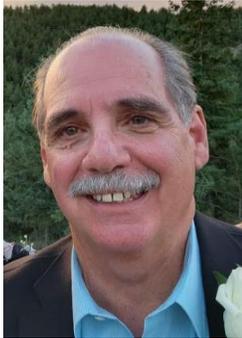




# LA PAROLA

*Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958*

Marzo/March 2026 Issue



Brothers and Sisters,



As we step into the month of March I'm wondering if winter will ever show up. I'm not hoping, just wondering. I hope we don't get one of those crazy spring snowstorms in March or April. A little snow or rain would be nice!

Our February meeting was very well attended and great fun! We enjoyed a delicious dinner including Pasta Fazool Pasta a Oglio, and Pasta with Peas. After dinner we had some Music Trivia which was lots of fun. Brother John Yanacito kicked some serious butt, leading his team to a big win!

We wrapped up the month with our first Spaghetti Dinner of the year, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Food for Thought (FFT). Although the final numbers are not yet in, we did serve 340 dinners, which is a record during my administration! The bake sales also achieved a record. A big thank you to all that volunteered Saturday February 28th! Great Job! FFT founder Bob Bell joined us and spent a couple of hours with us, eating and talking to guests about his charity.

Our next General Meeting is Wednesday March 18th. Hope to see you all there!

MANGIA BENE, RIDI SPESSO, AMA MOLTA

President Sal



La Parola  
Marzo/March 2026

Sal Siraguse, Dr. Rita DeFrangé, LeAnne DiTirro, Eleanor Gaccetta,, Kathy Holt, Beverly Mendicello,, Maggie Iozzo Pam Ciancio-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](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.

### 2025-2026 Lodge Officers

#### **President**

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

#### **Vice President**

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

#### **Orator**

John Capone  
[caponejj@msn.com](mailto:caponejj@msn.com)

#### **Recording Secretary**

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

#### **Treasurer**

John Callor  
[Calor95@gmail.com](mailto:Calor95@gmail.com)

#### **Financial Secretary**

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

#### **Guard**

Joe Bonfiglio  
[jbonfig44@gmail.com](mailto:jbonfig44@gmail.com)

#### **Chaplain**

Barb Pietrafeso  
[babeepietrafeso@outlook.com](mailto:babeepietrafeso@outlook.com) [jbonfig@gmail.com](mailto:jbonfig@gmail.com)

#### **Trustee/Historian**

Ramona (Mo) Toto-Travis  
[alnmo@comcast.net](mailto:alnmo@comcast.net)

#### **Trustee**

Jack Loth  
[jproth@comcast.net](mailto:jproth@comcast.net)

#### **Trustee**

Crist McAfee  
[cmcafee@gedelectric.com](mailto:cmcafee@gedelectric.com)

#### **Trustee**

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

#### **Trustee**

John Gargano

#### **Immediate Past**

#### **President**

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

#### **Mistress of Ceremonies**

Linda Villano  
[l\\_villano@comcast.net](mailto: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. There will be a table at the March meeting to collect dues, or you can “contact us” via email and request an invoice or a payment plan. We are rapidly approaching 400 members strong. Thank you all!

### ***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. *March: Mrs. Endicott’s Splendid Adventure, 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 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 to Barbara Amato, Mike Somma, Tonia Williams, Michael Lombardi, and Theresa Calabrese. Our membership is nearing 400 members.

Membership dues are due. There will be a table at the March meeting to collect dues, or you can “contact us” via email ([oisdadenv2075.org](mailto:oisdadenv2075.org)) and request an invoice or a payment plan. We are rapidly approaching 400 members strong. Thank you all

### 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](http://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: John Fortunato and Mary Lou Andrews, and Stephanie McArthur

Condolences: Tom Ligrani

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

### Thank You Chuck Bur!

by Dr. Rita DeFrango



Shout out to Chuck Bur - we had a problem with one of the ovens in the kitchen - he quickly diagnosed it, was able to get the part locally at a reduced price - and came in and installed the part saving the Lodge a ton of money! Thanks Chuck - hats off to you!



Colorado is celebrating its 150 years as a State. The exhibit at [History of Colorado Museum](http://History of Colorado Museum) is open for guests. There are events everywhere across the state and all year long. Use this [website](#) to find out what is going on in your neck of the woods!



### Lucky Leprechaun Cocktail

by LeAnn Ditirro

In a Glass or Shaker mix all the ingredients and pour into a glass

filled with ice. Garnish with a Mint Sprig.

1 ounce Midori Melon Liquor

1 ounces Malibu Rum

6 ounces Pineapple juice

Mint Sprig for Garnish



By Beverly Mendicello

The March equinox is one of only two times a year when the [sun](#) rises due east and sets due west for everyone on Earth.

March is known for its unpredictable weather, famously coming “in like a lion, out like a lamb,” which speaks to its transitional nature.

In some years, March has a “blue moon”. It’s the second full moon in a single calendar month. This rare event adds a mystical element to the month’s end.

March dances in with a variety of holidays and observances. St. Patrick’s Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> paints towns green, celebrating Irish culture and heritage. International Women’s Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> honors the achievements of women worldwide. AND, don’t forget about Pi Day on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a day math enthusiasts revel in the infinite digits of Pi and often enjoy a slice of pie for good measure!

There’s also World Sleep Day, observed on the Friday before the Spring Equinox, promoting the importance of good sleep health.

The daffodil, symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings, is March’s birth flower. Aquamarine and bloodstone are the birthstones, representing courage and health.

### Italian Habits

Waking up to the smell of sauce on Sunday

Never sitting when you have company

A meal is not a meal without bread

Never showing up empty handed

Watering the driveway

Being told you’ll catch a cold going out with wet hair

Yelling is the only way you know how to talk.





### Marry Me Chicken Breasts

By Kathy Holt

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour, ½ teaspoon Kosher salt plus ¼ for sauce, ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, 4 thin-sliced chicken breasts, 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 ¼ cup onion, finely chopped, 3 cloves garlic, minced, 1 cup heavy cream, 1 cup chicken broth  
 ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes packed in oil, drained and finely chopped, 2 teaspoons tomato paste, ½ teaspoon dried oregano, ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, ¼ teaspoon sugar  
 2 tablespoons grated Parmigiano Reggiano or Pecorino Romano cheese  
 2 tablespoons fresh chopped basil, plus more for serving

Place the flour, salt, and the black pepper in a Ziplock bag and shake to combine. Add the chicken to the bag; seal the bag tightly and shake to coat the chicken evenly. Set aside. \*\* Heat the oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Place the flour-dusted chicken in the pan and cook, flipping once, until the chicken is lightly golden and just cooked through, about 3 minutes total. Transfer the chicken to a plate and set aside \*\*Reduce the heat to medium and add the onions to the skillet. \*\*Cook, stirring frequently, until softened and translucent, 2 to 3 minutes. \*\* Add the garlic and cook, stirring constantly, for 30 seconds more; do not brown. \*\* Add the cream, broth, sun-dried tomatoes, tomato paste, oregano, red pepper flakes, sugar, and ¼ teaspoon salt; use a wooden spoon to scrape any brown bits from the pan into the liquid. \*\*Bring the liquid to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium and gently boil, uncovered, until the sauce is thickened, about 5 minutes. \*\* Stir in the Parmigiano Reggiano and basil. \*\* Add the chicken back to the pan, along with any juices that accumulated on the plate; reduce the heat to low and simmer until the chicken is warmed through and the sauce thickens a bit more, 1 to 2 minutes. Sprinkle with more fresh basil, if desired, and serve with pasta or rice.



Each year the Italian American Business Association hosts the Annual Bravo Awards. The voting is closed and the SOI Denver Lodge has nominees in three award categories. President Sal has been nominated for the Italian of the Year Award. The Italian Heritage Festival hosted by the SOI Denver Lodge has been nominated for The Best Cultural Event of 2025 when we hosted the Italian Heritage Festival in October 2025. Jamie Yantorno and Rose Vecchiarelli have been nominated for Volunteer of the Year award. If you haven't gotten your tickets for the March 7<sup>th</sup> event at the Sheraton Hotel in Lakewood, go to the Bravo website at <https://bravoawardscolorado.com>.





DENVER SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL POTENZA COMMITTEE PRESENTS





**SIMONE SPADINO**  
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ITALIAN VIOLINIST  
WITH PIANIST JIWON HAN  
AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA  
BETH VANDERBORGH DIRECTOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF DENVER  
4101 EAST HAMPDEN AVE.  
DENVER, CO 80222

RECEPTION AND  
REFRESHMENTS  
FOLLOWING PROGRAM

FEATURING AN ALL FELIX MENDELSON BARTHOLODY  
PROGRAM

STUDENTS \$15  
ADULTS \$30

TICKETS:  
[HTTPS://BUY.STRIPE.COM/5K05K9WUZK9NMAK2N003](https://buy.stripe.com/5k05K9WUZK9NMAK2N003)

WWW.DENVER-SISTERCITIES.ORG  
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITTING THE POTENZA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

**MARCH WITH THE SONS & DAUGHTERS!**

Paint the Town Green in the Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade, meet us at 7:30 AM and caravan downtown or meet us there! (Bring your walking shoes and your best Italian and Irish gear.)



Website: <https://osid.denver2075.org/>

See us on Facebook!!!

Social Meeting March 18 at 6:00 PM - Meet Great People: Our "Sons & Daughters" family is always growing.

Open to All: No membership required to march or mingle—just bring your energy!

*"There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met."*  
— W.B. Yeats

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

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
- Sol Flower PROJECT
- 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

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Potenza Lodge Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**

Sunday March 15, 2026  
Potenza Lodge  
1900 W 38th Ave  
12:30 pm - 6:00 pm

\$22.00 per person  
\$15.00 Kids 10 & under

Dinner Includes:  
Salad  
Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, & Carrots  
Bread and Dessert and Beverage.  
2 tickets for beer, wine, or Bailey's & coffee (dine in only).

Dine with us or get it to go!

For tickets, contact:  
Lisa Lokken - 720-297-6951

Stop at our bake sale!

All proceeds will go to our building improvement fund.

**St. Joseph's Table**

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
4pm to 7pm  
with Table Blessing at 3:45pm

Sunday, March 22, 2026  
11am to 3pm

Servite Hall  
3517 Navajo St.  
Denver, CO 80211



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



## Spaghetti Dinner

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Lodge held a Spaghetti dinner benefitting "Food for Thought." The event was well attended with over 300 dinners served and many takeout orders filled. The Lodge was filled with conversation and wonderful aromas. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event a success.



## Thank You for Bake Sale Success

by Pam Wright

The bake sale on February 28<sup>th</sup> was very successful. I would like to take an opportunity to thank some special people who are responsible for the success of our bake sales. Thank you to Linda Villano, Marcia Brunetti, Ellie Gaccetta, John Callor, and Rite DeFrangé for sharing their time and talents to contribute delicious home-baked goods. Thank you, Teri Carlson and Ellie Gaccetta, for setting up and "manning" the table to sell our donations. A special thank you to Maddy Wright and Sofia Garioto, two young women who are applying for the Lodge scholarships, for their time to volunteer at the event. Proceeds from the bake sale will be added to the spaghetti dinner for the event charity "Food for Thought."



## Upcoming Events for ALL Italian Clubs

By Dr. Rita DeFrango



### March

**March 1st** - Prima Domenica, *Sponsored by the Italians of America*

**March 7th** - [Bravo Awards](#) Gala, Sheridan in Lakewood

**March 13th** - Denver Sister Cities (DSC) Potenza - Violin Simone Spadino, Vienna Orchestra, First Universalist Church 7 to 9, drinks and food, all the proceeds go to student scholarships

**March 14th** - Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade - join the Sons & Daughters to attend the Parade, meet at 7:30 AM at the Denver Lodge (*For more information contact Rita*)

**March 15th** - Potenza Corned Beef Dinner, *Potenza Lodge from 12:30 to 6 PM (See the [Website Calendar](#) for more information)*

**March 19th** - [Dante Alighieri Society](#), (DAS) Denver - Taste of Italy

**March 21/22** - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Joseph's Table, 4-7, 11 AM to 3 PM

### 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)

**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 the [Website Calendar](#) for more information)*

## Lenten Friday Fish Fries

by Ellie Gaccetta

The Knights of Columbus hold weekly Fish Fries during Lent. Prices range from \$8-\$19 with some even offering a drive-through option. Here's a few where SOI members may live and can support the Knights of Columbus while enjoying a Lenten meal.

St. Joan of Arc (Arvada), Shrine of St Anne (Arvada), Spirit of Christ (Arvada), Light of the World (Lakewood), Good Shephard (Denver), Immaculate Heart of Mary (Northglenn), St Rafkta Maronite (Lakewood), St. Thomas More (Highlands Ranch), St. Mary's (Littleton), Annunciation (Denver), St. James (Denver), Queen of Peace (Aurora), St. Michael the Archangel (Aurora), Our Lady of Loreto (Foxfield), Pax Christi (Highlands Ranch), St. Francis Cabrini (Littleton), Holy Cross (Thornton), St. Marks (Westminster), Assumption (Welby), Guardian Angels (Denver), Our Lady Mother of the Church (Commerce City)



## Mindless March

By Ellie Gaccetta

Even though this year we haven't had lots of winter snow, we're still sick of winter. Tired of the bitter frigid wind, the occasional freezing weather, we're restless and want to be outdoors, and hate having to dress in layers of clothing. We're yearning for the warm sunshine, to enjoy the earth of our gardens, and to experience the rebirth of spring. Let's take a month to be mindless, imaginative, lighthearted, and have creative discussions. Mindless March is an opportunity to assess our listening skills, have absurd debates and be creative. Add your responses to mine below and have a good laugh – soon it will be Spring.

### Silly Hypotheticals & "Would You Rather"

- If you could only use three words or phrases forever, what would they be? **Be kind, Be honest, Be you.**
- Would you rather sing along to songs or dance to songs? **Dance...shake that booty!**
- What's the weirdest superpower you'd want? **To see into the future.**
- If you could live inside any cartoon, which would it be? **Charlie Brown**

### Absurd Debates & Hot Takes

- Is a hot dog a sandwich? **Yep.**
- Hoagies or Pizza? **Why not Both!!**
- Pineapple on pizza: yes or no? **Banish the thought.**
- Should socks be worn with sandals? **Only if you live in Boulder.**



### Creative & Imaginative Questions

- What would aliens look like if they visited Earth? **Like some of my neighbors during COVID!**
- Describe the most captivating artwork you've ever seen. **The Seattle Chihuly Glass Museum.**
- What's the strangest dream you've ever had? **I won the lottery.**
- If you could invent a new holiday, what would it celebrate? **"Compassion and Respect Day" where everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and compassion - even for a day.**

### Personal & Unexpected

- What's the most unusual thing you've ever eaten? **Rocky Mountain Oysters....**
- What's the weirdest text you've ever received? **I won a Mercedes Benz – it never arrived.**
- What's a smell you find surprisingly soothing? **Other than homemade foods cooking or baking, the outdoor air after a rain or the smell of fresh-cut grass.**
- What's your most embarrassing family story? **There are too many to choose one – what's yours?**

See you next month!



## Community Events



### March

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Prima Domenica - Sponsored by Italians of America

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** - Bravo Awards; Several members and the Heritage Day are up for an award!

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** - Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade - join the Sons & Daughters to attend the Parade, meet at 7:30 AM at the Denver Lodge (*For more information contact Rita*)

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** - Sons & Daughter General "Social" Meeting

### April

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** - Easter

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** – Prima Domenica – Sponsored by Italians of America

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** - Sons & Daughters General Meeting - celebrate the Lodge Anniversary

## 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](mailto:soidenver2075@gmail.com)  
[osiadenver2075.org](http://osiadenver2075.org)



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