
La Voce della Dante

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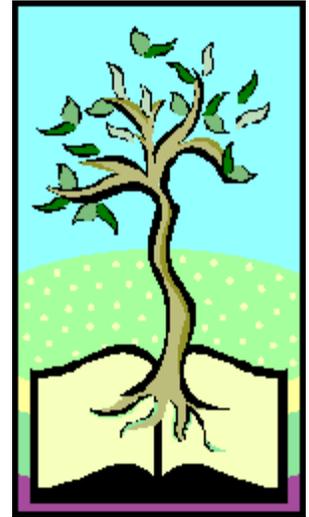
November 2006

November English Meeting: *Bev Riter*

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

Since I grew up living next to my grandparents, I was always fascinated by their native language and the customs of Italy. I felt there was "another" world that I needed to discover! A year after graduating from college and earning money, a friend and I toured across the USA and back through Canada. The next year, I took the entire summer off teaching and began my European adventures. A goal was to find my roots - my Dad's relatives (Paladini and Mentessi families) in Gorfigliano and Roggio, north of Lucca.

In order to preserve their fascinating journey, I spent time researching and writing their story. Since then, I've returned to Italy many times, taking my husband, then children, later on other relatives and most recently with CAI (Club Alpino Italiano - Pacific Northwest Section). I'll share a brief glimpse into their lives and sources of information that was valuable to me in this search for my ancestral roots. The program will end with photos of this beautiful area of Tuscany!



Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday, December 9th, 2:00 - 5:30 PM.
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Please join us at Headquarters House for an afternoon of treats, stories, games and music as we recreate the traditions of an Italian Christmas on Saturday, December 9th from 2:00 to 5:30 PM.

Each year our volunteers make fresh *pizzelle* and *cenci* while the children play Italian word games and write traditional letters to their parents. Everyone has a chance to make a star for the night sky that is hung above our beautiful *presepio*. This nativity scene is created with authentic terra cotta figures from Naples which were brought to Dante many years ago. The highlight of the afternoon is the procession of the children carrying each statue to its place in the *presepio*. All are invited to join in the singing of special Italian songs for the Christmas season. The story of *La Befana* is told and, if the children are good, she comes to us a little early with gifts for the kids. After a pizza break, the *tombola* games begin with prizes for the lucky winners.

The cost is just \$5 per child to a maximum of \$10 per household (not family) - adults are free! This includes a slice of pizza and drinks for each registered child. Pizza slices are also available for purchase. All children must be pre-registered for this event so *La Befana* has an idea of how many gifts to bring. Please complete and return a registration form no later than December 1st. (see form on page 7)

For directions to Headquarters House please see page 9. For any other questions or to volunteer to help with the preparations, call Caterina Murone Wartes at (360) 638-2500 or e-mail her at speranza@donobi.net, also see page 6.



Upcoming Events

November English Program

Bev Paladini Riter

Wednesday, November 8th
7:30—9:00 pm
(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)
Headquarters House
See page 1

December English Program

Andrea Sehmel

Wednesday, December 13th
7:30—9:00 pm
Italian Dessert Party
Headquarters House
See Page 7

Festa di Natale per i Bambini

Saturday, December 9th
2:00—5:30 pm
Headquarters House
See page 1

January English Program

Emilio Fonzo

Wednesday, January 8th
7:30—9:00 pm
(Pre-Dante pasta 5:30-7)
Headquarters House

January Italian Program

Monica Lenoci

Wednesday, January 25rd
7:30—9:00 pm
Headquarters House

Board Meeting

Monday, November 20
7:00-8:30pm
Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave



From the President's Desk

We are having FUN at Dante this year and here are some pictures to prove it! The year is shaping up nicely, and we are even getting a head start on next year. Your program committee has done a fantastic job lining up some terrific speakers for the rest of the year, and is already taking "reservations" for next year. Can you believe it? All but one of our committees has a chairperson and we are close to having that last slot filled. Your pre-Dante pasta chair has filled all the dates, so get ready for some great eating! We still need folks to sign up for the antipasti before our Italian meetings, so those of you with culinary talents still have an opportunity to contribute. The Board, on your behalf, is taking care of Dante business, so you can enjoy all that Dante has to offer, knowing we are all in good hands. Great ideas are being explored for different things to try and we are committed to holding on to some precious Dante traditions. A nice blending of old and new seems to be a good fit for us right now. Since this is your organization, we really want to hear from you.

Please come to the meetings, send a Board member an e-mail, or stop any one of us at an event to share your thoughts. Think about how you can help make Dante a funner, more vibrant organization that you'll be anxious to share with your friends who will, in turn, contribute something we can all enjoy.

Thank you for your energy and your contributions to Dante.

A presto,

Donna Lipsky



Festa Italiana 2006: at our Dante Booth: Bev & Ken Ritter, Ida Callahan, Barbara & Dick Crawford

Franca's Art

For those of us who enjoyed Franca's Story in September, you might be interested to know that her art will be showing at The Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) Holiday Art Show at the Community Center at Mercer View on Mercer Island.

The show will be held from Monday, October 16, to Friday, December 15. All art work will be for sale.

Along with Franca's art, there will be many other artists presenting paintings, glass art, crafts and holiday wreaths.



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della lingua e della cultura
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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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September Italian Meeting

Cecilia Strettoi -

Raising Bilingual Children

by Barbara Romano Crawford

At the September 27th meeting, Cecilia Strettoi, an Italian Language Instructor at the University of Washington, discussed "Raising Bilingual Children."

How did her children become bilingual? Cecilia always spoke to her children in Italian. Her husband, a bilingual American, always spoke to them in English. In this way, the children became fluent in both languages.

It was never necessary to teach them to "translate", they simply absorbed each language and knew how to use each.

Initially, the stronger language for the children was Italian. This is due to the fact that the mother often spends more time with the child *and* the fact that Cecilia is a particularly gregarious woman, while her husband is more reserved.

Cecilia entertained us with idiosyncrasies of the English language, words that do not translate, i.e., "lunch box" and the penchant in the United States to use nicknames. Her children are named Gregorio (NOT Greg) and Vittorio.

The meeting was very well attended, and many agreed that Cecilia was an Italian speaker who spoke exceptionally clearly and made it possible for us to understand EVERY word.

I hope Cecilia will be willing to speak to our group again next year.



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Answers to Indovinelli:
Le Stelle, L'orancia, La Lettera "R"

The Medieval Palette

Nina Ferrari LaSalle

By Barbara Romano Crawford



On Wednesday, October 11, our speaker was Nina Ferrari LaSalle, a Dante member, who spoke about "The Medieval Palette".

Her presentation was accompanied by beautiful slides, as she carefully explained the origins of color: Lapis, Cinnabar, and Gold. I think we will all view the beautiful paintings and frescoes of that era with renewed appreciation.

Thank you very much, Nina, for a very well prepared and interesting presentation.

Starting Next month, Nina will have her own column. She will present an old Italian painting and teach us

Dante Board meets Nov 20th, 7:00 PM

Remember, as a member you are welcome! Do you want to see where we are heading? Do you have some good ideas that might help our organization? Come on down. We haven't stayed late yet!

Located at **Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave**, right off Pike Street in Seattle. There is free parking.

MOVIE INVITATION!



Daniel Zanchi and Anna Lisa Minichiello invite the Dante group to join them in watching **Pane e Tulipani** with their Italian classes Thursday November 9th, 7pm at Seattle University. The movie will be in Italian with English subtitles. **Movie Summary:**

Rosalba is a housewife in Pescara with teenage sons, married since 21 to a plumbing supplier whose mistress is her sister in law. When the tour bus leaves her, and her husband calls to tell her to stay put, she rebels slightly and hitchhikes to-

ward home, deciding on a whim to continue to Venice. She lucks into a room in the flat of Fernando, a diffident, formal Icelander; befriends Grazia, a holistic masseuse; and gets a job at the flower shop of Fermo, a cranky anarchist. Her husband sends a portly plumber to find her.

Will duty and maternal instinct win out, or will Alba stay in Venice, combining Rome's rationality with Greece's imagination to find her true Italian self? (by J Hailey)

"What a delightful movie! You have to see Pane e Tulipani. It'll make you believe in love no matter what the odds." - Deanna



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Canzone

Ti è mai capitato
di sentirti scoppiare
di aver voglia di gridare
di voler tutto abbracciare
di inzuppare un biscotto
e giocare
di parlare e cantare
di pregare e cantare
di non farcela a pensare
di riuscire solo a urlare...
non ti è mai capitato?
Sei proprio sfortunato
non hai ancora amato!

by Franca P. Borin

Franca is a writer who lives in Motagnana, Italy. She has published a book and many poems.



**Festa di Natale per i Bambini
Committee meetings schedule:**

The first meeting will be on
November 11th, 2006, Saturday,
at 10am at Gini Harmon's house;
her address is:
3530 NE 165th, Seattle
her number is: 206-364-6834

Gini & Caterina have also sched-
uled the work meeting (filling
gift bags) December 5th, a
Tuesday, at 2pm, this will also
be at Gini Harmon's.

Le Notizie

**December 13th Italian
Dessert Party!!
Remember to bring an
Italian dessert!**



Help Dante! Bring Antipasti

Before each of our Italian language meetings, we offer our mem-
bers 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 re-
imbursed completely. Contact Teresa Hanlon .

Help Wanted—Writers

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

Andrea Bocelli Concert

was CANCELLED!



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 Ital-
ian Desserts to finish off this great meal.*

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per cou-
ple, plus BYOB, if reservations are received on
the activity line by the Monday before the
meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are
charged \$10. per person and subject to availabil-
ity.

December Meeting: Sveva Caetani, Artist

Wednesday, December 13th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle



As new arrivals in a small interior British Columbia town in 1967, my mother and I were taken under the wing of a very tall, regal lady with an unusual accent named Sveva Caetani di Sermoneta. Sveva happened to be of noble Italian descent, with a couple of Popes thrown in for good measure. This year, my further research into her family history has been so broad and compelling that I decided to try to promote her incredible watercolor collection as a tribute to this loyal, gentle, genius who overcame so many obstacles with such grace.

In the late 1980's, my father was in provincial politics in Edmonton, Alberta, and collaborated with the Arts Minister to adopt Sveva's "Recapitulation" collection, in an attempt to keep it all together as a series, as well as to financially assist her. As we got to know her, Sveva considered my mother her "first daughter", and treated us as family. It didn't hurt that my grandfather was tall and Italian, too.

My work as a critical care nurse now leaves little "me" time - sometimes I remember Sveva saying, "You have to have more creativity in your life, darling" ... right now that is being exercised by learning her story, some Italian, and brainstorming to seek ways to get her collection of nearly 60 large paintings circulated internationally. This is a rather daunting task, given that I started with no exposure to the art world to speak of, but with the Internet and some other people with knowledge, vision, and excitement, I have faith that Sveva's work will be seen.

You know that expression, someone is "larger than life"? Sveva was such a woman. I am thrilled to bring you her story.— **Andrea Sehmel will be our guest speaker tonight.**

To make this evening more festive, please bring Italian desserts. Do you have a favorite family dessert? Make it! You don't have an Italian dessert recipe? Find one and make it! Let's show each other just how scrumptious a dessert we can concoct, or simply bring a dish of the homely cookies your grandmother used to make. It's an Italian dessert party, and if you can stay after Andrea's talk, we'll play Tombola!

RESERVATION FORM - FESTA DI NATALE PER I BAMBINI

Please help us to ensure we have refreshments and a gift from La Befana for each of your children by returning this information with your payment to the address below by December 1st.

Tickets are \$5.00 per child, up to a maximum of \$10.00 per household. Price includes a slice of pizza per child and juice. Parents and other adults are welcome to attend. Pizza will be available for purchase.

Family Name _____ Number of children attending _____
Number of adults attending _____

Please make checks payable to DAS~ Mail to: Dante Alighieri Society (or DAS)
c/o Caterina Murone Wartes
P.O. Box 434, Hansville, WA 98340

Would you like to spend 10-15 minutes with some really interesting and fun people who share your love of Italian culture? Yes? Great! After every Dante evening, we need folks to spend a few minutes cleaning up, putting tables and chairs away, taking out the trash, and putting all the Dante supplies away. If you're one of those folks that scoot out right after the meeting, as I was, we especially need your help. It is amazing how much work it takes to get our meetings to happen and I know you will want to help lighten the load for those folks who seem to do it meeting after meeting. We all need to do our part, and if each of us spends just a few minutes, everyone gets to go home at a reasonable time. Thank you!



This could be you!
Having fun at Dante!

Provolone

by Carmen Fressola Flak
(with a little help from Adele Lord)

Knowing my fondness for provolone, my mother
often sent me a wonderfully aromatic package of
nice sharp cheese which was impossible to find
where I lived in WA.

*Questo è il mio primo tentativo di scrivere una poesia in
italiano.*

E perché no? Sono un poeta.

Questa bella lingua non palpita forse nel mio cuore?

Ogni anno arriva la domanda della stagione
Che cosa posso comprare per la mangiona?
Quella mangiona che sta a Washington
Arrivo subito alla perfetta soluzione
Un provolone!

Kelbasi per lui ma per lei - un provolone
Penso che, tremila miglie distante,
di mia figlia pappando il provolone
con felicità e col marito affamato

In verità ella strilla a tutti "leave alone* il provolone
Mangiat' invece maccheroni"

*Non scordate: questa parole ha tre sillabe.

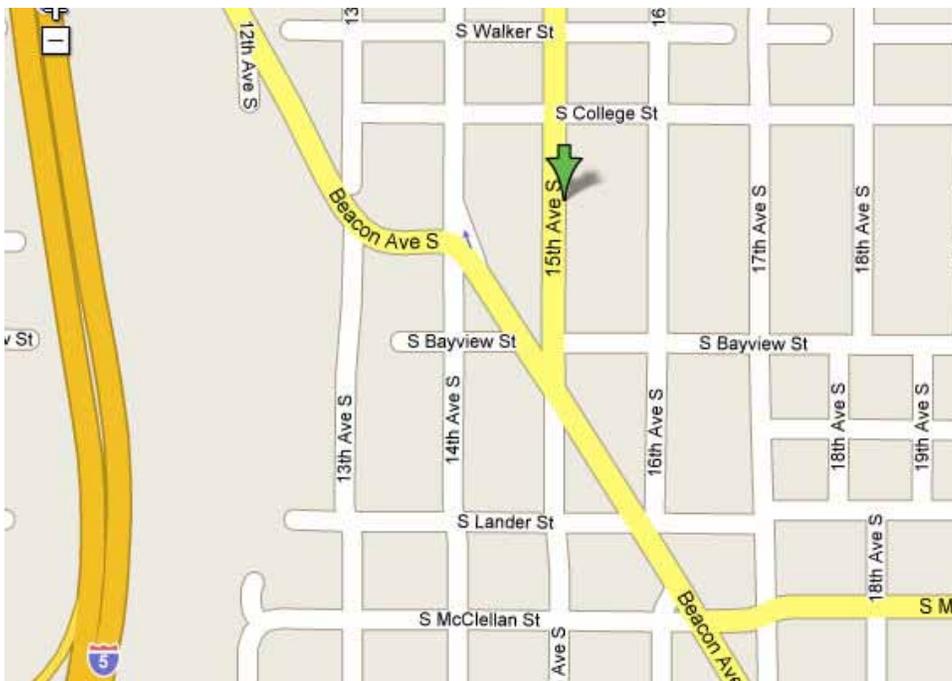
Indovinelli

Di sera vengono
senza essere chiamate
al mattino scompaiono
senza essere rubate.

Non son mela
non son pera
ho la forma di una sfera
il mio succo nutriente
è una bibita eccellente.
Non procuro il mal di
pancia,
ho la buccia:
son....

Ce n'è una in fiore
due in chi corre
tre nell'errore
quattro sempre in ri-
trarre.

answers on page 4



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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