Italy: The Lodge Nathan and Anna Cassuto of Milan

On Sunday 20th of June in the presence of B’nai B’rith Europe President Graham Weinberg, twelve new sisters and brothers were initiated and Claudia Bagnarelli was installed as the first woman President in the history of the Lodge....

On Sunday, 20th June Lodge Nathan and Anna Cassuto of Milan enjoyed a memorable day with BBE President Graham Weinberg as guest of honour.

A closed session of the lodge started at around 6:00 p.m. with the initiation ritual for twelve new sisters and brothers. This was the final act of outgoing President Joseph Bali who, with his board, gave primary importance to the admission of new members to give vitality to the lodge, while at the same time lowering the average age and increasing the number of female members.

President Weinberg addressed the lodge, congratulating the newly initiated members and explaining that they had just joined a big family of sisters and brothers in 29 countries all over Europe.

President Bali thanked the lodge and the members of his board for their support, and after a few statements from members praising the work done during his two year term, the ceremony for the installation of the new president and board began.

Lodge Nathan and Anna Cassuto of Milan, founded in 1954, was an exclusively male Lodge until 1993. The installation of Claudia Bagnarelli as the first woman president can therefore be considered a historic event for the Lodge.

The new President Bagnarelli, visibly moved, thanked the Lodge for electing her. Several sisters and brothers congratulated her and wished her success.

The day continued with a dinner with over 100 guests, held in the hall of the newly constructed Old People’s Home of the Jewish Community of Milan.

President Weinberg said that the location for the dinner was a very good choice, since besides helping a community institution, it also expressed the connection of our aged people with the younger generations, and symbolically represented the continuity with our tradition, a very important concept to transmit to the young. President Weinberg also talked about our mission to defend the State of Israel’s right to exist, and the historical right of the Jewish people to the city of Jerusalem.

During the dinner, President Bagnarelli gave prizes to three high school students from the Jewish Community of Milan in the essay competition advanced by the Lodge on the value of and our relationship with diversity.

The day ended in a festive and joyous spirit, and with congratulations and best wishes of success to the new President Claudia Bagnarelli.