



# Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

February 2011

## L 'angolo della Cultura

### Espresso

Steam was the driving force of the Industrial Revolution, drastically changing travel on land and sea and running the machinery that has built our modern society. However, it took an Italian to use steam for a more civilized purpose, one that has revolutionized cafes; brewing espresso and steaming milk for cappuccino.



Since its discovery in Ethiopia over 1000 years ago, coffee brewing has changed little: beans are extracted from berries, dried, roasted, ground and brewed in boiling or hot water.

That changed in 1901 when Luigi Bezzera of Milan perfected a way to use steam, not by injecting it directly into the ground beans, but by using steam pressure to "push" hot water through the ground coffee in a filter in the front of the machine. This produced a rich, syrupy and small amount of liquid that we know as espresso. He patented his device, but sold the design to Desidero **Pavoni**, who improved upon it by maintaining a constant water temperature that didn't burn the coffee (his machine is pictured).

The problem with these early machines is that they were slow. The next step occurred after WWII, when Achille **Gaggia**, also of Milan, developed a spring piston with a handle that enabled a barista to "pull" hot water through the grounds to quickly brew a cup with much more pressure than just steam.

Other improvements came gradually, most notably, hydraulic pumps and the electronics to produce good espresso with consistency automatically. Though rare, the hand pulled espresso machines are still sold new for use by trained baristas, who swear that they can produce a better cup. To experience a great espresso from one of these "hand pulled" machines on your next visit downtown, the place to go is **Spella's Caffè**, SW 5th, off Alder.

## IBC News and Happenings

Summary of the January IBC meeting voting results and other topics:

- Frank Genovese will remain in Portland, therefore he remains as president, Fred Spada was elected VP, Max Corona remains as Treasurer and Bob Iannacone remains as Secretary. Guy LaCesa will unofficially assist both Frank and Fred
- Returning board: Claude Bonfiglio, Joe Cavalli, Jim Zuffrea, John Tirabasso, Cliff Canucci
- New Board members: Joe Tripi, Mike Mignano, Roger Cherry, Emilio Barbero, Todd Salvo

The IBC Christmas dinner was reviewed by attendees: The Benson Hotel prepared an outstanding Italian meal at a reasonable price in a festive Christmas setting. Music was wonderful and the raffle provided many great prizes. We needed to dip into the raffle proceeds to make the event come out in the black, but still had some remaining to go to our scholarship fund.

Frank discussed a proposal of the Comitato Uniti Italiano (composed of Portland's Italian organization presidents) to the Festa Italiana. At the Festa meeting, the following occurred:

- Andrea Bartoloni proposed and the Festa accepted as new members: Tuscan Association, Scuola Italiana, UNICO, Bologna Sister City, and Azzurri Club.
- A second part of the proposal was to limit each club to 2 voting members. This part requires bylaw changes which need to follow Festa procedures. This will be looked into by a Festa committee and voted on at their next meeting.

**Don't miss our next IBC meeting at**

**Port City Pasta, L.O.**

**on Tuesday, February 8 at 6:30**

*Planning 2011 events, new member intro, financial review and dinner*

**DUES FOR 2011 REMAIN \$50 FOR THE YEAR. SEND IN YOUR CHECK WITH THE ENCLOSED INVOICE**

**MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS TO YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION AND, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR BUSINESS INCLUDED ON THE IBC WEB SITE, ADD A DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH, ETC. ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS**

## Major Events of Portland's Italian Community for 2011

**March 6, 2011, Sunday: *Carnevale***; The afternoon is a fun-filled afternoon for kids, followed by an early evening dinner for Portland's Italian community, along with a silent auction. The menu is not set, however, last year's dinner (antipasto, lasagna, wine, coffee and biscotti) was prepared by Piazza Italia. Cost is a very reasonable at \$12 for the children's afternoon and \$25 pp for dinner (if paid by Feb 15). At the Comitato and Festa meetings, each organization has been asked to purchase a sponsor's dinner table for eight at \$300. The IBC has agreed to a table and if you would like to join us, contact Frank (\$75 per couple, part of which is tax deductible).

Please support this vital Portland Italian organization by:

- being a sponsor for the Carnevale and attend the dinner (call for sponsor information)
- contributing an item for the silent auction and bidding in the silent auction when you come for dinner.
- volunteering to help at the event.

This is the major Fund raiser for the *Scuola Italiana di Portland*, Keeping the Italian language alive for our children and adults is the mission of the school and why we are urging IBC members to help.

For dinner reservations or sponsor/volunteer information, contact Janet Trimble at 503-333-1134, janet@scuola.us

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**June 4: *Starlight Parade***. The Italian community will again have a float. Festa Italiana is the coordinating organization and has requested that all of Portland's Italian organizations play a part by marching with their banners in the front of the float, which will be upgraded this year.

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**June 16, Thursday, 7:00: *Nostri Città* (our city)**. This event will be a look back at the Portland area's Italian community as it once was with photos and presentations. It is being hosted by UNICO at the Old Church in downtown, SW 11th and Clay. Any proceeds will go to a fund to establish an Italian Cultural Center for Portland.

If you, your family and your business have been in Portland for many years and you would like to loan photos, memorabilia and stories of Portland's "Little Italy", contact Jo Ann Gallo at 503-481-1119

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**August 21—27, *Festa Italiana*** This is the 20th year of the Festa. Beginning with a bocce tournament on Saturday, followed by a mass, Italian film on Tuesday, and the big event at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 AM to 11 PM each day. Sponsors are needed to help continue to give Portland a great Italian highlight event. Can your business help?

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**October 15, Saturday, *Columbus Day Dinner/Dance***

### Planned but not yet scheduled

**Spring and fall: *Vineyard events***. We will again work with the Tuscan Association to provide fund raising and a wonderful time. Last year, the two events were successful and enjoyable.

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**June *Golf Tournament***: The Azzurri Club of Portland has asked the IBC to partner with them in putting on a golf tournament. Frank Genovese readily accepted and is tentatively set for June. It will be a fund raising event and other clubs will also be asked to participate. Stay tuned for details.

Our best wishes and prayers go to **Terry Amato**, who is recovering from kidney cancer. The disease was discovered in the fall and Terry has undergone surgery and is now completing treatment.

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