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OCT. 17: WE'RE BACK IN PERSON AGAIN

BY GEORGE LAFRAZIA, PRESIDENT

I hope you and yours are well. The past 18 months have been such a challenging time for families, organizations and churches – just about everything has been turned upside down by the Coronavirus. But on Oct. 17, we'll try to turn things right side up, at least as far as the Tuscan Association is concerned.



We'll return to an in-person meeting format on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 3:30pm, at [215 Oswego Summit](#) in Mountain Park. Masks will be required per Oregon state mandate.

Looking at the longer term, I have tried to move our meetings to St. Philip Neri's Carvlin Hall, but they want too much money. It appears that the rental of rooms is their best source of income and the rate for a small room is \$30 per hour. I did not even ask about the cost of the hall. If anyone knows of a modestly priced place to meet for about three hours on a Sunday afternoon, big enough for our group and with nearby parking, let me know (ga.lafrazia@gmail.com or 360.944.6043).

For now meetings will be Oct. 17, Dec. 19, Feb. 20, April 17 and June 19. In October, we'll review happenings since we last had a meeting and we'll plan for the future. Since we will be meeting in person and paying rent, we will resume collecting yearly dues.



I think everyone had fun with Tombola at the picnic, so Vincenzo Marcellino will bring his game and beans so we can play to end the meetings. Instead of prizes, everyone who wants to play can put in a dollar and we will set up five awards. Good luck!

NEXT MTG:

SUN., OCT. 17, 3:30PM

215 OSWEGO SUMMIT

AFTER THAT: DEC. 19

LOCATION TBA

MORE NEWS, AND A PLEA, FROM GEORGE...

A very important matter we must work on is the election of new officers. My second two-year term as president is ending. Our treasurer, Audrey Perino, and her husband and our communication manager, Ken Kane, have been serving longer than that. That smoky aroma you smell is not forest fires (thank goodness!) ... but it is burn-out on our parts!

The club needs help and new leadership. These positions are not hard to do and do not take a lot of time, but they will benefit from new blood. Audrey, Ken and I will always be available to do training and help out in the future. Please consider accepting a position to keep the Tuscan Association strong and active.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me, or Audrey or Ken (503.246.6462, audrey@woodbloom.com, ken@woodbloom.com).

Thanks in advance for your willingness to help keep our club viable and vibrant!

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JIMMIE MOGLIA TACKLES TUSCANY'S TURBULENT TIMES DURING THE LIFE OF DANTE

Former Tuscan Club president Jimmie Moglia (below) has been a student of Shakespeare and Dante Alighieri (right) for decades.

They, their times and their homelands are featured in two of Jimmie's most recent *Historical Sketches*, one in Italian, the other in English. They are available through Jimmie's Website, yourdailyshakespeare.com and on

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).



social media, Jimmie manages to tie it all together in his polyglot style. He's only part way through the story. He expects to add a Part 2 video in the future.

"Dante, in more than one way, is the Shakespeare of Italy. Of course, the differences between the two are immense," says Jimmie early in his video. "But the breadth and importance of their heritage allows them to share in the equal importance each of them has had in their respective country."



Language is the key to both writers' influence. "National language is the cultural blood of the nation," says Jimmie. Dante, in and around 1300, was instrumental in developing the Florentine language he spoke into the Italian language we know today.

Shakespeare lived 300 years later, when

English was already established. But he reshaped the language and gave it a distinct character. Jimmie maintains that Shakespeare's influence on the English language also led to the reshaping of England itself.

Both men, and their works, were products of the times and places in which they lived. Jimmie's historical sketch delves into the Florence of Dante's time and the events which led to his exile from the city.

If you wish to brush up your Dante as well as your Shakespeare, you should check it out.

13TH CENTURY FLORENCE IN THE TIME OF DANTE





SUMMER PICNIC SERVED AS A TEST DRIVE FOR A RETURN TO FALL MEETINGS

On Aug. 15 the LaFrazia's Vancouver home and backyard were the venue to answer the question, Has the time come to resume in-person Tuscan gatherings? The mostly outdoor BBQ and Tombola session for the nearly 20 participants was fun, and it also offered a chance to catch up after almost 18 months apart. To our knowledge, afterward no one came down with a hangnail or indigestion, let alone COVID. So, the next step is a full-fledged indoor meeting, which will take place on Oct. 17 at the community room at Oswego Summit, where we've held meetings for the past several years. We hope to see you – and your face mask per state mandate – there!

