



Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

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

Program Notes for March:

What Does it Mean to be Second or Third Generation Italian-American? Members Speak

The largest migration of Italians to the United States occurred well over eighty years ago by World War I. Two million had arrived between 1900 and 1914 and by 1978, 5.3 million Italians had emigrated to the United States.

In the 2000 U.S. Census, Italian - Americans constituted the seventh largest ancestry group in America with about 15.6 million people (5.6% of the total U.S. population). That first generation faced many challenges to claim the description as Italian-American. But what does it mean to their families generations down the road?

A couple of generations removed from emigration from Italy can make a world of difference in how one sees himself and in what being of Italian descent means to that person. There can be tremendous generational differences in the way Italian Americans view their history, culture, and life today.



This March, a panel of young Italian-American adults will discuss that and other related topics.

The panelists include: Teresa DeSapio, Tarah

Pearson, and Matt Andresen. Teresa DeSapio, a member of IAHC, is a freelance artist and teaches commercial art at Polytech School. Tarah Pearson is a student at Ursinus College and a 2004 recipient of our Annual Scholarship Awards. Matt Andresen is the youngest of six, and a true Italophile. He keeps in constant touch with his relatives in Valentano, Italy, and has just recently returned from visiting them and attending the Winter Games in Torino.

The panel will be moderated by Vince Cardarelli.