



## Dal Presidente

### *Greetings from Montreal*

by Audrey Perino  
*President*

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of going to Montreal (my first visit there since I was in grade school). I found there an interesting city, a vibrant Italian community and two robust Tuscan associations celebrating anniversaries. I was there, along with Carlo Mannocci, representing our club at a meeting of Associazione Toscani Dell'America Del Nord – a gathering of Tuscan clubs from around North America.

I met officers from eight of the 15 or so clubs from around the continent. All of us share a love of Tuscany ... and we share some issues facing our clubs. It was an opportunity to get together to hear from a representative of Regione Toscana about changes coming in 2015 in the province that could ultimately affect our clubs. We also had the chance to talk amongst ourselves and learn how other clubs handle events and meetings. It was a timely experience for your new club president!

I learned, for example, that we OregonTuscans are rather unusual in that we hold meetings in the same

### *What's happening...*

**Sunday, Nov. 18, 3pm at St. Philip Neri**

**Business:** Please pay your dues.

**Program:**

*Family Matters:* Audrey Perino

*Top Chef ... OregonTuscans style!*

Ideas for a Tuscan Thanksgiving.

### *Future meeting dates...*

Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Feb. 17, Mar. 17,

Apr. 21, May 19 & perhaps a June picnic

### *Still wanting to buy Last Fling in Venice?*

Last month's featured speaker, author and club member Marlene Taevs, will have more copies of her book to sell and autograph at our Nov. 18 meeting.

### *In this issue...*

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## Nov. 18: Top Chef...

### *OregonTuscans style!*

Beginning with our next gathering, a member of the club will talk about his or her family and Italian heritage.

Audrey Perino will present this month's first installment of **Family Matters**.

Among those she'll introduce us to is her mother, Sara Santoni Perino (right),



who is the main reason Audrey became an original member of the Tuscan Association of Oregon back in 1996. Find out why on the 18th. Then it's on to the main event...



Thanksgiving, of course, is an *American* holiday ... have you ever tried finding a whole turkey to cook in Italy? Nevertheless, there's no reason that you can't bring a little of the old country to your Turkey Day table. That's what our next meeting is all about.

Think of it as "**Top Chef ... OregonTuscans style.**" Several guest chefs will present recipes with a Tuscan or Italian flair that will accentuate the autumn season and go well with turkey ... well, all but one. Some of these cooks will be members of our club; others will be friends. None are professional cooks, but all have Italian-influenced kitchens at home. Each will present a dish they have prepared ... and give you the chance to sample it.

We'll have copies of the recipes for you to take home and try yourself this holiday season. The recipes range from Sweet & Sour Beets and Onions (pictured below, left), to Ricotta-stuffed Mushrooms (below), to Anything But Turkey Frittata, to ... well, you'll just have to come and find out.



This isn't a full-blown potluck – you'll be trying sample-sized portions. And, unlike the "Top Chef" reality show, this is *not* a competition, but rather a collaboration! However, we think you'll enjoy noshing a little while you hear from our guest cooks with something Italian to share for your Thanksgiving.

## **Montreal**

(continued from page 1)

place each month and present educational or cultural programs at each gathering. Some of the other clubs focus on events, dinners and such, rather than regular meetings. I also learned that we are not alone when it comes to the challenges of reaching out to potential younger members.



Carlo presented awards to Montreal's two Tuscan clubs during a banquet honoring their anniversaries.

Our time in Montreal has me thinking about how our club runs, how we meet, and what we do when we get together. Beginning this month -- with our "Top Chef -- OregonTuscans style" cookfest on Nov. 18 -- don't be surprised if I reach out to YOU to become involved in a program here and there -- not to just come and listen to the presentation, but to **present** it! And further down the road we may survey you about our monthly gatherings – what you like, what you don't and suggestions you may have.

In the meantime, watch this monthly newsletter, our OregonTuscans Facebook page and our Website, <http://OregonTuscans.com>, for details of our future meetings. You'll read more about our Internet presence in this edition of **La Lettera Toscana**. It is one way we hope ultimately to attract the next generation of local Toscani to our club!

Ciao!

*Audrey*



## **Remembering our Flora**

*Like her old neighborhood, she's gone but lovingly remembered.*

On Aug. 3 we lost a friend and a valued member of our club when Flora Rigotti died at the age of 98.

Flora's obituary can be found at [OregonLive.com](http://OregonLive.com). But suffice it here to say that Flora was a true native of Portland – not just the city but of the Little Italy section of south Portland. Sadly, both Little Italy and now Flora have passed on. We asked club members to share their remembrances of Flora...

"When we think of Flora we think of a happy person who loves to sing and play and dance to Italian music. She was radiant and just seemed to glow. She had an apple tree and a chestnut tree she wanted trimmed just 'so.' She would watch me trim from the kitchen window. Then we drank some good wine and talked about our good old days together."

-- Jo and Mario Monti

(Mario is pictured above with Flora and Joann Cartasegna at a 2010 Tuscan Association meeting.)

"Flora: a lady in all ways; gracious and kind."

-- JoJean Cavalli

"I'll always remember Flora for her beautiful smile, friendliness, and extraordinary beauty and grace. She was a terrific role model for her four lovely daughters."

-- Gino Pieretti

(see **Flora**, page 4)

## Flora

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"One cannot ever forget Flora's smile. It was contagious. It was the expression of serenity and inner happiness, conquering all those with whom she came in contact. Thinking of her today, I smile!!!"

-- Carlo Ilio Mannocci

"Unequivocally, the Tuscan Association, Italian-American & Southeast Portland communities have lost their grande dame. Flora, you will be missed."

-- Joe Cavalli

And finally, this song to Flora, from Mario Monti:

"Da Milan fin a Turin col caval e un baruchin  
Amor amor amor e la rosa e un bel fior  
Da Milan fin a Turin col caval e un baruchin  
Amor amor amor e la rosa e un bel fior  
Chimato Flora  
Chimato Flora"

Thank you to all who shared your memories.

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## L'Angolo Italiano

di Carlo Ilio Mannocci

E' bello essere di nuovo in grado di scambiare pensieri e osservazioni con I soci della nostra associazione. Adesso abbiamo un nuovo Presidente e Audrey e' piena di vita e di idee nuove ed eccitanti. Ha il pieno supporto del marito Ken e prevedo un futuro sereno e attivo per I Toscani dell'Oregon.

### Il 2013 e' l'anno dedicato alla Cultura Italiana.



ANNO DELLA CULTURA ITALIANA  
YEAR OF ITALIAN CULTURE

Sono previsti eventi e attivita' culturali di alto livello e faremo del nostro meglio per tenervi informati. Al mio ritorno da Firenze vi racconterò la serata della presentazione del nuovo libro di Jimmie Moglia "Il nostro Dante Quotidiano."

Intanto auguro a tutti un "Happy Thanksgiving" con un arrivederci al prossimo appuntamento.

## We love ya, but pay up please!

*Dues are cheaper these days ... and they're due by the end of January.*



At last month's meeting it was decided to roll our annual dues back to pre-2012 levels. That means it'll cost you \$25 for 2013 ... or \$35 if you're a couple.

What do your dues pay for? Well, rent on Carvlin Hall for one thing (and it's not an insignificant sum). Also, copying and postage. And program expenses, such as the food at our meeting this month and costs related to *La Befana* in January.

Is there a downside to reducing our dues? Well, the club used to subsidize higher-ticket events, like the occasional catered dinners we've done, so that the cost to you was a few dollars less. We won't be subsidizing as many events in the future. We also won't be able to send "snail mail" copies of the newsletter to those who have not paid dues.

**Starting at this month's meeting, our president/treasurer will be accepting your dues for 2013.** Don't disappoint her! You can also mail a check for dues, made out to "Tuscan Association of Oregon," to Audrey Perino, 37 SW Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.

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## Corrections...

In the story about *La Vendemmia* in the October issue, we incorrectly identified Claude Bonfiglio in a photo. We're sorry, Claude!

## When you think of us, think "OregonTuscans!"

*It'll help you remember where we are electronically.*

The Tuscan Association of Oregon has a new nickname: OregonTuscans. That's not a typo – there really is no space between Oregon and Tuscans. Such is the way of e-mail and the Internet. So, if you can commit OregonTuscans to memory, you'll be able to...

1) **E-mail** the club and our president, Audrey Perino, or this newsletter at **OregonTuscans@gmail.com**.

2) Find us on **Facebook**. Just go to **www.facebook.com/OregonTuscans**.

3) Check our **Website** to stay informed between newsletters. The latest club news can be found at **http://OregonTuscans.com**.

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The Website includes a club calendar (including a preview of upcoming meetings), a round-up of recent club news, links to interesting Italian and Tuscan Websites as well as links to other Tuscan clubs, and even a blog (which we call Ciao Chatter) that you can use to strike up a conversation.

Our club has recently launched this electronic version of *La Lettera Toscana*. Sending it by e-mail helps us cut costs, makes our publication a bit more timely, and allows us to use color photographs. We hope this leads to a more fun and informative read.

Those *dues-paying* members who do not have access to e-mail will continue to receive a paper version via U.S. Mail.

The newsletter, as well as the club's Website and Facebook page, are edited by Ken Kane. If you have suggestions, feedback or items for publication, you can reach him at ken@woodbloom.com, 503.246.6462 or – you guessed it – [OregonTuscans@gmail.com](mailto:OregonTuscans@gmail.com).

## Do you have e-mail? Si?

*Then help us cut costs by receiving this monthly newsletter electronically.*

It's not like the club is teetering on the edge of a "fiscal cliff," but we do like to control costs where we can. And there's a renewed emphasis on keeping costs under control since we are rolling back dues for 2013.

So, if you've received this printed version of *La Lettera Toscana* with a stamp on it, but you have e-mail, please sign up to receive the newsletter electronically instead.

If you do, not only will you receive the *color* edition of this publication – which you can print out at home – but you will also receive occasional e-mails from the club in between newsletters. For example, earlier this month we sent an e-mail about our Top Chefs program.

So, if you have an e-mail address, please let us know by sending an e-mail to:  
[OregonTuscans@gmail.com](mailto:OregonTuscans@gmail.com).

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That's all for this edition. Thanks for reading.

**See you Nov. 18 for Top Chef ...  
OregonTuscans style!**

