

Giugno 2013

www.OregonTuscans.com



LET'S FIRE UP THE BBQ!

The final event of our program year is different in three ways: it occurs *outdoors*, on *Saturday* and starts at *5:00pm*.

We'll have a dinnertime barbecue in Sellwood Park in Picnic Area H. Maps of the area can be found on page 3.

Bring an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert to share. Also, if you'd like wine or beer, bring that, too. The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and Gardenburgers, as well as soft drinks.

If the weather is iffy, watch our Website, www.OregonTuscans.com, for a cancellation notice or call 503-522-9911 to check.

Check page 3 for printable maps of Sellwood Park itself and of the neighborhood.



NEXT MTG:

SAT, JUNE 22, 5PM

SELLWOOD PARK

COME PICNIC WITH US!

DAL PRESIDENTE

WOW, THAT WENT FAST!

BY AUDREY PERINO
PRESIDENT



It's been quite a year for the OregonTuscans. We've entertained our kids and grandkids at *La Befana*, learned about mushrooms, Bottecelli, Dante and the Mafia, surveyed Italian politics, relived Portland's Little Italy of a century ago, taken a *Last Fling in Venice*, and done a lot of cooking and eating!

Speaking of eating, we'll be doing
(see *PICNIC*, page 5)

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AUCTION RECAP

914 THANK YOUS!

GRAZIE, DONORS!

Lair Hill Bistro
Tucci Restaurant
Cibo Restaurant
A Cena Restaurant
August Wine Company
Porcelli Ristorante
woodbloom.com gifts
New York NY Deli
Beppe & Gianni's
Trattoria
La Perla Pizzeria
Napoletana
Bacchi's Italian Deli
Fontanini Figurines
Gino's Italian
Restaurant
Caro Amico Restaurant
Canoe accessories
Garden Home Decor
CorksCru wine shop &
many of our members!

Our auction at the May 19 meeting earned \$914 for the club treasury. Many thanks to everyone who solicited businesses or contributed items and to those who bought them!

Thanks to your generosity – not to mention your *dues* and a contribution from the Tuscan government – the club will be able to present some innovative events in the coming 12 months. Occasionally, we should be able to subsidize what you will have to pay for things, such as the Oregon Pops concert featuring Italian-American singer Tony DeSare coming up on Oct. 20.

In addition to our wonderful members, we want to thank the businesses who supported our club with their donations. They are listed to the left. Please consider supporting them with *your* business.

WALK ALONG WITH ARNOLD

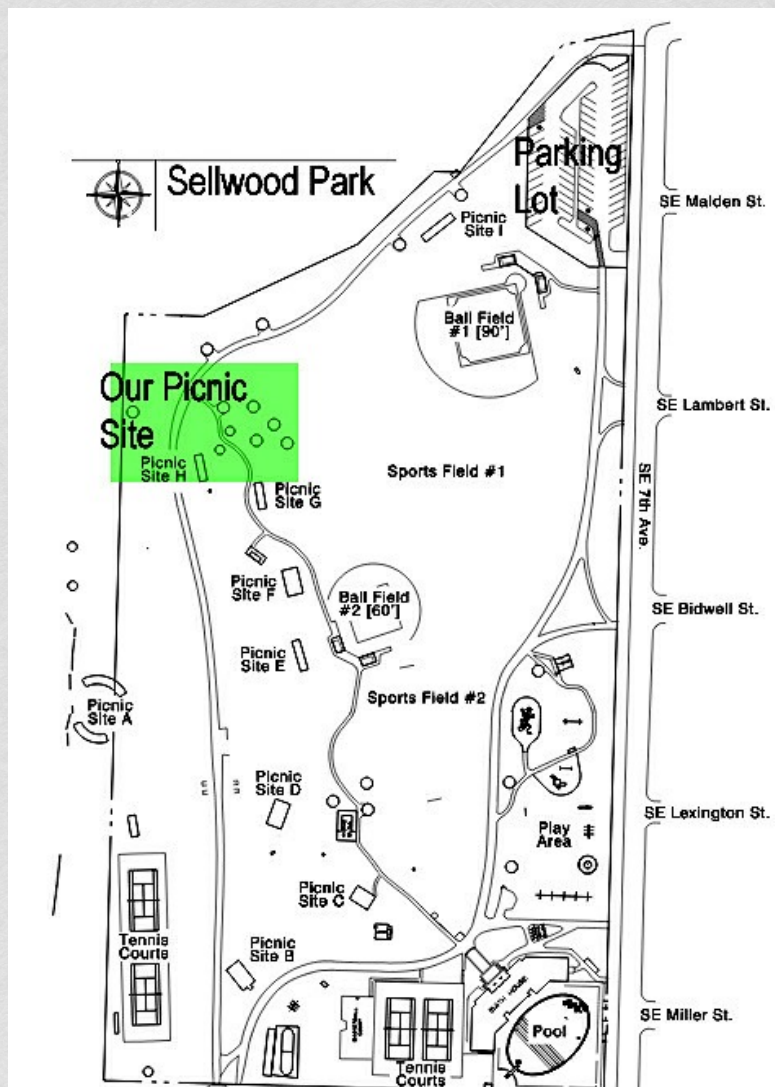
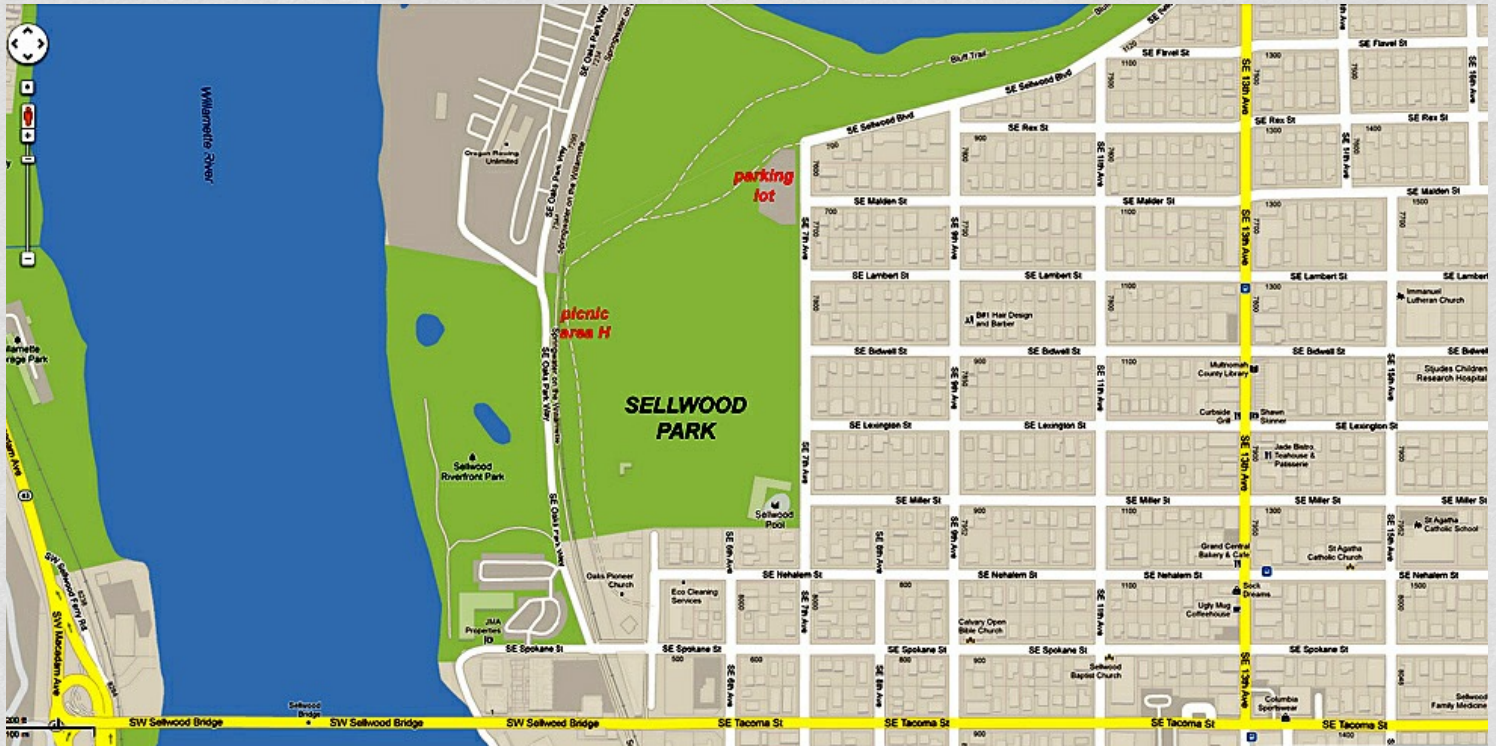
Our favorite honorary Tuscan, Arnold Panitch, who narrated our April presentation, *Once Upon a Time in Lair Hill*, will be leading the actual walking tour which spawned that slideshow.

He's leading four walks this summer through Lair Hill, Portland's original Little Italy. His first walk is this Thursday, June 20, at 6pm. The others are Aug. 20 and 21, both at 10am, and Sep. 21 at 9am.

All tours leave from the Lair Hill Bistro, in the "old neighborhood," at 2823 SW First Av. in Portland. If you enjoyed Arnold's slideshow, you ought to see him in his element: walking and talking the neighborhood!



HOW TO GET TO OUR OREGONTUSCANS PICNIC ON JUNE 22



PRINT THIS PAGE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

This is a **SATURDAY** picnic which begins at 5pm on June 22. If you get lost, call Ken Kane at 503-522-9997.

Park in the lot on the north side of the park or along SE 7th Avenue which runs along the park.

If we get rained out, we will post the cancellation on OregonTuscans.com during the afternoon of the 22nd or call 503-522-9911 to check.



Sono tanti i cartelli come questi affissi alle saracinesche o sulle vetrine di molti negozi italiani. E ancora piu' triste e' il fatto che gli esercizi colpiti sono soprattutto quelli di piccole dimensioni, a conduzione familiare.

Sono le vittime di una crisi subdola che sta colpendo gli italiani, una crisi legata a tasse esorbitanti, evasioni fiscali a tutti I livelli, disoccupazione elevata soprattutto nella fascia dei giovani.

La mancanza di fiducia verso i politici e I governanti e' stata dimostrata ancora una volta la settimana scorsa nei ballottaggi elettorali nei comuni dove non era stata raggiunta una maggioranza di oltre il 50per cento. L'affluenza alle urne e' scesa al di sotto del 50% degli aventi diritto al voto.

Speriamo solo che gli italiani ritrovino la fiducia e soprattutto il coraggio di affrontare le avversita'... E' un augurio che facciamo tutti sperando che divenga realta'.....

CARLO MANNOCCI: OUR MAN IN TUSCANY

The last weekend of May (but in reality it looked more like March) I attended, together with other representatives from all continents, the first meeting of the Presidential Office of the Tuscans Around the World. The meeting was in Florence.

It was a good trip even if the weather was really more late winter than late spring. The atmosphere was gloomy, with emphasis on the economic crisis and its ramifications. The sum of money allocated to the Tuscans abroad for 2013 is close to the amount received for 2012. (Our club expects



to get about \$1000.)

Emphasis was placed on the type of functions which will be sustained financially, with a preference for cultural events rather than strictly social gatherings.

I believe that we will survive the crisis by relying more on what *we* can do to sustain our associations rather than depending mostly on handouts. This is the line of the Tuscan Association of Oregon and we are proud to be able to continue our programs with the contribution of each and every member.

A sincere, personal "GRAZIE!!" to all...
Carlo Ilio Mannocci

TUSCAN FILMMAKER WINS DAVINCI DAYS PRIZE IN CORVALLIS

How's this for a "small world?" A filmmaker from Tuscany, who directed a documentary about a German orchestra conductor in Florence, will receive a top prize next month for her film at the daVinci Days celebration in Corvallis.

Silvia Lelli, a professor at the University of Florence, has been making documentaries since the mid-1980s. An anthropologist by training, she strives to get to know her subject as completely as possible.



For her recent project, *Johanna Knauf, Conductor: Music for the People!*, that meant becoming a member of the choir for a series of concerts around Florence. Knauf, a German who moved to Florence to start her own orchestra, is a relative rarity in classical music: a woman conductor. Lelli's film shows how Knauf takes both professional musicians and amateurs – some with no musical training at all – and molds them into a cohesive performing group.

human aspiration into a transcendent experience for both the performers and the audience.

Lelli's film will be shown three times in Corvallis during the annual da Vinci Days festival, which this year marks a quarter-century of celebrating innovation and creativity:

Tues., July 16, 7:15pm, at the Darkside Cinemas

Sat., July 20, 3:30pm, at the Darkside Cinemas

Sun., July 21, 2:30pm, at the Majestic Theater

Lelli will receive the "Spirit of daVinci Award" for her film immediately after the Saturday screening.



PICNIC CAPS OFF OUR YEAR

(continued from page 1)

just that on June 22 in our final event of the program year, a picnic in Sellwood Park. This *SATURDAY* event begins at the unusual time of 5pm. We had originally planned the picnic for mid-afternoon, but Ken and I will be attending a memorial service for a dear friend who passed away several weeks ago. Hence, we needed to delay the picnic until 5pm. But since it is June, it will stay light past 9pm, so we still have time for a fun-filled event. Please feel free to bring any family and friends. We haven't tried a picnic before, so we will see if it is an event we want to continue in the future.

We have started our planning for next year, which will include a concert and documentary film at least. But to this end, you can help! Later in the summer, we will be sending out a survey asking you what you would like to see happening with the Tuscan Association of Oregon. Hopefully some new ideas will be generated and we can continue to explore different things to do with the club.

Hope to see you at the picnic on Saturday, June 22, but if not, have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall!

Audrey



Along the way, the film demonstrates Knauf's ability to go beyond the music of Beethoven and Verdi to reach the music which she believes resides in everyone's soul. The movie's final scene, shot in Florence's Piazza del Signoria (left) illustrates the maestro's consummate ability to merge music, culture, and

LIDO BOTTI, 1928 – 2013

We're sad to report the passing of a member of our club. Lido Botti, a native Portlander, was 84. He died on May 11 after a short illness.

A lifelong teacher, he was an instructor at Oregon State in Corvallis, as well as Portland's Franklin, Lincoln and Wilson high schools. In recent years he taught Italian at Portland Community College.

Lido's son is the acclaimed trumpeter Chris Botti. For more on Lido, read his [obituary](#) on OregonLive.com.



AMICI D'ITALIA'S TURN TO RAISE \$

Our Italian friends and collaborators in *La Befana*, Amici d'Italia, are holding their annual yard sale on June 29.

A potpourri of items will be available – just about everything except clothing. The event takes place at 4010 NE 79th Avenue (just north of Sandy Boulevard) in Portland. If you find yourself in the neighborhood between 9am and 3pm, check it out.

All proceeds from the sale benefit the 2014 *La Befana*.

WE'RE OUTTA HERE...

La Lettera Toscana is edited by Ken Kane. If you have comments, letters or submissions, please e-mail them to OregonTuscans@gmail.com or snail-mail them to 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.

Just as the BBQ on June 22 is the last event of our program year so, too, is this the last *La Lettera Toscana*. We'll return in the fall. Until then, be looking for a survey over the summer which will ask you some questions about the club, future programs, and what you'd like to see the OregonTuscans do in the year ahead.