

BOOKS, BOOKS, and MORE BOOKS...



After Laughing Comes Crying

By Joseph L. Cacibauda

This novel is of special interest to Louisiana's Italian Americans since many of their ancestors came here during this period. It is based on research through the Mormon Church's archives, newspaper articles, books, the internet, and the author's personal research in Sicily.

It is not widely known that the Italians were recruited after the Civil War to supplement the southern labor force that was greatly reduced when slaves were freed. The novel is an account of Sicilians before they emigrated, on the ships coming to America, and their lives in America around 1900. The novel, while fictional, is based on the lives of my grandfather, other countrymen in Sicily, aboard the S.S. California, on the Louisiana sugarcane plantations, and in the lawless towns of Williamson County, Illinois. Much of the material is from family research and historical facts from the resources in the bibliography. Available from Legas Press, P.O. Box 149, Mineola, New York 11501- Price \$14.95, for more information - suejoe@joylake.reno.nv.us.

(See advertisement page 6)

Another article you may be interested in reading by Joseph L. Cacibauda was published in the Italian American Magazine, Summer 2009 Issue, called "The Sicilians of Louisiana."

Dear Sister: Letters home to Sicily from Wartime America.

By Pauline M. Spatafora

Dear Sister is at once heartwarming and tragic throughout, with unique twists that will keep you spellbound. It is an exceptionable insight into the lives of Italians and Italian Americans during the tumultuous World War II



Period and is based on actual letters (1938-1949) written by the author's mother to her aunt in Sicily. It deals in a very unique and personal way with the struggles and triumphs of every mother, father, son, and daughter leaving home and loved ones trying to create a new life in a foreign land.

It is a true translation of her letters found in Messina twenty years ago. Those of Italian heritage will find it especially interesting but it's the story of every immigrant told through letters sent back home. It will touch everyone regardless of country of origin. The voyage that is not only literal but symbolic for Anna, the young woman away from family and friends - embarking on a journey filled with surprises - sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous, but always interesting.

Published by Reed & Quill Press, 170-13 29th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

SICILY! UP CLOSE!

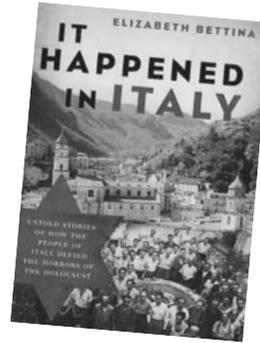
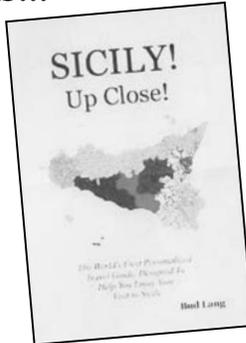
By Bud Lang

This is not your average travel book, it gets right to the point, provides personal insight into the many factors of travel - such as web sites and magazines concerned with genealogy - the nine Sicilian Provinces and their local official offices where visitors might find ancient records.

The book is unique in covering Sicily's history and culture, but provides great genealogical tips, excellent travel tips and recommended hotels and B&Bs.

It has a wonderful selection of full color and black & white photos, each taken by a professional photographer - the author. The exciting text motivates the readers to visit Sicily, to discover the land and what its people are all about.

The author has covered the entire island by auto, boat, and on foot, and interviewed many local citizens. If you are going to Sicily, and are interested in finding your family history, this



is the only travel book providing information on how and where to find family records.

Publisher Ital Press, Eugene Oregon, Price: \$17.95 postpaid; (541) 683-6761.

It Happened in Italy "A beautiful and untold story of the Jewish people who were rescued by the Italians during WWII"

By Elizabeth Bettina

The Book tells the amazing untold story of how thousands of Jewish people in Italy were saved during WWII, rescued by the kindness and humanity of the Italian people at great risk to their own safety in Mussolini's Italy.

To say the Holocaust was a dark moment in human history would be an understatement. Not only did millions of Jews suffer in the hands of the Nazi's, they were also betrayed by their countries, neighbors and friends.

During World War II, Fascist Italy under Mussolini was allied with Nazi Germany. In Italy, Jews were persecuted first by Fascism and then by Nazism. Yet, next to Denmark, Italy had the highest survival rate for Jews in any Nazi-occupied country - much less a country allied with Hitler. Eighty percent of Italian Jews survived the war - as did thousands of foreign Jews who found refuge in Italy. The story of their survival is one that has been largely untold.

In "It Happened in Italy" author Elizabeth Bettina leads the readers on a journey of uncovering a different story; one of people who valued life above religion and ethnicity. While the book is about the stories of Jews that survived the holocaust because of the Italian people, the main story is a series of what seems to be coincidental events that leads Bettina, an Italian American, to discover that her own family is directly connected to these survivors. Publisher - Thomas Nelson; 384 pp; Available Barnes & Noble, \$24.99 or online.

Activity from the American Italian Library

By Sal Serio

Donations:

- Fifteen books by Susan Jayne;
- Quarterly Newsletters from West Baton Rouge Genealogy Society, 1998-2004;
- Forty different copies of *F & L Primo Magazine* by Mae Galio Webb.

~~~~~  
In our Italian American Library and Research Center we have a large collection of Oral Histories on tape. These are from a program instituted by our founder, Joseph Maselli in the 1980s and these tapes have been a valuable source of research information. An excellent example of this is a recent visit by Signorina Allegría, a student of Loyola University. She was able to listen to the story her grandfather recorded on one of these tapes. The interesting thing is that she had not ever heard her grandfather's voice before. It was an emotional moment for this young lady. Mr. Maselli predicted, when these oral histories were being recorded, that someday the grandchildren or great-grandchildren will come and listen to their family's history. This is the type of visit that makes volunteering at the Italian American Museum and Research Library a worthwhile endeavor.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Italian Family Recipes

Send in your Italian family recipes and maybe a story to accompany them. We would like to share these recipes with the community and perhaps a future recipe book. Please send them to the American Italian Renaissance Foundation, P.O. Box 2392, New Orleans, LA 70176, or E-mail to [americanitalianmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:americanitalianmuseum@gmail.com).

### Learn To Speak Italian!

The American Italian Cultural Center will be offering Beginning & Intermediate Italian Language classes starting June 14 and June 19 on several different days and times.

Call (504) 522-7294  
or E-mail us at:  
[americanitalianmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:americanitalianmuseum@gmail.com)  
for more information.

The Center is located at  
537 S. Peters Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana