

Ottobre 2018

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OCT. 21: ITALY'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

At our next meeting, the OregonTuscans will recall something many Italians would rather not remember: Italy's complicity in Nazi death camps. Join us for this presentation by former Tuscan Association President Joe Cavalli on **Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3:30pm** in the community room at [215 Oswego Summit](#), in the Mountain Park neighborhood of Lake Oswego.

Joe (right) will focus on two camps, Risiera di San Sabba near Trieste and the camp on the Isle of Rab, which is now part of Croatia. At least 2,000 Slovene and Croatian prisoners died in the tent camp on Rab. More than 3,000 south and central Europeans were killed within the walls of the former rice factory at San Sabba.



"The camp on Rab was run entirely by the Italians. San Sabba had a crematorium with two ovens imported from Nazi Germany," said Joe, who recently visited both places.

"I find it fascinating these camps existed, and how the Italian government was never held responsible for those interned and exterminated," continued Joe, who teaches history at Clark College in Vancouver.



RAB



Join us for our first program of the fall to learn more about this aspect of Italy's World War 2 legacy.

NEXT MTG:

SUN., OCT. 21, 3:30PM

215 OSWEGO SUMMIT

LAKE OSWEGO

AFTER THAT.

DEC. 16

OUR CO-PREZ SEZ...

BY GEORGE LAFRAZIA

Summer is officially over, but the weather is not quite Fall yet. The change in seasons means we will be back to our non-vacation type of activities: more football, leaf raking, yard cleanup, kids in school, and others. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Tuscan meetings starting Oct. 21. Joe Cavalli will be talking about Italy toward the end of the Second World War.



That meeting also will be the time for setting plans for the year. For example, our Dec. 16 gathering will be a Christmas social and we need to make a decision about what type of food to plan for. A full meal would be very difficult so possibly appetizers and desert would be appropriate. We have Professor Lisa Staley in line for another talk in early 2019 on an Italian artist, possibly the "murderous Michelangelo." As always your input on subjects or people to be featured at our meetings is always welcome.

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L'ANGOLO ITALIANO: UN PENSIERO DA L'EUROPA

DI CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

This time *L'Angolo Italiano* is more an *Angolo Europeo* as this is my third trip to Europe this year. The highlight of my trip was a visit to Berlin – where I was stationed in 1968 guarding the Wall, and where I returned in 1990 after the reunification of Germany.

The best part of this visit, beside encountering the many Italian and German friends, was the reunion with comrades-in-arms at the Allied Museum built to remind the world of the help and support given to the Berliners during the 1948-49 Russian blockade. I also visited Spain, France and Switzerland in addition to Tuscany.



On Sep. 15 in Lucca I attended the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the *Lucchesi nel Mondo*. In doing so, I was representing our Tuscan Association. Now I am enjoying the warm days at Tarragona, Spain before starting my journey back to Oregon. *Arrivederci!!!*



BEFANA TO BE CONSIDERED ON OCT. 21

(continued from page 1)

The Tuscan Association originated the *Festa della Befana* celebration about 20 years ago, and since then most of us older members have seen our grandchildren grow to be too old to go ... while our great-grandchildren are not old enough yet. There must be some younger members who have children or grandkids that would enjoy the experience, especially since one of our members, Louise Ramunno-Johnson, is the *Befana*. We need to decide if we will be a co-sponsor of the event and, if so, we should appoint someone to attend the planning meeting.

With your cooperation and help in planning our meetings we will have a very enjoyable and entertaining year of Italian comradeship.

La Lettera Toscana is edited by Ken Kane. 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.

INTERESTING DATES ON THE LOCAL ITALIAN SOCIAL CALENDAR

OCT. 11: *ARRANGIARSI*, CINEMA 21, 7:00PM. American filmmaker Matteo Troncone describes this eight-year project as his “love letter to Naples, pizza, Italy and the knowledge that ‘there is always a way.’” Using Neapolitan pizza as a metaphor for the survival of Neapolitans, the film offers a window into both Italian cuisine and Italian culture. This one-night-only showing takes place at Cinema 21, [616 NW 21st Av.](#) in Portland. [Click here to watch the trailer.](#)

OCT. 14: *LA VENDEMMIA*, OSWEGO HILLS WINERY, WEST LINN, 2:00PM, The Italian Benvenuti Club holds its ninth annual celebration of the grape harvest and crush. Get details and purchase tickets at <https://ibcpdx.org>.

OCT. 17: COLUMBUS DAY ITALIAN HERITAGE BANQUET, PORTLAND GOLF CLUB, 5:30PM, The 64th annual banquet offers food, dancing and Italian recording artist Pino Gioia. E-mail columbusdayportland@gmail.com for tickets and more information.

