



# LA RONDINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday,  
April 16,  
Cocktails- 6:30p.m.  
Dinner- 7:00p.m.  
\$22 per person  
RSVP  
Dan & Jan Vieve  
(636) 537-5960 or  
ItalianClubSTL@aol.com  
by noon on  
Tues. April 15th**

## ***“Lucia Mauro- My Journey from America to Italy to Anita Garibaldi to be presented Wednesday, April 16th***

Lucia Mauro—*Arts Writer, Author, Speaker, On-Air Personality, Photographer*—in Chicago—will be our April 16<sup>th</sup> speaker. Ms. Mauro is a theater/dance critic and arts writer whose work appears in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Magazine, Chicago Social Magazine, North Shore Magazine, UR Chicago, CityTalk, Performk, Stage Directions, Dance Spirit, Dance Teacher, Stagebill and Chef Educator Today. She is the travel editor and arts columnist for *Fra Noi*, a national monthly Italian- American newspaper; and is a regular contributor to *Front Desk*, a luxury visitors guide to Chicago. She is the author of three books: *Career Portraits: Fashion; Careers for Fashionplates & Other Trendsetters; and Careers for the Stagestruck & Other Dramatic Types (NTC/Contemporary Publishing)*. Ms. Mauro is a regular guest arts commentator on WGN-Radio and appears frequently on "The Career Clinic," a syndicated radio show based in Minneapolis. She has been a guest on WTTW TV-Channel 11's "Artbeat;" serves on many arts panels; and is invited by numerous arts groups as a keynote speaker. Ms. Mauro recently received the James Friend Memorial Award for Outstanding Theater Criticism and was voted one of "100 Women Making a Difference in Chicago" by Today's Chicago Woman Magazine. In 2004, she published her first book of photographs, with original *Textures and Colors of Italy*. In 2006, Lucia published *Frieze Frame II: Textures of Italy*. Dpn't miss this phenomenal program and opportunity to meet Lucia Mauro!

## ***“Emilia-Romagna: Saints, Sinners, and Savants” by Anna Di Palma Amelung, Ph.D. presented at our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting***

Emilia-Romagna is a region of Italy located in northern Italy, right in the center of the Po valley. It exhibits a triangular shape, and is bordered on the north by the Po River, the south by the Apennine Mountains, and the east by the Adriatic sea. Although it is now considered one region, the area is indeed divided into Emilia and Romagna, two different historic and linguistic entities. The history of this area is a fascinating one. First inhabited by Umbrian tribes, then by Celts, Villanovans, Etruscans, Romans, and finally by "barbarians", it acquired the name "Aemilia" at the time of the emperor Augustus to designate the region crossed by the famous "Via Aemilia" which connected the upper Po valley to the Adriatic sea and ended near the city of Rimini marking the borders of the Roman empire. The name "Aemilia" was short-lived. With the fall of the Roman empire the area of Ravenna and Forli became part of the Byzantine empire and was named "Romania" (later Romagna), whereas the rest of the region was part of "Longobardia" under the rule of the Longobards. Soon Romagna became part of the papal states. During the "Risorgimento" Romagna was a hotbed of revolutionaries, free-masons, and anarchists, mostly against the monarchy. On account of this with the unification of Italy in 1861, Romagna was denied the status of an independent region and was assimilated into the new-born region of Emilia. Only in 1947 were the Romagnoli allowed to call their region with the hyphenated name Emilia-Romagna.

The main city in this area is Bologna, known as "la dotta" (the learned one, because of its university founded in 1088, the oldest university of the western world), "la rossa" (because of the red roof tiles), and "la grassa" on account of its delicious food and fertile plain. Its main monuments are the two towers, Piazza Maggiore, the church of San Petronio, and the fountain of Neptune.

Not far from Bologna is located the city of Modena where Enzo Ferrari—himself a Modenese—established his car-making factory. As a curiosity, the black prancing horse that now symbolizes these extraordinary cars was copied from Francesco Baracca's plane which had a prancing horse painted on its fuselage: a nice example of cooperation between Romagna and Emilia.

As we move east on the map of Emilia-Romagna we reach the Adriatic Sea with its numerous resorts and the lowlands near the delta of the Po River. The main city here is Ferrara, a true renaissance jewel, and the nearby town of Comacchio ("the little Venice" of Emilia), where tourists can admire canals and bridges and taste the local specialty: grilled eel with polenta. Let's not forget also the many other culinary delicacies of this region, from tortellini to strozzapreti, from mortadella to zampone, from prosciutto to piadina.

And what about famous and infamous Emiliani and Romagnoli? We can begin with the rice workers of Modena, Bologna, and Ferrara who spent long hours under the sun under horrible conditions, and who did not look at all like the glamorous Silvana Mangano in the movie *Riso Amaro* made in 1949 by Giuseppe De Santis. These strong and courageous women were the first to organize a strike in 1883 and were able to obtain the 8-hour work day in 1906.

*Continued from page 1* - Emilia-Romagna is a land of artists. Our most famous poet is Giovanni Pascoli who sang the beauty of his land and whose poems are charged with symbolism in spite of their plain and simple form. Among those who excelled in the operatic field we cannot forget Giuseppe Verdi, Arturo Toscanini, and Luciano Pavarotti.

Land of artists, but also land of religious involvement, represented especially by Saint Caterina da Bologna, an accomplished renaissance woman from the noble family of the Vigri. After receiving an excellent education, she dedicated herself to religious life, founded a convent in Bologna, and is still there, her perfectly preserved body still sitting on a chair after 550 years! She is the patron saint of musicians.

Less saintly but certainly more colorful are scores of other citizens of this region. Caterina Riario Sforza, daughter of the ruler of Milan, married the son of a pope and became countess of Forlì and Imola. A combative and assertive woman, she defended strenuously her possessions and ended up marrying the cousin of Lorenzo il Magnifico, and gave birth to Giovanni dalle Bande Nere, the last famous "condottiere". Another admirable renaissance woman was Lucrezia Borgia who became duchess of Ferrara and blossomed as a wonderful ruler and patron of the arts. And during the 19<sup>th</sup> century another woman, Maria Luigia of Austria, settled in Parma, Piacenza, and Guastalla and had the Teatro Regio built in Parma.

Of those who had run-ins with the law, two are worth mentioning: the Passatore, a 19<sup>th</sup> century outlaw, our own version of Robin Hood, and Leonarda Cianciulli, a serial killer from Correggio who dismembered her victims and used their bodies to make soap, cookies, and cakes. Waste not, want not...

The evening ended with a quiz and the two winning tables received bottles of lambrusco and Italian soaps.

## L'angolo del Presidente *by Marie Cuccia-Brand*

### *My Fellow Members and Friends:*

Wow! What a month of enlightening cultural opportunities! The Italian Club will have author, photographer, on-air personality, **Lucia Mauro**—coming to speak to us at our meeting on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we will be honoring to outstanding students in the Italian Language Program at Washington University.

The Italian Film Festival at Washington University is currently showing wonderful films, Wehrenberg Theatres are showing Italian Operas and the St. Louis Art Museum is showing Italian Films and Operas. We have so many choices. Additionally, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Artists' Competition will be showcasing phenomenal young pianists at the annual competition on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you on April 16<sup>th</sup> and at some of the many films and operas and Young Artists' Competition.  
*Marie* 314-680-6871

*You are cordially invited to the*

**Eighth Annual  
Young Artists' Competition**

*sponsored by the*

**Federation of Italian-American  
Organizations  
of the Metropolitan St. Louis Area and  
St. Ambrose Church**



Sunday, April 27, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose Church  
5130 Wilson Avenue at Marconi "on the Hill"

## **26th FESTA ITALIANA TOUR Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

This is the largest Italian Festival in USA with over 125,000 attendance!

**When:** Thursday, July 17 thru Saturday, July 19

**Accommodations:** Lodging at Milwaukee Hilton Hotel located on Festa Shuttle Service Route. Rooms based on double occupancy, cost more for singles.

**Transportation:** A chartered bus will leave from Shaw School at 7am. on Thursday, July 17 and arrive in Milwaukee at 3pm. You will depart Milwaukee at 3pm. on Saturday, July 19 and arrive at Shaw School at 10:30pm. The Charter Bus has restrooms. No smoking. There will be rest stops en route every two hours.

**Meals:** on your own. There are many options on the Festival Grounds.

**Cost:** approximately, \$230-240 per person. Ticket(s) to Festa will be provided.

**Reservations:** contact Joe Torrisi 772-5064.

## ITALIAN OPERAS AND FILMS at the ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM

Saturday, April 26, 12:30 PM  
LA FILLE DU REGIMENT (Gaetano Donizetti)

The production will be shown in the Museum Auditorium, live in HD. Each program: \$ 22 (\$ 15 Members of the St. Louis Art Museum, Opera theatre of St. Louis, Metropolitan Opera, and children under 12).

Tickets available through MetroTix at [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com) and at 314.534.1111 or in person at the Museum

### A Series of Italian Films directed by ROBERTO ROSSELLINI and interpreted by INGRID BERGMAN.

This series was curated by the Italian Cultural Institute of New York. Auditorium, \$ 5 (\$ 3 for members).

Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM  
STROMBOLI

Friday, April 25, 7:00 PM  
EUROPA '51

Friday, May 9, 7:00 PM  
VOYAGE IN ITALY

Friday, May 16, 7:00 PM  
LA PAURA

## ITALIAN OPERAS AT WEHRENBURG THEATRES

### The first series is from San Francisco Opera:

Don Giovanni - One show daily  
Sat., April 12 - Tue., April 15

Madama Butterfly - One show daily  
Sat., April 19 - Tue., April 22

Saturday and Sunday shows are 2 PM  
while Monday and Tuesday  
performances will be at 7 PM.

### The second series is from La Scala:

Maria Stuarda - Wed., April 30  
Il Trittico - Thu., May 15

These events will have two shows, one at 2 PM and one at 7 PM. They will each play one day.

Ronnie's 20 Cine (South County), the Galaxy 14 Cine (Chesterfield), St. Charles 18 Cine and the O'Fallon 15 Cine (O'Fallon, IL) will play all seven operas.

Tickets at all theatres for any performance will be \$20. Senior tickets (for those 55 and older) are \$18. Group discounts are also available. We also are offering a "season ticket" of sorts. For \$90, a booklet of tickets will get you into the final six operas. It saves 25% on each of the six events

## ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF ST. LOUIS

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Italian Film Festival of St. Louis, sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Washington University's Program in Film and Media Studies, the National Italian American Foundation and the Regional Arts Commission will feature the St. Louis premier of six recent Italian films: *Ma che colpa abbiamo noi (It's Not Our Fault)* by Carlo Verdone was on Friday, April 4 (89 minutes), *Anche libero va bene (Along the Ridge)* by Kim Rossi Stuart was on Saturday, April 5 (108 minutes), *La cena per farli conoscere (A Dinner to Meet Them)* by Pupi Avati on Friday, April 11 (99 minutes), *Quando sei nato non puoi più nasconderti (When You Are Born)* by Marco Tullio Giordana on Saturday, April 12 (115 minutes), *Mio fratello è figlio unico (My Brother Is An Only Child)* by Daniele Luchetti on Friday, April 18 (100 minutes), and *Rosso come il cielo (Red Like the Sky)* by Cristiano Bortone Saturday, April 19 (95 minutes) at 8 p.m.

*Ma che colpa abbiamo noi* is a light hearted comedy, starring the ever popular comedian Carlo Verdone, who with fellow patients, organizes their own group therapy. *Anche libero va bene* focuses on a father and his two children who have managed with much irony and spirit to keep the family going while overcoming many difficulties.

*La cena per farli conoscere* is a comedy about an aging actor. Recovering in the hospital, his three daughters scattered throughout Europe, each with a different mother, come to his side and decide to introduce their father to the right woman. *Quando sei nato non puoi più nasconderti* is a drama about a teenager's adventurous return to Italy during which, confronting unknown expectations, rejections and hopes, he crosses over that thin line between adolescence and adulthood.

*Mio fratello è figlio unico* focuses on two brothers who are at odds with each other while growing up in a small Italian town in the 60's and 70's; they have opposite political beliefs and are in love with the same woman. *Rosso come il cielo* is an inspiring true story of a renowned sound editor of Italian cinema who lost his eyesight in an accident. His parents are forced to send him to an institution where he convinces the other blind children to discover their own talents.

All films will be shown in 35mm in Italian with English subtitles in the 346 seat theatre in Brown Hall 100 on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis at 8 p.m. Admission is FREE and open to the general public. For further information, please visit the festival's website [www.italianfilmfestivalstlouis.com](http://www.italianfilmfestivalstlouis.com) or call 314-422-3102.

The Italian Club is a sponsor of the Italian Film Festival.