



# Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

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## **Tutto Italiano** **Benvenuto a *Tutto Italiano***

One hundred years ago, on January 20th, [Federico Fellini](#) was born in Rimini (region of Emilia-Romagna). He showed an early interest in drawing and movies, and was inspired by the work of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy, the Marx brothers, and Roberto Rossellini.

In high school, he was hired by the manager of the local cinema to draw caricatures of the movie stars appearing in the films being shown; with the posters used to promote the movies. He also provided comic strips for several publications. In 1939, Fellini moved to Rome and joined the editorial staff of *Marc'Aurelio*, a popular satirical magazine, staying until 1942. During that time, he also wrote monologues for radio hosts and for [Aldo Fabrizi](#), a well-known comedian, actor, director, and screenwriter.

Through his scriptwriting, Fellini worked with Rossellini and met Giulietta Masina, an actress he married in 1943. Fellini co-directed his first film in 1950 and his first as sole director was in 1952. In 1954, Masina starred in Fellini's film *La Strada* with Anthony Quinn. The film won numerous awards, including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; one of four Fellini received (in the Best Foreign Language Film category); the most of any director.

Throughout his career, "[Fellini frequently drew the characters of his movies](#). [He] believed in developing a character by drawing that character, a key part of his creative process." Fellini is known for his unconventional style of filmmaking, described as Felliniesque, "[where dreams and reality are perceived as one experience](#)."

This year, [numerous celebrations were planned](#), including a collaboration between the [British Film Institute and Luce Cinecittà](#) (subsidized by the Italian Ministry for Culture); but because of the virus, many had been cancelled and some have been postponed. However, numerous educational presentations are still being conducted and a variety of websites offers different perspectives on the director and his work.

[Federico Fellini Official Website](#) (in Italian with some English)

[Fondazione Federico Fellini](#) (In Italian and English)

[Fellini 100](#) (In Italian)

[Fellini Cent'anni](#)

[Senses of Cinema: Great Directors](#)

[Born 100 Years Ago, Filmmaker Federico Fellini Captured The Messiness Of Life](#) (NPR)

[Inspired by Rimini: a tour of Fellini's magical home town](#)

[Federico Fellini: Selected Filmography](#)

[Federico Fellini: 10 essential films](#)

[Comicipedia: Federico Fellini:](#)

[Comics testimonial: Federico Fellini](#)

[Chatting about Other Things: An Interview with Federico Fellini](#) (1999)

[Luce Cinecittà](#)

### **From the Italian American Press**

The Italian American Press offers a great selection of books – culture, history, memoirs, art, family, food, the supernatural, the natural beauty of Italy, and more – for every interest. Help preserve Italian American heritage and history. Support authors of Italian heritage who write about Italian American and Italian culture and let them know you found their books on the Italian American Press.

### **New Books**

[Leave It Raw](#) by Shakira Croce

In her debut book of poetry, Shakira offers a selection of thoughtful reflections on life and its surroundings. Each poem centers on how human emotion interacts with its environmental boundaries.

[Lost in Translation](#) by Susan Nanfeldt

Inspired by a conversation with her daughter, Susan relates stories about her Italian American upbringing. Through letters, photographs, and recollections of her childhood, she offers a look back to the past and an appreciation for “the legacy of culture and heritage.”

[Stefano and the Tuscan Piazza](#) by Paul Salsini

A move to a new village transports Stefano to the pages of his favorite book about life in the Middle Ages, as the buildings bordering the piazza come alive with the history told by his grandfather.

### **Thirty-One Days of Italians**

In 2007, Thirty-One Days of Italians went online. I created the name and the concept of celebrating each day in October – Italian American Heritage Month – by honoring one person of Italian heritage who has significantly contributed to America.

### **2020 Sequel**

Some media and organizations that promoted Italian American Heritage Month with Thirty-One Days of Italians. *Thank you.*

[We the Italians](#)

[Fra Noi](#)

[Buona Fortuna Lodge #2835](#) (Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America); Pensacola, FL

[Neighborhood News from Little Italy, Baltimore](#)

[NIAF](#)

Throughout October, NIAF made references to the 2020-2021 List on its Facebook page.

[Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211](#) (Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America); Long Island, NY

At the General Membership Meeting in October, Past President and Co-Chair of the Italian American Culture and Heritage Committee Robert Savino, conducted a

presentation of the 2020-2021 List.

### **2020 Columbus Day Sequel**

#### **[Courage And Conviction: The True Story Of Columbus](#)**

A thorough examination of the life and legacy of the fearless discoverer of America, narrated by actor Chazz Palminteri, this film provides insight into Christopher Columbus' remarkable genius as a sea navigator as well as his deep desire to bring all nations to Christ. Through expert interviews and archival footage, we look at the origins of Columbus Day and the symbolic role that Columbus has for Catholic immigrants, especially Italian Americans. Finally, the film addresses the current indictments against Christopher Columbus with boldness and exposes the motives behind the attacks of revisionist historians. *Courage and Conviction* shows why Christopher Columbus remains not only a man worthy of admiration, but a noble icon of what it means to be a Catholic and an America.

#### **[Hispanics Should Revere Columbus, Not Revile Him](#)**

*(Thanks, John)*

### **Italian American Heritage Project**

The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America; Italian Americans do not have an organized defense. The statements of truth and facts posted on so many Italian American websites are not working. Italian Americans need a nationwide program to battle the campaign to abolish Columbus Day or it will be lost; even though Indigenous People already have a designated day, and Native Americans have a day and a month to celebrate their culture.

Indigenous Peoples Day – August 9

Native American Month – November

Native American Heritage Day – Friday after Thanksgiving

Visit the [IAHP website](#) to read my articles, learn about the lesson plans, see the resources I've used, and support my work. Donate for a cause – preserving Italian heritage and Italian American history and culture through education. [All donations are tax-deductible.](#)

### **Venice in the News**

Do a search for "Venice tourism," and millions of results will appear, many with headlines of doom and destruction; but because of the virus, the focus on Venice is shifting from the past to the future. Several recent articles note [regulating tourism](#), [creating work incentives in other industries](#), and [providing cultural experiences](#) as solutions to saving – what many consider – one of the [most beautiful cities in the world](#).

My interest in Venice substantially increased in 2015 when I received the book [Dream of Venice](#) – a reasonably-sized coffee table book filled with exquisite photographs of Venice – the first in a series of three books edited by JoAnn Loctov. Since then, JoAnn has introduced me to several residents of Venice who have provided their insights into the dilemmas the city faces. Read my article, "[Balancing Venice and Tourism](#)," at *La Gazzetta Italiana* to learn what Luisella Romeo, a member of the Association of Registered Tourist Guides in Venice, and Guido Molledo, founder and editor of the Venice-based magazine *ytali*, say.

Another Venice resident, Iris Loredana, and her grandmother Lina Teresa, teach [virtual classes about Venice](#). They recently posted information about a new book, [Venezia. 1989 -2021](#) that "collects answers and ideas from Venetian residents, environmental scientists, business and tourist experts on how to reverse-engineer the city and Lagoon."

### **Italian American News**

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