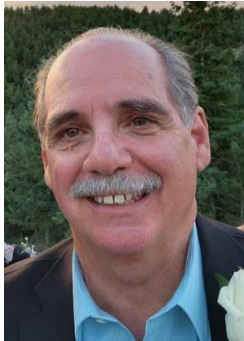




LA PAROLA

Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958

October/Ottobre 2025 Issue



Brothers and Sisters,



We didn't let a little (well, maybe it was a lot) of rain ruin our Annual Summer Picnic/Meeting on Wednesday September 17th! We all worked together to bring in the food and move the party up to the Ballroom! Desi quickly set up tables, Lynn Snow got the bar set up and we were off and running.

Thank you to John Remigio, Ed Gillest, and Jack Loth who braved the wind and rain to grill up the steaks and chicken. We had a feast fit for an ITALIAN KING! Linda Villano, Rose Vecharelli and Rita DeFrangé coordinated the buffet line, and it was great fun!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday October 11th, that's the date of our next Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale benefiting the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund. Contact Pam Ciancio-Wright at 303-210-6277 or pcake@comcast.net or yours truly if you would like to donate baked goods for the sale!

As always, we need volunteers for the Spaghetti Dinner! If you would like to help out, please contact me!

While you have your calendar out, be sure to pencil in our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance on Saturday December 6th!

That's all for now, see you all soon!

MANGIA BENE, RIDI SPESSO, AMA MOLTA



Fraternally Yours,

President Sal



Welcome new members: Ralph Costantini, Greg Ball, John Purcell, Lynda Caroselli, Lisa Vedorelli, Crissy Gravina, Lindsay Gannotti, Lella Vultaggio Lantz, Kassandra Smith

La Parola

October/Ottobre

Sal Siraguse, Dr. Rita DeFrangé, LeAnne DiTirro, Eleanor Gaccetta,, Kathy Holt, Beverly Mendicello,, Pam Ciancio-Wright and Susan Giamarvo,

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

Patrick Lubrano

Patricklubrano@yahoo.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

Historian- Ramona (Mo) Toto-Travis

alnmo@comcast.net

Trustee

Susan Giamarvo

susangurule@msn.com

Trustee

Jack Loth

jproth@comcast.net

Trustee

Joe Calabrese

JAC5260@MSN.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 already booking up for 2025/26 and want to be able to accommodate all inquires! Grazie!



Membership Information



Our membership is strong! We have 350+ members with some being members over 30 years and others just a few years – a great group of people!! If you have not paid your 2025 dues, you will receive a call from the membership committee to confirm continued membership and pay your dues.

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!



Oct: The Woman in Suite 11 -Ruth Ware November: Typewriter Beach-M.W. Clayton December: When I Was 7-M.E. Brownswell

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.

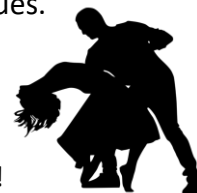
Dancing at the Lodge – Come and Enjoy

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.





The Italian Heritage Festival



Italian American Heritage Month is celebrated in the US during October to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. Proclaimed in 1989 it provides an opportunity to celebrate Italian culture, history and heritage often marked by events focusing on Italian cuisine and achievements.

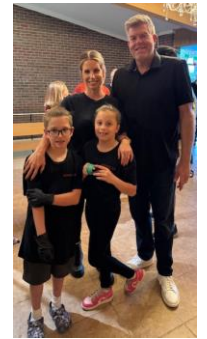
On Saturday, October 4th The Sons and Daughters of Italy kicked off Italian Heritage Month by hosting the **Italian Heritage Festival** at the Sons & Daughters of Italy, Denver Lodge. It was beyond successful with far more participants than any of us ever anticipated. Other local Italian American organizations who joined festivities included Dante Alighieri Society of Denver (Event Sponsor), Denver Sister Cities, Filitalia Denver, Italian American Business Association, Potenza, The Italians of America, and Tirolisi Trentini del Colorado. Their representatives shared their visions and missions. Individual sponsors were Joannie Flynn, Susan Giamvaro and TJ and Teresa Henderson

The afternoon began with the raising of the Italian flag at the Capitol. Then the party moved to the Denver lodge where festivities included food, entertainment, vendors, artists, and local authors promoting their books. Children and adults entertained, visitors line danced, and, in the true Italian culture, everyone had fun, and the event was a great success. Mark your calendar for next year!!

Raising the Italian Flag at the Capitol

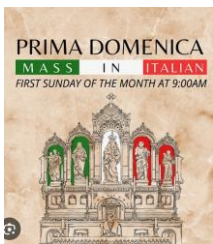


Italian Heritage Festival continued



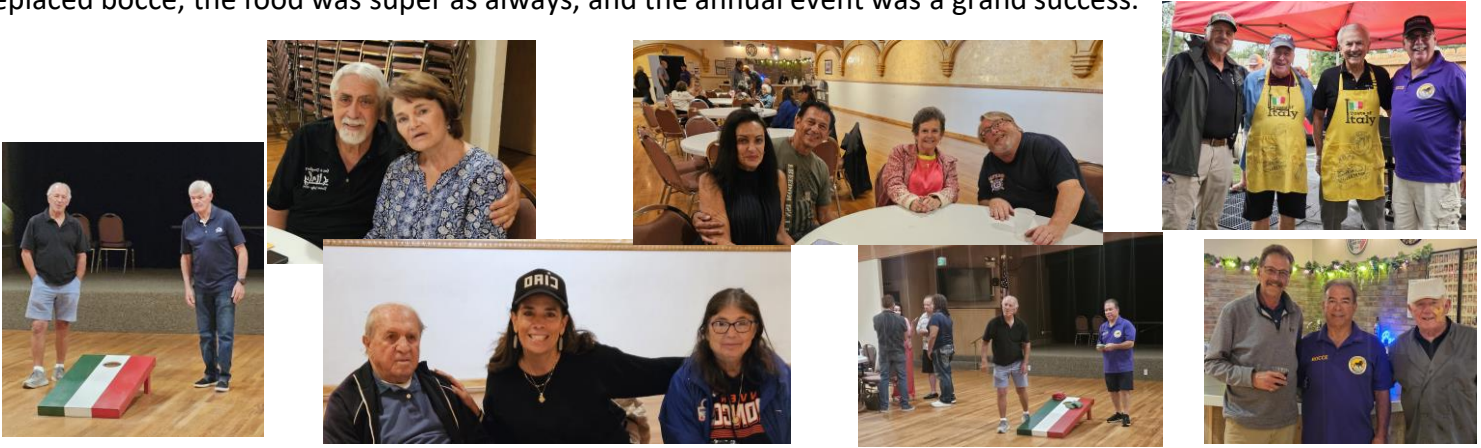
Prima Domenica

On the first Sunday of every month, you can enjoy 9 a.m. Mass in Italian at Mt. Carmel Church. In honor of Italian Heritage Month The October 5th, Mass was followed by a breakfast. Members of the Sons and Daughters of Italy Denver Lodge helped in the kitchen.



Annual Picnic

On September 24th the Annual Picnic was held at the Denver Lodge. Mother Nature tried to deter us when she opened the skies. Not to be deterred, we moved the event indoors. Everyone had a great time, corn hole replaced bocce, the food was super as always, and the annual event was a grand success.



Can you Help with Fall Clean-up at the Lodge??

Every year we take a few hours of a day to clean our event hub. It is important to ensure the Lodge is a safe environment for our members and those who visit or use the facilities. On **Sunday, November 16th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** we will complete our fall clean-up. If you are available, please reach out to Rita at ritadefrange@gmail.com and know that your participation is greatly appreciated.



A note from the National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy In America

Below is a message from Comm. Thomas A. Lupo, National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Check out their website www.nationaloffice@osia.org and explore their online home, the official website of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA). You'll uncover the essence of who we are and what we stand for



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA®

Happy Italian-American Heritage Month from all of us at the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America!

This month, we celebrate the incredible contributions that Italian Americans have made to the tapestry of American culture. It's a celebration of heritage, family, and the enduring spirit of resilience. From the bustling streets of New York to the quiet farmlands of California, Italian Americans have left an indelible mark on every facet of our society.

This month, we honor the innovators, artists, chefs, and laborers who brought their traditions, their passion, and their creativity to a new land. We celebrate the food that brings us together, the music that moves us, the art that inspires us, and the strong sense of family that is at the heart of it all.

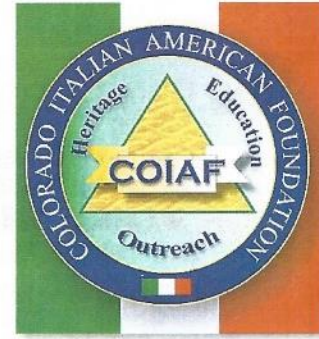
Help us celebrate our heritage and join the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States!





ORDER
**Sons and
Daughters
of Italy**
IN AMERICA®

Southern Colorado Lodge 2738
Pueblo, Colorado
www.OSIA2738.com



www.COIAF.org

Sal Siraguse & Rita DeFrangé
10404 E. 146th Pl.
Thornton, CO 80602

Sal/Rita,

Extend a personal invitation to you and lodge members, to join us for the **120th anniversary of the Columbus Monument re-dedication at 10:00 AM, October 13th, 2025**, originally dedicated back in 1905.

This year's special event features a **raffle with a \$10,000 cash grand prize**, and **additional cash prizes for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th places** -- Winners shall be announced at the ceremony; **only 300 tickets being sold** - raffle tickets are \$100 each.

Directly after the ceremony, we will host a private luncheon across the street at the Rawling's Library Ryals Conference room on the 4th floor – tickets for the luncheon are \$10/person.

Please share with your lodge members and kindly note, tickets are required to get into the private luncheon, **no tickets will be available at the door.**

For either raffle or luncheon tickets, give me a call or email: admin@coiaf.org.

One last surprise - scan the QR Code:



Or visit: www.COIAF.org/commemoration

We look forward to seeing you -

Jerry Carleo, Chairman
COIAF
719-671-5000
admin@COIAF.org

Chile Relleno Casserole

By Kathy Holt

An easy and delicious brunch or light supper dish

Four, 7 oz cans of whole, mild green chiles (28 oz total)

1 pound Monterey Jack Cheese

5 Eggs

1 1/4 cups Milk

1/4 cup Flour

1/2 teaspoon Salt

dash of black pepper

4 cups grated mild Cheddar cheese



1. Slit the chiles lengthwise on just one side. Remove seeds and drain. 2. Slice the Monterey Jack cheese into 1/4-inch-thick slices and place inside the chiles. 3. Place stuffed chiles in an ungreased 3-quart baking dish. 4. Mix eggs, milk, flour, salt, and pepper well, and pour over chiles. 5. Sprinkle top with grated Cheddar. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

Poisoned Apple

By LeeAnn Dittiro

4 oz. Apple cider or apple juice

2 oz. caramel vodka

1 oz. cranberry juice

½ oz. grenadine

Ice cubes

Apple Slices and Cinnamon stick for garnish

1. Fill a cocktail shaker with ice; 2. Pour in apple cider, caramel vodka, cranberry juice and grenadine; 3. Shake vigorously for 10-15 seconds until well chilled; 4. Strain in chilled glass (coupe or rocks glass); 5. Garnish with fresh apple slice and cinnamon stick on the rim if desired.



The Spooky Season

By Beverly Mendicello

1. Which of these is not a real place?

A. Halloween, Oregon: B. Pumpkin Center, Indiana: C. Frankenstein, Missouri: D. Tombstone, Arizona

2. Pumpkins are not vegetables; they're fruits. But, botanically speaking, which type of fruit?

A. Berry: B. Legume: C. Drupe: D. Citrus

3. What was the original name of Candy Corn?

A. Scary Corn: B. Sweet Corn: C. Chicken Feed: D. Bits of Terror

4. What's the name of the hot-dog-eating green ghost who attacked Bill Murray in Ghostbusters?

A. Green Goblin: B. Specter: C. Gobbler: D. Slimer



Answers: 1) D 2) A 3) C 4) D



Enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner at the
Sons & Daughters of Italy
Saturday, October 11, 2025
12 to 5 PM
5925 W 32nd Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80212

Benefitting...

Grand Lodge Scholarships!



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

Join Us For
Potenza
Lodge's
126th
Anniversary
Dinner

Saturday October 18, 2025
Cocktails 6:30 PM
Dinner 7:00 PM
Tickets \$35

Purchase tickets by October 15th
Contact Lisa Lokken
720-297-6951



Tricolore
NIGHTS
OCTOBER 9-12, 2025

THE DENVER CITY & COUNTY BUILDING WILL BE LIT UP IN GREEN, WHITE, AND RED FOR ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH. LIGHTS TURN ON AROUND 5:45PM AND WILL STAY LIT UNTIL 10:45PM.
1437 BARNHOCK ST. DENVER, CO 80202



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
DENVER CHAPTER
ITALIANDENVER



The Dante Society turns 40 this year and is planning a celebration on Friday October 24th from 6-10 p.m. at the Balistreri Vineyards at 1946 E. 66th Avenue, Denver, CO 80229. Tickets are \$60 for DAS members and \$80 for non-members. A festive evening is planned and honored guests from the Italian community have been invited.

View their event calendar for more information at
www.dantealighieriofdenver.com.

Get your Christmas Shopping started early at the
**Sons & Daughters of Italy,
Denver Lodge #2075**

Annual Craft Fair

Doors Open at 10 AM
Dates November 7th & 8th, 2025
(Friday & Saturday)
Location 5925 W 32nd Ave. Wheat Ridge CO



Vendors with handmade Jewelry,
bath soaps & creams, gifts and gift ideas,
And Christmas Décor you cannot pass up!

Also enjoy lunch or a snack at the "CAFÉ"
which opens at 10 AM and will feature soups
& sandwiches, along with other goodies!




December 13 – Christmas Tea

This year we are hosting a Christmas Tea on December 13, 2025. The cost of the tea will be \$35 for anyone over the age of 10. The cost for children aged 10 and under will be \$20. Appropriate attire for the event will be Sunday Brunch attire. **Paid reservations are required. If you do not have a paid reservation, you will be turned away.** Additional information will be available on the Lodge website, osiadenver2075.org website. Detailed information will be posted in the November LaParola. You can contact Pam Wright with questions, 303-210-6277 or pcake@comcast.net.





Help Decorate the Denver Lodge for the Christmas Season with Candy Canes and Red & White Decor

Christmas seems to be right around the corner! In an effort to decorate for a very busy December, we welcome all hands available to help with decorating the Denver Lodge on *Saturday, November 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.* The Sons & Daughters of Italy Denver Lodge is the site of many holiday festivities. Let's see if we can top last year's decorations which were beautiful and festive.

December 6 – Children's Christmas Party Breakfast

The annual Children's Christmas Party Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025. Breakfast will begin at 10:00 a.m. and Santa will arrive shortly afterwards. Children must be 10 and under in order for Children to receive a gift from Santa. The registration form will be in the November LaParola. Registration is required so Santa knows how many gifts to bring with him. For questions contact Joey Regan at 303-994-0445.

Ciancio Family Thank You

By Pam Ciancio-Wright

On Sunday, August 31st, 140 golfers gathered at Hyland Hills Golf Course to participate in and celebrate in the 50th Annual Joe Ciancio, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy. In the tradition of Italian gatherings of food, fun, and friendship, this annual event continued 50 years of fraternity and philanthropy the organizers strive to embrace.

1975, tournament founder Joe Ciancio, Jr, one of three founding fathers of the OSDIA Denver Lodge 2075, began the tournament to raise money for various charities including the Children's Diabetes Foundation, the DeAngelis Foundation, as well as providing scholarships for high school graduates. Since then, the Denver Lodge golf tournament has raised thousands of dollars for organizations that focus on impacting our communities in positive ways.

I would like to thank the many, many volunteers it takes to plan and organize this tournament. There are just too many to name but a special thanks to my family for stepping up and putting up with my last-minute demands. I love you more than you will ever know.

Grazie mille to the hundreds who have participated in the tournament this and every year since 1975, and to those willing to support our communities in a myriad of ways.

This year's proceeds will benefit Revital Colorado, a 501 (c) dedicated to helping those that step forward to help us. A first line for first responders. Thank you to Jordon Long for introducing our organization to such a worthy cause.



Lodge Kitchen Volunteers



The Joe Ciancio Family



All About Dancing

By Ellie Gaccetta

It is Italian Heritage Month!! What do we Italians love to do more than eat, drink and have a fun time. This month I invite you to take a trip down memory lane. I read an article in the AARP Magazine entitled “You Can’t Dance with a Smartphone.” It sent me on a research mission. As I read it, I knew the author was right, today’s young people (20 somethings) are missing out on one of life’s greatest joys, dancing. It breaks my heart to admit that today’s young people do not dance, including those in my family. It seems hardly anyone under 25 likes to dance. My mother would be lighting a candle in church if she were still here.....

I witnessed this for the first time recently when I attended a wedding of a relative’s son. The wedding reception space was small with about 100 guests. My first inclination was to think that people would move to another room to dance after dinner. I was wrong – the dance floor was a miniscule margin between the wall and the tables about 6 feet in width and twenty feet long.

The DJ started playing music. I felt old because I did not recognize a single song. I could not believe my eyes when absolutely no one was on the dance floor. The young guests had no problem going to the bar, but no one ventured onto the dance floor. What a drag the rest of this event was going to be was all I could think. But when the DJ started to spin a mix of 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s, well the small dance floor suddenly was alive as everyone in the room receiving social security or soon nearing that age filled the space. Meanwhile the Gen Zer’s occasionally glanced up from their phones in wonderment, asking each other what are all those old people doing? I’ll tell you what they were doing, they are dancing. We are not all graceful and we do not always look pretty on the floor. Some of us look ridiculous. But we do not care because we are having fun – a foreign concept to the people checking their phones and drinking beer.

My parents danced to the big band tunes. Several times each summer we would go to Elitch’s on a Saturday night. The kids would run through the park riding rides for hours while the adults, dressed in their Sunday best, went to the Trocadero Ballroom, and danced to big band music. Oh, how they loved to dance. Every party or family gathering included music and dancing. It was a way of life for us. We grew up dancing. It was how boys and girls interacted. Families gathered around the table and then on their feet to dance. I still dance in my kitchen with or without music.

Here are some of the top benefits of dance. Dance Gets Your Heart Pumping. Dance Burns Calories. Dance Can Improve Your Mood. Dance Is Easy on Your Joints and Good for Bone Density. Dance Helps with Flexibility and Balance. Dance Can Boost Memory and Brain Power. Is there anything better than moving your feet and body to a great beat? NO. Tell your kids to put down those phones and join us Boomers and learn to enjoy dancing.



Community Events

October - Italian Heritage Month

October 4th – 8:30 a.m. start - Two on Two Bocce Italian Heritage Celebration *at Sons & Daughters of Italy*

October 4th – 3 p.m. Flag Raising at the State Capitol, *Filitalia Sponsoring*

October 4th – 4-8 p.m. Italian Heritage Festival - *Sons & Daughters of Italy Lodge - (most) clubs engaged and coming!*

October 5th - Prima Domenica, All Clubs, *located at Mt. Carmel*

October 6th - Mother Cabrini Day - Holiday

October 9th - 12th - Lighting of the City and County Building

October 11th Spaghetti Dinner Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge

October 11th - Altar & Rosary sponsors “Its in the Bag” purse party, *location: Mt. Carmel (see flyer)*

October 13th - Columbus Day Celebration in Pueblo

October 18th Potenza Anniversary Dinner/Dance at the Potenza Lodge

October 22nd – Sons and Daughters of Italy Monthly Meeting

November

November 1st - [Wine tasting](#) benefitting Laradon Hall, at the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge

November 7 & 8th - Sons & Daughters of Italy Craft Fair

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 12th - IABA Meeting - sponsors a Caruso Family for Christmas

November 19th – Sons and Daughters of Italy Monthly Meeting – Salute to Veterans

Contact Us

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

303-238-8055
soidenver2075@gmail.com
osiadenver2075.org



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