
La Voce della Dante

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President's Message

Ciao a Tutti!

Buds and even some early blooms on the crocus and the narcissus! Tree branches budding! Blue sky and cats napping in pools of sunshine; daylight hours that are noticeably longer—can it be the approach of SPRING? (Ok, so it was 24 degrees on the porch just a week ago... but we're SO OVER THAT.)

Seriously, good wishes, and vaccinations, to all at the first of March. As always, Andrea has this issue of La Voce packed with stories, activities and upcoming events – including the March English and Italian Meetings, spring and summer (covid-era friendly!) activities with CAI, and more! By the way, **the Zoom links for our English and Italian meetings are always on the Dante web site on the night the meetings occur**, so if your email has been

unkind and you can't find the Zoom Link – you can find it at the web site and get right in.

So before I leave you to read the rest of this issue, here's the latest news flashes from your Board.

We have newly approved governance documents! Thanks to Harry's magnificent efforts to be sure everyone had access to vote, the new Constitution and Bylaws of the Dante Alighieri Society of Seattle have been approved by the membership. The Constitution received 36 votes FOR, 0 votes against. The Bylaws received 31 votes FOR, 0 votes against. Discrepancy in the number voting may be due to a few overlooking the need to vote for each document.... But no matter, they passed. Special thanks again to Nico Minotti, Pat Hoffman, Jane and Dave Cottrell and of course to Harry for getting this process done well.

We have volunteers for our Finance Committee! Two individuals have volunteered to serve. We'll officially name them as the Finance Committee, along with the Treasurer, at the annual meeting on April 14.

THANK YOU—you know who you are.

The Annual Meeting is coming – April 14 on Zoom We will do our usual housekeeping things at this meeting, bringing you reports, future plans, and voting in the slate of board and officers. **Only current members are eligible to vote that night, so renew your membership NOW if you haven't yet!**

<https://wp.me/PacvBR-Cj>

It's time to think about Board membership. The nominating committee, (Jane and Dave Cottrell), is getting ready to start asking and there are spots for new Board members. Our bylaws describe the duties of Board members and officers, but essentially, what's involved is **attendance at 4 regular meetings per year**, (these meetings will continue to be held, or at least be accessible for attendance, online - even after venues reopen), **consultations about open issues between meetings**, (most of this is easily done by email) **discussion and decision-making on behalf of the Society**, and **helping to DO THINGS. It's actually fun!** We could definitely use new and younger Dante members on our board, in the interests of future sustainability. If you have a desire to help with the workings of this wonderful Dante community, email me your interest! joyce@danteseattle.org

Until next time, I hope to see you in our Zoomerie soon.

A presto,

Joyce



2021–AnnoDantesco

Some Online Events to Enjoy

by Dan DeMatteis

2021 is being celebrated as *Anno Dantesco* by the Italians throughout Italy. It marks the 700th anniversary of the death of their national poet, Dante Alighieri, in 1321. Museums in Italy have planned special exhibits. Schoolteachers are encouraged to highlight Dante in their lessons. New art, videos, musical events and dramatic readings from Dante's works, especially from his monumental *La Divina Commedia*, are planned all over Italy as part of what's called DanteMania.

The excitement started unofficially back in 2015, the year which marked the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante in 1265. It received official status when in 2020 the Italian Parliament proclaimed March 25, the day in 1300 when Dante began his journey to the underworld in Canto I, as Dantedì. When COVID threw a monkey-wrench into plans for the first Dantedì on March 25, 2020 and Italy was under a severe lockdown, everyone in Italy was invited to read the beginning of the *Divine Comedy* from their windows at 6 P.M. on March 25 instead. An invitation which reportedly the Italians took up with their usual enthusiasm for public celebrations.

Florence, where Dante was born and grew up, and Ravenna, where he

died in exile, have organized multiple events, most virtual but with a few live performances and exhibits.

Florence has over 100 *Anno Dantesco* events planned, according to the Italian press. The most concrete and perhaps lasting of these is a new Museo della Lingua Italiana (<https://youtu.be/SahNguDYWuc>) with construction to begin in 2021 and completion scheduled for 2023. There are art exhibits to be held in the Uffizi, the Bargello, the Opera di Santa Croce and the Museo Galileo. The Casa di Dante, on the site in Florence where Dante lived growing up, has launched a virtual tour for its contribution: [Tour virtuale del museo - Casa di Dante, Firenze](#)

Perhaps the most original and public event is found in Ravenna. During the Christmas season 2020 and continuing through 2021, the city has put up in lights in the *centro storico* on six of its streets fifteen quotations from Dante's *Commedia*. As the official Ravenna tourism website says, "this project outlines a bright path through the porticoes and buildings of the city: it is a real homage to the Father of the Italian language and - at the same time - it wants to be a message of hope, wishing that soon we will "see once more the stars" (*Inferno* XXXIV, 139)." [La Luce delle Parole \(vista.it\)](#)

Our headquarter organization in Rome, *Società Dante Alighieri (SDA)*, is sponsoring many *Anno Dantesco* events and projects as well. One of the most intriguing is a series of one hundred 12 minute films, one for each canto of the *Commedia*. The collection is part of a larger project called *In Viaggio con Dante*. You can see a couple of examples on their website at [Montagna Infinita \(dantemania.it\)](#)

Another original SDA project is a short film available on YouTube called "*L'Italia di Dante - Viaggio nel Paese della 'Commedia'*". In the video Prof. Giulio Ferroni, who narrates the film, visits some of the places visited by the Dante or mentioned in the *Commedia*. You can view the film from its webpage on the SDA website: [L'Italia di Dante - ladante.it](#)

I hope you enjoy exploring some of these *Anno Dantesco* events available on the internet. And I hope you'll be there for both of Dante Seattle's March meetings, on March 10 and 24, to enjoy our own Dante celebrations.

Eviva Dante!



Photos for Anno Dantesco, top to bottom

1. The oldest known picture of Dante dated around 1366, now in the Bargello. Dante is the figure in red.
2. The luce della parole on the Via Diaz in Ravenna, a quote from *Inferno XXVI*, 119 when Ulysses urges his men not to give in to the temptations of the sorceress, Circe, because men "were not made to live like brute animals."
3. The logo for La Società Dante Alighieri's Dante project: 100 short videos for the 100 canti of *La Commedia*.



March Programs

Our meetings in March will focus on celebrating what the Italian government has declared as National Dante Day (Dantedì) officially March 25, 2021. The new holiday is in anticipation of the 700th anniversary of the poet's death, which occurred in September 1321 in Ravenna.

March 10, 2021 English Meeting

On the occasion of the Dantedì and the 700 anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, the students of the Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington, coordinated by their instructors and the Language Program director will present and showcase Dante and some of his work. Representatives of each level will share readings and other school projects. Italian and English will be used in the delivery of this presentation.

Join us to celebrate Dante and the students' accomplishments.



March 24, 2021 Italian Meeting

The Italian meeting will include a showing of the 1911 silent Italian film, *L'Inferno*. This hour-long film, which took three years to make, was the first full-length Italian feature film.



Italian Language Program News

By Giuseppe Tassone

Our language program is now approaching the end of winter quarter and our students are completing their second quarter of level A1, A2, B1 and B2. Students in the beginning level A1 began in the fall by studying the Italian alphabet, phonetics, cognates and numbers. At the end of the quarter, they accomplished the goal of being able to introduce themselves, greet others, using the appropriate level of formality, express how they are feeling and describe themselves and other by age and origins. They learned how to give personal information, talk about likes and dislikes and leisure time. In their second quarter they learned how to order a snack at a restaurant, make plans for specific days of the week and times of a day, express preferences and talk about where they and others are going. They also learned in more detail how to describe people, places and things. The last goal for winter quarter is to describe past action and events and then, after spring break, attend another 30 hours of Italian to complete their first level.

If students in level A1 began with no knowledge of Italian, students in level A2 were mostly continuing students from the school year 2019-20 and at the end of spring quarter will reach a proficiency in Italian that allows them to begin the low-intermediate level B1 in the fall of 2021. Independently, from the level that they attend, in addition to a solid grammar foundation and reinforcement in level B1 and B2, we strive to build useful communication skills in our students.

We are proud of their commitment and accomplishments and we are very excited for the upcoming English meeting where students from all levels will present a class project related to Dante Alighieri on the occasion of the Dante 2021 and the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri. We are now in the process of refining their projects in coordination with their instructors Laura Ciroi, Nicla Rivero, Francesca Giambartolomei, Damiano Pinton, Paola Alberti and Roberta Punzi. We will be ready to present them to members and the general public on Wednesday, March 10th at 7:30.

To conclude just a reminder that registration deadline for spring quarter is scheduled for March 20th and the first day of class is March 30th. As with the previous quarters, classes will be conducted online. Visit our website for more information and to register.

What's Happening

CAI-PNW

We at CAI-PNW hope you are well and have avoided COVID. We will resume sponsoring hikes in March and would like to invite you to join us on any of our local hikes. See the link below for a schedule of our activities for 2021. Note the following:

Hikes and other activities: We will begin sponsoring hikes in accordance with WA State Requirements for outdoor activities which include groups of 12 or fewer participants, carpooling only for household members, and wearing a mask and social distancing when near others. Because trails are busy on the weekends, for the current time, we will have hikes on Wednesdays. When COVID allows, our group requirements will be adjusted to follow Washington State guidelines. www.cai-pnw.org



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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