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# La Voce della Dante

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Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

November 2012

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## November English Meeting— Dan DeMatteis, “Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture...”

Wednesday, November 14th, 7:30 pm, Headquarters House

**R**oger Lewis, scheduled for our November 14th English meeting hurt his back so will not be presenting. Instead, Dan DeMatteis will do a presentation on “Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture, Mainly Florence, All Davids”.

Join Dan in taking a short tour of Italian Renaissance sculpture with David: King, Prophet, and Giant-Killer. We will make three major stops along the way, getting to know David as sculpted by Donatella, Verrochio, and Michelangelo. There will be some side excursions as well to help set the context. It is an entertaining way to look at the development of Renaissance sculpture.

The tour guide/presenter, Dan DeMatteis, is a DAS member and former teacher. He taught a popular extension course on the Italian Renaissance at the University of Toronto for many years.

## Upcoming Events

Wed, November 14th: Pre Dante pasta at 6:30 pm followed by Dan DeMatteis, “Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture, Mainly Florence, All Davids” at 7:30 pm



There is no Italian meeting in November.

Sat, December 1st: Festa di Natale per i Bambini, Headquarters House

Wed, December 12th: Christmas party, Headquarters House

There is no Italian meeting in December.

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## Mario Pirovana Appearance at Seattle University Cancelled

**T**he presentation by actor Mario Pirovano at Seattle University has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. He was not able to get an extension of his visa at this time. However, stay tuned as he hopes to appear at a later date.





## Welcome to Our New Members

### Benvenuti Nuovi Membri

Nick Pernisco  
Marinella Raine

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

### \* DAS Star List 2012\*

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

- \* Borriello, Rosa
- \* Gillett, Debra Rovetto
- \* Orsi, Catherine
- \* Pellegrini, Frank
- \* Schwartz, Peni

#### Argento \$26 to \$50

- \* Caldirola, Dennis
- \* Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- \* Cottrell, Dave & Jane
- \* DeMatteis, Dan & Carol
- \* Favre, Diana & Alfred
- \* Hoffman, Pat
- \* Hundertmark, Louise
- \* Napoli, Toni
- \* Rodriguez, German D.
- \* Sportelli, Domenic & Louise
- \* Tobe, Robert & Magdalena
- \* Viegel, Alan

The DAS Star List is continued on page 3.

## From the President's Desk

**W**elcome to fall in all its glory! We had such a great September and early October and while it's started raining now, we are still getting some glorious days to enjoy. We now have had two solid months for the 2012-2013 program season and all of the programs so far have been real winners. October's English meeting was very well attended and I expect as much for the Italian one. As usual, one the best parts of the meetings has been to visit with everyone and to share the food, vino, and dolce that so many of you kindly brought.

Our English language meeting in October had a great turnout with about 55 people in attendance. The presentation by Jonathan Brandt on the hill towns and villa of Italy was just spectacular. The playfulness in which the towns were built, the art, the water features, and the seamless integration with the surrounding environment are great to see and make the idea of a visit to those places so enticing. The meal, Dave Cottrell's delicious fried caper and anchovy pasta, was a huge hit as usual and in fact all extras were sold out before the program began. A first! Thank you, Dave, again for this wonderful meal and thanks to Jackie Leone Pleasant for continuing to arrange our slate of chefs for these meals.

Our Italian meeting was just as amazing as well. Marcella Nardi returned to us again, this time with a presentation entitled "Rome: from its Beginnings to the Middle Ages." Marcella is a gifted presenter, previously presenting programs to us on topics such as "Medieval Castles of Italy" and "Castles of Duchy and Parma & Piacenza - Towns of Ravenna & Gradara". I'm sure that Marcella's presentation this time delighted as well. Thanks to Carol DeMatteis for arranging our great presentations and speakers!

We had a wonderful showing at Festa Italiana in September with nearly 90 people adding their name to our mailing list and expressing interest in understanding more about the Dante Alighieri Society. We also sold cookbooks at Festa this year and they were a real hit. We sold about 29 books over the two days with lots of people wanting to buy second and third copies! The booth was beautifully presented and we had lots of helpful volunteers to staff it. Thanks to all who helped set up, staff, and take down the booth. Many thanks to Norizan Paterra for organizing our presence at Festa and making sure that we put our best foot forward!

Again this year our society is sponsoring the Seattle Italian Film Festival. As a benefit to our members and language school students, this sponsorship brings with it discounts to all of the films in the festival. SIFF got back to me recently and confirmed that they will have a discount code for us and I will send that out to the membership as soon as I get it. I hope many of you can attend this year. We are very lucky to have this festival annually in our community, please consider taking advantage of it!

*Frank Paterra*



## Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

### \* DAS Star List 2012\*

#### Oro \$51 to \$100

- \* Fonzo, Emilio
- \* Mascio, Marcella
- \* Minotti, Dominick

#### Platino—over \$100

- \* Forte, Giselda
- \* Harmon, Gini
- \* Pietrafesa, Louise

The names on the donation list will remain through December 31, 2012. If you made a donation after May 2012, your name will be on the donation list through 2013.

Consider making a donation to DAS as these donations help DAS maintain the excellent programs and activities sponsored. Everyone benefits!

### DAS Board Meeting

**B**oard meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month from September through May.

The next board meeting will be November 7th.

Meetings are held from 7:00-8:30 pm and are open to all members.



The 2012-13 Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington started on October 2<sup>nd</sup> with 63 students enrolled.

Starting this year we have changed the structure of our classes to better respond to the standards of the PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) Italian language proficiency certification. Following the Common European Framework of Reference, we divided our classes into 3 levels: A1 *Beginning Italian*, A2 *Elementary Italian* and B1 *Intermediate Italian*.

Currently, we have 16 students enrolled in level A2 and 19 in level B1 so it is very likely next year we will add level B2 *Fundamental Italian* if most of the current B1 students continue with their studies.

If any of our students are interested in receiving a certificate attesting his/her level of Italian, the Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington offers PLIDA exams in May and November at Seattle University.

Knowledgeable and qualified instructors with many years of experience in our program teach our classes. This year Daniel Zanchi (Level A1) and Laura Ciroi (Level B1) are celebrating ten years of commitment in our program. To Daniel, Laura, and Michela Tartaglia (Level A2) go my gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Their contribution help me to continue running a successful program and give the joy of learning Italian to hundreds of students every year.

Students praise our program not only for the quality but also for the informal setting and friendly atmosphere in the classroom that enable them to make progress and attend class regularly even after a day of work. Our classes meet at 7:00 p.m.!

In addition to their language instruction, our students are invited to participate in cultural events and lectures related to Italy presented by the *Dante Alighieri Society of Washington* and other institutions such as *Seattle University – Modern Languages and Cultures*, the *University of Washington – Italian Board* and the *Seattle-Perugia Sister City Association*. The Dante Alighieri of Washington is once again a sponsor of the New Italian Film Festival at SIFF. Our students traditionally attend the Festival and discuss the films in class.

Although our program began in the fall and ends in June, if anyone is interested they can contact me to be placed in the appropriate level. The next quarter starts Thursday, January 8th. Registration deadline is December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Dante Alighieri of Washington Italian Language Program is a non-profit self-sustaining program operating exclusively with the income from the tuition and the generosity of Seattle University that is hosting our classes.

For more information:

[www.danteseattle.org](http://www.danteseattle.org)  
[info@danteseattle.org](mailto:info@danteseattle.org)  
[plida@danteseattle.org](mailto:plida@danteseattle.org)

Official Plida Website: <http://www.plida.it>

## La Voce

**F**all in Georgia reflected the hot, humid, dry summer we had. Trees that normally had vibrant red leaves turned yellow and dropped.

If you traveled and discovered something or a place of interest and related to the Italian culture, send photos or an article about your experience. Or maybe you've tried a great new Italian restaurant or read a great book. We would love to hear about it. These are all things that make a great La Voce so submissions are welcome. Submit, submit . . .

*Linda*

## Delivering La Voce to Members



**L**a 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](http://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.



## PLIDA

**P**LIDA (*Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri*)

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 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. 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/](http://www.plida.it/plida/)

### *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 for the 2012 exams are November 29th (Levels A1, A2, B1) and November 30th (Levels B2, C1, C2) with registration due no later than November 8th. Exams are held at Seattle University. For further information and more on the 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](http://www.danteseattle.org/plida.html)

For any questions, email: [plida@danteseattle.org](mailto:plida@danteseattle.org)





## La Voce Needs You!

**T**ell 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>
January 2013	December 20th, 2012
February 2013	January 15th, 2013

Let's see some articles and pictures for the new season of Dante!

### 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

**J**oin 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.

Frank Paterra  
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*Hospitality*

Carol DeMatteis  
*Program Chair*

Giuseppe Tassone  
*Language Program Director*

**Club  
Alpino  
Italiano  
(CAI)  
PNW**



*November 10th: Walk in Carkeek Park*

*Classification: (E) Easy*

*Distance/Time: Up to 8 miles; 3-4 hours*

*Elevation Gain: 200 feet*

*Highest Point: 200 feet*

*Contact: Diane Clifford at danielclifford@gmail.com by Thursday, November 8th.*

This venerable north Seattle park has eight miles of trails and features forest, orchards, salt water beach, and a salmon spawning stream.

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*December 8th: Walk and Potluck*

*Destination: Strachan's Home in Redmond*

*Contact: Glen or Jean Strachan at 425-869-8094 or glenshgi@msn.com*

Holiday potluck starts at 5 pm on English Hill in Redmond. Optional hike on forested trails in neighborhood prior to potluck. Contact Glen or Jean Strachan between November 20th and December 6th for directions, Italian food, beverages to bring, and hike sign up. Share slides and photos of 2012 trips. Pool table and spa available upon request. A presto!

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**Inclement Weather  
Procedure**

**W**ith winter not over yet, weather can still be prickly. Let's hope there is no repeat of the ice and snow storm of January and the snow again in March. Hopefully, spring is just around the corner! In case it's not 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.

***La Cucina della Dante Cookbook Now Available***

*by Nancy McDonald*

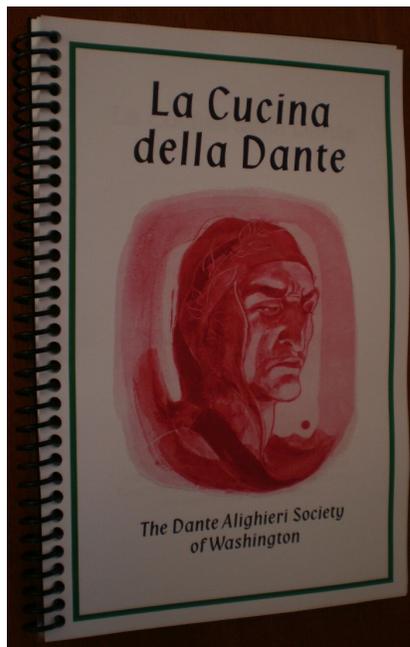
**T**he Seattle chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society has published a long-awaited cookbook from Dante members called *La Cucina della Dante*.

The 138 page cookbook has six categories of delicious Italian recipes: Antipasti e Insalate, Zuppe, Pane, Primi Piatti, Secondi Piatti, and Dolci, plus a complete index cross-referencing the recipes.

The recipes are from all over Italy and Sicily, and many feature the hometown and a personal anecdote from the member. We started collecting recipes at least eight years ago, so you might be surprised to see your own name, your Nonna's favorite recipe, or a hometown specialty.

A huge "Thank You" to the members who helped with editing and proofreading the cookbook: Louise Sportelli, Jane Cottrell, Gini Harmon, Linda Heimbigner, Linda Bavisotto, and Adele Lord. Carol DeMatteis created the comprehensive index that makes it very easy to find any recipe.

Dante president Frank Paterra encourages every Dante member to purchase the cookbook, which also makes a great gift for family and friends who want to cook tasty Italian specialties. Member cost is only \$12, non-member cost is \$15. We sold cookbooks beginning at Festa Italiana and have already sold a hundred. They will be available at the DAS meetings.



*Buy your copy now. With Christmas just around the corner, these make excellent gifts for friends and family.*

Members: \$12  
Non-Members: \$15

# Pictures from the October English Meeting with Jonathan Brandt



1: Gathering before Pre-Dante pasta  
2: Jackie Leone-Pleasant and Nancy McDonald in the kitchen  
3: Jonathan Brandt, October English program speaker



4: Enjoying the pre-Dante pasta meal



These pictures were taken by Houghton Lee.

# Festa di Natale per i Bambini

by Caterina Murone Wartes

**P**lease join us on Saturday, December 1st, 2012, for our annual Festa di Natale per i Bambini.

Once again the Headquarters House on 15th Avenue South will be the center of a delightful afternoon in which we celebrate Christmas in the Italian tradition. Our wonderful sponsors from Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria will be donating their award-winning authentic pizza pies!!

Everyone is welcome to participate in the procession to the Presepio, the reading of the Befana story, crafts and games, singing, and fresh pizzelle. We will also play a lively game of Tombola (with prizes) and the children will receive their gift bags from La Befana.

We meet on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm for Festa di Natale per i Bambini. Bring your whole family and the neighbor kids as well!

Reservations are required by Wednesday, November 28th. Tickets are \$5.00 for one child or \$10.00 for two or more children. Adults are free.

To make your reservations the following information needs to be provided:

Family Name

Number of Children Attending

Number of Adults Attending

Reservations can be made by one of the following methods:

- 1) Send the above information with a check made out to DAS and send to Caterina Wartes at 37381 Hansville Rd, NE, Hansville, WA 98340
- 2) Email Caterina at speranza.se@gmail.com and pay the fee at the door
- 3) Phone Caterina at 360-638-2500 and pay the fee at the door

We hope to see you and your children on December 1st at Headquarters House.



## Festa Italiana Appreciation Dinner

**F**or those who actively volunteered at this year's Italian Festival, the Festa Italiana Volunteers Appreciation Dinner will take place at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 13th, 2012, at Mt. Virgin School Hall. The menu will feature pork in a Marsala sauce, pasta, vegetables, salad, and dessert. There will be a recap of this year's events and the presentation of an award to the "New Volunteer of the Year". Admission is "free" as a gesture of thanks to all of those who worked so hard.

You must RSVP so they can prepare for everyone. The best way is to contact the chairperson or director of your activity and have them put you on their list. If you don't know who that person is, then contact Dennis Caldirola at Dennis@FestaSeattle.com letting him know your name and the activity you participated in. Chairpersons also need to do likewise and email Dennis the names of those who actively participated in Festa Italiana.

In the meantime mark your calendars for the 26th annual Festa Italiana to be held September 27th—29th, 2013.



## 4th Annual Seattle Italian Film Festival (SIFF)

**P**lan on attending one or all of the Seattle Italian Film Festival films that will be held November 16-20, 2012. Check their website for updated information or call their box office:

<http://seattleitalianfilmfest.com/About>

Box Office Phone: 206-324-9996

DAS members will receive a discount code. Frank will email that info once he receives it.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

## October Italian Meeting Photos

These were photos of Marcella Nardi taken by Anita Bingaman during Marcella's presentation of "Rome from It's Beginnings to the Middle Ages" at the October Italian meeting.



## The Dante Alighieri Society and Seattle Opera

by Jane Cottrell

Have you missed going to Seattle Opera to see a live performance? Seattle is fortunate to have a very vibrant world class opera house attracting world renowned opera stars. Last year, we conducted a survey of what members might be like to pursue and there was interest in attending live opera, specifically Italian opera. DAS is investigating group sales for selected performances throughout the year. If 10 or more people are interested, we would be able to purchase tickets at a 15% discount. The only way to obtain a bigger discount is to line up about 2 hours before the opera begins for "rush" tickets – available to seniors over 65. ID required. However, there is usually only a small number of tickets and a large crowd of seniors wanting them.



Individually, a limited number of discounted subscriptions are available for Students and Seniors. To quote from the Seattle Opera website regarding discounts, "Seniors over 65 qualify for discounts by subscribing to the Orchestra Back (OB) or First Tier Side (FTS). Plus discounts are available in every section at McCaw Hall on the Friday/Saturday mixed series. Discounts are available off single tickets. ID required."

Group discounts may be had for Wednesday night and Sunday matinees. Every effort is made to seat the group together. Popular operas can be a little pricier. For instance, Fidelio which is currently running would be \$43.00 - \$145.00. La Boheme, which will be offered from February 23 – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 would range from \$51.00 - \$185.00. Those lowest priced seats are dependent on whatever is available.

Pre-performance lectures are \$7.00 per ticket.

The Seattle Opera Schedule for the rest of the year is Cinderella, or *LaCenerentola* (Rossini) January 12 –Jan 26, 2013, La Boheme, (Puccini) February 23- March 10, 2013 and La Voix Humaine (Poulenc) & Suor Angelica (Puccini), May 4 – 18, 2013.

There are people within our organization who are taking advantage of the Metropolitan Opera HD films that can be viewed at local theatres for about \$20.00 and they are very happy with those selections. However, watching a live performance at Seattle Opera is unparalleled and is a fine way to support the local arts and to ensure that we continue to have an opera that is recognized the world over.

For the Metropolitan HD Opera Schedule, please check the online site at [www.Metropolitanopera.org](http://www.Metropolitanopera.org). Theatres range from Tacoma to Burlington, Washington, while local Seattle theatres are at Kent Station, Oak Tree, Pacific Place 11, and Southcenter 16.

Please let me know if you are interested in the Seattle Opera group rate tickets. My email address is [tsjo1531@yahoo.com](mailto:tsjo1531@yahoo.com).

# From the Past:

Caterina found this write-up about Festa di Natale going back to 1986. This is what it looked like back then....A translation is on page 11 as it is very difficult to read. Enjoy going back many years!

## FESTA DI NATALE

by Carin Jacoux

Our annual Christmas party took place on Saturday, December 6, 1986 at the Social Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church. The food was catered by George Pollet who did a marvelous job serving a dinner of pastaccioli, mixed salad, chicken alla cacciatora, steamed vegetables, rolls, and coffee. The members had brought a fantastic array of desserts which were shared by all. Wine and punch was provided by the society.

Reservations had been made for 130 people, and almost all of them actually attended. Special guests were Father O'Callaghan, the parish priest of Mt. Virgin Church, and Professor Pellegrini, the well-known writer and lecturer.

Tony Ferrucci acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Clarissa Szabados told the children the story of the Befano, handed out candy to them and then led them in a candlelight procession to the presepio, which had been lovingly set-up by Sandra Bordin. At the presepio, the children sang Christmas carols with the adults joining in.

Il Quartetto Nuovo, consisting of Paul Reitz, tenor, Chris Gross, 2nd tenor, Tony Longo, baritone, and Richard Hopp, bass, enhanced the evening's meaning by beautifully singing various pieces of music ranging from "Requiem in Laudibus" and "La Pastorella" from the 16th century to popular carols, such as "Lieti Pastori", "Tu Scendi dalle Stelle" and "Adeste Fideles".

Then several good prizes were raffled off, the two top prizes being dinners at the "Bistro", a new, first-class restaurant on Capitol Hill.

A general sing-along led by members of Le Voci Allegre was planned next, but somehow got lost in the shuffle. So a performance of tarantella by the Folklanders brought the evening to a close.

We were all delighted by the good turn-out of the members and would like to thank all those who gave of their time and energy to help with the organization and execution of the party:

Giselda and Joe Forte for the initial contact with George Pollet; Don Moreo and his telephone committee for contacting the

members; Andrea Brass, Sandra Bordin, Ida Callahan, Tony Ferrucci, Gini Harson, Paola Martini, Art Mazzola, Luigi Mitchell for providing material and/or decorating and setting up the hall; Clarissa Szabados for organizing and conducting the children's program; Pat Bezzio for organizing the musical contributions; Il Quartetto Nuovo and the Folklanders for their performances; Tony Ferrucci for his role as MC; Ida Callahan and Art Mazzola for being cashiers and selling raffle tickets together with Elida and Gilbert Pigatti; and Giselda Forte, Gini Harson, Jerry and Cathy Maioli, and Paola Martini for bringing the food from the kitchen and keeping the buffet table supplied. Mille grazie a tutti! If I forgot to mention someone in this line-up of helpers, I apologize and promise to do better next year.

Incidentally, one of the winners of a dinner at the "Bistro" has not yet called re about her certificate. It was a young lady in her teens. Please call me at 633-3606 in the morning or at 643-0938 in the evening and let me know your name and address, so I can send you your prize.



## IL PRESEPIO

The presepio owned by the society was purchased last year in Naples. It consists of 8 terracotta figurines dressed in real clothes. It is under the care of Sandra Bordin, who has plans for extending the presepio with more figures, houses, landscaping etc. in the future. She envisions a set-up in the old tradition of a Neapolitan presepio as a microcosm of Italian village life in years past.

Toward this end, Gini Harson rented the presepio for her Christmas decoration at home and gave the generous donation of \$ 50.00.

# Translation of 1986 Natale Article

Festa di Natale

By Carin Jacroux

Our annual Christmas party took place on Saturday, December 6, 1986 at the Social Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church. The food was catered by George Pollet who did a marvelous job serving a dinner of mastacioli, mixed salad, chicken alla cacciatore, steamed vegetables, rolls, and coffee. The members had brought a fantastic array of desserts which were shared by all. Wine and punch was provided by the society.

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We were all delighted by the good turn out of the members and would like to thank all those who gave of their time and energy to help with the organization and execution of the party:

Giselda and Joe Forte for the initial contact with George Pollet; Don Moreo and his telephone committee for contacting the members; Andrea Brass, Sandra Bordin, Ida Callahna, Tony Ferrucci, Gini Harmon, Paolo Martini, Art Mazzola, Luigi Michell for providing material and/or decorating and setting up the hall; Clarissa Szabalon for organizing and conducting the children's program; Pat Bezzio for organizing the musical contributions; Il Quartetto Nuovo and the Folklanders for their performances; Tony Ferrucci for his role as MC; Ida Callahan and Art Mazzola for being cashiers and selling raffle tickets together with Elida and Gilbert Pigotti and Giselda Forte, Gini Harmon, Jerry and Cathy Maioli, and Paola Martini for bringing the food from the kitchen and keeping the buffet table supplied. Mille grazie a tutti! If I forgot to mention someone in this line-up of helpers, I apologize and promise to do better next year.

Incidentally, one of the winners of a dinner at the "Bistro" has not yet called me about her certificate. It was a young lady in her teens. Please call me at 633-360S6 in the morning or at 643-0938 in the evening and let me know your name and address, so I can send you your prize.

## Il Presepio

The presepio owned by the society was purchased last year in Naples. It consists of 8 terracotta figurines dressed in real clothes. It is under the care of Sandra Bordin, who has plans for extending the presepio with more figures, houses, landscaping, etc. in the future. She envisions a set-up in the old tradition of a Neapolitan presepio as a microcosm of Italian village life in years past.

Toward this end, Gini Harmon rented the presepio for her Christmas decoration at home and gave the generous donation of \$50.00.



## World on a String

Deciding to walk rather than taking the walking escalator to one of the gates at Atlanta's airport on a recent flight, Brian and I noticed a display of puppets from around the world. Included were puppets from Italy in a fantastic display called "World on a String" on loan from the Center of Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, GA. These puppets take visitors on a journey through the history and variety of puppetry across the globe. There were 51 puppets from 17 different regions of the world, including not only Italy but China, Cambodia, Mali, Egypt, Indonesia, Belgium, and the United States. With informative displays one could see how the art of puppetry has traveled around the world and across time, including how important Italy was to the development of puppetry.

The majority of puppets in this presentation are from the 20th century with the oldest being the Italian puppet dating 1835. Eleven of the 51 have never been on display.

"We are proud to present this colorful, eye-catching exhibit, which will appeal to all age groups," said Katherine Dirgo, Airport Program manager. "The puppets on display represent some iconic forms of the art, such as Punch and Judy, as well as interesting varieties that may be less familiar, such as water puppetry."





L: Carpenter, 1990s  
Gualverio Michelangelli, Italy  
String Puppet

R: Gano de Maganza, circa 1940  
Teatro san Carlino Marionette Company, Italy  
Rod Puppet

Rod puppets are manipulated with wooden or wire rods that are usually held above your head.



L: Brighella, Circa 1835  
Ferrari Family of Parma Italy  
Rod Puppet

R: ? By Unknown Artist, Italy  
Rod Puppet

# Valentinetti Puppet Museum

Many of you may be familiar with the Carter Family Marionettes from the Northwest Puppet Center in Seattle. They staged many shows for Festa Italiana and DAS had a program at their theatre in the past. But, were you aware of the Valentinetti Puppet Museum in Bremerton?

Aurora Valentinetti, the founder of Valentinetti Puppeteers, was born in West Seattle in 1921 but her parents were born in Italy, emigrating to America and settling in Seattle where they became active in the local Italian and parish community life.

Aurora received her B.A (1943) and M.A. (1949) degrees from the University of Washington in the School of Drama. She was introduced to the art of puppetry when a fellow student asked her to help her put on a puppet performance when someone backed out. From then on she was hooked!

In the September 2012 edition of "Columns", the University of Washington Alumni Magazine, an article appeared about the Valentinetti Puppet Museum:

*Celebrating the 15th anniversary of its founding, the Valentinetti Puppet Museum in Bremerton preserves the legacy of Aurora Valentinetti, '43, '49, and the early founders of the puppetry program in the School of Drama.*

*Under the direction of Professor Glenn Hughes, the art of puppetry was introduced as an integral part of the drama curriculum in the early 1930s. In 1942-43, as the male members of the department faculty were being drafted for WWII, young Valentinetti was*

*hired to take on the task of teaching puppetry.*

*For the next 50 years she taught hundreds of students the art and craft of making puppets. Generations of Northwest audiences were introduced to this spectacular art form, first through the University Puppeteers, and later her own company, Valentinetti Puppeteers as well as her own program on KCTS-TV.*

*In 1993, former drama student, Marshall Campbell, '65, invited Valentinetti to contribute some of her collection to Campbell's emerging Evergreen Children's Theatre in Bremerton. Conceived as a school of drama for children and introducing them to professional performances of both live actors and puppetry, Campbell further hoped to establish a museum of puppetry.*

*Now in its third home, the Valentinetti Puppet Museum has grown into a significant showcase of the international art of puppetry. From a core collection provided by Campbell and Valentinetti of 250, the holdings now exceed 1300 items; gifts from local, national and international donors. Three major international gifts, 2 from China and the most recent from Bremerton's Sister City, Kure, Japan establish the museum as a must see institution. Under Stanley Hess's leadership the museum has broken ground in introducing puppet exhibits to audiences in Western Washington from Long Beach, Olympia and Seattle as well as throughout the Kitsap Peninsula.*

*Valentinetti, who celebrated her 90th birthday in 2011, continues to share her love of puppetry. Help support this legacy so it may continue for many generations to come.*

—Stanley Hess, B.F.A., Art, '64  
Museum Curator  
Valentinetti Puppet Museum, Bremerton

The Aurora Valentinetti Puppet  
Museum & Evergreen Children's Theatre  
257 4th Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Ph: 360-373-2992



# DANTE CALENDAR 2012-2013

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<b>September 2012</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
12 Dominick Minotti <i>Medici Misteriosi</i>	13 Chris Zimmerman, Vias Imports <i>Annual Wine Tasting Dinner</i>
26 Beatrice Arduini <i>Presentation on Dante</i>	27 David Chapman <i>Italian Jazz</i>
<b>October 2012</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
10 Jonathan Brandt <i>Hilltowns &amp; Villas of Italy</i>	13 TBA
24 Marcella Nardi, <i>Rome from Its Beginnings to the Middle Ages</i>	27 Nicoletta Machiavelli <i>La Maremma</i>
<b>November 2012</b>	<b>April 2013</b>
14 Dan DeMatteis, <i>Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture, Mainly Florence, All Davids</i>	10 Election night (no speaker)
No Italian meeting in November	24 Paola Albanese <i>Festivals of Italy</i>
<b>December 2012</b>	<b>May 2013</b>
1 Natale per i Bambini	8 TBA
12 Christmas party	No Italian meeting in May
No Italian meeting in December	
<b>January 2013</b>	<b>June - August 2013</b>
9 Stephen Stimac <i>Reclaiming your Italian Citizenship</i>	Summer Break - No meetings held
23 Ornella De Stavola <i>Education in Italy from Day- care to University</i>	

At the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm & 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](mailto: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 Ave 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

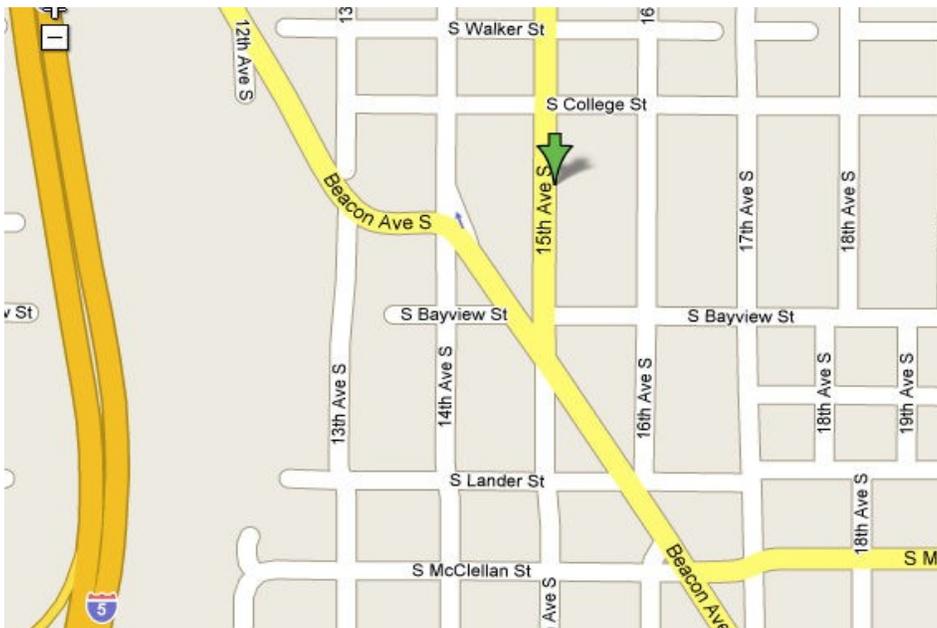
Amount Enclosed:  
Membership Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Categories (For recognition stars):  
Bronzo (bronze) - Up to \$25  
Argento (silver) - \$26 - \$50  
Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100  
Platino (platinum) - Over \$100

Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington  
PO Box 9494  
Seattle, WA 98109

If you have any questions, please call (425) 243-7663 and leave a message.



## 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.