

# La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://danteseattle.org>

November 2016

## November English Meeting:

### **“The Train to Orvieto (Writing a Novel About Italians and Italy)”**

**Presented by Rebecca Novelli**

Wednesday, November 9th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House



Recently, DAS member Rebecca J. Novelli answered questions about her novel, *The Train to Orvieto*, which is set in Italy between 1935 and 1968. The book was officially released in mid-October. The questions below are drawn from her upcoming November DAS talk: “Writing a Novel about Italians and Italy.”

#### **What is your Italian connection?**

At present, I take Italian classes with Cecilia Stretto, but my original connection is through my father and his family. My grandfather emigrated to the United States in 1900 at the age of twenty-five by way of St. Augustine, Florida. He was from Bari and had graduated in music from the University of Naples. Family lore held that he had helped train Enrico Caruso, but perhaps he only met him. My grandmother came to this country at the age of three with her parents and older sisters. They were from Viggiano, a tiny town in Potenza that is almost never on any map and, as far as I can tell, has no tourist attractions. My grandparents spoke Italian with each other and with the elderly members of the family, of course, but they didn’t teach their children. I think my father understood Italian, and I remember hearing songs sung in Italian on Sundays at my grandparents’ house combined, of course, with the smells of my grandmother’s cooking and of vermouth and wine. My grandfather, when he wasn’t working as a musician and conductor in the Hollywood studios, cultivated grapes and a garden. He had a press and made his own wine and vinegar.

#### **Is your book, “The Train to Orvieto,” about train travel?**

No. My book is a novel set in Italy. However, the characters do travel by train—something I prefer to do when I’m in Italy.

#### **Why did you decide to write a novel that is set in Italy?**

Initially, I decided to write a novel. Italy came later. In fact, at the outset, I didn’t know who the characters would be or where the story

*(Continued on page 8)*

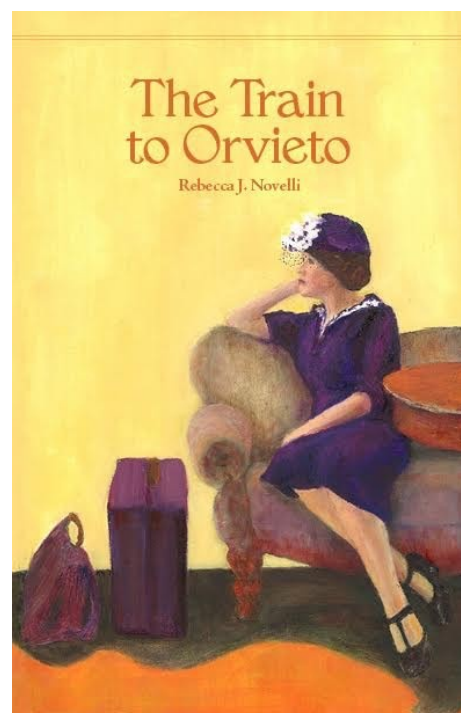
## Upcoming Events

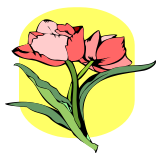
Wed, Nov 9th:  
“The Train to Orvieto (Writing a Novel about Italians and Italy)”, presented by Rebecca Novelli.  
Pre-Dante Pasta at 6:30 pm, presentation at 7:30 pm, Headquarters House.



No Italian Meeting in November.

Sat, Dec 3rd:  
“Festa di Natale per i Bambini”  
Christ the King Church, Seattle  
1-4 pm,





## Our New Members

**Benvenuti  
Nuovi Membri**

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

### **\* DAS Star List 2016\***

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**

- \* Crawford, Barbara
- \* Crosetto, James & Deborah
- \* De Santis, Donald & Camille
- \* Gillett, Debra Rovetto
- \* Hoffman, Pat
- \* Whaley, Terrance & Sandra

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

- \* Morton, Lorraine
- \* Reinert, Harry

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

- \* Borriello, Rosa
- \* Bosi, Lawrence
- \* Cottrell, David & Jane
- \* DeMatteis, Dan & Carol
- \* Fonzo, Emilio
- \* Greenfield, Peter
- \* Larsen, David
- \* Minotti, Dominick

## From the President's Desk

*Salve a tutti –*

It's been a soggy October here in the Northwest, without the glorious Indian summer weather we often enjoy in the middle of the month. Years ago my wife and I were in Italy around November 11, the feast day of St. Martin, and we were lucky enough to experience l'estate di San Martino – the Italian counterpart of Indian summer, but occurring a month later, in the middle of November.

Legend has it that Martin was a 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman soldier stationed in Gaul - as the Romans designated France, specifically in what is now the city of Amiens. One cold wintry night he saw a beggar dressed in torn rags, shivering in the freezing air. Martin took pity on him and, with his own sword, cut his cloak in half and gave it to the beggar. The next day the weather turned sunny and warm as if to reward Martin for his compassionate gesture, the first l'estate di San Martino.

In any case, Martin went on to become bishop of Tours and eventually Saint Martin. He is the patron saint of winemakers and in many parts of Italy November 11 is the day when the vino novello, this year's crop of wine has matured enough so that it can be drunk. A San Martino ogni mosto diventa vino, as the Italian saying goes – 'On St. Martin's Day every "wine must" becomes wine'. As you would expect, there are festivals throughout Italy for St. Martin's Day and good things to eat – zeppole di San Martino, St. Martin's cakes and images of St. Martin on horseback bejeweled with colorful dried fruit as decoration.

You may remember that we have only one meeting in November (Wednesday, November 9th) due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Rebecca Novelli will be our speaker. She has written a novel about Italy called "Train to Orvieto" and will talk about her experiences in Italy researching and writing the novel. You may also remember that last month's La Voce contains an article Rebecca wrote for us on the writer, David Laskin. Her novel is available from Amazon and perhaps in your local bookstore. David Larsen and Patricia Akiyama will be the November cooks.

I wanted to remind you all as well that the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) has their eighth annual Italian film festival – Cinema Italian Style – on November 10-17. We are a major sponsor of the Festival so please check out the schedule on their website (<http://www.siff.net/cinema/film-festivals/cinema-italian-style-2016>) and help make the festival a success. SIFF shows a number of currently popular Italian films, not otherwise available here in the Northwest. It's a great opportunity to keep up-to-date on things Italian.

We have a number of complimentary tickets to the showings because of our sponsorship. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Just let me know if you would like one.

I wish you all the sunshine of St. Martin, good wine and something Italian that's special this November.

Hope to see you at the November meeting.

A presto,

*Dan DeMatteis*



## Language Program News

*Giuseppe Tassone, Italian  
Language School Director*

## \* DAS Star List 2016\*

### Oro \$51 to \$100

- \* Shiroyama, Sylvia
- \* Sportelli, Domenic & Louise

### Platino—over \$100

- \* Harmon, Gini
- \* Rodriquez, German

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, 2016. If you make a donation after May 2016, your name will be on the donation list through 2017.

**F**all quarter began October 4th and runs through December 8th.

Once again Seattle University is hosting our program and as a result our students have multimedia classrooms with Internet, in addition to the printed text, and are exposed to videos, news, commercials, and music in order to enhance their learning experience. We are very fortunate to be able to use their facilities and classrooms and are very grateful to the administration for allowing us this use.

The use of multimedia has many benefits such as improvement of students' listening comprehension skills. When taking the PLIDA exam students find the oral part pretty challenging, especially at level B1 and above as we experienced last November. Their exposure to spoken Italian through both listening to the instructor and follow up exercises is fundamental for a successful completion of the exam. Other skills tested in the PLIDA are reading, writing, and speaking.

PLIDA exams are offered in May and November. The students who took the exam received the official certificate issued by the *Società Dante Alighieri* with the seal of the *University of Rome – La Sapienza* and the *Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Why take the PLIDA exam? Not only for practical reasons, such as to satisfy the language requirement for the permit of long stay in Italy or to enroll to Italian universities, but also for personal gratification and to formally assess proficiency in Italian. Although the Rome Headquarter administers the exam, students can take the exams in Seattle since the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is one of the few institutions in North America to offer it under the coordination of Giuseppe Tassone, the Dante's language school director. The exam is open to everyone, not only to students, and the fee is very reasonable. If a student fails any of the four skills he/she can re-take only that portion of the exam instead of taking the entire exam again.

We thank Seattle University for hosting the courses, our students for their dedication to the program, and our instructors for their excellent work. Students in their evaluations praised their skills and their ability to create a friendly atmosphere in the classroom that enable them to make progress and attend class regularly even after a day at work. Class meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.!

Here are some excerpts of their comments from last year:  
*The teacher is excellent. She uses our time really well and knows how to teach us little tricks to unlock the code for us. She gets an A+ in my book.*

*The teacher uses a multitude of instructional materials from handouts, visuals, power points, blackboard, etc. The list goes on. It is obvious that he goes out of her way to make sure we have materials which will help us understand whatever concept we will be learning.*

*Everything was great - about the right level and complexity.*

## DAS Board Meeting

**B**oard meetings are held on the first Wednesday every other month from August through May with August being planning meeting.

The next board meeting will be held November 5th.

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.



(Continued on page 4 )

### **The Program:**

Since 1984, the local chapter of Dante Alighieri Society has offered a comprehensive Italian Language Program for all those interested in learning or perfecting their Italian language skills. Our instructors are qualified and native speakers, classes are small and our per hour instruction cost provides good value.

### **Classes Available:**

Six class levels from A1 to C2, each level consisting of three quarters—Fall, Winter, and Spring, are offered during the year as enrollment permits.

### **Schedule:**

The school year extends from late September or early October to June with a class break every 10 weeks. **Each class level begins in the fall and lasts for three quarters or 30 weeks.** Classes meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings except the new class “Intermediate-Advanced Conversational Italian” that meets Monday & Wednesdays.

### **Location:**

Seattle University campus, Administration Building

### **Class Descriptions:**

*Beginning Italian (Level A1)* - This course is for people with little or no Italian language. Students will be introduced to the 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 and begin their journey of learning Italian.

*Elementary Italian (Level A2)* - The elementary level is the 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 relevant words and expressions. At the end of the three quarter course, students should be able to use basic structures of the language with confidence and be able to communicate well in daily situations.

*Intermediate (Level B1)* - This course will review and reinforce the student’s basic knowledge of Italian. Students will review and reinforce their knowledge of the language in addition to expanding their vocabulary and ability to understand written and spoken Italian. Students will be exposed to cultural and literary readings and will develop a greater understanding of Italian culture, lifestyle, and way of thinking.

*Upper-Intermediate (Level B2)* - This course is the continuation of B1. It completes the review and reinforcement of grammar covered in the previous beginning and elementary levels in addition covering any missing structures. This course will help students understand articles from newspapers and the web, song lyrics, literary excerpts, videos, and excerpts from films and commercials. At the end of the three quarter course, students will be able to engage effectively in a conversation, express opinions, and give simple explanations.

*Intermediate—Advanced (Level C1)* - This course is designed for students who have completed the grammar topics reviewed and expanded in level B1 and B2 or have a good grasp of them. Students will perfect their grammar and greatly improve their comprehension, conversation, and writing skills. Students will read and discuss literature, watch films and videos in Italian and converse about the cinema, art, Italian news, and current events. At the end of the three quarter course, one will be able to interact with Italian speakers fluently and spontaneously.

*Advanced Italian (Level C2)* - Level C2 is the capstone of our program. It is designed for students who have completed level C1 and wish to continue for an additional year. The goal of the three quarter course is to deepen and perfect the student’s existing knowledge of the Italian language.

*Intermediate-Advanced Conversational Italian—NEW* - This is a multi-level conversational course open to students who have completed at least levels A1 and A2 and recommended for students with a level of proficiency above B1. This course will advance your fluency, listening comprehension and conversation skills, expand your vocabulary, and improve your grammar. Monday & Wednesdays



## Course Schedule:

<i>Fall Quarter 2016:</i>	October 4 - December 8
Thanksgiving—No classes 11/24	
Pre-registration Deadline:	September 27
<i>Winter Quarter 2017:</i>	January 5 - March 14
Pre-registration Deadline:	December 19
<i>Spring Quarter 2017:</i>	March 30 - June 6
Pre-registration Deadline:	March 21

## Class Fee:

Level A1 & A2 - \$180 per quarter  
Level B1 & B2 - \$275 per quarter  
Level C1 & C2 - \$300 per quarter

Intermediate-Advanced Conversational Italian—\$300 per quarter

For further information email: [info@danteseattle.org](mailto:info@danteseattle.org)

To register: [www.danteseattle.org/register.html](http://www.danteseattle.org/register.html)



[www.facebook.com/danteseattle](http://www.facebook.com/danteseattle)



Pictures of Saint Martin in relation to Dan's President's Message found on page 2.



## La Voce

November will be a time of travel for me. Off to New York the first weekend to watch our youngest daughter run the New York Marathon—her second time. I hope to check out the Italian area while there. Then later in the month I'll be off to Houston/Louisiana for a tennis tourney with my cousin...but I think it's more of an R & R for us! Maybe I'll come across something Italian related!

If you find in your explorations something related to the Italian life that may be of interest to our members, please consider sharing this through La Voce. Submissions are always welcome and by all means send the articles to me any time. The sooner the better!

*Linda*

La Voce Editor

[LTHDesign@comcast.net](mailto: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:

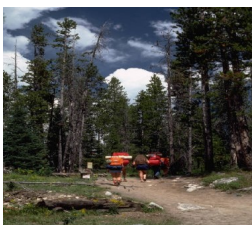
<http://danteseattle.org>

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.

## Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW

Club Alpino monthly hikes for fall:



**Nov 12th:** Urban walk in a Seattle area park

*Classification:* Easy

*Distance:* Approximately 4 miles

*Elevation Gain:* Minimal

*Contact:* Diane Clifford  
(dianelclifford@gmail.com)

Since the exact location is still a mystery to the walk facilitator, let's just say that there will probably be trees, views, and most likely some precipitation. And it'll be just a short drive for most folks to get there.

**Dec 10th:** Christmas Potluck

*Location:* Steve Johnson's home in Seattle

*Contact:* Steve Johnson at:  
stevepaine45@gmail.com

This is CAI's annual Christmas potluck featuring favorite holiday foods. It's a good time to visit and share photos of 2016 travel and outdoor adventures.

Check the CAI PNW website for further information:

[www.cai-pnw.com](http://www.cai-pnw.com)



## 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.*

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington in Seattle is an official examination center of the Società Dante Alighieri and provides its students and others the opportunity of taking PLIDA exams in order to obtain a PLIDA certificate.

### *The PLIDA Certificate*

The PLIDA certificate is an official Diploma issued by the Società Dante Alighieri under an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Rome *La Sapienza*. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and by the Italian Ministry of University and Research as a qualification for the proficiency in the Italian language for foreigners.

The PLIDA certificates attest proficiency in Italian as a foreign language on a 6-level scale according to the parameters established by the Common European Framework for Languages (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2).

### *Why Take the PLIDA Exam*

Students who may wish to be certified include those who plan to study at Italian universities (which accepts PLIDA Certification - level B2 minimum - as proof of proficiency), American high school and college students who may seek college credit, or persons wishing to be certified for obtaining an application for the Italian Permit of Stay in Italy (level A2 minimum). Certification may also interest students who see the examination as a capstone experience after taking their language courses.

For more information on the PLIDA certificates, visit the official PLIDA website: [www.plida.it/plida/bar](http://www.plida.it/plida/bar)

### *Dates, Registration, Location, and Exam Fees*

PLIDA certificate sessions will be held every year in May and November. Candidates may choose to take an exam at the level they feel is closest to their proficiency. Registration does not require having taken lower-level tests.

Candidates need to register approximately 30 days prior to the exam date. Dates of each exam, registration deadlines, location, exam fees, and registration instructions check the Language School's Plida website at:

[www.danteseattle.org/plida.html](http://www.danteseattle.org/plida.html)

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





## La Voce Needs You!

**T**ell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send via email (as a Word document) to LTHdesign@comcast.net. You can also mail it via regular mail to Linda Heimbigner, 4355 Little Falls Drive, Cumming, GA 30041. Keep things coming!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
December 2016	By November 20th
January 2016	By December 20th

(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>

## Pre-Dante Pasta

**J**oin us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required. The only way to make these reservations is by calling the activity line at (425) 243-7663 by 5 pm on the Monday before the meeting or send your request via email to: dante.reserve@gmail.com.**

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

This is a communally prepared meal – the preparations start at 5:30 and the meal is served at 6:30. People who come early help with set up and cooking, those who come late help with the clean up.

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per couple, if reservations are received on the Activity Line by 5 pm on Monday before the meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are charged \$10 per person and subject to availability. We meet at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue, Seattle, WA. DAS will not be providing wine for the pre-Dante pasta dinners so bring your own wine to enjoy and share with others.



### Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

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

Mailing address:  
PO Box 9494  
Seattle, WA 98109  
(425) 243-7663

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is a nonprofit corporation organized to promote Italian language and culture within the state of Washington. Membership is open to anyone interested in the goals and ideals of our society regardless of ethnic origin. *La Voce della Dante* is published eight times a year by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. All rights reserved.

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would take place. After several false starts, an incident that had occurred when I was a young woman traveling alone on a train between Rome and Firenze came to mind: I talked with the Italian soldier sitting across from me in the compartment. We lacked a common language—I used Spanish and he Italian—but we managed a conversation. When the train stopped at Orvieto, he jumped up, grabbed me, gave me a French kiss, and then ran to the exit laughing. I thought there must be a reason that I had remembered that long-forgotten incident and asked myself, What might have happened if that encounter had continued? My story unfolded around that question.

**Had you ever been to Orvieto before?**

No. Only when the train stopped there and then many years later after I had already written several drafts of the novel.

**Isn't it difficult to write about a place you haven't lived in?**

Some might call it presumptuous, but people do write about living on Mars and they've never been there either. When I began the novel, I didn't know Orvieto and I didn't speak Italian, but there was still this attraction. At that point, I had visited Italy only three or four times, mostly famous tourist venues. I loved being there. It felt like "home" perhaps because of my Italian heritage or perhaps because, like so many people, I was enchanted by Italy's beauty and its lovely decay. Writing the book became a way of "living" there imaginatively.

**What kind of research did you have to do?**

The book provided a reason to investigate all sorts of things. For

example, when I needed to know what the people in my story would eat at a wedding, I attended an Italian wedding feast put on by a chef in Los Angeles. That's when I learned that confetti are sugar-coated almonds that are distributed at engagements and weddings. They're what Americans call Jordan almonds. Each exploration led to another and then another. When friends went to live in Italy for a year, I sent them off with research questions. In Orvieto and Firenze, they looked for specific locations—streets, houses, buildings, addresses and descriptions. They talked to a librarian in Orvieto, who described what wartime was like there; that information opened up new plot possibilities that I couldn't have foreseen. The story takes place between 1935 and 1968, and the tumultuous events of those decades affect the characters and the plot at critical points. Although my own "events" are fictitious, I tried to be especially careful to make them consistent with the actual historical events they relate to because I wanted the story to be plausible to people who knew Italy during that period.

By the time I got to the final draft, I was taking advanced Italian with Cecilia Stretto and had been reading postwar Italian novels in her class for several years. These readings as well as my own studies informed certain aspects of the story. Cecilia also consulted on Italian language issues, historical details, cultural attitudes, and even appropriate names of characters. Her help was invaluable.

Of course, I also did great deal of research myself, which was very pleasurable. Traditional Italian marriage customs and social mores were very important in the story because one of the main characters, an American, defies them—to her regret. Italian art and artifacts—mainly Etruscan, Renaissance, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century—figure in the plot and setting, so I read art history books and articles on these subjects. At one point, two of the characters attend a performance of *Rigoletto*, which was subject I already knew something about.

**How did you develop your Italian characters?**

I've traveled quite a bit, and my experience wherever I've gone in the world has been that people everywhere are more alike than different. Most differences seem to me the results of history, custom and environment rather than differences in human nature and human foibles. The latter are pretty much the same everywhere, I think. My characters reflect that view. They're good people. They have foibles that get them into trouble, and their troubles drive the plot. They also happen to be Italian and generally reflect what I understand to be common Italian attitudes. As I said, I don't have to look too far back in my own family to discover what those attitudes are.

That said I've tried to think of my characters as human beings with certain qualities rather than nationalities. I lived with them for a long time while I was writing the novel, and they became almost independent actors in their own story. I felt I was there merely to write down what they said and did. They had decided preferences, which they didn't let me violate. For example, at one point I tried to move them to the United States, and the story stopped in its tracks. It went completely cold. Those characters could only "live" in Italy. That's why I believe they're Italian.

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Rebecca Novelli from page 8)*

**Isn't it a bit peculiar to think that your characters have a life of their own separate from the author?**

Maybe, but I think it's a common phenomenon for fiction writers. That aspect of writing a novel is almost uncanny. In the course of writing the book, I threw out half a dozen entire drafts and started over. No matter how many times I started over, Italy—especially Orvieto—and those characters returned. Eventually, I concluded that for better or worse, that was the story that they wanted me to write, and Italy was the place they had to be. I had to choose whether to accommodate their wishes or give up on the project altogether.

**Do you plan to write another novel set in Italy?**

It's hard to say. Since I began writing *The Train to Orvieto*, I've learned to speak and read Italian. In that way, part of me already lives in Italy. I don't need to write another novel in order to "be" there, but one never knows what direction one's imagination will take. Right now, I spend a lot of my creative time painting, too, and that activity is just as demanding in its way as writing a novel is. I enjoy both the blank page and the blank canvas and finding out what they might become. However, I didn't anticipate that one of my canvases would end up on the cover of my book. As they say in Italy, *non si sa mai*.



Rebecca Novelli in front of painting for which she won a prize.

**DAS at Festa Italiana**

*by Toni Napoli*

**T**he Dante booth at the Festa Italiana was a great success. There was interest and enthusiasm about Dante and the Language School. The volunteers talked to many people and invited them to take the quiz, to sign their email, and to locate their Italian heritage on the map.

There were 18 new entries for email. 74 people took the quiz! That tells us that the quiz is a wonderful way to engage people. Thank you, Dominick Minotti, for your idea, knowledge, and work on the quiz.

There was an effort by many Dante members to make the weekend a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who spent two hours at the booth: Nick Minotti, Pamela Evans, Caterina Wartes, Gini Harmon, Elaine Armstrong, Bruce Leone, Jane and Dave Cottrell, Hugh Lee, Anita Bingaman, and Dom and Louise Sportelli.

A special thanks to the set up and tear down crew: Harry Reinert, Dom Sportelli, Stephen Stimac, Guiseppe Tassone, and Nick Minotti.

Festa Italiana is a forum to be a part of the Northwest Italian community and to have fun at the event. I'm glad I was able to organize our Dante members to be a part of Festa.



## REGISTRATION FOR FESTA NATALE PER I BAMBINI

Name of Family: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$3.00 per person—child or adult Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and a check made out to DAS by November 26th to:

Caterina Wartes  
37381 Hansville Rd NE  
Hansville, WA 98340



## Celebrating 22 Years—Festa di Natale per i Bambini Needs You

**Y**es, it has been that long. We are so glad to still be here, loving this event. However, we the Natale committee members, have also grown in years. We have great hopes that some of you with younger hearts and younger feet can join us to prepare for our annual event on Saturday, December 3rd. Help is needed in the following areas:

- 1) Making and filling the Befana gift bags the last week of November.
- 2) Setting up the site between 11:00 am and 1 pm before the event starts.
- 3) Being a greeter—welcoming families and giving them directions.
- 4) Helping young children with their activities during Festa Natale from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm.
- 5) Setting up the site for the sit down dinner that is served.
- 6) After playing tombola and saying good-byes, helping pack up the event's boxes.

### Does this sound doable to YOU?

Please give Caterina Murone Wartes a call at 360-638-2500 or email her at [speranza.se@gmail.com](mailto:speranza.se@gmail.com) if you have more questions or want to give of your time and talents.

Please put this information on your calendar and bring children under 12 to participate and everyone else to enjoy with them our presepio, stories, music, games, food, and the making of new friends

## Festa di Natale per i Bambini Event Information

**Date:** Saturday, December 3rd

**Location:** Christ the King Parish in Seattle, Brannan House,  
11544 Phinney Avenue North, Seattle, WA

**Time:** 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Cost:** \$3.00 per person—child or adult

**Pre-register by November 26th**

Please be sure to pre-register, using the form on this page. We prepare our day with the children by making gift bags for them delivered by La Befana so we ask for pre-registration ahead of time by November 26th.

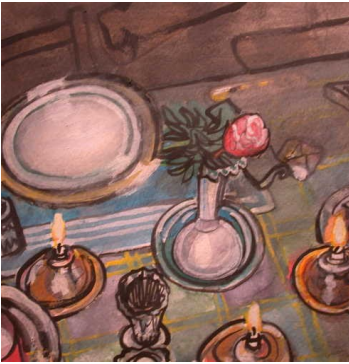
Make checks out to DAS and send to:

Caterina Wartes  
37381 Hansville Rd NW  
Hansville, WA 98340

For any questions, needs, or cancellations, please contact Caterina at:  
Phone: 360-638-2500



# 2016 Civita Institute Fundraising *Gala Caccia al Tesoro*



Please join us for the Civita Institute's 2016 fundraising gala event. This year's theme *La Caccia al Tesoro*, Treasure Hunt Italian style, is a reflection of the distinctive beauty and historical record found in the Etruscan town of Civita di Bagnoregio.

**Date/Time:** Friday, November 18th, 6:00 pm

**Location:** UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98105

## Event Includes:

- Continuing Education Seminar (More info on website)
- Delicious home-cooked meal
- Silent auction and online auction
- Presentation by our 2016 returning Fellows:
  - Plamena Milusheva and Choong Ng
  - Margo Peterson, David Aspholm (and family)
- Call for 2017 Fellowships announcements
- The evening concludes with the much anticipated auction of **Tiny Treasures**

**Tickets:** Fundraising gala event: \$75 per person; Continuing Education Seminars: \$75 per person; Fundraising+Seminars: \$125. Applicants to the 2017 Fellowship are encouraged to attend with the ticket price for dinner and/or seminars to be applied in full toward the application fee.

For more information please check Civita Institutes website at:  
[www.civitainstitute.org](http://www.civitainstitute.org)

## Pictures from October English Meeting

taken by Stephen Stimac



Enjoying pre-Dante pasta at the October 12th English meeting.

# DANTE CALENDAR 2016–2017

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p><b>2016:</b></p> <p>September 14th: English Meeting Dominick Minotti “Festa Quiz Preview”</p> <p>September 28th: Italian Meeting Marcella Nardi “Daily Life in Medieval Italy”</p>	<p><b>2017:</b></p> <p>January 11th: English Meeting Terry Tazioli, Journalist of TVW’s <i>Well Read</i></p> <p>January 25th: Italian Meeting TBA</p>
<p>October 12th: English Meeting Julia Normand “A Guided Discussion of the Ins &amp; Outs of Traveling Alone”</p> <p>October 26th: Italian Meeting Iole Alesandrini “Civita Institute in Rome”</p>	<p>February 8th: English Meeting Wine Tasting Dinner w/Arne Millan of Esquin Wines</p> <p>February 22nd: Italian Meeting TBA</p>
<p>November 9th: English Meeting Rebecca Novelli “The Train to Orvieto” (Writing a Novel about Italians &amp; Italy)</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in November</p>	<p>March 8th: English Meeting Scott Fitzgerald of Bicerin USA “History of and a Tasting of his Liquors from Torino”</p> <p>March 22nd: Italian Meeting FR Thomas Lucas SJ, Rector of Seattle University Jesuit Community “Restoration of the Rome Living Quarters of Saint Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Jesuits”</p>
<p>December 3rd: Festa di Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>December 14th: Annual Christmas Party</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in December</p>	<p>April 12th: English Meeting Election Night</p> <p>April 26th: Italian Meeting TBA</p>
	<p>May 10th: English Meeting Rob Prufer “La Liberta’: Judith &amp; Archetypes of Liberation in Italian Art”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in May</p> <p><i>June-August 2016: Summer break, no meetings.</i></p>

**A**t 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 (425) 243-7663 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

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue S, in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. Directions are on the back page of La Voce.



## Membership Application

I (We) want to promote Italian language and culture and request membership in the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Enclosed is my (our) check in full payment of annual membership dues (\$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for a family).

Mark one : ( ) **New Membership**    ( ) **Membership Renewal**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution:

Social Programs & Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Categories (For recognition stars):

Bronzo (bronze) - Up to \$25

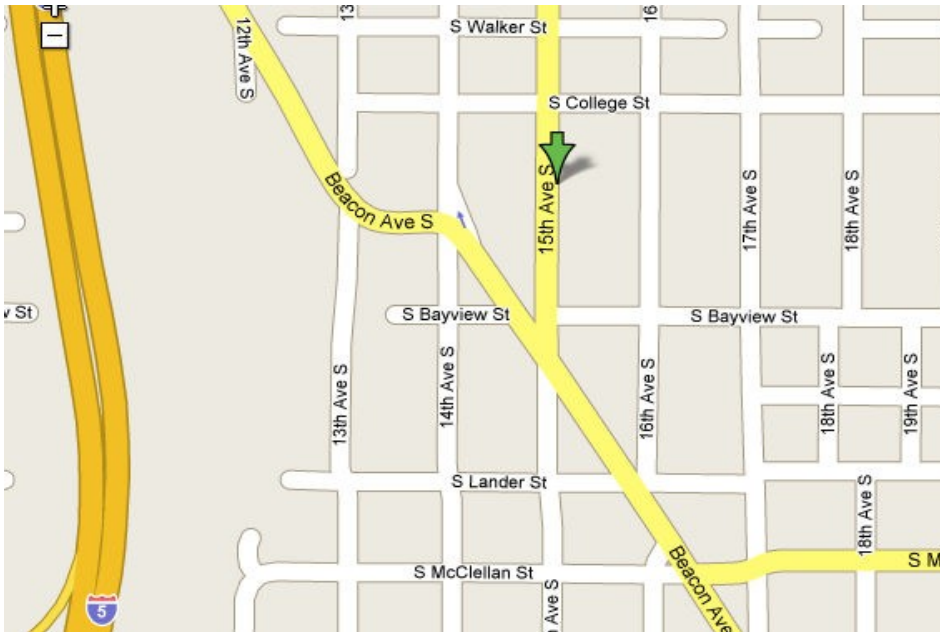
Argento (silver) - \$26 to \$50

Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100

Platino (platinum) - Over \$10

Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington  
c/o Bruce Leone  
2522 2nd Ave W  
Seattle, WA 98119



## 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.