



## PLEASE BRING A MAIN DISH OR SIDE DISH FOR OUR POTLUCK

Our Dec. 15 get-together will feature lots of fun food, Christmas carols and *An Apartment in Venice*. That's the title of the new novel by our own Marlene Taevs, whose pen name is Marlene Hill. She'll tell us a little about her new book and will even have some for purchase.

We'll gather around the piano to sing holiday songs and we might have a guest performance from this groovin' Tuscan-American trio...



and perhaps from one of our favorite Piemontesi, too.

And, how could it be the holidays without a feast? So, please bring something to the buffet table for our Christmas potluck. The club will have desserts taken care of, so please bring a main dish or side dish of your choice to share. And if you'd like to bring wine or beer to drink, bring that along, too.

We'll see you at **3pm on Dec. 15 at Carvlin Hall** at St. Philip Neri Church, 2408 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

NEXT MTG:

SUN., DEC. 15. 3PM

CARVLIN HALL, 2408 SE 16<sup>th</sup> AV.

FUTURE DATES: LA BEFANA 1/5,  
2/23, 3/16, 4/27, 5/18  
AND A JUNE BBQ

## DAL PRESIDENTE IN DUE[S] TIME

BY AUDREY PERINO  
PRESIDENT



Greetings! It hard to believe that we are almost through with 2013. Time really does fly! I hope your year has been productive and fun!

I also hope that you have enjoyed your membership in the Tuscan Association. You dues payers might wonder what you get for your membership. First of all, you get a tax deduction on your federal tax return. Since the Tuscan Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization, all "contributions" are tax deductible. This includes your dues.

(see *Dues*, page 5)

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# LA BEFANA BRINGS OUT THE KID IN ALL OF US

(Editor's note: Next month, we OregonTuscans join with Amica d'Italia to present the traditional Italian Twelfth Day of Christmas celebration known as Festa della Befana. The following article appeared in this month's edition of Il Pappagallo, Amici's newsletter...)

La Befana is one of Italy's oldest and most celebrated legends. Each year on January 6th, the children of Italy awaken in hopes that La Befana has made a visit to their house. This is a significant day to Italians because it marks the end of the Christmas season and the day that the Three Wise Men arrived at the manger of the Christ child. Over the years the Epiphany has been a more celebrated holiday for the children of Italy than even Christmas.

As legend has it, La Befana is a cranky, old woman who sweeps her home and walkway all day. She is not welcoming to guests, and children do not like her. One night as La Befana tries to sleep, a bright light floods into her bedroom. The light is a bright star that has suddenly appeared in the night sky. The next morning, a glorious procession of camels, horses, elephants, and three kings stop at her door to inquire if she knows the way to Bethlehem. The three kings are guided by the bright star as they search for a Baby King. Cranky Befana is too busy sweeping and is of no help to the kings, so they travel on their way. A little boy encourages the old woman to come with the procession in search of the Baby King who has come to change the world. La Befana decides to follow but first bakes cook-



ies, cakes, and candies to bring as her gift to the Baby. Upon leaving, she decides to first sweep her house clean. La Befana has to run to try to catch up to the procession and soon tires out. The night sky is suddenly filled with angels singing about a night of miracles. La Befana rises to her feet and begins to run, crying out to the angels to help her find her way to Bethlehem. Suddenly, La Befana

begins to feel lighter as she rises up and miraculously begins running through the night sky. She never found the Baby King but every year on the Feast of the Three Kings, La Befana runs through the night sky. She brings gifts to children and then sweeps their rooms clean. She does this in hopes that one of the children might be the Baby King of Bethlehem.

The annual Festa della Befana presented by Amici d'Italia and the Tuscan Association of Oregon is scheduled for **Sunday, January 5, 2014**. The festa begins at 2:30pm and is open to children aged 3 to 10 years old.

The festa will be in Balestra Hall at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 424 SW Mill Street, in downtown Portland. La Befana will give out gifts to the children as she passes through on her journey to find the Christ Child.

**Children MUST be pre-registered** to participate in the fun and registration is limited to 50 children. Please contact Frank Palandrani at 360-576-0453 or [pffrank@msn.com](mailto:pffrank@msn.com) or Kerry-Lynne Demarinis Brown at 503-287-3255 or [difamiglia@aol.com](mailto:difamiglia@aol.com).

## WHY LA BEFANA MATTERS...

Frank Palandrani has been heading up *Festa della Befana* for our club for a number of years. "Getting children to be aware of their Italian heritage makes *La Befana* special for me," says Frank. "It's a Tuscan function and I think our members should support it."

"We need more members to take an active part in the club, instead of just coming to meetings," he says. Here's your chance to become more active. Come to *La Befana* on Jan. 5 at 2:30pm at St. Michael's Church downtown. Help Frank, Kerry-Lynne and the other organizers with details that day. They'd appreciate it.



OregonTuscans vice-president Louise Ramunno-Johnson will reprise her role as *La Befana* on Jan. 5.

Thanks Louise!



We the Italians  
two flags one heart

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### Who wants to play bocce? Game is getting more

By Davide Arminio

There's a game that's becoming increasingly popular in New Mexico, and it's not American. It's bocce (also called "boccie" or "bocci" in English) and it's one of the oldest games played by mankind. Invented

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## WETHEITALIANS.COM

There's a new Website worth your time: WeTheItalians.com is a collaboration between Italian and American organizations which share a desire to spread the culture of the old country.

Most clubs, including ours, are listed geographically on the Website. We are grouped with other Italian associations in the western U.S.

Italian news is another aspect of the Website. One of the more interesting and amusing news items recently seen there concerned football ... American style.

It reported that the mercurial-and-occasional quarterback Tim Tebow has been offered a four-month,

\$200,000 contract by the Milano Seamen of the Italian Federation of American Football. No word on whether Tebow is interested in taking his game across the Atlantic. (Last time we checked, isn't Milan inland? So why is the team the Seamen? Then again, PORTland is inland, too!)



Another portion of WeTheItalians.com involves extended interviews with Italians in both Italy and the U.S. If you check out the section you'll find entrepreneurs, playwrights, diplomats, museum curators and more.

Next time you find yourself with a few minutes to spare, check out WeTheItalians.com. We're betting something there will catch your eye.

## WHAT'S IT DUE YA?!

Folks, the end of the year means it's time to think about ...

- a) paying last year's Christmas bills;
- b) organizing that overstuffed shoe box of receipts for your taxes;
- c) paying your OregonTuscans dues.

Let's hope a) doesn't apply to you. Actually, b) makes some sense. But c) is the *real* answer. **Dues are \$25 for singles and \$35 for couples and they are due by Dec. 31.** You can pay in person at the Dec. 15 meeting or you can mail a check made out to "Tuscan Association of Oregon." Send it to Audrey Perino, 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.

# PLANS FIRING UP FOR THE REST OF OUR WINTER AND SPRING PROGRAMS

Before our Nov. 17 meeting, members of the club's advisory committee got together to look at dates and activities for the rest of our program year.

Things aren't set in stone, but we've got a sense of what subjects will be presented and, in many cases, when...

In addition to **Dec. 15** and *La Befana* on **Jan. 5** (see page 2 for details), we're in the initial stages of planning a catered "Sweethearts Dinner" for **Feb. 23**. There will be

a cost to members for this event. Further down the road...

**March 16:** Art history professor Lisa Staley will return to present a lecture on the Sistine Chapel. She taught us about Botticelli last spring.

**April 27:** We hope to have a presentation on current world affairs from a professor.

**May 18 (tentative date):** We plan to organize a "field trip" to Red Ridge Farms in Dayton, Oregon. Red Ridge grows olives and processes olive oil.

That will be our primary focus, but Red Ridge also is a winery and has a lavender farm. There may be a cost to members for this event.

**June 21 or 22:** We'll have a BBQ in a local park to

wrap up our year and to welcome our incoming club president.

But who will that be? The committee talked a bit about succession planning. A new



slate of officers will be presented to the general membership for election at the April 27 meeting.

Audrey will say "arrivederci" to the presidency this spring, so we're looking for someone to step forward and take the reins of leadership. If you'd like to be that person or have someone in mind, let Audrey know, either in person or contact her at 503.246.6462 or [OregonTuscans@gmail.com](mailto:OregonTuscans@gmail.com).

Having someone volunteer — as opposed to *being volunteered* to do it — can make a big difference!

## ALL THE BEST, ESTHER

Well, we've had it confirmed by a source in British Columbia, so this time we know it's true: our dear friend Esther Tuon Riley began December back in the city of her youth, Vancouver, BC.

Esther has moved up north into an apartment overlooking her beloved English Bay. She'll be looked in upon by her niece, Maria Smele, and Maria's sister-in-law.

We were pleased to have Esther join us at our Nov. 17 meeting one final time. This gave us the chance to raise a glass to her and the next chapter in her rich life.

If you'd like to drop Esther a Christmas card or a note, you can write her in care of Maria at 2175 Cambridge St., Vancouver, BC V5L 3E1 or [smele@shaw.ca](mailto:smele@shaw.ca).



## L'ANGOLO ITALIANO DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

Ancora instabilita' sul fronte della politica italiana. Grande attesa per le primarie del Partito Democratico dove Renzi e' il favorito, ma non si escludono sorprese! Il tutto verra' deciso domenica prossima 8 dicembre.

Berlusconi e' ufficialmente decaduto da senatore e come prima conseguenza si e' verificata la spaccatura sul fronte della destra, il "delfino" Alfano resta al

governo con un pugno di sostenitori mentre Berlusconi si schiera all'opposizione.

Il tema di attualita' e' quello delle riforme, se ne parla con interesse ma per il momento senza risultati. Come sempre speriamo in bene....

A tutti voi tanti sinceri auguri per la prossime feste natalizie.

# VENETIAN FLING LEADS TO AN APARTMENT...

Wouldn't it be nice to have *An Apartment in Venice*? Now you can. That's the second book in Marlene Hill's Venetian Waters series. Like the first book, it's a steamy

romance novel involving some of the same characters Marlene first introduced in *Last Fling in Venice* in 2012.

Marlene

(left) will share some of her thoughts about the new book at our Dec. 15 meeting.

Celebrate...

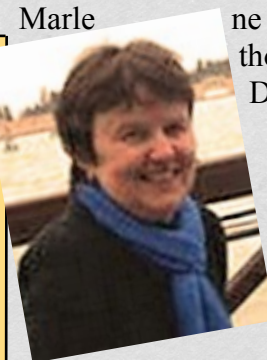
## NEW YEAR'S EVE

*with Lucia Galizia!*

Wide variety of music & takes requests

Dinner and Dancing 40s, 50s, 60s and much more!

WHEN:	DECEMBER 31, 2013
TIME:	7:00 PM - 1:00 AM
	BUFFET DINNER (ANTIPASTO, 2 MEATS/FISH, VEGETABLES, SALAD, DESERT, TEA/COFFEE)
	PARTY FAVORS & CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT (NO HOST BAR)
	MUSIC BY 'DIRTY DAVE' McGLOETHIN (KISN DISC JOCKEY)
WHERE:	CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL 1441 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue - Portland, OR
PRICE:	\$65 PER PERSON (PAYMENT DUE DEC. 10 <sup>TH</sup> )
TICKETS:	CALL (503) 284-6989 FOR MORE INFORMATION



She'll also have copies of the book available for purchase and autographing ... just in time to heat up your Christmas!

It's also available from Amazon.com and other online book retailers.



## DUES ARE DUE ... WHAT SAY YOU?!

(continued from page 1)

You get the satisfaction of supporting programs that delve into the culture, history, food and wine of Italy. So far this year we have viewed a documentary on a village in northern Italy, we've seen slides from various parts of the country, and we've tasted the wines of Piedmont. The story on page 4 will tell you what else we have in store in the months ahead.

You get to enjoy the company of fellow Tuscans/Italians/friends of Italy. I see how much you enjoy getting together with each other at our monthly meetings!

You receive a price break on events that are subsidized by the club. In October, the club picked up part of the ticket price for members at an Oregon Symphony Pops concert. I hope the club will subsidize an additional event in 2014.

But most importantly, you support the continued

existence of an organization that has been around since 1996 – a club still lovingly nurtured by its founder, our dear friend, Carlo Mannocci and those of us who helped to start it those many years ago.



So I am asking that you renew your membership in the Tuscan Association of Oregon for 2014. Individual dues are \$25 and couples dues are \$35. (That's a lot less than the half-million in that old Lire note to

the left!) Please pay me on Dec. 15 or mail a check to 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.

With the continued reduction in financial support from Tuscany, your dues play an even more important role in keeping our organization going. We hope you think it is worthy of your support ... and we're working to keep it that way!

Ciao!

*Audrey*