
La Voce della Dante

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ciao a Tutti!

The beauty of fall has arrived in Seattle. I hope wherever this issue of La Voce finds you that you are enjoying a good season.

As many of you have heard, (thanks to VP Bruce's eloquent letter last month), I will be stepping down as President of Dante, effective the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April of 2024. It has been an honor – at times daunting, at times fun – holding this office since 2020, and now that I have served as President, I am even more deeply in awe of some of my predecessors, many of whom held this office for even longer than four terms. I have also been so blessed to have the support of so many of you, with your kind words and able hands to help, as well as the finest Board of Directors throughout these four years. Leadership of Dante is truly a team effort, and one for which I am so grateful. Other long-term Officers are also ready to step down and be replaced.

In short, the coming year will see many transitions in Dante leadership.

Since my successor has not yet been identified, I am using the President's Messages in November and December to share some thoughts about what the office has entailed. In this issue, I will outline the basic organizational/communication duties I have encountered. In December, I'll speak to the "showing up" duties.

These thoughts will of course be subjective – each past or future President

does and experiences things their own way, but maybe this will reduce some anxiety about the difficulty of holding the office of President. **It is my sincere hope that someone from our membership will step up and say, "I can do this," within the timeline of our electoral process.** The Slate of Nominees is assembled in February by our Nominating Committee so that the membership can be notified in March. The AGM, (April 10, 2024), is when the Board is elected and officers should be in place on the slate at that time. **So, y'all have a couple of months to think about this, but somebody needs to step up!**

1) Dante President's duties – with and for the Board of Directors:

- Schedule Board meetings. Usually the 1 st Wednesday of August, November, January, March and May; flexibility of date allowed if too many would be absent. Scheduling is done by email and **board meetings take place exclusively on Zoom.**

- Gather new and old business issues for each meeting; formulate the meeting agenda; distribute documents by email.

- Set up and host the Zoom Board meetings, or delegate another host from the board.

- Preside over the meeting. Most of the time, unless it is an issue brought up by the president, other Board members will do most of the presenting, so it is ok if the President doesn't know each issue thoroughly in advance.

- Receive the minutes of each meeting from the Secretary, and post (or ask that someone else to post) them to the Dante google drive.

- **Prerequisites for these duties:** Basic knowledge of Zoom – which is super-easy; we use Dante's zoom account, not anyone's personal account. Basic organizational skills, willingness to delegate, and a reliable computer to store and use documents.

2) Dante President's duties – electronic communications

- Email communication of all sorts...with Board members, Program Chairs, Treasurer, Language Program Director and members -- believe it or not, it isn't a lot of email and our junk filters are good. **All Dante Board members have an email account "@danteseattle."** You don't have to use your personal email.

- Emails and documents between our chapter and Dante HQ in Rome: Fortunately there aren't too many, and Giuseppe is on top of all of these, so the President gets a lot of help meeting deadlines and translating.

- Mailchimp notices to members and our wider mailing list – as you know,

our events, announcements and reservations/renewals are sent this way.

The president and La Voce Editor have been primarily in charge of Mailchimps since our communications have become all electronic. However, other Board members often write and send Mailchimps as needed, and other board members field responses.

- **Prerequisites/Learned Skills for these duties:** daily easy access to email; basic organizational skills; mailchimp skills, which I knew nothing of until I started using it. **Mailchimp is easy to use.**

- **Abilities I never had, that would be nice in a new President, but are NOT required:** higher Italian Language proficiency than my approximately 1st grade level. It's nice if the president can read all his/her own email, but thanks to others helping, we haven't missed much, even with me in here! Also, social media skills would probably be useful. It would be nice if the new president had some knowledge of how to get around on those platforms. But again, this is not required, as it can be handled by another volunteer.

Lastly, a list of qualities you may have feared were prerequisites for being Dante's next President, but really aren't.

- Being “an organized person.” Having organizational skills does not mean you are organized in your home, work or life! You just need to be able to look things up and get things out, even with your hair on fire, and to know how to ask (or scream) for help!
- Being retired or otherwise “having enough time” to be President. Many of our wonderful Prez’s have been retired already, but it IS a job a working person can do.
- Having much experience chairing meetings. The board meetings almost run themselves, with members in charge of the varied activities of the organization. Everyone prepares and makes reports for their areas, and everything is teamwork.
- Having strong ties to the Italian community, and/or being a knowledgeable traveler in Italy. Your Program Chairs will find presenters, and there are so many Dante members who have blood and social ties to Italy, the president doesn’t have to have these.
- “A burning desire to lead Dante.” – **Not a prerequisite!** This work just needs to be done. People take on this office with that as motivation, and with a deep love of the Dante Society. It is exciting to be on the inside of decisions and plans! We each lead with every bit of skill and passion that we can bring to the office, and then we hopefully turn the reins over, in a timely manner, to another volunteer. Our Dante chapter does not have a mandatory term limit, but officers are elected each year, so **anyone holding office for a long time is keeping someone new from the chance to lead.** Each most recent Past President stays on the board (ex officio) so the new officer has access to information and help.

Thanks for your time and interest in reading all this. Thanks also for your consideration of taking on this or any other vacant office on our Board next spring!

A presto –

Joyce

INFO ON THIS MONTH'S MEETINGS

English language meeting November 8, 2023

Speaker: Domenico Minotti, Topic: **“Notable (and Notorious) Men of Italian Descent”**

About the speaker:

In the late 1920s, Nic's parents emigrated from Sant'Angelo, Limosano, a small hilltop town in Molise. The population at that time was about 1000 but it's now 345 as Nic learned on his return visits. The family spoke their dialect at home and Nic studied Italian at Columbia University and Perugia and got lots of practice while on Fulbright study grants in Milano in the mid 60s. Nic returned to the states to his first love, medicine, at Georgetown University and came to Seattle in 1976 to work at the US Public Health Service hospital on Beacon Hill, better known as the Marine Hospital, now Pacific Medical Center, and to teach at the University of Washington. He and his father Pasquale would go to Dante meetings back then but he took a break until retirement a few years ago. Nic serves as a Consigliere for our DAS Board of Directors.

For the past several years, Nic has prepared a quiz for the Dante booth at Festa Italiana, a celebration of Italian culture, food and music at the Seattle Center each September. For this year's Festa Italiana Nic prepared a quiz on “Notable and (Notorious) Men of Italian Descent”. This is a counterbalance to the 2019 quiz on “Famous Women of Italian Descent”. The contents of this year's quiz form the basis for the presentation at the DAS English language meeting of November 8, 2023. Links to the quiz and the answer key along with the recording of the presentation will be found afterward at the Dante website <https://danteseattle.org/> under announcements.

Note: There is no Italian meeting this month.

Language Program by Giuseppe Tassone

As for the previous issue of La Voce you will find here, in addition to some updates about our language program, 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 and don't hesitate to contact me for comments, questions and/or suggestions.

Our school year began on October 3rd with all sections of Italian full and several students on the waitlist. The final count for fall quarter was 115 students in line with the previous years. The PLIDA exam scheduled for November 15th is also full while June's candidates, three of them students of our program, all passed the exam. Complimenti! In October we celebrated the XXIII Settimana della lingua Italiana nel mondo whose theme this year was “L'italiano e la sostenibilità – Italian and sustainability”. We made available to students a Canvas page with information about the Settimana and various links to events, videos and contests. In addition, we were delighted to have Trevor Pogue, enrolled in level A1, presenting at the English meeting: Salt, Mold, and Time: Three Months As A Tuscan Norcino's Apprentice about his

experience of apprentice in Tuscany on a sustainable farm. I had the pleasure to be at the presentation and I must say that it was amazing. Trevor did a fantastic job and his passion for the topic really shone through. It was fun and well crafted. Bravissimo Trevor! In November instead we will engage students in Cinema Italian Style at SIFF of whom we are a proud partner.

- **COSE CHE TUTTI SANNO. Food in daily conversation.**

Nelle conversazioni quotidiane degli Italiani i cibi vengono spesso nominati in senso figurato. Si pu pertanto sentire dire che qualcuno è come *il prezzemolo* per dire che lo si trova dappertutto oppure *un pezzo di pane* se è molto buono. Se è invece uno sciocco lo si definisce *un salame* e se poco intelligente *una rapa*. Se si incontra qualcuno di poco interesse lo si chiama *un pesce lesso* e se ha poca personalità *una scamorza*. Se noioso si dice che è *una pizza* e se poco muscoloso *una mozzarella*. Infine se qualcuno sta rigido ed è poco disinvolto si dice che sta come *un baccalà* e se commette un guaio si dice che ha fatto *una frittata*.

- **PAROLE DEL MESE**

caro, agg. *dear, expensive*.

“voglio tanto bene alla mia cara mamma”; “questo orologio è un caro ricordo di mio padre”; “oggi giorno la vita è cara”; “hai pagato caro questo vestito?”; “come stanno i tuoi cari?”

dolce, agg. s.m. *sweet*

“che dolce che sei!”; “hai proprio un viso dolce”; “quest’uva è dolce come il miele”; “a chi non piacciono i dolci?”

- **ESPRESSIONI IDIOMATICHE DEL MESE**

Canta che ti passa.

Literally, sing and it will pass. It is an invitation not to dramatize when something bad happens and to take it lightly.

“*Dai, non pensare più a quel che ti è successo, canta che ti passa!*”

Avere un diavolo per capello.

It is an expression used when someone is extremely irritated.

“*Ti consiglio di non parlare con tua madre oggi. Ha un diavolo per capello*”.

- **PROVERBI DEL MESE**

Quanto va la gatta al lardo che ci lascia lo zampino.

If someone does something risky soon or after they will pay the consequences.

Dimmi con chi vai e ti dir chi sei.

Who you surround yourself with says a lot about who you are.

- **SCIOGLILINGUA DEL MESE**

“**Sopra la panca la capra campa sotto la panca la capra crepa**” Above the bench the goat survives, under the bench the goat dies.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

The 80/20 Rule by James Hoffman

Most of us have heard about the 80/20 rule, right?

You know, it's a familiar saying which asserts that 80% of outcomes result from 20% of all causes (or efforts). Or stated another way you may spend 80% of your time to get 20% results.

Often used in business, the 80-20 rule is to identify efforts that are potentially the most productive. For instance, the efforts of 20% of a company's staff could drive 80% of the firm's profits. So, you then focus on that 20%.

Although the 80-20 rule is frequently used in business and economics, you can apply the concept to any field or endeavor.

Well, did you know that this rule is also known as the **Pareto Principle** or **Pareto Rule**? **Vilfredo Pareto** was an Italian economist and sociologist who lived from 1848-1923. According to what Pareto observed, 80% of the land in Italy was owned by 20% of the population. After surveying a number of other countries, he found the same applied abroad. For the most part, the Pareto Principle is an observation that things in life are not always distributed evenly.

Though born in Paris, Vilfredo Pareto earned a Master's degree in Engineering from what is now the Polytechnic University of Turin, and later obtained his doctor's degree (Ph.D.) at the same university. Shortly after obtaining his doctorate, he went to work as a civil engineer for the Italian Railway Company. Vilfredo Pareto worked there for a number of years after which he became more interested in economics.

In 1886, Vilfredo Pareto changed his career by becoming a lecturer on management and economics at the University of Florence in Italy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Where Italian cuisine meets poetry "Soul Food. A Bilingual Poetry Marathon"

Saturday, 18 November, 12.00 pm-1.30 pm (Pacific Time)

On Zoom - In English and Italian

[Here's the flyer](#)

Webpage: <https://www.dantesocietybc.ca/cultural-events>

RSVP: <https://www.dantesocietybc.ca/event-details/soul-food-cibo-per-lanima>



Cinema Italian Style features some of the best Italian films in recent memory. Entering its 15th year, the festival will take place November 9–16, 2023 at SIFF Cinema Uptown. Join us for *una settimana di straordinari film italiani*.

Note: All films will be presented with English subtitles.

[See Series Schedule](#)

PASSES - [Now on Sale](#)

Member Regular: \$100

Non-Member: \$125

Passes include admission to all Cinema Italian Style screenings and the Opening Night party, plus a 13" pizza courtesy of Tutta Bella. All screenings will be held in person at SIFF Cinema Uptown.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - [Now on Sale](#)

Member Tickets: \$9

Non-Member Tickets: \$14

CINEMA ITALIAN STYLE SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 9 - 6:00pm *Kidnapped* | *Opening Night Party* (following opening night screening)

Friday, November 10 - 5:00pm *Princess* | 7:30pm *La Chimera*

Saturday, November 11 - 2:00pm *Ennio* | 5:30pm *Never Too Late For Love* |
8:00pm *Thank You Guys*

Sunday, November 12 - 2:00pm *Bellissima* | 4:45pm *Bad Conscience* |
7:30pm *Fireworks*

Monday, November 13 - 6:00pm *Like Sheep Among Wolves*

Tuesday, November 14 - 6:00pm *The Properties of Metals* | 8:15pm *The Best Century of My Life*

Wednesday, November 15 - 6:00pm *Strangeness* | 8:30pm *Margins*

Thursday, November 16 - 6:30pm *A Brighter Tomorrow*

**Nov 9–16, 2023 at SIFF Cinema Uptown,
511 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109**

Il Punto members can use discount code **ILPUNTO23** for \$2 off individual screening tickets on sale starting Oct 18, or \$10 off Passes. Dante Alighieri Society members can use discount code **DANTECIS23** for \$2 off individual screening tickets on sale starting Oct 18, or \$10 off Passes. Tickets and Passes can be purchased at the [SIFF Box Office](#)

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.

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