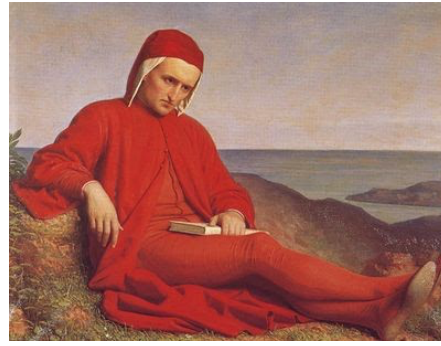

La Voce della Dante

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May 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a cloudy morning in Seattle but already I feel the flowers of May upon us.

This week I had the pleasure of setting up my first Italian-language meeting as Dante's new president. The topic was Italian hand gestures. In typical theatrical Italian fashion, what was scheduled as singular testimony from the everlycharasmatic, Alessandra Arosio, soon evolved into a voluminous discussion between her and a native-born Neapolitan man in the audience, complete with (yes, you guessed it) even more hand gestures. Though surprising it added zest to an already great presentation. I think it's fair to say that much like the dialects of Italy, hand gestures too differ from place to place.

This wouldn't be a very good inaugural newsletter message if I didn't take a moment to remind everyone that our May meeting is coming up on the 8th. It will be the last one before our scheduled summer break. Be sure to keep an eye out for the invitation in your inbox and get your reservation in early so we can be sure to make enough food. Community cheffing that evening will be Anastasia Frantsova (who also handles our social media). There's also rumor that SIFF has four Italian language movies playing in May! Keep an eye out for those and other opportunities gather and celebrate the art of living.

Do Well and Be Good,

Trevor K. Pogue

MAY DANTE ENGLISH MEETING

May 8th: Undiscovered Rome! by Don De Santis

A walking tour of Rome discussing churches, history, art and architecture. Many of the places discussed are not well known or famous but are not crowded and have interesting stories and histories to tell.

Don De Santis

After a long career in the business world, Don has taken up two new "careers" speaking on cruise ships and working on a Masters degree in History. From 2014 - 2020 he was a speaker for the Rick Steves Travel Center giving a presentation called "Rome Beyond the Basics". From 2018 - 2024 he was a speaker on cruise ships for Azamara Cruises, Cunard, Norwegian Cruises, Viking Cruises. Regions covered include the Mediterranean, Pacific Coast and Alaska. And for several years he was a regular guest with Dave Ross on KIRO news radio. Don also spent five years as a Professor in the Business School Four years at St. Martins and one year at Seattle University.

Location

In-person programs are held on Wednesday evenings at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 1501 32nd Avenue South, Seattle, 98144, in the Mount Baker neighborhood, unless otherwise noted. Doors open 6:00, with presentations at 7:30.

Language Program

by Giuseppe Tassone

Welcome back to my language program news and **Un pizzico di cultura**, the five sections of my news dedicated to well-known cultural facts, Italian words, proverbs, idioms, and a tongue twister. Since this is the last issue of La Voce before the summer break, I hope you've enjoyed reading them as much as I enjoyed sharing them with you.

We are now in the middle of spring quarter, the last quarter for the school year 2023-24. Last day of class is scheduled for June 6th. After summer break students will resume classes early October by advancing to the next level of Italian while absolute beginners have the opportunity to join our program for the first time and begin with us their journey learning Italian. We aim to start registration mid-June therefore consult our website during that period and before registering go over our FAQ as a useful way to familiarize with our program. Students who wish to join our program after taking Italian elsewhere can contact me for placement and recommendations. Learning Italian in our program means not only gaining the necessary skills but also building relationships and

community. We are looking forward to the Italian Mixer at Seattle Opera preceding the performance of Il Barbiere di Siviglia on May 10th as an opportunity for students, teachers and school director to get together. We are also participating in the raffle by offering a language class registration discount to the lucky winner. Arrivederci all'Opera!

Un pizzico di cultura

• COSE CHE TUTTI SANNO. I colmi (Puns)

Si sa che il sorridere è salutare e quando si è in compagnia c'è sempre l'amico o l'amica esperto o esperta nell'arte di raccontare barzellette e "colmi", che altro non sono che indovinelli la cui risposta supera ogni aspettativa e credibilità e perciò rappresentato il colmo vale a dire il punto più alto, estremo di una cosa. La soluzione sta nel capire il gioco di parole o frasi fondate sul significato delle stesse. Così se sentite qualcuno chiedervi *qual è il colmo per una monaca* rispondereste con *bersi un cappuccino* mentre rispondereste *bere un latte macchiato* per *il colmo di un'impresa di pulizie*. Spesso "i colmi" sono usati come giochi didattici nelle scuole elementari per stimolare la creatività e fantasia dei bambini e se una bambina chiede ad un'altra *qual è il colmo per un canguro*, la bambina risponderrebbe con *saltare i pasti*. A chi piace la geometria si potrebbe chiedere: *Qual è il colmo per un cerchio?* Facile! *Il colmo per un cerchio è voler mostrare il lato migliore*. I nomi di persona ricorrono anche nei colmi, *così il colmo per una tartaruga è chiamarsi Valentina, il colmo per una disoccupata è chiamarsi Assunta e il colmo per un commercialista è scaricare (l') Iva*. Non mancano poi le professioni come *l'idraulico che ha un figlio che non capisce un tubo, l'orologiaio che ha le figlie sveglie, l'elettricista che non sopporta le prese in giro* oppure il colmo per *i vigili urbani di avere problemi di circolazione*. Naturalmente Dante Alighieri non poteva mancare anche nell'universo dei colmi così *il colmo per la mamma di Dante è dire al piccolo Dante "Smettila di fare quei versi!"*.

Adesso tocca a voi con un "colmo" facile facile. Qual è il colmo per un professore o una professoressa?

• PAROLE DEL MESE

roba, s.f. stuff

"Non toccare, è roba mia!"; "Che cos'hai nella borsa, roba da mangiare?"; "Alla fine Marco ha deciso di prendersi la sua roba e andare via"; "Siamo riusciti a raccogliere tanta roba da dare a chi ne ha bisogno"; fig. "Non ci posso credere, roba da matti!"; "Non si trattano così le persone, bella roba!"; "Hai saputo dell'ultimo scandalo? Che roba!"

salute, s.f. health

"Camminare un po' al giorno fa bene alla salute"; "Mia nonna ha quasi novant'anni ma ha un'ottima salute, una salute di ferro!"; "Non ti preoccupare, pensa alla salute!" "Beviamo alla tua salute!"; "Alla salute!"; "Salute!"; "Quando c'è la salute, c'è tutto".

• ESPRESSIONI IDIOMATICHE DEL MESE

Avere le mani bucate.

To be a spendthrift.

Literally: To have holes in one's hand.

"Lo stipendio non è poi male, peccato che Cristina ha le mani bucate e rimane sempre senza un soldo."

Spendere e spandere.

To spend extravagantly.

Literally: To spend and spread.

"E' difficile risparmiare quando si vive con qualcuno che spende e spande!"

• PROVERBI DEL MESE

L'appetito vien mangiando.

Literally: Appetite comes with eating.

It means, besides its literal meaning, that sometimes the more we have the more we want but also that once we start something we can become passionate about it.

Chi ha salute e libertà è ricco e non lo sa.

Literally: Who has health and freedom, is rich and doesn't know it.

• SCIOGLILINGUA DEL MESE

Imperator con impeto imperando si vide empire d'empi l'ampio impero

Lit. The Emperor ruling with impetus saw his vast empire filled with impious people.

Pratica. Now let's practice the expression spendi e spandi by [listening to Spendi, Spandi Effendi by the beloved Italian singer-songwriter Rino Gaetano](#): Pensate che il tema della canzone sia sempre attuale?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

January 1, 2023 - March 13, 2024

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Time and Talent

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Thank You all for your generosity to Dante!!

CARPOOLING

by Jane Cottrell

If you would like to carpool to Dante meetings, either as a driver or as a passenger, please contact me at tsjo1531@yahoo.com or 425-499-6346. I would sincerely love to be the point person for organizing this way to attend future Dante meetings.

Carpooling is a great way to expand your circle of Dante friends. It's a conversation enhancer. Think about the people who live in your approximate area. I may be able to help you find "wheels." Give me a call or email. Sharing a ride takes cars off the road and the Earth, especially Seattle, needs that.

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

<https://danteseattle.org>

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