



NAVIGATOR

JULY 2025

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 amici and soci,

Many thanks to Zion Bautiste Martinez for sharing his incredible voice at the June 15 member meeting! He and his family celebrated Father's Day with us and we certainly appreciated his singing performance. We honored Claudia Verona DaMetz for her many years of service to the House of Italy. She has retired to enjoy her new role as a first time grandmother, nonna and abuela.

Also, at the meeting, the names of the recipients of the 2025 House of Italy Scholarship were announced. Four deserving individuals were selected: Trae Kargo, Isabella Mobilia, Erika Dowling and Ariel Rose Elisa Jackam. Check out their pictures in this month's newsletter. Congratulations to all recipients for their outstanding scholastic performances, community service and peer group role models.

The House of Italy Board voted to pay tribute to Richard Tomasello, approving the purchase of a plaque which will be on display in honor of his many years of service. The Board voted also to change the name of the House of Italy Scholarship Fund to the Richard Tomasello Scholarship Program. A representation of the plaque is in this month's Navigator along with a poem that was read by his sister at Rich's Celebration of Life event.

Come join us on Sunday August 10 th for the House of Italy Lawn Program. Our talented musical members, Rosario, James, Victoria, Dan and the gang, will be performing, and let's support them with our attendance. Mark is making yummy Italian meatball panini for the event.

The music venue begins at 2:00 pm. Food items will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. And I encourage everyone to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to sing along with our Italian musicians. If you would like to help as a volunteer send an email to jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net.

Just a reminder! We will discontinue our monthly meetings for July and August for the summer period. We wish you all a wonderful summer recess and look forward to seeing you again in September. Be sure to check the website for upcoming Fall events starting in September.

Don't forget to sign up to host the house on either a Saturday or Sunday. One of your responsibilities as a member is to host the HOI at least once during a calendar year. We appreciate very much those of you who host more than once. Please send your availability for hosting to me at jcpatterson@sbcglobal.net. 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, course takes 75 minutes, cost is minimal and www.premierfoodsafety.com, course takes 90 minutes, cost is minimal.

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 continue to make this year one to remember! I wish all of you a year of health, happiness and peace. Keep us in your hearts this summer. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

See you at the Lawn Program on August 10 th !



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: Mike Ricciardi

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)

VP – Calendar: Mike Ricciardi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 19, 2025 – Summer vacation - no meeting
- August 10, 2025 – House of Italy Lawn Program
- September 21, 2025 – N. Scott Robinson, Ph.D. & Sara Venneri - La pizzica Salentina



invites you to the

ITALY LAWN PROGRAM

August 10th 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m - Balboa Park

Join us to experience Italian hospitality and enjoy delicious meatball sandwiches and spumoni.

TURN UP THE VOLUME!

Dan, James, Rosario & Victoria go live at 2PM
don't miss the magic!



Ariel Rose Elisa Jackam



Erika Dowling



Trae Kargo



Isabella Mobilia



Richard Fiore Tomasello

1942-2025

**Past President and Patriarch
of the HOUSE of ITALY**

Rich was president from 2003 to 2007 and continued as a vice-president until his passing. He became our patriarch -our heart - touching countless lives with his contributions, dedication, warmth, and generosity of spirit. To honor his legacy, comfort those who knew and loved him and to serve as an enduring reminder of a life well lived, the House of Italy dedicates its scholarship program in his name.

**The Richard Tomasello Scholarship
Program**

Remembering Our Treasured Richey

A true brave heart that always cared
From the young altar boy in the religion he shared.

Growing up, growing stronger, with that knowing smile on his face
Richey would decide to do something, then get it done with
humble grace.

He once swam across an entire lake because he wanted to,
like a force of nature, there was nothing he couldn't do.
A hunter, archer, and fisherman, sports he enjoyed all his life
But of course the center of his universe was his one and only
Mary Ann, loving wife.

Let me add his expertise and delight flying his plane for many
years
Charting courses to places no matter how far or near

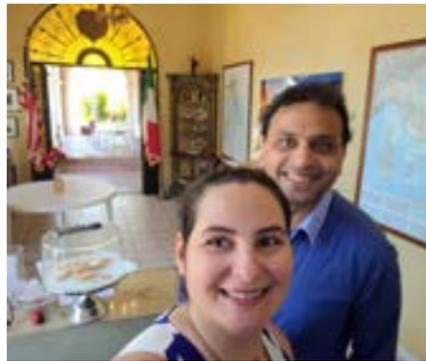
And lest I forget Richey's great gift of gab, as master story teller and more
He could wax lengthily about funny family tales as well as any subject you might want
to explore

Above all to his sons, surrounding family and friends always faithful
in our hearts he leaves forever this feeling of grateful

We all benefitted from his compassionate, considerate, trusted nature; his life's lesson
For us, may his memory always be a blessing!

- Ruth & Sal Tomasello and family

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>



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



houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org



<https://houseofitalysandiego.org/>



[2191 Pan America Rd.W San Diego, CA, 92101](http://2191PanAmericaRd.WSanDiego,CA,92101)