

LA VOCE DEL CIRCOLO



Welcome to the Winter/ Spring 2010 edition of La Voce
Happy Valentine's Day to all the members of Il Circolo



Circolo Events: SAVE THE DATE BY MARKING YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

**March 28, 2010 at Joe Onofrio's
Pavarotti's Table**

**April 18, 2010 Italian Cards Scholarship
Fund Raiser**

**May 16, 2010 at Mt. Vernon. We will hold
the annual meeting for members and the
scholarship awards. .**



Past Events:

Heritage Month's guest speaker, Dick Kreck author of *Smaldone* entertained some eighty plus Circolo members and guests by bringing to life Denver's premier Mafia Family as seen through the eyes of his son, Eugene.

History is always more interesting when facts and dates are interspersed with "tidbits" of human interest stories. One of Mr. Smaldone's neighbors confided in him that she was unhappy about her next door neighbors' unkempt yard.

She called it a blight on the entire neighborhood. Mr. Smaldone told her he would speak to them. The next day the yard was well manicured and never fell into the blight category again.

Following Dick's presentation we enjoyed a delicious meal from the Texas Roadhouse consisting of pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, salad and dessert. Everyone agreed that it was a successful, informative and fun time.



The Christmas Party:

Under the lamplight on Navajo Street, Circolo members and guests were transformed back in time to Denver's Little Italy via Patsy's Inn.

The banquet room is small. Ten 4 top tables push the limit. There is a simple eloquence to the room, reminiscent of days gone by. The tables are dressed in crisp white linens. The silver and black centerpieces name streets in the area and white stars on which "little known" or "well known" facts of the area are written.

After dinner, Dennis Gallagher, North Denver's famous raconteur, delighted us with his personal memories of growing up Irish among the area's

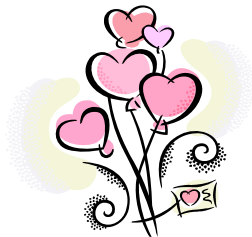
Italians. The Irish church, St. Patrick's, is just a few blocks west of Navajo St. and the Italian Church.

Dessert followed Mr. Gallagher's presentation. Everyone enjoyed the evening so much that they chose to stay long after it was over to share their own stories.



Member News:

Would you believe that not one person sent Tonia any news about what's been happening in their lives. Everyone always enjoys reading about our members so.....E-mail tawandfrw@aol.com



In Memorium:

Il Circolo is very sad to announce the death of **Theresa Decrescentis**. Theresa was a long time member of Circolo and served as its president in 1985. Theresa will be remembered as a hard worker who never said no when we needed her help. Even when she was no longer able to attend functions, she still would work for Circolo by folding and stuffing invitations. She never complained that it was grunt work, because she knew it was important and someone had to do it.

Because Theresa was so dedicated to Circolo her family chose to have friends and relatives make donations to Circolo's scholarship fund in lieu of flowers. This

very generous decision brought in enough money to provide the Theresa Decrescentis College Scholarship and the Theresa Decrescentis High School Scholarship.

These scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting this May at Mt. Vernon.

Flowers come and go quickly but education, especially in the Italian language, lasts forever. We are indebted to Theresa, her family, and her friends for this contribution to our educational goals.

Circolo's current president **Joannie Velotta Flynn** is once again providing a high school scholarship in memory of her husband Ron Flynn.



Ciao from Italia

We heard from two of our scholarship students studying in Italy. They are currently taking two classes, one of which teaches them all about Italy and its economic and environmental issues. They are also taking Italian language classes which gives them even more opportunity to use the language. They will be starting three more classes which deal with the history of the European Union, urban development and a volunteer-based internship somewhere within the city.

Scholarship chair **Ida Casagrande** reports that all scholarship materials have been sent to the universities and the appropriate high schools. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in March to choose this years recipients.