



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

Website: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



AMHS AND NIAF: STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONSHIP!



Top: Members of the AMHS Executive Committee with representatives of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF).

Bottom: The AMHS Scholarship Committee present our matching scholarship money to NIAF Director of Programs Gabriella Mileti. (photos courtesy of Joe Novello).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS: Sunday, May 31, 2015, general Society meeting, Casa Italiana; Sunday, June 28, 2015, 15th Anniversary celebration, Casa Italiana. See inside for details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friend,



I first want to wish everyone a Happy Spring. Tis the season of "fun in the sun" and the beautiful cherry blossoms.

We had another very successful general Society meeting on March 29: 69 members, friends and guests were treated to a wonderful family-style meal, with good conversation and laughter, followed by an informative presentation of footage from "The Italian Americans", the discussion of which was moderated by John Viola, President, The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). We were truly honored to have with us four representatives of the Foundation - John, Stephanie Gordon, Matthew DiMenna, and Gabriella Mileti, Director of Programs who runs the NIAF Scholarship Program. The discussion of the film was insightful and courteous, and, despite some differing views on the film and its content, we kept the discourse on-topic. The meeting also provided the Scholarship Committee the opportunity to deliver our \$4,000 check to NIAF for this year's scholarship awards. (Please be sure to read Nancy DeSanti's report on the March 29 meeting on page 3 of the *Notiziario*).

Having NIAF with us was one of the highlights of our meeting, given the invaluable relationship that we have with the Foundation. Many of you may not know that, at our Gala/Festa di Natale in December 2006, our Guest of Honor, John Salamone, who was then the Executive Director of NIAF, surprised us by gifting us with matching funds for our scholarship program. From 2007 through 2011, due to the joint funding with NIAF, AMHS was able to award two \$2,500 scholarships. In 2012, we were able to increase the awards to \$4,000 each, due to the generous contribution of our members. NIAF generously agreed to match this increased amount, thus making the two larger scholarships possible. And I am happy to report that through the current academic year, we have been able to sustain the award of two \$4,000 scholarships. We are incredibly grateful to NIAF for its continued support of our Scholarship program.

While we are on the topic of NIAF, I would like to remind you of their Affiliate program that allows members of other Italian American organizations to leverage the benefits of a national organization while still being affiliated with and involved with their respective organizations. For the price of \$25.00 per person, AMHS members will be affiliated with NIAF and will be given all of the benefits of a NIAF Associate Member, the cost of which - outside of this program - is \$50.00!. Twenty AMHS members have signed up for this program - we do hope to grow this number in the future. If you are an AMHS member interested in this opportunity, please see the membership form on page 15.

We will once again touch on the subject of Italian immigration at our May 31 meeting. Dr. Tyler Anbinder, a Professor of History at George Washington University, will talk to us about the history of Italian immigration to the United States, focusing on the period from 1880 to 1924, when more than 3 million Italians immigrated to the U.S. We will also vote on three (3) amendments to the AMHS bylaws, which were reported to you in the March issue of the *Notiziario*, and which have been reprinted in this issue - see below. Be sure to read Nancy's article on the program on page 3, and be sure to make your reservations early.

Plans are well underway for our 15th anniversary, which will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2015, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm in Casa Italiana. This event, for AMHS members only and a few invited guests, is to honor our members, officers, and supporters within the Italian American community. This promises to be a wonderful event. We hope each of you, through your invitation, will join us as we celebrate our accomplishments and our vision for the future.

In closing, I mentioned in the March issue of the *Notiziario* that we raised \$4,175 through our fundraising campaign for the Scholarship Endowment Fund. In the course of review of donors, we realized that we have not publicly recognized the donors to the Scholarship Endowment Fund and/or the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund since 2007, the last time we printed the donor names in the *Notiziario*. So on page 11 of this issue, we express our thanks to every person who has given to either of these Funds, through our formal fundraising campaigns, in 2008 through February 2015.

I look forward to seeing you at our next events, the general Society meeting on Sunday, May 31, and the 15th anniversary celebration on June 28.

Cordiali saluti,
Maria D'Andrea

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

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

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

Following is the full language of the three proposed amendments:

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

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

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

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

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

EARLY ITALIAN IMMIGRATION TOPIC OF MAY 31, 2015 MEETING

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

We are very pleased to have as our speaker at the May 31, 2015, meeting Dr. Tyler Anbinder, a professor at George Washington University and acclaimed author. At our third program of the year, Dr. Anbinder will talk to us about the history of Italian immigration to the United States, focusing on the period from 1880 to 1924, when more than 3 million Italians immigrated to the U.S.

Dr. Anbinder will use period photographs to illustrate his presentation, and he will look 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.

Our speaker is a specialist in 19th century American politics and the history of immigration and ethnicity in American life. He has written 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*" about the New York City neighborhood near present-day Little Italy and Chinatown, and a book entitled "*Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s*", about the role of the anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic Know Nothing party on the political crisis that led to the Civil War.

Dr. Anbinder also was a historical consultant to Martin Scorsese for the making of the movie, "The Gangs of New York."

AMHS members, friends and guests are cordially invited to the May 31 program at Casa Italiana at 1:00 p.m. The luncheon will be catered by Fontina Grille. Paid reservations must be received by May 27, 2015. Please make your reservations early and bring your family members and friends to what is sure to be a very interesting and enjoyable meeting.

AMHS 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Maria D'Andrea

On Sunday, June 28, 2015, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, AMHS will host a 15th anniversary celebration for members and a few invited guests. This event is intended to allow us to do the following:

- honor and recognize our members for their support throughout the years;
- pay tribute to the men and women who have served as officers and board members;
- recognize our scholarship recipients; and
- recognize the other Italian American organizations that we have partnered with over the years in support of various events and activities.

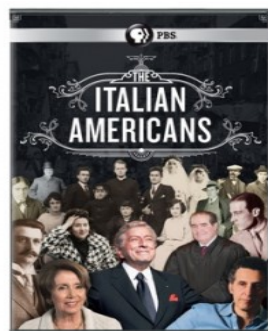
It is worth noting that 37% of our current membership joined in 2000 and 2001; 46% of our current membership have been with us for 10 years. These are remarkable statistics that show the Society has had a lasting impact on our community.

We will have heavy hors d'oeuvres (catered by Carmine's) and beverages. Music by our own Sergio Fresco! Invitations to this event will be mailed soon – so keep an eye out and come celebrate with us!

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

PBS IMMIGRATION SERIES SPARKS SPIRITED DISCUSSION AT OUR MARCH 29 MEETING

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs



AMHS' second program of the year featured a very interesting discussion on March 29, 2015, on the recent PBS series on the early immigration of Italians to America entitled "*The Italian Americans*."

Carmine's in Penn Quarter was the setting and everyone had a chance to socialize

with their friends over a glass of wine before enjoying a delicious lunch.

We were very pleased to have as our moderator the President of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), John Viola, who led the discussion after we watched some film clips from the series which had been narrated by actor Stanley Tucci. John was introduced by AMHS President Maria D'Andrea, who noted that John was an educator from Brooklyn who built a career in community leadership and development and who was elected president of NIAF in March 2013. In Brooklyn, John ran a non-profit education reform organization, where he created programs to foster the teaching of the Italian language to young Italian-Americans.

Maria gave a brief history of AMHS' relationship with NIAF on the joint scholarship program which dates back to 2006. This year's check for \$4,000 was handed to Gabriella Mileti, Director of Programs, by Maria together with AMHS Scholarship Committee members including Dick DiBuono (chairman), Peter Bell, Ray Bernero, Lourdes Tinajero and Ray LaVerghetta.

We were also pleased to have two other representatives of NIAF: Stephanie Gordon, Executive Assistant to the President, and Matthew DiMenna, Director of Fund Development.

At the beginning of our discussion, John told us that occasions such as this are "the best part of my job" - traveling all over to promote our heritage. He noted that viewership on PBS for the series was 47% higher than usual, which he said bodes well for getting funding for similar follow-up programming. In fact, John noted that a sequel to the PBS series is definitely under consideration.

John explained that NIAF first got involved with WETA and series director John Maggio about a year and a half ago.

AMHS member Joe Novello said he wondered why there wasn't more focus on immigrant success stories, such as Enrico Fermi for example. John responded that the time limit of 4 hours meant that the focus had to be on the overall community rather than more individual success stories. He added that the fact is that it's hard to condense all the stories and that's a good thing, and speaks to the richness of the immigrant experience.

A couple of attendees said they felt that the mafia influence was overstated, and AMHS Immediate Past President Dick DiBuono commented that the mafia was not discussed in the small towns in Massachusetts where his family settled. But AMHS member Kirstin Keppel, who spoke favorably about the PBS series, said it was a little different in the big cities, and she remembers her grandmother talking about "*la mano nera*" (the black hand).

AMHS member Nancy Coviello, whose family emigrated from Basilicata, also said she had a generally positive opinion of the series. She said growing up in New Jersey in the

1970's, she remembers well how her parents talked about Joe DiMaggio, and how Frank Sinatra was a superstar.

AMHS Board member Lynn Sorbara also had positive comments, and she commended NIAF for promoting the series to make our history more widely known. Lynn, whose family came from Sicily and settled in New York City in Little Italy and then Queens, said that when she did her undergraduate work at a Jewish institution in New York, she came to realize that Jewish people know their history very well, so why don't we?

AMHS member Deno Reed, whose parents emigrated from Calabria, noted that just like the duality noted in the PBS series, his parents were quiet outside their house. Outside the front door you were American and spoke English, and he remembers he felt a certain amount of prejudice in public schools. John commented that we need to remember that history during the current debate on immigration.

AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea said he thought that a lot more needs to be said, and John told us that NIAF just went to San Francisco to discuss "Chapter 2" with the network. The plan is for two one-hour pieces every year, working with John Maggio and some young filmmakers.

There is certainly a lot more to be said, as everyone agreed. AMHS Board member Peter Bell noted that he learned about Italian influence in the labor unions which the series touched on, but there is more of that story that needs to be told. And AMHS member Claudia Bagliere spoke movingly of being considered an enemy alien during World War II because she was born in Italy, despite being married to an American soldier.

At the conclusion of the program, Maria showed a beautiful mosaic made by AMHS member Antonio Bianchini. It took Antonio a month to make the mosaic of the ship *Leonardo da Vinci* which brought him here in 1965. Antonio's artistic training in Ravenna surely showed in this colorful, beautifully detailed work of art.

We would like to give special thanks to Hospitality Chair Lynn Sorbara for arranging the wonderful lunch at Carmine's. And of course our heartfelt thanks to John Viola and our other NIAF guests. Grazie mille!!

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Sarah Scott, 2nd Vice President - Membership

I am pleased to announce that our 2015 AMHS membership campaign is very successful! We are now 208 members and growing. I will send out reminders soon, but those who do not renew their prior membership will be placed on our inactive list *soon*. It is up to us all to encourage our friends to reactivate their memberships so they don't miss out on anything.

Although membership renewals are still coming in, we are focused on what is in store in 2015! There is something for all of us in the coming year. We all know someone who would benefit from the many enjoyable activities and opportunities for fellowship that AMHS offers, so let's get the word out.

We are using social networking and posting pictures of our events. 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: **Cathy Branciaroli and Nicholas Rossi!** As you always do, please **greet** our newest **members** and make them feel welcome.

Social Networking

AMHS is enthusiastically involved in social networking and we post pictures of our events online. Please take some time to visit our AMHS Facebook page and hit the "Like" button to follow our updates, <https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety>

Birthdays, Weddings, and Anniversaries

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

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

Birthdays

Compleanni a Maggio

Lucy Manzano, May 1; Darlene Palumbo Barnsby, May 3; Joanne Fusco, Anna Marie Scavetti, May 5; Samira May Badawi, Nancy Coviello, May 7; Joan Tengler, May 9; Samuel Amatucci, Joseph Scafetta Jr., May 10; Amy Antonelli, May 15; Jonathan DiMartino, Victor Ferrante, Kathryn Nudi, May 16; Robert Woolley, May 19; Peter Bell, May 20; Rocco Del Monaco, Giulia Michonski, May 21; Christine Smith, May 23; Attilio Manzano, May 24; Cristina Scalzitti, May 25; Agnes Sabatini DeMauro, May 26; Vince Ciccone, May 27; Susan Amatucci, Joan Marie Amatuzio, Jim De Santis, May 28; Ennio Di Tullio, Gaspare Tirabassi, May 29, and Renato Orcino, May 30.

Compleanni a Giugno

Beniamino Caniglia, June 4; Lucille Fusciello, Janet Marmura, Anita Morton, June 6; Joseph Lupo, June 9; Alberto L. Paolantonio, June 10; Giuseppe "Pino" Cicala, June 12; Raymond Scianella, June 13; Liliana Ceresini, June 14; Daniel Fusco, June 20, Rita Coyne, Judge Richard Marano, June 22; Christine Fusco Becaccio, Margaret Uglow, June 25; Omero Sabatini, June 26; Rita Orcino, June 28; and Helen Antonelli Free, June 30.

Anniversaries

Anniversari a Maggio

Joseph & Amy Profit D'Amico, May 1; Frank & Joyce Del Borrello, May 10; Rev. John V. DiBacco Jr., May 13 (ordination); Mario & Carmen Ciccone, May 27; William & Karen Berl, May 29.

Anniversari a Giugno

Beniamino & Delores Caniglia, June 2; Luigi & Silvana DeLuca, Omero & Belinda Sabatini, June 3; Michael & Theda Corrado, Massimo & Rosa Mazziotti, June 4; Joe & Tina Marchegiani, June 5; Lucio & Maria Marchegiani, June 9; Mauro & Elizabeth Chiaverini, June 11; Edward & Rita Coyne, Anthony & Elodia D'Onofrio, June 25; and Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, June 27.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

PINO CICALA MARKS 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Long-time AMHS member Pino Cicala recently marked 60 years of service to the Italian-American community in Washington, D.C. Pino officially marked the 60-year milestone on February 1. You may recall that Pino was recently honored by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) with a "Special Achievement Award in Community Leadership." During our March 29, 2015 program with NIAF President John Viola (see related article in this issue), AMHS President Maria D'Andrea noted that Pino was among the 16 Washington Italian-American leaders in initial meetings leading to the foundation of NIAF. And Pino, who is an architect in his other life, had a hand in the planning and organizing of the National Museum for Women in the Arts, which recently had a magnificent exhibition, "*Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea*," with paintings from the Vatican Museum, Uffizi Gallery and elsewhere. Bravo, Pino. Congratulations and keep up the good work!! (*submitted by Nancy DeSanti*).

(For more information you can go to the AMICO website. (<http://italianamericancommunications.org/>))

AMHS PAST PRESIDENT OMERO SABATINI HOSPITALIZED

AMHS Past President Omero Sabatini would like to thank AMHS members and friends for their prayers and get-well wishes. Omero has been hospitalized since January after falling at home, and he and his family are grateful for your concern and prayers. (*submitted by Nancy DeSanti*).

EXPO MILAN 2015 OPENS MAY 1

By Nancy DeSanti



The spotlight is shining brightly on Italy as Expo Milan

2015 is set to open May 1. Designed to make a powerful impact on the critical global issues of hunger and nutrition, the theme of this world's fair is "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life."

The event, which runs until October 31, is showcasing the most advanced innovations and technologies with participation by over 140 countries. The focus is on improving the lives of people while respecting the planet. Over 20 million visitors are expected, which will be a welcome boost to the economy of Italy.

Expo Milan 2015 is being built on 250 acres as a small city with streets featuring all kinds of restaurants, live concerts, performances by the world-famous Cirque du Soleil, and inspirational workshops and exhibitions around every corner. Many of the participating countries are building their own pavilions, so the event will truly show the best the world has to offer.

The USA pavilion is being constructed in the style of a barn, with a boardwalk made of wood from Coney Island. It will highlight the culinary culture, ingenuity and diversity of the United States.

The Vatican pavilion is ready, announcing "Not By Bread Alone" in a number of languages.

The Italian pavilion is at the crossroads of the entire world's fair. Its design is taken from ancient Rome and a simple cross, known as the "*Cardo*" delineates the form of the "town." The *Cardo* was the name given to the street running from north to south in ancient Roman cities and military camps, and it is reproduced in the Italian pavilion's main street. The *Cardo* is flanked by buildings and small squares designed to evoke the feel of a traditional Italian village. Visitors strolling through the *Cardo* will find foods typical of every region of Italy and a vast choice of 1,400 different kinds of wine to sample (for example, the island of Pantelleria is featuring its famous Zibibbo wine).

At the northern end of the *Cardo* is Lake Arena, a pond with pebbles at the bottom that create a mirrored effect. At the center of the pond sits a showpiece of the Italian pavilion, the Tree of Life, which is the highest structure on the site. The only building on the *Cardo* that will remain after the Expo is over is the Palazzo Italia, the unique building with a modern glass and concrete exterior, which is nearly zero-energy with many innovative features. The pavilion's architectural design is meant to resemble the shapes of branches in a thick forest. The entire outdoor surface and part of the interior consist of cement panels made from a new material developed in Italy called biodynamic cement—said to be the brainchild of 15 researchers and 12,500 hours of research, experiments and scale tests carried out in conjunction with the architects. The cement captures pollutants in the air and turns them into inert salts, and it is 80% made up of recycled aggregates, which makes it shinier than traditional white cement and also far more fluid, thus allowing builders to pour, stretch and bend it to achieve complex shapes such as those of Palazzo Italia - truly an amazing structure!! Also on the *Cardo*, there will be typical neighborhood markets, Renato Guttuso's painting of

the famous Vucciria street market in Palermo, enormous 3D interactive figures, and a chance to sign the Milan Charter which will be delivered to the U.N. Secretary General on October 16.

The *Cardo*'s cross street will feature the Lombardia region as well as the Coldiretti agricultural group's space which will have flooring made out of special material that simulates walking on bare earth. Coldiretti will feature pizza made with traditional specialties including buffalo mozzarella from Campania, Sorrento extra virgin olive oil, San Marzano tomatoes and Vesuvio cherry tomatoes - all protected under the European Union's system of geographical indications. Pizza consumption in Italy is second only to the U.S. In Italy, 5 million pizzas are baked every day but unfortunately authentic Italian ingredients are frequently not used.

According to Expo 2015 S.p.A. President Diana Bracco, "the *Cardo* will be fun, and I think it will be very full of crowds."

Since all the regions of Italy are showcasing their specialties, we wondered what the regions of Abruzzo and Molise were doing. Ennio DiTullio and Lucio D'Andrea found out for us.

For Abruzzo, the region sees it as "a unique occasion for valuing Abruzzo that boasts the title of 'Greenest Region of Europe,' thanks to its parks and protected nature reserves." The region's efforts are concentrated in Casa Abruzzo which will promote tourism and culture of the region. Many events and meetings are planned, such as the "*Palazzo delle Stelline*" on June 19 - a gala dinner featuring international chefs. From June 30 until July 5, workshops and cooking demonstrations will be presented by Abruzzo's catering schools. On July 8, during the "*Settimana del Protagonismo*," the "Feast of Return" will be celebrated, dedicated to Abruzzo's citizens around the world. In "*Chiostro Bramante*" on September 3-5, the focus will be on trade, design, fashion and wine.

For Molise, the region hopes to boost tourism by showcasing its ambiance, history and culture, gastronomy and folklore. Visitors can learn about the "*cammino dei tratture*," the ancient shepherds' trails which nowadays can be used for horseback riding, mountain biking and hiking, all done in a pastoral setting typical of Molise. In keeping with Expo's theme, the Molise exhibit will examine the properties and efficacy of herbs and natural products for the physical and psychological well-being of mankind. Visitors will also find out about sports and "*turismo naturalistico*," such as bicycling, canoeing, hiking, and excursions into the beautiful parks. Traditions and folklore typical of the Molise region, religious tourism, archaeology and paleontology will also be featured.

Meanwhile, along with the expected 20 million visitors to the Expo, many chefs are coming from all over the world. Expo Commissioner Giuseppe Sala commented that "there is an opening of restaurants in Milan that I never saw in the last 50 years." He added: "When we sell Expo, we sell Milan itself a lot and the things people ask us for are the Duomo, the Castle, the Last Supper and then there is all the glamour that happens around Milan," the fashion capital of Italy.

Sala noted that about 2,000 video cameras will be used as part of a massive security operation, 600 soldiers will be on duty, and there will be X-ray checks for all trucks entering the site, among other steps being taken to ensure security. As of last month, over 1 million tickets were sold in the U.S., 300,000 tickets were sold in Argentina, and there has been a huge response from Asia, especially China.

In honor of the world's fair, Italy is issuing a 2-euro commemorative coin dedicated to Milan Expo 2015. Italy is also issuing a 2-euro coin in honor of the 750th anniversary of the poet Dante Alighieri's birth. Dante, the author of the "Divine Comedy," is considered the father of the Italian language. Both of these coins will be legal tender throughout all the Eurozone countries.

If any of our members or friends will be going to the Expo, we would love to hear from you. And for anyone wishing to experience Milan Expo 2015, tickets are still available!!

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

CAPESTRANO, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member



The small town of Capistrano lies in the heart of Abruzzo in the valley of the Tirino river. It is located in a natural park, the Gran Sasso National Park and Monti della Laga. Capistrano is famous for the celebrated statue of the Capistrano Warrior and also for being the birthplace in the 14th century of one of the greatest Franciscan saints, St. John of Capistrano.

The town has approximately 1,120 inhabitants, known as Capestranesi. The name of the town probably derives from the Latin Caput Trium Amnium, meaning "origin of three rivers." It has been inhabited since antiquity, as evidenced by the many archaeological findings. In Roman times, the area flourished because the route to the Adriatic followed along the Tirino river. In the Middle Ages, the nearby settlements were

ruled by the monastery of San Pietro ad Oratorium founded by a Lombard king in 756 and preserving relics of St. Peter.

In more recent times, in 1934 a poor farmer, while tilling his land, stumbled across the now-world-famous statue of the Warrior of Capistrano. The statue is probably a funeral monument to an Italic king in the 6th century B.C. The statue is kept nowadays in the National Archaeological Museum in Chieti, and the originality and beauty of the statue have made it a symbol of Abruzzo.

The Warrior of Capistrano is a tall limestone statue which has traces of pink paint and features a hat with a huge brim and disk-type armor protecting the chest and back. The warrior has a short sword, knife and axe, and a short apron covering the back. After the discovery by the farmer, the subsequent investigation showed that the vineyard where the statue was found was situated atop an Iron Age cemetery. A statue of a woman warrior was found at the same site, and she is called the Lady of Capistrano.

Also worth seeing is the Piccolomini Castle built on a hill in the 13th century next to the Tirino river. The castle changed hands several times, eventually passing to a nephew of Pope Pius II who enlarged the castle with new towers and battlements. Eventually, the castle belonged to Charles III, the Bourbon King of Naples and the Two Sicilies, and in 1860, the castle passed to the Savoy King of Italy.

Capistrano's sister cities are Buda (part of Budapest, Hungary) and San Juan Capistrano in California. Many people know that there is a legend of the California town that involves the cliff swallows. The swallows leave Argentina on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, and return to Argentina on October 23, the former feast day of St. John of Capistrano. That calls to mind a saying in Italian, "una rondine non fa primavera" (one swallow does not make it spring).

What to See

- Piccolomini Castle, a majestic castle with two cylindrical towers and an inner courtyard with an ancient well
- Monastery of St. Francis, on a hill covered by olive trees facing the fortified town, erected by St. John of Capistrano, which now has a museum and library, with a beautiful frescoed cloister and precious relics of the saint

Important Dates

- May 13-15: Feast of St. John of Capistrano
- Early August: Trout festival (sagra della trota)

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capistrano>
<http://www.comunedicapistrano.it/>
https://www.google.com/search?q=warrior+of+capistrano&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-Address&oe=&gws_rd=ssl&hl=en&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ei=MUUVVZ_alISsogSnsIH4DA&ved=0CCQQsAQ&tbn=isch

CAPESTRANO, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Il Comune di Capestrano si trova nel cuore dell'Abruzzo, lungo la vallata del fiume Tirino. Sorge in un parco naturale, il parco nazionale del Gran Sasso e i monti della Laga. La cittadina è famosa per la statua del guerriero di Capestrano, e per aver dato i natali al più grande Santo francescano: San Giovanni di Capestrano.

Questo comune conta circa 1,120 abitanti, conosciuti come capestranesi. Molto probabilmente il nome viene dal latino: Caput Trium Amnium, cioè origine di tre fiumi. Da reperti archeologici si sa che il luogo fu abitato sin da tempi antichissimi. Fu centro molto popolato e fiorente in tempi romani, perché le vallate e i sentieri lungo il fiume Tirino conducevano direttamente all'Adriatico. Nel Medioevo, gli abitanti furono governati dal Monastero di San Pietro dell'Oratorio, eretto da un re lombardo nell'anno 756 e, detto Monastero, protegge tutt'ora le reliquie di San Pietro.

In tempi più recenti, nel 1934, un contadino, arando la terra, trovò i resti dell'ormai famoso guerriero di Capestrano. La statua, probabilmente un monumento funebre di un re italico del sesto secolo avanti Cristo, è oggi custodito nel museo archeologico di Chieti. L'originalità e la bellezza della statua costituiscono il simbolo dell'Abruzzo.



Il guerriero di Capestrano è una statua alta, in pietra calcarea, con tracce di colore rosa, un cappello dalla falda molto larga, e un'armatura per proteggere petto e spalle. Il guerriero ha una minuscola spada, ha un coltello, una scure, ed un

grembiule che copre le spalle. In seguito alla scoperta del contadino, fu condotta un'indagine che accertò che la vigna dove fu trovata la statua era un antico cimitero risalente all'Età del Ferro. Più tardi fu trovata la statua di una donna guerriero alla quale fu dato il nome di Signora di Capestrano.

Di grande interesse è anche il Castello Piccolomini, eretto nel tredicesimo secolo nei pressi del fiume Tirino. Questo castello cambiò padrone varie volte ed uno dei suoi abitanti fu un nipote del Papa Pio II, che lo allargò, lo restaurò, e costruì nuove torri e nuove ali di avvistamento. Più tardi appartenne a Carlo III, il re borbonico di Napoli e delle due Sicilie. Nel 1860 diventò proprietà dei Savoia, reali d'Italia.

Capestrano ha due città gemelle: Buda in Ungheria e San Juan Capistrano in California. Molti conoscono la leggenda sulle rondini: le rondini lasciano l'Argentina il 19 marzo, il giorno di San Giuseppe, e vi ritornano il 23 ottobre, il giorno della

festa di San Giovanni da Capestrano. Questo ci ricorda il famoso detto: una rondine non fa primavera.

Attrazioni del luogo:

- Il Castello Piccolomini con le sue torri, col cortile interno e l'antica cisterna
- Il Monastero di San Francesco su un sentiero coperto da alberi di ulivi, di fronte alla città fortificata, costruita da San Giovanni da Capestrano. con biblioteca e museo, contenenti affreschi e preziose reliquie di Santi

Date da ricordare:

- 13- 15: maggio festa di San Giovanni da Capestrano
- Inizio di agosto: La sagra della trota

MAFALDA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea



The picturesque town of Mafalda is located about 45 kilometers north of Campobasso, near the beautiful Adriatic coast. The town is known for the tradition of making the exquisite tombolo lace.

Mafalda has approximately 1,308 inhabitants, known as Mafaldesi. Like other small towns in Italy, Mafalda has seen a pattern of emigration, with a large number of emigrants settling in Argentina in the province of Mar del Plata where there is today a very active association of Mafaldesi.

The town was first mentioned in the 12th century, with the name of Trespaldum. In succeeding centuries, the town came under the dominion of the Piscielli, Caracciolo, and finally the Coppola families.

The town is known for its beautiful Church of Sant'Andrea Apostolo. The church was damaged twice by earthquakes - once in 1456 and again in 1805 - and each time it was restored, with further restoration after World War II. The material used for the belltower was extracted from local caves; the interior is in the baroque Neapolitan style, the large door is

bronze, and the panels show scenes from the Old and New Testament. The door was dedicated in 1999 in honor of the Jubilee Year 2000. The seat of the celebrant features a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and the altar is made of multicolored marble.

That this beautiful church survives at all, after such damage over the centuries, is surely a testament to the hard work and dedication of the people of Mafalda.

What to See

- Sanctuary of the Virgin Mary, on the Teglia mountain
- Iuliana Palace
- Church of Sant'Andrea

Important Dates

- May 12: San Nicola
- June 13: Sant'Antonio di Padova
- August 14: Madonna dell'Assunta
- Sept. 17: San Valentino, the patron saint
- November 28 - 29: Sant'Andrea

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafalda,_Molise

<http://moliscitta.it/comuni/mafalda.html>

<http://www.comune.mafalda.cb.it/storia-e-cultura/arte-e-monumenti/>

<http://www.comune.mafalda.cb.it/storia-e-cultura/cenni-storici/>

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

MAFALDA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE



La pittoresca cittadina di Mafalda si trova a circa 45 chilometri da Campobasso, lungo la bellissima costa adriatica.

Famosa per i suoi merletti a tombolo, conta circa 1308 abitanti, chiamati mafaldesi. Molti suoi abitanti sono emigrati, molti in Argentina, dove si trova un agglomeramento di mafaldesi nella provincia del Mar del Plata.

Di Mafalda si inizia a parlare nel dodicesimo secolo, quando era chiamata Trespaldum. Lungo i tempi fu governata dai Piscicelli, dai Caracciolo, e finalmente dalle famiglie Coppola.

È famosa per la bellissima chiesa dell'Apostolo Sant'Andrea. Detta chiesa è stata danneggiata da due terremoti: uno nel 1456 ed un altro nel 1805 ed ogni volta fu restaurata; con ulteriori restauri dopo la seconda guerra mondiale. Il materiale usato per il campanile viene da cave locali, e l'interno è in stile Barocco napoletano, il grande portale è in bronzo, e i suoi pannelli esibiscono scene tratte dal Vecchio Testamento.

La porta fu dedicata nel 1999 in occasione dell'Anno del Giubileo del 2000. Il seggio del celebrante rappresenta una colomba, simbolo dello Spirito Santo. L'altare è in marmo multicolore.

La sopravvivenza della bellissima Chiesa dopo danni di terremoti e guerra è testimonianza del duro lavoro e della devozione del popolo di Mafalda.

Attrazioni del luogo

- Santuario della Vergine Maria sulla montagna del Teglia
- Il palazzo Iuliani
- La Chiesa di Sant'Andrea

Date da ricordare

- 12 maggio: San Nicola
- 13 giugno: festa di Sant'Antonio di Padova
- 14 agosto: Madonna dell'Assunta
- 17 settembre: San Valentino Santo Patrono
- 28-29 novembre: Sant'Andrea

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELE PETRAROIA, VICE PRESIDENT, REGION OF MOLISE

By Maria D'Andrea

This year, the Society awarded honorary membership to Michele Petraroia, Vice-Presidente della Giunta Regionale, Molise, due in large part to his outreach and advocacy of the region abroad, specifically with Molisani organizations throughout the world. Michele recently sent us a message (see below), in which he takes the opportunity to convey his appreciation and praise for the work done by our Society. It is our hope that Counselor Petraroia will someday visit us in Washington.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

The officers, Board members, and Chairs of Standing Committees, specifically Genealogy, Hospitality, Social, and Travel, encourage all members to get involved in the work of the Society and have fun in the process! There are many occasions for which your assistance is needed, such as trip planning or special social events. Just get in touch with one of us and let us know that you can volunteer your time.

We also encourage all members to think about making a contribution to our bi-monthly newsletter. We love to hear from you, to share your news, your stories, your trips, etc. with the membership at large. So think about sending us your contributions – to Maria D'Andrea, at uva051985@comcast.net or to Maria Fresco, our Editor, at abruzzo_sicilia@hotmail.com.

*Alla cortese attenzione:
Presidente The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society
Maria D'Andrea
maria.dandrea@trade.gov*

Nel porgere un sentito ringraziamento per l'invito a partecipare al General Society Meeting in programma il 29 marzo 2015, colgo l'occasione per trasmettere un messaggio di apprezzamento e plauso istituzionale l'attività svolta dall'Associazione The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society.

Distinti saluti.

Campobasso, 30 marzo 2015

*L'Assessore
Michele Petraroia*

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMHS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND AND/OR THE AMHS
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
2008-2014**

The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society wishes to thank all members who donated to the Scholarship Endowment Fund and/or the Annual Scholarship Fund in any, or all of the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, through our formal fundraising campaigns. Your donations will enable us to make our scholarships available in perpetuity. Our sincerest thanks for your generosity.

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THE MARCH 29 MEETING: A FAMILY-STYLE MEAL IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY



Top (left) and (right): AMHS members Mark Lino, Diane Della-Loggia, Bianca Starace, Antonio Bianchini, Ted Cocca, Albert Paolantonio, Joann Novello, and Claudia Bagliere enjoy friendly conversation.

Center (left) and (right): AMHS members Elisa DiClemente, Angelo Puglisi, Rico Allegrino, and guest Philip McGuire also enjoy good conversation with friendly smiles all around.

Bottom (left): NIAF President John Viola addresses the audience, with AMHS President Maria D'Andrea.

(Right): The mosaic of the ship *Leonardo da Vinci*, by AMHS member and master mosaicist Antonio Bianchini. *(Photos courtesy of Joe Novello).*



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



Website: abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

*The Story of the Early Italian
Immigration to the United States*

Presented by

Dr. Tyler Anbinder

George Washington University

WHEN: Sunday, May 31, 2015

TIME: 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Casa Italiana

595 Third Street, NW | Washington, DC

MENU: Lunch will be catered by Fontina Grille with a menu of salad, pasta primavera, chicken with mushrooms in Marsala sauce, rice (gluten-free), bread and desserts with coffee, tea and wine.

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

**PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY MAY 27, 2015**

PROGRAM: AMHS members, friends and guests – be sure to join us to hear Dr. Tyler Anbinder, Professor of History at George Washington University and author, talk about the history of Italian immigration especially during the period from 1880 to 1924, a time when over 3 million Italians immigrated to the U.S. Dr. Anbinder has spoken and written extensively on the history of immigration and was a consultant for Martin Scorsese during the making of the movie, “The Gangs of New York.” Come join in what is sure to be a lively and interesting program!!

For information call Dr. Lynn Sorbara, (301) 926-7792
All are welcome!

✂----- Return with Payment

Reservation for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, May 31, 2015

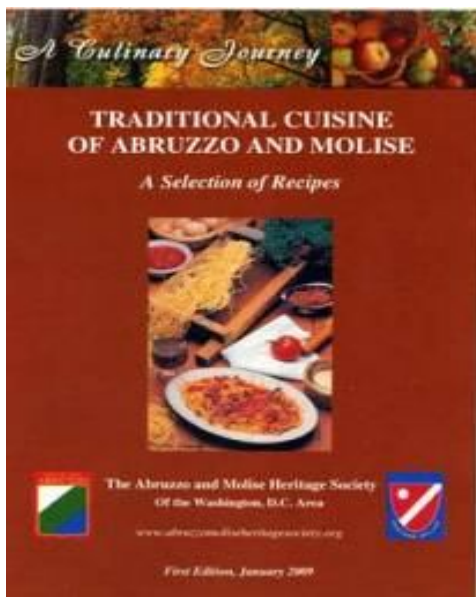
Please make check payable to AMHS.

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“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,
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NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION AFFILIATE PROGRAM

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

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

NIAF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE to AMHS

Mail this form, and the \$25.00 per person membership, to: AMHS
c/o Jeff Clark, Treasurer
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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

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

You may choose to receive the *Notiziario* by electronic mail (email) only. This will save on paper and postage and will allow you to get your copy more quickly. If you wish to select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea by email at uva051985@comcast.net 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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