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The Italian Cultural Society & Italian Center & Museum
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FALL 2025 EDITION

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ALTRE VOCI

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY



**OCTOBER IS ITALIAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH!**



ITALIAN FOLK DANCERS SHINE AT AUTO SHOW



It was a fine day in May for our **"Made in Italy Car Show"** at the Italian Cultural Center. The weather was perfect for the record crowd of people who attended and were served a mountain of pasta washed down with Italian beer and lots of wine.

The Theme of this year's show was **"Made in Italy"** featuring classic Italian cars and a fleet of Vespa Motor scooters and Ducati Motorcycles, paraded in bright colors on

the Italian center parking lot.

In the words of event organizer Vincenzo Cerruti, *"We love to bring Italian Culture to Sacramento. Italian automobiles, music, dancing and great food: it all goes together like peanut butter and jelly. Or perhaps I should say spaghetti and meatballs. It is a perfect blend of Italy's proudest products."*

Not to be outshone by the colorful cars and cycles, the Society's two Italian folk dance troupes performed among the Italian motorcycles in their regional costumes, each costume representing the ancestral region of Italy of each dancer.

You can see both dance troupes at the Italian American Heritage Day Festival at the Italian Center on October 12 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.



ITALIAN FOLK DANCERS PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

*I **Bambini***, our children's dance troupe recently performed at the San Francisco Giants Italian Night Baseball Game in the City by the Bay, at Festa Italiana in Lodi, and at the Murer House in Folsom. You can find them performing at the CIAO Folsom Festival on September 13. The Society is currently training its teen dance troupe, ***La Danza***, for future performances.

CLICK TO WATCH THE BAMBINI PERFORM AT THE SF GIANTS
GAME



Balliamo!, our Adult Folk dance troupe, recently performed across northern California at Marin Catholic High School, Sacramento Country Day School, St Stephens Church Festival, Orsi Winery in Napa Valley, Festa Italiana in Lodi, San Francisco Giants Italian Night, with more events coming up in September at the Sacramento Arberesh picnic and in October at Festa Italiana San Jose, and at the Italian Heritage Festa at the Italian Center in Sacramento, and in November at the San Mateo Sicilian Dinner.



Both the Children's dance troupe I Bambini, now numbering over 30 kids, and the adult dance troupe, Balliamo!, are open to new dancers.

Learn more about joining or booking one of the Society's folk-dance groups.
For I bambini contact Diana Quilici at: ics.bambini@gmail.com.

For Balliamo! Contact Virginia Petrali at: pampet42@yahoo.com.

ITALIAN RADIO SHOW - *SACRAMENTO ITALIAN STYLE*



Listen to the Music of Italy and Italian America

Sacramento has its own Italian Radio Show which has been broadcasting every Sunday since 1982 on local radio stations.

Guess What?

Since April, the show airs in a new Podcast format instead of on the radio.

Instead of the show airing just on Sundays, the show will be available on the new podcast by Tuesday evenings. You can access and listen to the shows at any time at your leisure, worldwide.

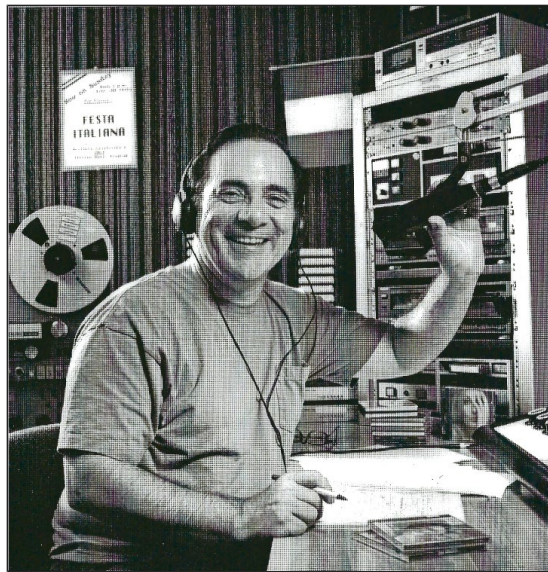
Click Link: <http://www.mixcloud.com/sacramentoitalianstyle/>

To access the podcast show- download the MixCloud (M-X Cloud) app to your phone or device of choice and search, "Sacramento Italian Style."

The new format allows ten hours of shows to always remain on the MixCloud. The shows will be listed in order with a title.

"Sacramento Italian Style" is hosted by award winning announcer and producer Phyllis Cupparo who also happens to also be the President of the Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento.

PHOTO BELOW: *Bob Masullo Broadcasting the Radio Show (1994)*



Click to Read: MUSICAL MIGRATION; FROM ITALY TO AMERICA

Click to Read: ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSIC DECADE

Listen to Sacramento, Italian Style on the MixCloud Podcast:

- Download the MixCloud App (photo below) on the device of your choice.
- Create an account and search '*SacramentoItalianStyle*' to see and listen to podcasts!

Or Click Link: <http://www.mixcloud.com/sacramentoitalianstyle/>

COOKING CLASSES AT THE ITALIAN CENTER



PHOTO ABOVE: *Diana Quilici and her children. Mary and Garrett.*

Over the years the Society has hosted many popular Italian food demonstrations and cooking classes by chefs and home cooks.

Society cooking class Instructor Diana Quilici held a fun class in April teaching how to make Crostata de Marmellata. The class was so well received that the students demanded more classes. So, Diana has scheduled two more classes this year. On September 13 she will offer a class on making potato Gnocchi. Gnocchi is a popular dish in Italy and among Italian Americans. And in December, Diana will offer a class on the art of making sausage and peppers. Both classes will be at the Italian Cultural Center.



PHOTO ABOVE: Our cooking class instructor Diana Quilici and her children. Mary and Garrett, put on a family cooking demonstration at the California State Fair in August. *Nota bene: all three of them are Dentists. Talk about all in the family!*

TRACING THE STORIES THAT SHAPED US

Little Italy History Project In Full Swing!



PHOTO ABOVE: Vincenzo Caselli's 88th anniversary in 1925 with family and friends from the Lucchesi community

Since the beginning of the year, the new history committee of volunteers for the Little Italy Historic district have been engaged in collecting the history of the Italian American people that have lived there.

Building on past projects to document the Italian community in Sacramento, the new committee has developed guidelines and lists of Italian families and businesses to interview and are making progress.

For those who grew up in east Sacramento there is a saying: "if you know one Italian, you knew them all. And past projects have relied on that collective connection among Italian Americans. In other words, everyone knew everyone's business, and that is part of the story we are looking for.

In recent years we have witnessed the passing of many of those who lived in East

Sacramento so the mission to uncover more of their history through their memories and that of their descendants is urgent.

These were a distinct community of people. Theirs is a story of a neighborhood that was once a rural area developed heavily by Italian immigrants and Italian farmers. Italians came with the Gold Rush in 1850, 175 years ago. And they stayed.



PHOTO ABOVE: *Saint Mary's Church Confirmation (1941)*

PHOTO BELOW: *Doposcuola Italiano afterschool program for Italian children in Oak Park in 1939*



Italian Americans have a history of place in East Sacramento with roots that are deep in the history of the area. Most Italian immigrants came before World War II. And others immigrated after the war during the postwar era of Italian immigration. By the 1940s, whole blocks in East Sacramento were populated by Italian Americans. They built their own homes, their own Italian national Church, social institutions, and business district serving the needs of the Italian community.

A walk down 48th Street in east Sacramento between Folsom Boulevard and J street, a two-block stretch, one finds a narrow street with little 2-bedroom bungalow houses crowded next to each other. In 1940, more than 75 Italians lived on those two blocks. Their names and addresses are listed in the Little Italy section of the Italian Cultural Society website at italiancenter.net.

One can only imagine the close communal life on that street, our version of the crowded tenement districts of other cities. Our own urban village. Similar concentrations of Italians were widespread throughout the East Sacramento Little Italy Historic district.

These are the stories we want to tell, stories that echo the shared experiences of our Italian people. To document the cultural and physical impact of the Italians and help us claim and celebrate our roots.

Our goal is to collect their memories and preserve them so they will not be forgotten.

History is a story, one that can inform us of who we are, where we come from, and why we are the way we are today.

PHOTO BELOW: *Two Italian American Children, Henry Puccinelli and Libera Rolla dressed in Italian costumes to attend the Italian play I Promessi Sposi, at the Hippodrome Theater in Downtown Sacramento in 1915*



Other cultures embrace their culture. Italian American culture is a rich and vibrant culture passed down through the generations of the past. Preserving our culture and passing on our history and heritage is how we can celebrate being Italian. And enable future generations to celebrate their pride in their history and their identity as Italian Americans.

Our history team is growing with volunteers currently collecting the stories of dozens of Sacramento Italian families, businesses and places. Everyone is welcome to join in this important project as a volunteer or as a source for our history collecting project. Many of the people on our team are from the East Sacramento District and have deep connections with it.

Our goal is to develop exhibits and collect photos and artifacts and any documents that help tell our story. The Little Italy team is planning an Italian festival in Little Italy in 2026 and hope to exhibit some of the stories there. We need people to help mount an exhibit.

Want to help or have stories to tell or family histories to preserve, please contact Marie Booth at bmbooth@aol.com. Or Bill Cerruti at: italy1@surewest.net.

We don't want anyone to be left out of the story. Make sure your family story is included in the Sacramento Italian American story.

[Click to Read: LA VIA VECCHIA-COMING TO AMERICA](#)

[Click to Read: 48TH STREET GANG](#)

[Click To Read: LITTLE ITALY SIGNS INSTALLED IN EAST SAC](#)

[Click Visit 'LITTLE ITALY' Page On Our Website](#)

Some of the families and Businesses that the team has been working on include:

Archie Bugato Hardware, Frank Lettini's Automative, Isola family, Talini's Nursery, Pane family, Reali Family, Corti Family, Granucci family, Pesce's locksmith, Johnny's Barbershop, Quantamateo family, Cecchettini family, Panettoni Family, Brida family (Quality Market), Affinito family (Italian Corners), Cerruti family (Del Monte), Cristofani family (Square Deal Restaurant), Velo family (Italian Importing), Lagomarsino family Seed Company, Relles family (Florists), Da Prato family, Leoni family, Luchini family, Viglione family, Fontana family, Pennisi's delicatessen, Louis Market, DeFazio family and the Puccinelli family, The Clover Club, Americo's Restaurant, Andiamo Restaurant, Roberts Fish Grotto, Machiavelli's Restaurant, St Mary's Church.

And this is just for starters. "Add Your family name"

Little Italy History team members include Bill Cerruti (Project Director) Marie Booth (Project Coordinator), Ralph Paladino, Janine Orsi, Ronnie Pane, Ava Dunham, Steve Maviglio, Bill Cerruti, Johnny Waldron, Terri Thompson, Sue Olson, Trish Fontana, and Anna Peretti Stratton.

Join Us!

SPEAKING OF US

Italian American Roots In Sacramento Run Deep

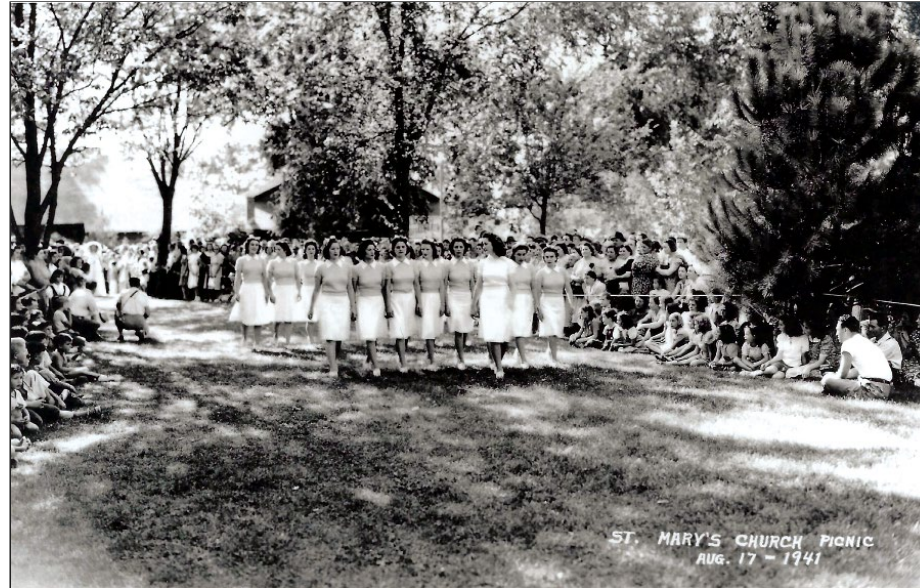


PHOTO ABOVE: *Italian Catholic Federation Drill Team on eve of World War II in 1941*

Italians have been settling in Sacramento since the Gold Rush. Some of the distinct regional groups were families from the Lucca area of Tuscany and from Piano degli Albanesi in Sicily. The largest concentration of Italian Americans in Sacramento was around St. Mary's Church and East Portal Park in East Sacramento. Prior to World War II, there was a vibrant and active Italian American community in Sacramento. A variety of Italian American organizations were active in serving the needs of the Italian community with language classes, dinners, mutual assistance, festivals and celebrations of Italian American traditions.

One of those groups was Branch 45 of the Italian Catholic Federation which was founded in 1935. This parish Italian Catholic organization was one of the largest in the state. It even sponsored its own women's Drill Team until the outbreak of the War. After the War, the Italian community continued to thrive and the Little Italy area of East Sacramento continued to grow until urban freeways, suburban growth and other pressures led to its decline. The following historic photographs are a testament to the vibrant life of our earlier Italian community.

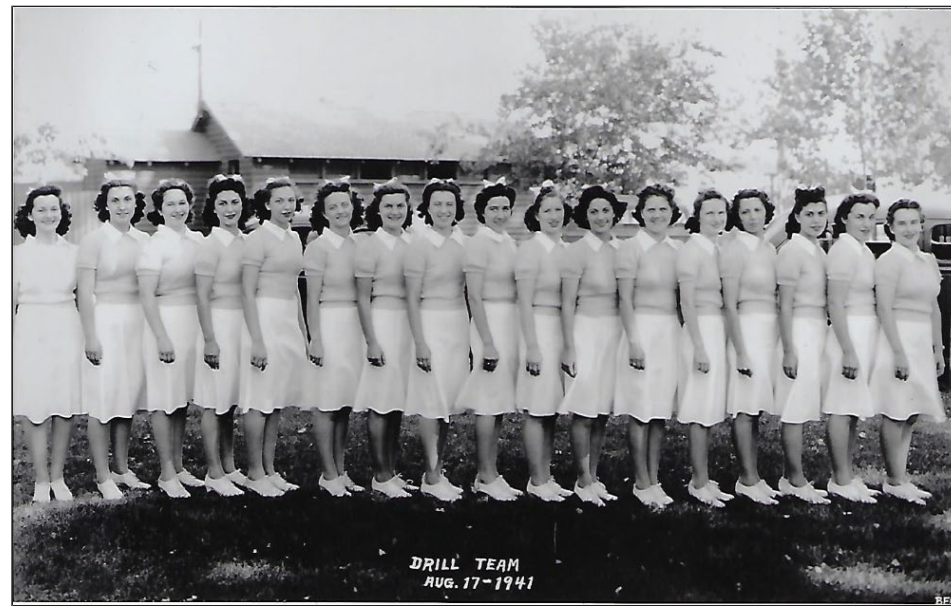


PHOTO ABOVE: **Italian Catholic Federation #45 Drill Team:**

Mabel Marsalla, Jean Capparelli, Eva Marsalla, Marie Montone, Rose Salamone, Alma Gaudio, Ella Rinetti, Leda Ghilarducci, Enes Pieruccini, Marie Paccinielli, Philomena Thorchia, Dora Stefan, Anita Morra, Ann Mamola, Connie Parino, Fernanda Brancalana, and Alice Leoni. (Photos courtesy of Alice Ciani)

ITALIAN RED CROSS LADIES

Sacramento 1918



TOP ROW: Mary Traversa, Louise Simoni, Lillian Calleri, Elizabeth Parenti, Marie Parenti, Yolanda Nicoletti, and Sofia Cecchettini

SECOND ROW: Adele Romagnolo, Mae Salvetti, Josephine Musacchia, Aurora Giammugnani, Agnes Bertolucci, Irma Sperinde, Brizaide Giammugnani, and Katie Cecchettini;

THIRD ROW: Mamie Lagromarsino, Eleanor Corsiglia, Edith Ferrera, Sophia Sperinde, Mary Nicolletti, Eva Largomarsino, Rose Salvetti, Alvina Cecchettini, and Linda Squalia;

FOURTH ROW: Rose Cordano, Amelia Cordano, Irene Bartoli, Lena Micheli, Mary Ferrari, and Lena Simoni.



REMEMBERING CONNIE FRANCIS

The Voice Of A Generation



Concetta Rosa Maria Franconero passed away on July 16 at the age

of 87.

Connie Francis was born in 1937 in Newark, New Jersey to Italian immigrant parents. She grew up speaking Italian.

In the Golden Age of American pop music, few voices resonated as deeply as that of Connie Francis. She was one of the most loved voices in American music history and one of the first female superstars of the 1950s and 1960s.

She exploded onto the scene in 1958 with her breakthrough hit *"Who's Sorry Now,"* which propelled her to stardom. From there, she became a trailblazer; the first woman to reach #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 with *"Everybody's Somebody's Fool."*

And the first woman to headline major tours across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She recorded in over a dozen languages, starred in Hollywood musicals, and even opened for the Queen of England.

By the mid-1960s, Francis had become not only a household name but also a symbol of Italian American Pride. Her rendition of the Italian song *Mamma*, a classic in Italy, was recorded by Connie in English in 1959 and became an Italian American favorite.



[Click To View: CONNIE FRANCIS SINGS 'MAMMA' LIVE ON THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW](#)

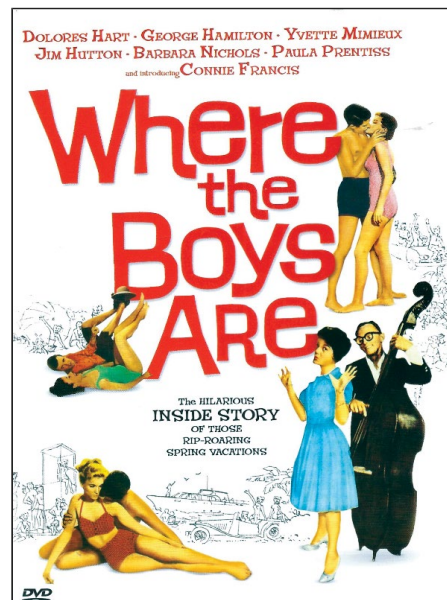
Her ballads ruled the airwaves with hits like *"Stupid Cupid,"* *"Lipstick on Your Collar,"* *"My Happiness,"* and *"Where The boys Are."*

Her 1962 recording of *"Pretty Little Baby"* is trending on Tik Tok and other social

media platforms because its being used in videos featuring babies, pets and retro fashion. The songs feel good lyrics and catchy melody has led to its widespread use and surge in popularity.

She considered Italian American singer Bobby Darin to be the love of her life. They were in a romantic relationship in their teens. Connie was 19. But Connie's father, who was opposed to their relationship put an end to the couple's romance. Learning that she and Darin were planning to elope, her father burst into the room and chased Darin off with a gun. There is a new traveling musical show called "Forbidden love" about their romance in the 1950's and the drama surrounding it.

"They say that of all the words in the Italian language, the word "mamma" is the most beautiful. Why? Well, when you say it, your lips kiss twice."



[Click To Read: ITALIAN-AMERICAN MUSIC - THE ITALIAN DECADE](#)



**ITALIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
RALLYING THE PUBLIC
*To Induct Connie in the Rock & Roll
Hall Of Fame***



The Italian American community is calling for Connis Francis to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

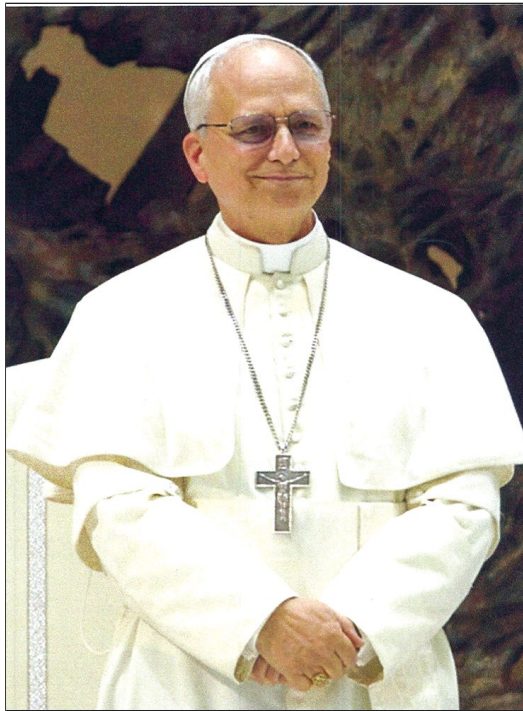
Her exclusion in today's era is not acceptable. Madonna, a successor to Francis in both Italian American heritage and chart dominance, was inducted in 2008.

Consider Connie's legacy,

- 200 plus million records sold worldwide
- First woman to top the Billboard Hot 100
- Top selling female artist for a decade
- 27 Billion Tik Tok views Featuring her Music and counting.
- 53 Billboard Hot 100 Chart hits

To advocate for recognition of Connie by the Rock & Roll Hall of fame, contact the Rock Hall at <https://rockhall.com/contact.us>.

POPE LEO: AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN POPE



It took four ballots to elect the first North American Pope; one that also has Italian American roots.

As the successor to Pope Francis, also of Italian Ancestry and from South America, Pope Leo becomes the second Italian Pope selected from the Americas.

A native of Chicago, Robert Francis Predvost, 69, took the name Pope Leo XIV. His surname is French, but his actual name should be Riggitano. His paternal grandfather, Salvatore Riggitano, was born in Sicily, moved to France, then came to Louisiana where he married a French American woman named Fontaine, but adopted her mother's maiden name to become John Prevost.

On the Popes maternal side, his great grandfather was born in Genoa as Giacomo Martino. When he landed in Louisiana he became Jacques Martinez. So, Pope Leo's actual family surnames should be Riggitano and Martino.

Pope Leo is still a fan of the Chicago White Socks baseball team.



On Sunday, September 7, 2005, Pope Leo canonized Carlo Acutis, the first Catholic Saint of the millennial generation, elevating him to the same rank as Francis of Assisi and Mother Cabrini.

St Carlos Acutis, a British born Italian who died from Leukemia In 2006 at age 15, earned the Name “Gods Influencer” and has been deemed the patron Saint of social media and the internet.

A technology whiz kid, he taught himself computer science and web design at age 9; he then built a site That cataloged miracles around the globe and ran websites for Catholic organizations. St. Carlo ranks among the youngest saints in the history of the Church.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It is not uncommon for people of Italian descent who immigrated to the United States to change their names to fit in, to succeed, or to have them changed by other Americans. This was often the case at Ellis Island where Immigration officers could not pronounce the Italian names, so Perino and Pierini became Perry. The immigrants of that era were not speaking English in general.

Even Italian American entertainers had their names changed to be more acceptable to American audiences - *Tony Bennett (Antonio De Benedetto)*, *Dean Martin (Dino Crocetti)*, *Frankie Avalon (Avallano)*,, *Bobby Rydell (Ridarelli)*, *Connie Francis (Concetta Franconero)*, *Frankie Valli (Francis Castelluccio)*, *Bobby Darin (Cassotto)*, *Perry Como (Pierino)*, *Mario Lanza (Cocozza)*, *Connie Stevens (Concetta Ingoglia)*, *Lady Gaga (Stephanie Germanotta)*, and the list goes on.

Before Ellis Island, The Port of New Orleans was a major entry point for Sicilian immigrants. One can understand why they might find it to their benefit to change their names. In 1891, New Orleans was the site of the largest mass lynching in American History by the largest vigilante mob in our history estimated at 20,000 people chanting anti - Italian slurs.

Italy broke off diplomatic relations with the United States over the incident and the wide-spread mistreatment and lynchings of Italian immigrants. There was talk of war. As a result of that incident, President Harrison declared the first national Columbus Day holiday in the United States.

The recognition of Columbus Day as a national holiday was associated with Italian Americans and was followed by parades in major cities inhabited by large numbers of Italian immigrants. In 1892, one million people attended the Columbus Day parade in New York City. Italians love a parade.

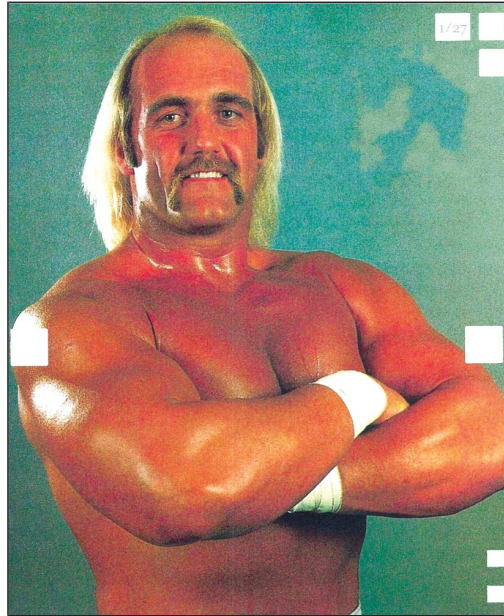
Against the backdrop of the extreme bigotry and prejudice and unbridled discrimination toward Italian Americans in the South and elsewhere, immigrants from Italy were not viewed as desirable. The New Orleans incident was but one of the over 52 documented lynchings of Italian Americans occurring as late as the 1920s. Overall, Italian Americans endured the largest number of Lynchings second only to Black Americans.

[Click To Read: NEW ORLEANS MAYOR APOLOGIZES](#)

[Click To Read: WHAT'S IN A NAME?](#)

[Click To Read: ITALIAN AMERICAN SLAVE CHILDREN](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?



HULK HOGAN HAD ITALIAN ROOTS

Did you know that wrestling icon Hulk Hogan was Italian American? Born *Terry Gene Bollea*, his father was Pietro Bollea. His grandfather also named Pietro immigrated from Cigliano, in the Piedmont region of Italy in 1886.

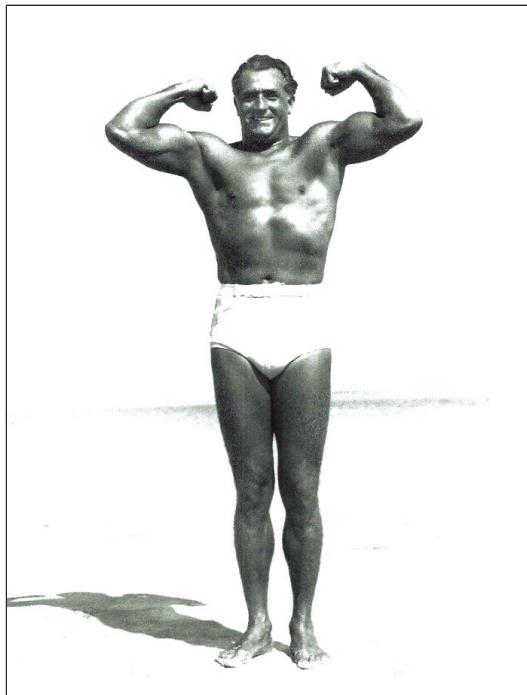
Hogan used his Italian name until he joined the WWA (World Wrestling Association}. He was given the name Hulk Hogan, an Irish name, by WWA President Vince McMahon.

During his 50-year career he became a household name with his 24-inch biceps and red and yellow outfits. He was the most famous wrestler in the world and popularized the sport of wrestling as a global entertainment phenomenon.

Best of all, he was always proud of his Italian American heritage. He towered over fellow Italian and friend, Lou Ferrigno, best known as "The Incredible Hulk "and star of the Marvel Films.

From his breakout role in Rocky III to his starring films in Hollywood and reality television, he transcended the wrestling ring and became a pop culture legend.

He passed away in July, 2025 at the age of 71 in Clearwater, Florida. Florida Governor, Ron De Santis, ordered flags at half mass in honor of Hulk Hogan.



CHARLES ATLAS WAS ITALIAN

Charles Atlas was an Italian born body builder who created a highly popular mail-order body building course. He was born Angelo Siciliano in 1892 in Calabria. He emigrated to Brooklyn, New York in 1904 with his mother Francesca.

As a young immigrant, his frail physique and small stature made him a target of bullies. His journey to greatness began with a visit to the Brooklyn Museum, where he was inspired by statues of the Greek Gods, particularly the statue of Hercules, to build his body.

Too poor to afford barbells he devised a system at home called dynamic tension that pitted one muscle group against another. Neighborhood friends soon started likening him to a statue of Atlas. Combined with his nickname "Charley," he adopted the name by which he became famous.

He began to participate in Bodybuilding contests and quickly made a name for himself. He stood at 5 feet 10 inches and weighed a trim 180 pounds. He worked as an artist model for many sculpted works of classic American heroes on public buildings in New York and Washington D.C.

He was often called the "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" after winning major contests in 1921 and 1922. His revolutionary fitness program and celebrated mail

order advertising campaign led to a multi-million -dollar bodybuilding business. Slogans such as "You can have a body like mine" were accompanied by photographs of the muscular Atlas clad in a leopard breechcloth.

For generations, comic books, men's magazines and even matchbook covers carried Atlas's advertisements. The most famous image was that of a 97-pound weakling who, after having sand kicked in his face at the beach, employs Dynamic- Tension to build a Herculean physique and to challenge a beach bully.

He passed away at the age of 80 in 1972 in Long Beach, California. His legacy influenced later body builders like Arnold Schwarzenegger.



CHUCK MANGIONE - ITALIAN AMERICAN JAZZ ICON HIT ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Did you know that Famous Jazz musician Chuck Mangione was Italian American. Born in 1940 in Rochester, New York, his grandparents were Italian Immigrants from Sicily. His parents were Italian American and operated Mangione's Grocery Store in Rochester.

From an early age he was immersed in the sounds and traditions of both jazz and Italian culture. His dad, a jazz enthusiast, welcomed legendary jazz musicians in their home which sparked a lifelong passion for music in Mangione.

His 1977 album *Feels So Good*, reached #4 on the Billboard Hot 100 and catapulted him to stardom and introduced Jazz to a new generation of fans. The song became a landmark jazz theme single which spread the music into the American mainstream.

He won a Grammy for *Feels So Good* which became one of the most recognizable tunes of the 1970s.

He was a multiple time Grammy winner. He composed the theme song, *Give It All You Got*, for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, and performed at the closing ceremony further cementing his place in American musical history. The 1980 Olympics is famous for the American Hockey team, led by Italian American Joe Eruzione, defeating the Russians for the first time and winning gold.

Proud of his Italian roots, Mangione's music was deeply shaped and blended by his Italian American heritage. His Italian American upbringing helped shape a legendary sound. He was instrumental in organizing a benefit relief concert for victims of the L'Aquila Earthquake in Italy.

He passed away at the age of 84 in July 2025.

JAZZ AND THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



Jazz was born in the early 20th century. Its birth in New Orleans can be traced to a single event. In February 1917, a combo from New Orleans called the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, recorded the first commercial jazz recording.

In 1917, there was no such thing as a jazz record until Dominic 'Nick' La Rocca, and the Original Dixieland Jazz band recorded the first one. Nick La Rocca's recording of *Livery Stable Blues* launched the Jazz Age. By 1918 the band had sold over a million copies, an astounding number for the times, taking jazz from a regional style to international popularity.

Nick La Rocca was born in the Italian section of New Orleans, "Little Palermo," also known as the French Quarter, in 1889 to Italian immigrant parents. Italian Americans played a pivotal in the development of Jazz with its fusion of African, European, and Sicilian influences. He passed away in 1961.

La Rocca claimed the word jazz came from someone in the audience who yelled "Jass it up" when he was playing in Chicago in 1916.

In 1917, La Rocca also wrote the Jazz Standard *Tiger Rag*. The high number of Italian names among early New Orleans jazzmen attests to the role Italian Americans played in the music's early years. Italian American jazz musicians made the violin and the piano (originally the pianoforte) essential components of the jazz ensemble. The important role of Italian Americans in Jazz continued throughout the entire 20th Century.



The link between Italian immigration and the birth of Jazz receives little recognition. Between 1850 and 1870 the US census Bureau estimated that there were more Italians in New Orleans than in any US city. In 1901, one in three New Orleanians was from Italy or a descendant of an Italian immigrant. By 1910 the population of the City's French Quarter was 80% Italian.

Italian Americans found a special flair for Jazz that melded well with their colorful folk music from back home. Their Southern Italian festa parade and funeral procession band traditions were brought to New Orleans. This was helped by the Large Italian population that had settled in New Orleans just before jazz music started to truly define the city. Italian American passion and talents became a defining factor in what made jazz music great.

The importance of Italians in Jazz, their love of harmony and melody and bel canto performance style has long been a part of Jazz, a story too long neglected.

Some of the major pop stylists of the post-war era - Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett, to name a few - would reshape vocal jazz with an infusion of the bel canto style more closely associated with their heritage. Sicilian American musicians like Louie Prima and Sam Butera carried the New Orleans sound from the Big Easy to the rest of the country.

The definitive book on Jazz and the Italian American Experience is *Bebop, Swing, and Bella Musica* by Bill Dal Cerro and David Witter.

"Anyone who understands Jazz knows that you cannot understand it. It's too complicated. That's what's so simple about it." Yogi Berra: Italian American baseball player.

CONGRATULAZIONI! - JANNIK SINNER *The First Italian To Win Wimbledon*



In a monumental moment of Italian tennis - and a proud day for Italy, Italian tennis sensation Jannik Sinner defeated two-time Champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain at Wimbledon in July 2025. Sinner is the first Italian tennis player to reach number one in the world in the more than 100- year history of professional tennis. In August, Sinner also won the Australia Open, the only Italian tennis player to achieve that feat. Sinner was born in 2001, in San Candido, a small town in the province of Bolzano nestled in the Dolomites.

Italy's dynamic Women's duo, Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini, won the women's doubles title in the Grand Slam in Paris in June. It was Paolini's first Grand Slam title. It was Errani's 8th Grand Slam title. Both women previously stood atop the Parisian clay in 2024, winning Olympic Gold. And they were only the second all Italian

women's team to win at Paris since Errani and Roberta Vinci won in 2012.

Speaking of Roberta Vinci, she upset No. 1 ranked Serena Williams in the semi-finals at the US open in 2015 and then went on to lose to Italian tennis champion Flavia Pennetta at the Open in the first all-Italian women's final. Only 10 years ago. Pennetta was 33 and Vinci 32 when they won the US Open. They were childhood friends, and both grew up in Puglia.

SAN FRANCISCO ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL *The Court Of Queen Isabella*



PHOTO ABOVE: 'Queen Isabella' and her Court

San Francisco celebrates its Italian heritage in October each year but it's not just a Parade, it also includes the activities of Queen Isabella, and her court made up of young women and men of Italian heritage ages 14 to 25 who participate in Italian American activities during the year.

Some of the Bay area events you might find the Queen and her Court are the Festa Coloniale Italiana in Washington Square in June, the San Francisco Giants game in June, where you might also see the Society's bambini dancers perform, the Festa del Lume in October and the Light up the Tricolore in North Beach and the Grand Ball also in October.

The North Beach lighting ceremony kicks off the week's festivities with the raising of the Italian Flag and lighting up the Italian Athletic Club and St Peters and Paul Church.

It's an opportunity for young women to be ambassadors of their Italian heritage. Several young women from the Sacramento area have participated as princesses and this year we hope one will be crowned the Queen.

For more Information contact Gina Barnes at : gina.a.barnes@gmail.com

SEE ITALY TOURS

Hosted By The Society - Coming In 2026





PHOTO ABOVE: Travel group in Agrigento, Sicily at the Greek Temple of Concordia (April 2025)

By popular demand, the Italian Cultural Society will host our three most requested tours of Italy in 2026. These small group tours are limited to a maximum of 20 travelers and sell out quickly

Travelers rate the Italian Cultural Society's tours as the "Best way to experience Italy." All Society tours are planned and escorted by our Travel Director Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti.

Detailed brochures and applications are available at italiancenter.net or by emailing Patrizia at italy@italiancenter.net.

ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY TOURS IN 2026

Spring In Sorento & Sicily:

April 22 to May 2, 2026

Tuscan Treasures and Le Cinque Terre:

June 5 - 14, 2026

Italy The Beautiful Tour;
Italian Riviera, Northern Italy & Lakes District:
September 2-11, 2026

For details and information call 916-482-5900 or email italy@italiancenter.net

Buon Viaggio!

Click To Visit The 'SEE ITALY' Page On Our Website

PHOTO BELOW: *Tuscany group photo under the oldest Oak Tree in Europe (June 2025)*



GRAZIE TO OUR DONORS

Grazie

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SPECIAL THANK YOU TO Mark and Lisa Rossi

for their generous donation of \$5,000
In Honor Of their daughter Genoa Rossi

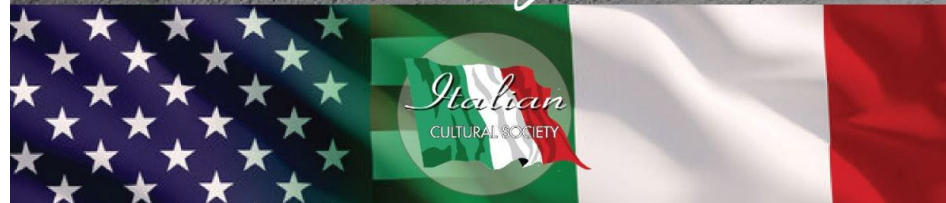
Genoa is a recent graduate of UCLA and has been invited to play on Italy's Women's Water Polo Olympic Team at the next summer Olympics.

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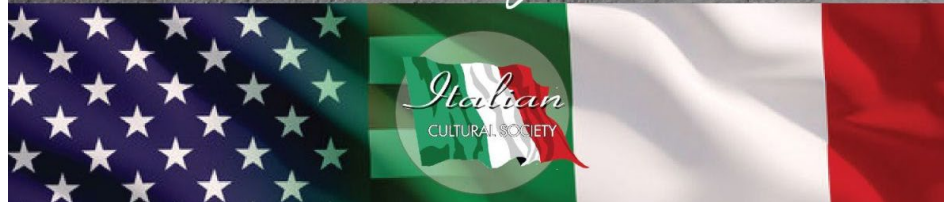


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YOUR SUPPORT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

PH: 916.482.5900

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The Italian Cultural Society is a regional community organization dedicated to supporting our cultural heritage through its educational and cultural initiatives.

***PLEASE SHARE THIS EMAIL WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS BY
CLICKING ON
THE SOCIAL MEDIA OR EMAIL LINK BELOW. Grazie!***

MAKE A DONATION in Honor or Memory of a Loved One



**Check out the Italian Cultural Society Website for the latest
information about the Italian Center and Society Events:**

- Italian Language Classes
- Society events and cultural programs
 - Italian folk dance troupes
- Sunday "Sacramento, Italian Style" radio show
 - Italian American exhibits at the Italian Center
 - All ICS Newsletters, past and current
- Articles on the history and heritage of Italian America
 - Advocacy Initiatives for the Italian Community

CLICK TO VIST www.italiancenter.net

ATTENZIONE:

**The Society newsletter, Altre Voce,
is sent to your mailbox every
JANUARY, MARCH and NOVEMBER.**

Other notices are sent randomly
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**If you are signed up to receive
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