# DANTE NEWS

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI

*"il mondo in italiano"*

Newsletter of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane FEBBRAIO 2024



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*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and their unique relationship with their ancestral Country. We pay respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.*

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PRADELLA
Since 1959


# *Calendario*

*February 8 – Conversazioni Livello Intermedio*

*February 14 – San Valentino*

*February 16 – Passeggiata a Pesaro*

*February 28 - Cineforum*

***Date Claimer***

*March 15 – A. G. M.*

Carnevale di Fano (PU)

**BENVENUTE/I E BENTORNATE/I A TUTTI/E!!**

# Dante matters

## *from the pen of the President…*

Dear all,
A special welcome this month - ***Benvenute! / Benvenuti!*** - to the new members who have joined us, and in particular those undertaking their first course at our school: I hope you will enjoy both the learning experience and the social environment. The **benefits of membership** of the society are:

- access to our Italian courses, conversation groups, private tuition, and *circoli*
- **r**eceipt of this monthly newsletter
- use of our library's extensive collection of fiction and non-fiction books, and the videotheque
- discounted entry into various museums in Italy

and, above all, belonging to a vibrant community of *Italsimpatici*, here and around the world!
Our **cultural, social and fundraising activities are open to everyone, not just members**. So please always feel free to bring your friends to any Dante event.

A quick reminder for continuing members: please don't forget to renew your membership, in time for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 15 March. The form is on the web-site https://dante-alighieri.com.au/home/membership/ and payment options include bank transfer. Subscription covers a member for the year from January to December.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Dante, please consider nominating for the Management Committee. We are keen to welcome new volunteers, and will greatly appreciate your skills and talents! Nomination forms are available at the reception counter. Or, if you are not keen on joining the committee but would like to help occasionally in administrative matters or organising events, for example, we'd love to hear from you.

To open the events programme for the year we are delighted to have our Consul, Luna Angelini Marinucci, as presenter.
We wanted to begin with an exploration of an Italian city, continuing our *Passeggiate* series of talks, and where better to start this year than Pesaro, *Capitale italiana della cultura* for 2024? See page 3 for details about the event and for information about what it means to be *Capitale italiana della cultura*.
After this event I'm sure anyone planning a trip to Italy this year will want to include Pesaro in the itinerary. Please let us know if you're coming, as this helps us plan the catering.

Here in Brisbane… Plans are already under way for several other Dante events this year. We can look forward to a wine tasting and a trivia night, both extremely popular in recent years (and great fundraisers for the society), as well as a regular cineforum gathering, and presentations by experts on a variety of topics to do with Italian or Italian-Australian culture and history, as always. Keep your eye on Dante News, and look out for our posts at https://www.facebook.com/SocDanteBNE and https://www.instagram.com/societada.bne/?hl=en - then please like them and share them widely, and feel free to add a comment about your experience at the Dante!

A plug in closing: Voxalis Opera, the opera and classical song company of which the Brisbane Dante is a proud sponsor, has announced its 2024 programme and tickets are on sale for the first concert. See https://www.voxalis.com.au/. If you would like to support Voxalis individually, tax-deductible donations can be made to its Australian Cultural Fund campaign through the same web-site.

Thank you for your support of the Dante in the past and over the year to come. We can look forward to further exploring and enjoying Italian language and culture together. A presto,
Claire

# Passeggiate in Italia

The Dante Alighieri Society invites you to the next event in our *Passeggiate* series, exploring Italian cities one by one - this time celebrating Pesaro, *capitale italiana della cultura* for 2024.
We are delighted to have our Consul, Luna Angelini Marinucci, as presenter, accompanied by some Brisbane *Pesaresi*, who will join us for the occasion.

## "Pesaro: la natura della cultura"

**Friday 16 February**

**at the Dante rooms, 26 Gray St, New Farm**

**Luna will speak mostly in English, and her PowerPoint presentation will be in Italian and English.**

https://www.destinazionemarche.it/10-cose-da-fare-e-vedere-a-pesaro/

Luna Angelini Marinucci has been Italian Consul for Queensland and the Northern Territory since May 2022. We are very lucky to have her!

Born in Castignano (AP), Luna completed her schooling at the *liceo classico* in Ascoli Piceno, before graduating in Economics and Social Sciences at Bocconi University in Milan, and obtaining a French Master's degree through the *École des hautes études commerciales de Paris* (HEC).
On graduation she worked as a statistical analyst, first for the Bank of France and then the OECD, where she researched potential ways of measuring GDP that take into account individuals' perceived well-being as well as income and expenditure.
In 2018 she was accepted into the Italian diplomatic service and took up a position in the Directorate for Italians Abroad and Migration Policy, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There she developed policies and initiatives for Italian communities overseas, until her posting to Brisbane in 2022.

# Dalla scuola

Il primo trimestre del 2024 è cominciato con corsi di tutti i livelli e lezioni tutti i giorni, mattine e sere. Nel primo trimestre la scuola offre ben 13 classi dal livello principianti assoluti ai livelli superiori.

It was wonderful to see everyone back from the summer break, the tales of the many adventures were told and are still being enjoyed.
A warm BENVENUTI / BENVENUTE to the new students attending our school for the first time, we look forward to getting to know you and to chat in Italian.

| TERM 1 | TERM 2 |
|---|---|
| 22 January to 29 March | 15 April to 21 June |

For information about the various courses, days and times go to our website www.dante-alighieri.com.au or send an email to: info@dante-alighieri.com.au or call on 0401 927 967.

**Yes, we do know that there are public holidays within these dates, however at the school we offer classes on these days.**

## CONVERSAZIONI

These *Circoli* are offered on Thursday afternoons from 15.00 to 16.30 and they are open to anyone that would like to participate.
There are two levels of language proficiency: Intermediate and Advanced.
Both will be conducted by a facilitator giving structure and directions to the participants.
Attendance is fortnightly.
The cost is $80 for 4 sessions or $22 per session if you can only make it some weeks.
**These are the dates for Term 1 in February**
**Intermedio - giovedì 8 e 22**
**Avanzato - giovedì 15 e 29**

Bentornati agli studenti del CeS 1 del giovedì

**Benvenuto Ari!**
**Nonna Rohini è riuscita ad arrivare in tempo per le prime coccole.**
**Auguri da tutti noi.**

The school is open to any (reasonable) suggestions about other extra-curricular activities.
What would you like the school to organise?? In other years we have facilitated a variety of groups.
For example:

- **Book-club**
- **Cooking classes**
- **Grammar revision**
- **Private lessons**
- **Cineforum**

Speaking of Cineforum, there is a member of the Society that will have the **first movie night on Wednesday 28 February at 5.00 for a 5.30pm start.** There are no details at present, however you can send an email to the Dante or make a phone call for information.

And speaking of cooking groups, here is zia Lina making tortelli di zucca following the recipe that Eduardo, her nephew and our student, learned here at the Dante last year.

# A.G.M.

**Notice of Annual General Meeting of the**
**Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane**
**Friday, March 15**
**6:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.**
**at the**
**Dante Alighieri Cultural Centre**
**26 Gray Street, New Farm**

## Nominations for the 2024 Management Committee

**Nominations are invited from members wishing to stand for election to the Management Committee of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. of Brisbane. The two nominators and the nominee must be financial members. The term of office of elected members is for one year.**
**All nomination forms must be in the hands of the Secretary fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting (Rule 27); i.e. by Friday, March 1, 2024.**

**Nomination forms are available, on request,**
**from the Dante office or at**
**www.dante-alighieri.com.au**

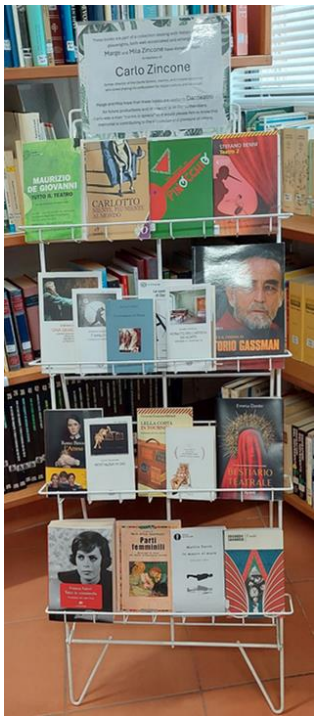
**Executive Positions:**
***President *2 Vice Presidents *Secretary *Treasurer**
**Committee Members:**
***Editor, Dante News *Functions Co-ordinator *I.T. Co-ordinator *Membership Registrar**
***Promotions Officer *General Committee Members**

**Continues from page 3**

Luna is *marchigiana* and familiar with Pesaro although not from there - she was born and raised in another provincial capital in the region of Le Marche, Ascoli Piceno. She will be accompanied by some Brisbane P*esaresi*, who will also kindly share their knowledge and stories of the city. It's important to note that Ascoli Piceno also threw its hat in the ring for recognition as this year's cultural capital, and was among the finalists for consideration, so there was a kind of "derby" between these two cities of Le Marche! The designation of a city as *Capitale italiana della cultura* each year was instituted in 2014, with the aim of supporting the development of a city's culture and promotion of its cultural heritage. The winning city each year receives a million euros towards the project set out in its application. As the Ministerial web-site says, the funds are intended to ensure that the city "potrà mettere in mostra, per il periodo di un anno, i propri caratteri originali e i fattori che ne determinano lo sviluppo culturale, inteso come motore di crescita dell'intera comunità". The Jury that selected Pesaro declared: "La città di Pesaro offre al Paese una eccellente candidatura basata su un progetto culturale che, valorizzando un territorio già straordinariamente ricco di testimonianze storiche e preziosità paesaggistico-ambientali, propone azioni concrete attraverso le quali favorire anche l'integrazione, l'innovazione, lo sviluppo socio-economico." The mayor of Pesaro, Matteo Ricci, dedicated the win to the Ukrainian city Kharkiv, and, one month after the announcement, in April 2022, a solidarity concert was held in Pesaro's Teatro Sperimentale, where the city's Orchestra Olimpia was conducted by Maestro Yurij Yanko, conductor of the Kharkiv Philarmonic. (See https://www.comune.pesaro.pu.it/novita-in-comune/dettaglio/news/concerto-per-la-pace-unorchestra-per-kharkiv-1/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=5979e4831d1cca3f5a88d4dcc156869a ).

# Dalla biblioteca

## Cosa c'è di nuovo nella nostra biblioteca?




As a member of the Dante Alighieri Society, you are also a member of our library. Our library is divided over two rooms. Non-fiction texts are housed next to our coffee area. Here, books are grouped according to their topic, using the Dewey Decimal system. There are books on a wide variety of topics including a large collection of Italian cookbooks both in English and Italian, and books on Italian history, culture and art.

The fiction section of our library is in Aula Magna, the classroom next to our coffee area. Here, books are arranged alphabetically by the author's surname. Our library also has a Children's Section, also in Aula Magna, with beautifully illustrated books and novels for children. No matter if you have just begun your voyage into Italian or are a native-speaker, there is something in our library for you. We have the high-brow – Dante, Manzoni, Quasimodo, Eco – and more popular contemporary works by the likes of Ammaniti, Mazzucco, Benni, Maraini and Lucarelli. Italy has produced some very fine writers and you can meet them on our shelves.

The librarians are only on in the library on Wednesday afternoons between midday and 2:00 pm, but you can borrow anytime the Dante is open. Each book has a card inside. Just print your name on the card and place it in the box provided. When you bring the book back, just place it in the returns box. Simple! You can select non-fiction and fiction titles to borrow for a period of one month with the option to renew.

There is also a collection of DVDs and Easy Italian Readers with CDs. These are held in the staff room. Please talk to the teachers if you would like to borrow these items.

So, come in and browse. Reading is a great way to travel to Italy daily in your imagination, to practise the language and learn more about Italian culture, past and present. **Happy Reading**

## *tempus fugit velut umbra*

*2027 is fast approaching.*

In February 2024, the Dante History Group will recommence activities on our various projects: Dante Oral History Project which will capture the experiences of those for whom the Dante has been important and who have been important to the Dante and to document the experiences of Italian migrants.

- Project to document the history of the Brisbane Dante through a series of monographs.
- Digitising our archives to ensure the long-term survival and accessibility of important historical material.

The Brisbane Dante will be celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2027. The History Group aims to make an interesting and valuable contribution to our celebrations. We also hope that what we set in train will be taken up by others and built upon for the centenary and all the other anniversaries to come.

As we approach 2027, we will have need for people with a diversity of skills. If you would like to join the Dante History Group, we would love to hear from you.
You can contact Lesley Given at:
DanteBrisbaneHistory@outlook.com

### Ways You Can Help Make History at the Dante

- Come and join the Dante History Group. Everybody is welcome.
- Share photographs, video or audio material, written material that you think may be of interest.
- Share anecdotes or experiences you have about the history of the Dante.
- Share your skills: we need people who can research, write and proof-read material; have graphic design, computer or interviewing skills.
- Share your experience: have you taken part in an Oral History Project before? What do you know about preparing an archive? Have you ever written an application for a grant before?
- Share your enthusiasm and interest.

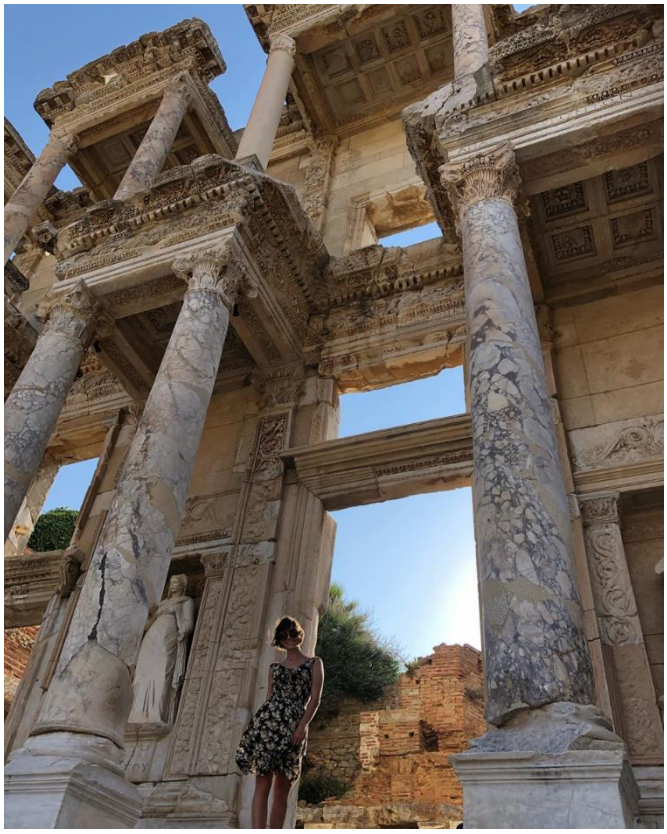
# Autobiografia

Continua e finisce in questa edizione l'autobiografia di Lissara Bergamaschi.

**-IL GRANO DI FAVA-**

**CAPITOLO 3**

**Le titubanze**



Questo è l'ultimo capitolo dell'autobiografia che potete leggere su di me. Ed io non so come cominciarlo.
I miei due precedenti sono stati facili da scrivere, io sapevo già di cosa potevo scrivere, sapevo quello che volevo dire. Tuttavia adesso è diverso. Sono qui nella casa dei miei vicini seduta sulla sedia della sala senza sapere che cosa scrivere, circondata da 3 animali di cui io ed il mio compagno ci stiamo prendendo cura in questo fine settimana: Hank, un incrocio di labrador con sharpei; Penny, una gatta abissina; e Sophie, una cagnolina dachshund di dieci settimane.
Per questa ragione, ho pensato di poter scrivere del mio amore per gli animali e del mio sogno di averne molti! Comunque questo è tutto e ho bisogno di almeno 200 parole.
Ho pensato anche di parlarvi dei miei sogni di andare in Italia per studiare, oppure di comprare una casa con un grande cortile, oppure ancora di diventare una professoressa di lingue. Purtroppo questo è tutto e adesso sapete che ne ho bisogno ancora di 200...
Ho pensato anche di raccontarvi di uno dei miei spazi personali favoriti: la cantina dell'antica casa dei miei nonni. Questa cantina era un luogo magico che mi incuteva sia un po' di paura sia un po' di entusiasmo. Era separata in due parti, una buia e rustica dove rimanevano le botti ed un'altra che i miei nonni hanno trasformato in un monolocale con una piccola cucina, sala e camera da letto. Per una bambina curiosa come me, la cantina aveva tutto quello che io potevo desiderare: un posto oscuro e tenebroso oppure, per un'altra situazione, una casa confortevole per le mie bambole. Ma questo è anche tutto e non so se ho bisogno di dirvi di più.

Scrivendo questo capitolo, mi rendo conto che questi argomenti hanno qualcosa in comune: tutti parlano di me e sono parti importanti della persona che io sono oggi. L'amore per gli animali, per lo studio, i viaggi, la natura e per la famiglia sono dei pezzi che mi completano e che mi rendono chi sono oggi. Non so cosa porterà il futuro, però sono sicura che queste qualità continueranno a guidarmi lungo il mio sentiero.

Sopra: io all'entrata della Biblioteca di Celsus. Ephesus - Turchia (2019).

A sinistra: io ed il mio compagno, Ziggy. Beechmont - Australia (2021).

# Autobiografia... continua

**Per non dire che non ho fatto una conclusione**

Mio nonno mi raccontava una storia un po' buia di un giovane che fu espulso da casa sua da suo padre. Il padre era stanco dalla pigrizia del figlio e, prima che il figlio se ne andasse, gli aveva dato soltanto un grano di fava da tenere con sé qualunque fosse il sentiero che lui decidesse di seguire.
Per molti giorni il giovane camminava senza destino e quando arrivava il tramonto, il figlio bussava alla porta di qualsiasi casa chiedendo di passare la notte. Contando sulla buona volontà delle persone che lo ricevevano, tutte le nuove mattine lui raccontava una bugia e lasciava le case dei suoi generosi ospiti con una cosa nuova in suo possesso.
Finché un giorno, lui si sposa con una bella giovane che aveva trovato la notte precedente, figlia di uno dei suoi ospiti. Loro camminavano insieme quando sul cammino dovevano attraversare un fiume. Lui ha detto a sua moglie che non sapeva nuotare e le ha chiesto se lei poteva prenderlo in braccio a camminare con lui in sicurezza all'altro lato del fiume. Lei ha accettato ciò ma, mentre loro attraversavano il fiume, lui ha cominciato a raccontare in versi la storia di come era arrivato lì in quel momento:

"*Da un grano di fava, guadagnai un gallo;*
*Dal gallo guadagnai un porco;*
*Dal porco guadagnai un cavallo;*
*Dal cavallo guadagnai una morta;*
*Dalla morta guadagnai una bella 'giovanetta' che me porta*."

Dopo avere ascoltato ciò che lui diceva, la giovane ha capito ciò che era successo: lui si fidava sulle sue bugie per riuscire ad avere quello di cui aveva bisogno ma che non aveva il coraggio di costruire per sé. Piena di sé - riempita per una certezza sul suo ruolo in questa fiaba - con un colpo, lei l'ha gettato nel fondo del fiume dove lui ha trovato la morte. La giovane ha seguito felice il suo sentiero.
Questa storia può sembrare un po' spaventosa però io ho chiesto a mio nonno di raccontarla una miriade di volte. Credo che quello che mi rendeva tranquilla di questa favola era sapere che il giovane bugiardo aveva pagato per le sue menzogne e che la bella giovane aveva seguito il suo cammino. Mi sento un po' come questa giovane che, anche avendo vissuto momenti turbolenti nella vita, è riuscita a seguire l'avventura e a creare la sua propria strada.

Sopra: Io ed il mio compagno, Ziggy. St Moritz - Svizzera (2017)
A destra: Io e mia zia Rosi. Deserto del Sahara - Marocco (2018).