



July 2006

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday

July 19th

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 July 18**

Our speaker, Michael Sherberg, will discuss the important role that Sophia Loren had in American cinema in the 1950's. Loren was a symbol of Italy for the American audience. Her role was particularly important during the post-war period when Americans were still grappling with their mixed feelings about Italy. Sherberg will also demonstrate how Italy is portrayed in other films of this era such as *Roman Holiday* and *Three Coins in the Fountain*.

Michael Sherberg earned his Ph.D. from University of California at Los Angeles; He is an Associate Professor of Italian and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian at Washington University. Sherberg's area of expertise is Medieval and Renaissance literature; Renaissance epic, Boccaccio and Machiavelli. He is an Honorary Member of the Italian Club.

"Annual Report of the Honorary Vice Consul of Italy" by Joseph Colagiovanni, J.D.

The Italian Club traditionally celebrates the Feast of the Italian Republic of Italy at its June meeting and traditionally Honorable Vice Consul Joseph Colagiovanni addresses the members with a current report on the recent events in Italy. This year he mainly spoke about the April elections and the ramifications of their outcome. While there was a narrow margin in the voting, it brought about a significant change in Italian Politics.

Primarily, Romano Prodi became prime minister for the second time, succeeding Silvio Berlusconi who had taken the position away from Prodi in 2001. "Berlusconi was the longest serving Italian Prime Minister since World War II," Colagiovanni said. "...The race was so close that Berlusconi refused to concede defeat. Ultimately, after rulings by the Italian court system, Prodi was declared the winner and assumed control of Italy's next government."

"The elections in Italy were historically significant because, for the first time, Italians living outside of Italy had the right to vote. Specifically, twelve seats in the Chamber of Deputies and six seats in the senate were allocated to Italians living abroad who were elected ... and will travel to Italy to represent their regions in the Italian parliament," said Colagiovanni. Three North Americans elected: Salvatore Ferrigno, an insurance agent from Philadelphia and a native of Sicily, Gino Bucchino a physician in Toronto who was raised in Florence and Renato Turano, a baker from Chicago. This change in the law had a direct connection to Prodi's victory. He could not have defeated Berlusconi had he not had the ability to capture a majority of the six Senate seats allocated for Italians living abroad. Even though only 37.3% of those eligible exercised this new right to vote, it had profound results on the outcome. If more of the expatriate Italian population begins to take a part in Italian elections, the ramifications would surely be more significant.

A few of the issues in the election were similar to those facing the American people. Prodi's Union Party centered on controlling immigration into Italy and more border security, further integration with the European Union, recognition of the rights of homosexual couples and the immediate withdrawal of Italian troops in Iraq.

Berlusconi's House of Freedoms Party wanted to continue his support with troops in Iraq, defend family values based on traditional marriage and strengthening Italy's relationship with the United States. They also advocated tax reduction and spending for large infrastructure projects, particularly the Strait of Messina Bridge. The two parties did agree, however, on the immigration issue and tighter border security.

Other issues having a deep effect on the election were the state of the Italian economy and increasing unemployment figures. Both of the politicians took different stands on these issues and apparently, Prodi's proposed methods seemed more promising to the people of Italy.

Colagiovanni then spoke about a subject dear to the hearts of all Italians no matter where they live – the World Cup and their hopes of winning it for the fourth time. A major scandal broke in the media with accusations that the team and coach were involved in a scheme to influence/bribe referees, athletes and the media. It was suggested that if Italy wins the World Cup, the scandal would soon fade from the media and the minds of Italians.

The vice consul ended his speech with the status of current activities in his office. He continues to process visas for those traveling to Italy with a marked increase in the number of students and travel visas, indicating that the September 11 paranoia has subsided. Also many more visas are being requested by families of American servicemen stationed in Italy. A question and answer period ended the Vice Consul's speech. *by Marianne Peri Sack*

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L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

By the time you read this we will be about half way through the summer. I hope that you are well and enjoying yourself.

Well, how many of you stayed up late on Tuesday night, the 4th to watch Italy beat Germany in the World Cup semi-final? Wow! What a game! Hopefully this Sunday they will beat France in the finals and take the title. I believe the

last Italian World Cup win was 1982. Fun Stuff!

It is already time to think about Fall and activities. By the August meeting, we will announce the members of the Nominating Committee. We will have an election in October. All of the Officers and one Director are up for re-election. If you wish to be considered for nomination or serve on the Nominating Committee, please let me know ASAP.

Please keep in mind that the Fall is usually fairly busy in the Italian American community, especially the month of October. Please check the upcoming events on page 4 of this newsletter. Here is wishing you all a happy and safe summer. As always, you can call me or e-mail me about any issue you have. See you at the meeting on July 19th. We look forward to having Michael Sherberg with us again.

Ciao, Jim

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

ITALIAN CLUB PRESENTS ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE AWARD TO ELEANORE BERRA MARFISI

Article and Photo by Marianne Peri Sack

The Italian Club of St. Louis presented its annual Italian Heritage Award to Eleanore Berra Marfisi at its June meeting. The youngest of ten children, she grew up on the Hill and is married to Domenic Marfisi. The couple still resides on the Hill.

She has two Master's degrees – one in Studio Art and the other in Secondary Education. Marfisi taught English and Art for many years before becoming the principal of St. Mary's High School. She also taught Creative Writing at Forest Park branch of St. Louis Community College and Literature and the American Novel at Sacred Heart Junior College in Connecticut.

Marfisi gives presentations to various organizations and has written several books. Her presentations include History of Italian Superstitions, Home Remedies Enhanced by Italian ingenuity Jim Tognoni presents award to Eleanore Berra Marfisi Poetry: Growing Up Italian in America, Women of Valor Strength in Scripture. Her publications include *Soprannomi: Nicknames Used in the Hill Community*, *I Remember Nonna*, *The Hill: Its History, Its Recipes*, *Italian Home Remedies*.

Her name is listed in Who's Who of American Women and she has been honored for an outstanding oil painting by the Luchetti Gallery, by the Famous Poet Society and at the Annual Poetry Convention.

Eleanore is a Board Member for the Young Artists' Competition sponsored by the Federation of Italian American Organizations and was a charter development Board Member for the Shaw Community School.

She is a member of Pi Lambda Theta Scholastic Honor Society, St. Louis Artists' Guild and National Catholic Education Association, Hill 2000, Misericordia Society, Italian Club of St. Louis, and National Italian American Foundation.

Very close to Marfisi's heart are her artwork, music, poetry, writing and the preservation of the Italian culture and heritage.

Congratulations, Eleanore!



“Molto Italiano” An Evening of Italian Music performed by the Gateway Festival Orchestra

Join us for an evening of Vivaldi, Mascagni, Puccini, Rossini and more!

When: Sunday, July 16th

Time 7:30p.m Concert
7:00p.m. Pre-concert program for children, “Notes to Munch On” introducing them to the music to be performed at the concert that evening.

Where: Washington University Quadrangle

Admission: Free of charge

Sponsored by: Washington University School of Arts & Sciences, Music Department; Missouri Arts Council; Arts and Education Council, Regional Arts Commission, Roland Quest Foundation and the Federation of Italian American Organizations.

Refreshments will be available. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and join us for an evening of beautiful Italian music under the stars.

For additional information call: (314) 993-2252 or (314) 776-7358.

Going to Italy this summer?

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/>

Click on the Italian Club then Hill Nativity Walk 2005

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein



Umberto Saba, pseudonimo di Umberto Poli (Trieste, 1883 - Gorizia, 1957) fu poeta e scrittore. Assunse lo pseudonimo Saba (pane in ebraico) e dopo l'emanazione delle leggi razziali nel 1938 visse a Parigi, Firenze, Roma, Milano. Solo nel 1947 tornò nella città natale.

Saba formò nell'ambiente culturale mitteleuropeo triestino del primo '900, guardando a Nietzsche e a Freud ma anche alla grande tradizione ottocentesca italiana, soprattutto a Leopardi. Cominciò a scrivere nei primi anni del secolo i suoi primi lavori: *Poesie dell'adolescenza e giovanili*, (1900 – 1907), e *Versi militari* (1908). Seguirono i capolavori: *Trieste e una donna* (1910 - 1912) e *Serena disperazione* (1913 - 1915), in cui il poeta esprime sentimenti quotidiani, ed affetti domestici con ricchezza di sfumature e contrasti psicologici.

Trieste

di Umberto Saba

Ho attraversata tutta la città.
Poi ho salita un'erta,
popolosa in principio, in là deserta,
chiusa da un muricciolo:
un cantuccio in cui solo
siedo; e mi pare che dove esso termina
termini la città.

Trieste ha una scontrosa
grazia. Se piace,
è come un ragazzaccio aspro e vorace,
con gli occhi azzurri e mani troppo grandi
per regalare un fiore;
come un amore
con gelosia.
Da quest'erta ogni chiesa, ogni sua via
scopro, se mena all'ingombrata spiaggia,
o alla collina cui, sulla sassosa
cima, una casa, l'ultima, s'aggrappa.

Intorno
circola ad ogni cosa
un'aria strana, un'aria tormentosa,
l'aria natia.
La mia città che in ogni parte è viva,
ha il cantuccio a me fatto, alla mia vita
pensosa e schiva.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Castello Miramare - Trieste



Il Castello di Miramare venne costruito per volere di Massimiliano d'Asburgo, arciduca d'Austria e imperatore del Messico, per farne la propria dimora da condividere con la moglie Carlotta del Belgio. Si affaccia sul golfo di Trieste, a pochi chilometri a nord della città omonima e fu realizzato dall'architetto viennese Carl Junker tra il 1856 ed il 1860.

All'interno del castello si visitano gli appartamenti di Massimiliano e Carlotta, le stanze destinate agli ospiti, la sala didattica con la storia della costruzione del Castello e del Parco, l'appartamento abitato dal Duca Amedeo d'Aosta con arredi risalenti al 1930. Da notare, in particolare, la sala di ascolto della musica suonata da Carlotta sul pianoforte; la serie dei quadri di Cesare dell'Acqua che raccontano la storia di Miramare e la sala del trono, di recente restaurata e riportata all'antico splendore.

È circondato da un grande parco (22 ettari) adagiato sulla riva del mare, creato dal committente su un promontorio allora privo di vegetazione con numerose essenze botaniche di origine tropicale, molte delle quali scelte dallo stesso arciduca durante i suoi viaggi attorno al mondo che fece come ammiraglio della marina militare austriaca.

Il parco offre al pubblico l'occasione di una passeggiata botanica di notevole interesse assieme all'importante raccolta di sculture che decora i molti vialetti. Inoltre si segnalano le Scuderie, edificio, di recente restaurato, e oggi destinato a manifestazioni espositive temporanee; le Antiche Serre; il Castelletto, un edificio di dimensioni minori che funse da residenza per i due sposi durante la costruzione del castello stesso, ma che divenne di fatto una prigione per Carlotta, quando perse la ragione dopo l'uccisione del marito in Messico.

Attualmente il castello è adibito a museo.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedete:
<http://www.castello-miramare.it>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS
LA RONDINE**

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***Celebrating
83 years of
Italian Culture
and Heritage***

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

Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

July 19- "Why Sofia Loren Matters" by Michael Sherberg, Ph.D.

August 16- Film- "The Last Days of Pompeii" and a Buffet Dinner

September 20- "St. Ambrose"

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

Sunday, July 16- Gateway Festival Orchestra- "Molto Italiano" An Evening of Italian Music
7:30p.m. Washington University Quadrangle

Sunday, July 30- Gateway Festival Orchestra- featured artist, Monica Godbee, winner for
Best Overall Performance at the Young Artists' Competition; 7:30p.m.
Graham Chapel at Washington University

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, October 1- "La Festa" at St. Ambrose from noon—8p.m.

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