

Dic. 2017/Gen. 2018

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HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR DEC. 16

Our holiday foodfest is a little different this year. For one thing, it's on a **SATURDAY, Dec. 16, at 3:30pm.** For another, it takes place in the community room at [215 Oswego Summit](#) in Mountain Park. And this time, we're doing a "heavy appetizers" happy hour rather than a full dinner potluck. We still want you to bring food to share – just please make it finger food, *hors d'oeuvres*, or a dessert*, not a main dish or side dish. Also, feel free to bring the wine or beer you wish to enjoy.

Our recent move to Oswego Summit has proven cozy and much less of a strain on the club's treasury. But the kitchen is much smaller there, so we're going the happy hour/appetizer/dessert route in the desire to avoid as much on-site food preparation as possible. *If you want to bring a dessert, please call or e-mail Audrey Perino, 503.246.6462 or audrey@woodbloom.com, so she can make sure we're not swamped with sugar plums!!



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR *LA BEFANA*

Preparations are underway for our annual Italian Epiphany celebration, *Festa della Befana*. Goodies, gifts, magic and a visit from the mysterious *Befana* are all in store on **Jan. 7 at 2:30pm at Carvlin Hall, 2408 SE 16th Av. in Portland.**

The Tuscan Association, *Amici d'Italia* and the Sons of Italy sponsor this event for children aged 3 - 10. Children *must* be pre-registered in order to attend, and there is a limit to the number of participants. To register, please
(see **BEFANA**, page 3)

NEXT MTG:

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 3:30

OSWEGO SUMMIT

FESTA DELLA BEFANA

SUN., JAN. 7, 2:30

CARVLIN HALL

CHANCES TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Looking for a daytime opportunity to practice your Italian? Join Lucia Galizia, the host of KBOO's *The Italian Hour*, at 2:00pm on the first Thursday of each month at *Caffè d'Arte*. The coffee shop is located at 1615 NE 15th Av. in Portland.

Speak Italian with Lucia is open to folks of all ages who want to improve their Italian skills. For more information, contact Lucia at 503.289.6989.

An evening Westside Italian Culture group is up and running in Tualatin. It normally meets on the first Tuesday of the month. However the holiday season means a shift. The next meeting occurs on Jan. 9 in the gallery room of the New Seasons Market, 7703 SW Nyberg St.

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LOOKING BACK ON THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, A CENTURY LATER

BY JIMMIE MOGLIA

The year 2017 is, of course, the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution – an event that had formidable repercussions worldwide, not excluding and particularly relevant to Italy.

It prepared, caused and triggered the advent of Fascism in 1922 with Mussolini's triumphant "March on Rome." Or rather, the Italian rendition of what, instead of a "march," was actually Mussolini's comfortable train-journey to Rome in a first-class carriage.

After World War 2, the shadow of the October Revolution hung ominously on the elections of 1948, where everyone, from the Pope to the pious pauper in a remote country hamlet, let alone CIA and friends, bitterly fought to prevent the real possibility of an electoral victory by the PCI (*Partito Comunista Italiano*).

Not that it would have made a great difference. As a witty writer said, "The Italians know that in a Communist regime, it's like living in a convent or a prison. But if the Communists won, they would quickly convert the convent into a brothel and the prison into a discoteque."

For this anniversary I have written, produced and presented a series of four video *Historical Sketches*, shown on a cable channel at Portland Community College, various venues in other states and YouTube. They last 28 minutes each. I have summarized their content as follows, along with the links to watch them online.

Episode 1.

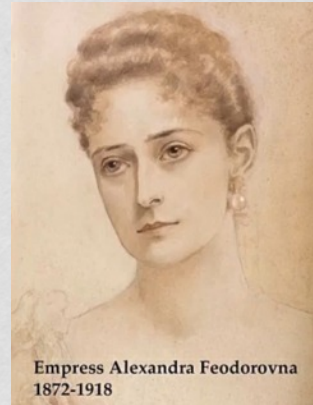
<https://youtu.be/O1uiddzQEbM>

Opinions on the Russian Revolution reflect personal ideologies, often unconnected with the historical, social and economic background of the actual event. To help prevent overly biased judgments on the 1917 revolution, the episode discusses, among other things, the interpretation of ambiguous terms, (democracy, oligarchy, etc.) whose very ambiguity enables large discrepancies in the interpretation of history at large.

Including the 1917 (probably) most successful social revolution in world history, compared, say, to the English Revolution of 1648 or the French Revolution of 1789.

Episode 2. https://youtu.be/Kt8dcozr_s

Brief background of the 1917 Revolution and the three



key stages of Russian history. How World War 1, the army rebelling against the war, and the last reigning Romanov Tsar facilitated the Revolution – some curious extracts from the diary of Tsar Nicholas II.

Episode 3. https://youtu.be/DfB_z6633LI

There were two stages in the Russian Revolution of 1917, respectively in February and October. After February many believed that the Revolution had ended ... but it had not. This episode illustrates the dynamics of the February uprising, of the Provisional Government and of the various conflicting factions.

Episode 4. https://youtu.be/fF-9_vfh2fl

After the February 1917 Revolution, the situation remained unstable. A reformist, bourgeois government seemed likely to remain in power, leaving things the same, apart from the conversion of Russia from a monarchy into a republic. But then came the October 1917 second revolution and events that changed the course of history

Final Thought: If you cannot use the videos as instructional tools, they double as effective and safe prescriptions for the cure of insomnia.



La Lettera Toscana is edited by Ken Kane, the communications manager of the Tuscan Association of Oregon. If you have feedback, story ideas, photos, a letter to the editor, 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.

L'ANGOLO ITALIANO

A personal message from Carlo.

I am taking advantage of *La Lettera Toscana* to express my sincere thank you and my deepest gratitude to all friends who faced the adversities of traffic and the not-so-good weather to come to Salem and share, with other friends and neighbors, the “Celebration of Life” of my beloved wife Shirley. We all will miss her and other members and friends who have left us.

We are approaching the Christmas festivities and I would like to thank you again and to wish you Very Happy Holidays!!!

Carlo Ilio Mannocci



BEFANA LEGEND PLAYS OUT ON JAN. 7

(continued from page 1)

contact Kerry-Lynne Demarinis Brown. Call her at 503.287.3255 or e-mail difamigliabari@outlook.com.

The centerpiece of the day is the telling of the story of *La Befana* – the compulsive cleaner who missed her chance to accompany the Wise Men to the manger of the Baby Jesus ... and how she’s been trying to catch up ever since.

We need volunteers that day to set up and clean up. And cookie bakers are needed, too. If you donate cookies please drop them off at Carvlin Hall between 1:00 and 2:00pm – *and please do not use nuts in your recipes*. Please contact Kerry-Lynne if you can help out in one way or another.



TUALATIN CULTURE GROUP MEETS JAN. 9

(continued from page 1)

in Tualatin, just a little west of the I-5 exit 289 ramp. The program begins at 7:00pm.

The Jan. 9 program features [Antimo Cimino](#), a Puglia-native-now-Portlander who is an expert in fitness, wellness and experiential travel.

Learn more about the Westside Italian Culture group at their [Facebook page](#) or contact Tonya Russo Hamilton at tonyamarierrusso@gmail.com.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

It’s time to put your money where your mouth is! Dues are \$25 for singles and \$35 for couples for the next 12 months. Annual dues help pay for coffee, tea, food, printing, mailings, *La Befana*, our Website and MeetUp sites, and meeting space. Dues are due *now*.

Audrey Perino will gladly accept your dues at the Dec. 16 holiday happy hour, or mail her a check made out to “Tuscan Association of Oregon” to 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.

