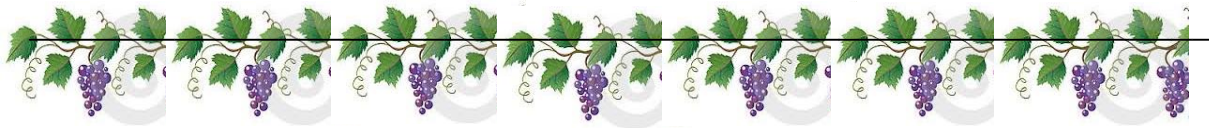


SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

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



September 2018

It has been an eventful few months! In July, **Dan Zadra** in Wallace, Idaho hosted **Vincenzo Mancuso**, a video documentarian from Trentino, who filmed oral interviews of our club members in Idaho and Montana, a project funded by the *Museo Storico* in Trento.

In August 230 Trentini from North America attended the ITTONA convention in Cleveland Ohio. I had the great privilege of giving a presentation on the values and ancestral wisdom conveyed in the folk stories of Trentino. Afterwards my sister **Marlene (Moser) Archer** of the Tirolese Trentini del Colorado club and I made a grand genealogical excursion into the forested region of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where our maternal great uncles emigrated in the early 20th century, along with numerous other Trentini families, to work in the iron mines. We found the graves of our great uncles, **Attilio**, **Silverio** and **Enrico Albasini** from

Carciato, Val di Sole, in the Stambaugh Cemetery, learned how and when they died from their obituaries provided by the Iron County Historical Museum, and – by chance – met a man who had visited our great uncle's tavern in Caspian, more than 60 years ago, and remembered him. These rewarding experiences encourage me to continue to find and share my family's stories and histories.

In this issue, you'll find reports on these events and more, including our recent Polenta Picnic. We feature the family stories of cousins **David Asson** and **Gary Asson**, whose family history traverses Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho. Although we don't often get to gather with our members in other states, we feel close to them in our Trentini heritage.

With appreciation for our rich cultural history!

Mary Beth Moser

Ninth Annual Polenta Picnic



We had a great Polenta Picnic on Saturday, August 18 at the beautiful Des Moines Marina, where forty-five of us celebrated together. Thanks to all of you who came. **Grant Rauzi**, **Dan Kalstad** and their helpers, including **Sarah Jusko**, (left) stirred up a magnificent polenta. **Joan Barker**, with the earlier assistance of **Annie Zadra**, prepared the *tonco*, a special traditional meat stew with gravy. The polenta and stew were "the best ever!" We were delighted to welcome seven delegates who journeyed down from Vancouver, Canada: **Daniel Holzer** and **Samuel Turri**, Vancouver Trentino club board members; **Stefano De Concini**, **Daniele Leonardelli**, **Frederica Raneri**, **Angelo Anzanella**, and **Erika Zoppini**. Several members of the **Boldrin** family joined us this year and **Fernanda Say** was an honored guest. We appreciate everyone who brought guests, helped set up, made the polenta, organized the food, engaged with the kids, and put things back in order. It was memorable!



Oral History: Trentini Americani Documentary Project



In July, **Vincenzo Mancuso**, (left) a video documentarian, visited Idaho and Montana to take oral histories of our club members. Several of us interviewed with Vincenzo last summer here in Seattle, and he returned this summer to continue his northwest filming. **Dan Zadra**, (right) in **Wallace, Idaho** organized and facilitated a full and fantastic itinerary of thirteen interviews and sightseeing for Vincenzo, including the historic silver valley, Wallace, Nine-Mile Canyon, Mullen, Prichard and Murray. "It was a very meaningful week," Dan reported. Vincenzo, who lives in Bolzano, received a grant from the *Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino* to interview members of Trentino clubs throughout the US and has

produced [several documentaries](#). Over 160 interviews have been collected across the United States, to preserve the memories and legacies of the Trentini community. Thank you, Dan and Vincenzo! This important project could not have happened without your passion, commitment, and hard work. We hope the interviewees will share their interviews with us when they receive them, so we can all learn their family stories.



Thanks to all of you who interviewed including **Santina and Angela Branz** (left, with **Dan Zadra**) in Helena, Montana; **Pina, Dave and Marco Fellin** (below with Dan Zadra) in Missoula, Montana; **Dick Caron, Dave Albertini, Johnny Branz, Kathy Voltolin, Johnny Canamassa**, and **Tina Canamassa**, in Wallace, Idaho; and **Eileen Albertini, Suzy Voltolini, and Sally Voltolini** in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

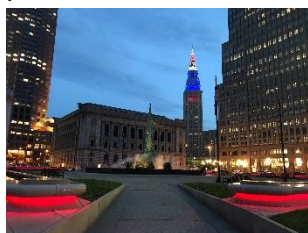
From Vincenzo: *"Thank you so much for all your support, it was a very productive and intense week. I collected 13 interviews and I am very happy that I met part of your community and learned so much about Wallace and its Trentini community. I really like the Valley and the area, and I would like to know more about the miner's time in this town. In the next weeks I should be able to update the website and I'll keep you apprised on the evolution of the project. Thank you again! all the best, un abbraccio."*



ITTONA Convention, August 2-5, 2018 Cleveland, OH

Convention report by Mary Beth Moser

The International Tyrolean Trentini of North America Convention in Cleveland was fun and rewarding! Many thanks to **Nancee Visintainer** (right), president of the Cleveland Trentino club, who held the vision and offered us all superb hospitality. Hosting a convention is truly a work of passion. Nancee's enthusiasm prevailed throughout the weekend.



On Friday morning we were offered optional tours of Cleveland by boat or by bus. Friday night was a gala dinner with live music and a formal dinner. Walking around the city afterwards, with its beautifully-lit old buildings, felt vibrant, with lots of folks out enjoying the warm summer night. On Saturday the convention program included a lineup of cultural presentations on Trentino. After opening greetings by **Ben Maganzini**, ITTONA president, **Nancee Visintainer**, invoked the theme of "Remembering those who have gone before us," in honor of her late Trentino husband. **Francesco Bocchetti**, Trentino nel Mondo (TNM) director, showed a stirring promotional video on Trentino. **Luca Dorigatti**, the US representative for the Province of Trentino and the coordinator for TNM, read a letter from the president of TNM, and **Carol Yost**, a local educator, spoke about the educational legacy that Nancee's husband left. **Jay Dunn** of Mezzacorona wine spoke about its origins - and brought wine to share. We learned that Gruppo Mezzacorona was started by eleven farmers in 1904, is the largest producer of wine in Italy, and is one of the largest exporters of wine in the world. Today, 1,600 families of farmers grow and harvest the grapes. You can feel good about drinking this wine! Historian **Laurie Perkins** of Michigan shared the riveting story documented in her book, the "Wreck of the Wabash," about the train crash of 1901, which resulted in the fiery deaths of Trentini immigrants onboard the train. News of their deaths was suppressed; recently they have been [memorialized](#). **Giovanni Catalano** is continuing this investigative work. **Ivo Finotti** of the Toronto club gave a passionate, personal and informative presentation on how to do genealogical research.



I was honored to give a presentation on the values and wisdom transmitted in the Trentino folk stories. When I was doing my dissertation research, this is the audience I envisioned for my work, which I have offered to present to any club. Many thanks to **Richard Rotruck** for providing tech support for all the presentations and helping them run smoothly.



On Sunday we met outside for Mass in Italian on Whiskey Island, followed by a delicious catered feast including two kinds of polenta and trays of Italian pastries for dessert.

Photos can't truly convey the friendships and fun that happen when Trentini from all over get together. The next convention will be held in 2020. Plan on it! These conventions are a great opportunity to meet up with your extended families.



A new ITTONA board was elected by the 21 voting presidents who were there. They will be planning the next convention and keeping the clubs informed. Many thanks to the past board for their hard work and good luck to the new leadership!

The **incoming** and outgoing ITTONA Board, from left: Anna Vann (Denver), **Terry Tremea** (Ogden) - Vice President, **Michael Pancheri** (New York) - President, Gary Schneider (Alliance, Ohio), **Andy Zatik** (Cleveland) - Secretary, Ben Maganzini (Boston), **Joe Chemotti** (Solvay, NY) - Treasurer, and Gene Pellegrini, past president and founder.

STC Member News

Welcome new members! We are glad you are here. Please send us your news!



William “Bill” Stolcis passed away on May 20, 2018 at the age of 84. From his obituary, we learned that, on a trip to Austria as a young teen, Bill returned to Seattle with an accordion, which turned out to be his ticket for Seattle University tuition, as he mastered the instrument and became a music teacher. Bill was employed by the University of Washington and later at Western Washington University. Our condolences to his wife Nancy, his children, and grandchildren. In the photo, **Bill Stolcis** and **Joan Barker** are on their accordions, which they would play when their families got together.



Congratulations to **Kylie Knowles**, granddaughter of **Dot (Miori) and Dick Whitney**, who won the \$1000 Casa Italia scholarship! This is the first time the scholarship has been granted. Kylie will be attending the University of Washington honors program, where she will be studying political science and law. Kylie graduated from Roosevelt High School with honors and won scholarships from the Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge, The Seattle Lodge # 1390 of the Sons of Italy, and the West Side Italian Civic Club. Dot and Dick are “very proud!”

The Seattle Trentino Club is officially part of Casa Italia, now that we have met all the requirements during the last year. Many thanks to **Dot Whitney** for being our steadfast delegate to the Casa Board meetings. We hope this official recognition will bring us in closer contact with the other Italian communities here in the NW.

In June, Joan Barker and Mary Beth Moser met with **Alma Mattedi** (far right) and **Franco Andreoni** of Trento. They presented us with a flag of Trentino and a poster of the 91st reunion of Alpini in May, 2018, which Franco was involved in. Alma is a cousin of **Ann (Baldessari) Zapf** on Vashon Island, who hosted the gathering, along with her family.



Alfino Fliss-Zadra, age 10, has attended several board meetings with his Nonna, **Annie Zadra**, our STC Secretary.

Fino, who seems to be taller at each meeting, is now officially taller than **Joan Barker**, in this photo from our planning meeting in August. Our club is growing – and growing up!

September 20-23, 2018 Volunteer Opportunity. At our annual group meeting at the beginning of this year, we discussed ways that we could contribute as a club to the community. **Jan Agosti**, who is a medical doctor, donates her time volunteering at the Seattle King County Clinic, a yearly event at Seattle Center at which free medical care is provided to the public. Some folks have already signed up to volunteer!

<http://seattlecenter.org/skcclinic/> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SKCClinic/>

Save the Date for our La Befana Christmas Party! We will have it on Sunday, **January 6, 2019** at the historic Garden House on Beacon Hill in Seattle. We'll keep you posted on the details. For now, just enjoy the summer, and the upcoming Fall!

The May 2018 issue of *Celebrating Fox Island Magazine* featured an article “Chicken and Polenta Sunday Dinners” by **Linda Dodds** (far right) on how to make polenta by baking it rather than stirring it. “It changed my life,” Linda says, “as it is so easy to make this way.” In the article, Linda refers to the wooden stick used to stir the polenta as a “treeza.” Several of the Boldrin clan (right), all descendants of **Giacomina Bugna Boldrin of Bersone**, and their spouses were at our polenta picnic this year – which we made by stirring!

Congratulations Linda, and here’s the recipe:



Joe Penaranda, Pam Boldrin, Merry Gaskins, Traci Griffin, Linda Dodds (standing); Larry Boldrin, Clete Boldrin and Pat (Boldrin) Penaranda (sitting)



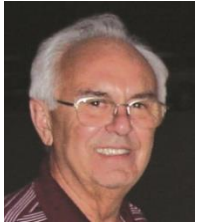
Polenta recipe

1 1/2 cups polenta meal
5 1/4 cups water
1/2 cube butter
1 Tbls salt

“Heat oven to 350 degrees. Stir ingredients in a heavy covered pot and put in oven for 1 hour. Stir- once - 5 minutes before it's done and keep it in the covered pot until ready to serve. Depending on the brand of polenta you use, it could take a little longer to cook. (I always purchase a lot of polenta in Italy and bring it home along with Arborio rice, when I visit Italy. Sometimes I even have to purchase an extra suitcase to bring it all home.) The Italian meal is ground much finer than the American brands, although I do also like Pheasant brand, which Safeway carries. The recipe can be doubled by just adding the same proportions again.”

Family History Meets Northwest History

Cousins **David Asson** (left) of **Sisters, Oregon** and **Gary Asson** (right) from **Eagle, Idaho** each share stories about their grandmother, **Rosa Gabardi**. David's story is documented in his book, *Forty Years to Idaho*, which he introduces below. Gary's story, "*The Robust Life of Rosa Angela Gabardi-Carotta-Malench-Asson*," is presented here. Both stories will be published on our Seattle Trentino Club web site.



In *Forty Years to Idaho*, I tell how **Rosa Gabardi** and **Fedele Asson** of Val d' Non, became our nonni and how **Pierina Purin** of Val Sugana married one of their sons and became my Mother. Their stories reveal how happenstance and daring led here-to-

fore strangers of strong individuality to a remarkable kinship. I was blessed to grow up with them, to hear their stories, and to marvel at their ways.

My family story calls attention to the Trentini who settled in southern Idaho on the Minidoka Project. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act of 1902 that brought irrigation and a new way of life to thousands of acres and craving souls. Grandfather Fedele spent his first years at the Cambria Coal Mine on the Wyoming – Dakota border near the ranch where "Teddy" became a westerner. Fedele was a traveler, reader, and storyteller. He strolled the living room in later life puffing on a long, ornate pipe, mimicking tales of his reading of Dante. I equate his interest in Dante with Mr. Roosevelt's much published presence near the Cambria Coal fields. Fedele read about Mr. Roosevelt's doings. Our group of Trentini spent forty years working the coal mines of Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah before finding the Snake River plains of Idaho. There they built an immigrant community, their "Little Italy," of **Rupert, Idaho: Assons, Gabardis, Carottas, Dall'Olios, Perottos, Giardelli, Georgi, Vinanti, Purins, Botts, Moncurs, Leonis, DalSoglios, Bonadimans, Dalpiaz, Paoli, Zampedri** and **Dalri**, to name the first.



The twelve children and spouses of Rosa Gabardi and Fedele Asson circa 1970

Gary's book can be found under Family Stories on the Seattle Trentino Club web site.

This is a short story of a great woman, wife, mother, and matriarch of a proud family. A woman who immigrated to America in 1888 at the age of twenty-one. She was born in the village of **Malgolo**, Austria which later became Italy, after WWI. The village of Malgolo is located in a beautiful valley known as la Val d Non. A young woman, who during the years would meet and marry three different men, all from la Val di non, all born not more than five miles from her birth home, all three of whom she had probably never known back in Austria.



Rosa was born 15 December 1867 to parents **Lorenzo Luigi Gabardi** of Malgolo and **Maria Maddalena Martini** of **Revo'**. Rosa was the eighth of ten children born to Lorenzo and Maria. Rosa would live a full life and would give birth to twelve children. Not much is known of her childhood. Life was not easy in Malgolo during the mid to late 1800's. People of the area were finding it extremely difficult to support large families. The opportunities of America beckoned to adventurous youth anxious to improve their lives.

We (those of us who are descendants and who have researched these facts) know that Rosa was not married at the time of her immigration. We have no evidence of her date or port of arrival into the United States. There is some suspicion that she may have first traveled to one of the South American countries and later to America. Several Gabardi family members are known to have emigrated to South America.

Before leaving Austria, and during her teen years, Rosa may have been familiar with a young man named **Riccardo Valentino Carotta**, only a few months older than Rosa, born 29 September 1866 in **Sanzeno**, a village next door to Malgolo. Riccardo apparently emigrated to America in 1884. We know that Rosa and Riccardo eventually crossed paths and were ultimately married in in Park County, Colorado in 1888.

The industrial revolution was driving America. Demand for energy was extreme and coal was the fuel of choice. Railroads were extending their lines ever farther into the west, attracted by more and more new-found deposits of coal. There was a great demand for immigrant laborers to remove coal from the ground and Colorado was riddled with new mines opening in the high country. Rosa and Riccardo were drawn to the income provided by the mining of coal. Their family was growing: Liza born in **Leadville, Colorado** in 1889; Johnny born in **Hastings, Colorado** in 1891; Elinda born in **Aspen, Colorado** in 1893; and Edith born in Aspen in 1894.

Regrettably, in 1896, Riccardo died somewhere in Colorado of a yet to be confirmed cause, but suspicion is that he may have been just another immigrant miner who fell victim to one of the many Colorado mining disasters during those years.

Rosa, 29 years of age at the time, with four children under the age of seven years, was suddenly a widow. It is unknown how she managed to feed the children in those days preceding the Great Society. Miners are known to have pooled funds to help widows and others in distress. Presumably, Rosa and her family were beneficiaries of such organizations, but it had to be an enormous burden for a young immigrant mother of four.

Ultimately, Rosa was forced to make an unhappy and regrettable decision. She sent two of her children (Lisa, seven years, the eldest of the children, and Elinda, the third child, only four years old) home to the village of Malgolo in Val d Non, to live and grow to adulthood with relatives. The children presumably traveled to Malgolo with familiar adults known to Rosa. Both girls returned to America later in life with husbands who they met and married in Val d Non. Johnny, about five or six years of age, and his younger sister, Edith, about two years of age or younger remained with Rosa in Colorado.

Records indicate that on 5 September 1896, Rosa married **Angelo Daniele Malench** in **Hastings**, Gunnison County, Colorado. Daniele was born 27 April 1874 in **Romeno**, Austria, located only about five miles from Rosa's birth place in Malgolo. It is a logical assumption that many immigrants to America met in mining camps and socialized with other immigrants from the '*old country*', especially with those who spoke the same dialect, which in this case is Nones, commonly spoken yet today in the Val di Non of Italy.

In a group photo of nineteen persons, thought to have been made in 1900 in Carbon County, Utah, Rosa and Daniele are clearly visible together with Rosa's two children, Johnny and Edith Carotta. Danielle Malench is holding a baby, David Malench, thought to be from 12 to 15 months of age at the time. David was born to the couple 9 April 1899 in **Castlegate, Carbon County, Utah** (now a ghost town). Census records confirm the existence of the family in Utah in 1900, in the town of **Sunnyside**, Carbon County, Utah. Our family is of the assumption that the photo may have been made in Sunnyside, or somewhere in Carbon County, Utah, in 1900.



Also in the photo are fourteen men, all thought to be miners living in a boarding house operated by Rosa and Danielle. Boarding houses were common in those years. Many male immigrants were in country without wives and families and needed a place to sleep and eat. It is our understanding that Rosa cooked for the boarders and probably washed their clothing. Note that all those in the photo are nicely dressed, possibly for Easter Sunday, 15 April 1900.

Some of the men in the photo are Rosa's brothers, Leopoldo Gabardi in the center front row with the hat and big mustache. Fabiano '*Frank*', directly behind and above the baby. It was common for immigrants to America to write to folks in '*the old country*' to influence them to also come to America.

Also in the photo are two more known men from Val di Non, from the village of **Amblar**, located only five miles from Malgolo, the birth village of Rosa. Brothers Nicolo' Asson is on the top left and Fedele '*Joe*' Asson is on the top right.

Census records from Sunnyside, Carbon County, Utah dated 23 June 1900, confirm that Rosa, her children, her husband Daniele Malench, as well as **Fedele “Joe” Asson**, and other names known to this family, were in fact residents of **Sunnyside**, Utah.

Daniele Malench disappeared from the scene, apparently not long after this photo was made. Fedele “Joe” Asson and Rosa then became involved because of the separation of Rosa and Daniele, or, through assumption, may have been the cause of the breakup. No one knows for certain.

From that point in time, the moves to other coal bearing areas continued for Joe Asson and Rosa Carotta Gabardi. Joe accepted all three children as his own and the baby was raised with the surname of Asson. As the years passed, Joe and Rosa brought seven more children into the world: Emma born 15 February 1901 in **Baldwin**, Gunnison County, Colorado; Esther born 24 October 1902 in **Issaquah**, King County, Washington; Albert born 24 October 1904 in **Cumberland**, Lincoln County, Wyoming; Dell born 10 October 1906 in Cumberland; **Walter** (my father) born 11 November 1907 in **Cumberland**; Dora born 13 May 1909 in **Superior**, Sweetwater County, Wyoming; and Ernest born 10 November 1910 in **Rupert**, Minidoka County, Idaho.

By 1910, the family had moved to their final home in **Rupert, Idaho**. The move to Idaho was prompted by the construction of the Minidoka Dam near **Acequia**, Idaho. Construction of the dam began in 1904 as a product of the 1902 Reclamation Act, enacted by Congress and signed into Law by President Theodore Roosevelt. The building of the dam brought the production of electricity to southern Idaho and provided irrigation water for thousands of acres of desert land. People from all parts of America came to southern Idaho to acquire irrigable farm land which helped to feed the rapidly growing population of America, many of whom were immigrants or families of immigrants.

Descendants of **Rosa Gabardi Carotta Malench Asson** number in the hundreds, today. Many have traveled to the Trentino Region of Northern Italy to visit distant relatives living in the villages of **Malgolo, Amblar, Romeno, Fondo, and Don**, all located in Val di Non, to enjoy the beauty of the area and the very hospitable nature and culture of the people.

“I have been to Italy on eight separate occasions and when entering the village of Amblar, I feel as if I am coming home. I am grateful to be a descendant of such wonderfully, hard-working, hard- playing, good-living people.”

Please see these and more family stories and photos on our [Seattle Trentino Club](http://seattletrentinoclub.org) web site, seattletrentinoclub.org

Seattle Trentino Club on the Web



Be sure to check out the [Seattle Trentino Club](http://seattletrentinoclub.org/) web site! **All the past newsletters are there**, along with beautiful maps of each valley that are down-loadable and printable. These illustrated maps make a great addition to your family history! <http://seattletrentinoclub.org/>

Other Local Italian Organizations

Several organizations in the Seattle area celebrate Italian heritage, language and culture.

- **Il Punto!** The Italian Cultural Center for Seattle, whose mission is to promote Italian culture through our common passion for food, literature, art, design, film, theater, dance, language, and music. <http://ilpuntoseattle.org/>
- **San Gennaro Festival** annual street festival with food, entertainment; fundraiser for local charity, <http://www.sangennarofestivalseattle.org/> **September 7-9, 2018**
- **Festa Italiana** annual festival of Italian culture at Seattle Center, <http://www.festaseattle.com/> **September 29-30, 2018**
- **Dante Alighieri Society.** Bi-monthly programs on Italian culture starting in **September**, one in English, one in Italian. [Italian language school](http://das.danteseattle.org/) with six levels of classes, starting in October <http://das.danteseattle.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 organizations with social events including an annual picnic, <http://www.glnw.org/information.htm>

THANK YOU for your support and membership from your 2018 Seattle Trentino Club Board!

Mary Beth Moser, President, newsletter editor – mbmoser@comcast.net

Jan Agosti, Vice President jagosti@stanfordalumni.org

Annie Zadra, Secretary aezadra@yahoo.com

Joan Barker, Treasurer and Founding President faretuttabarker@icloud.com

2018 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. If you have not been a member before, or if your information has changed, please complete the Application for Membership; otherwise, the form is not necessary. If your email address changes, please let us know. *THANK YOU!*

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

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) and/or valleys 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 2018 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: **Joan C. Barker, faretuttabarker@icloud.com**