



# NAVIGATOR

MAY 2025

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## 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,

First of all we celebrate with all of you moms a very happy Mother's Day, which this year is Sunday May 11, 2025. Wishing you bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates and a home-cooked meal prepared just for you!

Our next member meeting will be on Sunday May 18, starting at 5:00 pm. Dr. Antonio Iannotta will do a presentation on Italian film, focusing on Sofia Loren, who turned 90 last September. If you were here for his presentation last year, you know that it will be an event not to miss. We sent out a flyer at the beginning of May and it will also be included in the May Navigator.

Don't forget to email an RSVP to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org) to reserve your spot. Be sure to do so by Thursday May 15 so we have enough food for everyone.

Just a friendly reminder that the House of Italy Scholarship application filing period is in full swing! The final day for application submission is May 18, 2025. Be sure to read the eligibility requirements and share this information with your children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren who are graduating from high school this June 2025 or who are currently attending college. We have included the documents in this month's Navigator.

**Revised Dinner Fees:** In the March Navigator everyone was notified of the revised dinner fees, effective April 1, 2025. The revised price is \$20 for members and \$25 for member guests. The dinner continues to include an antipasto, salad, bread, main entree, dessert and wine. We are delighted Mark is continuing to offer us delicious dinners.

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 give Anna Phaimany your availability for hosting. Her email address is: [alseyer505@gmail.com](mailto:alseyer505@gmail.com)

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 minimal and  
[www.premierfoodsafety.com](http://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.

See you Sunday May 18th



Otranto (Puglia) Ph. Siddhartha Kundalkar

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## 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 Hosting Calendar:* Anna Phaimany (alt delegate)

*VP Membership:* Diane Kenney

*VP Webmaster:* Sara Venneri

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

*VP – Calendar:* Mike Ricciardi

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 18, 2025 Antonio Iannotta - The world of Italian Films
- June 15, 2025 – TBA
- 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

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS CORNER

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We are pleased to inform that SDGE has generously donated \$2500 to the House of Italy. We are very happy to have such great partnership in our corner.

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The House of Italy Scholarship Program for 2025 is now open and attached is information which explain the application process, the necessary documents to complete, the requirements for eligibility and the submission deadline. We are excited about this year's candidates and encourage you to encourage your family members to apply as soon as possible..

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My name is Marco Lo Monaco, Italian, 54 years old, born in Torino and raised in Italy. My father was a manager at Fiat (my mom's first car was an old Fiat 500) and during my childhood I traveled to many parts of Italy because he was always relocating to advance his career. That allowed me to get more than just the regional culture of the place where you are born, and have a more "cosmopolitan" sense of my home country.

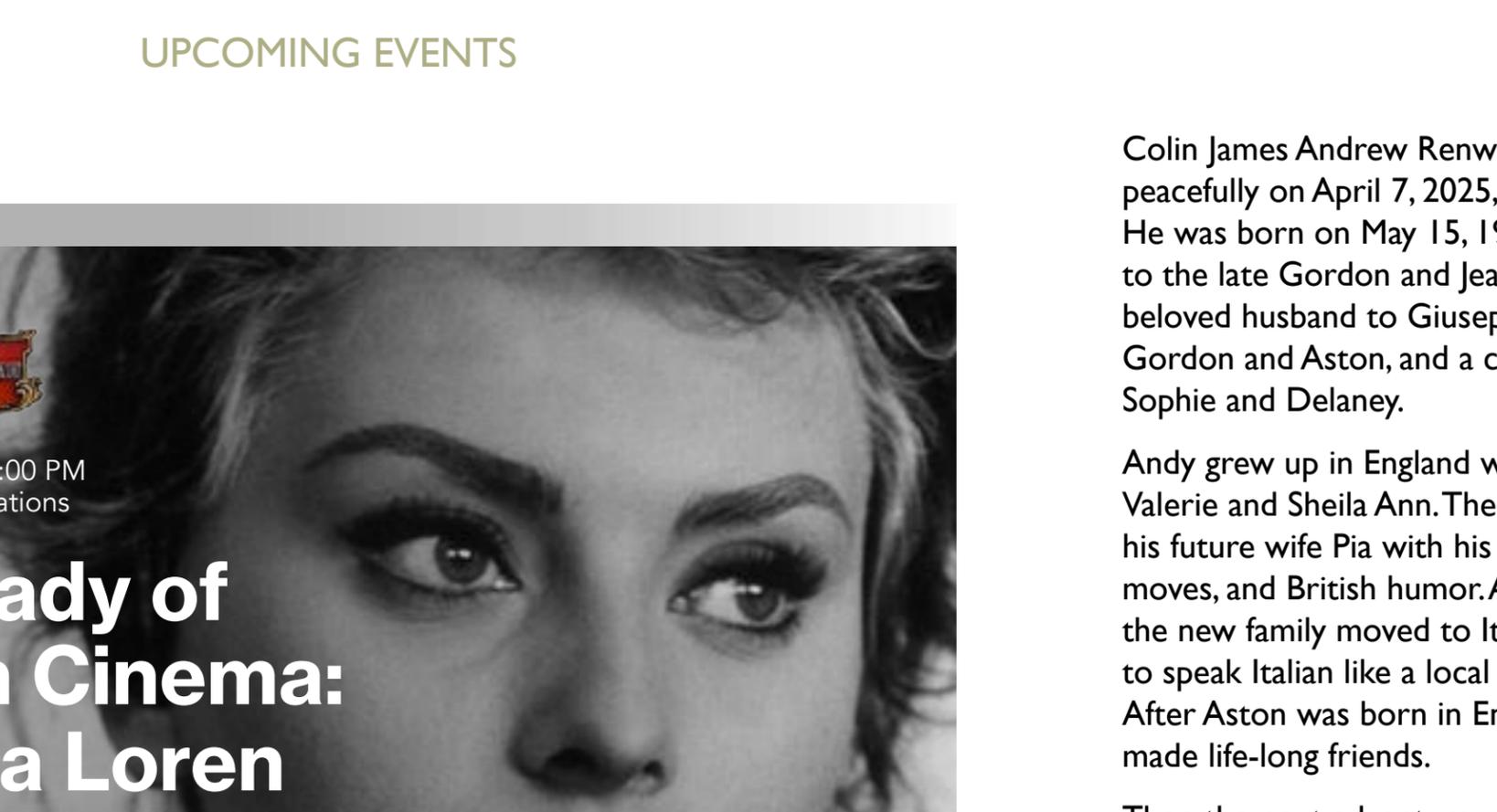
I lived in Torino, Sanremo, Livorno and Padova, where I graduated in Electronic Engineering. I am also a musician and my job as an engineer is very special, since I design digital musical instruments that are used by professionals everyday in music production. The company I work for is located in Silicon Valley and I have the luck to work remotely and bouncing between San Diego (where I live with my wife Jill) and Italy (where I have to daughters Cecilia and Beatrice, both Italian who live there with their mother and are studying at college and high school).

It is not my intention to lose contact with Italy, and I am back there every 2-3 months, but not only for just reconnecting with my family.

I honestly enjoy a reset from American way of life and a full refresh of what the culture and slow life is there: most of all by immersing myself in the simple and sometimes overwhelming beauty that you can find at every corner, say it is a sweet-and-funny scene among elderly grumpy men drinking at a bar in the morning or just walking over 1200 years old cobblestones in the pedestrian zone of Padova with art and architecture in your 360 views. And not even to mention the authentic taste of Italian cuisine, which is "1 inch wide, 1 mile deep" and might change interestingly just by visiting two different neighboring cities (not even regions).

I am very excited to be a part of House of Italy and possibly share my honest and authentic "grounded to reality" experience and view of Italy to anyone who will desire to know every possible detail of it.






  
 May 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM  
 Hall of Nations

# The Lady of Italian Cinema: Sophia Loren

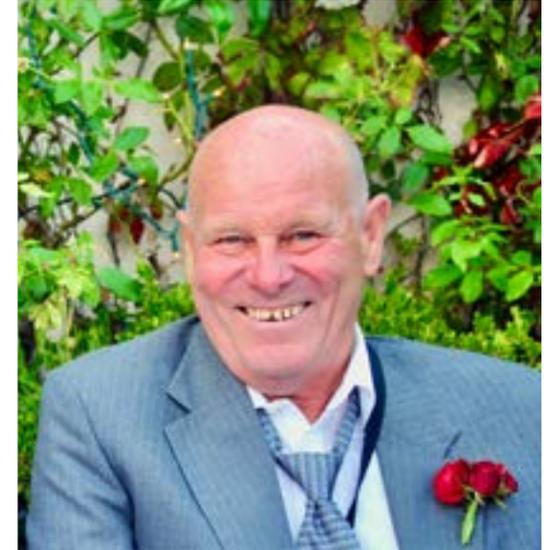
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Dr. Antonio Iannotta  
 University of San Diego  
 San Diego Italian Film Festival

Please RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup> by sending an email to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org)  
 To pay online click [HERE](#) **\$20 members \$25 guests**

Please RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup> by sending an email to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org)  
 If you wish to pay online you can do so by clicking [HERE](#)

Colin James Andrew Renwick passed away peacefully on April 7, 2025, at the age of 83. He was born on May 15, 1941, in Swindon England, to the late Gordon and Jean Renwick. Andy was the beloved husband to Giuseppina, a loving father to Gordon and Aston, and a cherished grandfather to Sophie and Delaney.



Andy grew up in England with his beautiful sisters Valerie and Sheila Ann. There he met and charmed his future wife Pia with his debonair style, dance moves, and British humor. After Gordon was born, the new family moved to Italy where Andy learned to speak Italian like a local and forever endeared himself to his Italian in-laws. After Aston was born in England, the family moved to Australia where Andy and Pia made life-long friends.

Then the next adventure was to America, where the family lived in Seattle, Orlando, and finally settled in their beloved San Diego. Andy and Pia created a beautiful home in San Diego, where they welcomed all with open arms and a plate of homemade pasta. Andy was a father figure and dear friend to many. He was a role model for his sons, teaching them at a young age how to refurbish car engines, fix ancient homes, and everything else practical in life.

He taught his granddaughters the strength and love of family, the laughter of Sunday dinners together and the warmth of unconditional love. Andy was an icon to the House of Italy. His contributions were numerous which included the title of official bartender at member meeting, handyman, volunteer extraordinaire of December Nights and the Lawn Program.

His vintage Fiat 500 was a welcome addition to the HOI lawn programs, giving visitors an opportunity to experience its uniqueness.



Andy showed the world the beauty of humor and wit with a wink of his beautiful blue eyes.

May we find comfort in the love we shared with Andy, his kindness and warm spirit!

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



<https://houseofitalysandiego.org/>



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