

Member News & Web Links

LICS Bollettino Periodico

*The Digital Periodical of the
Lancaster Italian Cultural Society*

Volume 1 ∞ Digital Issue 3 October 2020



LANCASTER
ITALIAN
CULTURAL
SOCIETY



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

Member News, October 2020



Mike & Kelly Graybill

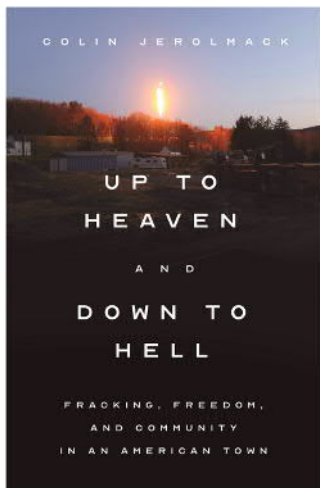
Theresa Graybill writes, "Hello! I just wanted to pass along that our son, Michael Graybill, was married to Kelly Phillips on August 22, 2020. (Parents are Allen and Theresa Graybill). Thank you!!" Congratulations to Mike and Kelly!

Dee Viscardi writes, "Another one of my sons has Covid 19, my son Tom. Please pray for his return to health."

Congratulations to Peter and Ann Hill Byrne who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 19th of September.

Our condolences to Sally Celia and family on the passing of her husband, Gregory Celia, Jr. Greg was charter member of LICS since 1999, served on the board of LICS directors and was active in supporting our organization.

Our condolences to Linda DeLeo and family on the passing of Alfred Vincent DeLeo. He was one of the cofounders of Alfred & Sam's Bakery, in Lancaster in 1959. Still in operation on Fairview Ave., the bakery is known for Italian breads and rolls baked fresh daily.



Marian Caroselli's son, Colin Jerolmack, is a professor at NYU and chair of the Environmental Studies Department. His second book is coming out in April. It deals with fracking. He spent a sabbatical in Williamsport, PA as well as doing other research. Pre orders are being accepted now on Amazon.

Up to Heaven and Down to Hell: *Fracking, Freedom, and Community in an American Town*

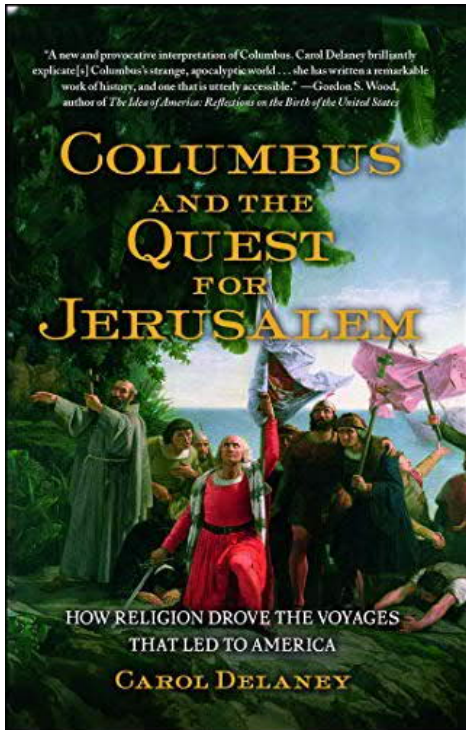
"A riveting portrait of a rural Pennsylvania town at the center of the fracking controversy, **Up to Heaven and Down to Hell** casts America's ideas about freedom and property rights in a troubling new light, revealing how your personal choices can undermine your neighbors' liberty, and how the exercise of individual rights can bring unintended environmental consequences for us all."

https://www.amazon.com/Up-Heaven-Down-Hell-Community/dp/0691179034/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=jerolmack&qid=1600959563&sr=8-1

Community/dp/0691179034/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=jerolmack&qid=1600959563&sr=8-1

Newsletter Committee: Marian Caroselli, John Day, Rudy DeLaurentis (Editor), Mary Cae Williams.

If members have news to report, family stories, or suggestions for articles, please email them to licsnewsletter@gmail.com. Thanks for reading!



Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem by Carol Delaney, PhD
(Contributed by Dolores Gareis)

Introduction:

Christopher Columbus has recently become a controversial figure to some but in my youth growing up in an Italian family he was the embodiment of a heroic explorer. I memorized the poem, “In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue”. The Poem went on to describe his discovery of the Indies and the indigenous people that inhabited the islands. It was a great discovery. Recent historians have painted a different picture. He is often portrayed as a villain with his discoveries described as a tragedy. I found this different view of Columbus very troubling. A noted cultural anthropologist, Professor Carol Delaney, PhD, in her book, **Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem** presents another side of the story. In 1999 she was teaching a class at Stanford university called “the millennium fever.” It led her to explore the history of millennial thought during which she came across references related to the Second Coming of Christ which the Pope in the Catholic Church expected at the year 1500. She learned that Christopher Columbus as a devoted Catholic believed this prophecy also and according to Scripture, it could be only achieved if Jerusalem would be freed from Muslim dominance and was in Christian hands. Columbus felt his role in this event would be to discover a new trade route to the Indies, China and Japan in order to finance the takeover of Jerusalem using the profits from this venture. Excited by this discovery Professor Delaney took a sabbatical and devoted her

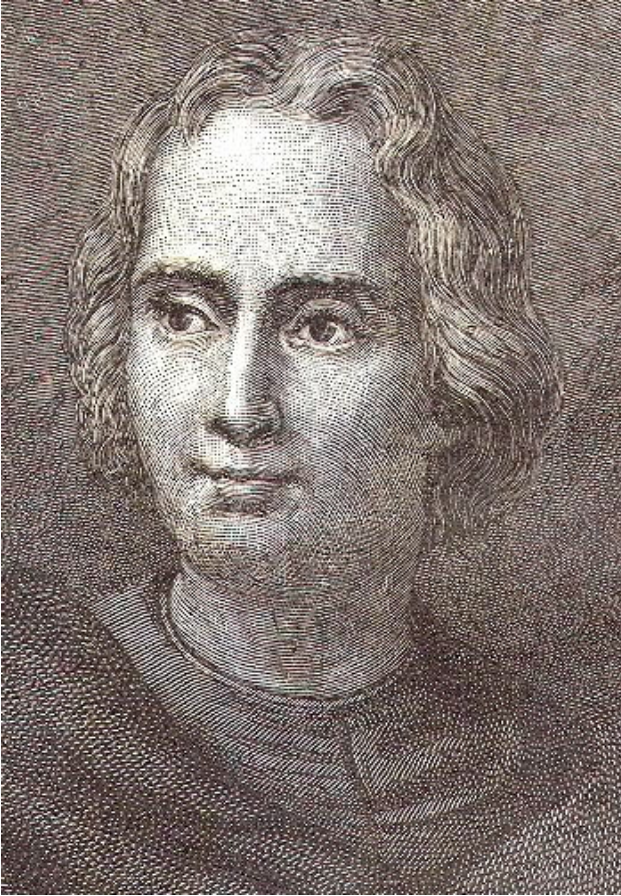
time to studying from primary sources the actions and motives of Columbus’s quest. She read his journals and also those of his son and visit all the sites important to the planning and execution of his journeys.

She found a man quite different from the malevolent individual depicted by some contemporary writers. In a recent interview she attributed this difference to the fact that none of these previous writers had explored the primary sources by reading the original writings of Columbus and his son. According to Dr. Delaney he was a man driven by a religious fervor to achieve the conquest of Jerusalem before the second millennium and he didn't have much time.

Columbus was in many ways the ideal candidate to discover a new world. He was born in 1451 in Genoa Italy, two years before the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Not only did the western merchants lose their trade routes to the East but they and pilgrims lost their access to the “holy land.” Many Christians became obsessed with the idea of retaking the city of Jerusalem and Columbus was one of them. He was born into a society steeped in the Catholic religion. His father was a wool merchant and the city of Genoa was filled with men who traded throughout the known world. Marco Polo had returned from the East with stories and evidence of the wealth found there. The loss of the eastern trade routes impacted these merchants and the seafaring man who transported their goods. The East was a place of riches, gold, pearls and gems but it was no longer reachable.

Contrary to popular belief most sailors such as Columbus did not believe the earth was flat, however, they felt it was much smaller than in reality. They thought that the world was composed of Europe, Africa and Asia and there was no other land mass. So, Christopher Columbus thought that if he traveled West we could reach the riches of Cathay, Japan and the Indies by sea, establish a trading post and bring back riches that could be used for the conquest of Jerusalem. Much of his adult life was devoted to this purpose.

In our next installment we will explore how Columbus prepared himself for this controversial task and tried for years to overcome the rejection of his ideas and opposition to his goals.



The Life of Young Christopher Columbus

(Excerpted from **Search for Columbus** by Eugene Lyon, *National Geographic*, January 1992.)

“In the years before commanding the Santa Maria, Christopher Columbus prepared and then tenaciously pressed his ambitious plan to sail west from Europe to the Orient. **Just who was the stubborn single minded enigma of a man?**”

Salt air and sailing ships seduce the teenage Columbus. By the early 1470s, he set sail along European trade routes, working as a commercial agent on ships similar to the Santa Maria. He chartered and stocked boats, hired sailors, and managed money. A man on a mission as well as a mariner, Columbus believed God ‘granted me the gift of knowledge and revealed to me that it was feasible to sail...to the Indies, and placed in me a burning desire to carry out this plan.’

Although the exact location of his childhood home is unknown, his family lived somewhere near the towers of the Porta Soprano, one of the several city gates in Genoa, Italy. Christopher’s father, Domenico, worked primarily as a master wool weaver. But he also kept a tavern, dabbled in real estate, and was a partisan for the mighty Fregoso family, who, when in power, gave Domenico a gatekeeper’s job. In the boisterous, enterprising spirit of Genoa, he also worked as a cheese maker, tavern keeper, and dealer in wool and wine. Domenico Colombo married Susanna Fontanarossa.

Image from Child's History of Spain by John Bonner Their first born was **Cristoforo** [Christopher Columbus], in 1451, later came Giovanni Pellegrino and Bartolomeo, Giacomo, and daughter Bianchinetta. As a youth, Christopher was already at work with his father. [Columbus late in life indicated that he went to sea at age 10 years. It probably would have been on the ship owned by a neighbor or family friend.] He first appears in the notarial record of September 1470; later that year, ‘at greater than 19 years of age,’ he obligated himself for a quantity of wine. By 1472 Columbus had learned his father’s trade, for in that year he is called a **lanaiolo**, a worker in wool.

His general Genoese heritage helped greatly to shape Columbus and his view of the world. Compressed between surrounding hills and the shore, Genoa spills down to the Ligurian Sea. Locked in by such powerful rival cities as Milan and Florence and with little fertile hinterland, the people of Genoa were forced to seek their livelihood upon the Mediterranean sea.

In the 15th century the Republic of Genoa was a lively, turbulent place, it’s atmosphere harsh and stimulating. The Genoese had no king, but selected powerful men as Doges to rule them.

Throughout his life Columbus displayed many of the same traits as his fellow Genoese. They were a stubborn, acquisitive people, prospering through hard work and thrift, diligent in details, jealous of time. They created business enterprises far beyond the confines of their city. As Columbus himself would become, the Genoese were true cosmopolitans. They often married abroad and learned other languages, coexisting readily with other peoples. During the late Middle Ages, trade from Genoa expanded rapidly into nearby Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily. Genoese merchants sought the wheat, salt, wine and wool of Iberia. They spread through western Europe and the Lavant and built trading centers near Constantinople, on the black sea, and on the Greek island of Chios. They traded on the Danube and in Kiev. At Tunis, and entrepôt in northern Africa, they traded for gold. As Columbus himself said, ‘Genoese...and all the people who have pearls, precious stones and other valuable things, take them to the end of the earth...to convert them into gold. Gold was for the Genoese, the ultimate store of wealth.’” Contributed by Rudy DeLaurentis

RAI and MHZ

For those of you looking for some wonderful programming in Italian, much of which is fascinating even if you don't know the language, subscribe to **RAI (Radiotelevisione italiana)**, the national public broadcasting company of Italy. If your Italian is not "ottimo", fear not! You can adjust the speed of the narration. Best of all, the service is free.

You don't know Italian? You can certainly enjoy watching videos of the beauty of Italy even without understanding the narrative. Try *Italia viaggio nella bellezza* or *Umbria: il piccolo cuore d'Italia*. *Meraviglie* is wonderful and the footage of the Frassasi Caves will amaze you.

Before you can access any of the programming you will have to register with **RaiPlay**. You can access RaiPlay.it via your browser: <https://www.raiplay.it/>. That is, you must create a password and answer a few questions. It is not necessary to register using Facebook or Google. You just have to provide your email address and password.

Another video resource is MHZ, a streaming service for foreign and International content in the form of mysteries, dramas and comedies. There is monthly fee but often there are introductory offers that you can terminate after the 7 day trial period. A favorite of many fans of Andrea Camilleri's detective novels is the Inspector Montalbano series--over 30 episodes with English subtitles. This member views it both on her computer and through her Roku device on her TV.

Here's the link to the trial MHZ Choice Subscription:

<https://watch.mhzchoice.com/>

Contributed by Marian Caroselli

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Salvo Montalbano

Are you yellow? No, I'm not referring to your bravery but to a genre of Italian novels, called "gialli". "Giallo" is the Italian term designating mystery fiction. The word "giallo" is Italian for yellow. The term derives from a series of cheap paperback mystery novels with yellow covers that were popular in Italy.

One of my favorite writers is **Andrea Camilleri**, who wrote a series of detective novels about the fictional character **Salvo Montalbano**. These wonderfully entertaining books take place in the imaginary town of Vigàta, in the fictional province of Montelusa based on the Province of Ragusa in Sicily.

Inspector Salvo Montalbano is in charge of the state police station. He investigates criminal acts which he always manages to solve by reconstruction thanks to his intelligence and the help of his team which includes his deputy, Domenico 'Mimi' Augello, Giuseppe Fazio, Galluzzo, and Agatino Catarella. Salvo has a long-distance, tempestuous relationship with Livia Burlando who lives in Genoa.

While I have loved the books, I am truly "pazza" for the video series—as are 50% of the population of Italy. If your Italian skills are not "ottimo", no worries, there are English subtitles. So much is conveyed by the expressions, gestures and attitude of Montalbano that sometimes dialog isn't necessary.

In addition, the scenery and cinematography are breathtaking. Various parts of Sicily that you will

enjoy seeing are: Ragusa Ibla, Modica, Donnafugata Castle and the Donnalucata, Pozzallo and Scoglitti ports, Marina di Ragusa, Comiso, Santa Croce Camerina and more.

The series originally premiered on Rai television in Italy and then in over 65 countries. You can subscribe to MHZ here to watch the series. MHZ offers 7 day trial subscriptions. In addition to Montalbano, it offers many other international mysteries, comedies and dramas.

I watch Montalbano using my Roku device through Amazon Prime to which I have added MHZ.

Link to trial subscription: <https://watch.mhzchoice.com/>

Contributed by Marian Caroselli