



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Portland-Bologna Sister City Association Newsletter. We hope to publish this quarterly as a way to keep you up to date on all that is happening and to provide an insider's glimpse into our newest sister city.

Last October, we made our third official visit to Bologna, this time with a contingent of Royal Rosarians, Portland's official greeters and ambassadors of good will for the City of Portland. A highlight of the trip was meeting with Bologna's new mayor, Sergio Cofferati, who assured the group that he is committed to continuing the relationship with Portland that was begun under the leadership of former mayor, Giorgio Guazzaloca. And, rumor has it that Sergio has been spotted sporting a Portland Rose on his suit lapel.

Coming up in April, we are very excited about hosting young violinist Laura Marzadori, a student at Bologna's *Conservatorio*, who auditioned for MetroArts Inc Executive Artistic Director Niel DePonte in Bologna recently. Laura competed with seven other *Conservatorio* soloists for the opportunity to participate in DePonte's concerto extravaganza on April 22 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall which showcases musical prodigies from the Northwest. Sixteen year old Laura has been playing the violin since the age of three. "I was impressed with all of the young artists who auditioned in Bologna," DePonte said, "But Laura was by far the most impressive and mature player I heard. She is truly outstanding!" Including a Bolognese participant in the concerto is part of our ongoing effort to create business and

cultural ties between Portland and Bologna. While in Bologna, DePonte also met with Conservatorio Director Carmine Carrisi to discuss possible exchange programs between the Conservatorio and educational institutions here in Portland. The effort to bring Marzadori to Portland is sponsored by the Portland-Bologna Sister City Association, Lufthansa Airlines, and MetroArts Inc. We hope this is the beginning of a long and enjoyable relationship with the Conservatorio. Check the last page of the newsletter for details of events while Laura is here.

In June, Mayor Cofferati will make his first visit to Portland, participating in this year's Rose Festival parade.

Also in the works is partnering with Portland State University. We see a variety of ways to expand cultural and educational exchange with Bologna by aligning with PSU for academic opportunities as well as lectures and cultural activities. To help coordinate this, we have the assistance of Angela Zagarella, who is well connected to the Italian American community in Portland, and who teaches Italian at PSU, and Sally Hudson Potestio, who works for Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and has recently returned with her family from six years in Bologna.

We thank all of you for your support and interest, and look forward to building our relationship with Bologna together.

Joe D'Alessandro

MAKING HEADLINES HERE AND THERE

Seems we are on the cutting edge of sister city fashion with both cities getting a fair amount of media attention recently, including:

- *La Repubblica*, one of Italy's largest newspapers, was among those that recently reported on our upcoming visitor, violinist Laura Marzadori, with the headline "Laura giovane violinista sfida i talenti americani."
- *La Repubblica's* Saturday Magazine's February 26 issue featured a long and complementary article on Portland. Titled, "The thousand voices of Portland," it touts Portland's livability and tolerance, suggesting this creates an atmosphere that draws creative people to it. Quotes from writer Katherine Dunn (*Geek Love*), film director Chuck Palahniuk (*Fight Club*, who also authored the offbeat guide to Portland, *Fugitives and Refugees*), and Thomas Lauderdale, of local music group Pink Martini, help support the thesis.
- In the latest issue of *ItalyItaly*, a quarterly magazine published in New York and in Rome, Bologna was reported to be the Italian city with the best quality of life, based on a survey of Italy's 103 provinces taken by the economic daily journal *Il Sole-24 Ore*. The survey addressed issues about lifestyle, working and business conditions, public services, the environment, crime, demographics, and leisure activities. Bologna, with a balance of business and leisure time, economic resources and cultural investments, came out with the top honors.
- Bologna was featured in travel magazine, *The Smooth Guide*, in an article by Rachel Spence Headlined, "Bologna: Beautifully preserved in russet and ochre splendor, yet bursting with 21st century vigor, northern Italy's seat of gastronomy and learning feeds body and mind."
- *Bon Appetit's* December issue also highlighted Bologna, naturally focusing on its gastronomy, giving an insider's roster of some of its best, small trattorie. Among them are Antica Trattoria Da Sandro al Navile (via del Sostegno 15), Antica Trattoria della Gigina (via Stendhal 1), Ristorante Cesarina (via Santo Stefano 19), Ristorante Da Cesari (via dei Carbonesi), Trattoria Anna Maria (via Belle Arti 17/a), Trattoria Sacco Matto (via Broccaindoso 63/b) and Trattoria Serghei (via Piella 12). See the back page for the editor's best picks to add to this list.
- On the local front, Bologna received notice in the *Oregonian*, both with Jonathan Nicols' mention of the upcoming visit of violinist Laura Marzadori, and the Little Italy Association's proposal to bring a copy of Bologna's renown fountain, Nettuno, to Portland.
(If you are interested in a copy of any of these, please contact Sally Hudson at hudsonsj@pdx.edu)

DID YOU KNOW

- A local company, Dreamland, designed a Skateboard park in Bologna?
- The Portland Art Museum has, in its permanent collection, a terracotta sculpture by Bolognese artist Giuseppe Maria Mazza (1653-1741). The Madonna of the Immaculate Conception with the Christ Child and the Infant St. John was completed in 1735.
- John Grisham's latest book, *The Broker*, is set in Bologna. Rumor has it that, while the story is not his best, the depiction of Bologna is embracing. Another book set in Bologna is Robert Hellenga's *Fall of the Sparrow*, which tells the story of an American father whose daughter was killed in the bombing of the Bologna train station in 1980.

BOLOGNA UPDATE

Bologna is just emerging from an intense winter, with unusually low temperatures and snow still falling as of just a few weeks ago. But the snow rarely slows things down. Snow plows are out in the early morning (farm vehicles from the surrounding plains that do double duty, it is rumored) clearing the roads for business as usual. Nobody stays home from school because of snow!

Bologna celebrated *carnevale* (Mardi Gras) as it always does, with families gathering in Piazza Maggiore, children dressed in elaborate costumes, throwing *corriandoli* (confetti), and spraying foam and some undefined rubbery stringy substance on anything moving or otherwise. Parents gather in clusters as chaos from their offspring prevails. Looking over it all is Nettuno and patron Saint San Petronio, whose statue protrudes from the Palazzo Comunale and whose massive church reigns supreme in the piazza. The day culminates in a parade with large paper *m□che* floats, at least a few typically depicting political figures. This is the only time of year one can find Bologna's pre-lenten sweet, *sfrappolea*--wide strips of pasta fried and dusted with powdered sugar. (Every town and city in Italy has its version of this *dolce*, named in local dialect.)

On March 8, the Bolognese celebrated International Women's Day, an event of great importance in Europe. In Italy, mimosa is the symbol of this day, and the yellow flower is omnipresent ... as corsages, bouquets, and small bunches given away at stores. Abundant this time of year, the flower was chosen by the Union of Italian Women in 1946 for its vibrant, joyous color and its fragile appearance (which disguises a sturdy plant) as well as its traditional symbolism of life from death. This year, Bologna created a "Public Place for Women" in each quarter of the city, with programs honoring women.

From March 4 until April 1, the seventh bi-annual Festival Iceberg takes place in Bologna. To celebrate and promote young Bolognese artists, the festival, which is organized by the City and the University, includes numerous events, shows, and competitions.

Bologna is host to several major conventions yearly. Coming up in April is the world famous Children's Book Fair. Writers, illustrators, and publishers from all over the world attend this event. To see the schedule of conventions, look at the calendar posted on their website (you can view it in Italian or in English): http://www.bolognafiere.it/eng/calendario_2005.asp

INSIDER TIPS FOR TRAVELERS TO BOLOGNA

Should you plan a visit to Italy, consider making Bologna a home base. Just an hour by train to Florence and two hours to Venice, Bologna offers a less touristed experience along with convenience. If you plan your trip to stay in Bologna from a Monday to a Monday, the Residence Falcone in Vicolo del Falcone 24 is the perfect lodging. Small apartments sleep 2 or 4 and rent weekly for much less than a hotel will cost. They are a 10-minute walk from Piazza Maggiore, with helpful proprietors who speak English. If you are a couple planning a trip during the summer, be sure to request the garden apartment on the ground floor. (residenzefalcone@tin.it)

Near the Residence Falcone are two favorite restaurants. Quindici is in Via Mirasole 15. There is no sign on the door ... you ring the bell. This is an *osteria*--delicious fare that costs very little. Try the *crescentina*, which is a local specialty--fried bread served with a farmer's cheese called *squacarone*, and served with *affetati* (cured meats). A few blocks away, Trattoria Trebbi in Via Solferino has great pastas as well as an *antipasti/contorni* (vegetable) buffet that is superb.

Food shopping is a must in Bologna. The most colorful of the farmers markets is in the medieval section of town just east of Piazza Maggiore. Small permanent stalls line the streets, selling whatever is fresh from the farm. No bargaining here and no touching the food but the merchants are welcoming and proud of their products and happy to offer you an *assaggio* (taste). You won't be disappointed. Be sure to stop at the two *salumerie* (delicatessens), Tamburini and Simone, if not to buy then at least to gawk at the rows of prosciutto, salame, cheeses, olives, and pastas. Across from Simone and next to Tamburini is Atti, the oldest bakery in Bologna, where you can buy delicious bread, desserts, or a slice of pizza. Just as rich in choices (and less expensive) is the sprawling indoor market, Mercato dell'Erbe, nearby at Via Ugo Bassi near Via Marconi. Back at the Residenza Falcone, feast on a dinner made from your purchases. *Andiamo!*

ITALIAN COURSES OFFERED AT PSU

Want to brush up on your Italian language skills or simply want to get started learning? Interested in Italian culture and history? Portland State University offers a wide selection of courses that appeal to a cross-section of people--artists, musicians, business people, faculty members, and people of Italian ancestry--who study the language for their professions, business opportunities, research, family reasons, passion, and finally for credits. This great diversity creates a rich and stimulating learning environment which makes both teaching and learning the language a fun experience.

PSU's Italian program continues to expand to meet these diverse needs. Along with first-year and second-year Italian, this past winter two Italian film courses were offered—Italian Film: Culture and Society (taught in English) which examined various facets of Italian culture through film, and Italian Conversation: Contemporary Film, which used film as the basis for lively and stimulating discussion in Italian. This spring PSU offers yet another new course, Italian Culture: Eating Like a King, taught in Italian. This course, on Tuesday evenings from 6:40 to 8:30, focuses on folklore and history of Italian regions and their culinary tradition. During the summer, PSU offers intensive courses in first and second year Italian that enable students to complete a year's worth of Italian in 10 weeks. In the fall, we will again be offering third-year Italian for students who wish to continue with their Italian studies. Our goal is for PSU to be able to offer both a minor and a major in the near future in Italian Studies. We also want to develop a relationship with our sister school, the University of Bologna—both for faculty and student exchange. For any questions on Italian studies at PSU, please contact Angela Zagarella 503.725.9576 or email her at zagarea@pdx.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Portland-Bologna Sister City Association will host an event in Laura Marzadori's honor on **April 15**. Tickets can be purchased through the Association, c/o Gina Kaplan, 1000 SW Broadway, Suite 2300, Portland, OR 97205. Laura will also play **April 20** for the Portland City Council before its council meeting and make other appearances in the Portland area with her young artist colleagues from Portland.

The Concerto where at the eight young artists will perform with DePonte and an orchestra drawn from the ranks of the Oregon Symphony and Oregon Ballet Theatre orchestras is **Friday, April 22**, at 7:30 PM at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Ticket prices range from \$6.50 - \$50 and are available by calling TicketMaster (503.790.ARTS) or at the PCPA box office (SW Broadway at Main).

For comments, submissions, corrections, etc., please contact Sally Hudson at HUDSONSJ@PDX.EDU