



Italian Historical Society of America Newsletter

JULY 2021

BY JANICE THERESE MANCUSO

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 7

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

For more than two thousand years, Italy was the center of European history, yet the country itself was politically divided and culturally diversified. Before Italy became a [country in 1871](#), when the city of Rome was established as “the capital of a united Italy,” [numerous groups and countries laid claim](#) to various parts of the beautiful peninsula. In the early years of civilization, as tribes settled, battles were fought creating [boundaries based on culture and language](#).

About 100 years after [the fall of the Roman Empire](#), from Rome east to the coast of the Adriatic Sea, the [Papal States](#) evolved under the power of the Pope. Centuries later, [Italian cities in the northern region](#) (Florence, Genoa, Milan, Venice and others) developed into self-governing city-states, taking control of political, military, and financial matters. While the city-states thrived economically, turmoil from citizens within, rivals from surrounding areas, and fluctuating boundaries caused conflicts among the leaders. These clashes weakened the city-states and strengthened opposition from surrounding countries, providing more opportunities for invasions. In southern Italy, after the Roman Empire collapsed, foreign control passed from one group to another; at one point creating two separate kingdoms that merged in 1816.

The unification of Italy's 20 regions, known as the [Risorgimento](#), came in 1871 under the rule of [King Emmanuel II](#); but Italy was still a politically divided and culturally diversified country. In 1882, in his attempt to build political clout, Emmanuel's son, King Umberto I, formed the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary – and favoring colonial expansion – established colonies in several North African countries. Umberto's son, Victor Emmanuel III became King of Italy in 1900. Under his rule, the Triple Alliance was renounced and in 1915 Italy joined Britain, France, and Russia in World War I. It was also during this time that Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party (named after the Roman symbol depicting unity).

When Mussolini and his “Black Shirts” stormed into Rome in 1922, to avoid bloodshed, Emmanuel III agreed to Mussolini's demands and made him Prime Minister. Four years later, Mussolini declared himself Dictator of Italy. It wasn't until 1946 that Italy finally became a republic, joining NATO in 1949.

This year, [Italy celebrates its 150th anniversary](#) with [Rome](#) as its capitol. [Torino](#) was the capital from 1861 – when unity was proclaimed – to 1865, when the center of the government was moved to [Florence](#). In 1870, Rome was liberated from foreign occupation, and in 1871, Rome became the capital of Italy.

Compiled from prior issues of Tutto Italiano.

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

[*With Tears and Laughter: An Immigrant Voyage* by John C. Alessio](#)

The unification of Italy in 1861 led to a mass migration of Southern Italians to America from the late-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century. It affected millions of Southern Italians who migrated west for a better life, but found living conditions radically different from their home country. With history as a background, John chronicles the journey of Lorenzo Adamani that begins in a small village in Calabria and moves back and forth between Italy and America.

Author Interview (Excerpts)

What inspired you to write your book?

The experiences my parents had as early twentieth century immigrants from Southern Italy are what inspired this particular work. My own experiences growing up made a contribution, as well as my concern about the ways in which Italians and Italian Americans continue to be portrayed in the popular media, especially the movies and television programs.

What is the most important attribute of your book?

... I believe my book helps dispel many of the stereotypes and misperceptions that exist about Italians and Italian-Americans.

Why should someone read it?

... this book is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit – how hard work, honesty, and integrity can make a positive difference in one's own life and in the lives of others.

In your webinar, you mentioned that in regard to the title, some have asked "where is the laughter?"

For John's reply and to read the entire interview on the IAP, [click here](#).

For more information about John, [visit his website](#). Learn more: view [With Tears and Laughter webinar](#); read the book review on [La Gazzetta Italiana](#).

~~~~~

## **Books About Venice**

Visit the [Travel](#) section on the IAP to find a variety of books about Venice. Editor JoAnn Locktov and author/editor Kathleen Ann González donate proceeds from their books to several organizations that help preserve Venice.

## **Italian American Heritage Project**

The foundation of Italian American heritage starts with the beginning of Italy's history – before it was Italy. Learning about its fascinating history provides unlimited avenues of exploration.

Check out the exhibits listed below, and especially the new exhibit at The Met Fifth Avenue. In its [approach to attracting a younger audience](#): "in conjunction with the exhibition *The Medici: Portraits and Politics, 1512–1570*, we take a closer look at what one young Florentine understood about influence, and the central role that arts and culture played in Renaissance politics. What were the social media channels of Cosimo's day?" The Met offers a Primer on "How to be a Renaissance influencer: Build your brand; Grow your reach; Secure your legacy."

How can younger generations of Italian Americans not only learn about their Italian heritage, but also seek to embrace it? For centuries, people of Italian heritage have widely contributed to American culture. You'll find over 70 who made major contributions to America on [Thirty-One Days of Italians](#), a website I created in 2006, when very little about Italians or Italian Americans was available online. Use the resources posted to educate your children, grandchildren, and others.

[The Medici: Portraits & Politics, 1512-1570](#) (The Met Fifth Avenue, June 26th to

October 11th) Scroll down for Podcasts and discover “How to be a Renaissance Influencer

[Nicola Simbari – Mediterraneo](#) (Findley Galleries, Palm Beach, FL) Check out the Virtual Viewing Room

[Nero, the Man Behind the Myth](#) (The British Museum; May 27th to October 24th) Scroll down to view highlights and “Explore Nero.”

[Botticelli: Artist and Designer](#) (Musée Jacquemart-André, Paris; September 10, 2021 to January 24, 2022) Scroll down to view some of the paintings in the “selection of masterpieces from prestigious institutions.”

~~~~~

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 educational program in the battle against the campaign to abolish Columbus Day or it will be lost. Help educate others: share these [lesson plans about Columbus](#) with teachers, school boards, and community leaders. Inform them that the United Nations established August 9th as [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#) (includes the United States).

November is [Native American Heritage Month](#), “The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.”

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 News

[New York Yankees Great Yogi Berra gets U.S. stamp in his Honor](#) (espn.com; June 24, 2021, Source: [We the Italians](#))

[NJ family on the culture-war front lines over Columbus Day cancellation](#) (New York Post; June 19, 2021)

[Cancel Culture vs Christopher Columbus, an interview with Robert Ferrito, National President of the OSDIA Commission for Social Justice](#) (ItalyUSA Magazine; June 16, 2021)

[New Mother Cabrini Statue Stands Proud and Tall Outside Brooklyn Parish Where She Served](#) (The Tablet; June 12, 2021)

[... Mozzarella the Authentic Way: With Water Buffalo Milk](#) (Southern Living; June 9, 2021) *Thanks, Mary.*

News about Italy

[Italy set new record of 31 games unbeaten as Azzurri beat Austria 2-1](#) (goal.com; June 26, 2021)

[9 Art Exhibitions To See in Italy in Summer 2021](#) (Live | Italy Magazine. June 22, 2021)

[A historic day: the Italian Parliament passes the motion in defense of Christopher Columbus!](#) (We the Italians; June 16, 2021)

[Live in Venice: one of biggest virtual live events from Venice](https://live-in-venice.com/) (live-in-venice.com; May 2021)

[Valpizizza debuts Take&Bake, the 100% Made in Italy Deli Pizza](#) (ItalianFood.net; May 14, 2021)

Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,
Janice

Janice Therese Mancuso
 Publisher, [*Tutto Italiano*](#)
 Director, [Italian American Press](#)
 Founder, [Italian American Heritage Project](#)
 Founder, [Thirty-One Days of Italians](#)
 Author of [Con Amore](#)
[Writer, Author, Researcher](#)

[illegible]

Notice About Links: On the date of publication, the links in this newsletter were current. In older newsletters, some links may be inactive if the URL has changed or is no longer available.

July 2021: Volume 17, Issue 07

©2021 by Janice Therese Mancuso. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission except when quoted for promotional purposes. Publish with this credit: Excerpt from *Tutto Italiano*, ©July 2021 Janice Therese Mancuso. www.jtmancuso.com