

# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
in cooperation with the Center for Italian American Studies,  
presents*

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## Saving Our Lady of Loreto



**Our Lady of Loreto** is located in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Italian immigrants built the church in the early 1900s. The church is in danger of being demolished and black steel netting was recently placed around the building. Many organizers are trying to convert the church into an arts pavilion and community center instead of demolishing the building for low-income housing. It could then be a central point in the community for the individuals living in the area.

**Flavia Alaya** is a teacher, writer and cultural worker with an urge to “script the cityscape.” She has chaired the Paterson (NJ) Historic Commission, advised the National Trust, engaged in postgraduate conversation on world heritage cities with ICCROM/ UNESCO in Rome, and contributed to the process that made Paterson’s Historic District a National Park in 2009. She now sits on the NJ Historic Sites Council and chairs the Bridgeton (NJ) commission that oversees the largest historic district in the state.

**Mario Toglia** is a native of Brooklyn and currently resides in Nassau County. He is a retired New York City public school foreign language teacher. Mr. Toglia is the editor of the book *They Came By Ship: The Stories of the Calitri Immigrants in America* – which seeks to preserve the history of immigrants from that Southern Apennine mountain town. Mr. Toglia’s time is devoted to researching and writing about his ancestors’ Italian roots. He stresses the importance of keeping the legacy alive and recording the historical chain of events for the generations that follow. Mr. Toglia is vice-president of the Calitri American Cultural Group, Inc.

**Dr. Marilyn Verna** is a retired teacher and administrator from the New York City School System. She is a graduate of St. John’s University with a doctorate in Instructional Leadership. She is currently an Associate Professor of Education at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. Dr. Verna has devoted her professional career to teaching and researching gifted students. She has numerous publications and presentations dealing with the achievement of gifted students and international studies, especially the Italian students. She is the principal investigator of the American Chemistry Academic Olympians. She and an international cohort of educators have published books and journal articles dealing with the achievement of these gifted students. Dr. Verna was past president of the Italian Genealogical Group of Long Island.

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**Tuesday, April 20, 2010**  
**11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**  
**3420 Boylan Hall**  
**Brooklyn College**

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