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IL CAVALIERE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

TRIP TO SICILY CONFIRMED

Following the success of the first ASILM trip to Rome last November, a second trip has been confirmed, this time to Sicily.

According to the poll on the Society's website (www.asilm.org), which was announced in the April 2012 issue of *Il Cavaliere*, the majority of members favored a trip to Sicily. In light of the timing of other ASILM events, particularly the 47th Annual Gala on December 7th, the trip will take place from March 9, 2013, to March 17, 2013.

These dates, as well as the program and location for the trip, were approved by the ASILM Board of Directors during its most recent meeting on June 7, 2012.

The ASILM delegation will begin its trip in Palermo on Saturday, March 9th. After settling into the Hilton Villa Igia Palermo Hotel, members of the delegation will have a free afternoon to explore the city, taking in its history, culture, art and vivacity, before attending a welcome dinner in their honor at Donna Franca Florio Restaurant. The restaurant, which is located on the terrace of the Hotel Villa Igia, offers exceptional views of the Bay of Palermo.

A reception to be held in honor of the ASILM delegation is currently being organized with leading

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ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS HONORED AT ASILM RECEPTION



At the reception in honor of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps (L. to R.) are: Brig. Gen. Mario Sumatra, First Counsellor Laura Egoli, Brig. Gen. Giuseppe Alineri, Vice Consul Dino Sorrentino, First Cons. Cecilia Piccioni, Minister Natalia Quintavalle, Vice Consul Lucia Pasqualini, Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, Mrs. Luisa Mantegazza Picchio, Consul Andrea Barbaria and Vice Admiral Alessandro Picchio.

On Tuesday, May 22, 2012, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit held its annual reception in honor of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps in Manhattan. The reception brought together distinguished Society members with ranking officials of the Italian Embassy in Washington, the Mission to the United Nations in New York, and the various consular and special offices throughout the United States.

Among those distinguished personalities who attended the reception were: the Consul

General of Italy, Minister Natalia Quintavalle; the Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Antonio Bernardini; the Italian Trade Commissioner, Mr. Aniello Musella; the Italian Travel Commissioner, Mr. Eugenio Magnani; and the President of the Foreign Policy Association, Mr. Noel Lateef.

Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, President of ASILM, welcomed and thanked all the members of the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps, VIP's, and ASILM members and guests in attendance at the event.

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The president mentioned some exciting projects being organized by the Society, including the annual Gala Dinner Dance, now entering its 47th year. Dr. Caputo announced that this year, the event will take place on Friday, December 7, 2012, in the ballroom of The Pierre Hotel, one of the most elegant settings in New York City.

Dr. Caputo mentioned other projects currently underway: "Following the great success of the trip last year to Rome and the significant meeting of the ASILM delegation with the President of the Republic, we are organizing a trip to Sicily in March 2013 and preparing an exciting program. The location for this trip was decided upon by a majority ASILM members who participated in the online poll. In addition, together with the Board members, we have updated the Society's By-Laws and they are now available on our website."

The applause that followed was indeed an affirmation of the crowd's enthusiasm for these activities of the Society.

In a speech presented to the guests, Minister Natalia Quintavalle stated, "Once more the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit has demonstrated that it plays a prominent role in bridging our two countries in all fields: political, economic and cultural. On behalf of the Ambassador of Italy to the United States, H.E. Claudio Bisogniero, and of all the colleagues working in New York, I would like to thank you for honoring the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps this evening."

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Left: Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, ASILM President, stands next to Minister Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy to New York.



CLOCKWISE:

(L. to R.) Brig. Gen. Giuseppe Alineri, Vice Admiral Alessandro Picchio and Brig. Gen. Mario Sumatra at the reception.

Dr. Lucio Caputo at the podium welcomes members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and ASILM members.



The Board of Directors of ASILM: (L. to R.) Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Dominic Massaro, Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, Min. Natalia Quintavalle, Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, Comm. Stefano Acunto, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi, Comm. George Pavia and Cav. Berardo Paradiso.



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ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

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I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO:

•The Trip to Sicily

During the meeting of the Board of Directors on June 7, 2012, the Board formally approved the dates and program of the ASILM trip to Sicily. This visit follows the success of the November 2011 trip in promoting the image of the Society and its mission of improving relations between Italy and the United States among the highest Italian authorities in Rome.



Cav. di Gran Croce
Dr. Lucio Caputo

Indeed, the trip to Sicily will be an experience that will further support the Society's cultural goals; members will be exposed to excellent cuisine and wine, and warm hospitality throughout Sicily. They will also meet with leading authorities in Palermo during their visit. Furthermore, there will be another benefit to this trip that was realized in the last trip to Italy: it will be a unique opportunity for members residing across the United States to come together and meet in some of the most beautiful settings in the world.

•The ASILM Gala Dinner Dance

The 47th edition of the ASILM Gala Dinner Dance will take place in the Grand Ballroom of The Pierre Hotel in New York City. The Gala will feature a reception in the Garden Foyer, where guests can socialize over fine Italian wines, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The evening will feature a three-course gourmet dinner prepared by an Italian chef, as well as soft songs by Panorama Music and dancing.

In addition, this year there will be a special awards ceremony to honor those members who have been decorated by the Italian government for outstanding achievements. The ceremony will also showcase a special guest of honor as the recipient of the highest presentation of the Society, the Grand Award of Merit. Although the name of the guest of honor cannot be disclosed at this time, he or she is a very prominent personality in the United States.

•The Amended By-Laws

Formally approved by the Board of Directors in April 2012, the amended By-Laws are now available to be viewed and downloaded from the website of ASILM. The By-Laws had been revised and updated for greater clarity and legibility.



Guests mingling as they enjoy fine wine and hors d'oeuvres at the reception.



Min. Natalia Quintavalle addresses the guests.



Comm. Salvatore Rotella (Left) and Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Dominic Massaro.



(L. to R.) Consul Andrea Barbaria, Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli and Cav. Alfonso Panico.



(Above left and right) Mrs. Krista Adams-Santilli performing three classic songs at the ASILM reception.



(L. to R.) Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Min. Natalia Quintavalle and Brig. Gen. Giuseppe Alineri.



(L. to R.) Cav. Giuseppe Taormina, Mrs. Luisa Mantegazza Picchio, Vice Admiral Alessandro Picchio and Dama Vincenza Taormina.



(L. to R.) Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, Hon. Dominic Massaro, Mrs. Frances Massaro, Mrs. Barbara Desiderio, Mr. Frank Desiderio and Mrs. Loyse Paradiso.



(L. to R.) Mr. Gianluca Galletto, Mr. Giampaolo Pioli, Cav. Marco Grassi, Mrs. Christina Grassi and Mr. Mario Calvo-Platero.



(L. to R.) Mr. Renzo Cianfanelli, Vice Consul Lucia Pasqualini and Mr. Riccardo Chioni.



(L. to R.) Ms. Mary C. Rorro, Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari and Mr. Joseph Chioffi.



(L. to R.) Hon. Eugene Nardelli, Comm. George Pavia, Mrs. Antonia Pavia and Mr. Aniello Musella.



Dr. Lucio Caputo (right) speaking with Mr. Carlo Tunioi.



Guests socializing in the Oak Room of the headquarters of ASILM and the venue for the reception.



(L. to R.) Ms. Kimberly Fry, Consul Andrea Barbaria, Vice Consul Dino Sorrentino, Ms. Silvia Dondi, Ms. Alessandra Rotondi, Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Dr. Lucio Caputo and Mrs. Loyse Paradiso.



(L. to R.) Gr. Uff. Gallina-Santangelo, Mrs. Theresa Taormina and Dr. Caputo.



(L. to R.) Vice Consul Lucia Pasqualini, Comm. Stefano Acunto and Ms. Krista Adams-Santilli, who performed at the event.



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The Consul General added, “The support you kindly offer to all the Italian Institutions is truly valuable for many of our initiatives in the United States. Your Society includes prestigious members who, rightfully so, have been decorated by the Italian Government in recognition of their dedication to Italy.”

Following the presentations, the evening was enhanced by the exceptional performance of soprano Kristin Adams-Santilli, who enchanted the crowd with “Juliette’s Waltz” from “Romeo and Juliette” by Charles Gounod, “Somewhere” from “West Side Story” by Leonard Bernstein, and “Quando m’en vo” from “La Boheme” by Giacomo Puccini. Guests were also treated to the music of pianist Djordje Stevan Nestic. Indeed, the guests were so pleased by the musical performance of Mrs. Adams-Santilli and Mr. Nestic that they requested an encore.

At the conclusion of the musical performance, guests mingled into the evening as they sampled fine wines and hors d'oeuvres, enjoying conversation with old friends and new ones. ■



Top right: Dr. Dino Sorrentino, Mr. Gianfranco Cuda and Dr. Lucio Caputo.



Middle right: (L to R) Ms. Patricia Theis, Mr. Salvatore Zizza and Cav. Vivian Cardia.

Bottom right: ASILM members and supporters as well as members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps gather together in the Oak Room during the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Corps reception.



**More pictures of the reception in honor of the Italian Diplomatic & Consular Corps can be viewed and downloaded on the website of ASILM:
www.asilm.org/photo-gallery/**



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



The delegation will stay in several elegant hotels, including the Villa Igiea Hotel in Palermo.



Scenic view of Mondello, Palermo.

authorities in Palermo. The ASILM reception will be an occasion to underline the importance of the Society; the relevant role that the Society plays in the United States and in Italy; and the prestige of its members. Details for this reception will be finalized closer to the date of the trip.

On Sunday, March 10th, the delegation will set out on a full-day excursion by private coach. First, it will visit Monreale, a town located on the slope of Monte Caputo, and well known for its cathedral and mosaics, and its orange, olive and almond trees.

The delegation will be treated to lunch at a local restaurant in Monreale, and then depart for the second destination on the excursion: Monte Pellegrino. Upon visiting the mountain and the shrine of Santa Rosalia, members will understand why Goethe once called Monte Pellegrino “il promontorio più bello del mondo” (the most beautiful promontory in the world).

The final stop will be Mondello, Sicily’s most fashionable seaside resort town. ASILM members will stay in Mondello for dinner by the sea at Antico Stabilimento Balneare before returning to Palermo.

The following day also promises much excitement. The delegation will depart from Palermo by private coach to spend the day in Erice. In this small, beautiful town, members will visit some of the sights and have lunch at Ristorante Monte San Giuliano. Shortly after returning to their hotel, members will dine at La Scuderia in the heart of Palermo.

The delegation will have the opportunity to tour the city of Palermo by private coach on Tuesday, March 12th. During this tour, members will visit Palazzo dei Normanni, Capella Palatina, Oratory of the Rosary of Saint Cita, its magnificent cathedral and many other sites that make Palermo the tourist, cultural and historical capital of Sicily. The day will conclude at Osteria dei Vespri, where the delegation will sample local cuisine for its last night in Palermo.

Wednesday morning, March 13th, the delegation will depart Palermo for Agrigento on the southern coast of Sicily. It is known across the world for its seven ancient temples, thus earning its name, the Valley of the Temples. Members will have the chance to visit these monumental temples stretching across the valley. In addition, they will have lunch in Agrigento before leaving by private coach for Gela.

In Gela, members will be treated to a wine tasting and dinner at one of the leading wine companies in Sicily. They will then proceed to stay overnight in Falconara Charming House & Resort in the nearby town of Butera.

Members will leave Gela on Thursday, March 14th, as they continue on their way to Taormina, stopping only to see Piazza



Agrigento, known as the Valley of the Temples.



The delegation will be treated to a special wine tasting and dinner at a leading winery in Sicily.

Armerina, famous for its Villa Romana del Casale and its ancient Roman mosaics. The Villa Romana del Casale had undergone extensive renovation costing around 18 million euro, and just recently reopened in its full splendor.

The delegation will reach Taormina that same afternoon. Taormina is a popular tourist attraction known for its beaches, fine wine and cuisine and its proximity to Mount Etna. On their first night in the city, members will settle into the elegant San Domenico Hotel and then dine at La Capinera.

The following day, the group will enjoy a private tour of the volcano Mount Etna. Lunch will be spent in the Mount Etna refuge, and then the rest of the evening will be free for members to roam the majestic city or to simply relax in the hotel.

Members will then spend Saturday, March 16th, visiting the Greek theatre and other prominent sites in Taormina. Later that



One of the many ancient Roman mosaics in Piazza Armerina.

night, they will be treated to a farewell dinner in their honor at Casa Grugno.

Although the trip has a full program, the final cost is being maintained as low as possible. The cost of the land package (8 nights/9 days, double occupancy) will be around \$2,000.00. Efforts are being made with Alitalia to provide a discount in airfare, as was done in the November 2011 ASILM trip to Italy.

As there is limited space, reservations will be taken in the order they are received. Therefore, those interested in participating should make tentative reservations as soon as possible. Members who make reservations will receive a letter with more details concerning the trip, instructions on how to participate, cost of the deposit and a form in the mail in the coming weeks. ■



The famous Greek theater in Taormina and a view of Mount Etna in the background.



Members will spend their farewell dinner at the restaurant, Casa Grugno in Taormina.



SICILY TRIP PROGRAM

March 9, 2013 - March 17, 2013*

Saturday, March 9, 2013

12.30am: Arrival in Palermo - Hotel Villa Igiea
Free Afternoon
8.00pm: Welcome Dinner at Donna Franca Florio Restaurant
(Terrace of Hotel Villa Igiea)

Sunday, March 10, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9.00am: Excursion by private coach to Monreale
1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant
3:00pm: Excursion by private coach to Monte Pellegrino & Mondello
8:00pm: Dinner at Antico Stabilimento Balneare, Mondello

Monday, March 11, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9.30am: Depart Palermo by private coach for Erice
11.00am: Arrival in Erice and visit of the city
1.00pm: Lunch at Ristorante Monte San Giuliano, Erice
3.00pm: Return to Palermo
5.00pm: Arrival at Hotel Villa Igiea
8:00pm: Dinner at La Scuderia

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9:00am: Tour of Palermo
8:00pm: Dinner at Osteria dei Vespri

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9.00am: Depart Palermo by private coach for Agrigento
11.00am: Arrival in Agrigento & visit to the Valley of the Temples
1:00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant
3.30pm: Transfer by private coach to Gela
5.00pm: Arrival in Gela - Hotel Falconara, Butera
7.00pm: Wine Tasting & Dinner at Settesoli

Thursday, March 14, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
8.30am: Depart Gela by private coach for Piazza Armerina
9.30am: Arrival in Piazza Armerina and visit to the Villa Romana del Casale and its ancient Roman mosaics
1.00pm: Lunch in a local restaurant
2.30pm: Depart Piazza Armerina by private coach for Taormina
4.00pm: Arrival in Taormina - Hotel: San Domenico
8:00pm: Dinner at La Capinera

Friday, March 15, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9.00am: Excursion by private coach to Mount Etna
1.00pm: Lunch at Rifugio Etna
3.00pm: Return to the hotel
Free Evening

Saturday, March 16, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
9.00am: Visit to the Greek theater and tour of Taormina
8:00pm: Farewell Dinner at Casa Grugno

Sunday, March 17, 2013

8.00am: Full Breakfast at the hotel
12.00pm: End of the trip

8 nights total:

4 nights in Palermo
1 night in Gela
3 nights in Taormina

* Subject to change



WHAT OTHER DIPLOMATS & CONSULS ARE UP TO...

Former Consul General of Italy, Francesco Maria Talo', appointed Ambassador to Tel Aviv.

Former Consul General of Italy, Giovanni Favilli, appointed Consul to Dubai.

Former Counsellor, Laura Carpini, appointed Ambassador to Ghana.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



CAV. JOSEPHINE MAIETTA RECEIVES THE JENKINS AWARD

ASILM member, Cav. Josephine A. Maietta, was recently presented with the prestigious JENKINS AWARD before her school's faculty, staff, superintendent, Community School Board and parents. Colleagues and parents of the Berry Hill School in the Syosset Central School District voted for Josephine to receive the award, which bestows on her Honorary Life Membership in the NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers as well as "the recognition for her outstanding service, dedication to our children and for character, personality, academic achievements and potential teaching ability." Josephine is a teacher of Italian and the District Elementary World Language Coordinator. For many years Josephine has been a language ambassador, playing a key role in inspiring young people's interest in the Italian language and culture, and supporter of AP Italian.

Recently Josephine was also one of the guest speakers at the Italian-American Experience Lecture Series at Hofstra University, organized by Prof. Stanislao G. Pugliese, professor of history and UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian and Italian-American Studies. The title of the lecture series was

"Italian-American Women: Politics, Writing and Culture." The title of Josephine's presentation was "Italian and Culture, Italian IS Culture."

KJOY 98.3FM, a prominent radio station in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, selected Josephine as the "KJOY Teacher of the Week." She was nominated by her colleague Aurora O'Brien and World Language Coordinator from Plainedge School District.

Josephine is presently the Executive Vice President of AIAE, The Association of Italian-American Educators, a non-profit association organized to enhance the Italian-American image and presence in academia. ■

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ASILM
C/O 60 EAST 42ND STREET
SUITE 2214
NEW YORK, NY 10165

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Save the Date...

Thursday, December 6, 2012
47th Annual Meeting
New York City

Friday, December 7, 2012
47th Annual Gala Dinner Dance
Grand Ballroom, The Pierre Hotel
New York City

Saturday, March 9, 2013 -
Sunday, March 17, 2013
Trip to Sicily

Cavalieri who receive honors and other recognitions should send information and a portrait photograph to:

Editor, Il Cavaliere, American Society of the
Italian Legions of Merit,
P.O. Box 789,
New York, NY 10150

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Comm. Stefano Acunto, Publisher
Cav. di Gran Croce Lucio Caputo, Editor
Kimberly Fry, Co-Editor
Gina Marie Balog, Production Manager
Cav. Vito Catalano, Photographer

Address all mail to: Editor, Il Cavaliere
P.O. Box 789, New York, New York 10150.

Email: president.asilm@yahoo.com

Web: www.asilm.org

Tel. 212.661.1108