



Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

December 2009

L 'angolo della Cultura

Unquestionable, the finest pop singer of the 20th century was Frank Sinatra. Of course, I speak with pride as an "Italian-American Jersey boy". The quality and power of Sinatra's baritone put him far above any



other male singer of our time, and his perfect phrasing and feeling for a song made him the singer that top composers wrote for. He was born on December 12, 1915 and is as listened to today, almost 12 years after his death, as he was at any time.

Sinatra was often vilified for his feistiness, mob ties and sometimes...just being Italian at a time when that wasn't as cool as it seems to be today. True, he could be rough and fiery, and maybe knew some bad guys, but little is usually mentioned about the side of his life where he often acted with huge generosity, kindness and patriotism. Among people he worked with, especially musicians, "ol Blue Eyes" was a leader in promoting equality, thereby going against the grain of "society" in the 1950's and 60's.

He was also a pretty good actor who starred in dozens of films, some which are great classics and several turkeys. Now, almost a dozen years after his death he will be the subject of a major film. The script is ready, agreements to use original Sinatra recordings have been signed, his daughter Tina is a producer and the director will be Martin Scorsese. In the running to play Sinatra are DiCaprio, Johnny Depp and Clooney.

Scorsese, one of this country's finest directors and a Sinatra fan, is of Sicilian ancestry, as was Sinatra. A hint about how the film might be handled is the introduction he gave on the DVD version of the Italian film 'The Golden Door' and his tough treatment of Jake La Motta in the biopic, Raging Bull.

As an aside, in the intro Scorsese gave to Golden Door, he spoke about his family and the entry of Italians into America. The film story itself is fictional, yet gives an accurate portrayal of what getting to America was like for our forebearers. My father came to this country as an illiterate 16-year old, and the film is as near as I can come to imagining the trip he a brother took without their parents or other relatives.

IBC Christmas Dinner

Our gala Christmas dinner is almost here. It's not too late to reserve your place. Last year's event was very popular for the food, entertainment and good time. The date is Tuesday, December 8 at the Stock Pot Restaurant at the Red Tail golf course in Beaverton with cocktails at 6PM, dinner at 7PM. Entertainment will be provided by IBC member, John English, 'The Voice'. If you have not already reserved and paid (\$50pp), it is not too late! Please contact Bob Iannacone, club secretary at 971-255-0420.

Christmas dinner menu

- Carved Prime Rib of Beef or Herb Crusted filet of salmon
- Roasted Baby Red Potatoes
- Chefs Vegetable
- Wild Field Green Salad
- Penne Pasta Salad
- Selection of Fresh Fruit
- Fresh Baked Custy Rolls
- Vanilla Ice Cream and Sorbet
- Soft Beverages

Wishing all IBC members, family and friends

"Buon natale e un felice anno nuovo"

Business Focus on America 's Vacation Center

After a tour in the navy, college and 37 years with IBM, Bob Iannacone followed his love of the sea, travel and Italy and trained to be a travel agent. In the business for eight years now, he is an independent agent for *America's Vacation Center, an American Express agency*. It is one of the country's largest and most respected leisure travel companies and one of a very few that will accept



Bob aboard Oasis of the Seas

American Express Membership Reward points for *any* travel plans.

Having worked and lived in Europe for a period of time and cruised on dozens of ships, Bob is most knowledgeable on major cruise lines, and escorted and independent tours. In November, Bob was among the first to sail on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, the world's largest cruise ship, going into service this month in the Caribbean. Bob stated, "with a maximum passenger capacity of 6000 and a crew of 2200, the ship is not only huge, but innovative in its design, entertainment and dining options.

"Besides lower prices, the advantage of large ships such as the Oasis is that they have features and entertainment to satisfy every age and taste, day and evening, thereby appealing most to younger adults and families. For couples, though at a higher price, smaller ships provide for a more intimate and relaxed setting, with more emphasis on unique itineraries. They cost more, and you get more in terms of quality cuisine, luxury and service."

Taking a cruise is not for everyone or every vacation. Bob's agency also works with the finest resorts and tour companies, offering independent and escorted travel. Bob also books groups for organizations, family reunions and fund raising trips. Web: AVCTravel.com/bobiannacone. 971-255-0420

Next IBC meeting and membership news

Our next general meeting will begin at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at Caro Amico Restaurant, 3606 SW Barbur Blvd, Portland.

To address past comments about our meeting location and food, we have changed venues this year to Caro Amico, with good food and a central location. We are attempting to become more involved with being of service to our community, getting together for events such as bocce and having speakers of interest. We encourage you to attend at least a percentage of our monthly meetings to make your views and interests known. As we begin a new year, there are many important IBC items that need to be discussed, so your attendance is important.

We need to build membership in the IBC, so are asking each member to submit as least one name as a referral. Invite that person to a meeting or submit a name and we will mail an introductory letter.

The IBC board meeting (all club members are invited) will be 6:30 on Tuesday, December 22 at Port City Pasta in Lake Place Center at 333 S State St. LO.

IBC Newsletter

Newsletter comments are welcome. If you wish to help by writing an article, suggesting a topic or have news that would be of interest, please send me an email or call. Also, the business focus part of the newsletter is a short write-up of each club member's business. It costs nothing, so please call or email me if you want your business to appear in the newsletter. robert202@comcast. 971-255-0420