



# NAVIGATOR

FEBRUARY, 2024

## THE HOUSE OF ITALY (HOI) MISSION:

Our mission is to offer to its members and the public through its cultural and social programs, an understanding and appreciation of the history and culture of Italy. Our vision is that our HOI members celebrate their Italian heritage and culture with the people of San Diego.



Entrance of House of Italy San Diego



House of Italy Bar

Carissimi Soci,

Wow, what a February we are having with the rain, which we certainly need here in dry San Diego. The good news is we will have a Spring full of flowers.

Our January meeting with Jim McSweeney was quite interesting. I did not know so much information was available at our fingertips using the computer.

We are moving forward with February's member meeting with *Iris Moné*, who is coming to share with us her wonderful voice and songs, some of which she has written herself and others that are already famous to us.

Be sure to **sign up by Feb 15** so we can ensure sufficient food and drink for everyone.

For future events you can check out the events page in the Navigator.

We have lost two long time members of the House of Italy, former president, *Leonardo Ingrande*, who passed away on January 30 and *Pia Renwick*, wife of Andy Renwick, who passed away on February 6, 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family members.

Don't forget to sign up to host the house on either Saturday or Sunday. We still need volunteers for Sunday March 17 and if you are available we would love to hear from you. **Send an email to [jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net)**. We are working on filling the months of April and May as well.

Don't be a stranger!

For those of you who do not have a food handler's certificate it is easy to attain one and will enable you to serve our food and drink items to Balboa Park visitors. The websites to take the course and obtain a food handler's certificate are:

[www.cafoodhandlers.com](http://www.cafoodhandlers.com), course takes 75 minutes, cost is \$7.95.

[www.premierfoodsafety.com](http://www.premierfoodsafety.com), course takes 90 minutes, cost is \$9.95

The House of Italy is your organization and your input is valuable. Do not hesitate to contact us by email with any ideas or suggestions. Let's make this another memorable year! I wish all of you a year of health, happiness and peace.

See you Sunday February 18th!

Carol



Matera (Basilicata)

## 2024 HOUSE OF ITALY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Carol Gratzke

President emeritus: Richard Tomasello (delegate)

1st Vice President: Rich LaRocca (delegate)

2nd Vice President: Mike Montgomery (delegate)

Secretary: Mike Ricciardi

Treasurer: Barbara LaRocca

VP Communications: Don Santamaria (delegate)

VP Hospitality (Member meetings): Angela Campanella

VP Weekly Hosting Activities: Carol Gratzke (temp)

VP Membership: Diane Kenney

VP Webmaster: Claudia Verano DaMetz

VP – Legal Matters (By-Laws): Ken Rose (delegate)

VP – Calendar: Mike Ricciardi

## FEBRUARY EVENT



Join the House of Italy on Sunday, February 18, for a live performance by *Iris Moné*, award-winning artist, performing Italian repertoire.

Please make sure to **RSVP to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.com](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.com) no later than February 15.**

The cost to attend the event and the dinner after is of **\$15 for members** and **\$20 for non members**. To pay through PayPal click [HERE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 17, 2024 **Franca Baccelli** presentation "The Myth of Venice from Goldoni to Verdi"
- April 21, 2024 tentative presentation by personnel of the **San Diego Opera**
- May 19, 2024 **Antonio Iannotta** Italian Films and the ristretto awards
- June 16 Father's Day Possible Karaoke night



## SAN DIEGO OPERA

HOI is planning a day at the opera on **Sunday April 28, 2024 at 2pm** to see Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. We have been offered a 20% discount on all tickets.

If you are interested **follow the link below** to purchase tickets. The HOI discount should come at the end, at the time of purchase.

**If you do purchase tickets and want to join us for dinner afterwards, email Barbara LaRocca at [blarocca@gmail.com](mailto:blarocca@gmail.com)**

For ease, the link that takes you directly to the offer to purchase tickets is: <https://tickets.sdopera.org/events?promo=HOI20>

## PAST EVENTS



John and Janet Burgess hosting the House of Italy on 01/13/24



Greg and Nancy Laskaris hosting the House of Italy on 01/20/24



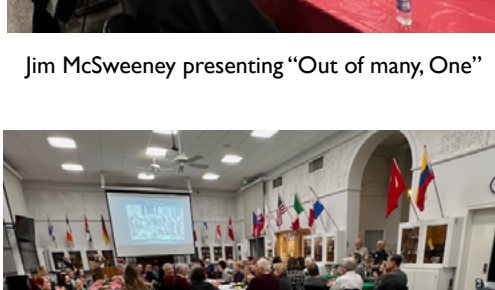
Jim McSweeney presenting "Out of many, One"



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We want **YOU** on the Navigator. We like to see you, our members, involved in the HOI activities! Whether you are hosting the HOI, snapping selfies at the HOI monthly events, email your pictures to [svenner1239@gmail.com](mailto:svenner1239@gmail.com) and you'll be featured on the next newsletter.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNER

**SDG&E** recognizes the House of Italy as a collaborating partner and as such information is sent monthly to you, our members, to ensure you are updated on the latest **SDG&E** products, services and resources. Additional information is also available at their website <http://www.sdge.com/residential>



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