



Genealogy Service

Italian Jewish Roots

Rabbi Barbara Aiello • Dr. Enrico Mascaro • Prof. Vincenzo Villella

Finding Your Italian Jewish Roots

GenTracer in the US and the IjCCC in Calabria Can Help

Have you wondered if you have Jewish ancestors? Does your family history include stories of Jewish heritage or Jewish traditions? Some experts state that as much as 50% of the populations of Calabria and Sicily (the most Southern regions of Italy) were Jewish before the Inquisition. If you are brand new to searching your roots and even if you are not sure of the town of your Italian family's origin, we can help you. Or if you are experienced and want to learn more or have hit a wall in your search, we have the expert resources to help.

The Initial Research Program

Begin here if you do not know (or are not certain about) the name of the town your family is from by contacting Kathleen Kirkpatrick of Gentracer. Click here: www.gentracer.com/italy.html. If you already have that information, proceed below to learn about the Advanced Research Program for finding your Italian-Jewish roots with Gentracer and the IjCCC.

The Initial Research Program begins here for a basic fee of \$300 USD.

The Advanced Research Program

Making the Jewish Connection with the IJCCC

If you are interested in a general search regarding your family name and know your town of origin, Gentracer in cooperation with the Italian Jewish Cultural Center of Calabria (IjCCC) will examine documents such as the tax records of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. These archives often include special lists indicating taxes and fees paid by Italian Jews through about 1600, some of which are stored in the provincial archives in Naples.

Our researchers in Calabria will also contact local Jewish organizations (if they have remained intact) in the specific town of origin for more current information on Jewish families with the matching surnames in the matching towns.

For more recent documentation that may connect your specific family with people known to have Jewish heritage in your town of origin, our Calabrian archivists will work with the National Library in Rome to search the police lists of hereditary Jews compiled during the Fascist regime of Mussolini in the 1930s. If a match is found our researchers will then contact any existing local Jewish organizations for more current information on families with that surname. Working between the Salt Lake City, Utah (USA) and Italy, our service searches microfilmed civil birth, marriage, and death records for the family that appears on the police lists and your own family (back to about 1850) in hope of documenting a connection. This research is split between the Italian team of Calabrian archivists and the US Gentracer professionals. The result is a booklet of documentation, including photographs that depict a Jewish presence in your Italian town.

The Advanced Research Program fee is \$1,500 USD.

www.rabbibarbara.com

The research can be complicated but we are ready to help you. We can access Catholic Church records which document such obscure events as the adult baptisms of Jews during Inquisition times, special marriage taxes levied against Jewish couples and anecdotal stories of how Jewish families moved all around the Mediterranean in their efforts to escape persecution. Other documents indicate families who inter-married and thus blended into local communities.

In addition for those who are interested in learning more about how specific family traditions, practices and even superstitions related to Jewish culture and religion, Rabbi Barbara Aiello will assist you in this endeavor. Learning more can give you a greater understanding of the lives of your ancestors or be a part of your own personal spiritual journey.

For more information write or call:

GenTracer

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The IjCCC – The Italian Jewish Cultural Center of Calabria

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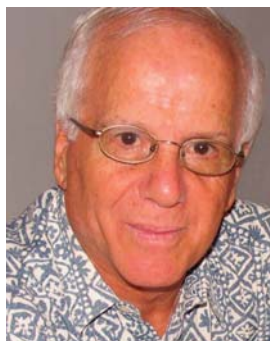
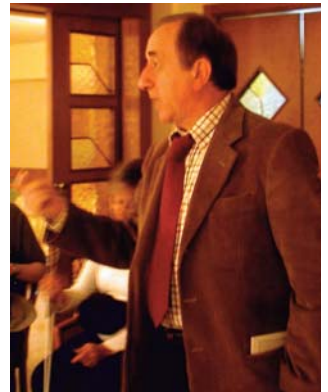
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Professor Vincenzo Vilella, a native of Calabria, is an accomplished historian, author and much sought-after lecturer. Vilella, the only modern historian who has written extensively about the Jews of Calabria, has revised his landmark volume to include new villages and towns where a Jewish presence has been discovered.



Dr. Enrico Mascaro, was born and grew up in Calabria. He is a PhD Italian historian and archivist who has written several books on Calabrian demographics, including a study of the ancient Jewish population of Tiriolo. Currently Dr. Mascaro serves as Superintendent of Schools for Lamezia Terme (CZ).