



LA PAROLA

Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958

February/ Febbraio 2022



Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, COVID 19 has reared its ugly head, forcing us to cancel last month's meeting, as well as a few hall rentals.

The good news is that it appears that cases are now on the decline, and we should be doing better in the next few weeks. At press time, our February 16th General Meeting is on, but keep an eye on your email inbox in case something changes.

The lifeblood of any organization are the volunteers that give their time and effort to ensure the success of the Lodge. We have quite a few people that fit that bill, but we can always use more. If you would like help out at a General Meeting, a Spaghetti Dinner, or a Hall Rental Event, please let us know. Even just an hour or 2, would be big help. See you all soon!

Fraternally yours,
President Sal



Member Spotlight.....John Callor

by Sal Siraguse

John Callor has been a member of the Sons and Daughters of Italy since 2009. He served as our Guard for two terms, and he currently serves as a Trustee, a position he has held since 2021. John also served on the Columbus Day Parade committee until it folded in 2017. John loves being a part of the Lodge and connecting with other people of Italian descent.

John was born in Kenilworth, Utah but moved to Colorado with his family around 1962. He graduated from Alameda High School in 1974. After high school, John worked a few different jobs including Geico Insurance and Checker Auto Parts. In 1976, John began a 20-year stint at Keebler Bakery where he was a mechanics helper, Electrical Apprentice, Journeyman Electrician and finally Maintenance and Production supervisor.

After leaving Keebler he worked at a Health Club in Boulder for nearly 15 years. Presently John works at a small electronics company in Longmont.



Retirement is in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, you will find John with his tool bag at the Lodge solving many electrical issues we come across, almost weekly at the Hall! John has been a great asset when it comes to keeping the lights on here in Wheat Ridge.

John has been with the lovely Rhinda for nearly 12 years. (See the picture). They actually met on a blind date and it was love at first sight!! They had planned on going to Italy to get married but COVID got in the way, so those plans are on hold for now. They each have 2 wonderful children and 2 grandsons.

(Continued on page 3)



La Parola

February/ Febbraio 2022

Pam Wright, Anna Vann, Sal Siraguse,
LeAnne DiTirro, Bob Guisto, Beverly Mendicello,
Kathy Holt and Dr. Rita DeFrance

Building Contacts

Tony Iozzo - Building Committee
Tim Stott - Facility Manager

Health & Condolence

Angelina Sether 303-989-2251

Hall Rental

Anna Vann

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.

2021-2022 Lodge Officers

President

Sal Siraguse

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Trustee

Patrick Lubrano

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Vice President

open

Trustee

Ed Mendicello

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Orator

Pam Wright

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Trustee

Phil Rossi

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Recording Secretary

Anna Vann

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Trustee

John Callor

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Treasurer

Beverly Mendicello

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Trustee

John Gargano

Financial Secretary

Dr. Rita DeFrance

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Past President

Dominic LoSasso

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Past President

Pam Wright

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Mistress of Ceremonies

Diana Williams

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Guard

TJ Henderson

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Mistress of Ceremonies

LeAnne DiTirro

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Chaplain

Barbara Pietrafeso

barb@coloradosownrealestate.com

Historian

Open

Hall Inquiries by Anna Vann

Are you thinking of getting more involved in the Lodge?? Do you have a free evening here or there to help with some of our rental events?? I'd love to have you jump on board! There are times when our Facility Manager can't work an event. We could sure use your help with facilitating an event. If you are interested in renting the hall, contact Anna Vann 303-618-8023, dates are filling up fast!



2022 - 2023 Membership Information

by Anna Vann



The 2022 membership drive is about to kick off. Lifetime members are \$25 (member for 25 years + 85 years old), \$65 for regular and social members and \$8 for Junior members (8 - 17).

Thank you for being part of the Sons & Daughters of Italy! In the event you have questions, please submit all questions through our [Website](#) using the "contact us" page.

Come Polka on Sundays!

The Polka Club will be kicking off Sunday Polka again this February, stay tuned for the start date!



Book Club

by Pam Wright



The book to be discussed during February book club is "A Life Without Water" written by Marci Bolden. The book for February reading is "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" written by Robert Dugoni and our March reading will be "Mulled to Death" by Kate Lansing. Kate Lansing is a Colorado Author. If interested in any of the books or if you would just like to join us for lunch, please join us on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome. Location is Panera Bread-7739 Wadsworth Blvd. at noon. Write pcake@comcast.net for more information!

Dancing at the Lodge – Come and Enjoy!

Sponsored by our own Maggie Francucci!



On the second and fourth Fridays are ballroom dancing. However due to COVID all January sessions have been cancelled. See her website at

<http://danceconnectioncolorado.com/>

(Continued from the cover)

In his spare time, John enjoys cooking, baking and soap making. John always bakes up something special for our Bake Sales such as his famous Biscotti or Ricotta Cookies.

Thank you, John, for always being there for us when we need you!



Joseph Callor shown below,
OSIA member years ago!

**Trivia**

by Beverly Mendicello

1. Between the North and South hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.
2. The Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, meaning what? **Purification**
3. Name 4 U.S. states that entered the Union during the month of February. **Arizona, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and Oregon**
4. The odds of being born on February 29th are what? **1 in 1,1461**
5. Which popular animation movie was released on February 4, 1938? **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**
6. February is the only month that can go without having a full moon.
7. There are now around one billion Valentine's Day cards purchased each year and 85% of those cards are purchased by women.

Thank you for all that you do Timothy Stott

by Sal Siraguse

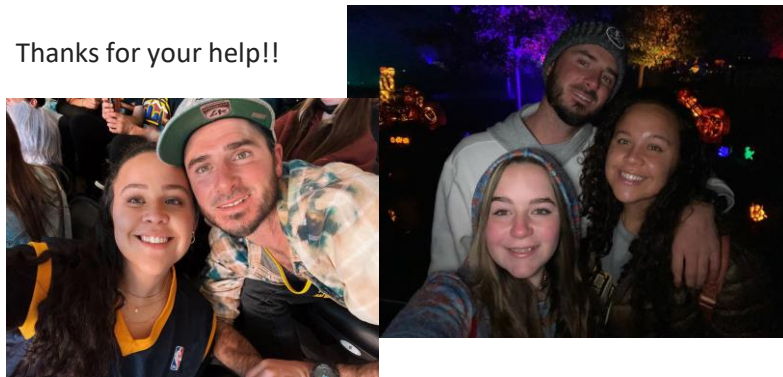
I regret to announce the departure of Tim Stott, our Facility Manager since 2019. The obligation to his trash business and duties at the Lodge are a little more than he cares to take on. Tim has been a great asset to the Sons and Daughters of Italy, always there to lend a hand in everything that we do. Tim will be missed! We want to wish Tim, Charlotte and Amber all the best!!

We have big shoes to fill, so I'm hoping that Lodge members and their friends or acquaintances, can help us **fill this position!** Here is a basic job description:

In exchange for **FREE RENT** at the house, the Facility Manager oversees the Lodge, keeping it clean, organized and secure. The Facility Manager can earn extra money by setting up, tearing down and facilitating paid Hall Events. Someone with basic handyman skills is preferred but not required. There are some physical demands as well (moving tables and chairs, taking out trash etc.). The ideal applicant might have a full or part time "work from home" job, where the Facility Manager Duties would be easy to complete in-between regular job duties. A complete Job description can be provided to serious candidates. Tim will be leaving some time in March, and we have some work to do at the house. We would like to have a new Facility Manager in place by April 1st.

This is a unique position to fill, so if you know someone looking for something like this, please give them my information and/or give me their information!

Thanks for your help!!

**Check out our Website and "LIKE us on Facebook"**

So much goes into our [WEBSITE](#) every month... take a moment to check it out and let us know what you think!

Next, all our members need to "LIKE" us on [Facebook](#)

Stay in touch!

**COVID TEST KITS**

Shared by Ed Gillett

We are seeing a slight decrease in COVID cases, thank goodness! In the event you are exposed and would like to get tested, there are drive through locations throughout the Denver metro area OR you can go online and order 4 test kits/address (only 1 order (4 test kits in each) per address) by registering at www.usps.com/covidtest.

Happy New Year!! February& March Events around the Community!

from Dr. Rita DeFrango

February

February 5th, Dante Alighieri Society Board Member Planning Meeting

February 6th, Prima Domenica, sponsored by the Fiori D'Italia and Trentini

February 9th, IABA General Meeting

February 11th, Dante Alighieri, Presentation by Professor Roberta Waldbaum

“Rome as seen through the eyes of students” (Depends on the status of Omicron);

Scopa games – members and guests wishing to play scopa Mt. Carmel Parish Hall –

(depends on the status of Omicron)

February 12th, Altar & Rosary - Fiesta d'Amore Dinner Dance (See Flyer Attached)

February 16th, Sons & Daughters General Meeting

February 17th, Italians of America General Meeting

February 19th, Dante Alighieri, *Deadline for Donne di merito award nominations* Donne di merito awards are presented to Italian-American women (contemporary or historical) who have significant ties to Colorado and who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments that have contributed to the promotion, maintenance and preservation of Italian culture. Nomination forms are on the Dante Alighieri Society of Denver website or call me at 720-484-1014 or email me at susangurule@msn.com.

February 21st, Presidents Day - State Holiday

February 26th, Altar & Rosary Lenten Retreat 8:30 Breakfast, Retreat 9 AM to 12 PM

March

March 2nd, Ash Wednesday, Pasta Fagioli at Mt. Carmel, sponsored by the Men's Club

March 6th, Prima Domenica - Italians of America Sponsor

March 3 - Fiori d'Italia Opera “The Shining”

March 9th, IABA General Meeting

March 11, 2022, Dante Alighieri, International Women's Month, Presentations by Tony Clement on Climbing Mt. Everest, Announcement of Donne di merito award winners

March 12 - St. Patrick's Day Parade

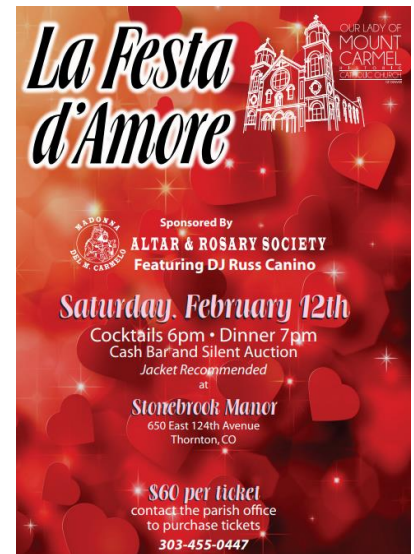
March 15th/16th - Fiori D'Italia Bocce Begins

March 16th, Sons and Daughters of Italy General Meeting

March 17th, Italians of America General Meeting

March 20th, Altar & Rosary St. Joseph Table, Pasta Bucket Drive Thru - RSVP

March 27, A&R Member Meeting



Calling All High School Seniors

by Bob Giusto

With February upon us, we know scholarship season is right around the corner. While high school seniors are in the middle of submitting applications and awaiting those coveted acceptance letters from the universities and higher education programs of their choice, the next concern is financing their future endeavors. As always, we are here to help. Lodge members with high school seniors in their immediate family, please steer your students toward the Denver Lodge website for the scholarship application form. As we have done for decades, we seek to honor and support our students. Five one-thousand-dollar scholarships are waiting to be awarded to worthy seniors. The application form and necessary contact information are posted on the website, and the application deadline is April 15. Recipients are asked to attend the awards dinner on May 18, so let's be sure to mark those important dates on our calendars. We would like to thank President Sal Siraguse, Pam Wright and the entire lodge council, and all members who support events like the spaghetti dinners and the golf tournament which help fund the scholarships. These events keep our scholarship program alive and thriving. We have honored our scholars since this lodge was founded, and we are proud to continue this tradition.



From the Bar – Love Bug Cocktail*from LeAnne DiTirro*

The Lovebug cocktail is a “gorgeous and bright Valentine’s Day cocktail! Made with four simple Ingredients, it’s great to make for your lovebug!

Ingredients:

3 ounces white cranberry Juice

2 ounces lemon lime soda

1 ounce vodka

1 ounce grenadine

**By-Laws***by Pam Wright, Orator*

All by-law changes and updates that have been submitted to me by the February 1st deadline, (no exceptions) shall be presented to the by-law committee. The

by-law committee will go over each submitted change or update to make sure it is not in conflict with the state or national by-laws. Each accepted by-law shall be published in the March and April LaParola. Discussion on those changes will be discussed at the April general meeting. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

Please submit your requested bylaw updates and changes to Pam Wright at

pcake@comcast.net

**Mark the Date – Denver St. Patrick’s Day Parade***from Dr. Rita DeFrange*

St. Patrick’s Day brings out the “Irish” in all of us – even if we are Italian! So good news the St. Patrick’s Day Parade is on for 2022! Mark your calendars for March 12th – and join us as we enter our float in the parade. The theme this year is “The Irish are Back”....and back after a 2-year break as the pandemic impacted our ability to gather.



Stay tuned for more information on the parade, ride, walk, bring your bike – as we will be singing with Russ Canino!

[More information on the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Denver.](#)



Picture from 2019 parade. →



Welcome to our new members !

All new members, mark your calendars! February 16th, General Meeting Initiation will be held. Welcome Anthony McKee, Susan Cecere and Monica Enamorado! Contact Anna Vann with any questions!

Donations are Welcome !

There are many in and around our community that are in need, coats, blankets, warm socks and gloves are the most requested items.

If you happen to come up with any items, please bring them to the lodge as we will always have a donation box at the top of the steps for donations. Thank you!



Justice for Columbus

by Ed Mendicello

This fall, the Christopher Columbus statue was vandalized in Pueblo, Colorado. Video surveillance and great police work identified the individual who caused the damage. As a result, the subject Vincent Martinez Ortega was arrested on the charge of damaging and defacing public property, a felony. On January 9, 2022, in the City and County of Pueblo, Ortega reached a plea agreement which reduced the felony violation to a misdemeanor. As a result of this conviction, the defendant was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, payment of all court costs, 100 hours of community service, and restitution of \$3,900 to pay the city back for the damage and repair of the statue.

Ironically, Ortega is running for a City Council position in Pueblo. The defendant must also abstain from alcohol and marijuana use during his probation with mandatory weekly testing. If any of these conditions are violated, his probation will be revoked.



New Tables for the Lodge

by Anna Vann

Would You Like to Sponsor a Lodge Table? Our project to replace the current round tables in our hall is underway. We already have 18 tables sponsored and eight have been purchased. In the spirit of giving, please contact a council member or send us an email at soidenver2075@gmail.com, to sponsor your table.



Please send \$100 to OSIA Denver 2075, 5925 W. 32nd Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80212 or bring it to the next general meeting. Once all the tables have been sponsored and purchased, a plaque will be displayed in the hall with a list of all sponsors. You can sponsor more than one table if you like. We truly appreciate your support of the lodge in every way!!

Grazie!!



What do Italians do for Valentines Day?

by Dr. Rita DeFrance

Anyone can conduct a "Google" search for Valentine's Day. What is most interesting is the similarities of Valentines in Italy. Historically Valentines was celebrated as a Spring Festival. Italians will celebrate the advent of spring together by spending time outdoors, strolling in parks, sitting under trees or in beautiful gardens, and listening to music or talking.

Florence and Venice are traditionally considered to be two of the most romantic places in Italy but Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet celebrates Valentine's Day with a four-day celebration of events designated "Verona in Love." In the center of Piazza dei Signori a giant red heart is painted on the street.

For more information see [La Gazzetta Italiana](#)



Holiday recipes....

by Kathy Holt

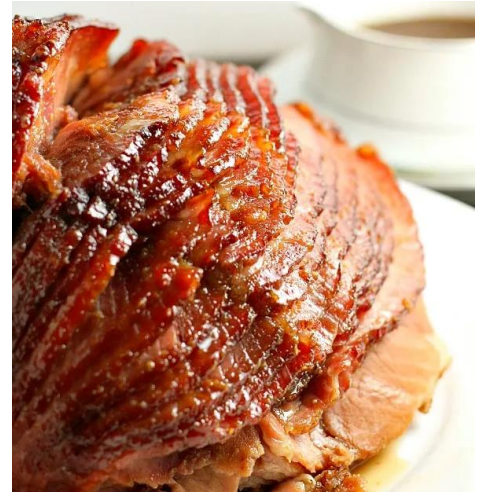
Are you looking for something delicious to serve at the holidays or anytime really....check out these recipes.

COORS HAM –Great!

- 1-15 lb. precooked ham with bone
- 1-pound dark brown sugar
- 4 12-oz. cans Coors beer and water

Glaze

- 1/4 C. honey
- 1/4 C. Dijon mustard
- 2 C. packed dark brown sugar
- 1/2 C. bourbon



Place the ham in deep roasting pan. Firmly pat 1-pound brown sugar on all sides of ham. Pour beer around ham. Cover and bake at 325 degrees for 3 3/4 hours (15 minutes per pound). One hour before end of baking time, pour off all but 3 inches of beer. In small saucepan, combine honey, mustard, 2 cups brown sugar, and bourbon; heat until sugar melts. Baste ham with beer mixture from bottom of pan and then bourbon glaze. Use all bourbon glaze before removing ham from oven. **Do not pour out the sauce!** It's great for reheating ham pieces. Slice thinly and serve with sauce remaining in pan. Serve with cheesy mashed potatoes or gratin dauphinois.

GRATIN DAUPHINOIS GOOD

There is something about the texture of the potatoes surrounded by creamy goodness and topped by golden brown cheese that wows people. The technique of starting the potatoes in a saucepan of half-and-half and ending them in a buttered gratin dish comes from the masterful Jacques Pépin.

- 2 1/2 lbs. boiling potatoes, such as Yukon Gold
- 1 sliced very thin Vidalia onion
- 2- to 3 1/2 cups half-and-half (enough to cover potatoes)
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 3/4 cup coarsely grated Gruyere or 1/2 cup Cheddar
- Put a rack in middle of oven and preheat oven to 400°F. Generously butter a 9x11 pan or large gratin pan.
- Peel potatoes. Slice with a mandolin crosswise into 1/16-inch-thick slices with slicer and transfer to a 4-quart heavy saucepan. Add half-and-half, garlic, salt, and pepper and bring just to a boil over moderate heat. Meanwhile slice onion if using.
- Pour some potato mixture into buttered dish, distributing potatoes evenly, and then adding the onions, then more potato. Pour in all the cream. Sprinkle nutmeg and cheese evenly over top. Place pan on a cookie sheet. Bake until potatoes are tender, and top is golden brown, 35 to 45 minutes. Let stand for 15 minutes before serving.



COOKS' NOTE: The gratin can be made up to 1 day ahead. Cool completely, then refrigerate, covered. Bring to room temperature before reheating, covered, in a 350°F oven, but not as good as freshly baked. Serves 8



Please Join Us at the Denver Lodge for These Events

February/Febbraio

February 16th – General Meeting

March/Marzo

March 12th – St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 16th – General Meeting

April/Aprile

April 20th – General Meeting

Contact Us

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