

# La Voce della Dante

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

May 2008



## *Election, Business, Music*

**M**ay 14th is our very important election and business meeting. In order to validate our new officers and counselors we must have a quorum present. In fact, a wonderful evening of pasta, (free for paid members), and entertainment have been planned for you. Our treasurer will be there to take your money if you have not yet renewed.

Come meet the people who will be leading us into another successful year, enjoy a terrific dinner prepared by Nancy McDonald, and be entertained by the Primo Basso band.

Make your reservations by 5PM Monday May 12. our desserts will be welcome.

You will not want to miss this meeting!

*Artista:  
Riccardo Clementi*

Your roving reporter Mimi Boothby and photographer, Anita Bingaman, had the opportunity to visit Riccardo Clementi, an Italian painter who resides in Federal Way. Riccardo grew up in Rome, where his family had lived for 8 generations. He attended the Liceo Classico where he studied art. Upon graduation, he started painting in the cubist style. When he found that it did not sell very well, he switched to sculpture using ceramics as his media.

After pursuing this career for many years, he sold his studio in Rome and with the proceeds, toured the world, never experiencing winter. He finally settled in the Seattle area where he married and had a son who is now 18 and yearning to improve his own Italian.

To earn a living, Riccardo did sculpture for a time, but he found himself drawn to his original love, painting. And paint he did, recalling the beautiful scenes from Italy. Riccardo paints with vibrant colors and bold elements. He uses acrylic paint, always starting anew staring at a blank white canvas and waiting for the moment where he begins to cover it with lush colors from his memory and imagination. Recently Riccardo has begun to paint in a new style, less realistic and more dreamlike. He covers large canvases with gilded imagery. He sells paintings and prints of all sizes, and will paint specific requests within reason. His framed prints start at about \$150, they are treated so that they don't look like paper but like a painting. Take a moment to visit his website; <http://www.riccardoclementi.com> where you can see many of his paintings. He offers a substantial discount to any Dante members.

# Upcoming Events

## From the President's Desk

### **May Election Meeting Free Pasta Dinner for Members Primo Basso Band**

Reservations by phone:  
206- 320-9159  
Wed. May 14

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

### **September Italian Program Cecilia Stretto (tentative)**

Wednesday, Sept 24th  
Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm  
Meeting; 7:30;  
Headquarters House

Heartfelt thanks to all of the folks who have donated many hours of service to our club and helping me as your President for the past two years. So many people have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that we had good programs, great food, friendly fellowship and continuing traditions. We have worked well together and in spite of a few bumps in the road have had a lot of fun doing it and becoming friends in the process. Please take a moment to thank the folks who served on the Board and who have volunteered to speak, cook, clean up or help with an event. When everyone pitches in, the load is lighter for all.

In less than two weeks you will be asked to vote for a new slate of officers, so please come to the meeting on the 14th. Participate, volunteer to serve on a committee and show your support for the folks who are stepping in to make sure this club continues. Enjoy a great meal and revel in the musical entertainment arranged to celebrate the last meeting of the year.

Thank you for adopting me and for giving me an Italian name – something my parents didn't think to do.

Donna Maria Alighieri

## Do you want to vote?

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. **Remember, dues must be paid in order to vote at the May 14 Business Meeting and partake of the free pasta dinner.** (by reservation only)

Thank you for supporting your Dante Alighieri Society. This is our last newsletter for this year. If you are not a paid member at the time of our annual business meeting, we will no longer be able to include you on our mailing list for La Voce

## **La Voce Submission Deadlines**

If your story, article, photos or poem is submitted via email by August 25th, 2008, it can be published in the newsletter that will be mailed at about the 1st of September. Send to:  
danteditor@gmail.com

*Language Program News*  
*by Giuseppe Tassone*  
*Italian Language Program - Director*

DAS - Italian Language Program - Spring Quarter began March 27th. Our classes are held at the Seattle University Administration Building. For further information about the Italian Language program, visit the Italian Language program web site at <http://www.danteseattle.org>

Contact the director Giuseppe Tassone at [info@danteseattle.org](mailto:info@danteseattle.org) or call (206) 320-9159 for a brochure. Remember, PayPal registration is now available and we also offer Gift Certificates - give the gift of learning a language.

## IL VOLO DELL'ANIMA

Vola  
come goccia di rugiada sfiorata dal vento  
l'anima mia.  
Quando indifesa, incerta, delusa  
s'inchina silente sulle ali del cuor.  
Adagio rifugge, s'infrange...  
Poi  
stanca si posa sull'alba.  
Galleggia!  
Si strugge di tormentate passioni.  
Accenna un inchino e  
riprende il suo volo  
Si stringe intimidita  
poi spiega le ali,  
più bella che mai,  
raggiunge l'oriente e d'incanto risplende.  
Ondeggia  
cullandosi d'ali.  
Veleggia maestosa  
nelle profondità inabissate.  
Quando sazia di inquietudini  
oscilla.  
Tuffandosi in un soffio di inchiostro indelebile  
si fonde.  
Confondendosi nella sua stessa poesia...  
e rinasce!

Giulia Giardini – Roma

## Daniele Favaro— UFO's and Alien Abductions - in Italiano

**D**aniele brought us a well prepared talk with slide-show. Using a microphone, he described the secret meaning in both a crop circle and a transmission received by a large radio telescope. He was an excellent speaker. He was an excellent speaker and we are happy to report that all meeting attendees are accounted for (on earth). Thanks so much for coming, Daniele!



Crop Circle

## Movie Review: *Nuovo Mondo or Golden Door by Emanuele Crialese*



I must confess that I usually feel a bit of apprehension when I am about to watch an Italian movie. Compared to the American movies that I can depend on to be witty and supportive with a happy ending, Italian movies seem to be conflicted and confusing and often times, at the end, you know less than you did at the beginning. *Nuovo Mondo*, released in 2006 by Emanuele Crialese, was happily not typical in that way. With wondrous cinematography, Crialese presents you with a family of Sicilian farmers, all portrayed as colorful and endearing people. The subject of immigration is on everyone's mind, and they are confronted

with amazing propaganda as well as reality. Their experiences on the boat and on Ellis Island are moving and were clearly well researched. It is easy to see why they were so frightened and confused with all the examinations and paperwork they had to wade through. My only criticism of this film is the introduction of the British woman, played by Charlotte Gainsbourg. Although the love affair was sweet, she seemed like an unnecessary invention and a distraction to the main story. The movie is full of the kind of tiny details that you wish your grandmother could have told you about her own trip to Ellis Island. I recommend this wonderful movie to anyone interested in the Italian Immigration experience. It is currently available from the King County Library and Netflix.

## Book Review – *The Sword of Venice* - by Andrea Sehmel

**T**he *Sword of Venice*, by Thomas Quinn, is the second book in a trilogy about a Venice maritime family. It picks up the saga 20 years after the first of the series, *The Lion of St. Mark*. My family dating back to the 1200's in Venice led me to these books in the first place.

If ever there was a jewel in someone's crown, it was Venice. Battles and family scheming are plentiful in this quick-moving, well-written, digestible tale based on historical facts. If you know about Marco Polo, you know that Venice was the center of the universe as far as world-wide trade and culture were concerned - with an admirable rival in Constantinople - for many decades. Other Italian provinces - envious of 'La Serenissima,' Venice, and her many advantages - as well as rulers of The Church and foreign states - had it in for her too. Venice had a carefully-governing body of counselors, with a duke or Doge as the leader: together they rarely made a political mistake. No, Machiavelli was not a Venetian, but he probably wished he was.

This book describes Venice's history, her rivalries, prominent leaders, trade, and geography while throwing the reader into the middle of lusty, bloody battles: not all victorious, and not all on a battlefield.

The Hatfields and McCoys go Renaissance - and with billions of dubloons at stake, everyone on earth takes sides. Swashbuckling Caribbean Pirates meet Rothschilds and Bronfmans on yachts with big cannons. What more could a guy want in a history book?!

Stand by on deck for the last book in the trilogy, 'Venice Stands Alone'. Congratulations to Thomas Quinn for a thrilling old story made new again!

## Le Notizie



## La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send it to [danteeditor@gmail.com](mailto:danteeditor@gmail.com). You can also mail it via regular US mail to Mimi Torchia Boothby, 8018 36th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118, USA. Keep it coming! Thanks to everyone who is helping!

## Classical Italian Guitar Concert

**M**usic professor and guitar luthier James Buckland will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Some of his selections will include the works of Marco Aurelio Zani de Ferranti. For lovers of classical guitar, this free concert is sure to entertain – guitar aficionados from all over the country will be in attendance. For Dante member Andrea Sehmel, this is an exciting event as it will be the first time she will hear her great-g-g-grandfather's music performed live.

Listen online to the first link at:

<http://www.converse.edu/Petrie/petriefaculty/BucklandJames.html>

## 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 5 pm on 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:

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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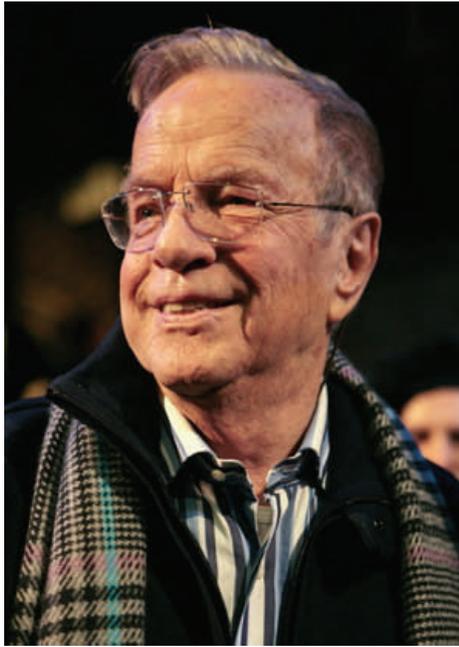
## Franco Zeffirelli

—by Carmen Fressola Flak

**W**e saw the production of *La Bohème* on April 5, direct from the Metropolitan Opera House, the penultimate simulcast this season. Its lush sets were created by director Franco Zeffirelli and is the most-performed production in the history of the Met. March 29 marked the Met's 347th performance of Zeffirelli's *Bohème*, since 1981. During the second act intermission, the Met honored him with a pair of plaques to be placed on either side of the proscenium for those entering or leaving the stage to see, stating that Franco Zeffirelli shaped the history of the Met.

At 85, he still has plans on a grand scale, two productions in Sicily, *Lucia di Lammermoor* in Palermo, *Pagliacci* in Taormina, and an adaptation of his recent *Aida* in Tel Aviv. He is working on a mini-series for Italian state television set during the Renaissance in Florence, the city of his birth, where he is trying to establish a performing arts academy.

In 1968, his movie, *Romeo and Juliet* became smash hit. For the first time the star-crossed lovers were a pair of teenagers. And (gasp) their wedding night showed them nude. It was hailed as the truest interpretation ever and took four Academy Awards including Best Director. Theaters across the country are celebrating its 40th anniversary. Find it at a theater near you. My daughter and I saw it together in 1968 and loved it.



## \* DAS Star List \*

While we appreciate those who support our Society through membership dues & volunteering, stars are awarded to those making extra cash contributions which allows us to provide services without having to raise membership dues. Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

### Bronzo up to \$25

- \* Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- \* Cottrell, Jane & David
- \* Van Tilborgh, Peter
- \* Mazzola, Arthur
- \* Munizza, Joseph
- \* Shiroyama, Sylvia
- \* Tobe, Robert & Maddalena
- \* Rosa Borriello
- \* Veronica Huggins

### Argento \$26 to \$50

- \* Gallucci, Ron & Delia
- \* Canorro, Anthony & Cathy
- \* Eileen Cooney

### Oro—\$51-100

- \* Lipsky, Donna

### Platino—over \$100

- \* Harmon, Gini

## 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://das.danteseattle.org/>

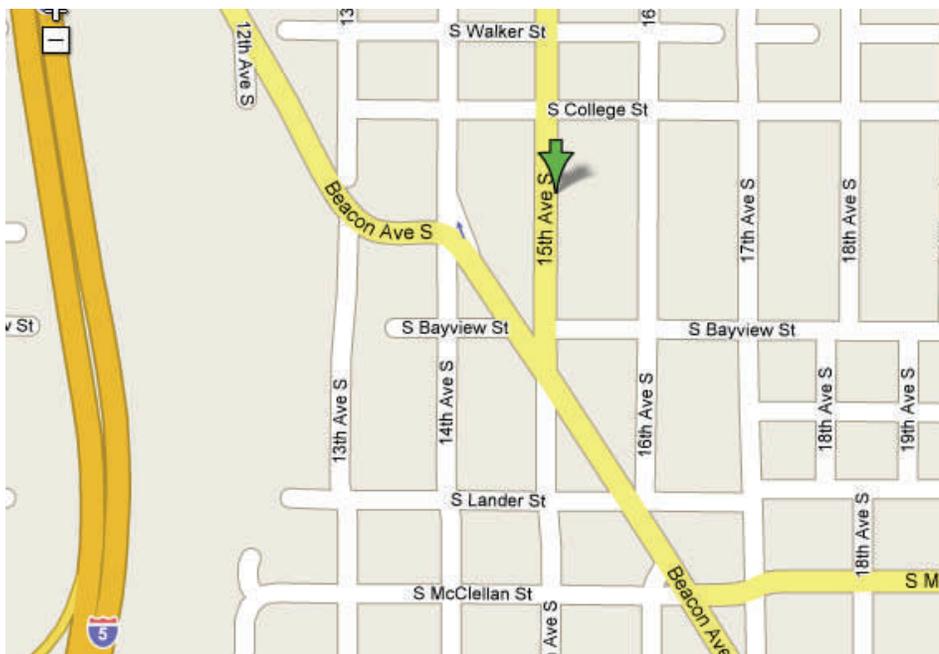
**Note address has changed!**

## *Alberobello—Fred Cacchione*

Our April English speaker was Fred Cacchione. He talked about the Trulli in Alberobello. He and his wife joined us for a fantastic pasta dinner prepared by Dave and Jane Cottrell with the help of a few others. If you haven't seen them yet, be sure to keep it in your plans for the future because the state has protected them, and people must adhere to firm building codes in Alberobello to keep the Trulli looking authentic. You can rent or lease a Trullo, apparently the thick roof keeps the heat and the cold weather out.



Trullo



## 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:

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

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