
La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS) <http://www.danteseattle.org/DAS>

February 2008

February English Program: Dante in Thailand

Wednesday, February 13th, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

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

Pre-Dante pasta, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

The February program is a continuation of our January program, because our planned speaker, Nalina Satakul, fell ill. We were fortunate to have Clem and Monica Zipp fill in on short notice with their photos and stories of their recent trip to Sicily. Many thanks to them.

Nalina is happy to be with us for this meeting. One of our newest members, she was born in Bangkok, where her father, a pilot for Thai Airlines, provided her family the opportunity to travel throughout the world. She fell in love with Italy on one of their visits. The Italian influence on Thailand's architecture began in 1897 when King Rama V commissioned a squad of Italian engineers, architects, and artists to give Bangkok some of the grandiose flair of the cities in their homeland and this influence continues in 2007 with the third annual Italian Festival in May and June. Nalina will speak to us about her experiences and connections with the Dante Society of Thailand.

February Italian Program: *Little Italy in Pioneer Square!*

Wednesday, February 27rd, 7:30 - 9:00 PM

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

As his legacy, Luigi DeNunzio plans to create a Little Italy in Pioneer Square. He's already opened 3 Italian restaurants and a sandwich place in this neighborhood, and has some other Italian businesses lined up. He's native of a busy coastal town of southern Puglia, Brindisi. Luigi is considered one of the pioneers of Italian food in Seattle, having worked as a chef, a waiter, and is now the owner of several excellent Pioneer Square area eateries. His restaurants include Al Boccolino, DeNunzio's, Cafe Bengodi, and Brindisi. Those of you thirsting for a little spoken Italian and some great plans for Seattle, please join us and let's let Luigi share his dreams.



Upcoming Events

February English Program Nalina Satakul

Wednesday, February 13
5:30-6:30; Dinner preparation,
6:30; Dinner, 7:30; Meeting
Headquarters House
(see page 1)

February Italian Program Luigi DeNunzio

Wednesday, February 27
Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm
Meeting; 7:30;
Headquarters House
(see page 1)

Board Meeting

Monday, February 25
7:00-8:30pm
Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave

March English Program tbd

Wednesday, March 12
5:30-6:30; Dinner preparation,
6:30; Dinner, 7:30; Meeting
Headquarters House

March Italian Program Rebecca Albiani

Wednesday, March 26
Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm
Meeting; 7:30;
Headquarters House

From the President's Desk

Dante Members:

In one of the books I am currently reading, the author, Max De Pree, talks about community. He says the following: “Community is where it happens. In communities we are all given opportunities and the chance to make the most of them. Only in communities do we respect and honor and thank the people who contribute to our interdependent lives. Only in a community can we serve and come to know other people. Communities design the kind of community they intend to become.”

Dante is a great community. Although we come from varied backgrounds we work together, care about one another and we learn together. During the time I have been honored to serve you, I have seen many examples of people asked to do a new thing, or to try a new way of doing an old thing, rise to the occasion and surprise themselves and others with an amazing result. We, the Dante community, have decided what kind of an organization we want to be. We want to focus on the positive and we want to learn everything about Italy and Italians in a fun, hospitable and engaging environment where people are appreciated for their contributions and treated with the respect they deserve for making the effort to be present and participate. We want to hear and practice speaking the most beautiful language on earth and we want to learn from those who know Italy first hand and can share the special knowledge and experience you can only get from being there.

Let’s continue to nurture the parts of Dante that we treasure and continue on our path to becoming a community to which we can all be proud to belong and to which we welcome friends. We are well on our way.

A Presto,
Donna



Language Program News
by Giuseppe Tassone
Italian Language Program - Director

Are you interested in learning Italian or improving your Italian? For information go to <http://www.danteseattle.org> or contact Giuseppe Tassone, the director of Italian Language Studies at info@danteseattle.org



Pizzo, Calabria photo by D Boothby

Please don't forget; your
membership renewal was due *1 January 2008*.

If you joined before September of 2007, it is time for you to renew. Please use the handy form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it with your check right away. Our dues are still \$30.00 for individuals and \$40.00 for families. Thank you for supporting your Dante Alighieri Society.

Mi manchi

Sta 'l guardo fisso oltre il vetro, costretto,
e il mondo attorno, come se non fosse,
non s'acquieta il cuor nell'antro ristretto,
zeffiro atteso, le tue labbra rosse.

Amata brezza, che lontan confini,
tratta ti sei al modo che sei arrivata,
estate ch'era, lieta fosti tra i pini,
inferno fu, che ti facesti alata.

La mente mia al sol tuo pensier è volta,
vede l'arcier giusto il cerchio remoto;
una freccia però mai è stata tolta.

Or resta il braccio teso e 'l guardo immoto,
talmente è la ragion di te avvolta,
oltre a te non v'è sostanza: il vuoto.

Read the first letter of every line and you will see: Senza te il vuoto.

Written by Marco Chimenton from Venezia on 22 February 2003, at that time he was 18 years old and graduating from highschool.



Ricetta - Crema al Limone—from Lorenza di Chiosca – Rovereto, Italia

Cream Cake Filling

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 8 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 tablespoons of flour or corn flour
- 1 large lemon
- ½ glass of water

In a small sauce pan, beat the egg with the sugar and flour.

Grate the lemon skin and add to the mix.

Add the juice of the lemon and stir.

Add the water and stir until you get a semi-liquid cream.

Put the pan on the stove and heat it slowly. Keep stirring until it is reduced to a thick cream-like and glazed consistency.



The cream so prepared can be put onto a pie crust or can be used to fill a sponge cake.

Le Notizie



La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, send it to danteeditor@gmail.com. You can also mail it via regular US mail to Mimi Torchia Boothby, 8018 36th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118, USA.

I expect an outpouring of talent. You know who you are— this is an opportunity!

Pre-Dante Antipasti

We need help! Can you volunteer to bring refreshments to the next Italian meeting? Terry Hanlon would love to hear from you. It's easy; if you don't have time to cook, you can just go to QFC and buy delicious cold cuts, olives and peppers. If you do cook, there are all sorts of wonderful recipes you could make. If you need help planning, contact Gini at giniharmon@aol.com or call 206-364-6834. If you just want to volunteer, call Terry Hanlon at 206-431-5475 or send her an email at terryhanlon@comcast.net. Remember, you'll get lots of help!

Pre-Dante Pasta

Join us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required. The only way to make these reservations is 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.

This is a communally prepared meal – the preparations start at 5:30 and the meal is served at 6:30. People who come early help with set up and cooking, those who come late help with the clean up.

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per couple, plus BYOB, if reservations are received on the activity line by 5pm on Monday before the meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are charged \$10 per person and subject to availability. We meet at Headquarters house, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle. (map and directions on page 11)



Dante Alighieri Society
of Washington

*"Società per la diffusione della
lingua e della cultura italiana
nel mondo"*

Mailing address:

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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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Pagliacci – by Ruggiero Leoncavallo—Mimi Torchia Boothby

In some ways, I guess I was a lucky kid. My mother played opera music in the evenings while we played around the house. I grew up singing "La Donna e' Mobile" and I was even named after the heroine in an opera. But my favorite opera of all was Pagliacci.

I can remember gazing at the album cover, as my mother played the disks on our phonograph. I was too young to read or actually care much, so I only understood part of the story, but I loved the music. As poor Canio sang his impassioned lament, I sang along with him. It took almost 50 years for me to learn what he was saying.

Yesterday, along with my husband, who also has waited many years for this moment, I attended the Seattle Opera's Pagliacci. During the intermission, we revealed to each other personal anecdotes never before shared about what this opera meant to us, and as always, at the end, he cried, and I didn't.

Leoncavallo's opera, one of the most successful in the history of Italian opera, was supposedly based on a true story; a love triangle that ended in a murder somewhere in Calabria.

The stage set as always, was wonderful; this time it was based on the center of a Calabrian town. It was easy to imagine that it was my own town of Sersale, with the sunny piazza and the big church dominating the square. The set was cast in the 1950's, so except for all the color, it matched the old postcards I've seen from those parts.

The singing was wonderful, the imported Italian tenor, Antonello Palombi, singing Canio's part with passion and brio, Gordon Smith, the amazingly rich baritone, played the role of creepy Tonio. The second tenor, Doug Jones, who played the clown Beppe, thrilled us as he sang from the balcony. Nuccia Focile showed us a surprisingly strong and sweet voice.

For the dream sequence, the Seattle Opera added some of Leoncavallo's music to lengthen this very short opera, and it was wonderful, particularly with the circus act background. There were a wonderful pair of mimes, one all in black, Tragedy, and Comedy in white that danced and frolicked in an innocent way throughout the opera. I hummed the song Nedda sang to Harlequin for all ten miles of my bike ride home. It was a perfect date and a wonderful opera.



Photo credit; Seattle Opera

Dante on the Internet!

We have a website. We have all the more recent newsletters there (including this one!), as well as the latest information on speakers. Our web address is:

<http://www.danteseattle.org/DAS>
Remember that DAS must be capitalized!

Associazione L'Arte del Vivere con Lentezza

Worldwide Day of Slowness

From <http://www.i-italy.org/>

There are a couple of dates that you should mark on your calendar. But take it easy, don't rush, there's no need to. **February 25th, 2008** is the Worldwide Day of Slowness, and on that same date, until the 27th, the Slowness Festival takes over New York City. Definitely not the first city that comes to mind when one thinks of slowness but this is the point.

"Yes, New York is a fast-paced city," Bruno Contigiani, a Milanese who, tired of running around thought of this new philosophy of living, has confessed to me "but it is also a kind city where there are some brief moments of personal relations. You see people holding the door open for others, or simply greeting you when you get on the bus, something you just don't see in Milan, for example." I actually am from Milan as well, and I must say that people would rather slam the door in your face than keeping it open for you! And no, I am not exaggerating. And one time I dared cross the street with a red light and a car actually started going faster just to scare me. But this is another story.

"We hope that the attendance will be great, with many people with new ideas, willing to spread the benefits of slowing down to anybody, as slowing down means to be able to control our own time. Slow down to wonder and think, to appreciate small things that daily life offers," Bruno continues.

The Associazione L'Arte del Vivere con Lentezza on February 15th, 2007 launched the first day of Slowness, a day that was welcomed with enthusiasm by citizens and the media. The initiatives were numerous, more than 100 held nationwide at the same moment, and varied: from riding around on a mule in Tuscany to the "Slow Marathon" in Rome, to the symbolic fines to the hurried Milanese.

During the second day of slowness, scheduled on February 25th, 2008, different events will be spontaneously organized in many Italian cities, depending on the creativity of those people sharing our own idea of a voluntary and convivial choice to live better. "The 25th is a Monday," Mr. Contigiani continues, "a day when slowing down is extremely difficult as it is the beginning of a new week."

On the occasion of the second anniversary, the desire to slow down will overcome Italian and European Borders, the event has attracted fans in France and other countries, to land in New York, not only for a day but with a three day long festival.

Many different events will be organized in cooperation with the City Administration, with the Cultural Association Slow Lab, The Italian Cultural Institute, and the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce.

La Regola

...la regola è: mai sempre veloci, mai sempre lenti".

"Il tempo è denaro." "Chi lo disse? Benjamin Franklin, quello del parafulmine, mi pare. Ma se lei inverte i termini, si accorge che non è un'equazione. Col denaro puoi magari comprarti il tempo di un altro, chissà, un autista, una colf, ma quello tuo che hai sprecato in mille affanni è perduto per sempre. Il denaro non ti restituisce il tempo".

Stefano Lorenzetto

Can Italian American Culture be saved? - by A. S. Maulucci

Most people can name at least one prominent Italian American figure in the world of business, politics, sports and entertainment, but how many people, Italian Americans included, can identify a single great American author of Italian descent? My guess is very few. In fact, the only Italian American novel known to the majority of Americans is Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*, the most popular novel ever published in the U.S. but far from an authentic depiction of Italian American life.

Sadly, most Italian Americans under the age of 50 seem to have no clear idea what Italian American culture really is and tend to define it in terms of the self-parodies and stereotypes borrowed from the mainstream media. Most Little Italy's, including the one in New York City, have been transformed by the departure of second or third-generation Italians to the suburbs and the influx of other ethnic groups -- they are no longer the vibrant centers of a living Italian American culture. At best, these once-culturally-rich neighborhoods now offer an annual festival or are home to shops and restaurants that are watered-down versions of the real thing which were run by Italian-speaking immigrant families. Not knowing where to look for inspiration, knowledge and guidance about their cultural heritage, younger Italian Americans have turned to Hollywood movies and television shows for information about their ethnic identity.

Can Italian American culture be saved from this pernicious disease? Can a return to its roots produce an Italian American cultural renaissance? If so, then where are these roots to be found? Where do you go to experience a heritage on the verge of extinction? Italian American literature is the wellspring of our culture and the richest, perhaps only, source of its renewal.

But in order for the is renewal to take hold and flourish, Italian Americans must be willing to embrace their history and their uniquely ethnic literature.

The first step, then, in this process of renewal is to identify worthwhile Italian American authors. The second step, which is very exciting and deeply rewarding, is to read, study, discuss and write about their works.

Who are these important Italian American authors? Well, there are many, but a good place to begin is with Pietro Di Donato, John Fante, and Helen Barolini. These names are not well known and that's a shame because these authors have produced some of the most poignant, passionate, complex, and aesthetically pleasing American literature ever written, and it just happens to be about the real Italian American experience.

Pietro Di Donato (1911-1992) was an Italian immigrant bricklayer inspired to write his first novel, *Christ in Concrete*, by the accidental death of his immigrant father on Good Friday, 1923. The book was published in 1934 and became an instant bestseller, read by thousands of second-generation Italian Americans. The reviewers were also very enthusiastic about the book: *The New Yorker* praised the writing for its "white-hot passion" and the *Saturday Review* called it "robust" and "full-blooded." The novel, written in a poetic form of English based on Italian syntax, tells the story of an immigrant bricklayer named Geremio and the effect of his accidental death on his family, especially young Paulie, who must quit school to go to work as a bricklayer on the same site in order to help the family survive during the Depression in New York City. It is also the story of the Italian immigrant community that rallied to their support. Geremio, Paulie, and his mother Annunziata . . . they are unforgettable characters.

John Fante (1909-1983) was born in Colorado, went to parochial schools there, and attended the University of Colorado. He began writing at age 20 and published his first story in H. L. Mencken's magazine, *The American Mercury*, four years later. Fante developed into a prolific short story writer and his work appeared in numerous magazines, including *Collier's* and *Esquire*. In 1938, his first novel came out. *Wait Until Spring, Bandini* is a realistic depiction of the young Arturo Bandini and his family. Svevo Bandini, Arturo's father, is a bricklayer from Abruzzi who emigrated to the American west. Living in Colorado, he is angry and frustrated with the limitations of his job, his social standing, and the winter weather. Arturo, a high school student, idolizes his often-absent father and is crushed when he discovers Svevo has betrayed his family by having an affair with a local blue-blooded widow. Fante went on to publish several more novels about the Bandini family and also worked as a screenwriter in Hollywood.

(continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Helen Barolini grew up in New York state and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Syracuse University. She married an Italian poet and lived in Italy for many years, publishing numerous short fiction pieces and essays in various magazines. Her first book, *Umbertina* (1979), is a novel about a family of Italian immigrants and their children. It tells the story of Umbertina from her youth in Calabria to life with her young husband in New York City, and then upstate New York. Barolini contrasts the Americanization of this family with the granddaughter's search for her cultural roots and her Italian identity. She is the author of six other books and the winner of a National Book Award.

All of these wonderful books are still in print and available from Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, and bookstores everywhere.

About the author:

A. S. Maulucci is the author of *100 Love Sonnets*, *Dear Dante*, and other books. Download a free copy of a greeting card love sonnet at www.lorenzopress.com. You can read his poetry at www.greentigerproductions.com and his fiction at www.anthonymaulucci.com. His books are available online from Amazon.com.

La Voce Submission Deadlines

Let's work as a team. If your story, article, photos or poem is submitted via email by the following date, it can be published in the next newsletter.

Deadline - publication date

February 25 - March 2008

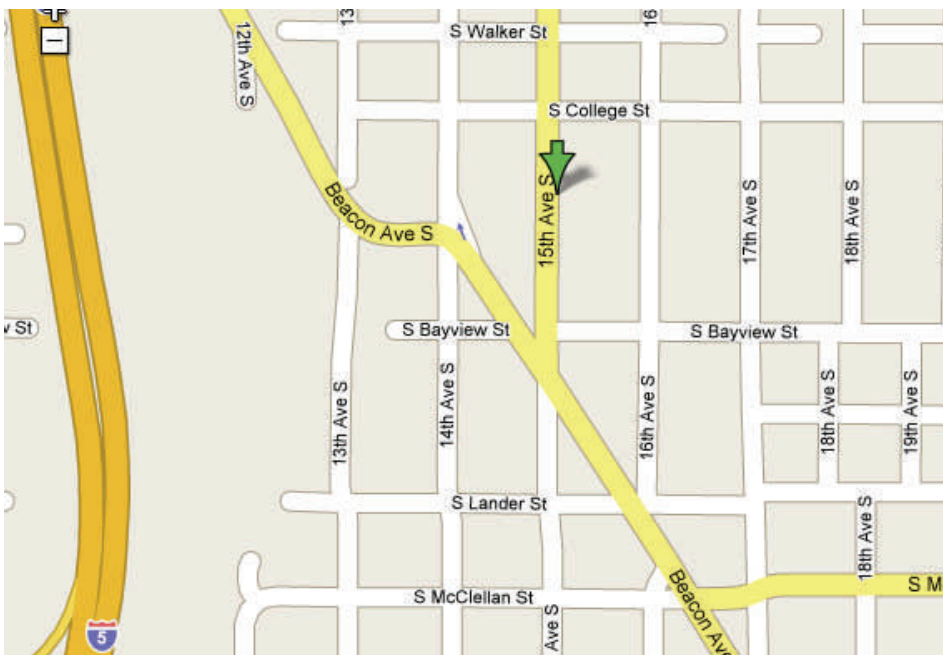
March 26 - April 2008

April 25 - May 2008

danteeditor@gmail.com

Directions to Headquarters House

Headquarters House is located at **2336 15th Avenue South** in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. From I-5, take the Columbian Way/Spokane Street exit, eastbound. Turn left at the first light, Spokane Street and left again at the next light, 15th Avenue S. After crossing Beacon Avenue, Headquarters House will be on the right side between Bayview and College Streets.



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).

Mark one : () **New Membership** () **Membership Renewal**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: _____

Contribution: _____

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.

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