Spring 2026



Società Dante Alighieri Pueblo

April-May-June



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Dear Dante Members,

Buon primavera! I hope this message finds you well. A lot has happened in the past few months and we are excited to share the news of the Society with you.

In March, the Board voted to launch a new and improved website; we celebrated Dantedì alongside Dante Global President Riccardi in Italy (https://youtu.be/jRZXYp3GfD4); and we selected our 2026 high school and university scholarship recipients. Vice President Anissa Madrill also introduced the inaugural edition of "Gli amici di Dante", highlighting Italian cultural events across Colorado.

In April, we launched the new website (www.dantealighieripueblo.org) and invite you to please check it out. It is more modern with moving graphics and video as well as new and improved online membership and scholarship application capabilities. Another very important feature we have installed is that the whole website can be translated directly into Italian by clicking on the Italian flag in upper right-hand corner. Technology is amazing and the Society seeks to remain relevant and in step with technological advances. We look forward to making this website even better as time goes by.

In May, we hosted our 44th Annual Scholarship luncheon at the Pueblo Country Club. We awarded 10 deserving students scholarships and Donna Stutzman was honored as the 2026 Member of the Year. Congratulations to all the winners! The Society would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Pueblo's high school Italian language educators, Joanne Riccillo (Central High School) and Michelle Van Hee (South and Centennial) for their continued dedication to the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo and their many Italian students.

Want to travel to Italy? Andiamo! I am hosting a CSU-P student trip to Italy from May 19 – 29. In addition, several members have already enrolled in our 50th Anniversary trip to Sicily in March 2027; there are still spots available and further details are available on our website and at https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/dante-alighieri-2027.

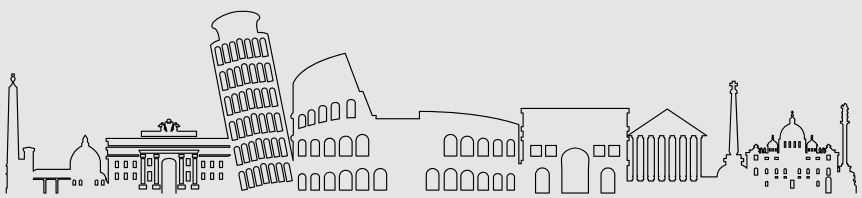
I remain sincerely grateful for your continued support of Italian language and culture in our community. At a time when university budgets are tightening and tuition costs are rising, smaller language programs face increasing risk of reduction or elimination. Your commitment helps sustain opportunities that foster global engagement, interdisciplinary study, and critical thinking, all hallmarks of a well-rounded twenty-first-century education. Notably, CSU Pueblo began offering Italian in 1979, less than two years after the founding of the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo.

Finally, I am honored to announce that the Leonardo da Vinci Museum and Science Center in downtown Pueblo will open to the public on Friday, June 12, 2026. On behalf of the DA Society, we congratulate Mr. Joe Arrigo (legacy founding member of Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo) and his team on bringing this vision to life. (www.davincisteam.org). Flyer below.

Wishing you a wonderful spring season!

Sincerely,

Chris Picicci
President, Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo



Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo
50th Anniversary Trip to Sicily

A tour of Sicily is like stepping into a dreamscape where ancient history, a proud people, and dramatic scenery intertwine. Start in Palermo, where golden sunlight filters through busy markets and cathedral windows. Continue to Syracuse, the enchanting muse of poets and philosophers, and end in Taormina, where the shimmering sea meets the imposing stature of Mount Etna. If you find yourself spellbound, stay in Italy a little longer and fall to the eternal charms of Rome on the tour's extension.





Your Package Includes:
- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & Local Guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included Highlights:
- Cappella Palatina
- Piazza Amerina
- Island of Ortigia
- Syracuse Cathedral
- Taormina's Greek Theater
- Views of Mount Etna

When: March 20th - 28th, 2027
9 days | 12 days with optional extensions

DANTE Società Dante Alighieri Pueblo

Lock in this price today - Just $99 down! Limited spots available!

For more information, contact: https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/dante-alighieri-2027 | 1-800-438-7672

Dante.Global, la nostra pietra angolare... (Dante.global, our cornerstone)



Dante.global headquarters in Rome

Dante Day, known in Italy as **Dantedì**, is an annual Italian national holiday celebrated every March 25th to honor Dante Alighieri, the "Father of the Italian Language" and author of The Divine Comedy. The event was officially established by the Italian government in 2020 to celebrate the life and enduring cultural impact of one of literature's greatest figures - Dante Alighieri.

Key Details of Dante Day:

- **The Date:** March 25th was chosen because scholars and literary critics believe it is the exact day in the year 1300 when Dante began his fictional journey through Hell in The Divine Comedy.



- **The Man:** Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) is celebrated as il Sommo Poeta (the Supreme Poet). He is heavily credited with shaping the modern Italian language, as he chose to write his masterpieces in the local Florentine vernacular (the common language of the people) instead of traditional Latin.

- **How It Is Celebrated:** On Dante Day, cultural institutions, museums, schools, and theaters across Italy host public readings, exhibitions, and lectures to honor his work. The celebrations are highly participatory, with citizens often gathering online and in city squares to read cantos of The Divine Comedy together.

Congratulazioni

to our 44th Annual Scholarship Winners



Tanner Clark



Noah Van Hee



Ginae Gonzales



Leo Styduhar



Maria Rosales Medina



Jackson Jimenez



Ava Torri



Anthony Gagliano



Abby Blanchard



Aaron Reber

Congratulazioni

to our 2026 Member of the Year

Donna Stutzman









1979 Donna Stutzman, Historian, Father Chris Tomatis, Founder and Secretary and Ruth Marcott, President

1979

Grazie mille for over 47 years of service!

MISSION



To promote the teaching of Italian language, culture, and customs in Pueblo and Southern Colorado

GOAL

- To award annual scholarships to Pueblo area high school students who plan to continue their studies of Italian language and culture at the university level.
- To award annual scholarships to college students in the Southern Colorado Region who will study Italian at the college level and/or will complete a study abroad program in Italy.
- To award annual scholarships to students of Italian Heritage so that they may further their post-high school education by using the funds for trade school, college or travel to Italy.

www.dantealighieripueblo.org

Società Dante Alighieri Pueblo

44th Annual SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
PUEBLO COUNTRY CLUB



Welcome

HOSTED BY DANTE PUEBLO'S SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CHRIS L. PICICCI, PH.D.
ANISSA MADRILL, M.ED.
DONNA STUTZMAN, M.A.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS AT THE PUEBLO HIGH SCHOOLS

JOANNE RICCILLO, CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
MICHELLE VANHEE, CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

AND

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO

DR. CHRIS PICICCI

Winners

College Scholarship Winners

THE DA SCHOLARSHIPS IN HONOR OF DR. SILVIO COVI
CSU-P ITALIAN PROFESSOR AND FOUNDER OF THE BERGAMO EXCHANGE

Abigail Blanchard, Senior, CSU-Pueblo
Tanner Clark, Sophomore, CSU-Pueblo
Anthony Gagliano, Sophomore, CSU-Pueblo
Aaron Reber, Freshman, CSU-Pueblo
Ava Torri, Freshman, CSU-Pueblo

High School Scholarship Winners

GINAE GONZALES
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
THE DA SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF DOMINICK, MARY, LUCILLE ANN, AND ROSE MASTERANTONIO

JACKSON JIMENEZ
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
THE DA SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF THE DENIRO FAMILY

MARIA ROSALES MEDINA
CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL
THE DA SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF LOU AND ARLENE SPERA

LEO JAMES STYDUHAR
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
THE DA SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF REV. CRISTOFORO TOMATIS, OUR FOUNDER

THOMAS NOAH VAN HEE
EAST HIGH SCHOOL
THE DA SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE DIODOSIO

2026 Member of the Year Award
proudly presented to
Donna Stutzman
founding member and over 45 years of service to the Society

GO AHEAD TOURS



Dante Alighieri of Pueblo's 50th Anniversary Celebration Trip

9 days|12 days with Rome extension | Mar 20 2027—Mar 28 2027

A tour of Sicily is like stepping into a dreamscape where ancient history, a proud people, and dramatic scenery intertwine. Start in Palermo, where golden sunlight filters through busy markets and cathedral windows. Continue to Syracuse, the enchanting muse of poets and philosophers, and end in Taormina, where the shimmering sea meets the imposing stature of Mount Etna. If you find yourself spellbound, stay in Italy a little longer and fall to the eternal charms of Rome on the tour's extension.



Scan the QR code to enroll!
How to access our deals:

Give us a call at (800) 438-7672 to find out how much you can save!

Access email for this tour:
notiziariodas@gmail.com

For more information, contact
https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/dante-alighieri-2027|1-800-438-7672

Your tour package includes:
7 nights in handpicked hotels
7 breakfasts
3 dinners with beer or wine
5 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights:
Cappella Palatina
Piazza Armerina
Island of Ortigia
Syracuse Cathedral
Taormina's Greek theater
Views of Mount Etna

Tour pace (moderate):
On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved roads.

Lock in this price today—just $99 down! Limited spots available!



Waqas Ahmed



Martin Kemp



Dr. Sara Taglialagamba

$20
+ FEES

Pueblo Conventions Center | Tickets on EventBrite

Leonardo da Vinci Museum of North America

GRAND OPENING

Renaissance Inspired Festival & Ribbon Cutting

310 Central Main St, Pueblo, CO 81003



JUNE **12** AT 10 AM

Postcards from Italy







Olivia Eggert - Study Abroad in Bergamo
(2026 Scholarship Winner)

2026 March Update: I wanted to send a small Bergamo, Italy update. I am doing great! My classes are going well at the University. I have four classes right now: one linguistics class taught in Spanish, one linguistics class taught in Italian, and then two Italian language classes for exchange students. I am learning a lot! I really like living in Bergamo. It is a sweet town with a lot of character, and it is very easy to get around. I have taken a couple weekend trips to Brescia, Bologna, Lake Como and Milan with my new international friends. I have attached some photos from Bergamo and my adventures.I am so grateful! Grazie mille!

2026 May Update: I am still doing great here in Bergamo! My classes are going well. I will have final exams at the beginning of June, so I am starting to prepare for those. Classes in Italy are a little different than in the United States. Rather than having homework and exams throughout the semester (like in the US), the entire grade for two of my classes is based solely on the final exam grade. So, no pressure! Luckily, I was able to travel a bit in April to Ortigia and Siracusa in Sicilia, to Genoa, and to Portofino. I have attached some photos. I return to Pueblo on July 31st. Ci vediamo presto!

Love from the Past





Studying abroad in Italy was truly life-changing and gave me a newfound confidence and sense of independence I didn't know I had. My first experience traveling abroad was through a CSU Pueblo program with EF, and that trip completely shifted my perspective and inspired me to start studying Italian and make studying abroad a personal goal. It opened my eyes to new cultures and ways of life, and made me realize how much I wanted to experience the world beyond what I had known.

I am incredibly thankful that CSU Pueblo gave me the opportunity to not only pursue this goal, but to do so in a place that challenged and changed me. Living and studying in Turin, pushed me outside my comfort zone and taught me lessons about myself that I don't believe I would have learned otherwise. Even now, I know this experience was only the beginning of the places I can go, because spending seven months living in Italy gave me the confidence and exposure to imagine a future that extends far beyond one country.

As a university student, my time abroad shaped my future by giving me a lasting passion for travel and connection; I made lifelong friends and have since visited friends in places like Spain and Norway. Only a small number of CSU Pueblo students study abroad, but more should make it a priority because these experiences build confidence, broaden perspectives, and leave an impact that lasts long after graduation. Travel is so important because it helps you understand different cultures, shows you how big the world really is, and reminds you that there are endless possibilities if you are willing to take a leap.

I owe a special thanks to Dr. Picicci, the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo & CSU-Pueblo. Grazie!

Brianna Reyes, Bergamo, Italy exchange (2018)

