

DA NOTIZIARIO

Dante Alighieri Society of Denver, Colorado, Inc.



November 2017

• PRESIDENT: VERONICA GOODRICH • VICE PRESIDENT: NICK NAPOLI • SECRETARY: VERA BUFFALOE • TREASURER: CAROL MARSALA • PAST PRESIDENT: SUSAN GURULE
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NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING The Society's annual general meeting will take place on Friday, November 10, at Mount Carmel Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m. 3549 Navajo Street, Denver.

Immediately after brief reports, we will be showing a movie by the title *Ti ricordi di me?* (Do You Remember Me?) by director Rolando Ravello. It is a love story and a romantic comedy or better a modern fairy tale, full of humor, in which characters Bea (Ambra Angiolini) and Roberto (Edoardo Leo), meet in front of a psychoanalyst's door where they have headed for their various disturbances: she is narcoleptic, he is kleptomaniac. It is an uneasy love story because Bea has random memory losses and constantly restarts her life to the extent that she carries a large notebook around in which she writes everything down.

MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH HISTORIC SITE Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, in Denver's Little Italy, was founded in 1894 and has been recognized as an historical site in the Denver area. Finally the church has now received recognition from Washington, and a celebration has been set for the 5th of November. Coincidentally it will also be the 100th anniversary of Saint Mother Cabrini's death. Bishop Jorge Rodriguez will be celebrating *la prima domenica* mass scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Reception will follow.

GRAZIE The Dante Alighieri Society is very grateful to the parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church for the use of its facilities for most of our activities. We are fortunate to be able to use the parish hall for our cultural meetings and the office for our language classes at a generously minimal fee. We appreciate their support for our mission.

CHRISTMAS PARTY Mark your calendar. This annual event has been set for Saturday, **December 9** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will be held at the **NorthPark East Association Clubhouse, 9996 Grove Street, Westminster**. As usual, the Society will be providing wine, coffee and sodas along with cups, plates and plastic ware. Members whose last name begins with **A thru N** are asked to bring heavy *hors d'oeuvres*, and members with last names beginning with the initial **O thru Z** are asked to bring a dessert. **For additional information and RSVP please contact Vera Buffaloe at 303-422-5757, buffaloev@gmail.com.**

We are asking that you bring a **white elephant gift for the member exchange**; no need to go shopping, just look around your house for something you wondered why you bought in the first place.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES WINTER SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 2018

The Dante Alighieri Society will offer a 10-week winter session of Italian language classes, beginning in January 2018. The schedule for winter classes will be posted on the Dante Alighieri website by December 1. Students must register for classes through the website. The classes are taught by experienced and talented bi-lingual teachers, and include beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes. Each class meets for 90 minutes, once a week, at 3549 Navajo Street, Denver, in the parish offices of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Cost is \$100 for members and \$130 for non-members. New members are welcome to join the Dante Alighieri Society when they register for classes. Please register early because classes do fill up. For more information, please contact the Education Chair Suzanne Fasing at suzannefasing@yahoo.com or call 303-810-9042. To register for classes, visit the web site:

<http://dantealighieriofdenver.com/classes/language-classes/>

MILLE GRAZIE to Professor Suzanne Magnanini for a most interesting October presentation of Dante Alighieri as perceived in the movies from the silent era of 1911 through the 1935 version of the Inferno. Our members were very appreciative and look forward to her future programs.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE The Scholarship Committee has sent out notice of the 2018 Academic and Music Scholarship opportunities to colleges and universities in the Dante Alighieri Society of Denver designated area. This area includes the University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, Denver University and Metropolitan State University of Denver. Scholarship applications will be made available on-line at our Dante website, <http://dantealighieriofdenver.com>, in early January 2018. The deadline for completed applications is April 13, 2018 with the annual Scholarship Luncheon being held on May 6, 2018.

We'd like to welcome a new member to the Scholarship Committee, Ida Casagrande. With her past experience on the Scholarship Committee for Il Circolo, she will definitely be an asset to us. Scott Aurand has expressed interest in being on the Committee as well. As a teacher at Golden High School, his availability is limited at the time of year when the Committee is at its busiest. Hopefully he will be able to find it possible to provide input in the decision making. Thanks again to all who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund. Your generous donations really help in enabling students to expand their studies of the Italian culture.

WE WANT YOU! Tired of sitting around the house? Looking for something worthwhile on which to spend your time? Wanting to put some **FUN** in your life? The **FUN**raising Committee is gearing up for an exciting 2018. And, we want to put more **FUN** in what we do. Be part of the planning and implementation of various **FUN** events and activities and enjoy the company of other Dante members. If this all suits you - call me, Susan Gurule, at 303-524-9502 or 720-484-1014 or email me. We also want any of your great ideas, so send them our way, susangurule@msn.com.

HISTORY - MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH HISTORIC SITE Our Lady of Mount Carmel (1894).
"Seated in a comfortable carriage of the Santa Fe Railway, my glance swept across those immense plains which, around Denver, are dotted with the cottages of our Italian agriculturalists," reported Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Italian-born foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint, she first came to Denver as a missionary in 1902. Touring Colorado, Mother Cabrini found that "here the hardest work is reserved for the Italian worker. There are few who regard him with a sympathetic eye, who care for him or remember that he has a heart and soul; they merely look upon him as an ingenious machine for work. I saw these dear fellows of ours engaged in construction of railways in the most intricate mountain gorges."

Mother Cabrini further lamented that Colorado's many Italian miners spent most of their waking lives underground, "until old age and incapacity creep over them, or . . . a landslide or explosion or an accident of some kind ends the life of the poor worker, who does not even need a grave, being buried in the one in which he has lived all his life."

At the request of Bishop Matz, Mother Cabrini came to Colorado to bring "the holy joys" to "our poor emigrants." In North Denver's "Little Italy," Mother Cabrini joined a handsome young priest who made building a parish for his countrymen his life's work—Mariano Felice Lepore. It was Father Lepore who had first invited Mother Cabrini to Colorado, after hearing of her miraculous ability to do God's work with meager resources.

Initially, Italians had settled in the South Platte River bottoms where they found cheap rent, good soil, and water for their vegetable patches. As these hard-working people prospered, they moved up to North Denver and began attending St. Patrick Church, a heavily Irish parish. Italians wanted their own national parish, and the roots were planted in 1891 with the arrival of Father Lepore and the founding of the Mt. Carmel Society by Michael Notary, a leading merchant and real estate man, who also spearheaded the campaign to make Colorado the first state to declare Columbus Day a legal holiday. (continued next page)



Father Lepore became a champion of the poor Italian immigrants, who were mocked as WOPS (without passports), and founded a newspaper, *La Nazione*, to advance their cause. Father Lepore and the Mt. Carmel Society purchased seven lots, where, on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1894, Bishop Matz dedicated the original Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a small frame church.

A fire, possibly arson, destroyed this little church, according to *The Denver Times* of August 17, 1898, which reported that the blaze left all of Little Italy mourning, "*Santo Rocco mio; Madonna mia; disgrazia.*"

The Mt. Carmel Society immediately began planning a grand new church. A rival Italian group, the St. Rocco Society, also entered what became a bitter race to construct a new Italian national church. Bishop Matz, caught in the middle of another of the lively ethnic squabbles of the early Denver Church, refused to consecrate the Chapel of Saint Rocco or send a priest there.

Father Lepore, who had helped lay the cornerstone in 1899, was not there to see the dedication of the 109-by-fifty-nine-foot Romanesque church, which he had worked so hard to complete. On November 18, 1903, the thirty-five-year-old priest was fatally shot under still mysterious circumstances. His assassin, a laborer named Giuseppe Sarvice, was killed at the same time.

For the dedication, a procession of hundreds of singing, flag-waving, flower-carrying Italians led Bishop Matz up Navajo Street on December 18, 1904, a bright, sunny "Italian" day. Bishop Matz followed the suggestion of Mother Cabrini and invited the Servite fathers to tend the new church. The Servites, an Italian-American order based in Chicago, sent Thomas M. Moreschini, OSM to guide the parish. Father Moreschini, with the help of Mother Cabrini, set about uniting the fractious Italian community. He achieved a reconciliation with the St. Rocco Society and bought their chapel at 3601 Osage as a parish school.

Mother Cabrini, who had set up a grade school in the fall of 1902 in the home of Michael Notary, moved her flock of children and four nuns to the new school with relief. In the Notary house at 3357 Navajo Street, the first Mt. Carmel School had overflowed with students. For lack of tablets and blackboards, Mother Cabrini's teaching nuns had students blow on chilled window panes and use their fingers in the condensation to do their lessons.

Besides using the Milnew arithmetic, Lawlor history, Atwood geography, Benziger Brothers Bible history, and the Baltimore Catechism, Mother Cabrini and her sisters used Columbus readers and Mother Tongue English textbooks to teach first and second-generation immigrant children how to use English properly. Although the grateful parish could not afford to pay the nuns regular salaries, they held monthly food showers to assure that the teachers at least ate well.

Father Moreschini, Mother Cabrini, and Frank Damascio, a prominent Denver contractor and parish member who was the architect of the church, set about making it an elegant house of the Lord. Marble statues were brought from Italy and fine Italian frescoes painted on the ceiling and walls. The exterior was transformed into one of Denver's finest examples of "Roman" architecture with its twin, four-sided copper domes and a 1,000-pound bell that the parish proudly baptized "Maria del Carmelina." Former Denver councilman Ernie Marranzino, whose family has lived in the house behind the church since the 1890s, calls Maria the "heartbeat" of North Denver: "That bell regulates life here the way church bells did in the old country."

When Father Moreschini was transferred to Chicago, he was replaced by his assistant, Julius M. Piccoli, OSM. Father Piccoli put the parish in financial order. "He ate only bread and onions," noted Mt. Carmel's seventy-fifth-anniversary history, "because he was sacrificing that much for the poor Italians of the parish." Father Piccoli also helped make Mt. Carmel the hub of North Denver's "Little Italy." By 1930, the parish served a population of almost 3,000 Italians, who had become the Mile High City's fourth largest foreign-born group.

The parish's grandest festival is the Feast of St. Rocco on August 16. Parishioners carry the statue of the saint and his little dog through the streets of North Denver, celebrating gloriously afterwards with music, food, and a carnival.

After Father Piccoli died in 1938, he was succeeded by Gaetano M. Del Brusco (1938-1946), Tom LoCascio (1946-1958), Alphonse Mattucci (1958-1966), Robert Volk (1966-1968), Hugh M. Moffett (1968-1974), Gabriel M. Weber (1974-1977), Donald Duplessis (1977-1978), Joseph M. Carbone (1978-1988), and Gabriel M. Ramacciotti. These Servite fathers transformed the struggling parish they adopted in 1904 into one of the staunchest bulwarks of the archdiocese.

In the fall of 1926, the Servite Sisters of Omaha replaced the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart at the grade school. A large, modern, \$400,000 Mt. Carmel High School at 3600 Zuni Street was dedicated on September 23, 1951, by Archbishop Vehr. Three years later, the thriving parish built a new grade school at West 36th Avenue and Pecos Street. (continued next page)

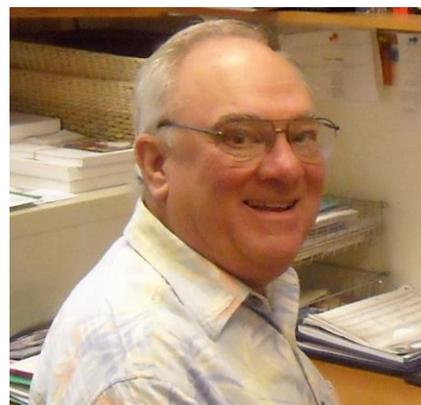
After World War II, Denver's flourishing Italian community spread out into the north metro suburbs in Adams, Boulder, and Jefferson counties. Servite priests established new Italian-oriented parishes, continuing the work begun at Mt. Carmel, at Assumption Church in Welby, Our Lady Mother of the Church in Commerce City, and Holy Trinity Church and School in Westminster. As many Italian families moved into these new parishes, enrollments dropped at both Mt. Carmel High School and Grade School. Both were closed in 1968, and the grade school was sold to the City and County of Denver to become the Northside Community Center.

Father Joseph Carbone, a scion of the pioneer family famous for their bakery, sausage shop, and pizza palace, was modest about his role as pastor at Mt. Carmel. "I never got into making dough," he quipped during a 1985 interview. "And I haven't gone very far in life. I was born across the street from this church." But Father Carbone and Denver's Italian community have come a long way from the days when Italian immigrants were among the city's poorest people, squatting in the Platte River bottoms and peddling vegetables. They worked hard, prospered, and built Mt. Carmel, whose colorful history and architecture led to its designation by both the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission and the National Register of Historic Places.

Backsides of churches are a good clue to the love and craftsmanship invested in them. The rear of Mt. Carmel is fine stone masonry work with an ancient red brick chimney carrying a blonde brick cross. Only alley people will see this, but all of North Denver and downtown can appreciate the twin front spires, with their copper domes and white crosses, restored in 1986 to shimmer above Denver's "Little Italy."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Father Hugh M. Guentner, OSM – Pastor of Mount Carmel Church.

Fr. Hugh M. Guentner, O.S.M. was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. He is a first-generation American, Born on May 8, 1941. His parents, John and Anna (Koller) Guentner, were from Austria Hungary. He attended St. Joseph Servite High School Seminary, St. Charles, IL. and spent thirty years as a professional Servite Brother. Ministering in servite high schools, seminaries, and parishes, mostly in Denver. Father received a BA from Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI, and M.Div. from Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales corners, near Milwaukee. He was ordained a Deacon at Holy Trinity Parish, Westminster, CO by Archbishop Francis Stafford, September 14, 1990 and ordained a Priest at Annunciation Parish in Chicago by Bishop Wilton Gregory, May 4, 1991. He has held the following positions since his Ordination:



- Pastor, St. Rita Parish, Portland, OR – 1991 to 1994.
- Assistant Pastor, Assumption Parish, Denver/Welby, CO – 1994 to 1997.
- Administrator, Holy Trinity Parish, Westminster, CO and Our Lady of Visitation Mission, Denver, CO 1997.
- Pastor of Assumption Parish, Denver/Welby, CO – 2000 to 2003.
- Past year on sabbatical; Fall 2003, at - - Redemptorist Renewal Center, near Shrewsbury, England; Winter and Spring 2004 at St. Ignatius Servite Parish El Paso, TX; June and July, 2004 six week Ignatian Retreat, Los Altos, CA.
- Pastor, St. Patrick's, Minturn, Red Cliff & Vail, CO 2004-2010.
- Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Denver, CO July 1, 2010-Present. (*Mt. Carmel Website*)

NEWS FROM ITALY Ferrari's 70th Anniversary Celebrations Change Up A Gear This past September, Ferrari's 70th-anniversary celebrations were set to hit a fever pitch as the company opens its factory and museum doors to thousands of its loyal clients for presentations, parties, an auction and even a single-marque Concours d'Elegance.

In recent weeks, a host of Ferrari rallies have been taking place across major European cities and on Friday these cars -- some 500 in total -- will be converging in Milan before heading to the company's HQ to complete a lap of its Fiorano test circuit. There were a Ferrari-only Concours d'Elegance where experts picked the two most extraordinary examples from a selection of 120 of the rarest and most exotic cars ever to wear the Prancing Horse badge. (*We The Italians*)





Pistachio gelato from Spoleto voted world's best. A pistachio-flavoured ice cream from Spoleto was voted the world's best flavour at the Gelato World Tour Finals in Rimini yesterday. Alessandro Crispini of Spoleto's Gelateria Crispini uses three types of pistachio from Sicily - two from Bronte and one from the Agrigento area. "Many people may think pistachio is a banal flavour," the Umbrian winner said, "but after an in-depth study of the raw materials I created something only apparently simple but in fact very complex". The Gelato World Tour is organised by the Carpigiani Gelato University and SIGEP-Italian Exhibition Group. *(We The Italians)*

Gli USA investono a Roma: 100 milioni per un hotel di lusso..

Il fondo americano King Street ha scelto la capitale per il suo primo investimento nel Belpaese: l'acquisto riguarda due edifici situati a due passi dalla conosciutissima Via Veneto, i quali saranno utilizzati per ospitare un hotel top class. I due edifici che si trovano in **via Liguria** e contano una superficie complessiva di oltre 10 mila metri quadrati, erano di proprietà della società **Fratelli D'Amico Armatori**, fondata negli anni '30 del ventesimo secolo. Il valore dell'operazione è di circa **100 milioni di euro** compresi i lavori di ristrutturazione necessari a trasformare gli edifici in un hotel di lusso. **Ricordiamo infine che King Street è una società statunitense globale di gestione degli investimenti fondata nel 1995 che gestisce un capitale di circa 20 miliardi di dollari** ed occupa la tredicesima posizione al mondo tra i Fondi cosiddetti speculativi. *(ItalPlanet News)*



La Fashion Week Milano 2017 (collezioni primavera/estate 2018) si e' svolta dal 20 al 27 settembre a Milano.

Milano Moda Donna è l'evento più prestigioso organizzato da Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana, con i suoi due appuntamenti all'anno e una rete di migliaia di operatori del settore che lavorano al perfetto funzionamento di questa grande manifestazione, le sfilate della collezione donna sono il momento più atteso dal fashion system internazionale. La Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana

gestisce e coordina completamente tutti gli eventi ad essa collegati, agevolando il lavoro di showroom, buying-office, uffici stampa e studi di pubbliche relazioni. Milano è la prestigiosa location che ospita più di 170 sfilate e presentazioni promuovendo le maison che hanno reso celebre **il Made in Italy** nel mondo e supportando i nuovi talenti che fanno del mondo della moda, un ambito in continua evoluzione. In questo scenario affascinante e di assoluta creatività la Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana svolge funzioni essenziali quali la realizzazione del calendario delle sfilate e delle presentazioni, il rapporto con le Istituzioni, l'immagine e la scenografia del nuovo Fashion Hub, l'ufficio stampa e l'ideazione di eventi speciali. *(ItalPlanet)*

GOOD NEWS AGAIN FROM ROME AND THE VATICAN FOR YOU TRAVELING TO ITALY.

The agreement between the Vatican and the Dante has been renewed once again for the year 2017. It allows us to visit the museums at a lower price and get in front of the long lines simply by presenting the Dante Society membership card. The cost to visit the Museums is 16 euros per person, and 1 euro if you decide to purchase the Art and Faith DVD on the Treasures of the Vatican. The Dante membership card may be obtained by contacting Rhonda Hopkins at 720-596-4169, rhop626@gmail.com, or Gianfranco Marcantonio at 303-494-3080 glm3942@yahoo.com. **For additional privileges for Dante members while in Italy, please visit the following site: <http://ladante.it/diventa-socio/le-convenzioni>.**



WEBSITES TO VISIT FOR MORE ABOUT ITALIAN CULTURE

Societa' Centrale Dante Alighieri – <http://ladante.it>
Societa' Dante Alighieri di Roma - <http://www.dantealighieri-roma.it>
Dante Alighieri Society of Denver, Colorado – <http://www.dantealighieriofdenver.com>
Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo: <http://www.dantealighieriofpueblo.org>
DAS of Denver in Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dante-Alighieri-Society-of-Denver/153670041417079>.
News from Italy – <http://video.sky.it/news/diretta>.
Italian art - <http://www.arte.it/>.
Italy news in English – <http://www.thelocal.it/>.
Travel and Events – <http://www.i-italy.org/>.
The World of Dante – The study and teaching of the Divine Comedy, <http://www.worldofdante.org>.
Web site for TG5 (Mediaset) *Notizie dall'Italia* – <http://www.mediasetitalia.com/nazioni/colorado.shtml>.
US Citizenship – <http://www.uscitizenship.info/italian-american-history-and-culture/>.
Contemporary art and culture – (Arte e cultura contemporanea), <http://www.artwireless.it>.
First Web TV on Italian language and culture – <http://www.alma.tv>.
Italian American Museum - <http://www.ItalianAmericanMuseum.org>.
Radio Italia – <http://www.radioitalia.it/player.php>.
Stations based in Italy as well as international stations – <http://www.italiansinfonia.com/stations.htm>.
Wikipedia's list of Italian radio stations – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_radio_stations_in_Italy

2017 Calendar

Cultural Meetings

November 10

Events

December 9 – Christmas Party

Classes

Language – Winter begin Jan. 28

NOTE: Cultural meetings, movies, and cooking classes take place at Mt. Carmel Church Parish Hall, 3549 Navajo St., Denver. Language classes are taught at Mt. Carmel Church Office.