SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

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

November 2026

A lot has happened since our last newsletter! We'll try to catch up with this issue, which is really a look back over the entire year!

This year marked the 16th anniversary of our Seattle Trentino Club! With each passing year, we are making more connections and creating new memories.

In October, I attended the 26th ITTONA convention in Colorado. It was especially meaningful for me, since my grandparents emigrated there.

In August we held our annual Polenta Picnic at Casa Italiana.

And in January, we gathered to welcome in La Befana!

This year we lost our dear and longtime member, Dot Whitney. Dot's husband, Dick, offered us a collection of her Trentino-related items, many of which we have passed forward into welcoming homes. Thank you, Dick, for your thoughtful generosity!

We've also gained some new members and first-time event participants. Welcome! You'll learn more about them, and all these topics, in the newsletter.

Your STC Board is in the process of planning our annual La Befana party on January 2, 2027, at Casa Italiana.

Most of all, we hope you are well! We don't see each other nearly often enough, so we hope to see you at our next event, or online.

Meanwhile, please join us on our Seattle Trentino Club Facebook site, and check out our STC website.

We would love to get YOUR news updates to share with the group! Contact information for the STC Board members is on the last page.

As we head into the holiday season, please keep in touch, however you can!

With connection,
Mary Beth Moser
Seattle Trentino Club

SAVE THE DATEAnnual La Befana Party – Saturday, January 2, 2027



Annual La Befana Party
Saturday January 2, 2027
Casa Italiana Italian Cultural Center Burien, WA

More details to come! Meanwhile, mark your calendars!

Look for your Evite in your inbox (and be sure to RSVP) in the coming weeks from our STC email address: info@seattletrentinoclub.org

2026 Events



January 3, 2026 - La Befana Party

"It was a night of magic," according to the story of La Befana by Tomie dePaola, and so it was. Our beloved Babbo Natale (**Bruce Johnson**) and La Befana (**Joan Barker**) shared gifts and their gift-giving spirit.

We gathered at the beautiful Casa Italiana Italian Cultural Center for a delicious catered meal. **Annie Zadra** read the La Befana story while we exchanged gifts.

For once, the blustery weather that has characterized this time of year-- and sometimes impacted our event -- was benevolent. Even the Seahawks graciously let La Befana finish her gift-giving before starting their playoff game later that evening. (Maybe, as a final gift, La Befana had something to do with the Seahawks going to the Superbowl!)

Thank you all for coming to this memorable event!

August 15, 2026 – Polenta Picnic

We held our annual Seattle Trentino Club Polenta Picnic on Ferragosto at Casa Italiana in Burien! A huge thanks to **Jerry, Roz, and Tony Mascio** and family for cooking up a delicious chicken cacciatore and fried polenta! We were delighted to learn that both the cacciatore sauce and the polenta are available commercially at San Gennaro Foods and some local stores!

The weather was perfectly warm for a summer picnic. **Bruce Johnson** led us all in a food blessing song to the tune of Edelweiss. The legendary **Bonnie Birch** played the accordion as we arrived and ate. Folks journeyed from all directions, and from near and afar to be there -- and we appreciate it!

The joyful experiences of seeing old friends and meeting new ones will remain.



October 8 - 12, 2026 - 26th ITTONA Convention, Denver, Colorado



In October, the 26th ITTONA (International Tyrolean Trentino Organization of North America) convention was held in Denver, Colorado. It was a fun and meaningful celebration of our Trentino heritage and culture, with about a 100 folks attending from across the country. The event-filled weekend included a welcome reception with bocce, delicious food for every meal, and sight-seeing around the regional area. It commenced with a private Mass for our group at the mountaintop shrine of Mother Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants, followed by a picnic lunch. As a special treat, both at the service and at our formal dinner gathering, **Maria Clara Failo**, president of Trentini Nel Mondo, sang traditional Trentino songs to the guitar accompaniment of **Maurizio Tomasi**, editor of the monthly Trentini Nel Mondo magazine.

A day of cultural presentations was given by speakers **Lynn Serafinn**, **Mary Beth Moser**, **Andrea Zoller**, **Alissa Di Giacomo**, **Maria Clara Failo**, and **Maurizio Tomasi**. We viewed two documentary films by **Vincenzo Mancuso** featuring interviews with Trentino immigrants in the mining towns Central City, Silverton, Ouray, and Leadville. (Note: These films are available for viewing through Vincenzo's web site: italoamericani.



A post-convention group toured several historic and beautiful sites in Southwest Colorado. The five-day trip included a visit to Durango where the group was met with exceptional hospitality: a lunchtime feast including home-cooked polenta prepared by **Victoria Atkins** and friends, and a photo lecture on historical mining families by **Fred Blackburn**, who has family ties to Val di Rabbi.







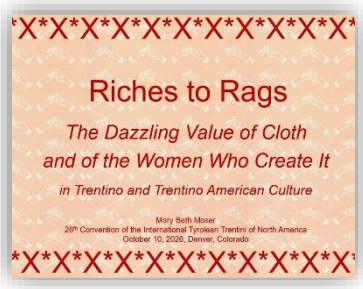
The group visited the Tirolese Trentini monument in Silverton and the nearby Hillside Cemetery.

A big thank you to the Colorado organizers, **Tony Dalla, Aldo Svaldi, Mike Falagrady, Anna Vann,** and **Marlene Archer**, and to all the volunteers for creating and hosting such a fabulous convention! The next convention will be **in Solvay, NY in 2029**. SAVE THE DATE! You won't want to miss it, as it coincides with the 100th anniversary of their club!



Lunch in Central City, one of three excursions available to the group on Sunday





It was a pleasure and an honor to be part of the cultural presentations at the ITTONA convention in Denver, my birthplace! All four of my grandparents were emigrants from Trentino/Alto Adige to the mining towns of Colorado in the early 20th century.

In my visual presentation, I talked about how cloth was made, embellished and cared for, how it was so valued that it was repurposed into other items, including beautiful quilts, a tradition that has continued in my generation. In its final possible use, cloth was used as rags for everyday purposes. I shared what skills were passed down to each successive generation in my family, and what values they conveyed. The cultural museums (and their publications) in Trentino, including Casa Andriollo in Val Sugana which is dedicated to women, METS in San Michele all'Adige, and Museo della Civilta Solandra in Male', were helpful resources--and places I recommend visiting!



I was delighted when one of the attendees, **Joan Runion** of the Trentino Club in Alliance, Ohio, came up afterwards to show me the beautiful shawl she was wearing. Not only had Joan knitted the scarf, but she had also spun the silk herself! Spinning, and the invaluable role of the spinster to turn fiber into thread and wool into yarn, was one of the skills highlighted in my presentation.

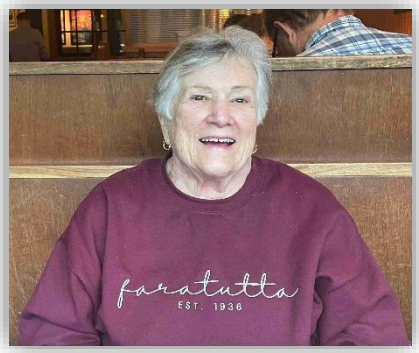
We hope to offer this presentation in the next year via Zoom, along with other topics, in our aim to include our more distant members in our activities.

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Joan Barker, Founding President, ITTONA Convention 2010

The Seattle Trentino Club Board met at Endolyne Joe's in West Seattle for a planning meeting on March 20, 2026, in honor of the founding of our club on **March 20, 2010**. **Joan Barker** accepted the banner for our circolo at the ITTONA convention in 2010 in Toronto.



Joan Barker 2026

STC Member News



“Her guidance, spirit, and deep-rooted strength will be missed by all who knew her.”

It is with great sadness that we share the news that one of our dear, long time Seattle Trentino Club members, **Dorothy Irene Miori Whitney**, left this world in April. Dot was an active supporter of our club, along with Dick, her husband of 69 years. She came to every event and always paid her membership dues. Some of you may remember Dot from her interview with Vincenzo Mancuso and her presentation during our Family History Hour. Dot’s family history is posted on our web site.

The photo shown here is when Dot won the grand prize at our summer Polenta Picnic. We are grateful to Dot for her inspirational presence in our *circolo*. Our deep and heartfelt condolences to **Dick Whitney** and to Dot's entire family here and in Trentino. Dot's full obituary is at this link.



From **Tina and Tom Fellin**, long-time members, who regularly support our circolo (thank you!) from afar: “What a fun time visiting at our home here in Montana with these Seattle Trentino Club members and friends from Seattle and Los Angeles: **Joan Barker**, **Anne Zadra, Pat Nolan** and his daughter, **Julianna**, and **Tom Fellin**. Thanks for taking time out of your busy travel plans to stop by! We miss seeing you all in Seattle.”

We hope to learn more about this “family roots” road trip as it informs us all about the cultural history of Trentini immigrants and their descendants here the Northwest US.

In January, **Joan Barker**, founding president of our Seattle Trentino Club, and our own beloved La Befana, turned 90! Joan’s family honored her in grand style with a big party at a local restaurant and we also celebrated with Joan at our La Befana party. Congratulations, Joan! Thank you for your joyous, musical, resilient, enthusiastic, and tireless presence in our circolo and beyond!

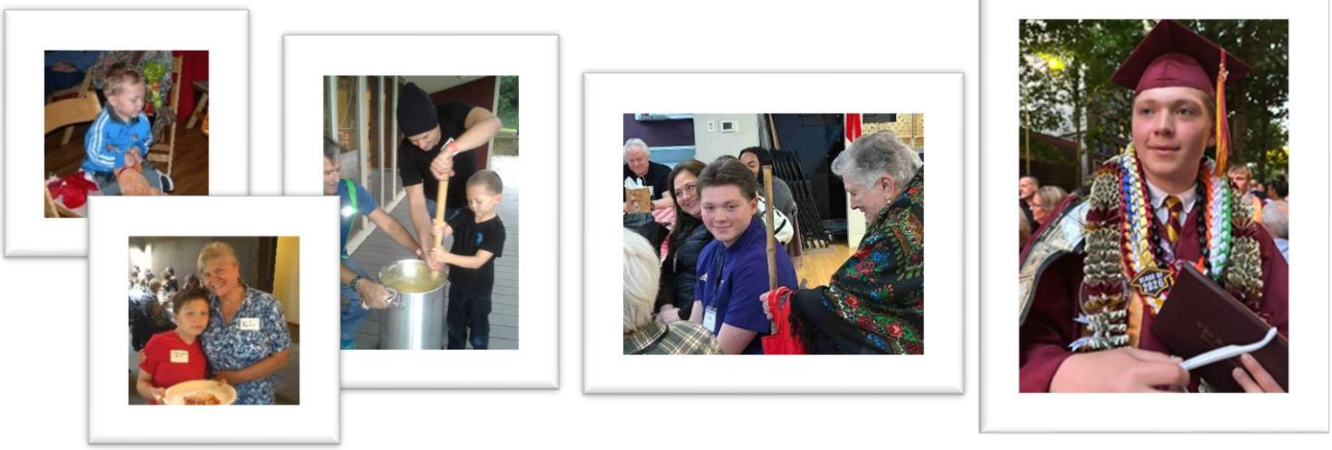






Dan Zadra, Annie Zadra, Joan Barker

Congratulations to **Fino Zadra Roberson** on his graduation from O'Dea High School in May! Fino has been a regular attendee at our events since – well, the beginning! He's even attended some of our Seattle Trentino Club Board meetings with his Nonna, Annie Zadra! Fino is now attending Bellevue College. In September, he became an Eagle Scout after passing his panel review. We wish you all the best, Fino, and hope you will be able to continue to participate in our events!



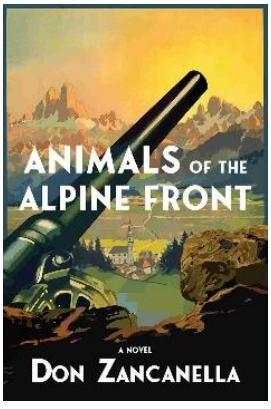


"It was the civilians that really saved the day." Word traveled fast about an unfortunate seaplane crash in July in the San Juan Islands, north of Seattle. The harrowing story of the survival of all the passengers was front page news in The Seattle Times. Our own Seattle Trentino Club board member, **Jan Agosti**, who is also a doctor and sailboat captain, happened to be sailing near the area and was able to assist as one of the first medical responders! Kudos to Jan, for her medical skills and knowledge, and for her willingness to help! The newspaper account tells of the quick action, resourcefulness and courage of the Good Samaritan responders.



Congratulations to **Alexia Cortes** who just released the first book of her Young Adult Fantasy Fiction trilogy, *Eklektos.* "The main character is named Domenica (Minca), the name of my great grandmother who came from Revo. In the book, she talks about being named after her grandmother and that she came from Revo." Alexia is the daughter of **Bruce Johnson**, who co-founded our Seattle Trentino Club. Alexia's website is https://eklektostrilogy.com

Animals on the Alpine Front (Delphinium Books, 2024), a historical novel by member, **Don Zancanella**, was featured on the authors' display table at the ITTONA convention in Denver. "My late father, James Zancanella, was born in the village of Valcava, northeast of Trento. I still have a number of relatives in the village, and I've visited there several times. In addition to Zancanella, the other common family name is Coelli. My novel was inspired by my grandparents' experiences in Trentino during World War I." You can read more about it here. Don was born in Laramie, Wyoming. He taught at the University of New Mexico for nearly three decades, and lives in southeast Boise with his wife and their dogs.



New Members and New Attendees



Welcome to our newest members, **Linda-Jo (Campagnaro) Duffy and Keith Duffy**! We had the delight of meeting at the ITTONA convention in Denver last month!

Linda-Jo has Trentino heritage from Val di Non. Her maternal grandmother is Giuseppina Zuech from Brez, and her maternal grandfather is Nicolo Vigilio Stolcis from Malosco. They live in Woodinville, and we're really looking forward to their participation in our events! Thank you for joining our Seattle Trentino Club!



Welcome, to **Mark Julian** who joined us at our Polenta Picnic! Mark has been a long-time supporter of our club (thank you) who was able to join us in person at our Polenta Picnic this year! At the picnic, **Dan Kalstad** and Mark figured out that they are second cousins!

"All of my grandparents are from the Val Di Non. I live on Bainbridge Island with my wife Diane, we have two sons August and Pete Julian. My mother, Hilda Julian was born in Douglas, Alaska to August Larcher from Malosco and Anunciata Gius from Ronzone. My Father was born in Green River, Wyoming to Bertolo Giuliani from Fondo and Savina Pittscheider from Dambel. So yes, my heritage is 100% from the Val Di Non. I still have a second cousin Osvaldo Abram that lives in Ronzone that I stay In touch with and have visited him there. One more little thing that may be of interest, my Mom's family, when they came to Seattle, eventually settled in Lower Queen Anne just about four doors away from the Zadra's. My cousin Adele and Annie Zadra were good friends."

George Mariz and his wife, in Bellingham, WA joined STC in February. "We will be heading to Italy at the end of the month, where I will be applying for Italian citizenship. I have already done a good deal of work on the application, but any suggestions you have will be much appreciated. Since we are in Bellingham, it may be a bit difficult for us to attend your functions, but we will do our best." We're looking forward to learning more about George and his Trentino roots



Elisabeth Agosti from North Vancouver, British Columbia, joined us at our Polenta Picnic for the first time, arriving with **Paolo Antonioni** from BC. Elisabeth was able to visit with our members **Tom Agosti** and **Jan Agosti**, although they haven't yet determined if they are related. It was great to meet you, Elisabeth!



Tom Agosti, Jan Agosti, Elisabeth Agosti, Paul Antonioni

Trentino News from Other Clubs



Early this year, we received a letter from **Andrea Zoller** in Rhode Island. Andrea was one of the guest speakers at the ITTONA convention in October. He gave an informative presentation on Trentini immigration to Brazil over the last 150 years, highlighting the places he had visited in 2025 with a group of Trentini. The trip was organized by Trentini Nel Mondo to celebrate 150 years of emigration.

"Dear Trentini/Tyroleans of Seattle,
My name is Andrea and I'm a Trentino scholar currently living in Rhode Island (I'm also a member of the Trentino Club of New York!). My research focuses on questions of heritage, language, and identity, so I'm really inspired by communities like yours that keep memory alive abroad. I just wanted to say that I think you're an amazing group — it's wonderful to see how vibrant and active you are! I hope to be able to visit your club one day and connect in person.
Un caro saluto dal Rhode Island"

"Mountain Roots" Award-Winning Film



STC member **Rita Flaim Larson** keeps us informed about her filmmaker cousin, **Mark Pedri,** and his wife **Carrie McCarthy** in Rock Springs, WY (where Rita's roots are as well) who have made several award-winning films. "My cousin was in Tregiovo following a screening of his latest film, "Mountain Roots." He and his wife/producer were hosted to a celebratory meal following the end of the Carnivale celebration." Rita shared a photo of a huge table full of *canederli* that was prepared for the celebration.

We are looking forward to viewing this film in which "a young climber from Wyoming travels to the Italian Alps with her grandfather to climb a mountain and reconnect their family after more than a century apart." Reports from other clubs, who were lucky enough to screen the film when it was on tour last year, gave it rave reviews. "Mountain Roots" recently won two Heartland Emmy Awards for Director and for Musical Composition/Arrangement. Congratulations to Mark Pedri and Carrie McCarthy!

Trentini Nel Mondo News



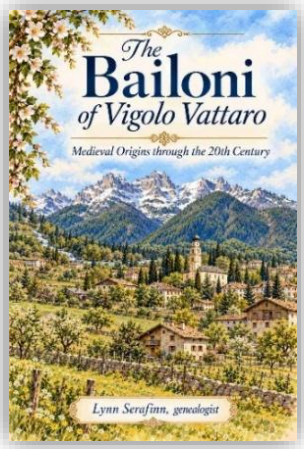
Every month, our club receives a beautiful, colorful printed edition of Trentini Nel Mondo magazine, with news of Trentini around the world and in Trentino. It's inspiring to see how folks are celebrating our culture. You can receive your own copy of the magazine in the mail by signing up to be a member of Trentini Nel Mondo at this link for 30 euros (about $35).

All the issues are online, including the latest edition featuring news about the convention! Our club has been mentioned in the magazine several times over the years. Please note that the publication is in Italian, so it's a great way to practice your language! Additionally, Trentini Nel Mondo is now offering a newsletter (different than the magazine), delivered via email, that is free. The link to sign up for the newsletter is here:

Upcoming Deadline – Residential Italian Language Program

Trentini Nel Mondo has initiated a three-week residential language program. **Applications must be submitted by November 30, 2026, and there are a limited number of openings.** For more information and an application form, see the TNM web site. One of the requirements is an ability to know Italian at the A-1 level. We expect this opportunity to be offered next year as well, and for openings to be filled quickly, so be ready to apply if you are interested!

Publications for Trentino Genealogy



Genealogist **Lynn Serafinn** has a number of books and ebooks available for folks who are interested in Trentino genealogy. Her forthcoming book (which will be a paper copy) is: *The Bailoni of Vigolo Vattaro*. Lynn moderates an active Facebook site, Trentino Genealogy, with 3000 members, for folks who are doing family research about Trentino, as well as a website.

Lynn was one of the speakers at the ITTONA convention and gave a fascinating and informative talk on "Trentino Surnames and Their Roots." Be sure to check out her web site, Trentino Genealogy, which is a wealth of information.



Other Local Italian Organizations and Sites

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:

Casa Italiana Italian Cultural Center. They host numerous activities throughout the week and month. Their center has become our home for hosting many our events. See their activities at this link. Last year Casa Italiana was featured in *L'Italo Americano* newspaper in the article "Casa Italiana gets ready to celebrate 4th anniversary" by **Rita Cipalla**, Northwest correspondent.

Dante Alighieri Society. Bi-monthly programs on Italian culture, one in English, one in Italian. Italian language school with six levels of classes. https://danteseattle.org/

Seattle Perugia Sister City Society: Regular and special events focused on Italy; monthly gatherings for Italian conversation; Italian language scholarships; annual picnic; film festival. **Note the upcoming Cinema Italian Style Film Festival November 18 - 22, 2026.**

THANK YOU for your support from your Seattle Trentino Club Board!



Jan Agosti, Annie Zadra, Mary Beth Moser, Joan Barker

- Mary Beth Moser, President – mbmoser@comcast.net
- Jan Agosti, Vice President - jagosti@stanfordalumni.org
- Anne Zadra, Secretary - aezadra@yahoo.com
- Joan Barker, Treasurer, co-founder, and past President - faretuttabarker@icloud.com

Seattle Trentino Club Dues

THANK YOU to all who submitted dues and donations for 2026! Our club year runs from January through December, with dues due in January. Board members are volunteers. We aim to keep our event costs low, so that everyone can attend. Our dues enable us to rent venues (which sometimes require a large damage deposit or insurance), to buy supplies, and to cover other club expenses. Our membership fees are **$25 per household**. You can pay online **via this link** on our web site. We very much appreciate your financial support for our Seattle Trentino Club. If you have not been a member before, or if your contact information has changed, please complete the Application for Membership; otherwise, the form is not necessary. *See the application form on our STC website. You can type right into the form. Please save the filled-out version on your computer and email it to us at:* **info@seattletrentinoclub.org**. If your email address changes, or if you no longer want to receive the newsletter or event invitations, please let us know.

We Need Your Help!

We need your family stories! One of the presenters at the ITTONA convention was **Alissa Di Giacomo** who curated the *Italians of Denver* exhibit at the Colorado History Museum in 2007. She emphasized the importance of documenting our stories and history. "No one is going to do it for you," she essentially said. "It's up to you." We agree! It's never too soon – or too late -- to begin. We already have a wonderful array of family stories on our web site. Will you share yours? It can be as short or as long as you wish. It would be great to include where your Trentino relatives are from, and how their story (or your story) connects with the Northwest. Please email them to **info@seattletrentinoclub.org**