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Italian Cultural Center & Museum
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Tanti Auguri di Buon Anno 2021!



Celebrating The Legend Of La Befana



CELEBRATING THE LEGEND OF LA BEFANA

Each Year the Italian Cultural Society holds an annual children's festival in January – ***La Festa della Befana*** for the children of the Italian community of Sacramento. This year, since we cannot hold the festival at our Center, we encourage parents to celebrate ***"The Legend of La Befana"*** with their children at home by putting out treats and gifts on the day of the Epiphany on January 6th.

One of Italy's oldest and most renowned legends ***"The Legend Of La Befana"*** is honored with special events throughout Italy on this holiday. In Sacramento and other Italian American communities, it has been a tradition to celebrate the day with a children's festival.



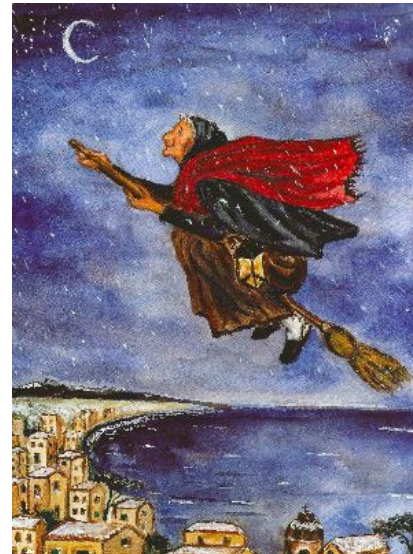
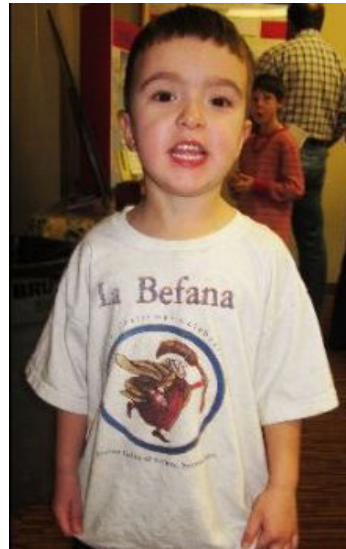
The Legend of La Befana originates from a tale about the Three Wise Men on the

way to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Christ child who stop at the house of an old woman for directions and ask her to join them. But she cannot because she is too busy. Later that night she decides to follow them but cannot find her way. She is believed to be searching for the baby as she brings presents and treats to the children of Italy.

On January 5th, the children of Italy go to bed hoping the kindly old woman they call “**La Befana**” will visit them with presents and treats for those who have been good. Or a lump of coal for these who have not. The children hang their stockings on the evening of January 5th and check them the next morning to see if La Befana has visited them.

Viva! Viva La Befana!

Each year the Italian Cultural Society hosts a large event featuring our own Bambini Dancers (shown below) and a visit from La Befana (shown above) on the first Sunday following the new year. BWatch our website for information on the 2022 La Befana Event.



“THE TRADITION OF BABBO NATALE”

Italians have a strong link to Christmas traditions, with a presepio in front of every church and government office, decorated Christmas trees and decorations in cities, towns and villages across Italy. The feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th and is a national holiday in Italy.

Babbo Natale (Father Christmas), Italy’s version of Santa Claus, is a popular gift giver on Christmas Day. Today’s **Babbo Natale** and Santa Claus have their roots in an Italian Saint. Saint Nicholas, known in Italy as San Nicola di Bari, is one of the

most popular saints in Western Europe and is known for his gift giving and protection of children.

La Befana, the old woman who delivers gifts on the Epiphany on January 6 is still the more popular Italian Christmas figure.



Let's Make Ravioli!



BUON APPETITO - LET'S MAKE RAVIOLI!

Cooking demonstration by Society Member Diana Quilici.

One of the many treasures of Italian America is its food. With roots in the many regions of Italy, Italian food is unlike any other and a unique culinary experience. As a result of the widespread Italian immigration to the United States it is possible to eat Italian food everywhere. Today, it is one of the most popular foods in America. Pasta is a staple of Italian American food. Today, Italian Cultural Society Board member Diana Quilici will give us a demonstration on making Ravioli, a popular pasta with Italians.

CLICK TO WATCH "Let's Make Ravioli" VIDEO

CLICK TO PRINT / VIEW Ravioli RECIPE

The Gift Of Heritage



Support The Italian Cultural Center and Museum of Northern California

The Italian Cultural Society is dedicated to celebrating the Italian American community and its heritage and contributions. Our most expensive project has been building and operating the Italian Cultural Center and Museum of northern California in Carmichael which houses our many cultural heritage and community programs. ***Become a friend of this vital Center of Italian life by making a tax-deductible donation to the Italian Cultural Society.***

Grazie for your continued support.

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Please remember us when you are writing or updating your will. You can help provide future financial support to the Italian Cultural Society and your Italian heritage by making a remembrance gift in your will or estate. Your gift will help us maintain the Italian Cultural Center as a showcase for our culture and home to our programs, events, language classes, community programs and historical exhibits. Including the Italian Cultural Society in your Estate Plan is a simple, meaningful way to have a lasting impact on your Italian Heritage beyond your lifetime

If you would like to make such a gift or let us know if you already have, please contact the Society at 916-482-5900 or email at Italy1@surewest.net. You can also visit our website at italiancenter.net for further directions on how to make a legacy gift or to download a Statement of Future Gift Form.

The Society is a non-profit organization and your gifts are tax-deductible. Your gift will help us continue to champion our Italian cultural heritage.

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