Allison Sarno DeVoe

I was born and raised in Syracuse, as both of my parents were; after attending Clarkson University, I returned to CNY to work at the Syracuse University School of Education and do what I could for the vibrant city that I love. In that time so much truth and detail about Columbus' journey, "discovery," and impact have come to light for many Americans who previously learned a simplified and white-washed version in school—just like my grandfather and the other monument fundraisers did. We know different now. While I am a proud Italian-American, the monument does not make me proud. It makes me ashamed and disgusted by our (often willful) ignorance towards the true cost of colonialism not only around the world, but to our Haudenosaunee neighbors. I believe we can celebrate our heritage, and all that our immigrant families achieved, without this monument and the long shadow it casts.