

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

March 2012

March English Meeting - Shakespeare and Italy

Presented by Dan DeMatteis

Wednesday, March 14th, 6:30 pm Pre Dante Pasta, 7:30 pm presentation

Please join Dan DeMatteis on Wednesday, March 14th for an idiosyncratic tour of Shakespeare's Italy. First, Dan will explore some of the places in Italy where *il Bardo* set his plays—Rome, Verona, Mantua, Milan, Venice, and Messina among them. Thirteen Shakespearean plays have Italian locales, more than any other country except his native England. We will visit many of them and many of the sights that Shakespeare puts before us in his plays.



Juliet's House in Verona

a 16th century saying goes, "The Italianized Englishman is the devil incarnate."

And what did Shakespeare think about Italy and Italians? We'll look at how the plays portray Italy and how do the Italian characters act in Shakespeare's works to see what we can discover.

Finally, we'll ponder the question of whether or not Shakespeare ever visited Italy in his lifetime. Or even, whether or not he was really in fact born and bred an Italian and perhaps a Sicilian at that!

Dan DeMatteis, our guide for this tour, taught Shakespeare and Elizabethan literature at the University of Toronto and has continued his love of Shakespeare and Italy to the present day. He and his wife, Carol, are members of the DAS in Seattle.

Then, we'll look at Shakespeare's contemporaries' fascination for all things Italian. The Renaissance, Petrarch, Machiavelli, Michelangelo, the Roman Empire, and the Pope-Elizabethans couldn't decide whether to love or hate Italy and Italians. On the one hand, the art of the Italian Renaissance, Roman architecture and theater, Italian love poetry as well as Italian courtly and domestic fashion was something to be imitated. On the other hand, Machiavellian politics, the devilish crimes of the Borgias, the grasping Papacy, and the idolatrous Roman Church were feared and despised. As

Upcoming Events

Wed, Mar 14th:
"Shakespeare and Italy", presented by Dan DeMatteis, 6:30 pm, Pre-Dante Pasta followed by Dan's presentation at 7:30 pm



Wed, Mar 28th: Neopolitan Pizza presented by Executive Chef Brian Gojdics and Front of the House Manager, Alessandro Albi of Tutta Bella, 7:30 pm



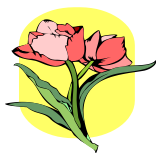
New Activity Line Phone Number

Effective immediately, the phone number for DAS, including the Activity Line, has changed to:

425-243-7663

The email to make for pre-Dante pasta reservations remains the same:

dante.reserve@gmail.com



**Welcome to
Our New**

**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
- * Schwartz, Peni

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- * Cottrell, Dave & Jane
- * DeMatteis, Dan & Carol
- * Hoffman, Pat
- * Napoli, Toni
- * Tobe, Robert & Magdalena

Oro \$51 to \$100

- * Fonzo, Emilio
- * Forte, Giselda
- * Mascio, Marcella

Platino—over \$100

- * Harmon, Gini
- * Pietrafesa, Louise

*Donations from September 2011.
Names will remain on this list through
December 2012.*

From the President's Desk

Welcome to March and another great month for our organization. We have passed through the shortest days of winter and I am eagerly anticipating spring. When it gets nice enough, perhaps we can have a game of bocce on the grass lawn at Headquarters House!

Unfortunately, work and travel kept me away from both of our meetings in February but I am excited to attend both of our meetings in March. The English program in February was very well attended and the topic, "Italian Gardens from the Renaissance to Today" by Louise Sportelli was a real hit. Norizan was there and she was very impressed with the program that Louise shared. Thank you Louise!

The Italian program by David Chapman, entitled "Edmondo De Amicis - Amore e Ginnastica," was also a real hit and everyone who attended found the program engaging and informative. Thank you to David for presenting to us on this topic. As usual, many thanks to Carol DeMatteis for arranging such a wonderful slate of speakers and programs.

It will soon be time to elect our board for the coming year. I strongly encourage each and everyone of you to get involved and consider one of the board or committee chair positions. Not only do we need you to help steer our organization, by being more involved you will get a lot more out of Dante. Please seek out one of our current board members to let us know you are interested!

On one of my trips this past month, that unfortunately kept me away from Dante, allowed me the opportunity to visit Baltimore's Little Italy neighborhood. We had a great dinner and then went to a wonderful bakery and gelateria for dolce. Heavenly for sure and it got me thinking about other Italian communities. In the U.S. there are at least 30 neighborhoods that currently or have been designated "Little Italy". Some neighborhoods like Baltimore, The Hill in St. Louis, and Arthur Avenue in the Bronx are working neighborhoods where you can get the sense and feel of the culture that Italian immigrants brought over to America with them. Not only is great food to be had at the local restaurants, you can hear people speaking Italian and you can find Italian bakeries and grocery stores. Others, such as Boston, San Francisco, and San Diego have been gentrified and have changed to the point where they are more tourist attractions rather than living, working neighborhoods. Finally, others sadly have faded or disappeared all together. Notable ones which have suffered this fate are Chicago, Newark, Brooklyn/Bensonhurst, and most sadly Seattle's own "Garlic Gulch".

The local Italian neighborhood that became known as Garlic Gulch was founded when coal mining jobs attracted Italians to the Seattle area. They settled mainly in Rainier Valley which had affordable land outside the Seattle city limits. Italians brought with them their language, community and traditions and quickly planted large, productive gardens

(Cont'd on page 6)



Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

The 2011-12 school year for the Italian Language Program of the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington started on October 4th with about 60 students registered for our program. Thanks to the high demand for the elementary and intermediate levels, we were able to offer three sections of Italian: two at elementary level and one at intermediate level. Unfortunately, we had only a few students interested in the advanced level and we were not able to offer it for this year. However, students currently enrolled in the intermediate level are all eligible to take the advanced level next year after completing three quarters of Italian and we are predicting running at least one section of the advanced level next year.

The instructors for the 2011-12 school year are Daniel Zanchi, Michela Tartaglia, and Laura Ciroi. They are teaching, respectively, the elementary and the intermediate level. As in the past, our classes are held at Seattle University, where Italian is also offered for credit among other languages in the Modern Languages and Culture Department, and where students can obtain a minor in Italian language.

Course Schedule for the remainder of the 2011 – 2012 school year:

Spring Quarter 2012: March 29th - June 5th

Pre-registration deadline: March 16th.

Location: Seattle University Campus

Class fee: \$180 per quarter unless otherwise indicated

The Dante Alighieri - Italian Language Program is a non-profit self-sustaining program operating exclusively with the income from the tuition.

Thank you students for your support and Seattle University for hosting our courses.

Website: <http://www.danteseattle.org>

DAS Star List

The names noted on the donation list on page 2 begins a new list of donors. These are those donations received from September 2011 through this publication date. These names will remain on this list through December 31, 2012.

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

Time to Renew DAS Membership

It's time to renew your DAS membership. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31st of each year. However, if you joined after September 2011, your membership is good through December 31st, 2012.

Fill out the form on page 16 and send your dues to the address noted or better yet, send directly to:

Bruce Leone
2522 2nd Ave West
Seattle, WA 98119

DUE NOW!

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be March 7th, 2012. This will be the last board meeting until next fall.

Meetings are from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Community Room at Faerland Terrace, 1421 Minor Avenue in Capitol Hill. These meetings are open to members.



La Voce

Spring is just around the corner in Georgia. As I write this it's 75 plus degrees outside!

If you traveled and found something or a place interesting 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



Just a reminder that La Voce will not be sent to the membership via an email attachment. For many emails, the file size is too large. Instead, an email will be sent to members that includes a link to the current issue of La Voce on the DAS website. Just click on the link and you will have La Voce to read for your pleasure.

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

And be sure your email box isn't full.

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. 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.

Reminder: New DAS Mailing Address

Please remember to use the DAS new post office box address that took effect last year:

Dante Alighieri Society
PO Box 9494
Seattle, WA 98109

Even better is to mail membership checks and new memberships or reimbursement requests directly to Bruce Leone, Treasurer, at:

Bruce Leone
2522 2nd Ave West
Seattle, WA 98119

Membership Roster Available

DAS has a membership roster available for those interested. It's a pdf file that can be emailed as an attachment and then printed out.

To have one emailed to you contact Bruce Leone at:

bruceleo@earthlink.net





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>
April 2012	March 20th, 2012
May 2012	April 20th, 2012

Let's see some articles come in this season!

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 (206) 320-9159 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
(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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Linda Heimbigner
La Voce Editor

Terry Hanlon
Hospitality

Carol DeMatteis
Program Chair

Giuseppe Tassone
Language Program Director

DAS Cookbook



Here's an alert to all our great cooks at Dante. We are going to produce a cookbook with all your favorite recipes.

Please email your recipes to Nancy McDonald at nancymick@yahoo.com with your name and where in Italy your family is from. Tell us if the recipe is special...from your Nonna, Mom or Dad, their hometown favorite, or some interesting tidbit about the recipe.

You can also bring recipes to the Dante meetings, or mail them to Nancy. Call her at (206) 706-0471 if you have any questions or need her mailing address.

We need every category: Antipasti, Insalata, Pasta, Main Dishes, Contorni, Pane, and Dolci.

Deadline

We would like to get this done as quickly as possible, so please submit your recipes by the end .

Don't wait, send in your recipe today!



(President's Message Cont'd from page 2)

and then sold their excess produce to the markets in Seattle. A notable resident of the neighborhood included Albert Rosellini (1910-2011), who was raised in the valley and went on to be a state legislator and then governor.

In most cases, and indeed in Seattle, urban renewal and highway construction are to blame for the neighborhood's demise. In Seattle it was the construction of I-90 that killed the neighborhood by splitting it in half. The only remnants are now Borracchini's Bakery, Oberto Sausage, and of course our Dante organization. While Seattle's Garlic Gulch is now just a shadow of its former glory, others have been able to be revived. Wilmington, DE is one such place. Faded or fading away, the local community pulled together and was able to raise funds to bring it back. A documentary movie was even made about it called "Bells on the Hill".

I don't think Garlic Gulch will ever be revived, the neighborhood has moved on, but that does not mean Italian culture is dead or dying in the Seattle area. Every one of our meetings, our language classes, our Festa di Natale per i Bambini, our participation in the annual Festa Italiana and the Italian film festival, celebrates what it means to treasure and share the culture of Italy that we love so much. My thanks to all of you who help make these events happen. My thanks also to the larger Italian community who put on the annual picnics, Carnevale celebrations, and the annual Festa Italiana.

Frank Paterra

March Italian Meeting— Neopolitan Pizza

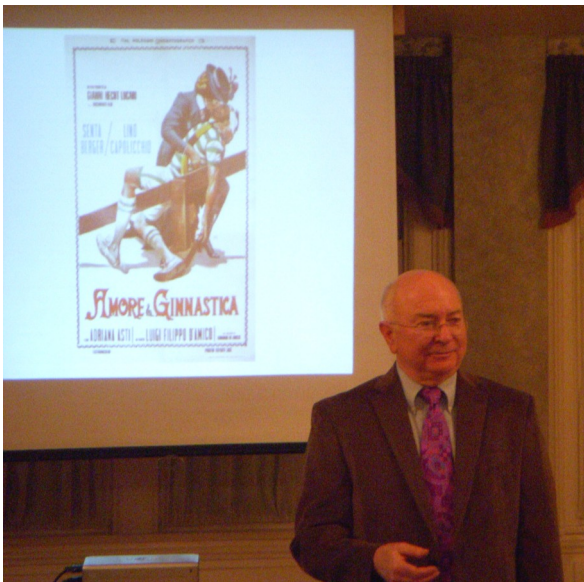
Presented by Executive Chef Brian Gojdics and Front of the House Manager Alessandro Albi of Tutta Bella
Wednesday, March 28th, 7:30 pm, Headquarters House

Naples is the home of pizza. Please join us on March 28th for a fascinating presentation of Neopolitan pizza by Tutta Bella Executive Chef Brian Gojdics and Front of the House Manager Alessandro Albi. They will be here to give us a look at this world. Everything from the ingredients to the mixer is carefully controlled to preserve the certification of authenticity that the restaurant has received. Tutta Bella is a Seattle landmark and is the Northwest's first certified Neopolitan pizzeria.



February Italian Meeting Recap

David Chapman, a local writer and translator, gave a wonderful presentation to Dante members at our February Italian meeting. He spoke about the process of translating *Love and Gymnastics*, the 19th century novel by Edmondo De Amicis that has never before appeared in English. He illustrated his talk with clips from the 1973 Italian film *Amore e Ginnastica* which brought the whole story alive for the audience. We had a great turnout for this delightful evening.



Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW



The following is information about the scheduled hike for March:

March 10th

Destination: Seward Park (Seattle)

Classification: E

Distance/Time: 3-5 miles, 2-3 hours

Elevation Gain: Minimal

Highest Point: Level

Contact: Steve Johnson

bevandsteve@hotmail.com

This is a forest walk with large red cedars and Douglas firs. You will see a variety of birds and views of Lake Washington, Mt. Rainier, and I-90. Meet at the south parking lot at 11 am and bring your lunch.

Piemonte Wine Raffle

Many Dante members attended the January 11th wine-tasting dinner with Chris Zimmerman and will remember the wonderful selection of Piemonte wines he served. There were some bottles left after the dinner—some from the supply purchased by Dante and some donated by Chris. We have started to raffle these bottles at the meetings and will continue until they are gone. For \$1 per ticket you have a great chance to win a memorable bottle of Piemonte wine!



DANTE CALENDAR 2011-2012

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p>September 2011</p> <p>14 Anita Bingaman <i>Puglia, The Sturdy Heel of Italy</i></p> <p>28 Claudio Mazzola <i>Giuseppe Tornatore: From Cinema Paradiso to Baaria</i></p>	<p>February 2012</p> <p>8 Louise Sportelli <i>Italian Gardens from the Renaissance to Today</i></p> <p>22 David Chapman <i>Edmondo De Amicis- "Amore e ginnastica"</i></p>
<p>October 2011</p> <p>12 Julie Coen, Europe Through the Back Door <i>Tour of Venice</i></p> <p>26 Marcella Nardi, <i>Castles of Duchy of Parma & Piacenza-Towns of Ravenna & Gradara</i></p>	<p>March 2012</p> <p>14 Dan DeMatteis <i>Shakespeare and Italy</i></p> <p>28 Executive Chef Brian Gojdics, Front of the House Manager, Alessandro Albi, Tutta Bella <i>Neopolitan Pizza</i></p>
<p>November 2011</p> <p>9 Vicki Olson <i>Searching Italian Roots</i></p> <p>No Italian meeting in November</p>	<p>April 2012</p> <p>11 Election night (no speaker)</p> <p>25 TBA</p>
<p>December 2011</p> <p>3 Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>14 Christmas party</p> <p>No Italian meeting in December</p>	<p>May 2012</p> <p>9 Joyce Ramee <i>Lecture & Live Performance: Italian Composers</i></p> <p>No Italian meeting in May</p>
<p>January 2012</p> <p>11 Chris Zimmerman, Vias Wine <i>Italian Wine Tasting</i></p> <p>25 Seneca Garber, Seattle Opera <i>Italian Operas in 2012 Seattle Opera Season</i></p>	<p>June - August 2012</p> <p>Summer Break - No meetings held</p>

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

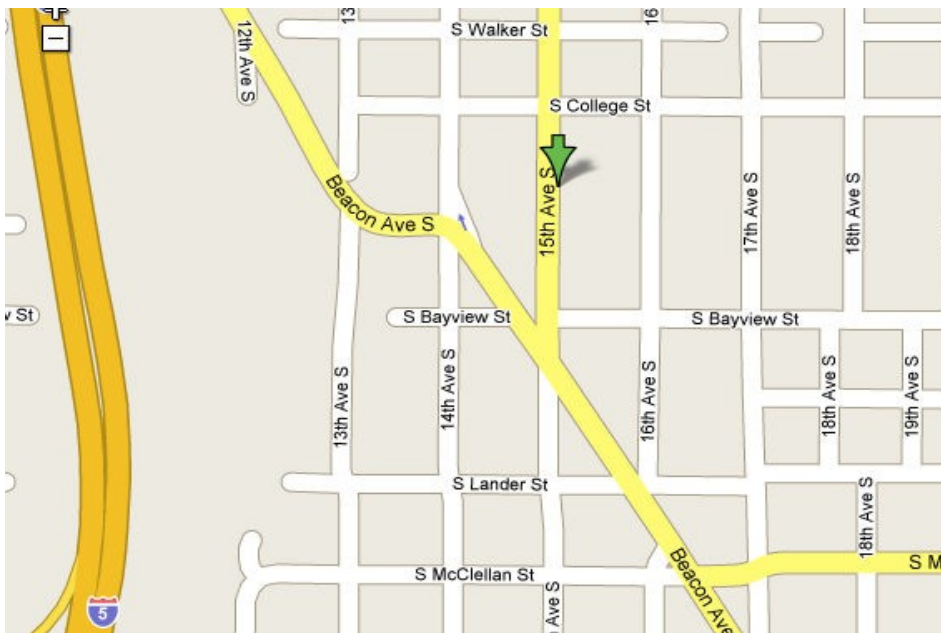
Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100

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.