

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

October 2006

October English Speaker Nina Ferrari LaSalle

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., Headquarters House,
2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Our October 11 speaker will be Nina Ferrari LaSalle, one of our members who is going to talk about Lapis, Cinnabar, and Gold the colors of the medieval Italian palette; organic and inorganic colors and dyes that were used for clothing and book illuminations and frescoes, and panel paintings up to the 15th century in Italy. Nina was born and raised in Seattle and has a BFA and an MFA. Her art work has been shown in Los Angeles, New York, London, and Seattle. Currently she is exploring the use of natural color pigments in her drawings and also learning about video as an art medium.

Please remember to call ahead to reserve a place for the Pre-Dante pasta.

October Italian Meeting Dr Albert Sbragia Italian Cinema

Wednesday, October 25th,
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle



Dr Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor of Italian Studies, director of the Cinema Studies program in the Department of Comparative Literature, and a faculty member of the European Studies program, will present some film clips from significant Italian films and discuss them with us in Italian. We will also enjoy antipasti before the meeting.

From Caterina:

Hi Everyone! I received a call from our landlord, Sandy Isenburg of the Beacon Hill Garden Club, this morning.

She wants to inform us that they are now installing a handicap ramp at our Headquarters House!

They applied for a waiver to have this take place despite that this is a historic site. Someone from their Garden Club donated part of their inheritance, to improve the site. They are taking this opportunity to build a covered stage area for weddings outside in addition, they are installing new accessible bathrooms! She hopes that construction will be completed by the end of October or sooner.

In appreciation, we all signed a thank you card for her at the last meeting.



Upcoming Events

October English Program

Nina Ferrari LaSalle

Wednesday, October 11th

7:30 - 9:00 pm

(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)

Headquarters House

See page 1

October Italian Program

Dr Albert Sbragia

Wednesday, October 25th

7:30—9:00 pm

Headquarters House

See page 1

November English Program

Bev Paladini Riter

Wednesday, November 8th

7:30—9:00 pm

(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)

Headquarters House

See page 4

December English Program

Andrea Schmel

Wednesday, December 13th

7:30—9:00 pm

(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)

Headquarters House

Natale Festa per Bambini

Saturday, December 9th

2:00—5:30 pm

Headquarters House

Board Meeting

Monday, October 23rd

7:00-8:30pm

Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave



From the President's Desk

Hello and welcome to our new year! I'm pleased to be your President for this year and am enjoying the opportunity to get to know more of my fellow Dante members. Some of you may be asking how I got to be the President since you remember electing me to be Vice-President. Well, the short answer is, I volunteered when the office became vacant during the summer. I've not been a really active member (until now) and for years I have been one of those people served by other members willing to volunteer. Although I know being President is a whole different level of commitment, I also know that if I value what Dante does for me and if I want to continue looking forward to, and enjoying my La Voce, pre-Dante Pasta and all the other things Dante offers, I need to do something to ensure those things continue. I still dream of finding some Italian relatives, but until I do, I'm going to enjoy the opportunity to spend time with people who have interesting lives, a rich heritage, and who speak a beautiful language.

The Board is focusing on renewal and growth for Dante this year and we are devoting our time and energy to attracting new members, and better engaging you, our current members. But, we cannot do this alone. While we are fortunate to have a core group of volunteers who are doing so much to keep Dante going, we really need each and every one of you to contribute in some way to this organization. When you do, I think you'll find, as I have, that the meetings are more fun and the events more meaningful since you've had a hand in making them happen.

We all benefit today from the art, architecture, literature and learning that was created and nurtured during the Italian Renaissance and the beauty and importance of this cannot be understated. Dante now needs its own Renaissance. We need creativity and energy. We need art and writing for our newsletter, La Voce. We need culinary talent in the kitchen for our pre-Dante pasta dinners. We need people to help at events and we need those of you who enjoy being a part of Dante to tell your friends and family and help us build our membership so we can be vital together.

Many of us were energized by our first dinner meeting. We had a great turnout and a very enjoyable presentation. It is just the beginning of what I expect to be a great year for Dante. I look forward to celebrating Dante as a vibrant, healthy organization when we bring this year to a close next May.

A presto,

Donna Lipsky



La Voce Submissions

We welcome your letters, comments, and proposed articles. Articles may be submitted for consideration by sending a hard copy or disk to the PMB or as an attachment through email in Word or Publisher format to DanteEditor@gmail.com. The deadline for the November issue is October 15th. Please call the activity line with questions regarding submissions.

There is always a need for help with *La Voce*. In addition to articles, we need people to help research, type, edit, proofread, and process the final product for mailing. Our Society relies on volunteers from its membership to get this job done. If you enjoy reading *La Voce*, consider what you can do to help.

The Italian Girl in Algiers

October 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 27 & 28, 2006

Seattle Opera presents this madcap Rossini comedy for the first time. Set in the early 1900's, this whimsical production was first seen in Santa Fe and San Francisco. Now its adventurous storybook charm is here to captivate Seattle Audiences.

Tickets on sale now!

Call 206-389-7676 or 800-426-1619



Oriana Fallaci—Obituary

Oriana Fallaci, a celebrity journalist has died after a brief bout with cancer. She was considered the finest of them all by Pier Ferdinando Casini who said; "She was an extraordinary woman, an unsettling witness of the West and its values." Born Jun 29, 1929 in Florence, she became a journalist in her late teens while attending the University of Florence. She worked in Hollywood in the 1950's and 60's. During the late 60's she began her life's work, covering war at a time when few women did. She is survived by her sister Paola and Paolo's three children. .

Dante Alighieri Society
of Washington
*"Società per la diffusione
della lingua e della cultura
italiana nel mondo"*

PMB #1244
1122 East Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 320-9159

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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November English Language Program, Bev Paladini Riter

Andrea Bocelli

Wednesday, November 8, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Headquarters House,
2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Since Bev grew up living next to her grandparents, she was always fascinated by their native language and the customs of Italy. She felt there was another world that she needed to discover! A year after graduating from college and earning money, Bev toured across the USA and back through Canada with a friend. The next year, she took the entire summer off from teaching and began her European adventures. Her goal was to find her roots - her father's family. The surnames were Paladini and Mentessi in Gorfigliano and Roggio, towns north of Lucca.

In order to preserve their fascinating journey, she spent time researching and writing their story. Since then, she's made several trips to Italy, taking her husband, then children, later on other relatives and most recently with the Club Alpino Italiano - Pacific Northwest Section. Bev will share a brief glimpse into the lives and sources of information that were valuable to her in this search for ancestral roots. The program will end with photos of this beautiful area of Tuscany!



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The Dante Alighieri Society: a History

By Carmen Fressola Flak



A mighty flame followeth a tiny spark.

Dante Alighieri was the Florentine poet who created “La Divina Commedia” which is considered the greatest masterpiece produced in Europe in the Middle Ages. Among Dante’s greatest admirers was Giosuè Carducci, a Nobel winning poet and Italian intellectual. Carducci led a group of Italian intellectuals who founded the Dante Alighieri Society in Italy in 1889. Its purpose then, as now, was to promote Italian culture and language around the world in Dante’s name. The society stands independent of political ideologies, national or ethnic origins or religious beliefs. The head office located in Rome is considering the adoption a new logo which will incorporate the words, “*Il Mondo in Italiano,*” [“the World in Italian.”]

Dante Alighieri societies exist all over the world: In North America, South America, most countries in Europe, Australia & New Zealand, as well as chapters in Tunisia, Hong Kong and Japan. Many of these chapters have extensive web sites and offer books, scholarships, courses of study, links to history and works of Dante and recipes, and more.

The head office and largest chapter is in Roma where 300 scholarships each year are awarded to foreign students to study Italian art and culture. Scholarships are also being offered by the Columbia University, Cambridge and Michigan Societies, to name a few. The Cambridge, Massachusetts society, founded in the 1920’s actually own their own building.

The Dante Society in Seattle has been around for a long time. According to our informant, Paola Martini Scott, the club had been meeting at least in the 1940’s, but stopped during World War II. Paola joined the society as a grad student in 1974, and was among the people who started the language program by getting money from Italy. We were very small back then and had comfortable meetings in little rooms. What Dante in the 1970’s lacked in numbers, they made up for in enthusiasm. Such a small group was able to start the language school which is still teaching Italian today to hundreds of people every year.



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Festa Italiana

Festa Italiana was a great success this year. Native Italians, Italian Americans and lovers of all things Italian gathered together for a week long gala of events.

Among the highlights of the festa were Ciro Cuccuzza who sang beautiful Italian songs and the light hearted demonstration of a Calabrian dish by Pino Rogano who has a restaurant on Rainier avenue in Seattle and supplies his own homemade sausage to many of our local Italian restaurants.

Our Dante booth was very popular and attracted both old friends and new.



Diane Kinman &
Franca Mercati
Martin:

(September 13 meeting)

We all listened with rapt attention as Diane Kinman read from her book about Franca's life as a young girl in war torn Italy during the second world war.

I must say I was not prepared for the warm and wonderful person that Franca is. She told us stories from long ago with a twinkle in her eye. More can be learned about Franca, for example, she is an accomplished artist and the illustrations inside her book "Franca's Story" are all from her original paintings. To read more about her, please go to Diane's website:

<http://www.wimerpublishing.com>

Two Calabrese Proverbs

**Chi ha sordi fa sordi, chi ha
piducchi fa piducchi**

Chi ha soldi fa soldi, chi ha
pidocchi fa pidocchi

*Who has money makes money,
who has lice makes lice*

**'U mangiari senza vivari è
tronari senza chiovari**

Mangiare senza bere è come il
tuono senza la pioggia

*To eat without drink is like
thunder without rain*

Le Notizie



Help Dante! Bring Antipasti

Before each of our Italian language meetings, we offer our members and guests antipasti. Would you consider signing up for this? All you have to do is buy the food and bring it. You will be reimbursed completely. Contact Teresa Hanlon .

Help Wanted—Writers

La Voce needs your submissions! Please contact DanteEditor@gmail.com with suggestions, articles, stories, recipes. Submissions can also be mailed to: Mimi Torchia Boothby, 8108 36th Avenue South, Seattle, Wa, 98118 - USA



Pre-Dante Pasta

Join us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required by calling the Activity Line at (206) 320-9159 by the Monday before the meeting.** Please remember to bring your homemade Italian Desserts to finish off this great meal.

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per couple, plus BYOB, if reservations are received on the activity line (206-320-9159) on the Monday before the meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are charged \$10. per person and subject to availability.

COS'E' L'AMERICA PER ME? By Pina Trentini of Trentino Italy

L'America è per me (19 agosto 2006)

Arrivare all'aeroporto di Seattle e trovare Sam Ciapanna ad attenderci per darci il benvenuto. Dopo molte ore di viaggio fra le nuvole e aver sorvolato l'oceano è stato bello atterrare e trovare una persona amica che ci ha ospitati a casa sua. E' incontrare Sean che ci solleva dalla fatica di trascinare i bagagli e che ci conduce a casa con la sua confortevole automobile. E' conoscere Dean che ci prepara con cura un piatto di fusilli al pomodoro per non farci sentire la mancanza dell'Italia. E' parlare con tutti loro in Italiano e constatare che la lingua non è una barriera quando si è tra amici.

L'America è per me (20 agosto 2006)

Incontrare a Seattle Pauline, zia di Sam, e la sua amica in viaggio verso l'Alaska nonostante la loro età avanzata. E' pranzare assieme nel giardino della casa di Sam, attornati dagli alberi della foresta e allietati dal canto degli uccelli. Sono le risate che facciamo ricordando avvenimenti del passato e progetti per il futuro. E' notare il loro amore per l'Italia, paese che hanno dovuto lasciare molti anni fa per emigrare verso la lontana America.

E' gustare un pranzo delizioso a base di salmone, preparato da Dean con abile maestria, in ottima compagnia assieme a Milly, la signora di Shanghai.

E' salire sullo Space Needle con la velocità di un razzo ed è gustare un buon caffè espresso nel caffè che sta accanto.

L'America è per me (21 agosto 2006)

Fare shopping in down town, vedere gente camminare per le strade e per le Avenues. E' visitare un parco al centro della città dove i suoi abitanti trovano ristoro in lunghe camminate per liberarsi dallo stress. E' osservare il loro comportamento rispettoso dell'uno verso l'altro mentre sono già al quinto giro della loro corsa programmata.

E' andare al ristorante, assieme a Dean, Sean, Giuseppe e Milly, dove un granchio favoloso ci vien servito fra faville. E' andare al ristorante "Big daddy's" e bere una birra americana fra una chiacchierata e l'altra, e la musica che risuona.

E' chiacchierare a lungo assieme a tanti amici per poi andare a letto e pensare al giorno dopo.

L'America è per me (22 agosto 2006)

Ritornare a Seattle in down town e rivedere l'amica Carolyn nel suo negozio del Rainier Square. E' andare in tribunale e fare l'esperienza di assistere ad una adozione di una bimba deliziosa. E' salutare il giudice che con il suo sorriso approva con piacere questa azione dignitosa. E' pranzare al "Papeys" dove pietanze originali son servite senza pausa. E' il pollo fritto, ma anche il riso messicano che stuzzica l'appetito.

E' andare a cena con Carolyn e la sua amica Shirley, che abita in Giappone ma che sempre fa ritorno a Seattle. Ma è l'Italia il posto dove vuole andare, per fare shopping e per curiosare.

L'America è per me (23 agosto 2006)

Ritornare in down town e partecipare al tour dell'underground. E' ascoltare la storia della città che ci viene raccontata là, sotto il pavimento della strada. E' diversa dalla nostra ma pur sempre interessante. E' andare alla "salumeria" assieme a Sam dove un panino con porchetta è ad attenderci nella saletta dietro il banco. E' proprio come a casa, quasi come un incanto.



C'è una signora australiana seduta di fronte a noi, lei abita a Shanghai ma è l'Italia che è sempre nei suoi sogni e fra di noi.

L'America è per me (24 agosto 2006)

Prendere il traghetto e andare a Vashon Island, dove la cara amica Mary Beth è ad attenderci per un caffè. Ma il regalo più prezioso è andare nella foresta, dove una grande statua della Madonna è a darci il benvenuto in quella terra. E' il silenzio che sta attorno, che ci permette di meditare sul mistero che sempre sta davanti all'uomo che sa ascoltare. E' andare in biblioteca assieme a Mary Beth, conoscere Morgan e la storia della sua vita interessante.

E' ammirare la casa di Mary Beth e la Madonna Nera che sta nella sua casa e di cui ne è molto fiera. E' tornare al di là del mare, dove Riccardo ci sta ad aspettare. E' cenare tutti assieme in un locale lì vicino, fra una risata e l'altra accompagnata dal buon vino.

L'America è per me (25 agosto 2006)

E' tornare al Rainier Square, incontrare Cathy e bere un buon caffè. E' ascoltare la storia dei suoi parenti ritrovati in Argentina e ammirare le fotografie del matrimonio della sua figlia Angelina. E' ricordare i bei momenti del passato e il desiderio di incontrarci ancora in un futuro.

E' andare in un nuovo ristorante e mangiare pollo fritto. E' incontrare Francesco della sezione CAI di Pisa. E' camminare quattro miglia a fianco del Green Lake assieme alla gente della Dante, ad Ida e tante altre. E' incontrare Brian, Alix e Baely, che abitano nel Kent, è cenare assieme a loro e fare progetti per il futuro.

L'America è per me (26 agosto 2006)

E' andare al Farmer Market, assieme a Sam, per acquistare verdure ed altro per la cena a base di polenta e qualcos'altro. E' preparare lo spezzatino alla trentina che assieme alla polenta viene servito con vino di cantina. E' conoscere nuova gente che tutto sa apprezzare, e che fino a mezzanotte non se ne vuole andare.

L'America è per me (27 agosto 2006)

Dormire fino a tardi, alzarsi ancora mezzi addormentati e ricominciare piano piano. E' avere a pranzo le zie di Sam di ritorno dall'Alaska, ascoltare le loro impressioni e gioie, e tutto questo mai non basta. E' preparare assieme a Sam frittelle di granoturco e gustarle sul terrazzo con Bruno, il cane tutto pazzo. E' andare in chiesa con Dean e Sam, è ascoltare i salmi che la gente sa cantar.

E' andare alla caffetteria e, fra una risata e l'altra, gustare i prodotti della sua pasticceria. E' un buon biscotto con le mandorle, o una fetta di torta al cioccolato, che chiude la serata e a casa ritorniamo dopo una lunga passeggiata.

L'America è per me (28 agosto 2006)

Andare con Sam e Patrick a veder l'Oceano, "Pacifico" è il suo nome, ma non sempre è tale. Il suono rimbombante delle sue onde fa sentire la potenza di quella forza che viene da lontano.

E' visitare assieme a Sean il parco nazionale, fra i suoi cedri millenari e tanti alberi giganti. E' camminare nella "Rain forest" e proseguire, e andare sempre avanti.

E' andare a cena al ristorante che sta là in riva al mare, è ammirare un magnifico tramonto che non si può scordare. E' gustare riso e pesce, preparati con molta arte. E' tornare a Seattle e costeggiare il lago azzurro, è fotografare i grattacieli nel buio più profondo. E' portare a casa Sean, ascoltare Patrick e Sam, preparare le valige perché partire noi dobbiamo.

E' ringraziare tutti, soprattutto Dean e Sam, Carolyn e Mickey, Cathy e Mary Beth.

E' sperare di rivederci, a Seattle o in Italia, mai potrò dimenticare la generosità e l'affetto che in America si può trovar.

Membership Application

I (We) want to promote Italian language and culture and request membership in the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Enclosed is my (our) check in full payment of annual membership dues (\$30.00 for individual, \$40.00 for a family).

New Membership

Membership Renewal

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____

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Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: _____

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Total Enclosed: _____

Contribution Categories (For recognition stars):

Bronzo (bronze) - Up to \$25

Argento (silver) - \$26 - \$50

Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100

Platino (platinum) - Over \$100

Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

PMB #1244

1122 East Pike Street

Seattle, WA 98122

If you have any questions, please call (206) 320-9159 and leave a message.

Festa Italiana 2006

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Washington
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Seattle, WA 98122