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The Italian Cultural Society & Italian Center & Museum
6821 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA 95608
www.italiancenter.net • 916.482.5900

ALTRE VOCI

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

"OTHER VOICES" • WINTER 2024 ISSUE



The Italian Cultural Society Presents

*La Festa Della Befana,
A Children's Holiday Celebration*

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 1:00 - 4:00pm

Children Under 16 Are FREE - Adults \$15

At the Italian Center: 6821 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael 95608



**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO CELEBRATE THIS
MAGICAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**

1:00 pm > DOORS OPEN! COME EARLY

Enjoy free Children's Crafts and Befana Marketplace

1:30 pm > PERFORMANCE by THE BAMBINI DANCERS

2:00 pm > "DOLCI" SNACK TIME

2:30 pm > "THE LEGEND OF LA BEFANA" PUPPET SHOW

3:00 pm > LA BEFANA VISITS WITH HER BASKET OF GOLD COINS

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Enjoy free Children's Crafts and Befana Marketplace and Befana Photo Booth



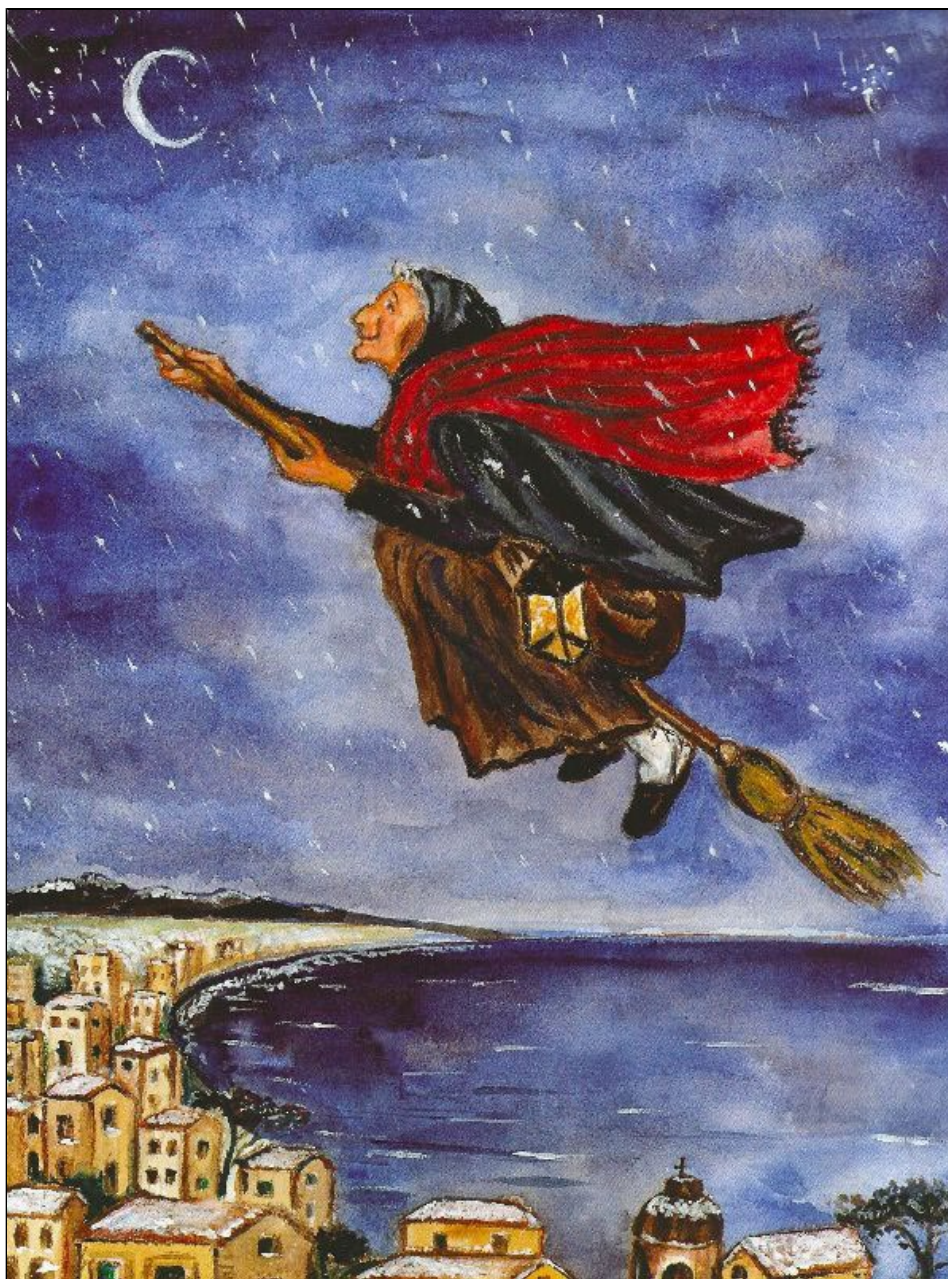
On January 7th, the children of Italy go to bed hoping the kind old lady they call "La Befana" will visit them like "Babbo Natale" (Santa Claus) during the night, leaving presents and treats for all the good children.

The Epiphany Feast, or La Befana, is an important part of the Christmas celebrations in Italy. One of Italy's oldest and most renowned legends, "La Befana," is honored with special events throughout Italy on this holiday. Across Italy, many cities organize festivals and parades to celebrate La Befana on January 6th, the date of the Epiphany Feast. Sacramento and other cities across the United States celebrate the "Legend of La Befana" with children's festivals, encouraging children in the Italian American communities to celebrate this annual event together.

On January 7, 2024, La Befana will visit the children of Sacramento with her basket of gold chocolate coins and a special gift for each child! The entire family is invited to this fun and unique celebration featuring the La Befana Puppet Show, special performance by our children's dance troupe, the Bambini Dancers, free craft tables and plenty of delicious traditional Italian 'dolce' (treats) and biscotti (cookies) and Panettone.

Be sure to take a memorial photo with La Befana at the photo booth and browse the Italian-themed children's books, keepsake Befana t-shirts and other keepsake items available for purchase in the Marketplace.

Donations of Italian cookies are always appreciated for the traditional Italian treats served to the children and adults. ***Please contact Paula Bravo at PFBravo62@gmail.com if you would like to bring cookies or holiday treats. Volunteers are always needed to help with the children's craft tables, book faire and other tasks. Please contact Bill Cerruti at italy1@surewest.net to volunteer.***



"THE NIGHT OF LA BEFANA CHANT"

La Befana vien di notte, con le scarpe tutte rotte, con la veste all romana, VIVA -VIVA, La Befana!

"The Befana comes at night, with her shoes all tattered and torn,
dressed in the roman style...
LONG LIVE THE BEFANA!

OTHER UPCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

ALL EVENTS HELD AT THE ITALIAN CENTER
6821 FAIR OAKS BLVD, CARMICHAEL CA 95608
(Between Stanley and Landis Avenues)

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE WINTER EVENTS:

"THE ASSISI UNDERGROUND"

Friday Night Italian Film Series
(Friday, January 26 @ 7:30 pm)

"THE BRONX BULL"

Italian American Experience Film
(Sunday, February 11 @ 1:30 pm)

"THE GOLDEN DOOR"

Italian American Experience Film
(Friday, February 16 @ 7:30 pm)

"LUCCA, ITALY'S WALLED CITY"

Travel Film
(Sunday, February 25 @ 1:30 pm)

FRIDAY NIGHT ITALIAN FILM SERIES:

Italian Cinema is as much a part of Italian culture as the food, music and people

THE ASSISI UNDERGROUND
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 @ 7:30 PM

ADMISSION \$10

THE ASSISI UNDERGROUND



The Assisi Underground tells the gripping story of the humanity showed by the people of Assisi, Italy during World War II to rescue hundreds of Italian Jews from execution during the Nazi occupation of Italy. More than 85 % of the Jewish population of Italy survived the war due to the efforts of the Italian people to protect them at the risk of their own lives. Stars Maximilian Schell, James Mason, and Irene Papas. A lesson in the humanity of people in a brutal time. In English, refreshments included.

Background

Few people outside of Italy are aware of the extraordinary rescue of the Jews during World War II. Prior to the German occupation of Italy in 1943, Italy had protected its 45,000 Italian Jews and non-Italian Jews seeking refuge from the Holocaust. During the occupation, the Italian Jews were forced into hiding, but they survived with the help of the Italian people, who fed and hid them, often at the sacrifice of their own

lives. More than a hundred thousand escaped Allied prisoners of war in Italy were also sheltered and saved.

Because the Vatican was a neutral state during the war, the Catholic clergy played an important role in the rescue effort of the Jews, In Rome alone, over 150 convents and monasteries offered havens for the Jews and allied soldiers. The Vatican provided asylum for Jewish refugees and at the same time for Allied intelligence services despite its neutrality.

[CLICK TO WATCH THE FILM TRAILER](#)

[To understand this story of Italian heroism and the conditions in Italy at the time – click to read: World War II and the Italian Rescue of the Jews.](#)

ADMISSION \$10

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FILM:

THE BRONX BULL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 1:30 PM

ADMISSION \$10

THE LEGENDARY TRUE STORY OF JAKE LAMOTTA

WILLIAM FORSYTHE PAUL SORVINO TOM SIZEMORE WITH JOE MANTEGNA AND NATASHA HENSTRIDGE



THE BRONX BULL



Based on the life of legendary boxing champion Giacobbe “Jake” La Motta, this film chronicles his rise as a world class champion and his life in and out of the ring.

Born in 1921 in New York, he was the son of Sicilian immigrant parents Giuseppe and Elizabeth La Motta. Known as the “Raging Bull” for his aggressive fighting style, he became one of the leading fighters of the 1940s and early ‘50s when boxing was among the nation’s most popular sports. His 1970 memoir, Raging Bull was adapted

into a 1981 movie starring Robert DeNiro who won an academy award for his role as La Motta. He is considered one of the greatest middleweight fighters and won the World Championship in 1943. Jake la Motta was recognized as having one of the best chins in boxing, but there was more to La Motta than a Granite chin.

As a child, he was encouraged by his father to fight other neighborhood children as adult spectators would throw change into the ring. The money supported the family. By 19 he had honed his skills enough to go pro. He passed away at the age of 95 in 2017.

[CLICK TO WATCH THE FILM TRAILER](#)

ADMISSION \$10

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

FRIDAY NIGHT ITALIAN FILM SERIES:

Italian Cinema is as much a part of Italian culture as the food, music and people

THE GOLDEN DOOR
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 7:30 PM

ADMISSION \$10

MARTIN SCORSESE PRESENTS



An award winning epic romantic drama about two very different immigrants coming to America during the turn of the 20th century.

Sacrificing everything, Salvatore Mancuso, a Sicilian peasant, begins his odyssey to the land of promise. During the perilous and grueling journey, he meets a beautiful

Englishwoman, Lucy, and an unexpected romance blossoms. Neither is prepared for the realities of Ellis Island, where they will face the risk of being rejected from passing through the Golden Door to America or being sent back. The film chronicles the experience of Italian immigrants departing their homeland and suffering the trials of the long voyage and processing at Ellis Island with its rigorous health examinations. Some succeed and some do not. Italians were the largest single nationality to come to America through Ellis Island. One third of the immigrants who entered through Ellis Island were Italian. Stars Vincenzo Amato and Charlotte Gainsbourg. In English.

[CLICK TO WATCH THE FILM TRAILER](#)

ADMISSION \$10

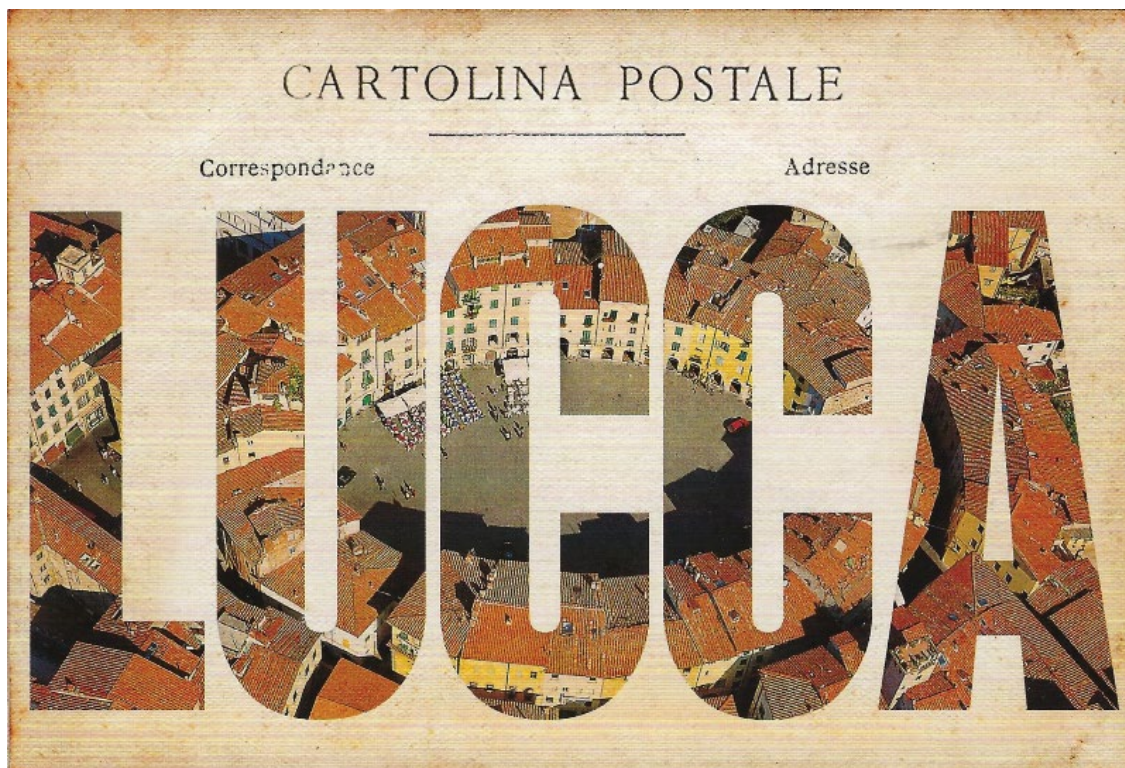
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

TRAVEL ITALY FILM:

LUCCA, THE WALLED CITY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 1:30 PM

ADMISSION \$10



One of the magical towns of Tuscany is the walled City of Lucca. Lucca sits on the banks of the Serchio River between Pisa and Florence. Lucca was Founded by the Etruscans and later became a Roman city. It is famous for its imposing Renaissance city walls that encircle the historic city center topped by a pedestrian promenade. It is referred to as the city of 100 churches. Famous composer Giacomo Puccini was born and lived in Lucca and the city celebrates him with a museum and with opera concerts in an ancient church.

Our video visit to Lucca will include historic villas like *Villa Reale* which dot the landscape, a look at local cuisine like *Tortelli Lucchese* and popular restaurants like the *Buca Di Sant' Antonio* dating from 1782, the window shopping along the famous shopping street of Lucca- the *Via Fillungo*, and a look at the *Piazza dell' Anfiteatro*, the original site of the Roman amphitheater with its trendy shops. One of the most popular places we will visit is the Duomo, home to the Volto Santo, a wooden crucifix of Christ said to be sculpted by *Nicodemus* who witnessed his burial, and the ancient symbol of the city. It also houses the beautiful tomb of the serene *Ilaria Del Carretto*, one of the best examples of Renaissance sculpture.

Lucca is famous for its towers like the *Torre Guinigi* which dominates the skyline with its rooftop tree and for its grand piazzas like *Piazza Napoleone*, named after the one-time French ruler of Lucca. Another famous church and piazza is *San Michele* which occupies the site of the ancient forum.

Today, Lucca is a top travel destination and is included in the Italian Cultural Society's See Italy tour in June 2024. The tour includes all the sites mentioned here and an evening Puccini concert in Lucca.

ADMISSION \$10

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Air Italia, The Musical Legacy

Italian Americans have created a musical legacy that endures and is a source of great pride to Italian Americans!

Listen to the best of our Italian musical heritage each week with radio hostess Phyllis Cupparo and special guests. Phyllis is the producer of the Society's Sunday radio show, "Sacramento Italian Style" and has compiled years of Italian and Italian-American music for our enjoyment.

Specially themed shows are often broadcast, like during the holiday season, to

enhance the listening experience.

This musical heritage can be heard on Italian-American Radio Shows around the nation.



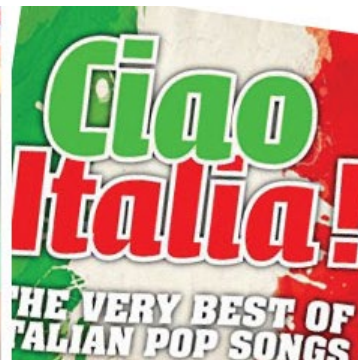
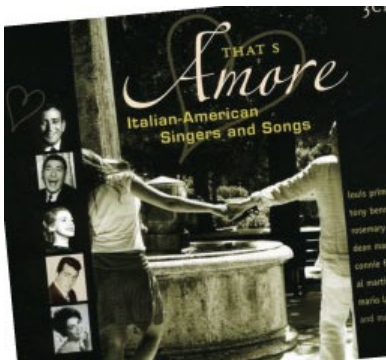
PHOTO ABOVE: "Festa Italia" announcers (from left) Bob Masullo (aka Tony Trentalage), Lori Cappello, and Giovanni (John) Adamo. The Italian-American Radio Show has been broadcasting in Sacramento since 1982.

CLICK TO READ: The Italian American Music Decade 1947-1964

Sacramento, Italian Style!

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN RADIO SHOW SINCE 1982

LISTEN SUNDAYS AT NOON ON KUBU RADIO 96.5 FM



In central Sacramento, listen to "SACRAMENTO ITALIAN STYLE"
on the radio on Sundays at noon on KUBU Radio 96.5 FM

OR - FIND

"SACRAMENTO ITALIAN STYLE"
on the internet at [ACCESS.SACRAMENTO.org /KUBU 96.5 FM RADIO.](http://ACCESS.SACRAMENTO.org/KUBU96.5FM)

Download the free KUBU 96.5 FM app to the device of your choice and listen from anywhere in the world.

Can You Name Them?



1. **Sixteen Candles** - Johnny Ivlastro & The Crests
2. **0 Dio Mio** - Annette Funicello
3. **Venus** - Francis Avallone (Frankie Avalon)
4. **Beyond The Sea** - Robert Cassotto (Bobby Darin)
5. **Turn Me Loose** - Fabiano Forte (Fabian)
6. **There' s A Moon Out Tonight** - Nick Santamaria & The Capris
7. **Mama** - Cancetta Rosemarie Franconero (Connie Francis)
8. **The Wanderer** - Dion Di Mucci (Dion)
9. **Walk Like A Man** -Francis Castelluccio (Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons)
10. **I Got You Babe** - Salvatore & Cher (Sonny & Cher)
11. **These Boots Are Made for Walkin'** - Nancy Sinatra
- 12 . **Mercy , Mercy, Mercy-** Tufano & Giammerese (The Buckingham's)
- 13 . **Groovin'** - Felix Cavaliere (The Rascals)
- 14 . **Bad, Bad Leroy Brown** - Jim Croce
- 15 . **Rocky 's Theme** - Bill Conti

The Italian Cultural Society's Folk Dancers



As the Spring and Summer Italian Festival seasons approach, our folk-dance troupes are ready to perform. They will be performing at annual Italian festivals and events in northern California and in the Sacramento region. Both our children's and adult folk-dance troupes perform in colorful regional Italian costumes and are available to perform at your event. Whether it be a wedding, anniversary or other event, you can add their musical dance performances to your celebration of your Italian heritage.

For more information on how to book or join them contact:

*Diana Quilici at ics.bambini@gmail.com for the children's Bambini Dance program
Wendy Benedetto at Balliamodancers@gmail.com for the Balliamo Adult folk dancers.*



The Italian Air Force Turns 100!



This year, the Italian Airforce celebrated its 100th anniversary. The AirForce was founded in 1923 by King Vittorio Emanuele III as ***the Regia Aeronautica*** or Royal AirForce. It was renamed ***the Aeronautica Militare Italiana in 1946***.

To commemorate the occasion the Italian Airforce assembled a sweeping exhibit of 30 (4- foot by 8-foot) panels charting a century of its history and displayed it at Casa Italia in Chicago.

One might ask Why Chicago? - Because Chicago was the setting for one of The Italian AirForce's major aviation historical achievements.

In 1933, Italo Balbo, General of the **Regia Aeornautica**, led an Air Armada of 24 planes in a historic 6,000-mile transatlantic flight from Rome to Chicago, landing on Lake Michigan's Chicago Lake front during the cities Century of Progress World's Fair. He arrived to a crowd of 60,000 cheering spectators eager to see the daring Italian pilots.

It was the first mass formation aerial crossing of the North Atlantic and reinforced Italy's leadership in aviation.

At the same time, it linked Italy and Chicago and elevated the Italian American community.

He also delivered a Roman column from the second century A.D. from Italy to stand as a permanent centerpiece of the World's Fair at the Italian Pavilion.

One of the earliest achievements of the Italian Airforce was in 1927, when Colonel Francesco De Pineda returned to Rome after a 34,000-mile journey around the world demonstrating the feasibility of global air travel. Another milestone for Italian aviators.

The Frecce Tricolore



PHOTO ABOVE: *Freccie Tricolore* fly over the *Altare della Patria* (Alter of the Fatherland). To tourists it is known as the monument *Vittorio Emanuele* in *Piazza Venezia* in Rome.

The Italian Airforce is well known for its acrobatic team, the **Freccie Tricolore** (Tricolore Arrows) established in 1961. They perform with colored banks of green, white and red trailing them in the sky.

Italian military aviation today is cutting edge with advanced jet training facilities and aircraft. Recently, Sweden signed a 10-year deal with Italy to train its military pilots from the Swedish Air Force. Other countries whose pilots are being trained by the Italian AirForce include Austria, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the UK.

The Italo Balbo Monument



The unveiling of the Roman Column delivered by Italo Balbo at the World Fair in Chicago in 1933 was attended by crowds of tens of thousands of people.

The Column, named the Balbo Monument, is from a portico near the Porta Marina of Ostia Antica, the ancient port of the city of Rome.

In Balbo's remarks at the unveiling of the statue on Italian Day in 1933, he said, **"Let this column stand as a symbol of increasing friendship between the people of Italy and the people of the United States."**

Italian Americans in Chicago found pride in the arrival of Balbo's Atlantic Squadron across the north Atlantic that remains to this day.

It was not so long ago we could only dream of crossing an ocean by air. When many of our ancestors came to this country it was by boat, a long and arduous journey.

The attachment to the Balbo monument has endured in the Italian community. When the city of Chicago, following the hysteria and divisiveness of 2020, sought to purge monuments and art of the past, they took aim at removing the Balbo monument.

What's an ethnic group to do when its icons are under assault. Italian Americans in Chicago resisted the calls for removal, met the challenge, and saved the monument.

Today, the Italo Balbo monument is the only structure remaining from the Century of Progress World's Fair. It still stands in its original location as the oldest outdoor artifact in Chicago.

After more than 80 years of Chicago weather the monument needs Restoration. The Community has established a "Balbo Monument Restoration Project," to save the monument and a piece of their history.

West-Coast Italian American Runners Excel



PHOTO ABOVE: *Matt Strangio*

It is rare to see Italian Americans excel in the sport of Cross Country. But this year is a memorable exception. Our greater Italian community has two young high achieving stars on the West Coast, *Matt Strangio and Robert Di Donato*.

Strangio is a student at Portland State University and is a resident of Folsom, California just a few miles outside Sacramento. In high school he was a 3-time All American and a 4-time State Champion.

In the 2023 season he got off to a slow start, having been laid up with a serious flu at the beginning of the season. But he battled back all the way to becoming the 10 k Champion of the West Coast Conference.

He followed that up with a silver medal in the NCAA West Regionals, finishing behind the reigning national 10 k champion from Stanford. In the final NCAA championship, he finished in the top third of all competitors.

Robert Di Donato is a sophomore at Stanford University. Last year he was named as the top freshman xc runner in the Pac 12 Conference. This year he came on strong in

the conference championships and finished in 7th place in the NCAA Western Regionals, earning similar honors to Strangio's. He continued his strong performance in the Championship race, finishing 49th in the country, just 9 places below All American ranking.

Both Matt and Robert are currently competing in indoor track. Matt has continued his successful run having placed in the top 10% of all college runners at the prestigious Sharon Colyer indoor meet in Boston in December. His performance set a new school record at the University of Portland for the 5k distance. Both Matt and Robert will be competing next year in both indoor and outdoor track.

This article is courtesy of Silvio Iaccetti of the Iaccetti Foundation.

Speaking Of Columbus Day...



PHOTO ABOVE: Miss New York, Rachele diStasio, at Columbus Day Parade, October 2023

This past year saw record turnouts across the nation for the annual Columbus Day parades and celebrations in American cities. It looks like Columbus is making a comeback based on the popularity and number of major Columbus Day parades taking place celebrating the national Holiday.

This year, The Italian American First Lady, Jill Biden, held a reception at the White House for Italian Americans on Columbus Day to celebrate their heritage. That was a first. And a recognition that Italian American voters' matter.



PHOTO ABOVE: *The United States Marine Corp Band playing 'Gloria' and other Italian songs at the White House on Columbus Day, October 9, 2023*

In Chicago, the Mayor, Lori Lightfoot was defeated for reelection after she lost the trust of the Italian American population of the city for removing three Columbus statues from their pedestals when she caved to the mob that sought their destruction. She only got 17% of the vote in a city with almost 500,000 Italian Americans. Italian Americans had mobilized against the mayor. The three Columbus Statues that were removed are being considered for return and their removal is being challenged in the courts.

This year's Columbus Day parade in Chicago was the 71st annual parade in that city celebrating Columbus and the Italian American immigrants.

In Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the mayor who ordered the removal of the city's Columbus statue suffered an embarrassing defeat for reelection and the Italian American community has mounted a legal challenge to block its removal.



In New York, this year's 79th annual Columbus Day parade was attended by over one million spectators while 37,000 people marched in the parade with floats, bands and banners from all segments of the population.



In San Francisco, whose Columbus Day parade is the oldest dating from 1869, record crowds turned out at its 155th Annual Parade. One of the special features of the San Francisco Columbus Day Festival is the presentation of the Queen Isabella

and her Court of Princesses. Each year, young Italian American women vie for the honor. One of this year's princesses, Gianna Lugli Sangervasi Barnes, hailed from Sacramento. Her mother Gina had also been a princess. Talk about a family tradition. Several other young Italian American women from the Sacramento region have served as ambassadors of our heritage as princesses over the years.



Gianna Lugli Sangervasi Barnes
Princess



In Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland and scores of other cities, large and small, the Columbus Day Parades are still major events every year and the pride of their Italian American communities.



★ SAVE COLUMBUS DAY ★

PROTECT & PRESERVE OUR PAST

In Sacramento, California, the Italian Cultural Society held its annual Columbus Day Festival at the Italian Center. This year's celebration at the Italian Center was much larger than in past years and represents a continuing commitment to celebrate the most important day in the Italian American calendar together.

Sacramento County Replaces Columbus Day



In Sacramento County, Columbus Day was replaced as a county holiday in April 2023 in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day. The Italian community is challenging the action by the County and has been in contact with County officials. The Italian Cultural Society has made proposals to correct this mistake by the county government so both holidays are respected.

Congress has declared Columbus Day to be the only national holiday in October. Indigenous People's Day is not a legal national holiday.

Unfortunately. The county issued a Press release to the public and carried by the local media stating that "Columbus Day is not a national holiday." This has left the public and even Italian Americans confused about the status of Columbus

Day as a national holiday. The Italian Cultural Society is requesting that this false and misleading Press Release be corrected, but the harm has been done and it will be difficult to repair the false impression the lie has caused.

Abolishing Columbus Day in the County was engineered by the new Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Staff in the County in collusion with native Americans and done under false pretenses.

Neither the public nor the Italian community were notified that Columbus Day was on the County Board of Supervisors meeting agenda for erasure. Nor was it. It was not mentioned at all on the public agenda. The decision to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day was made behind closed doors and neither the public nor the Italian community had a voice in the decision or knowledge of it.

Some County Supervisors were led to believe it was just a ceremonial recognition of native Americans, not meant to replace Columbus Day as a county holiday. Others were led to believe Indigenous Peoples Day was a legal national holiday as a justification for their recognition of the Day.



The Resolution to approve Indigenous People's Day did not mention that Columbus Day would be replaced. It did not mention Columbus Day at all. Otherwise, the Italian community would have been there to challenge such an action.

The first mention about Columbus Day at all in this mean- spirited ambush was in the

Press Release issued by the County Information Office which gratuitously included the statement that “Columbus Day is not a national Holiday.” The information officer is also part of the DEI staff.

County staff chose to use the Resolution “**to administratively supplant**” Columbus Day without the Resolution either mentioning Columbus Day as a county holiday or calling for its replacement.

The Society has investigated the actions of DEI staff and believe their action was racially motivated, discriminated against Italian Americans and designed to influence the vote of the County supervisors with false information.

As such it is subject to challenge as a violation of the Equal protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution which prohibits diversity as a justification for discrimination under the new Supreme Court decision.

Italian Americans are a recognized ethnic group under the 14th Amendment, and we believe the removal of Columbus Day was a violation of our civil rights. The action by the county was less than 2 months before the Supreme Court decision outlawing racially motivated actions and policies.

It also appears from our investigation that the Board of Supervisors was misled by staff.



The action by the County cancelling the Columbus Day Holiday was divisive

and has divided the Sacramento community. We believe there is room in Sacramento County for both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day to be recognized.

Currently, Sacramento County recognizes every national holiday as a county holiday, and that has included Columbus Day until this year. The only holiday in the county not a national holiday is Indigenous Peoples Day. Also known as **the ‘Day of Indigenous Resistance.’**

It is unfortunate that the Italian community was the victim of the rise in anti-Italian and anti-white racial sentiment now at work in our county government.

We expected better from our County Government. On behalf of the 65,000 Italian Americans in the Sacramento area, we demand better treatment.

Columbus Day is an Italian American **national** Holiday celebrated nationwide by Italian American communities. It is an integral part of our Identity and heritage which is being taken away.

It is disappointing that the celebration of Columbus Day in Sacramento has been marred by politicized cancel culture politics.

We cannot let it be replaced as it cannot be replaced!

Our goal is to restore our Holiday and our standing in American society.

We are the underdog here!

We will let you know if we need a louder voice to restore our Holiday.

About The Role of DEI In Cancelling Columbus Day

The replacement of Columbus Day was part of a national movement by Native Americans to replace Columbus Day with a holiday of their own. One rooted in grievance and reckoning.

In the case of Sacramento County, native Americans were elevated by DEI staff above Italian Americans to replace Columbus Day as a county holiday.

In the process, erasing Italian American culture and supplanting it with native American culture.

Why!

The DEI movement supports racial discrimination and opposes the Supreme Court decision outlawing racial discrimination. It exists to promote racial and gender

preferences. It is the fox in the henhouse and has become embedded in our institutions.

Following the Black Lives Matter riots of 2020, many government agencies, corporations and universities adopted DEI policies in reaction. At the time, Even the federal government sought to replace the existing Columbus Day holiday with Juneteenth as a national holiday. Due to resistance against that idea, the federal government created a new and separate Juneteenth national holiday, as did Sacramento County.

DEI programs separate people according to race and gender. *They are a license to discriminate.*

In a nutshell, DEI can be explained as standing for ***Diversity*** - through racial and gender discrimination, ***Equity*** - racial quotas which are the opposite of Equality. Equity is the enemy of Equality, and ***Inclusion*** - which is the forced distribution of benefits and services to non-whites to the exclusion of white Americans (Whites need not apply).

As a response to the role that DEI staff played in eliminating Columbus Day as a county holiday, representatives from the Italian community appeared before the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission to defeat creation of a new county position for a Director of DEI. The position was not approved.

It is time for the County to cancel its DEI Program. The DEI complex will never protect Italian Americans.

In a time when moral clarity is of paramount importance, there is no justification for discriminating against Italian Americans under any circumstance.

...And If That Were Not Enough...



A very controversial Bill has been introduced in the United States Senate to eliminate Columbus Day as a national holiday. The “Indigenous People’s Day Act” is being pushed by a Native American coalition.

Unfortunately, the Bill has dozens of democrat sponsors from both the Senate and House of Representatives. California Senator Alex Padilla (D-Senator For CA) is a co-sponsor of the Bill.

The purpose of the Bill is to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day as a Federal Holiday. This is a serious threat to Italian Americans and if passed will empower native American tribes to cancel Columbus Day in every state, city, and town in America.

The Italian American community will have its hands full next year to prevent this Bill from passing before the next election. One can expect Italian American resistance.

Historically, Columbus Day has been a day of national unity and celebration of heritage in the Italian American community. It still is for most Italian Americans. But in today’s world that unity on Columbus Day will be tested, as well as the future of our heritage and identity of other Americans.

This is the same plight Italian Americans faced in California when Columbus Day was replaced in 2021 with Indigenous People’s Day.

For 40 years, Italian Americans had done battle in the California State Legislature to protect Columbus Day against the tribal nations. But the tribes, with their great casino

wealth, and political influence from that wealth, finally prevailed over the Italian American community. And they only had to win once with a willing Legislature and Governor.

Shades of Sacramento County. The parallels to what has happened in Sacramento County, across California, and across the United States are evident in the national conflict taking place between Native Americans and Italian Americans over Columbus Day and Columbus statues.

While Italian Americans have not opposed native American holiday's, the same cannot be said of native Americans in their mission to erase Columbus Day. Wherever Italian Americans have asked native Americans to seek a different date for Indigenous Peoples Day than Columbus Day, the response is always the same. Replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. And that is the stated goal of the federal legislation.

Native Americans know what they are doing, and they have been at it for decades. They know Italian Americans are their main opposition to eliminating Columbus Day. It is no secret they have a well- funded organized coalition to overwhelm the Italian American community.

This is part of a national strategy by native Americans and other racial groups to erase and replace the art, the monuments, the history, the culture and even the holidays of the rest of us. In the belief they are justified by their grievances and with no regard for the aspirations of Italian Americans.

These sacred treasures are part of our American story and our American history. You can see where this is going. What's next. Everything. Even that would not be enough to satisfy or appease their ire.

Columbus Day is a symbol of America and of Italian Americans. Take away our symbols, you take away our identity.

Simply put, it comes down to the creation of America as a beacon of Western Civilization vs. anti-Western historical grievances.

One of our speakers at this years Columbus Day Festival at the Italian Center had this to say, "As Italian Americans we must not allow a vocal minority to cancel our holiday and our history."

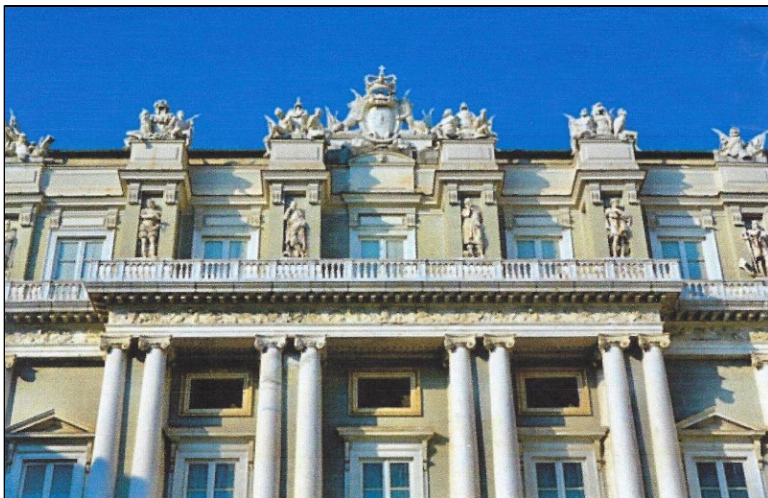
Columbus Day Italian Style!



Columbus Day is national holiday in Italy as it is in the United States. The Italian Parliament has voted to defend Columbus Day and Columbus statues in the United States as a symbol of Italian American history and pride.

“Columbus’s journey sparked 500 years of immigration to America, attracting people from throughout the world seeking a better life. This is what Columbus Day, and the Columbus statues stand for.”

New Columbus Center In Genoa, Italy



The Mayor of Genoa, Marco Bucci, established a new Center for Columbian Studies that will be housed in the historic Palazzo Ducale *(a 700 -year- old Genoese palace that has been converted into a world- renown museum)*. The new center will allow researchers to catalog documents and artifacts stored in museums and archives across Italy and the globe to create a database source of material on the navigator and his world changing voyages.

The center is part of the historical reckoning in the U.S. and Italy to reset narratives that, for decades, have maligned Columbus's legacy and the monuments that pay homage to him.

It's time to set the record straight.

The Inspiration For Lady Liberty



PHOTO ABOVE: *The statue of La legge nuova in Milan*

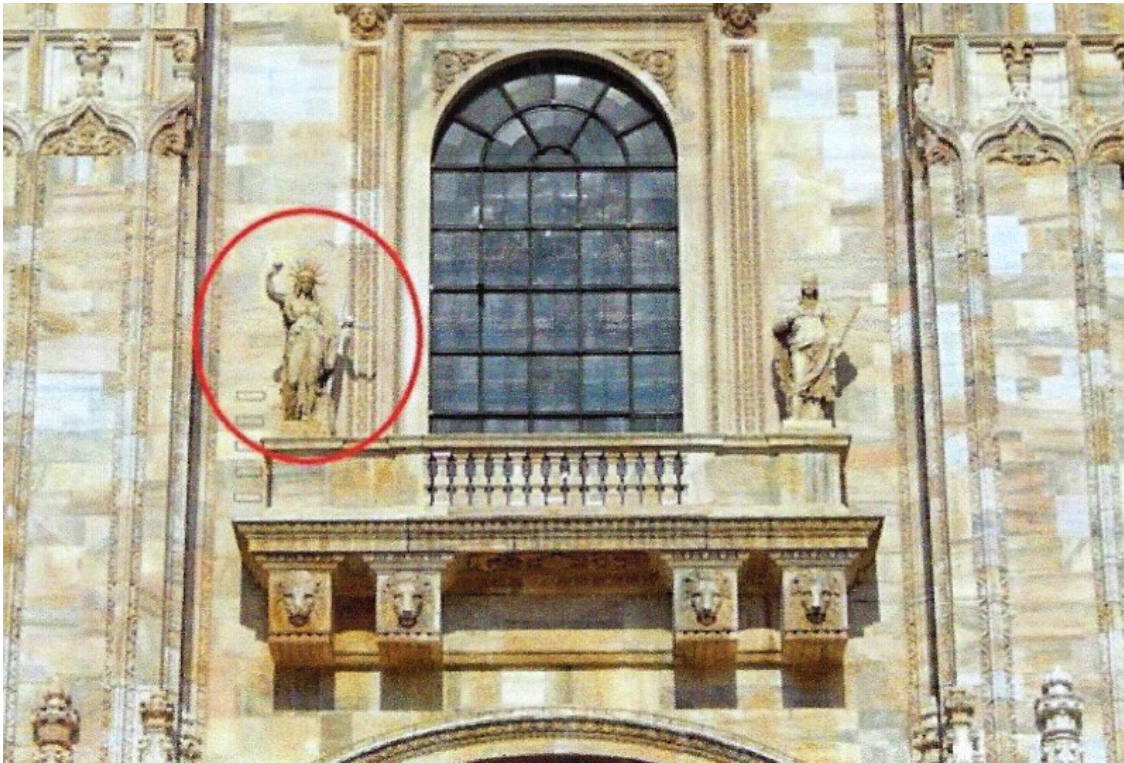
One of the most popular places to visit in Milan is its Duomo. While the sheer size and magnificence may seem overwhelming, take a moment to look at the statues and gargoyles that adorn the entire exterior surface of the Cathedral.

While gazing at the balcony above the main entrance, to the left side is a statue that should look strikingly familiar. The statue is named *La legge nuova*, or 'the new law,' while on the opposite side of the balcony is a statue called *L'antica legge*, 'the old

law.'

The former looks remarkably similar to the Statue of Liberty. It was sculpted by artist Camillo Pacetti in 1810, three quarters of a century before 'Lady Liberty,' and was likely the inspiration for Frederic Auguste Bartholdi's famous statue in the New York Harbor.

Both hold a torch with their right hand and both wear a crown and tunic .Actually, aside from the number of rays radiating from her crown, one of the main differences is that the Statue Of Liberty holds a book with the Independence Day's date on it, while La legge nuova holds a cross.



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