



# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

August 2005

## **“The Coliseum in Rome” by Roy DeBellis**

### Next Meeting

Wednesday

August 17th

Cocktails– 6:30p.m.

Dinner– 7:00p.m.  
\$20 per person

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com  
by noon Tuesday, Aug 16th



At our next meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, after a delicious dinner prepared by Baldo and his staff, we will present a subject with which practically everybody has some familiarity – the Roman Coliseum, A Symbol of Roman Culture.

“The Games” became an institution under Julius Caesar and part of the Roman fabric. The games had a life of their own. Over a hundred years later in 75 A.D. the Emperor Vespasian starting building the Coliseum, although he had vowed to “put an end to this game nonsense.” It was opened by his son, Titus in 80 A.D. and finished by his other son,

Domitian in 85 A.D. The Coliseum was built in a miraculously short time of 10 years by a people devoid of mathematical expressions and modern equipment but full of genius and creativity. The Coliseum has been called an edifice two thousand years ahead of its time. Its characteristics are mind boggling: it held 50 thousand Romans in 4 levels; it had a retractable roof. It had 80 entrances and could be emptied in minutes. Perfumed fountains sweetened the air. Mock but deadly naval battles were fought there. Thousands of animals imported from all corners of the Empire ended up in the Coliseum. Criminals went to their reward and gladiators sometimes won their freedom with a brave stand. The Romans forgot their troubles at the Coliseum. It was the primary Roman amphitheater for 400 years! Come and join us as we go back in time to see what it was like to be in the Coliseum during its glory days – *Roy DeBellis*.

## **“Miraculous Canals of Venice” - a documentary**

At our meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, we had a delightful buffet prepared by Baldo and his staff. The menu included ham and melon, a warm potato salad, bruschetta, mushrooms in a white sauce, rolled & stuffed baked eggplant, Italian rice balls (Arancini), meatballs, pasta in red sauce, Baldo’s delicious gelato, wine and coffee. Nine outstanding courses!

After dinner we viewed the 45 minute video: “MIRACULOUS CANALS OF VENICE,” introduced by and provided by the courtesy of Mr. Pete Puleo. Venice is among the most beautiful and complex cities in the world. Built in the water on wooden poles and whose economy was based on salt, this jewel of Western Civilization has held its own against time and tide for about 1,500 years. The building methods and architecture are unique. Wooden poles by the millions that later petrified were driven into the Venetian marsh to afford solid footing. This was topped with



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**“...the video revealed the fear that motivated Venetians to transform a marshy lagoon into a thriving, romantic metropolis.”**

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

### *My Fellow Members:*

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you and yours in good health. When the weather gets this warm I know many of us start thinking about fall and all the different activities at that time of the year. I know I am looking forward to them.

A few months ago I asked if anyone was interested in the Treasurer position. We do have a candidate to fill this vacancy. According to our by-laws, this candidate must be approved by the general membership. We will ask for this vote at the August meeting. Additionally, I will be asking a few of you to serve on a Nominating Committee. The term of one of our board members ends in January,

2006. We will need to nominate a candidate to fill this vacancy. If anyone is interested in running for this position, please let me know as soon as possible.

I have another important request. We still need two or three volunteers to handle the audio equipment. It is very easy to handle. I will make sure that you understand the system operation. Come on! Give it a chance! The Club really needs your support. How about a few of our newer members? This is a great way to get involved. Call me or e-mail me so we can discuss it. I look forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

**(314) 865-1005**

**jtognoni@earthlink.net**

*Ciao, Jim*

### **Bill Kohn: Religious Sites Around the World of Yesterday and Today; Retrospective August 11 – September 16**

Bill Kohn painted on location during his worldwide travels. This exhibit includes watercolors of important religious sites throughout the world, including Florence, Ravenna, and Rome Italy. In addition, there is a retrospective of larger acrylic paintings created in the studio that cover a forty year period.

**Opening evening reception -Thursday, August 11, at the Schmidt Art Gallery on the campus of Southwestern Illinois College, 2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville, Illinois.**

### **UNION AVENUE OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS "Falstaff" by Verdi—August 27, Sept. 2, 3**

Fully staged performances of Verdi's comic and unabashed celebration of Merry Olde England and a womanizing knight who harbors a plot to improve his love life and his finances, *Falstaff*, featuring Kevin Misslich as Falstaff, Robert Garner as Ford, Patricia Address as Alice Ford and Helen Donaldson as Nanetta. Stage direction by Mark James Meier and conducted by Scott Schoonover. Performances are at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 North Union Blvd. (one block north of Delmar) and begin at 8 PM. Opening night pre-concert discussion begins at 7 PM.

**Tickets are \$35 Center Front, \$28 Adult General Admission, \$22 Student/Senior (60+) General Admission and may be purchased by calling 314-361-2881 or emailing [uaottickets@juno.com](mailto:uaottickets@juno.com).**

### **Fall Film and Opera Series to begin in September**

The operas for the fall series have been chosen by Dorotea Rossmanno-Phillips. They will be: "Un Ballo in Maschera" (A Masked Ball) by Giuseppe Verdi; and "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" by Gioacchino Rossini (The Barber of Seville). The fall series will begin mid-September.

"A Masked Ball" The famed composer's grand-scale masterpiece reveals a love triangle that delves deep into the taboo of forbidden passion. The "Barber of Seville" - Brilliantly crafted, musically imaginative, and uproariously funny, Barber is a tour de force for the human voice.

Exact dates for the Fall Film and Opera Series will be in the next issue of *LaRondine*.

### **Columbus Day Corporation Plans Recognition Dinner and Parade**

The Columbus Day Corporation's Annual Recognition Dinner will be on Sunday, September 25. The Columbus Day Parade will be held on Sunday, October 9. The parade begins at noon at Southwest Bank and ends at Berra Park.

The Italian Club of St. Louis will have a booth at Berra Park where we will be selling gelato made by Baldo. We would appreciate your assistance at our booth. Please contact Gloria Di-Martino Etling at (314) 965-6972 if you are able to help.

**Plan to join us!**

*(Continued from page 1)*

wood planks and then by Istrian marble, impervious to the seawater. Brickwork was added last to form the construction layers of Venice's buildings. Ornate facades were common and announced Venice's economic success for all to see. In this rare glimpse, the video revealed the fear that motivated Venetians to transform a marshy lagoon into a thriving, romantic metropolis. Surprisingly, the city's first inhabitants were fleeing the German Lombards and bloodthirsty barbarians like Attila the Hun, who swept down the Italian Peninsula in his raids against the Roman Empire. Home to such artists as Titian and Bellini and composers Monteverdi and Vivaldi, Venice was rich in cultural background. Now because of rising seawater levels and eroding buildings, Venice is threatened as it "sinks" about 5 inches per century. Its future is uncertain as ways are investigated to stop the sinking. MIRACULOUS CANALS OF VENICE was an in-depth look at the history of this timeless city.

**Roy DeBellis**

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Vittorio Alfieri** (Asti 1749 – Firenze 1803), poeta e drammaturgo, fu uno dei maggiori interpreti delle istanze patriottiche in epoca prerisorgimentale. Esordì nel 1775 con la tragedia Cleopatra, che riscosse grande successo. Da allora si dedicò interamente all'attività letteraria. Le opere Della tirannide e Del principe e delle lettere sono pervase dall'amore per la libertà che risvegliarono l'orgoglio nazionale degli italiani e alimentarono quel desiderio di indipendenza che avrebbe caratterizzato il Risorgimento.

### Gran pittrice è Natura. Oh amabil vaga

di Vittorio Alfieri

Gran pittrice è Natura. Oh amabil vaga  
Armonia di color sí vari e vivi,  
che il cor, la vista e lo intelletto appaga!  
Qual fia pannel, che a tua bellezza arrivi?

Qui il fratello, che par opra di maga,  
ride fra due fuggenti argentei rivi:  
più là rosseggia l'odorosa fraga,  
fra i bei lauri non mai di fronda privi:

più su, di querce si corona il monte;  
e un bizzarro alternar di sole e d'ombra,  
or fa negra, ora indora a lui la fronte.

Là, quanto trar può l'occhio, il piano ingombra  
Verde speme di messi a ingiallir pronte...  
Ma nulla il duol dall'alma mia di sgombra.

### In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

#### Il circuito delle dimore Sabaude

Emanuele Filiberto di Savoia trasferisce nel 1563 da Chambéry a Torino la capitale del suo ducato e da quel momento gli interessi territoriali della Casa si spostano al di qua delle Alpi. Nel contempo i duchi di Savoia - poi principi di Carignano, re di Sicilia, re di Sardegna e, finalmente, re d'Italia - prendono a costituire sul territorio piemontese un sistema di residenze che risponde ad esigenze difensive, produttive o di passatempo. Con la cessione e la demanializzazione, tra Ottocento e Novecento, da parte di Casa Savoia, le dimore sabaude sono diventate museo di se stesse. Il circuito delle Residenze Reali dei Savoia rappresenta un insieme di grande interesse storico, artistico ed ambientale, tanto che nel 1997 è stato dichiarato dall'UNESCO "Patrimonio dell'umanità".

Ci sono quindici castelli nel circuito delle dimore Sabaude:



#### Palazzo Reale

Uno su tutti, il Palazzo Reale, progettato dal Castellamonte, è tuttora considerato tra le più sfarzose reggie europee. Iniziatore nel 1646 dalla

madama reale Cristina di Francia, moglie del duca Vittorio Amedeo I, è stata la residenza ufficiale dei duchi e poi dei re sabaudi per oltre due secoli. Nelle sale di ricevimento e negli alloggi privati, è possibile ammirare preziosi affreschi, quadri, arazzi, mobili e porcellane, importanti testimonianze dell'arte dal '600 all'800. Statue seicentesche decorano la fontana e le aiuole dei giardini disegnati dal francese Le Nôtre, il famoso architetto dei giardini di Versailles.

**Palazzo Madama** Al centro di Piazza Castello, questa residenza racchiude la storia millenaria di Torino, poiché comprende in un unico edificio, le torri della romana Porta Pretoria, il Castello quattrocentesco di Ludovico



d'Acaja e la scenografica facciata, aggiunta nel 1721 da Filippo Juvarra, quando, perduta la funzione difensiva, era diventata l'elegante Palazzo della "madame" reali. Le sale del Palazzo sono inserite in un complesso progetto di restauro, in vista della riapertura del Museo Civico di Arte Antica.



#### Palazzina di Caccia di Stupinigi

Il lungo viale fiancheggiato da cascine e scuderie conducono il visitatore alla vista della Palazzina, la cui destinazione per la caccia è simboleggiata dalla statua di cervo sul tetto.

La residenza, progettata da Filippo Juvarra, ha un'originale pianta a quattro bracci, disposti a croce di Sant'Andrea, che si uniscono in un fastoso salone ellittico. La palazzina ospita, nelle splendide sale affrescate, il Museo dell'Arte e dell'Ammobiliamento, una preziosa raccolta di capolavori dell'ebanisteria piemontese.

Gli altri castelli nel circuito sono: Palazzo Carignano, Castello del Valentino, Villa della Regina, La Reggia di Venaria Reale, Castello de La Mandria, Castello di Rivoli, Castello Ducale di Agliè, Castello di Moncalieri, Castello di Racconigi, Castello di Pollenzo, Castello di Govone e La Reggia di Valcasotto. Tutti sono visitabili tranne Castello di Pollenzo e La Reggia di Valcasotto che sono proprietà private.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi:

[http://www.piemondo.it/percorsi/resid\\_sabaude.htm](http://www.piemondo.it/percorsi/resid_sabaude.htm)

**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**

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## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

### **FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**August 17-** *"The Coliseum- A Symbol of Roman Culture" by Roy DeBellis*

**September 21 -** *"Italian Trivia" organized by Pete Puleo*

*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.*

*\$20.00/person*

*Reservations must be made by noon of the day prior to the dinner meeting; individuals making reservations after noon on Tuesday, August 16th or "walk-ins" will be charged \$25.00.*

### **Mark your Calendar!**

**Sunday, August 7-**

*Misericordia Society's Annual Procession and Celebration  
La Festa Maria SS della Misericordia-10:15a.m. St. Ambrose*

**August 11- September 16-**

*Bill Kohn's Exhibit- "Religious Sites Around the World"*

**August 27, Sept 2 & 3-**

*"Falstaff" at the Union Avenue Opera Theatre*

**Sunday, September 25-**

*The Sick and Elderly Fund of the Hill's Ravioli Dinner  
Columbus Day Corporation's Recognition Dinner*

**Sunday, October 2-**

*LaFesta at St. Ambrose*

**Sunday, October 9-**

*Columbus Day Parade*

**February 8—March 10**

*Pirandello's "Henry IV" at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis*