



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



Proud To Be Italian-American!

CARI AMICI,

On behalf of the Italian Cultural Society, I am proud to say that despite the challenges of 2020 we have kept the Society running and continued our record of accomplishments.

While some of our traditional events and programs were interrupted for now, we launched other activities to maintain our connections to our heritage and our Italian spirit and pride. We are committed and looking forward to the return of our strong cultural program this new year.



Italian Cultural Society: Highlights of 2020

Children's Festival

Among the highlights of 2020 was our very successful Children's festival "**La Festa della Befana**" in January for the children of the Sacramento Italian American community. We had hoped to repeat this annual tradition this January but it will have to wait.

PHOTO BELOW: 2020 Festa Della Befana Committee



Community Notices

To fill in for our quarterly newsletter the Society launched a program of monthly online community notices to keep our community connected. These included monthly online cooking demonstrations by Society members. Our members also created an Italian American face covering mask which was made available to our members and friends.

Columbus Statue Rally

Over the Summer, the Society rallied the Italian community to take a stand against the

removal of the Columbus Statue from the California State Capitol Rotunda which our community had helped preserve for years. Our Italian community had held annual ceremonies in the Rotunda on Columbus Day to celebrate our history and heritage. The summer of 2020 was a difficult one for the Italian American community when anti Columbus protestors destroyed or forced the removal of many of the statues throughout the nation that had been donated by the Italian communities as symbols of our pride and identity.



New Bocce Courts

In 2020, the two new Bocce courts behind the Italian Center were completed over the Fall and we look forward to their Grand Opening.

The Italian Center

Of course, The Society has continued to maintain our beautiful modern Italian Center, thanks to the efforts of our Center volunteers and donations to the Italian Center Fund. The Italian Center was built in 2007.

Little Italy District

The Society made progress during 2020 with our initiative to create a Little Italy Historic District in East Sacramento. We are hoping to be able to celebrate the opening of this project on Italian American Heritage Day in October.

Italian Classes

Because the Society was not able to continue physical in classroom classes for our Language School, our Language Director and teaching staff quickly converted the program to a successful online teaching program. Our students have enthusiastically continued to learn Italian and the online format welcomes students from outside the region.

Sadly, the Society had to move out of our language class room in the Sierra 2 Center over the Summer because of the restrictions that took hold in March and the continuing rent

obligation. The Society has held classes there since 1982.

"Sacramento Italian Style," The Italian Music Radio Show

The Italian Cultural Society continues to broadcast its weekly Italian Music radio show, **"SACRAMENTO ITALIAN STYLE" every Sunday at noon on KUBU Radio 96.5 or listen on the internet @ accesssacramento.org.** Tune in and Listen to the sounds of the Italian American musical legacy.

Grazie!!!

We owe our thanks for our continued success to all those who contributed their time and financial support including our dedicated program and teaching staff, our volunteers, our Board members, and our loyal members and friends whose donations made a difference.

Preserve Our Heritage: Support the Society

If you would like to support the Society and its continuing mission to preserve our Italian Heritage, consider a membership or donation. We hope you continue to be a part of our Italian family. You can help us rebuild for our future.

Bill Cerruti, Director



[Click Here To Become A Member](#)

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Diana's back in the kitchen, this time demonstrating how to make *Italian Minestrone Soup*, a rich vegetarian entree your family will love!



WWII Italian-American Heroes: Italian "*Rosie The Riveters*"



Italian American Women On The Home Front In World War II

During World War II, America's women answered our nations call to action. Millions of American women went to work in the factories, shipyards, aircraft and other war industries in support of the war effort as millions of men shipped overseas for combat.

Recently, the federal government enacted the "*Rosie The Riveter Gold Medal Act*" to recognize the millions of women who served by awarding them a Collective Congressional Medal of Honor and declaring March 31 "National Rosie the Riveter Day."

From the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 to the surrender of Japan in June 1945, more than 12 million men and women served in the nation's military. Among them were more than a million Italian-Americans who constituted some 10% of the American fighting force.

Italian-American women also played a large role in the war effort. Among them was Rosina Bonavita, the original Rosie the Riveter, who felt called to duty while her three brothers and fiancé served in combat. During the war, 21 year old Rose Bonavita worked on an aircraft assembly line at the GM plant in Tarrytown, New York along with fellow Italian-American worker and cousin, 28 year old Jennie Florio.

Together, they set a record in putting 3,300 rivets in an airplane tail section in six

hours in 1943. The two were recognized by President Franklin Roosevelt in honor of their outstanding work. Rosie went on to set a speed record in assembling a wing in four hours with another Italian-American woman, Susan Esposito.

The iconic image of Rosie the Riveter is embodied in a famous poster with the “WE CAN DO IT” Slogan about winning the war. Rosie died in 1996.

Italian American welder, Rosalie Taggi, left her North Beach home in San Francisco every morning between 1943 and 1945 and walked to the Ferry Building where she caught the boat across San Francisco Bay for the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, California. She was often recognized for her outstanding welding skills at the plant. She donated her welding leathers and helmet to The Richmond, California Museum of History.

Twenty year old Italian-American Peggy Citarella {aka Winnie The Welder} also had a knack for welding and spent two years as a first class welder at the Charleston Navy Yard working on submarines. At the time, the navy yard employed 50,000 workers and Peggy was one of the first women to work there. Now 99 years old she resides in Burlington, Vermont.

These are but some of the many Italian-American women who helped win the war. Their stories should be remembered and told. The Rosie The Riveter World War II Home Front National Historic Park is located in Richmond, California at the site of the Kaiser Shipyards and contains a museum and educational center.





ROSIE THE RIVETER PHOTO CAPTIONS:

HEADING PHOTO:

World War II Rosie The Riveter Poster

ABOVE PHOTOS:

(ABOVE CENTER): Rosalie Taggi {Rosalie The Welder} San Francisco, 1945

(ABOVE LEFT): Peggy Merigo Citarella {Winnie The Welder} during World War II

(ABOVE BOTTOM): Rosina {Rosie The Riveter} Bonavita , on right, with riveting partner Susan Esposito in 1944

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

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

There are several tax-deductible ways you can help:

- * 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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