



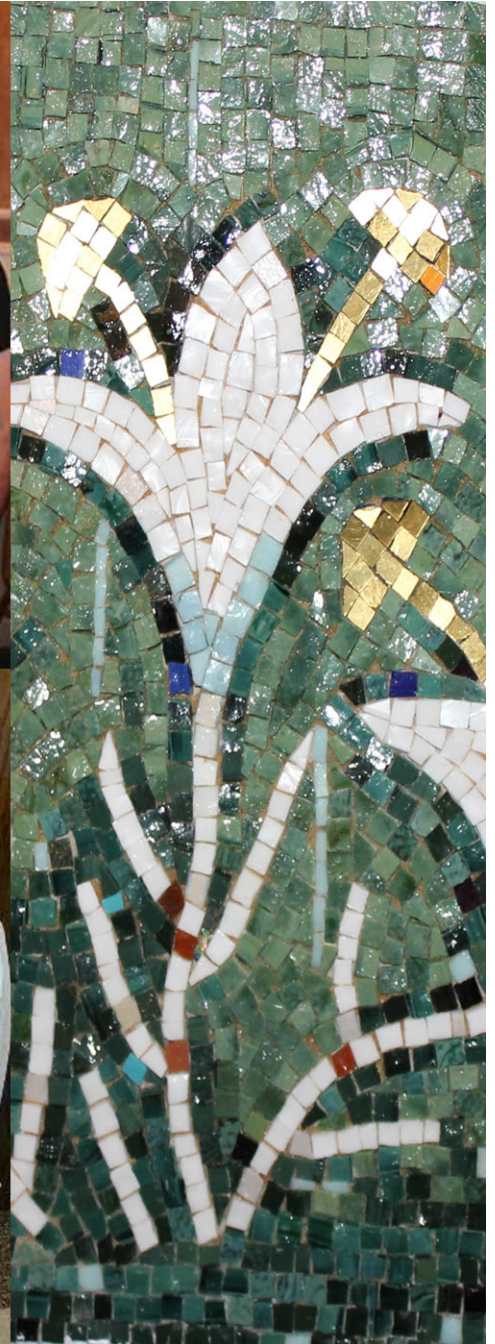
# AMHS NOTIZIARIO

The Official Newsletter of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage  
Society of the Washington, DC Area  
JULY 2014

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



## A MUSICAL SILENT AUCTION



**Top** - Antonio Bianchini, mosaicist, with Dick DiBuono who had the winning bid on Antonio's "Aquilegia" (Columbine).

**Bottom** - AMHS President Maria D'Andrea and President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea with accordionist Joan Tacchetti Grauman.

**Right** - Detail from Antonio's mosaic "Lilies."

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS:** Sunday, July 27, 2014, 1:00 p.m., general Society meeting; Sunday, August 17, 2014, Ferragosto Picnic. See inside for details.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,



As we get into the lazy, hazy days of summer – with family vacations, “prepping” our children who are going off to university, working in our gardens, relaxing at the pool – let’s not forget that AMHS does not take a break. As many of you have come to realize, AMHS DOES remain active and involved throughout the

summer!

On July 27, we will bring another great program/presentation to Casa Italiana, on three forms of art: mosaics, ceramics, and painting. We will welcome some very talented local artists who will help to explain their form of art, how it has been developed, etc. We will also hear from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of our 2013-2014 scholarship recipients, Christina Iovino. On Sunday, August 17, we will celebrate our annual Ferragosto picnic on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. This continues to be a highlight of our summer, where AMHS invites friends of the entire Italian American community to join us in food, fun, games (bocce, tombola), and music. This picnic is free – we just ask members, friends and guests to bring their own food. Everything else is provided by AMHS. Additional details for both of these events can be found elsewhere in the *Notiziario*.

In closing, I must express my deepest appreciation to the Silent Auction planning committee, the hospitality committee, and everyone else who helped at the June 1 Silent Auction. As you will read on page 2 of the *Notiziario*, the event overall was a great success in terms of meeting a fundamental objective – to raise money for our Scholarship Endowment Fund. Unfortunately, we did not have a lot of participation by our membership, despite the fact that we had advertised the event and promoted it for close to two months. Given the inordinate amount of work that went into the planning and execution of this event, the Executive Committee plans to take some time to reflect on the results of the auction and the lack of appeal amongst our membership, to determine whether such an event should be held again at a future date.

I wish everyone a happy and joy-filled summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the July 27 program and the August 17 Ferragosto picnic.

Cordiali saluti,  
Maria D’Andrea

## NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### JULY 27 PROGRAM FEATURES LOCAL ITALIAN ARTISTS

by Nancy DeSanti, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Programs

Three talented, well-known local Italian artists will have center stage. After one program on literature and another on science, it seems a good idea to have a program on the arts. For this presentation, we have sought out expert practitioners of the arts of mosaics, ceramics and painting.

Antonio Bianchini traces his interest in mosaics back to the years he spent in Rome. He later studied under two teachers from Ravenna, which is recognized as the center of Byzantine mosaics. Antonio’s elaborate mosaics are found in Poland, Albania, Italy, and the United States. Antonio will show us one of his more recent mosaics, of the *trulli* in Alberobello, which took him 45 hours to make.

Roberto Paolinelli, who was born in Pescara, is a master of the Castelli school of Italian ceramics, named after the town of Castelli in Abruzzo, famous for its hand-painted historic and religious scenes dating back to the Renaissance. Roberto teaches ceramics classes at Casa Italiana, where his students’ work was on display on June 8.

Raffaele De Gregorio is a painter and muralist whose sketch of Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana appears on the front page of the Church’s Sunday bulletin. Raffaele grew up on the island of Capri where he developed an interest in painting while working with an English film art director. Raffaele started his own company here and has created murals for many corporate offices and restaurants. He will show us the poster he designed for the White House in 1992 for the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ discovery of America.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable program. Lunch will be provided by Fontina Grille, Bethesda, MD. Please make your reservations early. For additional details about the meeting, and to make reservations by July 23, 2014, see the flyer on page 11 of the *Notiziario*.

### AUGUST 17, 2014 FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

by Maria D’Andrea

AMHS will once again host the *Ferragosto* picnic on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. This is a great opportunity to bring AMHS members, friends, and the larger Italian American community together to enjoy a day of food, fun, music, cards, tombola and – of course – bocce!

As in years past, AMHS will provide paper products, beverages, ice and charcoal for grills. We only ask that members, friends and guests bring their own food. We certainly hope to see many of you at the picnic. See the flyer on page 14 of the *Notiziario* for additional information and to RSVP.



## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### JUNE 1 SILENT AUCTION BRINGS IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

*by Lucio D'Andrea, President Emeritus, Nancy DeSanti, and Dick DiBuono, Immediate Past President*

The culmination of months of work came Sunday, June 1, 2014, when the AMHS held its first-ever Silent Auction to benefit our Scholarship Endowment Fund. Good food, good music and a chance to raise money for a good cause brought AMHS members and friends to Casa Italiana to view and bid on a wide range of items.

There were so many donated items (64 in all) of such a wide variety, it is hard to know where to start to describe them. There were the beautiful mosaics by mosaicist Antonio Bianchini; the black and white historical photographs of 1930s Italy from Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea; the painting by Angela Puglisi of the interior of Holy Rosary Church before it was restored; a hockey stick signed by Washington Capitals star Alexander Ovechkin, obtained by Sergio Fresco; a chitarra (traditional Abruzzese pasta maker) donated by Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea; a beautiful framed poster of Emilia Romagna donated by Deno Reed (carried back from Italy by his daughter Andrea); a crystal rosary hand-made by Mary Petrino; a small bottle of Holy Water from the Jordan River from Omero and Belinda Sabatini from their trip to the Holy Land; and a wonderful wine and food gift basket from John Fuscillo.

Also up for bids were many dining gift certificates from area restaurants, for performances at Wolf Trap and the Kennedy Center, a number of food and wine items – many obtained from donors by Ennio DiTullio -- and a number of paintings, household decorative items, books, and items of clothing and jewelry donated by AMHS members.

The Silent Auction took place on the same day as the Festa della Repubblica celebration, which began with a Mass celebrated in the Holy Rosary Church by Father Ezio Marchetto and then was followed by a reception in Casa Italiana.

Our Silent Auction began immediately afterwards. Among the lucky (and generous) winning bidders were Dick DiBuono, who bid \$2,160 for the beautiful framed mosaic "Aquilegia" by Antonio Bianchini - a masterpiece which contains some 24-carat gold pieces (tesserae); Rocco Del Monaco and Eileen Parise, who had the winning bid on Angela Puglisi's painting of the interior of Holy Rosary Church, as it looked when they were married there; Tricia Maltagliati, who had the winning bid on the Washington Capital's hockey stick; and Sarah Scott, who had the winning bid on a weekend stay at Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland and the poster of Emilia Romagna.

While the attendees walked around examining the items spread out on nine long tables, they enjoyed some delicious antipasti and other treats from Carmine's Restaurant in Penn

Quarter and the always-popular gelati from Dolci Gelati, generously donated by owner Gianluigi Dellaccio (the pistachio was a big hit).

The attendees also could enjoy listening to music by Joan Tacchetti Grauman, an accordionist whose father's family is from Abruzzo. Joan's father played the accordion as a young man, and she grew up playing the piano and dancing but eventually she took up her father's instrument. Nowadays, Joan directs a group of nine accordionists and teaches the accordion. Among the songs she played were "O Mio Babbino Caro", "Marechiaro" and "Torna a Surriento". Since the audience enjoyed Joan's playing so much, we have invited her back, and she has agreed to play for us again at an AMHS program in the fall.



*(AMHS President Maria D'Andrea with AMHS member Angelo Puglisi who had two winning bids!)*

All totaled, the auction raised \$4,760 for our Scholarship Endowment Fund. The event took months of hard work and planning by many, but special thanks must be given to Lucio D'Andrea and Dick DiBuono (co-chairmen of the event) and AMHS President Maria D'Andrea, who all worked so hard. Lynn Sorbara and her hospitality team (Peter Bell, Margaret Uglow and Albert Paolantonio) ensured that the food

was set out in stages throughout the nearly three-hour event. Thanks must also be given to others who helped obtain the donations, especially Ennio DiTullio, and to the many volunteers who helped set up and man the reception desk and the bid tables, including Luciana Caleb, David Ciummo, Ted Cocca, Edvige D'Andrea, Nancy DeSanti, Cecilia Fiermonte, Kirsten Keppel, Ray LaVerghetta, Lena Lupica, Deno Reed, Sarah Scott, and Eileen and John Verna. We also wish to warmly thank Father Ezio Marchetto for his logistical assistance and kind support of our event.

And a big "thank you" to all who donated items for the auction (**see the list of donors on page 10**) and to those of you who came out to support this worthy cause. Grazie mille. We appreciate you!!



## AMHS MEMBERSHIP

by Sarah Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Membership

AMHS is now 264 members and growing! Although membership renewals come in, we are also attracting new members. Keep up the great work of promoting AMHS activities.

Our Society strives to preserve our Italian heritage and offer a variety of events to enhance our community. Not only do we have wonderful activities and publication of the *Notiziario*, AMHS members can now get all the benefits of an associate membership in NIAF (National Italian American Foundation) for half-off the regular fee. We already have several members who have taken advantage of this benefit of AMHS membership. Please read the details about this program on page 5 of the *Notiziario*.

We continue to use social networking and posting pictures of our events. Please take some time to visit our AMHS Facebook page and hit the "Like" button to follow our updates,

<https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety>.

### New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: Mary Del Popolo and Andrew & Christi Marotta. We should all feel free to reach out to welcome our newest members and support them in any way that we can.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following members celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in July and August. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e auguri!*

#### Birthdays

Amy Profit D'Amico, July 1; Vincenzo Marinucci, July 3; Vincent Trasatti, July 4; Mary Del Popolo, Dianne Lyon, July 6; John Verna, July 7; Antoniette Mazziotti, July 9; Karen Berl, Nancy Romagnoli, July 10; Dr. Raymond Bernero, July 12; David Ciummo, July 13; Michael Corrado, July 14; Anthony D'Onofrio, July 15; Angelo Puglisi, Ines Sozio, July 17; Nancy Hurst, July 18; Mario Ciccone, July 21; Lina Pronio, July 23; Silvio Pronio, July 26; Lynn Sorbara, July 27; Kathleen Dunn, July 31; Ray LaVerghetta, August 5; Antoniette Bacik, Silvana DeLuca, August 6; Nancy DeSanti, August 15; Joseph Ruzzi, Sr., August 16; Henry Colletto, August 17; Angela Campanella, August 21; Robert Lucian, Joseph Novello, August 23; Yolanda Colandreo, August 24; Frank Rinaldi, August 26; Anthony Frato, August 27; Donna Caruso, August 30; Rosa Mazziotti, August 31.

#### Anniversaries

Joseph & Joann Novello, July 7; Dr. Louis & Olga DeSanti, July 14; Sabatino & Antoniette Mazziotti, Renato & Rita Orcino, July 19; James & Nancy Palumbo, July 24; Stephen Digirolamo & Christine Smith, July 25; Stephan & Rita Carrier, July 30; David & Sabrina Ciummo, July 30; Joseph & Pam Lupo, Louis & Mary Joan Sacchetti, August 5; Pasquale & Filomena Santini, August 7; Jack & Virginia Paganelli,

August 10; Andrew & Christi Marotta, August 14; Domenico & Julia Conti, August 19; Guy & Donna Caruso, August 26; Emanuele & Frances De Marco, August 26.

## AMHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

By Dick DiBuono, Chair, AMHS Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee recently completed its work of reviewing and evaluating the four applicants who qualified for the two \$4,000 AMHS scholarships that our Society, in partnership with the National Italian American Foundation, will award for the 2014-15 academic year. The Committee, composed of Peter Bell, Ray Bernero, Ray LaVerghetta, Romeo Sabatini and this writer, is proud to announce that the following two applicants were chosen as the winners of these scholarships: **Christina McGrath** of Staten Island, New York and **Sophia Labas** of Alexandria, Virginia.

Christina, who traces her Italian ancestry to the regions of Campania and Sicily, is a student of Italian language and art history at Georgetown University, where she will be a senior beginning in the fall.

Sophia, whose Italian heritage lies in the region of Basilicata, was a senior at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School at the time of her application and will be an entering freshman this fall at Boston University where she will be studying Italian language and history.

As has customarily been done, Christina and Sophia will be invited to address the membership at one of our future general Society meetings, where you will be able to learn more about them and the importance of our scholarships to their studies. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of those members who donated to our annual scholarship fund in 2013. Thank you.

## SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

### CONDOLENCES TO THE BERNERO FAMILY



Virginia (Gini) Elaine Bernero died on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, VA. In spite of a 2006 diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma, she never surrendered to the disease. Relying on faith, physicians, family and friends, she survived four years beyond her doctors' predictions. During her illness, she continued to be an active member in her parish, local charitable organizations and she supported those in need in her community. Gini was a devoted wife and

mother who was dedicated to raising her four children with her husband, Ray. She enjoyed staying active with her children, keeping up with friends and neighbors (she loved the game of Bridge), and worked as a library aide for Fairfax County for over 20 years.

Gini was born in Potsdam, NY to parents Elwin S. and Genevieve C. Shoemaker. Her younger brother, Elwin Shoemaker, predeceased her in February of this year. Gini is survived by her husband of 62 years, Raymond J. Bernero, her oldest daughter, Clare Ann, sons John Joseph (Donna Lynn) and David Martin (Catherine), and daughter, Jane Frances Herdman (Kirk). She has eight beautiful grandchildren, Chloe, Madeline, Maria, Cole, Dominic, Gage, Bailey and Lily.

Gini will be remembered by her refreshingly honest, witty and welcoming personality. Her warm smile and alluring sense of humor made her approachable and put others at ease. She loved to laugh, and reminded others to take life less seriously, to nurture their relationships and to love one another. She was a person of great substance, depth and inner strength. She had a tremendous faith in God and His promise of eternal life. She is now without pain and will be forever in our hearts. *(submitted by Janie Herdman, Gini's daughter).*

Gini was a long-time member of AMHS who supported many of our activities and events. She will be missed. A mass will be said for Gini, at Holy Rosary Church, at noon on Sunday, August 10.

## NEW GRANDSON FOR AMHS BOARD MEMBER BRUNO FUSCO



Maestro Cav. Bruno Fusco and his wife Joanne are pleased to announce that God has blessed their family with a new grandchild.

Their new grandson was born to their daughter Cassandra and her husband John Hoyer on May 20, 2014, their first child after 15 years of marriage. The family

said a prayer of thanksgiving for this beautiful baby boy, Connor Nathaniel Hoyer, who weighed in at 8 pounds and 14 ounces. Connor is Bruno and Joanne's third grandchild. Their son Francesco has two sons: 7-year-old Enzo and 5-year-old Marco. *(submitted by Bruno Fusco).*

## NIAF AFFILIATE PROGRAM

by Maria D'Andrea



Just a reminder of the wonderful, new opportunity for our members brought to us by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). NIAF has created a new affiliate program that allows members of other Italian American organizations to leverage the benefits of a national organization while still being affiliated with and involved with their respective organizations. For the price of \$25.00 per person, AMHS members will be affiliated with NIAF and will be given all of the membership benefits of a NIAF Associate Member (the cost of this membership outside of the affiliate program is \$50.00!).

This partnered affiliation will provide AMHS members with a monthly member newsletter, a membership card that includes the NIAF and AMHS logos, a yearlong subscription to *Ambassador Magazine*, access to the NIAF Member's only section on [www.NIAF.org](http://www.NIAF.org), and a NIAF member lapel pin. Members would also gain access to certain discounts to various companies partnered with NIAF.

If you are interested in joining in this new partnership, please fill out the NIAF Affiliate Member application form, which is found on page 12 of the *Notiziario*. AMHS will be responsible for collecting the names and email addresses of interested persons, as well as collecting the \$25.00 per person membership fee, which is valid for one full year, i.e., if you join NIAF as an associate member in July 2014, the membership would carry over to July 2015. Sarah Scott, AMHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Membership, will maintain the list of names and email addresses for those persons who have joined NIAF as an associate member.

AMHS will submit your name and email address to NIAF as the membership requests are received; NIAF will invoice us for payment at a later date. NIAF will notify you when your associate membership becomes active, and will in turn send you a membership card. NIAF will be responsible for notifying you when your membership is due to expire; you will notify AMHS if you want to renew your membership. If you have any questions on this program, please contact Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net) or Sarah Scott, [sara\\_geco@yahoo.com](mailto:sara_geco@yahoo.com). To learn more about NIAF, visit [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org)

To date only 8 AMHS members have signed up to join NIAF as an associate member. We encourage everyone who is already not a member of NIAF, to take advantage of this wonderful, new opportunity.



## A SUCCESS STORY

by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member



(Maddalena with Soloman in her Kennedy Center classroom)

I have been working with the Placido Domingo Young Artists group at the Washington National Opera for almost 20 years, and of course I always hope the young artists all will go on to have big careers in opera. Once in a while, though, that actually happens. Right now, I am very proud of my student Soloman Howard.

I work with my young singers to teach them how to properly pronounce the Italian words, but I also try to instill in them not just a love for opera, but also a love for the Italian language and culture - and of course the food!! These young singers don't make much money, so sometimes I invite them to my home for dinner and some of my homemade limoncello.

The students come from all over the world with very different cultures. Soloman Howard grew up right here in Washington, DC and began singing in church at the age of three. Who could have imagined this young guy - who grew up in a tough neighborhood in Southeast - would have such a talent for singing opera?

Fortunately, a high school teacher recognized his talent, which he then developed at Morgan State University, where he was given a full scholarship to sing in the choir. This spring, Soloman is in his third and final season with the Young Artists Program at the Kennedy Center. During his time with us, he appeared in such productions as *Don Giovanni*, the *Magic Flute*, the *Force of Destiny*, and he had the title role playing Muhammad Ali in the world premiere of *Approaching Ali*.

One can't help noticing that Soloman is a sharp dresser and also a well-mannered young man, "*molto educato*". We were all very happy for him when he recently made his Carnegie Hall debut as a soloist. Now we have just learned that Soloman has been signed by the Metropolitan Opera of New York. He will appear at the Met next year in *Aida*, and he will also be singing with the Los Angeles Opera. When I was helping him with his diction in preparation for the audition at the Met, I felt that he could do it. Now it's a dream come true, and I could not be more proud. (If you would like to watch a video of one of my lessons with Soloman, please go to [http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity\\_id=80576&source\\_type=A](http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity_id=80576&source_type=A))

And this month, Soloman was in the opera "An American Soldier," based on the true story of Private Danny Chen, a Chinese-American soldier who was allegedly driven to suicide

by his fellow soldiers in Afghanistan. Soloman plays the role of the military judge who gave light sentences to the soldiers who threw rocks at Danny's head and made him endure physical abuse and racial slurs. The review by the Washington Post's opera critic said Soloman is "shaping up to be one of WNO's success stories." After the opera's premiere at the Kennedy Center on June 13, there was a panel discussion with Danny Chen's mother and others, and some of the audience members were in tears.

*Io lavoro per l'Opera da quasi vent'anni, e non ho mai incontrato un essere più gentile di Soloman, ed un talento più vero. Si può dire veramente di lui che lui, grazie alle sue qualite morali e canore, è salito dalla stalla alle stelle. In other words, his story is truly a "rags to riches" story!!*

I am also very proud of another singer I worked with who sang the title role of Andrea Chenier at Casa Italiana on June 7. My former student Jesus Hernandez gave a wonderful performance, and the audience seemed to really appreciate him and the other performers from the Riverbend Opera Company of Fairfax, Virginia. Jesus is from Mexico. He joined the U.S. Army and was deployed to Iraq, where he saved a fellow soldier's life. After his service in Iraq, he came back to the U.S. and came to the attention of Placido Domingo himself. As soon as he heard Jesus sing, he immediately hired him for his Young Artists' Group, where I had the pleasure of teaching him for three years.

I wish the best of luck to my two students Soloman and Jesus and hope they have wonderful careers in the opera.

## PUGLIA EXPLORED

by Nancy DeSanti

A few months ago, the Order Sons of Italy (OSIA) Fairfax Lodge officer Joe LaMarca invited three AMHS members to give a presentation on the southern Italian region of Puglia (the "heel of the boot"). Joe and his wife June went on a trip to Puglia with me in October 2013 which we all enjoyed very much. So on May 3, 2014, Cecilia Fiermonte, Antonio Bianchini and I traveled to Fairfax, Virginia to speak to the members of the OSIA lodge.

Cecilia had prepared a wonderful powerpoint presentation on Puglia, an area she knows well since her parents and sister were born near Bari and she has been back there a number of times. She showed us some photos of her family including her father who was an alpino (elite mountain soldier). Before she became a lawyer, Cecilia was an art history major, and so she gave a very knowledgeable and informative presentation on the art, architecture and history of Puglia.

She talked about the beautiful mosaics of Otranto, the Roman amphitheater and the Basilica of Santa Croce in Lecce, the famous Castel del Monte (pictured on the one-cent euro coin), the churches of Trani, the rocky cliffs of Polignano a Mare, the trulli (conical houses) of Alberobello, the beautiful beaches along the Gargano coast and so much more. Cecilia also told

us a lot about Bari, the capital of Puglia, with its Swabian castle, its maze-like old quarter (Bari Vecchia), the more modern part which has wide avenues such as the Via Sparano lined with palm trees and many high-end designer stores, and the beautiful waterfront area Passegiata Lungomare.

Cecilia also played a video of the pizzica folk dancing which originated in the Salento area of southeastern Puglia and has become so popular that every summer there is a Notte della Taranta, an all-night affair featuring well-known musicians and pizzica orchestras.



(trulli mosaic by Antonio Bianchiani)

Then Antonio showed his mosaic of the famous trulli of Alberobello. He brought his tools to better explain to the audience how he made this beautiful mosaic through a painstaking process over a period of 45 hours. To learn more about Antonio's work, we invite you to come to our July 27 program at Casa Italiana (see related article in this issue).

Hopefully the audience was left with an appreciation of - and desire to go to - this wonderful region which does not see that many visitors.

## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### PINETO, PROVINCE OF TERAMO, ABRUZZO

by Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea



The sandy, seaside town of Pineto is set on Teramo's coastline. Pineto is part of Abruzzo's "Sette Sorelle", meaning "7 Sisters," which are the 7 beach resorts in Teramo; the others are Martinsicuro, Alba Adriatica, Tortoreto, Giulianova, Roseto degli Abruzzi, and Silvi Marina. Pineto has everything you could want from any seaside town along the Adriatic coast.

Pineto has approximately 14,430 inhabitants, known as Pinetesi. But what makes the town distinctive is the pine trees. A tree-lined route from the old hillside village of Mutignano leads to Pineto's forests beside the beach, where one can walk or bike while enjoying the fragrance of the sea, salt and pines. Pineto's beaches have received the coveted "Blue Flag" (by the Foundation for Environmental Education) signifying water quality. In the summer, the town draws thousands of tourists from abroad.

The town was built at the turn of the 20th century so there are no medieval houses or churches. Two kilometers from the town's center is the Tower of Cerrano (Torre di Cerrano) which was built in the 16th century by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V as a watchtower to guard against attacks by the Turks and others based in what is now Croatia, which is only 100 kilometers across the Adriatic. Today, this tower houses a modern sea-biology laboratory, one of the most important sea labs in Italy, specializing in sea sponges. There are future plans which include building a Sea Park.

The story of the town really takes shape in the early 1920s, when a wealthy man named Luigi Filiani, whose family had long been active in building in the surrounding areas, decided to develop the area as a beach resort, enhanced by the planting of pine trees. Filiani received government permission to plant a pine wood that would revert to the state after 25 years. He leveled the ground and planted 2,000 umbrella pines (pinus pinea) along the beach. He also planted pine, oak and laurel trees on the surrounding hills.

Inspired by the poem "*La Pioggia nel Pineto*" ("Rain in the Pinewoods") by Gabriele D'Annunzio, Filiani changed the name of the town to Pineto in 1925. (AMHS members may recall Professor Roberto Severino's January 26, 2014 talk on D'Annunzio, during which we watched a beautifully narrated video of that poem accompanied by a Chopin melody. Some in the audience remembered having to memorize the poem as schoolchildren).

#### What to See

- Tower of Cerrano (Torre di Cerrano)
- Corridoio Verde Adriatico bike path

#### Important Dates

- January 21: Feast of St. Agnes, the town's patron saint
- August: Festival of bread

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pineto>



<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://www.abruzzocitta.it/&prev=/search?q%3Dabruzzo%2Bcitta%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us>  
<https://www.google.com/search?q=pineto+italy&sa=N&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&tbn=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&ei=HVkaU9HmGamM1AG11YCgBw&ved=0CDgQsAQ4Cg&biw=1680&bih=826>  
<http://www.lifeinabruzzo.com/pineto-beach-not-just-for-summer/>

## PINETO, PROVINCIA DI TERAMO, ABRUZZO

Pineto, cittadina marittima sulla costiera adriatica, è una di sette sorelle, cioè uno di sette luoghi di villeggiatura nei pressi di Teramo.

Conta circa 14,430 abitanti, chiamati Pinetesi. L'attrazione di Pineto sono i suoi pini. Un filare di questi magnifici alberi va dall'antico villaggio collinoso di Mutignano, fino alle foreste di Pineto.

Ciò offre la possibilità ai locali e ai tanti villeggianti di fare lunghe passeggiate o di andare in bicicletta lungo questo naturale corridoio, e godere l'odore dei pini, del mare e del suo sale. Essendo il suo mare considerato uno dei più limpidi e più ecologicamente puri, Pineto e le altre sorelle attraggono un incredibile numero di turisti, da tutte le parti del mondo. Le altre sorelle sono Martinsicuro, Alba Adriatica, Tortoreto, Giulianova, Roseto degli Abruzzi, Silvi Marina.

Essendo stata costruita all'inizio del ventesimo secolo, Pineto non offre case o chiese antiche. A due chilometri dal centro, però, si trova la Torre di Cerrano, costruita nel sedicesimo secolo da Carlo V, come osservatorio dal quale guardarsi dagli attacchi dei turchi e di altri incursori, residenti nell'odierna Croazia, distante dalla costa adriatica solo 100 chilometri. Questa torre è oggi sede di laboratorio biologico marittimo, uno dei più importanti d'Italia, specializzato nella ricerca delle spugne di mare.

La storia della cittadina ha origine intorno al 1920, quando un certo Luigi Filani, la cui famiglia aveva costruito altri centri abitati nei dintorni, decise di costruire un luogo di villeggiatura e piantarvi intorno i famosi pini. Questi ricevè permesso dal governo di piantare una vera e propria pineta, che in 25 anni sarebbe diventata proprietà del demanio. Piantò in tutto 2000 pini, querce e alberi di alloro.

I pini ispirarono la famosa poesia del poeta locale Gabriele D'Annunzio, "La pioggia nel pineto". Il costruttore di questa cittadina conferì il nome di Pineto al centro abitato nel 1925. Recentemente il Professore Roberto Severino, durante una conferenza dello scorso gennaio, ci ha presentato un video del poema di D'Annunzio, con sottofondo di musica di Chopin, e durante la stessa conferenza alcuni membri della società AMHS hanno ricordato che, da bambini, dovettero imparare a memoria "La pioggia nel pineto" per i loro maestri.

## Attrazioni del luogo

- Torre di Cerrano
- La pineta, o Corridoio verde.

## Date da ricordare

- 21 Gennaio: Festa di Sant'Agnese, La Santa Patrona.
- Agosto: La Sagra del Pane

## LUCITO, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE

by Nancy DeSanti

translated by Maddalena Borea



Lucito is a small town located about 20 kilometers north of Campobasso. It has approximately 904 inhabitants, known as Lucetesi.

The earliest certain information about Lucito dates from 1266, when it was mentioned as a possession of Bernardo of Lucito. The name Lucito may come from the word "lucus," which was a Latin word for wood consecrated to the gods.

Not much is known about the events in the town from Norman times until the Swabian period. In the beginning, Lucito was made up of four small neighborhoods a short distance apart. Some historians believe that the origins of Lucito go back to the 6th century to the time of the Lombards. Their view was bolstered by the discovery of tombstones found on the banks of the Biferno river nearby.

At any rate, Lucito belonged for a long time to the same Castelbottaccio lords and was acquired in 1655 by the Capecelatro family, who remained in power until 1806, when the feudal system was abolished. One of that family's members, Alfonso Capecelatro, became archbishop of Capua and later a cardinal; he even received some votes in a papal conclave.

Nowadays, Lucito is known for its wind farms. In 2008, a major wind turbine manufacturer equipped the wind farms with towers 80 meters high and 37-meter blades.

## What to See

- The Marquis Palace
- Church of San Nicola di Bari, with a 17th century canvas by Fabrizio Santafede



### Important Dates

- May 1: Festival of Defenza (Spring Welcoming Rites)
- May 11-12: Festival of St. Nicolas (patron saint)
- August 16: Festival of San Rocco

### Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucito>  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=lucito+italy&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&tbs=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=dvYdU8\\_2OsqB0AGviYDoCw&ved=0CEEQsAQ&biw=1680&bih=826](https://www.google.com/search?q=lucito+italy&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&tbs=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=dvYdU8_2OsqB0AGviYDoCw&ved=0CEEQsAQ&biw=1680&bih=826)  
<http://www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/lucito.htm>  
<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://www.molisecitta.it/&prev=/search?q%3Dmolise%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us>  
[http://www.renco.it/viewdoc.asp?co\\_id=159](http://www.renco.it/viewdoc.asp?co_id=159)

### **LUCITO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE**

Lucito è un piccolo centro abitato, a circa 20 chilometri a nord di Campobasso. Conta circa 904 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Lucetesi.

Le più remote notizie di questo villaggio risalgono al 1266, quando era possedimento di un certo Bernardo di Lucito. Il nome di questo piccolo centro forse deriva dal latino "lucus", che significa bosco consacrato agli dei.

Non si sa molto degli eventi durante la presenza dei Normanni o dei Sabini, ma si sa che inizialmente Lucito era un centro abitato formato da quattro piccole frazioni, non molto distanti l'una dall'altra. Alcuni storici, però, fanno risalire le origini di Lucito al sesto secolo, ai tempi dei Lombardi, e basano la loro teoria sulla scoperta di pietre tombali sulle rive del fiume Biferno, nei pressi del villaggio. In tutti i casi Lucito appartenne per molto tempo ai Signori Castelbottaccio, e fu poi acquistata nel 1655 dalla famiglia Capecelatro, che vi rimase fino al 1806, quando fu abolito il sistema feudale.

Un membro di questa famiglia, un certo Alfonso Capecelatro, già arcivescovo di Capua, fu cardinale e fu anche candidato al seggio papale durante un conclave.

Oggi Lucito è famosa per i suoi centri di generatori eolici, e nel 2008 un industriale tedesco fornì a questi centri torri alte 80 metri con eliche lunghe 37 metri..

### Attrazioni del luogo

- Il Palazzo dei Marchesi
- La chiesa di San Nicola di Bari con un dipinto su tela del diciassettesimo secolo dell'artista Fabrizio Santafede

### Date da ricordare

- 1 Maggi: Rito della Defenza (Saluto alla Primavera)
- 11-12 Maggio: Festa di San Nicola, Santo Patrono

- 16 Agosto: Festa di San Rocco

## **ARMA DEI CARABINIERI. DUE SECOLI DI STORIA ITALIANA**

*The following item has been excerpted from the blog of Michele Petrarola, Vice Presidente Giunta Regionale del Molise, written on 8 June 2014*



Arma dei Carabinieri, da due secoli al servizio dei cittadini e delle istituzioni per affermare il rispetto della legge ed il ruolo dello stato!

Salvo D'Aquisto e Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa sono i nomi più noti dei tanti Carabinieri che hanno pagato con la vita la propria fedeltà allo Stato, anche quando lo Stato si era liquefatto

dopo l'8 settembre del 1943 o non faceva il proprio dovere fino in fondo come accadde quell'3 settembre del 1982 a Palermo. L'Arma dei Carabinieri dal 13 luglio 1814 ai giorni nostri è stata un riferimento costante per i cittadini, distinguendosi per abnegazione e spirito di sacrificio anche nelle situazioni più disperate.

Furono i Carabinieri ad arrestare Benito Mussolini il 25 luglio del 1943 e successivamente furono i Carabinieri ad arrestare Luciano Liggio ed altri capi mafia fino a Totò Riina. L'impegno profuso nella lotta al terrorismo, l'arresto di Raffaele Cutolo e la meritoria presenza in migliaia di comuni dove quotidianamente hanno assolto alle proprie funzioni al fianco delle istituzioni locali e al servizio dei cittadini, fanno dell'Arma dei Carabinieri un baluardo della legalità e del senso del dovere nei confronti dello Stato. Il Molise ha conosciuto ed apprezzato questo delicato ruolo di tutela dell'ordine pubblico. Sulla Piazza d'Armi della Allievi il Molise tutto renderà omaggio a questi due secoli di storia e celebrerà le migliaia e migliaia di Carabinieri semplici che con il loro impegno hanno servito lo Stato, garantito la sicurezza sul territorio, contrastato la criminalità e tutelato i cittadini con dedizione, spirito di servizio, attaccamento al dovere e disponibilità al sacrificio.

### **DON'T MISS . . . THE 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ITALIAN FESTIVAL AT VILLA ROSA, MITCHELLVILLE, MD, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

The Festival is BACK! Outdoor mass at 11:00 a.m., and festival runs until 6:00 p.m. AMHS will again volunteer to sell the wine and promote our Society. AMHS members and friends who wish to volunteer, please contact Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net)

## DONORS TO THE JUNE 1, 2014 SILENT AUCTION

We are extremely grateful to the generous donations made by the following businesses, individuals, and AMHS members:

### ***Businesses & Individuals (non-AMHS members)***

Associazione Regionale Abruzzese  
A. Litteri, Inc.  
Café Milano  
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Casa Italiana Ceramics Class  
Colavita USA, LLC  
Sandra & Rial Coleman, on behalf of  
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Andrea-Saturno-Sanjana (daughter of members  
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Giulia Scappaciccio, owner, Casale Centurione,  
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Sport&Health Clubs  
Stable Education Consultants, LLC  
Tesoro Restaurant  
Tony's New York Pizza  
Verizon Center/Monumental Network  
Wolf Trap Farm Park

### ***AMHS Members***

Antonio Bianchini  
Jeff Clark  
Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea  
Maria D'Andrea  
Dick DiBuono  
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The  
Abruzzo and Molise  
Heritage Society  
Of the Washington, DC Area



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



*(Mosaic by Antonio Bianchini)*



*(Casa Italiana ceramics teacher Roberto Paolinelli)*

~ LUNCHEON MEETING ~

***“Local Italian Artistry: Mosaics,  
Ceramics & Painting”***

*Presented by*

**Antonio Bianchini (mosaics)**

**Roberto Paolinelli (ceramics)**

**Raffaele De Gregorio (painting)**

**WHEN:** Sunday, July 27, 2014

**TIME:** 1:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Casa Italiana

595 Third Street, NW | Washington, DC

**MENU:** Lunch will be catered by Fontina Grille, Bethesda, MD, with a menu of penne alla vodka, meatballs, chicken, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages.

**COST:** \$20.00 for members; \$25.00 for non-members.

**PAID RESERVATIONS DUE JULY 23, 2014.**

**PROGRAM:** AMHS members, friends and guests – be sure to join us for a fascinating presentation by three talented, well-known local Italian artists. Antonio Bianchini will talk about how he practices the painstaking mosaic technique developed in Ravenna. Roberto Paolinelli will focus on the ceramics technique that is the specialty of his hometown, Castelli, Abruzzo. Raffaele De Gregorio, a painter and muralist from Capri, will explain his technique and showcase the poster he designed for the White House in 1992 in commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus’ discovery of America. The artists will also discuss the Italian influence on today’s American arts and the importance and pleasure of their art. We will also hear from Christina Iovino, one of the 2013-2014 AMHS/NIAF scholarship recipients.

For information call Joe Novello (301) 927-4766 or Dr. Lynn Sorbara (301) 926-7792

All are welcome!

✂----- Return with Payment

**Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, July 27, 2014**

Please make check payable to AMHS.

Send to AMHS, c/o Joe Novello, 7035 Hunter Lane, Hyattsville, MD 20782

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



THE NATIONAL  
ITALIAN AMERICAN  
FOUNDATION



***NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION AFFILIATE PROGRAM***

**NIAF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

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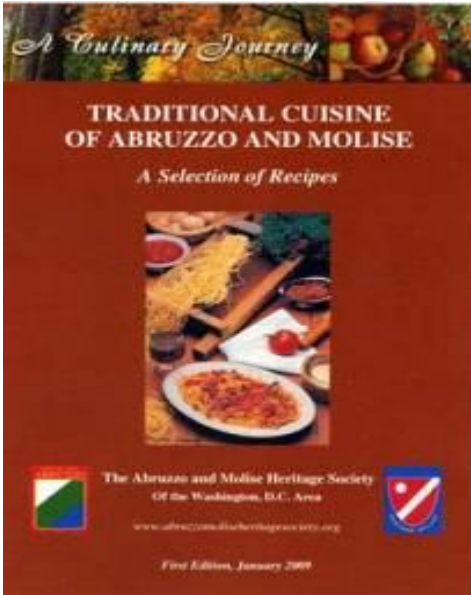
Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE** to AMHS

Mail this form, and the \$25.00 per person membership, to: AMHS  
c/o Jeff Clark, Treasurer  
12 Adams Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001



## THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE COOKBOOK



*"Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes,"* assembled for the enjoyment of AMHS members.

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

Make check payable to AMHS, c/o Maria D'Andrea,  
4669 Lawton Way, #104, Alexandria, VA 22311


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### THE AMHS LOGO POLO SHIRT

 <p><b>Model A - Enlarge</b></p> <p><b>Model B - Enlarge</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model A</b></p> <p><b>MATERIAL:</b> 53% combed cotton 47% polyester "EDRY" tm fabric <b>COLOR:</b> light blue <b>MEN's sizes (only):</b> S / M / XL <b>WOMEN's sizes:</b> M / L / XL</p> <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$25 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model B</b></p> <p><b>MATERIAL:</b> 60% cotton 40% polyester regular fabric <b>COLOR:</b> light blue</p> <p><b>WOMEN's sizes (only):</b> M / L</p> <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$20 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>
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c/o Richard Di Buono, 5660 Ridgeview Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310



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

## ***FERRAGOSTO PICNIC*** **SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2014**

**Villa Rosa Nursing Home Grounds, Mitchellville, MD**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



### **Schedule of Activities**

**12:30 PM:** *Ferragosto* – a 2000-year tradition - begins

- Music
- Card games, e.g. Briscola, Tressette (*Please bring your own cards*)
- Tombola
- Bocce tournaments

**5:00 PM:** *Ferragosto* ends

### **Food and Drink**

- Bring your own picnic basket of food
- Soft drinks, bottled water, beer, wine and ice will be provided
- Grills are available, charcoal provided by AMHS (you may wish to bring your own portable grill)

### **Directions**

1. Take US Route 50 East turnoff from the Capital Beltway I-95/I-495, towards Annapolis
2. Take Exit 8, Martin Luther King Highway, MD Route 704 North
3. Proceed on Route 704 about one-half mile to Forbes Boulevard; turn right
4. Proceed to the intersection with Lottsford Vista Road
5. Turn right on Lottsford Vista Road; proceed about ½ mile
6. Villa Rosa Nursing Home, 3800 Lottsford Vista Road, is on the right – look for entrance sign
7. Proceed past the nursing home building to the Festa grounds in the rear of the property; ample parking on the grassy areas near the covered pavilion (*please observe no parking areas*)

***THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT (A COVERED PAVILION IS AVAILABLE)***

Tables and chairs are available. For your personal convenience, you may want to bring lawn chairs, card tables, blankets, etc.

**For information & to RSVP, contact Lynn Sorbara (301) 466-2556 or Maria D'Andrea (703) 998-6097**



## THE JUNE 1, 2014 SILENT AUCTION



**Top left** – AMHS member Antonio Bianchini, mosaicist, discusses his art with AMHS members Dick DiBuono and Ted Cocca.

**Top right** – AMHS members Lucio D'Andrea and John Verna, members of the Silent Auction planning committee, with AMHS member Francesco Isgro, waiting for the bidding to begin!

**Center left** – Accordionist Joan Tacchetti Grauman serenades the auction attendees with traditional Italian songs.

**Center right** – AMHS member Emma DiTullio with guest Bianca Starace.

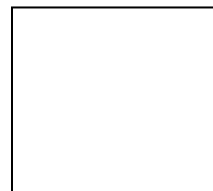
**Bottom left** – AMHS members Deno & Monica Reed and bid on some of the food & wine items.

**Bottom right** – Some of the artwork up for auction.

*(photos courtesy of Joe Novello & Sarah Scott. Visit our facebook page, [www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety](http://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety), for additional photos of the Silent Auction)*



The  
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society  
4669 Lawton Way, #104  
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Thank you, Jason!



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Jason Voss, Director of Operations  
jvoss@CRGLegal.com

#### **AMHS NOTIZIARIO** Publication

Maria D'Andrea, Editor  
Maria Fresco, Co-editor  
Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer

**AMHS NOTIZIARIO** is published by-monthly from January through November. The deadline for the submission of articles and ads is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via e-mail to Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net). All submissions may be edited for clarity and become the property of AMHS. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the Editors. Content of articles published is the sole responsibility of the author. You may choose to receive your issues of the *Notiziario* by electronic mail (email) only. Not only will this save on paper and postage, you will get your copy much more quickly. If you wish to select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net) or by phone, (703) 998-6097. This will provide you the opportunity to confirm your email address, which we have for most AMHS members. We thank you for considering this option.

The **AMHS Notiziario** is the 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.

#### **THE AMHS OFFICERS**

Maria D'Andrea, President, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net), (703) 998-6097  
Nancy DeSanti, 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs, [ndesanti@mmmlaw.com](mailto:ndesanti@mmmlaw.com), (703) 379-9418  
Sarah Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Membership, [geco\\_sara@yahoo.com](mailto:geco_sara@yahoo.com), (214) 406-7060  
Maria Fresco, Secretary, [abruzzo\\_sicilia@hotmail.com](mailto:abruzzo_sicilia@hotmail.com), (301) 262-3150  
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#### **Board of Directors**

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Bruno Fusco, [granballo@hotmail.com](mailto:granballo@hotmail.com), (301) 654-5218  
Sergio Fresco, [abruzzo\\_sicilia@hotmail.com](mailto:abruzzo_sicilia@hotmail.com), (301) 262-3150  
Kirsten Keppel, [vitalia9@verizon.net](mailto:vitalia9@verizon.net), (202) 664-9342  
Lana Nardella, [lpnardella@yahoo.com](mailto:lpnardella@yahoo.com)  
Lynn Sorbara, [drlynnrose@yahoo.com](mailto:drlynnrose@yahoo.com), (301) 466-2556  
Eileen Verna, [jeverna@me.com](mailto:jeverna@me.com), (202) 244-3050  
John Verna, [jeverna@me.com](mailto:jeverna@me.com), (202) 244-3050

Helen Free, Chair, Fundraising Committee, [hfree@gonzaga.com](mailto:hfree@gonzaga.com)  
Romeo Sabatini, Chair, Website Management Committee, [saba20705@yahoo.com](mailto:saba20705@yahoo.com), (301) 931-3340