
La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS) <http://www.danteseattle.org/DAS>

November 2007

November English Program: Dante and the Modern Mind:

by Joseph W. Meeker



Wednesday, November 14th, 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle
Pre-Dante pasta, 5:30 – 7 PM.

Some seven hundred years ago, Dante Alighieri envisioned the cosmos as a whole system, and he left a comprehensive account of his vision, a long poem called simply *La Commedia* ("The Comedy"). Since then, total views capable of integrating scientific knowledge, personal experience, psychological understanding, and spiritual insights have been hard to find in our culture until recently.

Dante's great poem, known in English as the *Divine Comedy*, describes an epic journey through the three realms of the Christian afterlife. It provides a model for personal growth that connects the individual not only with his or her own historical moment, but also with world history and the very structure of the universe. The *Comedy* is also a study of the many states of the human soul and psyche. Hell has to do with the ways in which people cause pain and limitations for themselves. Purgatory is about the therapeutic process of recovery from suffering and the acquisition of broader understanding. Paradise is Dante's account of the nature of joy as it grows from a clear vision of the whole and of one's role within it. The overall pattern, in Dante's words, is the growth of the soul "from misery toward felicity."

Our meeting will seek to follow the path taken by Dante in his *Divine Comedy*. We shall consider the meaning of "comedy" as a cosmic phenomenon in Dante's world and in our own. We shall explore his notions of evil and his idea of therapy as they relate to our own understanding of addiction. As Dante's time looked to theology for a model of the universe, so our time tends to look to science. We will examine contemporary cosmic stories as presented by such disciplines as quantum physics, evolutionary theory, ecology, systems theory, psychology, and anthropology. Our purpose will be to consider the ingredients necessary for a modern cosmic story that addresses our own experiences of wholeness and integrity.

Joseph W. Meeker is a human ecologist with a Ph.D. in comparative literature, and master's and postdoctoral studies in wildlife ecology and comparative animal and human behavior. He produced and hosted the radio series "Minding the Earth" on National Public Radio during the 1980s. He has taught in several universities, and is currently an Emeritus Professor at the Union Institute and University, and a faculty member of Vashon College. His books include Spheres of Life, The Comedy of Survival, and Minding the Earth.

Planning meetings set for Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday November 10th and Saturday November 24th are set to meet with old and new friends to enjoy planning for a favorite Dante celebration-Natale. We will gather at the Adele Lord's at 10:30 AM. We hope that having meetings on Saturdays our students and working members will find the opportunity to join us. Anyone new to this committee is especially welcome to participate in the preparations.

When: Sat. 11/10/2007 & Sat. 11/24/2007; 10:30AM

Where: 322 North 134th St. #401, Seattle 98133

Contact: Caterina Murone Wartes; 360 638 2500; speranza96@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

November English Program

Joseph W. Meeker

Wednesday, November 14th

5:30-6:30; Dinner preparation,
6:30; Dinner, 7:30; Meeting
Headquarters House

November no Italian Program Buona festa di Ringraziamento

November Board Meeting

Monday, November 26

7-8:30

Faerland Terrace, 1421 Minor Avenue

Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday, December 1st

2:00-5:30 PM

Headquarters House

December English Program

tbd

Wednesday, December 12th

Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm

Meeting; 7:30;

Headquarters House

NIAF News

For the first time, Seattle, Washington's local print and broadcast journalists, including your La Voce Editor, gathered at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel to attend the Festa Italiana luncheon on September 25, 2007. The event kicked off the 20th annual Italian Festival in downtown Seattle, September 29 -30. The journalists of Italian ancestry were hosted by **Gerard V. Centioli**, a National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) board member and president and CEO of ICON LLC in Seattle. Festa Italiana is held annually by The Italian Club of Seattle and Festa Italiana. The event was an opportunity for the media to meet and network with their colleagues and members of the community over an Italian lunch. They also learned about NIAF's mission and the exciting events planned for the festival weekend. **Julie Francavilla**, morning and noon anchor at KIRO-TV, was the media host. In 2005, Francavilla gave the keynote address at the luncheon.

This year's keynote speaker was **Joe Cerrell**, director of Global Health and Advocacy for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest private philanthropic organization in the world. He discussed the Foundation's work which includes new approaches in fighting Malaria as well as the latest efforts that European nations and private citizens are undertaking to fight this disease. NIAF Vice Chairman **Joseph R. Cerrell** was on hand to introduce his son and talk about the NIAF's programs and events.

Each year Festa Italiana and the Italian Club of Seattle honors an outstanding local Italian American with the annual Gill Centioli Memorial Award. This year, **Lou Guzzo**, an author, editor and public speaker received the award.



Language Program News

by Giuseppe Tassone

Italian Language Program - Director

The 2007-2008 school year started on Tuesday, October 2nd. All classes (elementary, intermediate and advanced) run continuously over 3 quarters with a class break every 10 weeks.

This year, in addition to registration by mail, students can register online using PayPal. If you'd like to give the gift of learning Italian to a friend or a loved one we also offer gift certificates. They are available at <http://www.danteseattle.org>. You can enroll next for Winter Quarter.

Arrivederci in classe!

Autumn Quarter Schedule for all levels:

October 2nd - December 11th—Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Seattle University – Administration Bldg

Complete information on the program can be found at <http://www.danteseattle.org>

To request a brochure with a registration form or for any other questions call 206-320-9159. To contact the director via email, write to: info@danteseattle.org.

November Board Meeting

Mark your calendar; our next meeting will be November 26th, from 7 until 8:30pm. Mark it on your calendar. The meeting is located at **Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave**, right off Pike Street in Seattle.

La Settimana

Lunedì andò da Martedì
Per vedere se Mercoledì
Avesse saputo da Giovedì'
Se fosse vero che Venerdì'
Avesse ditto a Sabato
Che Domenica era festa!



Based on an Etching by Mastroianni, Editor;
A. Traldi, Milano

The last time I was in Montagnana, Vz, I was introduced to Giuseppe Battaglia, a member of the Dante Society there. He had recently published a book dedicated to the hundreds of beautiful postcards that have been produced over the years with a Dante theme. For Dante's 700th birthday, they had a show with over 600 postcards exhibited. When he found out I, the member of yet another chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society, was coming to his town, he presented me with a copy of his beautiful book *Immagini Dantesche*. He also gave me permission to put the images in our *La Voce*. They will be appearing in this and subsequent issues. - editor

October English Meeting - Italian foot bridges

Anita Bingaman was kind enough to share with us some of her incredibly beautiful photographs of bridges for our October meeting. She and her husband have been taking photos of bridges all over northern Italy, some of which are not easy to access. Since our microphone and projector were working in perfect unison, the photos were beautifully displayed for us. All the photos are included in a book co-written by Anita, and is available for purchase. Anita co wrote a little book with these photos in it. If you would like a copy, they are available; see below:



Book title" "Foot Bridging in Northern Italy"
Photographs by Anita Bingaman
Narrative by Wanda Fullner
20 pages \$12.00

A fascinating look at Italian bridges from A to Z and from Medieval to Modern. Bridges tell stories about the places where they are built and put the traveler in closer touch with those places. The foot bridges remind us of the Italian way - to slow down in our daily lives and reflect on our surroundings rather than rushing mindlessly toward a destination. Contact Anita Bingaman 206-858-0313 anitabphotos@gmail.com

Rick Steves Travel festival - Saturday, Nov. 3

There will be an information-packed European Travel Festival in Edmonds, Wash. on Saturday, November 3rd — a full day, travel teach-in with 10 FREE travel classes. He has spent several months on the road in Europe since the last festival, so he has plenty of news and tips to share in his European Travel Skills class. There will be an afternoon class on Italy.

The Travel Festival classes will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Edmonds Center for the Arts (just 2 blocks north of our Travel Center) and the Edmonds Theater in downtown Edmonds. Classes are free but you'll need to sign up in advance.

For a complete class schedule and a map of how to find it, visit the website

<http://www.ricksteves.com/festival>.

Le Notizie



La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, send it to danteeditor@gmail.com. You can also mail it via regular US mail to Mimi Torchia Boothby, 8018 36th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118, USA. I expect an outpouring of talent. You know who you are— this is an opportunity!

Pre-Dante Antipasti

We need help! Can you volunteer to bring refreshments to the next Italian meeting? Terry Hanlon would love to hear from you. It's easy; if you don't have time to cook, you can just go to QFC and buy delicious cold cuts, olives and peppers. If you do cook, there are all sorts of wonderful recipes you could make. If you need help planning, contact Gini at giniharmon@aol.com or call 206-364-6834. If you just want to volunteer, call Terry Hanlon at 206-431-5475 or send her an email at terryhanlon@comcast.net. Remember, you'll get lots of help!

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) 320-9159 by the Monday before the meeting.**

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, plus BYOB, if reservations are received on the activity line by 5pm 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 Ave. S., Seattle. (map and directions on page 9)



Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

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

Mailing address:
PMB #1244
1122 East Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 320-9159

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



Three lovely Dante Members beckon at the 2007 Festa Italiana



Cooking family style at our Dante meeting, come on down and join the fun!

September Italian Speaker, Flavia Corina di Saverio

Flavia Corina di Saverio is the 22 year old cousin of long time Dante member, Sam Ciapanna. While she is visiting here and attending the University, she was kind enough to speak to us in Italian. She described what life in Italy was like through the eyes of someone who had seen a much tougher life in Argentina. She described the youthful social scene in the town where she lived, Martinsicuro. She talked about hopes for the future and the differences between how boys and girls are raised, the expectations that each struggle with. She was a good speaker, warm, open and bright. Thanks for coming Flavia!

Book Review: The Rosselli Cantata

by A. S. Maulucci

The narrator of this story is an American grandson of an Italian immigrant, who had just attended his grandfather, Salvatore Rosselli's funeral.. Salvatore is one of the hundreds of thousands of Italians who left the desolation of Italy in the first quarter of the 20th century to make a new start here in the states. As a young man, he was rendered fatherless by a distant cousin's gun. Through much of this book he struggles with a vendetta he made against his father's killer, who escaped legal consequences for his action.

In the USA; Salvatore quickly finds work by impressing a construction contractor. Unfortunately, lured by money, he gets caught up with the wrong crowd and becomes an enforcer. Since he is handsome, he attracts both "good" and "bad" women. He eventually meets the right girl, who challenges his life goal of getting even. After They marry, he opens a nice little shop and they live happily ever after. He does not meet his father's killer face to face again until a few months before his death, when they meet and make peace with each other . This book is particularly graphic and colorful in describing the hardscrabble existence of southern Italians and Italian Immigrants in the 1920's. Throughout the story, Salvatore, our hero, seems obsessed with the vendetta, but the accuracy and the fluidity of the book makes it a fast and worthwhile read.

RESERVATION FORM—FESTA di NATALE per i BAMBINI

Please help us to ensure that we have refreshments and a gift from La Befana for each of your children by returning this information with your payment to the address below, by November 20th. Phone reservations after this date, with payment at the event are welcome!

Tickets are \$5.00 per child up to a maximum of \$10.00 per household. Price includes Italian pastries, a slice of pizza, juice, and a gift from La Befana. Parents and family members are most welcome to join in the celebration.

Family name: _____ No. of children attending _____
No. of adults attending _____

Please make checks payable to DAS----- Please mail to:

Dante Alighieri Society (or DAS)
c/o Caterina Murone Wartes
P.O. Box 434, Hansville, WA 98340

In Remembrance

Pia Friedrich 1923-2007



Professor Pia Cellerino in Friedrich, our long time Dante member, passed away in Seattle on October 1st. A native of Cremona, she obtained her PhD *summa cum laude* in Italian Studies at the University of Turin. After marrying Jerzy Friedrich, a Polish expatriate, the couple moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Pia co-founded a prestigious private high school called “the Italian School”. In the 60’s the couple came to Seattle, where the University of Washington recruited Pia as Professor of Italian.

Pia joined a small team of dedicated Italophiles to reopen our local Dante Alighieri Society Chapter which had been disbanded during WWII. She was instrumental in securing the Italian Government endowment of a Language School to the Seattle Italian Community, and in 1984 to the Dante Society, specifically. She gave many lectures on Italian literature to our members. She focused on presenting the work and life of Italian women writers and artists. I vividly remember her speech to the Italian Community during the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s voyage. At that time Cristoforo Colombo had already become a controversial figure. She explained that the historical significance of his voyage was based on scientific methods and was accurately documented, thus beginning the modern era of discoveries. Because of her commitment to education, scholastic contribution to the field of Italian Studies and dissemination of the Italian culture among the general public Prof. Friedrich was knighted Cavaliere al Merito della Repubblica by the Italian government. Upon retirement, she was entrusted with the title of Emerita, and continued to perform educational activities from her office in Room 202 of the Department of Romance Languages. Pia was always dignified, calm, honest, elegant in her dress, manners and language. She was known as “la Signora.” Grazie Signora Friedrich for your contribution to the Dante Alighieri Society of Seattle. - By Sandra Bordin

Nancy De ROCCO May 6, 1932 - October 20, 2007

Nancy Charlotte (Ferguson) De Rocco, loving wife of Edward John De Rocco, passed away in the morning of Oct. 20th. Nancy is survived by her 4 children and their spouses; John De Rocco (Eileen Ryan), Leona De Rocco (Gary Fallon), Mark (Ellen) De Rocco and Anthony (Ann) De Rocco. Nancy has 9 grandchildren: Melina and Daniel De Rocco, Olivia and Cleo De Rocco, Connor, Michaela, and Katie Fallon, Claire and Alex De Rocco. Nancy grew up in Ballard where she attended St. Alphonsus Grade School and Holy Angels High School. Nancy graduated *summa cum laude* in 1953 from Holy Names College of Spokane with a degree in Chemistry. Nancy met Ed in Spokane and they married on August 6, 1955. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with over 200 people in attendance at St. Edwards two years ago. Nancy worked part time as a medical technologist researcher in the bio-chemistry lab at Harborview Hospital for over 20 years. Nancy was very involved in all of her children's various activities and coached a number of her daughter's teams, winning a CYO volleyball city championship in 1970. Nancy used her scientific mind to excel in many different areas: she was an excellent cook, an extremely talented seamstress, and a mother who encouraged her children to achieve academic success. Nancy and Ed enjoyed traveling and had just returned from a tour down the Danube River with their Archbishop. She was an avid reader, bridge player, and Mariner's fan. Nancy was a wonderful mom, wife, and friend. Nancy was the Seattle Dante Society Secretary last year. She will be missed.

La Voce

Submission Deadlines

Let's work as a team. If your story, article, photos or poem is submitted to me via email by the following date, it can be published in the next newsletter.

Deadline - publication date

November 23 - December 2007

December 26 - January 2008

January 26 - February 2008

February 25 - March 2008

March 26 - April 2008

April 25 - May 2008

Dante on the Internet!

We have a website. We have all the more recent newsletters there (including this one!), as well as the latest information on speakers. Our web address is:

<http://www.danteseattle.org/DAS>

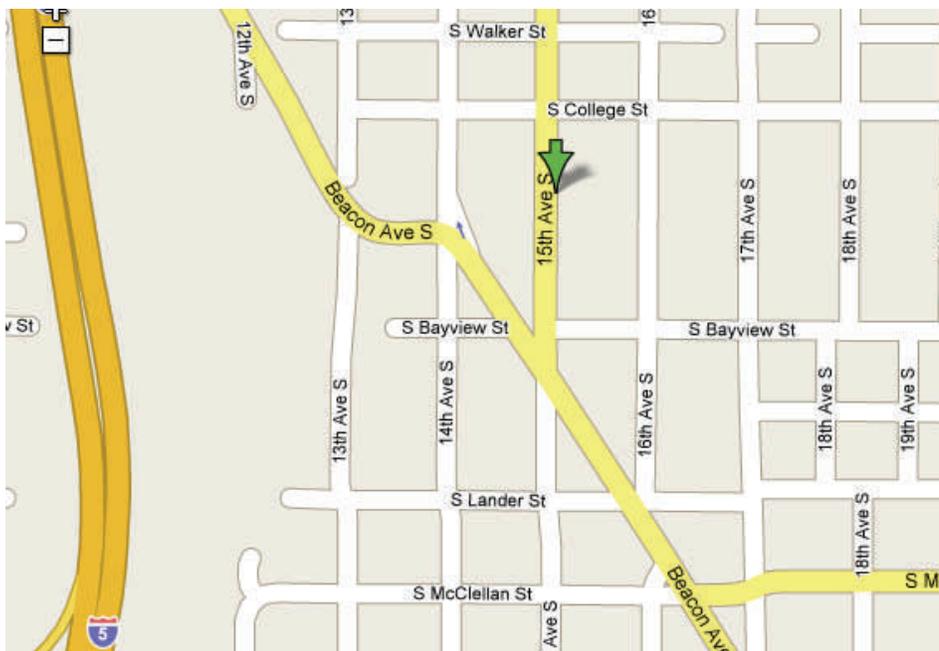
Remember that DAS must be capitalized!



Gelato in Podenzano

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.



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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