

# IL SOGNO REALIZZATO

## *The Dream Realized*



*The new Italian Cultural Society in Carmichael, CA celebrated its Grand Opening Sunday May 20, 2007 to the delight of hundreds.*

Ten years ago, a journalist asked Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti what her goals were for herself and the Italian Cultural Society in Sacramento. Her answer was direct, and fueled by a tremendous passion. "What we still have to accomplish is to own our own ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER. We have never been a group of exclusion, rather we are inclusive. Membership is open to everyone of any nationality, gender and age. We would like a center large enough to house a permanent museum and to showcase traveling exhibits and the works of local artists. Our Library and Research Center would be there, and a portion would be used for our film series and lecture presentations. It could hold meetings as well as rehearsals for our dance and choral groups, and have several language classes going simultaneously. We envision having ample office space, and possibly banquet facilities. This has always been a long-range goal of the Italian Cultural Society and we are very actively seeking out a location. We want the Center to be just that... a central place where Italian Americans and those interested in our community can gather. I imagine it as a place that is alive and full of energy."

A decade later, the dream is realized. Sacramento's new Italian Cultural Society is

the fulfillment of Bill and Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti's lifelong vision. The Italian Center had its official Opening Ceremony Sunday May 20th, 2007 at its new building in Carmichael, California.

To understand the story of the Italian Center, you must first know the story of the people behind it, Bill and Patrizia Cerruti. Bill, a third generation Italian-American, and Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti, an immigrant herself, have

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*"If you have the courage of your convictions and keep your eye on your goals," said Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti, "they suddenly become within reach."*

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both been deeply involved in the effort to recognize and appreciate the rich culture of Italian-Americans. "Because of our ethnic heritage we are more than just American, or just Italian," reflects Bill. You don't have to be Italian, or Italian-American to enjoy the contributions that our culture and people have to offer. Bill found-

ed the Italian Cultural Society in 1981, and soon after met his "Etruscan Princess" Patrizia Cinquini. The two began working together on many projects promoting the Italian-American experience, each with a deep passion for their culture, as well as similar careers and interests. They came, however, from very different backgrounds. Patrizia says that Bill showed her the Italian-American side, which is different from her immigrant experience. Bill and Patrizia married in 1987 and have three children, Vincenzo 19, Gina 17, and Marco 14. The couple is well known throughout Northern California and beyond as one of the driving forces behind promoting Italian-Americans and creating a positive experience for all.

The Cerruti's "fourth child", The Italian Cultural Society, is also their oldest (and probably most expensive). The ICS turns 26 this year. The couple has nursed the Center from its infancy to adulthood. The vision that Patrizia described in that interview 10 years ago came true on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in May. "Although the building isn't fully completed, our members and guests can get a feel for what a versatile facility it will be," states Bill. The building's entryway, with its high ceilings and wide open main room, boasts a custom Tuscan



marble floor meticulously handcrafted with the familiar boot shape of our families' homeland. The atmosphere was fun and light, with hundreds of people of all ages participating in traditional dance, music, food and fun. Il Fornaio had their mobile catering service in top fashion, as Chef Ezio Gamba prepared golden squares of polenta, savory pastas, and traditional Italian desserts.

The Italian Center backs up to the tranquil surroundings of Carmichael Park, where tables were set up under the trees for guests to enjoy the shade. Italian music filled the air; sounds of Don Garibaldi's accordion, a strolling minstrel and traditional Italian dancers – adults and children alike – spun circles and dips around the grand ballroom. There were booths for information on language classes, travel to Italy and the many events, activities, groups and organizations that the Italian Cultural Society supports and promotes.

With over 1,000 members and a mailing list of approximately 10,500 for their newsletter, *Altre Voci* (Other Voices), the Italian Cultural Society is the hub of Italian-American culture in the Sacramento area. For more than 25 years it has been where people interested in the Italian culture come to learn, play and socialize. The new facility is more than just the vision the Cerruti's had years ago, it is now the future of our heritage here in Northern California. Through participation in its programs and activities, people can grow their cultural awareness and take part in the tremendous experience that is being Italian-American.

Patrizia summed it up with this statement, "If we can create a better atmosphere for Italian-Americans, our children will benefit. If we can give them the gift of their culture, then, that is lot. Children need to know their own history,



Mary Quilici and her brother Garrett are both "Bambini Dancers" for the Italian Cultural Society. All of the dancers' costumes were hand made by Lynne Giovannetti. Brava!

they need to have something that makes them feel special."

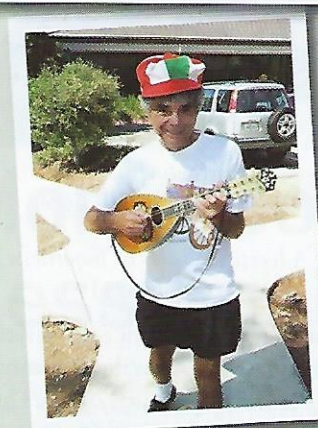
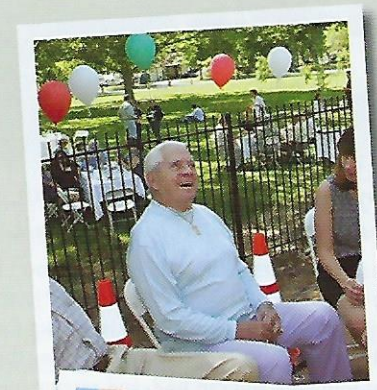
*In Buona Salute Magazine would like to thank Bill and Patrizia Cerruti for their amazing contributions to the community and our heritage. Also, for your tremendous support in the publication of this magazine. Mille Grazie!*

To find out more about The Italian Cultural Society in Sacramento, call 916-482-5900 or log on to [www.italiancenter.net](http://www.italiancenter.net).



The entryway welcomes all at The Italian Center, adorned with a masterpiece of Tuscan marble courtesy of Cortopassi Tile & Stone. The Center is scheduled for completion this summer.

## ICS Opening Sunday May 20, 2007



Top to bottom: 91 year old Victor Vesci, Joseph and Jenna Passadore ready for the Bambini Dancers to go on, the ICS Dancers, and Tony Damiani on mandolin.