



# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Firemens' Memorial*



*Hershey Park*



*Corvette Car Show*



*2007 Scholarship Dinner Dance*



*The Medical Corner*



*Columbus Day Parade*

# FIREMEN'S MEMORIAL Riverside Park



The Firemen's Memorial (1913) in Riverside Park is one of the most impressive monuments in New York City. The monument was designed by H. Van Buren Magonigle (1867-1935), and its sculptures are attributed to Attilio Piccirilli (1866-1945).

This monument is said to have had its origins in the remarks of the Right Reverend Henry C. Potter at the funeral of Deputy Fire Chief Charles A. Kruger in 1908. Bishop Potter said that while there were many memorials to public and private citizens there were none "to our brave citizens who have lost or will sacrifice their lives in a war that never ends." Potter was the first chairman of the memorial committee, succeeded by Isidor Straus (1845-1912), a founder of Macy's department store, who lived at 105th Street and West End Avenue and died on the R.M.S. Titanic. The committee raised \$90,500, of which \$50,500 was through popular subscription and \$40,000 was in public funds allocated by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on July 17, 1911.



Though originally intended for the north end of Union Square, the monument was ultimately built on the hillside facing the Hudson River at 100th Street. The memorial comprises a grand staircase (once flanked by ornamental luminaires), a balustraded plaza, a fountain basin, and the central monument. Made of Knoxville marble, the monument is a sarcophagus-like

*Continued on next page...*

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we come to the end of what I hope was a good summer for all, the Columbia Association has a great line up of events for this year.

In May we had our 1st Corvette show although we had a little rain Thanks to Chairman Dennis DiTucci it was a wonderful success. It was a good time had by all that attended many thanks to all that did attended. We are looking forward to next year.

In June we had the Scholarship dance, which is always was a great success. In July Chairmen Chris Reginella ran the Hershey Trip, a little rain but then turned out to be a great day.

This month we have the Golf outing at Villa Roma. October Columbus Day, Italy in November, and a lot more. In January we are planning for our Winter weekend and November of 2008 a trip to Sunny Portugal watch for all our events in our newspaper, fliers and web site.

As you can see we have been busy, as always still need your support. If you have any ideas let me know. The Columbia Association Board members are here for you.

Please support the greatest Association by becoming a member. Attend our monthly meetings where you can gain vast knowledge from our members who are active or retired; meet some friends you haven't seen and enjoy good food. We will be bringing in people to speak from the job so that they might share with us trends of changes in the job. And please support our trips and various fund raisers that we put together, its all for our Scholarship fund.

Thank You and Stay Safe  
Buddy Santangelo

### *Continued from front cover..*

structure with a massive bas-relief of horses drawing an engine to a fire (the original was replaced by a bronze replica in the 1950s); to the south and north are allegorical sculpture groups representing "Duty" and "Sacrifice," for which the celebrated model Audrey Munson (1891-1996) is said to have posed.

The architect, Magonigle, also designed the memorial to President William McKinley (1843-1901) in Canton, Ohio. Piccirilli, the sculptor, came from a family of master Italian stone carvers who settled in New York City and had a studio in the Bronx. They contributed sculptural and ornamental carving to the Washington Square Arch and the Pulitzer Fountain. Attilio Piccirilli also collaborated with Magonigle on the Maine Monument at Columbus Circle, at the southwest corner of Central Park.

The monument was dedicated on September 5, 1913, and was formally accepted on behalf of the city by Mayor William Gaynor (1848-1913), who died later that month. Each autumn, the incumbent mayor joins the fire commissioner and thousands of uniformed firefighters at the Firemen's Memorial to honor the memory of firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This well-attended ceremony reaffirms the dedication of these public servants, who perform heroic acts on a daily basis.

Born in New Jersey, Magonigle worked for Calvert Vaux and McKim Mead & White before opening his own practice in 1903. Magonigle and sculptor Attilio Piccirilli collaborated as architect and artist on two familiar monuments in New York City, on the Monument to the USS Maine in Columbus Circle, and on the Fireman's Memorial on Riverside Drive and West 100th Street.

Attilio Piccirilli (1866 - 1945) was born in Tuscany, Italy in 1866. He and his 5 brothers were trained as stone and marble carvers under the guidance of their father the carver Guisepppe Piccirilli. In 1888 the family immigrated to New York where they could further their art. Later Attilio and his brother Furio would move to a brownstone on 142nd Street in the Bronx section of New York and set up an studio next to their home that would eventually occupy an entire city block.

Over the years Attilio and Furio would be involved with the creation of some of the most important monumental sculpture of the time, including: The Four Continents by Daniel Chester French, and twelve allegorical statues on the cornice of the U.S. Custom House at Bowling Green; the N.Y. Stock Exchange Pediment by J.Q.A. Ward; the Senate Pediment of the U.S. Capital Building; tympana bas-reliefs at the Frick Mansion, (both sculpted by Attilio); thirty large allegorical figures for the cornice of the Brooklyn Muscum, the Indian Literature and Indian Law Giver by Attilio; the Civic Virtue Statue-Fountain by Frederick MacMonnies now at Queens Borough Hall; the Maine Monument, Central Park and Firemen's Monument, Riverside Park, both sculpted by Attilio, and The Joy of Life and Youth Leading Industry (cast in Pyrex Glass), Palazzo d'Italia, both at Rockefeller Center, by Attilio; and the carving of the pediments (2), attic sculptures (6), and Lions at The New York Public Library.



# HERSHEY PARK 2007

Hershey Park celebrated "100 years of Happy" this summer, and the Columbia Association joined in on the fun. This year, over 400 members of the association and FDNY family strolled on the new "Boardwalk at Hershey Park"! The Boardwalk featured Nathan's hot dogs at Coney Island, Sand Castles at Ocean City, and Arcades at Atlantic City; all in one place. Everyone enjoyed the Roller Soaker, Coastline Plunge, Wave Rider, and many more of the new water attractions on the Boardwalk. The FDNY kids had a smile all day and so did their children.



While in Hershey, the Bonfiglio family enjoyed the "Police" Concert at the Stadium. Water rides and roller coasters all day and rock-n-roll all night. That's the way to party!

The 5th Annual late night Father's Club Planning Meeting at O'Reilly Pub (founded by D.C. Paul Cresci) saw some tired Dad's this year. As usual, matters of utmost importance were considered nothing was decided. I think we need Paul back next year.

Thanks to everyone for making it a successful and fun trip. Special thanks to E-289/L-138 for their large turn out.

Chris Reginella  
Chairman

## QUEENS BOROUGH COMMANDER JOHN ACERNO LAUNCHED A PLEA TO HELP OUR TROOPS



### HELP OUR TROOPS

Members of the Columbia Association Board of Directors donated much needed food and supplies to be sent to our troops in the Middle East. Let's support our troops. We owe it to them

If you would like to help please contact your borough Trustee or the QBC @ 718 281-3367

## 1st Annual MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Michelle, daughter of Joseph DeGrosso winner of the first annual memorial scholarship. Michelle was awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship in memory of our members who past in the year 2006. The award is in memory of FF John Seminria, FF Michael Barone, FF John Evangelista and FF Frank Langone.

## PORTUGAL

NOVEMBER 2008

GET YOUR PASSPORT READY!

INFORMATION AVAILABLE SOON



# 9/11/01

MAY WE NEVER FORGET OUR FAMILIES

## CORVETTE CAR SHOW

On Sunday May 20th, we held our 1st Annual Corvette Car Show to benefit our Scholarship Fund at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, located in East Garden City. Rain early in the morning caused a few entrants not to show up but we wound up with 26 cars in a tough competition for over 20 trophies with the "Best in Show" going to a rare 1963 Split Window Coupe. We had the radio station WBAB transmitting live from our show along with delicious breakfast goodies donated by Panera Bread Restaurant. We raffled off over \$500 in gift certificates from restaurants in the East Meadow area, as well as many car care products and accessories. I want to thank the members of the Executive Board who turned out and helped this event in becoming a success. All entrants were asking if we could do this again, as they all agreed this was the "Best" show they had entered! See you next year.

Dennis DiTucci  
Car Show Chairman



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

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September 17-18 Monday & Tuesday

Includes: Room, Golf (both days),  
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516-796-0975

Please make checks payable to:

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION FDNY  
c/o Joseph Smithwick  
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Levittown, NY 11746

## *Municipal Credit Union Welcomes the Members of Columbia Association F.D.N.Y.*

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# 2007 SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

On June 21 2007 once again we filled Russo's on the Bay to honor our scholarship winners. The night began with a moment of silence and prayer for the families of the nine heroic firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Charleston, South Carolina. We were also reminded of how dangerous our job is and how precious life is when we were informed that Firefighter Daniel F. Pujdak made the supreme sacrifice and lost his life protecting the people of the City of New York earlier that day.

The Columbia Association awarded over \$16,000 to our children. We were blessed to have our own Regina Wilson (FDNY Ceremonial Unit) perform the National Anthem. Our "2007 Man of the Year" Vincent Tummino, our past president spoke on his love for the FDNY, Columbia Association and his Italian heritage. As we all knew, while he retired from the FDNY he will not relax. Vinny and Danny Nigro founded the International Columbia Association. They have taken our association worldwide. We wish Vinny well; rumor has it he is buying a boat, free boat rides with a valid Columbia Association Membership card.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



VINCENT TUMMINO



FRIENDS OF FIREFIGHTERS NANCY CARBONE

Friends of Firefighters, Nancy Carbone our Humanitarian, we can never compensate them for the work that they do everyday. The FDNY will always be indebt to them, please visit their website and give them your support. [www.friendsoffirefighters.org](http://www.friendsoffirefighters.org)

Holland & Knight, Brian Starer, our Special Recognition Award for the creation of the 9-11 memorial located at E10&L10. The sixth anniversary of 9-11 has arrived and we still do not have a memorial. Thanks to Holland & Knight the FDNY families have a place for remembrance.

The dance floor was packed through the night as the Chris Michaels Band kept us hopping. Our bellies were stuffed thanks to Frank Russo's and his exceptional staff. A special thanks to all our scholarship contributors, journal purchasers, and to all the participants of the Columbia Association events. All of our events fund our scholarship program. We thank all who attended and we hope to see you next year for our 74th Scholarship Dinner Dance. Mark your calendar June 19, 2008.



HOLLAND & KNIGHT BRIAN STARER





## NEW YORK CITY FIRE MUSEUM TO HONOR THE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

October 2007 the Fire Museum will hold the Columbia Association Exhibition to honor Italian American members of the FDNY. This is a great honor for the Columbia Association. We are looking for stories, articles and other collectables to display at the museum. We are looking for historians of the FDNY to assist us with this exhibition. We need your help! Please contact Craig Silvino 347-556-9906.


## 2007 Columbus Day Parade

As the summer is slowly coming to a close, we are once again coming into the beautiful and colorful season of fall. This is the time where we are approaching and preparing for our annual Columbus Day Parade.

This year the date is Monday October 8th. We will meet and form up at the corner of West 44th St & Fifth Ave by 11:30 am. The annual mass will again be in St Patricks Catderhal mass starts at 9:15 am. There will be a breakfast that morning from 8:30 to 11:30 AM at the Au Bon Pain restaurant, 16 East 44th Street between 5th and 6th Avenue.

Full details will be posted on our web site [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com) or contact Parade Chairman Joe Triolo at 718-751-6731.

The wreath laying ceremony will be on Sunday, October 7th, at 8:00 am. Location is the Columbus Monument at 8th Ave & 59th St.

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## SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY '07 WINNER

Once again we had a successful scholarship lottery, selling out all 200 tickets. We would like to thank all who participated and those that won. Our lottery provides a generous amount of prizes while concurrently declaring a triumphant fund raiser for our scholarship fund. The Columbia Association awarded 10 scholarships to boys and girls for H.S. and college. This year our winners are; 1st prize-- E7 & L1, 2nd prize-- E94/L48 & B3 and 3rd prize awarded to Nick Visconti. Thank you all for your continued support of the Scholarship Lottery and congratulations to the winners. Get your tickets early for our 2008 lottery.

*-Keith Tanico*



# THE M E D I C A L C O R N E R

Hello and welcome to the third featured column of "La Sotto Voce" designed to share information regarding your health for you and your families.

Heart attack, stroke and poor blood circulatory problems are still the number one cause of death and disability in the U. S. With this concern in mind, we believe in the use of Early Detection & Prevention as a tool to combat this major health concern. We encourage a healthier lifestyle which can avoid or halt this major problem. First thing you'll need is information about your body.

### Can you answer these questions?

What is your:

1. Blood pressure reading?
2. Total Cholesterol?
3. Good (called HDL) Cholesterol number?
4. Bad (LDL) cholesterol number?
5. Triglyceride number?
6. Cholesterol Ratio?
7. Glucose (sugar) number?
8. Body Mass Index?
9. % of Fat in your weight?
10. % of Lean Body Weight?
11. % of Water in your weight?
12. Calories needed to maintain or lose weight?
13. Calories burned for exercise you do?
14. Heart rate during your exercise?
15. Blood Pressure during your exercise?
16. Aerobic Fitness Level? Below Average, Average, Above Average, Excellent?

Do you know if your:

17. Heart muscle is getting all the blood it needs?
18. Heart pumps enough blood it needs?
19. Heart skips a beat or has an electrical disorder?
20. Carotid Arteries (blood flow to your brain) have plaque?
21. Abdominal Aorta (main artery from your heart) has an aneurysm?
22. Legs are getting enough blood circulation?

Vascular Diagnostic in Flushing Queens would like to help you answer these questions. Armed with answers to these questions you can help avoid surprises regarding your health. Take Control With Information - call the experts 718 886-0600.

Tip for the season: Going on vacation? Bring all your medical information with you, such as medications, conditions, and test results. It should be part of your routine packing. Time differences or a remote area can be a problem when trying to get that type of information from your doctor's office in an emergency situation.

The Medical Corner provided by:  
Vascular Diagnostic Assoc., P.C. in Flushing, Queens 718 886-0600 vascular-diagnostic.com Cardiovascular Imaging for FDNY members since 1981

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## LA SOTTO VOCE

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

### Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

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Parade:	Joe Triolo
Good & Welfare:	Dennis DiTucci
Scholarships & Dinner Dance:	Craig Silvino
Hershey Park:	Chris Reginella
Journal	Grace Cacciola
Editor	Craig Silvino
Golf	Joseph Smithwick
Trip	Bernard Santangelo

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

❖ E-mail the Columbia Association: [buddy@fdnycolumbia.com](mailto:buddy@fdnycolumbia.com)

❖ Columbia Association Hotline: (347) 556-9906

### 2007 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn  
Jan 09, 2007 & June 12, 2007  
VFW Post, 2414 Garrison Ave.

Queens  
Feb. 13, 2007 & Sept. 19, 2007  
VFW Post, 19-12  
149th St. (between 19th & 20th)  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island  
March 13, 2007 & Oct. 09, 2007  
Hillside Swim Club  
151 Sign Rd.

Bronx  
Apr. 10, 2007 & Nov. 13, 2007  
Guiding Star Council Hall,  
3243 Ampere Ave.

Long Island  
May 8, 2007  
American Legion  
250 Franklin Ave  
Malverne, LI

Christmas Party  
Dec. (date to be announced)

