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Italian Cultural Center & Museum  
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## October Is Italian-American Heritage Month!



### Celebrate Your Italian Heritage by Becoming A Member!

Join or Renew Italian Cultural Society Membership Today



**YOUR INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER**

*Membership in the Italian Cultural Society is open to all.*

Take this opportunity to join or renew your membership in the Italian Cultural Society. If you are not a current member, this is your chance to receive an official Society membership card. If You're a current member you will receive your annual membership renewal notice in the mail, or you can renew now to receive the new special membership gifts the Society is offering.

We need the support of members who celebrate our culture and appreciate the good work of the Italian Cultural Society. The Society is a non- profit organization. Your membership supports our efforts to preserve and promote our rich heritage through the many cultural and educational programs we offer to the community.

Programs which provide the opportunity to learn about and share our heritage and history and enable us and future generations to enjoy and participate in our outstanding language, dance, film, music, history, children's programs, festivals and other programs reflecting our unique traditions.

[Click Here To Learn More About ICS Membership](#)



**Just this year the Society helped sponsor two new *Bocce Courts in Carmichael Park* behind the Italian Cultural Center, and also helped establish a new “*Little Italy*” Historic District in Italian East Sacramento.**

*These are major achievements for our community and are part of our community building mission for the Italian people of Sacramento,*



Join Now To Receive Special Membership Gifts

### PAESANI MEMBERSHIP:



JOIN to receive our award-winning *Altre Voci Newsletter*, (click image to read current issue) *Special Invitations & Notices* and an *ICS Membership Card*.

[CLICK HERE FOR A PAESANI SENIOR / STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \(\\$35\)](#)

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### AMICI MEMBERSHIP

JOIN to receive the above PAESANI gifts PLUS:



**"BELLA ITALIA" License Plate Frame**

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## **CONTRIBUTORE MEMBERSHIP**



JOIN to receive ALL the above gifts  
PLUS:

**Colorful 3 x 5 ITALIAN FLAG**

[CLICK HERE FOR A CONTRIBUTORE  
MEMBERSHIP \(\\$125\)](#)

## **BENEFATTORE MEMBERSHIP**



JOIN to receive ALL the above gifts  
PLUS:

**A Set of Two ITALIAN LUGGAGE TAGS**

[CLICK HERE FOR A BENEFATTORE  
MEMBERSHIP \(\\$250\)](#)



**You Can Also Become A Member By Mail...**  
Simply click the form below to print your Membership Invitation. Fill out the form and mail with your check!  
*Your ICS Membership Card and other gifts will be on their way!*

ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

**SPECIAL INVITATION TO JOIN**  
**Join Now and Receive:**

**PAESANI**  
\_\_\_ \$35 Senior or Student  
\_\_\_ \$40 Individual  
\_\_\_ \$45 Family  
*Receive Newsletter, Special Invitations & Notices, and Society Membership Card*

**\$125 CONTRIBUTORE**  
*Receive both the "Bella Italia" license plate frame and a colorful 3' x5' Italian Flag with grommets.*

**\$250 BENEFATTORE**  
*Receive all the above and a set of two Italian luggage tags*

**\$65 AMICI**  
*Receive "Bella Italia" license plate frame*

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## "We Have Built A Community"

SOPHIA ALLOGGIAMENTO



**We would like to share the following essay by Italian American student, *Sophia Alloggiamento*, which is a compelling explanation of why it is important for this generation to retain their heritage.**

I was scared of my culture for longer than I like to admit. I think my parents were too. And my grandparents, and certainly, their parents. I cherished my bright blond hair; I wanted to look like a "typical" California girl with her long locks and tan skin. I wanted to fit in, blend in, match with the girls and the world around me. My brother cut his hair short to keep his curls from coming in for the majority of his childhood.

To my frustration, our name, our beautiful family name, never fit on the back of our sports jerseys. I wanted to change my name: Sophia Isabella Alloggiamento. Translations into Wisdom, Serenity from God, and Home, none of those meanings meant anything to me. And that hurts, even to recount now. There was no language to be shared, because my parents' parents and their parents before them were striving for assimilation, never recognition. Fly under the radar, conform, do not stand out or draw attention for the wrong reasons-this was always the goal. A coalescent culture created out of trauma of war and limited to the confines of the home, because in the home, in the kitchen, that was the only place to be free. Free to laugh loudly, free to cheat at card games, free to throw in as many spices and salts as our ancestors demanded and our measuring hands could figure. And briefly, in this home of homes, there was peace. There was connection. There was love, undeniable love, for all things us.

It took a long time for the love to burst past the kitchen doors. It took time, maybe for the world to change, maybe for our minds to change, probably time for the both of them. It took self-respect and self-appreciation and a joy of self just to correct other's pronunciation. It took patience and pursuit and passion to find a community in Monday afternoon bocce tournaments and Wednesday morning card games. It took work and knowledge and frustration to practice a language, to return to a language, to share and laugh in our fumbles of syllables softly settling back onto our tongue. It took a vow to never accept less than that and never disrespect our heritage like that ever again. It took love.

I carry this love with me everywhere now. I carry it in the charm on my neck, the rings on my keys, the voice in my throat, the music in my head, and the passion in my heart. I carry it in my pursuit of higher education, one of creativity and vulnerability and courage as I take on Film Production at Chapman University. I want to carry these stories of love and light onto the big screen, encouraging the younger generation to be the truest self and the older generation to share their truest self with the youth. We will only find a stronger, more active Italian- American community if we share both our former and current anxieties with each other. Vulnerability breeds vitality just as empathy breeds engagement.

Children need to listen, really listen, to the stories of their parents and grandparents and parents before them, to truly understand the value of the name they carry. I know I did.

I was taught the value of education, the privilege to go to school and the discipline that was expected, all enforced with deep love and care for me to have a better life. Get a hundred. Keep on keeping on. *Fai la campionessa*. Yet in between hours of arithmetic and pages of book reports, there were just as valuable lessons about how

to hold your hand (and your grin) in cards, how to get a wine stain out of a tablecloth, how to measure ingredients with your eyes and your nose, how to get a second wine stain out of the same tablecloth, and how to laugh, heartily, with your stomach full of food and your wallet empty from losing cards. These are the lessons of generations, the cultural education and familial teachings that accompanied me throughout my pursuit of my scholarly education.

**We have worked hard. We have worked in fields and railroads and offices and restaurants. We have changed music and baseball and physics. We have built a community and will continue to support and uplift our community as the generations pass us by. We are all that we have. We have got a hundred, and we have kept on. *Siamo campioni.***



PHOTO ABOVE: Sofia Alloggiamento, Essay Author

This essay is reprinted from the July 2021 newsletter of the Italian American heritage Foundation of San Jose.



***The success of our Italian American organizations like the Society depend on the support of the Italian community.***

**THERE ARE SEVERAL TAX-DEDUCTIBLE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ICS:**

- \* Join Our Italian Center Fund [RENAISSANCE CIRCLES](#)
- \* Leave A Legacy Gift Through Our [HERITAGE SOCIETY](#)

\* Make A [DONATION](#) Online or by Mail

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