



January 2005

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

Annales for MMIII - Report to the Membership

Next Meeting

Wednesday

January 19

Cocktails— 6:30p.m.

Dinner— 7:00p.m.

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

"The cast of "Le Avventure di Pinocchio," who were introduced by narrator, Tony Perrone, consisted of Emanuele Giurisato – Pinocchio; Roger Gennari-Geppetto; Gene Mariani – il Grillo Parlante (the Talking Cricket); Gloria Griffero – La Fata (the Fairy); and Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips – Lucingnolo (Lampwick, Pinocchio's friend).

The purpose of the January meeting is to provide complete information on the Italian Club's performance during the past year in every area in which it was involved. In every month, other than January, the programs are cultural in nature; this one program is completely different. Its purpose is to report on how the Board has discharged its responsibility to the membership and its stewardship of the organization's

resources. It is an open forum intended to provide a straightforward look at everything that we have done, to review what was good, to consider what could have been done better, to ask questions, to discuss issues, to look at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and most importantly to get lots of participation, discussion, and input. The approach will be to keep things as brief, light, informal, and succinct as

possible, yet have detailed information available if it is needed. The specific topics covered will be financial status, membership, programs and activities, communications, and the club's participation with the FIAO. The long-range goal is continuous organizational improvement; the immediate goal is involvement and participation. Please join us on January 19, 2005 and provide your input and feedback.

December 2004 Celebration "Le Avventure di Pinocchio"

A joyous Christmas celebration, which embodied Italian tradition, superb dining, seasonal entertainment, and conviviality was enjoyed by Italian Club members and their families and friends. It all began with a diverting and entertaining presentation given by the Club's Panettone Players. They performed, in Italian, "Le Avventure di Pinocchio" ("The Adventures of Pinocchio"), the sly, imaginative novel by Carlo Collodi (real name, Carlo Lorenzini). Dramatic sketches were interspersed with narrative in an attempt to give an outline of the complete novel. "Pinocchio" was adapted from the English version of Collodi's book by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips and translated into Italian by Anthony Perrone. English translations of the script were available for those who wished them.

Dorotea's introduction gave a background of the novel, its theme and messages: "Pinocchio" was first serialized in "Il Giornale Dei Bambini" in 1881, published as a book in 1882, and eventually translated into many languages. Millions have been captivated by the rebellious

puppet, who, in spite of loving guidance, goes from one wild predicament to the next.

Of several international film versions of "Pinocchio", the best known is the Walt Disney version of 1940, which captures the main theme, but loses many of the book's nuances, complexities, excitement, action, and humor, and is, instead, a simplistic heart warning children's fantasy, portraying Pinocchio as innocent and naive. On the other hand, the original Pinocchio is lazy and irresponsible by choice. Before he can fulfill his deep wish to become a real boy, he must learn, through hard lessons, what it takes to become truly human – responsibility, generosity, compassion, humility, selflessness, and above all, love. Although multi layered with other moral questions, Collodi highlights the pull between childhood freedom and creativity on the one hand, and maturity and social responsibility on the other. The work also reflects the social tenor of the times, with authoritarian cautionary and pedantic advice to children who misbehave. The cast of "Le Avventure di Pinocchio," who were

introduced by narrator, Tony Perrone, consisted of Emanuele Giurisato – Pinocchio; Roger Gennari-Geppetto; Gene Mariani – il Grillo Parlante (the Talking Cricket); Gloria Griffero – La Fata (the Fairy); and Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips – Lucingnolo (Lampwick, Pinocchio's friend). Scenes from "Le Avventure di Pinocchio" were acted out, with the narrator explaining the events that occurred in between these dramatized sketches. The narration and sketches traced the carving of Pinocchio (from a piece of wood) by Geppetto, Pinocchio's rebellious behavior and unwillingness to remain at home or to go to school, his refusal to heed advice from Il Grillo Parlante and La Fata, his numerous misadventures, such as being duped of his money by the sly fox and cat, being lured to the Land of Toys where he is changed into a donkey (but changed back to a puppet by La Fata), and being swallowed by a whale where at long last he finds Geppetto, who has been swallowed as well. After they are rescued, Pinocchio's laborious and loving attempt to support and

(Continued on page 2)

L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members:

By the time you read this Father Time will have turned the page on another year. I can remember as a child, thinking how long a year was. That birthday-to-birthday or Christmas-to-Christmas seemed an eternity. Now it seems that I wake up, work, go to sleep and bingo, another year has gone by. In this New Year our goal is to make our Club stronger and better than ever. We are going to continue on with superb programs, fabulous meals, film series, and other outings and activities.

One of the projects that we will be finalizing will be committees. The purpose is not to add more structure or unnecessary overhead to the Club; but rather to focus in on those things, which are meaningful and can be made better. Don't worry; we are not going to turn our monthly meetings into a formal, stodgy affair, if anything we want them to be even more enjoyable. For example, rather than interrupt your meal with announcements, we will hold them until after the meal. We want everyone to enjoy the fellowship and conversa-

tion that is flowing through the room. The January meeting is important in that this is the time we cover club business. We wrap up the old and lay out plans for the new. This is the only monthly meeting that we dedicate to this format. It's important that you are there to provide your most valued feedback. I sincerely wish each of you and yours a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ciao,

Jim

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2nd Annual Hill Nativity Walk

The second annual Hill Nativity Walk, a cultural display of Italian and Italian-style presepi (nativity scenes), took place from Wednesday, December 1, 2004 to Sunday, January 2, 2005, in the storefronts of Hill merchants. This year the display featured several nativity scenes handcrafted in Italy, including one from Naples, one in terracotta from Palermo, Sicily, and a papier-mâché nativity scene from Lecce, Puglia. The winners of the 2nd annual Hill Nativity Walk are:

Individual: Judy Mann for her entry "The New Era"

Children: St. Ambrose School Grade 8 Girls' Art Class for their entry "Italian Village Welcomes the Christ Child"

Organization: National Italian American Foundation for their entry "From the workshop of Angela Tripi" (purchased with a grant to the Italian Club of St. Louis from NIAF).

We would like to thank the judges, Gaudio Delle Cese, Rafaella Sforza, and Santina Chiechio for their expertise and assistance, and the Amici del Presepio di Cuggiono for providing their judging rules. In addition, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Hill Nativity Walk, including Southwest Bank who provided a generous contribution and printing privileges, the Hill businesses and to Italian Club members Carolyn Ranzini-Stelzer, Judy Ronzio, Audrey Giovanni, Gloria Griffero, Joe Monolo, Debbie Monolo, Marie Cuccia-Brand, Gene Mariani, Judy Mann, Rosalie Saputo and Barbara Klein. Mille grazie a tutti! The Hill Nativity Walk is co-sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Hill Business Association.

Federation of Italian-American Organizations (FIAO) Italian Language Classes—Winter 2005

Classes for both adults and children will begin the week of January 24th

Information & Registration Session

Tuesday, January 18

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Missouri Botanical Garden Commerce Bank Education Center
Shaw Ave. & Kingshighway Blvd.

Meet the teachers, Assess Proficiency Levels,
Order Books, Register for classes

For additional information: (314) 259-2242
or visit the website: www.fiao-stl.org

"Le Avventure di Pinocchio"

(Continued from page 1)

feed the ailing Geppetto wins him, through La Fata, his wish to become a real boy. The performance ends with a jubilant father and a real live son. Kudos to the presentation's outstanding narrator and cast!!

Following this was Baldo's sumptuous dinner, each of the ten courses comprising a different region of Italy, and which included Medaglioni di Vittello Gruviera or Sogliola Aurora; and for dessert the mouthwatering Tartufo da Baldo. Each table was beautifully decorated with a brilliant miniature Christmas tree that included a Pinocchio ornament. The lucky attendance prizewinner of each table won his/her table's tree. None other than Italy's La Befana then graciously paid a visit, greeting each one of those present, and distributing a delightful Italian sweet. The convivial evening ended joyfully with a sing-a-long of the lovely and well loved carol, "Tu Scendi dalle Stelle." by *Dorothea Rossomanno-Phillips*

The Cast



Jim Tognoni
with Befana

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Appena laureato, **Ippolito Nievo** (Padova 1831- Napoli 1861) decise di dedicarsi totalmente alla letteratura ed al giornalismo. Fu così che iniziarono le collaborazioni con giornali di provincia, sui quali pubblicò delle novelle ispirate alla vita di campagna: *Conte pecoraio* (1857) e *Le confessioni d'un italiano*, il suo maggior romanzo, scritto tra il 1857 e il '58. Fece parte dei Mille che sbarcarono a Marsala, dove diede alle stampe gli *Amori garibaldini*.

Il tramonto

di Ippolito Nievo

Già un vasto mar di nebbie
e d'ombra il pian sommerge,
dove il pennon s'aderge
di qualche fumaiuol.
L'ombra per colli e monti
inerpicando sale;
Par che l'estremo vale
mandi alla terra il sol,
e l'ultimo suo raggio
perdendosi sublime
sulle nevole cime
cerca il natio candor.
Tal nel morire a un'alta
speme sorgendo io pure,
racquisterò le pure
soavità d'amor!

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

La Cappella degli Scrovegni: capolavoro della pittura Trecento italiano

Sette secoli fa, nell'anno del primo Giubileo (1300), fu posta la prima pietra della Cappella, intitolata Santa Maria della Carità, che Enrico Scrovegni, ricco banchiere e uomo d'affari di Padova (nel Veneto), aveva fatto erigere a completamento del palazzo. L'edificio era originariamente collegato al palazzo di famiglia, seguendo il tracciato ellittico dei resti dell'arena romana. Per adornare l'edificio, destinato ad accogliere lui stesso e i suoi discendenti dopo la morte, Enrico chiamò due tra i più grandi artisti del tempo: a Giovanni Pisano commissionò 3 statue d'altare in marmo raffiguranti la Madonna con Bambino tra due diaconi, a Ambrogio Bondone, detto Giotto (1267 – 1337) la decorazione pittorica della superficie muraria.



Giotto era un artista già celebre: aveva lavorato per il papa nella Basilica di S.Francesco in Assisi e in S.Giovanni in Laterano a Roma, a Padova nella Basilica di S.Antonio e nel Palazzo Comunale, detto "della Ragione". Per questa commissione signorile, Giotto aveva a disposizione le pareti di una chiesa di piccole proporzioni e asimmetrica, per via delle sei finestre che si aprono soltanto sulla parete destra. Per rendere possibile l'attuazione del vasto programma iconografico, il pittore ha preso come punto di riferimento lo spazio tra le due finestre, calcolando di inserirvi due storie, una sopra all'altra; i riquadri sono più piccoli di quelli assisiati (cm 200 x 185, contro cm 270 x 230).



Il matrimonio di Maria con Giuseppe

A Giotto venne affidato il compito di raffigurare una sequenza di storie tratte dal Vecchio e dal Nuovo Testamento che culminavano nella morte e resurrezione del Figlio di Dio e nel Giudizio Universale, allo scopo di sollecitare chi entrava nella Cappella a rimeditare sul suo sacrificio per la salvezza dell'umanità. Egli immaginò una struttura architettonica in

finti marmi dipinti che sorreggono la volta dall'aspetto di cielo stellato e i riquadri con le storie della Vergine e di Cristo. Il ciclo pittorico della Cappella è sviluppato in tre temi principali:

gli episodi della vita di Gioacchino e Anna (riquadri 1-6), gli episodi della vita di Maria (riquadri 7-13) e gli episodi della vita e morte di Cristo. In basso a questi affreschi, una serie di riquadri illustra le allegorie dei Vizi e delle Virtù, mentre nella controfacciata è dipinto il grandioso Giudizio Universale, con il quale si conclude la vicenda della salvezza umana. L'opera fu ultimata in tempi molto brevi tanto che nel 1305, dopo 2 soli anni di lavoro, la Cappella era tutta



L'Adorazione dei Magi

decorata e veniva consacrata per la seconda volta. Non si sa nulla, ancora oggi, della storia della Cappella fino all'800, quando rischiò di scomparire per il disinteresse dei nuovi proprietari che avevano lasciato crollare il portico sulla facciata ed il palazzo fatto costruire da Enrico. Questi eventi si rifletterono negativamente sulla Cappella, rimasta senza appoggio e priva di protezione sul lato sinistro e sulla facciata. L'intervento del Comune, che nel frattempo l'aveva acquistato (1881), servì ad impedirne la perdita, ma sia l'edificio che gli affreschi erano già gravemente danneggiati. Furono messi in opera radicali interventi di restauro soprattutto a fine '800 e agli inizi degli anni '60, e in 2002 d'un accurato restauro eseguito da un gruppo di 40 restauratori.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: www.cappelladeglisrovegni.it

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!



**THE NEWSLETTER OF
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ST. LOUIS**

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ITALIANCLUB**

Prossime Manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

January 19- "Annales for 2004." Annual report to the membership on the performance of the Club during the preceding year.

February 16- "Pope Julius II and Michelangelo's Vault of the Sistine Chapel: Power, Theology, Genius" *by Gene Mariani*

March 16- "The Region of Le Marche" *by Vito Tamboli*

Note: this will be the first of a series of programs by ICSL members focusing on the regions of Italy from where their families originated. (Vito Tamboli was born in the region of Le Marche).

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.