



Notiziario



September 2020

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Dante Alighieri Society of Denver Website: <http://dantealighieriofdenver.com/>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT As I reported in last month's Notiziario, a committee of representatives, including myself, from several Italian-American organizations was formed to discuss the re-dedication of the statue in Civic Center Park honoring Christopher Columbus. Though I was assured by our Italian vice-consul, Giovanna Carriero-Contreras, that the Dante Alighieri Society would have equal involvement in the process, I was never notified of any further meetings. At two follow-up meetings, the other committee members designed a survey to be distributed to all Italian organizations and their members requesting input on the new Italian-American memorial. The link that follows will direct you to the vice-consul's website where the survey can be filled out. You are asked to add your thoughts and opinions on the issues and thus, by adding your voice, you will be a part of the Italian-American community which assures this memorial will represent the positive attributes and contributions made by the Italians not only to the City of Denver but also the State of Colorado. Please take a few minutes to express your opinions. <https://coitalianhc.com/columbus.html>
Grazie. John Giardino, President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A VIRTUAL CULTURAL PRESENTATION.

You've heard plenty of stories about living in North Denver, and probably have a few of your own to share. Join us for a virtual book reading by Phyllis Ursetta from her book *My Life in the Middle of the Mob* on ZOOM on Friday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: You will receive invitation and password to ZOOM 24 to 48 hours prior to the cultural presentation.

Phyllis Borelli Ursetta was born and raised in North Denver's "Little Italy" in a house that is still standing at 37th and Mariposa Street, and she lives just a few blocks from there today. She grew up within walking distance to Columbus Park pool and spent many summers swimming there. She watched movies in the Bug House (the slang name) and bought ten-cent single slices of pizza from the old Subway on 37th and Lipan. She attended both elementary and high school at Mt Carmel and is still a member of the church today and sings in their choir.

Her career in real estate got started twenty-seven ago when she met and worked for Dana Crawford, who mentored her for two years. Since then, she has owned and operated her own brokerage, Integrity Reality and specializes in condos, lofts, and single-family homes and knows Denver and the surrounding areas well.

She recently published her first book, a fiction which she co-wrote with her sister, Carol Pollard. They wanted to share ownership as authors, thus their pen name, c j draper. The story takes place in a city called Sable that closely resembles the neighborhood where Phyllis grew up and the life she led there. Names were changed to protect the not so innocent. The book—available on Amazon in both eBook and paperback—is titled... *My Life in the Middle of the Mob* by c j draper.

GET READY FOR ROME Professor Wayne Ambler of CU Boulder and past speaker at many of our cultural meetings has created a website and series of podcasts on the history of Rome. Currently the webpage is ready and the podcasts will begin on September 20. We urge all members of our organization to look at this beautiful and informative site and enjoy the upcoming podcasts. The website is www.getreadyforrome.com



AUGURI DI BUON COMPLEANNO We will launch a new column in the Notiziario to wish our members a Buon Compleanno during their birthday month. The column will list the names and the day of the month that a member has a birthday, but we will not publish the year of a member's birth. Please send a quick email, with your birthday month and day, to Dante Society board member, Suzanne Fasing, at suzannefasing@yahoo.com Grazie!

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 14 The Dante Alighieri Society will offer only online remote Italian language classes in the fall 2020 session, using the Zoom platform. The ten-week fall session of classes will begin the week of September 14, 2020. Zoom classes will be held on the dates and times listed below. The class schedule is also posted on the Society website. Each class meets for 90 minutes, once a week. Classes are taught by talented bi-lingual instructors who have significant experience teaching Italian with the Zoom platform. A prerequisite for all classes is students' familiarity with Zoom before taking the first class. The Dante Society hopes to resume in-person language classes at Mt Carmel parish in January 2021, if it's prudent. Cost is \$115 for members and \$145 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. To register and pay for classes, visit the web site: <http://dantealighieriofdenver.com/classes/language-classes/>

The registration deadline for the fall session is September 7, 2020.

Beginner 1. Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning September 14, 2020 through November 16, 2020 (Jensen). 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. Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning September 16, 2020 through November 18, 2020 (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 will be offered in a future session.

Beginner 4. Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning September 17, 2020 through November 19, 2020 (Brunetti). In this class students will build upon their prior studies through role plays, listening, reading and writing activities. Topics include future verb tenses and learning about holidays and train travel in Italy. **Required Text: The Italian Project 1a**

Intermediate 1. Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning September 15, 2020 through November 17, 2020 (Jensen). In this class students will build upon their prior studies through role plays, listening, reading and writing activities. Topics include past verb tenses and possessive pronouns. **Required Text:** **The Italian Project 1b.**

Intermediate 2 and 3 will be offered in a future session.

Intermediate 4. Wednesdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning September 16, 2020 through November 18, 2020 (Brunetti). In this class students will continue to expand their studies of increasingly complex grammatical structures and vocabulary through listening activities, role plays, readings, education videos and written assignments. Topics include present and past conditional tenses and review of Italian Project 1a and 1b textbooks. **Required Text:** **The Italian Project 1b.**

Italian Literature 203. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning September 15, 2020, through November 17, 2020 (Jensen). Advanced Intermediate class on **Luigi Pirandello's Novelle Per Un Anno, Una Scelta.** The book is a shortened and easier version than the original and includes nine short stories of five to seven pages each. Students will read, listen and discuss book, and do grammar, vocabulary and comprehension exercises on each chapter of the book. Strong knowledge of the language is necessary to engage in conversation. Students will discuss the book in the present, past, future and conditional tenses. **Required Text:** **Luigi Pirandello's Novelle Per Un Anno, Una Scelta (ISBN: 9788853620279).** Students may purchase this book from internet booksellers, including applauselearning.com, bookdepository.com, europeanbookshop.com or by clicking this link for the publisher of ELI graded readers: <https://www.eligradedreaders.com/en/catalogo/italiano/Novelle-per-un-anno-%E2%80%93Una-scelta-9788853620279-detail.html>

Conversation 208. Thursdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning September 17, 2020 through November 19, 2020 (Brunetti). This class will be full immersion. Students will be able to converse, understand, and write on a variety of subjects including but not limited to art and literature. Emphasis will be on becoming “linguistically flexible.” **Required Text:** **The Italian Project 2b.**

PROGRAMS REPORT Since we've all been sheltering at home for several months, the Dante Board would like to know what you've been doing to stay busy and keep yourself entertained. Please send me a line or two explaining what you've been up to. We will be posting your response in upcoming issues of the Notiziario. We've heard from several members. Here's what they've said. Please share your comments with the Dante Society membership. Send them to Susan Gurule susangurule@msn.com. **WE HAVE MORE COMMENTS.....SOLet's Talk....**

- Ciao a tutti, Silvio has been taking care of his garden. He has zucchini, pumpkin, beans, lots of garlic, oregano, tomatoes and chiles. We have been at home and walk our dogs daily. We go out every once in a while to eat at a restaurant.
Silvio is finishing another book, this one is about his childhood growing up in Trinidad, Colorado. He focuses in on life at Mount Carmel Church in Trinidad, around 1960's.
I have been crocheting and reading and I go to outdoor yoga in our neighborhood four days a week.
We try to go to church, when we can get a reservation.
I started to bake bread every week and it has all been therapeutic.
We hope that all of you are well. Cari saluti, Rosalie and Silvio
- Judy and I are doing okay and hope you and all the Dante members can say the same. We are a bit restless and have not seen our children and grandchildren since this started. I think that is about to change. We get up every morning and ask each other, “what are we having for dinner tonight? “ The question after dinner is , “ what should we watch tonight? “ There is a lot of reading going on too. The best thing I have read so far is “ The Gift of Rain “. Finally we have learned to Zoom with friends and family. Hopefully we will come out of this the better. Stay well, Nick

- I heard a fellow Dr. of Psychology in a recent Webinar saying that in this time of SARS Coronavirus-19 that while staying at home we should focus on inner peace.

To achieve this peacefulness, we should always finish things that we have started and of course we all could use more calmness in our lives.

I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, and a box of chocolate.

You have no idea how absolutely fabulous I feel right now. I want to send this to all my phelo Dandee numbers who need inner pizza and tell me I love you. And two has your wands. And towards your mascStafe day avrybobby!!! Love youuu! Ammo! Sow! Frank

***** **Let's Talk** wants to hear from you regarding a topic we believe most Italians can relate to - **Sunday dinners**. Please share a favorite memory of yours about what Sunday dinners mean to you, or if you still carry on the tradition, or if you want to bring back the Sunday dinners. Italian comedian Sebastian Maniscalco felt so strongly about Sunday dinners that he has hosted on-line Sunday Suppers. Send your thoughts to me at susangurule@msn.com. I'm eager to hear from you.

NEWS FROM ITALY

Venice anti-cruise ship activists cheer temporary victory as liners pull-out.

A Venice citizen's group is cheering a temporary victory as cruise lines pull out of the lagoon city this year due to coronavirus logistical challenges, even as pressure rises from furloughed port workers. MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises announced this week that their first Mediterranean cruises after a months-long hiatus due to the pandemic would depart from Genoa and Trieste, larger ports that make new coronavirus-related regulations, such as social distancing, easier to ensure.



Photo: Miguel Medina / AFP

On Friday, the group No Grandi Navi (No Big Ships) plans an evening gathering to celebrate what organizers called a small step forward in an eight-year battle to ban the massive ships from Venice's environmentally fragile waters. No departures from the UNESCO-listed city are planned for the rest of the year, as the two companies trim back their schedules and itineraries. Many big cruise ships will also be skipping Venice as a port of call.

"This isn't the final victory. But it's an important step and we believe it opens a new phase of negotiations in which the game has changed," No Grandi Navi committee member Marta Sottoriva told AFP. The port of Venice is a major economic driver for the city, bringing in hordes of day-trippers who swell the number of annual visits to the city to over 30 million, according to some estimates. Environmentalists charge that massive waves generated from the hulking liners, which are often hundreds of meters long and several stories high, erode the foundations of the floating city. (Author: AFP|Update: 17.08.2020)

Italy's biggest cruise companies won't be stopping in Venice this summer.

Neither MSC Cruises nor Costa Crociere plan to sail their giant liners to Venice as they resume operations this summer after a six-month shutdown. Instead the companies are planning departures from the port of Trieste, around two hours north-east of Venice, and Genoa on the north-west coast.

Italy's government has given the go-ahead for cruises to restart from August 15th, though operators must stick to European routes in line with a ban on tourism from outside the EU. And while Venice is typically a highlight of Italian cruises, receiving more than a million passengers a year, as sailing resumes it doesn't look set to be the starting point, destination or even a stopover for ships operated by Italy's two biggest cruise companies.



Photo: Miguel Medina / AFP

The news has been hailed as a victory by anti-cruise campaigners in Venice, but it's not yet clear why operators are steering clear, or how long they'll stay away. The MSC Grandiosa will be the first liner to sail after ports reopen, leaving from Genoa for Malta with stops in Rome, Naples and Palermo. It's one of two Mediterranean routes the company has confirmed, the other departing from Trieste towards Greece and returning to Bari – without stopping in Venice.

Meanwhile Costa Crociere says its cruises will resume in September, starting with a weekly cruise from Trieste to Greece and followed by another route from Genoa to Malta. The company did not directly answer The Local's questions about whether it would return to Venice, but in an emailed statement it said that it would announce further details of its itineraries in the coming days. All other routes are suspended until September 30th, 2020, it said.

MSC had not responded to a request for comment at the time of writing. Earlier this month the company said that passengers departing from Trieste would be offered the chance to visit Venice by train.

Anti-cruise ship activists had threatened to prevent liners returning to Venice by any means possible, including blocking the port with boats or even acts of sabotage. "We said it, we promised it and so it will be: no ships will enter the lagoon for the entire season," declared campaign group Comitato NoGrandiNavi on Monday. "No company has the strength to defy our blockade against the return of these ships that are useless, harmful and unsustainable in every respect!"

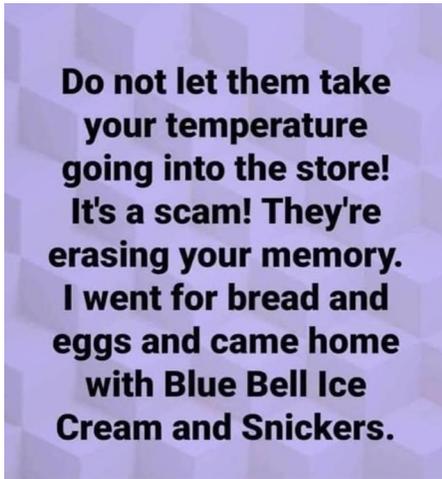
The group was organizing a rally at the port on Friday to celebrate what it called "the expulsion of big ships from Venice", which it said it wanted to see gone from the lagoon for good. Residents have long complained that giant cruise ships cause environmental damage and flood Venice with day-trippers, who are less valuable to the local economy than visitors paying to stay overnight.

Before the pandemic the city council planned to start charging day-trippers an entry fee in summer 2020, which would have ranged from €3 to €10 at peak times. But port workers protested this week calling for liners to return. They blamed the operators' decision to skip Venice both on anti-cruise activists but also the local government, which they said had failed to provide companies with clear options to return.

In a **statement**, the workers said they supported calls to reroute cruises away from St Mark's Square in the historic centre, but that banning cruises from Venice altogether would put 4,000 jobs at risk. In response, Comitato NoGrandiNavi called for "a new development model for the city and for jobs" to replace mass tourism while protecting residents and workers.

By Jessica Phelan jessica.phelan@thelocal.com

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE.



HAROLD MAY BECOME THE NEW FAVORITE

- A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Harold stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Harold?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'
- The math teacher saw that Harold wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, 'Harold! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?' Harold quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'

(Jokes submitted by Dr. Frank Giardino and Rosalie Spicola.)

KING SOOPERS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM BENEFITS OUR DANTE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Over the past 2 years, King Soopers has generously donated over \$1,200 to our Scholarship program based on your purchases. You can link your King Soopers loyalty card (phone #) to The Dante by selecting BF884 from King Soopers website/community rewards. It's a bit complicated: for information contact Carol Marsala (clmarsala@gmail.com 303.237.0688).

2020 CALENDAR

September 11, 2020 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Cultural Presentation: Book Reading

NOTE: ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE