



SINCE 1979

# IL GIORNALE

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUB OF HUNTERDON COUNTY

POST OFFICE BOX 2466 ♦ FLEMINGTON ♦ NEW JERSEY ♦ 08822 ♦ [WWW.ITALIANAMERICANHC.ORG](http://WWW.ITALIANAMERICANHC.ORG)

Volume 17 Issue 2  
February 2017

## February Program - Andrea Cassar, Artist



Andrea Cassar was born in Siracusa, Italy in 1983 and is a fourth generation artist who specializes in painting, sculpting, and graphic design. His work includes tradition-styled oil paintings, glass art, ceramics, and the latest medium of painting celebrity portraits in lipstick. Cassar has worked for companies like Macy's, Banana Republic, The Children's Place, and the strategic communications and public relations firm, Blue Force Communications.

Cassar's mother, Concetta Rizza (b. 1961, d. 1999), was also a painter, sculptor, and ceramist. His maternal grandfather was Carmelo Rizza (b. 1933, d. 2009), recognized in the Italian art world for his portrayals of everyday life in rural "peasant"

Italy in subtle oils on canvas. Carmelo's sought-after paintings simultaneously convey the romantic and harsh aspects of the lives of common men and women, as he adequately captured contemporary life in southern Italy in the latter half of the 20th century. Cassar has continued his grandfather's tradition, painting vivid scenes from his youth and adolescence in Sicily and the nearby towns of Siracusa, Catania, and Caltagirone. "Today all issues seem to get politicized, and are often viewed through the lenses of race, religion, gender, and sexuality. But so many experiences and the emotions that come with them are universal. I try to remind people of that through my work. My ethnic and personal background forms an integral part of what I do, but the core issues, themes, and emotions - they cross the boundaries of comfort and force viewers to think outside the box."



### Calendar of Events

#### Current Meeting

2/21 - Andrea Cassar, Artist

#### Upcoming Programs/Events

3/2 - Italian Movie Night - 6PM Hunterdon County Library, Flemington

3/17 - An Italian Music Show with Richard Stillman

4/29 - IAHCCHC 3rd Annual Gala

5/21 - Arthur Avenue Bus Trip

6/19 - IAHC Golf Outing

**Please send suggestions for future programs and/or newsletter contributions to Jack Aquila.**

### Italian American Heritage Club of Hunterdon County



#### Buffet Dinner Meeting

**\$29**

**Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017**

**THE FARMHOUSE AT THE GRAND COLONIAL**  
**Meeting starts at 6:45PM**

**RSVP by 2/15**

Rose DeSantis  
908-310-9844

[desantis\\_rose@yahoo.com](mailto:desantis_rose@yahoo.com)

*Reservation cancellations must be made a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting or payment will be mandatory because the Club will be charged for the dinner.*