



Newsletter ~ October 2018

Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo

P.O. Box 1561, Pueblo, Colorado 81002

President: Michael G Salardino • **1st Vice President:** Chris Picicci • **2nd Vice President:** Frank Sagona

- **Treasurer:** Lou Spera • **Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Ann Hegler • **Recording Secretary:** Dorothy DeNiro
- Committee Chairs:** **Education:** Chris Picicci • **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 the Italian language at the university level and to sponsor cultural and social activities to enhance the Italian American community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGIONAL DINNER (LAZIO)
PUEBLO COUNTRY CLUB
NOVEMBER 9, 2018, 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY
ROCCO AND DOROTHY DENIRO'S HOME
DECEMBER 2, 2018, 5:30 PM

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ciao gli amanti dell'Italiano!

The date of our always popular regional dinner is upon us! On Friday night, Nov. 9 at the Pueblo Country Club we will enjoy the cuisine of Lazio, the region of Rome and its delicious foods. We are working with Chef Marcus now to prepare a meal all will enjoy.

In addition we will feature the music of vaunted accordion player Alan Polivka. It promises to be a special night! Get your reservations in soon by calling Dorothy DeNiro at 719-544-0704.

It's been an exciting time for our Dante Alighieri lodge. We added several new members at our Festa in August. Bob, Andrea, Francesca, Michael and Gianna DeGarbo joined as well as Cabrini members Donna Gutierrez and her mother Joanne Soldano.

We were also joined by our vivacious exchange student from Bergamo Sara Santambrogio. Sara's attendance at several events have shown her to be a very worthy ambassador for our sister city.

Again, we want to thank all of you who have donated to the Bergamo scholarship fund at CSU Pueblo. We currently have a student in Bergamo and the exchange has been the backbone of our relationship with Bergamo for the past ten years.

No organization has done more for the Bergamo fund nor the Italian Endowment at CSU Pueblo than Dante and you are all to be praised for it!

We did receive a minor setback in our high school Italian programs with a temporary suspension at East. We are confident it is a suspension and not a permanent situation. Look for it to return soon.

In addition to the Regional dinner on Nov. 9, mark your calendars for the popular Christmas Party at 5:30, Dec. 2 at the home of Rocky and Dorothy DeNiro 3101 High Street in Pueblo. Your admission ticket is a covered dish.

We look forward to seeing you all on Nov. 9. Until then, non vedo l'ora e ciao, ciao!

Michael G. Salardino, President

Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo

Treasures of Italy and Sicily



Ponte Vecchio, Firenze

Dante members, Lodge members, community members, students, friends and family are invited to experience the magnificent *Treasures of Italy and Sicily* on this all-inclusive tour in June 2019! The tour itinerary includes two nights in Venice, Florence, Rome, and Taormina, one night in Sorrento, and three nights in Palermo. We will also visit Verona, Assisi, Pompeii, and Siracusa. While in Palermo we will have free time to explore sights in Monreale, Agrigento and Cefalù or visit ancestral villages such as Lucca Sicula, Alia and Burgio.

Tour prices include round-trip air transportation, on-tour transportation by private motorcoach, three & four-star hotel accommodations, two meals daily, a full-time professional CHA Tour Director, sightseeing tours, and entrance fees. Pre-departure meetings will include lessons on basic travel expressions in Italian.

Requested travel dates are June 13 to June 26, 2019; however, dates may vary by a few days.

For tour prices and additional information, please contact Donna Stutzman at 719-545-2870 or donna.stutzman@csupueblo.edu.

Buon viaggio in Italia!

*Enjoy the delicious cuisine of
Lazio and it's romantic capital*



Join us for an annual regional dinner,
5:30 cocktails, 6:30 dinner at the Pueblo Country Club

Enjoy the music of Alan Polivka as you dine!

Always one of our most popular events, just \$35 per person

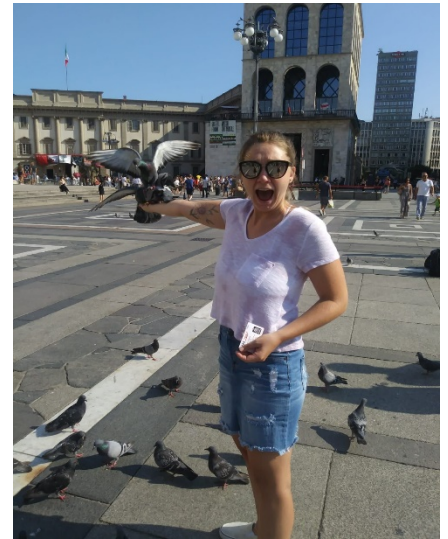
RSVP NOW TO DOROTHY DENIRO AT 719-544-0704

My Little Piece of Italy

Thinking about my time in Bergamo brings both a light and a sadness to my heart. All the months of planning could never have prepared me for the experience I was about to have. On February 6th I left my comfort zone and started my journey to a new but familiar country. I left my dad, my sisters and my friends, all so I could become a foreigner in a country I had so much love for. I watched myself become someone that I didn't ever think possible. From the first days of doubting myself, to growing into a young woman confident in her abilities within the Italian language. I slowly found myself starting to build a life there, make friends, and even become a regular in the little coffee shop around the corner. I even watched myself fall in love with a local boy that I don't plan on giving up any time soon. The experiences I gained are the kinds of things you tell your grandkids about. On August 24th I left my friends, my little Italian apartment, my boyfriend and his family, all so I could come back to a country that didn't feel like mine anymore. Being there for 7 months was nowhere near enough (maybe that's why I'm returning to visit in December.) I will always be thankful to the people that pushed me and supported me through the process of studying abroad, especially Donatella Stutzman and Chris Picicci. As cliché as it sounds, studying in Italy will always be a part of me and something that no one can ever take away. I look forward to frequently returning to Italy and becoming a part of the Dante Alighieri Society, my little piece of Italy away from Italy. Grazie a tutti per aver aperto questa porta per me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Franklin, Dante Scholarship Recipient 2018, CSU-Pueblo Italian minor



Scholarship Awards Celebration

The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo held its 38th Annual Scholarship Awards Celebration on May 6, 2018, at the Pueblo Country Club. The event featured presentations in Italian by each scholarship winner followed by the Little Italy Buffet and an array of Italian themed desserts. Alegria Ribadeneira was honored as Person of the Year for her leadership in foreign language education. Eight high school seniors received \$1000 scholarships: Toni Catulli, Central High School, Ryan Madic, South High School, Sierra Boerhave, James Gavato and Isabel Lopez, Centennial High School, Mariyah Summers, Pueblo County High School, Keely Ann Fisher and Andrew Hensley, Pueblo West High School. Four Colorado State University-Pueblo students received scholarships for study abroad programs in Bergamo, Italy: Jennifer Franklin, Joseph Gavato, Fangying Lu, and Olivia Sales. Italian teachers from local high schools thanked the organization for its \$24,000 donation of Italian books to programs in six area high schools.

We would like to thank the Masterantonio Family for donating a DA Scholarship in Memory of Dominick, Mary, and Lucille Ann Masterantonio

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Diamond Level (\$200): Dairy Queen, Michael Salardino, CFP

Gold Level (\$100): Barbara Ferrero, Jones-Healy, Spera Construction LLC, LaTronica's Italian Restaurant

Silver Level (\$50): Gagliano's Italian Market

For information about applying for a scholarship, donating a scholarship or becoming a corporate sponsor in 2019, please contact Chris Picicci at 719-549-2243 or chris.picicci@csupueblo.edu.

It is time for elections of officers. If you have an interest in serving as president, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, recording secretary or corresponding secretary, please contact Donna Stutzman at dlstutz_99@yahoo.com or by phone: 719-545-2870

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