



August 2006

# La Rondine

LA RONDINE

## **"Pompeii: The Last Day" Documentary & Buffet Dinner at our August 16th meeting**

*Pompeii: The Last Day* is a dramatized documentary by the BBC that tells of the eruption of the Vesuvius in the year 79 AD. This eruption covered the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in ash and lava, killing all those trapped between the volcano and the sea. The documentary accurately portrays the different phases of the eruption. This movie explores the human dramatic effect of the eruption on four groups, a wealthy business man and his slave, an ambitious politician and his family, Roman gladiators and Pliny the Elder, famous Roman statesman and naturalist, along with his nephew Pliny the Younger. "... the sighting of a column of smoke ... triggered a response more of curiosity than of alarm." It is mainly thanks to the vivid eye-witness account of Pliny the Younger, (a Roman administrator and poet, whose many vivid letters describing the day have been preserved), that we have some understanding of what happened. And it is through him that we can gain insight into the reactions and feelings of the people caught up in the drama of this natural catastrophe. Our dinner this month will be a delicious buffet of Baldo and Madda's house specialties.

*by Pete Puleo*

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday**

**August 16th**

**Cocktails – 6:30p.m.**

**Dinner – 7:00 p.m.  
\$22 per person**

**RSVP  
Dan and Jan Viele**

**(636) 537-5960  
or**

**ItalianClubSTL@aol.com  
by noon  
Tuesday August 15th**

## **"Why Sophia Loren Matters" by Michael Sherberg, Ph.D. Presentation at our July 19th Meeting**

In his presentation, speaker, Washington University Professor, Dr. Michael Sherberg gave a fascinating account of the Italian – American relationship after World War II using the film, *It Started in Naples*, starring Sophia Loren and Clark Gable, as example. According to Sherberg, Gable metaphorically represented the United States - prosperous, righteous, overbearing, and masculine - whereas, Loren represented the feminine side, through two classic female archetypes; as Eve, who tempts man (Gable) to a fall; but also as Mary, representing the virgin-mother of the young boy Nando. The reason for Gable's visit to Italy, actually to Capri where the film is set, is to bring Nando, the son of Gable's deceased brother and Loren's late sister, back with him to the United States - to a life of privilege and affluence – something which Loren could not provide.. Sherberg proposed that the film affirmed the Solomonic dictum that a mother's willingness to relinquish her own child is proof of her love. But, in addition, that the film also proposed that Loren's acceptance of the sacrifice of giving up Nando also signaled her surrender to Gable, allegorically representing Italy's surrender to the United States in World War II. Loren's and Gable's eventual reconciliation and their making of a family together symbolized the reconciliation needed by both Americans and Italians after the war and showed that they were no longer two separate peoples.



*by Vito Tamboli*

*"Loren's and Gable's eventual reconciliation and their making of a family together symbolized the reconciliation needed by both Americans and Italians after the war and showed that they were no longer two separate peoples."*

### **St. Louis University's Third Annual Gene Mariani Lecture Series**

*Sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis, Southwest Bank and the Mariani Family*

#### **"The Humanists and the Classics: Seneca's Heritage in Petrarch's 'On the Solitary Life'"**

**by  
Dr. Elvira Giosi**

**Thursday, September 28th**

**3:30p.m.**

**Ritter Hall, Room 320. St. Louis University Campus**

**Dr. Giosi will join the SLU faculty in August. She holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and received her Laurea in Lettere Classiche from Università la Sapienza, Rome.**

**L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni**

**My Fellow Members and Friends:**

Although it's summertime with the St. Louis heat and humidity, it continues to be a thriving time for the Italian Club. We chose many years ago to continue our dinner meetings in the summer since we look forward to our presentations and time together. Our August meeting will be a different format— a delicious buffet dinner with Baldo and Madda's specialties and a documentary on Pompeii. We hope you will join us. We are very interested in receiving

your feedback on the types of programs you would like to have. At times some of you make comments about wanting to see or hear something different. Let us know what that is and we will try our best to accommodate you. Remember this is OUR organization. We value the ideas and suggestions from our members. Please consider working on a committee and help us to continue to make this a wonderful Club. It will not take much of your time and the involvement is very rewarding. Contact Debbie Monolo, our Secretary, or me to find

out about opportunities. This October we will have elections for the following offices. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director. The individuals voted in that evening will take office during the January 2007 meeting. If you wish to run or nominate someone please contact me and I will pass this information on to the Nominating Committee. I look forward to seeing you on August 16th. Be well my dear friends.  
*Ciao, Jim*  
 (314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

**Opportunities to Become More Involved in the Italian Club**

Please consider serving on a committee of interest, devoting whatever time your schedule and commitments allow. Contact Jim Tognoni and the appropriate board member will follow up by contacting you. Thank you for your commitment to the Italian Club of St. Louis. The viability of our club depends on all of our contributions of time and talent.

**Jim Tognoni, President**

FIAO/Community Liaison  
 University Relations/Scholarship & Awards

**Marie Cuccia-Brand, Vice President for Communications**

La Rondine (Editor, Distribution) Committee  
 PR/Marketing Committee  
 Website Committee

**Debbie Monolo, Secretary (Recording and Correspondence)**

Membership/Recruitment/Hospitality Committee  
 Inventory/Archives/Historian Committee

**Dan Viele, Treasurer (Legal Affairs and Budget)**

Reservations (Dan and Jan) Committee

**Roger Gennari, Director #1 (Standing Cultural Programs)**

Film/Opera Series/Seminars (Tony Perrone) Committee  
 Pannetone Players (Roy DeBellis) Committee  
 Cultural Project Committee

**Gloria Etling, Director #2 (Special Projects)**

Special Events/Projects/Fund Raising Committee  
 Community Events Committee

**Tony DiPaolo, Director #3 (Monthly Meetings)**

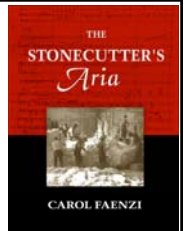
Programs/Equipment (Pete Puleo)  
 Meals/Benedictions Committee

**Please contact Jim Tognoni (314) 753-9618 or Debbie Monolo (314) 894-3756 if you are interested in serving on one of these committees or if you would like more information.**

**We will also be needing workers at our booth at the Columbus Day Festa on October 8th. Please contact Gloria DiMartino Etling if you can work. (314) 965-6972**

**Congratulations Carol Faenzi!**

Her book, "The Stonecutter's Aria" was selected by the Order of the Sons of Italy for their National Book Club. It was announced in their organization's July magazine.



**Interested in helping with the Hill Nativity Walk?**

The Committee needs volunteers to contact businesses, to help pick up and deliver presepio, set up displays, deliver programs, etc. Please contact Debbie Monolo (314) 894-3756 or Marie Cuccia-Brand (314) 993-2252, if you would like to help.

**Going to Italy?**

Don't forget to look for that unusual and artistic Presepio for the Hill Nativity Walk 2006. Make sure the region of your ancestors is represented in the exhibit. For more information about history and regional distinctions of nativity sets: <http://www.italystl.com/>

**Italian Club Picture Albums**

We need your assistance. A few of the Italian Club's picture albums are missing. If you have seen them, please contact Jim Tognoni. (314) 753-9618

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Vincenzo Da Filicaia** ([Firenze](#) 1642 – 1707) fu membro delle accademie dell'Arcadia e della Crusca e collaborò attivamente alla compilazione del Vocabolario. Fra le sue opere: Canzoni in occasione dell'assedio e liberazione di Vienna e Posie toscane. In occasione della vittoria della Coppa del Mondo da parte degli azzurri, presento la seguente poesia.

### All'Italia

di Vincenzo Da Filicaia

Italia, Italia! O tu, cui feo la sorte  
dono infelice di bellezza ond' hai  
funesta dote d' infiniti guai,  
che in fronte scritti per gran doglia porte;

deh fossi tu men bella, o almen più forte,  
onde assai più ti paventasse, o assai  
t' amasse men chi del tuo bello ai rai  
par che si strugga, e pur ti sfida a morte!

Ch' or giù dall' Alpi non vedrei torrenti  
scender d' armati, nè di sangue tinta  
bever l' onda del Po gallici armenti;

nè te vedrei del non tuo ferro cinta  
pagnar col braccio di straniera genti  
per servir sempre, o vincitrice o vinta

## In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

### San Siro: uno stadio leggendario



San Siro, lo stadio di Milano ufficialmente intitolato a Giuseppe Meazza, è una delle icone del calcio italiano ed ospita abitualmente i nerazzurri dell'Inter ed i rossoneri del Milan. Non è esagerato definirlo un simbolo per gli appassionati di calcio di tutto il mondo, allo stesso modo in cui La Scala è nota a tutti gli appassionati di musica.

Situato nella parte ovest della città, ha una capienza di 85.700 spettatori. A giudicare dalle ripide rampe di accesso e dai tre anelli di tribune dà subito l'impressione di essere un'inespugnabile fortezza. La struttura originale, di stile tipicamente inglese, disponeva di quattro tribune separate che complessivamente potevano ospitare 35.000 tifosi. Lo stadio è stato rimodernato ben cinque volte per arrivare ad essere l'enorme struttura odierna: i lavori più importanti sono stati portati a termine per i Mondiali del 1990, con la costruzione del terzo anello e delle undici torri che sostengono la copertura.

Come si conviene ad un impianto di tale fascino, San Siro ha ospitato la ribalta del calcio mondiale per ben due volte. I Mondiali del 1934 e del 1990 hanno entrambi offerto incontri storici su quello che è uno tra i più mirabili palcoscenici esistenti.

La partita di inaugurazione, un classico derby milanese, fu giocata nell'autunno del 1926: l'Inter può fregiarsi della vittoria in quella circostanza, grazie ad un secco 6 a 3. Tuttavia, il vero battesimo dello stadio si ebbe otto anni più tardi, durante la Coppa del Mondo FIFA del 1934.

San Siro ospitò tre partite del Mondiale, ma fu solamente il 3 giugno del 1934 che lo stadio conquistò il suo posto nel cuore dei tifosi italiani. In un'atmosfera davvero emozionante la nazionale italiana si giocò l'ingresso in finale con l'allora straordinaria Austria. In definitiva, fu sufficiente un gol di Enrico Guaita al 10' per portare la squadra in finale. Quel giorno il pubblico ignorò le proteste austriache per la mancata concessione di un calcio di rigore netto. Il mattatore Giuseppe Meazza e i suoi compagni superarono la Cecoslovacchia a Roma per 2 a 1 dopo i tempi supplementari, alzando la Coppa Jules Rimet per la prima volta nella storia d'Italia.

In circa un secolo di rivalità, solo un uomo è quasi riuscito a gettare un ponte fra le due rivali squadre cittadine. Anche se ha passato la maggior parte della propria carriera nell'Inter, Giuseppe Meazza, vincitore della Coppa del Mondo 1934 e 1938, per una stagione ha vestito anche la maglia rossonera. Dopo la sua morte, le due squadre, di comune accordo, hanno deciso di intitolare lo stadio in suo onore. Il 3 marzo 1980, lo stadio è stato quindi ribattezzato ufficialmente Stadio Giuseppe Meazza. Per i tifosi, comunque, resta sempre San Siro. Per ulteriori informazioni, vedete:

<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/06/it/p/cs/sansiro.html>

**Congratulazioni Azzurri!  
Campioni del mondo!**



1934



1938



1982



2006



## *La Rondine*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

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### **Prossime manifestazioni**

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

August 16 - Film - "Pompeii: The Last Day" and a Buffet Dinner

September 20 - "St. Ambrose" by Dr. George Pepe

*The Italian Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for dinner at da Baldo's*  
Cocktails — 6:30p.m.                      Dinner — 7:00p.m.                      \$22.00 per person

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Sunday, August 6 - The Misericordia Society's Annual Procession - 10:15am at St. Ambrose

Sunday, September 3 - Giro della Montagna from noon - 6p.m. in front of St. Ambrose Church

Sunday, September 24 - Hill Sick and Elderly Program's Annual Ravioli Dinner

Thursday, September 28 - St. Louis University's Third Annual Gene Mariani Lecture Series

Sunday, October 1 - "La Festa" at St. Ambrose from noon - 5p.m.

Sunday, October 8 - Columbus Day Parade and Festival - noon - 5p.m. at Berra Park