



La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

Sep 2003

February Program: Italian Trivia Contest

Next Meeting

Wednesday

February 18th

Cocktails— 6:30p.m.

Dinner— 7:00p.m.

RSVP—
Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960
or

ItalianClubSTL
@aol.com

For our February meeting, avremo "un pò di divertimento", something a bit lighter and less formal than our usual academic fare. The program will be a contest to test your knowledge of some little-known items of Italian and Italian-American history, customs, culture, doings and accomplishments. In short, we will have a **ITALIAN TRIVIA CONTEST** – presented in manner and format that will prove interesting, informative, competitive, entertaining and enjoyable. Our Trivia Master for the evening will be the affable and energetic **Peter Puleo**; who, with the cunning and talented as-

sistance of members **Barbara Klein** and **Jerry Galleano**, has fiendishly concocted and specifically designed "un concorso" that should be both challenging and fun. Among the categories covered in their multi-media extravaganza of a contest will be geography, history, music, food, wine, entertainment and cinema. Each dinner table will comprise a team. The team (table) with the most points at the end of the evening will not only cover itself with glory but realize some nice prizes as well. In addition to promoting challenging trivia contests, Peter Puleo, a graduate of the

WU School of Engineering, is a retired entrepreneur and industrialist, and a passionate enthusiast of all things Italian - including language (in addition to his beloved Sicilian dialect, he knows standard Italian pretty doggone well), history, culture, film and especially food and wine. Newly-elected IC Director Barbara Klein, also equipped with formidable knowledge of things Italian, assisted in contest planning and will act as official judge and scorekeeper. Jerry Galleano, an active member of the club's audio-visual committee, contributed to question development. *by Gene Mariani*

Annales for MMIII - The Board's Report to the Membership

At each January meeting, the officers and directors of the Italian Club make formal reports to the membership on the Club's status, activities and performance during the preceding year, answer member questions, and address whatever Club-related issues are of importance to the members present. A summary of the reports follows:

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At the January 2004 meeting, an election was held for a new Director to replace retiring Director Carolina Mondia. Barbara Klein was elected to a three-year term of office, commencing January 2004. The Board of Directors consists of the following offices and directors:
President: James Tognoni
Vice President: Marie Cuccia-Brand
Secretary: Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips
Treasurer: Daniel Viele
Directors: Gloria Etling, Carl Giordano, Barbara Klein

STANDING COMMITTEES

La Rondine
General Editor: Marie Cuccia-Brand.
Contributors: *La Terza Pagina:* Barbara Klein, Carolina Mondia. *Program Recaps:* Gene Mariani, Marianne Perisack, Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips, Vito Tamboli. *Upcoming Program Descriptions:* Gene Mariani, Peter Puleo. *Mailing:* Joann Arpiani. La

Rondine can be read on the Italy St. Louis website or can be received via email in the Acrobat format. Anyone interested in writing recaps or to send in announcements, contact Marie Cuccia-Brand.

Italian Club website

IC Webmaster Franco Giannotti reported on the information on the Club's website and the useful links available as an integral part of the ItalySTL website. The Italian Club was the first such organization in the St. Louis area to participate in the ItalySTL site and to take advantage of the global benefits of being represented on the web.

Classic Films and Operas at the Bocce Club

Committee Members: Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips, Carla Bossola, Aldo Della Croce, Gene Mariani. A special thanks to the Italia America Bocce Club Board Directors and especially IABC Director Aldo Della Croce for their assistance, cooperation, and enthusiastic support in this worthwhile, admission-free community based project. Film introductions were by Carla Bossola and opera introductions by Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips. The following films and operas were shown during 2003:

Spring Series: Films; *Bellissima, Pane e Tulipani* (Bread and Tulips). **Operas;**

L'Elisir d'Amore, La Cenerentola.

Autumn Series: Films; *The Organizer, Il Postino.* **Operas;** *Il Trovatore, Turandot.*

Saint Louis Art Museum - Italian Club of St. Louis Series of Classic Italian Films

Committee Members: Barbara Klein, Carla Bossola, Gene Mariani. Many thanks to the Saint Louis Art Museum for their support and cooperation on this important project.

Panettone Players

Cast Members: Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips, Director; Roger Gennari, Gene Mariani, Tony Perrone. Each year, the Panettone Players, at the December meeting, stage a mini-play. In December 2003 the players performed, in Italian, *Italian Folktales*, a dramatization based on an original adaptation by Director Rossomanno-Phillips of three tales taken from Italo Calvino's *Fiabe Italiane: Pelle di Vecchia, Mamma di San Pietro, and Pietre in Pane.*

PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Monthly Programs and Presenters
Committee Members; Gene Mariani, Peter Puleo, Tony Perrone. The following presentations were given during 2003.

January: *Annales*,
February: *Gabriele D'Annunzio and his Vittoriale*
March: *Lyon: A Roman City*
April: *Brunellesci's Ospedale degli Innocenti*
May: *Gems of Italian Medical History*
June: *Annual Report of the Vice Consul of Italy*
July: *Biscotti*
August: *Tower of Pisa*
September: *Italy - 1943*
October: *Le Canzoni degli Alpini*
November: *Doge Enrico Dandolo and the Myth of Venice and SLU Student Awards.*
December: *Christmas celebration. Panettone Players performance.*

L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members:

I hope that this month's article finds you warm and cozy. As you may know this past month's meeting was our annual business review. We had reports by the various committee heads, thanks to all for their time, effort and energy. We also had an election for one of our Directors. As a result of the election, we are pleased to welcome Barbara Klein back to the Board.

This year promises to be an interesting one. The upcoming programs for the year look terrific. We will hopefully have at least one road trip or interesting tour. We will also participate in the Columbus Day celebration. If any of you have suggestions for activities please let me or one of your Board members know. We are always looking for ideas. Keep your eyes open for announcements of upcoming events. For example before long it

will be spring and we will have the chance to attend the Young Artists' Competition. Please call some of the other members that you know and remind them of the monthly meetings. The attendance has been outstanding; but I would love to see us fill the room every month. I will close for now by wishing you warmth and friendship for the rest of this winter.

Ciao, Jim

jtognoni@earthlink.net

Annales for MMIII - cont'd

January: *Annales*, **February:** *Gabriele D'Annunzio and his Vittoriale* (T. Perrone/G. Mariani, Ph.D.); **March:** *Lyon: A Roman City* (Salvatore Sutura, Ph.D.); **April:** *Brunelleschi's Ospedale degli Innocenti* (Larry Kahn, M.D.); and Annual Washington University Student Awards. **May:** *Gems of Italian Medical History* (Lilla Vekerdy); **June:** *Annual Report of the Vice Consul of Italy* (Joseph Colagiovanni, J.D.) **July:** *Biscotti* (Joanne Arpiani); **August:** *Tower of Pisa* (Dominic Alessi); **September:** *Italy - 1943* (Valerio Bianco); **October:** *Le Canzone degli Alpini* (The St. Ambrose Singers); **November:** *Doge Enrico Dandolo and the Myth of Venice* (Tom Madden, Ph.D.) and SLU Student Awards. **December:** *Christmas celebration. Panettone Players performance.* (D. Rossomanno-Phillips, R. Gennari, A. Perrone, G. Mariani)

Special Events and Activities

Columbus Day Booth at Berra Park: Chair Gloria Etling and member volunteers.

Wreath Laying Ceremony at Columbus Statue in Tower Grove Park: Joseph Colagiovanni, Ed Berra, Joseph Torrisi, Gene Mariani.

International Conference of History of Immigration: The Italian Club co-sponsored this widely-reported conference held July 19 in Cuggiono, Italy in conjunction with the *Ecoistituto della Valle del Ticino*. Barbara Klein, Carolina Stelzer, Gene Mariani.

Nativity Walk on the Hill: First annual presepio contest. Co-sponsored by Italian Club of St. Louis and the Hill Business Association. Total of 19 presepi entered the contest. Prize for best presepio by an individual won by Rosalie DiMartino, mother of IC Director Gloria Etling. Award for best presepio by an organization won by Italian Club of St. Louis.

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS:

Washington University Awards: IC Italian Language Award in memory of Past President Frank Lopiccio and matching Southwest Bank Award in memory of Fred Giacoma were made to WU students Sarah Atkinson and Michael Ray.

Saint Louis University Awards: IC Italian Language Award in honor of Past President Eugene Mariani and matching Mariani family and Southwest

Bank Awards. These awards are used by SLU's Italian language program to assist students to spend a semester of study in Italy and to sponsor an annual lecture at the University. Awards were made to SLU students Jessica Bellomo and Jennifer Rose. Guest lecturer was Professor Ruth Iyob, Ph.D.

Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville Award: IC Italian Language Award was made to Rachel Hindelang.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

As of January 1, 2003, there were 156 regular members of the Italian Club. During the year 7 new members were elected to the Club and 16 memberships were cancelled due to death, resignation, or non-payment of dues. As of December 31, there were 147 regular members. This does not include Honorary Members. During 2003, the following Honorary Members were elected Mr. Joseph Garagiola, Dr. Rebecca Messbarger, Dr. Richard Brand, Mrs. Evelyn Puleo, and Mr. George Wehrle.

FINANCIAL STATUS

As of January 1, 2003, the Club's cash balance was \$ 9,930.06. During the year, cash receipts were \$ 4,697.70 and cash disbursements were \$ 10,072.72 leaving a cash balance as of December 31, 2003 of \$ 4,555.04. It should be noted that \$4,000 of the cash disbursements was used to purchase a Certificate of Deposit. As of December 31, 2003, the Club had 6 CDs at the Southwest Bank totaling \$22,500.

ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS AND THE FIAO

The Italian Club is a member of the Federation of Italian American Organizations (FIAO). The Club is represented on the FIAO Board by Peter Puleo. The FIAO has two major programs, both of which actively supported by IC members. These are the annual Young Artists Competition which recognizes outstanding young musicians in both piano and strings. Italian Club members Maria Cuccia-Brand and Patricia Merlo are members of the FIAO/Young Artists committee. Another major initiative is the FIAO/Italian Language Program for study of the Italian language. Italian Club members Franco Giannotti, Joseph Torrisi, Eugene Mariani, and Joseph Colagiovanni are members of the FIAO/Italian Language Committee

Success of Luchino Visconti Film Series

The screening of Luchino Visconti's "German Trilogy" in a program co-sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Saint Louis Art Museum was a success. Many thanks to Prof. Michael Syrimis of Washington University, and our own Prof. Simone Bregni for their film introductions; thanks also to Jim Tognoni, Gene Mariani, Carla Bossola, and Barbara Klein for their organization of the event.

Italian Club Website

We are in the process of updating the Italian Club's website. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Marie Cuccia-Brand at:

mcucciasbj@aol.com or (314) 993-2252.

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Gaio Valerio Catullo (Sirmione 84a.C. – Roma 54 a.C.?) apparteneva ad una famiglia agiata: suo padre ospitò più di una volta Cesare nella sua villa a Sirmione. Trasferitosi a Roma per gli studi, secondo la consuetudine dei giovani di famiglie benestanti, trovò il luogo adatto dove sviluppare le sue doti di scrittore. Catullo viene definito come il poeta della giovinezza e dell'amore: il tema principale della sua poesia è Lesbica, la donna che il poeta amò. Il "liber" catulliano consta di 116 "carmi", da cui è scelto il seguente,

CIX

di Gaio Valerio Catullo

lucundum

lucundum, mea vita, mihi proponis amorem
hunc nostrum inter nos perpetuumque fore.
di magni, facite ut vere promittere possit,
atque id sincere dicat et ex animo,
ut liceat nobis tota perducere vita
aeternum hoc sanctae foedus amicitiae.

Piacevole.

Piacevole, vita mia, mi proponi che questo
nostro amore lo sarà e perpetuo.
Dei grandi, fate che possa promettere veramente,
e che dica questo sinceramente e col cuore
perché ci sia lecito protrarre per tutta la vita
questo eterno patto di sacra amicizia.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Sirmione: "Perla di tutte le isole e penisole"

L'antico abitato di Sirmione, su un'esile penisola che s'allunga nel Lago di Garda per circa 4 Km, è oggi una prestigiosa località di soggiorno termale e classica meta del turismo. La romana "Sirmio mansio" sulla "via Gallica", che sorgeva ai piedi della penisola, è ricordata per la villa cantata da Catullo.

Nel medioevo il "vicus", sorto ove è il nucleo antico dell'abitato, fu trasformato in "castrum", con funzioni di controllo del basso lago, su cui sarebbe stata eretta la turrata rocca, che è ora all'ingresso del paese.

All'ingresso nel nucleo antico si erge la Rocca Scaligera, alto maniero interamente circondato dalle acque, costruito da Martino I della Scala nel '200. Nel portico d'ingresso è allestito un lapidario romano e medievale: da vedere due colonne miliari e un archetto di ciborio del secolo VIII recanti i

nomi di Desiderio e Adelchi. Attraverso un ponte levatoio si accede a un secondo recinto, dove una scala conduce al camminamento sulle mura, dal quale si può ammirare la darsena, antico rifugio della flotta scaligera.



Poco più a nord si giunge all'ingresso della zona archeologica delle Grotte di Catullo che presenta i resti di una villa romana costruita nella prima età imperiale, utilizzando una precedente struttura, forse del secolo I a.C. Con la sua pianta di 167 metri di lunghezza per 105 metri di larghezza è la più vasta ed organica villa romana del nord Italia.



Nell'antiquarium ci sono disegni e mappe e oggetti ed elementi decorativi, tra cui alcuni pannelli con affreschi della fine del secolo I a.C. (*scena marina* e *ritratto di poeta*, forse Catullo) e una scultura dell'inizio del secolo II (*testa di Dioscuoro*). Percorso il viale d'ingresso fino alla villa, si incontrano dapprima le cosiddette botteghe, ambienti usati per il sostegno della villa. Da una scala sulla destra si accede al doppio criptoportico a pilastri, da cui per un'altra scaletta si sale, sulla destra, all'uliveto. Da qui sono visibili il criptoportico scoperto e la piscina, con i gradoni e l'intercapedine per il riscaldamento del tepidarium. Il sentiero che porta al settore più settentrionale degli scavi calpesta il piano nobile della villa, costeggiando resti di pavimenti a mosaico e in laterizio. Al termine, prima di scendere le scale, si offrono alla vista le imponenti strutture che si allungano nell'acqua. Al livello più basso è il cosiddetto lungo corridoio, alla cui destra corre una serie di 15 ambienti e, all'estremità est, una sala con grande finestra, detta *trifora del Paradiso*.

Sirmione è da vedere! Per ulteriori informazioni vedi www.comune.sirmione.bs.it

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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LA RONDINE**

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80 years of
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and Heritage***

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Prossime Manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS

- February 18-** Italian Trivia Revisited
by Jerry Galleano
- March 17-** Tenors in Opera
by Susan Wohl
- April 21-** Roman Gladiators
by Anna Amelung
Washington University
Awards Night

*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.*

A PREVIEW OF THE SPRING FILM AND OPERA SERIES PRESENTED BY THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS AT THE BOCCE CLUB

"ATTILA" by GIUSEPPE VERDI : La Scala presents a rare revival of this early Verdi masterpiece. Conducted by the renown Riccardo Muti, this production comes to life through the thrilling voices of the infamous bass Samuel Ramey and soprano Cheryl Studer. Set in the time of Empire, "Attila" tells a story of murder and barbaric mayhem.

Two one-act operas by GIACOMO PUCCHINI;

"IL TABARRO" - "Torn-from-the-headlines" saga of infidelity, circa 1900, that still retains its raw emotional charge.

"GIANNI SCHICCHI" - A comedic masterpiece, dramatically immortalizes a passage from Dante's "Inferno." Greedy family members are tricked out of their inheritance by the cunning Schicchi, who uses his new wealth to help two young lovers wed.

BITTER RICE (RISO AMARO), 1949 - in this ingenious melodrama by

Giuseppe De Santis a thief on the run, Vittorio Gassman, meets a beautiful girl, Silvana Mangano. She joins the small army of "mondine" (rice weeders) who work to earn extra money during the rice season in the fields near Vercelli (Piedmont). One of Italy's most successful films, "Bitter Rice" is a masterpiece of cinema untarnished by time.

THREE BROTHERS (TRE FRATELLI),

1980 - In this moving and interesting film the director Francesco Rosi portrays three brothers of modern Italy. The brothers, who have been separated by work and life and live in different towns (Rome, Turin and Naples) return home to their small village following the death of their mother. Main actors are Philippe Noiret, Vittorio Mezzogiorno, Michele Placido and Charles Vanel.

We will notify you of the exact dates and times of the films and operas.