



# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

October 2004

## An Italian Music Sing-Along!

### Next Meeting

Wednesday

October 21<sup>st</sup>

Cocktails— 6:30p.m.

Dinner— 7:00p.m.  
\$20 per person

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

***“The Italians got to see movies and some particularly remember the Disney pictures and the laughter of the children in the dark. The Italians often sang while they worked. All this interaction put a human face on the enemy and a different relationship between them and the Americans began to form.”***

What better fun can you have than getting together for a songfest? It elevates the mood and even helps the digestion. Come join us on October 20<sup>th</sup>, when our program, following another delicious dinner, prepared and served by Baldo and his staff, will feature the informal group singing of familiar Italian songs. Song booklets will be passed out to all who attend so that everybody there

can join in the singing. Up front will be a small group to lead the singing, including Aldo, Daniela and Gianpiero Della Croce, Sue and Pete Trese, Armando Pasetti, Linda Barni Hausman and Richard and Marie Cuccia-Brand. The idea is to sing. Everybody can do this because the songs being selected will be well-known. Hopefully, we will have a few surprises to make the eve-

ning even more enjoyable. Even if singing is not your forte, come anyway; tap your feet or clap your hands or just sit back and enjoy the music. As everyone knows, Italians enjoy an outstanding reputation in the field of music. We can assure you we will do nothing to jeopardize this lofty perch. Come and see for yourselves.

— Roy DeBellis

## “The Enemy Among Us” - by David Fiedler

St. Louisian David Fiedler's presentation on his book *The Enemy Among Us* tells the poignant story of the more than 15,000 Prisoners of War (POW) that were incarcerated in the state of Missouri during World War II. The prisoners were treated exceptionally well in the 30 camps around the state. Often the government was chastised for the liberal treatment of the enemy but people in surrounding towns and those in charge of the camps did not see the face of the enemy but mostly, warm, human beings far from their homes and families. Pete Puleo was assigned as an interpreter in the Army and Fiedler worked closely with him.

The authorities did not want to mix nationalities so the Italians were moved to Camp Weingarten in the St. Genevieve area. There were 5,000 assigned to this camp that worked on nearby farms for pay. Friendships were formed that have lasted until

this day.

In accordance with the Geneva Convention, the camps had to be made similar to those that housed American soldiers but with more security. They were able to work as long as it did not have anything to do with war or health endangerment and they had to be paid for their labor. They were able to beautify the grounds with flowers, rock gardens and benches and decorated their homes with pictures, movie stars' portraits and had pets. The prisoners worked and were able to purchase items at the canteen with their pay or save their money for use when they returned home. The prisoners operated their own kitchens and cooked their own food, often better than that served to the United States soldiers who wanted to eat with the Italians. The media and public were often angry at the War Department for their soft treatment of the “enemy”. The War Department coun-

tered with the fact that working for pay was good for their morale and that idleness served no purpose. It helped the American war situation similar to the way that Rosie the Riveter did. When the women of America rolled up their sleeves and went to work in every facet of daily life, more men were free to fight for their country. This same concept occurred with the POWs whose work here significantly helped ease the labor shortage.

Two weeks after the Italians arrived in Camp Weingarten, they saved the town that was ravaged by a flood. The United States realized the potential of using POW work forces and started a side camp program that brought in the crops with Italian workers at Sikeston, New Madrid, Kansas City, Fulton, Chesterfield, Hannibal, Louisiana, Columbia, etc. The Italians got to see movies and some particularly remember the Disney pictures and the

(Continued on page 2)

## L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

*Dear Fellow Members:*

Fall is upon us. I can't believe that my first term of office is almost complete. It is a joy and privilege to serve this wonderful organization. While on that topic, I wish to address the issue of getting volunteers. Often one of the officers or board members receives a suggestion about an activity or effort that the Club should undertake. Many of these activities sounds great and we appreciate the suggestions. The biggest problem we have is getting a broader range of the members to volunteer to help with these activities. You can help

change this situation by agreeing to serve on committees and help out at events like the Columbus Day booth. Can we count on you for an hour or two of your time a couple of times a year?

October is full of many festivals, shows and events. We have the continuation of our Film and Opera Series and our regular meeting on October 20th. Don't forget that Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> is the big Columbus Day parade and festa on the Hill. Italian Club member, Valerio Bianco, has received the Spirit of Columbus Award. Hope to see you there.

Please remember that the October meeting is an important one. We have the election of officers and one Director. These officers that you choose will serve a two-year term and the Director will serve a three-year term. They all give generously of their time to serve the best interest of the total organization. Make your reservation as directed in this publication. Thanks for reading these few words. As always, please let me know what you are thinking.

*Ciao, Jim*

*jtognoni@earthlink.net*

### The Enemy Among Us

*(Continued from page 1)*

laughter of the children in the dark. The Italians often sang while they worked. All this interaction put a human face on the enemy and a different relationship between them and the Americans began to form. After the war, many Americans sent CARE packages to Italy. The Italians wrote back thanking them and giving news of their lives in Italy.

During their free time the Italians played soccer, bocce and other sports. Some took classes and a professor among them taught art, theater and music. The Americans would come from miles around to be entertained. They painted pictures from photos, carved boat and village models and made medals. Pete Puleo remembers that some of the prisoners cried when the war ended and they returned to Italy. Some returned to live here and many came back to visit in later years. POW Giuseppe Zanti had family on the Hill and he ultimately returned to live there. Fielder said, "Some reunions have taken place. The numbers are fewer, memories more faint, but nevertheless, the significance of their time spent here will never be forgotten."

*by Marianne Peri Sack*

**Columbus Day Parade and Festival**  
**Sunday, October 10th**  
**Berra Park**  
**Noon—6p.m.**

**Grand Marshals:**  
**John, Bart, Jr., Michael & Chris Saracino**  
**Spirit of Columbus Award— Valerio Bianco**  
**Miss Italian St. Louis—Katherine Antonacci**

The parade begins at Southwest Bank at noon and winds through the Hill community ending at the festa at Berra Park. The Italian Club will have a booth at the Columbus Day Festival at Berra Park. We will be selling Baldo's famous gelato. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Gloria DiMartino Etling if you can help. (314) 965-6972 or gloandcho@hotmail.com

### FREE WALKING TOURS OF THE HILL

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 AND**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
**10:00A.M.**

**ST. AMBROSE CHURCH**  
*sponsored by the*

*National Italian American Foundation*  
*For reservations: [www.niaf.org/october](http://www.niaf.org/october)*  
*or Barbara Klein (314) 422-3102*

### 2nd Annual Hill Nativity Walk

The second annual Hill Nativity Walk, a cultural display of Italian and Italian-style presepi (nativity scenes), will take place from December 1, 2004 to January 6, 2005, in the storefronts of Hill merchants. Those who are interested in displaying their presepi may enter the contest in one of three categories: organization, adult or children. A monetary prize will be given for the best of each category. In addition, we are looking for creative members who are interested in assisting with the installation and display of presepi in the Hill Nativity Walk.

*Please call Barbara Klein*  
*314-422-3102 for more information.*

### Bravo, Valerio!

Valerio Bianco was chosen to receive the Spirit of Columbus Award by the Columbus Day Corporation at their dinner on September 19. Cavaliere Bianco will also be acknowledged at the Columbus Day Parade and Festival on Sunday, October 10. Please join us in congratulating Valerio for this well-deserved honor.

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Eugenia Martinet** (Aosta 1896 - Aosta 1983) fu poetessa valdostana ed una delle più grandi esponenti degli scrittori francoprovenzali. Presento una sua poesia in lingua patois e la traduzione in italiano.

### Gramaci

di Eugenia Martinet

Ah, gramaci, la via,  
t'è étaie semplà è ardia  
é sta mateun dze voui me reverrié  
pe t'aveitzé.  
La quenta de no dove  
l'a meinà l'atra? Trove  
te que te m'a tzecca trop épouériaie  
pe rendre saie  
ma fantasi de tēta?  
A carne la tempēta  
te m'a eidzaie chovèn senza malece  
douça nereusse.

### Grazie

di Eugenia Martinet

Ah, grazie, la vita,  
sei stata semplice e ardita,  
e stamattina voglio voltarmi  
per guardarti.  
Quale di noi due  
ha condotto l'altra? Trovi  
che m'hai un po' troppo impaurita  
per render savia  
la mia fantasia di testa?  
A calmar la tempesta  
tu m'hai spesso aiutata senza malizia  
dolce nutrice.

## In giro per l'Italia

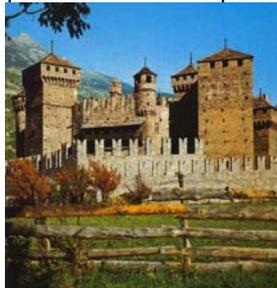
a cura di Barbara Klein

### Valle d'Aosta, "la valle dei castelli"

La Valle d'Aosta ha avuto una storia feudale particolarmente intensa, che ha lasciato più di settanta castelli disseminati sul suo territorio. Ci sono molte fortificazioni primitive (Cly a Saint-Denis, Châtel-Argent a Villeneuve, Graines a Brusson), fortezze militari (Montjovet, Fénis, Verrès, Bard, Quart, Pont-Saint-Martin, Introd, Sarre), sontuose dimore signorili (Issogne, Châtillon, Aymavilles, Saint-Pierre), oltre a torri e a case fortificate. Due dei bellissimi castelli vicino al capoluogo, Aosta, sono:

**Castello di Fénis** La scenografia di Fénis, le cui parti più antiche risalgono al 1242, è la più imponente e grandiosa di tutta la valle. Fénis, è situato sul colmo di una lieve collinetta. Nonostante il poderoso apparato difensivo, il castello non ha mai subito (per quanto si sa) attacchi e assedi di sorta, ma la sua funzione è stata esclusivamente quella di sede prestigiosa dei Challant del ramo Fénis. Dalla famiglia Challant il castello nel 1716 passò in altre

mani e fu ridotto a fattoria. Tale stato di degrado durò sino al quando lo Stato lo acquistò e lo restaurò. Il corpo centrale è chiuso



da due ordini di mura che permettono l'accesso al piccolo cortile di forma trapezoidale, chiuso sui quattro lati dalle facciate interne coi balconi di legno. Le pareti sono interamente affrescate con dipinti ispirati all'araldica e alla decorazione gotica, inclusi San Giorgio che uccide il drago ed altri santi protettori. Le figure sono di notevole fattura tardo

e sono opere di Giacomo Jaquerio e dei suoi discepoli, che li eseguirono tra il 1425 e il 1430. Le stanze sono distribuite su tre piani. Degni di attenzione sono i grandi camini, presenti quasi in ogni ambiente; la sala del trono, con la cappella sul fondo magistralmente affrescata dal Jaquerio; e poi la cucina e la sale da pranzo. Tutti i locali sono arredati con autentici e preziosi mobili valdostani del XV e XVI secolo.



**Castello di Sarre** Poco oltre la città di Aosta, dirimpetto allo sbocco della valle di Cogne, il castello di Sarre domina sul poggio terrazzato ricco di vigneti. Nella sua lunga storia (il castello risale al 1242) passò in proprietà a diverse famiglie.

Il Barone Ferrod però lo trasformò completamente, che dell'edificio originario conservò solo la torre quadrata inglobata nel nuovo assetto architettonico. Nel 1869 il re Vittorio Emanuele II lo acquistò destinandolo a residenza reale estiva durante i suoi soggiorni in valle d'Aosta, in occasione delle battute di caccia del Gran Paradiso. Il re cacciatore, diede l'aspetto definitivo al complesso: aggiunse le scuderie e sopraelevò la torre antica, che assunse l'atipico aspetto attuale d'incerta classificazione stilistica.

Anche gli ambienti interni furono ristrutturati per accogliere il reale proprietario; di questa presenza n'è indiscutibile testimonianza il grande salone interamente decorato dai trofei di caccia di Vittorio



Emanuele II. I trofei esposti, non solo nel salone ma anche nel corridoio, dimostrano quanto fosse grande la passione per la caccia del "re galantuomo".

Il castello fu venduto dai Savoia e nel 1989 la Regione Valle d'Aosta ha acquistato il complesso, ristrutturandolo completamente. L'intervento ha voluto conservare la doppia identità assunta dal castello nel corso della storia: di residenza alpina e di Museo della presenza sabauda in Valle. Il castello si presenta ora come dimora e come Museo.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi:

<http://www.courmayeur-mont-blanc.com/castelli.htm>

**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS  
LA RONDINE**

c/o Marie Cuccia-Brand  
2115 North Ballas Road  
St. Louis, MO 63131

Fax: 314-993-8096  
e-mail: mcucciasbj@aol.com

***Celebrating over  
80 years of  
Italian Culture  
and Heritage***

---

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.ITALYSTL.COM/  
ITALIANCLUB**

---

## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

### **FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**October 20 -**

An Italian Music Sing-Along

**November 17-**

Humanitas and Religion  
Machiavelli's "La Mandragola"  
(The Mandrake)

The Mariani Awards given to  
St. Louis University students

***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.***

Please note our new dinner  
price of \$20.00/person

### **ITALIAN CLUB FALL 2004 FILM AND OPERA SERIES**

**AMARCORD (1974)**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 15**

Bittersweet autobiographical film in which director Federico Fellini recreates remembered events and antics from his teen years in the late 1920's. He evokes humor and pathos as he ridicules Mussolini's Fascist regime and lampoons and caricatures his school friends, members of his family, the Church and the townspeople of his birthplace on the Adriatic coast of Italy. A film that never gets stale, and that has a world wide "cult" that just won't go away. (2 hours).

**MANON LESCAUT**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5**

By Giacomo Puccini. Romantic and compelling, Puccini's first great operatic success tells the story of a beautiful young woman elevated to a life of fame and pleasure. However when she abandons her role in society to live with the man she truly loves, her fortunes change, and her life ends tragically. Features Placido Domingo and Renata Scotta. (2 hours)

***All programs are in Italian with English sub-titles and begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Italia-America Bocce Club. Admission is free. Films are introduced by Prof. Antonio Perrone and operas by Dorotea Rossmanno-Phillips.***

***For additional information: (314) 535-9748 or [dorotearp@aol.com](mailto:dorotearp@aol.com)***