



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

March 2018



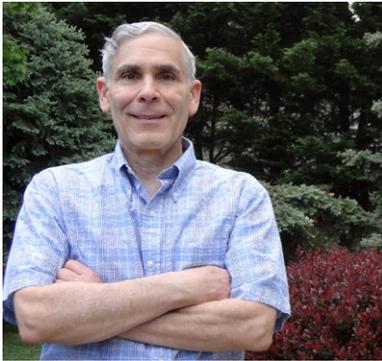
Top: Guest speaker Sara Gay Forden with, from left, Father Ezio Marchetto, Catherine Flumiani, Minister-Counselor for Consular and Social Affairs, Embassy of Italy, and Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President – Programs.

Bottom (from left): Celebrating Carnevale 2018 from left, Barbara Friedman & Peter Bell, Bob Tobias & Sarah Scott, and Sam Yothers & Maria D'Andrea-Yothers. *(photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers & Sam Yothers).*

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT: AMHS General Society Meeting, **Sunday, April 15, 2018** at 1:00pm at Carmine's Restaurant. Nutritionist Diane Welland will talk about the history of pasta in America. *See inside for details.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends:



Our New Year (2018 already!) got underway with our General Society meeting on January 28th. The very first order of business was my swearing in as the new AMHS President. Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, still President at the start of the meeting, read me the oath of office, which I promised to uphold.

In turn, I swore in our new Board members – Joe Novello, Joann Novello, and Rico Allegrino – as well as our officers serving in the New Year: Nancy DeSanti (First Vice President); Lynn Sorbara (Second Vice President); Carmine Spellane (Secretary); and Peter Bell (Treasurer). Maria D'Andrea-Yothers also awarded Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing Board members Jim Mustachio, Ennio DiTullio, and myself.

Following the business segment of the meeting, the over 90 AMHS members and guests in attendance, including Italian Embassy Minister-Counselor for Consular and Social Affairs Catherine Flumiani and Embassy Director of Education Maria Fusco, enjoyed a very good meal prepared by Fontina Grille. Members and guests then heard an extremely interesting presentation on the House of Gucci by author and financial reporter Sara Gay Forden, who regaled the audience with intriguing tidbits from her book on the lives of key players in the Italian fashion empire. Her book promised an account of murder, madness, glamour, and greed and the presentation did not disappoint.

Members and guests also had the opportunity to hear Gianluca Nigro, one of the two 2017-2018 NIAF/AMHS Scholarship winners, express his gratitude to the Society for his award. Gianluca, a junior at George Washington University, reminded those present of the high cost of college education, especially in the Washington area, and stressed how important the scholarship has been to him in the pursuit of his educational goals.

The presence of Gianluca was a real-life reminder of the important work our Society does, in partnership with NIAF, in raising money and awarding it to outstanding young Italian-Americans, who can then pursue their educational dreams. As you can imagine, this work of the Society has consequences and benefits that extend well beyond us and into the future. It is some of the most important work that our Society does. Happily, our 2017 year-end appeal for donations has elicited a very generous response: AMHS members and friends have contributed over \$6800 to the annual Scholarship Fund and \$600 to the Endowment Fund. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the year-end campaign.

I encourage the membership to mark the date of our upcoming meeting on April 15th. It will include an enjoyable and informative presentation on pasta. Please see Nancy DeSanti's article in this *Notiziario* for further details.

Best Regards,
Ray LaVerghetta

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

HISTORY OF PASTA IN AMERICA IS TOPIC OF APRIL 15, 2018 PROGRAM

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

Despite all the naysayers, pasta really is good for us, and you can find out why from Diane Welland, a leading nutritionist and food writer. Diane will be the featured speaker at our program on April 15, 2018, to be held at Carmine's Restaurant.



Diane Welland

Here's why Diane says you should eat more pasta. It's because new research shows that people who regularly eat pasta — the fundamental component of Italian Mediterranean cuisine — may have better diet quality, greater intake of vitamins and minerals and can better manage blood sugar levels, compared to those who do not eat pasta.

Diane is well-qualified to tell us about this fascinating subject. She is a registered dietitian and freelance writer and consultant specializing in consumer, custom and trade publications related to food, nutrition, food service, health and fitness. A New Jersey native, she worked in both New York City and New Jersey before moving to Northern Virginia to become Manager of Nutrition Services/Media Spokesperson for the National Restaurant Association in Washington, D.C. Three years later, she left that position to pursue her first love--writing.

You don't have to be Italian to love pasta, Diane says. It's one of the most popular foods in America, but that wasn't always the case. In her presentation, she will trace the history, culture and cuisine of pasta in the United States; how pasta was introduced in America, by Thomas Jefferson; enjoyed a surge of popularity by a wave of Italian immigrants (particularly those from Sicily) at the turn of the century; and then was influenced by soldiers who fought in World War II. Learn from Diane where you can find pasta tips, tricks and information about using pasta as well as dozens of mouth-watering pasta recipes.

Currently, Diane follows culinary, nutrition and lifestyle trends and often translates scientific information into layman's terms, interviewing chefs and food service operators as well as

talking to leading scientists. During a very interesting career, she has also worked for the International Caterers Association, for leading newsletters in the field such as the Environmental Nutrition Newsletters. She also teaches nutrition at Northern Virginia Community College and does recipe development and testing. Diane graduated from Rutgers University and has a Master of Science in Nutrition Science from New York University.

Diane will explain to us how pasta is a low-sodium and cholesterol-free food with a low glycemic index — foods that keep blood sugar levels in control. She cites a study showing that “pasta eaters have better quality diets than those who don’t eat pasta,” according to Diane. “Pasta can be an effective building block for good nutrition, as it serves as a perfect delivery system for fruits, vegetables, lean meats, fish and legumes,” she added.

So, if you would like to know more about one of everybody’s favorite foods, you should make it a point to come to our meeting on April 15 to hear a wonderful talk and enjoy a delicious lunch at Carmine’s. We note that tickets cost a little more than in the past due to a price increase by the restaurant, but we hope you will appreciate the convenient location and enjoy the delicious lunch of bread, mixed green salad, penne alla vodka, sausage, peppers, and onions, dessert and certain beverages (wine and other alcoholic beverages available for purchase). Please bring your family members and friends too, and kindly make your paid reservations by the deadline of April 12.

SAVE THE DATES: 2018 CALENDAR OF AMHS MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Sunday, April 15, 1:00 p.m., Carmine’s Restaurant*
- Sunday, June 10, 1:00 p.m., Casa Italiana*
- Sunday, July 22, 1:00 p.m., Casa Italiana*
- Sunday, August 12, 3:00 p.m., Ferragosto Picnic*
- Sunday, September 23, 1:00 p.m., restaurant TBD*
- Sunday, November 11, 1:00 p.m., Casa Italiana*

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AUTHOR SARA FORDEN TELLS DRAMATIC STORY OF FAMED HOUSE OF GUCCI

By Nancy DeSanti

A dramatic tale of passion, betrayal and business in the world of high fashion drew a large and enthusiastic crowd to Casa Italiana recently on a cold rainy winter day. At our first program of the year on January 28, 2018, an audience of 93 members and guests heard financial reporter and author Sara Gay Forden give us the story behind the story set out in her book about the famous Gucci high-end fashion house.

Sara lived in Milan for 22 years, working as a financial journalist for Dow Jones and Bloomberg and covering stories like Chrysler/Fiat and Parmalat. But this being Milan, a city with some big personalities, sometimes the business and financial beats overlapped with the fashion world. Sara explained that she started to hear rumors and stories from her contacts in Milan about Gucci’s business and financial dealings. Her interest in fashion as well as business led her to take two years off to write this fascinating book.



Sara Forden

Gucci eventually moved its offices from its home base in Florence to Milan and then expanded its reach to Paris, London, Asia and other parts of the world.

But it was by no means smooth sailing. The company surely had more than its share of ups and downs and ups again. Sara explained how, for a time, Aldo’s son Paolo wanted to sell all sorts of items with the Gucci name on them and thus he ran afoul of the family members who valued the company’s traditions. His father Aldo, for one, was vehemently opposed to such a cheapening of the brand, and in retaliation, Paolo sent incriminating tax documents concerning his father to the IRS. Because of his son’s betrayal, Aldo spent a year in prison in Florida at the age of 81.

Under Aldo’s nephew Maurizio and family friend and lawyer Domenico De Sole, the company did exceedingly well for a time after hiring unknown American designer Tom Ford, who transformed the image of Gucci into one of Hollywood glamour with his cutting-edge designs and provocative advertising.

But the finances were a mess, with lawsuits galore; at one point, Maurizio was forced to make a nighttime escape to Switzerland on his red Kawasaki motorcycle in order to avoid arrest. Eventually Gucci was taken over by Kering, a conglomerate controlled by French billionaire Francois Pinault which had also acquired Yves Saint Laurent and Bottega Veneta. Gucci had managed to fend off a takeover by the conglomerate LVMH controlled by another French billionaire, Bernard Arnault, who already had acquired Louis Vuitton,

Fendi, Loro Piana, Bulgari and Christian Dior. Sara noted that it has been a common situation in other Italian family-owned high-end fashion houses, such as Prada and Fendi, which have been acquired by much bigger non-Italian companies.

Sara confirmed that the Oscar-winning director Ridley Scott has an option on the book and plans to make it into a movie. And why not? After all, the book is entitled, “House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour and Greed.” Truly a cautionary tale of passion and betrayal with business mixed in!!

In writing her book, Sara said she interviewed 100 people connected to Gucci in some way--basically “anyone who wasn’t dead,” including Aldo’s sons, Domenico De Sole, Tom Ford and Maurizio Gucci before his untimely death.

Sara told us fascinating details about the infamous trial involving the murder of Maurizio, one of the founder’s grandsons, by his ex-wife Patrizia. Two years after the murder, Patrizia was arrested and hauled off to jail wearing her gold and diamond jewelry and full-length fur coat. It’s a story that is stranger than fiction, and Sara covered the trial and wrote about it in detail. She even corresponded with Patrizia while she was in prison. Sara mentioned that ironically, following her release Patrizia now lives in Milan in the building that overlooks the courthouse where she went on trial.

Before Sara’s fascinating talk, a delicious lunch was served, catered by Fontina Grille of Rockville, Maryland, with the wonderful desserts made by AMHS Vice President Lynn Sorbara. Our great raffle prizes brought in \$335. We thank all those who helped with setting up the room and serving the lunch, those who donated the raffle prizes and those who bought the raffle tickets.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ADDRESSES AMHS GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING

By Ray LaVerghetta, Chair, AMHS Scholarship Committee



Gianluca Nigro

Gianluca Nigro, one of the two winners of the joint NIAF/AMHS Scholarships for the academic year 2017-2018, addressed the AMHS General Society Meeting on January 28. He opened his remarks by noting that he is from Chatham, MA, and that he is a junior at George Washington University, where he is majoring in Political Science and minoring in Italian and History.

Gianluca then thanked the Society for awarding him a scholarship, stressing that it is of great assistance to him in managing the high cost of college tuition, which is especially expensive in the Washington, D.C. area. He added that the scholarship is making it possible for him to meet both his educational and career goals.

In explaining his inspiration, Gianluca referred both to his grandfather and to his father. He indicated that his father in particular has molded his character and strengthened his motivation. He read to the membership some words written by his father that he frequently uses to steel his determination and forge ahead. He noted that, like his father, he plans to build a career path and devote his energies to government service.

Gianluca indicated that his roots have great importance for him, and he cited his position as Vice-President of GW’s Società di Cultura Italiana as just one small example of the overarching significance that his cultural background has in his life. In closing, he cited the sacrifices of his parents and grandparents, who struggled to make their way in a foreign country so that their children and grandchildren could enjoy a better life

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

by Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President – Membership

Welcome to New Members:

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: **Elena Biondi; Carla Di Blasio & Ross Cameron; Jamie Ciaccia; Quintino Cianfaglione; Paul Ciavarrì; Christopher Laconi; Mary Smargiassi Muth; Susan Smith; and Tom Sweeney.**

Birthdays

Compleanni a Marzo

Eileen Parise Del Monaco, Christy Eva Nash, and Elaine Balducci, March 1; Robert D’Onofrio and Greg Bernabei, March 2; Maria Fresco, March 3; Melis Mull, March 4; Salvatore DiPilla and Ronato Sozio, March 8; Joseph Sandri, March 9; Maria Kellaheer and Sam Yothers, March 12; Mary Petrino, March 14; Lucio Marchegiani, March 16; Justine Petracci Lawson, March 17; Theda Corrado and David Scalzitti, March 19; Fiorenza Pasquini and Pam Lupo, March 21; Nicholas Rao, March 23; Mary Katherine Theis, March 25; Lucio D’Andrea, March 28; Rial Coleman, March 30; Anna Maria DiPilla, March 31.

Compleanni ad Aprile

Eva Del Vecchio, and Albert Grasso, April 1; Joseph Theis, April, 4; Susan Ann Bonsiero, April 5; Diana Bernabei, April 6; Elizabeth Chiaverini, April 9; Donald Kelleher, April 10; Gloria D’Andrea, April 12; Domenico Santini, April 14; Joyce Del Borrello, April 18; Stephen Ulissi, and Elena Francini-McGrann, April 21; Enrico Granafei, Julia Conti, April 22; Michael Nardolilli, and Peter Iovino, April 24; Belinda Sabatini, April 25; Chistopher Renneker, April 26; Joann Novello, and Constantino Taglienti, April 28; Tommaso Profenno, April 30

Anniversari a Marzo

Thomas & Jana Monaco, March 1; Robert and Marlene Lucian, March 3; and Albert & Karen Grasso, March 4.

Anniversari ad Aprile

Angelo and Melvena Puglise, April 11; Vincenzo and Dora Marinucci, April 15; Gino and Lina Marinucci, April 24; and Roberto and Bess DiTullio, April 25.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

2 AMHS MEMBERS NAMED TO HOLY ROSARY PARISH COUNCIL

Holy Rosary Church held elections in December 2017 to choose new Parish Council members for the 2018-2019 term. AMHS vice president Nancy DeSanti and AMHS member Maria Marigliano finished their second two-year terms, for a total of 4 years each, and so were not eligible for re-election. The new Parish Council includes AMHS members Anna Isgro and Giovanni Sciannameo. Giovanni has been the videographer at various church and AMHS events. Anna will be coordinating with Father Ezio Marchetto on the planned Immigration Museum.

In connection with the museum's Marconi oral history project, a team has already interviewed and recorded AMHS members Angelo Puglisi, Omero Sabatini and Maddalena Borea. Lucio D'Andrea will be interviewed and recorded in March, followed by other members during the coming year. Details of the project can be found in the Voce Italiana issue of February 2018.



Congratulations and best wishes to Anna and Giovanni!!

AMHS MEMBER MARIA MARIGLIANO DISCUSSES DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH RESIDENTS OF THE WESTMINSTER AT LAKE RIDGE

On Thursday, February 8, residents of the Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Community in Lake Ridge, Virginia, had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Holy Rosary Church's organist and choir director, Maria Marigliano, to speak to its Current Events Forum. Maria, who recently retired from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was invited by Lucio D'Andrea, a resident of the Westminster and Chair of the Forum, to speak about her distinguished career at USAID. Maria spoke about the mission of USAID, to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and to assist

developing countries. She also spoke about her mission travels to Afghanistan, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Pakistan.



In the picture with Maria and Lucio is Westminster resident George Marling, who shared with Maria stories about his experience serving in civilian and military intelligence. Maria was accompanied by her mother, Carmela Ventresca. (submitted by Lucio D'Andrea).

MARCH 19 NIAF SCREENING OF AMHS MEMBER KIRSTEN KEPPEL'S FILM



Kirsten Keppel

On March 19, the National Italian American Foundation will hold its annual St. Joseph's Day event, which this year will feature a film by AMHS member Kirsten Keppel. Last year, Kirsten made a film, "*Ringraziamenti: The St. Joseph's Day Table Tradition*," which was a semifinalist in the inaugural 2017 Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum.

The event will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, the patron saint of home and family. It will be a great opportunity to see Kirsten's 20-minute film, meet some of the locals who are in it, and find out the history of the *Tavola di San Giuseppe* tradition which stretches back to the Middle Ages. Even today the tradition is still practiced in Sicily and worldwide, especially in Italian-American communities of Sicilian descent.

This event will take place at 6 p.m. at NIAF's headquarters at 1860 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Donation of a non-perishable food items is requested as part of Holy Rosary Church's Lenten food drive. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by March 15 to Gabriella Mileti at gmileti@niaf.org. (submitted by Nancy DeSanti).

**AMHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER GIANLUCA NIGRO,
PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY SOCIETÀ DI CULTURA ITALIANA**
By Gianluca Nigro, AMHS Honorary Member

La Società di Cultura Italiana (GW Italian Cultural Society) is an organization with over 100 students from various backgrounds which works to bring the GW student body as close as possible to authentic Italian culture while here in Washington, DC, and helps its Italian exchange student members feel at home. The organization hosts events at venues all over the District, including authentic Italian restaurants, the Italian Embassy, and on GW's campus in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of DC.

La Società di Cultura Italiana's close ties with organizations such as the Italian Embassy and the National Italian American Foundation makes it unique from other collegiate Italian societies, by acquainting its members to a career in public service for the Italian American heritage, and even setting students up with internships. Each semester, *La Società di Cultura Italiana* holds about a dozen dynamic events which help to broaden students' perspectives on Italian culture. Over the last few years, *La Società's* high caliber events and outreach has become a staple on GW's campus that keeps students excited about the future being built for Italian American students.

**YOUNG ITALIAN STUDENT TRYING
TO HELP SCHOOL AFFECTED BY
EARTHQUAKES**

By Nancy DeSanti

At our January 28, 2018 program, we heard from a young Italian student who is raising money to help a school in an area of Italy that has been hard hit by earthquakes. The student, Matteo Ferramondo, was introduced to the audience by Olga Mancuso, president of C.O.M.I.T.E.S.

Specifically, Matteo is raising funds for the Simone De Magistris school in Calderola, a middle school affected by the 2016 earthquake in the Le Marche region of Central Italy. In his remarks to our members and guests, Matteo asked if we could please assist him in helping these students.

Matteo describes his plans in his own words as follows:

My name is Matteo Ferramondo and I am a 12th grade Italian student at the George C. Marshall High School located in Falls Church, Virginia. In order to graduate, my classmate Gianmarco Starke and I have the requirement to organize and complete a volunteering project.

We decided to organize a charity fundraiser for the students of the middle school Simone De Magistris, located in the city of Calderola, province of Macerata, in the Marche Region. The decision to do such project resulted from a discussion with other Italians in my class that we must do something connected to our Italian roots.

The Simone De Magistris school was chosen due to my aunt being one of the teachers there, therefore, it was easier for us to contact and organize with the school's administrators. The goal of our campaign is to raise \$3,000 to buy enough new sports supplies for the young middle school students. We believe that by doing so we are able to shine a bit of light on the tough times these students are going through. In fact, the students were first moved out of the school due to the earthquakes and were placed in temporary trailers. Now, they went back to the school, but part of the school is still inaccessible. So, we believe that our campaign can be of great help for these students during these tough times.

Anyone wanting to help can get in touch with Matteo at matteowferramondo@gmail.com for details on how to contribute.

**LOST MUSIC OF THE HOLOCAUST
PRESERVED BY ITALIAN MUSICIAN
FRANCESCO LOTORO**

By Nancy DeSanti

Many books have been written and movies made about the Holocaust itself, but perhaps less is known about the music. So an event was held at the Embassy of Italy on January 29, 2018, to introduce Francesco Lotoro, who has made it his life's work to find the music written in the concentration camps. His small apartment in Barletta, Puglia, holds the world's largest collection of this "lost music of the Holocaust."

Italy, in July 2000, was the first country to designate by law that January 27 would be International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Other countries, and the United Nations, followed suit not long after. This event with Francesco Lotoro, sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute, was part of the commemoration of that day.



Maestro Francesco Lotoro and Ambassador Armando Varricchio

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Armando Varricchio noted that similar events were being held in other major U.S. cities. He told the audience that on the 80th anniversary of Mussolini's racial laws, Italian President Sergio Mattarella announced that he is honoring Auschwitz survivor Liliana Segre by naming her a "Senator for Life."

No doubt it was an emotional experience for many in the audience to hear Maestro Lotoro playing on the piano the songs of the inmates who were in Auschwitz, Buchenwald and

other World War II concentration camps—songs which the prisoners themselves called “songs at the gates of hell.”

The most prolific composer in the camps was an opera singer from Czechoslovakia who wrote hundreds of pieces of music while he was imprisoned, but never wrote even a single note of music afterwards. Maestro Lotoro, working with the composer’s son, was able to find some pieces of that music which he played for the audience.

Lithuanian, French and Polish inmates in the camps were among the composers whose musical works have survived. In some camps, musicians were allowed to perform for the enjoyment of the camp commandants, but the political prisoners, especially, had to hide their compositions and so they used newspaper scraps and toilet paper.

Maestro Lotoro, the son of a tailor, had a passion for the piano at a young age. He first became interested in this music while studying at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. While studying the great composers of Central Europe, he noticed that the biographies of many of them ended abruptly in 1944, and he resolved to find out why. The audience was shown a short video of Maestro Lotoro’s work, which will be broadcast as a longer film in Italy, entitled “Lost Musik.”

Dr. Bret Werb of the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., offered details about some of the composers as Maestro Lotoro played examples of their music. As curator of the museum’s music and sound collection, he said that the museum has put a lot of the information online for scholars and members of the public.

Dr. Kenneth Stow, an American who is professor emeritus of Jewish history at the University of Haifa, gave the audience some background about the musicians in the camps. And he said he had talked to Jewish survivors in Italy who told him about being hidden by families in false closets during the war, at great risk to themselves. Others gave their jewels and valuables to shopkeepers for safekeeping, and when the war ended, every stone was returned to them. He said he was told that in the town of Tagliacozzo Alto in Abruzzo, a Jewish family was hidden by the Catholic parish priest. It turns out that everyone in the town knew this secret, but no one betrayed them.

In fact, details of this story about the Abruzzese priest, Don Gaetano Tantalo, have gradually become known. Many details have been published by the Yad Vashem Museum, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, in its featured stories on the Righteous Among the Nations.

The following are some of the known details: A small piece of paper with handwritten numbers displayed in the Yad Vashem Museum of Holocaust History tells the extraordinary story of the celebration of Passover at the home of this Italian priest during the German occupation of Italy in 1944. It is the page on which Don Tantalo did his calculation to determine the exact date of Passover.

Don Tantalo of Tagliacozzo Alto, Italy, not only hid seven members of the Orvieto and Pacifici families, but went out of his way to enable them to perform the Jewish rituals.

Don Gaetano Tantalo, born in 1905, in Villavallelonga, L’Aquila province, met the members of the Orvieto and Pacifici families, in Magliano dei Marsi (L’Aquila) in August 1940. They were at a summer resort where the families usually vacationed, and they developed friendly relations with the local inhabitants, including the local priest. The latter introduced them to his friend, Don Gaetano Tantalo, the priest in the Church of St. Pietro in Tagliacozzo Alto. They met him again in the summer of 1941, and in 1942. Enrico Orvieto and Tantalo became friends.

Life changed after the Italian surrender on September 8, 1943, and the Orvieto-Pacifici families escaped to Magliano dei Marsi. When they did not feel safe there any longer, they moved to a neighboring village, Poggio Filippo. This was just 12 hours before the German troops entered the area, establishing their headquarters at the former house of the two Jewish families in Magliano de Marsi. Thus, it also seemed risky to remain in Poggio Filippo. Enrico therefore decided to seek the help of his friend, Don Tantalo in Tagliacozzo Alto.

He offered to shelter the Orvieto-Pacifici families at the parish house, despite the danger. Don Tantalo introduced them to his neighbors as relatives. During the nine months they were harbored in the church Don Tantalo exhibited genuine friendship. As a devout Catholic, he was also sensitive to their religious requirements. He supplied them with Bibles; greeted them with “Shabbat Shalom” every Friday evening; and helped them determine the dates of the Jewish holidays, especially Passover, according to the Jewish calendar. For the Seder, he supplied them with brand new dishes and helped organize all the necessary ingredients. A small piece of baked matzah (unleavened bread) from that auspicious Passover remained hidden among his belongings.

In July 1944, the Orvieto-Pacifici families left the Church of St. Pietro, in Tagliacozzo Alto, and returned to Rome. They remained in close contacts with their rescuer. When Father Tantalo suffered from lung disease, The Orvieto family helped him get the best medical care. He died in 1947.

TUSCANY CLUB CARNEVALE 2018

By Maria D’Andrea-Yothers, Immediate Past President

On Saturday, February 10, the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club (the Lucchesi Club) sponsored its annual Carnevale at Casa Italiana, from 6:00pm-10:00pm. This year’s theme was “*Dreams of Italy Carnevale*”. This brought out very unusual and unique costumes, as over 90 party-goers, including 11 children, donned masks and elegant costumes depicting a multitude of characters, including those from fairy tales, magicians, and even scopa card

The party wasn’t just about costumes. A wonderful meal was catered by Basilico LLC, with authentic Italian fare. DJ Gianpiero Antonazzo, who is with the i-Talians band, did a

great job playing music that appealed to all ages, including several modern Italian songs as well as classic Italian folk songs. There was much dancing!

One guest from the January 28 AMHS meeting, Matteo Ferramondo, was also a guest of the Lucchesi Club and a beneficiary of the proceeds from a 50/50 raffle to help buy sports equipment for the Simone De Magistris School in Calderola, Italy, which was devastated by a recent earthquake. The raffle made \$250!

We are thankful to the many AMHS members (some are also Lucchesi Club members) who came out to support this event: Peter Bell and Barbara Friedman; Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea; Sarah Scott and Bob Tobias; John and Eileen Verna; Maria Marigliano and Carmela Ventresca; Kirsten Keppel; Cecilia Fiermonte; Amy and Matteo DiFiore; Maria D'Andrea-Yothers and Sam Yothers; and Tricia Maltagliati, Lucchesi Club President.

This issue of the *Notiziario* includes only a handful of photos from the event. A fun photo booth was set up to capture photos of the experience. To see more – and to see how very fun this event was for all ages – check out the Lucchesi Club website, <http://www.lucchesitoscani.org/>

GREATER DC STRATEGIC PLAN TO PROMOTE THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE

By Maria LaVerghetta, AMHS Member and Representative to the Greater Washington DC Observatory of the Italian Language

On January 19th, the Italian Embassy hosted a meeting of the Greater Washington DC Observatory of the Italian language. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a progress report on the steps taken to promote the Italian language in the DC area since the last meeting in May of 2017. As the AMHS also has a lively interest in promoting Italian, the organizers of the event, Italian Embassy Minister-Counselor for Consular and Social Affairs Catherine Flumiani and Director of Education Maria Fusco, invited our Society to send a representative. The author had the privilege of attending on behalf of AMHS and, in what follows, reports on what the Embassy is doing to strengthen its initiatives promoting the Italian language and culture in the greater DC area.

By way of background, in May of 2017, Maria Fusco and Catherine Flumiani introduced the 2017 Strategic Plan for the Promotion of the Italian Language. The top priority was to increase the number of students taking the Advanced Placement (AP). The rationale is that a foreign language that has an associated AP course and exam is more attractive to students than one which does not, because passing the course and exam typically results in college credits. If Italian programs are to thrive in the greater DC area, high schools need greater numbers of students in Italian AP exams. In addition to increasing AP exam volumes, the development of beginning Italian courses at the elementary and secondary level is another important priority when it comes to promoting the Italian language in the greater DC area. Students who learn

languages at an earlier age generally develop more native-like pronunciation. Moreover, students who enter high school already with a basic understanding of Italian can more easily reach the AP level, thus supporting the top priority of the Greater Washington DC Observatory of the Italian language. The third priority outlined in May of 2017 was fundraising, particularly for scholarships, which will promote the study of the Italian language at the university level and possibly encourage more young people to become Italian teachers.

At the start of the January 19th meeting, Dattoressa Fusco updated the attendees on the successes and remaining challenges regarding implementation of the strategic plan for the promotion of the Italian language. She first addressed the AP exam numbers from 2017, which remained the same in Montgomery County (41 AP exams) but unfortunately decreased in Virginia (22 AP exams down from 35) and DC (1 AP exam down from 2). Though the number of exams decreased, students who took the exams in 2017 earned high scores, with an average score of 3.76 (out of 5) in Maryland and 3.09 in Virginia. Looking ahead to the 2018 exams, the Italian Embassy will host a training session on February 24th to acquaint teachers in the surrounding area with the best practices and strategies for building proficiency at an advanced level and increasing students' scores on this assessment.

Following the updates on the AP exam numbers and scores, the National Organization of Italian-American Women representative provided the most recent information about scholarship opportunities for young women interested in studying Italian at the university level. Both NIAF's representative, Julia Streisfield, and the author spoke about the scholarship opportunities our respective organizations continue to offer each year to students who are of Italian background and are committed to studying Italian as a major or minor at their university. Such scholarships are especially valuable if they afford students the opportunity to study in Italy. The author stressed that if it had not been for the AMHS-NIAF scholarship, she would not have been able to study at the University of Perugia for Foreigners, an experience that turned her into a more knowledgeable Italian teacher, a more proficient speaker of Italian, and thus a more effective promoter of the Italian language. In the author's view, it is also noteworthy that NIAF offers a scholarship to students who are passionate about the Italian language but are not of Italian origin. One of the author's brightest and most enthusiastic students falls into this category.

Participants at the meeting also discussed significant resources, projects and future events that will hopefully generate interest in the Italian language and spark the interest of prospective Italian students. Interested AMHS members should mark their calendars for the third week of October, Italian Language Week, and keep an eye out for the daily events that occur that week in celebration of the Italian language and culture in Washington. In addition, AMHS parents whose children or grandchildren are studying Italian, or who themselves are interested in taking Italian courses, should check out the website "US Speaks Italian." The website has information about studying abroad, scholarships,

online courses, and educational resources. The Italian embassy is very interested in your feedback about the website and any improvements that it can make. Thanks to feedback received in the last year, the Embassy has recently added a link to LIRA, a platform of the Università per Stranieri di Perugia that offers linguistic material to students and teachers. Comments or questions about the website may be directed to me or to AMHS President Ray LaVerghetta, both of whom will ensure that they get to Minister Counselor Flumiani and Professoressa Fusco.

Lastly, there was discussion about the many challenges that stakeholders face in promoting the Italian language in the DMV area. The author shared the challenges that she faces as the sole high school Italian teacher in Anne Arundel County. She cited the lack of resources, the lack of an established curriculum, and the lack of opportunities for professional collaboration. Dr. Joseph Lupo of Casa Italiana and Maria Grazia Cavallini of Walter Johnson High School expressed their concerns over continued cuts and detrimental scheduling issues in the Italian programs in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. To follow up, Dottoressa Fusco and Ms. Cavallini visited Tilden Middle School and N. Bethesda Middle School on January 29th to encourage enrollment in the Italian program at Walter Johnson. In addition, a meeting was held on February 8 between Ente Gestore CILS and the authorities of Prince George County in order to increase the number of students of Italian and discuss the AP Italian exam

CIAO BELLOWS: ITALY AND THE RISE OF THE ACCORDION

By Carmine James Spellane, AMHS Secretary

The least likely places can have a major impact on history. Take the small Italian town of Castelfidardo, in the province of Ancona in the region of Marche in east-central Italy. Castelfidardo was the site of two events in the 1860s that changed the future of Italy and the world of music.

In 1860, an army from Sardinia defeated the forces of the Papal States as part of the struggles taking place over the future of the Italian peninsula. The Sardinian victory was a significant event in the creation of the unified nation of Italy.

Three years later, a seemingly insignificant encounter also had a major impact on the future of the town, the region and the wider world. For it was in that year that an Austrian man who had been on a pilgrimage to the Catholic shrine in the town of Loreto stopped in nearby Castelfidardo to seek shelter for the night at a farmhouse owned by Antonio and Lucia Soprani. After partaking in a meal, the visitor sat near the fireside and played music on a strange boxlike instrument. One of the Sopranis' sons, 19-year-old Paolo, became fascinated with the box, which was in fact a version of the instrument the "accordeon" which had been patented in 1829 by an Armenian named Cyrill Demian. Demian's instrument was primitive, having keys only for the left hand, with the right hand used to push the bellows in and out. Stories vary as to how Paolo

obtained a working knowledge of the pilgrim's box, but obtain it he did.

Paolo opened a small workshop in 1864 in his home with assistance from his brothers and began to hand craft an instrument he called an "*armoniche*," selling them at fairs and markets, including the pilgrimage site at Loreto with its steady stream of international visitors.



Paolo Soprani and his accordion

Soprani achieved enough success to open a factory in the center of Castelfidardo. The popularity of his accordions grew, at first among the local population who incorporated it into their folk music traditions, and then throughout Europe. As Italians emigrated to other nations, especially the United States, Soprani found himself fielding orders from homesick *paisani* longing for the music of their native land. Paolo moved to bigger headquarters; his workforce grew to about 400, and he eventually developed a production line to manufacture components of his instruments, although the reeds and other delicate parts were still crafted by hand.

Soprani was not the only manufacturer of accordions. In the latter three decades of the nineteenth century, other shops sprung up in Marche and the nearby region of Abruzzo. Sante Crucianelli, Giuseppe Janni, Pasquale Ficosecco, Giovanni Chiusaroli, Raffaele Pistelli, and other craftsmen produced simple diatonic accordions.

Accordion production also had two other major centers, both in northern Italy — Stradella in Lombardy and Vercelli in Piedmont. In 1876, Mariano Dallape began working at Stradella and made important advancements in the development of the piano accordion, which had been invented in 1852. Stradella has also given its name to the standard design and layout of the bass keys on modern accordions.

But no one matched the output of Paolo Soprani's factory. By 1905, his company was producing 1200 accordions a month, mostly for the Italian market. That was about to change quickly. Industry-wide accordion exports from Italy would rise from 690 in 1906 to an astonishing 14,365 by 1913. Again, emigration played a role, including the movement of talented Italian artisans and musicians to other nations. In addition, Italian-made accordions were considered of higher quality than those made in Germany, France, Russia and Czechoslovakia.

The accordion's popularity and incorporation into Italian music was so swift that by the end of the 1870s, no less a

figure than Giuseppe Verdi put forward a proposal that the instrument be studied in musical conservatories.

The accordion remained popular in the first half of the 20th century. Production hit its first major stumble with the advent of the Great Depression of 1929, which greatly slowed demand, especially from abroad. Benito Mussolini's fascist regime helped prop up the industry through propaganda, which called the accordion a musical instrument invented in Italy (not quite true) and as being "the pride of our industriousness and the delight of the Italian people" (arguably true), as well as financial support.

The Second World War, however, nearly destroyed the Italian accordion industry. Production went from 51,000 units in 1938 to a low of 500 in 1944. The industry rebounded quickly in the postwar era, however. By 1953, exports had rebounded to 192,058, as the industry employed more than 10,000 people.

And what of the company founded by Paolo Soprani? It merged with the Scandalli company to create a large firm called Farfisa. Other entrepreneurs were entering the business, some from the U.S., and many opened production lines in Castelfidardo. Accordion schools were widespread in Europe and North and South America. Thousands of young students, including this writer, took lessons. Lawrence Welk reigned supreme on Saturday night television.

The boom was not to last. This time it wasn't war or recession that endangered Italy's accordion industry. It was changing tastes. During the 1950s and 1960s, a musical style driven more by rhythm than by melody gained traction. The music of Elvis Presley and later the Beatles and Rolling Stones, became the dominant fashion in musical tastes. Rock 'n Roll was here to stay, and it didn't have much use for the accordion.

Italy keenly felt the impact. Some of the larger companies were able to adapt their production lines to electric guitars and keyboards. Others, especially smaller, family owned accordion makers, bore the brunt of the downturn. As many as 17 such firms closed in the 1960s.

The accordion has made something of a comeback, as it has moved beyond the staid image of the 1950s. The rise of interest in authentic folk music from many cultures has given the instrument new life and instilled a new appreciation of its musical value. Today, there are sixty accordion companies operating in Italy, with thirty of them in Castelfidardo.

One hundred and fifty-five years after Paolo Soprani met the pious Austrian musician, he would be proud that his hometown remains the beating heart of Italy's accordion manufacturing and that the instrument is enjoying a renaissance. Musical tastes, however, are notoriously fickle. Perhaps the future of the Italian accordion industry lies in the hope that a worthy successor to Paolo Soprani with the same skill and marketing foresight is working in Castelfidardo today.

(Carmine James Spellane is the Secretary of AMHS. After retirement from full-time employment, he resumed accordion lessons after a hiatus of more than 50 years. He wrote this essay as an assignment from his instructor who knew that Carmine would be interested in the history of the instrument given his Italian heritage on his mother's side.)

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

SANTO STEFANO DI SESSANIO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, REGION OF ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti

The hill town of Santo Stefano di Sessanio is located in the Gran Sasso and the Monti della Laga National Park, in the highest region of the Apennines. This fortified medieval hill town sits adjacent to the high plain of Campo Imperatore. The village is a classic example of an Italian medieval hill town, with perimeter walls encircling houses and squares.



Santo Stefano di Sessanio

Until recent years, the town, which was largely abandoned, had only 70 inhabitants. Now the town has approximately 117 residents, known as Stefanari. Many of its buildings have been restored, and since it is only a two-hour drive from Rome, it has become a fashionable weekend and summer retreat. The town's main source of income is tourism with small boutiques, art galleries and eateries tucked into ancient stone structures.

Among the buildings which have been restored, some comprise the Sextantio Albergo Diffuso, or extended hotel. Other structures have been restored as vacation homes.

The quintessential villages of Abruzzo are all too often abandoned to the hands of fate. Young people move away so only an older generation remains; and slowly but surely the villages become dominated by uninhabited houses, deserted squares and empty benches.

This was the case in Santo Stefano di Sessanio – until 1999, that is, when Swedish-Italian maverick and millionaire Daniele Kihlgren came to town. He was on a solo motorbike tour and, as an idealist, felt compelled to do something about this sad situation. Kihlgren started out buying one house in Santo Stefano; he quickly followed that with another 10. He made a deal with local government officials to preserve Santo Stefano and restore it to its original state. Part of the project was a new concept in the hotel business: *Albergo Diffuso* now consists of hotel rooms spread over 32 restored houses in the existing village. The Folk Museum of Abruzzo and some of the older residents of Santo Stefano were involved in the restoration project. Beautiful little details are everywhere, like the heavy bedspreads and patterned linen based on traditional weaving designs specially commissioned for this venture.

Along with its neighbor Castel del Monte, Santo Stefano has been named one of Italy's prettiest villages, "*I borghi più belli d'Italia*", and recognized by the Slow Food movement for its sustainable agriculture, in particular its gourmet Santo Stefano gray lentils (*lenticchie*). The town holds a festival on the first weekend in September of each year, the "*Sagra delle Lenticchie*", celebrating this special food, which is considered to be a symbol of good fortune especially during New Year's festivities.



The Medieval Tower

The town was called "Sessanio" or "Sextantia", in Roman times. Many of its structures date from the 11th through 15th centuries. In the 12th century, Santo Stefano was part of the Baronage of Carapelle, Its still-standing village portal and now destroyed circular tower (the town's most notable architectural

landmark) were constructed by the Medicis. The entrance portal, which leads to the village's main square, is emblazoned with the Medici coat of arms. Other historic structures include the Church of Santa Maria in Ruvo, Casa Fortezza, the Church of Santo Stefano, the ruins of the Palazzo Anelli, the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, and the Convent S. Maria del Monte.

As a strategic crossroads for the commercial route between Rome and the Adriatic coast at the height of the Roman Empire, Santo Stefano flourished under the Medicis in the 16th century. Unfortunately, by the end mid-19th century, the area suffered from extreme poverty leading to mass emigration and to Santo Stefano falling into disrepair.

In the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake, Santo Stefano lost its two most precious architectural prizes: its Medici Tower, the town's iconic symbol, which totally collapsed, and its 17th century Church of the Madonna del Lago, which lost most of its front facade and suffered a major roof collapse. The hill town's other ancient masonry buildings largely survived although many suffered structural damage. The Medici Tower is believed to have been rendered vulnerable to collapse because of 20th century renovations to the tower's observation platform, which replaced a wooden deck with one made of reinforced concrete, thus making the tower top-heavy.

But nowadays, in addition to the Albergo Diffuso, the town boasts many splendid shops where one can purchase locally produced honey and jam, salamis, and pecorinos, as well as the region's famous lentils.

Where once were empty buildings and locked doors, now Santo Stefano di Sessanio is alive again, in a most charming way.

What to See

- Medieval tower
- Medici Palace
- Church of Santo Stefano
- Castle of Rocca Calascio
- Park of Campo Imperatore

Important Dates

- 1st weekend in September: Sagra delle Lenticchie

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santo_Stefano_di_Sessanio
<https://www.lifeinabruzzo.com/santo-stefano-di-sessanio/>
<http://www.purelifeexperiences.com/revival-santo-stefano-di-sessanio/>

SANTO STEFANO DI SESSANIO, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

Santo Stefano di Sessanio è un centro collinoso, e si trova nelle vicinanze del Gran Sasso e di Monti della Laga Parco Nazionale, nella regione più elevata degli Appennini. Situata nei pressi della pianura di Campo Imperatore, conserva i caratteri di una cittadina medioevale, con le antiche mura che circondano le sue case e le sue piazze. Abbandonata, conta ora meno di 200 abitanti, conosciuti come Stefanari.

Data la sua vicinanza a Roma, è recentemente diventata un centro di villeggiatura e di turismo, per cui offre caratteristiche boutiques, ottimi ristoranti, gallerie d'arte e strutture di pietre antiche. Alcune case che erano state abbandonate, sono oggi state convertite in alberghi o in case di villeggiatura. Molti sono i centri abbandonati di quest'area, e i pochi abitanti che vi rimangono sono generalmente anziani, per cui molte sono le case, le piazze e le panchine vuote.

Fortunatamente per Santo Stefano, nel 1999, un signore italo svedese iniziò, col consenso delle autorità comunali, a comprare una casa dopo l'altra e a convertire ognuna in alberghi e in centri artigianali, dove si fanno coperte o si tessono tovaglie come si faceva una volta.

Con Castel del Monte, Santo Stefano è oggi conosciuta come una delle cittadine più caratteristiche d'Italia. Nota, fra l'altro, per le sue lenticchie, ritenute portafortuna, specialmente all'inizio di ogni Nuovo Anno, si celebra la Sagra delle Lenticchie ogni anno nel mese di settembre.

Il nome Sessanio viene dal nome romano Sextantia.. Molte delle sue strutture risalgono all'undicesimo e al quindicesimo secolo. Nel dodicesimo secolo fu governata dai Baroni Carapelle. L'antica porta del villaggio e le rovine dell'antica torre circolare, sono alcune attrazioni di Santo Stefano e furono costruite dai Medici, il cui Stemma è ancora sulla porta d'ingresso al villaggio. Altre attrazioni della cittadina sono la chiesa di Santa Maria di Ruvo, Casa Fortezza, la chiesa di Santo Stefano, le rovine del Palazzo Anelli, la chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie, e il Convento di Santa Maria del Monte.

Come strategico passaggio da Roma all'Adriatico, Santo Stefano ebbe molta importanza durante l'era dei Medici nel sedicesimo secolo. Sfortunatamente la povertà che colpì quella zona nel diciannovesimo secolo causò intensa emigrazione di gente che abbandonò Santo Stefano in cerca di fortuna altrove.

Durante il recente terremoto di L'Aquila, nel 2009, Santo Stefano ha perduto la Torre dei Medici e la Chiesa della Madonna del Lago che ha perso la facciata principale. Il centro sembra essere rifiorito oggi, grazie all'Albergo Diffuso e ai negozi di artigianato dove si può acquistare miele, marmellate locali, pecorino e le famose lenticchie.

Oggi la cittadina sembra rinata, e al posto di palazzi abbandonati e di porte chiuse, c'è di nuovo vita ed attrazione.

Attrazioni del luogo

- La Torre medioevale
- Il Palazzo Medici
- La Chiesa di Santo Stefano
- Il Castello di Rocca Calascio
- Il Parco di Campo Imperatore

Date da ricordare

- Primo fine settimana di settembre: La Sagra delle Lenticchie

COLLE D'ANCHISE, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, REGION OF MOLISE

By Nancy DeSanti

Colle d'Anchise is located about 14 kilometers southwest of Campobasso. The town has approximately 813 inhabitants, known as Colledanchisani.



Colle d'Anchise

In a panoramic position overlooking the Matese massif and the Biferno valley, it takes its name from a legend according to which Anchises, a Trojan warrior escaping after the destruction of Troy by the Greeks, stopped here with his son Aeneas.

The place is mentioned in 1404 as part of a fiefdom given by the King of Naples to Filippo Santangelo. Subsequently other feudal lords were the Tomacelli and Moccia families, and the Dukes of Costanzo and Filomarino. There are still beautiful traditions, such as those of celebrating San Nicola and Santa Margherita in the small countryside chapels, stopping then in the country for picnics, or the bonfires for St. Anthony.



Church of San Nicola

Among the interesting sights to see are the beautiful churches in and near the town. The Church of San Nicola features a beautiful statue of the saint in a small niche. There is a pyramid-shaped bell tower with an iron cross on top is over the façade. Below it is the bell, which on the day when St. Nicholas is celebrated, on the last Sunday of May, floods the surrounding valleys with sound.

The Church of Santa Margherita is a small church thought to date from about 1500 and it appears that it was once the site of a pagan temple.

The Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli is the medieval “chiesa madre” which features an octagonal stone baptistry with eight embossed coats of arms. After the church was extensively damaged by an earthquake in 1805, Gioacchino Napoleone, king of the Two Sicilies, authorized part of the funds to restore the church. The time taken for the restoration of the church was engraved on a plaque that was where now there is the fresco of the Ascension. That plaque named the parish priest of the time and underlined the great participation of the faithful for their offerings.

The Church of San Sisto, the patron saint, was also extensively damaged by the earthquake in 1805. It was subsequently rebuilt, only to be damaged during World War II during which time Allied troops removed its valuable sacred objects. Over the years, the parish priests, depending on the generosity of parishioners, raised funds to restore the terracotta floor with artistic mosaics, the solid glass altar turned towards the people, and put in two precious artistic canvases done by Amedeo Trivisonno, a 20th century artist from Campobasso who concentrated on ecclesiastical art. Trivisonno lived in Rome and Florence, and taught art in Cairo, Egypt, for 15 years, but he returned to Molise often until his death in 1996. One of his canvases depicts the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin with the planet earth underfoot, crushing the head of the serpent, and two angels placed one on the right with the lily and the other on the left with the rose. The other canvas depicts the manifestation of God to Abraham.

Although Colle d’Anchise is a small town which has been through a lot, history shows that its people over the centuries have come together to preserve the town’s beautiful heritage for future generations to enjoy.

What to See

- Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli
- Church of San Nicola
- Church of Santa Margherita
- Church of San Sisto (patron saint)
- Remains of the Palazzo Ducale

Important Dates

- May 21: San Nicola
- June 13: Sant’Antonio
- July 21: Santa Margherita
- August 6: San Sisto (patron saint)
- August 21: Madonna del Carmine
- October 4: San Francesco d’Assisi

Sources:

<http://molisecitta.it/comuni/colledanchise.html>

<https://www.enchantingitaly.com/regions/molise/province-campobasso/colledanchise.htm>

<http://www.comunecolledanchise.it/ChieseMonumenti.aspx>

COLLE D’ANCHISE, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Maddalena Borea

Questo villaggio della provincia del Molise è situato a circa 14 chilometri da Campobasso. Conta circa 800 abitanti, chiamati Collidanchisani.

Cittadina molto attraente, è nei pressi del massiccio del Matese e della valle del Biferno. Prenderebbe il suo nome dal troiano Anchise, che, secondo la leggenda, si sarebbe fermato lì dopo la distruzione di Troia con suo figlio Enea, il quale era diretto verso il territorio dove avrebbe creato la città di Roma.

Nel 1404 il re di Napoli avrebbe messo al comando della cittadina un certo Filippo Santangelo. Seguirono altri Signori feudatari come i Tomacelli, i Moccia e i Duchi di Costanzo e Filomarino.

Vigono qui ancora, e vengono osservate, vecchie tradizioni, come la festa di San Nicola e di Santa Margherita nelle cappelle di campagna, dove seguono scampagnate e i falò di Sant’Antonio. Caratteristiche sono le sue chiese. Una di queste raffigura una bellissima statua di San Nicola, e ha un campanile a forma di piramide. Ha anche una croce di ferro in cima. Il giorno di San Nicola la campana suona a festa tutto il giorno e il suo suono echeggia per tutte le valli circostanti. La cappella di Santa Margherita, un tempo tempio pagano, sarebbe stata convertita in tempio Cristiano intorno al 1500.

La chiesa di Santa Maria degli Angeli è la Chiesa madre. Contiene un bellissimo battistero ottagonale con otto Stemmi. Questa chiesa, danneggiata dal terremoto del 1805 fù restaurata da Gioacchino Napoleone, re delle due Sicilie. Il tempo che ci volle per il restauro, le offerte destinate alla restaurazione, ed il nome del parroco che diresse le operazioni furono intarsiate in una placca dove oggi è un affresco dell'Ascensione.

Anche la Chiesa di San Sisto fu danneggiata dal terremoto del 1805. Anch'essa fu restaurata, ma fu nuovamente danneggiata e saccheggiata dei suoi tesori dagli alleati, durante la seconda guerra mondiale. Attraverso gli anni i parroci e i parrocchiani hanno contribuito a restaurare i suoi pavimenti di terracotta con lavori in mosaico. Hanno restaurato l'altare di vetro e le tele. Questi restauri furono eseguiti dal famoso artista di Campobasso, Amedeo Trivisonno, specializzato in restauri ecclesiastici. Questi visse a Roma e a Firenze. Fù professore di belle Arti in Egitto, ma tornò in Molise, dove morì nel 1996. Una delle sue tele raffigura la Concezione di Maria Vergine con il pianeta Terra ai suoi piedi, coi quali calpesta la testa del serpente. Un'altra tela raffigura la manifestazione di Dio ad Abramo.

Sebbene questa cittadina sia minuscola ed abbia attraversato momenti tragici, i suoi cittadini sono consapevoli dell'importanza dei suoi tesori artistici e li difendono e proteggono per il godimento dei loro eredi, delle generazioni future.

Le attrazioni del luogo

- Chiesa di Santa Maria degli Angeli
- Chiesa di San Nicola
- Chiesa di Santa Margherita
- Chiesa di San Sisto, Santo Patrono
- Rovine del Palazzo Ducale

Date da ricordare

- 21 Maggio: Festa di San Nicola
- 13 Giugno: Festa di Sant'Antonio
- 21 Luglio: Festa di Santa Margherita
- 6 Agosto: Festa di San Sisto, Santo Patrono
- 21 Agosto: Festa della Madonna del Carmine
- 4 Ottobre: Festa di San Francesco d'Assisi

SHOW YOUR AMHS PRIDE!

By Sarah Scott, AMHS Board Member

We are excited to announce that AMHS has new t-shirts available for our membership. These custom shirts were recently released for sale at the Italian Festival on September 11, 2016 and were a big hit. Additionally, we now have available the AMHS logo Tote Bag.

We will offer these and our other AMHS logo items (see order form at end of this issue) at our upcoming events or, if you would like to order one of these t-shirts (or the AMHS Tote bag) by mail, please send your check payable to AMHS with your name, address, shirt size, and gender to:

AMHS, c/o Sarah Scott, 5108 Donovan Drive, #105, Alexandria, VA 22304



AMHS Men's T-Shirt

Material: 50% cotton/50% polyester. Sizes: S/M/L/XL
Price: \$25 + \$4.50 postage and handling



AMHS Women's T-Shirt

Material: 60% cotton/40% polyester. Sizes: S/M/L/XL
Price: \$25 + \$4.50 postage and handling



NEW! AMHS logo Tote Bag

17" W x 6" D x 13 1/2" H; bottom 12" W; handle drop 9"
Price: \$40 each + \$5.75 for shipping and handling



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY
of the Washington, DC Area
Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000



☞ **LUNCHEON MEETING** ☞

A History of Pasta in America

*By Noted Nutritionist and Food Writer
Diane Welland*

When: SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Carmine's Restaurant
425 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004



MENU: Includes bread, mixed green salad, penne alla vodka, sausage, peppers, and onions, and dessert. Beverages include coffee, tea, soda, iced tea, and water. Wine and beer are available for purchase.

COST: \$35.00 members; \$40.00 non-members.

Pay by check using form, below, or online (Visa or Mastercard) at www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

Paid reservations must be made by noon on April 12, 2018. Note that the online payment system will close 11:45 p.m. on April 11.

We hope you will join us for a very informative talk by well-known nutritionist and food writer Diane Welland, who will tell us about how Thomas Jefferson introduced pasta to America, and how it was popularized by Italian immigrants, especially from Sicily. Learn why pasta is actually good for you, and where you can find pasta tips, tricks and information about using pasta as well as dozens of mouth-watering pasta recipes. This promises to be an interesting program, not to mention a chance to enjoy a delicious lunch and socialize. We will also raffle off a \$100 dining gift card to Carmine's!

For information on the program, please contact Nancy DeSanti, (703) 967-2169. For questions concerning special dietary requests, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, (703) 473-4033

✂-----*Return with Payment*

PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018

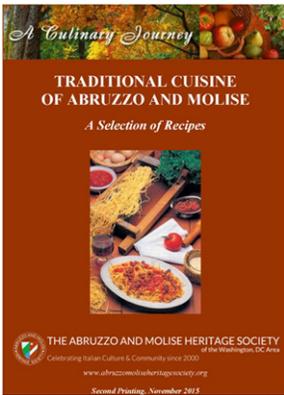
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Send to AMHS, c/o Peter Bell, 328 8th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002

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

PRICE: \$10.00 + \$5.75 per book for postage and handling = \$15.75

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AMHS POLO SHIRT (ON SALE!)

**AMHS Logo Polo Shirt
 Model A**

**AMHS Logo Polo Shirt
 Model B**



Model A

MATERIAL: 53% combed cotton
 47% polyester EDRY tm fabric
COLOR: light blue
MEN's sizes (only): Small
WOMEN's sizes: M / L

MATERIAL: 60% combed cotton
 40% polyester regular fabric
COLOR: light blue
WOMEN's sizes only: M / L / XL



Model B

PRICE: \$20 + \$4.50 p&h

PRICE: \$15 + \$4.50 p&h

Complete one line below for each Polo Shirt being ordered:

MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL POLO SHIRTS:	<input type="text"/>	Total Price:	<input type="text"/>				

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

✂-----Return with Payment



Buon Appetito Chef's Apron with the AMHS Logo

Product details: Extra-long length for more protection. Center divided patch pocket. Ultra-durable 65/35 poly/cotton twill; protected by ProDura with a stain-release finish.

PRICE: \$25.00 + \$5.75 postage & handling = \$30.75

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OF APRONS: _____ **AMOUNT:** (\$30.75 x no. of aprons): _____

✂-----Return with Payment

FOR MERCHANDISE PAYMENT - CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO AMHS - SEND TO:

Sarah Scott, 5108 Donovan Drive, #105, Alexandria, VA 22304

JANUARY 28, 2018 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): Maria D'Andrea-Yothers reads the oath of office to the Society's new President, Ray LaVerghetta.

Top (right): The officers and three new members of the Board receive the oath of office from Ray LaVerghetta.

Middle (left): Members of the AMHS Scholarship Committee, from left Peter Bell, Ray LaVerghetta, and Lucio D'Andrea with AMHS Scholarship winner Gianluca Nigro and Maria Fusco, Director of Education, Embassy of Italy.

Middle (right): Members and guests listen to the presentation by Sara Gay Forden.

Bottom (left): Guest speaker Sara Gay Forden with Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President – Programs.

Bottom (right): Celebrating Monica Palenski Reed's 90th birthday!

(photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).

LUCCHESI NEL MONDO CARNEVALE 2018



Top left: Maria D'Andrea-Yothers with Lucchesi Club President (and AMHS member) Tricia Maltagliati.

Top (right): At the photo booth, from left, Bob Tobias & Sarah Scott, Edvige & Lucio D'Andrea, Peter Bell, and Cecilia Fieramonte, "We are ready for our close up!"

Middle: Young and old enjoy music by DJ Gianpiero Antonazzo.

Bottom (left) and (right): AMHS & Lucchesi Club members Eileen & John Verna, and Edvige & Lucio D'Andrea command the dance floor. Such adorable couples! (photos courtesy of Sam Yohters).

AMHS 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

By Peter Bell, AMHS Treasurer

The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society financial structure consists of two classes of funds - Operating Funds and the Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Operating Funds are further broken down into the Annual Scholarship Fund, the Operations Fund, and Other Restricted Funds. AMHS started out 2017 with \$26,800 in its various Operating Funds and \$39,900 in the Scholarship Endowment Fund. During 2017 the Operating Funds increased by \$2,900 to end with a balance of \$29,700, and the Scholarship Endowment Fund increased by \$700 to end with a balance of \$40,700. Total net assets of the Society as of December 31, 2017 are \$70,400. (The "Other Restricted Funds" consists of a donation made by Ryan Turner on behalf of his grandmother, Rosemarie Antonelli Turner, whose father Frank emigrated from Abruzzo, specifically to develop the new AMHS website and to sponsor a cultural event in the future that honors the regions of Abruzzo and Molise).

Grant and Scholarship Fund, Inc. of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area
 dba The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area
 Financial Report
 January 1--December 31, 2017

	Operating Funds					Scholarship Endowment Fund
	AMHS All Funds	Unrestricted Fund	Members' Equity Fund	Annual Scholarship Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
Beginning fund balances	66,855	12,887	1,658	9,231	3,087	39,992
2017 Operations						
Income						
Events revenue	10,117	10,117				
Events expenses	9,951	9,951				
Net income from events	166	166				
Other income						
Membership dues	5,505	5,505				
Donations/Gifts	11,835	-		5,835	6,000	
Raffles	545	545				
Advertising	400	400				
Investment income	743					743
Merchandise Sales	568	568				
Total other income	19,596	7,018		5,835	6,000	743
Total income	19,762	7,184		5,835	6,000	743
Expenses						
Annual scholarship	4,000			4,000		
NIAF Affiliation	2,500		2,500			
Donations	725	725				
Mailing and printing	7,708	1,708			6,000	
Website	569	569				
PayPal	633	633				
Other						
Total expenses	16,134	3,634	2,500	4,000	6,000	-
Net income (loss)	3,628	3,550	(2,500)	1,835	-	743
Interfund transfers						
Ending fund balances	70,483	16,437	(842)	11,066	3,087	40,735



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY
of the Washington, DC Area
Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

4669 Lawton Way, #104
Alexandria, VA 22311



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

Romeo Sabatini, Editor
Maria D'Andrea, co-Editor
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 receive the newsletter by online delivery only, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers by email at president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org or by phone, (703) 473-4033. Thank you for considering this option.

The *AMHS Notiziario* is an official publication of the Grant and Scholarship Fund Inc. of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC area, doing business as The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC area, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian society legally incorporated in the District of Columbia.

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