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IL CAVALIERE

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

47TH ANNUAL ASILM GALA DINNER DANCE & AWARDS CEREMONY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012

On Friday, December 7, 2012, the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit kicked off its 47th Annual Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony with an innovative program and a new venue, the Grand Ballroom of The Pierre Hotel in Manhattan.

The gala was held under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano. This was the first time that President Napolitano gave his patronage to an ASILM Gala.

In addition, President Napolitano sent a message to ASILM President Lucio Caputo that was read by Min. Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy to New York, during the Gala's opening ceremony (See page 3 for full text of President Napolitano's message.)

Another special feature of the ASILM Gala was its enhanced venue, The Pierre Hotel, whose elegant interior was the perfect setting for the Society and its members. During the cocktail reception in the Garden Foyer, guests marveled at the walls adorned with hand-painted murals from Versailles and lit by antique chandeliers. For the dinner and awards ceremony, they were led into the stunning Grand Ballroom, one of the most renowned in New York City.

Guests were welcomed by the Toastmaster, Ms. Laura Savini, and by Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, who gave the toast to the presidents of the United States and Italy. Guests toasted with Ferrari, the preeminent sparkling wine in Italy.

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Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo (center), ASILM President, stands with the awardees of the Grand Award of Merit of ASILM: (L to R) Gr. Uff. Ambassador Ronald Spogli, Comm. Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Cav. di Gran Croce, Justice Antonin Scalia and Cav. di Gran Croce, Maestro Arnaldo Pomodoro at the 47th Annual ASILM Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony.



Besides the new venue and President Napolitano's patronage and formal written message, the 47th Annual Gala Dinner stood out with its unprecedented awards ceremony. The ceremony celebrated Italian excellence in a variety of fields: art, medicine, politics, justice, food and wine, as well as the members of the Society with the Grand Award of Merit (the highest of ASILM), the Medal of Merit and the Special Award of Merit to Wine.

Traditionally, the Grand Award of Merit is given to outstanding leaders in their fields during a private ceremony. These ceremonies gave little opportunity for ASILM members to witness and participate in this presentation. During the ASILM Gala, however, members were able to observe the presentation of the Grand Award of Merit, and mingle with the awardees before and after the awards ceremony.

Throughout the ceremony, Ms. Savini and Dr. Caputo called the recipients, one-by-one, to come to the stage, and be presented with their awards.

The first to accept the Grand Award of Merit was Comm. Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Surgeon-in-Chief at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Michelassi is considered one of the best surgeons in the United States. His advances in the treatment of digestive diseases have earned him high recognition throughout the world and have made an incredible difference in the lives of many. He was given the Grand Award of Merit in recognition of his achievements in the field of medicine.

The next awardee was Gr. Uff. Ambassador Ronald Spogli, former U.S. Ambassador to Italy. While holding this position, he accomplished a great deal to help improve the lives of both Italians and Americans living in Italy, further strengthening the relations between the two countries. He was given the award in recogni-

tion of his accomplishments in the field of politics.

Another recipient of the Grand Award of Merit was Cav. di Gran Croce, Maestro Arnaldo Pomodoro, a renowned Italian artist whose masterpieces reside in Vatican City, the United Nations Plaza in New York and the Palais-Royal in Paris. His influential and inspiring works, which emphasize the potential of sculpture, have also been the subject of exhibitions at major museums around the world. He was presented the award in recognition of his immense success in the field of art.

The final awardee was Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. As a member of the

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Min. Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of New York, reads the message of President Giorgio Napolitano.



Guests mingle during the cocktail reception in the Garden Foyer of The Pierre Hotel.



(L to R): Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Dominic Massaro and Mrs. Frances Massaro greet Cav. di Gran Croce, Justice Antonin Scalia.



ASILM

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE
ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

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Message of the President of the Italian Republic H.E. Giorgio Napolitano

Roma, 7 Dicembre 2012

Cav. di Gran Croce

Dott. Lucio Caputo

Presidente

American Society of the

Italian Legions of Merit

New York

Desidero per il suo tramite fare pervenire i miei saluti più cordiali agli illustri ospiti e agli amici dell'Italia che arrichiscono con la loro presenza il 47mo Gala Annuale della American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit.



Le numerose iniziative della vostra Associazione contribuiscono a infondere sempre nuova energia ed entusiasmo ai già intensi legami di amicizia e collaborazione tra le nostre nazioni. Mi congratulo con i destinatari dei premi che assegnerete stasera a personalità di alto profilo etico e professionale. Vi incoraggio a proseguire nell'azione di sostegno e promozione dei talenti e delle iniziative al fine di contribuire, specie rivolgendosi ai giovani, alla vitale continuità dei rapporti fra Italia e Stati Uniti.

In questo spirito, e nella prospettiva dell'Anno della Cultura Italiana negli Stati Uniti che sta per aprirsi, formulo all'ASILM i più sinceri voti di successo.

Giorgio Napolitano

Translation:

Through you, I wish to send my most cordial greetings to the distinguished guests and friends of Italy that, with their presence, enrich the 47th Annual Gala of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit.

The many initiatives of your Association help to consistently infuse new energy and enthusiasm to the already existing, deep ties of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. I congratulate the recipients of the awards that will be assigned tonight; they are personalities of highly ethical and professional profiles. I encourage you to continue in the action of supporting and promoting the talents and the initiatives in order to contribute, especially referring to the young, to the vital continuity of relations between Italy and the United States.

In this spirit, and in view of the upcoming year of Italian culture in the United States, I send to ASILM the most sincere wishes for success.



of some special service - for the longest period of time. The recipients of the Medal of Merit were: Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi, Cav. Irma Jaffe and Comm. Sirio Maccioni.

An award was also presented in recognition of the excellence of Italian wine. The leading producers in attendance stood on stage during this presentation. They included: Ms. Clio Biondi Santi of Biondi Santi, Ms. Myriam Brunetti of Casa di Grazia, Mrs. Giovanna Cornaro Folonari of Folonari Tenute, Ms. Audrey Herd-Smith of Antinori, Dr. Marcello Lunelli of Ferrari, Cav. del Lavoro Diego Planeta of Planeta, Mr. Francesco Rabellino of Zonin and Dr. Sergio Zingarelli of Rocca delle Macie.

Emphasizing the culinary side of Italy, ASILM also recognized the Executive Chef of Sirio Ristorante Filippo Gozzoli, and Executive Chef of The Pierre Hotel Ashfer Biju in honor of the Italian culinary tradition.

high court, he has played and continues to exercise an influential role over the lives of millions of Italian-Americans. The Grand Award of Merit was presented to him for his leadership, dedication and outstanding achievements in the field of justice.

The recipients each spoke after accepting their awards. Justice Scalia, on behalf of all the recipients, gave a warm speech, thanking ASILM for this honor.

During the awards ceremony, the Society also honored three of its members with the Medal of Merit, a prestigious award presented to members who have had their present decoration - given to them because of some personal quality or the rendering

In bestowing the awards, Dr. Caputo said, "Italy is famous across the globe for being a leader in a wide range of industries, including fashion, jewelry, sport cars, interior design, food and wine. We are giving this special award to wine that represents Italian excellence. We also wish to emphasize the culinary side of Italy. The dinner tonight has been specially prepared by Sirio Ristorante under the personal supervision of Sirio Maccioni, a recipient tonight of the Medal of Merit."

Additional features of the evening's program were the invocation

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Top Left: Cav. Francesco De Angelis, award-winning actor Tony LoBianco, Ms. Ruthann Granito Niosi, Esq., Cav. Vivian Cardia, Comm. Stefano Acunto and Mrs. Carole Haarman Acunto mingle at the event.

Bottom Left: Ms. Rosana Mazzia and Mrs. Theresa Taormina enter the reception area.

Bottom Right: Ms. Naike Rivelli, daughter of Ornella Muti (a famous Italian actress), looks glamorous as she arrives at the hotel.





(L to R): Dr. Caren Heller, Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Amb. Ronald Spogli and Mrs. Georgia Spogli chat in the Grand Ballroom.



(L to R): Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli, Dr. Lucio Caputo and Justice Antonin Scalia.



Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Frank Guarini and Vice Consul Lucia Pasqualini.



(L to R): Cav. Berardo Paradiso, Mrs. Loyse Paradiso, Mr. Massimo Paradiso, Mrs. Raffaella Paradiso, Mrs. Olga Paradiso and Mr. Alberic Paradiso pose together at the Gala.



(L to R): Cav. di Gran Croce, Lawrence Auriana, Mrs. Irene Auriana, Cav. Alan D'Ambrosio and Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo.



(L to R): Comm. George Pavia, Mrs. Antonia Pavia and Dr. Lucio Caputo at the Gala.



given by H.E., The Most Reverend Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the U.N.; and the performance of the National Anthems of Italy and the U.S., both of which were sung by Ms. Shari Minetti of Panorama Music, a leading musical group led under the direction of Mr. Rino Minetti.

Perhaps the most delectable part of the evening was the cuisine. Guests were treated to the best of Italian food as they dined on a gourmet dinner prepared by Sirio Ristorante under the personal supervision of Sirio Maccioni.

The first dish was a delicious pumpkin risotto with amaretti biscuits and sweet gorgonzola cream; which was then followed by roasted veal medallions with endive confit, caper sauce and baby carrots. A cheese selection with honey and jam was then served. The dinner concluded with a memorable dessert: a pistachio tartufo with vanilla ice cream.

The gourmet dinner was paired with the finest Italian wines that were donated by top Italian producers, all of whom attended the event. Guests were able to enjoy the following wines during dinner:

Planeta, Cometa IGT Sicilia, 2010; Casa di Grazia, Victorya 1607, Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG, 2011; Marchesi Antinori, Il Bruciato Bolgheri DOC, 2010; Jacopo Biondi Santi, Sassaloro IGT Rosso Toscana, 2009; Ferrari, Tenuta Castelbuono, Montefalco Sagrantino DOCG, 2006; A. & G. Folonari Tenute, La Forra, Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, 2008; Rocca delle Macie, Ser Gioveto IGT Toscana, 2008; Zonin, Castello del Poggio, Moscato d'Asti DOCG, N/V. The names of these wines and their information were included in the event program. (The menu and list of wines are posted on the Society's website.)

At the end of the awards ceremony and dinner, ASILM members danced late into the night to the music of Panorama Music. The songs ranged from jazz standards to current top 40 hits.

In closing, the revised Gala program that highlighted a special awards ceremony and excellent Italian wine and cuisine, the new and aesthetically outstanding setting of The Pierre Hotel, and the presence of many distinguished ASILM members, VIP and friends of the Society all contributed to a successful evening to be remembered for years to come. ■

More pictures of the 47th Annual ASILM Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony are available on the Society's website:

www.asilm.org/photo-gallery/

Bottom Left: The crowd toasts the presidents of Italy and the United States.

Bottom Right: Dr. Caputo leads the toast, thus beginning the opening ceremony of the 47th Annual ASILM Gala.





(L to R): Mrs. Susy Musella and Cav. Aniello Musella, Italian Trade Commissioner, arrive at the reception.



(L to R): Mrs. Barbara Desiderio, Mr. Frank Desiderio, Esq., and Gr. Uff. Angelo Gimondo.



Mrs. Nancy Panepinto and Cav. Hon. Paul Panepinto at the reception.



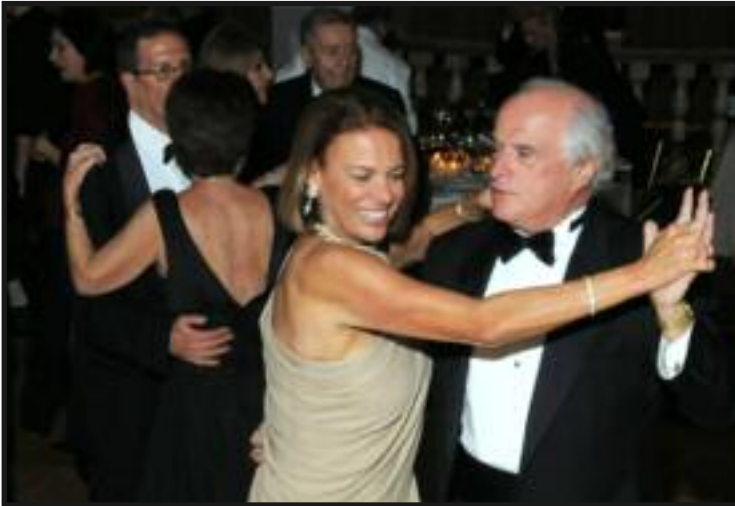
Min. Natalia Quintavalle speaks with Cav. del Lavoro, Maestro Arnaldo Pomodoro, recipient of the Grand Award of Merit.



H.E., The Most Reverend Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, gives the invocation at the Gala.



(L to R): Uff. Joseph Sciame, Brig. Gen. Mario Sumatra and Mrs. Carla Murru Sumatra enjoy the gourmet dinner.



ASILM members and their guests dance at the 47th celebration of the Society.



Ms. Shari Minetti sings the national anthems of Italy and the U.S. Panorama Music was the musical entertainment of the evening.

AWARDS CEREMONY



(L to R): Comm. Sirio Maccioni, Cav. Irma Jaffe and Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi stand on stage wearing their medals after being honored with the ASILM Medal of Merit. Each came up on stage as soon as Ms. Laura Savini announced their names to accept their medal, and were then presented their medal by ASILM President Lucio Caputo. They were recognized with this special award for having their current decoration - given because of some personal quality or the rendering of a special service - for the longest period of time.



Dr. Lucio Caputo (C) presents the Special Award of Merit to (L to R): Ms. Clio Biondi Santi of Biondi Santi, Mrs. Giovanna Folonari of Folonari Tenute, Mr. Marcello Lunelli of Cantine Ferrari, Cav. del Lavoro Diego Planeta of Planeta, Dr. Sergio Zingarelli of Rocca della Macie, Executive Chef Filippo Gozzoli, Executive Chef Ashfer Biju, Mr. Francesco Rabellino of Casa Vinicola Zonin, Ms. Audrey Herd-Smith of Antinori (not in picture) and Ms. Myriam Brunetti of Casa di Grazia (not in picture). Each of these leading wine producers donated wine that was paired with the menu, which was prepared by Chef Gozzoli and Chef Biju.



GRAND AWARD OF MERIT AWARDEES



Top Left: Dr. Michelassi accepts his award from Dr. Lucio Caputo and Ms. Laura Savini in recognition of his achievements in the field of medicine.

Top Right: Amb. Spogli accepts his award from Dr. Caputo and Ms. Savini in recognition of his achievements in the field of politics.



Left: Maestro Pomodoro accepts his award from Dr. Caputo and Ms. Savini in recognition of his achievements in the field of art.

Bottom Left: Justice Scalia accepts his award from Dr. Caputo and Ms. Savini in recognition of his achievements in the field of justice.

Bottom Right: Justice Scalia gives a speech to fellow ASILM members and guests in attendance.





ANNUAL ASILM BOARD MEETING

ASILM conducted its Annual Board Meeting on Monday, November 19, 2012, at the offices of Pavia & Harcourt LLP.

The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the 47th Annual ASILM Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony and the forthcoming trip to Sicily.

The meeting was also important because 2012 was an election year. It was then necessary to hold the elections of officers and directors on the Board, all of whom were appointed by a nominating committee.

In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the ASILM By-Laws, ASILM President Lucio Caputo appointed a Nominating Committee for the elections.

Uff. Hon. Eugene Nardelli was the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Other members of the committee included Cav. Francesco De Angelis, Comm. Sirio Maccioni, Cav. Berardo Paradiso and Comm. Enzo Viscusi.

The Nominating Committee proposed to the Board of Directors to renew the January 2013 to January 2015 term of all the then current officers: Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo, President; Uff. Hon. Marie Garibaldi, Executive Vice President; Cav. di Gran Croce Lawrence Auriana, Secretary; Comm. Salvatore Salibello, Treasurer; Comm. George Pavia, Counselor; and Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, Chief of Protocol.

The Nominating Committee also proposed to fill the vacant positions in the Board with the following ASILM members: Comm. Robert Allegrini, Cav. Vivian Cardia and Comm. Marco Grassi.

The Board accepted the Nominating Committee's proposal for renewing by acclamation the terms of the officers, and confirmed the three new directors.

The three new directors were nominated to the Board, because of their clear dedication and active involvement with the Society. Their biographies are the following:

Comm. Robert Allegrini is the Vice President of Communications, the Americas and Luxury Brands for Hilton Worldwide, overseeing brand public relations for Waldorf Astoria Hotels and Conrad Hotels & Resorts worldwide, in addition to managing the public relations team that serves all of Hilton Worldwide's full service, corporate-managed properties throughout the Western hemisphere.

Cav. Vivian Cardia is an active participant in the Italian-American community. She received her Broker-Dealer License in 1982, and was among the first Italian-American women on the American Stock Exchange. Besides being a member of ASILM and the National Organization of Italian-American Women (NOIAW), she's involved in other prestigious organizations, such as the Columbus Citizens Foundation, High Ridge Country and Liguri Nel Mondo.

Comm. Marco Grassi is one of the world's foremost private restorers and conservators in New York, and an expert in Italian old masters paintings. In the early 1960s, he began a private practice in Florence where he served as visiting and consulting conservator to many important private collectors, including H.H. Thyssen-Bornemisza in Lugano and Norton Simon in Pasadena. Since 1974, his activities have mostly been in New York where he runs the prestigious gallery, Grassi Studio. ■

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

October 26, 2012, Comm. Marco Grassi is welcomed as a new member of the Society of the Cincinnati (New Jersey) at the headquarters of the General Society, Anderson House, Washington D.C. A non-profit educational organization, the Society of the Cincinnati is the nation's oldest patriotic organization that was founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution. ■



Comm. Marco Grassi (far left) with members of the Society of the Cincinnati.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG OF ITALY

Otherwise known as “Il Tricolore” in Italian, the flag of Italy consists of three vertical bands of equal sized colors of green, white and red (as dictated in Article 12 of the Italian Constitution). The green band is on the hoist side. The present day flag was created in June 1946, and was formally adopted in January 1948.

The original flag was created in 1797 by the Cispadane Republic. It followed Napoleon’s successful campaign in Italy, and was inspired by the French flag that was created in 1790. The original flag also consisted of red, white and green. The red and white were inspired by the flag of Milan, and the green represented the uniforms worn by the Milanese civic guards.



There are, however, many interpretations that go with the colors of the flag. One interpretation is that the green represents Italy’s landscape; white the snow-capped Alps; and red, the blood spilt during the violent struggle in the Wars of Italian Independence. Another interesting, more religious interpretation is that the colors represent theological virtues: green represents hope, white means faith, and the red is symbolic of charity. A third interpretation is that green symbolizes hope, white represents peace, and red means strength.

Italy celebrates Flag Day each year on January 7. ■



MAROSTICA’S CHESS FESTIVAL

Marostica is a picturesque town located in northern Italy in the province of Vicenza, Veneto. The town is also known all over the world as the “City of Chess” for its fascinating human chess tournament.

During this “living game,” participants (as well as most of the town) dress up in costumes resembling human chess pieces, and play out the game of chess in the main square.

Every second weekend in September in even-numbered years, the town re-enacts a fictional play, written by comedy writer Vucetich Mirko.

The play is about the local ruler Taddeo Parisio who had a beautiful daughter named Lionora. She had two suitors - Renaldo D’Anganaro and Vieri da Vallanora - but rather than letting

them fight a duel to the death, Lord Parisio proposed a chess match instead with the winner receiving her hand in marriage and the loser marrying her younger sister, Oldrada.

The event follows a unique tradition that was first started after WWI, when local chess club members started playing chess in the main square and one day decided to play a game of chess using people as the actual game pieces. ■

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

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Save the Date...

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

**Details on the trip, the full travel
program & the reservation form
are all available on the
Society's website:**

www.asilm.org

**There are still some spots open.
If you wish to take part
in this exciting trip to Sicily,
make your reservations now,
as space is very limited.**

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

Editor, Il Cavaliere, American Society of the
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P.O. Box 789,
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Comm. Stefano Acunto, Publisher
Cav. di Gran Croce Lucio Caputo, Editor
Kimberly Fry, Co-Editor
Gina Marie Balog, Production Manager

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