



VOL. 9 NO. 3 JULY 2013

IL CAVALIERE

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

48TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER DANCE & AWARDS CEREMONY

February 20, 2014, is the date for the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit's 48th Annual Gala Dinner Dance & Awards Ceremony, a black-tie festivity that is not to be missed. The February event will be staged in the elegant Grand Ballroom of The Pierre, the world-renowned hotel on Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park.

Tradition has dictated that the ASILM Gala be held annually in December. However, some members requested that the Society stage the event in February, a time when tourism is at a low and more hotel rooms, including rooms at The Pierre, are available for those traveling long distances to New York City to attend the event.

The ASILM Gala is organized every year to honor

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

FORTHCOMING TRIP TO PIEDMONT

Following the success of the trip to Rome in November 2011 and the most recent trip to Sicily last March, a third adventurous trip is currently being organized by the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, this time to the majestic region of Piedmont. The trip to Piedmont is tentatively scheduled for June 21 to 29, 2014.

The benefits of these trips to Italy are immensely important for the Society. One such positive effect is the opportunity the trips offer members to meet one another and become acquainted, a near-impossibility for some who live far from the New York headquarters where most of the Society's events take place and where the majority of members reside. Indeed, some find they have no way of meeting fellow ASILM members at all because of the mileage between them.

Distance is often an obstacle for those who desire to meet their fellow members at the Gala, the Diplomatic Reception or other event held by the Society. For example, members living in Texas who do not want to spend money on a trip to New York for an ASILM event that takes place for just one

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FUNDING BEGINS FOR NEW ASILM SCHOLARSHIP

The American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit is pleased to announce that it is planning to establish a fund to finance scholarships for undergraduate college students who would like to pursue a degree in the Italian language.

This comes after some recent suggestions from ASILM board and members who would like to see the Society more involved in the field of education and to encourage the study and use of the Italian language in the United States.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



A view of the enchanting region of Piedmont, Italy.



evening may find it more worthwhile investing in a trip to Italy where they will simultaneously be exposed to a beautiful country while spending more time getting to know members and creating close ties.

As demonstrated in the past two trips, members developed and strengthened their friendships with one another as they experienced the many sites Italy has to offer, and later shared these special moments upon their return to the United States.

Another invaluable benefit of these trips is that they produce revenue for the Society, as all members of the delegation participating in the program pay for their own land packages, hotels included. Furthermore, the land package is set at a special competitive price that is contained at the lowest amount possible thanks to sponsorship.

Ultimately, the trips are vital in serving the mission of ASILM. That is, they strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship exist-



A trip to Turin would not be complete without a visit to the Egyptian Museum, one of the most renowned museums dedicated to Egyptian artifacts in the world.

ing between Italy and the United States. Members of the Society who participate act as ambassadors as they venture to Italy and meet with the most important Italian authorities, and, consequently, establish the Society's name in the minds and hearts of Italians.

Surrounded on three sides by the Alps, Piedmont rests on the border of France, Switzerland and the Italian regions of Lombardy, Liguria, Aosta Valley and a small section of Emilia Romagna. It is the second largest of Italy's twenty regions, after Sicily. Although it is predominantly a mountainous region, with extensive hills, plains and picturesque towns, the lowland area is a fertile agricultural region.

For this upcoming trip, members of the ASILM delegation would



The Turin skyline showing the Mole Antonelliana (the symbol of the city), and the Alps in the background.

spend the majority of their time in the city of Turin, the capital of Piedmont and the fourth largest city in all of Italy. Turin's history is filled with war and struggle. It became the first capital of unified Italy in 1861 and was the residence of Italy's royal family, the House of Savoy. Additionally, Turin was and still remains a major center for industry, commerce and trade, despite much of its importance being lost during World War II.

Turin is a verdant city filled with numerous exciting sites, historic bars and cafes, and memorable piazzas and buildings, many of which were designed in the baroque, rococo, neo-classical and Art Nouveau styles. A large portion of Turin's piazzas, castles, gardens and palaces (i.e., Palazzo Madama) were erected in the 16th and 18th centuries following the shift of the capital of Duchy of Savoy (later called Kingdom of Sardinia) from Chambery (later France) to Turin as a result of urban expansion. However, Turin is not an archaic city stuck in the past; it offers many contemporary



The National Automobile Museum in Turin is one of the many sites to be visited during the trip program.



ASILM

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE
ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT

OFFICERS

(1/1/2013-1/1/2015)

PRESIDENT

Cav. di Gran Croce, Dr. Lucio Caputo

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi

SECRETARY

Cav. di Gran Croce, Lawrence E. Auriana

TREASURER

Comm. Salvatore M. Salibello

CHANCELLOR

Gr. Uff. Hon. Guido Calabresi

COUNSELOR

Comm. George M. Pavia, Esq.

CHIEF OF PROTOCOL & PRESIDENT EMERITA

Gr. Uff. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo

DIRECTORS

(1/1/2013-1/1/2015)

Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Dominic R. Massaro,

Honorary Chairman

Comm. Stefano Acunto

Comm. Robert V. Allegrini

Gr. Uff. Amb. Daniele D. Bodini

Cav. Vivian Cardia

Comm. Marco Grassi

Uff. Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli

Cav. Berardo Paradiso

Cav. Joseph Perella

Cav. di Gran Croce, B.ssa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò'

Amb. Claudio Bisogniero, *ex officio*

Amb. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, *ex officio*

Min. Natalia Quintavalle, *ex officio*

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

(1/1/2013-1/1/2015)

Comm. Robert V. Allegrini, *North Central*



Santuario Basilica La Consolata is a major attraction in Turin, drawing tourists from across the globe.



A spectacular view of the Royal Palace of La Venaria Reale.

art installations and fashionable events.

The city's museums are of particular interest to visitors, particularly its special gem, the Egyptian Museum (Museo Egizio), considered to be a must-see while in Turin. The Egyptian Museum is one of the most important museums dedicated to Egyptian history and artifacts, and is as highly regarded as those in London and Cairo. The museum's superb collections and artifacts date as far back as 4,000 years.

Turin is also home to the National Automobile Museum, one of the oldest automotive museums in the world and the only one of its kind in Italy. It is fitting that such a unique museum resides in Turin, considering it is the birthplace of much of the Italian automotive industry, including Fiat. Turin is even sometimes referred to as the "Automobile Capital of Italy." The museum contains almost 200 original cars dating from the mid-19th century to the



The delegation will visit Fontanafredda to taste a variety of exceptional wines for which Piedmont is known.

present day, as well as more than eight varieties of vehicles from Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Spain, Poland and the United States.

Other prominent museums in Turin are: the Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (GAM), the Cinema Museum, the Mole Antonelliana, the Pietro Micca Museum (dedicated to the patriot who was a major help in preventing the French siege in 1706), the Sindone Museum (otherwise known as the Holy Shroud museum), the Decorative Art Museum and the Risorgimento Museum. There is also the Palazzo Madama, which hosts the Ancient Art Museum of Turin and displays antique sculptures, an art gallery and a vast collection of porcelains.

Turin is also home to many lovely churches that attract visitors from across the globe. One of the most radiant and beloved baroque churches in Turin is Santuario Basilica La Consolata, which is filled with divine frescos, heavenly baroque architecture and a distinctive collection of paintings.

Another well-known church is the San Lorenzo, which is adorned with an ornate interior and possesses a copy of the Holy Shroud. The actual Holy Shroud lies in the city's cathedral, and it attracts thousands upon thousands of Catholic pilgrims during its rare public unveilings.

The Royal Palace of La Venaria Reale is also an important site to see while in Turin. The palace, which was restored to its original splendor, is one of the largest royal residences in Piedmont, and it is considered by many to be one of the foremost places exhibiting Italian cultural heritage.

Along with its array of famous museums and churches, Piedmont is renowned for its wineries that produce such exceptional wines as Barolo, Barbaresco, Moscato d'Asti and the sparkling Asti from



Santa Margherita Ligure is considered by many to be a paradise.



Portofino rests along the Italian Riviera and is a popular spot in the summertime.

the vineyards around Asti. Alba and Asti are considered the core of Piedmont's wine industry.

Piedmont also boasts an impressive variety of grapes spread throughout the region, including Nebbiolo, Barbera, Dolcetto, Freisa, Grignolino, Roero and Brachetto.

Members of the delegation will have the chance to see many of these churches, museums and wineries, as well as embark on day trips. One such trip will be to Superga, a hilltop town overlooking Turin that offers breathtaking views of the city and a magnificent basilica.

The delegation will also explore towns outside of Turin. One of the trip's destinations is the Fontanafredda and its vineyards and



A fountain in the gardens of Villa Durazzo in Santa Margherita Ligure.

cellars. Built in 1878 for Emanuele di Mirafiori, the son of King Vittorio Emanuele II, the vineyard contains the restored Hunting House of “The Bela Rosin.” This is the location where King Vittorio Emanuele II and the commoner Rosa Vercellana conducted their tumultuous love affair. Rosa later became Countess of Mirafiori and Fontanafredda, the mother of the king’s two children and then hismorganatic wife. Her mausoleum resides in Turin.

Two other ideal day trips scheduled on the tentative program are Portofino and Santa Margherita Ligure, two marvelous neighboring towns settled along the Italian Riviera.

Portofino is located in the province of Genoa. A small Italian fish-

ing village containing approximately 500 residents, Portofino is famous for its strikingly beautiful harbor and its habit of bringing celebrities to its shores. Yachts are a popular site in the harbor, as are beachgoers and divers. Besides its harbor, the village is also home to Castello Brown, which offers unique views of Portofino, and the Church of San Giorgio.

The town of Santa Margherita Ligure, situated near Portofino and southeast of Genoa, is regarded as a paradise by those fortunate enough to visit. The town is not only stunning, but historically fascinating. Some of its sites include: a castle that was built in 1550 by the Republic of Genoa as a defense against attacks from pirates; the Basilica of Saint Margaret of Antioch; the Abbazia della Cervara; and the Villa Durrazzo, which contains lovely gardens and unbeatable views.

The organization of the program is in its beginning phase. Members of ASILM are encouraged to ask questions about the trip or contribute ideas to the itinerary by emailing: president.asilm@yahoo.com. ■

AS SOON AS THE PROGRAM WITH DETAILS ON THE TRIP TO PIEDMONT IS FINALIZED, IT WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE SOCIETY’S WEBSITE (WWW.ASILM.ORG) AND IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF IL CAVALIERE. MEMBERS CAN RESERVE THEIR PLACES NOW BY E-MAILING PRESIDENT.ASILM@YAHOO.COM. RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

(FUNDING BEGINS FOR NEW ASILM SCHOLARSHIP - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The fund will be open to tax-exempt contributions from ASILM members and friends who wish to support the initiative to contribute to Italian education of qualified students. Donors, unless otherwise requested, will be given proper recognition.

The fund will be managed by an independent committee of experts with the purpose of producing the necessary revenue to finance the scholarships.

ASILM will be the first contributor to the fund with an initial donation of \$25,000.

A fundraising committee will be set up to encourage additional donations.

As soon as a substantial amount is reached, a third committee composed of qualified members of the academic world will be set up and will contact universities in the United States to discuss

conditions for the assignment of scholarships.

Universities that offer the best opportunities for applicants will be assigned the scholarships or, upon extensive review, the committee will select the university with the best proposal.

Members of all the committees will perform tasks without any direct or indirect compensations. ■

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ARE WELCOME. IF MEMBERS OF ASILM WISH TO SUBMIT A DONATION, THEY ARE ASKED TO PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT.ASILM@YAHOO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



(48TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER DANCE & AWARDS CEREMONY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Society members with an evening of music, dancing and socializing, plus exquisite food and wine. Moreover, the Gala serves to celebrate Italian excellence throughout the world by showcasing the best of Italian cuisine paired with fine wines provided by top Italian wine producers. Additionally, the Gala features a special awards ceremony.

The awards recognize Italian excellence in a variety of fields, including art, medicine, business, finance, politics and jurisprudence and celebrate prominent individuals who have made significant contributions in Italy and in the United States. Indeed, these awardees are noteworthy for their accomplishments, dedication and leadership, and for having influenced many lives, and whose renown is worldwide. The ceremony features the presentation of two prestigious awards of the Society: the Grand Award of Merit, the highest award given by ASILM, and the Medal of Merit.

At the December 2012 Gala, held under the high patronage of President Giorgio Napolitano, the Society honored four extraordinary leaders in their fields with the Grand Award of Merit: Comm. Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Surgeon-in-Chief at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Arnaldo Pomodoro, the Italian sculptor whose works stand prominently throughout the globe, from the Vatican Museums to the United Nations in New York; Cav. di Gran Croce, Hon. Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; and Gr. Uff. Hon. Ronald Spogli, former United States Ambassador to the Italian Republic. Previous recipients of the award include President of the United States, Hon. George W. Bush, and President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano.

The Medal of Merit, the first of its kind offered by ASILM, is given to members who have held their present decoration - given to them because of some personal quality or the rendering of some special service - for the longest period of time. Previous notable recipients include: Uff. Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi, Cav. Irma Jaffe and Comm Sirio Maccioni.

The awards ceremony is unprecedented in the Society's history. Traditionally, the Grand Award of Merit is given to outstanding leaders in their fields during a private ceremony, attended mainly by the Board of Officers and Directors of ASILM. Although considered important occasions that enhanced the level of the Society, these ceremonies gave little opportunity for many members to witness and participate in this presentation. The forthcoming gala allows members the chance to observe the presentation of the Grand Award of Merit, and to meet and mingle with the awardees before and after the awards ceremony.

Besides the awards ceremony, another highlight of the evening's program will be the three-course dinner prepared by a well-known Italian restaurant in New York City. The dinner will

be accompanied by some of the finest Italian wines to further complement the event.

The Gala will begin with a reception in the Garden Foyer, a stunning space with hand-painted murals from Versailles and lit by antique chandeliers that provide a warm setting for ASILM members and their guests upon arrival. Members will then enter the Grand Ballroom where, as part of tradition, they will listen to the national anthems of Italy and the United States before joining in a toast to the presidents of both countries.

After dinner and following the awards ceremony, members are invited to dance the night away to the live songs of Panorama Music. The dance music will be geared toward all ages, and will range from jazz standards to current top 40 hits.

The dress code for the event is strictly black-tie with decorations.

The upcoming Gala's program, which follows last year's successful one, will deliver a memorable awards ceremony, outstanding Italian wines and cuisine, and the companionship of the many distinguished members and their guests, all in one of the most elegant settings in New York. ■



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.



WINGS OF ITALY EXHIBIT IN CHICAGO

ASILM is proud to have provided a financial contribution to “Wings of Italy: Italian Aeropainting from 1910-1935,” an inspiring and important exhibition of vintage posters that runs through August 2013 at the Willis Tower Lobby in Chicago. The donation was originally suggested by Comm. Robert Allegrini, Director and Regional Vice President of ASILM, who helped to organize the exhibition.

“Wings of Italy” presents an outstanding selection of futurist paintings and avant-garde posters by such artists and illustrators as Mario Sironi, Umberto di Lazzaro, Adolfo Wildt, Giacomo Balla, Tullio Crali, R.M. Baldassari, Umberto Mastroianni, Luigi Martinati and many others, who captured the exciting moment of flight and documented the unfolding saga of Italian aviation in images of exceptional beauty and power.

One of the earliest and most effective means of mass communication, the poster was the perfect medium through which to stimulate popular interest in the aeronautical endeavors and achievements of the day. Aviation began to develop in Italy around 1910, and by the end of the First World War, only Great Britain could boast greater aeronautical prowess. The inter-war years witnessed enormous expansion of civil aviation, as well as a number of record-breaking flights by legendary pilots like Italo Balbo and Francesco de Pinedo.

Chicago holds a unique connection to the advent of Italian aero-engineering. This was particularly exemplified in 1933 during the Century of Progress World’s Fair in Chicago. This international exhibition, which served to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Chicago, dedicated its theme to technological innovation. The fair’s motto was “Science Finds, Industry Applies, Man Conforms.”

The most prominent part of the Century of Progress was the moment when Italian aviator, Italo Balbo, arrived with his squadron of 24 Savoia-Marchetti SM.55X seaplanes during a triumphant transatlantic flight from Rome to Chicago, landing on Lake Michigan close to the fairgrounds. Balbo and his squadron had departed Italy on June 30, 1933, and arrived in Chicago on

July 15th, stopping briefly in Canada and elsewhere along the way.

This journey set an unprecedented record in history. Balbo and his squadron’s accomplishment spoke volumes about Italian aviation, reflecting the advancements in technology during that period.

This celebratory event has become a significant part of Chicago’s history and was a major factor in making the Century of Progress a huge success.

Chicago has had a long-standing tradition as a world leader in aviation. As the headquarters of both United Airlines and the Boeing Company, and with one of the world’s busiest airports, Chicago remains a principal hub of air travel and the aviation industry. This exhibition shows that long before those companies were a presence in the city, Chicago was making aviation history.

Formerly known as the Sears Tower, the Willis Tower stands at an impressive 110 stories and is the second tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, second only to the recently-completed Freedom Tower in New York City. The exhibition is on display in the summer months when the building is most visited.

The Milan Committee of the Sister Cities International with the support of the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago is presenting events and programs in conjunction with the exhibit, including a lecture/discussion about Italy’s engineering and technological advancements; educational opportunities for local school groups to tour the exhibit; and a reception celebrating “Year of Italian Culture” and the 40th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Chicago and Milan.

“Wings of Italy” is presented by the Milan Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, and curated by Massimo & Sonia Cirulli Archive, New York. The Massimo & Sonia Cirulli Archive exhibits its collections in prestigious museums in Italy and abroad. ■



A poster included in “The Wings of Italy” exhibition, which runs through the summer of 2013 in Chicago, IL.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GR. UFF. ANGELO SEDACCA, KGOHS, ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN NOBLE COMPAÑÍA DE BALLESTEROS HIJOSDALGO DE S. FELIPE Y SANTIAGO

By virtue of his 2011 grant of arms from the College of Arms in London, and the registration of his armorial bearings in Spain with the Cronista de Armas de Castilla y León and the Registro Internacional de Armas Gentilicias, Gr. Uff. Angelo Sedacca, KGOHS, was admitted to membership in the Noble Compañía de Ballesteros Hijosdalgo de S. Felipe y Santiago, a noble corporation in Rioja, Spain, which dates to the 14th century.

Guy Stair Sainty, an art dealer and author on royal genealogy and heraldry, mentions the Noble Compañía de Ballesteros Hijosdalgo in his magnum opus, *World Orders of Knighthood and Merit*.

Requiring approval by its Junta de Oficiales, the Noble Compañía de Ballesteros Hijosdalgo (in English: The Noble Company of Knights Arballisters of Sts. Philip and James) is considered a "positive act of nobility," and confirms the hereditary gentility of the armigers admitted. All Ballesteros and their heirs are thus accorded the honorifics DON and DOÑA.

Gr. Uff. Sedacca's hereditary gentle status and membership in the Noble Compañía was also evaluated and confirmed by the Augustan Society, an international non-profit membership organization dedicated to the study of heraldry, genealogy, chivalry, royalty, nobility, and all history, with an emphasis on the period before 1600. ■



CAV. PHILIP DiNOVO KEEPS ALIVE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Association President Philip J. DiNovo stands in front of the American Italian Heritage Museum in Colonie, N.Y. (Cindy Schultz/Times Union)

Cav. Professor Philip J. DiNovo is the Executive Director of The American Italian Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, located in Albany, New York. With 3,000 square feet, it is the largest American Italian museum in the eastern United States.

Cav. DiNovo founded the museum in Utica in 1979 while he was a professor at the State University of New York at Morrisville. It was then relocated to Albany in 2004.

The American Italian Heritage Museum is dedicated to preserving and educating the public through exhibitions, newsletters, cultural programs, activities, projects and outreach. Its collection includes photographs, cooking

utensils, dolls, games, coins and much more. In addition, the cultural center provides Italian language courses.

Currently on view is an exhibit titled "Italian Landscapes Redefined by Linda Labella-Morgan," a collection of watercolor paintings of Italian landscapes and portraits of the artist's family. Earlier this year, the museum organized an exhibition that celebrated the regions of Lazio and Ciociaria, Italy, and displayed photographs, artifacts and memorabilia. ■



COMM. PASQUALE NESTICO IS APPOINTED FILITALIA INTERNATIONAL HONORARY PRESIDENT AND CONGRATULATES ROSETTA MIRIELLO AS THE NEW PRESIDENT

Rosetta Miriello, 52, has been elected president of Filitalia International during its 13th Annual Convention on Sunday, April 14th, at Overbrook Golf Club in Villanova, PA.

Based in Philadelphia, PA, Filitalia is composed of 12 chapters in the USA and Canada, 12 chapters in Italy, and several other chapters in the EU. ■

President Miriello, who was elected unanimously, pledged that Filitalia International will continue to grow both in the USA and elsewhere thanks to the efforts of the Expansion Committee.

President Miriello also pointed out the importance to improve "Il Telegramma." The bilingual bulletin is going to assume a more journalistic style, and expand to all US and non-US chapters' activities inside and outside the organization.

Comm. Pasquale Nestico, an ASILM member and Filitalia outgoing President who guided the organization during the past 21 years, has been unanimously appointed as Filitalia International Honorary President.

President Nestico stated that Filitalia International must improve the International Exchange Program and send 20-30 young professionals every year from Italy to the USA, and vice versa.

"I congratulate President Miriello," said the group's founder, "the first woman elected as Filitalia International President. Her election is a historical page in our organization. Under her presidency, Filitalia International must grow, expanding scholarship and cultural programs, consolidating chapter activity and improving communication with a new magazine and a website."

In addition to US chapter delegates, Filitalia Italian District Governor Daniele Marconcini (as Mantova Italy Chapter delegate) attended the convention, as well as the Cremona Italy Chapter President Matteo Cazzulani.

Filitalia is a US philanthropic foundation active in the spread of Italian language and culture worldwide.



At Overbrook Golf Club in Villanova, PA, Filitalia International held its 13th Annual Convention. The participants elected Rosetta Mirello the Filitalia International President and Filitalia International founder Pasquale Nestico the Honorary President of the organization, and renewed both the Executive Committee and members of the Board of Directors.

IN MEMORIAM

- Elliott Carter
- Enzo Centofanti
- Joseph Centofanti
- Luigi Sardelli
- Angelo Vinciguerra



DID YOU KNOW?



Statue “floating” above Fontana del Frejus in Piazza Statuto in Turin. Many believe this is a statue of the fallen angel Lucifer.

THE MAGICAL CITY OF TURIN

There are many believers who consider Turin, the capital of Piedmont, to be a city brimming with magic and mystery; a unique place where “Good” is constantly battling “Evil.”

According to legend, the city is part of two mystical triangles: the triangle of white magic (with Lyon and Prague) and the triangle of black magic (with London and San Francisco).

The city’s white magic side is found in Piazza Castello, the heart of Turin. Some believe that this piazza is a center for positive and benevolent energy, found particularly between the statues of the two Dioscuri (the mythological twins of Castor and Pollux), and that it acts as the boundary separating the city of saints from the city of devils.

The black magic side of Turin is repre-

sented by Piazza Statuto with its Fontana del Frejus, a black stone monument that honors those who were killed during the construction of the tunnel of the same name. The statue floating above the Fontana del Frejus allegorizes the obstacles faced in the conquest of knowledge. However, some believe that this statue instead represents the lost angel, Lucifer, banished after his rebellion against God. On closer look in the garden in the middle of the piazza, a manhole leading to a cryptic world beneath is noticeable. Most people will say it leads to the sewer system, while others argue that it leads to the Gates of Hell. In any case, this piazza was the location for a large ancient cemetery (a necropolis) during Ancient Roman times.

Some believers claim that it is Turin’s famous shroud that attracts this constant struggle between Good and Evil. ■

THE ENDURING TRADITION OF LA PASSEGGIATA

All over Italy - in the smallest towns and the grandest cities - between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m., Italians take a stroll through the main city streets or central piazzas, keeping alive a tradition that has endured for as long as many can remember. This evening stroll is called “La Passeggiata.” The word stems from the verb passeggiare, which means “to walk” or “to stroll” in Italian.

It is a time when people can meet to socialize before the family dinner, especially on weekdays. People come together to share gossip, greet and enjoy time with friends and discuss the day’s news. The passeggiata becomes an even more significant occasion on Saturday and Sunday: it is the main social event of the day for families to join one another and set out to walk the streets at a slow, leisurely pace.

The main aspect of the passeggiata is to see and be seen. Accordingly, people tend to dress in their finest, most stylish clothing either to impress others or to signify that life for them is going well.

Originally, the passeggiata was a tradition for young unmarried women to wear their most elegant clothes and to proceed to flirt with men who could potentially become their husbands. Their parents would keep a close, watchful eye when this hap-

pened, hoping the right suitor would come along during one of these evening strolls.

Today, the passeggiata is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, and expresses the importance Italians place on appearance, family and community. ■





A FOND FAREWELL TO DR. LAURA AGHILARRE, DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL OF ITALY IN NEW YORK AND A CLOSE FRIEND TO ASILM

Dr. Laura Aghilarre assumed her post as Consul of Italy in New York on September 1, 2009. On July 2, 2011, she was promoted to the rank of Deputy Consul General.

Dr. Aghilarre developed her strong friendship with the Society during her tenure at the Consulate. She attended several ASILM Galas and diplomatic and consular corps receptions at the prestigious Columbus Townhouse throughout the years, meeting and befriending many members of the Society.

On September 2, 2013, she will begin her new position as First Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (EOCD) in Paris, France.

Upon successfully completing a national competitive exam in 1996, she started her diplomatic career and was assigned first to the Directorate General for Development Co-operation and then to the cabinet of the Undersecretary of State, serving until 2000.

From 2000 to 2004, she was in Montreal where she was Alternate Representative of Italy to the International Civil Aviation Organization and Commercial Consul.

In 2005, she returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome and in 2006 was promoted to the rank of counselor.

From January 2005 to August 2009, she was assigned to the Department for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction of the Directorate General for Multilateral Political Affairs.

Born in Rome, she completed her studies at La Sapienza University and majored in political science, graduating summa cum laude in 1994.

The Society recognizes and appreciates her sincere friendship and support for the organization, and wishes her the best of luck as she takes on her new position abroad. ■



Dr. Laura Aghilarre, Deputy Consul General of Italy in New York from July 2011 to August 2013, will assume her new position at the Permanent Mission of Italy in September 2013.

IL CAVALIERE

AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF THE ITALIAN
LEGIONS OF MERIT



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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 3629

Save the Dates...

48th Annual ASILM Gala Dinner Dance & Awards Ceremony

February 20, 2014

For more pictures from previous editions of the annual ASILM Galas, please visit Photo Gallery on the website of the Society:

www.asilm.org



Trip to Piedmont, Italy

June 21 - 29, 2014

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

IL CAVALIERE
AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF THE ITALIAN LEGIONS OF MERIT



Il Cavaliere is an official publication of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization legally incorporated in the State of New York.

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