



DA Notiziario

April 2022

· PRESIDENT: JOHN GIARDINO · VICE PRESIDENT: SUSAN GURULE · SECRETARY: IDA CASAGRANDA · TREASURER: CAROL MARSALA · PAST PRESIDENT: VERONICA GOODRICH
· EDUCATION: SUZANNE FASING · HISTORIAN: GIANFRANCO MARCANTONIO · MEMBERSHIP: RHONDA HOPKINS

PRESIDENT MESSAGE: Each month I like to keep you informed of what's happening in your Dante Alighieri Society. Well, this month I don't know where to start. There is so much going on now that even I have trouble keeping track. A new session of Italian language classes begins the end of March, we have our regular cultural meeting on April 8, a possible second session of Scopa is in the works, discussion is underway for a cooking class on April 23. Then in May we have the Scholarship/*Donne di Merito* Awards Luncheon at Mount Vernon Canyon Club, and a concert featuring Italian soprano Angela Papale. Plans are already in the works for a unique summer picnic. The Italian Heritage Month Committee has started planning for a super exciting celebration of the Italian culture in October. There has even been some preliminary discussion about the annual Christmas party! I encourage anyone who wants to share in the excitement and planning or has suggestions for other activities, please let one of your Board members know. This is your organization and we want to make sure that, as your elected officials, we are delivering the activities, programs and value you expect from the Dante Alighieri Society of Denver. Grazie, John Giardino

MARK YOUR CALENDARS *La prima domenica* in April will be on the 3rd, at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Parish Hall, 3549 Navajo Street, Denver. The Dante Society is once again sponsoring the breakfast following the Mass, so mark your calendars. Grazie.

APRIL CULTURAL MEETING Colorado University **Professor Wayne Ambler** will be the featured speaker on **Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.** at Mount Carmel Church Parish Hall. The title of the presentation is ***"And then the World became Christian: Constantine the Great and the Christianization of the Roman Empire"***.

This lecture will discuss the most important monuments in Rome dedicated to Constantine the Great, the controversial emperor who declared Christianity to be the official religion of the Roman Empire and helped to make it one of the defining characteristics of Rome, Italy, and Europe as a whole.

Public Health Guidelines will be followed at all events.

SPRING AWARDS LUNCHEON: Please plan to join us for a celebration of excellence as we present the 2022 *Donne di Merito* Award as well as this year's scholarships to deserving college students planning to study in Italy. This annual event will again be held at the Mount Vernon Canyon Club Colorado and will feature a plated luncheon followed by the presentation of awards. Details can be found in the **reservation form on the last page of this *Notiziario*, and you may also register on the website of our Society.** This is traditionally a highlight of our annual events and represents the goals and mission we strive to impart to the community. We hope you will all plan to attend.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Denver Announces Its 2022 *Donne di Merito* Award Recipient

The Dante Alighieri Society of Denver has long acknowledged the contributions and achievements of Italian and Italian-American women to society as a whole. In March, International Women's Month, the Dante Alighieri Society selected another *donna di merito*, (woman of merit) who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments that have contributed to the promotion, maintenance and preservation of the Italian culture. This year's award recipient is Alisa DiGiacomo, a fifth-generation Italian American woman. Since 1999 Alisa has been employed by History Colorado, and in May 2018 as Director of Curatorial Services and Senior Curator. Alisa was the founder of the Colorado Italian American Preservation Association (CIAPA) in 2002. The primary goal of this organization is to develop research archives that document the history, people and traditions of the community. Alisa is the author of *Italy in Colorado: Family Histories from Denver and Beyond*. The book is currently in its 3rd printing. Additionally, Alisa was the curator of The Italians of Denver exhibit at the Colorado History Museum from April 2007 to July 2008. She has also made a significant impact on our Italian community by writing several books and articles on the history and culture of the community. Alisa provides the monthly features of *A Page in Time* and *Community Story* in *Andiamo!*, Colorado's Italian American newspaper.



Other achievements include being the co-founder of the Cabrini Day Holiday Commission from 2018 to the present. Since 2008 Alisa has been processing the CIAPA Research Archive for History Colorado. This will ensure that future generations will be able to access the information at the History Colorado library. People are able to listen to oral histories and view photographs that are part of the archives. She is an active member of numerous Italian organizations and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. She is a frequent lecturer and presenter on Italian culture and history.

The *Donne di Merito* Award will be awarded to Alisa DiGiacomo on Sunday, May 1st at the Dante Alighieri Society's Award Luncheon at Mt. Vernon Canyon Club at 12:00 noon. Details are available in the reservation form on the last page of this *Notiziario*.

OPERATIC RECITAL MAY 15, 2022 The Dante Alighieri Societies of Denver and of Pueblo, Colorado, will present an operatic recital on Sunday, May 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m., at Green Mountain United Methodist Church, located at 12755 West Cedar Drive, Lakewood, Colorado.

The two Societies accepted the invitation to host directly from Sanremo Italy, soprano **Angela Papale** and pianist **Fabio Marra**. They will be performing in Colorado as part of their 2022 tournee with performances which include Paris (France), Hamburg (Germany), Detroit and Boston.

In the 1980's and 1990's The Dante Alighieri Society was fortunate to be able to host many musical groups from Italy as the Italian economy was strong and the government subsidized performers to entertain overseas. This situation has changed, and we no longer see many Italian performers here in Colorado. We are proud to say that we welcome back Angela Papale and Fabio Marra for an operatic recital.

We strongly encourage our members and friends to mark your calendar as you will enjoy a great live performance. We look forward to seeing you at the concert!

- \$20 per person. For tickets contact: Rhonda Hopkins: 720-596-4169, rhop626@gmail.com 13738w. 62nd Dr., Arvada 80004.
- To pay via PayPal: <https://dantealighieriofdenver.com/paypal/>
- For more information, please call or e-mail: Gianfranco Marcantonio – 303-494-3080 or glm3942@yahoo.com





Claire, Dr. Waldbaum, Isabella

MILLE GRAZIE A special thank you to our three presenters at the March 11 cultural program. The event featured Dr. Roberta Waldbaum, who showcased the creative work of her students, as well as the presentation from last year's scholarship winners Claire Steffek and Isabella Rizzo. The program captivated the interest of all who attended. Brave tutte!

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Dante Alighieri Society's 10-week spring session of in-person Italian language classes begins the week of March 28. The summer session of classes will start in June, and registration will be available on the Society website in mid-May. Information will also be provided in the Notiziario. The classes are taught by experienced and talented bi-lingual teachers, and include beginner, intermediate, and conversation classes. Each class meets for 90 minutes, once a week in the parish office of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, 3549 Navajo Street, Denver. 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. Please register early because classes do fill up. For more information, please contact the Education Chair Suzanne Fasing at suzannefasing@yahoo.com. Information about the classes is also available on the web site: <http://dantealighieriofdenver.com/classes/language-classes/>

AUGURI DI BUON COMPLEANNO We wish our members a Buon Compleanno during their birthday month.



Lorraine Shuba
Hadrien Dykiel
Lauren Bonta
Dan Ferraro
Joe Holeman
John Shea
Rosalie Spicola

April 4
April 8
April 9
April 11
April 23
April 25
April 30



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!

Mese del cuore

Aprile I cuori fremono
di teneri languori;
insieme con le primule
fioriscono gli amori

Month of the heart

April, hearts tremble
with tender longing;
together with primroses
bloom new loves.

INDOVINELLO (Riddle) *Qual e' la citta' piu' pericolosa ed esplosiva?* (Which city is the most dangerous and explosive?)

La risposta a pagina cinque - (answer on page five)

BENVENUTI

The Dante Alighieri Society of Denver gives a warm welcome to our newest members: Sarah Adams, Melissa Agnew, Lauren Bonta, James Chantel, Kay Dea, Mathew Filiberti, Samantha Hagen, Thomas Ruge, Natalie Thompson, Antigone Vigil, and Terrence Watkins.



THE GAME OF SCOPA? Our first gathering to play scopa took place on March 11 at 5:00 p.m. prior to the cultural presentation. We had twelve players and filled three tables. This was a trial and now we will have to decide if there is a more opportune date and time. There will also be future opportunities for those of you who don't yet know how to play the game but want to learn. We will keep you posted.

CONDOLENCES On Thursday, February 24, 2022, the Society lost one of its pillars. **Joe Adducci** was a charter member and treasurer for two decades. We will miss the gentleman with the fantastic smile, and we offer the entire Adducci family our sincere condolences.

We also offer "sentite condoglianze" to Dr. Roberta Waldbaum and family for the loss of her husband **Leonard** on Sunday, March 20.

THE DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF DENVER is seeking a Hospitality Chairperson

What do I do? Make a few calls and line up people to bring refreshments to the Society's cultural meetings.
That's it? You will need to buy sodas and San Pellegrino and bring them to each meeting. Also, pick up the key to the parish hall prior to the meetings.

How often do I need to do this? Once a month.

Do I need to attend every cultural meeting? No, just find someone to take over a specific month you can't make it.

Do I do it every month? No, there are certain months when we have the awards luncheon, the annual picnic, and the Christmas party when no refreshments are needed.

I'm interested, whom do I call to volunteer? President, John Giardino, 303-378-9736
johngiardino@comcast.net

TIPS ON ITALY By Tonya Clement.

The thing I love the most about the Italian language is the way many things are just fun to say. If you start to practice some of the common phrases, they will soon be rolling off your tongue.

This month the word to practice is "*Quandomai*." It is a word used by many Italians when they want to express surprise or when they want to show a bit of disapproval with a little bit of rhetorical pizzaz.

When you break it down, *Quando* = When and *Mai* = (ever).

When these words are combined together, *Quandomai* can mean many things and be used in many different contexts. Here are a few examples of the meanings and uses of the statement:

Quandomai mi hai amato? (Whenever did you love me?)

Quandomai abbiamo lavorato tanto? (Whenever did we work so much?)

Quandomai hai lavorato? (Whenever did you work?)

Quandomai e' andata a modo mio? (Whenever did it go my way?)

Giulia, *quandomai* mi lamento? (Whenever do I complain?)

Scusa, ma *quandomamai* ho urlato? (Excuse me, but whenever did I yell?)

I find so much joy in saying *quandomai*. It sounds very Italian.



BRIEF NEWS FROM ITALY

- **Florence tomb by Michelangelo restored with aid of bacteria.**

A Medici family chapel created by Michelangelo that was cleaned with the help of bacteria has been presented to the public to mark the 545th anniversary of the Renaissance master's birth.

- **Study abroad: the little-known secret to success.**

Pursuing an education in a country other than your own not only offers you the possibility of studying at some of the best universities in the world but also provides you with the experience of living in a different country, and immersing yourself in a different culture.

- **Lamborghini can absorb lost sales in Russia through other markets.**

Italian luxury sports car brand Lamborghini can easily make up for lost sales from its decision to suspend business in Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Chief Executive Stephan Winkelmann said.

- **Italy seizes property belonging to Russian oligarch Mordashov.**

Italy has seized a building complex on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia worth around 105 million euros (\$116.2 million) owned by Russian businessman Alexey Mordashov, Prime Minister Mario Draghi's office said.

- **Second Oscar nomination eased insecurities for Italian director Sorrentino.**

For Italian director Paolo Sorrentino, scoring the second Oscar nomination of his career this year, helped ease some of his lingering insecurities as a filmmaker.

- **Italy is a Woman...**

A young woman with her head surrounded by a crown of walls completed by towers called "Turrata" is the national personification of Italy often accompanied by the Star of Italy and other additional attributes, the most common of which is the cornucopia.

This image symbolically conveys the royalty and nobility of Italian cities, thanks to the protective presence of the turreted crown, the abundance of agricultural crops of the Italian peninsula, represented by the cornucopia, and the shining destiny of Italy symbolized by the Star of Italy. (*La redazione di Italplanet*)



- Andrea Riccardi, the international president of the Dante Alighieri Society in Rome just announced that refugees from Ukraine will receive courses of Italian free of charge.

2022 CALENDAR

CULTURAL MEETINGS

April 8

EVENTS

April 3 – Prima Domenica

April 23 – Cooking class

May 1 – Scholarships and awards

Luncheon

May 15 – Operatic recital

Answer to Indovinello” – Granada in Spagna - (Granada = Grenade, Spain)

CLASSES

Spring – begin March 28



*The Dante Alighieri Society of Denver
cordially invites you to a Spring Awards Luncheon
on Sunday May 1, 2022 at
Mt. Vernon Canyon Club Colorado
24933 Clubhouse Circle, Golden, Colorado 80401*



*The event will begin at 12:00 noon and will feature
the presentation of the 2022 scholarships and
recognition of the recipient of the 2022 Donne di Merito Award.*

Detach here-----

Luncheon Reservations

Name _____

Phone and Email _____

Number of plated luncheons at \$40 per person _____

Please indicate choice and number of entrees: ____ Lemon Garlic Chicken or ____ Roasted Vegetable Risotto

Names of people attending: _____

Please make checks payable to the **Dante Alighieri Society** and return along with this reservation form before Saturday, **April 23, 2022** to:

**Dante Alighieri Society
c/o Carol Marsala
1696 Garland St.
Lakewood, CO 80215**

You may also register on our website: <https://dantealighieriofdenver.com>
For questions, contact Pamela Marcantonio at pamela.marcantonio@colorado.edu or 303-817-2626

Please note: Public Health Guidelines will be followed at this event.