



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

The Official Newsletter of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage
Society of the Washington, DC Area
MAY 2011

Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



A LESSON ON ITALIAN HISTORY DELIVERED WITH PASSION



Col.g. (fv.) Pietro Tornabene, Army Attaché of the Italian Embassy, addressing the Society at Portofino Restaurant on the events that unified Italy 150 years ago. Bravissimo, Colonello!

“SANTO SUBITO”



John Paul II moves one step from sainthood. More on the beatification on page 12.

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS:

- 1. LUNCH/MEETING - Sunday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m. at Casa Italiana**
- 2. SPECIAL TOUR OF U.S. CAPITOL - Saturday, June 11. Please see details inside.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici:

As you will read in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, the March general Society meeting at the Portofino Restaurant in Arlington was a delightful occasion. The theme, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy and the complex series of events in Italy's history that led to that milestone, was entertainingly explained by our guest speaker, Colonel Pietro Tornabene, Army Attaché at the Embassy of Italy. We are grateful to Portofino Restaurant for the fine food and good service it provided to the capacity crowd and to the Criswell Fiat auto dealership of Gaithersburg for its contribution towards the cost of the wine served at the meeting and for making a new Fiat 500 automobile available there for inspection and test rides.



Our program committee, which is so energetically and competently chaired by Ennio DiTullio, now is preparing for our next Society meeting, which will be held on Sunday, May 15, at Casa Italiana and which will feature presentations about the traditions and festivals of the Molise region by several members of our Society. Lucio D'Andrea, our president emeritus and a man who cherishes his Molisani heritage, is assisting in the preparations. Be sure to see the announcement flyer and reservation form located in this newsletter and make your reservation soon. Also, please mark Saturday, June 11 on your calendar for on that morning we will be treated to a special guided tour of the Brumidi paintings in the rotunda and the halls and meeting rooms of the Capitol by Steven Livingood of the Capitol Historical Society. We thank both Joe Grano for arranging this tour and Nancy DeSanti of our Travel Committee for arranging a no-host luncheon at a nearby restaurant after the tour. Look for a forthcoming announcement flyer which will contain all the details for making your reservation. Participation in the tour will be limited to the first 25 members who make their reservations.

From time to time I like to report on the status of our Society and will do so here. We currently have 239 dues-paid members. Our financial condition is sound owing in large measure to the good work of our Treasurer, Joe Novello, and to good management by our Executive Committee. We operate in accordance with an annual budget, the income for which primarily comes from member dues, which, you must admit, are an outright bargain. The business of our Society is planned and executed by our eighteen-member Executive Committee, which includes the officers, directors and chairs of the standing committees. I encourage and welcome more of you to become actively involved in planning and executing our activities by volunteering to serve on our many committees, if not on a continual basis, at least on an ad-hoc one.

Please, call me, write to me (see the back cover of this Notiziario) or speak to me at any of our meetings or activities to let me know the programs and activities in which you have interest. Truly, the Society will benefit from your participation.

Cordiali saluti,

Dick DiBuono

NEXT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

General Meeting, May 15, 2011, FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS OF MOLISE

By Ennio Di Tullio, VP Program

At the May 15, 2011 General Society meeting, AMHS members and friends will gather to celebrate the Festivals and Traditions of Molise at Casa Italiana. There will be a brief business meeting, followed by a luncheon provided by Tony's New York Pizza of Fairfax, offering a delicious meal of fusilli caprese, chicken brunello, salad, dessert, wine, soft drinks, and coffee. The presentation will consist of a short film, and the individual reminiscences and experiences of *molisani* members, who are invited to share the special festivities and unique traditions of their own or their ancestral villages. Anyone who is interested in participating, or has material to display, should contact Ennio DiTullio in advance (703-281-5847 or enniodit@aol.com) to make arrangements.

Such interactive meetings have always been a delightful experience in the past, so we can all look forward to enjoying a fun and enlightening afternoon. Make your reservations early (\$12 for members and \$15 for non-members). See you on May 15!



Jelsi – Festa del Grano



BRUMIDI TOUR OF CAPITOL, June 11, 2011

By Nancy DeSanti

Come join us for a special guided tour of the Capitol on Saturday noon, June 11, 2011, to see the world-famous historical paintings of Constantine Brumidi, best known for his beautiful frescoes on the dome of the Rotunda and the vaulted, ornately decorated corridors of the Senate building now known as the Brumidi Corridors. Our expert tour guide will be Steve Livingood of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Among the treasures to be seen is the renowned Apotheosis of George Washington as well as the Frieze of American History.

After the guided tour, we hope you will join us for a delicious lunch at nearby Toscana Cafe.

The cost is an \$8 donation to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. The tour will be limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis, so please make your reservations early and also indicate whether you wish to participate in the lunch afterwards (optional).

To make your reservations, please contact Joe Novello at 301-927-4766, email: novelloj@verizon.net.



RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

AMHS COMMEMORATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITALIAN UNIFICATION

By Joann Novello

On Sunday, March 27, AMHS members, friends and guests--90 strong--met at Portofino Restaurant in Arlington to celebrate "in our own small way" (to quote Ennio DiTullio) the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy. It was truly a singular occasion of feasting, commemoration, and education; simply, it was a great day highlighting our Italian heritage.

The general Society meeting began with a short business session during which President Dick DiBuono made a few announcements, including that the Executive Committee voted to amend the Society's by-laws to add a Web Site Management Committee to the current list of Standing Committees. This was followed by a delicious luncheon of penne al pomodoro, salad, pollo Portofino served with vegetables, and tiramisù, accompanied by wine and coffee. Present was Alan Hanel, a representative of Criswell Fiat, one of the Society's sponsors, who brought with him a brand new, burnt orange Fiat 500, which he prominently

parked in Portofino's parking lot for the inspection of the attendees. This was quite a thrill for many present, particularly those who remembered the Cinquecento of their youth!

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation in honor of the "Italian birthday" by Colonel Pietro Tornabene, Army Attaché from the Embassy of Italy. Although trained as an engineer, Colonel Tornabene's avocation is history, a subject he enlivened as he progressed through the timeline of the events leading up to and the accomplishment of the Unification of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II. Despite the fact that we all knew the outcome of the tale that he wove for us, we were all literally sitting on the edges of our seats as we listened to Colonel Tornabene's impassioned and enthusiastic speech. As a result of the Colonel's lively lecture, all present surely have a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural and social importance of the Risorgimento, not only to Italy, but to the world.



Col. Pietro Tornabene with AMHS Pres. Dick DiBuono.



Presentation room at Portofino restaurant.

Learning Italian and Having Fun Doing It

By Lucio D'Andrea

Among the special activity groups established within the Society is the Italian Conversation Group, which was organized shortly after the Society was established in June 2000. A small number of Society members has been meeting in their homes, on a rotating basis, to improve their Italian language skills. Over the years, some members have moved out of the area but a core of members has remained faithful to the group's purpose and continues to participate. Presiding over these gatherings is "Professoressa" Lidia LaMarca, with the capable assistance of Edvige D'Andrea. Lidia's steadfast commitment to the success of this group is admirable, as she prepares lessons material and patiently intervenes to guide the group in improving their language skills. It has been a tradition at the conclusion of each lesson session to enjoy the camaraderie developed over the years, by savoring some delectable food (Italian of, course) and "un bicchiere di vino."



In this picture taken at the recent group gathering hosted by Lucio and Edvige, are Ray and Gini Bernero, Mike and Theda Corrado, Janet Marmura, Lana Nardella, Lydia LaMarca, Lucio and Edvige, and Dot Kelly, the newest member of the group. The occasion also provided the opportunity to say "in bocca al lupo" to Will and Janet, who have become residents of Rivers Edge, N.C.

Un saluto e continuo successo

Nota bene: Other AMHS members who wish to improve their Italian language skills are encouraged either to form a similar group or to avail themselves of the many courses in Italian language taught at Casa Italiana and the Italian Cultural Society.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

By Joann Novello

LUPOS BECOME GRANDPARENTS

Joe and Pam Lupo are pleased to announce the arrival of their first grandchild! Joseph Edward, namesake of both grandfathers, was born on December 9, 2010 to son Peter and

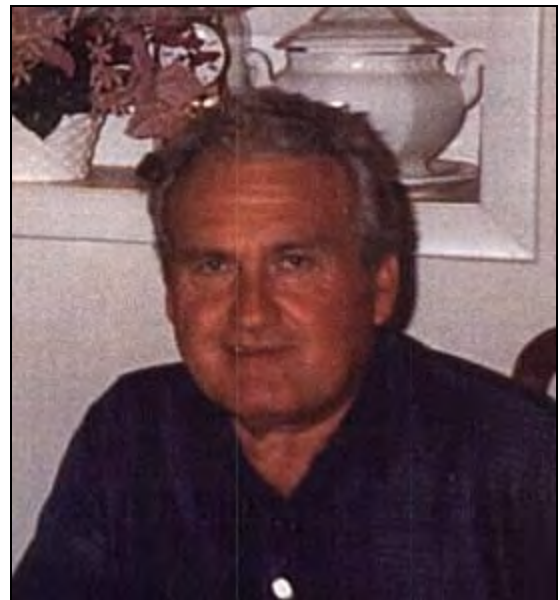
his wife, Anna. The baby, his proud parents, and the delighted grandparents are all doing well.



Joe Lupo holding namesake Joey (10 weeks old).

DOMENICO TENAGLIA, RIP (September 11, 1930-March 12, 2011)

AMHS mourns the passing of one of its earliest members, Domenico Tenaglia. Domenico, the unofficial poet of AMHS, was a native of Orsogna, Provincia di Chieti, Abruzzo. He was the beloved husband of Diana, loving father of Nick, Edo, Massimo, and the late Danny, and dear grandfather of Dominic and Gabriella. Reflecting on Domenico's life and his contributions, Lucio D'Andrea, President Emeritus of AMHS, said, "It very sad to see the passing of a wonderful human being. He was a self-educated man I had the pleasure to come to know during my time as President of the Society. His poems reflected a genuine appreciation of his heritage and care of others." We send sincere condolences to the entire Tenaglia family.



Domenico Tenaglia

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Maria D'Andrea, VP Membership

2011 Membership Renewal

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership for 2011, and also to all of the new members who have joined us so far this year! We value your support of the Society's programs and activities.

For those who have not yet renewed, and have an email address, you should have received a reminder email from me, asking that you consider renewing your membership as soon as possible. A membership form was included with the email. If you do not have email, you can call me at (703) 998-6097 and I would be happy to mail you a membership form. As a reminder, AMHS membership guarantees receipt of our very popular *AMHS Notiziario*.

I am very pleased to report that, at the end of 2010, AMHS had **302 members** and that, as of mid-April, 239 had renewed their membership for 2011 and/or became new members. We (the officers) are extremely grateful for your support of the Society's programs and activities.

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: Anthony & Sonia Spadoni Alioto, Edward and Rita Coyne, Sabrina De Sousa, Dr. Lynda M. LePore, Angelo & Elizabeth Mazzocco, and Salvatore & Daniela Tamburo.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following members will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in May and June. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e Auguri!*

Birthdays

Darlene Palumbo Barnsby, May 3; Joanne Fusco and Anna Marie Scavetti, May 5; Samira Badawi, May 7; Joan Tengler, May 9; Samuel Amatucci and Joseph Scafetta Jr., May 10; Angelo Mazzocco, May 13; Amy Antonelli, May 15; Fidelma (Delma) Giancone and Robert Woolley, May 19; Dana Dabbenigno and Rocco Del Monaco, May 21; Aldo A. D'Ottavio and Rebecca Gallerizzo, May 22; Christine Smith di Girolamo, May 23; Eva Del Vecchio, May 26; Vince Ciccone, May 27; Susan Amatucci and James R. De Santis, May 28; Ennio Di Tullio, May 29; Livio Di Michele and Carlo D'Onofrio and Renato Orcino, May 30; Giulio Mario Ciccarello, June 3; Beniamino Caniglia and Giovanni Sciannameo, June 4; Lucielle Fusciiello and Janet Marmura, June 6; Dr. Joseph Lupo, June 8; Nancy Johnsen Bucci, Giuseppe "Pino" Cicala and Ludovico Giordano, June 12; Raymond Sciannella, June 13; Liliana Ceresini, June 14; Roberta Beiso, June 17; Paul Coppola, June 21; Richard M. Marano, June 22; Margaret Uglow, June 25; Mrs. Louis Sacchetti, June 28; and Helen Free, June 30.

Anniversaries

Joseph & Amy D'Amico, May 1; Louise Ricci, May 9; Amy Antonelli and Carmine & Maria Melchiorre, May 16; Barry (Carosella) Shawley, May 17; Mario & Carmen Ciccone and Bob & Concettina Hudson, May 27; William & Karen Berl

and Jack & Sofia Chalden, May 29; Gino (Luigi) Salvi, June; Beniamino & Delores Caniglia, June 2; Luigi & Silvana De Luca and Omero & Belinda Sabatini, June 3; Dr. Michael & Theda Corrado and Massimo & Rosa Mazziotti, June 4; Joe & Tina Marchegiani, June 5; David & Karen DeAngelis, June 7; Michael D'Onofrio, June 8; Lucio & Maria Marchegiani, June 9; Frank & Joyce Del Borrello, June 10; Mauro & Elizabeth Chiaverini, June 11; Roger & Darlene Palumbo Barnsby, June 13; Margot De Ruvo Gilberg, June 14; Anthony & Elodia D'Onofrio, June 25; Ronald Ciarlo and Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, June 27; and Dr. Raymond & Virginia Bernero.

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

Sent by Nancy DeSanti.

Translation to Italian by Maddalena Borea

ALBA ADRIATICA, PROVINCE OF TERAMO, ABRUZZO



Alba Adriatica is a town and comune in the province of Teramo in northeastern Abruzzo. This beautiful seaside resort, which was once part of the comune of Tortoreto, was created by splitting off from Tortoreto in 1956.

Alba Adriatica is known as one of the "seven sisters" of the northern Abruzzo coast, the other six being (from north to south) Martinsicuro, Tortoreto, Giulianova, Roseto degli

Abruzzi, Silvi Marina and Pineto. Alba Adriatica is also called Spiaggia d'Argento (Silver Beach) because of the high quality of its wide, sandy beaches which earned the town the European Blue Flag for the years 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2008. (The Blue Flag is a certification by a non-governmental organization in Europe, Africa and North and South America that a beach or marina meets stringent environmental standards).



The town, which has 10,234 year-round residents (known as Albensi), is visited by between 30,000 and 50,000 tourists in summer who come to enjoy the beautiful sandy beaches and

also the 15-kilometer-long biking/roller-skating track and vibrant night life.

This Abruzzese town has an interesting history. The area was once an inhospitable marshland, formed over the centuries after the withdrawal of the sea which once reached up to the hills. The early human settlements were on those hills, as evidenced by the many archaeological findings unearthed when foundations of the new buildings were being laid.

Many nearby towns were destroyed during the early centuries of the Christian era. The Romans established many “navali” along the coast—small ports used for military purposes and sometimes sea trade more so than fishing. One of these “navali” may well have been Alba Adriatica. It was only in the 16th century that the first buildings appeared along the coast, namely, towers used to fend off invasions of the Turks and Saracens.

The opening of a small railway station in 1863 was a turning point for Alba Adriatica as several centers developed along the railway line between Tortoreto-Noretto-Controguerra. Eventually, the beautiful Adriatic coast began to draw interest after centuries of being overlooked. Beautiful villas began to be built in the 1930s. But **unfortunately**, the town was bombed heavily during World War II. Until 1956, when Alba Adriatica split off from Tortoreto, the sea front was only a white gravelly street, but then the first hotels were built and over time.

Alba Adriatica has become a prime destination for vacationers drawn from all over Italy and overseas by the wide, clean, sandy **beaches**, game parks and lively night life.

The patron saint of the town is Saint Euphemia whose feast day is Sept. 16. On April 24-25, one of the oldest celebrations in the area called Casasanta takes place—the Feast of San Vincenzo Ferreri, with games, sports, performances, bicycle racing, an agricultural fair (Lu Caso’) and the gathering of ancient tractors, a band and fireworks. Then from July 31-August 18, it’s time for the summer carnival.

What to See:

- 16th century sighting tower
- Villa Moscarini in the nearby countryside

ALBA ADRIATICA, IN PROVINCIA DI TERAMO, ABRUZZO

Alba Adriatica e' un comune nella provincia di Teramo, nel Nord Est della regione Abruzzo. Questo bel luogo di villeggiatura, diventò frazione di Tortoreto nel 1956.

Sorta sulla costiera nordica della regione Abruzzo, e' anche conosciuta come una "Delle Sette Sorelle". Le altre sei sarebbero, da Nord a Sud, Martinsicuro, Tortoreto, Giulianova, Roseto degli Abruzzi, Silvi Marina e Pineto. Alba Adriatica viene chiamata anche Spiaggia D'Argento, grazie alla qualità delle sue acque e della sabbia che le hanno guadagnato riconoscimenti da organizzazioni che si occupano della protezione dell'ambiente nel 2003, nel 2004, nel 2007, nel 2008.

Questa cittadina, che conta circa 10,234 abitanti, accoglie da 30,000 a 50,000 turisti estivi, che vengono qui per godere le acque pure del suo mare, le bellissime sabbie e i divertimenti serali

La storia della cittadina e' interessante. Inizialmente era una palude che si era formata dal ritiro delle acque che una volta raggiungevano le colline. I primi arrivati, si stanziarono su quelle colline, da come risulta da scoperte archeologiche.

Molte cittadine vicine furono distrutte dai Romani, durante i primi secoli dell'era Cristiana. Questi vi stabilirono dei piccoli porti per svolgere i loro commerci marittimi. Uno di questi porti sarà forse stato Alba Adriatica. Fu soltanto nel 16th secolo che apparvero le prime costruzioni lungo la costa. Erano per lo più torri da cui forse osservare l'arrivo di invasori, come Saraceni o Turchi.



L'apertura di una piccola stazione ferroviaria nel 1863 segnò un momento

importante per Alba, perché altri piccoli centri sorsero lungo la linea ferroviaria tra Tortoreto, Noretto, Controguerra. La bellissima costa, nascosta per lungo tempo, venne così alla luce... Bellissime ville vi vennero costruite

sin dagli anni trenta. Sfortunatamente questa regione subì molti danni durante i bombardamenti della seconda guerra mondiale. Fino al 1956, quando Alba fu divisa da Tortoreto, la costiera era soltanto una stradina ghiaiosa. Col tempo alberghi lussuosi vennero costruiti ed Alba divenne una stazione di villeggiatura di prima categoria.

La Santa Protettrice della cittadina e' Santa Eufemia, la cui festa cade il 16 di settembre. Il 24 e il 25 aprile ha luogo un'antichissima celebrazione nell'area chiamata Casasanta. E' la festa di San Vincenzo Ferreri, con giochi, sport, corse di biciclette, fiere agricole (Lu Caso'), in cui si possono osservare antichi mezzi agricoli, ascoltare la banda e vedere, a tarda sera, i fuochi artificiali. Finalmente, tra il 31 luglio e il 18 agosto si celebra il Carnevale d'estate.

Attrazioni:

Una torre del sedicesimo secolo per avvistare l'arrivo di nemici.

Villa Moscarini, nella campagna circostante.



Cercemaggiore rises on an elevated position approximately 930 meters above sea level, overlooking the Tammaro Valley, the Matese and the Majella, and southward as far as the mountains of the Salerno area.

The town consists of 56 square kilometers. Its population is approximately 4,272. Over the last 100 years, about 3,000 inhabitants (known as cercesi) have emigrated to other countries including the United States, Canada (especially Montreal) and Argentina. Cercemaggiore has 84 industrial firms, 84 service firms and 13 administrative offices.

Sources:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Da Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia libera)

www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/albaadriatica

CERCEMAGGIORE, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE

Cercemaggiore is a rustic, mountainous village in the province of Campobasso in Molise. It is located about 25 kilometers southeast of Campobasso. The name derives from Quercus Major (meaning big oak) or from the Arabic "cerce," meaning rock. The town was given the name Cercemaggiore as in "large oak tree" because its oak trees were larger than the ones near the village down the road, logically known as Cercepiccolo. Thus, a big oak tree became the dominant symbol on Cercemaggiore's coat of arms.



The surrounding area has an ancient history. A few hundred years before Christ, the inhabitants (the Samnites, a fierce, warlike Italic people) courageously fought off the invading Roman legions with stones and clubs. Eventually the Romans conquered Cercemaggiore and ruled it for centuries. After the fall of Rome, invasions by the Saracens followed and in feudal times, the Normans ruled. All these populations left their traces in the monuments and the culture.

The town had other troubles, too, including a notorious bandit named Francesco Sabatini, whose gang plundered the countryside and who was eventually caught and summarily executed.



What to see:

- The Convent of Santa Maria della Libera is an important center in the region for spiritual studies and meditation. The convent, built in the Romanesque style, has been in existence since 1412 and draws groups of pilgrims from nearby areas looking for spiritual renewal, especially during the Easter season. Among the fine art work in the church is a painting of the Madonna di Costantinopoli by Tommaso Guarino.
- Chiesa di San Rocco
- Parish church of Santa Maria della Croce, a very ancient church restored in the 16th century and again after an earthquake in 1907.
- Summit of Monte Saraceno, with a wide view of the surrounding areas.
- Church of Santa Maria da Monte, on the top of the nearby Monte dell'Assunta, which according to tradition was built on the site of a pagan temple.

CERCEMAGGIORE, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE

Cercemaggiore e' un rustico villaggio del Molise, nella provincia di Campobasso, situato a circa 25 chilometri dal capoluogo. Il nome derivera' probabilmente dal latino Quercus Major, Grande Quercia, o dall'arabo "Cerces", che significa pietra. Questo villaggio fu' chiamato Cercemaggiore probabilmente perche' le sue querce erano piu' grandi di quelle di un villaggio vicino, chiamato, per questo, Cercepiccolo. Il simbolo cittadino di Cercemaggiore, pertanto, e' una grande quercia.



L'area circostante ha una storia antica: poco prima di Cristo fu abitata dai Sanniti, una stirpe di gente, dedita alla guerra e di origine italica, che combatte' coraggiosamente contro i Romani, facendo uso anche di pietre e di bastoni. I romani eventualmente ebbero la meglio e rimasero li' per diversi secoli. Con la caduta dell'Impero Romano si ebbero in quella regione invasioni di Saraceni e di Normanni. Tutte queste genti lasciarono tracce di se' con monumenti e culture diverse.

Sequirono attraverso i secoli altri problemi. Vi fu' tra l'altro anche un bandito di nome Sabatini che terrorizzo' l'area , ma che fu' eventualmente catturato e mandato al patibolo.

Cercemaggiore sorge in una zona montagnosa a 930 metri al di sopra del livello del mare. Attorno si estende la valle del Tammaro e si vedono il Matese e la Maiella. Al sud si intravedono le montagne dell'area di Salerno.

Il villaggio, di 56 chilometri quadrati, ha una popolazione di 4,272 abitanti. Negli ultimi 100 anni, circa 3000 abitanti, conosciuti come Cercesi, sono emigrati in altre nazioni, come gli Stati Uniti, Canada(specialmente a Montral)ed Argentina.. Cercemaggiore ha oltre un centinaio di piccole industrie e vari uffici amministrativi.



Le attrazioni:

Il Convento di Santa Maria Libera e' un importante centro di studi spirituali e di meditazione.. Tale convento, costruito in stile romanesco, e' in esistenza dal 1412, e richiama molti pellegrini in cerca di rinnovamento spirituale, in special modo durante la Pasqua.. Fra i lavori d'arte va ricordato il dipinto della Madonna di Costantinopoli, eseguito da Tommaso Guarino.

Da ricordare anche la Chiesa di San Rocco.

La Chiesa parrocchiale di Santa Maria della Croce, un'antichissima Chiesa restaurata una volta nel 16th secolo e in seguito dopo il terremoto del 1907

La cima del Monte Saraceno, con una vasta vista delle aree circostanti.

La chiesa di Santa Maria del Monte, in cima al vicino Monte dell'Assunta, che secondo alcuni sarebbe stata eretta al posto di un tempio pagano.

Sources:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Da Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia libera)

www.molise.indettaglio.it/eng/comuni/cb/cercemaggiore

www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/cercemaggiore.htm



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www.CiaoAmerica.net

Molise - The Regione in the Clouds

Contributed by Giuseppe Spano, Italian Notebook reader, 'Of his joys on a trip to Italia'. Sent by John Fusciello.

Monteroduni, Molise - Authentic, rural, rustic, yes even medieval, that is what Molise proves to be. This is a region that was up until the mid 1900's part of Abruzzi. However **Italians** being Italiani, they had to have it their way. So they parted friends (sort of). Driving to Molise is a panoramic wonder. You literally ascend to the clouds. When you have the time to stop and search out the beautiful hamlets, living becomes a joy.



One such place is Monteroduni in the Isernia province. It is a small but historically interesting community. Population today **is** about 800 just as it's been for centuries. (My personal interest is in the fact that my mother's family is from that town.) Also, the more I learn about origins of certain food preparations, I become aware that so many come from this region.

One such is what we call "Easter Bread," or *Pizza Piena*: a loaf of simple, yet very tasty dough shell, filled with **ricotta**, rice and either cherries, almonds and cinnamon flavor, or *salsiccia secca* with sharp *formaggio* pieces.



As you traverse the town you learn of its history, how these unique people were able to fight off invasions of many tribes and peoples, enabling them to preserve their cultural identity. There is so much more to this story that only a book could tell. Yet the story of this area in Italy is one of the most fascinating of all Italy! These are some of the peoples inhabiting that area, do the research and you will come out educated, entertained and... Italian?

Samnite 600 BC – Roman 280 BC – Goth 489 AD- Lombard 555 AD
Norman 1070 AD – Swabian 1200 AD – Angevin 1266 AD – Aragonese 1443 AD
Partenopea 1798 – Bourbon 1815- Risorgimento 1860- WWI 1915
Fascism 1922 – WWII 1940 – A Republic 1946
Separated from Abruzzi in 1963 – Recognized as a *Regione* as of 1970



President urges push to rebuild L'Aquila two years on

Torchlit vigil to remember 309 killed on April 6, 2009

(ANSA) - L'Aquila, April 6 - Italian President Giorgio Napolitano called for renewed efforts to rebuild L'Aquila on a visit Wednesday marking the second anniversary of the earthquake that devastated the Abruzzo capital and surrounding towns, killing 309 and leaving thousands homeless.

"It is right to discuss the time frame for reconstruction and the prospects for solving problems," the president said amid demonstrations from those who are still without a home and a protest from the opposition Italy of Values party against the alleged slow pace of recovery.

"On this issue, divisions have been minimal," the president said.

"In the heat of the emergency there was utmost unity. Then, naturally, there was a debate, which is always legitimate. The important thing is having a sense of proportion".

Premier Silvio Berlusconi's government has been criticised by the centre-left opposition for allegedly not moving fast enough to rebuild shattered homes and rehouse citizens.

Berlusconi has rejected these claims and has brandished as an achievement the construction of new antiseismic mini-towns "in record time".

The centre of L'Aquila is still mostly a no-go zone and littered with piles of rubble which have only recently started to be cleared.

More than 20,000 L'Aquila residents turned out early Wednesday for a torchlit vigil to remember the dead in the city's ghostlike main square, where church bells rang out 309 times as the victims' names were read out at 03:32, the time the 6.3 magnitude tremor hit.



Torchlit vigil in L'Aquila

Geraldine Ferraro, First Woman VP Candidate, Dies at 75

Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman and the first Italian American nominated for U.S. vice president by a major political party, died March 26 at age 75 after a long battle with blood cancer.

Ferraro ran with Democratic nominee Walter Mondale in the 1984 election; they lost to President Ronald Reagan and running mate George H.W. Bush.

"Geraldine will forever be remembered as a trailblazer who broke down barriers for women, and Americans of all backgrounds and walks of life," President Obama said in a statement. "Whether it was as a public school teacher, assistant district attorney, Member of Congress, or candidate for vice president, Geraldine fought to uphold America's founding ideals of equality, justice and opportunity for all."

Referring to his two daughters, Obama added: "Sasha and Malia will grow up in a more equal America because of the life Geraldine Ferraro chose to live."

Ferraro received a law degree from Fordham University in 1960, the same year she married John Zaccaro and became a fulltime homemaker and mother. She said she kept her maiden name to honor her mother, a widow who had worked long hours as a seamstress. After years in a private law practice, she took a job as an assistant Queens district attorney in 1974. She headed the office's special victims' bureau, which prosecuted sex crimes and the abuse of children and the elderly. In 1978, she won the first of three terms in Congress representing a blue-collar district of Queens.

After losing in 1984, she became a fellow of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University until an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate nomination in 1992. She returned to the law after her 1992 Senate run, acting as an advocate for women raped during ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslavia.



Gerardin Ferraro

Fiat 500 debuts in USA

Thumbs up from dealers and press

(ANSA) - Milan, April 4 - Fiat's remake of a tiny car with an oversized reputation - the 500 - has made a big impact on the streets of the USA.

Bellwethers of the market's response - a key dealership in the Midwest and the New York Times - appear to have embraced it over the past few weeks.

In a land where big is usually better, where SUVs, minivans and trucks dominate, the retro-styled bite-sized car is grabbing attention.

One of Michigan's main Fiat dealerships, located in a residential neighborhood north of Detroit called Bloomsfield Hills, reports sales far higher than expected, with 12 models sold, five awaiting delivery, and outstanding orders for another 16 in the space of a month.

"They don't buy it only because it is stylish, elegant.



They buy it also because it makes them feel good. They find it fun, easy to drive, safe," the dealership's Bill Golling told ANSA.

"I think that for the American public the Fiat 500 is the real news for the small (car) segment. There is no typical client. Clients here have been of all ages, men and women, young and old. First of all they get curious because they find it small and 'lovely', and then they are surprised when they try it. When they get out of the car they all say the same thing, 'It makes me feel good'," Golling continued.

Golling himself was "enthusiastic" about the product, and added that clients were surprised by its roominess and The exact date and place of Marco Polo's birth are unknown but most scholars believe he came from Venice. It has been argued by some historians, however, that he was born on the island of Korcula on the Adriatic coast, in what is today **Croatia**.

performance, even in the snow and on wet roads.

"In addition, American clients are finding out for the first time how fun it is to use a stick shift. Here everyone is used to the automatic, but on a 500, it is much more fun to 'play' with the gearshift," said Golling. He added, "It's still early to say whether it will become a trend, but I am convinced that this way of driving will become more popular".

The New York Times gave the 500 a major boost in March, dedicating three pages to it in the paper's last insert devoted to cars.

Automotive editor Jerry Garrett juiced the buzz throughout March with headlines like, Fiat's Petite Italian model Seeks Love in America" and Driving Fiat's 500: A Spicy Mini-Meatball".

Sales of the Fiat 500 began in 18 dealerships at the beginning of March, then 64, and at full sail will reach 130 dealerships across 37 states and Canada.

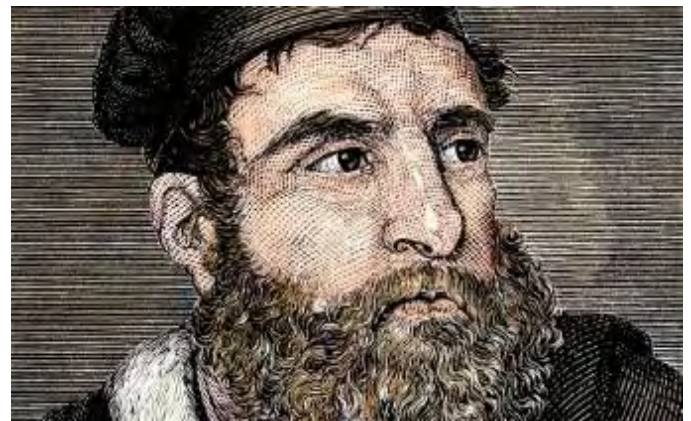
The car's body is built in Toluca, Mexico, and given its motor in Michigan.

Italians furious as Croatia lays claim to Marco Polo

Italians have reacted with fury to an attempt by Croatia to claim the legendary explorer Marco Polo was one of their own

By Nick Squires, Rome and Malcolm Moore in Shanghai
4:44PM BST 24 Apr 2011

The outcry came after a museum dedicated to the Venetian explorer in the Chinese city of Yangzhou was opened not by **Italian** dignitaries but by a former president of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic.



According to this theory, his father was a merchant from Dalmatia named Maffeo Pilic, who Italianized his surname to Polo when he established himself in Venice.

The museum was built in Yangzhou because Marco Polo was an official there from 1282 to 1284. Inaugurating the museum this month, Mr. Mesic described Marco Polo as a "world explorer, born in Croatia, who opened up China to Europe".

Italy's leading broadsheet newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, described the Croatian claim to Marco Polo as "ridiculous" and a "provocation".

"Attributing Croatian nationality to Marco Polo or anyone else born on the island at that time, just because it is now part of Croatia, is stretching historical facts too far," the paper said.

It pointed out that Garibaldi, the hero of the Risorgimento movement to unite Italy in the 19th century, was born in Nice but was never described as French.

The paper criticized Italian diplomats in China for allowing "someone as incredibly famous among the Chinese as (Marco Polo) to slip through their fingers, to the possible detriment of friendly relations, commerce and tourism".

John Paul II beatified before 1.5 million

Late pope moves one step from sainthood

(ANSA) - Vatican City, May 1 - John Paul II was beatified at a ceremony presided over by his successor Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square Sunday, with a crowd of around 1.5 million watching one of history's most popular popes move a step from sainthood.

Benedict read a Latin formula proclaiming John Paul, who died aged 84 on April 2, 2005 after a long illness, beatified before a tapestry depicting the Polish pontiff early in his papacy was uncovered on the front of St. Peter's to long, warm applause.



"The longed-for day has come," said Benedict. "It came quickly because this was pleasing to the Lord. John Paul II is blessed".

The proclamation established that John Paul's feast day will be October 22, the anniversary of the day in 1978 when his pontificate was inaugurated. The faithful, some moved to tears

by the emotion of the event, stretched back as far as the eye could see.

Many waved their national flags, with the red and white of John Paul's homeland Poland particularly prominent.

Those who could not get within sight of St. Peter's watched on big screens set up in the area and at Circus Maximus, the ancient Romans' chariot track which was the venue for a prayer vigil on Saturday.

Lots of pilgrims had camped out overnight with hotel rooms in the Italian capital fully booked.

After the ceremony Benedict was the first to pray before John Paul's coffin at the Altar of Confession in St Peter's, to where the coffin has been transferred to give Catholic pilgrims an opportunity for prayer and veneration following the beatification.

The coffin, disinterred from a crypt in the basilica on Friday, is on display with a precious Medieval copy of the gospel laid open on top. On Monday, after the Basilica is closed, it will be moved to the Chapel of St Sebastian near Michelangelo's famous Pieta'.

The Chapel of St Sebastian was chosen because it is close to the entrance to the basilica and so it will be easier for the Polish pontiff's hosts of admirers to get to.

Benedict sanctioned the beatification in January after a Vatican commission officially attributed a miracle to John Paul - the inexplicable recovery of a French nun, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, from Parkinson's Disease through the intervention of the late pope.

The now blessed Polish pontiff also suffered from Parkinson's Disease.

Sister Simon-Pierre testified that same year that she had dreamed of the late pope shortly before recovering.

The nun attended Sunday's ceremony and was given the honour of holding up an ampoule of late pope's blood for the faithful to venerate.

John Paul will have to be attributed with another miracle before he can be canonized. Pope Benedict XVI put his predecessor's beatification cause on a fast track, waiving a rule requiring a five-year wait before the start of the process, after crowds called on him to be made a 'Santo Subito!' (Saint Now!) at his funeral.

The Vatican, however, has insisted this did not mean the process had been any less rigorous than otherwise would have been the case.

"Six years ago we gathered in this Square to celebrate the funeral of Pope John Paul II," said Benedict. "Our grief at his loss was deep, but even greater was our sense of an immense grace which embraced Rome and the whole world. "This grace was in some way the fruit of my beloved predecessor's entire life, and, especially, of his witness in suffering (ill health). "Even then we perceived the fragrance of his sanctity and in a

number of ways God's people have shown their veneration for him.

"For this reason, with all due respect for the Church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste. Around 90 national delegations attended Sunday's ceremony.

The dignitaries included Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, Polish President Bronislaw Komrowski, King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon, the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso and Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe.



Osama bin Laden Killed by U.S. Forces in Pakistan

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the most devastating attack on American soil in modern times and the most hunted man in the world, was killed in a firefight with United States forces in Pakistan, President Obama announced on Sunday.

In a late-night appearance in the East Room of the White House, Mr. Obama declared that “justice has been done” as he disclosed that American military and C.I.A. operatives had finally cornered Bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda, who had eluded them for nearly a decade. American officials said Bin Laden resisted and was shot in the head. He was later buried at sea.

The news touched off an extraordinary outpouring of emotion as crowds gathered outside the White House, in Times Square and at the ground zero site, waving American flags, cheering, shouting, laughing and chanting, “U.S.A., U.S.A.!” In New York City, crowds sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Throughout downtown Washington, drivers honked horns deep into the night.



“For over two decades, Bin Laden has been Al Qaeda’s leader and symbol,” the president said in a statement broadcast around the world. “The death of Bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation’s effort to defeat Al Qaeda. But his death does not mark the end of our effort. There’s no doubt that Al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must and we will remain vigilant at home and abroad.” Bin Laden’s demise is a defining moment in the American-led fight against terrorism, a symbolic stroke affirming the relentlessness of the pursuit of those who attacked New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

Presidential Proclamation--150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

Order your AMHS Cookbook

A PROCLAMATION

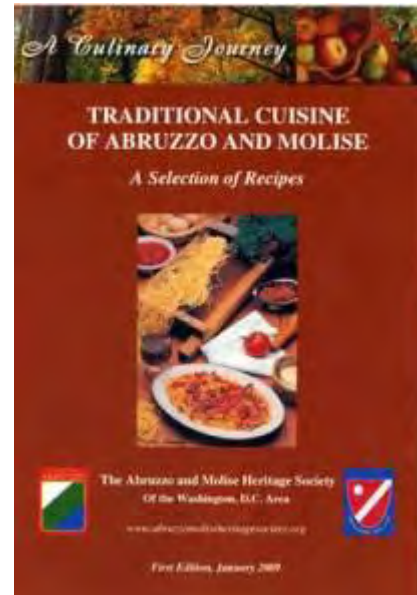
On March 17, Italy celebrates the 150th anniversary of its unification as a single state. On this day, we join with Italians everywhere to honor the courage, sacrifice, and vision of the patriots who gave birth to the Italian nation. At a time when the United States was fighting for the preservation of our own Union, Giuseppe Garibaldi's campaign for the unification of Italy inspired many around the world in their own struggles, including the 39th New York Infantry, also known as "The Garibaldi Guard." Today, the legacy of Garibaldi and all those who unified Italy lives on in the millions of American women and men of Italian descent who strengthen and enrich our Nation.

Italy and the United States are bound by friendship and common dedication to civil liberties, democratic principles, and the universal human rights our countries both respect and uphold. As we mark this important milestone in Italian history, we also honor the joint efforts of Americans and Italians to foster freedom, democracy, and our shared values throughout the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2011, as a day to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the history of Italian unification and to honor the enduring friendship between the people of Italy and the people of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA



A Selection of Recipes from Abruzzo and Molise assembled for the enjoyment of AMHS members and their friends.

The book, lavishly illustrated, includes an introduction describing the cuisine of these two Italian regions, its development from the 1500s, the main dishes, the meats, the fish, the antipasti, the sweets.

Many of the recipes were selected from the list of references given in the introductory essay, some were contributed by AMHS members, some were translated from the Italian adapting the American system of measurements.

PRICE: \$10.00 + \$3.00 per book for postage and handling

Order form for **TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF ABRUZZO AND MOLISE**

Please make check to AMHS; send to AMHS, 1652 Massonoff Court, Vienna, VA 22182

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The
Abruzzo and Molise
Heritage Society
Of the Washington, DC Area



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



Agnone - The 'Ndocciata torchlight parade



Jelsi – Festa Del Grano – Sfilate delle traglie

LUNCH/MEETING

WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

“Festivals and Traditions of Molise”

Menu: Fusilli Caprese, Chicken Brunello (sliced chicken breast with sun-dried tomatoes and mushrooms, in a "rose" sauce), salad and dessert, catered by Tony's New York Pizza restaurant of Fairfax, VA. Wine and soft drinks included.

PRICE: \$12.00 members and \$15.00 non members
Paid reservation by May 11.

Casa Italiana

**595 Third St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.**

PROGRAM:

Festeggiamo! Come enjoy Molise's festivals and traditions at our May meeting! There will be a presentation about celebrations in Molise, which will be followed by an opportunity to learn even more about the region: **molisani** members are invited to share the special festivities and unique traditions of their own villages.

If you are interested in participating in the presentation, or have material to display, please contact Ennio DiTullio in advance (703-281-5847 or enniodit@aol.com) to make arrangements.

For information call: Joe Novello, 301-927-4766; Dick DiBuono, 703-960-5981.

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

cut-----cut

Reservation for AMHS Meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Please make check to AMHS; send to AMHS, c/o Joseph Novello, 7035 Hunter Lane, Hyattsville, MD 20782

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

Number of people: _____ Check amount: _____ Email: _____

Sunday, March 27, 2011 – 150 Anniversary of Italy's Unification at Portofino Restaurant.



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The
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
1652 Massonoff Court
Vienna, VA 22182



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If you wish to see the Picture Gallery of the Society's
events, please go the AMHS web site:
abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

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Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington,
DC area, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian society,
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