



SINCE 1979

IL GIORNALE

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUB OF HUNTERDON COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 2466 ♦ FLEMINGTON ♦ NEW JERSEY ♦ 08822 ♦ WWW.ITALIANAMERICANHC.ORG

January Program – Angela Franco



Angela Marie (Linda Abatematteo) Franco grew up in Bensonhurst Brooklyn NY. She lived in her paternal grandparents' house and saw her grandparents every day. Her grandmother came to America at the age of 19, learned English and became an American citizen. Her grandparents and father would teach her a few words in Italian but never spoke full sentences. Her parents, Marie and Anthony Abatematteo, would speak to each other in Italian at the dinner table when they wanted to talk and not let her know what they were saying. In her family it was a big deal to set a beautiful table especially for the holidays. Homemade dishes and desserts were a

staple. And of course, hospitality was important as they constantly had extended family visiting. Every August/Sept three generations got together to bottle tomatoes for the winter months. Each year they made 120-quart size jars of fresh tomato sauce. Angela's favorite Italian recipe can be found on page 6.

Angela has been removed from her heritage since her parents died and she and her husband Frank moved to New Jersey. She loves the sharing of heritage and memories and the reintroduction of learning the Italian language. Angela loves connecting with people from Italian heritage because they all understand hospitality and community.

Ten years ago, Angela and Frank went to Rome for three days and met with three generations of her family that she never knew existed. They were her paternal grandmothers' nephews and family. They drove up from Foggia, Puglia and they had a meal in a restaurant call "Macaroni" behind the Pantheon. Then they all did some sightseeing. Since Covid-19 broke out all over the world, Angela was concerned about contacting her family but was not able to find them on ancestry. She eventually sent an open letter to the address on one of her grandmother's letters and then 2 weeks later she got an email from her grandma's nephew who is now a monsignor. All the Italian family is well and thriving.

Angela is a graphic designer, copywriter and a pretty good cook. She loves spending time with her two grandsons – that's why they moved to Flemington – to be near them. She is also a member of Art Venture Flemington where they have monthly gallery shows in the Factory Fuel coffee shop on Mine Street. She creates whimsical Expressionist art and will preview a piece for sale of a scene in the Italian mountaintop. She also has a shop of custom designed home décor at www.etsy.com/shop/amfdesignnation and will offer 10% discount to all IAHC members.

At the meeting, Angela will have copies of her book, custom designed coasters and photo/painting of the Italian Mountaintop scene for sale.

The photo above, Angela placed in her book *The Table Manners Coach* sold on Amazon about her Italian American heritage in hospitality and American Table Manners.

Her motto is: Wake up each day, decide what will make you happy - then do it!

Volume 21 Issue 1
January 2021

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Programs/Events

1/19 – Monthly meeting

2/16 – Monthly Meeting – Mike DeSapio re: Italian Dual Citizenship

6/21 – Foundation Annual Golf Outing

10/8 – Foundation Annual Gala

Italian American Heritage Club of Hunterdon County



Dinner Meeting

*Due to current mandates
individual dinners will be served.
Tables of 6 will be set up.*

*First 40 reservations can be
accepted.*

\$31
Mountainview Chalet
Jan 19th 6:45PM

RSVP
Mary Divock
908-377-1379
marydiv1@gmail.com

24 hour cancellation notice req'd