



July 2005

# La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

## ***“Miraculous Canals of Venice” - a documentary***

At our next meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, after a delicious buffet prepared by Baldo and his staff, we will view the 50 minute video: “MIRACULOUS CANALS OF VENICE,” courtesy of Mr. Pete Puleo.

Venice is among the most beautiful and complex cities in the world. Built in the water on wooden poles and whose economy was based on salt, this jewel of Western Civilization has held its own against time and tide for about 1,500 years. In this rare glimpse, the video reveals the fear that motivated Venetians to transform a marshy lagoon into a

thriving, romantic metropolis. Surprisingly, the city's first inhabitants were fleeing the German Lombards and bloodthirsty barbarians like Attila the Hun, who swept down the Italian Peninsula in his raids against the Roman Empire. Home to such artists as Titian and Bellini and composers Monteverdi and Vivaldi, Venice is rich in cultural background. The building methods and architecture are unique. MIRACULOUS CANALS OF VENICE is an in-depth look at the history of this timeless city. Join us for a gondola ride down the Grand Canal. – **Roy DeBellis**

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday

July 20

Cocktails– 6:30p.m.

Dinner– 7:00p.m.  
\$20 per person

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com  
by noon Tuesday, July 19th

## ***“Annual Report from the Vice Consul of Italy in St. Louis”, presenter Joseph Colagiovanni, J.D.***

Vice Consul of Italy Joseph Cologiovanni annually addresses the Italian Club at its June meeting when the organization recognizes the anniversary of the Italian Republic and also presents its Italian Heritage Award. This year he talked about the true face of the Italian people and about the American in Italian-American. He referred to a speech he had given at the UNICO National Convention Sports Award presentation a few years ago. He stated that sports figures are role models in this country and that this year's Italian Heritage Award winner, Frank Borghi, stood out in his accomplishments as a United States team member in the 1950 Soccer World Cup and as a World War II hero.

Colagiovanni said, “What I do want to say relates to how we, as ordinary Italian Americans, can influence and form our collective image. This is where sports, at least our past experiences with it collectively as Italian American can be instructive.”

Joe DiMaggio became an icon to all Americans during the 1940s when Italy was at war with the United States. Years later two Jewish boys, Simon and Garfunkel made his name immortal in their hit song “Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio, a nation turns its lonely eyes to you.” Colagiovanni said, “And now think about this...a national feature motion picture... is released about our own Frank Borghi and his fellow Italian friends from this very ethnic neighborhood and their triumph as Americans in the 1950 World

Cup.” He said we all took great pride in Frank Borghi being one of our own when we saw the movie.

“How did we go to the Sopranos from people like Joe DiMaggio and Frank Borghi?” asked Colagiovanni. He related a story concerning Bob Costas discussing image and how he saw Joe DiMaggio adjust his tuxedo at some affair. The “Yankee Clipper” was always aware that he was representing not only himself but also the game of baseball. He ran and played to the fullest extent of his talent so people might see him project a positive image. The Vice Consul said the same could be said of Frank Borghi. “Have you ever seen a man with such an impressive array of accomplishments remain so humble?” Colagiovanni asked.

We must see ourselves as a group collectively and acquire a collective image as Italian Americans stated the Vice Consul and we should all be proud to be Italian Americans and wear that on our sleeves.

He also discussed the recent Italian referendum on in vitro fertilization and how the Italians defeated it by merely not going to the polls, the European Union Constitution and the visit of Consul General Eugenio Sgro' to St. Louis.

Valerio Bianco, Italian Club member and partisan fighter in World War II while a fourteen-year-old, gave a toast to the Italian Republic in honor of its anniversary.

**by Marianne Peri Sack**

*“We must see ourselves as a group collectively and acquire a collective image as Italian Americans” stated the Vice Consul, “and we should all be proud to be Italian Americans and wear that on our sleeves.”*

## L'Angolo Del Presidente *by James Tognoni*

### *My Fellow Members:*

Ah! St Louis heat and humidity, did anyone miss it? I sit here this evening with the air conditioner blowing strong and a ceiling fan blowing around the cool air. Sweet relief! Some of you may remember that the ICSL used to take a break during the summer. Several years ago we decided that this was confusing to many and affected attendance at the monthly meetings the rest of the year. We are pleased to meet every month of the year. Sometimes the programs are a little lighter in the summer months. For example, at our July meeting we will have a fantastic buffet dinner followed by a fascinating documentary on Venice.

In conjunction with the monthly meetings, as you know, we ask that you make a reservation for the monthly meeting by noon the day be-

fore the meeting. Individuals showing up without a reservation cause a good deal of disruption and several logistical problems for Baldo and his staff. Beginning with the July meeting, those individuals that come without having made a reservation by noon of Tuesday, July 19, will be charged an additional \$5.00 making the total meal price for the evening \$25.00. We wish we didn't have to do this but it is the only way we can be assured that we can have an accurate count each month.

There are a few other fun things happening this month. Look for information elsewhere in this publication. Stay cool, be well and see you at the next meeting.

*Ciao, Jim*

[jtognoni@earthlink.net](mailto:jtognoni@earthlink.net)

### Frank Borghi is Honored by the Italian Club of St. Louis

The Italian Club of St Louis honored Mr. Frank Borghi at its meeting on May 18, 2005, by presenting him with the 20<sup>th</sup> Italian Heritage Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves through their service to the Italian American community of the St. Louis region.

Born and raised on "the Hill," Frank grew up playing baseball with the likes of Joe Garagiola and Yogi Berra and was himself once offered a professional baseball contract. He is best known, however, for his talents on the soccer field. Borghi played soccer for a number of local teams in St. Louis including the Schumachers, Simpkins and St. Ambrose and earned U.S. Cup titles in 1948 and 1950 with Simpkins-Ford. But in the soccer world he is remembered for his role in that 1950 World Cup game against the British that took place in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and about which the recently released major motion picture, *The Game of Their Lives*, was made. He was one of five young men recruited from St. Louis, Missouri, the soccer hotbed of the nation. None of the young men had any professional experience but what they did have was a passion for the game and pride in themselves and their country. Although the U.S. did not go on to win the Cup, this game which was won against all odds, "was considered by many prominent sports figures as the greatest upset in sports history. This, of course, came about because of the numerous unbelievable saves by goalie, Frank Borghi" explains longtime friend, Ed Berra. Frank's many accomplishments on the soccer field placed him in the ranks of the St. Louis Soccer Hall of Fame and the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

As if Mr. Borghi's many achievements as an athlete were not enough, he is also a decorated war hero. He was honored with two purple hearts for heroic service to his country during World War II. As a medic in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company K, he was in the same outfit as Baseball Hall of Fame announcer, Jack Buck. Borghi actually treated the late Jack Buck who was wounded in a battle on the Bridge at Remagen, Germany in March, 1945. Frank was also awarded two Bronze Stars for his courageous actions in Germany where he was instrumental in saving the lives of many wounded troops. Most of Frank's career was spent at the Calcaterra Funeral Home as the Executive Director, where he worked with his life long partner and wife, Rose Marie. According to Ed Berra, "Even though Frank is so well known for his famous moves as a goalie, he considers that



*Jim Tognoni, Frank and Rose Marie Borghi and Ed Berra*

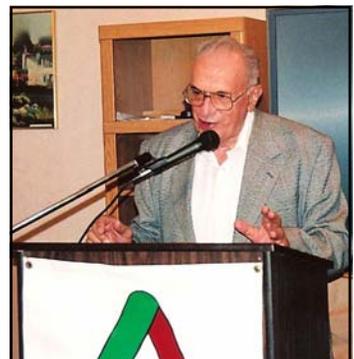
ment. (Some of the information for this article was provided by Mr. Ed Berra.) *by Debbie Monolo*

the greatest move of his life was when he proposed to Rose Marie and she accepted. Frank and Rose Marie were married in May, 1953 and they are very proud of their seven children-Carolyn, Bette, Chuck, Terese, Tony, Frank and John and their grandchildren."

In spite of his many talents, honors and heroic achievements, Frank Borghi has always remained an example of honesty, integrity and humility. He is truly a man to be recognized as a role model for all Americans. We are very proud of him and congratulate him on this well deserved honor as well as a lifetime of achievement.



*Joe Colagiovanni during his presentation at the June 2005 Italian Club meeting*



*Valerio Bianco making a toast at the June 2005 Italian Club meeting.*

***Our sincerest condolences to Ed Berra on the recent death of his sister, Dorothy Knight.***

# TERZA PAGINA

## I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

**Jacopo Andrea Vittorelli** (Bassano del Grappa 1749 –ivi 1835)  
fu uno degli ultimi rappresentanti della poesia di Arcadia. Fra  
le opere: Lo specchio e Rime.

### Guarda che bianca luna!

di Jacopo Andrea Vittorelli

Guarda che bianca luna!  
guarda che notte azzurra!  
Un'aura non sussurra,  
non tremola uno stel.

L'usignoletto solo  
va da la siepe a l'orno  
e sospirando intorno  
chiama la sua fedel.

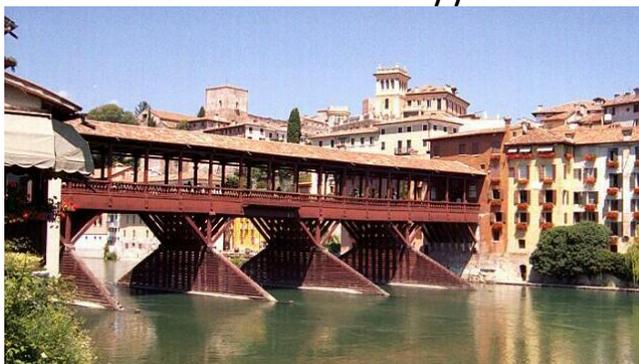
Ella che il sente appena,  
già vien di fronda in fronda,  
e par che gli risponda:  
--Non piangere, son qui--..

Che dolci affetti, o Irene,  
che gemiti son questi!  
Ah! mai tu non sapresti  
rispondermi così.

### In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

#### Bassano del Grappa



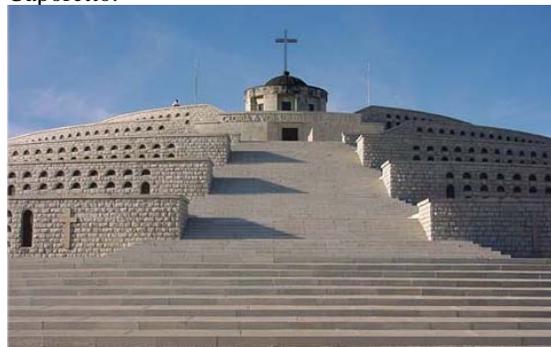
Attraversata dal fiume Brenta, Bassano del Grappa è una delle città più popolate e sviluppate del Veneto. Sorta come centro di natura rurale, il romano *fundus Bassanus* acquistò progressivamente importanza grazie alla sua invidiabile posizione strategica all'imbocco della Valsugana. Soggetta in epoca medievale all'alternarsi di varie dominazioni, entra nei domini di terraferma della Serenissima nel 1404 e potrà, da quel momento in avanti, dedicarsi pacificamente allo

sviluppo di attività manifatturiere: lana e seta sono oggetto delle produzioni tradizionali, mentre grappa, ceramica e carta saranno i nuovi prodotti.

Nella piazza centrale del Monte Vecchio sorgono l'imponente palazzo del Monte di Pietà e, a pochi passi, nella piazza della Libertà, la chiesa neoclassica di San Giovanni, realizzata nel 1300 dall'architetto Giovanni Miazzi. Nel vicino Museo Civico, sono esposte parecchie opere di Jacopo Dal Ponte detto Bassano, uno degli artisti importanti del Cinquecento Veneto.

La vera perla di Bassano è il Ponte di legno, detto Ponte Vecchio, progettato da Andrea Palladio in questo materiale perché la sua elasticità fosse in grado di contrastare l'impetuosità del fiume Brenta. Il ponte ha subito pesanti danneggiamenti sia a causa del fiume, sia a causa di bombardamenti, ma sempre ristrutturato sulle direttive palladiane. L'ultima ricostruzione risale al secondo dopoguerra per opera degli Alpini.

Bassano del Grappa fu coinvolto nei due conflitti mondiali: fu città di prima linea nella Grande Guerra il suo nome verrà, nel 1928, legato ufficialmente a quello del Grappa per ricordare la strenua resistenza delle truppe italiane dopo la rotta di Caporetto.



Il Sacrario di Monte Grappa

A nord-est della città, c'è Monte Grappa, un massiccio calcareo compreso, tra i corsi del Brenta e del Piave. L'altezza massima alla cima è di 1775 m; La IV Armata – "l'Armata del Grappa" – fu protagonista in prima linea durante la Grande Guerra. In occasione dell'avanzata iniziale del Novembre 1917 e poi nell'offensiva del giugno 1918 gli Austriaci occuparono buona parte del massiccio e sfiorarono il successo per riversarsi nella vicina pianura. Cima Grappa resistette e da qui partì l'offensiva finale a fine ottobre del 1918 quando nel giro di pochi giorni si giunse all'armistizio del 4 novembre.

Ora, buona parte dell'Armata riposa sulla sommità del massiccio del Grappa dove, imponente, sorge il Sacrario costruito nel 1935 su progetto dell'architetto Giovanni Greppi e dello scultore Giannino Castiglioni. Il corpo centrale del monumento, dove sono custoditi i Resti di 12.615 Caduti di cui 10.332 Ignoti, è costituito da cinque fasce concentriche collegate da una gradinata centrale che porta alla sommità del monumento.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: <http://www.cimeetrincee.it>  
<http://www.comune.bassano.vi.it/citta/index.htm>

**Buon viaggio in Italia!!!**

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LA RONDINE**

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## **Prossime Manifestazioni**

### **FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS and EVENTS**

- July 20-** *"The Miraculous Canals of Venice" documentary with a buffet dinner*  
**August 17-** *"The Coliseum- A Symbol of Roman Culture" by Roy DeBellis*  
**September 21 -** *"Italian Trivia" organized by Pete Puleo*

***The Italian Club meets the  
third Wednesday of each month for dinner at da Baldo's Restaurant  
Cocktails—6:30p.m. Dinner- 7:00p.m.  
Reservations must be made by noon of the day prior to the dinner meeting***

### **HOT CITY THEATRE PRESENTS "Filumena" by Eduardo de Filippo—July 7-July 30**

It's marriage, Italian-style. In a seductive blend of humor and pathos, the play tells the tale of a canny Neapolitan woman— a former prostitute—who is determined to marry to secure the future of her three sons. Tricking her faithless lover of twenty years into marrying her on her deathbed, she makes a miraculous recovery and a stormy comedy begins. This charming play is by one of Italy's most renowned playwrights.

The play will be presented at Art Loft Theatre, 1527 Washington Avenue, Downtown St. Louis.

To purchase tickets: (314) 482-9125 or [www.hotcitytheatre.org](http://www.hotcitytheatre.org)

\$23 General Admission; \$19 Students/Seniors (62+)

Groups of 10 or more will receive a \$5.00 discount on the ticket price.

### **UNION AVENUE OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS "Falstaff" by Verdi—August 27, Sept. 2, 3**

Fully staged performances of Verdi's comic and unabashed celebration of Merry Olde England and a womanizing knight who harbors a plot to improve his love life and his finances, *Falstaff*, featuring Kevin Misslich as Falstaff, Robert Garner as Ford, Patricia Address as Alice Ford and Helen Donaldson as Nanetta. Stage direction by Mark James Meier and conducted by Scott Schoonover. Performances are at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 North Union Blvd. (one block north of Delmar) and begin at 8 PM. Opening night pre-concert discussion begins at 7 PM.

Tickets are \$35 Center Front, \$28 Adult General Admission, \$22 Student/Senior (60+) General Admission and may be purchased by calling 314-361-2881 or emailing [uaotickets@juno.com](mailto:uaotickets@juno.com).