



# UPDATE

Italic Institute of America  
"Italian Pride on a Classical Foundation"

August, 2020

www.italic.org



## The Unknown Horizon

by John Mancini, Executive Director



We are still in the throes of a pandemic that has taken hundreds of thousands of lives around the world and wreaked havoc with the global economy.

The major Italian American organizations that depend on fundraising galas and Columbus Day parades to

remain financially viable must be anxious as income plummets with no end in sight.

Because the Italic Institute functions with little overhead, we continue to plow ahead, but not without frustration. The ugly mood of the nation and the relentless drive to rid these shores of Euro-American culture, has made our "Italian" mission somewhat ancillary. Defending Columbus Day while White and Black anarchists are tearing down statues of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and General Grant, has now gone from social justice to tribal war.

Some of my colleagues believe this will pass and saner heads will prevail. I have expressed my doubts in my weekly blog. There may be lulls, but the forces of change have the media, academia, White elites, and ignorant White youth arrayed against us. "Keep your foot on the gas!" is the new slogan of Black activists. One White rioter was quoted as saying destroying property is not "violence."

Some Italian Americans think we can save Columbus Day by substituting another non-controversial Italian American "hero." Such a switcheroo, as I call it, ig-

nores the reality of the current cultural revolution, whose mission is to the replace all Euro-centric heroes.

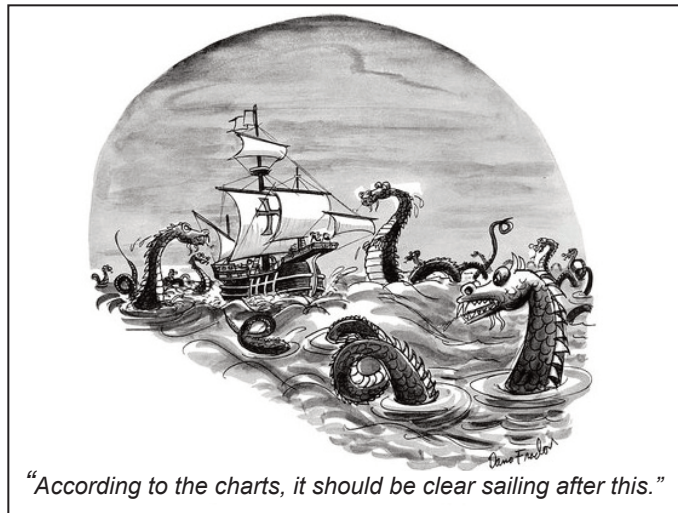
## A Bitter Legacy

We have hit a new low in our 12-year struggle to restore Italian American participation at *la Casa Italiana* at Columbia University. Having attempted unsuccessfully over the years to persuade Director David Freedberg, as well as the university's provost and president, three Italian consuls general, and finally initiating a lawsuit, we tried an open business approach.

In a conciliatory effort last January, we sought to rent an exhibit room (one of four) at the 30,000 s.f. building for a friendly get-together. We had planned to invite university students, as well as the Italian Language Dept. and New York's Consul General to celebrate the Founding of Rome last April. Knowing full well who the Italic Institute was, the rental manager, Rick Whitaker, claimed all four rental rooms, on every date we asked for in 2020, and into April, 2021 were booked. Then came the pandemic. Rentals were not an option.

Clearly, academia has its own acceptable bigotry. Italian Americans can't even pay their way into *La Casa*. What other

ethnic group would endure this treatment?



The November elections may be Columbus's last voyage.

Cartoon by Dana Frador via The New Yorker and Conde Nast



The rentable theater at *La Casa Italiana*

## NYS Grant Frozen

An opportunity arose early this year to obtain a \$10,000 grant from New York State. As luck would have it, by the time our paperwork was accepted by the State bureaucracy, the pandemic struck. In short, New York ran out of money, and unless the federal government covers its deficits, no grant money will be forthcoming. Yet another reason to blame Red China!

## Defund Academia!

It is no secret that our community has been ill-served by almost all Italian American academic centers around the country. Invariably, these so-called scholars have done little or nothing to support our heritage in the real world. They have studied to death every aspect of our immigrant forebears, elevated to dignity goombahs, guidos and cafoni that are an embarrassment to any proud Italian American, and have made Fascism synonymous with our classical values.

But, it is their wholesale embrace of the anti-Columbus movement that renders them totally useless as an intellectual resource. They embrace that despicable movement not out of scholarly research, for all primary sources confirm the Great Navigator's unique place in history, but out of political expediency — to conform to their university's expectation and the growing anti-Euro-American agenda.

We polled five of the largest Italian Studies centers in the Metro NYC area, inquiring about their position on 1492 and if they have taken a stand on Admiral Columbus. Four of them ignored our inquiry and one had this response:

*Dear Mr. Mancini,  
I've been working for the promotion of Italian Culture in the US for over 30 years and I'm not going to take a litmus test on my work based on a single issue picked by some unknown institute.*

*My center, as you call it, has been presenting over 100 events and programs free and open to the public every year for over 30 years. This is where we stand on Italian culture. We engage in free and open academic and intellectual discussion, not in crusades.*

*Stefano Albertini, Director  
Casa Italiana at New York University*

An amazingly blunt response. We clearly hit a nerve! Assisting our community in disseminating the truth about 1492 is deemed a "crusade," unworthy of our

scholarly class. But, if you are interested in Italian Jewish history or Fascist propaganda, our scholars are experts. Any pretense that these cultural centers are more than just academic cloisters is wishful thinking. Even their websites are of little use to students searching for practical Italian studies.

That many of these centers are funded by taxpayer money, using Italian American legislators as their agents, we say: **Defund Them!**

## Case Closed?

The national media has fed the narrative of White-on-Black crime to the extent that has worsened race relations in this country. The name for this kind of reporting is Yellow Journalism, meant to incite conflict. By highlighting and editing the news, the media has erased any sense of racial progress that this country has made over the past 155 years. Young people today have little knowledge of the Euro-American sacrifice to end slavery in the Civil War or all the laws and accomplishments by our flawed nation to rectify its past mistreatment of minorities. It must feel like 1861 instead of 2020 to the ignorant and opportunists among us.

To make matters worse, the media commits daily the sin of omission by withholding news of Black-on-White crimes and minimizing Black-on-Black crimes.

Italian Americans Paul and Lidia Marino were summarily shot on May 8th while visiting a son's grave in a Delaware cemetery. The shooter was Sheldon Francis, a Black man. No motive has been revealed. The couple are survived by two sons, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Francis was later found dead from a gunshot wound after exchanging fire with police.

You probably never heard of this vicious double murder because the news media didn't consider it a hate crime.

W o u l d they have cared? We honestly d o n ' t know, but it has all the earmarks of one. The one or two reports from Delaware don't mention a robbery or any personal vendetta.



We have reached out repeatedly to the Delaware State Police for additional information - without success. Is



the case still open, even though the alleged shooter was killed? Did he have an accomplice? Are the police investigating Francis's background for a motive?

Do Italian lives matter? We'll let you know.

[A GoFundMe site was set up for the Marino family \$125, 000 has been collected to date.]

## Images of the Great Navigator

Wouldn't it be interesting if we knew which of the standard Columbus portraits is closest to the real explorer's likeness? We know so much about him, even his physical description from contemporaries. But the images that have come down to us were painted after his death.

In this day and age of facial recognition software, we thought that identifying the true Columbus might be possible by comparing the Admiral's visage to his son Fernando's. You see, Fernando was painted in life and that portrait is available. We have placed Fernando above the three common images of his father.

Fernando, sometimes called Hernando, was Columbus's illegitimate second son. He was a son to be proud of, raised in the court of Queen Isabel and a companion on the Admiral's 4th voyage to the Americas. Moreover, Fernando interviewed his father over the years and wrote a biography of him verifying his Italian birth.

## Don't Forget!

The Italic Institute is alive and well on our website: [www.italic.org](http://www.italic.org)  
You can read our weekly blogs, research heritage in our library, even watch videos.

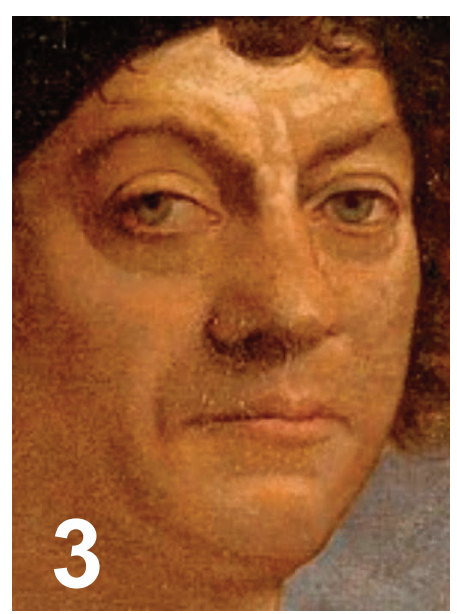
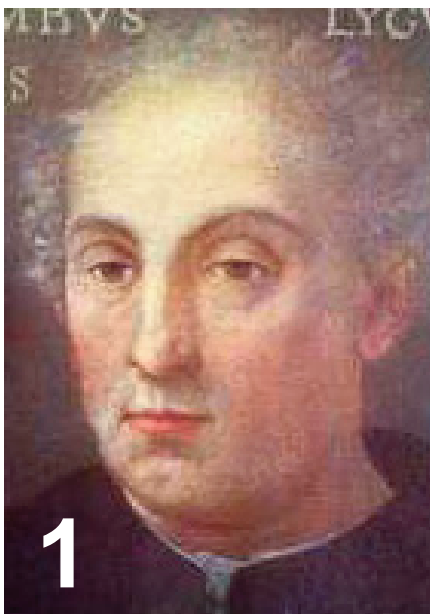
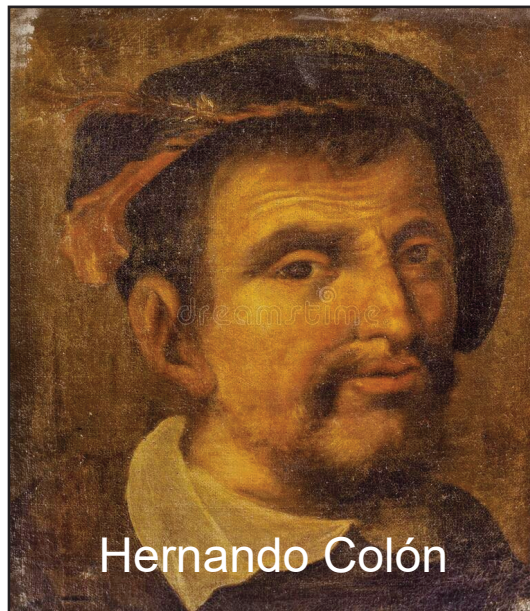
Let's start with Fernando's own written description of his father:

*"The admiral was a well-made man, of a height above the medium, with a long face, and cheek-bones somewhat prominent; neither too fat nor too lean. He had an aquiline nose, light-colored eyes, and a ruddy complexion. In his youth he had been fair, and his hair was of a light color, but after he was thirty years old it turned white."*

Of course, Hernando only had half his father's genes, but certain features could match his father's. Just eye-balling the four portraits, you can see that Hernando and portraits 1 and 2 have "aquiline" noses. Other features like eyelids, earlobes, eyebrows, and cheek bones can be compared — this is where computer matching would be of value. But, if a "long face" is the strong, unique feature, then Number 1 would be the Great Navigator.

If you have any thoughts of suggestions on this project, write us at:

[ItalicOne@aol.com](mailto:ItalicOne@aol.com)



# Neil deGrasse Tyson on Columbus

Celebrity astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson had this to say on a recent podcast:

Acknowledging that the discovery of the New World had its downside for Indigenous Peoples, he stated that 1492 was *"...hugely significant: the rejoining of the branches of the human species...We are now one common genetic group...otherwise we would be two stranded branches of humanity."*



Dr. deGrasse Tyson pointed out that Australia is another example of our humanity reuniting after the Ice Age, after the English landed there.

He pointed out that while true that European brought diseases to the Indigenous peoples, they gave back syphilis (and tobacco).

As a side comment, Tyson noted the genetic connection between East Asians and Native Americans in their intolerance of alcohol. It's called the Asian Flush Reaction, and it could lead to more serious enzyme problems. Didn't know that!

# What Makes Our Institute Different?

**Why Columbus Day?**

Christopher Columbus, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, has become the personification of all the evils that have befallen indigenous peoples of the Americas and the sub-Saharan Africans brought to the Americas as slaves. His place in history has been transformed by a few from intrepid discoverer to that of mass murderer.

October 12, 1492 is now viewed by some as another date to live in infamy. If you mourn 1492 instead of celebrating it, are you really saying that the Americas should have been left unopened to any outside exploration and settlement? Or, are you saying that some other explorer, or some other race or religion, would have done things better?

Please consider the following perspective:

**The Sins of Columbus**

So much calumny has been heaped on Christopher Columbus that even many who once celebrated his holiday now question his legacy. Was he a murderous invader? Was he really the first to discover the New World? Was he really Italian? Does he deserve a national holiday?

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**Indigenous Peoples Day**

**Let's Think About It**

Many well-meaning Americans want to replace the celebration of Columbus Day with one honoring Native Americans. In their zeal they have embarked on a campaign to vilify Christopher Columbus and heap upon him all the crimes and miseries suffered by indigenous peoples over five centuries. But, they are not telling the whole story.

Picture: Founding Fathers by David Behrens  
Chief Joseph (Nez Perce), Sitting Bull (Sioux), Geronimo (Apache), Red Cloud (Sioux)



**Rosario Iaconis**



**Bill Dal Cerro**

**We have a staff of unpaid, but passionate, analysts researchers, and writers.**

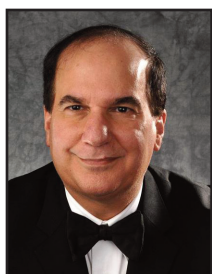
**We see heritage as a duty not a business.**



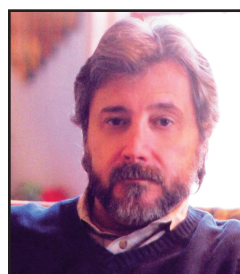
**Don Fiore**



**George Ricci**



**Joe Graziose**



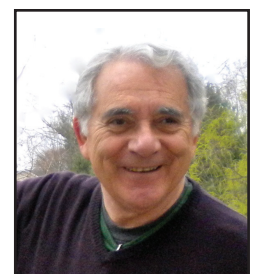
**Anthony Vecchione**

**We give away knowledge, not money.**

Italic Institute of America  
PO Box 818  
Floral Park, NY 11002  
ItalicOne@aol.com  
www.italic.org



**Alfred Cardone**



**Bob Masullo**