

Filitalia International

Founded in 1987. 1834 E Passyunk Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19148.



IL TELEGRAMMA – November-December 2019

PAST FILITALIA EVENTS

6TH ANNUAL “LA VIGILIA” FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISH DINNER

On December 6th at the Trattoria Giuseppe in Newtown Square, PA Filitalia of Delaware County and Filitalia Foundation organized a charitable dinner to collect donations for families in need. Proceeds from last year’s event benefitted 157 families with grocery gift cards, toys, and children’s coats in the greater Philadelphia area.

The History of Italian Immigration Museum presents:

**CRISTOFORO COLOMBO:
THE FIRST AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHER
& FIRST CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST OF THE AMERICAS**

Featuring a Presentation
Curated By:
Robert Petrone, Esq.

October 13th, 2019
The History Of Italian Immigration Museum
1834 East Passyunk Avenue Philadelphia PA 19148
Doors 3:00pm
Presentation 4:00pm

COLUMBUS DAY PARADE, AND PRESENTATION

On Columbus Day, Sunday, October 13th, 2019, Filitalia members participated to the Columbus Day Parade in Philadelphia. Filitalia was one of many Italian American organizations that celebrated C. Columbus and Italian heritage. On the same day at 3pm Filitalia Museum (1834 East Passyunk Avenue, Philadelphia) hosted a special presentation curated by Robert Petrone about the life of Columbus entitled "Christopher Columbus - The First American Founding Father & First Civil Rights Activist of the Americas." Mr. Petrone is Assistant District Attorney at the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia, is an expert about C Columbus. He described the merits of this explorer, and why the Italian community should preserve the Columbus Day's celebration. He also praised Filitalia for defending the Italian ethnic heritage, culture and values. The landing of Christopher Columbus "began the story of immigration to America" and began the 500-year-long "Columbian Exchange," but organizations such as Filitalia and the people that comprise them are the true defenders of his legacy: the European contributions of Greco-Roman democracy and law, Judeo-Christian ethics and morals, and the tenet of equality of all mankind."



Members of Filitalia International at the Columbus Day parade on October 13, 2019

FILITALIA GALA DINNER

On November 17 Filitalia International celebrating its 32 years with the annual Gala Dinner at the Celebration Banquet Hall in Bensalem, PA. During the event the following outstanding member of the Italian American community were honored: Dr. Catald Doria, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS, Medical Director Cancer Center Capital Health, Pennington, NJ, who received the Leadership & Education Award Dr. Corrado Minimo, MD, Vice Chairman, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, recipient of the Humanitarian Award, and Mr. Nicholas Rapagnani, President Associazione Regionale Abruzzese DELCO, honored with the Citizenship Award. The three awardees have achieve exceptional professional achievements, which are not all mentioned in their resumes below for lack of space.



Ballroom at Gala Dinner



Award ceremony at Gala Dinner





Gala moments (photos courtesy of www.flavialoretophotography.com)

Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, MBA graduated in Magna cum Laude from University of Perugia (Italy) in 1990 and is a multi-organ transplant surgeon. He is the Medical Director of the Capital Health System Cancer Center, where he has increased the robotic surgical volume by 170% in less than one year. He has performed the first robotic assisted Whipple procedure in the State of New Jersey and in the Greater Philadelphia Region. Among many other success stories, he is pursuing the Robotic Institute of Excellence accreditation, and he has developed one of the most advanced surgical programs in USA for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Since 2015 he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Division of the American Liver Foundation. In the late 2015, he was given the honor to be the commencement speaker at the Fox School of Business at Temple University. In 2019, he was named one of the Centennial Honorees at Fox School of Business for his contribution to the business of the City of Philadelphia. His biography is listed in Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare, Who's Who in Finance and Industry, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, Who's Who in America. In year 2005 he has been named Honorary President of the Italian Association for Organ Donation of the Province of Taranto (Italy). In 2008, He was named: "surgeon of the year" by the Mid-Atlantic Division of the American Liver Foundation. In 2009 He was the recipient of the Career Achievement Award by the International Association "Pugliesi nel Mondo." In 2010, He was awarded with the seal of University of Foggia – Italy. In 2012. He was named by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, Cavaliere dell'Ordine "Al merito della Repubblica Italiana" (Knight of the Italian Republic). He is author of 278 publications: 98-refereed articles; 77 proceedings of conference and symposia, 3 monograph, 10 book chapters; 3 books; 82 published abstracts; 5 other publication. He is Principal Investigator and co-Investigator of numerous clinical as well as basic science research trials.



Dr. Cataldo Doria



Dr. Corrado Minimo



Mr. Nicholas Rapagnani

(photos courtesy of www.flavialoretophotography.com)

Dr. Corrado Minimo is the Chief of Anatomic Pathology and Vice Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the author of over one hundred medical publications, a dedicated mentor and trainer of new generations of physicians, and a respected pathologist in the healthcare community. The son of Italian immigrants from Sicily, Dr. Minimo was born in Siracusa, just after his parents had returned from a decade living in Venezuela. He received his degree in Medicine and Surgery in 1986 in Rome from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where in 1991 he also obtained his specialization degree in Pathology. He conducted research at the University of Chicago for one year, in 1993 he made his permanent move to America, settling in Philadelphia and was recognized by the United States government as an individual of extraordinary talent due to his medical research and accomplishments. His pathology training included a residency at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, two fellowships at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and a fellowship at the Albert Einstein Medical School in the Bronx, New York. Corrado's parents were very generous with other Italian immigrants in Venezuela, and as a consequence, they fostered in him an appreciation of the human and Christian values of solidarity and compassion toward immigrants. This has led him to help – privately and outside the official channels of recognized institutions – Italian young men and women who chose to come to the United States to explore new possibilities in both their personal and professional lives. Dr. Minimo donates his time, his experience, and his resources to help those who wish to embark on such new journeys, primarily in the fields of science, technology and the arts. His sole reward consists of seeing the fruit of his endeavors: young Italians achieving their goals and realizing their dreams.

Nicholas Rapagnani, a resident of Brookhaven, Pennsylvania immigrated from Basciano, province of Teramo (Abruzzi) with his parents and sister in 1961. As a young man, Nicholas attended Chester High School, Temple University and Drexel University graduating from the latter in 1971 with both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. His entire professional career was spent in the Nuclear Power Industry, primarily in design, construction, and operation of many of the nuclear power plants in the

United States. During his 37-year career he has held various technical and management positions with Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation, the Shaw Group and most recently with CB&I. Between 1998 and 2006 Nicholas collaborated with the Chemical Materials Agency, Army Corps of Engineers in the design, construction, systemization, and operation of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal facility. He consulted with the Japanese government regarding nuclear power plants that were damaged in the tsunami. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in many states and a Member of the American Nuclear Society and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In 1990 Nicholas became one of the founding members of the l'Associazione Regionale Abruzzese Delco (ARAD) whose focus has been to foster the Italian language and culture in Delaware County. He has been largely responsible for the relationship that has developed between l'Associazione Regionale Abruzzese Delco with Widener University, Neumann University. With Wilmington University, ARAD has expanded Italian language teaching programs, co-sponsoring the Italian Music festivals and the Italian American Heritage Festival held at Rose Tree Park. Nick continues to include younger people in ARAD by sponsoring a soccer team and organizing bowling events. At the same time, ARAD has continued its longstanding relationship with Don Guanella Village and Italian language Masses. He is in constant communication with the office of the Italian Consulate in Philadelphia, and the government in the Abruzzo region of Italy.

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY OF ITALIAN IMMIGRATION MUSEUM (HIIM)

We encourage everyone to visit the HIIM, a unique structure among Italian American organizations, which has increased its rich collection with new exhibits:

- New Joey Eye – Boxing Legends exhibit
- Heritage records from Trentino, Italy from 17th, 18th, 19th centuries
- Authentic Barber Chair added

Greatly acknowledged are Mr. Michael Bonasera, HIIM curator and Mr. Nick Santangelo, both members of Filitalia International Board of Directors for the great amount of time they volunteer to manage and grow HIIM.

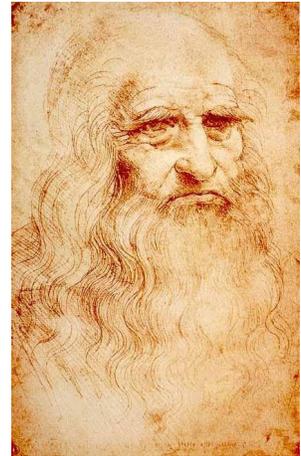
500TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S DEATH

Five hundred years ago Leonardo da Vinci died aged 67 in France. We did not want this anniversary to go unnoticed, and will only mention a few excerpts from Wikipedia about him, to give some idea of his greatness.

Leonardo was a polymath of the Renaissance whose areas of interest included invention, drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, paleontology, and cartography.

He has been variously called the father of paleontology, iconology, and architecture, and is widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time. His painting *Salvator Mundi* was sold for a world record \$450 million at a Christie's auction in New York, 15 November 2017, the highest price ever paid for a work of art until then. *The Last Supper* is the most reproduced religious painting of all time. According to art historian Helen Gardner, the scope and depth of his interests were without precedent in recorded history, and "his mind and personality seem to us superhuman".

Leonardo is revered for his technological ingenuity. He conceptualized flying machines, a type of armored fighting vehicle, concentrated solar power, an adding machine, and the double hull. Some of his smaller inventions entered the world of manufacturing unheralded, such as an automated bobbin winder and a machine for testing the tensile strength of wire. He is also sometimes credited with the inventions of the parachute, helicopter, and tank. He made substantial discoveries in anatomy, civil engineering, geology, optics, and hydrodynamics.



Presumed
self-portrait of
Leonardo

FILITALIA HAS ITS OWN RADIO SHOW!

Mondays 10 AM – Noon, WOOM LP 92.9 FM South Philly Community Radio

Broadcasting featuring:

- Italian American music
- Upcoming events
- Today in History,
- *Sprezzatura*, which is the art of effortless mastery, or "a certain nonchalance, so as to conceal all art and make whatever one does or says appear to be without effort and almost without any thought about it"
- Language
- Health & food segments

NEW CHAPTERS

Filitalia International keeps expanding. The following are the latest new chapters joining Filitalia International:

- Napoli (Campania): President Michela Mortella.
- Salerno (Campania): President Sara Carbone.
- Bojano (Molise): President Mina Capussi.

Here is a summary of Mina Cappussi' biography. Mina Cappuss is an author, journalist, photographer, and poet, always curious about world and nature. She earned a high school degree with concentration in math and science, and a technical high school degree for surveyors, and graduated in Political Science cum laude. She worked as a professor at Roma Tre University, and a journalist, and was member of International Federation of Journalists. She was also director and publisher of the international newspaper Un Mondo d'Italiani and of six more paper news organizations. She was co-curator of the first Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Italian Immigrations in the World, whose cultural and editorial project was presented at the Italian House of Representatives and Senate with foreword by Eric McLuhan and introduction of the President of the Italian Republic. Since 1996 she has worked for newspapers, weekly magazines and periodicals in paper format, and TV stations. She has received the following awards: Woman of the Year, Ambassador of Italians in the World by Globe International, Governess of Molise, Aitef Special Commissioner. She has published numerous essays, novels, tales, and poetic anthologies

ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS OFFERED

FILITALIA ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Beginners I – Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:00pm
Beginners II – Wednesdays 5:30 – 7:00pm
Intermediate I – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:00pm
Intermediate II – Thursdays 7:30 – 9:00pm
Advanced I – Thursdays 5:30 – 7:00pm
Advanced II – Wednesdays 7:30 – 9:00pm

Starting in January of 2020

REGISTRATION

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF FILITALIA & NON MEMBERS!

WHEN: JANUARY 2ND, 2020 @ 6:30PM.

WHERE: FILITALIA INTERNATIONAL'S HISTORY OF ITALIAN IMMIGRATION MUSEUM. 1834 EAST PASSYUNK AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, 19148

WHO: A MULTITUDE OF EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

HOW: FOR 6 WEEKS FOR \$120.00 (NON - MEMBERS AND \$100.00 MEMBERS)

PLEASE CONTACT ANNA MARIE DINARDO
(LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CHAIR)

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO SPEAK ITALIAN

AT: ANNADINARDO@VERIZON.NET CELL: #215-820-5840
INFO@FILITALIAINTERNATIONAL.COM PHONE: #215-334-8882

FILITALIA IN SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/FilitaliaInternational/>

<https://twitter.com/filitaliaintl>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/filitaliainternational/>

<http://filitaliainternational.org/>

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