

MSA CULTURAL TOURS SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Travelers,

We are sending the Spring MSACT NEWSLETTER early hoping it will ameliorate the chaos and discomfort this cruel winter has inflicted upon New England. Below are several news items we wish to share with you.

I. BARCELONA/CATALONIA - SOLD OUT APRIL 25 – MAY 4

The Barcelona/Catalonia Tour is full and we look forward to sharing what promises to be a great adventure with our Fellow Travelers.

II. ROME AND AMALFI PENINSULAS: ARTISTS' PERSPECTIVE. OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Tony and Kathy Miraglia will guide this tour. The itinerary is similar to last November's **Amalfi Coast/Rome Tour**, but will emphasize the **Artists' Perspective**. Tony Miraglia, Professor of Fine Arts and well-known artist has previously guided MSA Tours to Sicily, and the Abruzzo Region of Italy. Kathy is an art educator, artist, and chairs the New Bedford Art Museum/ Artworks Board of Directors. Additional information on Tony and Kathy (and the complete tour itinerary) can be found on the Tours Website (msaculturaltours.com). This tour promises to be a unique and exciting and artistic adventure lead by two very talented artists and teachers.

III. CUBA 2016

For many years I have wanted to visit Cuba. Recent US government actions relaxing travel restrictions have enhanced possibilities of educational tour to Cuba. Encouragement from my UMD colleague Bill Holt has motivated serious consideration of a 2016 Cuba tour. Such a tour would meet current government requirements since the Mission Statement of the Mediterranean Studies Association (www.mediterraneanstudies.org) to promote international education.

As a preamble to the tour we are working with Mariano Merino to team-teach a Second Half Course on **Cuba and the Spanish Empire**. We hope to

soon present our proposal to the Second Half Program Committee.
Organizing a tour to Cuba will not be without complications but is very doable, so stay turned for future information.