



NAVIGATOR

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Ciao membri,

At the February meeting, Maria Romano de Leon's presentation was quite interesting. Starting from Maranello to Motor City, Maria examined the reciprocal influence and inspiration between the Italian and American automotive industries.

She illustrated her presentation by exploring iconic models like Ferrari's 250 GT California, the Ford-powered De Tomaso Pantera, and Lamborghini's Countach and also addressed the exchange of engineering and design philosophies. She pointed out how American production techniques revolutionized Italian manufacturing approaches while Italian design aesthetics transformed American automotive styling and inspired memorable collaborations. The images of these earlier car models were demonstrative of these collaborations.

Moving forward to the month of March we have a fun cultural event with Dora Bonaventura whom all of you know as she sings with James during our meetings. Her presentation will be about Italian music. Check out the flyer in this month's Navigator.

Don't forget to send an RSVP by Thursday March 12 to the following email address, houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org, to reserve your place.

One more important detail, don't forget to sign up for hosting! We will have signup sheets available for the months of April through June 2026. And as a reminder, all members are obligated to host at least one weekend day per year.

We have a link to obtain your food handler's certificate at a minimal cost. We appreciate you letting us know your availability in an email to jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net.

See you on March 15,

Carol



Otranto (Puglia) Ph. Siddhartha Kundalkar

2024 HOUSE OF ITALY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Carol Gratzke

1st Vice President: Rich LaRocca (delegate)

2nd Vice President: Mike Montgomery (delegate)

Secretary: Ken Rose

Treasurer: Barbara LaRocca

VP Hospitality (Member meetings): Angela Campanella

VP Membership: Diane Kenney

VP Webmaster: Sara Venneri

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

VP Communications: Don Santamaria (delegate)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 15, 2026 La Musica Italiana with Dora Bonaventura
- April 19 2026 with Graham Kent with TBA.
- May 17 2026 with Thomas Malone with Ancient Rome and the United States.
- June 21, 2026 La cucina Italiana with Mark Pelliccia

NEXT EVENT



March 15th 5:00PM
\$20 members \$25 for guests

LA MUSICA ITALIANA

Join Us for a fun Italian Evening.
A journey through Italian Music, Festivals,
and learn to sing an Italian Song.

with
DORA BONAVENTURA

- Italian Singer
- Italian Instructor M.A.
- Author of "Comunichiamo!" Italian GuideBook



RSVP at houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org by March 12th.
For online payment click [HERE](#)

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS



Stephanie and Joe Lower

PAST EVENTS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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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<https://houseofitalysandiego.org/>



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