

## ***Coming to America: The Italians***

**An interactive 3-session series at the Lewes Library on April 10, 17, and 24, 2018**

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### About Jo-Ann Vega:

Published author, dynamic and informative speaker with 30 years of experience presenting to business, educational, and community groups on a variety of topics.

I've been teaching at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Lewes for the past 7 years.

I had the good fortune to know my immigrant kin and to spend my youth in the south Bronx. My recollections of an active childhood include: Johnny pumps, stickball, and the ice-man, horse drawn vegetable and fruit wagons, mal occhio, bocce, macaroni in numbered boxes on a wall, my uncle the bookie, and walking to Yankee Stadium to watch Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra play baseball.

Contact me at  
[mezzo148st@gmail.com](mailto:mezzo148st@gmail.com)  
about speaking with  
your group.

The journey of our forebears is part of our story, part of the large tapestry of America.

For the past five years I've worked on a memoir that includes the mass migration of Italians from the Mezzogiorno, 'the land that time forgot.'

Allow me to share it with you.

I am a proud Italian-American filled with gratitude to Nicola [1903] and Antoinette Di Franza [1910] and Antonio [1913] and Sofia Vega [1920], who risked everything for their future famiglias.

What courage it took to undertake the arduous journey across the Atlantic, in cramped quarters, below deck, move past the Statue of Liberty and on to inspections at Ellis Island before arriving in New York City!



**Title:** Coming to America: The Italians

**Dates:** April 10, 17, and 24, 2018

**Time:** 10:00AM-Noon

**Location:** Lewes Library

**Instructor:** Jo-Ann Vega

**Session 1:** Italy experienced the largest voluntary migration in documented history, from the 1861 to 1914, when more than 9 million people left Italy. Almost half migrated to the US. Why did they leave Italy?

**Session 2:** From 1880 through 1920 more than 20 million immigrants arrived in the US during a time that parallels today. Most entered the US through Ellis Island, NY and passed inspections before entering. What was the experience like? How were the immigrants treated when they arrived? Where did they settle?

**Session 3:** Today Italians number 17.4 million and are the 7<sup>th</sup> largest ancestry group in the US. What are their cultural traditions? Why is ancestry research so popular? What are some of the emotional and intellectual rewards of understanding your origins?

**Registration  
Limited to 30  
Lewes Library  
302-645-2733**

*Bringing the immigrant story full circle, recovering lost history, sharing hard-earned practical wisdom.*