



## ***AMHS NOTIZIARIO*** SEPTEMBER 2015



**Top:** Past and present come together! Officers and Board members gather for a group photo – some have served the Society since its inception in 2000! At center, back row, Simon Carta, Counselor, Embassy of Italy.

**Bottom (left):** AMHS member Cecilia Fiermonte and AMHS 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Programs NancyDeSanti, present gifts to Andreas Sandre, speaker at the July 26, 2015 general Society meeting. Bottom (right): AMHS members Joe Novello, Michele LaVerghetta, Ted Cocca, and Ray LaVerghetta enjoy good food and company at the August 16 Ferragosto picnic. (Photos courtesy of Joe Novello and Sam Yothers).

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENT:** Sunday, September 27, 2015, 1:00 pm in Casa Italiana. “*Cuore Napoletano*”: *The Story of the Neapolitan Songs*. See inside for details.

Cari amici,



I hope that everyone enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer, whether you travelled far from home, or stayed nearby. I also hope you were able to participate in at least one or two Society events, including the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on June 28; the July 26 general Society meeting; or the August 16 Ferragosto picnic. Each one

of these events provided a wonderful opportunity for Society members, guests, and friends to interact in a warm and welcoming environment. Be sure to read about each of these activities elsewhere in this issue of the *Notiziario*.

I am very pleased that our next Society-sponsored event – the general meeting on September 27, at Casa Italiana – will take us on a musical and food journey of Naples, whereby we will discover the history surrounding some of the most famous Neapolitan songs (e.g., “*Finiculi Finiculà*”); and enjoy traditional pizza margherita. This will be a very fun and social event, so we hope you can join us; be sure to read more about the meeting on page 3 of this issue.

In addition to the above-mentioned social events and activities, the Society has been busy working to redesign the website and to develop a new logo, which you can find as the banner to this issue of the *Notiziario*. With the support of the website management committee (Helen Free, Sarah Scott, and myself), we are working with a web developer to create a crisp, clean, more modern look for the website. Of course, none of this would be possible without the wonderful foundation laid for us by Romeo Sabatini, who developed our existing website and has maintained its content for over 10 years! We hope to have the new site ready to launch by the end of September.

In closing, we have a very critical issue to address, which requires a vote of the membership at the September 27 general Society meeting. To summarize the issue at hand, The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), which provides matching funds for the two AMHS annual scholarships, is turning its focus to building the Italian American Leadership Council (IALC), whereby a person or organization gives \$2500/year to NIAF. In return, that person and/or organization receives several benefits, including invitations to participate in all activities open to the NIAF Board of Directors, like the Annual Leadership Retreat and the summer Mission to Italy. Furthermore, organizations that join the IALC will continue to receive matching scholarship funds and, every member of that organization becomes an affiliate (associate member) of NIAF. The Executive Committee received a presentation by NIAF President John Viola at its July meeting, and we have subsequently discussed this issue in great detail and have come up with a recommendation. Please see the following article to learn more about this issue, including the EC recommendation on which the membership will vote.

I look forward to seeing you at the September 27 meeting.

Cordiali saluti,

Maria

## **THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION VISION FOR THE FUTURE: The ITALIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND AFFILIATE PROGRAM**

By Maria D'Andrea

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is making changes to maintain its relevance in the future as the advocate for the interests of Italian Americans both here in the United States and abroad. AMHS has been invited to become an affiliate member of NIAF and to be represented on the Foundation's Italian American Leadership Council (IALC), a group of committed individuals and organizations to serve as stakeholders in NIAF, the Italian American community, and, as an Italian American organization, in our future.

For many years, AMHS has enjoyed two key benefits from our relationship with NIAF: 1) Eight (8) years of matching funds for the AMHS scholarship program (since 2007); and 2) the half-price associate member rate for individual AMHS members.

As a sign of AMHS' importance to NIAF and the DC area's Italian American community, NIAF President John Viola addressed the AMHS Executive Committee on July 16, 2015 about NIAF's vision for the future that will have an impact on these benefits.

NIAF envisions a future by growing the IALC. It has invited AMHS to be part of the IALC. Individuals and organizations can become active members of the Leadership Council for \$2500 per year. The following are its benefits:

- AMHS representation on the IALC, which includes, but is not limited to, participation in IALC Leadership Forums across the country, invitations to all activities open to the NIAF Board of Directors (e.g., the Annual Leadership Retreat and the summer Mission to Italy);
- Affiliate NIAF membership for each AMHS member, at no additional cost or fee (AMHS members would get all the traditional benefits of NIAF membership including a yearlong subscription to NIAF's Ambassador Magazine; NIAF member discounts for travel, genealogy, retail, and more; mention in NIAF's Annual Report publication; and exclusive NIAF member gifts); and,
- Continuation of matching scholarship funds from NIAF, currently at \$4,000 a year in order to award two scholarships.

The AMHS Executive Committee, at its August meeting, voted to join the NIAF IALC and become an affiliate member

to NIAF, but to submit its recommendation to the membership for its consideration and a vote. If approved by the membership at our general Society meeting (Sunday, September 27), this would 1) approve AMHS commitment to be a member of the IALC (\$2500 per year); 2) continue NIAF's commitment to match AMHS' scholarship program (NIAF has given \$29,500 since 2007); and 3) would grant NIAF affiliate membership benefits to each AMHS member.

Your AMHS Executive Committee members, as well as a representative of NIAF will be available at the September meeting to address questions from the members (NIAF's representative would be asked to leave the meeting before the member vote on the recommendation). If you wish to learn more about NIAF and the IALC, visit [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org)

## NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING: THE SONGS AND FOOD OF NAPLES

By Nancy DeSanti, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Programs

The beautiful songs of Naples will be the focus of our next AMHS program on September 27. We will be showing the film "*Cuore Napoletano*" (Neapolitan Heart) which traces the origin of the classic Neapolitan songs.

The film shows archival footage and features interviews with some of those famous singers. The movie is billed as "*un documentario per scoprire le radici della musica napoletana classica*." It is in Italian with English subtitles, with some Neapolitan dialect thrown in.

If you've ever wondered about the origin of such songs as "Funiculi Funiculà," you will find the answer in this movie. This popular song was written in 1880 in Castellammare di Stabia to commemorate the opening of the first funicular cable car on Mount Vesuvius.

Such songs as "Torna a Surriento," "O Sole Mio," "Anema e Core," "Santa Lucia," "Core 'ngrato," and so many others, are known and loved by many. For example, "Funiculi Funiculà" has been performed by Mario Lanza, Connie Francis, The Grateful Dead, Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli and Il Volo. And "Santa Lucia" was sung by Elvis Presley in Italian (it's on YouTube—really!!).

So if you want to find out the story behind these wonderful songs, come join us for a fun afternoon. And don't be surprised if at the end of the movie, you feel like hopping on a plane to Naples.

In keeping with our theme, lunch will consist of pizza margherita and some special Neapolitan sweets. After the film, there will be an opportunity for those who wish to share their comments and memories.

Please make your reservations early for this fun event, and bring your family members and friends.

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 15 YEARS AND COUNTING!

By Maria D'Andrea

On Sunday, June 28, 2015, about 80 AMHS members and invited guests gathered in Casa Italiana to help the Society celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event enabled us to 1) honor and recognize our members for their support throughout the years; 2) pay tribute to the men and women who have served as officers and board members; 3) recognize our scholarship recipients; and 4) recognize the other Italian American organizations that we have partnered with over the years in support of various events and activities.

The program commenced with a film by AMHS member and videographer Kirsten Keppel, who interviewed certain AMHS members as an update to the film she prepared to honor the Society's 10th anniversary. (Note that we are continuing to expand on this film in 2015 to wrap up the project with a longer film that includes more stories for spring of 2016).



We were honored to have so many long-time members with us: some of our founding members (see photo, below); the Marinuccis; Rocco Caniglia; Elisa DiClemente, Romeo Sabatini, Albert Paolantonio, and David Ciummo (to name just a few). We were also honored to have representation from the Embassy of Italy, Simon Carta, Counselor; and the President of The Italian Cultural Society, Arrigo Mongini and his wife, Ingrid; the President of the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, Tricia Maltagliati; Stephanie Gordan, Executive Assistant to NIAF President John Viola; Father Ezio Marchetto, Pastor, Holy Rosary Church; and Christine Iovino, one of the Society's 2013 scholarship recipients.

We enjoyed music by AMHS member Sergio Fresco on accordion, who played the occasional duet with AMHS member Ron Cappelletti on mandolin. The food was just perfect – heavy Italian antipasti from Carmine's Restaurant.

All in all it was a wonderful celebration of all that we have accomplished over 15 years, and a testament to our membership and our leadership. May we grow and thrive to celebrate another 15 years or more!



**“Founders Day”.** From left to right: *Ennio DiTullio; Giampaolo Cantini, First Counselor, Embassy of Italy; Joseph D’Andrea; Lucio D’Andrea; Mario Ciccone; Gloria Sabatini; Tony and Elodia D’Onofrio; and Sergio Fresco*

**ITALIAN EMBASSY’S ANDREAS SANDRE EXPLAINS “DIGITAL DIPLOMACY”**

*By Nancy DeSanti and Lourdes Tinajero, AMHS Board Member*



*Guest speaker Andreas Sandre*

For our fourth program of the year on July 26, 2015, AMHS members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by an interesting and informative talk on a very relevant topic in today’s world. We were pleased to have as our speaker Andreas Sandre, Press and Public Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Italy and author of *“Digital Diplomacy: Conversations on Innovation in Foreign Policy”*. This publication,

released in 2015, includes a foreword by Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero and interviews with twenty-eight leaders from across the globe.

The presentation on digital diplomacy, also called e-diplomacy, expanded awareness of the use of digital and social media in the development of foreign policy, as well as the dissemination of critical policies relating to education, health care, home ownership and housing, the workforce, etc. E-diplomacy is used in a variety of environments even, as we learned, in space through astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti. The astronaut sent tweets from outer space giving lessons to Italian schoolchildren and sending back photos of our beautiful universe. Pope Francis is active on social media fronts, now having more than 22 million followers on Twitter. There is now even a new word in Italian, *“twittare,”* meaning “to tweet.”

The delicious lunch, arranged by Sergio Fresco, was catered by Three Brothers Restaurant. Our thanks to all who helped with the lunch, especially Peter Bell (filling in for Lynn Sorbara), Rosina Brienza Schacknies, Maria Fresco and Edvige D’Andrea. Thanks to Deno Reed for helping with the sale of the raffle tickets, and our thanks to those who donated prizes for the raffle. The full proceeds of our raffle will be used for the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund.

Note: Andreas is from Val D’Aosta in Northern Italy. He resided in Washington, D.C. for the past four years.

**FERRAGOSTO 2015**

*By Maria Fresco, AMHS Secretary*



*AMHS members Elodia, Tony, and Robert D’Onofrio; Rico Allegrino; and Elisa DiClemente with friends.*

The Society’s annual Ferragosto picnic was held on the grounds of Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD on Sunday, August 16. Approximately 50 people came out to share lots of good food and friendship in spite of the heat and humidity!

It’s always amusing to see people start off sitting with their own “tribe” and later revolve around the space, meeting and mingling with more and more people by day’s end. Trading jokes, anecdotes and gardening tips as well as playing some serious bocce will do that to folks!

As the day progressed and temperatures climbed, people made their way from the covered pavilion to the grassy fields where it was noticeably cooler. The clean-up process was humorous as stray items from tables – a couple of fresh ears of corn here, a leftover blackberry pie there - were transferred to a lone rectangular table while chairs and circular tables were put away. The end product made for an interesting cornucopia and makeshift buffet for anyone who might still be hungry after an afternoon of happy feasting. A very special *“thank you”* goes out to everyone who helped with setting up and cleaning up.

Thank you as well to all who came out and supported our picnic this year. It’s always wonderful to spend time with our AMHS family, especially at happy and festive occasions such as Ferragosto. Everyone’s participation also helps keep our traditions alive and well, especially for the next generations. Several familiar faces and “regulars” - folks who come to many if not all of our events throughout the year – could not

make it this time due to travel or other commitments. You were greatly missed. We'll try not to be *too* jealous of those of you who were fortunate enough to celebrate Ferragosto in Italy!

Photos of the 2015 Ferragosto picnic can be found on the Society's Facebook page. If you haven't done so already, please "like" us on Facebook and share posts with your family and friends who missed our event this year. We hope to see old and new faces alike at future gatherings.

## AMHS MEMBERSHIP

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

I am pleased to report that there are 273 members of AMHS, including many new members. Thank you for your support of the Society's programs and activities. We have many wonderful events coming over the rest of the year and your membership makes them possible!

Our Society strives to preserve our Italian heritage and offers a variety of events to enhance our community. We publish the newsletter, the *AMHS Notiziario*, we have half-price associate memberships in NIAF available, and we have wonderful events—such as our luncheons and our annual Ferragosto Picnic. We also sponsor scholarships to further academic studies in Italian culture or language for two students each year.

### Social Networking

AMHS is involved in social networking and posts pictures of our events and interesting articles about Italy online. 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: *Greg and Diana Bernabei, Liana Campanella, Nicholas Campanella, Mary R. Catucci, Lula Cox-Raye, Daniela Di Tullio, Laura Gentile, Bonnie Gregorio, Peter and Charlie Iovino, Joe and Tina Marchegiani, and Jonathan Stern*. Our members are great at **greeting** our newest **members** with a warm welcome!

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

### Birthdays

#### Compleanni ad agosto

Daniela Di Tullio, August 3; Ray LaVerghetta, August 5; Antoinette Bacik and Silvana DeLuca, August 6; Loretta Pittarelli, August 9; Nancy DeSanti, August 15; Joseph Ruzzi, Sr., August 16; Henry Colletto, August 17; Rose Ruzzi, August 18; Angela Campanella, August 21; Robert Lucian and Joseph Novello, August 23; Marilyn Huffman, August 25; Anthony Frato, August 27; Nicholas D. Rossi, August 28; Martha Harris, August 29; Donna Caruso, August 30; and Rosa Mazziotti, August 31.

### Compleanni a settembre

Mary Ferramosca, September 1; Bruno Fusco and Carmine Petrarca, September 2; Richard DiBuono, September 3; Sharon Callahan, Anthony D'Erme, and Lina Marinucci, September 5; Maria Marigliano, September 8; Theresa Taylor, September 10; Camillo Damiano, September 11; Stan Scott, September 15; Rose Napolitano, September 18; Theresa Duncan and Lucy Schleibaum, September 19; Ronald Cappelletti, September 26; Olimpia Micheli, Virginia Paganelli, and Romeo Sabatini, September 27; Jeffrey Clark, September 29.

### Anniversaries

#### Anniversari ad agosto

Joseph & Pam Lupo, August 5; Pasquale & Filomena Santini, August 7; Jack & Virginia Paganelli, August 10; Stan Scott & Vera Gordon, August 15 (First Anniversary); Domenico & Julia Conti, August 19; and Guy & Donna Caruso, August 26.

#### Anniversari a settembre

Jeffrey & Mary Petrino, September 1; Samuel & Margherita Amatucci, September 5; Sergio & Maria Fresco, September 6; Renato & Ines Sozio, September 8; and John & Lucille Fuscillo, September 13.

## SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

### LOUIS ALDO DeSANTI: A REMARKABLE LIFE



*Louis, bottom right, in Italy at age 3 (circa 1922)*

A proud member of our Italian-American community and AMHS member, my father Louis (Luigi) Aldo DeSanti, passed away peacefully at home on August 7, 2015, after a long and remarkable life. He was a man of deep faith, a warm and loving family man and a cherished friend to many.

My father was born in America but when he was a baby, the family pulled up stakes and moved back to

Italy, intending to remain there. He grew up in the small town of San Giorgio di Pesaro, in the Le Marche region in central Italy. While growing up in San Giorgio, he played trumpet in the band and for 8 years he was an apprentice in a cabinet-making shop, learning a trade. The fascist era of Benito Mussolini was by then underway. Meanwhile, his father had returned to America, to West Boylston, Massachusetts, after being unable to find work in Italy. As Mussolini came to power in Italy, he sent for his sons one at a time as he could afford it. So at the age of 15, my father left from Genoa by ship and came to America in 1934, arriving in Ellis Island at a time when the Italian section was a detention center with barbed wire. (He was put there because he was an unaccompanied minor). He had no money, no English and no

one to pick him up, but he eventually made his way to West Boylston where he was able to join his father and two older brothers.

After learning English, he graduated from a public school at the top of his class, went to Amherst College on a scholarship, and then moved to New York City to go to Columbia University, where he earned a Ph.D. in international affairs. For his thesis, on U.S. relations with Mussolini, he was given access to the captured papers of Mussolini at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. He eventually translated these papers into English, but this time-consuming effort required him to move to Washington with his young family.

He ended up staying in Washington and taking a job with the Central Intelligence Agency. He went on to have a long and distinguished career at the CIA, serving at headquarters and overseas. He devoted his life to serving his country, and during his career, he won a number of high awards and medals.

My father was very proud of his Italian heritage, and he enjoyed returning to his hometown in Italy many times over the years to visit family members and his boyhood friends—the kids he used to play soccer, chess and cards with while growing up in that small town. He wanted to make sure we did not forget our roots, so we would visit Italy with him, and he would bring over our Italian family members during the summers. He also loved visiting the many beautiful cities of Italy which he also came to know very well.

He loved learning about history and politics, and sharing the knowledge he acquired. So after he retired, my father decided to expand his Ph.D. thesis into a book entitled *“The U.S. and Mussolini.”* He gave a talk on his book at Casa Italiana in June 2012, at a program sponsored by the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society. He thoroughly enjoyed having such an appreciative and attentive audience of over 100 people.

He also wrote a book on Christopher Columbus entitled *“Columbus and the New World: Hero of the Millennium”* and he gave a talk on the book during the Festa Italiana in 2011. The book was written to honor the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1992 of Columbus’ discovery of America. He greatly admired Columbus, and during the 1992 commemorative year, he traveled to Genoa and had his picture taken in front of Columbus’ house.



*Louis and his daughter Nancy at Casa Italiana, 2011*

My father was a Holy Rosary parishioner and a member of AMHS and NIAF.

At my father’s funeral service, my nephew gave the following moving tribute:

*My grandfather didn’t have an easy beginning.*

*He was born in America but he spent most of his boyhood years under a fascist regime in a small town on the Adriatic Coast of Italy. He and his brothers had very little.*

*When he came back to America at 15 and arrived at Ellis Island, there was no one there to pick him up. He didn’t have money but he eventually found his way back to the town of West Boylston, Massachusetts.*

*He grew up in the public school system not knowing much English at the start. But he was brilliant.*

*He used to tell us all about the principal who took him aside before he left for college with the advice he never forgot: “Louis” he said “some kids go to the butcher shop and forget the meat. Don’t forget the meat.”*

*Not only did he not forget the meat, he could have opened up a couple butcher shops with all of the meat that he got. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Amherst College and received his Ph.D. in International Affairs from Columbia University.*

*He was as patriotic a man as I’ve ever met. He devoted his life to serving his country both during World War II and afterward in the CIA. From the accounts of his peers, he was a legend. During his career, he won the CIA Intelligence Medal twice, which is almost unprecedented.*

*Growing up I didn’t really understand what he did, but on occasion he would pull me aside and say things like, “Did I ever tell you about the time I was forced to go jaguar hunting in Bolivia?”*

*His love for his family was unconditional and without exception.*

*My grandfather also made sure we never forgot our roots. He would bring our Italian cousins over during the summers and we would take trips to Italy to connect and re-connect.*

*He had a booming voice and you could even hear his whispers from the other side of a crowded room. He was a raconteur of the first order. His love of history was so passionate that his voice would break when he’d talk about great figures and great achievements. This often happened in quiet restaurants.*

*He loved politics and thought they were important. Conversations could get heated. I think we’re still not allowed to discuss Al Gore. His favorite word for politicians he disagreed with was “blockhead.”*

*To say he was generous, understates who he was. It may have been his most defining characteristic.*

*He had a force of will and power of persuasion that were so strong, he would physically grip your hand when telling a story, offering an opinion, or letting you know how he wanted things to be. He was the hardest man to say "no" to. But when you sat with him, you learned so much.*

*Again, he was truly brilliant and he brightened the spirits of everyone around him. Words can do him justice but they don't quite meet the bar in describing what he meant to me and our family. Maybe all you need to know is that he's the man we admired most.*

### **SILVIO PRONIO: The LOSS OF A TREASURED MEMBER OF AMHS**



Silvio Pronio, a long-time supporter of AMHS, passed away on July 23, 2015, at the age of 86. Silvio was born in Maglianico, in the province of Chieti, and came to America in 1947. Silvio and Lina, his wife of 53 years, have been devoted parishioners of Holy Rosary Church, attending the 9 am Mass for many years. Silvio was a

member of the Holy Name Society and Lina is director/president of the Altar Society.

Silvio and his wife Lina have been members of AMHS from the beginning and often attended the many various events. He was a consistent supporter of our scholarship program, giving generously for ads for the Gala every year.

Silvio owned Northeast Iron Works, Inc., and through his company, he gave jobs to many Italians just coming from Italy.

As his friend Ennio DiTullio said, "Silvio was a true gentleman with a big heart." And Lucio D'Andrea had this to say about Silvio: "As founder of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society, I recall with fond memories and appreciation having Silvio be among the first group of Abruzzesi who stepped forward to embrace the Society and give it his wholehearted support. He was a very gentle, unassuming man with strong faith and devotion to his Abruzzesi heritage."

Our sincerest condolences to the Pronio family on the loss of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, and a friend to many people. *(Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

### **ANGELO PUGLISI HONORED BY CONSERVATION GROUP**

Longtime AMHS member Angelo Puglisi was recently honored for enabling the famous Natural Bridge, which he

owned, to become a Virginia state park. Natural Bridge may well become one of the most visited state parks in Virginia.

Located in the historic Shenandoah Valley, Natural Bridge is one of the most recognized and visited geologic landmarks in the country. It was often regarded as the "8<sup>th</sup> natural wonder of the world" during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Natural Bridge is a massive 90-foot-wide arch of rock more than 25 feet thick that spans Cedar Creek, over 200 feet below.

Natural Bridge was surveyed by George Washington (who may have carved his initials into the rock) and owned by King George III and then by Thomas Jefferson, who called it "the most sublime of nature's wonders." It's the largest natural land bridge in North America, and the nearby Natural Bridge Caverns are the deepest caves on the East Coast. Angelo says that it was this history that fascinated him and prompted him to want to buy it in 1988. For years, he and Millie, his wife of 67 years, enjoyed visiting Natural Bridge and walking the nearby trails.



With Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and other state officials looking on, Angelo was recently honored as "2014 Conservator of the Year" by the Izaak Walton League, a national conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of America's natural resources. The crowd of 200 was on hand to thank Angelo for his generosity in arranging for

Natural Bridge to be transferred to the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund Inc. Governor McAuliffe had signed the transfer in a ceremony on May 12, 2014.

In a complicated real estate transaction last year, Angelo donated the 215-foot limestone arch and 188 surrounding acres to the newly formed Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, because his goal was for the national historic landmark to become a state park so that future generations could stand in awe of Thomas Jefferson's bridge—a generous act that would surely have made Jefferson proud. Visitors can also view the light show "The Drama of Creation," which is the longest continuously running light show in the U.S.

Angelo's friends at Holy Rosary and Casa Italiana had no idea about any of this until an article appeared in the Washington Post in December 2013, which was not surprising to those who know him to be a modest man who likes to talk about how he was born a few blocks from Holy Rosary Church over top of his parents' grocery store. Angelo's parents came here from Sicily in 1901 and his father was a laborer who helped build Union Station. Angelo has been in the real estate business for over 60 years, and he attributes whatever success he has had to his determination, hard work, "and some luck, and the fact that the good Lord has put a lot of wonderful people in my path." He still goes to the office several days a

week, where his daughter, who is one of his four adult children, also works.

Angelo, who has been an AMHS member for years, noted that his wife Millie's family is Abruzzese, from Spoltore near Pescara, an area they visited together years ago. Angelo's own family is from Sicily in the area near Messina (Fondachelli on his father's side) and near Catania (Zaffarena on his mother's side).

To Angelo, we say congratulations and "grazie mille" from all your AMHS friends. (Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).

## REVISIONS TO THE REGISTRATION OF ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS OF "MOLISANI NEL MONDO"

By Maria D'Andrea and Lucio D'Andrea

On July 16, AMHS received a communication from the region of Molise, which identified new regional, legal revisions to the "Regional Registry of Associations and Federations of Molisani in the World". Basically, the new requirements for registration are: 1) that an organization be comprised of 40 or more members; 2) that 70 percent of an organization's total membership be of Molisani heritage; and 2) that no less than 30% of these Molisani members are between the ages of 18 and 35.

Unfortunately, AMHS does not meet these criteria – the Society has 273 members, of which only 15 percent identify their heritage as Molisani. A larger percentage of our membership identifies as Abruzzesi, Siciliani, and Pugliesi. Furthermore, approximately ¾ of our membership is over the age of 40.

As an organization with strong ties to our Molisani heritage, we will keep in close contact with the region, through our liaison, President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea, to determine whether other Molisani organizations throughout the world can meet the revised criteria. If it is a hardship for others, perhaps the region will reconsider the criteria. Whatever the outcome, AMHS has long maintained a good relationship with the region, and we will continue to do so in the future.

## FINDING ITALY IN ENGLAND: ART AND ARTIFACTS

By Elizabeth DiGregorio, AMHS Member

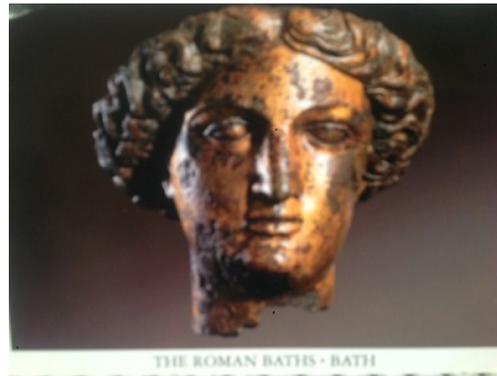
As I embarked on a long trip to England, my friend and fellow AMHS member, Nancy DeSanti asked if I would miss not being in Italy. Of course, I always miss not being in Italy; but England proved to be a delightful experiment in finding Italy in the cities, the neighborhoods of London, and the art museums.

To fully understand the Roman influence on Britannia, I recommend reading Christopher Daniell's *Traveller's History of England*, fifth edition. Daniell states that towns were introduced into Britannia by the Romans. As early as 53AD, London was a thriving center for trade and commerce and

became the most Romanized city in Britannia with large buildings, bath houses, a forum, and fine works of art imported from the continent. The Romans occupied the province for 400 years and the Roman physical legacy continues today as residents and travelers wind their way over more than the 5,000 miles of roads built during Roman rule.

Roman art, artifacts, archeology, and collections abound in London and its many towns and cities. England's Italian art collections span all centuries and it would take a lot more than my cursory visits to do them justice. Aside from the grand and vast Roman and Italian treasures of the London National Gallery and the British Museum, there are a couple of locations that may be of interest should your travel plans include England.

### Bath



Bath is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is easily accessible from London. It is the gateway of west-central England to the Cotswold, Stratford-Upon-Avon,

Bristol and Cheltenham. If you like Pompeii and Herculaneum visit Bath and spend an afternoon visiting the Roman Baths, the Pump Room and Museum. The first shrine at the site of the hot springs was built by Celts and dedicated to the goddess Sulis. Then, in the 1st century, the Romans invaded, identified Sulis with the goddess Minerva, renamed it Aquae Sulis (the waters of Sulis) and built a network of baths to make full use of the mineral springs that gush from the earth.

The baths thrived then fell into disrepair after the Roman withdrawal from Britain in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The baths have been modified throughout the centuries and gained immense popularity during the 18<sup>th</sup> century when Queen Anne visited. Legend has it that she came to bathe in the waters in hope of conceiving a child. Visit the Pump Room and museum to see numerous artefacts from the Roman period, including more than 12,000 Roman currency coins tossed into the Sacred Spring, presumably as offerings to the goddess. Marvel at the Roman engineering feats and take a sip of the warm mineral water. For those who love Jane Austen walk around this beautiful Georgian city, take in the Royal Crescent, the Italianate Pulteney Bridge, or book a thermae bath spa treatment to really channel your Roman roots.

### Oxford

Another easy trip from London is Oxford. Of course, any trip to Oxford must include wandering through the colleges of Oxford University. The entire town center revolves around this 1167 famous center of learning. While there, make time for the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archeology, Beaumont Street.

The Ashmolean Museum is a fine example of nineteenth century neo-classical architecture designed by C.R. Cockerell and located in the heart of Oxford. Founded in 1683, at a time when the idea of the 'museum' was brand new, Britain's first public museum, the Ashmolean, was initially the home of a collection of miscellaneous manmade and natural specimens and curiosities from every corner of the world, which was presented to the University by the wealthy antiquarian and polymath, Elias Ashmole.

To channel your inner-Italian while in Oxford, visit the Ashmolean Museum. There are five floors and it is filled with superb collections. Highlights of their Italian collection include: drawings by Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci; paintings by Piero di Cosimo, Paolo Uccello, including *The Hunt in the Forest* and *The Annunciation*; and many others. They also have over 30 pieces of Late Roman gold glass roundels from the Catacombs of Rome, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest collection after the Vatican and the British Museum. If Majolica interests you, the Ashmolean possesses an Italian majolica collection of international importance, thanks to the scholarly collecting of C.D.E. Fortnum (1820-1899) and loans from English private collections.

If your travels take you to Oxford between now and January 2016, don't miss the special exhibit: ***Drawing in Venice: Titian to Canaletto***. This exhibition features a hundred drawings from The Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the Ashmolean, and Christ Church, Oxford. It traces continuities in Venetian drawing over three centuries, from around 1500 down to the foundation of the first academy of art in Venice in 1750.

### Cambridge

Only 54 miles from London, Cambridge is a great day (long day) trip and if taking the train, you will see a lot of the East Anglia region. As with Oxford, touring the University and its colleges as well as King's College Chapel is a must. Not far from city center, down Trumpington Street, is the Fitzwilliam Museum. The Fitzwilliam owes its foundation to Richard, VII Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion who, in 1816, bequeathed to the University of Cambridge his works of art and library, together with funds to house them, to further "the Increase of Learning and other great Objects of that Noble Foundation". Fitzwilliam's bequest included 144 pictures, among them Dutch paintings he inherited through his maternal grandfather and the masterpieces by Titian, Veronese and Palma Vecchio he acquired at the Orléans sales in London.

Like the Ashmolean, there is a lot to see so plan on spending a full afternoon. The Greek and Roman collection spans the period from around 3000 BC to the 4th century AD. The Coins and Medals collection is vast and a bit overwhelming, with about 25,000 roman coins. One interesting coin is The Ides of March, 15 March 44 BC from the Hart Collection. The Ides of March denarius, struck by Brutus in 43/2 BC is easily the most famous of Roman Republican coins.

Another treat is the Rothschild Bronzes, attributed to Michelangelo. A team of international experts led by the University of Cambridge and Fitzwilliam Museum has gathered compelling evidence that argues that these masterpieces, which have spent over a century in relative

obscurity, are early works by Michelangelo, made just after he completed the marble *David* and as he was about to embark on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

If the attribution is correct, they are currently the only surviving Michelangelo bronzes in the world by his hand. These two meter high bronze male nudes astride two ferocious panthers are a non-matching pair, one figure older and lithe, the other young and athletic. Long admired for the beauty of their anatomy and powerful expressions.

Their first recorded attribution was to Michelangelo when they appeared in the collection of Adolphe de Rothschild in the 19th century. But, since they are undocumented and unsigned, this attribution was dismissed and over the last 120 years, the bronzes have been attributed to various other talented sculptors. If you travel there between now and November, you can "vote" or register your opinion as to their authenticity.

The collection of Italian art is immense spanning from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Not to be missed are two large Titians and numerous paintings and drawings by Leonardo Da Vinci, Caravaggio, Michelangelo, Tiepolo and Parmigianino.

Where ever I travelled in England, Roman and Italian contributions to art, engineering, beauty and civilization greeted me and transported me back to my roots.(Sources: Daniell, Christopher, *A Traveller's History of England*, fifth edition 2006, [www.interlinkbooks.com](http://www.interlinkbooks.com); Bath: [www.romanbaths.co.uk](http://www.romanbaths.co.uk); Oxford: [www.ashmolean.org/collections](http://www.ashmolean.org/collections); Cambridge: [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk))

## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### BARISCIANO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member



A small, picturesque town in the heart of Abruzzo, Barisciano is blessed with its beautiful views of the natural park in which it is located, known as the Gran Sasso Monti della Laga National Park.

Barisciano has approximately 1,897 inhabitants, known as Bariscianesi, and its patron saint is San Flaviano. It is located

about 19 kilometers from the regional capital of L'Aquila. Its patron saint is San Flaviano.

Barisciano is situated just below Monte della Selva in the southern side of the Gran Sasso. At the highest point of the town, there are the remains of a medieval castle guarding the Piana di Navelli on the one side and the road to Gran Sasso on the other. The surrounding countryside is rich in aromatic herbs such as thyme, heliopsis and pharmaceutical illopus.

On the site of the town, there was a Roman settlement, as indicated by the remains of Via Claudia Nova and nearby Forfona archaeological area. Founded between the 5th and 7th centuries A.D., the town expanded, absorbing the surrounding "villas"—Villa San Basilio, Bariscianello, and Santa Maria di Forfona, which were added to the original quarters of San Flaviano and Santa Maria di Serra.

Then in the 13th century, Barisciano took part in the foundation of L'Aquila. Because of its strategic position, Barisciano was the center of many battles. In 1380, it was invaded by Amatrice troops and then in 1424, it was besieged by Braccio da Montone and surrendered. The women of the town were taken to L'Aquila with their breasts bare to humiliate them. But the time lost by the ferocious condottiere at Barisciano gave the city of L'Aquila the chance to reorganize and finally defeat him.

Nowadays Barisciano is known for environmental tourism by those who come to appreciate its natural beauty and picturesque surroundings. It is also known for a rock band, Sons of the Devil, which performs locally and overseas, and is fronted by the town's best known resident, Giulio Zaccagnini.

Barisciano is also known for its potato festival and donkey race (*sagra delle patate con il palio degli asini*) held every August. This festival can be viewed on YouTube.

#### What to See

- Church of Santissima Trinità
- Church of Santa Maria di Capo di Serra from the 14th century
- Church of Santa Maria di Valleverde
- Church of San Flaviano, the patron saint
- Medieval castle (Rocca Calascio)

#### Important Dates

- August: Potato festival with traditional donkey race (*sagra delle patate con il palio degli asini*)
- August 15: Fiera dell'Assunta
- November 25: Festa di Santa Caterina

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barisciano>  
<http://www.abruzzo.citta.it/comuni/barisciano.html>  
<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/laquila/barisciano.htm>  
<http://en.comuni-italiani.it/066/009/>  
<http://www.viaggioinabruzzo.it/aq/barisciano.htm>

## **BARISCIANO, PROVINCIA DELL'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO**

Barisciano, una ridente cittadina nel cuore dell'Abruzzo, a circa 19 chilometri dall'Aquila, il suo capoluogo, gode la bellissima vista di un parco naturale: il Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga.

Conta circa 1897 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati bariscianesi. Il Patrono della cittadina è San Flaviano.

Si estende ai piedi del Monte della Selva, dove si possono ancora oggi osservare rovine di castelli medievali, che testimoniano l'antica presenza dei romani, e guardano la pianura di Navelli da un lato, e la strada verso il Gran Sasso da un altro.

L'odorosa campagna circostante è ricca di erbe aromatiche, come il Timo e di erbe farmaceutiche. Sorta fra il quinto ed il settimo secolo dopo Cristo, si espone assorbendo a sé quartieri e ville circostanti, come la villa di San Basilio, Bariscianello, Santa Maria di Forfona, che furono aggiunte ai rioni di San Flaviano e di Santa Maria della Serra.

Nel tredicesimo secolo partecipò alla fondazione di L'Aquila, e, data la sua posizione geografica, fu centro di molte battaglie. Nel 1389 fu invasa dalle truppe di Amatrice e nel 1424 fu assediata da Braccio di Montone e si arrese. In quella occasione le donne del luogo furono forzatamente condotte a L'Aquila a seni nudi, per umiliarle. I cittadini, però, ebbero tempo e forza di riorganizzarsi e sconfissero il feroce nemico.

Oggi è un'attrazione turistica per gli amanti delle bellezze naturali. Un complesso musicale rock del luogo è famoso anche all'estero. Il suo nome è Sons of the Devil ed è capeggiato da un famoso residente della cittadina: Giulio Zaccagnini

In agosto la cittadina festeggia la Sagra delle Patate e il Palio degli Asini, visibili su YouTube.

#### Attrazioni del luogo

- Chiesa della Santissima Trinità
- Chiesa di Santa Maria di Capo di Serra del 14esimo secolo
- Chiesa di Santa Maria di Valleverde
- Chiesa di San Flaviano, Santo Patrono
- Rocca Calascio, Castello Medievale

#### Date da ricordare

- Agosto: La Sagra delle Patate e Il Palio degli Asini
- 15 Agosto: Fiera dell'Assunta
- 25 Novembre: Festa di Santa Caterina

## DURONIA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea



The beautiful little town of Duronia is located about 20 kilometers northwest from Campobasso.

Duronia has approximately 533 inhabitants, known as Duroniesi. Over the years, many of the town's former inhabitants emigrated to Montreal and Vancouver, Canada.

Duronia's name comes from an ancient Samnite town that was conquered by the Roman consul Papirius Cursor in 293 B.C. and the name was used again for the present town only after 1875. Until then, the name was Civitavecchia, from the hill called "civita," where a wide panorama as far as the Maiella can be enjoyed.

This picturesque town is surrounded by beautiful woods and calanques. It is also known for the Megalithic Walls, visible on the hill above the town. The Megalithic Walls are Stone Age structures which were probably the venue for ritual practices connected with the burial and commemoration of the dead in past societies.

The calanques are present in the Italian Apennines and elsewhere in Mediterranean areas. They are steep-sided valleys partially submerged to form cliff-edged inlets. Some may have been created by the collapse of the roof of caves that were partially submerged by a rise in the sea level. The calanques may be made of limestone, dolomite or granite found along the Mediterranean coast.

### What to See

- Megalithic Walls, on the hill above town
- Picturesque woods and calanques all around

### Important Dates

- January 16: Vigilia di Sant'Antonio Abate
- February 18: Carnevale
- May 8: Feast of San Michele
- Feast of San Nicola, the patron saint

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duronia>

<http://www.molisecitta.it/comuni/duronia.html>

<http://www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/duronia.htm>

<http://www.duronia.com/engindex.html>

## DURONIA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

Duronia, a circa 20 chilometri da Campobasso, è una bellissima cittadina che conta circa 533 abitanti, chiamati Duroniesi.

Nel corso degli anni molti suoi residenti sono emigrati in varie zone del Canada. Il suo nome deriva da un'antica città sannita, conquistata dal console romano Papirius Cursor, nel 293 avanti Cristo.

Il nome attuale fu riutilizzato solo dopo il 1875. Prima di allora si era chiamata anche Civitavecchia: dalla collina di nome Civita, dalla quale si può ammirare e godere il glorioso panorama della Maiella. Circondata da foreste e calanche, è famosa anche per le Mura Megalitiche, visibili sulle colline circostanti. Le Mura Megalitiche, strutture che risalgono all'età della pietra, venivano usate per riti funebri, durante le sepolture, e per riti commemorativi di morti di società passate.

Le calanche, comuni nelle regioni appenniniche e nell'area mediterranea in generale, sono delle ripide valli laterali, parzialmente sommerse a formare delle baie con rupi laterali. Alcune si saranno formate in seguito al crollo dei tetti di cave, e sono parzialmente sommerse in seguito al rialzamento del livello del mare. Le calanche possono essere di pietra calcarea, o di granite, o di altri materiali comuni lungo la costiera mediterranea.

### Attrazioni del luogo

- Le Mura Megalitiche, visibili sulle colline circostanti
- Pittoresche foreste e calanche circostanti

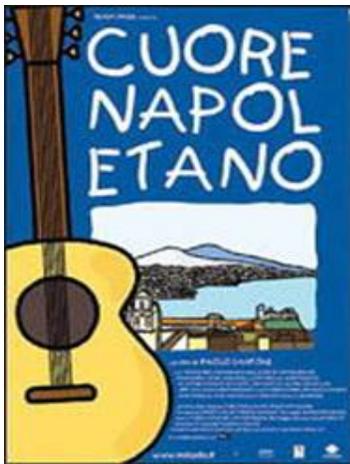
### Date da ricordare

- 16 gennaio: Vigilia di Sant'Antonio Abate
- 18 febbraio: Carnevale
- 8 maggio: Festa di San Michele
- Festa di San Nicola Santo Patrono





**THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
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❧ **LUNCHEON MEETING** ❧

***“Cuore Napoletano”***

***The Story of the Neapolitan Songs***

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 27, 2015  
**TIME:** 1:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Casa Italiana  
595 Third Street, NW | Washington, DC

**MENU:** A Neapolitan feast of pizza margherita (from Wise Guy New York Pizza), salad, desserts (e.g., sfogliatella), and beverages (wine, water, coffee, and tea).

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

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

**PROGRAM:** AMHS members, friends and guests, join us on September 27 and watch an amazing film entitled “*Cuore Napoletano.*” If you have ever wondered about the origins of the famous Neapolitan songs, this is your chance to find out. Afterwards, attendees are invited to share their memories of the beloved Neapolitan songs featured in the movie. So come join us for what is sure to be a lively, interesting and novel program!

The Society will also hold a raffle with some wonderful prizes. Proceeds will go to the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund.

For information about the program, call Maria D’Andrea, (703) 998-6097; for questions about the lunch and reservations, call Lynn Sorbara, (301) 926-7792

✂----- *Return with Payment*

**Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, September 27, 2015**

Please make check payable to AMHS.

Send to AMHS, c/o Jeff Clark, 12 Adams Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

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## THE AMHS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

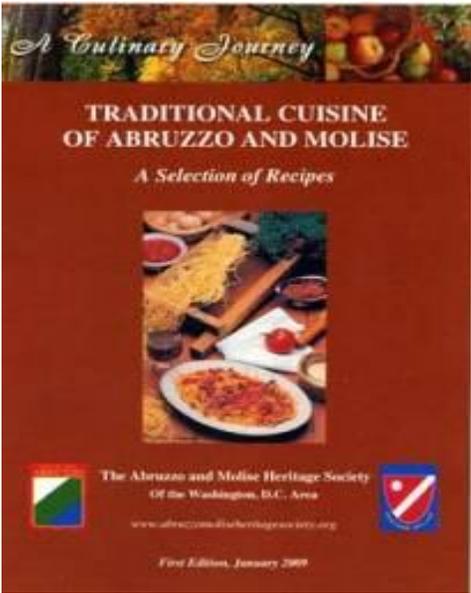


**Top (left):** AMHS Presidents with, from left, Arrigo Mongini (Pres., ICS), Simon Carta (Counselor, Embassy of Italy), Tricia Maltagliati (Pres., Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club), Stephanie Gordon (NIAF), and Father Ezio Marchetto. **Top (right):** AMHS officers Ennio DiTullio, Maria D'Andrea, and Sarah Scott with Stephanie Gordon. **Center (left):** Long-time AMHS members Robert and Elodia D'Onofrio, Emma DiTullio, and Gino Marinucci. **Center (right):** 2013 AMHS scholarship winner Christina Iovino with her parents Paul and "Charlie". **Bottom (left):** AMHS members Sergio Fresco and Ron Cappelletti entertain us with accordion and mandolin. **Bottom (center):** Maria D'Andrea with Simon Carta, Counselor, Embassy of Italy. **Bottom (right):** Long-time AMHS members Mike Del Borrello and Vince Marinucci. (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).

## FERRAGOSTO 2015: FUN, FOOD, BOCCE!



**Top (left):** Grandchildren of AMHS member Elisa DiClemente show the “grown ups” proper bocce technique! **Top (right):** Ron Cappelletti playing the madolin under the cool shade of an oak tree, with Romeo Sabatini enjoying *la musica*. **Center (left):** Sarah Scotto, AMHS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership with friends from the Passatempo Meetup group. **Center (right):** AMHS member Robert D’Onofrio (center of table) with friends. **Bottom (left):** AMHS members Sergio and Maria Fresco get ready to put food on the grill. **Bottom (right):** Friends sit under the shade of an old oak tree. (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).



**“Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes”**

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Maria D'Andrea, Co-editor

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