

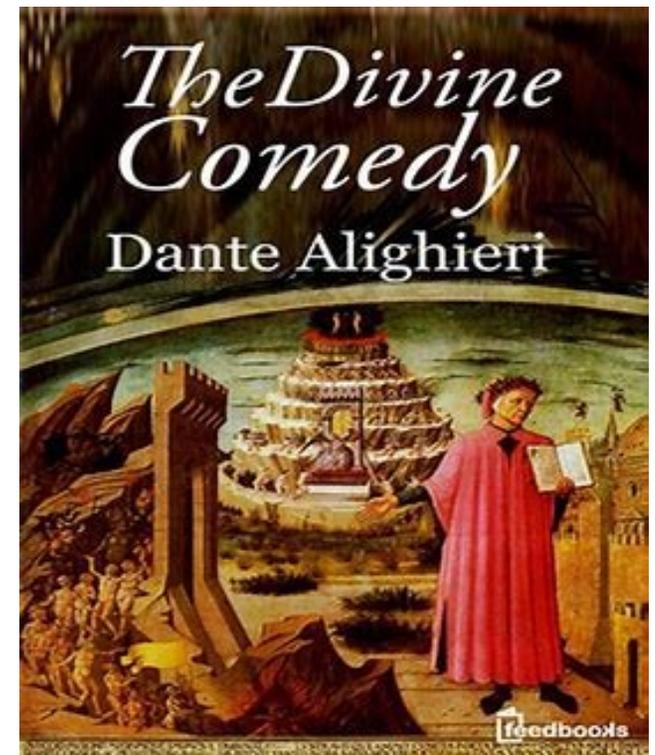


**Wednesday January 26, 2022**  
**“Dante Voyager: Guided by a Signal in the Heavens ”**  
**Presenter: Dr. Mary Watt**  
**Audubon Country Club**

**Doors open at 11:00**  
**Luncheon 11:30**  
**Price: \$49**

**Chairs: Phyllis Crivelli**  
**Joe Crivelli**

At its most fundamental the *Divine Comedy* is the story of a journey into the unknown. Not surprisingly then, the poem is punctuated throughout with imagery that evokes the challenges of navigating on the open seas and the many perils that awaited the medieval sailor. As Dante’s pilgrim meets these challenges and confronts these dangers, we are reminded of the epic and chivalric traditions that inform the work, but we can also discern a burning desire for exploration that anticipates the coming age of discovery. At the same time, we see that Dante’s pilgrim is equally inspired by the notion of flight and the possibility of reaching the stars. Commingled with the experience of rapture, the desire for flight in *The Comedy* expresses not only the hope of spiritual transcendence but also a very human longing to escape the confines of one’s earthly surroundings.



***For special dietary needs, please contact the event Chair at least one (1) week before the luncheon.***

# Speaker Bio



**Dr. Mary Watt**

**Mary Watt** is a Professor of Italian Studies, and Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida. Mary holds a Ph.D. in Italian Studies and a J.D., both from the University of Toronto, Canada. Her work has been supported by the Rothman Endowment for the Humanities, the Municipality of Ravenna, and the Norwegian Institute in Rome. She is the author of over fifty journal articles, book chapters, reviews and translations and currently serves as a review editor for *Speculum*. She is the author of *The Cross that Dante Bears: Pilgrimage, Crusade, and the Cruciform Church in the Divine Comedy*, and *Dante, Columbus and the Prophetic Tradition: Spiritual Imperialism in the Italian Imagination*. Her third book, *Dante's Golden Legend – Auto-Hagiography in the Divine Comedy* is forthcoming this summer with Mercer University Press.