



AMHS

NOTIZIARIO

CELEBRATING ITALIAN CULTURE & COMMUNITY SINCE 2000

A Publication of the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society of the Washington DC Area

January/February 2020



The Washington Winemakers enjoyed sharing the fruits of their labor as much as AMHS members and guests enjoyed sampling them.

WINE TASTING ANOTHER RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Approximately 100 AMHS members and guests filled the hall of Casa Italiana on November 17, 2019, to sample the craft of the Washington Winemakers, as the society ended its meeting schedule on an upbeat note.

Organized by winemakers Jim Gearing and AMHS member Romeo Sabatini, the annual tasting is always a big draw for the AMHS. Some 17 winemakers were represented, some of whom were new to the event. Several of the winemakers offered brief remarks on their work and the process of wine-making. Attendees reported that the wines on offer this year were among the best ever.

The November meeting also featured a short business session at which the AMHS members formally elected three new members of the Board of Directors. Assuming office in January will be John Dunkle, Chris Renneker and Joseph "Sonny" Scafetta, Jr. Members and guests also heard brief remarks from 2019-20 AMHS Scholarship winner Julia Paola, who also served as the society's intern in 2019. ■

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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends:

Here we are in the New Year — 2020! Where has the time gone? While I don't know the answer to that question, I do know that the preceding months have been good ones for our society. I make that assessment based on the numbers of members and friends at our general meetings last year and on the extent to which they appeared to enjoy themselves. The quality of our guest speakers was also at its usual high level.

In January 2019, we were treated to "Jazz Italian Style" with Georgetown University Professor Anna Harwell Celenza — an informative and interesting presentation. In March, we returned to Alfio's La Trattoria in Bethesda, Maryland, for an entertaining discussion of AMHS member Kirsten Keppel's film on the tradition of St. Joseph's Table. Carmine Vittoria was a guest for our June meeting and talked about wartime survival and perseverance in small-town Italy — experiences recounted in his book "Bitter Chicory to Sweet Espresso." In August, we had an excellent turnout for our annual Ferragosto picnic at Fort Ward Park in Alexandria, Virginia, where those in attendance enjoyed good food and very good company. In September, we packed Casa Italiana for a celebration of the Vespa. Our meeting was the final event of the Vespa Rally weekend in Washington, D.C. AMHS member Willy Meaux, who is also President and Chairman of the Vespa Committee of Washington, D.C. Inc., showed us a short documentary on Corradino D'Ascanio, the engineer from Abruzzo who designed the first Vespa. We also heard from, and had the chance to meet, our two scholarship winners for the academic year 2018-2019 — Francesca Minicozzi and Kathryn Donato. Finally, in November, we filled Casa Italiana again for our meeting with the winemakers of the area, who showed up in unprecedented numbers. We also heard from Julia Paola, one of our scholarship winners for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Our society was honored in February of last year when our President Emeritus Lucio D'Andrea received the Order of the Star of Italy at a ceremony at the Italian Embassy in Washington. The award recognized Lucio's many contributions to the Italian American community in the metropolitan area and made his family and extended family (us) proud of his accomplishments.

Not everything was perfect about 2019. A number of our longtime members struggled with illness last year, and several of them passed away. Among the latter was Emma DiTullio, a faithful member and spouse of founding AMHS member Ennio DiTullio. No words can express the difficulty of their loss, but we take some consolation in the knowledge that their memories will be with us in the New Year and afterward.

Regarding the society's business, on November 3rd of last year our Executive Committee (composed of the society's officers and board of directors) opted not to continue our affiliation with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). The committee's decision followed on the heels of NIAF's late-October move to discontinue its policy of matching scholarship funds — the linchpin of our 2015 agreement. Our board reasoned that the benefits of continuing our affiliation with NIAF at the Da Vinci Council level were no longer commensurate with the costs. Despite the loss of

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Paul Paolicelli to Speak on HOW ITALIANS CHANGED AMERICA

By Nancy DeSanti, 1st Vice President - Programs

Our first AMHS program of the year will get us off to a great start, with well-known author Paul Paolicelli speaking on the subject of “How Italians Changed America.” The meeting will be held on January 26, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at Casa Italiana.

Paolicelli is back after more than five years, to give us another wonderful talk on his experiences and research in Southern Italy. In his previous talk, he told about his life-changing experiences in Southern Italy that deepened the admiration and affection he feels for this part of Italy. His talk was very well received by AMHS members, with our late member Pino Cicala, who was surely an expert on all things Italian, saying, “this guy really knows what he’s talking about!”

Since the last time Paul visited us in 2014, he taught a course at the University of Calabria. He will tell us about the Foundation for Italian Diaspora Studies which helps fund the program at the University of Calabria. This year the foundation raised enough to fund a Fulbright Fellow (Stan Puglese from Hofstra University) who will be lecturing in the new year in Calabria. The foundation also helped fund a writing program in the off-semesters dedicated to research and writing on Italian heritage. We will be hearing a few details about this interesting program.

Italian immigrants brought with them their strong work ethic, their love of family, and their faith.

As some of our members may recall, Paolicelli is the author of two books, “*Dances with Luigi*” and “*Under the Southern Sun: Stories of the Real Italy and the Americans It Created*.” He grew up in the Pittsburgh area vaguely aware of his Italian heritage. For years, he was busy achieving success in the television news business (including a stint as news director at NBC-TV in Washington, D.C.). At some point, he realized that he had a nagging desire to find out



Paul Paolicelli addressed the AMHS several years ago on his experiences in Italy.

more about his heritage, but by this time, many of the family members here who could have told him their stories, had all passed away, a common occurrence for many of us.

So Paolicelli packed up and moved to Rome for a few years, learned Italian (and played in a jazz band) and spent considerable time in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily — the journey he wrote about in “*Dances with Luigi*.” Encouraged by the book’s success, Paolicelli wrote a second book because he wanted to try to find out why so many of the Southern Italians who emigrated to the U.S. became successful in just one generation — bankers, film directors, politicians, scientists, businessmen, artists, musicians and athletes.

He noted that over 80 percent of Italian Americans can trace their origins back to Southern Italy, and he said these immigrants “brought values, not valuables.” He said because of the economic disparity between North and South, the South was “hemorrhaging” their best and brightest, most ambitious people who came and made the most of the opportunities here. And he said they brought with them their strong work ethic, their love of family, and their faith.

In his book, Paolicelli recounts how the dying words of his grandfather, who was fatally injured in a steel mill accident, were not about himself. Instead, his dying words were “*i miei poveri figli*” (my poor children).

Paolicelli has given talks all over the country, sometimes to standing room only audiences, and he sees a “hunger” for people to understand where they come from.

Before the talk, we will have a delicious lunch catered by one of everybody’s favorites, Osteria da Nino. The menu will be insalata verdi di mercato, ristotto con funghi & tartufo, pollo con funghi & florio marsala, and orecchiette con salsicce. Homemade focaccia bread with basil pesto will be served. Dessert will be tiramisu.

After the talk, there will be a question-and-answer period and then Paul’s book “*Dances with Luigi*” will be available for sale/signing. We will also have a raffle with some wonderful prizes.

So please invite your family and friends and sign up early for this wonderful event you won’t want to miss. The deadline for registration is January 22, 2020. ■



SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA



By Joann Novello

The AMHS mourns the passing of Emma Di Tullio, an active member of the society since its founding nearly twenty years ago and the wife of co-founder Ennio Di Tullio. Emma was a fervent supporter of the society and especially of Ennio's tireless work on behalf of the organization. During his tenure as President, many of us suspected that his devoted wife was not only a silent partner, but a wise counselor to her husband's ambitious goals for AMHS.

Emma was born in Vasto, provincia di Chieti, Abruzzo, on January 8, 1946, to Sebastiano and Maria Del Borrello, whose family emigrated to the United States in stages, with Emma arriving at the age of 17 in 1963 with her brother Frank, to be reunited with their parents and brother Mike. Emma never forgot her roots and remained a proud Italian while embracing her new nation and all the opportunities it afforded her. She studied to become a beautician, working for many years at Vincent and Vincent Beauty Shop.

EMMA DI TULLIO (1946-2019)

Coincidentally, and unbeknownst to either of them, Emma and Ennio left Abruzzo on the same day! The loves of one another's lives, they met at Holy Rosary Church, the religious, social and cultural center for Italian immigrants and the Italian American community in Washington. Ennio played goalkeeper for the Italian Cadets and Emma attended his soccer games. Rumor has it that he occasionally allowed opposing goals because he was paying more attention to the lovely Emma than to the game. On January 5, 1969, they were married at Holy Rosary and subsequently their children were baptized and married there, and had their own darling children, lights of their grandmother's life, baptized there, as well. The Di Tullios were able to celebrate the amazing milestone of 50 years of marriage in the company of their wonderful children, son Roberto and his wife, Bess, and daughter Daniela, and their beloved grandchildren, Sebastian, Sofia, Luca and Leonardo.

Over the years, Emma with Ennio and her family

enjoyed frequent trips to Italy to renew ties to her native land. She especially found pleasure in visiting relatives in Vasto and in helping restore Ennio's home in Rosello, his birthplace, where she was embraced by his family and paesani. Many of us appreciated the pleasure of her company on any number of AMHS excursions, including "cruising Italian style" to the Caribbean on the Costa Magica in 2007 when we shared a great time, enjoying music, dining, dancing, talking, and laughing.

Emma left this earth on November 16, 2019, surrounded by her loving family. On November 23, the family and countless friends honored Emma at a Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Rosary Church. Simultaneously, three Masses, attended by extended family and friends, were celebrated in Italy in Vasto, Rome, and Rosello. The Di Tullio family is appreciative of the many expressions of sympathy, support, and admiration for Emma's courageous spirit. Emma will always be remembered by her friends and loved ones for her love and devotion to her family, her radiant smile, and the mutual admiration she shared with all whose lives she touched. ■

AMHS Membership

By Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President, Membership

As of December, the society has 234 members, up from 228 in October.

We would like to remind you that the option to renew your membership online has been simplified. We now have a new drop-down box under Membership, on the AMHS website "Manage Your Account" (see www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org/manage-account/#account/manage). From here, you enter your email address and password (if you've forgotten your password, you can request that it be emailed to you). Your membership profile will populate, and you are given the option to renew, upgrade, or update your billing. We would also like to remind you that membership renewals are automatically sent via email for our members who choose to renew online. We appreciate your support of AMHS events and activities.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members: Robert & Susan Baldassarri, Liana Campanella, Angela Catignano, and Mark Manniso.

BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni a Gennaio

Kathryn Gosciwski, January 1; Jeffrey Petrino and Carmela Ventresca, January 2; John Iademarco, January 5; Americo Allegrino, January 8; Abraham Avidor, January 12; Carla DiBlasio, January 17; Monica Palenski Reed, January 18; Jacqueline D'Erme, January 19; Lena Lupica, January 22; Bess DiTullio, January 24; Nonna Noto, January 26; Angela Puglisi, January 28; and Mariadina Di Gennaro, January 30.

BIRTHDAYS continued

Compleanni a Febbraio

Roberto DiTullio and Dora Marinucci, February 2; Rose Silvestri Canahl, February 5; Bob Baldassari, February 7; Patricia Badia-Johnson, February 8; Louis Sacchetti, February 9; Stephan Carrier and Mark Lino, February 10; Joseph Breda, February 12; Angela Catigano, February 13; Julie Finigan-Dal Forno and Ashland Robertson, February 14; William Sansalone, February 16; Willy Meaux, February 17; Elisa DiClemente and Andrea Balzano, February 18; Lana Nardella, February 19; Francesco Isgro and Tom Sweeney, February 21; Gino Marinucci, February 22; Jana Monaco and Diana DelGrosso, February 23; Lourdes Tinajero, February 25; and Michele LaVerghetta and Caridad de la Vega, February 27.

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversari a Febbraio

Sam & Maria (D'Andrea) Yothers, February 11; Bruno & Joanne Fusco and Rocco & Yoni Caniglia, February 14; and, Michael & Dena DeBonis, February 15.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Category	# of Persons
Associate (Couple)	2 x 2 = 4
Associate (Individual)	30
General (Couple)	52 x 2 = 106
General (Individual)	84
Honorary	5
Scholarship	4
Student	1
Total Membership:	234

THIS IS YOUR NOTIZIARIO

By Carmine James Spellane, Editor

The Notiziario belongs to all of us, and we want to hear from you.

The AMHS is much more than just its meetings. We are a vibrant society of people who care about their heritage and want to learn more. And all of us have stories to tell. We encourage you to submit articles for the newsletter to tell yours. It could be about a recent trip to Italy, honors received by you or your family, milestones such as significant birthdays or anniversaries, reviews of books on Italian topics, or recipes, to name but a few ideas.

All articles can be emailed to abruzzomoliseheritagesociety@gmail.com to my attention. As editor, I will carefully review each submission and edit as needed. Please understand that publication of any article is subject to space available and the appropriate nature of the content, but we will make every effort to use your work and photos.

The AMHS is making new efforts to engage our current members and add more to our ranks. A vibrant Notiziario is part of that. As our society approaches its 20th anniversary, let's all help ensure a bright future for our mission to celebrate "all things Italian." ■

Give the Gift of
MEMBERSHIP!

For details visit **Become a Member** on www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org.



EXPLORING OUR ROOTS

MEMBERS CONNECT TO FAMILY HISTORY IN ITALY

Visit to Matera Is Highlight of Southern Italy Trip

By Nancy DeSanti

They say timing is everything. That was certainly true in my case, beginning with the first day in mid-October when I landed at the airport in Catania, Sicily. Just two days earlier, the airport had been closed due to nearby Mt. Etna's volcanic eruptions. But fortunately the airport reopened just in time. And then my hotel turned out to be on a main street, Via d'Etna, right across from the Rinascente department store, which was celebrating its 60th anniversary with a concert in front of the store and a 20 percent discount on all its beautiful merchandise. This was an auspicious beginning to a wonderful trip.

Of course, if you are in Catania, you must go to the famous pescheria, the big market just a stone's throw from the sea where many kinds of fish are sold — so fresh you can see the gleam in their eye. Plus you'll find many varieties of fruits, vegetables, cheese and meat, all so fresh. Naturally the market opens early as the fishermen bring in their catch. But outside the market, a group of men gathered mid-morning biding their time — playing cards at a table while waiting for prices to drop after most of the shoppers leave by around noon.

Of course, Elephant Square and the Bellini Opera House are not to be missed either. The Teatro Massimo Bellini was named after its famous native son, Vincenzo Bellini, whose operatic masterpiece "Norma" was inaugurated at the theater in 1980 (after which the famous dish "pasta Norma" is named).

Another highlight of my stay in Catania was a trip to the Museum of the Allied Landing in Sicily (Museo Storico dello Sbarco in Sicilia). The vivid scenes of devastation all over Sicily from World War II were of course displayed in the museum, but to bring home what it must have felt like to live through the war, visitors were able to go into a "bomb shelter" — a darkened room with



A view of Matera, the European Capital of Culture for 2019.

the doors closed where visitors could hear the sounds of sirens blaring and bombs dropping while sitting on benches with the walls vibrating behind them.

After seeing the trauma of war, it was a relief to get on the ferry across the Straits of Messina and go to Tropea, a beautiful coastal resort area in western Calabria. Unfortunately, we missed the Tropea Blues Festival by a few days, but we were able to stroll through the city and enjoy the magnificent view of a Benedictine monastery perched on land jutting out into the beautiful deep blue sea. The volcanic island of Stromboli could be seen in the distance. Tropea, a favorite resort of Italians during the summer, is famous for its delicious red onions. A wonderful spot just a short distance away is the Popilia Country Resort in Maireato, where visitors can stay in one of the many cottages connected by winding brick lanes with palm trees and colorful bougainvillea. On one side is the sea and on the other side are the hills. Beautiful!!

Before heading to Tropea, we made a brief stop in Reggio Calabria to visit the national museum

(Museo Nazionale della Magna Grecia) to see the world-famous Riace Bronzes — the magnificent Greek statues of the Old Warrior and Young Warrior that were fished out of the shallow waters of the Calabrian town of Riace in 1972. The restoration of the bronzes has been completed and they now stand on earthquake-proof pedestals.

Up the road from Tropea on the western coast of Calabria is the town of Pizzo Calabro, known for its fortress-like prison where Napoleon's brother-in-law Joachim Murat was executed in 1815. This massive structure overlooking the sea was initially built to fight off pirates. After Napoleon's fall, Murat, who had been a Marshal of the Empire and the King of Naples, faced death with bravery, even ordering his loyal men to go ahead with the firing squad.

Next up was the highlight of the trip — a visit to Matera while it was the European Culture Capital for 2019. This distinction drew hundreds of thousands of visitors from not just Europe but all over the world, and even tour groups of Italians from other parts of Italy.



Tropea is a beautiful coastal resort in western Calabria.

Five years ago, after Matera was designated by the European Union as the European Capital of Culture for 2019, efforts began to spruce up the city, widen the main road to Bari, the closest airport, and add accommodations for the big influx of visitors from around the world. This unique chance for Matera to increase its international visibility was helped by the over \$55 million in national and European funds.

Matera, the 8,000-year-old city in the region of Basilicata, was once a poverty-stricken area with inhabitants living in caves (sassi) until the 1950s. But now the city has been transformed, as it has seen a big increase in tourism and become a hub for high-tech start-ups. And it's proved very popular as a movie location, especially for movies requiring a location that looks like ancient times were shot in Matera, including the Ben Hur remake.

The weather in October was warm and sunny during the day and a little cool in the evening — not surprising given that Matera is located in the mountainous area of Basilicata.

There was music, art and culture on display everywhere. The city's Palazzo Lanfranchi Museum featured the artwork of Carlo Levi, whose book "Cristo si è fermato a Eboli" ("Christ Stopped at Eboli") drew attention to the plight of this once-poverty-stricken area. Carlo Levi's murals and paintings were on display, including the triptych he was commissioned to create to mark the 100th anniversary of Italian unification. This museum in the center of the city features a large outdoor sculpture that one could look at as either a raindrop or a teardrop.

Surrealist sculpture by Salvador Dali was on display all over the city, and there was music everywhere, whether in small groups on street corners around the city, or a lone accordionist sitting on a church step. One of the most prominently placed Dali sculptures was the "Surrealist Piano" in the piazza in front of one of the main churches (the piano's legs are shaped like a woman's thighs and the feet are wearing high-heeled boots — of course).

In September, the new James Bond 25 movie "No Time to Die" was filming a dramatic car chase through the streets of Matera. Since this is Daniel Craig's last time playing James Bond, the movie may bring some welcome publicity to Matera, and those who can't wait for the movie's scheduled release in April can see the car chase scene on YouTube.

Meanwhile, in mid-November the city of Matera was hit by the same bad weather and high winds and heavy rain that battered Sicily, Puglia and especially Venice. The area of the sassi was especially hit hard.

But the city has shown its resilience in the past. For this coming year it is planning to build on the momentum of 2019 with events showcasing the art, music and culture of this amazing city, which is considered one of the oldest continually inhabited areas in the world. And in November, Matera celebrated the inauguration of a solar-powered train station designed by Stefa-

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EXPLORING OUR ROOTS

MEMBERS CONNECT TO FAMILY HISTORY IN ITALY



Hotel Lloyd's Baia (right foreground) in Vietri sul Mare is carved into a cliff overlooking the Gulf of Salerno.

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no Boeri, the architect of Il Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest) in Milan prior to the Expo in 2015.

And if you come during the Christmas season, you can see Il Presepe Vivente nei Sassi di Matera, a live nativity scene, considered the most impressive in Italy. The live nativity takes place during December and the theatrical performances of six different parts of the nativity story take place in locations around the city — so many reasons to visit this amazing city.

The Presepe Vivente was incorporated into the closing ceremony during which Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini on December 20 declared: “The victory of 2014 (when Matera’s bid to be culture capital was successful) was brought to a successful conclusion. It launched a path of sustainable development that I am sure will continue with determination.”

Leaving Matera, we headed northwest towards Benevento, a city in Campania known for the magnificent Arch of Trajan, a famous monument to the Emperor Trajan. Benevento also boasts the largest winery in the Campania region, Feudi di San Gregorio. The winery started as a cooperative of 30 families after World War II and now has 1,000 members and uses solar panels and the latest methods for producing wine made only from local grapes. One of its buildings was designed by a Japanese woman architect to blend the modern and traditional styles into the winery.

Next up was a visit to a leading chocolate maker in the nearby village of San Marco dei Cavoti. Amazingly enough, this village has 9 competing chocolatiers, but the Autore chocolatiers we visited specialized in making candy from the finest ingredients, including pistachios from Sicily and hazelnuts from Avellino.

What goes with wine, of course, is cheese, so

we visited an organic farm near Paestum, site of the famous Greek and Roman ruins. The farm is known for its fresh bufala mozzarella, made from 200 water buffalo from India. These lucky buffalo are treated to massages while they listen to Mozart. No wonder they make such good mozzarella, so fresh and delicious.

The final stop was Vietri sul Mare, a beautiful ceramics center at the foot of the Amalfi Coast that is close to Salerno. While in Vietri, we stayed in the Hotel Lloyd’s Baia, a beautiful hotel carved into a cliff overlooking the Gulf of Salerno where I had stayed some 15 years ago. And it was just as I remembered it, complete with a big veranda with palm trees and wrought-iron furniture — a perfect spot for sipping limoncello in the evening while looking out at the little fishing boats with their lights on.

It was like being in another world, until it was time to leave and get back to the “real world” and start looking forwarding to the next trip. ■

ANNAPOLIS STUDENTS WIN ITALIAN EMBASSY'S DA VINCI PRIZE



by Ray LaVerghetta

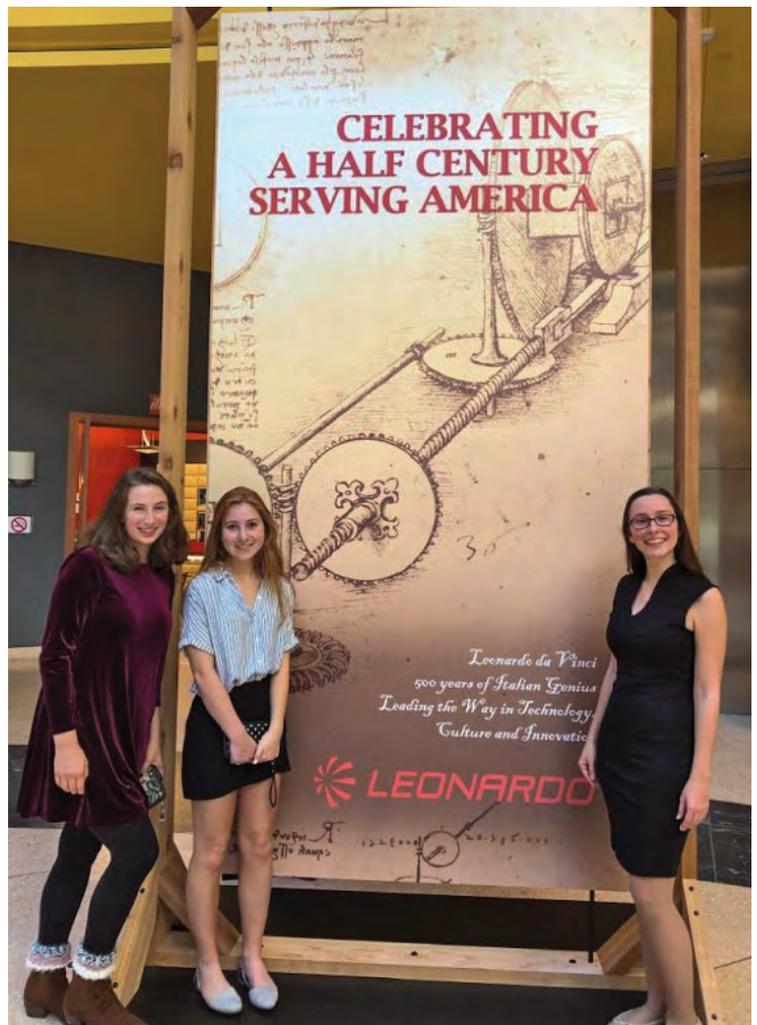
Two students of Italian at Annapolis High School won first prize in a contest that the Italian Embassy in Washington sponsored this past fall to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo Da Vinci. Da Vinci, the extraordinary Italian “Renaissance Man” and polymath, died on May 2, 1519. The two students, Julia Boivin and Sabrina Gleitz, are seniors in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Annapolis High School. They produced and edited the winning video, which they created to illustrate the amazing breadth of the

The students' winning video illustrates the amazing breadth of the genius of Da Vinci.

genius of Da Vinci. Both Julia and Sabrina are honor roll students at Annapolis High. Julia is the President of the Italian National Honor Society, while Sabrina is its Secretary. Sabrina wrote the script for the video and Julia did

the editing. Both Julia and Sabrina are students of Maria LaVerghetta, Annapolis High School's Italian teacher. Maria is an AMHS member and the society's representative to the Greater Washington D.C. Observatory of the Italian Language. The medals for Julia and Sabrina and the plaque for Annapolis High School were presented by Professor Maria Fusco, the Italian Embassy's Director of Education, on October 23 of last year.

The Italian Embassy organized the contest as part of Italy's celebration of the anniversary of Da Vinci's death. Major events took place in Italy throughout 2019 in cities such as Rome, Milan, and Florence as well as other locations. Da Vinci of course enjoys worldwide recognition as an artist and inventor whose insatiable curiosity led him to explore the worlds of science, mathematics, architecture, design, engineering, anatomy, geology, cartography, sculpture, drawing, painting, botany, paleontology and literature. As the Italian Embassy aptly noted, Italy's commemoration of Da Vinci marks 500 years of Italian genius, leading the way in technology, culture and innovation. ■



(Top photo), Annapolis High School students Julia Boivin, left, and Sabrina Gleitz, 2nd from left, sport their medals as their teacher Maria LaVerghetta, 3rd from left, holds the plaque presented by Professor Maria Fusco, the Italian Embassy's Director of Education, right, for the embassy's contest to honor Leonardo DaVinci on the 500th anniversary of his death. (Bottom photo) Sandra, Julia and Maria at the Italian Embassy.

The AMHS Shop

Please make sure to check out the cool merchandise AMHS has to offer:

“Traditional Cuisine of Abruzzo and Molise” cookbook (2nd printing) **\$5.00**

Buon Appetito Chef’s Apron **\$20.00**

T-Shirts **\$20.00**

- Men’s sizes:
S / M / L / XL; Crew neck;
50% cotton/ 50% polyester
- Women’s sizes:
S / M / L / XL; V-neck;
90% cotton/10% polyester

AMHS Tote Bag **\$30.00**

17" W x 6" D x 13½" H;
bottom 12" W; handle drop 9";
100% durable cotton fabric



This year, we are pleased to offer our newest merchandise item, the AMHS baseball cap

AMHS Baseball Caps **\$15.00**

We offer merchandise for sale at bi-monthly AMHS general society meetings and for order, by check on the AMHS Shop.

The proceeds from merchandise sales go toward the AMHS Annual Scholarship Fund. We thank you for your patronage! If you have any questions regarding AMHS merchandise, please contact Michele LaVerghetta, (410) 707-4611.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

▼ *Continued from page 2*

these matching funds, the society will consider the possibility of continuing to award two scholarships every year, mindful, of course, that it will need to raise additional funds in order to do so. Our Scholarship Committee is now looking at this option as well as other matters related to the administration of the program.

The need for increased fundraising for our scholarships leads naturally into our current scholarship fundraising drive. All of our members should have received by now our 2019 Scholarship Fundraising Report. The report acknowledges the generosity of those supporters who have donated in the past, and it is our hope that it will be a stimulus for them, and others, to donate during our present drive. I can think of no better way to ensure that our Italian language, culture and heritage remain alive and vibrant for future generations than to support our scholarship program. If you have had the opportunity to hear or meet some of our past scholarship winners, I am sure that you will agree. As we look to manage our program without matching funds from NIAF, our annual fundraising drive will be more essential than ever. I invite you to consider making a donation, which will enable the young people coming after us to forge deeper ties with Italy and its culture and traditions. In addition to donating, there is another way in which you can assist our Scholarship Program and its goals: you can spread the word about it to your children, grandchildren, friends and colleagues. Publicity of our program will not only strengthen it but will also ensure that young people with ties to Abruzzo and Molise are aware of an opportunity to lighten the financial burden of a college education.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for our first general meeting of 2020, which will take place on January 26th at Casa Italiana. Our guest speaker will be author, journalist and documentary producer Paul Paolicelli, who will speak on immigration from Southern Italy and its impact on the United States. We will also swear in our three new Board members: John Dunkle, Chris Renneker and Joseph “Sonny” Scafetta, Jr. They will replace Jeff Clark, Helen Free and Albert Paolantonio. I take this opportunity to thank Jeff, Helen and Albert for their significant contributions to the deliberations of the board. Their commitment and talents were instrumental in every success that our society achieved during their tenure.

And please note that June of 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of the AMHS. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

*Best regards,
Ray LaVerghetta*

Editor’s Note



Our usual articles featuring towns in **Abruzzo** and **Molise** were not available for this issue. They will resume in the March - April Notiziario, in English and Italian as always.

LUNCHEON MEETING

HOW ITALIANS CHANGED AMERICA

Paul Paolicelli

Sunday, January 26 | 1:00 PM

at Casa Italiana

595 Third Street, NW, Washington, DC



Author Paul Paolicelli

Please join us in welcoming back author Paul Paolicelli, the author of "Under the Southern Sun" and "Dances with Luigi". He gave a talk to the society a few years ago on his experiences living in Southern Italy while researching his family heritage. For the January 26 meeting, Paul will tell us about the time he spent in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, and Sicily while studying the effect of emigration from Southern Italy to America and the many resulting success stories that changed America. Paul will also tell us about his ambitious program at the University of Calabria. Prior to the lunch and program, the Society will install the officers and three members of the board. We will have a raffle with some wonderful prizes.



MENU

Catered by Osteria da Nino

Insalata verdi di mercato • Risotto con funghi & tartufi • Pollo con funghi & florio marsala • Orecchiette con salsiccie • Focaccia with basil pesto • and Tiramisu for dessert.

Beverages are included.

COST

\$20.00 members | **\$25.00** non-members.

PAYING ONLINE IS ENCOURAGED AT

www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org

Visa or Mastercard accepted

(See "Upcoming Events" on the home page)

Paid reservations must be received by January 22.

Questions on the program, Peter Bell (202) 276-2483.

 **Return with Payment**

**PAID RESERVATIONS for
AMHS General Society Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020**

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: _____

DETAILS
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LUNCHEON MEETING

HOW ITALIANS CHANGED AMERICA

Please join us in welcoming back author Paul Paolicelli, the author of "Under the Southern Sun" and "Dances with Luigi".

RESERVATION DEADLINE: January 22

2020 CALENDAR of EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

General Society Meeting

1:00pm | Casa Italiana,
Washington, DC

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

General Society Meeting

1:00pm | Casa Italiana
Washington, DC

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

AMHS 20th Anniversary Meeting

1:00pm | Casa Italiana,
Washington, DC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Ferragosto Picnic

1:00pm | Fort Ward Park
Alexandria, VA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

General Society Meeting

1:00pm | Location TBA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Annual Wine Tasting

1:00pm | Casa Italiana



www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org



THE ABRUZZO AND MOLISE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of the Washington, DC Area

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