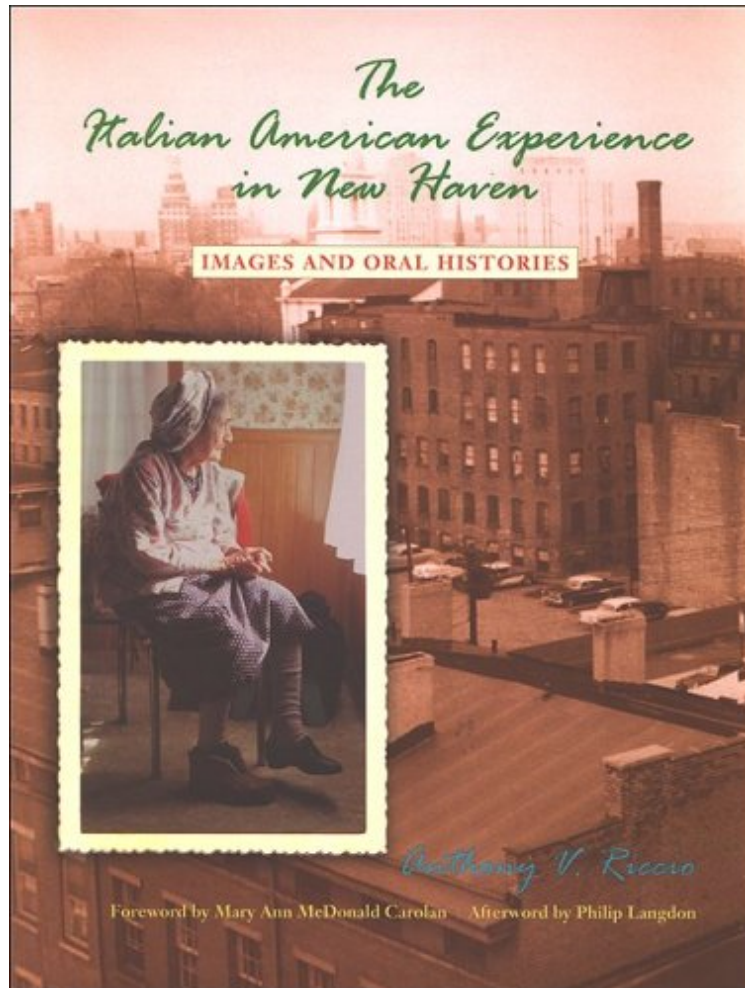


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The Italian American Experience in New Haven (Sunny Series, Italian/American Culture)

Anthony V Riccio

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Anthony V Riccio : The Italian American Experience in New Haven (Sunny Series, Italian/American Culture)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Italian American Experience in New Haven (Sunny Series, Italian/American Culture):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Italian memoriesBy F. MitchellI bought the book Italian American Experience in New Haven for my cousin who was born and raised there and is now elderly. As a child I spent many happy days at my Aunt and Uncles home, with my cousin.When the book arrived I flipped through it and found myself enjoying immensely the stories of people I didn't even know, but also finding it brought back many long forgotten memories of my own. I gave it to my cousin and he was so happy to read of and see photos of places that were from his own youth.My only wish is that more families could have been included----my family lived on 29 Chapel street

and I remember the pushcart man with the clams on the half shell and the little bakery at the corner. I would love another book that covers that end of town and includes more stories---maybe a contributory book where all the older Italians could send in their stories and photos to be made into another book. The book is an escape to a happy, warm, loving, safe time of life. Pure pleasure for any Italian to read because it is like sitting at the kitchen table talking over a cup of coffee. I highly recommend the book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Memories that make you smile. By Lynda D. Montesi I lost my Dad 2 years ago and my mom now at 82 is living alone for the first time ever. She is struggling and hasn't really laughed or smiled since then. Upon visiting my inlaws (who had purchased the book.. The Italian American Experience in New Haven) My Mom picked up the book and could not put it down. She laughed and hollered at all the wonderful memories she had about growing up in New Haven. She recognized many faces and names in the book and it brought sure joy to her heart. Growing up next door to Grandma Riccio as we called her on Fairmont Ave, a flood of memories rushed back to my mom and laughter and joy was once again in her heart. I just purchased her the book today and can't wait for her to take her time, take it all in, let the memories come back and see that smile on her face...again.... Thank you Anthony Riccio..... Lynda Dell' Aquila-Montesi Former Fairmont Ave Neighbor 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thanks to the author for writing such a wonderful book. By Sheila Hurteau This is a book that anyone who knew up in New Haven should read, whether Italian or not. It brought back many memories and some familiar names. My first husband was Italian and I wondered if some of his older relatives were mentioned. I stayed up late for three nights to read it. Thanks to the author for writing such a wonderful book.

Using interviews and photographs, Anthony Riccio provides a vital supplement to our understanding of the Italian immigrant experience in the United States. In conversations around kitchen tables and in social clubs, members of New Haven's Italian American community evoke the rhythms of the streets and the pulse of life in the old ethnic neighborhoods. They describe the events that shaped the twentieth century--the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Great Depression, and World War II--along with the private histories of immigrant women who toiled under terrible working conditions in New Haven's shirt factories, who sacrificed dreams of education and careers for the economic well-being of their families. This is a compelling social, cultural, and political history of a vibrant immigrant community.

From Publishers Weekly As he lovingly did in his book on Boston's North End in *Portrait of an Italian American Neighborhood*, Riccio narrates the history of New Haven through the stories and photos of the Italian-Americans who lived in and helped build the city. Be it the Annex, Wooster Square or Legion Avenue, Italians had lived and worked there since the first wave of immigration in the late 19th century. Riccio divides the story into chapters that encapsulate moments in history: "The Journey to America: Life on the Ships," "A New Life in New Haven," "The Depression in New Haven," "Highways and Urban Renewal: New Haven Changed Forever." The oral test to get citizenship in the U.S. was a terrifying ordeal, as many of these stories attest, and in one, a gentleman sweating profusely, is asked by the judge, "What flies above the court house?" The judge expects the answer to be "the American flag," but the nervous gentleman aptly replies, "pigeons." Even among Italians, there was a division between northerners and southerners (a large portion of whom hailed from Campania), with the minority of northerners looking down on the majority who came from the mezzogiorno. These are not always your stereotypical portraits of big happy Italian families, but instead, stories of the struggles Italian-Americans endured and in several ways their stories are the stories of so many of those who immigrated to this country. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "This moving and informative description of Italian immigrants is a badly needed antidote to the poisonous effects of media distortions that have misled generations of Americans. 'Bravo' to the author, SUNY Press, and all those responsible for its production." From the Back Cover "This volume describes, both in words and in images, the physical, emotional, and spiritual sensibilities of the Italian immigrant. These stories, like the photographs that accompany them, are a fundamental part of our individual and collective experience as a nation." from the Foreword by Mary Ann McDonald Carolan Drawing on interviews as well as family and archival photographs, *The Italian American Experience in New Haven* weaves a rich tapestry of social, political, and cultural history, offering a vital supplement to our understanding of the Italian immigrant experience in the United States. With the warmth and sincerity of conversations around the kitchen table, members of New Haven's Italian American community evoke the rhythms of the streets and the pulse of life in New Haven's old ethnic neighborhoods, describing how they mingled with other ethnic and racial groups in the shared spaces of neighborhoods, apartment houses, corner stores, churches, playing fields, and schools. They also touch upon the great events that shaped the twentieth century--the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Great Depression, and World War II--and reveal the unknown working history of Italian immigrant women who toiled under terrible working conditions in New Haven's shirt factories and who sacrificed dreams of education and careers for the immediate economic well-being of their families. Taken together, these interviews and photographs offer a compelling social history of a vibrant immigrant community. "...lovingly... Riccio narrates the history of New Haven through the stories and photos of the Italian-Americans who lived in and helped build the city. These are not always your stereotypical portraits of big happy Italian families, but instead, stories

of the struggles Italian-Americans endured and in several ways their stories are the stories of so many of those who immigrated to this country." Publishers Weekly "This moving and informative description of Italian immigrants is a badly needed antidote to the poisonous effects of media distortions that have misled generations of Americans. Bravo to the author, SUNY Press, and all those responsible for its production." Mario M. Cuomo "Anthony Riccio is a natural-born storyteller. He has a real gift and leads the reader through these stories the way his grandmother led him down the path to hear her letter translated for her." Stephen Lassonde, author of Learning to Forget: Schooling and Family Life in New Havens Working Class, 1870-1940 Praise for Portrait of an Italian-American Neighborhood: The North End of Boston "Riccio has created a work that, like the best of Studs Terkel, seeks to capture not only the stories of individual lives but the mood of a place as it changes over time." New Haven Register