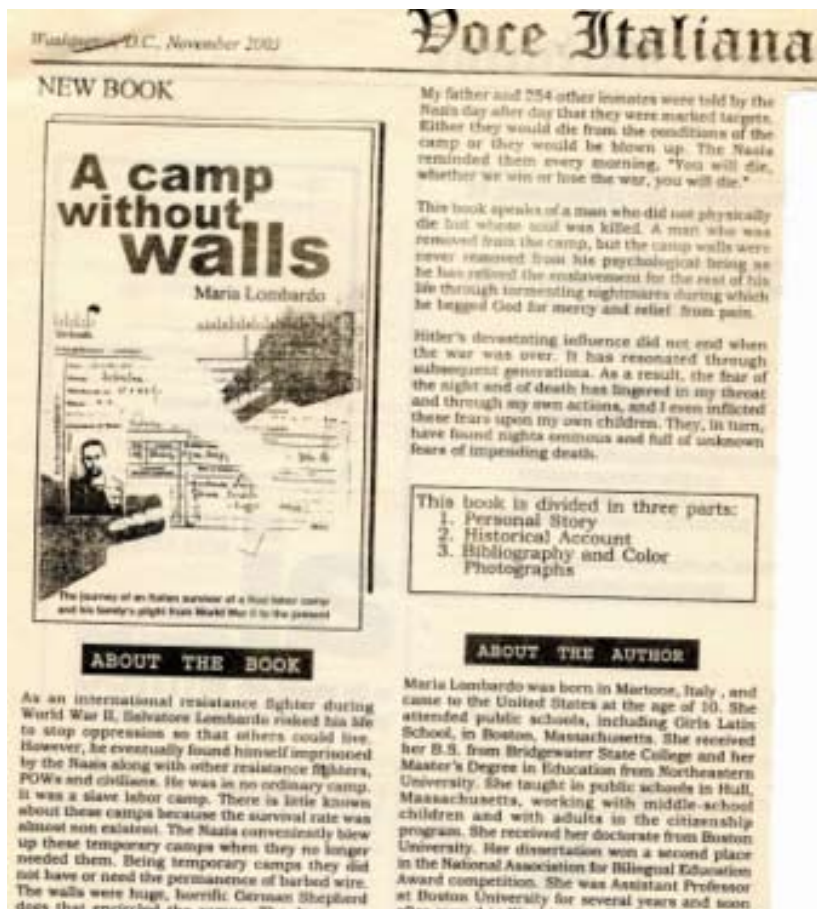


BOOK PRESENTATIONS

“A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS” BOOK TALK

Dr. Lombardo presented her book at an Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. meeting. >>



IL PERSONAGGIO DEL MESE

P

This month *Poche Parole* features two special people—Erica Campagnaro and Carmen M. Crinion, respectively, the winners of the Young Scientist and the Young Humanist Awards of the ICS and NIAF for 1998.

Erica Campagnaro is the winner of the Young Scientist Award for 1998 cosponsored by NIAF and the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, DC. Erica obtained a BA majoring in French "magna cum laude" with honors at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge in 1995. She is in her third year of Medical School at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans. During the past year she has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Fellow at NIH.

Her work has shown the dependence of cell growth and differentiation on keratinocyte growth factor and the epidermal growth factor and their receptors in cultured keratinocytes. Her poster summarizing her results can be viewed for those of you with a scientific bend. She is the author of three scientific publications in peer reviewed journals and the recipient of several honors and Awards including: Phi Beta Kappa, Sternberg

(from: Dr. Luigi De Luca, ICS, Erica Campagnaro, Dr. Maria Lombardo, NIAF)

“A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS” BOOK TALK

Presented by Italian American Writer's Association in collaboration with the Museum of the City for New York. >>

The Italian American Writers Association in collaboration with the Museum of the city of New York and the Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College and the City University of New York brought together Italian American writers from throughout the U.S. to present their their writing/ published books. Helen Barolini presented “Umbertina,” reflecting her life as an Italian American growing up in New York. Recalling the entrepreneurship of her grandmother in feeding her neighbors as business she ran from her home. Numerous authors described how their “Italianism” influenced their work, including Dr. Lombardo.

Two tell about Jewish hardships in Italy during World War II

By AZ MANTON
Maria Lombardo and Maria Puzzaghero described life in Italy during World War II and the impact it had on their families and friends.

"I came in memory of my father, who survived World War II and had such incredible guilt for having survived that it haunted him for the rest of his life," Lombardo said. "I am here to tell his story."

Lombardo's father was a Jewish Italian stationed in Greece when he joined in guerrilla warfare against the Nazis.

He was then captured, stripped of everything he owned and transferred to a slave labor camp, Lombardo said.

"There was no fence surrounding the camp, but German shepherd dogs were constantly circling it," Lombardo said.

"One man tried to escape and was soon to be shot by the dogs, so the Nazis left his body there, forcing the men to step over it every day and reminding them of the consequences for attempting to escape."

"Every morning, the Nazis reminded the men that whether they lost the war or not, they could be sure that they would die."

Lombardo emphasized the effect of such experiences on the rest of her father's life.

"My father was a strong man, a plasterer by day, but each night he would cry," Lombardo said.

"Holidays were always difficult for our family because my father had trouble being cheerful and happy, knowing that others had died in his place."

Lombardo also said that there was an ever-present sense of urgency in her father's life, a feeling left over from the fear that he could die any day.

The second speaker on the



Talking about memories: Maria Lombardo says her father, a Jewish survivor, felt haunted all his life.

April 17 program was Puzzaghero, Newton's sister city here, who is from San Donato.

you is called 'Kafia,' she said.

In the winter of 1941, World War II was raging and Puzzaghero was a teen-ager when a Jewish couple rented a room in her family's house.

Marc and Ulla Tennenbaum had fled to Italy from Poland.

"Ulla eventually gave birth to Kafia," Puzzaghero said. "We took her in as our own, making clothes and toys and everything for her that she needed."

"By the time she could speak, she called my mother 'Mama.'"

"One morning in the winter of 1943, we heard the rumbling of trucks and we held our breath and listened. Nazis had come to gather the Jewish people."

"We told Marc and Ulla to run up the mountain and hide."

"They lived like nomads in the forest up there. They couldn't even make a fire because the smoke would give them away."

"In April, 1944, Ulla decided that she wanted to see her daughter, so she snaked down the mountain to our house. But she did not come unattended."

"That afternoon, Nazi soldiers came to my house asking to see Marc, Ulla and Kafia Tennenbaum. My mother told them that she had not seen them in years and the soldiers left, but she knew they would be back. We needed to get Ulla out of the house immediately."

"My whole town worked together. We put Ulla in a large basket and the strongest woman in town hoisted the basket over her head to take her out to the fields."

"They stayed up the mountain for the rest of the war."

In 1959, Kafia came to the United States.

"We had a reunion and I said 'Kafia, what a miracle it is to see you in America!' She replied 'Mama, the miracle happened in 1944.'"

"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS" BOOK TALK

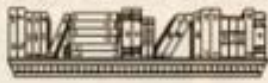
Dr. Lombardo presented the book in conjunction with New York University and conference co-chairs Lewis Rudin and Baronessa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimo. >>

"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS" BOOK TALK

Larry Paragano of the of the Paragano Family Foundation invited Dr. Maria Lombardo to present her book. >>

POST-GAZETTE, JULY 3, 2009

BOOK REVIEW



by Claude Marsilia



A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS

by Dr. Maria Lombardo

Hard Cover • 240 Pages • Published by Italy Italy Enterprises, SpA

This book, *A Camp Without Walls*, is mind boggling. Let's begin with the intriguing book's title. *A Camp Without Walls*. "The walls were made up with huge, horrific German Shepherd dogs that ceaselessly circled the camps. On a whim, the dogs could expand or shrink the camp's perimeter." The Germans during WWII built these slave labor camps in house enemies of the Third Reich.

Dr. Maria Lombardo was born in Martone, Calabria, Italy. An impoverished small town laded with narrow streets barely wide enough to accommodate goat carts. She was ten years old when she came to the U.S. She received her B.S. from Bridgewater State University and a Master's Degree in Education from Northeastern University.

Dr. Lombardo went on to teach at all levels from middle school to numerous Universities. Her expertise



Dr. Maria Lombardo author of *A Camp Without Walls*

prepared her to write this expose of her father's tribulations during WWII and after affects thereof. She pieces together her father's problems that were enhanced and supported by a diary she

Dr. Lombardo's strict disciplinary background prepared her to write this expose of her father's

tory, and continues unabated to this day.

Arriving in Boston, as immigrants, was a challenge for the Lombardo family. Frightening episodes between relatives added to their troublesome time in the United States. Nevertheless, Salvatore Lombardo was determined to survive and become an American. Dr. Lombardo painfully describes her early days in America, attempting to learn English while still thinking in Italian. The reader learns how the family progressed and how the author's siblings earned college degrees, which manifested into decent jobs.

It is interesting and revealing to read how her father believed the family would have to leave Martone, Italy to become better educated. He realized it was in the vested interest of the landowners to perpetuate the existing condition of the illi-

tion written by her father.

She found details of numerous historical events and personal events she probably would never have known otherwise. For example, "In 1915, Italy signed a secret treaty with England and gained a large piece of Austrian territory. After Italy declared war on Germany in 1916, it lost 265,000 men, taken prisoner by the Germans."

The diary reveals her father's life in a German slave labor camp. It also reveals the separate, pleasant and romantic life he led in Greece as a partisan before being captured by the German army. A large portion of the diary is spent explaining, in horrible detail, how the prisoners lived in hell hoping to die soon. Food was bad and scarce. As partisan prisoners of war they were destined for an early death. The terrible ordeal these prisoners suffered was unconscionable. They were tortured as well as humiliated.

Finally, the war ends and the soldiers are sent home. After years of suffering and being humiliated her father returns home to Calabria. His family, believing him dead, did not recognize him. His body was that of an old man, barely able to walk. The impact of his devastating experiences in Nazi labor camps remained imbedded in his psyche for the rest of his life. To have human beings treat other human beings, which are

Despite the negative conditions in Southern Italy, Dr. Lombardo describes in colorful terms the pleasures associated with living in the country, simple but happy. She writes, her family though poor were considered middle-class because they had an indoor lavatory and her grandmother lived in America.

Dr. Lombardo is a voice who combines the past in the present with interludes of passion, courage, and extraordinary ambition. Undaunted, her voice that has been wisely coached by her father's insistence on education, resonates. Apparently, one of her main purposes in life was to follow her father's lead when she writes the following: "You had fought for the underdogs, the people oppressed by the Nazis, and now I was fighting for Italian Americans, who were oppressed by American society today."

The following comments by her father are poignant and precise: "Wars do not produce winners, and they take a heavy toll. Wars are divisive, they foster hatred and bring out the worst traits in humans."

Dr. Lombardo illumines her book with 47 pages of formidable photographs reflecting the horrors of war. These photographs alone are worth the cost of the book. In order to absorb and understand this book it should be read

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“A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS” BOOK TALK

Dr. Lombardo presented to students during an assembly called “A Daughter’s Perspective” at Newton North High School. >>



“A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS” BOOK TALK

As a part of the “Difficult Dialogue Series” at Bunker Hill Community College, Dr. Lombardo shared her father’s story in the context of the Holocaust in Southern Europe. >>



"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS" BOOK TALK

Judge Dominic Massaro invited Dr. Lombardo to present her book and the Italy's role during WWII at the Columbus Citizens' Foundation in New York. Attendees were members of the American Legion of Merit- the organization that co-presented the event. >>



IL CAVALIERE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

Lecture: "Italy's Role In Rescuing Jews from Nazi Oppression..."

The handsome Oak Room in the Columbus Townhouse headquarters in New York was the setting for the Society's 2008 anniversary lecture.

"Tonight, I come as a consultant for two men, their stories are burning to be told," began Dr. Maria Lombardo, a scholar and author of the historical novel *Southern Europe*, as she unveiled a huge piece of history to a filled to capacity audience. Her lecture "Italy's Role in Rescuing Jews from Nazi Oppression During World War II" held the audience spellbound and was well received. Dr. Lombardo contrasted the experience of her father Sabatino, and her friend his mother, survivors of a Nazi death labor camp in Yugoslavia with the humanity of the Italian people in saving Jews during the war from a similar or worse fate. These real-life stories are documented in her book *A Camp Without Walls: Italy's Role in WWII* (2008). The book is a "stream of consciousness," the book evolving from an intense understanding of her father, his diary and letters. The author stated on the impact of her father's harrowing nightmare and the guilt that engulfed his existence as one of only two survivors from camp. "It speaks of a man who did not physically die, but whose soul was killed, surviving the psychological torment of reliving his imprisonment for the rest of his life," she recalled. "Because of his nightmares, his rights as a Serb were annulled and he left in pending death."

Dr. Lombardo posited "Why do Italians not speak more about their role in helping the Jews during World War II? Her father's tale are familiar with the generosity and goodness displayed by the Italians in helping the Jews during the war," she observed. "In many death camps reports, they had no money or jewels to give, yet the Italians helped to ho other means than all others. The points of such bravery in the face of death are legion," she said. Numerous examples of heroism and the Italian humanitarianism that saved them were shared, stark against her father's personal story.

A reception, hosted by Carol, Laurence E. Aronson, Chairman of the Board of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, followed.

1. Prof. Maria Lombardo speaking at the Society's lecture program.
2. Comm. Laurence E. Aronson, the evening's host.
3. Dr. Maria Lombardo, the evening's lecture.
4. Comm. Renato Sacco, making closing remarks.
5. Dr. Lombardo and Chiara Debbi.
6. The Oak Room filled to capacity.
7. Comm. Rita Marie DiStasio, alongside with Dr. Lombardo and Maria Caporale.

Photography by the author.



"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS"

BOOK TALK

Presented at the monthly meeting of the Italian American Cultural Organization in Braintree, Mass. >>

"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS"

BOOK TALK

Presented at the Newton Public Library in Newton, Mass. >>

10 **ITA** **2008-10-10 - News 2008**

BOSTON L'OBBLIGO DI RICORDARE PER COSTRUIRE UN FUTURO MIGLIORE

Un incontro casuale con un soldato gravemente ferito e il ritorno in patria di una donna ancora giovanile. Così è nato l'interesse di Maria Lombardo per il racconto di un soldato italiano che si è ritrovato in un campo di concentramento nazista durante la guerra.

LA MIA VITA E L'OLOCAUSTO

La mia vita è stata segnata dall'esperienza di un soldato italiano che si è ritrovato in un campo di concentramento nazista durante la guerra. Questo libro racconta la storia di un soldato italiano che si è ritrovato in un campo di concentramento nazista durante la guerra.

www.newtontab.com

AT THE

Daughter of Holocaust Survivor to speak

Maria Lombardo will give a book talk on "A Camp Without Walls" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10. --JAs an international resistance B-ter during World War II, Salvatore Lombardo risked his life to stop oppression so that others could live. This book tells the story of a man who was raised in southern Italy, went to work in Turin, joined the Italian Army, served in Africa and fought with the Greek partisans. He was then captured by the Nazis and imprisoned in a slave labor camp. He survived because of his will to live and because of the love of a Greek woman who bore him a daughter he would not meet for 40 years. This book is the author's recollection of his father's life and secrets he held within himself, such as the Friday ritual when hungry German shepherd dogs were put in an enclosure with Italian Catholic prisoners of war. The starving prisoners had to fight the dogs for scraps of meat, while the dogs were entertained. This book speaks of a man who did not physically die, but whose soul was killed: a man who was removed from the camp, but the camp walls were never removed from his psychological being as he he- relived the enslavement for the rest of his life through tormenting nightmares. Nightmares which were passed on to subsequent generations, who experience their own ominous nights full of un- Street Scene, Old City, Havana.

Corbato exhibits 'Visions of Cuba'

Cuba Emily Corbato exhibits --m in Martone, Italy, and came "Suenos: Dreams, Visions of t' the United States at the age of 30 at the --dwhersheeducatedandul- Newton Free Library. There will be a reception 6:30 p.m. ff, m Boston University. She is the Thursday, Oct. 11. --cipient of numerous awards and Corbato traveled to Cuba in --ts; among them are a grant March 2006, with 10 scholars

Newton Free Library Newsletter

Daughter of Holocaust Survivor to speak on her book, A Camp Without Walls

Maria Lombardo will give a book talk on "A Camp Without Walls" on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

As an international resistance fighter during World War II, Maria's father, Salvatore Lombardo risked his life to stop oppression so that others could live. During WW II he was captured by the Nazis and imprisoned in a slave labor camp. He survived because of his will to live and his love for a Greek woman who bore him a daughter he would not meet for forty years. Ms. Lombardo writes of the secrets her father held within himself, secrets of a man who was removed from the camp, but the camp walls were never removed from his psyche as he relived the enslavement for the rest of his life.

Maria Lombardo Trifiletti was born in Martone, Italy, and came to the U.S at the age of 10 where she was educated and ultimately received her doctorate from Boston University. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants.

The Italian Voice

Celebrating Our 64th Year

(LA VOCE ITALIANA)

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A New Chapter for The History Books: The Holocaust in Southern Europe

by Dr. Maria Lombardo, Education Director NIAF

With a generous grant from the United States National Endowment for the Humanities and the support of the Embassy of Italy, the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) in Washington, D.C. has embarked on the organization and presentation of a series of conferences in America on the topic of "The Holocaust in Southern Europe." These conferences have or will be held in Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. (at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum), New York City, Chicago, Miami Beach, New Orleans, Memphis, Detroit, and San Francisco.

This program evolved from two motivating factors: two individuals who indicated to me, one on a personal level and the other in my role as Education Director for NIAF, that the Italian's role in World War II had to be clarified and recorded in history books. The first individual was my own father, who always told me when I was a child that he had resisted both the Nazis and the Fascists at the same time. How then could it be that he, who in America all we learned was that Italy was on the side of Germany in World War II and remained so until the Allies entered and then it switched sides?

My father's story is one of an Italian soldier in the aeromarine corps who was sent to fight in north Africa and eventually ended up in Italian occupied Greece. When Mussolini's government fell in 1943 the Allies invaded southern Italy, the officers with the planes left and the soldiers were disbanded to choose their own fate. My father could have joined the occupying forces but he refused, not believing in their barbaric acts or politics. He was eventually found out of hiding by an Italian priest, a Fascist and a Nazi sympathizer, who told the Italian partisans that the Germans would return them to Italy. Over 245 men came forth only to be taken to a Nazi work camp in southern Yugoslavia where they suffered horrible starvation and atrocities. The Serbs eventually helped him to escape. My father received a bullet wound and other physical scars that have healed, but the psychological scars have remained with him for life. But he survived along with Giuseppe Sorrentino, as one of only two to return to Italy alive. Similarly to

"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS"

BOOK TALK

Presented at the Italian American Cultural Society in Worcester, Mass. >>

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Mussolini's government fell in 1943 as the Allies invaded southern Italy, the officers with the planes left and the soldiers were disbanded to choose their own fates. My father could have joined the occupying Nazis but he refused, not believing in their barbaric acts or politics. So he disguised himself as a Greek and became a partisan. He was eventually lured out of hiding by an Italian priest, a Fascist and a Nazi sympathizer, who told the Italian partisans that the Germans would return them to Italy. Over 245 men came forth only to be taken to a Nazi work camp in southern Yugoslavia where they suffered horrible starvation and atrocities. The Serbs eventually helped him to escape. My father received a bullet wound and other physical scars that have healed, but the psychological scars have remained with him for life. But he survived along with Giuseppe Sorrentino, as one of only two to return to Italy alive. Similarly to

ancer, came into my office at the NIAF and said that he had to tell his story of how the Italian army in Croatia had saved him and his family from being deported to Auschwitz. It seemed that there were many more unknown stories of Italy's role during the War. As an educator and an Italian American, I felt compelled to find a way to allow survivors like my father and Mr. Herzer to relate their stories. It seemed appropriate to use an expansive topic such as the Holocaust in southern Europe as the first vehicle for such a project. We have begun with the story of the rescue of Jews in southern Europe and will continue with the partisan movement in Italy, which is another neglected story. The objectives of this program are many. One is to expand the public's knowledge of historical facts concerning: Christian and Jewish relations in Italy prior to introduction of Mussolini's 1938

of Italy in 1943. Another of the most important facets is to provide a forum for the survivors to give their own eyewitness accounts. Still another is to discuss the personality traits of those involved; the perpetrators, the apathetic bystanders and the humanitarians that resisted oppression. Even in the darkest period of the Holocaust there were those who said "no." On the other hand, the

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"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS" BOOK TALK

Presented to students during an assembly the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, Md. >>



History

Casa Della Studente "The Reunion"

January 15, 2000
Washington, DC

Hosted by
Dr. Jack Braun

DOLCE VITA

FROM NIAF

"...obtaining \$1 million for the restoration of the Hotel Hall... ITALIANS IN LOS ANGELES: A RICH HISTORY ANCHE A LOS ANGELES E' VITALIA E' STORIA."

AN 800-STRONG group of Italian-Americans gathered for the restoration of the Hotel Hall... ITALIANS IN LOS ANGELES: A RICH HISTORY ANCHE A LOS ANGELES E' VITALIA E' STORIA."

ITALY ITALY

A GUIDE TO ALL THINGS

ALL FOR BROTHERHOOD

Of the many European countries confronted with the Jewish Final Solution, Italy has a positive track record of benevolence. When the Nazis occupied Italy in 1943, ordinary Italian citizens, priests, nuns and bureaucrats worked to rescue Jews. Some 85 percent of the 27,100 Italian Jews and the 8,100 foreign Jews in Italy were saved. Among the rescue networks were the *Aziende Underground*, which issued false documents for Jews, and Father Don Isidoro, who rescued 109 Jewish orphans. In Italian-occupied territories, the Italian Army saved Jews in Croatia by moving them into Italy, and in southern France the Italians hid Jews in forests. Posing as a

Spanish diplomat in Florence, Giorgio Perlasca rescued and passed for over 10,000 Jews. In Sabotica, Greece, Giulio Zamboni saved more than 200 Jews from deportation to Auschwitz. Italian Jewish survivors, participating in 23 conferences on "The Holocaust in Southern Europe" sponsored by the Humanities in the United States, stated that Italian benevolence emanated from a love of humanity. As many rescuers stated, "it was just the right thing to do."

After World War II, many Jewish refugees studied in Italy. At the University of Turin a group of Jewish students, organized by Dr. Jack Braun, lived in the Casa Della Studente (Student Housing).

The upcoming book, *A Camp Without Walls*, to be published by ITALY ITALY magazine, provides the personal story of an Italian Nazi camp survivor and the history of Italy during World War II.

Dr. Maria Lombardo
NIAF Education Director

THE ITALIAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Italian Jewish Movement History Videoconferenza

Remembering Ginetta Sagan,

"A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS" BOOK TALK

Presented to students at Nova University in Alexandria, Va. >>

“A CAMP WITHOUT WALLS”

BOOK TALK

Presented at The Grand Lodge of R.I.OSIA in Providence, Rhode Island. >>

WWII Story Reconnects Father and Daughter

BY JAMAYHA VAZQUEZ

During World War II, when the lives of so many were at risk, Italian soldier Salvatore Lombardi, along with 294 other international resistance fighters, risked his life to stop oppression.

Lombardi was the inspiration for “A Camp Without Walls,” a true heartwarming story about a man who survived the pain and horror of the Nazis.

The book was written by his daughter, Maria Lombardi, a consultant for the Cambridge public schools and project coordinator of a teacher training program at UMass Boston.

“Life is not worth living if you do not help others,” Lombardi said her father used to tell her.

The Nazis imprisoned the former Italian soldier after he attempted to protect a German family that had fled to the family home.

Salvatore Lombardi and 294 others were sent to a concentration camp in Yugoslavia. “You will die, whether we win or lose the war,” the Nazis told the inmates every morning.

Maria Lombardi writes in her book, *Every Friday, the starving Italian prisoners of war were forced to fight hungry German soldiers for scraps of food.* Lombardi said of her father’s experience: “The weekly visit gave him optimism for the rest of his life, and became the hope

“Life is not worth living if you do not help others.”

Lombardi said her father used to tell her.

where he married and started a family. Maria Lombardi was born in Caltanissetta, Italy and was in the 9th grade when her family moved to the United States.

She attended Bridgewater State College on a full scholarship and received her doctorate in reading and bilingual education from Boston University, where she was an assistant professor.

Lombardi, who received the highest award given to women in Italy, the *Maria Pellegrina Abbiadori*, has spoken at 43 Holocaust conferences about her father’s experience and how Italians helped the Jews during the war.

For information about “A Camp Without Walls,” visit www.aawt.com or to learn more about Salvatore Lombardi’s struggle to survive.

Maria Lombardi discusses her book, “A Camp Without Walls.”



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