
La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

April 2016

April English Meeting:

"Annual Elections"

Wednesday, April 13th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House



Annual elections will be held at the April 13th English meeting. There are several open Board positions that need filling. Please consider volunteering for one of these. Contact Jane Cottrell, head of the Nominating Committee for more information (jano24@juno.com).

For current members (dues paid for the new year) you will enjoy a free pasta dinner prepared by the Dante Board at the April 13th meeting.

April Italian Meeting:

"Opera Lirica", Presented by Albert Sbragia

Wednesday, April 27th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House

Join us April 27th when Albert Sbragia presents "*Opera Lirica*" for our Italian meeting. He will discuss Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and Luciano Visconti's film *Senso* and look at the role of melodrama in each.

Albert Sbragia is an Associate Professor of Italian Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Washington. He received his doctorate in Italian from the University of California, Berkeley. His areas of teaching and research include 19th and 20th century Italian literature, film and culture. He is the author of *Carlo Emilio Gadda and the Modern Macaronic* and is currently writing a book on contemporary Italian cinema titled *The Cinema of Economic Crisis: Reimagining Italian Territory in Contemporary Italian Cinema*. He is a faculty member of the UW's *Italian Studies in Rome and Calabria* study abroad program and is a former chair of the Department of French and Italian Studies.

Please see page 8 and 9 of La Voce for an interview of Albert Sbragia by Rebecca Novelli.

Upcoming Events

Wed, April 13th:
"Annual Elections", 6:30 pm,
Headquarters House



Wed, April 27th:
"Opera Lirica",
Presented by Albert Sbragia
6:30 pm, Headquarters House

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership for 2016, please do so now. Please note the "send to" address has changed for memberships and donations as noted on the membership form found on the back page of La Voce.

Consider making a donation to DAS as well. Your donation helps maintain the excellent programs and activities. Everyone benefits!

Please designate where your donation should go: Social Programs and Activities or Language School.

The names on the donation list will remain through December 31st, 2016. However, if you made a donation after May 2015, your name will remain on the donation list through 2016





Our New Members

**Benvenuti
Nuovi Membri**

**We thank you for your
support of DAS.**

* DAS Star List 2016*

While we appreciate those who support our Society through membership dues & volunteering, stars are awarded to those making extra cash contributions which allows us to provide additional services.

Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

Bronzo up to \$25

- * Crawford, Barbara
- * Crosetto, James & Deborah
- * Gillett, Debra Rovetto
- * Hoffman, Pat

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Morton, Lorraine
- * Reinert, Harry

Oro \$51 to \$100

- * Bosi, Lawrence
- * Cottrell, David & Jane
- * DeMatteis, Dan & Carol
- * Fonzo, Emilio
- * Greenfield, Peter
- * Larsen, David
- * Minotti, Dominick
- * Shiroyama, Sylvia
- * Sportelli, Domenic & Louise

Platino—over \$100

- * Rodriquez, German

From the President's Desk

Ciao tutti -

T. S. Eliot famously wrote that “April is the cruelest month” – a sentiment I am not usually in agreement with. But this April, amidst an inescapable, deafening, seemingly endless, disheartening, and inane presidential nominating campaign, it is with some trepidation that I write to remind you all that our DAS Board elections are also in April – as always the second Wednesday of the month, our monthly English Meeting, this year on April 13th.

And I want to urge you especially to come out this year and consider volunteering. Despite the best efforts of the Nominating Committee there are still Board positions vacant. And we really can’t do all that we do unless we all take our turns participating.

The evening starts at 6:30 with a pre-Dante pasta dinner prepared by the current Board, free of charge to members, as thanks for your support throughout the year. As President, I’ll give the Annual Report to members, and Bruce Leone, as Treasurer, will present the financials for the year. Then we’ll have a Members’ Feedback session – your chance to tell the Board what you liked about last year and your ideas for future DAS events. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jane Cottrell, will present the slate of candidates for next year’s Board and hold the elections. As always there’ll be *dolce* and *vino* throughout the evening and an opportunity to enjoy socializing.

The Italian Meeting in April will be on Wednesday, the 27th. Professor Albert Sbragia of the University of Washington’s Italian Department will be speaking on *Opera Lirica*. Albert is a regular presenter at our DAS meetings and always gives enjoyable and informative talks. If you enjoyed *Maria Stuarda*, this presentation is a natural follow-on. And if you missed *Maria Stuarda*, this will be a good opportunity to catch up! Italian music – who can resist?

If you’d like to find out more about volunteering for the Board or for one of the Chairperson positions, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jane Cottrell at jano24@juno.com

See you at our April meetings. *A presto.*

Dan DeMatteis





Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

Winter quarter started on January 5th with 54 students enrolled and four levels of Italian (A1, A2, B1, B2) taught by Dida Berretta, Marina Gagliardi, Michela Tartaglia and Nicla Rivero. Winter quarter is the second quarter for all levels. Most of the students attended fall quarter while others, who studied Italian previously, joined the program in the winter and were placed in their appropriate level.

Once again Seattle University is hosting our program and as a result our students have multimedia classrooms with Internet, in addition to the printed text, and are exposed to videos, news, commercials, and music in order to enhance their learning experience. We are very fortunate to be able to use their facilities and classrooms and are very grateful to the administration for allowing us this use.

The use of multimedia has many benefits such as improvement of students' listening comprehension skills. When taking the PLIDA exam students find the oral part pretty challenging, especially at level B1 and above as we experienced last November. Their exposure to spoken Italian through both listening to the instructor and follow up exercises is fundamental for a successful completion of the exam. Other skills tested in the PLIDA are reading, writing, and speaking.

Last May we offered the PLIDA A2 exam and in November we offered the PLIDA B2 exam. The students who took the exam received the official certificate issued by the *Società Dante Alighieri* with the seal of the *University of Rome – La Sapienza* and the *Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. I encourage our students to consider taking the exam in May or November not only for practical reasons, such as to satisfy the language requirement for the permit of long stay in Italy or to enroll to Italian universities, but also for personal gratification and to formally assess proficiency in Italian. Although the Rome Headquarter administers the exam, students can take the exams in Seattle since the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is one of the few institutions in North America to offer it under my coordination. The exam is open to everyone not only to students, and the fee is very reasonable. If a student fails any of the four skills he/she can re-take only that portion of the exam instead of taking the entire exam again.

To conclude, I want to thank Seattle University for hosting the courses, our students for their dedication to the program, and our instructors for their excellent work. Students in their evaluations praised their skills and their ability to create a friendly atmosphere in the classroom that enable them to make progress and attend class regularly even after a day at work. Class meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.!

Here are some excerpts of their comments at the end of fall quarter 2015: *I enjoyed the exercises in this class, and the reading was easily understandable. The handouts were helpful, and I LOVED the cultural notes and presentations that Dida gave to us (A1). Marina is VERY encouraging and supportive and kind. She makes the classroom a safe place to practice*

Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW

Club Alpino
monthly
hike for April:



April 9th: Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Classification: Easy

Distance/Time: 4 miles RT/2 to 2.5 hours

Elevation Gain: none as at sea level

Contact: Dale and Joel Patience
joelpatience@hotmail.com

Hike through the Nisqually river delta to view beavers, weasels, minks, herons, eagles, sandpipers, and more. Bring cameras and binoculars. There are observation towers, viewing platforms, and the boardwalk that sits just above the wetlands. One viewing platform provides a 360-degree view of the Olympics, Mt. Rainier and several Puget Sound islands.

DAS Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on a Wednesday every other month from September through May.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 13th, 2016.

Meetings are held from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Community Room at Merrill Gardens at First Hill (formerly Faerland Terrace), 1421 Minor Avenue on Capitol Hill. Meetings are open to all members.



(Continued on page 4)

speaking Italian and she makes the concepts much more clear and easier to understand (A2). I found Michela to be a fantastic instructor. She sets a good pace and does a great job of accommodating to all skill levels within the class. I am looking forward to continuing on with her (B1). Nicla did an exceptional job with handouts, activities, videos, sharing of cultural exchanges, grammar explanation, and the small group activities were great. We learned so much under her expert tutelage (B2). Laura inspired lively and engaged conversation, and carefully included every student in it. Laura's ability to make this work is exceptional. Although the fluency of the individual students varied significantly, all were challenged and all made progress (C2). This is a great program and I would definitely recommend it. Excellent, I would recommend it!

The Program:

Since 1984, the local chapter of Dante Alighieri Society has offered a comprehensive Italian Language Program for all those interested in learning or perfecting their Italian language skills. Our instructors are qualified and native speakers, classes are small and our per hour instruction cost provides you good value.

Classes Available:

Six class levels from A1 to C2, each level consisting of three quarters—Fall, Winter, and Spring, are offered during the year as enrollment permits.

Schedule:

The school year extends from late September or early October to June with a class break every 10 weeks. **Each class level begins in the fall and lasts for three quarters or 30 weeks.** Classes meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Location:

Seattle University campus, Administration Building

Class Descriptions:

Beginning Italian (Level A1) - This course is for people with little or no Italian language. Students will be introduced to the basic phonetic, grammatical, and lexical structures through conversation and simple dialogues. During the three-quarter course, students will be engaged in a variety of fun activities and begin their journey of learning Italian.

Elementary Italian (Level A2) - The elementary level is the continuation of the beginning class or for those who have already studied some Italian. Students will finish exploring essential grammar structures while learning appropriate and relevant words and expressions. At the end of the three-quarter course, students should be able to use basic structures of the language with confidence and be able to communicate well in daily situations.

Intermediate (Level B1) - This course will review and reinforce the student's basic knowledge of Italian. Students will review and reinforce their knowledge of the language in addition to expanding their vocabulary and ability to understand written and spoken Italian. Students will be exposed to cultural and literary readings and will develop a greater understanding of Italian culture, lifestyle, and way of thinking.

Upper-Intermediate (Level B2) - This course is the continuation of B1. It completes the review and reinforcement of grammar covered in the previous beginning and elementary levels in addition covering any missing structures. This course will help students understand articles from newspapers and the web, song lyrics, literary excerpts, videos, and excerpts from films and commercials. At the end of the three-quarter course, students will be able to engage effectively in a conversation, express opinions, and give simple explanations.

Intermediate—Advanced (Level C1) - This course is designed for students who have completed the grammar topics reviewed and expanded in level B1 and B2 or have a good grasp of them. Students will perfect their grammar and greatly improve their comprehension, conversation, and writing skills. Students will read and discuss literature, watch films and videos in Italian and converse about the cinema, art, Italian news, and current events. At the end of the three-quarters course, one will be able to interact with Italian speakers fluently and spontaneously.

Advanced Italian (Level C2) -

Level C2 is the capstone of our program. It is designed for students who have completed level C1 and wish to continue for an additional year. The goal of the three quarter course is to deepen and perfect the student's existing knowledge of the Italian language.

(Continued on page 5)

Course Schedule:

<i>Fall Quarter 2015:</i>	October 1 - December 10
Thanksgiving—No classes 11/26	
Pre-registration Deadline:	September 27
<i>Winter Quarter 2016:</i>	January 5 - March 10
Pre-registration Deadline:	December 21
<i>Spring Quarter 2016:</i>	March 31 - June 7
Pre-registration Deadline:	March 21

Class Fee:

Level A1 & A2 - \$180 per quarter
Level B1 & B2 - \$275 per quarter
Level C1 & C2 - \$300 per quarter

For further information email: info@danteseattle.org
To register: www.danteseattle.org/register.html



www.facebook.com/danteseattle

La Voce

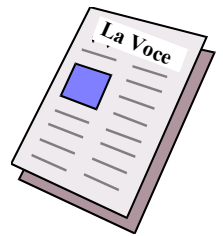
Spring is here in Georgia with trees budding, flowers blooming, and yes, it's pollen haven right now. But we are all looking forward to sunshine and being outdoors!

If you find an interesting article, event, book, anything related to the Italian life, please consider sharing this through La Voce. Submissions are always welcome and by all means send the articles to me any time. The sooner the better!

Linda

La Voce Editor
LTHDesign@comcast.net

Delivering La Voce to Members



La Voce will be sent as a pdf file attachment to your email address. Or you may log onto the Dante website to see the latest issue as well as back issues of La Voce. The website is:

www.das.danteseattle.org

Adobe Reader is necessary to be able to view La Voce. You can download this program from the DAS website.

Be sure your mailbox isn't full otherwise you will have to check the Dante website.

Inclement Weather Procedure

It's not winter yet but weather can still be prickly. Hopefully, there will be no repeat of winter pasts but in case there is, keep in mind when schools, community centers, and businesses are closing early or remain closed, we will postpone any scheduled meeting for Headquarters House. We will do our best to have a message on the DAS reservation line, 425-243-7663, to let you know if our meeting needs to be canceled. If the weather is treacherous in your area, PLEASE DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House, we want everyone to be safe.



DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House, we want everyone to be safe.



Catherine Orsi

It is with great sadness to hear of the passing of Catherine Orsi on March 14th after a brave battle with a brain tumor.

There will be a Remembrance Service for Catherine at Plymouth Church in downtown Seattle on April 30th, at 1:00 pm.

Spring in Italy



Restaurant in Trastevere, Rome



San Lorenzo Church, Milan



PLIDA

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is one of the few institutes in North America authorized to offer PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri-Dante Alighieri Italian Language Project) certification.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington in Seattle is an official examination center of the Società Dante Alighieri and provides its students and others the opportunity of taking PLIDA exams in order to obtain a PLIDA certificate.

The PLIDA Certificate

The PLIDA certificate is an official Diploma issued by the Società Dante Alighieri under an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Rome *La Sapienza*. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and by the Italian Ministry of University and Research as a qualification for the proficiency in the Italian language for foreigners.

The PLIDA certificates attest proficiency in Italian as a foreign language on a 6-level scale according to the parameters established by the Common European Framework for Languages (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2).

Why Take the PLIDA Exam

Students who may wish to be certified include those who plan to study at Italian universities (which accepts PLIDA Certification - level B2 minimum - as proof of proficiency), American high school and college students who may seek college credit, or persons wishing to be certified for obtaining an application for the Italian Permit of Stay in Italy (level A2 minimum). Certification may also interest students who see the examination as a capstone experience after taking their language courses.

For more information on the PLIDA certificates, visit the official PLIDA website: www.plida.it/plida/bar

Dates, Registration, Location, and Exam Fees

PLIDA certificate sessions will be held every year in May and November. Candidates may choose to take an exam at the level they feel is closest to their proficiency. Registration does not require having taken lower-level tests.

Candidates need to register approximately 30 days prior to the exam date. Dates of each exam, registration deadlines, location, exam fees, and registration instructions check the Language School's Plida website at:

www.danteseattle.org/plida.html

For any questions, email: plida@danteseattle.org





La Voce Needs You!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send via email (as a Word document) to LTHdesign@comcast.net. You can also mail it via regular mail to Linda Heimbigner, 4355 Little Falls Drive, Cumming, GA 30041. Keep things coming!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
May 2016	April 20th

(La Voce is not published June, July, or August)

NOTE: Please keep in mind the above submission deadlines and it's great if articles were submitted as early as possible.

Dante on the Internet!

Check our website. It has links to our recent newsletters (including this one) as well as information on speakers and other matters of interest. Our web address is:

<http://das.danteseattle.org/>

Pre-Dante Pasta

Join us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required. The only way to make these reservations is by calling the activity line at (425) 243-7663 by 5 pm on the Monday before the meeting or send your request via email to: dante.reserve@gmail.com.**

Please remember to bring your homemade Italian desserts to finish off this great meal.

This is a communally prepared meal – the preparations start at 5:30 and the meal is served at 6:30. People who come early help with set up and cooking, those who come late help with the clean up.

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per couple, if reservations are received on the Activity Line by 5 pm on Monday before the meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are charged \$10 per person and subject to availability. We meet at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue, Seattle, WA. DAS will not be providing wine for the pre-Dante pasta dinners so bring your own wine to enjoy and share with others.



Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

*"Società per la diffusione della
lingua e della cultura italiana nel
mondo"*

Mailing address:
PO Box 9494
Seattle, WA 98109
(425) 243-7663

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is a nonprofit corporation organized to promote Italian language and culture within the state of Washington. Membership is open to anyone interested in the goals and ideals of our society regardless of ethnic origin. *La Voce della Dante* is published eight times a year by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. All rights reserved.

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Interview with Albert Sbragia

by Rebecca Novelli

Associate Professor Albert Sbragia teaches 19th and 20th Century Italian literature and film at University of Washington. He is currently writing a book, *The Cinema of Economic Crisis*, which looks at globalization and its effects in Italy through the lens of contemporary Italian cinema. As the DAS featured speaker on April 27, 2016, he will discuss Melodrama in Italian Lyric Opera and Film.

How did your interest in Italian language, arts and culture develop?

As a boy growing up in San Francisco, I had no idea I would eventually become a professor of Italian literature and film. My early connection with Italy was via my father, who was from Lucca. He had been a farmer with only a fifth grade education, but he knew Puccini's most famous arias by heart and was my first link to Italian culture.

In college I started out as a science major—marine biology. At the time French was the suggested language because the French and Jacques Cousteau were at the forefront of the field. I took French and realized I liked languages. I studied Spanish and Italian, too, and then lived in Milan both after graduating in 1978 and subsequently in 1980-81 where I taught English. When I came back to the United States, I was fluent, so I went to UC Berkeley and asked if they needed an instructor in Italian. They said that if I enrolled in graduate school, I could teach Italian. It was a deal I could not refuse.

I originally intended to specialize in comparative literature. Eventually, I focused on the 20th Century and on Italy. I wrote my dissertation on the writer Carlo Emilio Gadda and his famous novel, *Quer brutto pasticciaccio de via Merluana*, or *That Awful Mess on Via Merluana*. It's a crime thriller. Unfortunately, the

English translation doesn't work very well. It's not the translator's fault. Gadda is very difficult to translate because he uses many dialects, technical jargon, and archaic terms. The book is fascinating but very difficult reading, so I teach it only in graduate seminars.

Although Gadda is a challenging and difficult author for the reasons I just mentioned, his work fit with my interest in language and the Milanese dialect, with which I had some familiarity having lived in Milan. My thesis focused on how Gadda navigates different registers and dialects of Italian and my research was published as a book, *Carlo Emilio Gadda and the Modern Macaronic*.

After completing my Ph.D. I came to the University of Washington in 1989 and have since made my home in Seattle and raised my two children here.

You're speaking at DAS on the topic of melodrama. What aspects of melodrama will you be presenting at DAS?

Melodrama as a genre has many different forms. In lyric opera it includes theater, drama and melody. Note the relationship between the words *melody* and *melodrama*. I'll discuss the relationship between melodrama and the Risorgimento and how these have been used artistically in Giuseppe Verdi's *Il trovatore* and in Luchino Visconti's film *Senso*, in which *Trovatore* is an important intertext.

My personal interest is in how melodrama works. It is a *theater of excess* in that it goes beyond the bounds of realism and stirs up deep emotions. I want to explore the relationship between this theater of excess and politics, specifically how politics gets entangled with an art form meant to elicit a strong response in the listener. People gravitate to a way of presenting characters in situations that arouse intense effect and visceral responses that can bury rational responses. We are seeing some of this in our own presidential campaign right now. This emotional effect is related to the Aristotelian notion of *catharsis*, that is, that the expression of intense feeling offers a way to resolve a problem or a conflict instead of keeping it under wraps. In my talk, we will look at Verdi's opera, *Il Trovatore*, and its relationship to the politics of the Risorgimento, and then we'll look at the beginning of Visconti's film, *Senso*, and how he uses this opera for very different purposes.

You're also teaching a course using these works. Could you tell us more about it?

I teach courses on Italian literature, film and culture. I also include opera and other artistic works in my courses because they're important to an understanding of Italian culture. In other European countries the novel predominated as middle class entertainment in the 19th century. In Italy, opera was the form that could reach all people, including the masses who were largely illiterate, since the audience was not dependent on the written text.

The upcoming course is a survey class focusing on 19th and 20th century Italian literature and culture. We'll be looking at five specific periods and genres: Romanticism and the lyric poets (Foscolo, Leopardi); opera and the Risorgimento (Verdi and Visconti); the *avant garde* (futurist art) and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (theater); post-war Italian neorealism (film); and, finally, the narrative fiction of Italo Calvino and his transition from literary neorealism to a postmodernist aesthetics. I hope this mix

(Continued on page 9)

of periods and genres will encourage students to go beyond the classroom to read more texts in Italian literature and seek out Italian cultural events here in Seattle (opera, the SIFF Italian film festival, art exhibits, etc).

Il Trovatore, which I will discuss in my DAS talk, is an important opera for its political significance. It was written during the Risorgimento and was interpreted through the lens of Italian patriotism. The opera was regarded as a call to arms during the Risorgimento. This is explicit in the aria *Di quella pira* with its rousing concluding chorus *All'armi* ("To Arms"). Here's an example with Luciano Pavarotti where you can get an idea of how motivating it was!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0_UG2UnM7o

Melodrama is also important in film studies, especially in the cinema of the 1950's, which emphasized heightened emotions and women in situations that put them to the test often with tragic results. In my talk at DAS I will show part of Luchino Visconti's film *Senso*. It is about the Risorgimento, too, but taken from a short story by Camillo Boito, which concerns a countess who wants to be involved in the events of that period. Instead, she falls in love with an Austrian soldier who takes her money, which had been destined for use by Italian patriots. Interestingly, the movie starts in the La Fenice opera house in Venice with a scene from *Il trovatore* and the *Di quella pira* aria. The beginning of the affair between the countess and the soldier is shot with the opera in the background. But unlike the message of the opera, the film takes the tale of a love story gone wrong which involves the betrayal of patriotism. Visconti offers cynical look at the failure of the aspirations expressed in the opera. His film is melodramatic in the sense that it deals with the heroine's tragic realization that she has been used. At the same time he references the tragic situation in *Il trovatore*, ironically "doubling" the tragedy. As a postscript here, I'll mention that the Marx Brothers movie, "A Night at the Opera," also focuses on *Il trovatore*—but obviously in a comic rather than a melodramatic way.

Why teach melodrama?

Melodrama belongs to the tragic mode. It's tragedy made melodious, if you will. We can look back to Greek tragedy, which was spoken and had a chorus, but *melodrama* as we know it began in 17th century with Monteverdi. The rise of Italian opera at this time was associated with the Baroque aesthetic that emphasized eliciting strong emotion. The form spread to the rest of Europe, and in the 18th Century the poet Metastasio codified melodrama in Italian poetry.

In my teaching I like to include new topics of interest for me and share them with my students. I know a lot about the Risorgimento. I have not done a lot of research on melodrama but I'm intrigued by it, especially as an artistic form evokes that elicits certain responses in viewers and listeners.

In teaching I also try to go beyond historical presentation and basic analysis of texts to something a little more abstract or problematic. Visconti is a good example of a filmmaker who uses melodrama effectively probably because he was deeply involved in opera and had directed operas. His 1943 film *Obsession* was a precursor. His film *The Leopard* is a very powerful—one might say *operatic*—melodrama in its treatment of the decline of an important family and the death of a way of life. These melodramas are serious works that offer us a way into historical periods and places that might otherwise seem distant. They provide an essential and powerful cultural understanding at a very human level.

Clearly, you have a deep interest in Italian cinema. Could you talk more about how that came about?

Yes. I hadn't studied cinema in graduate school, but it was the first course I was asked to teach when I arrived at the University of Washington. Over the years I've taught numerous courses on Italian cinema and I've written on it. Currently I am researching and writing a book on contemporary Italian cinema called *The Cinema of Economic Crisis*. Briefly, it looks at how globalization has led to a re-mapping of Italian territory and changed the relationship of those who live there to the larger world. It considers different territorial spaces in Italy and how these are reconfigured by the pressures of globalization and how cinema explores these reconfigurations. Scholars refer to this as a process of *detrterritorialization* of traditional spaces and their *reterritorialization* according to new parameters conditioned by globalization. I'll be looking at Italian films shot in different Italian regions and how they are affected by specific instances of globalization ranging from international finance, to off-shoring of jobs and skills, to immigration or the effects of different media on populations. As an example, the Veneto is a region where the industrialization of cottage industries fueled the rise of new economic models that led the growth of the Italian economy beginning in the 1970s. More recently globalization and economic recession has thrown this whole economic system into crisis and has conditioned resulting attempts to put it back together. The economic disruption has been further compounded by issues of immigration and racism. I'll be looking at these and similar phenomena from various critical and theoretical perspectives. I believe this investigation is relevant to what is happening not just in Italy but all over the world today as a result of globalization, including the economic disruptions we've experienced here in the United States.

Spring News from the Language School

by Giuseppe Tassone

The Italian language program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington resumed on March 31st, 2016 after spring break. Spring quarter is the third and last quarter for all levels. After completing spring quarter, students enrolled in any given level can advance to their next level or repeat it if they wish.

Prospective students who wish to start from the beginning with no knowledge of Italian must enroll in the fall. This year level A1 was particularly popular with a total of 67 students.

As a total, about 160 students attended our classes in 2015-16. This makes the Italian language program of the Dante Alighieri Society one of the leading Italian language programs in the state of Washington. Our formula for such a success is quite simple: organization, multi-levels of Italian language offered, courses open to students of all ages, quality of instruction, well equipped classrooms, and affordability. In addition, a student in our end of the quarter evaluation responded to the question, “would you recommend this program” with “yes, it’s a friendly bunch of students!”

Register early to ensure you don’t miss the opportunity to join our program. Registration for the new year usually starts in late June or at the beginning of July.

I would like to conclude our spring news by sharing a picture from the end of the quarter *festa di fine corso* where students of the different levels gathered together on the last day of class to cele-

brate their accomplishments.

Thank you to our wonderful instructors for organizing this special event at the end of each quarter. You can find this image and other updates on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/danteseattle/



Picture from Wine Tasting Dinner





**DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY
ITALIAN WINE DINNER
MARCH 9, 2016 – GARDEN HOUSE, SEATTLE**

*Presented by Chris Zimmerman, Vice President of Sales, Scarpetta Wines
-Solo Vini Italiani da 30 Anni!-*

Antipasti

Scarpetta Timido Brut Rose' (Veneto)

Gnocchi in due maniere: marinara e con burro e salvia

Scarpetta Pinot Grigio 2014 (Friuli)

Squadra Rosso Sicilia 2014 (Sicilia)

Spezzatino di Manzo a la Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Polenta, Cavolo Rosso e Radicchio con Pancetta

O Scelta Vegetarian: Melanzane con Sugo di Pomodoro e Formaggio

Scarpetta Barbera Monferrato 2013 (Piemonte)

Assortimento di formaggi

Acinum Amarone Della Valpolicella 2012 (Veneto)

Tiramisu

Caffe'

GRAZIE A:



ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL



Recipe

The Taralli served as part of the antipasti plate at the annual wine tasting dinner is an old family recipe of Dan and Carol DeMatteis. They are sharing the recipe with the readers of La Voce...enjoy!

TARALLI

5 cups all-purpose flour
4 T. fennel seeds
3 T. garlic powder
1 T. black pepper
1 T. salt
3/4 cup olive oil
1 cup hot water + 1/2 cup warm water
1 T. yeast
1/2 t. sugar

Stir flour and seasonings to blend well. Add 3/4 cup oil and 1 cup hot water; you may need more water if dough is too tough. The mix should be like bread dough.

Mix yeast and sugar into 1/2 cup very warm water, and add to dough. Stir with fork and then knead. Let rise twice, for better taralli.

Pinch off egg-sized pieces of dough, form into rings, and brush tops with beaten egg yolk. Bake on parchment or greased sheets at 400°F for 20 to 25 minutes, until they are firm to the touch.

When all the taralli are baked, shut oven off and put them back in the cooling oven. When the oven is cool, remove again and reset the oven to 350°F. When it reaches



350°F, turn the oven off and put the taralli back in the oven to continue drying.

Wine Tasting Dinner

The meal for the wine tasting dinner was scrumptious and the table setting and arrangement made for a wonderful evening. Chris Zimmerman, as always, is a delight and so very knowledgeable on Italian wines. He is now working for another distributor so we were introduced to a new line of Italian wines.

The pictures below show the fantastic “chefs” who prepared the delicious meal and served everyone and Chris opening the wines he’s chosen to go with the meal.



Wine Tasting Dinner



Five wines were served with the wine tasting meal:

Scarpetta Timido Brut Rose Veneto was a bubbly wine served with the antipasti.



For the gnocchi course, two wines were served: 2014 Scarpetta Pinot Grigio and 2014 Squadra Rosso Sicilia.



For the main course a 2013 Scarpetta Barbera del Monferrato Piemonte was served.



With the cheese plate, a 2012 Acinum Amarone della Valpolicella was served.

And then dessert and coffee...



More Pictures



Wine Info

The wines served at the wine tasting dinner are available at McCarthy & Schiering Wine Merchants, Inc. They have two locations:

Queen Anne Shop
2401B Queen Anne Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109
206-282-8500

Ravenna Shop
6500 Ravenna Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115
206-524-9500

Prices for the wine served:
Scarpetta Timido Brut Rose Veneto (\$20)

2014 Scarpetta Pinot Grigio (\$15)

2014 Squadra Rosso Sicilia (\$13)

2013 Scarpetta Barbera del Monferrato Piemonte (\$17)

2012 Acinum Amarone della Valpolicella (\$49)

DANTE CALENDAR 2015–2016

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p>2015:</p> <p>September 9th: English Meeting Rob Prufer “Great Italian Artworks of Parties & Feasts”</p> <p>September 23rd: Italian Meeting Giuseppe Tassone “Maratona infernale: in viaggio con Dante</p>	<p>2016:</p> <p>January 13th: English Meeting Terry Tazioli, Journalist of TVW’s <i>Well Read</i></p> <p>January 27th: Italian Meeting Anna Veraldi, Architect “Renaissance Gardens of Lazio”</p>
<p>October 14th: English Meeting Adrienne Bandlow “Holy Cannoli”</p> <p>October 28th: Italian Meeting Cecilia Stretto “The American Way and the Italian Way: Differences in Every Day Life”</p>	<p>February 10th: English Meeting Dan DeMatteis “Donizetti’s <i>Maria Stuarda</i>”</p> <p>February 24th: Italian Meeting Movie & Antipasti “Pane e Tulipani” (Bread and Tulips)</p>
<p>November 11th: English Meeting “Festa di Natale per i Bambini: It’s Origin & Preview of our Celebration December 5th”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in November</p>	<p>March 9th: English Meeting Wine Tasting Dinner w/Chris Zimmerman</p> <p>March 23rd: Italian Meeting David Chapman “La Pantera Biondo, Italian Comic Book”</p>
<p>December 5th: Festa di Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>December 9th: Annual Christmas Party</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in December</p>	<p>April 13th: English Meeting Election Night</p> <p>April 27th: Italian Meeting Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor of Italian Studies, Univ. of Washington “Opera Lirica”</p>
	<p>May 11th: English Meeting Vickie Olson (Newcastle Historical Society) “The Italian Immigrants of Newcastle”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in May</p> <p><i>June-August 2016: Summer break, no meetings.</i></p>

At the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm and served at 6:30 pm. Call the Activity Line (425) 243-7663 by the Monday before to reserve your spot (s) or email your request to: dante.reserve@gmail.com. Cost: \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue S, in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. Directions are on the back page of La Voce.

Membership Application

I (We) want to promote Italian language and culture and request membership in the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Enclosed is my (our) check in full payment of annual membership dues (\$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for a family).

Mark one : () **New Membership** () **Membership Renewal**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: _____

Contribution:

Social Programs & Activities: _____

School: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Contribution Categories (For recognition stars):

Bronzo (bronze) - Up to \$25

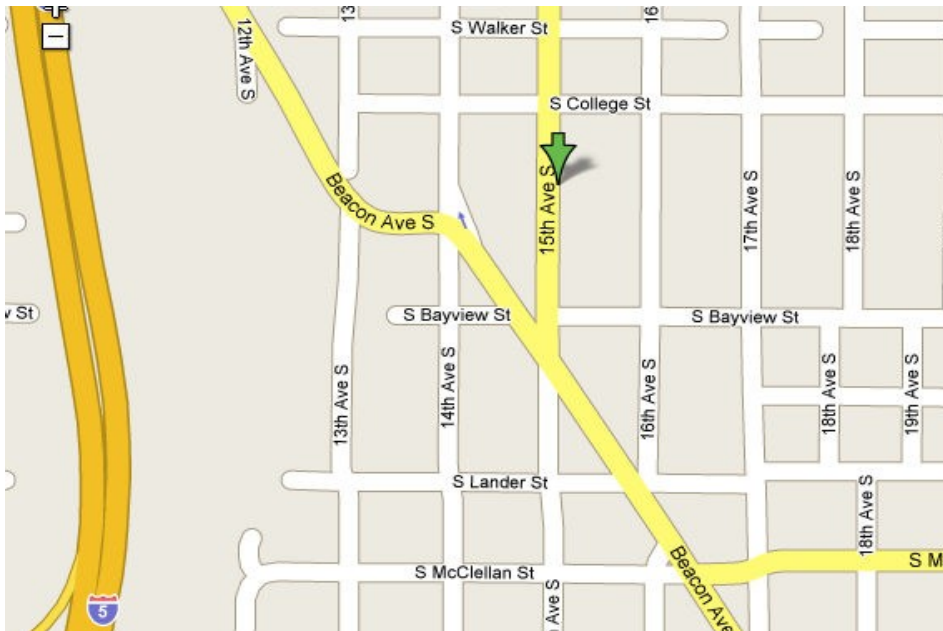
Argento (silver) - \$26 to \$50

Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100

Platino (platinum) - Over \$10

Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington
c/o Bruce Leone
2522 2nd Ave W
Seattle, WA 98119



Directions to Headquarters House

Headquarters House is located at **2336 15th Avenue South** in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. From I-5, take the Columbian Way/Spokane Street exit, eastbound. Turn left at the first light, Spokane Street and left again at the next light, 15th Avenue S. After crossing Beacon Avenue, Headquarters House will be on the right side between Bayview and College Streets.