

Novembre 2014

www.OregonTuscans.com



FILM AND FDI FOR OUR NOV. 16 MEETING; *LA BEFANA* VISITS JAN. 11

We'll get together at 3:30pm A WEEK FROM Sunday, on **Nov. 16** in Carvlin Hall at St. Philip Neri Church, 2408 SE 16th Avenue in Portland. We'll pick up where we left off in post-war Italy with the film *Una Vita Difficile*. And our president, Jimmie Moglia, will lead another lickety-slpit lesson of Fast Dynamic Italian.

In our 20-minute FDI session, "*Tu*" o "*Lei*" o "*Voi*", we will have a graphic quiz involving a dialog and the uses of the conditional tense, which in English occurs mostly thanks to auxiliary verb-support, "would," "could."

Also, we will review the use of the third-person structure in conversation or correspondence and how it came about. Plus Mussolini's (mercifully unsuccessful) efforts to "nationalize" the language.

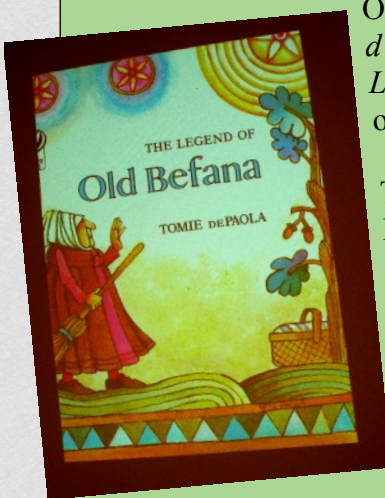
Our **Dec. 21** meeting is still being fully fleshed out, but it will contain a potluck dinner. We hope to announce more about it on Nov. 16.

Our annual collaboration with *Amici d'Italia* takes place on **Jan. 11**. It's *La Befana*, the Italian Twelfth Day of Christmas tradition.

The event is open to pre-registered kids, aged 3 - 10. To register, contact Kerry-Lynne Demarinis Brown at 503-287-3255 or difamiglia@aol.com.

La Befana starts at 2:30pm on Jan. 11 at St. Michael's Church at 424 SW Mill St. in downtown.

Our club is being asked to provide cookies (no nuts!) for the celebration. Please contact Kerry-Lynne if you can do some baking. That will bring a smile to Kerry-Lynne's face, not to mention the cherubs who'll be eating them!



NEXT MTG:

SUN., NOV. 16, 3:30PM
CARVLIN HALL

FUTURE DATES: DEC. 21,
LA BEFANA 1/11/15

DAL PRESIDENTE ON ITALIAN CINEMA

BY JIMMIE MOGLIA
PRESIDENT



During our October meeting we showed part of the Italian movie *Una Vita Difficile*, with subtitles in English. We will show the second part on Nov. 16.

Last month, we left tables and chairs arranged as they usually are. For better viewing, from now on, if we show movies, we will arrange the seating so that all the audience can have a more direct and better view of the screen.

(see **FILM**, page 4)

HOLIDAY TIME HAPPENINGS	2
THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME (PART 1)	3
TUSCAN TRIP CONTEST	5
L'ANGOLO ITALIANO	5
ITALIAN PORTLAND SHIRT OFFERED	6



[Click here for Festival info.](#)

NOVEMBER 21 – 23, 10AM – 4PM

In the spirit of Italian food festivals, **Red Ridge Farms** near Dundee and Dayton is marking the end of harvest by inviting one and all to enjoy freshly-pressed, limited release Extra Virgin Olive Oil. This free sixth annual **Olio Nuovo Festival** takes place at the facility which we OregonTuscans visited last May.

Tour the Northwest's foremost olive milling facility and savor traditional Italian bruschetta paired with Durant Vineyards signature Pinot Noir.

The Portland-Bologna Sister City Association's 8th Annual Sagra is on November 18!



Don't miss the 2014 Sagra celebration on Tuesday, November 18th.

Dance to the saucy rhythms of Andrea Algieri's duo, bid on vacation getaways and dinners at Portland's best restaurants, dine on Bolognese specialties prepared by Chef Abby Fammartino inspired by her recent visit to our Italian sister city.

Join us for this once a year opportunity to experience a bit of Bologna and support our sister city community here in Portland.



Tuesday, November 18th
from 6–9 pm
Olympic Mills Building
107 SE Washington St

Tickets:
\$60 per person
includes appetizers
and a glass of wine



Portland Bologna Sister City Association
Portland State University
PO Box 751 – OIRP
Portland, OR 97207

Please mail checks
made out to PBSCA

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS



**WELCOME
IN THE
NEW YEAR
WITH LUCIA!**

Join **Lucia Galizia** and Italians of all stripes for her second annual New Year's Eve party!

\$65 gets you a buffet, prize giveaways, party favors, midnight champagne and dancing to the sounds of the 1940s, 50s & 60s.

The event takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 1441 NE Second Av. in Portland. For tickets, call Lucia at 503.284.6989 by Dec. 15.

Italy in December

A dance party fundraiser
benefitting **Transition Projects**

12 dicembre 2014, Friday
8 p.m. – Midnight
DON'T MISS THIS one-time event
at Portland's classic
Melody Ballroom
615 SE Alder Street

Ray Massa's EuroRhythms from
Columbus, Ohio, the country's most popular
Italian-American show band

Savor antipasti from **A Cena Ristorante**
and gelato e sorbetto from **Gelato Maestro**

Cash bar serving Italian selections of
wine, beers, waters and liqueurs

Tickets \$40 each
Includes small plates—
All proceeds to Transition Projects

**Transition
Projects**

Tickets Available: www.italyindecember.com



CARLO & STEVEN'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

TEXT BY CARLO MANNOCCI; PHOTOS BY FROSTYPHOTOGRAPHY

Sometime ago I promised my wife Shirley that, someday, I would introduce our son Steven to Italy. In October, I fulfilled my promise. (Also compelled by my "young age," I needed some assistance during the trip.) As Steven had never been to Europe, I gave him a whirlwind tour of Italy in seven days.

The first day I introduced him to the fine Tuscan cooking. When he chose from the assorted menu "Spaghetti with Bolognese sauce" I suggested instead *Tordelli Lucchesi* (Luccan style meat ravioli) ...

It was my first success!!
The following day we went to Galliciano, a village in Garfagnana where I grew up, to visit my older sister who, unfortunately, is affected by Alzheimer's.

While visiting with my sister at the assisted living facility in a nearby town, Steven discovered the entire village and he felt like a boy in a candy shop, shooting hundreds of pictures.

Previously, on the way to

Galliciano, we had made a stop along the Serchio River at the famous Devil's Bridge (*Ponte del Diavolo*, below). While I was comfortably seated in the car, Steven braved the heavy rain to grasp the essence of this remarkable bridge, marveling at the challenging arch, and taking lots of pictures.

He was fascinated by the legend surrounding the way the bridge was built. It resulted from a deal between the builder and the devil, who took the possession of the soul of the first being crossing the bridge. Upon completion by the devil, the clever Tuscan builder sent a *dog* across the bridge!

During the Allied Forces' offensive in December 1944, the only bridge over the Serchio River *not* destroyed by the retreating Germans was the Devil's Bridge. Its width barely allowed a jeep and trailer across. It was done with
(see **BRIDGE**, page 6)



FILM PORTRAYS POST-WWII ITALY REALISTICALLY

(continued from page 1)

As mentioned previously, it is our plan to build a small library of Italian movies (with English subtitles). We will concentrate on films that have been sanctioned by press and critics as interesting and instructive, culturally and historically.

Una Vita Difficile belongs to a strain of Italian movies, called *realismo*. This means that the plot is woven around real events of Italian history – in this instance, the end and the aftermath of World War II.

As many of you know, on Sep. 8, 1943 Italy signed an armistice with the Allied Forces, effectively splitting Italy in two: the North, under German occupation and with a government led by Mussolini, called *Repubblica*

Sociale Italiana, and the South with a government led by Pietro Badoglio, formerly “hero” of the colonization of Ethiopia by Italy. As hard to believe as it may be now, in 1936 Victor Emanuel III, king of Italy, assumed the added title of “Emperor of Ethiopia.”

By historical consensus, the wording of the armistice was a

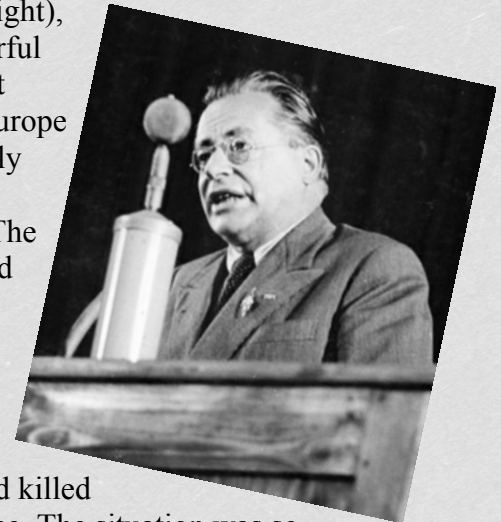
masterpiece of subterfuge – it declared that the Italian Army would continue to fight “the enemy,” without stating who the enemy was, but with strong hints that the enemies from now on were the Germans. This inevitably led to a war within the war, a civil war in the North, featuring those who had enlisted in the *Repubblica Sociale Italiana* against those who would fight it, namely the Partisans, the majority of whom were Communists.

The movie protagonist is one such partisan who finds himself near Lake Como at the time of the armistice and chooses not to enlist in Mussolini’s army. Soon after the war, he returns to Lake Como as a journalist for a Communist newspaper. Following the murder of Mussolini by the Partisans, a still-discussed-today legend arose, regarding a never-found cache of gold supposedly sunk in the lake near the town of Dongo

hence *l’oro di Dongo* (the gold of Dongo).

In the part we watched in October, reference, relevance and evidence was given to some actual facts, namely...

- The very difficult position that the civilian population found itself in during the civil war, with the Germans fighting the Partisans and the Partisans taking advantage of the civilian population.
- The arrival of the Americans in Rome, which was declared *città aperta* (open city), while a new Italian government was being formed.
- The tight 1946 referendum that converted Italy from a monarchy into a republic.
- The 1948 terrorist shooting of Palmiro Togliatti (right), most powerful Communist leader in Europe and formerly Stalin’s secretary. The shooting led to violent upheavals throughout Italy with demonstrators shot and killed by the police. The situation was so tense that, in an attempt to soften it, the Pope officially prayed for the recovery of Togliatti – who, incidentally, did recover. This was a most extraordinary thing, as the Church had most openly pulled out, displayed and used all her armor to prevent the Communists from winning the elections.
- The emergence of a class of new rich, ready to move their capital abroad should the Communists win the elections.
- The appeal that Rome had at the time on people living in the North, shown by the implicit admiration of the female protagonist when our “hero” tells her he is from Rome.



When we stopped the movie last month, they had arrived in Rome and Silvio Magnozzi (Alberto Sordi)

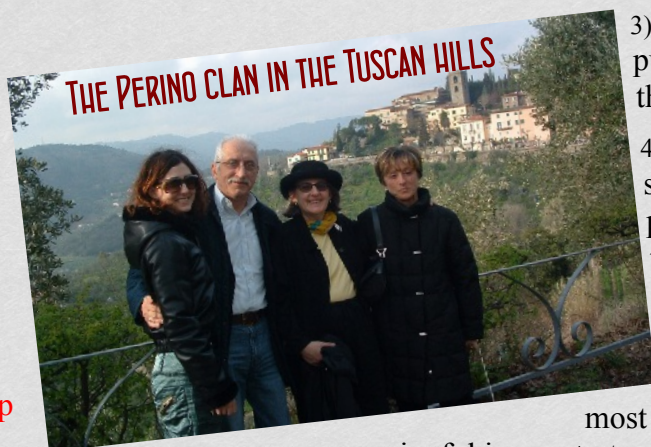
(see **Sordi's**, page 5)

WANT TO WIN A TRIP TO TUSCANY? GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST "SHOT"

Here is an opportunity to win a trip and a weekend for two in Cortona, one of the most iconic Medieval and Renaissance towns in the heart of Tuscany. The opportunity is for those Tuscans or foreign citizens of Tuscan descent (via parents, grandparents, great-grandparents), who have photographic records of their emigrating move to their new land. Here are the rules:

- 1) Send one or more pictures of a trip that motivated you to become a *Toscano nel Mondo* (a Tuscan in the World). Send via email to info@cortonaonthemove.com or share with the hashtag #toscanionthemove
- 2) Tell your story or the story of a relative in 500 characters (note: 500 **characters**, not 500 words – easily computed by most Word Processors). Include where you started from in Tuscany, where your emigration took you and pictures of your emigrating trip.

(Be succinct! To give an idea, the previous paragraphs in red contain 456 characters.)



- 3) All entries will be published on the site of the *Toscani nel Mondo*.
- 4) Every week the best stories will be published on the site of the daily newspaper *Repubblica Firenze*.
- 5) The "Tuscan in the World" who sends the

most suggestive and meaningful image + story will be awarded a trip and a weekend in Cortona for two people.

DEADLINE: Dec 10, 2014

This initiative and contest are part of an International Festival, held yearly in Cortona and called, *TOSCANI NEL MONDO: STORY TELLING DEL VIAGGIO DI UNA VITA* (Tuscans in the World: Story Telling of the Journey of a Lifetime.)

More information is available on the Website:

<http://toscaninelmondo.org/opportunita-detail/it/38>

DID YOU TAKE SOME CLUB POSTERS
AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING?
HAVE YOU ASKED LOCAL BUSINESSES TO POST
THEM YET?

SORDI'S PERFORMANCE SPOT ON

(continued from page 4)

is arrested for having participated in the riots following the attack on Togliatti. This is where we'll pick it up on Nov. 16.

Sociologically speaking, Alberto Sordi perfectly impersonates the Roman character, as (it was) perceived by the rest of Italy, especially the North: good but with great limitations, and bad but not terribly bad.

All in all, I like to think that *Una Vita Difficile* is a reasonably entertaining story and sufficiently instructive to have some value as a historically factual representation.

Arrivederci!

L'ANGOLO ITALIANO

DAL CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

La politica italiana continua il suo corso con vicende alterne. Il Premier Renzi mantiene le redini delle riforme, accettate quando non toccano gli interessi di certi ceti, rigettate quando certi strati della popolazione si sentono lesi nei loro diritti.

Sono in programma scioperi generali e contestazioni che certamente metteranno a dura prova il governo Renzi, governo che mantiene la posizione base che senza riforme l'Italia non ce la farà. Speriamo solo che prevalga il buon senso!

Le elezioni per il rinnovo dei COMITES hanno trovato degli scogli pericolosi, causati secondo la mia modesta opinione, dalla mancanza di interesse da parte degli elettori, dal tempo limitato e dalla percezione che in fondo questi enti non servano a nulla...

A tutti auguri per la Festa del Ringraziamento e arrivederci al mese prossimo...

BRIDGE TRIGGERS MEMORIES FOR CARLO, FASCINATION FOR STEVEN

(continued from page 3)

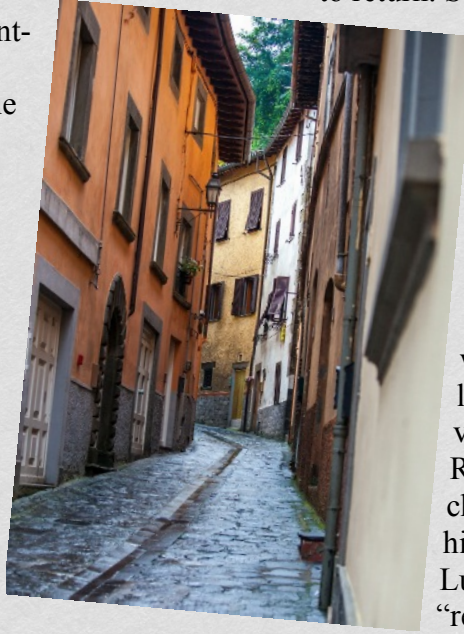
alternate traffic, succeeding in supplying the front-line troops. I witnessed the operation for a few hours, while awaiting the opportunity to cross the bridge with a few bare possessions, fleeing the attacking German and Fascist Italian forces.



In most recent times, the bridge has been adopted as the stage for a huge celebration on Halloween night when a fireworks spectacle relives the appearance of the devil.

At lunch that day I ordered for Steven *Ravioli allo Scorzone*, a delicate

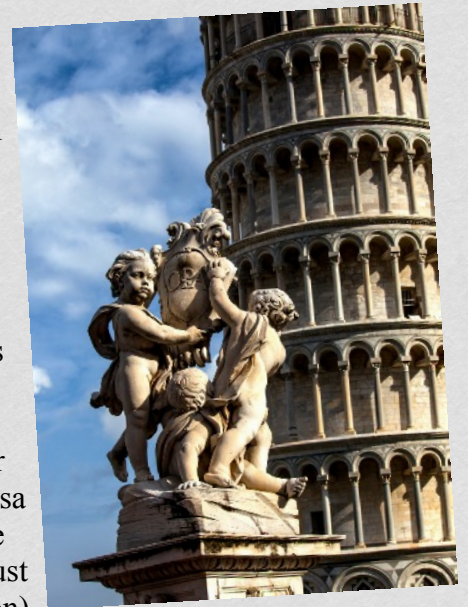
dish based on local truffles. I could see happiness all over his face! During his visit in the village Steven discovered *Il Fontanone*, the ever-running town public fountain. Legend says that if you drink the water from the fountain you are destined



to return. Steven was fascinated by the crooked, narrow streets and especially by the carved stones, old doors and windows.

On the return trip, we visited Lucca entering the wall from the Northern gate walking across the entire town by the way of *Fillungo*, the narrow, longest, main street of Lucca, visiting the remnants of the Roman amphitheater and the church of San Frediano, historically the first cathedral of Lucca, built almost entirely by “recycling” the amphitheater.

We stayed in Montecatini Terme, a resort town between Florence and the Tyrrhenian Sea at the hotel I have used often over the last 20 years. Let's say that I am at home there. The location allowed us to use the local trains to visit neighboring cities and attractions.



On the third day of our journey, we went to Pisa by train, arriving at the San Rossore station (just before Pisa main station) and walked an easy, short distance to the *Piazza dei Miracoli* (The Square of Miracles). What was for me a familiar sight was for Steven something almost unreal.

The complex of the Duomo, Leaning Tower, Baptistry and Cemetery immediately stuns you: the fine architecture, the perfect spacing and the finely carved marble conquers you. There is never a dull instant in visiting the complex. You continuously discover something special or unexpected, such as the stones of the Roman temples used to build the cathedral – the stones still showing their Latin inscriptions.

**ITALIAN
PORTLAND
T-SHIRT
NOW
AVAILABLE**



Proclaim your love of the old country and new city! *Italian Portland* t-shirts in men's crew neck and women's V-neck (above) are now available for purchase online. The shirts cost \$18 - 20, plus shipping. Find out more at:
<http://www.italianportland.com/t-shirts.html>

(to be continued...)