



October 2006

La Rondine

LA RONDINE

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday

October 18th

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 Oct. 17th**

“Ambrose’s writings are commentaries on the Old and New Testaments. He persuasively asks for action in each of his writings. The most influential is his work on Christian ecclesiastics, “De Officiis Ministrorum”, a manual of Christian morality.”

As we all know, the month of October is designated as National Italian American Heritage Month. Many of Italian heritage in all the major cities in the United States have been busy planning to commemorate this event and honor the Italians and the Italian Americans who in many aspects have contributed to the betterment of life and humanity. The Italian Club of St. Louis, valuing this event, is also very proud to dedicate the meeting of October to honor our heritage, our culture and the contribution that many of our people have made for the betterment of humanity. For this reason, the Program Committee has organized a special program for the meeting to reflect this important occasion. *The evening will commence with a cocktail party before our dinner and will end with a champagne toast and pastries.*

The committee has selected a very special after-dinner film that will capture the attendees’ attention by bringing laughter, joy, gratifying memories and nostalgic moments. All of this will fill the evening with entertainment. If you believe in the “Italian Passion for Life”, you should not miss the October meeting. It is guaranteed to be different and, above all, entertaining. A presto!
by Tony DiPaolo and Roy DeBellis

“ Saint Ambrose and the Altar of Victory” by George Pepe, Ph.D. presentation at our September 20th Dinner Meeting

Ambrose, born in 339A.D. at Trier and died in April 397. He was born into an ancient Roman family which was Christian. His father was Prefect of Gallia. When Ambrose was 13, his father died and the family moved to Rome. He acquired a mastery of the Greek language and literature which was very advantageous later in his life. Like his father, Ambrose then devoted himself to the study and practice of Law. He was so distinguished in this role and was appointed Consular Governor of Liguria and Emilia with a residence in Milan.

In 374, Ambrose was called upon to maintain order in Milan during the election. To his surprise, the populace wanted him to be the new Bishop of Milan. He was known to the Catholics as a firm believer of the Nicene Creed. Valentinian confirmed the election and Ambrose became the Bishop of Milan on December 7, 374 at 34 years old. His first act as Bishop was to give all of his worldly goods and personal property to the poor. Since he did not have any spiritual training, he devoted himself the study of Scripture. In his treatise “De Officiis” he explains that he was compelled to learn and teach.

In 393, Valentinian II was murdered. The usurper Eugenius openly proclaimed his resolution to restore paganism and reopened the heathen temples and ordered the famous altar of Victory to be set up again in the Senate Chamber. Ambrose and Symmachus had many debates over the removal of the Altar of Victory from the Senate house in Rome. This issue has often been seen as sounding the death knell for paganism and bringing about the completion of the Christianization of the empire. Ambrose’s speeches as well as those of Symmachus, his pagan opponent, survive so that we have a ring-side view of the struggle between these different attitudes toward the nature of religion and its role in the political arena.

Ambrose’s writings are commentaries on the Old and New Testaments. He persuasively asks for action in each of his writings. The most influential is his work on Christian ecclesiastics, “De Officiis Ministrorum”, a manual of Christian morality. Ambrose became one of the most eminent bishops of the 4th century. He is counted as one of the four Doctors of the West in ancient church history.

Dr. Pepe received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and is currently Professor in the Department of Classics at Washington University. His interests center around ancient Rome and Roman political thought. *by Marie Cuccia-Brand*

L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

Here we are in my favorite month of the year! The weather is definitely changing, festivals and outdoor activities abound. As you know, we have elections at our October meeting. I would encourage all of you to please attend and cast your vote for the individuals that will best serve the interest of our fabulous organization. It is with mixed emotions that I will be leaving a

leadership position in the Club. I have served as either an Officer or Director for over 16 years. I don't regret a moment of it but it is time to focus my attention on my new business and other activities in the St Louis Italian American community.

I turn my attention back to the month of October. There is something to do in the Italian community every weekend. Remember the Columbus Day Festa,

the October meeting, the Misericordia Banquet, and the "Prisoners Among Us" film at the end of the month.

I am looking forward to seeing you all very soon. Give me a call or send me an e-mail if there is anything you want to suggest or discuss.

Warmest regards to you and yours.

Ciao, Jim

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

"Prisoners Among Us"
by Michael Angelo DiLauro
sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis
and the National Italian American Foundation

Friday, October 27
Missouri Historical Society in Forest Park
6p.m.—Reception
7p.m.—Film and Discussion

"Prisoners Among Us", a feature-length documentary by award-winning filmmaker Michael Angelo DiLauro and recipient of the "Grand Jury Prize" for Best Documentary at the 2005 New York International Independent Film Festival, chronicles the assimilation of Italians into American culture from 19th century immigration through World War II. The film will be followed by a question & answer session with DiLauro.

Italian Film and Opera Series-
Friday, October 13th at 7:30p.m. - Bocce Club
"My Mother's Smile" by Marco Bellocchio

The Italian film director, Marco Bellocchio, with his most recent movie, "My Mother's Smile", has joined a long list of contemporary Italian filmmakers in their relentless attack on traditional family and religious values. Bellocchio, in his blatant leftist-Marxist, cheap shots in caricaturing the Church's time-honored process of canonization of potential saints, reveals his anti-family, anti-religious secular humorism.

The movie's protagonist, Ernesto, is a disaffected, amoral, failed artist and an avowed atheist, with a broken moral compass, who views his dysfunctional family members and corrupt and nihilistic circle of friends with a jaundiced, cynical eye of superiority as he tried to justify his bankrupt life. When this type of character is hailed by contemporary movie makers of Bellocchio's ilk as a heroic figure who champions the cause of secular humanist attack against established traditional institutions and values, then it's time for the defenders of traditional values to draw a line in the sand.

by Tony Perrone

Columbus Day Celebration
Sun. October 8th and
Wreath Laying Ceremony— October 12th

Grand Marshal— Giovanni Domenic Galati
Spirit of Columbus Award—Joe Barbaglia
Miss Italian St. Louis— Julie Ronzio
Maids of Honor— Filomena DiMartino and Melissa Fields

Join us for the Columbus Day Parade and Festa on Sunday, October 8th from noon—5p.m. The parade will begin at South-west Bank and end at Berra Park. Stop by the Italian Club's booth for Baldo's delicious gelato!

Tower Grove Park
along with the Italian-American Organizations
of Metro St. Louis
Request the Honor of Your Presence
for a Wreath Laying Ceremony
Commemorating Columbus Day

Thursday, October 12, 2006

10:00 AM

at

The Christopher Columbus Statue
at the Grand Avenue Entrance in Tower Grove Park.

RSVP 314-771-4484 by October 10, 2006

Report from the Nominating Committee

The following individuals have been placed in nomination for election at our October 18th meeting:

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

Additional nominees will be accepted in writing or nominations may be taken from the floor at the election at our October 18th Italian Club meeting. Please join us on October 18th and VOTE!

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.

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Iacopo da Lentini (Lentini, Siracusa, 1210-1260 ca.) fu poeta siciliano e notaio alla corte dell'imperatore letterato Federico II di Svevia (1194-1250). Considerato da Dante il capostipite della scuola siciliana (Purgatorio XXIV, versi 55-57: *O frate, issa vegg'io-diss'egli-il nodo / che il Notaro e Guittone a me ritenne / di qua dal dolce stil novo ch'i odo*). Scrisse canzoni, canzonette e sonetti, genere di cui fu probabilmente l'inventore. Nei suoi componimenti esprime i sentimenti di gioia, dolore, amore con eleganza di immagini.

Un pensiero d'amore

di Iacopo da Lentini

Io m'aggio posto in core a Dio servire,
Com'io potesse gire in paradiso,
Al santo loco ch'aggio audito dire
U'si mantien sollazzo, gioco e riso.
Sanza mia donna non li voria gire,
Quella c'ha blonda testa e claro viso,
Chè senza lei non poteria gaudire,
Estando da la mia donna diviso.
Ma non lo dico a tale intendimento,
Perch'io peccato ci volesse fare,
Se non veder lo suo bel portamento,
E lo bel viso e 'l morbido a guardare:
Chè lo mi teria in gran consolamento,
Veggendo la mia donna in ghioria stare.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Selinunte: la colonia greca più occidentale della Sicilia



Il nome di Selinunte deriva dal greco Sèlinon, termine con cui veniva designato l'appio, sorta di prezzemolo selvatico che, fiorito, emana un intenso profumo, che cresceva abbondante nella zona e che compare anche sulle prime monete coniate dalla città.

Fondata da gente proveniente da Megara Hyblaea nel corso del VII sec. a.C., Selinunte ha vita breve (circa 200 anni di splendore), ma intensa, forse anche grazie all'azione di un governo accorto dei tiranni che vi si sono succeduti. La prosperità della città è testimoniata dall'ampia zona sacrale e pubblica che si estende in tre zone distinte.

Alleata a lungo di Cartagine, dalla quale sperava di ottenere appoggio per contrastare la rivale Segesta, viene infine distrutta proprio dal cartaginese Annibale nel 409 a.C. che usa mezzi e misure ferocissimi: sedicimila i morti selinuntini, cinquemila i prigionieri (Diodoro Siculo). Alla supplica dei superstiti di lasciarli liberi e di risparmiarli i templi della città dietro il pagamento di una forte somma, Annibale accetta, ma una volta avuto il riscatto in mano, depreda i templi e distrugge le mura. Selinunte si rialza a fatica e a stento riesce a reggere fino alla seconda guerra punica quando viene rasa al suolo.

Disseminati nel più grande parco archeologico del Mediterraneo, i templi in rovina innalzano ancora al cielo le loro imponenti colonne, e gli edifici, ridotti ad un cumulo di pietre probabilmente a causa di un terremoto, creano un'impressione di estrema desolazione. Le belle metope che ornavano il fregio di alcuni sono esposte al Museo Archeologico di Palermo.

Nel parco si distinguono tre zone. La prima, sulla collina orientale, raggruppa tre grandi templi. La seconda, sulla collina occidentale e cinta da mura, è l'Acropoli, a nord della quale sorgeva la città vera e propria. La terza, a ovest dell'Acropoli, oltre il fiume Modione, era un'altra area sacra con templi e santuari. Dato che non si sa con certezza a chi i templi fossero dedicati, gli studiosi li hanno contrassegnati con le lettere dell'alfabeto.

Il tempio E, ricomposto nel 1957, probabilmente dedicato ad Hera, risale al V sec. a.C. ed aveva una pianta complessa. Vi si accedeva dal lato orientale attraverso alcuni gradini che conducevano, oltre il colonnato, al pronao, preceduto da due colonne delle quali non restano che i capitelli, a terra. Sulla destra, il tempio F, completamente in rovina, era il più piccolo ed era probabilmente dedicato ad Athena. L'ultimo, il tempio G, era il più imponente. Di dimensioni enormi (le colonne, 17 in lunghezza e 8 in larghezza, era probabilmente dedicato ad Apollo. Oggi è ridotto ad una massa di frammenti sparsi sul terreno, i blocchi che costituivano le colonne, del peso di diverse tonnellate, presentano ancora le scanalature, elemento che induce a credere che il tempio fosse incompiuto.

L'Acropoli, cinta da mura fin dal VI-V sec. a.C., seguiva lo schema classico della città ippodamea, con tre arterie che si incrociavano ad angolo retto, intersecate a loro volta a 90° da strade più piccole. Qui sorgevano, oltre agli edifici pubblici e religiosi, alcune abitazioni delle classi sociali più elevate.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: <http://sicilyweb.com/selinunte/>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

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*Celebrating
83 years of
Italian Culture
and Heritage*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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ITALIANCLUB

Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

October 18- "Italian Passion for Life" in Celebration of Italian Heritage Month

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

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

Thursday, October 12- Wreath Laying Ceremony at Christopher Columbus Statue- Tower Grove Park

Friday, October 13- Italian Club's Film & Opera Series at the Italia America Bocce Club

Sunday, October 22- Misericordia Society's Annual Banquet—5:30p.m. at Spazio's in Westport

Friday, October 27- Michael DiLauro—"The Prisoners Among Us" - Missouri Historical Society

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

Saturday, November 11- "Madame Butterfly" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center (UM-St. Louis)