



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

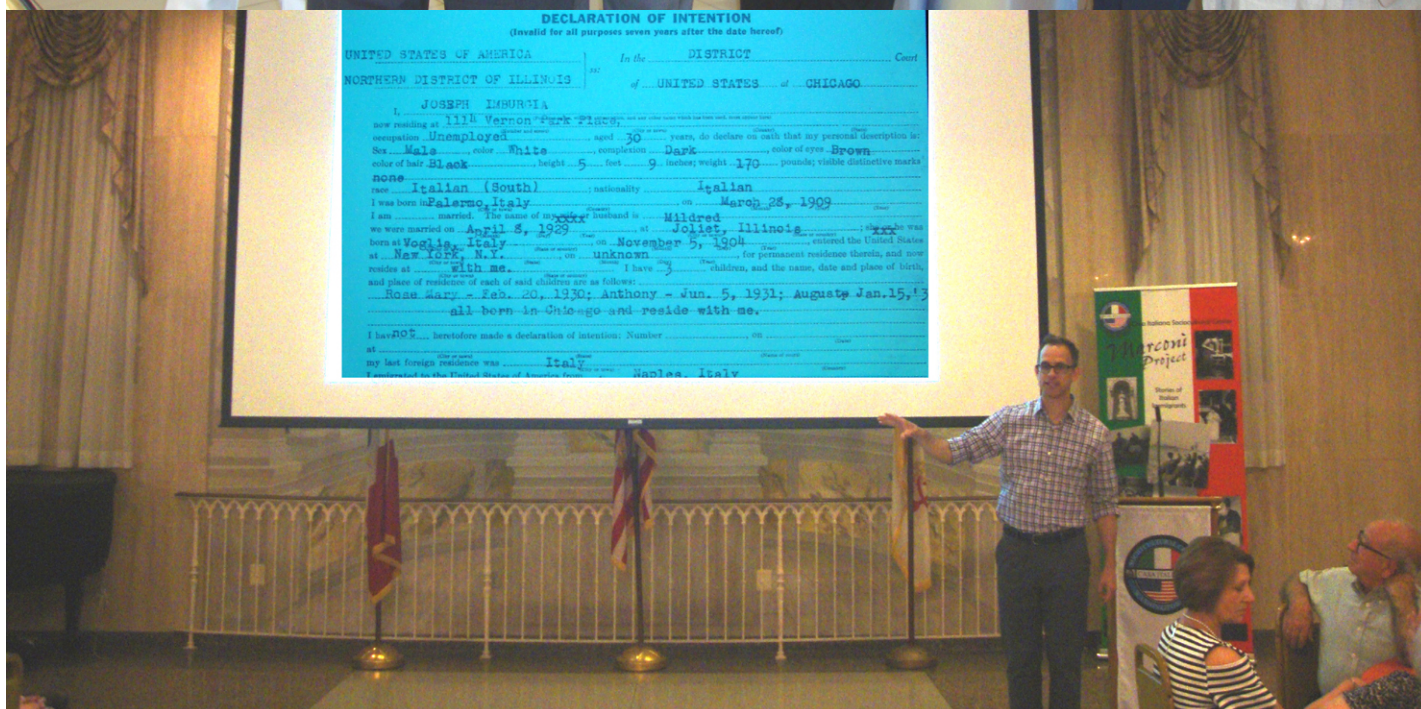
of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

AMHS NOTIZIARIO

JULY 2018



Top: At the June 9, 2018 Festa della Repubblica, from left – Nancy DeSanti, Oscar Bartoli, Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Maria Fusco, and Franca Bartoli.

Bottom: At the June 10, 2018 AMHS meeting, Dr. Thomas Guglielmo explains the Declaration of Intention for immigrants coming to the United States. (*photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers*).

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT: AMHS General Society Meeting, **Sunday, July 22, 2018** at 1:00pm at Casa Italiana. Mike DeBonis of the Washington Post talks about being a news reporter in Washington. *See inside for details.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends:



By the time you read this message, summer weather will have already arrived and you may have already enjoyed a summer break or two. As you know, our Society takes no breaks in the summer, remaining active even during the hot, muggy months. Please see

below for some recent and planned events.

On May 20th, AMHS officers and Board members attended a Memorial Mass for Judge Magistrate Giovanni Falcone at Holy Rosary Church. Judge Falcone was an Italian Magistrate who specialized in prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia and was assassinated by that criminal organization in May of 1992. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Italian Embassy's Legal Expert and Advisor Judge Romina Incutti delivered some insightful and moving remarks, putting Judge Falcone's work in an international perspective and highlighting the worldwide recognition of his dedication and sacrifice. Following the Mass, the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center hosted a reception that was jointly sponsored by the AMHS and other organizations, including the Lido Civic Club of Washington, D.C., the Sons of Italy International Lodge, Italians in D/C., the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. and Holy Rosary Church.

Our Society joined with multiple organizations in the area to celebrate Italy's National Day on June 9th. Participating along with the AMHS were the National Italian American Foundation; the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, George Washington lodge; the Church of the Nativity's Italian Heritage and Cultural Society; and the Italian Heritage Society of St. Mary of Sorrows Church. The idea of course was to recognize Italy's National Day and Republic Day, but it was also an effort to build a stronger sense of solidarity among the members of the Italian American community in the metropolitan area. AMHS Scholarship winner Gianluca Nigro served as the event's emcee, while Piero's Corner Ristorante Italiano furnished good food and Oscar Bartoli provided excellent entertainment.

On June 10th, the Society held its third General Assembly meeting of the year at Casa Italiana. The meeting featured Dr. Thomas A. Guglielmo, a professor at George Washington University, who spoke on the subject of immigration, in particular Italian immigration to America. Those fortunate enough to attend likely made many connections to related topics in the news today. Prior to Professor Guglielmo's talk, members and friends enjoyed an excellent lunch catered by Osteria da Nino.

As we look ahead to later in the summer, there will be additional entertaining programs. On July 22, the Society will hold its fourth meeting of the year, also at Casa Italiana. The guest speaker will be AMHS member Mike De Bonis, who is the congressional reporter for the Washington Post. It's a safe bet that Mike's talk will be of great interest to many of our members. Also on the program agenda will be the participation of one of our 2017-2018 scholarship winners, Ben Abeles, who will express some thoughts on the meaning and importance of the AMHS scholarship for his studies and for him personally. Please check out the article in this edition of the *Notiziario* for additional details on the July meeting.

Just a little later in the summer, on August 12, our Society will host the annual Ferragosto picnic. It will take place at Fort Ward Park in Alexandria, Virginia. The event is free to AMHS members, their families and friends. Last year the event was a big success and all who attended really enjoyed themselves. So mark your calendars and plan to attend.

On the evening of September 8th, the Society will host a unique cultural event at Casa Italiana. Two superb artists from Abruzzo – a pianist and a Soprano vocalist – will perform a selection of operatic arias and chamber music written by the well-known composer from Abruzzo, Francesco Paolo Tozzi. A reception will follow the concert. For additional details, see the article on the event in this edition of the *Notiziario*.

Finally, several months later, a different sort of event will occur. The terms of office of three of the Society's Executive Committee members will expire. A Nominating Committee has been formed to find their replacements. Should any of the Nominating Committee members approach you about serving on the Board, please at least give it some thought. If no one approaches you and you think that you might be interested in becoming a little more active, please let any of the officers know. The strength and vitality of an organization is not measured only by its balance sheet or by its membership rolls, but also by the number and diversity of members willing to get involved in the tasks of keeping the organization active and moving forward.

I hope that everyone enjoys the summer and I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming events.

Ray LaVerghetta

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MIKE DeBONIS TALKS ABOUT LIFE AS A NEWS REPORTER IN WASHINGTON

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

We are happy to have AMHS member Mike DeBonis, a reporter who covers congressional and national politics for the Washington Post, as our speaker for the July 22 program. Mike has had a number of front-page stories in the Washington Post and has appeared on several television news programs. Mike is well-known to many AMHS members

through his family ties to our former President Omero Sabatini, and so Mike also traces his roots to the town of Secinaro in the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo.



At our meeting at Casa Italiana, Mike will speak to us about how journalists do their jobs and how journalism is “not fake news.” He will give us an overview of the midterm elections and explain what he has been covering and what is expected later this year. Mike will discuss how decisions are made

on what stories to cover, how he develops sources and how the fact-checking is done. He will also tell us about his wonderful trip to Abruzzo with Omero.

For 8 years, Mike covered D.C. politics and government—first for Washington City Paper, where he wrote the “Loose Lips” column from 2007 to 2010, and then for The Washington Post, where he started the blog known as District of DeBonis.

While covering the D.C. government, Mike reported on the resignations of three D.C. Council members, the federal investigation into former Mayor Vincent Gray, a past council chairman’s penchant for luxury transportation, and how a little-known businessman, Jeffrey Thompson, placed himself at the intersection of business and D.C. politics,

Mike also found time for articles, tweets, blog posts, columns and morning roundups, chronicling the clashes of policy and personality—standoffs with Congress, battles over Wal-Mart and a soccer stadium, the fall of Adrian Fenty, the rise of Muriel Bowser, and the passing of Marion Barry.

When he began covering Congress, and especially the House of Representatives, for the Washington Post in 2015, his editors had this to say about Mike: “Since arriving at The Post five years ago, Mike has dominated coverage of City Hall and he will bring the same energy, love of politics and knack for breaking news to the halls of Congress.”

Mike lives in the District with his wife Dena and their year-old daughter Rosie, who has already come to some of our meetings. Mike was born and raised in northwest Indiana and holds both a bachelor’s degree from and, we’re told, men’s basketball season tickets to Georgetown University.

Before Mike’s talk, we will enjoy a delicious lunch catered by Fontina Grille. The menu will include a house salad, pasta primavera with white sauce, Chicken Marsala with mushrooms, and saffron rice.

Please make your reservations early and invite your family members and friends to what is sure to be an interesting and informative event. The deadline for paid reservations is July 19.

SAVE THE DATES: 2018 CALENDAR OF AMHS MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **Sunday, July 22, 1:00 p.m., Casa Italiana**
- **Sunday, August 12, 3:00 p.m., Ferragosto Picnic**
- **Sunday, September 23, 1:00 p.m., Restaurant TBD**
- **Sunday, November 11, 1:00 p.m., Casa Italiana**
- **Saturday-Sunday, December 1-2, Bella Italia Market at Casa Italiana**

JOIN AMHS FOR THE ANNUAL FERRAGOSTO PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

By Maria D’Andrea-Yothers, Immediate Past President

AMHS is pleased to announce that, for the 2nd year in a row, the annual Ferragosto picnic will be held at Fort Ward Park in Alexandria, VA from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 12. The Park is an historical Civil War site (the Fort Ward Museum and Historical site, which, according to the Park’s website is “the best preserved of the system of Union forts and batteries built to protect Washington, DC during the American Civil War”). We have once again reserved the largest covered pavilion which includes 9 picnic tables and one charcoal grill. Within walking distance - a playground and two enclosed restrooms. There is also ample parking space.

The event is free and open to all, rain or shine. As in prior years, AMHS will provide beverages (water, wine, and beer. According to our ABC license, beer can only be served from kegs and consumed from plastic cups). We ask members, friends, family to bring a basket of food to share, paper products and utensils, and Italian cards. You may also want to bring lawn chairs and a personal portable grill, so long as it is charcoal only. We will be able to play some music on a “boombox”, so bring your favorite Italian songs. Bring your bocce sets because, as we did last year, we made our own bocce court (there is plenty of grassy areas around the pavilion). We hope you will bring your family and friends to join in the fun. For additional details, please see flyer in this issue of the *Notiziario*

ABRUZZESI MUSICIANS TO PERFORM HERE SEPTEMBER 8

By Nancy DeSanti

We are pleased to announce that two accomplished and talented musicians, the Duo Buccini Ortolano, will be visiting from Abruzzo in September and will be performing at Casa Italiana on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

The AMHS is arranging for the use of the facilities of Casa Italiana and for a reception there afterwards.

The husband and wife musicians, Alberto Ortolano, a pianist and choral director, and soprano Tania Buccini, will leave Italy on September 4 and will return to Italy on September 9.



The couple, who both speak English, have asked for some recommendations on hotels, assuming that, as locals, we could provide some good tips. They also indicated that they would be pleased to stay in a private home if someone were willing and able to accommodate them.

If you would be willing to offer these musical artists a place to stay, or would like to invite them for a home-cooked meal or take them sightseeing, please contact Ray LaVerghetta or Nancy DeSanti.

Alberto Ortolano has had extensive experience performing all over the world, including Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, France and Poland, as well as the United States. He was a docent in Paris at La Scuola Italiana di Parigi. He was also docent for the pianoforte at Il Liceo Musicale di Vasto. He has given performances in London, Florence, Trieste and Krakow, among many other cities. He performed as a soloist for the Abruzzesi communities in Boston in 2004 and in London in 2017.

Tania Buccini has sung in theaters in Italy and abroad, including in operas such as L'elisir d'amore, Falstaff, Macbeth, Il Flauto Magico, La Traviata and La Serva Padrona, among others. She, too, has sung extensively all over Italy and abroad and is a docent at Il Liceo Musicale di Vasto. She has won numerous awards for her singing.

The Duo Buccini Ortolano is known for their refined and elegant repertoire and we look forward to their arrival in September. Please contact us if you are able to help with their accommodations.

SAVE THE DATE: THE BELLA ITALIA MARKET IS COMING DECEMBER 1-2, 2018, AT CASA ITALIANA
By Nancy DeSanti

The Bella Italia Market, a project to raise funds for the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, will take place on December 1-2, 2018 at Casa Italiana.

Here's your chance to purchase quality Italian products and services under one roof, while helping support Casa Italiana as it expands its cultural and heritage programs.

Casa Italiana will be transformed into an exciting marketplace of fine Italian products, including specialty foods, ceramics, art, fashion, accessories, books, travel and other services, and much more. Celebrate Italian excellence and creativity in a lively market spirit!

AMHS is one of the event's sponsors and two of our members - Nancy DeSanti and Anna Isgrò - are part of the planning committee. The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is also a sponsor.

Would you like to help sponsor the Bella Italia Market, as an individual or a business? Do you know an importer or producer of fine Italian products who would like to be a vendor? Please email requests for more information to: bellaitaliamarket@yahoo.com.

Would you like to volunteer to help with planning? Please email bellaitaliamarket@yahoo.com or contact Nancy DeSanti. So far, AMHS members Peter Bell, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Sarah Scott, Cecilia Fiermonte, Maria Marigliano and Liz DiGregorio have stepped up to help, but more volunteers are needed.

Aside from supporting the promotion of Italian programs and projects, including the new Italian American Museum, the Bella Italia Market's creator, fashion designer Franca Bartoli, envisions it as a resource for importers of Italian products and services, particularly smaller, niche-market Italian businesses, wishing to establish a presence in the U.S. market. So far, a significant number of quality vendors have registered for the market and/or expressed a serious interest in participating.

RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

PREJUDICE AND PRIVILEGE FOR ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS EXAMINED

By Nancy DeSanti



Our third AMHS program on June 10 this year dealt with the fascinating subject of "prejudice and privilege--the complex history of Italian American immigration." Our speaker was an expert in the field, Professor Thomas Guglielmo, who spoke to an audience of 70 AMHS members and guests who had many thoughtful questions

and comments.

Dr. Guglielmo traces his Italian roots to two small towns in southern Italy—Ferrandina in Basilicata and Apice in Campania. He received his undergraduate degree from Tufts University and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 2000. He taught at the University of Notre Dame before joining the faculty at George Washington University. One of his former students, Gianluca Nigro, was in the audience. Gianluca was an AMHS scholarship winner and he is now president of the GWU Students' Italian Cultural Society. The professor was invited to be our speaker after AMHS Vice President Lynn Sorbara saw him being interviewed on a History Channel program, "America, The Promised Land,"

Immigration and race is a complicated and fraught subject, but Professor Guglielmo enlightened his audience by sharing the research he did for his doctoral dissertation, which he expanded into a book entitled "White on Arrival." As he explained to us, "prejudice and privilege" were two sides of a coin. His research focused on the city of Chicago, which he said was a typical urban area settled by the early Italian immigrants.

The definition of "whiteness" was critical to the Italian-American experience, he explained, and the impact of racial classification—both formal and informal—played a part in immigrants' ability to acquire homes and jobs, and gain opportunities in America - in opening the "Golden Door."

Interestingly, Professor Guglielmo explained how the distinction between Northern and Southern Italians was brought over from Italy and adopted by the American immigration authorities. He cited as an example a noted Italian sociologist of the 19th century who believed that Southern Italians were racially and culturally inferior, predisposed to crime, political extremism and social backwardness. These views were seized upon by nativists in America.

Asked by an audience member where immigrants from central Italy, such as Abruzzo, fit in, Professor Guglielmo explained that the back of the naturalization application document from the early 1900s which he showed us during his presentation, spelled out that Southern Italy was considered as anywhere south of the Po River, meaning south of Bologna, for example, and thus included central Italian regions such as Abruzzo. The front of the document he showed us for a Sicilian immigrant listed his race as "white" and his color as "dark."

Anti-Italian sentiment arose among some Americans in reaction to the period in the late 19th and 20th centuries of large-scale immigration of Italians, mostly from Southern Italy and Sicily. The majority of Italian immigrants arrived in waves in the early 20th century, many from rural backgrounds, and with a Catholic religion different from the Protestant majority. Italian immigrants were often viewed as perpetual foreigners, restricted to manual labor. Since they often lacked formal education, and competed with earlier immigrants for

lower-paying jobs and housing, there was sometimes hostility with other ethnic groups,

On the other hand, the professor explained, much of the anti-Italian hostility in the United States was directed at Southern Italians and Sicilians, who began immigrating to the United States in large numbers after 1880. Before then, there were relatively few Italians in North America. The immigrants from the Southern part of Italy and Sicily were not considered wholly white by Anglo-Saxon standards. The U.S. Immigration Department reinforced this distinction by classifying Northern and Southern Italians as two distinct groups.

In reaction to the large-scale immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, Congress passed legislation ([Emergency Quota Act](#) of 1921 and [Immigration Act of 1924](#)) restricting immigration from those regions, but not from Northern European countries. It has been noted that after 1924, immigration by Italians fell 90% even though the vast majority of those coming to America were honest, hard-working people.

Before the great wave of migration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, people considered white generally came from Northern Europe, and the new immigrants, until they were fully brought into the "white family," lived in a state of in-betweenness, meaning that they were placed in a racial pecking order below whites but above people of color. This mattered, Professor Guglielmo explained, because in many places, one had to be white to vote, to hold public office and even to own property.

The professor explained how societal pressures and internal desires to "fit in" shaped immigrants' responses. For example, Italian immigrants in Chicago, including Al Capone's mother, would sometimes sign racially restrictive covenants that were used as a tool to achieve residential racial segregation. Meanwhile, Italians were perceived as being predisposed to criminality. Professor Guglielmo showed us a front-page headline in huge capital letters, "Sicilian Gang Kills", that appeared in the city's leading newspaper, the Chicago Tribune.

Generally, Professor Guglielmo explained, Italians held this middle place between white and black, until the World War II and its aftermath witnessed the full recognition of their white status. Things changed around the time of World War II for a variety of reasons. The war further Americanized Italians as thousands fought in the war and those at home mobilized behind the war effort. So the war years brought about a more widespread acceptance of Italians as full-fledged Americans. By the mid-20th century, Italians were firmly established in American pop culture, from music, to fashion, to cars—even the sport of baseball, America's national pastime, had Joe DiMaggio as one of the best players of all time.

Concluding his remarks, Professor Guglielmo asked us to consider what the early Italian immigrants experienced and compare that to what is happening today with other ethnic groups.

Professor Guglielmo's book "White on Arrival," which is available on Amazon.com, was the winner of an award in 2014 from the Organization of American Historians.

Before the talk, we enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Osteria da Nino in Shirlington, Virginia. We also had a raffle which brought in \$276 for AMHS. Our thanks to all those who donated the raffle prizes and bought tickets.

THE JUNE 9, 2018 FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA BEYOND THE FESTA

By Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

On June 9, 2018, about 110 people gathered together at the Church of the Nativity in Burke, Virginia to celebrate the 2nd annual *Festa della Repubblica*. The event drew members from four Italian American organizations: AMHS; the Church of the Nativity Italian Heritage & Cultural Society; the St. Mary of Sorrow's Italian Heritage Society; and the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, GW Lodge and the Italian Heritage Lodge. Special guests included Catherine Flumiani, First Counselor, Embassy of Italy; Maria Fusco, Director of Education, Embassy of Italy; Robert Amante, State President, Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America; and AMHS member, 2017 scholarship winner, and rising senior at George Washington University, Gianluca Nigro, who flew down from Boston to emcee the night's festivities. Before the evening's entertainment, guests were treated to a lovely catered dinner by Piero's Corner Ristorante Italiano in Herndon. Gianluca Nigro provided some general remarks including the importance of the *Festa della Repubblica* (see below), and music was provided by Oscar Bartoli, who sang some wonderful Italian folk songs, Neapolitan songs, and some classic Frank Sinatra. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed singing along and laughed loud at Oscar's witty remarks. This was truly a night to celebrate an important event with the larger Italian American community. Special thanks to AMHS members Steve & Elaine Balducci, Luciana Caleb, Nancy DeSanti, Lynn Sorbara, John & Eileen Verna, Sam Yothers, and Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea for participating in the night's festivities. It was a great experience to organize this event with a diverse group of Italian American organizations, and we look forward to next year's event!

Remarks delivered by Gianluca Nigro at the Festa della Repubblica

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Signori e signore, buona sera. What a beautiful night this is, in such a delightful venue here in Virginia, with such a truly fantastic crowd of diverse and wonderful individuals and families. Look around at our brilliant company. We are all truly blessed.

I want to start by thanking the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society for inviting me to be here with you all tonight. And for

this opportunity to speak to you all about my heritage, my studies, and about the history of this festival - thank you as well, I am humbled, and I am proud. My grandfather, Peppino Sceppa, of Campolieto, Campobasso in Molise, would be proud too. Your society has welcomed me with open arms, and has allowed me to embrace the regions of Abruzzo and Molise even more strongly than ever before, and for that, I am forever thankful.

All four of my grandparents, including my father, set out on a journey some decades ago to lay the foundation for their future descendants to prosper in this land of hope. Since embracing my Italian heritage and roots at a young age, I have found a sense of self-motivation that has led me to where I am today, that has put me in a position to prosper. I capitalized on that long, but not lost, dream, and I have ever since been on a mission to make the most of it.

I stand here today, a 21-year-old first generation Italian American from Massachusetts, a rising senior at The George Washington University, and president of the GW Società di Cultura Italiana. Amongst the many accolades which I have so proudly achieved thus far, this latter accomplishment is the one that I cherish most highly.

As I consider my future with just a year to spare before my second appearance in a cap and gown, I try and picture where the coming decades will take me. Despite the uncertainties surrounding the many variables that will compose my future identity, I can think of now but a few features that will undoubtedly remain true until the end. Indubitably, I can say here today with absolute positivity that an incessant representation of the red, white, and green will lay etched upon my side in whatever I do, and wherever I go.

La Festa della Repubblica, the festival of our republic, means quite a lot literally, and even more figuratively. We gather here today as Italian Americans, every single one of us. Off the boat, first generation, second, third, fourth, and so on... We all share certain things in common. We fight day in day out for our families, for our friends, and for our loved ones who have already passed on. We fight this fight in hopes of incorporating into our daily routine our love of others and our love of life, and every June 2nd, we come together as individuals to reflect on our unity as Italians.

That important nation, that paese that makes us who we are—that's what this holiday allows us to remember. La Festa della Repubblica celebrates a moment in history that took place not so long ago. A moment more recent than the era of omnipotent Roman Empire, than the world changing Renaissance period, and then the 19th century unification of Italy. A moment, though, equally as important as those in history. A moment that brought Italians together, much like its belated anniversary is doing in this very building tonight.

As most of you well know, La Festa della Repubblica, also referred to as the Italian National Day and Republic Day, is celebrated on June 2nd each year. This day commemorates the institutional referendum which was held by universal suffrage in 1946, in which we Italians were called upon to carry out

our civic duty at the polls to decide on our future form of government. Following the Second World War and the fall of fascism—a period of horror, tragedy, and sadness—we decided to make a change for the better by making our voices heard.

With 12,700,000 votes in favor of forming a republic, and 10,700,000 in favor of maintaining the long-lasting monarchy, we as Italians sent the male descendants of the House of Savoy into exile, marking the end of the King Era in Italy. To commemorate this day there, much like we are celebrating here tonight, Italians organize a massive annual military parade in Rome around the Altare della Patria, presided over by the President of the Italian Republic in his role as Supreme Commander of the Italian Armed Forces.

Although the region of Abruzzi e Molise voted 56.9% in favor of keeping the monarchy, our people accepted the result, and we worked together with our fellow Italians to build towards an era of peace during postwar period, much like we as Abruzzesi e Molisani have always done. Holidays such as La Festa della Repubblica are important not only insofar as recognizing the long and triumphant history of Italy, but equally as important for the fact that they force us to recollect on our culture and our heritage, while allowing us to sit together around a dinner table with close friends, good food, and delicious wine.

So please join me in celebrating what will be a beautiful evening, and in welcoming our friends and family here tonight. Thanks again for your hospitality, for your time, and for listening to what I had to say. I am looking forward to meeting many of you tonight over the course of the next couple of hours, and to hopping back on stage briefly again before we part for the evening. Thank you, and please join me in welcoming Reverend Stephen Vaccaro to the stage for a powerful invocation before our dinner.

AMHS MEMBERSHIP

by Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President – Membership

I am pleased to report that there are 245 members of AMHS, including one new member. Thank you for your continued support of the Society's programs and activities. We have wonderful events planned for the rest of the year and your membership makes them all possible!

As a reminder, with our automated system, you will receive email reminders when it is time for renewal. If you do not have email, you will receive a reminder by regular mail. Please pay attention to these various reminders. Thank you.

A warm welcome is extended to our newest member: **Penelope Barron.**

Compleanni

Compleanni a Luglio

Amy Profit D'Amico, July 1; Vincenzo Marinucci, July 3; Dianne Francesconi Lyon, July 6; John Verna, July 7; Raymond Bernero, July 12; David Ciummo, and Gianpiero

Forcina, July 13; Anthony D'Onofrio, and Helina (Ellie) Zewdu Nega, July 15; Angelo Puglisi, July 17; Nancy Hurst, July 18; Matthew DiFiore, and Roberto Severino, July 19; Mario Ciccone, July 21; Mary Smargiassi Muth, July 22; Lina Pronio, July 26; and Lynn Sorbara, July 27;

Compleanni ad Agosto

Mario Marinucci, August 2; Ray LaVerghetta, August 5; Pietro Masci, August 8; Loretta Pittarelli, August 9; Nancy DeSanti, and Christopher Laconi, August 15; Joseph Ruzzi, Sr., and Karen Grasso, August 16; Rose Ruzzi, August 18; Angela Campanella, August 21; Robert Lucian and Joseph Novello, August 23; Marilyn Huffman, August 25; Nicholas D. Rossi, and Katie Musolino, August 28; Donna Caruso, August 30; and Rosa Mazziotti, August 31.

Anniversari

Anniversari a Luglio

Joseph & Joann B. Novello, July 4; Peter & Charlie Iovino, July 14; Renato & Rita Orcino, July 19; Stephen diGirolamo & Christine Smith, July 25; and Robert & Barbara Verdile July 27.

Anniversari ad Agosto

Paul & Katie Fazioli, August 1; Roger & Maryann Martella, August 2; Joseph & Pam Lupo, August 5; Corrado Dal Forno & Julie Finigan-Dal Forno, August 7; Domenico & Julia Conti, August 19; and Guy & Donna Caruso, August 26.

SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

AMHS OFFICER HONORED BY NIH PEERS



Dr. Lynn Sorbara, AMHS 2nd Vice President – Membership, was recently named “Program Director of the Month” in the newsletter of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN), part of the National Institutes of Health. Lynn earned a PhD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in

1986 and later joined the staff at NIH as a Clinical Staff Scientist. In 2007, she joined the Cancer Biomarkers Research Group where she oversees and manages many cooperative agreement grants for EDRN and other programs.

Lynn and a colleague recently developed a public-private partnership program for early cancer assessment. AMHS members will remember the interesting and informative presentation on recent trends in cancer treatment that Lynn gave at the society's general meeting in September 2017.

Congratulation to Dr. Sorbara for this recognition from her peers and for the important work she is doing for medical research. *(submitted by Carmine J. Spellane, AMHS).*

CONGRATULATIONS MARIA D'ANDREA-YOTHERS, APPOINTED DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL



On June 27, 2018, our daughter, Maria, assumed the position of Director, Office of Textiles and Apparel, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

As Director, Maria will be responsible for oversight of all operations related to the implementation of Free Trade Agreements, preference programs, and other international and domestic policy areas that impact the textile, apparel, footwear, and travel goods industries. She will also be more heavily involved in personnel, budget and travel undertaken by office staff, currently at 10 full time employees. She will also work closely with the Directors of the Office of Materials and Consumer Goods, who are under the umbrella of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Consumer Goods, and Materials. Maria has been in the Office of Textiles and Apparel since 1992 and is highly respected amongst her peers and industry stakeholders! This new position is certainly a testament to her dedication and hard work to advance the priorities for textile, apparel, footwear, and travel goods industries as well as the priorities of the Department. *(submitted by Lucio & Edvige D'Andrea).*

CELEBRATION OF PINO CICALA'S LIFE

By Nancy DeSanti

The family and friends of Pino Cicala recently gathered to celebrate his amazing life, one year after his passing.



Pino Cicala

First, a Mass for Pino, a long-time Holy Rosary parishioner and AMHS member, was held on April 22, 2018. Afterwards in Casa Italiana, Father Ezio said a prayer and recalled Pino's impact on our community. Emcee Francesco Isgrò called on Pino's brother Melo Cicala to give the opening remarks and then introduced a musical tribute by five singers, and closing remarks by Pino's son, Luigi Cicala. A reception followed

with plentiful food and wine and an opportunity to reminisce about Pino's impact on our lives.

The musical tribute included the songs "Non di Scordar di Me" and "Io Che Amo Solo Te" sung by Maria Marigliano, "Funiculi Funicula" and "Nessun Dorma" by Carlos Ibay, "La Nevicata del '56" and "Tu si 'na Cosa Grande" by Anna Siciliano, a medley by Pino Levato of songs from Italy and Calabria, and a special musical tribute by Marco Fiorante.

Scenes of Pino's eventful life were shown on the projection screen, with photos and videos gathered by Simonetta Baldassari, who added background music by Debussy. AMHS members who organized and assisted at the event included Maria Marigliano, Francesco Isgrò, Giovanni Sciannameo, Eileen Parise, Dora Leo Santacroce and Nancy DeSanti.

For more than half a century, Giuseppe "Pino" Cicala did much to promote Italian culture, music and language. He was born June 12, 1927 in Fiumedinisi, a small town in the province of Messina, Sicily, and ended up living a few blocks from the White House—a true 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 NIAF's Lifetime Achievement Community Leadership Award presented at the 2014 annual gala. Pino was a faithful member of Holy Rosary Church for many years, and each spring he helped to organize a religious service with a procession that kept alive the traditions of his Sicilian hometown, Fiumedinisi. After a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Pino passed away on April 10, 2017 at the age of 89 years young. As Pino's many friends would say, "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."

MADDALENA BOREA HONORED FOR WORK WITH YOUNG OPERA SINGERS

By Nancy DeSanti

At the end of the Washington National Opera's season in late May, the successful season was celebrated with a dinner at the home of one of the donors. Afterwards, awards were presented to those who worked with the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists Program. AMHS member Maddalena Borea was among those honored.

Maddalena, who has worked at the WNO for 20 years, says she loves working with the young singers, teaching them diction, or how to correctly pronounce the Italian words, but more than that, how to give meaning and expression to those words. She also inspires them with a love of opera, and gives them a deep understanding of each of these beautiful musical works.



Maddalena (middle) with Alex McKissick & Allegra De Vita

Maddalena says she gives a lot of love to her students because she “adores” them, and since working hard makes them hungry, she enjoys preparing for them some of her Italian cooking too.

Two of the young artists she has been working with are pictured in the photo above. Allegra De Vita, whose parents are from Calabria and are presently engineers living in Connecticut, performed in last month’s *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Barber of Seville). Alex McKissick, whom Maddalena calls “the next Pavarotti,” will soon be performing in Europe.



Maddalena with opera legend Denyce Graves

The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program was begun in 2002 by Plácido Domingo to offer to exceptionally promising

young singers two years of intensive training, study and career guidance with WNO faculty and a team of world-renowned visiting master teachers and coaches. Graduates of the program have gone on to perform at the world’s leading opera houses.

Meanwhile, as its last opera of this season, WNO presented *Candide*, Voltaire’s work put into music by Leonard Bernstein and starring opera legend Denyce Graves. After the final performance, Maddalena said she had the honor of seeing her backstage. Maddalena calls Denyce Graves “one of the best sopranos in modern America” and noted that she became world famous in the 1990s for her role as Carmen at the Met in New York as well as for her role in *Samson et Delila*. Maddalena calls Denyce Graves “a beautiful person, inside and out” and a friend of the opera. Ms. Graves, who was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and lived in Paris for a time, returned to the area after marrying the doctor who is chief transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She now teaches voice and sometimes sends her students to Maddalena to study diction.

Right now, the WNO is taking their summer break, but in the fall they will stage Verdi’s famous opera *La Traviata*.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR GIOVANNI FALCONE

By Maria D’Andrea-Yothers

The annual Mass and reception in commemoration of Magistrate Judge Giovanni Falcone, an Italian judge and prosecuting magistrate who dedicated his professional life working to overthrow the Sicilian Mafia, was held at Holy Rosary Church on Sunday, May 20, 2018. This Mass marked the 26th anniversary of Falcone’s assassination by the Mafia.



Romina Incutti

Special remarks were provided by the Honorable Romina Incutti, a legal expert and advisor to the Embassy of Italy in Washington. She currently has the rank of 5th Level Judge, equivalent to a Qualified Supreme Court Judge. Ms. Incutti highlighted the prominence of Falcone’s work, and the law enforcement legacy he left behind, in Italy and the rest of the world. For example, Falcone’s assassination helped pave the

way for the adoption of the landmark UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, also known as the Palermo Convention, which came into force in December 2003. And, in June 2017, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level debate on transnational organized crime, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Falcone's assassination.

The reception was held at Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, and was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Lido Civic Club of Washington, DC; the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society; the Sons of Italy International Lodge, Italians in DC; the Italian Cultural Society; Holy Rosary Church; and Voce Italiana. Catering was provided by Simonetta's Pappa Fresca.



From left, AMHS member Francesco Isgro, AMHS President Ray LaVerghetta, Romina Incutti & Francesco Azzaro

Background

Giovanni Falcone was an Italian magistrate who specialized in prosecuting the Sicilian Mafia. He was killed by the Mafia, together with his wife and three of his bodyguards, by a dynamite explosion placed under the highway from Palermo International Airport to Palermo at the town of Capaci on May 23, 1992.

His life story is similar to that of his closest friend, Paolo Borsellino: both came from a poor area of Palermo, had careers as anti-Mafia magistrates, and both were killed (less than two months apart) in bomb attacks in 1992. In recognition of their efforts in the anti-Mafia trials, the pair were named among the world's heroes in a 2006 issue of *Time* magazine.

The murder was organized by Salvatore Riina in revenge for Falcone's conviction of dozens of mobsters in the Maxi-Trials. In the major crackdown against the Mafia following Falcone and Borsellino's deaths, Riina was arrested in January 1993 and served a life sentence for sanctioning the murders of both magistrates, as well as other crimes, until his death in 2017.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, GRANDPA?

By Emanuele Di Prima

*(As an assignment for the US/VA Honors history course at Chantilly HS, in Fairfax VA, students were tasked to interview a person who had some experiences related to a conflict that involved the United States. Emanuele Di Prima, a Senior at Chantilly HS, decided to interview his grandfather Romeo Sabatini who as a little boy witnessed first-hand the German occupation and subsequent allied liberation of Rome during the Second World War. Maybe we can find others among our older members who may be willing to write or be interviewed about their experiences in Italy during the Second World War, and present these in our **Notiziario** for the benefit and enlightenment of the new generation. Editor's note)*

Students learn in many different ways: through reading, through writing about what was read which helps memorize content, visually through images and videos, and listening. Listening during an oral interview is a little different because it allows the listener to receive more than just words. Listening is about capturing the underlying message the speaker is trying to convey, his feelings, and his opinions. This is why I caught the occasion to interview someone like my grandfather Romeo about his childhood experiences during and after World War II. He was able, through his recollections, to give a more significant history lesson than any textbook paragraph. I interviewed my grandfather because I believe he is a great resource, as I often chat with him about historical events. He has lived moments in history that I study in textbooks, and his stories can produce emotions that textbooks will never be able to give. To fulfill my history assignment, I asked my grandfather to tell me all about his memories as a child in World War II, especially during the liberation of Rome in 1944-45 and after.

In September 1943 Italy broke the alliance with Nazi Germany, joining France, England and the United States, and was considered a traitor by Germany who retaliated brutally by invading Italy. My grandfather recalls one evening when his father came home all upset and worried, telling that the Germans were stopping trolley cars and arresting people left and right. Much later on he found out that the Germans had gathered more than 300 Italians to be killed as reprisal for a partisan bomb that killed some German soldiers only a few blocks from where my grandfather lived.

On July 19, 1943, American aircraft bombed the Rome Termini and Tiburtina railroad stations, also killing about 3,000 Italians in nearby buildings. My grandfather, who lived near the Termini station, remembers visiting the bombed Termini station a few days later, and was able to recall seeing the destroyed buildings around the station. During these bombing raids, my grandfather's family took refuge in the bomb shelter across the street from where they lived. He only remembers people crying and shouting during those horrible nights in the shelter. A few bombs that missed the Tiburtina station landed in the Verano cemetery nearby, and my grandfather ironically commented that some people were killed twice.

One particularly joyful event was the liberation of Rome by American soldiers, in 1944. When U.S. troops came to free Rome from German occupation, after a few battles in the suburbs, security was established throughout downtown Rome. On June 4, 1944, the American soldiers entered Rome and paraded through the major downtown streets. My grandfather remembers many Italians greeting the soldiers, hugging them, kissing them and shouting gloriously. This impacted my grandfather very much since he felt, along with his family and all the other Italians, a sense of freedom. Now he could go freely to the Villa Borghese park, or walk fearlessly the length of Via Piemonte to his elementary school, without encountering the ever-present SS guards in front of the German SS Command on Via Piemonte. My grandfather explained with a chuckle that he thought the SS on the guards' helmets stood for the year 44 (It was 1944).



Romans greet the American liberators in Via Del Corso

Days after the liberation of Rome, my grandfather would accompany his older brother who sold wine out of his little cart to American soldiers encamped in the Villa Borghese park. His parents were not aware of such illegal dealings. One day they were both “arrested” by U.S. soldiers who brought them home on a jeep and searched the whole apartment for the wine. They found none, as his 13-year old brother would go directly to a wine shop near the park to pick up the wine to be sold to the soldiers. After this incident and a scolding from their father, my great grandfather, who at the time was an Italian police officer, they stopped selling wine, and upon the

suggestion of their mother, my great grandmother, they tried without success, to sell silk scarves to the soldiers.

Another event involving an American soldier also happened in the Villa Borghese park. As my grandfather was walking towards the children’s movie house, appropriately named “*Topolino*” or Mickey Mouse Theater, he saw an American soldier throwing rocks at a young man. The kid had tried to steal something from the soldier’s tent, and was now running away. My grandfather described the soldier’s throws as powerful and fast, just like a baseball player.

One last anecdote involved my grandfather’s first experience with the English language. The first few English words he learned were “please give me chocolate”, and one day on his way to the park, he mustered enough courage to approach an American soldier and pronounce the fateful words. The soldier was the first black person he ever saw. He vividly remembers the soldier laughing, wide eyed, throwing up his hands, indicating he had no chocolate.

Many Italian kids at the time decided to learn English, just to have some candy from the soldiers; others even invited soldiers to their homes. The soldiers usually brought white bread loaves to the families. Sometimes the loaves were wrapped in comic pages from the American Sunday newspaper. This is when my grandfather began to read American comics as a little kid.

Overall, these various events and the presence of American soldiers had a positive impact on my grandfather, and on most Italians as well. Italians were getting used to living with the Americans and joyfully interacted with them. His childhood was impacted by the war, but also by the end of it, which caused his family to experience cultural and economic changes. In fact, a few years after the war, my grandfather and his family emigrated to the United States joining relatives in New York.

My grandfather told these stories, sometimes seriously, sometimes with a smile, sometimes with a chuckle, sometimes with tears in his eyes: it is history, and various unpleasant events have occurred that are still part of his memories and are worthy to be handed down to us. From these stories, we should understand how precious our grandparents and older relatives are, because with just a few words, they can describe events that impacted their life and thus emphasize some major historical event much more vividly than a textbook narrative. I believe that listening is not only just understanding what is told, but it is also recreating the story in our minds as each word stimulates our own imagination.



FROM THE REGIONAL CORNER

FRANCAVILLA AL MARE, PROVINCE OF CHIETI, REGION OF ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti



Francavilla al Mare

Francavilla al Mare is a beautiful area inhabited since prehistoric days which is now part of the urban area of Pescara. Located a few miles south of Pescara, it is one of the finest seaside resorts and an important cultural center in Abruzzo. It counts approximately 23,879 inhabitants, known as Francavillesi.

Francavilla al Mare has an interesting history. In 1162, the village was granted immunity from taxes for 12 years, and this explains the origin of the name "Francavilla" (meaning "free town").

The harbor was a flourishing commercial key point in the Adriatic Sea, but in the 16th century it was plundered by Turkish troops. During the following centuries, the town was held by families such as the Caracciolo and D'Avalos. In the late 19th century Francavilla was already a well-known seaside resort and the seat of an artistic and literary circle with relevant figures as Francesco Paolo Michetti, Gabriele D'Annunzio, and F.P. Tosti, who met at the "Conventino," in the former monastery of Santa Maria di Gesù.

The center was destroyed during the Second World War. Only the Michetti convent has been totally rebuilt.

Francesco Paolo Michetti, whose paintings are also found in the town hall, learned the rudiments of painting from a local fresco painter. In 1868 he traveled to Naples, supported by a small grant to study at the academy there. Asserting that his temperament would benefit more from real-life situations, he was allowed to return to the Abruzzo region in 1869 and he continued to receive his grant. Michetti exhibited at the Paris Salons of 1872 and 1875, but he also belonged to Scuola di Resina, a group of Neapolitan painters that aimed to bring Italian art into Europe's mainstream. Abruzzo was his emotional and aesthetic inspiration. He captured its people, animals, and local events in emotionally charged paintings with luminous colors and vibrant light.



Daughter of Jorio - by Francesco Paolo Michetti

In 1883, Michetti purchased a convent as his home and studio. For the next 20 years, the convent was a meeting place for Abruzzo's artists and exponents of culture, including writer Gabriele D'Annunzio. Michetti's 1895 "*Daughter of Jorio*" inspired D'Annunzio's 1904 tragedy, for which Michetti designed the sets and costumes. From 1872 on, Michetti also produced small, decorative clay sculptures. After a lukewarm response to his paintings at the 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris, he abandoned painting, sold his studio, and generally lived as a recluse. Michetti died in Francavilla al Mare in 1929.

Along with being a cultural center, there are many recreational areas in Francavilla al Mare. Among the many popular beaches are Lido Cortesito, Pineta D'annunziana, Spiaggia Lido Riccio and Lido Bora Bora.

What to See

- Sirena Palace
- Remains of the medieval center
- Michetti Convent
- Michetti Museum, with paintings from 19th century artist F.P. Michetti
- Church of Santa Maria Maggiore
- Church of San Giovanni from the 13th century

Important Dates

- July: Beer festival
- August 18: Feast of San Franco and Santa Liberata, with fireworks on the sea and boat procession of Santa Libera

FRANCAVILLA AL MARE, PROVINCIA DI CHIETI, REGIONE ABRUZZO

Translated by Maddalena Borea, AMHS Member

Francavilla al Mare si trova in una bellissima area, popolata sin da tempi preistorici, nei pressi di Pescara. Bellissimo centro di villeggiatura, è oggi anche un centro culturale. Conta circa 24.000 abitanti, conosciuti come francavillesi.

La sua storia è molto interessante, e il nome Francavilla deriva dal fatto che nel 1162 fù decretato che fosse esente dal pagamento di tasse, dal quale decreto prese il nome, Francavilla, villaggio franco da tasse.

Il porto, fiorente punto commerciale dell'Adriatico, fu nel 16esimo secolo saccheggiato da orde turche. Fu, in seguito, governata da diverse famiglie feudali, fra le quali la famiglia Caracciolo e la famiglia D'Avalos.

Nel tardo diciannovesimo secolo divenne un fiorente luogo di villeggiatura e culturale, frequentato da pittori e letterati come Francesco Paolo Michetti, Gabriele D'Annunzio, P.F. Tosti, i quali si riunivano al "Conventino", già Monastero di Santa Maria di Gesù.

Il centro fùu' distrutto durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale, e solo il convento Michetti fu completamente ricostruito.

Il pittore Francesco Paolo Michetti, i cui lavori si trovano nel Palazzo Comunale della cittadina, imparò a dipingere come allievo di un locale pittore di affreschi. Nel 1868 ricevè una borsa di studio per frequentare dei corsi di belle arti a Napoli. Tornò in Abruzzo nel 1869, perchè la sua regione era la fonte delle sue ispirazioni. Fù in Francia tra il 1872-75, dove esibì spesso i suoi lavori, mentre continuava a ricevere sussidi di studio. Fu alla scuola di Resina, diretta da pittori napoletani, che aspiravano ad esportare l'arte italiana al resto dell'Europa. La sua regione era la sua ispirazione e la dipinse con la sua gente, i suoi animali, i suoi paesaggi, le feste locali, e dipinse tutto in magnifici e vibranti colori. Nel 1883 acquistò un convento, che convertì in centro di cultura, ove convenivano esponenti della cultura di quel tempo. Il dipinto di Michetti "La figlia di Jorio", ispirò la tragedia di D'Annunzio, per cui Michetti disegnò scene e costumi. Dopo il 1872 eseguì anche delle sculture in terracotta. Nel 1900 i suoi lavori furono ricevuti con freddezza ad un'esposizione parigina. Scoraggiato, vendè il suo centro di cultura, abbandonò il suo lavoro di artista, e si ritirò ad una vita di reclusione. Morì a Francavilla nel 1929.

Molte sono le aree di villeggiatura nei pressi di Francavilla. Da ricordare sono: Il lido Cortesito, La Pineta Dannunziana, le spiagge Lido Riccio e Lido Bora Bora.

Attrazioni del luogo

- Palazzo della Sirena
- Le rovine del Centro Medioevale
- Convento Michetti
- Museo Michetti con dipinti del diciannovesimo secolo del pittore omonimo
- Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore
- Chiesa di San Giovanni del tredicesimo secolo

Date da ricordare

- Mese di luglio: La Sagra della birra
- 18 agosto: Feata di San Franco e di Santa Liberata con fuochi a mare e processione a mare di Santa Liberata

PIETRACUPA, PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, REGION OF MOLISE

By Nancy DeSanti

The small town of Pietracupa is located about 20 kilometers northwest of Campobasso. The town has approximately 246 inhabitants.

This little town, with its ancient medieval center, rises on a rocky spur in a very dramatic position.



Pietracupa –panorama

It traces its history to when it was a fiefdom belonging in 1269 to Ugo di Brianzio, then passed in the 14th century to the D'Alemagna, then to the Carafa, followed by the Gaetani and the Della Marra, until the last feudal lords, the Franccone family.

A very impressive tradition, the "nducciata", is repeated each Christmas Eve, when the people of the village light torches to "warm up Jesus." Some visitors have said there is something magical in this place known as "la piccola Betlemme molisana," characterized by the presence of a grotto where, on Christmas Eve, can be found a very realistic Nativity scene.

This grotto has seen many different uses. It was initially used as a dwelling for followers of Pope Celestine but over time it became the site of a tribunal during the Inquisition and eventually it was used as a prison and the site of public executions (apparently, it was the place where many women were accused of witchcraft and met unfortunate ends).

Upon entering the town, there is a plaque of Solomon with a Latin inscription that translates "here justice is administered."

Visitors who are fortunate to come during the Christmas season will be treated to the "nducciata" which includes bagpipe players (zampognari), torches, shooting stars, and music composed especially for the occasion.

Among the interesting sights to see is the Church of Sant'Antonio Abate, which was partly extracted from rock and partly from white stone, with its architecture in line with the conformation of the mountain. One can also see the carved wooden Bambino Gesù from Nazareth and a chalice from

Bethlehem, both of which were personally blessed by Pope John Paul II.

What to See

- Church of Santissimo Sacramento
- Church of S Gregorio Papa built in 1360
- Parish church of S Antonio Abate from the 18th century
-

Important Dates

- September 10: Feast of St. Gregory

Sources:

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pietracupa>

<http://www.turismolise.it/item/comune-di-pietracupa-campobasso/>

PIETRACUPA, PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO, REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Maddalena Borea

La cittadina che si chiama Pietracupa, conta solamente circa 250 abitanti, e si trova a circa 20 km nordovest di Campobasso. Sorge in un'area rocciosa ed ha un interessante centro medioevale. La sua storia risale a un periodo intorno al 1269, quando fu possedimento di Ugo di Brianzo.

Fu in seguito governata da diversi feudatari, e finì alla fine nelle mani della famiglia Francone. Interessantissimo è il Natale di Pietracupa, quando la comunità fa la "nducciata", che consiste nella preparazione di torce per riscaldare il bambino Gesù, il che conferisce qualcosa di magico al luogo. Interessante e suggestiva, poi, è la grotta in cui ogni anno nel periodo natalizio si allestisce un bellissimo Presepio. Razione per cui la cittadina è anche conosciuta come la Betlemme Molisana. La storia di tale grotta, però, non finisce qui. Inizialmente usata come riparo dai seguaci di Celestino V, diventò poi un tribunale durante il periodo dell'Inquisizione, dove la gente veniva giudicata e poi uccisa. In questa grotta trovarono la morte anche molte donne accusate di stregoneria. All'entrata del paese si vede immediatamente una lapide con Solomone, il grande giudice, sulla quale è scritto "Qui si somministra la Giustizia."

I fortunati visitatori che vengono qui nel periodo natalizio hanno il piacere di assistere all' "inducciata", all'arrivo degli zampognari, ai fuochi artificiali e di ascoltare musiche create per l'occasione.

Fra le attrazioni del luogo vi è la Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate, parzialmente estratta dalla roccia e in parte fatta con pietra bianca. L'architettura di tale chiesa è in conformità con la montagna. Il bambino Gesù di legno, proveniente da Nazareth, e il calice, proveniente da Betlemme, furono personalmente benedetti da Giovanni Paolo II.

Le attrazioni del luogo

- La Chiesa del Santissimo Sacramento
- La Chiesa di San Gregorio Papa, costruita nel 1360
- La Chiesa Madre di Sant'Antonio Abate, costruita nel 18th secolo.

Date da ricordare

- 10 settembre: Festa di San Gregorio

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



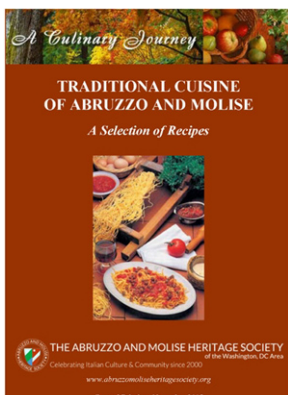
AMHS Women's T-Shirt

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



“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**



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

**AMHS Logo Polo Shirt
Model B**



Model B

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

WOMEN's sizes only: M / L / XL

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

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



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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



❧ LUNCHEON MEETING ❧

***Washington Post Reporter Mike DeBonis
Talks About Life as a Journalist in Washington***

When: SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

MENU: Lunch catered by Fontina Grille. Menu includes house salad, pasta primavera with white sauce, chicken marsala with mushrooms, saffron rice, and bread. Dessert and beverages are included.

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

Pay by check, using form below, or online (Visa or Mastercard) at www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

**Paid reservations must be made by noon on July 19, 2018.
Note that the online payment system will close at 11:45 p.m.
on July 18.**

Please come and join us to hear a discussion of the very interesting topic of covering the news from the perspective of a well-known journalist. Our speaker is AMHS member Mike DeBonis, a reporter for the Washington Post who covers congressional and national politics. Mike, who covered D.C. politics for many years, will tell us how journalists do their jobs and give us an overview of the upcoming elections. Mike has had a number of front-page stories in the Washington Post and appeared on several television news programs. Lunch will be catered by one of everybody's favorites, Fontina Grille. We will also have a raffle, the proceeds of which support AMHS.

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

✂-----Return with Payment

PAID RESERVATIONS for AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, July 22, 2018

Please make check payable to AMHS.

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

NAME(S): _____ Phone: _____

GUEST(S): _____

Number Attending: _____ Check Amount: _____ Email: _____



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



FERRAGOSTO PICNIC **SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018**

FORT WARD PARK, ALEXANDRIA, VA
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Please join the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society (AMHS) for its annual *Ferragosto Picnic*. For the second year, we are hosting the picnic at Area 2 of Fort Ward Park in Alexandria, VA. We have reserved a shelter (covered pavilion) with 9 large picnic tables and one grill.

Food and Drink

- Bring your own picnic basket of food, along with paper products, utensils, and table covers
- Soft drinks, bottled water, and ice provided by AMHS. *Note that due to restrictions of our ABC license, alcohol is limited to beer in kegs and wine, which will be provided by AMHS. Beer can only be drunk out of plastic cups*
- One public grill is reserved (charcoal provided by AMHS). You may bring your own portable charcoal grill only; no gas grills

Other Information

- Bring Italian cards to play
- For your personal convenience, bring lawn chairs, card tables, blankets, etc
- There is a playground within walking distance of the pavilion
- There are two enclosed restrooms within a 4-minute walk from the pavilion area

Address

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

4301 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Parking

There is ample parking in front of the picnic area and throughout the park. Note that vehicles must be parked in designated paved and gravel areas and are prohibited on the grass. Look for the balloons outside the designated pavilion.

This event is free. Please bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun!

For information & to RSVP, contact Maria D'Andrea-Yothers (703) 473-4033

JUNE 9, 2018 - FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA CELEBRATION



Top left: AMHS Immediate Past President Lucio D'Andrea provides opening remarks.

Top right: Gianluca Nigro serves as the event's emcee.

Middle left: Lynn Sorbara, Gianluca Nigro, and John and Eileen Verna.

Middle right: AMHS members Elaine and Steve Balducci with Colette Sciscilo, President, Italian Heritage Lodge, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America.

Bottom (left): Oscar Bartoli entertains the audience with traditional Italian melodies and some Frank Sinatra classics.

Bottom (right): From left, Franca Bartoli, Catherine Flumiani (First Counselor, Embassy of Italy), Lucio D'Andrea, Maria Fusco (Director, Office of Education, Embassy of Italy), and Edvige D'Andrea show appreciation at the end of the musical performance. (photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).

JUNE 10, 2018 GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING



Top left: Dr. Guglielmo speaks to the member about the immigrant experience.

Top right: AMHS scholarship winners Christina Iovino and Gianluca Nigro.

Middle left: Lynn Sorbara, Dr. Guglielmo, Nancy DeSanti, and Gianluca Nigro.

Middle right: Luciana Caleb, Lynn Sorbara, Dr. Guglielmo, Joe Novello, Francesco Isgro, Lucio D'Andrea, Lina Lupica, Edvige D'Andrea, and Elisa DiClemente – direct immigrants from Italy or 1st generation Italian Americans.

Bottom (left): In celebration of Albert Paolantonio's birthday. At the table are Eileen Basso, Luciana Caleb, and Melis Mull.

Bottom (right): From left, David Ciummo, Tricia Maltagliati, Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Albert Paolantonio, Mark Lino, Eileen Basso, and John Paolantonio. *(photos courtesy of Maria D'Andrea-Yothers).*



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY
of the Washington, DC Area
Celebrating Italian Culture & Community since 2000

4669 Lawton Way, #104
Alexandria, VA 22311



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

Romeo Sabatini, Editor
Carmine James Spellane, Co-Editor
Nancy DeSanti, Contributing Writer
Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Publication Manager

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

AMHS NOTIZIARIO is published bi-monthly from January through November. The deadline for the submission of articles is the 15th 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 Editor, 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 or by phone, (703) 473-4033. Thank you for considering this option.

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

Officers

Raymond LaVerghetta, President,
president@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org, (410) 992-6885
Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President-Programs,
vpprograms@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org,
(703) 967-2169
Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President-Membership,
membership@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org,
(301) 926-7792
Carmine James Spellane, Secretary, cjsn@verizon.net, (202) 355-3410
Peter Bell, Treasurer,
treasurer@abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org, (202) 276-2483

Board of Directors

Rico Allegrino
Jeff Clark
Lucio D'Andrea, President Emeritus
Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, Immediate Past President
Helen Free
Joann Novello
Joe Novello
Albert Paolantonio
Sarah Scott
Jonathan Stern
Lourdes Tinajero