



*Mercantile Owners Enrico and Julia Ginocchio
Jackson, California*

Lecture - Italians of the Gold Country

Sunday, March 16 at 1:00 pm

Admission \$10 - At the Italian Center
6821 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA 95608

Author and historian, Carolyn Fregulia, owns and operates the Fregulia Ranch in Jackson, California in an area dotted with Italian ranches dating from the Gold Rush. Her recent book, *Italians of the Gold Country*, is filled with over 200 vintage photographs of the early Italian families who settled the area. Italians began settling in the Mother Lode counties of the California foothills during the Gold Rush. By 1870, 25 percent of the Italian population of California lived in the three foothill counties of Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne in the southern Mother Lode. These pioneers played a vital role in developing the region and established themselves as one of the major cultural groups who live there. Most of these immigrants came from small villages in the Liguria region around Genoa, and particularly from the province around Chiavari. To this day, much of the Mother Lode is still populated by Italian families with roots dating back from the Gold Rush or the

turn of the 20th century. The author will sign books which can be purchased at the event or by e-mail at fregulia@hotmail.com. Refreshments are included in the admission price. **The noted Italian Center exhibit, “LA NOSTRA STORIA: the Italian Legacy in the Mother Lode” will be on display at the lecture.**

“City Of Baseball”

Sunday, March 30 at 1:00 pm

Admission \$10 – at the Italian Center (Carmichael)

City of Baseball is an Italian documentary by film Director Christopher Ralph that explores the past and the present of the Italian baseball league in the small town of Nettuno, South of Rome. It is said that every Nettuno boy is born with a mitt in his hand. City of baseball follows one Italian town’s surprising obsession with this all American pastime. It is the story of “Il Grande Amore” – a passion that gives identity and purpose to this small seaside city. City of Baseball is the story of a community rather than of a sport. It is a funny, lyrical, and poignant place where road signs proudly read – **BENVENUTI A NETTUNO – Città del Baseball.** Introduced to the people of Nettuno by an American soldier at the end of World War II, the local people formed the first Italian baseball team and spread the game throughout Italy. **Even Joe DiMaggio is featured hitting home runs into the Mediterranean Sea.** Producer and Director Christopher Ralph will have copies of the video available for sale or they can be purchased later this year on his website: cityofbaseballthemovie.com. Join us for this wonderful film and presentation. Refreshments included.



Tosca: Love, Art & Retractable Blades

Sunday, April 20 at 2:00 pm

Admission \$10 – at the Italian Center (Carmichael)

Puccini’s *Tosca* is the heart-rending story of ardent love, political suspense, and selfless sacrifice set against the backdrop of war and occupation of Rome in 1800. Join lecturer and writer David Elliott for a leap into Giacomo Puccini’s popular and (still) controversial opera *Tosca*. This presentation features exceptional audio recordings, video selections and slides to take us into 19th century Rome and 20th century Torre del Lago and the colorful worlds in which *Tosca* lived, and *Tosca* was created. Whether you’re new to *Tosca*, planning to meet her at the upcoming Sacramento Opera production or have known her for years; *Tosca, Life, Art & Retractable Blades* will deepen your appreciation of Puccini’s gripping masterpiece. **Discount coupons to the Sacramento Opera** will be given to those who attend. Refreshments included.