



Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

KEEPING OUR *Pride*, CELEBRATING OUR *Culture*, REMEMBERING OUR *Past*

Program Notes for February 2011: *Guy DeSapio, Author, Poet* *"I Have His Letters Still"*



Gaetano DeSapio is the son of Anthony and Alessandria DeSapio, founding members of the IAHC. Gaetano is an attorney with a private legal practice in Frenchtown who has represented the Hunterdon County Freeholders for 30 years.

For the last 23 years, he has written poetry under the Pen Name "Ray Brown". For the first 20 years, he shared the poetry with only a handful of close friends. When he was younger, he did not like most poetry. He found the majority of poets too difficult to understand – did not like to have to work so hard when he read for pleasure.

He never expected that he would be a published poet. He started to write to express his feelings when going through a personal crisis. Through the years, he wrote when the mood struck, perhaps on a napkin in a restaurant or when bored in a business meeting. He stuffed words in desk drawers and envelopes. Most of the work was about everyday experiences and feelings – few of the poems were obscure or left the reader wondering what it was about.

Two years ago at Thanksgiving he searched the Internet to learn about blogging. When he saw how easy it was to establish a blog, he began to share his poetry publicly, to see if anyone would like it. He now posts poems three times a week on his poetry blog, "The Poetry of Ray Brown", <http://raybrown.wordpress.com>.

In September of 2010, he published his first book of poetry, "I Have His Letters Still" – Poetry of Everyday Life available on Amazon <http://tinyurl.com/RayBrownAmazonBooks> and at poet-ray-brown.com and in Hunterdon County bookstores. His poetry has appeared in a number of literary journals, he received a 2009 recognition award from the New Jersey Poetry Society, and has read in a number of venues,

including before the Italian American Writers Association in Greenwich Village.

He has written a number of poems about a trip to Italy, and will share his works about Italian life and Valentine Poems of love at our February meeting. Two other books of his poetry will be published this year.

His poem, "How to Eat a Cannoli" has spread across the internet and "My Father's Hands" evokes the warm respect Italians have for their fathers.

Guy lives in Union Township with his wife, Susan and between them have 9 children and 2 grandchildren. His daughter, Teresa, is an artist and designed the cover for his book. Guy is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Rutgers Law School.

