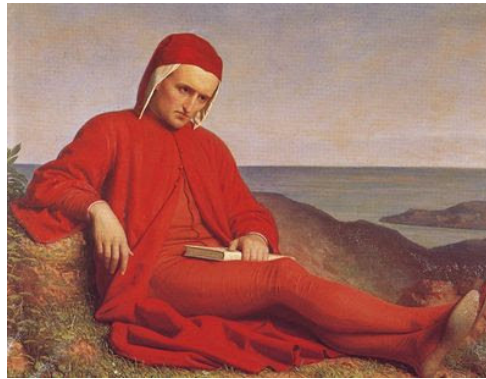

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

September 2021



President's Message

Ciao a tutti!

I hope this greeting at the start of our new season finds you well. This issue of La Voce will have many exciting updates in it as we look forward to opportunities to gather in person. Program chair Dan DeMatteis has done a great job of lining up speakers, as always, and there will be more to come as the season rolls out.

We are starting with a sort-of “soft opening,” with a members’ dinner as our first English meeting on September 8. If you are not a member of

Dante (or you are, but forgot to renew for 2021) join/renew now if you want to attend!

Beginning September 22 with the first Italian meeting, all are welcome to attend. Read on through this issue! Our new venue is St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 1501 32nd Ave S., Seattle 98144. The church is just a bit south of I-90. See photos below.

And now to the "business at hand..." – the necessary guidelines for meeting in person. Thanks for your attention to this important information.

Hope to see you all soon.

***A Presto,
Joyce***

St. Clement's





DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

2021-2022 Season

Live Meeting COVID Guidelines

COVID variants continue to plague the population, we are trying to return to offering live meetings for Dante this season. We've all been longing for a return to shared meals, and since this is foundational to Dante activities, we want to make it possible. Following the guidelines and regulations now in place by many workplaces, public venues and community groups, the Dante Board of Directors has agreed to the guidelines listed below as an acceptable plan to keep us as safe as possible when meeting in person. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by these regulations and will continue to stay current as the season evolves. If things get better, we may be able to loosen up the current plans. But meanwhile, we ask that Dante members and those from our wider mailing list cooperate with the plans as outlined below. These are also in keeping with the rules provided by St. Clements, our new residence.

1) Mandatory proof of full vaccination is required for anyone attending any live Dante Meeting. This applies to members, presenters, cooks and guests. **Please bring a photo or photocopy of your CDC issued COVID card with you when you come to any meeting.** Dante is not set up to offer secure web-site proof, where you can upload a photo, as some workplaces are able to do. Please just bring the photo on your phone or a photocopy of the card with you. We will make the check-in process as streamlined as possible, *hopefully* needing to screen your proof only once.

2) Obviously - please do not attend if you have been exposed to COVID, or are experiencing any symptoms of illness. We will make best efforts to record the presentations so that those who cannot attend in person can enjoy them afterwards. There will also be a few meetings presented on ZOOM instead of live this season, for all to enjoy

like last year.

3) Masks should be worn at all times at meetings except when seated for dining.

This roughly follows the current Washington State rules for indoor restaurant dining and is in line with St. Clements current practice. We will have the windows and doors open as possible in our downstairs dining area. Presentations will take place in the upstairs sanctuary where there is more room for seating at distanced intervals. **Presenters can unmask for their talks**, as they will be distanced from those seated.

4) Those preparing and/or bringing food to meetings: please mask and wash hands in the preparation of food to be shared. Pre-Dante-Pasta chefs will stay masked in the kitchen. **For anyone bringing antipasti or desserts: please portion for individual servings;** avoid serving common dips, spreads etc. Food (including bread, cookies, etc) will be served with utensils. Hand sanitizer will be provided and we ask that we all use it each time we return to the table.

Thank you again for your understanding and observance of these guidelines. Let's eliminate COVID contagion together!!!

DAS Programs September - December 2021

Welcome to another year of Dante meetings! We're thrilled to be able offer in person meetings again, thanks to the *Live Meeting Covid Guidelines* the Board has developed in line with the King County Safe Reopening guidelines and the current Washington State guidance.

We plan on following the usual schedule of meetings for as long as we can - with meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays on September and October as well as on the second Wednesday of November and December. Presentations given at the meeting on the second Wednesday are in English and presentations given at the meeting on the fourth Wednesday are in Italian. A social gathering featuring delicious homemade food, wine and conversation with fellow lovers of all things Italian precedes each meeting.

Here's the schedule of meetings for the rest of 2021:

September Programs

English Meeting, September 8, 2021

Members Only Welcome Back Party / *Festa di Bentornato*:

To celebrate our being able to get together again, our President, Joyce Ramee, will cook up a splendid pasta dinner for us. That promises to be quite a treat. Members are welcome as usual to bring appetizers and desserts to share as well as a bottle of wine for their table. If you do so, please follow the *Live Meeting Covid Guidelines*: **please portion shared offerings for individual servings; avoid serving common dips and spreads. All food (including bread) will be served with utensils.**



Instead of a speaker and to add to the festivities, we are very pleased that we will be joined by Renaissance lutenist (John Lenti), who will enhance our socializing with Italian music for the lute, theorbo and baroque guitar.

The Seattle Times calls the music of John Lenti “*a joy to behold.*” John is affiliated with Seattle Baroque, Portland Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Magnificat, Mercury Baroque, the Newberry Consort, the New World Symphony and Seraphic Fire, among many other musical organizations.

As usual, preregistration for the pre-Dante pasta dinner is requested to ensure that enough food is available for everyone. You can preregister only through the link included in your email invitation. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

As a special *Bentornato* treat, we'll have a glass of bubbly prosecco for all and door prizes for the lucky / *fortunati*!

Be aware that we have a new location, the Undercroft of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 1501 32nd Ave. S, Seattle 98144. The entrance is off the small parking lot for the church. You may park in the church lot and there is ample free street parking in the area as well.

The schedule for the *Festa di Bentornato* is as follows: the hall at St. Clement's is open at 6:00, dinner is at 7:00 and socializing continues until 8:30.

All members are invited to come if you feel safe to do so. *Bentornati*!

Italian Meeting, September 22, 2021
Elisabetta Valentini, Honorary Consul of Italy in Seattle

Our guest at the first Italian meeting of the 2021-2022 Program Year will be Elisabetta Valentini, recently appointed as the Honorary Consul of Italy in Seattle. She will introduce herself and speak about the services offered by the Honorary Consul and her relationship to the services offered by the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco.

The Honorary Consulate of Italy of the State of Washington- Idaho and Montana belongs to the consular network under the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco. The Honorary Consul is a volunteer who carries out limited support activities on behalf of the Consulate General.



October Programs

October 13, 2021

Nic Minotti quizzes us on Italian Automobiles

For the English meeting in October, Nic Minotti, our longtime *consigliere* and Festa Quizmaster, will lead us the latest version of his quiz - this time, Italian automobiles.

La cuoca della pasta tonight will be Joan Tupper.



October 27, 2021

Albert Sbraiga

Albert Sbraiga will return this year with another one of his entertaining and informative talks. This year it's **Before the Romans . . . the Etruscans! / Prima dei Romani . . . Gli Etruschi!**

As usual, the presentation will be in Italian



November Program

November 10, 2021

Mary Lou Sanelli

Local Italian-American author, Mary Lou Sanelli will speak about her new book, "Every Little Thing". Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

Mary Lou is a writer, public speaker and dance teacher. She is the author of six poetry collections and two collections of essays. Her staged reading from her collection *The Immigrant's Table* is an acclaimed, original spoken duet that dramatically and poetically tells a story of immigration, cultural adjustment and weaving Old and New Worlds together into a rich fabric of memoir.



December Program

December 8, 2021

Festa di Natale

For our December meeting, we planning on holding our traditional *Festa di Natale*, with good food, wine, sparkling conviviality (supplied by our members!) and a game of tombola! It's always a good way to start off the holiday season in a festive mood.



Italian Language Program News

By Giuseppe Tassone

The 37th school year of the Italian Language Program at the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington resumes on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021.

Fall quarter, since each class level runs over three quarters, is the time when students with no or little knowledge of Italian must enroll in order to start from the beginning.

Returning students enroll instead to levels A2, B1, B2 or the advanced conversational course for students who have completed level B2 in the spring. Students with proficiency above the beginning level, that didn't take classes with us, are very welcome to join our program. If you are one of them, if uncertain, please don't hesitate to contact me for guidance to be placed in the appropriate level.

The entire month of September is the time when most students complete their registration. However, we encourage everyone to register by mid-September in order to finalize our courses and assign them to our dedicated and qualified instructors. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that A1 reached full capacity already in early August and we immediately opened an additional section to accommodate other students with the desire to learn Italian at the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

There is not a better time to start or advance your learning in our Italian language program. Beginning fall quarter, teachers and students will be able to create an engaging learning environment through Canvas by Instructure, the leading learning management system used worldwide by the most prestigious institutions, with the goal of enhancing teacher-student interaction and students' learning experience both in real-time and self-paced. Canvas is a safe and robust online environment that supports both face-to-face, blended and online learning. My extensive knowledge of Canvas and expertise in making it working well for language courses, will facilitate teachers and I will work with them in synergy to provide the best possible experience to our students. Students will be able to access their course and communicate with their instructor with a simple login.

Because the 2021-22 classes will be conducted online, Zoom, the video-conferencing platform that we have been using for the past two years, is going to be integrated into Canvas. Students will be able to access all pedagogical material while connected and will participate in activities and Canvas discussions. The integration of Zoom into Canvas goes in the direction of our desire to prioritize, especially with online courses, simplicity. Canvas will be an easy-to-use **single familiar digital home base platform** with both crafted and carefully selected written and audio-visual material coherent with the CEFR's standards. Students will be able to access Canvas during class time 24/7, and it will be the place to go in the event of a missed class without feeling disrupted. There is much more to say but I think these few notes for the LP news are enough to get an idea. Enrolled students will receive specific information prior to the beginning of the courses and clear instructions upon login into Canvas.

This is exciting news on the language courses side and the same is true for our PLIDA - Italian Certification Exam that after the pause due to COVID 19 we were able to resume. The September 7th B1 session for citizenship is full and we are anxious to administer it at our new location at *Casa Italiana* where the Honorary Consul of Italy office is located. We hope that our candidates successfully pass it. Due to the high interest and several candidates on the interest list, we are considering offering another session late November with the same modality – speaking only. Visit our PLIDA website after September 7th for the updates. Go instead to the course description page for the description of our courses and to register.

Non mancate a unirvi a noi in questo nuovo cammino che abbiamo intrapreso per facilitare il vostro apprendimento e perfezionamento della lingua italiana con la garanzia della qualità che ci distingue.

Arrivederci!

What's Happening

CAI-PNW

September 8, 2021 CAI-PNW Hike - Lake Valhalla

Lake Valhalla is a gem, tucked under Lichtenberg Mountain and Mount McCausland north of Stevens Pass. The lake is a great day hike in summer or fall. Berries abound in late summer and fall colors make vivid surroundings in autumn.

Hike details: 7 miles roundtrip, 1500 elevation gain

Bring: lunch, plenty of water, bug spray

RSVP to Kendra Wanzenried by September 6th

klwanzie@gmail.com

425-218-1021



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