



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS NOTIZIARIO

JANUARY 2016 – FELICE ANNO NUOVO!



Top: The four “porkateers”, from left Joe Novello, Rocco Caniglia, Vince Marinucci, and Ennio DiTullio prepare the porchetta for the Society’s November 15 general Society meeting. **Bottom:** The wine makers share their various vintages. (*photos courtesy of Sam Yothers*).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS: January 31, 2016 general Society meeting at Casa Italiana; Saturday, February 6, 2016, Carnevale at Casa Italiana. See inside for additional details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cari amici,

It is a most wondrous time of the year, as we prepare to ring in the New Year with family and friends. There is much that I am thankful for, including a very successful year for the

Society (AMHS), in large part due to your support and your generosity, especially those who have volunteered their time: the officers and the members and friends who have stepped up to help at general AMHS events and activities. I also wish to thank those of you who have donated and/or contributed to our scholarship fundraising campaigns, through the raffles and/or through the 2015 fundraising campaign. On a very personal note, I am incredibly excited that, on February 11, 2016, I will marry Sam Yothers, a wonderful, kind, considerate, passionate, and fun man. Although not Italian by birth, he certainly has been warmly and generously accepted into my family and the AMHS family. And I will be honored to have two amazing step-daughters, Lauren and Mara.

I have every expectation that 2016 will be yet another successful year for AMHS, through our affiliation with The National Italian American Foundation; an ever-increasing membership; our scholarship fundraising campaigns; new and exciting programs; and the new AMHS website that has firmly put us on the map both here, in the DC area, and in the regions of Abruzzo and Molise. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Directors to further the mission of AMHS, and to keep us on sound financial footing. I wish to thank Rosina Brienza Schacknies for serving on the Board this year, and for providing positive energy and input to the work of the EC. I also wish to thank Sarah Scott for her two years of service as the 2nd Vice President-Membership (and all the wonderful work she has done to promote and publicize Society events; thankfully Sarah will continue service to AMHS by serving on the Board); and to Jeff Clark, our Treasurer for the past two years, for doing a superb job in reporting on the financial health of the Society. Last but not least, I am very happy to report that Maria Fresco has agreed to serve one more year as AMHS Secretary. *Thank you Maria!*

To close, in the words of Albert Einstein, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow”. I wish each of you the many blessings of this holiday season, and peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Cordiali saluti,
Maria



Felice Anno Nuovo!

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

“THOSE BOMBASTIC ITALIAN VOLCANOES” TOPIC OF JANUARY 31, 2016 PROGRAM

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

We have a wonderful program to start off the New Year, so please mark January 31 on your calendar. “Those Bombastic Italian Volcanoes” is the intriguing subject and our speaker will be Barry Centini, a Ph.D. geologist who will tell us about how the geography of Italy impacted its history.

Dr. Centini taught geology at Emory University, worked with the U.S. Army and was a senior research engineer for SRI International. As you can tell by the title of his talk, he likes to add a little humor to a serious subject. According to AMHS former President Dick DiBuono, who has heard him speak, he has a wonderful way of imparting interesting information.

We will find out from Dr. Centini why Italy is the birthplace of volcanology and the reasons why Mount. Etna has the world’s largest period of documented eruptions. And we will learn how volcanic activity played a major role in Greek and Roman history. Of course besides Mount Etna, there are other famous volcanoes in Italy, such as Stromboli and Mount Vesuvius. Maybe we will also hear about how the island of Lipari (the largest of the Aeolian Islands north of Sicily) was created many thousands of years ago by a succession of four volcanic events. And, we may have a chance to learn more about the disastrous earthquake in L’Aquila in April 2009.

The topic is very relevant as we can see by the news reports in early December of a dramatic eruption of Mount Etna, the highest and most active volcano in Europe. This eruption, ranking among the most violent by Etna in decades, saw “fountains” reach heights of over 1 kilometer although some jets were as high as 3 kilometers above the summit of the volcano. Ash fell near Messina and even as far as Reggio Calabria on the mainland. And as you may know, it’s not a rare occurrence for the Catania airport - Italy’s third-busiest airport - to be shut down due to an eruption by Mt. Etna.

Before the program, we will install the 5 officers and 3 members of the Board who were elected at the November 15, 2015 meeting. Lunch will be prepared by AMHS board member Rocco Caniglia. Rocco has planned a wonderful menu for us, including pasta e fagioli, chicken, roast potatoes, salad, bread and desserts. And of course, wine.

So please plan to come and tell your family members and friends, and remember to make your paid reservations early by January 27, 2015. You can pay online by visiting the AMHS website, www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org, on the home page under Upcoming Events (you can pay by Mastercard and Visa). We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the safe and secure online option for your reservations, which will generate a confirmation email. **We will no longer accept payment at the door!** If you wish to pay by check, you do so by filling in the reservation form and mailing your payment to the AMHS Treasurer (be sure to look at the flyer for the meeting elsewhere in this issue of the *Notiziario*).

SAVE THE DATE - CARNEVALE 2016

by Maria D'Andrea



On Saturday, February 6, 2016, AMHS will partner with the Lucchesi nel Mondo - Tuscany Club, to co-host "Carnevale 2016", from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in Casa Italiana. The theme for Carnevale is "*Costumi di Carnevale*", which

lends itself to all sorts of wonderful and creative costume ideas. The event is open to adults and children. There will be food and drinks, a DJ, dancing, games (for adults and children), and costume prizes. The Carnevale planning committee is hard at work finalizing the details. Official invitations will be sent to our respective memberships in early January, and a flyer to promote the event will be ready early in the New Year. So please mark your calendars, hold the date and join us for what promises to be an evening of fun, good food and friendship. This will mark the third year of our partnership, which has resulted in a very successful event for our members and friends.

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 15 PORCHETTA LUNCH DRAWS A BIG CROWD!

By Nancy DeSanti

The AMHS annual wine-tasting and porchetta lunch once again turned out to be an outstanding success, with 109 members and friends attending and 17 winemakers participating—one of our best turnouts for this popular annual event.

Much credit must go to Joe Novello, who outdid himself with a delicious porchetta made from a recipe he developed himself over five years ago for family and friends. Some say it was his best porchetta ever!! Romeo Sabatini did his usual superb job organizing the winemakers. There were many varieties of wines to taste this year, made by Osvaldo Barsi, Carl Clinton, Raffaele DeGregorio, Stefano di Girolamo, Jim Gearing, Bill and Anne Marie Leali, Jack Grimaldi, Vince Marinucci, John Paul Maye, Joe and Joann Novello, Tony Ricche, Joseph Ruzzi, Jr., Romeo Sabatini, Darin Sobin and Wayne Witkowski.

After the wonderful lunch of porchetta, root vegetables and some delicious desserts, we had a short business meeting. President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea introduced the slate of candidates for officers and board members, selected by the nominating committee - Lucio D'Andrea, Ennio DiTullio and Lynn Sorbara. All were then elected by acclamation.

So in a couple of hours, we enjoyed good food, good wine and good company. And it's safe to say, no one went home hungry or thirsty. Father Ezio in his opening remarks noted the sad passing of our dear friend and longtime board member Deno Reed, and he noted that given the recent attacks in Paris, we are

fortunate to have a safe place to meet in fellowship and enjoy good times together.

Many thanks as always to Romeo Sabatini, all the winemakers, Joe Novello and everyone who helped make the event a big success, including Ennio DiTullio who helped carve the porchetta; and the hospitality committee members and volunteers including Peter Bell, Edvige D'Andrea, Elisa DiClemente, Trish Maltagliati, Sarah Scott, Helen Free and all those who helped with preparing the root vegetables and serving the lunch. It should be noted that Joe arrived early in the morning and prepared and stuffed the meats for the oven.

And thanks to all those who donated items for the raffle or bought tickets. Special thanks go to Romeo Sabatini and Joe Lupo who donated a free semester at the Casa Italiana Language School, which was won by Deno and Monica Reed's daughter Andrea, who said it was meant to be since her father always wanted her to study Italian. The raffle brought in \$296 for the scholarship fund. The winetasting and porchetta lunch netted the scholarship fund a total of \$1,919.65. Now the bar has really been raised high!!

Our thanks to all whose hard work made for such a successful event.

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Sarah Scott, 2nd Vice President - Membership

As 2015 draws to a close, I am pleased to announce that our membership is now 291 and growing. Your AMHS volunteers have been working diligently to find new and better ways to increase and energize our membership. AMHS offers many enjoyable activities and opportunities for fellowship to its members and we want to remain active and viable by getting the word out to like-minded people who are interested in preserving our Italian heritage in the Washington, DC area.

What better way to boost our membership and broaden our horizons to a larger audience than by promoting the benefits of AMHS via the internet and social networking sites? We recently launched our updated AMHS website (<http://abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org/>)! It looks fabulous and I recommend that everyone visit our society's new site! We also have a successful AMHS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety>) with hundreds of people, both here in the United States and Italy, following our posts. We promote our events on many local community calendars, and Passatempo Meetup encourages their membership to attend our events. We have had several new people join our events through this outreach and are pleased with the outcome.

Through our newly updated website, Meetup, and Facebook, we are reaching a new audience and providing an additional connection to our current members to make announcements, educate, and post pictures to share with our online friends as we enjoy fun events. Please feel free to join in the Facebook fun by hitting the "Like" button for our page!

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members: Carmine & Linda Carullo, John (Jack) & Julia Corrado, Sandra & Rial Coleman,

Laura & Lenny Crump, Angelo DeCecco & Julie Long, Amelia & Matthew Di Fiore, Paul & Katie Fazioloi, and Thomas & Stacey Novelli!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Compleanni a dicembre

Rosalie Ciccotelli, December 2; Alfred DelGrosso, December 4; Yoni Kay Caniglia, Roger Marella, Thomas Novelli, December 7; Angelo DeCecco, Loreta Mastrangelo, December 10; Ronald Ciarlo, December 11, William Lepore, December 12; Maria D'Andrea, December 13; John Trocciola, December 14; Cathy Branciaroli, December 16; Domenico Conti, Thomas Ricche, December 18; Sandra Coleman, December 19; Francesca Hurst, Carmine Spellane, December 20; Anna Isgro, December 21; Filomena Santini, December 23; Donald Fandetti, December 24; Brian Pasquino, December 25; Diane Della-Loggia, December 28; Margot Gilberg and Fr. Charles Zanoni, December 29.

Compleanni a gennaio

Paul Fazioli, Jeffrey Petrino, Carmela Ventresca, January 2; Francesca Orfila, January 3; Delores Caniglia, January 5; Lenny Crump, Rose DelBorrello, January 7; Americo S. Allegrino, Marilisa Battistella, Emma DiTullio, January 8; Carmine Carullo, January 10; Abraham Avidor, January 12; Monica Reed, January 18; Frank DelBorrello, Jacqueline D'Erme, January 19; John Villilo, January 20; Cecilia Fiermonte, January 21; Teresa Scalzo, January 22; Nicholas Campanelli, January 23; Bess DiTullio, January 24; Lois Sandri, January 25; Margherita Amatucci, January 26; Mary Kitsos, Cheryl Mitchell, January 27; and Geraldine Scott, January 31.

Anniversaries

Anniversari a dicembre

Ray & Michele LaVerghetta, December 11; and David & Cristina Scalzitti, December 27.

Anniversari a gennaio

Gaspare & Dolores Tirabassi, January 1; Ennio & Emma DiTullio, January 5; Attilio & Lucy Manzano, January 13; and Joseph & Lois Sandri, January 24.

YOUR AMHS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Richard DiBuono, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

Our Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society awards two \$4,000.00 scholarships annually, one to each of two students who are selected by our Scholarship Committee from a group of applicants who meet our scholarship program's criteria. Our Society and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) each fund half of the \$8,000.00 given out for these awards.

The criteria and instructions for submitting an application are provided on our Society's web site. Please, we urge you; take the time to go there to learn about the scholarship program. Although you will find no requirement for the student applicant to be either a member of our Society or even related to a member, we encourage our members to make their sons and daughters, grandchildren and relatives aware of this wonderful

program. Our co-sponsor, NIAF, does require the applicant or the applicant's parent(s) to be a member of its organization. Given, however, that AMHS members now also are NIAF members, *sons and daughters* of Society members automatically clear that hurdle.

The work of developing a list of eligible applicants, which involves informing area colleges and universities about the availability of the scholarships, receiving and reviewing student applications, evaluating which ones meet our joint AMHS and NIAF criteria, and confirming their credentials from the records of the applicants' schools and colleges, is performed for our Society by NIAF, which has a fulltime person on staff to conduct this important work. Finally, our Scholarship Committee selects the winners of the two scholarships from the list of eligible applicants.

Please see the companion article where you will learn about and hear from our 2015 scholarship winners. They make it clear how valuable and important our AMHS scholarships were to them.

Scholarship Committee members are: Peter Bell, Ray Bernero, Dick DiBuono, Ray LaVerghetta, Romeo Sabatini, Rosina Brienza-Schaknies and Lourdes Tinajero.

MEET OUR AMHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to present the winners of the two joint AMHS/NIAF Scholarships awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year. They are ***Christina Iovino*** of McLean, Virginia and ***Maria LaVerghetta*** of Columbia, Maryland. Both are exemplary scholars in the field of Italian studies who met and/or exceeded all of our scholarship eligibility requirements. The selections were made by the AMHS Scholarship Committee back in May and were first announced to the membership at that month's general Society luncheon meeting.



Christina Iovino

Christina is in her junior year at the University of Virginia where she is double majoring in Italian and Foreign Affairs. She is the daughter of Peter and Charlyn Iovino. Peter and his daughter, Christina, recently became members of our Society.



Maria LaVerghetta

At the time of her selection, Maria was in her senior year at the University of Maryland where she studied Italian language and history. She has graduated since then and now is in Italy pursuing a master's degree in foreign language education at the University of Perugia. Maria is the daughter of Raymond and Michele LaVerghetta, both of whom are members of our Society.

Letters from the Winners

Maria and Christina have sent letters to the Society in which they express their gratitude and tell of the benefits they are deriving from these scholarships. Following are transcriptions of their letters:

[Christina's letter]

Dear Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society,

I am beyond grateful to be the recipient of your generous scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year. This \$4000 scholarship will benefit my academic success and help me achieve my goals for the upcoming year. Your support means the world to me and I am so blessed to have such a wonderful group of Italians behind me!

As I enter my third year at the University of Virginia, I am preparing to study abroad for the fall semester in Siena, Italy. I am doing a homestay in order to immerse myself with the Italian language and culture. The opportunity to study in Italy is a dream come true and I feel so lucky to be able to have this chance during my undergraduate career. This past academic year, I declared my double majors: Italian and Foreign Affairs. I cherish the Italian language, as it helps me connect with my heritage on my paternal side of the family. I am so excited to spend four months immersing myself in my original roots.

My connection to the Abruzzo and Molise regions is strong, as my great-grandfather was born in the L'Aquila province of the Abruzzo region before coming to the United States. I like to think that I am carrying on his legacy by working hard to reach my goals and having the opportunity to study abroad in Italy.

Again, thank you for encouraging me to pursue my dreams and being a constant support system for me. I appreciate all that you do, and you all will forever have my sincerest thanks.

*Sincerely,
Christina Iovino*

[Maria's letter]

To the NIAF [and the] Abruzzo [and] Molise Heritage Society:

I want to thank you all for your generous contribution to my studies for the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year.

As I prepare for the start of my studies in Italian language and education, it is not an exaggeration to say that I would not be heading for the University of Perugia in Italy for those studies were it not for the generous scholarship of the NIAF[and the]Abruzzo [and] Molise Heritage Society. The additional expenses incurred through international travel, living abroad and studying at Italy's best-known university for teaching aspiring teachers of Italian would almost certainly have put my goals out of reach.

Our country's growing interest in Italian language and culture, and the Italian government's increasing interest in promoting them, will bear fruit and have impact only if there is a larger number of qualified teachers to meet the demand. The enlightened sponsorship of the NIAF Foundation and the Abruzzo [and] Molise Heritage Society are playing a key role in advancing our country's deeper familiarity with the Italian language and the culture surrounding it.

My Italian language education studies represent another step in a journey that began with my visit as a little girl to Vasto, a small town in Abruzzo nestled on the Adriatic coast. My parents first took me there when I was seven and it was exciting to see the town from which my great grandparents had emigrated. I was lucky enough to return to Vasto by myself at the age of eleven. I knew only a handful of Italian phrases, but I learned quite a few more. The joys and occasional frustration of trying to communicate inspired me to take Italian language courses formally at the first available opportunity. I maximized that opportunity at the University of Maryland, where I double majored in Italian and History. Subsequent visits to Vasto made it clear that my knowledge of Italian and understanding of Italian culture were growing. Thoughts of sharing my knowledge and passion began to cross my mind.

However, it was during my junior year semester in Rome that I realized that I wanted to share my passion of Italian by teaching it. Oddly enough, it happened while I was tutoring English on a volunteer basis at a local Roman high school. Of all my "teaching" moments, my experiences in those foreign language classrooms excited me the most. I knew then that I had to find a way to perfect my Italian language skills and to learn as much as I could about the best teaching practices and educational methodologies. I will start down that road at the University of Perugia and continue on with my ultimate goal at the University of Maryland's Graduate School of Education.

Goals and dreams are important. But it takes support and resources to make those dreams a reality. For me, the NIAF, the Abruzzo [and] Molise Heritage Society and their corporate sponsors have worked together to make it possible for me to be the best Italian language instructor that I can be.



SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

CONGRATULATIONS TO NONNA NARDELLA!



Newest grandchild Simon David Lloyd, Lana Nardella's 12th grandchild, was born on December 5, 2015. What a wonderful gift! He is the sixth child of Lana's daughter Ann and her husband Scott Lloyd. His siblings were thrilled to meet him!

THE PASSING OF AMHS MEMBER LOUIS DENO REED (NOVEMBER 14, 1927 - NOVEMBER 12, 2015)

On November 12, 2015, AMHS lost a dear friend and member, Louis Deno Reed. Many of you knew Deno Reed, who served on the Board of Directors for a few years, and was the "major domo" at AMHS general Society meetings, who would shepherd the members and guests in an orderly fashion for lunch service. We will miss you Deno.

The following are remarks excerpted by words of remembrance offered by Deno's daughter, Andrea Saturno-Sanjana, at the Memorial Mass for Deno, at Holy Trinity Church in Washington, DC on November 19:

In traditional European cultures, it is most respectful for children neither to address nor to describe their parents by their first names. I will break this sacrosanct rule, for Deno is...well, Deno. If there is anyone here who is neither grieving nor struggling with the loss from our midst of this great man, I would like to share even one iota of that person's strength.

When I graduated from National Cathedral School, the senior class had to select a parent to speak at the morning communion service to be held in the Washington National Cathedral. Whilst I was playing Pac-Man (and truant) at the Zebra Room, apparently my 78 classmates selected Deno by unanimous vote. At that time, it was not a common occurrence for an Italian Catholic to speak from the Canterbury Pulpit. So, when Deno turned up in his florid bow tie and opened his remarks with, "I would like to talk about the three women in my life," some of the more reserved ladies in attendance almost fell off of their delicately embroidered cushions. The three women in his life were his mother, his wife and his daughter, and Deno won this audience over with his message that women are indeed quite powerful - a well-received one at an all-girls school.

As I am Deno's daughter, and the product of a Jesuit education, I shall make three points. Curiosity. Perseverance. Compassion.

Curiosity. Ancora imparo. I am still learning. So curious was he about the world, Deno could not wait to go to school and so accompanied his older brother Bob to their Pennsylvania mining town's one-room schoolhouse. Deno graduated high school at age 15. During World War II, while working in the Speer

Carbon Factory, Deno invented a better way for brushes to clean the engines of B-26 bombers. Had it not been wartime, and had he not been 16 years old, Deno might have applied for a patent, such was its value to the war effort and to protecting the lives of countless heroes.



Deno (right) with his younger brother Dick

At age 17, Deno joined the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. He joined five of his brothers, who were all in active service at the same time in the European and Asian and Pacific theaters. Deno always talked with great pride about his "hero" younger brother, Dick, a United States Marine, who served in Korea, one of "The Chosin Few" who served at the brutal and grueling Chosin Reservoir, and who is here with us today.

Deno's curiosity led him to academic pursuits which extended well beyond his studies at Penn State, his Doctor of Science degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and his distinguished career in serving persons with disabilities in the United States and in over 50 countries. As well as a true academic, Deno was an autodidact polymath. At 9:30 Mass, when Father English wondered how an 11-year-old girl stated, without hesitation or prompting, that Pentecost was 50 days after Easter because pente means five in Greek, I simply declared, "because my Dad is a word freak."

Deno embraced every new technology and, in particular, saw the value of those which could enhance communication and understanding, such as Facebook and his iPhone. Deno also developed technology of his own as the Audiology Department of UNC-Chapel Hill and clinics from Gallaudet to Guinea can attest. Most often, this curiosity led to a penchant for improving situations, which sometimes meant changing entire systems. During the 1950's, Deno and his colleagues - respected audiologists, physicians and scientists - held an academic conference at a hotel in one of the Carolinas. When they arrived, they were informed that all persons of color - including some of those same respected audiologists, physicians and scientists - would need to enter separately through the back via the kitchen. Well, this simply was unacceptable. Deno made perfectly clear (and with absolutely no back-up plan whatsoever) that either all would enter through the lobby together, or they would hold the conference elsewhere. So, they all entered the lobby together, arms linked, and yet another place was desegregated on that day during the Civil Rights Era. *"Se vogliamo che tutto rimanga come è, bisogna che tutto*

cambi.” “If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change.” -Il Gattopardo (The Leopard) (1958), Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (Italian writer, 1896-1957)



Deno & Monica Reed on their wedding day

Bombay, Beirut - and that's just the B's. Upon her return to Washington, her older sister suggested she look up that “nice, Deno Reed boy” who was then studying at Johns Hopkins. They were married six weeks later on November 24, 1956 - over a decade after Deno had first proposed. Next Tuesday (November 26), they would have been married 59 years. Most people who met them as a couple knew how close they were. Their innovations in making the Holy Trinity Marriage Preparation Program relevant for contemporary couples came from the heart and from the head - and from experience. Deno firmly believed that perseverance does pay, and he cherished Monica and the hard-won “yes” he finally received.

Compassion. Because Deno approached every activity with genuine compassion, he often could not fathom why everyone else could not see what was clearly needed to improve the lives of others. He often used his sense of humor to cajole others to get on board. Just after joining the Navy, on the night train to Camp Peary, Deno learned that some of his fellow enlistees could not read. So, he taught them how to read. Deno hired the first deaf intern in Federal Government - a young man named Frank Bowe, who went on to become the first deaf person to earn a PhD as well as an author, a teacher and an activist. Whenever I see a curb cut - the concrete ramp which links the sidewalk to the street - I am reminded that during discussions before the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Deno pointed out that such access would benefit skateboarders, babies in prams and bicyclists, as well as wheelchair users. Despite being a natural teacher, healer and leader, Deno always felt others taught him more than any knowledge he could impart. He especially enjoyed the idealism and energy of young people. One Tuesday, Deno came home from a day at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he spent time as one of the “Bow-Tie Boys” offering encouragement and cheer to the young patients newly returned from Afghanistan and Iraq. Deno insisted I stop what I was doing to watch the Naval Midshipmen's rendition of K-pop artist Psy's “Gangnam Style”, a world-wide YouTube hit the patients had shared with him. Definitely not your average octogenarian.

Perseverance. Deno and Monica knew each other as children growing up in adjoining towns. Deno proposed to her before he headed off to the Navy, and Monica said (clearly, I am paraphrasing here), “I want to see the world first.” And so she did. Monica flew to the Philippines at age 19 to serve her country in the field of civil aviation. She traveled widely - Bangkok,

Faith and Science were both important to Deno. From the terminology of Faith, Deno was *entheos*, or sparked by God. From the terminology of Science, academics right across the street at Georgetown University have identified extreme altruists. Deno was just one such extreme altruist.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CLAUDIA BAGLIERE (OCTOBER 18, 1921 – DECEMBER 7, 2015)



On Monday, December 7, 2015, long-time AMHS member Claudia Bagliere passed away at the age of 94! Claudia, the mother of AMHS member Joann Novello, was born in Montemitro, province of Campobasso in the region of Molise. She immigrated to the United States at the age of 16. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, John, and is survived by her daughter, Joann (Joseph) Novello, her four cherished grandchildren, Katherine

Novello (Joshua Kandies), Stephanie (Jason) Caccamo, Laura (Marco) Fuggitti, and Peter John Novello. In recent years, Claudia tremendously enjoyed being a loving great-grandmother to Jack and Claudia Kandies, Dominic and Vincent Caccamo, and Gianna and Liliana Fuggitti. May she rest in in peace, and may perpetual light shine upon her.

The family has requested, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made in Claudia's honor to the AMHS Grant and Scholarship Fund or the Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The following tribute was written by Claudia's granddaughter Stephanie, and was shared with family and friends who attended the memorial Mass for Claudia at Holy Rosary Church on Saturday, December 12:

My Grandmother

When I think of a word to describe my grandmother, the word I think of is indomitable. She came to this country when she was 16. She seized the opportunity when her older sister decided to stay in Italy. She said yes when many others would have made the safe choice and said no. She left her mother, sister, and brother behind to go to half a world away with a father she did not know very well. Because she did not speak the language, she was put in school with children much younger than she and teased mercilessly. Some of her cousins in Pittsburgh were unkind because they were jealous of the lost attention from my great-grandfather. She was physically struck down by a streetcar on Pittsburgh and she literally picked herself up, dusted herself off, and persevered.

She left Pittsburgh and went to New Jersey to live with her uncle, where she met her husband, my grandfather John. She survived the Great Depression and World War II as an enemy

alien in this country and with a husband fighting overseas. But my grandfather came home safe from the war, they had a daughter, my mother, Joann, and they built a life together in New Jersey through hard work and determination. Together, my grandmother and grandfather, an immigrant and first generation American, both with no more than an eighth grade education, scrimped and saved and sent my mother to college. They saw her continue onto graduate school and begin a career teaching college. They saw her marry and welcomed three granddaughters, Katherine, myself, and Laura, whom they doted on and adored. When tragedy struck in 1984 and we lost my grandfather suddenly, my grandmother endured the unendurable. And with a true immigrant's spirit, at the age of 66, she left family and friends in New Jersey to start fresh in Maryland to be closer to her daughter and granddaughters. Shortly thereafter, she greeted the birth of my brother, whom she always called Peter John, with great happiness.

Over nearly 30 years, she built a life for herself in Maryland, focusing on friends and family and devoting her time to the handicrafts she so loved to make. She showed her love for others in the things she made with her hands. Who here does not have one of her blankets, quilts, woodcarvings, or ceramics, to name just a few of the things she excelled at making – probably not many. And it was not just handicrafts, but food. Who could forget her homemade pasta, pizza, fried bows, pizzelle, spinach pie, or pizza rustica? The thought of the fried dough she made every Christmas Eve brings back a flood of wonderful memories.

For so many years we were lucky to have her as a constant, vibrant, loving, and spirited presence in our lives. Over the years, she saw many family and friends pass out of her life, but she never let it get the better of her. She focused instead on the joy of watching her granddaughters marry and have families of their own, and welcoming six great-grandchildren: Jack, Dominic, Gianna, Claudia, Vincent, and Liliana. My grandmother, Claudia Bagliere, was one of the strongest women I know. She was truly indomitable and her legacy will live on in her daughter, her grandchildren, and the great-grandchildren she so loved.

LOOK AT THESE SPRITELY ELVES!



and friends. LaBefana was also present for the occasion. As grandparents themselves, Lucio & Edvige are witness to the

Our own Lucio and Edvige D'Andrea were once again invited by the Italian Cultural Society (ICS) to take part in the Society's Festa di Natale on Sunday, December 15. (Lucio & Edvige have been members of ICS for over 55 years!). They assisted Babbo di Natale (Santa Claus) as "Folletti" (elves) in the distribution of gifts to the children. This year's Festa was a very joyous occasion with over 100 members, guests

pure joy that children express when presented with gifts. *(submitted by Lucio D'Andrea).*

FINDING MY ROOTS IN VILLAVALLELONGA

This semester I am studying Classics and Latin at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome as part of a year abroad from the University of Rochester. Classics and Latin have been a lifelong passion of mine, and I've been able to fulfill them and more in Italy this semester. But I also came to Italy wanting to learn more about my own family's history in Italy.

So, on one of our free weekends, I took the train to Avezzano in Abruzzo, and from there the bus to Villavallelonga. Without a plan, I walked into the first convenience store I could find and asked the shopkeeper if there was anyone in town with the surname di Sarra. He pointed me in the direction of the town bar, where I could find the owner of the only operating hotel in town. After I settled into the hotel, I went to the only restaurant in town for dinner. The waitress and her husband, of course, asked why an American had come all this way to Villavallelonga, and I explained I was there to find di Sarras. It turned out the waitress' mother, the cook of the restaurant, was a di Sarra. I learned how small this town really was.



The next day, November 14, was the town's Veterans Day celebration. Villavallelonga lost a lot of young men in WWI, including a great-uncle I never knew I had. There was a shrine for every fallen soldier, still tended by their closest living relative. The one for my great-uncle was tended by my closest relatives in town, the only people still with the name di Sarra. I met my mom's second cousin, Maria, and my third cousin,

Antonio. They immediately took me in like we'd always known each other, and we shared pictures and stories. Then they treated me to a generous Sunday lunch that tasted exactly like my mom makes it, and then gave me a tour of the town and its surroundings. It was just like visiting family in Rochester when I was younger. And just like when I visit family now, they sent me off with leftovers, but also a new connection I never knew I had. *(submitted by Adam Kadir, son of AMHS member Sue Tomasso).*

MEMBER ON THE MOVE: OMERO SABATINI

AMHS Past President Omero Sabatini would like members and friends to know that he moved recently and should you wish or need to contact him, here is his new contact information: His E-mail address is omero.sabatini@verizon.net, his new phone number is (703) 658-3120, and his new address is 4002 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22312. Omero has been in and out of hospitals and rehabilitation centers for about a year now, and is still recovering from a long illness and a couple of broken bones (wrist and neck). I am sure he would like to hear from his AMHS friends. *(submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

WHAT A TRIP: DISCOVERING ITALIAN RENAISSANCE CERAMICS IN ABRUZZO

Written By Carma Fountleroy; Photography by AMHS Member Nancy Coviello

Who: Students of Maestro Roberto Paolinelli at Casa Italiana School

Where, when, why: For more than a decade, Maestro Roberto has been teaching Italian Renaissance Castelli-style ceramic painting at Casa Italiana in Washington, DC. For a million different reasons, before 2015 it was not possible for Maestro Roberto to accompany a student group to Italy. This year he agreed to accompany students to his hometown of Pescara, region of Abruzzo, where he was a professional artist and gallerist until his retirement to Northern Virginia. Roberto, along with his brother, artist Albano Paolinelli, guided students to ceramics museums and artists' workshops throughout the provinces of Pescara and Chieti in Abruzzo.



The Casa Italian student group with Maestro Roberto Paolinelli (front row, 2nd from left), inside the Acerbo Museum. AMHS members Nancy Coviello front left, and David Ciummo, center back row.

due to scheduling, as three of the museums are in very small towns and usually only open on Saturday and Sunday, but since we needed to visit on Thursday or Friday they made an exception. The welcome at each of these places could not have been warmer or more enthusiastic. We started with the Acerbo Museum in Loreto Apertino. The displays were breath-taking examples of the work of Francisco Grue, considered by many to be the all-time master of the Castelli-style of painting. Next we visited another ceramic center, the village of Rapino. There we were met at the museum by a resident and enthusiastic guide, Antonella. This museum also has a school which offers ceramic workshops throughout the year. Our next museum stop was in Castelli where the collection holds not only wonderful examples of traditional Castelli ceramics, but also some of the original ceiling tiles from the Church of San Donato. Our final museum visit was to the Paparella Treccia-Devlet Museum in Pescara which was closed due to a change in special exhibitions. The museum agreed to open specially on Saturday morning for our group to visit. It is housed in a lovely preserved Palazzo in

downtown Pescara. It has a wide-ranging collection of Castelli ceramics.

Another highlight was the visit to the ceramic studios of working artists. While visiting both Castelli and Rapino it was obvious due to empty shops that such studios are in decline - the ones we visited had extremely talented working artists. Highlights included Antonio Di Simone in Castelli and Giovannina Tosca in Rapino; she has a Facebook page with lots of images of her work.

How unexpected: Many students previously and regularly traveled to Italy's historic tourist destinations, always finding young people who spoke English. Not in Abruzzo and not in Pescara where Italians spend seaside holidays. How refreshing to spend a week where English wasn't spoken ubiquitously. At one highly recommended seafood restaurant, the 20s-something staff brought out their tablets to provide Google translations of their fresh daily menu.

Fondest memento or memory: There were many wonderful moments, so it is hard to select just one. One fond memory is our visit to the Castelli Bottega, or Studio of Antonio Di Simone, who has spent a lifetime practicing and mastering Castelli ceramics; during our tour of his workshop, he showed us ceramic moulds from his grandfather's time (the 1870s); the Church of San Donato in Castelli; and the meal we shared in the home of Albano and Gabriella Paolinelli where we were fed delicious local dishes and showered with warm hospitality.

Want to take a class? For information on the ceramic classes taught at Casa Italiana, see their website at: <http://www.casaitalianaschool.org/> or call the school at (202) 638-1348.

VIENE DAI BOSCHI DI ROSELLO L'ABETE DI PIAZZA SAN PIETRO



Pietro, in onore del Papa. Ad annunciarlo è il Consigliere regionale **Alessio Monaco** (Regione Facile), che è anche Vice Sindaco del piccolo Comune della provincia di Chieti.

“La Segreteria di Stato vaticana – spiega Monaco – ce lo ha comunicato in questi giorni con una nota ufficiale. E' stata una grande emozione per la nostra comunità, una gioia da condividere con tutti gli abruzzesi, perché è la prima volta che all'Abruzzo riceve un grande onore come questo, in passato riservato soprattutto agli Stati nazionali e non alle singole Regioni“.

A dicembre dello scorso anno Monaco aveva partecipato all'udienza generale del mercoledì di Papa Francesco, donando

al Pontefice un'icona della Madonna delle Grazie di Rosello.
Sito: www.ecoaltomolise.net.

THE SPRUCE OF SAINT PETER'S SQUARE WILL COME FROM THE WOODS OF ROSELLO

It will be Abruzzo, and precisely Rosello, that in 2022 will donate the Christmas tree that every year adorns Saint Peter Square in honor of the Pope. Such news was given by the Regional Counsellor Alessio Monaco, who is also Vice Mayor of this small town in the province of Chieti.

"The Vatican Secretary of State - explains Monaco - informed us recently with an official note. It was exciting news for our town, a joy to share with all the people of Abruzzo, because it is the first time that Abruzzo receives such an honor which in the past was reserved for nations and not for individual regions".

In December of 2014, Monaco participated in the Wednesday general audience given by Pope Francis, and donated to the Pope an image of the *Madonna delle Grazie* of Rosello.

(article provided by AMHS member Ennio DiTullio, with English translation by AMHS member Romeo Sabatini)

ADVENTURES AT THE MILAN EXPO AND SO MUCH MORE!!

By Nancy DeSanti

The highlight of my recent trip to Italy was the Milan Expo 2015, the World's Fair which drew over 21 million visitors with its pavilions from over 140 countries. This was an unforgettable experience which I described in the November 2015 *Notiziario*. In September, I had joined a group of mostly National Italian American Foundation members from New York and New Jersey and flew to Milan on Alitalia, staying first in Biella, a textile center near Milan that lies in the foothills of the Alps, and then in Como on the famous lake which at one point is a 5-minute drive from the Swiss border.

And while the Expo was definitely an extraordinary experience, the trip was so much more, it turned out. After arriving in Milan's Malpensa airport, we went straight to Biella, in the Piemonte region, about an hour outside Milan where we stayed at the centrally located Hotel Astoria Biella across the street from La Lucciola pizzeria (yes, really!!). Biella is the capital of the province of the same name famous for its textiles and so we visited an outlet known for its fine cashmere and wool products. The area has lots of green hills and mountains, with many tall trees including beech.

We took our first day trip to nearby Oropa, to see the Santuario di Oropa dedicated to the Black Madonna (Vergine Nera). We learned that the Sacro Monte di Oropa is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As we approached, we noticed that behind the church is a big mountain which was shrouded in fog that day. Legend has it that a black wooden statue of the Virgin Mary carved by St. Luke was found in Jerusalem and carried to Oropa in the 4th century. The statue of the black Madonna has been venerated for centuries, and the town of Biella made a vow during the 17th century plague when the town was not infected, and from then on, the townspeople make a pilgrimage to the sanctuary every year. The sanctuary gets over 800,000 visitors each year, and has austere suites available for those who wish to

enjoy the quiet serenity. Our guide noted that visitors are mostly foreigners because it's "too quiet" for Italians. Inside the museum, you can see the preserved lavish bedrooms of the King and Queen of Savoy. The Museo del Tesoro holds vestments of velvet and silk with gold and silver threads, and a vault room with fabulous jeweled crowns. Outside is a church with black marble columns and granite with the House of Savoy coat of arms.

We took another day trip to Candelo, to see the Ricetto di Candelo fortress dating from the 13th century. We learned that most fortresses in the area were damaged or destroyed but this one survived since the Middle Ages as an example of fortification against invading foreign soldiers. Watchtowers guarded the townspeople who kept their food and livestock protected inside the ricetto. During peacetime, it served as a storage place. While we were there, we had a chance to see the whimsical arts and crafts and enjoy the local band playing in the street in front of a small but appreciative crowd.



The Passion Play in Sordevolo

The next night we made a trip to Sordevolo, which turned out to be a highlight of the trip. Every 5 years, on weekends from June to September, the town puts on the Passion Play—a tradition that began 200 years ago. The 400 actors are all townspeople, and the chariots, horses and Roman centurions are very impressive. The costumes are all made by volunteers. Before the play starts, there is a colorful procession through the town with the horses, chariots, and actors. The money collected all goes to charity—only the horses are paid for. About 500 townspeople are involved in the play, and even the little kids play angels and devils.

Before the play began, the emcee acknowledged groups in the audience from Egypt, Japan, Spain and the U.S. (including a large number from Brooklyn). The play lasted 3 hours, and the audience of about 2,500 was mesmerized as the story unfolded. The actors played their roles with such emotion that many in the audience were in tears, like when "Judas" realized what he had done for the 30 pieces of silver and threw himself down on the ground sobbing, and when "Peter" denied Jesus 3 times before the cock crowed. At the end of this amazing performance, the audience gave the cast a rousing standing ovation, and everyone was invited to come down to the stage and meet the actors and take pictures (there was an especially warm welcome for the group from Cairo). Our guide for the evening was one of the townspeople who normally takes part in the play, and she told us that "Jesus" spends half the year as a surfing instructor in Indonesia and "Mary" is an office worker in the town. The evening was surely one to remember!! The official website

<http://www.passionedicristo.org/> gives many details of the event that just ended, while noting “Arrivederci al 2015.”

Of course, we could not go to the Milan Expo without going to the nearby city of Milan, the capital of Lombardia and the financial and fashion capital of Italy. So we spent a day visiting some of the places for which the city is justly famous. Naturally, we had to go to the Duomo, and this time the beautiful cathedral was guarded by Alpini soldiers who did the security checks on everyone entering. The weather was perfect for enjoying a gelato outdoors while listening to the street musicians on the steps of the Duomo. And of course we had to see the Teatro della Scala museum which is just a stone’s throw from the cathedral. The La Scala museum is full of costumes, paintings and busts of the famous opera singers. We were lucky enough to be there while a dress rehearsal of the ballet “Sleeping Beauty” was taking place, so they let us in 4 at a time to see the dancers rehearsing.

Afterwards, we went down the street to the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the oldest enclosed shopping center in the world. The beautiful windows of the Versace, Prada, Louis Vuitton and other stores were drawing in lots of shoppers, and in the middle of the Galleria, there was a fashion shoot going on with a bride and groom who would surely win the title of best-dressed at any wedding. And nearby was the famous “bull of Torino,” a mosaic of a bull on the floor. Many people were making the 3 clockwise turns on the bull for good luck, while their friends took pictures.

On another day, we went to Trivero to the Casa Zegna museum, which showcases the designs of Ermenegildo Zegna. He founded the menswear company famous for using the world’s finest textiles. We learned how the company goes all over the world searching for the best textiles such as wool from New Zealand and vicuna from Peru. We saw memorabilia such as a photo of the founder aboard the Rex oceanliner coming to New York in 1938, and we saw examples of how menswear has evolved over the decades. But his grandchildren who now run the company are looking to the future too, and we saw balaclavas made with the finest silk and wool blend, a winter jacket with a solar patch, and another jacket with a port for an iPod.

Zegna has set up a foundation that is very involved with the environment, and we saw a beautiful exhibit of “floral landscapes” in the museum lobby. Fabrics, accessories, objects and images were displayed, all inspired by the botanical world. There were even recipes shown that use aromatic herbs, flowers and fruits from Biella’s hills and mountains, and a cookbook featuring flower-based recipes is in the works.

After leaving the museum, we went to a nearby restaurant for lunch. At another long table, there was a group celebrating a birthday so our group joined in singing the birthday song. It turned out that they were members of the Zegna family celebrating grandson Paolo’s birthday, and they came over and took pictures with us and sent over a big cake with glazed fruit on top that was really delicious as well as beautiful. What a gracious, elegant family they are!!

The second part of our trip was spent in Como, about 25 miles north of Milan. While we were in Como, we stayed at the

beautiful Hotel Sheraton Lake Como. The weather was perfect and in the evening, it was nice to just relax and enjoy an aperitivo outdoors near the centrally located Duomo. On our final day, we went out on a boat all around Lake Como, with Bellagio as our destination. There were quite a few boats out on the lake, including 2 named Renzo and Lucia (after characters in “I Promessi Sposi”).

We passed George Clooney’s beautiful lakeside Villa Oleandra and learned that the villa next to his is on the market for “only” 42 million euros. Thanks to George (as he’s known there), there are frequent celebrity sightings such as Julia Roberts, Brooke Shields, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, the Beckhams and Elton John. Next we passed the lakeside Villa Balbianello, seen in the James Bond movie “Casino Royale.” It’s also the world’s most popular location for weddings (120 last year). We also saw the villa where John Legend got married, and on the other side of the lake, the two huge villas owned by the king of Saudi Arabia (one for himself and his family and the other for his entourage).



Bellagio

We learned that Lake Como is shaped like an upside-down Y that goes up to the Alps, and everything grows—you can see palm trees and snow. The Como arm of the lake lies to its southwest, the Lecco arm of the lake lies to its southeast, and at the northern point of the triangle lies Bellagio, looking across to the northern arm of the lake, and behind it the Alps. At one point, it’s only a 5-minute drive to the Swiss border. On the way to Bellagio, we saw a bridge on the shore with a beautiful waterfall behind it, and we passed Isola Comacina, the only island on the lake. We learned that in the year 1169, the bishop cursed the island for supporting Milan against Como in a 10-year war, and the island burned down and was razed to the ground. Nothing was built for centuries, and even today, no one lives on the island.

We arrived in Bellagio in time for lunch and shopping, and it’s plain to see why it’s so popular with tourists. It really is a gorgeous place!! After leaving Bellagio, we went by boat to Villa Carlotta with its beautiful gardens and art. We learned that Napoleon commissioned the frieze in one of the main rooms which depicted Alexander the Great riding into Babylon. The villa, once owned by the Grand Duke of Prussia, was filled with beautiful works of art.

The trip to see the Milan Expo turned out to be so much more, and the time we spent in Lombardia and Piemonte showed us how much these regions have to offer. And on the morning we left, the La Scala Orchestra was playing at the check-in counter at Milan’s Malpensa airport. Only in Italy!!

NOVEMBER 15, 2015 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): AMHS members Joe & Rose Ruzzi with friends Anne Marie Leali and others. **Top (right):** AMHS members Lina and Dora Marinucci, Carmela Ventresca, Gina Damiano, and Maria Marchegiani

Center (left): AMHS Board member Helen Free with AMHS Treasurer Jeff Clark. **Center (right):** Tricia Maltagliati, President of the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club with Maria D'Andrea.

Bottom (left): AMHS members and friends, "Can you say "formaggio" and, can you tell that we had a fantastic time! **Bottom (right):** An ample selection of home made wines, bottles ready to be poured and enjoyed. *(photos courtesy of Joe Novello and Sam Yothers).*

NOVEMBER 15, 2015 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): Lucio D'Andrea enjoys Tony Ricche's home made wine. **Top (right):** Gli tre amici, Vince Marinucci, Romeo Sabatini, and Tony Ricche.

Center (left): Lucio D'Andrea & Joe Novello deep in conversation. **Center (right):** AMHS VP-Membership Sarah Scott and Maria D'Andrea with the Society's newest members, Linda and Carmine Carullo.

Bottom (left): AMHS members Camillo Damiano and Ennio DiTullio with seated, from left, Steve & Sandra Olive and Joe & Tina Marchegiani. **Bottom (right):** Ennio & Emma DiTullio's granddaughter Sofia assists Nancy DeSanti and Eileen Verna with the raffle. (photos courtesy of Ennio DiTullio, Joe Novello, Romeo Sabatini, and Sam Yothers).



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area
Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000



Mount Etna



Mount Vesuvius

❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

"Those Bombastic Italian Volcanoes"

By
Barry Centini, Ph.D.

When: SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Casa Italiana
595 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC

MENU: specially prepared by AMHS member Rocco Caniglia. Menu includes pasta e fagioli, chicken with roasted potatoes, salad, bread and dessert. Beverages are included.

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

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(SEE ICON ON THE HOME PAGE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS). ONLY PAID RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED, WHICH MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 27, 2015. NO PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR!

Please join us for a very interesting presentation by geologist Barry Centini, Ph.D., who will talk about the many ways in which the geology of Italy has affected its history. We will learn about the impact volcanoes such as Mount Etna and Mount Vesuvius have had on surrounding areas - a timely topic in view of the recent massive eruption of Mount Etna, the fiery yet snow-capped volcano in Sicily which is the largest and most active volcano in Europe. A raffle will be conducted, with some wonderful prizes, the proceeds of which benefit the AMHS/NIAF scholarships.

Prior to the program, we will recognize outgoing officers and Board members, and install five officers and three members to the Board of Directors who were elected at the November 15, 2015 meeting.

For information, please contact Lynn Sorbara (301) 926-7792. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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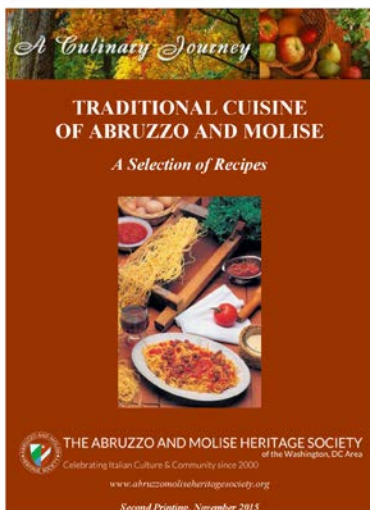
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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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

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