



*Embassy of Italy*

*Washington*  
*The Ambassador*

Prot. 3031

*July 13, 2021*

Cari Amici, dear Friends,

I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the Italian Heritage & Culture Committee of New York (IHCC-NY) on the occasion of its 45th Anniversary. The IHCC-NY has been a point of reference in the celebrations of the Italian Heritage and Culture Month.

IHCC-NY has greatly contributed, through its many years of activity, to strengthening the relationship between our countries by supporting and promoting Italian culture, language and heritage in New York.

This year's theme "DANTE 700! Celebrating the Genius of Dante; The Great Poet Who Unified Italy Through Language" offers the opportunity to highlight the role of the *Sommo Poeta's* decisive cultural, linguistic and artistic contribution to the formation of Italy and to our national identity abroad. It's an important addition to the events organized by the Embassy and the diplomatic and cultural network in the US on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri.

Our Italian language network was resilient, in spite of the suspension of "in person" classes following the global pandemic. Both teachers and students showed the strong desire to study our *Bella Lingua*. Italy is the second destination country abroad for student tourism with almost 40,000 American students a year. This initiative of IHCC-NY is most welcome to educate ever more people from the Italian American community and to increase the number of students learning Italian.

With this in mind, I would like to express my appreciation to President and Chairman Joseph Sciamè and the entire Board of Directors and wish a very successful 45th Italian Heritage and Culture Month.



L'Ambasciatrice  
Mariangela Zappia