



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

Volume 33, No. 2

2nd Quarter 2002

The Columbia Association Announces its 2002 Man-of-the-Year Honoree



The Columbia Association of the New York City Fire Department will celebrate its 68th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Thursday, June 20, 2002. Our 2002 Honoree will be **Antonio "NINO" Vendome**

His small family-owned restaurant, NINO'S, located a short distance north of the World Trade Center has been a neighborhood fixture for almost 30 years. He closed its doors to the public on September 12 and reopened the following day to provide hot meals 24/7 to the thousands of workers at and around

ground zero. To date, the restaurant has served over 500,000 meals. And although the restaurant closed on February 12th, the kitchen remains open and delivers meals directly to ground zero.

Antonio "Nino" Vendome has distinguished himself as both a real estate developer and humanitarian over his 30-year career as a New York City businessman. He is currently Chairman of Group Vendome, Inc. a real estate management and Development Company, and Chairman of the Nino's Restaurant 9/11 Fund, a non-profit organization that celebrates the courage and dedication of our uniformed public servants.

Columbia Association Special Recognition Awarded to...

Pelco, Co.

David McDonald CEO., and the members of Pelco opened their hearts to the victims families and the members of the Fire Department. On December 7th, he flew over 1,000 firefighters and their families to Fresno California for the weekend. While in Fresno, firefighters were treated as guests of the town. On Sunday Mr. McDonald opened his home to all of us for a dinner party that will never be forgotten.

David McDonald dedicated a large granite monument with a bronze plague in front of an imposing one hundred foot tall stainless steel flagpole to the City of New York located on the property of Pelco.

Pelco is a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of video security systems and equipment.

Columbia Association Humanitarian Awarded to...

Vincenzo R. Marra

Vincenzo, along with his family, has created a non-profit foundation which focuses on the needs of education, especially for talented students at the high school and college levels who are dependent on financial aid to continue their studies. The Marra family also works actively to promote independent education for future professionals in the field of Spas and Aesthetics, as well as helping other non-profit charitable organizations.

Vincenzo is a member of the Board of Directors of NIAF (The National Italian American Foundation), headquartered in Washington, DC, and has acted as Advisor to the Chairman for the past twenty years. He is also the NIAF Regional Vice President in New York.

The President's Corner

Vincent Tummino

Summer is around the corner, I hope each and everyone is planning a vacation.

Our scholarship test is completed and I wish to thank all the children who participated, and most of all congratulations to the winners.

Our Annual Dinner Dance on June 20th is once again a sellout, there are however, some lottery tickets left, please get a few friends and share a ticket, all commissars please check your firehouse and make sure you sent your ticket in. All the profits are to benefit our children to better their education.

There are still some members who did not pay their dues for 2002; you can download a beneficially card from our web site.

We setup a few trips, one to Hershey Park this summer and the other to Las Vegas in the fall.

Keep checking our web site (www.fdnycolumbia.com) weekly for changes. While browsing on our site frequently refresh each page in order to update the page.

Thank you all for your continued support to both the members of FDNY and to our association.

Remember Mark your calender for our Annual Columbus Day Parade on October 14, 2002.

Retirees Corner

by Joseph Donatelli

Spring is in full bloom and our retirees are asking many questions. The ones often asked is the variable supplement fund or as it is now known the *Defined Payment*. There are three basic types of retirement:

1. *Regular Service* – After completions of 20 years or more of service
2. *Service incurred disability* - Commonly called three quarters.
3. *Non-Service incurred disability* - Disability not caused by fire duty.

Regular service retirees besides their pension get the *Defined Payment*, which for 2002 is \$9500. It will increase \$500 a year until the year 2007 when it will reach \$12,000. When a regular service retiree gets a cost of living it was put on his pension but deducted from his *Defined Payment*.

We now have an annual cost of living, based on Federal Cost of Living Guidelines. This will continue until the year 2007, when the *Defined Payment* will theoretically be \$12,000. At that time according to the City, the *Defined Payment* will be renegotiated. This is taking money from Peter to pay Paul. In this case Paul is the City which makes out because *Defined Payment* money is City money but cost of living money is State money.

Firefighters and officers out on Service incurred and non-service incurred disabilities do not get the *Defined Payment* therefore do not get anything deducted from their pension.

Service Incurred Disabilities (three quarters) pension is free from Federal, State and City Taxes. Non-Service and regular service pension are free from State and City taxes but pay Federal taxes which is the big one.

We will have to wait until the year 2007 to find out how this will turn out.

Medicare Part "B" is another question asked by retirees. As of this writing, all the powers that be, say that new Mayor Bloomberg has left the money in his budget to pay for this increase. We will find out in August, when the money is scheduled to be paid.

I hope I have been of some help in answering some of retiree's questions, if you have anymore, please call me. Joe Donatelli, 718.591.4282.

Late Dues Reminder

Your Association's ability to serve its members requires that dues be paid in full, on-time. 2002 dues from some members are still outstanding . If you have not yet paid, please send them in to our PO Box Number listed on page 6. If you have a question regarding your dues or membership please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Paul Cresci at 516-358-5135.

FDNY Columbia Association On-line Store (www.fdnycolumbia.com)

Visit our on-line store and shop at for official FDNY Columbia Association materials.

The store features embroidered jackets, golf, "T" and sweat shirts as well as hats and much more.

All proceeds benefit the Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.

Columbia Association 2002 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2002 College Recipients

<i>Name</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Robert Volpe*</i>	Gerard Barbara Award	\$2700	Richard Volpe L54
<i>Rachael Colley</i>	Gerard Barbara Award	\$1750 (tie)	Robert Colley Batt 19
<i>Lauren Ticarico</i>	Gerard Barbara Award	\$1750 (tie)	Anthony Tricarico Ret
<i>Daniel Pfliging</i>	2nd Place College	\$1000	Roger Pfliging E8

Congratulations to our 2002 High School Recipients

<i>Name</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Davia Palmeri</i>	Marcello-Murphy Award	\$950	Sal Palmeri Batt 54
<i>Kelly Koeth</i>	Anthony DiGennaro	\$600	James Koeth E163
<i>Danielle Trosa</i>	3rd Place HS	\$500	Frank Trosa L51
<i>Vincent DiForte III</i>	Peter Grippo Award	\$750	Vincent DiForte II
<i>Dominic Garafola</i>	2nd Place HS	\$600	Joseph Garafola E285
<i>Nicholas Leone</i>	3rd Place HS	\$500	David Leone Fleet Maint

* Highest SAT Score (Rosina Higgins Benefit)

Each award will be presented at our 2002 Scholarship Dinner Dance on June 20, 2002 at Russo's on the Bay.

"CHIEF BARBARA DAY"

With the Staten Island Yankees



Saturday July 20, 2002
Richmond County Ballpark

Call 718.720.9200 for Advance Sale Tickets
(Ask to sit in the Chief Jerry Barbara section)

Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis
50/50 Raffle to benefit Chief Gerard A. Barbara
Scholarship Fund

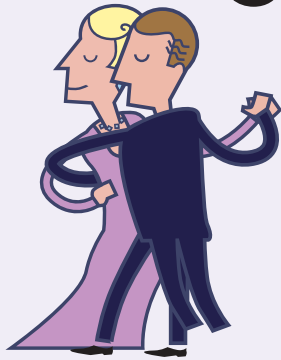
Please come and join us to commemorate
Jerry and watch some Yankee Baseball

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

- 1st prize \$12,000
- 2nd prize \$5,000
- 3rd 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. 1st prize is \$12,000. 2nd prize \$5,000 and 3rd 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					
Total						

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 _____

Make Checks Payable to: "Columbia Association"
Mail to: Paul Cresci 17 Birch St. Floral Park, N.Y. 11001
No refunds

**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	
Treasurer	Thomas Rivicci	Engine Co. 248	
Financial Secretary	Paul Cresci	Division 13	
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 53 (Cov)	
Manhattan Trustee	Dan Volpe	DISCO/Hdqtrs.	
Queens Trustee	Michael Smithwick	Squad 270	
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Rescue 5	
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Isolano	Ladder Co. 108	
Bronx Trustee	Joseph Governale	Division 13	
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS	
Public Relations	Angelo D'Agostino	Retired	
Webmaster	Frank D'Amato	EMS/Hdqtrs.	
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.	
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.		
Committee Chairs:			
		Home Phone	Work Phone
Membership:	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
Good & Welfare:	Joseph Donatelli	718-591-4282	Retired
Scholarship/Dinner Dance	Craig Silvino	631-271-2928	718-965-8283
Vacation:	Andy Isolano	516-314-0254	718-965-8216

Columbia Association Membership

Members are encouraged to pass along information on becoming a members to prospective individuals. Visit our apply on-line via our website or contact Paul Cresci, 516-358-5135 to request an application.

To be eligible for a regular membership the applicant must be of Italian descent. (Definition of Italian Descent- defined as either parent having had Italian lineage, with final acceptance of said applicant being determined by the Board of Directors).

Become an Associate Member

Any person who is not otherwise eligible to be a member of this association shall be eligible for associate membership in the association. There shall be issued to all associate members an associate membership card.

Associate members shall be entitled to receive the association's newspaper, shall be permitted to attend all weekend and vacation trips sponsored by the association.

Associate members are not eligible for the death benefit and scholarships.

The associate members shall not be permitted in attendance at the business portion of the meeting. Dues \$10 per year.



Visit our Website:
www.fdnycolumbia.com

Email the Columbia Association
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.



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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