



Centro Lucani nel Mondo

Last Fall, Joe Rinaldi, acting as president of the Federazione Lucana d'America was inspired at a meeting held in Italy by the Regione Basilicata to bring an educational program about the region to North America. He provided his ideas in the [January 2023 Newsletter](#). Since then a great deal has happened to make his vision a reality.

A group working in Italy had a similar vision. A project is underway that is financed by the Basilicata Region's Development and Cohesion Program, and developed by the Federazione dei circoli e associazioni dei Lucani in Piemonte with the scientific coordination of the Centro dei Lucani nel Mondo Nino Calice. The Associazione Architecture of Shame is providing the curatorial support for the project and the communications are being led by Ego 55. The project in New York involves the Ellis Island Foundation as an institutional partner and the Lucanian community through the support of its associations and federation, particularly the Federazione Lucana d'America and The Craco Society.

This Spring, Mimi Coviello, Coordinator of the Scientific Committee of the Centro Lucani nel Mondo Nino Calice of the Basilicata Region, reached out to Joe Rinaldi to help launch the project in New York. The Federation of Lucanians in Piedmont commissioned the Matera-based Associazione Architecture of Shame to curate the project.

Fabio Ciaravella, president of the Associazione Architecture of Shame described the project saying, "In August next year, in four cities around the world, New York, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Genoa there will be an exhibition on Lucanian emigration. The exhibition will tell the emigration story through a dialogue between cultures about the way in which Lucanians exported words, rituals, recipes and culture in the countries that welcomed them."

He added, "From August 2023, until May 2024 all Lucanians in the USA and in the countries involved are welcome to make their contribution. We will need

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readers of poems by Rocco Scotellaro, cooks, Lucanian recipes, and people willing to show their homes. It is an historic moment because the materials that will be collected, after the exhibitions, will become part of the Museum of Lucanian Emigration of Lagopesole in Basilicata. We will build a collective document that will remain over time and we need everyone to participate." Joe Rinaldi welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on the project saying, "This is bringing Basilicata to the world."

The project, named VIVA ROCCO!, took its first steps last month with the filming of the San Rocco Feast day celebrations in the four cities that will host the exhibit next year. This event will allow the project team to show one aspect of the differences and similarities of the Lucanian immigrants in their adopted countries.

Between now and next August the organizations and individuals involved will be working on developing content for the exhibit. This will include asking for input from Society members for Lucanian recipes, oral histories, and visits to their homes to see how they retained the culture. ■



The Crachesi Immigrants 1921-1924

From 1921-1924 there were very few individuals that passed through Ellis Island giving their last residence as Craco. Changes resulted in the closing of the “Golden Door” to America for most immigrants for decades. (Note: names are presented as spelled in the Ellis Island database to facilitate locating individual records.)

1921

Avena, Antuono
Bernini, Antuono
Bernini, Giuseppe
Bernini, Santa Maria
Bernini, Vincenzo
Bernino, Massinigliano
Camperlengo, Salvatore
Cataldi, Antonia
Cataldi, Maria Vincenza
D'Elia, Francesco
De Costole, Pietro
Di Primo, Filomena
Episcopia, Giuseppe
Forgione, Giuseppe
Forgione, Rosina
Francavilla, Maria Giuseppa
Gorgoglione, Antonio
Guiliano, Vincenzo
Maglio, Antonio
Maglio, Giovanni
Mastronardi, Giuseppe
Mormando, Antonio
Pandillo, Salvatore
Pascariello, Isabella
Rinaldi, Giuseppe
Riviello, Consiglia
Romano, Maria
Santalucia, Giovanni
Simonetti, Gino
Simonetti, Giuseppe
Simonetti, Margherita
Simonetti, Salvatore

1922

Andrisano, Prospero
Camperlengo, Pasquale
Giuliano, Antonio
Giuliano, Domenico
Giuliano, Francesco
Giuliano, Giacinta
Giuliano, Giustina
Giuliano, Teresa
Giuliano, Vincenza
Lauria (Avena), Maria Vincenza
Sillari, Natale

1923

Magghise, Antonio
Mastronardi, Francesco
Pellegrino, Francesco
Pellegrino, Francesco
Rinaldi, Domenico
Rinaldi, Vincenzo
Viggiani, Paolo

1924

Camperlengo, Angela
Camperlengo Ferrante, Leonardo
D'Elia, Maria
Galante, Pasquale
Gorgoglione, Rosina
Gorgoglione, Giulia
Sillaro, Rosina
Sillaro Tuzo, Maddalena
Viggiano, Maria

Immigration Records Tell of Tragedy

A ship's manifest with several Cracotans arriving at Philadelphia on March 4, 1921 brings with it a sad story.

The SS America, sailing for the Navigazione Generale Italiana shipping lines, in the Italy to New York service, left Genoa on Feb. 15th and then after boarding passengers in Naples departed for New York on Feb. 18th. During the voyage illness broke out causing the ship to divert to Philadelphia.

Aboard were 14 passengers from Craco all headed for New York City to join family there. The group included:

- Maria Marmo (32), with her young children Teresina (10), Antonietta (9), Piatina (7), Pietro (5), Vincenzo (2 1/2) and Rosa (3 months), were

rejoining her husband Francesco De Costale at 171 Mulberry St.

- Caterina Spera (24) was joining her aunt Vittoria Spera at 13 Roosevelt St.
- Ciscuna Secefico (20) was joining her father Pasquale at 10-12 Franklin St.
- Vincenzo Rinaldi (26) was going to live with his sister Vittoria at 86 Beacon St., Jersey City, NJ.
- Maria Libonati (32) and her children Stella (16), Francesco (12) and Antonietta (4) were joining her husband Giovanni Cataldi at 23-25 New Bowery St.

The shipboard illness that caused the ship's docking in Philadelphia instead of New York inconvenienced them with an added trip and everyone was temporarily detained for special

investigation to make sure they were not contagious.

However, the greater tragedy occurred during the passage to America. Maria Marmo and her family had lived in New York from 1910 to 1914 before returning to Craco. Then in 1920 Francesco DeCostale went back to New York ahead of the family. As they journeyed to join him, Piatina the 7 year old daughter became ill on board the ship and died at sea. ■



Modern Italian Immigration

The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 reduced the number of Italian immigrants allowed to enter the US from over 200,000 to 6,000 annually. This stopped Crachese immigration for decades and allowed those in the US to assimilate into the new culture.

Several events - America's harsh immigration policy, the policies of the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini that sought to keep Italians in Italy, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and World War II, kept Italian migration numbers to the US very low between 1924 and the end of World War II.

In WWII Italy experienced defeat abroad, the fall of the Fascist government, occupation by Germans, invasion by American forces, and what amounted to a civil war in many parts of the Italian peninsula.

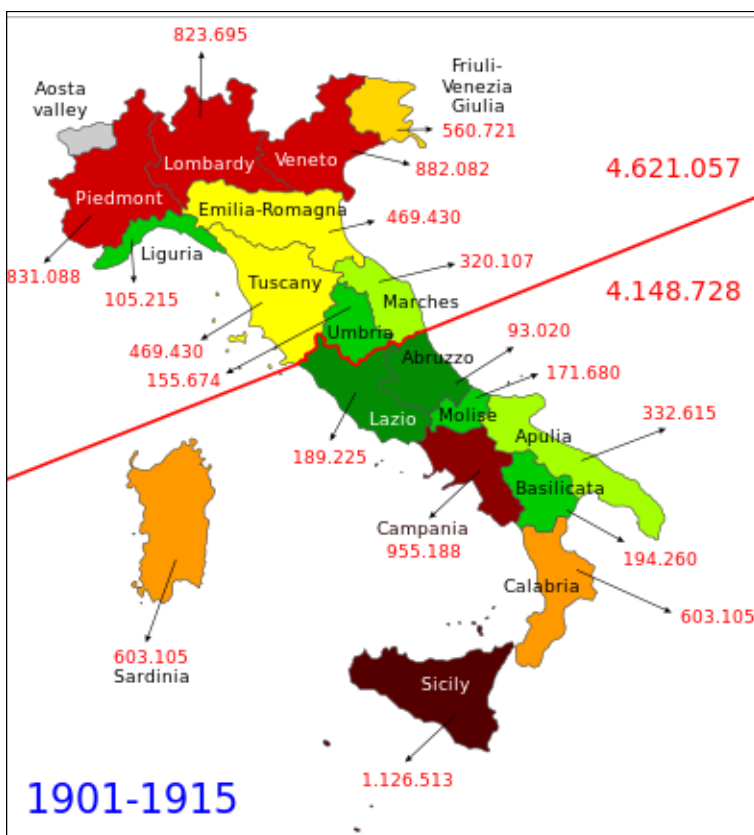
“The Italian diaspora is the large-scale emigration of Italians from Italy.”

The devastation and poverty of the postwar period triggered another wave of migration out of Italy to Canada, Latin America, Australia, and the United States. Various provisions for refugees and for the relatives of Italian immigrants who had acquired claims to U.S. citizenship allowed for considerable migration that reunited families and continued migration into the 1970s.

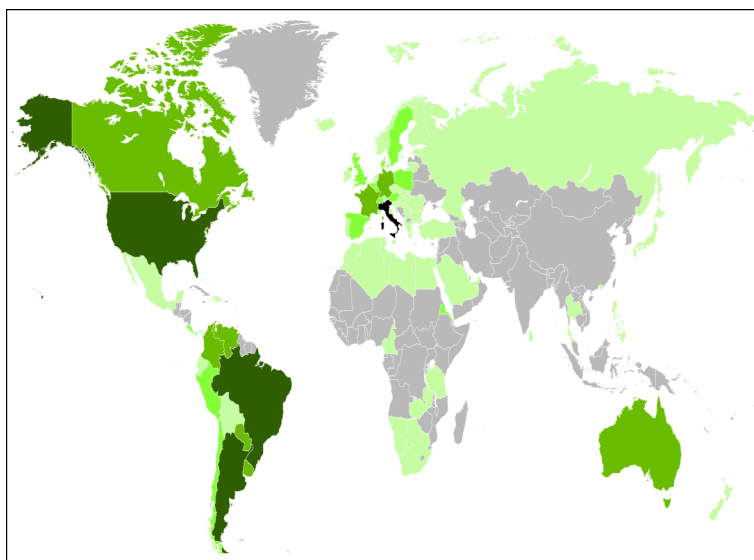
The post WWII Marshall Plan helped create the Italian "economic miracle" of the 1960s and by the early 1990s the Italian Gross National Product surpassed that of England. These developments, along with zero population growth in Italy, and the progress of the European Union, virtually ended outmigration of Italians. Then, a third wave of immigration occurred, primarily affecting young people, thought to be due to the socioeconomic problems caused by the financial crisis of the early 21st century.

According to the Public Register of Italian Residents Abroad (AIRE), the number of Italians living abroad rose from 3,106,251 in 2006 to 4,636,647 in 2015, a 49% increase in 10 years.

There are over 5 million Italian citizens living outside Italy and about 80 million people around the world who claim full or partial Italian ancestry. The primary countries with significant Italian populations include Brazil, Argentina, United States, France, Colombia, Canada, Peru, Uruguay, Australia, Venezuela, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Chile and Paraguay. ■



The map of Italy above shows estimates of immigration by region. From 1876-1900, a 25 year period, 1.5 million people emigrated from Southern Italy. Then in the next 15 years, this more than doubled to 4.1 million immigrants.



*Map of the Italian people around the world.
(The map includes people with Italian ancestry or citizenship.)*

Summer Happenings in Craco



In July, [two concerts](#) organized by the Cooperative “Oltre l’Arte” were held in Craco Vecchio.



And with the tourist season several news sources ran stories about Craco. Society member, Michael “Recycle” Benedetto shared one interesting piece from the [Epoch Times](#) containing new and unusual photographs of the splendor of the old town.

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Craco

Musica Estate

GIOVEDI 6 LUGLIO
ore 21.00
ANFITEATRO CRACO PESCHIERA
CONCERTO ORCHESTRA ICO MAGNA GRECIA
“DREAMING GERSHWIN”
RAIMONDA SKABEIKAITĖ – DIRETTORE
ALIKI – VOCE
MICHELE RENNA – PIANOFORTE
INGRESSO LIBERO

GIOVEDI 13 LUGLIO
ore 21.00
CHIOSTRO CONVENTO DI SAN PIETRO
CRACO VECCHIA
CONCERTO DEL DUO
MARIO ROSINI – PATTY LOMUSCIO
“DUE VOCI E UN PIANOFORTE”
POSTI LIMITATI PER IL CONCERTO DEL 13 LUGLIO
PRENOTAZIONE OBBLIGATORIA
INGRESSO LIBERO

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