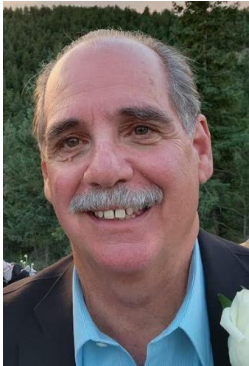




# LA PAROLA

*Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958*

September / Settembre 2024



Brothers and Sisters,

As Labor Day comes and goes, it looks like summer is almost behind us, and fall is right around the corner. There are many events coming up and I hope you can join us for all of them! First up is our Annual Summer Picnic which is being held at the Lodge on our September General Meeting Night. Look for details in this La Parola issue!

On Saturday September 21st, we are having a Spaghetti Dinner at the Lodge. Cost is just \$12 and a portion of the proceeds will benefit The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, an organization supported by the Sons and Daughters of Italy National Organization. On Saturday October 5th, we will celebrate Italian Heritage Month with a Sausage Sandwich Picnic and Bocce Tournament! Stay tuned for more details!



MANGIA .....  
Fraternally Yours,  
President Sal



## Paul Bonacquisti Presents his Passion!

*By Dr. Rita DeFrango*

At our last Sons & Daughters Membership meeting, we had a social night. TJ Henderson asked Paul Bonacquisti to present his legacy, Bonacquisti Wines. Paul graciously accepted and regaled his pursuit of an Urban Winery.



Paul came from modest roots, growing up in Brighton, CO and making wine in the garage. He shared that wine-making was in his blood! For those that did not know, Paul spent the first 20 years of his career in broadcasting and when he was ready to transition to a new career he pursued Sommelier Certification first. Then pulled together a business plan for what is now [Denver's Urban Winery](https://www.bonacquistiwine.com), located in the Sunnyside neighborhood.

Paul sources his grapes from California and Washington to pursue the "light chill" of Northeast Italy. His wines are named after his kids – and the Sunnyside bottle is after the neighborhood. The artwork on the bottles is from [Daniel Luna](https://www.daniel-luna.com), known for his vibrant use of color.

Paul's wines are featured in DeFranco's Italian downtown (the owners are from Buffalo, NY – go figure!) and they actually have a custom label from Paul. Bonacquisti labels range from Merlot, Cab Franc, Sauvignon, a D-Red with a Zinfandel base along with his favorite a Sangiovese. You can find more information on their website <https://www.bonacquistiwine.com>.

Thanks to Paul for sharing his fond memories of his childhood to where he is now!



# La Parola

## September / Settembre

Pam Wright, Sal Siraguse ,  
LeAnne DiTirro, Eleanor Gaccetta, Cyndi Lubrano,  
Kathy Holt, Beverly Mendicello and Dr. Rita DeFrang

### 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](mailto:Joannie818@gmail.com)  
Hall Rental – Sal Siraguse (303) 238 - 8055

### 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.

### 2023-2024 Lodge Officers

#### **President**

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

#### **Vice President**

Patrick Lubrano  
[Patricklubrano@yahoo.com](mailto:Patricklubrano@yahoo.com)

#### **Orator & Past President**

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

#### **Recording Secretary**

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

#### **Treasurer**

John Callor  
[Callor95@gmail.com](mailto:Callor95@gmail.com)

#### **Financial Secretary**

Dr. Rita DeFrang  
[ritadefrange@gmail.com](mailto:ritadefrange@gmail.com)

#### **Guard**

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

#### **Chaplain**

Barb Pietrafeso

#### **Historian- Open**

#### **Trustee**

Susan Giamarvo  
[susangurule@msn.com](mailto:susangurule@msn.com)

#### **Trustee**

Joe Marino  
[bigjoem52@comcast.net](mailto:bigjoem52@comcast.net)

#### **Trustee**

Joe Calabrese  
[JAC5260@MSN.COM](mailto:JAC5260@MSN.COM)

#### **Trustee**

Joannie Flynn  
[Joannie818@gmail.com](mailto:Joannie818@gmail.com)

#### **Trustee**

John Gargano

#### **Past President**

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

#### **Mistress of Ceremonies**

Linda Villano  
[l\\_villano@comcast.net](mailto:l_villano@comcast.net)

#### **Mistress of Ceremonies**

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

## Having an Event this Year? by Dr. Rita DeFrang

If you are interested in renting the hall, please use the “[contact us](#)” from the website or call 303-238-8055. We are already booking up for 2024 and want to be able to accommodate all inquires! Grazie!



### **Membership Information**

Are you enjoying your membership with this great lodge? Do you know of anyone else that might enjoy meeting new people, joining in on fun activities and events, and eating some great Italian food? (there's always food involved with any event for Italians!) Give them a membership application and sign off as their sponsor. You can obtain an application from our website or at the lodge directly. The more, the merrier!!



**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 & Maggie Iozzo**

Book Club meets the second Monday of the month. Meeting place Panera on 64<sup>th</sup> & Yank, 12:00 p.m. everyone is welcome! Here are the books, October – “The Women” by Kristen Hannah, November is “The Measure” by Nikkie Erlich and in December we will read “The Little Old Lady who Broke all the Rules by Catherina Ingleman Sundberg.

**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 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.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars! Submitted by Dr. Rita DeFrango

- Sept 1st - Prima Domenica, Sons & Daughters Sponsoring
- September 7th - Sons and Daughters Annual Car Show
- Sept 13th - 15th - Assumption Bazaar
- Sept 13th - Cultural Presentation sponsored by the [Dante](#)
- Sept 18th - Sons & Daughters Annual Picnic at the Social Meeting
- Sept 21st - Sons & Daughters Spaghetti Dinner 12 to 5
- Sept 21st - [Mt. Carmel Trivia Night](#) - begins at 5:30PM

October - Italian Heritage Month

- October 4th - [Dante Cultural Event](#) - Cabrini Showing
- October 5th - Two/Two Bocce Tournament at the Sons & Daughters of Italy (daytime)
- October 5th - Trunk or Treat, sponsored by Potenza (afternoon/evening)
- October 5th - SafeHouse [Gala](#) (evening)
- Oct 6th - Prima, Italian Community Sponsors
- October 11th - [An evening of Tombola](#) - Dante
- October 12th - [Dinner and Wine Tasting Event](#)
- October 13th - quarterly A&R meeting
- October 19th - [Cooking](#) sponsored by Dante
- October 19th - Potenza 125th Anniversary Celebration

Mark Your Calendars



Join us for our Annual Picnic on Meeting Night!!!!



Weds, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

We will meet in the Garden Area...

The Bocce Courts will be setup to play, there will be cornhole and there will be music to entertain us!



The lodge will provide the steak or chicken and watermelon. We are asking members with their last name beginning with A through M to bring a side salad and N through Z to bring a dessert.

The gate opens at 5:30!

Please RSVP to [SOIDenver2075@gmail.com](mailto:SOIDenver2075@gmail.com)



Sons & Daughters of Italy Celebrate Italian Heritage

Location: 5925 W 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Time: 11AM to 2PM

Enjoy a Sausage Sandwich in our garden patio!  
Watch or play in a 2 on 2 Bocce Tournament!  
Italian Sausage Link Sandwich w/Peppers \$8  
Chips, sides, dessert, & Drinks (water/pop) \$1 each



COST: \$25/person

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 1 Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

There will be prizes for first and second place!

Continental Breakfast & Lunch provided!

Check in at 9:30 AM and the first game will begin at 10AM

Submit your team information to Sal Siraguse [siraguse56@msn.com](mailto:siraguse56@msn.com)

and if you have any questions call 720-908-7701. See you there!



## Mandarin Orange Spinach Salad, from our very own Kathy Holt

### FOR THE SALAD

- 8 cups. baby spinach and 8 cups arugula (or use a spinach spring mixture)
- 11-oz. can of mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 cup toasted walnuts chopped
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup freshly shaved Parmesan cheese
- Pinch of flaky sea salt



### FOR THE DRESSING

- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp orange juice
- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 tsp poppy seeds
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

In a large bowl, toss together the greens, mandarin oranges, walnuts, and cranberries.

In a medium bowl, whisk together red wine vinegar, orange juice, honey, poppy seeds, and mustard. Slowly pour in oil while whisking until incorporated. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Pour dressing over salad and toss to combine. Top with the Parmesan and a good pinch of sea salt.

Serves 6, **Note:** If you do not want to make the dressing, you can substitute ½ cup of store-bought raspberry balsamic vinaigrette.

### September Trivia

from Beverly Mendicello

Colonel Harland David Sanders was born on September 9, 1890, 3 miles east of Henryville, Indiana in a 4-room house. He was the oldest of 3 children. When his father died unexpectedly in 1895, his mother had to go to work. Harland had to then start looking after and his siblings. His mother remarried in 1902. Harland left home at a young age and held numerous jobs. At 65 years young, Colonel Sanders created his secret recipe! Of these different jobs, can you guess which ones he did before creating his secret recipe? Locomotive Fireman, Tire Salesman, Farmhand, Life Insurance Salesman, Railroad worker, Amateur obstetrician, Political Candidate, Motel operator, Mule-tender, Ferryboat entrepreneur, Aspiring Lawyer, Butcher...

### Answer: ALL OF THEM!

In 1930, the Shell Oil Company offered Sanders a service station in North Corbin, Kentucky, rent free, in return for paying them a percentage of sales. Sanders began to serve chicken dishes and other meals such as country ham and steaks.



In 1952, Sanders franchised his secret recipe "Kentucky Fried Chicken" for the first time, to Pete Harman of South Salt Lake, Utah, the operator of one of that city's largest restaurants. In the first year of selling the product, restaurant sales more than tripled, with 75% of the increase coming from sales of fried chicken.

### Pomegranate Martini

from LeAnne DiTirro

Ingredients:

- 2 oz Vodka
- .75 oz of triple sec
- .5 oz lime juice (fresh is best)
- .5 oz simple syrup
- 2 oz Pomegranate juice
- Granulated sugar on the rim

A really nice balance of sweet and sour! Use the orange for garnish!



## The Old Farmer's Almanac ... by Cyndi Lubrano

The Old Farmer's Almanac has been predicting the weather since 1792. As sure as the Sun rises and seasons change, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* returns every year! This year it forecasts a "Calmer, Gentler" Winter! The 2024-2025 Winter Forecasts Are Looking Very Different Than Last Year.

### What Is the 2024-2025 Winter Forecast for the country, and most importantly Colorado.

As has been true in every year since 1792, the newest edition features a healthy dose of wit and wisdom, as well as the Almanac's much-anticipated, traditionally 80 percent -accurate weather forecasts.

"This winter, temperatures will be up and snowfall down throughout most of the United States," reports the Almanac's editor-in-chief. "While there will still be plenty of chilly temperatures and snow for most slopes, the high heating costs associated with the season shouldn't hit so hard. We're predicting a temperate, uneventful winter—potentially a welcome reprieve from the extremes of recent years." There will be exceptions, of course. Winter rainstorms will leave Florida, the Deep South, and southern California soaked. Meanwhile, heavy snowfall is expected in central and southern Appalachia, the western Ohio Valley, and the Rockies—calling all skiers and sledders!

### Denver sits in Region 12: High Plains

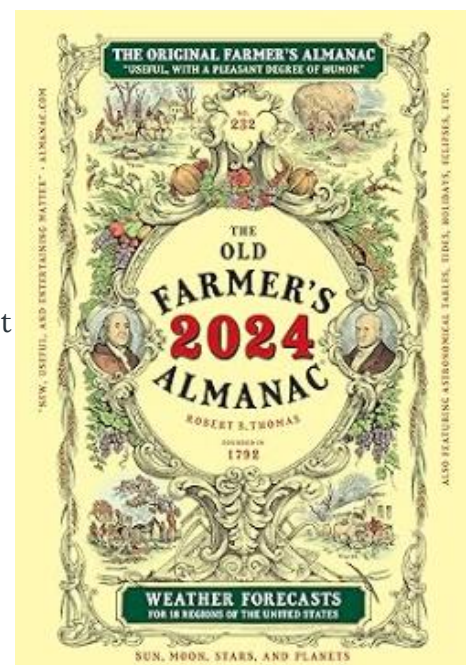
This region, located just to the east of the Rocky Mountains, covers America's broad expanses of flatland. It extends from Amarillo north through Denver to Billings and east to Bismarck.

### How Cold Will Winter Be?

Winter temperatures will be warmer than normal in the northern parts of this region—and colder than normal in the southern areas. Expect the coldest periods in early and mid-January and early to late February. Isn't this always the case.

### Will There Be Snow?

Precipitation will be near normal, so don't expect extremes. Snowfall will be near to above normal, with the snowiest periods in mid-November, mid- and late January, and late February.



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

Saturday, September 21st, 2024  
12 to 5 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"!

\$12 for Adults and

\$8 for Children (4 to 12)

Stop by the  
Bake Sale

### What's Inside the New 2025 Almanac? It's not only about the weather.

There's more! The 2025 Old Farmer's Almanac also explores how tomatoes (once dismissed as "odious and repelling-smelling berries" by The Horticulturalist) became North America's favorite vegetable, the surprising Canadian history of America's favorite pastime, and why incidences of "white dragons" (aka avalanches) are on the rise. In addition, the Almanac looks into whether Earth is on a collision course with the collection of space rubble known as Bennu!

The 2025 Old Farmer's Almanac also invites readers to have fun and flourish by learning how to:

Trick a garden located anywhere into growing (almost) anything  
Start and care for a backyard flock of chickens - Catch, cook, and truly appreciate Nature's original "fish sticks"—that is, smelts!

Garden by the cycles of the Moon

Understand and interpret the curious behaviors of cats

Find health and happiness in a cup of tea

Give the perfect hug (or just replicate its feeling and benefits)

The brand-new edition includes all of this, plus the Almanac's "Trends" predictions for 2025, the humor of

Anecdotes & Plesantries, Mind-Mangling puzzles, award-winning holiday recipes, weather forecasts for all 18 regions of the U.S. (including Alaska and Hawaii), and so much more! Take a look!!



**SUBMIT YOUR STORY or RECIPE.....by September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Recently our National Organization reached out to the Denver Lodge officers. Nick Farano, along with Jared DeMarinis, co-chair the **OSDIA National Public Image Committee**. They're both proud members of Maryland's Annapolis Lodge #2225. We're thrilled to announce two exciting new social media initiatives that we believe will greatly enrich our community and spotlight the vibrant Italian heritage we cherish.

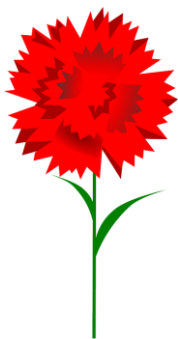
**1. Italian at Heart:** This initiative is all about sharing the personal and inspiring stories of our OSDIA members. We invite you to submit 200–400-word narratives that capture meaningful moments related to our Italian heritage, traditions, or community connections. These stories will be featured on OSDIA's social media channels.

**2. Italian Recipes:** We're also gathering recipes that celebrate our Italian culinary traditions. These recipes will not only showcase our rich food culture but also connect us through shared family values and customs.

A request to "include the Denver Lodge", WOW – let's do it. See our website for a submission page, or send your information to Anna Vann our recording secretary or myself – [ritadefrange@gmail.com](mailto:ritadefrange@gmail.com) so we can collect and send a nice big package to our National folks...and then we will have content for our La Parola as well. Thank you in advance!

**Wheat Ridge Carnation Parade**

Another year in the books for the longest standing Carnation Parade entry – the Sons & Daughters of Italy! Russ did not disappoint – he got the crowds singing and clapping for a good time – thanks Russ! Mark your calendars for next year – second weekend in August! See you there!

**Dinner Club**

*from Sal Siraguse*



Anyone interested in a Dinner Club? Once a month, we get a group together to have dinner at a local restaurant. The first Thursday of the month, but if that doesn't work, we can figure something else out. May be a group of 10-15 people? You don't have to be a couple; you just need to be a foodie like me that likes to eat! Call or text, or flag me down at the next meeting.

*Bon Appetit, Sal - 720-908-7701*

*From the Orator, Pam Wright*

**This November we will be electing new officers for the lodge.** Article II of Denver By-laws

1. In accordance with Article 49 of the Grand Lodge by-laws, "in order to be eligible to be elected President, or Vice President, of a lodge, a member must have served an entire term in a subordinate position of the council, and in order to be eligible for any other office of the council, a candidate must have been a member of the order for at least six months prior to nomination to office.

a) All terms of office will be limited to two consecutive terms unless the person (s) runs for a different office or there are no nominations for that office.

A nominating committee will be chosen by the president. Nominations take place in October and elections will be held in November.

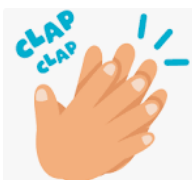


**Welcome Linda Villano as our Mistress of Ceremonies!!**

*from Dr. Rita DeFrange*

President Sal asked Linda Villano to fill the vacant Mistress of Ceremonies positions...and she accepted. She was installed at our last meeting

Grazie!!!



### Difficult Decisions, by Ellie Gaccetta

In *One Caregiver's Journey* I have a vignette for driving. Recently, a niece told the saga of how her husband and his sister were trying to determine how to convince their 94-year-old mother that it was time to stop driving and give up the car keys. A cousin took the keys from her parents last year, only to discover her father had multiple sets of car keys. That's a story for another time. My mother stopped driving at age 91 when we moved into my current home. She had reduced her driving to her weekly hair appointment and the route was through a quiet neighborhood. Until the day she died at 102 she blamed me for not allowing her to drive. To be sure she was a champion driver. There wasn't a place in Denver she couldn't figure out how to navigate, she was independent, mobile and a good driver. We sold her car as soon as she agreed to alleviate the worry that she'd sneak out.

There is no question that driving is the last vestiges of independence and one of the most difficult decisions for families to make. There are ways to convince parents to stop driving. Ride with them. Make an appointment with the DMV for a driving test and enroll them in a Mature Driving Course to see if they meet the standards. Check the vehicle for on occasion for dents, scratches or missing paint chips. Remember, a person's age is not and should not be the sole reason for taking away the car keys! Many seniors in their 80s and 90s are still healthy, active, and safe drivers. The main factors for consideration in this decision should be the mental and physical condition of the senior. Another important factor is where do they live. Rural areas don't have heavy traffic and people know each other. Metropolitan areas are a different story.

If the car keys are ultimately taken away assure them it is not the end of their independence. Family members might take turns bringing them to the store, church, doctor appointments, beauty shop, or look for solutions in senior agency transportation. Here are some of the signs to look for families to consider when making this difficult decision: **1.** Has problems with lanes, straddles or changes lanes suddenly without reason **2.** They ignore or miss traffic signals or stop signs or fail to use turn signals or keeps them on without changing lanes. **3.** Brakes or stops abruptly, hits the accelerator, drives significantly slower than posted speed, coasts to nearly a stop in moving traffic presses the brake and accelerator simultaneously. **4.** Get more and more nervous when driving, have more near misses on the road or back up in traffic after missing an exit. **5.** Reflexes are not as quick to process multiple images or sounds. The body (neck) is not as flexible to see traffic on the right or left and has difficulty seeing pedestrians or other vehicles. **6.** Gets disoriented or lost easily, even if in familiar locations and gets confused in traffic. **7.** He has been issued two or more traffic tickets or warnings in the past two years. **8.** There are dents or scrapes present on the car or on fences, mailboxes, garage doors, or even on curbs.

We must always be attuned to these issues for the safety of our parents and others on the road. How your family deals with this situation needs to be at the forefront of knowing the time will come to have this difficult discussion.

For those who have never been to the Botanic Gardens – this Halloween might be your time to try them out! All the information below was pulled from their website at <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/glow-gardens> and for anyone who has gone to see the Christmas lights – a Halloween spooktacular and glowing décor is just for you!



DENVER BOTANIC  
GARDENS



# Please Join Us at the Denver Lodge for These Events

## September / Settembre

**September 1st** - Prima Domenica, Sons & Daughters Sponsoring

**September 7th** - Sons and Daughters Annual Car Show

**Sept 13th - 15th** - Assumption Bazaar

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Social Meeting & Annual Picnic (*Steaks on the grill!*)

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – Spaghetti Dinner at the Lodge

**Sept 21st** - Mt. Carmel Trivia Night

## October / Ottobre

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – All Club Prima Domenica at Mt. Carmel

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Business Meeting Dinner at 6:15PM, 7 PM Mtg Start

*See page 3 for additional events throughout the community!*

### 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