

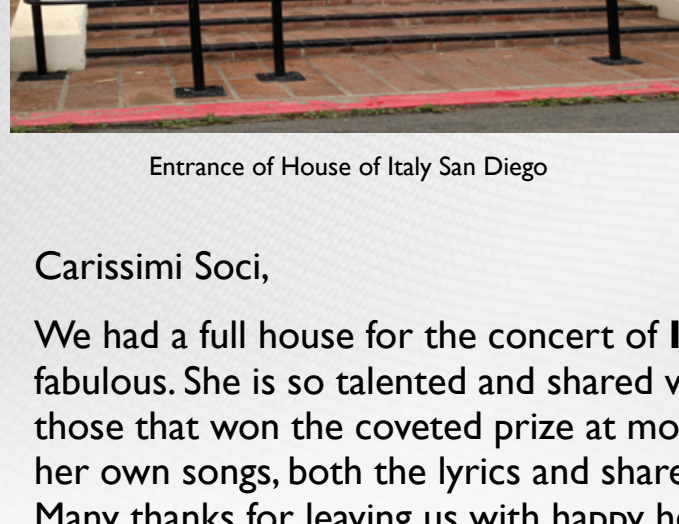


# NAVIGATOR

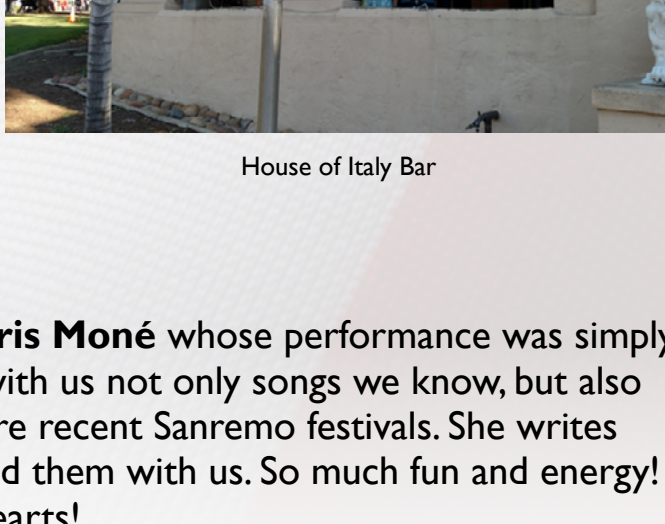
MARCH, 2024

## 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,

We had a full house for the concert of **Iris Moné** whose performance was simply fabulous. She is so talented and shared with us not only songs we know, but also those that won the coveted prize at more recent Sanremo festivals. She writes her own songs, both the lyrics and shared them with us. So much fun and energy! Many thanks for leaving us with happy hearts!

March is a month when we change the clocks to Daylight Savings time, get totally involved in March Madness and we have an exciting presentation by **Franca Batticelli**. She will speak on *Goldoni, Verdi and the Myth of Venice*. A brief description for the program is, "Through the works of 18th-century playwright, Carlo Goldoni, and 19th-century composer, Giuseppe Verdi, Professor Batticelli will explore how the Myth of Venice—the facts and fictions of the blurry origins and historical longevity of the "Serenissima"—sustained the notion of Venetian exceptionalism after its collapse to Napoleonic troops."

Very interesting indeed and one you will not want to miss. Be sure to sign up by **March 14** so we can ensure sufficient food and drink for everyone. For future events you can check out the events page in the Navigator.

Also, in this month's Navigator we pay tribute to a long standing member who recently passed away, **Giuseppina Renwick**.

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 April and May. 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 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 March 17<sup>th</sup> !



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)

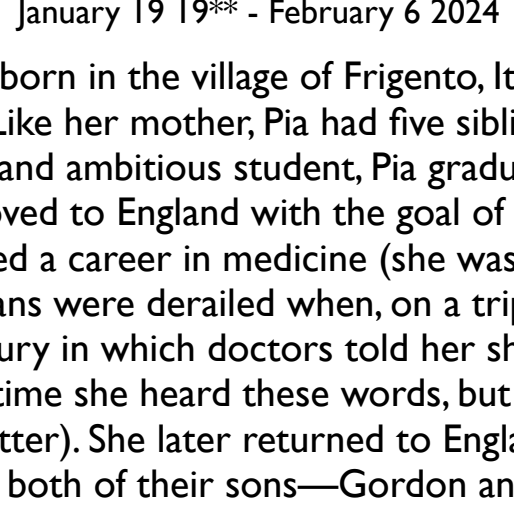
VP Membership: Diane Kenney

VP Webmaster: Claudia Verano DaMetz

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

VP – Calendar: Mike Ricciardi

## IN MEMORIAM



**GIUSEPPINA RENWICK**  
January 19 19\*\* - February 6 2024

Giuseppina Renwick was born in the village of Frigento, Italy, to Giovanni D'Ambrosio and Petronilla Sicuranza. Like her mother, Pia had five siblings, whom she cared for dutifully. An excellent and ambitious student, Pia graduated from college with a teaching degree and moved to England with the goal of immersing herself in the language while she pursued a career in medicine (she was, by then, already fluent in Latin and French). Her plans were derailed when, on a trip to Rome, to visit her family, she sustained a severe injury in which doctors told her she would not walk again (it would not be the last time she heard these words, but Pia, true to her character, insisted that she knew better). She later returned to England where she met her husband Andy, and where both of their sons—Gordon and Aston—were born.

Pia had an adventurous spirit and adored travel. She and her family lived all over the world—in Italy, England, Australia, and across America. Though she and Andy made San Diego their permanent home, they returned to her beloved Frigento often. She made lifelong friendships that spanned decades and continents, and was constantly on the phone, writing letters or emails, and entertaining guests.

Pia was an avid reader, a gifted poet, and a formidable Scrabble opponent. Years of teaching Italian and studying English meant she was quick to correct your grammar in multiple languages. She loved gardening, had a gift for sewing (a skill she learned from her mother and aunts), and was a lightning-fast and talented cook. An impeccable dresser, she would often be decked out to the nines even when staying at home. Pia was fiery and opinionated, ruthlessly loving and aggressively hospitable, cooking for guests even as she battled her own illnesses and injuries.

Pia passed away at home, surrounded by loved ones, having fought till the end with a fierceness we all came to expect from her. She is survived by Colin Andrew Renwick, her husband of more than sixty years; her sons, Gordon and Aston Renwick; daughters-in-law, Yvonne Rothermel and Thi Trieu; granddaughters, Sophie and Delaney Renwick; her siblings, Maria Schmitzer, Enzo D'Ambrosio, and Iolanda DeRuiter; and more nieces, nephews, and friends than one could possibly list. She is preceded in death by her brother Walter, and sister, Geraldina. Should you wish to honor Pia, we recommend you put on something stylish, be brutally welcoming to your guests, and always, always speak your mind.

*I am who I am,  
And, like it or not,  
I don't want to change  
My values for you,  
For glory, or for money  
For love or for fame.  
Pia*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you want to learn Italian? Brush up on your knowledge? Practice conversation? Then the HOI has got you covered. The Spring Semester is about to start, so grab your spot and get ready to learn and have fun in one of the many classes at the HOI. For more information, see the flyer below.

HOUSE OF ITALY  
[illuminalanguages.com](http://illuminalanguages.com)

### LEARN IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME USING ZOOM

Zoom is easy to use.

Join a meeting without an account

### LIMITED ENROLLMENT

to ensure fair & equal participation

### MATERIAL

will be provided by the Professor Rossella

Chiolini Bagley

### CLASS STARTS

March 23rd 2024 and ends on May 11th.

Every Saturday from 9:00 am - 10:30 am PDT

### 8-WEEK COURSE

Reserve your place today

### DISCOUNT

HOI members get \$10 off.

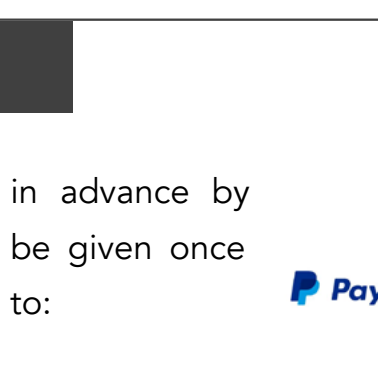
### ONLINE

### ITALIAN INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED CONVERSATION

This fun course is designed specifically for students who desire to develop their speaking skills in Italian.

Join your classmates online face to face in our virtual classroom.

New contemporary material used for each class



**CLASS TUITION : \$ 115**

Payment must be paid in advance by

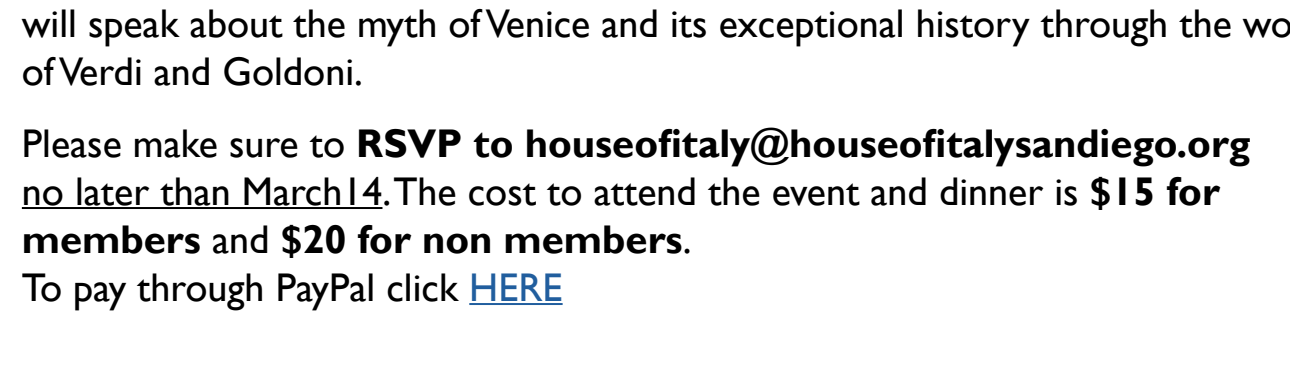
PayPal - Instructions will be given once

you register with an email to:



[rossella@illuminalanguages.com](mailto:rossella@illuminalanguages.com)

## MARCH EVENT



Join the House of Italy on Sunday, March 17, for a lecture by **Franca Batticelli**, who will speak about the myth of Venice and its exceptional history through the works of Verdi and Goldoni.

Please make sure to **RSVP to [houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org](mailto:houseofitaly@houseofitalysandiego.org)** no later than **March 14**. The cost to attend the event and dinner is **\$15 for members** and **\$20 for non members**.

To pay through PayPal click [HERE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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

# Madama Butterfly

## 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 [barbdelmar@gmail.com](mailto:barbdelmar@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



Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner 2024



Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner 2024



Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner 2024



Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner (3).jpg



February 18 Event



Christine Calvano and Mary Ann Dawson.jpeg



Marcy Tichacek.jpeg



Sherry Ashbaugh.jpeg



Alan Dawson and Josie Sarullo.jpeg

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 [sveneri239@gmail.com](mailto:sveneri239@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>



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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