

The Official Newsletter of the

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

Volume 32, No. 3 3rd Quarter 2001

Columbia Association Hosts 67th Annual Dinner Dance

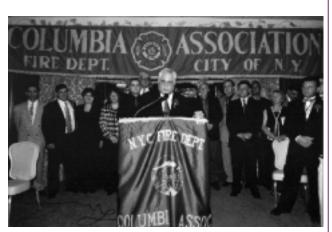
The Columbia Association continues the tradition of a magnificent Dinner Dance to honor Raechel (Shelley) Aprea, Thomas Russo Associates and our Scholarship Winners.

On June 14th, the members of the Columbia Association owned Russo's on the Bay. Nearly 600 guests enjoyed the finest Italian delicacies prepared by the staff of Frank Russo. After the cocktail party we were all stuffed, so we danced to the sounds of the Chris Michael Band to make room for dinner.

2001 Italian American of the Year Awarded to Raechel (Shelley) Aprea

Shelley Aprea is presently Chief Mayor of the Community Mayors, Inc., a not for profit-non-political organization dedicated to the recreational therapy for the physically and mentally challenged children.

Shelley was born in 1950 and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Adelphi Academy and graduated from Berkeley Institute. She went on to



Thomas Russo proudly addresses the attendees during our Annual Dinner Dance.

study acting with Sanford Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse. Shelley spent most of her young life as a member of the Little Theater, TV*MovieKids, performing in Commercials, Off Broadway and modeling for Print Media Publications, a member of SAG, AGVA, EQUITY and AFTRA. She had dreams of creating a Theatrical Orphanage, a place where children would be able to learn more than the Arts; they would be able to learn skills that would prepare them for adult life.

In 1971 Shelley married Dennis Aprea. For the past thirty years they have worked together developing and selling Real Estate.

The Community Mayors' special programs for the disabled children was founded by Dominick Della Rocca, K.M., Shelley's Father. Dominick dedicated Fifty years of his life to the disabled children. A day at a Community Mayors' Special Event is a humbling experience. Growing up among the Community Mayors', Shelley learned she could draw strengths through the experience of years with the unfortunate 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.

Shelley also learned the art of cooking fine Italian cuisine from her father, and has a reputation for her Lobster Fra-Diavoli, and her own innovative style of cooking. She also volunteers at the Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. Shelley's goal is to preserve Dominick Della Rocca's legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Columbia Association Special Recognition Awarded to Thomas Russo Consultants

Mr. Russo was born in 1939 and raised in South Brooklyn. He attended our Lady of Peace, St. Augustine's and while in the Fire Department attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

He was appointed to FDNY in 1962. He was assigned to Marine 7, and later transferred to L-166 and eventually L-114 (Tally Ho). In 1967 Mr. Russo was detailed to BFI and eventually promoted in 1971.

While posing as a "torch" for more than a year, Mr. Russo infiltrated a multi-million dollar arson ring, spanning two boroughs, Nassau & Ulster Counties. His cover eventually "Blown", causing threats to his life and his family. In spite of this, the ring, which included attorneys, real estate brokers and torches, was eventually indicted, arrested and convicted.

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Vincent Tummino

By the time you read this newsletter, summer will be ending, the kids will be heading back to school; most of us have gone on vacation.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our annual Scholarship Dinner Dance and those who purchased lottery tickets. Both events were a overwhelming success as well as our trip to Las Vegas.

We already have plans for our Columbus Day Parade, Christmas Party, Winter Weekend in the Pocono Mountains; I hope you will be able to attend these affairs.

I would like to express our congratulations to Frank D'Amato on his promotion to Captain.

Last and most important a special thank you to Dennis DiTucci, Chairman of our Lottery Raffle and Craig Silvino, Chairman of our Annual Dinner Dance for a job well done.

Our next meeting will be September 11, in Staten Island.

Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance

Continued from page 1

On July 12, 1975 Mr. Russo's career was brought to an abrupt and untimely end when he and his partner, Ralph Graniella, were critically shot while attempting to arrest a suspected arsonist in the Bronx. He was forced to retire and leave the NYFD, a job he loved. As a result of his injuries, he still carries bullet fragments in his neck.

Mr. Russo is the recipient of the Martin Scott Medal and the Columbia Association Medal. He received a Class 1 Award, the highest award bestowed by the NYFD for his undercover work. He has also received a Class II, 2 Class A and a Class B. In addition he was the first member of FDNY to receive the NYPD Honor Legion Medal. At the time of his retirement, he was the highest decorated Fire Marshal in the history of the city.

His wife, Jeanne, remained at home and dedicated her life to raising their two sons, Thomas and Michael. His son Thomas has served in Bosnia in a helicopter squadron. Thomas also served in Dessert Shield and Desert Storm. He is now a NYFD firefighter at L-155 (Vipers Nest). Michael, upon his graduation from the University of Maryland, became partner in the firm. Michael has brought new concepts to usher in the millennium.

In February 1979, Mr. Russo started his own independent fire investigation firm with an office in his home. Today, Russo Consultants, which has served the insurance industry for over twenty years, has grown to include regional offices in New Jersey and Connecticut as well as a subsidiary company, Russo & Associates, conducting specialized investigations. Vice President, Virginia Lach oversees the three different entities of the firm. Many clients and public officials, refer to her as "The Real Thomas Russo". Harry Hansen is the Director of the New Jersey Office.

Notable Fires investigated by Russo Consultants include, Dupont Plaza, Puerto Rico; World Trade Center bombing; Grucci Explosion; Schoenberg Plaza fire; Secret Harbor, St. Thomas, USVI and Hackensack Ford, which involved the loss of five firefighters. The staff of Russo Consultants is in the excess of fifteen employees, some of which are retired from the FDNY and NYPD.

Mr. Russo has dedicated a lifetime too protection and well being of

UFA & UFOA Indorse Hevesi for Mayor



Peter Gorman, Jake Ginty, Billy Mirro, Jimmy McGowan, Tommy DaParma & Kevin Gallager along with their membership meet on the steps of city hall to give Alan Hevesi their full support. A strong supporter of the NYC firefighters. He has worked hard to continue the traditions of the Fired Department. He has always believed in the merit system and the Civil service

Retirees Corner

by Joseph Donatelli

I hope you are enjoying the benefits of the sun and surf. We hope your health will continue to shine for the rest of the year.

We had some legislation that has been in the news and although you retirees know about them I would like make all our members aware of the legislation.

The Medicare Part B rebate Bill #580 was overridden by the City Council. We retirees should thank Council Member Mary Pinkett, chair of the Government Operations Committee and sponsor of the Bill for all her work in getting it through the Council.

Also a special vote of thanks to City Council Speaker Peter Vallone for all his efforts on behalf of the Bill and his steering a Home Rule message up to Albany regarding the Firefighter widows Health Bill.

The Rebate Bill #580 will eventually mean that retirees 65 and over will get the maximum allowance taken out of your Social Security check for Medicare Part B. So it is important that all retirees accept Part B when they reach 65. Without any unforeseen objection from Mayor Guiliani, we should get the maximum allowance by the year 2002. The Firefighter Retiree Groups deserve a pat on the back for their efforts on all Bills that effect retirees, especially these two.

On a sadder note, we lost four retirees since I last reported. Peter S. Grippo, Anthony DiGennaro, Louis Trincone and John DeRosa.

A special thanks to the Peter Grippo family and the Anthony DiGennaro family on donating their death benefit which Peter and Anthony requested, to the Columbia Association Scholarship Fund. Their names will be mentioned when the Scholarship Awards are made in 2002.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. If I can be of any assistance, please call me at (718) 591-4282.

2001 Scholarship Winners College Award

*\$1,700	Elena Aragona	John	E- 97
1,500	Thomas Tropea	Thomas	E-228
1,000	Lisa Pantaleo	Angelo Jr.	L-147
1,000	Peter Amadeo	Joseph	HazMat 1

^{*}Rosina Marie Tornetta Higgins Award (*Highest SAT Score*)

Rosie (Rosina) was born July 19, 1917. She was the youngest of five children born to Joseph and Mary Tornetta. Joseph and Mary were born in a little village outside of Palermo, Sicily. Throughout her life Rosie was proud of her baby blue eyes and often wondered "where did I get these blue eyes"

Like most immigrants in those days, Rosie's parents were poor. However, they instilled their family values, fervent faith in God and the value of education, in their children. The language spoken in the Tornetta home was Italian. Upon entering first grade Rosie spoke strictly Italian. Her mother found it vital for Rosie to learn English. She would learn English during the day, and teach this new language to her family in the evening. At an early age Rosie knew, success in life could only be achieved with education. Rosie was not a CEO of a company. She was simply a devoted daughter, loving wife, mother and doting grandma. Rosie was very proud of her son's NYFD accomplishments.

Rosie never stopped extolling the necessity of education for everyone. Rosie passed away in 1996 but left her special insight on everyone she knew. In her honor, her son Joseph Higgins Jr. will enhance the scholarship award for the highest SAT score each year.

High School Award

*\$950	Diana Raimondi	Louis	Rescue 5
750	Anothony DiMieri	Rocco Jr.	L-38
600	Melissa Fassetta	Robert	Div-3
600	Brian Vignalli	Frank	L-51
500	Michele Damore	Thomas	E-48
500	Cody Pfeging	Rogar	E-157

^{**}Jennifer Marcello-Murphy Award (*Highest STS Score*)

Jennifer Marcello-Murphy was a 26-year-old woman who loved being with people and making them laugh. She had a spirit that could not be suppressed. At age 10 she was the only girl on an all boys' soccer team. She owned every Billy Joel album and was an avid New York Yankees' fan. Jennifer was also a talented artist and spent much of her free time drawing.

Jennifer graduated St. John's University and became an elementary school teacher. She made learning fun for her students and always made them feel good about themselves. She loved her students and they loved her.

At 24, and three weeks before her wedding, Jennifer was diagnosed with cancer. She refused to let her illness disrupt the most important day of her life, and her wedding went on as planned. Although Jenn & her husband Andy had a short time together they made the best of the time they had.

Throughout the most difficult days of her illness Jennifer managed to smile and find things to be grateful for. She showed incredible courage and wisdom for someone her age. And she never asked, "Why me?" What Jenn did ask was that she not be forgotten. And that is why this award is so special to us.

Congratulations to the recipient of this award. May your spirit and courage, enable you to find happiness and lead you to the fulfillment of your dreams. *The Marcello Family*

Winter Weekend Getaway

By Buddy Santangelo

As we say good-bye to what I hope was an enjoyable summer, the Columbia Association has been working on plans for this season.

One of my responsibilities is the Winter Weekend. The date is January 4th to 6th 2002, at the Pocmont Resort in Bushkill PA. I was able to negotiate the same price as last year.

There is discount skiing available with more great things to do, to numerous to list. Those of you that have a group of friends, please forward your reservations together in one envelope. This will help me keep your rooms together.

Rooms will go fast so get those reservations in early. Applications are attached to this newspaper.

Thanks and we are looking forward to having some great fun with great people. Any questions at all please contact me at (718) 376-8388 during the evening.



CELEBRITY CRUISE aboard THE "HORIZON"

JUNE 22, 2002 to JUNE 29, 2002

LEAVING from **NEW YORK**

PORTS OF CALL ST. GEORGE and HAMILTON

INSIDE CABINS starting at \$1550

OUTSIDE CABINS starting at \$1650

PRICE INCLUDES PORT CHARGE AND TAXES

ACT NOW SPACE LIMITED \$50 DE-POSIT PER PERSON REQUIRED

CALL DEBBIE @ (718) 352-0455 - (information and booking) SUNDAY 10-5, TUESDAY 9-6, WEDNESDAY 5-9 E-mail – AspreaD@LIBERTYTRAVEL.COM

Member Profile Deputy Assistant Chief Albert Turi Jr.

Chief Turi began his FDNY career in 1968 after completing his military service in Vietnam. As a firefighter he served in E 92, E 295, E 90 and B 46. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1978 and was assigned to E 48. The Chief pursued his studies and was promoted to Captain in 1983 and became the Commander of E 34. He was promoted to Battalion Chief in 1989 and then to Deputy Chief in 1998. As a Chief Officer, Chief Turi worked in Batt 8, Batt 9, and Div 3. In July 2000, Chief Turi was promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief.

Chief Turi has worn many hats in his 32 yr career and has had many important assignments. He was the Executive Officer of BHS, a FDIC conference instructor, the Chief of Training and is presently the Chief of Safety.

When asked to speak about his goal as Chief of Safety, it was easy to see why this dedicated Fire Officer was chosen for the job. Chief Turi's mission is to ensure the Safety of all Fire and EMS personnel. To accomplish this monumental task his command continually explores new personal protective equipment in order to provide our members with the best technology available. They review all operational procedures and tactics so our force can perform their tasks as safely as possible.

Chief Turi and his wife Lynn will celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary this September. They have one son, Albert John who is an attorney and a grandchild, Cameron that makes the Chief smile.

Chief Turi is a long time member of our Columbia Association. His dedication to this Department and to his family makes him a quiet role model for our membership

Pocmont Welcomes Columbia Association Annual Getaway Weekend January 4-6, 2002

Plan today for your escape to the tranquil beauty of the Pocono Mountains. Our modern facilities and competent staff will help in making your stay at POCMONT a "Reunion to Remember" for years to come. All this and more in a package priced to include...

- ***Two (2) nights lodging Accommodations
- ***Two (2) Meals Daily the Weekend (starting with our Grand Pocmont Buffet, Featuring Alaskan King Crab Legs and
- ***Jumbo Shrimp, an All You Can Eat Buffet on Friday night through Breakfast on Sunday)
- ***Nightly Entertainment
- ***Use of all facilities
- ***Planned Activities Daily
- ***Indoor Pool, Outdoor Pool and Health Club

RATES FOR 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

(All rooms, two (2) double beds, full bath, color cable TV)

\$210.00 per person, Double Occupancy, including tax and gratuities \$193.00 per person, Triple Occupancy, including tax and gratuities \$173.00 per person, Quad Occupancy, including tax and gratuities

Children's Rates: \$80.00 per child, between the ages of 3-17 provided in the same room with two (2) paid adults

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDE 6% TAX AND 18% GRATUITY

DEPOSIT of \$100.00, due no later than December 1, 2001

NO PETS please...kennels nearby!

Make Checks Payable To:

POCMONT RESORT

Mail To:

c/o Buddy Santangelo (718) 376-8388

2024 Gerritsen Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11229

Columbia Association		January 4-6, 2002
NAME:	PHONE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
Arrival Date:	Departure Date:	
CHILDREN (LIST NAME/AGES):		
TOT. NO. PERSONS IN ROOM:	AMT. ENCLOSED:	
OFFICE USE ONLY: ROOM NUMBER:	INITIALS:	

Columbia Association Member News

Here's what's happening with our members since the last issue.....

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.

Citywide Tour Commander DAC **Salvatore J. Cassano** to AC, FF **Michael Cacciola** E-84 to Lieutenant, FF **Thomas Foligno** L-116 to Lieutenant, **FF Frank J. Visco** L-118 to Lieutenant, FF **John Colella** L-132 to Lieutenant, FF **Joseph A. Fernicola** L-138 to Lieutenant, Lt **Gary Chamberlain** E-257 to Captain, Lt **Richard LaFata** E-280 to Captain, FF **John P. Browne** L-107 to Lieutenant, FF **Rod V. Zarelli** R-5 to Lieutenant, FF **John E. DiRienzo** Sq-288 to Lieutenant, FM **Vincent M. DiStefano** to Lieutenant, FF **Michael J. Vindigni** L-148 to Lieutenant,

Congratulations:

To: DC **Nicholas J. Visconti** on his election to the position of UFOA Chiefs Rep. Lt **Stephen J. Carbone** on his reelection to UFOA Lieutenants Rep, and best of luck and thank you to BC **James T. Ciulla** as he leaves the UFOA Executive Board.

Happy Birthday:

Retired BC Salvatore Di Maio of Battalion 49 just reached his 90th birthday. Sal is a regular attendee to Columbia Association meetings. "un altra cent" anni" Sal and then many more!

Good Luck:

Our prayers and best wishes go out to FF **Joseph Vosilla** of L-116 and all the others who were injured at the Fathers Day fire in Astoria. The Columbia Association wishes a speedy and complete recovery to all.

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 James D. Botta E-265 Service Rating "B", FF John W. Vanderstar L-6 Service Rating "A", Lt Frank R. Vignali L-51 Service Rating "B", Lt Robert E. LaRocco L-9 Service rating "B", Our own Executive Board Member Michael E. Smithwick Sq-270 Service Rating "B", Lt Edwin Camilleri, L-167 Received the Uniformed Fire Officers Association medal and Capt. Ralph Tiso, R-3 got the Fire Chiefs Association medal. Note: This is an off year for the Columbia Association Medal. It will again be awarded at medal day, 2002.

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. FF Michael P. Giacoppo E-10, FF Brian Gallagher E-287, FF Gary Lambdin E-95,

Retirements:

The CA wishes the best of luck and a "long', "healthy" & "happy" retirement to our members taking up.

Capt. Peter V. Passaretti L-125, FF Joseph J. Ronde E320, BC Joseph M. Scotto Bn-37, FF Joseph Fedele Jr. L-86, Lt Natale J. DiPrisco R-5, FF Michael A. Scarano L-34, DC William J. Guido Marine Division, Capt. Joseph F. Russo E-254, Capt. Michael Sialiano L-164, FF Frank Esposito E-164, Capt. Michael T. Finamore Training, FF James Pisani E-320, FF Charles A. Salerno L-86, DC Joseph G. DiBernardo D-6, FF Albert A. DeSimone E-90, Capt. Stephen H. Chimento D-14, FF Anthony A. Rivicci E-158, Lt. Charles J. Piscopo E-289, FF John A. Panzone E-291, Capt. Charles C. LaSala E-304, DC Richard A. DeSimone D-7, Lt Vincent W. Cassidy E-311, Lt Michael S. Frusci E-166, FF William J. Scumaci E-73, FF Frank A. Zampaglione E-225, Lt Victor J. Pace E-247, Lt Louis P. Terrusa L-83, FF Joseph V. Leoncavallo E-304,

Deceased:

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

Retired FF Peter S. Grippo E-207, Retired FF Anthony Cordaro E-273, Retired FF Peter S. Grippo E-207, Retired BC Anthony DiGennaro Bn-43, Retired FF Louis J. Trincone L-169, Retired FF John DeRosa L-127, Retired Lieutenant and former Columbia Executive Board member, Paul Grassi Fire Salvage 4

The Columbia Association

Columbia Association:

Executive Board & Committee Members

Executive Board:

Treasurer

Board President Vincent A Tummino Battalion 22 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President Craig Silvino 3rd Vice President

Bernard Santangelo Joseph Donatelli Financial Secretary Paul Cresci Thomas Rivicci Manhattan Trustee Dan Volpe Staten Island Trustee Teddy Forlenza Bronx Trustee Keith Tanico Brooklyn Trustee Andy Isilano Michael Smithwick Queens Trustee

EMS Trustee Anthony Vanaria Recording Secretary Dennis DiTucci Sergeant-At-Arms Eugene D'Auria Public Relations Angelo D'Agostino Legal Council Stuart Salles, Esq.

Chaplain Msgr. Marc Filacchione Archdioese of N.Y.

Committee Chairs: Home Phone Work Phone 516-358-5135 718-999-1510 Membership/Vacation: Paul Cresci Lottery: Dennis DiTucci 516-794-7699 718-965-8216

Parade: Eugene D'Auria 516-352-3676 Pocono Mountains: Buddy Santangelo 718-376-8388 718 896-6548

Joseph Donatelli 718-591-4282 Retired Welfare:

Columbus Day Parade by Eugene D'Auria

Summer is winding down and that means the Columbus Day Parade is around the corner. The Parade on October 8, 2001 is a day on which all Americans of Italian decent can demonstrate their unity and strength in a way that is very public as we march up Fifth Avenue and celebrate with our families and friends. This is truly a day for the entire family as we will have a collation at the 7th regiment Mess Restaurant located at 643 Park Avenue, 4th Floor, between 66th & 67th Street following our march in the parade.

Actor Joe Piscipo will accompany us in our march as he did last year. This year we hope to have celebrities show their support, for our hard work and heritage. Please look for an announcement of who will be our quest in the parade flyer and department orders. In addition, the New Paltz High School Marching Band will join us with their infectious enthusiasm and keep us in step under the leadership of Mr. Ralph Schroer.

Columbus Day is an exceptional opportunity to march and be counted as well as meet these students and stars who are so enthusiastic about their heritage. To make this most important day a tremendous success we need the participation of all Columbia Association members of this department, their families and friends. Please turn out for this proud and fun filled day – it is a wonderful opportunity to say "I am" an Italian American.

Christmas Gala

Come Join the Board of Directors for a Holiday Cheer December 13, 2001 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn Reservations & Proper Attire Required

RSVP Craig @ 631 271-2928



Visit our Website: www.fdnycolumbia.com

Email the Columbia Association FDItalyny@aol.com

2000 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

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

Bureau of Investigations

Division 13 (Cov.)

Engine Co. 248

DISCO\Hdqtrs.

Ladder Co. 108

Bureau of EMS

Ladder Co. 108

Battalion 53 (Cov)

Rescue 5

Ladder 103

Squad 270

Retired

Engine 283

Retired

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

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.



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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