



# COLORADO'S ITALIAN COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Italian American organizations originally formed in the United States out of necessity—a way to provide much-needed support and camaraderie to Italian immigrants trying to make their way in a brand new country.

They helped members navigate the road to citizenship, learn English, find work, afford education, secure insurance benefits, connect with new friends and old family, and so much more.

Today, Italian American groups continue to do great things for our communities. Some focus on advocacy and charity work, while others exist to promote friendship and fun. No matter what their aim, Italian American groups keep us united through our shared heritage and are important to us all.

The following directory has been compiled and provided by *Andiamo*! (for free), as part of our ongoing mission to help keep our community connected.

Groups are listed alphabetically with information as provided by the group.

Please note this is an *ongoing* effort and while we work to keep this directory continuously up-to-date and correct to the best of our knowledge, *each group* is responsible for sending us their current information. If you belong to a group that isn't listed yet, or have an update for an existing listing, please contact us!

PLEASE CONTACT GROUPS <u>DIRECTLY</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Year Established: 1995



### **IN DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF DENVER**

City / Location: Denver, CO

Website: <a href="https://dantealighieriofdenver.com/">https://dantealighieriofdenver.com/</a>

### **Organization Summary:**

Since its founding, non-profit Dante Alighieri Society of Denver has shared the essence of Italian life and culture with our community, thereby enriching Colorado with even more zest and vitality. Our principal activity is raising funds to provide scholarships for the study of Italian language, culture and music to American college and university students in the Denver metropolitan area and in northeastern Colorado. The Society underwrites cultural and entertainment programs for the Denver area, striving to appeal to a broad range of interests. The Society also offers high quality instruction of the Italian language for adults.

Type of Organization: Social, Community Service

How to Join: \$25 per year for individuals; \$40 for joint membership; \$10 for full-time students

**Contact Info to Learn More:** Visit <a href="https://dantealighieriofdenver.com/">https://dantealighieriofdenver.com/</a> for a full list of contacts.

## FIORI D'ITALIA BOCCE CLUB

City / Location: Westminster, CO

Website: http://www.fioriditalia.com

#### **Organization Summary:**

We are a non-political, nonsectarian organization, to learn and promote our Italian Heritage, including the game of bocce. We are involved with different charities, including Caruso Family Charities, Mt. St. Vincent, and different schools.

Type of Organization: Social, Community Service, Bocce Leagues, Tournaments, & Fundraisers

**How to Join:** Anyone can join. Cost is \$20 a year.

Contact Info to Learn More: Sandra Rappanecker: <a href="mailto:nardo2@msn.com">nardo2@msn.com</a> or Rachelle Rendon

tzattk@msn.com

Year Established: 2001



## ITALIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (IABA)

City / Location: Denver, CO (monthly meetings rotate)

Website: https://www.denveriaba.org/

#### **Organization Summary:**

The purpose of the IABA is to unite, serve and support Italian American business and organizations. Individually and collectively, our members work to support and improve business for our community. We do this by shopping our members first; facilitating the introduction of Italian American-made products to the greater Denver retail market; building good will between our association and local governments, businesses and the community-at-large; and establishing a spirit of cooperation to promote economic growth.

Type of Organization: Business, Social

**How to Join:** \$100 for individuals; \$175 for businesses (up to 4 members)

**Contact Info to Learn More:** Janet Lombardi – <u>janet@shearproductions.com</u>

### II ITALIANS OF AMERICA

City / Location: Denver, CO

Website: NA

#### **Organization Summary:**

IOA is a cultural society but not exclusive of Italian heritage. We are open to all those who share our mission. "We work together with our peers in the community to preserve heritage and strengthen fellowship."

Type of Organization: Social

**How to Join:** Cost is \$50 to join. See webpage and contact us for forms and details.

**Contact Info to Learn More:** Richard DiManna – <a href="mailto:rdmddi@comcast.net">rdmddi@comcast.net</a> or Roger Creason

rogercreason1@comcast.net

Year Established: 2020



### IN LOUISVILLE SOCIETY OF ITALIAN-AMERICANS

City / Location: Louisville, CO

Website: https://www.societyofitalianamericans.com

#### **Organization Summary:**

The Louisville Society of Italian Americans is an organization dedicated to the appreciation and celebration of the Italian culture in America. Children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of Society members in good standing for a minimum of two years are qualified to apply for a \$1000 scholarship toward a college/vocational education. Every second Sunday in August, the organization sponsors our "La Festa Italiano di Louisville" to celebrate our Italian Heritage.

Type of Organization: Social, Community Service

**How to Join:** \$25 per year for couples, \$15 for individuals.

Contact Info to Learn More: Ron Buffo, President - ronbuffo@yahoo.com

## 🕦 MIO FAMIGLIA ITALIANO-COLORADO

City / Location: Thornton, CO

Website: <a href="https://myitalianfamily.wixsite.com/mysite-1">https://myitalianfamily.wixsite.com/mysite-1</a>

#### **Organization Summary:**

Our goals at Mio Famiglia Italiano-Colorado are to build our Italian family and emphasize on women and youth leadership. We are actively engaged in the community by supporting local Italian businesses, organizations, schools, food banks and we create and organize monthly activities to strengthen our Italian heritage and culture.

Type of Organization: Social

**How to Join:** You can email italianfamily2020@gmail.com or go to our website for an application. (Currently, we are not charging a fee due to COVID-19.)

Contact Info to Learn More: Joshua Craver-DeCredico - italianfamily2020@gmail.com or

720-551-1770



### MORRA SOCIETY OF DENVER

Year Established: Over 60 years ago

City / Location: Westminster, CO

Website: www.morrasociety.com

### **Organization Summary:**

The Morra Society of Denver strives to preserve the game and culture of Italian-Americans. The art of Morra, a hand game, involves concentration, strategy, tactics and energy. It requires no equipment and is played in Italian communities by men and boys alike. The "Sei" sculpture awarded at the end of the season is more than just a trophy. It is a representation of what we believe in, who we are, the tradition we carry with us, and why we play the game of La Morra.

Type of Organization: Social

How to Join: Check the website for contact information

Contact Info to Learn More: https://www.morrasociety.com/contact/

### IN OSIA CRISTOFORO COLOMBO LODGE #1309

City / Location: Salida, CO

Website: NA

### **Organization Summary:**

We provide annual scholarships to local high school seniors with Italian heritage. We provide charity donations to other local clubs. New members and ideas are always welcome. WE currently offer a \$20 Italian cookbook as our fundraiser which includes many old pictures of Salidan families.

Type of Organization: Social, Community Service

**How to Join:** Dues are currently \$45 a year. We accept Italian heritage as well as social members

interested in Italian culture.

Contact Info to Learn More: Bernard A Post - bernardapost@gmail.com

Year Established: 2010



# ■ OSIA DENVER LODGE #2075

City / Location: Wheat Ridge, CO

Website: <a href="https://osiadenver2075.org">https://osiadenver2075.org</a>

#### **Organization Summary:**

An organization made up of those of Italian descent, social members as well as junior members with activities and events for all. Centrally located in Wheat Ridge, CO, the hall can hold over 300, has a large parking lot, and both indoor and outdoor bocce courts.

**Type of Organization:** Social, Community Service

How to Join: \$65 per year; prorated quarterly. No restrictions or requirements, just go to the website

and contact us for an application

Contact Info to Learn More: Sal Siraguse – <a href="mailto:siraguse56@msn.com">siraguse56@msn.com</a> or soidenver2075@gmailcom

### III OSIA ROYAL GORGE LODGE #2866

City / Location: Canon City, CO 81212

Website: www.osiaroyalgorge2866.com

### **Organization Summary:**

A group of Italian Americans promoting Italian culture and heritage in our community. A major component of our organization is awarding scholarships—to date 29 \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded.

Type of Organization: Fraternal

**How to Join:** Man or woman born Italian, married to an Italian, or adopted by an Italian may join. Dues are \$40 per year per person. A simple application form must be completed.

Contact Info to Learn More: Robie Scutti – rscutti46@charter.net 719-269-3519



### IN OSIA PIKES PEAK LODGE #2870

City / Location: Colorado Springs

Website: <a href="http://www.sonsofitalypp.com/">http://www.sonsofitalypp.com/</a>

#### **Organization Summary:**

The Pikes Peak Lodge is committed to preserving and celebrating Italian culture, language, heritage, and traditions. To meet these goals, we host potluck dinners and have various group outings which celebrate our culture. We have a cultural moment during our general meetings. We offer college scholarships to students with connections to our lodge. We raise funds for national and local charities with various activities including spaghetti dinners and wine tasting events. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the VFW Post #101, 702 S. Tejon in Colorado Springs.

Type of Organization: Fraternal, Community Service

How to Join: Please visit our website for information on how to join and contact information

Contact Info to Learn More: Mark Fini – mark.fini@comcast.net 719-964-5374

## POTENZA LODGE (SOCIETA NATIRI DI POTENZA, BASILICATA) Year Established: 1899

City / Location: Denver,  $CO - 1900 W. 38^{th}$  Ave.

Website: <a href="http://www.potenzalodge.com">http://www.potenzalodge.com</a>

### **Organization Summary:**

The purpose set forth by the founders of the society was to help other Italian immigrants from the Basilicata Region become familiar with America while socializing with their fellow countrymen.

Type of Organization: Social, Business, Community Service

**How to Join:** 1. Must be sponsored by a current member, must have Potentini ancestry on either father or mother's side. 2. Can join as a "social" member. Call for details.

**Contact Info to Learn More:** Frank Percey <u>frankelly42@hotmail.com</u> or Lisa Lokken <u>Imlokken@msn.com</u> 720-297-6951

Year Established: 1980



## IN SAINT MICHAEL'S SOCIETY

City / Location: Denver, CO

Website: www.stmichaelssociety.com

#### **Organization Summary:**

Saint Michaels the Archangel is a non-profit, religious organization. Its purpose is to unite its members in a single body for mutual benefit and to better relations between members. The society sponsors dinners, bocce tournaments, support of cultural events, and a wine tasting where all profits are split equally between Laradon Hall and Mount Saint Vincent. The lodge has also donated over \$100,000 to scholarships throughout the years.

Type of Organization: Social, Religious, Community Service

How To Join: Potential members must be Catholic and of Italian descent. Minimum age is 18 years old.

Contact Info to Learn More: Frank Yantorno – frank@centerland.com or Tony Ficco –

tonyficco@yahoo.com

## III TIROLESI TRENTINI DEL COLORADO

City / Location: Denver, CO

Website: <a href="http://trentini-club-colorado.com/">http://trentini-club-colorado.com/</a>

#### **Organization Summary:**

The Tirolesi-Trentini Del Colorado is a social club made up of persons whose ancestors originate from the autonomous Province of Trento in Northern Italy. Our club gathers regularly for fellowship and various activities. Our club consists of duly elected officers who effectively run the business of the club, and members who actively participate in the social events of the club.

Type of Organization: Social

**How To Join:** \$25 per year - Contact us to learn more!

Contact Info to Learn More: Tony Dalla – <u>akdalla@msn.com</u> or Anna Vann – <u>tmvenv@msn.com</u>



# ONLINE COMMUNITIES & OTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## 💶 LITTLE ITALY OF DENVER - FACEBOOK PAGE & INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

https://www.facebook.com/littleitalyofdenver

https://www.instagram.com/littleitalyofdenver/

The Little Italy of Denver Association is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation established with the hope of celebrating the rich Italian heritage and history of the North Denver area.

### 💵 MILE HIGH PAESANI – INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

### https://www.instagram.com/milehighpaesani

A low-key, fun networking and social group for young Colorado Italians, Gen X through Gen Z featuring occasional meet-ups at locations around the greater Denver area to foster new friendships and energy among young Italians!

## 📭 THE BRAVO AWARDS & GALA

#### www.bravoawardscolorado.com

The Bravo! Awards & Gala is an annual event presented by the Italian American Business Association in partnership with other local Italian clubs in Colorado. Each spring in March we recognize outstanding Italian Americans from the previous year in several categories such as Italian American of the Year, Italian American Volunteer of the Year, Italian American Business of the Year, and Italian American Rising Star of the Year. Nominations and voting for the previous year is open January through mid February. Nominate a deserving Italian American or vote for your favorites!

Information, tickets, and sponsorship information are available on the website. Join us as we celebrate Italian Americans in Colorado!

Contact Info: Gina Molinaro-Hallisey – <u>bravoawardsco@gmail.com</u> or 303-726-6111



### **III ANDIAMO!** COLORADO'S ITALIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

### http://www.andiamocolorado.com/

Andiamo! is published monthly as a celebration of all that makes us proud to be Italian and Italian American. With every issue, we seek to provide a uniting source of news, information, entertainment, and pride for all in Colorado's Italian American community!

### III HONORARY CONSULATE OF ITALY - COLORADO

#### www.coitalianhc.com

While Colorado Italians fall under the jurisdiction of the Italian Consulate General in Chicago and will need to consult with the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago for most official services, the Honorary Consulate office in Colorado offers limited services and assistance - by appointment only:

**Honorary Vice Consul:** Giovanna Carriero-Contreras

honoraryconsul@coitalianhc.com

Tel: 720.291.6819

Honorary Consulate of Italy 1355 S. Colorado Boulevard, C-901 Denver CO 80222 Only available by appointment.

Chicago Offices: <a href="https://conschicago.esteri.it/consolato-chicago/en">https://conschicago.esteri.it/consolato-chicago/en</a>