



November 2006

La Rondine

LA RONDINE

“Caravaggio in Rome” by Cynthia Stollhans, Ph.D. and Scholarship Awards to St. Louis University Students at our November 15th Dinner Meeting

Next Meeting

Wednesday

November 15th

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 Nov. 14th

Caravaggio enters the art scene of the cosmopolitan City of Rome and literally changes the entire course of painting. The Papacy, Cardinals and other wealthy Italian families commissioned him to paint images that represented a new aesthetic based on Counter-Reformation principles. Caravaggio responded by painting religious and non-religious images quite differently from previous traditions. His realistic style will be marked by sharp contrasts of darks and lights as well as the use of strong diagonal lines. Dr. Cynthia Stollhans will focus on Caravaggio’s Roman oeuvre: chapels executed for the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, San Luigi dei Francesi as well as the more controversial work of the Death of the Virgin for the Church of Santa Maria della Scala.

Dr. Stollhans received her Ph.D. in Art History from Northwestern University and is currently Associate Professor of Art History at St. Louis University. Her area of focus is Renaissance Art. Additionally, her article titled “Saint Catherine of Alexandria and Her Book in Italian Art” has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Source: Notes in the History of Art*.

Each November, the Mariani Scholarship is presented to two students from St. Louis University at our dinner meeting. Four years ago the Italian Club of St. Louis chose to honor President Emeritus, Eugene Mariani, with a scholarship to students at St. Louis University. The Italian Club of St. Louis, Southwest Bank and the Mariani family generously established a \$1,500 scholarship for students in the Italian program at Saint Louis University. The award is meant to assist students studying in Italy for a semester.



“Italian Passion for Life”- a Celebration of Italian Heritage Month at our October 18th Dinner Meeting

It was a night to remember. The Italian Club, in great style and with a toast, saluted the Italian American Heritage Month of October. It began with a cocktail reception complete with delicious antipasti provided by Baldo. At dinner, the first course of pasta e fagioli brought a smile to all the diners’ faces. This was followed by a salad and the entrée of veal saltimbocca with a mixed vegetable mélange. However, the dining was not yet complete.

Tony DiPaolo introduced the feature film “Italian Passion for Life”, and made an analogy between a tree and the Italian American Experience: “The roots represent Italy, the country that has given us an identity through its culture and traditions. The trunk represents the first Italians coming to the new world seeking a better life for themselves and for their offspring. The branches, showing different shapes and sizes represent the diversity among the offspring. This, my friends, is heritage - in this case the Italian Heritage.” The film, found by the indefatigable Pete Puleo in his constant search for quality programs, was a joy to watch. It presented the Italian American way of life and covered food, family and entertainment in a humorous way. Thanks go to Jan Viele and Jim Tognoni for their technical assistance in showing the film. Without their expertise the screen would have remained dark. Lastly, but certainly not least, Asti, Zabaglione made by Madda and cookies from the Missouri Bakery were served to all the guests as a feast-finishing dessert. The evening was complete. *by Roy DeBellis.*

“The film, found by the indefatigable Pete Puleo in his constant search for quality programs, was a joy to watch. It presented the Italian American way of life and covered food, family and entertainment in a humorous way.”



L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

Fall is really here. It seems like just yesterday I was writing about the wonderfulness of spring. The holidays are coming up quickly and the whole cycle of the seasons continues on. If you were able to join us at the History Museum, thank you for your support. The presentation by Michael DiLauro and

the viewing of his film was very entertaining and informative. We have tried to provide you with programs that educate, entertain and delight. Please let us know if you are pleased or whether we should change some things around. Attendance at monthly meetings has been very good but I would really like to see more members and friends at-

tend. Get your fellow members and friends to come more often. Keep your calendar open for this year's Christmas celebration and end of year holiday, it should be a great time. Hope to see you at our November meeting..

Ciao, Jim

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

Fourth Annual Hill Nativity Walk

The nativity scene is the traditional Christmas decoration in Italy and Italians spend much time and effort in preparing their nativity scene, or in Italian, "presepio." Many community associations, such as the "Amici del presepio," organize Nativity exhibits where individuals and artists compete for best of show, with some of the most impressive exhibits being held in Milan and Rome. The Hill Nativity Walk is our effort to bring a bit of this Italian tradition to the Hill, St. Louis' Italian-American neighborhood.

The Italian Club of St. Louis, in conjunction with the Hill Business Association, will present the Fourth Annual Hill Nativity Walk from Saturday, December 2nd to Sunday, January 6th. *Plan to visit the streets of the Hill to see these beautiful presepi.*

Plan Now to Join Us for Our Annual Christmas Celebration on Wednesday, December 20th

Once again the Christmas program on December 20th will feature a presentation by the justifiably famous Panettone Players. This year they will bring you a story from long ago, properly updated, that retells a familiar fairy tale with over-the-top overtones. As usual, the play will be suitably short and combined with a delicious dinner by Baldo that you absolutely cannot miss. Please join us for the festivities and celebrate the Christmas season together.

Columbus Day Report

A special thank you to Gloria DiMartino Etling for organizing our booth at the Columbus Day Festa and to all of the members who helped. We sold 250 delicious gelato made by Baldo!

Bravo, Dr. Filippo Ferrigni!

Italian Club member, Fil Ferrigni, was recently a Finalist for the Health Care Heroes Award sponsored by the St. Louis Business Journal. Ferrigni is Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Director of Hospitalist Service and Director of Special Care Units at SSM St. Joseph Health Centers in St. Charles. *Bravo, Filippo!*



Congratulations to Columbus Day Honorees: (from left to right) Joe Barbaglia, Spirit of Columbus Award; Melissa Fields, Maid; Filomena DiMartino, Maid; Julie Ronzio, Miss Columbus; and, Giovanni Domenic Galati, the Grand Marshal. *Photo compliments of Marianne Peri Sack*

Report from the Nominating Committee

The following individuals were elected at our October 18th meeting. They will take office at our January 2007 meeting.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President: | Marie Cuccia-Brand |
| Vice-President: | Roger Gennari |
| Secretary: | Debbie Torpea Monolo |
| Treasurer: | Dan Viele |
| Director: | Sal Sutera |

Notice from the Board of Directors:

After many years of holding the annual membership dues at \$30, the Board has approved an increase to \$40 for next year. While the Board works hard to operate each year within the resources generated by the annual dues, many regular operating costs have increased over recent years (such as the monthly production and mailing of the LaRondine) and other new annual costs have arisen (Special projects and programs, SLU Scholarship, website, etc.)

.As a result of these increased operating costs, the Board determined that a dues increase was finally necessary at this time. The Board of Directors sincerely appreciates your membership participation and commitment to the Italian Club of St. Louis.

Your dues notice will be an insert in your December *LaRondine*.

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein



Vincenzo Cardarelli (Corneto, oggi Tarquinia, Viterbo 1887- Roma 195-9) inizia la sua carriera letteraria a Roma come giornalista politico e ben presto entra nell'ambiente vociano. Nel 1919 fonda, insieme ad altri, la rivista "La Ronda". Tra le opere principali sono *Il sole a picco*, 1928 e *Prologhi - Viaggi - Favole*, 1929.

Ballata

di Vincenzo Cardarelli

Ecco la casa ov'io vidi la luce
e la chiesa lì accanto,
dove fui battezzato.
Consolanti evidenze!
Qui antiche donne vivono, mai sazie
di ricordare.
E narrano una storia
ch'io so a memoria e non vorrei sapere.
Narrano la mia storia famigliare.
Dicono che una notte,
col cuore fasciato
di crudeltà e d'ira fredda,
un uomo fece guasto
senza pietà nei suoi affetti più sacri,
disperse una famiglia appena in fiore.
E la casa natale era al mattino
tranquilla e disertata
come se visitata
l'avessero le streghe.
Il tempo come un ciclone
spazzò da questi luoghi
le care immagini.
Di ciò che fu non rimane
che un tacito agitarsi
di memorie e di ombre.
Ma quelle voci ch'io dico
sono implacabili e vive.
Lamentose quale un funebre canto,
alla pietà l'invettiva alternando,
mi rammentano come, ancora in fasce,
m'abbia poco la sorte vezzeggiato.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Santa Maria del Popolo

Nel 1099 in seguito alla conquista del Santo Sepolcro a Gerusalemme, Pasquale II ordinò la costruzione, a spese del popolo romano, di una cappella sulla tomba dei Domizi da dedicare a Maria, che negli anni 1213-27 Gregorio IX trasformò in chiesa. La chiesa, affidata ai Padri Agostiniani alla fine del '400, fu completamente ricostruita secondo canoni di rigorosa semplicità e schematicità che ne fanno ancora oggi una delle più importanti opere del Rinascimento. Dietro la scarna facciata,



l'interno della chiesa è impreziosito dal Coro realizzato da Bramante e dalla straordinaria Cappella Chigi, una delle più importanti opere architettoniche di Raffaello. Ma, vale la pena percorrere la navata e affacciarsi sul transetto sinistro dove nella Cappella Cerasi sono due straordinari capolavori del grande Caravaggio: la *Conversione di San Paolo* e il *Martirio di San Pietro*.



Conversione di San Paolo



Martirio di San Pietro

Il grande pittore, giocando con una spazialità inedita, riuscì a dare respiro ai due quadri, costretti nell'angusto spazio della cappella. Trasgressivo e anticonformista come sempre, Caravaggio, nella *Conversione di San Paolo*, usa il cavallo come elemento dirompente del quadro e lascia in secondo piano la figura del Santo; mentre nel *Martirio di San Pietro* la linea diagonale creata dalla disposizione della croce determina il forte coinvolgimento dello spettatore.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi:

<http://www.romecity.it/Chiesediroma.htm>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!



La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

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Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

November 15- "Caravaggio in Rome" *by Cynthia Stollhans, Ph.D.*
The Gene Mariani Award will be presented to students from St. Louis University

December 20th- Annual Christmas Celebration and presentation by the Panettone Players

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

Tuesday, November 7- "Simply Sinatra" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center

Friday, November 10- Italian Club's Film & Opera Series at the Italia America Bocce Club featuring "Johnny Stecchino" at 7:30p.m. at the Italia-America Bocce Club.

Saturday, November 11- "Madame Butterfly" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center

Saturday, December 2—"Christmas on the Hill" sponsored by Hill 2000 and the Hill Business Association from 3-8p.m.

Saturday, December 2—Sunday, January 6- Hill Nativity Walk

January 20- "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center

February 11- "Turandot" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center



italian films and operas –2006 at the italia-america bocce club

JOHNNY STECCHINO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

WITH THE FILM, JOHNNY STECCHINO, ITALY OFFERS TO THE MOVIE GOING WORLD A DELIGHTFUL COMEDY THAT CAN BE VIEWED OVER AND OVER AGAIN WITHOUT LOSING THE POWER TO EVOKE LAUGHTER AND MIRTH AS THE CLASSICAL FILM COMEDIES OF THE PAST ARE STILL ABLE TO DO.

THE “DYNAMIC DUO” OF THE IRREPRESSIBLE ITALIAN COMIC ACTOR, ROBERTO BENIGNI, AND HIS LOVELY AND TALENTED WIFE, NICOLETTA BRASCHI, (THE SAME COUPLE WHO CONVINCINGLY BROUGHT TO THE SCREEN THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING TRAGICOMEDY, LA VITA E’ BELLA), MASTERFULLY PLAY THE LEADING ROLES IN THE FILM, JOHNNY STECCHINO.

THE MALE PROTAGONIST IS A MISGUIDED ODD-BALL WITH A HEART OF GOLD AND AS HOPELESSLY NAÏVE AS THEY COME, WHO IS SEDUCED BY AN IRRESISTIBLE, MYSTERIOUS VIXEN THAT LURES HIM FROM HIS SIMPLE LIFE IN NORTHERN ITALY TO A LIFE OF UNEXPECTED “DANGERS AND INTRIGUE” IN SICILY.

THE STEREOTYPICAL CONTRAST BETWEEN CONTEMPORARY NORTHERN URBAN LIFE STYLE AND TRADITIONAL SICILIAN MAFIA CULTURE CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO THE OVERALL COMEDIC EFFECT OF THE MOVIE. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE THEATRICAL DEVICE OF *MISTAKEN IDENTITY* THAT STEALS THE SHOW, AS IT IS CARRIED TO ITS UPROARIOUS EXTREMES WITH THEIR INHERENT UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES THAT SUCCEED IN DELIGHTING THE MOVIEGOERS WITH LAUGHTER AND ENJOYMENT.

BY TONY PERRONE

All free programs are in Italian with English sub-titles & begin at 7:30 p.m, with introductions by Tony Perrone. Sponsored by the Italian Club & the Italia-America Bocce Club at 2210 Marconi on the Hill”. For information contact Marie at 314-680-6871 or mcucciasbj@aol.com