

Luglio 2017

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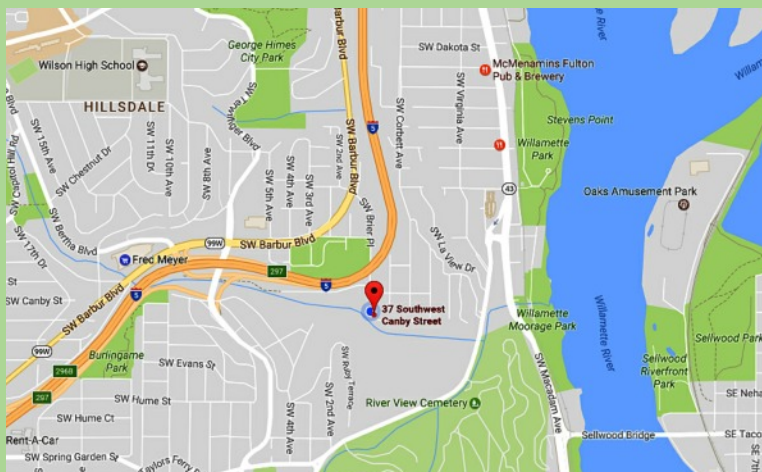
SUMMER PICNIC COMING JULY 9

Our final get-together of the program year takes place on **Sunday, July 9 at 3:30pm** at Audrey Perino & Ken Kane's house, **37 SW Canby St. in Portland** ([map](#)).

At our annual BBQ, Audrey will get the conversation started, and Ken will fire-up the grill for Italian sausages from [Northwest Sausage & Deli](#) in Centralia, as well as for burgers. You bring your favorite wine or beer, and a side dish to share (we've got dessert covered) and we'll have a good ol' time!

If you haven't been to Audrey & Ken's before, finding it the first time can be a little tricky. Make sure to check out the map link above, or the map below ... then, once you're on their block, *ignore* the house numbers! Just know they are the last house on the right – after the pavement ends. And know their phone number is 503.246.6462 if you get lost!

This year-ender is always a fun, laid-back afternoon among good friends with good food. Come join us!



NEXT MTG:
SUN., JULY 9, 3:30PM
37 SW CANBY ST.
PORTLAND

YOU HAVE HOMEWORK THIS SUMMER!

We've set our first meeting of the fall – it's Sunday, Oct. 1. We've got a guest speaker

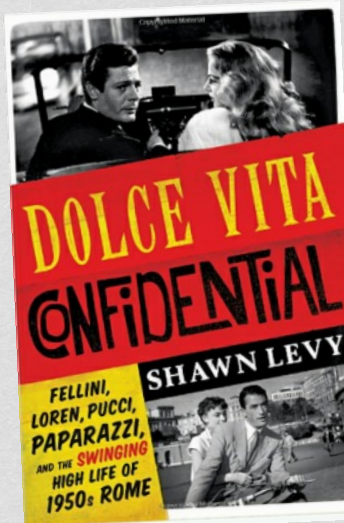
and a fascinating topic: Rome and Italy in the 1950's.

Our guest is Shawn Levy, the former film critic of *The Oregonian* who will discuss Italy through the prism of his book, *Dolce Vita Confidential*.

We're asking you to add the book to

your summer reading list so that we can enjoy not just an enlightening lecture, but a robust conversation about the rebuilding of Rome, from both the architectural and societal

(see *FILM*, page 2)



La Lettera Toscana is edited by Ken Kane. If you have feedback, photos, or any other kind of submission, please e-mail it to ken@woodbloom.com or send it to 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.



FILM DEPICTS ART IMITATING LIFE ... OR IS IT *VICE VERSA*?

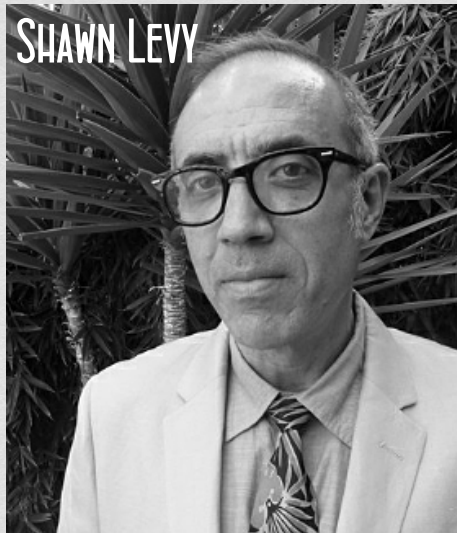
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perspectives. The book is available at local bookstores,

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and the [library](#). It chronicles the rapid changes which occurred in Italy during the 1950s, including some newsworthy events, when the country became a center of the fashion and film worlds. The author spends time delving into the careers of, among others, Marcello Mastroianni, Sophia Loren, and (believe it or not) the coach of the 1937 Reed College ski team, Emilio Pucci.

It's a snapshot of a country in the midst of a cultural revolution. And at the center of the book, not to mention the revolution, is Federico Fellini's masterwork, *La Dolce Vita*. Mastroianni (above, in the film's final scene) is enigmatic as the central figure in the story, a pop culture journalist. Initially an observer but, later in

the film, arguably a victim of his environment, Mastroianni gives an amazing performance.



Blonde bombshell Anita Ekberg (below) essentially plays herself in all but name in the film. *La Dolce Vita*'s third major character is the *paparazzi*, a term that was coined in the film for the hyper-persistent pack of photographers that have dogged celebrities to this day.

Want to earn extra credit this summer? Watch the movie which you can rent or borrow it from the library.

Shawn will join us for a spirited discussion of the film, 1950's Italy, his book and the research that went into it. But you are an integral part of the program on Oct. 1. The discussion is only as good as the give-and-take, so read the book and join in!

