



# AMHS NOTIZIARIO

The Official Newsletter of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage  
Society of the Washington, DC Area  
JANUARY 2015

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



## COOKING AND SMILING....



**Top:** AMHS members Ennio DiTullio and Nick Ferrante assist *porchetta* chef Joe Novello with the cutting of the meat.

**Bottom:** AMHS nominating committee members Dick DiBuono, Lucio D'Andrea (Chair), and Nancy DeSanti with newly elected Board members Ennio DiTullio, Ray LaVerghetta and Rosina Brienza Schacknies. (photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS:** Sunday, January 25, 2015, 1:00 pm in Casa Italiana. "*Bersaglieri: The Story of the Unique Italian Army Infantry Unit*". See inside for details.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,



As we welcome in the New Year 2015, I look back on 2014 and say "wow, what a great year for AMHS"! We had informative and entertaining programs throughout the year, as well as special events such as the performance by the U.S. Marine String Quartet as part of the program on the Italian legacy in the development

and growth of the U.S. Marine Band, the Ferragosto picnic, which probably saw the largest turnout in several years, and AMHS participation and support of the Italian Festival at Villa Rosa. One of our most successful events was, of course, the November 23 general Society meeting where we had, in attendance, 120 members, friends, and guests! Joe and Joann Novello outdid themselves again with the savory *porchetta*, and a highly organized crew of volunteers made roasted vegetables and desserts, helped to cut the *porchetta*, and helped with set up and clean-up. We had gracious wine makers who shared with us some spectacular homemade wines and limoncello. Everyone appeared to have a most joyous time. Please be sure to read more about this meeting elsewhere in the *Notiziario*. For the past 2 years, this meeting has served as a fundraiser for the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund. Due to the well-attended event, and the generosity of those who bought raffle tickets and/or bought bread and leftover *porchetta*, we raised **\$1,397.04**, which will be used to fund our two scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year.

You should have received a letter from me and Helen Free, Chair of our Fundraising Committee, regarding donations to the AMHS Scholarship Endowment Fund. In the spirit of giving that comes with the holiday season, I hope that you will consider making a donation, in any amount, so that we (AMHS) can grow our endowment to a level that will allow us to provide some if not all of the funds for the scholarships. We announced the winners of the AMHS/NIAF scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year - Sophia Labas and Christina McGrath - in the November issue of the *Notiziario*. Please be sure to read, in this issue, their letters of thanks to the Society and the importance of the scholarship to furthering their academic studies.

We have a wonderful program planned for January 25, 2015, on the *Bersaglieri*, a unique infantry unit of the Italian Army. Also at the January meeting, we will recognize the outgoing members of the Board, Bruno Fusco and John and Eileen Verna, and Rosina Brienza Schacknies, Ennio DiTullio, and Raymond LaVerghetta will be sworn in to the Board. Please be sure to thank Bruno, John, and Eileen for their service, and to welcome Rosina, Ennio, and Ray.

Before closing my message for the year, I would like to say special thanks to 1) the AMHS Executive Committee for all of their hard work in 2014. The officers and members of the

Board, who are all volunteers, are highly dedicated to AMHS and are constantly looking for new ways of doing business, in an effort to meet the needs of our membership, to connect us with other Italian American organizations and with the regions of Abruzzo and Molise, and to promote us and our events via social media; and 2) our members, who continue to support our events and activities with great enthusiasm. We cannot exist without this support, and we hope you will spread the good word of AMHS so we can continue to grow our membership. We are our own best ambassadors!

In closing, I hope that the New Year 2015 brings peace and happiness to all. I look forward to a successful 2015 for our Society.

Cordiali saluti,  
Maria D'Andrea

## TO NOTE

- If you would like to subscribe to the Holy Rosary Church email distribution list, you are welcome to sign up at <http://holyrosarychurchdc.us9.list-manage2.com/subscribe?u=8ec350fae8ec5aa7f92f4ac0a&id=aaa53b612b>. By signing up, you will receive occasional notices, via email, about events at Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana. To sign up, you will need to provide your name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number. Once submitted, you will receive an email to confirm the correct email address in order to activate your subscription. This is voluntary to our membership, and your information is for the Church's use only. It will not be shared with any outside entity or organization.
- We apologize to any of our members who did not receive the November 2014 issue of the *AMHS Notiziario*. There were complications with the post office from which the newsletter was sent. You should have received the November issue via email; you can also view it on our website at [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org)

## NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### BERSAGLIERI COMMANDER TO SPEAK AT THE JANUSARY 25, 2015 MEETING

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

Our first program of the year promises to be a really good one. We are pleased to announce that the subject of our program will be the famous Italian Army infantry corps known as the *Bersaglieri* and our distinguished speaker will be Major Elio Manes, who has been a *Bersaglieri* commander serving in Kosovo, Lebanon and Afghanistan. His topic will be "*Bersaglieri, from 1836 to 2014, A Run Across Two Centuries of History.*"

The *Bersaglieri* (marksmen in English) were formed in 1836 as a high-mobility light infantry unit famous for their

distinctive wide-brimmed hats decorated with black feathers and for the fast pace they keep in parades - jogging instead of marching. Certain brigades have a band called a “*fanfara*” whose members play their instruments at the run while on parade. These elite troops are trained to high physical and marksmanship standards.

In recent times, the *Bersaglieri* have served in such hotspots as Lebanon, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Iraq. We are sure to learn a lot about the history and traditions of these amazing soldiers from Major Manes, who was born in Naples and grew up in Formia, Italy. He plans to explain the typical traditions of the *Bersaglieri* (plumed hat, fez, gloves, running), the motivations behind the foundation of this special corps of infantry, the major military campaigns from Crimea to Afghanistan, and “some popular endearing curiosities.”

Major Manes began his military career as a *Bersaglieri* platoon leader and then a company commander. He served in the Balkans, Lebanon and Afghanistan, winning a number of awards and decorations. He is currently the Italian Liaison Officer at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Major Manes will be accompanied by Col. Rodolfo Sganga, the Military Attachè of the Embassy of Italy.

We invite anyone who has the plumed hat to bring it to the meeting, as well as any photos of themselves and/or family members of loved ones wearing the *Bersaglieri* uniform.

Prior to the presentation, lunch will be served, catered by Fontina Grille. A raffle will be conducted, with the proceeds going to the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund. We will also hear from one of our 2014-15 scholarship winners, Christina McGrath. New AMHS board members Ennio DiTullio, Rosina Brienza Schacknies and Ray LaVerghetta will be installed, and outgoing board members Bruno Fusco and John and Eileen Verna will be thanked for their service.

Please make your reservations early and bring your family members and friends to what is sure to be a very interesting program.

## CARNEVALE – FEBRUARY 14, 2015

by Maria D’Andrea



On Saturday, February 14, 2015, AMHS will partner with the Lucchesi nel Mondo - Tuscany Club to co-host “Carnevale 2015”, from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in Casa Italiana. The theme for Carnevale is “Love Italian Style”. Could there not be a more fitting theme when Carnevale will happen to fall on Valentine’s Day!

The event is open to adults and children. There will be food and drinks, a DJ, dancing, games (for adults and children), and costume prizes. The Carnevale planning committee is hard at work finalizing the details. Official invitations will be sent to our respective memberships in early January, and a flyer to promote the event will be ready early in the New Year. So please mark your calendars, hold the date, and join us for what promises to be an evening of fun, good food and friendship. (image courtesy of loveitalianstyle.com)

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### WINETASTING AND PORCHETTA DRAWS BIG CROWD

by Nancy DeSanti



The AMHS annual wine-tasting and *porchetta* lunch once again turned out to be an outstanding success, with 120 members and friends attending and 15 winemakers participating.

Much credit must go to Joe Novello, who outdid himself with a delicious *porchetta* made from a recipe he developed himself five years ago for family and friends. Romeo Sabatini did his usual superb job organizing the winemakers. There were many varieties of wines to taste this year, made by Bill Berl, Michael and Robert D’Onofrio, Nick Ferrante, Guy Ferro, Vince Marinucci, John Paul Maye, Joe Novello, Tony Ricci, Joe Ruzzi Jr., Romeo Sabatini, Domenico Santini, Darren Sobin, and Wayne Witkowski. Lucio D’Andrea also brought his limoncello.

After the wonderful lunch of *porchetta*, root vegetables and some delicious desserts, we had a short business meeting. AMHS President Maria D’Andrea thanked the three outgoing members of the Board of Directors - Bruno Fusco, John and Eileen Verna - for their many contributions to the Society. Then Lucio D’Andrea, chair of the nominating committee, introduced the slate of candidates selected by the nominating committee - Ennio DiTullio, Ray LaVerghetta and Rosina Brienza Schacknies. All three were then elected by acclamation.

Meanwhile, right before the winetasting began, Raffaele DeGregorio gave us a talk on wine culture in Italy. You may recall that Raffaele was one of our speakers at the July 27,

2014 AMHS meeting at which he told us about his career as a painter and muralist which began when he was growing up on the island of Capri. This time, Raffaele wore another hat as he told us about the importance of wine in Italian culture down through the ages.

Raffaele asked us to use our imagination to picture a town in Abruzzo on a cold November evening, looking inside the window of a warm home with a table set for dinner, with a bottle of Montepulciano on the table (and a TV set on, showing a soccer game between Juventus and Napoli). The way he described the scene, you could easily feel transported to another place. Raffaele went on to give us a brief history of wine in Italy, noting that it all started with the Phoenicians, the master navigators and traders of present-day Lebanon, who brought wine to Greece and from there to the Roman Empire. Raffaele noted that at first, the Roman Empire was too busy fighting wars to pay much attention to wine-making, but later on, the Romans took winemaking to another level, even adding honey and salt, for example. Anyone listening to Raffaele's talk would have to agree that he was able to summarize centuries of winemaking in a relatively short talk, and he left us with an appreciation of the importance of winemaking in Italian culture.

So in a couple of hours, we enjoyed good food, good wine and good information - in other words, a great way to spend an afternoon. And it's safe to say, no one went home hungry or thirsty.

Our thanks to all whose hard work made for such a successful event: to Joe Novello and as always to his wife Joann Novello, Romeo Sabatini, Raffaele DeGregorio, all the winemakers, and everyone who helped make the event a success, including Nick Ferrante (one of the earliest and staunchest supporters of AMHS), Ennio DiTullio and Rocco Caniglia who helped carve the *porchetta*; Lynn Sorbara, the hospitality committee chairperson who also provided desserts; and Lynn's team, including Peter Bell, Lana Nardella, and Maria D'Andrea who helped with the root vegetables and so much else. And thanks to Dora Leo-Santacroce who sold the raffle tickets, and all those who donated items or bought tickets. The raffle brought in a record \$341 for the scholarship fund. The winetasting and *porchetta* lunch netted the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund a total of \$1,397.04. Now the fundraising bar has really been raised high!!

## AMHS MEMBERSHIP

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

I am pleased to report that, as of the end of 2014, there are 277 members of AMHS. Thank you for your support of the Society's programs and activities. We have many wonderful events coming up this year and your membership makes them possible! Also, AMHS is involved in social networking and posts pictures of our events online. Please take some time to visit our AMHS Facebook page and hit the "Like" button to follow our updates, <https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety>.

## 2014 Membership Renewal

The 2014 membership renewal letters and renewal forms will soon be mailed to current, active members who joined AMHS between January and August. (Any person who joined after August 2014 will remain active members through 2015). Please keep your eye out for the renewal requests; I encourage you to mail in your renewal forms as soon as possible.

Would you like to send a fabulous gift to a family member or special friend? I suggest an AMHS membership! AMHS hosts wonderful activities and appealing events, funds annual scholarships, and publishes the *Notiziario*. Italian-Americans (or anyone who loves Italian culture) far and wide can appreciate the benefits of an AMHS membership!

## New Members

We extend a warm *benvenuto* to our newest members: **Andrea Balzano and James Mustachio. Also, past member Raffaella Luciani rejoined the Society!** Please reach out and greet our newest members and make them feel supported and welcomed.

## Birthdays, Weddings, and Anniversaries

We are pleased to honor our members on their special day! If we have missed your day, perhaps we don't have your information! Don't be shy; send me an email to let me know so that we can celebrate with you ([geco\\_sara@yahoo.com](mailto:geco_sara@yahoo.com)).

The following members celebrate birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries in January and February. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e auguri!*

## Birthdays

### Compleanni a gennaio

Jeffrey Petrino and Tom Fontana, January 2; Francesca Orfila, January 3; Carmela Ventresca, January 4; Delores Caniglia, January 5; Rose Del Borrello, January 7; Rico Allegrino, Marilisa Battistella, and Emma Di Tullio, January 8; Abraham Avidor, January 12; Monica Reed, January 18; Steve Balducci, Frank Del Borrello, and Jacqueline D'Ermes, January 19; John Villilo, January 20; Lillian Dwyer and Cecilia Fiermonte, January 21; Teresa Scalzo, January 22; Bess Di Tullio, January 24; Margherita Amatucci, January 26; Mary Kitsos and Cheryl Mitchell, January 27; Geraldine Scott and Paul Worthington, January 31.

### Compleanni a febbraio

Mauro Chiaverini, Roberto Di Tullio, and Dora Marinucci, February 2; Madeline Bernero and William Marmura, February 3; Giuseppe Conte, February 4; Carmen Ciccone, February 8; Louis Saccetti, February 9; Stephan Carrier, Mark Lino, and Lucia Portanova, February 10; Sabatino Mazziotti, February 12; Olga DeSanti, February 13; Roy Morton, February 17; Andrea Balzano, Elisa DiClemente, Christi Marotta, February 18; Lana Nardella and Graziella Orfila, February 19; Antonio Ceresini, February 20; Francis Cunningham and Francesco Isgro, February 21; Emanuele De Marco, Gino Marinucci, and John Tengler, February 22; Diana Del Grosso and Joe Marchegiani, February 23; Andrew Marotta, February 24; Luigi DeLuca and Lourdes Tinajero, February 25; Michele LaVerghetta and Giuseppe Mastrangelo, February 28.



## Anniversaries

### Anniversari a gennaio

Gaspare and Dolores Tirabassi, January 1; Ennio and Emma Di Tullio, January 5; Attilio and Lucy Manzano, January 13; Camillo and Gina Damiano, January 24; Joseph and Anna Marie Scavetti, January 25.

### Anniversari a febbraio

Antonio and Liliana Ceresini, February 8; Bruno and Joanne Fusco, February 14; Michael and Dena DeBonis, February 15.

## NIAF AFFILIATE PROGRAM

by Maria D'Andrea

In the May issue of the *AMHS Notiziario*, we announced a new affiliate program established by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), that allows members of other Italian American organizations to leverage the benefits of a national organization while still being affiliated with and involved with their respective organizations. For the price of \$25.00 per person, AMHS members will be affiliated with NIAF and will be given all of the membership benefits of a NIAF Associate Member (the cost of this membership outside of the affiliate program is \$50.00!).

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

If you are interested in joining in this new partnership, please fill out the NIAF Affiliate Member application form, which is included in the *Notiziario*. AMHS will collect the names and email addresses of interested persons, as well as the \$25.00, which is valid for one full year. Sarah Scott, AMHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Membership, will maintain the names of members who join NIAF as an associate member.

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

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this wonderful, new opportunity.

## SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

### DAME OF MAGISTRAL GRACE MARY A.D. PETRINO



*Mary pictured with, from left to right, Father Andrew Fisher, Archbishop Lori, Dr. Terry White, and Father Richard Mullins*

On October 18, 2014, AMHS member and former 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Programs Mary A.D. Petrino was invested as a Dame of Magistral Grace into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Mary was invested by the leadership of the Federal Association USA and His Excellency, Archbishop William E. Lori, STD, Archbishop of Baltimore and a Conventual Chaplain of the Order. Mary's sponsors were Bertha Braddock, DM and Elizabeth Scheuren, DM. Father Andrew Fisher was also invested as a Magistral Chaplain of the Order that same day.

Mary and her husband, Jeff, were honored at the Annual Dinner later that night, where they were photographed with His Excellency, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, JCD, who is also a Conventual Chaplain of the Order. (submitted by Mary A.D. Petrino; photos by Nick Crettier).

## REMEMBRANCES OF LA MADONNA DELLA DIFESA

We would like to share with you an email that was sent by one of our associate members, Ronald Ciarlo, who resides in Cranston, Rhode Island, has family origins in Molise, and has been a member of AMHS since 2005! Mr. Ciarlo wrote to us in response to the article that appeared in the November issue of the *Notiziario*, regarding a visit by Maria, Lucio, and Edvige D'Andrea with representatives of the Molisani nel Mondo in Montreal. Mr. Ciarlo, thank you for allowing us to share your message with our membership!

Dear Ms. D'Andrea,

I enjoyed your article about the trip to Montreal this past August. Your article brought back many dear memories I have of Montreal. My wife and I stayed at the Fairmont Queen Elisabeth in downtown Montreal and we would take a cab for our trips to Little Italy ("La Petite Italie") on Boulevard St. Laurent. We visited 2 restaurants, Il Pomodoro and another one whose name I cannot recall but I remember my meals in both of them. Ingredients were fresh - no heavy-

handed spicing - and portions were fine. The tomato sauce in both places was mild and luscious, and the veal in one of the restaurants was tender and cooked in a mild tomato sauce in which all the flavors could be appreciated. No one food item overpowered another. It was, to me, Italian cooking at its best. It was the food of Italy 2014. We had lunch at a fellow *riprese's* home and his wife made homemade *cavatelli alla ripese* with a meat ragù of veal, pork, and lamb. What was amazing was that Italian was being spoken in the home, and not the dialect of the region. I just wrapped myself up in the culture. Another highlight of the trip was when we made our way to the pastry shop on Rue Dante (I believe the name is Aliato), right across the street from the church of La Madonna della Difesa. The *sfogliatelle* from that pastry shop were out of this world. The crust was not greasy, but crunchy, and the filling was mystifying (it was based on the traditional yellow semolina filling, with bits of dried fruit woven in), that was sweet but not too sweet, so that you could taste the vanilla and orange flavoring. That *sfogliatelle* was a piece of heaven.

We had the honor of attending the feast of La Madonna della Difesa and marching in the procession. It brought back childhood memories of marching in the same-named procession at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston, Rhode Island. I knew I was home with the devotees in the procession and to hear them speaking Italian - it was 1965 again in Johnston. I did not hear the old hymns of *Evviva Maria* and hymns dedicated to the Madonna della Difesa "Sulla Falda Sorridente". I told my wife that this is the way the Feast was like in Johnston when I was growing up. You see, my paternal family is from Ripabottoni, province of Campobasso. The devotion to La Madonna della Difesa was started in Casacalenda, the next town over from Ripabottoni. This is why I am a devotee of La Madonna della Difesa. I grew up with the devotion to that particular Madonna and every September buses of other devotees would descend upon the Church for the mass and procession very close to what took place that August of 2014 in Montreal. Unfortunately, time takes its toll on all things mortal, people die, so do feast celebrations or at least they become reduced to fit the American Parish Fare Model. Montreal is lucky to have a fairly young Italian immigration model but if you talk to the native Italians of Montreal they say that the population of original migrants is dwindling at a good rate. Many of the Italian parishes offer services in French, Italian, English, and Spanish. When my wife and I attended the Difesa Feast at the Church, everyone had a seat and the devotees in the procession numbered more closely to about 50 or 60 and the average age was about 50. So as you see the face of the Molisano immigrant in Montreal is also starting to change. I say enjoy every last morsel of the situation as I did and I hope to make one more trip to Montreal to taste the Italian flavor of the city before I become too old to enjoy it.

Saluti cordiali,  
Ronald Ciarlo, member of AMHS

## THE WINNERS OF THE 2014 AMHS/NIAF SCHOLARSHIPS THANK OUR SOCIETY

By Dick DiBuono, Chair, AMHS Scholarship Committee

Christina McGrath and Sophia Labas, the winners of the two AMHS/NIAF scholarships we awarded this year, recently sent letters thanking our Society and explaining the benefit the scholarships, \$4,000 each, will provide them. Their letters, with accompanying photos, appear below for your information and enjoyment. Our Society can be proud for helping these two bright people to further their education into Italian language and culture.

### Christina McGrath



Dear Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society,

It is with great gratitude that I am writing to you today to thank you for your generous scholarship of \$4,000. Even with the financial aid I receive from Georgetown, my family still faces a large financial burden, which your scholarship is significantly helping to alleviate.

As I enter my senior year as an Italian and Art History major at Georgetown University, I am making serious provisions to continue with Italian after matriculation. In fact, I hope to enroll in a Ph.D program in Italian Studies directly after graduation and eventually teach at the college/university level. Seeing as my maternal great-grandparents emigrated from Italy, I've always had a deep appreciation for the Italian American culture; this, combined with my curiosity for the Italian language (which was not taught to my mother), inspired me to take Italian classes in high school. When I arrived at Georgetown, I continued with Italian - it was always my favorite class, though I was initially afraid to commit to it as a major. Finally I realized that to deny my love for this language and culture would be to do myself a great disservice, so I declared it a major. With the support and encouragement of various professors in the department, I began to reflect on how I could make my love for Italian an integral part of my future, and arrived at teaching. I want more than anything to share all that is beautiful about Italy with my fellow Americans, and when I think back to all of the incredible teachers and professors whose love of the Italian language and culture inspired me, I realize that teaching is my calling. This goal brought me to Florence, where I completed a semester of full-immersion classes at the Università di Firenze, to apply for and receive a grant from the Georgetown University Italian Department to write a Senior Honors Thesis, and to the Vatican Library in Rome, where I did extensive research on the censorship of Giovanni Boccaccio's masterwork, *The Decameron*.

I consider myself so lucky to have the support of people who are similarly passionate about Italian, people such as you. Please know that your scholarship is helping me pursue what I love, and is playing a significant role in transforming my aspirations into realities. Grazie tante.

Sincerely,  
*Christina McGrath*

### **Sophia Labas**



Dear Abruzzo and Molise  
Heritage Society,

I would like to express my sincerest and utmost gratitude for the generous scholarship you have granted me.

In my upcoming years at Boston University I plan to study Italian culture through its most beautiful channels: language and music. I am especially interested in classical voice, as opera is the perfect combination of my

most favorite passions. Your scholarship will help me profoundly on this journey.

I have previously visited Italy twice and I want desperately to return! My favorite places from my travels have been the small cities of Lanciano and Assisi, and my most loved: Rome. I hope to study abroad there in my upcoming years.

Thank you again for the generous scholarship and for aiding me in the pursuit of a higher education.

Most sincerely,  
*Sophia Labas*

**Note to members:** Full information about our AMHS Scholarship Program, which applies to students engaged in or intending to engage in Italian studies at the college level, including the requirements to be met by applicants and the method for applying for the two scholarships to be awarded in 2015, are shown on our Society's web site at [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org). The application period opens on January 1, 2015.

The members of the Scholarship Committee are: Peter Bell, Ray Bernero, Ray LaVerghetta, Romeo Sabatini, Lourdes Tinajero and Richard DiBuono, Chair.

## **ITALIAN ARTISTS AT CASA ITALIANA**

*by Nancy DeSanti*

For the first time, Casa Italiana on Sunday, November 30, 2014, was the venue for an art lovers' event featuring 10 Italian artists, giving Washington area residents a chance to

meet these talented artists, view their works of art on display, and do some early Christmas shopping.

The wide variety of art on display included mosaics, ceramics painting, sculpture, photography and jewelry.

One of the artists was AMHS member Antonio Bianchini, who worked with Holy Rosary Parish Council members Armida Oradei and Nancy DeSanti, with the support of Father Ezio Marchetto, to organize and promote this unique event. Antonio displayed a number of his mosaics, which he made using the painstaking technique he learned from the masters of Ravenna, the capital of mosaics in Italy (if not the world). During the all-day event, Antonio unveiled his latest work—a large mosaic of Madonna and Child—and announced that he is donating it to Father Ezio for the church.



*Antonio Bianchini with his mosaics*

Another artist at the event who was familiar to many was Roberto Paolinelli, who teaches ceramics classes at Casa Italiana and who displayed a variety of his beautiful ceramics made using the famous maiolica technique he learned in Castelli, Abruzzo (see related article on Castelli in this *Notiziario*). AMHS members may recall that Roberto gave a talk at our July 27, 2014 meeting on the arts, together with Antonio Bianchini and Raffaele DeGregorio. The other talented artists at the Casa Italiana event included Davide Prete, a sculptor who teaches at the Corcoran Gallery; Giancarlo Chiancone, a medical doctor from Salerno who brought some of his beautiful paintings; Michela Mansuino, who came down from Philadelphia bringing her still life paintings with vibrant colors using the technique she learned in Siena; Jane Lepscky, a painter who lived in Italy for 20 years, who brought beautiful landscape paintings of Italy; Paola Lugli, an interior designer who makes jewelry from all kinds of unusual materials; Alessandra Bianco, who brought wonderful photographs of Italy such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa; Sofia Caligiuri, who had unique and beautiful paintings and bas relief (rilievi); Armida Oradei and Giuliana Canè, who combined their talents and did a table together featuring their one-of-a-kind necklaces and other jewelry.

Towards the end of the event, wine and pizza bianca was served. All in all, it was a nice opportunity for artists and art lovers to come together at Casa Italiana.



## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### CASTELLI, PROVINCE OF TERAMO, ABRUZZO REGION

by Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member



Castelli is a town in the province of Teramo which is famous for its ceramics which were collected by the nobility of Europe for centuries, and nowadays is a favorite destination for art lovers.

This medieval hilltop town, which lies beneath Mount Camicia, has fabulous views of the valley and the eastern side of Gran Sasso. It is included in the Gran Sasso Monti della Laga National Park. The town has approximately 1,257 inhabitants, known as Castellani. They are some of the most talented ceramicists in Italy and their works are on sale everywhere in the town.

Castelli is best known for its maiolicas, a form of decorative ceramics which were at their pinnacle from the 16th through the 18th centuries and are still produced today by local artists. Castelli maiolica was a favorite dinnerware of the Russian czars, and one of the most valuable collections of Castelli ceramics is now housed at the Winter Palace of the Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. (A large plate is said to be worth as much as \$20,000).

Maiolica (also spelled majolica) is the name given to ceramics with clear colored glaze. Its defining characteristic is the glaze that gives these ceramics a brilliant white opaque surface to paint on. After the paints are applied, two more wood firings are required to preserve their characteristic colors such as yellow, green, blue, orange and brown. The ceramic pieces—such as plates, tiles, vases and cups—portray flowers, plants, landscapes and pastoral scenes, the sun, moon, coats of arms, and images of an astrological or religious nature.

The known history of Castelli goes back to the pre-Roman times. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it flourished under the influence of the Benedictine Abbey of San Salvatore, whose monks introduced the local population to ceramics. The art achieved world stature from the 16th century on, with such masters as the Grue brothers and the Gentili and Pompei families.

Noble families of the time commissioned their everyday and most elegant dinner services from the Castelli ceramicists. At least 11 families collaborated in this work, and the richest and most important of these was the Pompei family, creators of the famous “Orsini-Colonna” collection commissioned to celebrate peace made between those two families.

The families organized themselves so as to efficiently undertake the search for clay, wood and other materials; the kneading, lathing and first baking; and the finishing with the painting. Other members of the families were responsible for the commercial side, supervising all the operations necessary to participate in fairs and markets.

Not to be missed is the Ceramics Museum (Museo delle ceramiche), situated in the cloister of an ancient convent just outside the town where displays show the working methods and fragments recovered during archaeological research.

**Note:** Attendees at the July 27, 2014 AMHS program may recall that one of the speakers at the program was Roberto Paolinelli, a master ceramicist who gives classes at Casa Italiana, and who practices the maiolica technique which he learned in Castelli. Paolinelli also participated in the Italian Artists Event at Casa Italiana on November 30, 2014, at which he displayed his ceramics made using the Castelli technique and described this technique to interested art lovers (see related article in this Notiziario).

#### What to See

- Museo delle ceramiche, with many beautifully displayed examples of the local skills, dating through the centuries
- The Art Institute, with a collection of contemporary ceramics
- Church of San Donato, a small church 1 kilometer from the town, with a 15<sup>th</sup> century floor and ceiling entirely decorated with 16<sup>th</sup> century polychrome bricks with coats of arms, arabesques, human figures and animals, painted on ceramic.
- Church of San Giovanni Battista, a church from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century with a 12<sup>th</sup> century wooden statue of St. Anne and 17<sup>th</sup> century ceramics.
- Bosco di Pietralunga wooded area
- Colle del Cavatori

#### Important Dates

- August 15 – Lancio del piatto on the Leomagna river, a traditional popular game
- August 1-31 – “August a Castelli,” a market fair of traditional ceramics along the streets of the town

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castelli,\\_Abruzzo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castelli,_Abruzzo)

<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/teramo/castelli.htm>

<http://www.initaly.com/regions/abruzzo/chieti.htm>

<http://www.lifeinabruzzo.com/castelli-ceramics/>

<http://www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/castelli.html>



## CASTELLI, PROVINCIA DI TERAMO, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Castelli è una cittadina della provincia di Teramo, famosa per le sue ceramiche, ammirate dall'aristocrazia europea lungo i secoli, e meta, oggi, di amatori delle arti.

Questo collinoso centro medioevale, che sorge lungo le pendici del monte Carnicia, offre una magnifica vista della valle e del lato orientale del Gran Sasso d'Italia. Conta approssimativamente 1,257 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Castellani.

Fra di loro risiedono i migliori ceramisti d'Italia, le cui opere sono visibili e vendute in tutta la cittadina. Castelli è specialmente nota per i lavori di maiolica, che è una forma d'arte decorativa della ceramica, famosa sin dal sedicesimo e diciottesimo secolo, ed ancora oggi praticata da artisti locali. I servizi da tavola in maiolica furono i preferiti dagli zar di Russia. Una delle più famose collezioni di maiolica di Castelli si trova ancora oggi al museo statale di San Pietroburgo. (Un solo grande piatto di tale collezione si dice valga almeno \$20.000).

Per maiolica, o majolica, si intende quella ceramica chiara, quasi trasparente, ed opaca, su cui si dipinge. Dopo aver dipinto gli oggetti di maiolica, essi vengono infornati due volte per preservare colori come il giallo, il verde, il blu, l'arancione e il marrone. I pezzi, come piatti, piastrelle, vasi e tazze, ritraggono fiori, piante, paesaggi, scene pastorali, il sole, la luna, stemmi nobiliari, ed immagini di natura astrologica o religiosa.

La storia di Castelli risale a tempi preromani. Nell'undicesimo secolo fu fiorente centro, grazie all'influenza dei monaci dell'Abbazia benedettina di San Salvatore, i quali introdussero gli abitanti del luogo ai lavori della ceramica. L'arte raggiunse importanza internazionale sin dal sedicesimo secolo, con grandi maestri come i fratelli Grue e le famiglie Gentili e Pompei, e le aristocrazie del tempo commissionarono i loro servizi da tavola giornalieri ed eleganti da questi. Almeno 11 famiglie collaborarono a questa industria, che creò la famosa collezione Orsini-Colonna, commissionata per celebrare la pace fatta fra le due famose famiglie romane rivali. Le famiglie ceramiste furono efficientemente organizzate.

Alcuni membri di esse si dedicarono alla ricerca dell'argilla, del legno e di altro materiale necessario a esecuzioni varie prima della cottura e della pittura. Altri membri si occuparono dell'aspetto commerciale dell'industria, organizzando fiere e mercati, per dare esposizione ai loro lavori. Famoso, ancora oggi, il museo della ceramica, situato nel chiostro di un antico convento, fuori dal centro abitato, dove si possono ammirare antichi frammenti di opere, trovati durante ricerche archeologiche.

I partecipanti al programma di AMHS del 27 luglio 2014 ricorderanno che il Maestro ceramista, Roberto Paolinelli, insegnante ceramista a Casa Italiana, che usa ed insegna le

tecniche da lui apprese a Castelli, mostrò alcuni suoi lavori eseguiti con tale tecnica, agli amatori dell'arte della ceramica.

### Attrazioni del luogo:

- Museo della ceramica, rappresentante l'estro artistico dei Castellani attraverso i secoli.
- L'Istituto delle Arti, con testimonianze di Artisti ceramisti contemporanei.
- Chiesa di San Donato, a un chilometro dal centro abitato, con decorazioni, con pavimenti e soffitto decorati in ceramica, con stemmi, figure umane, animali.
- La Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista, del diciassettesimo secolo, con le sue decorazioni in ceramica, e con una statua in legno di Sant'Anna, risalente al dodicesimo secolo.
- Bosco di Pietralunga.
- Colle del Cavatori.

### Date da ricordare:

- 15 Agosto - Lancio del piatto. Gioco popolare eseguito sul fiume Leomagna.
- 1-31 Agosto - Fiera a Castelli. Fiera che espone, per un intero mese, tradizionali lavori in ceramica lungo le strade del centro abitato.

## MONTAQUILA, PROVINCE OF ISERNIA, MOLISE REGION

*By Nancy DeSanti*

*Translated by Maddalena Borea*



Montaquila is a very picturesque small town in the province of Isernia, in the western part of Molise. The town is located near the Volturno river and it enjoys a great view of the Mainerde mountains, in the wide Volturno Valley. Leaving the town going toward Isernia, there is a beautiful view of the Ponte dei 25 Archi (25 Arches Bridge). Montaquila has approximately 2,471 inhabitants, known as Montaquilani.

The town was completely destroyed by a fire in 1464, then rebuilt by the order of Ferdinand of Aragon. In the 10th century, it was included in the possessions of the monastery of San Vincenzo. The name of the town may derive from "Montis Aquili" or "Mons Aquilus," its name as of 1320. Later in the 14th century, it came into possession of the Mont'Aquila family and then a series of feudal lords of the Carrino and Caracciolo families.

Until 1861, Montaquila belonged to the province of Terra di Lavoro. Afterwards, it was joined to the province of Molise, which at the time was included in the Abruzzi region.

### What to See

- Church of Assunzione – a medieval church, destroyed and completely rebuilt in 1850
- Church of San Michele – featuring beautiful frescoes

### Important Dates

- February 19 – Carnevale
- May 2 – Sagra della Frittata
- August 16 – Feast of San Rocco, the patron saint

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montaquila>  
<http://www.moliseccita.it/comuni/montaquila.html>  
<http://www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-isernia/montaquila.htm>  
[https://www.google.com/images?q=montaquila&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1&gws\\_rd=ssl&hl=en&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ei=3RukU-26B5e3sATDw4GQAQ&ved=0CB0QsAQ](https://www.google.com/images?q=montaquila&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1&gws_rd=ssl&hl=en&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ei=3RukU-26B5e3sATDw4GQAQ&ved=0CB0QsAQ)

## **MONTAQUILA, PROVINCIA DI ISERNIA, REGIONE MOLISE**

Montaquila, piccola, attraente cittadina, nella provincia di Isernia, sorge nel versante occidentale della regione Molise. Situata nei pressi del fiume Volturno, gode la magnifica vista delle montagne Mainarde, della larga valle del Volturno e del Ponte dei 25 Archi.

Conta approssimativamente 2,471 abitanti, i quali si chiamano Montaquilani.

La cittadina fu completamente distrutta da un fuoco nel 1464, ma fu ricostruita per ordine di Ferdinando d'Aragona. Nel 10° secolo venne annessa ai possedimenti del Monastero di San Vincenzo. Il nome verrebbe da Mons Aquili, o Mons Aquilus. Nel 14° secolo fu possedimento della famiglia Mont'Aquila, a cui seguirono feudatari delle famiglie Carrino e Caracciolo.

Fino al 1861 appartenne alla provincia di Terra di Lavoro. Fu annessa più tardi alla Provincia del Molise, che, in quei giorni era parte degli Abruzzi.

### Attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa dell'Assunzione, Chiesa medievale, distrutta e poi ricostruita nel 1850.
- La Chiesa di San Michele coi suoi bellissimi affreschi.

### Date da ricordare

- 19 Febbraio, Carnevale
- 2 maggio, la sagra della frittata
- 16 Agosto, Festa di San Rocco, Santo Patrono

## **MONONGAH – UNA TRAGEDIA DA NON DIMENTICARE (A TRAGEDY NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN)**

by Lucio D'Andrea, AMHS President Emeritus

Included in this issue of the *Notiziario* email is a recent message from Michele Petrarora, Vice President of the region of Molise, regarding the great tragedy of December 6, 1907 that struck the small town of Monongah, West Virginia. On that Friday morning, at 10:30 am, two violent explosions shook the hillside of the town when two coal mining tunnels exploded in rapid succession. Some 361 miners perished that day, of which 171 were Italian immigrants – 87 from Molise and 14 from Abruzzo. A final count placed the loss at over 500!! A number of them were young boys. It was a common practice in coal mining operations in those days to permit young boys to work in the mines. To this day, Monongah remains as the worst coal mining disaster in the United States.

Long-time members of AMHS will recall that we were actively engaged in ceremonies held in Casa Italiana and in Monongah to commemorate this tragic event. AMHS member Joseph D'Andrea brought to light this forgotten tragedy. His extensive years of research culminated in the publication of his book *Monongah-Cent'Anni di Oblivio* (*Monongah-100 Years of Oblivion*), which was released during ceremonies held in Monongah to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragedy. A most notable outcome of the ceremony in Monongah was the installation of a memorial bell, cast in the world-famous Marinelli foundry in Agnone, donated by the region of Molise.

The victims of the disaster were honored on Saturday, December 6, 2014 in ceremonies organized by the caring citizens of Monongah, at which Joseph D'Andrea, a representative of United Mine Workers of America and other dignitaries offered remarks. The Society is grateful to Father Ezio Marchetto, Pastor of Holy Rosary Church, who invited the faithful to pray for the victims of this tragedy during a Mass celebrated on December 6.

It is my hope that the Society takes the initiative to organize, on an annual basis, ceremonies to commemorate this tragedy.

**BUON ANNO A TUTTI!**





## THE AMHS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 23, 2014



**Top (left):** Raffale DeGregorio talks about the history of wine and its importance in Italian culture. **Top (right):** Daniela and Sebastian DiTullio, and Dora Leo-Santracrocce help with the raffle.

**Center (left):** The D'Onofrio family presents its wines. **Center (right):** AMHS President Maria D'Andrea with porchetta chef Joe Novello and Tony Ricci.

**Bottom (left):** A well run assembly line of food service by our ever-ready volunteers. **Bottom (right):** A near capacity crowd of 120 people enjoy the porchetta lunch and wine tasting. (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).



# *Regione Molise*

*Giunta Regionale*

*Il Vicepresidente - Michele Petrarola*

Campobasso (CB) Italy- 24.11.2014

Mr Greg Vandetta  
Mayor of Monongah  
430 Bridge St, Monongah, WV26554 USA

Cc  
Honorary Consul of Italy Pittsburgh (PA) Joseph D'Andrea  
gdandreal@verizon.net

The Abruzzo & Molise Heritage Society of the Washington  
Maria D'Andrea  
Maria.D'Andrea@trade.gov

*Object: Slaughter of Monongah Mining (West Virginia) on December 6, 1907. Mr . Mayor,*

*in the name of the Region Molise I greet the community of Monongah and I thank the citizens and administrators of this small town in West Virginia for being able to preserve the memory of one of the most painful pages of the American working world of all time and one of the saddest in the history of emigration from every era.*

*Molise, tiny region of the Center - South Italy, paid a very high tribute of human lives with 87 victims of which 36 of the solo common of Duronia in the province of Campobasso.*

*Thanks to the precious work of the Honorary Consul of Italy in Pittsburgh (PA) Joseph D'Andrea it has been possible to bring to light a human story of this proportion, involving in the recurrence of the century the American and the Italian Institutions to the historical celebrations held in your town.*

*Today I entrust to a young citizen of Molise, which stood out for its commitment to keep alive the memory of the Slaughter of Monongah Mining, this address of regards with the auspice that the hilly area where the fallen, including the remains of the mining area, can be preserved for future memory of the role that took the miners, workers and immigrants from around the world, European, Italian and Molise in the growth, development and prosperity of the United States of America.*

*Yours sincerely.*

*Michele Petrarola  
Vice President of Regione Molise*

Regione Molise - Via Toscano, n.51 - 86100 Campobasso  
Tel 0874.424301 Fax 0874-424353  
e-mail assessore.petrarola@regione.molise.it





## The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society *of the Washington, DC Area*

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



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

As notified to our membership in May 2014, NIAF has created a new affiliate program that allows members of other Italian American organizations to leverage the benefits of a national organization while still being affiliated with and involved with their respective organizations. For the price of \$25.00 per person, AMHS members will be affiliated with NIAF and will be given all of the membership benefits of a NIAF Associate Member (the cost of this membership outside of the affiliate program is \$50.00!).

This partnered affiliation will provide AMHS members with a monthly member newsletter, a membership card that includes the NIAF and AMHS logos, a yearlong subscription to *Ambassador Magazine*, access to the NIAF Member's only section on [www.NIAF.org](http://www.NIAF.org), and a NIAF member lapel pin. Members would also gain access to certain discounts to various companies partnered with NIAF. If you are interested in this great opportunity, and you are a member of AMHS, please fill out the associate membership application form and send it to Jeff Clark, AMHS Treasurer (address below), and include a cash and/or check for \$25.00. Your membership is good for one calendar year.

### **NIAF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Join NIAF as an associate member at the cost of \$25.00 per person:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

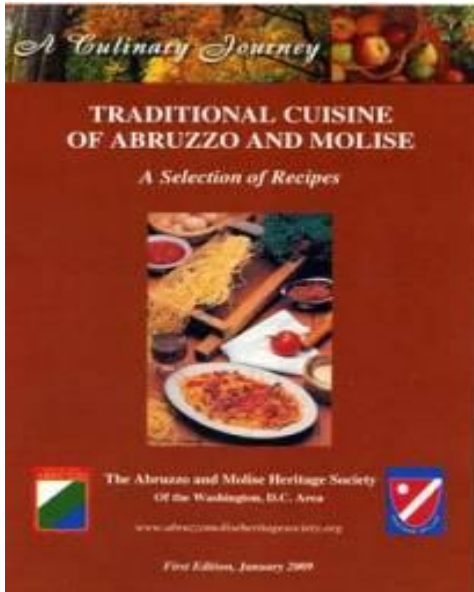
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE to AMHS**

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

## THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE COOKBOOK



*"Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes"*

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

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

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF COPIES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT: (\$13 x number of copies):** \_\_\_\_\_

### THE AMHS LOGO POLO SHIRT

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

**Complete one line below for each Polo Shirt being ordered:**

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

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$4.50 for postage & handling for each shirt.  
Make check payable to AMHS, c/o Richard DiBuono  
5660 Ridgeview Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310





The  
Abruzzo and Molise  
Heritage Society  
Of the Washington, DC Area



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



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

***Bersaglieri: From 1836 – 2914, A Run  
Across Two Centuries of History***

*Presented by*  
**Major Elio Manes**  
**Bersaglieri Commander**

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 25, 2015

**TIME:** 1:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Casa Italiana  
595 Third Street, NW | Washington, DC

**MENU:** Lunch will be catered by **Fontina Grille**, 801 Pleasant Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 (website [www.fontinagrille.com](http://www.fontinagrille.com)).

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

**All Payments and Reservations MUST be sent to, and  
received by, AMHS Treasurer Jeff Clark by January 21.**

**PROGRAM:** Be sure to join us for a fascinating presentation by Major Elio Manes, a *Bersaglieri* Commander, who will tell us the story behind the *Bersaglieri*, the amazing high-mobility light infantry unit of the Italian Army. The *Bersaglieri* are known for their distinctive wide-brimmed plumed hats (“*vaira*”) and black gloves, and for their fast pace during parades, when they jog instead of march. Created in 1836, the *Bersaglieri* participate in peacekeeping missions in far-flung corners of the world, including Lebanon, Somalia and Iraq.

Prior to the program, we will install three new members to the Board of Directors, and we will hear from Christina McGrath, one of our 2014-2015 AMHS/NIAF Scholarship recipients.

For further information about the menu and/or event details, contact Lynn Sorbara at 301-926-7792.  
All are welcome!

✂----- Return with Payment

**Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015**

Please make check payable to AMHS and send to AMHS,  
c/o Jeff Clark, 12 Adams Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

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

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

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



The  
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society  
4669 Lawton Way, #104  
Alexandria, VA 22311



Color copies printed courtesy of Todd Tomanio,



TransPerfect Document Management, Inc.  
700 6th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

### **AMHS NOTIZIARIO**

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

**AMHS NOTIZIARIO** is published bi-monthly from January through November. The deadline for the submission of articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via e-mail to Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net). All submissions may be edited for clarity and become the property of AMHS. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the Editors however content of articles that are published is the sole responsibility of the author.

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](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net) or by phone at 703-998-6097. Thank you for considering this option.

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

#### **Officers**

Maria D'Andrea, President, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net), (703) 998-6097  
Nancy DeSanti, 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Program, [ndesanti7@gmail.com](mailto:ndesanti7@gmail.com), (703) 379-9418  
Sarah Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership, [geco\\_sara@yahoo.com](mailto:geco_sara@yahoo.com), (214) 406-7060  
Maria Fresco, Secretary, [abruzzo\\_sicilia@hotmail.com](mailto:abruzzo_sicilia@hotmail.com), (301) 262-3150  
Jeff Clark, Treasurer, [jrcspagnolo@hotmail.com](mailto:jrcspagnolo@hotmail.com), (202) 588-0766

#### **Board of Directors**

Peter Bell, [peter@ezhudhelp.com](mailto:peter@ezhudhelp.com), (202) 276-2483  
Rosina Brienza Schacknies, [rosinabrienza@verizon.net](mailto:rosinabrienza@verizon.net), (703) 280-2114  
Rocco Canaglia, [roccocaniglia@hotmail.com](mailto:roccocaniglia@hotmail.com), (410) 535-3813  
Lucio D'Andrea, President Emeritus, [ldandrea1933@comcast.net](mailto:ldandrea1933@comcast.net), (703) 490-3067  
Dick DiBuono, Immediate Past President, [rjdibuono@aol.com](mailto:rjdibuono@aol.com), (703) 960-5981  
Ennio DiTullio, [enniodit@verizon.net](mailto:enniodit@verizon.net), (703) 281-5487  
Sergio Fresco, [abruzzo\\_sicilia@hotmail.com](mailto:abruzzo_sicilia@hotmail.com), (301) 262-3150  
Ray LaVerghetta, [rclaverghetta@verizon.net](mailto:rclaverghetta@verizon.net), (410) 992-6885  
Lana Nardella, [Lpnardella@yahoo.com](mailto:Lpnardella@yahoo.com)  
Lynn Sorbara, [drlynnrose@yahoo.com](mailto:drlynnrose@yahoo.com), (301) 466-2556  
Lourdes Tinajero, [tinajerodc5@gmail.com](mailto:tinajerodc5@gmail.com), (202) 680-9348

Helen Free, Chair, Fundraising Committee and Website Management Committee, [hfree@gonzaga.org](mailto:hfree@gonzaga.org)