



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

IN THIS ISSUE



President's Award Recipient



Special Recognition Awardee



A Lesson in Italian



1st Annual Ravioli Eating Contest



Retiree's Corner



2013 PERSON OF THE YEAR

NYS SENATOR

DIANE SAVINO



Diane Savino has dedicated her entire professional career towards improving the lives of working families. She began her career in public service as a caseworker for New York City's Child Welfare Administration, providing direct assistance to abused and neglected children.

An active member of her local labor union, the Social Service Employees Union, Local 371, DC 37 of AFSCME, she quickly rose through the ranks to become the Vice President for Political Action & Legislative Affairs, where she became one of the most respected labor leaders in New York State.

As a labor official, she actively and successfully campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15—the first raise for New Yorkers in over a decade.

In 2004, she was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District, encompassing the North Shore of Staten Island and portions of Brooklyn, including Borough Park, Coney Island, Bensonhurst, and Sunset Park.

In their endorsement of Senator Savino, the New York Times described her as “scrappy and effective”. Her dedication to her constituents earned her the Staten Island Advance’s “strongest endorsement for a third term”, saying “no lawmaker works harder and no lawmaker commits herself to the fight for her constituents more than Ms. Savino”.

Senator Savino has championed legislation protecting hard-working New Yorkers. Among the laws she has had enacted is the first in the nation Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, expanding basic worker protection rights to domestic workers; the Prompt Pay Bill, which ensures prompt payment to construction contractors and their employees; Wage Theft Prevention Act, assessing preventative and punitive measures on employers that steal income from their employees.

She has served as chair of both the Civil Service and Pensions Committee and currently the Children and Families Committee. From those committees she authored the law that would limit public authorities from contracting out for services that can be performed by public employees; provided a cost-of-living increase in the death benefit for widows and widowers of police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty and expanded and made permanent the Family Differential Response (FAR) Program.

Local initiatives include the establishment of a Quiet Zone on the Staten Island Ferry, an annual Transportation Service Survey, a Mobile District Office, Back to School Fairs, Women’s Health Events, a series of hearings on the foreclosure and subprime lending crisis, district-wide workshops for seniors on the Medicare prescription drug plan, and statewide hearings on HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.

Senator Savino sponsors a wide array of programs in the 23rd District, including the only kosher soup kitchen in New York City, Staten Island’s Downtown Drive-In Movies, a mobile mammography unit, as well as a wide variety of programs for at-risk youth and senior citizens.

Standing Committee Assignments 2012: Children and Family (Chair), Civil Service and Pensions, Banks, and Veterans Homeland Security and Military Affairs.

Vist Our Online Store & Shop For Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.
All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.
www.fdnycolumbia.com



PRESIDENT'S AWARD
PRESENTED TO
FDNY BUREAU OF TRAINING



TOMAS GALVIN
CHIEF OF TRAINING

Chief Thomas Galvin began his 35-year career with the FDNY in 1978 when he was assigned to Engine Company 234 in Brooklyn, New York. As a company

officer he worked in Harlem and Mid-Town Manhattan. He has served the FDNY as a Chief officer for over 22 years.. He served as a Battalion Chief in Battalion 44 in Brooklyn and then as a Deputy Chief in the 3rd Division in Manhattan.

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001 he was asked to become a member of the FDNY Command Staff. He initially served as the Deputy Borough Commander of Manhattan and then as the Brooklyn Borough Commander. In 2004 he was asked to become the Chief in Charge of the Bureau of Training.

The Bureau of Training consists of several commands including the Fire Academy, EMS Academy, Fort Totten Operations, the Ceremonial Unit and the Fire Safety Education Unit. Chief Galvin acknowledges the outstanding work conducted by numerous members, of all ranks, who have assisted in enhancing the training of the members of the FDNY and the safety of the citizens of New York City.

Chief Galvin resides in Miller Place, New York, Emily and Megan.

Special Recognition Award
presented to
Bruno Fusato Signoretti



Bruno Fusato Signoretti descends from one of the oldest and most prestigious families in Venice. The family, since the 15th Century, consists of a distinguished line of gondoliers, and Bruno himself began by learning and practicing this art. In 1986, he purchased a disused factory on Murano Island. Through his hard work, philosophy of life and boundless love for the deep traditions of Venice, the Serenissima Republic, he built Signoretti into an iconic world of artistry in glass, admired the world over.

He is an esteemed Knight of San Marco, as well as a Commendatore of the Republic of Italy and a Commendatore dell'Ordine dei Templari. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in Business administration from the Constantinian University of Rhode Island. Bruno and his wife Suzy have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three daughters, Maria Luisa, Elisabetta and Barbara, as well as three grandchildren.

Long renowned for charitable works in Venice, Bruno was one of the first to support the restoration of the historic Fenice Opera House destroyed by fire in 1996. He continues as a patron and member of the Gran Teatro La Fenice Foundation. He has been active in art restoration and supports cultural and educational projects too numerous to mention. Following the tragic events of September 11th 2001, Bruno immediately came to the support of our firefighters and their families. He has hosted, in Venice, delegations from New York, and has made many generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund. He is truly a man with strength of character, warmth and an irreplaceable commitment to charity.

He is a proud member of our organization and we are proud to be able to call him our friend.

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION
9TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

GOLF
OUTING

SEPTEMBER 2013
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

HUDSON VALLEY RESORT & SPA
(FORMERLY THE GRANIT)

INFORMATION COMING SOON

2nd Annual **Bocce Ball**
Tournament

Thursday, June 13th 2013

Games start: **11am - 5pm** (Warm-ups at 10am)

Limited Space: 16-24, 2-player teams. **Single Elimination Tournament.**

Eisenhower Park, 1899 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY
Enter parking lot #1 on Merrick Ave (just north of Hempstead Tpke), turn right. Parking will be on the right and the courts, just in front of you (LOOK for our BANNER).

We will have raffles during the day!
Entree fee: \$30 each player
Contact: John Signorile (516) 782-5343

Homemade wine tasting contest, contact if interested. All are welcome. Food and drinks will be served! Come spend the day with some friends and have a great time!



COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION HERSHEY PARK

DESIGN A VACATION TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA

1. HOTEL & HERSHEY PARK TICKET COMBO
2. HOTEL ONLY
3. HERSHEY PARK TICKET ONLY*

*THE PARK TICKET IS GOOD FOR ANY DATE DURING THE SUMMER SEASON (May –Sept.)
Call Park for details about their night before park preview and exact dates.

DATES: Wednesday July 24, 2013 to Sunday July 28, 2013

LODGING: Best Western The CENTRAL Harrisburg, PA phone (717) 561-2800
Hotel price is \$133 per room/per night. Check in 3pm

HERSHEY PARK: PARK TICKET (DAILY) (Food & parking not included)
Admits Holder to all attractions for the day.

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

Worksheet

1. Calculate Rooms and Tickets needed

	# of	# of passes		
	ROOMS	Kids (3-8)	Adults (9-54)	Senior (55-69)
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday	XXXXX			
Totals				

2. Calculate the PRICE:

		TOTALS		
133	x (# of Rooms	_____)	=	_____
\$37	x (# of Adult Passes	_____)	=	_____
\$29	x (# of Kid Passes	_____)	=	_____
\$29	x (# of Senior Passes	_____)	=	_____
		_____)	=	_____
\$5	Park passes mailed to you		=	_____
	TOTAL		=	_____

**We sold out last year so
First Come First Serve
ALL WELCOME**

No refunds after June 22

Payment in FULL due: June 22, 2013 Make Checks Payable to: "Columbia Association"
Mail to: Sal Belmonte 1616 Stevens Ave. Merrick, NY 11566 - Phone (516) 233-8142
(proceeds benefit Columbia Association Scholarships)



Come stai? Molto bene. Bongiorno. Ciao. Arrivederci.

Every Italian from Italy knows these words and every Italian-American should. But what about the goomba speech pattern? Those words and phrases that are a little Italian, a little American, and a lot of slang, words every Paesano and Bacciagalloop have heard, words we hear throughout our Little Italy neighborhood of New York. This form of language, the 'Goomba-Italiano' has been used for generations. It's not gangster slang terms like 'whack' or 'vig', if that's what you are thinking---nope, this is real Guido talk!

The goomba says ciao when he arrives or leaves. He says Mama Mia anytime emotion is needed in any given situation. Mannaggia, meengya, oofah, and of course, va fongool can also be used. Capeesh?

He uses a moppeen to wipe his hands in the cuchina, gets agita from the gravy and will shkeevats meatballs unless they are homemade from the famiglia.

Always foonah your bread in the pot of gravy (sauce) or you will be considered a real googootz or Mezzo-finookio.

There are usually plenty of mamalukes and the girl from the neighborhood with the reputation is a facia-bruta, puttana or a schifosa.

If called cattivo, cabbadost, sfatcheem, stupido, or strunz, you are usually a pain in the ass. A crazy diavlo can give you the malokya (evil eye), but that red horn (contra malokya) will protect you if you use it right.

Don 't forget to always say per favore and grazia and prego.

If you are feeling mooshadda or stounad or mezzo-morto, always head to Nonna's and she will fix you up with a little homemade manicott', cavadell', or calamar ', or some ricotta cheesecake.

Mangia some zeppoles, canolis, torrone, struffoli, shfoolyadell', pignoli cookies, or a little nutella on pannetone. Delizioso!

I think I will fix myself a sangweech of cabacol' with some proshoot and mozzarella' or maybe just a hot slice of peetza.

So salud' if you have any Italian blood in you and you understood anything written here! Then, you are numero uno and a professore of the goombas.

If you don't get any of this, then fa Nabola with the whole thing and you are a disgraziato. Scuzi, Mia dispiachay, I didn't mean that. Just... Fu-ghedda-boudit. Bada Bing...

This is also so true. Enjoy!

Italians have a \$40,000 kitchen, but use the \$100, 35 year-old stove from Sears in the basement to cook things on.

There is some sort of religious statue in the hallway, living room, bedroom, front porch and backyard. (A Mary on the half shell).

The outdoor table is linoleum covered with small, chrome metal trim along the edges.

The living room is filled with old wedding favors with bows and stale almonds (they are too pretty to open and eat).

All lampshades, stuffed chairs and stuffed couches are covered with stiff, clear plastic.

A portrait of the Pope and Frank Sinatra hang in the dining room.

God forbid if anyone EVER attempted to eat 'Chef Boy-ar-Dee', 'Franco American', 'Ragu', 'Prego', or anything else labeled as Italian in a jar or can.

Meatballs are made with pork, veal and beef, mixed together.

Turkey is served on Thanksgiving AFTER the manicotti, gnocchi, lasagna, and minestrone or shcarole soup.

If anyone EVER says ESCAROLE, slap 'em in the face -- it's SHCAROLE.

Sunday dinner was at 1:00 PM sharp. The meal went like this...

The table was set with everyday dishes. It doesn't matter if they don't match. They're clean; what more do you want? Wine, homemade, is served up in small water or old, cheese glasses. At the table all the utensils go on the right side of the plate and the napkin goes on the left. A clean kitchen towel was put at Nonno's & Papa's plates because they won't use napkins. Homemade wine, a pitcher of water and bottles of 7-UP are on the table.

First course, Antipasto... Change plates.

Second course, macaroni or ravioli. All pasta was called macaroni...or 'paste'... Change plates.

Third course was usually roast beef, some chicken with potatoes and vegetables... Change plates.



Our 79th Annual
Scholarship Dinner Dance
will be held on
June 20, 2013
at
Russo's On The Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach Section of Queens

Cocktails start 7:00 p.m.
Dinner and dancing to follow
Donation of \$95 per person
Tables seat up to 14

Contact Dance Chairman
Craig Silvino at (516) 286-1796

Please make all checks payable to:
Columbia Association Scholarship Fund

THEN, and only then - NEVER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEAL - would you eat the salad drenched in homemade oil & strong, red-vinegar dressing... Change plates.

Next course, fruit & nuts - in the shell - on paper plates because you ran out of the real ones. You pinched yourself on that damn nutcracker how many times?

Last was coffee with anisette, some espresso for Nonno, 'American' coffee for the rest - with hard cookies (biscottis) to dunk in the coffee with more fruit and some cheese.

The kids would go out to play.

The men would go lay down. They slept so soundly that you could do brain surgery on them without anesthesia.

The women cleaned the kitchen.

We got screamed at by Mama or Nonna, and half of the sentences were English, the other half in Italian.

Italian mothers never threw a baseball in their life, but could nail you in the head or back with their shoe thrown from the kitchen while you were in the living room.

Other things particular to Italians...

The prom dress that Zia Ceserina made for her kid, Carmella, cost only \$20.00, which was for the material.

The prom hairdo was done free by Cousin Angelina.

Turning around at your prom to see your entire family, including your Godparents, standing in the back of the gym...was simply PRICELESS!

True Italians will love this. Those of you who are married to Italians will understand this. And those who wish they were Italian, and those who are friends with Italians, will remember with a smile.



FDNY & NYPD COLUMBIA ASSOCIATIONS RAISE \$10,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

BUCA DI BEPPO ITALIAN RESTAURANT SPONSORS FIRST ANNUAL RAVIOLI EATING CONTEST

On March 20th, officially “National Ravioli Day,” NY First responders faced off in a ravioli eating contest at the newly opened Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant in Times Square. Teams from the NYPD and FDNY Columbia Associations rushed to finish plates of ravioli in record time. The event was hosted by celebrity guests Jenny McCarthy and reigning Miss USA 2012 Nana Meriwether.

Special thanks to Buca Di Beppo for the generous donations to our scholarship fund. If you’re in Times Square stop by – the food is amazing!





COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

ADVERTISING CONTRACT

This is an authorization to insert our advertisement in the 79th Annual Souvenir Journal to be published by the Columbia Association, NYC Fire Department. This Journal is published in conjunction with the Association's Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance, to be held on June 20, 2013 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens.

Price List:

Inside Cover	\$ 600.00	Back Cover.....	\$1,200.00	Bronze Page	\$ 250.00
Gold Page	\$ 350.00			Full White Page	\$ 150.00
Silver Page	\$ 300.00			Half White Page	\$ 100.00

Name/Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

Type of ad requested: _____, for which we agree to pay the sum of \$ _____.

This contract must be returned to our Committee no later than **May 25, 2013.**

****PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION – FDNY****

Please forward Ads, Contract and payment to:
Grace M. Cacciola
526 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
gmcacc@aol.com

The Columbia Association reserves the right to refuse to publish any advertisement.

For further information please call; Grace Cacciola @ (516) 852-3318.
(or) Visit our website @ WWW.FDNYCOLUMBIA.COM



T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Now Available at
 monthly membership meetings or by contacting
JOE DEPAOLA, L-27 at
(845) 558-4410 or email live4tonight@optonline.net



Retirees' Corner

by JOHN SIGNORILE

1st Zadroga Filing Period Closing October 3, 2013, and Failure to Register May Result in Denial of Claims

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Individuals suffering from, and representatives of individuals who have died of health conditions or diseases presumptively caused by World Trade Center exposure may be eligible for benefits which include both monetary compensation and health benefits from the VCF. However, claims must be properly registered within specific time periods. A failure to register will likely result in ineligibility for compensation and benefits.

Individuals who knew or should have known, prior to October 3, 2011, that they suffered a physical harm caused by their exposure, have until October 3, 2013, to register with the VCF. In other words if you have been suffering any physical WTC related condition before October 3, 2011, you must register a claim before October 3, of this year. Once you are registered you will need to establish eligibility and medical proof to receive benefits. October 3, is rapidly approaching and eligible members are strongly urged not to delay filing, as last minute claims leave little time to correct errors and may result in loss of benefits.

There is a second filing period for individuals who become aware of a qualifying condition after October 3, 2011. Those individuals must register within two years of the date the VCF determines that the individual knew or should have known that they suffered from a qualifying condition.

- Robert Ungaro & Nicholas Cifuni

You can find more information at:

Ungaro & Cifuni

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.nycdisabilitylaw.com

or call 212 766-5800

2013 Annual Scholarship Lottery

ONLY 200 TICKETS to Be Sold

It is that time again. Our lottery tickets were mailed out on December 15, 2012. If you are interested in a specific number, please call Sal Mirra at (516) 322-7588. We will only sell 200 tickets. We print 2000 tickets numbered 001-2000. The first 200 sold will be accepted. So hurry. Don't miss out!

1st prize \$10,000

2nd prize \$2,000 *3rd prize* \$1,000





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Fire Department, City of New York
14 Ivanhoe Drive
Merrick, NY 11566

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LA SOTTO VOCE

The Newsletter of the FDNY

Columbia Association

La Sotto Voce is published
four times annually.

What does the word DUES mean above your name on your address label mean?

We are updating our Membership program. One of our new features includes a Membership history located directly above your name on your address label. Please check the label. The numbers above your name indicate that we have not received your dues for that particular year. With any new system there are glitches. If your records vary with ours, please give us a call at (516) 303-4209. Our Financial Secretary Steve Forlenza will return your call.

Below indicates 2006 and 2008 dues have not been received.

DUES: 06 08

**Columbia Association
14 Ivanhoe Dr
Merrick, NY 11566**

SAMPLE

If you only see the word DUES above your name, this means you are up-to-date and no action is needed. We apologize for any confusion.

Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

Executive Board:

President	Keith Tanico	Division 13	917 337-7413
1st Vice President	Craig Silvino	Ladder 127	516 286-1796
2nd Vice President	Joseph Smithwick	Engine 303	516 662-3699
3rd Vice President	John Signorile	Ret-L126	516 782-5343
Treasurer	Stephen Forlenza	Division 8	347 266-8781
Financial Secretary	Nick DePierro	Ladder 24	917 648-9305
Recording Secretary	Sal Belmonte	Ladder 102	516 233-8142
Sergeant-At-Arms	Enrico Boletti	Squad 1	917 207-4773
Sergeant-At-Arms	Paul Fischetti	Ladder 4	516 582-0011
Manhattan Trustee	James Pisano	Squad 1	917 751-8335
Queens Trustee	Sal Mirra	Ladder 138	516 322-7588
Staten Island Trustee	Vito Verde	Engine 153	646 529-6346
Brooklyn Trustee	Phil LaRocco	Ladder 148	347 884-1169
Bronx Trustee	Joseph DePaola	Ladder 27	845 558-4410
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	Division 5	516 852-3318
Legal Advisor	Stuart Salles, Esq.		
Spiritual Advisor	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of NY	

Committee Chairs:

Trips	Keith Tanico/Joe Smithwick
Membership	Joseph Smithwick
Dues	Steve Forlenza
Lottery	Sal Mirra
Parade	Phil LaRocco
Good & Welfare	John Signorile
Scholarship/Dinner Dance	Craig Silvino
Hershey Park Trip	Sal Belmonte
Dinner Journal	Grace Cacciola
Editor	Craig Silvino

❖ Visit our website: www.fdnycolumbia.com

❖ E-mail the Columbia Association: keith@fdnycolumbia.com

❖ Columbia Association Hotline: (516) 303-4209

2013 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn
March 12 & October 8
VFW Post, 2414 Geritsen Ave.

Queens
April 9 & November 12
VFW Post 19-12 149th St.
(between 19th & 20th Ave.)
Whitestone NY 11357
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island
January 8 & June 11
Hillside Swim Club
151 Signs Rd.

Bronx
February 12 & September 10
Maestro's Caterers
1703 Bronxdale Ave.

Long Island
May 14
American Legion
250 Franklin Ave.
Malverne, LI

2013 Christmas Party
To Be Announced

All borough meetings are held on the SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. There are no meetings in July & August. Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. Food & refreshments are always served.

