



# 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

May 2017



**Top:** (from left) AMHS 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Programs Nancy DeSanti and AMHS President present guest speaker Ceil Lucas with a thank-you gift. Ceil Lucas reads from her book "How I Got Here: A Memoir", at the April 9 general Society meeting.

**Bottom:** AMHS goes to Carnevale February 25, 2017, from left to right, Sam Yothers, Lucio D'Andrea & Edvige D'Andrea, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Nancy DeSanti, Barbara Friedman, Sarah Scott, Peter Bell, and Lynn Sorbara. (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).

**NEXT SOCIETY EVENT** The next AMHS general Society meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 21, 2017** at 1:00pm at Carmine's Restaurant. Author Domenica Marchetti will talk about Italian culinary traditions. *See inside for details.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Cari amici,*



I wish to express the Society's condolences to the families of long-time members Nick Ferrante and Pino Cicala. Within the course of one month, we have lost two great friends. May their families find comfort and peace in the wonderful legacies left by both men. You can read more about the lives of these two "amici" in **Siamo una Famiglia**.

We are most grateful to Carmine James Spellane for volunteering to serve on the AMHS Executive Committee as Secretary. We look forward to working with him throughout the year. As I mentioned in my March message, this is a critical year for the Society with elections for five officers and three members of the Board, whose terms expire at the end of this year. I will soon appoint members to serve on the Nominating Committee, to find suitable candidates who are "ready, willing, and able" to volunteer their time in the service of the Society. I also wish to thank long-time member Elisa DiClemente, who has stepped up in a great capacity to help with domestic hospitality. When you see Carmine and Elisa, please be sure to thank them both.

We have a very exciting program scheduled for May 21, when we will hear from one of our own, Domenica Marchetti, a well-published cookbook author and food blogger who has roots from both Abruzzo and Molise. Domenica will take us on a virtual tour of Abruzzo and Italian culinary traditions. We will enjoy a family-style meal at Carmine's Restaurant; due to the size of the private dining room, space is limited to 82 paid reservations. So make sure to read about the program on the following article of the newsletter, and make your reservations online, via the Society's website, or using the flyer on page 15. This should be a very informative, entertaining, and interactive conversation.

The Executive Committee is also working on a couple of events we plan to host and/or co-host in June: a fundraiser dinner for the region of Abruzzo, and a celebration of Festa della Repubblica in Northern Virginia. We will share information about these events once the dates and location are finalized.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the **AMHS Notiziario** – we always welcome contributions from our members! I look forward to seeing you at the May 21 meeting and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

Cordiali saluti,  
Maria

## WELCOME TO THE NEW AMHS SECRETARY, CARMINE JAMES SPELLANE

*By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*



Carmine James Spellane was born and raised in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, just outside Philadelphia, to which his maternal grandparents emigrated from Molise. He has lived in Washington, D.C. since 1969, first as a student at American University, then as a 40-year communications professional, mostly for the trade union movement. Carmine was the Media Director of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

for 21 years before his retirement in 2015. He has served on the governing boards of several organizations devoted to communications and education. Since his retirement, Carmine taught for a semester at John Hopkins University's D.C. campus, taken classes in playwriting and acting, and continued his two-decade love of horseback riding, an interest he shares with his wife, Susan Noon and their daughter, Nora Spellane. He has had a lifelong interest in the culture, history and music of Italy and the Celtic and Nordic nations where he has roots on his father's side.

## UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### A VIRTUAL TOUR OF ABRUZZO AND ITALIAN CULINARY TRADITIONS TO BE THE FOCUS OF MAY 21, 2016 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING

*By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*



The Society is very excited to have one of its own – a member and a fellow Abruzzese, Domenica Marchetti, who will talk to us about Italian culinary traditions with a focus on the region of Abruzzo. Ms. Marchetti will share stories about her heritage (her mother is from Chieti, her grandmother was from Isernia), how she successfully transitioned

from a journalist to a highly successful food writer and cook book author, as well as her travels to find the ever-alluring flavors and ingredients of Italy. In Domenica's latest book, "Preserving Italy," she recounts her travels across the regions of Italy as well as the recipes handed down through her family: sweet and sour peppers, Marsala-spiked apricot jam, lemon-infused olive oil, and her grandmother's *amarene*, sour cherries preserved in alcohol. This promises to be an



informative and interactive conversation that you won't want to miss!

### Date, Location and Menu

The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. at Carmine's Restaurant, 425 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The menu includes mixed green salad, penne alla vodka, chicken with lemon and butter, and cannoli. Beverages include coffee, tea, soda, iced tea, and water. Wine and beer are available for purchase. The meal will be served family-style. The cost is \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. ***Seating is limited to 84 people; please make your paid reservations as soon as possible and no later than May 17, 2017.***

You can pay online at

<https://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org/mission/events/#!event/2017/5/21/amhs-general-society-meeting> or by sending payment by mail (see flyer on page 15 for additional details).

### Biography of Domenica Marchetti

Domenica Marchetti is a successful cookbook author and food writer. She graduated from Columbia School of Journalism. She grew up in an Italian family – her mother is a native of Chieti, Abruzzo. Her recipes and articles on Italian home cooking have been widely published in national publications including *Cooking Light*, *FineCooking*, *Foodandwine*, *Health*, the *Chicago Tribune* and *The Washington Post*; and online at *Leite's Culinaria*, *NPR Kitchen Window*, and *Apartment Therapy's The Kitchen*. She also leads culinary tours of Abruzzo.

Domenica is the author of seven books on Italian cooking: *"Preserving Italy: Canning, Curing, Infusing, and Bottling Italian Flavors and Traditions"* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016); *Ciao Biscotti* (Chronicle Books, 2015); *The Glorious Vegetables of Italy* (Chronicle Books, 2013); *The Glorious Pasta of Italy* (Chronicle Books, 2011); *Williams-Sonoma Rustic Italian: Simple, Authentic Recipes for Everyday Cooking* (Weldon Owen, 2011); *Big Night In: More Than 100 Wonderful Recipe for Feeding Family and Friends Italian-Style* (Chronicle Books, 2008); and *The Glorious Soups and Stews of Italy* (Chronicle Books, 2006).

You can learn more about Domenica by visiting her website, <http://www.domenicacooks.com>.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY AMHS

- AMHS general Society meeting, Sunday, May 21. "A Virtual Tour of Abruzzo and Italian Culinary Traditions", by Domenica Marchetti, cook book author, food blogger and fellow Abruzzese. Carmine's Restaurant, 425 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, 1:00 p.m.
- (Proposed) Fundraising dinner for the region of Abruzzo, Sunday, June 11, 2017, 5:00 p.m., Osteria da Nino, Shirlington, VA. Details to follow at a later date.
- Thursday, June 29, "*Festa della Repubblica*", Church of the Nativity, Burke, VA, 7:00 p.m., sponsored by the Italian Heritage and Cultural Society, Church of the Navity (details to follow at a later date).
- AMHS general Society meeting, Sunday, July 23, Casa Italiana, 595 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, 1:00 p.m. Topic TBD.
- Ferragosto Picnic, Sunday, August 13, 12:30 p.m. Location TBD.
- AMHS general Society meeting, Sunday, September 24. Presentation by AMHS member Lynn Sorbara on medical research and wellness information. Carmine's Restaurant, 425 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 14, Pro Ecclesia Sacratissimi Award Gala, Holy Rosary Church/Casa Italiana, Washington, DC.
- Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4, 2017, National Italian American Foundation 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Gala weekend, Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC. Gala on November 6,
- AMHS general Society meeting, Sunday, November 19. Annual wine tasting event. Casa Italiana, 595 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, 1:00 p.m.

## RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### CARNEVALE CELEBRATION AT CASA ITALIANA

Excerpted from the March 2017 issue of *Voce Italiana*

Local Italian and Italian American organizations joined together this year to celebrate a Carnevale fundraiser to benefit the victims of the earthquakes in central Italy. The sold-out event, with more than 270 adults and children attending, was held on February 27 at the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center.

Among the organizations planning the event were the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club; the Italian Cultural Society; Italians in DC; Casa Italiana Ente Gestore; Amico; MaPaCi; Comites of Washington, DC; Casa Italiana; Holy Rosary Church; and, of course, AMHS!

The adults were entertained with recorded music provided by the local band, the I-talians. For the children, the entertainment included the Clown4You, a magician, face painting, and balloon sculptures. Later the children presented a song called "Rap di Carnevale." The event was catered by Osteria da Nino, Shirlington, VA.

Winning the most original costume was Daura Spadoni, who appeared as Arlecchino. The best couple costume award went

to Giovanni and Maria Sciannameo, who were dressed as Bert the chimney sweep and Mary Poppins. Winner of the best overall costume was Simonetta Baldassari, who appeared as Doctor Ballanzone.



*Children in costume at the Carnevale celebration*

AMHS wishes to thank the members who helped with the event, namely Nancy DeSanti, Tricia Maltagliati, Joe Cusato, Edvige D'Andrea, Sam Yothers, and Maria D'Andrea-Yothers. Special thanks also to members of the Italian Cultural Society who helped in the kitchen and with serving food. It literally "took a village" to make this Carnevale a success.

It is worth noting that the event raised \$3,664.36. Holy Rosary Church added the remaining amount to reach \$4,000. As Father Ezio Marchetto, pastor of Holy Rosary Church said, "It is a great achievement for everyone". The Church sent the donation to the Provincial office in New York, who will transfer the money to the Church's missionaries in Rome. They will personally bring the donation to the bishop of the area affected by the earthquake. In this way the whole amount will reach the population without the usual percentage being deducted by charitable organizations. The donations will be given with the indication that the money should be used only to make the Easter time better for the children of the affected area (e.g. chocolate Easter eggs, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion dresses for children, special meals on Easter and so on). We will ask that the recipients of the donation send us acknowledgments in the form of letters, pictures and/or messages.

## **AMHS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*

As many of our AMHS members likely know, our organization awards two \$4,000 scholarships each year, one to each of two highly qualified students. The AMHS provides \$4,000, an amount which is matched by the National Italian American Foundation. The winning applicants must meet the collective criteria of both the NIAF and the AMHS. Dedicated staff at NIAF carry out the initial screening of the applicants, ensuring that only those applicants who meet the two organizations' criteria and whose documentation supports

their application make it through the first pass. The qualified applications are then forwarded to the AMHS Scholarship Committee, which further evaluates them and selects the winners of the two scholarships on the basis of majority vote.

The entire process begins in January with the opening of the application period for academic year 2017-2018, which this year closed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. NIAF then does its review and forwards the results to the AMHS Scholarship Committee sometime in April. The Committee then gets down to the business of selecting winners and notifying the NIAF of its decision as early as possible in May.



*AMHS President Maria D'Andrea (center) delivers the scholarship check to NIAF officials.*

Recently, on March 28, AMHS President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers headed over to NIAF headquarters to deliver the organization's \$4,000 check to NIAF Director of Programs, Gabriella Mileti and Julia Streisfeld, Associate Director of Programs, carrying out what has become a symbolic step in the scholarship process. Unfortunately, our esteemed Scholarship Committee Chair, Ray LaVerghetta, got tied up in a rather messy commute and was unable to join Maria in the presentation of the check to NIAF. Readers of the *Notiziario* should be able to read about the winning applicants in the next edition.

## **CASA ITALIANA TEACHER DISCUSSES HER "GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR" AT APRIL 9 MEETING**

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



On April 9, 2017, a beautiful spring day which also happened to be Palm Sunday, 67 AMHS members and guests enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk by Ceil Lucas, a sociolinguist and a prolific author who also teaches at the Casa Italiana Language School.

Since immigration is really a topic of interest right now, we thought it would be a great idea to hear from someone who has thought a lot about what it means to be "from here." What

makes a person feel they are “from here” or “not from here”? When does a person feel they are truly “home”? So we were very happy when AMHS member Joe Lupo, the Director of the Casa Italiana Language School, suggested Ms. Lucas for our speaker at our second program of the year.

Ms. Lucas talked to us about her expatriate upbringing. She was born here in the U.S., in Phoenix, Arizona, but spent her formative years ages 5 – 9 growing up in Guatemala City during a politically tumultuous time and then in Rome, from ages 9 – 21. Her years in Rome were the economic boom times followed by the “years of lead” and terrorism. Finally, she came back to America, and she has been teaching Italian since 1973, including the last 16 years at the Casa Italiana Language School.

Speaking about her years in Rome, she noted she arrived in Rome in 1960, the day after the Olympics, when her father began his assignment for a United Nations agency. She said she plunged headfirst into learning Italian, “verbs and all.” Then, during her summer vacations in Sardegna, she said she “nailed down the congiuntivo and passato remoto.”

She described some of her childhood influences, especially the woman she called Quinta—the dedicated, hard-working woman who rode a bus 2 hours each way, every day, to clean houses, and who was a role model of what it means to be kind and to have a strong work ethic.

Ms. Lucas also told us about her time in school in Rome during the period of the great flood in Florence in November 1966 when her class helped to painstakingly clean books damaged by the floodwaters and mud. She described how they worked one book at a time, using paper towels and plastic cards.

Ms. Lucas told us that when she returned to Italy over the years, she came to realize that there is a deaf community in the big cities of Italy, although this was not apparent during her childhood years there because it was largely hidden from public view. In fact, the first deaf center was in Padova, which she became aware of after she became interested in learning sign language and taught at Gallaudet University.

Ms. Lucas told us that in writing her book, “How I Got Here: A Memoir,” which she calls a “genealogical memoir,” she traced her ancestors’ histories about coming here from Scotland and England beginning in 1654, and learned some of their stories which included some episodes in our nation’s history that “were not pretty.” She shared with us some of the surprising things she learned and how her ancestors’ stories have become her own. She said she began to think more about what it means to be “from here” and she concluded that “home” is the territory of memory.

After her talk, a lot of attendees had comments and questions which our speaker graciously answered in detail.

By the way, Ms. Lucas knows five languages - English, Italian, Spanish, French, Irish and Sign Language. Pretty impressive!!

Before the program began, we enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Fontina Grille. Afterwards, we had a raffle with some wonderful prizes and collected \$148 for our ongoing efforts to help victims of the earthquake and natural disasters in Abruzzo.

## **AMHS MEMBERSHIP**

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

### ***2017 Membership Renewal Campaign Continues***

Our relatively new online system is able to track many items for the membership. One of these helpful tasks is letting our members know when it is time to renew by sending an email notification directly to the member. These emails are automatic and are designed to give time for renewal.

Most of the 2016 memberships have expired or are about to expire. **It is easy to take advantage of the automated reminders by using the renewal option available on the AMHS website.** In doing so, this saves both time and money for the club. For those who have not renewed online, or who have not provided an email address, I have sent out renewal reminders by mail. Please keep a look out for these online and paper reminders. We appreciate your continued support of AMHS events and activities.

### ***May 2017 Membership***

We are pleased to report that there are **295** members of AMHS, including eight 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 is extended to our newest members: ***Lisa D’Andrea Cariste Furry; Kathy & Joe Smith, and Diana Yetman.***

### ***Compleanni a Maggio***

Lucy Manzano, May 1; Darlene Palumbo Barnsby, May 3; Joanne Fusco, May 5; Samira May Badawi, Nancy Coviello, May 7; Samuel Amatucci, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Peter A. Eastor, May 10; Kathryn C. DiGiacomo, May 13; Amy Antonelli, May 15; Victor Ferrante, Kathlyn Nudi, May 16; Robert Woolley, May 19; Peter Bell, May 20; Rocco Del Monaco, Giulia Michonski, May 21; Attilio Manzano, May 24; Cristina Scalzitti, May 25; Agnes Sabatini DeMauro, May 26; Vince Ciccone, May 27; Joan Marie Amatzio,; Ennio Di Tullio, and Renato Orcino, May 30.

### ***Compleanni a Giugno***

Beniamino Caniglia, June 4; Lucille Fuscillo, Janet Marmura, Anita Morton, June 6; Roslyn Torella, June 7; Joseph Lupo, June 9; Alberto L. Paolantonio, June 10; Liliana Ceresini, June 14; Judge Richard Marano, June 22; Margaret Uglow, June 25; Omero Sabatini, June 26; Rita Orcino, June 28; and Helen Antonelli Free, Laura Gentile, June 30.



### ***Anniversari a Maggio***

Joseph & Amy Profit D'Amico, May 1; Joe & Tina Marchegiani, May 5; Francesco & Anna Isgro, May 19; Guido Cassetta & Patricia Violante, May 26; Mario & Carmen Ciccone, May 27. Ordination: Rev. John V. DiBacco Jr., May 13

### ***Anniversari a Giugno***

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

## **SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA**

### **IN MEMORIAM, NICOLA FERRANTE**



***Nicola (Nick) Ferrante***

We are incredibly saddened by the passing of long-time AMHS member Nicola (Nick) Ferrante on March 29, 2017. He was the beloved husband of Gay J. Ferrante; loving father of Lisa Ferrante (Simon) Leath and Robert (Isela) Ferrante; and cherished grandfather of Emma Leath.

Nick survived war and economic hardship as a child. He immigrated to the United States at the age 18 from Abruzzo, Italy, where he built his life and family. He was a skilled tile-setter working at the US Capitol for many years, under the direct leadership of the Chief Architect of the Capitol. He loved wine making, crabbing and working with his hands. At every AMHS event he attended – a general Society meeting or the Ferragosto picnic – Nick would greet you with his homemade wine. He was generous and gregarious and he will be deeply missed. *(Submitted by Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).*

## **AMHS MOURNS PASSING OF LONG-TIME MEMBER PINO CICALA**

On April 10, 2017, our community lost a valued member and a friend to many of us, with the passing of Giuseppe Antonio Cicala, known to all as Pino.



For more than half a century, Pino did much to promote Italian culture, music and language. He came from Fiumedinisi, a small town in Sicily, and ended up living a few blocks from the White House—a real immigrant success story!! Through his devotion to all things Italian, Pino was knighted by the President of the Italian Republic in 1990 as a *Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana* and earned many awards over the years, including the Lido Civic Club's Man of the Year Award in 2006 and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) Lifetime Achievement Community Leadership Award presented at the 2014 annual gala.

Pino was also honored with a heartfelt tribute given by Simonetta Baldassari at the "*Canzoni di emigrazione e nostalgia*" event held at Casa Italiana on February 5, 2017, attended by over 200 people.

For many years, Pino hosted a radio program welcoming new immigrants by name, as he himself was welcomed when he came here in 1955. Later on, he hosted TV broadcasts and became active in organizations such as the Italian Cultural Society and the Lido Civic Club, where he helped raise money for a beautiful statue of Christopher Columbus. He was one of the founding members of NIAF. Later on, he maintained the AMICO website which gave timely news updates about Italy.

Pino's "day job" was as an architect who was one of the planners of the Women's Museum of the Arts on New York Avenue and who worked on many other buildings, including the famous Watergate.

Pino was a faithful member of Holy Rosary Church for many years, helping in the effort years ago to get the historical preservation designation for the church. Each spring he helped to organize a religious service with a procession that

kept alive the traditions of his Sicilian hometown, Fiumedinisi. He was also a longtime member of AMHS and attended many of our events throughout the years.

When he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year, Pino told his worried friends, “don’t worry, I’m tough!!” And he was a fighter right up to the very end. He passed away at the age of 89 years young.

The loss to our community was expressed by many who knew him over the years. Father Ezio Marchetto, Pastor of Holy Rosary Church, called Pino, a long-time parishioner, “a brilliant and inspiring person with a great devotion to his heritage.”

AMHS member Roberto Severino, who was Pino’s long-time friend and fellow card-playing *briscolani*, said “Pino was a very good person with many qualities and an incredible number of friends.” Another of Pino’s long-time friends, Jim DeSantis, said “It often occurred to me that I had never met anyone like Pino because of the incredible range of his knowledge, the depth of his wisdom and a true caring for those he knew and his unique way of expressing it.”

Another AMHS member, Romeo Sabatini, recalled that his friendship with Pino went back to the 1960s when Romeo first moved to the area. Said Romeo: “We did many things together, not only his website, but when he had the TV program on channel 14, I participated... his death and just a week ago the passing of [AMHS member] Nick Ferrante...another dear friend...makes me very aware of our own vulnerability, fragility on this earth.”

And AMHS member Maddalena Borea had this to say about Pino, a good friend who was a big fan of her cooking: “*La comunità italiana ha perso la sua voce. Pino non è più, ma resterà nel cuore di quelli che hanno avuto la buona fortuna di conoscerlo. Dio lo benedica e benedica noi in questo periodo di lutto.*”

AMHS member Maria Marigliano and Holy Rosary’s Musical Director said “he will be so deeply and sorely missed—a true legend in our midst and a great man who will not be forgotten for all that he did for his fellow Italians and our wonderful Italian community.”

The funeral Mass took place at Holy Rosary Church on April 21 with a reception afterwards in Casa Italiana. The church was filled with many AMHS members along with representatives of the Embassy of Italy and military in their dress uniforms, members of the organizations Pino was a part of, and numerous other friends. Sicilian singer Marco Fiorante, a friend of Pino and his brother Melo, sang the Ave Maria. A moving tribute was given by Father Ezio, who said that in addition to receiving many well-deserved accolades for his work in the community, Pino showed us an example of a faithful Christian life. Pino’s son Luigi, an artist, talked about his father’s love for the arts and how, as a boy, his father would take him to visit museums and art galleries. Then AMHS member Francesco Isgrò, editor of the Voce Italiana newspaper, gave a moving eulogy describing Pino’s

achievements and what he has meant to our community, concluding by saying Pino “was indeed our Voce Italiana.”

Our sincerest condolences to Pino’s family, particularly his brother Melo. *Riposa in pace, Carissimo Pino! (Submitted by Nancy DeSanti).*

### THREE GENERATIONS OF D’ANDREAS TAKE NEW YORK BY STORM!

From April 8 through April 11, three generations of the D’Andrea family took a “road trip” to New York. Making this trip were AMHS President Emeritus Lucio D’Andrea, his son Paul D’Andrea, and two grandsons – Gabriel D’Andrea and Tyler Alberico Crump.



*Paul D’Andrea, Gabriel D’Andrea, Lucio D’Andrea, and Tyler Alberico Crump at West Point. The four are standing in front of a chain that was laid across the Hudson River by U.S. troops, in order to keep British Royal Navy ships from advance upriver during the Revolutionary War.*

The journey started with a visit and tour of West Point, established in 1802 as a military engineering school, which holds special significance for Lucio, who was commissioned in 1957 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The next leg of the journey took them to Hyde Park, the National Historic site that is the former home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The final destination was New York City, where the D’Andrea “clan” enjoyed the sights and sounds of the bustling metropolis, which included a tour of the United Nations (UN), also significant for Lucio as he served 9 years at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland at the Economic Commission for Europe. Of course, no trip to New York City would be complete without a visit to Eataly, the Italian food extravaganza. All in all it was a trip full of many happy memories to be shared by the three generations of the D’Andrea men! *(Submitted by Maria D’Andrea-Yothers).*



## ANNA RITA SABATINI VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ITALIAN RED CROSS



**Anna Rita Sabatini**

Anna Rita Sabatini recently joined the Italian Red Cross as a volunteer. In addition to her job as a computer analyst for a large Italian state-owned company, she finds time a couple of hours a week as a volunteer to help the needy of Rome. Recently, during the Easter week she participated in a fund raising drive by selling traditional Easter sweets in a Rome Shopping center. The raised funds by the Italian Red Cross aid the needy, which also include the population of Central Italy hit by recent earthquakes. *(Submitted by Romeo Sabatini).*

## FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

### GIOIA DEI MARSI, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, REGION OF ABRUZZO

*By Nancy DeSanti*

The beautiful town of Gioia dei Marsi is located about 65 kilometers from L'Aquila.

Gioia dei Marsi has approximately 2,360 inhabitants, known as Gioiesi.

The town is a center in the southeast of the Marsi, which consists of three communities (Gioia, Casali d'Aschi and Sperone). Gioia dei Marsi is known as the "Gateway to the National Park of Abruzzo."

Gioia dei Marsi is located on the edge of the Fucino basin, in the area of the National Park of Abruzzo, and during the summer, many cultural events take place in the nearby hamlet of Casali d'Aschi.

The history of Gioia dei Marsi dates back to pre-Roman times, and there are settlements on the site as indicated by archaeological findings. During the Middle Ages, the village

of Gioia Vecchio arose near the fortress that controlled the Devil's Pass. Subsequently the old town was abandoned in the 19th century and the inhabitants relocated to Manaformo, which was later renamed Gioia dei Marsi. Unfortunately, the new town was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1915, and was eventually rebuilt a few kilometers away.



**Gioia dei Marsi - St. Vincent church**

The town is known as an agricultural and agro-industrial center and its companies export products to every part of Italy and the world. The inhabitants of Gioia dei Marsi make every effort to preserve the culture of their ancestors and traditions that have been established over time, linked to a past of hard work and religious devotion.

Increasingly, visitors are drawn by the town's proximity to the national park, the healthy air; genuine cuisine rich in flavors and the many cultural events that take place during the year.

### What to See



Archangel

- Remains of Gioia Vecchio
- Walled tower of Borgo Sperone

### Important Dates

- April 26: Feast of St. Antonio and Our Lady of Buonconsiglio
- June 13: Feast of San Antonio at Gioia Vecchio
- 3rd Sunday in June: Feast of St. Nicholas and San Rocco
- August 5-6: Feast of San Salvatore and Our Lady of Grace
- September 20: Feast of St. Vincent and St. Michael the



Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gioia\\_dei\\_Marsi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gioia_dei_Marsi)  
<http://abruzzocitta.it/comuni/gioiadeimarsi.html>  
<http://www.italyheritage.com/regions/abruzzo/laquila/gioia.htm>  
<http://www.comune.gioiadeimarsi.aq.it/>

## **GIOIA DEI MARSII, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO**

*Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member*

La bellissima cittadina di Gioia dei Marsi sorge a circa 65 chilometri da L'Aquila.

Conta circa 2.360 abitanti, conosciuti come Gioiesi, e si trova nel centro del Sud Est dei Marsi e comprende tre frazioni: Gioia, Casali d' Aschi e Sperone.

Gioia dei Marsi, portone del Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, sorge sulle sponde del Fucino, e d'estate, è centro di eventi culturali nella vicina frazione di Casali d'Aschi.

La sua storia risale a tempi pre-romani. Durante il Medioevo Gioia Vecchio sorgeva nei pressi della fortezza che controllava il Passo del Diavolo. Susseguentemente la vecchia città fu abbandonata e la popolazione si trasferì a Manaforno, chiamata più tardi Gioia dei Marsi. Sfortunatamente il terremoto del 1915 distrusse la cittadina, che fu poi ricostruita a pochi chilometri di distanza.

Oggi questa città è un centro agricolo-industriale, ed esporta i suoi prodotti in altre parti dell'Italia e nel mondo. I suoi abitanti custodiscono le tradizioni dei loro avi, e quelle che si sono stabilite lungo i tempi. Queste tradizioni sono legate a una cultura di duro lavoro e di forte devozione religiosa.

I turisti sono attratti a Gioia dalla sua vicinanza al Parco, dall'aria buona, dalla cucina, e dagli eventi culturali che vi si svolgono lungo l'anno.

### **Attrazioni del luogo**

- Le rovine di Gioia Vecchio
- La torre di Borgo Sperone

### **Date da ricordare:**

- 26 Aprile: Festa di Sant'Antonio e della Vergine del Buon consiglio
- 13 Giugno: Festa di Sant'Antonio alla Vecchia Gioia
- Terza domenica di giugno: Festa di San Nicola e di San Rocco
- 5 e 6 Agosto: Festa di San Salvatore e della Madonna delle Grazie
- 20 Settembre: Festa di San Vincenzo e dell'Arcangelo Gabriele

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

*By Nancy DeSanti*

The picturesque small town of Vinchiaturò is located about 10 kilometers southwest of Campobasso.



The town has approximately 2,767 inhabitants, known as Vinchiaturesi.

Vinchiaturò is set in a landscape of thick forests, surrounded by the Matese mountains on one side and the Sannio mountains on the other side, amid hills sloping down towards the plains. The town's economy still relies on agriculture, dairy products, firewood and many small industries such as ceramics, glass and iron. More recently, tourists have been coming, especially in summer when Vinchiaturò is a favorite starting point for excursions into the mountains.

According to some experts Vinchiaturò owes its origin to the ancient Samnite city of Ruffirio. The settlement sat on a wild and almost inaccessible chalk hill facing east, the so-called Monteverde, which allowed access to Puglia and was an important center of culture and crafts work, especially stone carving.

Ruffirio and other ancient cities didn't survive the eventual Roman conquest and the local populations were forced into a single more manageable zone which became known as Vincula Catenis or "Prison with Chains."

The name seems to derive from Vincula Tauri, which was a kind of concentration camp where the Romans imprisoned the rebel Samnites. In fact the coat of arms of present-day Vinchiaturò features a tower with two huge chains hanging from the walls.

The effects of such brutal subjugation by the Romans lasted a staggering 1,500 years as Vinchiaturò remained without any type of autonomous administration.

As if to remind the town of its brutal origins, a huge earthquake leveled the area in 1456 before a series of French or Norman masters used Vinchiaturò and the surrounding lands as a temporary stepping stone for their own feudal careers.

The ruinous earthquake of 1456 destroyed the Benedictine monastery from about 650 AD but not the church. Another earthquake in 1688 compelled the monks to move away, and finally another earthquake in 1805 completely destroyed what was left.

Nevertheless, as the ruins of 1805 were surveyed, it became apparent that the origins of the town were much older than thought and ancient inscriptions and coins were soon found demonstrating that the zone was inhabited prior to the destroyed villages.

### **What to See**

- Church of Santa Maria di Giuglieto
- Monastery of Santa Lucia, with frescoes from the 17th century
- Monte la Rocca, at an altitude of almost 4,000 feet, with ceramic pieces of the Samnite period and stones from Roman times which were found as part of a fortress in the area now called Monteverde

### **Important Dates**

- February 19: The throw of the cheese form
- May 20: Feast of San Bernardino, the patron saint

Sources:

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

<http://www.comune.vinchiaturio.cb.it/>

<http://molise-citta.it/comuni/vinchiaturio.html>

<https://www.enchantingitaly.com/regions/molise/province-campobasso/vinchiaturio.htm>

<http://www.deliciousitaly.com/molise-itineraries/vinchiaturio>

## **VINCHIATURIO, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO REGIONE MOLISE**

*Translated by Maddalena Borea*

Questa cittadina sorge a circa dieci chilometri da Campobasso. Conta **pi** o meno 2.800 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Vinchiaturesi. • situata in un paesaggio di dense foreste, coi monti Matese da un lato e i monti del Sannio dall'altro lato, e da colline pendenti verso le pianure. La sua economia è basata sull'agricoltura, sui latticini, sull'industria del legno, della ceramica, del vetro e del ferro. Recentemente e' diventata punto di partenza di turistiche escursioni sui monti circostanti, specialmente d'estate.

Secondo esperti, le sue origini risalgono agli antichi Sanniti di Ruffirio. La colonia si era stabilita in una zona collinosa e selvatica, a destra del cosiddetto Monteverde, che facilitava l'accesso alla regione Puglia, ed era un'importante centro di cultura e di arte e di scultura di pietra.

Ruffirio ed altre antiche cittadine non sopravvissero alle occupazioni dei Romani, e furono forzate a formare un solo nucleo, chiamato prigionie con catene. Il nome deriverebbe da Vincula Tauri, che era un campo di concentramento, dove i Romani imprigionavano i Sanniti ribelli.

Lo Stemma dell'odierna Vinchiaturio, infatti, rappresenta una torre con due grandi catene che pendono dai muri.



***Vinchiaturio- Monument to the Emigrant***

Lo Stemma dell'odierna Vinchiaturio, infatti, rappresenta una torre con due grandi catene che pendono dai muri.

L'effetto del brutale soggiogamento da parte dei Romani durò 1.500 anni, e Vinchiaturio rimase senza alcuna autonomia per tutto quel tempo.

Quasi a ricordare alla cittadina le sue brutali origini, il terremoto del 1456 rase al suolo la cittadina, il cui territorio divenne, **pi** tardi, feudo di orde francesi e normanne. L'ultimo terremoto distrusse il Monastero Benedettino, ma non la chiesa. Una susseguente scossa sismica nel 1688 costrinse i monaci a lasciare il luogo. Una successiva scossa nel 1805 distrusse tutto.

Nell'esaminare le rovine dell'ultimo terremoto è diventato palese che le origini di questa cittadina sono molto antiche, **pi** di quanto si credesse.

### **Attrazioni del luogo**

- Chiesa di Santa Maria di Giuglieto
- Monastero di Santa Lucia con affreschi del diciassettesimo secolo
- Monte la Rocca con un'altitudine di 4.000 piedi, con reperti di ceramica di tempi Sanniti, con pietre di epoca romana, che facevano parte della fortezza, conosciuta oggi come Monteverde

### **Date importanti da ricordare**

- 19 febbraio: Il lancio del cacio
- 20 maggio: Festa di San Bernardino, Santo Patrono



## THE PRE-RAPHAELITES AND THE VASTO CONNECTION

*By Romeo Sabatini, AMHS Member*



**The Daydream- by Dante Gabriel Rossetti**

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite artistic movement of the mid-1800s was the son of Gabriele Rossetti, a poet and patriot from Vasto, Abruzzo, exiled to London where he fled to escape the persecution of the King of Naples.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (later known as the Pre-Raphaelites) was a group of English painters, poets, and critics who sought a return to the abundant detail, intense colors and complex compositions of 15th Century Italian art.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti's art was characterized by its sensuality and its medieval revivalism. His early poetry was influenced by John Keats. His later poetry was characterized by the complex interlinking of thought and feeling, especially in his sonnets which he frequently wrote to accompany his pictures.

Source [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dante\\_Gabriel\\_Rossetti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dante_Gabriel_Rossetti)

## 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, 2016 and were a big hit. Additionally, we now have available the AMHS logo Tote Bag.

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 (or the AMHS Tote bag) 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



**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



## **NEW! AMHS logo Tote Bag**

17"W x 6"D x 13 1/2"H; bottom 12"W; handle drop 9"

Price: \$40 each + \$5.75 for shipping and handling

## AMHS APRIL 9, 2017 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



**Top (left):** The “lunch ladies” prep the salad. **Top (right):** AMHS member Anne La Lena with raffle prizes.

**Middle (left):** AMHS Board member Sarah Scott presents the new AMHS tote bags. **Middle (right):** Members and guests enjoy the presentation by Ceil Lucas.

**Bottom (left):** Guest speaker Ceil Lucas discusses her book “How I Got Here: A Memoir”.

**Bottom (right):** Honorary “Young AMHS Ambassador” Sebastian DiTullio assists Anne La Lena and Nancy DeSanti with the raffle. (Photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).



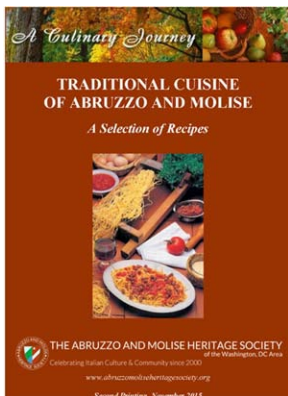
## AMHS 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

By Peter Bell, AMHS Treasurer

The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society financial structure consists of two classes of funds - Operating Funds and the Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Operating Funds are further broken down into the Annual Scholarship Fund, the Operations Fund, and Other Restricted Funds. AMHS started out 2016 with \$22,500 in its various Operating Funds and \$39,300 in the Scholarship Endowment Fund. During 2016 the Operating Funds increased by \$400 to end with a balance of \$22,900, and the Scholarship Endowment Fund increased by \$700 to end with a balance of \$40,000. Total net assets of the Society as of December 31, 2016 are \$62,900. (The "Other Restricted Funds" consists of a donation made by Ryan Turner on behalf of his grandmother, Rosemarie Antonelli Turner, whose father Frank emigrated from Abruzzo, specifically to develop the new AMHS website and to sponsor a cultural event in the future that honors the regions of Abruzzo and Molise).

Grant and Scholarship Fund, Inc. of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area  
dba The Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington, DC Area  
Financial Report  
January 1-December 31, 2016

	Operating Funds					Scholarship Endowment Fund
	AMHS All Funds	Unrestricted Fund	Members' Equity Fund	Annual Scholarship Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
Beginning fund balances	61,788	5,885	4,279	9,281	3,087	39,256
<b>2016 Operations</b>						
Income						
Events revenue	7,285	7,285	-	-	-	-
Events expenses	8,479	8,479	-	-	-	-
Net income from events	(1,194)	(1,194)	-	-	-	-
Other income						
Membership dues	4,520	4,520	-	-	-	-
Donations	10,820	-	-	4,820	6,000	-
Raffles	1,128	-	-	1,128	-	-
Advertising	700	700	-	-	-	-
Investment income	736	-	-	-	-	736
Other	759	759	-	-	-	-
Total other income	18,663	5,979	-	5,948	6,000	736
Total income	17,469	4,785	-	5,948	6,000	736
Expenses						
Annual scholarship	4,000	-	-	4,000	-	-
NIAF affiliation	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	-
Donations	625	625	-	-	-	-
Mailing and printing	7,712	1,712	-	-	6,000	-
Website	608	608	-	-	-	-
Other	893	893	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	16,338	3,838	2,500	4,000	6,000	-
Net income (loss)	1,131	947	(2,500)	1,948	-	736
Interfund transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ending fund balances	62,919	6,832	1,779	11,229	3,087	39,992



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

**PRICE:** \$10.00 + \$5.75 per book for postage and handling = \$15.75

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF COPIES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT:** (\$15.75 x no. of copies): \_\_\_\_\_

✂-----Return with Payment

**THE AMHS POLO SHIRT (ON SALE!)**  
**AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model A**      **AMHS Logo Polo Shirt Model B**



**Model A**

**MATERIAL:** 53% combed cotton  
47% polyester EDRY tm fabric  
**COLOR:** light blue  
**MEN's sizes (only):** Small  
**WOMEN's sizes:** M / L

**PRICE:** \$20 + \$4.50 p&h

**MATERIAL:** 60% combed cotton  
40% polyester regular fabric  
**COLOR:** light blue

**WOMEN's sizes only:** M / L / XL

**PRICE:** \$15 + \$4.50 p&h



**Model B**

**Complete one line below for each Polo Shirt being ordered:**

<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"/>
<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"/>
<b>TOTAL POLO SHIRTS:</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Total Price:</b>		<input type="text"/>			

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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***Buon Appetito Chef's Apron with the 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 postage & handling = \$30.75

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# OF APRONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT:** (\$30.75 x no. of aprons): \_\_\_\_\_

✂-----Return with Payment

**FOR MERCHANDISE PAYMENT - CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO AMHS - SEND TO:**

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 ❧

### *A Virtual Tour of Abruzzo and Italian Culinary Traditions By AMHS Member Domenica Marchetti*

**When:** SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

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

**Location:** Carmine's Restaurant

425 Seventh Street, NW

Washington, DC 20004

**MENU:** Lunch will be at Carmine's Restaurant in Penn Quarter. The menu includes bread, mixed green salad, penne alla vodka, chicken with lemon and butter, and cannoli. Beverages include coffee, tea, soda, iced tea, and water. Wine and beer are available for purchase.

**COST:** \$30.00 members; \$35.00 non-members.

**PAY ONLINE (USING VISA OR MASTERCARD) AT**  
[WWW.ABRUZZOMOLISEHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.ABRUZZOMOLISEHERITAGESOCIETY.ORG).

**ADVANCE PAYMENT BY MAY 17, AND ONLY FIRST 84  
PAID RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED DUE TO SIZE  
OF PRIVATE DINING ROOM**

We hope you will join us for a conversation with Domenica Marchetti, AMHS member and fellow Abruzzese, who will talk to us about Italian culinary traditions with a focus on the region of Abruzzo. Ms. Marchetti will share stories about her heritage (her mother is from Chieti, her paternal grandmother was from Isernia), how she successfully transitioned from a journalist to a highly successful food writer and cook book author, as well as her travels to find the ever-alluring flavors and ingredients of Italy. This promises to be an informative and interactive conversation that you don't want to miss!

For information, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers (703) 473-4033

✂-----Return with Payment

### **PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017**

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: \_\_\_\_\_



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
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Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

4669 Lawton Way, #104  
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### **AMHS NOTIZIARIO**

Romeo Sabatini, Editor  
Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, co-Editor  
Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer

*Color copies printed courtesy of Todd Tomanio & Sydnee Patterson, TransPerfect Document Management, Inc.*

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

The **Notiziario** is a bi-monthly publication. 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 Romeo Sabatini, saba22033@gmail.com. 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 receive the newsletter by online delivery only, please contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers by email at [president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org](mailto:president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org) by phone, (703) 998-6097. Thank you for considering this option.

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