



**COREY JOHNSON**  
SPEAKER



THE COUNCIL OF  
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October 1, 2021

Dear Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York:

On behalf of the New York City Council, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your 45th anniversary.

From its beginning, the IHCC-NY, Inc. has provided special events, concerts, exhibits, lectures, and more to celebrate Italian and Italian American culture in New York City -- the largest Italian city outside Italy -- and beyond.

The IHCC-NY, Inc. also sponsors annual Italian Heritage and Culture Month activities, promotes the study of Italian language and culture among all ethnic groups, engenders pride in Italian-Americans about their own rich history, and encourages positive portrayals of Italians and Americans of Italian descent in the media and with the general public.

The theme this year of Italian Heritage and Culture Month, "DANTE 700! Celebrating the Genius of Dante," honors the legacy of the first poet to use the Florentine vernacular, rather than Latin, in a major literary work. His Italian became the accepted national language, unifying the people of Italy across diverse regions and dialects.

The story of the Italian people is an essential part of the narrative of the United States. The values of the Italian community -- love of family, a strong work ethic, and a great respect for heritage -- are American values.

For these reasons and more, we are very proud to have organizations such as the IHCC-NY, Inc. fostering a greater awareness of and appreciation for the extraordinary roles that Italians and Italian-Americans have played in shaping New York City and the world.

Again congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

**COREY JOHNSON**  
Speaker