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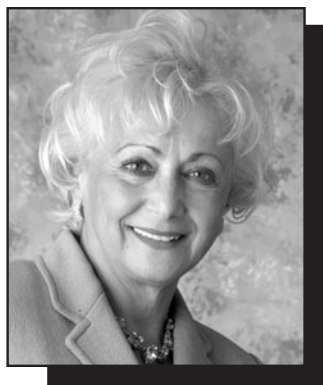
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Dante recipient is proud of her Italian ancestry

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

It's not always that a Dante Award recipient can trace her ancestry to Italy, but Janet Davies can.

Our 2008 awardee told me that her aunt has done genealogical research on the Davies family that traces her roots back to 19th-century Italy in the town of Trento in the region of Trentino. Janet's great-great-great-grandmother was a Caracazola married to a Frasca.

Frasca was a music teacher. Their daughter, Isabella Frasca, was a child prodigy in music. As a young adult, Isabella was sent to Florence to study music. There she met and married a young man with the surname Robertson. Their youngest child, Elicia, met and married a Scotsman whose surname was Koch. They came to Cincinnati and named their daughter after the place where they first met, in Florence.

Florence Koch Davies is Janet's paternal grandmother.

I enjoyed learning of Janet's lineage. She told me in our phone conversation that she did not inherit Isabella Frasca's musical ability. However, we all know how talented she is.

Janet Davies joined ABC 7 Chicago as a feature and entertainment reporter in August 1984. In addition to her feature segments, which appear on the ABC 7 News at 4 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, Davies is the host and executive producer of "190 North," an Emmy award-winning Chicago-based entertainment and lifestyle program. "190 North" airs on Sundays at 10:35 p.m. and is the top-rated program in its time period.

As ABC 7's feature and entertainment reporter, Davies has covered local, national and international events, including the Academy Awards, the primetime Emmy Awards and International Fashion's Pret a Porter in Paris. Each year, she hosts ABC 7's live broadcast of "New Year's Eve Chicago Style" and co-hosts ABC 7's coverage of the Chicago Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, South Side Irish and Gay Pride parades.

Davies came to ABC 7 from WPVI-TV in Philadelphia, Pa., where she co-hosted "A.M. Philadelphia" from June 1981 to July 1984. In addition to her work as co-host, she co-produced, researched and wrote for the show. From October 1980 to April 1981, Davies hosted a half-hour magazine show, "Front Page Saturday Night," at WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio.

From 1979 to 1980, Davies served as co-host and executive producer for "PM Magazine" at Cincinnati's WKRC-TV. Davies began her broadcasting career at WKRC in 1977 as their noon news anchor and general assignment reporter for "Eyewitness 12 News."

Nominated for 51 regional Emmys, Davies has captured 11 awards for hosting, producing, writing and reporting. In addition, she won a Silver Dome Award from the Illinois Broadcasters Association for her work on "190 North" and her 1986 children's special on safety won an Iris Award from the National Association of Television Program Executives.

Davies serves on the corporate board of directors for Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and is the co-host for the hospital's annual "Children's Miracle Network Champions Broadcast." She also works with the Leukemia Research Foundation; the Cradle, an adoption agency based in Evanston; and PanCan, a pancreatic cancer organization. Davies was the recipient of the Leonardo da Vinci Award for outstanding media from the Order Sons of Italy.

Born in Richmond, Va., Davies was raised in Cincinnati. She earned a B.A. degree from Miami University in Ohio, where she majored in theater and minored in history.

Davies and her husband and children live on Chicago's North Side.

