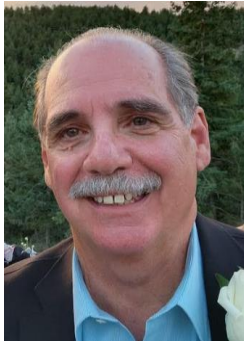




LA PAROLA

Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958

Giugno/June 2026 Issue



Brothers and Sisters,

June is here and hopefully we get some normal weather for a change!

Our Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday May 9th was a big success as we served over 200 dinners and raised a nice chunk of change for Revital Colorado! A big thank you to everyone that made this dinner and bake sale a great success. And a sincere thank you to Carol Gallo who donated the bread for our dinner in memory of her beloved son, the late Sammy Johnson.

I hope you were able to attend our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday May 20th. Sister Beverly Mendicello lead her Quilts of Valor ladies presenting four veterans with their very own Quilt. It was a beautiful and moving ceremony! Details are in this issue of the La Parola.

Also, in this issue you can read about the four Scholarships that our Brother Bob Giusto presented to four worthy High School Seniors! Thank you Bob for your many years of leading the Scholarship Committee!

Please join us at the next General Membership Meeting on Wednesday June 17th!

MANGIA BENE, RIDI SPESSO, AMA MOLTA

President Sal



La Parola
Giugno/June 2026

Sal Siraguse, Dr. Rita DeFrangé, LeAnne DiTirro, Eleanor Gaccetta,, Kathy Holt, Beverly Mendicello

Building Contacts

Desi Ramirez – Facility Manager

We are looking for a member who would like to chair our building committee. Please contact Sal if you are interested!

Health & Condolence

Joannie Flynn Joannie818@gmail.com
Hall Rental – Sal Siraguse (303) 238 - 8055

Address Changes

SOIDenver2075@gmail.com

By-Laws

According to Denver By-Laws, Article 1-Paragraph 4, “The by-law commission shall accept for consideration any by-law or change submitted in writing by a regular member in good standing by March 1 of each calendar year.

2025-2026 Lodge Officers

President

Sal Siraguse
siraguse56@msn.com

Vice President

Joe Calabrese
JAC5260@MSN.com

Orator

John Capone
caponejj@msn.com

Recording Secretary

Anna Vann
tmvenv@msn.com

Treasurer

John Callor
Calor95@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Dr. Rita DeFrangé
ritadefrange@gmail.com

Guard

Joe Bonfiglio
jbonfig44@gmail.com

Chaplain

Barb Pietrafeso
babeepietrafeso@outlook.com

Trustee/Historian

Ramona (Mo) Toto-Travis
alnmo@comcast.net

Trustee

Jack Loth
jproth@comcast.net

Trustee

Crist McAfee
cmcafee@gedelectric.com

Trustee

Joannie Flynn
Joannie818@gmail.com

Trustee

John Gargano

Immediate Past

President

Pam Wright
pcake@comcast.net

Mistress of Ceremonies

Linda Villano
l_villano@comcast.net

Mistress of Ceremonies

Kim Bonfiglio
jbonfig@gmail.com

Having an Event this Year?

If you are interested in renting the hall, please use the “[contact us](#)” from the website or call 303-238-8055. We are booking and want to be able to accommodate all inquires! Grazie!



Membership dues are in...we Welcome new members every month! If you have any questions, you can “contact us” via email and request an invoice or a payment plan. We have over 400 members and are still growing! Something to celebrate for sure!

Come Polka on Sundays!

Sunday afternoon Polka dancing is back in full force!! If you’re interested, dancing is from 2-5:30 pm Sundays. Need information, contact Bev Meyer at 970-222-4331 or email coloradopolkaklub@gmail.com.



Book Club

by Pam Wright & Maggie Iozzo

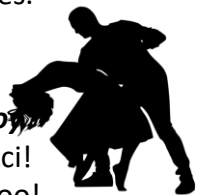


Book Club meets the second Monday of the month. Meeting place Panera on 64th & Yank, 12:00 p.m. everyone is welcome. *July: The First Time I Saw Him, August: The Correspondent, September: The Crossroads, October: Remarkably Bright Creatures*

Becoming ADA Compliant In the State of Colorado, legislation has all Public Agencies pursuing ADA compliancy. That means we will begin to ensure 12 Point font, Calibri text, using links and making sure our colors can be read by those in our community with disabilities. More to come in future issues.

Dancing at the Lodge – Come and Enjoy!

Sponsored by our own Maggie Francucci! Ballroom dancing is back in full swing too! They meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of most months,. To verify or check with Cathy and/or Maggie at [Http://danceconnectioncolorado.com](http://danceconnectioncolorado.com) There is a one-hour class for various types of dances followed by open dance the rest of the evening.





The following couples have been approved for membership in the sons and Daughters of Italy Denver Lodge 2075. Welcome, John and Lisa Gyurko and Lloyd and Pamela Donnelly, Jr. to our family.

Upcoming Events for ALL Italian Clubs

by Dr. Rita DeFrango

June 7 - Prima Domenica at Our Lady of Mt Carmel after 9 AM Mass

June 21st - Fathers Day

June 28th - All Club Community Italian "Polenta" Picnic (contact Anna Vann for details), Applewood Park

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
HISTORIC ITALIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF DENVER

Saturday & Sunday
July
18th, 5pm-10pm
19th, 4pm-9pm

95th Annual Bazaar 2026

3549 Navajo St
Denver, CO 80211
303-455-0447
OurLadyMountCarmel.com

- Live Music
- Italian Kitchen Goods & Ceramics
- Large Italian Goods
- Bingo, Pickles, & Spin to Win
- Children's Games & Religious Education
- Grand Raffle (drawing on Sunday, July 19th at 7PM)
- Authentic Bazaar Food, featuring:
 - Sausage & Meatball Sandwiches
 - Pizza, Hot Dogs, & Street Corn
 - Pizza Fritta, Italian Ice & Gelato
 - Beer, Wine, & Seltzer
 - Soda & Water

132nd Annual Feast Day Mass & Procession

Sunday, July 19th
Mass at 2:00PM
Procession at 3:00PM
No 9AM or 11AM Mass

...celebrating our community

Scan here to purchase Grand Raffle tickets

ITALIANS OF AMERICA NORTH DENVER

25TH Anniversary

Red Lion Run

JULY 25, 2026

When | Saturday, July 25th, 2026
10 AM - 3 PM

Where | Leprino Foods Parking Lot
1830 W 38th Ave - Denver

Cost | \$25 per Vehicle
Free to the Public

★ FOOD, BEVERAGES, RAFFLE, ★
★ 10 BEST-IN-SHOW AWARDS ★
★ VENDORS & MUSIC ★

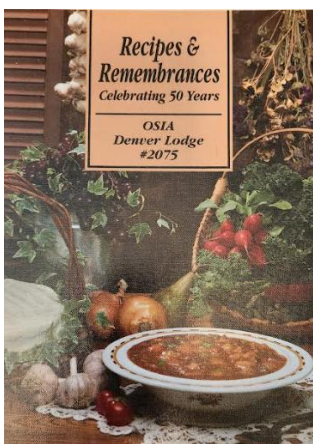
Sponsors...

CARUSO - KITCHEN DESIGNS -
Bello Trucking, Inc.
CLI SERVICES

DIGITECH SYSTEMS
uhealth
Lab Truck Sales Inc.
DeRose Family
The John Kilrow Family

cafe jordano
gia
5280 PRODUCE

For more information visit our Website: <https://italiansofamerica.org/>



Calling ALL Members to share their Favorite Recipe's!!!

The Sons & Daughters of Italy published a Cookbook in 2008. Many of our members may already have a copy! We decided that we have so many new members that it is about time to publish a new insert. We will be collecting recipe's all summer and will create the new insert just in time for Italian Heritage Month. Please send your recipe's to ritadefrange@gmail.com and Thank you!



May Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday, May 9th we held a Spaghetti dinner with the charity proceeds going to [Revital](#). The sunny day brought out almost 250 people to enjoy the wonderful dinner and bake sale. We thank those who volunteered to work the event. We thank all who contributed baked goods to the bake sale. All three tables were filled with homemade goodies. Another successful event for the Denver Lodge 2075.



Are You Interested in Hosting an Exchange Student from Italy?

Are you interested in hosting an exchange student from Italy for the upcoming academic year? The AFS-USA is currently seeking warm, open-minded host families who would be interested in hosting students from Italy who are eager to study in the United States.

Hosting an exchange student is a deeply rewarding experience that allows families to gain a global perspective while sharing American culture and daily life. Many host families form lifelong connections and often find that the experience enriches not only their household, but also the broader school community. Families connected to cultural organizations are uniquely positioned to appreciate the cultural and linguistic value of this experience. You may already have an interest in this opportunity, making this a natural and meaningful opportunity for involvement. For more information contact Ian, Hutton, Seasonal Community Outreach Advisor, AFS-USA, 120 Wall Street, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10005 Phone: 646-381-3327. [Read our students' bios](#) www.afsusa.org

It's Farmer's Market Season!

By Dr. Rita DeFrangé

There is nothing like fresh farm produce, vegetables that comes with summer. The Department of Agriculture published their "**Farm Fresh Directory Map**" which can be accessed at this [link](#).

(<https://coloradoproud.com/find-farm-fresh-favorites/>) This link assists you in finding farmers markets, u-picks, roadside stands, wineries and more! Check it out when you have a chance!



2026 Sons and Daughters of Italy Scholarship Winners

On May 20th, four of five outstanding seniors each received \$1,500 scholarships. This year’s winners all possess outstanding academic and community achievements. Each winner is a member of their school’s National Honor Society. We wish each of them much success and prosperity as they continue their education and bright futures. The fifth student scholarship will be presented at the June meeting.



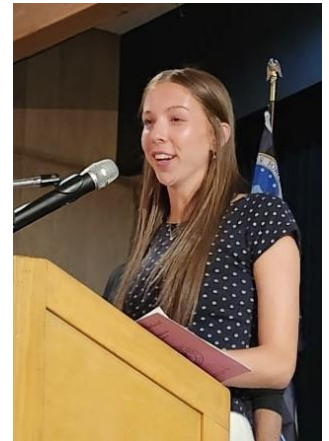
Izaak Skorka



Sophia Garioto, Recipient
Joe Cianco Scholarship



Stephanie Castro



Maddy Wright





Calling Italian American Lawyers in Colorado

The National Italian American Bar Association is looking to connect with Italian American lawyers in the Denver metro area and throughout Colorado. Attorneys from other areas are welcome as well.

NIABA is a national organization of men and women who share a common Italian heritage and a chosen profession in the law. Membership offers professional networking, CLE opportunities, national meetings, referrals, a quarterly newsletter, and support for Italian American law student scholarships.

NIABA is also exploring the creation of a Denver-area branch to strengthen local professional and cultural ties, build a Colorado presence, and create more opportunities for networking, referrals, and community support.

To learn more, visit NIABA.org or contact **Anthony Gianfrancesco**, email: anthony@gianfrancescolaw.com



I would personally like to invite you to the grand opening of the Leonardo da Vinci Museum of North America. The first museum in North America dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci's polymathic genius. The Grand Opening activities, which will include a June 11 live speaker event featuring three of the world's most respected authorities on Leonardo's world and works -- Martin Kemp, Dr. Sara Tagliagalamba, and Waqas Ahmed. Our Grand Opening begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 12, followed by a Renaissance-inspired festival, including art and food vendors and two full days of live music. We also will dedicate a monumental Vitruvian Man sculpture outside the museum and an extraordinary Clark Family Library as part of our summer of celebration. Please share this news with your friends and colleagues near and far. You'll find the complete schedule attached with more details at www.davincisteam.org. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have, 719-240-7330 or joe@davincisteam.org.

I look forward to celebrating this achievement with you in early June.

Respectfully,

Joe Arrigo

Founding Director & President

joe@davincisteam.org | Cell: 719-240-7330



**Leonardo da Vinci
Museum of
North America**



Colorado *by Beverly Mendicello*



1. Colorado has waterways called Blue River and Yellow Creek, but which one of these colorfully named waterways is not found here? A. White River; b. Green River; c. Red River
2. According to the 2020 census, what colorful Colorado municipality is the least populous city – but not a town – in the state, with just 127 residents? a. Greenwood Village; b. Silverthorne; c. Black Hawk
3. Stretching between the communities of Buena Vista and Salida in Chaffee County, what 21,000-acre canyon was designated as an official National Monument in 2015? a. Indigo Canyon; b. Browns Canyon; c. Crimson Canyon
4. Located in Montezuma County near the Four Corners, which of Colorado's four national parks has a name that comes from the Spanish words for "green table"? Answers: 1) Red River 2) Black Hawk 3) Browns Canyon 4) Mesa Verde

Source: Colorado Magazine

BLT Salad *by Kathy Holt*

For the Salad: 2 cups croutons, 12 ounces crisp bacon, chopped, 3 cups cherry tomatoes, sliced, 1 medium head of romaine lettuce, rinsed, dried and chopped.



For the Dressing: ¼ cup buttermilk, ¾ cup mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce, 1 teaspoon dried parsley, ½ teaspoon dried dill, ½ teaspoon garlic powder, ½ teaspoon onion powder, ¼ teaspoon kosher salt, ½ teaspoon black pepper, 1/8 teaspoon dried basil, 1-2 Tablespoons milk to thin.

You will need to make the dressing ahead of time for the flavors to blend. In a small bowl, combine dressing ingredients except milk. Stir together, add milk to desired consistence. Cover and refrigerate in an airtight container (like a Mason jar.) for several hours, or up to 5 days. When ready to serve in a large bowl combine lettuce, tomatoes, bacon and croutons. Drizzle with dressing (adding to taste buds).



Blackberry Bourbon Smash *by LeAnn Ditirro*

This is a whiskey drinker's *Mojito*. This drink is crisp, refreshing and versatile enough for any time of the year.

Ingredients: 2-3 Blackberries (4-5 if small), 6-7 mint leaves, ½ ounce lime juice, 3/4 ounce simple syrup, 2 ounces bourbon, 1 ounce club soda.

Instructions: Place blackberries, mint leaves, simple syrup, and lime juice in a shaker. Muddle to break up the blackberries and bruise the mint leaves. Add ice cubes and bourbon and shake vigorously to mix and chill. Strain mixture into a high ball glass half full of ice. Top with soda water and mint leaves to garnish.



Quilts of Valor

At the May 20th meeting four beautifully handcrafted Quilts of Valor were awarded to four veterans. This has become an annual event at the lodge! This moving program has been repeated in the US over 400,000 times since it's inception in 2003. Congratulations to all the veterans and thank you for your service defending our country.



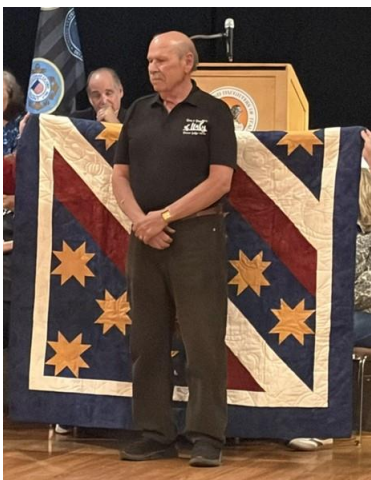
Michael Contrerez



Robert Coffman



Jack Roth



Joe Calabrese



Future-proof Your Career

by Ellie Gaccetta

Remember when people worked for 35 years for the same company? Today the average person changes jobs every 4 years. Workers aged 20-24 change jobs every 1.5 years and workers over 55 change jobs every 10 years. 83% of workers now rank work-life balance over job demands as top priority for changing jobs. If you or someone close to you are job hunting or wants to remain competitive and employable, here are some suggestions to future-proof your career.

Self-assessment. Define your “why.” What is non-negotiable (salary, culture, flexibility) and what skills will you bring to a new job? Do you want to grow, pivot to a new industry, or change roles? Tailor your resume, cover letter, and online profile to reflect the desired direction of your new career, not just your past work experience. **Change your mindset.** Change is inevitable and technology is always evolving. Individuals who are adaptable, resilient, and willing to change will find more success than those who are not. **Become tech-savvy.** Being familiar with the latest trends in technology is important. It is essential to stay abreast of latest trends to evolve to meet the changing landscape. Employers now use artificial intelligence (AI) to support their everyday work like summarizing meetings or researching files. Being familiar with latest trends in technology is imperative to stay competitive. **Develop your skills.** Identify skill gaps and take courses or get certifications. Never stop improving your skills; employers are always interested in individuals whose skills make them great leaders, communicators, and who work well as part of a team. Develop skills even if they are not related to your role. **Cultivate a global mindset.** Today the world is more connected than ever before. More businesses are culturally diverse and multi-national. It is important to cultivate a global mindset and think about what is happening in your job sector on a larger scale. **Keep a journal of your accomplishments.** When you are interviewing for new positions, it is important to recall the knowledge, skills, and successes you have achieved in your career. Potential employers want to know what you bring to the table. Keep a journal of all your “wins,” accomplishments, skills, and education. You can quickly compare your strengths to the job you are seeking before an interview and boost your confidence. **Continue to build your professional network.** Many jobs are found through personal connections. Building more professional connections across your industry ensure you will be comfortable reaching out when you need some help or advice. **Keep track of trends in the industry.** Researching the trends of your industry will help you forecast where it is heading. Knowing and adjusting to what will be automated ensures you have a job down the line. **Keep your career path open.** Take a proactive approach to your career and continuously review opportunities for your progression. Being flexible, willing, and able to pivot your career path will lead to more opportunities overall and ensure a future-proofed career.

Technology has changed the face of employment. Work-life balance is the amount of time you spend doing the job compared to the amount of time you spend with family and doing things you enjoy.. The mindset of working has changed. Make sure you’re prepared to face the future workplace with the right skills. mindset and awareness.



Lodge Events



June

June 10th – Hosting the IABA Bocce Evening

June 17th – General Meeting Dinner begins at 6 We have one more Scholarship to give away!

June 28th – All Club Picnic – Anna Vann has details!

July

July 15th – General Meeting Dinner begins at 6

August

August 19th – General Meeting and our Annual Picnic

SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Contact Us

Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America,
Denver Lodge #2075
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soidenver2075@gmail.com
osiadenver2075.org



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