

# Let Our Italian Tradition Show! Columbus Day Parade 2004.

By: Joe Governale

As the summer is coming to a close, the beautiful and colorful season of autumn will soon descend upon us, which reminds us that our Columbus Day parade is right around the corner. This year, our parade will be held on Monday, October 11, 2004. Our day will begin with a pre-parade breakfast, which will be held at Ciprian Dolci located at the west balcony in Grand Central Station, East 42nd St. and Vanderbilt Ave. from 0800 to 100 hours. You will be treated with a choice of an American or Continental buffet breakfast - or a little of both if you choose. After breakfast, we will proceed to 5th Ave. & 44th St. where we will prepare to march up 5th Ave. Our formation time will be between 11:00- 11:30 am sharp.

As always, invitations have been sent to our political leaders, Commissioners, Chief of Department, Chief of Operations and all the Staff Chiefs for both Fire and EMS. This is one parade they surely would not want to miss. Mr. Ralph Schroer and the New Paltz H.S. marching band will again be playing the musical renditions that they masterfully perform. There will be a wreath-laying ceremony at Columbus Circle at 8:00 am, followed by a mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral starting at 9:15 am. All are welcomed to attend both.

Also this year we will have a delegation of firefighters from Frosinone, Italy. So remember the date - Monday, October 11, 2004. Join us as we celebrate the 2004 Columbus Day parade. Bring your family and friends. It is a day to display our Italian heritage with pride and distinction; it is a day you will not want to miss! Look for our flyers in all the firehouses and future department orders for further details. ♦

## September 11th... NEVER FORGOTTEN

*We honor our members  
and all our other brothers  
who gave their lives on  
that tragic day, three years ago.*

Peter J. Ganci, Jr., Chief of Department  
Gerard Barbara, Assistant Chief, Citywide Tour Commander

Joseph Angello, FF Ladder 118  
Louis Arena, FF Ladder 5  
Carl Bini, FF Rescue 5  
Salvatore B. Calabro, FF Ladder 5  
Michael Cammarata, FF Ladder 11  
Brian Cannizzaro, FF Ladder 101  
Michael S. Carlo, FF Engine 230  
James A. Coyle, FF Division of Training  
John A. Crisci, LT Haz-Mat 1  
David P. DeRubbio, FF Engine 226  
Andrew J. Desperito, LT Engine 1  
Francis Esposito, FF Ladder 79  
Michael C. Fiore, FF Rescue 5  
Daniel F. Libretti, FF Rescue 2  
Charles Margiotta, LT Battalion 22  
Thomas Mingione, FF Ladder 132  
Louis J. Modafferi, CP Rescue 5  
Vincent S. Morelo, FF Engine 283  
John D. Napolitano, FF Engine 5  
Jeffery A. Palazzo, FF Rescue 5  
Phillip S. Petti, LT Division 1  
Leonard Ragaglia, FF Engine 54  
Nicholas E. Rossomando, FF Rescue 5  
Thomas E. Sabella, FF Ladder 13



## National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend 2004

By: Vinny Tummino

*Come join us on October 2nd and 3rd at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD to honor America's fallen firefighters for 2003 (including NYC members killed LOD in 2003). The Columbia Association has its own honor guard attending this weekend. Anyone wishing to attend with us, please contact Vinny Tummino (917) 757-6022 or Craig Silvino (631)271-2928. We will leave NY on Saturday, 8:00 am and arrive at the National Fire Academy by 1:00 pm. We return Sunday immediately following the memorial service and should arrive back in Staten Island by 6:00 pm. Our host hotel is the Hampton Inn in Gettysburg, PA. (717) 338-9121 (be sure to ask for the \$99.00 room rate). Check out the details at [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com) go to calendar/events or [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org). ♦*





# 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

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## LA SOTTO VOCE

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FDNY Columbia  
Association

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four times annually.

Mail all articles to:

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: 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	Ladder Co. 33
Queens Trustee	Joseph Governale	Bureau of Operations
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forlenza	Battalion 39 (Cov)
Brooklyn Trustee	Joseph Mastrotta	Engine 321
Bronx Trustee	Chris Reginella	Engine 92
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	EMS Operations
Chaplain	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.
Legal Council	Stuart Salles, Esq.	

### Committee Chairs:

Membership:	Joseph Smithwick	Home Phone:	Work Phone:
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	

## 2004 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

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

**Queens**  
March 9,  
October 12, 2004  
VFW Post, 19-12  
149th Street (between 19th &  
20th)  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
(718) 746-0540

**Staten Island**  
April 13,  
November 9, 2004  
Hillside Swim Club,  
151 Sign Rd.

**Long Island**  
May 11, 2004  
Elks Lodge, Lynbrook,  
52 Hempstead Ave.

**December**  
Proposed Christmas Party

◆ Visit our website and e-mail us:  
[www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)



# LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

## A Message From The President

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### DON'T MISS IT!

Columbus Day  
Parade  
October 11

Winter Getaway  
January 21- 23

Mohegan Sun  
April 2

Gerard Barbara  
Scholarship  
Winners

I hope everyone had a great summer. The children will be heading back to school shortly, so please remember to drive carefully as schools open. The Columbia Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary this year. As always, we had a very successful dinner dance and we thank all who attended and supported us via the souvenir journal. Special thanks goes to Chairman Craig Silvino on the dinner dance.



Many of you have sent donations to Francesca Tenconi (Humanitarian for 2004) for her Camp Wonder, the foundation that is helping children with skin diseases. The entire executive board thanks you for your generosity and support of such a worthy cause.

Our summer Hershey Park trip was well attended thanks to Chairman Paul Cresci. And, there are many upcoming events to look forward to, including: TRIP TO ITALY (November 3); NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND IN EMMITTSBURG, MARYLAND (October 2); THE COLUMBUS DAY PARADE, (October 11); AND OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY (date to be announced). Check our website for more events, as we usually list all events on the calendar/events page. [www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)

I received two invitations for events this fall. The first is an invitation to Atlanta to meet with members of their fire department on the weekend of September 11th. The second invitation will take me to Italy, where the Columbia Association Rowing Team will travel to Venice for a rowing competition. The team leaves for Italy on September 13. We all wish them well.

Your Association continues to network with other groups and raise money for our scholarship fund. Right now, we award over \$15,000 for our members' children in order to afford them better education. For the first time this year, we have extended our membership abroad, actively seeking international members (find more info on our web site).

As of September 1, we have appointed EMS Lt. Grace Cacciola to be the EMS Trustee for the Columbia Association. Grace works in EMS Operations at Fire Headquarters. If you know an EMS worker who wants to join our Association, please direct them to Grace at (718) 999-0732.

Thank you all for your support of the Association.

**Last, and most important, let us not forget the brothers and sisters who made the supreme sacrifice on 9-11-01.**



2004 Man of the Year

Visit Our Online Store to Shop for  
Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.  
[www.fdnycolumbia.com](http://www.fdnycolumbia.com)

*All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.*



# Hershey Park 2004 ♦

By: Paul Cresci

0 – 72mph in 2 seconds flat. The Storm Runner, Hershey Park’s newest monster coaster, taunted our members. But, as it turned out, the most serious threat was rain. The forecast for Friday was bleak; the crowd around the “Local Attractions” pamphlet rack was building. The Train Museum, The Candle Shoppe, The Outlets - OH NO! President Tummino faced with the prospect of “overheated credit card” made a couple of calls. The clouds broke, the rain stopped and we were back to the park.

Sixty families enjoyed this year’s fun in Hershey PA. Those that turned out in force included our friends from E 265/ L121, and the family and friends of Nick Chiarriaro, Bernard Langkafel and Joseph Weidel.

For the record, The Annual Late Night Father’s Club Planning Meeting was held at O’Reilly’s Pub. Matters of the utmost importance were considered; nothing was decided. We will try again next year. Craig Silvino, with some help, eventually found his way back to his room. I would like to thank everyone for attending and making this trip a great success for our scholarship fund. ♦

P.S. Joe Saccente – The Amish missed you. They send their best wishes on your promotion to Deputy Chief.

Editors Note: Thank you Chairman Paul Cresci for again putting together a wonderful trip.



## Winter Weekend Getaway

This year, the Columbia Association plans to take you to the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort located near the Delaware River in Shawnee, PA. A Historic Country Inn where we will spend a relaxing weekend with good friends. The package includes two-night lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners, one-hour cocktail party, and all tax and gratuities. There will be many activities, including an NHL official size indoor ice skating arena (bring your skates or rent them there), indoor swim-

ming pool with a 12-person Jacuzzi, fitness room, video game room, and walking/hiking trails. Located on the property, Sam’s Sneads Tavern is soon to be completed. Discounts rates are available for the Shawnee Mountain Ski area for tubing and skiing (rental equipment is available). Space is limited so make reservations early! Deadline is December 1, 2004. Please send a \$100.00 Deposit with reservation form below. ♦

**RATES per adult, two-night stay**

Double Occupancy  
Single Occupancy  
Triple Occupancy  
Quad Occupancy

**RATES per child (Sharing room with adults) All inclusive**

\$230.00	Ages 4 & under	NO CHARGE
\$346.50	Ages 5 – 11 years	\$50.00
\$189.50	Ages 12 – 18 years	\$65.00
\$169.25		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE : \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN (list names and age) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PERSONS IN ROOM: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort

Mail Reservation Form to: Columbia Association, C/O Buddy Santangelo (718) 376-8388  
2024 Gerritsen Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11229





# CONGRATULATIONS

FF Chris Paolicelli (L36) and Lt. Robert Martens (E225)



FF Chris Paolicelli and Lt. Robert Martens are the first winners of the Gerard Barbara FDNY (Fire) Promotional Scholarship to FireTech. The Barbara family has agreed to continue to finance this wonderful opportunity for our members. Jerry knew the importance of being prepared for the promotional exams. He always believed he could make a difference by moving up the ladder, but studying for promotion could be very expensive. The cost of books, materials and school quickly added up. When Jerry was a young family man studying for promotion, Jerry and his wife Joanne together decided to take \$60 out of their food budget in order to pay for a book that Jerry needed for an upcoming 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 same difficult decision. The Barbara family has generously financed two scholarships (one for a Firefighter, one for a Lieutenant) for Columbia Association members preparing for promotion. Winners will be awarded a full scholarship for the January 2005 semester at FireTech. Any members in good standing is eligible. Please mail the following information before December 1, 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 December Board of Directors Meeting.  
If you have previously entered, you do not have to resubmit an application.

## 70th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner Dance SOLD OUT!

**By: Craig Silvino**

On June 17th, almost 700 guests filled Russo's on the Bay from wall to wall for an incredible night. Thanks to our friend Vincenzo Mara, more than two dozen guests arrived from Italy to join us for a wonderful evening. The selection of Italian delicacies was immense. In typical Italian tradition, there was food as far as your eyes could see. We enjoyed the music of the Chris Michaels Band, and what an amazing version of the Italian National Anthem. Thank you. The dance floor was filled throughout the night.

This year, the Columbia Association honored Salvatore Cassano FDNY Chief of Operations, Nicola Arena, CEO of the Mediterranean Shipping Company, and Francesca Tenconi, Founder, the Children's skin Disease Foundation. We also honored our 2004 Scholarship winner. Over \$15,000 was presented to our children. We would also like to thank The Gerard Barbara Scholarship Fund, Vincenzo, Susy and Ilaria Marra family, Rosina Marie Tornetta Higgins family and 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 16, 2005. Don't wait until the last minute; rumor has it that ticket scalpers are buying up the seats. ♦



# Become a BIG Brother or a BIG Sister

In September 2003, the Kids Connections program of the Counseling Service Unit of the FDNY launched a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC to serve children who lost their FDNY fathers in the line of duty. The majority of children who are participating in the program lost their fathers on September 11th, but any child, age 6-17, who experienced the line-of-duty death of a parent is eligible to participate. Through this partnership the CSU and BB BS are recruiting current and retired FDNY members to be Big Brothers to boys, and women affiliated with the fire department (firefighters, EMS workers, civilian employees, wives or sisters of FDNY members) to be Big Sisters. There are currently 29 Big/Little matches in the program. Mentors are required to spend 8 hours per month with the child that they are matched with, doing one-on-one activities, for a minimum of one year. The 8 hours can be spent in whatever way works with the schedule of the mentor and the schedule of the family. This commitment is crucial due to the loss these children have sustained. It is important to provide them with a stable experience with a mentor. The emphasis is placed on building a relationship over time, doing simple things like playing ball, going to the movies, and whatever else the child enjoys. Mentors are discouraged from going on extravagant outings and spending a lot of money early in the relationship. Many mothers have said that they are just looking for someone to throw a ball around in the backyard with their son, something many boys have not done since the deaths of their fathers. Kids Connections provides outings in the communities where FDNY families reside to allow these children who lost their fathers to meet other children and have some fun, and "Bigs" and "Littles" are encouraged to come to these events as well.

Matches are based primarily on personality and geography. FDNY members who are interested in volunteering fill out an application over the phone with the CSU. They then meet with Big Brothers Big Sisters for an interview. The interview process allows BB BS to get to know the prospective mentor in some detail and to guide them in making the best match. The same staff members who interview the volunteers also interview the children who are applying for the program, so they thoroughly get to know the people enrolling, which in turn help them make the most appropriate matches. Once a volunteer is accepted into the program, he or she attends a one-day training with other FDNY volunteers at Big Brothers Big Sisters' office in Manhattan. The training covers topics such as defining what a mentor relationship is in comparison to other relationships, dos and don'ts, roll plays that are specific to FDNY, childhood development, and issues around grief and bereavement.

Once training is completed a "match meeting" is set up. This is the meeting where the Big Brother or Sister is introduced to the Little Brother or Sister and his or her mom. Time is spent with the mom, and then Big and Little are encouraged to take a walk together to start the process of getting to know each other. From that point on, it is the Big's responsibility to call the Little and his or her mom and set dates for outings. Bigs are required to check in with a caseworker at BB BS once a month, either by phone or email, to let them know how things are going with the match and to alert them if any problems surface. Bigs are also encouraged to stay in touch with the caseworker or CSU staff if any questions or issues arise at any time.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the FDNY Big Brothers Big Sisters program should call Kim Ahearn in the CSU at (212) 570-1693 x 323. ♦

