



Dear IDARM Network member,

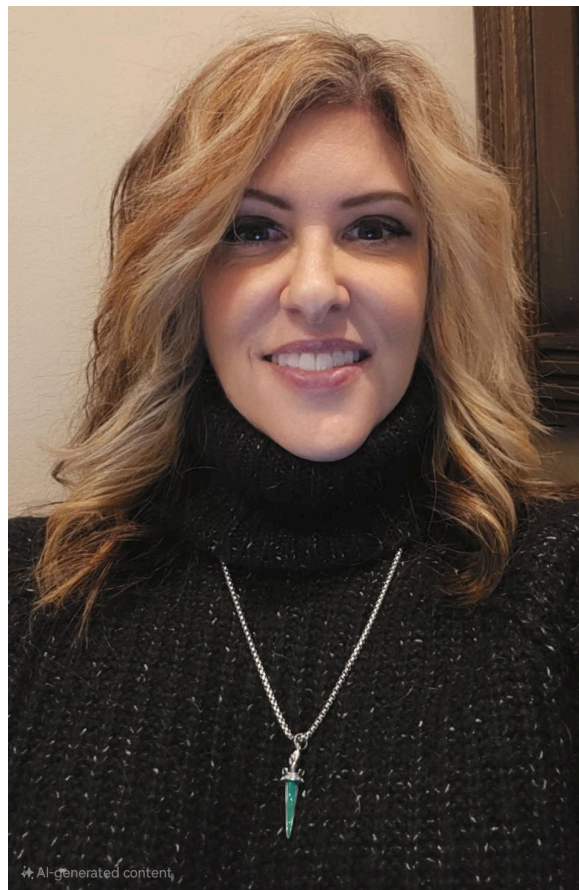
As we come to the end of 2025, we want to thank each of you for the role you play in building the IDARM network. While we are exploring other sources of funding, we are moving forward with beta testing online mapping programs to understand the kinds of information IDARM wants and needs to include to make our repositories accessible and discoverable within the region. If you have any experience with mapping software that you or your institutions have utilized, please let us know.

We are also looking forward to more site visits in 2026. We have found these visits to be incredibly helpful, allowing us to better understand your organizations, collections, needs, and the intersections between your resources and the IDARM network. If you would like us to plan a trip to your facility in the new year, please reach out to schedule a site visit.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. We are eager to share your good news, so if you haven't already sent us information about your latest endeavors, please consider doing so.

With gratitude,
Melissa, Lina, and Nancy

Meet the IDARM Network Partners



Meet Pamela Dorazio Dean

Pamela Dorazio Dean serves as both Curator of Italian American History at **Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS)** and Director of the **Italian American Museum of Cleveland (IAMCLE)**. She is a conduit between research and exhibition, translating preserved records into engaging visitor experiences. At WRHS, she helps to steward the Italian American Collection, working with families and organizations to preserve their histories and make them discoverable for researchers and for use in future exhibits. At IAMCLE, she uses the archives to create engaging visitor experiences by curating displays and developing engaging programs.

Dorazio Dean has been the Curator of Italian American History at the Western Reserve Historical Society for 20 years. She holds a Master of Arts in history with a concentration in public history from Kent State University and has achieved the rank of Certified Archivist as recognized by the **Academy of Certified Archivists**.

IDARM News and Updates

Opportunities

The State Library of Ohio LSTA Open Grant program is designed to support libraries in addressing a specific need within their community while helping the State Library achieve the goals outlined in the **State Library of Ohio's LSTA Five-Year Plan**. Applicants submitting proposals should be prepared to describe the need they intend to address, the benefits of the proposed project, how the project's benefits and impact will be measured, and the connection to the State Library's LSTA goals.

Recognizing that each library knows its community best, the LSTA Open Grant program gives applicants flexibility in the development of their projects. The intention is that applicants will be innovative and creative; proposing projects that might not be feasible

without LSTA grant support. Open Grant awards are intended to support new initiatives or services. They are not intended for existing operational expenses.

Applying libraries may request no more than \$4,999.00 in federal funds. No local matching funds are required for Open Grants. Applications must be submitted by **Dec. 31**. For questions, please contact Jeff Regensburger at (614) 644-6863 or jregensburger@library.ohio.gov.

[Learn More](#)

Announcements

"Building a Better Understanding" Cover Story on Pitt's NRIEP

The University of Pittsburgh's **Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs (NRIEP)** is featured on the cover of the fall issue of **Western Pennsylvania History Magazine (WPHM)**. Written by Michael Walter, NRIEP's Manager of Education Programs, and Shane Ludgate, this article celebrates 100 years of sharing stories of regional ethnic communities through spaces that inspire and create cultural connections and features archives from **Pitt's Archives & Special Collections**.

Issues of WPHM are available for purchase through the Heinz History Center's museum shop. **Back issues of the journal** are accessible through **Penn State University Libraries Open Publishing**.

Mahoning Valley Historical Society is Expanding

Mahoning Valley Historical Society is currently renovating the former IBM building at 250 East Federal Street in Youngtown, which they purchased in 2023 to consolidate their collections and make room for the **Idora Park Experience collection**. [Click here](#) to read more about the renovation.

West Virginia Mine Wars Museum Hires New Staff

The **West Virginia Mine Wars Museum** has hired Appalachian native Taylor Hankins as the museum's Communications Director. They reflected on their new position, stating, "As Communications Director for the Museum it is my duty to not only promote our hidden history but to expose its link to our present circumstances. It is also important for me to continue the Museum's work in cultivating regional pride through this history and to educate those outside of the area on what a real redneck is: someone who loves their neighbor and advocates for the rights of the working class."

WVMWM staff member and Mingo County native Thomas Jude, formerly the Museum and Communications Manager, will now serve as the museum's Operations Director. WVMWM is **hiring a Bookkeeper**. Applications are to be submitted to the Museum's Executive Director via email at kenzie@wvminewars.org by Dec. 31.

IDARM Network Spotlight

Italian Heritage Collection at Citizens Library & Washington County Historical Society
Washington, PA

The **Washington Italian Heritage Collection**, established in 2017, is a community archive that documents and shares the city of Washington, PA's history of Italian immigration.

Washington has a notable history of Italian immigration. Hundreds of immigrants settled in Washington (seat of Washington County) between 1880 and 1930. They were part of the great wave of more than four million Italian immigrants, mostly from southern Italy and Sicily, who left poor economic and political conditions to find work and opportunity throughout Pennsylvania and the United States. Italian immigrant families comprised the largest ethnic group in the city during the period of New Immigration and left a lasting legacy in all aspects of civic life. Largely because of Italian immigration, the city's population increased from 4,292 in 1880 to 24,545 in 1930 (a six-fold increase). Today, Italian immigrants and their families still comprise one of the largest ethnic groups in the city, which currently has a population of about 13,000.

Like most immigrants who came to southwestern Pennsylvania during those years, those who settled in the city of Washington sought work in the industries that produced glass, steel and other industrial products. Many others – grocers, barbers and tailors, for example – provided service businesses, many of which continue to this day.



Barbers Frank Zenner (original name “Zenone”) and Louis Spossey (original name “Esposito”) operated a barber shop on South Main Street in Washington, Pa.

In 2017, a first-of-its-kind effort was launched to document and share the city's history of Italian immigration. Recognizing that very little of this history was documented or preserved, Tina Calabro (a descendent of Italian immigrants to Washington) approached members of the city's Italian American community – as well as local history organizations – about the urgent need to gather the history before the entire generation that possessed the memories passed away.

Within weeks, a community project dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the city's Italian immigrant history 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.

- **Hood Local History Center** at Citizens Library has created a special collection of books and other publications related to Italian immigration to Washington and Southwestern Pennsylvania. The library is digitizing selected items for access on PA Power Library. Materials can be added to this collection on an ongoing basis.
- Washington County Historical Society serves as the physical repository for archival materials and artifacts, and will serve as a digital repository for the Collection when

its online catalogue is created.

- **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 information about the collection is maintained on the Primo Italian #2800 website.



Virginia Aloia (top left) was the eldest daughter of Giuseppe and Letizia Aloia of the neighboring villages of Aquara and Bellosquardo in Salerno province. She cared for her younger siblings while their parents worked the large garden at their home in Washington. The Aloia children often accompanied their father to sell produce door-to-door from a cart.

Contact

Citizens Library
55 S. College Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 222-2400
citlib@citlib.org

To utilize the Dorothea and Henry H. Hood Local History Center for genealogy and history research, please call or email Citizens Library to schedule an appointment.

Open Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

[Visit Citizen Library's Website](#)

Washington County Historical Society
49 East Maiden Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 225-6740

The **Norma K. Grimes Research Library** is open to the public by appointment, Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Admission to the library is \$7 per day for non-members, free for WCHS members.
Information about **research services** is available [here](#).

To visit WCHS, please book a tour [here](#).

[Visit WCHS's Website](#)



[Learn More About the IDARM Project](#)

[Subscribe to the IDARM e-newsletter](#)

Senator John Heinz History Center | 1212 Smallman Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15222 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)