

---

# La Voce della Dante

---

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

October, 2020

---



## From the President's Desk

October 2020

Buon Giorno, Dante members and friends reading our La Voce newsletter!

Thanks to **Andrea Aldrich**, we will have a La Voce Newsletter again. And at her

---

request, I'm attempting to carry the tradition of a "president's message" in each one.  
So I send you all greetings on this lovely sunny fall day!

First some big thank-you's. Thanks to the **Board of Directors**, who are working tirelessly to make everything happen in this odd, "virtual" season, and who continually have my back, to help me learn all the things I don't know about leading Dante and outwitting my computer. (**Dan, Harry** ~ please don't leave town!!) Thanks to **Giuseppe** and his team of instructors in our Language Program, who made a successful summer course offering and continue to have enrollment that exceeds our expectations, with their online transition running smoothly. Thanks to **volunteers beyond the board** – our Governance Committee members and those who have helped with editing the constitution and bylaws updates; to our IT expert **Linn**, who enables and records our fall meetings; to **Program Chair Dan** and **our presenters...** and most of all, thanks to **ALL OF YOU** for coming with us into the online season with good humor, good will, interest and support.

Many of you have sent emails thanking me for this or that- you have no idea how sweetly that rings right about now. Your appreciation and support mean so much! Moreover, seeing 42 beautiful faces in our September English Meeting zoom, (1 from Rome, who got up in the middle of the night to join us!) and 52 beautiful faces at the September Italian Meeting – this is proof-positive that Dante Seattle is thriving and that our presenters are giving talks that interest people. Bravo, bravo to Nico Minotti and Francesca Giambartolomei for these first classes.

Coming up next will be a Chamber Music Lecture-Recital by "yours truly" with colleagues from Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra (October 14), a talk by local Italian businesswoman **Francesca Carmichael**, of the Italian Linen Store (October 28) and our own **Pat Hoffman** speaking for the English Meeting on November 11. And then comes our December **Christmas Potluck** time, which will be observed on December 9. Potluck live? – most likely not – but there will be some fun ideas for ways we can get into the Holiday spirit with each other, no matter what, so save that date and watch for details as it gets closer. **We're not missing out on our Natale festivities just because we can't gather. No way!!! Mai!**

Until we can be together again in person, I hope communications and events with Dante can be a place of connection and community for all of us. Let's keep in touch with ideas about how we can do this creatively in the coming months. Be well!

A presto,  
Joyce



Luigi Cherubini



Alessandro Rolla

## **Dante English Meeting for October**

October 14, Zoom room opens at 7:00, presentation 7:30.

The presentation will be a Lecture-Recital featuring chamber music of two Italian Classical composers: **Luigi Cherubini** and **Alessandro Rolla**.

**Performers are Emilie Choi, violinist, Joyce Ramee, violist and Brian Wharton, cellist.** All three artists are members of Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and the Auburn Symphony.

The program has been professionally video-recorded especially for Dante and includes biographical information about each composer, interspersed between performances of their lovely works for string trio.

As with all Dante meetings this fall, the presentation will be made on Zoom. A full program, performers' bios and Zoom invitation links will be sent out ahead of the meeting date.



## Dante Italian Meeting for October

October 28, Zoom room opens at 7:00, presentation 7:30.

The presenter for the Italian Meeting on October 28 is Francesca Carmichael who will speak about the hand-stamped, block print linens typical of the Romagna region of Italy.

Francesca is the proprietor of the **Italian Linen**

**Store**, [www.italianlinenstore.com](http://www.italianlinenstore.com), a “molto italiano” store that is located in Bellevue. Its Italian hand-stamped linens for the home exemplify the antique craft that has continued to the present day with the products from Stamperia Bertozzi that, using traditional stamping techniques, offers a full range of decorative linens, from the classic to the contemporary.

Born and raised in Cremona, Francesca has lived in various countries and continents in the course of her life, beginning with her time at University, in Venice, then the Middle East, France and so forth, until she landed in Seattle in 2004. Here she opened her first shop in Woodinville importing from Italy antique furniture, hand-painted ceramics, decorative paper and stationery to textiles, a gradual and natural progression that compliments her own artistic nature.

\*\*\*\*\*

(l'Italiano)

*Francesca Carmichael parlerà dell'arte della  
**Stampa a Mano su tessuti** tipica della regione Romagna.*

*Francesca è la proprietaria di un negozio “molto Italiano” che si trova a Bellevue che si chiama the **Italian Linen Store**, [www.italianlinenstore.com](http://www.italianlinenstore.com). I*

*suoi tessuti per la casa stampati a mano sono esempi di un'artigianato di vecchia data che rimane al passo coi tempi nel lavoro della Stamperia Bertozzi che, usando le tradizionali tecniche di stampa, offre anche un' ampia gamma di decorazioni, dalle classiche alle contemporanee.*

*Nata e cresciuta a Cremona, Francesca ha vissuto in svariati paesi e continenti nel corso degli anni, a partire dai tempi dell'università, frequentata a Venezia, quindi Medio Oriente, Francia e così via, fino a sbarcare a Seattle nel 2004, quando ha aperto un primo negozio a Woodinville importando dall'Italia , dai mobili antichi, alle ceramiche dipinte a mano, alla carta decorative e legatoria ed ai tessuti, una progressione passo passo e naturale che ben si sposa con la sua natura artistica.*

---

## Upcoming Programs

**November 11, 2020 English Meeting**

“Seated at Lorenzo’s Table – From Farm to Table”

Presented by Pat Hoffman

FarmerChef Lorenzo Polegri owned Ristorante Zeppelin in the enchanting Umbrian town of Orvieto, Italy. Invited several times to cook at the James Beard house in NYC, he also cooked for President Obama at the White House in 2010.

Ristorante Zeppelin and the new site at Casa Segreta are home to Chef Lorenzo’s internship program for culinary students and his cooking school, featuring afternoon cooking classes and one-week and two-week “culinary adventures” that include cooking classes and visits to the sources that produce the ingredients used in Chef Lorenzo’s recipes. Join six friends on their excellent adventure who spent two weeks with Chef Lorenzo immersed in the history and culinary experiences of the FarmerChef.

**December 9 Festa di Natale**

---



## Roman for a Day (or more precisely, three weeks)!

by Dan DeMatteis

This February and March, my wife and I spent nearly a month in Rome. Carol had retired as Kitchen Director of the Cathedral Kitchen at St. James in March and this, our Roman holiday, along with two weeks in Tuscany tacked on at the end, was supposed to be her retirement present and the fulfillment of a long-time dream to spend enough time in one place in Italy so we were not tourists, but "*vicini di casa*".

Our kids, Christine and Tony, came over for one of the weeks we were in Rome. And we had arranged to be there when Father Tom Lucas, SJ - who's spoken at Dante several times, once on the rooms St Ignatius Loyola lived in in Rome which Tom restored ten or so years ago, and once on the *scavi* (excavations) under St. Peter's - was there to orient us to his favorite Italian city and show us around his home away from home a little.

Of course, the trip was cut short by the on-going pandemic and we ended up leaving quite hurriedly on a day's notice, on the day before Italy announced it would put in place its country-wide lockdown.

But it was an unforgettable trip. And although we didn't end up feeling exactly like "*vicini di casa*", we did feel "*proprio a casa*".

Because Rome turned out to be both more and less than we expected.





Before we left Seattle, I had made a list of places in Rome we didn't want to miss. We got to about half of them, although we did some sightseeing every day. By the time we left Rome though, I'd put enough additions onto the list so that it more than doubled. What was I thinking? The more I saw, the more I saw there was to see!

In spite of becoming more aware every day of the vast number of marvels that Rome has to offer, every day we felt more comfortable and at home there.

We had rented an apartment on Via dei Chiavari, close to the Campo de' Fiori, which is the site of a daily open-air market. It was also just up the street from Antico Forno Roscioli, the bakery / take-out which is the original store founded by the Roscioli Family in 1824. San Andrea della Valle, where the first act of *Tosca* takes place, was two blocks away at the other end of the street. After a week there we had in our minds defined our neighborhood, irregularly configured but all within strolling distance and bounded by the Campo de' Fiori, the Chiesa Nuova, Piazza Navona, the Jewish Ghetto, the Pantheon and Il Gesù.

This is where we shopped and where we got to chat with the store and market clerks. There is where we ate out, sampling the classic renditions or subtle variations each restaurant made of *Cacio E Pepe*, *Bucatini All'Amatriciana* or *Pasta Carbonara* or the jewel of springtime Roman vegetables, *Carciofi alla Romana* or *alla Giudia*. And this is where we lived the

*dolce far niente*: *appertifs all'aperto* before dinner, mid-morning *caffè*, afternoon *gelati*, *una passeggiata dopo la cena*.

By the end of our time there it was all so natural, both everyday and magical.

We can't wait to go back.



**Roman for a Day Photos** (left to right, top to bottom): *Campo di Fiori de' Fiori*, *Making pasta for Osteria da Fortunata*, *San Andrea della Valle*, *Cacio E Pepe*, *Window at Roscioli*, *Creative pizzas at Roscioli*, *A take-out in the Testaccio market*

***Roman for a Day*** is the first in a series of stories by members telling about a town



that has special meaning to that member. It may be a place often visited or where family is from or still lives. The idea is not to write a travel log but to share with us some history, the town's location, interesting sites, characteristics of the town, what makes it unique or beautiful, etc. Do you have a town to share with us? Please send your story (or questions) with 4-6 photos to Andrea Aldrich, aaldrichj@gmail.com.

Grazie!

---

## Language Program News

By Giuseppe Tassone

The 2020-21 school year of the Italian language program of the Dante Alighieri of Washington begins on October 1st. As with every new year, we like to take the time to look into the future, but also to reflect on the past. This is our 36th year of continuous Italian language instruction in Seattle, and my 22nd year as a director. Back when I started coordinating the program, I don't think I even could have fathomed that 20-plus years later, the world would have changed to the point where we are now offering our classes online with students sitting at home and interacting with their teachers and peers via computer, phone, or tablet and with a multitude of resources available at the click of a button. What was unimaginable 20 years ago has become a reality with the presence of COVID-19. At the end of winter quarter 2020, in order to allow students to complete their quarter, we acted quickly and put all of our energy into finding a way to continue our lessons remotely without compromising on quality and student-teacher engagement.

Our mission of promoting Italian language and culture remains strong and focused, even as the world around us is rapidly evolving and adapting. Our spirit is as dedicated as it was when we first created the program, and this, along with our love of Italian language and culture, and the desire to share it with others, has helped us to develop the best online lessons we could.

Student satisfaction was high, and the students were appreciative of our efforts. Most of them continued on in the spring to complete their school year, and then enrolled in the first-ever-offered summer online review section for A1 and B1. Now, they are enrolled for fall quarter. The positive feedback received praising their experience and the convenience that some students found in meeting remotely were indicative of further growth of our program. Registration deadline for fall quarter closed with more than 90 students enrolled. It is a real joy to have multiple sections of all levels offered; sections A1, A2, B1, B2. Having students enrolled in all levels means that we have truly met the goals of a program designed for students to begin, advance and gradually become fluent in Italian language.

We are thankful for our students who have entrusted us to provide them with quality language education, and we are ready to offer them the same professionalism and commitment they have come to expect from our instructors

despite the changing circumstances. *In bocca al lupo* to our instructors and students, and best wishes for a successful quarter.

Here are some comments from our students from the spring and summer online sessions:

*The teacher is highly organized, very knowledgeable, well prepared, responsive, encouraging, and a natural teacher. I couldn't be more satisfied and am thankful for this review class and the teacher's instruction.*



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.

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington  
*Società per la diffusione della lingua e della cultura italiana nel mondo*

<https://danteseattle.org>

Mailing address:

PO Box 9494 Seattle, WA 98109

---

*Copyright © 2020 Dante Alighieri Society of Washington, All rights reserved.*