

# NAVIGATOR

JUNE, 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,

At the May member meeting, the revised bylaws were presented for vote and were approved by more than 2/3's vote of members present. The board voted to implement them at their monthly meeting on June 6. Antonio Iannotta presented a lecture on "The Best Cinema in the World", discussing contemporary Italian Cinema from World War II to the present time. It was very interesting and educational. If you would like a list of the films he mentioned, send an email to the House of Italy email address and you will be forwarded the list.

We are pleased to present a fabulous documentary on a little known episode in Italian history at the June 16, 2024 meeting. Shortly after WWII communist women organized a program to bring trainloads of poor, starving children from Naples and the war-ravaged south to live for a year with host families in Northern Italy where they could get food and health care and go to school. Includes footage of the families and the trains, photos of the children and interviews with them as adults and families they lived with, who share their memories of what the exchange was like for both. It is not to be missed! Megan Rigby will present a update on SDGE summer programs as well.

Be sure to send in your **RSVP** to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org) on or before Thursday **June 13** to reserve your place and to help our chef Mark in food preparation.

We are excited to announce at the June member meeting the recipients of the House of Italy Scholarship of \$1,000. We hope you will be there to applaud these young individuals.

The House of Italy Queen, Sofia Udrys, is graduating high school this month and will begin her college education at the University of Rome, Italy this Fall. We thank her for her service as Princess and Queen of the House of Italy and wish her well in all her endeavors.

Don't forget to sign up to host the house on either Saturday or Sunday. We are working on filling the hosting calendar with volunteers for July and August. If you are available we would love to hear from you. Send an email to [jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net). Don't be a stranger!

For those of you who do not have a food handler's certificate you can easily attain one to help serve 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.

See you Sunday June 16th!



Otranto (Puglia)

---

## 2024 HOUSE OF ITALY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President:* Carol Gratzke

*VP Hospitality (Member meetings):* Angela Campanella

*President emeritus:* Richard Tomasello (delegate)

*VP Weekly Hosting Activities:* Carol Gratzke (temp)

*1st Vice President:* Rich LaRocca (delegate)

*VP Membership:* Diane Kenney

*2nd Vice President:* Mike Montgomery (delegate)

*VP Webmaster:* Claudia Verano DaMetz

*Secretary:* Mike Ricciardi

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

*Treasurer:* Barbara LaRocca

*VP – Calendar:* Mike Ricciardi

*VP Communications:* Don Santamaria (delegate)

*Chair of Communication:* Sara Venneri

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

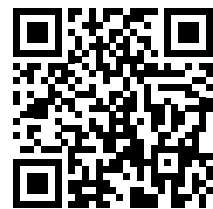
- This year the House of Italy will be hosting the **Lawn Program** on August 11<sup>th</sup>. We have something exciting in store, so stay tuned!
- Cinema Little Italy is screening an Italian movie with English subtitles. More information in the flyer.



Cinema Little Italy is a non-profit organization committed to sharing an understanding and appreciation of Italian culture, past and present, through its world famous Cinema.

Cafe: 6:30 PM  
Film Begins: 7:00 PM  
Tickets: \$12/each  
Contribution at Door

<http://cinemalittleitaly.com>



Scan to CLI website for details

### The Magic of Italian Cinema

is yours all year. Cinema Little Italy will present once a month, great Italian films with English subtitles.

### Summer Little Italy Film Festival 2024

FIREHOUSE MUSEUM THEATER in Little Italy, San Diego.

CINEMA LITTLE ITALY is returning this summer with the same great movies, indoors at the FIREHOUSE MUSEUM THEATER. Of course, there will be the usual mix of comedy, romance, adventure, drama, fantasy, action, crime, music, mystery, history, Italian thrillers.

*As only the Italians can present!*

Films will be shown on the first Saturday of the month and on summer holiday Saturdays.

#### Program

May 4 Friends by Chance  
May 25 The Traitor/Il Traditore  
June 1 Caesar Must Die  
July 6 Ennio  
Aug 3 L'Immensita  
Aug 31 Zamora

## JUNE EVENT

**June 16th:** We will screen a documentary on a little known episode in Italian history. Shortly after WWII communist women organized a program to bring trainloads of poor, starving children from Naples and the war-ravaged south to live for a year with host families in Northern Italy where they could get food and health care and go to school. Includes footage of the families and the trains, photos of the children and interviews

with them as adults and families they lived with, who share their memories of what the exchange was like for both. We also will be having a presentation by Meagan Rigby about the summer updates of SDG&E.



**SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2024 5:00PM**  
 RSVP'S UNTIL THURSDAY, JUNE 13  
[houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org)

**PASTA NERA**  
 un film documentario di Alessandro Piva

- 55min (2011) Award Wining Italian Documentary with subtitles.
- SDG&E Presentation with Megan Rigby

To Reserve and Pay for Dinner

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=4EVTMZCYCRWQ6N](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4EVTMZCYCRWQ6N)

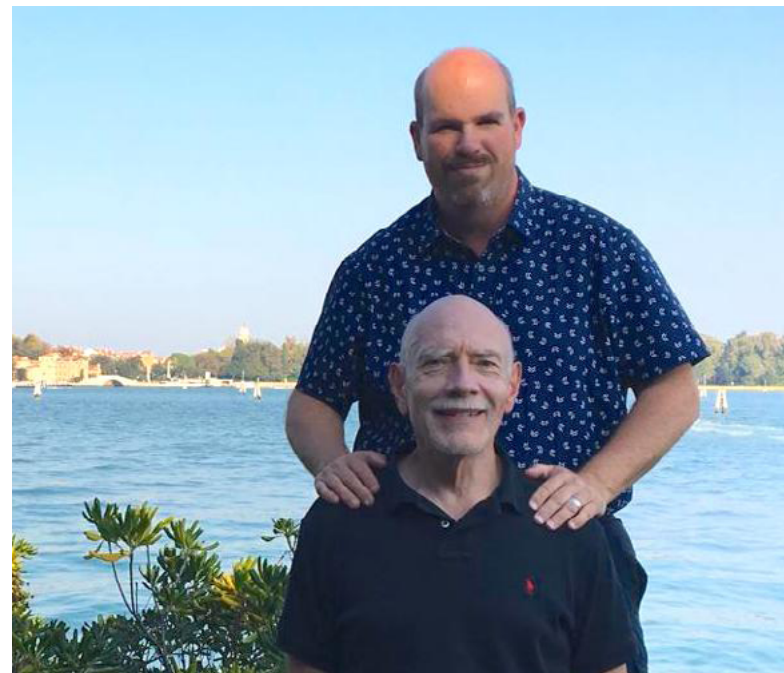
If you'd like to pay in advance to reserve your spot, you can [CLICK HERE](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4EVTMZCYCRWQ6N) for the Paypal account.

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



**Bill Speer & Marsi Steirer:** My biological father, Arthur John Corselli, was born in 1931 to Antonin Corselli, who himself emigrated with his parents to southern California from Palermo in 1901. He managed a citrus packing operation in Corona (Riverside County) for the Jameson Company upon his arrival. As you likely know, citrus is a big industry in Sicily even today. While my spouse, **Marsi Steirer**, & I have visited Italy several times, we

finally made it to Sicily & Palermo in Fall 2022. Our visit rekindled my interest in pursuing dual U.S.-Italian citizenship for myself, my siblings and my sons. We figured the HOI would be our best local shot at finding resources and advisors to do so. We also look forward to the camaraderie of the activities sponsored by the HOI. (Marsi is also an active member of the House of Hungary, and her father was President of the House of Pacific Relations in the mid-1950's.)



**Joe Ravicini and Alexander Agopovich** are recent transplants from the San Francisco Bay Area. Joe is 2nd generation Italian. His family hails from the Abruzzo and Campania region. They travel twice-yearly to Italy and usually spend two weeks at a time in Venice. Both are looking to strengthen their connection with Italy through the House of Italy programs. Joe speaks Italian and is looking for opportunities to practice his Italian speaking skills! Alexander shares Joe's love for Italy even though he is 1/2 Dutch and 1/2

Armenian and after 25 years together still hasn't mastered the Italian language!!!

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



**Amy Zhang** graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from California State University San Marcos. Amy was involved with the Anthropology Club and attended two study abroad trips to Spain (Barcelona and Madrid) for Positive Psychology and Ischia, Italy for Kinesiology. After waitressing for 3 years, Amy made a career change to become a residential counselor at Casa de Amparo. At Casa de Amparo, Amy will collaborate with clinical staff and provide crisis interventions to assist with the safety and well-being of its residents. **Amy was a recipient of the House of Italy Scholarship in 2023**



**David Spinazzola.** I am a second generation Italian-American. My maternal side of the family hails from the Castel Frentano in the Abruzzo region while my paternal side comes from Ripacandida in the province of Potenza (southern Italy). Both sides of the family immigrated to the America and settled in Western Pa. This included great grandparents, grandparents and of course my parents. I've had the pleasure of going to Italy a couple of times and visiting my family in Castel Frentano and seeing first hand the places that my grandparents spoke of and meeting some of my family that were still there.

I came out to San Diego about 10 years ago to expand my business from the east coast. I've been delighted to find so much Italian culture in the city. Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church which has a mass in Italian, the Italian Cultural Center, the Amici house, Little Italy, and of course the House of Italy all provide for an enriching Italian cultural experience. I only recently discovered the House of Italy and love the type of activities that are promoted not to mention the spumoni that is sometimes available when you visit. The Sunday dinners served family style seem like a wonderful activity that I am excited to experience. I look forward to meeting more members and perhaps being able to get inspired to learn our beautiful native language.

# PAST EVENTS





---

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 [svenneri239@gmail.com](mailto:svenneri239@gmail.com) and you'll be featured on the next newsletter.

**All new members are invited to submit a photo and a short bio to be highlighted in the next issue of the Navigator.**

### 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>



Attn: Barbara LaRocca | 3045 Caminito Pointe Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014



[houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org)



<https://houseofitalysandiego.org/>



[2191 Pan America Rd.W San Diego, CA, 92101](#)