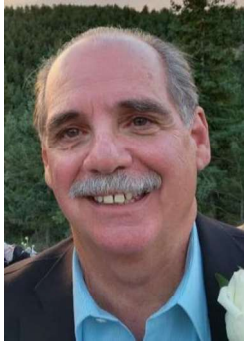




LA PAROLA

Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958

Aprile/April 2026 Issue



Brothers and Sisters,

A big thank you to the IABA, the Italian American Business Association. On March 8th, they held their Annual Bravo Awards, celebrating outstanding Italian Americans who made an impact in their communities in 2025. Our very own Jamie Yantorno was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. Past SOI members who have won awards include Rita DeFrangé and Linda Villano who had each been awarded Volunteer of the Year, and Patrick Lubrano who was Italian American of the Year. As an organization, the Sons and Daughters of Italy, Lodge 2075 won the award for BEST ITALIAN CULTURAL GATHERING, for our Italian Heritage Festival held back in October of 2025. Congratulations to all the nominees and all the winners!

Some community events coming up soon, the Rodder's Ball put on by the Italians of America, held at our Lodge on Saturday April 25th. The Potenza Lodge is holding a Spring Brunch on Sunday May 17th.

If you are a Bocce player, or you want to be a Bocce player, think about entering the Trentini bocce tournament that is being held at our Lodge on Saturday May 2nd. See Anna Vann for details!

And don't forget to save the date on your calendar for our next Spaghetti Dinner, coming up on Saturday May 9th! If you are interested in volunteering for the Spaghetti Dinner, please reach out to me!

Our next General Membership Meeting is Wednesday April 15th, also known as TAX DAY. If you need any tax advice, don't ask me. See you all very soon!

MANGIA BENE, RIDI SPESSO, AMA MOLTA

President Sal



La Parola
Aprile/April 2026

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

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 jbonfig@gmail.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

Having an Event this Year? by Dr. Rita DeFrangé

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 due! Everyone that requested Zelle has an invite in email, anyone who needs an invoice let us know. 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. *April: The View from Lake Como*, *May: Broken Country*, *June: the Correspondent*



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.





We are over 400 members strong! The April meeting is our bi-annual initiation event. If you have submitted your application one or before March 31st, your presence is requested at the meeting for INITIATION! As always, our dinner starts between 6 and 6:15 PM, with our meeting starting at 7. Everyone should come out and meet our new members! See you there!

Grand Lodge Website

We forget that in addition to the Denver Lodge 2075 website, there is also a website for the Grand Lodge. This website contains information related to all Italian clubs and what events they are sponsoring. Take the time to visit www.osdiacolorado.com/linksource to see if there is anything you are interested about or curious to attend.

Good Thoughts and Wishes



From Surgery and/or illness: Roberta Casatez
Condolences:

Patrick Lubrano had a heart transplant in March 2025 and has experienced numerous setbacks. A fund has been created to offset the family's many financial burdens. If you would like to donate, go to <https://angellink.com>. Search for Help Patrick Recover

Upcoming Events for ALL Italian Clubs

By Dr. Rita DeFrange

April

April 5th - Easter

April 5th - Prima Domenica *sponsored by Dante*

April 8th - IABA meeting *hosted by Water to Wine*

April 15th - Sons & Daughters Meeting - celebrate the lodge anniversary (open to the public) New member initiation

April 16th - Taste of Italy, **sponsored by Dante Alighieri Denver**

April 18th - Mt. Carmel Alumni Lunch, *Event location, the Sons & Daughters of Italy*

April 25th - IOA Rodders' Ball, *held at the Sons & Daughters of Italy (See flyer)*

May

May 2nd - Trentini, **Annual Bocce Tourney**, *at Sons*

May 3rd - Prima Domenica, *Sponsored by the Mt. Carmel Altar & Rosary Society*

May 3rd - *Dante Pueblo, scholarship brunch at the Country Club*

May 9th - Spaghetti Dinner - *Sons & Daughters of Italy*

May 17th - Mother's Day Brunch, *event held at the Potenza Lodge*





Each year the Italian American Business Association hosts the Annual Bravo Awards. On March 7th our own Jamie Yantorno won the volunteer of the Year Award. The SOI Denver Lodge won the award for the Best Cultural Event of 2025 when we hosted the Italian Heritage Festival. That award was presented by John Giardino. President Sal was nominated for Italian American of the Year and Rose Vecchiarelli was nominated for volunteer of the Year. Thank you to all the members who attended the event to support the Denver Lodge 2075 and enjoy the evening.



LAST CALL - Sons and Daughter of Italy Denver Lodge 2075 Scholarship

Each year the Denver Lodge awards five scholarships to current high school seniors for the purpose of continuing their education, whether through university programs, trade schools or any other means of furthering their academic and/or vocational endeavors. The program is only open to **high school seniors** who are members of the Sons and Daughters of Italy, or whose parents or grandparents are members. Applications are now available at the Denver Lodge 2075 website **and must be submitted by April 17, 2026.**



Celebrating the St. Patrick's Day parade

The Sons & Daughters of Italy has been in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for 43 years. This year we were #25, so way up front! We were missing Russ, but he was kind enough to loan us equipment and between Jamie and Sal they came up with songs to play. Lisa Lokken even jumped in with a suggestion! I think we all know that "Sweet Caroline" really gets the crowd jumping, but by the fourth time it is played - we are all tired of it! We are already thinking about next year to ensure we have many, many interactive songs to be played. AND Jamie and Rita are already thinking of the decor for the Carnation Parade in August. A great time was had by all - we had an AWESOME group this year and hope to grow our numbers in upcoming years! Again, many thanks to all that helped us, we had a wonderful day!



SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY
DENVER LODGE

SPAGHETTI DINNER

BENEFITTING REVITAL COLORADO

COL USA

REVITAL

A LIFELINE FOR OUR FRONTLINE

Saturday, May 9th
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

SONS OF ITALY DENVER LODGE
5925 W. 32nd Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80212

\$12 Per Person | \$8 for Kids Under 10

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with all the fixings!
Stop by our Bake sale as well!



All proceeds go to benefit Revital Colorado, a non-profit supporting first responders and their families. www.revitalcolorado.org

Italians of America presents

Rodder's Ball!

Dance & Fundraiser
April 25, 2026



Antipasta, Famous Chicken Marsala Dinner, Dessert & Open Bar! **\$65 Per Person**

Proceeds Benefit:

CARUSO FAMILY Charities | JJ Joyful Journeys | PROJECT Sol Flower | St. Elizabeth Food Line

+ 50/50 Raffle - Raffle Prizes - Door Prizes!

Music by Russ Canino

Sons Of Italy Lodge - 5925 W. 32nd Ave.
6 PM - 10 PM

Purchase tickets by 4/20 at: ItaliansofAmerica.org

SAVE THE DATE!

TIROLESITRENTINI DEL COLORADO ANNUAL BOCCETOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026



Fundraiser Tournament
Net Proceeds will go to Friends of Man

PRIZES

CASH PRIZES FOR 1st & 2nd place
Raffle Drawing Also!!

Only 16 teams will be allowed, so sign up fast!!
Sons of Italy Courts, 32nd & Gray, Wheat Ridge
8 am Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:30 Tournament Starts
Cost: \$120 per team, including tournament, breakfast, lunch, and beverages. Checks payable to TTDC, c/o Anna Vann, 6895 Morrison Drive, Denver, CO 80221 or Venmo (call for details)

Questions?
Contact Anna Vann
303-618-8023 or tmvann@msn.com

Team Captain _____ Team Name _____
Email Address _____ Player Names _____
Cell Phone _____



Garlic Baked Pork Tenderloin

By Kathy Holt

Delicious and easy melt in your mouth tender pork.

2 pounds pork tenderloin, 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, 1 Tbsp sea salt, 1 tbsp fresh cracked pepper, 4 Tbsp unsalted butter sliced into 4-6 pats, 2 Tbsp diced garlic, 1 tsp dried basil, 1 tsp dried oregano, 1 tsp dried thyme, 1 tsp dried parsley, 1/2 tsp dried sage

Note: *You can substitute the dried herbs with 2 tbsp of an Italian Herb Seasoning Blend like Tones.

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a small baking sheet with aluminum foil. In a small bowl, combine garlic, basil, oregano, thyme, parsley, and sage. Set aside.
2. Generously season meat with salt and pepper.
3. In a large pan, heat oil until shimmering. Add pork to pan and sear on all sides until dark golden brown.
4. Transfer to baking sheet. Generously coat with herb mixture.
5. Place pats of butter on top of the pork.
6. Wrap in foil, bake until meat is 145 degrees internally at the thickest part of the tenderloin (about 25 minutes.)
7. When pork has come to temperature, remove, and let rest, tented with foil, for at least five minutes to lock in juices.
8. Slice against the grain and serve immediately.





How many of these historical events in April do you know?

By Beverly Mendicello

What happened in the North Atlantic on April 14, 1912? *The sinking of the Titanic*

“Houston we have a problem” is a misquote from Apollo 13. What was really said on April 11, 1970? *“Houston, we’ve had a problem here.”*

What famous car did Ford unveil in April of 1964? *The Mustang*

What began on April 19, 1775? *The US Revolutionary War*

Who claimed Florida for the Spanish in April of 1513? *Ponce De Lion*

Which US Mint was established in April of 1792? *Philadelphia*

The Pony Express started in the American West in April of 1860. How long did it last? *2 years*

What significant event in world history occurred on April 6, 1917? *The US Entered WWI in Europe.*

The 17th Amendment was ratified in April of 1913. What did it grant? *Direct popular election of senators*

On April 18, 1775, the infamous Midnight Ride occurred. One of the riders was Paul Revere. Who was the other?
William Dawes

What jolted people in the Bay Area awake on April 18, 1906? *The San Francisco earthquake*

What was the name of the ship that, on April 28, 1789, the crew committed mutiny against Captain William Bligh? *The Bounty*

Irish Celtic Cocktail

By Lee Ann Ditiirro

Ingredients

- 1 ½ oz Irish whiskey
- 1 oz Irish cream
- ½ oz coffee liqueur or hazelnut liqueur

Instructions

- Fill your mixing glass with ice – about halfway.
- Pour the Irish whiskey, Irish cream, and coffee liqueur or hazelnut liqueur over the ice.
- Stir everything together gently until the mixture is well chilled.
- Use your strainer to pour the drink into a lowball glass.
- Enjoy your delicious Celtic Twilight!



By Kathy Dagostino

I visited the Sons of Italy Bravo Lodge #2075 in Wheat Ridge Colorado on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

I have a high school classmate that lives in Evergreen, Colorado (the same town where my son lives). We graduated from Sacred Heart High School, Vineland, N.J., in 1965.

I found out that she lived in Evergreen when I went to my 50th class reunion. She is a member of the Bravo Lodge and invited me to their February dinner meeting.

It was a lovely evening. I met the current president, Sal Siraguse, and other members. I even won the Door Prize raffle of \$35.

My high school friend, Agnese (DiTomasso) Coffman, was born in Italy and came to America when she was about 10 years old. She didn't speak a word of English!

We grew up together and lived on the same street up until our graduation from high school. We reunited 50 years later.

We get together every time I go to Colorado to visit my son Daniel, my daughter-in-law Carla and my two grandchildren Angelina (12) and Danny (9).

I enjoyed my evening with Agnese and her husband Bob and their neighbors, Ed and Beverly (also members) at the Sons of Italy dinner-meeting. The cost was \$5 for an "all-you-can-eat" spaghetti dinner, which included salad, dessert and an open wine bar.

In 1958, the Bravo Lodge bought the building where they have their monthly meetings and other events. They have more than 350 members.



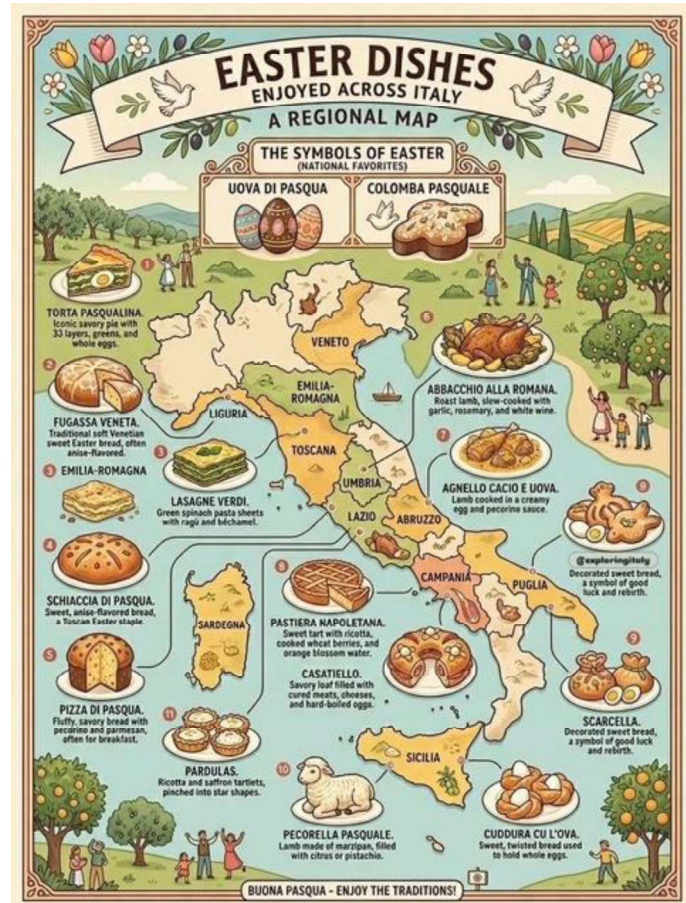
Kathy Dagostino and Sal Siraguse, president of the Bravo Lodge.



Kathy Dagostino and her friend Agnese (DiTomasso) Coffman



The Bravo Lodge's building sits on almost 2 acres.



Take a Book Leave a Book: Pass the Story On!

by Pam Wright

We're introducing a new way to share the joy of reading in our lodge — the Take a Book, Leave a Book exchange! This small but meaningful addition invites everyone to pick up a book that catches their eye and leaves one behind for someone else to discover.

Whether it's a favorite novel you've finished, a children's story your family has outgrown, or a hidden gem you think others should enjoy, every contribution helps keep the shelves fresh and inspiring. It's a simple way to connect through the stories that move us and to keep good books circulating instead of collecting dust.

If you don't have a book to leave right now, no problem — take one and pass it along to a friend when you're done. The point is to keep the stories moving and share the gift of reading with others. Find the Take a Book Leave a Book space in our newly developed library. Our new space is located inside the coat room in the entry way of our building, let's see how far our stories can travel. Sometimes the best journeys are the ones hidden between the pages — where will your next story take you?



Gifts and Finances

by Ellie Gaccetta

I started this article for the January newsletter. But thought simple advice for making New Years resolutions was more important. There is a sobering reality that sets in when we start tallying the totals of what we spend on holiday gifts and entertainment. Since January, however, we have also had Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, and the Easter Bunny will hop through this month with an expensive basket of candy. Giftflation is real and while everyone has the jitters over affordability and inflation of virtually everything, the National Retailers Association reported that shoppers shelled out \$1Trillion for gifts last Christmas. That is a staggering figure.

The year not only comes with major holidays, but we also celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, engagements, weddings, baby showers, baptism, communion, retirement parties, and other events that require gift giving. Every time we open our wallet to celebrate an event for someone the price tag seems to increase. Like every other inflation, we now have "Giftflation" which refers to the rising cost of gift giving and the growing pressure to give. The price tag for everyday necessities has risen exponentially leaving less money available for discretionary which includes gift giving.

That does not mean we have to stop giving to our loved ones, nor do we have to spend ourselves into the poor house. Here are some strategies to help keep giftflation in check: **Take a look at your cash flow.** Feeling strapped? Put a bit of money aside each month for upcoming events which will require giving a gift. **Set firm limits.** Create a strict budget and stick to it. Today families will often discuss gift giving and set a spending limit on gifts. It is a great idea, helpful and easy to do. **Reset Expectations.** Take a step back and ask yourself if you are obligated to give a gift, and will they really want a gift? Prioritize giving and set boundaries and be honest about what you can afford and for whom you are buying gifts. Many invitations indicate "no gifts please." Respect that expectation. Go and have a fun time. **Pause before you buy.** Do not buy impulsively and do not let flashy advertisements lure into spending more than you can afford. **Get creative.** Gift yourself by planning a coffee date, offering to babysit, or make homemade gifts that may mean more when received than expensive store-bought items. **Shop Small Businesses.** Many local small businesses in your area have unique ideas for gift giving at a more reasonable cost. And you are supporting a local business! **Use Cash.** Avoid using credit cards to prevent carrying debt and causing yourself financial stress. **Shop Second-hand.** People donate lots of items that still have the original price tags on them – I am one of those people. But the reality is that second-hand stores and online resale apps can offer big-ticket items at a steep discount. Search for "NWT" which means "new with tags," which are unused items.

I know this advice might not be helpful for what you have already spent on 2026 gifts, but it is good advice on how to curb spending on gifts for the remainder of the year. Make sure you keep some "jangle" in your pocket for that rainy day need and maybe to buy yourself a "gift."





Community Events

April

April 5th - Happy Easter!

April 15th - Sons & Daughters Business Meeting, but we will be celebrating the Lodge Anniversary. New member initiation.

April 25th - IOA Rodders' Ball which is open to the public and *held at the Sons & Daughters of Italy*

May

May 2nd - Trentini, Annual Bocce Tourney, *held at the Sons & Daughters of Italy*

May 9th - Spaghetti Dinner - *Sons & Daughters of Italy with proceeds benefiting Revital Colorado*

May 20th - Monthly Social Meeting with Dinner beginning at approximately 6 PM with a Quilts of Valor Presentation to immediately follow

Contact Us

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Denver Lodge #2075
5925 West 32nd Avenue, WheatRidge, Colorado 80212

303-238-8055
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osiadenver2075.org



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