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**For Immediate Release (9/29/2017):**

**Documentary Film about Millbrook's Italian Heritage to be Shown in Millbrook and Millerton, November 18 and 19**

*"What the son wishes to forget the grandson wishes to remember."*

*Marcus Lee Hansen*

A thirty-five minute documentary about Millbrook's Italian heritage will premiere on Saturday, November 18, at the Millbrook High School auditorium, 70 Church Street, at 2 PM. It will also be shown at the FilmWorks Forum at the Millerton Moviehouse on Sunday, November 19, at 11 AM, followed by a Q & A with the director and producer. Both events are free and open to the public.

Two years in the making, *"Il Villaggio di Millbrook"* ("The Village of Millbrook") is a beautifully filmed, sensitive documentary about immigration and assimilation in small-town America. It was the vision of Barbara Hanson Pierce, a longtime Dutchess County resident, who wanted to explore Millbrook's Italian roots.

The film grew out of Millbrook's Museum in the Streets© project, a permanent, bi-lingual, historical walking tour of the village, which Pierce, as co-chair, shepherded to its opening in 2014. As a follow-up, she wanted to film the stories of some of Millbrook's oldest families of Italian descent, whose ancestors came in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to work on the great estates.

To turn her vision into reality, Pierce enlisted her nephew, Robert Hanson, a professional filmmaker. Through a combination of skillful camera work and seamless editing, the film interweaves historical photos with 15 moving and sometimes amusing interviews. It combines memory and nostalgia, and conveys a sense of the fabric of the community that united these Italian immigrants in their new country, as they adapted to this small village in upstate New York.

The President of Beartooth Film Productions, Robert Hanson is an Assistant Professor of Theatre and Cinema at Western Missouri State University. He received his B.A. from Yale University and his M.F. A. in Cinematic Arts from the University of Southern California. In addition to his teaching, Hanson is also working on a feature-length film about Bhutan.

Hanson came to Millbrook in two successive summers, and spent six days filming at various locations throughout the village. The settings for his interviews are vivid and colorful, evoking warm summer days.

The historical photos in the film were culled from a wide variety of places, including the Millbrook Historical Society, the Library of Congress, and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Jonathan Robertson composed an original score.

Those interviewed are: Noreen Bartolomucci, Skip Ciferri, Al De Bonis, Dora Ialongo, Gino Ianucci, Sara Krauss, Buddy Marona, Rosemary Sepe Neilson, Marguerite Rotunno, Theresa Rotunno, Doreen Sepe, and Vic Sepe.

The Millbrook Historian, David Greenwood, provides fascinating historical background. Reverend Monsignor Gerardo Colacicco, of Saint Joseph's Church in Millbrook, and John Dyson, proprietor of Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, recall the context of the times.

Executive producers are Skip Ciferri, Kathe and John Dyson, David and Nan Greenwood, and Barbara Hanson Pierce.

Beartooth Productions plans to enter the film in several documentary film festivals.

Through real people, not actors, "*Il Villaggio di Millbrook*" shows us that in one small town, assimilation was the product of hard work, close families, and a desire for community.

After the high-school presentation, refreshments will be served by parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Millbrook.