La Voce della Dante

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February Meeting: John Venables,

Wednesday, February 14th, 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Come on down, have a nice Pasta dinner with your good friends on Saint Valentine's day. Here is a perfect venue, no crowds and no waiting, surrounded by friends in a cozy atmosphere. After we're done eating, we'll pull up our chairs and listen to John Venables. The topic he chose to share with us is the legacy of the Etruscans.

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Remember to call in your reservation for dinner on our hotline (206) 320-9159, by 5pm on Monday, February the 12th***!***

February Italian Meeting: Nello Addabbo

Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 - 9:00PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Aniello Addabbo, or Nello as most people call him will be talking about the festival in Vallo Della Lucania, Campania, which celebrates San Pantaleone, their patron saint. Nello is the proprietor of an elegant Seattle beauty salon, Via Solferino. He will be speaking in Italian, so for those of you who need to practice listening to Italian, this native speaker is just the thing.

January Meeting: Emilio Fonzo's talk was Cancelled due to REALLY bad weather!

We've rescheduled him for September 2007, as we do not want to miss out on the opportunity to hear his presentation.

Our heartfelt apologies to any of you who actually showed up that night only to discover that the meeting had been cancelled! If you braved frightening weather to get to headquarters house you are made of sterner stuff than most of us. However, as a result of this non-event, we are preparing an emergency plan, which will be accessible soon on our website at http://www.dante.seattle.org/DAS/alert.html

Upcoming Events

February English Program
John Venables
Wednesday, February 14th
7:30—9:00 pm
(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)
Headquarters House

February Italian Program
Nello Addabbo
Wednesday, February 28th
7:30—9:00 pm
Headquarters House

March English Program
Seneca Garber
Wednesday, March 14th
7:30—9:00 pm
(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)
Headquarters House

March Italian Program
Nicoletta Machiavelli
Wednesday, March 28th
7:30—9:00 pm
Headquarters House

Board Meeting
Monday, February 26
7:00-8:30pm
Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave

Little Italy
Market and Trattoria

Specialty Foods
Imported Meats
Cheeses
Olive Oils
Pasta
Garlic
Giftware
Wines
...and more!

Dine In or Take Out

(360) 435-3133

318 N Olympic Avenue 98223

From the President's Desk

I'd like to start by expressing my thanks to the Board, counselors and committee chairs that have already done so much for Dante this year. Kudos especially to those who either managed to get to the snowy English meeting in January or helped get the word out that the meeting was being cancelled. We did a yeoman's job under the circumstance, but we can do better next time. So an emergency preparedness policy will be published in the La Voce and on the web site so you will know what to expect.

The Board had its first meeting for 2007 on January 22. We've got some wonderful things in store for you and lots of ideas for things we may not get to do for a while – simply not enough open dates on the calendar. Since our Program and Pre-Dante Pasta committees have done such a wonderful job planning the meetings for the rest of the year, we are now looking to next year and beyond. We talked about ways we could engage more of you in helping to lead the club, and we thought you might like to hear *some* of the reasons we like serving on the Board:

- We meet interesting people, including speakers and other members
- We are decisive and efficient, and we take care of business
- We like doing something for Dante
- We learn new skills
- We get to know the members better by working with them
- We can help change things that need changing
- We can be creative and bring new ideas

There are others, too, and if you'd like to know more, spend some time chatting with someone who is currently serving. We meet once a month (September through May) at Faerland Terrace on First Hill. They graciously provide us a lovely room in which to meet, free parking in their lot and coffee and tea. Lest you think you will be trapped for hours, take comfort that we pride ourselves on following a tight agenda and we have a very strong commitment to starting and ending the meetings on schedule – we respect your time. You might be surprised how efficient we can be. If you'd like to check us out, remember that all Board meetings are open to the entire membership and we would love to have you join us.

A presto,

Donna Lipsky

Daniele Di Lodovico—The Suitcase Project

Daniele Di Lodovico isn't your typical University of Washington Grad student. He carries an art show around in a suitcase.

After Daniele finished his undergraduate degree at the University in Perugia, he wrote letters to artists and enclosed in each envelope 3 pieces of fine Fabriano paper with the instructions to make them into works of art and to send them back to him. Daniele then chose one out of each three that were returned to him, framed them, and had his first exhibit. The first show contained works from Italian and American artists. He went on to Israel, Poland, Denmark and New York, making new friends everywhere, and assembling a wonderful little collection of post-card shaped pieces of art. He mentioned that each piece he received was unique, but art from different countries had different flavors as well. Israel for example was very political and stark.

Design by Jim Osman— Suitcase project

Daniele expressed the excitement of opening up each new package from another artist; because inside each was a new and unique treasure. His joy and passion for the Suitcase project was contagious and we all hoped there would be an exhibition here in Seattle before Daniele goes back to Italy.

Little Italy Field Trip

By Louise Picardo Hundertmark

A property evaluation in one of Arlington's growing neighborhoods mandated a stop in the quaint down-town. We found La Voce advertiser Little Italy, Italian Market and Trattoria, just in time for lunch. Stepping through the '60s storefront we thought we were in my cousin's cantina! The Italian-style plaster walls warmed the cold, dark afternoon. Family photos from the early 20th century bordered the space.

Walking across the marbleized floor, we notice it is really a faux-finish in reds and greens ---authentic Italy! A front corner of the shop has ceramic ware, linens, packaged foods, copperware, terra cotta, and typically Italian goods. I found tapestry throws difficult to resist. They are woven in Italian technique in the Carolinas, yet cost little more than those seen in craft shops. A magazine called ITALIA (Tastes of) advertised many shops around the country which carry the publication—Little Italy the only WA store listed. It is filled with 56 recipes, including professional chefs' holiday recipes.

At the back of the shop, a menu board featured the daily specials—Fresh Mozzarella, Roma Tomatoes and Basil Pesto Panini, or Penne Pasta with Gorgonzola, but we chose a half Prosciutto, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto and Roma Tomatoes with a side Caesar—still took home part of the Panini! The menu includes many choices for lunch, early dinner, or just dolce and espresso. Take out is available, but we chose to dine at the tables clustered around a front window—surrounded by pots, chandeliers, and weathervanes, to fully remind the senses of Italy's ambience.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM

National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)

NIAF has an education budget of $1,000,000 and will award scholarships and grants to outstanding students in the summer of 2007 for use during the following academic year. The awards will be made on the basis of academic merit and divided between two groups of students.

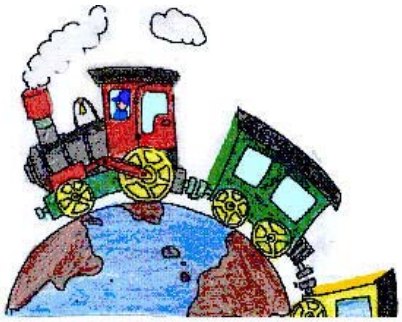
General Category I:
Italian American students who demonstrate outstanding potential and high academic achievements. Area of study: open.

General Category II:
Those students from any ethnic background majoring or minoring in Italian language, Italian studies, Italian American studies or a related field, who demonstrate outstanding potential and high academic achievements.

Scholarship awards range from $2,500-$10,000. Applications for NIAF scholarships can only be submitted on-line.
The deadline to apply is March 1, 2007.

https://www.niaf.org/scholarships/index.asp
Two Washington residents received an NIAF scholarship in 2006. They are Marissa Mattarese of Seattle and John Ceglia of Olympia.

IL TRENO



Il treno è un millepiedi di ferro.
Con zampe sferraglianti
corre veloce e tranquillo
lungo i binari,
si nasconde nelle gallerie,
accelera,
rallenta, si ferma.
Il treno
è un piccolo millepiedi di ferro
che unisce la gente
di tutto il mondo

By Daniele Turchini. 10 years old
4th class Elementary School, Rovereto

LA LUNA

La luna
è una grande perla,
un diadema lucente e prezioso
racchiuso nello scrigno del
cielo.

Chiara e fredda,
timida e romantica,
nel cielo stellato
risveglia il mio amato.

La luna
è il gioiello più bello
contenuto nello scrigno del
cielo.

By Giorgia Turchini
10 years old
4th class Elementary School, Rovereto

Please don't forget; your membership renewal was due *1 January 2007*.

If you joined **before** September of 2006, it is time for you to renew. Please use the handy form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it with your check right away. Our dues are still $30.00 for individuals and $40.00 for families. Thank you for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society.

ART AND REGION: Puglia By Nina LaSalle

Giuseppe de Nittis was born to a family of wealthy landowners in Barletta, Puglia which was part of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in 1846. (Eleven years later, after a turbulent era characterized by secret societies, anarchists, insurgents, revolutionaries, and red shirts of the Risorgimento, Puglia would be part of a united Italy.) His father, whom he never saw, was arrested for political reasons a few months before Giuseppe was born. At the age of 15, he was enrolled in the Academy of Art in Naples, and was expelled two years later for "defiant" behavior. "Peppino," a talented and ambitious young artist knew what he wanted, and he did not like the conformist and reactionary approach of the academy.

At 17, De Nittis established the art school of Posillipo and later the school of Resina in Naples. During this time he painted landscapes of the surrounding areas and his work received favorable notice.

In Europe, the "*Ancien Regime*" was on the way out and the new bourgeoisie of the city was on the rise. Museums were replacing academies, making art accessible to everyone; the dealer was replacing the patron, allowing everyone to own art. The steam engine made travel quicker and easier than ever before, creating access to the modern cities and a more cosmopolitan traveler. Photography and lithography were changing the way images were seen and disseminated.

One of the most important innovations for artists, the tin oil paint tube, was invented in 1841. Before this, artists had to grind their own paints and carefully layer and varnish until they achieved the results they wanted. The tin paint tube enabled artists to directly apply thick oil paint to the canvas in one stroke, allowing them to work outdoors - in *aria fresca*.

De Nittis went to Florence at the age of 21 and joined the Macchiaioli, which derives from the root word *macchia*, meaning mark or spot. Some historians believe that this group was the precursor to the Impressionists of Paris. Many of the founders, like Vittorio Imbriani, fought under Garibaldi for a united Italy, and aimed for a unified Italian art style. Their philosophy was one of striving for the *"effetto"*, or impression generated by the whole. They worked outside from nature by doing rapid sketches or *"bozzetti"*, attempting to capture the overall division of light and shade. The photographic image may have contributed to their ability to distinguish light and shade qualities.

A year later, and after success with the Macchiaioli, De Nittis decided to move to Paris, the art capital. There he was invited to be in the first exhibition of the Impressionists in Nadar's Studio. It is said that De Nittis encouraged his friend, Manet, to try open air painting, and that he introduced Degas to his passion for oil pastel, which was not a popular medium at that time.

"La Masseria", oil on canvas, 8 x 10 cm

In De Nittis' painting of a farmhouse in Barletta "The Masseria," we see none of the anxiety and fast pace of modern life. Instead, there is a torrid stillness, a silence made more pronounced by the use of only two colors. The scale of the image is deceptively massive but the actual size of the painting is only 8x10cm. The architecture of the masseria fills the picture plane; it is divided into three sections, with the central portion creating a classical balance of 5 windows with 4 smaller ones beneath them and two very large openings, like eyes, peering off to the horizon in the direction that the wheel on the left might roll. This wheel stands out as a singular round form. Perhaps it symbolizes the socialist "wheel" foreshadowing the peasant revolts of the next century. Whether this was intentional or not, politics were not foreign to him. He maintained an association with the infamous anarchist, Carlo Cafiero throughout his life. When he returned to Naples he painted numerous images of Vesuvius erupting, one in particular of the tragic April 26,1872 eruption that covered

countless villages.
His greatest gift was painting open-air images of the modern renovations occurring in London and Paris. In these dark and somber cities he was one of the few artists outside capturing the demolition and the new construction that was changing these cities into modern urban hubs. No other impressionist painted as many cityscapes and with such ability for rendering grey tones, and if they did paint any they were certainly influenced by DeNittis. He had a capacity for expressing oppression, rain and its attendant reflections, gloom and fog, and the melancholy associated with it.

At the age of 38 he died of a stroke, most likely caused by pneumonia from painting outside in bad weather. One of his very last paintings, though, is not of the city but of the garden at teatime on a warm sunny day with his wife, Leontine, and son, Jacques. It appears that he has just left the table and we might surmise that he is setting up his easel, beginning to paint his beloved family for the last time.

Giuseppe de Nittis' paintings can be seen at the Civic Museum & Pinacoteca Giuseppe de Nittis, Piazza Castello, 70051 Barletta; open T-S 9-13 & 16-19 Barletta is situated on the coast between Foggia and Bari.

Copyright by Nina LaSalle

"Place des Pyramides" 1876, 92x74 cm, oil on canvas

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IL FIUME

Il fiume
è un lungo sentiero
che scende dalla montagna
saltellando tra i sassi.
Stretto e veloce
si dirige nel bosco,
scuro e ombroso;
calmo e tortuoso
scende in paese
e chiacchera con la gente.
Poi corre verso il mare
e sfocia nell'infinito

Davide Prosser.
10 years old
4th Class elementary School
Rovereto

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 ($30.00 for individual, $40.00 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
PMB #1244
1122 East Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98122

If you have any questions, please call (206) 320-9159 and leave a message.

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