



AMHS NOTIZIARIO

CELEBRATING ITALIAN CULTURE & COMMUNITY SINCE 2000

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

September/October 2020



Introducing This Year's SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Alexa Conti & Abigail Cuiello



By **Ray LaVerghetta**, *President and AMHS Scholarship Committee Chair*

Our Society, as many of you know, awards a scholarship every year to two outstanding students. The two \$4000 scholarships are awarded based on both academic achievement and interest in Italian language and culture. The AMHS has been recognizing talented students in this way since 2003.

From 2007 through 2019 we partnered with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), which administered the program for us and provided matching funds for one of the scholarships. Starting this year, however, the AMHS began operating on its own again. Now we both manage the program independently and raise all of the funds required to underwrite the two scholarships.

The AMHS Scholarship Committee (Lucio D'Andrea, Peter Bell, Ray LaVerghetta, Romeo Sabatini and Lourdes Tinajero) evaluated this year's applicants over the month of April and selected the winners in early May. Now that we have wrapped up all of the administrative preliminaries, we are pleased to introduce to our members the winners of the scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year. They are Alexa Conti and Abigail Cuiello.

Ms. Conti is from Fairfax, Virginia, and is a rising senior at the College of William and Mary. The areas of her academic focus are International Relations and Italian Studies. Her Italian roots are, on her father's side, in Abruzzo, while her maternal Italian roots are in Sicily.

Ms. Cuiello is from Annapolis, Maryland. She will begin her college career this fall as a freshman at the University of Vermont, where she will study animal science with a pre-veterinary concentration, while also continuing her studies in Italian. Ms. Cuiello's Italian background traces to Abruzzo.

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AMHS NOTIZIARIO

Carmine James Spellane, EDITOR

Nancy DeSanti, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Joseph Scafetta, Jr., CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

Romeo Sabatini, ITALIAN LANGUAGE EDITOR

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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

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uva051985@comcast.net or call (703) 473-4033

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends:

I hope that this note finds you safe and healthy. It is remarkable to think that, as we move closer to the fall, we are still very much in the midst of a dangerous pandemic — one that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans, Italians, Italian Americans, and people from all over the world. It has been a difficult crisis for many countries, including (and especially) our own.

Throughout this pandemic, many of us have cancelled summer vacations, travel to Italy, celebrations of weddings and graduations, and all manner of social gatherings. It is of course appropriate not to lose sight of the fact that we are lucky to be alive and lamenting such inconveniences. One of these inconveniences has been the inability to get our AMHS community together and enjoy a good meal, an interesting presentation, and each other's company. There is little doubt that, once we are able to resume physical gatherings, hopefully next year, we will have plenty to talk about, reflect on, and catch up on.

We already have multiple programs planned for our regular bimonthly general meetings next year. You can get an idea of what they are by reading First Vice President-Programs Nancy DeSanti's article in this edition of the Notiziario. You will see that the high quality of speakers and presentations to which we have been accustomed will continue next year. In addition, please note that our September general meeting for this year, scheduled for the 20th, will actually take place — virtually. AMHS member and Board member Sonny Scafetta will speak about Italian American professional baseball players with roots in Abruzzo. Please remember to tune in at 1 PM on the 20th for a Zoom presentation (minus the food) of how these Italian Americans made their mark in America's national pastime. We will send out details on how to join in the presentation as we get closer to the date.

Please also note that in this edition there is an article that introduces you to the AMHS scholarship winners for the 2020-2021 academic year. It provides some background on them and reprints the letters that they each have sent to the Society, in which they express their gratitude to the AMHS for the awards. This year is the first one since 2007 in which the Society has operated the scholarship program independently of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). In practice, this means that we fully administer the program and raise all the funds required for both scholarships. The program could not exist, of course, without the generosity of our members and friends, whose contributions to the year-end scholarship fundraising campaign and to other fund-raising events keep the program functioning and Italian culture alive across the generations.

I hope that you have been able to make at least one of the four virtual meetings that we have held in an effort to keep us together in some way during the pandemic. Participants in these meetings have watched a film with an Italian American theme before the get-together and then joined in on a Zoom discussion of the film, led by Italian American film producer Jim Toscano. While not the same as one of our Sunday afternoon lunches and presentations, the discussions have provided a way for AMHS members and friends to stay connected and were interesting and informative. Stay tuned for additional virtual events (such as the one on September 20th), while we wait for the time when we can safely get together again.

Be safe and thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Best regards,
Ray LaVerghetta

INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

▼ *Continued from page 1*

Both winners will be honorary members of the Society for the calendar year 2021. Each has also been invited to attend one of our General Society meetings (once they resume in person), at which time they will personally introduce themselves to the Society and tell us a little about their studies, interests, and plans as well as their relationship to Italy.

We have already received a thank you letter from each winner, which we re-print below:

Alexa Conti



Dear Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the 2020 Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society scholarship in the amount of \$4000. Thanks to this generous contribution, I am able to continue my studies at the College of William & Mary as well as the Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy, where I anticipate studying abroad this fall. This scholarship not only supports my academic pursuits, but enhances my ever-growing appreciation of Italian culture, language, and history.

I will be entering my senior year at William & Mary in earnest, and ultimately, concluding with Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Relations and Italian Studies. Due to the small Italian language department at my university (and consequently an absence of an Italian Studies major), I have dedicated the second half of my college career to self-designing an Italian major with a concentration on the Italian American experience. With this scholarship, I will be able to take classes and conduct research in Perugia that will help me achieve my academic goals. There, it is my hope to refine my language skills, understand self and others through food, and learn about intercultural communication.

I have always boasted of my Italian heritage, as I am a second-generation Italian American; the paternal side of my family hails from the Province of Teramo in Abruzzo while my maternal side resides in Sicily. I have had multiple opportunities to travel to Italy and had such great experiences. I enjoy sharing with others these fond memories that will remain with me forever. In this way, I like to see myself as a sort of an ambassador preserving the Italian heritage in modern society, especially through this unprecedented time.

As I look towards the future, I do not anticipate dulling the shine of my Italian pride in my professional career path. Traveling, interacting with other people, and helping to improve the world are some things I hope to achieve as I strive to become a Foreign Service Officer. It is with the encouragement from great cultural organizations such as the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society that I am confident in succeeding as a young Italian American professional.

It is an absolute honor to be recognized by the Abruzzo and Molise Heritage Society, and I look forward to my future endeavors with the organization and all that the Italian culture has to offer.

Grazie mille e buona salute,
Alexa Conti

Abigail CuvIELLO



Dear members of The Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society:

My name is Abigail CuvIELLO and I am one of the recipients of the AMHS scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. I am sincerely honored to have been awarded this scholarship based on my academic achievements throughout my high school experience as well as my dedication to learning the Italian language. I would like to thank the AMHS community for helping to support my future endeavors in

higher education.

Throughout my time in high school, I took Italian language courses as well as a class trip to Italy, in which I visited my Italian relatives who live in Vasto, Abruzzo. These relatives are distant cousins who my grandfather and I found while researching our heritage and ancestry and they have become very close to us. My journey in discovering my Italian heritage and meeting my cousins is what pushed me to apply for this scholarship and join the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society, as I am eager to learn more.

This fall I will be attending the University of Vermont as a freshman and will be majoring in animal science with a pre-veterinary concentration. I also hope to continue to take Italian courses throughout my time at the University in order to improve my speaking abilities and continue to stay connected with my Italian relatives.

By awarding me this scholarship, AMHS will help me to buy textbooks as well as other necessary materials, which I will need to be successful throughout college. I greatly appreciate this help, and I am grateful to have your support.

Grazie,
Abigail CuvIELLO

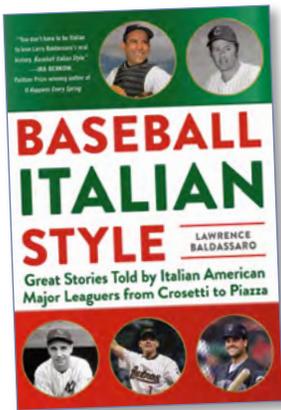
Wonderful AMHS Programs Planned for Near Future

By **Nancy DeSanti**, 1st Vice President-Programs

Although we may not be able to offer you our regular programs, including our popular annual wine-tasting in November, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, rest assured that we are planning some wonderful programs for you for early next year.

September 20, 2020 Italian-American Pro Baseball Players

Meanwhile, we won't be able to hold an in-person luncheon meeting on September 20, 2020, to hear a talk by one of our AMHS board members, Joseph (Sonny) Scafetta, Jr. on the subject of Italian American pro baseball players with Abruzzese roots. But the good news is that Sonny will be giving his talk online, in uniform, with an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Stay tuned for more details.



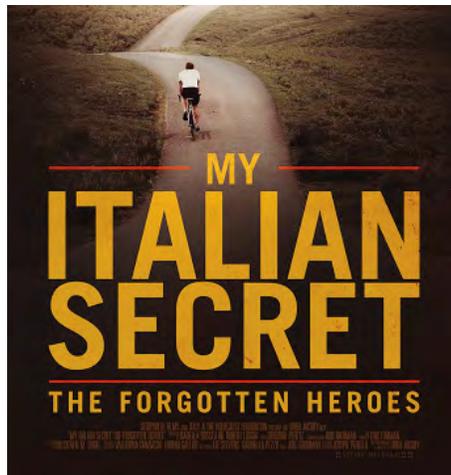
November 15, 2020 Wine Tasting

And since Casa Italiana will very likely not be open in time for our scheduled November 15, 2020 meeting, we are going ahead with planning a virtual wine tasting. More details to follow on that event, too.



January 2021 A Showing of the Documentary “My Italian Secret”

And if all goes well, our first meeting of 2021 at the end of January, when we hope to meet at Casa Italiana, will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day by showing a documentary, “My Italian Secret,” telling the untold stories of how during World War II, as many as 80 percent of Italian Jews were rescued by people (including many priests and nuns) who had the courage to save their neighbors. The film was made by a foundation named “Italy and the Holocaust.” We anticipate having commentary about the film by one of the Foundation’s experts.



March 2021 Carla Gambescia on “Italian Geniuses and Colorful Personalities”

Then in March 2021, we hope to reschedule the talk by Carla Gambescia that was canceled at the last minute in March 2020. Carla, an author and expert on Italian culture, has promised to make her talk fun and interactive. Her



topic, “Italian Geniuses and Colorful Personalities,” will be an entertaining and engaging Q & A exploring some of Italy’s most interesting and influential geniuses and most colorful personalities.

May 2021 Guest Speaker Steven Livengood

And in May 2021, we hope to schedule a talk with the late Joe Grano’s mentor — Steven Livengood, the Chief Guide and leader of VIP and specialized tours for the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Of course, many of us remember Joe as an ardent supporter of the gold medal for the magnificent Italian artist of the Capitol, Constantino Brumidi. Steven has visited Casa Italiana with Joe and he said he would be “honored” to give us a talk on Brumidi and also share his recent research on the Italian connection to the Statue of Freedom on the Dome of the Capitol, among other things.

AMHS’ 20th Anniversary Celebration

And, since we had to postpone our June 2020 celebration of AMHS’ 20th anniversary, we plan to reschedule the event next year, when we will host a wonderful free gathering for all our members.



So hopefully we will all “weather the storm” as we look forward to better times. Andrà tutto bene! 🇮🇹

GABRIELE ROSSETTI:

A Patriotic Poet



By Joseph "Sonny" Scafetta, Jr.

Many Italian Americans know that General Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) was primarily responsible for winning the military victories against the foreign troops that occupied the Italian peninsula and for creating a united Italy under King Victor Emanuele II (1820-1878).

However, there were many other less well-known Italians who contributed to the political re-organization of Italy known as the *Risorgimento* which occurred during the period from 1860 to 1870.

Some of these secondary figures used a sword; others used a quill pen. Some of them lived to see a unified Italy; others died trying. This is the story of one of those lesser known heroes who fought with his pen but died before the great battles for unification were won.

This is the story of one of the heroes who fought with his pen but died before the great battles for unification were won.

Gabriele Pasquale Giuseppe Rossetti was born as the fourth of seven children on February 28, 1783, in the city of Vasto which is located on the Adriatic coast of the province of Chieti in the central Italian region of Abruzzo. Two older brothers, Antonio (1771-1853) and Domenico (1776-1816), also became poets and patriots. His oldest brother Andrea became a priest. He also had three younger sisters: Angiola Maria, Maria Giuseppa and Maria Michela. Their parents were Nicola Rossetti and his wife, Maria Francesca Pietrocola, who were religious Roman Catholics.

The father was a blacksmith and a locksmith of a severe and irascible nature. In 1799 when Gabriele was 16, French forces led by Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, invaded central Italy and overran Vasto, one of the larger regional seaports at that time. Most of the local citizens resisted. However, since they were unorganized and outgunned, many were slain,



The statue of Gabriele Rossetti in the city of Vasto

including Nicola Rossetti, when he refused to horseshoe the French cavalry. (Three ancestors of the author also were killed.) This event radicalized young Gabriele and he became determined for the rest of his life to help rid Italy of all foreign invaders.

In 1804, Tommaso d'Avalos, the Marquis of Vasto, recognized Gabriele's talents in poetry, music, and painting and gave the fatherless young man a scholarship to the University of Naples. So, at the age of 21, Rossetti left his hometown, never to return alive. Two years later Rossetti published his first little volume of poetry simply called *Poesie*. As a result of this publication, he was hired in 1807 as a librettist at the San Carlo Opera House in Naples. After a year, he left to become a curator of ancient Latin and Greek marbles and bronzes in the Capodimonte Museum in Naples. While so employed as a bureaucrat during the day, he spent his evenings as a member of a secret revolutionary society called the Carbonari starting in 1812. During 1813 and 1814, he served as the secretary of the Roman section of the government for Public Instruction and the Fine Arts.

When Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in 1815 and the terms of the Treaty of Vienna went into effect in 1816, French troops withdrew from Naples, and the Spanish Bourbon King Ferdinando I (1751-1825) returned from Sicily to resume power. For the next four years, Rossetti remained

undisturbed in his official position while publishing his poems under the pseudonym Filidaro Labidiense. However, in 1820, the king announced new repressive measures against personal liberties, and an open revolt ensued in which Rossetti took to the streets with the rest of the enraged populace. Backing down, the king agreed to grant a constitution to quell the disturbances, but a year later he revoked it. Inflamed by the turnaround, Rossetti wrote and published a poem "You are so beautiful with the stars in your hair". In the ode, he celebrated Lady Liberty and indicated that the king would be assassinated if he persisted in denying citizens their rights. Unmasked by a royalist, Rossetti went into hiding. For distributing his poem, Rossetti was tried in absentia and sentenced to death on April 9, 1821. However, with the assistance of other Carbonari members and British Admiral Sir Graham Moore, who was secretly helping the rebellion, Rossetti dressed as an English lieutenant and fled on the ship *Rochfort* which was leaving the port of Naples for the island of Malta.

There he remained for the next three years, studying English and continuing to write poetry. In 1822 his mother died in Vasto, but he was unable to return for her funeral. In April 1824, he boarded a ship bound for London where he stayed for the rest of his life. In the capital of Great Britain, he was greeted with open arms by other Italian exiles who had already reached safety after the un-

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GABRIELE ROSSETTI: *A Patriotic Poet*

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successful uprisings of 1799 and 1820.

Because of a growing interest in Italian by wealthy English students, Rossetti initially supported himself by tutoring the language before undertaking a required grand tour of Europe. He befriended a Tuscan named Gaetano Polidori who taught Italian at King's College in London.

In April 1826 at the age of 43, Rossetti married Francesca Maria Lavinia Polidori, considered the brightest and the most attractive of the four daughters of Gaetano. They were wed first in the Roman Catholic Church and two days later in the Anglican Church. Together they had four children in the next four years. They were Maria Francesca (1827-1876), Dante Gabriel (1828-1882), William Michael (1829-1919), and Christina Georgina (1830-1894). All of them would become renowned in the arts in their own right. Maria became an Italian language text writer and an historical essayist; Dante became a painter and a poet; William became an art critic and a literary editor, while Christina became a religious and a children's poet. (A separate article about the four Rossetti children will follow in the next issue.)

Rossetti also supplemented his income by writing scholarly works when he was not printing revolutionary tracts aimed at his native country. For example, in 1825 and 1827, he published a two-volume commentary on Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

To help support his burgeoning family and fueled by another unsuccessful revolt in Italy in 1830, Rossetti printed in 1831 his most famous work: *Disquisitions on the Antipapal Spirit Which Produced the Reformation*. In this book, Rossetti claimed that *The Divine Comedy* was written by Dante about 1320 in a code language of a secret humanistic society that was opposed to the political and ecclesiastical tyranny of the time. Although branded by some critics as eccentric, the book gained support from a minority of Dantists who espoused Rossetti's views for many years thereafter. Because of the work's antipapist nature, Rossetti was appointed later that year to be a Professor of Italian

Language and Literature at the Anglican — based King's College, upon the recommendation of his father — in-law. Two years later, Rossetti published his second volume of poems entitled *God and Man* which was a collection of hymns to liberty and calls for freedom that he thought should be supported by all religions.

Now more financially secure, Rossetti devoted the next 11 years of his life to raising and educating his young brood. As an amicable and indulgent older father, Rossetti imparted to them his love of Italian poetry and in particular his admiration for Dante as the world's greatest poet.

Rossetti's poetry inspired exiles and motivated Italian patriots to continue the fight for freedom.

Rossetti resumed his writing in 1842 when his youngest child was 12 with the publication of *The Mystery of Platonic Love* and *The Beatrice of Dante*. In the latter work, Rossetti interpreted Beatrice as the symbol of Dante's soul and not as a real person.

In 1847 misfortune struck when Rossetti became blind, probably due to glaucoma. Reluctantly, he had to resign his professorship at the age of 64. The family fell upon hard times and relied upon the income earned by the younger son William who at 18 was already a clerk in the Excise (later Inland Revenue) Office of the British Government in London. The older son Dante had previously left home, but Rossetti's two daughters were unmarried and remained living with their parents.

Although he was a constitutional monarchist at heart, Rossetti exulted at the news in 1848 that another revolution in Rome had finally succeeded and he made plans to return to Italy. Unfortunately, his hopes were dashed when the new republic was besieged, and the Old Order was re-established after a few months.

In reaction to this disappointing turn of events, Rossetti dictated to his daughters who arranged for the printing of his last collection of patriotic and religious lyrics. He entitled the work *The Evangelical Harp* which was published in 1852.

On April 26, 1854, almost exactly 30 years after arriving in London, Rossetti died in his home at the age of 71 and was buried in the Highgate Cemetery.

Six years later Garibaldi and his 1,000 Redshirts conquered Sicily and Naples. In 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed under Victor Emanuele II, but it was not until 1870 that the *Risorg-*

imento ended when the French troops were driven out of Rome and Pope Pius IX took refuge in the Vatican.

Although Rossetti did not live to see the day that Italy was united, his poetry written over his lifetime inspired other exiles and motivated Italian patriots to continue the fight for freedom against the forces of Spain in the south, France in the central regions, and Austria in the north.

In 1901 Rossetti's sole surviving child William published his father's *Versified Autobiography* posthumously in English. In 1910 William arranged to have the autobiography published in Italian under the title *La Vita Mia* (My Life) by a printer in the city of Lanciano, northwest of Rossetti's hometown of Vasto.

The Italian government honored Rossetti by erecting a large statue of him in the central plaza of Vasto in 1925. In 1987 more than 200 years after his birth, Rossetti's bones were disinterred from his grave in London and he was returned again to his beloved hometown of Vasto where he was reburied in the same central plaza near to his statue. ■

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Brumidi's U.S. Capitol Masterpieces

SAID TO BE INSPIRED BY POMPEII

By Nancy DeSanti

The Italian artist Constantino Brumidi is known for his many beautiful works of art in the U.S. Capitol, including his famous fresco *The Apotheosis of Washington*. His first commission in the Capitol was the subject of an interesting recent talk by a professor at George Washington University who is a classics scholar specializing in classical Roman art and specifically, Roman sculpture.

Professor Elise A. Friedland gave a talk on “Pompeii on the Potomac” on July 23, 2020, sponsored by the National Italian American Foundation and the University of Maryland through a grant by philanthropist Ernest L. Pellegrini who left \$500,000 for NIAF and U.Md. to study the influence of ancient Rome. Professor Friedland has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to write “*Classical Washington: Greece & Rome in the Art and Architecture of DC.*”

There are so many masterpieces by Brumidi in the Capitol, but the focus of Professor Friedland's talk was one specific room — S-127, now the Senate Appropriations Committee room since 1912, but formerly the Naval Affairs Committee room from 1860-1897. This was Brumidi's first full-scale commission in the Capitol.



Brumidi's S-127

received, and so he began painting S-127 from 1856 to 1858.

Since the room was first occupied by the Naval Affairs Committee, the art reflects a naval theme. The highly ornate ceiling as executed by Brumidi and his assistants is painted in fresco and tempera. Seven Roman gods and goddess-

The blue background Brumidi favored was a darker shade of the color also used in Pompeii. The floral motifs in the corners were similar to ones in Pompeii.

The professor said that in 1852 Brumidi came to America, apparently after he got on the wrong side of the authorities in Italy. He had commissions from churches waiting for him when he arrived here, and he was quickly granted American citizenship. It turned out that Brumidi's eventual patron, Montgomery Meigs, was having trouble finding someone to decorate the U.S. Capitol. So Meigs heard about Brumidi and asked him to come to Washington, D.C., and paint some panels. His work was warmly

received, and so he began painting S-127 from 1856 to 1858. Since the room was first occupied by the Naval Affairs Committee, the art reflects a naval theme. The highly ornate ceiling as executed by Brumidi and his assistants is painted in fresco and tempera. Seven Roman gods and goddess-

es of the sea (including Neptune), together with America in the personification of a Native American woman, dominate the ceiling interspersed with architectural scenes and images of floating maidens.

Professor Friedland said when she first began researching Brumidi's work and took a closer look at S-127, she learned of similarities of the painting of a maiden with a flag with art in the

House of Ships (*Casa di Naviglio*) in Pompeii, such as the Floating Maenad from the 1st century A.D. She said she began to wonder if Brumidi was inspired by art he had seen in Pompeii. Since Rome, where he used to live, was not far from Pompeii, it was likely he had traveled there. Or was he influenced after he got here?

For example, the blue background Brumidi favored was a darker shade of the color also used in Pompeii. The floral motifs in the corners were similar to ones in Pompeii, and a scene in the S-127 ceiling resembled “Nereid Riding Sea Panther” from the 1st century A.D.

She said this interesting question led her to do some more research, and she found that the Library of Congress' Rare Book Division, which in Brumidi's time was in the U.S. Capitol, had some very interesting material. Specifically, she learned that a German artist named William Zahn who lived around the same time as Brumidi and who lived in Pompeii for several years, had published a series of very large folios, known as “elephant folios,” which depicted the artwork of Pompeii.

The professor said these “elephant folios” were exported from Saxony and acquired by the Library of Congress' Rare Books Division in 1846. This timeline, she said, shows that it is likely that Brumidi had viewed them. Furthermore, Meigs' journal refers to “the Pompeii rooms.”

So why, she asked, would Meigs and Brumidi want to make the room look like Pompeii? Meigs may have wanted to rival the palaces of Europe but at the same time have it be a people's place of democracy. Professor Friedland thinks it's possible that an influential person of that era, Edward Everett, may have had something to do with it. Everett was a classicist, the president of Harvard University, a Secretary of State and a U.S. Senator. He got his Ph.D. in Germany and may have been responsible for the acquisition of the “elephant folios.”

And thus, using a little imagination, maybe we can call Brumidi's work, “Pompeii on the Potomac.” ■

Acclaimed Author Dacia Maraini Talks About Her Life and Work

By Nancy DeSanti

Dacia Maraini, an Italian writer whose work focuses on women's issues, recently spoke about her life during a webinar livestreamed from Italy on July 9, 2020, hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute. ICI Director Emanuele Amendola introduced the accomplished author by noting that she has written numerous plays and novels and has won many awards for her work, including the Premio Strega for "Buio" in 1999. She was also nominated for a Nobel Prize in Literature.

Later in the program, Maraini said she has been spending the summer writing in Abruzzo, where she enjoys the serenity of nature and a quieter environment.

The ICI director described Maraini as a novelist, poet, dramatist, journalist and, above all, a woman who penned some of the most important works of Italian literature and contemporary fiction. She has written more than 70 books, which have been translated in more than 30 languages. Even today she is still a prolific writer, and now her latest book is very timely, as it's based on the plague that devastated Sicily in the 18th century.

During this virtual "conversation," in which Michelangelo La Luna, professor of Italian at the University of Rhode Island, also participated, Maraini explored the themes of her research and literary production, from women's rights and gender equality to love, freedom and solidarity at a time that she says calls for reflection on ourselves and our roles in the world.

Maraini was born in Fiesole, Tuscany, to a Florentine father and a Sicilian mother. When she was a child, her family moved to Japan in 1938 to escape fascism. But they were interned in a Japanese concentration camp in Nagoya for refusing to recognize Mussolini's Republic of Salò, allied with the Empire of Japan.

She recalls being put in the concentration camp in Nagoya, Japan, in 1943-45 as a young girl. Before then, she said she had happy memories of being in Hokaido with snow almost year-round. She said because the Japanese considered her anti-fascist parents as enemies and traitors since they refused to swear allegiance to Mussolini, her family was treated harshly. She remembers being able to squeeze through



The writer spent a period of the lockdown in Abruzzo writing her latest book, "Trio." She said the silence of nature and walks inspire her creativity. Her home lies a few kilometers from the center of Pescasseroli.

(see related article in this *Notiziario* on page 12)

the camp's fence because of her small size to go pick tomatoes and potatoes for the nearby farmers so she would be given a few to bring back to her family in the camp. She recalls that every day she was surprised to be alive.

Later, she would write poems including "Crudeltà all'aria aperta." When the camp was liberated, she remembers that the Americans treated them very well. Maraini said she has returned to Japan a number of times and has fond memories of the Japanese people before and after the war — just not the Japanese soldiers.

After the war ended, the family returned to Italy and lived in Sicily with her mother's family in Bagheria. Not long after the war, her parents separated and her father moved to Rome where, some years later, at the age of 18, Maraini joined him. She was educated at a prestigious boarding school in Florence, then she started writing

in Rome in 1962 and founded the Teatro della Maddalena in 1973 as a theater for women only.

She married Lucio Pozzi, a Milanese painter, but they separated after four years. She then became novelist Alberto Moravia's companion, living with him from 1962 until 1983.

"Bagheria," written in 1993, is Maraini's only autobiographical work to date although she revealed that she plans to write a memoir of her time in the concentration camp in Nagoya during World War II, adding, "memories are our soul."

The story of Maraini's life was told in Irish Brashi's biographical documentary "I Was Born Travelling," which focused in particular on her imprisonment in the concentration camp in Japan during WWII and the journeys she made around the world with her partner Alberto Moravia and close friends Pier Paolo Pasolini and Maria Callas.

During the program, Maraini recalled the time spent with her great friend and traveling companion Pier Paolo Pasolini, with whom she said she once traveled to Africa to scout movie locations. He had planned to film the story of Orestes, based on a great Greek tragedy, but she said unfortunately the money was cut off because the financiers doubted there would be enough interest in a movie with African actors. She said that Pasolini instead ended up making a documentary.

Her other works include "The Silent Duchess," "Mafia and Other Plays," "A Christmas in the Snow Globe" (about her first Christmas after the war), "Il treno dell'ultima notte" and "Tre donne: una storia d'amore e disamore." She has been awarded a number of honorary degrees, including from the Università dell'Aquila, John Cabot University and the University of Bucharest.

Although Maraini states she is a feminist only in the fact that she is always on the side of women, much of Maraini's work has been classified as feminist. It was noted that the nature of her work evolved in line with women's changing position in Italian society and exposed the use and abuse of power and its effects on women.

The writer, who lives in Rome, said she takes refuge in Abruzzo during holidays and in sum-

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continued on 9

DACIA MARIANI

▼ *Continued from page 8*

mer, but this year she spent a period of the lockdown in Abruzzo writing her latest book, “*Trio*.” She said the silence of nature and walks inspire her creativity. Her home lies a few kilometers from the center of Pescasseroli (see related article in this *Notiziario* on page 12).

This ICI webinar also marked the release in Italy of her new novel “*Trio*,” a story of friendship between two women set in Messina, Sicily, during the plague of 1743. The book was released in early July but has not yet been translated into English.

Maraini said she has always emphasized reading as important for creating landscapes, images in our minds, as the creative side of imagination — so you can imagine the pain of other people leading to solidarity, empathy and generosity. “Depersonalization” is the worst thing in the world to her, and she sees books bringing the opposite, “personalization.”

She explained that her latest book, “*Trio*,” is a historical narrative for which she did the research some time ago but decided to write the story during the Covid-19 pandemic. It’s the story of two women friends and a man during the plague in Messina in 1743-44. She notes that the plague was brought by sailors to Messina, and the virus spread despite the deaths of many of the sailors and the destruction of their ship.

She said she had found a chronicle about the plague and was impressed by the horror in that beautiful city where 70 percent of the people ended up dying. She pointed to the similarities between then and now, and she said the plague creates terrible things, such as the tendency to be fearful and suspicious of everybody. Instead of confronting the reality, there is a need to pin the responsibility on somebody, she said, resulting in conspiracy theories. Unfortunately, she added, in those situations, entire countries behave like children who don’t care about consequences.

But on the other hand, she said, are the wonderful people who care for others, even risking their lives. Italian young people, she noted, have become volunteers in many wonderful ways, and she hopes that will continue. In concluding her talk, she said she “hopes that people who care about the future will become a majority, but right now they are frequently the minority.”

Commenting on the situation with the pandemic, Maraini said *tazzalini di caffè* with your friends is very different from a *caffè* alone. ■

Penny Marshall

By Joseph “Sonny” Scafetta, Jr.



Penny Marshall’s paternal grandparents emigrated from the Abruzzo region in east central Italy to New York City about 1900. Her father, Antonio Masciarelli, was born there in 1906. When he became an adult, he changed his name to Anthony Wallace Marshall and worked for an advertising agency. He married a tap dance teacher, Marjorie Irene Ward, and had three children with her. Son Garry became an actor and a director while daughter Ronny became a TV producer. The youngest, Carole Penny, was born in the Bronx on October 15, 1943, and was confirmed in the Congregationalist Church.

Penny graduated from Walton High School in June, 1961, and went to the University of New Mexico to study mathematics and psychology. Near the end of her sophomore year, she became pregnant by her boyfriend, Michael Henry, who was a football player. She dropped out of college to marry the father in late 1963. A daughter, who they named Tracy, was born to them in 1964. They divorced in 1966.

In 1967, Penny moved with her daughter to Los Angeles to join her brother Garry. She appeared first in a TV commercial for “Head and Shoulders” shampoo before her brother got her a bit part in the movie “How Sweet It Is” in 1968. Later that year, she got another small role in the film “The Savage Seven”. She devoted the next three years to the care of her daughter. On April 10, 1971, she married actor and director, Rob Reiner, who adopted her daughter. Later that year, Penny was added to the permanent TV cast of “The Odd Couple” to play a secretary named Myrna. She held the role for four years.

In early 1975, Penny was hired to play Mary Richards’ new neighbor, Paula, in several episodes of “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”. On November 11, 1975, she was introduced as a new Italian-American character, Laverne DeFazio, on “Happy Days”, which starred Henry Winkler as Fonzie. She was such a hit with another new character, Shirley Feeney, played by Cindy Williams, that a spinoff called “Laverne & Shirley” was created for the TV season starting in the Fall of 1976. It was a big success. In 1981, she divorced Reiner. In 1982, Williams got pregnant and left the show. At the end of the eighth season in May 1983, the show was canceled.

Encouraged by her brother, Penny became a director. Her first film was “Jumpin’ Jack Flash” starring Whoopi Goldberg in 1986. Next, she directed “Big” starring Tom Hanks in 1988. It was the first film directed by a woman to gross over \$100 million. She followed up with “Awakenings” starring Robert DeNiro in 1990, “A League of Their Own” starring Madonna Ciccone in 1992, “Renaissance Man” in 1994, “The Preacher’s Wife” starring Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston in 1996, and “Riding in Cars with Boys” in 2001.

Penny then turned to producing films. She produced “Risk” in 2003, “Cinderella Man” in 2005, and “Bewitched” also in 2005. She returned briefly to acting in 2007 to play Teresa the florist in the movie “Everybody Wants to Be Italian”. She then stopped producing and acting to turn to writing. In 2012, she published her memoir entitled “My Mother Was Nuts”. On December 17, 2018, she died in Los Angeles at age 75 due to complications from diabetes. She was buried in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills, California. The letter “L” for Laverne is inscribed at the base of her tombstone. ■

Sources, all accessed July 25, 2020:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penny_Marshall

<https://heavy.com/news/2018/12/penny-marshall-parents>

“Piacere! Pleased to meet you, Cindy”, Italian American Magazine at page 36 (Summer 2020).



SIAMO UNA FAMIGLIA

Ennio Morricone, Cinematic Musical Genius, Had AMHS Connection

By Nancy DeSanti

Perhaps some of the most poignant words written about the legacy of Ennio Morricone are these from the Washington Post tribute: “It takes nine little notes to bring me to the verge of tears no matter where I am when I hear them. The plaintive, lyrical opening measures of the score for the 1988 film *Cinema Paradiso* have become one of the most immediately recognizable themes in the history of movie music, instantly conjuring nostalgia, romance, longing, lost innocence. From nine simple notes, a welter of potent, bittersweet emotions.”

The music for *Cinema Paradiso* was just one of the more than 400 film scores, across all film genres, composed by Ennio Morricone, who passed away on July 6, 2020 at the age of 91. He was the prolific composer of soundtracks for films including *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, *The Mission* and *The Hateful Eight*.

And the beautiful voice you hear on many of those soundtracks belongs to Edda Sabatini Dell’Orso, the cousin of AMHS member Romeo Sabatini. Romeo, our longtime webmaster and *Notiziario* editor, says he can count at least 10 movies which Ennio Morricone scored and his cousin Edda was the main singer. He says Edda was chosen to sing Morricone’s music because of the unique wide range of her voice which spanned more than three octaves.

Starting in 1966, Romeo said Morricone gave her the soloist parts in his movie scores, among the most noteworthy of which are *The Good the Bad and the Ugly* (*Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo*) and *Once Upon a Time in the West*, both movies by Sergio Leone. Both of Edda’s parents are Abruzzese from Villa Santa Maria in Chieti, which is also Romeo’s ancestral town. He said Edda was born in Genoa where her parents had temporarily moved in the 1930s because her father worked on the transatlantic liner the *Rex*. Edda’s family inherited the ancestral home in



Ennio Morricone (left) and Edda Sabatini Dell’Orso.

Villa Santa Maria where she spends summers with the whole family (including 7 grandchildren), and Romeo adds that she participates fully in the town’s cultural life and festivities.

If ever a name was synonymous with movie soundtracks, it was Ennio Morricone, although it took the Hollywood film industry until 2007 to reward Morricone with an honorary Academy Award, after he had been nominated on five separate occasions without winning an Oscar. He finally won an Oscar in 2015 for Quentin Tarantino’s *The Hateful Eight*.

But Morricone, a native of Rome, always kept his distance from Hollywood and made a point of remaining in his native Italy, even declining to learn English. While the world knew him as the man who made spaghetti westerns with Sergio Leone and Clint Eastwood, Morricone always viewed himself as a composer for whom film work was only a part of his career.

In a moving text issued after his death, Morricone thanked his family and close friends for their companionship, naming his children and grandchildren and saying: “I hope they understand how much I loved them.” He dedicated “the most painful goodbye” to his wife of 64 years, saying, “to her I renew the extraordinary love that bound us together and I am sorry to abandon.”

After his passing, Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi announced that the music of the legendary film composer will be played over the metro of his hometown Rome for 24 hours on a date to be determined. A mural of Morricone appeared near his home the day after he died.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said it so well: “We will remember forever and with

infinite gratitude the artistic genius of Maestro Ennio Morricone. He made us dream, he moved us and made us think, writing unforgettable notes that will remain forever in the history of music and cinema.” ■

“Small World” Story From Dick DiBuono

Former AMHS President Richard DiBuono, now living in Massachusetts, has an interesting story to share with AMHS members about a conversation he had in early June with Father Ezio Marchetto, pastor of Holy Rosary Church.

During a recent visit to his sister in Danvers, Massachusetts, she gave Dick some of their parents’ original recorded vital records — birth, marriage and death certificates. Dick, who has long been interested in genealogy, previously had copies of them, which he had long ago used in creating his family tree data base, but not the originals. He said when he took time to look at his parents’ certificate of their marriage in 1939 at Saint Tarcisius church in Framingham, Massachusetts, he was surprised to see that the priest who performed the ceremony was named Emilio Donanzan.

The surname, Donanzan, was familiar to Dick from his time attending meetings at Casa Italiana and, occasionally, going to Holy Rosary Church, so he phoned Father Ezio to ask if he knew the relationship between this Emilio Donanzan and the Cesare Donanzan who he recalled had been pastor of Holy Rosary for about 20 years.

Father Ezio informed Dick that they were brothers and that there was a third brother, also in the Order of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, or Scalabrinians, who served somewhere in California. When Dick mentioned to Father Ezio the fact that his parents were married in Framingham, Massachusetts, Dick said Father Ezio immediately knew that it was the Scalabrinians’ Saint Tarcisius parish, which at that time was serving an Italian immigrant community (most from Le Marche, like Dick’s maternal grandparents) and now is serving Brazilian immigrants.

As Dick says, another “small world story” is told. ■

AMHS Membership

By Lynn Sorbara, 2nd Vice President, Membership

Greetings! We hope that our members and their loved ones are safe and healthy during this global crisis. As of June 3, 2020, the Society has 240 members. 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 "Renew Your Membership", at www.abruzzomoliseheritagesociety.org/renew-your-membership/#myaccount. 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. Membership renewals are automatically sent via email. We appreciate your continued support of AMHS events and activities. Should you have any questions regarding membership, please email me directly at: drlynnrose@yahoo.com. ■

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to: **Joseph and Susan DiBlasio; Mark Evans; Margherita DiCenzo Harrington and Jim Toscano.**

BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni a Settembre

Mary Ellen Allegrino and Bruno Fusco, September 2; **Richard DiBuono**, September 3; **Anthony Phillips**, September 4; **Sharon Callahan, Anthony D'Erme**, and **Lina Marinucci**, September 5; **Corrado Dal Forno**, September 6; **Michael A. DeMarco**, September 7; **Barbara Verdile, Richard Stonestreet**, and **Maria Marigliano**, September 8; **Rose Napolitano**, September 18; **Theresa Duncan and John Paolantonio**, September 19; **Joan Piccariello**, September 22; **Robert Verdile**, September 25; **Olimpia Micheli and Fr. Ezio Marchetto**, September 27; **Jeffrey Clark, Romeo Sabatini**, and **Maria LaVerghetta**, September 29.

Compleanni a Ottobre

Nicola Pellegrini, October 1; **Eugene Robert Giammittorio**, October 4; **Elizabeth DiGregorio, Charlie Iovino**, and **Kirsten Keppel**, October 8; **Gianluca Nigro**, October 10; **John Fuscillo**, October 11; **Irena DiCarantonio**, October 12; **Guy Caruso**, October 21; **Sarah Scott**, October 22; **Liana Campanella**, October 24; **Antonietta McDonald and Louis Alfano**, October 26; **Thomas Stallone**, October 27; and **Teresa Forcina**, October 29.

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversari a Settembre

Mary & Jeffrey Petrino, September 1; **Teresa & Gianpiero Forcina**, September 3; **Sergio & Maria Fresco**, September 6; **John & Lucille Fuscillo** and **Matthew & Amelia DiFiore**, September 16.

Anniversari a Ottobre

Joseph & Mary Katherine Theis and John & Eileen Verna, October 3; **Frank Charles & Susan Ann Bonsiero**, October 6; **Aldo & Louie Anne D'Ottavio**, October 8; **Rocco Del Monaco & Eileen Parise**, October 9; **Alfred & Diana DelGrosso and Porter & Dianne Francesconi Lyon**, October 14; **Joseph & Rose Ruzzi Sr.**, October 19; **Michael & Antonietta McDonald**, October 28; and **Salvatore & Anna Maria DiPilla**, October 30.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Category	# of Persons
Associate (Couple)	2 x 2 = 4
Associate (Individual)	32
General (Couple)	54 x 2 = 108
General (Individual)	84
Honorary	6
Scholarship	2
Student	4
Total Membership:	240

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.



PESCASSEROLI

PROVINCE OF L'AQUILA, REGION OF ABRUZZO

By Nancy DeSanti

The beautiful town of Pescasseroli is both a summer and winter resort and the location of the Abruzzo National Park, in the heart of Monti Marsicani. It is also the birthplace of the famous philosopher Benedetto Croce, who was born there in 1866. The town has approximately 2,206 inhabitants, known as Pescasserolesi.

There are various opinions on the origin of the name Pescasseroli. One of the most widely accepted is that it comes from the Latin *pesculum* (meaning, protruding rock) and *sarolum* (near the Sangro), since the oldest part of the town is exactly near the springs of the Sangro river below a high rock, on top of which is the ancient castle known as Castel Mancino.

Legend has it that the ruling baron's son Serolo fell in love with a girl named Pesca during the Crusades, but she was killed by his father who wanted her for himself. Serolo died of grief and above his tomb grew the town, thus the name Pescasseroli

Pescasseroli's place in history grew from the medieval period simply because of its lucky geographical location that meant it was one of the starting points for the *transumanza* (Italy's semi-annual sheep migration that saw flocks taken south for the winter). The town's famous *festa* has been held on September 8 for centuries, marking the semi-annual migration south of people and animals.

The Pescasseroli-Candela sheep route or *tratturo* started in imperial times as a military route used by the Roman legions. But by the Middle Ages, it had become a route for sheep grazing migration from the higher and colder mountains of Abruzzo to the lower pastures of Puglia. With a distance of 211 kilometers, it is the third-longest *tratturo* in southern Italy.

Pescasseroli is one of those rare Abruzzesi mountain towns that lends itself to a visit in both summer and winter. Its position, in the flat lands of the Upper Sangro Valley surrounded by high mountains, was described by its most famous native son and philosopher Benedetto



Pescasseroli scene

Croce as being a place of fables and dreams. Here, he said, was a place one could go to be blanketed in the snow, where mothers told stories on stormy nights in front of the fire — stories of strong men, soldiers and bandits, shepherds and sheep, hunters and bears.

The place, rich in water, woods and natural caves, has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Most likely Castel Mancino, thanks to its strategic position, was a citadel of the ancient Peligni population before the rise of the Roman civilization. In the early Middle Ages, it was a fiefdom of the Counts of Celano and then of the Di Sangro and the d'Aquino families. On the ruins of the fortress, the castle was built in the 13th century to control access to the Sangro valley.

The economy in the past was mostly based on sheep and on wood crafts (traditionally a by-product of the long hours of idleness of shep-

herds guarding their flocks). After the unification of Italy, a crisis in the agricultural and pastoral economy led to massive emigration. Later on, the establishment of the National Park of Abruzzo in 1922 paved the way for new development, and nowadays Pescasseroli is a residential area, a great crafts center, and an important tourist resort both in summer and in winter.

Nowadays, tourism is the town's primary economic resource. Pescasseroli is considered the most important center of the Abruzzo National Park and it is the starting point for many excursions into the park. In the 30,000 hectares of the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, in the mountains and deep forest, the Marsican brown bear, the Apennine wolf, the Abruzzo chamois, eagles and many endangered species have found a protected sanctuary.

Perhaps this scenic beauty and natural wonders is why the famous Italian writer Dacia Maraini

PESCASSEROLI

PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

chose to make her summer home nearby and spend her time here during the pandemic lockdown to write her latest book (**see related article in this Notiziario on page 1**).

In the park, there is a visitor center, a nature museum, a wildlife area, a botanical garden with a variety of flora and fauna, and the ski slopes of Mount Vitelle. All this has made Pescasseroli a favorite destination for summer holidays and for winter sports.

Activities in winter include ice skating, 20-kilometer-long ski fields (with a cableway, many ski-lifts, a skiing school and ski slopes of different difficulties) and cross-country skiing in the plateau called Macchiarvaro. ■

What to See

- The ruins of Castel Mancino
- The Palazzo Sipari, belonging to the mother of philosopher, historian and literary critic Benedetto Croce (1866-1955), who was born here
- The parish church of San Paolo ad Pesculum Serule, from the 12th century but mostly reconstructed, which houses in a chapel the wooden statue of a “Madonna nera dell’Incoronata” coming from the church, now destroyed, of Castel Mancino
- The baroque Chiesa del Carmelo
- The “Centro visite del Parco”, with a Museo di Storia Naturale and a garden zoo
- The fossil glaciers at the “Neviera di Macchiarvaro” with refreshing, clear waters

Important Dates

- **June 29** — Feast of SS. Pietro e Paolo
- **July 15-16** — Feast of Madonna del Carmine
- **Last Sunday in July** — Lamb Festival
- **September 8-9** — Celebrations for the “Madonna nera dell’Incoronata”
- **December 24** — Midnight fire in front of the parish church.



Pescasseroli panorama

Translated by Ennio DiTullio

La bellissima città di Pescasseroli è una località estiva e invernale posizionata nel Parco Nazionale d’Abruzzo, nel cuore dei Monti Marsicani. È anche la città natale del famoso filosofo Benedetto Croce, che vi nacque nel 1866. La città conta circa 2.206 abitanti, noti come Pescasserolesi.

Esistono varie opinioni sull’origine del nome Pescasseroli. Uno dei più ampiamente accettati è che proviene dal latino pesculum (roccia sporgente) e sarolum (vicino al Sangro), poiché la parte più antica della città è esattamente vicino alle sorgenti del fiume Sangro sotto un’alta roccia, in cima alla quale si trova l’antico castello noto come Castel Mancino.

La leggenda narra che il figlio del barone al potere Serolo si innamorò di una ragazza di nome Pesca durante le Crociate, ma fu uccisa dal barone che la voleva per sé. Serolo morì di dolore e sopra la sua tomba crebbe la città, da cui il nome Pescasseroli.

Il posto di Pescasseroli nella storia è cresciuto dal periodo medievale semplicemente per la sua fortunata posizione geografica, il che significava che era uno dei punti di partenza per la transumanza (la migrazione stagionale in Italia dei greggi portati a sud per l’inverno). La famosa festa della città si è tenuta per secoli l’8 settembre, segnando la migrazione verso sud di persone e animali.

Il percorso o tratturo delle pecore Pescasseroli-Candela iniziò in epoca imperiale come via militare utilizzata dalle legioni romane. Ma nel Medioevo diventò un percorso per la migrazione delle pecore al pascolo dalle montagne più alte e più fredde dell’Abruzzo ai pascoli più bassi della Puglia. Con una distanza di 211 chilometri, è il terzo tratturo più lungo del Sud Italia.

Pescasseroli è una di quelle rare città montane abruzzesi che si presta a una visita sia in estate che in inverno. La sua posizione, nelle pianure dell’alta valle del Sangro, circondata da alte montagne, è stata descritta da Benedetto Croce come un luogo di favole e sogni. Qui, disse, era un posto dove si poteva andare ad essere ricoperti di neve, dove le madri raccontavano storie nelle notti tempestose davanti al fuoco - storie di uomini forti, soldati e banditi, pastori e pecore, cacciatori e orsi.

Il luogo, ricco di acqua, boschi e grotte naturali, è stato abitato sin dalla preistoria. Molto probabilmente Castel Mancino, grazie alla sua posizione strategica, era una cittadella dell’antico popolo dei Peligni prima dell’ascesa della civiltà romana. Nel primo medioevo fu feudo dei conti di Celano e poi delle famiglie Di Sangro e d’Aquino. Sulle rovine della fortezza, il castello fu costruito nel 13° secolo per controllare l’accesso alla valle del Sangro.

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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 through these outlets:

- At bi-monthly AMHS general society meetings;
- using the order form on the AMHS Shop website (pay by check).

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.

Italiano: **PESCASSEROLI** PROVINCIA DI L'AQUILA, REGIONE ABRUZZO

▼ *Continued from page 13*

L'economia in passato si basava principalmente sulle pecore e sull'artigianato del legno (tradizionalmente un sottoprodotto delle lunghe ore di ozio dei pastori a guardia dei loro greggi). Dopo l'unificazione dell'Italia, una crisi dell'economia agricola e pastorale portò a una massiccia emigrazione. Più tardi, l'istituzione del Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo nel 1922 spianò la strada a nuovi sviluppi, e oggi Pescasseroli è una zona residenziale, un grande centro artigianale e un'importante località turistica sia in estate che in inverno.

Oggi il turismo è la principale risorsa economica della città. Pescasseroli è considerato il centro più importante del Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo ed è il punto di partenza per numerose escursioni nel parco. Nei 30.000 ettari del Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, tra montagne e folte foreste, l'orso bruno marsicano, il lupo appenninico, il camoscio d'Abruzzo, le aquile e molte specie in via di estinzione hanno trovato un santuario protetto.

Forse proprio queste bellezze del paesaggio e meraviglie naturali hanno indotto la famosa scrittrice italiana Dacia Maraini di costruirsi la sua casa estiva nelle vicinanze e trascorrervi la quarantena della pandemia per scrivere il suo ultimo libro (**vedi l'articolo a pagina 1**).

Nel parco c'è un centro visitatori, un museo naturale, un'area faunistica, un giardino botanico con una varietà di flora e fauna e le piste da sci del Monte Vitelle. Tutto ciò ha reso Pescasseroli una meta prediletta per le vacanze estive e per gli sport invernali.

Le attività invernali includono pattinaggio su ghiaccio, piste per sciare lunghe 20 chilometri (con una funivia, numerosi impianti di risalita, una scuola di sci e piste da sci di diverse difficoltà) e lo sci di fondo sulla pianura del Macchiarvaro. ■

Attrazioni del luogo:

- Le rovine di Castel Mancino
- Palazzo Sipari, appartenente alla madre del filosofo, storico e critico letterario Benedetto Croce (1866-1955), che qui nacque
- La chiesa parrocchiale di San Paolo ad Pesculum Serule, del XII secolo ma in gran parte ricostruita, che ospita in una cappella la statua lignea di una “Madonna nera dell’Incoronata” proveniente dalla chiesa, oggi distrutta, di Castel Mancino
- La Chiesa del Carmelo in stile barocco
- Il “Centro visite del Parco”, con un Museo di Storia Naturale e un giardino zoologico
- I ghiacciai fossili della “Neviera di Macchiarvaro” con acque rinfrescanti e limpide

Date da ricordare:

- **29 giugno** — Festa dei SS. Pietro e Paolo
- **15-16 luglio** — Festa della Madonna del Carmine
- **Ultima domenica di luglio** — Sagra dell’Agnello
- **8-9 settembre** — Celebrazioni per la “Madonna nera dell’Incoronata”
- **24 dicembre** — Falò di mezzanotte davanti alla chiesa parrocchiale

Sources:

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CAMPODIPIETRA

PROVINCE OF CAMPOBASSO, REGION OF MOLISE

By Nancy DeSanti



Campodipietra scene

The beautiful small town of Campodipietra is located about 7 kilometers east of Campobasso. It has approximately 520 inhabitants known as Campopetresi.

It was built on a rocky spur around the church of San Martino by a colony of German soldiers following Federico Lo Zoppo in the 13th century. It rises near the ancient barons' castle.

The original town was completely surrounded by walls, where only three doors opened. There is a small church, San Bonaventura, which has an unusual history. In 1705, the inhabitants gathered there to vote who should be their patron saint between San Bernardino from Siena and San Martino. The latter was chosen by popular vote.

What to See

- The church of San Martino in the Borgo della Porta, with a beautiful 18th century painting of the Immacolata by Paolo Gamba
- The small church of San Bonaventura

Important Dates

- **March 19** — The tavolata of San Giuseppe, a banquet with 14 courses
- **August 11-15** — San Michele

Sources:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campodipietra
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www.comune.campodipietra.cb.it/hh/index.php

Italiano

CAMPODIPIETRA

PROVINCIA DI CAMPOBASSO,
REGIONE MOLISE

Translated by Ennio DiTullio

La bellissima cittadina di Campodipietra si trova a circa 7 chilometri a est di Campobasso. Ha circa 520 abitanti conosciuti come Campopetresi.

Fu costruito su uno sperone roccioso intorno alla chiesa di San Martino da una colonia di soldati tedeschi a seguito di Federico Lo Zoppo nel 13° secolo. Sorge vicino all'antico castello dei baroni.

La città originale era completamente circondata da mura, dove si aprivano solo tre porte. C'è un'altra chiesa più piccola, San Bonaventura, che ha una storia insolita. Nel 1705, gli abitanti si radunarono lì per votare chi doveva essere il loro santo patrono tra San Bernardino da Siena e San Martino. Quest'ultimo è stato scelto dal voto popolare.



Campodipietra panorama

Attrazioni del luogo:

- La chiesa di San Martino nel Borgo della Porta, con un bellissimo dipinto dell'Immacolata del XVIII secolo di Paolo Gamba
- La chiesetta di San Bonaventura

Date da ricordare:

- **19 marzo** — La tavolata di San Giuseppe, un banchetto con 14 portate
- **11-15 agosto** — San Michele

Ariana Grande

By Joseph Scafetta Jr.

Ariana Grande-Butera was born on June 26, 1993, in Boca Raton, Florida. Her father is Edward Butera, a graphic design firm owner, of Sicilian descent. Her mother is Joan Grande, the CEO of Hose-McCann Communications, of Abruzzese descent. Her parents separated when she was ten years old, so she dropped her father's name. She attended the Pine Crest School and later the North Broward Preparatory School. She was raised as a Roman Catholic.

By age 13, she became serious about a music career, so she moved with her mother to Los Angeles. In 2008, she was cast in the supporting role of Charlotte the cheerleader in the musical "13" on Broadway in New York City. For her performance, she won a National Youth Theatre Association Award. She was then cast in late 2009 in the Nickelodeon TV show "Victorious" which premiered in March, 2010.

Ariana raised \$23 million to aid victims of a terrorist bombing at her 2017 concert in Manchester, England.

She made her first musical appearance in "Give It Up" from the "Victorious" sound track in August, 2011. As a result, she soon signed a recording contract with Republic Records. She then voiced the fairy Princess Diaspro in 13 episodes of the Nickelodeon version of the Italian animated TV series "Winx Club". In December 2011, Ariana released her first single "Put Your Hearts Up" which was later certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.

After four seasons, "Victorious" was not renewed in February, 2013. However, Nickelodeon created "Sam & Cat" as a "Victorious" spinoff in which Ariana reprised her role as Cat Valentine. The pilot aired on June 8, 2013, and ran for 35 episodes, ending on July 14, 2014.

In the meantime, she recorded her first studio album "Yours Truly" which was released on August 30, 2013, debuting at #1 on the U.S. Bill-



Ariana Grande at 2020 Grammy Awards

board 200 Albums Chart. One month later, Billboard Magazine ranked Ariana at #4 on its list of Music's Hottest Minors for 2013. At the 2013 American Music Awards, she won the New Artist of the Year Award. Also, she received the Breakthrough Artist of the Year Award for 2013 from the Music Business Association.

In January 2014, she earned the Favorite Breakout Artist Award at the People's Choice Awards. On August 25, 2014, Ariana released her second studio album "My Everything" which debuted atop the Billboard 200 Albums Chart. Its lead single "Problem" debuted at #1 on the United Kingdom Singles Chart.

In February 2015, Ariana went on her first worldwide concert tour which was called the Honey-moon Tour. In the Spring of 2015, she signed an exclusive publishing contract with the Universal Music Publishing Group. She then recorded with Andrea Bocelli a duet "E Piu' Ti Penso" (And More I Think of You) which was released in October, 2015.

On May 20, 2016, Ariana released her third studio album "Dangerous Woman". It debuted on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart at #2 in the United States and at #1 in Italy. At the end of the year, she participated in the Jingle Bell Tour.

In February 2017, Ariana embarked on her third concert tour which was called the Dangerous Woman Tour. On May 2, 2017, a terrorist bomb killed 23 persons after her concert in Manchester, England. She then suspended her tour and raised \$23 million from a televised benefit concert on June 4 to aid victims and affected fami-

lies. As an appreciation, the City Council named her its first honorary citizen. In December 2017, Billboard magazine named her Female Artist of the Year.

In April 2018, Ariana released "No Tears Left to Cry" which debuted at #3 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart. Her fourth studio album "Sweetener" was released in August, 2018. It debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart and earned Ariana her first Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album. In November 2018, she released the single "Thank U, Next" which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart. It has been certified 5-times platinum in the United States.

On January 18, 2019, she released the single "7 Rings" which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart. On February 8, 2019, her "Thank U, Next" album was released and debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart. Twelve days later, she won a Brit Award for International Female Solo Artist. On March 18, 2019, she embarked on her fourth concert tour which was called the Sweetener World Tour. On April 12-14 and 19-21, 2019, Ariana headlined the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California. She won Top Female Artist at the Billboard Music Awards on May 1, 2019. At the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, she won the Artist of the Year Award. At the end of the year, Billboard Magazine named Ariana the most accomplished female artist to debut in the 2010s.

Ariana and Justin Bieber released a collaboration song "Stuck With U" on May 8, 2020. It debuted at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles Chart. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they decided to donate the net proceeds from sales of the song to the First Responders Children's Foundation. At the present time, the 27-year old Ariana is hunkering down in her home with her mother in Los Angeles until the pandemic is brought under control. ■

Sources:

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