

**Giorgio and Marilyn Buccellati are honorary citizens of Baceno**  
*They have lived in the small hamlet "Beola" for several years*



The Municipality of Baceno has conferred honorary citizenship on Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly. They are two professors emeriti at the University of California Los Angeles who for several years have established their roots in the small hamlet "Beola" of the municipality of the Antigorio Valley, enriching it with their international fame. Rich in value and significance is the motivation that led to this recognition: "Through their research activities in the archaeological, historical, and cultural fields, they provide unanimously recognized prominence and luster to our places, creating opportunities for exchange among experts and scholars of world level. They also collaborate and support cultural entities and activities in Ossola, also showing deep attention to the local area, its needs, and its people, in an atmosphere of great cordiality and empathy." Together with their son Federico and some young scholars who collaborate with them, during the evening Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly told how they discovered the remains of Urkesh, a very ancient city founded by the Hurrians in northeastern Syria. The site is in perfect order and well preserved: the temple, the palace walls, the stone staircase are important things that involved especially the local population, attempting at knowing through history also their identity and culture. There is already a fruitful relationship with schools in Syria, connected with other schools scattered in several parts of the world; even some schools in Domodossola are involved. The recognition bestowed on Giorgio and Marilyn was greeted with great enthusiasm not only by the people of Baceno, but by the entire Ossola because of their admiration for this formidable and esteemed family that, despite its important "status," has been able to create a truly cordial relationship with everyone. Open and socializing with every inhabitant or passerby of the hamlet, so close to the people, especially the church, from the parish priest to the youngest altar boy, to anyone performing a function or service, however small. The bacenese hamlet "The Beola" is truly honored to have the Buccellati family among its few but "great resident citizens"!

*Mariagrazia Locatelli*