

Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia Inc.

VITA NUOVA

Bollettino bilingue della Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia Inc.



The Dante Alighieri Society
of South Australia Inc.

50th Anniversary Celebrations
of the Dante Alighieri Society

1964 – 2014

Celebrating 50 years
of passionately promoting
Italian language and culture



Some of the language assistants who took part in the Language and Culture Project. From the right: John Ciarfuglia, Rita Scialanga, our president Luciana d'Arcangeli, Alessandro Vecchiarelli, Fabio Monaca

From the President

Celebrating the 750th anniversary of our namesake's birth the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia has completed a very busy and exciting year. The Society has continued to operate in three distinct areas:

- Managing Entity (Ente Gestore) for Italian Government funds supporting the teaching of Italian Language and Culture in South Australian schools
- Delivering Italian Language Courses leading to PLIDA certification
- Organising on-going cultural and social events.

Language and Culture Project in Schools

This is the third year we have obtained funds from the Italian Government to support the teaching of Italian Language and Culture in South Australian schools. Six mother tongue assistants supported this teaching to over 1000 students in 12 State and Catholic schools. The feedback received from all stakeholders was very positive and all the funds were expended by 31 December 2014 as required.

Our 2015 application to MAECI (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Collaboration of the Italian Government) was again successful with a grant of 60,000 Euros (approximately AUS\$85,000) released in two tranches in May and September. Once this funding was confirmed work on the Language and Culture Project in Schools got underway for the year. Two workshops, one each for teachers in State and Catholic schools, were offered, focusing on the most effective use of Language Assistants in the language classroom. Then in term three the six Language Assistants began their work in seven State and five Catholic primary and secondary schools.

Chi siamo?

La «Dante Alighieri» ha lo scopo di tutelare e diffondere la lingua e la cultura italiana nel mondo ...

(Articolo 1 dello Statuto della Società Dante Alighieri)

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A "Dante Celebration in Music", at the Elder hall in North Terrace

From the president (Cont.)

The feedback from all schools has again been very positive and a full evaluation of this year's program will be conducted by the end of the current school year.

For the third year the Dante Alighieri Society (under the terms stipulated by the Italian Government) has supported the Bilingual Immersion Project at the Norwood Morialta Secondary School by providing \$5000 for the part time secondment of an Italian language teacher to develop teaching materials for the school. The Society plans to include in its future funding submissions to the Italian Government, a request for specific funds for the continuation of this project.

Dante Alighieri Italian Language Courses

This year in collaboration with the WEA, the Dante Alighieri Society offered co-branded Italian language courses which yield a 'Attestato' ADA certificate of completion and lead to PLIDA certification. A fifteen-week beginners course ran in semester 1 and is continuing in semester 2. Six students will sit for the PLIDA exams in November and we wish them the best of luck.

Also this year in collaboration with the Italian Benevolent Foundation of SA we have offered for the first time a cultural awareness course for volunteer carers / professionals caring for Italian seniors. It has received great feedback and my thanks go to Fabio Monaca and Rita Scialanga for course design.

Cultural Events and Offerings

On the cultural front the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia has enjoyed the ongoing support of the Italian Consulate and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Melbourne for which we thank Ms. Orietta Borgia, Acting Consul and Dottoressa Carmela Panetta.

Our events and offerings have included:

Three '**Evening with the Stars**' events in which Maestro Dr Joseph Talia presented separate talks on Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Verdi's *Requiem*.

All three events took place at the Italian Centre 262 Carrington St Adelaide and were a great success.

The theme for **Cineforum** this year was '*Pane, amore e...cinema italiano!*' ('Bread, love and...Italian cinema!') in collaboration with Flinders University's School of Humanities and Creative Arts at Flinders in the City, 182 Victoria Square. The program and technical issues continued to be managed by myself and Natasha Marona, who also took care of front of house in her usual efficient way. This year, on Cineforum's opening night, we also hosted the launch of Un Nuovo Cinema Italiano Volume 2 by Hope, Serra and d'Arcangeli.

Radio programs continue to be presented by members of the Dante Alighieri Society on 5RTI 531AM, SBS Radio Italia and Radio Italia1. In these broadcasts events offered by the Society are promoted and listeners hear news of the latest in Italian music, films and popular culture.

The **Circolo Divina Commedia** study group organised by our Treasurer Ciro Pippolo continues to meet regularly once a month under the guidance of Luciana d'Arcangeli to read and discuss one canto per meeting. The group has now reached Canto 25 of the '*Inferno*' the first section of Dante's epic work and looks forward to continued progress next year.

Caffe Italiano an informal Italian language conversation group meets in the late afternoon every second Thursday at Caffe Milano in Hutt St Adelaide. It has been a successful new initiative for the Society this year with a current membership of eight people and plans to continue next year.

Pizza e Parole is a similar new initiative targeting younger participants in particular students of Italian. Although we have found it hard to involve young people the Society will continue to promote this offering next year.

The Society held a **medieval banquet** on 13 June at the Associazione Toscana in Enfield to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante Alighieri. Many members and friends came dressed in medieval garb to enjoy the fare, readings by Professor Diana Glenn and songs by actress Minie Minarelli, accompanied by Maestro Ermanno Brignolo.

On the night we used digital media to see and talk to Dante Alighieri members in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Mildura and we would like to thank their Committees for collaborating with us to create an event that resonated throughout Australia

On 11 August Professor Marcello Costa (Flinders University) started a new **series of lectures on Italy in the Arts and Sciences** with the first entitled, 'The conquest of space in the Renaissance: from painting to geometry'. The lectures are held in collaboration with Flinders University's School of Humanities and Creative Arts at Flinders in the City.

A group screening of '*The Legendary Giulia*' (Edoardo Leo) at the **Lavazza Italian Film Festival** on 25 October and a concert 'A Dante Celebration in Music' starring pianists Konstantin Shamray and Mekla Kumar on 30 September will complete the Dante Alighieri Society's cultural events and offerings for this year.

Premises

Our premises at the WEA have worked well for us, allowing us to save while at the same time hold meetings, classes and events at one location.

What next?

Now that our role in South Australia has been consolidated, the Society is seeking to increase the level of funding it receives from the Italian government in order to strengthen our Italian teaching support program. We have a great reputation in the State and beyond and with the help of our many members and supporters in the community we look forward to strengthening it by continuing to offer a wide range of quality events, programs and services.

Conclusion and Thank You

The Society continues to work at its main objectives of supporting Italian Language and Culture in South Australia in collaboration with other associations and institutions, at all levels.

In recognition of our commitment, on 26th of August I was invited to officially witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Italy and South Australia for the continuing support of the teaching of Italian Language and Culture in South Australia and especially for the support of bilingual projects.

The DA signed an addendum in which we declared we read and understood the agreement and agreed to participate in meetings between the above mentioned parties on these issues. The event was held in the Balcony Room of Parliament House and I would like to thank Ms Orietta Borgia, Acting Consul for Italy and the Hon. Susan Close Minister for Education and Child Development for including our Society in this very important matter.

As always, I would like to stress that all the work of the Dante Alighieri Society of SA would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of a group of hardworking individuals. As mentioned last year the Society now has two "souls", one made of volunteers who give generously of their time to help the Society achieve its objectives, and others who receive a funds-linked stipend to carry out the schools related work or teaching of our language courses.

This great team has allowed me to take on a greater number of smooth-running events that I hope more of you will attend in the future.

I would also like to thank Antonella Masia and Roberto Vezzosi for their gracious hospitality at the Cinqueterre Eatalian Café and for their much appreciated catering. Likewise sincere thanks to Steve Maglieri of Serafino Wines for donating his much appreciated wine for all our events.

In conclusion, I would like to say thank you to all our supporters. It is a privilege to have been voted President of the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia and I place the greatest importance on the task of ensuring its future.



Dr Luciana d'Arcangeli
President

To read the full speech visit our website
www.ladantesa.com

A DANTE CELEBRATION IN MUSIC

With the kind permission of its author we present here an article published by Barry Lenny on BWW Review www.broadwayword.com on Wednesday 30th September 2015. Broadway World is the largest performing arts site in the world. Find out more at: www.broadwayworld.com/adelaide



This special concert to honour Dante Alighieri, A Dante Celebration in Music, took place in Elder Hall at the University of Adelaide.

Don't get me wrong, Franz Liszt was a great musician, a superstar of the keyboard, feted, admired and even desired by his audiences. As a composer, I've always thought there was far more piano virtuosity than imagination. So that disposes of him as a composer, but what about the challenge that he presents for pianists today, especially in some of his most demanding solo pieces.

The first half of this celebration of the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante Alighieri, sponsored by the local branch of the eponymous society began with lines from the Paradiso portion of the Commedia delivered with passion by Professor Diana Glenn. Then Mekhla Kumar walked out on stage, sat at the piano and delivered an almost effortless performance of Spozalizio, from 'The years of Italian pilgrimage', a set of pieces by List inspired by his travels, and in

this particular case by Raphael's The Marriage of the Virgin, a tender and eloquent performance that made

Konstantin Shamray, winner in 2008 of the Sydney international Piano competition, and now an Adelaide resident, performed the Dante Sonata of 1839, revised in 1849 and renamed in 1853 as a fantasia in sonata form, inspired by reading Dante. It is a work of emotional extremes and Shamray's impeccable technique was mesmerizing.



Konstantin Shamray, pianist

There was no interval in this brief concert, Shamray left the stage for a moment and Professor Glenn returned to read the tragedy of Francesca Da Rimini and her brother-in-law Paolo, discovered in flagrante and murdered by her husband. It's one of the great moments of the poem, and it inspired Tchaikovsky, a far greater composer than Liszt but only an okay pianist, to write Francesca da Rimini, symphonic fantasia, after Dante.

What we heard was an arrangement for four hands on one piano by Karl Klindworth, a composer and pianist, student of Liszt. In the 19th century the piano arrangement of symphonic works was a useful tool for disseminating in the decades before radio and recordings, the music of western culture.

Liszt himself wrote popular pieces based on themes from operas, that are delightful blends of melodies and harmonies, Liszt at his most approachable. Klindworth's distillation of a whole orchestral score down to the keys of one grand piano is masterly. Khumar sat at the left of the keyboard and her opening bars displayed a strength that underpinned the entire work. Shamray's astonishing dexterity on the right hand of the keyboard made a filigree of the violin and woodwind parts. Their unanimity meant that it was impossible to tell at times who was playing which part, unless you witnessed his hand flickering across the keys, or with hands at rest, heard the definitive handling of Khumar. Swirling sounds, the development of the love theme at each manifestation, sheer pulsing energy. I can't imagine ever hearing the work played with such skill and commitment, here or elsewhere.

The encore was a delicate and introverted arrangement of a song by Robert Schumann, which served to cool down the ears of the enthralled audience.

Buon compleanno, Maestro Dante.

*Reviewed by Ewart Shaw,
Wednesday 30th September 2015*



*Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882): Paolo e Francesca, 1855.
Londra, Tate Gallery*



Immersion is the best way to learn Italian. Since 2012 I have escorted groups on the Lecce Italian Language Experience. Over four fabulous weeks, participants are immersed in the Italian language surrounded by the culture, history and culinary delights of Lecce and the Salento region of Puglia in the heel of Italy. Whether you already know some Italian or are a beginner, Baroque Lecce, the School of Italian for Foreigners and the unexplored Salento are waiting.

The next tour is in May 2016 - from \$5940 including airfares, accommodation, course fees and more. For more information, Google "Learn Italian in Lecce" or call Raffaele Tardivo on 0403911494.

The Lecce Italian Language Experience is organised independently of the Dante Alighieri Society.



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SE AMI
L'ITALIA,
DIGLILO.
NELLA
SUA
LINGUA.

MIGRAZIONI VECCHIE E NUOVE



Christina in una foto scattata a Firenze.

Ciao a tutti, mi chiamo Christina. Sono laureata in psicologia presso l'Università di Sud Australia. Nel quarto anno di studio ho deciso di specializzarmi sull'immigrazione Africana nel Veneto. Ho scritto una tesi di circa 20,000 parole intitolata: *Una ricerca narrativa delle esperienze migratorie degli africani*. Penso che l'immigrazione sia un argomento molto interessante, forse perché le mie origini sono migratorie. Vi spiego un po' la mia vita e perché l'immigrazione mi interessa.

Da quando posso ricordare, sono sempre stata circondata dalla ricchezza della cultura italiana. I miei nonni sia paterni (toscano lui, molisana lei) che materni (entrambi trevigiani) sono infatti emigrati in Australia tra il 1955 ed il 1958. Sono venuti per cominciare una nuova vita per sé, ma anche una vita che poteva aiutare le future generazioni, una vita che avrebbe offerto ai loro figli e nipoti opportunità, speranza, lavoro e una vita tranquilla. Sono venuti da soli, con una valigia in una mano e nell'altra il passaporto. Fino a oggi non riesco a capire come sono arrivati al punto di lasciare praticamente tutto: famiglia e amici,

e arrivare in un paese straniero, il paese cosiddetto, 'terra dei sogni'. Comunque, ce l'hanno fatta.

Durante gli anni di infanzia e adolescenza, stavo sempre dai miei nonni che in qualche modo, hanno fatto parte della mia formazione giovanile. Mi ricordo i racconti delle loro storie migratorie. Mi ricordo bene i nonni e i loro amici che parlavano delle loro vite in Italia. La difficoltà in cui si trovavano, la lotta contro la povertà, la miseria che colpiva tanta gente, i sacrifici che hanno fatto per aiutare le loro famiglie ma anche per sé stessi, e la decisione di partire da soli e viaggiare all'estero. Sono fatti veri. Ognuno di loro aveva una storia diversa dall'altra. Quando uno raccontava un evento emozionante, vedevo che gli occhi si facevano lucidi per le emozioni rievocate. Le loro storie mi hanno insegnato a non dare niente per scontato.

Il mio primo viaggio in Italia è stato nel 2011 e sono poi tornata quattro volte. La prima volta in Italia sono stata scioccata perché non avrei mai pensato di vedere un sacco di migranti, specialmente quelli africani nel nord d'Italia. Guardando e chiedendo alla gente italiana

il loro punto di vista sulla situazione migratoria, ottenevo diverse risposte positive, ma anche negative. Quando andavo ai mercati oppure alle feste, osservavo le reazioni verso 'gli stranieri'. A me, essendo una straniera, sembrava assolutamente assurdo vedere altre culture vivere in Italia. Avevo questa idea in mente che l'Italia sarebbe rimasta l'Italia- senza stranieri. Amici e parenti che raccontavano i loro viaggi, dicevano sempre che l'Italia non era più la stessa con gli stranieri. Ho pensato "Come possono dire questo visto che l'Australia è piena di culture diverse"?

Detto questo, le storie e le esperienze dei miei nonni e le mie osservazioni durante i viaggi, mi hanno ispirata di fare un'indagine sulle vite degli Africani, perché volevo sapere di più delle loro storie, delle loro vite. Secondo me, l'unico modo di imparare qualcosa o per sapere i fatti veri, è di farli parlare, ascoltarli, lasciando che il narratore spieghi il suo punto di vista.

Nel mondo accademico, non ci sono tanti articoli che si occupano di questo argomento. Certo ci sono statistiche, articoli politici, giornali che descrivono il numero dei rifugiati che cercano di entrare in Italia/ UE, però dal punto di vista di un migrante, non c'è.

Ho preparato 20 interviste, collaborando con accademici dell'Università Cà Foscari e una società di Mestre che si chiama Noi Migranti. Se non mi avessero aiutata, non c'è l'avrei fatta. Ho avuto grande successo con le interviste. I partecipanti erano entusiasti di rispondere alle domande perché era un'opportunità di sfogarsi. Hanno condiviso cose personali, e episodi che io non avrei mai pensato. Ho avuto l'opportunità di intervistare due uomini che a quel tempo, vivevano in un centro di permanenza temporanea.

Ho capito dalle risposte che l'Italia è ancora un po' indietro rispetto l'accoglienza verso gli stranieri. Alcuni migranti hanno detto che 'la gente italiana deve capire che il mondo cambia e le persone che hanno subito violenza, guerra, conflitti politici vanno in cerca di trovare una vita lontano da quello che hanno vissuto'.

La narrazione è lo strumento con il quale le nostre emozioni, i nostri episodi e i nostri ricordi vengono inquadrati in un contesto in grado di esprimere sia la motivazione del loro esistere, sia gli eventi vissuti, sia la ragione. Secondo me, è importante valorizzare gli avvenimenti e le esperienze che facciamo durante la nostra vita. Il ruolo dell'ascoltatore è di visualizzare le storie e interpretarle per capire bene quello che è stato affrontato.

Spero che vi sia piaciuto l'articolo e sia stato un momento narrativo per condividere questo problema così attuale in Italia.



“

Se si parla di immigrazione, il pensiero va immediatamente ai "vù cumprà", "nati per rubare", "clandestino", "extracomunitario", oppure alle persone che arrivano in migliaia nelle barche pericolose sulle coste di Lampedusa. L'Italia per molto tempo è stata un paese di emigrazione, e adesso si trasforma a terra di immigrazione. La consapevolezza di questo grande cambiamento sociale e culturale è ancora rara, e l'Italia deve ancora capire questo cambiamento improvviso.

”

Buon Natale e felice anno nuovo...



...da parte di tutto il comitato!

*Beatrice Barbieri, Luciana d'Arcangeli, Silvia De Cesare,
Luigi Masciantonio, Anna Mazzone, Maria Mazzone, Natasha Marona,
Giuliana Otmarich, Ciro Pipolo, Maria Russo*

Donate to the Dante Alighieri Culture & Education Fund

All donations over \$2 to the Dante Alighieri Culture and Education Fund are tax deductible.
All funds are used to support our many exciting projects which will revitalize the love of Italian Language and Culture in South Australia.

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2016 Membership Application

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Should the need arise, I agree to have my photo published in the Dante Alighieri Newsletter: **Yes** **No**

I am an Italian citizen registered with AIRE (Anagrafe degli Italiani Residenti all'Estero) **Yes** **No**

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