



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS NOTIZIARIO

September 2017



Top: Members, friends and family celebrate Ferragosto on Sunday, August 13 at Fort Ward Park, Alexandria, VA.

Bottom (from left): Nancy DeSanti, 1st VP-Programs, guest speaker Catherine Wilson, and AMHS President Maria D'Andrea-Yothers at the July 23, 2017 general Society meeting. *(photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers and Sam Yothers).*

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT The next AMHS general Society meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 24, 2017** at 1:00pm at Carmine's Restaurant. Dr. Lynn Sorbara will talk about the new cancer treatments. *See inside for details.*

Cari amici,



I hope that everyone enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer, whether you travelled far from home, or stayed nearby. I also hope you were able to participate in at least one or two Society events, including the July 23 meeting,

and/or the August 13 Ferragosto picnic. Each one of these events provided a wonderful opportunity for Society members, guests, and friends to interact in a warm and welcoming environment. Be sure to read about each of these activities elsewhere in this issue of the *Notiziario*.

Over the summer, I was very fortunate to spend 16 days in Italy with one of my dearest friends and AMHS board member, Albert Paolantonio (he and I have known each other for over 15 years, and had also spoken of going to Italy together!). I spent one week in Agnone, Molise, studying the Italian language at Live and Learn Italian, a wonderful language immersion program that was brought to attention of the Society over 5 years ago. The Executive Director, Jenifer Landor, has done a remarkable job to make the experience one of intensive study but also of indelible experiences interacting with the citizens and artisans of the town. We followed our studies in Agnone with 5 days in Puglia (Polignano a Mare, Alberobello, Manopoli, Castellano nel Grotto – beautiful!), then back to Molise for a visit to my father's village, Roccamandolfi, the village of Albert's grandfather, Roccasicura, and a visit with Michele Petrarola, Consigliere Regionale, Molise. This issue of the *Notiziario* includes articles about our studies in Agnone and our travels throughout Molise – we hope you enjoy

The next Society-sponsored event will be held on Sunday, September 24 at Carmine's Restaurant. We will hear from AMHS 2nd VP, Dr. Lynn Sorbara. Drawing on her experience as an expert at the National Cancer Institute, Lynn will use a powerpoint presentation to explain to us in layman's terms the new cancer treatments of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. This promises to be a very interesting program; be sure to read more about the meeting in the next article. Also at this meeting, the membership will have one critical piece of Society business to attend to, and that is to vote on whether the Society should formally affiliate with NIAF for a third year. Please see page 2 to learn more about this issue, including the EC recommendation on which the membership will vote.

I look forward to seeing you at the September 24 meeting.

Cordiali saluti,

Maria

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AMHS VICE PRESIDENT LYNN SORBARA TO DISCUSS CANCER RESEARCH ADVANCES

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs



For our 5th program this year, on September 24, 2017, we are very pleased to have one of our own as speaker, Dr. Lynn Sorbara. Lynn will be familiar to our members as the current AMHS 2nd vice president following several years as a board member. But perhaps not all our members know that Lynn's day job is as a cancer expert at the National Cancer Institute (part of the National Institutes of Health). She will talk to us about the topic

she is very familiar with—advances in cancer research: What is known? What remains challenging? What are the future possibilities?

Using a very informative Powerpoint presentation, Lynn will break it all down for us in layman's terms, beginning with how the ancients dealt with what we now know as cancer, continuing on up to the new treatments of today and the possibilities of tomorrow.

Since many of us have been touched by this in some way, either ourselves or our dear ones, Lynn will provide each of us with a printout of her Powerpoint presentation with room for us to write notes, and she will take questions from the audience afterwards. We hope our members and their guests will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

During her talk, Lynn will also speak a little about how her story begins with her immigrant parents coming to America. Lynn's father was Calabrese and her mother was Sicilian and together they settled in Queens, N.Y., with no money and no English. While maintaining their Italian traditions, they raised a family which included their daughter who earned a Ph.D. from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y. An amazing success story in one generation!!

Our program will be held at Carmine's Restaurant, at 475 7th St., N.W., just a few blocks from Casa Italiana. A delicious lunch will be served beforehand. Since space is limited, please make your reservations early. The deadline for paid reservations is September 20. See you in September!!

THE NIAF ITALIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND AFFILIATE PROGRAM

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

In September 2015 and 2016, AMHS members voted to formally affiliate with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) for one year. The Society's membership as a formal affiliate means that:

- AMHS is a member of NIAF's Italian American Leadership Council;
- NIAF continues to provide matching scholarship funds (\$4,000 a year) to AMHS, which allows the Society to award two \$4,000 scholarships instead of just one; and
- AMHS members are formal affiliate members of NIAF, whereby you get all the traditional benefits of NIAF membership including a yearlong subscription to NIAF's Ambassador Magazine; NIAF member discounts for travel, genealogy, retail, and more; mention in NIAF's Annual Report publication; and exclusive NIAF member gifts.

The financial commitment for formal affiliation remains at \$2,500 per calendar year.

At the August 17, 2017 AMHS meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), the officers unanimously voted to support a third year of formal affiliation with NIAF. Some of the reasons for this decision include:

1. The matching scholarship funds and NIAF management of the scholarship process; scholarship candidates are screened by NIAF using criteria established by the AMHS Scholarship Committee. The Committee then selects the two winning candidates. Subsequently, NIAF notifies the candidates, ensures that the award checks are made out to the appropriate educational institutions and are delivered to the students' preferred address, obtains thank you letters and photos from the awardees, and arranges publication of the announcements in the winners' respective local media;
2. AMHS continued representation on the Italian American Leadership Council (IALC), which, through IALC events, has brought greater name recognition to AMHS with NIAF's Board of Directors and the Italian American Congressional Delegation; and
3. Benefits of NIAF membership to every AMHS member.

The EC recommendation will be submitted to the membership for its consideration and vote at the September 24 general Society meeting. Voting will be done by closed ballot. The AMHS Executive Committee will address any questions you have prior to the vote. If you wish to learn more about NIAF and the IALC, visit www.niaf.org

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AUTHOR KATHERINE WILSON TALKS ABOUT A LIFE TRANSFORMED IN NAPLES

By Nancy DeSanti

Our fourth program of the year, held at Casa Italiana on July 23, 2017, drew a large and enthusiastic crowd of 95 AMHS members and friends to share a delicious lunch and hear author Katherine Wilson tell us her fascinating story about how she, a recent American college graduate, went to Naples (Napoli) for a few months (or so she thought) to do an internship at the U.S. Consulate which changed her life.

Since Katherine comes to Washington during the summer to visit her Mom, Bonnie Wilson, we invited her to give us a talk if her schedule allowed. Fortunately for us, the TED talk she was supposed to give this summer was postponed and so she was able to come and talk to us, and she brought her mother with her.

Having heard all the stereotypes about Naples (especially from her Calabrese grandfather), Katherine said she looked beyond all that and saw a chaotic, vibrant energy that she came to love. That is, after she fell in love with a local guy, and then with his glamorous, wise mother, Raffaella (her future mother-in-law) who would come to have a huge influence on her life.

In her book, she quotes Goethe as saying "see Naples and die," to which she says, "I saw Naples and started to live."

No doubt her training in the theater at Princeton University prepared her for the drama she was going to see a lot of in her beloved adopted city. Katherine told us she has lived in Italy for the past 22 years with her husband, Salvatore, and their two children, and she works as an actress in television, film and stage. That was apparent in her dramatic way of reading excerpts from her funny, insightful book, including the part about her first date with Salvatore and another part about assigning blame for a celebratory meal which included one very tough octopus.

Her book is now available on Amazon in paperback under the title "The Mother-in-Law Cure." The book has just been translated into Italian and Katherine says that some of her Italian friends in Rome, after having read the book or heard her story, are now interested in visiting Naples for the first time, instead of just passing through on the way to somewhere else. She added that when she travels to northern Italy, people notice that she speaks Italian with a Neapolitan accent. She said she is encouraging her husband to teach their children the Neapolitan dialect.

Before signing books towards the end of the meeting, Katherine graciously answered questions from the audience. When asked what was the hardest thing to get used to, living in Naples, she said it was letting go of expecting things to get

done on her American timetable and just relaxing her expectations in order to live a more stress-free life.

For example, she said she went to a post office that was supposed to stay open until 1:30 p.m. But when she got there at 1:15 pm, it was already closed. She told herself, well, what can you do? Or as she said the Neapolitans would say as they shrug their shoulders, “eh eh eh eh eh.”

Or when she was in a rehearsal and a piano was needed, her American self would expect for the piano to be there on day one. But that didn’t happen, and in fact days later, the piano eventually showed up, and all was well.

Before the meeting began, we had a wonderful lunch catered by Osteria da Nino of Shirlington, Virginia, with Nino himself helping us to set up and serve. By all accounts, the food, which was plentiful and delicious, was a big hit.

We were also pleased to have with us a guest from Isernia in Molise, Giuseppe Iglieri, who is currently the personal assistant to Molise’s regional deputy for culture and for Molisani nel Mondo. He is also a doctoral student at the University of Molise in Campobasso doing research at Columbia University. He brought a videotaped message of greetings from the region which was played for the audience.

We concluded with a successful raffle which brought in \$238 for our scholarship fund, along with merchandise sales of \$110. We thank all those who helped set up and serve the lunch and who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets and merchandise.

Special thank you to Nino Pino, owner of Osteria da Nino, who catered the lunch, and to all the helpers who set up, served lunch, and cleaned up. We appreciate your support!

THE ANNUAL FERRAGOSTO PICNIC – THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, IN UNITY, CELEBRATES SUMMER!

By Maria D’Andrea-Yothers

This year’s Ferragosto picnic was held on Sunday, August 13, at a new venue and at a new time – we transitioned from the grounds of the Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Maryland, from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m., to Fort Ward Park in Alexandria, Virginia, from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. We could not have asked for a more perfect day following the torrential rain that hit the area the previous night. The Society had reserved the largest space in the park (also the only pavilion spot), which afforded us 15 picnic tables and one substantial grill. This was an absolute perfect space due to the number of attendees – 60!

The picnic was enjoyed not only by members of the Society but also friends from the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club, the Passatempo Meetup group, and members of the Holy Rosary Parish who learned about the picnic from *Voce Italiana*. There was an abundance of delectable dishes that were shared by all. Folks enjoyed the afternoon in friendship,

playing Italian cards, tombola, and bocce (in spite of there not being a bocce court).

We thank those of you who were able to come out and support our picnic this year. It’s always wonderful to spend time with our AMHS family, especially at happy and festive occasions such as Ferragosto. Several familiar faces and “regulars” – folks who support us throughout the year – could not make it this time due to travel or other commitments. You were greatly missed. Due to the resounding success of this year’s picnic, we expect that we may have found a permanent home for future Ferragosto picnics, at Fort Ward Park.

Photos of the 2017 Ferragosto picnic can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/photos/GDnVn2vhFUo5wDvz5>

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

By Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President - Membership

I am pleased to report that there are 291 members of AMHS, including many new members. Thank you for your continued support of the Society’s programs and activities. We have many wonderful events planned for the rest of the year and your membership makes them all possible!

As a reminder, with our new automated system, you will receive email reminders when it is time to renew. If you do not have email, you will receive a reminder by regular mail.

New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members!

Jacqueline Arthur, Teresa (Floria) Black, Caridad de la Vega, Albert & Karen Grasso, Jose Luis Montesinos, Christine Di Sabatino Koerner, John “Jack” Monaco, and Danila Tomassetti

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

Compleanni Settembre

Bruno Fusco and Carmine Petrarca, September 2; Richard DiBuono, September 3; Anthony Phillips, September 4; Sharon Callahan, Anthony D’Erme, and Lina Marinucci, September 5; Corrado Dal Forno, September 6; Michael A. DeMarco, September 7; Maria Marigliano, September 8; Theresa Taylor, September 10; Tom Savage, September 15; Rose Napolitano, September 18; Theresa Duncan, September 19; John “Jack” Monaco, September 20; Ronald Cappelletti, and Jaison Harris, September 26; Olimpia Micheli, Virginia Paganelli, September 27; Jeffrey Clark, Romeo Sabatini, and Maria LaVerghetta, September 29.

Compleanni Ottobre

Nicola Pellegrini, October 1; Maria Marchegiani, October 3; Elizabeth DiGregorio, Charlie Iovino, Kirsten Keppel, and Joseph Cusato, October 8; Jacqueline Arthur, October 10;

John Fuscillo, October 11; Mike DelBorrello, Irena DiCarlantonio, and Melvena Puglisi, October 12; Jack Paganelli, and Annette Rossi, October 16; Guy Caruso, October 21; Liana Campanella, Roger McClure, and Sarah Scott, October 22; and Louis Alfano, October 26.

Anniversaries

Anniversari Settembre

Jeffrey & Mary Petrino, September 1; Sergio & Maria Fresco, September 6; Renato & Ines Sozio, September 8; and John & Lucille Fuscillo, and Matthew & Amelia DiFiore, September 16; Jonathan Stern & Katie Musolino, September 20; and Stephen Furry & Lisa D'Andrea Cariste, September 23.

Anniversari Ottobre

Joseph & Mary Katherine Theis and John & Eileen Verna, October 3; Frank Charles & Susan Ann Bonsiero, October 6; Rocco Del Monaco & Eileen Parise, October 9; Giuseppe & Loreta Mastrangelo, October 11; Alfred & Diana DelGrosso, and Porter & Dianne Francesconi Lyon, October 14; Joseph, Sr. & Rose Ruzzi, October 19; Mike & Rose DelBorrello, October 25; and Salvatore & Anna Maria DiPilla, October 30.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

AMHS FEATURED IN ABRUZZO "IL MESSAGGERO"

Following a June 11, 2017, meeting at Casa Italiana with several members of the AMHS, Dom Serafini, a contributing writer to the Abruzzo "*Il Messaggero*" newspaper, wrote an article about the Society which was published in that newspaper on July 16, 2017.

Present at that meeting were two founding members of the Society, Omero Sabatini and Sergio Fresco, in addition to our current president, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, our vice president Nancy DeSanti and our former treasurer Joe Novello. We thank AMHS member Francesco Isgro for putting Dom in touch with us.

The article follows:

IL TALENTO ABRUZZESE DI WASHINGTON

di Dom Serafini

L'Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society (Amhs) di Washington D.C. é forse l'unica associazione abruzzese nel mondo ad annoverare fra i suoi 300 soci (per la maggior parte abruzzesi) scrittori, scienziati, professori universitari, diplomatici, amministratori governativi ed artisti.

Non solo, Amhs pubblica una newsletter sia cartacea che digitale, offre due borse di studio l'anno di 4.000 dollari ciascuna, organizza conferenze (la piú recente con la giornalista Domenica Marchetti, originaria di Chieti) ed ha una linea di merchandising acquistabile dal sito web: www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



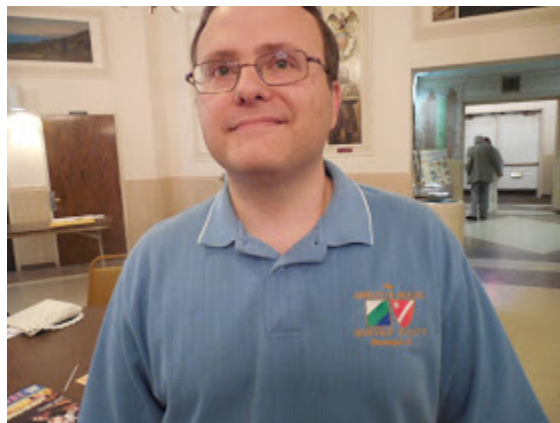
da s. a d.: Nancy DeSanti, vice presidente; Omero Sabatini, ex presidente e co-fondatore; Maria D'Andrea, presidente.

"Non organizziamo viaggi in Abruzzo perché molti dei nostri soci hanno case nella Regione", spiega Maria D'Andrea, a capo dell'associazione dal 2012 e quinto presidente dalla sua nascita, 17 anni fa.

A creare Amhs fu il padre di Maria, Lucio (originario di Roccamandolfi, mentre la madre é nata a Pacentro), assieme all'ex diplomatico americano Omero Sabatini, che é nato a East Chicago (nello stato dell'Indiana), ma é cresciuto a Secinaro, paese nativo dei genitori.

Sabatini, che ha pure ricoperto la carica di presidente di Amhs, ha anche tradotto in inglese "I Promessi Sposi."

Maria D'Andrea ha organizzato l'incontro con un gruppo di abruzzesi alla "Casa Italiana," distante pochi isolati dal Congresso americano. "La sede non é nostra", precisa D'Andrea, che di professione fa la dirigente al Ministero del Commercio Usa come responsabile per il settore tessile, "ma l'affittiamo dalla società associata con la Chiesa Del Santo Rosario".



Sergio Fresco di Lanciano mostra la T-shirt dell'AMHS

Tra i presenti all'incontro vi era anche Joe Novello, originario di Montazzoli, pensionato dalla Nasa dove, nel 1990, ha contribuito allo sviluppo del telescopio spaziale Hubble. Mancavano il professore della Johns Hopkins, Carmine J. Spellane ed il giornalista del "Washington Post," Mike De Bonis (di Secinaro), mentre in rappresentanza dell'artista della

ceramica, Roberto Paolinello (di Pescara), D'Andrea ha portato un catalogo delle sue opere.

INCONTRI CON GLI AMICI MOLISANI

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

On June 30, 2017, while in Molise, Italy, I, along with AMHS Board member Albert Paolantonio, had the great pleasure to meet Michele Petraroia, *Consigliere Regionale*, Molise, in Campobasso. Michele learned that I was in Italy from my Uncle Joe (I and Albert had been in Agnone, Molise, studying at the program Live and Learn Italian). So I received a text message from Michele asking if I would have time to meet him. A very fortuitous occasion and a wonderful meeting. We discussed the Society's work to promote the regions of Molise and Abruzzo, the longevity and health of the Society (at 300+ members!), and the types of events we hold and scholarships we award. Michele spoke about the activities and events that he and others do to promote the region, both in Italy and abroad: honoring the late Giuseppe Tedeschi, and the grain museum in Jelsi.

Michele also took us to visit the "Associazione Sociale e Culturale "Giuseppe Tedeschi", which serves not only as a social hall, but highlights the philanthropy of the region: programs (schools) to which the region partners in Africa, food drives, etc. Alberto and I spent about 1 ½ hours with Michele, who the Society made an Honorary Member in 2015. To top off our time together, we went to a nearby café and there, a group of singers and dancers from Argentina, all of whom have Molisani roots, were serenading the crowd with popular Molisani folksongs. Quite the treat to see them in their costumes! (In recent news, Michele contacted me to let me know that his daughter, Giulia, will be doing an internship at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC from September through December. I have contacted Giulia to assist with lodging options and let her know that we will be welcoming her to Society events while she is in DC).



AMHS Board member Albert Paolantonio and AMHS President Maria-D'Andrea-Yothers with Michele Petraroia, *Consigliere Regionale*, Molise

More recently, at the July 23 general Society meeting, we had the distinct pleasure of honoring as our guest Giuseppe Iglieri, who is from Isernia, Molise. Giuseppe is currently the personal assistant to Molise's Regional Deputy (*consigliere regionale delegato*) for "Culture" and "Molisani in the world" (*Molisani nel Mondo*). He is also a Ph.D. student at the University of Molise in Campobasso. He is in the United States as a Visiting Research Scholar at Columbia University to complete his research related to Adriano Olivetti, an Italian engineer, politician and industrialist and his political experience in a party called Community Movement (*Movimento Comunità*). He was connected to our Society through Michele Petraroia, the regional Counselor for Molise. He brought a 3-minute message from Nicolo' Ioffredi, President of the Molisani nel Mondo, who spoke to us on behalf of Paolo Di Laura Frattura, President of the Region of Molise (to view the video, go to AMHS Facebook page):

<https://www.facebook.com/abruzzomoliseheritagesociety/videos/>



(From left) Albert Paolantonio, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Giuseppe Iglieri, and Edvige and Lucio D'Andrea

Both encounters – in June and July – afforded a great opportunity to our Society to connect more closely with the region of Molise and showcase the vibrancy of our organization.

THE ADVENTURES OF TWO AMHS "BEST OF FRIENDS" IN MOLISE

By Albert Paolantonio, AMHS Board Member, with input from Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

Our wonderful Italian adventure began in November 2016, when Maria and I attended a presentation in Casa Italiana by Jenifer Landor, Executive Director of *Live and Learn Italian* (Maria wrote about this visit/meeting in the January 2017 *AMHS Notiziario*). About five years ago, Jenifer began an immersion course in the town of Agnone, in Molise, where her ancestors originated. (Her grandfather came from the town, and his cousins worked at the famous *La Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli*, founded in 1040AD, known world-wide for their exceptional bells which grace many famous churches and monuments across Italy and the world. In fact, it is the oldest surviving family business in the western world). Jenifer's idea for the program was to bring people to Agnone to take

advantage of a relatively remote location, where students could experience a “tourism-free” town in one of the least known areas in Italia. The natives in this village in Alto Molise speak only in Italian...well, most of them. Jenifer has many people helping her out on this venture in Agnone, as we would come to learn. Even if they do speak English, they play along, and that is truly a wonderful opportunity for a student interested in improving his language skills. Agnone is small, but full of historical significance, and is known as “*la citta’ dell’ arte.*” And, indeed, it is full of ancient traditions in artisan work in silver, copper, and iron. It is also famous for many culinary delights, such as *scamorza* cheese.

Maria and I decided on the spot after hearing Jenifer’s presentation that this would be the perfect vehicle for us to finally plan our long dreamed of trip together to Italy. The Live and Learn Program is a two-week immersion program, and the first summer session began on June 10. Because of Maria’s busy work schedule, she would have to join me for the second week of the two-week course (June 17), after which we would continue our travels through Italy. We decided we wanted to rent a car and see other parts of Molise, which we had each previously visited separately. We also decided that we wanted to visit the new “it” region, Puglia.

I arrived in Rome on my birthday, Saturday June 10, and after being picked up at the airport, along with five other students by our driver, Fernando, we were in Agnone in about 2½ hours. Our group of students consisted of four lovely ladies from the London area, Anne, Rita, Brenda and Jeni, and another man, Bart, who, incredibly, lives in Alexandria! Our classes were held in the centro storico, just off the *Piazza Plebiscito* each day during the week for three hours beginning at 10:00am. We were split into two groups and the time was divided between Alessandro for the first half and, then after our break, we continued with the second half of class with Luca or vice versa. The lessons concentrated on grammar and verb conjugation as one would expect, but not only that. We also were introduced to new ways of exposure to the language and useful vocabulary built around current events in America and Great Britain which promoted conversation. Other days we played creative games which, again, tested our comprehension of the Italian language, and how to apply it in everyday situations. We also read short stories followed by answering questions about what we read. Each day we were given homework assignments which we went over together in the next class. Both instructors were wonderful and extremely patient with our language limitations. In fact, they also offered personalized lessons separate from the classroom. It was a very rewarding and fun experience.



From left: Alessandro, Maria, Bart, Luca, and Alberto

I had visited Agnone briefly in 2006 for lunch and a quick walk through part of the town. I also visited the *Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli* at that time for an unscheduled and abbreviated private tour. During this visit in June, I saw so much more. I stayed at the *Palazzo della Citta’* located on the *Piazza Plebiscito*, which is the largest piazza in the *centro storico*.

I immediately felt comfortable in this small village of about 5,000. Just across the idyllic piazza there are some small shops, a fountain, a church (one of 14 in Agnone) and a wonderful bar/café called *Caffé Letterario*. There, we quickly made friends with Vincenzo, Mercede and Ilenia, who work there. This was where we all came each morning before our daily three-hour Italian class for cappuccino and a *cornetto*. Halfway through the class we would return for another cappuccino and break. Then, after class finished, we often came back for lunch there, or went elsewhere for a change of scenery. Then, in the evenings, we would return yet again for after dinner wine and/or *aperitivo*. Whenever we were there, we were always greeted with friendly smiles, and welcoming conversations in Italian. It became our home away from home. We would even do our homework there, at times.

My first full day in Agnone was the celebration of Sant’ Onofrio. It began with an early morning Mass in the *centro storico* at the Church of Sant’ Antonio, which was followed by most of the paesani joining a 4 1/2 mile walk from the town into the outskirts to celebrate the Saint. It was a beautiful way to be introduced to the town and surrounding vistas of mountains, valleys, and flora while enjoying a spectacular day of sunshine. The tradition of four women carrying the statue to the *Madonna Monte Sant’Onofrio Church* from the town was quite interesting. We were accompanied by a priest who said mass along the route, along with music and loudspeakers. We made stops for wonderful local delicacies and delicious fresh local cherries three times before continuing to the church. There, after the mass, we had a delicious picnic lunch in the countryside, and met some wonderful people. This was the first of several festas we would participate in during the two-week period of the course.

The afternoon of Maria's arrival, Jenifer arranged a visit to the *Azienda AMA Green* which is not far outside of town, but in a world of its own. We were led by Marco around the farm, and visited his vineyard and collection of exotic and domestic animals. Maria arrived from the airport in time for most of the tour, and, afterwards, we enjoyed an amazing lunch full of local delicacies. There were fresh cheeses, breads, honey, meats (including lard, which I cannot honestly say I much enjoyed), a delicious stew, and plenty of the home-made vino. This is a green space in Alto Molise which offers a special type of tourism school, cooking *cucina tradizionale*, area picnic, and, in general, education on local ideas of taking full advantage of the area and how to appreciate the local environment at its best.

Afterwards, we returned to Agnone so that we could get ready for the festa in *Piazza Plebescito* that evening which marked the 50-year commemoration of the local soccer team. There was free local food provided, traditional dance demonstrations in costume, music, and quite a few people. During the previous week, we had watched *le prove delle danze tradizionali* (dance rehearsals) for the festa by the very talented troop in Agnone which includes Pepe, Antonio and Lino. Maria and I had planned to call it a day after the festa since we had to be ready to leave early the next morning for Campobasso, but we were invited by Marco and Carlo, who we had met at the farm earlier in the day, to go the cantina just off the piazza for "just five minutes". At the cantina we spent an amazing couple of hours singing, drinking home-made wines from the farm, eating incredible home-made sausage, cheese and bread with a wonderful group of new friends. They wanted us to tell everyone about our evening together when we returned home. It was another fantastic highlight of the trip. I do not know how Maria was able to stay awake for the whole day since she had just arrived from Washington that morning. I am happy she did, because, again, it was a truly special experience we shared together.

The next morning, we traveled about an hour on the shuttle provided by Jenifer and once again escorted by our wonderful driver Fernando to attend the famous *Festa of Corpus Domini*. I had heard from my cousin Nicola, who lives in Campobasso, about *I Misteri*, which are the unique floats depicting various scenes from the Bible with children and some adults suspended on wires and special supports. It was an unforgettable experience. From our vantage point at Via Largo San Leonardo, we got a close-up view of each of the floats as they passed by. It is something not to be missed. We walked around Campobasso before and after the festa, to see more of the town, which is the largest in Molise. There was a large market which Maria and I walked through, as well as part of the Monforte area. We also toured the fascinating Samnite museum. Following our time in Campobasso we traveled to the town of Salcito for a delicious lunch at the *Agriturismo Morgia dei Briganti* before continuing home to Agnone.



Corpus Domini

We were kept quite busy during our stay in Agnone. Besides the trip to Campobasso, we also visited Pietrabbondante, another village close to Agnone, which is home to the famous Samnite temple and other ruins. Afterwards, we traveled through the surrounding countryside along the *tratturo* Celano Foggia, which is the second longest trek in southern Italy. These ancient paths in Molise (and Abruzzo) were used twice a year for the transhumance (the end of summer and beginning of spring) to move sheep, cows and donkeys from the mountains to the Puglia plains; after our trip along the *tratturo*, we had dinner at Agriturismo San Mauro. Jenifer had found a wonderful place yet again for a delicious dinner. The Agriturismo is in the middle of a lovely wooded area, but inside we shared a very delicious and ample *cena* which used farm-to-table ingredients with wonderful local specialties, great service and company. On another night, we visited a B&B outside of Agnone another night for a wonderful dinner in Maronconi. It was in the countryside on a farm with its own collection of livestock, as well as cats and *Pastore Abruzzese* dogs, one of which had recently had over 10 puppies! They were a joy to watch playing.

Yet another evening we traveled to the Belmonte del Sannio, which is about three miles from Agnone, for another delicious dinner full of local delights and vino in a quiet borgo. On two different nights, we visited the home of Maria and Giuseppe for cooking demonstrations, dinner, and wonderful company. After dinner, Giuseppe offered several different types of homemade liquors made from produce in his garden. We had the good fortune of fabulous weather which allowed us to eat al fresco in their beautiful garden, while we continued to practice our Italian. Our hostess, Maria, also demonstrated the art of *tombolo*, which is a style of lace sewing famous in the Isernia province of Molise.

Other days, we visited the previously mentioned *Pontificia Fonderia Marinelli* for a wonderful tour and film. We also visited *Artigianato Artistico di Cav. Filippo D'Aloise*, who is the lone remaining working coppersmith in the town, where we had a fascinating discussion on the making of copper and copper artifacts. Yet another day, we toured the *Caseificio Di Nucci* for a tour of the cheese factory and observation of the special skills involved in producing the renowned *scamorza*.

and *caciocavallo* cheeses. Still other nights we went out for dinners in town, and were never disappointed at places like *Caffe' La Fenice* or *Pizzeria alla Sante*. Then, after dinner on two different occasions we returned to *Palazzo Bonanni*, where our classes were held, to watch a film in Italian. We enjoyed the famous Sophia Loren/Marcello Mastroianni films called "*Una Giornata Particolare*" (A Special Day) and "*Matrimonio all'Italiana*" (Marriage Italian Style).



Cav. Filippo D'Aloise, coppersmith

This wonderful gem of a town, in Alto Molise is truly full of historical significance and tradition. The real attraction for me was the people. I felt like I could easily have stayed longer, and was a bit sad saying goodbye to our new friends and fellow students. Every day, whether in the supermarkets, restaurants, churches, or on the streets, we would encounter amazing and friendly people who wanted to engage with us in Italian! There were Enzo, Maurizio, and Walter; Tonina and her two lovely sisters, who own the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) *Armonie* where two of our group stayed (one morning we all met here for a surprise birthday breakfast for Jenny, who celebrated her 70th birthday in style at *Armonie*). There was Dottore Giuseppe Paolantonio, his lovely wife Anna, and their wonderful son, Nicola, my long-lost cousins, whom I had the pleasure of meeting on my first full day in Agnone and spent additional time with in their home and on other occasions during our stay! Everyone wanted to acknowledge us as one of their own, it seemed. I have visited Italy many times, but this trip truly stands out in my mind as one of the most unique ways of being "Italianized." I, for one, am already planning to return in September 2018 to continue my journey of (re)discovery of my Italian heritage.

The day of our departure from Agnone, on Saturday, June 24, Fernando drove us to Isernia to pick up our Fiat Bravo at Zullo Rental. Maria and I drove to Puglia and stayed there four days (more about that in the November *Notiziario*), and then returned for another three days in Molise, continuing our journey.

In Molise, Maria found a lovely B&B called *l'Antica Dimora* about halfway between Isernia and Campobasso in Macchiagodena, another picturesque town in Molise. This was our home-base for the next three days. On our first full

day, we visited Roccamandolfi, the village where Maria's father, Lucio, was born. Unfortunately there are not a lot of family members living in the village, so Maria was unable to visit with anyone. However, we made a stop at the Sindaco, hoping to meet the Mayor, but were instead greeted by his assistant whose name just happens to be Maria D'Andrea! Roccamandolfi is a beautiful old town which required lots of walking up and down hills along narrow roads. Afterwards, we savored a beautiful lunch of home-made pasta at *Casale Mangimulfi*, and got a tour of several of the lovely rooms. The owners of the hotel/restaurant took very good care of us – apparently the D'Andrea name is quite renowned in the village and also, quite popular given that Maria met at least three other D'Andreas in the village, none of whom are directly related to her!



Roccamandolfi

Maria and I decided to visit Monteroduni on yet another beautiful day, and enjoyed a walk around the town. The town is particularly noteworthy for the impressive *Castello Pignatelli*. Neither Maria nor I had visited here before, and it was definitely worth a stop. Afterwards, we traveled a short distance outside the town to visit the *Campi Valerio*. Some years ago, I discovered these wines at *Unwined*, my favorite wine store in Alexandria. The *Fannio Falanghina*, in particular, is a favorite. The winery has produced some great red and white wines on this estate since 1974, which originally belonged to Prince Pignatelli. They concentrate on enhancing the native grapes from this area such as Montepulciano and Tintilia. Unfortunately, the store at the vineyard had just closed when we arrived, but they opened for us when they saw us looking in. I purchased several bottles of wine which we enjoyed during the rest of our vacation, and one special bottle I brought home. The owners even gifted us a bottle of their own grappa, which we also safely transported home! *La Cantinetta*, the ristorante on the grounds of *Campi Valerio*, had, unfortunately, closed for the day. We will need to return for another visit.

After the morning trip to Campobasso for our meeting with Michele Petraroia, Regional Counselor for Molise (see article on previous pages), we drove directly to Roccascura, the town where my grandfather Pietro came from in 1913. I had visited there, maybe, a half a dozen times before, but always love to

return. I wanted Maria to get to see it with me. We eventually arrived after being detoured because of road construction and repair. Immediately, I began noticing some changes in this town of roughly 600 which had occurred during the five years since I had last visited. First, we were greeted by a man driving a fruit and vegetable truck, advertising his goods with a loud speaker. I was a bit stunned. We continued walking to the only restaurant in the town, and made time for a delicious late lunch at *Bar Il Pozzo Pizzeria - Ristorante*. I have had the pleasure of getting to know the owners, Natalino and Anna, over the years, and always made it a point to stop in for delicious food and wine.



Roccasicura

Afterwards, we continued our walk around the town. I wanted to visit the home of my cousin Bianca, who died in 2006. The home is still not being lived in, and my dream is to buy it and live there part of the year. We also discovered a recently opened bar/cafe/teria called *Sotto Sopra* very close to the Municipio and San Leonardo Church. I could not believe it when we discovered it. Not a lot has changed in this medieval town in many years so, of course, we went inside the bar to have a beer, and look around. The transformation from an old abandoned house was quite impressive. The owner was very friendly and they seemed to be doing a good business with patrons inside and outside. It was a very welcome addition to the town. We also visited a new B&B called *La Torre dell'Orologio*. The B&B is situated directly on the rock which dominates the village with a beautiful 360-degree panorama of the mountains and valleys nearby, including the Mainarde, which is part of the Apennine mountain chain. The remains of the old castle, which had been largely destroyed by earthquakes in years past, is adjacent to the B&B, along with the clock tower. There were some changes in the town since my last visit...but the clock tower was there, still standing in spite of the frequent earthquakes.

I always hate leaving - however, our journey does not end here. Be sure to read about our adventures in Puglia in the November issue of the *Notiziario*! (To see more of Albert and Maria's photos from Agnone, visit <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LjqE06MmdTGme0Dm2>; and for additional photos from Molise, visit <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eOpOs1BqDHulapeg1>)

A SIDE NOTE: Maria is working with Jenifer on another visit to Washington, DC in November, centered around the Society's general meeting on Sunday, November 19. We plan to work in conjunction with Joe Lupo, Director of the Casa Italiana Language School, on a program by Jenifer to discuss the [Live and Learn Italian](#) program and Agnone. We hope that those of you with an interest in an Italian language immersion program will join us for this event.

CARNEVALE DONATION HELPS EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

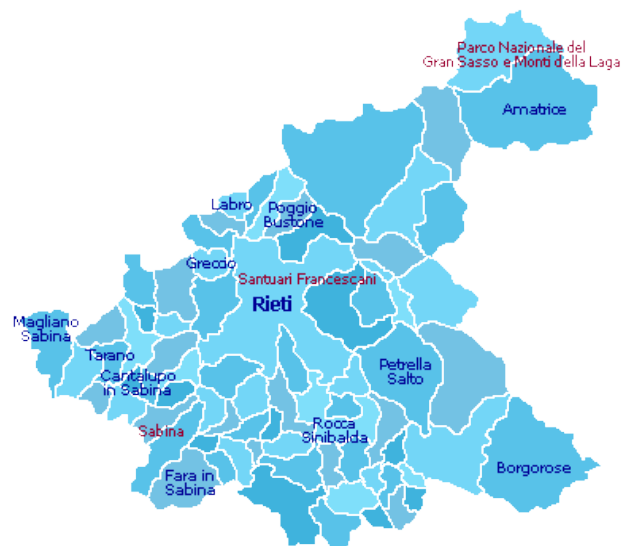
By Nancy DeSanti

AMHS members will recall we had a very successful Carnevale event at Casa Italiana on February 25, 2017, which AMHS played a leading role in organizing along with Holy Rosary Parish Council and several other groups. A total of \$4,000 was collected and sent directly to Italy to help the earthquake victims in central Italy.

The donation was forwarded through the Scalabrinian priests who in turn gave the money directly to Caritas, the Catholic relief organization. The pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Father Ezio Marchetto, received a letter thanking us for our generosity (see letter below).

According to the letter, the funds may be used in three possible ways, in the Rieti territory (the province in which Amatrice is located), by the Caritas of that area: 1) the rebuilding of the many churches destroyed by the earthquakes; 2) help for some small family business activity; or 3) some action in favor of children about to take their First Communion.

We thank all those who participated in the Carnevale to help make this event a success, and we look forward to next year's Carnevale.





CASA GENERALIZIA DELLA CONGREGAZIONE DEI MISSIONARI DI SAN CARLO
- SCALABRINIANI -
Via Ulisse Seni 2 - 00153 Roma - Tel. **39-06.58.33.11.35 - Fax **39-06.580.38.08- C. F. 80091290587

Rev.do P. Ezio Marchetto
Holy Rosary Church
595 Third Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-2703

Roma, 26 maggio 2017

Carissimo P. Ezio
e fedeli della parrocchia di Holy Rosary di Washington,

vi scrivo per ringraziarvi della vostra generosa risposta all'appello della Direzione Generale in favore della popolazione del centro Italia, in particolare dell'area reatina, colpita da un disastroso terremoto.

Molti hanno risposto all'appello del Superiore generale e parte delle offerte sono già state inviate a destinazione.

Le offerte sono gestite dalla Caritas diocesana di Rieti che sta coordinando, sotto la direzione del suo Vescovo, Mons. Pompili, alcuni progetti miranti ad aiutare qualche piccola attività produttiva artigianale a livello familiare (in questo territorio la gente lavora la terra, alleva bestiame e vive di prodotti tipici alimentari) e alla ricostruzione / restaurazione di qualche chiesa, perché in questo territorio colpito dal terremoto sono state danneggiate o distrutte ben 115 chiese.

Consegnerò di persona, nelle mani del Vescovo Mons. Pompili, quanto raccolto in questa "Campagna di Solidarietà" perché venga utilizzato secondo i progetti di cui sopra e mi farò portavoce del vostro desiderio di promuovere azioni in favore dei bambini che si accingono a ricevere la loro Prima Comunione.

Da parte mia e di tutta la Direzione Generale ringrazio voi tutti per il generoso e solidale gesto. La "Campagna di Solidarietà" continua e non può essere altrimenti, perché molto resta da fare, nella certezza che nelle terre martorate da tanti tragici eventi, torneranno a risplendere il sole e la vita.

Con stima e gratitudine.



P. Alessandro Gazzola, cs

FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

PESCINA DEI MARSI, PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, REGION OF ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti

The town of Pescara dei Marsi is located in the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo and is a part of the mountain community Valle del Giovenco

The town has approximately 4,195 residents, known as Pescinesi.

Located in the flatland areas of the province, Pescara dei Marsi has a milder climate compared to other towns and cities in Abruzzo, making it enjoyable in the summer for hikers and nature lovers. Rainfall is relatively heavy, occurring mostly in late autumn. In the winter, snowfall is relatively abundant, making it perfect for those who enjoy skiing and other snow sports.

The name itself, Pescara dei Marsi, reveals its ties with the ancient Marsi population, proud warriors of Umbrian-Sabellian roots, devoted to the cult of Mars. They eventually gave in to the Romans, although not without putting up a good fight. They are remembered today by the name of the area, the Marsica region that extends over the Fucino Plain.

The [earthquake](#) of January 1915 (also known as the earthquake of Avezzano) greatly affected the [Marsica](#) area, situated in the interior of Abruzzo. It was one of the most catastrophic earthquakes to occur in Italian territory, leaving 120,000 victims in Marsica and surrounding areas. The initial shock was felt throughout all of central Italy.

Pescina was completely leveled. The victims were about 5,000 out of a total population of 6,000. The few who survived were generally badly injured and remained homeless since all of the buildings in town were destroyed. Initially, the earthquake completely isolated the area.

The seismic event brought to light the lack of preparedness of the Italian state. The continuation of [World War I](#), which had begun in autumn of 1914, brought troops to the region, and at the same time, the earthquake of 1915 created interest in the Appennine mountain chain which had not seen such disastrous earthquakes before 1915.

In succeeding years, the town has seen an exodus of its residents to other parts of the world. Some settled in the American cities of Portland, Maine and Providence, Rhode Island.

Despite the devastating earthquake, Pescara has now been completely reconstructed and is dedicated to tourism and to strengthening the value of this area, which stands on the edge of the Fucino Plain, an ancient reservoir now dried up, facing the entrance to the Giovenco Valley between the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park and the Sirente-Velino Regional Natural Park.

Pescina dei Marsi has several interesting sights well worth seeing.



For example, the Cathedral of Santa Maria delle Grazie was built in the 15th century. Since 1526, the crypt has housed the relics of Blessed Berardo dei Marsi. In 1915, it was damaged by the earthquake and again during World War II, after the end of which it was restored.

The church itself blends various architectural styles. The Renaissance façade is decorated with a large rose window and the base is decorated with a porch and three portals. The

interior has three naves, Renaissance and Baroque, and retains some medieval frescoes. The bell tower is a large three-story tower which houses an ancient bell, dedicated to Berardo dei Marsi.

Visitors can also see the old village of Pescina, built in the 14th century. The village had a castle, dismantled in later centuries, which today survives the ancient tower of the Piccolomini family. In 1915, during the earthquake which destroyed much of the old town, the tower collapsed along with most of the old church of San Berardo. Only the bell tower remained standing.

Pescina is also the native town of two well-known names in the international literary and historical scene, Ignazio Silone and Cardinal Giulio Mazarino.

Under the bell tower dedicated to Berardo dei Marsi is the tomb of the famous writer Ignazio Silone, who set his novel "Fontamara" in this town. A museum was later built in the birthplace of Silone, whose family home was one of the few houses to escape the earthquake of 1915. The museum contains several manuscripts and original letters of the author.

Ignazio Silone was the pen name of Serafino Tranquilli (1900-1978), who so well described the condition of the poor people of his homeland in his famous novel, "Fontamara". After having lost his mother and a brother in the 1915 earthquake, he painfully watched and followed the trials and tribulations of his fellow villagers in their efforts to start again, and he spent a good part of his youth in the Pescina. It was during these years that his political ideas became clear, which were subsequently followed by his enrolment in the communist party, and thus by his exile during the fascist regime.

After the war, his interests were more journalistic and literary, which thus saw him travelling extensively abroad. He came back to Abruzzo for a while in 1968 in order to gather information about the life of Pope Celestino V, whom he wrote about in his last novel, "L'avventura di un povero Cristiano" [The Adventure of a Poor Christian]. Silone is buried in Pescina's cemetery and in his memory, the Premio Internazionale Ignazio Silone is awarded to people involved in culture and in social causes.

Another site worth a visit is the museum of Cardinal Giulio Mazarino, known as Cardinal Jules Mazarin, successor of Cardinal Richelieu to the regency of France. Born in Abruzzo in 1602, he died in Paris in 1661. He was King Louis XIV's prime minister and Cardinal Richelieu's successor. Even though he was born in Pescina dei Marsi, he did not spend much time there, as his parents were always on the move due to his father's work, and the future priest was brought up in Rome in the best circles where the future important ecclesiastic figures were prepared.

The original home of Mazarin was shaped like a castle, but it was completely destroyed, another casualty of the earthquake

in 1915. The new house was rebuilt respecting the original architectural style of the house, although with some differences. The museum contains manuscripts of the cardinal, and houses a private collection of baroque art.

What to See

- Cathedral of Santa Maria delle Grazie
- Museum of writer Ignazio Silone
- Museum of Cardinal Giulio Mazarino

Important Dates

- January 1: Feast of S. Antonio Abate
- May 1-2: Feast of San Berardo, the patron saint
- June 13: Feast of S. Antonio da Padova
- August 15: Feast of the Assumption and San Luigi
- 1st Sunday in October: Feast of the Madonna of the Rosary

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pescina>
<http://turismo.egov.regione.abruzzo.it/web/guest/scoprilabruzzo/luoghi/borghi/pescina:soloTesto=yes>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pescina_Cathedral
<http://www.comune.pescina.aq.it/>
<http://www.silone.it/>
<http://www.comune.pescina.aq.it/eventi-e-manifestazioni/>

PESCINA DEI MARSÌ, PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

La cittadina di Pescina si trova nella provincia dell'Aquila, in Abruzzo, ed è parte della comunità montana della Valle del Giovenco.

Conta 4195 abitanti, conosciuti come Pescinesi.

Nota per il suo clima mite, è molto frequentata d'estate da alpinisti e da amanti della natura. Le piogge sono abbondanti in autunno, e la neve è abbondante d'inverno. Per questo la cittadina è meta di chi ama lo sci e gli sport relativi allo sci.

Il suo nome Pescina dei Marsi rivela i suoi legami con l'antica popolazione dei Marsi, fieri guerrieri con radici Umbro Sabini, devoti al culto di Marte. Si sottomisero eventualmente ai Romani, ma inizialmente con riluttanza. Occupano la regione Marsica, che si estende lungo il fiume Fucino.

Il terremoto del 1915, conosciuto come il terremoto di Avezzano, portò molto danno all'area della Marsica, che si trova nel cuore della regione. Fu il terremoto più catastrofico e fece 120,000 vittime. Le sue scosse furono avvertite in tutto il Centro Italia. Solo a Pescina, che fu rasa al suolo, si ebbero 5,000 vittime. Questo terremoto decimò la popolazione e la isolò. I pochissimi superstiti rimasero senza tetto.

Negli anni seguenti vi fu un grande esodo verso le Americhe, e molti Pescinesi si stabilirono in Oregon, in Maine e in Rhode

Island. A dispetto del devastante terremoto, la città fu ricostruita e resa attraente e interessante ai turisti, specialmente la vallata del Fucino, fiume ormai secco.

Pescina possiede sette centri di interesse, che vale la pena visitare.

La Cattedrale di Santa Maria delle Grazie, costruita nel quindicesimo secolo è una di queste attrazioni. Fra l'altro ospita i resti di San Berardo dei Marsi. Danneggiata dal terremoto del 1915 e da quello durante la seconda guerra mondiale, fu completamente ricostruita.

La chiesa offre diversi stili: la facciata in stile rinascimentale, e l'interno ha tre navate. Questa Cattedrale è un insieme di arte rinascimentale barocca e medievale.

Inoltre i turisti hanno la possibilità di ammirare la vecchia Pescina, sorta nel quattordicesimo secolo, il vecchio castello, totalmente crollato, e la vecchia torre. Il castello appartenne alla famiglia Piccolomini. Della chiesa di San Berardo rimane il Campanile. Pescina diede i Natali a Ignazio Silone e al Cardinale Giulio Mazarino.

Sotto il campanile della chiesa di San Berardo giace lo scrittore Ignazio Silone, l'autore di Fontamara, che trasse ispirazione da questa città. Un museo fu costruito in onore dello scrittore e molti suoi manoscritti si trovano in questo museo. La casa dello scrittore fu una delle poche a salvarsi dal terremoto, però molti membri della sua famiglia vi perirono.

Ignazio Silone, pseudonimo di Serafino Tranquilli, nacque nel 1900 e morì nel 1978. Perse la madre e il fratello nel terremoto, e più tardi descrisse la vita dei suoi concittadini e la loro lotta nel ricostruire le loro vite, dopo i devastanti terremoti. Fu durante questo periodo che le sue idee politiche divennero chiare e si arruolò al partito marchista, che più tardi ripudiò.

Dopo la guerra si dedicò al giornalismo e allo studio delle Lettere, e viaggiò molto all'estero. Ritornò a Pescina nel 1968 per fare ricerche sulla vita di un altro suo compaesano, Papa Celestino V, sul quale scrisse un libro, il suo ultimo, intitolato "L'Avventura di un povero cristiano". Un premio annuale è stato stabilito in suo onore "Premio Ignazio Silone," che riconosce chi si dedica alle Lettere e all'Assistenza sociale.

Un altro luogo da vedere è il museo dedicato al cardinale Giulio Mazarino, conosciuto anche come Jules Mazarin, successore del Cardinale Richelieu. Nato in Abruzzo, a Pescina, appunto, nel 1601, questi morì a Parigi nel 1661. Fu primo ministro di Luigi XIV e successore del Cardinale Richelieu. Malgrado fosse nato a Pescina dei Marsi, non vi trascorse molto tempo, perché il lavoro del padre, portò la famiglia a Roma, dove Giulio crebbe e dove fu circondato da importanti elementi del circolo ecclesiastico.

La casa natale del Cardinale Mazarino aveva la forma di un castello, ma fu distrutta durante il terremoto del 1915. La nuova casa fu ricostruita secondo lo stile della vecchia,

sebbene vi siano delle differenze. Il museo contiene manoscritti del Cardinale, e ospita una collezione privata di arte barocca.

Attrazioni del luogo

- Cattedrale di Santa Maria delle Grazie
- Museo dello scrittore Ignazio Silone
- Museo del Cardinale Giulio Mazarino

Date da ricordare

- 17 Gennaio: Festa di S. Antonio Abate
- 1-2 Maggio: Festa di San Berardo, Santo Patrono
- 13 Giugno: Festa di Sant'Antonio di Padova
- 15 Agosto: Festa dell'Assunzione e di San Luigi
- Prima Domenica di Ottobre - Festa della Madonna del Rosario.

CAROVILLI, PROVINCE OF ISERNIA, REGION OF MOLISE

By Nancy DeSanti



Situated around Monte Ferrante in the province of Isernia in Molise is the beautiful town of Carovilli which is known for its truffle industry and its many summer festivals. Located 35 kilometers northwest of Campobasso and 14 kilometers northeast of Isernia, the small town is placed on a high rock just below Monte Ferrante, where megalithic walls can still be seen.

The town has approximately 1,508 inhabitants, known as Carovillesi.

Carovilli has a thriving truffles (tartufi) industry, with the area in and around Monte Ferrante famous for its abundant and delicious truffles.

Carovilli takes its name from a small village founded by veteran soldiers of the Roman army in honor of their former commander, consul Spurius Carvilius. In the Middle Ages it was a dominion of the Borrello counts, then in 1390 it was passed to Gurrello Origlia. In the 16th century it was a possession of the Marchesano family, followed by the D'Alessandro, who were the last lords until feudalism was suppressed in 1806.

As far back as it is known, Carovilli was inhabited by the Sanniti Pentri. They frequently fought with the Romans and ultimately lost. The ruins of their fortress can still be seen on Monte Ferrante. Around the turn of the 19th century, a monastery was built at Creta Rossa and the town grew around it.

One of the interesting events in the town is the annual "Sagra del Gambero," an ancient feast connected to the abundance of fish and crabs in the local water streams.

Every July 19, the town celebrates the Festa di Santo Stefano. A procession and Mass, including fireworks, take place in the morning. Then at nightfall, the town comes alive with a huge party in the piazza featuring a live band and lots of vendors.

The patron saint of Carovilli is Santo Stefano del Lupo (lupo meaning wolf in Italian) who lived in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. At the age of 16, Stefano Cinocco joined a monastery and became a Benedictine monk. He followed the doctrine of Pietro Di Murrone who became Pope Celestine V and it is said that Santo Stefano travelled with him to Rome when he was elected Pope. Pope Celestine V was born in Sant'Angelo Limosano which nowadays is in the province of Campobasso in Molise. He was the first pope to formalize the resignation process, and he himself resigned at the end of 1294, after only five months in office.

Santo Stefano was the prior of two monasteries in Manoppello, Abruzzo. Legend has it that there was a wolf in the area that was disturbing the herd of sheep. He prayed to God to make the wolf be friendly to the herd which ended up happening, which is how he got his name Santo Stefano del Lupo.

What to See

- Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta
- Monte Ferrante

Important Dates

- July 19: Feast of Santo Stefano, the patron saint

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carovilli>
<http://www.carovilli.ca/>
<http://www.tripmondo.com/italy/molise/carovilli/>
<https://www.enchantingitaly.com/regions/molise/province-isernia/carovilli.htm>

CAROVILLI, PROVINCIA DI ISERNIA, REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Maddalena Borea

Situata vicino al Monte Ferrante, nella provincia di Isernia, la bellissima cittadina di Carovilli è famosa per i suoi tartufi e per i suoi festival estivi. Dista 35 chilometri da Campobasso e 14 chilometri da Isernia. Le sue antiche mura sono ancora visibili.

Conta 1508 abitanti, i quali sono chiamati Carovillesi.

Famosa per i suoi deliziosissimi tartufi, il suo nome verrebbe da un villaggio creato da veterani di un esercito romano, che nominarono una cittadina in onore di un loro condottiero caduto, Spurius Carvilius.

Durante il Medioevo fù governata dai Conti Borello, e nel 1390 passò ai Gurello Origlia. Nel sedicesimo secolo fù possedimento della famiglia Marchesano, e poi dei d'Alessandro, i quali ne furono gli ultimi Signori, fino alla fine del feudalesimo nel 1806.

Fù abitata dai Sanniti Pentri, che combatterono coi Romani e persero. Le rovine della loro fortezza sono ancora visibili sul Monte Ferrante. Verso la fine del diciannovesimo secolo un monastero fù creato a Creta Rossa, e la città crebbe intorno ad esso.

Evento interessante del luogo è la Sagra del Gambero, che celebra l'abbondanza di pesci e di granchi, che affollano i ruscelli circostanti.

Ogni 19 luglio Carovilli celebra la festa di Santo Stefano con Messa solenne, con processione, con musica e con fuochi artificiali. Santo Stefano del Lupo è il patrono della città. Visse tra la fine del tredicesimo secolo e l'inizio del quattordicesimo. All'età di 16 anni entrò in un monastero e divenne monaco benedettino. Seguace della dottrina di Pietro di Murrone, più tardi Celestino V, lo seguì a Roma, quando questi diventò Papa. Celestino V, nativo di Sant'Angelo Limosano, in provincia di Campobasso, fù per secoli, l'unico Papa a dimettersi dalla carica papale, dopo solo cinque mesi sul Seggio di Pietro.

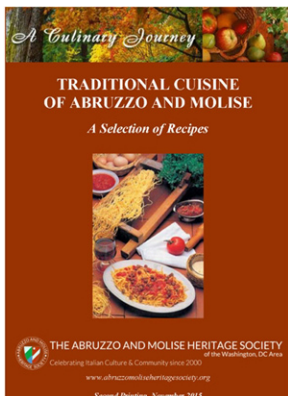
Più tardi Stefano fù Priore di due monasteri, a Mannoppello, in Abruzzo. Da quelle parti vagava un lupo, flagello delle pecore. Santo Stefano pregò Dio che lo ammanzuetisse, e così fù. Al Santo, perciò, fù dato il nome di Santo Stefano del Lupo.

Attrazioni del luogo

- Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta
- Monte Ferrante

Date da ricordare

- 19 luglio: Festa di Santo Stefano



"Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise: A Selection of Recipes",
2nd 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

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:

MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
MODEL (enter A or B):	<input type="text"/>	(M or W):	<input type="text"/>	(SIZE):	<input type="text"/>	(PRICE):	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL POLO SHIRTS:	<input type="text"/>	Total Price:		<input type="text"/>			

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

✂-----Return with Payment



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

AMHS JULY 23, 2017 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top (left): Recorded message from the Molisani nel Mondo. **Top (right):** Anxiously waiting for exceptional lunch catered by Osteria da Nino.

Middle (left): Our guest speaker, Katherine Wilson. **Middle (right):** The audience is enthralled by Katherine's wonderful book presentation.

Bottom (left): Katherine signs copies of her book "The Mother-in-Law Cure". **Bottom (right):** Nancy DeSanti and Tony Volpe with Katherine Wilson. *(photos courtesy of Sam Yothers).*

AMHS 2017 FERRAGOSTO PICNIC



Top (left): AMHS members Tony & Elodia D'Onofrio, Joann Novello, Elisa DiClemente and friends enjoy their lunch. **Top (right):** Members of the Lucchesi nel Mondo-Tuscany Club/AMSH enjoy a game of Tombola (Tricia Maltagliati, Jeff Clark, Mariangela DiPietri, and Matteo and Amy DiFiore).

Center (left): Long-time members and co-founders of the Society Omero Sabatini and Tony D'Onofrio. **Center (right):** Cooking out, the best way to enjoy Ferragosto!

Bottom (left): The picnic would not be complete without a friendly game of bocce and **(bottom right)** a friendly game of Italian cards with Romeo Sabatini and his grandson, Tony D'Onofrio, and Joe Novello. (photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000



Dr. Lynn Sorbara



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

***Advances in Cancer Research:
What is known? What is challenging?
What are the future possibilities?***

By AMHS Vice President Lynn Sorbara, Ph.D.

When: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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, linguine with garlic and olive oil, eggplant parmigiana, tiramisu. 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 by check, using form, below, or online (Visa or Mastercard)
at

<https://www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org/mission/events/#event/2017/9/24/amhs-general-society-meeting>

***Paid reservations must be made no later than Wednesday,
September 20 due to size of banquet space. Online paid
registrations will close at 12:00pm on September 20.***

We hope you will join us for a very informative talk by AMHS Vice President Lynn Sorbara. Drawing on her experience as an expert at the National Cancer Institute, Lynn will use a PowerPoint presentation to explain to us in layman's terms the new cancer treatments of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. Each attendee will get a printout of the PowerPoint with room for notes and afterwards Lynn will take questions from the audience, and also say a few words about her family's Italian immigrant roots. This promises to be an informative and interactive program, not to mention a chance to enjoy a delicious lunch and socialize beforehand.

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

✂----- *Return with Payment*

PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, September 24, 2017

Please make check payable to AMHS.

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

NAME(S): _____ Phone: _____

GUEST(S): _____

Number Attending: _____ Check Amount: _____ Email: _____