



# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

July 2003

Next Meeting

Wednesday

July 16

Cocktails— 6:30p.m.

Dinner— 7:00p.m.

RSVP—  
Marie Wehrle

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***“The principal efforts of the Vice Consul’s office remains in two areas. The first is the processing of official paperwork... The second category of the principal work of the Vice Consulate is that of promoting Italian governmental and economic interests.”***

## ***“Italian Cookies and Biscotti”***

***presenter Joann Gambaro Arpiani***

The July program, *“Italian Cookies and Biscotti”* will be presented by member, Joann Gambaro Arpiani. The talk will include the history of biscotti, and the prominence of these delicacies in Italian festivities. There will be a slide presentation showing different types of cookies from the various regions of Italy. Joann Gambaro Arpiani is from the

family who operates the prominent Missouri Baking Company. The Missouri Baking Company was founded in 1923 by Joann’s father and two uncles. Joann’s father was from Genoa (Liguria) and her mother was from Pavia (Lombardy) For the bakery’s first year, it was located at Grand and Tholozan while the present building on

Edwards Street was being constructed. Joann and her brothers operated the bakery until 1982 when the present owners and third generation in the business, Mimi Gambaro Lordo and Chris Gambaro purchased it. They continue the family tradition of great baking. Will there be a fourth generation? Chi lo sá!

## **“Annual Report from the Vice Consul of Italy in St. Louis - Joseph Colagiovanni, J.D.”**

Joseph Colagiovanni’s report presented the year’s overall activities and concerns of his busy office of the Honorary Vice Consul, with an average of 4 to 6 appointments every day and 15 to 25 appointments every week of the year, in addition to dozens of telephone calls. One concern is the Italian economy. Although the Euro (currency of the EU since January 1999, worth about US \$1.16) is strong the European and Italian economies are relatively weak, with a falling industrial output. Europe is striving to remedy its poor local demand and to increase Euro savings by exporting more goods. Therefore there is a strong need for Europe, including Italy, to increase its trade, and especially with such thriving economies as the U.S. Foreign policy dealt mainly with the war in Iraq. As opposed to Germany and France, Italy was a staunch and vocal ally of the U.S. Ambassador Salleo’s visit to St. Louis was the most noteworthy occurrence of the year, but there is now a new Ambassador in Washington, and Chicago is preparing for a new Consul General. For the last two-to-three months the Chicago Consulate has been concen-

trating on the implementation of the absentee voting rights of Italians living abroad. Chicago counted more than 13,000 eligible Italian voters in the eleven Consular jurisdictions, including Missouri, and of which 80% are located in the Chicago area. These voters have been informed of the referendum deadline, to take place in mid June, and of the procedure whereby they can participate in this, the goal being to establish the right of the Italian citizen to vote in Italian elections without being compelled to return to Italy to do so. The principal efforts of the Vice Consul’s office remains in two areas. The first is the processing of official paperwork, with over 200 visas given out in the past year. The bulk of these visas were issued to students, mostly during June through August, November, and December, and of these over 25 were for art students from Washington University to Florence. Other types of visas issued were for: Transit - Middle Eastern and other foreign nationals who can not travel freely to Italy; Business – executives from such companies as

Monsanto, Emerson, Anheuser-Busch, and Boeing; Conference – academics at Washington University, University of Missouri, St. Louis University, and S.I.U.-C, SIU-E, and other area colleges; and Religious –local seminaries and religious institutions. Passport renewals and stamps were also handled, but due to the diminishing number of active passports, these are becoming fewer. The second category of the principal work of the Vice Consulate is that of promoting Italian governmental and economic interests. Assistance was given to three different groups with trade/discussions meetings, and another scheduled for next week with Sardinia. As President of the Consular Corps, Mr.Colagiovanni is working on an “International” trade show with the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association and with the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Of the ongoing endeavors of the Vice Concul’s office the most out-

## L'Angolo Del Presidente *by James Tognoni*

### *My dear fellow members:*

I am happy to report that 2003 has been quite interesting for our organization. Some spectacular speakers, both members and guests speakers alike have delighted and educated us. The program committee tells me that the remainder of the year looks amazing. July's meeting promises to be a sweet treat, presented by Joann Arpiani. I want to once again thank member, Joe Colagiovanni, for his annual update and willingness to share his role as Honorary Vice-Consul with our members. For those of you who were able to attend our June meeting, you know that we hon-

ored Aldo Della Croce with the Italian Heritage Award. Aldo was presented a beautiful plaque. We sincerely appreciate all of his hard work and efforts for our Club and in the Italian-American community.

This brings me to an important point. Perhaps, I refer to this too often. Perhaps some of you wish that I would just leave it alone. However, I feel it is my obligation to keep it at the forefront of what we do. All right then! Ask yourself- why you are a member of the Club? Yes, the meals at Baldo's are great. Yes, the speakers are terrific. But what else draws you back month after month? I hope it is the camaraderie that each of you has found. I hope

that it is the friendships that have developed in recent months and years. Perhaps it is a time to socialize with those who may be life-long friends. Whatever your motivation, you are the lifeblood of the Club. Without you, our treasured members, we are nothing. As in previous months, I am asking you to reach out and embrace the fellowship of one another. Take pride in the long history of the Club and the heritage that we celebrate. Enjoy your summer, please be safe and I hope to see you at the July meeting.

*Ciao,  
Jim*



**Aldo Della Croce  
receives Italian  
Heritage Award**

## “Annual Report from the Italian Vice-Consul” *cont'd*

standing involves the attempt to work out, directly with Ministry, the sharing agreement with the St. Louis Art Museum of a Greek helmet from Metaponto in South Central Italy. Related to this are the striking discoveries of monumental tombs that date back to around the second half of the Fourth Century, B.C. These groups of tombs appear to belong to a priestly social elite class. The artifacts in these tombs are connected to the tyrant Archelaos and to his henchmen, Antileon and Hepparinus. Tomb No. 28, comprising a woman, has artifacts with the recurring motif of a ram, exactly the same as the motif on the helmet housed in the St. Louis Art Museum.

Sergio Vento, the new Ambassador, was born on May 20, 1938, and holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Rome. He and his wife, Maria Magdalena Zelent, have two children. He has had a distinguished career in the Diplomatic and Foreign Services and has officiated in various roles in a number of different countries, among which are France, Yugoslavia, and Turkey. In addition, Ambassador Vento is a permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations; was an Ambassador of Italy to France; Chief of Mission to Yugoslavia; and Diplomatic Counselor to the Prime Minister of Italy. In 1991 he was confirmed in the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

*by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips*

## SILVIA RAVA

On behalf of the Italian Club, the Board wishes to extend its sympathy to member John Rava on the death of his mother Silvia, on June 15, as well as to John's wife, Susan, his sister Luciana Rava, and his maternal uncle, Mario Luzzatto of Rome, Italy and to the entire Rava family. Silvia was married for 62 years, to the late Paul B. Rava, also a long-time IC member, who died in 1997. In 1939, with her husband and two infant children, she fled Italy to escape Fascist racial laws. After a year in England, the family moved to St. Louis in 1941. For over 50 years, she was active in the League of Women Voters as well as in a variety of other activities including traveling, photography, and teaching. Mrs. Rava willed her body to the Washington University School of Medicine. At her request there will be no funeral or memorial services. A memorial gravestone will be placed next to her late husband's grave in the Jewish Cemetery on the Lido in Venice. Silvia will be warmly remembered as an elegant, gracious and charming lady.

*by Gene Mariani*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO AUTHOR ROY DEBELLIS

Congratulations to IC member Roy DeBellis on the recent publication of "Ladybug", his new novel about the development of atomic-level devices used for spying and intelligence gathering. Interwoven with the novel's scientific history is a tale of a nuclear terrorist plot that threatens the world and which takes the reader to many US cities as well as to other locations such as London, Paris, and Rome. An engineering graduate of Notre Dame University, DeBellis's career included managing large scientific projects in the areas of fusion energy, particle beam technology, and smart weapons systems. The book is available at Borders, Barnes and Noble, Booksamillion, and Amazon.com

*by Gene Mariani*

## TERZA PAGINA

### I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

*Il capolavoro di Alessandro Ruggeri (Arconate Milano 1928) è **Ul Mé Paés**, la raccolta di poesie in dialetto del suo paese natale ed in italiano. In queste poesie, ambientate nel mondo paesano, Ruggeri ricorda la storia e la cultura del suo paese lombardo. In occasione della conferenza internazionale sull'emigrazione organizzata dall'Ecoistituto della Valle del Ticino il 19-20 luglio 2003 a Cuggiono, vicino Arconate, e co-sponsorizzata dall'Italian Club of St. Louis, vorrei proporre ai lettori la poesia di Ruggeri che ricorda gli emigranti del tardo Ottocento e del primo Novecento.*

#### I Nostri Emigranti di Alessandro Ruggeri

Facevan una vita grama cent'anni fa i nostri contadini,  
la miseria rendeva incerto il loro domani  
e i capofamiglia a "San Martino" facevan fatica a pagare  
l'affitto per i campi e per la casa dopo un anno di lavoro.

E la disperazione aveva messo coraggio a tanti giovani,  
quattro panni in un fagotto e via in America  
a cercar fortuna, qualcuno ch'era già là  
scriveva che si facevan soldi a darsi da fare.

Gente che non s'era mai mossa da Arconate,  
che non sapeva neanche com'era il mare,  
facevan la traversata sul bastimento  
e per giorni e notti per loro era un tormento.

Per poter comprar un pezzo di terra e poi far la casa  
s'adattavan a tutto, vivendo in baracche e malvisti,  
lavoravan in miniera, a posar binari, tutti lavori pesanti:  
quante fatiche han fatto i nostri emigranti!

E quando, dopo anni, non ne potevan più per la nostalgia  
tornavano a casa con un pò di dollari in tasca  
e chi stava là si facevan mandar donne da Arconate,  
scelte in fotografia, da poter sposare.

In giro per il mondo c'è gente, con gli avi di Arconate,  
che in casa parlan ancora il nostro dialetto d'allora:  
è una radice che li lega al paese che i loro per sempre han  
lasciato  
quando, per tentar la fortuna, piangendo l'han salutato.

O nipoti, ricordatevi dei vostri bisnonni,  
loro hanno aperto la strada al vostro benessere:  
han bagnato di sudore d'un lavoro duro, via da casa,  
il terreno e la casetta che vi han lasciato in eredità.

### In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

#### Festa del Redentore

La Festa del "Redentore", il 19 e il 20 luglio 2003, una delle più antiche feste popolari veneziane, si celebra ogni anno nel terzo fine settimana di luglio: è la festa più amata e più sentita dai veneziani che vede, per un rito che si ripete da 400 anni, centinaia di barche radunarsi nel bacino di San Marco ad ammirare e ad attendere i fuochi d'artificio di mezzanotte.

La storia racconta che, dopo tre anni di terribile epidemia, il doge Sebastiano Venier sciolse il voto, fatto dal suo predecessore Alvise Mocenigo, di erigere un tempio di ringraziamento al Redentore, nell'isola della Giudecca. L'incarico fu affidato al Palladio che nel 1579 pose la prima pietra: fu poi consacrato nel 1592. Il 21 luglio 1578, nel luogo in cui si era deciso fosse eretto il tempio, fu costruito un altare con tabernacolo all'aperto ed in 4 giorni si gettò attraverso il canale della Giudecca un ponte formato da 80 galee. Una folla immensa di veneziani, scampati alla terribile epidemia, lo attraversò consapevolmente che i lutti e le disgrazie erano terminati. Quando fu costruito il tempio, il doge stabilì che la terza domenica di luglio fosse destinata al pellegrinaggio. Ben presto la gente, per paura di non trovare posto per la cerimonia, arrivava alla Giudecca la sera prima e lì trascorrevano tutta la notte per poi attendere il sorgere del sole.

Nonostante siano passati più di 4 secoli dalla sua istituzione, la festa del "Redentore" continua a svolgersi negli stessi luoghi e con le stesse modalità. La città è unita alla Giudecca da un ponte che attraversa il canale della Giudecca e che viene montato su moderne piattaforme galleggianti.

Il carattere di festa popolare è rimasto intatto: i veneziani sono i veri protagonisti della festa con le loro barche squisitamente preparate, con le altane, le terrazze e i campielli illuminati da migliaia di luci: circa 1.500 sono le imbarcazioni che si radunano in bacino San Marco mentre si può calcolare che 30.000 siano le persone che, dall'acqua e dalle rive assistono alla festa.

La festa ha il suo culmine verso mezzanotte con i fuochi d'artificio, dislocati su pontoni distribuiti lungo un fronte di 400 metri tra il bacino di San Marco e il canale della Giudecca. Dal 1978 sono accompagnati da musiche e sono, per unanime giudizio, tra i più belli del mondo. Finiti i "fuochi" le barche si avviano al Lido dove attendono, per tradizione, il sorgere del sole.

La domenica è invece dedicata alle celebrazioni religiose di ringraziamento, alle quali partecipano tutte le autorità civili e religiose ed alle competizioni sportive: una regata di giovani su pupparini (imbarcazioni veloci usate un tempo per la vigilanza marittima) e una regata dei campioni su gondole a due remi.

La Festa del Redentore è da vedere! Per ulteriori informazioni <http://www.comune.venezia.it> Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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LA RONDINE**

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and Heritage***

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## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

### **Future Italian Club Meetings**

- July 16- *"Italian Cookies and Biscotti"*,  
presenter Joann Arpiani
- August 20- *"The Leaning Tower of Pisa"*,  
presenter retired architect-contractor,  
Dominick Alessi.
- September 17- *"60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of  
Italy in WW II"* presenter Cav. Valerio Bianco
- October 15- *Italian WW I Songs of the Alpini*  
presenters Peter Puleo, Aldo Della Croce et al

*The Italian Club meets the third Wednesday  
of each month for dinner at  
da Baldo's Restaurant  
Cocktails—6:30p.m.  
Dinner- 7:00p.m.*

### **Events of Interest**

Concert- Sunday, July 13th  
at 3:00p.m.  
Mario Duella,  
organist from Milan, Italy  
Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis  
*Suggested donation of \$5 per  
person (at the door)*  
*For info 314-533-7662*

### **"Respiro" now being shown at the- Plaza Frontenac Cinema**

The synopsis: On an island near Western Sicily, village life can be as cruel as it is heartwarming and as suffocation as it is charming. Grazia (Valeria Golino), an affectionate young mother of three, unwillingly becomes the talk of the entire village due to her free spirit. When her reckless behavior becomes misinterpreted, her husband's family decides she needs medical treatment in faraway Milan. When Grazia protests, her thirteen-year-old son Pasquale tries to find a way to protect the mother he adores. English subtitles.