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**IHCC-NY ANNOUNCES 2018 ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE THEME**

***A Salute to Italian Women in America: Breaking Barriers  
....From Ellis Island to the Present***

The Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc. has announced its 2018 theme: Italian Women in America: Breaking Barriers. Italian and Italian American women have been trailblazers---from the early immigrant mothers, who courageously entered the workforce, first, in the shadows of their male counterparts, to women, such as, Mother Cabrini, founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1880; Rosa Ponselle, considered as one of the greatest sopranos, whose opera career began at age 21 in a performance with Enrico Caruso; Bonnie Tiburzi, the first woman airline pilot for a major airline in 1973 at the age of 24 years old; Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman candidate in 1984 for Vice President of the US; present day Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House; and numerous other Italian American women of accomplishment. During 2018, IHCC-NY, Inc. will highlight some of these remarkable women, who were pioneers in their fields, creating new expectations, equality and opening new possibilities for all women and who were “first” in their area of expertise.

During the year, and especially in October’s Italian Heritage and Culture Month, there will be film and theatre presentations, symposia, seminars, a student essay contest, proclamations and tributes to those Italian Americans women who have been the trailblazers. In addition, there will be a special recognition, the IHCC-NY’s highest honor, the Leonardo daVinci award, granted to an Italian American woman honoree for her noteworthy achievements.

The IHCC-NY, Inc. is now in its 42nd year of promoting, presenting and preserving Italian and Italian American culture and heritage in the Tri-State area. The committee of leaders in the Italian and Italian American community continues its year-round celebration of an annual theme, which is mirrored by others in their event programming throughout New York and in other cities in America. Joseph Sciame, president/chair of the IHCC-NY, Inc. recently stated: “It is a distinct honor and privilege for us all to recognize women who have their DNA roots from Italy, and who have contributed so very much, first and foremost as our grandmothers, mothers, spouses, aunts, sisters and friends, and second, for excellence in their related fields of endeavor.”

The public’s interest and support of the Committee’s educational materials, including theme related posters, bookmarks and booklets, which are then distributed free to educational and cultural institutions, is appreciated. This enables the Committee’s ongoing education of the general public about the merits of Italian and Italian American culture.

For the underwriting of the IHCC-NY’s educational materials, which will be noted in the Committee’s annual calendar of events, donations can be made by check to: IHCC-NY, Inc. and mailed to IHCC-NY, Inc. c/o Joan Migliori, 25 W. 43 St., 17th Floor, NY, NY 10036. For additional information, please call, 212-642-2094.

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