Embassy of Monaco to the United States and Canada

News and Selection of Activities

January - March, 2019

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Diplomacy

Photo: Dr. Giuseppe Mazza
From February 24th through 26th, the U.S. Department of State organized a trip to the Gulf Coast of southern state of Mississippi as part of its respected cultural and business program, “Experience America.” The program offered invaluable opportunities for Heads of Mission to meet well-established regional professionals in various economic, political, and scientific capacities, and entertained roughly 30 ambassadors over a three-day period.

Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle toured Mississippi’s Port of Gulfport, discussed oceanographic work at the University of Southern Mississippi, and examined future space exploration efforts at the INFINITY Science Center.

These events were followed by visits to the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, and Naval Construction Battalion Center (the U.S. Navy’s global natural disaster response center).

Informative meetings with economic and political leaders were arranged and included representatives of the Gulf Coast Business Council; the Council’s President and CEO, Ashley Edwards; the Mayor of Biloxi, Andrew Gilich; and the Governor of Mississippi, the Honorable Phil Bryant.
Governor General of Canada Hosts Diplomatic Luncheon for Women Heads of Mission

On March 27th, H.E. the Rt. Hon. Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, hosted a luncheon at her official Ottawa residence and workplace, Rideau Hall, to bring together 20 female Heads of Mission accredited to Canada, as well as Ottawa’s Mayor, the Hon. Jim Watson, and Ms. Karine Asselin, Executive Director of Canada’s United Nations Security Council Campaign.

This gathering marked the founding of the Association of Women Ambassadors, an association that strives to bring accredited ambassadors to Canada and foster collaborative conversations within the international diplomatic corps. Pressing topics within the diplomatic community include sustainable development, humanitarianism, education, sciences, among others.

In addition to the afternoon at Rideau Hall, Ambassador Maccario Doyle met several senior officials in Canada’s Ministry of Global Affairs. Accompanied by the Embassy of Monaco’s Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Karine Médecin, the Ambassador met with Canada’s Chief of Protocol, Mr. Stewart Wheeler; Director General of European Affairs, Mr. Robert Fry; and Ms. Shannon-Marie Soni, Director of Environment and Climate Change. These informative exchanges emphasized the continuance of longstanding collaborative efforts between Monaco and Canada.
Events
Cultural and Charitable

Photo: Tomas Abreu
Washington Winter Show

“Elegant Entertaining” was the theme of the 2019 Washington Winter Show’s “Washington Antiques Show,” the annual event which brings together US and European dealers in art, antiques and collectibles; washingtonwintershow.org/.

Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle was invited to serve as this year’s Honorary Diplomatic Chair and attend the opening celebrations. In her welcome letter published in the Show’s official catalog, the Ambassador said that, growing up in Monaco as the daughter of an antiques dealer, “… it was my privilege to discover -- and be inspired by -- a world of history, craftsmanship, artistry, and the breadth and depth of human creativity.”

“This weekend it is my privilege to serve as Honorary Diplomatic Chair of the 2019 Washington Winter Show, and to welcome you all to celebrate the fine philanthropic traditions for which the Show is renowned throughout Washington, D.C. Monaco and the United States share deep historical connections and I’m so very proud to support in a small way, the Washington Winter Show’s meaningful charitable and philanthropic spirit…”

Created in 1955, this annual show, held between January 11th-13th, is one of the finest events of its kind in the United States. This year’s three-day event attracted more than 40 exhibitors from the United States and Europe. Since its creation, the event has raised more than $8.5 million, which have been donated to a variety of Washington D.C.-area charities that support children and low-income families in the region.


On February 28th, the Ambassador of Monaco attended The Washington Ballet’s debut performance of “The Sleeping Beauty” at the Kennedy Center. One of the show’s star dancers, Gian Carlo Perez, was a recipient of the 2017 Princess Grace Dance Fellowship. One of several fellowships awarded by the Foundation, the Fellowship in Dance is considered among the most prestigious dance awards in the world. He danced, during alternating presentations in this production, two leading roles: Prince Désiré and Carabosse. The classic production received unanimous audience and critical praise. Mr. Perez’s performances were sponsored by the Princess Grace Foundation-USA.

Audiences may soon witness special performances by The Washington Ballet and various Princess Grace Foundation award winners, in partnership with the Embassy of Monaco, to commemorate Princess Grace’s 90th anniversary.
For its 61st edition, the American Red Cross organized, on February 9th, its annual Ball in Palm Beach, Florida. This year’s theme, “A Salute to the Military,” paid homage to the long-standing ties between the American Red Cross and United States Armed Forces.

The event was held under the auspices of the American Red Cross, led by former Ambassador Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, in the presence of the Distinguished Honorary Chairs General Richard Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Mary Jo Myers.

The reception gathered many ambassadors, diplomats, and patrons from around the world to honor Gold Star mothers whose sons or daughters laid down their lives while serving their country. The funds raised from the event have been donated to the Red Cross to support its main mission: to prevent and mitigate human suffering in crisis situations through the mobilization of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

Speaking at the Ball, H.E. Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle shared that the Monegasque Red Cross was founded in 1948 by Prince Louis II, and with the assistance of Princess Grace of Monaco, the “Bal de la Croix-Rouge” became one of the country’s most prestigious annual events. She stated that under the presidency of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, the Red Cross of the Monaco, now in its 71st year, has raised more than one million dollars. “The Red Cross is made up of more than 500 Monegasque volunteers who provide rapid global disaster support in humanitarian crises and daily assistance to the sick, disabled and elderly individuals in the Principality.” The Ambassador concluded by welcoming guests to attend the Monegasque Red Cross Ball on July 26, 2019.
Philadelphia Flower Show

To mark the start of Spring each year in March, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) hosts the spectacular garden and floral show, “The Philadelphia Flower Show.” Now in its 190th edition, the 2019 Show dazzled guests with its theme “Flower Power.”

Since 1829, the PHS has organized the flower exhibition, now regarded as the oldest and largest in the U.S. Over nine days, the show attracts roughly 250,000 visitors, with all proceeds funding the Society and its 70,000 members. In 1990, H.R.H. The Princess of Hanover Princess Caroline participated in the Flower Show Awards to celebrate the bonds between Princess Grace’s Garden Club of Monaco and her hometown’s Philadelphia Horticultural Society.

Next year’s widely-anticipated show theme will be “Riviera Holiday,” and, due in part to the deepening ties between the Society and the Embassy of Monaco, the Principality can look forward to a featured spot at 2020’s exciting floral extravaganza.
On March 7th, the Ambassador of Monaco joined diplomatic colleagues invited by the U.S. Department of State to an esteemed award ceremony entitled the “International Women of Courage Awards.” Led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the female awardees were selected by U.S. embassies and consulates abroad for their extraordinary courage and leadership in the fight for social justice, human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

First Lady of the United Sates, Melania Trump, was also in attendance to congratulate and present awards to the distinguished female awardees.

Originally established in 2007, this year’s ceremony honored a dozen women from different corners of the world, including the recognition of a posthumous laureate and all Iranian women in their struggle to improve women’s rights.
Inauguration of Prince Albert II Foundation Offices in Philadelphia

The new offices of the U.S. chapter of the Prince Albert II Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, occupy the beautiful former residence of the Kelly family, the birthplace of Princess Grace. The home was purchased in 2017 by H.S.H Prince Albert II.

Recent new local council zoning regulations have enabled the house to accommodate the Foundation’s operations, including administrative offices that support the foundation’s environmental conservation efforts.

President of the U.S. branch of the Foundation, Mr. John B. Kelly, welcomed roughly 100 guests into the Kelly House on January 31st. Among the esteemed guests were members of the Foundation’s US board including H.E. Maguy Maccario Doyle, Vice President; Mr. John Coffman, Executive Director of the Foundation; representatives of various public authorities and associations; and educational and environmental groups.

Concert for International Francophonie Day

To celebrate International Francophonie Day in Washington, D.C., the Embassy of Canada, in partnership with the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees, presented a lively Acadian music concert on March 21st. Featuring the Canadian band, VISHTEN, the concert was well-received by a large audience, including the Embassy of Monaco’s Deputy Chief of Mission, Mme. Karine Médecin. The performance venue was Coolidge Auditorium, in the exceptional Thomas Jefferson Building Library of Congress.

At a reception following the concert, Deputy Chief of Mission to the Embassy of Canada, Ms. Kirsten Hillman addressed guests, emphasizing the importance of the French heritage that Canada shares with its U.S. neighbors. This linkage allows both countries to participate in the large Francophone community that spans the globe.
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Photo: Flower Wall by Zertrin, Deviant Art, 2007