

Tony Bennett Performs At Italian American Gala

Legendary singer Tony Bennett offered a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra on the 10th anniversary of the singer's death and the 20th anniversary of the Sons of Italy Foundation's National Education and Leadership Awards Gala. The black-tie event was held Thursday, May 22 at the historic National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

This was Bennett's fourth appearance at the Gala. "I love being Italian," Bennett told the estimated 1,000 guests. "Italians have given the world so much. They should make movies about that instead of the other junk."

Gala organizers said the event raised more than \$1.6 million, reaching a milestone of \$100 million donated over the past 49 years to scholarships, cultural preservation, medical research and international disaster relief efforts.

The gala evening began with a Celebrity Chef tasting-reception, hosted by eight leading Italian restaurants in Washington, including Bebo's Roberto Donna; Teatro Goldoni's Enzo Fargioni; Il Mulino's Michele Mazza; and Mary Ann Esposito, host/chef of Ciao Italia, television's longest running cooking show.

The evening's emcee, Joe Mantegna, presented the scholarship winners and honorees. This year's honorees are: Michael Petruzzello, a partner in the Washington,

Please turn to page 4

FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA CELEBRATED IN WASHINGTON, DC 62nd Anniversary of the birth of the Italian Republic: June 2, 1946-2008

by Francesco Isgro



At top, Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Giovanni Castellaneta, Father Lydio Tomasi, Emma and Ennio Di Tullio at the Italian Embassy reception. Bottom left, the Renaissance performers; bottom right, Amb. Giovanni Castellaneta and Justice and Mrs. Samuel Alito.

The 62nd Anniversary of the Italian Republic was celebrated in Washington, D.C., with a series of events at the Italian Embassy and a solemn Mass at Holy Rosary Church, which was followed by a reception at Casa Italiana. The "Festa della Repubblica," much like our Fourth of July, is a national holiday and key event in the history of contemporary Italy. It was on June 2, 1946, that a majority of Italian voters chose in a referendum to become a "Repubblica" rather than a "Monarchia."

On May 13, 2008, President George Bush issued a Proclamation establishing June 2 as "Italian Independence Day" and called upon "all Americans to observe this day by celebrating the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans to our nation."

On June 1, Holy Rosary Church celebrated Festa della Repubblica with a solemn Mass concelebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Father Lydio Tomasi, and Monsignor Claudio Cricini of the Apostolic Nunciature. Among those from the Italian Embassy who attended the Mass were Ambassador Giovanni Castellaneta, First Counselor Marco Mancini, Military Attache General Zuliani, and other uniformed military officials.

Also attending the standing-room-only Mass were members of the COMITES, including its President Melo Cicala, and representatives of local Italian American associations. At the conclusion of the service, Ambassador Castellaneta delivered brief remarks honoring the Italian American community. A reception followed in Casa Italiana.

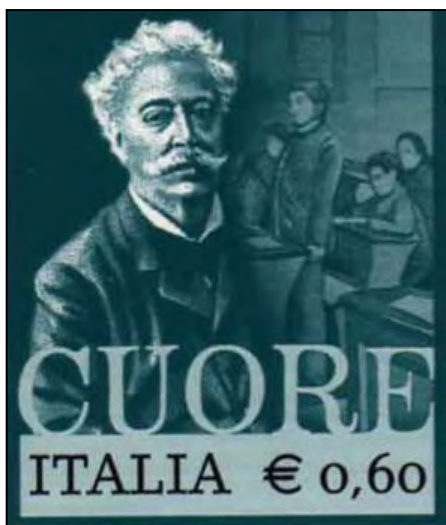
The severe rain storms that plagued the nation's capital on June 4, could not keep away the more than 1,500 people who celebrated the Festa della Repubblica at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Please turn to page 3

Edmondo De Amicis: Commemorato il Centenario della Sua Morte

di Anna Bujatti

Per il centenario della morte di Edmondo De Amicis (1846 -1908) le Poste



Italiane hanno emesso un francobollo commemorativo in cui appare in evidenza, sullo sfondo di un'aula affollata di scolaretti, il titolo del libro per il quale egli è universalmente ricordato: *Cuore*. Il libro (1886) narra, come è noto, le vicende di una classe elementare (maschile) nel corso di un anno scolastico, arricchendo la cronaca quotidiana con i famosi "racconti mensili", dei quali anche solo i titoli suggeriscono la storia istituzionale e sociale dell'Italia Unita: le guerre risorgimentali (*La piccola vedetta lombarda*, *Il tamburino sardo*), l'orgoglio dell'identità italiana (*Il piccolo patriotta padovano*, *Valor civile*), l'emigrazione (*Dagli Appennini alle Ande*). De Amicis viene dunque automaticamente identificato con *Cuore*.

Ma De Amicis ha scritto una quantità di saggi, di libri di viaggio, di racconti che

non è giusto dimenticare, a cominciare dai ritratti e bozzetti scritti sul primo giornale al quale collaborò durante il servizio militare, poi raccolti nel volume *La vita militare* (1868).

Con padronanza di stile e finezza di indagine psicologica, egli ha raccolto, nel volume *Amici* (1883), una serie di ritratti, a volte commoventi, a volte anche spassosi, dei suoi contemporanei colti nella quotidianità di un rapporto d'amicizia. Memorabile è poi *Sull'oceano* (1889) ispirato alla grande, e per tanti aspetti tragica, vicenda dell'emigrazione. Ancora oggi ricco di spunti interessanti, per la vivacità degli esempi proposti, benché, s'intende, superato sul piano linguistico, il libro sulla lingua italiana *L'idioma gentile* (1905).

Continua a pagina 7

INSIDE

Seeking Oriana Fallaci 2
Bush proclaims 'Italian Day' 3
Chief of Staff Anita McBride 4
Molise students visit D.C. 5
Neapolitan food in Arlington 5
Editorials 6
Nina DiSesa's 'Boys Club' 7
Festa Italiana gears up 8