



# LA PAROLA

*Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958*

January / Gennaio 2023



Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year one and all! I hope that everybody had a wonderful Christmas Season with family and friends!

Unfortunately, we were not able to have our traditional 7 Fishes Christmas meeting in December as the weather became quite nasty on Wednesday December 21st. We hope to reschedule the Fishes Meeting sometime during Lent.

Our January General Meeting will feature Installation of Officers. We will swear in 3 new Council Members, Joe Marino, Joe Calabrese, and Joannie Flynn. Patrick Lubrano will be sworn in as Vice President. Patrick had previously served as a Council Member.

I want to thank Council Members Ed Mendicello and Phil Rossi, along with Treasurer Beverly Mendicello. They are finishing up their service as Council Members in January. I truly appreciate their service and dedication to the Lodge over these past few years!! And speaking of Treasurers, we are looking to fill that position. If you are interested or if you know another member that might be interested, let me know. An accounting degree is not necessary, but basic bookkeeping skill is helpful. Take care and God Bless!

Fraternally Yours, President Sal

Picture from Denver Botanic Gardens...a must see for the holidays!

## Italian American Business Association *Bravo Awards*



The Bravo Awards have been in existence for a couple years now. The award is an opportunity to recognize someone in the community who has made contributions above and beyond! This year's event will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Denver Lodge – but the great thing is all the organizations are pulling together to assist in sponsorship! Wow... Another great example of how strong the Italian Community is!

### **RETURNING AWARDS – Nomination Form available Soon!**

IABA Italian American Business of the Year  
Italian American of the year  
Italian American Volunteer of the Year

### **NEW AWARDS – Nomination Form Available Soon!**

Italian American Sports Figure of the Year  
Italian American Educator of the Year

### **SEVEN (7) NEW "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" AWARDS – Voting Form Available Soon!**

Best Pizzeria  
Best Italian Bakery  
Best Italian Deli/Market  
Best Italian Winery  
Best Italian Restaurant  
Best Italian Cultural Gathering (Feast, Bazaar, Event, etc)  
Best Italian Entertainer (any genre of music)



*So, get your pen ready to fill out your nomination form! We will send out a notification as soon as the forms were available!*



# La Parola

January / Gennaio 2023

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

## Building Contacts

Patrick Lubrano – Building Committee  
Desi Ramirez – Facility Manager

## Health & Condolence

Angelina Sether 303-989-2251

## Hall Rental

Anna Vann

## Address Changes

[SOIDenver2075@gmail.com](mailto: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

[siraguse56@msn.com](mailto:siraguse56@msn.com)

Vice President

open

Orator

Pam Wright

[pcake@comcast.net](mailto:pcake@comcast.net)

Recording Secretary

Anna Vann

[tmvenv@msn.com](mailto:tmvenv@msn.com)

Treasurer

Beverly Mendicello

[bmendi@msn.com](mailto:bmendi@msn.com)

Financial Secretary

Dr. Rita DeFrangé

[ritadefrange@gmail.com](mailto:ritadefrange@gmail.com)

Past President

Pam Wright

[pcake@Comcast.net](mailto:pcake@Comcast.net)

Guard

TJ Henderson

[TJHenderson435@hotmail.com](mailto:TJHenderson435@hotmail.com)

Chaplain

Barbara Pietrafeso

[barb@coloradosownrealestate.com](mailto:barb@coloradosownrealestate.com)

Trustee

Patrick Lubrano

[PatrickLubrano@yahoo.com](mailto:PatrickLubrano@yahoo.com)

Trustee

Ed Mendicello

[emendi36@msn.com](mailto:emendi36@msn.com)

Trustee

Phil Rossi

[prossi1@msn.com](mailto:prossi1@msn.com)

Trustee

John Callor

[callor95@gmail.com](mailto:callor95@gmail.com)

Trustee

John Gargano

Past President

Dominic LoSasso

[dominic@osiacolorado.org](mailto:dominic@osiacolorado.org)

Mistress of Ceremonies

Diana Williams

[piebald4@comcast.net](mailto:piebald4@comcast.net)

Mistress of Ceremonies

LeAnne DiTirro

[leanneditirro@gmail.com](mailto:leanneditirro@gmail.com)

Historian

Open



## Hall Inquiries by Anna Vann

2023 is starting to fill up with rentals. If you're thinking about having an event next year, please contact Anna Vann at 303-618-8023.



## 2023 -2024 Membership Information

Dues-It's that time of year again... Renewal for 2023 starts in January. Dues for regular members are \$65. Lifetime members (member for 25+ years and over 85 years old) are \$25. Junior members (ages 8-17) are \$8. If you're not sure which category you fall into, please don't hesitate to contact me at 303-618-8023. Ciao-Anna Vann, Recording Secretary.



## 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](mailto:coloradopolkaklub@gmail.com).



## Book Club by Pam Wright

Book Club continues to meet the second Monday of every month. If interested in joining us, please contact either Pam Wright 303-210-6277 or Maggie Iozzo 702 244-1042.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



# WELCOME

## Welcome to our new members !

Welcome new members from 2022...Cindy Acierno, Jennifer Anderson, Mary Lou Andrews, Bryan Archer, Alicia Archer, Talia Archer, Giuliana Archer, Gregory Blevens, Linassa Blevens, Raylene Carbone, Roberta Casarez, Monica Ennamorato, Mike Garioto, Ronal Gehauf, Roseanne Gehauf, Charla Gonzalez, Susan Gurule, Julie Lopez, Vincent Mariano, Joe Marino, Beverly Meyer, William & Deb Miller, John Napoli Alice Nichol., Christian O'Canina, Jose Manuel Olivas, Ramona Olivas, Nancy Orr, Susan Pritekel Tolve, Desi Ramirez, Carol Rondinelli, Lindalee Schwinnen, Cindy Towle, Zachary Utting, Matt Vergano, Linda Villano, Tom Warne and Patty Wood.

**Remember** – general meetings are every third Wednesday, there are plenty of fun things going on at the lodge and across the community. For now – come down on Monday evenings to watch bocce – and maybe even sub ... we always need subs! We have a Spaghetti Dinner coming up – maybe we can enlist your help!



## Updates on Pursuing the 2023=2024 OSIA Denver Lodge Board

*Orator Pam Wright*

Our Denver Lodge Council will be sworn in during the January meeting. The Council still has a Treasurer Position open. Anyone who is interested in pursuing the position is asked to reach out to Pam Wright our Orator or Sal Siraguse our President. Thank you!

## January Trivia

*Beverly Mendicello*

Snowflakes are not white, they are translucent



Sunsets are more beautiful in the Winter, why? Cold, dry air is clearer than humidified summer air, allowing the sun's hues to shine through more vividly.



How much warmer can the inside of an igloo be compared to the outside air? 70 degrees.



## Scholarships....Local, State and National – Apply Now!

*by Dr. Rita DeFrang*

At the beginning of every new calendar year kicks off the pursuit of funding for education. Scholarships are so important as scholarships offer another avenue for a young person to defray costs with added funding, even if those funds only cover books, or smaller items. Every little bit counts!

The Denver Lodge offers scholarships and information can be found in the [scholarship link](#) from our webpage. Our Colorado State Level Lodge also offers a [scholarship link](#) to applying as well. Finally, our National Organization also gives out scholarships with their application on their [website](#).



**Happy New Year!***from Dr. Rita DeFrango*

This year's calendar planning meeting across the clubs and Italian organizations is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>....

**January Events****January 16th** - State Holiday**January 21** - Boogie Nights at Mt. Carmel**February****February 5th** - Prima Domenica at Mt. Carmel**February 20th**, Presidents Day - State Holiday**February 21st** - Sister City Presenting an Orchestra (see flyer attached)

Please note that the Altar & Rosary Valentine's Dance is cancelled this year.

*A Magical evening with Italian Violinist*  
Simone Spadino Pippa (reception following the performance)

In Concert with the Colorado Chamber Players and Friends  
John Hubert, Conductor  
February 21, 2023  
7:00pm

Bethany Lutheran Church  
4500 E. Hampden Ave  
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Sponsored by Denver Sister Cities International  
Potenza Committee

Program  
A. Vivaldi: Concerto a Due Op. 3 "Gli Violino Discordati" in B-flat Major, RV 593  
A. Vivaldi: "The Four Seasons"  
P. De Sarasate: "Introduction and Trepaliera"

Use QR Code above to buy Tickets

**BOOGIE NIGHTS**  
SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 21, 2023

HOSTED BY MEN'S CLUB  
\$25 PER PERSON, DINNER INCLUDED  
CONTACT PARISH OFFICE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

PARISH HALL  
6 PM - 10 PM

**Thoughts for 2023***by Ellie Gaccetta*

Happy New Year. Standing around in a quiet home after the holidays remembering all the craziness we endured and deadlines we placed upon ourselves is a time for reflection. As we start a new year we always question, sometimes with anticipation and sometimes with dread, what the next twelve months will hold for us. As Italians, we place that decision in God's hands.

Some will make resolutions to be better at something, get more exercise, eat more or less of something, learn a hobby, or visit your family more often. The most common are those who join the gym, pay \$10 a month for a membership that will go dormant after the end of January. The home treadmill you purchased could very well end up becoming a handy place to hang your jacket and hold your boots. There is, however, one resolution I want to urge everyone to make and that is to resolve to be kind. Kindness starts at home it really doesn't cost anything or take much effort. Kindness makes the days seem less stressful even if you're running up against self-imposed deadlines.

Regardless of your political affiliation 2022 was a year of anger, hate, lies and misinformation. As Italians, our ancestor immigrants (and some of you) arrived in this country when those who lived here thought we were taking their jobs, were lazy, couldn't speak the language, and wanted us to get back on the boat again. But somewhere along the line a kind American gave us advice or had a suggestion that set us on a path to becoming productive citizens who love the USA. You don't need a reason to be kind as you do when you're filled with hate and anger. You don't need to defend your kind actions. We have no idea why someone is having a bad day or week. Why someone is enduring hardships with health, finances, relationships or family. We may be feeling on top of the world, yet not everyone is there with us. Truth be told, we've all endured hard times. We've all had to face the death of a loved one, which is the hardest of times. Look around at the faces in the grocery store and you'll see a lot of stress. Meet someone's gaze with a smile and a kind eye – they need it and so do you. One simple act of kindness at a time is how we will change the world around us. This should be your resolution for 2023.

Let's make 2023 the year of kindness. If nothing else, it gives us hope to start the year on a good foundation. With kindness comes change and our second resolution is to be the change you want to see.

Buon Anno!



## Conference of Presidents....by Dr. Rita DeFrangé

As we move towards more of an interactive newsletter, you will find links to interesting articles and more information and offerings from National. See their [website](#) for deals, trips, books and more information about how to inquire about your heritage.

Just after COVID a new organization formed – The Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations or <https://copomiao.org/> There are several main themes that this conference of presidents pursues. The first is around Italian Heritage, the next is how to get young people involved and interested, there is a Columbus Day pursuit, as well as publications of books and interviews with key individuals about Italian Culture. Their goals are on the [Statement of Purpose](#) page on the website.

I have attended several of their conference calls, has have several of the Denver Council – very informative...check them out!



## Sparkling Blood Orange Mocktail with Turmeric

from our own LeAnne DiTirro

When life gives you blood oranges, give them a squeeze! Have you tried them? I recently saw some at my local grocery store and had to buy a big bag. They are edible jewels that you just can't resist. Some look like unassuming oranges or have blushes of red on the surface, but once you slice them open. Surprise!

1 cup blood orange Juice, plus 2 orange slices for garnish

½ teaspoon ginger powder

½ teaspoon turmeric

1 cup club soda or sparkling mineral water

Honey, maple syrup, or agave if desired

4 mint leaves

2 springs rosemary



## Children of the 50's

From Ed and Beverly Mendicello

Mergatroyd: Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word, Mergatroyd? Heavens to Mergatroyd!



The other day a not so elderly lady (maybe 75) said something to her son about driving a jalopy, and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ... but not that old. Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

Thank you to whomever dug up these old expressions that have become obsolete because of the march of technology. These phrases included: Don't touch that dial; Carbon copy; You sound like a broken record; and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley. And don't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill: not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers. Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!" we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards. Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone.

Continued on page 7....





## Enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner at the Sons & Daughters of Italy

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
12 to 6 PM**

**5925 W 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80212**



### ***Dinner includes...***

**Pasta, meatball, sausage, salad, bread, dessert and wine for dine-in or beverage of your choice!**

**Come dine in or pick up a “to go”!**

**\$10 for Adults and**

**\$8 for Children (12 and under)**

**Stop by the  
Bake Sale**



## Chicken Corn Chowder.... A wonderful meal for a COLD nigh!

by Kathy Holt

- 2 tablespoons olive or avocado oil
- 2 stalks of celery, finely chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 jalapeno, finely chopped, seeds and membrane removed (*this is important for flavor -it doesn't add heat because the seeds and membranes are removed, and it is cooked with the other veggies*)
- 6 strips crisply cooked bacon
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 28 ounces chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons flour (I use Wondra)
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 2 large chicken breasts, cooked and shredded
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese



1. Place olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté celery, bell pepper, onion and jalapeno until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic; cook for another 3 minutes. 2. Whisk the broth with the flour in a liquid measuring cup or bowl and then stir into the soup. Stir in the corn and chicken. Bring to a low boil and reduce heat. 3. Heat the cream cheese in the microwave until almost melted. Whisk together the cream cheese and milk in a large bowl until smooth. 4. Whisk the cream cheese/milk mixture into the soup along with the salt, pepper, bacon, and cheddar cheese. Simmer on low until ready to serve. Tasty with some crispy rolls.

Continued from page 5.....

Where have all those great phrases gone? Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has little liver pills. Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too! So see ya later, alligator! Okidoki.

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 50'S . NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AGAIN ... WE WERE GIVEN ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS: LIVING IN THE PEACEFUL AND COMFORTABLE TIMES CREATED FOR US BY THE "GREATEST GENERATION," GOD REST THEIR SOULS!



# **Please Join Us at the Denver Lodge for These Events**

## **January / Gennaio**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** – General Meeting, Installation of new Council Officers  
Dinner begins at 6:15 PM, Meeting begins at 7 PM

## **February / Febbraio**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – General Meeting

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Spaghetti Dinner

## **March / Marzo**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** – General Meeting

### **Contact Us**

Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America,  
Denver Lodge #2075  
5925 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, WheatRidge, Colorado 80212

**303-238-8055**  
**soidenver2075@gmail.com**



Order Sons & Daughters of Italy  
in America Denver Lodge #2075  
5925 West 32nd Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80212