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Member News & Articles

LICS Bollettino Periodico

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LANCASTER
ITALIAN
CULTURAL
SOCIETY



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

Member News, February 2021

Condolences to Greg and Valerie Faiola on the passing of Greg's son-in-law, Sean Stanton.

Condolences to Tom and Pat LaBarbera on the passing of his mother, Teresa LaBarbera.

Get well wishes and prayers to Pat LaBarbera.

Bravo to Steve Iovino who received the Italian-American Service award for 2020. Steve is the former two term Vice President of LICS. We thank Steve for his continued service and support of LICS. Also, we thank his wife, Judy and their son Mark for all the help and support they provided at LICS meetings and events. The full article will appear in the printed March Newsletter, which will be sent to the membership.

So, you never got to spend time in the kitchen with your nonna and we all know she never wrote down her recipes, nor did she measure. If the palm of your hand was bigger or smaller than hers, you'd never get the proportions right when she instructed you to use a fist full of this or that. Here is the nonna and the directions you long to have.

Gina Making Pizza:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjXWVSbWBV4>

Click on the above link or photo to watch the video.

Greetings from Marian,

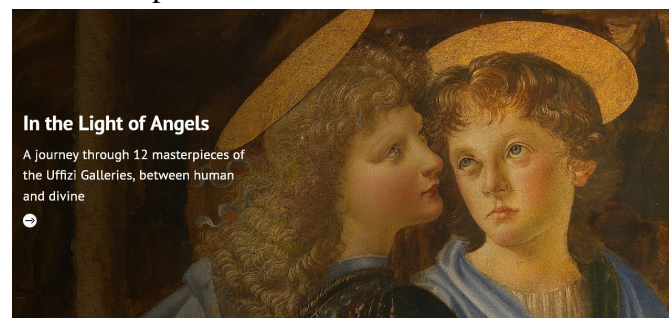
My former Italian professor from Villanova has given a series of lectures that are now on YouTube that our members might find interesting. There are 5 of them:

1. What does beauty have to do with innovation? The Italian Case.
2. How the Italian language made it to the United States.
3. When food became a work of art.
4. What does Italy's past have to do with the future? On heritage and values.
5. A Human Centered Adventure. Italian technology from Leonardo to Olivetti.

This [link](#) takes you to all of them:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEH7ndDET58MG87E5HJ4zweBclmaxBPiN>

Since we cannot visit the **Uffizi Museum** in Florence during the pandemic, you may view the various exhibits on-line, for free. Please click on the link or photo below to tour the museum.



[Hypervisions | Uffizi Galleries](#)

<https://www.uffizi.it/en/online-exhibitions>

Member Spotlight by Mary Cae Williams

In a recent conversation with **Peter L. Costanzo Jr.**, I asked him about his Italian-American memories of childhood.

Pete grew up in Netcong, NJ, which is a small town in North Jersey. It's comprised of about 3000 inhabitants, and where Pete's great-grandfather settled when he emigrated from Italy around 1900. In Pete's mind, Netcong was always about "100 years behind all the surrounding towns." Netcong was about "90% Italian-American", and North Street, where Pete grew up, was called Little Italy. There were about a dozen kids close to the same age in the neighborhood; it was a wonderful place to grow up.

Pete's grandfather, born in 1906, had the nickname of "Oshe" because he spoke broken English his whole life. He bought his house for \$1 from his uncle and, later, sold it to Pete's father for \$1. This was the house Pete grew up in. It was small and crowded but filled with love. Pete remembers his mother as a woman that started the day smiling, and sang while she worked until she finally sat down for a rest around 11:00 at night. Her cheerful and loving personality touched all the people she knew. Pete's father was also a hard worker with a positive attitude, who fought fiercely to overcome numerous health challenges in later years. Pete strives to emulate his parents' selflessness and love for family and friends.

Around 1900, about a dozen immigrants came to the USA from Cesario, Sicily. The St. Cesario Society was founded in 1902 and celebration of the Festival of St. Cesario began in Netcong that same year. The Feast of the Assumption (celebrated since 1922) is also part of the annual Italian-American traditions in Netcong. These keep calling Pete and others who grew up there back to Netcong each year. Pete belongs to the Saint Cesario Society, so that festival is closest to his heart. It begins at 7:00AM and goes on until midnight. Celebrated on the second to last Saturday of July this is a festival that includes breakfast, Mass, a parade, and a traditional day of food, drink, friendship and fireworks. In the morning and early afternoon, the celebrations are for family and friends in Netcong. As afternoon turns to evening, people come from nearby towns to enjoy the festivities. American and Italian food, rides, bocce tournaments...all these mark the truly Italian-American nature of the day. After hearing about all the excitements of the day, I felt like the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society should plan a trip to Netcong to join in. Here's to the day we can once again enjoy activities such as these.

Pete was fortunate to have his father coach him in baseball from Little League through High School. He knew early on he either wanted to become a professional baseball player or financial advisor. He has kept up with his love of baseball as a Little League coach to his own sons. As Executive Vice-President with Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, Pete has made a profession of his ambition to become a financial advisor. When Pete was a young teenager, he was drawn to the excitement of the stock market. In his profession, he has dedicated himself to helping his clients achieve financial independence, and treating them with the personal care and concern he learned at home from his parents' shining examples. In discussing his business, I could hear the ways in which Pete's attention to his clients goes beyond simply looking at their portfolios. Pete looks at each client individually, giving them the time and attention that make all the difference in a strong, caring relationship.

We thank Pete for continuing to sponsor our Newsletters and Bollettini, and for serving as LICS' Vice President.



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Columbus by Dolores Gareis, Part 3

The life of Columbus incorporates one of the great adventures of mankind. His epic voyages are only part of the story. It took him years of effort before finally convincing Queen Isabella of Spain to back his efforts of exploration to the west. Even her husband, Ferdinand, disagreed with this venture. His voyage of discovery would not have been possible without his persistence and perseverance in this effort.

The Third Voyage: Colonization

The attitude of the King and Queen of Spain had changed. They now were considering the development of a full-fledged colony on their newly discovered islands. Columbus realized that his original purpose of accumulating gold and riches for the conquest of Jerusalem was fading away. During this voyage, he went a little further south and actually touched on the northern coast of South America, prior to his return to the island of Hispaniola. When he finally arrived, he found that things were no better and numerous rebellions were taking place. There were so many complaints against him that he finally asked the King and Queen to send an investigator who could evaluate the situation. Much to his surprise, they chose the Knight Commander Francisco de Bobadilla, a man with an unsavory past and a harsh reputation. When he arrived on the island of Hispaniola, he

immediately arrested Columbus, his brother, and son and shipped them to Spain in irons. When Columbus sailed away, Bobadilla told the sailors to take advantage of as much as they could because they didn't know how long it would last. Many atrocities followed.

When Columbus arrived in Spain, it was evident that Bobadilla had overstepped his mandate and the King and Queen exonerated Columbus.

The fourth voyage, final exploration.



Isabella and Ferdinand sent another commander to take over from the vicious Bobadilla. Columbus would no longer be the governor of the new colony and had lost much of his power and status; however, Isabella had a great respect for his navigational abilities and seamanship, so she commissioned him to do further explorations in the West Indies.

What followed was an epic voyage that would be a story in itself. Columbus was told not to go into the island of Hispaniola but as he approached the waters nearby he astutely noted that a hurricane was brewing and despite his orders went into the colony to warn them. The new governor by the name of Ovando would not allow Columbus to land or even come in to the harbor to be protected from the hurricane. There were 30 ships ready to sail to Spain loaded with gold and other valuables. Despite Columbus's warnings, they set off and were decimated by the hurricane. Of the 30 ships, 20 ships were sunk and the others were damaged. Only one ship made it back to Spain. Meanwhile, Columbus, the excellent sailor that he was, was able to save all four of his ships. He continued with his exploration and stopped in Central America, where he encountered some hostile tribes and other problems including a mutiny. He sailed back to Hispaniola with two remaining ships and reached the island of Jamaica, as the damaged ships were sinking. Columbus and his surviving crew were marooned on this island for a year before rescue ships arrived. Finally, Columbus's maritime career had ended and he spent the rest of his life fighting for the rights of his fellow sailors who never received the compensations that were promised them.

(This concludes our three part series.)

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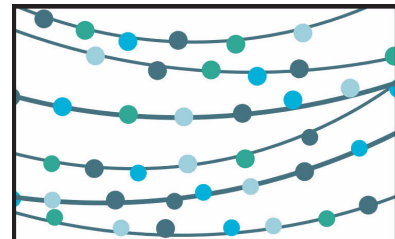
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