



# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

# Columbia Association

Volume 33, No. 1

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2002

## The Columbia Association in Italy



President Tummino along with other Columbia Association Member's audience with The Holy Father Pope John Paul II



Walter Veltroni, Mayor of Rome, exchanges gifts with Vinny Tummino



A memorial ceremony for Chief Peter J. Ganci was held in Rome. Here Mr. & Mrs. Demetrio Moroni designed, baked & presented a cake in honor of Chief Ganci.



Friars from Assisi awarded President Tummino Knighthood from the International Center for Peace



Members of the Messina, Sicily Fire Department

## The President's Corner

Vincent Tummino

September 11<sup>th</sup> and the many events that followed has kept the Executive Board of the Columbia Association very busy.

The Association has been the recipient of many awards and donations and we attended many events honoring FDNY's Italian-American firefighters. Everyday I receive emails from our friends in Italy asking us how they can help.

Our trip to Italy included many pleasant events. We traveled to Sicily where we were award the "Colapece Award". Then off to Rome, which was highlighted by an audience with The Holy Father Pope John Paul II. We also met with Walter Veltroni, Mayor of Rome and the City of Rome Fire Department. On December 8, Friars from Saint Francis of Assisi granted me a knighthood from the International Center for Peace.

The New Year ushered in a new Mayor and Fire Commissioner. Best wishes to both from the Columbia Association.

We began the New Year with our annual Winter Weekend-Get-Away and it was our best one yet. Many people needed to take a break and chose to come and join us on this memorable weekend.

### **Items to Remember**

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2002 Membership dues. If you are in arrears, your children may not be eligible to take the upcoming Scholarship tests.

Plans are currently being made for our annual Dinner Dance scheduled for June 20, 2002, please mark your calendar.

Please support you Association and buy a Lottery Ticket. This year we are awarding \$20,000 in prizes. All proceeds go to our Scholarship fund.

## **Winter Weekend Get A Way**

By Buddy Santangelo 1<sup>st</sup>. VP

On January 4<sup>th</sup> The Columbia Association had its annual "Winter Weekend Get A Way". The Grand Buffet was a hit and there was plenty of food for all.

The Board considered and thought it over very carefully about having the trip this year, because of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. I spoke to many members that go with us each year for their thoughts. After careful consideration we decided to go ahead as planed, no matter how many come. As it turned out we sold all the rooms available, having our best year yet.

It was a peaceful time away from the events going on in the city. Many of us gathered together talked, laughed, and cried, something we needed to do. The Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau was gracious to present each room with a gift bag and a nice letter, which was a surprise to me. I believe we all came away relaxed and ready to start again.

I would like to thank those Board members whom were able to come up and assistance us to make this trip successful.

I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to those wonderful people that have always supported the Columbia Association. To our new friends that came this year thanks for sharing with us that great weekend.

Again on behalf of the Columbia Association Executive Board we again thank you for your support. I hope to see you next year.

## **Retirees Corner**

by Joseph Donatelli

Last year was the FDNY most tragic year ever. On September 11, the saddest day in our history, we lost 343 brothers; more men killed in the line of duty than 50 years of combined history.

I want to discuss two bills that have passed that will be of interest to retired firefighters. First, the Medicare Part "B" Reimbursement Bill. This bill increases the amount the City pays retirees and their spouses for Medicare Part "B". At present the City reimburses the firefighter and his spouse \$32 a month and he pays \$54 to Social Security which is taken out of his monthly check. This bill increases the amount to \$54 and will increase as the Medicare Part "B" increases. The bill passed the City Council and was vetoed by then Mayor Guiliani. The City Council over road the veto but Guiliani took the City Council to court. At this writing, Mayor Bloomberg has not committed his position on this bill. I suggest all retirees contact their City Councilperson and urge them to push for its implementation.

The other bill is the Firefighters Widows Health Bill. This bill helps the firefighter's widows to get health insurance at group rates plus 2% for administration. It was 11/2 years under C.O.B.A. Now it was increased for widow's lifetime. This helps widows who are not in Medicare to get reasonable rates on health insurance.

On another note, I want to discuss a situation when a retired firefighter passes away. Some widows are not familiar with whom to notify. When a firefighter passes away his survivors should call the pension notification number for deceased firefighters (718) 999-2187. They should also call the UFO (212) 683-4832 or the UFOA (212) 293-9300.

I regretfully report the passing of three brother firefighters; Thomas Calvo 12/24/01; Carlo Lanzillotti, 1/9/02 and Arthur Manfredi; 1/9/02. May their souls rest in peace.

If I can be of any assistance, please call me, Joe Donatelli (718) 591-4282.

# Columbia Association

New York City Fire Department

*Sixty Eighth Annual*

# *Dinner Dance*



**Thursday, June 20, 2002**

**7 pm - 1 am**

**At Russo's on the Bay**

**Howard Beach, Queens**

**All proceeds to benefit Future Scholarships.**

*Featuring Frank Russo's World Famous*

**1½-Hour Cocktail Party**

**Choice of 7 Dinners**

**\$75 Donation per Person**

**For Reservation Contact:**

**Craig Silvino, Home (631) 271-2928**

**Paul Cresci (516) 358-5135**

**Anthony Vanaria (914) 237-1981**



### Annual Raffle to Benefit Future Scholarship Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$12,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$5,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$3,000  
(3 Winners)

#### Official Rules

Prizes 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.

#### Drawing June, 2002

Winners announced at Columbia Association's Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance at Russo's On The Bay, Queens

For Tickets Contact:  
**Dennis DiTucci**

1732 Powers Avenue  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
Make Checks Payable To:

**Columbia Association  
Scholarship Raffle**

## Columbia Association Scholarship Fund



The Columbia Association is pleased to announce its annual High School & College Scholarship Fund raffle to benefit the sons and daughters of New York City Firefighters.

Founded in 1934, the NYC Fire Department Columbia Association has proudly served its general membership for 68 years. Once again, 2002 will see the occasion of the award of scholarships in time for the Fall 2002 semester. Currently, some 2500 New York City Firefighters are enrolled as members of this agency wide trade and mutual aid association.

Each year ten scholarships are open to children of the general membership of the Columbia Association. Four scholarships are offered to graduation High School Seniors to be applied toward higher education studies, with six scholarships offered to Middle Grade Students entering High School.

Scholarships are awarded exclusively on merit. Determination is made in the early Spring based on a combination of academic achievement and testing results.

Raffles are now being sold to benefit Scholarship Fund.

In order to insure that the 2002 scholarship fund raising campaign is as successful as those in prior years, I would ask that you or your organization please purchase a raffle. As mentioned in this flyer, a limited amount of tickers are offered for sale each year in order to increase the odds of winning. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is \$12,000. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$5,000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$3,000.

We are attempting to sell 300 tickets by no later than June, 2002. Awarding of the scholarships will be determined in June 2002 with award presentations to be make at the Columbia Association's Annual Dinner Dance scheduled to be held at Russo's On the Bay Restaurant on June 20, 2002.

If you would like to "take a chance" or need any further information, please call Dennis DiTucci at (516) 794-7669.

# SUMMER WEEKEND

## At HERSHEY PARK

DESIGN A VACATION TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA

**DATES:** THURSDAY July 25, 2002 to SUNDAY July 28, 2002

**LODGING:** SHERATON HOTEL (4 miles from Hershey Park)  
Hotel price is \$ 89 per room / per night. Up to four people in a room.

**PARK ADMISSION:** PAY ONE PRICE PARK PASS  
Admits Holder to all attractions for the day. (Food & parking not Included)

NAME		Travelers Name	Age
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE		
ZIP	PHONE: ( ) -		
E-Mail			

Use back if needed  
Worksheet

	# of ROOMS		# of passes			
			Kids (3-8)	Adult (9-54)	Senior (55-69)	70 Plus
Thursday						
Friday						
Saturday						
Sunday	XXXXX					
<b>Total</b>						

**PRICE:**

**\$89** X (# of Rooms \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_      Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$17** X (# of Kid Passes \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_      King Bed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$23** X (# of Adult Passes \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_      Double Beds: \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$18** X (# of Senior Passes \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_      Adjoining Rms: \_\_\_\_\_  
**\$16** X (# of 70 Plus Passes \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_      Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Payment in FULL due: May 3, 2002

Make Checks Payable to: "Columbia Association"

Mail to: Paul Cresci 17 Birch St. Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

No refunds after May 3

## Columbia Association Activities



Raechell (Shelly) Apea proudly accepts her 2001 Italian American of the Year Award



Bian Vignali holding his Columbia Association Scholarship Award



President Tummino accepting the Colapesce Award during a special ceremony honoring FDNY firefighters in Messina, Italy



Members from the NJ Landscaper's Association and NJ Turfgrass Association make generous donation to FDNY Firefighters



The Italian Welfare League presents check to the Columbia Association

**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	Division 13
Treasurer	Thomas Rivicci	Engine Co. 248
Manhattan Trustee	Dan Volpe	DISCO\Hdqtrs.
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Rescue 5
Bronx Trustee	Joseph Governale	Division 13
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Isilano	Ladder Co. 108
Queens Trustee	Michael Smithwick	Squad 270
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103
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.
Webmaster	Frank D'Amato	

<b>Committee Chairs:</b>		Home Phone	Work Phone
Membership/Vacation:	Paul Cresci	516-358-5135	
Lottery:	Dennis DiTucci	516-794-7699	
Parade:	Eugene D'Auria	516-352-3676	
Pocono Mountains:	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

**2002 Columbia Association Scholarship Award Applications**

**High School Awards:**

Applicants must be in the eight grade and applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2002.

The High School placement exam will be administered in March.

**Check the Department Orders for date and location.**

**College Awards:**

SAT Exam taken between September of Junior year to March of Senior year of High School.

Only applications in the graduating year are acceptable.

**Applications must be post marked by April 1, 2002.**

Contact Craig Silvino, 631-271-2928 or your Borough Trustee for applications, or check our website for more information.



**Visit our Website:**  
[www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)

**Email the Columbia Association**  
[FDItaly@aol.com](mailto:FDItaly@aol.com)

**2002 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.

**Long Island: May 7, 2002**

To Be Announced

**Brooklyn: April 9, November 12, 2002**

VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.

**Bronx: March 12, October 8, 2002**

Guiding Star Council Hall, 3243 Ampere Ave.

**Staten Island: February 12, September 10, 2002**

Hillside Swim Club, 151 Signs Rd.

**Queens: January 8, June 11, 2002**

Cephalos - 20-41 Steinway Street (Between 20th Rd & 20th 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.*



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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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