



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS NOTIZIARIO

September 2016



Top (left) and (right): Dora Leo Santacroce and Sergio Fresco sing classic Italian songs; and Antonio Bianchini enthralls the audience with his magic show at the July 31 meeting. **Bottom:** AMHS members and friends at the August 14 Ferragosto picnic: Albert Paolantonio, Joe Novello, Sam Yothers, Jeff Clark, Peter Bell, and Barbara Friedman. (photos courtesy of Joe Novello and Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT: Sunday, September 18, 2016, 1:00pm in Casa Italiana, "Un paese di carta": *Three Generations of Women between Abruzzo and the U.S.*, by Dr. Laura Benedetti. See inside for additional details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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 very fun July 31

meeting, and/or the August 14 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 *AMHS Notiziario*.

The next Society-sponsored event will be held on Sunday, September 18 at Casa Italiana. We will hear from Dr. Laura Benedetti, who will speak about her book "*Un paese di carta*": *Three Generations of Women between Abruzzo and the U.S.*, as well as some time recently spent in L'Aquila, where she is from. This will be a very interesting program, and we hope you can join us; be sure to read more about the meeting on page 3 of this issue.

We also hope you will come out on Sunday, September 11 to support the 52nd annual Italian Festival on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. This is one of the "premier" Italian festivals of the Washington, DC region – as in year's past, AMHS will sell the wine, and we will also have a booth where we showcase the regions of Abruzzo and Molise, and where we can promote the Society. You should have received an email, including a flyer, to promote this event. We are looking for volunteers to help; if you can, please contact me at president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org. Please be sure to read Nancy DeSanti's article about the festival on page 3; there is also a flyer to promote the event (with additional details) on page 12.

In closing, there are two critical issues that I must bring to your attention. The first issue is that the AMHS nominating committee (Ennio DiTullio, Lucio D'Andrea, Sergio Fresco, and Joe Novello) is looking for candidates for Secretary and the Board of Directors. If a committee member approaches you and asks you to serve, please do consider the request - we need officers who are dedicated to the mission and objectives of the Society, and who wish to make a positive and meaningful contribution to the operation of the Society. The candidates will be announced in September, and members will vote on the candidates at the November 20 meeting.

This is not the first time you have heard our appeal for help. Unfortunately, it has become a bit of a challenge to find able volunteers to serve as officers, and also to serve as chairs of our various committees. The Executive Committee, comprised fully of volunteers, works tirelessly to effectuate the mission of the

Society, and see that we remain successful and vibrant. We cannot do this without your help!

Second, the membership will vote, at the September 18 meeting, on whether to formally affiliate with NIAF for a second year. 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 11 Italian Festival, and at the September 18 meeting.

Cordiali saluti,

Maria

THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION ITALIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND AFFILIATE PROGRAM

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

In September 2015, AMHS members voted to formally affiliate with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) for one year. The Society's membership as a formal affiliate means that:

- AMHS is a member of NIAF's Italian American Leadership Council;
- NIAF continues to provide matching scholarship funds (\$4,000 a year) to AMHS, which allows the Society to award two \$4,000 scholarships instead of just one; and
- AMHS members are formal affiliate members of NIAF, whereby you 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).

The financial commitment for formal affiliation remains at \$2,500 per calendar year.

At the August 18, 2016 AMHS meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), the officers unanimously voted to support another year of formal affiliation with NIAF. Some of the reasons for this decision include:

1. The matching scholarship funds and NIAF management of the scholarship process; scholarship candidates are screened by NIAF using criteria established by the AMHS Scholarship Committee. The Committee then selects the two winning candidates. Subsequently, NIAF notifies the candidates, ensures that the award checks are made out to the appropriate educational institutions and are delivered to the students' preferred address, obtains thank you letters and photos from the awardees, and arranges

publication of the announcements in the winners' respective local media;

2. AMHS continued representation on the Italian American Leadership Council (IALC), which, through IALC events, has brought greater name recognition to AMHS with NIAF's Board of Directors and the Italian American Congressional Delegation; and
3. Benefits of NIAF membership to every AMHS member.

The EC recommendation will be submitted to the membership for its consideration and vote at the September 18 general Society meeting. Voting will be done by closed ballot. The AMHS Executive Committee, including the Treasurer and Chair of the Scholarship Committee, will address any questions you have prior to the vote. If you wish to learn more about NIAF and the IALC, visit www.niaf.org

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

VILLA ROSA FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President-Programs

Mark your calendar now for a day of fun and fellowship at the next Villa Rosa Festival which will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Those of you who have come to this popular festival in years past, know that it's a wonderful opportunity to have fun with family and friends. It's also an opportunity to raise money for Villa Rosa and Holy Rosary Church. And there will be an outdoor Mass at 11 a.m., celebrated by Holy Rosary Pastor Ezio Marchetto.

As in past years, AMHS will have a booth stocked with information about our Society, the regions of Abruzzo and Molise, and merchandise. As usual, we will be selling wine. Again this year, we will be recruiting volunteers to help out at this day-long event which runs from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AMHS Past President Omero Sabatini will have a stand to sell his book, which is a translation of "*I Promessi Sposi*," considered one of the most important works of Italian literature and a favorite of Pope Francis.

The Festival will of course feature good food, such as homemade pizza, polenta, Italian sausage, cannoli, gelato and more. Entertainment will be provided by "The NoWhere Men," for those who love the Motown Sound, and by the "i-Talians the Band" who will perform popular Italian songs everyone knows and loves.

If you would like to volunteer as part of the "AMHS crew", please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.com. If you would like to help overall with the Festival, please contact Darlene DiBattista, who is once again in charge of organizing the event, at ddibatt@yahoo.com.

This sure sounds like an event not to be missed!!

DR. LAURA BENEDETTI TO SPEAK ON HER NOVEL *UN PAESE DI CARTA* AND THE L'AQUILA RESTORATION

By Nancy DeSanti

Please join us on Sunday, September 18, at 1:00pm in Casa Italiana, for a presentation by Dr. Laura Benedetti, titled "*Un paese di carta*": *Three Generations of Women between Abruzzo and the U.S.* Dr. Benedetti is a professor of Italian Culture in the Department of Italian at Georgetown University. The characters of her novel *Un paese di carta* travel from Abruzzo to Maryland (and back) as they confront the importance and the challenges of intergenerational dialogue, the relationship between language and identity, and the cultural differences between Italy and the U.S.

Her book is reviewed in the July-August edition of the *Voce Italiana*. She was also the subject of an article in the October 2015 *America Oggi* on the occasion of her award of a gold medal by the *Federazione delle Associazioni Abruzzesi (FAA)*.

During the past year, Laura Benedetti has presented her novel in Naples, Rome, L'Aquila, Sulmona, Florence, Pisa, Venice, and the Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino, as well as Washington, D.C. and Baton Rouge, LA, where she was Guest of Honor at the annual meeting of the American Association of Italian Studies. She just returned from L'Aquila where she witnessed the rebuilding efforts following the devastating 2009 earthquake.

Please join us to hear about Dr. Benedetti's book and her recent travels to Italy. Dr. Benedetti will have a book signing at the meeting. The book, in Italian, is \$15.00 per copy.

We will also raffle two exceptional prizes: a gift basket from Colavita (valued at approximately \$300), and a one semester course at the Casa Italiana Language Program, gifted to us by AMHS member Romeo Sabatini. Lunch will be catered by Osteria da Nino, Shirlington, VA. We ask you to make your paid reservations by September 15. See the flyer on page 11 for additional details, including the lunch menu and a reservation form.

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SUMMER SOCIAL HAD IT ALL!

By Nancy DeSanti

We had music!! We had dancing!! We had magic!! Lots of good food too. What better way to spend a summer afternoon?

We had decided to forego the usual speaker format since many of our members were on vacation or in Italy. So instead we had a "social" event on July 31, our fourth meeting of 2016. It was a chance for family members, friends and guests to listen to music and dance, play games and enjoy a delicious lunch provided by 3 Brothers Restaurant.

Speaking of music, AMHS board member Sergio Fresco played the accordion and sang for us--songs we all loved such as

Moliendo Café, O Sole Mio and *Ugnie Vote* which is a song sung in the Abruzzese dialect that is on Sergio's second CD, *Accordion 2 Me*. He was amazing!! Then he was joined at the microphone by Dora Leo Santacroce who sang some of everyone's favorite Neapolitan songs, from the songbook "Canzoni Napoletane" which AMHS vice president Lynn Sorbara had put on each table so everyone could sing along. Dora sang *Core 'Ngrato* for Lynn who loves that song and was celebrating her birthday that day. Then Margaret Uglow sang that crowd-pleaser *Torna a Surriento*. Meanwhile, some people decided it was time to get out on the dance floor.

Other people - namely Lucio D'Andrea, Omero Sabatini, Vince Ciccone and Sal DiPilla - decided it was a good time for a game of cards.

Meanwhile, Antonio Bianchini put on a killer magic show that entertained not only the kids but the adults too. Antonio, who is also a master mosaicist, looked every inch the magician in his black top hat. Everyone, especially the kids, loved his "disappearing lollipop" trick, which Sergio dubbed "lecca-lecca scumbarito."

We also heard from AMHS scholarship winner Christina Iovino. Listening to her heartfelt remarks about how much she learned during her stay in Siena and how much she enjoyed the time she spent with her Italian "family," let us know that our scholarship committee had indeed made an excellent choice.

The lunch provided by 3 Brothers Restaurant was delicious and the food was plentiful. Our thanks go to Sergio Fresco for making the arrangements.

The event had 66 attendees. The wonderful raffle prizes netted \$121 for our scholarship fund, and \$55 worth of our merchandise was sold. A special raffle prize, gifted by AMHS President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, two standard seating tickets to the October 15 NIAF Gala, was won by founding AMHS members Tony and Elodia D'Onforio! Our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make the event such a success!!

FERRAGOSTO 2016

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers



The Society's annual Ferragosto picnic was held on the grounds

of Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD on Sunday, August 14. Approximately 30 people came out to share lots of good food and friendship in spite of the very oppressive heat! Folks played bocce, Italian cards, and just reveled in the good friendship and lots of food! As the day progressed and temperatures climbed, people made their way from the covered pavilion to the grassy fields where it was noticeably cooler. A very special "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped with setting up and cleaning up.

We thank those of you who were able to come out and support our picnic this year. It's always wonderful to spend time with our AMHS family, especially at happy and festive occasions such as Ferragosto. We were also very pleased to have new faces with us. One, Velasco Cimina, is from Rome and was so very gratified to find an Italian American organization celebrating Ferragosto in the Washington, DC area. Velasco enjoyed the day so much, he joined AMHS! We were also joined by the extended Termini family, who remembered coming to Villa Rosa more than 40 years ago for the Italian Festival! 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 2016 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 Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President - Membership

I am pleased to report that there are 296 members of AMHS, including two 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!

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: **Michael A. DeMarco, Roslyn Torella, David Andrew DeAngelis, and Velasco Cimica.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Compleanni a Settembre

Anne F. La Lena and Mary Ferramosca, September 1; Bruno Fusco and Carmine Petrarca, September 2; Richard DiBuono, September 3; Anthony Phillips, September 4; Sharon Callahan, Anthony D'Ermes, and Lina Marinucci, September 5; Corrado Dal Forno, September 6; Elicia Pierno, and Michael A.

DeMarco, September 7; Maria Marigliano, September 8; Theresa Taylor, September 10; Camillo Damiano, September 11; Matthew & Amelia DiFiore, September 16; Rose Napolitano, September 18; Theresa Duncan and Lucy Schleibaum, September 19; Donna Avallone, September 22; Ronald Cappelletti, September 26; Olimpia Micheli, Virginia Paganelli, September 27; Romeo Sabatini and Jeffrey Clark, September 29; and John P. (Jack) Corrado, September 30.

Compleanni ad Ottobre

Nicola Pellegrini, October 1; Maria Marchegiani, October 3; Elizabeth DiGregorio, Charlie Iovino, Kirsten Keppel, October 8; John Fusciello, October 11; Mike DelBorrello, Irena DiCarlantonio, Nicola Ferrante, Melvena Puglisi, October 12; Jack Paganelli, October 16; Gina Damiano, October 18; Guy Caruso, October 21; Liana Campanella and Sarah Scott, October 22.

Anniversaries

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 Fusciello, and John P. & Julia Carey Corrado, September 13.

Anniversari ad Ottobre

Roy & Anita Morton, October 1; Joseph & Mary Katherine Theis, John & Eileen Verna, October 3; Rocco Del Monaco & Eileen Parise, October 9; Giuseppe & Loretta Mastrangelo, October 11; Alfred & Diana DelGrosso, and Porter & Dianne Francesconi Lyon, October 14; Joseph, Sr. & Rose Ruzzi, October 19; Nicola & Gay Ferrante, October 22; Mike & Rose DelBorrello, October 25; and Salvatore & Anna Maria DiPilla, October 30.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

BRUNO FUSCO TO JUDGE DANCE COMPETITION IN NAPLES

This summer AMHS member Bruno Fusco is traveling to his hometown of Napoli to judge a dance competition. He has traveled to Italy in the spring or summer in recent years to judge talent competitions all over Italy.

This summer Maestro Cav. Fusco will participate as a judge in the "Agora Arte" presentation of the 14th edition of the Premio Scugnizzo per la Danza. The event will take place on September 21, 2016 at the Cortile del Maschio Angeino di Napoli. The competition is being held under the auspices of the Council for Culture of the City of Napoli.

Hopefully Bruno will have time to reconnect with his friends and his former colleagues from the Teatro San Carlo where he got his professional start. Buon viaggio, Bruno!! *(Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

HOLY ROSARY GALA ON OCTOBER 1 TO HONOR 2 AMHS MEMBERS

This year the honorees at the October 1 Gala, the annual "Pro Ecclesia Sacratissimi Rosarii Award," are AMHS members Lina Pronio and Joseph Ruzzi. This gala is the biggest social event of the year for Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana. These deserving honorees are well known to AMHS members, parishioners and the Italian-American community in Washington, D.C. We would like to encourage our members to support the honorees by attending the gala.

There will be a delicious dinner catered by Sorrento Restaurant, music by a jazz band, and a silent auction with some wonderful items. The setting will be a beautifully decorated Casa Italiana.

Tickets are going fast, and seating is limited to 175, so please act now. The tickets are \$100 per person, valet parking will be available, and it is suggested that families and friends organize themselves into tables of 8. Tickets are being sold in Casa Italiana after each Sunday Mass. *(Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS CASA ITALIANA, HEARS ABOUT AMHS

By Nancy DeSanti



Ambassador Varricchio with AMHS members Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, and Ennio DiTullio and Mario Ciccone

When Italian Ambassador Armando Varricchio recently visited Casa Italiana, two of AMHS' founders, Lucio D'Andrea and Ennio DiTullio, were in the right place at the right time to say a few words to him about our Society.

The ambassador came to Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana on July 10 for the first time since presenting his credentials to President Obama in March 2016. He attended the 10:30 a.m. Mass in Italian with his wife Micaela and the outgoing First Counselor Carlo Romeo and his family. After the Mass, they and the congregants moved next door to Casa Italiana for coffee and conversation. Ambassador Varricchio stayed for about an hour and graciously accepted the many requests to pose for

photos.

Lucio and Ennio took the opportunity to say a few words in Italian to the ambassador, explaining to him the origin and purpose of the Society while he listened attentively.

Although this was his first visit to Casa Italiana since becoming ambassador, he is no stranger to Washington since he was the First Counselor and head of the Economic, Trade and Scientific Affairs Section at the Embassy from 2002 to 2006. We wish Ambassador Varricchio much success in his endeavors DC!

ITALIAN DEPARTMENT AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

By Anna De Fina, Professor and Chair, Italian Language Department

The Italian Department at Georgetown University is regarded as one of the best in the country thanks to the prestige of its Language, Literature and Culture Program and the high academic level of its faculty. The department offers a Major and a Minor in Italian, and a Masters in Italian Studies. The number of students enrolled in both language and literature courses ranges between 140 and 170 per semester.

The Italian Department's integrative approach prepares students to explore connections and understand the literary and cultural tradition from past to present. Students are exposed to these topics from the beginning of language study. Those who continue to upper level courses can choose among a great variety of courses that cover all periods of Italian literature, Italian theatre, linguistics and Italian American studies, among other subjects. Recently, the Department has started offering a course "Italian for Spanish Speakers" which has been very successful.

The Department offers many study abroad options through the office of Global Services. Undergraduate students can choose courses at Villa Le Balze in Fiesole or they can study in Milan or Bologna, among other options.

The Masters in Italian Studies offers three tracks: Literature, Linguistics/Pedagogy, and Business. It requires students to spend one semester abroad. Students can therefore choose among different Italian universities that offer courses in these three areas such as *Bocconi* in Milan for those who specialize in business or *Università per Stranieri* in Perugia for those who specialize in pedagogy.

Our undergraduate students' mastery of Italian is a real asset on the job market. Our alumni have found jobs in many diverse areas: from journalism to finance to museography. Alumni from our graduate program have gone on to PhD studies in prestigious universities such as Columbia and Duke, and have found jobs in private and public companies or have become teachers of Italian.

Students are always very engaged with our Department: every year they form part of *Il Circolo Italiano* that organizes a variety of events and holds a conversation session once a week. Masters

students are also enthusiastic supporters of our language and culture and they have created a radio program in Italian.

Faculty in the Italian Department are nationally and internationally known. They all have a very active research agenda and many publications and are regularly awarded fellowships and various forms of support to continue their research. The Department organizes a conference on Italian Pedagogy every two years. The last one, which took place in October 2015, was focused on the teaching of Italian through culture and saw the participation of many professors from both American and international universities.

The Department is a point of reference for all kinds of cultural initiatives in the Washington area and regularly collaborates with the Italian Embassy, the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* and the Italian section of the Library of Congress. We have had the honor of hosting famous writers such as Claudio Magris and Domenico Starnone, who will spend the fall semester teaching in our department. For more information readers can go to our website <https://italian.georgetown.edu/>

This is the 2nd is a series of articles we plan to publish in future issues of the AMHS Notiziario, that showcase the Italian Language and Italian Studies programs in colleges and universities in the Washington, DC area.

MOUNTAINS, MEMORIES & ARROSTICINI: ABRUZZO BEYOND THE GUIDEBOOKS

By Mike DeBonis, AMHS Member

Open up your brand-new Rick Steves guide to Italy, as my wife Dena did this summer, and you'll quickly learn it is not as comprehensive as it should be.

Rome and Florence? Of course. The alpine lakes and Tuscan hill towns? Sure. But the majestic mountains and seaside of Abruzzo? No mention whatsoever.

Dena had, however, her new Italian family by marriage to introduce her to a place that remains off the beaten path for American tourists.

Our early-July trip was an extended-family affair: Dena's side of the family took advantage of a confluence of birthdays, anniversaries and work sabbaticals for a long-planned vacation centered around a stay in a magnificent Tuscan villa; my side, happy to accept any excuse to travel to Italy, planned to rendezvous there after a few days catching up with our cousins in Sulmona.

It would be my first visit to Abruzzo in 21 years. I'd last seen my grandmother's ancestral homeland as a young teenager on my first trip abroad. This time, I would see it through a gaze sharpened by many trips across the wider world, a deeper appreciation of my family's history, and -- not least of all -- my

years of membership in the Society!

We began with a brief stay in Rome, at the famous Cavalieri hotel, where we met my parents, Tony and Sheila; my brother, Dan, and his wife, Kelly; and Maria Sabatini, daughter of AMHS' own Omero Sabatini, and her friend Marjorie.

A long and indulgent dinner in Trastevere set the tone for the days ahead. In the morning, we drove to the town of Raiano, on the outskirts of Sulmona, where we arrived at the country home of our cousin Antonio Tronca. There we were greeted with hugs, local wine and cheese, meat roasted in the forno a legna, and ripe fruit plucked from the trees surrounding the villa.

Dena and Kelly were introduced to the Italian family they had never met -- Antonio and his wife Anna, daughter of my grandmother's brother; their children, Franca and Gianpaolo; Gianpaolo's wife Melania; and their three grandchildren. We shared stories and wedding photos and ate and drank and ate some more -- finishing with sips of Antonio's homemade genziana liqueur.



Family photo in the piazza in Secinaro, where three generations of Mike's family lived

That afternoon, we drove from Raiano to Secinaro, the village on the slopes of Monte Sirente where my grandmother, Isabella, was born in 1916 and lived until she came to America in 1927 -- and not far from where Omero spent much of his youth in wartime. The village is isolated, physically and economically, and while some have returned to Secinaro to fix up the old houses, mainly retirees, the damage from the 2009 earthquake was still quite evident. The tower of San Nicola church is still in need of repair, and many homes sit vacant.

The sunset views, though, were spectacular. We left town in twilight, stopping on our way down to fill bottles with the fresh waters of the Aeterna River. Anna and Antonio hosted us at their townhome in the old city of Sulmona for a late dinner, followed by a stroll through the streets and past the Piazza Garibaldi -- where preparations were already underway for the famous Giostra Cavalleresca, only a couple of weeks away.

My parents stayed in town that night, while us "kids" drove back to Raiano. We slept that night on sheets that had been embroidered a century ago by our family matriarch, my great-grandmother Annunziata Barbati.

We awoke that Sunday morning and returned to Sulmona for coffee and breakfast before heading out on a daylong voyage

that began with a trip through L'Aquila to the town of Montereale. There we visited Bruno Sabatini, Omero's older brother and a retired obstetrician, who was recovering from a recent illness in a convalescent home with a spectacular Apennine view. After a detour back to L'Aquila for lunch, Antonio led a voyage into the Gran Sasso park -- the "high road" across the mountains to our evening destination outside of Pescara.

We briefly stopped and explored Santo Stefano di Sessanio, a Medici wool-gathering outpost that may not have the worldwide renown of San Gimignano or Montepulciano, but is every bit as historic and spectacular as those hill towns. We continued our two-car caravan up the mountains and into the clouds, past green alpine meadows and flocks of sheep. We alighted at the famous (or infamous) Campo Imperatore, recorded in history books for its role in the Mussolini saga, but known just as properly for being a favorite destination of Pope John Paul II and having one of the most dramatic vistas on the Italian peninsula.



Mike and Dena at Campo Imperatore

A long and occasionally harrowing trip down twisting mountain roads led us to the country home of our cousin Angelo Barbati, Anna's brother, in the hills overlooking Pescara. There we found another warm greeting from our many cousins, another sumptuous spread of local food and wine -- this one prepared in part by Angelo's daughter Meme and her husband Andrea, who are active in organic and "locavore" food promotion. Among the most memorable dishes: pizza rustica made from locally milled whole grains, delicate lasagne layered with garden vegetables, and that iconic dish of the mountains -- arrosticini of mutton, roasted in a brazier over olive wood.

Many toasts and stories ensued, and my mom made sure to interrogate all of the cousins in order to put the finishing touches on an extensive family tree project that had been years in the making. My brother delivered the final toast -- one expertly translated for him from afar by that renowned Manzoni translator, Omero Sabatini.

Thankfully, the late-night trip back across the mountains went via the Autostrada and not over the Gran Sasso. We rose the next morning and returned to Sulmona for a final goodbye to Anna and Antonio and a last stroll through old Sulmona's streets. But before we could depart for Tuscany and the remainder of our trip, there was one last piece of unfinished

Sulmonese business.

That, of course, was a trip to the confetti shop. One cannot leave town without a sweet souvenir, and all of us stocked up at the William di Carlo factory store, ensuring our luggage would return to the U.S. at least a couple of pounds heavier than when it left. We went on to see other beautiful vistas and eat more memorable meals in Tuscany; none, however, would outshine those of Abruzzo. Rick Steves just doesn't know what he's missing.

We would like to encourage our members who travel to Italy, to share your experiences with us by contributing an article, with photos, to the AMHS Notiziario or consider writing a blog for the Society's website. We would welcome your input!

EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY

On August 24, 2016, a large part of central Italy was struck by a devastating 6.2 magnitude earthquake, with its epicenter near the towns of Accumoli and Amatrice. Here's a fact that brings this close to those with relatives in Abruzzo: Amatrice is a mere 32 kilometers (19 miles) north of the city of L'Aquila (which itself was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2009). This tragic disaster has claimed the lives of hundreds of people, and words cannot convey the deep loss that has affected so many of us. Our hearts and prayers are with them and the rescue workers who are frantically trying to save the remaining victims trapped under the rubble.

The National Italian American Foundation and The Order Sons of Italy/Sons of Italy Foundation have already established means by which we can help to raise funds for the relief efforts. Please see below for details on how to donate:

National Italian American Foundation

Please help the National Italian American Foundation, and our partners throughout the Italian American community to raise funds for our Italian family. To help in ANY amount, please visit www.ItalianAmericanRelief.org.

Sons of Italy Foundation

The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) has set up an Earthquake Relief Fund to help the region recover from this disaster. **All donations to this fund are tax-deductible.**

The SIF will be working directly with the Embassy of Italy to direct funds to emergency relief, recovery and/or rebuilding as requested by the Italian Government.

DONATE ONLINE NOW:

www.osia.org/secure/donate-sif

Make your contribution to the SIF fund called "Disaster Relief." (Donations made online will be acknowledged by email.)

DONATE BY MAIL, FAX, OR EMAIL:

Please use [the donation form](#) to make your contribution by mail, fax or email.

Please make checks payable to **Sons of Italy Foundation**, earmarked **Earthquake Relief**.

NAVY DESTROYER TO BE NAMED AFTER NEW JERSEY MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

From the Philadelphia Inquirer Daily News August 18, 2016



The Navy announced on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, that a future guided missile destroyer will be named after World War II Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient John Basilone, who grew up in Raritan, N.J.

It will be the second warship named after Basilone, who as a gunnery sergeant was awarded the medal for valor during fighting in the tide-turning battle for Guadalcanal in 1942.

He later returned to action in the Pacific and was killed in action on the first day of the battle for Iwo Jima in 1945. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism and is the only enlisted Marine from World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.

Basilone was born in Buffalo, NY, but grew up in Raritan, the sixth of 10 children of Italian-American parents. The new USS John Basilone, designated DDG 122, is expected to enter service in six years. The last ship to bear his name was decommissioned in 1977 after 28 years of service.

The New Jersey Turnpike Bridge over the Raritan River also is named after Basilone. He was also honored with a postage stamp in 2005.

Special thanks to AMHS member and former officer Angela Campanella, who brought this item to our attention. *Grazie Angela!*



FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

CASTELLAFIUME, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti



The picturesque small town of Castellafiume is located close to the provincial capital of L'Aquila. Castellafiume has approximately 1,111 inhabitants, known as Castellitti. It is situated near the valley of Nerfa close to the Liri River. Its name derives from *Castrum fluminis* and it refers to the castello on the river Liri.

The town dates back to the 11th century. Although small, it played an important strategic role. It was a fief of the Orsini and Colonna families. During the 19th century, it was included in the comune of Cappadocia. It came to include the frazione of Pagliara dei Marsi, which itself is known for some beautiful churches. The earthquake of 1995 dealt a severe blow to the town, which had to slowly rebuild itself.

If you would like to see more of this beautiful small town, you can view YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhpMC31eHAI> showing some local artists in the act of painting some of the picturesque scenery.

Nowadays the town is known as a place of soggiorno, summer vacations and summer homes.

What to See

- Church of St. Nicola of Bari with baroque furnishings and decorations
- Church of SS Salvatore, with a beautiful Renaissance portal (in nearby Pagliara)
- Church of Our Lady of the Snow (in nearby Pagliara)
- Monument to the Emigrant in the Piazza dell'Emigrante

Important Dates

- Late May: Feast of St. Nicola of Bari and Our Lady of the Rosary
- August: Feast of Our Lady of the Snow
- 1st Week in August: Festival of "arrosticini"
- End of August: Feast of pasta and beans

- December 5: Feast of St. Nicola of Bari, the patron saint

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castellafiume>
<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/laquila/castellafiume.htm>
<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=castellafiume+italy&id=F4A2AC267C45CD8947CC8A8F95ABE2B0176F4EE5&FORM=IQFRBA>
<http://en.comuni-italiani.it/066/029/>

CASTELLAFIUME, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

Castellafiume si trova nei pressi del Capoluogo, l'Aquila. Conta circa 1,111 abitanti, chiamati Castellitti. Situata nei pressi della valle di Nerfa, e del fiume Liri, vanta una storia che risale all'undicesimo secolo. Pur essendo una minuscola comunità, ebbe nell'antichità una certa importanza strategica.

Fu sotto il dominio degli Orsini prima e dei Colonna più tardi, e, nel diciottesimo secolo, fu annessa al comune di Cappadocia, che assorbì anche la frazione di Pagliara dei Marsi, famosa per alcune sue bellissime chiese.

Il severo terremoto del 1995 inflisse un colpo severo alla cittadina, che fu lentamente rimessa in piedi.

Chi desiderasse ammirare questa bellissima cittadina, può osservarla su YouTube a <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhpMC31eHAI>. Si potranno vedere pittori nell'atto di dipingere bellissime scene pittoresche. Oggigiorno la cittadina è nota come luogo di villeggiatura o di soggiorno estivo.

Attrazioni del luogo

- La Cappella di San Nicola di Bari con rifiniture e decorazioni barocche
- La Chiesa del Santissimo Salvatore dal portale stile Rinascimento, nei pressi di Pagliara
- La Chiesa della Nostra Signora della neve, anch'essa nei pressi di Pagliara
- Il Monumento all'emigrante nella piazza dell'Emigrante

Date da ricordare

- Fine Maggio: Festa di San Nicola di Bari e della Nostra Signora del Rosario
- Agosto: Festa della Nostra Signora della Neve
- Prima settimana di Agosto: la Sagra degli "Arrosticini"
- Fine di Agosto: la Sagra della Pasta e Fagioli
- 6 Dicembre: Festa di San Nicola di Bari, Santo Patrono

CASTELLINO DEL BIFERNO, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

By Nancy DeSanti



The scenic small town of Castellino del Biferno rises on a rock surrounded by olive trees, amid the valleys of the Rio Maio and the Biferno river. It's known for the fine portals in stone carved by its artisans. Castellino del Biferno has approximately 704 inhabitants, known as Castellinesi.

The town's name has a long history. In 1011, it was *Castrum Edolini*, then in 1640, it appears as *Castellino del Lino*, and finally changed to *Castellino*. But with the unification of Italy in 1861, the words "del Biferno" were added in order to distinguish it from other towns in Italy named *Castellino*.

The earliest documents mention the town in the Norman period of the 11th century, as part of the Dukedom of Montagano. The fiefdom was under a large number of lords in the course of the succeeding centuries, including the De Cusenza, Luparia, D'Evoli and Di Capua. And in 1465, it came to belong to Angelo di Gambatesta, the Count of Campobasso.

The town draws visitors especially during summer to see its scenic beauty and its beautiful churches, especially the church of its patron saint, San Pietro in Vinculus (St. Peter in Chains), featuring many beautiful statues.

What to See

- Church of San Pietro in Vinculus, with 13 beautiful statues inside
- Chapel of the Beata Vergine delle Grazie, from the 14th century
- Church of the Sacred Heart

Important Dates

- January 16: Ricciata
- February 13-19: Carnevale
- March 19: St. Joseph
- May 20: Beata Vergine delle Grazie
- June 13: Festival of St. Anthony of Padua, known as "u pizzichondò," with a human pyramid (piramide umana)

- August 1: San Pietro in Vincoli, the patron saint and Sagra delle sagnitelle

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castellino_del_Biferno
<http://www.comune.castellinodelbiferno.cb.it/>
<http://www.tuttitalia.it/molise/67-castellino-del-biferno/>
<https://www.google.com/search?q=CASTELLINO+DEL+BIFERNO&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjRu4eD38jOAhWTth4KHRcrBBkQsAQIJQ&biw=1920&bih=945>

CASTELLINO DEL BIFERNO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Maddalena Borea

La pittoresca cittadina di Castellino del Biferno siede su una roccia, fra piante di ulivi, e circondata dalle valli del Rio Maio e del fiume Biferno. E' famosa per i suoi portali di pietra, eseguiti dai suoi artigiani, e conta circa 754 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Castellinesi.

Il suo nome ha una lunga storia. Conosciuta inizialmente come *Castrum Edolini*, divenne poi *Castellino del Lino*. Finalmente fu chiamata col nome odierno *Castellino*. Nel 1861, alla riunificazione d'Italia, si aggiunse del Biferno al suo nome, per distinguirla da altre città dal nome *Castellino*.

La sua storia risale all'undicesimo secolo, ai tempi dei normanni, quando fu ducato di Montagano. Attraverso i secoli fu sotto varie Signorie: I De Cusenza, i Luparia, i D'Evoli e i Di Capua. Nel 1465 fu annessa ai possedimenti di Angelo di Gambatesta, conte di Campobasso.

Questa cittadina attira molti visitatori, specialmente d'estate, quando i turisti vi si riversano per ammirare i suoi bellissimi panorami e le sue belle chiese, come quella del Santo patrono: San Pietro in Vincoli, dove si possono ammirare bellissime statue.

Le attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa di San Pietro in Vincoli, con 13 bellissime statue
- La Cappella della Beata Vergine delle Grazie, del quattordicesimo secolo
- La Chiesa del Sacro Cuore

Date da ricordare:

- 16 gennaio: Ricciata
- 13 a 19 febbraio: Carnevale
- 19 marzo: San Giuseppe
- 20 maggio: Beata Vergine delle Grazie
- 13 giugno: La festa di Sant'Antonio di Padova, conosciuta come "U Pizzicondo" con una piramide umana
- 1 agosto: La festa di San Pietro in vincoli, il patrono, e la sagra delle Sagnitelle



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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✧ LUNCHEON MEETING ✧

“Un paese di carta”: Three Generations of Women between Abruzzo and the U.S.

By

Dr. Laura Benedetti

Laura and Gaetano De Sole Professor of Contemporary Italian Culture
Georgetown University

When: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Casa Italiana
595 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC

MENU: Lunch will be catered by Osteria da Nino, Shirlington, VA. Menu: salad, rigatoni with vegetables, fusilli with marinara sauce, chicken marsala (served with potato, carrots, zucchini, and yellow & red peppers), saffron rice with asparagus, homemade focaccia, and tiramisu. Beverages are included.

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

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SEPTEMBER 14. NO PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR.**

Please join us on Sunday, September 18, at 1:00pm in Casa Italiana, for a presentation by Dr. Laura Benedetti, titled “*Un paese di carta*”: Three Generations of Women between Abruzzo and the U.S.” Dr. Benedetti is a professor of Italian culture in the Department of Italian at Georgetown University. Her novel *Un paese di carta* tackles issues of cultural identity, family ties, displacement and loss, as it follows a young Italian-American woman in her journey to Italy to fulfill her grandmother’s last wish. Dr. Benedetti, who is from L’Aquila, will also give an update on the restoration efforts following the devastating earthquake of 2009. We will also raffle two exceptional prizes: a gift basket from Colavita, and a one-semester course at the Casa Italiana Language School.

For information, please contact Nancy DeSanti, (703) 967-2169 or Maria D’Andrea, (703) 998-6097.

✂-----*Return with Payment*

PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, September 18, 2016

Please make check payable to AMHS.

Send to AMHS, c/o Peter Bell, 328 8th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002

NAME(S): _____ Phone: _____

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- Italian Sausage • Grilled Chicken • Salad
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- Children's Games - Pony Rides



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- The NoWhere Men
- i Talians The Band



Love that Motown sound, the great horn bands of the 60s and 70s and hits from artists like Earth, Wind & Fire; The Four Tops; Chicago; Stevie Wonder; The Temptations; Blood, Sweat and Tears; and much more? Then you will love The NoWhere Men.

The i-Talians are a pop/rock band of Italians living in Washington DC, whose goal is to export Italian music to the States!



Directions

- From Annapolis: Rte 50 West to Exit 8
- From Baltimore: Rte 97 & 3 South to Rte 50 West to Exit 8
- From Washington, DC: Rte 50 East to Exit 8
- From Montgomery County & Northern Virginia: Beltway (495) to Rte 50 East to Exit 8

From Exit 8

- Right turn onto Rte 704 (M.L. King Highway)
- Turn right at 3rd light (Lottsford Vista Road)
- Villa Rosa is one mile on right



No Pets or Coolers

JULY 31, 2016 AMHS GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): AMHS members enjoy some pre-lunch entertainment. **Top (right):** AMHS scholarship recipient Christina Iovino, center, with members of the AMHS Scholarship Committee Lucio D'Andrea, Ray LaVerghetta (chair), Peter Bell, and President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers.

Center(left): AMHS member Elisa DiClemente shares a beautiful and tender moment with her granddaughter, Christina Russo. **Center(right):** Antonio Bianchiani's magic show, enjoyed by children and grown-ups alike!

Bottom (left) and (right): A wonderful way to end the day, dancing to the tunes of Sergio Fresco on vocals and accordion. (Photos courtesy of Joe Novello and Sam Yothers).

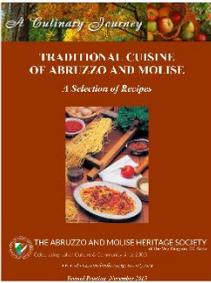
AUGUST 14, 2016 FERRAGOSTO PICNIC



Top (left): The Termini family with new AMHS member Velasco Cimina (center). **Top (right):** Sarah Scott and Melis Mull.

Center(left): Tony D'Onofrio, Melis Mull, and Vince Ciccone. **Center(right):** Time to enjoy some great food and conversation!

Bottom (left): Elodia & Tony D'Onofrio, Sarah Scott, Velasco Cimina, and Mei Lin. **Bottom (right):** Maria D'Andrea-Yothers and Jeff Clark. (Photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers and Sam Yothers).



"Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes",
 2nd Printing November 2015

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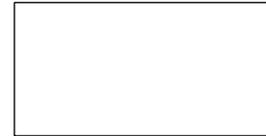
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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

Maria Fresco, Editor
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Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer

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You may choose to receive the *Notiziario* by electronic mail (email) only. This will save on paper and postage and will allow you to get your copy more quickly. If you wish to select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea by email at uva051985@comcast.net or by phone, (703) 998-6097. Thank you for considering this option.

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