



# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

## IN THIS ISSUE

◆  
A Letter From  
The President

◆  
2004  
Scholarship  
Winners

◆  
2004  
Vacation  
& Trips

◆  
2004  
Association  
Honorees

## A Letter From The President

After a long, cold and snowy winter, summer is just around the corner. Hopefully everyone is getting ready for some type of vacation.

By the time you receive this newsletter, all of our plans will be in place for our annual dinner dance. It is sure to be a sellout. Congratulations to our 2004 honorees and this year's scholarship winners (see enclosed articles).

The Hershey Park will be July 21st-25th. We are sure to get a sizeable crowd to attend with us. There are only a few days left to reserve your room. Check our website @ [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com) for details.

Remember to check our web site regularly, as we constantly update and post all our events, plus other information. [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)

As for the Columbia Association, we are doing great in 2004. We continue to raise funds for our scholarship fund, run activities for our members and their families, and network with our friends from Italy. In fact, I just returned from a ten-day trip to Italy.

I landed in Catania, picked up by my friend and firefighter (Ivan) where we toured Sicily and met some great people. Next, I was off to meet with the Mayor of Vittoria and to trace my family roots. Next stop was Palermo where the President of the Region, Mr. Gambino, greeted me. The Firefighters in all three cities treated me with open arms. Then, I was off to Rome to attend a gala dinner affair to celebrate the Sons of Italy 100th Anniversary. I met with our friends from



ST. PETER'S, ROME

Florence and I took a day trip to Neptune/Anzio to visit our friends from City Hall, the museum for the Anzio landing from WWII and The American Veterans Cemetery. My guide for the day was my good friend (Policeman) Max DeMarco ◆



FIREFIGHTERS IN VITTORIA, SICILY

Visit Our Online Store & Shop For Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.  
All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.

[www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)



# 2004 Man of the Year:

## Salvatore Cassano, FDNY-Chief of Operations



Salvatore Cassano entered the New York City Fire Department in November 1969 and was assigned to Engine 31 and Engine 55 in Little Italy. Chief Cassano quickly rose through the ranks of the Department. In August 1977, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Ladder 113 in Brooklyn and remained at Ladder 113 upon his promotion to Captain in April 1984. In 1987, he was promoted to Battalion Chief and was assigned to Battalion 40. He was promoted again in 1993 to Deputy Chief and assigned to Division 14. While Salvatore Cassano was studying for promotion, he also attended Brooklyn Community College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and graduated in June 1976 with a BS in Fire Science.

As Chief of Operations, he oversees day-to-day management of all FDNY units with primary concerns of fire suppression and the safety of members operating in the City of New York. On September 11, 2001 he assisted in the Incident Command, surviving both collapses. One of Chief Cassano's primary concerns is to assess and chart a new direction for the future, while still maintaining the traditional core values of service, bravery, safety, honor, dedication and preparedness. The Department's vision is one of partnership between uniformed and civilian members that will build on our core competencies to handle all fires, pre-hospital care and emergencies, as well as new challenges. He has been an instrumental part of rebuilding one of the greatest fire departments on Earth.

Married to Theresa, they have five children and reside in the borough of Staten Island. ♦

### Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners 2004 College Recipients

#### Gerard Barbara Scholarship

	<u>Award</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Child</u>
Rosina Higgins Award *	\$2,800	John Regazz	E-53	Ashley
	\$2,500	Gary Iorio	Div 1	Nicholas
	\$1,500	James DiDomenico	Div13	Christine
	\$1,500	Thomas Matassa	E268	Matthew

#### 2004 High School Recipients

#### Vincenzo, Susy & Ilaria Marra Scholarship

	<u>Award</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Child</u>
Marcello-Murphy Award *	\$1,600	Michael Galletta	E161	Aimee
	\$1,400	Jim Koeth	E163	Timothy
	\$1,200	Richard Alles	Batt58	Meghan
	\$1,200	Nicholas Gaudiosi	L7	Matthew
	\$1,000	Louis Cresci	E66	Danny
	\$1,000	Martin Accardi	M-6	Liana

#### \*Highest Test Score

#### 2004 National Council Scholarship

\$500	Ralph Caramanica	E73	Kimberly
\$500	Richard Berkhout	E298	Matthew



# Our Special Recognition Award:

**Nicola Arena, CEO Mediterranean Shipping Company**



Nicola Arena was born in 1940 in Messina (Italy) and raised in Genoa where he graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy. He sailed as a licensed deck officer on board various ships of Italian Line and Texaco and was later appointed Senior Purser on board T/S Michelangelo, Raffaello and Leonardo Da Vinci. In 1968, he was made Junior Executive at Italian Line New York where he became Director of Marketing in 1972 and eventually Owner's Representative in 1974. In 1975, Mr. Arena started Italian Line new full container service between USA and Western Mediterranean. In 1978, he joined Containership Agency as Vice President. In 1987, he was named President of American Containership Agency. And, in 1989, Mr. Arena was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Containership Agency, which in 1994


changed its name to Mediterranean Shipping Company (USA) Inc., a steamship company specializing in ocean and intermodal transportation worldwide. MSC, with head offices in Geneva, is the 2nd largest container carrier in the world. The company operates 220 container ships with an aggregate capacity of 700,000 tons. MSC also owns four cruise ships (m/v Rhapsody, m/v Symphony, m/v Melody and the brand-new MSC Lirica) all based in Genoa. MSC (USA) employs over 650 people and has offices in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charleston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Norfolk, New Orleans, Oakland, Freeport, Nassau-Bahamas, and New York.

## Battalion 15 Commander Awarded

### I Leone di san Marco Award

*On May 2nd 2004 Battalion Commander Keith Cartica was awarded the Il leone di San Marco Firefighter's award from the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of the Bronx and Westchester. The Award is presented to outstanding Italian Americans. This prestigious award was presented to Nicholas Scoppetta in 1999. Keith Cartica, along with his family, received the honor at the twenty-fifth annual Champagne Brunch at Lehman College in the Bronx. The members of the Columbia Association salute you.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**CHIEF JERRY BARBARA  
NIGHT**  
with the Staten Island Yankees



Saturday, July 31, 2004 @ 7:10 pm  
Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George

- Call 718.720.9200 for advance ticket sales
- Ask to be seated in the "Jerry Barbara Section"
- Tickets sold on first-come, first-served basis

Please come join us on a special night to commemorate Jerry and watch as the SI Yankees take on the Batavia Muckdogs



## National Council of Columbia Associations' Special Recognition Award

Our own Keith Tanico was honored at the National Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service at their annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on May 2, 2004. On this special occasion, we salute a distinguished individual who advances our noble purpose. A much-admired humanitarian, his outstanding support and meaningful contributions have a lasting and positive impact for our children and their grateful families. Keith Tanico has raised over \$50,000 for the FDNY Columbia Association Scholarship Fund. His dedication and willingness to assist those less fortunate extends the mission statement of the Columbia Association. Congratulations and best wishes to you and your family. ♦



## Our Humanitarian Award:

### Francesca Tenconi, Founder, the Children's Skin Disease Foundation



Francesca Tenconi founded the Children's Skin Disease Foundation and has raised more than \$500,000 in donations and grants to support research, awareness, and several summer camps for children with skin disease.

Francesca was diagnosed with a rare and potentially fatal skin disease when she was 11. For over four years she battled her disease, receiving care from doctors at several respected hospitals on both the East and West coast. However, due to her disease and the treatments, she was unable to enjoy many of the experiences other children enjoyed. One thing she particularly missed was summer camp. Francesca thought this was unfair to her and to other children she met at hospitals and clinics, so she decided to start a camp that could be attended by doctors to care for the children. At the age of 16, Francesca established a foundation by asking family and friends to make a donation to form the Children's Skin Disease Foundation, in lieu of birthday gifts. She then solicited donations, organized several fundraisers, and obtained the use of a campsite in Northern California for "Camp Wonder". Next, she asked doctors and medical centers to recommend children with skin disease and contacted medical schools for volunteer doctors and nurses. She also recruited teen volunteers and adult counselors to supervise the children and participate in camp activities. By contacting medical supply companies, she secured a large quantity of medical supplies for use at camp - over \$8,000 in bandages is used each week of camp.



"Many of these children are born into a world of pain, disfigurement, and social rejection. At camp, no one stares, makes fun of scars, or refuses to go near a camper," she explains. "With a camp of their own, they are free to swim and participate in camp activities without embarrassment."

Since 2001, over 185 children have attended one of CSDF's camps. Many of the children have never slept away from home except in hospitals, and have never been swimming, worn shorts, or met other children with a skin disease. Burn victims also attend camp. Francesca is a sophomore at Duke University majoring in a tailored course of study focusing on the emotional and developmental problems faced by children with visible conditions such as skin disease and burns. She intends to pursue a medical degree and specialize in pediatric dermatology and psychology so she can continue helping children. She is also expanding the camps. Two additional camps will open this summer; one in Southern California and one in North Carolina. Francesca hopes to establish more camps including one in New

York, and to convince Congress to pass legislation to mandate insurance payment for bandages necessary for children with skin disease and burns. ♦



# Italy Vacation November 3, 2004

The Columbia Association is planning its 2nd trip to Italy since 2001. Most fittingly, it will be to Italy – the home of our ancestors.

In conjunction with Collette Vacations, we bring you an exiting 10 days in Italy. It is bound to be a true feast for the senses and the soul as Italy is a land rich in history, culture, art and romance.

Our trip takes us to Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, San Gimignano, Florence, San Marino, Ravenna, Venice and Como.

All for \$2199 per person, including land and air fare (cancellation waiver \$180 additional pp). Our flight will depart November 3, 2004 from New York.

More information will be available at the meeting or you can contact Buddy Santangelo in the evenings at (718) 376-8388.

Mark your calendar and get your passport ready for a great 10 days in Italy. You can download an application from our web-site; [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com).



## Gerard Barbara FDNY (Fire) Promotional Scholarship to FireTech

Jerry knew the importance of being prepared for the promotional exams. He always felt by moving up the ladder, he could make a difference. Studying for promotion can be very expensive. The cost of books, material and school can add up. When Jerry was a young family man studying for promotion, Jerry and his wife Joanne had a family meeting. Together they agreed to take \$60 out of their food budget to pay for a book that Jerry needed for an upcoming promotional exam. Through the next few years they worked together to finance their children's college education. Joanne does not want any family to have to make that decision again. The Barbara family has financed two scholarships (one for a Firefighter, one for a Lieutenant) for members of the Columbia Association preparing for promotion. Winners will be awarded a full scholarship for the September 2004 semester at FireTech. Members in good standing are eligible. Please mail information before July 10, 2004 to: Craig Silvino, 14 Piermont Ct., Melville NY 11747

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

For Promotional exam:

Lieutenant: \_\_\_\_\_ Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Directors' decision is final.

Winners will be randomly picked at the August Board of Directors Meeting.

**3rd Annual**  
**Uniformed Firefighters**  
**Association**  
**Celebrity Golf Benefit**

**Monday- July 12, 2004**  
 Village Club at Lake Success  
 For more information  
[UFAGOLFBENEFIT.COM](http://UFAGOLFBENEFIT.COM)





# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York  
P.O. Box 20328  
Staten Island, New York 10302

Prsrt Std.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Newark, NJ  
Permit No. 973

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## LA SOTTO VOCE

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

Mail all articles to:  
P.O. Box 20328  
Staten Island, NY 10302

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

## Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

### Executive Board:

Board President	Vincent A. Tummino	Battalion 22
1st Vice President	Bernard Santangelo	Bureau of Fire Investigations
2nd Vice President	Craig Silvino	Engine 283
3rd Vice President	Joseph Donatelli	Retired
Treasurer	Eugene D'Auria	Battalion 51 (Cov)
Financial Secretary	Joseph Smithwick	Division 13
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103
Sergeant-At-Arms	Joseph Triolo	Engine 303
Manhattan Trustee	Andy Casucci	Battalion 19
Queens Trustee	Joseph Governale	Bureau of Operations
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Battalion 39 (Cov)
Brooklyn Trustee	Andy Mastrota	Engine 321
Bronx Trustee	Chris Reginella	Engine 92
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	

### Committee Chairs:

Membership:	Joseph Smithwick	<u>Home Phone:</u>	<u>Work Phone:</u>
Lottery:	Keith Tanico	516-796-0975	
Parade:	Joseph Governale	718-460-0657	718-965-8290
Pocono Mountains (Trips):	Buddy Santangelo	718-767-1612	718-999-1818
Good & Welfare:	Joseph Donatelli	718-376-8388	718-896-6548
Scholarship/Dinner Dance:	Craig Silvino	718-591-4282	Retired
Hershey Park:	Paul Cresci	631-271-2928	718-965-8283
		516-358-5135	

◆ Visit our website: [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)

◆ Email the Columbia Association:  
[FDItalyNY@aol.com](mailto:FDItalyNY@aol.com)



## 2004 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Bronx  
June 8, 2004  
Guiding Star Council Hall,  
3243 Ampere Ave.

Brooklyn  
September 14, 2004  
VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.

Queens  
October 12, 2004  
VFW Post, 19-12  
149th Street (between 19th & 20th)  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island  
November 9, 2004  
Hillside Swim Club,  
151 Sign Rd.

December  
Proposed Christmas Party

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.