

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2009

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Free Italian Genealogical Seminar

A free Italian family history research seminar is being sponsored by Connecticut Ancestry Society (<http://www.connecticutancestry.org>) of Stamford, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists (<http://www.csginc.org>) of Glastonbury, and Housatonic Community College of Bridgeport, on Saturday, March 14, 2009, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Housatonic Community College (Beacon Hall Events Center - 2nd Floor), 900 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT. This will be a great opportunity for Italian Americans to learn how to begin or extend their family trees both here in the U.S. and in Italy. Check-in begins at 11:45 AM with ample parking available in a security monitored garage.

This free lecture will feature and begin with Marcia Iannizzi Melnyk, a professional genealogist who has taught beginning and advanced genealogy courses for more than 15 years, author of several books, and president of the Italian Genealogical Society of America. Also featured and concluding the lecture is Jonathan D. Shea, professor of foreign languages at the college, author of several books on translating genealogical documents, and president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the NorthEast.

Attendees will explore how to use American records to document their family members who came to the United States in vital records, church registers, U.S. census records, ship passenger lists, and naturalization records. We will see what records are available both in Italy and from the comfort of the Internet to research your family and how history has affected the record types and availability of Italian birth, marriage, publication, and death records, including military, processetti, and church records. We will learn how to make sense of Italian language documents of genealogical value, even without fluency.

While the event is open and free to the public, prospective attendees are asked to RSVP with a message and the number of attendees to one of the sponsors:

Robert Locke, CAS, at (203) 778-4794 or via email at info@connecticutancestry.org

Stephanie Hyland, CSG, at (860) 569-0002 or via email at csg@ctfamilyhistory.org

According to a recent survey, over 78% of the U.S. population is interested in or actively researching their family history, with over 6.4 million unique site visitors to ancestry.com alone in April 2008. This talk is the third in an ongoing series at Housatonic Community College with the Slavic (in 2007) and Irish (in 2008) sessions attended by almost 200 people each. This seminar is geared to aid genealogical and historical researchers working on their Italian heritage.

About Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc.

Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc. (<http://www.connecticutancestry.org>), the oldest genealogical society in Connecticut, was founded in 1954 by a small group of genealogists in southwestern Connecticut. The Society's mission is to promote genealogical scholarship, preserve source material, and exchange family histories. Connecticut Ancestry Society members are responsible, ethical genealogists and family historians who share a special interest in southwestern Connecticut and its neighborhood, either by living there, or by having ancestry there, or both; who pursue genealogical scholarship through networking, educational programs, and publication of reference materials and research results; and who extend full cooperation to other genealogical organizations, record repositories, and public record custodians. The Society's growing membership now extends across the continent with only about half living in Connecticut.

In support of the Society's mission we sponsor workshops and lectures several times each year, often in conjunction with a visit to a genealogical repository in the area. The Society's scholarly journal, *Connecticut Ancestry*, is published quarterly with articles on local families, genealogical methodology, and transcriptions of previously unpublished records related to our area. All the work of the Society is done by volunteers with both professional and amateur genealogists actively participating.