



# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

September 2005

## “Italian Trivia” organized by Pete Puleo

### Next Meeting

Wednesday

September 21th

Cocktails– 6:30p.m.

Dinner– 7:00p.m.  
\$20 per person

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com  
by noon Tuesday, Sep 20th

At our September meeting, test your knowledge about the many little things you may know, or learn what you may not know, about our beloved Italy. There will be five categories in our Italian Trivia Contest:

**History and Geography**  
**Food and Drink**  
**Art, Music and Literature**  
**Sports**  
**Italian Cities**

Each table will be a contestant for the Italian trivia competition, and, of course, each member at the winning table will receive a prize.

To give you examples of some of the interesting trivia questions-

*Did you know that an Italian was the first to write the history of the American Revolution?*

*Who was the famous Bella Simonetta of the Renaissance Period? Who is the Italian from Lucca who made it to the Football Hall of Fame? Which region of Italy is reputed to have the largest number of spaghetti eaters? And, who was the famous operatic composer who couldn't play the piano very well?*

Don't miss a fun evening of exciting and informative facts you will share with participants at your table, and how much you will learn about Italy and Italians. - **Pete Puleo**

## “The Coliseum in Rome” by Roy DeBellis

At our meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, after a delicious dinner prepared by Baldo and his staff (entrée of chicken breast, stuffed eggplant and veal medallions), Roy DeBellis presented a subject with which practically everybody has some familiarity – the Roman Coliseum, A Symbol of Roman Culture.

Pete Puleo introduced Roy and said he would examine the Coliseum from the viewpoint of an aeronautical engineer. Roy said from that viewpoint he was pretty sure the Coliseum would never fly. It was called an edifice 2,000



years ahead of its time. By the Middle Ages, when most knowledge had been lost, people in Rome thought the Coliseum was built by fairies in a single night! It held 50,000 people in 4 levels. It was the first permanent amphitheater in Rome and was used for 400 years. In it were staged thousands of bloody battles involving gladiators, slaves, prisoners and animals of all descriptions gathered from the corners of the Roman Empire. In 75 A.D. the Emperor Vespasian started 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. It had a retractable roof. It had 80 entrances and could be emptied in minutes. Perfumed fountains sweetened the air. Romans forgot their troubles at the Coliseum. Now only about 50% of the Coliseum remains, but if you go inside, you can still hear the crowd roar. – **Roy DeBellis**

**“...It was the first permanent amphitheater in Rome and was used for 400 years.”**

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

### *My Fellow Members:*

Just as it happens each year we are in the waning days of summer. Days are getting shorter, the temperatures getting cooler, other than aggravating my allergies; it is my favorite time of year. There is so much going on in our community. Don't forget the Columbus Day parade and Festa. It is always a great time! The ICSL will be selling gelato again during the Festa. We would appreciate your help for an hour or two during that day. It's easy and a lot of fun. It's amazing who you run into at the booth. If you want to volunteer either let me know or Gloria Etling.

There will soon be a meeting of our Nominating Committee. At the September meeting we will be announcing their recommendation for a candidate for one of the Director's positions that will be vacated in January. If you are interested in running for the position of Director, please let me know as soon as you can.

You will see a few improvements in our sound system at our monthly meetings. Baldo has agreed to let us mount our speakers on a semi permanent basis. This will save a great deal of time in setting up the system each month. Thanks to Baldo in advance for his cooperation and support.

I want to encourage each of you to consider attending the Columbus Day Recognition Dinner on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. All the honorees are members of the Italian Club. Joe Boccardi will be the Grand Marshall, Rev. Leo Spezia will receive the Mother Cabrini Award and we should all be especially proud of our Vice President, Marie Cuccia Brand. She will be honored with the spirit of Columbus Award. Congratulations!

I will close for now. Refer to the newsletter and website for ongoing and upcoming activities. Best wishes to you all.

*Ciao, Jim*

**(314) 865-1005**

**jtognoni@earthlink.net**

### **THE ST. LOUIS COLUMBUS DAY PARADE CORPORATION**

*PROUDLY ANNOUNCES  
ITS 2005 RECOGNITION DINNER HONORING*

**GRAND MARSHALL – JOSEPH BOCCARDI**

**SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS AWARD – MARIE CUCCIA-BRAND**

**ST. FRANCES CABRINI AWARD– REV. LEO SPEZIA**

**MISS ITALIAN ST. LOUIS – RACHEL PERRON**

**MAID OF HONOR – ANDREA TRAVAGLINI**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005**

**AT CHRISTY'S BANQUET HALL  
5856 CHRISTY BLVD. AT GRAVOIS**

**COCKTAILS—5:30 P.M.- OPEN BAR  
DINNER- 6:00 P.M.**

**MUSIC BY JOE TUCCI**

**PRICE - \$30.00/PERSON**

**CALL ANTONINO LOMBARDO AT 314-638-3446 OR GABRIELE LANCIA  
AT 636-391-8986 FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

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

The films and operas will be on Fridays, October 14, October 28, November 4, and November 18. The operas for the fall series have been chosen by Dorotea Rossomanno-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) "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." The Film and Opera Series is co-sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Italia-America Bocce Club. All films and operas will be shown at the Italia-America Bocce Club at 7:30p.m.

### ***Benvenuti, nuovi membri***

Anthony Pope, whose family is from San Rufo, in the Salerno province and Grace Ann (Penny) Lucido McGahan whose family is from Terrasini and Giardenello, Sicily.

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 DiMartino Etling at (314) 965-6972 if you are able to help.

### **St. Louis Cathedral Concerts**

Sunday, September 18– *Choir of St. Clare College, Cambridge*– 2:30p.m.

Friday, September 30– *Gloriae Dei Cantores*, 8:00p.m.

Friday, October 21– *Choir of Westminster Abbey, London*– 8:00p.m.

Tickets for these concerts will be: \$35, \$25 and \$15

Friday, November 11– *Vienna Choir Boys*, 8:00p.m.

Tickets for this concert will be: \$40, \$30 and \$20

Monday, November 28– *Chanticleer Holiday Concert*, 8:00p.m.

Tickets for this concert will be: \$35, \$25 and \$15

All concerts will be at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis-(314) 533-7662

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Gaspara Stampa** (Padova 1523 – Venezia 1554), poetessa e scrittrice, si è trasferita a Venezia dove si innamorò del giovane conte Collatino di Collalto, *Il suo canzoniere*, una forma di diario intimo in cui si alternano gioie ed angosce, è una delle testimonianze letterarie più delicate della sensibilità femminile dell'epoca. Tutte le opere, furono pubblicate postume dalla sorella Cassandra poco dopo la morte tragica di Gaspara. Per leggere le 311 rime, vedi il sito: <http://www.liberliber.it/biblioteca/s/stampa/rime/html/testo01.htm>

### Rima d'amore XLIII

di Gaspara Stampa

Dura è la stella mia, maggior durezza  
è quella del mio conte: egli mi fugge,  
i' seguo lui; altri per me si strugge,  
i' non posso mirar altra bellezza.

Odio chi m'ama, ed amo chi mi sprezza:  
verso chi m'è umile il mio cor rugge,  
e son umil con chi mia speme adugge;  
a così stranio cibo ho l'alma avezza.

Egli ognor dà cagione a novo sdegno,  
essi mi cercan dar conforto e pace;  
i' lasso questi, ed a quell'un m'attegno.

Così ne la tua scola, Amor, si face  
sempre il contrario di quel ch'egli è degno:  
l'umil si sprezza, e l'empio si compiace.

## In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein



### La Regata Storica di Venezia

Ritorna ogni anno, nella prima domenica di settembre, la Regata Storica, la più tradizionale delle manifestazioni veneziane, che si svolse per la prima volta il 10 gennaio 1315 durante il dogado di Giovanni Soranzo. La sontuosa manifestazione, che ai tempi della Serenissima veniva organizzata per celebrare le vittorie militari o per rendere omaggio ai dignitari stranieri, si compone oggi di due momenti diversi: il corteo storico e le regate.

La manifestazione rievoca la venuta a Venezia della regina di Cipro Caterina Cornaro, che segnò l'inizio del dominio della Serenissima sull'isola del Mediterraneo. Ma se il corteo storico ha ormai un significato prettamente pittoresco, memoria di una lontana grandezza economica e politica di Venezia sui mari, le regate rappresentano ancor oggi il culmine della stagione agonistica per il mondo della voga alla veneta: la giornata in cui vincere significa per i regatanti entrare nella storia di questo sport.



La prima sfida dopo il corteo storico è quella dei giovanissimi su pupparini a 2 remi, imbarcazioni molto tecniche che mettono alla prova le qualità delle promesse maschili del remo. A seguire parte la regata delle donne su mascarete (così chiamate in quanto la prua ricorda vagamente una bauta), leggere imbarcazioni a due remi usate un tempo dalle cortigiane. Terza regata a partire è quella maschile sulle pesanti caorline a 6 remi, imbarcazioni da trasporto fluviale ormai cadute in quasi totale disuso, che nei tragitti lagunari erano spesso dotate anche di una vela al terzo.

Apice della Regata Storica di Venezia è la sfida dei campioni del remo su gondolini a 2 remi, imbarcazioni leggere in forma di gondola molto snella. A differenza delle regate sulla più nota barca lagunare, queste gare esaltano le qualità tecniche dei regatanti più che la loro potenza. Questa è la sfida più attesa dal popolo del remo, quella che accende il tifo dei veneziani e che ha consolidato nel tempo il mito sportivo della Regata Storica con i suoi maggiori protagonisti. Vincere in "Canalasso", come chiamano il Canal Grande gli abitanti di questa città, è ancor oggi il desiderio più ambito di ogni regatante, oltre a essere il sogno proibito dei tanti veneziani che tuttora vogano alla veneta.

Il percorso della Regata Storica di Venezia si snoda da Riva degli Schiavoni, dov'è posizionata la partenza, alla Punta della Salute dove, terminata la "cavata" (lo scatto di partenza), il pubblico attende con ansia di vedere quale barca entri per prima in Canal Grande, visto che spesso è quella che poi si aggiudicherà la regata. Le barche quindi risalgono il "Canalasso" fino all'altezza della Stazione per girare il paletto e tornare indietro puntando l'arrivo posto davanti alla "machina" (il palco galleggiante con le autorità costruito per l'occasione in volta del Canal Grande all'altezza di Ca' Foscari). Davanti alla machina, si svolge la premiazione con la consegna dei premi.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi:

<http://venicexplorer.net/tradizione/storica.php?hlang=it>

**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**

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LA RONDINE**

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

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## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

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

- Wednesday, September 21 - "Italian Trivia" organized by Pete Puleo*
- Wednesday, October 19 - A special guest speaker from Philadelphia, PA speaking to us of his memorable experience and knowledge he acquired in producing and directing a documentary "Prisoners Among Us".*
- Wednesday, November 16 - "Art Patronage in Renaissance Rome" by Dr. Cynthia Stollhans  
Italian Language Awards 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.  
\$20.00/person  
Reservations must be made by noon of the day prior to the dinner meeting; individuals making reservations after noon on Tuesday, September 20th or "walk-ins" will be charged \$25.00.*

### **Mark your Calendar!**

- Until September 16- Bill Kohn's Exhibit- "Religious Sites Around the World"  
Schmidt Art Gallery on the campus of Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville,*
- Sunday, September 25- The Sick & Elderly Fund of the Hill's Ravioli Dinner-12-6p.m. -St. Ambrose  
Columbus Day Corporation's Recognition Dinner-5:30p.m.- Christy's Hall*
- Sunday, October 2- LaFesta at St. Ambrose—Noon—8:00p.m.*
- Sunday, October 9- Columbus Day Parade- Noon—5:00p.m. Berra Park*
- Sunday, October 23- Misericordia Society's 85th Anniversary Celebration- 5:00p.m.- Spazio's*