



# AMHS NOTIZIARIO

The Official Newsletter of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage  
Society of the Washington, DC Area  
NOVEMBER 2014

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



## MUSIC AND LITERATURE PROGRAMS AT AMHS EVENTS



**Top:** AMHS President Maria D'Andrea and Father Ezio Marchetto with members of the Marine String Quartet and Gunnery Sergeant Kira Wharton who presented a program on the Italian legacy of the U.S. Marine Band (see article on page 3).

**Bottom (right):** September 28 general Society meeting: Paul Paolicelli speaks on appreciation of our southern Italian roots.

**Bottom (left):** AMHS President Maria D'Andrea and 1st Vice President-Programs Nancy DeSanti present Paul Paolicelli with an AMHS wine tote.

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS:** Sunday, November 23, 2014, 1:00 p.m., General Society Meeting: Porchetta luncheon and Winemakers' tasting. See inside for details.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,



The year 2014 will soon be coming to a close. I imagine, like most of you, that we are asking ourselves “where has the year gone!” As my second year as President comes to a close, I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee who worked so hard this year to bring some extraordinary events to our membership: informative and

quality programs presented at our general Society meetings; special events (Carnevale); the Ferragosto picnic, with one of the largest crowds we’ve seen in a long time; recognition of last year’s AMHS/NIAF scholarships, Laura Jones and Christina Iovino; and a superb program on the influence of Italians on the growth and development of the U.S. Marine Band (which you can read about later in the *Notiziario*). We have also greatly expanded our social outreach via our Facebook page and through a growing relationship with the Passatempo Meetup group. We continue to grow our membership. I am delighted to meet new members who enthusiastically embrace our culture and our Society.

Of course, our year would not be complete without our ever-popular *porchetta* lunch and wine-tasting event, which will be held on Sunday, November 23 in Casa Italiana. Once again AMHS member Joe Novello will prepare his succulent *porchetta*, and many of our local wine makers will bring their product for all to enjoy. We also will hold elections for three members of the Board, to replace Bruno Fusco, Eileen Verna, and John Verna – their term of service expires on December 31, 2014. The Nominating Committee (Lucio D’Andrea, Dick DiBuono, and Nancy DeSanti) has found three candidates eager and willing to serve: Rosina Brienza Schacknies, Ennio DiTullio, and Ray LaVerghetta. You can read more about these candidates elsewhere in the *Notiziario*. Please be sure to thank Bruno, Eileen, and John for their service.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support. I encourage you to get involved more closely with the Executive Committee. For example, we have several standing committees that could use some extra hands, so to speak, especially the Hospitality, Travel, and Fundraising committees. We are always open to help, and to new and fresh ideas. The work of these committees should not be left solely to the members of the Executive Committee. You can find contact information for the chairs of these committees on our website, [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.com](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.com)

I look forward to seeing you on November 23.

Cordiali saluti,  
*Maria D’Andrea*

## NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### NOVEMBER 23 MEETING: ANNUAL WINE-TASTING AND PORCHETTA LUNCH

*by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs*

We are pleased to once again present the annual porchetta lunch and wine-tasting. You should definitely not miss out on our most popular event of the year, coming on Sunday, November 23. Our wine-making members and friends will bring samples of their production to share with attending members, friends and guests.

The porchetta will be provided, once again, by Joe Novello, with a recipe he developed himself and has been using for about 5 years to make this delicious dish for family and friends. The wine-tasting is being organized by Romeo Sabatini, who in the past has done an outstanding job in coordinating this event. Based on past years, there is sure to be a variety of wonderful wines to be tasted, possibly even some grappa and limoncello.

The program will begin with a brief AMHS general meeting to elect three new members to the Board of Directors to replace Bruno Fusco, John and Eileen Verna who are completing their terms on the board. We would like to thank Bruno, John and Eileen for their many contributions to the Society.

Before the wine-tasting begins, Raffaele De Gregorio will give a short presentation on wine culture and how wine has been part of the Italian lifestyle. (You may recall that Raffaele was one of the artists who participated in our July 27 program.)

A raffle will be conducted as well, with the proceeds going the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund.

Please make your reservations early to make sure you don’t miss out on this wonderful and fun event!!

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### AUTHOR PAUL PAOLICELLI TALKS ABOUT SOUTHERN ITALIAN HERITAGE

*by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs*

“A rewarding experience with a gifted and informed speaker” is how one attendee described the September 28, 2014 AMHS program. The speaker, **Paul Paolicelli**, is the author of two books, *Dances with Luigi* and *Under the Southern Sun: Stories of the Real Italy and the Americans It Created*. He was introduced by AMHS member Dave Ciummo, who noted that he first met Paolicelli 14 years ago and that is how long he had been hoping to have him come and speak to us. Given the favorable comments afterwards, it was well worth the wait!!

Paolicelli told us how he grew up in the Pittsburgh area vaguely aware of his Italian heritage. For years, he was busy achieving success in the television news business (including a stint as news director at NBC-TV in Washington, D.C.). But at some point, he realized that there was this nagging desire to find out more about his heritage, but by this time, many of the family members here who could have told him their stories, had all passed away.



That's when he packed up and moved to Rome for a few years, learned Italian (and played in a jazz band) and spent considerable time in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily and elsewhere. He wrote about this journey in *Dances with Luigi*. Encouraged by the book's success, Paolicelli decided to write a second book because he wanted to try to find out why so many of the Southern Italians who emigrated to the U.S. became successful in just one generation—bankers, film directors, politicians, scientists, businessmen, artists, musicians, athletes. He noted that over 80% of Italian Americans can trace their origins back to Southern Italy, and he said these immigrants “brought values, not valuables.”

He said because of the economic disparity between North and South, the South was “hemorrhaging” their best and brightest, most ambitious people who came and made the most of the opportunities here. And he said they brought with them their strong work ethic, their love of family, and their faith. In his book, Paolicelli recounts how the dying words of his grandfather, who was fatally injured in a steel mill accident, were not about himself. No, his dying words were “i miei poveri figli” (my poor children).

Paolicelli said he gives talks all over the country, sometimes to standing room only audiences, in places like Salt Lake City, and he says he sees a “hunger” for people to understand where they come from.

In sum, Paolicelli told us that his life-changing experiences in Southern Italy deepened the admiration and affection he feels for this part of Italy. His passionate and informed talk was a real treat!!

Afterwards, Paolicelli answered some interesting questions from the audience and signed copies of his first book. (His second book, in the acknowledgements at the end, mentions Joseph D'Andrea, who is Lucio's brother and Maria's uncle and godfather).

In addition to Paolicelli's presentation, accordionist Joan Tacchetti Grauman (whose own roots are in Abruzzo) was back by popular demand, and she played the songs remembered and loved by many.

At the end of the program, a raffle was held and \$127 was collected for the AMHS Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to the donors for the raffle items

## **SEPTEMBER 21, 2014 PROGRAM AT CASA ITALIANA: THE INFLUENCE OF ITALIANS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE U.S. MARINE BAND**

*by Maria D'Andrea*

On Sunday, September 21, 2014, approximately 70 people experienced a wonderful program at Holy Rosary Church/Casa Italiana, titled “The Italian Legacy in the Development and Growth of the United States Marine Band”. Gunnery Sergeant Kira Wharton gave the presentation, which was enhanced by 5 musical pieces performed by the Marine

String Quartet. The presentation focused on the history of the Marine Band and the important role of Italian immigrants in its earliest years. Francis Maria Scala, born in Naples around 1819, was the first Marine Band musician to receive the title “Leader of the Band” in 1861, a position he maintained through 1871. Subsequently, Francesco Fanciulli, born in Porto San Stefano in 1853, was Director of the Marine Band from 1892-1897. Both artists had a profound impact on the shape of the Band and were highly respected by the White House and Washington society during their time. Both men were also prolific composers and arrangers.

The presentation was complemented by 5 musical pieces performed by the Marine String Quartet - Staff Sergeants Christopher Franke, violin; Sarah Hart, viola; Charlaire Prescott, cello; and Sheng-Tsung Wang, violin. The Quartet performed works by Carlo Antonio Campioni, Giuseppe Verdi, Antonín Dvorak, Sammy Nestico (member, U.S. Marine Band), and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The most touching tribute came at the end of the program, when the Quartet performed the “Armed Forces Medley” and asked that those in the audience who serve, have served, or have a family member who served in the Armed Forces, to stand when their respective medley was performed. At least ½ of the audience stood!

We were so very fortunate to have two people in the audience who have their own personal history with the Band. Mr. Nick Capanelli, whose grandfather, Joseph, played trumpet and violin, and Pasquale (Pat) Pulverenti, who played clarinet and violin with the Band for 30 years! Joseph was a member of Holy Rosary Church and Pat was baptized in the Church. Pat's parents and his wife Stella's parents were also married in the Church - such a small world!

The Marine Band could not accept payment for this event. In order to do something of value as thanks for their presentation, those in attendance were asked to consider making a donation to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, which has as its mission to “preserve and promulgate the history, traditions and culture of the Marine Corps and educate all Americans in its virtues”. AMHS collected all the donations - \$207.00 – and made a formal presentation of the donation on behalf of the supporting entities.

We are grateful to Father Ezio Marchetto for his enthusiastic support of this event, and to my father, Lucio D'Andrea, who brought the idea for the Church to host this program after a similar one was presented at St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax, VA in January. AMHS also extends its thanks to The Lido Civic Club and the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club for their co-sponsorship. A great time was had by all.

## **Background on the United States Marine Band**

The United States Marine Band is the premier band of the United States Marine Corps. Established by an act of Congress on July 11, 1798, it is the oldest of the United States military bands and the oldest professional musical organization in the United States. The Marine Band is uniquely known as “The President's Own” because of its historic connection to the President of the United States. The relationship between the Marine Band and the White

House began on New Year's Day 1801, when President John Adams invited the band to perform at the Executive Mansion. Later that year, Thomas Jefferson initiated the tradition of Marine Band performances by requesting that it perform at his inauguration. The Marine Band has played at every United States presidential inauguration since.

Today, the Marine Band performs in approximately 500 events every year including state funerals, state arrival ceremonies, state dinners, parades, concerts, and other social events. The Marine Band also travels across the country each October and November during its fall concert tour, a tradition that began in 1891 under its most famous director, composer John Philip Sousa.

The Marine Band recruits experienced musicians; members are selected through a rigorous audition procedure and must satisfy additional security and physical requirements to be eligible. Selected band members serve under a four-year contract as active duty enlisted Marines and are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and physical standards. They are the only members of the United States Armed Forces not required to undergo recruit training and do not perform combat missions. Also, they are not assigned to any unit other than the Marine Band.

## **REPORT OF THE AMHS NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The following members of the Society's Board of Directors will have their 3-year terms of office end on December 31 of this year: John Verna, Eileen Verna and Bruno Fusco. We owe these fine people our gratitude for their service to the Society.

The Nominating Committee, whose role it is to nominate members to stand for election to fill these vacancies, is extremely pleased to have found three very well qualified members who are willing to serve. We are happy to announce the following slate of nominees:

- Ennio DiTullio
- Ray LaVerghetta
- Rosina Brienza Shacknies

The election will be held at the general Society meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2014.

*Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Nancy DeSanti, Dick DiBuono and Lucio D'Andrea, Chairman.*

## **Following are the candidates' submitted autobiographies**

### **Ennio Di Tullio**

Ennio was born in Rosello, province of Chieti in Abruzzo, and came to Washington, DC in 1963 with a Diplomatic Visa and worked in the Embassies of Peru, Brazil and Venezuela.

In 1967 Ennio began work with the World Bank, embarking on a career in the computer field, first in the operation of large computer mainframes as Assistant Manager of the Joint Computer Center of the Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and later as an Information Officer, administering the

Local Area Network of the Computing Department. Ennio retired from the World Bank after 31 years of service, and dedicates his time to his many hobbies and enjoys taking trips to Italy, especially to his beloved Rosello. Ennio is one of the founding members of the Society and has served as the first Vice President for Programs, Vice President for Membership, Chairman of the Gala Committee, Editor of the AMHS Notiziario and was the second President of the Society serving over 2 terms.

Ennio is devoted to the Society, particularly proud for helping putting the Society on the path that it is today, formalizing the Society's relations with the Abruzzo and Molise regions and for establishing the Scholarship program.

Ennio is married to Emma, a native of Vasto (Chieti), Abruzzo. They have a son, Roberto, a daughter, Daniela and 2 grandchildren, Sebastian and Sofia.

### **Ray La Verghetta**

Ray LaVerghetta is a second-generation Italian-American born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. His paternal grandparents were born and grew up in Vasto, in the province of Chieti, in Abruzzo. His maternal grandfather was also born and raised in Vasto, Abruzzo, while his maternal grandmother called home Pizzone, a small mountain town originally part of Abruzzo but incorporated into Molise, province of Isernia, in 1861.

Ray went to grade school at St. Charles Borromeo parochial school in Baltimore, attended Mt. St. Joseph High School in Catonsville, and then Loyola University in Maryland. He earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics at Georgetown University, and then began a career divided between academia and government (DoD). He has taught at Georgetown University, Loyola University, the U.S. Naval Academy, the National Cryptologic School, the Community Colleges of Baltimore County, and Howard Community College. He retired in 2013 and is now working part-time at both DoD and Howard Community College. In his spare time, he is engaged in a language documentation project, working on the language/dialect that was spoken in Vasto (and still is by the oldest residents) prior to the dominance of Italian.

### **Rosina Brienza Schacknies**

Rosina Brienza Schacknies is a native of Fossalto, a province of Campobasso, in the region of Molise. She immigrated to the U.S. with her family after completing middle school. She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, where her father relocated to join his brother and sister. She holds a BA in Sociology and Latin from Xavier University and an MA in Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University.

Rosina is retired from the US Department of State after over twenty years in the foreign service. She has worked at a number of overseas posts in the Middle East, Italy, and Central America. She lived in Rome from 1995 to 1999 and traveled extensively throughout the country to reacquire herself with the regional customs, art forms, cuisine, and language.

Rosina has been a member of the AMHS since 2013. She has three children and six grandchildren - a perfect platform for practicing the Italian lifestyle and celebrating the Italian spirit.

## TRIOLENNON WOWS AUDIENCE

by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

The many AMHS members and others who came to Casa Italiana on Saturday evening, September 27, 2014, were rewarded with a really enjoyable concert by the TrioLennon which consists of Roberto Molinelli on viola, Luca Marziali on violin, and Alessandro Culiani on cello. Their wonderful program was arranged by Armida Oradei, a member of the Holy Rosary Parish Council.



The three musicians, who come from Le Marche, mostly played Beatles songs--but like you've never heard them before!! A jazzy version was so intense that one of the musicians broke the horsehair string on his instrument (he said the horse must be crying). Roberto Molinelli, the leader of the group, explained to the audience that on the plane ride over from Milan, Luca and Alessandro suggested that he come up with something special for their respective performances at the Italian Embassy and at Casa Italiana the following night. Then Roberto said the two guys proceeded to go to sleep while he stayed up trying to think of "that something special" they could do.

So here's what they came up with. They played the American national anthem interspersed with how Vivaldi would have written it, in a baroque style. Then they played the Italian national anthem mixed in with Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" and "Smooth Criminal." It brought the house down!! The audience clearly enjoyed this talented group of musicians.

## THOUSANDS ENJOY VILLA ROSA FESTIVAL

by Nancy DeSanti

This year's Villa Rosa Festival was a success by any measure, as thousands of Italian-Americans and friends came out to the popular annual festival in Mitchellville, Maryland. Maybe it was the beautiful sunny weather in the 70s. Or maybe it was the delicious food and plentiful wine. Or else the music of the *Four C Notes* singing the Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' songs (a tribute to the smash hit, *Jersey Boys*) that brought back fond memories to many.

Whatever the reason, the festival's organizers have reason to be pleased. Under the leadership of Darlene DiBattista, her

team and the many volunteers did an outstanding job. To pull this off, months of planning were necessary and thankfully everything went smoothly. And we could not have asked for better weather, which was a big relief to all.

The crowd was estimated at 4,200 people, and many of those who came to the festival on September 7, 2014, came with their family and friends. It was good to see everyone having a good time—from the kids on the pony rides to the adults (and some kids) singing and dancing to songs like "Sherry" and "Big Girls Don't Cry." The C Notes, who were fresh off a performance in Chicago at Wrigley Field, were obviously very popular with the audience.

But first, there was an outdoor Mass celebrated by Father Ezio Marchetto (pastor of Holy Rosary Church), assisted by Father Alex Dalpiaz (chaplain of Villa Rosa).

Of course there was the food—the delicious sausage, pepper and onion sandwiches from A. Litteri (you better have gotten them early!!), lots of pizza, chicken, polenta, and gelato from Dolci Gelati. And they did a brisk business at the cannoli stand too—it seems that everybody loved the cannoli provided by Vaccaro's Desserts (was it a coincidence that Nick Vaccaro's cannoli got a rave review in the Washington Post Food Section just a few days earlier?). Other vendors who donated goods or services were Turano Baking Co., Sorrento Trattoria, Good Time Amusements, Clowns4U and Hartman Bros.

Many AMHS members volunteered to help. Dick DiBuono, John and Eileen Verna, and Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea sold the wine. Lucio's and Edvige's language skills came in handy as they explained our Society to some Italian visitors. At the adjoining AMHS information booth, Ennio DiTullio, Joe and Joann Novello, Sarah Scott, Jeff Clark and Nancy DeSanti provided information about the Society and promoted our upcoming programs. Kudos to Romeo Sabatini and Helen Free for all their help as well. Several festival attendees expressed interest (and joined our Society), and several people who stopped by the booth commented that they enjoyed the programs and like the *Notiziario*—always good to hear!!

Next door, AMHS board member Bruno Fusco, assisted by AMHS member Dora Leo-Santacroce, sold tickets to the October 18 program at Casa Italiana ("Le Canzoni Più Famose di Sanremo"). Also, AMHS past president Omero Sabatini set up a table under a nearby tree to sell his book, a translation of "I Promessi Sposi," with a big poster in front showing Pope Francis with a personal quote stating he had read "I Promessi Sposi" three times and it's on his desk for a fourth reading.

AMHS members had a great opportunity to showcase our Society to the many festival goers.

A big thank you to Darlene and her team and to all the volunteers and donors for making the festival such a success!!

## AMHS MEMBERSHIP

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

Happy holidays! 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!

We now have 274 members and add more every month, thanks to our energetic members who know the value of preservation of our unique Italian heritage within the community. AMHS joins with other Italian-American organizations such as: The National Italian-American Foundation (NIAF), Lucchesi Nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, Passatempo Meetup, The Lido Civic Club of Washington DC, and, of course, Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana. We also are involved in social networking and 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>.

### New Members

We extend a warm *benvenuto* to our newest members: **Attilio and Lucy Manzano**, **Vincent Pereira**, **Loretta Pittarelli**, and past scholarship winner and now member, **Mattia D'Affuso**! 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 November and December. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e Auguri!*

### Birthdays

**Compleanni a novembre:** Pasquale Santini and **AMHS Board Member, Eileen Verna**, November 1; Rev. John Di Bacco, November 2; Rita Carrier and Michael DeBonis, November 4; Rosalia Conte and Joseph D'Amico, November 5; Luciana Caleb and **AMHS Board Member, Sergio Fresco**, November 8; Rocco Caniglia, Lidia LaMarca, and Joseph Ruzzi, Jr., November 9; Massimo Mazziotti and Louise Ricci, November 11; Antonio Bianchini and Tina Marchegiani, November 12; Joe Onofrietti, November 13; Dr. Deno Reed, November 14; Dolores Tirabassi, November 16; Sabrina Ciummo, Edvige D'Andrea, and Dena DeBonis, November 19; Edward Coyne and Sheila Fontana, November 25; Joseph D'Andrea, November 29; James Palumbo, November 30.

**Compleanni a dicembre:** Rosalie Ciccotelli, December 2; Alfred Del Grosso, December 4; Marlene Lucian, December 6; Stephen Digirolamo, December 9; Loreta Mastrangelo, December 10; Ronald Ciarlo, December 11; William Lepore, December 12; **AMHS President, Maria D'Andrea**, December

13; Domenico Conti and Thomas Ricche, December 18; Elodia D'Onofrio, Francesca Hurst, and Carmine Spellane, December 20; Anna Isgrò, December 21; Filomena Santini, December 23; Donald Fandetti, December 24; Brian Pasquino, December 25; Rosemarie Rinaldi, December 27; Diane Della-Loggia, December 28, Margot Gilberg and Fr. Charles Zanon, December 29.

### Anniversaries

Anthony & Jacqueline D'Erme, November 21; Joseph & Gloria D'Andrea, November 22; Dr. Deno & Monica Reed, November 24; Giuseppe & Rosalia Conte, November 30, and Ray & Michele LaVerghetta, December 11.

## SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

### HONORS TO THE D'ANDREA BROTHERS BY THE REGION OF MOLISE



Joseph D'Andrea honored by Giacomo Lombardi, mayor of Roccamandolfi, with Anna Carmen Perrella, Council of the Molisani nel Mondo

AMHS member Joseph (Joe) D'Andrea was recently honored by the region of Molise with the "*Passaporto dell'Oro*" (Golden Passport) for his years of dedication to the promotion and recognition of Molise, especially his significant role in honoring victims of the Monongah, West Virginia coal mine explosion of 1907 when 87 Molisani immigrants died in this horrific tragedy. The ceremony was hosted in Roccamandolfi, the hometown village of Joe and his brother, Lucio, by the *sindaco* (Mayor) Giacomo Lombardi and representatives of the Molisani nel Mondo, including Michele Petrarola, Executive Vice President of the region of Molise. In a separate ceremony held in Isernia, in conjunction with a conference on "Women of Molise," AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea and Joe were both honored with certificates of appreciation presented by Michele Petrarola.

Lucio and Joe were also honored in the charming village of Jelsi, in Campobasso, by Michele Petrarola, Salvatore D'Amico the mayor of Jelsi, and Franco Narducci, President of the Union of National Associations of Immigrants and Emigrants.





**Michele Petrarola, Joe D'Andrea, Salvatore D'Amico, Lucio D'Andrea, and Franco Narducci**

Jelsi is famous for its annual Festival del Grano (wheat), which was the subject of a general Society meeting presented by Immediate Past President Dick DiBuono, whose family emigrated from Jelsi.

Lucio also did something that he wanted to do for years when visiting Rocca, and that is to climb Monte Miletto, which summits at 6,500 feet. Lucio was joined on the hike by a retired forest ranger. They started their ascent from Campitello Matese and climbed over some very rough, rocky trails, up to 4,000 feet. According to Lucio, "climbing down was tough; it always is. Toward the end of the descent his legs were ready to give up on him. The forest ranger was, however, astonished that my father, at the ripe young age of 81, managed to do the climb! Forza Dad! *(submitted by Maria D'Andrea)*.

## **CONGRATULAZIONI TO DR. LUIGI DeLUCA**

*By Lucio D'Andrea*



We are pleased to share with you the special recognition of the Government of Italy of our Society member, Dr. Luigi DeLuca. He has been honored with the title of "Grande Ufficiale of the Order of the Star of Italy" by the President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano. It is a unique and special award, given annually to only 60 people world-wide.

His recognition cites his role of serving for nine years as President of the Italian Cultural Society and promoting the Italian language and culture; his scientific work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the National Cancer Research Institute; his pursuit of knowledge by studying the classics, and enrolling for PhD program in Latin and Greek. Dr. DeLuca is currently teaching Nutritional Biochemistry at John Hopkins University in Baltimore

## **NIAF HONORS PINO CICALA**



Long-time AMHS member Pino Cicala (left) is being honored by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) at its annual Columbus Day Gala on October 25, 2014. Pino is receiving the Special Achievement Award in Community Leadership. In awarding this prestigious honor, NIAF noted that in 1975, Pino was among the 16 Washington Italian American leaders in initial meetings leading to the founding of NIAF.

Noting that Pino returns to Italy regularly, particularly to his hometown of Fiumedinisi, Sicily, NIAF said he has "shared his passion for his heritage with other Italian Americans not only personally but through media and technology, early on with original radio and television programming," citing his "Italian Melodies" radio program and his AMICO website (<http://italianamericancommunications.org/>).

Over the years, NIAF noted that Pino has received three commendations from the government of Italy and on this side of the Atlantic, he has earned "too many honors and awards to mention."

Congratulations, Pino!!

## **A VISIT WITH THE MOLISANI NEL MONDO, QUEBEC**

*by Maria D'Andrea*

In August I had the great pleasure to meet members of the F.A.M.Q (Federazione Associazione Molisani del Quebec), located in Montreal. I had been vacationing in Quebec with my parents, Lucio and Edvige. My father set up the "meet and greet" when he found out we would be driving back to Boston, Massachusetts by way of Montreal.



**AMHS President Maria D'Andrea with F.A.M.Q. Treasurer Nancy Spinetti-Delle Donne**

So it was that, on a gorgeous Saturday, August 24, we made our way from Quebec City to Montreal, where we met with Nancy Spinetti-Delle Donne, Treasurer, Michele Passarelli, and Gennaro Panzero, members of the Board of F.A.M.Q.

They were most gracious in taking time out of their busy Saturday to meet with us at the beautiful, modern Centro Leonardo da Vinci, a cultural center built by Italian immigrants who settled in Montreal. This was a most valuable opportunity to learn more about the Molisani population in the province of Quebec and in Montreal. (Montreal's Italian community is one of the largest in Canada, second only to Toronto. With 250,000 residents of Italian ancestry, Montreal has many Italian districts, such as Little Italy, Saint-Leonard (Città Italiana), R.D.P, and LaSalle. Italian is the 3rd most spoken language in Montreal and in the province of Quebec! The Church of the Madonna della Difesa was built by Italian immigrants from the province of Campobasso to commemorate the apparition of the Virgin Mary in *La Difesa*, an area of Campobasso.

Gennaro was most generous with his time, taking us to the grounds where a festival would be held on August 24-25, the annual Festival of Saint Ann (too bad we could not stay), and arranging a wonderful meal at La Molisana Ristorante e Focacceria.



**Maria, Edvige and Lucio D'Andrea with F.A.M.Q. Board member Gennaro Panzero at La Molisana Restaurant**

Needless to say we were well taken care of by our host, Gennaro, and the restaurant's owner, Michael Barone. My parents and I had requested only a salad, given the drive we had to make into Vermont, but instead we were – in typical Italian fashion – treated to a 5-course meal! The food was scrumptious, the conversation excellent. This restaurant should be a “must stop” if you are visiting Montreal ([www.lamolisana.ca](http://www.lamolisana.ca))

Our introduction to this organization is an objective of our Society, to foster closer collaboration with other Molisani (and Abruzzesi) organizations throughout North America. It is our express hope that this initial meeting will help to foster and encourage such collaboration. We departed with an invitation for our Society to organize a visit to Montreal for one of several social and cultural events organized by the Federation and, of course, we extended the same invitation to the F.A.M.Q. officers, to come to Washington, DC for one of our many events.

## **A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE WHILE LEARNING ITALIAN**

*by Lucio D'Andrea, AMHS President Emeritus*

During my recent visit to Molise, I had the opportunity to meet with Dott. Davide Tanzj, founder of L'Accademia Italia in Agnone, Molise (about a 2 ½ hour drive from Rome). The Academy's main purpose is to promote the Italian language and the vast, rich culture of Italy and that of Agnone and Molise. Agnone is one of the most charming, picturesque towns in Molise, famous for the Marinelli bell foundry.

The Academy offers courses at all levels with a staff qualified in teaching Italian and culture. It is a language school that also incorporates opportunities to learn history, art, archaeology, handicrafts, and cooking. Accommodations are arranged at a restored Palazzo. The fee for a two-week program is quite reasonable (about 2,000 euros, or \$2,600). It covers classes, lodging, and two meals a day. The school arranges shuttle service from Rome, Naples, and Pescara. What better way to complement a trip to Italy with a two-week stay in Agnone! I can assure you that having visited Agnone and Molise many times, a stay in Agnone is a most unique and enjoyable experience.

If interested, check out the advertisement for the Academy on the AMHS website, [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org) or visit the Academy's website at [www.accademiaitalia.eu/en](http://www.accademiaitalia.eu/en)

## **MEN OF THE CLOTH PREMIERS IN WASHINGTON**

*By Helen Free, Chair, Fundraising Committee*

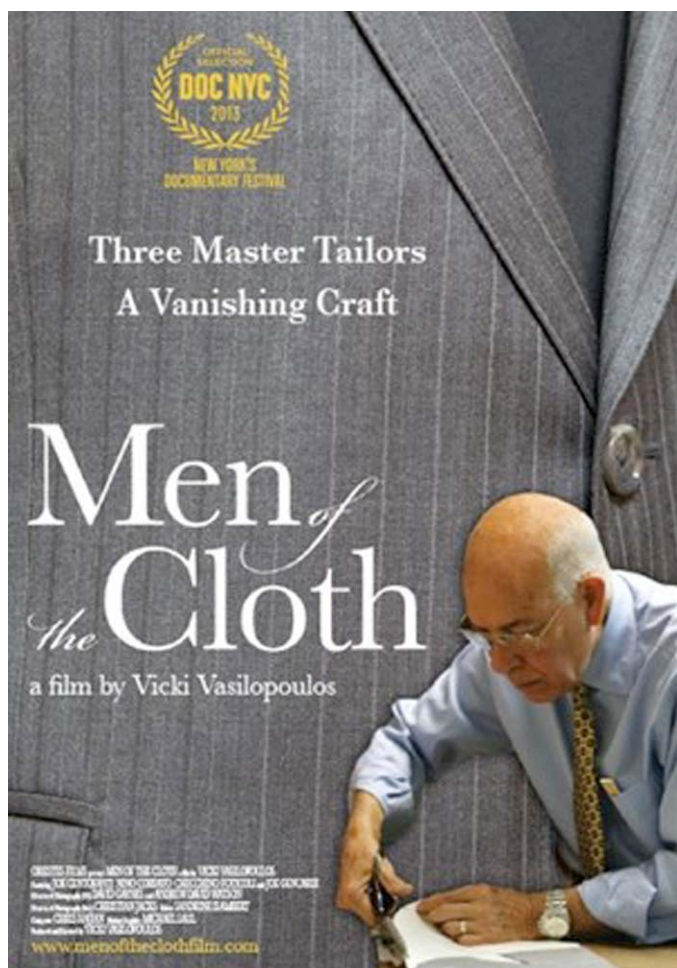


As some of you know, filmmaker Vicki Vasilopoulos (left), sent the following invitation to AMHS through our Facebook page: “I am the director and producer of the documentary film **MEN OF THE CLOTH**, an inspiring portrait of three Italian master tailors. The film unravels the mystery of their artistry and reveals how their passionate devotion to their Old World craft is akin to a religion. The film resonates deeply with Italian-Americans and individuals who love Italian culture. Two of my characters, master tailors Joe Centofanti and Checchino Fonticoli are from Penne, in Abruzzo, where the film is partially shot. I'd like to invite the members of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society to the Washington, DC premiere of **MEN OF THE CLOTH** at the West End Cinema on Tuesday October 14th at 7 PM.”

Those of us who took Ms. Vasilopoulos up on her invitation were rewarded by her moving documentary as well as her openness to chat. Dora Leo Santacroce, a professional seamstress at Rizik, who like two of the tailors in the film, emigrated from Italy, found a lot in common with the characters. She too took up needle and thimble at a young age, in her case at age 12. She remembers her teacher, Teresa, who



could measure a dress or jacket by putting a notch in a strip of newspaper. She was illiterate and never used a tape measure. Lourdes Tinajero and Ms. Vasilopoulos discussed the film's title.



Ms. Tinajero noted that when she heard about the film and thought about the title MEN OF THE CLOTH, she found it connected strongly to the priesthood. After the film, she told Ms. Vasilopoulos that she felt the deep spirituality in each tailor. Ms. Vasilopoulos said she appreciated that recognition. "It's not about mere employment, but about life," she said adding, "and that is the source of their passion."

## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### ROCCASCALEGNA, PROVINCE OF CHIETI, ABRUZZO

*By Nancy DeSanti*

*Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member*



The medieval town of Roccascalegna, with its famous majestic castle, is located in a valley near the Aventino river in the inner mountains of the province of Chieti, about halfway between the mountains and the sea.

Roccascalegna has approximately 1,510 inhabitants, known as roccolani. The

name of the town is of Lombard origin and derives from a proper name meaning "the steep side of a mountain." In fact, the town rises up on the side of Mount San Pancrazio.

Besides the famous medieval castle, the town is known for such specialty food products as honey, oil, cheese, meats and truffles.



The medieval castle dates from the Swabian period of the 11th and 12th centuries. It is perched over 100 meters on top of the larger of a pair of limestone formations protruding from the valley floor.

The history of the town dates back to the 11th century when it was built on top of an existing fort that the Lombards had used as a stronghold in the 6th century to fight against the Byzantine Empire. Visitors nearing the town are said to be astonished at the sight of "Abruzzo's castle in the sky" rising like a precious jewel encased inside green hills covered with Mediterranean vegetation.

Over the years, the legend of the castle mixed with historical facts. It involves Baron Corvo de Corvis, who lived in the 16th century and was a cruel overlord who exacted taxes of all kinds and was said to oblige his subjects to kneel before a raven, black as the darkness surrounding the castle. The baron also practiced a brutal feudal custom of requiring every newlywed bride to spend her first nuptial night with him. The baron even had a priest killed for daring to publicly protest. Finally, one young bride stabbed the baron in the heart with her dagger, and the baron placed his bloody hand on the wall near his bed. It was said that over the centuries, people could not wipe away the bloody handprint. Finally, during World War II, the bedroom fell in ruin along with the tower of the castle.

Roccascalegna is also known for a Benedictine abbey built in the 9th century, known as the Abbey of San Pancrazio. It was later abandoned in the 16th century, probably due to famine or plague, but it was restored in the 19th century. Another legend has it that bandits hid their treasure on the spot where the shadow of the bell tower fell.

### **What to See**

- Medieval castle
- Abbey of San Pancrazio
- Church of St. Peter
- Church of Saints Cosmas and Damian

### **Important Dates**

- October 15 – Festa della Vendemmia
- October 27 – Feast of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the patron saints

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roccascalegna>  
[http://www.italyheritage.com/magazine/2003\\_01/b.htm](http://www.italyheritage.com/magazine/2003_01/b.htm)  
<http://www.tuttitalia.it/abruzzo/65-roccascalegna/>  
<http://www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/roccascalegna.html>  
[https://www.google.com/images?q=roccascalegna&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-Address&oe=&gws\\_rd=ssl&hl=en&as\\_q=&spell=1&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ei=nIIIVMKgNIKeyASAgYIQ&ved=0CBcQsAQ](https://www.google.com/images?q=roccascalegna&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-Address&oe=&gws_rd=ssl&hl=en&as_q=&spell=1&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ei=nIIIVMKgNIKeyASAgYIQ&ved=0CBcQsAQ)

## **ROCCASCALEGNA, PROVINCIA DI CHIETI, ABRUZZO**

La cittadina medievale di Roccascalegna, con il suo famoso ed imponente castello, si trova nella valle del fiume Aventino, fra le montagne della provincia di Chieti, a metà strada fra i monti e il mare.

Conta circa 1510 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Roccolani. Il suo nome, di origine lombarda, vuole esprimere la posizione fisica della cittadina, situata su un lato scosceso di Monte San Pancrazio.

Oltre al suo famoso castello medievale, la cittadina è conosciuta anche per le sue specialità culinarie e per prodotti come il miele, l'olio, il formaggio, le varie carni ed i tartufi.

Il castello risale al periodo degli Svevi, fra l'undicesimo e il dodicesimo secolo, e si estende per oltre cento metri su una formazione di pietra calcarea, che sporge dal fondo della valle.

La sua storia risale all'undicesimo secolo, quando fu costruita intorno a un forte, che i Lombardi avevano già iniziato ad usare circa il sesto secolo come roccaforte, per combattere contro l'Impero Bizantino. I turisti che visitano questa parte dell'Abruzzo rimangono stupiti alla vista del Castello nel cielo dell'Abruzzo, che si erige come un prezioso gioiello, nello scrigno delle verdi colline ricamate dalla flora mediterranea.

Attraverso i secoli, la storia e la leggenda del castello hanno conferito alla cittadina qualcosa di misterioso. Si sente raccontare del barone Corvo dei Corvi, vissuto intorno al sedicesimo secolo. Si dice che fosse un crudele Signore, che esigesse tasse esorbitanti dai suoi poveri sudditi, e che li costringesse ad inginocchiarsi davanti a un corvo nero, nero come l'oscurità che circondava il castello. Inoltre esigeva che ogni sposa passasse la prima notte di matrimonio con lui. Un sacerdote osò protestare tale legge, e fu fatto uccidere. Finalmente una sposa lo pugnalò al cuore, ed il barone,

morente, posò la sua mano sanguinante sulla parete accanto al suo letto. Per secoli fu impossibile pulire la traccia sanguinosa. Venne distrutta solo quando, durante l'ultima guerra, il castello venne bombardato, distruggendo sia quella parete che la torre del castello.

Roccascalegna è famosa anche per l'Abbazia benedettina, costruita nel nono secolo, e conosciuta come l'Abbazia di San Pancrazio. Questa fu abbandonata nel sedicesimo secolo, probabilmente a causa di carestie e di pesti. Fu ricostruita nel diciannovesimo secolo. Secondo un'altra leggenda orde di banditi avrebbero nascosto i loro bottini all'ombra del Campanile dell'Abbazia.

### **Attrazioni del luogo:**

- Castello Medievale
- Abbazia di San Pancrazio
- Chiesa di San Pietro
- Chiesa dei Santi Cosimo e Damiano

### **Date da ricordare:**

- 15 ottobre - Festa della Vendemmia
- 27 settembre - festa dei Santi Cosimo e Damiano, Patroni della città

## **BARANELLO, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE**

*By Nancy DeSanti, Translated by Maddalena Borea*



The medieval town of Baranello, located 10 kilometers southwest of Campobasso, is known for its museum with many Roman art objects.

The mountainous town has about 2,715 inhabitants. Baranello's history goes back to at least the 11th century and probably derives from Vairanum and then Vairanello, a Samnite town whose ruins can still be seen on nearby Mount Vairano. At one time, Baranello was under control of the Count of Bojano and a long succession of feudal lords.

In more recent times, Baranello was tragically damaged during World War II as a result of the German occupation.

The town is known for its Museo Civico which has a large collection of Roman stones with inscriptions and fragments of frescoes from Pompeii, donated by a local architect in 1896. The museum also boasts paintings by Arcangelo Ciampoli (late 19th century), Francesco Francanzani and Luca Giordano, the "Bosco di Fronatine Bleu" by Giuseppe Palizzi, and other paintings by Neapolitan and Flemish artists. A wide variety of ceramic pieces as well as Murano and Bohemian glasswork can be seen too.



On the main square, Piazza Santa Maria, there is a Roman funeral monument representing two spouses holding each other's right hand.

Baranello also has two notable churches—the Church of Confraternità del Rosario, with a beautiful Renaissance fountain, and the Church of San Michele Arcangelo, the parish church rebuilt after an earthquake in 1805, with paintings of the Neapolitan school.



#### What to See

- Museo Civico
- Roman funeral monument in Piazza Santa Maria
- Church of Confraternità del Rosario
- Church of San Michele Arcangelo

#### Important Dates

- December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baranello>

<http://www.baranello.org/>

<http://www.tuttitalia.it/molise/85-baranello/>

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

<http://www.flickrriver.com/places/Italy/Molise/Baranello/search/>

### **BARANELLO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE**

La cittadina medievale di Baranello si trova a dieci chilometri a Sud Ovest di Campobasso, ed è famosa per il museo che ospita molti oggetti d'arte dei tempi dei romani.

E' un centro montagnoso e conta 2715 abitanti. La sua storia risale almeno all'undicesimo secolo, ed il suo nome da Vairanum che poi diventò Vairanello. Oggi è Baranello.

Vanta origini sannite, e le sue antiche rovine possono ancora essere trovate nei pressi del monte Vairano. Fu antica contea feudale, e fu anticamente governata dal Conte di Boiano, a cui succedettero molti altri Signori.

Durante la seconda guerra mondiale, sotto l'occupazione tedesca, fu più volte attaccata e danneggiata.

Il Museo Civico della cittadina la rende famosa con le sue pietre dei tempi dei romani, e con frammenti di affreschi dell'antica Pompei, donati alla cittadina da un architetto locale nel 1886. Detto museo vanta anche dipinti di Arcangelo Ciampoli del tardo diciannovesimo secolo, di Francesco Francanzani, di Luca Giordano, il "Bosco Di Fronatine Blue" di Giuseppe Palizzi, e di altri artisti napoletani e fiamminghi. Vasta è anche la collezione di pezzi in ceramica e di artifatti di vetro di Boemia e di Murano.

Nella piazza principale del luogo, Piazza Santa Maria, si può ammirare un monumento funebre, raffigurante due sposi che si tengono per la mano destra.

Vi sono due chiese in questa cittadina, quella della Confraternità del Rosario, con la bellissima fontana rinascimentale, e la chiesa parrocchiale di San Michele Arcangelo, restaurata dopo il terremoto del 1805. Detta chiesa ospita dipinti della scuola napoletana.

#### Attrazioni del luogo:

- Museo Civico
- Monumento funereo romano a Piazza S Maria
- Chiesa della Confraternità del Rosario
- Chiesa di San Michele Arcangelo

#### Date da ricordare

- 8 dicembre – Immacolata Concezione



**Madonna dei due mondi** – By Rocco Olivo  
Castracane, artist from Villa S. Maria  
(Chieti), Abruzzo.





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

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



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

*AMHS Winemakers Tasting*

**When:** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Casa Italiana

595 Third Street, NW

Washington, DC

**MENU:** *PORCHETTA LUNCHEON*, specially prepared by AMHS member Joe Novello. Menu includes roasted vegetables, salad, bread and dessert. Beverages are included.

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

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Please join us for our most popular event of the year, the *PORCHETTA LUNCHEON* and *WINE TASTING*. The meeting will commence with a brief AMHS general meeting, to include the election of three members to the Board of Directors. Following lunch, our wine-making members and friends will have samples of their production to share with attending members, friends and guests. Raffaele De Gregorio will give a short presentation on wine culture and how wine has been part of the Italian lifestyle. A raffle will be conducted, the proceeds of which will benefit the AMHS/NIAF scholarships. We hope you will join us!

For information call Jeff Clark (801) 792-7160 or Dr. Lynn Sorbara (301) 926-7792  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

✂----- Return with Payment

**Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2014**

Please make check payable to AMHS.

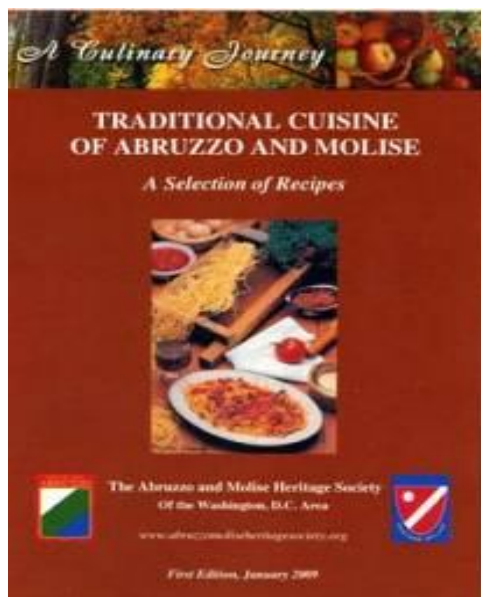
Send to AMHS, c/o Jeff Clark, 12 Adams Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001

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

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

## Order your AMHS Cookbook



*A Selection of Recipes from Abruzzo and Molise assembled for the enjoyment of AMHS members*

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

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# AMHS AT FESTA ITALIANA, VILLA ROSA, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014



**Top:** A crowd estimated at 4200, including many AMHS members, attended the annual Festa Italiana at Villa Rosa (see article on page 5). **Center (left):** AMHS members Dick DiBuono, Ennio DiTullio, Eileen and John Verna at the AMHS wine booth. **Center (right):** AMHS members Joe and Joann Novello with their grand-daughter. **Bottom (left):** AMHS member Omero Sabatini at his book stand. **Bottom (right):** Father Ezio Marchetto helping out at the pizza stand. (Photos courtesy of Joe Novello)



## THE AMHS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2014



**Top (left):** Speaker Paul Paolicelli speaks on appreciation of our southern Italian roots. **Top (right):** AMHS members Pam & Joe Lupo, Elisa DiClemente, Monica & Deno Reed, and Joann Novello. **Center (left):** AMHS members, friends and guests enjoy lunch from Carmine's. **Center (right):** AMHS members Michele & Ray LaVerghetta, Lourdes Tinajero, Helen Free, and Dora Leo-Santacroce. **Bottom (left):** AMHS members Michele LaVerghetta and Lourdes Tinajero. **Bottom (right):** AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea and his wife Edvige with speaker Paul Paolicelli. (Photos courtesy of Joe Novello)



The  
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society  
4669 Lawton Way, #104  
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Maria Fresco, Co-editor  
Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer

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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. Any donation to the Society's Grant and Scholarship Fund is tax deductible.

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