



Italian Historical Society of America

Newsletter

MARCH 2021

BY JANICE THERESE MANCUSO

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

Along the coast of Campania, the semi-circular inlet of the Gulf of Naples surrounds the [Phlegraean Islands](#) – Ischia, Nisida, Procida, and Vivara – off its northern shore. [Ischia](#) – divided into the historic section [Ischia Ponte](#) and the newer [Ischia Porto](#) – and the largest island at around 21 square miles, is known for its spas and [Aragonese Castle](#), built in the fifth century BC by Hiero I of Syracuse on a rocky islet off the northeast shore of the island.

A few miles northeast of the castle, the small island (about four square miles) of [Procida](#) is a popular summer retreat for Neapolitans. As with Ischia, and the internationally well-known villages along the Amalfi Coast and Capri (both about 15 miles southeast of Procida) the steep cliffs and colorful houses of Procida offer picturesque views. In January, [Procida was chosen for the Italian Capital of Culture for 2022](#). The designation of Italian Capital of Culture is a competition created in 2014 to support and bring attention to the importance of the traditions of all cities in Italy.

On the southwest corner of Procida, a [causeway connects to Vivara](#), a tiny (less than an acre) crescent-shaped atoll that is a nature reserve. With numerous species of birds and botanics, and traces of settlement during Mycenaean Greece (1600–1100 BC), [Vivara](#) is a treasure for scientific and archeological research.

Closest to Naples, and slightly smaller than Vivara, Nisida is [connected to the mainland with a stone bridge](#). Although small in size, the island has a substantial history as the location of villas for military leaders during the Roman Empire, a castle, a monastery, a prison, a command center for the Italian Air force and Italian Navy, and a rehabilitation center for boys. In 1831 the French composer [Hector Berlioz wrote about his visit to Nisida](#).

[Places to explore on the island of Ischia](#)

[Procida Island Named Italian Capital of Culture for 2022](#)

[Isola di Vivara](#) (YouTube Video)

[The Flooded Volcano of Naples - Nisida](#)

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 on the Italian American Press

[Venice Rising: Aqua Granda, Pandemic, Rebirth Edited by Kathleen Ann González](#)

Through the unprecedented challenges of a great flood and a pandemic, Venetians share their experiences in stories of trepidation, uncertainty, and faith in anticipation of

the revival of Venice.

Italian American Heritage

On February 20th, the [Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations](#), “a coalition of the presidents from the 50 largest Italian American groups,” held a virtual meeting to “address three vital and deeply significant topics: A Fragmented Italian America, Connecting to Younger Generations, [and] The Fight for Columbus.” The next meeting is scheduled “in a few months.” For more information visit italianamericaonline.com/.

[National Italian American Summit Meeting](#) (YouTube Video)

The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America. Italian American organizations have recognized the “need to find ways to work together to save Columbus Day and protect our heritage from this onslaught of anti-Italian American bias.”

Resources and sample letters are now available to download (as PDFs) at [Know Columbus](#). However, the statements of truth and facts posted on so many Italian American websites must be publicized and widely distributed, otherwise, they will not work. The Italian American community needs to act quickly on a nationwide program in the battle against 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](#).

Italian American History and News

March is Women’s History Month, and women of Italian heritage are an important part of Italian and Italian American history. Read my article, [Italian Women Taking the Lead](#) by expressing their thoughts on paper, at *La Gazzetta Italiana*. For more biographies of Italian women, go to the [Italian Historical Society of America](#).

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One hundred and ten years ago on March 25th, 146 people perished in the [Triangle Shirt Factory fire](#); at least 35 were Italian women. The top three floors of the ten-story building, in New York City, housed the factory, but it was the eighth floor where the fire started and the ninth floor where so many died. The fire – one of the worst disasters in New York City – put more force behind the movement for safety and labor laws

[The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire killed 146 but led to labor reform. A century later, has America forgotten its lessons?](#) (nj.com; updated March 31, 2019)

[From The Ashes Of A Tragedy: The Road to Women's Rights and International Women's Day](#) (The Maltese Family, Women’s Day and the Sicilian-American Contribution)

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The trial and execution in 1927 of [Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti](#) is a case study in the treatment of Italian immigrants in the early twentieth century. “[The Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society](#) exists to preserve the memory of Sacco and Vanzetti’s struggle to radically change society.” Earlier this year, the song “[For Ines](#)

[Mother Cabrini Memorial](#) (Battery Park City Authority, New York State) *Thanks, John.*

[Searching For Italy: Rome And Bologna](#) (Italic Institute of America, Bill Dal Cerro; March 1, 2021)

[Wall Street 'Charging Bull' sculptor Arturo Di Modica dies at 80](#) (The Associated Press; February 20. 2021)

[Forced Back into the Closet? Pioneering Gay Sculptor Emma Stebbins and Her Columbus Statue Targeted for Takedown in Brooklyn](#) (Columbus Heritage Coalition; February 17, 2021)

[Community takes fight for Columbus to next level](#) (Fra Noi; February 12, 2021)

[Jimmy John's Gets Into A Sandwich Mob War With Brad Garrett In Hilarious Super Bowl Commercial](#) (Hollywood Life; February 3, 2021)

[In removing Christopher Columbus statue, Italian American group violates our diversity](#) (Italic Institute of America, Rosario Iaconis; October 6, 2020)

News about Italy

Auction of Rare Italian Posters (Starts March 14th; Poster Auctions International, Inc.)

[Rome's Colosseum hosts Pompeii exhibition](#) (Wanted in Rome; February 15, 2021)

[Caligula's Gardens, Long Hidden Beneath Italian Apartment Building, to Go on View](#)
(Smithsonian Magazine; January 13, 2021)

[Discover What Italian Sites Are Nominated for Unesco World Heritage Status in 2021](#)
(Italy Magazine; 01/12/2021)

Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,
Janice

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