



Newsletter ~ January-February 2019

## *Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo*

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

- President:** Michael G Salardino • **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Chris Picicci • **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Frank Sagona  
• **Treasurer:** Lou Spera • **Corresponding Secretary:** Donna Gutierrez • **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  
• **Scholarship:** Donna Stutzman  
• **Past Presidents:** Donna Stutzman, Barbara Ferrero, Rocco DeNiro
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### **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.*

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **CARNEVALE FESTIVAL**

Occhiato Student Center (CSU-Pueblo)

March 5th, 2019 @ 5:00pm

#### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

La Forchetta di Massi

March 18th, 2019 @ 5:30pm

#### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON**

PUEBLO COUNTRY CLUB

May 5th, 2019 @ 12:30pm

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Amici,

Buon anno! May this be a very happy new year for all Dante members. We are excited to start the new year with new members. Welcome to Dan and Kerry DeRose and to Lorraine Santarelli Burner. Dante of Pueblo continues to grow! We also congratulate all returning office holders whose names are listed elsewhere and welcome new corresponding secretary Donna Gutierrez to our ranks.

Thank you to Rocky and Dorothy DeNiro for another outstanding Christmas party. Not only was the food incredible (what do you expect from an Italian pot luck?), but the music of John Turner certainly added to the Christmas spirit.

Our next big event is the Scholarship Awards Celebration on May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Pueblo Country Club. At that time, we will award scholarships to Italian language students in area high schools. We will also give study abroad scholarships to Italian minors at CSU-Pueblo and name the Italian Person of the Year. Please mark your calendars for this special event.

Our society's mission is "to promote the study of the Italian language and culture throughout the world." The Pueblo Dante does just that with our promotion of the Italian language at all levels including at CSU-Pueblo and by staging cultural events throughout the year.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo has a new website thanks to the efforts of David Salay, webmaster extraordinaire. On the site you will find scholarship applications and requirements, photos of past events, membership applications, and much more. Find us by searching "Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo" or typing [dantealighieriofpueblo.org](http://dantealighieriofpueblo.org). Grazie mille to David for his efforts! Enclosed you will find a dues renewal form. Please send your dues for 2019 at your earliest convenience. As always, we encourage you to invite friends and family to join the Dante.

We want to thank all of you for your support of our events in 2018. We hope for even bigger and better in 2019! Avanti!

***Michael G. Salardino, President***

*Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo*

# *History of the Dante Alighieri Society*

Italy was officially united as a country in March 1861 with a proclamation from Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of Italy. Prior to its unification, Italy was a collection of independent states, duchies, and regions, some of which were controlled by foreign powers. Forging a nation out of several independent entities was a remarkable feat that some believed to have been utterly impossible. Thanks to the ideals of the Risorgimento (the Italian unification movement) and the Savoy family, Italy became a unified country. It is because of figures like Cavour, Mazzini, and Garibaldi that Italian history, culture, and language could flourish. Italians could be proud of their ancient and rich heritage which would unite them and help them forge a nationwide consciousness with a national identity. Massimo d'Azeglio famously wrote, "Fatta l'Italia, bisogna fare gli italiani." (Italy has been made, now it is time to make the Italians.) Many have stated that it was harder to make the Italian people than uniting the nation.

Not long after the unification of Italy, a mass migration of Italians to other countries in Europe, North and South America, and Australia began and continued throughout the twentieth century. Millions of emigrants felt a kinship with their country of origin and wanted to preserve a sense of Italian culture and language, for themselves and their children. At the same time, the richness of Italian regions and cultures along with the beauty of the Italian language (i.e. Tuscan) enthralled many people who were not of Italian descent.

To reach out to all these people in 1889 a group in Rome, led by the Italian writer and literary critic Giosue Carducci (1835-1907), the first Italian to receive the Nobel Prize in literature, formed the Dante Alighieri Society whose mission would be to promote the language, literature, and culture of the Italian peninsula. The society was named for Italy's famous medieval writer, Dante Alighieri, author of *The Divine Comedy*. Initially centered in Italy, the Dante Alighieri Society soon expanded to cities throughout the world where Italians had settled and where other admirers of all things Italian could gather, learn, and appreciate all Italy had to offer in regard to art, music, design, fashion, cuisine, politics, science, and cultural history. Currently, there are over 80 active Dante chapters throughout Italy, and over 500 Dante Alighieri Societies throughout the world.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo, Colorado was founded by Father Christopher Tomatis on October 24, 1977 and ratified by the Dante Alighieri in Rome, Italy on December 3, 1977. Since its inception, the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to students of Italian.



## Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo

### New and Renewal Application for Calendar Year 2019

The Dante Alighieri Society was formed in Italy in July 1889 to “promote the study of the Italian language and culture throughout the world...independent of political ideologies, national, or ethnic origin or religious beliefs. The Society is the free association of people -not just Italians- but all people everywhere who are united by their love for the Italian language and culture and the spirit of universal humanism that these represent.” The Society was named after Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), a pre-Renaissance poet from Florence, Italy. Dante, the author of *The Divine Comedy*, is considered the father of the Italian language. The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo, Colorado was founded by Father Christopher Tomatis on October 24, 1977 and ratified by the Dante Alighieri Society in Rome, Italy on December 3, 1977.

### 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 the Southern Colorado Region.

- Scholarships will be awarded to selected senior high students who have completed two or more years of Italian language classes in the Pueblo area high schools.
- Cultural and social activities will be sponsored to enhance the Italian-American community.

### Activities of the Society

Cultural Dinner Meetings	Regional Italian Dinner (November)
Carnevale Dinner Dance (February)	Annual Christmas Party (December)
Scholarship Awards (May)	Artistic Performances and Speakers
Dante Summer Festa (August)	Sister City Festival Participation
Italian Conversation Classes	Italian Language Scholarships

To join the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo or to renew your membership, please detach and mail with your check. Dues are payable between January and March of each calendar year.

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## Dante Alighieri Society Membership Application Calendar Year 2019

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you prefer to receive the Dante newsletter electronically.

(Check one)

\_\_\_ \$25 (Single)

\_\_\_ \$40 (Couple)

\_\_\_ \$10 (Student)

\_\_\_ \$50 (Family)

(Check one)

\_\_\_ New Application

\_\_\_ Renewal Application

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the 2019 calendar year dues.

Mail to: Dante Alighieri Society Treasurer, PO Box 1561, Pueblo, CO 81002

# Martedì Grasso!

Dear Dante Members,

You are cordially invited to Colorado State University – Pueblo's Mardi Gras (Martedì Grasso) festival on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00pm in the Occhiato Student Center (first floor). Join the Italian Club and students of Italian for an evening of food, games, masks, and fun! Costumes and masks are encouraged. Entrance is free and Dante members are welcome to join in the festivities. We hope to celebrate Carnevale with you on campus this year. Grazie!



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The 2019-2020 Dante officers will be installed at a ceremony at La Forchetta di Massi Restaurant on Monday evening, March 18th @ 5:30pm.

All Dante members are welcome to a delicious, genuine Northern Italian family style dinner featuring salads, pastas, meats and dolce!

\$35 per person, cash bar.  
RSVP are a must due to limited space

Call Dorothy DeNiro by March 14th, @ 719-544-0704 to reserve

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