

Columbia Association Member News

We hope you are finding this new feature of "La Soto Voce" informative. If you have any information that you think should be in this column, please pass it along to us.

Promotions:

We are proud of the following members who moved up in the department who are keeping up a long-standing CA tradition of ranking Columbia members.

John McDonald L-77 to Lieutenant, **Joseph Cilento** L-149 to Lieutenant, **Frederick Cortese** E-295 to Lieutenant, **Peter L. Maglione** L-8 to Lieutenant, **John M. Esposito** Squad 18 to Lieutenant,

Board of Merit:

Buona Fortuna and congratulations to our members who went above and beyond the call of duty and received the following meritorious awards:

FF **Michael Corabi** E-255, Service Rating "B", Capt. **Thomas Tropea** Fire Safety Education, Administration Medal, **BC Lawrence Bacci** BFP, James J. Johnston Memorial Medal, **Tom Curti** Fleet Services, Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service.

New Members:

The following new members signed up at "Proby School. Welcome aboard!"

Craig Gobbo, John Gonzalez, Mark Papulos, John Scaltro, Terence Rivera, Trent Coppolo, Gregg Bagonyi, Robert Bttaglia, Joseph Galasso, Carmine Pecoraro, Richard Baudille, Nicholas Mincone, Damian Riccardella, Gregory Embriano, Joseph Facinelli, Michael Locurto, Christopher Coppola, Michael Sandre, Joseph Locurto, Kevin Candido, Brian Daly, Todd Neckin, Brian Windsov, Joseph Bongiovi.

Completion of Probation:

Probys no more! "Well done" to the following members on the completion of probation in the world's greatest fire department.

Pasquale Amato E-4, **Sergio G. Villanueva** E-4, **Paul J. Primavera** E-7, **Thomas Costa** E-23, **Phillip F. Spina** E-97, **James Manitta Jr.** E-163, **Anthony C. Tampa** E-204, **John J. Masera** E-230, **Darrin R. Milo** E-230, **Gregory T. Frusci** E231, **Robert J. Tomasulo** E-239, **Peter Quintalino** E-242, **Michael E. Tenteromano** E-247, **John A. Barone** E-249, **Steven A. Pascale** E-253, **Joseph J. Mason** E-259, **Frank J. Caccavale** E-261, **Charles J. LoBianco** E-268, **Jason J. Rigoli** E-275, **James A. Alfano** E-278, **Vincent S. Morello** E-283, **Gabriel Masaracchia** E-384, **John N. Taber** E-284, **James G. Lodispoto** E-287, **Vincent A. Barone** E-291, **Thomas E. Carbone** E-298, **Daniel F. Longhi** E-301, **Anthony T LaGreca** E-309, **Samuel J. Crincione** E-330, **Charles R. Fragapane** E-331, **Dominick Vincenti** E-331, **James P. DeMartinis** E-332, **Dominick M. Montalto Jr.** E-332, **Stephen M. Saucedo** L-13, **Carmine J. Jichetti Jr.** L-20, **John P. Mucciola** L-78, **Stephen Riccio** L-83, **Steven E. Bello** L-126, **Gerard P. Kane** L-148, **Anthony Cittadini** E-165,

Retirements:

We wish the best of luck and a "long", "healthy" & "happy" retirement to our members taking up.

FF **James Beltrami** E-326, FF **Joseph Gagliardi** L-114, Lt **Gene DiMarco** L-129, Lt. **Jack Corr** E-69, UFOA, DC **Ralph Racioppo** D-8, Capt **Salvatore Cusamano** E-21, Former Board Member, FF **Donald Capitali** E-47, Lt **Robert J. Reres** L-86, Capt. **Anthony Maccarino** E-212, FF **Thomas Boemi** E-166, DC **Joseph G. DiBernardo** D-6, FF **John F. Carlucci** L-112, Lt **Michael Cannava** L-125, FF **Louis Maltese** E-76,

Deceased:

With sadness, the CA bids a fond farewell to our recently deceased members. They will be missed.

Retired BC **Joseph Christiano** Bn-43, Retired FF **Joseph Tesoriero** BHS, Former Board member, Retired Capt. **Peter J. Tartaglione** E-245,

Special mention for Captain Peter Tartaglione. Pete served on the Columbia Executive Board for ten years prior to his retirement from the department in 1988. He is survived by his wife Francis and his six children and seven grandchildren.

Pete started his FD career with Engine 242 in 1954. He served as Lieutenant in Engine 158 from 1973 to 1988 when he became Captain in Engine 245. Pete's untimely death occurred this past January 17th. The sympathies of the Columbia association go out to the Tartaglione family.



Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

Executive Board:		
Board President	Vincent A. Tummino	Battalion 22
1st Vice President	Bernard Santangelo	Bureau of Investigations
2nd Vice President	Craig Silvino	Engine 283
3rd Vice President	Joseph Donatelli	Retired
Financial Secretary	Paul Cresci	Headquarters
Treasurer	Thomas Rivicci	Engine Co. 248
Manhattan Trustee	Dan Volpe	DISCO/Hdqtrs.
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Rescue 5
Bronx Trustee	Keith Tanico	Ladder 103
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Isilano	Ladder Co. 108
Queens Trustee	Michael Smithwick	Squad 270
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Recording Secretary	Dennis DiTucci	Ladder Co. 108
Sergeant-At-Arms	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 53 (Cov)
Public Relations	Angelo D'Agostino	Retired
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdioese of N.Y.

Committee Chairs:			
Membership:	Paul Cresci	Home Phone 516-358-5135	Work Phone 718-999-1510
Lottery:	Dennis DiTucci	516-794-7699	718-965-8216
Parade:	Eugene D'Auria	516-352-3676	
Trips:	Buddy Santangelo	718-376-8388	718 896-6548
Welfare:	Joseph Donatelli	718-591-4282	Retired
Scholarship/Dinner	Craig Silvino	631-271-2928	718-965-8283



Columbia Association Scholarship Fund

ANNUAL RAFFLE

To Benefit Future Scholarship Winners

1st PRIZE \$12,000

2nd Prize \$5,000

3rd Prize \$3,000

OFFICIAL RULES

PRICES ARE BASED ON THE SALE OF 300 TICKETS. IF ALL TICKETS ARE NOT

SOLD PRIZES WILL BE A TOTAL OF TWO THIRDS OF TICKETS SOLD

TICKETS COST \$100 EACH

ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

DRAWING IN JUNE, WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

DANCE AT RUSSO'S ON THE BAY, HOWARD BEACH, QUEENS

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: DENNIS DiTUCCI

(516) 794-7669 Home

(516) 965-8216 Work

Or Mail To: Columbia Association Scholarship Fund

c/o Dennis DiTucci

1732 Powers Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

2000 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

ALL BOROUGH MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 8:00 PM FOOD & REFRESHMENTS ARE ALWAYS SERVED.

Manhattan: April 10, October 9, 2001

Saint Patrick's Church Youth Center, 226 Mulberry St.

Brooklyn: January 9, December 11, 2001

VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.

Bronx: May 8, November 13, 2001

Guiding Star Council Hall, 3243 Ampere Ave.

Staten Island: March 13, September 11, 2001

Hillside Swim Club, 151 Signs Rd.

Queens: February 13, June 12, 2001

Taimiment Regular Democratic Club, 33-09 23rd Ave.

Dues & Membership Reminder

Dues are still outstanding from some members. If you have not yet paid, please send them in to our PO Box Number listed below. Anyone wishing to join the Columbia Association may do so by either contacting their respective borough trustee, or writing directly to Membership Committee Chair, Paul Cresci.

La Sotto Voce

The Newsletter of the
FDNY Columbia Association
**La Sotto Voce is published
four times annually.**

Publisher & Editor
Lawrence Petrillo
P.O. Box 20328

Staten Island, NY 10302

All members are strongly encouraged to submit articles or items of interest. Please submit two months in advance of publication date.



Columbia Association

Fire Department City of New York
PO Box 20328
Staten Island, New York 10302

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LA SOTTO VOCE

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FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

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2nd Quarter 2001

Columbia Association History: In the Beginning

The year is 1934; the place is the lower east side of Manhattan. A string of serious tenement fires causes multiple loss of life to residents. The captain of Engine Company 28, John Capillo becomes seriously concerned about this trend. He consults with Deputy Fire Commissioner, the Honorable Francis X. Giaccone, and several officers and members of the department who are of Italian extraction. They agreed that an organization be formed to instruct and educate the citizens of the city. This was the genesis of today's Columbia Association.

On the evening of March 12, 1934 at Conte's restaurant located at 434 Lafayette Street Captain John Capillo called to order some fifty invited officers and firemen for the purpose of forming a social, educational and benevolent society composed of New York City Fire Department members of Italian extraction.

Captain Capillo stated "we will formulate a simple plan of instructions in a language that can easily be understood by all. These instructions will be given by our members to all and especially to Italian people who do not understand the English language. In so doing, we will be able to give the people the benefit of our fire protection experience and knowledge."

Captain Capillo introduced Deputy Fire Commissioner Giaccone. The Deputy Commissioner expressed great satisfaction in the organization of the society by saying that "we are not organizing to go against any race or faction, but to bring out the traditions of our race and decency." The lack of organization has hindered our good will. Make not the purpose of this society party politics, but have it educational, instructive and benevolent." He thanked Captain Capillo and said, "he (Capt. Capillo) cannot succeed without your help and cooperation."

Captain Capillo was selected as temporary chairman and the nominations of executive officers proceeded. The first elections were held that very evening. By the end of the night, the first Columbia Executive Board was in place. Captain Capillo was now President, and Captain Silvio Pierano of E-160 became Vice President. The Treasurer was Captain Carmine Bracco of E-19 and Lieutenant Nicholas DiGiacomo of E-66 became Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary was fireman Louis Terzaga from H&L 138. Fireman Theodore Adinolfi and Fireman Dominic Masisca were chosen as Sergeants at Arms. *Continued on page 2*

Alan Hevesi Announces His Run for Mayor of NYC



On March 21st Alan Hevesi invited the Board of Directors to a historic celebration. Alan Hevesi officially announces his run for Mayor of New York City at the Sheraton hotel in Manhattan. He spoke about the importance to reduce class sizes so that teachers can give students the individual attention they need, work to end the salary gab between City and suburban teachers and end the state funding gab between City and suburban schools, increase support for pre-school, after-school, and mentoring programs. He also stated that the city employees help save the city during its fiscal problem by accepting 3 "0" and they should to be compensated. And don't be confused when you See "Mebq" it stand for Most Experienced Best Qualified. These are just a few of his ideas for the future of the City. Alan Hevesi has not delayed his efforts to protect the safety of men and women of the FDNY. As Comptroller he has been working with the UFOA and UFA regarding the digital radio controversy.

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Planning a Vacation

As the warmer weather approaches more of us will be beginning to plan for our next vacation. If you are interested in going to Italy look into our November trip to the "Old Country." A special thank you to Maria Cresci who put our Las Vegas & Italy trips together. Due to her efforts we have large groups attending both trips.

Columbia Association 68th Annual Dinner Dance

Make your plans now to attend our Annual Dinner Dance on June 14, 2001 as seats are going fast. For more details on the dinner and information on the night's honorees read this month's article.

Lottery Tickets

Lottery tickets sales are selling at slightly fast pace than last year and looks like we will be selling all 300 tickets. If you have not already purchased your tickets do so today. All proceeds are earmarked for our Scholarship Fund.

Play Ball!!!

Once again we are planning our baseball trips and outings. On deck is a Fireworks night at Shea Stadium on July 3, 2001. We are also making arrangements to go Staten Island Yankees and Long Island's new minor league team the Long Island Ducks night games. Call you trustee for tickets and more information.

Dues Reminder

If you have not already please forward your dues (which must be paid by March 31 of each year) to Paul Cresci our Membership Chairman. Remember to check off the box where you can donate your death benefit to our scholarship fund.

Thank You

I like to thank Joseph Higgins and Salvatore Marcello for their donations to this year's Scholarship Winners.

Columbia Association Website

Don't forget to check out our website at www.fdnycolumbia.com.

Columbia Association History

Continued from page 1

Officers being duly elected took the following oath; "we do solemnly swear that we will do all in our power to work for the good and welfare of this association."

The first order of business was to set aside the naming of the new organization until some appropriate name could be proposed. A motion was then made and carried to assess each member an initiation fee of one dollar and that the dues shall be fifty cents a month starting from April 1, 1934. The first meeting was adjourned and became history.

Choosing a suitable name for the group was the main topic for discussion at the next meeting held on April 2nd, 1934. The Board of Officers suggested the following names; "Firemen's Social, Educational and Benevolent Association of the NYCFD," "The Italian Firemen's Association," "The Pompei Association" and "The Columbia Association of Saint Elias." Shortly after that meeting, a "Holy Name" breakfast was held in Manhattan. President Capillo took it upon himself to send a bouquet of flowers with a card that read "with best wishes from the Columbia Association of the NYCFD. The name "Columbia Association" was unanimously approved at the May 9th meeting.

Captain John Capillo died at 3:20 PM on November 19th, 1934, (only eight months after founding the association.) A cursory check of Fire Department pension records indicates that there are no surviving members of that first meeting. If we are wrong and anyone has information on surviving members please let us know.

Ex-Deputy Commissioner Francis X. Giaccone, now Magistrate Giaccone addressed the May 17, 1943 meeting. He lauded the efforts of Columbia members serving in the war effort and the credit to the nation that citizens of Italian extraction have become. He continued on as an Honorary Columbia member.

Conte's restaurant is now the Astor Place Theatre where you can catch a performance of the Blue Man Group.

With the advent of the Bureau of Fire Safety Education and the enlargement and professionalization of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, we have gotten away from our original purpose of providing fire safety instructions. We have over the last 67 years become a fraternal and benevolent organization by providing benefits to our members and scholarship awards to the children of members.

We have grown with the addition of EMS and other civilian members and with your help; we optimistically look forward to carrying on with our great traditions for the next 67 years.

John Sinino Serves Up His Magic at the Italian Culinary Institute



The Italian Culinary Institute is home to the Culinary Center, where internationally renowned chefs and celebrated cookbook authors are invited to share secrets and the pleasures of Italian food and wine during lively cooking demos.

The Institute is an exclusive society of those passionate about

Italian living, Italian cuisine, and Italian traditions. The Mission of the club is to preserve the traditional values and culinary culture of Italy. On March 2nd the Culinary Institute invited John Sinino to dance in their kitchen. John prepared some of his finest dishes from both his best selling cookbooks. The dinner was exceptional, and no feast could draw to a close without the world renowned "rice pudding". Everyone had a great time, the combination of delicious food and wine, along with the captivating firehouse stories made the night a success. John Sinino's proceeds from his cookbooks have been close to \$50,000. John has contributed this money to all of the FDNY Scholarship funds.

(Italian Culinary Institute is located at 230 fifth Ave. Suite 1100, New York (212) 725-8764.

2001 Columbia Association Dinner Dance Honoree & Award Recipient

The Columbia Association is proud to announce the 2001 Dinner Dance honoree. **Raechel (Shelley) Apea, Chief Mayor Community Mayors of New York, New Jersey & Connecticut.** Community Mayors is a non-for profit organization dedicated to the recreational therapy for physically and mentally challenged Children.

Dominick Della Rocca, K.M., Shelley's father, founded the Community Mayors special programs for the disabled children. She has spent the better part of her life serving the needs of the Community Mayors organization, it became a way of life, anything, anytime for Dominick and his special children.

Also this year the Columbia Association Special Recognition Award to **Thomas J. Russo Consultants LTD.** Mr. Thomas Russo joined the NYFD in 1962, he was assigned to Marine 7, he then transferred to L-166 and then onto L-114. In 1967 he was detailed to BFI, and eventually promoted in 1971. Mr. Russo was awarded, The Martin Scott Medal & The Columbia Society Medal. He also received a Class 1 Award, the highest award bestowed by the Department. In 1979 Mr. Russo started his own independent fire investigation firm. It has grown to include offices in N.Y., N.J. and Conn.. Mr. Russo has dedicated a lifetime to the protection and well being of our community.



Craig Silvino, Alan Hevesi and President Tummino together at Mr. Hevesi's recent rally to announce his run for the Mayor of New York City. See front page for more details.



Visit our Website:
www.fdnycolumbia.com

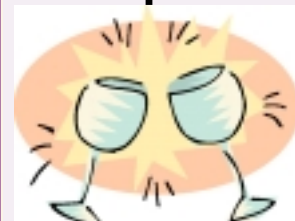
Email the Columbia Association
FDItaly@aol.com

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 67TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Thursday, June 14, 2001

7 pm - 1 am At Russo's on the Bay, Howard Beach. All proceeds to benefit Future Scholarships.
This year we will award almost \$10,000!

Frank Russo's World Famous
1½-Hour Cocktail Party
Choice of 7 Dinners
Open Bar All Night



\$70 Donation per Person

Don't Miss Out. Only 600 seats Available Tables are 10-14

Hotel Information Available Upon Request

For Reservation Contact: Craig Silvino, 14 Piermont Ct. Melville, NY, Home (631) 271-2928
Work (718) 965-8283 (gr. 19) Fax (631) 425-1596

Or Your Borough Trustee



Live Entertainment provided by
**The
Chris Michaels
Band**



The Italian-American Thread in this Country's Tapestry

by Gregory Kane

I've said it before. Here's the nutshell Hollywood version of Italian-American history again. There's never been an Italian who wasn't also a Mafioso. The real record might shock and delight you.

Here it is: First, let's make clear that America's Italian immigrants weren't always considered white. Records show that in the construction of aqueducts and reservoirs from 1809-1893 Italian immigrants' laborers were on the low end of the wage scale. In fact, there were three classifications for workers. If you were "common labor, white" you got \$1.30 to \$1.50 a 10-hour day. If you were "common labor, colored" (later Negro, then black, then African-American) you got \$1.15 to \$1.25. If you were "common-labor, Italian" bosses considered you good only for \$1.15 to \$1.25. That information comes from Little Italy's Roberto Marsili.

Marsili also sent an article about A.P. Giannini, a San Francisco produce seller of the early 1900s who used his entrepreneur, talent to open the Bank of Italy there in 1904. Giannini pioneered the practices of branch banking, home mortgage, car loans and general installment credit. When an earthquake hit San Francisco in 1906, Giannini drove a produce wagon to his bank, slipped \$2 million in gold, coins and securities onto the vehicle and started business anew on the city docks, lending money to small businessmen and plain folks in dire need of cash to start over.

When Giannini died, his bank was the country's largest. It was called the Bank of America, which recently merged with Nations Bank. Another Italian-American film director Frank Capra, based the 1932 movie "American Madness" on Giannini's life.

In the brochure, "Italian Americans in U.S. History and Culture," the National Italian American Foundation – dedicated to preserving the heritage of an estimated 20 million Americans of Italian decent, the nation's fifth-largest ethnic group" – provides a wealth of information. While Hollywood – which, ironically, Giannini financed in its early, struggling days – was cranking out gangster film after gangster film portraying Italian-Americans as mobsters, here's what real-life Italians were doing.

Bernard Castro, who emigrated from Italy in 1931, invented the convertible sofa in 1945.

If you love Big Macs, thank an Italian-American. Pittsburgh's Jim Delligatti, who owned a McDonald's franchise, created the sandwich in 1967.

Ice-cream lovers might be intrigued to learn that Italo Marcioni invented the ice cream cone in 1896. Domenico Ghiradelli "perfected a method to make ground chocolate," the NIAF brochure reads which led to the invention of the chocolate bar.

Vincent R. Ciccone started his janitorial job at the Charms Candy co. in the 1930's. By the time he retired, he was the chief executive officer. Along the way, Ciccone created the cough drop and had patents for at least 19 candies. Alessandro Dandini invented the three-way light bulb.

Antonio Meucci developed the idea for the telephone but couldn't afford to pay the patent fees when he immigrated to the United States. Alexander Graham Bell got the credit 27 years later.

So much for inventions and innovations.

How about patriotism? According to NIAF, only one man has received America's two highest military awards. U.S. Marine Sgt. John Basilone died on Iwo Jima in World War II and received the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

About 1.5 million Italian-Americans served in World War II. In all of America's wars, at least 39 Italian-Americans have won the Medal of Honor. Some 5,000 to 10,000 Italian-Americans fought in the Civil War for either the Union or the Confederacy.

Those of us who proudly call ourselves Americans should know that our land is named for Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. Giovanni Caboto – better known by the Anglicized name of John Cabot – claimed Newfoundland for England. If you cross the Verrazano Narrows Bridge (from Staten Island) into Brooklyn, you've traversed the structure named for Giovanni da Verrazano, who was the first explorer to reach what is now New York Bay. If you knew few or none of these, it may prove that while today's Italian-Americans are finally considered white, some – like Hollywood producers – still consider them not quite white enough.

New Bronx Meeting Location — Directions to Guiding Star Council Hall

Guiding Star Council Hall
3243 Ampere Avenue
Bronx, New York
(718) 892-2989

Coming from Westchester, Connecticut or North Bronx
Take New England Thruway South & Exit at Westchester Ave.
Drive along service road to Jarvis Ave. & make left at light on Jarvis Ave.
Continue straight on Jarvis Ave. which will become Country Club Rd.
Follow Local instructions below

Coming from Queens or Long Island via Whitestone Bridge
Whitestone Bridge
Follow signs to Bruckner Expressway - New England Thruway.
Exit Country Club Road - Pelham Bay Park
Follow service road & turn right at Country Club Rd.
Follow Local instructions listed below.

Coming from Queens or Long Island via Throgs Neck Bridge
Throgs Neck Bridge.
Follow to New England Thruway-Bruckner Expressway
Get off exit 2 Lafayette Ave. - Country Club Rd.
Follow all Detour signs to Country Rd.
Make a right at Country Club Rd.

Follow Local instructions listed below.

Coming from New Jersey via George Washington Bridge
George Washington Bridge.
To Cross Bronx Expressway to Bruckner Expressway
Exit at Country Club Road - Pelham Bay Park
Turn right at Country Club Rd.

Follow Local instructions listed below.

Local Instructions - All Directions
Continue on Country Club Road to Stadium Ave. - go left.
Go 4 blocks to Ampere Ave. & turn right at stop sign
Go 1 block - Hall is on corner of Ampere & Research Ave.