

CONSUL GENERAL...

DISTINGUISHED FRIENDS, GUESTS...

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS EVENING TO SHARE IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT CELEBRATION.

LET ME ALSO WELCOME OUR FRIENDS FROM MILAN WHO ARE VISITING WITH US THIS EVENING...

LET'S GIVE THEM A WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

"THOSE WHO TELL STORIES RULE THE WORLD..."

THIS QUOTE IS ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH PLATO AND ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICANS, BUT NO MATTER WHO SAID IT FIRST...

THE TRUTH IT CONTAINS LIVES WITH US TODAY.

STORIES HAVE THE POWER TO CAPTIVATE AND SHAPE THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD...

AND TO USE ANOTHER QUOTE, "WORDS ARE THE WAY WE THINK, STORIES ARE THE WAY WE LINK..."

WE ALL HAVE STORIES, AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THE STORIES THAT LINK US TOGETHER...

THAN THROUGH THE THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM'S 14THTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ART OF STORYTELLING!

THE FACT THAT WE ARE ALL HERE TONIGHT SHOWS THAT LIBRARIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN OUR LIVES.

OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM STARTED THE ART OF STORYTELLING BACK IN 2000.

IT'S AN EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT STORYTELLING PLAYS IN EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

THIS ANCIENT TRADITION CARRIES THE RICH HISTORIES AND VALUES OF PAST GENERATIONS...

AND IS AS VITAL TODAY AS IT WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

IN THE PAST 14 YEARS, OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM HAS PARTNERED WITH LIBRARIES FROM ALL OVER!

JAMAICA, GHANA, IRELAND, THE BAHAMAS, HAITI, PUERTO RICO, TRINIDAD, BRAZIL, FRANCE, COLOMBIA, CANADA, ARGENTINA, DENMARK, TAIWAN, MADRID, AND NOW MILAN, ITALY.

WE DO THIS NOT ONLY TO EXPLORE THE CREATIVE WAYS STORYTELLING IS USED IN OTHER CULTURES...

BUT BECAUSE MIAMI IS A COMMUNITY BUILT ON DIVERSITY.

THIS IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE AND CULTURES INTERACT...

AND WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO THE STORIES FROM THOSE WHO COME TO US FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I KNOW THAT THE DELEGATION FROM MILAN HAS SPENT THE LAST FEW DAYS GETTING TO KNOW OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTY AND LEARNING ABOUT OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM.

MILAN IS A CENTER OF ART, CULTURE, AND DESIGN...

HOME TO THE DUOMO, LA SCALLA, AND THE BIBLIOTECA AMBROSIANA.

WE SHARE A LOVE OF CULTURE...

AND TODAY WE SHARE THE BEGINNING OF MANY GREAT STORIES AS WE SHARE IN CELEBRATING THE ART OF STORYTELLING.

LET ME CONCLUDE BY THANKING THE CONSUL GENERAL, THE HONORABLE ADOLFO BARATTOLO...

AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN CONSULAR CORPS IN MIAMI FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HOSTING THE DELEGATION.

LET ME ALSO PRESENT EACH MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION WITH A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR CERTIFICATE.

ALDO PIROLA

STEFANO PARISE

FEDERICO PASOTTI

MOLTO GRAZIE!

