

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

December 2012

December English Meeting— Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:30 pm
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue S, Seattle
No pre-Dante pasta meal, Christmas party only



With the holiday season in full swing, it is time to celebrate with your fellow Dante members. On Wednesday, December 12th, DAS will hold its annual Christmas party at Headquarters House beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be no meeting or presentation, just a good time for all to enjoy the holiday spirit with the Dante group. Enjoy Christmas music, singing of carols, and playing tombola (the Italian card game).

As there will be no pre-Dante pasta meal served, please bring your favorite antipasti and/or dolce and wine or your favorite drink to share.

We hope to see you on the 12th for a festive holiday celebration. And maybe Giuseppe will emcee the tombola game once again!

Membership Renewal Due

The time to renew your DAS membership for the new year is just around the corner. Membership's run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. However, if you joined DAS after September 1, 2012, then your membership is good through December 31st, 2013.

Membership rates for the year are as follows:

Individual Membership: \$40

Family Membership: \$50

Fill out the membership renewal form on the back page of La Voce and send to Bruce Leone at 2522 2nd Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119 or the DAS post office address noted on the membership renewal form.



Upcoming Events

Wed, December 12th: Annual Christmas party at 7:30 pm



There is no Italian meeting in December.

Wed, January 9th: English Meeting, Stephen Stimic, "Reclaiming Your Italian Citizenship"

Wed, January 23rd, Ornella de Stovala, "Education in Italy from Daycare to University"

Condensed La Voce

Please note this issue is a condensed version of La Voce as there was no new news or submittals for December.

*Have a
Happy
Holiday
Season*



**Welcome to
Our New
Members**

**Benvenuti
Nuovi Membri**

**We thank you for your
support of DAS.**

*** DAS Star List 2012***

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 additional services.

Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

Bronzo up to \$25

- * Borriello, Rosa
- * Gillett, Debra Rovetto
- * Orsi, Catherine
- * Pellegrini, Frank
- * Schwartz, Peni

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Caldirola, Dennis
- * Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- * Cooney, Eileen
- * Cottrell, Dave & Jane
- * DeMatteis, Dan & Carol
- * Favre, Diana & Alfred
- * Hoffman, Pat
- * Hundertmark, Louise
- * Napoli, Toni
- * Rodriguez, German D.
- * Sportelli, Domenic & Louise
- * Tobe, Robert & Magdalena
- * Viegel, Alan

The DAS Star List is continued on page 3.

From the President's Desk

Buon Natale and happy December to all! I hope you made it through the heavy downpours that we had in mid November and that you had a great giorno del ringraziamento after you dried out a bit. I also hope you were able to join us for our English program in November, entitled "Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture, Mainly Florence, All Davids", presented by Dan DeMatteis. It was a fascinating look into the history of the sculptures of David and the message behind each. Thank you Dan for a great presentation! Thank you as well to Sylvia Shiroyama for the wonderful dinner she prepared, I know everyone enjoyed it! As we do every year, there was no Italian language program in November.

In November SIFF held the annual New Italian Film Festival and the Dante Alighieri Society was proud to be a sponsor again this year. The film collection was great again and I hope all of you were able to see some of them. All reports are that the shows were very well attended and a fun time was had by all who attended.

In December we have two great events that I hope you can attend. First, on Saturday the 1st was our Festa di Natale per i Bambini. This is a great event for children to experience a real Italian Christmas tradition and to have a great time with the crafts, eating pizzelle, and of course the presepio. I really hope you and your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews were able to join us.

Our second event is our annual Christmas party which is held instead of our usual English meeting on December 12th. This party is a great time every year for visiting with each other, singing, and playing our annual game of Tombola. Giuseppe's calling of the numbers for Tombola last December made the game so much fun we declared that he is hired for life! There is no program and no designated cook for the party so please bring something to share; it's always fun to share your favorite vino, antipasti, or dolce. There is no Italian language program in December so this will be our last chance to get together before the end of the year, I hope you can make it!

Speaking of traditions, as we approach Christmas this year, the Paterra family has committed to having our Christmas dinner in the tradition of the feast of the seven fishes. I spent some time researching this to find its origin and meaning and I found many explanations, none of which I can say are authoritative. The meal consists of a number of fish courses, between 7 and 13 dishes, depending on what your family tradition dictates with fish being served in deference to the tradition of not eating meat on the eve of specific celebration days. The number of dishes served relates to various religious beliefs. The number 7, which appears 700 times in the Bible, may be related to the 7th day from Genesis when God rested, or the number of sacraments. The number 13 points to Jesus and his 12 apostles. I'm sure there are reasons for having 8 or 9 dishes as well. As I did this research I also looked for recipes and found 2 antipasti, 4 primi piatti, and 1 secondi piatti which gets me to 7, all from the Dante cookbook. I think we are going to have a feast!

As we wind down this year I want to take a moment to say thank you again to all of you for what you do for our organization. I'm looking forward to working with you again in 2013.

Frank Paterra



Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

* DAS Star List 2012*

Oro \$51 to \$100

- * Fonzo, Emilio
- * Mascio, Marcella
- * Minotti, Dominick

Platino—over \$100

- * Forte, Giselda
- * Harmon, Gini
- * Pietrafesa, Louise

The 2012-13 Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington started on October 2nd with 63 students enrolled.

Starting this year we have changed the structure of our classes to better respond to the standards of the PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) Italian language proficiency certification. Following the Common European Framework of Reference, we divided our classes into 3 levels: A1 *Beginning Italian*, A2 *Elementary Italian* and B1 *Intermediate Italian*.

Currently, we have 16 students enrolled in level A2 and 19 in level B1 so it is very likely next year we will add level B2 *Fundamental Italian* if most of the current B1 students continue with their studies.

If any of our students are interested in receiving a certificate attesting his/her level of Italian, the Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington offers PLIDA exams in May and November at Seattle University.

Knowledgeable and qualified instructors with many years of experience in our program teach our classes. This year Daniel Zanchi (Level A1) and Laura Ciroi (Level B1) are celebrating ten years of commitment in our program. To Daniel, Laura, and Michela Tartaglia (Level A2) go my gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Their contribution help me to continue running a successful program and give the joy of learning Italian to hundreds of students every year.

Students praise our program not only for the quality but also for the informal setting and friendly atmosphere in the classroom that enable them to make progress and attend class regularly even after a day of work. Our classes meet at 7:00 p.m.!

In addition to their language instruction, our students are invited to participate in cultural events and lectures related to Italy presented by the *Dante Alighieri Society of Washington* and other institutions such as *Seattle University – Modern Languages and Cultures*, the *University of Washington – Italian Board* and the *Seattle-Perugia Sister City Association*. The Dante Alighieri of Washington is once again a sponsor of the New Italian Film Festival at SIFF. Our students traditionally attend the Festival and discuss the films in class.

Although our program began in the fall and ends in June, if anyone is interested they can contact me to be placed in the appropriate level. The next quarter starts Thursday, January 8th. Registration deadline is December 21st.

The Dante Alighieri of Washington Italian Language Program is a non-profit self-sustaining program operating exclusively with the income from the tuition and the generosity of Seattle University that is hosting our classes.

For more information:

www.danteseattle.org
info@danteseattle.org
plida@danteseattle.org

Official Plida Website: <http://www.plida.it>

The names on the donation list will remain through December 31, 2012. If you made a donation after May 2012, your name will be on the donation list through 2013.

Consider making a donation to DAS as these donations help DAS maintain the excellent programs and activities sponsored. Everyone benefits!

DAS Board Meeting

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of every other month from September through May.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, January 16th.

Meetings are held from 7:00-8:30 pm and are open to all members.



La Voce

December in Georgia has brought unseasonably warm (in the 70s) temperatures. Everyone is enjoying this and hope it continues.

If you traveled and discovered something or a place of interest and related to the Italian culture, send photos or an article about your experience. Or maybe you've tried a great new Italian restaurant or read a great book. We would love to hear about it. These are all things that make a great La Voce so submissions are welcome. Submit, submit . . .

Linda

Delivering La Voce to Members



La Voce will be sent as a pdf file attachment to your email address. Or you may log onto the Dante website to see the latest issue as well as back issues of La Voce. The website is:

www.das.danteseattle.org

Adobe Reader is necessary to be able to view La Voce. You can download this program from the DAS website.

Be sure your mailbox isn't full otherwise you will have to check the Dante website.



PLIDA

PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri)

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington in Seattle is an official examination center of the Società Dante Alighieri and provides its students and others the opportunity of taking PLIDA exams in order to obtain a PLIDA certificate.

The PLIDA Certificate

The PLIDA certificate is an official Diploma issued by the Società Dante Alighieri under an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Rome *La Sapienza*. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and by the Italian Ministry of University and Research as a qualification for the proficiency in the Italian language for foreigners.

The PLIDA certificates attest proficiency in Italian as a foreign language on a 6-level scale according to the parameters established by the Common European Framework for Languages (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2).

Why Take the PLIDA Exam

Students who may wish to be certified include those who plan to study at Italian universities (which accepts PLIDA Certification as proof of proficiency), American high school and college students who may seek college credit, or persons wishing to be certified for obtaining an application for the Italian Permit of Stay in Italy. Certification may also interest students who see the examination as a capstone experience after taking their language courses.

For more information on the PLIDA certificates, visit the official PLIDA website: www.plida.it/plida/

Dates, Registration, Location, and Exam Fees

PLIDA certificate sessions will be held every year in May and November. Candidates may choose to take an exam at the level they feel is closest to their proficiency. Registration does not require having taken lower-level tests.

Candidates need to register approximately 30 days prior to the exam date. Dates for the 2012 exams are November 29th (Levels A1, A2, B1) and November 30th (Levels B2, C1, C2) with registration due no later than November 8th. Exams are held at Seattle University. For further information and more on the dates of each exam, registration deadlines, location, exam fees, and registration instructions check the Language School's Plida website at:

www.danteseattle.org/plida.html

For any questions, email: plida@danteseattle.org





La Voce Needs You!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send via email (as a Word document) to LTHdesign@comcast.net. You can also mail it via regular mail to Linda Heimbigner, 4355 Little Falls Drive, Cumming, GA 30041. Keep things coming!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
January 2013	December 20th, 2012
February 2013	January 15th, 2013

Let's see some articles and pictures for the new season of Dante!

Dante on the Internet!

Check our website. It has links to our recent newsletters (including this one) as well as information on speakers and other matters of interest.

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 (425) 243-7663 by 5 pm on the Monday before the meeting or send your request via email to: dante.reserve@gmail.com.**



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, if reservations are received on the Activity Line by 5 pm 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 Avenue, Seattle, WA. DAS will not be providing wine for the pre-Dante pasta dinners so bring your own wine to enjoy and share with others.

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

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

Mailing address:
PO Box 9494
Seattle, WA 98109
(425) 243-7663

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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Program Chair

Giuseppe Tassone
Language Program Director

**Club
Alpino
Italiano
(CAI)
PNW**



*December 8th: Walk and Potluck
Destination: Strachan's Home in
Redmond
Contact: Glen or Jean Strachan at
425-869-8094 or glen-
shgi@msn.com*

Holiday potluck starts at 5 pm on English Hill in Redmond. Optional hike on forested trails in neighborhood prior to potluck. Contact Glen or Jean Strachan between November 20th and December 6th for directions, Italian food, beverages to bring, and hike sign up. Share slides and photos of 2012 trips. Pool table and spa available upon request. A presto!

*January 12th: Seattle Walk
Walk led by Steve Johnson.
Contact: Steve by January 10th at:
bevandsteve@hotmail.com*

*January 30th: CAI-PNW Annual
Meeting at Headquarters House
Potluck at 5:30 pm and business
meeting will begin at 6:45 pm*

**Inclement Weather
Procedure**

With winter not over yet, weather can still be prickly. Let's hope there is no repeat of the ice and snow storm of January and the snow again in March. Hopefully, spring is just around the corner! In case it's not when schools, community centers, and businesses are closing early or remain closed, we will postpone any scheduled meeting for Headquarters House. We will do our best to have a message on the DAS reservation line, 425-243-7663, to let you know if our meeting needs to be canceled. If the weather is treacherous in your area, PLEASE DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House, we want everyone to be safe.

La Cucina della Dante Cookbook Now Available

by Nancy McDonald

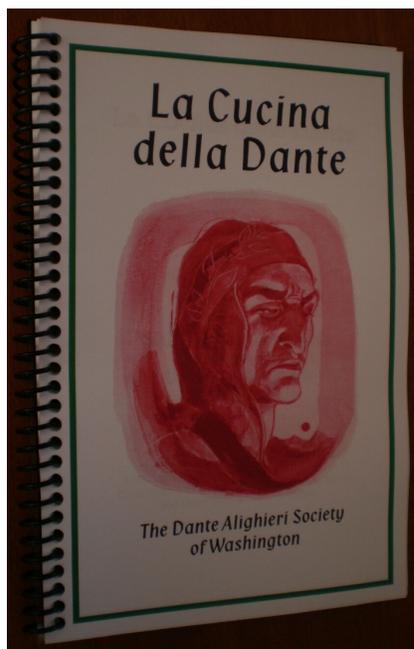
The Seattle chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society has published a long-awaited cookbook from Dante members called *La Cucina della Dante*.

The 138 page cookbook has six categories of delicious Italian recipes: Antipasti e Insalate, Zuppe, Pane, Primi Piatti, Secondi Piatti, and Dolci, plus a complete index cross-referencing the recipes.

The recipes are from all over Italy and Sicily, and many feature the hometown and a personal anecdote from the member. We started collecting recipes at least eight years ago, so you might be surprised to see your own name, your Nonna's favorite recipe, or a hometown specialty.

A huge "Thank You" to the members who helped with editing and proofreading the cookbook: Louise Sportelli, Jane Cottrell, Gini Harmon, Linda Heimbigner, Linda Bavisotto, and Adele Lord. Carol DeMatteis created the comprehensive index that makes it very easy to find any recipe.

Dante president Frank Paterra encourages every Dante member to purchase the cookbook, which also makes a great gift for family and friends who want to cook tasty Italian specialties. Member cost is only \$12, non-member cost is \$15. We sold cookbooks beginning at Festa Italiana and have already sold a hundred. They will be available at the DAS meetings.



Buy your copy now. With Christmas just around the corner, these make excellent gifts for friends and family.

Members: \$12
Non-Members: \$15

DANTE CALENDAR 2012-2013

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

September 2012	February 2013
12 Dominick Minotti <i>Medici Misteriosi</i>	13 Chris Zimmerman, Vias Imports <i>Annual Wine Tasting Dinner</i>
26 Beatrice Arduini <i>Presentation on Dante</i>	27 David Chapman <i>Italian Jazz</i>
October 2012	March 2013
10 Jonathan Brandt <i>Hilltowns & Villas of Italy</i>	13 Rose Marie Curteman <i>7 1/2 Places of Wonder, Hidden Wonders of Florence</i>
24 Marcella Nardi, <i>Rome from Its Beginnings to the Middle Ages</i>	27 Nicoletta Machiavelli <i>La Maremma</i>
November 2012	April 2013
14 Dan DeMatteis, <i>Some Italian Renaissance Sculpture, Mainly Florence, All Davids</i>	10 Election night (no speaker)
No Italian meeting in November	24 Paola Albanese <i>Festivals of Italy</i>
December 2012	May 2013
1 Natale per i Bambini	8 Mark Nassutti <i>Writing an Italian Historical Novel in Trieste</i>
12 Christmas party	No Italian meeting in May
No Italian meeting in December	
January 2013	June - August 2013
9 Stephen Stimac <i>Reclaiming your Italian Citizenship</i>	Summer Break - No meetings held
23 Ornella De Stavola <i>Education in Italy from Day-care to University</i>	

At the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm & served at 6:30 pm. Call the Activity Line (425) 243-7663 by the Monday before to reserve your spot(s) or email your request to: dante.reserve@gmail.com. Cost: \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave S, in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. Directions are on the back page of La Voce.

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 (\$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for a family).

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

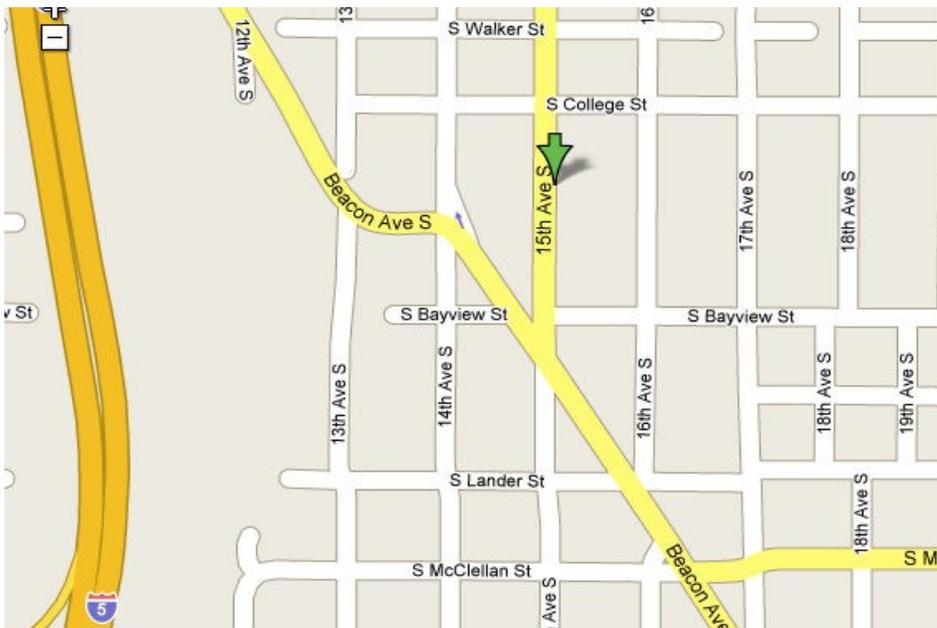
Amount Enclosed:
Membership Amount: _____
Contribution: _____
Total Enclosed: _____

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
PO Box 9494
Seattle, WA 98109

If you have any questions, please call (425) 243-7663 and leave a message.



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.