

Novembre 2013

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WINE, WALKING AND SONG AT NOV. 17 MEETING

If you're a fan of classical music, "The Three B's" are Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. But if you're more a fan of Italian wine, then *your* Three B's are Barolo, Barbaresco and Barbera. All of these wines come from Piedmont, a region of northwest Italy whose biggest city is Torino and biggest "hills" are the Alps.

On Nov. 17 at 3pm at Carvlin Hall, we'll learn about the region and about some of its wines during club president Audrey Perino's presentation about her trip to Italy three months ago. She'll share photos of several parts of the country, including Piedmont. You'll get to taste, as well as see, *Piemonte*. (see *Piedmont*, page 6)

*The advisory committee
will meet at 2pm, before the
regular meeting.*



NEXT MTG:

SUN., NOV. 17 3PM

CARVLIN HALL

FUTURE DATES: 12/15.

LA BEFANA 1/5

DAL PRESIDENTE GREETINGS FROM NEW YORK

BY AUDREY PERINO
PRESIDENT



Ken and I have traveled to visit family and friends on the East Coast, but our trip has turned out quite historical...

- We've seen the room where George Washington said farewell to his Revolutionary War officers in 1783.
- We've walked along the Erie Canal, America's first superhighway, which dates to 1825. And we've seen how the

(see *New York*, page 6)

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OH, WHAT A NIGHT! LUCCA CELEBRATES 500 AND 45 YEARS



ARRIVEDERCI, ESTHER

Nothing can keep a good woman down ... or in this case, south. Our good friend and long-time OregonTuscan, Esther Tuon Riley, has left Portland to return to her childhood home of Vancouver, BC.

Esther, our grande dame in those wonderful hats, has had some health issues in recent years. "It's no fun getting old," she told Ken Kane at the Oct. 6 OregonTuscans meeting. She thought the time was right to pack up her house and move in with her niece, Maria Smelie, in Canada.

Still, we think she's a role model for aging gracefully. If you'd like to keep in touch with Esther, her new address is 2175 Cambridge St., Vancouver, BC V5L 3E1. She can be reached via e-mail through Maria at smele@shaw.ca.

Best of luck, Esther. As they say on the Starship Enterprise, may you "Live long and prosper!"

ESTHER AT
OUR OCT. 6
MEETING



This fall the secular celebration of "La Santa Croce," the nighttime procession which has been celebrated annually for over eight centuries in Lucca, assumed more importance and glamour than usual. This was due to the coincidence of other events: the annual meeting of the Tuscan Abroad and the 500th anniversary of the magnificent walls of the city.

A main event celebrated the 45th anniversary of the foundation of *Lucchesi nel Mondo*, the worldwide association which ideally

reunites the Lucchesi overseas with their beloved land. We OregonTuscans comprise one of 85 such chapters.

As is the custom, each chapter presented a gift to the "mother" association. Our club founder, Carlo Mannocci, presented a wooden sculpture of a black bear with a salmon in its mouth to Ilaria DelBianco, representing the worldwide Tuscan organization. Renzo Orsi, Coordinator of the Tuscan Associations of North America, offered an Apache bow and arrow as a symbol of North American traditions.

It was indeed a memorable celebration...

L'ANGOLO ITALIANO

DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

L'Italia sta affrontando seri ed enormi ostacoli finanziari sulla via di rimediare alla situazione economica che ci ha ormai ridotti al penultimo posto nella graduatoria europea, solo al di sopra della Grecia!!

Continua la "Saga di Berlusconi", ancora sulla poltrona con notizie e contronotizie varie. Il tutto dovrebbe decidersi il 27 novembre prossimo, ma io sinceramente NON ci credo... Vedremo, vedremo se veramente questa sarà la volta buona!!

Per tutto il resto dobbiamo sinceramente sperare nei miracoli... e l'Italia, terra di santi, potrebbe anche farcela!!

KBOO's *THE ITALIAN HOUR*

The Italian Hour has been a staple of Portland radio for decades. It has appeared on several stations over the years, but in this millennium it's been found at 90.7 FM, KBOO. And for more than 20 years, *The Italian Hour*'s Sunday 9am host has been Lucia Galizia.

"I want to let people know that an Italian community exists in Portland," says Lucia. She remembers when she first took over the show in the late 1980s. "I used to work at the old Monte Carlo restaurant. One day the previous host, Franco Albi, came in and asked me if I would take over the show."

"I was a nervous wreck my first time on the air. But my husband [Roland Michaud] really encouraged me. He said, 'Pretend like you're talking just to me.' I did and it's worked ever since."

Lucia continues the tradition of Italian music of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. "Most of the people who listen to the show are in their 40s or older. They grew up listening to the music their parents and grandparents listened to," says Lucia, who typically targets that audience.

When Lucia is out of town her show is ably hosted by Bob Iannaccone or Andrea Scasso. Andrea represents the next generation of Italian Americans. As such, he programs a little differently.

"I use an app called TuneIn so I can listen to Italian radio stations though I'm here in Portland," says Andrea. "A lot of the radio stations in Italy play 80 percent American music. [Often racier versions than are heard on this side of the Atlantic]. I try to dig a little deeper and find less famous Italian performers who are contemporary. I just hope to present some good quality Italian music that people in Portland are not exposed to."

Of course, he'll work in the older standards now and then to appeal to Lucia's following. But Andrea hopes the contemporary sounds he plays will attract younger listeners and contributors to the community-funded station and *The Italian Hour*. Bob's Italian musical tastes tend to fall somewhere in between.

Though their musical tastes may vary, all of the hosts share a common goal: to see *The Italian Hour* become a



ANDREA SCASSO
& LUCIA GALIZIA

weekly KBOO program. It currently airs bi-weekly.

"I've known Lucia for a long time," says Andrea. "She was the first Italian I met in Portland when I first came here to attend the University of Portland 22 years ago. I came to her Italian conversation sessions."

Says Lucia, "I like keeping Italian culture going locally." Whether it's radio, conversation sessions or her long-standing association with *Festa Italiana*, Lucia's influence is felt across the Portland/Vancouver Italian community. Her latest effort?

An Italian New Year's Eve party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 1441 NE Second Av. in Portland. The night will include a buffet dinner including antipasto, prizes, a DJ, dancing, party favors and midnight champagne, all for \$65 per person.

"I want people to come and have a good time!" she says. **For tickets, contact Lucia at 503.284.6989 or luciagalizia@msn.com by Dec. 10.** Until then, you can catch her on KBOO every other Sunday at 9am.

FOOD CARTS SPICE UP LOCAL ITALIAN CUISINE

Who says Italian food – OK, besides a slice of pizza on the run – can't be good *and* informal? Two Southeast food carts are out to prove differently.

Burrasca, in the cart pod at SE 28th and Ankeny, is a *Tuscan* food cart offering what *Willamette Week* says is “a small scattering of Tuscan dishes rarely seen in these parts.” The cart, which opened late this summer, already has an enthusiastic following. *Pappardelle al chinghiale* (ribbon pasta with wild boar ragu) is on the menu, as is *inzimino*, a squid and spinach dish, and *ribollita*, a kale, bread and bean soup. There's even a Tuscan meatloaf.

A word of warning: Chef Paolo, recently arrived from Florence, is meticulous, so you may wait a bit ... but “Willie Week” promises that it's worth it.

The other cart, called **The Italian Market**, is inspired not so

much by *Firenze* as by Philly. This cart, just south of SE Stark on 45th Avenue, behind the Belmont Station beer shop, features South Philadelphia-inspired street food, with a bent toward Italian cuisine. *Panzanella*, a salad of cucumber, tomato, bread, homemade mozzarella, onion and basil is satisfying. The Italian beef brisket and the Italian pork sandwiches are as well. Eggplant and meatball sandwiches are available, too, as is a rotating homemade pasta dish on the weekends.

An added benefit: you can grab a bottle of Italian beer (and not just Peroni or Moretti, but more exotic ones) at Belmont Station to complete your to-go Italian/Philly experience.



BURRASCA: SE 28TH & ANKENY
THE ITALIAN MARKET: BEHIND
BELMONT STATION AT SE 45TH & STARK

AMATEUR OREGON ORCHESTRA WOWS 'EM IN ROME, VENICE, TUSCANY

The Oregon Arts Orchestra (OAO) is an *ad hoc* group of amateur symphonic musicians from this state and beyond, organized by Music Celebrations International (MCI) of

Tempe, Arizona. MCI brings together similar troupes of amateur players with the purpose of both sharing music far from home and providing a fun vacation experience for the players.



The OAO visited Austria and the Czech Republic in 2011. This summer the group, which this time included OregonTuscan and violinist Audrey Perino, visited Italy. Their week-long tour included evening concerts in Rome, Montecatini Terme (outside Florence) and Treviso (outside Venice). The 50 musicians played music by both Italian and American composers, under the baton of MCI Performance Specialist Cindy Petty.

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do – so we played Vivaldi and Rossini,” said Cindy, who was the music director of several Portland-area ensembles including the Jewish Community Orchestra, before joining MCI in 2011.

“But we also exposed our Italian audiences to American music by Howard Hansen. It challenged our players and expanded the audiences’ horizons.”

Photos from the OAO’s Italian tour and an audio clip or two of their concert performances will be shown at our Nov. 17 meeting.

DOWNUNDER MEETS THE LEFT COAST

Angelo and Christine Scatena are two Tuscans from Perth, Australia who recently visited Oregon. The Scatenas came to Salem and on Oct. 6 they decided to visit Portland and the Tuscan Association. They really enjoyed the friendship and the hospitality.

Angelo serves as the Coordinator of the Tuscan Associations of Australia and South Africa and, as such, he travels extensively. This month Angelo will be in Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the local Tuscan Association.

He regularly attends meetings in Florence as a member of the Office of the President. Of course, so does our own Carlo Mannocci (on the left in the photo). They’ve become good friends, in no small measure because they come from the same area in Tuscany. Three years ago, during one of his many trips to Australia, Carlo visited the Scatenas in Perth.



Angelo is a very successful architect who has lived in Australia since he was seven years old. He is very active with the local Tuscan Club. Carlo extended an invitation to Angelo and Christine to visit Oregon during a planned trip to California where Angelo has relatives. Sure enough, they came! We were indeed pleased to have visitors from “Downunder.”

NEW YORK IS OLD ... BUT NOT LIKE ITALY

(continued from page 1)

central New York city of Syracuse, with its impressive granite, red stone and even Art Deco “skyscrapers,” sprung up along its banks. Some are even *five* stories high!

- We’ve hiked Watkins Glen, a magnificent series of waterfalls cut through a gorge, which in 2013 marks 150 years as a tourist attraction.
- We’ve toured New York City’s Tenement Museum, a building where waves of immigrants – including hundreds of Italians in the late 19th Century – lived and worked in scandalously cramped conditions.
- We’ve eaten pizza in Little Italy and gelato at Ferrara’s, which has been serving up confections to generations of Manhattanites since 1892. And we’ve walked past the Italian American Museum in the neighborhood (that’s me in the photo, but darn it! – it was closed).

I can’t help but think how much *older* New York is than Oregon, and how many threads of our country’s history emanate from or are entwined with the Empire State. But then I laugh, figuratively slap myself upside the head, and realize that when it comes to a grand, glorious and, especially, lengthy past, the U.S. can’t hold a cannoli* to Italy.

I’m looking forward to sharing some of my sights, sounds and impressions of another recent trip – to Italy – with you on Nov. 17. I made that trip during the late summer and experienced the scenic (Lake Como), the yummy (the wine country of Piedmont or *Piemonte*), the tourists (Venice), the ancient (Rome), the artistic (Florence) and, for me, the nostalgic (my Mom’s hometown of Montecatini Terme in Tuscany).

There was another aspect of the trip – music. I wasn’t

there listening to music, I was *making* music. The slideshow will touch on that; so does the story on page 5.



I hope you’ll join me at Carvlin Hall on Nov. 17 at 3pm for my Italian “show and tell.” During the meeting, we’ll taste some Piemontese wines, including one or two which I sampled during my trip.

Before the regular meeting, our informal club advisory committee is gathering to plan out programs for upcoming OregonTuscans meetings. If you’d like to offer some suggestions, feel free to come to Carvlin Hall at 2pm that afternoon.

*Oddly enough, the best cannoli we had during our East Coast trip didn’t come from New York City’s Little Italy, but from a neighborhood bakery in Syracuse ... or should I say *Siracusa*!

Ciao!

Audrey

PIEDMONT

FEATURED ON NOV. 17

(continued from page 1)

“I was on a hiking tour of Piedmont, which essentially meant we were walking from winery to winery,” says Audrey. “We tasted red wines and whites, several of which are available right here in Portland. So, you’ll get the chance to try some of what I tasted ... but you can leave your hiking boots at home!”

It’s likely the array of wines will include a Dolcetto, Arneis and a Barbera (one of those B’s). We might even sneak an Italian craft beer past your lips!

There’s a good chance we’ll hear from Jimmie Moglia along the way, too, since he grew up in Piedmont. And we’ll start the meeting off with one of our brief Italian videos. It should be a fun afternoon.

LA BEFANA
is coming on Jan. 5 to
St. Michael’s Church at 2pm.
More details in the next issue
of *La Lettera Toscana*.
Stay tuned!