

Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 1

Registration: 10:00-6:00 Adam's Mark Hotel, Tower Court

Executive Council Meeting: 3:00-6:00
Colorado History Museum, Classroom C

Opening Reception and Viewing of *The Italians of Denver* exhibit
Colorado History Museum 6:30-9:00: Drinks and hors d'oeuvres

Friday, November 2

Registration 7:00-5:00 Adam's Mark Hotel, Tower Court

Continental Breakfast: 7:30-8:30, Colorado History Museum, Auditorium

Opening Ceremonies: 8:30-9:45, Colorado History Museum, Auditorium
Welcome: Mary Jo Bona, President, AIHA, Stony Brook University
Keynote Address: Paola Sensi-Isolani, Saint Mary's College of California
"Gone West: An Italian Immigrant Looks Back"

Concurrent sessions: 10:00-11:30, 2:30-4:00, 4:15-5:45

Saturday, November 3

Registration 8:00-Noon Adam's Mark Hotel, Tower Court

Continental Breakfast: 7:30-8:30, Colorado History Museum, Lobby
Concurrent sessions 8:45-10:15, 10:30-12:00; 1:30-3:00, 3:15-4:45

Business Meeting: 5:30-6:30 Adam's Mark Hotel, Tower Court D
Cash Bar: 6:30-7:30 Tower Court
Banquet 7:30 Tower Court

All sessions will be held in the **Denver Public Library (DPL)** Rooms A, B, and C (basement) and the **Colorado History Museum (CHM)** Conference Room (3rd floor) and Classrooms C and D (main floor)

Display Hall: Friday/Saturday 8:00-5:00 Tower Court D, Adam's Mark

Program Schedule

40th Annual Conference of the American Italian Historical Association

"Italian Passages: Making and Thinking History"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2: 10:00-11:30

Session 1A

DPL A

Finding the Roots and Tracing the Italian Experience

Chair: Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University

Daniel E. Niemiec, founder and co-chair POINTers in Person Chicago, North
Chapter

*The Sorcerer's Apprentice: The Responsibility of Italian Genealogists to
Teach Their Craft*

Marie Saccomando Coppola, Malia

The West Side of Buffalo: Little Sicily

Stefano Luconi, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Italian Americans and Transnationalism: Old Wine in New Bottles?

Session 1B

DPL B

**Binding Ties: Italian Women Scholars Meet Italian American Culture
A Roundtable**

Moderator: Giovanna Miceli Jeffries, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Paola Malpezzi Price, Colorado State University, Fort Collins

Simona Muratore, Emory University

Christine M. Ristaino, Emory University

Session 1C

DPL C

The Road to Italy and the United States: La creazione e diffusione delle opere di John Fante (Presentation of the literary journal *Quaderni del '900* – issue 2006 devoted to John Fante)

Chair: Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach/Lauro De Bosis Fellow at Harvard University 2007-2008

Stephen Cooper, California State University, Long Beach
Alessandra Senzani, Florida Atlantic University
Jessica Maucione, Washington State University
Emanuele Pettener, Florida Atlantic University
Pasquale Verdicchio, University of California, San Diego
Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach/Lauro De Bosis Fellow at Harvard University 2007-2008

Session 1D

Conference Room, CHM

Contested Italian American Identities

Chair: George Guida, New York City College of Technology

Nancy Caronia, State University of New York, Brockport
George Guida, New York City College of Technology
Denise Scannell, New York City College of Technology

Lunch Break/Tour of North Denver (Little Italy)

Reservation must be made in advance. Bus leaves from Colorado History Museum at 11:45 and will return in time for afternoon sessions.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2: 2:30-4:00

Session 2A

DPL A

Italy, Italianità and Catholicism in Don DeLillo and Other Writers

Chair: Paul Giaimo, Highland Community College

Alan J. Gravano, Florida International University
Recycling as the Analogue of Redemption in DeLillo
Paul Giaimo, Highland Community College
A Moral Reading of Class and Italianità in Don DeLillo's "Underworld"
Alessandra Senzani, Florida Atlantic University
DeLillo's Underworld: Hybrid Spaces of Hyphenated America

Respondent: John Paul Russo, University of Miami

Session 2B

DPL B

Unlikely Stories: De-constructing the Italian American Family

Chair: B. Amore, The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

B. Amore, The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

A Marked Life

John Gennari, University of Vermont

The First Time

Emily Bernard, University of Vermont

Figurines: Inside and Outside an Italian-American Family

Michele Fazio, Stony Brook University

Family History and the Haunting of Ethnicity

Discussant: Elizabeth Messina, Fordham University

Session 2C

DPL C

Perceptions and Views of Columbus Day

Chair: Janet E. Worrall, University of Northern Colorado, Emerita

Marie-Christine Michaud, Université Bretagne Sud, Lorient (France)

Columbus Day, a celebration revisited by the

“Denver Post” (2000-2007)

Joe Aiello, *Andiamo! Colorado’s Italian Community Newspaper*

100 Years of Columbus Days

Darius L. Smith

David Spreccace, Denver lawyer, Columbus Day activist

Session 2D

Conference Room

CHM

Texas Tavola: A Taste of Sicily in the Lone Star State

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Circe Sturm, University of Oklahoma

Randolph Lewis, University of Oklahoma

Discussant: Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/ CUNY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2: 4:15-5:45

Session 3A

DPL A

(Re)Considering Mario Puzo: A Roundtable Discussion

Hosts: JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois, Chicago
Michele Fazio, Stony Brook University

Moderator: Chris Messenger, University of Illinois, Chicago
Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University
Thomas Ferraro, Duke University
Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University
Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Session 3B

DPL B

Co-chairs: Carol Bonomo Albright, *Italian Americana*, Harvard University Extension
School, University of Rhode Island
John Paul Russo, *Italian Americana*, University of Miami

Robert Benedetti, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
“*The Long Italian Goodbye*”

Marisa Labozzetta, writer and independent scholar
“*At the Copa*”

Jean Feraca, Host of “Here on Earth: Radio Without Borders,” WI Public Radio
“*I Hear Voices: A Memoir of Love, Death, and the Radio*”

John Domini, MLA Delegate as Independent Scholar, Des Moines Area
Community College
“*Earthquake I.D.*”

Session 3C

DPL C

Chair: Alisa Zahller, Associate Curator, Decorative and Fine Arts, Colorado Historical
Society and curator of *The Italians of Denver* exhibit, Colorado History Museum

Daniel Weinshenker, Special Projects and Denver Office Director, Center for
Digital Storytelling

Michael “Spydr” Wren, Colorado Historical Society and Executive Producer
of the films *Morra: An Italian Tradition* and *Life and Love: The
Italians’ Love of Life*

Session 3D

Conference Room CHM

De/Coding Italian American “Narratives”: Fact and Fiction

Chair: Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY

George Guida, New York City College of Technology

“What’s a ‘Mucc’? ”: The Meaning of Martin Scorsese’s Italian American Dialect

Jon Cavallero, Indiana University, Bloomington

Hollywood Goes Ethnic: The White Ethnic Revival and the Cinema of Martin Scorsese

George De Stefano, author, journalist, and critic

“A Burning Hatred for the Ruling Class”: Frank Barbaro’s Radical Life, from the (Brooklyn) Docks to the (New York Supreme Court) Bench

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3: 8:45-10:15

Session 4A

Conference Room, CHM

Italian American Gender, Sexuality, and Identity

Chair: Teri Ann Bengiveno, Las Positas College

Michael Carosone, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Disgracing the Family?: The History of Gay Italian Americans

Roseanne Giannini Quinn, Santa Clara University

On Seeing Connie Francis with My Mother at the Castro Theatre: or, Constructions of Italian American Female Identity and the Popular Culture Memoir

Marie A. Plasse, Merrimack College

Female Sexuality, the Body, and Identity in Contemporary Italian/American Women’s Writing

Session 4B

Classroom C, CHM

Writers Present Their Work

Chair: George Guida, New York City College of Technology

Christine M. Ristaino, Emory University

“A Love Letter, I suppose”

Gerry LaFemina, Frostburg State University

New Poems

Joseph V. Ricapito, Louisiana State University

“Fratelli, a Novel”

George Guida, New York City College of Technology

Poems from LOW ITALIAN

Pasquale Verdicchio, University of California, San Diego

“In the Name of the Farther”

Session 4C

Classroom D, CHM

Creating Italian American Archives: A Roundtable

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

B. Amore, The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

Nancy Carnevale, Montclair State University

Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/
CUNY

John Gennari, University of Vermont

Fred Gardaphé, Stony Brook University

Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens
College/CUNY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3: 10:30-12:00

Session 5A

DPL A

Writing the Family Memoir: Histories, Stories, and Other Fabrications

Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Giovanna Miceli Jeffries, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Circe Sturm, University of Oklahoma

Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, Purchase College

Annie Lanzillotto, writer and performer

Session 5B:

DPL B

Regional Impact of Italian Immigrants

Chair: Vincenzo Milione, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens
College/CUNY

Victor A. Basile, University of Medicine and Dentistry of

New Jersey, University Librarian Emeritus

Fairmont State University

Appalachian Italians—Their Struggle and Achievements

Samuel Di Rocco, II, University of Toledo

*The Boom and Bust of Pig Iron Production at the Turn of the Twentieth
Century: Italian Immigrant Laborers in Leetonia, Ohio*

Louise LoCascio Matarazzo, artist and writer

On the Road with Garibaldi

Session 5C: DPL C
Historical Reflections on Italian American Entertainment, Publishing, and the Ethnic Press

Chair: Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College

Emelise Aleandri, Artistic Director of Frizzi e Lazzi-the Olde Time Italian-American Music and Theatre Company

Italian-American Entertainments in NYC before the Mass Migration

James Periconi, independent scholar

History of Early Italian-Language American Book Publishing

Elizabeth Zaroni, University of Minnesota

“Per Voi, Signore”: Fashion, Food, and Gendered Representations of Consumption in the 1930s Italian American Press

Session 5D Conference Room CHM
The Legacy of Sacco and Vanzetti

Chair: Vincenza Scarpaci, University of Oregon, Eugene

Joseph V. Ricapito, Louisiana State University

Teaching the Truth about Sacco and Vanzetti

Vincenza Scarpaci, University of Oregon, Eugene

Cultural Manifestations of Sacco and Vanzetti and Viewing of Clips from

Peter Miller’s Documentary on Sacco and Vanzetti

(Copies of dvd are available from V. Scarpaci.)

Discussion: Audience

LUNCH 12:00-1:30 ON YOUR OWN

Films during the Lunch Break

Presenter: Dominic Candeloro, Italian Cultural Center at Casa Italia in Chicago

And They Came to Chicago: The Italian American Legacy (80 minute documentary) **DPL C**

Presenter: Anthony Fragola, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Un Bellissimo ricordo: A Mother and Her Sons Against the Mafia (42 minute documentary)

Discussion: Audience

Conference Room CHM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3: 1:30-3:00

Session 6A

DPL A

Growing up in North Denver's Little Italy

Chair: Janet E. Worrall, University of Northern Colorado, Emerita

Frank Palmeri
Rosemary Palmeri
Mary Pomarico
Geraldine Pergola
Irene Fanning

Session 6B

DPL B

Adventure, Identity, and (Un)Belonging: Valeria Belletti's *Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary*, Louise DeSalvo's *Crazy in the Kitchen*, Kym Ragusa's *The Skin Between Us*

Chair: Jessica Maucione, Washington State University

JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois, Chicago
Immigrant Daughter and Hollywood Secretary: the Letters of Valeria Belletti

Jennifer-Ann DiGregorio Kightlinger, Stony Brook University
'Feeding the Dead': Food and Italian American Identities Passed and Present in DeSalvo's "Crazy in the Kitchen"

Jessica Maucione, Washington State University
Passing for Italian American: Between Blackness and Whiteness and other Border-Crossings in Kym Ragusa's "The Skin Between Us: A Memoir of Race, Beauty, and Belonging"

Session 6C

DPL C

Photography and Artistry of Italians and the West

Chair: Paola Sensi-Isolani, Saint Mary's College of California

Pasquale Verdicchio, University of California, San Diego
Hopalong Chessedice: Carlo Gentile and the Making of the West

Jerry Krase, Brooklyn College/CUNY, Emeritus
The Past/Present/Future of Highlands in North Denver (1983 and 2007)

Anthony D. Cavaluzzi, Adirondack Community College/SUNY
Tradition and Modernity: The Paintings of Robert De Niro, Sr.

Session 6D
Interdisciplinary Approaches to Popular Culture

Conference Room CHM

Chair: Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College

Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College

Hollywood on the Tiber and the Case of the Missing Italian Immigrant

John Gennari, University of Vermont

Moltissimo Mario: Italian Cooking, American Celebrity

Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/
CUNY

*The Mediascape of Hip Wop: Translocal Migrations of North American
Italian Hip Hop*

Respondent: Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American
Institute, Queens College/CUNY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3: 3:15-4:45

Session 7A
Poetry Reading in English and Italian Translation

DPL A

Maria Ciavarelli, Rowan University

Rachel Guido deVries, Syracuse University

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, SUNY/Binghamton

Albert Tacconelli, artist/poet

Toni Libro

Session 7B
Authenticating Italian-American History

DPL B

Chair: Frank Alduino, Anne Arundel Community College

Maria C. Lizzi, SUNY/Albany

"We Only Done What Any Red-Blooded American Boys Would Do":

Racial Violence and Italian-American Identity in East New York, 1966

Kimber M. Quinney, California State University, San Marcos

*Ad ogni passo, piu' vicino: Capturing the History and Culture of Italians
in San Diego*

Dominic Candeloro, Italian Cultural Center at Casa Italia in Chicago

*The Dream: Prospects for Developing a National Exhibit on Italian
American History and Culture*

Session 7C

DPL C

Literary Passages: The Life and Literature of Tina DeRosa

Moderator: Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University

Marie A. Plasse, Merrimack College

Remembering and Mourning the Past: The Human Body in Tina DeRosa's "Paper Fish"

JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois, Chicago

Let the Mystery Be: Finding Tina DeRosa

Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Respondent: Fred Gardaphé, Stony Brook University

Session 7D

Conference Room CHM

The Novel: Reflections and Interpretations

Chair: Marisa Labozzetta, writer and independent scholar

Maria Giura, Montclair State University

Octavia's Acts of Surrender and Rebellion in Mario Puzo's "The Fortunate Pilgrim"

Chiara Mazzucchelli, University of Central Florida

Literary Dialogues Across the Ocean: Ben Morreale, Leonardo Sciascia and others...

Charles J. Scalise, Fuller Theological Seminary

Phil, The Fiddler: How Horatio Alger's Harvard Unitarianism Played among Italian Americans

Business Meeting: 5:30-6:30 Adam's Mark Hotel

Tower Court D

Cash Bar: 6:30-7:30

Banquet: 7:30

(pre-registration and pre-payment required)

Adam's Mark Hotel

Tower Court

AIHA Officers:

President: Mary Jo Bona
Vice-President: Josephine Gattuso Hendin
Secretary: George Guida
Treasurer: Dawn Esposito
Curator: Victor Basile
Website Manager: JoAnne Ruvoli Gruba

Local Arrangements Committee:

Alisa Zahller, Chair
Vince Tagliavore
Janet Worrall

Program Committee:

Janet Worrall, Chair
Mary Jo Bona
Dawn Esposito
Anthony Julian Tamburri
Sal La Gumina
Josephine Gattuso Hendin
Fred Gardaphé

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Colorado Historical Society
Denver Public Library, Western History Department
Andiamo! Colorado's Italian Community Newspaper
Rocky Mountain Italian American Business Association
CIAPA (Colorado Italian American Preservation Association)
The Dante Alighieri Society, Denver
The Amici of the University of Denver
Kevin and Mary McNicholas and KM Concessions
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
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Dominic Candeloro