



January 2007

# La Rondine

LA RONDINE

## The Memories Project— “Chi Sono, Chi Siamo”

*by Roger Gennari, Ph.D.*

*presentation at our January 17th meeting*

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday**

**January 17th**

**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, Jan. 16th**

Roger L. Gennari, Ph.D., our new vice-president, will be presenting The Memories Project, entitled “Chi Sono, Chi Siamo”. The purpose of the project is to collect personal histories and stories from Club members, first by way of a written survey, then by audio and visual interviews with members. This information will be made available to all of the Club members so that we can all get to know each other better, which fosters greater cohesion amongst the members. Also the project will archive this information so future generations can reference it and be made aware of their ancestry through living stories. As an adjunct to the project, Club members will be presented each month at the dinner meetings, with one of the board members reading a very short bio on that member. And some members will be featured in *La Rondine*. Dr. Gennari will illustrate the project by presenting his own family background, hopefully with pictures and stories.

Dr. Gennari has applied to the National Italian American Federation for a grant to fund this project. We have not heard yet if and when they might accept the proposal for funding, but the project, in some form, will be pursued.

The Memories Project is not simply an archiving project. More than information about Club members is envisioned. The Project represents a new vision for the Club, a vision that says we the members are our greatest asset and source for what it means to be of Italian Heritage. We then can truly have what has been termed a “Community of Memories”, a community of people sharing common history and stories, common practices and rituals, and common hopes. Our ethnic background is the foundation for the Community of Memories and our personal stories provide the color, values, and meaning of that common background.

## “Little Red Riding Hood Revisited”

*by Roy DeBellis and the Panettone Players*

*at our December 20th Christmas Celebration*

Italian Club members and friends gathered on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at Baldo’s for a festive evening as a prelude to the fast arriving Christmas holiday. At the end of the cocktail hour we enjoyed a visit from La Befana with her little candy treats for the well-behaved “children” in the room. We sadly report that Tony Lombardo got a lump of coal, and we hope he will do better next year. Coraggio, Antonio.

For dinner we had a carefully-chosen, special menu by Baldo that featured eggplant appetizer, pasta cognac, salad, beef fillets or Tilapia, mixed vegetables and panna cotta for dessert. As we’ve come to expect, Madda, Baldo and staff provided excellent service.

The Panettone Players were next in line to present their version of Little Red Riding Hood. In keeping with tradition the production was in Italian, and the audience was furnished individual scripts in English to follow the scintillating dialogue. This year Tony Perrone was our narrator to keep things moving and focused. Newcomer Mary Lou March played two parts: mamma and grandma. Mary Lou convinced us that Mamma loves Amarone and Grandma loves chocolate. Little Red was played by Em Koetting, a high school sophomore, also a newcomer and stranger to the Italian language, which she handled quite well. She described strange things she saw in the forest including Humpty Dumpty falling and turning into a frittata. The poor misunderstood wolf was played expertly and very humorously by Roger Gennari who claimed that all the accusations against the wolf were mere cases of PROFILING! Lastly, our outgoing president of the IC, Jim Tognoni showed his considerable thespian qualities by becoming the reluctant hunter (Chicken Cacciatore!) that was drafted by Little Red to find out what had happened to her grandma. As it turned out, Mr. Wolf wanted only the recipe for the delicious panettone being carried by Little Red to grandma. And everybody lived happily ever after, except Humpty, poor guy.

After the play many gifts were handed out to the lucky raffle ticket holders to start the Christmas gift giving. Happy New Year everyone! -- **Roy DeBellis**

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**L'angolo del Presidente** by James Tognoni

**My Fellow Members and Friends:**

This is the last time I will be writing to you as the Club's President. It has been an interesting, exhilarating and often times challenging four years. One of my greatest pleasures is to stand up in front of you each month and guide everyone through the evening's activities. During the meetings I have tried to keep things moving along while being respectful and light-hearted. During my tenure, we tried a few new things. We put together a bit more formal structure so that we can easily manage special events and programs.

We maintained a consistent membership level. We reached out to other Italian American organizations in the St. Louis area and participated in some of their activities further cementing our position as a caring and cooperative organization. We were able to secure some fairly significant funding from NIAF for some of our programs and further raise the Club's exposure and make a first rate contribution to the efforts of the community.

I am excited about the new leadership that you all have elected. Everyone involved is highly intelligent, ener-

getic and motivated. I am particularly proud to be succeeded by a woman for the first time in the Club's 85 year history. Buona Fortuna, Marie.

As for me, I will continue being a loyal and participatory member. I intend to put more energy into my NIAF appointment and find additional ways to benefit the St. Louis Italian American community. My heartfelt wishes to each of you and your loved ones for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Ciao, Jim*

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

**"Lucia di Lammermoor"**

Saturday, January 20th at 8p.m. at the Touhill

Set in the lowlands and based on the supposed true account of feuding families and young, rebellious lovers, Dizett's emotional tale has enough passion to drive you mad. Presented with a full orchestra and chorus in its original Italian with English subtitles.

**"Turandot"**

Sunday, February 11th at 7p.m. at the Touhill

Based on the "riddle of the sphinx", Puccini's final masterpiece Turandot is set in the ancient forbidden city Peking. Haunted by the brutal rape and murder of her cousin, Princess Turandot poses an impossible riddle to any man wishing to marry her, resulting in the beheading of many men to the horror of all who call Peking home. Fully staged with lavish costumes and sets, chorus and orchestra, the production will be presented in its original Italian with English supertitles.

Members of the Italian Club are planning to go to the Touhill Theater on **Sunday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m.** to see the opera, "Turandot." Tickets may be purchased individually by calling (314) 516-4949 or through their website: [www.touhill.org](http://www.touhill.org)

*Please note: Our January meeting will not be a business meeting this year. A report for 2006 will be prepared and mailed to each member.*

**Federation of Italian-American Organizations  
Italian Language Classes—Winter 2007**

**Classes for adults will begin the week of January 22nd**

**Children's classes will begin on Sat. January 27th**

**Sessions are 12 consecutive weeks**

**Information & Registration Session**

*Meet the teachers, Assess Proficiency Levels,  
Order Books, Register for classes*

**Wednesday, January 10**

**6:00 – 8:00p.m.**

Bishop DuBourg High School

Corner of Hampton and Eichelberger Avenues

visit the website: [www.fiao-stl.org](http://www.fiao-stl.org)

**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.

**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

**Emilio Praga** (Gorla 1839 – Milano 1875) fu pittore e letterato della Scapigliatura.

### *Sospiri all'inverno*

di Emilio Praga

Stanco son io di splendidi  
cieli e fronzute piante;  
mi annoia lo spettacolo  
di una beltà costante;  
venga il dicembre, ed operi  
un cambiamento a vista:  
un grazie al macchinista  
dal petto esalerò.  
Venga il gennaio, il placido  
mese di piogge e nevi,  
venga, ed io chiuda il guscio:  
oh giorni inerti e brevi,  
vetri appannati, e amabili  
grilli del focolare!  
Voglio l'uscio inchiodare,  
cantar l'inverno io vo'!  
Come cadenze tremule  
di cori in lontananza,  
belle, ridenti, tiepide,  
nella tranquilla stanza  
tornano le memorie  
del luglio e dell'aprile,  
a colorir lo stile  
del pallido pittor.  
E accosciata in un angolo  
al muro crepitante,  
sospirosa e pettegola  
come una vecchia amante,  
la stufa mi consiglia  
a non varcar la soglia,  
e alle dolcezze invoglia  
del solingo lavor.  
Quando la nebbia intorbida  
l'ampia campagna rasa,  
è pur dolce l'immagine  
delle donne di casa:  
le muse son, son gli angeli  
del domestico cielo  
cui della pioggia il velo  
imperla la beltà!  
Le gonne allor bisbigliano  
come selvette in maggio,  
e se il capo ti aggravano  
nuvole di passaggio,  
ascolta... era uno strascico  
nella vicina stanza?

Ascolta: e la speranza,  
la fede tornerà.  
Venga il febbraio: ho un piccolo  
vaso di sempre-vivi  
che i vezzi non invidiano  
dei fiorellini estivi;  
ho un uccellino in gabbia,  
un canerin gentile...  
febbraio, marzo, aprile...  
ecco l'estate ancor!  
L'estate ancor!... Fantastico  
mio cor di pellegrino,  
né avran cessato i cantici  
il bardo e il canerino:  
giacché siam quattro in gabbia,  
ed all'amor si beve,  
il mandorlo è una neve,  
la stalattite un fior!

### *In giro per l'Italia*

a cura di Barbara Klein

## *La Compagnia Marionettistica Carlo Colla e Figli di Milano*



La Compagnia Marionettistica Carlo Colla e Figli vanta quasi trecento anni di attività nel campo del teatro di figura ed i suoi spettacoli, proposti sia a livello nazionale che internazionale si rifanno ad un repertorio che spazia

dall'opera lirica (*Aida*, *Nabucco*, *Il Trovatore*), al balletto (*Excelsior*, *Petruschka*, *Sheherazade*), al romanzo storico e popolare (*Il giro del mondo in ottanta giorni*, *Guerrin Meschino*, *I Promessi Sposi*) fino alla fiaba (*Il gatto con gli stivali*, *Cenerentola*, *La lampada di Aladino*, *Ali Baba*), alla zarzuela e all'azione coreografica.

La compagnia presenterà *Macbeth* al Shakespeare Theatre di Chicago il 13 al 25 marzo, al New Victory Theatre di New York il 19 al 29 aprile, e in aprile a Springfield, Illinois. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: [www.marionettecolla.org](http://www.marionettecolla.org)

**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**



*Buon Capo d'Anno!!*

