
La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

November 2022



My beloved gatto nero (above) and I greet you this Halloween season!

Ciao a Tutti!

The lovely darkened venue pictured is the Nave at St. Clement's – current home of Dante activities – and it seems to be the perfect picture for this sudden season change! I don't know about the rest of you, but now I find myself wanting cozy spaces, warm lighting, comfort food, vino rosso, and close friends around, so that the fall rains and winds are less daunting. As I write this, our northwest favorite, the "atmospheric river" is promised for tonight. Ah well, we couldn't have 80 degrees into November just because we had it well into October! So....

Thank you to our October speakers

First this issue, compliments to our October speakers. Domenico Minotti's Tidbits and Trivia of Italian Cuisine was much enjoyed, as was Joan Tupper's yummy Pre-Dante Pasta on October 12. Thanks to these two dedicated board members for a wonderful evening. Last night, a well-attended "antipasto e vino" hour was followed by Alessi Perfetti's talk on Early Italian-American Immigrants to Seattle. Alessi, a third-generation Italian-American and student at the University of Washington, spoke with clarity and passion about the Italians who were a primary workforce in building south Seattle in the early 20th century. It was a fascinating talk, with Alessi's interesting research connecting the early era to our present day.

As we go through this fall of live meetings, huge thanks are owed to ALL who have helped set up, clean up and pack out each time. In the absence of a dishwashing person, the many hands continue to make light work. Mille Grazie! Our next meeting is November 9, so be sure to look for details both here in La Voce, and as the reservation mailing comes out a week ahead of it.

SIFF

It's TIME FOR SIFF! November 10 – 17 is SIFF's popular Cinema Italian Style, and as always, Dante is a sponsor. See Details in this issue, and buy your passes!

Dante Board

Your Dante Board is busy behind the scenes as always. Some of the goings-on include preparing the hoped-for Directory of Dante members, drafting a survey for members about future presentations, beginning the search for possible future OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS... (if you hear that sentence resonating in your ears, please let us know)! Giuseppe Tassone reports excellent enrollment in the Language Program, which kicked off the new term in early October. The board will be gearing up for our annual Dante Christmas potluck (December 14) and we're all hoping to see many of you in November and December.

Don't forget to share your stories (Italy travelogues, great Italian recipes, stories from your childhood, etc., etc....) with Stacey for fun reading in future La Voce's. You can email her at stacey@danteseattle.org. Meanwhile, enjoy this one.

A presto e abbraccia le scure notti autunnali! (I really hope that says "embrace the dark fall nights!")

Joyce

Seattle International Film Festival



November 10–17, 2022

[Cinema Italian Style](#) features some of the best Italian films from 2022, and a retrospective classic from Antonioni. Now in its 14th year, the festival will take place November 10-17, 2022. Join us for *una settimana di straordinari film italiani* presented by Flyhomes and Seattle-Perugia Sister City Association. **Passes & tickets on sale now!**

Language Program News

By Giuseppe Tassone

Our A1-A2 classes

It was a positive new start for our program with over 100 students enrolled. Our classes resumed on October 4th with four levels offered and multiple sections of A1 and A2. Beginning students during the first two weeks of classes learned how to introduce themselves, greet others and say good-bye using the appropriate level of formality. They were able to express how they are feeling and talk about likes and dislikes. They learned the Italian alphabet, phonetics, cognates, and numbers (0-100). In addition, they learned how to describe themselves and others by age and place of origin by using the verbs “to be” and “to have” and personal pronouns. Finally, they learned how to make negative statements and indicate possession of useful things with the verb “to have”.

Our B1-B2 classes

This is just the beginning of their journey of learning the Italian language. This is the reason to structure our program with multiple quarters for a given level with the advancement to the next after a year-long period of study. We are proud of the students committed to our program that years ago started with the A1 level and they are now reviewing and expanded what they learned in levels B1 and B2 after completing level A2. Although many of the students started with our program, we welcome any students interested to join our language program and to facilitate their entry we offer a placement test in addition to consultation with the director and the sharing of the course syllabus.

La Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo

Every year our program resumes in October and during this month take place La Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo (The Week of Italian Language in the World). The initiative was launched in 2001 through the joint action of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation](#) and the [Accademia della Crusca](#), which was subsequently joined by the Swiss Confederation, where Italian is one of the country's official languages. This success story, as we can read on the Istituto di Cultura webpage, is due to the growing engagement of the Italian and Italian-speaking communities abroad, along with local cultural institutions and a host of writers, poets, artists, teachers and academics who have passionately enlivened all the past editions by taking part in hundreds of conferences, meetings, lectures, refresher courses, thus

opening a cultural and intercultural dialogue with other writers, artists, intellectuals and representatives of civil society in a large number of Countries. The XXII Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo was dedicated to the Italian language and young people: "L'italiano e i giovani. Come scusa? Non ti followo".

The title "Come scusa? Non ti followo", invented by the Italian School of Montevideo, expresses the renewal of languages through the contribution of digital natives. This renewal is linked to the idea, inherent in the title, of the difficulties of mutual understanding and communication not only between generations of young people and adults, but also, sometimes, between the same youth groups. Among the reasons for the choice, there is the antiphrastic character of the title compared to "Italian and young people", as well as the stimulating ambiguity of the verb "followare", referring both to the world of social media and to communication in a broad sense.

To celebrate the event, we created a Canvas page that each instructor shared with their students with the [promotional video of the event produced the Enciclopedia Treccani](#), a free e-book published by Accademia della Crusca, the ceremony of presentation, and links to various events such as those of the Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan from which we extracted the comic strip about Dante.

PLIDA Certification Exam

To conclude I want to remind that the next session of the PLIDA Certification Exam is scheduled for November 30th. Registration deadline is November 4th. We urge those interested not to miss it.

Arrivederci!



DA DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY
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DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA
WWW.DANTEMICHIGAN.COM

Nov 9th English meeting: Abruzzo!



At our November 9th meeting, long time Dante member and former president, Sam Ciapanna, will talk to us about the little-known region of Abruzzo. He first visited it briefly to meet relatives in 1997 as two of his grandparents were born in Abruzzo and each subsequent visit was longer. In 2019, he and his husband purchased a home in Colonnella, just due passi from where his paternal grandfather was born. Sharing his love for Abruzzo has become a passion for him with plans to retire there in less than two years.

Abruzzo, forte e gentile, is one of the mostly unknown regions of Italy and treasure to discover. It is the most northern of the southern regions, a little over an hour from Rome yet nearly inaccessible until the autostrada was extended west to east across the Apennine mountains just a few decades ago. Geographically, it consists of rugged mountains, rolling hills, and pristine beaches – nearly 50% of which is protected. Its isolation has preserved its tradition and culture, making it a fascinating place to explore. Recent legislation aimed at boosting economic development in less populated areas has made Abruzzo a great place to retire.

Come out to learn some of why this region has captured Sam's heart and taste one of Abruzzo's signature desserts – Pizza Dogge.



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

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