Summer 2026



Società Dante Alighieri Pueblo

July-Aug-Sept



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Greetings, Dante Members,
I am pleased to share a few updates on the exciting activities and accomplishments of our Dante community this summer.

As many of you know, CSU Pueblo students recently completed a Grand Tour of Italy, visiting Venice, Florence, Bologna, San Gimignano, and Rome. Reflecting on the experience, student Anthony Gagliano wrote, "My time in Italy was more than just a remarkable journey—it was an academic experience." The trip has inspired some participants to continue studying Italian language and culture at CSU Pueblo, and a couple are now considering a semester abroad through the university's partner institutions in Italy.

We are also proud to celebrate the achievements of Olivia Eggert, who recently completed a semester abroad in Bergamo and has been accepted into a master's program in Linguistics and Cognitive Studies at an Italian university. Congratulations, Olivia!

On June 12, 2026, Pueblo celebrated the opening of the Leonardo da Vinci Museum of North America. It was wonderful to see so many Dante members in attendance and to watch our Italian students engage with distinguished Leonardo da Vinci scholars during the public lectures held the evening before the grand opening.

I also recently had the pleasure of meeting Gabriele from Sicily, who is working to foster partnerships and cultural exchanges between Lucca Sicula and Pueblo. If you would like to learn more about these initiatives, please feel free to contact me.

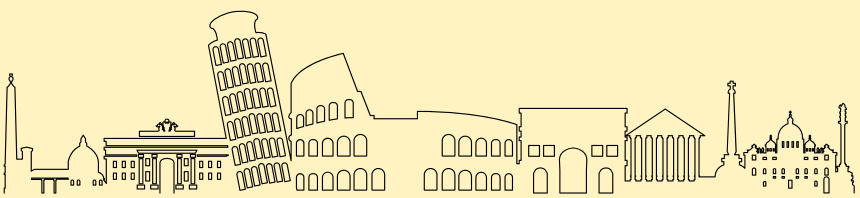
Looking ahead, the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo is continuing to recruit participants for our 50th Anniversary trip to Sicily this spring. Be sure to check this newsletter for details and registration information.

We also hope you will participate in our Summer Festa Fundraiser and Bocce Ball Tournament at City Park. If interested, please email or call Anissa Madrill, at (512) 659-7323 or notiziariodas@gmail.com

As summer continues, I wish you and your families many joyful moments, memorable meals, and time well spent with loved ones. We also keep all those affected by the Colorado wildfires in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Chris Picicci
President, Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo



GO AHEAD TOURS

There's still time to sign up for the 2027 to Sicily! Scan the QR code below, go directly to the website listed below or email notiziariodas@gmail.com for more information.



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!

Let's Explore

The Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts

www.dantemass.org





Near Harvard and MIT, the students have fun with Dante statue



(left to right)
Anthony "Tony" Cassano, President, Anissa Madrill, VP Dante Pueblo, and Mario Zanca, Center Manager

I recently took a work trip to Boston and while I was there, I was able to meet with the current President of the Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, Anthony Cassano and the Cultural Center manager, Mario Zanca. They showed me around the center, gave me historical details on how this center was built and described some of the activities that they hold there now. We then went to an amazing authentic Italian dinner in Boston's historic North End at Tony's cousin's restaurant, Cantina Italiana (www.cantinaitaliana.com). The food was amazing, but the company was even better! Tony and Mario are doing the hard work of the society to keep its culture and spirit alive in Boston. In a time when all Italian cultural societies across the USA are struggling to stay afloat, keep members engaged and instill the sense of Italian pride that our forefathers so lovingly cultivated in neighborhoods all over America, seeing the Boston legacy was truly inspiring.
Dante Mass is a PLIDA certified testing center (https://plida.dante.global/en), they offer Italian language classes, they host cooking classes, musical concerts, operas and many other exciting events all year long.

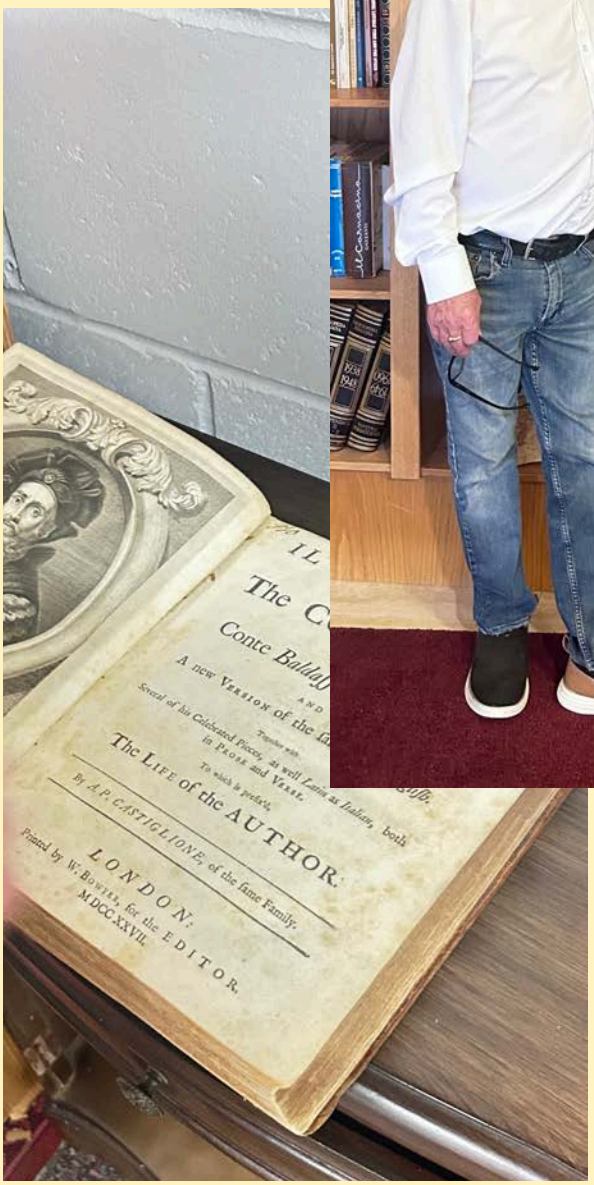
If you are ever in Boston, stop by and say "Ciao!" they will treat you like family.
Grazie Dante Mass!

BOSTON



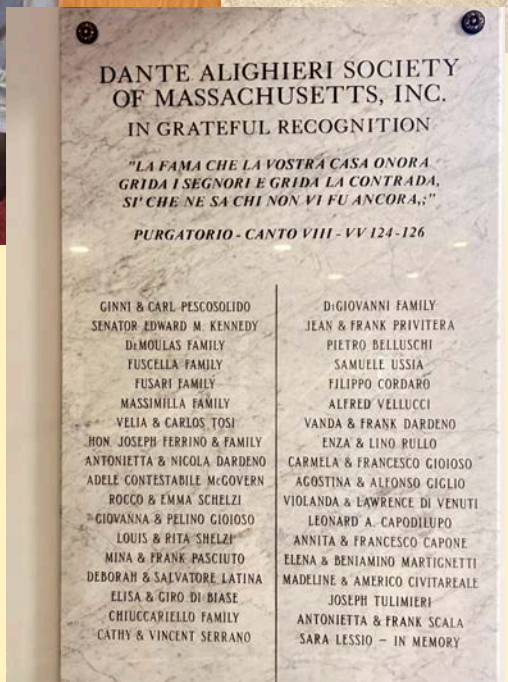






(left to right)
Mario Zanca, Center Manager and Anthony "Tony" Cassano, President

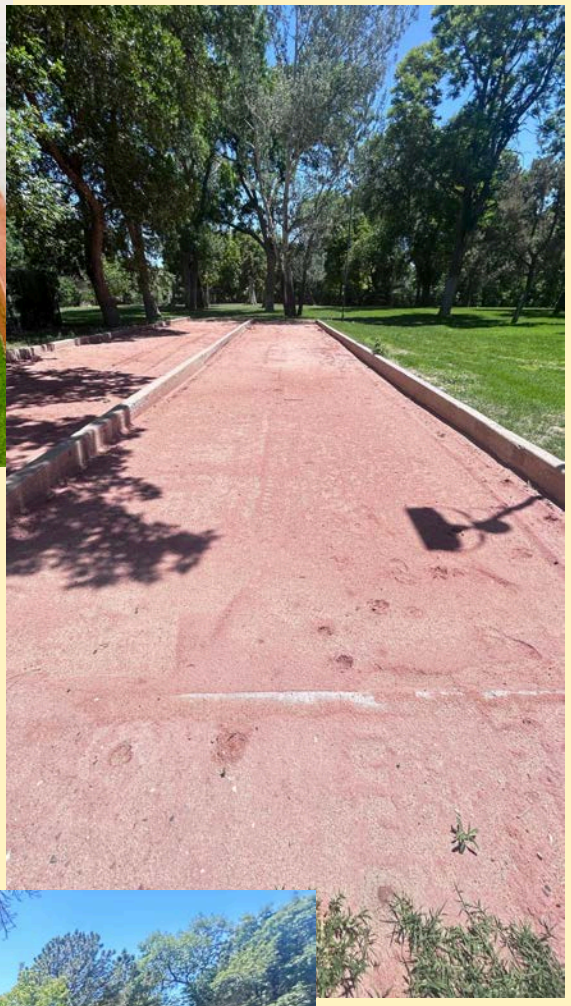
Grazie



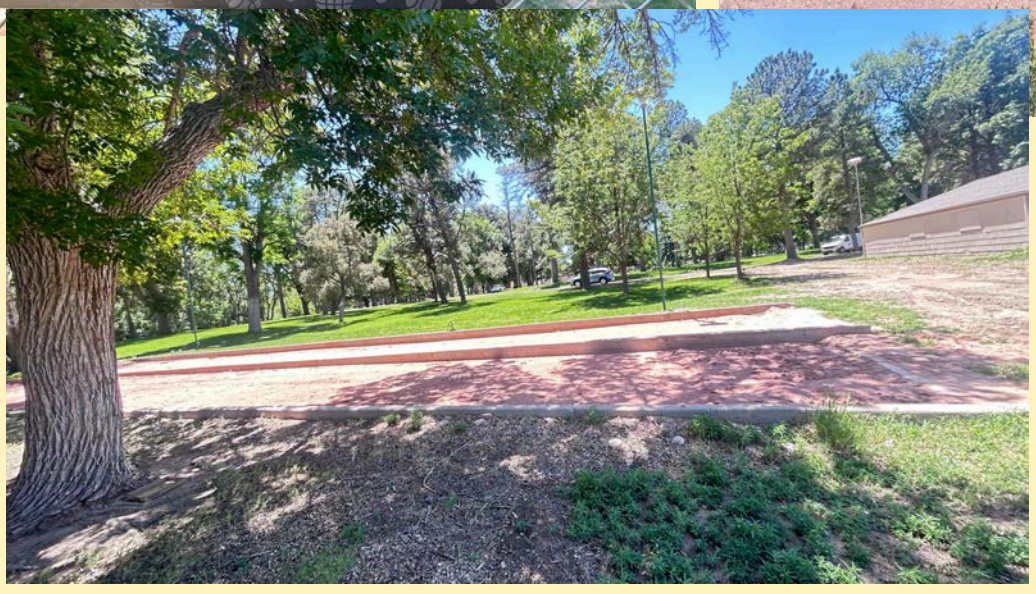
Summer Festa
Bocce Ball Fundraiser

We are seeking a Summer Festa Committee chair and members to help plan and run a Bocce Ball Tournament and fundraiser. If you are interested, please email notiziariodas@gmail.com or call (512) 659-7323









Historical Backstory

Did you know that the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo was instrumental in working with the City of Pueblo to install the Bocce Ball Courts that are currently located in the north-end of City Park near the Goodnight entrance by the pond and outbuildings?

YES! It was in 1979 that Silvio Caputo spearheaded a committee to plan and establish a Bocce Ball Court at City Park. Over the next year, the Bocce Ball courts were installed by the city and the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo began playing! (to read the newsletters from 1979-1980 scan the QR code below).

The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo would like to revive the Bocce Ball courts in Pueblo and raise funds to install a memorial plaque and some benches. We would also like to establish a Bocce Committee who would help maintain the area, help fundraise and of course, PLAY BOCCE!

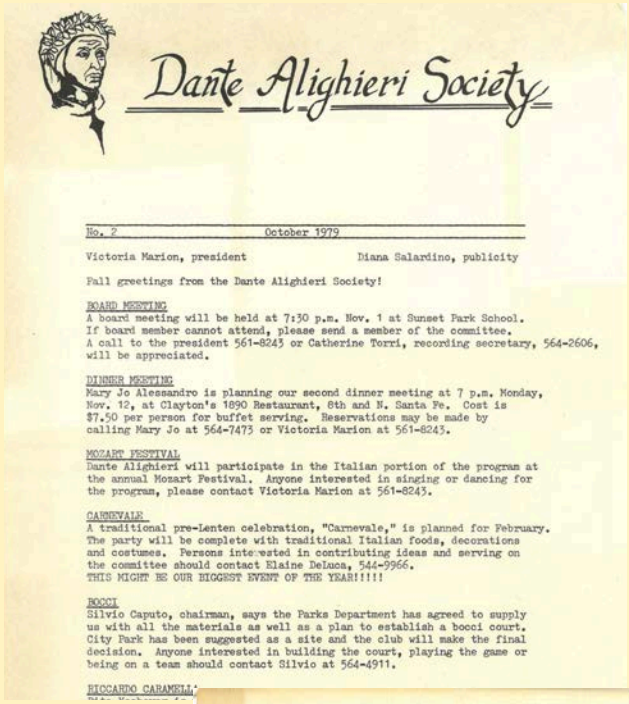
We were thinking that the Summer Festa could be a fund raiser for this endeavor.

Are you interested?

Visit our landing page to read the historical news letters.

Contact Anissa Madrill at (512) 659-7323 or notiziariodas@gmail.com for more information.

SCAN ME



Dante Alighieri Society

No. 2 October 1979

Victoria Marion, president Diana Salardino, publicity

Fall greetings from the Dante Alighieri Society!

BOARD MEETING
A board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 at Sunset Park School. If board member cannot attend, please send a member of the committee. A call to the president 561-8243 or Catherine Torri, recording secretary, 564-2606, will be appreciated.

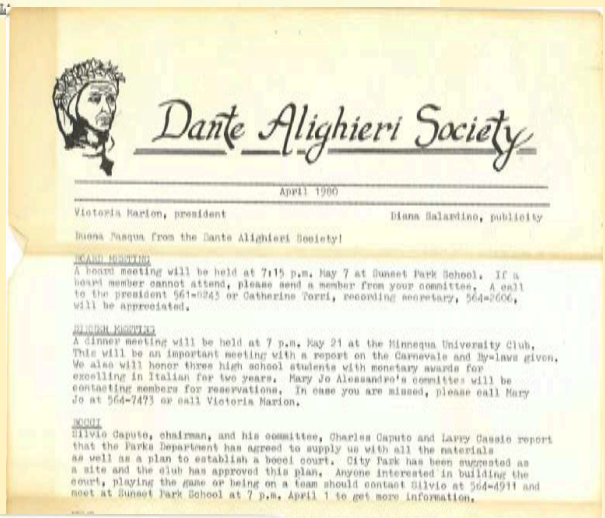
DINNER MEETING
Mary Jo Alessandro is planning our second dinner meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at Clayton's 1890 Restaurant, 8th and N. Santa Fe. Cost is $7.50 per person for buffet serving. Reservations may be made by calling Mary Jo at 564-7473 or Victoria Marion at 561-8243.

MOZART FESTIVAL
Dante Alighieri will participate in the Italian portion of the program at the annual Mozart Festival. Anyone interested in singing or dancing for the program, please contact Victoria Marion at 561-8243.

CARNEVALE
A traditional pre-Lenten celebration, "Carnevale," is planned for February. The party will be complete with traditional Italian foods, decorations and costumes. Persons interested in contributing ideas and serving on the committee should contact Elaine Delaco, 544-9966.
THIS MIGHT BE OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!!!!!

BOCCI
Silvio Caputo, chairman, says the Parks Department has agreed to supply us with all the materials as well as a plan to establish a bocci court. City Park has been suggested as a site and the club will make the final decision. Anyone interested in building the court, playing the game or being on a team should contact Silvio at 564-4911.

RICCARDO CARAMELL



Dante Alighieri Society

April 1980

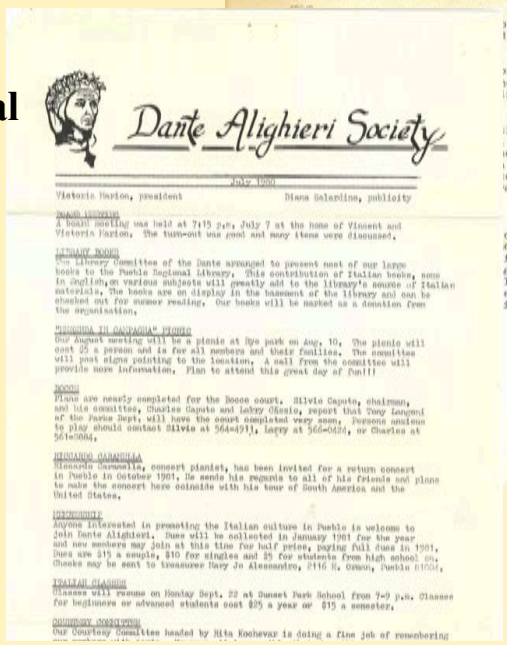
Victoria Marion, president Diana Salardino, publicity

Buona Pasqua from the Dante Alighieri Society!

BOARD MEETING
A board meeting will be held at 7:15 p.m. May 7 at Sunset Park School. If a board member cannot attend, please send a member from your committee. A call to the president 561-8243 or Catherine Torri, recording secretary, 564-2606, will be appreciated.

DINNER MEETING
A dinner meeting will be held at 7 p.m. May 21 at the Minnequa University Club. This will be an important meeting with a report on the Carnevale and Bylaws given. We also will honor three high school students with monetary awards for excelling in Italian for two years. Mary Jo Alessandro's committee will be contacting members for reservations. In case you are missed, please call Mary Jo at 564-7473 or call Victoria Marion.

BOCCI
Silvio Caputo, chairman, and his committee, Charles Caputo and Larry Cassio report that the Parks Department has agreed to supply us with all the materials as well as a plan to establish a bocci court. City Park has been suggested as a site and the club has approved this plan. Anyone interested in building the court, playing the game or being on a team should contact Silvio at 564-4911 and meet at Sunset Park School at 7 p.m. April 1 to get more information.



Dante Alighieri Society

July 1980

Victoria Marion, president Diana Salardino, publicity

A board meeting was held at 7:15 p.m. July 7 at the home of Vincent and Victoria Marion. The turn-out was good and many items were discussed.

BOCCI
Plans are nearly completed for the Bocce court. Silvio Caputo, chairman, and his committee, Charles Caputo and Larry Cassio, report that Tony Longoni of the Parks Dept. will have the court completed very soon. Persons anxious to play should contact Silvio at 564-4911, Larry at 566-0424, or Charles at 561-3084.

RICCARDO CARAMELLA
Riccardo Caramella, concert pianist, has been invited for a return concert in Pueblo in October 1981. He sends his regards to all of his friends and plans to make the concert here coincide with his tour of South America and the United States.

MEMBERSHIP
Anyone interested in promoting the Italian culture in Pueblo is welcome to join Dante Alighieri. Dues will be collected in January 1981 for the year and new members may join at this time for half price, paying full dues in 1981. Dues are $15 a couple, $10 for singles and $5 for students from high school on. Checks may be sent to treasurer Mary Jo Alessandro, 2146 N. Grand, Pueblo 81003.

ITALIAN CLASSES
Classes will resume on Monday Sept. 22 at Sunset Park School from 7-9 p.m. Classes for beginners or advanced students cost $25 a year or $15 a semester.

COURTESY COMMITTEE
Our Courtesy Committee headed by Rita Kochevar is doing a fine job of remembering

ONLINE MERCH STORE

coming soon

The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo has a new CREST. Additionally, we will soon be launching an online merchandise store where you can purchase the crest as a pin or a patch as well as many other fun Italian and Dante Alighieri branded items. All proceeds will benefit the student scholarship fund and our ongoing mission to support Italian language and culture in the Southern Colorado region.



The images of the new crest have meaning. The mountains represent Colorado, the image of a steel factory represents our town's long time industry of steel production and steel workers (CF&I), the pick ax image represents the many Italian immigrants who came to southern Colorado to work in the mining industry. The wheat stalks around the border represent the Italian farmers on the St. Charles Mesa.

Postcards from Italy





Exploring Italy was an experience I never expected to be as interesting as it turned out to be. The structure of this trip allowed more freedom than I expected, and I made the most of it. I was able to explore aspects of Italy that I never would have explored in a group.

I explored the streets of Rome and came upon an art display at the Hungarian Academy. It was very modern and is a favorite memory from Rome, especially because it was odd. There was a skeleton without a head hung from the ceiling, and a skeleton of a dog on a table on its back. I have no idea what the art meant, but it was fascinating.

I visited a naval history museum in Venice because I want to become a Navy officer, my father once served in the Navy, and I wanted to learn more about Venice's naval history. The uniforms were especially interesting to me, as I am fascinated by fashion.

We went out to explore the Florentine nightlife, went to a karaoke club, and had great fun with friends! We stayed out until 2 in the morning, taking pictures, eating, and just talking.

In the United States, I have never done anything like that, as Florence is a great, seemingly never-sleeping, walkable metropolitan area, whereas Pueblo is not at all like that. That was a really great night, and if I hadn't had it, I feel my trip would've been different.

I drank wine for the first time in my life. The wine in Italy definitely met expectations, and I miss the wine already. I specifically miss the bottle of wine we had with this great steak dinner, a 2025 Malbec from Tuscany made by Vie Cave. It was perfect.

I considered experiences I would never have considered in the US while in Italy. I'm not a religious person at all, but the churches in Italy just blew me away, and I considered going to church just because of their beauty. The Basilica di Santa Maria stood out to me, and I wanted to go to a service while I was there, but I wasn't able to because I was impulsive and ended up prioritizing other places in the country. But, it was really the most beautiful church ever, and I want to go to Italy again, and go to a service there.

I loved going to the Galleria dell'Accademia. Going has inspired me to learn an instrument. I want to learn the banjo and build up to the guitar, as I saw a piano-guitar among many other amazing instruments in the gallery. The coliseum was also fascinating, as I thought it was more isolated before I went, but nope, it's smack dab in the metropolitan area, and it really did feel like a modern stadium. It just felt more real in person and less mystical, and I believe that's good.

Grazie mille to the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo for this amazing opportunity that I will never forget!

Sincerely,
Aaron Reber, 2026 Scholarship Winner