

# La Voce della Dante

## January, 2026

### FLYING INTO JANUARY



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all for a Happy New Year! I am honored to serve as your President until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April. I am looking forward to working with Board members and to meeting all of you at our English and Italian meetings this winter and early spring. We have some great speakers joining us from far and near in the next few months!

I am going back to my childhood in Rome for this message (I was born and lived there until I was 10). The biggest Christmas market in Rome is in Piazza Navona. One of my favorite childhood activities was to go to this market with friends and family. When I was a child, shepherds came from Abruzzo to play Christmas carols for the crowds in attendance on Zamboni, Italian bagpipes. I searched the internet recently to see whether they were still coming to Piazza Navona. I didn't find any current pictures or videos showing any shepherds or Zamboni players there in recent years. But I did find photos of La Befana. La Befana is a good-hearted witch who flies on a broom to bring good children candy on January 6th. That is the date the Three Wise Men reputedly arrived bearing gifts for the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Nowadays, with the aid of the Rome Fire Department, she is arriving with

candy for kids in Piazza Navona! You can see her in flight at the picture above. She lands on the ground in Piazza Navona. I love the photo below showing it all lit up for Christmas. This is a recent photo, showing the booths and merry-go-round. Apparently some of the food vendors have not returned post-covid, for you can see there is room for more booths in the photo. But more tourists are expected to visit Rome this winter, so perhaps we will see more activities in the photos taken from this year's market!

—Judy Klayman, President



## **Dante Alighieri Society of Washington Governance Update January 2026**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, two officers of the Dante Board of Directors resigned on November 21, 2025: Alessandra Hankinson, President, and Austin Jodrey, Treasurer. The remaining Board members met on zoom on November 24, 2025, to make the necessary adjustments in order to have officers in place. All remaining board members attended this meeting except one Counselor, so a quorum was present.

By unanimous vote, Judy Klayman moved from Vice President to President; Joyce Ramée became Vice President, and Harry Reinert returned to his former office of Treasurer. Karen Stash, Secretary, continues in her current office. These people will serve as officers until the AGM in April 2026.

Also present at the zoom was long-time Dante member and former officer, Bruce Leone. Bruce kindly volunteered to resume board membership as a counselor for the remainder of this season; the board's acceptance was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. On December 1, counselor Sean Riley notified the Board of his resignation.

Counselors on the Board for the remainder of this season are Domenico Minotti, John Steedman and Bruce Leone. Giuseppe Tassone, our Language Program Director, continues as an ex officio Board Member.

**The time, effort and accomplishments that Alessandra, Austin and Sean have contributed to Dante this year are acknowledged with gratitude, and we wish them all the best!**

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### **LIVE MEETINGS THIS WINTER!!**

**Now that we are in our beautiful facility at Greenwood Center, we are trying a return to in-person gatherings instead of online meetings in January and February. Plan to attend and stay connected to your Dante friends.**

# January 14, 2026 English Meeting ALL ABOUT TRUFFLES!



**Greg Wetzel** talks about all things to do with the Alba White Truffle. The essence of the talk is taken from a volume entitled "The Truffle Sensory Code" published by "Narratori del gusto." The talk will cover a description of what a truffle is, what the sensory effects of truffles are and will include the evaluation criteria to inform your decision about buying a particular truffle, and how truffles grow (climate, soil, species).

The delightful Pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding Greg's talk will be created by Dante volunteers Dom and Louise Sportelli. Don't miss this fun evening! Please make a reservation by Monday, January 12 so our chefs can prepare enough food.

Greenwood Senior Center

525 N. 85<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle WA 98103

[Pre-Dante Pasta Dinner by reservation](#)

Please bring antipasti and desserts to share

Dinner is \$10/person payable onsite

Doors open 6:00; Presentation 7:30

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## January 28, 2026 Italian Meeting The Italian Diaspora, part 2

**Domenico Minotti** presents the Italian Diaspora: the Emigration of Italians during the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is Part 2 of Nico's talk from last season, and will give special regard to families of Dante members who came to Washington State. Nico's talk will be given in Italian and English. Our Italian meetings are potluck antipasti and desserts only. Please plan to attend and bring food to share! No reservations needed, but volunteers to help clean up at the end are always appreciated!



Nico Minotti on a recent adventure!

Per l'incontro del 28 gennaio Domenico (Nico) Minotti presenterà "La Diaspora Italiana", Parte 2, l'emigrazione degli italiani durante il XIX e XX secolo. Parte 2 si tratta delle famiglie dei membri di Dante stabilite nello Stato di Washington. Il discorso si farà in italiano e inglese. Non è necessario prenotare per l'incontro e abbiamo molti vini forniti da un membro, ma vi preghiamo di portare antipasti e dolci da condividere. Per favore, dopo la reunion, rimanete per aiutare a pulire e rimettere la sala in ordine. Mille grazie.

Greenwood Senior Center

525 N. 85<sup>th</sup> St  
Seattle WA 98103  
please bring antipasti and desserts to share  
Doors open 6:00; Presentation 7:30

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DANTE's **FESTA di NATALE CELEBRATION** was a great success on December 13. Thanks to the many volunteers and to all who attended and shared delicious culinary creations! The Casey MacGill Trio was enjoyed by all, and BRUCE LEONE was a noble caller of the Tombola game.

Thanks to one very generous donor, we have plenty of vino left over to share at the January English and Italian meetings.



### **SHOUT-OUTS TO OUR TOMBOLA GAME PRIZE DONORS:**

Prizes for the game were procured by Alessandra Hankinson.

#### **Café Lago**

2305 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue E Seattle WA 98112  
206-329-8005 [www.cafelago.com](http://www.cafelago.com)

#### **Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria**

Several locations – check the web!  
[www.tuttabella.com](http://www.tuttabella.com)

#### **Due' Cucina Restaurants**

Several locations – check the web!  
<http://www.duecucina.com/>

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### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THIS SEASON!**

For our upcoming meetings in February, March, April and May, we need one or two volunteers to assist with AV set-up for our presenters. This consists of a little email communication in advance, plus arriving a little early for the meeting and being sure the computer/microphone, etc., is working for the presentation.

**As these meetings are announced in the next few months, please consider helping with this task if you plan to attend!**

We also need one more volunteer to form a cooking team for the May meeting's Pre-Dante Pasta dinner. Commitment for cooking on a team involves coordinating your menu and shopping, preparing the meal and being reimbursed. This is a great way to make new friends and channel your culinary talents for an appreciative audience. If you want to try it, contact Joyce Ramee [joyce@danteseattle.org](mailto:joyce@danteseattle.org)

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## Language Program News

### By Giuseppe Tassone

SIGN UP NOW  
[www.danteseattle.org](http://www.danteseattle.org)

**DAN** Società  
Dante Alighieri  
**IFC** Seattle

Dante Alighieri Society of  
Washington - Seattle, WA USA

From Level A1 to C1-2  
Tue & Th - 7:00-8:30 p.m. (PT)  
10 weeks per quarter  
From October to June

Made in Italy - Italian for Business  
Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 p.m. (PT)  
10 weeks course  
Offered quarterly

STUDY AND LEARN  
ITALIAN, NO MATTER  
WHERE YOU ARE. YOUR  
ITALIAN CLASSES ARE  
ONLINE.

**IMPARI AMO  
L'ITALIANO**

Conversation & Grammar  
Vocabulary & Pronunciation  
Cultural immersion  
Skills development for PLIDA  
Exam

Zoom & Canvas Platform  
Native Speakers Instructors  
Evening classes open to all  
Beginner-friendly

Contact us: [\(206\) 289-0419](mailto:school@danteseattle.org)

I am writing this language news from Rome and from here I am sending a happy new year to all.

The Italian language program will resume on **January 8th** after the winter break with all levels of Italian offered. Thank you to the excellent retention and a few students joining our program in four beginning A1 Italian courses. We should complete registration with over 150 students enrolled and all instructors employed. Winter quarter is the continuation of fall and then in the spring students will complete their respective level of Italian before advancing to their next level in the fall of 2026.

In the fall we launched a mid-quarter survey and an end of the quarter evaluation form and in both occasions, in addition to constructive comments, students praised their experience with our program, teachers and structure. The online structure continues to be best suitable to our students and they rated their experience with Canvas, our online platform where all learning material resides, in terms of content as satisfied and very satisfied. We like to hear from our students to further improving our students experience and continuing providing a quality program affordable and open to all.

**quarter and they can contact me for placement and guidance.** Students who are absolute beginners, however, should start at the beginning of the school year in the fall. We update our language program calendar quarterly. Bookmark our webpage for quick access and to enroll — and do not hesitate to contact me for any questions.

In addition to our language courses check our newest course: *Made in Italy - Italian for Business*. Find our class offerings here: <https://danteseattle.org/italian-language-classes/> Buon Anno 2026 a tutti!

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## WINTER COMFORT FOOD RECIPE!!

courtesy of Sam Ciapanna

### Ceci & Lagane\*:

This is a Calabrian dish. "LAH gah-neh."

2 cans ceci (chick peas), drained and rinsed

1 TB olive oil

1 onion coarsely chopped

1 stalk celery, coarsely chopped

1 cloves garlic, crushed

1 can diced tomatoes

4 cups chicken stock

2 TB parsley, chopped

1 bay leaf

1 crushed diavolino pepper or red pepper flakes to taste.

Salt and pepper

Lagane Noodles\* (2 cups flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water, salt) or 8 oz pasta\*

Saute onions and celery until translucent. Add garlic and red pepper and cook for a minute or two more. Add all other ingredients except the pasta. Simmer for 10 minutes. Cook pasta until done, then add to soup, mixing thoroughly. Remove bay leaf and serve hot with grated pecorino cheese.

\* Lagane noodles are made without eggs. After combining all the ingredients to make a dough, you knead it until it relaxes, then roll it out with a rolling pin and cut into rustic strips.

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**JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!**

**RENEW OR JOIN [HERE](#)**

\$40. individual; \$60 family for 1 year

your membership dues support all Dante activities, so please [renew](#) now!