



# AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

Website: [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org)



## L'ARMA DEI CARABINIERI IS WITH US



Lt. Col Giuseppe Battaglia, Military Attaché of the Carabinieri from the Italian Embassy, receives a congratulatory memento from AMHS President Dick DiBuono. At the July 31 meeting, LtCol Battaglia enlightened the Society about the history and duties of the Carabinieri.

## FERRAGOSTO PICNIC SAVED FROM RAIN



On Sunday, August 14, AMHS members and friends gathered at Villa Rosa to celebrate the Italian holiday of Ferragosto. A day that began with torrential downpours, soon gave way to sunshine as the picnic started.

### NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES:

1. LUNCH/MEETING – Sunday, September 25, 1:00 pm at Casa Italiana: Reflections on the Molisani nel Mondo
2. FESTA ITALIANA – Sunday, October 9 at Holy Rosary, sponsored by HR, ICS, Lido Civic Club and AMHS
3. PRESENTATION PALLADIO – Thursday, October 20, 6:30 at Embassy of Italy, sponsored by IIC, ICS and AMHS
4. LUNCH/MEETING – Sunday, November 20, 1:00pm at Casa Italiana: Wine Tasting
5. AMHS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY – Sunday, December 4, 1:00-4:00pm at Casa Italiana

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,

**T**he success of our Society over its eleven years is due to the strong enthusiasm and interest we share in preserving and celebrating our Italian heritage. Gratefully, among our members we have those whose



love for our heritage is so strong they willingly give their energy, ideas and time serving our Society as officers, directors and as chairs or members of committees. It is to those members that credit can be given for our achievements. There is one among them whom I especially wish to credit for having been one of our

most dedicated and productive members over our entire 11-year history. He is Ennio DiTullio. Truly an outstanding member, Ennio served us in so many ways -- as President for many years, as editor of our *AMHS Notiziario* for many years, as chair of our Gala Committee and as liaison with the Region of Abruzzo, again, for many years. As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the past 2 years he chaired the Program Committee, which plans all of our general Society meetings and special events, and he also chaired our Publications and Publicity Committee, which is responsible for issuing the *Notiziario* and all the announcement flyers and membership-wide e-mail announcements we receive. Now, having experienced two heart attacks and undergoing pacemaker installation surgery while vacationing in Italy, Ennio was told by his doctors to shed stress-producing activities and rest and so has had to resign his post.

Losing the services of Ennio has created a situation wherein we find the need to have not one, but several members step forward and volunteer to fill the posts he held and to carry out the many duties he performed for us. First and foremost, we need to fill the post of chair of the Publications and Publicity Committee and to add at least two other members to serve on it. If you have experience preparing text and photos for publication or in editing and printing a newsletter, then please see or call me to volunteer to serve either as the chair or as a member of this committee.

We are entering a very busy time of the year. The sixth and last general Society meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, 20 November (note: this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, rather than the usual 4<sup>th</sup>) at which the annual election of officers and directors will be held. This meeting will feature the wine makers and their wines. This always is a popular event, so be sure to watch for the forthcoming announcement flyer and make your reservation. I want to inform you that we will not have a Gala this December but, instead, will have a Christmas Party for members and their family on Sunday, 4 December at Casa Italiana. Information about this holiday family event will be coming to you soon. Watch for it. The Gala will return in 2012. Lastly, our

Society is joining with the Italian Cultural Society, the Italian Cultural Institute and the Institute for Classical Architecture and Arts to sponsor a lecture on the influence of the great Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, on American architecture by the one of the foremost experts on Palladio, Dr. Calder Loth, at the Embassy of Italy on Thursday, 20 October 2011. Attendance is limited so watch for the forthcoming announcement about it.

Cordiali saluti,  
Dick DiBuono

## NEXT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

### AMHS General Meeting, September 25, 2011

by *Maria D'Andrea*

Come hear a firsthand report on Molise today: its cultural patrimony, investment in youth, history of emigration following the unification of Italy and future plans as presented at the fourth conference of Molisani nel Mondo in June! AMHS member and videographer Kirsten Keppel, an American fourth-generation descendant of a Molisano, will present a report of the conference and take you on a virtual tour of Molise with other conference participants - emigrants or descendants of Molisani - from around the world. Your visit will include stops in Isernia, Pesche, Campobasso, Vinchiaturro, Termoli, Jelsi and Riccia.

The program will be preceded by general Society business and a lunch of pappardelle alla bolognese, lemon chicken, peas and salad, dessert, and beverages including wine, water, soda, and coffee. Lunch is being catered by our very own Rocco Caniglia, owner of Mama Mia's Restaurant.

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### JULY 31, 2011 AMHS GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING: L'ARMA DEI CARABINIERI

by *Joann Novello*



The General Society Meeting was held on Sunday, July 31, 2011, in Casa Italiana. There was a short business meeting,

followed by a luncheon catered by Tony's New York Pizza, Fairfax, VA.

The guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Giuseppe Battaglia, Military Attaché of the Carabinieri from the Italian Embassy, enlightened the Society about the history and duties of the Carabinieri. Since many Americans are not familiar with the specific law enforcement functions of the Carabinieri, the program proved to be an informative experience for the 80 AMHS members and friends in attendance. Colonel Battaglia explained that this branch of the Italian military has the special charge of policing not only the military but also civilians. He noted that there is not an equivalent in federal systems with Anglo-Saxon roots like the United States (with the exception of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police), but that countries with historical ties to France or Spain have a similar complex organizational structure. The Colonel went on to explain that Italian Carabinieri are now training police in Afghanistan in this model. We also learned that the Carabinieri can be accessed from anywhere in Europe by calling the emergency number, 112. Hopefully, none of us will ever need to put this to the test!

### AMHS CELEBRATES FERRAGOSTO

by Joann Novello



On Sunday, August 14, AMHS members and friends gathered at Villa Rosa to celebrate the Italian holiday of Ferragosto, which is traditionally commemorated on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a national holiday in Italy. To adapt to our Italian-American ways, AMHS marks the occasion with a picnic on the closest Sunday. The day began with torrential downpours, but we were determined to go ahead with the festivities under the Villa Rosa pavilion. Father Antonio Dal Balcon celebrated Mass in the Chapel, including mention of the Society in his sermon and in the special prayers. As the Mass drew to a close, the sun came out! Father Antonio said, "The Abruzzesi and Molisani really know how to pray for sunshine!"

Attendees grilled their food, shared special treats with one another, talked about old times and new and generally had a great social experience. Some played briscola or scopa, some tried their prowess at bocce, others played board games, and a few even danced to some favorite nostalgic songs. It was nice to see a number of children in attendance, and to witness them having a good time. There may not have been a huge crowd, but those present enjoyed the day, and are looking forward to returning next year.

### SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

The *Notiziario* is seeking information from members for the *Siamo Una Famiglia* column. Please let us know any milestones or significant occasions in your life or that of your extended family that you are willing to share with our readers. Births, graduations, weddings, honors, anniversaries, the passing of a family member, or any other life events are among the possibilities for submission. Photos are also welcome. Please contact Joann Novello at [novelloj@verizon.com](mailto:novelloj@verizon.com) or at 301-927-4766 with your news.

### AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Samuel Amatucci! Even though the September 10, 2011 Villa Rosa Festival was rained out, the raffle was held. Much to his surprise, AMHS member Sam Amatucci won first prize! We hope that Sam and his wife, Margherita, enjoy their good fortune. We wish them the best.

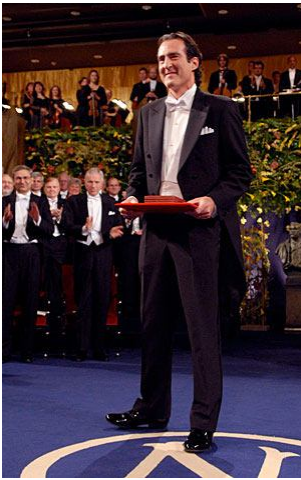
### You Will Be Missed

by Edvige D'Andrea



My brother, Robert Pitassi, passed away on August 16, 2011 after several years of battling Parkinsons disease. He was a long-time associate member of the Society and took great pleasure in reading the *Notiziario*. He was born in Pacentro, a charming village which is the home of some other long-standing Society members. After World War II he resumed his studies in Pescara, Abruzzo. In 1948 he immigrated to McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. He was welcomed in the home of his grandmother and uncles. He began working shortly after his arrival, joining his uncle, a building contractor. He learned to become a carpenter and eventually decided to start his own construction business. His greatest virtues were his compassion, generosity and sense of humor. His heart was as big as a mountain. I considered him to be both a brother and father, as my father died when I was 14 years old, about one year after I immigrated to the United States along with my mother and my sisters Candida and Victoria. He loved music and played the organ in the church in Pacentro, and he directed the choir. He continued to play the organ throughout his life until his illness prevented him from playing. He will be greatly missed by my family, his friends but most all, by me.

## Craig Cameron Mello, Nobel Prize Recipient Has Roots in Molise



Susan Auld, whose grandparents are from Montagano, Molise, who now resides in Hobe Sound, Florida, has a cousin, Dr. Craig Cameron Mello, who won the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Dr. Mello has roots in Molise, through the Primiano family, also from Montagano. The connection is through Dr Mello's grandmother, Ella Primiano, who married Frank Mello, a Portuguese from the Azores, and emigrated to the United States around 1905. Dr.

Mello was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1960. In 1962, the Mello family moved to Northern Virginia, where Craig attended Fairfax High School. Dr. Mello is a graduate of Brown University, where he majored in biochemistry and molecular biology. He then went on to Harvard University where he completed his PhD in Molecular Biology in 1990.

Craig Cameron Mello is presently Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He was awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, along with Andrew Z. Fire, for the discovery of RNA interference. The Nobel citation said: *"This year's Nobel Laureates have discovered a fundamental mechanism for controlling the flow of genetic information."*

**Sources:** Communication from Susan Auld, hampdenauld@comcast.net; [wikipedia-  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig\\_Mello](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_Mello)

### AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Maria D'Andrea, VP Membership

#### 2011 Membership Renewal

I am pleased to report that, as of mid-September, there are **293 members of AMHS!** 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: Alissa Ardito, Kathleen Dunn, Elena Francini McGrann, Roy & Anita Morton, and Tomasso & Laurie Sherman.

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

#### Birthdays

Bruno Fusco and Carmine Petrarca, September 2; Dick DiBuono, September 3; Sharon Callahan, Anthony D'Ernes, Frank Malcangio, and Lina Marinucci, September 5; Germana Miller, September 7; Maria Ventresca, September 8; Camillo Damiano, September 11; Rose Napolitano, September 18; Mary Anna Sabatini Prince, September 22; Umberto Buonassisi, September 24; Pasquale Pagliaro, September 25; Romeo Sabatini, Guy Amatucci, Jeffrey Clark, September 29; Nicola Pellegrini, October 1; John Nardella, October 4; Maria Marchegiani and Silvio Colandro, October 6; Elizabeth DiGregorio and Michael D'Onofrio, October 8; Maria Conti and John Fusciello, October 11; Mike Del Borrello, Irena DiCarlantonio, Nick Ferrante, and Mrs. Paul LaMonaca, October 12; Roger Barnsby and Renee Very, October 13; Barbara Carroll, October 14; Claudia Bagliere and Gina Damiano, October 18; and Guy Caruso, October 21.

#### Anniversaries

William Lepore, September 3; Pasquale Pagliaro, September 4; Samuel & Margherita Amatucci and John & Joan Tengler, September 5; Sergio & Maria Fresco and Bernard & Sandra Renzy III, September 6; Renato & Ines Sozio, September 8; John & Lucille Fusciello, September 13; Wil & Janet Marmura, September 18; Giulio Mario & Elia Ciccarello and Raymond Sciannella, September 21; Costantino Taglienti, September 26; Salvatore & Anna Maria DiPilla and John & Eileen Verna, October 3; Guy & Susan Amatucci and Frank & Rosemarie Rinaldi, October 4; Angelo & Elizabeth Mazzocco, October 7; Joseph & Mary Katherine Theis, October 8; Rocco & Eileen (Parise) Del Monaco, October 9; Roy & Anita Morton, October 10; Giuseppe & Loreta Mastrangelo, October 11; Alfred & Diana Del Grosso and Dianne Francesconi Lyon, October 14; Umberto & Giuseppina Buonassi, October 17; Nicola & Gay Ferrante, October 22; Mike & Rose Del Borrello, October 25; and Silvio & Yolanda Colandro, October 27.

### THE AMHS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society (AMHS) through its affiliate, Grant and Scholarship Fund, Inc. is pleased to announce the availability of two \$4000 scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year. The scholarships will be awarded to individual students as payment of tuition on behalf of the recipients.

The purpose of the scholarship awards is to recognize individuals who are interested in Italian Culture by providing financial assistance to pursue their academic studies.

AMHS has recently partnered with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) Scholarship Program for the administration of the AMHS Scholarship Program. This partnering includes NIAF matching our \$4000, resulting in a total of two \$4000 scholarships.

To be considered for a scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Be enrolled in an accredited, four-year college or university, or have been accepted for admission to such an institution for the academic year 2012-2013 in pursuit of an undergraduate program.
2. Exhibit an interest in Italian Culture and/or Language by pursuing studies in such programs.
3. Be attending or have been accepted for admission to a college or university within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC or be a resident within this 50 mile radius and attending or have been accepted for admission to a college or university outside this 50 mile radius.
4. Be willing to participate at the AMHS Annual Gala usually held in December in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. Scholarship winners and their host will have free access to this important social event.
5. Complete an application by going to the AMHS/NIAF Scholarship Application website at <http://www.niaf.org/scholarships/index.asp>
6. Applications for the academic year 2012-2013 will be accepted starting November 1, 2011 and ending March 2, 2012.

A selection of candidates that meet the above qualifications is presented to AMHS by NIAF every year. From this selection the AMHS Scholarship Committee makes the final choice of the two scholarship winners.

All qualified students are encouraged to apply, especially those with roots in the provinces of Abruzzo or Molise. We want all AMHS members and friends to inform potential candidates of this scholarship opportunity and to visit <http://www.niaf.org/scholarships/index.asp> for further information on this and other scholarships.

*Romeo R. Sabatini*  
 Chairman, AMHS Scholarship Committee  
 (Members of the AMHS Scholarship Committee are: Romeo Sabatini, Ray Bernero, Mike Corrado, Lucio D'Andrea, and Tony D'Onofrio)

## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### CORFINIO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti



The city of Corfinio in the center of the province of L'Aquila boasts a colorful history, including having once been conquered by Julius Caesar. The city is situated in the picturesque Peligna valley. It has approximately 1,064 inhabitants, who are known as Corfiniesi.

Once known as Corfinium in ancient times, this small city with the big history was conquered by Julius Caesar in 49 B.C. as he returned from the Gallic Wars (a series of military campaigns waged by Caesar which paved the way for him to become the sole ruler of the Roman Republic). And to reach Corfinio, Caesar crossed the Rubicon. (The Rubicone River flows from the Apennine mountains to the Adriatic sea through southern Emilia Romagna, and "crossing the Rubicon," referring to Caesar's army's crossing of the river in 49 B.C, has come to mean "passing a point of no return.") When Caesar reached Corfinio, he faced off against the Roman general Enobarbo with troops loyal to Pompeio. When the general escaped, the city surrendered to Caesar. After the fall of Rome, Corfinio was devastated by invasions over the centuries by the Goths, the Longobards, the Saracens and then the Normans.

The historical events of the town are featured on August 14 during the Corteo Storico (historical parade).



#### What to See

- Archeological museum with artifacts from the ancient Roman town Corfinium
- Basilica of San Pelino, known as one of the most important medieval monuments in Abruzzo. The cathedral was initially built in the 5th century and repeatedly destroyed until it was finally rebuilt in the 11th and 12th centuries in the romanesque style.
- Basilica of San Alessandro with its frescoes, named in honor of the patron saint whose feast day is May 3.

Sources: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia);  
[www.initalytoday.com/abruzzo/corfinio/index.htm](http://www.initalytoday.com/abruzzo/corfinio/index.htm);  
[www.abruzzo2000.com/abruzzo/laquila/corfinio.htm](http://www.abruzzo2000.com/abruzzo/laquila/corfinio.htm); and  
[www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/corfinio.html](http://www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/corfinio.html)

### CORFINIO, PROVINCIA DELL'AQUILA, ABRUZZO

di Nancy DeSanti

Traduzione di Maddalena Borea

La cittadina di Corfinio, nel centro della provincia dell'Aquila, vanta una storia importante perché fu conquistata da Giulio Cesare. Situata nella pittoresca valle Peligna, conta circa 1,064 abitanti, conosciuti come Corfiniesi. Anticamente chiamata col nome latino Corfinium, questo piccolissimo centro vanta in effetti una grande storia.

Nel 49 Avanti Cristo fu conquistato da Giulio Cesare mentre questi tornava dalle guerre Galliche ( la conquista di Corfinium fu probabilmente parte di una serie di vittorie belliche che resero al grande Romano più facile l'ascesa a

Capo della Repubblica di Roma). Per raggiungere Corfinio, Cesare dovette attraversare il Rubicone. Il Rubicone scorre dagli Appennini al Mare Adriatico attraverso il sud dell'Emilia Romagna; ed attraversare il Rubicone, come fece l'esercito di Cesare nel 49 Avanti Cristo, significava, come ancora oggi significa "attraversare un punto di non ritorno".

Cesare arrivò a Corfinio dove confrontò il generale romano Enobardo con truppe leali a Pompeo. Alla fuga del generale, la città si arrese a Cesare. Alla caduta di Roma, Corfinio fu occupata attraverso i secoli dai Goti, dai Longobardi, dai Saraceni e dai Normanni.

Ogni anno gli eventi storici della città vengono rappresentati attraverso una parata storica, che si tiene il 14 agosto.

Le attrazioni del luogo:

- Il Museo archeologico degli artefatti dell'antica città romana di Corfinium,
- La Basilica di San Pelino, ritenuta una dei monumenti più importanti in Abruzzo. Inizialmente costruita nel quinto secolo, fu ripetutamente distrutta e ricostruita. Nel dodicesimo secolo fu finalmente rifatta in stile romanesco
- La Basilica di Sant'Alessandro coi suoi affreschi, in onore del Santo Patrono, la cui festa cade il tre maggio.

**PALATA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE**

*By Nancy DeSanti*



The picturesque comune of Palata is located about 35 kilometers northeast of Campobasso. Palata has approximately 2,058 inhabitants, known as Palatesi. Before feudalism was abolished in 1807, Palata was under the dominion of a succession of feudal lords, beginning with Roberto della Rocca and then in 1269 passing on to a series of feudal lords until the system was

abolished nearly six centuries later. Palata also suffered a devastating earthquake in 1456. However, the town was fortunately spared the invasions experienced by other towns, more than likely because of its geography—the town has natural defenses on three sides, thus earning the title “Rocca Forte.”

The town’s important dates include: June 16 – Sant’Antonio di Padova; July 16 – Madonna del Carmine; August 16 – San Rocco (the patron saint); and December 13 – Santa Lucia

On June 13, a festival is held every year in honor of St. Anthony of Padua, when a procession of colorfully decorated wagons drawn by oxen proceeds along the streets of the town. This is believed to be a tradition inherited from the Slavic settlers who came to Palata in the 16th century.

What to See

Church of Santa Giusta, located a few kilometers outside of town, where there was a settlement dating back to Norman times, which was abandoned in the 16th century.

Sources:

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

[www.comune.palata.cb.it/ev/hh\\_anteprema\\_argomento\\_home.php?id\\_blocco=40&id;](http://www.comune.palata.cb.it/ev/hh_anteprema_argomento_home.php?id_blocco=40&id;)

[www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/palata.htm;](http://www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/palata.htm)

[www.molisecitta.it/comuni/palata.html](http://www.molisecitta.it/comuni/palata.html)

**PALATA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE**

*di Nancy DeSanti*

*Traduzione di Maddalena Borea*



Il pittoresco comune di Palata siede a quasi 35 chilometri a nordèst di Campobasso. Conta circa 2,058 abitanti, conosciuti anche come Palatesi. Prima della fine del Feudalesimo nel 1807, Palata passò, dal 1269 in poi, da un feudatario all'altro, a cominciare con Roberto della Rocca, fino a quando il sistema fu abolito circa sei secoli più tardi. Nel 1456 la cittadina fu devastata da una intensa scossa sismica. A differenza, però, di altri villaggi circostanti, non subì molte invasioni, grazie, forse, alla sua posizione geografica: ha difese naturali da tre lati, per cui è conosciuta anche come "Rocca Forte."

Le ricorrenze importanti di Palata sono: la festa di Sant'Antonio di Padova, il 16 giugno; la festa della Madonna del Carmine, il 16 luglio; la festa patronale di San Rocco, il 16 agosto; and la festa di Santa Lucia, il 13 dicembre.

Da ricordare, poi, che ogni anno, il 13 giugno, la cittadina tiene, in onore di Sant'Antonio di Padova, una processione di carri, festosamente decorati e tirati da buoi, che sfila per le vie del centro abitato. Si crede che tale tradizione sia stata lasciata alla città da colonizzatori slavi che vi si stanziarono intorno al sedicesimo secolo.

Attrazioni del luogo:

La Chiesa di Santa Giusta, a pochi chilometri dal villaggio, dove avvennero colonizzazioni sin dai tempi dei Normanni, e abbandonato, poi, nel sedicesimo secolo.

## Molisani nel Mondo

by Kirsten Keppel



*Incantevole*. The word enchants not only for its Italian vowels spilling their light across the letters' sound, but also for their meaning. *Corriere della Sera's* online dictionary says *incantevole* means "that which involves and fascinates with its beauty and quality."

To my native English ear, this word suggests what the fourth *Molisani nel mondo* conference in Campobasso this past June 20-22 offers the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society (AMHS): *invitation, initiation, involvement, and inspiration*.

*Incantevole* captures the spirit of the honor I had in June of representing the president of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of Washington, DC at the fourth conference of *Molisani nel mondo*.

Sponsored by the *Regione Molise*, the conference was a mosaic of Molisani from around the world. Several generations of Molisani emigrants and descendants now living in the United States and Canada, Argentina and Venezuela, Australia, and Europe gathered to share experiences and learn more about Molise's cultural heritage, present-day resources and future directions.

The *invitation* began for me as a phone message checked on a five-minute break from jury duty in the District of Columbia Superior Court! Dick DiBuono, President of AMHS, asked if I would represent him as a youth representative at the Conference. Since I am past the qualifying age to fit the "youth" category, and since AMHS president emeritus Lucio D'Andrea was unable to attend, I was asked to attend in their place. The honor was personal since my maternal great-grandparents both emigrated to America from Molise.

The three-day conference offered participants an *initiation* into present-day Molise by holding seminars in a different city and village each day. Opening with a mass celebrated by Monsignore Claudio Palumbo and Padre Aldo Broccato in the Cathedral of Isernia, participants were treated afterwards to choral music and a flag-throwing presentation.

The first day's opening session in the *Aula Magna "Andrea d'Isernia"* at the *Università degli Studi del Molise* began with

an address from Michele Iorio, president of the *Regione Molise*. The morning session offered a panoramic view of Molise's cultural patrimony in the session called "*I valori del Molise: i beni culturali*." (*The riches of Molise: its cultural wealth*.)

In the afternoon, participants gathered in the "*Galileo Galilei*" classroom at the *Università degli Studi del Molise* to hear presenters talk about Molise's environmental resources and the preservation of its rich flora and fauna.

The second day, participants met in Campobasso's "*Convitto Mario Pagano*" hall to hear a panel of historians, docents and representatives of Molisani living abroad discuss Molisano emigration during the time of Italy's unification. Participants were treated to a visit of the exhibit "*Il Molise, l'unità e l'Italia*" (*Molise, Unity and Italy*) in the *Palazzo del Governo*.

The afternoon began with a presentation from the folkloric artists' group "*Il Borgo Antico*" in the village of Vinchiaturro. Thematic round tables that included regional *consiglieri*, *assessori* and foreign delegates of *Molisani nel mondo* discussed several topics, including new welfare policies, tourism and related activities, Molisano culture and traditions, and territorial management. The evening featured an impressive demonstration by the *Protezione Civile* from the *Regione Molise*.

Day three in Termoli began in the "*Adriatico*" room of the *Università degli Studi del Molise*, with a seminar on Molise in Europe and the world. At this session, Joseph D'Andrea, past president of *Molisani nel Mondo* and brother of AMHS president emeritus Lucio D'Andrea, was honored in absentia for his work and longstanding commitment to upholding Molise's heritage. The afternoon in Larino offered a splendid view into one of Molise's most beautiful villages, and a concluding dinner in Campobasso lasted well into the night.

The conference suggested practical ways for *involvement* in present-day Molise by inviting participants to imagine creative collaboration and growth between Molise and the many members of its diaspora, with an emphasis on youth.

The view alone of Campobasso's *Monforte* Castle would have been enough to take my breath away for three days. The visual mosaic of Molise is *inspiration* I carry constantly in my mind's eye and heart – from Isernia's glorious cathedral to the turquoise Adriatic in Termoli, the medieval churches in villages, exhibits from the time of the Samnites, a cake with the flags of Italy and Molise, and the statue of the emigrant waving goodbye and holding a suitcase.

The flavors of Molise – from the *tratturi* on the *transumanza* to Termoli's sea-scented air, seafood and desserts accompanied by song and the artistry of a *zampogna* – last well beyond three days.

The gift of this experience included visiting Jelsi and Riccia, my great-grandparents' villages, accompanied by Dick DiBuono's cousin Antonio. To walk the streets of the villages where my great-grandparents had lived before coming to America was to gain a foothold in gratitude for the gifts they

gave by example. To walk through their villages was not only to connect with a part of my roots. It was also an invitation to imagine creative ways of continuing to uplift the gift by contributing to current routes to sharing it.

Could there exist a more fascinating (*incantevole*) opportunity for involvement in preserving our shared heritage and paying it forward for the future?

## BRUNO FUSCO BACK FROM JUDGING TALENT COMPETITIONS IN ITALY

by Nancy DeSanti

### *Bruno alla Scala*



Maestro Bruno Fusco has marked the 50th anniversary of his life in the arts in grand style, with a two-month trip to 10 cities in Italy to judge talent competitions. Maestro Fusco, a member of the AMHS Board of Directors, is a dancer, musician and producer who trained at the academy of theater at La Scala in Milano and who has organized numerous musical and dance programs for Casa Italiana over the past 15 years

and most recently produced the entertainment program for the AMHS 10th Anniversary Gala in December 2010.

One of the highlights of the trip, he said, was being interviewed for a RAI TV broadcast in July. Maestro Fusco said he felt honored to do the interview in Napoli, the city where he is from and loves so much.

(The interview can be seen at

[http://www.international.rai.it/raitalia.tv/programma.php?id\\_is\\_tanza=6145&player=sl](http://www.international.rai.it/raitalia.tv/programma.php?id_is_tanza=6145&player=sl))

Another highlight of the trip was a visit to Teatro San Carlo in Naples, where he was the guest of honor at a memorial tribute held in May for his teacher Bianca Gallizia, who developed many fine ballet dancers who went on to tour the world over and who was Maestro Fusco's dance instructor.. He said he had a very emotional reunion with some of his classmates and colleagues whom he hadn't seen for more than 20 years. (Incidentally, it's been reported that the late Lord Harwood, the grandson of King George V and Queen Mary of England, devoted most of his career to opera after seeing performances at Teatro San Carlo which amazingly continued even while he was there, during wartime).



*Teatro San Carlo, Naples*

All in all, Maestro Fusco said he was overwhelmed by the warm hospitality shown to him all along the way—many festas in his honor, and elaborate meals in homes and restaurants. In the places he visited--Terni, Napoli, Portici, San Gennaro Vesuviano, Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Giuliano in Campania, Padova, Milano, Varese and Capri--he was president of a 4-judge panel judging talent competitions, and he said he was touched by all the flowers, kisses and tributes he received.

Although he saw many talented singers and dancers, he said he was especially impressed by two singers from Napoli who he would like to bring here next spring to perform at Holy Rosary Church followed by a dinner at Casa Italiana. He said many of the dancers expressed a wish to come to the U.S. to perform, but he had to explain that the economic situation at the present time precludes that possibility for now.

In between traveling to the various cities, Maestro Fusco made time to visit his sister in Milano and his brother in Varese. After more than 2 months on the road, he said he was very happy to be back home here with his family. Welcome back, Maestro!!

## TREATS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

by Nancy DeSanti

If you're traveling to Italy this fall and love music, you might find yourself heading for Cremona, a city on the Po River in Lombardia, for the Stradivarius Exhibition. The city of Cremona is famous for its musical history and traditions, as well as for one of the earliest and most renowned stringed instrument makers, Antonio Stradivari. The Stradivarius Museum in Cremona has more than 700 examples from the late 17th and early 18th century created by Stradivari, who was renowned for the unsurpassed beauty, tone and acoustic quality of his instruments.



*Cremona, Lombardia*

For this fall's exhibit in Cremona, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, DC, is loaning two of its Stradivarius violins. The Smithsonian has recently undertaken a study using computer models to investigate the violins' structure using non-invasive research methods. (For more information, see their website:

[http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/online\\_articles\\_detail.aspx?id=562](http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/online_articles_detail.aspx?id=562)).



New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art recently exhibited guitars made by legendary craftsmen from Italy. The exhibit featured some of the magnificent guitars and also mandolins handmade by Italian artisans who mostly came to New York from Naples, which in the 19th century was known as the capital of stringed instrument production. The instruments were renowned for their superior sound as well as being artistic masterpieces inlaid with tortoiseshell, mother-of-pearl, gold, ivory and sometimes ebony. These instruments are said to be the guitars of choice for Eric

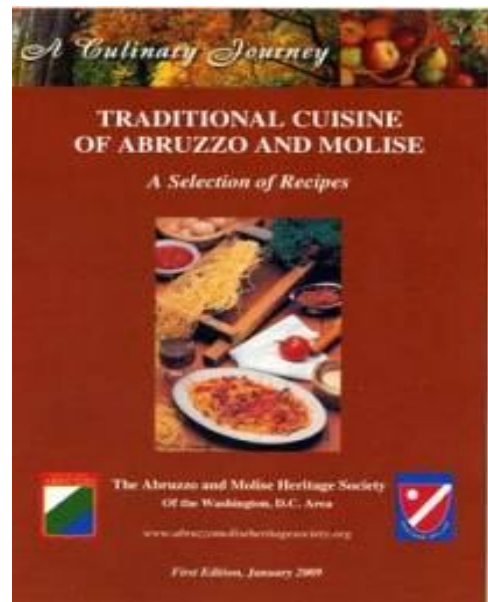
Clapton, Pete Townshend, Chet Atkins and George Benson, among others.

The Metropolitan Museum boasts iconic musical instruments including the oldest extant piano in the world, built by the inventor of the instrument, Bartolomeo Cristofori of Florence, in 1720, in addition to the Stradivarius instruments and two guitars played by Andres Segovia. The Museum's Department of Musical Instruments holds about 5,000 instruments from six continents dating from about 300 B.C. to the present, illustrating the development of musical instruments from all cultures and eras. For more information, see their website

[http://www.metmuseum.org/press\\_room/full\\_release.asp?prid={4845ABB5-FA6D-4D4C-B7DD-727CD19B51C5}](http://www.metmuseum.org/press_room/full_release.asp?prid={4845ABB5-FA6D-4D4C-B7DD-727CD19B51C5})



## Order your AMHS Cookbook



*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.*

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The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society  
of the Washington, D.C. Area



**LUNCH/MEETING**

**When:** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**LOCATION: Casa Italiana**

595 Third Street, NW

Washington, DC

**Speaker:** KIRSTEN KEPPEL, AMHS Member

**Subject:** *Il Mosaico Molisano: Reflections on the Molisani nel Mondo Conference*

**MENU:** Catered lunch by our own Rocco Caniglia, Mama Mia's Restaurant, Waldorf, MD. Includes pappardelle alla bolognese, lemon chicken, peas, salad, bread and dessert.  
Wine, water and soft drinks included.

**PRICE:** \$12.00 members -- \$15.00 non-members.

**PAID RESERVATIONS** by September 23.

**PROGRAM:** Come hear a firsthand report on Molise today: its cultural patrimony, investment in youth, history of emigration following the unification of Italy and future plans as presented at the fourth conference of Molisani nel Mondo in June! AMHS member and videographer Kirsten Keppel, an American fourth-generation descendant of a Molisano, will present a report of the conference and take you on a virtual tour of Molise with other conference participants - themselves emigrants or descendants of Molisani - from around the world. Your visit will include stops in Isernia, Pesche, Campobasso, Vinchiaturro, Termoli, Jelsi and Riccia.

For information call Joe Novello, 301-927-4766 or Dick DiBuono, 703-960-5981. **FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!**

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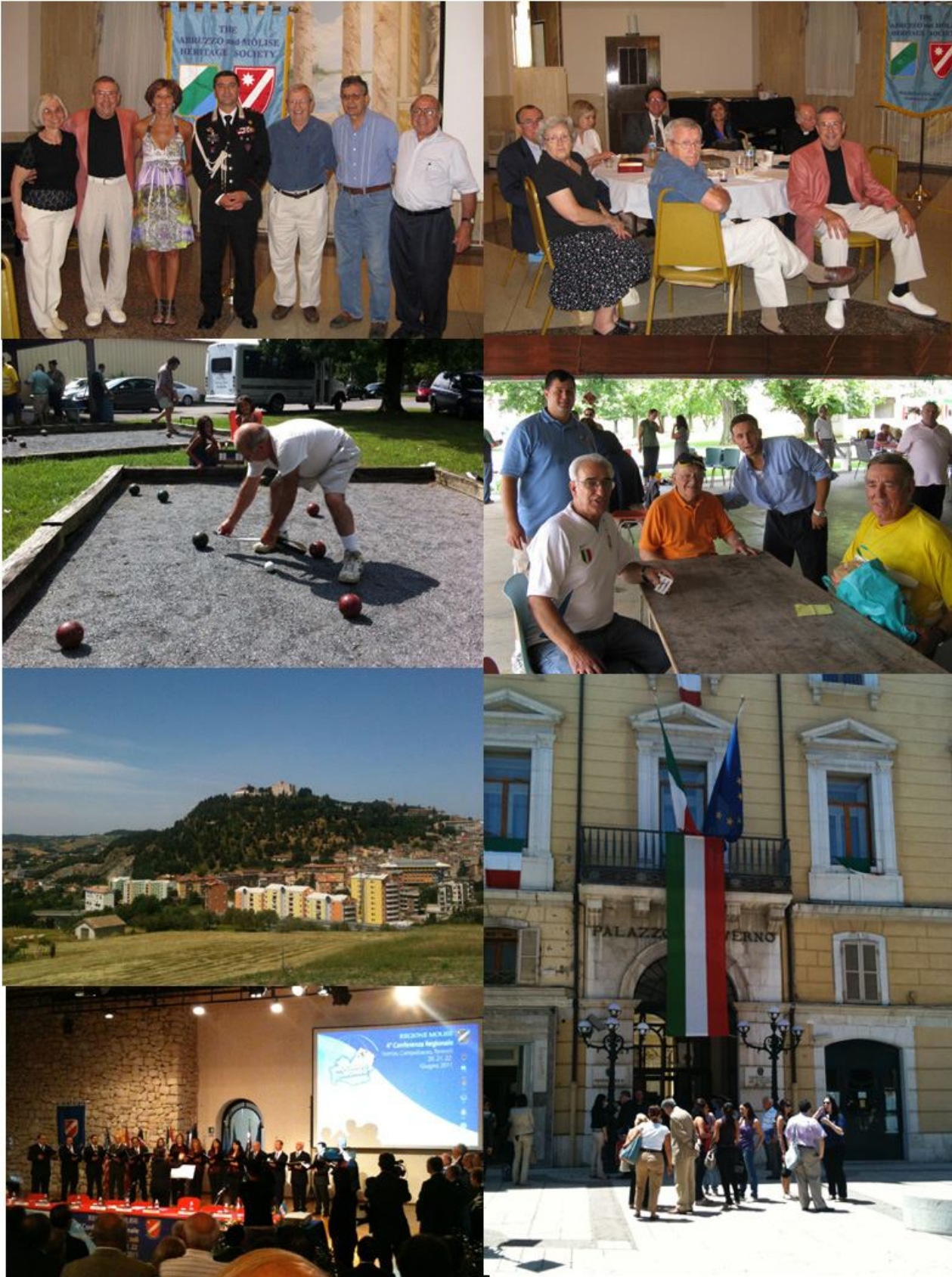
**Reservation for AMHS Meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2011**

Please make check payable to AMHS. Send to AMHS, c/o Joe Novello, 7035 Hunter Lane, Hyattsville, MD 20782

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AT THE JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> MEETING, THE FERRAGOSTO PICNIC, and KIRSTEN KEPPEL TRIP TO MOLISE





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D'Andrea uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net).  
Thank you.**

**If you wish to see the Picture Gallery of the Society's  
events, please go the AMHS web site:  
[abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org)**

The *AMHS Notiziario* is an official publication of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC area, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian society, legally incorporated in the District of Columbia. Any donation to the Society's Grant and Scholarship Fund is tax deductible.

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