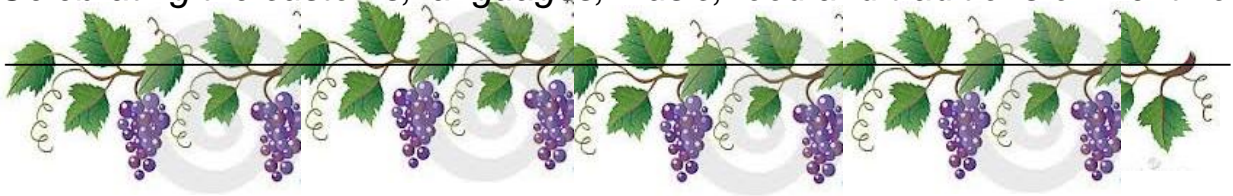


# SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

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



## August 2014



### Gratitude for Summer's Bounty

*Mary Beth Moser*

*Buon Ferragosto!* Thanks to an abundance of sunny days, we are enjoying the fullness of summer here on the western side of the Cascade Mountains. Fruit is ripening and the mountain wild flowers are in bloom. Observing and taking delight in small and big changes in nature helps me feel attuned with the cycles of life, something my farming ancestors did as part of their daily lives. The plants remind me that change is always happening; the cycle of life continues. With the passing of my 90-year-old mother, just a few days after the Spring Equinox, I have been immersed in the past, an emotional landscape of ancestral territory. Going through Mom's things these last few months, I have found some treasures. Among them were two certificates from 1935 documenting that each of her parents – emigrants from Trentino and Alto Adige/South Tyrol – had passed an English language course at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver, Colorado. A gold sticker affixes a green and pink ribbon to the upper left corner of each one, highlighting its significance. These pieces of paper affirm my grandparents' accomplishment as they prepared for the test to become naturalized citizens of the United States, which they passed with pride, according to my Mom. Although my siblings and I have few things of my grandparents, these certificates are a precious testimony to the challenges they faced and met.

Loss of our beloved Elders serves as a reminder of how much their presence is a link is to the past, and how important it is for us to know their stories. By celebrating together, learning to cook traditional foods, exploring our family trees, and sharing our family's stories, we can honor those whose hard work made our lives possible, and carry forward the values of sharing and caring of our ancestors. Our yearly rituals can help us move forward.

Two recent events, our local Polenta Picnic and the international gathering of Trentini/Tirolesi in Ogden in July, have broadened my feeling of kinship and cultural identity, rooted in specific valleys and villages. Here's to our ever-widening family ties!

# Recent Events

**Fifth Annual Polenta Picnic** Nearly 50 folks from near and far arrived at the Kenmore Community Club on Sunday, August 3 for our annual Polenta Picnic. **Joan Barker**, with help from **Dana Deseck-**



**Piazzon**, cooked up a fabulous *tonco*, a special traditional stew with gravy, the night before, along with *crauti*. The polenta was communally prepared outside by a few hearty folks and tasted delicious. **Dan Zadra** generously brought bottles of his award-winning wine to share with everyone. Among the beautiful dishes and desserts that people brought was homemade salami by **Grant Rauzi** from a family recipe. (Are you getting hungry?)



Attendees this year received promotional items generously sent to us by the Province, including gorgeous posters of Trentino. The “truffle prizes” were a big success and included a beautiful Italian picnic basket filled with specialty items; a boxed set of Trentino folk stories by Mauro Neri; “*Andiamo al Cinema*” movie tickets, and a *glava* stick for stirring polenta. Five lucky kids won penny jars, “*soldi per i popi*,” a tribute to the tradition of the nonna of Joan Barker and other family members.

*Congratulations to the winners* and thanks to all who purchased tickets, as it helps pay for the cost of the event. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING! Some of you journeyed quite far and we are delighted that you came! Be sure and send us your recipes so we can share them.

**“The Polenta Picnic is a treasure to the club and our tribal gathering.” Joe Zuech, member**

Special thanks to **Anne Zadra** for her outstanding job of overseeing the kitchen and food setup, a major responsibility! Anne’s capable contribution as a volunteer over the years is invaluable. We appreciate everyone who came early to set up, including **Gary, Dianna** and **Toni Piazzon**; **Dan Blood** and his parents; and **Shawna Gibson’s** parents; those who helped afterwards, and all those who stirred the polenta pot.



*Dana Deseck-Piazzon, Mary Beth Moser, Grant Rauzi at check-in table*



*Edwin Dalpiaz and family*



*Shawna Gibson eyes the feast!*



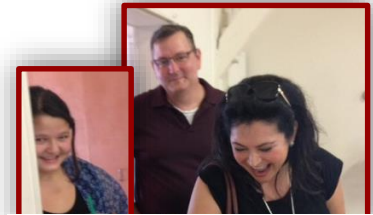
*Savannah Barker announces the next lucky winner*



*Dan Kalstad introduces himself*



*Dana Deseck-Piazzon selling raffle tickets*



*Madison, Matthew, and Mary Ferguson*



*Mauro and Serena Rizzi eating polenta in solidarity*

Our members have posted some great photos on our Facebook page. Once you join the group, you will be able to post your own photos. Please send us your good photos so we can share them in the newsletter or post them for you.

***“We are so sorry we cannot make the polenta party this year, but we’ll be there in spirit. At the moment we are in Trentino thinking of all of you... and eating polenta.” Mauro Rizzi, member***

We are always on the lookout for a venue for this and other events. Our biggest expense is renting a facility. If you have a suggestion, please contact us ([mbmoser@comcast.net](mailto:mbmoser@comcast.net)) and we will send you the criteria it needs to meet. Available sites often get booked far in advance so it is not too early to think towards next summer. . . and our next Polenta Picnic!



**ITTONA Convention, Ogden, Utah** Every two years there is a gathering of Trentino clubs in North America by the International Tyrolean Trentino Organization of North America (ITTONA). The 3-day event was held in beautiful Ogden, Utah on July 18-20, 2014. Seattle Trentino Club members included **Joan Barker, Mary Beth Moser** and **Mary Inama-Ferguson** a new member of our club.

Arriving participants were met at the Salt Lake City airport by youth volunteers to guide them every step of the way. The organization by the Ogden Trentini club over the next few days was outstanding. No detail of comfort, care and delight was too small to escape their attention. The weekend was filled with scheduled events, including a trip the Family History Center in Salt Lake City for those who wanted to do genealogical research. ITTONA conventions provide a great opportunity to connect with a larger community as well as to experience the local culture of the hosting club. Ogden also hosted the conference in 1994, a tribute to its multigenerational continuity. There is a great local article about it at this link:



Joan Barker, Marlene Archer (from Colorado), Mary Beth Moser, Mary Inama-Ferguson at Friday night banquet

<http://www.standard.net/Arts-Culture/2014/07/20/Conference-gathers-Italian-Americans-to-Ogden.html>.

The President of Trentino Nel Mondo, **Alberto Tafner**, attended the convention along with the Director, **Anna Lanfranchi**. Here is reprint of Tafner's speech, which discusses at the origins of the organization, the last 60 years in Trentino, and the emigrants' contributions to the lives of the people back home:

*"Trentini nel Mondo started in 1957 to assist Trentini emigrants in need of a helping hand.*

*It is difficult to imagine life conditions of about 60 years ago in Trentino.*

*Let me take you, therefore, back at that time.*

*In the fifties, Trentino had gone through almost forty years of hardship with the First World War, the fascist dictatorship and the Second World War: cities and towns being destroyed, agriculture not sustainable, industry without jobs and tourism not at all what it is today.*

*Basically, Trentino was not able to sustain its people and therefore many decided to leave as their ancestors had done toward the end of eighteen hundred.*

*It has been said that in between the First and Second World War more than forty thousand Trentini in the United States of America were working in mining and factories throughout Pennsylvania, Colorado, Wyoming and Massachusetts.*

*The willingness and courage to find work abroad gave an important push to the birth of the modern Trentino by the money sent back home and the local resources more readily available but also for the knowledge and awareness introduced as "news".*

*Still, both in Italy and in Trentino the main concern was to rebuild what wars had destroyed rather than looking at emigrants who felt abandoned with their problems.*

*To fill this gap, some volunteers got involved in establishing the Association Trentini nel Mondo, which became the link to satisfy solutions for the emigrants, particularly on bureaucratic files, pensions, estates, health, etc.*

*In those years, life was not easy for the emigrants nor for those still in Trentino.*

*Over and above the rebuilding of the tragic wars' consequences, Trentino faced two serious moments in its history:*

- the first being its annexation to the Italian Kingdom from the Austro-Hungarian Empire of which it had been part until 1919;*
- the second happened at the end of the Second World War when the Region Trentino-Alto Adige was given special autonomy.*

*With this step, it was of paramount importance that Italian-speaking Trentini and German-speaking Altoatesini be living peacefully together which was not an easy task.*

*Nowadays, people try to forget that period of time but we know that for eleven years, from 1956 to 1967, terrorism was rampant: the first dynamite attack took place on October sixth in Bolzano.*

*Later on, there were three hundred and sixty of them, which damaged electrical trellis, bridges, railway tracks and water mains causing serious losses to the economy that instead required to be rebuilt.*

*Sadly, between civilians and armed forces there were twenty-one victims until the diplomatic and political efforts reached a new Autonomy Statute in nineteen seventy-two, which assigned previous Regional responsibilities to the Province of Trento and the Province of Bolzano.*

*It is useful to briefly point out what our special autonomy is.*

*Basically, it recognizes the ability of Trentino and Alto Adige to govern themselves which had been done throughout history since the year one thousand thus proving how to use best their territorial, economic, social and political resources.*

*Since the constitutional law issued in 1948, Trentino can legislate and administer some primary sectors as public health, roads construction, culture, international solidarity, emigration, environment and education, all of which throughout Italy are state controlled.*

*These last sixty years Trentino has greatly developed to the point of becoming one of the most advanced areas in both Italy and abroad and held up as an example.*

*Following these fast changes, Trentini nel Mondo had to adjust its own main role of welfare assistance to a more suitable role while maintaining the volunteer and solidarity aspects for which Trentini nel Mondo is recognized.*

*Today, Trentini nel Mondo comprises the Head Office of the Association in Trento and the over two hundred Clubs throughout the world working all together in mutual and reciprocal collaboration.*

*Luckily, today we are in better times than used to, and this helps in building a strong exchange network of knowledge and opportunities useful to all Trentini people wherever they may be.*

*Let's imagine Trentini nel Mondo as a great network fed by each one's contribution to create a large community with people having the same roots and common values like solidarity, intellectual honesty, work ethics, reliable human relationships, people respect and dignity: values that from the beginning have been the foundation of that special added value called "trentinità".*

*This is Trentini nel Mondo's mission in the firm belief that a more and more selfish and impersonal globalization may bring about the fading of past memories, the neglect of traditions with identity loss and ultimately the oblivion of our history. A future like this has to be avoided.*

*For this reason, in the next few years Trentini nel Mondo will engage systematically the organization and network of Trentini Clubs and individual Trentini who want to recognize themselves as such with the goal of creating a large, solid and strong Trentino community as the core contact between people considering themselves as "one".*

*Let's carry this message back home as I am like you, you are like me, we are all the same ... like a pea in a pod."*

ITTONA serves as an umbrella organization uniting all Tyrolean-Trentini clubs in the US and Canada and acts as a liaison with the Trentino nel Mondo Association and the Autonomous Provincial government of Trento organizations in Italy. Both ITTONA and Trentino Nel Mondo have a website and a Facebook page so you can stay connected.

## Upcoming STC Events

- **Chestnut Harvest** – Early November time-frame. We will keep you posted as the time varies from year to year. This could include an overnight excursion to a chestnut farm in Oregon.
- **Christmas/La Befana Party** - tentatively **January 4, 2015** at Tyee Yacht Club, Seattle

Please contact us if you have ideas for activities and thank you to those of you who have shared ideas and are implementing them. 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 this fall and winter include:

- Bocce playing at Von Trapps on Capitol Hill in Seattle
- Tasting wines from Trentino/Alto Adige
- Member Family History Sharing night where we get a chance to tell our stories
- Trentino BINGO! – **Gary and Dianna Piazzon** are working on this
- Youth community service event – **Maggie Newhouse**, our youth representative, has some ideas for this

We would also like to offer cooking demonstrations of traditional foods and other crafts by our skilled members. Let us know your skill and if you have a place to host such an event. [mbmoser@comcast.net](mailto:mbmoser@comcast.net)

## STC Member News

**New Members:** Welcome new members! We are so glad you are here. We hope to learn more about everyone's heritage and family stories in months to come. For now, here is a brief introduction.

**Bob Day** joined our club in the spring and is working on his Italian citizenship. His ancestry is from Cles in Val di Non.

**Mary Inama-Ferguson** and her husband, **Matthew**, children **Miranda**, 16, and **Madison**, 12. Mary joined our group in March, and is passionate about genealogy, having traced her family back several hundred years. Her oldest daughter, Miranda, created an outstanding video of their most recent trip to their ancestral homeland of Sanzeno in Val di Non: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0W6CRP\\_DzVc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0W6CRP_DzVc)

**Dan and Lynne Kalstad** recently returned from a trip to Trentino and brought that inspiring energy to the Polenta Picnic. Dan is going to bring his copper pot next year for us to use. Dan's heritage is from Dambel, Romeno and Caverano in Val di Non.

**Grant and Kathy Rauzi** reconnected with the club, after we lost track of their updated contact information. Welcome back! They recently obtained their Italian Citizenship and perhaps can provide guidance – and hope – for the rest of us.

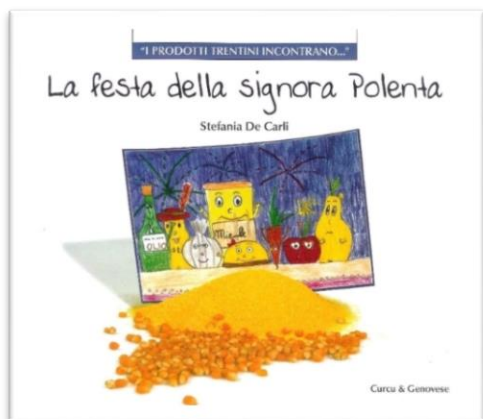
**Other Member News:** Club members **Dianna and Gary Piazzon** recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. *Complimenti!*

## Volunteer Opportunities and Initiatives

We have already has some members step up with ideas, which they are going to implement. Do you have skills or interest in the following areas? If so, please contact us!

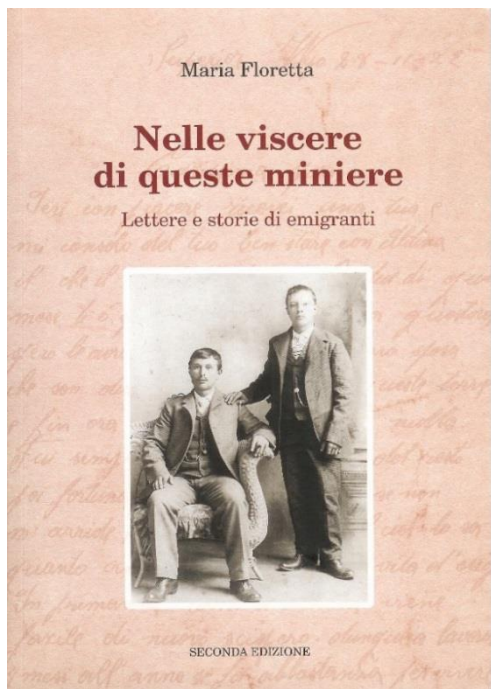
- web design and creation
- member directory
- photography
- youth activities
- hosting and organizing an event
- teaching a craft or skill related to Trentino culture
- taking responsibility for recycling at our major events
- soliciting sponsorship from business community
- map display at major events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

## Publications of Interest



***La festa della Signora Polenta***, by **Stefania De Carli**, is a great way to introduce kids - and all readers - to important words in our Trentino culture, centering on food! Over thirty young artists did the illustrations. The story cites numerous places in Trentino, traditional dishes, and local agricultural products, the fruits of the earth, in a most delightful way. The representatives from Trentino Nel Mondo gifted one copy of this children's book to each club, which we will soon have available in electronic form for all members, in Italian as well as in English. This book is a great educational contribution to our club and to our families.

**Lourdes Franch**, Chicago club president is developing an idea for a scripted enactment of the text as a way to get kids involved, which she is sharing with the other clubs.



***Nelle viscere di queste miniere: lettere e storie di emigranti***, (In the bowels of these mines: letters and histories of the emigrants) is a beautiful approach to conveying family history – through publication of the emigrants’ letters sent back to relatives in Trentino. The emigrants departed from Cloz at the beginning of the 1900s to go to Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. After an introduction of the place and times of the emigration, including maps and photos, the book focuses on the Angeli brothers and the Franch brothers.

The author, **Maria Floretta**, who traveled from Val di Non, Italy to attend the ITTONA convention, is the Mayor of Cloz. *La Sindaca* had met a number of the Ogden folks during their visit /family reunion a few years earlier to Cloz. Maria brought and gifted a few copies of her book, which readers of Italian, especially those with family ties in Val di Non, may be interested in reviewing. It provides a precious first-hand cultural history of the emigrant’s lives.

## 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 who have upcoming activities:

**San Gennaro Festival**, Sept. 5-7, 2014, annual street festival with food, entertainment; fundraiser for local charity, <http://www.sangennarofestivalseattle.org/>

**Festa Italiana**, September 27-28, 2014, annual festival of Italian culture at Seattle Center, <http://www.festaseattle.com/>

**Dante Alighieri Society**. Bi-monthly programs on Italian culture starting September 10, one in English, one in Italian. Italian language school. <http://das.danteseatle.org/>

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

**Sons of Italy**; Italian organization with social events including an annual picnic, August 17; <http://www.glnw.org/information.htm>



# Trentino Cultural Corner

La Me Val, Aldo Martini, Outer Giudicarie

## My Valley

Have you seen my valley? Look around you,  
Smell its perfumes, see how many colours;  
Green everywhere, meadows full of flowers!  
In the woods, poetry everywhere,  
In the fields, songs of happiness.  
On the green branches sing the birds  
To raise the spirits of the poor,  
Who full of anxieties, worries and troubles  
Find peace in the shade and along the paths.  
Savour my valley, because it gives you  
Peace, tranquillity and fine air.  
If then you walk through the woods,  
You will find mushrooms, strawberries and bilberries.  
But if you find a lovely flower, don't spoil it,  
But bend down and look at it,  
Really get down on your knees  
And then take a handkerchief and dry your eyes.  
A Valley from Easter and from Christmas,  
Beautiful in the evening or when the cock crows,  
Beautiful with clear skies or when it is cloudy,  
It costs nothing but is worth a thousand millions.

## La me val

L'é vista la me Val? Vardéve 'ntorno,  
snasé i profumi, vardé quanti colori;  
vért dapertut, pradi pieni de fiori!  
Dént per i bóschi, tuta 'na poesia,  
fór per i campi, canti de alegria.  
Sui rami verdi canta i oseléti  
per solevarghe l'anima ai poréti  
che pieni d'ansie, cruzi e de penséri  
i trova la paze all'ombra e sui sentéri.  
Gustéla la me val, che la ve dóna  
quiète, tranquillità e aria bòna,  
se po' ndé per el bosc a girondóni  
troveré fónghi, frògoi e granzóni.  
Ma se trové 'n bel fiór no sté guastarlo  
anzi cucéve giò, ste lì a vardarlo,  
cucéve giò da bòn lì sui dinòci  
e po' tolé 'l fazól, sughéve i òci.  
'Na Val bèla da Pasqua e da Nadal  
bèla de séra o quan' che canta 'l gal,  
bèla col cél serén o a nugolóni,  
la cósta gnènt, la val mile milionì.

From *Voices of Trentino Poetry*, Autonomous Province of Trento, p. 100.

## 2014 Seattle Trentino Club Dues

Our club year runs from January through December and dues are due in January. Our dues enable us to rent venues (which often require a large damage deposit) for our events, to buy supplies, and to cover other club expenses. Dues are \$25 per household. We very much appreciate your support for the Seattle Trentino Club. If you have not already done so, please send \$25 to our treasurer.

**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. If your email address changes, please let us know.

# 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:joanbarker@mac.com)