



Italian Historical Society of America

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022

BY JANICE THERESE MANCUSO

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

Italy is a land of festivals. Throughout the world it's known for [Carnevale](#), [the Biennale](#), and the [International Film Festival](#), all held in Venice. Some nationwide events include [Epiphany](#) (January 6th), [Pasquetta](#) (April), [Festa della Repubblica](#) (June 2nd), [Ferragosto](#) (August 15th), and the Allhallowtide Triduum of [All Hallow's Eve](#), [All Saint's Day](#), and [All Soul's Day](#), celebrated from October 31st to November 2nd.

Popular regional celebrations are the [Procession of the Mysteries](#) in Trapani, Sicily (Good Friday); [Rome's Birthday](#) (April 21st); Sardegna's [La Cavalcata Sarda](#) (May); [Festa dei Ceri](#) in Gubbio, Umbria (May); [Festival of San Ranieri](#) in Pisa (June 16th); [Palio di Siena](#) (July 2nd and August 16th); and [Eurochocolate](#) in Perugia, Umbria (October).

Within each region, the villages also celebrate – usually in tribute to their patron saint – with parades, dances, musical performances, games, food, and wine. As Italian immigrants settled in America, they retained their ancestral village bonds and formed Italian American neighborhoods. Their similarities kept them connected and in going through the rough times of assimilation, the festivals of the old country brought comfort through familiarity.

For at least the past ten years, the [Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America](#) has published an annual list of Italian American festivals held each year. From its [publication last year](#): "This directory lists over 200 Italian festivals held in states around the country. The directory supplies each festival's name, month, city, state and website." (The past few years have curtailed many outdoor festivities.) Although held all year, August and September are the most popular months for Italian American festivals. By far, New York has more festivals than any other state. The [Feast of San Gennaro](#) in New York City is an eleven-day event: this year from September 15th to September 25th. The festival has a live broadcast and major attractions include Blessing of the Stands, Grand Procession, High Mass, live entertainment, and food competitions.

New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania follow New York; with California, Illinois, and Massachusetts close behind in the number of annual Italian American festivals. Some of the most popular festivals, though, occur in other states: the [West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival](#), "Celebrating culture and tradition since 1979," was held over Labor Day weekend; the [Tontitown Grape Festival](#) in Arkansas has paid tribute to its founder, [Father Pietro Bandini](#), for 123 years each August; and the [San Gennaro Feast](#) in Henderson, Nevada (on the outskirts of Las Vegas) celebrates its 42nd year with a five-day event later this month. Also later this month, the one-day [Festa Italiana](#) in Raleigh, North Carolina moves into its fourth year of celebrating Italian culture and heritage.

Some More 2022 Festivals

[Hoboken Italian Festival, Feast of the Madonna Dei Martiri](#) (September 8th to 11th)
[Ferragosto, Bronx \[NY\] Little Italy](#) (September 11th)
[Italian Fest](#), Collinsville, Illinois (September 16th and 17th)
[Festa Italiana Seattle](#), Washington (September 24th and 25th)

[Festa Italiana](#), Milwaukee, Wisconsin (September 24th and 25th)
[The Columbus Italian Festival](#), Columbus, Ohio (October 7th to 9th)
[Feast of Little Italy](#), Jupiter, Florida (November 4th to 6th)

Make Plans to Attend in 2023

[Italian Festival of McAlester, Oklahoma](#) (May)
[Italianfest](#), Newport, Kentucky (June)
[Santa Lucia Italian Festival](#), Omaha, Nebraska (July)
[Fishermen's Feast](#), Boston, Massachusetts (August)
[The Maryland Italian Festival](#), Bel Air (September 29th to October 1st)

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[Italian Festival Guide](#) (2020)

[Venice Carnival](#) (Program 2023)

[La Biennale di Venezia](#)

[La Befana: Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany in Italy](#)

[San Gennaro Feast Blessing of the Stands](#) (YouTube Video)

[2022 ISDA Italian Feast Day and Parade Guide](#)

### 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.

Why did Shakespeare write so many plays set in Italy? How did his ideas for the stories develop? A presentation by Lewis M. Elia streamlines the progression from concept to the stage, showing the origins of some of Shakespeare's most well-known plays.

Lew has written numerous books; three listed on the IAP: [With My Two Hands](#), [The Garlic in the Melting Pot](#), and [Lord, I am Not Worthy](#). His book [Ireland, This Land Is Ours](#) gained the attention of the Irish Prime Minister.

Read my article, "[Italy, as Told by Shakespeare](#)" – inspired by Lew's work – in the September issue of *La Gazzetta Italiana*.

### Thirty-One Days of Italians

Next month is Italian American Heritage Month. Celebrate each day in October by learning about a person of Italian heritage who has significantly contributed to America ... and the world.

#### October 1: The Italian Immigrant

A day to honor every Italian who journeyed to America from Italy.

#### October 2: Amadeo Pietro Giannini

Established the branch banking system in America.

#### October 3: Guglielmo Marconi

Known as the Father of Radio for his experiments with long distance wireless transmissions.

#### October 4: Filippo Mazzei

Supporter of American freedom during American Revolution. Thomas Jefferson's inclusion of "all men are created equal" into the Declaration of Independence is a paraphrase of Mazzei's "All men are by nature equally free and independent."

**October 5: Antonio Meucci**

Original holder of the patent for the forerunner of today's telephone.

The complete 2022-2023 list will be posted in October.

[2021-2022 List of Thirty-One Days of Italians](#)

**Italian American Heritage Project**

Keep your Italian heritage alive. An excellent source for learning about Italian American culture and heritage is a museum specifically established to focus on the Italian American experience. Many have virtual exhibits and tours available on their websites. [List of Italian American Museums](#).

Talk with your children (no matter what age), grandchildren, other family members, friends, and educators. Tell them about the significant contributions people of Italian heritage have made to America ... and the world. [List of more than 70 contributors on Thirty-One Days of Italians](#).

Learn about Columbus. It's difficult to correct over 30 years of misinformation, and the rapid spread through digital sources is disheartening. In 2018, the Italian American Heritage Project was established to provide educational resources about Italian American history, heritage, and culture. The website also addresses the Columbus Controversy by providing facts about Columbus, how the controversy started, and why it continues. Read [What is the Truth About Columbus?](#) To understand how Columbus became an important part of American history, read [Christopher Columbus: When Did the Hero Become a Villain?](#) (Some links are no longer active.)

[Lesson plans developed from the letters Columbus wrote after his first voyage.](#)

The groups opposing Columbus Day have an organized agenda to eliminate it from America. The statements of truth and facts posted on Italian American websites are not working. Columbus Day has lost much of its relevance in American history. 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 News**

[In Pinocchio, Questionable Creative Choices Clip the Strings of Disney's Latest Adaptation](#) (avclub.com; September 8, 2022)

[Pavarotti's Star Shines Bright on the Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) (italoamericano.org; September 5, 2022)

[The Unholy Three, Part II](#) (italic.org; August 31, 2022)

[Johnny Depp to Direct First Movie in 25 Years; Al Pacino Co-Producing 'Modigliani' Biopic About Italian Artist](#) (hollywoodreporter; August 15, 2022)

[Columbus Day Stays in Massachusetts](#) (copomiao.org; August 2, 2022)

[Lady of Mount Carmel Italian Festival Spans Generations in New Jersey](#)

[NY Columbus Advocates Use National Data to Make Their Case](https://copomiao.org/) (copomiao.org; July 13, 2022)

## News about Italy

[Italy's Left Sees Hope in Young Progressive Candidate for Premier](#) (csmonitor.com; September 7, 2022)

[Manhattan DA returns 58 antiquities to Italy, including 21 seized from the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) (msn.com; September 6, 2022)

[Venice Film Festival 2022 Opens with A-listers, Premieres and a Sense of Festivity](https://thenationalnews.com/venice-film-festival-2022-opens-with-a-listers-premieres-and-a-sense-of-festivity/)  
(thenationalnews.com; August 31, 2022)

[Venice Mayor Calls Out 'Imbeciles' Surfing Italian City's Historic Canals](https://www.npr.org/2022/08/19/1118111111/venice-mayor-calls-out-imbeciles-surfing-italian-citys-historic-canal) (npr.org; August 19, 2022)

[Italy is spending hundreds of millions to save dying villages. Will it work?](https://www.npr.org/2022/08/17/1118888888/italy-villages-dying) (npr.org; August 17, 2022)

[Actress Gina Lollobrigida, 95, to Run for Senate in Italy's Elections](#) (cnn.com; August 16, 2022)

Domino's Pizza says Arrivederci (cnbc.com; August 9, 2022)

[Gina Lollobrigida pursues latest passion – drawing – at 95](https://www.italianamericanherald.com/story/entertainment/2022/08/01/gina-lollobrigida-drawing-95/7048212002/)  
(italianamericanherald.com; August 1, 2022)

Parma: Culture, Music, and Good Food Make It the Perfect Place to Be  
(italoamericano.org; July 26, 2022)

[The Last Maestros of Venetian Velvets](https://italoamericano.org/en/2022/07/12/the-last-maestros-of-venetian-velvets/) (italoamericano.org; July 12, 2022)

[Sicily's Red Gold, the Corallo Di Trapani](http://italoamericano.org) (italoamericano.org; July 5, 2022)

[Author Interview: Talking Bologna, Truffle Hunting and Mystery Novels with Tom Benjamin](https://italymagazine.com) (italymagazine.com; January 7, 2022)

*Buon anno, buon tutto, buona vita,*  
Janice

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**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.

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