



German, Italian and Polish American Heritage Month Booklist October 2012

America's melting pot includes many European origins. The first Polish settler at Jamestown was Ivan Bohdan [Bodgan] of Kolomyya in modern Ukraine, part of the Kingdom of Poland in the early 1600s. Polish American Heritage Month began in Philadelphia in 1981 and is celebrated in October to coordinate with General Pulaski Memorial Day on October 11.

On October 6, 1683 thirteen Mennonite families left the overpopulated town of Krefeld and crossed the Atlantic to found Germantown, Pennsylvania. This date continues to be remembered with German American Heritage Day. It was started in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan to celebrate the 300th anniversary of German American immigration and culture to the United States. Since 1990 October 3 is celebrated as the Day of German Unity.

Italians and Italian Americans are the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States. Set in October to coincide with the October 11th Columbus Day holiday, each year the president issues an executive order designating October Italian American Heritage and Culture month to acknowledge the contributions of Italian Americans to our country.

The following is a selected list of books and websites that will help you learn more about German, Italian and Polish American history and ancestry. All books are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library.

Nonfiction

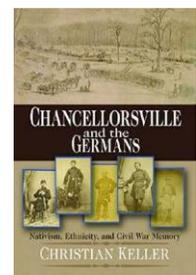
The following list is selected nonfiction to provide important insight to the history of German, Italian, and Polish American heritage and culture.

Casimir Pulaski: Cavalry Commander of the American Revolution

(Francis Casimir Kajencki) A biography of the founder of the American Cavalry.

Chancellorsville and the Germans : Nativism, Ethnicity, and Civil War Memory

(Christian B. Keller) Drawing for the first time on German-language newspapers, soldiers' letters, memoirs, and regimental records, Christian Keller reconstructs the battle and its aftermath from the German-American perspective, military and civilian. He offers a fascinating window into a misunderstood past, one where the German soldiers' valor has been either minimized or dismissed.



Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans

(*John Philip Colletta*) Genealogical handbook.

The German Cookbook: A Complete Guide to Mastering Authentic German Cooking

(*Mimi Sheraton*) In this classic cookbook, Sheraton includes easy to follow and authentic German recipes for the American kitchen.



In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe

(*Angus Baxter*) Genealogical handbook.

Italian-American Family History: A Guide to Researching and Writing About Your Heritage

(*Sharon DeBartolo Carmack*) Genealogical handbook.

Korzenie Polskie = Polish Roots

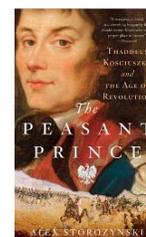
(*Rosemary A. Chorzempa*) Genealogical handbook.

My Name Is Million: An Illustrated History of the Poles in America

(*W.S Kuniczak*) Chronicles the arrivals of Poles in America beginning with the settlers of Jamestown.

The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution

(*Alex Storzynski*) From Pulitzer Prize-winning author comes an extensive tribute of the man who was a leading hero of the American Revolution. Storzynski ties together Kosciuszko's accomplishments in America and his fight for the civil rights of serfs and Jews in his Polish homeland.



Polish Classic Recipes

(*Laura Zeranski*) In this concise cookbook, Zeranski shares many favorite Polish recipes along with notes on Polish customs and history.

Polish Family Research

(*J. Konrad*) Genealogical handbook.

Reaching for the Stars : A Celebration of Italian Americans in Major League Baseball

(*Edited by Larry Freundlich*) This glowing tribute features an all-star line-up of contributors from George Vescey to Wilfrid Sheed, along with complete stats for every Italian American player.

Schlegel's American families of German ancestry in the United States: Genealogical and Biographical, Illustrated

(*Carl Wilhelm Schegel*) Originally published: New York by The American Historical Society, 1918-1926 and includes an index.

Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland

(Shana Penn) *Solidarity's Secret* is the first book to record the crucial yet little-known role women played in the rise of an independent press in Poland and in the fall of that country's communist government.



Using Civilian Records for Genealogical Research in the National Archives, Washington, DC, Area

(Published by United States. National Archives and Records Administration) Genealogical handbook.

Fiction

The following selected fiction includes titles by award winning authors, recent best sellers, novels that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight into the history of German, Italian, and Polish American heritage and culture.

The Clarinet Polka: A Novel

(Keith Maillard) Following his critically acclaimed novel *Gloria*, Maillard revisits the West Virginia town of Raysburg from the other side of the tracks in this snapshot of blue collar Polish America. In 1969, young Jimmy Koprowski returns to his hometown of Raysburg after having served in the US Air Force. He finds little changed except for his little sister's all-girl polka band where he meets the band's star clarinetist Janice whose past is ravaged by the tragic events of World War II Poland.



The End

(Salvatore Scibona) The story of one day, Assumption Day, August 15, 1953, in Elephant Park, a section of Cleveland settled by Italian immigrants.

Half-Blood Blues: A Novel

(Esi Edugyan) Short-listed for both the Booker Prize and Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction Edugyan's novel chronicles the story of a popular German American jazz band The Hot Time Swingers and their trumpet player Hieronymous Falk who is both German and black. In Hitler's Germany, Falk faces increasing danger when a ban is placed on jazz music.



The Master Butchers Singing Club

(Louise Erdrich) Follows the life of Fidelis Waldvogel and his family as they adjust to life in the small town of Argus, North Dakota. Bookended by World War I and World War II, the title contains several overarching themes including family, tradition, loss, betrayal, and memory

Metropolis : A Novel

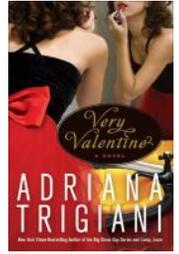
(Elizabeth Gaffney) On a freezing night in the middle of a New York winter, a young German immigrant is suddenly awakened by a fire in P.T. Barnum's stable and soon finds himself at the center of a citywide arson investigation.

North of the Port: Stories

(*Anthony Bukoski*) A collection of 12 stories drawn from the experience of post-World War II Polish refugees in the US.

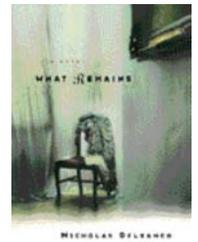
Very Valentine : A Novel

(*Adriana Trigiani*) Valentine Roncalli struggles to save her decades-old family business, one of the last family-owned businesses in Greenwich Village, finding love and the life she wants along the way.



What Remains

(*Nicholas Delbanco*) Delbanco offers a richly textured portrait of a German Jewish family with artistic and intellectual inclinations. The story encompasses several generations as the family travels through London and the United States.

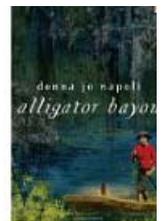


Young Adult

The following selected titles are to inform young adults about German, Italian, and Polish American heritage and culture.

Alligator Bayou

(*Donna Jo Napoli*) Fourteen-year-old Calogero Scalise and his Sicilian uncles and cousin live in small-town Louisiana in 1898, when Jim Crow laws rule and anti-immigration sentiment is strong, so despite his attempts to be polite and to follow American customs, disaster dogs his family at every turn.

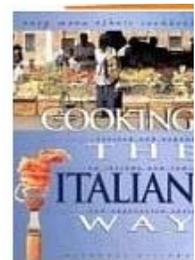


Cooking the German Way

(*Helga Parnell*) An introduction to the cooking of Germany featuring such traditional recipes as spaetzle, hot potato salad, Black Forest torte, and marzipan. Also includes information on the history, geography, customs and people of this European country.

Cooking the Italian Way

(*Alphonse Bisignano*) Seasoned with vibrant, color photographs and easy, step-by-step directions, many of the recipes are low in fat and call for ingredients you may already have at home. Also included are new vegetarian recipes, complete menu suggestions, and an expanded cultural section highlighting each country or region's people, customs, holidays and of course, food.



Cooking the Polish Way

(*Danuta Zamojska-Hutchins*) Introduces the land, culture, and cuisine of Poland and includes recipes for soups, salads, main dishes, and side dishes. Includes material on healthy, low-fat, vegetarian cooking, and holidays and festivals.

The German Americans

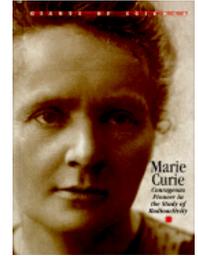
(*Anne Galicich*) Discusses the history, culture, and religion of the Germans, factors encouraging their emigration, and their acceptance as the United States' largest ethnic group.

The Italian Americans

(*J. Philip di Franco*) An in-depth portrait of the history and culture of Italian immigrants and their contributions to America.

Marie Curie

(*Beverley Birch*) Presents the life and accomplishments of the Polish-born chemist Maria Salomea Skłodowska Curie, discussing her methods of scientific research, discovery of radium, and its use as a treatment for cancer. This year marks the 100th anniversary of her second Noble Prize, this one in Chemistry.



Parallel Journeys

(*Eleanor H. Ayer with Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck*) When Alfons and Helen met in the US 40 years after the war, they found that they shared a common purpose: to help young people understand that peace and compassion are possible between individuals who had very different lives in Nazi Germany and on a larger scale as well.

Pick & Shovel Poet: the Journeys of Pascal D'Angelo

(*Jim Murphy*) A biography of an Italian peasant who immigrated to America in the early twentieth century and endured poverty and the difficult life of an unskilled laborer, determined to become a published poet.

The Polish Americans

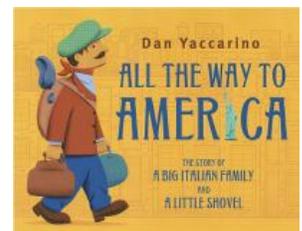
(*Sean Dolan*) Discusses the history, culture, and religion of the Polish, factors encouraging their emigration, and their acceptance as an ethnic group in North America.

Juvenile

The following selected titles are to inform young people about German, Italian, and Polish American Heritage and culture.

All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel

(*Dan Yaccarino*) The story of four generations of an Italian American family, beginning with an immigrant who came through Ellis Island with big dreams, a small shovel, and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family."



The Christmas Spider: A Puppet Play from Poland & Other Traditional Games, Crafts and Activities

(*Loretta Holz*) Step-by-step illustrated directions on how to make traditional Polish crafts such as painted eggs and paper cutting.

The German Americans

(*Anne Galicich and Sandra Stotsky, eds*) Discusses the history, culture, and religion of the Germans, factors encouraging their emigration, and their acceptance as the United States' largest ethnic group.

Italian Americans

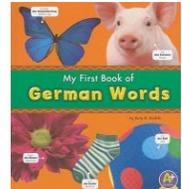
(*Carolyn Kott Washburne*) Like other books on the immigrant experience, these titles begin with a description of a group's homeland, why people left, and their reception in the U.S. The authors then go on to Italian American cultural values as related to family, community, and religion and celebrations. Customs pertaining to food, clothing, language, music, etc. are also described.

Italian Picture Dictionary

(*Illustrated by Chris Demarest*) Developed by a team of language experts and educators, these fun dictionaries for children ages four to nine are a goldmine of more than 1,000 colorfully illustrated words.

My First Book of German Words

(*Katy R. Kudela*) Simple text paired with themed photos invite the young reader to learn German vocabulary.

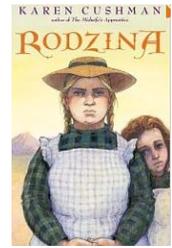


Polish Americans

(*Al Gabor*) Cultures of America series covering customs, celebrations and community.

Rodzina

(*Karen Cushman*) In 1881 young Polish orphan, Rodzina Clara Jadwiga Anastazyja Brodski boards an orphan train bound for the west coast from Chicago after all of her family tragically dies. Rodzina entertains the other young orphans with tales of her Polish heritage. Poignant story of family loss peppered with humor.

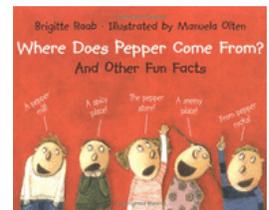


Twice a Hero: Polish American heroes of the American Revolution: Thaddeus Kościuszko and Casimir Pulaski

(*Dirk Wales*) The stories of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski (founder of the American Calvary), Polish American heroes of the American Revolution.

Where Does Pepper Come From?

(*Brigitte Raab*) German wit and humor translated from German into English provides seven questions with first a silly answer and then the scientific one.



Databases

Databases are subscription resources that contain reliable, timely, and authoritative online sources of information. Links to these are found on the Library's Webpage at www.npl.lib.va.us under "Databases." Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these resources:

Biography In Context

Full text articles drawn from hundreds of periodicals and books that provide biographical information from ancient days to the present.

Encyclopedia of World Biography

A multicultural biographical electronic book that covers notable individuals from every part of the world and from all time periods who have made significant contributions to human culture.

World Book Online

Containing every article from the 22-volume printed set plus thousands more, this database has multimedia maps, videos, and articles including contributions of Italian, German and Polish Americans to world history.

Websites

German American Cultural Foundation of the USA

www.ugac.org/

German American Heritage

germanoriginality.com/

German Genealogical Resources

www.distantcousin.com/Links/Ethnic/German.html

German Heritage and Genealogy

www.daddezio.com/germgen.html

Italian Heritage and Genealogy

www.daddezio.com/

National Italian American Foundation

www.niaf.org/milestones/index.asp

World Heritage Sites in Italy

thesalmons.org/lynn/wh-italy.html

Polish American Cultural Center

www.polishamericancenter.org/index.html

Polish Cultural Website

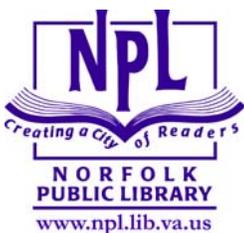
www.polishsite.us/

Polish Heritage Center

www.polishheritagecenter.com/

Poland Roots

archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/POLAND-ROOTS/2006-09/1159464847



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www.npl.lib.va.us

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