

# Dante Society Newsletter

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## Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The 120th Annual Meeting of the Dante Society of America will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. (reception to follow) in Eliot House, on the Harvard University campus, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After the business meeting, the Society will feature readings by two prize-winning contemporary poets, **Rosanna Warren** and **Louise Glück**, who will speak on "Classical Variations from Two Contemporary Poets," and read to us from their recent work. Their lyric poetry alludes to epic and mythic resonances that readers of Dante and Virgil will find illuminating. The poets will comment on their own sense of connections to the poetry of the past, and there will be a discussion after the reading. Rosanna Warren is the author of *Stained Glass* (1993) and *Each Leaf Shines Separate* (1984) as well as numerous more recent poems published in *The New Yorker* and other journals. She has won several prizes, including the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Award and the Witter Bynner Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She teaches at Boston University where she directs the Translation Seminar. Louise Glück has published numerous books of poetry, including most recently *The Seven Ages*, *Vita Nuova*, and *The Wild Iris*, for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. She is also the recipient of the Bollingen Prize in Poetry, the Poetry Society of America's Melville Kane Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. She teaches at Williams College and lives in Cambridge.

Enclosed you will find a ballot containing the slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee, as provided by our by-laws. Please mark your ballot and

return it together with the proxy statement, in time for the vote count on May 15.

Leaving the Council after having served three years are Steven Botterill and Nancy Vickers, who has been directing our Capital Campaign. I would like to express my gratitude to each of them for their dedication and service to the Society. I would also like to commend the members of the Nominating Committee, Kevin Brownlee (chair), H. Wayne Storey, and Albert Ascoli, for their time and effort in preparing this year's slate of candidates.

With best wishes,

Teodolinda Barolini

## Spring Election Slate

The Nominating Committee has placed the following four nominees on this spring's ballot:

### Pier Massimo Forni

Professor of Italian Studies, The Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Forme complesse nel Decameron* (Olschki, 1992) and *Adventures in Speech* (U. of Pennsylvania Press, 1996). Most recently he has published *Choosing Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct* (St. Martin's Press, 2002).

### John Najemy

Professor of History, Cornell University. Recipient of the Clark Distinguished Teaching Award. He is the author of *Corporation and consensus in Florentine electoral politics, 1280-1400* (University of North Carolina Press, 1982); *Between Friends: Discourses of Power and Desire in the Machiavelli-Vettori Letters of 1513-1515* (Princeton University Press, 1993); "Dante and Florence," in *The Cambridge Companion to Dante* (ed. R. Jacoff, 1993); and "Brunetto Latini's *Politica*," in *Dante Studies* 112 (1994).

### Nancy Vickers

President, Bryn Mawr College. Selected publications: co-editor, *L'espositione di Bernardino Daniello da Lucca sopra la Comedia di Dante* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1989); "Widowed Words: Dante, Petrarch, and Metaphors of Mourning," in *Discourses of Authority in Medieval and Renaissance Literature*, ed. Kevin Brownlee and Walter Stephens (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1989).

### David Wallace

Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania. Selected publications: *Chaucerian Polity. Absolutist Lineages and Associational Forms in England and Italy* appeared with Stanford UP in 1997; with Barbara Hanawalt, *Bodies and Disciplines. Intersections of Literature and History in Fifteenth-Century England*, and *Medieval Crime and Social Control*; editor, *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature* (1999) and co-editor (with Carolyn Dinshaw), *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Women's Writing*. He has published essays on Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, and medieval literary theory.

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