



Pathways to Portland & Bologna

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PBSCA Winter Social or How to make lasagna like you know what you're doing

By Karen McKay

PBSCA's Winter Social on February 18th brought together a convivial group of long-time and newly interested supporters along with two of our most loyal supporters: George Passadore and Chef Cathy Whims of Nostrana and Oven and Shaker.

George donated his one-of-a-kind venue, the car barn, in addition to wine and everything we could possibly need for a lovely dining experience. Cathy and her team stepped in at the last minute with an informative, entertaining and personalized cooking class and demonstration. Originally, Francesca Tori from Bologna, who has worked closely with Cathy, had graciously offered to conduct a pasta-making demonstration for our winter social. With only a couple of weeks until our event, however, Francesca was forced to cancel her US trip due to an illness in the family. We were left with the prospect of perhaps canceling our traditional Winter Social.

Happily for everyone who attended Cathy Whims offered her expert pasta-making services. Our dinner was made all the more delicious by the chance to see and learn how it was made, ask questions and hear stories about Italian cooking. The recipes included Zuppa Imperiale, Lasagna Verdi al Forno with pasta verde (spinach pasta) made right in front of us, a remarkably simple and remarkably tasty salad with prosciutto di parma and parmesan and finally panna cotta

with marionberry preserves that was the perfect marriage of Italy and Oregon.

Three raffle items kept things lively with a gourmet gift basket of a cookbook, cheese and balsamic vinegar straight from Italy and 2 bottles of wine. Cathy donated a gift certificate to Nostrana and Great Wine Buys on N.E. Broadway and Ray Verzasconi donated two incredible bottles of wine for the 3rd raffle item.

It was a relaxed but lively evening of good food, good wine and excellent company. PBSCA would like to sincerely thank everyone who came and especially George Passadore and Cathy Whims - you made it happen!



This is Emilia-Romagna and its individual provinces. Would someone explain to all of us the various administrative government levels in Italy?



A few of those in attendance at the winter social.



All photos courtesy of **Patricia Badia-Johnson**

Thanks also go to **Nancy Passadore** for the flower arrangements on each table.



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Everyone is watching Cathy Whims making spinach lasagna "from scratch."



I taly in Portland in March

The Portland Art Museum is currently featuring “Venice: The Golden Age of Art and Music.”

The show includes paintings, musical instruments, and manuscripts from 49 museums and private lenders from around the world. Originally organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the exhibit offers an insight into the culture of the once mighty city from the Renaissance through the Baroque.

The exhibit will remain at the Portland Art Museum until May 11. See

<http://www.portlandartmuseum.org/special/venice/home> for more details, exhibit hours, and entrance fees.

See *The Oregonian* (February 23, 2014), Section: A&E, p. 12, for a more detailed review.

JoyCut to Perform at the Alhambra Theatre Lounge in Portland on March 23.

The three members of this “post-rock, dark-wave band” were originally from Potenza (Basilicata), but they formed the band in Bologna in 2001, and Bologna has been their home ever since.

The rock band’s name is a tribute to the song “Joey” from Nick Drake and Pink Floyd’s “The Final Cut.” JoyCut has established a sizeable following in Europe, especially in Italy and in the U.K.. It is one of only two Italian bands invited to the South by Southwest (SXSW) Music, Film, and Interactive Festival that opened in Austin, Texas, on March 7, 2014.

Although they had a mini-tour of the U.S. in October 2013, their current tour of the U.S. and Canada began in February and will continue through the end of March.

Tickets for the performance that begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge at the Alhambra on

March 23, 2014, are \$8.00 and \$10.00, and can be purchased at any of the ticket outlets in Portland. If you happen to be in the Bend area, they’ll be at the Astro Lounge the evening of March 22nd. After Portland, they’ll be performing in Seattle on March 26th.

For more information about the band and to listen to a couple of their songs, see

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRE2vEu9LKM>

<http://www.joycut.com/?p=670>

This is their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JoyCutOfficial?sk=wall>



Please note that the lounge at the Alhambra only seats 90, so if you’re interested, get your tickets now.



La Grande Bellezza (The Great Beauty), Italy's 2014 entrant and recipient of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film is now playing at the Living Room Theaters, 341 SW 10th Ave., Portland. Showtime is 9 p.m. Call in advance to make sure seats are available. 971-222-2010.

From reviews and the trailer, the film is about a novelist-journalist who breaks into Rome's elite party circuit and eventually becomes the "king" of that circuit. When he turns 65, an event leads him to re-examine his life and to discover that "The Great Beauty" in his life (the most beautiful woman) has been the city of Rome itself. Although none of the reviewers mention it, scenes from the trailer remind me of Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*.

I've never been to the Living Room theater, but apparently you can buy food and beer you can consume while watching the film. I don't see anything on their website that says minors are not allowed, but call to make sure before taking your teenager(s). The film is not rated. For more information, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2358891/>



If you were attending your first PBSCA event, take a minute to let President Phil Potestio know what convinced you to attend. And all of you might take a minute to let him know what kind of other events you would like to see PBSCA consider planning. The organization has settled into the sagra, with the silent auction, in the fall; the summer and winter socials; and the Amici dinner in May. This is the first time a social was coupled with a food preparation demonstration, followed by dinner.

If you have other ideas for fund-raising events, again, let Phil Potestio know: potestio@hotmail.com.

If you haven't yet made a contribution for the 2014 calendar year, remember you can make a donation at any time.

Checks, payable to "PBSCA," should be mailed to PBSCA, PO Box 141, Lake Oswego OR 97034.

If you wish to donate using a credit card, visit the PBSCA website:

http://www.portland-bologna.org/?page_id=8

Don't be deterred by the suggested donation levels, e.g., \$50.00 minimum for a single individual, \$75.00 for a family. It's what the PBSCA Bylaws suggest as a minimum but if \$10.00 is all you can donate right now, donate \$10.00. It's why the "Amici" level donor is "any amount up to \$124.00." Or set up an automatic monthly or quarterly payment plan with PayPal. You can have an automatic monthly charge on your credit or debit card, or deducted from a checking account. Maybe you can't write a check or charge \$50.00 in any month, but you can donate \$5.00 monthly and have it charged to your credit/debit card or withdrawn from your checking account.

