

NEWS of ACQUALORETO for the Wider Circle

June 2019

The bar of the Circolo Ricreativo di Acqualoreto opened in 2008 and since then it has hosted a happy hour for the “forestieri” (mostly English-speaking) community every Wednesday at 6 PM. Our foreign community has expanded in recent years but it didn’t start then. In the 1980’s many foreigners bought abandoned farm houses in the area. Among them was Jake Gruber, a Professor of Anthropology at Temple University who started and oversaw the University’s overseas program in Rome. Jake and his artist wife Shirley bought a house in nearby Morruzze; followed by two more houses because they had three children. Jake was a good cook and a wonderful host, throwing large and frequent parties attended by people from all over the world. Those parties forged friendships among the various isolated foreign home buyers that have lasted for decades. Shirley passed away ten years ago. Age and health problems have prevented Jake from returning to Italy in recent years. He died quietly at home in Santa Monica, California last week at 98. R.I.P. Jake, and thank you.

Jake’s three children will all be back in Umbria in late June and July. Sam, from Syracuse, will be in Spoleto or Assisi teaching Umbrian art and architecture. Frank, who lives in Santa Monica, will have a photography show in Calabria in June, before returning to Morruzze



Jake & Shirley hosting her 2005 birthday party

for a brief vacation. Ruth, a writer and journalist, is based in Morruzze, and is a regular at the Circolo. Grandson Henry, who is following in his grandfather's footsteps in archaeology, as well as jam making, will also be here.

At the end of May, Ruth's friends from the Czech Republic, the Malina brothers, came to visit once again and gave a bluegrass concert at the house of Carol McCutcheon. The elder brother, Lubos, has been a frequent visitor but this was the first time that the entire four-man Malina Brothers Band has played for us. They are a delight to hear.



Not all milestones are sad ones. Acqualoreto also saw a wedding this spring, a big one. Brian and Rosemary Luckhurst, stellar members of the Circolo, who moved here from Bermuda about twelve years ago, hosted the wedding of their daughter Caterina. Scores of people from at least six time zones around the world descended on Acqualoreto for about a week, filling all known local accommodations.

Unfortunately, they were not rewarded with our normal good May weather but the wedding was delightful. Hats off to the Luckhursts for transforming their home into a wedding resort for the week and best wishes to the newlyweds, Cat and Paul Gosling.



If you are or will be in our area this month, please note that there are an absurd number of interesting events going on between Orvieto and Todi. All of Umbria is now into the

festival season. As I write, Todi is in the midst of a wine fest, with a rich calendar of wine tastings and seminars but that will be past by the time you read this. Sorry.

An event called *Colloquia* will take place in Orvieto on June 13, 14 and 15. It is a series of concerts/readings (in both Italian and English) commemorating the saving of the city of Orvieto from demolition in the last stages of WWII, sponsored largely by the ex-pat community in Umbria. The venue is small so plan ahead.

Todi Circle is an organization, whose organizers include Mario Santori from Collelungo, which brings people from the world of photography to Todi for a week-long conference. They gather this year from June 17th through the 22nd. As in the past few years, they will join the Happy Hour at the Circolo of Acquafredda prior to dinner at La Cruccola on Wednesday the 19th. The list of this year's guests includes:

- Martin Barnes is senior curator at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.
- Genevieve Fussell is a senior photo editor at The New Yorker.
- Anahita Ghabaian is an art historian specialising in Iranian photography. Founder of the Silk Road Gallery, Tehran. Anahita lives in Tehran and Paris.
- Noam Gal is Horace and Grace Goldsmith curator of photography at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem .
- Russet Lederman is a media artist, publisher, and photobook collector. Founder of 10x10 books, and a specialist in Japanese photobooks. Russet lives in New York.
- Ingrid Masondo is curator of New Media and Photography at the National Gallery of South Africa.
- Vanessa Schwartz is professor of art film and history at the University of Southern California. Director of the Visual Studies Research Institute. Lives in Los Angeles.
- Rose Shoshana is the founder of Rosegallery in Santa Monica. Lives in Los Angeles.
- Pedro Slim is a collector and photographer. Lives in Mexico City.
- Lorenzo Vitturi is an Italian photographer and sculptor based in London.
- Lars Willumeit is a German independent curator based in Switzerland. Currently guest curator at the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne.

William A. Ewing

Director

Mario Santoro, Coordinator

On Friday the 21st, the Todi Circle will present an illustrated talk in Todi by Alessio Romenzi, an Umbrian photographer who has made a name for himself with photographs of the war-torn parts of the Middle East.

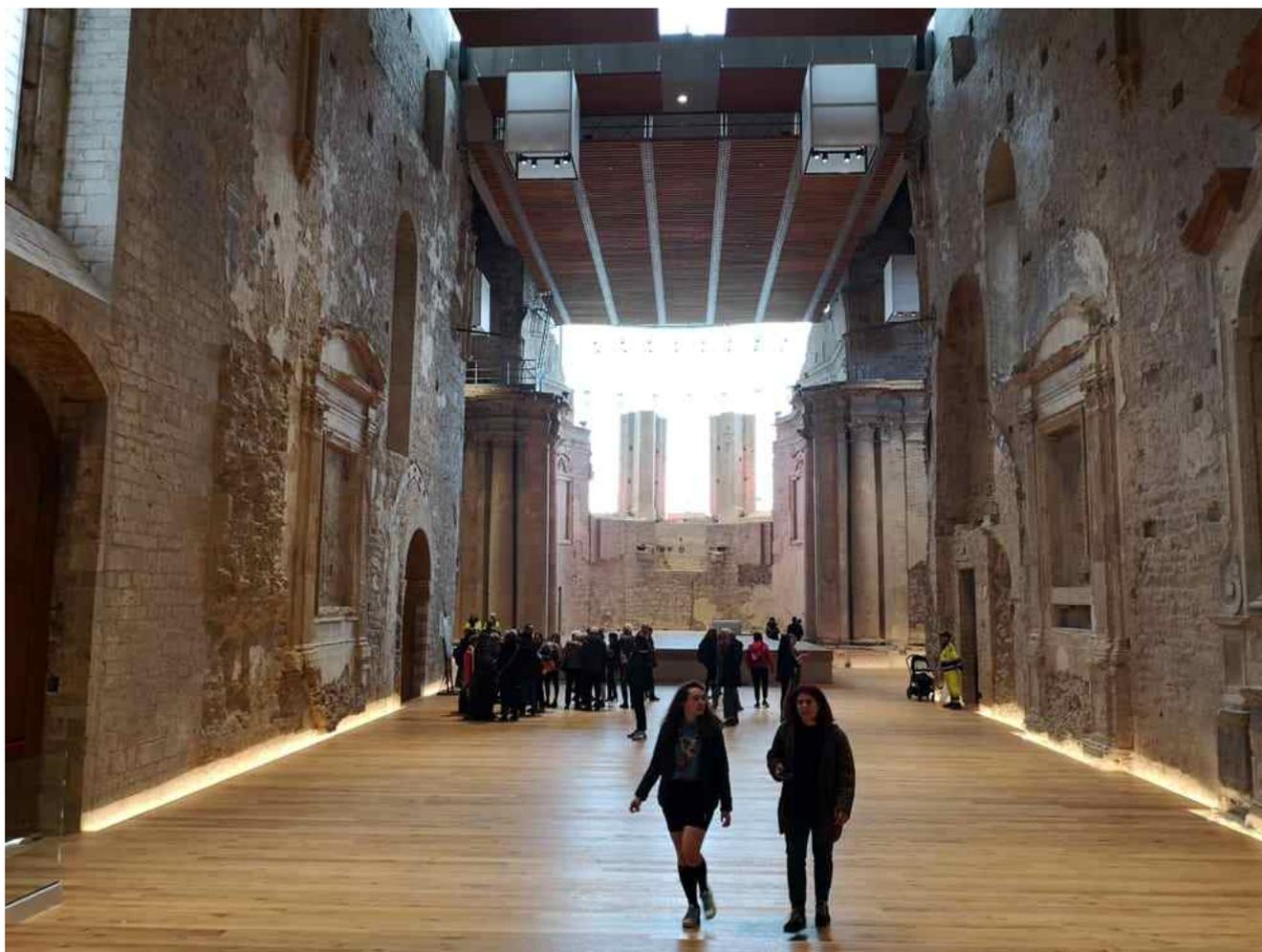
The large number of classical concerts this month is largely because Michigan State University has an annual teaching program in Todi. There are recitals by both students and faculty members. To sum up, the student recitals are in the Aula Magna of the Liceo Jacopone at 21:30 on June 13th, 14th, 27th and 28th. At the same hour and place on June 26th there will be a concert by Sae Yoon Chon, 2018 winner of the Dublin International Piano Competition.

Faculty members will perform at the “Hidden Churches” series of concerts, starting with the Santa Maria in Cammuccia on June 9th at 18:30, and again on Sunday, June 16th, at 18:30 in the ex-Chiesa di San Benedetto. Check at the Pro Todi office for more detailed information.

July is sure to be packed with events in Umbria, including the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto. Umbria Jazz runs from July 12th through the 21st in Perugia. The UJ website is easy enough to find for schedule and ticket information. There will be a major concert in the stadium every night but the good news is that performers such as Charles Lloyd, Dianne Reeves, Paolo Fresu, Enrico Rava, Mauro Ottolini and Fabrizio Bosso all are scheduled to perform in concerts at the Morlacchi Theater.

The restructured Auditorium San Francesco al Prato is back as a venue for at least one midnight concert, on Friday the 19th, with Uri Caine, Mark Helias, Clarence Penn, the Umbria Jazz Orchestra and the Orchestra da Camera di Perugia.

Years ago, when it was a church which had lost its roof, it hosted midnight concerts by the likes of Gil Evans, Charlie Haden and Lester Bowie, some of the most memorable concerts of Umbria Jazz in its long history. More about the building can be seen at this address. <https://vimeo.com/86408116>



We probably won't get to another newsletter til the end of summer so a final reminder that the Festa of Acqualoreto starts, as usual, on August 10th, opening with the Cena Sotto Le Stelle in the piazza. More scaled down food offerings will be available on the following nights and the August 15th Ferragosto finale will feature music in the piazza followed by fireworks.

We hope to see many of you
there.

