

Ottobre 2020

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OCT. 18: IT'S TIME TO ZOOM AGAIN

It's time for another check-in – a chance to swap tales and see how everyone's doing. **We'll fire up a Zoom chat this Sunday, Oct. 18 at 3:30pm.** Here's the link: <https://cplusc.zoom.us/j/95883233173?pwd=d3F4YVRPb0RROVBtbzJRQU5MZ3M3dz09>. The password is **Grazie**.

Our May and (below) July Zooms brought folks together and led to laughs and stories. There's no reason to think the next one won't either. So, relax, enjoy your favorite beverage, and settle in for some Tuscan talk this Sunday!



IT JUST MAKES DOLLARS AND SENSE: NO DUES NEXT YEAR.

With Coronavirus upending *everything* this year, from schools to sports to concerts to theaters to daily life ... heck, to *elections*, to the Tuscan Association, some things just have to be done differently.

Zoom gatherings, instead of in-person meetings, for one. But that has an impact on other club issues. Without the need for meeting space, we've saved on rent this year. In fact, there have been very few expenses for the club in 2020. So, we'll reflect that in 2021 dues ... or rather, the lack thereof.

So, take your dues money and use it elsewhere: on a take-out meal which helps a local restaurant, on a charitable donation, on a Netflix subscription, or on a bottle of *Chianti* ... whatever gets you through COVIDmania.

**NEXT ZOOM:
SUN., OCT. 18, 3:30PM**

**AFTER THAT
A HOLIDAY ZOOM
TBA**

CORONA IN ITALY VS. THE U.S.

We remember last spring. Things were dire, seemingly everywhere, when it came to COVID-19. Italy was one of the world's hotbeds of Coronavirus. Milan, [Bergamo](#), and much of northern Italy were in a medical warzone. Thankfully, things have improved since then, though Italy isn't out of the woods quite yet. Italian COVID cases are trending upward nearly one month into the fall. But this time around, serious or critical cases are hovering around one percent. The vast majority of the new cases are relatively mild.

Currently, Italy ranks 17th in the world with 36,246 Coronavirus deaths out of the world's total of 1.09 million. That's 0.33 percent of the world's Coronavirus deaths for a country with 0.78 percent of the world's population.

Unfortunately, the United States leads the world with 220,873 deaths: 20.2 percent of the world's COVID deaths for a country with 4.25 percent of the world's population.

The info cited here comes from this [Website](#).

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CAFFÈ CULTURALE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

A new initiative in the local Italian community is giving us mostly housebound descendants of The Old Country a chance to stay in touch with the Italy of today and its diaspora.

Caffè Culturale, which was launched earlier this year, offered a class in August on Multiculturalism in Italian Music. On Oct. 14 at 11am, the focal point of that presentation, the Italian hip-hop artist, rapper, writer, and producer, Amir Issaa, will present a lecture on immigration, racism, and the role of music in social justice.

Issaa's 2017 book, *Vivo per Questo*, met with international success and propelled him on a tour of American colleges and universities to discuss growing up in Italy with an Italian mother and Egyptian father.

Issaa will speak candidly about the racism and prejudices he experienced, as well as how he uses

hip-hop and rap as tools for change.

Issaa's most recent single, *Non Respiro/I Can't Breathe* was written as a direct response to the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. During this lecture, Issaa will discuss this single, as well as the Black Lives Matter movement in Italy. The online lecture is free, but you must [register here](#).

Caffè Culturale, has another event coming up next month. Mediterranean Migrations in Italian Literature, a conversation with Italian writer Marinette Pendola, takes place Nov. 7 at 11am.

Born in Tunis to parents of Sicilian origin, Pendola has written several novels as well as short stories. She writes about history, customs and traditions of the Italian community of Tunisia. This event is an interview in Italian, with simultaneous English subtitles. You can register for this event [here](#).

AMIR ISSAA



SEATTLE AREA TO GET NEW ITALIAN CENTER

Native or oooooooold-time Portlanders may recall the Italian Federation Hall, a staple of mid-20th Century downtown Portland at SW Fourth and Morrison (now part of Terry Shrunk Plaza).

It's been gone for decades but, three hours north, a new Italian center is being planned for the Seattle suburb of Burien.

Casa Italiana is awaiting approval of its tax-exempt status. Once that happens, plans will go forth to transform a recently closed business property into a 7,000-square-foot Italian cultural meeting place.

Plans call for the building to house a library, a large



hall and kitchen for gatherings, a museum, the office of the local Italian honorary consul, a gift shop and – no surprise here – and an espresso bar.

No opening date has been announced.

BURIEN, WASHINGTON'S PROPOSED ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER,
CASA ITALIANA

