

Aprile 2013

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THE *OLD*, OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

First and foremost, please note that **our April 21 get-together is NOT at St. Philip Neri**. It takes place at Cedarwood Waldorf School at 3030 SW Second Av., in the heart of Portland's first Italian neighborhood, Lair Hill/South Portland.

It will be a bit of an unusual meeting for us – for one thing, the public is invited. For another, we'll start the meeting promptly at 3pm; our normal socializing will take place afterward. And the business portion of the meeting will be kept to a bare minimum so we can begin *Once Upon a Time in Lair Hill*, our trip back 100 years, without delay.

Our special guest "tourguide" for the slideshow will be Arnold Panitch (below), an expert on local
(see *SLIDESHOW*, page 3)

A map to our April 21 meeting place is on page 3.



NEXT MTG:
SUN., APR. 21, 3PM
3030 SW 2ND AV.

FUTURE DATES: MAY 19 ...

& A PICNIC ON JUNE 22

DAL PRESIDENTE

JUST WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

BY AUDREY PERINO
PRESIDENT



A funny thing, ... well, a *strange* thing happened to me earlier this month. I was at a meeting of one of our sister Italian clubs when one of its members came up to me with a question.

"How are the OregonTuscans different from our club?" she asked. The question caught me off guard and, frankly, I didn't have much of an
(see *QUESTION*, page 4)

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A photograph of two men in suits standing in front of a large window with a city skyline view. The man on the left is Mauro Battocchi, the Consul General of Italy. The man on the right is Andrea Bartoloni, a local lawyer. A green circular graphic with the text 'APR. 12' is overlaid on the image.

APR. 12

ITALIAN CONSUL VISITS

WE HATE TO NAG, BUT...

Have you been thinking about our May 19 silent auction? We're encouraging you to ask local businesses or restaurants that you frequent to make a donation. That way we'll have more to bid on ... including some things that aren't scavenged from your garage!

Please bring completed donation forms (and donations from the businesses, if you have them) to the slideshow on April 21. If you need additional donation forms, we'll have them for you that day.

We know that this work is ... well, *work*! But your efforts will help the club maintain its treasury so we can continue to bring you informative, fun and entertaining programs and events in the months ahead.

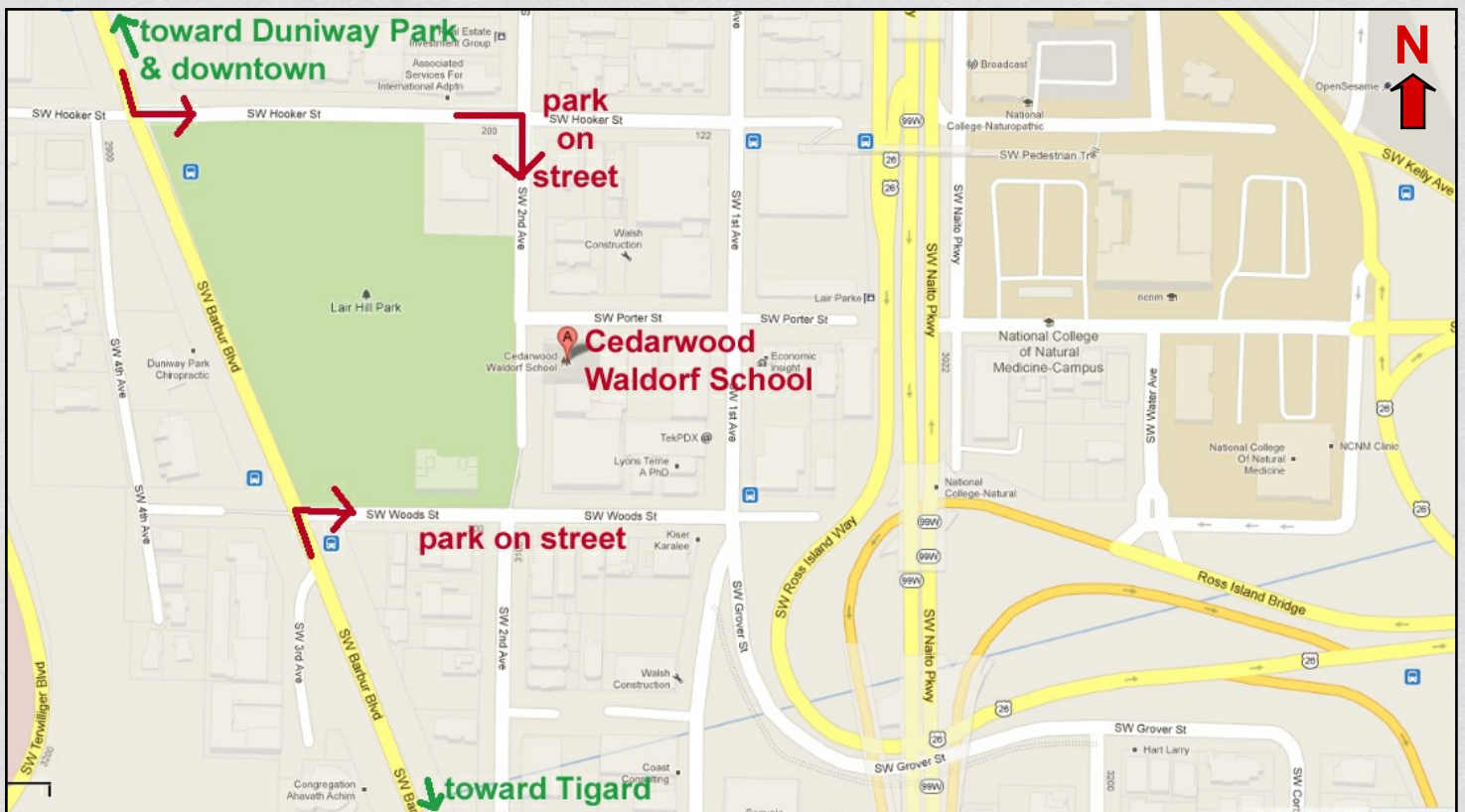
Heck, you might even solicit something from a business that you want to bid on yourself!

Mauro Battocchi (above left), the Consul General of Italy, visited Portland from his home base in San Francisco on Friday night. The Consul General's job is to promote Italy and encourage good relations (both cultural and business) between the homeland and a vast area that stretches from California to Alaska to as far west as Guam.

About 30 enthusiastic members of the local Italian community came to the law offices of Andrea Bartoloni (above right) to meet Consul Battocchi. Among the OregonTuscans in attendance were Jimmie Moglia and Audrey Perino who chatted up the Consul (below).

When asked his opinion of the current Italian governmental stalemate (see page 4), Consul Battocchi jokingly immediately asked for the "next question." He admitted, with a wink, that "Italy is *not* a linear model," when it comes to getting things done, which brought plenty of loud laughter. But he added that he was optimistic. "We will come through this uncertainty and surprise the world," he said..





Our April 21 slideshow event takes place at Cedarwood Waldorf School, 3030 SW 2nd Av. In Portland. Get there by turning east off of Barbur Blvd., onto SW Hooker (there's a light there) or onto SW Woods. The next intersection is SW Second Av. **Please park on the street** if you can, saving the parking spaces next to the auditorium door for those with mobility issues.

SLIDESHOW

(continued from page 1)

history, particularly as it pertains to immigrants.

Panitch leads historical walking tours of the *old*, old neighborhood each summer. A few OregonTuscans joined him on one such trek a couple of years ago. That's when Ken Kane (the editor of this newsletter) got the idea to work with Panitch on a slideshow version of his walk. Many months of research and photography later, *Once Upon a Time in Lair Hill* will debut on April 21 with our club being the first to experience it.

A retired social work professor and practitioner, and the Jewish son of Russian immigrants, Panitch comes to the subject of old South Portland from a variety of perspectives.



Arnold Panitch (left) at the former Failing School during one of his history walks.

“America is a nation of immigrants. A century ago, South Portland was a nice example of how immigration nation-building happened,” says Panitch. “Portland was freer of American traditions than the staid East Coast. It was a new canvas upon which to paint your personal picture. It remains so today.”

Around 1900, nowhere in Portland was that spirit of pulling oneself up by the bootstraps more evident than in South Portland. That community is west of the Willamette roughly from south of Keller Auditorium to beneath the OHSU tram. Today it's often referred to as Lair Hill.

Newly arrived Italians and Jews from Eastern Europe, as well as other immigrants, lived and worked together in the neighborhood. Peddlers employed horse-drawn wagons to sell produce, used household items and other

goods.

Kids attended the ironically named Failing School, Shattuck School or perhaps St. Mary's Academy. Young (see *CEDARWOOD*, page 4)

L'ANGOLO ITALIANO

DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

Nessuna fumata Bianca sulla formazione di un governo in Italia. Mentre da ogni strato sociale si chiede a gran voce che ci si rimbocchi le maniche e che si dia un governo efficiente al paese, avvengono come sempre gli strani complotti di palazzo. Dopo 45 giorni proprio alcuni giorni or sono c'è stato un incontro diretto tra il Partito Democratico e il Popolo della Libertà nelle persone di Bersani e Berlusconi per avviare delle trattative per un "governissimo", trattative che secondo la mia modesta opinione probabilmente finiranno in un.... bolla di sapone. E la storia continua....

GOV'T YES? GOV'T NO!

DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

Nothing or almost nothing has changed since our last meeting at Carvlin Hall when we discussed the political situation in Italy. Pier Luigi Bersani has failed to find a majority in the Senate thus precluding the formation of a new government.

At this time there is a dialog between Bersani and Silvio Berlusconi aiming at the possibility (remote) of forming a "governissimo" at least for a certain period of time and then have new elections. The position of the Five Star Movement (led by Beppe Grillo) is very puzzling, the Movement does not want to ally itself with either of the two major parties, thus precluding the forming of the government.

[Editor's note: The upstart Five Star Movement went so far as to "occupy" parliament on April 9 to protest the governmental stagnation. A summary of the situation can be found on the New York Times Website. Go to www.nytimes.com and search "occupy parliament."]

QUESTION

(continued from page 1)

answer. But afterward, it sure got me thinking.

So, how *are* we different? Well, we're the Oregon *Tuscans*, of course and some of our programs reflect that. But in reality most of us trace our roots back to another part of Italy. Some of us are even "Italian by marriage."

We're relatively new, compared with many of the other Italian clubs in town. That means we're still building our traditions, and *that* means we're pretty receptive to trying new things. For that I'm grateful.

We've tried some different things this year: Italian Thanksgiving recipes, a mushroom meeting, a cinema discussion and, this month, a community slideshow that is a collaboration between our club and a local historian/tourguide. On June 22 we'll have a picnic in Sellwood Park and in the fall we're planning an outing to the Oregon Symphony Pops.

Of course, we'll continue to embrace great OregonTuscan events like *La Befana*, and our potlucks and Carvlin Hall presentations on all subjects Tuscan ... and Italian. But we'll be surveying you later this year about other things you'd like to see us do going forward, as we continue to define ourselves as OregonTuscans.

Audrey

CEDARWOOD

(continued from page 3)

and old learned to speak English at Neighborhood House, across the street from Lair Hill Park on Southwest Second Avenue. Many Italian kids learned to swim in the indoor pool – one of the first in the city – at Neighborhood House.

That 1910 building still exists today as Cedarwood Waldorf School. The old pool has been transformed into a meeting and performance space, and that is where you'll experience *Once Upon a Time in Lair Hill*. Talk about a trip in a time machine!

The old Little Italy/Jewish Quarter had a rich and eclectic history, but one that was cut short by "progress" in the form of urban renewal. There's not much left of the old neighborhood, but you'll discover what remains – and you will have the opportunity to share your recollections of old Lair Hill – on April 21.