

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://danteseattle.org>

September 2019

September English Meeting

"Festa Quiz Review"

presented by Dominick Minotti

Wednesday, September 11th, 6:30 pm, St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Kicking off this year's schedule on September 11th will be a presentation by Dominick Minotti (Nick) on "Famous Women of Italian Descent". This will be the basis for the Festa Italiana quiz that Nick has been creating for the past few years to use at our booth. For Festa, reference information will be available to help visitors pick the woman who fits the description. The names of folks with successful entries (8 out of 10) will be entered into a drawing for a free dinner at one of our Dante events.

The September 11th Dante presentation, however, will be a straight forward talk about the 10 women, six well known, two less known, and two probably new to most Dante members Nick will be using on this year's Festa quiz.

Joyce Ramee will be our cook so the evening promises to be delicious as well as informative.

Bio for Dominick Minotti

In the late 1920s, Nick's parents emigrated from Sant'Angelo, Limosano, a small hilltop town in Molise. The population at that time was about 1000 but is now 345 as Nick learned on a visit this summer. The family spoke their dialect at home.

Nick studied Italian at Columbia University and Perugia and had lots of practice while on Fulbright study grants in Milan in the mid 60's. Nick returned to the U.S. and to his first love, medicine, at Georgetown University and came to Seattle in 1976 to work at the US Public Health Hospital on Beacon Hill, better known as the Marine Hospital. He and his father Pasquale would attend Dante meetings back then but Dominick took a break until retirement a few years ago. Nick serves as a Consigliere for our Dante group.

September Italian Meeting

"Florence, Dante, and Me"

presented by Robert Thomson

Wednesday, September 25th, 6:30 pm, St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Robert Thomson, from Victoria, Canada will be presenting his recently published book, "Florence, Dante, and Me" at our Italian meeting on September 25th. Mr. Thomson spent the 1960-61 year in Italy on a scholarship from the Italian government. During the year he

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September Events:

Sep 11th: English meeting, "Festa Italiana Quiz Preview" by Dominick Minotti



Sep 25th: Italian meeting, "Florence, Dante, and Me" presented by Robert Thomson

Sep 28th-29th: 32nd Festa Italiana, Seattle Center

Upcoming Events:

Oct 9th: English Meeting, "Italian Art", by Rob Prufer

Oct 23rd, Italian Meeting, "Italian Cinema", by Claudio Mazzola

Nov 14th, English Meeting, "Italy Invades", by Chris Kelly

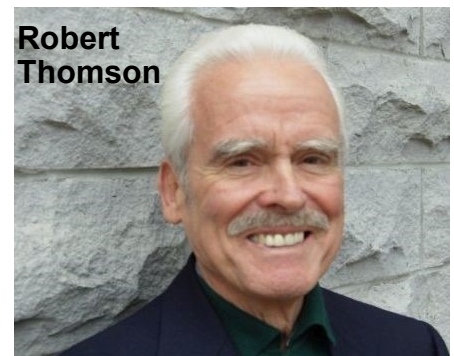
There is no Italian meeting in November.

Nov 7th—14th: SIFF's Cinema Italian Style 2019

Dec 7th: Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Dec 11th: Annual Christmas Party

No Italian meeting in December



* DAS Star List 2018 *

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

- * Donald & Camille DeSantis
- * Linda Heimbigner
- * Pat Hoffman
- * Peni Schwartz

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Barbara Crawford
- * David & Jane Cottrell
- * Louise Hundertmark
- * Domenic & Louise Sportelli
- * Giuseppe Tassonne
- * Caterina Murone Wartes

Oro \$51 to \$100

- * Linda Bavisotto & Bill Lemcke
- * Rosa Boriello
- * Emilio Fonzo
- * Debra Rovetto Gillett
- * Dominick Minotti
- * Lorraine Morton
- * Toni Napoli
- * Henry Reinert
- * Sylvia Shiroyama

Platino—over \$100

- * Gini Harmon
- * German D. Rodriguez

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

The names on the donation list will remain through December 31, 2019. If you made a donation after May 2019, your name will be on the donation list through 2020.

From the President's Desk

*B*envenuti ad un altro anno di Dante!

September is the start of another program year for Dante! I hope you're looking forward to this year's activities as much as I am. We've quite a lot of interesting and enjoyable events planned.

I wanted to start this year's President's message off with the a quick recap of some of the events from last year, which was, in its own way quite a roller coaster ride.

As many of you will remember, in October we lost our meeting place - Garden House - where we've been meeting for 30+ years. The Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs sold the building and the surrounding pear gardens to a private investor despite the efforts of a community-based group of Beacon Hill organizations and individuals, led by Beacon Arts and included the Beacon Hill Garden Club, at that time still affiliated with the WSFGC.

We had to scramble madly to find a new meeting location since we were given only a few weeks' notice that Garden House would no longer be available for our use. I want to thank all the volunteers who made suggestions for new meeting venues, who visited and evaluated a couple of dozen potential sites, and who finally found us a comfortable and convenient space at St. Patrick's Church in the Roanoke neighborhood of Seattle. It's become our new home.

Despite the upheaval, we managed to mount a full program of meetings with English and Italian speaker programs, Festa per i Bambini, the wine dinner, and the annual general meeting, which we held at the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club with lessons provided by the Club members. And this year's activities look to be as exciting.

The roster of speakers for this year's monthly English and Italian meetings is shaping up to be as informative and entertaining as ever. Some familiar and some new faces – two talks on Italian Art, one from our former Vice-President, Rob Prufer and one from Professor Annalisa Bellario from South Central College. Professor Claudio Mazzola will be back after a brief absence, this time with a preview of the lineup at SIFF's Cinema Italian Style, which we will once again support as a donor. A couple of authors who have written books on Italy - Robert Thomson, the author of *Florence, Dante, and Me* and Chris Kelly, the author of *Italy Invades!* And once again, our resident quizmaster, Nick Minotti, will start the year off at our September English meeting with a preview of the always enjoyable quiz he prepares for Festa Italiana. And to top off the program year, Joyce Ramee will organize another musical evening for us for the final meeting in May 2020.

And there's our special events we look forward to - Festa di Natale per i Bambini in December, our always sold-out wine dinner with our guest *sommelier*, Arnie Millan, from Esquin Wine in January at the POC at St James Cathedral and our annual general meeting in April.

As always, there's our extensive program of Italian classes given by the DAS Language School under the able direction of Giuseppe



(Continued on page 3)

(President's Message from page 2)

Tassone, if you want to start or continue an Italian language journey. All the teachers in the school are native speakers, classes are small and lively, and the per hour instruction cost is quite appealing.

More immediately, on Saturday and Sunday, September 28th-29th, we'll be at Festa Italiana at the Seattle Center once again. DAS has had a booth there for 25 years! I know that all of you that have been to Festa in years past have enjoyed this exuberant celebration of all things Italian.

If you're interested in volunteering for the DAS booth, please contact Toni Napoli (tnapoli44@gmail.com) who's coordinating the booth volunteers again this year.

And if you're interested in becoming a regular member of the Dante Alighieri Society or in enrolling in a class in our Language school, please talk to one of us at the Festa Italiana booth to see what we have to offer, pick up a Dante brochure or visit our website, www.danteseattle.org. Discover a group of friends you haven't met yet!

Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 11th. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again - or meeting you for the first time, for another entertaining Italian-themed talk and another delicious pasta dinner.

Ci vediamo presto!

Dan DeMatteis

<https://www.savegardenhouse.org/>
<https://www.stpatrickseattle.org/>

Sept English Meeting (cont'd from page 1)

wrote many detailed letters to his fidanzata in Canada, telling her about Italian customs and habits, the Italian friends he made, the cities he visited, the operas he attended, his singing lessons, etc. Early in the year Thomson decided to speak Italian only for the whole year. This served him well throughout his life.

In 2017 he took the letters and photos and made them into a book showing some of the best photos. To read passages and see some of the photos, visit Thomson's website at: www.godwinbooks.com

Robert Thomson was born in Vancouver, B.C. in 1940. He fell in love with Italian in 1951 when he saw "The Great Caruso" starring Mario Lanza at his local movie theater. In 1962 he took his B.A. in French and Italian at the University of British Columbia and then received this PhD from Yale in 1966.

Thomson had a long and varied career in teaching (e.g. The University of Toronto, the University of Illinois, and various high schools). He took early retirement in 1995.

His main books are: "Italian for Opera" (1990), "Operatic Italian" (2009). Both books use extracts from operas to illustrate their language points; Thomson's main goal was to analyze them in detail to show the richness of Italian librettos. The reader will also find chapters such as "What is lost in the translation?"; "How do you appreciate a libretto?"; "The influence of Dante"; and "A quick look at Neapolitan." In 2015 Thomson published "Love Songs in Spanish" which comes with a CD and is useful as a tool to improve pronunciation.

At the moment he is finishing a book on how to teach English using audio-visual tools and multi-media sources. He now lives in Victoria, B.C. Asked who his favorite Italian authors are, Thomson replied, "Dante and Alberto Moravia."



Our New Members

**Benvenuti
Nuovi Membri**

Christopher Alfieri

Kaitlyn Castellow

Jer & Heather Griswold

Maria Low

Susan Roth

Holly Walker

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

DAS Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday every other month from August through May with August being a planning meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on November 6th, 2019.

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.





Language Program News

*Giuseppe Tassone, Italian
Language School Director*

Summer is coming to an end and another school year is upon us. An exciting new year thanks, among other things, to new instructors who will be joining our team that sees Laura Ciroi at the forefront with 16 years of teaching in our program. While I am writing this news I am in the process of scheduling the interviews following the evaluation of the numerous applications received and phone conversations. The vast majority of the applications received matched our job search of people who are native speakers of Italian with a college degree, experience in teaching, and excellent interpersonal and communications skills. I am very excited to meet them in person.

Since Laura is committed to teach level A1, our new instructors will be in charge of the other levels as well as additional sections of A1 if the first section fills up. Last year we had a total of 140 students enrolled with a 7.69% increase with respect to the previous year. It is my hope that we will be able to confirm this number and give the new instructors the opportunity to teach their courses.

If the language program has its news, PLIDA also has its own. Our instructor Nicla Rivero, who taught level B2 last year, received in May the approval from Rome to become *intervistatrice* and *esaminatrice* of the PLIDA examination board here in Seattle. Candidates interested to become part of the PLIDA examination board must pass sets of rigorous requirements from the *Ufficio Plida* of the *Società Dante Alighieri* in Rome and we are proud that Nicla satisfied them all. Laura Ciroi, Michela Tartaglia, Giusy De Luca, and myself were authorized in 2011 when we became a PLIDA certification center.

This year we had two candidates take the PLIDA exam (one of them a former student of our language program) and both of them successfully passed the exam and received their certificate. The next session will be in November for the PLIDA exam B1 required to obtain the Italian citizenship. We have already received one registration for the exam and others may follow. The number of inquiries about PLIDA exam is increasing.

The first day of class is October 1st and as usual lessons will be held at Seattle University, for which we thank for hosting our program. September is the month in which registrations usually arrive although some students have already enrolled in levels A1, A2, B1, and the Advanced Conversational class. This year I created a new flyer to promote our classes that you can find posted on our website and Facebook page. I am very grateful to our vice president, Joyce Ramee, who kindly helped me to resume the old tradition of distributing the LP flyer and Society's brochure in person to Italian shops, restaurants, and other places in addition to posting it in neighborhood blog spots and newsletters. In this era of social media and virtual interaction it is nice to go back to a tangible way of communication. It was a pleasure to hear from Joyce how glad they were to post, display, and receive our brochure and flyer. Our president Dan DeMatteis asked our members to do the same thing in their neighborhood. Our secretary, Janet Lenart, is working on advertising our classes with Human Resources of large companies and our *consigliere*, Nick Minotti, will have it posted at Festa Italiana 2019. I am very fortunate, as director of the Italian program, to have such a supportive board and my thanks go to all the components as well as to all members of the society. Having such genuine people around me confirms my belief that what makes the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington unique is the fact that it is a friendly, warm, and welcoming organization. We are very lucky of its existence aimed at promoting the Italian language and culture through language classes, events, and sponsorships. *Grazie mille e buon anno a tutti!*

2019-20 School Calendar

Fall 2019 : October 1 – December 10 Registration deadline September 24th

Winter 2020 : January 7 – March 12 Registration deadline December 20th

Spring 2020 : March 31 – June 4 Registration deadline March 20th

To register and for more information: www.danteseattle.org/classes.html



Language Program News

*Giuseppe Tassone, Italian
Language School Director*

Italian Language Classes 2019-2020

Beginning Italian Level A1 - This course is for people with little or no Italian language. Students will learn 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 as they begin their journey of learning Italian.

Elementary Italian Level A2 - This course is a 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 useful words and expressions. By the conclusion of Level A2, students will be able to use basic language structures with confidence and be able to communicate well in daily situations.

Intermediate Level B1 - This course will review and reinforce basic knowledge of Italian while increasing vocabulary and the ability to understand written and spoken language. Students will be exposed to cultural and literary readings which builds greater understanding of Italian culture, lifestyle, and ways of thinking.

Upper Intermediate Level B2 - This course completes the review and reinforcement of the grammar covered in the beginning and elementary levels in addition to covering any other missing structures. It enables students to read and understand newspapers and the Internet, song lyrics, literary excerpts, videos, movies, and commercials. At the course conclusion, students will be able to engage effectively in conversations, express opinions, and give simple explanations.

Advanced Conversational Italian - This is a multi-level conversational course open to students who have completed level B1 and is recommended for those with a level of proficiency above B2. The course will advance your fluency, listening and conversation skills, expand your vocabulary, and improve your grammar.

Course Schedule:

Fall Quarter 2019: October 1st- December 10th

Thanksgiving—No classes 11/28

Registration Deadline: September 24th

Winter Quarter 2020: January 7th- March 12th

Registration Deadline: December 20th

Spring Quarter 2020: March 31st- June 4th

Registration Deadline: March 20th

Class Fee:

Level A1 & A2 - \$180 per quarter

Level B1 & B2 - \$275 per quarter

Advanced Conversational Italian—\$375 per quarter

Current DAS members receive a \$20 discount.

Class Location:

Classes are held on the Seattle University Campus, in the Administration Building. Visit danteseattle.org/classes.html for a map and directions.

The DAS language program is a self-sustaining autonomous program independent of Seattle University.

For further information email: info@danteseattle.org or check the language school website at:

<http://danteseattle.org> and click on the “Language Program” tab.

To register: www.danteseattle.org/classes.html

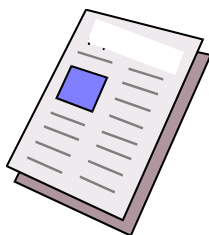
La Voce

School has begun, summer is waning, and fall hints are in the air. Brian and I spent the summer in Vancouver and rediscovered the beaches and razor clamming. Why we never did this before since Seaside is only two hours from Vancouver is a good question. Now that Brian has all the equipment needed, we calculate his per cost was around \$15 per razor clam this season! I only needed a clam shovel. Being semi-retired, we avoided crowded times. We will be traveling more and exploring new things so please be timely in submitting articles and I may have to take a "hiatus" on getting La Voce out due to schedule conflicts.

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:

<http://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

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.

DAS Seattle and its Language Program is an official examination center of the *Società Dante Alighieri (SDA)*—enabling students and others to take exams leading to a 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 Labor 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). Every year thousands of candidate throughout the world test their language competence and get a certificate recognized by the Italian government and accepted globally.

Why take a PLIDA Exam?

Those who wish to be certified include those who:

- Plan to study at Italian universities (minimum PLIDA certification level B2 as proof of proficiency)
- To obtain Italian citizenship (level B1 minimum)
- As American high school and college students seek college credit
- Wish to be certified for obtaining an application for the Italian Permit of Stay in Italy (level A2 minimum)
- Seek the examination as a capstone experience after taking their language courses

To Register

PLIDA certificate sessions are held every year in May and November. Candidates choose to take an exam at the level closest to their proficiency. Registration at an advanced level does not require having taken lower level exams. Registration must arrive on the day of the registration deadline or before. More info at: danteseattle.org/plida

Where can I take the PLIDA Exam?

PLIDA exams are offered by more than 310 center across the world including the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. For other centers search on www.plida.it

2019 PLIDA Exam Dates

November 20th: Levels A1, A2, B1 (Registration Deadline: Nov 6th)

November 21st: Levels B2, C1, C2 (Registration Deadline: Nov 6th)

For further registration info and exam fees see:

www.danteseattle.org/plida

For any questions, contact the PLIDA coordinator in Seattle, Giuseppe Tassone at: plida@danteseattle.org

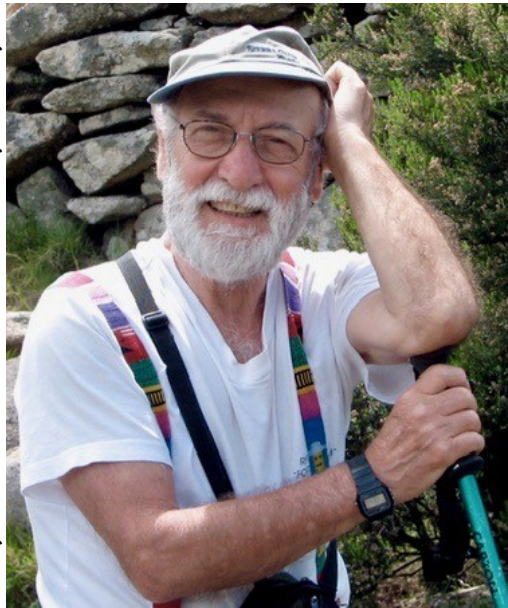




Club Alpino Italiano
Sezione di Pisa

Memorial by Pisa CAI

Francesco Greco, an IBM Center engineer, was a member of CAI of Pisa for more than 40 years. Passionate about the Apuane Alps (he called himself "homo apuanus"), he wrote the book, "The Alps of Tuscany: Selected Excursions in the Apuane Alps". In the early 1980s, he left Pisa for IBM London first and then for Milano. But he never ceased to return to Apuane, accompanying people from many countries.



At the end of his career at IBM, he went to live half of each year in Seattle. Here he continued to make proselytes for the Italian mountains. He gathered a group of mountain lovers who became the sub-section of CAI of Pisa "CAI-Pacific North West." The section is always very active. An exchange is now underway with the CAI of Padua that took them to the Dolomites this August. Francesco invented the "exchange model" between hikers from different countries. Members of CAI of Pisa hiked the American mountains (Washington and South-West states), Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and Israel as guests. They then hosted mountaineer associations from these countries, which visited the Apuan Alps and other Italian mountains as well as Sicily and Umbria.

A man of strong personality and endowed with an inexhaustible spirit of initiative, Francesco Greco deserves to be remembered in the "golden book" of CAI of Pisa.

Francesco has been a Dante member and has given presentations to the group. He suffered a stroke in 2016 while living in Lisbon, and never fully recovered his ability to walk or to talk. His final years were spent with his wife Cam in an apartment by the Arno River in Pisa. He died of complications of pneumonia, passing peacefully on May 20, 2019, surrounded by family. Cam and CAI-Pacific Northwest are hosting a Memorial to which Dante friends who knew Francesco are invited. We will celebrate his life and achievements on September 21st from 11:15-2:45 at Heritage Hall, 203 Market Street in Kirkland's Heritage Park. We will eat pizza and salad at 12 noon and after share photos and memories of our times with Francesco. Please RSVP by Sept.18 to Bevrter through the CAI-PNW email: caipnw@gmail.com

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 (206) 289-0419 by 5 pm on the Monday before the meeting or send your request via email to: dante.reserve@gmail.com.**

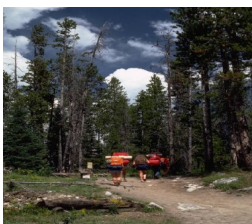
Please remember to bring your homemade Italian desserts to finish off this great meal.

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. DAS will not be providing wine for the pre-Dante pasta dinners so bring your own wine to enjoy and share with others.



Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW



Oct 12th-13th:
Port Townsend Weekend (hiking and sightseeing)
Nov 9th: Local Trails
Dec 14th: Holiday party
Contact: info@cai-pnw.org

Check the CAI PNW website for further information on current and future activities and any schedule changes:

www.cai-pnw.com

Dante Booth at Festa

DAS will have a booth at Festa Italiana once again. This means the booth needs volunteers to talk with attendees, have them take the quiz Dominick Minotti created, and introduce them to the Dante Alighieri Society and our Language School.

Two hour time blocks are needed on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Time slots open are:

Sat, Sep 28th:
10 am to 12 noon
12 noon to 2 pm
2 pm to 4 pm
4 pm to 6 pm

Sun, Sep 29th:
10 am to 12 noon
12 noon to 2 pm
2 pm to 4 pm
4 pm to 6 pm

If you would like to volunteer, please email Toni Napoli at: tnapoli44@gmail.com or call her at 206-387-2767 to let her know you'd love to help and when.



Join in the fun and excitement for the 32nd annual Festa Italiana the weekend of September 28th and 29th at Seattle Center.

Highlights of this year's Festa Italiana include the return of Galbani's celebrity Chef Marco Sciortino from Marco's in Buffalo, New York headlining a great schedule of cooking demos on La Cucina Galbani® Cooking Stage, "Opera Magic-Stories in Song" starring NW Spotlight Repertory, and a grape stomping competition which one needs to see to believe! The Food Court & Vendor Market has been expanded as well.

Children activities can be found at Tino's Cortile in the Seattle Center Armory and include the family favorite pizza toss, an inflatable soccer pitch with soccer clinics and meeting of coaches and players as well as showing of Italian dog breeds, and the NW Spotlight Repertory production.

Other celebrity chefs appearing include, Marco Nocco of Tutta Bella, Kevin Davis of Orfeo, Franz Junga of Il Fornaio, Marzia & Tony from West Coast Italian Radio, Andrew Wilson from Maggiano's, Enza Sorrentino of Mondello Italian Ristorante, David Dekker from Isernio Sausage, Chromy & Joe Obaya from Mercato Stellina, Jeremy Taisey of Tula Bene-Pastaria & Chophouse. Check the schedule on the Festa site and come see some great cooking demos. You won't be disappointed as you can also enjoy the great samples!

Leading up to Festa Italiana's weekend are other events in September, some past and most upcoming:

Sun, Sep 1st: Italian Day at the Races, Emerald Downs, Italian food, music by Tony La Stella, and kids activities. First race at 2 pm.
<http://emeralddowns.com/event/italian-day-2019-09-01>

Fri-Sun, Sep 6th-8th: San Gennaro Festival, Georgetown, Starring Ray Massa & the Eurorhythms. Fri 6 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am daily. Free
www.sangennarofestivalseattle.org

Sat, Sep 14th: Traditional Mass in Italian, Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 6:30 pm followed by free reception.
festaseattle.com/activities/mass

Fri, Sep 20th: Annual Festa Luncheon at the Seattle Yacht Club, presented by the Italian Club. Guest speaker is Eric Scigliano, author of "Michelangelo's Mountain." Doors open 11 am. Tickets required.
festaseattle.com/food-and-drink/luncheon

Fri, Sep 27th: Taste of Italy, wine tasting with over 60 Italian wines. Music by Danny Quintero & his band and catering by Big John's PFI. 7-10 pm. \$30 in advance, \$35 at door.
festaseattle.com/food-and-drink-taste-of-Italy



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>
October 2019	By September 15th
November 2019	By October 15th

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

NOTE: Please keep in mind the above submission deadlines and it's great if articles are 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://danteseattle.org>



Thirteen ladies met for lunch on August 14th at Mama Melina's restaurant in Seattle. Call us the "old timer's" club as we all go back way back when. Back row from left to right is Terry Hanlon, Ida Caldognetto, Caterina Wartes, Anita Bingaman, Linda Heimbigner, Linda Bavisotto, & Rosa Boriello. Front row from left to right is Gini Harmon, Jane Cottrell, Mary Beth Moser, Nancy McDonald, Louise Sportelli, & Sylvia Shiroyama. We had great food and great company!

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

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

Mailing address:
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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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Giuseppe Tassone
Language Program Director

Catching Up Since the Last La Voce . . .

April Pre-Dante Pasta Recipe

Louise Sportelli made this recipe for April's pre-Dante pasta. She said she didn't use a recipe for the pasta sauce. Below is what she included with approximate amounts to the best of her recollection.

Sausage and Mushroom Pasta

1 carrot
2 stalks celery
1/2 medium onion

Finely chop above three items or use a food processor. Sauté in olive oil.

Add:

1 lb Isernio's chicken Italian sausage
1 lb crimini mushrooms, sliced
1/2 c dried porcini mushrooms, cut in small pieces

Sauté until sausage is well cooked.

Then add:

2 c chicken broth

Thyme

Parsley

A dash or more of ground pepper-onchini

Simmer until most of the liquid is gone. Add to cooked pasta (1-2 lbs, depending on your preferred sauce to pasta ration) and cook another minute or two for the pasta to absorb sauce. Add salt and pepper and more olive oil to taste.



Natale 2018

April Italian Presentation

by Linda Bavisotto

Matteo Fitzgerald, who along with his twin was raised in Catania, presented the entertaining final Italian meeting of the 2018-2019 program year, "*La regione di Sicilia, la Trinacria*" (the region of Sicily, the Triangle) on April 24th. A tasty sampling of Sicilian antipasti, dolci, and juice of Sicilian blood oranges preceded the presentation, contributed by Matteo and many others. Matteo's photographic slide presentation was accompanied by an informative handout tracing the chronology of "2000 anni in un batter d'occhio" (2000 years in the blink of an eye) enhanced by inclusion of the lyrics from several characteristically Sicilian songs and passages from noted Sicilian authors, with side-by-side translations from Sicilian into Italian into English. Matteo's audio recordings of the playful "*Sciuri Sciuri*" and "*La luna 'n 'menzu o' mari*" elicited a spontaneous and enthusiastic sing-along of these familiar tunes by the entire group, attempting the Sicilian lyrics.

Matteo gave us a dynamic overview of the island's ancient to modern history: from its indigenous native tribes, to its serial occupations and settlements (due to its strategic Mediterranean location and climate suitable for agriculture) by a succession of empires and cultures—Greek (Magna Grecia), Roman, Phoenician, Arab, Norman, French, Spanish—each of which have left distinctive legacies in the island's historic monuments and ruins, abundant examples of Baroque, Norman, and Moorish architecture, churches, language, literature, poetry, music, culture, and traditional foods and festivals. Later movements of Fascism and rise of the Mafia have influenced Sicilian social attitudes as well as the economy. The largest region in Italy, Sicily has an autonomous governing structure, with an independent Parliament. Matteo shared his love of Sicily, geographically rich in its mountains, volcanoes, coastlines, and in its terroir and traditions, and his ancestral hometown of Catania, with great enthusiasm.

Baked Ziti for a Crowd

Submitted by Michele Sorensen. Served at May English meeting.

12 c spaghetti sauce
3 lbs ziti or penne pasta
2 (24 oz) containers of ricotta cheese
1 1/2 c grated Parmesan cheese
3 eggs slightly beaten
1 1/2 lbs shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Cook pasta as package directs, drain, and set aside. In a very large mixing bowl stir together ricotta, Parmesan, and beaten eggs. Stir in half the spaghetti sauce until well mixed. Stir in half the mozzarella cheese and all of the pasta, tossing gently to coat.

Divide the pasta mixture evenly between two pans (approx. 12x20x4 inch pans). Pour remaining 1/2 of the spaghetti sauce evenly over the pasta mixture. Sprinkle remaining mozzarella cheese on top.

Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 20-30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Feeds 30-40 people

Sardegna

Submitted by Andrea Aldrich

Last fall two Danté members, Peni and Pat, and their friend, Peggy, joined my guided tour in Sardegna. The trip was brim full of intriguing experiences in this beautiful and enigmatic region of Italy. We visited towns and villages and historical sites, ate tasty traditional foods and drank delicious local wines.

Our adventure began in Cagliari, the capital of the region. Laura, our knowledgeable and charming Italian guide, took us on a fascinating walking tour of the city. Up, up we climbed, as we explored the historical neighborhoods and enjoyed the expansive views over the busy port.

For the next segment of our ten-day tour, we were chauffeured by our energetic guide, Guglielmo, who took us to one of the remains of the Bronze Age Nuraghic civilization, the evocative, sacred well and sanctuary of Santa Cristina. We then investigated the ruins of the city of Tharros. Strategically situated on the edge of the sea, it was built by the Phoenicians and then successively captured by the Carthaginians and Romans.

We had a delightful time staying in my favorite village, Cuglieri. Located just ten minutes from sandy beaches made it a convenient place to go for a dip in the warm ocean. My friend Paola prepared a dinner for us on her terrace overlooking the Mediterranean. The guest list was multinational and we had a great time meeting many of her French, Russian, and Italian friends.

On our own for a few days, we took the bus north to Bosa with its Spanish influenced architecture and hiked up to the castello above the town, walking along cobble streets of colorful houses. We continued north to Alghero on one of the most beautiful bus routes in Italy, the coast road along the headlands. We marveled at the fantastic views of the sea painted in shades of turquoise and cobalt blue.

The Catalan influence is also still strongly evident in Alghero in language and architecture. The warren of streets reveal many shops of coral and clothing, enticing restaurants and beautiful churches. Very soon we became repeat customers at our favorite gelateria and enjoyed aperitivi along the seawall at sunset.



Colorful houses, Bosa

With a rental car we explored Capo Caccia, Argentiera with its defunct mines and the Nuraghic site of Pal-mavera before driving into the wild expanses of the Barbagia. Here our guide, Robin, in his trusty jeep drove us into the hills to visit a Nuraghic site and sacred well in the Lannaitto Valley and later in the village of Or-gòsolo we viewed many of the more than 100 murals, depicting the political and economic struggles of the territory. We ate a delicious shepherd's lunch and ended our excursion-filled day tasting wines made from the locally grown Vermentino and Cannonau grapes.

Our final stop was in the Port city of Olbia on the east side of the island. At sunset we wandered the shop filled streets and ate a delicious seafood meal and said arrivederci to this amazing island, culturally a continent away from mainland Italy.

This was the initial Sardegna tour and I could not have asked for a more fun and affable threesome to share it with!

If you would like to visit Sardegna and enjoy experiences such as described here, the next tour is scheduled for September, 2019. Read more details at www.travelinitalia.com or contact me, Andrea, at info@travelinitalia.com.



Left Photo:
Spiaggia Santa Caterina
near Cuglieri

Right Photo:
Aperitivi on Alghero's
seawall



Joyce and Rodger's Italy Trip, Dec 31—Jan 13

By Joyce Ramee

December 31- January 1, flew to Florence

- 1/1: Palazzo Vecchio, Loggia dei Signoria
- 1/2: Duomo, Baptistry, Museo del Duomo, Galleria dell'Accademia
- 1/3: Uffizi, Santa Croce, Vivoli Gelato, Galileo Museum
- 1/4: Oltrarno exploration, Brancacci Chapel
- 1/5: San Marco, Mercato Centrale, Santa Maria Novella
- 1/6: flew to Palermo, drove west to Segesta, stayed in Erice
- 1/7: Erice, Marsala, Selinunte, stayed in Sciacca
- 1/8: Agrigento, stayed in Licata
- 1/9: Caltagirone, Villa Romana, stayed in Campofelice
- 1/10: Monreale, Palermo, Archeological Museum
- 1/11: flew to Florence, enjoyed city views at sunset
- 1/12: Bargello, San Lorenzo, Museum of Precious Stones
- 1/13: Flew home!

What fun – my very first trip to Italy after so many years of anticipation! Rodger, who is much more the international traveler than me, had only been in Italy once before, and very briefly. So this was a much-planned thrill for us both. We made ourselves two promises as we left - keep a daily journal (of what we did, where and what we ate and drank ... the important stuff!) and drink the house wine everywhere we go. Mostly, we stuck to these.

Dante members with years of Italian heritage and travel behind them will find our adventure predictable, I'm sure – We saw Florence very thoroughly on foot and the western half of Sicily, by car and on foot, in very satisfying detail. We had great weather and pleasantly few crowds.

We flew into Florence by way of Amsterdam, flying overnight on New Year's Eve with no fireworks other than the gorgeous Northern Lights out the plane window. Unfortunately, our checked bags decided to stay in Amsterdam, so we got the "lost bag conversation in two languages" out of the way early in the trip. (Side note -- I was amazed how the years and years of private study I've been doing actually DID facilitate quite a bit of speaking Italian. How exciting it was to even say a few halting sentences correctly! I got pretty good with baggage, taxis, menus, and nightly reservations by the end of the trip. It made me determined to finish the job in the next few years and really develop some fluency!)



Duomo Magnifico service as it was spoken!

The very first day, (after **gelato** for breakfast!!) we did a thorough exploration of the Duomo, its grounds and neighboring buildings. This for me was the first and biggest reason I have longed to see Florence, and it was everything and more in reality. Besides the climb up and view from the top, the Donatello *Magdalena* in the Museo was another significantly moving experience. But everything in that museum is so amazing. We also accidentally attended a mid-day mass in the Baptistry, having gone in the door for the faithful instead of the door for the tourists..... since no one said anything, we had the place to ourselves with about a dozen devout worshippers, and it was pretty cool that I mostly understood the

Basically, everything in Florence was gorgeous, astonishing, moving, and amazing. Other highlights for me were San Marco, with the Fra Angelicos, Dante's monument and other tombs in Santa Croce, and all the statues outside the Uffizi... and then, every single thing we saw *inside* the Uffizi! We ate really well, and house wines everywhere were perfect and inexpensive - boy, do we ever OVERPAY for wine in restaurants here at home! The best wine adventure in Florence was at a lunch stop near Cappella Bracacci, a place with five tables called Tranvia, where the hostess put a flask of house red on our table and at the end of the meal, measured by eye how much we had consumed (about half the bottle) and charged us each 1.5 euro. Love it! We spent six days in Florence, then



Dante Atop Tomb

(Continued on page 13)

five on Sicily. Erice, atop the Northwest corner of Sicily, is stunning. GO THERE. Amazing views, brick streets, ancient temple, and castle.... and a splendid VRBO nearly at the top of the hill which we will gladly recommend! Not to mention Genesi Erice for breakfast.... Then we saw all the western Sicilian ruins and monuments – Segesta, Selinunte, Agrigento (note to self, never ever for any reason drive a car into the town of Agrigento....again!!) We also saw the Villa Romana, (Emperor Maximillian’s summer play house), the ceramic town of Caltagirone, then Monreale Cathedral, (wow and more wow) and spent one final night in town in Palermo. Along the way we stayed in Sciacca, Licata, and Campofelice, enjoying great food at every stop, including arancini, the best linguine e vongole I ever ate, lots of pasta-con-le-sarde-type dishes, and several local wines, all wonderful.

Sicily is beautiful. As long as you don’t measure it by your driving experiences in the cities, it’s also very drivable – to our surprise. Next trip we will go in warm weather, and see the Siracusa side of the island, as well as a certain return to Erice. Then, it was back to Florence for two last nights in a different VRBO than before, enjoying sunset from Piazzale Michelangelo and some more memorable food and sites. Then back to Seattle January 13th.

I have joked, ever since I joined Dante in 2008, that I must be an “adult-onset” Italian, because even though I have no known heritage whatsoever from the country, it has always pulled my soul “towards home.” Now I know why – and I can’t wait to go “home” again and see more of it!



Selinunte

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 St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. We will do our best to have a message on the DAS reservation line, (206) 289-0419, 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 St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, we want everyone to be safe.



Committee Chairs for 2019-2020

Melinda Jankord-Steedman
Hospitality & Antipasti

Joyce Ramee
Pre-Dante Pasta

Toni Napoli
Festa Italiana Coordinator

Caterina Wartes
Festa de Natale per i Bambini

Sylvia Shiroyama/Dan DeMatteis
Casa Italiana Representative

Ida Caldognetto
CAI Representative

Linda Heimbigner
Publication Editor, La Voce

Gini Hanlon/Nancy McDonald
La Voce Reps

Harry Reinert
Mailings

Houghton Lee
Phone Line and Phone Tree

Linn Crosetto
IT Administrator



This picture was taken at the last Christmas party held at Headquarters House (Garden House) in December 2018.

DANTE CALENDAR 2019–2020

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p>2019: September 11th: English Meeting Dominick Minotti Festa Quiz: “Famous Women of Italian Descent”</p> <p>September 25th: Italian Meeting Robert Thomson “Florence, Dante, and Me”</p>	<p>2020: January 8th: English Meeting Andrea Aldrich “Italian Gardens”</p> <p>January 22nd: Annual Wine Dinner</p>
<p>October 9th: English Meeting Rob Prufer TBD</p> <p>October 23rd: Italian Meeting Claudio Mazzola “Italian Cinema”</p>	<p>February 12th: English Meeting Lloyd Howard “The Power of Music on the Shore of Dante’s Purgatory”</p> <p>February 26th: Italian Meeting Annalisa Bellerio “Leonardo Da Vinci”</p>
<p>November 13th: English Meeting Chris Kelly “Italy Invades”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in November</p>	<p>March 11th: English Meeting Patricia Hoffman & Peni Schwartz “Umbria Farm to Table Tour”</p> <p>March 25th: Italian Meeting TBD</p>
<p>December 7th: Festa di Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>December 11th: Annual Christmas Party</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in December</p>	<p>April 8th: English Meeting Annual General Meeting & Elections</p> <p>April 22nd: Italian Meeting TBD</p>
	<p>May 13th: English Meeting Joyce Ramee & Friends Musical evening featuring Italian Chamber music</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in May</p> <p><i>June-August 2020: 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 (206) 289-0419 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

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 & Zip Code: _____

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 \$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 (206) 289-0419 and leave a message.



Note: The new home for DAS meetings is St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 815 East Edgar Street, on the North side of Capitol Hill. Parking is available in St. Patrick's parking lot, off of East Edgar Street. The meetings take place in the Parish Hall, located in the basement of the church and is entered on the West side of the church, off the parking lot.