

NAVIGATOR

JANUARY, 2019



The House of Italy



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.



Carissimi Soci,

Happy New Year! It is with gusto that I approach this new year and I hope all of you are approaching 2019 in the same manner. December was a bitter sweet month with all of the Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year holidays but also with the passing of two wonderful individuals. Emilia Castello-Morales, daughter of long standing members, Luigi and Gemma Castello, passed away on December 5, after fighting a two and a half year battle with brain cancer. Michael Rocco Zarro, a long standing member of the House of Italy, passed away on December 14, 2018, being surrounded by family members. Mike's granddaughter, Elisabeth Roberts, is the current House of Italy Queen and his daughter, Lynn Roberts, is the assistant administrator of the HPR Queens Organization. Our heartfelt condolences to all of their families! Their obituaries are in this newsletter and on our Website.

I want to thank the new board, which is actually the same board as last year, for serving with me another year and I thank you, members, for voting in confidence that we will continue moving the House of Italy forward. Speaking of moving forward, we have lots planned for this year so be sure to review the calendar of events and each newsletter. You won't want to miss a meeting! And speaking of not missing a meeting be sure to come to our first meeting of the new year, which is Sunday January 20th, wherein our own Janet Burgess will spellbound us with.....I don't want to spoil her presentation so come expecting a fun meeting.

(President's remarks continued on next page)



HOI Hotline
858 212 3300

House of Italy
Attn: President
415 Laurel St. #301
San Diego, CA 92101

Executive Board

President:
Carol Gratzke

1st Vice President :
Richard Tomasello

2nd Vice President:
Rich La Rocca

Secretary:
Shirley Christian

VP Communications:

Don Santamaria

V P Hospitality:

Barbara La Rocca &

Nina Crochet

Vice President Weekly

Activities:

Robert D'Amico

Treasurer:

Barbara LaRocca

VP, Membership

Andre DaMetz

Web Master:

Claudia DaMetz

VP Legal Matters:

Ken Rose

VP Calendar:

Mike Ricciardi

Board Member:

James Cardinale Hill

(President's remarks continued...)

Also, I want to thank all of you who worked the International Christmas Festival in December. We appreciate you volunteers and your hard work and we shall celebrate together an evening of "ringraziamento". Stay tuned for the date, time and place.

Don't forget to sign up to host the house on either Saturday or Sunday. For those of you who do not have a food handler's certificate, not to worry! We have biscotti individually packaged that you can serve with Italian pride. Please be sure to call Bob D'Amico for hosting. His cell number is 619-456-1594. He will certainly appreciate hearing from you.

See you January 20th!

Carol Gratzke

House of Italy Events

Our Sunday January 20th membership meeting will feature our own HOI member Janet Burgess who will be doing a hands on show demonstrating food styling.

A buffet dinner with wine will be served. \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

Please go to page 5 for more details. Our meeting will commence at 5:00 pm.

Page 8 shows the volunteer hosts as of this date through January, 2019 Please give our Hosting Coordinator, Bob D'Amico, a call at: 619-456-1594 if you can volunteer in February. Bob will also be at the meeting and can sign you up at that time. Grazie!

Don Santamaria



House of Italy Calendar

Sunday , January 20th HOI membership meeting: HOI Dinner meeting with a special presentation by our own member Janet Burgess. The topic: Food styling. Details in the January newsletter. The meeting starts at 5:00 pm.

Sunday, February 17th HOI Membership meeting: Details will be published in the HOI February Newsletter.

December Nights, 2018



December Nights, 2018



Food Styling presentation by Janet Burgess at the HOI membership meeting Sunday, January 20th:

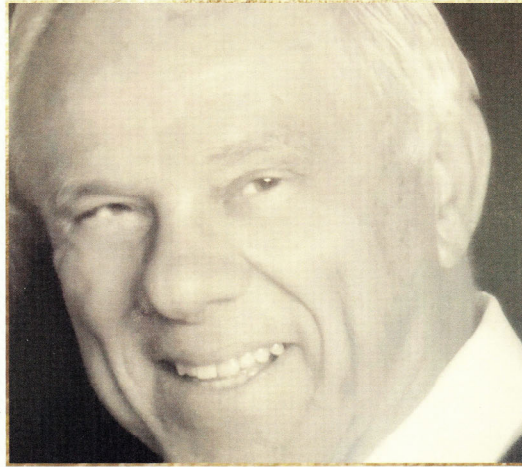
Janet's background did not start in food. She was a law enforcement officer for 35 years and one of SDPD's first women trained for patrol duties. She went to culinary school in her 40's locally and went to cooking school in Tuscany in 1999. She opened up a cooking school, 4littlecooks, in 1998. She has also done food styling for clients and worked in print media and television . She has worked with Chef Guy Fieri and football great Drew Brees. She is the author the cook book for kids called "Chop, Cook, Munch, published in 2012. Please visit her fascinating website: www.4littlecooks.com

This will be a very special "hands on" presentation by Janet. Don't miss it!

See you at the meeting!



in loving
MEMORY OF
Michael R Zarro



July 23, 1932 - December 14, 2018

Michael Rocco Zarro July 23, 1932 - December 14, 2018 Solana Beach Michael Rocco Zarro, 86, of Solana Beach, California, passed away on Friday, December 14, 2018, with his children by his side. He has joined the love of his life of 56 years, Phyllis, and is in the company of the Lord. He was highly respected and an inspiration to all who knew him. Mike was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1932. He grew up in the First Ward with his four brothers and one sister. He was the youngest of the six Zarro children, born to Maria and Sabino Zarro. Growing up on Seventh Avenue, he was surrounded by important influences and love that shaped his early life. As a young man, he was intent on improving himself with the strong principles of family and faith at his core. His interests were many: devotion to St. Lucy's Catholic Church in Newark, involvement in local politics, playing the trumpet, and photography. He was also an associate of the Royal Nuts social club, like his brothers, and he always maintained high standards for his school work. He graduated from Newark State Teacher's College in 1954 (now Kean University), and completed his Masters of Arts in Education at Seton Hall University in 1956. He credited his brothers and sister as an integral part of being the first in his family to graduate college. After graduating, Mike pursued a career in public service as a teacher and administrator. In 1959, he accepted an assignment with the U.S. Department of Education and spent a year teaching in Germany. His most impactful assignment was his last, as an assistant principal at Quitman Street School in Newark, where he played a role in the integration of all students. In 1967, he joined the PERL Organization full-time and quickly ascended in sales leadership. In 1970, he was recruited to be the Director of Sales at Rancho La Costa Properties in Carlsbad. Shortly thereafter, he and Phyllis moved their family to Solana Beach. Mike was an accomplished sales leader, public speaker, and advocate for personal responsibility. He and Phyllis enjoyed Solana Beach as residents for the last 48 years

After his career in real estate, Mike enjoyed many interests including travelling with Phyllis, his association with the House of Italy, the Italian Club, investing, and morning coffee with the neighbors. He took great pride in teaching his children and grandchildren the principles dear to him, ensuring they had the appropriate appreciation of their culture, and knew, through him, those that came before them. Mike is survived by his children, Michael and Patti Zarro, Thomas and Kim Zarro, Cynthia and Ted Hauptman, Lynn and Wade Roberts, Craig and Kimberly Zarro; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Angela and Kurt Schranz; and the pride of his and Phyllis' life together, their 12 grandchildren.

Emilia Paola Castello-Morales—August 27, 1964—December 5, 2018



Emilia Castello-The House of Italy Queen, October, 1984

Emilia Paola Castello-Morales, the daughter of Luigi and Gemma Castello, passed away on December 5, 2018, after fighting a battle against brain cancer for more than two and a half years.

Emilia was the House of Italy Princess during 1981 and 1982 and Queen during 1983 and 1984.

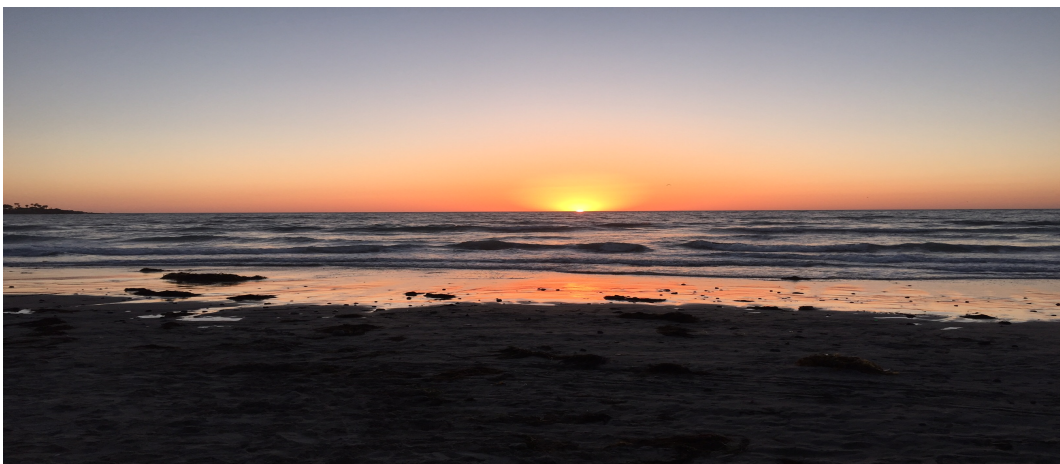
Luigi and Gemma Castello are life time members of the House of Italy and send their appreciation and thanks to all of the House of Italy members who honored Emilia's memory and attended her funeral.

Emilia was born on August 27, 1964 and passed away on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Emilia was a resident of California at the time of passing.

Emilia Paola Castello-Morales August 27, 1964 ~ December 5, 2018 (age 54)

**Donations: Pledges Donations may be made to: San Diego Brain Tumor Foundation
852 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101**



HOUSE OF ITALY

ATTN: PRESIDENT

415 LAUREL ST. #301

SAN DIEGO, CA 92101



www.houseofitalysandiego.org

**For information about the San Diego Italian Film Festival events,
please go to: www.sandiegoitalianfilmfestival.com**

Saturday & Sunday HOI Hosting

The House of Italy is now open from
11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sundays and
11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturdays.
Please call Bob D'Amico to volunteer
for hosting duties @ 619-456-1594

**Sunday, January 20th: HOI Member-
ship Meeting @ 5:00 pm in the Hall
of Nations**

**HOI Hosting Assignments—
2019**

Saturday, JAN 5: Paul Carsola

Sunday, JAN 6: Christine Calvano

Saturday, JAN 12: Ron Garrett

**Sunday, JAN 13: Luisa Nagy &
Elisabetta Santana**

Saturday, JAN 19: Patricia Howley

Sunday, JAN 20: Nina & Bob Crochet

**Saturday, JAN 26: Giovanna Rauch-
bach**

**Sunday, JAN 27: Barbara La Rocca
Shirley Christiani**



**In loving memory of
Mike and Phyllis Zarro**