



# THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

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

## **AMHS NOTIZIARIO**

**November 2016**



**Top:** At the September 11, 2016 Italian Festival at Villa Rosa - from left to right, Sarah Scott, Elodia D'Onofrio, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Peter Bell, Albert Paolantonio, and Jeff Clark. **Bottom:** Dr. Laura Benedetti at the September 18, 2016 meeting, presenting her book "Un paese di carta". (photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENT:** Sunday, November 20, 2016, 1:00pm in Casa Italiana. Lunch & annual wine tasting event. *See inside for additional details.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cari amici,



The year 2016 will soon be coming to a close. I imagine most of you are asking, as am I, "where has the year gone!" I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee who worked so hard

this year to bring some extraordinary events to our membership: informative and quality programs presented at our general Society meetings; special events (Carnevale); the Ferragosto picnic; and recognition of last year's AMHS/NIAF scholarships winners, Christina Iovino and Maria LaVerghetta.

We continue to greatly expand our social outreach via our Facebook page and our website, whereby members and friends can register for events on-line; join or renew membership on-line; purchase merchandise; see photos of events; recognize our scholarship winners; and just basically showcase who we are to the larger Italian American community in the U.S. and around the world. The Society is very thankful for the numerous sponsors of the website, including A. Litteri's, amico, Carmine's Restaurant, Colavita, Fontina Grille, Palm Bay International, Pasta Plus, Positano and Portofino Restaurants, Osteria da Nino, and Three Brothers Restaurant. And thanks to Board member Jonathan Stern, who helps to maintain and update the site. Please be sure to check out our website, [www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](http://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org).

Of course, 2016 would not be complete without our ever popular wine-tasting event, which will be held on Sunday, November 20 in Casa Italiana. Due to restrictions on use of the kitchen in Casa Italiana, we are unable to make the porchetta. However, we will have a wonderful meal catered by Three Brothers Italian Restaurant. We will also vote on three candidates for members of the Board: Jeff Clark, Helen Free, and Albert Paolantonio. Please be sure to read the report from the Nominating Committee, with information on the candidates, on page 3. I also wish to highlight the urgent appeal for a candidate to serve as Secretary. Maria Fresco, who has done a superb job for us for three years, will be stepping down at the end of December. Maria will also relinquish her responsibility as editor of the *AMHS Notiziario*. Maria has done a terrific job and has been instrumental in proofreading articles to ensure we can print the newsletter in a timely manner. So please thank Maria when you can!

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the will of the members who voted, at the September 18 general Society meeting, to formally affiliate with NIAF as a member organization for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year. As the Society's representative on NIAF's Italian American Leadership Council, I have remained dedicated to its work to grow the Council to include more member organizations such as

ours. The "great name" of AMHS is well-known and well-respected amongst NIAF Board and IALC members. Several officers and members attended this year's Expo Italiana and the Gala, both of which took place on October 15. We saw and interacted with NIAF staff, Board Members and other IALC members who are very grateful to have AMHS back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Please be sure to read more about this affiliation in the article that follows this message.

In closing, I wish to thank Rocco Caniglia and Sergio Fresco for their three years of service on the Board. They brought valuable input to the operation of the Society; also to Helen Free, who served part of a year's term to fulfill the Board slot of Lana Nardella, who resigned late last year. We owe them our gratitude for their service. I also thank you, the members, for your continued support of the mission and objectives of AMHS. I encourage you to get involved more closely with the Executive Committee – see how you can help to make a difference and impact change and growth for the future of the Society. For example, we have several standing committees that could use some extra hands, specifically the Hospitality, Social, Travel, and Fundraising committees. The work of these committees should not be left solely to the members of the Executive Committee.

I look forward to seeing you on November 20!

Cordiali saluti,  
*Maria D'Andrea*

## AMHS OFFICIAL AFFILIATION WITH NIAF: RESULTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP VOTE AT THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 MEETING

*By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*

At the September 18 meeting, 51 (fifty-one) AMHS members voted on the Executive Committee (EC) recommendation to formally affiliate with The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) for a second consecutive year (44 members constituted a quorum). This affiliation requires an annual payment of \$2,500.00. A presentation on the proposal was made by myself; Peter Bell, Treasurer, who reported on the financial "health" of the Society; and Ray LaVerghetta, Chair of the AMHS Scholarship, who gave a perspective on the importance of formal affiliation with NIAF for the matching scholarship program.

A motion was made to accept the EC recommendation by acclamation; this motion was seconded. There was no further discussion on the matter, so the membership present voted to approve formal affiliation with NIAF for a second year.

As way of background, and to remind you of what this means for AMHS, being an affiliate organization of NIAF means:

- The Society commits to be a member of NIAF's Italian American Leadership Council (IALC);
- Continued commitment to match the Society's scholarship program, currently at \$4,000.00 annually (NIAF has matched us with funds of \$33,500.00 since 2007); and

- Each AMHS member is an affiliate member of NIAF.

AMHS made its payment of \$2,500.00 to NIAF on October 5; we also provided NIAF with the updated contact information for every member (first name, last name, mailing address, phone number, and email address). NIAF has already updated its system. You should have received electronic notification of your NIAF membership renewal for another calendar year. ***You are not responsible for renewing your membership on your own; formal affiliation with NIAF has automatically taken care of membership renewal for you. Note that everything is being done electronically; no paper copies of welcome packages will be sent to new AMHS members and existing affiliate members.***

As an affiliate member of NIAF, you are entitled to certain member-only benefits. In order to learn what these are, make sure to utilize the NIAF website ([www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org)) and log on using the user name and password, which would have been provided to you by NIAF for those who were affiliate members in 2015. Through the members-only site, you can make changes to your profile and reset your password. Also important to note, you can download digital copies of the quarterly *Ambassador Magazine* ***NIAF does not mail hard copies of the magazine to affiliate members.***

Anyone with questions related to our affiliation with NIAF, please contact me, at [president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](mailto:president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org), or Alex Benedetto, Senior Development Director, at [abenedetto@niaf.org](mailto:abenedetto@niaf.org) or by phone, (202) 939-3117.

## UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL WINE-TASTING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

By Nancy DeSanti, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Programs

You should definitely not miss out on our most popular event of the year, which will be held Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Casa Italiana. We are pleased once again to present our annual wine-tasting. Our wine-making members and friends will be bringing samples of their production to share with the attending members, friends and guests.

This year, instead of our usual porchetta, a delicious lunch will be provided by 3 Brothers Restaurant. Because of the difficulty in using the Casa Italiana kitchen this year, we are instead offering a menu of orrechiete with broccoli rabe in garlic and olive oil, sausage and peppers, rice, bread, salad and dessert. The wine-tasting is being organized by Romeo Sabatini, who in past years has done an outstanding job in coordinating the event. Romeo is being assisted this year by Jim Gearing. Based on previous years, there is sure to be a variety of wonderful wines to be tasted – as well as limoncello!

The program will begin with a brief AMHS general meeting at which time we will elect three members of the board of directors (please read related article by the Nominating Committee

thanking the outgoing board members and offering candidates for election).

We will have a raffle with some wonderful prizes, to benefit the AMHS Scholarship Fund.

The deadline for paid reservations is November 16, 2016. Please make your reservations early to make sure you don't miss out on this fun event!!

## REPORT OF THE AMHS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members of the Board of Directors will have their terms of office end on December 31 of this year: Rocco Caniglia, Helen Free (who was appointed by the President to fill out the remainder of a Board member's term in 2015), and Sergio Fresco. We owe a debt of gratitude for their service to the Society.

The Nominating Committee, whose role it is to nominate members to stand for election to fill these vacancies, is very pleased to have found well-qualified members who are willing to serve. We are happy to announce the following slate of nominees:

### Board of Directors

Jeff Clark  
Helen Free  
Albert Paolantonio

Election for the Board members will be held at the November 20 general Society meeting.

The three individuals are well-known to the Society, having served as an officer before and/or been a Society member since 2000. The biographies for Jeff, Helen, and Albert are found, below.

### Biography for Jeff Clark

Mr. Jeffrey (Jeff) Clark grew up in Utah and has lived the last ten years in the District of Columbia. He works as chief financial officer for a small government contractor holding an MBA degree and CPA designation. He is the single father of three children, 24 and 17-year old sons, and a 21 year-old daughter who all live with him. In addition to the AMHS, Jeff is a member of the Lucchesi nel Mondo Tuscany Club, and in 2011 served as the Secretary of the Festa Italiana Foundation. He claims Italian heritage through his 6th great grandfather who was a native of Naples and immigrated to New Orleans in the early 1700s.

Jeff previously served on the Board and was the AMHS Treasurer from 2014 through 2015.

### Biography for Helen Free

Helen's grandfather, Frank Antonelli, was born in Mascioni, (AQ). He emigrated in 1906 at the age of 11. Helen's family remains close to relatives in Mascioni and Rome.

Helen has taught English at Gonzaga College High School since 1983. She co-founded Italy, In Other Words, a writing workshop based for 5 years in Abruzzo. She co-founded and organized [Let's Blog Abruzzo](#), a conference to encourage Italian and Italian-American bloggers to write about the region. Currently, she is a co-founder of the [Abruzzo Blogger Community](#). She is a member of the AMHS Fundraising Committee and has been instrumental to the redesign of the AMHS website.

### Biography for Albert Paolantonio

Albert Paolantonio was raised in Alexandria, Virginia, and has remained in the Arlington area for most of his adult life. He graduated in 1983 from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, and then started working for the Department of Defense as a Budget Analyst. In 2014, he retired after 32 years of service!

He has studied the Italian language on Sundays for about 20 years at Casa Italiana, and is a lover of all things Italian. His grandfather moved to the Boston area from Roccasica (Isernia) in Molise in 1913. He has visited there several times, as well as many other towns in Molise, and throughout Italy. His interest in the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society began shortly after the club began in 2000. He has been a member since, and enjoyed discovering more information about the two regions, and, in the process, has developed some very close friendships among the Society. He has supported the Society over the years in various capacities, and, at this time, is very interested in bringing his passion for the Society, and Italia, to the next level as a board member. He is also interested in Genealogy, and has a variety of other active interests, such as travel, exercise, gardening, and socializing with family and friends.

**A SPECIAL APPEAL!** The Society needs your help as we do not have a candidate for Secretary. Maria Fresco has done an exceptional job and agreed to serve an additional one-year term when we were unable to find a qualified candidate for Secretary at the end of 2015. The candidate for Secretary would serve a 1 (one)-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. The primary role of the Secretary is to take the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee, which meets six (6) times a year, on the third Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please consider being an integral part of the support system for our members and for our Society. We need your help!

*Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Lucio D'Andrea, Ennio DiTullio, Sergio Fresco, and Joe Novello.*

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### THOUSANDS ENJOY VILLA ROSA FESTIVAL

*By Nancy DeSanti*

This year's Villa Rosa Festival was a resounding success as thousands of Italians, Italian-Americans and friends came out to the popular annual festival in Mitchellville, Maryland. Maybe it was the beautiful sunny weather, or maybe it was the delicious

food and plentiful wine. Or else the music of the two bands which took turns playing—The Nowhere Men with their Motown Sound and the i-Talians playing familiar songs which brought back fond memories for many.

Whatever the reason, the festival's organizers have reason to be pleased. Under the leadership of Darlene DiBattista, her team and the many volunteers did an outstanding job. Of course to pull this off took months of planning, and thankfully everything went smoothly. And we could hardly have asked for better weather, which was a big relief to all.

The crowd was estimated at over 3,000 people and many of those who came to the festival on September 11, 2016, came with their family and friends. It was good to see everyone having a great time—from the kids on the pony rides to the adults (and some kids) singing and dancing along with the bands to songs such as Earth Wind and Fire's "September".

But first, there was an outdoor Mass celebrated by Father Ezio Marchetto, the pastor of Holy Rosary Church. Since the festival was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, there was a moment of silence during the Mass. At the end of the Mass, the Italian and American national anthems were sung, and then Maria Marigliano, the Holy Rosary choir director and AMHS member, sang an Italian lament in memory of the victims of 9/11.

Afterwards, there was of course the food, provided by numerous vendors - delicious sausage, pepper and onion sandwiches from A. Litteri, red sauce made by Trattoria Sorrento of Bethesda, bakery items from H&S Bakery, gelato from Dolci Gelati, ice from Apollo Ice, and beer and water from Bozick Distributors. Entertainment included pony rides, a windjammer slide, and face painting, balloon sculptures, and a clown.

At the wine and Society booth, many members, including Peter Bell, Luciana Caleb, Jeff Clark, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Elisa DiClemente, Ennio DiTullio, Helen Free, Albert Paolantonio, and Sarah Scott, helped with the sale of wine and AMHS merchandise, and information about AMHS and the regions of Abruzzo and Molise. Several festival attendees expressed interest in our events and some people also commented that they liked the *Notiziario*—always good to hear!!

Nearby, AMHS member Joe Lupo provided information about the classes at the Casa Italiana Language School, which he directs. Joe answered questions and handed out literature describing the classes which are offered at several levels. Also, AMHS past president Omero Sabatini set up a table under a nearby tree to sell his book, a translation of "*I Promessi Sposi*," with a big poster in front showing Pope Francis with a personal quote stating he had read "*I Promessi Sposi*" three times and it was on his desk for a fourth reading.

A big thank you to Darlene and her team and to all the volunteers and vendors for making the festival such a success, which made a net profit of \$21,102.18!!



## **PROFESSOR BENEDETTI GIVES FASCINATING UPDATE ON L'AQUILA RESTORATION AND HER BOOK "UN PAESE DI CARTA"**

*By Nancy DeSanti*

For our fifth program of the year on September 18, 2016, we were very pleased to have as our speaker Professor Laura Benedetti who gave us a most interesting account of the "before and after" situation in L'Aquila, seven years after the tragic April 2009 earthquake devastated that city. Professor Benedetti, who is from L'Aquila and has returned there several times in recent years, gave us a fascinating perspective on the earthquake restoration efforts.

Before our speaker gave her presentation, we enjoyed what everyone agreed was a delicious lunch catered by Osteria da Nino in Shirlington, Virginia. We had 77 guests for this event and judging by the comments we received afterwards, it was a big success.

Professor Benedetti's talk was arranged through AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea who returned from a month-long European vacation just in time for the event. Professor Benedetti was introduced by her friend AMHS Past President Omero Sabatini, who told us about the professor's distinguished background as a scholar and teacher at Georgetown University and Harvard University who has won many awards both here and in Italy and who has written six books.

Currently, she is a professor of Italian culture in the Department of Italian at Georgetown University and the author of a novel, "*Un Paese di Carta*," which deals with the theme of emigration through the eyes of three generations of Abruzzese women, and the loss of identity. Her book is reviewed in the July-August edition of the *Voce Italiana*. The professor was also the subject of an article in the October 2015 *America Oggi* on the occasion of her award of a gold medal by the Federazione delle Associazioni Abruzzesi (FAA).

In addition to learning many interesting facts about L'Aquila, we also learned about the area where the latest devastating earthquake took place in central Italy on August 24. For example, did you know that until 1927, Amatrice, the epicenter of that earthquake, was part of Abruzzo? Also, there are amazing similarities in the two earthquakes. Each had roughly the same number of victims (about 300 people) and took place in almost the same exact time during the early morning hours (3:37 am in Amatrice vs. 3:32 am in L'Aquila) and the two cities are less than 40 kilometers apart.

Professor Benedetti showed us a number of "before and after" slides of L'Aquila which really brought home to us just how devastating that earthquake was. We could see the beauty of L'Aquila which she told us was a vibrant city with a university, symphony orchestra and cinema institute. But now, the enrollment at the Università dell'Aquila is down and young people have mostly left the city, which has had a ripple effect in that the cultural activities have declined and restaurants and bars have closed. However, she noted that the presence of 4,000

foreigners masks the departure of the young people to a certain extent.

As far as the restoration efforts, Professor Benedetti elaborated on some of the efforts that have picked up since 2014. She explained that there is a controversial project known as C.A.S.E. which some fear gives too much emphasis to new construction and therefore overshadows the need for restoration. Some of the steps to help the restoration process have been taken through partnering with outside institutions such as Georgetown University where Professor Benedetti teaches. She told us how she takes a group of students during the summer and gives seminars to even middle school students in the city.

After talking about the situation in L'Aquila, Professor Benedetti segued into a brief discussion of her new book, "*Un Paese di Carta*." The book is written in Italian but the author translated into English a couple of passages from the book and read them to us after explaining that the book examines the lives of three generations of Abruzzese women. The book tells the story of the 18-year-old granddaughter who goes to Italy for the first time in 2011 in order to carry back the ashes of her grandmother to a resting place in her native land. For the first time, the granddaughter discovers that the mystery of her grandmother's departure is linked to a tragic event in the town involving a killing by the Nazis in 1943.

Professor Benedetti told us she wrote the book in only 6 or 7 months. After the talk, she graciously signed copies of her book.

At the end of the program, we raffled off two wonderful prizes - a Colavita food product gift obtained by Ennio DiTullio and a semester at the Casa Italiana Language School courtesy of Joe Lupo and Romeo Sabatini. Thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets, which added a tidy \$210 to our scholarship fund. Special thanks to everyone who helped with hospitality - to set up, serve food, and clean up. We cannot do our meetings without your generous help and support.

## **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HONORED AT COLORFUL UNION STATION CEREMONY**

*By Nancy DeSanti*



AMHS was well represented at the annual ceremony to honor Christopher Columbus held at Union Station in Washington, D.C. on October 10, 2016. The colorful and impressive ceremony took place on a beautiful, sunny fall day in front of the statue of the great explorer erected in 1912. The U.S. Marine Band provided the musical tribute, playing the national anthems of Italy, the Bahamas and the United States. The Knights of Columbus came out in full force in their colorful regalia, carrying the flags, and added to the pageantry.

The annual event was organized by the National Christopher Columbus Association (NCCA) in collaboration with the National Park Service and with the involvement of many fraternal, civic and cultural associations including the Lido Civic Club, lodges of the Sons of Italy and National Italian American Foundation (NIAF).

Proclamations by President Barack Obama and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser were read, and remarks were given by the featured speakers including NCCA President James P. McCusker, Catherine Flumiani, in charge of Consular and Social Affairs at the Italian Embassy, and Eugene Newry, Ambassador of the Bahamas.

Another highlight of the event was the award given to the first-prize winner of the essay contest conducted by NIAF and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The winner was Megan Meer, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader from Pittsburgh, PA, whose winning essay was on the topic "Columbus and Lindbergh: A Journey across the Atlantic."

AMHS was one of the advertisers in the program book, which also included an informative article on "Columbus and Slavery."

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the floral wreaths and the singing of "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." Such a fitting tribute to the Great Discoverer!!

And the day before, Holy Rosary Church had its own Columbus ceremony, following a noon Mass in commemoration of the great discoverer. Father Ezio Marchetto gave the invocation as the speakers, guests and parishioners gathered in Casa Italiana. The ceremony was emceed by Tony Falcone, and Maria Marigliano, Holy Rosary choir director and AMHS member, sang a beautiful song at the conclusion of the event. (Due to the ongoing construction project, the Columbus statue that was donated by the Lido Civic Club, in 1992, has been temporarily relocated).

## **AMHS MEMBERSHIP**

*by Lynn Sorbara, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Membership*

We are very pleased to report that there are 297 members of AMHS, including two new members. Thank you for your support of the Society's programs and activities. We have many wonderful events throughout the year, and your membership makes them possible!

### ***New Members***

A warm welcome to our newest members: **Jean Correll, Claire DeMarco, Annette Rossi, Steven Wright, and Goffredo**

**Palmerini (Honorary Member, from the region of Abruzzo).**  
Be sure to welcome them when you are at a Society event

### ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

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

#### ***Birthdays***

##### ***Compleanni a novembre***

Pasquale Santini, Eileen Verna, Julia Carey Corrado, November 1; Rev. John V. Di Bacco, Jr., November 2; Rita Carrier, Michael DeBonis, November 4; Joseph D'Amico, November 5; Luciana Caleb, Sergio Fresco, November 8; Rocco Caniglia, Kate Fazioli, Lidia LaMarca, Joseph Ruzzi, Jr., November 9; Massimo Mazziotti, November 11; Antonio Bianchini, Tina Marchegiani, November 12; Maryann Martella, November 13; Rocco DiCicco, November 14; Jonathan Stern, November 17; Edvige D'Andrea, Joseph D'Andrea, Dena DeBonis, Sabrina DeSousa, November 19; Betsy Ruzzi, November 21; Gerard DiFlavis, November 24; Christina Iovino, November 25; Amelia DiFiore and James Palumbo; November 30.

##### ***Compleanni a dicembre***

Katherine Condon; December 1; Rosalie Ciccotelli, December 2; Alfred DelGrosso, December 4; Marlene Lucian, December 6; Yoni Kay Caniglia, Roger Marcella, Thomas Novelli, December 7; Angelo DeCecco, Giuseppe Mastrangelo, December 10; Ronald Ciarlo, December 11; William Lepore, December 12; Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Patricia Violante, December 13; John Trocciola, December 14; Cathy Branciaroli, December 16; Domenico Conti, Thomas Ricche, December 18; Sandra Coleman, December 19; Elodia D'Onofrio, Carmine Spellane, December 20; Anna Isgro, December 21; Filomena Santini, December 23; Donald Fandetti, December 24; Margot Gilber and Fr. Charles Zanoni, December 29.

#### ***Anniversaries***

##### ***Anniversari a novembre***

Anthony & Jacqueline D'Ermes, November 21; and Joseph & Gloria D'Andrea, November 22.

##### ***Anniversari a dicembre***

Ray & Michele LaVerghetta, December 18; and David and Cristina Scalzitti, December 27.

## **MEET OUR AMHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

*By Ray LaVerghetta, Chair, AMHS Scholarship Committee*

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to present the winners of the two joint AMHS/NIAF scholarships awarded for the 2016-2017 year. They are Salvatore Pitino, of Whitestone, New York, and Nicholas Rao, of New York City, New York. Both are excellent students with strong links to their Italian background and a firm commitment to their Italian studies programs, as evidenced by their outstanding performance in those areas. The Scholarship Committee selected them this past Spring from a pool of other talented and worthy applicants. (The members of the Scholarship Committee at the time the winners were selected: Peter Bell, Dick DiBuono, Ray LaVerghetta, Romeo Sabatini, and Lourdes Tinajero.



The winners will be honorary members of the Society for calendar year 2016, and they will be invited by the President, as our guest, to attend a meeting in 2017 at which they can address the membership and tell us of their studies, their heritage, and what our scholarship means to them. Congratulations to Salvatore and Nicholas!

**Salvatore Pitino**



Salvatore 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.

**Nicholas Rao**



Nicholas 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 has roots in Sicily, Campania, and Basilicata.

***Letters from the Winners***

The two winners have written to the Society to express their gratitude for their selection, and we re-print them below:

*[Salvatore's letter]*

*May 31, 2016*

*Dear Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society,*

*My name is Salvatore Pitino and I am a rising sophomore at George Mason University. I would like to thank you so much for considering and accepting me as a candidate for the 2016 NIAF Abruzzo Molise Heritage Matching Scholarship. This scholarship will help foster my growth as a student and as an individual, contributing to my success in the future.*

*I was born in Queens, New York and raised in a Sicilian family with moderate means.*

*After my mother, I am the second person in my immediate family to attend college. Attending higher education allows me to open doors that my father and my grandparents were never able to open because of monetary restrictions. While the heavy burden of receiving an education still exists, with this scholarship I am able to lessen the load, which allows me to focus more on my future rather than worry about my finances.*

*When I first applied to Mason, I wanted to be a business major and enter the business world upon graduation. However, after taking my first micro-economic class, I gained an economic perspective of the business world. As a result, I became an Economics major. With this major, I intend on working my way up to an executive position in the travel industry. After completing my undergraduate degree at Mason, I want to get my master's in Business Administration (MBA).*

*Along with my love of economics, Mason helped me realize my love for my heritage. In spring of 2015, I declared a minor in Italian studies after falling in love with my Italian classes. Today, I continue to take classes towards my Italian Studies minor, learning about Italy through famous works of literature such as Dante's Inferno and through Cinema. In fall of 2016, I will be studying issues such as Immigration, which is widely affecting Italian society today. Both my coursework and professors helped me realize that it is important to not only be successful, but have strong ties to one's heritage and culture.*

*Together, my minor and major have helped me realize that college is a place of growth and preparation for the world post-graduation. With your generous scholarship, I will be able to continue my education at Mason and focus on discovering my interests, as well as developing myself so that I will be prepared for the future. With this in mind, words cannot express how honored and blessed I feel to be selected for the 2016 NIAF Abruzzo Molise Heritage Matching Scholarship. Grazie mille!*

*Sincerely,  
Salvatore Pitino*

[Nicholas' letter]

June 1, 2016

To the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society,

*I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your contribution of \$4000 to my education at The Catholic University of America, where I pursue a double B.A. in Philosophy and Italian Studies. My recent discovery of the National Italian American Foundation has been a great blessing, bringing new and invaluable contacts as well as new avenues for the expression and honoring of my Italian heritage.*

*My relationship to Italy is more than historical or genetic. Every summer, for 21 years, I have had the privilege of traveling to Italy, where I have formed a deeply personal appreciation for Italian culture and life, as well as an understanding of those traits that define the Italian character. A conscious and educated lover of all things Italian, I accept your gift with a certain sense of responsibility, both to myself and to the Italian-American population. This responsibility includes the proud and faithful representation in American society of Italian values, accomplishments and concerns; the permanent recollection of our part and unique place in American history; and, finally, the advocacy of all things Italian that are of special import to me - notably, the Italian emphasis on family and communal virtues, the Italian Catholic legacy, and Italian art (especially music).*

*It is truly an honor for me to accept this gift and responsibility within the NIAF community and Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society. I look forward to future correspondence and pledge my hard work in the upcoming academic year.*

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Rao

## SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

### CONGRATULATIONS TO AMHS MEMBER ROBERT D'ONOFRIO AND HIS NEW WIFE LAUREN



Robert D'Onofrio and Lauren Barkay were married on July 22, 2016 at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, MI. Lauren's grandfather, Dr. H. John Barkay, walked her down the aisle; and the couple was surrounded by family and friends from 14 different states. A reception

followed at the Italian American Cultural Society in Clinton Township, MI with food and dance that paid tribute to their Italian, Greek and Lebanese heritage. The couple will honeymoon in 2017, with plans still to be made.

### EMIGRATION ANALYST FROM ABRUZZO HONORED BY AMHS

Goffredo Palmerini, President of the Center for Emigration of the Abruzzo Region, and a leader of other organizations such as the National Association of Families of Emigrants, met with members of AMHS on October 13 and again at midday October 14. The October 13 meeting was a supper with current and past officers of AMHS, and was held at Osteria da Nino. At the dinner, Goffredo, who affectionately and informally is often referred to as "Ambassador of Abruzzo to the World," received a certificate of honorary membership to AMHS in recognition of his work on behalf of Abruzzo. Lucio D'Andrea presented the certificate of honorary membership. Goffredo expressed his gratitude, and he eloquently pointed out the uniqueness and beauty of the Italian culture and elaborated on how the love of this culture was carried abroad by Italian immigrants from Abruzzo and elsewhere, and was shared with their descendants. He thinks that this is why there is such a real interest in Italian culture and heritage nowadays. He also mentioned the economic benefits that Abruzzo can derive from closer ties with his children scattered throughout the world, particularly through tourism, and the pride that the Abruzzesi in Italy can feel because of the overall success of their compatriots abroad.



From left to right, Belinda Sabatini, Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, Goffredo Palmerini, Dr. Laura Benedetti, Nancy DeSanti, and Omero Sabatini

During this meeting there was also some discussion of Goffredo's latest book, *Le radici e le ali* (The Roots and The Wings) which, like his other work, is a true embodiment of the old saying, honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future.

On October 14, Goffredo met with Lucio, Edvige, and Joseph (Joe) D'Andrea, so that he could renew his old acquaintance with Joe, and to reflect on Joe's book "Monongah: 100 Years of Oblivion", on the Monongah mining disaster of 1907. They also toured Washington National Cathedral, which made quite the impression on Goffredo. Joe was in Washington to attend the NIAF Gala. He came with Luca Lugini who, with Bernardo Artieri, were studying at the University of L'Aquila at the time of the earthquake in 2009. Goffredo Palmerini was responsible for submitting the proposal to the American Italian Cultural



Institute (Joseph D'Andrea, President) and Robert Morris University, for these two students to apply for scholarships to study at Robert Morris. Both students graduated with honors from Robert Morris. Joseph was able to thank Goffredo for his part in making this possible – a success story because the Italian community of Pittsburgh wanted to “invest in the students of L'Aquila”.

Goffredo was in the States October 6-18 primarily to officially represent the National Association of Families of Emigrants at the Columbus Day Parade in New York City, but also to meet with representatives of several other Italian-American organizations in New York and New England, and to visit Columbia University, New York University, Queens College and Georgetown University. *(submitted by Omero Sabatini with input from Joseph D'Andrea).*

### MIKE DeBONIS: UP, UP AND AWAY



Some of us have met and talked with an astronaut at one of our previous events, but I am almost certain that until now none of us, except me, has yet seen or spoken with someone who has flown on Air Force One with the President of the United States. And that is exactly what my nephew, and our fellow member, Mike DeBonis did on October 7, and again on October 9. Perhaps many of you know that Mike is a reporter for the

Washington Post, and that, in spite of his young age, is steadily gaining national recognition. He is known by name by several of our nation's leaders including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and has participated in several national TV talk shows. Regardless, here is how Mike got to be on Air Force One. Every time the President flies anywhere, his press office selects a number of news agencies and asks them to send an overall total of about a dozen journalists and photographers to fly with him on Air Force One as part of a pool of news media members.

Well, this time the President's press office asked the Washington Post, and the Post selected Mike. Mike is Abruzzese by way of his grandmother Isabella, and he and his wife Dena attend virtually every AMHS meeting, partly because the memory of his beloved grandmother is indelible in Mike's mind. *(submitted by Omero Sabatini).*

## AMHS & THE NIAF 41<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA WEEKEND

*Excerpts from the NIAF website; photos by Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*

AMHS was well represented at NIAF's 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary Gala weekend, October 13 – 16, participating in events for the Italian American Leadership Council, a reception at the residence of the Italian Ambassador, at the Expo Italiana, and at the Gala.

On Thursday evening, October 13, NIAF Board and Italian American Leadership Council (IALC) members and Gala VIPs attended a special reception, dinner and tour hosted by the White House Historical Association at historic Decatur House a block from the White House. President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, who represents AMHS on the IALC, attended this dinner with Ray LaVerghetta, Chair of the AMHS Scholarship Committee. This was a wonderful networking opportunity, to meet more members of NIAF's Board and the IALC, and to firmly embrace our relationship with NIAF. On Friday night, AMHS President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers was honored to attend a reception at the residence of the Italian Ambassador, Armando Varricchio, held in celebration of the NIAF weekend. One of the highlights for Maria was meeting former Pittsburgh Steeler, Hall of Famer, and NIAF Gala honoree Franco Harris!



*AMHS members Mark Lino, Loretta Pitarelli, Robert D'Onofrio, and Albert Paolantonio at the Expo's wine tasting event*

Saturday morning's Expo Italiana proved a vibrant marketplace and forum for all things Italian and Italian American...and for more than 3,000 guests who were drawn to what has become the largest annual Italian festival in the nation's capital. Mike's Deli, the original Arthur Avenue Italian Deli, was on hand to serve complimentary Italian delicacies and whip up fresh mozzarella on site, made with water imported straight from Bronx, NY, in order to keep the flavor authentic. Peroni Nastro Azzurro served samples of Italian beer; Cibo Foods brought in its “Maserati of meat slicers” to provide amazing sliced Italian meats by the plateful; Chazz Palminteri's BIVI Sicilian Vodka booth gave away shots; La Famiglia DelGrosso created a crowd pleaser with its “Meatball Martinis”; and LaVazza Café doled out fresh, hot espresso throughout the day. Other vendors in attendance included Dolce Gelato, Alitalia, Ferrero, Maserati of

Arlington, and the Region of Piemonte. The expo also included various programs, films, and seminars, including “Women Leaders in Advanced Cancer Research”, “Emergency Exit: Young Italians Abroad”, “NIAF – Ieri, Oggi, Domani: The Future of Little Italy’s”, workshop and forum with brothers Anthony & Joseph Russo (Gala honorees), directors of the TV shows *Arrested Development* and *Community*, as well as the films *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, and *Captain America: Civil War*, who discussed the art of filmmaking.

The Gala on Saturday, October 15 was a star-studded event, with recognition of many important Italian Americans in the field of entertainment, sports, business, and philanthropy. Entertainer and radio host Joe Piscopo, along with NIAF President and Chief Operating Officer John M. Viola, co-hosted the black-tie Gala.

Gala Weekend Chairman Frank Giordano welcomed the evening’s guests, followed by Italy’s Ambassador to the United States Armando Varricchio, expressing gratitude for the more than half a million dollars raised for relief by NIAF and affiliates in the wake of the August 24 earthquake that devastated Central Italy. “We [Italians and Italian Americans] know we can count on each other,” said Varricchio.

NIAF Board member Paolo Catalfamo and General Counsel Arthur J. Furia introduced the 2016 Region of Honor, Piemonte, which was celebrated in a lushly-shot video paying homage to the area. Through the course of the evening, the more than 1,500 guests enjoyed wine and dinner that reflected Piemonte’s worldwide reputation as a culinary and wine lover’s destination. A centerpiece of the Gala, which topped off the weekend, were the 2016 honorees. Directors Joe and Anthony Russo delivered an inspiring speech as recipients of the Jack Valenti Institute Award. “We feel blessed to have had a classic Italian American upbringing,” said the Russo brothers, telling a touching yet familiar story of belonging to a tight-knit, loyal family. “For all the things you can take away from the Italian American experience, this may be the most important – your family will always be there,” said Anthony Russo. “We stand on the shoulders of our parents and their parents.” The filmmakers also announced the launch of a new NIAF program, The Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum, a new grant initiative that will help fund young filmmakers to capture an aspect of the Italian American experience. They also introduced an exciting live auction item offering a family of five a visit to the set in Atlanta of the next “Avengers” film, including a private tour of the film set, meeting members of the cast and crew, and VIP access to the directors’ trailer.

National Football League Hall of Famer and four-time Super Bowl Champion Franco Harris, recipient of the Special Achievement Award in Sports, told the audience about being raised in a household with an Italian mother and an African-American father. He noted that his mother often told stories of her experiences in Italy during World War II, and these stories made him comprehend the sacrifices she endured on behalf of her children. “Going to Italy,” Harris said, “did it help me understand and appreciate my Italian heritage? It really did.”

Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive officer of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Stefano Pessina, accepted the honor of NIAF’s Special Achievement Award in Business. “I feel very pleased to be a very small part of the great contributions Italian Americans have made to this country,” Pessina said.



*From left to right, John & Eileen Verna, Luca Lugini, Joe D’Andrea, Sam Yothers & Maria D’Andrea-Yothers, Elisa DiClemente, Lynn Sorbara, Edvige D’Andrea, Helen Free, Lourdes Tinajero, and Lucio D’Andrea*

*\*Also attending the Gala, from AMHS, were the Mazziotti brothers and their families, and Tony and Elodi D’Onofrio.*

Gala attendees were treated to a special performance by legendary singer and songwriter Tony Renis, who, before singing his classic “*Quando, Quando, Quando*,” told the crowd that this performance would be his first in public in 20 years. When he learned he would be honored with NIAF’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Entertainment, Renis explained that a friend told him he must attend the Gala because “The Italian Americans love you.” His authentic and eccentric character riveted the audience, and his offbeat comments – “Is it [the award statue] made of gold? It looks like gold!” – kept everyone laughing.

Giuseppe Lavazza, vice chairman of Lavazza, the Italian coffee giant, received NIAF’s Special Achievement Award in International Business. “I feel myself really in a great family,” Lavazza told the crowd, adding that he was grateful to be honored by an organization that has worked for more than 40 years to preserve heritage and culture.

Honoree Maria Franca Ferrero, the widow of Michele Ferrero of Ferrero Group, accepted her honor via video, stating, “We are proud to support NIAF and its activities and support the Italian culture and heritage in the United States.”

The Italian American Community Leadership Award was given to The National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) and its founder Dr. Aileen Riotto Sirey. Dr. Sirey, who launched NOIAW 36 years ago, explained that when the organization was established, Italian Americans were in “a generation that was straddled between two worlds, two



languages, two cultures. They wanted their kids to be American.” She noted that part of the impetus behind the organization’s creation was a desire to bust stereotypes of Italian American women, which more often than not depicted them as fat and hunched over a pot of sauce. “We weren’t ashamed of that,” Sirey said on Saturday night, “but we knew we were more than that.”

NIAF Vice Chairman Hon. Patricia de Stacy Harrison and Executive Vice President John F. Calvelli introduced a video detailing the Foundation’s Italian American Relief Fund initiative, originally created in the wake of the 2012 Emilia-Romagna earthquake, and now reinstated for the most recent catastrophe in central Italy. The Fund will remain in place as a resource should any other tragedy strike, Harrison and Calvelli explained. “We now have a support system in place” that connects Italians and Italian Americans.

Board members Anita Bevacqua McBride and Dr. John Rosa updated the audience on NIAF’s vigorous scholarship programs that, in 2016, administered 180 scholarships valued at \$950,000.

The Gala drew to a close with the honoring of NIAF Chairman Joseph V. Del Raso for his outstanding leadership, dedication and continuing service, marking the 41<sup>st</sup> as his last Gala as chairman. Fellow NIAF Board members took to the stage to honor Del Raso and introduce a video highlighting his service. Del Raso echoed a sentiment that was heard throughout the night in the speeches of honorees: Family saves and shapes us. “If you want to stay grounded,” Del Raso said, “have a good family.”

Proceeds from The National Italian American Foundation’s 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Gala will benefit the Foundation’s educational programs.

## AMBASCIATORI D'ABRUZZO NEL MONDO 2016

*By Ennio DiTullio, Board Member and Past President, the Italian excerpted from abruzzoindependent.it*



Si e' svolta, nella suggestiva Abbazia di San Giovanni in Venere di Fossacesia (Chieti), la cerimonia di premiazione degli "Ambasciatori d'Abruzzo nel mondo". L'onorificenza e' assegnata dall'Ufficio di Presidenza del Consiglio regionale agli abruzzesi che, per meriti accademici, culturali, politici, sociali o

professionali, si siano distinti nei Paesi stranieri, o nelle regioni italiane diverse dall'Abruzzo, in cui sono emigrati in passato o dove attualmente vivono stabilmente. L'iniziativa si svolge ogni anno in occasione della "Giornata degli Abruzzesi nel mondo", istituita con legge regionale (4/2011), in programma il 5 agosto.

I nuovi cinque Ambasciatori d'Abruzzo nel mondo sono: Claudia Pingue, nata a Sulmona (L'Aquila), Chief Operating Officer di PoliHub, l'incubatore d'impresa gestito dalla Fondazione Politecnico di Milano. La Pingue, secondo la lista di Peter W. Kruger, "guru" di internet, e' una delle cento donne piu' influenti del digitale; Domenico Accili, nato all'Aquila, Medico, Docente e Direttore del Columbia University Diabets and Endocrinology Research Center; Sabatino (Samuel) Paolucci, nato a Tollo (Chieti), Professore presso il Dipartimento di Ingegneria Aerospaziale dell'Universita' di Notre Dame, nello stato dell'Indiana (USA); Renato Minore, nato a Chieti, giornalista Rai, docente e scrittore.

Nel corso della cerimonia sono stati conferiti due riconoscimenti speciali per la promozione dell'immagine dell'Abruzzo nel mondo: premiato Loreto Di Loreto, Maresciallo dell'Arma dei Carabinieri nato a Castel Di Sangro (L'Aquila) nel 1980, atleta paralimpico nella disciplina "rowing indoor su pista". Di Loreto ha perso l'uso delle gambe a seguito di un incidente avvenuto durante una missione internazionale in Afghanistan nel 2012, in servizio con il I Reggimento Carabinieri Paracadutisti "Tuscania". Lo scorso 4 maggio, con la delegazione paralimpica militare italiana, ha partecipato ad Orlando, in Florida, alla seconda edizione degli "Invictus Games", una sorta di paralimpiade tra i militari che hanno contratto una disabilita' in guerra o per servizio in Patria. Qui ha ottenuto la medaglia di bronzo gareggiando nella disciplina "Ir2 Men 4Min", una speciale competizione in carrozzina nella quale bisogna percorrere un miglio in meno di 4 minuti. Attualmente e' in servizio nel Centro Sportivo Carabinieri di Roma.

Il secondo riconoscimento e' stato assegnato a Luigi Galante, nato ad Atesa (Chieti). Galante dal 2013 ha assunto la responsabilita' del Manufacturing EMEA (rappresenta le aree geografiche di Europa, Russia, Medio Oriente e Africa) per Fiat Chrysler Automobiles e si occupa della gestione degli stabilimenti di Produzione e dell'Industrializzazione delle vetture e le relative meccaniche in Europa. Come Premium Brands segue in particolare l'industrializzazione e la produzione delle nuove vetture Alfa Romeo e Maserati e dei relativi nuovi motori. Nei mesi scorsi ha curato i lanci produttivi della nuova Giulia Alfa e del Levante Maserati.

L'evento e' stato presieduto dal presidente del Consiglio regionale, Giuseppe Di Pangrazio che ha esaltato il valore di questa edizione di "Ambasciatori d'Abruzzo": "Siamo riusciti a definire un quadro di personalita' di pregio - afferma il presidente - nostri importanti interlocutori istituzionali, con un ruolo fondamentale nell'impegno di cooperazione con realta' italiane ed estere". Hanno portato, inoltre, i loro saluti il presidente della Regione, Luciano D'Alfonso, il sindaco di

Fossacesia, Enrico Giuseppantonio, il sindaco di Tollo, Angelo Radica e il sindaco di Castel di Sangro, Angelo Caruso. Alla cerimonia sono intervenuti i consiglieri regionali, Mario Olivieri, Alessio Monaco e Alberto Balducci.

Emma ed io eravamo in Italia questa estate e siamo stati invitati ad attendere all'evento dal Consigliere Regionale, Alessio Monaco, che e' anche Vice Sindaco del mio paese Rosello. E' stato un onore attendere ed un grande piacere conoscere i vari funzionari della regione e parlare dell'Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society e del suo grande impegno nel promuovere la nostra cultura e tenere alto il nome delle nostre regioni.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

On August 5, 2016, in the picturesque Abbey of San Giovanni in Venere in Fossacesia (Chieti), the award ceremony for the "Ambassadors of Abruzzo in the World" took place. The awards are assigned by the Office of the Regional Council Presidency to the Abruzzese for merits in academic, cultural, political, social, or professional accomplishments, to individuals who have distinguished themselves in foreign countries, or other Italian regions, where they emigrated in the past or where they now live permanently. The event takes place every year on the occasion of "La Giornata degli Abruzzesi nel Mondo", established by Regional Law (4/2011). The five new ambassadors for Abruzzo in the world are: Claudia Pingue, born in Sulmona (L'Aquila), Chief Operating Officer of PoliHub, the business incubator run by the Fondazione Politecnico di Milano (Pingue, according to the list of Peter W. Kruger, "guru" of the internet, is one of a hundred most influential women in the digital field; Domenico Accili, born in L'Aquila, Doctor, Professor and Director of Columbia University's Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center; Sabatino (Samuel) Paolucci, born in Tollo (Chieti), Professor at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana (USA); and Renato Minor, born in Chieti, RAI journalist, lecturer and writer.

On this day, two special awards were given for promoting the image of Abruzzo in the world. The first award went to Loreto Di Loreto, Marshal of the Carabinieri, who was born in Castel di Sangro (L'Aquila) in 1980. He is a Paralympic athlete in the discipline of "rowing indoor on track". Loreto lost the use of his legs following an accident during an international mission in Afghanistan in 2012, serving with the Parachute Regiment Carabinieri "Tuscania". He participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Invictus Games" in Orlando, Florida, on May 4, a kind of Paralympic among the military who have been disabled due to war or homeland service. Loreto won the bronze medal competing in the discipline "Ir2 4min Men", a special racing wheelchair in which you have to run a mile in under 4 minutes. He is currently serving in the Centro Sportivo Carabinieri in Rome.

The second award went to Luigi Galante, born in Ateessa (Chieti). In 2013, Galante took over the responsibility of

Manufacturing EMEA (representing the geographic areas of Europe, Russia, Middle East and Africa) for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. He manages production and industrialization of the cars in Europe. As "Premium Brands", he oversees the industrialization and production of the new models of Alfa Romeo and Maserati and their new engines. In recent months, he took care of the production startup of the new Giulia Alfa and Maserati Levante.

The event was chaired by the President of the Regional Council, Giuseppe Di Pangrazio who praised the value of this edition of "Ambassadors of Abruzzo", stating "We were able to establish a framework of fine personality", our major institutional stakeholders, with a key role in the commitment to cooperation with reality "Italian and foreign". They also brought also their greetings from the regional president, Luciano D'Alfonso, Mayor of Fossacesia, Enrico Giuseppantonio, the mayor of Tollo, Angelo Radica, and the mayor of Castel di Sangro, Angelo Caruso. The ceremony was attended by regional directors Mario Olivieri, Alessio Monaco and Alberto Balducci. Emma and I were in Italy this summer and we were invited to attend the event by the Consigliere Regionale, Alessio Monaco, who is also Deputy Mayor of my village, Rosello. It was an honor to attend and a great pleasure to meet the various officials of the region and talk about the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society and its strong commitment in promoting our culture and recognition of our two regions.



*Ennio and Emma DiTullio with Nazzareno Venturo, who is with the Comune di Rosello & with the Consigliere regionale Alessio Monaco*





## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### ATELETA, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, ABRUZZO REGION

By Nancy DeSanti



The beautiful little town of Ateleta is located in the southeastern corner of the province of L'Aquila near the border with Molise and is located near the Roccaraso plain. Its name is somewhat unique in that it is the same spelled backward and forward, which was considered to be a good omen.

Ateleta has approximately 1,330 inhabitants, known as Ateletesi. It lies on a hill called Colle Sisto, in a valley situated on the left side of the Sangro River, along the boundary which divides Abruzzo and Molise. Nearby there are several popular tourist resorts such as Roccaraso, Rivisondoli and Pescocostanzo and the National Park of Abruzzo, while the rugged territory of Ateleta is included in the Majella Park.

Ateleta got its name from Gioacchino Murat, the king of Naples in 1808, and it means tax-free. During Murat's rule during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he promoted a single built-up area, giving the inhabitants of the countryside living in the scattered farmhouses the privilege of not paying taxes if they moved to the new downtown area. The town's history is documented beginning with the year 1100, where on a high rock near the present day Ateleta there was a castle named Carceri and its fiefdom was probably the origin of most of the Ateletesi. The town of Ateleta arose in 1811 thanks to Giuseppe de Thomasis, charged by Murat with giving the lands previously held by the aristocracy to the peasants who worked them. De Thomasis wanted to create a free place and so the name Ateleta was chosen from the Greek words "a thelé" meaning "without taxes." It included the territories and inhabitants of Roccapizzi and Carceri, previously under the barons of Pescocostanzo.

From 600 inhabitants in 1810, Ateleta grew to over 3,400 in one century. Unfortunately, the town previously suffered a devastating earthquake in 1456. More recently, the town was almost 90% destroyed during World War II. In November 1943, the Germans, after having nearly destroyed the town, before withdrawing they exterminated all those they could find, even old men and children, in a tragically famous place nearby

called Pietransieri. After the war, the town was completely rebuilt but then an earthquake hit the town in 1984, so that now most of the houses are modern and recent. Nevertheless, there was a significant migration to America and other countries which offered more opportunities. The migration began in the early 1900s but accelerated after World War II.

Nowadays, Ateleta draws visitors for its scenic beauty of nearby mountains, woods and rivers. The area is particularly known for its very delicate and highly prized tartufo bianco (white truffle). Among the gastronomic specialties are lamb cooked in various ways, pizza frita (fried pizza), pasta alla chitarra, and the typical sweets known as pizzelle.

And visitors can easily go to nearby Carceri to see the remains of a beautiful example of an ancient castle.

#### What to See

- Parish church of San Gioacchino, rebuilt after the bombardment during World War II, with the characteristics of an ancient Greek temple
- Museo della Civiltà Contadina, with local items of interest
- Ancient fortification, Rocca di Carceri, and remains of Castello Carceri, abandoned after the terrible earthquake in 1456
- Sanctuary of the Madonna dell'Elcino
- Gioacchino Murat Museum
- Church of St. Nicola

#### Important Dates

- January 17: Feast of St. Anthony Abate, celebrated with bonfires
- April 5: Feast of San Vincenzo Ferreri, the patron saint
- August 14: Lamb festival
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August: Fried pizza festival
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August: Sausages and bruschetta festival

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### ATELETA, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

*Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member*

La bellissima cittadina di Ateleta, dal nome bifronte, sorge in un angolo sudorientale della provincia di L'Aquila, nei pressi della pianura di Roccaraso, al confine col Molise. Il fatto che avesse un nome bifronte era considerato, nel passato, propiziatorio.

Ateleta conta approssimativamente 1.330 abitanti, conosciuti come Ateletesi. Sorge sul Colle Sisto, in una vallata del fianco sinistro del fiume Sangro, lungo la linea che divide l'Abruzzo dal Molise. E' circondata da varie attraenti località turistiche, come Roccaraso, Rivisondoli, Pescocostanzo, il Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo e il parco della Majella. Ateleta fù

chiamata così da Gioacchino Murat, re di Napoli nel 1808, e significa "esente da dazio." Questi costruì abitazioni nel centro abitato per i contadini, i quali non avrebbero pagato tasse se avessero lasciato i casolari di campagna per le nuove abitazioni.. La storia di Ateleta inizia verso l'anno 1100, quando nei pressi dell'odierna cittadina sorgeva un castello dal nome Carceri. Murat, nel 1811 diede il permesso a Giuseppe de Thomas, di distribuire terre, dapprima appartenenti all'aristocrazia, ai contadini che le coltivavano. De Thomas voleva creare un'area libera, esente da dazio. Quest'area includeva Roccapizzi e Carceri, precedentemente governate dai baroni di Pescocostanzo.

La popolazione di Ateleta aumentò, nel giro di un secolo, da 600 abitanti a 3.400. Sfortunatamente il terremoto del 1456 devastò la cittadina, e più recentemente fu quasi rasa al suolo durante la seconda guerra mondiale. Nel novembre del 1943 i tedeschi, dopo aver quasi distrutto la cittadina, sterminarono, prima della loro ritirata, tutti coloro che trovavano, incluso vecchi e bambini, in una località tragicamente famosa chiamata Pietransieri. Dopo la guerra Ateleta fu ricostruita, ma nel 1984 un severo terremoto di nuovo la distrusse. Oggi la cittadina ha un volto nuovo, con case nuove. L'emigrazione degli ateletesi, verso luoghi che offrivano opportunità di lavoro, iniziò all'inizio del 1900 e s'intensificò dopo la seconda guerra mondiale.

Le attrazioni turistiche del luogo, i panorami, i boschi, i fiumi e i laghi, portano qui molti villeggianti, alcuni dei quali sono alla ricerca del tartufo bianco, presente nell'area. Le specialità culinarie sono tante: l'agnello, cucinato in vari modi, la pizza fritta e le famose pizzelle sono solo alcune di queste.

I turisti amano visitare la vicina Carceri per ammirare i ruderi dell'antico castello.

#### Attrazioni del luogo

- La chiesa parrocchiale di San Gioacchino, ricostruita dopo i bombardamenti della seconda guerra mondiale e dalle caratteristiche di un antico tempio greco
- Il museo della civiltà contadina con interessanti oggetti locali
- L'antica fortezza Rocca di Carceri e i ruderi del castello Carceri, abbandonato dopo il terremoto del 1456
- Santuario della Madonna dell'Elcino
- Il museo di Gioacchino Murat
- La chiesa di San Nicola

#### Date da ricordare

- 17 febbraio: Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate coi falò
- 5 aprile: Festa di San Vincenzi Ferreri, Santo Patrono.
- 14 agosto: La Sagra dell'agnello
- La seconda settimana di Agosto: La sagra della pizza fritta
- Terza settimana d'agosto: La sagra della salsiccia e della bruschetta

## **CASTELMAURO, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, MOLISE REGION**

*By Nancy DeSanti*



The picturesque mountainous town of Castelmauro, which had its origin in the Middle Ages, is located on the slopes of Monte Mauro, amid the thick woods of beech trees, along the left bank of the Biferno River.

Castelmauro has approximately 2,439 inhabitants and was previously known as Castelluccio Acquaborrana until around 1885.

In the Middle Ages, this small town enjoyed a remarkable importance thanks to the powerful feudal families Cantelmo, D'Evoli and Mormile, who surrounded the place with high walls where only the three doors of Cantelmo, Lavaturo and Popolo opened. After the unification of Italy, migration was mostly directed to America, while a massive exodus took place in the aftermath of World War II, especially to the Belgian mining town of Herstal, which became a twin town with Castelmauro.

Among the most interesting sights in the town are the parish church of its patron saint, San Leonardo, with a fine 18<sup>th</sup> century façade and ancient belltower. The beautiful interior is typical for its gilded altars in carved wood and its fine organ. In the crypt, there are corpses of abbots and bishops in their memorial garments, seated on ancient wooden seats. At the Church of the Madonna della Salute, outside of the town, there is a statue of the Virgin Mary covered in jewels which is carried in a procession on September 7 and 10.

Also, nearby Monte Mauro is a popular destination for excursions where one can enjoy a wide panorama and one can see Lesina Lake and the Dalmatian Mountains on the other side of the Adriatic.

There is also an astronomical observatory of Castelmauro, on the summit of Monte Mauro at 1,042 meters. There is even an organization in Molise called the Union of Amateur Astronomers whose activities include star parties, themed conferences, astrophotography exhibitions and lectures in schools. (Note: There is another observatory in Molise, not far from the city of Capracotta in the province of Isernia).



### What to See

- Parish church of San Leonardo, the patron saint
- Church of San Nicola
- Church of Sant'Antonio Abate from the 15th century
- Monte Mauro
- Palazzo Cantelmo, from the 15th and 16th centuries

### Important Dates

- January 17: Faló
- May 3: Feast of Santa Lucia
- September 7 & 10: Madonna della Salute
- November 6: San Leonardo, the patron saint

### Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castelmauro>  
<http://www.enchantingitaly.com/regions/molise/province-campobasso/castelmauro.htm>  
<http://www.comune.castelmauro.cb.it/hh/index.php?jvs=0&acc=1>  
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### CASTELMAURO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

*Translated by Maddalena Borea*

L'attraente cittadina di Castelmauro, la cui origine risale al Medioevo, sorge sui fianchi di Monte Mauro, lungo la riva sinistra del fiume Biferno. E' montagnosa ed alberata. Conosciuta, nel passato, come Castelluccio Acquaborrama, divenne Castelmauro intorno alla fine del diciannovesimo secolo. Oggi conta circa 2.439 abitanti.

Conobbe fama nel Medioevo, grazie alle potenti famiglie feudali che la governarono: i Cantelmo, i D'Evoli, i Mormile. Questi Signori Feudali circondarono la cittadina di mura, contenenti tre porte che rendevano possibile l'accesso al centro abitato. Queste porte avevano un nome: Cantelmo, Lavaturo e Popolo. Dopo la riunificazione d'Italia, molti abitanti di questa città emigrarono verso l'America, e dopo la seconda guerra mondiale ci fu un vero e proprio esodo verso altre parti d'Europa, specialmente in Belgio, nella città d'Erstal, ricca di miniere, e, conseguentemente città gemella di Castelmauro.

La Chiesa Madre di Castelmauro, dedicata al Santo Patrono, San Leonardo, con la facciata che risale al diciottesimo secolo, e con il suo magnifico campanile, è una delle attrazioni della città. Nell'interno si possono ammirare i suoi altari dorati, intarsiati di legno prezioso, e il suo organo. La cripta contiene corpi di abati e di vescovi, vestiti nei loro lussuosi abiti vescovili e seduti su antiche sedie di legno. Nella Chiesa della Madonna della Salute, la Vergine, trasportata in processione il 7 e il 10 settembre, è addobbata di gioielli votivi.

Nei pressi di Castelmauro c'è una popolarissima destinazione turistica, che offre magnifiche viste del lago Lesina e dei monti della Dalmazia, dall'altra parte dell'Adriatico. Nella città esiste anche un osservatorio astronomico sul monte Mauro a oltre

1000 metri d'altezza. L'organizzazione "Gli amatori Astronomi", offer feste in questo luogo, lezioni scolastiche, esibizioni di astrofoto.

Da notare che esiste un altro osservatorio, in Molise, nei pressi della cittadina di Capracotta, in provincia di Isernia.

### Attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa di San Leonardo, Santo Patrono
- La chiesa di San Nicola
- La Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate del 15° secolo
- Monte Mauro
- Palazzo Cantelmo 15° e 16° secoli

### Date da ricordare

- 17 gennaio: I Faló
- 3 maggio: La festa di Santa Lucia
- 7 e 10 settembre: Festa della Madonna della Salute
- 6 novembre: Festa di San Leonardo, Santo Patrono

## SHOW YOUR AMHS PRIDE!

*By Sarah Scott, AMHS Board Member*

We are excited to announce that AMHS has new t-shirts available for our membership. These custom shirts were recently released for sale at the Italian Festival on September 11 and were a big hit!

#### AMHS Men's T-Shirt

Material: 50% cotton/50% polyester  
Sizes: S/M/L/XL

Price: \$25 + \$4.50  
postage and  
handling



#### AMHS Women's T-Shirt

Material: 60% cotton/40% polyester  
Sizes: S/M/L/XL

Price: \$25 + \$4.50  
postage and  
handling



We will offer these and our other AMHS logo items (see order form at end of this issue) at our upcoming events or, if you would like to order one of these t-shirts by mail, please send your check payable to AMHS with your name, address, shirt size, and gender to: AMHS, c/o Sarah Scott, 5108 Donovan Drive, #105, Alexandria, VA 22304.



# THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000



## ❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

### *AMHS Lunch Meeting and Winemakers' Tasting*

**When:** SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

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



*The November 2015 Wine Tasting Event*

**MENU:** Lunch catered by Three Brothers Italian Restaurant. Menu includes orrecchiete with broccoli rabe in garlic and olive oil, sausage and peppers, rice, salad, bread, and dessert. 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](http://WWW.ABRUZZOMOLISEHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG)  
(SEE ICON ON THE HOME PAGE FOR "UPCOMING  
EVENTS"). ONLY PAID RESERVATIONS WILL BE  
ACCEPTED, WHICH MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2016. NO PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR.**

Please join us for our most popular event of the year, the annual wine tasting event. (This year, we are not offering our usual porchetta due to difficulty with using the Casa Italiana kitchen). The meeting will commence with a brief AMHS business meeting, to include election of 3 members to the Board of Directors. Following the lunch, our wine-making members and friends will have samples of their production to share with attending members, friends and guests. We will also have a raffle with some wonderful prizes, with proceeds to benefit the AMHS Scholarship Fund.

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

✂----- *Return with Payment*

### **PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016**

Please make check payable to AMHS.

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

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

GUEST(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**AMHS AT THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 ITALIAN FESTIVAL AT VILLA ROSA – FUN WITH FRIENDS  
IN SUPPORT OF A GREAT CAUSE!**



**Top (left):** Festival begins with Mass at 11:00, celebrant is Father Ezio Marchetto, Pastor, Holy Rosary Church. **Top (right):** AMHS members Albert Paolantonio and Luciana Caleb at the wine booth.

**Center (left):** AMHS members from left to right, Ray LaVerghetta, Nancy DeSanti, and Tony and Elodia D'Onofrio. **Center (right):** The DiTullio family, from left, Emma, Sebastian, and Daniela enjoy the grilled chicken and sausage and peppers.

**Bottom (left):** AMHS member Ennio DiTullio promotes the regions of Abruzzo and Molise to festival attendees. **Bottom (right):** From left, Mei-Lin Lu with AMHS members Sarah Scott and Cheryl Mitchell. *(photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).*



## AMHS SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING

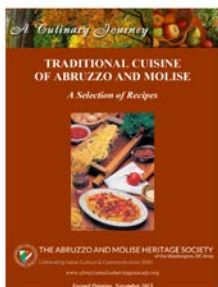


**Top (left):** AMHS officers from left to right, Sarah Scott, Helen Free, and Peter Bell, all showcasing AMHS merchandise! **Top (right):** From left to right, guest and presenter Dr. Laura Benedetti, Father Ezio Marchetto, Edvige & Lucio D'Andrea, Diana Femia, Vice Chair & Greater Washington, DC region President of The National Organization of Italian American Women, and Emma & Ennio DiTullio.

**Center (left) and (right):** Images from Dr. Benedetti's presentation, which focused on the April 6, 2009 earthquake that devastated L'Aquila, Abruzzo.

**Bottom (left):** From left to right, Diana Femia, Ennio & Emma DiTullio, Edvige & Lucio D'Andrea, guest speaker Dr. Laura Benedetti, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Father Ezio Marchetto, and Omero & Belinda Sabatini. **Bottom (right):** Clock tower in L'Aquila, which stopped when the earthquake struck on April 6, 2009. (photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).





**“Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes”,**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Printing November 2015

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


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### THE AMHS POLO SHIRT

 <p><b>Model A - Enlarge</b> <b>Model B - Enlarge</b></p>	<p><b>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model A</b></p> <p><b>MATERIAL:</b> 53% combed cotton 47% polyester "EDRY" tm fabric <b>COLOR:</b> light blue <b>MEN's sizes (only):</b> S / M / XL <b>WOMEN's sizes:</b> M / L / XL</p> <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$25 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>	<p><b>AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model B</b></p> <p><b>MATERIAL:</b> 60% cotton 40% polyester regular fabric <b>COLOR:</b> light blue <b>WOMEN's sizes (only):</b> M / L</p> <p><b>PRICE:</b> \$20 + \$4.50 postage and handling</p>
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**Complete one line below for each Polo Shirt being ordered:**

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<b>MODEL (enter A or B):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(M or W):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(SIZE):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(PRICE):</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>MODEL (enter A or B):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(M or W):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(SIZE):</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>(PRICE):</b>	<input type="text"/>
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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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**FOR MERCHANDISE PAYMENT - CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO AMHS - SEND TO:**

Sarah Scott  
5108 Donovan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22304



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### **AMHS NOTIZIARIO**

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

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

You may choose to receive the *Notiziario* by electronic mail (email) only. This will save on paper and postage and will allow you to get your copy more quickly. If you wish to select this preference for online delivery of the latest AMHS news and information, please contact Maria D'Andrea by email at [uva051985@comcast.net](mailto:uva051985@comcast.net) or by phone, (703) 998-6097. Thank you for considering this option.

The *AMHS Notiziario* is an official publication of the Grant and Scholarship Fund Inc. of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC area, doing business as The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC area, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian society legally incorporated in the District of Columbia.

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