



Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo

P.O. Box 1561, Pueblo, Colorado 81002

President: Donna Stutzman • **1st Vice President:** Chris Picicci • **2nd Vice President:** Michael Salardino • **Treasurer:** Barbara Ferrero
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• **Reservations:** Carol Arias, Janet Sciortino • **Newsletter Editor:** Aaron Vialpando

Newsletter July 2016

Mission Statement

The mission of the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo, Colorado is to promote and preserve the Italian language, culture and customs in Pueblo and Southern Colorado. To achieve this mission, the following goals are set forth:

** To award scholarships to Pueblo area senior high school students to continue the study of Italian language at the university level.*

** To sponsor cultural and social activities to enhance the Italian American community.*

Dear Dante Alighieri Society Members:

In October 1977 the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo was established with the guidance of Father Chris Tomatis, a native Italian who was living in Pueblo at the time. In 2017 we will celebrate 40 years of sustaining and promoting Italian language and culture in Pueblo and Southern Colorado. We encourage all of our members to help us plan a memorable event to commemorate 40 successful years! Please contact any board member with your suggestions.

On Sunday, May 1, we held the 36th annual Scholarship Awards Celebration at the Pueblo Country Club. We wish to thank those members who joined us and especially our corporate sponsors as we honored six high school winners of Dante Alighieri Society scholarships. A special congratulations to Richard and Helen Harris who were honored as Persons of the Year for 2016.

Our next event will be the Summer Festa at LaTronica’s Restaurant on Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 pm. This annual event gives members a chance to get together and enjoy favorite Italian dishes and traditional accordion music by Alan Polivka. We hope you will join us for this festive evening. Please take this opportunity to invite friends, family and any prospective members.

We are pleased to announce that the Dante is organizing an Italian Conversation Group for our members. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jan Sciortino at 719-233-2589. All levels of Italian are welcome.

Finally, we value all of our members and hope that you will consider joining the Dante board of directors. We will elect a new slate of officers for a two year term which begins in January 2017. Please consider running for an office and helping our organization remain a vital force in the community.

Calendar of Events

Summer Festa	LaTronica's Restaurant	Tuesday, August 9, 2016 6:30 pm
Sister City International Taste	El Pueblo Museum	Saturday, September 24, 2016 10 am—6 pm
Regional Italian Dinner	Pueblo Country Club	Friday, November 11, 2016 6 pm
Annual Christmas Party	TBA	

Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

Dante members who attended the 36th annual Italian Language Scholarship Awards Celebration on Sunday, May 1, at the Pueblo Country Club enjoyed meeting the scholarship winners and Central High School foreign exchange student Oriana Tagliabue from Como, Italy. The Dante awarded six \$1000 scholarships to high school students who have completed two or more years of Italian and plan to continue their Italian language studies at the university level. Congratulations to our scholarship winners: Bailey Trevithick and Julio Gonzalez from Central High School, Keila Estrada- Guirant from South High School, Joseph Gavato and Lluvia Rodriguez from Centennial High School, and Blair Little from East High School.

Richard and Helen Harris were recognized as 2016 Persons of the Year for their dedication and service to the Dante Alighieri Society. *Congratulazioni!*

We wish to thank the Masterantonio family for generously donating a scholarship in memory of Dominick, Mary, and Lucille Ann Masterantonio.

A special thank you to our 2016 corporate sponsors and donors: Diamond Level: Spera Construction LLC; Gold Level: Dairy Queen, Jones-Healy Realtors, Daniel and Donna Molello, Michael Salardino CFP; Silver Level: Gagliano's Italian Market and Little Bite of Heaven.

La Società Femminile Di Mutuo Soccorso Principessa Iolanda of Pueblo, Colorado

During the spring semester of 2016, advanced students of Italian (Miriam Fahem, Sabrina Trevillian and Aaron Vialpando) participated in an experiential learning translation project for the Rawlings Public Library. The students were given access to an important collection of the Società Femminile Di Mutuo Soccorso Principessa Iolanda of Pueblo, Colorado. These early twentieth-century Italian documents are currently held in the archives of the Pueblo City-County Library District. Students read several original letters and Memorandums of Agreement in Italian and then worked during a portion of the semester to translate them into English.

Founded by Italian women living in Pueblo, the Society was named after Princess Yolanda of Savoy and existed in Pueblo for 66 years (from 1920 to 1986). Its mission was to create a network of sisterhood for Italian-American women living in America. The Rawlings Library has a record of authenticity for the organization, verified by the Italian Consulate in Rome and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Translating the documents was a unique challenge for CSU-Pueblo students because they are written in antiquated Italian using formal vocabulary. This interactive learning opportunity allowed students to use their knowledge of Italian to enrich our community while advancing their foreign language skills beyond the traditional classroom setting. Their contribution also provides a better understanding of the Italian-American experience for early twentieth-century Pueblo immigrants.

Students would like to thank Phyllis Gardner for suggesting the project and Tammi Moe, Rawlings Archivist, for granting access to the original documents. The project was completed in consultation with the director of the CSU-Pueblo Italian program, Professor Chris Picicci. The translations are now in the Società Femminile archive and are accessible to the general public via digital media.

Summer Festa 2016

La Tronica's Restaurant
1143 E. Abriendo Ave.

Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at 6:30 PM

Menu

Pasta, Meatballs, Sausage, Chicken,
Salad, Roll and Dessert

Adults \$15

Children (12 & under) \$8.00

Accordion music by Alan Polivka

RSVP by Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Dorothy DeNiro 544-0704 (Please leave a message.)

News from a Dante Board Member

Drew Legan, Corresponding Secretary for Dante, is about to embark on a new adventure academically as she leaves Pueblo to begin a Master's Degree in Linguistics in Texas. For the past two years Drew taught Spanish and participated in missions in Costa Rica, Zimbabwe Africa, and Haiti helping and ministering to many children. She writes, "Italian culture has been ingrained in my life since my first spaghetti dinner at my grandma's house. As the years go on, the dinners are fewer, but my love for culture continues to grow. I studied Latin in fifth and sixth grade, Italian for four years in high school and Spanish for three. Before my junior year, I was able to go to Ecuador for two months to visit a friend. This was an amazing experience and I was blown away by the beauty of the country and the kind people I met. I learned that language is so important and being able to communicate wherever I go became a goal and driving force for me in learning language. When I graduated from high school in 2009, the Dante Alighieri scholarship helped me pursue my love of languages and cultures. In college, I majored in Spanish and minored in Italian and French. I was also able to take courses in German and Sign Language. I went to France for a little over a week, studied in Perugia, Italy at the Università Italiana per Stranieri, and completed a semester in Sevilla, Spain. I got to see other countries as well on weekend trips. These trips were educational and very fun.

I am going to study at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics for my Masters in Linguistics so I can help with Bible translation as a missionary. While completing my graduate studies, I also plan on taking courses in Hebrew and Greek. Being able to read the Bible, to get to know God, has changed my life. There are so many people who don't have the Bible in their native tongue; the Bible still isn't translated for native speakers of about 1,800 different languages! It baffles me that the number is so high, but excites me because I might get to help bring the Bible to people in one of those languages. I have enjoyed my time with the Dante Society and appreciate all you do to promote the Italian language and culture in the community. Thank you for the memories. Keep me in your thoughts and prayers." ~Drew Legan

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