



# AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

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



## A BUSY SUMMER : ART, SCIENCE, AND A PICNIC



**Top:** July 27 general Society meeting presenters Raffaele De Gregorio, Antonio Bianchini and Roberto Paolinelli with AMHS President Maria D'Andrea, AMHS 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Programs Nancy DeSanti, and AMHS member David Ciummo.

**Bottom (left):** AMHS members on the July 31 tour of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center - Peter Bell, Tony & Elodia D'Onofrio, Joann Novello, Dick DiBuono, Rosina Brienza, Kathi Nudi, Ted Cocca, Ray & Michele LaVerghetta, Joe Novello, Ron Cappelletti, Sue Tommaso, and Belinda & Omero Sabatini; **bottom (right):** Bocce tournament at the August 17 Ferragosto picnic at Villa Rosa.

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS:** Sunday, September 21, 2014, 4:00 p.m., presentation on the influence of Italians in the development of the U.S. Marine Band; Sunday, September 28, 2014, 1:00 p.m., general Society meeting. See inside for details.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends/Cari Soci ed Amici,



I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and now, reality sets in. Back to work and back to school! As you know, AMHS remained quite active over the summer, beginning with the June 1 Silent Auction. This was followed by a very successful general Society meeting on July 27, featuring three local artists, and our Ferragosto picnic on August 17. You can read more about these events elsewhere in the *Notizario*.

I am very excited that this month, AMHS will bring you two very interesting programs: 1) on Sunday, September 21, AMHS, along with Holy Rosary Church/Casa Italiana, The Lido Civic Club, and the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, will co-sponsor the program “The Italian Legacy in the Development and Growth of the United States Marine Band”, with a performance by the United States Marine String Quartet. The presentation will focus on the contributions of two prominent Italians, Francisco (Frances) Maria Scala, an Italian immigrant from Naples who was the 14<sup>th</sup> Director of the Marine Band, and Francesco Fanciulli, from Porto San Stefano, director of the Marine Band from 1892-1897. (I heard this presentation, with the musical accompaniment, in January at the former parish church of my parents; thank you to my father, Lucio, for working with me and with Father Marchetto to bring this program to Casa Italiana, for the larger community to enjoy, and for the support of the other two sponsoring organizations; and 2) on Sunday, September 28, our general Society meeting will introduce us to the works of the author Paul Paolicelli, who has written two books about his quest to find his family’s roots in Southern Italy. Please be sure to read more about these programs in the *Notizario*.

I wish to take the opportunity to notify you that Lourdes Tinajero has agreed to serve on the AMHS Board of Directors, to fill the term of office vacated by Kirsten Keppel. Kirsten recently resigned due to work and other related issues. Lourdes, who will serve through December 31, 2015, has been a strong supporter of AMHS and has already hit the ground running, so to speak, by expressing her willingness to serve on several standing committees. Thank you Lourdes!

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support. There is so much to be thankful for, especially the enthusiasm I see from our membership, friends and guests, to continue to be a part of our vibrant and growing family.

I look forward to seeing you on September 21 and September 28.

Cordiali saluti,  
Maria D’Andrea

## NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING: AUTHOR PAOLICELLI ON SOUTHERN ITALY

by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

We are pleased to present a program by acclaimed author **Paul Paolicelli**, who will be coming from North Carolina to speak to us at the suggestion of AMHS member Dave Ciummo. Paolicelli, a television news producer and documentary filmmaker for many years, moved to Italy for a time to learn more about his family’s roots in southern Italy. His life-changing experiences there deepened the admiration and affection he felt for this part of Italy, which was home to over 80% of the Italians immigrants who came to America. Paolicelli was looking for answers to the questions that had led him on this journey, and in the process he spent considerable time in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily and elsewhere.

Paolicelli eventually wrote two books: *Dances with Luigi* and *Under the Southern Sun: Stories of the Real Italy and the Americans It Created*. The topic of origins and family, which has become important to many people in recent years as evidenced by the increasing interest in genealogy, brought the author in contact with long-lost relatives and led to family reunions. The author writes with passion about how the culture and values of the southern Italians—who left their homes because of the times and circumstances—shaped the next generations in America.

In his second book, Paolicelli tells all sorts of fascinating stories of amazing people—for example, the men of Matera who took up arms and drove out the Nazis, and the benevolent commander of a concentration camp in Calabria who loaded up a van with the camp prisoners’ children and took them away - to get a gelato in town - much to their parents’ relief!! And you learn about the interesting stories of Frank Capra and Rudolph Valentino, among others. As Paolicelli explains, “The examples of Italian immigrant families who had, in less than a normal life span, produced great American success stories such as artists, musicians, actors, scientists and bankers were endless, and the overwhelming majority of them had been from Southern Italy and Sicily. Surely there was something in the Southern Italian experience that could explain that success.”

In addition to Paolicelli’s presentation, accordionist **Joan Tacchetti Grauman** (whose own roots are in Abruzzo) will be back by popular demand. You may recall that she performed at the June 1 Silent Auction and played the songs remembered and loved by many. The response was so positive that we invited her back and she accepted.

So we are looking forward to a wonderful program. Please bring family members, friends or guests and please make your reservations early (see the flyer elsewhere in the *Notizario*).



## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### ARTS PROGRAM WAS BIG SUCCESS!

by Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

We are very fortunate to have in the Washington, D.C. area a talented trio of Italian artists who came to speak to the society and display some of their works on July 27: Antonio Bianchini (mosaics), Roberto Paolinelli (ceramics) and Raffaele De Gregorio (painting). Given that many of our members were on vacation or in Italy, the very respectable turnout of 92 people was a testament to the interest of AMHS members and friends in hearing from these three local artists.

Before the program began, we heard from AMHS 2013 scholarship winner Christina Iovino, whose heartfelt remarks about her love for her Italian heritage affirmed that the Scholarship Committee had indeed made an excellent choice.

**Antonio Bianchini**, our master mosaicist, returned from Italy just in time for our program. While in Italy he went to see the beautiful mosaics in Sicily and Venice. As everyone knows, Italy is justly famous for its mosaics in Ravenna but also in places such as Otranto, Puglia.



Antonio, who was born in Tripoli, Libya, has an interesting story about how he became interested in mosaics. He was in Rome with his family after returning from Tripoli, and there in a refugee camp next to the Church of Santa Croce, was an old man who asked Antonio to go around the camp and look for materials such as broken clay pots and ceramic dishes, little stones and metal scraps. The old

man then showed Antonio how to use a hammer and chisel to create a mosaic and then how to cement it on a board. Years later, Antonio would study with two teachers from Ravenna, including one who was a professor of the Mosaic Academy of Ravenna. Antonio's works are now in Poland, Albania, Italy and the United States.

A couple months ago, some AMHS members were invited to give a presentation to a Sons of Italy lodge and for this event. Antonio created a most beautiful mosaic of the trulli in Alberobello—a painstaking job that took him 45 hours. He explained to us his technique for creating these masterpieces, and Antonio even displayed a mosaic for which he used some gold tesserae. As attendees examined Antonio's mosaics close up, it was clear that this is indeed a painstaking and time-consuming labor of love.

**Roberto Paolinelli**, our second artist, was introduced by AMHS member Dave Ciummo, who was one of a number of students in attendance who take ceramics classes with Roberto at Casa Italiana.

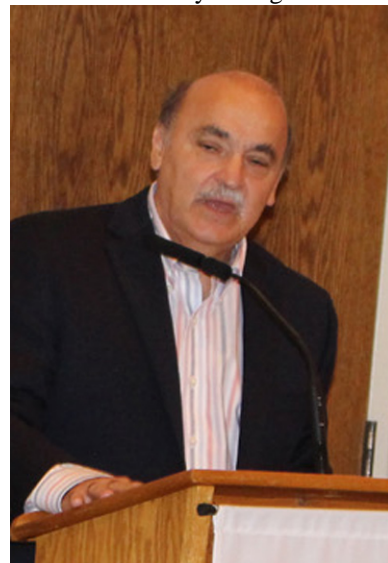


Roberto, who was born in Pescara, Abruzzo, is a master of the Castelli school of ceramics, named after a town in Abruzzo which has been famous for its hand-painted ceramics technique as far back as the Renaissance. Roberto explained that he studied under the leading ceramics masters in Castelli d'Abruzzo and we learned that the word "majolica" describes the enameled pottery that has been made in Italy for generations. He noted that the creation of these ceramics is complex and requires an understanding of the nature of the refined clay, the glazing and firing process, and the subtle combination of just seven base colors.

Noting that he has many sources of inspiration, Roberto said sometimes it comes from Italian Renaissance symbols, classical depictions of noble and religious life, and landscapes.

Roberto's ceramics, along with the work of his students, were on display at Casa Italiana on June 8. For our program, Roberto brought a variety of his beautiful ceramics pieces to display which were admired close-up by many afterwards.

**Raffaele De Gregorio** was our third artist. That name may seem familiar because when you pick up Holy Rosary's Sunday Bulletin, you will see Raffaele's handiwork with his name underneath the sketch of Holy Rosary and Casa Italiana - which he made years ago.



Raffaele, who grew up on the beautiful island of Capri, was suggested for this program by his friend Nancy Hurst, a former member of our board, who says Raffaele's sister owns the best restaurant in Capri. And it was in Capri that Raffaele first became interested in art after he met a well-known English film art director who retired there to paint and make sculptures. Before he began learning to paint, Raffaele noted that his

internship with the Englishman consisted of making sure there was always a full glass of wine available.

After coming to America, Raffaele explained that he started his own design and advertising agency and became involved with introducing Italian architectural technologies to the U.S. federal and state governments. He has created numerous murals for corporate offices, hospitals and restaurants (for example, for Pulcinella's restaurant in McLean, Virginia). Assisted by his friend Giovanni Napolitano, Raffaele showed us some of his paintings, including the beautiful print he designed for the White House commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America.

After the program, many members enjoyed viewing Raffaele's paintings and offering their own interpretations.

## **NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER TOUR**

*by Joann Novello, AMHS member*

On July 31, 2014, thanks to arrangements made by AMHS member and NASA retiree Joe Novello, a group of AMHS members toured the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and met with Nobel Prize winner Goddard physicist John Mather, who fulfilled the promise he made at the Society's March meeting to share his expertise once again with interested participants. The experience proved to be both enlightening and entertaining. The tour began with an introduction at the Visitors' Center about the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), of which Dr. Mather is the principal scientist. The projections on a globe called "Science on a Sphere" showed how the telescope, which is as large as a tennis court, will expand and unfold from the rocket when it reaches its destination of one million miles outside the earth's orbit. Because it has infrared instrumentation, the telescope will be able to see further than any previous space telescopes. The guide, Karen, escorted us to Building 29 where Dr. Mather greeted us warmly at the *clean room*, the largest one in the known universe, according to Dr. Mather. He explained that the purpose of this facility is to keep dust and dirt away from the instruments, mirrors and cameras during testing. In this case of the JWST, testing is underway to make sure that the telescope does indeed unfold like a butterfly when in space. One can see videos of the process at [www.jwst.nasa.gov/webcam.html](http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/webcam.html), and scale models of the telescope are on display in Building 29. Referring to his March lecture, Dr. Mather reiterated that the purpose of the telescope is to discover the origins of the ever expanding universe. His enthusiasm for his work is contagious, prompting many questions from the group, and encouraging them to look forward to the anticipated launch of the JWST in 2018. Karen led the group to Building 7, where vibration, thermal and vacuum testing take place. She called this the "shake and bake" area. Because many of the instruments are test pieces, the same level of cleanliness is not needed as for those going into space. The final stop was the blanket shop, where ultra-thin thermal coverings for the instruments and spacecrafts are designed and created. It was encouraging to see that Karen displayed the same level of enthusiasm for the on-going work at NASA-Goddard as Dr. Mather, putting to rest the rumors of NASA's imminent demise. The day

concluded for many of the participants with lunch at Three Brothers Italian Restaurant in Greenbelt, patron of past AMHS Galas and a favorite lunch place for Goddard employees. The continued camaraderie, as well as the enjoyment of Italian food, proved to be a fine conclusion to another AMHS event.

Many thanks to all who made the occasion a success.

## **AMHS CELEBRATES FERRAGOSTO 2014**

*by Maria D'Andrea*

On Sunday, August 17, over 80 AMHS members and friends gathered on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD for the annual AMHS Ferragosto picnic. This was by far one of our best attended picnics, with great representation from AMHS, the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, the Passatempo Meetup Group, and the Washington Winemakers! A major holiday in Italy, Ferragosto is traditionally celebrated with Mass, picnics, games, and music, and our festivities echoed that pattern. This year we had the great pleasure to have an 11:00 a.m. Mass said by Father Alex Dalpiaz, the new Chaplain of Villa Rosa, solely for picnic attendees. The picnic festivities commenced at 12:30 p.m. under a bright, sunny sky. We played Italian cards, *tombola* and, of course – the ever popular *bocce*. Many delectable dishes from picnic baskets were generously shared, including various pasta dishes, lasagna, grilled meats and chicken, salads, and desserts, as well as homemade wine.

We were very fortunate to have Father Dalpiaz and Father Marchetto, Pastor, Holy Rosary Church, join us for a good part of the day. Father Marchetto's brother Silvano and his family were visiting from Italy and they too joined us for the day. It was very rewarding to see members and friends interact and enjoy the day together. It is very apparent that our tradition of Ferragosto will continue to thrive in the coming years. Special thanks to the many members and friends who helped us set up for the picnic as well as clean up the pavilion at the conclusion of the event, especially Peter Bell, Ted Cocca, Dick DiBuono, James Flood, Maria Fresco, Dora Leo-Santacroce, Joe and Joann Novello, Joe Onofrietti, Albert Paolantonio, Lynn Sorbara, and Sam Yothers.

## **AMHS MEMBERSHIP**

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

AMHS has grown to 267 members! Our Society strives to preserve our Italian heritage and offer a variety of events to enhance our community. We are attracting new members by providing and promoting enriching activities to our membership. Not only do we have wonderful activities, our annual scholarships, and the publication of the *Notiziario*, but AMHS actively participates in joint events with the wider Italian-American community as well. Recent events involve our joint efforts with DC area Italian-American organizations such as Lucchese Nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, Passatempo Meetup, The Lido Civic Club of Washington, and, of course, Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana. Please read more



about these recent and near-future events in the pages of this month's *Notiziario*.

We continue to use social networking and posting pictures of our events. 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: Stephanie Tamborrino, Nancy Coviello, and Abraham Avidor. We should all feel free to reach out and greet our newest members and make them feel supported and welcomed.

### **Birthdays, Weddings, and Anniversaries**

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

#### **Birthdays**

Bruno Fusco and Carmine Petrarca, September 2; Richard DiBuono, September 3; Paul Worthington, September 4; Anthony D'Ermes, Sharon Callahan, Lina Marinucci, September 5; Maria Marigliano, September 9; Theresa Duncan, September 10; Camillo Damiano, September 11; Stan Scott, September 15; Rose Napolitano, Lucy Schleibaum, September 19; Patsy Pagliaro, September 25; Ronald Cappelletti, September 26; Olimpia Micheli, and Virginia Paganelli, September 27; Guy Amatucci, Jeffrey Clark, Romeo Sabatini, September 29; Nicola Pellegrini, October 1; Maria Marchegiani, October 3; Silvio Colandreo, Michael Dyer, October 6; Elizabeth DiGregorio, Kirsten Keppel, October 8; John Fusciello, Maria Conti, October 11; Mike Del Borrello, Nicola Ferrante, Irena DiCarlantonio, Melvena Puglisi, October 12; Darlene Barnsby, October 13; Jack Paganelli, October 16; Claudia Bagliere, Gina Damiano, October 18; Guy Caruso, October 21, and Sarah Scott, October 22.

#### **Wedding**

*Congratulazioni! I nostri migliori auguri e tanta felicità* to Stan Scott and Vera Gordon, who were married on August 15.

#### **Anniversaries**

Jeffrey and Mary Petrino, September 1; Samuel and Margherita Amatucci, September 6; Sergio and Maria Fresco, September 6; Renato and Ines Sozio, September 8; John and Lucille Fusciello, September 13; William and Janet Marmura, September 18; Tom and Sheila Fontana, September 20; Roy and Anita Morton, October 1; Joseph & Mary Katherine Theis, John and Eileen Verna, October 3; Guy and Susan Amatucci, Frank and Rosemarie Rinaldi, October 4; John and Joan Tengler, October 8; Rocco and Eileen Del Monaco; Giuseppe and Loreta Mastrangelo, October 11; Alfred and Diana Del Grosso, October 14; Nicola and Gay Ferrante, October 22; Mike and Rose Del Borrello, October 25; Silvio and Yolanda Colandreo, October 27; Salvatore and Anna Maria Di Pilla, October 30.

## **SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA**



AMHS members Vera Gordon and Stan Scott are pleased to announce that they are married! The small elegant ceremony took place in Washington, DC on August 15, 2014. Special witnesses were the bride's brother, Wesley Goldwell, the groom's son, Ryan Scott, and the groom's sister, Sarah Scott. The ceremony was followed by a dinner with family and friends who were close-by. The bride's parents, Yuri and Marina Golovchenko, currently reside in Vera's hometown of Mykolaiv, Ukraine. The groom's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley B. Scott, Jr., reside in Heath, Texas. The extended families have enjoyed a long friendship and welcome this happy joining.

Vera holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is a manager/economist and transfer pricing professional with KPMG. Stan holds an MBA from Southern Methodist University. He is Managing Partner with SGC Partners, specializing in business development/marketing, operations, supply chain, procurement, inventory management, logistics, and program management experience in a broad range of industries and global locations.

For those of you that may not know, Stan is the son of AMHS member, Geraldine (Merino) Scott. Stan is also AMHS's 2nd Vice President-Membership, Sarah Scott's brother and Vera is her best friend (and now her *Sister!*), making *siamo una famiglia* truly words we live by.

## **POSTCARD FROM L'AQUILA**

*by Helen Antonelli Free, Chair, AMHS Fundraising*

The plaster and stonecutting dust is palpable, the clinking and generator sounds constant. After a few minutes of sipping a Birra Moretti at Nero Caffè on Corso Vittorio Emanuele in central L'Aquila, my eyes start to sting, but I am thrilled to be here to see, hear, and practically taste the fruits of reconstructing the capital of Abruzzo.

I always begin my few precious weeks in Abruzzo with a one or two night stay at Hotel San Michele. I dub this my "Love in the Ruins" leg of my holiday in the region. I am not one to abandon an old friend after a disaster- in this case, the 2009 earthquake rendering most of central L'Aquila a *zona rossa*.



I visit the powerful new paintings of Giovanni Gasparro from Bari in the fully restored Basilica di San Giuseppe Artigiano. Gasparro's canvases are striking for the subjects' multiple faces or hands. At left St. Joseph the Worker stands on the job holding carpenter tools and the iconic flowering staff, a sign that he was chosen by God to be Mary's husband.

The remains of Pope Celestine V, whose 13<sup>th</sup> century mountain hermitage sites in the Majella are a must see, lie here temporarily until the work on the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio is complete. In renovating San Giuseppe, a new wall in the apse was unearthed surprising scholars with a lovely fresco from Giotto school of painting.

It's easy to spend an hour in this church and to work up a taste for Italy's best torrone sold a five minute walk away at Caffè Fratelli Nurzia on the Piazza Duomo. The café's old world charm and incredibly good fortune in escaping quake damage make it a popular spot to remember what L'Aquila used to be. Though I love to bring home several bars of chocolate with hazelnut torrone, the act of shopping here has also become a symbolic gesture – one that helps me imagine the historic center's comeback.

From L'Aquila, I head fifty minutes away to Mascioni, the ancestral home of my grandfather Frank Antonelli, where the air is clear and I see more cows, horses, and sheep on the road leading into town than I see people. Mascioni lies at the base of Lago di Campotosto, a lake Mussolini built in the 30s to provide hydro-electric power to this mountainous area.

The lake, the mountain air, and Mascioni's designation as national park land redolent with wild herbs, protect the surrounding land from development and environmental harm. These factors also contribute to the superiority of the local products, namely the DOC salumi and cheese from the renowned La Mascionara. A stop at their roadside shop rewards me with a satchel of pecorino cheese and the prized lard centered mortadella di Campotosto. I always travel with a good penknife.



Satisfied by the annual visit to places close to my heart, I am anxious to move on to the quilted landscapes of Teremo, the stunning presence of the Corno Grande, the

timelessness of Campo Imperatore, the crocus filled plains of Navelli, un-touristy Sulmona, and so much more.

## A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

by Maria & Sergio Fresco, AMHS Secretary and Board Member



We were bitten by the proverbial travel bug earlier this year when we received an invitation to attend the baptism of twin infant cousins on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We have been extremely fortunate to have visited Italy, both in our youth with our parents and together as a married couple. However, we thought that instead of visiting relatives in Sicily and Abruzzo like we always do, why not add a new destination to our usual itinerary? Having watched many a "Rick Steves' Europe" program on public television as well as *The Sound of Music* over the years, we decided on the country of Austria and narrowed our cities to Vienna and Salzburg.

After a bumpy beginning to our travels (bad weather delayed our departure out of Newark, NJ and made us miss our connecting flight in Frankfurt, Germany), the city of Vienna welcomed us with open arms. The city is a fascinating blend of old and new, particularly its architecture and sprawling pedestrian boulevards. The Vienna Opera House was just around the corner from our quarters, pension Suzanne. Locals and tourists alike gather outside the opera house on Friday and Saturday evening during the summer to watch the latest productions – for free! We enjoyed snippets of Gioacchino Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Verdi's *La Traviata* and admired the sophisticated attire of opera lovers on their way to and from the theatre. Saint Stephen's Cathedral is situated about a mile away, where we climbed a breathtaking 343 steps (yes, we counted!) inside one of the spires to get to a 360-degree panorama of the city. Such cardiovascular workouts and frequent walks justified our indulging in Viennese treats like Weiner Schnitzel (a close relative to "cotoletta alla Milanese"), Sachertorte (which was disappointingly dry) and Apfelstrudel (which was out of this world!).

Salzburg, while rainy and foggy during most of our stay, was still an absolute dream-come-true for us! The city is divided into "new" and "old sections by the Salz River. "Salz" means salt in German, and the area surrounding the city is rich in the mineral. We couldn't resist taking The Sound of Music-Hallstatt Excursion, an 8-hour minivan tour of the major sites from the 1965 Rodgers and Hammerstein classic and a



picturesque Austrian village, respectively. We were worried that our very limited German-speaking skills might be an issue during our trip. On the contrary, many Austrians speak English and Italian which came in very handy during our hotel and restaurant experiences.

Our stay in Sicily the following week brought family and friends together for the aforementioned baptism; we also experienced our first Festa della Repubblica there on June 2. We attended a civic ceremony in downtown Messina where attentive spectators listened to notable officials and military personnel share their remarks. Our visit to Tindari, site of the sanctuary that was erected in honor of “la Madonna Negra” (the Black Madonna), is a regular pilgrimage stop for us. While Tindari is quaint and reflective, Taormina (a frequent and popular stop for many cruise ships) is loud and touristy....but real gelato for just one euro and people-watching in the piazza is priceless!

Our last week of the trip, spent in Abruzzo, gifted us with time well spent in nature, including a day trip to the lake town of Scanno within the Parco Nazionale d’Abruzzo. We learned that it is the only naturally formed lake in Abruzzo. We also visited one of the surviving “trabocchi,” ancient fishing constructions made of wood, along the Adriatic coast where they serve as monuments to the past but also can be reserved to enjoy incredible seafood meals freshly prepared by local chefs. Side trips to Francavilla al mare, Fossacesia, and our favorite beach (Lido “Morge”) rounded out our trip.

Alas, after 3 full weeks, we were simultaneously sad and glad to return home.

## SONGS OF SANREMO AT CASA ITALIANA

*by Nancy DeSanti*

This year’s Columbus Day program, directed by AMHS Board Member Maestro Cav. Bruno Fusco, is featuring “Le Più Famose Canzoni di Sanremo. 1951-2014.” The fundraiser for Holy Rosary Church will take place on Saturday evening at 7 p.m., October 18, 2014, at 7 p.m. at Casa Italiana.

The evening includes a dinner provided by Il Canale of Georgetown and features a program of some of the famous Sanremo songs such as “Grazie dei fiori” and “Chiamami ancora amore.” The program will be hosted by Rosalia Acampora and the performers will include Holy Rosary Choir Director Maria Marigliano, Marco Fiorante, Pasquale DePandi and his band, and Vincenzo Cantiello (from the popular Italian TV show “Ti lascio una canzone.”)

During the evening, Maestro Fusco will announce the winners of the awards for the Premio Internazionale delle Arti, the Premio Internazionale dell’Artigianato and the Premio Internazionale della Cultura.

For those who are not familiar with the “Songs of Sanremo,” the city of Sanremo is world-famous for its annual Sanremo Music Festival. The city itself is located on the Mediterranean coast of western Liguria, near Monaco and near Ventimiglia, close to the French border, and has a population of around 57,000. Sanremo was founded in Roman times and was once part of the kingdom of Sardinia. Nowadays it is a popular

tourist destination on the Italian Riviera also known for the Milan-Sanremo cycling classic, and it has also been called the city where the card game of the five-card stud variant *telesina* originated. Sanremo also hosts an annual poker tournament as part of the European Poker Tour. Sanremo is known as the City of Flowers (la Città dei Fiori) with an international flower market being another important part of the economy.

Famous people who stayed in Sanremo include Czar Nicholas II of Russia; Empress Elisabeth of Austria; Italian writer Italo Calvino; Sicilian playwright Luigi Pirandello, who became artistic director of its Casinò; Mehmed VI, the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, who died in Sanremo in 1926; Mohammed Ali Shah Qajar, the Shah of Persia, who also died in Sanremo in 1925; Alex Liddi, who was born in Sanremo and became the first Italian-born U.S. Major League Baseball player, in 2011 with the Seattle Mariners; and Alfred Nobel, who owned a villa in Sanremo and died there in 1896. Sanremo continues to maintain its ties with Nobel long after his death. Every year on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel’s death, large quantities of flowers are sent to Stockholm to adorn the annual Nobel Prize Award Ceremony.

So this is the city that produced the world-famous Sanremo Music Festival (“Festival della canzone italiana di Sanremo”). The festival began in 1951 and was broadcast on the radio with only two participants. From 1951 to 1976, it took place in the Sanremo Casinò, but then from 1977 on, it was almost always held in the Teatro Ariston.



In the early years, each song was sung twice, by two different artists; and during this era, it was custom that one version of the song was performed by an Italian singer while the other version was performed by an international singer. The American singers who performed in these early years included Connie Francis, Pat Boone, Dionne Warwick, Louis Armstrong, Wilson Pickett, Stevie Wonder and Jose Feliciano. The festival launched the careers of many famous Italian singers such as Andrea Bocelli, Laura Pausini, Eros Ramazzotti and Gigliola Cinquetti.

If you have seen the movie “The Talented Mr. Ripley,” you may remember that the Matt Damon character was invited to travel to the Sanremo Music Festival to enjoy some jazz.

With this fascinating history, the program on “Le Più Famose Canzoni di Sanremo” is sure to be a treat!!

Tickets are now on sale, \$45 for adults and \$30 for children under 14. Please get your tickets early!! Tickets will not be sold at the door. For further information, please call (301) 654-5218.

# ***HOLY ROSARY CHURCH/CASA ITALIANA,***

*in association with*

*The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area,  
The Lido Civic Club of Washington, DC, and  
The Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club*

cordially invite parishioners of Holy Rosary Church and friends of the Italian American community in Washington, DC to a program on the Italian legacy in the development and growth of the United States Marine Band by Marine Historian, Gunnery Sergeant Kira Wharton, United States Marine Corps

*The program will also include a performance by the  
Marine String Quartet*



## ***The Italian Legacy In the Development and Growth of the United States Marine Band***

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014  
**TIME:** 4:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Casa Italiana  
595 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
**ADMISSION:** FREE

Light refreshments will be served  
at the conclusion of the program.

Established by Congress in 1798, the U.S. Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Originally a small group of Fifers and Drummers, the band today has grown to 150 musicians and support staff members. Throughout its history many musicians and directors have contributed to the band's growth and success, including a large number of Italians and Italian-Americans. Among these was the Marine Band's fourteenth director, Francis Maria Scala. We are honored to have Gunnery Sergeant Kira Wharton, who will address this very interesting bit of history of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

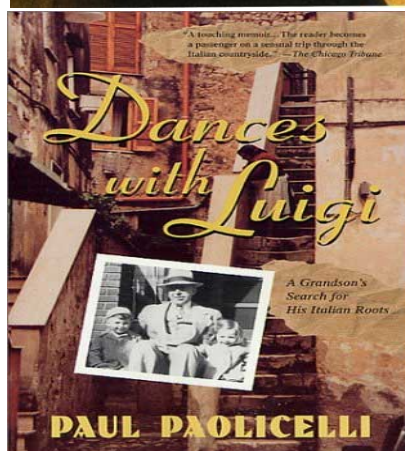
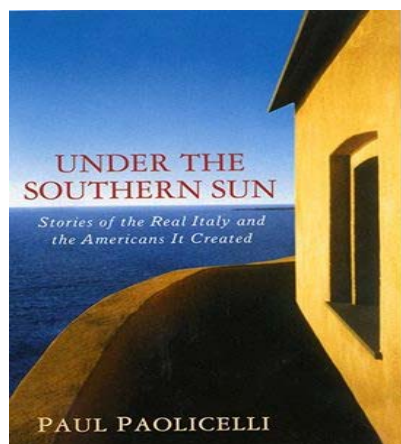




The  
Abruzzo and Molise  
Heritage Society  
Of the Washington, DC Area



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



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

*Southern Italy: "Stories of the  
Real Italy and the Americans It Created"*

*Presented by*  
**Paul Paolicelli**

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 28, 2014

**TIME:** 1:00 PM

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

**MENU:** Lunch will be catered by Carmine's in Penn Quarter, Washington, DC, with a menu of rigatoni and broccoli with white sauce; sausage, peppers, onions and potatoes; salad, bread, dessert, and beverages.

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

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY SEPTEMBER 24, 2014**

**PROGRAM:** AMHS members, friends and guests – be sure to join us for a fascinating presentation by Paul Paolicelli, the author of two wonderful books about his quest to find his family's roots in Southern Italy. The author, who moved to Italy for a time to do his research, tells a fascinating story with great affection and appreciation for how the values and culture of Southern Italy shaped the lives of Italian-Americans, 80% of whom trace their heritage to this part of Italy. His books ("Under the Southern Sun: The Real Italy and the Americans It Created" and "Dances with Luigi") will be available for signing by the author. Also, back by popular demand, accordionist Joan Tacchetti Grauman, who performed at the June 1 AMHS Silent Auction, will be playing Italian songs loved by many.

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, September 28, 2014**

Please make check payable to AMHS.

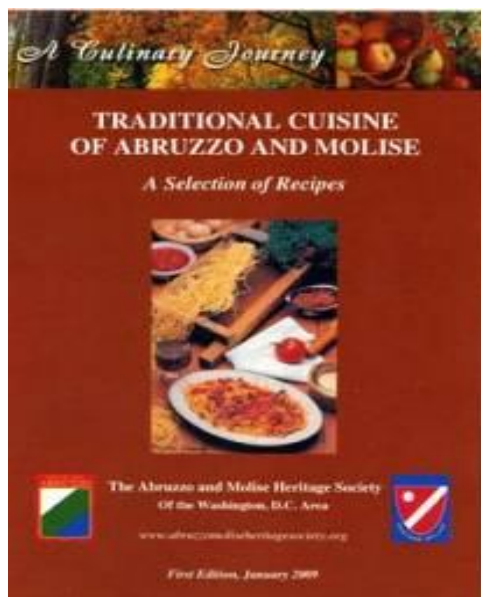
Send to AMHS, c/o Jeff Clark, 12 Adams Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001

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

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

Order form for **TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF ABRUZZO AND MOLISE**

Please make check to AMHS. Send to AMHS, c/o Maria D'Andrea, 4669 Lawton Way, #104, Alexandria, VA 22311

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

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### AMHS LOGO POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM

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

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

**Ship to: Name:**

**Address:**



**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Please add \$4.50 for Postage & Handling for each Polo Shirt.**

**Make check payable to AMHS, c/o Richard Di Buono, 5660 Ridgeview Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310**



## THE AMHS MEETINGS OF JULY 27 AND FERRAGOSTO PICNIC



**Top and Center** – Ceramic teacher Robert Paolinelli, mosaicist Antonio Bianchini, and painter Raffaele De Gregorio, July 27 general Society meeting; **center right** – 2013 AMHS scholarship recipient Christina Iovino with Dick DiBuono, Chair, AMHS Scholarship Committee, Romeo Sabatini, past Chair, Scholarship Committee, and AMHS President Maria D’Andrea.

**Bottom** - At the August 17 Ferragosto picnic, Romeo Sabatini with his grandson Davide; Maria D’Andrea with Father Ezio Marchetto, Pastor, Holy Rosary Church, and Father Alex Dalpiaz, Chaplain, Villa Rosa; and AMHS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership Sarah Scott with Maria D’Andrea with members of the Lucchesi Club nel Mondo-Tuscany Club.





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



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#### **AMHS NOTIZIARIO** Publication

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

**AMHS NOTIZIARIO** is published bi-monthly from January through November. The deadline for the submission of articles and ads is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via e-mail to Maria D'Andrea, [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net). All submissions may be edited for clarity and become the property of AMHS. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the Editors. Content of articles published is the sole responsibility of the author. You may choose to receive your issues of the **Notiziario** by electronic mail (email) only. Not only will this save on paper and postage, you will get your copy much more quickly. If you wish to select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea by email at [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net) or by phone at 703-998-6097. This will provide you the opportunity to confirm your email address, which we have for most AMHS members. 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. Any donation to the Society's Grant and Scholarship Fund is tax deductible.

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