



February 2007

La Rondine

LA RONDINE

A. P. Giannini Banked on California to Make His Dream Come True *by Ed Berra*

Our club member of long standing, Ed Berra was born and raised on the Hill. He attended CBC high school, and earned an economics degree from St. Louis University. He served in the US Army for two years as a sergeant in the Korean War

In 1959 he took a position with Southwest Bank, and today holds the distinction of being the longest tenured employee of 48 years. He worked himself up to be president in 1976, a top position he held for 23 years. He is presently an Advisory Board Member of Southwest Bank.

Ed has been guided in his career by two prominent men. His first mentor was the former president of Southwest Bank, I. A. Long. Long was the person who brought international recognition to the bank, with his skill in interest setting interest rates. Ed's second mentor was a person he has admired for many years, Amadeo Peter Giannini. He was the founder of the Bank of Italy, which eventually became one of the biggest banks in the world - the Bank of America. Of this son of a poor Italian immigrant who became a giant in United States banking, Ed will have quite a few interesting facts in his presentation on February 21st.

Very few, if any, American business figures generated as much controversy, fought as much with their opposition, and made as many powerful enemies as did Amadeo Peter Giannini. His great achievement was to bring banking services to millions of ordinary people. He had a great passion for California, which reminded him very much of Italy. In California, he saw a region of rich resources and an enterprising people that could create a new social and economic power that would spread eventually throughout the whole nation. Through his banking innovations he caused private enterprise to substantially help build our American society of economic opportunity and greater freedom. HIS DREAM CAME TRUE.

by Pete Puleo

Next Meeting

Wednesday

February 21st

Cocktails – 6:30p.m.

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

**RSVP
Dan Viele**

**(636) 537-5960
or**

**ItalianClubSTL@aol.com
by noon
Tue, Feb. 20th**

The Memories Project— “Chi Sono, Chi Siamo” *by Roger Gennari, Ph.D.* *presentation at our January 17th meeting*

The documentation, archiving, and publicizing of *Le Nostre Storie*, in both senses of the word Storia, our histories and our stories about the facts of our histories. It is our stories that give real meaning to our histories.

Why do such a project for the Italian Club? I think we need to be reinvigorated as a club and now go on to the next phase of our existence. We will be forgotten as a Club with its history and its historical members if we do not start documenting personal and club histories. We need to preserve who we are and what it means to be of Italian heritage and background. We want those who come after us to be able to know who we were, what was important to us, what it has meant to be of the Italian heritage, and what therefore makes us unique. This builds what has been termed a Community of Memories, a community not because of living together in a designated neighborhood, such as the Hill, but because of shared history, stories, hopes, fears, and even tragedies. A Community of Memories is not simply about happy, good-time remembrances, but also sadness. A Community of Memories without remembrances of its mistakes, sins, tragedies, becomes a shallow cheerleading club at best but not a deeply human community. To build and strengthen our cohesion as a group and as a club, we must get to know each others' Storie, both the history with facts and the story with meaning. We must have a way to get that knowledge into the public domain, in a way that we all have access to it and can share it openly

So how will we do this? I hope, through this project, we will have written information from all our members. There is a survey form that will be sent to all members and hopefully you will fill it out in detail and return it. It has two purposes: to have facts about you and your history to share, and to have the meaning of those facts to you. In addition to the survey, the committee hopes to do a filmed interview with each and every member. The interview will attempt to fill in gaps in your survey information and also flesh out the meaning of your facts. These interviews will be digitally recorded and put on CD's for storage. And, if all goes well, each of these interviews will be transcribed to written form also.

To build cohesion and shared purpose, we must all get to know more about each other, not simply collect information and store it away. So I propose that we begin featuring one of our members each month at our monthly meeting. A short history will be read as we introduce the member to the club members attending and this short history will also be published in *La Rondine*. Michael DiLauro, when he was here at the Missouri Historical Society for his presentation, quoted Fred Gardophe who said: "If we do not tell our stories, if we do not preserve them, then we will not have a culture to either protect or promote. When we do not tell our stories, we lose our souls." Let us not lose our Italian flavored souls. *by Roger Gennari*

**We will publish
Roger Gennari's
story in our next
issue of LaRondine**

L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

Cari Amici

I am so honored to write to you this month as your new President. When Gene Mariani asked me to attend an Italian Club meeting 12 years ago, I would never have dreamed that I would have this opportunity.

I want to personally thank Jim Tognoni for his leadership and commitment as our President for the past four years. Jim has been involved on our Board for many years and will remain a vital part of the Board and Club.

We have a phenomenal year ahead! 2007 marks our 85th anniversary. This special occasion will be celebrated at a gala event. We

will inform you as we have more details.

Roger Gennari, our new Vice-President, was our first speaker this year presenting "The Memories Project". I want to thank Roger for sharing his memories with us and giving us an excellent model to follow as we choose to share each of our memories with our fellow members.

The Program Committee has planned another year of excellent, enjoyable and informative programs for you. The committee, chaired by Pete Puleo, has topics including: Italian Dialects, Genealogy, Hypnotism and more...

The Board of Directors will have a day retreat to plan the next year's activities and discuss the

direction of the Club. We invite you to share your ideas and opinions with us. What is your vision of our Club? What type of activities and events would you like to have?

There are many opportunities to become more involved through our committees. Please contact one of us if you are interested.

I invite you to join us at our next dinner meeting on February 21st when member, Ed Berra, will teach us more about A.P. Giannini. Giannini is truly a model to all of us— a person who had a dream and was able to make that dream come true!

Ciao, Marie—314-680-6871

**Writing Down the Family Stories:
How To Begin by Carol Faenzi**

When: Friday, March 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Historic Morris-Butler House
1204 N. Park Avenue, Indianapolis

Carol Faenzi, author of *The Stonecutter's Aria*, will teach this inspirational workshop, using some of the techniques she employed in writing her novel, based on the true stories of her Italian ancestors.

- Are the family stories in your head and you don't know where to start in preserving them for your children?
- Do you have a mountain of records, documents and journals that have become a burden because you don't know how to organize everything?

This practical and inspirational workshop will give attendees the tools and resources to give them the boost they need, whether they are in the middle of their quest or just getting started.

BONUS OPTION: The workshop is \$60, but you are also invited to stay and enjoy a tour of the House as well as a Victorian Tea for an additional \$15.

The Morris-Butler House is one of Indiana's most prized historical homes and museums. For a glimpse, visit the web site <http://www.historiclandmarks.org/what/mbhouse.html>

Class Size is limited.

For additional information: cfaenzi@aol.com

LaRondine – Becomes a Quarterly

The Italian Club Board decided some months ago to make the *LaRondine* a quarterly newsletter instead of monthly. We are very interested in enhancing your newsletter with new columns and additional photographs.

To achieve this goal, we need ideas, writers, photographers, and graphic designers. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Marie Cuccia-Brand at 314-680-6871 or mcucciasbj@aol.com



“An Evening of Italian Opera”

Gina Galati, soprano
Jonathan Thomas, tenor
Gail Hintz, piano

Sunday, February 25
5:00 pm

St. Ambrose Church
5130 Wilson Avenue
Admission \$15

A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Ambrose Church

*To Purchase tickets in advance call 314-363-5114
Tickets may be purchased at Dominic's Restaurants,
Girasole Gifts and Imports or the night of the performance
beginning at 4:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Church*

The Italian Club's Board of Directors

President: Marie Cuccia-Brand
Vice-President: Roger Gennari
Secretary: Debbie Monolo
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Mark Your Calendar...

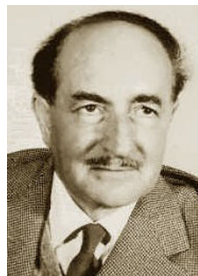
Italian Film Festival of St. Louis
March 30 to April 15, 2007
Brown Hall 100, Washington University
in St. Louis

<http://www.italianfilmfestivalstlouis.com/>

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein



Salvatore Quasimodo (Modica 1901 - Napoli 1968) fu poeta ermetico, grande traduttore dei lirici greci, e vincitore del Premio Nobel nel 1959.

Fra i capolavori Acque e terre, La vita non è un sogno, Il falso e vero verde, Ed è subito sera.

Quasi un Madrigale

di Salvatore Quasimodo

Il girasole piega a occidente
e già precipita il giorno nel suo
occhio in rovina e l'aria dell'estate
s'addensa e già curva le foglie e il fumo
dei cantieri. S'allontana con scorrere
secco di nubi e stridere di fulmini
quest'ultimo gioco del cielo. Ancora,
e da anni, cara, ci ferma il mutarsi
degli alberi stretti dentro la cerchia
dei Navigli. Ma è sempre il nostro giorno
e sempre quel sole che se ne va
con il filo del suo raggio affettuoso.
Non ho più ricordi, non voglio ricordare;
la memoria risale dalla morte,
la vita è senza fine. Ogni giorno
è nostro. Uno si fermerà per sempre,
e tu con me, quando ci sembri tardi.
Qui sull'argine del canale, i piedi
in altalena, come di fanciulli,
guardiamo l'acqua, i primi rami dentro
il suo colore verde che s'oscura.
E l'uomo che in silenzio s'avvicina
non nasconde un coltello fra le mani,
ma un fiore di geranio.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Catania: La festa di Sant'Agata

Ogni anno il 3, il 4 e il 5 febbraio Catania offre alla sua patrona una festa straordinaria, misto di devozione e di folklore, che attira ogni anno sino a un milione di persone, tra devoti e curiosi. Il primo giorno è riservato all'offerta delle candele.

Due carrozze settecentesche, che un tempo appartenevano al senato che governava la città, e undici "candelore", grossi ceri rappresentativi delle corporazioni o dei mestieri, vengono portate in corteo.

Gli enormi ceri rivestiti con decorazioni artigianali, puttini in legno dorato, santi e scene del martirio, fiori e bandiere, sono portate a spalla da un numero di portatori che, a seconda del peso del cero, può variare da 4 a 12 uomini. I ceri sono opere di fattura artigianale che, inoltre, rappresentassero, associazioni di varie categorie di lavoratori: giardinieri e fiorai, pescivendoli, fruttivendoli, pastai, pizzicagnoli e bettolieri, e panettieri



Questa prima giornata di festa si conclude in un grandioso spettacolo di giochi pirotecnici in piazza Duomo. I fuochi artificiali assumono un significato particolare, perché ricordano che la patrona, martirizzata sulla brace, vigila sempre sul fuoco dell'Etna e di tutti gli incendi.



Il 4 febbraio, dalle prime ore dell'alba, le strade della città si popolano dei devoti che indossano il tradizionale "sacco" (un camice votivo di tela bianca lungo fino alla caviglia e stretto in vita da un cordoncino), un berretto di velluto nero, guanti bianchi e sventolano un fazzoletto anch'esso bianco stirato a fitte pieghe. Rappresenta l'abbigliamento notturno che i catanesi indossavano quando incontro le reliquie di Sant'Agata. Dopo una messa, il busto di sant'Agata viene issato sul fercolo d'argento rinascimentale e portato in processione per la città.

La processione, che dura l'intera giornata, attraversa i luoghi del martirio e ripercorre le vicende della storia della "santuzza": il duomo, i luoghi del martirio. Tutti indossano il sacco votivo e a piccoli passi tra la folla trascinano il fercolo che, vuoto, pesa 17 quintali, ma, appesantito di Scignano, Busto e carico di cera, può pesare fino a 30 quintali. A ritmo cadenzato gridano: "cittadini, viva sant'Agata". Il "giro" si conclude a notte fonda quando il fercolo ritorna in cattedrale.

Sul fercolo del 5 febbraio, i garofani rossi del giorno precedente, vengono sostituiti da quelli bianchi. Nella tarda mattinata, in cattedrale viene celebrato il pontificale. Al tramonto ha inizio la seconda parte della processione che si snoda per le vie del centro di Catania, A notte fonda i fuochi artificiali segnano la chiusura dei festeggiamenti.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: www.comune.catania.it

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

