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# La Voce della Dante

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## President's Message



Ciao a tutti, e Buona Pasqua!

This will be a message of gratitude. Our Annual Meeting (AGM) on April 10 marks the end of my term as President of Dante. So I'll offer special thank-you's here, in order to spare everyone a lengthy speech that night AND to recognize some of our most inspiring members, whose service for MANY YEARS has shaped my own.

I'll start with **Dan and Carol DeMatteis, Harry Reinert and Cecilia Paul, Bruce and Sharon Leone, and John and Melinda Steedman**. These four couples have mentored me with their individual gifts and their long history with Dante. They have served in multiple offices on the Board and/or behind the scenes supporting the Board, both before I got here and ever since. They have all been there to help with any task for any event, from the organizing phase through the tear-down. No job that I have had to undertake has been too big or too small for them to do alongside me, and many are the times I have punted jobs to them which were over my technological, linguistic, or time-challenged head. And for **Dan, Harry, John and Bruce**, this doesn't even speak to their initiatives in doing their own Board jobs! Dan gets to retire as past president now, and John retires from the secretary's office. Bruce and Harry would LOVE to retire, but have generously consented to remain in office one more year to help the new President.

Next is **Giuseppe Tassone**. I'm not sure how I would have managed in this office without him – our Language Program Director, who frequently had to read me my emails, who cut through all Italian correspondence to either DO what needed to be done or help me understand how to do it (most often, the former!). And always with a gracious attitude toward this president, who had neither heritage nor language with which to operate. Folks, we have so much more than a Language Program Director in Giuseppe. It would be impossible to accurately write his "job description" as he performs it, or with the time and heart that he puts into it.

A word of thanks must also go to **Linn Crosetto**, our faithful IT *fix-it* man behind the scenes. When I took this office in 2020, Linn was the firewall between me and defeat as I strove to manage "all things remote." He still is. In fact, when I hand over the proverbial gavel to Trevor next month, I will still need Linn to help me unravel my personal computer from its constant overlap into Dante items. Any of you who have seen my Auburn Symphony practice parts on the shared Dante Google Drive will nod yours heads to this statement.

Linn to the rescue again.....

And on to the current Board members. **Janet Lenart, Joan Tupper and Houghton Lee** will be retiring from Board membership this year. Janet and Joan have ably led as our Program Chairs this season, bringing new topics, speakers and energy to the meetings. They have compiled a nice list of potential presenters – a gift to our next Program Chair(s)! Janet has also served a few consecutive terms on the board. Houghton probably holds the record for the

number of years on the Dante Board. If I missed on this, and someone served more terms, forgive me. All I know is, Houghton was on the Board the first time I joined it years ago, and was still there when I returned in 2018. Houghton dates back long enough that he managed our PHONE TREE before the days of email, and in the current era, has managed our reservation lines, along with Harry. Houghton and Ahn continue to be faithful handson-deck whenever they are needed. **Stacey Howe-Lott** joined the board during the pandemic. Stacey stepped into Andrea Aldrich's big empty shoes, as the La Voce Editor, when Andrea's term expired in 2021. Andrea and Stacey took us from the old La Voce pdfs to the beautiful online newsletter we now share with over 500 people monthly. Stacey's board term doesn't expire for another year, thank goodness. **Nico Minotti** is another board friend who took me under his wing early in my Dante membership, encouraged my fledgling language skills by having me read his cousin's letters. Also friends through our common love of music, Nico and I have teamed up to cook for Dante, sat together at the Festa Booth, and generally had a grand old time eating gelato, drinking wine, and laughing wherever we can. I am getting to know

**Cammie Enslow, Anastasia Frantsova, James Hoffman, Judy Klayman, and Francesca Agnello** since they joined our board. Their help at meetings, messages of support and gestures of friendship have meant a great deal to me in these last couple of years.

My last thanks here goes to **Jane and Dave Cottrell**. Long-time Dante members, they were literally the first people I met 16 years ago when I stopped at the Dante booth at FESTA. I inquired about language instruction, but was drawn in by their warm welcome. Jane was the President that year. The upcoming October English meeting was a participatory class on making fresh mozzarella rolls. Of course Jane sold it well to me, and I attended. Five minutes into that meeting I was up to my elbows in hot water, squishing cheese curds. Soon after came a wine tasting meeting, where I again found myself sharing conviviality with this group of friendly strangers. Looking back now, I remember fondly Jane and Dave's hospitality, introducing me around the club and ensuring that those "strangers" became friends within my first season. The rest is history.

And now to the future: I **am so grateful to Trevor Pogue for agreeing to become your next *Presidente di Dante!*** His energy and passion for ALL THINGS ITALIAN is sure to make this an exciting time for the organization, and his warm personality will no doubt draw in new members and friends. Thanks also to **Karen Stash**, who has agreed to join our board and serve as our new **Secretary!!** We welcome Karen and Trevor onto the Dante "team."

**For next season, we will need a new Program Chair or two,** as well as people to help with set-up and tear-down of our meetings. These volunteer opportunities will be discussed next week.

SEE YOU AT THE AGM! **John and Melinda are cooking.** Bring wine and appetizers!  
Con Amore,

Joyce



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Support your Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

**Become a member!**

[Become a member:](#) Individual \$40/year Family \$60/year

Memberships support everything we do and gives you a voting voice in the organization.

**Become a donor!** [Become a donor:](#) any amount Donations help us thrive!

Bronzo – \$25

Argento – \$50an

Oro – \$75

Platino – \$100 or more

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Info on this month's meetings

**April 10 Meeting: Annual General Meeting and Dinner**

Wednesday April 10, 2024

St. Clement's Church 1501 32nd Ave. S.

Seattle WA 98144

Doors open at 6:00 for antipasti e vino

Dinner served 6:30 with meeting to follow

There is no charge for dinner at this important meeting, but [registration in advance](#) is required in order to prepare enough food! Attendees are requested to bring wine, appetizers, and/or desserts to share. Agenda items for the meeting include a review of the past season, financial and Language Program updates, survey results for future presentations, and election of the next Board of Directors. All are welcome – come enjoy the evening and deepen your involvement in the Dante Society! Current members are eligible to vote; [join or renew](#) before April 10.

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**April 24 Meeting: Decoding Italian Gestures: Understanding the Language of Hands**

Italian culture places significant emphasis on nonverbal communication, with gestures serving as an integral part of daily interactions. The presentation delves into the fascinating world of Italian gestures, exploring their significance, cultural roots, and nuanced meanings. By deciphering these nonverbal cues, we gain deeper insights into Italian communication and cultural expressions.

Alessandra Arosio, originally from Milan, Italy, pursued her passion for language by earning a master's degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures (German and English). She then transitioned into the tech industry, where she assumed diverse roles encompassing technical writing, terminology management, cultural and market adaptations, and digital marketing.

Her career progression eventually led her to relocate to the Pacific Northwest with her husband and daughter. Since 2023, Alessandra is also the president of Il Punto, an Italian cultural association that connects people and communities through a common passion for Italian arts, culture and language.

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## Language Program

by Giuseppe Tassone

Welcome back to my language program news where in addition to some updates about our language program you will find ***Un pizzico di cultura*** that contains 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.

After spring break our program resumes on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with the third and last quarter for the school year 2023-24. Since each level in our program lasts 3 quarters from October to June, students will complete their level in June, and they will be eligible to advance to the next level in the fall. Retention was excellent and all levels and sections filled up to full capacity. Several new students are placing their names on the waitlist showing attraction for our program. Those students can consider, along with everybody else, enrolling in the fall once registration opens in mid-June. Students interested to our program can contact me at any time for placement and recommendations.

### **Un pizzico di cultura**

#### **COSE CHE TUTTI SANNO. I rumori**

Aprile è il mese in cui, a parte i tanti *eccì e ecciù* causati dal polline, la primavera comincia a fiorire e stando fuori si cominciano a sentire il *cip cip* degli uccelli, il *cri cri* dei grilli o il *gra gra* delle rane nel lago. Se la tua vicina ha delle galline a parte i loro *coccodè e i piu piu* dei pulcini, la puoi sentire dire *sci sci* per allontanarle e se in vena di mangiare con appetito senti un bel *gnam gnam* o un *glu glu* se beve qualcosa. *Bum e pim, pum pam* si pu sentire in lontananza per qualche esplosione o sparo e *patapunfete e patatrac* se qualcosa o qualcuno cade o crolla pesantemente. Piacevole è il *tin tin* delle campane a vento molto meglio del *drin drin* della sveglia che ti sveglia dal dolce dormire o del *chicchirichì* di un gallo.

#### **PAROLE DEL MESE**

**piacere**, s.m. v. to please, pleasure

“Mi piacciono i mesi primaverili, in particolare mi piace il mese di maggio.”; “Ti piace il rock and roll o preferisci un’altro genere di musica?” “Come mai non hai mangiato, non ti è

piaciuto il cibo?"; "Ci piacerebbe che venissi anche tu alla festa e passare la serata insieme."; "Ho avuto il piacere di conoscere molte persone ieri sera."; "Mi fa piacere che tutto sia andato bene!"; "Scusa mi faresti un piacere?"; "Nessuno sa rinunciare ai piaceri della tavola."; "Mi accompagni a fare la spesa? Con piacere"; "Bambini, per piacere, mi passate il sale?"

**quasi**, avv. almost, hardly

"Mio fratello è alto quasi due metri."; "Ultimamente non esco quasi mai."; "Sei sempre in ritardo, ti ho aspettato per quasi un'ora."; "Hai ancora molto da fare, sono quasi le nove? No, ho quasi finito."; "Finalmente sei arrivata, quasi quasi me ne andavo.". "Chissà come finirà, è quasi la fine della partita."

#### • ESPRESSIONI IDIOMATICHE DEL MESE

**Tutto il mondo è paese.**

Certain things are the same everywhere.

Literally: The whole world is a village.

*"Dopo il mio viaggio in un posto così lontano da casa mi sono accorto che certe cose accadono dappertutto. In fondo non sbaglia chi dice che tutto il mondo è paese."*

**In quattro e quattr'otto.**

In no time.

Literally, in four and four eight.

*"Avevo una fame da lupo, avevo solo una patata e in quattro e quattr'otto mi sono fatto una bella frittata!"*

#### PROVERBI DEL MESE

**Aprile dolce dormire.** April, sweet sleeping.

**Rosso di sera bel tempo si spera.**

Red sky at night, sailor delight.

Literally: Red in the evening, one hopes good weather.

## SCIOGLILINGUA DEL MESE

“Una rara rana nera sulla rena err una sera una rara rana bianca sulla rena err un po' stanca”

A rare black frog wandered on the sand one evening, a rare white frog wandered on the sand a little tired.

**Pratica.** Now let's practice the sound *patatrac* by [listening to this happy theme song of the homonym 1980's tv show with Franco Franchi and Ciccio Ingrassia](#). How many words are you able to understand besides *patatrac*? Hint:

You can find most of the words in the article. For example ser...

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Dante has a new logo

Welcome to our new logo!



The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington, following the signing of the 2024 *Convenzione di Affiliazione* with Società Dante Alighieri in Rome, has a new logo replacing the old one as done with the PLIDA logo. The logo clearly identifies us as one of the chapters of the SDA and an integral part of Dante.global, the new online platform launched by *Società Dante Alighieri* in 2021 and now fully operating. Along with the new logo, the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington has a *minisito* integrated into the Dante.global platform at the following address: [seattle.dante.global](http://seattle.dante.global) [Check it out.](#)

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## The Seattle Opera Italian Mixer

The Dante Alighieri Society is a partial sponsor of the Italian Mixer event!



Raffle prizes will be awarded

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### Italian Dialects

by Janet Lenart

Many dialects are spoken in Italy. Below are resources that may answer questions you have related to dialects in Italy.

[Can you tell when it's a regional language and when it's Italian with a regional accent?](#) (12 minute video in Italian). The last half of the video shows examples of accents versus dialects.

[The Secret World of Italian Dialects](#) (13 minute video) reveals dialects from all areas of Italy.

[AlpiLink: Alpine Languages in Contact](#) is described as a project that gathers "relevant information about the Germanic and Romance dialects and minority languages and dialects spoken across the Alpine regions of Italy." Open the map to hear a phrase spoken by people of various mountain locations.

[Languages of Italy](#) traces the history of languages and dialects in Italy and categorizes them as "vulnerable, definitely endangered or severely endangered".

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**Connect with us!**

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

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

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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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