



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS NOTIZIARIO

July 2016



Top: Carla Kosciuszko presents “The Etruscans – an Amazing People” at the May 15, 2016 general Society meeting. **Bottom:** AMHS, Passatempo, and the Tuscan y Club attend the Festa Italiana in Frederick, MD. *(photos courtesy of Sam & Maria Yothers).*

NEXT SOCIETY EVENTS: Sunday, July 31, 2016, 1:00pm at Casa Italiana, a summer social with food, music, and games; and Sunday, August 14, 2016, Ferragosto picnic on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. See inside for additional details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cari amici,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far, and that you have some wonderful travel plans scheduled with you and your families. (If you travel to Italy, we would

welcome you to write an article for a future issue of the *Notiziario*, to share your experience with all of us!). The Society will remain quite active throughout the summer and into September, with the July 31 general Society meeting, the August 14 *Ferragosto* picnic, and the September 11 Italian Festa at Villa Rosa in Mitchellville, MD. With respect to each of these events/activities, please read about them elsewhere in the *Notiziario* – and see, specifically, the flyers to publicize these events. Regarding the Italian Festival at Villa Rosa, AMHS will volunteer by selling the wine and running an adjacent booth whereby we can promote the Society and the regions of Abruzzo and Molise. We will be soliciting your help in this endeavor, in late August. So please consider helping out at the Festa, which is a fundraiser for Holy Rosary Church in Washington, DC.

This September will mark the one year anniversary of the Society's formal affiliation with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). The Society's Executive Committee (EC) will be undertaking a review of our affiliation – benefits to and for us, as well as for the larger Italian American community. By the end of this month, the EC will vote on whether to recommend that the Society affiliate with NIAF for a second year. The membership will be asked to vote at the September 18 general Society meeting. Prior to this vote, you will be apprised of the EC recommendation and any other information relevant to allow you to make an informed decision. The issue of NIAF affiliation will need to be addressed each year, as the cost for affiliation is \$2,500 per year – a cost which is not taken lightly by us but that ultimately must be approved by the membership.

This year also marks the end of the term of office for Maria Fresco, AMHS Secretary, and three members of the Board: Rocco Caniglia, Helen Free, and Sergio Fresco. A nominating committee, comprised of three members to recommend a slate of candidates, is in the process of being established (Ennio DiTullio is one member who has agreed to serve – thank you Ennio)! If you are approached by the three to serve as Secretary or as a member of the Board, I hope that you will keep an open mind and recognize the positive contributions you can make to the effective operation of the Society. If you don't want to serve as an officer or member of the Board, do consider helping with one of our standing committees – there are several that could use help, specifically the Hospitality, Travel, and Social committees. We are forever grateful for your support; and we welcome any contribution you can make!

I hope everyone enjoys a happy and relaxing summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the Society's upcoming events.

Cordiali saluti,

Maria

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

JULY 31, 2016 PROGRAM WILL BE A "SOCIAL"

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President – Programs

Our next program, on July 31, 2016 at 1:00pm in Casa Italiana, will be a "social" get-together. We haven't had one in a while, and thought our members might like to have a change.

So we hope you will join us for an enjoyable afternoon of socializing with your fellow AMHS members and guests. Children and grandchildren are welcome to come.

We will have music, games such as tombola, and a delicious lunch catered by one of everybody's favorites, Three Brothers Italian Restaurant, with an opportunity to enjoy good food, good music and camaraderie with your friends. As a special treat, AMHS board member Sergio Fresco will play the accordion. And if you have talent as a musician or singer, this is an opportunity for you to show us what you can do!! If anyone is inspired to sing any of the popular Neapolitan songs, we will have our Neapolitan songbook, put together by AMHS Vice President Lynn Sorbara, so the audience can join in. In addition to the social aspect of the event, we will hear from Christina Iovino, one of the AMHS/NIAF Scholarship recipients for the 2015-2016 academic year.

A raffle will be conducted with some wonderful prizes, the proceeds of which benefit the AMHS/NIAF scholarships. So plan to join us for an afternoon of fun!! Your early reservations, by check or online via the AMHS website, would be very much appreciated. The deadline for paid reservations is July 28, 2016. Please see the flyer for the meeting for additional details.

AUGUST 14, 2016 FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

Please be sure to join AMHS on Sunday, August 14, 2016 for the annual Ferragosto picnic, held on the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD. The picnic starts at 12:30pm and concludes at 5:00pm.

In keeping with tradition, the day will be filled with fun, food and friendship. AMHS will provide all paper products and beverages. We ask that members, friends, and family bring their own food – as this is a picnic, we are very big on sharing our food. (This year, we might explore having the food set up on tables, a type of potluck, so it is shared with all).

Please see flyer in this issue of the *Notiziario* for additional details. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions

(president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org). **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

VILLA ROSA FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

By Nancy DeSanti

Mark your calendar now for a day of fun and fellowship at the next Villa Rosa Festival which will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

As in past years, AMHS will have a booth stocked with information about our Society, the regions of Abruzzo and Molise, and merchandise. As usual, we will be selling wine. Again this year, we will be recruiting volunteers to help out at this day-long event which runs from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. *You will receive an email in late August to solicit your help to volunteer. We can use your help!*

AMHS Past President Omero Sabatini will have a stand to sell his book, which is a translation of *"I Promessi Sposi,"* considered one of the most important works of Italian literature and a favorite of Pope Francis.

The Festival will of course feature good food, such as homemade pizza, polenta, Italian sausage, cannoli, gelato and more. Entertainment will be provided by "The NoWhere Men," for those who love the Motown Sound, and by the "i-Talians the Band" who will perform popular Italian songs everyone knows and loves.

Of course, an event such as this requires a lot of hard work and months of planning and organizing. If you would like to help out, please contact Darlene DiBattista, who is once again in charge of organizing the event, at ddibatt@yahoo.com.

Those of you who have come to this popular festival in years past know that it's a wonderful opportunity to have fun with family and friends. It's also an opportunity to raise money for Villa Rosa and Holy Rosary Church. And there will be an outdoor Mass at 11 a.m., celebrated by Holy Rosary Pastor Ezio Marchetto.

Some of you may remember the 50th anniversary of the Villa Rosa Festival in September 2012, where thousands of people gathered for an open-air festival with music, food, drinks and entertainment for children and adults. (As we noted in the April 2016 *AMHS Notiziario*, on Tony Campitelli, the Abruzzese "Renaissance man" who was the architect of Villa Rosa, ground was broken in September 1963. A few days after the groundbreaking ceremony, which was attended by the Italian ambassador and the Apostolic Delegate, the first Villa Rosa Festival was held, and it was called "as authentic an Italian festival as can be expected outside Italy").

This sure sounds like an event not to be missed!!

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MAY 15 PROGRAM EXAMINED AMAZING ETRUSCAN LEGACY

By Nancy DeSanti

The intriguing civilization of the ancient Etruscans came alive during a fascinating talk on May 15, 2016, at Casa Italiana given by Carla Kosciuszko. The topic of our 3rd program this year was "The Etruscans--An Amazing People" and we found out many things that surprised us, such as that there may have been Etruscans in Abruzzo. We learned that, at heart, this was a "civilization of intellectuals."

Our speaker Ms. Kosciuszko, after graduating with an art history degree from DePaul University in Chicago, studied Italian art history and language at the *Istituto Dante Alighieri* in Florence and did research at the *Museo Archeologico Nazionale*, also in Florence. Her heritage is French, but she said during her college studies, she developed a love for Italian art and culture. Interestingly, her "day job" is as a computer cybersecurity expert, which is also her husband Ed's field. Her husband, whose heritage is Polish, also attended the event. Ms. Kosciuszko said her love for Italian art and culture has never left her and she continues to always learn more and do research as a side project. She said she and her husband make trips to Italy when they can and they enjoy the amazing things they see.

This program was held in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute (ICI) of Washington, DC, and we thank Director Angela Tangianu for facilitating ICI's participation and for her gracious remarks introducing herself to our Society and explaining the goals of the ICI.

The program took a look at the significance of the Etruscans--a civilization of ancient Italy, centuries before Christ--and the areas of Italy where Etruscan artifacts have been found, the theories of the origin of the Etruscans and their alphabet, engineering, tombs and afterlife and of course their art. Ms. Kosciuszko explained that the origins of the Etruscan people are uncertain, but it is known that the Etruscan civilization flourished in Toscana, western Umbria and northern Lazio from about 800 B.C. until maybe the late 4th century A.D. when it was absorbed into the Roman Republic. Ms. Kosciuszko told us that Etruscan artifacts have been found in Abruzzo, and although there is no conclusive proof that Etruscans lived in Abruzzo, it is certainly a possibility. She noted that many if not most Etruscan cities are older than Rome.

Even nowadays, the Etruscans are in the news. As recently as March 2016, it was announced that a treasure-filled tomb, believed to belong to an Etruscan princess from the 8th century B.C., was unearthed by archaeologists in Italy. The ancient tomb was found in a burial chamber three meters below ground in front of the ticket office at the archaeological site of Vulci in Lazio, which was once an important Etruscan city. Inside the tomb, archaeologists found the bones of a young girl wrapped in a fragile cloth, surrounded by valuable jewelry, pots and jars.

The beautiful and highly elaborate pieces in amber, gold, ivory and silver attest to the artistic skills and the seafaring Etruscans' trade links.

Of course, these treasures have made tempting targets for looters and smugglers. In fact, Ms. Kosciuszko noted that in January 2016, Switzerland returned to Italy 45 boxes of Etruscan art stolen during illegal excavations and stashed away for more than 15 years.

Historians have no literature and no original Etruscan texts of religion or philosophy, so much of what is known about their civilization comes from grave goods and tomb findings, such as those in Orvieto. As depicted in their art, the ancient Etruscans are known for having passed on to the ancient Romans the concept and love of gladiator combat, boxing and wrestling as entertainment. Also, they had a significant military tradition, and during their raids on neighboring areas, prisoners taken in battle would be ransomed back to their families and clans. And the famous Roman toga came from the Etruscans, although the Romans adapted it and required the toga to be worn by all citizens for formal public events like wedding feasts or gladiator games, with the togas in colors and styles that signified the status of the wearer.

As far as their architecture, the Etruscans absorbed the Greek influence and they made lasting contributions to the architecture of Italy which were adopted by the Romans and through them became standard to Western civilization. And as far as art, the Etruscans had a strong tradition of figurative art using terracotta and bronze. The afterlife was of particular importance in their art, and musical instruments are seen in frescoes and bas-relief, especially depicting different types of pipes. Among the most beautiful examples is a picture of the Flute Player, from the Tomb of the Leopards from about the 5th century B.C.

Among their notable achievements, Ms. Kosciuszko told us how the Etruscans were the first to develop concrete and cement, as well as irrigation and sewage systems. They also figured out how to use arches for building upward. They had a society in which status was indicated by their tombs, with "cheap tombs" for ordinary people versus more prestigious tombs on a hill with stone etchings of the name, for the more well-to-do.

After the program, our members had many favorable comments about the presentation, saying they enjoyed Ms. Kosciuszko's conversational tone and noting that her ease in fielding questions after her talk showed her deep knowledge of the subject matter.

The 94 attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Carmine's Restaurant. Our thanks to everyone who helped with hospitality, including setting up before, and cleanup up after, the meeting, and to all those who donated raffle prizes and bought raffle tickets, raising \$196 for our scholarship fund.

AMHS, TUSCANY CLUB, AND PASSATEMPO MEETUP SUPPORT FESTA ITALIAN IN FREDERICK, MD

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers



AMHS members, from left, Nancy Hurst, Luciana Caleb, Edvige D'Andrea, and Lucio D'Andrea

On an incredibly hot day, with temperatures upwards of 90 degrees, several brave souls from AMHS, the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, and the Passatempo Meetup attended the 4th annual Festa Italiana in Frederick, MD. This year's Festa expanded in scope in terms of activities, events, and sponsors – which is a very positive thing! Some of the highlights of the day included a presentation on Baltimore's Little Italy, by Suzanna Molino, who wrote the book "*Baltimore's Little Italy: Heritage and History of the Neighborhood*". Suzanna talked about the many transitions of the community but how Little Italy has remained whole and intact, and is still a vibrant part of the Baltimore landscape. Also, food presentations on making fresh mozzarella, fresh pasta, and fresh ricotta cheese; musical performances by The Monaldi Brothers and Joan Tacchetti Grauman (accordion); and a performance by Allegro, a professional dance touring company from Wheeling, WV. It was also very good to see presentations by the Casa Italiana Language School and the Italian Cultural Society Italian Language program.



La Fata Italiana with the children

One of my personal highlights of the day was a performance by the Italian native singer, actress, and award-winning language educator Simona Rodano, “*La Fata Italiana*” (the Italian Fairy). Simona, who is based out of New York, has created a unique edu-tainment language-through music program for young children. At the Festa, *La Fata* brought a group of children to the main stage where they acted out words in Italian, then sang the words to taped music sung and orchestrated by Ms. Rodano. It was quite a heartwarming performance, to see so many young children act out words in Italian (much like charades), then sing along – in front of a very captive audience! It was also very gratifying to see how, through music, learning a language at such a young age can be fun.

It was very satisfying to see a number of AMHS members who came out to support the Festa, including Luciana Caleb, Nancy Coviello, Lucio and Edvige D’Andrea, Nancy Hurst, Joe and Pam Lupo (there on behalf of the Casa Italiana Language School), Vince and Dora Marinucci, Tricia Maltagliati, Albert Paolantonio, and Sarah Scott. From all of our perspectives, the festival is a great celebration of our shared Italian heritage and it is also for a very good cause – all the proceeds go to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County.

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President - Membership

I am pleased to report that there are 329 members of AMHS, including many new members. Thank you for your support of the Society’s programs and activities. We have many wonderful events coming over the rest of the year and your membership makes them possible!

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members! Our members are great at **greeting** our newest **members** with a warm welcome: **Corrado Dal Forno & Julie Finigan-Dal Forno, Domenica Marchetti, and Nonna Noto.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Compleanni a luglio

Amy Profit D’Amico, July 1; Vincenzo Marinucci, July 3; Vincent Trasatti, July 4; Dianne Francesconi Lyon, July 6; John Verna, July 7; Antoniette Mazziotti, July 9; Nancy Romagnoli, July 10; Raymond Bernero, July 12; David Ciummo, July 13; Michael Corrado, July 14; Anthony D’Onofrio, July 15; Angelo Puglisi, Ines Sozio, July 17; Nancy Hurst, July 18; Matthew DiFiore, and Roberto Severino, July 19; Mario Ciccone, July 21; Lina Pronio, July 23; Adelfina Santini, July 25; Lynn Sorbara, July 27; and Guido Cassetta, July 29.

Compleanni ad agosto

Mario Marinucci, August 2; Linda Ciocci, and Daniela Di Tullio, August 3; Ray LaVerghetta, August 5; Antoinette Bacik and Silvana DeLuca, August 6; Loretta Pittarelli, August 9;

Nancy DeSanti, August 15; Joseph Ruzzi, Sr., August 16; Henry Colletto, August 17; Rose Ruzzi, August 18; Angela Campanella, August 21; Robert Lucian and Joseph Novello, August 23; Marilyn Huffman, August 25; Anthony Frato, August 27; Nicholas D. Rossi, and Katie Musolino, August 28; Martha Harris, August 29; Donna Caruso, August 30; and Rosa Mazziotti, August 31.

Anniversaries (Anniversari)

Anniversari a luglio

Joseph & Joann B. Novello, July 4; Peter & Charlie Iovino, July 14; Sabatino & Antoniette Mazziotti, Renato & Rita Orcino, July 19; Greg & Diana Bernabei, and Carmine & Linda Carullo, July 21; Stephan & Rita Carrier, Domenico & Adelfina Santini, July 30, and David Ciummo & Sabrina DeSousa, July 31.

Anniversari ad agosto

Paul & Katie Fazioli, August 1; Joseph & Pam Lupo, August 5; Pasquale & Filomena Santini, August 7; Jack & Virginia Paganelli, August 10; Angelo DeCecco & Julie Long, August 11; Thomas & Stacey Novelli, August 12; Stan Scott & Vera Gordon, August 15 (First Anniversary); Domenico & Julia Conti, August 19; and Guy & Donna Caruso, August 26; and Rial & Sandra Coleman, August 31.

AMHS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE AMHS/NAF SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2016-2017

By Ray LaVerghetta, Chair, Scholarship Committee

The AMHS Scholarship Committee recently completed its work of reviewing and evaluating the applicants who met the initial qualifications for the two \$4000 scholarships that the Society, in partnership with the National Italian American Foundation, will award for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Committee is proud to announce its selection of the following two applicants as winners of the scholarships: Nicholas Rao of New York City and Salvatore Pitino of Whitestone, New York.

Mr. Rao is a sophomore at the Catholic University of America, School of Arts and Sciences, where he is pursuing a double major in Philosophy and Italian Studies. He maintains an interest in philosophy, language, music and drama. His Italian lineage runs through his father’s side of the family, which joins roots in Sicily, Campania, and Basilicata.

Mr. Pitino is a sophomore at George Mason University, where he studies Economics (his major) and Italian Studies (his minor). His interests include economics, business, and aviation. Both his parents and grandparents were born in Sicily.

As has been its custom, the Society will invite both Mr. Rao and Mr. Pitino to address one of our future General Society meetings. At that time, you will be able to learn more about them and about how important our scholarships are to their plans. The scholarships are made possible through the participation of Society members in designated fund-raising activities throughout the year and through the generosity of members who contribute to the annual scholarship fund.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

PASSING OF TERESA SCALZO



AMHS mourns the loss of one of our members, Teresa Scalzo. On May 23, 2016, Teresa lost her courageous battle against a rare, aggressive form of cancer.

Originally from Easton, Pennsylvania,

where her brother is the police chief, Teresa earned her law degree in 1993 from Temple University School of Law. She started her career as a public defender and then as an assistant district attorney specializing in crimes of violence against women and children. She moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the National District Attorneys Association. She later worked for the Defense Department and Navy. At the time of her death, Teresa was the deputy director at Navy JAG Trial Assistance Program where she served as the Navy's expert on sexual prosecutions. She wrote manuals for use by judges and prosecutors, and won numerous awards for her work.

Teresa was very proud of her Italian heritage and loved traveling to Italy. One of her great-uncles was a Carabinieri and Teresa had in her possession a medal that he had won. She was very happy to have the opportunity to meet General Tornabene, the speaker at one of our AMHS events a few years ago, and she showed him the medal which he confirmed was a medal for valor.

A couple years ago, Teresa traveled to Sicily to research her family history on her mother's side of the family. She went to the little town of Santo Stefano di Camastra not far from Palermo, and what she discovered about her family became the subject of an article she wrote for the *AMHS Notiziario* in January 2014.

All those who knew Teresa will miss kindness, humility, wit and love for life. Riposi in pace. (Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).

KUDOS TO MIKE DeBONIS, WASHINGTON POST REPORTER



Some of you who are regular readers of the Washington Post may have seen a familiar name on some of the recent front-page articles about the U.S. Congress. The byline belongs to our fellow AMHS member Mike DeBonis, who is a nephew of one of our Past Presidents,

Omero Sabatini. Mike has also participated in several national TV talk shows. And if you watched the CBS Evening News on June 18, you may recall that it reported on part of a press conference of House Speaker Paul Ryan. While answering a question on Donald Trump's relationship with the Washington Post, the Speaker interrupted himself to ask "Is someone from the Washington Post here? Is DeBonis here?" Then Mike, who was there, asked a question of his own. So it was obvious that the Speaker knows who Mike is.

Mike and his wife Dena attend almost all of our social meetings. Over the past 15 years, we have seen him grow professionally, from writing first for the Georgetown University's newspapers, when he was a student there, then for The City Paper, and now for getting national recognition, making a name for himself at the Washington Post. Congratulations, Mike and keep up the good work. (Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).

SANT'ANGELO IN GROTTA, TRA STORIA, TRADIZIONI, CULTURA E FEDE – VIDEO GIVEN TO AMHS BY LONG-TIME MEMBER JUDGE RICHARD MARANO



The town of Sant' Angelo in Grotte, province of Isernia, Molise region, is the ancestral home of the Marano family. My Dad, Albert, grew up there and came to the United States in 1939 at age 17.

I had the privilege of visiting the town in June 2015 with my wife and children, and meeting my Dad's first cousins. Our relatives could not have been any more hospitable to us; it was as if we had known them all of our lives.

As you can imagine, it was very emotional seeing the house where my Dad grew up, and walking on the streets he walked.

I hope our members enjoy the video. I am delighted to share it. (Submitted by Judge Richard Marano).

NOTE: Anyone interested in viewing this video, which is in Italian, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers at president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

ANNUAL MASS IN HONOR OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE GIOVANNI FALCONE

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers



From left, Franco Impalà, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, and Francesco Isgro, AMHS & Lido Civic Club member.

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the assassination of Magistrate Judge Giovanni Falcone, Holy Rosary Church in Washington, DC held an annual commemorative mass. Following the Homily, Franco Impalà, First Secretary and Head of the Cultural Affairs Office at the Embassy of Italy, provided some remarks regarding the life of Falcone. Franco was born in Palermo, and was a two-time winner of a fellowship named after Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino by the Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone in Palermo.

Giovanni Falcone was an Italian magistrate who specialized in prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia. He was killed by the Mafia, together with his wife and three of his bodyguards (policemen) in Capaci on the highway near Palermo on May 23, 1992. Giovanni's life story is similar to that of this closest friend, Paolo Borsellino: both came from a poor area of Palermo, had careers as anti-Mafia magistrates, and both were killed (less than two months apart) in bomb attacks. In recognition of their efforts in the anti-mafia trials, the pair were named among the world's heroes in a 2006 issue of *Time* magazine.

The Annual Mass in Commemoration of Giovanni Falcone was co-sponsored by Holy Rosary Church, Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, the Order Sons of Italy International Lodge #2522, the Lido Civic Club of Washington, DC, Voce Italiana, and AMHS. There was a small reception after the mass, at which Franco Impalà further shared his thoughts and perspectives on the life of Falcone. He also commented that he was very pleased to see that AMHS came to support this event. We were honored to do so.

STUDYING ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

By Lucio D'Andrea, AMHS President Emeritus

Edvige and I recently had the pleasure to spend time with Dr. Kristina Olson, Associate Professor of Italian and Coordinator

of the Italian Program at George Mason University, for an update on the Italian Program at Mason. The article that follows is that update. Recognizing the support of the Society to the promotion of the Italian Language and Culture, we plan to invite representatives from other schools that have Italian language programs, to submit similar articles on such programs, to be published in future issues of the *AMHS Notizario*. (Note that some of you will recall Dr. Olson, for she presented a program to the Society, in September 2012, on Dante's life and the social and political content of his day, as well as an overview of *La Divina Commedia*).

Italian Studies at George Mason University

By Dr. Kristina M. Olson, Associate Professor of Italian and Coordinator of the Italian Program, George Mason University

The Italian program at George Mason University has grown steadily since its inception at the turn of the millennium. A Minor in Italian Studies that emphasizes Italian language, culture, politics, literature and film was established in 2013. This interdisciplinary minor has attracted an increasing number of students; currently, there are approximately 20 students minoring in Italian Studies at George Mason. The number of students enrolled in all levels of elementary, intermediate and advanced Italian at Mason averages between 100 and 125 per semester. We also offer various study-abroad programs through our Center for Global Education to Florence (semester-long and winter break), Milan (summer), and Rome (summer).

Students at Mason come to Italian for many different reasons: from the personal, such as the desire to reclaim the language and culture of one's heritage, to the curricular, as many students come to Italian to enhance their studies in international affairs, art history, music, religion, and so forth. Our students have formed a tightly-knit community at all levels, one that is complemented by the Italian Club, now under the new direction of Salvatore Pitino (President), Gia Primerano (Vice-President), Amanda Beym (Treasurer), and Kendall Serena (Secretary). These students have incredible passion and leadership, and will bring the club to new heights as they organize a new slate of activities for the upcoming year.

Salvatore Pitino, a Sicilian-American from Queens, New York, was just awarded the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society (AMHS) scholarship for 2016-17, which is matched and administered by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). Salvatore, a student who is very dedicated and passionate about the language, culture and history of Italy, is the ideal candidate for this selective and prestigious scholarship. His academic achievement in the classroom and his leadership in extracurricular activities within the Italian-language community have been the first glowing results of his dedication to the field. To be the recipient of this selective and competitive award is a testament to Pitino's current excellence and future promise. We are all thrilled about Salvatore's accomplishment and very grateful to AMHS/NIAF for establishing this extremely generous award.

Our students who have graduated from our program at Mason have won competitive grants such as the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship (for teaching English in Matera), the SITE

internship in Lombardy (for teaching English content in high schools), and Teach for America. One of our alumni became a doctoral candidate in Italian at the University of California, Berkeley, one of the best graduate programs in the nation. Benefactors have recognized the excellence, dedication and passion of our students by establishing such prizes as the William Weaver Prize in Italian Studies. This prize, in honor of the late translator of Eco, Calvino, Gadda, and numerous other works, is in the amount of \$1,000. The Italian Cultural Society also has generously given to our students with the Cesarina Horing Award (\$300) for those minoring in Italian Studies.

Despite the increasing pressure on language programs and the humanities in general, Italian Studies at Mason continues to prosper, thanks to the enthusiasm of our students and the generosity of these individuals and societies. We thank the members of AMHS for their continued support and interest in our program. *Grazie infinite!*

FOOD WALKING TOUR WITH MANGIADC

By Maria D'Andrea Yothers

The Society is offering its members the opportunity for a food walking tour sponsored by MangiaDC Food Tours on Sunday, July 24, 2016 at 12:30pm. The price per person is \$64 per adult and \$49 per child (12 and under). This tour is being coordinated with The Lucchesi nel Mondo/Tuscany Club and the Passatempo Meetup.

The tour is comprised of the following:

1. Meet in the lower hall of the Darlington House, 1610 20th Street N.W., Washington, DC;
2. Three food tasting portions and wine pairing + one dessert tasting, at any of the following restaurants: Darlington House, Pasha's Kitchen, Floriana, Pizza Paradiso, Obelisk, Urbana, Al Tiramisu and/or Dolcezza;
3. Knowledgeable guide who walks the group around the neighborhood of Dupont Circle, where we learn about the architecture, history, and culture of historic and fun locations in Washington, DC; and
4. Tour duration is 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours which includes under 2 miles of walking, which is broken up by stopping at four different locations as you break to eat food.

For anyone who participates, we can meet at Holy Rosary Church/Casa Italiana, 595 3rd Street, NW, and carpool to the meeting location, Darlington House. We will depart Casa no later than 11:50 a.m.

If you would like to take advantage of this fun and “delectable” tour that includes some very good Italian food, you can purchase a ticket at <https://kiosk.eztix.co/kiosk-optimised/208159> *RSVP deadline is Wednesday, July 20.*

(Three AMHS members did this tour last year, Sarah Scott, Jim Mustachio, and Maria D'Andrea-Yothers; it was quite interesting to learn the history of the Dupont Circle area and to eat some exceptional Italian food and dessert).

Background on MangiaDC

Recently awarded the Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor in 2016 and Open Table Diner's Choice Award in 2015, MangiaDC Food Tours is a locally owned and operated culinary walking tour business. The company is committed to helping locals and visitors enjoy the local cuisine in our Nation's Capital. Together, we experience the sights, the sounds and, most importantly, the tastes of our vibrant city. You can learn more about the company at www.mangiadc.com

Parking Information:

- **Colonial Parking: 1619 P Street NW DC** (Monday-Sunday). Turn left out of the parking lot and stay straight on P Street until you meet Dupont Circle. Turn right onto the circle and take the second street on your right hand side, Connecticut Avenue, NW. Turn right onto Q Street and an immediate right onto 20th Street. Darlington House is on the same block.
- **Metro:** Get off at the Dupont Circle Metro Station (Red line). From the Metro exit, walk to 20th Street. Darlington House is on the same block.

Any questions, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org or MangiaDC, at info@mangiadc.com



FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

ALANNO, PROVINCE OF PESCARA, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS member



Alanno is a beautiful town situated on a hilltop in the Pescara valley in the center of the province of Pescara. The town is about 300 meters above sea level and has approximately 3,770 inhabitants, known as Alannesi.

The medieval town rises among the hills between the Cigno stream and the left bank of the Aterno-Pescara river. The town is laid out in the form of a fish spine, and most houses are 2-3 stories without inner courtyard. The town has an ancient Istituto Agrario, which has a model farm near the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Alanno has a very interesting history, with the first mention going back to 879 A.D. It was probably founded in the 7th century and for a time it belonged to the monastery of St. Clemente a Casauria. Over time, it was ruled by a number of different lords and was granted many privileges by Ferdinand of Aragon. It eventually came into the possession of the heirs of Ettore Fieramosca.

In more recent times, Alanno suffered extensive damage due to a terrible earthquake in 1915 which practically destroyed the town. Nowadays the town has reinvented itself as a tourist destination.

Alanno offers visitors a variety of cultural events, festivals, concerts and theater especially in the summer. It also draws visitors to its excellent agriturismo facilities.

Perhaps the most important landmark of Alanno is the Renaissance Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, built around 1485 to venerate a miraculous apparition of the Madonna. It has an elegant portal and a single nave with frescoes and a 15th century triptych Madonna, angels and saints.

Other places of interest include the three towers, remains of the medieval walls, the 16th century Church of St. Francis and the Wild Oasis of Alanno characterized by numerous bird species and rich river vegetation.

What to See

- Church of Sts. Francesco and Ludovico, with 18th century paintings by Paolo de Majo and Nicola Ranieri
- Madonna delle Grazie Oratorium, 2 kilometers outside the town

Important Dates

- February 3: Feast of San Biaggio, the patron saint
- August 6: Feast of St. Donato
- 2nd weekend in September: village fair and lentils festival (sagra delle lenticchie)
- 1st Sunday in October: Festa dell'uva
- December 12-13: La Pastorella, with elements borrowed from northern Europe, which takes place in the historic center on the "notte di Santa Lucia," with the participation of about 30 musicians.

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alanno>
<http://www.abruzzocitta.it/comuni/alanno.html>
<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/pescara/alanno.htm>
<http://en.comuni-italiani.it/068/002/>
<http://www.viaggioinabruzzo.it/pe/alanno.htm>
http://www.serapea.it/abruzzo/alanno_abruzzo.htm

ALANNO PROVINCIA DI PESCARA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Alanno è una bella cittadina collinosa, al centro della provincia di Pescara. Antica città medievale, sorge a 300 metri dal livello del mare. Conta circa 3,700 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Alannesi.

La cittadina medievale si trova fra il ruscello Cigno e la sponda sinistra del fiume Aterno Pescara. Ha la forma di una spina di pesce e le sue case hanno due o tre piani, ma non hanno cortili. Alanno ha un antico Istituto Agrario in una fattoria modello, nei pressi della Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie.

La cittadina, creata intorno al settimo secolo, ha una storia che risale all'anno 879 A.D. Per un periodo di tempo appartenne al Monastero di San Clemente e poi a diversi Signori, sotto la protezione di Ferdinando d'Aragona. Divenne in seguito possedimento degli eredi di Ettore Fieramosca.

Durante il terremoto del 1915 la cittadina fù quasi distrutta. Oggigiorno, dopo una felice ristrutturazione, è meta di turisti. Offre ai visitatori concerti, festival e rappresentazioni all'aperto ed alloggi agroturistici. Forse l'attrazione principale è la Chiesa Rinascimentale di Santa Maria delle Grazie, costruita intorno al 1495, in ringraziamento ad una miracolosa apparizione di questa Madonna.

La chiesa, con un elegante portale e unica navata, ha magnifici affreschi ed un trittico del XV secolo con Madonna, angeli e santi.

Altri luoghi di interesse sono la Torre e le mura dell'antica cittadina medievale, l'antica chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi, risalente al XVI secolo, e la Selvaggia Oasi di Alanno con diverse specie di uccelli e di vegetazione acquatica.

Attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa dei Santi Francesco e Ludovico con dipinti del XVIII secolo di Paolo di Majo e Nicola Ranieri.
- L'Oratorio della Madonna delle Grazie, a due chilometri dal paese.

Date da ricordare

- 3 Febbraio: Festa di San Biagio, Santo Patrono.
- 6 Agosto: Festa di San Donato.
- Secondo Fine Settimana di Settembre: Sagra delle Lenticchie.
- Prima Domenica di Ottobre: Festa della Vendemmia.
- 12 e 13 Dicembre: La pastorella. Ha luogo durante La Notte di Santa Lucia, nella parte storica della cittadina, ha elementi che si ispirano a culture Nord Europee, e vi partecipano circa 30 musicisti.

ROCCAIVIVARA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION

By Nancy DeSanti

Translated by Maddalena Borea



The beautiful little town of Roccaivivara is located in the mountainous area of Campobasso, about 30 kilometers north of that provincial capital.

Roccaivivara has been in existence since the 1st century B.C. as evidenced by the archaeological findings of the remains of Roman villas in the area called San Fabiano and near the Santuario of Santa Maria di Canneto. The archaeological findings show that there was a flourishing Roman colony in the 1st century B.C. that was later enlarged during the time of the Roman Empire.

Afterwards, Roccaivivara was part of the territory dominated by the Sannites. Still later, Roccaivivara was on the route (tratturello) of the “grande tratturo Piano delle Cinque Miglia-Foggia” which led to the other grand tratturi of “alto Molise.” This was the route that Abruzzese shepherds used to take going from Abruzzo south to Puglia.

The best-known landmark in Roccaivivara is the Church of Santa Maria di Canneto. Built in the 12th century, the church formed out of an abbey built by the Benedictine monks on the banks of the Trigno river. The facade is made up of stones sculpted with human figures, hunting scenes and flowers. The portal has a winged lion on one side and a lamb bearing a cross on the other side. Unusual and beautiful!!

What to See

- Villa romana
- Church of Santa Maria di Canneto

Important Dates

March 19: San Giuseppe

June 15: San Vito

August 5: Sant’Emidio, the patron saint

August 16: San Rocco

September 8: Madonna del Canneto

September 15: Festa dei Giorni

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roccaivivara>

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

<http://www.altovastese.it/da-visitare/madonna-del-canneto-roccavivara/>

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<http://www.visititaly.com/holiday/roccavivara/all-photos.aspx>

<http://www.altosannio.it/roccavivara-2/>

<http://www.comune.roccavivara.cb.it/hh/index.php>

<http://www.comune.roccavivara.cb.it/hh/index.php>

ROCCAIVIVARA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

La bella cittadina di Roccaivivara sorge su un'area montana a circa 30 chilometri a nord del suo capoluogo.

Ricerche archeologiche hanno accertato che la sua esistenza risale al I secolo Avanti Cristo. Alcune rovine di ville dell'età romana, nell'area della vicina San Fabiano e nei pressi del Santuario di Santa Maria del Canneto, confermano ciò. Queste scoperte archeologiche attestano l'esistenza di una fiorente colonia romana, che diventò più prominente durante l'Impero.

Fece poi parte del territorio dominato dai Sanniti, e più tardi fu attraversato da un “tratturello” che si congiungeva ai principali tratturi usati dai pastori per i loro viaggi dall’Abruzzo, Molise e sud verso la Puglia.

La chiesa di Santa Maria del Canneto è una delle attrazioni del luogo. Sorta nel XII secolo, comprende un'abbazia, costruita da Monaci Benedettini, e sorge sulle rive del fiume Trigno. La facciata di tale Chiesa, in pietra, raffigura sculture di figure umane, di scene di caccia e di fiori. Il portale raffigura un leone alato ad un lato, ed un agnello che trasporta la Croce ad un altro. Insolito e bello!

Attrazioni del luogo

- Villa Romana
- Chiesa di Santa Maria del Canneto

Date da ricordare

- 19 Marzo: Festa di San Giuseppe
- 15 Giugno: San Vito
- 5 Agosto: Sant’Emidio, Santo Patrono
- 16 Agosto: San Rocco
- 8 Settembre: Madonna del Canneto
- 15 Settembre: Festa dei Giorni





A MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

E' con grande piacere che rivolgo i miei saluti alla collettività italiana e italo-americana degli Stati Uniti in occasione delle celebrazioni per la Festa della Repubblica.

Colgo l'occasione per ringraziare i nostri connazionali, gli Americani di origini italiane e quanti, a diverso titolo, si riconoscono nell'Italia, per la straordinaria collaborazione offerta in ogni occasione all'Ambasciata e alla nostra rete consolare.

Ricorre oggi il 70° anniversario della nascita della nostra Repubblica, fondata il 2 giugno 1946 dopo il referendum istituzionale che vide il suffragio universale con l'estensione, per la prima volta, del voto alle donne.

La Repubblica Italiana si basa sui valori della libertà, della democrazia, dell'uguaglianza, dei diritti umani e della pacifica convivenza tra i popoli. Sono gli stessi valori che ci uniscono profondamente alla grande Nazione che ci ospita.

L'Italia e gli Stati Uniti sono Paesi amici e alleati. Condividiamo l'impegno a promuovere un futuro di libertà, di prosperità e di pace. Collaboriamo fianco a fianco nei campi della sicurezza internazionale, della tutela dei diritti umani, della crescita economica, della protezione dell'ambiente e nel sostegno alle Nazioni Unite.

Questa forte alleanza si rinnova ogni giorno e si sviluppa nei campi dell'innovazione e dell'alta tecnologia. La lingua italiana registra una forte domanda e rappresenta uno strumento straordinario per promuovere la conoscenza del nostro ineguagliato patrimonio culturale e di quanto di più nuovo accade in un Paese proiettato verso il futuro.

Il 70° anniversario della Repubblica è la Festa di tutti noi e ci offre l'opportunità di celebrare la nostra identità di italiani e di italo-americani.

Viva la Repubblica Italiana. Viva gli Stati Uniti d'America.

Armando Varricchio

In English

I am very pleased to extend my warm greetings to Italians, and Italian-Americans, in the United States on the occasion of Italy's National Day.

I would like to thank all of our fellow citizens, our American friends of Italian origin and all those who recognize themselves - in their different ways - in Italy, for their outstanding and steadfast cooperation with the Embassy and our consular network.

Today is the 70th anniversary of the birth of our Republic, founded on June 2, 1946, with Italy's constitutional referendum. That day, for the first time, women were able to vote in Italy's unprecedented universal suffrage.

The Italian Republic is founded on the core values of freedom, democracy, equality, respect for human rights and peace among nations. Values which we share deeply with the great country which hosts us, the United States.

Italy and the US are friends - and allies. Together, we strive to promote a future based on freedom, prosperity and peace. We work closely on matters of international security, protecting human rights, promoting economic growth, safeguarding the environment and supporting the work of the United Nations.

This enduring alliance is enriched daily with culture, innovation, and high-tech. Our language is a powerful tool which promotes Italy's unparalleled cultural heritage and, at the same time, enhances our Country's natural propensity to creativity and inventiveness – in short, to the future.

The 70th anniversary of the Republic is a celebration for us all, and is another welcome opportunity for us to take pride in our own identity as "Italians" and "Italian-Americans".

Viva la Repubblica Italiana. Viva gli Stati Uniti d'America.

Armando Varricchio



Auguri a tutti un felice estate!

THE MAY 15, 2016 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): An audience of close to 90. **Top (right):** Angela Tangianu, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, addresses the audience. **Center(left):** Patiently waiting in line for a superb lunch catered by Carmine's Restaurant. **Center(right):** Carla Kosciuszko discusses the history of the Etruscan people. **Bottom (left):** From left, Lucio D'Andrea, Carla Kosciuszko, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Angela Tangianu, and Nancy DeSanti. **Bottom (right):** AMHS member Alfred DelGrosso holding a flag with Lucio D'Andrea, both of whom have ties to the village of Roccamandolfi, province of Isernia in Molise. The flag was found by Alfred and some cousins while cleaning out their grandparents home in North Arlington, NJ. Alfred's grandfather, also named Alfred DelGrosso, emigrated from Roccamandolfi in 1911. He was President of Newark's Roccamandolfi Society for a number of years. *(Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).*



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

***“Social Meeting”
With Good Food, Good Music and
Good Company***

When: SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Casa Italiana
595 Third Street, NW

MENU: Prepared by 3 Brothers and includes penne with pesto sauce, lemon chicken, seasoned rice, tossed salad, Italian bread, and desserts. Beverages are included.

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

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PAY ONLINE
(USING VISA OR MASTERCARD) AT
WWW.ABRUZZOMOLISEHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG
(SEE ICON ON THE HOME PAGE FOR
“UPCOMING EVENTS”).
**ONLY PAID RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED; MUST BE
RECEIVED BY JULY 28, 2016.
NO PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR.****



Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of music, games such as tombola, and a delicious lunch catered by one of everybody's favorites, 3 Brothers. As a special treat, AMHS board member Sergio Fresco will play the accordion for us. We will also hear from Christina Iovino, one of the AMHS/NIAF Scholarship recipients for the 2015-2016 academic year. A raffle will be conducted, with some wonderful prizes, the proceeds of which benefit the AMHS/NIAF scholarships. So come and enjoy good food, good music and camaraderie with your friends!

For information, please contact Nancy DeSanti (703) 967-2169.

✂----- *Return with Payment*

PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, July 31, 2016

Please make check payable to AMHS.

Send to AMHS, c/o Peter Bell, 328 8th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002

NAME(S): _____ Phone: _____

GUEST(S): _____

Number Attending: _____ Check Amount: _____ Email: _____



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY
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FERRAGOSTO PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016

Villa Rosa Nursing Home Grounds, Mitchellville, MD

ALL ARE WELCOME



Schedule of Activities

12:30 PM: *Ferragosto* begins

- Music
- Card games, e.g. Briscola, Tressette (*Please bring your own cards*)
- Bocce tournaments

5:00 PM: *Ferragosto* ends

Food and Drink

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

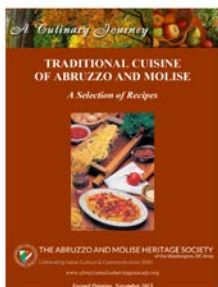
Directions

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

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

Tables and chairs are available. For your personal convenience, you may want to bring lawn chairs, card tables, blankets, etc.

For information & to RSVP, contact Maria D'Andrea (703) 998-6097



“Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes”,
2nd Printing November 2015

PRICE: \$10.00 + \$3.00 per book for postage and handling = \$13.00


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Buon Appetito Chef's Apron with new AMHS Logo

Product details: Extra-long length for more protection. Center divided patch pocket. Ultra-durable 65/35 poly/cotton twill; protected by ProDura with a stain-release finish.

PRICE: \$25.00 + \$5.75 shipping & handling = \$30.75

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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer

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