
La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

October 2023



President's Message



Ciao a tutti!!

The Dante 23-24 season is off and running!!

We had 48 people at the first English meeting, where we were treated to a wonderful dinner and presentation. Now this weekend, as I write this message, is Festa Italiana and our Dante booth is welcoming inquiries for both society, events, and our language program. And next Wednesday, September 27, will be our first Italian meeting of the year which will feature an accordionist with an Italian sing-along. By the time this issue of La Voce comes out our Language Prigeam will have begun a new term as well.

It truly feels like the Dante Society is back from pandemic and ready to thrive again, with new members, new energy and much fun ahead. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the in person for meetings coming up October 11, Oct 25, November 8 and December 13.

A presto!

Joyce

Info on this month's meetings

October 11, in English: Trevor Keaton: *Salt, Mold, and Time: Three Months As A Tuscan Norcino's Apprentice*



Presentation Summary

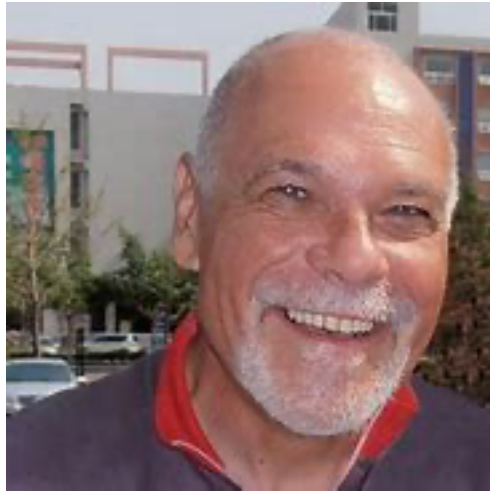
In January 2023 Trevor left his day job as a residential property manager in Seattle to live on a 1100 acre organic farm in rural Tuscany. With no professional butchery experience Trevor began his training under master norcino, Riccio Pigozzo. For the next three months Trevor studied and practiced butchering and curing culturally protected cinta senese pigs using 500 year old Tuscan methods and ingredients. *Salt, Mold, and Time* is a presentation about the history and impact of Italian salumi, the ethics of farm to table butchery, and how when nothing else makes sense, sometimes the only sane thing to do is throw your life in the air and say "aah".

Biography

Trevor Keaton Pogue is an Italian-American author, radio journalist, and community cook. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Comparative History of Ideas. His writing, photography, and audio work have appeared in *The Stranger*, *Seattle Weekly*, *Seattle Met Magazine*, *Vice*, and *KNKX*. Trevor is the founder and editor of *Meatball Americano*, an Italian-American food and lifestyle newsletter, and the former host of *Anxiety Club*, a Seattle arts and culture podcast. In addition to writing, Trevor is also a martial artist with a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, an old car collector, and a fervent focaccia baker. He is currently in the final stages of applying for dual Italian-American citizenship through his great grandfather who was born in Pietraperzia, Sicily.

Website: [Archive - Meatball Americano](#)

October 25, in Italian: Marco Zuccari: How Dante's message remains relevant



Presentation summary

In his lecture about Dante, Marco will discuss how Dante's message remains relevant to contemporary audiences. This includes exploring the impact on everyday language, the inclusion of diverse characters and subjects that defied tradition, and a dramatic and modern narrative style that delved into themes of religion, morality, and pure love.

Biography

Marco Zuccari studied in his hometown of Domodossola in the Piedmont region and later graduated in mathematics from a university in Milan. His professional career involved working in the field of information technology, mostly from an organizational perspective. Zuccari is enthusiastic, curious, and loves life and traveling. He's an avid reader and writer, having published several books and contributed to various publications. Marco pursued his passion for Dante and his works later in life, becoming an expert in the field and holding several presentations on this subjects at school and cultural events. Zuccari also treads the boards, both performing and directing.

Marco can be reached via his website: www.marcozuccari.it

Marco's events around town:

- **Oct 21 @10AM** - Meet the author event at Casa Italiana in Burien (this is already published on the Il Punto page if you want to share on your social media [Log into Facebook](#)). **Open to all.**
- **Oct 25 – Presentation at St Clements for the Dante’s Society**
- **Oct 28 - “Dante Show” Event at St Clements @6pm**, Open to all. This show will be a mix of poetry and music, complementary booklets with translations will be provided.

Language Program

by Giuseppe Tassone

Concurrent with the beginning of our 39th school year and my 25th anniversary as school director starting with the October issue of La Voce, in addition to updates on

the language program, you will find five sections dedicated to well-known cultural facts, Italian words, proverbs, idioms, and a tongue twister. I hope you will enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy sharing them with you. Don't hesitate to contact me for comments, questions and/or suggestions.

1. Cose che tutti sanno is a cultural section in simple Italian that focuses on the customs, myths and common memories that form the Italian identity. To practice Italian read it aloud with good pronunciation and try to understand more than you can by recognizing cognates for example.

2. Le parole del mese will alphabetically present two commonly-used Italian words, followed by example sentences used in everyday spoken Italian.

3. Espressioni Idiomatiche del mese focuses on two commonly used Italian idioms with a paraphrase or explanation of the origin, its English translation, and a common usage of them. Try to memorize them and use them when you come to our next event!

4. Proverbi del mese provides two popular Italian proverbs and explains their meanings. Try to think of an English equivalent while reading them.

5. Scioglilingua del mese provides a popular Italian tongue twister and its silly English translation for you to practice until the next language program news, when you will learn another one.

Before we begin, I am happy to report that we have more than 100 students enrolled, in addition to students on the waiting list for full sections. The number is above our budgeted number and in line with the previous year which proves attraction for our online Italian program and excellent retention, especially at A1-A2 levels.

The key to our success is a combination of quality, convenience, service, and price. We have brought decades of experience in face-to-face teaching and curriculum development into our online classroom conveniently accessible from the comfort of your home. When you take our classes, you are not alone in front of a screen repeating words with faceless teachers and peers. You will find yourself immersed in community and build relationships as you interact during the quarter as a student wrote to me: "I look forward to Italian A2! I also look forward to seeing "i miei cari amici della classe A1!".

We have customized all class materials available on Canvas to be more relevant to your course and update them regularly. Through our course you will not only gain conversational skills but also a solid foundation in Italian language and cultural insights from your native Italian-speaking teacher. Teaching Italian for us is a mission and a way to serve our community. We aim to keep our program affordable and we even offer discounts for students who decide to become members of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Classes start on Tuesday October 3rd.

Thank you to our new and continuing students for your trust and to our teachers for years of commitment to our program.

• COSE CHE TUTTI SANNO.

Geography, flag, anthem, history and places.

L'Italia non ha la forma di una scarpa o di una pantofola ma ha la forma di uno stivale e per questo motivo viene affettuosamente chiamata '**lo stivale**'. La Calabria è **la punta** dello Stivale mentre la Puglia è **il tacco**. La Sicilia ha la forma di un **triangolo** mentre il cosiddetto **triangolo industriale** si riferisce ad un'area particolarmente industrializzata con vertici a Torino, Milano e Genova. La Sicilia è la regione più grande d'Italia mentre la Valle d'Aosta è la più piccola. L'Umbria è conosciuta anche come **il cuore verde dell'Italia**.

La bandiera Italiana è chiamata **tricolore** avendo tre colori: il verde, il bianco e il rosso. **L'inno di Mameli**, chiamato anche **Fratelli d'Italia**, è l'inno nazionale italiano cantato tradizionalmente prima di una partita di calcio dalla squadra nazionale di calcio italiana detta anche **la Nazionale** o **gli Azzurri**. L'Italia, richiamando i versi del poeta Francesco Petrarca, la si chiama **il Bel Paese**. Per indicare l'Italia intera si dice spesso **dalle Alpi alla Sicilia**.

Il periodo storico che porta all'unificazione italiana si chiama **Risorgimento** e l'eroe nazionale di quel periodo è **Giuseppe Garibaldi** soprannominato '**l'eroe dei due mondi**'. Una frase celebre relativa all'unificazione italiana è '**Fatta l'Italia, bisogna fare gli Italiani**'. Il termine **Resistenza**, da non confondere con il Risorgimento o il Rinascimento, è legato alla liberazione dell'Italia dal fascismo a cui segue la nascita della repubblica italiana e la promulgazione della Costituzione repubblicana la quale si apre con la frase '**L'Italia è una repubblica fondata sul lavoro**'.

Roma è la capitale d'Italia ma la si chiama anche **Caput mundi, la città eterna, l'Urbe, la città dei sette colli** o semplicemente **la Capitale**. La cupola di San Pietro viene invece chiamata dai romani **il Cupolone**. Anche se i colli sono sette a Roma, quando i giornali e i giornalisti usano la parola **Colle** intendono la Presidenza della Repubblica. Dalla leggenda di Romolo e Remo deriva **la lupa** come simbolo di Roma mentre ricordando l'impero romano si dice che **tutte le strade portano a Roma**.

• PAROLE DEL MESE

Abbastanza, avv. enough, fairly (as in fairly well), pretty (as in pretty good).

“Sto abbastanza bene”; Hai mangiato abbastanza?”; “Seattle è una città abbastanza grande”; “Complimenti, hai fatto abbastanza bene all’esame”; “Non sono abbastanza preparata per sostenere l’esame PLIDA”; “Ne ho abbastanza del tuo egoismo!”.

Basta, avv. stop, enough (as in “that’s enough!”), unless.

1. “Basta! state zitti, parlate uno alla volta!”; “Basta con tutte queste scuse”; “Ora basta, sono stanca di te!”; “Ancora un po’ di vino?” “No grazie, basta così”.

2. cong. “Ti darò un altro bicchiere di vino, basta che non esageri!”.

• ESPRESSIONI IDIOMATICHE DEL MESE

Acca - non capire un'acca. Capire poco o nulla. Not to understand a thing.

Since the letter h has a limited use in Italian language the letter h assumes the same meaning as nothing.

“Ieri sera ho guardato un film italiano senza sottotitoli ma alla fine non ho capito un'acca. Ho allora deciso di seguire un corso di lingua italiana. ”

“La professoressa ha provato a spiegarmi la regola grammaticale in tutti i modi ma purtroppo non ho capito un'acca ”.

Buco – (fare) un buco nell'acqua. Fare una cosa o un tentativo inutile che non serve a niente.

To be useless, to fail. Since it is impossible to make a hole in the water, the expression conveys the idea of failing to do something.

“Oh no, la cena è già finita! Lo immaginavo che avremmo fatto un buco nell'acqua a non controllare l'orario di inizio”; “Il nostro progetto era molto ambizioso e si è rilevato un buco nell'acqua”.

• PROVERBI DEL MESE

A buon intenditore poche parole.

If you talk with someone and you know he/she is ready or smart enough to understand what is said to him/her, it is not necessary to keep going with a long speech.

Meglio soli che male accompagnati.

If the alternative is to be around negative people, then it is better to be alone, and overall, solitude can sometimes be pleasant.

• SCIOGLILINGUA DEL MESE

“Apelle, figlio d'Apollo fece una palla di pelle di pollo. Tutti i pesci vennero a galla per vedere la palla di pelle di pollo, fatta da Apelle figlio di Apollo”.

“Apelle, son of Apollo, made a ball of chicken skin. All the fish came to the surface to see the ball of chicken skin, made by Apelle, son of Apollo”.

The Italian Connection: Seattle Through the Decades

by Rita Cipalla



How Super Mario Got His Name

For nearly 40 years, he's been an international cult figure, recognizable by his bushy mustache, lively blue eyes, royal blue coveralls and a bright red hardhat with a big M on it. It's Super Mario, Nintendo's iconic hero.

Super Mario was launched as part of the wildly successful Donkey Kong arcade game in the early 1980s. But what most people don't know is that Mario was named after an Italian American businessman called Mario Segale, who was born in Seattle in 1934.

In the early 1980s, Mario Segale owned a business park in Tukwila that housed a start-up video game company called Nintendo of America. While working on the video game, employees in the Nintendo warehouse noticed the similarities between their dark-haired protagonist and their landlord, Mario Segale. Soon the Nintendo team started to call their cartoon hero Mario. The name stuck.

[Read the full story here.](#)

This story is part of a new La Voce series about Italian Americans in Seattle, reproduced with permission from l'Italo-Americano, the country's oldest Italian American newspaper. Stories are printed in both English and Italian, online and in print version.

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Other Italian Events



Tessa Floreano presents "Italians in the Pacific Northwest"

Tessa will be presenting on her book at Third Place books in Seattle on Thurs, Oct 26, 7 pm

[More info here](#)

Connect with us!

You can find past meetings on [our You Tube channel here](#).

You can find [our website here](#).



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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