



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

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Corner



75th Annual
Souvenir Journal



Important Information
reprinted
from the
UFOA Newsletter



75th Annual
Scholarship Dinner
Dance



3RD ANNUAL
CUSTOM CAR SHOW

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DON'T MISS OUT!

March 1st - High School Scholarship Exam
April 13-14 - Mohegan Sun
June 18 - 75th Annual Scholarship
Dinner Dance
July 10th - Jerry Barbara Night

July 22-26 - Hershey Park
Sept 17-21 - Vegas-Hard Rock Casino
Oct 12 - Columbas Day Parade
Fall - 6th Annual Cigar Night
Nov 5-14 - Rome & the Amalfi Coast

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope every one had a Happy New Year and that it will be a healthy one for all of us. As we move forward we have a terrific line up for this year and as always, we look forward to seeing you at our meeting, as well as our events. All members should have received the 4th quarter newspaper. In the paper your 2009 Dues notice was sent. Please get your dues in ASAP, with rising costs it will help us avoid sending out additional mailings. If you are not sure if you are up to date, call Steve Forlenza or check with us at a meeting. On your newspaper label, you will notice that it now shows the years you owe. So again I say Please send in your dues.

In December we had a great Christmas Party which was well attended by our members and friends. This year it was at the Il Cortile on Mulberry St. Those that attended really enjoyed themselves.

In March we have our Scholarship exams Check the paper for all the details or give us a call. You must be a member in good standing to have your child participate.

April our next Cigar Night will be held, if you want to go send your money now. Look in the paper for further information or contact 2nd Vice President Keith Tanico.

Watch for our Collectible car show In June, which was a great hit last year. 3rd Vice President Dennis DiTucci

promises a better show, and a more variety of cars.

By now you should know that Ted Forlenza, Staten Island Trustee is going full steam with the 2009 Lottery tickets. Please take a ticket or get some friends to come in with you. This money is used for our Scholarship fund, and as always that's what we are for.

In November we are going to Rome and the Amalfi Coast. Reservation must be in by May call me or check out the web site for all the information. If you make your reservation by March, you will save an additional \$100 Dollars. That is MARCH ONLY.

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 President

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



Retiree's Corner

Submitted by: Dennis DiTucci

2008 has become just another memory, 1 more year added to the last time we experienced crawling down the hallway to meet "The Red Devil". We are in a new age of "Change", (for the better I hope!!)

Unless you were a Savvy investor and put all your retirement savings in a safe, low interest savings such as a Money Market or CD, you lost a great deal of money. Uncle Sam is coming to help us out a little for tax year 2008 by waiving the mandatory minimum required withdrawal from your IRA, 401-K and I do believe annuity accounts if you and/or your spouse is over the age of 70 ½. This means you will have to pay less taxes on interest earned for that year. If you can do without the mandatory withdrawal, probably a lot less than last years minimum mandatory withdrawal due to the loss in value of your account, keep it in the account and hope the market rebounds, so your shares, (account value) will increase in value.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year for 2009!



2009 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY

\$10,000 FIRST PRIZE ONLY 200 TICKETS

It is that time again. Our lottery tickets will be mailed out on December 15, 2009. If you are interested in a specific number, please call Teddy Forlenza at 718 720-7860. We will only sell 200 tickets. We print 2000 tickets numbered 0001-2000. The first 200 sold will be accepted. So hurry. Don't miss out. First prize \$10,000. 2nd prize \$2,000 and 3rd prize \$1,000.

YOU ASKED FOR IT AND WE DID IT

Call today and save \$100 pp

THROUGH AN EXCLUSIVE DEAL WITH COLLETTE

ROME and the AMALFI Coast, from November 5th Vacations, celebrating our 75th Year in 2009, The Columbia Association will be going to 14th, 2009, at a terrific price of 2849.00 2,749.00 Dollars per person, a saving of a couple of hundred dollars from the published price. 10 Days, 13 meals which are 8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch and 4 Dinners .

This trip starts out in Rome The journey takes you through southern Italy and experience it's rich scenery, art, culture, food and wine. Witness the breathtaking scenery of the Amalfi coast.

Some Highlights of the trip are ROME, Ravello, Villa Rufolo, Vietri-sul – Mare, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Paestum, Isle of Capri, Pompeii, Naples, Archeological Museum, Winery.

This deal must be reserved by May 2009 to get this price, after that it is first come first serve, price cannot be guaranteed. For full details and itinerary Contact me with any questions you have. Paid members receive a free gift . Contact Buddy Santangelo, 718-376-8388 after 7PM.



GOING ON VACATION... LOOK IN THE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATIONS GROUP RATE!

The Columbia Association and Collette tour offers just what you're looking for. Go to www.collettevacations.com/fdny and on the top of this webpage is the Columbia Association Promotional Code. This code allows you to travel anytime and anywhere with Collete tours and receive our discounted rates. We hope you will travel on our trips, but if you cant ...this is the next best thing! For more information, call 1-800-852-5655 and mention promo code:

W000-AW3-972



JOIN
 The
Columbia Association
 IN
Las Vegas 

4 nights at the
**HARD ROCK
 HOTEL & CASINO**

Sunday's Pool Party

Check in: Thursday September 17, 2009
 Check out: Monday September 21, 2009

\$725 per person based on double occupancy and includes R/T Airfare and Hotel
 \$20 per person donation to the Columbia Association Scholarship Fund

Important: Hotel charges a \$7 per room per day Resort Fee that is not included and will be collected upon check-in

Above rate is subject to change according to pricing and availability at time of booking.
Don't Wait!! Reserve Now!!

Not responsible for changes in pricing or any errors or omissions in the content of this flyer.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
 Bronx Trustee JOE DEPAOLA 1-845-558-4410
 Or Call Direct to
LYNN SOLTIS
Personal Vacation Planner
 An Authorized independent Agent of America's Vacation Center
1-800-731-3714
lynn.soltis@americasvacationcenter.com

State Farm Agent:

Mike Visgauss Agency Inc.

Mike Visgauss, MBA, CPCU
 181 East Main Street
 East Islip, New York 11730

Telephone: (631) 581 - 1200
 Fax: (631) 581 - 1249
www.MIKEVISGAUSS.com

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



Municipal Credit Union offers a full range of financial services to City employees,
 Federal and State employees working within the five boroughs and health care
 Professionals. For membership and information call 1-866-JOIN MCU. For mortgage
 Information call our 24-hour hotline at (212) 238-3521.

22 Cortlandt Street, New York, NY 10007
 Visit our Website: www.nymcu.org

NCUA Your Saving Federally Insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union
 Administration, a U.S. Government Agency



75th Annual Souvenir Journal

Please support our Scholarship. By you or your company placing an ad in our journal will help us continue to award over \$16,000 a year in scholarships.

This is an authorization to insert our advertisement in 75th 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 18, 2009 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens.

Price List:

Back Cover.....	\$1,200.00		
Inside Cover	\$ 600.00	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 15, 2009.

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

Please forward Ads, Contract and payment to:

Grace M. Cacciola

526 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

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

NYDCC

NEW YORK DISASTER COUNSELING COALITION

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www.nydcc.org

Important Information reprinted from the UFOA Newsletter

Taxation of Disability Pensions

As you may recall, the IRS challenged the City's tax treatment of those portions of disability pensions that are unrelated to the "disability benefit"; specifically payments based on seniority (1/60ths) and the ITHP. These issues arose first in other NYC retirement systems, but ultimately involved the Fire Department and all other uniformed force plans.

The UFOA was part of a coalition of most of the uniformed unions that hired special tax counsel to review the positions of the IRS and NYC Department of Law. We were advised that we did not have a viable basis to contest the tax treatment of the retirement earnings in question, and we and the other unions cooperated with the City's effort to negotiate a resolution of the matter that would avoid a substantial retroactive application. In this sole respect, the unions and City succeeded.

The IRS and City are accordingly implementing their agreement: effective January 1, 2009, all new retirees who retire for an accidental disability and have more than 20 years, will be subject to Federal taxation on their 1/60ths and their ITHP. These members will receive a 1099 form from the City each tax year, enumerating those earnings that will be considered taxable. There is no retroactive application of this agreement; if you retired before 1/1/09, you are not affected. If you retire for an accidental disability and your date of application is before January 1, 2009, you will not be subject to Federal taxation on these parts of your retirement income. Simply put, while the parameters for taxation have changed, the regulations regarding the steps toward retirement and the application for a disability retirement have not.

The members of the Executive Board will remain available to assist you in the process of applying for your pension and addressing these issues and any other of your concerns.



NY Foot & Ankle Specialists, PC

Peter J. Mancuso, DPM, FACFAS

10 Brentwood Road
 Bay Shore, NY 11706

Phone: (631)968-5600
 Fax: (631) 665-8914

E-mail: DrMancuso@optonline.net
 Web Site: DrMancuso.net



8th Annual

Chief Jerry Barbara Night
 Friday, July 10, 2009
 Richmond County Bank Ballpark



2009 Scholarship Award Application



*Eligibility:

Those eligible include sons or daughters (step or foster included) of a member in good standing, or of a deceased member if said member was in good standing at time of his death.

An application and statement must be completed to be considered.

College Awards:

SAT Exam taken between September of Junior Year to March of Senior Year of High School.

Only applications in the graduating year will be accepted.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2009

Applications:

Please contact Captain Craig Silvino at (516) 303-4209 or your borough trustee for applications.

Applications are also available on our website, www.fdnycolumbia.com.

*Columbia Association NYFD Constitution and By-Laws Article VI Sec 6.6

3RD ANNUAL CUSTOM CAR SHOW

If you haven't had a chance to participate or view many spectacular cars in the Columbia Association Annual Custom Car Show that benefits our Scholarship Fund, a tentative date of Sunday May 31st to be held at the same location as last year, the Bagleliscious parking lot located in East Meadow, Long Island.

Last year we had over 50 cars entered, all competing for many trophies and awards. We had donations from Panera Bread, many area restaurants, and local car detail shops, as well as entertainment provided by WBAB Radio Station and Hooter's

There is no cost to come down and view the cars, and if you have a Collectors Car that is 25 or more years old, (1984 or older) or any year Corvette and you would like to enter your car for "Showing" the fee is \$25. Volunteers are needed! If you are a Diehard Motorhead and want to be part of a very good show and help out, or have any questions, please contact: Dennis DiTucci – Show coordinator at 516-794-7669



5th almost Annual Trip to
**** Mohegan Sun ****
Resort & Casino

Monday April 13th 2009 It's Back!
\$215 Per Couple/Room
Tax & Tips Included
Includes
\$20 Gambling Voucher
\$225 For Non-Members
Cocktail Party@ Club Ultra 88

Want to stay longer Stay Monday & Tuesday Night
For only \$ 345 / \$355 For Non-Members
Per Couple/Room

For More Information- Joe Smithwick
@ 516 303-4209

Limited Space- PAYMENT IN FULL REQUIRED
before March 15, 2009 Sorry, NO EXCEPTIONS

Mail Deposit to
Columbia Assn. FDNY
C/o Joe Smithwick
20 Piper Ln
Levittown NY 11756

Check Payable to Columbia Assn.

Name _____ Co _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check one

[] 4/13 Monday Night [] 4/13-4/14 Monday and Tuesday Night

**GOING TO HERSHEY PARK
THIS SUMMER BUT
CANNOT GO WITH US.**

SAVE ABOUT \$20 PER TICKET
Use our passes all season!

Buy your park passes from us and
benefit from our group discount!

Check out the great prices on page 7.
Contact: Sal Belmonte for information,

**PLEASE HELP MAKE YOUR
COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION BETTER!**

As another chapter begins in the Columbia Association the board of directors need your help. With this fresh new board we are looking for fresh idea's. Please take the time to fill out this questioner. We need your assistance to keep the Columbia Association as one of the best organizations of the FDNY. Please help make your Columbia Association Better!

Do you attend the Membership meetings? _____
What would you like to see at a Meeting?

Do you participate on our Trips? _____
If you had a choice of travel where would you suggest?

Do you march in the Columbus Day Parade? _____

How can we entice more participation at the Parade?

How can we encourage more participation from the membership?

Have you viewed our web-page? _____ FDNYCOLUMBIA.COM

What would you like to see on the Web-page

Any other suggestions?

Thank you

Please mail your suggestions to Columbia Association, 2024 Gerritsen Ave, Brooklyn NY 11229 or E-Mail it to Buddy@fdnycolumbia.com

**Columbia Association 75th Annual
Scholarship Dinner Dance**

Mark your Calendar- Safe the Date! It always sells out do not hesitate!

The Columbia Association will hold its 75th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at Russo's on the Bay,

162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard, Queens,
Donation of \$85 per person. For Reservations contact Craig Silvano 516 303-4209.



La Sotto Voce "CLASSIFIED"
PLACE YOUR AD HERE

Please Help Supportour Scholarship Fund
For more information and Contract
Contact us at 516 303-4209
www.fdnycolumbia.com



COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

visits

HERSHEY PARK

DESIGN A VACATION TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA

1. HOTEL & HERSHEY PARK PASS COMBINATION
2. HOTEL ONLY
3. HERSHEY PARK PASS ONLY*

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

DATES: **Wednesday July 22, 2009 to Sunday July 26, 2009**

LODGING: **FOUR POINTS SHERATON Harrisburg, PA phone (800) 644-3144**
Hotel price is \$133 per room/per night. Check in 3pm

HERSHEY PARK: **PAY ONE PRICE PARK PASS (DAILY) (Food & parking not included)**
Admits Holder to all attractions for the day. Web-HersheyPA.com phone 1-800-HERSHEY

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:

		<i>TOTALS</i>	
133	x	(# of Rooms _____)	= _____
\$28	x	(# of Kid Passes _____)	= _____
\$35	x	(# of Adult Passes _____)	= _____
\$28	x	(# of Senior Passes _____)	= _____
		_____)	= _____
\$5		<i>Park passes mailed to you</i>	= _____
		TOTAL	= _____

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

No refunds after June 1





LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York
2024 Geritsen Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11229

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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

Executive Board:

President	Bernard Santangelo	Bureau of Fire Investigations
1st Vice President	Craig Silvino	Ladder 127 (UFO)
2nd Vice President	Keith Tanico	Division 13
3rd Vice President	Dennis Di Tucci	Retired
Treasurer	Joseph Smithwick	Engine 303
Financial Secretary	Stephen Forlenza	Division 8
Recording Secretary	Sal Belmonte	Division 11
Sergeant-At-Arms	Steve Lubrino	Ladder 162
Manhattan Trustee	Joseph Triolo	Ladder 6
Queens Trustee	Sal Mirra	Ladder 138
Staten Island Trustee	Teddy Forienza	Ladder 83
Brooklyn Trustee	Phil LaRocco	Ladder 148
Bronx Trustee	Joseph DePaola	Ladder 50
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	Battalion 45
Legal Advisor	Stuart Salles, Esq.	
Spiritual Advisor	Mmgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of N.Y.

Committee Chairs:

Membership	Keith Tanico
Lottery:	Ted Forlenza
Parade:	Joe Triolo
Good & Welfare:	Dennis Ditucci
Scholarships & Dinne Dance:	Craig Silvino
Hershey Park:	Sal Belmonte
Journal	Grace Cacciola
Editor	Craig Silvino
Golf	Joseph Smithwick
Trip	Bernard Santangelo

2009 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn
March 10, 2009 & Oct 13, 2009
VFW Post, 2414 Geritsen Ave.

Queens
April 14, 2009 & Nov 10, 2009
VFW Post 19-12 149th St
(between 19th & 20th Ave)
Whitestone NY 11357
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island
Jan 13, 2009 & Jun 9, 2009
Hillside Swim Club
151 Signs Rd.

Bronx
Feb 10, 2009 & Sept 8, 2009
Guiding Star Council Hall
3243 Ampere Ave.

Long Island
American Legion
250 Franklin Ave
Malverne LI
May 12, 2009

December 2009
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 p.m. Food & Refreshments are always served.

❖ Visit our website: www.fdnycolumbia.com

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

❖ Columbia Association Hotline: (516) 303-4209

