



Dear IDARM Network member,

We write this month hoping everyone is safe and warm now that the worst of the winter weather is behind us. While the frigid temperatures and snow and ice had all of us longing to hunker down for a good long hibernation, we know everyone is working hard to keep their programs moving forward. Toward that end, the news that the NEH will open funding for the next fiscal year was welcome.

If you or your institution is interested in applying for grants or working with IDARM on a collaborative project, please do not hesitate to reach out. [Here is the NEH website](#) where you can see some of the upcoming grant opportunities. And the NEH Summer Institutes application period is now open. In the Appalachian region, University of Pittsburgh will hold an institute on the history of [the Homestead Steel Strike](#). Here is a [link](#) to all of the 2026 NEH Summer Institutes. The deadline is **March 6**.

We will resume site visits this spring and summer. If you are not yet on our list, but would like to be, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,
Melissa, Lina, and Nancy

Meet the IDARM Network Partners



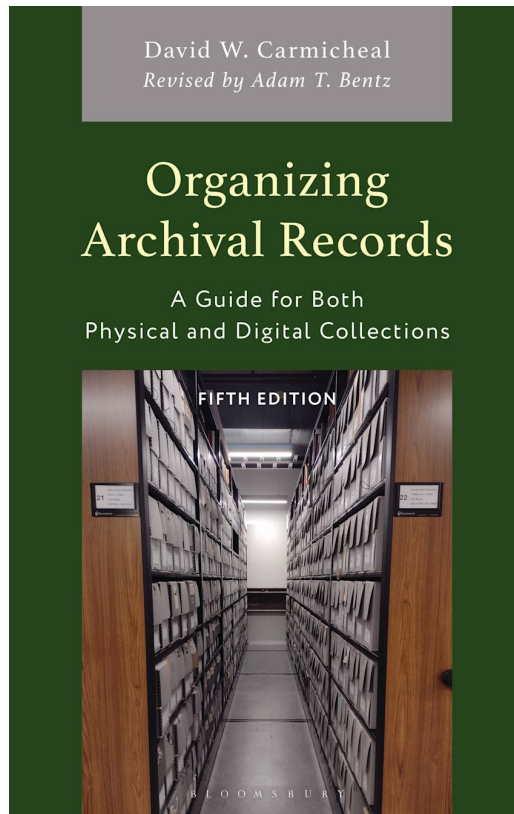
Meet Tina Calabro

Washington, Pa., native Tina Calabro is the voluntary project manager of the Washington Italian Heritage Collection, a community archive that documents and shares the city's history of Italian immigration. The Collection was launched in 2017. Recognizing that very little of the city's Italian immigrant history was documented or preserved, Ms. Calabro — a descendent of Italian immigrants — approached members of the Italian American community and local history organizations about the urgent need to gather the history before the entire generation that possessed the memories passed away. Within weeks, the project took shape, in close collaboration with **Hood Local History Center at Citizens Library, Washington County Historical Society**, and **Primo Italiano Italian Sons and Daughters of America #2800**.

Today, Hood Local History Center at Citizens Library holds a special collection of books and other publications related to Italian immigration to Washington and Southwestern Pennsylvania. The library has digitized selected items for access on **PA Power Library**. Materials are added to the collection on an ongoing basis. Beginning in 2026, Washington County Historical Society will serve as the physical repository for archival materials and artifacts, as well as the digital repository. Holdings will include 22 oral histories and 200 digital photos. Primo Italiano Sons and Daughters of America Chapter #2800 facilitates outreach for stories and historic materials, as well as opportunities to highlight the legacy of Italian immigration at its annual festival. Web pages about the collection are maintained on the Primo Italian #2800 website.

Since its founding, The Italian Heritage Collection has sought guidance on best practices and sustainability from the **Italian American Program** and the **History Center Affiliates Program** at Pittsburgh's Senator John Heinz History Center. Networking with and learning from members of the **Italian Diaspora Archive Resource Map (IDARM) Project** has been especially helpful, said Ms. Calabro. "As a voluntary project manager, I appreciate the expertise and resources that IDARM's members provide to small projects like ours. Through our membership in IDARM, we are part of the collective story that of Italian immigration to our region."

Announcements



The new fifth edition of "**Organizing Archival Records: A Guide for Both Physical and Digital Collections**" by David W. Carmicheal, revised by Adam T. Bentz is now available as a paperback or ebook.

Much of our nation's documentary heritage resides in small historical societies, libraries, cultural organizations, houses of worship, and museums. The preservation of this heritage often depends on the dedicated efforts of people who, in their workaday world, practice some profession other than archivist. For thirty years, "Organizing Archival Records" has equipped non-professional archivists to tackle the challenging task of arranging and describing archival materials.

The latest edition preserves the practical, easy-to-follow, step-by-step approach of earlier editions while updating its content to reflect current archival practices and growing concerns over social justice, while offering solutions for common collection problems.

This text is \$28.76 for members of the **American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)** and \$35.95 for nonmembers.

[Learn More](#)



Congratulations to IDARM Network member **Mario Badagliacca** on the completion and approval of his doctoral dissertation in Cultural Sciences from the *Università degli Studi di Palermo*. Mario's dissertation is entitled "*Dietro l'altra metà di New York. Il racconto di Jacob Riis e l'immaginario razziale sui tenements tra scrittura visuale e verbale*" (Behind New York's Other Half: Jacob Riis and the Racial Construction of the Tenements Between Visual and Verbal Narrative).

This research deconstructs the racial imaginary surrounding New York's migrant communities through an analysis of the interplay between photography and writing in **Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives: Studies among the Tenements of New York***. Adopting a multidisciplinary framework rooted in visual studies and cultural anthropology, the study performs a systemic analysis of the work's verbal and visual semantics. Furthermore, it examines the historical role of photography as a scientific and bureaucratic instrument of social racialization, while engaging with the critique of the archive as a hegemonic institution. He is grateful to have been in attendance at the October 2024 IDARM gathering, an experience that shaped his dissertation in important ways. He expects to translate the dissertation into English very soon.

Badagliacca is a freelance photographer. His work documents migration, life on the borders, human right violations, and social issues. He was the artist-in-residence for the **Transnationalizing Modern Language Project** sponsored by the **UK Arts and Humanities Research Council**, with a work on the Italian diasporic communities in Addis Ababa, London, New York, Buenos Aires and Tunis. In 2023, he was visiting scholar at the Institute of Language, Culture and Societies of the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

If you wish to offer your congratulations, you may reach Badagliacca through his email at **mariobadagliacca@gmail.com**.



Enjoy two new exhibits at Pitt's Hillman Library
featuring the history of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms

Opening Reception (Register here)

Celebrate the unveiling of two new exhibits in the Hyland Gallery

Thursday, February 26th

5 - 7 PM

Hyland Gallery, Hillman Library

**Gallery Talk: Read the Room! Uncovering the
Italian Room's Transnational Traces**

Gallery talk given by lead exhibit curator Dr. Lina Insana

Wednesday, March 18th

Beginning at 12 PM

Hyland Gallery, Hillman Library

Gallery Talk: The Women Behind the Walls

Presentation on the history of the French Nationality Room
by exhibit curator Joanna Conings

Thursday, March 19th

Beginning at 11 AM

Hyland Gallery, Hillman Library



NATIONALITY
ROOMS
AND INTERCULTURAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

See all upcoming NRIEP events at

<https://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/events/upcoming>

Celebrate 100 years of the **University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program (NRIEP)** with the grand opening of two new exhibits at the **University of Pittsburgh Library System's Hillman Library**.

- "Read the Room! Uncovering the Italian Room's Transnational Traces," curated by Dr. Lina Insana, Associate Professor in the **Department of French and Italian**, and students in the **Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences**.
- "The Women Behind the Walls," curated by Joanna Conings, PhD candidate in the Department of French and Italian.

This milestone event honors a century of global understanding and cultural exchange fostered by the NRIEP at the University of Pittsburgh. Hear remarks from key partners in NRIEP and the University Library System (ULS) and explore rare and unique materials in ULS's University Archives that document the history of these iconic rooms. Visit the exhibits in the Hillman Library's Hyland Gallery through September 2026. For more details about these displays, visit this [link](#).

For more information about the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs Centennial celebration and related events across the University, visit this [link](#).

IDARM Network Spotlight

The Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center Fairmont, WV

The **Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center** is dedicated to the identification, preservation, and perpetuation of our region's rich cultural heritage. Housed in an award-winning repurposed historic barn building on the **Fairmont State University** campus, the Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center is home to the **Ruth Ann Musick folklore archives**, the James H. and Phyllis W. Moore West Virginia literary archive, which includes more than 2,000 books, 1,000 author files, more than 1,000 pieces of correspondence, and several hundred related posters, audio, and video resources, and more.

Additional artifacts include: printed ephemera, tools and implements, furniture, uniforms and folk costumes, Fairmont State historic photographs and memorabilia, mining artifacts, musical instruments, folk arts. The artifacts and collections in the Folklife Center's care embody West Virginia's cultural heritage and are regularly used in classes and public programs and exhibitions.

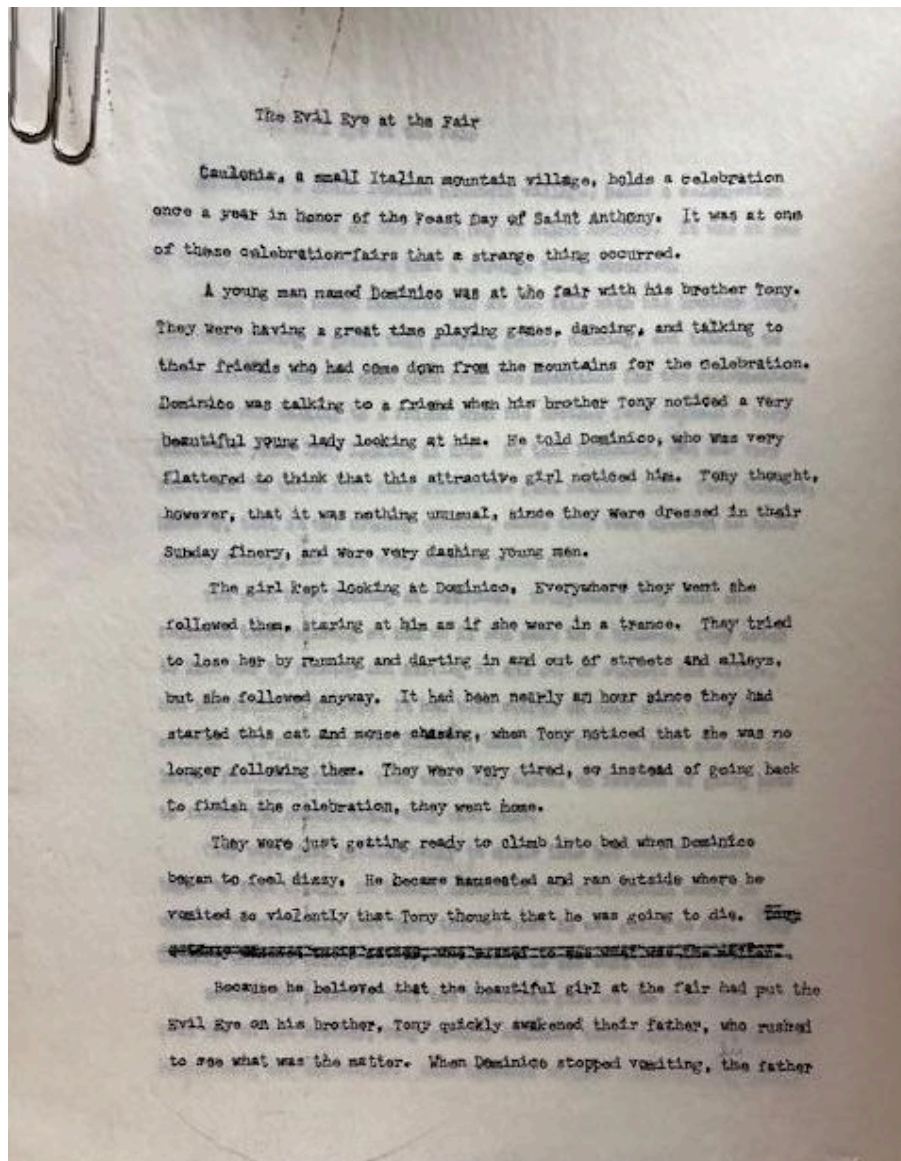


Image from a student paper about the Italian Evil Eye, which is part of the Ruth Ann Musick Collection. Dr. Musick, who was a professor at Fairmont State and a folklorist, encouraged students to write about traditions, including the paranormal.

The Folklife Center is part of the **College of Liberal Arts** and houses the University's undergraduate programs in folklore and museum studies. A Folklore Studies specialization provides a background for professional involvement in such areas as preservation, cultural heritage and historical parks and museums management, teaching, archiving, curating, entertainment, storytelling, writing, traditional arts, and graduate studies. Additionally, the Folklife Center serves the University and the broader community through events and workshops, all of which are free and open to everyone, as well as through scholarships, publications, exhibitions, and outreach events.



The Folklife Center's current exhibition **Interwoven**, which is on loan through July 2026 from Arthurdale Heritage and showcases regional fiber arts.

With so many of the traditions, occupations, and events in West Virginia being connected to the Italian Diaspora and Italian Americans, many of the items in our archive are related to these communities. However, many of the collections in our archives are still undergoing inventory, processing, and accessioning, so the connections are not always clear and searchable. We are in the process of upgrading our archive software, with the goal of having a searchable database in the coming year and using metadata to help researchers locate what they need. Should you wish to learn more about our holdings, you can email us at wvfolklife@fairmontstate.edu and we will help!

Contact

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on the campus of Fairmont State University
Squibb Wilson Blvd.
Fairmont, WV 26554
(304) 367-4403

wvfolklife@fairmontstate.edu

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday-Sunday by appointment

[Visit the Folklife Center's Website](#)



[Learn More About the IDARM Project](#)

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