



# The Lion's Pride



**CHRISTMAS  
DINNER PARTY!**  
**December 17**



**DECEMBER 2025**  
**Volume 25**  
**Issue 10**

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Page 2:** Officers; Birthdays; Dinner Meetings; **CHRISTMAS TRIVIA.**

**Page 3:** Ghia; Website; Sunshine; Drawings;

**Page 4:** **UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT NOTICES (including the Il Leone being available on-line)**

**Page 5:** **IMPORTANT NOTICES (con.)** Find Mario

**Page 6:** Villa in Tuscany, July of 2026

**Page 7:** Information regarding hockey game.

**Page 8:** Pictures from November meeting.

**Page 9:** menu: antipasto, roast beef, baked ziti, vegetables, bread/rolls, cannolis and cupcakes. **COST IS \$25 FOR ADULTS.**

**Page 10:** Christmas flyer

RSVP to: Marnel-son03@gmail.com

**Don't forget a \$25 wrapped gift for the raffle and a gift for Santa to give your child.**

**Please bring some canned goods for the Elks donation barrel.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—December, 2025

Buona Stagione Delle Vacanze,

I can't believe the holiday season is upon us already! As I write this message, Christmas is thirty-five days away. That seems like a long time, but it will be here before I am ready I am sure.

I was reading through the Italian Holiday Celebrations and Traditions book published by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy In America. It is a very well-written book with holiday traditions, food ideas, recipes, and Italian vocabulary words to learn. Italian holidays are listed for every month of the year. Here's what I learned. Christmas in Italy is all about family and spending time with loved ones. Italians have a saying about Christmas: Natale con i tuoi, capodanno con chi vuol. This means that if you spend Christmas with your family and respect tradition, you are allowed to party with whomever you want to on New Year's Eve! The Christmas season in Italy officially begins on December 8th, with la Concezione Immacolata or the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Christmas trees are lit on this night. The Christmas season ends on January 6th with the celebration of Epiphany. Italians prepare for the visit of the Three Wise Men. Also, children wait to see what La Befana will bring them. The tradition of La Befana dates to ancient Roman times. La Befana fills children's shoes or stockings with candy and small toys and she rides a broomstick in the night sky.

**Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas party December 17th.** See Maria's flier for more details. We will have our usual adult raffle this year. Please bring a wrapped gift and bring money to buy raffle tickets. We are also going to have an ugly sweater contest. Dress in your ugliest Christmas sweater/outfit for a chance to win a trophy. Kids will be having their own raffle this year with gifts purchased by the Lodge. Please let Maria know how many kids you are bringing and their ages when you make a reservation. Finally, if you do have children or grandchildren, bring a wrapped gift to put in Santa's bag in the kitchen.

As I close this letter and this year as President I say, cheers to another year and a chance to do what's right for our Lodge. Hang in there with me!

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo,  
Dawn Romero, President,  
Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534

**Buon  
Natale**

## Officers 2025

### President

Dawn Romero

[romerowestridge@gmail.com](mailto:romerowestridge@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Barbara Wisniewski

[Barbreno1949@aol.com](mailto:Barbreno1949@aol.com)

### Immediate Past President

Pamela Ricci

[pam@riccihomes.com](mailto:pam@riccihomes.com)

### Treasurer

Ross Bausone

[Ross\\_bausone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ross_bausone@sbcglobal.net)

### Financial Secretary

Chris Cifelli

[chriscifellil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chriscifellil@sbcglobal.net)

### Recording Secretary

Margaret Raulino

[tahoeyedocs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tahoeyedocs@sbcglobal.net)

### Orator

Silvana Ricci

[sricci007@gmail.com](mailto:sricci007@gmail.com)

### Head Trustee

Mark Froio

[mfroio@aol.com](mailto:mfroio@aol.com)

### Mistresses of Ceremonies

Donna Zutshi

[grecoaby@aol.com](mailto:grecoaby@aol.com)

and

Janet Froio

[jmfroio@aol.com](mailto:jmfroio@aol.com)

### Guard

Paul Romero

[romerowestridge@gmail.com](mailto:romerowestridge@gmail.com)



## DINNER MEETINGS

Elks Lodge, 597 Kumle Lane, Reno (825-0597)

### CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

**Question:** What word does the "X" in "Xmas" stand for?

**Answer:** Christ (from the Greek letter Chi)

**Question:** Before turkey was common, what meat was often served at Christmas in England?

**Answer:** Goose or boar's head

**Question:** Which two of Santa's reindeer names come from weather phenomena?

**Answer:** Donner (thunder) and Blitzen (lightning)

**Question:** The first "string lights" for Christmas trees were invented in which decade?

**Answer:** 1880s

**Question:** Which U.S. President made Christmas a federal holiday?

**Answer:** Ulysses S. Grant

**Question:** What mythical figure punishes naughty children in central Europe?

**Answer:** Krampus

**Question:** How many towns in America are named "Christmas"?

**Answer:** Two (Christmas, Michigan and Christmas, Florida)

**Question:** How many reindeer does Santa Claus have?

**Answer:** Nine (Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph)

## DECEMBER Birthdays

Jeanette Danna—2  
 Carol Ascione-Hilton—8  
 Ella Ricci—9  
 Christine Handy—13  
 David Caloiaro—16  
 Barbara Chism—17  
 Ronald Pollastrini—18  
 Holly Wayman—18  
 Alfred Antonini—23  
 Donald Parrillo—26  
 Donna Zutshi—30



Find us on  
 FaceBook at Reno  
 Sons of Italy  
 and on the web at:  
[renosonsofitaly.org](http://renosonsofitaly.org)



**VISIT OUR "GHIA" AT THE NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM**

We renewed our **Adopt-A-car** membership with the National Automobile Museum. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday 9:30 to 5:30 and Sundays 10 to 4 p.m.

**All our members get one-half (1/2) off their admission.**

Hope you can visit our Ghia this year!



**IT PAYS TO COME TO MEETINGS**

Every month we have a meeting, we draw a name of a member and you could be the winner of cash just for attending!!

Also, you can buy a square or two on the **Share the Wealth Board** for a chance to win **1/4** of the funds collected.

In NOVEMBER Jackie Skelton and Yolanda Solferino won the Share the Wealth Board for \$85 each. Louise Squatrito won the Attendance Drawing, but was not present. It goes up to \$30 in January. No Share the Wealth Board in December.

**YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! Join us and win some \$\$\$\$!**

**Sunshine Committee**

If you know anyone who needs a little cheer or get well, please contact: **Donna Zutshi at 323-0110 or grecobaby@aol.com.**

**No cards, other than birthday cards, were sent this month!**



**Keep Members Informed**

Contact **Madeleine Zunino (madnlar@sbcglobal.net)** if you have an Address Change, Email Change, a Special Event Celebration, or a Funeral.



**The Youth Group**

Bring your children and grandchildren to the meeting.



Little kids now



Little kids back in 2016!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Party December 17th.



Go to the SDOI Youtube channel and put in Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Click on Italian American Shows and pick some great programs to watch.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES !!

### ***FREE DUES FOR A YEAR!***

Want to get your dues paid for a year? It's easy. Just bring in 4 or more new members between January 1 and December 31 and your dues for the following year will be free. **Hugh Ricci brought in 5 new members and will receive a free membership in 2025.** Chris Cifelli and Dawn Romero both brought in 3 new members each, and Madeleine Zunino brought in 2 new members. **Great job everyone!**

### **IL LEONE ON-LINE**

I hope you have all seen our Il Leone on-line. The beautiful color issues are available on the first of each month. You can sign into the Grand Lodge website at [www.osiaca.org](http://www.osiaca.org) to see it. We are attempting to cut our costs and to all who can, we are asking you to opt out of the mailing list by **emailing the editor of the Il Leone at [Grand Lodge illeone.ca@gmail.com](mailto:GrandLodgeilleone.ca@gmail.com) and the California Grand Lodge office at [Loriathegrandlodge@gmail.com](mailto:Loriathegrandlodge@gmail.com)**. You receive an email with a link when each issue is available. **CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW!** Thank you, Past President, Barbara Wisniewski.

<http://www.osiaca.org/Portals/20/documents/IlLeone/2025/June%20il%20Leone%202025%20web.pdf>

### **LEARN TO SPEAK ITALIAN, SPANISH OR FRENCH!**

Salene Pecetti is the owner of Bilingual Basics. If you would like to learn to speak Italian, Spanish, or French contact her at: 775 771 7327 or email: [specetti@renovulc.com](mailto:specetti@renovulc.com)

**MORE EVENTS AND NOTICES!**

# The AMICI Social Luncheon

The **Amici Social Group** meets the second Friday of the month at different locations. It is always at **11 a.m.** in Reno. Look for the monthly flyer for all the details.

## FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE NEEDY

The Elks has a barrel in the room we have our dinner meeting in. Each week they deliver food and other items to the needy throughout our area. Please remember to bring something each month to put in the barrel. Non-parishable food items are preferred. Also, cash donations can be given to Pamela Ricci who will get them to the Elk's person in charge.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## **BE THE FIRST TO FIND MARIO !**

**TWO** tiny pictures of Mario are hiding within this newsletter. Find them **both** and email Maria Nelson at [marnelson03@gmail.com](mailto:marnelson03@gmail.com), and tell her where you found them. If you are the **FIRST**, you will win a free chance on the Share the Wealth Board. You must find them **both** to win.



**Wonderful opportunity for SOI members**

**Tuscany Villa to share with one fun,  
energetic, wine loving couple!**

**July 3 thru 7, 2026 ~ 5 nights**



**Wine tours, Florence, Assisi, Montepulciano,  
Olive groves, museums, cooking classes**



**Interested? Call Renee  
775/843-5500**

**Join your friends for a hockey game, Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the Tahoe Blue Arena, Stateline, Nevada. If you have never seen a hockey game, you will be amazed. It's a high-paced, energetic sport. Contact Dave Caloiaro for tickets and more details.**

**Sons and Daughters of Italy fun sporting event opportunity**



Join us for professional ice hockey when the Tahoe Knight Monsters take on the Utah Grizzlies!

- The game is Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 3:00 pm at the Tahoe Blue Arena at Stateline Nevada.
- Tickets are \$30 each, \$10 off the original individual ticket price (and for every ticket purchased the Knight Monsters will return 20 percent to our SDOI!).
- The Tahoe Knight Monsters are the professional minor league affiliate of the Vegas Golden Knights. The Knight Monsters made the playoffs in their inaugural season last year!
- Our SDOI group picture will be taken at center ice after the game!
- If you are interested in attending this game or have questions please contact Dave Caloiaro, at 775-450-3618 or [nvcivilwar@aol.com](mailto:nvcivilwar@aol.com)



Pictures from November Charitable Giving Night. Visiting with friends.



Dessert committee served pumpkin cheese cake and cream puffs!



Pork with roasted potatoes and green beans!



Dave talking about the hockey game and Dawn presenting the book of Christmas Italian Traditions.



LEFT-RIGHT: Dr. Jan Hobbs from Savitt Medical Library; Cindy Becker from St. Francis Food Bank; Joe Dufur from Safe Talk for Teens; Sylvia and Patrice from Veteran's Guest House.



**Membership Chairperson**

**Barbara Wisniewski**

PHONE:

201-874-5946

EMAIL:

[barbreno1949@aol.com](mailto:barbreno1949@aol.com)

**President**

**Dawn Romero**

12410 West Ridge Drive

Reno, NV 89511

PHONE:

775-350-2442

E-MAIL:

[romerowestridge@gmail.com](mailto:romerowestridge@gmail.com)



**We're on the Web and on Facebook!**

**See us at:**

[www.renosonsofitaly.org](http://www.renosonsofitaly.org)

**Reno Sons of Italy on Facebook**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY, DINNER, and SANTA,**  
**December 17, 2025,**

**5:30 p.m. Cocktails and 6:15 Dinner**

**PLEASE ARRIVE BY 5:45 FOR CHECK IN!**

**Elk's Lodge 597 Kumle Lane, Reno (825-0597)**

**Please call or email the SATURDAY BEFORE THE MEETING for**

**Reservations: Maria Nelson: [marnelson03@gmail.com](mailto:marnelson03@gmail.com) (775-232-1576) to insure we have enough seating and food.**

**Thank you for calling on time AND KEEPING YOUR RESERVATIONS!! We will no longer be able to accommodate late reservations as we now have a caterer. YOU MUST RSVP by the Saturday before the meeting. YOU MUST PAY if you cancel after Sunday evening.**

**Cost: Members: \$25; Children 7-12 \$10; children 6 and under free. There will be water & coffee included in the dinner price. Drinks may be purchased at the Elk's Bar.**

**MENU:**

**Antipasto, Roast Beef, baked ziti, vegetables, bread/butter, cannolis, and cupcakes for the kids.**



**About Our Organization ...**

**ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA—Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534**

The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSIA) is the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States.

The name Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America is a translation of the original name L'Ordine Figli D'Italia. In Italian, figli, means both children and sons. We keep this name today for historic reasons and for name recognition. The Cristoforo Colombo Lodge was installed on May 12, 1929. The founders were Nicolo Gardella, Rose Mongolo Marillion, Pete De Prati, Luigi Anelli and Edith Mongolo Lazzari.

According to records, the first meeting was held on May 22, 1929 in the social hall of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Cathedral. At the first meeting there were 59 persons in attendance. Signor Pietro De Prati became its first venerable. Other prominent names among the Charter members were Gardella and Zunino; these names are still represented in the current membership. Since mid 2021, we have been meeting at the Elks Lodge on Kumle Lane, in Reno.

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

Aside from donating three scholarships every year to a student of Italian descent (one a vocational scholarship) and giving to the Savitt Medical School Library at the University of Nevada, the Lodge has supported the following:

College of Education at the University; St. Baldrick's Foundation; Honor Flight Nevada; The Secret Witness Program; GI Dogs; Adolescent Boy's Center; Urban Roots; The Children's Cabinet; Nevada Veteran's Memorial Plaza; Reno Elks Lodge Veterans; Read and Succeed; Eddy House; Elks Gift a Vet Program; Read to Me book club program from the Assistance League; Santa For Children's Cancer; Awaken; Step 2; Horsemanship 4 Heroes; St. Vincent's Dining Room; Grafted Kitchen; and Liberty Dogs Project. **In 2025 we gave to:**

**Safetalk for Teens; Veteran's Guesthouse; and St. Francis Food Pantry!**



## TIME FOR THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us on:

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at**  
**The Elks Lodge, 597 Kumle Lane, Reno** for socializing, antipasto trays, complimentary Tom and Jerry's, and a fabulous dinner including Roast Beef, Barbara's Baked Ziti, homemade cannolis for dessert, and cupcakes for the kids. We hope you can **come early (5 p.m.) to help set up** and stay after to help clean up.

**Make your reservations by Saturday, December 13.**

Tickets are **\$25 per person** and \$10 for kids 6 to 12. Hugh Ricci's complimentary Tom and Jerry's will be served starting at 5:30, along with antipasto. **Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.** Please **bring a wrapped gift** with a value of approximately \$25 for the raffle. Raffle tickets will be 6 for \$5.

**KIDS' RAFFLE.** The kids will draw a number for a raffle gift purchased for them by the Lodge.

**SANTA WILL BE THERE**, so those of you with small children, bring a wrapped gift for Santa to give your children.

We will be giving Santa a check for the St. Baldricks Foundation from some of the raffle proceeds.

**UGLY SWEATER CONTEST!** For the first time ever, we will have an Ugly Sweater contest. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater for a chance to win a trophy!

**BUON NATALE!**

Please **RSVP to Maria Nelson at 775-232-1576 or by email:**

**Marnelson03@gmail.com no later than**

**Saturday, MIDNIGHT, December 13.**

**Hope to see you all there.**