

## Italian Americans in California



Berkeley campus. The number of Berkeley's Nobel Laureates gathered for this 1960 photograph. They are from left to right with date of Nobel award: Owen Chamberlain (1959), Edwin M. McMillan (1951), William F. Giaque (1949), John H. Northrup (1946), Wendell M. Stanley (1946), Emilio G. Segre (1959), and Glenn T. UARC PIC 1900.16

### The Assimilation Years: 1930 - Present

**1930s** Frank Capra is at the height of his fame as a film director.

**1931-44** Angelo Rossi serves as mayor of San Francisco.

**1934** The San Francisco General Strike is put down by among others, Mayor Rossi.

**1935** Harry Bridges alleges that a longshoreman's strike occurs because longshoremen refuse to load scrap metal bound for Mussolini's Abyssinia campaign.

**1940** California has an Italian population of 100,911, the largest of any western State. By this time, Italians make up the largest foreign-born ethnic group in the United States.

**1942** Executive Order 9066 is used to intern small numbers of Italian nationals and some naturalized citizens on the Pacific Coast in February. Curfews and travel-restrictions are later removed on Columbus Day of the same year for Italian immigrants. Meanwhile, the California Legislature Un-American Activities committee calls on prominent Italian-Americans (including San Francisco mayor Rossi) to testify on fascist activities in California.

**1946** Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini is the first naturalized American citizen to be canonized.

**1947** The Federated Italo Americans of Southern California is organized with over 70 clubs.

**1950s** Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gregory Corso are two prominent poets of the 1950's Beat Generation.

**1959** Emilio Segre shares the Noble Prize in physics for his work on the antiproton.

**1963** Friar Luigi Donanzan launches the radio show "*Ora Cattolica Italiana*."

**1964** Mario Savio is one of the leaders of the Free Speech Movement at UC Berkeley.

**1967** Joseph Alioto is elected mayor of San Francisco.

**1971** Bob Moretti becomes the first Italian American to hold the position of speaker of the assembly.

**1975** George Moscone is elected mayor of San Francisco, and is later assassinated that year. In addition, Renato Dulbecco receives a share of the Nobel Prize for his research on the interaction between tumors and genetic material.

**1978** Il Museo Italo-Americano is founded as the only museum in the United States devoted exclusively to Italian and Italian-American art and culture.

**1985** Edward A. Panelli is elected to the California State Supreme Court.

**1990** There are 1.5 million Italian Americans living in California, making up 5 percent of the population and tying with New Jersey for the second largest in the nation.

**1998** Louis J. Ignaro is a corecipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology for Medicine for his work with nitric oxide.