

PAPPAGALLO



Funded by the Greater Rockford Italian American Association - GRIAA
P.O. Box 1915 • Rockford, Illinois 61110-0415

Spring 2010

VENETO

Veneto, one of the wealthiest and industrialized regions of Italy, is also the most visited by tourists because of its rich cultural, historical, artistic, musical, and culinary history. The biggest draw, of course, being the beautiful capital city of Venice.

The eighth largest region in Italy, it is located in the north-eastern edge of the country, with the most northern edge bordering Austria. The region has varied terrain, from majestic mountains to the Po Valley which stretches east and west from the mountains to the Adriatic Sea. The climate is relatively mild, especially along the coastline.

The region is divided up into seven provinces and more than 550 municipalities. Venice is the most populated city, but its province is not the most densely populated. That recognition belongs to the Province of Padua. Immigration has contributed to the steady or rising population, after decades of mass exodus from the poorest regions. For about 100 years, until 1961, about 3 million Venetians left their country because of poverty, mainly due to lack of agricultural development. Since 1990, an economic expanse has brought more and more immigrants to the region. Today, agriculture plays a significant role in the regional economy and Veneto has one of the most productive agricultural sectors in the country. Regional industries include food products, wood and furniture, leather and footwear, clothing, gold jewelry, chemistry and electronics. Most people are familiar with the beautiful Venetian art of glassmaking in Murano. The production of fruits, vegetables and flowers on small plots of land are sold mainly to consumers and restaurants. Fruits and vines are abundant in the plains and foothills. Cattle make up a small percentage of the agriculture and fishing is important along the coastal areas. The main agricultural

products are corn, green peas, vegetables, apples, cherries, sugar beets, tobacco and hemp. Veneto is one of Italy's most important wine producing regions. The region is also known for its cheeses, including Asiago, Monte Veronese, Piave, Morlacco, and Grana Padano. Tiramisu is a desert made famous by Veneto.



The Gondola: an Icon of Venice

You can't think of Venice, "The Queen of the Adriatic – the City of Canals," without picturing a romantic image of a gondolier serenading sweethearts while rowing gently down waters rippling with sunshine or moonlight. Although there are other ways to travel the waters of Venice today, the gondola remains as an enduring romantic image, said Bruna Donzello Holt of Rockford. She should know. Having been born and raised in Venice, she remembers the thrill of getting to ride in her father's or grandfather's gondola, while one of them was rowing.



Bruna Donzello Holt

"I just loved it all; the smell and the taste of the salty water, the breeze on my face, and the rocking and swaying of the gondola. Day or night, the waters sparkle and shimmer, changing one's mood with the changing colors," she said, adding that the reflection of the buildings on the water looks like a jewelry box filled with precious stones.

Once in awhile, they would let her try her hand at rowing. A gondola on its own in the water is not balanced. Once the gondolier is aboard and has the oar mounted, the added weight in the boat causes it to be balanced. It's still a challenging feat.

"It's a little awkward because you are rowing standing up. You have to have good balance and stamina. It is hard work. The gondolier concentrates on making long smooth movements with the oar," she said.

The oar is cradled in what is called La Forcola, an elbow-shaped piece of Walnut wood that allows you to balance the long oar while rowing. It can be tricky because the oar is not locked in and could easily slip out if not handled just right. Bruna has an original Forcola that was used in the front of her grandfather's and father's gondola. It has been in her family for at least 100 years. Her walls are full of reminders of Venice, whether pictures of Venice with gondoliers on canals or ornamental pieces that were once on her father's gondola.

She has in her possession a solid gold medal that was awarded to her father when he retired in 1964, represent-



VENETO *continued from page 1*

ing his 40 years of service as a gondolier. Her memories of Venice are so deep and meaningful to her, she makes an effort to get back to her homeland and family about every year or two. Bruna's love of Venice always draws her back to her homeland.

"If a person has never been to Venice, it is difficult to describe the city. So much has been said and written about Venice, there are not enough words or adjectives to describe it. It is so beautiful and you can walk all day long and never get tired or bored because it is an enchanting maze.

"I am ready to go back at any time. I just can't get enough of Venice. It has a character all its own and there is no other place like it on earth," she said.

There is something magical about making your way around Venice by boat. The city, which has the shape of a fish is made up of about 120 islands all connected by bridges. The palaces are caressed by the water of the Grand Canal. The only way to travel is by water or foot. Although there are many other types of boats and forms of water transportation for people, like public or private water taxis or public water buses, the gondola still has a central place in picturesque Venice, as it always has.

The gondola conceived before 1094, has evolved through the centuries to its present day sleek and graceful look. When people think of Venice, they envision that romantic icon floating down the canals of the charming, alluring, and mystifying city.

Tiepolo

Giovanni Battista Tiepolo was a master of fresco painting whose works are many, bigger than life, and appear in Veneto, Germany and Spain. At 19, he completed his first major commission, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*. His first masterpieces in Venice were a series of enormous paintings for a reception hall, depicting battles and triumphs. By 1750, his reputation was firmly planted throughout Europe. He became known for his ceiling paintings for palaces, church frescoes, and paintings for patrician villas in the Venetian countryside. He was an unsurpassed master of figure painting and composition, had a matchless eye for color, the finest realistic touch for detail. He was a master with light and shadow and painted huge expansive skies to give his works the unparalleled beauty they possessed. The artist died in Madrid in 1770.

Palladio

The famous Italian Renaissance architect Palladio was born Andrea Gondola in 1508 in the city of Padua. His father was the first to recognize his talent and decided to

help develop that talent by apprenticing him to master craftsmen in nearby Vicenza. He worked as a stonecutter in a sculpture workshop before taking off on his own to become an assistant at Pedemuro studio, a leading workshop of stonecutters and masons. Count Gian Giorgio Trissino, a writer and leading intellectual at the time, is credited with seeing the potential in Palladio and helping him develop his talents. Trissino even gave Palladio his name, based on a character from a play he wrote. The name means "wise one." Influenced by Greek and Roman architecture, he is considered by some to be the most influential architects in the western world, designing mainly villas, palaces, and churches. The typical Palladian villa had an elevated podium and lower service wings. A Democratic format of the design can be seen in Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello. His buildings can be seen throughout Northern Italy, but his teachings gained far-reaching popularity. Author of *The Four Books of Architecture*, he celebrates the purity of classical architecture, inspired by Roman buildings, while establishing his own rules for design and construction. To live in a building designed by Palladio increased one's prestige and the architect's designs gave homeowners visual importance. Palladio founded an architectural movement named after him and earned himself a reputation as the "painter in stone." The Center for Palladian Studies in America Inc. is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1979 to research and promote understanding of Palladio's influence in the United States.

Bartolomeo Cristofori

Although the piano may have become a household name, it wasn't always the instrument of prominence it enjoys today. Invented around 1700 by Bartolomeo Cristofori (1655-1733) of Padua, the piano was slow to make a big impact. Cristofori was a harpsichord maker and got the attention of Prince Ferdinando de Medici, son of the grand duke of Tuscany. The prince owned dozens of harpsichords and spinets and hired Cristofori to care for the collection and make new harpsichords. An inventory of Medici's instruments revealed one that resembled a harpsichord, but used hammers and dampers, had two keyboards, and a range of four octaves. The poet and journalist Scipione Maffei described the instrument as a harpsichord with "soft and loud," thus being called for the first time by its name pianoforte, later shortened to piano. The sounds from the first pianos were much closer to those of the harpsichord, but eventually evolved into the richer and more varied tones we now can hear from the grand piano.



VENETO *continued from page 2*

Venice

Venezia: La Serenissima, La Regina dei Mari, La Romantica...What can one write, say or feel about one of the world's greatest and most unique cities?

So let's start with some basic facts:

Venice is built on 117 islands, and it has 150 canals and 400 bridges! A canal is called a rio, a square a campo, a street a calle and a quay a rive to give you a feeling of its special and serene self. Founded in 811 A.D. by the inhabitants of Malamocco, near the Lido, fleeing from the barbarian Franks. They settled on the Rivo alto, known today as the Rialto. Thousands of huge wooden spikes were pounded into the solid earth to create the land barriers away from the enemies.

Venice is filled with folk tales and many adventurous stories. There is a wonderful story about how the bones of St. Mark arrived in Venice...if you are curious, check the internet or read the fall issue of Pappagallo. If you know the story you can email us. We will let you know if your are correct. Venice is called "The Most Serene Republic" which is definitely a understatement! If you have had the glorious experience to visit it, you know what I mean. Where else would you find the oldest marble bridge with beautiful gothic arches still forming a "covering" over the rich emerald green river? Where else would you see thousands of feet of golden 13th century Byzantine mosaics spread across the ceilings of the great church of St. Mark's, or the Pala d'Oro covered in gold, and multicolored enamel figures of the apostles and saints embellished with fine pearls, emeralds and rubies? Where the famous (or infamous) Napoleon Bonaparte was "duped" into believing that the Pala d'Oro was fake! Thank goodness that the clever Venetian padres were able to convince him of that or it might have ended in Paris!

Having said that let's get on to some of the other amazing islands in the immediate area.

Murano: This town on an island in the Lagoon has been a great glass-making center since 1292. In the 15th century it was also a school of painting founded by Antonio Vivarini. But it is best known for its fine glassware. The first glassworks were established near a canal called Rio dei Vetrai or Glassmakers Canal. For centuries Murano developed a huge variety of techniques and glasswares ranging from delicate crystal, diamond point engraving, gold leaf decorations to a special Renaissance ice-glass called "Vetro a Reticello", a type of filigree glass and an 18th century "Lattino" or milk glass. Mirrors, mosaics, and glass beads have added to the fame of Murano.

Burano: The second most traditional island in the Lagoon is known for its embroidery technique in which white thread was stitched onto white fabric. This form of lace making began in the early 16th century. One of my

favorite lace making styles is called "Punta in Aria" a stitch so delicate one feels that it should not be touched let alone ever washed! But the durability of Venice's lace always holds true.

Our first time to Burano was in 1967. The island had many small shops and open air stands where one could buy lace handkerchiefs, gloves and scarves. We visited a school and a large museum of laces that were worn by nobility. In 1999 we visited Burano again because I wanted our daughter and friends to see the amazing lace museum and school where you actually saw lace being made...disappointed we found that the school had closed! It seems that lace making must be done in a dim light therefore many of the young women felt that it was tedious due to the time spent, hours and weeks of time to create one of the most beautiful Italian pieces. They also stated that it was not worth the small salary given. A sad ending of a beautiful tradition established by Venetians. Today, one may purchase Burano/Venetian lace for a fortune, but it is worth it! The Italians spread the art of Lace Making throughout Europe since they were masters of the seas at one time.

Marostica

Situated in the foothills of the Veneto region and near Vicenza is the unique town of Marostica. This fairy-tale type town is surrounded by ancient walls with a castle at the top of the hill and another castle at the bottom of a hill. Here one can visit the world famous living Chess Game.



Every September of an even numbered year, this human chess game is played on the square in Marostica. It occurs every second Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The story of the Chess Game dates back to 1454 when Marostica belonged to the Venetian Republic. So the legend goes: two noblemen, Rinaldo D'Angarano and Vieri da Vallonara, fell in love with the beautiful Lionora, daughter of Taddeo Parisio, the Lord of Marostica's castle. As was the custom in that time, they challenged each other to a duel to win the hand of Lionora. Taddeo, not wanting to create enemies of the noble families decided that the rivals should play a game of chess. Leonora would marry the winner of the game. Being a diplomat, Taddeo planned that the loser would still join the family by marrying Oldrada the younger sister!



VENETO *continued from page 3*

The game took place on the large marble square in front of the Lower Castle, with armed persons carrying the colors of the family's heritage: White and Black. It was played in the presence of the Lord, his daughter, the Lords of Angarano and Vallonara, the noble court, and the entire population of the town!

After the victory, fireworks and music were offered according to the Lord's command.

This event is still repeated today just like the first time with many beautiful costumes, banners, and a final parade with the bride and groom.

In 1992 the group from Marostica came to Chicago, Illinois to re-enact this event. Gene and I were asked to be a part of the Chicago event since we have had a close relationship with the Italian Cultural Center and the wonderful people who work there. Our Amici Italiani Adult Dance Troupe was to be a part of the parade. The entire entourage paraded regally through downtown Chicago stopping at the Daley Center where the city had painted large red and white squares that represented the Chess Game. Even the City Police horses were used to be the Knight pieces in the game!

My surprise was when the person who was to read the English translation script of the famous story became ill and I was asked to read it. Sure, reading is a love of mine and the Marostica group was pleased. But when they ushered me into the dressing rooms so I could see what elaborate gown I was to wear...I became somewhat nervous. So here I am...walking down the streets of Chicago on the arm of a handsome gentleman who was dressed as Taddeo, the father of Leonora. I had to grin...as can this really be happening in America?



Padua

Padua or Padova, as it is pronounced in Italian, is the capital city of the province with the same name. It is a picturesque city with many bridges crossing over tributaries of the Bacchiglione River, a river that flows through Northern Italy and right past Padua. The city claims to be the oldest city in Northern Italy, being founded in 1183 B.C., and is believed to be the birthplace of Valerius Flaccus, a Roman poet; Asconius Pedianus, a grammarian and historian; and Thræsea Paetus, a Roman senator and philosopher. However, the city is probably best known for its connection to Saint Anthony of Padua, who was actually born in Portugal, but died in Padua. Born to wealthy parents who had other plans for him, Anthony followed his heart and eventually became a Franciscan and with his oratory skills was eventually commissioned to preach the Gospel throughout Northern Italy.

He died at age 36, and at his request, his remains were buried in a small church called Santa Maria Mater Domini, which later was integrated into what is known today at the Basilica of Padua.

The history of Padua follows that of other northeastern cities of Italy, having gone through various invasions and wars with others and within its own borders. A fire in 1174 forced the city to rebuild. When Padua could enjoy a time of peace, it was then the University of Padua was founded in 1222. It was among the earliest universities and is one of the most prestigious today, known for its scholarly and scientific research.

Verona

Best known as the setting for the story of Romeo and Juliet, Verona, Italy was one of the most powerful cities during the Roman Empire and the oldest section of the city is one of the best preserved places in all of Italy. Among those well preserved buildings is the Arena di Verona, built around 30

A.D. , and at times drew up to 30,000 people for one performance. The outer façade of white and pink limestone fell away after



the earthquake of 1117 and the first attempts to recover the arena's functions was in the Renaissance. Some opera performances were held in the arena in 1850, but not on a regular basis until 1913, with the exception of war years.



VENETO *continued from page 4*

Today, the arena holds 15,000 people (for safety reasons). Local ballet and opera companies perform in the winter months and four major opera productions are held each summer. Although the arena has been home to opera greats, in recent times pop music stars have also performed there including The Who, Tina Turner, and others. The Basilica of San Zeno Maggiore is a great work of Romanesque architecture and includes a tall bell tower that is mentioned by Dante in Canto 18 of Purgatory in the Divine Comedy. Another important stop in viewing ancient architecture is the San Fermo Cathedral, which the interior designed to resemble a boat. In the courtyard of the church Santa Maria Antica is the Scaliger Tombs, a group of five Gothic funerary monuments in Verona, celebrating the Scaliger family who ruled in the city from the 13th to the late 14th century. The Ponte Scaligero or Ponte di Castelvecchio is a fortified bridge over the Adige River. The segmented arched bridge was the longest span at the time it was constructed about 1355. The bridge served as an escape route for the Lord of Verona. The bridge was considered solidly built until the French damaged it in the 18th century and the Germans destroyed it in 1945. The bridge was reconstructed from 1949 to 1951 except for the left tower, which was destroyed by the French.

La Fenice

A horrible date to remember...January 29, 1996...by 9 p.m. the entire top floor was a fireball and a few minutes later the ornate, multi-tiered auditorium crashed onto the stage sending flames leaping high into the sky...embers flying sending their tiny fires over the city of Venice! Yes, the famed La Fenice opera house was destroyed! The firemen had no choice but to let the world renowned opera house burn to its shell.

Today the façade of Venice's opera house is once again gleaming with its pure white exterior...like the phoenix of the classical world, she once again rose from the ashes. But despite the controversies, strikes and other delays that slowed the process down, the glorious building stood again in its brilliant form and continued traditions. An exciting date to remember...December 14, 2003...by November "La Traviata" played to the audience of one thousand. The Rococo decorations of the theater's sumptuous interior has been replicated thanks to documentation that included the old plans, vintage photographs, records and fabric swatches in a supplier's archives.

The final cost of restoring La Fenice was estimated at \$75 million. One of the concerns was the tons of cement injected beneath the flooring to keep the opera house from sinking into the silty foundations of Venice. The work was done on a pontoon moored in the Grand Canal and the cement was pumped into the theater through pipes fixed to the bottom of the connecting canals.

Mayor Costa said, "The music tells us the nightmare is over. The promise that La Fenice would be rebuilt as it was has been kept", Brava!

Venetian Cuisine:

Venetian cooking is straightforward and homey but very tasty. Simple dishes with addition of the onion, greens, and spicy sauces predominate. Some of the favorites are Fegato alla Venezia (liver and onions), Baccala alla Vicentina (stock fish), Risi e Bisi (rice and peas), Bean and Noodle soup and slices of Polenta with little birds. Of course, we cannot forget the amazing variety of seafoods that Venice is so well known.

Some of Veneto's Specialties:

Baccala alla Vicentina: the simple cod becomes the basis for this superbly prepared dish, cooked in milk and flavored with onion, garlic, anchovies and sprinkled with cinnamon and other spices.

Balcoli: Small, dry biscuits made with flour, sugar, salt and butter then flavored with lemon. A Venetian specialty!

Bottarga: the roe of the tuna to be eaten with olive oil and lemon or may be lightly baked.

Gegato alla Veneziana: slices of calf's liver fried with chopped onions, and liberally sprinkled with pepper.

Pasta e Fagioli: a popular broth mostly of beans and onions, fat of bacon and tomatoes. It is very thick and sprinkled with grated cheese.

Pollo alla Padovana: chicken roasted on the spit and highly spiced

Radicchio: this salad is beautiful to look at as well as wonderful to eat. The dark red color with white markings is slightly bitter but good for the digestion (Venetians say).

Zuppa di Trippa: Delicious soup with pieces of tripe, chopped potato and tomato that is flavored with bacon, onion and celery.

Venetian Wines:

Barbarano (white): A yellowish straw color, pleasingly dry with good bouquet. Table wine and may be served with fish.

Barbarano (red): Intense ruby red color a very fine dry wine. Table wine and served with roasts.

Cabernet di Treviso: the deep ruby red toward garnet gives it plenty of body, and a distinctive bouquet. Serve with roasts and game.

Gambrellara: between straw yellow and gold in color. The flavor is brut, refreshing, light and a pleasant bouquet. Serve with special meals.

Moscato di Arqua: A rich dark yellow contains a lot of sugar and is restoring, similar to a tonic.

Rubino della Marco: Ruby red and has a light perfumed, nutty taste. Serve with boiled or stewed meats.

Soave: Is pale amber yellow, limpid and transparent. It has a delicate bouquet and the lightest of aromas. Velvety in flavor, brute and sharp to a degree. Serve with hors d'oeuvre, or fish.

Valpolicella: This wine is produced in two varieties: ordinary quality and superior dry. The first is an intense ruby red with a delicate and characteristic bouquet. The second type is a still darker ruby and unites a velvet quality to its light bouquet of bitter almonds.



Risi and Bisi Rice and Peas

- 2 cups of Arborio rice
- 1 pound frozen peas, defrosted at room temperature.
Fresh peas are best!
- 5-6 cups chicken broth, homemade or canned-have ready hot
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/3 cup of butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely chopped (for color)
- 3 slices bacon or 3 slices Prosciutto (Italian ham), cut in pieces
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 clove garlic, minced (optional)

Sauté onions and carrots in olive oil and butter in large skillet. Add bacon or Prosciutto, continue stirring. Add all the rice at one time mixing thoroughly until rice is coated. Add 1 cup of hot broth and mix thoroughly, cover and cook for about 5 minutes, checking every so often to be sure rice is not dried out. Uncover, stir and repeat the process until risotto has absorbed the broth (continue to add broth as needed) When about 3/4 of the way, add peas so that it can absorb the flavor, continue cooking until rice is cooked and the broth has been absorbed. Place Risi e Bisi in an appropriate platter, garnish creatively and serve with Parmesan cheese. Enjoy!

I was born in Venice, Italy and this was a dish my mother cooked often. It is very popular in the Veneto area. Rice is like pasta. There are many ways to cook it. This happens to be a favorite at our house. You can use other vegetables instead of peas. Wonderful substitutes are broccoli, cauliflower or your favorite vegetable, or what is in season.

Bruna Donzello Holt



Crustuli Venetian Dessert

- 4 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 stick butter, melted
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 jigger whiskey
(no baking powder is used in this recipe version)

Combine flour, sugar and salt. Break in the eggs and add melted butter, vanilla and whiskey. Combine together. Turn onto floured board and knead well, until smooth. Cover dough with plastic wrap and let rest for 2 hours. Divide into small portions and roll out paper thin. Cut with pastry cutter into 2 1/4 x 4 inch strips. Fry in 1/2 Canola oil and 1/2 Crisco. Drain and sprinkle with sugar. (a pasta machine may be used to roll out the dough since thinner is better)

This recipe is from Velia (Val) Girardin Mioni and John Girardin





Venetian Proverbi in the old Venetian Dialect

Lavoro salte me dosso e fame lavorare manco che posso
(Work is jumping at you but you don't want to work!)

El diavolo fa le piniate ma non i coverci
(The devil makes the pots but not the covers)

Doppo la quarantina una de nuova ogni mattina
(After forty, a new surprise comes every morning)

Chi non prima pensa l'ultima sospira
(If you don't think first you will sigh later)

Quando che Marso Pasquara tutto il mondo tremera
(When Easter falls in March all the world will tremble)

Ge vole disordine prima del ordine
(You have disorder before you have order)

**Now, you will have a chance to translate! Let us know if you were successful!

Tutto mundo e paese

El appetito vien mangiando

Fretta, fretta si va la morte
Piano, piano si va lantano

Che in fretta sale, in fretta cale

Quando cel corpo se frusta el anima se quista

Non fatte meraviglia de cosa che provo, perche quando che mio e vecchio e tuo e nuovo.

Grappa:

The most famous of the Italian spirits is grappa, a marc or brandy distilled from crushed grapes, pips, skins etc. after the juice has been extracted for wine. The bulk of Italy's grappa is produced in Piedmont and Veneto.



There are as many different grappas as there are grape varieties. The "Venegazzu" grappa is distilled from the Prosecco grapes, and aged in oak casks. Grappa can be very cheap or very expensive and the market is constantly increasing. Grappa has been drunk in Italian homes for centuries and it was here that it was first produced commercially. Nardini in Bassano del Grappa was the first to produce the world famous brand. It is very much a mountain drink! The next time you plan a trip to Veneto make sure that you visit this wonderful town. We spent an entire day in Bassano and every shop seemed to carry some type of Grappa. Of course, we purchased a charming oval-shaped bottle with raffia ribbons cascading down its side but inside is a deceivingly "clear liquid" that when quaffed gave you a warm glow that lasted for a long time. If you are not brave to drink Grappa right from the beautiful packaged bottles one finds everywhere, you might try it in *caffè corretto*...considered a "restorative" for the body and soul!

Harry's Bar

There is only one Harry's bar! Located on Venice's Calle Vallaresso, near the Piazza San Marco this legendary restaurant has been for five decades the meeting place for artists, royalty, writers, maestros, divas, and celebrities,

and many ordinary tourists.

Everyone from the famous Ernest Hemingway, the Onassis, Cole Porter and Joan Crawford have come for the fine drinks, especially the world famous Bellini! Of course, the food is outstanding as well.

There is a great Cookbook on the market called, *The Harry's Bar Cookbook* by Arrigo Cipriani (son of the famous Giuseppe Cipriani). We purchased the book when we were in Venice a few years ago and found it the cheap way to make your own Bellini (since one drink cost us \$17 dollars each!).

You will enjoy the many stories about how the bar began as well as charming quotes from famous names who visited there. Check it out!

Ernest Hemingway's Home

What's the tie-in? Hemingway was a Red Cross volunteer during World War II was injured along the Piave river near Venice. Upon recovering he realized the beauty of the area and returned many times especially after the war to go hunting in the marshlands. He had a deep love of the area and visited many of the places including Fossalta di Piave and the lake region.

Today the Piave area has been turned into a park named after Hemingway and is a place of natural embankment, manmade dikes and water. He hunted here with Fanchetti whose family had built Caorle in the mid 1800's where he completed his last full length novel *Across the River and Into the Trees* published in his lifetime.

Perhaps you recall the Hemingway who dined at the *Locanda Cipriani* with Giuseppe Cipriani the founder of Harry's Bar, a Hemingway hangout. What a life...alternating his amazing writing with duck hunting and downing quantities of local wine! Question: What is Ernest Hemingway's most famous novel written mostly in this area? Email us with the answer.



Conversational Italian Classes sponsored by GRIAA

The spring classes for Conversational Italian sponsored by GRIAA (Greater Rockford Italian American Association) is accepting your reservations for the classes listed below. Once again the classes are taught by Tony Tararà who has been our teacher for the last 5 years.

Classes are held at St. Anthony's Church in the Pedrini Center. Dates and times are listed below. Classes are 10 weeks long and the price is \$30.00 per class. If you are new person in

Level 1 Tony will order the book for you. Level 1 and 2 must have a minimum of 10 people for the class. Please send in your reservation as soon as possible. We will notify you if class is cancelled and will return your check.

Note: To enroll in the classes call Gene Fedeli at 815-877-2888 or e-mail e.fedeli@comcast.net

Price for the 10 week course is \$30.00

Make Check Payable to GRIAA and mail to:

**GRIAA
P.O. Box 1915
Rockford, Illinois 61110-0415**

Level 1 Thursday nights 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. April 8th thru June 10th

You will be introduced to the Fundamentals of Italian pronunciation. We will be learning basic language skills such as Greetings and Introductions, Travel Vocabulary, Numbers, Food, etc. We will also be learning some basics of Italian grammar so you will have a foundation to build upon if you choose to continue to develop your Italian language skills.

Level 2 will meet on Monday Nights 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 April 5th thru June 7th

In Level 2 we continue to broaden your Italian with personal themes such as Family, etc. and we expand into more advanced travel skills such as asking Directions. We also expand upon Italian grammar by beginning to look at verb conjugation among other topics to help you to begin to construct your own sentences in Italian.

Level 3 will meet on Tuesday Nights 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 April 6th thru June 8th

In Level 3 we continue where Level 2 left off. Expanding vocabulary and introducing new conversational tools to expand your ability to converse. More of the class is conducted in Italian as well.

AMICI ITALIANI . . . Ballo! Ballo! Ballo! *Authentic Folk Dance Troupe of Rockford, Illinois*

Amici Italiani Adult Dance Troupe is looking for more Dancers!!!

The troupe was established in 1985 by Shirley Martignoni Fedeli. It gathers Italian Americans from starting at age 14 to learn and share the rich tradition of Italian Folk Dance. Their goals are to preserve and share the Italian culture by educating and entertaining audiences with the color and warmth of our rich Italian heritage.

Dances performed by Amici Italiani include various Quadriglias, Saltarellos, Mazurcas, Tarantellas, and Codigliones. The troupe leaders are Director Rosie Scalise Sheridan and Dance Instructor Bea Giammarese Ricotta. Rehearsals are every Tuesday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

If you would like to join the troupe and share in their dancing tradition, contact Rosie at 978-4779 or Bea at 964-0035.

Amici Italiani Youth Dance Troupe

Amici Italiani is an authentic folk dance troupe performing dances from all regions of Italy. The troupe has 15 boys and girls between the ages of 7 to 14. Amici Italiani has been sharing the culture of Italy for the past 21 years. Rehearsals are at St. Peter School on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. If your child of Italian descent is interested in dance, music and the culture of Italy, please contact Pauline Urso 815- 218-0063, or Carla Cacciatore Mullin 815-229-9855. Amici Italiani Youth Troupe is sponsored by the Greater Rockford Italian American Association.

Rockford Italian American Hall of Fame Information!

Induction into the Rockford Italian American Hall of Fame is an honor bestowed by the Greater Rockford Italian American Association to certain individuals that have exemplified the spirit of our Italian heritage. Inductees have included past leaders such as Zeke Giorgi, Frank St. Angel, Lena Scandrolì, Frances Drago and Peter Perrecone. However, to be considered for induction, a nominee does not need to be an elected official or well-known member of our community. Hall of Fame members include volunteers, community organizers, school teachers and business owners. GRIAA's Hall of Fame committee will meet at the end of August to consider nominations. To nominate a person who has significantly contributed to the community, go to our website at www.griaa.com for further criteria and a nomination form.



Italian at the Cathedral of St. Peter School...

Maria D'Orazio Diemer, Teacher of Italian has planned the following:

February enjoy the season of Carnevale!

K & 1st grade will be making masks and puppets. They are preparing songs to sing in Italian.

2nd grade is getting ready for their "Trip to Italy". They each have made passports with their pictures and have packed their suitcases for Northern Italy (Milan and Venice) and Southern Italy (Rome)

3rd grade becomes Milan's Italian Fashion Center and will put on a show.

4th grade becomes Ancient Rome, Pompeii and then modern times with the Vatican.

5th grade becomes Venice, mask makers, puppet shows and a skit about the bridges of Italy.

March The 2nd grade students will prepare a typical Sicilian St. Joseph Altar and the room will become a shrine to St. Joseph.



Sons of Italy

Sons of Italy, Rockford Vigo Lodge, meets the second Thursday of each month at Pino's on North Main from 12:00 to 1:00p.m.

If you are interested in becoming a member contact Ben Todaro at (815) 282-7544 office or (815) 877-0675 home. On Saturday April 27, 2010 Sons of Italy will be hosting an Evening of Bear Talk with Chicago radio personality and former Bear linebacker Doug Buffone at the St. Ambrogio Club. This was a very popular event last year and tickets will go fast.

Sunday, April 25, 2010 Sons of Italy will be hosting a fund raising dinner at the Venetian Club.

Contact Ben Todaro for tickets and information on both of these two events.

Do you Remember Savanna, Illinois Ordinance Depot with Italian P.O.W.'s ?

Savanna, Illinois is looking for former P.O.W.'s of the Italian Service Unit, or their relatives to attend the 10th anniversary of the closing of the Savanna Army Depot on June 12, 2010 in Savanna, Illinois. The Festivities will include a parade. Savanna is located about 60 miles west of Rockford. Transportation will be available for those who need assistance.

During WW II there were 184 units of Italian prisoners of which 2 units were stationed at the Savanna Ordinance Depot. Four hundred of the Italian service troopers made a substantial contribution to the United States war effort at the Savanna Army Depot.

If anyone knows of someone who was an Italian POW at any of the 60 stations in various parts of the country during WWII and might be interested in attending this event and being in a parade please contact Ron Johnson, 1612 Chicago Ave., Savanna, IL 61074. (815) 273-2870 or Carm Truninger, 2818 Country Club Terrace, Rockford, IL 61103. (815) 654-2601. Thanks.

Spring Cleaning???

If you need help deciding if you should keep this or that regarding things Italian...so, call Shirley Martignoni Fedeli at 877-2888. We need to preserve our rich and beautiful Italian History and Artifacts! Our Ethnic Heritage Museum's Italian Gallery is always looking for your old embroidered linens, wedding gowns, mementos of the Capitol and Rialto Theaters, as well as the old Italian Clubs Badges, old photos of SW Rockford's buildings and businesses. We will keep them safe and happy and you will have your Spring Cleaning done! Thanks, Shirley



Ethnic Heritage Museum's Events in the Italian Gallery!

- February through April: Viva Carnevale!
- March Women's History Month: Honoring Judge Lisa Fabiano! On March 21 Judge Lisa Fabiano will be present to speak with you!
- May through August: Original Italian Wedding Gowns & Trousseau
- June 6th International Music Festival honoring our Italian Father of the Year: Joe Bruscato, Winnebago State's Attorney! (more info later)
- September through November: Re-live the "Olden, Golden" Days of Rockford! Help us identify photos...

Come visit us at Rockford's Jewel of South Rockford...
Location: 1129 South Main Admission: TBA
Date/Time: Sundays 2:00 -4:00 p.m.

Call for more information 815-962-7402
or
Shirley Martignoni Fedeli 815-877-2888

"Madonnina" "Little Mother"

Have you visited the Rockford Diocese Administration Center lately? The grounds are very beautiful. Rockford Catholics and visitors from the area must have noticed a very beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother ("Madonnina") near the entrance to the grounds. A recent article in the November issue of The Observer speaks about this statue and since our theme relates to Venice, here's the connection.

The story tells about the girl who is the face of "Madonnina". A young child called Angelina was taking care of her baby brother when she caught the eye of the artist, Roberto Ferruzzi who was in Venice the late 1890's. He asked permission if she would sit for a portrait and she agreed. Angelina's mother was very concerned by her daughter's answer to Ferruzzi and made Angelina promise never to tell anyone about it.

Years later Angelina and her husband, Antonio Bovo moved to the United States where they raised 10 children. In 1929 Antonio died and Angelina was so disturbed since she now had to raise the children alone. Until her death in 1972 she never spoke of her modeling for the face of Mary. Later, one of Angelina's daughters traveled to Italy and met her aged Aunt Giulia who showed her a copy of the painting and told Angelina that it was her mother. Today Angelina lives on as a beautiful example in the statue called "Madonnina".

Thanks to The Observer for permission to use this article.

Little Known Facts:

Roman Sojourn: "Sites to Behold: Travels in Eighteenth-Century Rome" exhibit will run until April 11, 2010 at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art located at 5550 S. Greenwood Ave., Chicago. Rome has long been a leading tourist destination and was one of the "must-see" sites of the old days Grand Tour where aristocrats completed their education by seeing the world. Here is your chance to do the same. Call 773-702-0200 or <http://smart-museum.uchicago.edu>

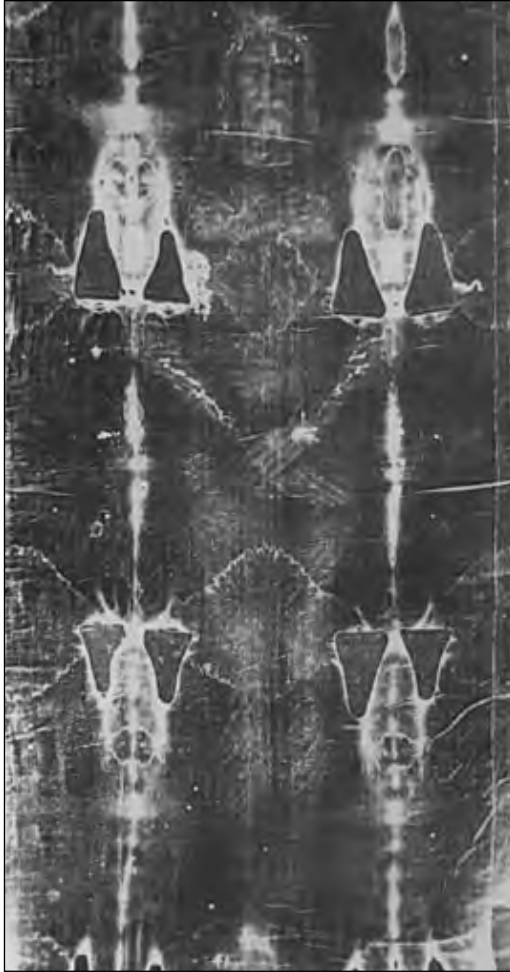
Speaking of Italy... A bridge connecting Sicily to the Italian mainland will begin between December and January, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi said. The Messina bridge which once built would be the longest suspension bridge in the world. It was originally planned eight years ago but shelved by an intervening center-left government. The 3,690 meter long bridge has been designed to handle 4,500 cars an hour and 200 trains a day. It would replace the slow ferry services between the island and the mainland. The price...6.5 billion euro to be completed in 2017. Do you think that this will happen? Let us know what you think. Email us!

The Master's Fingerprint?

Peter Paul Biro, a Montreal based forensic art expert stated that the print of an index or middle finger matched a fingerprint found on Leonardo's "St. Jerome" painting in the Vatican. Technical stylistic and material composition evidence including carbon dating had art experts believing as early as last year that they had found another work by the creator of the "Mona Lisa".

Biro examined multispectral images of the drawing taken by the Luminere Technology Laboratory in Paris which used a special digital scanner to show successive layers of the work. As we know, Leonardo used his hands frequently as part of his painting techniques. His fingerprints are found on many of his works Biro said.





An Update on the Shroud of Turin...

Barbara Frale, a researcher at the Vatican archives, states in a new book that she used computer enhanced images of the Shroud to decipher faintly written words in Greek, Latin and Aramaic scattered across the cloth. She says that the words include the name Jesus Nazarene in Greek. Therefore, it proves that the text could not be of medieval origin since no Christian at the time would have mentioned Jesus without referring to his divinity otherwise they would be called a heretic. Frale's book "The Shroud of Jesus Nazarene", published in Italian reconstructs from the lettering on the Shroud what she believes is Jesus' death certificate.

The Catholic Church makes no claims about the cloth's authenticity but that it is a powerful symbol of Christ's suffering. Raymond Rogers of Los Alamos National Laboratory found that the tested threads came from patches used in repair of the shroud after the fire. Rogers who died shortly after publishing his findings calculated it is 1,300 to 3,000 years old and could easily date from Jesus' era. There are still questions that need to be resolved. If you are in Italy, remember that the Shroud will be on view this year so check on line as to time.

While checking the internet go to www.transparant.com/languagepaes/italian/games.html
 Also, PlayLearnItalian.com plug in play "International Café" you will find crossword puzzles (Parole Intrecciate), hangman (Impiccato) too!



Visit Our Website!
www.griaa.com

Greater Rockford Italian American Association - GRIAA

PAPPAGALLO

P.O. Box 1915

Rockford, IL 61110-0415

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 219
ROCKFORD, IL

**Your editors:
Shirley Martignoni Fedeli,
Gene Fedeli,
and Peggy Sagona Werner**



Plan your Family Reunion and Join us for Festa Italiana 2010

Festival Date & Times:

Friday, August 6, 2010 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday, August 7, 2010 Noon – 11 p.m.
Sunday, August 8, 2010 Noon – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass on the grounds at 10:00 a.m.



Ciao
Bonnie Falzone Capriola
Chairperson 2010

