



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the

FIREDEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

Columbia Association

Volume 34, No. 3

3rd Quarter 2003

**SOLD
OUT!**

69th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner Dance

On June 19th over 650 guests filled Russo's on the Bay from wall to wall for an incredible night. The selection of Italian delicacies was enormous, including a freshly carved roast pig and over 20 different appetizers. In typical Italian tradition, there was food as far as your eye could see. We enjoyed the music of the Chris Michaels Band. The dance floor was filled throughout the night.

This year, the Columbia Association honored Daniel A. Nigro, the 29th Chief of Department; David J. DeCarlo, President of the Matthews International Corporation Bronze Division; Robert Triozzi, Chief of Operations of the UN Fire Rescue Operations; and Firefighter Robert R. Morris Jr., 2003 Columbia Association Medal Winner.



2003 Scholarship Winners



2003 Executive Board

We also honored our 2003 Scholarship winners.

Over \$15,000 was presented to our children. We would also like to thank The Gerard Barbara Scholarship Fund, the Vincenzo, Susy & Ilaria Marra Family Scholarship Fund, the Rosina Marie Tornetta Higgins Family and the Jennifer Marcello-Murphy Family for their generosity.

By the end of the night, our bellies were stuffed and our shoes were off. If you did not have a great time, it was your own fault. Mark your calendar- June 17, 2004. Start your diet now!

The President's Corner

by Vincent Tummino

Summer is almost over and the kids will be heading back to school shortly. I hope all of you had a great summer and took a vacation for relaxation.

I want to personally invite the many new probationary firefighters to attend our meetings, and some of our annual events, but most of all to participate and march with us in the upcoming Columbus Day parade (See enclosed article).

This year 2003 has been another great year for the Columbia Association; we ran many events and all were a huge success. Our scholarship fund has more than doubled this year and was reflected in our awards.

Our dinner/dance sold well over 600 tickets; the largest attendance ever, thanks to Chairman Craig Silvino.

We all had a great time at our annual 3-day Hershey Park trip, thanks to Paul Cresci. And our annual Pocono Mountains winter weekend trip sold out again thanks to Buddy Santangelo.

Other events included a 2-day trip to Mohegan Sun hotel and casino, our scholarship lottery raffle, thanks to Keith Tanico, who once again sold out its 300 tickets.

All this is greatly due to the hard work of this executive board, and most of all to our members and friends who support our activities.

The next event for this year is our Columbus Day Parade. Please mark your calendar for October 13, 2003, and make every effort to attend. Support your heritage and Italian culture, attend the parade and support the Columbia Association, march side by side with many other members of this department. Once again we will have our Fire Department friends from Italy march with us.

We recently modified our web site. Kindly take the time to review it as we update it on a weekly basis.

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.

Line Up! Parade Update

by Joe Governale

As the Summer of 2003 draws to a close; the air will soon be filled with the Autumn breeze and the leaves of the trees will radiate with beautiful color. Now is the time that we should begin to focus our attention on the 2003 Columbus Day parade which will be held on Monday, October 13.

We will assemble as usual on West 44th St. and 5th Ave. by 0930 hours to prepare for our march up 5th Ave. to display our proud Italian heritage with extreme pride and dignity.

We will once again be led up 5th Ave by Mr. Ralph Schroer and the New Paltz High School marching band who perform with enthusiasm and charisma that is contagious.

Our collation will be held after the parade on the 4th floor of the 7th Regiment Mess Restaurant which is located at 643 Park Ave. between E. 66 and E. 67 Streets. We will have great food and initiate a 50/50 at the door. All members will receive a ticket at the parade site (prior to marching) which will allow them access to the restaurant after the parade.

So come one, come all, both active and retired members, their friends and family too; as we celebrate this most festive day as Italian-Americans, marching up 5th Ave and showing the nation and the world that WE ARE ITALIAN AND EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE.

Columbia Association Annual Weekend Get-A-Way

By Buddy Santangelo

As we say good-bye to what I hope was an enjoyable summer, the Columbia Association has been working on plans for this season.

One of my responsibilities is the Winter Weekend. The date is **January 9 to 11, 2004**, at the Pocmont Resort in Bushkill PA.

There is discount skiing available with more great things to do, (too numerous to list). Those that have a group of friends, please call me so I can reserve the rooms together, then forward your reservations **together in one envelope**. This will help me keep your rooms together. Rooms will go fast so get those reservations in early.

Applications will be available at the meetings or call me. Thanks and we are looking forward to having some great fun with great people. Any questions, please call Buddy at **(718) 376-8388** or visit our website for applications.

A Promotion Deserved & Ultimately Presented...

In a ceremony attended by family and friends of Chief Gerard A. Barbara, in the lobby of headquarters, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta posthumously bestowed the rank of Chief of Department to Gerard A. Barbara.

Chief Barbara was leading the rescue efforts inside Tower 2 on the morning of September 11, when he was lost in the building collapse.

Those who knew Jerry Barbara never hesitated to describe Jerry as a Firefighter's firefighter, a top-flight commander, always cool and collected in the face of challenging situations, a great boss, all around nice guy, highly motivated individual, and the #1 Yankee fan.

Chief Barbara achieved one of the top scores on the highly competitive Chief of Department Exam, and on July 2, 2003 the Fire Department posthumously promoted Gerard Barbara.



Vice President Lt. Silvino and the Jerry Barbara Family

Dan Nigro Man-of-the-Year 2003



2003 Man of the Year Dan Nigro and family

The Met/Yankee Game

This year's METS & YANKEES outing was held on Saturday, June 21st at Shea Stadium. We had a nice gathering at our tailgate party, before the game in the parking lot. As we made our way into the stadium, it started to rain. The game started late, due to inclement weather. Some of the more loyal fans stuck it out and the game finally started. It was a seesaw battle for the first four innings, and then the rains came hard and heavy. The game was postponed until June 28th as a split doubleheader; All in all, we all had a great time and spent some quality time with our families and friends. Thank you for your support and we will see you again next year.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend 2003

Come and join us on October 4-5, 2003 at National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD to honor America's fallen fire heroes.

The Columbia Association has setup its own honor guard and anyone wishing to attend with us, can contact: Vinny Tummino (Pres) 718-448-1170 or Craig Silvino (V.P.) 631-271-2928

We plan to leave Friday, 10/3/03, sleep over 2 nights and return on Sunday, 10/5/03. There will be a Candlelight Service on Saturday and the Memorial Service on Sunday.

We have a few rooms still reserved (Holiday Inn Express) in Frederick County, MD. The cost is approximately \$73. plus taxes per night.

You can learn more about the Memorial Weekend by going to their web site; <http://www.firehero.org>.



September 11th...

NEVER FORGOTTEN



We honor our members and all our other brothers who gave their lives on that tragic day two years ago



Chief of Department
Peter J. Ganci, Jr.



Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara
Citywide Tour Commander

5 - 5 - 5 - 5



FF Joseph Agnello
Ladder 118



FF Louis Arena
Ladder 5



FF Carl Bini
Rescue 5



FF Salvatore B. Calabro
Ladder 5



FF Michael Cammarata
Ladder 11



FF Brian Cannizzaro
Ladder 101



FF Michael S. Carlo
Engine 230



FF James A. Coyle
Division of Training



LT John A. Crisci
Haz-Mat 1



FF David P. DeRubio
Engine 226



LT Andrew J. Desperito
Engine 1



FF Francis Esposito
Ladder 79



FF Michael C. Fiore
Rescue 5



FF Daniel F. Libretti
Rescue 2



LT Charles Margiotta
Battalion 22



FF Thomas Mingione
Ladder 132



CP Louis J. Modafferi
Rescue 5



FF Vincent S. Morello
Engine 283



FF John D. Napolitano
Engine 5



FF Jeffery A. Palazzo
Rescue 5



LT Phillip S. Petti
Division 1



FF Leonard Ragaglia
Engine 54



FF Nicholas E. Rossomando
Rescue 5



FF Thomas E. Sabella
Ladder 13



Columbians Return to Hershey, PA

Sun, rollercoasters and chocolate... it must be Hershey Park. Last week, over 50 families from our Association returned to Hershey PA for our 2nd Annual Hershey Vacation.

We stayed at the beautiful Four Points Sheraton Hotel and spun, flipped and looped at Hershey Park. From all reports, the trip was a success despite rumors that Joe Saccente lost his "Hershey Happy" after 13 hours at the park. I ran into Joe at the late nite "Father's Planning Meeting" at O'Reilly's Pub and Joe denied the reports.

Special thanks to the "Best on the Beach" L 121 and E 265 for their large turnout. I won't tell anyone how former member Mike Gunning screamed like a "little girl" on the rollercoasters. Thank you to all the families that attended and I remind everyone to watch for the notice of next year's trip. Did I mention they make chocolate in Hershey?



Columbia Association Annual Hershey Park Trip

Consul General of Italy in New York

By Maria Fosco

On July 6, 2003, the Italian American Community in Greenpoint, Brooklyn hosted a welcoming ceremony for the new Consul General of Italy in New York, Minister Antonio Bandini. Minister Bandini assumed the position of Consul General on July 1, 2003.

The ceremonies began with a Mass in Italian at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Greenpoint, organized by Father Carmelo Gagliardi. The celebrant of the Mass was His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, who himself has just arrived in New York last March.

The Mass was attended by many community leaders including President Tummino, Columbia Association FDNY. After the Mass, the Society of San Como was gracious enough to host a reception in Minister Bandini's honor. Minister Bandini said in his speech that he was happy to be back in New York. He has served as Vice Consul at the Italian Consulate in Newark, New Jersey from 1977 to 1980.

Career Diplomat Antonio Bandini replaced Minister Giorgio Radicati, who is now the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia. Minister Bandini was born 1948, the son of Sergio Bandini, who was President of the Cassa di Risparmio.

We at the Columbia Association of the NYC Fire Department welcome our new Consul General.



Consul General Bandini and President Tummino

Columbia Association, Annual Scholarship Lottery

by Keith Tanico

Once again the Columbia Association held its annual scholarship fundraiser (lottery). This year was another successful year, as we had in the past several years. With only a few weeks left, we still needed to sell 50 tickets, however our board members pulled through once more to assure all 300 tickets were sold. Our lottery chairman, Keith Tanico, will begin selling the 2004 tickets come this December, so if you have a special number that you want saved, get in touch with Keith at 718-460-0657, or at our monthly meetings. Our winners for 2003 were:

- 1st place - Eng 162/ Lad 82/ Batt 23
- 2nd place - Eng 1/ Lad 24
- 3rd place - Stephen Hittman , Director of Training

Congratulations and good luck to our winners. Thank you for your support and please try to help us reach our goal next year for this good cause.

**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	Paul Cresci	Manhattan Boro Command
Recording Secretary	Keith Tanico	Ladder Co. 103
Sergeant-At-Arms	Joseph Smithwick	Division 13 (Cov)
Manhattan Trustee	Andy Casucci	Battalion 19
Queens Trustee	Joseph Governale	Bureau of Operations
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Battalion 39 (Cov)
Brooklyn Trustee	Dan Volpe	Headquarters
Bronx Trustee	Chris Reginella	Ladder Co. 50
EMS Trustee	Anthony Vanaria	Bureau of EMS
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	

Committee Chairs:		<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>
Membership:	Paul Cresci	516-358-5135	212-570-1544
Lottery:	Keith Tanico	718-460-0657	718-965-8290
Parade:	Joseph Governale	718-767-1612	718-999-1818
Pocono Mountains (Trips):	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

"Italy Vacation" November 3, 2004

The Columbia Association will have its first European trip. Nothing could be more fitting than to start in the home of our ancestors... ITALY.

In conjunction with Collette Vacations, we bring you an exiting 10 days in Italy - a feast for the senses and the soul, a land rich in history, culture, art and romance.

Our trip takes us to Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, San Gimignano, **Firenze, San Marino, Ravenna, Venice and Como** All for **\$2,199 per person, including land and air fare (Cancellation Waiver \$180 additional pp)**. Flight will depart November 3, 2004 from NY.

More information will be available at the meetings, our web site, or you can contact Buddy Santangelo in the evenings at (718) 376-8388. So remember, mark your calendar and get your passport ready for a great 10 days.



**Visit our Website:
www.fdnycolumbia.com**

**Email the Columbia Association
FDItaly@aol.com**

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encouraged to submit articles or
items of interest. Please submit
two months in advance of
publication date.

Dues & Membership Reminder
Dues are still outstanding from some members. If you have not yet paid your \$20 dues 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.

December: Proposed Christmas Party
Elks Lodge, Lynbrook, 52 Hempstead Ave.
Long Island: May 13, 2003

STATEN ISLAND: January 14, June 10, 2003
HILLSIDE SWIM CLUB, 151 SIGN RD.
BRONX: February 11, September 9, 2003
GUIDING STAR COUNCIL HALL, 3243 AMPERE AVE.
BROOKLYN: March 11, October 14, 2003
VFW Post, 2414 Gerritsen Ave.
QUEENS: April 8, November 11, 2003
CEPHALOS, 20-41 STEINWAY ST.

ALL BOROUGH MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

2003 Columbia Association Borough Meetings