

Grandchildren

When my mother and father left Italy, they left behind their parents and never saw them again. So many of us in the second generation did not know what a grandparent was. Distance and the war isolated us. But Italians had this wonderful support system of extended family. Everyone was an aunt or an uncle. We considered ourselves very lucky to have so many relatives!

My mother and father had fifteen grandchildren. They all lived nearby and visited often. Sundays were special. Everyone gathered at the Iaiones'. There was a lot of socializing, eating, and game playing in the back yard. It was a time when people were not too busy.

We grew apart as the children grew up. I think we were very fortunate to have experienced this gathering of family.