
La Voce della Dante

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

October 2008

Making Mozzarella—Jim Severino

Wednesday, October 8th, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle
Pre-Dante pasta, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

We are all very excited about Jim Severino's October 8th demonstration on how to make fresh mozzarella. A first-generation Italian, whose parents hailed from Calabria and Rome, Jim and his wife will be serving their delicious product as an appetizer along the lines of a Caprese bruschetta. After our pasta dinner, they'll show us how to make the mozzarella, and invite a few participants to try out the process. One of their other specialties is mozzarella roulade, and they plan on sharing this recipe as well. Don't miss this!



The Art of Fresco—Bruno Segatta

Wednesday, October 22th, 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

Father Bruno Segatta will demonstrate the art of fresco painting at our Italian meeting on October 22. A native of Trento, Fr. Bruno spent many years as the art teacher and director of student activities at Gonzaga-in-Florence. Dearly loved by two decades of Gonzaga-in-Florence students, Fr. Bruno's oil paintings of Firenze and the Tuscan countryside are in great demand, as are his ministrations as a wedding officiant and baby baptizer to all his Zag friends. If you know Gonzaga-in-Florence alumni, please invite them to this meeting!

Upcoming Events

(see page 5 for the complete year)

October English Program

Jim Severino

Wed. October 8th

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

October Italian Program

Fr Bruno Segatta

Wednesday, October 22nd

Antipasti and Social; 7- 7:30pm
Meeting; 7:30;
Headquarters House

November English Program

David Walddon

Wed. November 12th

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

Board Meeting

November 24th

7:00-8:30pm

Faerland Terrace—1421 Minor Ave

From the President's Desk

It's hard for me not to boast collectively about our September meetings. We started off the year on a grand note. Members came together after the summer hiatus with a real sense of renewal and delight in seeing each other once again. Visitors were greeted warmly by Donna Lipsky and Mary Beth Moser in our new Greeters program roll out.

We want you to come back and add your enthusiasm to our quest to learn more about All Things Italian. That September 10th evening we were totally energized to hear a talk by illustrious, award winning, local author Jack Hamann, who wrote *On American Soil*. His research was on the miscarriage of justice at Fort Lawton during WWII that resulted in the court martial of 28 African American soldiers. After 63 years and as a result of Mr. Hamann's study of the events, the convictions were overturned and Seattle leaders hosted a ceremony at Fort Lawton this past July to recognize the restoration of honor to those soldiers who were dishonorably discharged. Mr. Hamann's riveting tale was a charged up way to begin the 2008-2009 season.

On our Italian evening, 18 members assembled to hear a fine talk on Nardone wines by Giovanni Nardone. Our LaVoce editor, Mimi Boothby, has prepared another spectacular issue for your perusal. *U Latruni di Aranci* is on my must see list. The Program Committee has done an outstanding job of lining up some wonderful speakers for this year. Come see for yourself and enjoy the fruits of their work. There are a lot of people working behind the scenes to make your participation in the Dante Alighieri Society enjoyable and productive. We look forward to seeing you and welcoming your friends to DAS.

Jane Cottrell

Speaker Liaison

As an adjunct to seeking new ways to attract members, Bruce Leone has generously prepared a brief talk about the Dante Alighieri Society. He presented this recently to the Board and will be giving it to the Language Program later this fall.

Bruce's passion for all things Italian shines through, and he will be a competent ambassador to appeal to folks wanting to know about our great social and cultural group.

If you have suggestions as to community organizations who may be interested in hearing the talk, please contact Bruce or Andrea.

Language Program News
by Giuseppe Tassone
Italian Language Program - Director

The 2008-2009 school year started on September 30th.

All classes (elementary, intermediate and advanced) run continuously over 3 quarters with a class break every 10 weeks. Prospective students who wish to start from the beginning are encouraged to start fall quarter. People with little or no knowledge of Italian who would like to learn some Italian but are not able to commit to the year-long elementary class may enroll in Introduction to Italian. This class is a one-quarter long introductory class ideal for those planning to travel to Italy. Pre-registration deadline for fall quarter is September 24.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at Seattle University's Administration building from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The Introduction to Italian class meets only on Tuesdays (7:00-9:00). Class fee is \$110 per quarter (all levels) and \$ 90 for the Introduction to Italian class.

To register go to <http://www.danteseattle.org/register.html> . We accept payment either by online payment using PayPal or by mail. We also offer gift certificates to give the gift of learning Italian to a loved one. For more info: <http://www.danteseattle.org>

Autumn Quarter Schedule for all levels:

Pre-registration deadline: September 24,

September 30 - December 11

Veteran's Day Observed - No classes 11/11

Thanksgiving - No classes 11/27

Pre-registration deadline: September 24

If you miss the deadline send an email to info@danteseattle.org and if space is available, we will add you to a class .

To request a brochure with a registration form or for any other questions call 206-320-915 or contact the director at info@danteseattle.org

DAS Board meeting Schedule

We are very fortunate to be able to use the Community Room at no charge at the Faerland Terrace retirement facility at 1421 Minor Ave on Capital Hill. The current schedule is Monday at 7 PM on the following dates:

November 24, January 26, March 23, May 11 (optional)

If you are not familiar with the location, please google Faerland Terrace, Seattle to get directions.

Jack Hamann—Italian POW's

I figured that Jack Hamann, being a journalist by trade, would spin a good tale for us last Wednesday, but I did not expect to be riveted to my chair and staying late to hear every word. Jack explained to us how he got involved in the story, and how he had incorrectly reported it the first time and then did a huge amount of painstaking research together with his wife before he finally found the truth. He and his wife spent months at the U.S. National Archives, uncovering court and military records that told a very different tale than the one he had gleaned from the newspapers of the day and discussions with a few people that remembered. After hearing how controversial Jack's story would be, I was rather surprised to discover that he treated everyone with dignity and respect, and in the end, caused the slow moving government and military to finally exonerate soldiers wrongly charged over 60 years ago. If you have not read his book (*On American Soil*), I suggest you get your hands on a copy. Inside you will find the whole story; including letters written by Italian soldiers to their families back home, describing with glowing terms how wonderfully the USA was treating them as prisoners of war. In the end, the controversy for me was why we waited so long to invite Jack to talk to us.

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI—by Carmen Flak

In one of his last arias at the Metropolitan Opera House, Pavarotti sang, "I am dying despairing, and never have I loved life so much" At the end of this opera he received a long standing ovation. Pavarotti knew this was his final performance and sang it with great emotion. His body was ill but as he said sadly in an interview just before he sang, "the voice is perfect."

I saw this year's Metropolitan Opera simulcast production of "Le Fille de Regiment," with the tenor, Juan Diego Florez. Florez's aria, "Mes Ames" had stopped the show earlier that week at the Met. This aria, which features nine high Cs -- nine! --was Pavarotti's crowning success. He had previously, effortlessly and gloriously nailed the aria "Mes Ames," an aria that tenors would routinely sing in a lower key.

For his performance he was crowned the King of the High Cs. Later, I was able to compare Florez's performance with Pavarotti's on YouTube. No contest – Luciano flawlessly, effortlessly made each pristine note his own – unlike Florez who required a new breath for each high C. Luciano Pavarotti remains the King. He is one of the twenty-five most recognizable people on earth. More people have heard Pavarotti sing than any other opera star in history and he is said to have earned more than any other divo ever – his estate was valued at over \$474 million. Every one of his performances whether an opera or a concert was a guaranteed sellout. Everyone loved Luciano. And he loved to sing. He received an enormous number of awards and honors, including a Grammy and Kennedy Center Honors in 2001. He held two Guinness World Records: one for receiving the most curtain calls (165) and another for the best-selling classical album "The Three Tenors," shared by fellow tenors, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras. To help young singers get started Pavarotti annually hosted the "Pavarotti and Friends" charity concerts in his home town of Modena.

Luciano has been acclaimed as the greatest Tenor since Caruso – the man who popularized music as no one else ever before. His sweet voice was stilled more than a year ago. If you missed the wonderful PBS tribute to Pavarotti, "Pavarotti: A Life in Seven Arias," aired on the first anniversary of his death, watch for it to be repeated. And be sure to record it – it's well worth seeing more than once.



Thanks to vinyl, CDs, cassettes and the amazing YouTube, we can hear the grandeur of his voice forever.

La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; 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. Keep it coming! Thanks to everyone who is helping! Next issue's deadline is the 26th of October.

There are long-sleeved t-shirts, totes, journals, mouse pads available for purchase through this company that will produce and mail to customers once ordered and paid-for. There is no profit built-in for us. But you can proudly display your membership to Dante wearing these shirts, etc, so check out their website!

<http://www.cafepress.com/dantewashington>

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/>

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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The Orange Thief *U Latruni di Aranci*

Once in a while you see a movie that just makes you smile. This was one of them. Cast in Sicily, written by three different American directors who each did their part without knowing what the other two were doing, it seemed more like a fable or a fairy tale than an Italian film.

Piccolo Cardo, the orange thief, had an incredible love for the land of Sicilia. The story is about his misadventures. He spends a bit of time in jail after getting caught with stolen oranges, and ends up in a cell with a powerful, dangerous man, Turrido. Because he fears for his life, he agrees to help Turrido by recording the singing of the beautiful Rosalba. In return for this recording, Turrido promises him a piece of land to call his own. Getting Rosalba to sing is not easy, she is moody, stubborn, and preoccupied. Piccolo Cardo consults with other people he meets, people you wouldn't expect to give good advice, but in typical fairytale form, he continues to ask and try until he succeeds.

Throughout the film, there is beautiful old time Sicilian music, both in the background, and sung by Andrea Calabrese, "Piccolo Cardo." In some ways, this movie reminded me of the Coen Brother films, with similar lyric qualities. But the language, the land, and the music is Sicilian, and you can't help but love the characters as they are portrayed.



* 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

The Beginnings of Written Italian—Mauro Baglieri

It was probably around the turn of the 9th century that one monk from Verona, taking a break from his copying chores, wrote a riddle on the margin of a parchment:

**Se pareba boves / alba pratalia araba /
albo versorio teneba / negro semen seminaba**

This *Indovinello* (riddle) dates to the late 8th or early 9th century, A.D. and is followed by a small thanksgiving prayer in Latin: *gratias tibi agimus omnip (oten)s sempiternae d(eu)s*. Riddles were a popular pastime in the middle ages, but the *Indovinello Veronese* is one of a kind in that it is the first in our possession in a language that contains Italian words. But what does the riddle hint to?

It starts with somebody who plows white fields ('alba pratalia') with a pair of cows ('boves'), holds a white plow ('albo versorio') and sows a black seed ('negro semen'). A tentative translation might be:

*He led two cows / plowed white fields /
drew a white plow / sowed a black seed.*

The person is none but the writer himself, the monk, and the story is a metaphor for the act of writing. The two cows are his fingers which draw a white feathered pen (the white plow) across the white pages (the white fields), marking the paper with ink (negro semen) as it passes. An act which, beyond the penning of a poem, marks the transition between Latin and Italian.

These lines were written on the edge of an illustration of the codex LXXXIX (89) of the Biblioteca Capitolare in Verona, Italy. The parchment, one designed to be rewritten upon was discovered by Schiapparelli in 1924. It contains a Mozarabic oration written some time during first three decades of the 8th century in a clearly Visigothic chancery hand by the Spanish Christian Church. It was brought to Cagliari and then to Pisa before reaching Northern Italy, where it was re-used once again by our monk. It dates between 800 and 845 A.D., when the Chapter of Verona was under Archdeacon Pacificus.

Similar documents emerge at about the same time abroad, but many of those outside Italy written at this time are already emancipated from Latin syntax and grammar (France's *Serments de Strasburg* dates to 842). The later development of Italian has been indicated as one of the causes for the linguistic

immaturity of the *Indovinello*, which seems to stand in a gray area between Latin and Italian, although at the time of discovery, in 1924, it was hailed as the first document in the Italian language. Since then, Schiapparelli's finding has been taken much more conservatively.

It is certain that these few lines are a milestone in the history of the language since they seem to have frozen moment when vulgar Latin was turning into something entirely new. Though some words still stick to the Latin grammar ('boves' with an -es for the plural masculine, 'alba' with -a for plural neutral) most are indeed distinctly Italian, with no cases and the endings of Italian verbs: 'pareba', 'araba', 'teneba', 'seminaba' (for Lat. *parebat, arabat, tenebat, seminabat* and It. *pareva, arava, teneva*) show the falling of the final -T, while 'albo versorio' and 'negro semen' (notice -o for the Italian masculine) instead of singular neuter "album versorium" and "nigrum semen". It is remarkable that 'versorio' is still the word for "plow" in today's Veronese dialect. Cortelazzo and Paccagnella say that the plural -es of *boves* might well be considered Ladino (a minority language of Veneto, Trentino, Friuli) and therefore romance rather than Latin, but the etymology is still disputed. It is not typical of eastern romance languages (as modern Italian) which favors -i/e over the -es ending for the plural. 'Albo' is already vernacular, since the Italian; *blanco* > *bianco* is a later German import (Latin would have "album" anyway). At any rate, the -um is already gone, and the -o stands in its place. 'Pareba' and 'teneba' seem to hint to old Venetian rather than Latin (today's dialect has further sonorized the "b" in a vocalic environment, as in Italian: *pareva, teneva*). However, the telling signs of linguistic change are the suppression of Latin cases and endings.

Albo versorio, ending in -o as it does should be ablative, but it is accusative, *negro* should be accorded to the neuter "semen", but it does not, and *i* > *e* - very important, as Italian language changes short *i* > *e*. Although this is far from what we'd call modern Italian, it is a tantalizing little scribble found on an edge of a very dry official document. In contrast, *La Divina Commedia* was written during the 14th century, about 500 years later and was considered the first writing in "modern" Italian.

<http://casaitaliana.blogspot.com/>
Mauro Baglieri of Casa Italiana, in Verona
<http://casaitaliana.blogspot.com/>

BUON COMPLEANNO

Come petali di rosa appassiti,
raccogli i tuoi anni vissuti
in uno scrigno di velluto rosso,
solo il profumo li accomuna
a desideri mai realizzati,
solo la loro presenza fisica
ti riporta indietro,
dentro ad una normalità
che non senti più tua.

Noi pecchiamo nel nome
dell'amore,
nel nome di una vita bastarda,
che spesso ci toglie chi
amiamo.....

Ma fai che i tuoi sogni futuri
siano doni di un'oasi lontana
nel deserto di un'anima affranta
e vivi l'amore che c'è in te.....
intorno a te
perché la vita corre e scorre
rubandoti il respiro.

Ma tu sarai allenata e insieme
arriveremo al nostro traguardo.
Ti vogliamo bene mamma
Buon compleanno!

Poesia della poetessa/scrittrice
Giulia Maria Giardini - Roma

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA

690 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10065

Information Kit on Italian Citizenship "jure sanguinis"

Who is entitled

If you were born in the United States you can also be considered an Italian citizen if any one of the situations listed below pertains to you:

1) your father was an Italian citizen at the time of your birth and you never renounced your right to Italian citizenship;

2) your mother was an Italian citizen at the time of your birth, you were born after January 1, 1948, and you never renounced your right to Italian citizenship;

3) your father was born in the United States or a Country other than Italy, your paternal grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of his birth, neither you nor your father ever renounced your right to the Italian citizenship;

4) your mother was born in the United States or a Country other than Italy, your maternal grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of her birth, you were born after January 1, 1948 and neither you nor your mother ever renounced your right to Italian citizenship;

5) your paternal or maternal grandfather was born in the United States, your paternal great grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of his birth, neither you nor your father nor your grandfather ever renounced your right to Italian citizenship. (Please note: a grandmother born before 01/01/1948 can claim Italian citizenship only from her father and can transfer it only to children born after 01/01/1948.

From <http://www.consnewyork.esteri.it>

Review - Di Madre in Figlia—by Jack Harding

The performance, *Di Madre in Figlia*, September 28th at the University of Washington was wonderful! I enjoyed every moment of it.

It was a mix of traditional and contemporary songs and music performed by saintly voiced elder women. The mix of electronic generated sound and rhythm with accordion, drum, bag pipe, guitar and flute was well done. The Italian heritage and culture of the Northern Italian women who worked the rice patty fields was felt in song and performance. Since I do not speak Italian, I didn't know the words they were speaking, but narration was given for the history and purpose of each song before they began. With that understanding I was able to feel the song, even though I could not understand the words. At one point the band had the entire audience dancing and clapping as they sang. A house raising applause was given at the end of the performance, which was graced with an encore. It was a truly wonderful performance and a privilege to attend.

In case you aren't aware, a Google search of "Di Madre In Figlia " will return video, sound files and many

Bring Two Friends Campaign

Remember the 70's shampoo commercial where the screen kept splitting as the girl described the fantastic shampoo and said, "I told two friends, and they told two friends, and so on and so on..."

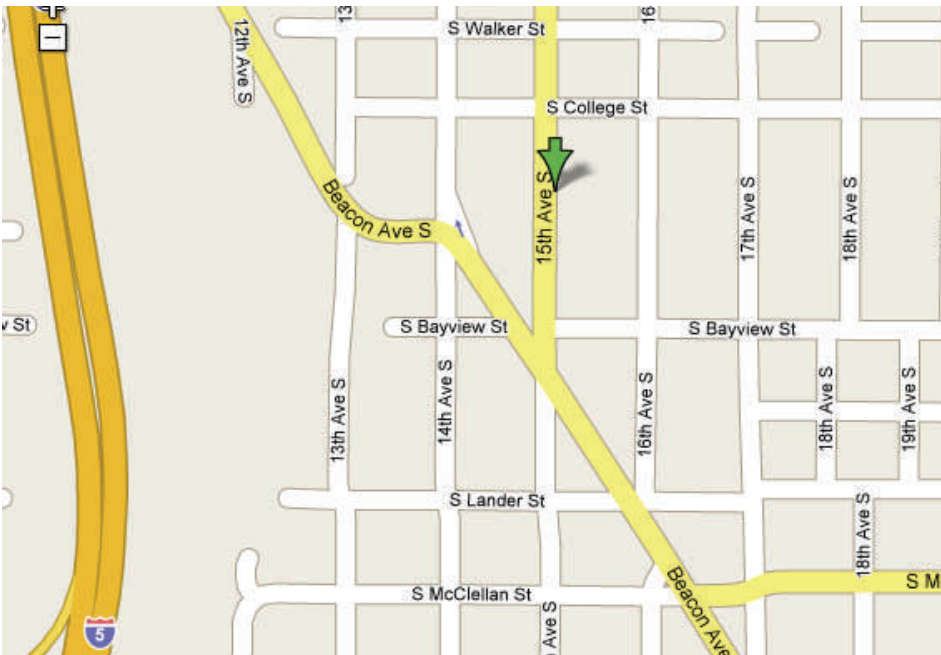
We're focusing this year on targeting groups and individuals most likely to harbor a passion for all things Italian and get 15 of them to join as new Dante members. Our biggest resource to achieve this is you, talking about your favorite social and cultural club. We'd like to grow and keep our great events rolling out, infused with new energy and ideas. Your talking to your friends, acquaintances (maybe even total strangers!) is essential to community knowledge of the Society being alive and well.

Back to the shampoo: bring two friends this year. That's something pretty easy to do, isn't it? Bring one this fall and one this spring. Just keep talking about our friendly club, and hopefully the positive ripple effect will spread. Part and parcel of this is a renewed effort to warmly welcome and nurture new attendees. Please consider being a greeter at upcoming meetings.

Bring Two Friends. The *first* word is the key. It can be more, and they don't have to necessarily be friends. Just bring folks and ask them to spread the word about Dante. And they'll tell two friends, and so on...

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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