ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
of the Monterey Peninsula

Founded in 1975, the mission of the Italian Heritage Society is to honor and preserve the stories, traditions, and culture of the Italian families who immigrated to the Monterey Peninsula and Central Coast of California more than 100 years ago.

The Italian Heritage Society’s self-published book, *Italian Fishing Families of Monterey,*captures and records years of local Italian-American culture and life. We created a website showcasing our book, historic photos, and issues of the Monterey Herald's Sardine Edition during the time Monterey was named the "Sardine Capital of the World." In 2022, due to the efforts of AnnaMarie Della Sala-Stanton, Mike Ventimiglia and Rosemary Metzger, we published a follow-up book, *Italian Americans - We Don’t Just Fish!*  Both books are available for purchase on our website: ItalianHeritageMonterey.org

In 2002, the Italian Heritage Society began recognizing notable individuals connected to the local Italian community at an annual Honoree Dinner. The honorees are those whose contributions and achievements have enhanced and improved the lives of all Monterey County residents. They have made the community an even better place to live, earning them a place in local history. Proceeds from these annual dinners benefit our Building, Heritage & Scholarship Fund.

Ties with the “old country” remain strong.  In a team effort spearheaded by the Italian Heritage Society’s Gasper Cardinale, with the help of Peter Coniglio, Peter Davi, and the City of Monterey, the restored CORRETTO SICILIANO (Sicilian Cart) was put on permanent display at the Monterey Conference Center. In 2017, Gasper, Peter Coniglio, Peter Davi, and Sal Ferrante were instrumental in establishing a sister city relationship between the cities of Monterey and Isola delle Femmine, Sicily, Italy, which is where a majority of fishing families emigrated.

The Italian Heritage Society awards student scholarships yearly. Future plans are to establish an exhibit and cultural center focused on the contributions of our Italian-American ancestors.

**Become a member, support student scholarships, and help us celebrate our heritage and endeavors!**

The Italian Heritage Society is a non-profit 501(c)3, Tax ID #51-0159447.