



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



OUR ITALIAN ROOTS: PAST AND PRESENT



Top: Dr. Tyler Anbinder delivers his presentation on the lives of early Italian immigrants on May 31, 2015. (Photo courtesy of Sam Yothers).

Bottom: AMHS members and friends at the St. Anthony Festival in Wilmington, DE on June 14, 2015. (Photo courtesy of Maria D'Andrea).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS: Sunday, July 26, 2016, presentation on digital diplomacy at Casa Italiana; and Sunday, August 16, the annual Ferragosto picnic in Mitchellville, MD. See inside for details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is hard to believe that the summer will soon be upon us. The Society has had a very productive year so far, putting together three very well-received general Society meetings, a one-day bus trip to Wilmington, DE for the St. Anthony Festival and, of course, the June 28 15th anniversary celebration.

We also have a group of dedicated individuals who have been working to redesign the Society's website, to make it more current, a little more "flashy", and more user-friendly for everyone who comes looking for us! So needless to say, the Executive Committee and a core group of dedicated volunteers have been busy.

I have to say that I was incredibly pleased that we were finally able to have a one-day bus trip. The travel committee has tried for several years to put together trips of interest to our members and friends, but the last few years we have not met with success. But this year, we were determined to succeed in planning and executing a one-day bus trip to Wilmington, DE for the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua (The St. Anthony Festival) which, this year, honored the region of Abruzzo! A group of 28 members and friends had a wonderful day together. Please be sure to read about this trip on page 4 of this issue. We hope that you will be interested enough in the success of this trip, that you will want the travel committee to pursue other trips in the future. And of course, anyone interested in working with the Executive Committee to plan a trip – or if you have suggestions – please let us know.

As we go to print, we will have just held the 15th anniversary celebration for the Society. I have every expectation that this will be a superb event, with many members able to attend; representation from the Embassy of Italy, the Italian Cultural Society, the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, and the National Italian American Foundation; and four of our past scholarship recipients. So please look for a "special edition" of the Society's newsletter, which will report on this event.

This year is a very important one for the Society, in that December 31, 2015 marks the end of the terms of service for the five officers (President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) and three members of the Board. I have already appointed three members to serve on the Nominating Committee: Dr. Lynn Sorbara, Ennio DiTullio, and Lucio D'Andrea. I am so very pleased that all three agreed to serve, with Lucio as Chair. If you are approached by the three to serve as an officer or member of the Board, I hope that you will keep an open mind and recognize the positive contributions you can make to the effective operation of the Society. If you don't want to serve as an officer or member of the Board, do consider helping with one of our standing committees – there are several that could use help, specifically the Hospitality, Travel, and Social committees. We are

always open to help, and to new and fresh ideas. You can find contact information for the chairs of these committees on our website, www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.com.

I wish you a joyous and adventure-filled summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Cordiali saluti,

Maria

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

JULY 26, 2015 PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON DIGITAL DIPLOMACY

By Lourdes Tinajero, AMHS Board Member

A new and important topic for AMHS members, friends and guests will be highlighted at the July 26 luncheon meeting on digital diplomacy. The keynote presentation will be delivered by Andreas Sandre, Press and Public Affairs Officer, Embassy of Italy, and author of "Digital Diplomacy: Conversations on Innovation in Foreign Policy." Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador of Italy to the United States, provided the foreword to this groundbreaking book on the use of the Internet to shape and communicate policies, programs and practices affecting education, the economy, health care, transportation and other areas that affect our lives.

The presentation by Mr. Sandre will provide a valuable introduction on what digital diplomacy is, why it's important and how governments such as the United States, Italy and others have launched eDiplomacy functions to both communicate and help shape public policies. These policies "cross" national and international borders. They affect how nations relate to each other and how they address public issues. These are important questions for all of us.

Some matters that are considered in eDiplomacy include: What difference does the Internet and social media tools (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Flickr) have on how governmental and policy leaders connect with people in diverse communities? How does the Internet's very fast and broad dissemination of information affect how government and policy makers both communicate and receive information about the public's views? Come join us on July 26 for this discussion on eDiplomacy in communities around the world.

Before the program begins, we will have a delicious lunch catered by Three Brothers Italian Restaurant, MD. Following the program, there will be a book signing of "Digital Diplomacy: Conversations on Innovation in Foreign Policy." Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event.

Please invite your family and friends and make your reservations early.

FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

Be sure to save the date for the Society's annual Ferragosto Picnic – Sunday, August 16, 2015 on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. This event is for AMHS members, family, and friends. It is a rain or shine event, from 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. See flyer in this issue of the *Notiziario* for additional details.

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

GWU PROFESSOR ANBINDER DESCRIBES THE LIVES OF EARLY ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS

By Nancy DeSanti, AMHS 1st Vice President-Programs



Dr. Tyler Anbinder

For our third program of the year, we were very pleased to have as our speaker at the May 31, 2015 meeting Dr. Tyler Anbinder, a professor of History at George Washington University and acclaimed author. He talked to us about the early Italian immigrants who came to America during the period from 1880 to 1924, when more than 3 million Italians immigrated to the U.S.

About 90 AMHS members and friends came to enjoy a delicious lunch catered by Fontina Grille and then hear Professor Anbinder's very interesting presentation. Specifically, he used period photographs to illustrate his talk, as he looked at why Italians left Italy in such large numbers, what their lives were like in the United States, and the reception they got from native-born Americans.

Professor Anbinder began by telling us that while in college, he spent his junior year abroad in Florence and he has visited Italy eight times. He became interested in the early immigration to America by the various ethnic groups, earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University and authored a book entitled *"Five Points: The Nineteenth Century New York City Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum."* He also was a historical consultant to Martin Scorsese for the making of the movie, *"The Gangs of New York."*

The program came about through Lynn Sorbara who had heard Dr. Anbinder speak and who had read his book which was so meaningful to her since her family emigrated from Sicily to New York City and so she knew about the Five Points story. Since so many of the Italian immigrants came to New York City and settled in the Five Points neighborhood which eventually became Little Italy (nowadays it's Chinatown), Dr. Anbinder described for us what life was like there in those early days, and he showed us some of the old historical photos of the time to illustrate the points he was making.

Life in those early days was surely harsh for many, and during the 1820s until the early 1900s, Five Points was the nation's first "urban renewal project." Conditions were so bleak that reformers of the era tried to bring attention to the overcrowded, unsanitary and dangerous conditions. Professor Anbinder explained that one of the reformers, a man named Jacob Riis, wanted to photograph the dark interiors of the tenements so he improvised by firing a pistol with blanks so that the fire from the muzzle would light up a room enough for him to photograph it.

After describing the living conditions, Professor Anbinder talked about the working conditions, especially the sweatshops where there was a distinct pecking order and where workers were paid by piecework. He also elaborated on the *padroni* system whereby labor contractors would fill orders for cheap labor and send the immigrant men from New York City to faraway jobs such as in the mines of Colorado or West Virginia, and the railroads out West.

Professor Anbinder explained that the immigrants would pass along information to relatives or friends in their hometowns in Italy so that they would know about the specific Mulberry Street address of the combination bank/employment agency for their region. Eventually Mulberry Street became known as "the Italian Wall Street." He noted that Italian day laborers built the New York subway system, and he told us that a man from L'Aquila in Abruzzo named Pascal D'Angelo wrote a memoir, *"Son of Italy"* in 1924 about the harsh living conditions immigrants endured during the early part of the 20th century, and he later became a poet as well.

As for the women, Professor Anbinder said that by the 1900s, women were mainly garment workers and then office workers, and they also worked at home making lace and artificial flowers.

He said it was important to these early immigrants to keep alive their religious traditions and we saw as an example the photo of the Feast of San Rocco in Bandit's Roost.

In the question-and-answer period after Dr. Anbinder's talk, Dick DiBuono noted that not all immigrants faced such harsh conditions and in fact his own grandparents in Massachusetts became successful relatively quickly. But as Dr. Anbinder pointed out, this was not the case for many. In my own case, it reminded me that my grandparents who came from Italy in the early 1900s, pulled up stakes and moved back to Italy because the work here was very hard, the harsh winters were very cold, learning English was not easy, and they were

homesick. Fortunately there are many success stories of the early immigrants which were forged decades ago. Nowadays everybody loves Italian food, fashion, art, culture and lifestyle, but as Dr. Anbinder's talk reminded us, it's good to remember the struggles of those early immigrants and the debt of gratitude we owe them.

A special thank you goes to Hospitality Chair Dr. Lynn Sorbara for suggesting Dr. Anbinder as our speaker and for facilitating the delicious lunch from Fontina Grille. We also thank everyone who helped set up for the meeting, served food, cleaned up, and donated prizes for the raffle. Speaking of raffle, we wish to thank everyone who participated in the raffle; we raised \$167.00 for the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund.

AMHS ROAD TRIP

By Maria C. Fresco, AMHS Secretary

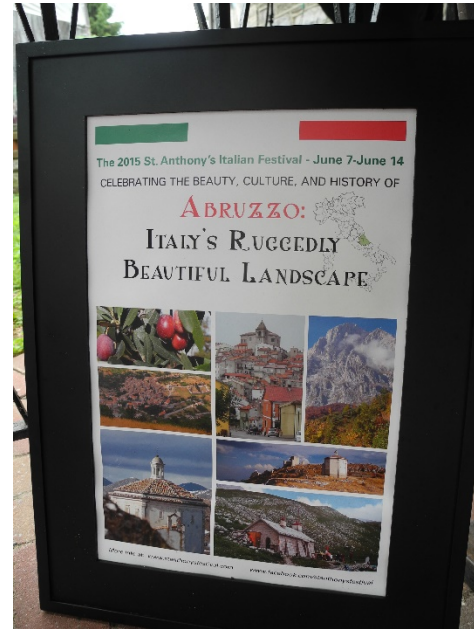
We've all known various sports teams and athletes who've had "losing streaks." Our Society seemed to have its own breed of bad luck when it came to trip-taking lately. After several travel attempts to Philadelphia's Little Italy and Virginia wine country, we "reversed the curse" with a bus trip to St. Anthony's Italian Festival in Wilmington, DE on June 14, 2015.



From left, Maria Fresco, Caroline Humer, Albert Paolantonio, Lucio D'Andrea, Rosina Schacknies, Edvige D'Andrea, and Elisa DiClemente

Our group met at the New Carrollton Metro Station and enjoyed coffee and pastries prior to boarding a 28-passenger bus for the two-hour trip. Our bus driver's name was serendipitously named Anthony. Upon arrival, we were greeted with a beautiful church complete with a courtyard, water fountain, and statue of St. Anthony. People were free to roam the festival grounds and explore, shop and eat for the next several hours. Many folks opted to attend the bi-lingual Mass in the church at 12:30 pm. (The week prior, the church held the funeral Mass for Beau Biden, late son of U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden and his wife Dr. Jill Biden). The church also featured a reproduction of the altar of the *Chiesa dei SS. Nicola e Clemente* (Church of Sts. Nicholas and Clement) in the town of *Lama dei Peligni* in Abruzzo. The Mass concluded with three annual traditions: the singing of "Va, Pensiero" (more commonly known in English as the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" and featured in the third act of Giuseppe

Verdi's 1842 opera *Nabucco*), the distribution of St. Anthony's bread to the public, and an outdoor street procession with the church's statues, religious and civic associations, and area marching bands.



The festival itself was an 8-day event, which began the Sunday prior. The focus region of this year's festival was Abruzzo. The festival grounds were organized into several sections including the outdoor cafés Antonian and Nona Strada, La Piazza, and Chef Giuseppe Furio's Abruzzo Café. There was

even a carnival! Musical entertainment options ranged from traditional Italian to contemporary pop music. A local choral group, *Coro Gabriele D'Annunzio*, performed folk favorites in the church at 4:00 pm.

At 5:00 pm we departed to have dinner at Bella Napoli, an Italian restaurant by chef/owner Biagio Carannante, located in Pasadena, MD. Strong thunderstorms delayed traffic on Interstate-95, which made us 45 minutes late for dinner but also afforded us the opportunity to see beautiful rainbows along the way and to savor our food, wine and company all the more. AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea offered a sweet, heartfelt toast at the restaurant.

Special thanks and appreciation go to my husband, Sergio, for taking the lead on this labor of love; AMHS Treasurer Jeff Clark for overseeing reservations and payments; AMHS 1st VP – Programs and Travel Chair Nancy DeSanti for her publicity, marketing efforts and optimism; AMHS President Maria D'Andrea for her support, guidance and correspondence for this trip, especially the information sheets/schedule of events she created for our participants; Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club President Tricia Maltagliati and members for their support and participation; Beltway Transportation; Biagio Carannante and wait staff Amanda and Steve; my parents Natale and Luisa Caminiti for their support and accommodations for this trip; and my fellow attendees with whom we would not have had a successful trip in the first place. With members' ideas and suggestions, the Society looks forward to planning more local trips like these in the future.



Maria and Sergio Fresco at Bella Napoli

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Sarah Scott, 2nd Vice President-Membership

AMHS is now 254 members and growing! Although membership renewals continue to come in, we are also attracting new members. Keep up the great work of promoting AMHS activities!

Our Society strives to preserve our Italian heritage and offers a variety of events to enhance our community. We publish a wonderful newsletter, the **AMHS Notiziario**, we have half-price associate memberships in NIAF available, and we have wonderful events, such as our luncheons and the recent bus trip to the Saint Anthony's Italian Festival in Wilmington, DE. We also sponsor two scholarships each year, to further the academic studies in Italian culture or language.

Social Networking

We continue to use social networking and post 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

A warm welcome to our newest members: **Francesca Becallo, Guy Fero, Marilyn Huffman, Theresa Taylor, and John Tricciola**. We should all feel free to reach out and **greet** our newest **members** and make them feel supported and welcomed.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following members celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in July and August. *Buon compleanno, buon anniversario e Auguri!*

Birthdays

Compleanni a giugno

Beniamino Caniglia, June 4; Lucille Fusciello, Janet Marmura, Anita Morton, June 6; Joseph Lupo, June 9; Alberto Paolantonio, June 10; Giuseppe "Pino" Cicala, June 12; Antonio Ceresini, June 14; Daniel Fusco, June 20; Rita Coyne, Judge Richard Marano, June 22; Margaret Uglow, June 25; Omero Sabatini, June 26; Rita Orcino, June 28; and Helen Antonelli Free, June 30.

Compleanni a luglio

Amy Profit D'Amico, July 1; Vincenzo Marinucci, July 3; Vincent Trasatti, July 4; Dianne Francesconi Lyon, July 6; John Verna, July 7; Antoniette Mazziotti, July 9; Nancy Romagnoli, July 10; Raymond Bernero, July 12; David Ciummo, July 13; Michael Corrado, July 14; Anthony D'Onofrio, July 15; Angelo Puglisi, Ines Sozio, July 17; Nancy Hurst, July 18; Mario Ciccone, July 21; Lina Pronio, July 23; Adelfina Santini, July 25, Silvio Pronio, July 26; and Lynn Sorbara, July 27.

Anniversaries

Anniversari a giugno

Beniamino & Delores Caniglia, June 2; Luigi & Silvana DeLuca, Omero & Belinda Sabatini, June 3; Michael & Theda Corrado, Massimo & Rosa Mazziotti, Joseph & Betsy Ruzzi, Jr., June 4; Lucio & Maria Marchegiani, June 9; Frank & Joyce Del Borrello, June 10; Mauro & Elizabeth Chiaverini, June 11; Edward & Rita Coyne, Anthony & Elodia D'Onofrio, June 25; and Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, June 27.

Anniversari a luglio

Joseph & Joann B. Novello, July 4; Sabatino & Antoniette Mazziotti, Renato & Rita Orcino, July 19; Stephan & Rita Carrier, Domenico & Adelfina Santini, July 30, and David Ciummo & Sabrina DeSousa, July 31.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

IN HONOR OF MY GRANDFATHER VITTORIANO CIACCIA, A BERSAGLIERI IN THE ITALIAN ARMY DURING WORLD WAR I

By Lana Nardella, AMHS Board Member

Recently, I was asked by the Italian Embassy to share the story of my grandfather Vittoriano Ciaccia who was a Bersaligieri in the Italian army during World War I.

On May 25 there was a celebration in Trieste, Italy to honor all those who went back to Italy to fight for their country and a number of stories were shown on "jumbotrons" in the piazza in Trieste.

When the war broke out the Italian government requested Italian men abroad to come back to Italy and fight in support of their country. My grandfather Vittoriano and his brother Beniamino both returned to Italy with a promise from the Italian government that they would be allowed to return to United States after the war.

Grandpa fought in Austria and was wounded. Soon he returned to Celano in Abruzzo where he married my grandmother Maria Grazia Malsegna. They had two children, my mother Laura and my uncle Delfino, before returning to Rochester, New York in 1920. Their family continued to grow after they settled in the United States.

On behalf of my cousins and aunts and uncles I shared the story of our grandfather's journey - a journey that actually was the beginning of the Ciaccia/Malsegna family

We all have a love for Italy and I am sure it is because of our grandfather's love and service to his beloved country Italia. He definitely was someone we all looked up to and we honor his memory.

To see my video, visit <http://webtv.esercito.difesa.it/Detail/Dettaglio?ChannelId=cc4d910f-80dd-4ccf-891e-bf0d07296a46&VideoId=da60c688-7a24-4b0f-be2e-4132bd947784>

BRUMIDI PAINTING IN HONOR OF JOE GRANO

By Maria D'Andrea



Maria D'Andrea and Father Ezio Marchetto

On Saturday, June 20, around 40 people gathered at Casa Italiana for the unveiling of the painting of Constantino Brumidi, in memory of Joe Grano. Joe was a member and an officer of AMHS until his death on November 24, 2013. As President of the Society, I was quite honored that Father Marchetto asked me to unveil the painting, which was done by Raffaele De Gregorio.

Joe was a larger than life figure, involved in various causes which he took on with passion and dedication – historic preservation of sites within the Washington community and, of course, securing the legacy of Constantino Brumidi. Joe founded the Constantino Brumidi Society about 15 years ago. This group became Joe's vehicle for getting Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Brumidi, the Italian immigrant whose frescos decorate the U.S. Capitol. One of Joe's kindest acts for AMHS members was to set up a private tour of the Capitol and Brumidi's frescos; this was about 4 years ago. We even met with the artist entrusted with restoration of the frescos.

On January 19, 2014, a magnificent gathering of Joe's friends came together in Casa Italiana, to remember an extraordinary man and to celebrate his life. Many individuals who attended that event were present for the unveiling (Bill Brown, President of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of DC; Bill Rice; Nelson Rymensnyder, and Jan Fenty, mother of former DC mayor Adrian Fenty). It was good to see everyone gathered together in the celebration of Joe and his legacy. Special thanks to AMHS members who came to the event: David Ciummo, Nancy DeSanti, Dick DiBuono, Francesco and Anna Isgro, Joe Lupo, Maria Marigliano, Albert Paolantonio, Sarah Scott, Carmela Ventresca, and Sam Yothers.



AMHS members, from left to right, Maria D'Andrea, Sam Yothers, Albert Paolantonio, Sarah Scott, Carmela Ventresca, Maria Marigliano, Anna Isgro, Nancy DeSanti, Dick DiBuono, Francesco Isgro, and Joe Lupo with Father Ezio Marchetto

IN SEARCH OF LITTLE ITALY FOR THE DAY

By Maria D'Andrea



AMHS members Maria D'Andrea, Sarah Scott, and Albert Paolantonio

On a warm and sunny Saturday, May 30, a small group of AMHS amici went in search of an event to celebrate their Italian heritage. They did not have far to go, for in the small town of Frederick, MD, the group stumbled upon the 3rd Annual Festa Italiana at Rose Hill Manor Park! Actually, we had been informed of this Festa for some time (we were contacted by the Festa Chair, Maria Giovanna Galasso), and decided it would be worth checking out to support our Italian heritage and culture. What's not to love about that! Needless to say we were pleasantly surprised with the location, the vendors, the crowd, and the festivities. There were wonderful homemade dishes (lasagna, gnocchi, eggplant parmigiana, sausage sandwiches, pizza), an excellent wine and beer bar (with flights for wine tasting), games for children, grape stomping, and bocce. Of course there was music, with performances by accordion player Joan Tacchetti Grauman (who played at the June 1, 2014 Silent Auction and at the AMHS general Society meeting in September 2014), i-Talians The Band, and the Monaldi Brothers.



From left, Ingrid Mongini, Edvige D'Andrea, Elodia D'Onofrio, Sarah Scott, Maria D'Andrea, Arrigo Mongini, Lucio D'Andrea, Jim Mustachio, Robert D'Onofrio, Tony D'Onofrio, and Albert Paolantonio

While walking the Festa grounds, we came upon AMHS members Tony, Elodia, and Robert D'Onofrio, James Mustachio, and Ingrid and Arrigo Mongini, from The Italian Cultural Society (which had a booth at the Festa to promote the Society's Italian Language program). There were also about 16 members of the Passatempo Meetup group, of which Sarah Scott is an organizer: Paula Johnson and Susan Frazier; Giovanna Morena and her mother, Filomena; and Neusa (Flor) and Mauricio "Mo" Facenda.

AMHS members Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea, Albert Paolantonio, and Sarah Scott decided to make a full day and stayed through the evening for a performance by The Sicilian Tenors. Not a bad way to top off a wonderful and festive day. Throughout, we were fortunate to have the good company of Tricia Maltagliati, President of the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club. This festival is definitely worth the drive, and it is for a very good cause – all the proceeds go to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County.

ITALIAN EMBASSY CELEBRATION OF FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA

by Maria D'Andrea

On Tuesday, June 2, the Embassy of Italy hosted a reception in honor of the Festa della Repubblica, the Italian National Day. Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, Mrs. Laura Denise Bisogniero and other officials, including Colonel Rodolfo Sganga, who attended the Society's January 2015 meeting, warmly greeted invited guests, including a number of AMHS members, as they entered the Embassy.

An abundant buffet featured Italian products and specialties, and a wine bar offered some of Italy's finest wines. One of the more popular stations was the gelato table. On display were several Italian automobiles, and a number of exhibits related to Expo 2015. It was an evening truly worthy of our Italian pride and heritage. The following is a message from

the Ambassador on the occasion of Italian National Day (in Italian and English):

AMBASCIATA
D'ITALIA
WASHINGTON
DC
COMUNICATO
STAMPA

IN DUEMILA A FESTEGGIARE LA FESTA NAZIONALE A WASHINGTON

Washington, DC (3 giugno 2015) – Circa 2 mila ospiti hanno affollato ieri l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Washington per celebrare il 2 giugno, 69 anni dopo la nascita della Repubblica. Anniversario che segna "il ritrovamento della libertà e della democrazia" e il primo voto delle italiane, ha sottolineato l'Ambasciatore Claudio Bisogniero, citando il Presidente della Repubblica Mattarella e ricordando come questa fosse la prima festa nazionale presieduta dal nuovo Capo dello Stato.

L'amicizia con gli Stati Uniti, l'impegno comune per la stabilità internazionale e contro il terrorismo, la straordinaria opportunità di Expo Milano 2015 e l'auspicio per la conclusione del TTIP, area di libero scambio UE-USA, sono stati evidenziati dall'Ambasciatore. Al centro del suo discorso, il ruolo degli italiani in America che hanno appena rinnovato i loro rappresentanti e dei 25 milioni di italo-americani fieri delle loro radici, ma anche ricorrenze quali il centenario della nostra entrata nella Grande Guerra che consentì di completare la riunificazione nazionale e i 70 anni della fine del Secondo Conflitto Mondiale, significativamente commemorati dal Presidente Renzi al cimitero militare americano di Firenze.

Alla realizzazione dell'evento hanno contribuito numerose imprese italiane: Alcantara, B Cube, Beretta, Bracco, Calligaris, ENEL GP, Expert System, FCA, Ferrero, IGT, Lamborghini, Pirelli, Lights of Venice, Banfi, Bauli, Dallara, Prosciutto di Parma, Vini di Lombardia, Zonin. Ad accogliere gli invitati, nel piazzale dell'Ambasciata, moto Ducati, modelli Fiat, Ferrari, Lamborghini e le auto della formula Indy costruite dall'italianissima Dallara.

Per seguire l'Ambasciata su Twitter: @ItalyinUS

Per seguire l'Ambasciatore su Twitter: @CBisogniero

Per seguire l'Ambasciata su Facebook: ItalyinUS.org

25 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!!

By Nancy DeSanti

The Circolo della Briscola marked a big milestone on Sunday, April 19, 2015, as many members and friends gathered at Ristorante Positano to celebrate the beginning of the 25th year of the Circolo. AMHS members were among the winners and participants of this group, which meets monthly at Casa Italiana to play the Italian card games of *briscola*, *tressette* and *scopa/scopone*.

About 30 people came to socialize and have fun before getting down to the serious business of handing out the awards for the past year. There was plenty of time for a glass of wine (or two or three) and conversation. There was a lot of catching-up to do and it was noted that there were a number of guests, including AMHS members Maddalena Borea, Ed and Rita Coyne, and John and Eileen Verna, who were there not as players themselves but to support their friends who were.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal thanks to Luigi and Angelina Traettino, the owners of Positano's, and their son Jimmy, who prepared the meal. Angelina said she taught Jimmy everything he knows, and we said "good job!!" By the way, Luigi (one of the players) and Angelina were going to their house near Venice in May to celebrate their 55 years of marriage - a well-deserved break for this hard-working couple!!

Enrico Davoli and his wife Jane came up from Florida so that Enrico could emcee the event once again. Enrico started off with a few heartfelt words about how the Circolo has endured over the years and how the purpose has always been to get together and have fun and enjoy some good food and wine and camaraderie—and, oh yes, play some cards too.

The next order of business was the awarding of certificates and trophies. Before he handed out the awards, we decided it was time to officially crown Enrico as "*Il Re della Briscola*," since he has owned that title for so many years. So, we gave him a big shiny crown, and wearing his new crown proudly, Enrico called out the name of the fifth place winner, AMHS member Angelo Puglisi aka "The Shark," who won a bottle of wine in the shape of a shark. Next was the fourth place winner, Tony Volpe, who won a deck of cards from his beloved hometown of Napoli. Then came number three, Joe Campagna, who also got a deck of cards from Napoli (because it was assumed that with a name like that, he must come from somewhere near there).

The number two award went to AMHS member Vince Ciccone, who also won a bottle of wine from Abruzzo, where he grew up. Vince then said a few words about how much it has meant to him to get together with everyone over the years.

Then finally Enrico called on Bruno Tarabocchia, the new champion, to come up and collect his trophy. Bruno is a long-time player who excels at *tressette* but who obviously must be pretty good at *briscola* too. Bruno modestly attributed his win to "luck more than anything" and said he enjoys seeing his friends as much as the games themselves. Bruno comes from northern Italy, on an island near Croatia, and he has had an interesting life, to say the least—he was interned for a year and a half under the Tito regime. Everyone congratulated Bruno on his victory this year.

Finally, Enrico gave out one last award, the *Premio di Incoraggiamento* which went to AMHS member Pino Cicala. Pino was surprised by this turn of events, since as Enrico noted, he has been a savvy player for years; however, he just missed some games this year, lowering his score. But he took it with good humor after he found out that along with the award, he won a book entitled "How to Cheat at Everything."

Afterwards, Pino was heard to say "I'm going to go home and study this book."

Enrico singled out for special praise Dennis Santoli, who has done so much to keep the games organized and on track all year. He also gave a beautiful trophy to this writer for working on the *briscola* newsletter.

Lastly, Enrico said AMHS member Joe Novello deserves everyone's thanks for the delicious food he prepares for the monthly games, which is surely a big draw, since it was noted that attendance was way down the time Joe couldn't come and the guys had to fend for themselves and order pizza. Joe was given a thank you card with a box of Baci Perugina.

We would again like to congratulate the winners for fiscal year 2014-2015. The top 10 are (with AMHS members noted in bold):

1. Bruno Tarabocchia
2. **Vince Ciccone**
3. Joe Campagna
4. Tony Volpe
5. **Angelo Puglisi**
6. **Antonio Bianchini**
7. Giacomo Palumbo
8. **Romeo Sabatini**
9. **Mario Ciccone**
10. **Ennio DiTullio**

These *soci* are well known to all and we congratulate them all on their hard-won top spots. *Un sacco di bravi!!*

Other AMHS members who are regulars of the Circolo include: Rocco Caniglia, Jeff Clark, Sal DiPilla, Nick Ferrante, and Deno Reed. Anyone who would like to join them to play (or learn to play) is invited to come to Casa Italiana at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

ALPINI – L'AQUILA 2015

By Lucio D'Andrea, President Emeritus e "un grande amico degli Alpini"

From May 15-17, 2015, L'Aquila hosted the 88th annual "*L'Adunata*", the annual manifestation of the Alpini. It was a special occasion for L'Aquila, since it was the first time that the province of Abruzzo was chosen for this event. Some 300,000 Alpini and friends descended on the city to celebrate and honor the special bond that L'Aquila holds with the Alpini: the establishment, in 1935, of the "*Battaglione L'Aquila*" (the L'Aquila Battalion). ANA (*Associazione Nazionale Alpini*) chose L'Aquila for the ritual as a sign of solidarity following the disastrous earthquake in 2009 that struck L'Aquila and the surrounding area. The Alpini, through their mission of responding to natural disasters, were the first respondents whom came to the aid of Abruzzo.

Established in 1872, the Alpini are the oldest active mountain infantry in the world. Their original mission was to protect Italy's northern mountain border with France and Austria. In

1888 the *Alpini* deployed on their first mission abroad, in Africa, a continent where they returned on several occasions and during various wars of the Kingdom of Italy. They emerged during World War I (WWI) as they fought a three-year campaign in the Alps against Austro-Hungarian Kaiserjäger and the German Alpenkorps in what has since become known as the “war in snow and ice”. During WWII, the *Alpini* fought alongside the Axis forces, mainly across the Eastern Front and in the Balkans campaigns.



Concert in the Piazza della Fontana delle 99 cannelle, a 13th-century fountain and city landmark in L'Aquila where water spurts from the mouths of 99 sculpted heads

L'Adunata is a festive occasion that I had the pleasure to attend in Trento, region of Trentino-Alto Adige, in 1990 when I was living in Geneva, Switzerland. *L'Adunata* was inaugurated in 1920 in Monte Ortigaro, Veneto, where a fierce battle took place during WWI against Austria. The *L'Adunata* was suspended during WWII and resumed in 1948 in Bassano del Grappa, a city with strong ties to the *Alpini*.

In a salutary message to the *Alpini* by General Claudio Graziano, Chief of Defense for the Italian Armed Forces, he recalls with great affection the role played by the Battaglione L'Aquila in 2005, when he commanded the “Kabul Multinational Brigade in Afghanistan”. The General concluded his message by saying “*Nel rinnovare la profonda stima e gratitudine di tutti gli uomini e le donne delle Forze Armate, e mia personale, esprimo a tutti gli alpine e ai loro cari, i più fervidi e sentiti voti augurali. Viva L'Aquila! Viva l'Associazione Nazionale Alpini! Viva le Forze Armate!*” (“In renewing profound esteem and gratitude for all the men and women of the Armed Forces, and my personal esteem, express to all the *Alpini* and their loved ones, the most fervent and heart-felt wishes”).

General Graziano is no stranger to the Society, having made a presentation in June 2003 on the role of the Italian Army in peace-keeping and humanitarian missions. At that time, General Graziano was the Army Attaché, Embassy of Italy.

WE LOVE EVERYTHING ITALIAN

By Lucio D'Andrea

Edvige and I, who reside at The Westminster at Lake Ridge, VA, an independent living community, continue with their dedication to the promotion of Italian language and culture when opportunities arise. This is the case with The Westminster. A number of residents, some of whom have traveled to Italy, approached us to organize classes in Italian, and we have done so. On Friday mornings, about 14 residents attend these classes and they love it. Lessons focus on conversation, with an added touch on some aspects of the rich Italian culture.



Residents of The Westminster with Dr. Pennazzato, far right

A recent highlight of this cultural experience was a tour of the Embassy of Italy, hosted by Professor Roberto Pennazzato, Director of the Office of Education on April 29. Dr. Pennazzato gave a brief overview of Italy's political, economic, and social standing, among these trade peace-keeping missions, supporting cultural events, etc.

According to Dr. Pennazzato's presentation, Italy has a population of about 60 million; of that, 5 million are legal immigrants, and one million undocumented. High school education is obligatory and students can choose the college prep, technical or professional track. As a member of the European Union, Italy embraces its policy promoting foreign languages; English is a popular choice. A big event this year in Italy is the Milan Expo 2015, from May 1 to October 31, featuring exhibits from 140 countries. The Expo is exploring the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.” What a great time to visit Italy!

The visit to the Embassy ended with an enjoyable, tasty lunch in their café, surrounded by walls decorated with enlarged photos of great Italian movie stars, such as Sofia Loren and Vittorio De Sica. On our return, we enjoyed the sights of the many embassies adorning Massachusetts Avenue.

To add to the fun of these classes, we also take occasional outings to Italian restaurants, which also adds to the enjoyment of these classes.

BRUNO FUSCO WORKS WITH CHOIR SINGING FOR POPE FRANCIS

By Nancy DeSanti

AMHS member Bruno Fusco is collaborating with the Washington, D.C. Boys Choir which will perform for Pope Francis during their tour of Italy from July 9-18, 2015.

Cavaliere Maestro Fusco, a former AMHS board member, will collaborate with the choir which will be performing in Rome, Florence, Venice, Torino and Milan. Bruno said he looks forward to visiting Expo 2015 with the group while they are in Milan.

Bruno's collaboration with the 30-member D.C. Boys Choir came about through an introduction by the son of Il Canale's Joe Ferruchio. Subsequently, Ms. Eleanor Stewart, the choir's founder and artistic director, asked Bruno to collaborate on two wonderful pieces - "Va pensiero" from the third act of Giuseppe Verdi's Nabucco and "Torna, o bella" from the second act of Orfeo and Euridice by Christopher Willibald Gluck and Ranieri de Calzabigi.

Bruno said the D.C. Boys Choir, which was founded in 1993, will perform for Pope Francis as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy. He noted that this will be the D.C. Boys Choir's 22nd year singing throughout the United States and abroad. The group, whose motto is "Striving for Excellence through Song," promotes cultural immersion and international exposure for these musically talented young male students.

The D.C. Boys Choir has had a long list of command performances from Harlem to the White House and throughout Europe, even representing the nation's capital in Beijing, China at the pre-Olympic Music Festival in 2008. If you would like to get more information or support the choir, please go to www.dcboyschoir.org.

Before meeting up with the D.C. Boys Choir over in Italy, Bruno will be making his annual spring trip to judge talent competitions. He left May 21 and will be judging competitions in Naples, Salerno, Milan, Rome and Varese.

We look forward to hearing from Bruno about the trip after he returns in mid-July. Buon viaggio!!

KEEPING THE TRADITIONS ALIVE

One of our community's important goals is to keep our heritage and traditions alive, and to this end, AMHS member Pino Cicala wrote an article in Italian that was published in the April 2015 *Voce Italiana* about a beautiful tradition of his hometown in Fiumedinisi, Sicily. The tradition was recently celebrated at Holy Rosary Church on March 22, 2015. Pino recalls the beautiful singing of the "*Evviva Maria*," a song especially mentioning Fiumedinisi devotion, and the velvet mantle on the statue of Maria Annunziata that is literally covered with jewels. (You can view the Fiumedinisi Vara on YouTube). We thought our readers would appreciate an

English translation of the article which was done by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member\). Maddalena's translation of Pino's article follows:

Italian Americans from Fiumedinisi Celebrate the Feast of Maria Annunziata



Once again this year, Italian Americans with ties to Fiumedinisi have come together to celebrate the feast of the Annunciation, recalling cherished memories of their Sicilian heritage. This secular celebration in Sicily was initiated in our nation's capital at Holy Rosary Church, thirty years ago by a group of native sons and daughters of Fiumedinisi or

"*Ciuminisani*". At this event the old and the young join a procession, carrying the statue of Maria Annunziata and singing "*Evviva Maria*."

In Fiumedinisi, following an ancient ritual that lasts several months, the faithful hold special events on the Saturdays preceding the feast of the Annunciation on March 25. These Saturdays are dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and the events include solemn Vespers and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On these Saturdays, various groups and traditional trade organizations sponsor the events in an effort to outdo each other in beauty, size and fervor. This is a competition in the spirit of shared faith, and a sign of the devotion that the people of Fiumedinisi have for the Blessed Mother under her title Maria Annunziata. Everyone plays a role: the poor, laborers, sharecroppers, artisans, farmers, shopkeepers and aristocrats.

These events culminate in a special communal celebration on the eve of the feast of the Annunciation, and on the feast day itself. On the vigil of the feast, the statue of the Virgin is taken in procession from the old country chapel, the "*Nunziatella*", near where Fiumedinisi borders the ancient maritime village of San Ferdinando. The faithful bear the statue to Fiumedinisi's "*Matrice*," or Mother Church, a basilica dedicated to Maria Annunziata. The devout cover the last leg of this sacred journey on their knees. As they press forward on their knees with the aid of canes, they carry candles to illuminate the path.

At the end of the procession, well into the evening, they enter the "*Matrice*", where the main altar is covered with a dazzling white cloth trimmed in gold and silver filigree, and precious candelabras, and the statue of the Annunziata is draped in a richly bejeweled velvet mantle. The Basilica was constructed as a gift of Queen Isabella, in memory of the contribution of 300 knights from Fiumedinisi who fought the French. On this special evening it is illuminated by thousands of blazing candles, as the congregation sings the "*Evviva Maria*".

On the day of the feast, the 25th of March, statues of Maria Annunziata and the Archangel Gabriel are borne through the

streets of the town, stopping at various “stations,” where elaborate ceramic plaques illustrate the story of the Annunciation. This event is vividly recalled at special intervals as the town celebrates the “*Festa della Vara*.”



The “*Vara*” is a specially designed platform on which actors representing Maria Annunziata, the Archangel Gabriel, and God the Father reenact the significance of this special feast in a dramatization inspired by the sacred works of Jacopone. Those filling these roles are chosen from among the young people of Fiumedinisi. The “*Vara*” is carried by hundreds of men who take pride in bearing this platform with such steadiness and precision that it seems to float through the streets.

Upon reaching the square in front of the Basilica, the bearers of the “*Vara*” enter the church to give thanks for having completed their sacred task without mishap. The enduring significance of this event can be seen in the number of individuals who return to Fiumedinisi from all over Italy and from distant lands to honor the Patroness of their birth place.

The “*Ciuminisani*” living in Washington, not able to return to Sicily, met at the Holy Rosary Church for a solemn Vesper to celebrate Maria’s “Be it unto me” (Lk, 1:38), and the first feast of Spring. They commemorated the feast in procession and in song.

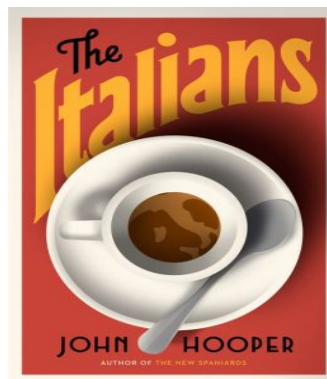
At the end of the liturgy Father Ezio Marchetto, the Pastor of Holy Rosary, reminded the congregation of the value of celebrating this special feast observed in Fiumedinisi. He also saluted the faithful for their devotion and urged them to keep the special tradition alive.

After the liturgy, those celebrating the feast gathered in the parish hall to savor the special desserts prepared by the ladies who preserve Fiumedinisi’s culinary tradition and converse in pure “*ciuminisano*”.



AN INVITATION

By Lucio D’Andrea



For a fascinating and interesting take on Italy, I suggest you read “*The Italians*”, by John Hooper. Mr. Hooper is a British correspondent stationed in Rome (he writes for *The Economist* and two British newspapers). Mr. Hooper draws on his many years of experience and observations of Italy and its people. He offers insight into the

country’s bewildering politics and their love of life and beauty.

No doubt some of us have read books about Italy and Italians by Italian authors such as Luigi Barzini and Beppe Severgnini, but “*The Italians*” is quite unique and special. “*The Italians*” is a wonderful journey into Italian life and culture. For an Italian like myself I learned a great deal about some unique aspects of Italy’s culture.

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

PIETRACAMELA, PROVINCE OF TERAMO, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti



Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

Pietracamela is a beautiful town in the heart of the Gran Sasso, in the midst of an astounding mountain landscape. It’s located at the foot of the Gran Sasso massif in the part known as the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park.

This small town has approximately 350 inhabitants, known as Pretaroli. Pietracamela has ancient origins, with the first settlement probably of Roman origins, when the shepherds lived in a hamlet called Pietra Cimmeria. The first record of the name Petra Camelis dates to the 15th century. Pietracamela may have gotten its name from the camel-shaped rock that overhangs the town.

Pietracamela developed after the year 1000 A.D. to defend and shelter the surrounding populations from continuing Barbarian invasions. In the Middle Ages, with the advent of the Angioini and the Aragonese, Pietracamela belonged to the Orsini family and then during the time of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, it came under the dominion of Emperor Charles V who ceded the municipalities in the valley to the Marquis De Alacron Fernando Mendoza, who with his heirs ruled the town until the abolition of feudalism.

The town maintains its medieval characteristics with cobbled streets, old fountains, narrow alleys and small churches. The Church of San Leucio is one of these beautiful small churches, and it is decorated with fantastic water animals in bas relief and two golden procession crosses. In the past, the economy was mostly based on raising sheep and making wool products. Nowadays the economy mostly relies on tourism. Pietracamela is located close to Prati di Tivo, a famous ski resort of the Gran Sasso located 1,450 meters above sea level with 6 kilometers of downhill ski tracks and cross-country ski trails. The town is well known to mountain lovers as a starting point for ascents to Pizzo d'Intermesoli, Corno Piccolo and Corno Grande. The Riserva Naturale Corno Grande di Pietracamela includes some of the most prominent areas of the national park, such as the Corno Grande, Corno Piccolo, Campo Pericoli and also the Calderone Glacier, Europe's southernmost glacier.

What to See

- Church of San Giovanni, from 1432, with a peculiar sail-shaped belltower
- Church of San Rocco, from the early 15th century, with a sculpted stone portal and precious holy water basin
- Church of San Leucio with an original 16th century stone "acquasantiera" Palazzo di Rianzo
- Church of Santa Maria Assunta from the 14th century

Important Dates

- August 15-16: Feast of Santa Maria and San Rocco

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietracamela>
<http://www.localidautore.com/paesi/pietracamela-1835.aspx>
<http://www.abruzzocitta.it/english/comuni/pietracamela.html>
<http://www.initalytoday.com/abruzzo/pietracamela/index.htm>
<http://www.sullaneve.it/localita-italiane/abruzzo/pietracamela.htm>
<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/teramo/pietracamel.htm>



PIETRACAMELA, PROVINCIA DI TERAMO, REGIONE ABRUZZO



Pietracamela è una bellissima cittadina, situata lungo una vallata alle pendici del Gran Sasso d'Italia, nel Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga.

Conta appena 350 abitanti, conosciuti come Pretaroli. Pietracamela ha antiche origini romane, quando dei pastori vi si stanziarono e la chiamarono pietra Cimmeria. Più tardi intorno al quindicesimo secolo, si chiamò Petra Camelis, forse grazie a una roccia che pende sul paesetto, dalla forma di un cammello.

Prese vita verso l'anno mille, quando divenne, per le popolazioni circostanti, un ricovero contro le continue invasioni barbariche. Nel Medioevo, con l'avvento degli Angioini e degli Aragonesi, venne a far parte dei beni della famiglia Orsini, e divenne in seguito, durante il regno delle due Sicilie, possedimento dell'Imperatore Carlo V, che la cedette più tardi al Marchese Fernando Mendoza, che la governò fino alla fine del Feudalesimo.

La cittadina conserva tuttora le sue caratteristiche medioevali con le sue strade pietrose, i suoi vicoli stretti e le sue chiesette decorate con animali in bassorilevo e grandi Crocefissi dorati, come la chiesa di San Leucio. La sua economia nel passato dipendeva dall'allevamento di pecore e dalla lavorazione della lana. Oggi è basata sul turismo. Situata nei pressi di Prati di Tivo, un centro di sci, a più di 1450 metri al di sopra del livello del mare, con quasi 6 km di magnifiche discese e magnifiche piste per praticare sci di fondo, la cittadina è famosa tra gli amanti della montagna sci, come punto di partenza nelle ascese verso Pizzo d'Intermesoli, verso Corno Piccolo e Corno Grande. La Riserva Naturale Corno Grande di Pietracamela include alcune delle più belle aree del Parco Nazionale, come Corno Piccolo, Corno Grande, Campo Pericoli e il ghiacciaio Calderone, il ghiacciaio più a sud dell'Europa.

Attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa di San Giovanni, costruita nel 1432, col suo strano campanile a forma di vela.
- La Chiesa di San Rocco, che risale al quindicesimo secolo, con un bellissimo portale in pietra scolpita, e con una preziosa acquasantiera.

- Chiesa di San Leucio con un'acquasantiera in pietra, risalente al sedicesimo secolo.
- La Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta risalente al quattordicesimo secolo.

Date da ricordare

- 15 e 16 agosto: Festa di Santa Maria e San Rocco

BUSSO, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea



The ancient town of Busso is located about 10 kilometers west of Campobasso and enjoys a fine view of the Bojano plains and the Matese massif. The town has approximately 1,445 inhabitants, known as Bussesi.

Architectural findings have been located in the vicinity indicating that in the Samnite period about 2,500 years ago, the ancient city was destroyed by the Romans in 293 B.C. A legend is connected to this event—that a Roman boy had fallen in love with a Samnite girl, who left the city door open at night to go and meet her lover but the Roman legions were ready to take advantage. She was killed in the attack and upon learning of her death, the young Roman killed himself and the whispers of the two lovers seeking each other can still be heard among the trees of the nearby Vairano forest.

In more recent times, the history of Busso shows that in the days of feudalism, the town was passed down beginning in Norman times to the families of the Count of Molise. From the 14th century, Busso belonged to families such as the D'Alife, Cantelmo, Galeota and Gaetani families.

Nowadays the town keeps the traditions alive as it celebrates feasts such as on June 25-26 (S. Giovanni and S. Paolo) and August 15-16 (Madonna del Carmine) which feature processions and evenings of music.

What to See

- Palazzo Ducale
- Church of Santa Maria del Carmine, from the 15th century (restored in 1828)

- Church of San Lorenzo, with paintings of the Neapolitan school

Important Dates

- January 17: Falò
- August 10: San Lorenzo, the patron saint

Sources:

<http://www.comune.busso.cb.it/hh/index.php>
<http://www.italyworldclub.com/molise/province-campobasso/busso.htm>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Busso>
<http://molisecitta.it/comuni/busso.html>

BUSSO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

L'antica cittadina di Busso si trova a circa 10 chilometri dal Capoluogo, Campobasso, e gode una magnifica vista delle pianure di Bojano e del massiccio del Matese.



Conta circa 1445 abitanti, conosciuti come Bussesi. Reperti archeologici rivelano che la cittadina risale al periodo dei Sanniti, 2500 anni addietro.

L'antica città fu poi distrutta dai Romani intorno all'anno 293 avanti Cristo. La leggenda vuole che una sannita si fosse innamorata di un romano, ed ogni sera la fanciulla lasciava la porta della città aperta perché il suo amore la visitasse di nottetempo. Ma le legioni romane, avanzando, scoprirono ed uccisero la ragazza. Il suo giovane innamorato, saputo della morte della sua beneamata, si tolse la vita. Ancora oggi, dice la leggenda, i sospiri dei due giovani, che continuano a cercarsi, si possono sentire fra gli alberi delle foreste circostanti.

Durante il periodo feudale la cittadina, dopo il periodo normanno, passò alle famiglie del conte Molise. Più tardi, dal quattordicesimo secolo, ebbe tra i suoi Signori i Dalife, i Cantelmo, i Galeota e le famiglie Gaetani

Oggi giorno la città mantiene le sue tradizioni e festeggia il 25 e il 26 giugno la festa di San Giovanni e San Paolo, e il 15 e il 16 agosto festeggia la Madonna del Carmine con processioni e concerti serali.

Attrazioni del luogo

- Il Palazzo Ducale
- La Chiesa di Santa Maria del Carmine, risalente al quindicesimo secolo e restaurata nel 1828
- La Chiesa di San Lorenzo con dipinti di scuola Napoletana

Date da ricordare:

- 17 gennaio: I Falò
- 10 agosto: San Lorenzo, il Patrono

THE MAY 31, 2015 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): Members and guests enjoy social time prior to the meeting. **Top (right):** AMHS members Sarah Scott, Elisa DiClemente, and Jim Mustachio.

Center (left): AMHS President Maria D'Andrea provides opening remarks. **Center (right):** The presentation of wine and a book on the history of Italian Americans in DC, to the speaker, Dr. Tyler Anbinder. The book was donated by Father Ezio Marchetto.

Bottom (left): AMHS members Rocco Caniglia and Albert Paolantonio help serve the scrumptious meal from Fontina Grille.

Bottom (right): The audience listens intently to Dr. Anbinder's presentation. *(Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).*

JUNE 14, 2015: ST. ANTHONY FESTIVAL, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



Top (left): John and Eileen Verna, a most adorable couple, get ready for the bus ride. **Top (right):** Members of the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club who joined us on the trip, Tricia Maltagliati, President, and Mei-Lin Lu, having a good laugh as we make the trip to Wilmington.

Center (left): The Church of St. Anthony of Padua, in all of its festive glory. **Center (right):** A float of St. Anthony of Assisi is prepared for the procession.

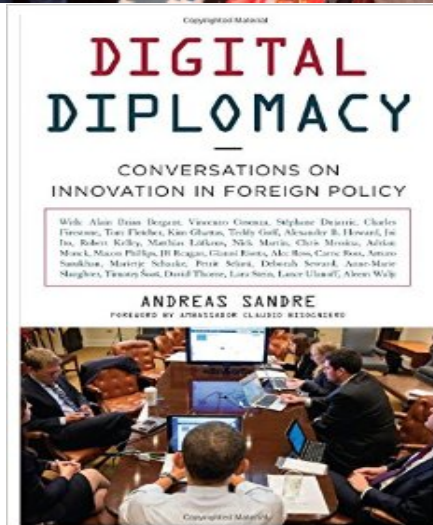
Bottom (left): AMHS members Maria D'Andrea, David Ciummo, Albert Paolantonio, Caroline Humer (friend of AMHS), Jeff Clark, and Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea seek relief from the heat. **Bottom (right):** AMHS members Luciana Caleb and Nancy DeSanti take a rest from all of the festivities, with friends Fidelma Giancone and Elisa and Olga Maher. *(Photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea).*



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



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

*Digital Diplomacy
in Foreign Policy*

Presented by
Andreas Sandre
Press and Public Affairs Officer
Embassy of Italy

WHEN: Sunday, July 26, 2015

TIME: 1:00 PM

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

MENU: Lunch will be catered by Three Brothers Italian Restaurant, MD, with a menu of spring chicken, tortellini rosé, rice, mixed vegetable medley, salad, bread and desserts with beverages (wine, water, coffee, and tea).

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

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY JULY 22, 2015**

PROGRAM: AMHS members, friends and guests, join us on July 26 to learn about the growing and important use of the Internet in foreign policy communications and development. Our speaker will be Andreas Sandre, Press and Public Affairs Officer, Embassy of Italy, who will talk with us about the impact that digital diplomacy is playing on national and international foreign relations. What difference is the Internet and social media tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Flickr making on policies and practices that affect education, health care, the economy and other critical topics? Come join us for what is sure to be a lively, interesting and novel program!

For information about the program, call Lourdes Tinajero, (202) 680-9348; for questions about the lunch and reservations, call Dr. Lynn Sorbara, (301) 466-2556.

✂-----Return with Payment

Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2015

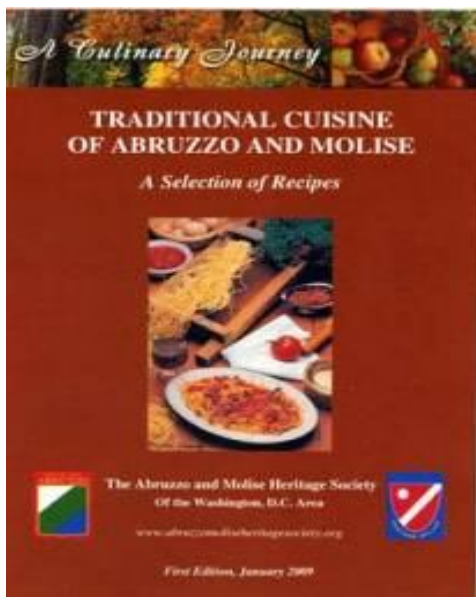
Please make check payable to AMHS.

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: _____



“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

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THE AMHS LOGO POLO SHIRT

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5660 Ridgeview Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310



The Ambassador

*Embassy of Italy
Washington*

May 12, 2015

1824

Dear Ms. d'Andrea,

Thank you for kind letter inviting me to attend the 15th Anniversary celebration of *The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society* of the Washington D.C. area, to be held on June 28, 2015.

I fully appreciate your Society's mission to develop and promote the cultural, social and educational heritage of Abruzzo and Molise, and am very glad that ties with the Embassy have grown and prospered over the years.

I am therefore sorry to inform you that I will be unable to attend this interesting event, due to a prior concurrent engagement, but am happy to inform that First Counselor Simon Carta will attend on my behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Claudio Bisogniero

President Maria d'Andrea
The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
of the Washington, D.C. Area
Alexandria, VA 22311





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



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015

Villa Rosa Nursing Home Grounds, Mitchellville, MD

ALL ARE WELCOME



Schedule of Activities

12:30 PM: *Ferragosto* begins

- Food
- Music
- Card games, e.g. briscola, tressette (*Please bring your own cards*)
- Bocce tournaments

5:00 PM: *Ferragosto* ends

Food and Drink

- Bring your own picnic basket of food
- Soft drinks, bottled water, beer, wine, and ice provided by AMHS
- Grills are available, charcoal provided by AMHS (you may wish to bring your own portable grill)

Directions

1. Take the US Route 50 East turnoff from the Capital Beltway I-95/I-495 going towards Annapolis.
2. Take Exit 8 onto Martin Luther King Highway, MD Route 704 North
3. Proceed on Route 704 about one-half mile to Forbes Boulevard (2nd light), turn right
4. Proceed to Lottsford Vista Road; turn right and proceed about ½ mile
5. Villa Rosa Nursing Home, 3800 Lottsford Vista Road, is on the right – look for entrance sign
6. Proceed past the nursing home building to the Festa grounds in the rear of the property; ample parking on the grassy areas near the Festa grounds (*please observe no parking areas*)

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT (A COVERED PAVILION IS AVAILABLE)

Tables and chairs are available. For your personal comfort and convenience, bring lawn chairs, card tables, blankets, etc. **For information & to RSVP, contact Lynn Sorbara (301) 466-2556 or Maria D'Andrea (703) 998-6097**



The
Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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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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