



Newsletter ~ *July 2017*

## *Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo*

*P.O. Box 1561, Pueblo, Colorado 81002*

**President:** Michael G Salardino • **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Chris Piccici • **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Frank Sagona

• **Treasurer:** Lou Spera • **Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Ann Hegler • **Recording Secretary:** Dorothy DeNiro • **Committee Chairs:**  
**Education:** Chris Piccici • **Membership:** Frank and Vivian Sagona • **Historian:** Patty Retzlaff • **Events:** Warren Diodosio •  
**Reservations:** Carol Arias, Betty Giltner, and Janet Sciortino • **Past Presidents:** Donna Stutzman, Barbara Ferrero, Rocco DeNiro

### **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 regions. 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.

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

### ***Fellow Lovers of Things Italian,***

*As the hot days of summer pass by we want to encourage you to attend our popular summer Festa to be held Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at LaTronica's. The activities begin at 6:00 pm and we will feature the Italian buffet (with LaTronica's vaunted fried chicken, of course!). Entertainment will be by former Broadmoor pianist John Turner.*

*Also mark your calendars for the Regional Dinner at the Pueblo Country Club, Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>. The event marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dante in Pueblo. This is always a fun and festive event.*

*Let me take this opportunity to urge you to share our great story with your friends and invite them to join. We are the most family oriented Italian organization and we do two things. 1. We celebrate our culture several times a year with fun events. 2. We award scholarships to our youth to help them further their study of Italian. We rarely have meetings and exist to keep alive one of the most beautiful cultures ever. Our membership dues are only \$25 per year and our events are always reasonably priced.*

*So share our great story with your friends and invite them to join us August 1<sup>st</sup> at our Festa!*

***Michael G. Salardino, President***  
***Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo***

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer Festa	LaTronica's	Tuesday, August 1, 2017 6:00 pm
40th Anniversary Dinner	Pueblo Country Club	Friday, November 10, 2017
Annual DeNiro Christmas Party		TBD

## DANTE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*Congratulations to our ten scholarship winners! Dante members who attended the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Italian Language Scholarship Awards Celebration on Sunday, May 7, at the Pueblo Country Club enjoyed listening to presentations in Italian by scholarship winners and CSU-Pueblo foreign exchange student Leonardo Ronchetti from Bergamo, Italy. Five high school seniors received \$1000 scholarships. The recipients were Ali Maglia from South High School, Juliana Arevalo-Mejia from Pueblo West High School, and Sabrina Dominice, Idaly Vega-Chavez and Leonardo Diaz-Herrera from Centennial High School.*

*The following students from Colorado State University-Pueblo received scholarships to help fund study abroad programs in Italy: Cassandra Castillo, Sabrina Trevillian, Jennifer Franklin, Joseph Gavato and Jonathan Jesik.*

*Richard and Fanny Baum were recognized as 2017 Persons of the Year for their dedication to and support of the Dante Alighieri Society and Italian cultural events. 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 2017 corporate sponsors and donors: Diamond Level \$200: Spera Construction LLC, Dairy Queen, and Michael Salardino CFP; Gold Level \$100: Barbara Ferrero, Jones-Healy Realtor, and Silver Level \$50: Gagliano's Italian Market and Little Bite of Heaven.*

*If you are interested in donating a scholarship in honor of a loved one or becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact Donna Stutzman at 545-2870.*

### **BENVENUTI! WELCOME NEW DANTE MEMBERS!**

Please join us in welcoming our new Dante members:

David, Sylvia, Joseph & James Gavato

# Grand Tour of Italy

Written by: David Salay

*“Roma, non basta una vita!”* My Italian professor spoke this phrase in my class in the spring of 2016. Then he went on to reference the famous saying, “All roads lead to Rome”. I chuckled at this. Little did I know, one year later I would be stepping foot inside the famous Colosseum, walking around the Roman Forum and eating gelato. It’s amazing to think that one year prior I was just sitting in my Italian class, but by the summer of 2017 I was exploring all that Italy had to offer. In June 2017, I along with 12 other individuals ventured overseas to the beautiful country of Italy. Our trip to Italy was facilitated under the direction of Professor Chris Piccici at CSU-Pueblo and was an EF Tours – coined the “Grand Tour of Italy”, and it most certainly lived up to its name. Stepping foot off the *vaporetti* onto Venice proper, any illusions of fantasy vanish. You see everything, the floating city in its glory, the beautiful Basilica of St. Mark, Doge’s palace, and the towering bell tower



From Right to Left: David Salay, Chris Piccici, Joey Gavato, Donna Stutzman, Jason Falsetto in Sorrento

from above. Being able to sit in a gondola, floating through the Venice canal, was great, knowing it doesn’t get any more authentic than that. Florence, with all its art, statues, Michelangelo’s David, and the awe-inspiring *il Duomo* are amazing. Transitioning to the tranquil surroundings of Assisi gives you absolute goosebumps as you visit St. Francis’s crypt. Venturing to Pompeii, and seeing Mt. Vesuvius in the distance brings you back to the time of Pompeii’s glory days before its demise as you

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“My tour to Italy was absolutely fantastic. I can’t find any other way to describe it. It wasn’t just the sites though, it was the people.”

David Salay

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walk through the aftermath. Our hotel, bunkered right on the beach in Sorrento offered a peaceful walk along the entire sea cliff coastline to witness a beautiful sunset. Cruising around all of the beautiful island of Capri, you see the famous bluest of blue waters, experience the well-known limoncello, and take in all the beaches. Our last destination, Rome offers some of the most

famous pieces of architecture and history to explore and take in such as the infamous Colosseum. Finally, Vatican City, experiencing and seeing my favorite painting, *Creation of Adam* was amazing to see in the Sistine Chapel. Then experiencing the Pieta in St. Peter’s Basilica is breathtaking.

My tour to Italy was absolutely fantastic. I can’t find any other way to describe it. It wasn’t just the sites though, it was the people. My tour group were so much fun to be with, along with the locals. Speaking to Italian natives was one of my favorite highlights. EF Tours did a great job organizing all tours, rides, taxi’s, boat rides to make the experience as smooth as possible. And to Donna Stutzman, and Chris Picicci, they were amazing with being our true Italian liaisons, and providing this amazing opportunity. I cannot wait till I venture back to Italy.

## *Dues Renewal for 2017*

Thank you to those members who have already sent dues for 2017. We kindly request that members pay des by the end of March each year. We value all of our members and hope that you will continue supporting our organization. We are making a concerted effort to sponsor Italian cultural events in our community and we need your continued support. For questions concerning your dues, please contact Louis Spera at 719.547.2547. On the dues form, please indicate if you would prefer receiving the Dante Newsletter Electronically. You may also indicated this preference by sending a message to [dantesocietyofpueblo@yahoo.com](mailto:dantesocietyofpueblo@yahoo.com). Grazie Mille!



The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo  
Proudly Announces

# Festa

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 6 pm

LaTronica's  
1143 E Abriendo Avenue  
Pueblo, Colorado

**Delicious LaTronica's Italian buffet**  
**(Including their fabulous fried chicken, of course!)**

**Bring a Prospective Member**


**Music by famous Broadmoor Pianist John Turner**

**Cost \$15 per person**

**Please call reservations to Michael Salardino 719.544.9071 by 7/28/17.**

**ADVERTISEMENTS.** In order to defray the cost of our publications, we are encouraging business card size ads for \$25.00 per year and your company will be advertised in our newsletters. Please send your card along with \$25.00 check written to Dante Alighieri Society, PO Box 1561, Pueblo, CO 81002. Thank you.

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