

# Cultural News

Volume 14, Issue 10  
October 2016

## National Italian-American Heritage Month

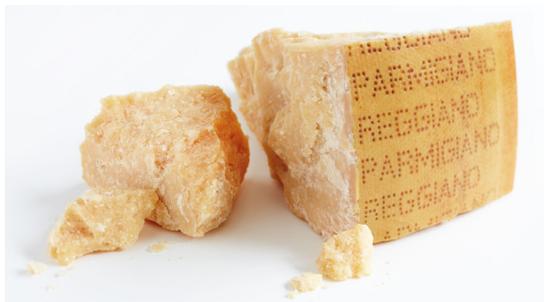
Every year the U.S. president signs an executive order designating the month of October as National Italian American Heritage Month. Coinciding with the festivities surrounding Columbus Day, the proclamation is recognition of the many achievements, contributions, and successes of Americans of Italian descent as well as Italians in America.

Italian-American culture has etched an influential mark on the world through its rich traditions, music, language, and culinary creations. This October, for National Italian-American Heritage Month, the nation will celebrate the strong legacy of Italy as maintained in the lives of Italian-American people.

Italian Americans have come a long way since crossing the Atlantic and passing through Ellis Island. They have grown from a population of 5.4 million in the early 1800's to more than 18 million in the United States today, making them one of the largest ethnic groups in the nation. Their unwavering bond and strong foundation have kept not only the community, but the vibrancy of Italian culture alive.

Italian heritage is expressed in many ways. It's in the beautiful language that travelled with Italians to America. It's in the music played at celebrations and opera sung on stage. It is in the fine art that is admired in galleries. It's also in the Italian meals we cook, filled with vibrant flavors and spices that recall the tastes of the Old World. Recipes with classic Italian ingredients such as Prosciutto di Parma® and Parmigiano Reggiano® cheese are popular in fine restaurants and households alike across the country.

National Italian-American Heritage Month is a time when Italian Americans show their pride and the entire country celebrates their culture. It is a tribute in honor of those who have shaped the beauty of art, music, food, and literature, and shared these gifts with the nation.



<http://www.parmesan.com/everyday-parmesan/get-ready-to-celebrate-october-is-national-italian-american-heritage-month/>



## OCTOBER 2016 CALENDAR

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

- 1-10- Navaratri (Hindu)
- 2- Muharram - New Year (Islam)
- 3-4- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 6- National German-American Day (US)
- 9-15- Emergency Nurses Week (US)
- 10- Native American Day (US)
- 11- Dasara (Hindu)
- 12- Spanish Language Day (International)
- 15- Blind Americans Equality Day (US)
- 16-22- Pastoral Care Week (US)
- 17-23- Sukko (Jewish)
- 20- Birth of the Báb (Baha'i)
- 24- United Nations Day (International)
- 26- Intersex Awareness Day (International)
- 30- Diwali - Deepavali (Hindu - Sikh - Jain)
- 31- Halloween (International)

## Essential Guidelines for Working Effectively with Interpreters



### Before the meeting

- Make sure that you are working with a qualified interpreter and not a family member nor friend.
- Brief the interpreter on what to expect in the meeting, where necessary.
- Plan enough time – it may take longer than an English-only appointment.

### During the meeting

- Expect the interpreter to enter and leave the room when you do, rather than staying alone with the patient or client.
- Remember that the interpreter is required to interpret everything said in the room – curse words, side conversations, and ‘irrelevant’ or repetitive comments included.
- Face the patient/client and speak to them directly, as if you both spoke the same language.
- Don't speak too fast. Pause after each complete thought and/or when the interpreter signals to you to allow for the interpretation.

- Ask only one question at a time. Don't 'chain' questions.
- Confirm understanding by asking the patient/client to repeat key information back to you.
- Be aware of the education level and/or health literacy of your client/patient in order to phrase your message at an appropriate level. Avoid using acronyms and idioms.
- You are communicating THROUGH the interpreter but TO the client/patient. Dealing with cultural differences and the personality of the client/patient is primarily your job, not the interpreter's. Some examples of things to keep in mind regarding cultural and linguistic differences
  - There may be less eye contact with the client than you customarily expect.
  - A smile or nod on the part of the patient may not indicate total agreement.

### After the meeting

- Debrief with the interpreter, if necessary, about the communication process.

<http://umtia.org/resources/how-to-work-with-an-interpreter/>

## 2016 International Interpreter Day

On September 30th Medical Interpreting Services department held its annual celebration of the International Interpreter Day.

Interpreters and translators are honored every year on this day - the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered to be the patron saint of translators. The celebrations have been promoted by IFT (the International Federation of Translators) ever since the professional holiday was set up in 1953. In 1991 IFT launched the idea of an officially recognized International Translation Day to show solidarity of the worldwide translation community in an effort to promote the profession in different countries.

This day is an opportunity to display pride in a profession that is becoming increasingly essential in the era of progressing globalization. Medical Interpreting Services promotes the health system's goal to provide person- and family-centered care. We also support the health system's goal of the strategic use of technology. Notably, UC Davis Medical Center is the first medical facility in the Sacramento region to use video technology to provide language services to our patients and their families. It speaks volumes to the visionary leadership of the medical center that today MIS department is the regional and state leader in meeting patients' language access needs.

