



**DA** NOTIZIARIO



Dante Alighieri Society of Denver, Colorado, Inc.

January 2018

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**CULTURAL MEETING** There will not be a meeting in January. The next cultural evening will be on **February 9th**. Ted Borrillo will do a presentation on the Lindbergh kidnapping case. Ted is an attorney who has read the court documents on this case and personally knew some of the people involved. He has some interesting ideas about the case. We will also give away a door prize to a lucky attendee.

As always, the program will take place at Mount Carmel Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m. 3549 Navajo Street, Denver.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY 2017** The gathering attracted a full house thanks to the committee who did a fantastic job organizing this annual event. The food was plenty and delicious, the gift exchange was fun as always and the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to socialize. A special thank you goes to Margaret Foderaro for the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the tables. Again, kudos to the committee for their diligent work.



BUON ANNO A TUTTI

**MEMBERSHIP** renewal cards are on their way for 2018 and we hope you will join us for another fun year at the DAS. The board is busy planning lectures, movies and parties. Please review the card to be sure that the information is correct. If you choose to renew using PayPal, we still need the card returned for our files. Language students should renew their membership before the start of classes and can pay for class and membership at the same time. Thank you, Rhonda Hopkins, Membership Chairperson.

## **ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES WINTER SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 8, 2018**

The Dante Alighieri Society will offer a 10-week winter session of Italian language classes, beginning January 8, 2018. The schedule for winter classes will be posted on the Dante Alighieri website, and is listed below. Students must register and pay for classes through the website. The classes are taught by experienced and talented bi-lingual teachers. 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. For more information, please contact the Education Chair Suzanne Fasing at [suzannefasing@yahoo.com](mailto:suzannefasing@yahoo.com) or call 303-810-9042. To register and pay for classes, visit the web site: <http://dantealighieriofdenver.com/classes/language-classes>

**The registration deadline for the winter session is January 3, 2018.**

**Beginner 1.** Mondays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning Jan 8, 2018 through March 12, 2018 (Brunetti). In this class students with little or no knowledge of Italian will learn to communicate in simple everyday situations. Students will study the basic building blocks of the Italian language, including the alphabet, rules of pronunciation, basic syntax, and grammatical structures. Topics include subject pronouns, definite and indefinite articles, regular verbs in the present tense, and noun-adjective agreement. **Required Text: The Italian Project 1a.**

**Beginner 2.** Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning Jan. 8, 2018 through March 12, 2018 (Brunetti). In this class students will build upon their existing knowledge while incorporating new vocabulary and grammatical structures through conversation, role plays, listening, reading and writing activities. Topics include irregular and modal verbs in the present tense, articulated prepositions, and possessive adjectives. **Required Text: The Italian Project 1a.**

**Beginner 3.** Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning Jan. 9, 2018 through March 13, 2018 (Jensen). In this class students will cover the topics in Units 4 and 5 of the textbook, including past and future verb tenses, adverbs, and ordering in a restaurant. **Required Text: The Italian Project 1a.**

**Intermediate 1.** Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning Jan. 9, 2018 through March 13, 2018 (Jensen). In this class students will build upon their prior studies through role plays, listening, reading and writing activities. Topics include the imperfect, the past perfect, demonstrative adjectives, “volerci” and “metterci.” **Required Text: The Italian Project 1b.**

**Other Intermediate and Advanced classes will be offered in 2018.**

**Advanced 6.** Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning Jan. 11, 2018 through March 15, 2018 (Brunetti). This class will be predominantly in Italian, and will introduce more advanced vocabulary, subjunctive tenses, and courtesy forms of speaking. Students will continue to develop their reading, listening, writing and speaking abilities. Part of each class will be devoted to a review of material from the *Italian Project 1a and 1b* textbooks. **Required Texts: The Italian Project 1a, 1b, and 2a.**

**Advanced 8.** Thursdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning Jan. 11, 2018 through March 15, 2018 (Brunetti). This class will be predominantly in Italian, and will introduce more advanced vocabulary and grammar. Students will continue to develop their reading, listening, writing and speaking abilities. Correction of written materials by students will also be covered. **Required Text: The Italian Project 2b.**

***SPRING SESSION OF CLASSES WILL BEGIN IN MARCH 2018.***

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PERFORMANCE** For those of you who are fans of Jennifer DeDominici; you can catch her and other members of the Central City Opera in a New Year's Eve performance of Cabaret at the Aurora Fox Theatre. It is located at 9900 East Colfax Avenue. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. \$22 for tickets only or \$50 for show, champagne and dessert reception. Anyone interested - call Susan Gurule 720-484-1014. Box office number is 303-739-1970.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** Notice has been sent to local colleges and universities that applications for the 2018 *Dante Alighieri Society of Denver Scholarship Program* are now available on our website. For the second year, we will be receiving all completed applications and support documents online. This process makes it easier for students to apply and for committee members to receive their information. Deadline for completed applications is April 21, 2018 with awards being given out at the May 6, 2018 annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Arvada Center. The Society has decided to begin a potentially sustaining fundraising program to generate money for the Scholarship Program. Please see the accompanying article describing the King Soopers Gift card for details. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me - 303-378-9736, [johncggiardino@comcast.net](mailto:johncggiardino@comcast.net). Thank you again for all your generous donations in 2017. The Society wouldn't be able to continue helping qualified students who will be studying in Italy without your support. Chairperson John Giardino

### **FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Next time you head out to King Soopers, be sure to take a Dante Society King Soopers gift card with you. King Soopers offers organizations a simple way to raise money by returning 5% of grocery sales made on the card to the organization. The cards initially cost \$25 but can be reloaded for any amount at checkout. By continuing to use the cards for purchases, Dante members will provide an on-going source of income for scholarships. If you give gift cards to friends, family or charitable organizations, consider giving a Dante Society King Soopers gift card. The Dante Society cards cannot be purchased at King Soopers. The Dante Society cards must be purchased through Dante and are available by calling Veronica Goodrich at 303-421-1547.

### **NEWS FROM ITALY**

#### **RINNOVATA LA CONVENZIONE TRA LA SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI E I MUSEI VATICANI PER IL 2018.**

Tutti i soci della Dante in Italia e nel mondo, con il rinnovo della **tessera Dante per l'anno 2018**, potranno accedere ai vantaggi di numerose convenzioni già attive (musei, teatri, hotel, ristoranti ed esercizi commerciali). Tra le convenzioni, segnaliamo anche quella rinnovata con i **Musei Vaticani** a Roma. Il titolare della tessera ed un suo accompagnatore potranno così usufruire del servizio "*Salta la fila*" (con biglietto a tariffa promozionale di 12,00 euro a persona più 4,00 euro a titolo di prevendita e prenotazione per l'ingresso agevolato). Con il biglietto di ingresso, il socio potrà acquistare il DVD *Arte e Fede* al prezzo simbolico di 1,00 euro.



#### **SETTIMANA DELLA CUCINA ITALIANA NEL MONDO**

20 - 26 NOVEMBRE 2017

#### **SETTIMANA DELLA CUCINA ITALIANA NEL MONDO**

Tra il 20 e il 26 novembre scorso in tutto il mondo, si è promosso eventi per la 2a edizione della **Settimana della Cucina Italiana nel Mondo**. L'occasione, annuale, è stata dedicata alla tradizione enogastronomica del nostro Paese, con l'obiettivo di promuovere il settore agroalimentare e vitivinicolo tra quelli più rappresentativi dell'identità italiana. Gli assi portanti della seconda edizione vanno dal binomio tra "cucina e vino di qualità" alla tutela e valorizzazione dei prodotti a denominazione protetta e controllata (per sostenere la protezione dei marchi e contrastare il fenomeno dell'*Italian sounding*), senza dimenticare la promozione degli itinerari enogastronomici e turistici regionali, la formazione nel settore alberghiero (per sviluppare collaborazioni tra cuochi italiani e locali), il sostegno alle candidature dell'arte dei *pizzaiuoli napoletani* nonché del sito "Colline del Prosecco a Valdobbiadene" a patrimonio UNESCO e il sostegno alle produzioni tipiche delle Regioni colpite dal terremoto. #ItalianTaste #SettimanaCucinaItaliana.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU Shari Ullrich.**

**1. What region in Italy were your ancestors from? If you do not have Italian ancestors, what is the ethnic background of your family? Have you ever been there and what was your experience?**

*Would that I had Italian ancestors! My ancestors are English, Irish, and German. My first taste of Italy was as a flight attendant with TWA in the 1960's. One of my brothers subsequently had the good sense to marry an Italian girl whose parents are from Lucca. The ambiance, the people, and the food of Italy have always seemed to me like something out of a dream.*



**2. When did your ancestors arrive in America, and where did they settle originally? Did they come right to Colorado?**

*My ancestors arrived in America in the 1870's, settling in Illinois. I grew up in Chicago. Watching cowboy movies for hours with my grandfather convinced me I was a Westerner accidentally born into a Midwestern family. After finishing high school I enrolled at CU-Boulder hoping to begin the life I was certain I was destined for.*

**3. If you had to describe yourself in one word, what word would that be, and why?**

*The first word which comes to mind is "grateful" for being born into the family I was and grateful for the amazing life I have experienced.*

**4. Who was most influential to you growing up, and why?**

*My parents. They looked at the world with an intangible goodness and belief in people and communicated to their children that we were wonderful, interesting human beings who could accomplish anything as long as we were willing to work for it.*

**5. Tell us a little about you, employment, family, interests and so on.**

*While a flight attendant based in Chicago I received a Master's degree from University of Chicago. In order to "follow the money" (I had none), I moved to Baltimore for a PhD program, commuting to New York each weekend for my airline job. I met my husband, a pilot who was living in Colorado, working a flight from New York to Munich. My marriage gifted me with a generous man of integrity and two terrific step-children. After getting married, I moved back to Colorado and worked primarily in the area of criminal justice before retiring. We now live on a ranch on the Western slope, spending four months in the Denver area during the winter.*

**6. How would you most like to be remembered?**

*I would like to be remembered as someone open to experience, grateful for the gift of life, and doing everything I can to help others feel the same way.*

**7. What attracted you about joining the Dante Alighieri Society?**

*My love of the Italian culture and the existence of language classes first drew me to the Dante Alighieri Society. I'm especially appreciative of the down-to-earth, interesting people I have met through the club. While my bucket list includes appearing on Jeopardy as soon as they change the format to multiple-choice (not probable), the top wish on my post-bucket list is to be Italian in my next life (you never know).*

**SIX QUIRKY REASONS ITALIAN NEW YEAR IS AWESOME** The Italians have a reputation for being a superstitious bunch, and some of their New Year customs can startle the uninitiated foreigner. From the correct underwear to smashing crockery, The Local looks at the stories behind Italy's strangest New Year traditions.

The food: lentils, sausage and grapes.

This is Italy, so food is of paramount importance, and although the traditional New Year's menu might seem like a random selection of foodstuffs, it's actually carefully thought through.

Lentils symbolize wealth and prosperity - either because their round, flat shape and golden brown colour means they resemble gold coins, or because they are long-lasting and so represent longevity.

Then you've got the sausage meat, replaced in some parts of Italy by stuffed pig's trotters, which again means good fortune for the coming year, because it is a rich food symbolizing abundance.

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But don't forget to finish your meal with grapes. These ensure you will be frugal with your new-found wealth, because it was thought that only someone with excellent willpower could save the grapes from the spring harvest time until the New Year meal.

**They wear red underwear for the occasion.** Whether you've got a date for your New Year's Eve party or not, you need to put some extra thought into your undergarments. Red underwear will apparently help to fend off evil spirits and negativity, bringing you happiness in the coming year.



A study carried out by the Italian drinks company San Pellegrino revealed that 60 percent of Italians think the custom is linked to fertility or good luck in your sexual endeavors, but it is actually much more general. The color red has been used for centuries to ward off war and other disasters. You might even see red underwear hanging in the streets or shop windows during the lead-up to New Year.

However, it's traditional that your *capodanno* underwear should be new and a gift from someone else, so no digging out a tattered pair of red pants, and if you buy your own, you're cheating.

**They spend the evening playing bingo (tombola).** In many parts of the world, card games and bingo are associated more with pensioners than trendy parties, but at many Italian New Year's Eve parties everyone settles around the table for a game of 'tombola' - similar to bingo.

Tombola was created in Naples in the 1700s as an alternative to gambling, which the church did not approve of. King Charles of Naples made a concession to the Catholics and said he would ban gambling during the Christmas period only. But Neapolitans found a way to get around the new law by playing tombola at home during the holidays.

**They party until sunrise.** Italians don't do things by halves, and though you may be used to New Year celebrations fizzling out shortly after midnight, be prepared to keep the party going until the early morning. In Italy the celebrations usually last until at least sunrise, so that you can see the new year arrive. (*continued*)



**They throw things.** Watch out for falling objects – in some southern parts of the country, it's traditional to throw possessions, particularly crockery, out of your window to show that you are ready for a new start in the new year.

If you'd rather that new start didn't involve arguments with the neighbours about why you chucked a plate at their head in the new year, you should be wary of seeing a priest or a postman, though the reasons behind this aren't clear.

middle of the night, an alternative tradition is crashing pots and pans together at your front door, to frighten away evil spirits (see below).

**They love a big bang (with a purpose).** True, this New Year custom isn't unique to Italy, but while other nationalities may simply enjoy the bright colours, Italians have a different reason for setting off fireworks.

According to superstition, demons and bad spirits don't like loud noises, so this a way to ensure they're all scared off before the new year begins. Some people even say the pop of champagne corks is the reason prosecco or spumante are favored over normal wines – well, it's as good an excuse as any for a glass of fizz.

**You'll have your future mapped out (So avoid babies, doctors and priests).** Superstition dictates that the first person you meet after midnight on New Year will dictate how the rest of the year plays out. If you see someone older of the opposite sex first, congratulations, you're going to have a great 2017(it's a sign that you will live a long life and be lucky in love this year). If it's a baby or someone of the same sex, your year hasn't got off to the best start. Variations on this legend state doctors are a bad omen too, because it's a sign your health will deteriorate, while others say you should be wary of seeing a priest or a postman, though the reasons behind this aren't clear. (*The Local, by Catherine Edwards*)

If you happen to be in Rome, take advantage of this opportunity to visit this amazing city and to admire its spectacular monuments, like the Pantheon or the Colosseum. Each year, thousands of tourists crowd into the illuminated streets and participate to the "concertone" (big concert) in Circo Massimo and Fori Imperiali, where many Italian singers perform. Even many clubs like "Spazio 900" propose special parties to celebrate the new year.

### **GOOD NEWS AGAIN FROM ROME AND THE VATICAN FOR YOU TRAVELING TO ITALY IN 2018**

The agreement between the Vatican and the Dante has been renewed once again for the year 2018. 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](mailto:rhop626@gmail.com), or Gianfranco Marcantonio at 303-494-3080 [glm3942@yahoo.com](mailto:glm3942@yahoo.com).

For additional privileges for Dante members while in Italy, please visit the following site: <http://ladante.it/diventa-socio/le-convenzioni>.





UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

**Professor Alessandro Perissinotto, Università di Torino, Italy**

*Anna Maglione-Sie Visiting Italian Scholar in Residence*

**CRIME FICTION AS A MIRROR OF A CHANGING SOCIETY**

Join us for this lecture presented by Alessandro Perissinotto, Associate Professor of Narrative Theories and Techniques at the Università di Torino, Italy. In addition to his pedagogical and scholarly activity, Professor Perissinotto has published fifteen novels, including two under the pen name of Arno Saar. His recent narrative production focuses on the Anni di Piombo (the “Leaden Years”) and their legacy to contemporary Italy. Among his most acclaimed novels, *Le colpe di padri* (Piemme, 2013) was a finalist for the prestigious Strega prize. His lecture introduces crime fiction as embracing different literary traditions: among other authors, it focuses on the works of Edgar Allan Poe, George Simenon, and Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

**FREE**

**LINDSAY AUDITORIUM**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018  
5:30 P.M. REFRESHMENTS  
6:30 P.M. LECTURE

STURM HALL  
2000 E. ASBURY AVE, ROOM 281  
DENVER, CO 80208

[DU.EDU/LANGIT/SIELECTURE](http://DU.EDU/LANGIT/SIELECTURE)

**2018 Calendar**

**Cultural Meetings**

February 9

**Events**

**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.**