PRESIDENT REPORT  We’re already into December and the holiday season, a good time to reflect on the past year. It’s been a renewing year with the in-person Scholarship Luncheon, stimulating cultural meetings, a summer picnic, Italian Heritage Month, Italian classes and now our Christmas Party. Let’s also take time to remember those members and loved ones who have passed in 2021. Despite COVID-19 drastically changing our lives, the Dante Alighieri Society is going strong thanks to our dedicated Board and our Society members who continue to support the celebration of Italian culture. Plans are underway for next year, so stay tuned as the Dante Alighieri Society of Denver strives to provide even more exciting experiences in 2022. Buon Natale e Buon Anno!  John Giardino

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION  This year the annual Christmas party will be held at Mt. Carmel Parish Hall (3549 Navajo St., Denver) on Saturday, December 11, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. The change in venue was prompted by the fact that North Park Club House was too small to accommodate the increasing number of members attending the event. As usual members whose last name begins with A through R will be asked to bring heavy hors d’oevres and members with last names beginning with the initial S through Z are asked to bring a dessert. For additional information and RSVP, please contact Rhonda Hopkins at 720-596-4169 or rhop62@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.

Public Health Guidelines will be followed

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  It’s that time of year again. Membership renewal cards will be going out at the end of the month. I hope you will join us for another year of interesting lectures and activities as permitted. Please review the information on the card and make any corrections before mailing it back to me with your payment.

Attention students: If you plan to continue taking language classes in 2022, it will be necessary for you to renew your membership regardless of when you joined the DAS. Please pay for your class and membership at the same time. If I receive payment prior to mailing the renewal cards, I will not send a card to you. Instead, I will check your current information from your registration and fill the card out for you. Grazie, Rhonda.

Buone Feste a Tutti
BENVENUTI  The Society gives a warm welcome to the following new members:  Claudia Giannetti, Dina and Doug Isern, Elsa Raffioni, and Bill Strempel.

MATCHING GRANT FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND  In memory of his parents, Dr. Frank J and Mary J. Giardino, Dr. Frank W. Giardino has offered a $1000 matching grant to be used for the Dante Alighieri Scholarship Program. All donations up to that amount in total will be matched. Donations to the Dante Alighieri Scholarship Fund should be sent to Carol Marsala, 1696 Garland St., Denver, CO 80215.  As members have donated, they are pleased to learn that their contribution is matched and therefore worth twice as much.  Please join now in supporting our scholarship program, as the matching opportunity will end in the next few months.

CULTURAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2022:  We are pleased to welcome back Professor Steven Hughes for a presentation entitled “Why Italian Switzerland? And why it’s important in Italy’s history.” This program will give us not only a valuable history lesson but also delightful views of this picturesque region which many tourists enjoy when spending time in Northern Italy.  Look for details in the January Notiziario and plan to start the New Year with an informative and entertaining cultural meeting.

DONNE DI MERITO  Halloween has passed, we’re wondering where we’re going to find a turkey for Thanksgiving due to the supply chain crisis and we have those sugarplum fairies dancing in our heads as we approach Christmas. If that isn’t enough to keep your mind busy, let me plant another seed there – the Donne di Merito (Women of Merit) Awards. As you encounter your family and friends during this festive time, give some thought as to which of those women is worthy of the Donne di Merito. The nomination forms will be available in January, the deadline for nominations is February 19, 2022. The award winners will be selected in March and the awards will be presented on May 22, 2022 in conjunction with the scholarship winners.

NOVEMBER SOUP EXCHANGE:  In November we combined our annual general meeting with a delightful supper of soups, bread and desserts brought by our members.  We all had a taste of about 15 delicious soups while enjoying fellowship and catching up on the activities of the Society over the past year.  This promises to be an annual event and a wonderful way to begin the holiday season.

AUGURI DI BUON COMPLEANNO  We wish our members a Buon Compleanno during their birthday month:  We want to include more members in this column, so please send a quick email, with your birthday month and day, to Dante Society board member, Suzanne Fasing, at suzannefasing@yahoo.com  Grazie!

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silvio Caputo</td>
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<td>Emily Ross</td>
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<td>Ramona Olivas</td>
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<td>Kathy Thalmann</td>
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<td>Jami Dinsmore</td>
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<td>Nicholas Griffes</td>
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<td>Scott Reeves</td>
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<td>Melissa DiBiase</td>
<td>Dec 30</td>
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Mese del cuore  
Son dicembre e serro l’anno 
finché’ arriva Capodanno; 
porto l’albero coi doni 
e il Presepio ai bimbi buoni;

Month of the heart  
I am December and I close the year 
till New Year arrives; 
I bring the tree with gifts 
and the nativity scene to good children;
ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES WINTER SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 10, 2022

The Winter 2022 session of Italian language classes offered by the Dante Alighieri Society of Denver will be in-person language classes at 3549 Navajo Street, Denver 80211 in the parish office of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Each class meets for 90 minutes, once a week, for 10 weeks, beginning the week of January 10, 2022. The class schedule is also posted on the Society website. Classes are taught by talented bi-lingual instructors who have significant experience teaching Italian. 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/

COVID policies for classes:
The health of our students and teachers is very important to the Dante Alighieri Society and for this reason, all students registering for in-person Italian language classes must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks will be required in the classroom whenever required or recommended by the City of Denver, or the State of Colorado, or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The registration deadline for the winter session is January 3, 2022.

Beginner 1. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning January 11, 2022 through March 15, 2022 (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 New Italian Project 1a

Intermediate 2. Wednesdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning January 12, 2022 through March 16, 2022 (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 New Italian Project 1a

Intermediate 1 will be offered in a future session.

Intermediate 2. Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning January 12, 2022 through March 16, 2022 (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 direct object pronouns, reflexive verbs and the impersonal form. Required Text: The New Italian Project 1b

Intermediate Conversation 102: Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, beginning January 11, 2022 through March 15, 2022 (Jensen). This class will be conducted in Italian, and will introduce new vocabulary, topics and some grammar. Students will be able to converse on a variety of everyday subjects described in the required text. Required Text: (ISBN: 9788831496841) La Nuova Prova Orale 1
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?**

I am only a tiny bit Italian as far as blood ancestry in this lifetime, unfortunately. My ancestral makeup is heavily Scottish and Danish from my fathers’ side and French/English on my mother's side. The Italian heritage comes through the Danish side of my family. We are very close to those relatives, and my father's side has done a great job with studying and keeping track of family history, but then we come across very Italian sounding names marrying into the family but mysteriously very little is known about these relatives. I have to imagine they came sometime around the *Risorgimento*. I really would like to find out more myself. When I was about 12, I remember checking out every Italian book, travel guide, and VHS of Rick Steves or the Met Opera. I have to think I have the blood in me because I was completely mesmerized at such an early age by the country and the culture. I spent a summer there as soon as I could, while studying at SMU in 2001, and then moved there for a year sabbatical back in 2006. My husband, 4 year old daughter and I are planning to move back in about a year and a half. It is home to my heart!

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

My relatives on both sides settled in Iowa. My Danish relatives were in road construction— in Denmark of course at that point it was cobblestones mostly. My Great Great Grandfather, a stonemason, then learned more modern methods and eventually my Grandfather, father and uncles all ran a very prominent heavy road construction business in the western US. My parents moved our family to Colorado when I was 8 months old.

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

*Passionate.* I am intense, excitable, emotional and curious...and I think all of those things tend to make me very passionate about the things I love (and consequently, the things I don't love as well!). I suppose sometimes that lands me in the "Primadonna" category, but I think that characteristic makes me feel 100% Italian!

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

My mother, for sure. She is the strongest, most graceful and loving mother. Actually, she and I share the passion for Italy and all things Italian. She taught me many things that seem to have been lost on my generation— cooking, baking, entertaining, interior design, sewing, gardening. We actually were last in Italy...
together for a mother/daughter baby-moon to buy Italian clothing and linens for my daughter when I was still pregnant. Bellissima!

5. Tell us a little about you, employment, family, interests and so on. I spent a few years out of college working in London as a freelance fashion journalist, then over a decade in TV news here in the states as a reporter and anchor. I returned to Denver to start a private fashion business, mostly working with private clients. I also have events for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and some well-known charity events. I really love to work with my private clients, however, which has morphed as I grow my business and likely return to a full-time position in TV or Fashion in Milan. I have a 4-year-old daughter, Aradia Seraphine, and a wonderful husband, Ford.

6. How would you most like to be remembered? I would like to be remembered as someone who is a rule-breaker, courageous, daring, bold, stylish...but also caring, compassionate, loving and graceful.

7. What attracted you about joining the Dante Alighieri Society? I had known about the society for a long time, but felt I wasn’t “Italian Enough” to join! Not for anything I read or had heard, just my own hang-up. Realizing my dream to move my family there and work there, I knew I needed to start speaking the language again and not just listening so I signed up for classes and the rest is history!

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TIPS ON ITALY By Tonya Clement

With travel restrictions softening, more of us will be able to travel to Italy in the coming months. It seems a good time to do a quick refresh on the many ways to say hello to people as it really is our first opportunity to have a conversation.

With good friends and family, it is appropriate to say Ciao (hello/goodbye) as this is a very informal way to say hi or to say bye. When leaving a meeting it is fine to say Grazie, ciao (thanks goodbye). If you are checking into a hotel, entering a café or passing by an older person that you do not know, it is more appropriate to say, Buongiorno (good morning) or buon pomeriggio (good afternoon) or buona sera (good evening).

I remember strolling along a walking path in Italy and having several Italians address me by saying, salve which is a very generic way to say hello any time of day as it is both polite and common.

Now if we want to step it up a notch and engage with a few more words, it is common to say the following to someone you have not seen in a long time, Non ci vediamo da tanto tempo (long time no see). Another nice way of saying the same thing is, Da quanto tempo non ci vediamo! (It has been a long time since we have seen each other).

If you see a friend and just want to ask very informally what is up, you might just say, Che si dice? While this is considered by many to be slang, it is more common to hear either Come stai or Come va (how are you)?

One of my favorite Italian words is piacere. The Ritz Carlton is known for telling customers it a pleasure to serve them. For this reason, it has always sounded so lovely to me to tell someone that it is a pleasure to greet them and in doing so you would say, “piacere di conoscerti (it is nice to meet you) or phrased slightly differently as you are walking away from an encounter you might say, E’ stato un piacere conoscerti (it was a pleasure to meet you). If that is too much to remember, you can always just say, piacere (it is implied that it is a pleasure) or piacere mio (which implies my pleasure) when shaking the hand of an acquaintance.

Finally, should you want to take it one step further and perhaps start a conversation it is common to ask them...
how their day is going and here are two appropriate greetings; **Come va oggi** (how is your day going) or **Come vanno le cose** (how is everything). Both are used a lot in Italy and both will bring a smile to the recipient of your inquiry.

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**2021- 2022 CALENDAR**

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<th>CULTURAL MEETINGS</th>
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Answer to *Indovinello*: *la lettera “d”* - (riddle): the letter “D”

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**Italian Heritage Month** is over, and what a month it was. The Dante Alighieri Society of Denver hosted nine events, eleven if you count Prima Domenica and the proclamation signing at the City of Northglenn.

I have plenty of thank yous to hand out. First to the board of directors who have given their approval and support for the activities for this Italian Heritage Month. When I noted that we had five full weekends this year and I wanted to fill each weekend with activity, the board members gave their nod. Secondly and equally as important is the committee of committed members who have worked right along side me in planning and executing each event. In alphabetical order, they are: Bob Badovinac, Ida Casagranda, Anne Cucchi, John Giardino, Veronica Goodrich, Camilla Marcantonio, Gianfranco Marcantonio, Pamela Marcantonio, Griselda Padilla, Dee and Tom Treloar, Colette Wagner, and Tonia Williams. And although they were not part of the committee, I want to thank Rhonda Hopkins for all her hard work in setting up for the cooking classes and Carol Marsala for making sure everyone’s reimbursement checks were sent out promptly. Thank you.

Another huge thank you needs to go out to the vendors who supported us. They are 23rd Avenue Sculpture Studio, Amore Gelato and Deli Italia. Their contributions to our events made a tremendous difference. Thank you.

I also want to thank the other Italian-American organizations that supported, promoted and attended the activities hosted by the Dante Society. While we all share the same “Italian-American” designation, we each have our unique strengths and differences and its heartwarming to have their support. Thank you.

And, of course, the success of these events wouldn’t have happened without the support and attendance we received from all the wonderful people who came to them. Thank you.

If anyone is interested in serving on the committee next year, please let me know. Susan Gurule, Italian Heritage Month Committee Chairwoman (720-484-1014) or susangurule@msn.com.

Here’s some of the feedback I’ve received from folks.

- *The presentation on Dante Alighieri was incredible. Dr. Fabian has an extraordinary knowledge of Dante. His presentation was full of enthusiasm and humor.* Joe
Several people expressed interest in the Dante Alighieri classes taught by Dr. Seth Fabian. The registration link is:

https://sjvlaydivision.stellarwebsystems.com/extensions/landing

Well, I don’t know how the gelato social could have been any better. What a fun and successful event. Thanks to you and your committee. Rhonda

When we arrived at Spero Winery, we were greeted by Bella, the winery’s hostess dog, who made everyone welcome. The food and wine were good and the conversation was great. – Bob

We really enjoyed the Scopa game. I’ve been playing all the time now on line. Debra & Nick

My daughter and I had a wonderful experience learning new recipes and making new friends. It was a morning filled with fun and a lot of laughter. Lee Ann

October - Italian Heritage Month… A HUGE SUCCESS
A look back... some pictures of the Dante memorable October 2021 events.

10/1 Dr. Fabian
10/2 Gelato Social
10/8 Wine Tasting
10/9 Italian card game
10/15 Italian movie
10/24 Dinner at Colore
10/29 Italian movie
10/30 Cooking class