

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Celebrating the customs, languages, music, food and traditions of Trentino!



March 2014



2014 Board Members

- Mary Beth Moser, President
- Dana Deseck-Piazzon, Vice-President
- Shawna Gibson, Secretary
- Joan Barker, Treasurer, Past President, and founding member
- Maggie Newhouse, Youth Representative



Thank you to all our past board members and to our founding members!

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

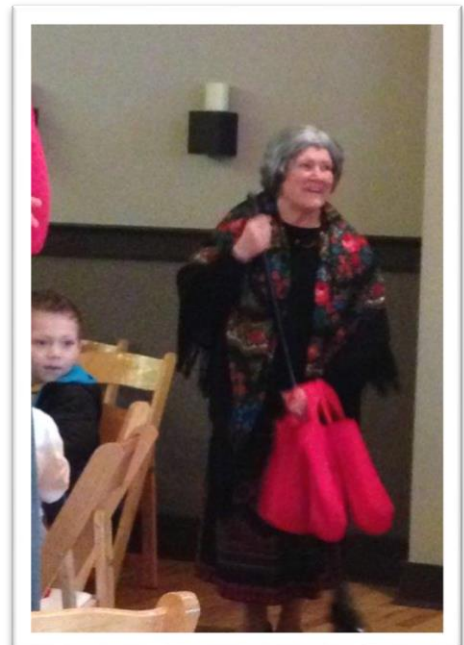
Mary Beth Moser

Bella Primavera, Happy Spring from the 2014 Board of the Seattle Trentino Club, shown at left! I am honored and delighted to be sending you this newsletter in my new role as president. Our board draws from the roots of our club and branches towards the future as it brings together both experienced and new members. Four years ago on March 20, 2010 a group of about a dozen Trentino Americans met at Café Revò in Seattle, Washington. Joan Barker led the meeting, proposed the by-laws she

had prepared, and shared the vision of the club. Thanks to Joan's initiative, the support of her family, and the participation of the founding members, our *Circolo Trentino di Seattle*, the Seattle Trentino Club, was officially formed. For me, it was a dream come true, having first visited Trento decades earlier where I had learned about the existence of Trentino groups around the country. I wondered if there were other Trentino-Americans in the Northwest US, and if so, how to meet them. Since that auspicious beginning on the Spring Equinox, the Seattle Trentino Club has hosted an annual Polenta Picnic and Christmas Party, as well as other activities. With the support of volunteers, participants, and the board, these events have been fun and successful. As we look ahead to creating a sustainable and thriving organization, we will depend on volunteers even more. I am personally very grateful for the existence of a group with whom to share my cultural heritage. The board hopes to provide several opportunities for us to meet and for members to get involved. When we celebrate together, our beautiful ancestry comes alive as we reconnect with the traditions that have shaped us in some way. We hope to see you this year!

Recent Events

Christmas Party On a sparkling clear Sunday afternoon on January 5 at the Tye Yacht Club, La Befana (Joan Barker) swept into the room with her broom and sacks of candy for the kids. Babbo Natale (Bruce Johnson) had just distributed gifts to the children and was telling the story of La Befana when she arrived. After La Befana distributed candy, it was time for the exchange of gifts. Earlier in the afternoon, there was a lasagna dinner and dessert buffet. Joan and Bruce provided musical entertainment on the accordion and violin, and Clarissa Szabados-Mish led us in Italian song, helping us with the pronunciation along the way. A board meeting, attended by several members, followed the festivities, at which time the new board was elected. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered! Special thanks to those who came early to set up and/or helped afterwards: Colleen Barker-Henry, Anne Zadra, Celeste Henry, Trevor Henry, Joe Zuech, Dan Blood, and Rich Rotruck. And of course, *mille grazie* to all the children that came and to Babbo Natale and La Befana for their colorful appearances!



Trentino/Alto Adige Regional Dinner On January 16, 2014, members of the Seattle Trentino Club met at *Il Fornaio* restaurant in Seattle, Washington to dine on fare from Trentino/ Alto Adige. As part of their Festa Regionale, Il Fornaio is featuring food and wine from a different region of Italy each month. Participants feasted on canederli, gnocchi, and other menu items. Thanks to Dana Deseck-Piazzon for organizing this fun event. *Buon Compleanno* to Dana and to Joan Barker who co-celebrated their birthdays at this event.



More photos of these and other Seattle Trentino Club events are on our Facebook page. Join us there! Once you join the group, you will be able to post your own photos. Feel free to send us your good photos of events so we can share them.

Upcoming Events

We are finalizing the dates for our two big annual events, the **Polenta Picnic** and the **Christmas Party**. **We need a volunteer for each event to organize and coordinate the food preparation and kitchen activities. This is an important responsibility for which Joan will be provide mentoring, guidance, and support.** Please contact Joan Barker joanbarker@mac.com or Mary Beth Moser mbmoser@comcast.net if you are available for these positions.

DATES TO SAVE ***dependent on site-availability

- **Polenta Picnic** - tentatively **Sunday August 3, 2014** at Founders Lodge, Des Moines
- **Christmas/La Befana Party** - tentatively **January 4, 2015** at Tyee Yacht Club, Seattle

The board is in the process of planning possible additional activities to offer this year. Please contact us if you have ideas. Our goal is to offer opportunities to gather more often as well as to learn about and celebrate our culture. Some ideas for local events include:

- Bocce playing at Von Trapps on Capitol Hill in Seattle, upcoming Saturday or Sunday afternoon
- Cooking demonstration of canederli with Joan Barker
- Learning to make cheese, sausage/*luganega*, wine, and grappa (see next page)
- Tasting wines from Trentino/Alto Adige
- Learning to spin wool, a traditional Trentino craft, and other fibers with a drop-spindle (hands-on course suitable for kids or adults)
- Hiking
- Singing/choir for learning Trentino songs

The board welcomes any suggestion on possible events and is always looking for places to host events. Please contact us with your ideas and location suggestions!

Learn to Make Cheese on Vashon Island

Cheese is an important (and delicious!) part of Trentino culture. Every summer, dairy cows are taken to high mountain pastures to graze, where their high-quality milk is made into cheese in traditional mountain huts, known as *malghe*. The cows are so beloved that one Trentino tourism brochure includes the names and photos of each cow at more than a dozen *malghe* in the Valsugana area. In the fall, the “cows come home” for the winter, decorated with flowers and bells. Are you interested in learning more about this traditional skill? If so, Kelsey Kosak, an acclaimed professional cheese-maker on Vashon



Island, is offering her popular hands-on 6-hour course, “Cheesemaking: From Cow to Curd” which includes milking Kelsey’s cow, making butter and cheeses, and of course, eating the results! There are a few openings in her scheduled classes on the weekends in April and May. If we can get five or more folks, we can schedule our own class on **Saturday, April 5th** or **Sunday, April 6** at a reduced cost. Please, check out Kelsey’s web site <http://www.dairycouple.us/> for more detailed information (and photos of the adorable Jersey cow, Jingle.) If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact me soon with your availability, so we can reserve a spot. mbmoser@comcast.net

ITTONA Convention in Ogden, UT



Every two years there is a gathering of Trentino clubs in North America by the International Tyrolean Trentino Organization of North America (ITTONA). This year the event will be held in Ogden, Utah on **July 18-20, 2014**. The convention is an opportunity to celebrate our heritage, to meet other Trentini, to represent our club, and to participate in the local culture of the host organization.

From the Convention Organizers in Ogden, Utah:

“We are extremely excited to announce the opening of registration for the 2014 ITTONA Convention in Ogden, Utah. If you have any questions please feel free to email us at ogdentrentini@gmail.com. We will do our best to assist you.

Besides being a great conference, this can be a great starting point for an amazing vacation. Utah has some of the most beautiful country in the world and many great vacation spots within just a few hours of Ogden. Please join us for an amazing event!”

They have mailed me a few paper copies of the registration packet, if you prefer to register by mail.

This packet may also be downloaded from <http://www.ogdentrentini.com/> Please see their web page for more information and to register.

ITTONA serves as an umbrella organization uniting all Tyrolean-Trentini clubs in North America and acts as a liaison with the Trentino nel Mondo Association and the Autonomous Provincial government of Trento organizations.

Volunteer Opportunities and Initiatives

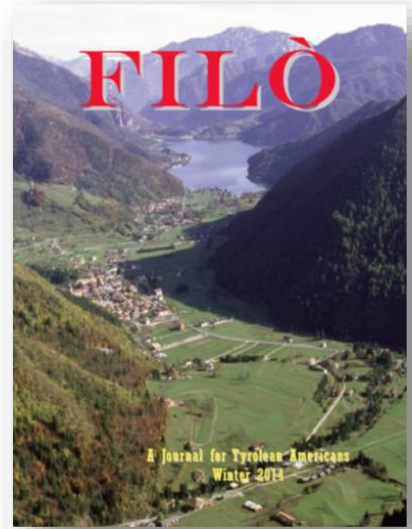
Do you have skills or interest in the following areas? If so, please contact us!

- web design and creation
- photography
- youth activities
- hosting an event
- teaching a craft or skill related to Trentino culture
- writing for the newsletter
- taking responsibility for recycling at our major events
- soliciting sponsorship from business community
- map display at major events for member reference
- scrapbook of past events

Dana Deseck-Piazzon will be doing an inventory and organizing our club **library**, which comprises a few dozen books, and making the publications more available for club use. She will also be leading an initiative to investigate ideas for **community service**. Please be in touch with Dana if you are interested in working in those areas. dpiazzon@gmail.com

Publications of Interest

Filò is an English-language quarterly magazine published specifically for us, the descendants of Trentino/Tyrolean immigrants, with the intent “to provide a summary of our culture, history, and customs” and to inform us of the background of our roots and ancestry. To receive a copy of this excellent and informative publication, please contact Lou Brunelli, 914-402-5248 or register online at <http://filo.tiroles.com/>. Previous editions are available for viewing on the web. *Filò* is free and contains articles, recipes, photos, maps, family histories, and more. You will want to read this publication cover to cover!



Other Local Italian Organizations

Several organizations in the Seattle area celebrate Italian heritage, language and culture. While our group focuses on the culture of the province of Trentino, participating in these other groups provides an opportunity for us to support each other, as well as to share in activities of common interest. Here are some of the clubs and their activities:

Dante Alighieri Society. Italian cultural society with bi-monthly meetings, one in English, one in Italian. Italian language school. <http://das.danteseattle.org/>

Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Pacific Northwest subsection of Pisa: Hiking group with regular local activities and annual international trips and exchange programs. <http://www.cai-pnw.com/>

Seattle Perugia Sister City Society: regular and special events focused on Italy; monthly gatherings at Caffè Umbria for Italian conversation; film festival; Italian language scholarships; annual picnic; <http://www.seattle-perugia.org/>

Sons of Italy; Italian organization with social events including an annual picnic; <http://www.glnw.org/information.htm>

Festa Italiana, annual festival of Italian culture at Seattle Center in September. <http://www.festaseattle.com/>

Trentino Cultural Corner

This section of the newsletter is devoted to Trentino Culture, including relevant book and movie reviews, personal stories about Trentino emigrants and their descendants, poetry, dialect, recipes, travel tips, etc. Send me your articles! mbmoser@comcast.net

2014 Dues Are Due

Our club year runs from January through December and dues are due in January. Our dues enable us to rent venues for our events, to pay postage for mailings, and to cover other expenses. Dues are \$25 per household. We very much appreciate your support for Seattle Trentino Club. If you have not already done so, please send \$25 to

Seattle Trentino Club, c/o Joan Barker, 700 S 282nd Street #742, Des Moines, WA 98198.

If you have not been a member before, or if your information has changed, please complete the Application for Membership (**see next page**); otherwise, the form is not necessary.

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Application for Membership

Name of Trentino/a _____

Name of partner _____

Names and ages of children in household:

Street address _____

Telephone(s) _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Relationship to emigrant(s), their names and the town(s) from which they emigrated, if known:

We are collecting stories of the emigration and subsequent histories of our members' families. We hope you will share this information with the group.

Please send completed Application for Membership with \$25/household 2014 membership fee to:

Seattle Trentino Club
c/o Joan Barker
700 S 282nd Street, #742
Des Moines, WA 98198

For information call: 206-878-4502 or write: joanbarker@mac.com