

NEWS of ACQUALORETO for the Wider Circle

December 2018

Life in Acqualoreto is not as hectic as in London or New York but time passes here too and with it comes change. The festa season is past. Most summer residents have gone back to wherever they spend their winters. Acqualoreto is very quiet now but we're expecting many Circolo members to return for the holidays.



Acqualoreto framed by olives

After three or four years of olive harvests ranging from poor to catastrophic, this year's crop was a relief. Perhaps we won't have to turn to using palm oil after all.

The festa of Acqualoreto went smoothly, although that was not the case in some other neighboring villages, a subject I'll discuss in an upcoming blog. Our theatrical production was well received and speaking as a participant, more rewarding than last year's effort,

although no video evidence exists to support or refute that claim.

Reminded by our theatrical efforts, which were spearheaded by our director, Francesca Attiglianese, and our producer Bruno Amalfitano, who has spent his career in the movie business, I'll try to insert a bit of local history. In the 70's, after a post-war decline in population, the territory surrounding Acqualoreto saw an influx of two groups: foreigners, often based in Rome; and people from the Italian film industry, including directors, actors, set and costume designers. Both of these settlements have continued.

Bernardo Bertolucci was one of the more recent members of the cinematic community, having spent his summers here over much of the past decade. He is pictured with Juliet Barge, one of the many people from Holland to settle here for a part of each year. Unfortunately, Bertolucci died in late November in Rome. R.I.P.



The Circolo was started in the 00's to administer the annual festa and later to provide a bar/gathering place for the community. Early proceeds from the festa went to refurbish the church with painted murals



and wood paneling in the apse. In recent years, leaks in the roof have led to significant damage to interior finishes. This year, under the leadership of Don Mario Venturi, the parish priest for many villages in the area, repairs were completed and the

church was reopened in September. In addition to its older artifacts, the church has been embellished by works of art created for the cinema, donated by members of that community.



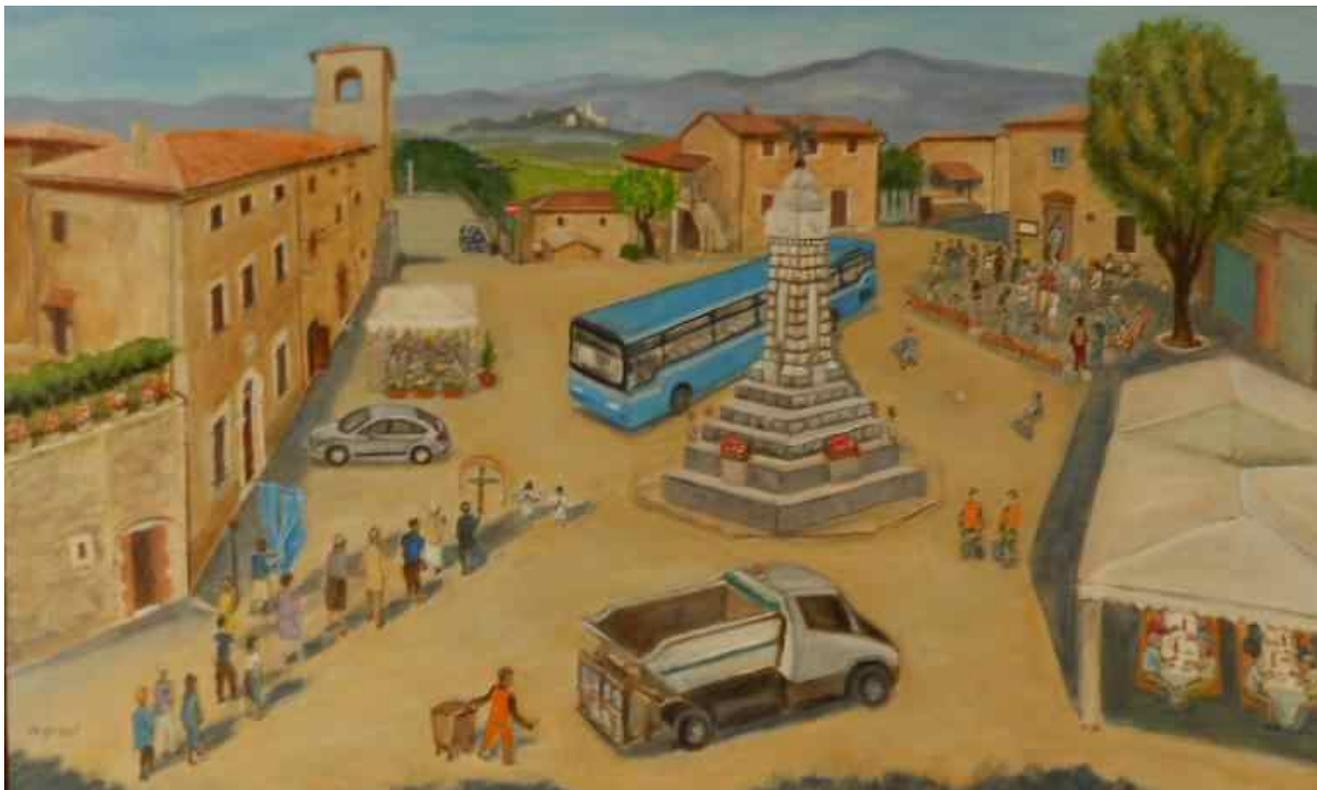
Oxana & Claudia



Clarissa & Bianca

Our weekly Wednesday International Happy Hours have grown in the warmer months to larger crowds than we ever anticipated and the mostly ex-patriot gatherings have expanded to include a post-mass Holy Hour at noon on Sundays. The only problem is that despite our newly refurbished church, the regular Sunday mass has gone from regular to rare, due to a chronic shortage of priests. The Hour Holy persists regardless. Fortunately, the Circolo Bar is still run by two delightful women from Collelungo, Oxana and Clarissa, who make the Circolo a pleasant and welcoming place to gather, whether it be on Wednesday, Sunday, or any other day of the week. Please remember to support the Circolo when you are in the village in the new year by renewing your membership.

I'll end this letter with my own painting of the piazza of Acqualoreto, which was displayed at our art show during the August festa. Others can be seen at the Todiarte Gallery, across the street from San Fortunato, in Todi, open on weekends.



"La Piazza di Acqualoreto" by Robert De Graaf