



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



THE JANUARY MEETING & CARNEVALE: HISTORY, FAMILY & "AMORE"



Top: Giulia and Nicole Manes, two adorable daughters of speaker Elio Manes, at the January 25 general Society meeting. **Bottom:** Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea, winners of the longest-married couple dance at Carnevale 2015, and AMHS members Stan Scott and his wife Vera, winners of the newlywed dance. Vera is dressed as Maria Teresa de Filippis, the 1st Formula 1 driver, and Stan as former World #1 tennis player Andre Agassi. Auguri! **Right:** Major Elio Manes, speaker at the January 25 general Society meeting, in the *vaira*, the black-plumed hat of the Bersaglieri. (Photos courtesy of AMHS member Joe Novello).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT: Sunday, March 29, 2015, 1:00 pm at Carmine's Restaurant. A social meeting with open discussion of the PBS documentary "The Italian Americans". See inside for details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,



Our New Year 2015 is off to an incredible start. We had a very successful general Society meeting on January 25, when we received a very informative and enlightening program by Major Elio Manes on the Bersaglieri. The Major brought his family up from Newport News, VA, and needless to say, his daughters were a delight as was his wife, Annalisa. We were also fortunate to have with us Colonel Rodolpho Sganga, the Military Attaché, Embassy of Italy (the Colonel replaced BG Tornabene, a good friend to AMHS who spoke to us on a couple of occasions on Italian military history). Be sure to read Nancy DeSanti's article on the meeting on page 2.

We had a very successful fundraising drive for the AMHS Scholarship Endowment Fund. As this issue went to print, we received \$4,175 in donations, our most successful campaign so far. We are most thankful to the generosity of our members, and to the hard work of the Fundraising Committee: Helen Free, Chair; Dick DiBuono; and Lourdes Tinajero.

We are very pleased to announce that in 2015, AMHS celebrates its 15th anniversary! Hard to imagine how far we've come from our very humble and austere beginning. We are currently at 278 members, of which 37 percent joined in 2000 and 2001; almost 50 percent have been members for 10 years. These are pretty impressive statistics. In honor of our officers, the leadership of Holy Rosary Church – who have also been ardent supporters of AMHS – but most importantly, in honor of our members, we will be hosting a celebration on **Sunday, June 28 at 1:00 pm in Casa Italiana**. We are in the early stages of planning this event, which will be free of charge, for AMHS members only; AMHS scholarship recipients; and invited guests who represent other Italian American organizations and entities with whom we have partnered over the years. So save the date, and keep an eye out for your invitation. We hope you will join us to celebrate all that we have done over the years, as well as our plans to grow and thrive for another 15 years and more!

We are also pleased to let you know that we are working with a website developer to redesign the AMHS website. We will be streamlining information and creating a site that is our Society's window to the outside world. We owe our sincerest gratitude to Romeo Sabatini who developed the current website, and has maintained it, for over 10 years.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event, the general Society meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 29. As you will read on page 2, our meeting will be held at Carmine's

Restaurant, and seating is limited, so make sure to make your paid reservation early!

Cordiali saluti,
Maria D'Andrea

AMHS 2014 TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Jeffrey Clark, 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 2014 with \$17,275 in its various Operating Funds and \$29,323 in the Scholarship Endowment Fund. During 2014 the Operating Funds increased by \$5,495 to end with a balance of \$22,770, and the Scholarship Endowment Fund increased by \$8,887 to end with a balance of \$38,210. Total net assets of the Society as of December 31, 2014 are \$60,980. See page 15 for the 2014 report.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

by Richard DiBuono, Immediate Past President and Chair, Budget and Finance Committee

At its October 2014 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to propose to the membership that three amendments be made to the Society's by-laws. The amendments, if approved by the membership at our general Society meeting on Sunday, May 31, 2015, would achieve two purposes: 1) *to bring the official title of the current by-laws of the Society into conformance with the Society's title on our District of Columbia incorporation papers; and 2) to establish the Budget and Finance Committee as a Standing Committee*. Heretofore, the committee has been established annually by the Society president on an ad hoc basis.

Following is the full language of the three proposed amendments:

First amendment: That the title on the first page of the current by-laws of the Society be changed to: **BY-LAWS OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND INC. OF THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA doing business as THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA.**

Second amendment: That **Article VIII, Section 2: Standing Committees**, of the by-laws be revised to include **Budget and Finance Committee** in the list of standing committees.

Third amendment: That a **Section 11: Budget and Finance Committee** be added to **Article IX** of the by-laws, with the following language contained therein:

It shall be the responsibility of the Budget and Finance Committee to serve as the overseer of all matters pertaining to

the finances of the Society. The committee will draft the annual budget at the beginning of each operating year and submit it to the Executive Committee for review and approval. The committee will conduct periodic reviews of the Society's financial status during each operating year when deemed necessary, but at mid-year as a minimum, and report its findings to the Executive Committee. The committee will draft policies for the management of the Scholarship Endowment Fund and submit them to the Executive Committee for its review and approval.

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MARCH 29, 2015 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING – A SOCIAL EVENT!

by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

AMHS members, friends and guests are cordially invited to our March 29, 2015, program at Carmine's Restaurant at 425 Seventh Street N.W., just a short walk from Casa Italiana. As we welcome spring after a long, cold winter, it's an opportunity to socialize with friends over a glass of wine and a delicious meal which will be served family style, in a private room set aside for us.

Afterwards, we will have an impromptu "open forum" about the recent PBS programs on "The Italian Americans" which were aired in two parts in February. The programs gave a historical perspective on the Italian immigrant experience going back to the late 19th century into the 20th century. All are invited to express their opinions or talk about their own or their families' experiences. We will no doubt have a lively and interesting discussion!!

The menu at Carmine's restaurant in Penn Quarter will include pasta with vegetables, ravioli, veal saltimbocca, a dessert of cannoli with coffee, tea and a glass of wine.

Please make your reservations early – the reserved room can accommodate 84 people - and bring your family members and friends to what is sure to be a very enjoyable meeting.

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

BERSAGLIERI PROGRAM A BIG HIT WITH AUDIENCE

By Nancy DeSanti

Our first program of 2015 turned out to be a very popular one, judging by the enthusiastic audience response. AMHS members and guests were treated to a very informative and dynamic presentation by Major Elio Manes, a Bersaglieri commander who has served in Kosovo, Lebanon and Afghanistan and told us so much about this specialized infantry unit of the Italian army. Our speaker was arranged by Colonel Rodolfo Sganga, Military Attaché, Embassy of Italy, at the request of AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea, our liaison with the Embassy.

Colonel Sganga also attended the program together with Bersaglieri Captain Massimo Salvemini. Before the program began, our three military guests spent time meeting our members and chatting with us. Major Manes was accompanied by his wife, Annalisa, and their three daughters, Giulia, Nicole, and Cicilia. He grew up in Formia, a city which is halfway between Rome and Naples.

At the beginning of the program, AMHS President Maria D'Andrea thanked outgoing board members John and Eileen Verna, and installed new board members Rosina Brienza Schacknies, Ennio DiTullio, and Ray LaVerghetta. We also heard remarks from Christina McGrath, one of our 2014/2015 scholarship recipients, who announced to us that just the night before, she found out she was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Italian studies at the University of Chicago. Congratulations, Christina!!



Major Manes with his wife Annalisa and daughters Giulia, Nicole, and Cicilia

For our program on the Bersaglieri, the idea for the talk was the result of a visit a few months ago by a group of Bersaglieri, wearing their plumed dress hats and uniforms, which travelled from Toronto, Canada, to visit Father Ezio Marchetto, their former pastor. As it turns out, some of our members, such as Lana Nardella, Dick DiBuono and Silvana DeLuca, have family members or loved ones who were Bersaglieri.

Major Manes' talk was entitled "From 1836 to 2014: A Run across the Centuries of History" and he meant that literally!! Bersaglieri are known for jogging in formation rather than marching, even while playing their instruments during parades. Later in his presentation, Major Manes played a video showing the Bersaglieri in their dress uniforms jogging in a Festa della Repubblica parade in Rome in front of then-Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, with the Colosseum as a backdrop. They jog at 180 paces per minute, a very fast run, as Major Manes demonstrated for us.

Using a very informative power point presentation, Major Manes explained that the Bersaglieri were formed in 1836 by Alessandro La Marmora. They were created as a crack infantry unit with expert marksmen ("bersaglieri"). The Bersaglieri are known for wearing the "vaira," a plumed hat with black feathers on one side, originally meant to protect the

eyes of the marksman from the sun when shooting. At times, a fez has been worn, beginning with the war in Crimea in 1855 (the first campaign abroad for the Italian army, fighting against Russia). The Bersaglieri also wear black gloves, to match their uniform, whereas the rest of the Italian army wears brown gloves. Their saber has a curved shape with a lion on top. Bersaglieri also carry a green cord, traditionally used to carry gunpowder, and the cord is put on the neck. Doing so, Major Manes explained, symbolizes that "if you catch us, we are ready," since the cord was used to represent hanging. In the overview of the Bersaglieri history, we learned many interesting facts, going back to the time of Cavour, who ordered the Bersaglieri to shoot Garibaldi, and they did try to stop him in Aspromonte in Calabria and ended up shooting him. We were surprised to learn that Bersaglieri fought in the American Civil War, as volunteers in the 39th New York Infantry Regiment (Garibaldi Guard), and they were in parades with President Abraham Lincoln. Major Manes commented that for him personally it was an honor to know that Bersaglieri had helped with America's unification.

The Bersaglieri participated with bicycles during World War I and by the time of World War II, they used motorbikes. Also during World War II, they participated in campaigns in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Nowadays, they use tanks, and they are so agile that they jump up on moving tanks. Obviously, they must be more physically fit than most!! In recent times, Bersaglieri have been serving in the far-flung "hot spots" of the world, from the Balkans (Kosovo and Bosnia), to Iraq, Lebanon and Afghanistan. Major Manes himself has served in Kosovo, Lebanon and Afghanistan. He noted that in 2013, Bersaglieri Major Giuseppe La Rosa was killed in Afghanistan when he shielded his comrades from a grenade with his body. We learned that there are 6 regiments of Bersaglieri, with about 700 soldiers each. They are known for the very demanding physical training they undergo. There are regiments stationed in Cosenza, Capo Teulada, Trapani, Bari, Caserta and Orcenico Superiore.

There is a monument to the Bersaglieri in Rome near Porta Pia, where there is also a museum. During Major Manes' presentation, we enjoyed watching a video taken in Canada in 2011 where the Bersaglieri sang their songs and the band (called fanfare) played with a great deal of energy.

Another interesting fact we learned is that the Alpini, the elite mountain soldiers, were actually created from the Bersaglieri (who knew?).

After the talk, Major Manes answered a lot of questions from the audience. The program wrapped up, appropriately, with an emotional story told by Joseph D'Andrea (Lucio's brother and Maria's uncle and godfather), who travelled from Pennsylvania for this event and shared how some Bersaglieri who were prisoners of war during World War II in Pennsylvania (near Carlyle) built a beautiful chapel there with a Florentine bell tower.

At the end of his presentation, Major Manes treated us to a rousing rendition of the Bersaglieri song, "All'Armi." He then announced that he was donating a vaira from his regiment to our Society. Thank you, Major Manes!!

Our thanks to Lynn Sorbara, our hospitality committee chairperson, who arranged for another wonderful, catered meal from Fontina Grille (Lynn also provided desserts), and to the team, including Peter Bell, Lana Nardella, Edvige D'Andrea, Joe and Joann Novello, Silvana DeLuca and all of the many people who volunteered to help out. We also thank the persons who donated items for the raffle, those who bought tickets, and to Dora Leo Santacroce who sold the raffle tickets. We raised \$262 for the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund.

Our appreciation to all whose efforts made for such a wonderful event!

CARNEVALE 2015: LOVE IS IN THE AIR, ITALIAN STYLE

by Maria D'Andrea



Casa Italiana decked out for the Carnevale festivities

On Saturday, February 14, 2015, 104 adults and 21 children who are members and friends of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society and The Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club donned costumes and brought their "love game" to the 2015 celebration of Carnevale. This year's theme was "Love Italian Style", which led itself to all kinds of creativity for costumes (as did the fact that Carnevale fell on Valentine's Day). This year we were especially grateful to have the Murray family with us - 32 family members including parents, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren – all of whom are related to Victoria Maffioli, a former Vice President of the Lucchesi Club.

Our costume judges for the evening were Father Ezio Marchetto, AMHS member Elisa DiClemente, and Lucchesi Club member Mary McManmon. Given the theme, there were so many excellent costumes, the judging was not easy! The following persons won, by category: Most Original, Osvaldo & Ann Barsi (Cappuccino & Gelato); Best Couple, Federica Marchese & Thomas Hartmann (Don Camillo & Peppone); Best Group, Roger Pedri, Julia Barsi, and Clara Pedri (That's Amore); Best Overall, Larry Mansuetti & Annella Auer (Romeo & Juliette); and Best Kids, Matteo Brewer (Hershey's Kiss). We had a lucrative 50/50 drawing, which was won by AMHS member Lynn Sorbara, who donated her earnings of \$262 to the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund. (Thank you Lynn!).

AMHS is thankful to many people who dedicated their time and energy to planning this incredibly successful and fun event, and to those who set up, helped during the event, and helped with clean-up: from AMHS, Samira Badawi-Kleibrink, Peter Bell, Eileen & John Verna, and myself; from The Lucchesi Club, Osvaldo and Ann Barsi, Karen and Bill Berl, Mariangela DiPietri and her grandson, Matteo Brewer, Silvana & Vincent Cipriani, Tricia Maltagliati, Mary & Robert McManmon, and Jen Zettyl; and Carrie Schneider, Kristine Gilzean, and Nassi.

We also wish to thank the many individuals and companies who provided their services for the evening: Piero's Corner Ristorante Italiano for the sumptuous meal of appetizers, pasta, and chicken; desserts by Dolci Gelati and Sweet Pearlz Cheesecakes; photography by Tom Marks; music by DJ Mike Takacs of Events Entertainment; Gina Lenhart for the Love Italian Style photo booth; and Trish DiPietri Brewer, Mariangela DiPietri, Peter Bell, and Tricia Maltagliati for the costume prizes.

This issue of the *Notiziario* includes only a handful of photos from the event. To see more – and to see how very fun this event was for all ages – check out our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety/photos_stream?ref=page_internal. AMHS and the Lucchesi Club will be surveying members who attended this year's event, to get feedback to help with our planning of future Carnevals. It is my express hope that, should we partner with The Lucchesi Club next year, AMHS will once again support and participate in this festive and fun event.

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

by Sarah Scott, 2nd Vice President -Membership

I am pleased to report that our 2015 membership renewal campaign is underway. We have received many renewals thus far and made updates to the membership records for those members who provided new information. Please keep your eye out for the renewal requests; I encourage you to mail in your renewal forms as soon as possible. This is a very important activity, since our membership is at the heart of who we are - *al cuore di ciò che siamo* - as a Society!

New Members

AMHS is now 278 members and growing! Even as membership renewals come in, we are also attracting new members!

We extend a warm *benvenuti* to our newest members: **Theresa Duncan, Marie Kellaher, Giulia Michonski, and Joseph and Lois Sandri!** As you always do, please **greet** our newest **members** and make them feel welcome.

Social Networking

AMHS is enthusiastically involved in social networking and we post 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>.

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).

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

Birthdays

Compleanni a marzo

Eileen Del Monaco, March 1; Robert D'Onofrio, March 2; Maria Fresco, March 3; Salvatore Di Pilla and Renato Sozio, March 8; Barbara Pappas and Joseph Sandri, March 9; Marie Kellaher and Sam Yothers, March 12; Raffaella Luciani, March 13; Mary Petrino, March 14; Frances De Marco, March 15; Lucio Marchegiani, March 16; David Scalzitti, March 19; William Berl, March 20; Pam Lupo and Fiorenza Pasquini, March 21; Mary Katherine Theis, March 25; Vincent Pereira, March 27; Lucio DiAndrea, March 28; and Anna Maria Di Pilla, March 31.

Compleanni ad aprile

Eva Del Vecchio, April 1; Joseph Theis, April 4; Gay Ferrante, April 6; Elizabeth Chiaverini, April 9; Emidio Pasqualucci, April 11; Gloria D'Andrea and Rita Giovenco, April 12; Joseph Scavetti, April 13; Domenico Santini, April 14; Joyce Del Borrello, April 18; Theda Corrado and Angela Pisoni, April 19; Stephen Ulissi, April 21; Julia Conti, April 22; Vera Gordon and Michael Nardolilli, April 24; Belinda Sabatini, April 25; Dr. Louis DeSanti, April 26; Joann Novello and Costantino Taglienti, April 28; and Tommaso Profenno, April 30.

Anniversaries

Anniversari a marzo

Robert & Marlene Lucian, March 3; Vincenzo & Dora Marinucci, March 15; and Paul & Francine Worthington, March 31.

Anniversari ad aprile

Angelo & Melvena Puglisi, April 11; Gino & Lina Marinucci, April 24; Roberto & Bess Di Tullio, April 25; and Silvio & Lina Pronio, April 29.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

LUCA ENNIO DiTULLIO IS BORN!

AMHS congratulates members Robert and Bess DiTullio on the birth of their son, Luca Ennio DiTullio, who came to this world on December 10, 2014, a wonderful early Christmas present for the whole family, especially for big sister Sofia. Sofia is so delighted to have a baby brother in her life. Grandparents Emma and Ennio are very proud and look forward to some babysitting time.

Luca joins the third generation of DiTullios in the United States. Needless to say, the entire family is on Cloud Nine! *Tanti auguri a tutti! (submitted by Ennio & Emma DiTullio).*



A STUNNING PROPOSAL!

On Saturday, February 14, 2015, in front of 125 AMHS and Lucchesi Club friends and family, on the occasion of Carnevale 2015, AMHS member Sam Yothers asked our daughter, Maria D'Andrea, to marry him. Maria was incredibly shocked – which may explain why many in the audience could not hear her say “YES!” The couple, who met on Match.com, has been together for four years and has already enjoyed a rich and fulfilling life, which will only continue in their future. We were very proud to lay witness to this most joyous event. As this will be the second wedding for both, the couple is planning a destination wedding (just the two of them) and honeymoon in Hawaii in February 2016. Their plans are to summit Mauna Kea, the highest peak in Hawaii (13,000+ feet), and be married at the top. (No wedding on the beach for this outdoor, adventurous duo). They will hold a reception for family and friends upon their return. We wish the couple a long and happy life together. *(submitted by Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea).*



Channeling Audrey Hepburn as Princess Anya, and Gregory Peck as Joe Bradley, from the movie “Roman Holiday”, Maria accepts Sam’s marriage proposal

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE LUPO

AMHS member Dr. Joseph Lupu has been named the director of the Casa Italiana Language School in Washington, D.C. He brings to his new job a wealth of professional experience combined with a deep love for the Italian language. Joe has been a leading advocate for many years for the teaching of Italian, and over the years he has worked with numerous organizations and collaborated with the education office of the Embassy of Italy. Joe says he is setting some ambitious goals for the language school, as he explains in an interview by

AMHS member Pino Cicala in the January 2015 issue of *Voce Italiana*. Congratulations, Joe!! *(submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT EMERITUS LUCIO D’ANDREA

On October 18, 2014, Lucio D’Andrea was awarded a certificate in recognition of his founding of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society and of his continuous work to promote Italian language and culture and to promote unity among the Italian American community in Washington, DC. The award was bestowed by Father Ezio Marchetto, pastor of Holy Rosary Church, and Cavaliere Bruno Fusco. *(submitted by Maria D’Andrea).*

A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

The recent passing of a dear friend and supporter of the Society, Will Marmura, prompts me to share with you qualities of a very wonderful human being. He was a very humble, caring and loving man. I came to know Will when we became employees of the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in the late 1950’s. That acquaintance was the beginning of a friendship that endured until his passing in December 2014. We both graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with degrees in Petroleum Engineering. He furthered his education while working at the FPC by attending George Washington University, taking classes after work to receive his law degree.

As his family noted in their farewell remarks about Will, “Everyone who crossed his path learned something special from him and was inspired by him.”

Will was a bachelor for a long time. Edvige and I concluded that he was a confirmed bachelor until he met Janet. This relationship blossomed and in time they got married, had two wonderful sons and four grandchildren. They were long-time residents of Alexandria until they decided in 2011 to resettle in North Carolina.

Will served the Society in a number of capacities. He served as a member of the Board of Directors while I was President of the Society. The Board decided that the Society should seek tax-exempt status from the IRS. I turned to Will to pursue this time-consuming and demanding task. Will was on my side in May 2003 when we planned and organized a program held in Casa Italiana consisting of a presentation by Brigadier General Graziano, Army Attaché at the Embassy of Italy on “The Italian Army in Peace-Keeping and Humanitarian Missions”. This was a precedent-setting event when the Society managed to bring together several Italian American organizations as sponsors of the event, namely the National Italian American Foundation, the Order Sons of Italy in America, the Italian Cultural Society, the Lido Civic Club, and FIERI. When the Society established the Scholarship Committee, Will was one of its ardent supporters. Another important event was held in December 2007 in Casa Italiana on “Monongah - 100 Years Later: A Commemoration of

America's Worst Mining Disaster". That disaster took the lives of hundreds of Molisani and Abruzzesi immigrants. You will be missed, my dear friend. *(submitted by AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea).*



Will Marmura, 4th from left, with AMHS members Francesco Isgro, Joseph D'Andrea, Father Lidio Tomasi, and President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea at the commemoration ceremony of the Monongah mining disaster, August 2007

A LOVING TRIBUTE TO BETTY JANE PAOLANTONIO FROM HER SON, ALBERT



Albert with his mother Betty, Christmas 2013

Betty Jane Paolantonio, 90 years of age, died on Monday, December 29, 2014 at Capital Care Hospice in Arlington after a more than five year struggle with Alzheimer's. She was born in 1924 in Morgantown, WV to Loudel and Isaac Newton Price. Her father died within a year of her birth.

She was raised by her mother and six older half brothers and sisters in the midst of the Great Depression. She grew up on a large farm in the Uniontown area of Pennsylvania, in the shadow of the coal mines. She used to tell the family stories about her life on the farm. It always seemed a little difficult to imagine her milking cows, and all of the other everyday chores on a working farm. The mother we all knew was a very stylish and modern woman.

During her high school years, while living on the farm, a terrible fire broke out, and the farm and nearly all of her family's belongings were lost. Fortunately, she and her brothers and sisters were spared. Eventually, they started over. After graduating, Betty moved from Pennsylvania with

one of her sisters, and found employment at the Old Post Office in Washington, DC.

Not long after, she met our father at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. After my father's graduation from the academy (class of '45), Betty married John F. (Tony) Paolantonio in 1946, a Roman Catholic, 2nd generation Italian. They were happily married for almost 48 years. She loyally supported our father throughout his long Navy career, and was the epitome of a Navy officer's wife, adeptly performing all the necessary duties of an officer's wife, and raising a family which would eventually consist of four boys and, finally, a girl. The marriage began during extremely difficult times. When our father went to fight in the Pacific during World War II, she waited for him to return, and handled life at home. After the war, when Dad was transferred to Guam, she followed with her two oldest sons, John and Lawrence, in tow onboard a ship. While there, she gave birth to David, her 3rd son. There were other duty calls in Newport, RI (where I was born), Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA, New Jersey and New Hampshire.

My mom loved to shop, and always presented herself with such class and beauty whether she was at work at Snelling and Snelling Employment Agency in Old Town Alexandria, where she worked for many years, or going to the grocery store. She never looked unkempt, and she always encouraged us to try to put on the best face possible, as well.

She grew up with a great love of music which would always remain with her. She played the clarinet in the high school band. She also played the organ and piano in her Methodist church. She loved Dean Martin and Lawrence Welk. In fact, she always said the two things she wanted most before she died was to dance with Lawrence Welk, which she, in fact, did and to have a drink with Dean Martin (which, unfortunately, she did not). Many were the dinners on Sunday nights when the family had to relocate to the den from the kitchen so mom could watch the Lawrence Welk show while we ate. She also adored country music, which was on her radio whenever you traveled in her car with her.

Growing up, we would often hear our mom sitting down in the evening at the electric organ in our home and playing various songs from her youth happily for anyone who wanted to listen or just for her own enjoyment. During the Christmas season, the house would be alive with mom playing carols and religious-themed Christmas music. Later in life, while living in Williamsburg, when she no longer played as much, she purchased a "player piano" which would do the work for her.

At home, Betty was an excellent cook and housewife. Although my mom was not Italian, she learned Italian cooking and many other Italian traditions and language from our dear Grandma Rose and the rest of my father's family in the Boston area. She excelled at lasagna, which she cooked every Christmas, and other pasta dishes and sauces, but was an expert at every type of cooking. She made homemade *pizzelle* during the holiday season, too, but also mastered all different styles of desserts, which she made throughout the year. She was also very interested in home decoration and was well-versed in many different designs. Whether it was Colonial

Williamsburg, Italian art, French Country or, in general, antiques, she was always open to enriching the home and expanding her interior design knowledge.

My mom loved to have her children's friends visit at our house. She would sit and talk with them in the living room or in the kitchen while she cooked. Her children's friends often became her "adopted" children. She always insisted on being kept up-to-date on their lives. She could be brutally honest with anyone. She was strong. People liked her because of that. She was a real lady.

Through the years, mom had always found time for travel. Because of her family, sometimes she would have to go by herself while our dad took care of us. Other times she stayed at home so our dad could travel. Sometimes, both mom and dad would travel together if our Grandma and Great Aunt Angie came from Massachusetts to look after us. She toured Italy several times (with a broken leg on one trip which included visiting the famous Blue Grotto in Capri), Seattle, San Francisco, Las Vegas, New England, Florida, Canada and countless other places. In 1990, I had the good fortune to make my first trip to Italy with both my parents and my sister. My parents had toured there several times before, but on this trip I encouraged my dad to make a special trip from Rome. We traveled by train to Isernia in Molise. From there, we took a cab ride through the mountains to the medieval village of Roccasicura, where my grandfather Pietro was born. We spent an unforgettable day walking the streets, visiting San Leonardo Church, and we made a special visit to the home of an old friend of the family. We also met the daughter of my grandfather's brother Nicola, Bianca, who was the schoolteacher in the town.

My mom loved to laugh. She always, like our father, enjoyed a good joke. And, our father could always make her laugh. She loved her family and her friends with a great passion. There were no limits to what she would do, in particular, for her children. No matter what happened, that was the one constant. And, she was tested by each and every one of us. But, in the end, she loved us with all her heart.

Betty adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren (three of each). Most of them arrived after our father had passed in 1993, so she had extra pride and enjoyment whenever she got to see them. She moved to Williamsburg a couple of years after my father's death. There, the family would visit her during holidays and birthdays. She moved back and forth between the Alexandria area and Williamsburg in recent years so she could be present for the births of Andrew and Toni, her grandchildren, and, of course, to be near her only daughter, Lisa, during this time. Then, Williamsburg would call her to move back again. She loved it there. Her happiest moments in life were spent whenever and wherever she had the chance to visit or be visited by her family. She always was saddened when we left - even at the end, when we visited her at the Mount Vernon Sunrise facility where she lived the last five years of her life after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But, now it is she that has left us, and we are grieving. She was strong enough to overcome many obstacles throughout her life, many battles with skin cancer, hypertension, and three miscarriages. Finally, Alzheimer's was the fight she could not

win. But she never gave up to the very end. Her life is a testament to never throwing in the towel, living life to the fullest, and always going forward with grace, no matter what life throws at you. *(submitted by Albert Paolantonio, a long-time member and supporter of AMHS).*

ADVENTURES IN EASTERN SICILY AND SOUTHERN CALABRIA

by Nancy DeSanti

Timing is everything, as the saying goes. So a trip to eastern Sicily and southern Calabria in mid-October 2014 was perfect timing, since every day was sunny and warm as opposed to a few days later in early November when Italy was deluged with heavy rains and mudslides and even a cyclone in Sicily.

A group of mostly National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) members traveled together, mostly from the New York and New Jersey area and also a few people from our area, including OSIA Fairfax Lodge official Joe LaMarca and his wife June, and this writer. We flew on Alitalia from New York to Rome and then to Catania, Sicily - the third-busiest airport in Italy after Rome and Milan. After landing in Catania, we hit the ground running - beginning with a trip to a big shopping center nearby which had lots of beautiful stores and even an enclosed child care room - a colorful play area for kids with a sign saying "Baby Parking."

After we finished shopping, we headed for Modica where we would be staying while in Sicily, and along the way we passed fig trees, vineyards, palm trees and, eucalyptus trees. We learned that eucalyptus leaves can be boiled into a tea and are said to cure colds and congestion. We also discovered that oranges are called "*portoghesi*" in many Italian dialects because the Portuguese brought them from China in the 14th century. Modica is a wonderful city that is famous for its chocolates, so we visited the oldest chocolate shop in the city, Antica Dolceria Bonaiuto, and we tasted some delicious chocolates with peperoncino, with salt, with pistachios, even with jasmine (*gelsomino*). Plus we even found the famous Sicilian Zibibbo wine as well as the grappa di Zibibbo. Of course we tasted them too!! Then we walked around Modica and saw the beautiful church of San Giorgio, the city's patron saint.

While staying in Modica for the duration of our time in Sicily, we made several day trips. First we went to nearby Ragusa. The city of Ragusa is actually in two parts - Ragusa Ibla, the older part which was destroyed by an earthquake, and Ragusa Patro, the modern part. Ragusa is known for producing high-quality asphalt which is used for paving roads all over Italy.

After leaving Ragusa, we headed for a town called Marinella on the southern coast, where it just so happened that they were getting ready to film an episode of "Commissario Montalbano," the popular TV detective show. We watched as the crew set up the scene with the Alfa Romeo "police car" in front of Montalbano's house on the beach. A crowd had gathered to watch the filming, hoping to catch a glimpse of Luca Zingaretti, the actor who plays Montalbano and who was in a van ("dressing room") parked down the street.

Unfortunately for us, the filming was not set to take place until night time. Since some members of our group were big fans of the show, we hit the road and went to Scicli where the show is also filmed. There was a slight delay on the way as we had to stop to let a big herd of sheep and goats cross the street led by a lone shepherd. Animals get the right of way, of course!!



Montalbano's house

When we got to Scicli, we immediately went to the town hall/police station (*questura*) where for a couple of euros, you are allowed to tour the mayor's office, where the TV show shoots the scenes where Montalbano gets called on the carpet and chewed out by

his boss (the *sindaco*). We enjoyed taking our pictures sitting behind the mayor's desk, and one member of our group said he is going to put a caption on his photo, "Montalbano answers to me." (On a side note, while in Ragusa Ibla, we visited the shop where Montalbano bought the wedding rings for his right-hand man Mimi, and we met the owner, artist Barbara Arezzi, who made a cameo appearance in that episode).

On our return to Modica, we stopped in Noto, a small city which is known for its fine palaces and churches built in the Sicilian baroque style. Noto is southwest of Siracusa at the foot of the Iblean mountains. At the center of town is an open-air market next to a playground for kids, complete with a big merry-go-round. There were lots of kids playing, and people strolling or just sitting on benches enjoying the sunny, warm weather.

The next day, on the way back to Catania, we saw many nice homes with palm trees and cactus in the front yards. As we passed through the small towns along the way, many of them had typical traffic circles with palm trees and flowers in the middle.

So then we were back in Catania, a city of 300,000 (actually 600,000 if you count the suburbs) which has some of the highest city walls of any place in Italy, in order to protect against the lava flowing from the Mount Etna volcano nearby. But that didn't always work, though, because in past centuries, the lava has flowed into the city, and even nowadays the airport is sometimes shut down due to the eruption of Mount Etna.

We learned that Catania is famous for world-class eye care and for electronics, and the city has been called "the Silicon Valley of Europe." Located on the east coast facing the Ionian

Sea, Catania was founded in the 8th century B.C. From the 14th century to the Renaissance, Catania was one of Italy's most important cultural, artistic and political centers, and it was home to the first university in Sicily. In the middle of the city, there is an amphitheater made with lava where gladiators fought in ancient times - a stone's throw from where you can now find stores such as "Sony Bono Store" on Via Etna, "Hot Shot," and "Dopo Teatro Hot Dogs" (really!!).

Also nearby is the Teatro Massimo Bellini opera house, named in honor of Catania's native son, opera composer Vincenzo Bellini. A famous dish has been named for Bellini's most well-known opera, Pasta Norma (made with eggplant). The main piazza in Catania, called Elephant Square, has an elephant statue made of lava. It's a statue of an Indian elephant, which is smaller and more trainable than the African elephant and is the kind which was used by Hannibal to cross the Alps many centuries ago. Around the square are many elegant shops where some real bargains are to be found.

Of course, we could not leave Catania without visiting the famous *pescheria*, the huge market that sells every kind of fish and so much more. Since you can stand outside the market and look at the sea just a couple blocks away, it is no surprise that the fish are so fresh you can see the gleam in their eyes. The fishmongers are everywhere selling all kinds of fresh fish, even squid, octopus and eels, and not to mention every variety of meat, cheese, fruits and vegetables. Just walking through this amazing market and seeing all the delicious food is enough to make anyone hungry!!

After leaving Catania, we headed up the eastern coast of Sicily towards Messina, the city of 250,000 that was destroyed by an earthquake in 1908 and then rebuilt. The city is located in the northeast corner of Sicily. We arrived in Messina just in time for the amazing event that takes place at 12 noon each day in front of the beautiful cathedral. The ceremony at the bell tower (*campanile*) beside the cathedral commemorates the Sicilian Vespers War in the 13th century.



Duomo Campanile, Messina, Sicily

The belltower contains the biggest and most complex mechanical and astronomical clock in the world. A complex system of counterweights, leverages and gears determines the movement of the gilded bronze statues located in the facade overlooking the square. This extraordinary event begins when the bells chime precisely at noon and then the first statue, a lion, begins to move, waving a flag held in its paws, moving its tail, turning its head toward

the crowd in the square, and roaring three times (symbolizing the courage of the Sicilian people). Next, a rooster raises its

head and crows three times (symbolizing the warning to the people that the invaders were coming and also symbolizing the awakening of mankind). Then you see a dove flutter, representing the Holy Spirit, and then an angel brings a letter to the Madonna followed by the ambassadors, representing the belief that St. Paul visited Messina in 42 A.D. and then the people of Messina sent their ambassadors to Jerusalem to pay respects to the Virgin Mary while she was still alive.

Meanwhile, the Ave Maria is being played on stringed instruments, and throughout the square, people are transfixed, watching and listening to this amazing ceremony filled with so much historical and religious significance. Watching this emotional scene unfold can easily bring a tear to your eye. It's definitely worth a trip to Messina. Meanwhile, you can watch a recorded glimpse of this scene on YouTube. (AMHS member Pino Cicala recalls that his high school was on the north side of the piazza and so he would often go to the noontime ceremony during the school year).

After the ceremony was over, we headed for the ferry which crosses the Strait of Messina over to Reggio Calabria on the mainland. The ferry is big enough to hold buses and cars, and you can climb the steps to the upper deck to look out on the water during the short crossing which takes less than 20 minutes. We heard about the "Fata Morgana," the optical illusion that, when you are standing on the coast of Calabria facing Sicily, makes Sicily seem closer than it really is. This is said to have caused many sailors to shipwreck over the centuries.

Once we got off the ferry in Reggio Calabria, we took a short ride to the lungomare, a beautiful seafront area with merry-go-rounds, palm trees, gelato stands, wide sidewalks and bougainvillea blooming everywhere. This stretch of land by the sea was called by poet Gabriele D'Annunzio "the most beautiful kilometer in Italy." We stopped at a bar, the Caffè Vittorio Emanuele, a block from the sea, right up the street from the national museum. The specialty of this bar was gelato bergamotto, so of course we had to try it, since the bergamot citrus fruit is a specialty of this area. We learned that 90% of the bergamot in the world comes from this southern part of Calabria, with the remaining 10% grows in France and the Ivory Coast. In fact, there is a "bergamotteria" in Reggio Calabria that sells only products made with bergamot, such as candy, oils, candles, soap, wine and other products (you can use a drop of the oil in making a cake).

Next we headed up the street to the Museo Nazionale, the home of the world-famous Riace Bronzes, the two famous Greek bronze statues of a young warrior and an old warrior which were discovered in 1972 in the shallow waters near the town of Riace. The bronzes were believed to be on a ship that sank during a storm centuries ago, and their discovery was a major archaeological event in Italy. There was even a stamp with their images on it issued in Italy. These amazing statues are larger than life and the lifelike detail is truly fascinating. The bronzes have just finished a years-long restoration and they now rest on a marble stand that is earthquake-proof. They are rightly famous around the world, and there has been some controversy lately over a plan to bring them to the world's fair (Expo 2015) in Milan this year, but it looks like

that's not going to happen. So if you want to see these magnificent warriors, you will have to go to Reggio Calabria. Well, why not? It's a beautiful city, and there is much to see in southern Calabria, as we found out.



Vibo Marina, Calabria

We left Reggio Calabria and drove up the A3 highway headed for Vibo Marina, on the Tyrrhenian Sea (Mar Tirreno) where we would be staying during our time in Calabria. As you descend the road leading to Vibo Marina, the views of the sea at sunset are simply breathtaking with the fishing boats and sailboats still visible.

Vibo Marina is the port area of Vibo Valentia, which itself is a beautiful city. It was destroyed by an earthquake and rebuilt and was once called Monteleone because the people fought valiantly on the side of the Romans during the Punic Wars. And the ancient poet Cicero used to come to Vibo Valentia to relax at his friend's villa. The city has a famous castle which was used as a prison in the 19th century. During feudal times, after a battle soldiers from the losing side were sometimes hanged at the castle, which has been recently renovated, with a museum added. On display at the museum are ancient bronze helmets, some gold, silver and bronze coins dating back to the Punic Wars, and a mummified woman with a tiny sign on her chest with directions for the afterlife.

Leaving the castle, we were slightly delayed by a herd of baby goats (caprete) crossing the street. Our next stop was a big shopping center (Ducati Due Mari) in Lamezia not far from the airport. There were lots of beautiful stores of all kinds - and even better, lots of discounts!!

While in Vibo Marina, we stayed at the beautiful Hotel Cala del Porto just a block from the water, with many beautiful stores nearby and a nice boardwalk that in the evening was filled with music, people taking a *passeggiata* and children playing. From Vibo Marina, we took day trips all over southern Calabria. We passed through the Aspromonte mountains of the Aspromonte National Park. The green slopes of the mountains are covered by thick woods so that even during the daytime, the area seems dark and foreboding - and that was before we learned that this was where the 'Ndrangheta would hide their kidnap victims for months or even years and where wealthy oilman J. Paul Getty's grandson was held in the 1970s (until his ear was cut off and a ransom was paid). We also learned that the Aspromonte park is known for wildlife such as black squirrels, wolves and

peregrine falcons, and for a wide variety of trees and shrubs. The rare bergamot citrus fruit can also be found in one area of the Aspromonte National Park.

Going across Calabria, we passed by towns such as Rosarno and Gioia Tauro, where kiwis, oranges and lemons grow, many of which we learned are picked by immigrants and sold to the Coca Cola Company. Prickly pears are also grown there. It must be said that the food throughout Calabria was really delicious. In Vibo Marino, we had the incomparable *tonno rosso* (red tuna), which we learned has become harder to come by since the tuna catch has been limited by law due to overfishing. We also had a delicious dish of garfish wrapped in pancetta.

We arrived in Gerace where we took the *trenino* to reach the hilltop town, while listening to Calabrian songs on the short ride up the hill. Before enjoying a delicious meal of local specialties, we visited the Cathedral which has a display of one of only five double crosses brought back from the Crusades. We also saw the beautiful works of goldsmiths and silversmiths from Naples. Gerace is surely a beautiful town (and it's also the hometown of former CIA Director Leon Panetta's father).

Next we went to Locri, right on the coast of the Ionian Sea (*Mar Ionio*). We visited the museum where there are ancient Greek and Roman ruins outside, and on the way, the path is lined with wild rosemary, the scent of which was everywhere.

After leaving Locri, we stopped in nearby Gioia Ionica at a *gelateria*, just in time to see a wedding at the church across the street. The church bells rang after the bride and groom exited the church, as the beautifully dressed wedding party waited for them. Our next day trips were to the beautiful towns on the western coast built on cliffs, like Tropea, which were invaded by the Saracens centuries ago. The scenic beauty of Calabria is amazing, and in a short distance you go from the sea to the mountains. The beautiful town of Tropea attracts vacationers from all over Italy, and you can see many big houses which are vacation homes for wealthy people. No wonder - the views of the sea are absolutely stunning!!

Nearby Capo Vaticano is beautiful too, and well-known for its olive oil, eggplant and red onion (Tropea is also famous for the red onion). Another specialty is *'nduja*, a spicy spreadable sausage. Before leaving the town, we saw the beautiful overlook where you can see Sicily in the distance across the sea, and also see Stromboli, the volcanic island.

We also went to Pizzo Calabria, a beautiful town that was known for fishing, especially tuna, but due to overfishing, there are laws restricting fishing which carry big fines, so now many in the town are unemployed. For a time, they got work on cruise ships but now other nationalities are being hired for that work. In parts of Calabria, there were immigrant camps where several years ago there were reports of their mistreatment, but in Pizzo Calabria we were told that when one immigrant family was in dire straits, the whole town took up a collection to help them.

The most famous site in Pizzo Calabria is the castle where Napoleon's brother-in-law Joachim Murat was executed by order of Napoleon, who had given Murat the Kingdom of Naples. But after he got on Napoleon's bad side, Murat was sentenced to death by firing squad. The historical records of the castle show that Murat faced death with courage and dignity. Some of his men who were put on the firing squad didn't want to fire their weapons, but Murat told them he understood they had to do their duty and he forgave them. We learned that whenever bad things would happen in the town, they call it "the curse of Murat," and one family asked the local priest to remove the curse.

Before leaving Pizzo Calabria, we went to see the "Chiesetta di Piedigrotta," a grotto-like small church probably built in 1725. Inside are many statues carved out of rock, such as the one of St. George slaying the dragon (Santo Protettore di Pizzo). More recently, an artist carved the profile of President John F. Kennedy facing the profile of Pope John XXIII, which the artist intended as a symbol for the hope for peace and an end to the Cold War.

On our last Sunday, some of us went to Mass at a small church in Vibo Marina named Chiesa del Santo Rosario. When we told people at the church afterwards that we had a church by the same name in Washington, D.C., with Mass in Italian, you can imagine their surprise.

When it was time to leave Vibo Marina, we took a last look at the beautiful marina as we headed up the road to the Lamezia airport on our way back to Rome and New York. We realized we had seen and done so much during our all-too-short time in beautiful eastern Sicily and southern Calabria.

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

SCANNO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO REGION

by Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member



The traditional women's dress of Scanno

Scanno, sometimes called "La Perla d'Abruzzo" (the Pearl of Abruzzo), is a picturesque town in the province of

L'Aquila. The medieval town, with approximately 2,048 inhabitants known as Scannesi, is known for its scenic beauty. The name Scanno is derived from the Latin "Scamnun." The rocky mountain road from Sulmona into Scanno provides a magnificent panorama with a serpentine route that has blind hairpin bends. Eventually, the nearby Lake Scanno (Lago di Scanno) comes into view. The surrounding towns of Scanno and Villalago are situated in the Sagittario Valley, encircled by the Maiella mountains and not far from the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo.

The heart-shaped lake, Abruzzo's largest natural basin, has been awarded Blue Flag status for several years due to its clean, crystal clear waters. According to local legend, the lake was created by a feud between a white witch and a sorcerer, the lake marking the spot where the witch finally fell.

Nowadays Scanno has become a tourist destination year-round. In summer, boats are available for hire at the nearby lake, or a picnic can be enjoyed at one of the small lake beaches. In winter, a chair lift for skiers operates up the adjacent mountain.

Scanno was the hometown of Quinto Mancini, the father of American composer Henry Mancini who emigrated to America where he became a steelworker near Pittsburgh. And for a brief period during World War II, former Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi took refuge in the town.

Scanno is not only known for the beautiful nearby lake but also for its artisans who work with lace, copper and iron objects, and gold filigree. Scanno has been described as "la citaduzza di sapore orientale," meaning "a place of oriental flavor." The influence of Asia Minor can be seen in the designs of the local silver and gold work, and many inhabitants believe they can trace their ancestry to Asia Minor. Even the traditional costumes are different from those in the rest of Abruzzo, and the "copricapo" resembles a type of turban.

In Scanno, some of the residents take pride in wearing traditional clothes around the village. In fact, the original reputation of the town as a tourist destination came about when famous photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson photographed the residents in Scanno in their traditional clothes in the 1950s. However, not everyone chooses to wear the traditional clothes, maybe because the skirt alone - made from wool that was the town's main industry for centuries - weighs over 10 kilograms!!

Fortunately, efforts are being made to preserve the local traditions of this town for future generations, which nowadays is one of the very few places in Italy to wear the traditional dress. To learn more about the amazing "*costumi scannesi*," you can check out the "Vivi il Costume" website at <http://www.costumediscanno.org/>.

What to See

- Chiesetta della Madonna del Lago
- Church of Santa Maria della Valle, built in the local romanesque style and containing some medieval frescoes and an impressive altar

- Church of San Giovanni Battista, with statues dating from the 17th to the 20th centuries
- Palazzo di Rianzo
- Palazzo di Serafini

Important Dates

- January 17 – Feast of Sant'Antonio Barone
- In Springtime – Premio Scanno
- June 13 – Il Giglio di Sant'Antonio
- August 10 – Feast of San Lorenzo
- August 15 – Il Catenaccio, a procession with participants wearing typical "*costumi scannesi*"
- November 10 – Le Glorie

Sources:

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SCANNO, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO



Lago di Scanno

Scanno, il cui nome viene dal latino Scamnun, e conosciuta anche come "La Perla D'Abruzzo", è una ridente cittadina della provincia di L'Aquila. Città medievale, conta 2048 abitanti, conosciuti come Scannesi.

Le rocciose e serpeggianti strade di montagna, che da Sulmona conducono a Scanno, offrono una spettacolare vista del vicino omonimo lago di Scanno. Scanno e la vicina cittadina di Villalago, sorgono lungo la valle del

Sagittario, sono circondate dalle montagne della Maiella, e sono vicine al parco nazionale d'Abruzzo.

Il lago, dalla forma di cuore, riceve da anni premi per le sue acque terse e cristalline e, si sarebbe formato, secondo un'antica leggenda, in seguito ad una lotta fra una maga ed una strega, nel punto in cui la strega precipitò verso la sua morte.

Oggi Scanno attrae molti turisti in tutte le stagioni dell'anno: d'estate offre delle piccole crociere e picnic sulle sponde del lago; d'inverno una seggiovia trasporta gli sciatori sopra le montagne circostanti.

Scanno è anche il luogo natale di Quinto Mancini, padre del compositore Henry Mancini. Quinto immigrò negli Stati Uniti, e lavorò come operaio nei cantieri siderurgici di Pittsburgh. Inoltre fu rifugio politico dell'ex presidente della Repubblica Italiana Carlo Azeglio Ciampi durante la seconda guerra mondiale.

Scanno non è solo nota per la sua bellezza fisica. È famosa anche per i suoi artigiani che lavorano i merletti, il rame, il ferro e l'oro filigrana.

Conosciuta anche col nome di "la cittaduzza dal sapore orientale", esibisce influenze dell'Asia Minore, cosa che si nota nei disegni dei lavori in argento e oro, e molti abitanti credono di rintracciare le loro radici da gente venuta dall'Asia Minore. Anche i suoi costumi tradizionali sono diversi dal resto dell'Abruzzo e i copricapi sono molto simili a turbanti. Alcuni abitanti ancora si muovono per la città sfoggiandoli. Il turismo in questa città, infatti, si intensificò dopo che il fotografo Henry Cartier Bresson ebbe pubblicato, intorno al 1950, delle foto degli abitanti di Scanno in giro coi loro costumi. Non tutti però scelgono di indossarli: solo la gonna di lana, che per centinaia d'anni fu l'industria principale del paese, grava più di dieci chili. Scanno cerca e fa di tutto per preservare le antiche tradizioni per le generazioni future, ed è una delle poche cittadine italiane a rispettare queste tradizioni. Se si vuol sapere di più sui costumi di Scanno, si può consultare il website <http://www.costumediscanno.org/>

Attrazioni del luogo:

- Chiesetta della Madonna del lago
- Chiesa di Santa Maria della Valle, in stile romanesco, ospite di affreschi medievali e di un magnifico altare
- Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista con statue che vanno dal diciassettesimo al ventesimo secolo
- Palazzo di Rianzo
- Palazzo di Serafini

Date da ricordare:

- 17 gennaio - Festa di Sant' Antonio Barone
- In primavera - Premio Scanno
- 13 giugno - Il Giglio di Sant'Antonio
- 10 agosto - Festa di San Lorenzo
- 15 agosto - Il Catenaccio, processione in cui i partecipanti indossano i tradizionali costumi scannesi
- 10 novembre - Le Glorie

TUFARA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

by Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea

The small town of Tufara is located about 25 miles southeast of Campobasso, not far from Gambatesa, a town that shares a similar historical origin as a place overlooking a "tratturo" (sheep migration trail).

Tufara has approximately 1,071 inhabitants. It lies at the boundaries of Molise, between Campania and Puglia. Tufara looks out on the valley of the Fortore River from above a rock of compact sandstone, at 1,378 feet above sea level. A few miles from the historic town center, in the place called Pianella, there is a woods full of turkey oaks, which is typical of the Apennines.

The wide grassy trails (tratturi) that shepherds once used to herd sheep and cattle between the highlands of Abruzzo and the plains of Puglia were ancient tracks that shaped the history of Molise. In the days of the barbarian invasions, those frequent invasions led the people to settle in defensive positions and above all off the main roads such as the tratturi. This gave rise to the "castrum," which was a group of houses or enclosed areas in which people took refuge. Tufara is one of the "castra" which still survives. Later, the refuge of the feudal lords was the castle, such as the castle in Tufara which is believed to be of Lombard origin.

No historical documents have been found showing the origins of Tufara. The oldest document is from the 12th century and says that the town was being governed by Riccardo Marzano, from one of the most prominent families of that era. In the 15th century, Tufara was sold to the Gambatesa family. Eventually, by royal decree, King Ferrante I of Aragon gave Tufara to Fiovanni della Candida and it was passed down to a series of feudal lords until 1806, when feudalism was abolished.



Nowadays Tufara is famous for maintaining its tradition of *Mascherata del Diavolo* which takes place during Carnevale. The Carnevale of Tufara draws

tourists from all over, and many of those who emigrated elsewhere choose this time of year to come back for a visit, to pay homage to the tradition of the Mascherata.

During the procession through town, the scary-looking "devils" are dressed in black goatskins, with horns

on their head, black leather masks, and a long red tongue, and they are holding a trident in their hands. Each devil is chased through the town by two people dressed in white with red headscarves holding scythes (*falce*) who try to capture the devil and put him in chains. By evening, the procession has reached the Lombard castle, where a puppet representing the judge hands down a "death sentence" to be carried out by "soldiers."

Since they say a picture is worth a thousand words, you can see a video of the Mascherata del Diavolo at <http://www.martinocazzorla.it/tufara---la-maschera-del-diavolo-di-tufara.html>. Prepare to be entertained and amazed!!

What to See

- Medieval Castle

Important Dates

- January 17 – Feast of Sant' Antonio Abate
- February 19 – La Mascherata del Diavolo
- August 23 – La sagra degli spaghetti
- August 28 – Feast of San Giovanni Eremita

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<http://www.roangelo.net/valente/origini.html>
<http://www.molisecitta.it/comuni/tufara.html>
<http://turismo.provincia.campobasso.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLob.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1603>
<http://guide.supereva.it/antropologia/interventi/2010/02/la-mascherata-del-diavolo>
<http://www.ildiavolotufara.it/ACAMID/TUFARA.html>

TUFARA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE



A panoramic view of Tufara

Il piccolissimo centro di Tufara si trova a circa 25 miglia da Campobasso, nei pressi di Gambatesa, villaggio storicamente simile a Tufara. Entrambi questi centri si affacciavano, e si affacciano tutt'ora su sentieri usati una volta per il trasposto di animali da un luogo all'altro.

La cittadina conta più o meno 1,071 abitanti, si trova ai confini con la Campania e la Puglia, e si affaccia sulla valle del fiume Fortore, dalla cima di una roccia di arena compatta a 1,378 metri dal livello del mare. Non molto lontano da Tufara, esiste una località chiamata Pianella, ospite di una distesa boscosa di querce tipiche degli Appennini.

I vasti ed erbosi tratturi, una volta usati dai pastori per pecore e per buoi, lungo gli altipiani dell'Abruzzo e le pianure della Puglia, furono sentieri antichissimi che diedero forma alla regione Molise. Nei giorni delle invasioni barbariche la gente del luogo prendeva, lungo questi sentieri, posizione di difese e ciò diede vita al "Castrum", gruppo di costruzioni da dove ci si difendeva. Tufara è una delle "Castrum" che ancora sopravvive. Più tardi il rifugio fu il castello, come il castello di Tufara che si crede sia di origine lombarda.

Il documento storico più antico della città risale al dodicesimo secolo, quando fu governata da Riccardo Marzana, membro di una delle famiglie più importanti dell'epoca. Nel quindicesimo secolo fu venduta alla famiglia Gambatesa. Più tardi ancora, per decreto regale, Ferdinando I d' Aragona la assegnò al governo di Giovanni della Candida.

Restò feudo per lungo tempo, fino al 1806, quando il feudalesimo fu abolito. Oggigiorno è famosa per la Mascherata del Diavolo, che ha luogo a Carnevale. Questo Carnevale attrae gente che viene qui dappertutto, e molti emigrati ritornano al loro paese per tale occasione; per pagare omaggio alla tradizione della Mascherata.

Durante queste processioni carnevalesche, gli orribili diavoli, coperti di pelli nere di capra, con corna in testa, e con lunghissime lingue rosse penzoloni, e con una forca in mano, vengono inseguiti attraverso tutta la città da uomini vestiti in bianco. Ogni diavolo è inseguito da due uomini in bianco, i quali hanno il capo coperto da un fazzoletto rosso ed hanno una falce nella mano. Eventualmente ogni diavolo è catturato e incatenato. La sera, poi, la processione raggiunge il Castello, consegna i diavoli nelle mani di un giudice, e questi li condanna a morire per mano di soldati.

La Mascherata del Diavolo può essere vista a <http://www.martinocazzorla.it/tufara---la-maschera-del-diavolo-di-tufara.html>.

Attrazioni del luogo:

- Il Castello Medievale

Date da ricordare:

- 17 gennaio - Festa di Sant' Antonio Abate
- 19 febbraio - La Mascherata del Diavolo
- 23 agosto - La Sagra degli spaghetti
- 28 agosto - Festa di San Giovanni L'Eremita



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



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



Mangia bene!



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

SOCIAL MEETING

For AMHS Members and Friends

WHEN: Sunday, March 29, 2015

TIME: 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Carmine's Restaurant
425 Seventh Street, NW | Washington, DC

MENU: Lunch will be at Carmine's Restaurant in Penn Quarter. The menu includes pasta with vegetables, ravioli, veal saltimbocca, dessert of cannoli with coffee, tea and a glass of wine. (Additional wine is for purchase).

COST: \$30.00

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY MARCH 24, 2015**

*****ONLY 84 PAID RESERVATIONS CAN BE
ACCEPTED DUE TO ROOM SIZE*****

PROGRAM: AMHS members, friends and guests – be sure to join us to celebrate the coming of spring after the long, cold winter, and to enjoy a chance to socialize with your friends over a glass of wine and a delicious lunch. Afterwards, we will have an “open forum” discussion of the recent PBS programs on “The Italian Americans” describing the Italian immigrant experience. Come join in what is sure to be a lively and interesting discussion!!

For information call Jeff Clark (801) 792-7160
All are welcome!

✂----- Return with Payment

Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2015

Please make check payable to AMHS.

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: _____

2014 TREASURER'S REPORT

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, 2014

	Operating Funds				
	AMHS All Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted		Scholarship Endowment Fund
			Annual Scholarship Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
Beginning fund balances Jan 1, 2014	\$46,598	\$9,879	\$7,396	--	\$29,323
2014 Operations					
Income					
Net revenue from events	\$17,406	\$13,091	--	--	\$4,315
Events expenses	\$12,070	\$12,070	--	--	--
Net income from events	\$5,336	\$1,021	--	--	\$4,315
Other Income					
Memberships dues	\$5,850	\$5,850	--	--	--
Donations and raffles	\$10,921	\$1,201	\$295	\$5,000	\$4,425
Investment income	\$214	\$67	--	--	\$147
Other	\$229	\$229	--	--	--
Total other income	\$17,214	\$7,347	\$295	\$5,000	\$4,572
Total Income	\$22,550	\$8,368	\$295	\$5,000	\$8,887
Expenses					
Donations and annual scholarship	\$5,098	\$1,098	\$4,000	--	--
Mailing and printing	\$2,335	\$2,335	--	--	--
Other	\$735	\$735	--	--	--
Total Expenses	\$8,168	\$4,168	\$4,000	--	--
Net Income (loss)	\$14,382	\$4,200	(\$3,705)	\$5,000	\$8,887
Interfund transfers (raffles, porchetta, etc)	--	(\$2,205)	\$2,205	--	--
Ending fund balances Dec 31, 2014	\$60,980	\$11,874	\$5,896	\$5,000	\$38,210

THE BERSAGLIERI COME TO CASA ITALIANA SUNDAY JANUARY 25, 2015

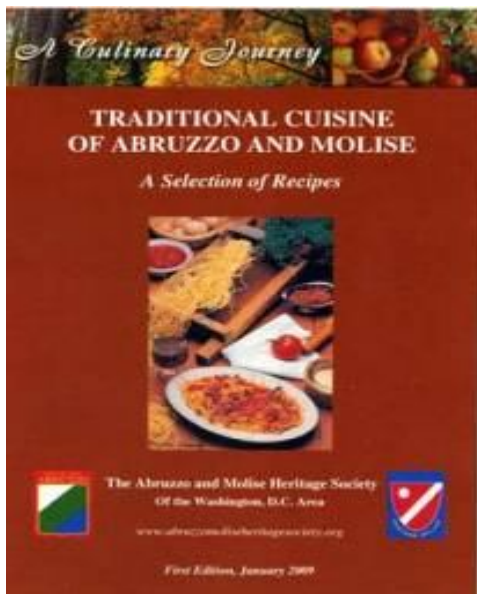


Top (left): Our speaker, Major Elio Manes, Colonel Rodolfo Sganga, Military Attaché, Embassy of Italy, and Bersaglieri Massimo Salvemini with Lucio & Maria D'Andrea. **Top (right):** Major Manes presents a "vaira" as a gift to AMHS. **2nd row (left):** Italian military representatives with Father Ezio Marchetto. **2nd row (right):** AMHS members Joann Novello, Pam & Joe Lupo, James Mustachio, Elisa DiClemente, and Dr. Deno & Monica Reed. **3rd row (left):** Major Manes' daughters Giulia and Nicole assist Dora Leo Santacroce with the raffle. **3rd row (right):** Major Manes, his family, and AMHS board member Lana Nardella, whose grandfather was a bersaglieri. **Bottom (left):** Maria gives the oath of office to new board members Ennio DiTullio, Rosina Brienza Schacknies, and Ray LaVerghetta. **Bottom (right):** Scholarship recipient Christina McGrath with members of the Scholarship Committee (from left) Peter Bell, Ray LaVerghetta, Dick DiBuono (chair), and Ray Bernero. *(Photos courtesy of Joe Novello).*

CARNEVALE 2015: LOVE ITALIAN STYLE



Top (left): AMHS members Sarah Scott and Jeff Clark, as Columbina and Orazio, the lovers (gli Innamorati) from Commedia dell'arte. **Top (right):** Most original costume winners Osvaldo and Ann Barsi, as capuccino & gelato. **2nd row (right):** Lucchesi Club members Roger Pedri, Julia Barsi and their daughter Clara, winners of the best group prize as "That's Amore". **2nd row (left):** AMHS members Samira Badawi Kleibrink as Lucrecia Borgia, Sam Yothers & Maria D'Andrea as Princess Anya and Joe Bradley (Audrey Hepburn & Gregory Peck) from "Roman Holiday". **3rd row (left):** Lucchesi Club President Tricia Maltagliati with Father Ezio Marchetto and Maria D'Andrea. **3rd row (right):** AMHS members Peter Bell and Barbara Friedman as Renzo and Lucia from "I promessi sposi". **Bottom (left):** Break the pinata! Fun for the children. **Bottom (right):** AMHS members kick up the dance floor! (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers and Tom Marks).



“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>Model A - Enlarge Model B - Enlarge</p>	<p>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model A</p> <p>MATERIAL: 53% combed cotton 47% polyester "EDRY" tm fabric COLOR: light blue MEN's sizes (only): S / M / XL WOMEN's sizes: M / L / XL</p> <p>PRICE: \$25 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>	<p>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model B</p> <p>MATERIAL: 60% cotton 40% polyester regular fabric COLOR: light blue</p> <p>WOMEN's sizes (only): M / L</p> <p>PRICE: \$20 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>
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Complete one line below for each Polo Shirt being ordered:

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5660 Ridgeview Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310



The
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
4669 Lawton Way, #104
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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

Maria D'Andrea, Editor
Maria Fresco, 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 select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea by email at uva051985@comcast.net or by phone 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.

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