
La Voce della Dante

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

November 2008

Italian Renaissance Cooking—David Walddon

Wednesday, November 12, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle
Pre-Dante pasta, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

David Walddon plans to talk to us about Renaissance food. He has written for national magazines such as *The Journal of Italian Food and Wine* and *Threads*. His weekly syndicated food column, *The Vast Repast*, focuses on food history and traditions and can be read weekly in local newspapers throughout the Northwest and California. David's paper on A Renaissance Fish Recipe from the Martino Manuscript was part of the 1997 Oxford Symposium on Food History. David has lectured on medieval and renaissance cooking techniques and taught classes on Apicius (Ancient Roman Cooking), and the *Epulario* (Italian Renaissance Cooking) in Washington, D.C., Palm Desert, California, Seattle, Washington, Vancouver and Victoria, Canada as well as many other cities throughout the Northwest. In his spare time, David works with the Madrone Culinary Guild in Seattle, Washington preparing multi-course banquets from many different time periods for groups from 20 to 500. David lives in Seattle, Washington with his husband Jeff, their son Matthew, daughter Elise and their two cats Noir and Celeste.



Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday, December 6th, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

All the children in your life, including family and friends, are invited to experience a traditional Italian celebration of Christmas with us. This joyous occasion includes delicious fresh-baked pizzelle, projects with stars, letter-writing, clay and word games, creating a Presepio (Nativity scene), reading the La Befana story (and greeting her!) pizza, and tombola with prizes! Befana also brings each child a Natale gift so be sure to let us know how many children you would like to attend by filling out the registration form in the La voce or the Natale brochure available at monthly meetings.

Part of the fun of this event is the preparation. Please join us in November when we meet at the home of Dante member, Adele Lord, on Saturday November 15th and Saturday November 29th, 10:00 AM at 322 N. 134th St. #401 in Seattle. We hope you and your family can enjoy this special event this year. Questions or more info: Caterina at 360 638 2500 or speranza96@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

From the President's Desk

November English Program

David Walddon

Wed. November 12th

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

Board Meeting

November 24th

7:00-8:30pm

Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave

Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday, December 6th

Set-up 12 - 2 PM

Festa 2- 5:30 PM

Headquarters House

December Christmas Party

Wed. December 10th

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

January English Meeting

Louise Sportelli

Wed. January 14th

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

Board Meeting

January 26th

7:00-8:30pm

Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave

Janaury Italian Program

Albert Sbragia

Wednesday, January 28th

Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm
Meeting; 7:30;
Headquarters House

As I look forward to the subject of the Nov 12th lecture by David Walddon on the Italian Renaissance, I feel as though the Seattle Dante Alighieri Society is in the midst of its own renaissance. We've been fortunate to welcome many new people to our September and October meetings. People found us through a serendipitous encounter at Festa Italiana at the end of September. They took a chance to see what the Dante Society was all about by coming to a meeting. They liked what they saw and they have come back. Some wrote to say that they felt so welcome by our members. They felt as though they had been embraced by a big Italian family. That's us. We are that big Italian family; we open our arms to the newcomers much like we thrill at the birth of a new baby in the family, or by the new son or daughter-in-law that our children marry who quickly become beloved family members. Our new members and guests are adding vitality, energy, laughter and spirit - making us more than the sum of our parts. We are infused with curiosity and enthusiasm for the programs carefully planned out by our Program Committee. I can't send enough kudos to them. Even in today's paper, there is an editorial that refers to the good work done by our first speaker of the year, Jack Hamann. Traveling to Italy, learning about this magical country and experiencing its culture, history and cuisine is what unites us. Its a journey that brings a smile, pleasurable memories, and a quest to learn more about all things Italian. Come, bring a friend and be an important part of this community.

Jane Cottrell

DAS Board meeting Schedule

We are very fortunate to be able to use the Community Room at no charge at the Faerland Terrace retirement facility at 1421 Minor Ave on Capital Hill. The current schedule is Monday at 7 PM on the following dates:

November 24, January 26, March 23, May 11 (optional)

If you are not familiar with the location, please google Faerland Terrace, Seattle to get directions.

Language Program News

by Giuseppe Tassone

Italian Language Program - Director

Autumn Quarter Schedule for all levels:

Pre-registration deadline: September 24,
September 30 - December 11
Veteran's Day Observed - No classes 11/11
Thanksgiving - No classes 11/27
Pre-registration deadline: September 24

If you miss the deadline send an email to info@danteseattle.org and if space is available, we will add you to a class. To request a brochure with a registration form or for any other questions call 206-320-915 or contact the director at info@danteseattle.org

How to form Mozzarella—Nancy McDonald

Thanks to Jim Severino and Andy Bevelacqua we had a wonderful night at Dante, learning how to make fresh mozzarella cheese. Jim, a past president of the Sons of Italy, has been making mozzarella for many years. He's a first generation Italian-American, whose parents came to the states from Rome and Calabria. They brought some mozzarella for our antipasti hour, and everyone devoured the delicious cheese which was served on fresh bread brushed with olive oil, with a slice of tomato and spring of basil. There was also a variety wrapped with prosciutto--a wonderful combination!

After a great pre-Dante pasta prepared by Ida Callahan and Anita Bingaman, Jim demonstrated the steps to fresh mozzarella, starting with curd and proceeding through an ice water bath for the product. Several audience members joined him for the experience, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

We had quite a few guests and new members that night, and it was a delightful evening.

Ruggero Taradel—Frescoes of San Francesco di Assisi

Every once in a while, someone does something extraordinary, like deliver a complete presentation in Italian with less than 2 days notice. That's what Ruggero did on October the 22nd for our Dante meeting when our original speaker canceled with short notice.

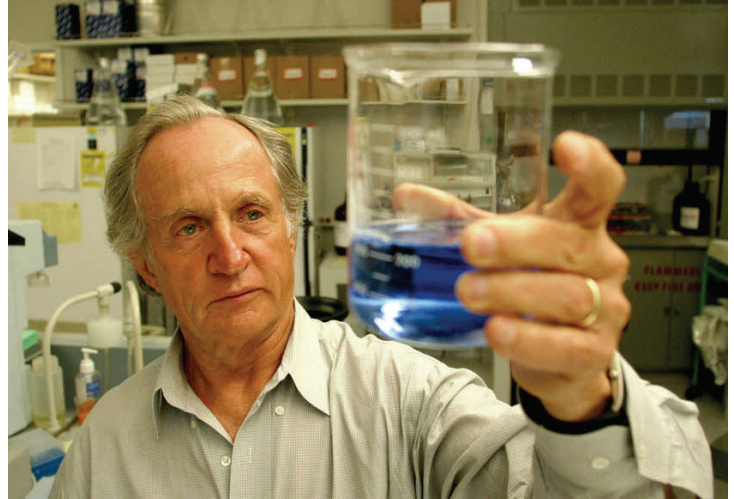
Saint Francis of Assisi was born to a rich family; his father had made his fortune trading with France. So he named his son after the country that had made him rich. At an early age Francesco renounced his family's riches and started the first of several orders devoted to chastity, obedience and poverty. He died in 1226 and two years later he was canonized, a bit of a record. The day after his canonization, his friends started to build the Basilica over his burial place. Giotto and his followers painted



the frescoes that show the life of Francesco in both chambers of the church, the lower and upper floors. Ruggero told us all this and much more. As always, his Italian was very clear and easy for us learners to understand. Several new members joined us for the presentation, adding to the success of the evening. We had great antipasti thanks to Barbara Crawford. There are still knights in shining armor in our midst; **thanks again, Ruggero!**

Italian Nobel Prize winner—Mario Capecchi by Carmen Flak

Mario Capecchi, along with two other scientists, was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2007 for his work with genetically engineered mice. Capecchi's life is a triumph of the will to live and to achieve greatness. He was born in Verona in 1937 where his American born mother was arrested as punishment for belonging to an anti-Fascist group and sent to Dachau concentration camp. His father, an Italian pilot, was killed during the war. Although she had made provision for the care of her son, when he was four-and-a-half years old he was abandoned, joining groups of other homeless children who had to fend for themselves. When his mother was freed, she spent a full year before finding him in a hospital almost dead from malnutrition. He could not read or write until he was nine when he first attended school.



In 1946 his uncle Edward Ramey, a physicist at RCA sent them money which enabled Capecchi to come to the USA. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry and physics from Antioch College in 1961 and his Ph.D. degree in biophysics from Harvard University in 1967. Dr. Capecchi is best known for his pioneering work on the development of gene targeting in mouse embryo-derived stem (ES) cells. He received the Nobel Prize for the development of a “knockout mouse,” a genetically engineered mouse in which one or more genes have been turned off through a gene knockout. These mice are important animal models for studying the role of sequenced genes. (Speaking of genes, two of his uncles were physicists). In addition to the Nobel Prize, from 1992 until the present, Capecchi has received over twenty major awards including the National Medal of Science.

The Invisible Panther - Mauro Baglieri



The Middle Ages are famous for their fantastic creatures. For instance, the panther wore a camouflage that made her invisible and a perfume so powerful that prey was drawn to her. She was so fast that no hunter could hope to grab any more than her scent. That is the doom of the Italian language, Dante complained in *De Vulgari Eloquentia*, his treatise on European and Italian languages (1303-4), where he deems the Italian dialects unsuitable for literary exploits (The first document in the Italian language had appeared in 960 A.D. but was basically Capuan dialect). However, he makes an exception for the Sicilian School (1230-1250). Headed by Giacomo da Lentini, father of the sonnet, these notaries from Frederick II's entourage had written a collection of songs and sonnets in a new literary language, a blend of Latin, French and Sicilian dialect. Though its use was confined to literature, literary Sicilian was easily understood by Italians. It also shared so many traits with the Florentine dialect that Dante could easily graft it onto his own language. The language that resulted from that marriage appeared in the poetry of Dolce Stil Novo, founded by Guido Guinizzelli, and continued by Guido Cavalcanti, Cino da Pistoia and Dante himself. Finally, the *Divina Commedia* sums up the linguistic achievements of a century, giving birth to the first unitary Italian literature and language.

<http://casaitaliana.blogspot.com/>

La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; 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. Keep it coming! Thanks to everyone who is helping! Next issue's deadline is the 26th of October.

At Festa Italiana in September, I met a DAS member in good standing who is having difficulties with transportation to our meetings. She lives in the downtown Kirkland area and if you can help by giving her a ride, she would be ever so grateful. Please phone me 425-827-7782 or email me at jano24@juno.com and I can arrange to have you contact each other. Jane Cottrell

We also have a member in Kent who would attend if someone gave her a ride—editor

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://das.danteseattle.org/>

Pre-Dante Pasta

Join us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required. The only way to make these reservations is by calling the activity line at (206) 320-9159 by 5 pm on 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 11)



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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Jim Severino, Andy, and the sizeable crowd watching the first batch of fresh mozzarella.





Nancy MacDonald preparing the salad



The chefs: Ida and Anita—and beautiful antipasti



TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

27th May – 25th June 2008

(This charming letter was written by 17 year old Leonardo Simonetti and translated by Giuseppina Trentini)

Last summer, and for the second time in my life, I had the opportunity of returning to a fabulous place that is unknown to many Europeans: the United States of America.

As soon as we arrived in New York, all five of us tired from the trip and hungry, there was a big and unexpected surprise waiting for common travellers like us: a big black limousine like the ones you see on the night of the Grammy Awards. Obviously astonished by such an unbelievable manifestation we “hover in the air” at the thought of riding in such car, whose interior contained a bottle of Stravecchio cognac.

After driving for approximately one hour we arrived at a motel where Charlie was anxiously waiting for us. After having introduced ourselves, and after having eaten and got a bed to sleep in, we were finally able to relax and stretch our legs, despite being excited about the thought of seeing new places.

The next day we visited the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum, St. Patrick’s Church where Pope Benedict had paid a visit, the Immigration Museum on Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Our second destination was Chattanooga where all our friends had gathered together at the house of Joan and Ed and were waiting for us for dinner. As soon as I arrived there I felt very touched. I had not seen my friends for a year but it was as though it was only a week. The welcome was fabulous! At the end of our dinner and of our musical performance, we also departed.

After we had left Joan and Ed we went to Donna’s house to get our “reward”, a night’s sleep! At Donna’s house I met Roger, a very nice person, who together with Donna, took us everywhere during our visit to Chattanooga. With Jackie, Donna and Roger we drove to Oak Ridge, to visit a very important site regarding discoveries in the field of nuclear physics. Oak Ridge is also very famous because it was there that the first nuclear bomb (Little Boy) was produced in the WW2 Manhattan Project.

The evening when Donna organized a party was unforgettable. Many guests came and everybody brought something they had prepared themselves to make the evening pleasant. I helped with the cooking and with stirring the polenta. To make the evening more enjoyable for the guests we prepared a grand concert.

After Chattanooga we left for Seattle, city of Grunge and Jimmy Hendrix. Also in Seattle there were new people waiting for us as well as old friends I couldn’t wait to meet again. After we arrived in Seattle we went to stay with Carlene and Ross, very nice people who gave us hospitality although they did not know us. They live in a little town called Mossy Rock. We had a good time there and we spent our days in a relaxing way. One day we rode on mini motocross bikes (which had engines from 90 to 125 cc, so I don’t know how “mini” they were!) and we went behind a hill to shoot in the style of the old west with guns and pistols, something like Clint Eastwood in one of Sergio Leone’s films. During our stay with Carlene and Ross we also went to visit an unusual and fantastic place: Mount St. Helens which is a volcano that, after having erupted some years ago, transformed the area around it into what was an incredible vista, it was like a lunar landscape.

From Mossy Rock we went to visit Mimi and Don where everything was in preparation for the celebration of father’s day, which is very unusual for an European since we do not celebrate such a day, or, rather, we do not celebrate it in the same way. While I was staying with Mimi and Don I was able to meet all my old friends, Mimi’s neighbours, and according to the best tradition we played a match called “ruba bandiera”.

From there we went to stay with the Martinets. Mindful of the time spent with them only one year ago, I was more than thrilled at the prospect of such a visit. I was wondering how I would be welcomed after a year since my last visit but, judging by their welcome, it was as though only a couple of weeks had passed! With the Martinet family we spent a week on a grand. First of all they organized the house in preparation for the “Night of the Italians”. An evening was waiting for us with tons of pasta and home-made music (we were not quite like Led Zeppelin but we were not bad at all...well, .perhaps ...). On that evening, after a series of presentations, we started with our repertoire of Italian songs prepared for a traditional Sunday or a camping guitar concert. Amongst others we included in our performance: “La canzone del sole” (The song of the sun) a classic song on a camp site and among foreign songs we had “Image” and “Let it be” by John Lennon.

At the end of the concert, we gathered inside to celebrate, with a big birthday cake, Pina’s birthday who, as everybody knows, is now 29.

(TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - Continued)

This time Floe and John were waiting for us. Exquisite people! Already last year I had had the opportunity to meet them, and this year I had the chance to have an intercultural exchange having given them hospitality at my house.

Pity was that the four weeks vacation was coming to an end and, after a very late night and a brief sleep of a quarter of an hour, actually it seemed not more than about five minutes, we weighed anchor and set off in the direction of our last destination: Seattle International Airport. Tired and depressed about our imminent departure we trudged along, freezing and with the cold, to the car in which all our suitcases had been previously loaded. And then, there we were at the airport. All together again ready to get on board for our last flight, the one that would take us to the daily monotony of the city of Rovereto, now too small and oppressive for a mind that has been opened and become accustomed to enormous spaces and to different cultures, those cultures that irreversibly contribute to thinking no more of small things in a small village, and to think as they do in the bigger world, so that you feel that you are a citizen of the world. I must admit that aeroplanes are not as nice as trains when you have to say goodbye. In fact, trains seem to have been created for this purpose because they leave slowly and then disappear around the first bend leaving everything behind, whether they are worries or joys, all the things that will forever be impressed on and cherished in our hearts. I would like to say thank you to those people who have given us hospitality and had not forgotten us. Thank you to the ones I did not have the opportunity to meet. And last but not least very many thanks to Pina who made possible for us, with the help also of some of her friends of the "Dante Alighieri Society" of which Pina herself is a member, to make such a wonderful cultural trip that not only allowed us to discover new worlds and new ways of living but much more. I would like to express to her a personal special thank you because thanks to her, for me, it has been the second time I travelled to America. I hope I did not forget anyone, if I did; I thank you also for having given to me fantastic and unforgettable moments. Greetings from Rovereto where, here in my room, I am thinking over and over again of the beautiful part of my life.—1000 Thanks. LEONARDO SIMONETTI

L'ABBRACCIO

Forti braccia stringono
Il mio esile corpo
di fanciulla indifesa.
Stretta,
come in una morsa d'amore,
mi abbandonano
a questa magnifica sensazione.

Il calore dell'affetto
entra dentro di me
scalda le mie ossa
gonfie di tristezza,
riempie il mio cuore
di speranze d'amore
e invade il corpo
di una tenera tranquillità.

Mi sento sicura
tra queste forti braccia,
che mi proteggono,
mi amano,
mi consolano
e che non potranno
mai farmi del male.

Poesia di
Giorgia Bracchetti
Rovereto-Italy





INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

As the seasons change, we are approaching a time when the weather can turn on us quickly. If schools, community centers, businesses are closing early or remain closed, we will postpone any scheduled meeting for Headquarters House on Beacon Hill. We will do our very best to have a message on the Dante Alighieri Reservation line, 206-320-9159 letting you know if our meeting needs to be canceled. If the weather is treacherous in your area of town, PLEASE DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House. You are too important to us to do that. We also hope that you would call the Reservation line, 206-320-9159 to report any bad weather, or you may call me at 425-827-7782 to let me know so that I can get a message to that effect on the Reservation Line as quickly as possible.

* DAS Star List *

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 services without having to raise membership dues. Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

Bronzo up to \$25

- * Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- * Cottrell, Jane & David
- * Van Tilborgh, Peter
- * Mazzola, Arthur
- * Munizza, Joseph
- * Shiroyama, Sylvia
- * Tobe, Robert & Maddalena
- * Rosa Borriello
- * Veronica Huggins

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Gallucci, Ron & Delia
- * Canorro, Anthony & Cathy
- * Eileen Cooney

Oro—\$51-100

- * Lipsky, Donna

Platino—over \$100

- * Harmon, Gini

Italian Genealogy Corner— *Guest Writer; Andrea Sehmel*

(contact the La Voce Editor if you have something you'd like to share here)

My initial exposure to the Dante Alighieri Society was when I asked to come to Dante to speak about the Caetani family of Rome in December 2006. Research into the Caetani family, the last of whom was a close family friend, led me to discovering my own Italian heritage.

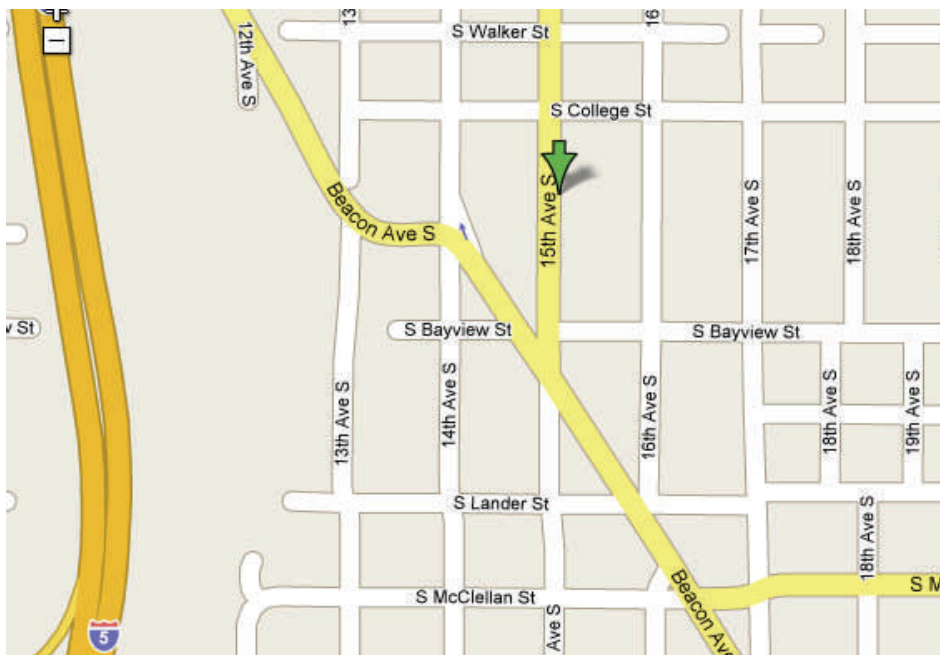
As far as I knew, up until two years ago, I was the product of a couple of Yorkshire folks - and that was about it. Until my mother gave me her father's French birth certificate. His mother's last name was Zani de Ferranti. What a treasure we unlocked!

Discovering a biography about my mother's grandfather by a Belgian author helped me to find new relatives in Australia, Zimbabwe, and Scotland. One Edinburgh cousin had intricately traced the family line back quite a ways. He found that the Zani's (de Ferranti is an 18th century addition) were wool merchants in Bologna in the 16th century.

During subsequent genealogical sleuthing, I also found a remote link between the Caetani's and the Zani's because of a marriage in 1990. A millennium worldwide Zani family reunion is being discussed for 2010.



Detail from fresco found in the Palazzo Zani, Bologna (Sala di Fetonte)



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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