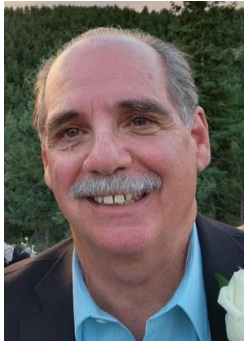




LA PAROLA

Bringing You Information About the Denver Lodge Since 1958

Luglio, July 2026 Issue



Brothers and Sisters,

Happy July everyone! The heat is on and the drought continues. Please follow the watering restrictions in your neighborhood.



At the General Meeting on June 17th, we spent quite a bit of time discussing the installation of Solar at the Denver Lodge. We were not able to come to a conclusion at the meeting. We held another meeting on June 24th and the assembly voted FOR the Solar Project. More to come.

Be sure to join us for the July meeting on Wednesday July 15th as we celebrate America's 250th Birthday with a Red, White and Blue celebration, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, watermelon and apple pie!!

A few dates to put on your calendar;

On Saturday August 1st, is a North Denver Celebration at the Denver Lodge with food right from the menu from the old Scotchman Restaurant! See the flyer in the newsletter for details.

On Saturday August 8th, Bocce, Beer and Bellinis (with the Filitalia Club). See the flyer for more details.

On Wednesday August 19th is our Annual Picnic/Monthly Meeting.

On Saturday October 3rd we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Italian Heritage Festival. Details will be coming soon.

Details on these events are either in this newsletter or on our website!
See you all soon!!

MANGIA BENE, RIDI SPESSO, e AMA MOLTO

President Sal



La Parola
Luglio/July 2026

Sal Siraguse, Dr. Rita DeFrangé, LeAnne DiTirro, Eleanor Gaccetta,, Kathy Holt, Beverly Mendicello

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

Joe Calabrese
JAC5260@MSN.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
jbconfig44@gmail.com

Chaplain

Barb Pietrafeso
babeepietrafeso@outlook.com

Trustee/Historian

Ramona (Mo) Toto-Travis
alnmo@comcast.net

Trustee

Jack Loth
jplot@comcast.net

Trustee

Crist McAfee
cmcafee@gedelectric.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
jbconfig@gmail.com

Having an Event this Year?

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!



We welcome new members every month! If you have any questions, you can “contact us” via email and request an invoice or a payment plan. We have over 400 members and are still growing! Something to celebrate for sure!

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. *July: The First Time I Saw Him, August: The Correspondent, September: The Crossroads, October: Remarkably Bright Creatures*

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.



NORTH DENVER

Fantabulous Drinks Kilted Jose Taco

The Scotchman

OPEN 11 A.M. UNTIL EXHAUSTED!
OPER SUNDAYS AT NOON.

OLD SCHOOL PARTY

SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2026
5PM - 10PM

Tickets: \$25 Per Person - Cash Bar
Buffet Dinner Included!

For Tickets:
Anna Svaldi Vann • 303-618-8023
Danny Sweeney • 303-667-9741

Dance to the Oldies

Sons & Daughters of Italy Denver 2075
5925 W. 32nd Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO
Fundraiser For OSDIA 2075

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
HISTORIC ITALIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF DENVER

Saturday & Sunday
July
18th, 5pm-10pm
19th, 4pm-9pm

95th Annual Bazaar 2026

- Live Music
- Italian Kitchen Goods & Ceramics
- Large Italian Goods
- Bingo, Pickles, & Spin to Win
- Children's Games & Religious Education
- Grand Raffle (drawing on Sunday, July 19th at 7PM)
- Authentic Bazaar Food, featuring:
 - Sausage & Meatball Sandwiches
 - Pizza, Hot Dogs, & Street Corn
 - Pizza Fritta, Italian Ice & Gelato
 - Beer, Wine, & Seltzer
 - Soda & Water

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

32nd Annual Feast Day Mass & Procession
Sunday, July 19th
Mass at 2:00PM
Procession at 3:00PM
"No B&M or B&M Mass"

...celebrating our community

ITALIANS OF AMERICA NORTH DENVER

25TH Anniversary
Red Lion Run

JULY 25, 2026

When | Saturday, July 25th, 2026
10 AM - 3 PM

Where | Lepirino Foods Parking Lot
1830 W 38th Ave - Denver

Cost | \$25 per Vehicle
Free to the Public

Sponsors...

CARUSO - KITCHEN DESIGNS
Bello Trucking, Inc.
CLI

DIGITECH SYSTEMS
uhealth
Lab Truck Sales Inc.
DeRose Family
The John Kilrov Family

cafe jordano
gia
5280 PRODUCE

★ FOOD, BEVERAGES, RAFFLE, ★
★ 10 BEST-IN-SHOW AWARDS ★
★ VENDORS & MUSIC ★

For more information visit our Website: <https://italiansofamerica.org/>

Summer SERATA
AN ITALIAN COCKTAIL PARTY

Potenza Lodge
Denver, Colorado

Saturday July 11th 5-8 p.m. A Public Event by
Filitalia Denver Lodge and Potenza Lodge

OSDIA Denver & Filitalia Denver

BOCCE BEER BELLINIS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH
4PM-8PM

\$20 IF PURCHASED ONLINE BY AUGUST 3RD
\$25 AT THE DOOR. CASH OR CARD ACCEPTED

SONS OF ITALY LODGE
5925 W 32nd AVE.
WHEAT RIDGE, CO 80212

INCLUDES SAUSAGE
SANDWICHES &
DRINKS!

SCAN OR
COME TO
BUY ONLINE



LE REGIONI D'ITALIA
Italy's Famous Regions & Their Gifts

TOSCANA	Wine & Renaissance Art
SICILIA	Citrus & Ancient Ruins
LOMBARDIA	Fashion & Finance
CAMPANIA	Pizza & Amalfi Coast
VENETO	Venice & Prosecco
PIEMONTE	Truffles & Barolo

@EverydayItalian

WHY ITALIANS LOVE THIS FLAG

The meaning behind Italy's iconic colors

GREEN
The lush landscapes, our nature and hope

RED
The blood of heroes, our passion and courage

WHITE
The snow-capped Alps and our heritage of peace and unity

OUR CULTURE
Art, food, music and a way of life admired worldwide

ANCIENT ROOTS
From the Roman Empire to today

UNITY IN DIVERSITY
One country, many regions, one heart

NATIONAL PRIDE
A symbol of identity and belonging

MADE IN ITALY
Excellence that inspires the world

Italia nel cuore, ovunque andiamo





The Sons and Daughters of Italy welcomes David Miani and Lena Rotola to our growing membership. A reminder to all members that our monthly meetings are the third Wednesday of every month.

Prayers for Comfort and Health



Patrick Lubrano has his up and down days. He has been moved to a facility in Arizona where he can receive the specialized treatment he requires. He is a fighter and our good wishes are requested for him and his family. Send the same good vibes to Laurie Creason as her broken foot heals.

2026 Denver Area Church Bazaar Schedules

Do you enjoy the summer activities at the various church bazaars? Here is a list of bazaars in the Denver area where you can support the church community and enjoy good food and meet and greet the parishioners and your friends.

Ascension August 22-23 14050 Maxwell St. Denver

Our Lady of Guadalupe July 10-12 1209 W. 34th Avenue, Denver

Our Lady of Mt Carmel July 18 5-10 p.m., July 19 4-9 p.m. 3549 Navajo Street Denver

Assumption July 24-26 2361 E. 78th Avenue Denver

Holy Trinity August 8-9 7579 Federal Blvd, Westminster

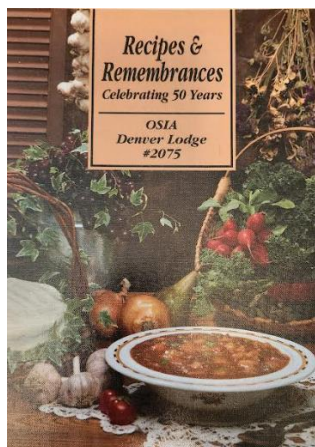
Risen Christ August 16 3060 S. Monaco Parkway, Denver

St. Rocco August 14-16 1900 W. 38th Ave Denver

Holy Rosary August 23 4688 Pearl St. Denver

St. Joseph Polish August 29-30 517 46th Avenue Denver

Calling ALL Members to share their Favorite Recipe's!!!



The Sons & Daughters of Italy published a Cookbook in 2008. Many of our members may already have a copy! We decided that we have so many new members that it is about time to publish a new insert. We will be collecting recipe's all summer and will create the new insert just in time for Italian Heritage Month. Please send your recipe's to ritadefrange@gmail.com and Thank you!



Fourth of July Cake

By Kathy Holt

A fun red white and blue delicious cake for the 4th!

Ingredients: 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, **softened and divided**, 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, **divided**, 1 large egg, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1/2 cup whole milk, About 16 oz hulled and halved strawberries and 6 oz fresh blueberries

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and butter a glass 9-inch-deep dish pie pan or 9-inch square cake pan with about **2 tablespoons** of butter. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. **2.** In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat **6 tablespoons** of butter and **1 cup** of sugar until pale and fluffy, for about 3 minutes. Add the egg and vanilla and beat on low speed until well combined. Gradually add the flour mixture, alternating with the milk, and beat on low speed until smooth. (Note: this is a thick batter.) **3.** Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and smooth with a spatula (if you use a square cake pan, the batter will only come about 3/4-inch up the sides of the pan -- that's ok). Arrange the strawberries on top, cut side down and the blueberries, so that they completely cover the batter. **Sprinkle the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar over the strawberries. (Important to use the sugar, it creates the crust).** Place cake on a cookie sheet. **4.** Bake for ten minutes, **then reduce the heat to 325°F** and bake until the cake is lightly golden and a tester comes out clean, about 50 minutes. Let the cake cool in the pan on a rack. Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, Cake can be stored at room temperature for several days, loosely covered.



Raspberry Mojito

By LeeAnn Dittirro

1 ounce raspberry simple syrup, 1 ounce lime juice, 2 ounces rum,
4 ounces soda water or sparkling water 10 leaves mint (just leaves, no sprigs),
5 whole raspberries, Ice Fill a glass with ice, add raspberry simple syrup, lime juice, rum and top with sparkling water or soda water of choice. Stir and garnish with raspberries and mint.



It's Farmer's Market Season

By Dr. Rita DeFrango

There is nothing like fresh farm produce, vegetables that comes with summer. The Department of Agriculture published their "**Farm Fresh Directory Map**" which can be accessed at this [link](https://coloradoproud.com/find-farm-fresh-favorites/).

(<https://coloradoproud.com/find-farm-fresh-favorites/>) This link assists you in finding farmers markets, u-picks, roadside stands, wineries and more! Check it out when you have a chance!





The Declaration of Independence

By Beverly Mendicello



- 1) What term applies to the colonists who supported independence from British rule?** a) Patriots b) Loyalists c) Redcoats d) Defectors **2) How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?** a) Six b) Sixteen c) Fifty-six d) One hundred six **3) Per Study.com, how many parts are there to the Declaration of Independence?** a) Two b) Five c) Ten d) Twenty **4) By coincidence, which two Founding Fathers died on the same day on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration?** a) George Washington and Thomas Jefferson b) Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock c) John Adams and James Wilson d) Thomas Jefferson and John Adams **5) Though edited by the Committee of Five and Continental Congress, who was the primary writer of the initial draft of the Declaration of Independence?** a) Thomas Jefferson b) John Adams c) Benjamin Franklin d) Roger Sherman **6) Who formally declared the name of the new nation to be the “United States” of America to replace the term “United Colonies” which had prior been in general use?** a) George Washington via proclamation b) The British Army c) The Continental Army d) The Continental Congress **7) Who saved the Constitution and Bill of Rights from destruction by British forces in 1814?** a) James Madison b) Stephen Pleasonton c) Nicholas Cage d) Andrew Jackson **8) How long was the American Revolutionary War?** a) One year b) Two years c) Eight years d) Twelve years **9) Whose signature is considered most notable on the Declaration of Independence and his name synonymous with one’s signature?** a) John Hancock b) Geoff Hancock c) James Hancock d) Button Gwinnett **10) How old was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence?** a) Age 13 b) Age 26 c) Age 39 d) Age 46 **Answer key with explanations & reference for answers:**

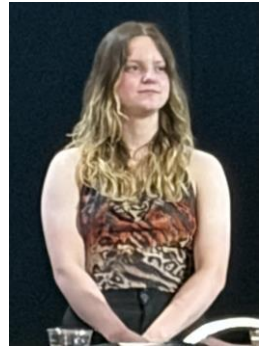
1a – A patriot is a person who vigorously loves, supports, and defends their country.. **2c** – [Fifty-six men](#) signed the Declaration of Independence, and some of them went on to become U.S. Presidents. **3b** – The Declaration of Independence is made up of [five essential parts](#); the Introduction, the Preamble (Prologue Statement of Rights), List of Grievances, Reproach to “Our British Brethren,” and the Conclusion or Separation Performed. **4d** – By coincidence, both [Thomas Jefferson and John Adams](#) died on July 4, 1826 – within 5 hours of each other and on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration. **5a** – Though Thomas Jefferson is considered the primary writer, the Declaration of Independence is not the work of a single person, but rather [representative of the people](#). **6d** – The [Continental Congress](#) renamed the nation on September 9, 1776. **7b** – On August 23, 1814, [Stephen Pleasonton](#), “Fifth Auditor” of the U.S. Treasury Department, saved valuable documents from destruction by the British, including the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights. **8 c** – The [American Revolutionary War](#) lasted for eight years – between April 1775 to September 1783. **9 a** – [John Hancock is](#) well-known for his signature on the Declaration of Independence. He signed conspicuously and in bold hand. **10 b** – The youngest delegate to sign the Declaration of Independence was [Edward Rutledge](#) from South Carolina, at the ripe young age of 26.



Additional Denver Lodge Scholarships Recipients

Claire Tompkins, Recipient of Grand Lodge of Colorado Scholarship
Attending the University of Mary -
Bismark, North Dakota

Guilana Archer,
Recipient of Kathleen Parisi
Memorial Scholarship



2026 Scholars Honored

By Bob Guisto

The Denver Lodge's generosity to community was on full display again this year as we honored five outstanding



high school seniors with scholarships to continue their education. Each scholarship is worth \$1500, the funds are procured through our fund-raising events as well as private donations.

Four of the scholars were celebrated on May 20, and the remaining recipient, Giuliana Archer, on June 17. Madelyn Wright of Mead High School, will be attending Montana State University. Stephanie Castro of Ralston Valley High, will be attending the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Sofia Garioto, Joe Ciancio Memorial Scholarship recipient, will be attending Colorado State University. Guiliana Archer of Pomona High School was the first recipient of the Kathleen Parisi Scholarship. She will be attending Colorado State University. Izaak Skorka also a scholarship recipient remains undecided at present. His dream is to attend school in Italy, possibly at the Polytechnic Institute of either Milan or Turin. He is waiting for their application system to give the final word.

The recipient of the State's Grand Lodge of Colorado scholarship is Claire Tompkins. Ms. Tompkins is enrolled at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. Ms. Tompkins was a 2025 recipient of the Denver Lodge scholarship. Her father Brian, who was awarded a Denver Lodge scholarship in 1992.

Many thanks to President Sal Siraguse, the Council, and all who support the program. Mille grazie tutti, e buona fortuna studenti!



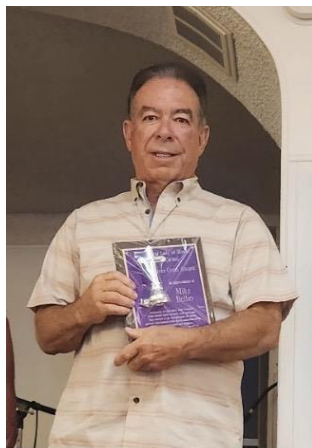
Quilt of Valor – Canon City

The State's Grand Lodge in Canon City awarded President, James Toto with a Quilt of Valor on June 26th. The quilt was made personally by Sister Beverly Mendicello. James is the brother of Denver Lodge Council member Ramona Toto-Travis. Congratulations to James.



Mt. Carmel Silver Cross Recipients

Each year Our Lady of Mt. Carmel seeks nominations for those who have done outstanding things for the church, events sponsored by the church or generally great things for the community. This year 4 members of the Sons & Daughters of Italy received the Silver Cross from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Roger & Laurie Creason, who are not only members of the Italians of America, and Men's Club - but our own Lodge where they have supported a number of events over the past decade. Russ Canino, who is our leader for parades and a pure entertainer for events but supports the community at large with his talents. And Mike Bellio, who has been supporting the lodge behind the scenes with his generosity when we needed a dumpster, helped maintain things at the Lodge. The Sons & Daughters would like to congratulate these recipients!



We invite members to submit articles for the La Parola to be displayed when we have additional space. Thanks to Ed Mendicello for submitting this article on the City of Lakewood.

Get to Know Your Community

By Ed Mendicello

The City of Lakewood. Did you know that Lakewood is the fifth largest city in Colorado, home to over 156,000 residents? Lakewood residents enjoy both mountain and urban life in a family-friendly atmosphere. There are 7,400 acres of parks, and open space trails (25% of the city's land,) and 89% of the residents live with a 10-minute walk of a park. Belmar, the dynamic small business area near Alameda and Wadsworth, features a variety of stores, bars, and diverse restaurants to enjoy and visit. In addition, there are family and cultural attractions including:

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park is a 20th century museum and park located at 801 South Yarrow Street with 15 historic buildings and over 40,000 artifacts. In the summer, enjoy the Sounds of Summer with 5 weeks of live outdoor music concerts on Wednesday evenings in the park.

Bear Creek Lake Park offers 2,634-acres of opportunities to hike, picnic, fish, boat, windsurf, paddleboard, mountain or road bike. You can hit the swim beach, or head to the archery range. The location is just a stone's throw away from the historic town of Morrison, with all its funky shops and restaurants.

The Lakewood Cultural Center brings Broadway style musicals and entertainment to the community. The beautiful theater holds 310 people with performances year-round. Colorado Christian College Theater Department holds their fall and spring musicals in the theatre. See prime entertainment at a reasonable cost with free underground parking.

Lakewood's Cider Days Festival produces over 7,500 pounds of apple mash each year that is donated to local agricultural and livestock organizations for reuse. The two-day annual gathering, held at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park, showcases apple pie eating contests, apple cider making, and tractor pulls.

Get to know the community in the City of Lakewood and all it has to offer.

How We live – the Magnolia Manifesto

By Ellie Gaccetta

We believe in home, that it should restore us from today and ready us for tomorrow. We believe in friendship, because friends who feel like family are the best kinds of friends, and that nothing matters more than family. We believe in seeking the balance between hustle and rest and learning to find contentment in both. We believe everyone deserves a seat at the table and everyone has a story worth telling. We believe in human kindness, knowing we are made better when we all work together. We believe in courage, in cartwheeling past our comfort zones and trying something a little bit scary every day. We believe that failure needn't be a negative thing; rather, we learn from our mistakes and fail smarter next time. We believe in doing good work that matters and, in choosing that, nudging others toward doing the same. We believe that newer isn't always better and that it's time for the pendulum to trend to swing back to the basics. We believe in unearthing beauty, however hidden or subtle it might be. We believe that each day is a gift that everyday miracles are scattered about only if we have eyes to see. And all the heroic pursuits large and small, we believe there may be none greater than a life well loved.





Pet Peeves

by Ellie Gaccetta

Those who know me know I believe in treating others how I wish to be treated. Sometimes it is hard since not everyone marches to the same drum! Lately there is a lot being written online about things that bother people about how others react. Here are some of my pet peeves. Please feel free to share yours.

I find myself wandering around stores looking for items that merchants keep moving from one place to another. Target sells coffee filters in the aisle with coffee pots and not in the grocery aisle with coffee. Bread isn't in the bakery it's with the peanut butter. Grocery stores are notorious for moving items at night. The idea is that we'll see something else to buy as we search.

Is it old fashioned to expect a thank you for a gift? If you are not on social media, you will miss the post with lots of pictures from the event, and the byline usually thanks people for attending but not for their generosity of a gift. Stamps are expensive, but a text or call is not.

Why is everyone angry? Do not assume you know what is happening in other people's lives. A kind word or smile can make or break someone's day and make the world a better place. Let go of the anger.

How about the complaints when no one shows up at a funeral? Perhaps it is because no one knew they passed away, told them the specifics of a service, or we missed the online posts.

Profanity. Can anyone get through a single sentence without swearing or dropping an "f" bomb? Spare me from the gutter talk. It is not that hard to get your point across without using profanity.

When I call with a complaint or problem I do not want to speak with a robot. I do not want to press 1 forty times, or yell into the phone that I want to speak to an "agent." By the time a human comes to the line I am ready for a fight.

I do not eat out much. I am a good cook and can eat at home without splitting a bill with others who have an appetizer, entre, dessert, and two \$18 glasses of wine when I have a salad and iced tea.

Why must we sit at the same table, in the same room, and text the person across from us? Put the phone down, look at each other, and have a conversation. Make eye contact and smile.

If I cannot reach groceries on the top shelf I ask for help. Most people are happy to help. But occasionally I get lectured to use a Keurig rather than coffee filters, or that I need to know the correct name of a specialty cheese when asking for it. I own a Keurig but like fresh coffee in the morning, and I do not have to know the name of a cheese, I just have to buy it.

Destination weddings. This type invitation means \$\$\$ for airline tickets, multiple days at a hotel, maybe a car rental, food, clothes, AND a gift. Thinking about the expense takes the joy and fun out of the event.

Email me at 1Ellie2@comcast.net with your pet peeves and we will do this again.



Lodge Events



July

July 5 – Prima Domenica – sponsored by Mt. Carmel Altar and Rosary Society

July 15th General Meeting – celebrating America's 250th Birthday

August

August 1 – North Denver Celebration

August 2 – Prima Domenica

August 8 – Bocce, Beer and Bellinis

August 19 General Meeting – Annual Picnic

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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