen.org).

### In Memoriam

During this year, we lost several long-term members of the Italian Genealogical Group. We are saddened by their passing and offer our condolences to their families.

**Carol Ann Danner**  
**Michael Florio**  
**Edwin Hess**  
**Manny LaGatta**  
**Ines Tarantelli**  
**Loretta Valenti**

If you are aware of others, please let us know.

## The Magic Bowl

Jane Papa

When I was a child, my grandmother had a magic bowl! I knew it was magic because sometimes, usually on Saturday afternoons, I would see her kneading a large ball of freshly mixed dough on her kitchen table. She would then place the dough in the green, glazed crockery bowl and cover it with a white linen dishtowel. The bowl was then set atop the kitchen radiator for several hours. I never asked for an explanation of this activity, so none was given, but I would watch closely. Later, as she retrieved the bowl from the radiator, I would never fail to be amazed by the way the dough had grown to fill the bowl and was on the verge of pushing off its snowy linen cap. The only explanation for this most wondrous phenomenon that I could think of at the time was that the bowl must be magic. There seemed to be an outside possibility that my grandmother might be magical or that the magic depended on the combination of the two. I was inclined to believe that the magic resided in the bowl, as my grandmother was otherwise a rather straightforward person, not given to unusual behavior.

In any event, she would vigorously punch down the dough and deftly stretch and shape it to fill two large rectangular pans. After suitably topping the dough with spoonfuls of fragrant homemade tomato sauce and either creamy slices of *scamorza* cheese or salty anchovy fillets (never both on the same one), she would bake the pizzas, to be served with the family supper. The family's joyous enthusiasm for this delicious treat - and to me at the time, one unknown outside her house, only reinforced my notion that magic was afoot.

When I was in my late twenties and my grandmother in her eighties, there was a particular occasion when she urged me to select anything in her house that I would like to have, and she would gladly give it to me. Although she had frequently made similar offers before, I had never responded with a request, perhaps fearing that any obvious dismantling of her household might somehow hasten the end of her reign there. On this particular visit, I heard myself saying, "There is something I would like. When you think you can spare it, I would love to have the green bowl."

"You want that old bowl?" she asked somewhat incredulously, then quickly added, "Well, take it, I'm

not going to be needing it anymore." She paused and then said softly, "I'm glad you like that bowl. It belonged to my mother."

Just as the bowl had been magic for me as a child and now would serve as a symbol of the unconditional love my grandmother had always showered upon me, perhaps the bowl was magic for her mother, too. It was a tangible link, providing access to memories of her mother who had died when my grandmother was only fourteen years old. It was a symbol of her life's continuity from times long past. Now, I find the old bowl truly is magic, for whenever I fill it with dough or even as my eye falls upon it during other kitchen tasks, I am returned fleetingly to my beloved grandmother's kitchen. The bowl must not have been empty when I received it, but rather it must have contained the germ of family lore — legends, stories, and tales my grandmother told which, nurtured by inquiry and research, are beginning to take shape as a written family history.

Rest in peace, Grandmother. The magic bowl is safe with me.

**Source:**

Reprinted from *POINTers*. (Spring 2000) Vol. 14 (1). Page 15.

## Correction

In the May issue, the translation of the sentence submitted by Raffaella Caputo was cut off mid-sentence.

The translation of "*a casa mia, come per tradizione, per il pranzo di Pasqua, ci deve essere un'abbondanza di cibo, e non deve mancare la pastiera di grano napoletana, la pastiera di riso beneventana, e la pizza rustica*" should have read, in my house, as per tradition, for Easter lunch, there must be an abundance of food, and the Neapolitan wheat pastiera, the Benevento rice pastiera, and the meat pie must not be missing. We apologize.

## Contribute to This Newsletter!

We continue to need your help publishing this IGG newsletter each month. If you haven't yet contributed an article, we hope you consider doing so in the fall. Send your submissions to:

**[newsletter@italiangen.org](mailto:newsletter@italiangen.org)**

Thank you,  
Richard Graziano and Joe Battagliese

## Yet Another Problem with the New Antenati Site

Sebastiano Di Napoli

Despite some of the user-friendliness problems with the new version of the *Antenati* website already discussed in this newsletter, I have learned how to use it to find documents related to my ancestors. In the previous version, once you located a record, you could download or save the image to your computer and the result would be a crisp, clear image that you could print or save to your tree. I've noticed a yet another significant problem with the new site.

When you have found a relevant document and it's up on your screen, it is clear and readable. So, you want to download or save the image but there isn't a download option. If you right click on your mouse, you can save the image. In the old *antenati* version, the result would be duplicate of the clear copy on your screen. However, in the new site, the resulting image is blurry and almost illegible. I tried taking a screenshot of the image. That's more difficult since you need to reduce the size of the record to capture the whole image, and the resulting copy is even worse.

I Googled, "how to get a clear copy of a record on *antenati*" and got a few results. The solution involves a multi-step process that includes opening the menu page, going to another website, viewing lines of code, locating a page number, copying it to yet another web address. And, when I tried it, I got no further than step 3 when was told that I "do not have permission to access this resource." Even if it did work, it is an unnecessarily complicated process.

I then tried to access the document using familysearch to see if I could copy an image of better quality, but access to the records of the location I needed was locked and could only be viewed at a Family History Center, and who knows whether the results would be any better. I rather doubt it.

So, yet again, rather than improving the functionality of their site, the web masters who have revamped *antenati* have made things much worse. They have taken a process that was instantaneous, easy and effective and made it time-consuming, convoluted and providing poor results. I sent them a message to complain, but I doubt any improvement is forthcoming.

## Orient Express Returning to Italy

No mode of travel has the fame and mystique of the Orient Express, known for its luxurious accommodations and impeccable service. The Accor Group announced in January that, starting in 2023, the Orient Express will be returning to Italy for the first time since 1977. (The Venice Simplon Orient-Express, which is operated by Belmond and terminates in Venice, already exists.)

The new Orient Express, La Dolce Vita, will offer trains along six different routes from north to south on the peninsula. "Guests can spend anywhere from one to three nights aboard the new trains with plenty of time at each stop to enjoy the destination. No matter which of the six routes guests choose, a stopover in Rome will be at the heart of every journey, allowing travelers to experience a stay at Minerva, the first Orient Express hotel, which is scheduled to open in 2024." The trains, which will have a 1960s/1970s flavor, will also go to international destinations such as Paris and Istanbul. Details on the exact itineraries of the trains in Italy will be announced sometime next year.

So, if you are thinking about a trip to Italy next year, you may want to consider this first-class method of travel as an option, and, in the meantime, maybe read or watch Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*!

**Source:** Poitevien, J. (December 13, 2021). The Orient Express will return to Italy after 46 years — With six luxurious new routes. *Travel + Leisure*. Available at: <https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/bus-train/orient-express-la-dolce-vita-train-returns-to-europe-2023>.

## Quote of the Month

Richard Graziano

When doing genealogical research, we sometimes come upon things that we can't believe actually happened. For example, I found that one couple had fifteen children in nineteen years and at least twelve of them died under the age of four!

However, according to Agatha Christie's great detective, Hercule Poirot, in *Murder on the Orient Express*, "The impossible cannot have happened, therefore the impossible must be possible in spite of appearances."

## Candidates for IGG Office for 2022-2023

The following is the list of candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee for the 2022-2023 IGG Board. This slate will be voted on at this month's meeting.

### Nominees

President  
Vice President  
Vice President (Programming)  
Treasurer  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary

Michael Cassara  
MaryAnne Yenoli  
Pamela J. Vittorio  
John Affisco  
Gina Carpentieri  
Gail Cinelli

Any member interested in volunteering for any committee or back-up roles should contact the Nominations Committee Chair, **Angela La Giglia**, at [nominations@italiangen.org](mailto:nominations@italiangen.org).

## Thank You to Our Contributors

Richard Graziano

Well, another newsletter year has come to a close. As the editor of this publication, I put it together each month. But I certainly don't do it by myself. I want to thank all those who contributed to the newsletter over the past year. There are our regular columnists, **Kelly Barbano Bodami** and **Alec Ferretti** who write the How-To Column and **Dr. Marilyn Verna** who writes the Culture Column. I'd also like to thank all those who wrote and submitted one or two pieces. Without all of you, there is no newsletter. So, thank you very much.

I'd also like to recognize the members of the Newsletter Team, **Joe Battagliese** and **MaryAnne Yenoli**, for their hard work.

Our new year starts in September. I invite all IGG members to contribute an article next year. Have a great summer and let the writing begin!

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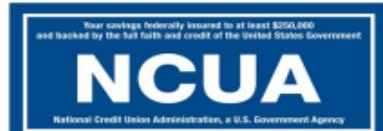
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### **Future Meeting Dates for the Italian Genealogical Group**

September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10, 2022

The Library opens at 9:00 AM. The meeting starts at 11:00 AM

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

**By Train:** Take the Long Island Railroad to the Bethpage Station. Walk east one block to Broadway, turn left, go (north) 3 blocks on Broadway. At the second traffic light, turn right on to Powell Avenue, The Library is about 500 ft ahead, on your right.

**By Car:** Via Southern State Parkway. Take exit 28A and go north on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135). Via 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. Meeting is in the auditorium.