

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

The National Italian American Foundation has signed an agreement with Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to collaborate on promoting roots-tourism initiatives. The partnership aims to encourage Americans of Italian descent to visit the hometowns of their ancestors and connect with their heritage. Present at the signing were NIAF President Robert Allegrini and Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani (from left), and United States Ambassador to Italy Jack Markell (not pictured). The agreement is part of the Italian government's Recovery and Resilience Plan and its upcoming "2024: Year of Italian Roots" campaign.



THE GIFT OF MUSIC

The owner of two musical-instrument rental companies in Connecticut reached out to the D'Addario Foundation with an extraordinary offer. Ronni Ginott was ready to retire and opted to donate a large portion of the remaining inventory from her companies to the D'Addario Foundation. Founded more than 30 years ago by legendary guitar-string makers John Jr. and Jim D'Addario, the D'Addario Foundation is dedicated to partnering with community programs that use music education as a vehicle for positive social change. (foundation.daddario.com) Ginott donated upward of 4,000 musical instruments to the foundation as well as to Hungry for Music, a nonprofit with a similar mission.

A DOSE OF THE TRUTH

The documentary "Potentially Dangerous" was shown to members of the U.S. Congress by the Italian American Congressional Caucus in September. The film tells the story of how 600,000 Italians living in the U.S. during World War II had their civil liberties curtailed while more than a million of their sons were fighting and dying in Europe and the South Pacific. On hand to speak at the screening were Basil Russo, president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, and Zach Baliva, creator and director of the film (pictured, from left, with Congressman Bill Pascrell and Order Son and Daughters of Italy in America President Michael Polo). "Potentially Dangerous" was funded by the Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum.



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