

Luglio 2018

www.OregonTuscans.com



JULY 15: COME HUNGRY!

We've reached the end of another program year for the Tuscan Association of Oregon and, with the election of Antonella Mancini and George LaFrazia as co-presidents, we've ensured a future for the organization. So, let's celebrate! **Our annual summer barbecue takes place on Sunday, July 15 at 3:30pm** at Audrey Perino and Ken Kane's home in Portland. [A map is linked here](#), or you can use an online map program (or even an old-fashioned paper map!) to create personalized directions to their home at [37 SW Canby St.](#) As you can see, whether indoors or outside, we always seem to have fun at the BBQ!



Please RSVP if you plan to come. It's important for us to know the size of the crowd ahead of time. You can call 503.246.6462 or e-mail OregonTuscans@gmail.com to RSVP. When you do, Audrey will ask you what potluck dish you plan to bring, or she might suggest one. The club will provide Italian sausages, burgers and soft drinks. You bring your adult beverage of choice. Hope to see you then as we raise a glass to our Italian heritage and to the future of the OregonTuscans!

NEXT MTG:

SUN., JULY 15, 3:30PM

37 SW CANBY ST.

PORTLAND

AFTER THAT:

OCTOBER

OUR CO-PREZ SEZ...

BY GEORGE LAFRAZIA

The calendar says summer is here, all we need now is for the weatherman to cooperate. With summer comes picnic time and Audrey and Ken have offered to host our picnic at their house. Thank you!



Antonella and I have been thinking of the new year for the Tuscan Association and also searching for program opportunities and speakers. I would like to have meetings in October, December, February, April and June. We should keep December for a Christmas social. Your ideas for programs and speakers are always welcome and needed to keep our meetings interesting and fun. Of great importance to the club is the recruiting of new members. It would be nice for each member to bring a guest to the October meeting to introduce them to the club and have them join. We need to grow to keep the club that brought the *Befana* and *Vendemmia* events to the Portland area alive and well!

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L'ANGOLO ITALIANO ... THIS TIME IN BOTH ITALIAN AND ENGLISH

DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

In questa occasione l'angolo italiano occuperà uno spazio un po' più esteso di...un angolo per narrarvi una mia recente esperienza meritevole di essere condivisa.

Alcuni mesi or sono fui contattato da un regista toscano interessato

a produrre un documentario che coinvolgeva anche militari USA di origine italiana con esperienze di guerra in Vietnam. Il documentario dal titolo italiano [Il Rivolo Rosso dell'Anima](#) oltre che le storie di Guerra del Vietnam include anche testimonianze di sopravvissuti alle stragi naziste in Italia della seconda guerra mondiale.

Così sono stato intervistato dal regista Stefano Ballini e, oltre alle

vicende vietnamite, ho anche narrato le mie esperienze dirette vissute personalmente sulla Linea Gotica durante la famosa battaglia di Sommocolonia, in provincia di Lucca, del 26 Dicembre 1944 (avevo 13 anni).

Gli scopi di questo documentario sono vari: Sensibilizzare le nuove generazioni alla conoscenza della storia e prevenzione alla guerra... Infatti ho constatato personalmente che le nuove generazioni conoscono solo superficialmente le intricate vicende della seconda guerra mondiale e moltissimi non hanno alcuna conoscenza delle innumerevoli stragi che sono costate la vita a milioni di innocenti.

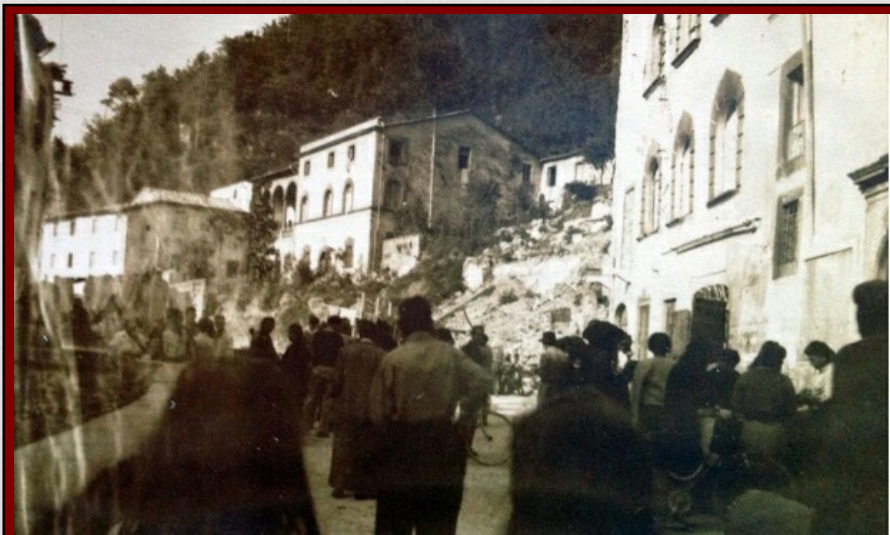
Personalmente in certe occasioni mi sono chiesto le ragioni di tanta cattiveria, il vedere uomini più feroci degli animali selvaggi mi ha sempre depresso, specialmente quando a soffrirne erano esseri umani i quali venivano privati dei loro averi e della loro vita.

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In this issue of *La Lettera Toscana*, The Italian Corner will take more space than a...corner to allow me to share with you a recent personal experience worthy to be shared.

A few months ago I was contacted by a Tuscan film

director interested in producing a film involving US military of Italian origin with Vietnam War experiences. The documentary (Italian title: *Il Rivolo Rosso dell'Anima*) includes testimonials of survivors of Nazi atrocities in Italy during World War II in addition to the Vietnam War stories and experiences. So I was interviewed by director Stefano Ballini and, in addition to my Vietnam experiences, I also narrated my witnessing of the



The gap between buildings in the center of this photo is all that remained of Carlo Mannocci's home in Galliciano, Lucca (Tuscany). It was blown up intentionally on Dec. 27, 1944 by the retreating Americans to prevent the Germans from capturing ammunition and explosives stored in the basement .

– photo courtesy of *Galliciano in Guerra* by Moreno Maffucci

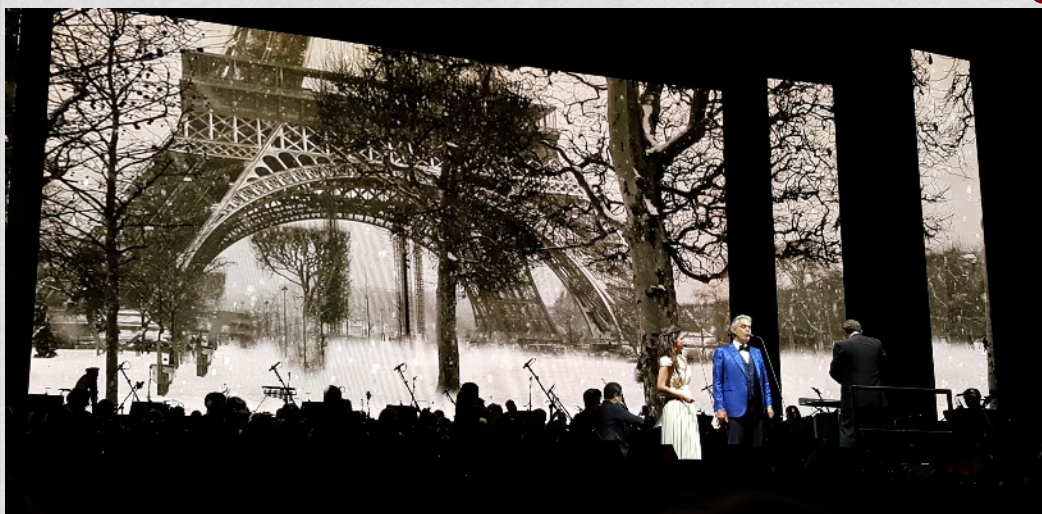
famous Battle of Sommocolonia, Lucca Province, of Dec. 26, 1944 (when I was 13 years old), on the Gothic Line.

The documentary has various objectives: raising awareness among the young generations, both of the knowledge of history and the prevention of wars. ([See the trailer for the film here.](#)) In fact, I have noticed that the new generations have only a superficial knowledge on the intertwined events of WWII and many do not know of the extermination of millions of innocent people.

Personally, on various occasions, I asked myself, “What were the reasons for such cruelty?” Seeing men acting more ferociously than wild animals has always depressed me, especially when those suffering were human beings who were deprived of their belongings and their life. In Vietnam, while confronting the enemy, I perceived the sensations of the soldiers involved, especially the younger ones, who silently were asking their conscience who was the recipient of the bullet which they were firing...

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ANDREA BOCELLI WOWED 'EM AT MODA CENTER ON JUNE 23



The Tuscan tenor Andrea Bocelli entertained thousands at the Moda Center in Portland on June 23. His repertoire ranged from classic opera arias like *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot* to more contemporary arias like *Maria* from Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

He also sung some of his own songs, such as *The Prayer*. And what would an Italian tenor's concert be without *'O Solo Mio*? He had a full orchestra and the

Portland Symphonic Choir as back-ups and he performed at times with an accomplished soprano, a violinist and a pair of dancers. It took three encores before the crowd would finally bid Bocelli farewell!

Were you at the concert? What did you think of the evening? If you're coming to the barbecue on July 15 you'll have the chance to be a music critic. Somewhere between the appetizers and the dessert the concert will surely come up for discussion!

L'ANGOLO ITALIANO ... CARLO'S WAR REMEMBRANCES, CONTINUED

In Vietnam, durante i confronti col nemico, ho percepito le sensazioni dei soldati coinvolti, specialmente i piu' giovani, che silenziosamente domandavano alla loro coscienza chi fosse il destinatario della pallottola che stavano sparando...Il documentario dal titolo italiano Il Rivolo Rosso dell'Anima (The Red Trickle of the Soul) uscirà in versione Italiana in ottobre 2018. La versione inglese sarà presentata negli Stati Uniti a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania nel giugno 2019, ho tutte le buone intenzioni di essere presente e invitare Stefano Ballini ad onorarci con la sua presenza a Portland.

The documentary is titled in Italian *Il Rivolo Rosso dell'Anima* and in English *The Red Trickle of the Soul*. It will be released in Italy this October in the Italian version. The English version will be released in the United States in Pittsburgh, Penn., in June 2019. I have all the good intentions to attend the Pittsburgh presentation and also to invite Stefano Ballini to visit Portland and the Tuscan Association of Oregon.



Carlo in Quang Tri, South Vietnam, 1966

IMPORTANT DATES ON THE LOCAL ITALIAN SOCIAL CALENDAR...

AUG. 23 - 25: FESTA ITALIANA, PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE, DOWNTOWN PORTLAND. The 27th annual festival of all things Italian includes an opera night, lots of Italian and Italian-American entertainment, a wine and beer garden, puppets, and non-stop fun. A Mass and the screening of an Italian film occur earlier in the week. Click this [link](#) for more info.

OCT. 14: LA VENDEMMIA, OSWEGO HILLS WINERY, WEST LINN. The Italian Benvenuti Club holds its 9th annual celebration of the grape harvest and crush. Get details at <https://ibcpdx.org>.