

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

September 2016

September English Meeting:

"Festa Italiana Quiz Preview"

Presented by Dominick Minotti

Wednesday, September 14th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House

Kicking off the new program year will be a presentation of the beta testing for the new Festa Italiana quiz. Join Dominick Minotti for this Power Point presentation. Similar to last year, the quiz will consist of brief descriptions for which you need to find the picture of the item that satisfies the descriptions. During Festa Italiana, persons getting at least 15 correct of the 20 questions will have their names entered for a drawing for a free dinner at a future Dante meeting.

For the Dante presentation, each person at the dinner will have a hard copy of the quiz to fill in as the presentation proceeds to offer clues and additional information.

This year's quiz is entitled "Icons of Italian Culture" and will feature landmarks, products and, of course, foods.

Join us September 14th first for pre-Dante pasta (remember to call in your spot by the Monday before) and then see how you do on the Festa quiz.

September Italian Meeting

"Daily Life in Medieval Italy"

Presented by Marcella Nardi

Wednesday, September 28th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House



It is a common misconception to consider the Medieval Age a very different period compared to our modern time and way of living. For many aspects, of course, this is true, but in all Europe we can find now many traditions, foods, games, last names, and other interesting things of everyday life that have their origins in the Medieval Age.

Marcella's presentation will show you many aspects of everyday life: how housewives spent their day, how kids played, what the delivery day was like for a medieval woman and many other interesting aspects of that period of our history. Moreover, you will

Upcoming Events

Wed, Sept 14th:

"Festa Italiana Quiz Preview", presented by Dominick Minotti. Pre-Dante Pasta at 6:30 pm, presentation at 7:30 pm, Headquarters House.



Wed, Sept 28th:

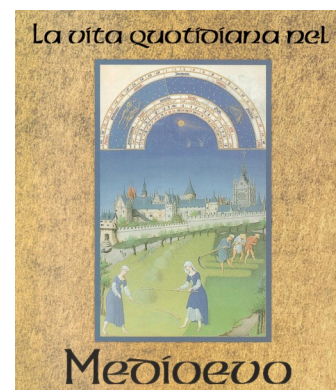
"Daily Life in Medieval Italy", presented by Marcella Nardi, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House.

Other Happenings:

Fri-Sun, Sept 9-11: San Gennaro Festival, Located on South Angelo Street in Georgetown

Sat-Sun, Sept 24-25th: The 29th annual Festa Italiana, Seattle Center beginning at 10:00 am each day.

be surprised to see how many financial words and terminology come from that period in which the Italian and English bankers appeared for the first time in history.





Our New Members

Benvenuti Nuovi Membri

Donald & Camille De Santis
Thomas Liberator
Cheryl Lundgren

**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

*B*envenuti ad un altro anno di DAS!

I hope you're looking forward to this year's activities as much as I am. The roster of speakers for this year's English and Italian meetings is shaping up to be as informative and enjoyable as ever. Some "old" faces – Terry Tazioli will be back as well as our local favorites, Rob Prufer and Nick Minotti. And some as yet unfamiliar to us – Iole Alessandri, a local artist of Italian descent, and Father Tom Lucas, an art historian from Seattle University who spent many years studying and working in Rome.

There's a rich program of Italian classes given by the DAS Language School to start or continue an Italian language journey. All the teachers are native speakers, classes are small and lively and the per hour instruction cost is quite competitive.

And on Saturday and Sunday, September 24th-25th there's Festa Italiana at the Seattle Center once again. DAS has had a booth there, in the same location in the Fisher Pavilion, for 22 years! I know all of you that have been there in years past have enjoyed this exuberant celebration of all things Italian. If you're interested in volunteering for the DAS booth, please contact Toni Napoli (toni@lifehealingtn.com) who's coordinating the booth volunteers this year.

This year at Festa DAS is sponsoring a showing of *Maratona Infernale*, a film that pairs a reading – in the original Italian - of the 34 cantos of Dante's *Inferno* with scenes from life in Italy today. Giuseppe Tassone, the Director of our Italian Language Program, previewed a canto or two to the members at one of the Italian Language meetings last year. A fascinating juxtaposition of medieval and modern Italy! The film lasts seven hours (34 cantos after all) so there's lots of opportunity to drop in anytime for a taste of our Italian literary heritage when you're at Festa.

Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 14th. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again, to another entertaining talk and to another delicious pasta dinner. Ci vediamo presto!

Dan DeMatteis





Language Program News

*Giuseppe Tassone, Italian
Language School Director*

Fall quarter begins soon with a pre-registration deadline of September 27th.

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 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.

DAS Board Meeting

Board 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

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



www.facebook.com/danteseattle

Visit to Rome

DAS member, Stephen Stimac, visited the Dante headquarters in Rome and was given a private tour by Eugenio Vender. Below is a photo of Stephen (in the middle) with Eugenio and Raffaella (head of the language school).



La Voce

Summer flew by and now school has started or will be soon. I hope everyone enjoyed summer and had a chance to explore and discover something new.

Fall is around the corner bringing the marvel of natural beauty in the beautiful colors. Feel inspired and try something new!

If you find an interesting article, event, book, anything related to the Italian life, 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

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:

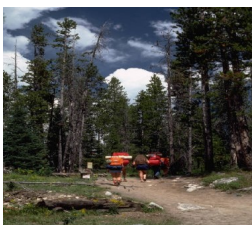
<http://danteseattle.org>

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:



Sep 10th: Blueberry Hike (Hope Lake and Mig Lake)

Classification: Moderate

Distance/Time: R/T to Mig Lake is 4 miles

Highest Point: 4650 feet

Contact: Ida Callahan
(ida.callahan@gmail.com)

Fields of heather and blueberries and clumps of sub-alpine trees ring two alpine lakes. Just 12 miles east of Skykomish.

Oct 8th: Iron Goat Trail, North Cascades

Classification: Moderate

Distance/Time: 6 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

Highest Point: 2800 feet

Contact: Barbara Thake
(bthake@yahoo.com)

The trail is historical as well as pretty, with markers explaining events that happened on the railroad.

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.

Check the CAI PNW website for further information:

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

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

For any questions, email: plida@danteseattle.org





La Voce Needs You!

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

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
October 2016	By September 20th
November 2016	By October 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 were 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

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 (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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Anita Bingaman
Program Chairs

Giuseppe Tassone
Language Program Director

This is a performance of her USA tour "From Venice with Love," which has been seen nationwide on PBS television stations since December. She will perform her own interpretations of American and Italian hit songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s, as well as recent contemporary material. This is a romantic journey that will make you fall in love with love all over again.

www.festaseattle.com



Highlights include the popular chef demos. Many have demoed before and there are some new faces. Come enjoy demos as well as samples from such local chefs such as Brian Gojdics of Tutta Bella; Private chefs Steven Thompson and Tobie Robinson; Brad Inserra; Walter Pisano of Tulio; Franz Junga & Marco Nocco of Il Fornaio; Frank Isernio of Isernio Sausage; Perry Mascitti & Jeremy Taisey from the Tulalip Resort Casino. These demos begin hourly starting at 11:00 am on the “Great Italian Chefs” Cooking Stage sponsored by Isernio’s Sausage.

Other fun things include Tino's Cortile in the courtyard of the Seattle Center Pavilion. Here you can try a Pizza Toss, see a Sicilian puppet show, Italian dog show, OSA FC with an inflatable soccer courts and soccer clinics for children of all ages plus other hands-on activities.

Don't forget the Art Show, the Italian car show, and the historical photo exhibit about Seattle's earliest Italians.

Saturday, September 10th - Traditional Italian Mass, 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 2800 S Massachusetts St in Seattle. Free reception to follow.

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Maratona Infernale

During Festa Italiana, DAS will have an open screening of the film, “Maratona Infernale” at the Seattle Armory. See flyer below for details.



THE DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
INVITES YOU TO AN OPEN SCREENING OF THE FILM

MARATONA INFERNALE

“Infernal Marathon”
by Lamberto Lambertini

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25, 2016

SEATTLE CENTER ARMORY - LOFT 2
11:00 am – 6:00 pm



MARATONA INFERNALE



Readings of the 34 Cantos from Dante’s *Inferno* in the original Italian with English subtitles, accompanied by scenes from life in modern Italy, images of Italy’s artistic heritage and the natural beauty of Italy today.

THE EPIC 7-HOUR FILM WILL BE SCREENED
NON-STOP FROM 11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM.
STOP BY FOR AS LONG YOU’D LIKE –
EXPERIENCE A CANTO OR MORE...AND YOU’LL
BE IMMERSSED IN THE POETRY, IMAGES AND
MUSIC OF ITALY.

DON’T MISS THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY!

To learn more about the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington:
www.danteseattle.org

Visit also our booth at Fisher Pavilion • Booth #2

Italian Lemon Drop Cookies (Anginetti)

(Like most Italian cookies, these lemon drop cookies aren't too sweet. The perfect summer-time treat or a great addition to your holiday cookie tray!)

Cookie:

1/2 c sugar
1/4 c vegetable shortening or butter
3 large eggs
1 1/2 t lemon extract
2 c flour
1 1/2 t baking powder
1/8 t salt

Frosting:

3 c confectioners' sugar
1/4 c water
1 t lemon extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Cream together sugar and shortening. Add eggs and lemon extract beating well.

Add flour, baking powder, and salt, mixing well. The dough should be soft and sticky.

With a small cookie scoop, drop dough onto a lightly greased cookie sheet or cookie sheet with parchment paper. Space about 2 inches part. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until firm and lightly brown.

Remove cookies from cookie sheet and allow to cool completely on wire racks.

For frosting, combine confectioners' sugar, water, and lemon extract and mix until smooth. (*1/2 recipe will work well.*)

Frost the tops of each cookie with a metal spatula or dip cookies into frosting. Sprinkle colored sugar if desired.



Makes 24 cookies

Passages

Giselda Forte



Giselda Filomena Forte passed away on May 16, 2016 at the age of 91. She was born on December 18, 1924 in the small town of Taranta Peligna, Abruzzo, Italy to Antonio and Esterina Santilli. Her childhood was typical of children born into a small Italian village, surrounded by family and friends. During World War II, she and her family were forced to leave their home and belongings in the face of German occupation and for a time, lived in the caverns above the town. They returned to find their home destroyed and subsequently lived on the family farm.

In 1947, she met and married Joseph Forte. Joseph left Italy without Giselda until immigration papers could be filed. Early in 1948, she left her home and traveled to Seattle where she became a member of Joseph's large family and eventually, an American citizen. She would not return to Italy and Taranta for 20 years. Yet, Taranta was never far away as she tirelessly raised money for the annual religious festival until her late 80s.

Joseph preceded her in death in 2006 after 58 years of marriage. Together, they were involved in numerous Italian social and cultural societies including the Italian Independent Society and Dante Alighieri Society. They were long time members of St. Peter's Parish on Seattle's Beacon Hill.

On his retirement, Joseph and Giselda traveled the world, visiting many places that a young girl from Taranta would never imagine. She was able to return to Italy and Taranta for the first time in 1968 with her entire family, returning to Italy many times in subsequent years.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, they and the extended family traveled to one of their favorite spots, Maui, where they renewed their marriage vows.

An accomplished seamstress and tailor, Giselda worked for many years at Frederick and Nelsons, and later Nordstrom's. She was also skilled in the many culinary delights reflecting her Italian heritage and their comfortable home of 55 years on Beacon Hill was the site of many wonderful dinners for holidays and special occasions. In 2010, Giselda moved to the Skyline retirement center on First Hill as a charter member. She loved this community, the many new friends she made, and became a member of the Cathedral parish.



Passages

'E morta Nicoletta Machiavelli, la splendida attrice regina degli Spaghetti Western

by Sandra Whaley

Nicoletta Machiavelli was my first Italian teacher. She arrived at my front door in the spring of 1992 to give me the first of four Italian lessons that I had purchased at a school auction. My hope was to learn a bit of vocabulary and grammar to prepare me for a summer trip to Marina di Pietrasanta on the Italian coast. Like many Americans, I had a bevy of Italian words in my vocabulary, but not enough knowledge of the language to form complete sentences. I had great expectations for these lessons and I was not disappointed because it quickly became apparent that this experience was going to be a remarkable one.

Generally, our lessons were conducted in my kitchen where we studied, drank coffee, and got to know each other. We became friends. From the very first, I was hooked on the beautiful language and the chance to study with such a capable and helpful instructor. What started with four lessons became a weekly hour of instruction that lasted for over two years. Not only did she teach me the basics of the language, but she also told me something about herself, her early life in Italy and abroad, and shared her passion for both cooking and travel, two subjects that seem to go hand and hand with the love of language. In fact, the last time I saw Nicoletta was a few years ago when she presented to the Dante Society a lecture on the subject of an upcoming cooking tour to Sicily. This was twenty years or so after our first lesson, but that night she remained as engaging as when I first met her. And, I attended that evening specifically because she was the speaker and the person who had originally inspired me to continue the study of Italian.

Last February when, in the midst of completing a written assignment for my current Italian class, I suddenly thought about Nicoletta and wondered what she was doing. I knew she had gone on to teach at Bellevue Community College and to have continued her many tour guide commitments both in Italy and in the western United States, but I hadn't been in contact with her since that evening at the Dante Society. Thanks to the Internet, I quickly found a wealth of information about her, but also the very sad news that she had passed away in November of 2015 after a short illness.

As I read the many memorials and tributes to her, I learned much more about her fascinating life both in Italy and in the U.S. One of the headlines, "Nicoletta Machiavelli, Beautiful Star of Spaghetti Westerns, Dies at 71." led me to read about her experiences as a young actress in Italy, in France, and in the United States. She had worked with such well-known leading men as Marcello Mastroianni, Oliver Reed, Alain Delon, and Burt Reynolds. I learned that she left acting as a career in the early 1980s because she never thought that she was a good actress and she didn't enjoy being the "sex goddess" in all those spaghetti



westerns. I already knew that she enjoyed teaching and being a tour guide to French and Italian tourists visiting San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon, but I learned that she especially enjoyed introducing these European tourists to the Native American cultures of the southwest.

I knew from our time together that she was a free spirit, mostly from the two tattooed snakes that encircled her wrist which she wore long before it was *de rigueur*, but I didn't know much about her travels abroad and her stay in India at an ashram seeking spiritual enlightenment.

I only learned about these and other aspects of her life when I searched for her on the Internet. Her personal life before coming to Seattle was only evident in that she said that she had a son and that she and her husband had recently agreed to go their separate ways. What I did know from the very start of our acquaintance was that she was an energetic and gracious person, who was as kind as she was beautiful. I knew that she periodically visited her father who still lived in Modena near where she grew up. I knew that she worked hard to support herself and that she was responsible to others. She enjoyed sharing her gifts and like her famous ancestor, Niccolò Machiavelli, she sought to teach others. This November marks the one-year anniversary of her passing. Her many friends, colleagues and students will remember her and miss her.



Le Poste Italiane

by Philip Dickey

Penso che sia giusto dire che Le Poste Italiane non sono note per la loro velocità. Ho sentito però alcuni racconti di perseveranza e di ingenuità straordinaria che forse in qualche modo compensano le consegne in ritardo. Viene in mente un esempio in cui una lettera dagli Stati Uniti con un indirizzo italiano vaghissimo e per giunta sbagliato è arrivata contro ogni probabilità alla destinazione esatta. Bravissimi!

Nel 2007, dopo tre settimane in Italia durante le quali mia moglie ed io avevamo fatto delle gite in montagna, abbiamo deciso di spedire negli Stati Uniti tutta la nostra attrezzatura per fare trekking. Volevamo ridurre la quantità dei bagagli prima di andare a Roma per l'ultima settimana. Grazie a Mariella, la nostra padrona di casa a Gaeta, che ci ha fornito scatola, scotch, e carta da pacchi, eravamo pronti. Dopo aver messo tutto insieme dentro un pacco piuttosto grande e pesante, siamo andati all'ufficio postale a Gaeta.

Come avevamo temuto, l'ufficio era affollato, ma almeno era moderno e pulito. C'erano diverse code possibili. Uno schermo indicava i codici dei clienti che venivano serviti al momento. Abbiamo trovato il distributore di biglietti che assegnava ogni cliente ad una coda precisa sulla base del servizio richiesto. Sembrava molto semplice e ragionevole ma c'era un unico problema: a tutti serviva lo stesso servizio: spedire una lettera o un pacco. Quindi la coda indicata per noi era lunghissima.

Abbiamo preso un biglietto e ci siamo seduti per aspettare il nostro

turno. Ci è voluta una mezzora. Finalmente ci siamo avvicinati allo sportello. Ho messo il pacco sulla bilancia. "Vorremmo spedirlo nel modo più economico," ho detto all'impiegato postale. Ha lasciato lo sportello per parlare con un collega. Dopo alcuni minuti è ritornato e mi ha detto "sarebbe via superficie, per nave." "Va bene," ho risposto, "non abbiamo fretta." È seguita una conversazione sul mittente, per chiarire se fosse possibile che il destinatario ed il mittente fossero la stessa persona. Ci ha parlato gentilmente in inglese, pensando sicuramente che con il nostro accento americano per noi sarebbe stato difficile capire l'italiano. Forse lui aveva ragione, ma penso che ce l'avrei fatta in italiano.

Dopo aver riempito tutti i moduli, gli ho chiesto se erano disponibili le assicurazioni. Mi ha fissato severamente e ha detto, "Mi ha richiesto il modo più economico ed adesso vuole aggiungere altri servizi?" "Sì, come no?," ho risposto, non capendo perché una escludesse l'altra. "Non è possibile," ha pronunciato in modo definitivo. Ho pensato al costo di due paia di stivali da trekking, almeno 300 euro, e alla possibilità di averli appena visti per l'ultima volta. Non mi piaceva quel rischio, ma non c'era un'alternativa. "Va bene," ho detto.

"Quarantadue euro," ha risposto. *Questo importo era quasi il doppio di quello che mi aspettavo. Quanto ci sarebbe voluto per spedirlo in aereo?* pensavo porgendo una banconota da cinquanta euro. L'impiegato ha cominciato a scrivere qualcosa sulla ricevuta prima di darmela. "Ho scritto qui il mio nome e il mio numero di telefono," ha detto. "Se il pacco non arriva, può telefonarmi dagli Stati Uniti e vedrò quello che potrò fare." Non avevo nessun'idea né di quanto tempo avrei dovuto aspettare prima di telefonargli né di che cosa avrebbe potuto fare lui se io lo avessi chiamato, ma è stato un gesto molto gentile e gliel'ho detto. Ho dato un'occhiata alla ricevuta: Mimmo Albano, Ufficio Postale, 0771 462000. "Grazie, Mimmo." Arrivederci, stivali.

Sull'aereo ho letto un articolo su *La Repubblica* che trattava di una lettera che era arrivata 25 anni in ritardo. Era stata spedita dall'ufficio comunale della salute pubblica ad una cittadina, una ventenne, e l'aveva consigliata di prendere appena possibile una vaccinazione. Nel momento in cui la lettera ha finito il viaggio di cinque chilometri, la donna aveva 45 anni. Per la vergogna, il postino ha lasciato la lettera nella cassetta senza suonare il campanello. Infatti, il titolo dell'articolo era "Il postino non ha suonato nemmeno una volta." Grazie, Mimmo. Arrivederci, stivali.

Si può immaginare la nostra sorpresa quando il pacco è arrivato dopo tre settimane. Per nave? Per aliscafo? In aereo? Chissà. Grazie, Mimmo.

Philip Dickey studia italiano da quindici anni. Abita a Seattle. Il suo recapito email è philip.dickey46@gmail.com.



Other Happenings:



SAN GENNARO FESTIVAL SEATTLE WA

LOCATED ON SOUTH ANGELO STREET IN GEORGETOWN

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11
6:45 – 8PM Mary Marchese and the Rave Band	11:15AM–12:00PM Procession and blessing by Father Paul Magnano	11:30AM–12:15PM Mary Marchese and the Rave Band
8:30 – 10PM Ray Massa's EuroRhythms	12–12:45PM Bonnie Birch	12:45 – 1:30PM Primo Basso
	1:15–2:15PM Ray Massa's EuroRhythms	2 – 2:45PM Mark Morell
	2:45–3:30PM Rob Porcaro Group	3:15 – 4PM Danny Quintero
	4–4:45PM Primo Basso	4:30 – 6PM Ray Massa's EuroRhythms
	5:15–6PM Danny Quintero	
	6:30–7:30PM Brian DiJulio and the Love Jacks	
	8-10PM Ray Massa's EuroRhythms	

FOR MORE INFO: www.sangennarofestivalseattle.org



DANTE CALENDAR 2016–2017

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p>2016:</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>2017:</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 & 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/Chris Zimmerman</p> <p>February 22nd: Italian Meeting TBA</p>
<p>November 9th: English Meeting Rebecca Novelli “The Train to Orvieto”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in November</p>	<p>March 8th: English Meeting TBA</p> <p>March 22nd: Italian Meeting TBA</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 & 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>

At the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm and served at 6:30 pm. Call the Activity Line (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

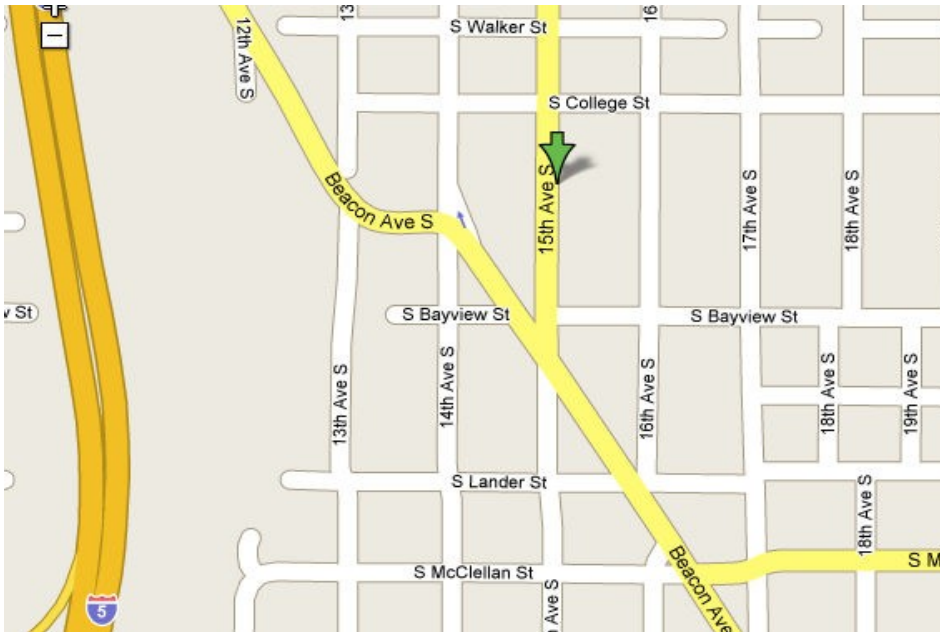
Argento (silver) - \$26 to \$50

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.