

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

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

June 2017

~~~ **Happy Summer!** ~~~

*Buon' estate!* Good Summer to you! After a winter of record-breaking rainfall, those of us in the Seattle area are ever-hopeful for some warmer, sunnier days. If you need to cool down, this is the place to be!

In this issue, in our member spotlight section, we feature the family story of **Dan Zadra**. Seven years ago, Dan was one of the founding members who met in Seattle to form the Seattle Trentino Club.

Dan now lives in **Wallace, Idaho**, a place of significance in his family history, where he remains an active and supportive member of our club.

Coming up this summer, there is our annual Polenta Picnic on Sunday, August 13.

For those who are traveling to Trentino and beyond this summer, safe journeys to all! We travel with you in our hearts!

With connection, *Mary Beth Moser*

\*\*\*\*\* **Save the Date** \*\*\*\*\*



## **Annual Polenta Picnic** **Sunday, August 13, 2017, 2:30 – 6:30 pm**

We will hold this event on **Sunday, August 13, 2017** at the beautiful Founders Lodge at the **Des Moines Marina**, where we held the event last year. More details to follow via Evite and email. We hope to see YOU there! This is our biggest event, where we make polenta communally and eat delicious food together. It's a great time to invite your Trentino families to come and visit. Last year, two of our member families discovered they were relatives!

Please do put this date on your calendar and plan to come help stir the pot! Feel free to come early to enjoy the location or to help set up.

# CASA Italiana Membership

In February, the Seattle Trentino Club Board submitted a proposal to join [Casa Italiana](#), an organization which oversees the funds from the sale of the former building of the Italian Club in Seattle. In March, their Board accepted our proposal. This participation brings us into a larger network of local Italian communities, including Sons of Italy, Dante Alighieri Society, and the Seattle Perugia Sister City Society.

Casa Italiana subsidizes some of the activities of Italian organizations who are members. After a year of membership, we will qualify for possible reimbursement of some of our expenses. We must attend all of their board meetings, which **Dorothy Whitney** will do as our Seattle Trentino Club liaison. Thank you, Dorothy, for facilitating this process. We hope that this participation will result in some financial support for our big events, or perhaps enable us to meet more often. We strive to keep the cost of attending our events reasonable, although the cost of the venues is ever rising.

## Member News and Other News



**Dan and Lynne Kalstad** are hosting a student, **Luca Calliari** from **Romeno, Val di Non** this summer. Luca is 18, and is shown here boating on Puget Sound.

grandparents moved to **Butte, Montana** from **Val di Rabbi, (Piazzola and Penasa)** in 1910 and 1913.

Happy 85<sup>th</sup> birthday to **John Barker!** **Joan and John Barker** will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 29<sup>th</sup> with a cruise to Victoria, Canada, where they had their honeymoon. Congratulations, Joan and John!

**Jan Agosti** is traveling in Trentino this summer and has promised to share news of her trip and maybe even bring back some items for the gift basket at the Polenta Picnic.

**Rosella Holtz** writes from **Eagle, Idaho** to ask if there are any club members who live in **Eagle** or **Boise, Idaho**. If so please let us know. Rosella's maternal

We were recently made aware of the passing of **August (Gus) Zadra** (1927 – 2016), who lived in Nevada with his wife **Carol**. Joan Barker writes that "he wasn't related to us (at least not very closely, although his family is from **Cis**, as ours is originally), but he and Carol attended at least one, and maybe more, of our polenta picnics." Please find the full obituary [here](#):

From **Irene Allegranti** ([irenealle@yahoo.it](mailto:irenealle@yahoo.it)): "I'm writing from **Trento, Italy**. I'm a student of Foreign Languages at the University of Trento. I'm currently attending a course about active journalism ("Comunità e Narrazione", supported by Provincia di Trento and Forum Trentino della Pace, among others) and I'd like to develop a project about the meaning and different ways of "being Trentino." I would love to get your association involved in the project and to hear about your views and ideas on the topic. Would you like to participate? Would you submit a brief survey to the members of your group? Thank you very much." Here is the survey: [A Brief Survey about Trentino's Cultural Identity](#). If you have trouble opening it, Irene or I can send you a PDF. I'm sure she will appreciate our participation!

**Alessandro de Bertolini**, from Trentino is on a 6000 kilometer bicycle ride through the western US into Canada. You can follow [his blog](#) and his [Facebook](#) page. De Bertolini lives in Trento, but grew up in in Val di Non.



**Marlene (Moser) Archer**, editor of the Tirolesi Trentini del Colorado Club newsletter and sister of Mary Beth Moser, was granted Italian citizenship and received her Italian passport in May! Congratulations, Marlene, on this culmination of a 20-year endeavor! A success for any one of us with Trentino heritage is a success for all of us.

## Films about Trentino

Two films about Trentino are making the rounds of film festivals in Italy and beyond this summer.

*FUNNE - Le ragazze che sognavano il mare* (the girls who dreamed of the sea) is a documentary about a group of women from the village of **Daone** who raised money to make a trip to the sea for the first time in their lives, directed by **Katia Bernardi**. See their [Facebook page](#) for a trailer and to follow these women and their film as it tours around.

*Sharp Families* is about the knife sharpeners or *moletti*, from Val Rendena, who have immigrated to England. The director, **Patrick Grassi**, has an article in the last issue of the Filo. There is a short trailer online [here](#):

It would be great to have these films at the Cinema Italian Style in Seattle in the fall. At a minimum, we would like to get a DVD copy of these films for our club to view.

## ITTONA News and 2018 Convention

**Anna Vann**, the secretary for the International Tyrolean Trentino Organization of North America (ITTONA), announced that we have a location for the 2018 Convention: **Cleveland, Ohio**. They are working on some special guests attending from Michigan to discuss the history given in the book "The Wreck on the Wabash", a tragedy that occurred in 1901 in **Adrian, Michigan**, where over 100 Italian immigrants, many of them Trentini, were killed in a train accident on their way to **Trinidad, Colorado**.

We will keep you posted on the date for the 2018 convention, when we have it, so that you can include it in your planning. The convention, which happens every two years, is a gathering of all the Trentini clubs in North America, and is an event not to be missed. Also, Trentini nel Mondo is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year, and the Milwaukee Club, the oldest club in the organization, is celebrating its 90th Anniversary.

## Upcoming Events in the Italian Community

[San Gennaro Festival, September 8-10, 2017](#) – see web site for more information

[Festa Italiana, September 22-24, 2017](#) see web site for more information

## DNA Testing

Are we cousins? There are a variety of DNA tests available now (including 23andme and Ancestry) that let you find out with the push of a button who else in their data base that you are likely related to. One of our members, **Robert Jusko**, found out that he is related to a member in the Circolo Trentino di San Francisco. If you discover any relatives using DNA, let us know.

# Member Profile – Dan Zadra

## “Celebrating the Trentini Miners of the Silver Valley”



Eight months ago, I moved to **Wallace, Idaho**. Wallace is a rough-and-tumble little mining town (population 900) in the historic Silver Valley of the Idaho panhandle. Here I bought a 110-year-old brick building (a former dry goods store) and set up a comfy little apartment and writing studio on the second floor with my cat Primo.

Since then, several friends and relatives have written politely to inquire if I am still of sound mind. They think the cheese has finally slid off Dan's cracker. Why would anyone jump ship from beautiful cosmopolitan Seattle to a one-horse mining town like Wallace? But, honestly, I couldn't be happier—and here's why:

### A Better Life in America

Wallace, Idaho represents such a fascinating chapter in the story of my family's immigration from Italy and their hopes of a better life in America. In the early 1900's many Italian immigrants landed in America with a dream in their heads but virtually no money in their pockets. Good-paying jobs for young, uneducated immigrants were few and far between. Fortunately, hundreds of Trentini were able to find work in the coal, lead and silver mines of Pennsylvania, Colorado and Idaho.

My grandparents—**Fiore and Domenica Zadra**—were among those adventurous souls. They both grew up in the little mountain village of **Revo**, Austria, a region that is now part of the Italian Tyrol. Tough times in that part of the world drove my grandfather to set out by himself for Ellis Island in 1900. Four years later he wrote home to his mother to arrange for Domenica (a girl he barely knew) to join him in America and become his wife—and, to his great joy, she did!

Wallace, Idaho is one of the first places my grandparents tried to make a go of it in the new world. It's where my dad **Augie** was born in 1908 in the Italian section of the infamous Burke Canyon mining camp, just a few miles from the building where I now live. And it's where several other families from Val d' Non (our sacred valley in the foothills of the Dolomites) also came to settle when they came to America. These include the **Albertini** family, the **Fellins**, the **Branz** family, the **Voltolinis** and other well-known Wallace characters.

### Our Zadra Roots in Wallace

For me, at this chapter in my life, I feel a vital connection to my Trentini heritage here in Wallace. There's something magical about walking the streets of the town where all this family history, dreaming and planning unfolded. I love seeing sepia-tone pictures of my Trentini relatives hanging on the walls in the saloons, or featured in the history videos at the Wallace museum.

The first time I went to Wallace was with my Dad in the 1950's. At that time, the mines were still going strong, and so were the four brothels on Cedar Street and the more than 20 Wallace honky-tonks where the miners relaxed, played poker and raised hell on Saturday nights.

In the summers during my teenage years, I would go to Albi's Gem bar on 6th St. in Wallace with my Dad. The Gem was proudly owned and operated by Dad's distant cousin **George Albertini** (the father of Seattle Trentino club member **Angelo Albertini**). I loved George because he apparently thought the drinking age in Wallace was



15, and he would tell non-stop stories about the lives of the Silver Valley Italians until the bars closed down at 2:00 a.m. I never saw my Dad laugh so hard as when George was holding court and telling stories of the "Dagos" in the mining camps.



*(From left to right) at the Haywire Mine in 1920 are Dan Albertini, Bart O'Rourke, George Albertini, Laurence Parisotto, Albert Albertini, Jim O'Neal, and Paddi McNeal. The barrel under Paddi's hand was kept full of whiskey*

In the 1920's, for example, the Albertini family ran a gypo silver mine up in the Burke Canyon, just a few hundred yards from the shack where my Dad was born. (See the picture on this page). The official name of the mine was "The Haywire", but so many Italians worked there, that the locals called it the "Dago Queen." Note the 50-gallon keg in the far right of the picture. According to George and the Wallace Museum, that keg was kept full of whiskey for the Haywire crew.

### **You're Invited to Wallace**

I invite all members of the Seattle Trentino club to come and visit me for a weekend in Wallace

so you can connect with the spirits of your Trentini forefathers and mothers. If you have ever visited the rolling hills and mountains in the Italian Tyrol, you will see immediately that the little town of Wallace is nestled in almost identical terrain. I'm sure our Trentini forefathers and mothers felt right at home in these mountains.

We'll jump in my jeep and I'll take you for a ride up the Burke Canyon to see the remnants of the famous Hecla Silver Mine, and the ghosts of the old mining settlements like Burke, Black Bear and Gem. We'll say a prayer together at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church where so many Italians in this area were baptized, married and eventually buried. I'll take you on a 28-mile drive on the old stage coach road into the mountains to visit Pritchard and Murray, the site of one of the last great American gold strikes. We'll check out Wyatt Earp's gold claim and have a cold beer at the Bedroom Saloon, the oldest continuously operating tavern (and former bordello) West of the Mississippi.

And when we get back to my place in Wallace, I'll feed my cat Primo, and then treat you to some hard cheese, salami and a bottle or two of my best home-made Zinfandel. Call first, but come as you are. Times a-wasting.

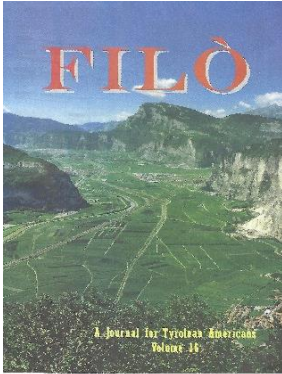
Ciao a presto.  
—Dan Zadra

(See more photos from Dan on the Seattle Trentino Club web site.)



DID YOU KNOW that the beautiful wood-carved bar in Endolyne Joe's Restaurant in West Seattle (where the Seattle Trentino Club has their Board meetings – in the restaurant, that is, not the bar) is from Idaho? The owner claims it was from Wallace, Idaho (perhaps even from a bordello!)

## Publications of Interest



The latest issue of the *Filò, A Journal for Tyrolean Americans* is available! Volume 16 features **Piana Rotaliana**, the area north of the city of Trento. In this issue, surnames of **Flor**, **Zannett**, and **Fellin** are mentioned in the article "The Tyroleans of Ouray" about Colorado. As always, the *Filò* is informative and fascinating. You can receive your own copy by registering online, where you can also view past issues, or by contacting the editor, **Lou Brunelli**, directly: [filo.tiroles@att.net](mailto:filo.tiroles@att.net)

## 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 regular activities:

**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/>

**Il Punto!** Italian Cultural Center in Seattle. "Il Punto!" is the meeting point for all Italians, Italian-Americans and people passionate about Italy from around our region. The mission is to promote Italian culture through our common passion for food, literature, art, design, film, theater, dance, language, and music. <http://ilpuntoseattle.org/>

**Dante Alighieri Society.** Bi-monthly programs on Italian culture, one in English, one in Italian. Italian language school. <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/>

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

## Volunteer Opportunities and Initiatives

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you have skills or interest in the following areas? If so, please contact us! Some possibilities include: member outreach to contact past members; hosting and organizing an event; teaching a craft, skill, or food-making related to Trentino culture.

**We will need volunteer help for setup, cleanup, and cooking for the upcoming Polenta Picnic and will be sending out more specifics. We so appreciate everyone's volunteer efforts at these events!**

## Web Site, Facebook and Newsletter

We have a new [Seattle Trentino Club web site!](#) We want this to be a place where new members can find us, where we can share our family stories and keep a record of our clubs' activities. Did you submit a family story when you signed up to be a member? If you would like your story published on our web site, please let me know. One of the potential benefits our club can provide is to facilitate connecting with relatives, both locally and abroad. We need YOU to share your family story so we can remember our ancestors and document our history.

Please check it out at [SeattleTrentinoClub.org](#) and let us know what you think! You will find some beautiful maps of all the valleys in the geography section. Many thanks to member **Richard Rotruck** for volunteering to create this for us!

Meanwhile, do sign up for our [Seattle Trentino Club Facebook](#) page which is a fun and easy way to let each other know about timely items of interest. Joan Barker monitors this group, which is closed to the public. If you want to join, go on Facebook, type in Seattle Trentino Club, and request to join the group.

Do you have news for the newsletter? We want to know about your major events and your connections with Trentino. Thanks! Mary Beth Moser, [mbmoser@comcast.net](mailto:mbmoser@comcast.net)

**THANK YOU from your Seattle Trentino Club Board to all of you who have sent in your 2017 dues!**  
**The support of members makes all the difference to our ongoing success.**  
**See the last page of the newsletter for information on how to pay.**

- Mary Beth Moser, President – [mbmoser@comcast.net](mailto:mbmoser@comcast.net)
- Jan Agosti, Vice President - [jagosti@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jagosti@stanfordalumni.org)
- Anne Zadra, Secretary - [aezadra@yahoo.com](mailto:aezadra@yahoo.com)
- Joan Barker, Treasurer and past President - [faretuttabarker@icloud.com](mailto:faretuttabarker@icloud.com)

## 2017 Seattle Trentino Club Dues are Due

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. *THANK YOU!*

**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 2017 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](mailto:faretuttabarker@icloud.com)