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# Volunteers Needed

An active organization flourishes from the involvement of its members. Contributing volunteers are always welcome. Please indicate if you are interested in helping with any of the following:

- \_\_\_ Submit information for the newsletter
- \_\_\_ Plan a program/activity
- \_\_\_ Assist at an event
- \_\_\_ Design fliers
- \_\_\_ Publicity
- \_\_\_ Other



## The Italians in Rhode Island

Giovanni da Verrazano, a Florentine, explored Narragansett Bay in 1524.

Overwhelmed by its beauty and tranquillity, he aptly called it “un rifugio”, a place of refuge.

By 1900, about 9,000 Italian immigrants had settled in Rhode Island. Within thirty years the number grew to over 100,000.

Federal Hill was the principal area of Italian settlement. Immigrants eventually moved out to the suburbs of North Providence, Johnston, and Cranston.

The Italians were employed in textile mills, machine shops, and in the jewelry and construction industries. Italians took the initiative to start their own businesses as vendors, tailors, seamstresses, barbers and cobblers.

Today nearly 200,000 Rhode Island residents are of Italian heritage, the largest ethnic group in the State. Italian Americans are represented throughout the State in every walk of life: education, law, medicine, business, government, and sports.

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## Italian American Historical Society of Rhode Island



~Established 1979~

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## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Society is to foster the appreciation and preservation of the culture of Italy in America and to celebrate the contributions of her sons and daughters, the Italian Americans, to the history and development of the State of Rhode Island.

*We are the bridge that spans the ocean and connects the past to the present. There is a small spark that lives in our hearts and easily ignites with memories of what once used to be.*

*As our generation passes, so will those memories. Those wonderful and often bittersweet stories need to be preserved and passed down to our children and grandchildren so that they, too, can take pride in their rich heritage and not identify with only the negative stereotypes which are still portrayed on television and in the movies.*

*They need to know that the seeds of courage, pride, strength and honor are in each of them as they were carried in the hearts of men and women who sailed in steerage in aging ships.*

*It's an inheritance – a gift to be treasured.*

## Membership Benefits:

[www.iahsofri.org](http://www.iahsofri.org)

### Sample Programs and Activities

- **Lectures/Films on Italian American social, economic, and historical issues**
  - Italian American Authors and Artists
  - Regions of Italy
  - Prisoners in Paradise-The story of Italian POWs in the U.S.
- **Variety of cultural events**
  - Musical Programs
  - Organized tours to Italian Art exhibits, Museums, Landmarks, and “Little Italy” neighborhoods
- **Celebrations and holiday traditions**
  - St. Joseph’s Day      - Festa di Natale
  - Carnevale              - The Legend of La Befana
  - Festa della Donna
- **Four (4) annual student scholarships**
- **Newsletters**
- **Special pricing on IAHS sponsored events**
- **Members only events**

## Membership Form

Membership shall be open to any individual who has an interest in fostering the culture and history of Italian Americans.

\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of the Italian American Historical Society of RI. Enclosed is my membership fee for the annual time period of April 1 - March 31.

\_\_\_ \$35 Individual

\_\_\_ \$50 Family

### •Required Information (Please Print)

Name:

• \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

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• \_\_\_\_\_

City:

• \_\_\_\_\_

State:

Zip:

• \_\_\_\_\_ • \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

• \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (Please Supply)

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**Please make check payable to:**

IAHS

**Mail to:**

IAHS

P.O. Box 40160

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