



May 2006

Next Meeting

Wednesday

May 17th

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 May 16

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

“The Crossroads of Medicine: The Medieval School of Salerno” *by Walton O. Schalick, III, MD, PhD, Presentation at our May 17th Meeting*

The earliest Italian medical school opened in Salerno in the ninth century AD. As a non-sectarian school it was a place where the streams of classical, Arab and Jewish medicine flowed together. This meeting of different cultures led to a medical learning from the synthesis of these different experiences. Legend credits the foundation of the school to four masters: the Jewish Helinus, the Greek Pontus, the Arab Adela, and the Latin Salernus. By the eleventh century, Salerno, Italy was the epicenter of medieval medicine in Europe, enjoying a world wide reputation for excellence and inspiring the birth of 'modern' medical education. It became the first continuous school of medicine in the West. In this talk, we will discuss the rise of the school, its emphasis on practical medical education, and some of the more prominent figures associated with the School, including the fabled Dame Trotula. Our speaker, Dr. Walt

Schalick, is originally from Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He currently holds a joint appointment at Washington University in the School of Medicine as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and in the School of Arts and Sciences in the Department of History. He completed two years of medical school at Washington University before transferring to Johns Hopkins University where he earned an MD in 1995 and a PhD in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology in 1997. His postdoctoral training was completed in Boston and he was a clinical fellow at Harvard University before returning to Washington University. He is an international lecturer, an author, a researcher, and a teacher. We are fortunate that his passion for the history of medicine has led him to study the renowned Salerno medical school and that he has graciously agreed to share some of his knowledge with us.. *by Debbie Monolo*

“Theodoric the Great, King of Italy” *by Anna Amelung, PhD Summary from our April 19th Meeting*

“history has shown barbarians to have been quite civilized and far from such uncultured stereotypes. Northern barbarians possessed a rich culture; by the fourth century they had a system of writing, stable governments and effective legal systems.”

During the late Iron Age, Europe was beset by great migrations of many different tribes from the east. Collectively call “barbarians”, these peoples, pushed primarily by Huns around AD 355, swept all before them. Then, in 476, Odovacer, King of the Herulian, deposed the last western emperor, Romulus Augustulus, bringing about the fall of the western Roman Empire. He turned this prize over to the eastern Zeno and became Zeno’s Roman Viceroy. Odovacer had become the de facto king of Italy.

To Ancient Greeks and Romans, a barbarian was anyone not of their extraction or culture. The term “barbarian” gradually acquired negative connotation– a person who was crude and uncivilized. However, history has shown barbarians to have been quite civilized and far from such uncultured stereotypes. Northern barbarians possessed a rich culture; by the fourth century they had a system of writing, stable govern-

ments and effective legal systems. While lacking social graces, the Germanic peoples displayed courage, hospitality, and honesty, with strong family and clan values. Very religious, they were scandalized by Roman brothels and gladiatorial games. Even before the barbarians invaded the Empire, most (particularly Goths) professed Arian Christianity; a Christological view that held that God the Father and the Son were not co-eternal; acknowledging Jesus as a divine being; but one inferior to the Father.

Theodoric the Great (b454) was son of Theodemir, King of the Ostrogoth Amali, tribe. At age seven, he was sent to Constantinople as a hostage to insure compliance with a treaty made by his father and Byzantine education. Held in high favor by Emperors Leo I and Zeno, he acquired knowledge of Roman

(Continued on page 4)

L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

I hope this message finds you and yours well. As you know, June is Italian Heritage month at the Italian Club. During this meeting, we will honor an individual that has distinguished himself in some way. We are seeking nominations for this award. Consider someone that deserves it based on their service to the Club, the community at large, and past and present ac-

complishments. There are no strict guidelines, we want to acknowledge an individual that exemplifies the Spirit of being an Italian. Please call me or send me an e-mail with your nomination as soon as possible. On another topic, if you have not paid your dues for 2006 please do so as soon as you can. Every time we have to send out a reminder it costs YOUR Club money. Thank you to those that

have taken care of this already. Keep an ear open for upcoming events. Your best source is this newsletter or on the web at www.italystl.com. As always, if you have questions give me a call or drop me a message. It is always a pleasure to communicate with you. See you at the May meeting.
Ciao, Jim
(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

"STONE, STORY AND SCULPTURE" by Carol Faenzi



Carol Faenzi was at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park for a most unusual and interesting book signing for her novel *The Stonecutter's Aria* on April 7. The event included an entertaining performance in Lee Auditorium.

Through genealogical resources and a compelling desire to know and tell the story of her ancestors, Faenzi captures the true story of an Italian marble carver and opera tenor at the beginning of the 20th century.

The program at the Missouri History Museum was titled "Stone, Story and Sculpture" and began with the author reading from Act One of her novel. The reading was followed by a Scene One performance by Donna Parrone as Olga the Stonecutter's daughter recalling the journey from Carrara, Italy, to America in 1920. In Scene Two, Aristide, the Stonecutter, portrayed by Jim Tognoni, is seen as he waits for his family on the dock at Ellis Island. Parrone is one of the founding members of the Hot City Theatre and serves as the Director of Development for the Hot City Theatre Company. Tognoni is trained in radio and television broadcast and production and is the President of the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Area Coordinator for the National Italian American Foundation.

At the beginning and conclusion of the performance, Scott Kennebeck thrilled the audience with his superb tenor voice in various arias including *La Donna Mobile* and *Nessun Dorma*. He sings in the Cathedral Basilica Choir and was soloist for the worldwide broadcast for the Papal Mass in St. Louis in 1999.

The Italian Club of St. Louis sponsored the event with a grant. A reception was held at Baldo's restaurant after the performance. *Pictured above are: Jim Tognoni, Carol Faenzi and Donna Parrone; Article and picture by Marianne Peri Sack*

ITALIAN CLUB AND SOUTHWEST BANK HONOR STUDENTS FROM WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Each year at the April Italian Club meeting we honor two students who are studying Italian language at Washington University. Each student receives a \$500 award to study in Arezzo. At our April 19th meeting, Nichole McKinney received the Fred Giacomo Award from Southwest Bank and Amy Power received the Frank LoPiccolo and Mario Pertici Award from the Italian Club of St. Louis. The students were joined by Iva Youkilis, their advisor and Washington University faculty member. Ed Berra, President Emeritus of the Southwest Bank and Italian Club member, presented the Fred Giacomo Award. *Pictured are: Marie Cuccia-Brand, Nichole McKinney, Amy Power, Ed Berra and Iva Youkilis- photo by Marianne Peri Sack*



I CENTO PASSI WINS ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF ST. LOUIS AWARD

The Italian Film Festival of St. Louis is pleased to announce that the winner of its 2006 audience choice award for Best Film is *I cento passi* (The Hundred Steps) by Marco Tullio Giordana. *I cento passi* recounts the real-life story of Peppino Impastato, a young Sicilian activist who denounces the Mafia at a local radio station and newspaper and is brutally killed. This year's festival, which ran from March 31 to April 15, featured the St. Louis premier of six recent Italian films: *Manuale d'amore* (Manual of Love) by Giovanni Veronesi, *Buongiorno, notte* (Good Morning, Night) by Marco Bellocchio, *Il Fuggiasco* (The Fugitive) by Andrea Manni, *La vita che vorrei* (The Life That I Want) by Giuseppe Piccioni, *Caterina che va in città* (Catherine in the Big City) by Paolo Virzì, and *I cento passi*. All films were shown in 35mm in Italian with English subtitles in the 346 seat Brown Hall theatre on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

Festival sponsors were the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Washington University's Program in Film and Media Studies, and Videobank Communication Service Provider. The Italian Club of St. Louis and many of its members were Individual Sponsors. The festival, which was free and open to the general public, attracted an estimated 1,500 spectators. For further information, please visit the festival's website www.italianfilmfestivalstlouis.com.

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Giuseppe Ungaretti (Alessandria d'Egitto 1888 - Milano 1970) è considerato il fondatore dell'ermetismo e un grande poeta del Novecento. In occasione della festa della mamma, il 14 maggio, presento la sua poesia dedicata a sua mamma.

La madre

di Giuseppe Ungaretti

E il cuore quando d'un ultimo battito
avrà fatto cadere il muro d'ombra
per condurmi, Madre, sino al Signore,
come una volta mi darai la mano.

In ginocchio, decisa,
Sarai una statua davanti all'eterno,
come già ti vedeva
quando eri ancora in vita.

Alzerai tremante le vecchie braccia,
come quando spirasti
dicendo: Mio Dio, eccomi.

E solo quando m'avrà perdonato,
ti verrà desiderio di guardarmi.

Ricorderai d'avermi atteso tanto,
e avrai negli occhi un rapido sospiro.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

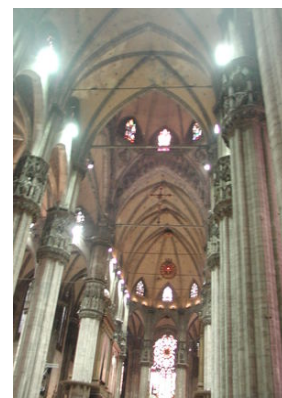
Il Duomo di Milano: il "Gotico fiorito"



Il Duomo è per molti il simbolo di Milano, ma per i milanesi è anche l'anima della città in quanto sorge proprio

nel suo centro. I lavori di costruzione iniziarono 1386 per volere dell'arcivescovo Antonio da Saluzzo e di Gian Galeazzo Visconti, all'epoca signore della città. Sorse nell'area precedentemente occupata dalla Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore del IX secolo. Si iniziò nel 1387 la costruzione del Duomo, dedicato a Santa Maria Nascente; la sua elaborazione fu assai lenta e comprese un arco di tempo lunghissimo di ben sei secoli, seppè però rimanere fedele ai principi originali dell'arte gotica. Nel 1418 venne consacrato l'altare maggiore da papa Martino V. I lavori di costruzione proseguirono sotto la direzione di vari architetti, tra cui ricordiamo anche Leonardo, e nel 1572 San Carlo riconsecrò il Duomo.

Nei tempi moderni questa complessa e imponente costruzione ebbe bisogno di vaste opere di restauro. La prima avvenne nel 1935 e la seconda, ben più complessa e più dolorosa, dopo i bombardamenti aerei del 1943. Durante l'ultimo restauro, fu rinnovato il pavimento, furono sostituite quelle statue e quegli elementi decorativi che più aveva-



no sofferto le ferite della guerra. Infine, l'8 dicembre 1966, fu inaugurato il nuovo sagrato e posta l'ultima porta in bronzo agli ingressi della facciata.

Interamente costruito in marmo, può contare su ben 3400 statue che lo adornano rendendolo così unico al mondo simbolo dell'arte "Gotico fiorito", caratterizzato dall'esuberanza decorativa. La sua imponente struttura ne fa uno degli edifici religiosi più grandi d'Europa. Per dimensioni il Duomo è la seconda più alta chiesa del mondo, dopo la cattedrale di Beauvais, e la terza più grande, dopo San Pietro in Vaticano e la cattedrale di Siviglia.

Oggi il duomo è composto da cinque navate, è lungo 158 metri, largo 93 e raggiunge un'altezza massima di 108 metri. Nel punto più alto, nell'anno 1774, fu posta a protezione della cittadinanza la famosa Madonnina, una statua in rame dorato alta 4 metri, divenuta uno dei simboli della tradizione meneghina.



Per ulteriori informazioni vedi <http://www.duomomilano.it>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

“Theodoric the Great, King of Italy” by Anna Amelung, PhD

(Continued from Page 1)

governmental, military, political and diplomatic methods, along with wonderful manners, and courtly polish. At eighteen, he returned to live among Ostrogoths and, at his father's death, became King of the Ostrogoths. Theodoric spent 11 years in Constantinople, receiving an excellent education. Meanwhile, Zeno was having serious problems with Odovacer the King of Italy. Ostensibly a viceroy for Zeno, Odovacer was not respecting the rights of Roman citizens in Italy. At the same time, Theodoric's Ostrogoths were in Byzantium as allies of the Romans, but were becoming restless. Zeno and Theodoric worked out an arrangement beneficial to both sides. Theodoric's Ostrogoths needed a place to live and Zeno had a problem in Italy with Odovacer. At Zeno's encouragement, Theodoric invaded Odovacer's Italian Kingdom. After five years of war, Odovacer finally surrendered and Theodoric killed him and his family with his own hands. Theodoric was declared king of Italy with the approval of Zeno. Like Odovacer, Theodoric was ostensibly only a viceroy for Zeno, however, unlike Odovacer, Theodoric respected the agreement he had made with Zeno and allowed Roman citizens within his kingdom to be subject to Roman law and the Roman judicial system. The Goths, meanwhile, lived under their own laws and customs. Theodoric followed a unique “separate but equal” policy for ruling his Italian state; using Goths for the army and Romans for civil service administration; a dual state and a dual religion. Theodoric brought peace, order, and prosperity to Italy. His religious policies were very tolerant. However, like all Goths, he was an Arian Christian and this ultimately created friction between his Arian and Roman subjects. At the end of his reign, quarrels arose with the Emperor Justin I over Arianism. Relations between the two nations deteriorated although Theodoric's ability dissuaded the Byzantines from waging war against him. But after his death that changed quickly. In 523, the Emperor Justin banished all Arians (except Goths) from military and administrative offices. To Theodoric this was a personal attack. He sent the Pope to Constantinople to negotiate but he was unsuccessful and imprisoned on return to Rome. Towards the end of his reign Theodoric became ill and paranoid. He died in 526. After his death the kingdom of the Ostrogoths waned and was conquered by Justinian I in 553. Theodoric was interred in Ravenna and his mausoleum is one of Ravenna's finest monuments; the only one remaining to the Arian faith. Built entirely of Istrian marble and limestone with a huge single-piece dome, it is like a giant puzzle and its intricately interlocked stones cannot be dismantled without causing the dome to fall. Architecturally, it continues the Imperial tradition, combining stylistic Roman elements with a unique Gothic form symbolizing a traditional nomadic Ostrogoth tent. The building suggests immortality, eternity, and integrity. Presenter Anna Amelung is an active Italian Club member and Past President of the Classical Club of St. Louis. She has a Ph.D. from Washington University and teaches Latin and French at University City High School. Interestingly, the name Amelung signifies descendency from the Ostrogoth Amali clan – Theodoric's own tribe.

by Gene Mariani

SIXTH ANNUAL YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION A SUCCESS!

The Sixth Annual Young Artists' Competition sponsored by the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of the Metropolitan St. Louis Area was held on Sunday, April 23rd at St. Ambrose Church. The audience heard nine finalists play the works of Italian composers on piano, violin and cello.

The winners were: Katy Doyle for Level I, Piano; Robin Jenkins for Level II, Piano; and, Monica Godbee for Strings. The winner in each Level was presented a \$500 award. All of the finalists received a \$100 award. Ms. Godbee was also awarded an additional \$500 award for Best Overall Performance. Ms. Godbee will be performing with the Gateway Festival Orchestra on Sunday, July 30th at the Graham Chapel at Washington University. The Gateway Festival Orchestra will have an evening of Italian music co-sponsored by the Federation on Sunday, July 16th in the Quadrangle at Washington University.

Pictured are: Competition Winners: Robin Jenkins, Monica Godbee and Katy Doyle.



Picture by Marianne Peri Sack...



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS
*LA RONDINE***

c/o Marie Cuccia-Brand
2115 North Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
Fax: 314-993-8096
e-mail: mcucciasbj@aol.com

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

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

Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 17- "The Crossroads of Medicine: The Medieval School of Salerno"
by Walton O. Schalick, III, MD, PhD,

June 21- "Annual Presentation from the Italian Vice Consul- Joseph Colagiovanni"
Presentation of the Italian Heritage Award

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