

NEWS of ACQUALORETO

for the Wider Circle

Oct. 2019

The summer residents of the Acqualoreto area have mostly departed for their winter homes in the US, the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and other countries, near and far. It is harvest time and some of our members will be showing up in the next few weeks to harvest their olives. The grape harvest has mostly been



completed and while there had been some pessimism, what we're hearing now is that while the wine of 2019 may not be plentiful, it will be better than expected. The olive harvest looks to follow the same pattern, not unlike last year. This, after two or three years of disastrous olive harvests. The mill in Morre is now open and the work is getting underway.

Acqualoreto was full of people during the unusually hot months of July and August but those who spent September here were more fortunate, weather wise. As always, our festa was held during the second week of August and the dining tent was well-frequented, the mercatino sales were brisk, and the fireworks as enjoyable as ever. We missed having a performance of *Gli Instabili di Acqualoreto*, our local theater group, due to the medical leave of our director Francesca Attianese. We're happy to report that she was

back in town last week with plans for our performance at next year's festa. We now have ten months to develop a passable Neapolitan accent. While awaiting our return to the stage, some of our stars have been honing their thespian skills in Narni and Rome.

We're not alone. The theater group, *Le Mani in Tasca*, based in Morre, Morruzze and Collelungo, founded by Meme Perlini, continues to entertain in the area and its evening of dinner theater in Morruzze in late August was sold out. Indeed, enough people were turned away to fill it up again. Last winter there was a living Presepio, i.e., a reenactment, in Morruzze, of the setting of the birth of Christ, with village people tending sheep, weaving, making cheese and other foods, even running a little jail. This took place on the last Sunday before New Years and was repeated for the Epiphany, all in all a remarkable undertaking for a village of about fifty people, supported by many others from surrounding villages. We understand that it will be repeated this year so if you're in the area for the holidays, don't miss it. Just remember to dress warmly.



The major news from Acqualoreto this season is that La Cruccola, the restaurant in the piazza started by Neysa Forbiscioni, has been ceded to a young couple from Narni. The new owners, Giulio and Gemma, took over on Ferragosto without fanfare and apparently without problem. The

restaurant celebrated its fifteenth anniversary last spring and we would like to thank Neysa for creating what has become a valuable institution in Acqualoreto, helping to make our village a destination for people coming from far and wide. Enjoy your well-earned rest Neysa.

We also welcome Giulio and Gemma and wish them great success with the restaurant. So far, they seem to be seeing a substantial number of customers and more importantly, many repeat customers. They are moving to Acqualoreto and are in the process of settling in so we are doubly happy to see the restaurant continue and to see new young residents in town. Auguri!



The other news of Acqualoreto is that Clarissa, one of the two young women who have run the bar of the Circolo for the past couple of years, will be leaving her post early in November and will be giving birth to a new baby early in 2020. We wish Clarissa and her family all the best. Her serene presence will be missed.

One of our members, Sophia Buonajuti, has suggested that for the spring/summer season of 2020, we at the Circolo should organize trips to interesting places and events in relatively small groups. Sounds good to us. If you have ideas or suggestions you can drop us a line by return email. Check back at the Circolo, or with Sophia, in the spring to see what has been planned.

We will end this newsletter by recalling that on September 14th a permanent sculpture garden at La Rocca, the highest point in Todi, was inaugurated, featuring the monumental works of Beverly Pepper, an internationally recognized

sculptor and longtime resident of the Todi area. It's a beautiful spot and the long, scenic climb up to the Rocca from the Tempio della Consolazione has been embellished with sculptures of Beverly at every switchback. Access to the park is a bit easier from San Fortunato. Thank you to our friend and neighbor, Beverly Pepper, and to the Comune of Todi for this wonderful addition to the splendor of Todi.


