

FALL 2007

**FOUNDATION QUARTERLY**  
COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION



**LIDIA MATTICCHIO BASTIANICH**  
The First Lady of Italian Cuisine and  
Grand Marshal of the 2007 Columbus Day Parade

# COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION



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The Columbus Citizens Foundation is a non-profit organization in New York City committed to fostering an appreciation of Italian-American heritage and achievement. The Foundation, through a broad range of philanthropic and cultural activities, provides opportunities for advancement to deserving Italian-American students through various scholarship and grant programs. Since its founding in 1929, the Foundation has organized New York City's Columbus Day Parade.

## Columbus Citizens Foundation

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# President's Message



Through the efforts of our Columbus Week Chairs (see p. 3), anyone fortunate enough to be in New York next month will enjoy a spectacular series of events that celebrate our Italian heritage. Cuisinart will sponsor a series of live cooking demonstrations in Vanderbilt Hall by world-class chefs, including Grand Marshal Lidia Bastianich, who will reveal the tricks of their trade. Also in Vanderbilt Hall will be a dazzling exhibition about the provinces and regions of Italy.

Our Gala Dinner is once again at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel, where we will pay tribute to Ms. Bastianich and the Honorable Clemente Mastella, Italy's Minister of Justice and a good friend of the Foundation and the United States. Minister Mastella is the Special Honored Guest from Italy in the 2007 Columbus Week Celebration.

Our Honoree this year is Kara DioGuardi, BMI's Pop Songwriter of the Year and the daughter of Member Joseph DioGuardi (see pp. 6 to 7). Not only is Ms. DioGuardi a great songwriter, performer and producer who has worked with many of today's top artists, she is also a committed philanthropist, and her company, Arthouse Entertainment, develops and mentors young artists in the music industry.

Joining us to honor Ms. DioGuardi is Katharine McPhee, the American Idol star who is sure to capture your hearts, as she has millions of Americans. Ms. McPhee will give her interpretations of standards and perform a song that Ms. DioGuardi wrote for her.

This year's Columbus Day Parade will once again place Italian culture and heritage on the world stage of Fifth Avenue. And I am especially pleased to announce that Zuccherro, the Italian rock star, composer and arranger will perform on the Red Carpet, following his September 28 concert at Carnegie Hall.

Our events serve to present the best of Italian heritage and culture while raising funds for our scholarship programs. In May and June, the Foundation awarded 240 new, multi-year scholarships and grants through our Elementary School, High School and College programs. This is a record number for the Foundation, and it is a direct result of the remarkable work that our Members have done over the past 12 months. This new group of recipients joins those to whom we have made commitments over the past four years. In total, we are providing financial aid through scholarships and grants to 849 students who began school this fall, including three Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts recipients. This number is a record, and an increase of 13 percent over the number of scholarships and grants we provided last year.

Each of these students and each of their families was carefully screened over the course of several months. During the review process, our Scholarship Committee members discovered that many of these young men and women are exceptional. I'm proud to say that Natasha Spedalle is among them – and one of the Foundation's growing list of Adopt-A-Scholar recipients – and we have a profile of her on page eight that I'm sure you will find informative, revealing and inspiring.

On May 9 of this year, several members of the Foundation's Board of Governors and I had the pleasure of attending a dedication ceremony at the Millennium High School in lower Manhattan. The school dedicated its multi-purpose room (gymnasium, auditorium, meeting room) in honor of our donation to the school of \$1 million (see p. 16). The Foundation made the donation to help revitalize the neighborhood after the 9/11 attacks, and the funds were used to help create a high school in an area that had been devastated. It was extremely touching to find a school full of eager, successful young students and to see the plaque that will forever commemorate the school's gratitude for our efforts.

Please be sure to join us as we bring the best of Italy and the United States to the world in our annual celebration. I look forward to seeing all of you and your guests at our events.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Tallarini, President

# Committee Chairmen of the 2007 Columbus Week Celebration

Nearly a year before they step onto Fifth Avenue with sashes across their chests on Columbus Day, the Columbus Day Parade's Committee Chairmen start planning the week-long celebration that brings worldwide attention to Italian culture from Italy and the United States. From the overarching strategies and themes of the Parade to the details of Red Carpet performances and grandstand tickets, the ten Committee Chairs

take on the work that most national parades hand off to professional organizers that charge a hefty fee for their efforts.

As the Columbus Week Celebration draws near, we honor and salute the Chairmen of the Columbus Week Committees who bring the events together to the delight of millions of Italo-philes of all heritages and backgrounds. ♣



Sam Giarrusso, Weekend Chairman, on the Red Carpet in 2006.



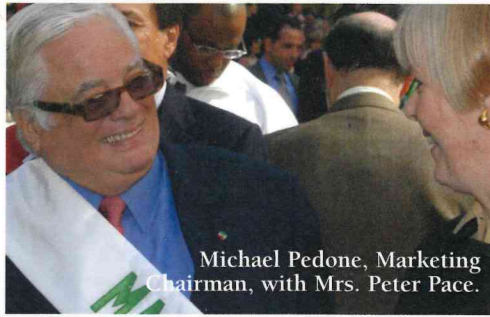
Rev. Michael Moynihan  
Mass Chairman.



Frank Fusaro, Media  
Chairman, with a  
recent scholarship  
recipient.



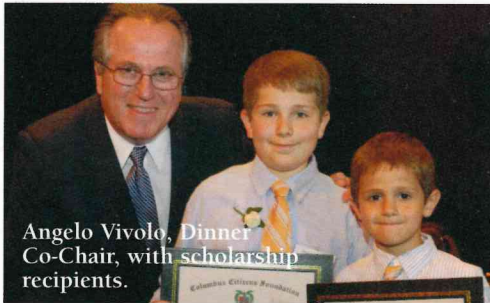
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRANT AWARD  
Maria Antonietta Bevilacqua



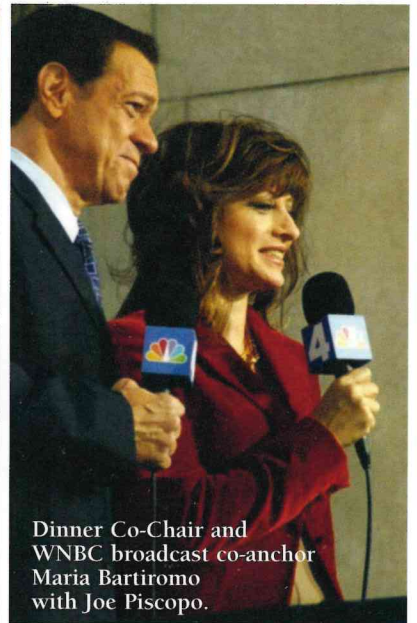
Michael Pedone, Marketing  
Chairman, with Mrs. Peter Pace.



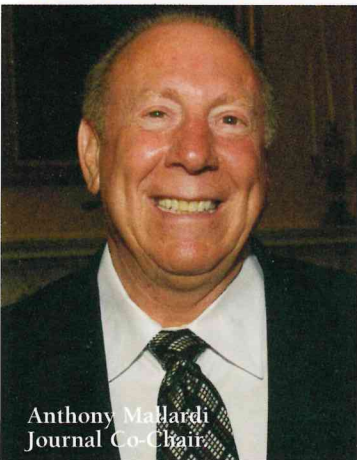
Parade Chairman Enzo  
Pizzimenti with opera  
doyenne and Member  
Licia Albanese.



Angelo Vivolo, Dinner  
Co-Chair, with scholarship  
recipients.



Dinner Co-Chair and  
WNBC broadcast co-anchor  
Maria Bartiromo  
with Joe Piscopo.



Anthony Mallardi  
Journal Co-Chair.



Anthony Giordano, Journal Co-Chair,  
with 2006 Grand Marshal General Peter Pace.



Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo  
Italian Affairs Chairman.

## Salute, Lidia!

**L**idia Matticchio Bastianich, First Lady of Italian Cuisine, as she is known, and 2007 Grand Marshal, returned to New York in early September after a working holiday. She spent over a month in Italy, and she was never far from a kitchen, one of her great passions. For ten days, Ms. Bastianich sailed the northern Adriatic with childhood friends, an annual trip she has been taking every year for the past seven years. Part of the trip involved hunting down local fishermen. Ms. Bastianich said, "I cook on board! Fresh, fresh food. We find the local fishermen and get branzino or lobster or scampi."

Ms. Bastianich had also been in Friuli for the grape harvest with her son, Joseph, who is her partner in the winery Azienda Agricola Bastianich (they also collaborate on La Mozza s.r.l. in Maremma, Tuscany) and in the region of Marche with her daughter, Tanya Bastianich Manuali, who has a Ph.D. in art history from Oxford University and is Lidia's partner in Esperienze Italiane, which organizes upscale cultural tours of Italy. Ms. Bastianich's five grandchildren were there also. "My grandchildren love it in Italy," she said. "They spend time with us, and they go to camp so they can practice their Italian and spend time with other children from Italy – they think of it as a second home."

"I have two identities if you will – I feel very American and very Italian," she said. "I try to bring my two identities from my homes together. Italy is so diverse, so marvelous. It's great to visit different places in different seasons. Piedmont in the fall for truffles. Sicily in the summer for the eggplant and the fish and the tomatoes. Naples and the Sorrento coast – it's all different, it's magnificent, and I love it. I go back five or six times a year every year. I always find something new, something magnificent and beautiful. It's amazing that this little country – in size, it's smaller than California – has so much diversity."

Ms. Bastianich's holiday ended in September with her return to New York. She was looking forward to getting down to more business – settling in to the production studio to tape 26 more episodes of Lidia's Italy, her most recent series on Italian culture, regions, food, and culinary artisans. The series began running on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) last spring, coinciding with the release of Ms. Bastianich's 2007 book of the same title, and the new episodes will be released in the spring of 2008.



Ms. Bastianich shrimping in preparation for the evening's dinner.



On the Adriatic with daughter Tanya Bastianich Manuali and singer and childhood friend Mirko Cetinski.

"While I was away," she said, "people learned that I would be Grand Marshal. The people who watch my shows and get my newsletter were so delighted that I was chosen. It's wonderful to be recognized. It's very much a reaffirmation. Now and then you take a look at your life and you realize, 'Okay, this is what people think.' It's heartwarming and humbling. Just think of the people who have been Grand Marshal before, people who are heroes to so many." ♣

## Hon. Joseph DioGuardi

"I couldn't be prouder of Kara," said Foundation Member Joseph DioGuardi and father of this year's Honoree (see pp. 6-7). He cited her creative and business successes and her work with the drug rehabilitation organization Phoenix House: she built a recording studio in the Los Angeles branch to help adolescent addicts with the recovery process. His son, John, is a counselor with Phoenix House in New York.

A CPA, former U.S. Congressman, and a current corporate director and volunteer human rights activist, Mr. DioGuardi is a fierce proponent of those who are sometimes overlooked and a dogged opponent of fraud, waste, and abuse in government.

Mr. DioGuardi first joined the Foundation in 1972 and, as a practicing CPA and partner at Arthur Andersen & Co., helped secure for the Foundation federal tax exempt status as a publicly supported charitable and educational organization. He also served on the Foundation's Board of Governors from 1978 to 1984

Foundation Member, and proud father of this year's Honoree, Joseph DioGuardi.



# Special Honored Guest from Italy: Clemente Mastella

**T**he Honorable Clemente Mastella is Italy's Minister of Justice, a position similar to that of the U.S. Attorney General. He was appointed to the post by Prime Minister Romano Prodi in 2006.

Minister Mastella was born in San Giovanni di Ceppaloni, a small town near Benevento, in 1947. He holds a Literature and Philosophy Degree and began his professional life as a journalist with RAI Corporation, the Italian state-owned broadcasting company. In 1976, at the age of 29, he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies as a representative of Benevento-Avellino-Salerno constituency, in the Region of Campania. He was re-elected to the Italian Parliament in 1979, 1983, 1987, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

In addition to his elected offices, Minister Mastella has served as Undersecretary of State for Defense and as a member of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Standing Committee on Culture and Education. In 1992, he was appointed member of the Standing Committee on Defense and in 1994 was appointed Minister of Labor under Prime Minister Berlusconi. He subsequently was appointed a member of the Committee on Defense. He served as Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of



Secretary Rice greets Minister Mastella at the State Department.

He is still leader of the *Popolari-UDEUR* party.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Minister Mastella has championed traditional family and Christian values and been an advocate for women, children and the elderly. He is married to Sandra Lonardo, President of the Regional Council of Campania, and they have two sons, Pellegrino and Elio. ♣



Minister Mastella (center right) with Giorgio Napolitano (center left), President of the Italian Republic.



Pope Benedict XVI and the Minister of Justice Clemente Mastella at the *Casal del Marmo*.

and was Dinner Chairman twice – in 1979, when Frank Sinatra was Grand Marshal, and in 1983, when the Grand Marshal was Sophia Loren.

He left the private sector in 1984, when he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he became a champion of political stability in the Balkans (his father came to America in 1929 and was an Italian of Albanian descent from Grece, in Avellino; his mother was a first-generation Italian American from Bari). He successfully engineered the first Congressional hearing on Kosovo (Kosova, in Albanian). He also looked closely at federal accounting practices. “I was the first practicing CPA elected to Congress,” he said, “and what I found was grossly inadequate.” On returning to the private sector, he established a nonpartisan foundation, Truth in

Government, and published a book entitled *Unaccountable Congress: It Doesn't Add Up*, which was highly critical of governmental accounting practices. He currently serves as a corporate director of several companies, including Medical Capital Corporation, and he is the volunteer President of Truth in Government and of the Albanian American Civic League.

Mr. DioGuardi was raised in the Bronx, New York. He attended Fordham Prep and graduated from Fordham University with honors in 1962. He had Kara and John with his first wife, Carol, who passed away in 1997, and he is married to Shirley Cloyes, a former book publisher who is a writer and the Balkan Affairs Adviser to the Albanian American Civic League. ♣

# Spotlight: 2007 Honoree Kara DioGuardi

In 1983, at the tender age of 12, Kara DioGuardi took to the Waldorf=Astoria stage and belted out a series of songs at the Foundation's Annual Gala Dinner: Oscar Hammerstein's "Getting to Know You," Bette Midler's "The Rose" and "The Wind Beneath My Wings," and John Kander and Fred Ebb's "New York, New York."

Nearly 1,000 Foundation Members, guests, and dignitaries – including that year's Grand Marshal, Sophia Loren – showered the impassioned performance with cheers of "Brava!"

The event turned out to be a sneak peek of an astounding career. Today, Ms. DioGuardi is a songwriter, music producer and performer. In fact, recordings of songs that Ms. DioGuardi has written are in the homes of over 100 million people. Or maybe closer to 300 million, allowing for internet sharing. Her compositions have been chart-topping hits in the United States, Europe and Australia.

She is Broadcast Music, Inc.'s (BMI's) 2007 Pop Songwriter of the Year and has been awarded nine BMI Pop Awards over the last four years. Over 250 of the songs she has written have been released on major music labels, and over 80 have appeared on multi-platinum selling albums.

Her creative gifts have led to collaborations with performers who work in an exceptionally wide range of styles: Latin crooners Enrique Iglesias and Marc Anthony; American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson and runner-up Katharine McPhee; Pop goddesses Gwen Stefani, Christina Aguilera, Jessica Simpson and Celine Dion; Soulful rockers Carlos Santana, Nick Lachey and Avril Lavigne; Country queen Faith Hill; peaches and cream Disney stars Hilary Duff and Hannah Montana.

A 2007 Columbus Week Celebration Honoree and the daughter of Foundation Member Hon. Joseph DioGuardi and his late wife, Carol, Ms. DioGuardi's success in so many styles is unusual in the music industry. "I love all kinds of music," she said. "It's easy to stay inspired when you jump from genre to genre and project to project. Every day is a chance to create something unique."

Another facet of her success is a character trait that is not always found in people who are creative: an ability to listen to others. "Part of my job is to be almost a psychologist," she told the *Los Angeles Times*. Recording stars, she said, "have to trust you, that you're going to listen to what they have to say and help them say it in a way that they'll be proud of."



The 12-year old Kara DioGuardi receives a warm reception from 1983 Grand Marshal Sophia Loren following a performance on the Waldorf=Astoria stage. At right: Ms. DioGuardi today.

Ms. DioGuardi grew up listening – to her large, extended family. "Growing up, my parents made sure that my brother and I spent time with our grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles," she said. "Much of that time centered on eating – a favorite Italian pastime – but it gave me a chance to listen to stories about my ancestry and appreciate what my family overcame."

Part of her upbringing was the Foundation. "I loved to go to the Townhouse – or the Columbus Club, as we called it then – with my family. I have some incredible memories of the time we spent there together, just meeting people and exploring the building. I can remember my brother, John, and I running up the stairwell and sneaking into the many rooms for a peek."

In addition to her songwriting, Ms. DioGuardi is co-owner of Arthouse Entertainment, where she develops and mentors fellow writers, producers, and artists. Founded just three years ago, Arthouse Entertainment has been number seven on Billboard's

chart of Top-Ten national music publishers for three consecutive quarters. -

She still does what she did at the Waldorf=Astoria 29 years ago – sing. Her performances highlight the backgrounds on multi-platinum records, and she is continuously behind-the-scenes, vocal producing the mega-stars who have made her songs among the most widely-known in the world.

It's hard to imagine Ms. DioGuardi settling exclusively into any of her roles – songwriter, mentor, producer or performer. Her feelings about all the different demands and aspects of her work are simple. She said, "The best part of my job is that I get to wake up and create every day." ♣



# Scholar Spotlight: Natasha Spedalle

**N**atasha Spedalle is the owner and CEO of Bling Bling Discount Jewelry. As a philanthropist, she has donated over 5,000 faux pearl necklace and earring sets to the non-profit Dress for Success Worldwide, which provides clothing and accessories to low-income women looking for work. Her generosity has made her the second largest jewelry donor to the program, topped only by the multi-national corporation, Avon.

She is also a 17-year old who just graduated the School of the Future with a Regents Diploma with Honors, a matriculating student at Eugene Lang College of the New School University who loves school and, more characteristic of any teenage girl, is just as likely to have a hair elastic around her wrist as a bracelet. She is also a Foundation Adopt-A-Scholar recipient.

“Natasha Spedalle is yet another shining example of why our scholarship programs are critical to the present and future of the Italian-American community,” said Peter Campanella, Co-Chair of the Foundation’s College Scholarship Committee. “Ms. Spedalle received unanimous and enthusiastic support from the Committee for numerous reasons. She is committed to her studies, to

helping others, and to her mother, Susan, who is a retired television producer and woman of great character who excels in the face of disease that runs in the family. As we consider providing funding for education, we must remember that we are helping people like Natasha, who are brilliant reflections and the building blocks of our community.”

A student, businesswoman, benefactor and unashamed fashionista, Ms. Spedalle used to sketch the dresses that movie stars wore to the Academy Awards, back when she was eight years old. In her early teens, she dragged her mother into couture shops along Fifth Avenue. When she turned 14 and had gotten her work permit, she went job hunting at clothing stores in Astoria, Queens, where she lives. Her motivation was simple: she loves to shop, she said, “and I wanted to go out and be able to spend my own money rather than ask my mother for it.” She received no offers and, having walked through wholesale markets looking at cosmetics and costume jewelry, decided to become a street vendor.

Because she was only 14 when she applied for her vendor license – New York City regulations require a minimum age of 21 – a clerk



Ms. Spedalle has turned her eye for style into a thriving business.



at the Department of Consumer Affairs turned her down. Susan, who has been a great supporter of Natasha's in her professional and school endeavors, insisted on speaking to a supervisor and then wound up in the Office of the Attorney for the City of New York. In a meeting with a city attorney, Susan Spedalle recalled, "I said, 'Are you going to deny this child the opportunity to sell jewelry and make money for her education?' They granted Natasha a waiver and gave her a vendor's license. It just goes to show – you can fight City Hall!"

An initial setback – she started by selling make-up kits in the summer, when her product tended to melt – was merely something else to overcome, and it led to her working with jewelry. First came flea markets, then street fairs and colleges. Now two stores sell her selections.

Ms. Spedalle handles wholesale costume jewelry, but what she is actually selling is her taste and her sense of what's going to be hot. She spends hours a day on fashion websites or looking through magazines like *Harper's Bazaar*, *Lucky*, *Nylon* and *Marie-Claire*. "You have to do your research, no matter what," she said. She targets buyers who are 18- to 35-years old, who have a little spending money and are in the market for what she can afford to buy for resale. And she keeps prices down – most of what she sells goes for around \$10.

Her insistence on handling the latest styles led her to donate her previous fall's stock to two non-profits in the winter of 2005. The corporate contributions manager of Dress for Success pleaded for an additional donation – faux pearl earrings and necklaces that low-income women could wear to job interviews.

"I come from the kind of home where you think about people who don't have – and we were asked to help," said Ms. Spedalle. "I didn't want to pledge or commit to anything, because I didn't know how it would go. It's not something I'd done before." And she didn't have much experience: she was only 15.

Rather than make promises, she decided to set aside part of her profits from each jewelry sale that year. At her events, she passed out a flyer explaining why it is important to dress professionally on a job interview and displayed signage announcing that a portion of sales would benefit Dress for Success. She repeated the venture numerous times, recruited a board of directors and named the effort The Pearl Project.

While tending to business she is also a student. During an interview, she discussed one paper she wrote on whether exponential and recursive equations could predict the sales growth of her business and another on applications of stem cell research on finding a cure for multiple sclerosis.

Her excellence in school, as well as at work, has been recognized in a series of awards. She was one of 250 Coca Cola Scholar scholars selected from over 88,000 applicants and received scholarships to attend a Harvard Business School "Growing Up CEO" program and a Bank of America Student Leader Award. Among many awards, she has received the Grand Prize in Bank of America's Youth Entrepreneur competition.

For all her myriad successes, Ms. Spedalle was still nervous when she arrived at the Foundation Townhouse for her Adopt-A-Scholar interview. "I was nervous to go in to begin with," she recalls. "It's totally nerve wracking when you see other competitors. You never know how it's going to go." Despite the large number of College Scholarship Committee members at the interview, she soon felt at ease. "Everyone was so nice, and so respectful," she said. On



Susan and Natasha Spedalle with Mary Giambelli, Natasha's Adopt-A-Scholar benefactor.

being notified that she was a scholarship – and an Adopt-A-Scholar – recipient, Ms. Spedalle was thrilled. "I wasn't expecting it at all," she said. And both she and Susan Spedalle were struck by a sense of community. "Natasha's Adopt-A-Scholar patron is Mary Giambelli," said Susan. "I'd met and interviewed Francesco Giambelli [Mary Giambelli's late husband] years ago, when I wrote an article on his restaurant for *Nation's Restaurant News*. I was so impressed with his sense of hospitality. I'd met the crème de la crème of fine dining restaurateurs and Mr. Giambelli stood head and shoulders above his peers."

At the Adopt-A-Scholar dinner, they were seated at a table with Mrs. Giambelli. "I love, love, love our scholarship donor," Ms. Spedalle said. "She was really sweet. I told her about my business and my philanthropy work and complimented her on her jewelry. And everyone treated her with an enormous amount of respect – you could really see the reverence other Members have for Mrs. Giambelli."

Ms. Spedalle plans to pursue a five-year master's degree in psychology and then a doctorate. "That is a lot of education to fund," said Susan Spedalle. "The Foundation's generous scholarship is making it possible for Natasha to attend a top notch university, develop her intellect, and continue to help others. The Foundation is giving Natasha the opportunity to continue to excel. I look forward to the day when she will visit the Townhouse not as a scholarship recipient, but as a donor." ♣

# Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner

The Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner, held June 22, brought 11 scholarship recipients and their families or guardians to the Townhouse to meet the Members who are helping to underwrite their education.

Speaking to the large group of students, their parents and guardians, and Foundation Members, Philanthropic Chairman Frank Fusaro said, "This organization of 563 members is now helping 849 kids with their education. This is a night when those donors who contributed to the Adopt-A-Scholar Program get to meet the children that they are assisting. The students were perfect strangers yesterday. They are not perfect strangers now, and after sharing a meal with them, they may well feel like family. I encourage you to stay in touch with them."

Mr. Fusaro continued, "I was 35 the first time I went to Italy and saw the genius of Michelangelo and DaVinci first hand. The brilliance of these men, of Italian contributions to education and engineering – that is the blood that is coursing through your veins. We honor the students who are here tonight, we honor the parents who did such a good job raising their children. Our Members give because they feel blessed to have been able to join and prosper in the realization of the American dream. You young men and women, sitting here this evening, are the next link in a generational process. But remember: these scholarships are not a gift. They come with a responsibility – be successful and come back to the Foundation and sponsor a scholar."

Recipient Alexandra Cagliostro is being sponsored by Mr. Frank Fusaro, and she will attend St. John's University, as her brother and sister had before her. Her mother, Mary Cagliostro, recalled that her own mother came over from Sicily in 1937 and her father



Robert Clemente, who will be attending Xavier High School, with Frank Fusaro, AAS donor Vincent Alesi, and parents Robert and Diane.

immigrated from Naples shortly before World War II and served in combat. Mrs. Cagliostro has made sure that her children have all gone to college. She works at PS 186 in Brooklyn, teaching English as a second language. "Our family is very close," said Mrs. Cagliostro, "and education has been a very important part of our lives. This scholarship – I don't know what to say, except that it will let Alexandra focus on her studies at a great school, and it's really a very big help to our family."

Foundation Member Vincent Alesi is sponsoring Xavier High School student Robert Clemente, Jr. who was present with his parents, Robert and Diane Clemente. Mr. Clemente, Sr., proud on a night of justifiable pride, said, "Robert wants to be an accountant – he's very good in math. In each of his four years in high school, he had an average of 100%." ♣

## Rock and Roll Icon Johnny Maestro Joins Scholarship Donors

Johnny Maestro never went to college, but now he is helping to pay for the education of a student he'd never met until the Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner on June 22.

The young woman is Alyssa Arroyo, of Flushing, Queens, who became the first recipient of the Johnny Maestro Scholarship in the Arts.

Ms. Arroyo will attend New York City's Hunter College in September. She plans to major in drama (she performed in the Bronx High School of Science production of *The Pajama Game* this spring in the role of Brenda and took summer courses in stage managing and make-up) and the liberal arts, with a minor in Italian language studies. The Johnny Maestro Scholarship in the Arts will enable her to spend her entire junior year abroad, studying in Italy.

"I'm really so grateful," said Ms. Arroyo, "It was great to meet Mr. Maestro in person. When we learned about the scholarship, my mother played some of his songs and I thought, 'Oh yeah, yeah! I know him!' I love the sound of his voice – it's calm and smooth and really, really soulful."



Alyssa Arroyo, the first winner of the Johnny Maestro Scholarship in the Arts, with Mr. Maestro.

Mr. Maestro, whose six-decade music career has included hits "16 Candles" and "The Worst that Could Happen," said, "Having met Alyssa, who is a wonderful young woman, and her mother Amelia and brother Steven, I know that she will dedicate herself to success and achievement."

Mr. Maestro lives in Hernando Beach, FL. He was born John Mastrangelo in 1937, and his chart-breaking career has spanned six decades. Beginning in 1957, Mr. Maestro was the original lead singer of The Crests, which followed regional success with a series of national hits. He was the lead member of the Del-Satins in the 1960s as the music's British invasion hit American shores and in 1968 became a founder of Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge, which sold over 10 million albums in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

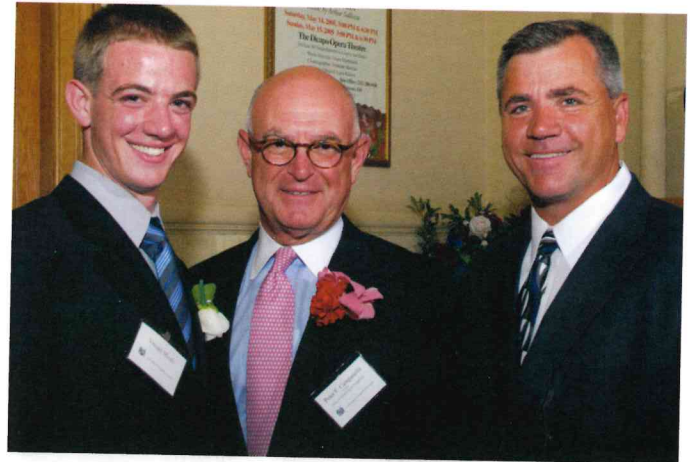
Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge continues to tour and record and has performed in the highly successful PBS fundraising events, "Doo Wop 50" and in 2005 recorded a full concert-length DVD as part of the "Pops Legends Live" series. The group's most recent CD, *Today*, features re-recordings of their hits and fresh takes of various songs of the 1950s and 1960s. ♣

# Scholarship Programs Reach New Heights

The 2007 winter-spring scholarship season culminated in June in a series of remarkable awards ceremonies. When the scholarship certificates had been awarded and the tears of grateful parents shed, the Foundation looked forward to a year in which it would be providing scholarship and grant assistance to a record 849 students. The scholarships and grants total \$2.4 million.

“The number of scholarships we are able to offer, and the number of Italian-American families we are able to help, is a direct result of Foundation Members stepping up with their time, their determination and their willingness to give,” said Foundation President Louis Tallarini. “The hard work of our Columbus Week Chairmen and their committees, the hundreds of hours our Scholarship Committee members put in to learning about the students, and the tireless efforts of our staff have made this a record-setting year. And of course we all have to be grateful to the sponsors of the 2006 Columbus Week Celebration. They enabled us to put together a great celebration of Italian and Italian-American culture and heritage, and their contributions benefit those in the Italian-American community who are still working hard to achieve the American dream of success for themselves and their families.”

The scholarship commitments represent nearly a 20 percent increase over 2006 in the number of students receiving financial assistance. During the three scholarship ceremonies held in May and June at the Dicapo Opera Theater, at 184 E. 76 St., new, multi-year scholarships were awarded to students matriculating this fall into elementary schools, high schools and colleges. In addition, in 2007-2008 the Foundation will provide three Franco Zeffirelli Scholarships for the Arts. ♣



Clockwise from top: Barbara and Richard Naclerio, Elementary School Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, with Gregory Macaluso and his mother, Jean. College Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Peter Campanella with recipient Vincent Micelli and his father, Charles. Proud parents Maryann and Alfred D’Albero flank Adopt-A-Scholar sponsor Dr. Robert Tornambe and recipient Emelia D’Albero. Elementary School Grant recipient Brigida Giulia Saia with parents Joseph and Giovanna. College Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Gail Guy with Jillian Angelone. Former Foundation college scholarship recipient, and current High School Scholarship Committee Chairman, Vincent Toscano welcomes students, their families and guardians, and Foundation Members at the High School Awards Ceremonies.



# Dr. Frank Celenza: Ten Years as Master of the House

**B**efore he stepped down as Chairman of the Executive House Committee in 2007, handing over the reins to Matt Sabatine and Joseph Gurrera, Dr. Celenza had served in the position for ten years. His qualifications for the position included two of his great passions: food and music.

His interest in both dated to his youth. While in dental school, he had supported himself by taking gigs as a jazz drummer on weekends. Once he opened his practice, a patient persuaded him to listen to opera. Initially, it was Dr. Celenza's father, Vincent, who took to the art form. Over time, Dr. Celenza found himself enchanted.

Years later, in 1985, he began to hold informal Opera Nights in his home, but when demand for seats exceeded the 14 he could manage, he moved the event to the Foundation. Starting in 1991, Opera Nights could accommodate 70 guests who enjoyed a champagne reception, a brief talk by Dr. Celenza on the opera that would be projected, and meals that reflected the libretto. Through the events, Members learned about the lives of Verdi, Puccini and other great Italian composers and nuances and details of their works, from *Otello* to *Turandot* to *Madama Butterfly*. Dr. Celenza has hosted around 75 Opera Nights at the Foundation, bringing culture to the Foundation and raising funds for its scholarship programs.

Dr. Celenza's father was the source of Dr. Celenza's interest in food. "My father always used to do the cooking on weekends, and I adopted that gradually," said Dr. Celenza. "It was a Sunday tradition – my father in the kitchen, with me at his side."

Even before he became Chairman of the Executive House Committee, Dr. Celenza was working with the Foundation's chefs. "I would study recipes and do a lot of reading. John Boden would try them out in the kitchen," Dr. Celenza said. "It was an excellent team. I would say that of all the chefs I worked with, John was far and away the best."

As House Chairman, Dr. Celenza served under three Foundation Presidents and raised the quality of the Taverna and Banquet operations substantially. He continued holding Opera Nights and the



Dr. Frank Celenza with his wife, Raquel.

traditional annual New Year's Eve Party. He also introduced what has become the Foundation's most popular event – the Shore Dinner. "It is the only event where you are allowed to come to the Foundation in casual attire – it's completely informal," Dr. Celenza said. "I created the menu for that, and we used some of my family's recipes – it's what we had in my family, and it went over pretty well there: a first course of spaghetti with blue crab sauce, and then we eat the crabs. Then lobster oreganata as the main dish, then salad and then peaches and wine with Italian cookies."

Being so involved with the Foundation led to one of the most fortunate coincidences of his life. The first opera he came to love was Puccini's *La Bohème*, with its unforgettable, tragic heroine, Mimi. "I had the good fortune of hearing the great Licia Albanese Gimma perform the role," recalled Dr. Celenza.

Through the Foundation, Dr. Celenza met Ms. Albanese, who is a Member. They became fast friends who would speak about operas and performances for hours on end. Ms. Albanese and another great soprano of the era, Anna Moffo Sarnoff, who passed away in 2006, often attended Dr. Celenza's Opera Nights, adding to the luster of the evenings.

Dr. Celenza and his wife, Raquel, have been married for 56 years and have four children: Vincent is a prosthetic dentist; Frank, Jr. is a periodontist and orthodontist; Andrea is a psychologist; and Raquel is a music manager.

Until he retired in 2002, Dr. Celenza gave time to the Foundation while maintaining a distinguished dental practice. He was a pioneer in his field who had wedded the disciplines of engineering, prosthetic dentistry and physiology. He is the author of two books and around 50 articles that were published in journals refereed by scientists. As someone once said, "To call Frank Celenza a dentist is like calling Babe Ruth a baseball player."



Dr. Celenza presenting a bouquet to celebrated soprano Licia Albanese Gimma at a Foundation Opera Night.

His efforts as Committee Chairman were labors of love for Dr. Celenza, but they were not his motivation for being so involved with the Foundation. Being a Member, he said, "helps me contribute to how people understand Italian-American heritage. I was born in 1925 and got my degree in engineering and then in dentistry – and then I was a marksman in Europe during World War II. After the war, I opened my private practice and became involved in teaching dentistry all over the world – every country in South America, the Pacific Rim, throughout Europe, Alaska and Hawaii.

"My life – and the lives of Italian-Americans – isn't what we see in the movies, or on television," Dr. Celenza said. "The Italian-American community is what you see at the Foundation. The Members, our guests, the boys and girls who come to the Foundation for scholarships. This is our community. It's important that someone speak up for it, for all the hard work that so many of us do and what we contribute to our community and to this country." ❀

# Foundation Spotlight: John Boden

**H**e didn't know it at the time, but John Boden, the Foundation's General Manager, prepared himself for his position at the Foundation through his military service and a love of food. While in the Navy, he studied food preparation and practiced his craft endlessly. "When I was in the service, we had 70- to 80- hour weeks," Mr. Boden said. "That was the norm." The grueling hours continued when he worked in restaurants and at peak periods are also common at the Foundation.

His interest in food came much earlier. "My grandfather was Italian, from the area around Positano," he said. "That's where all the culinary interest came in – my Mom, aunts and my grandmother were all great cooks"

Mr. Boden, who is single, was born and raised on the New Jersey Shore and began his culinary career when he enlisted in the Navy in 1982. During his five years of service, he worked in kitchens and attended several Military Culinary Schools, where the curriculum extended far beyond chopping and cooking: it covered subjects ranging from food production and sanitation to nutrition and cost control. After receiving his honorable discharge in 1987, Mr. Boden worked in Italian restaurants and in 1989 enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America. He graduated in 1991 and was hired as the Executive Chef of Sergio's, an Italian restaurant in Westchester, where he became famous for his roasted quail with a cranberry and apple-walnut chutney.

Mr. Boden was hired in 1993 as Executive Chef of the Foundation, where he refined his art and developed new recipes. "Often you develop a recipe by trying to replicate something you've had and enjoyed, or you adapt something from a magazine," said Mr. Boden. "But some recipes are created by accident."

Years ago, he said, "One day, our grinder was sitting out on the counter, and I'd asked someone to take some seafood from the refrigerator – calamari, shrimp, scallops and other things. They threw it all in the grinder! I was upset at first, but I decided to improvise a little. I put it in a pan with a little oil and garlic and fish stock, and it was very good. It was a spontaneous dish that has become very popular – it's our seafood Bolognese."

In 2001, then-President, Amb. Charles Gargano, named Mr. Boden General Manager. He is responsible for implementing the Board of Governors' directives involving the Townhouse, kitchen, Taverna, and the Banquet Department, everything from the plumbing to the building's electrical system. "We have birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations and even bar mitzvahs," said Mr. Boden. "We've had weddings where presiding over the ceremony were both a rabbi and a priest. We're booked three to five nights a week, and it continues to grow."

The food served at the Taverna has changed also, both in terms of the quality, according to all sources, and what is being served. Today, Mr. Boden said, "The top dishes are risotto pescatore, ossobucco with risotto milanese, and sea bass with whipped potatoes and fried leeks. We serve much more fish than we used to. There used to be two or three items on the menu. Now there are five or six. People are eating lighter. Years ago, the menu was more



Foundation General Manager John Boden in his chef whites.

pasta and meat oriented. Now everyone's more health conscious and watches what they put into their bodies."

Mr. Boden attributes a great deal of the Foundation's success in the area of Dining and the Banquet Department to the staff: Chef Alex Toribio, Maitre d' Romeo Nesi, Bartender Gene Raicovich, and the Banquet Maitre d' Adelsio Rodriguez, who have kept its operations the envy of many clubs in New York. "I was able to grow into the General Manager position because of the solid staff we had in place at the time. Alex has been here for 12 years, Romeo and Gene over 10 years each, and Adelsio who was just promoted, for seven years."

The staff handles over 200 events at the Foundation a year. The annual Shore Dinner is a regular sell-out, and the New Year's Eve party goes on until three in the

morning. The Christmas Party and *Carnevale* are both well attended, and the Children's Christmas Party brings out children and grandchildren of Members to the Foundation on a day when peals of laughter and squeals of delight echo throughout the Townhouse. In addition, he makes sure the Townhouse is prepared for all events, a job that ranges from book signings to concerts and Italian folk dance performances.

One of the largest projects at the Foundation in the past few years was the 2006 renovation of the Taverna, though Mr. Boden noted that his role was simply to facilitate the plans developed by Members Lawrence Auriana, Louis Tallarini, Oscar Nordstrom and [consultant] Jean Carrau. "I was here to open doors, sign checks and give daily reports to Mr. Nordstrom," he said with admiration. "Mr. Auriana, Mr. Tallarini, Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Carrau planned everything down to the last detail, and all their work really paid off. There are so many positive comments about the renovation, people feel like they're dining in a taverna in Italy."

"My job is much easier because of the support I get from the Members," said Mr. Boden. "Dr. [Frank] Celenza, Chairman of the House Committee, has been behind me and the staff every step of the way, and he is extremely knowledgeable about food and wine. He's been more than a chairman of a committee, he's been a great friend. When it comes to the food service part of our business I probably rely on him and Angelo Vivolo for their professional expertise the most. The reasons that the Townhouse always looks in top shape are the tireless efforts of Marcello Poletti and our porter staff, and the decorations for many of our special events come from the creative ability of Mrs. Fauci, who serves on the Executive House Committee."

All the multi-tasking that Mr. Boden does serves one of the Foundation's primary objectives: presenting the heritage and culture of Italy, and of the Italian-American community, in the best light possible. "From the day I arrived here," Mr. Boden said, "it was clear that the Townhouse and the Foundation were about something that is even greater than the events we hold and all the fundraising the Members do for scholarship students. The Townhouse is an American reflection of Italy and Italian culture. It needs to be as close to perfect as possible." ❀

# Ladies Auxiliary Achieves New Milestone



By Nancy Cuttita  
President, Ladies Auxiliary

**T**his year, for the first time in its long and vital history, the Ladies Auxiliary was able to make a contribution of a Perpetual Scholarship to the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program. This substantial commitment will help fund the education of students for years to come and help provide them with the opportunities they need to achieve success.

The Adopt-A-Scholar donation is the fourth Adopt-A-Scholar contribution that we have made in the past several years, though it is our first at the Perpetual Scholarship level. We were able to achieve this milestone through the active and tireless participation of our members.

The philosophy behind the Ladies Auxiliary has always been to combine social activities with fundraising. This year has been very exciting for us. We organized Couples Night for active members of the Auxiliary and their husbands, our Afternoon Tea with the

Ladies, which gave us the chance to review our recent activities and our goals for the coming year, and a Luncheon at the Italian Culinary Institute.

Once again, we sponsored the annual Children's Christmas Party. This event is unlike any other at the Foundation: it gives Members'



Ladies Auxiliary Officers Angela Prestia, Treasurer; Nancy Cuttita, President; Carol Fusaro, Secretary; and Janice Peretti, Vice President.

children and grandchildren the chance to enjoy the Townhouse while playing with other children, and it reminds them of how fortunate they are to be part of our Italian-American community.

The Auxiliary's fundraisers were our annual Christmas Luncheon and Boutique and our Spring Luncheon, Fashion Show and Boutique. The Christmas event drew approximately 200 people to the Townhouse, and both inspired greater participation by our members. In May, Bill Blass designer Jose Solis created a fashion show at the Foundation that featured samples from the Bill Blass New York 2007 Spring-Summer Collection. The high style event drew a sold-out audience, and Ladies Auxiliary members fortunate enough to attend received gift certificates from the legendary design house.

The Bill Blass design house generously agreed to be involved with the event thanks to Connie Cioffi, the wife of Foundation Member John Cioffi and an important part of New York's fashion community. As she has in the past, Mrs. Cioffi once again called upon the goodwill she has created with a world-class designer to arrange for models and the design house to participate in one of our most important annual events.

The highlight of our year was our commitment to the Perpetual Scholarship. We were delighted that the first recipient of the Ladies Auxiliary Perpetual Scholarship is Maria Macrina, who will



Members of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Spring Luncheon, Fashion Show and Boutique.

be attending Brown University starting this fall. Ms. Macrina is a highly accomplished and poised young woman whose dedication to her studies, to her family and to her community are outstanding. We are confident that she will make excellent use of her scholarship and her opportunities in the years and decades to come.

In addition to our Adopt-A-Scholar donation, this year we are making a contribution to the Foundation through a Gala Journal ad. We have also made contributions in the name of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Foundation to the New York School of Ballet and other institutions and charities that support education and services for those in need.



Bill Blass designer Jose Solis surrounded by a bevy of models who presented Blass 2007 Spring-Summer creations.

Having just completed my first year as President of the Ladies Auxiliary, I am honored to be part of a group of women who work so hard to promote the Foundation's and the Auxiliary's goals. On behalf of the Auxiliary, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who have supported us in all our undertakings. I would also like to recognize the men who have participated in our fundraising efforts by attending our luncheons and the entire staff of the Foundation.

Finally, I would like to personally thank all of our active members, in particular our executive team: Honorary Chairwoman Kathryn Licata; Vice President Janice Peretti; Secretary Carol Fusaro; and Treasurer Angela Prestia. Their efforts and commitment, and the participation of our other members, made our first Perpetual Scholarship donation possible. It is our pleasure to join the select group of individuals and institutions that are Benefactors of the Adopt-A-Scholar Program. ❀

# U.S. Flag from Iraq Comes to Foundation

An American flag that flew over the U.S. Army Base in Tallil, Iraq, 200 miles south of Baghdad, has made its way to the Foundation, thanks to kindness and thoughtfulness of Army Captain Peter Fish and the warmth and hospitality he was shown by Foundation Members Rosemary Maniscalco and Alfred De Maria.

Captain Fish is a Washington, DC native and a Physician Associate who, in civilian life, practiced Occupational Medicine and Trauma and Plastic Surgery. Several months before his deployment to Iraq, he met Ms. Maniscalco at a benefit. On learning of his impending assignment, Ms. Maniscalco invited him to attend events at the Foundation, including the *Carnevale* and *Ballo Romantico*.

Captain Fish was deployed in September 2006. His company took the place of another that had been supporting clinics at three forward operating bases. In addition, it has been required to operate the Kallil Base Hospital, which predominantly serves servicemen with non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses. In an e-mail exchange, Captain Fish wrote of his company's deployment, "There was no margin for error. As it is, we have taken what looked like an impossible mission and not only met its requirements, but we will be leaving it better than it was left for us. We're New Yorkers - what do you expect!"



Alfred and Cindy De Maria, Captain Peter Fish and Rosemary Maniscalco enjoy Carnevale prior to Capt. Fish's deployment to Iraq.



Capt. Fish has worn many hats – including that of Flight Surgeon – during his posting at the U.S. Army Base.

Like many of America's servicemen in Iraq, Captain Fish has been required to wear many hats. He has served as a General Medical Officer in the clinic and Emergency Room; Officer in Charge of Medical Affairs; Public Affairs Officer; Officer in Charge of Patient Administration; Civil Military Affairs Officer; Iraqi Translator Supervisor; and Flight Surgeon and Medical Regulator of a Medevac unit. His unit sees between 2,000 and 3,000 patients a month. His company is not directly involved in ground fighting, but his base has been shelled repeatedly.

He is scheduled to return to the 466th Area Support Medical Company in mid-October. Captain Fish wrote, "We'll be flying into Upstate New York. I don't know when we'll be landing, but I plan to be in Manhattan having real food and wine six hours after we touch down!"

Despite Captain Fish's intense schedule, he took time to write the Foundation with the offer of a flag from his base. The text of Captain Fish's unexpected and welcomed e-mail follows. ♣

Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 11:01 AM  
To: ccf@columbuscitizens.org  
Subject: Hello from Iraq

Dear Sir,

Just prior to being deployed to Iraq as an Army Medical Officer, I was invited by one of your board members - Rosemary Maniscalco - to two of your events, at the townhouse and at Rockefeller Center. At these events I was warmly received by all of the members I met. On the evening of the ball at Rockefeller Center I sat next to Mr. Al De Maria, and he was a particularly gracious host. I recently realized that over the past 15 months as I have had homesick thoughts about New York, my memories have repeatedly featured places, foods, and events that were shaped by Italian Americans. Without their contributions - indeed, without the continued contributions of your members - New York would not be the place that I love, and the place I look forward to coming home to.

I would like to send an American flag that has flown over our base here in Tallil, Iraq to the Columbus Citizens Foundation and dedicate it to Rosemary Maniscalco and Al De Maria to thank them (and all of you) for their generosity. Please let me know an address to which I can send it.

Regards,

CPT Peter Fish  
OIC Medical Affairs, OIC PAD  
466th Area Support Medical Company  
Tallil, Iraq

# Millennium High School Students, City Officials Display Gratitude for \$1m Donation

Scores of exuberant, grateful high school students joined school and New York City officials to pay tribute to the Foundation at a dedication ceremony held at the Millennium High School on May 9, 2007. They gathered to thank the Foundation for its \$1 million donation to complete construction of the school, which is in lower Manhattan, an area devastated in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Funding from the Foundation went to build the Millennium Auditorium, a multi-purpose room that also serves as a gymnasium.

Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development, said, "To Louis Tallarini and to the Members of the Columbus Citizens Foundation Board, thank you. We are here in a room that improves the life of a school. It is an auditorium. It is a gymnasium. And it's all a result of the generosity of the Foundation. Thank you for your generous gift. Thank you for your dedication to the Millennium High School, and most of all thank you for the lesson in civic service. You saw a need, and you responded to that need."

Attending the event from the Foundation were President Louis Tallarini, Vice President Joseph Zappala, Board Members Matt Sabatine and Anthony Giordano, and Executive Director Christine Meola.



From left: Foundation representatives Christine Meola, Anthony Giordano, Matt Sabatine, Amb. Joseph Zappala and Louis Tallarini with Principal Robert Rhodes, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott and Community Board 1 past Chairwoman Madeline Wills with Millennium High School students.

Mr. Tallarini recalled the Foundation's decision to donate \$1 million of the proceeds from the 2001 Columbus Day Parade, which took place just weeks following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "In 2001, our Board met on the third Thursday of September," said Mr. Tallarini. "The intention of the meeting was to consider cancelling the Columbus Day Parade, which is organized by our Members, as volunteers. We were troubled by the thought of cancelling the parade and wanted to speak to the mayor and the governor for guidance. The mayor and the governor both responded that it was time for the city to step forward and come back. At the suggestion of Amb. Charles Gargano, who unfortunately could



The plaque at Millennium High School that acknowledges the Foundation's \$1 million contribution to the school.

not be here today and who was President of the Foundation at the time, we dedicated \$1 million of the proceeds of the Columbus Celebration to this new school in lower Manhattan. The money would normally have gone to our scholarship funds.

"We are a proud part of the fabric of New York City, and our parade draws tens of thousands of visitors to New York from overseas and the United States. We're very, very happy to be with you today."

The Millennium High School was conceived following 9/11 by city and state officials and members of the local community board who wanted to rebuild lower Manhattan. A high school that would encourage families to live in the area was considered essential, but there were no sites available for a typical school. The authorities decided to house the school in a commercial office building on the corner of Broad and South William Streets, a few blocks down from the New York Stock Exchange.

"This facility, completed with the assistance and generosity of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, has also become an important part of our community," said Robert Rhodes, Principal of the Millennium High School. "The Chancellor of the Department of Education was here with Urban Dove, a program that trains high school students to be mentors for at-risk grade school students. The United Federation of Teachers has met here, the Parents Association, the Community Board, and the Board of the Chinatown YMCA. And the occasional *Law & Order* episode has been filmed here as well."

Mr. Rhodes noted that the school's first class graduated in 2006. "Ninety-six percent of our first graduating class went to college," he said. "Over one half of the students in this school were the first college-bound generation in their families. Like us, they owe a debt of thanks to your Foundation's generosity and your concern for the City of New York and its students."

The Millennium Auditorium had previously been a large storage area. Madeline Wills, past Chairperson of Community Board 1, said, "Every time I walk into this space I am so grateful, and I remember what it used to be. Before it was remodeled, you could see the Con Ed generators, which are behind those walls there. The renovation of this space was actually the first project started and finished after 9/11. It is the result of the creativity and generosity of people like you who shared the vision of what we needed to do to make lower Manhattan a vital part of New York once again."

The event included music performed by members of the Millennium High School's band, just one of many after school programs that take place in the room. Among the programs is a fencing team. Member Cody Cheng said, "There are 15 members on the fencing team. Thank you on behalf of the coolest after school program that uses this space - the coolest!" ❀



# New Members Contribute to Foundation's Future



**John V. Cioffi**  
Chairman,  
Membership  
Committee

The Foundation's strength is in executing its mission. This year, we will be providing financial aid to 849 students. This is a reflection of the incredible effort put into our initiatives by our Membership. Increasingly, they are receiving support from some of our newer Members. In a recent review of the Foundation's activities, two striking facts jumped out. First, over 50 percent of our recent new Members have participated both financially and on a Weekend Committee. Second, approximately 15 percent have already contributed to our Adopt-A-Scholar Program.

I would like to thank all of the Foundation Members who have proposed New Members recently, and particularly those who serve on our Membership Committee: Lawrence E. Auriana, Lewis Barton, Alfred T. De Maria, John Desiderio, Anthony F. Giordano, Richard H. Girgenti, Robert R. Guinta, Anthony M. Mallardi, Marian U. Pardo, Angelo V. Vivolo and Amb. Joseph Zappala.

In the past few months, 21 new Members have joined the Foundation, which brings our total Membership to a record 563. Please welcome them to the Foundation, and when you meet someone who you think will contribute to our community, contact Millie Aponte or Lisa F. LoRusso for any assistance you may need.



Photo  
not available

**Steven C. Amato**

Sponsors:  
Peter J. Sacripanti  
Frank G. Fusaro

Mr. Amato is a Partner at Deloitte & Touche. His paternal parents were born in Bari and his maternal parents

were born in Naples. Mr. Amato is affiliated with the New York Athletic Club, NYS Society of CPAs and is Chairman of the Board for Lollipop Theater (children's charity). Mr. Amato looks forward to participating in the Foundation's cultural and philanthropic events.



**Dr. Jacqueline C. Brunetti**

Sponsors:  
John A. Loconsolo  
Vincent J. Peters

Dr. Brunetti is the Director of the Department of Radiology at Holy Name Hospital. Her grandfathers were born in Italy. Dr. Brunetti is an

associate member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, and a fellow of the Academy of Medicine. She joins the Foundation in the footsteps of her grandfather, who was a Member. Dr. Brunetti is interested in serving on a Scholarship Committee and would like to mentor students interested in attending medical school.



Photo  
not available

**Albert R. Checcio**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Lawrence E. Auriana

Mr. Checcio is the Vice President for development and university relations of Fordham

University. His maternal and paternal grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Checcio is affiliated with St. Katherine of Siena Parish, and serves on the Council for the Advancement of Higher Education. Mr. Checcio, who has over 30 years of fundraising and marketing experience, will be pleased to provide his expertise to the Foundation.



**Joseph P. Cicale**

Sponsors:  
Lawrence Trapani  
Mario Occhicone

Mr. Cicale is Marketing Manager of Property & Casualty Insurance. His father was born in Naples. Mr. Cicale is

affiliated with the New York Mariner's Club, the Council of Insurance Brokers of New York and the Christian Children's Fund-Sponsorship. He is very proud of his Italian-American heritage and would like to participate in the Foundation's efforts of supporting scholarships and cultural activities.



Photo  
not available

**Joseph Cusumano, Jr.**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Anthony M. Mallardi

Mr. Cusumano is the Title Associate of Counsel Abstract, Inc., a real estate/title insurance company. His

paternal and maternal grandparents were all born in Italy. Mr. Cusumano is affiliated with the Kidney and Urology Foundation of America and the Housing and Services, Inc. He has a great desire to help the Foundation advance its Italian-American heritage with his philanthropic experience, hard work and honesty.



Photo  
not available

**Patrick V. De Iorio, Esq.**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa

Mr. De Iorio is a Partner of The De Iorio Law Firm, LLP. All of his grandparents were

born in Italy. Mr. De Iorio is past-President of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Westchester and is on the Board of the Westchester County Pro-Bono Legal Action Committee. The son of the Honorable Vincent A. De Iorio, a Foundation Member, Mr. De Iorio looks forward to continuing the rich traditions of Italian-Americans to this country.



**John C. Giacobelli**

Sponsors:  
Alfred T. De Maria  
Anthony Dolce

Mr. Giacobelli is the President of Mayrick Construction Corp., an excavation and foundations corporation (hire).

His grandparents were born in Sicily. Mr. Giacobelli is affiliated with the Professional Engineers Society. He looks forward to devoting time to the Foundation's efforts on behalf of the Italian-American community.



Photo  
not available

**Dr. Pasquale Malpeso**

Sponsors:  
Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli  
Dr. Stephen Di Giovanni

Dr. Malpeso has his own dental practice: Dr. Pasquale Malpeso D.M.D. P.C. He derives his Italian heritage from

his father, who was born in Naples. Dr. Malpeso received Teaching Honors and Awards with the 3i Implant Innovation Company. Dr. Malpeso's father worked as a laborer for the Foundation some 20 years ago, and he looks forward to being involved with an organization whose Members share his heritage and social and religious beliefs.



**Phyllis Marino**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Anthony F. Giordano

Ms. Marino is the Senior Vice President of Commerce Bank. Her father was born in Scala Coele and her mother was born in Tiriolo. Ms. Marino is President of the Business and Professional Women's International - the Manhattan Chapter and she is active with the American Cancer Society in connection with "Relay for Life" through Commerce Bank. She is the recipient of the Woman of Distinction Award and the Long Island Center for Business & Professional Women's Award among numerous others. She joins the Foundation to help people of Italian-American descent have the opportunities she has had in her career.



**Lydia Palermo**

Sponsors:  
Mary Ann Fusco  
Peter P. Cuttita

Mrs. Palermo is self-employed and a real estate investor. Her paternal grandparents were born in Palermo.

Mrs. Palermo is a member and Director of the Japanese Medical Society and serves on its Scholarship Committee. She is affiliated with the professional society Spony, a real estate group. Mrs. Palermo would like to participate on one of the Foundation's Scholarship Committees.



**Dean Palin**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Steven M. Napolitano

Mr. Palin is the Principal of Palin Enterprises, a real estate development company. His great-grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Palin is affiliated with the Food Allergy Initiative at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is also affiliated with the Glen Oaks Club and The Bridge Gold Club. Mr. Palin has a wide circle of contacts in the business world and he would be willing to inform them about the Foundation's activities and needs.



**Michael Palin**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Steven M. Napolitano

Mr. Palin is the President/Owner of Palin Enterprises, a real estate development company. His paternal grandparents were born in Sala Consilina. Mr. Palin is affiliated with the Southampton Golf Club and is the founder of Mt. Sinai Medical Center Food Allergy Initiative. A former Foundation Member, he is looking forward to benefiting the Foundation, primarily through philanthropic activities via his own foundation.



**Dominick M. Protomastro**

Sponsors:  
Robert A. Cutro  
Gail R. Guy

Mr. Protomastro is the Management Consultant of Applied Management Technology Associates. Both of his parents were born in Italy. Mr. Protomastro is the Administrator of the St. James Elementary School Scholarship Committee and is active with the New York Cardinal's Diocesan Campaign, among other organizations. Mr. Protomastro is attracted to the Foundation because of its professional and philanthropic reputation and the contributions its Members make to the community and society.



**Achille Raspantini**

Sponsors:  
Dr. Frederic J. Vagnini  
Joseph M. Martuscello

Mr. Raspantini is the President/Owner of Technical Operations, a broadcast engineering and operations company. His grandparents emigrated from Italy in the 1920s. Mr. Raspantini is affiliated with the New York Friars Club. He received the Technical Emmy award for the ABC Olympic Games. Mr. Raspantini is involved with several charities of his own and looks forward to extending his charitable work to further the Foundation's goals.

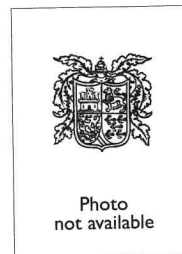


**Prof. Edward Domenic Re, Jr.**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Anthony M. Mallardi

Prof. Re is the CEO/President of Con-Solid Contracting, Inc. He is also an architect and a

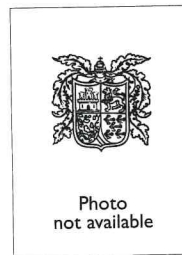
professor at New York University and Pratt Institute. He inherits his Italian heritage from his late father, a former Member of the Foundation born in Sicily. Prof. Re has received many awards, including a *Cavaliere Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana*. He feels that the Foundation's philanthropic and cultural initiatives are in keeping with his own thoughts, culture and upbringing, and he looks forward to participating in the Foundation's activities.



**Thomas San Antonio**

Sponsors:  
Joseph A. Fabrizi  
Robert J. Aiello

Mr. San Antonio is the Senior Project Manager of Interserv Interior Services to the Hotel Industry. All of his grandparents immigrated from Sicily. Mr. San Antonio is affiliated with the Free Masons Lodge and has also been involved with the American Heart Association. He is an avid sportsman and won the 1975 Junior Olympics Gold Medal in Judo. Mr. San Antonio is very proud of his Italian heritage and admires the positive image that the Foundation presents of the Italian-American community.



**Silvestro Spilabotte, Jr.**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Anthony Brusco

Mr. Spilabotte is an Inter-Dealer Money Market Broker of Tradition (North America). He derives his Italian heritage from both parents, who were born in Frosinone. Mr. Spilabotte is on the Advisory Council of the La Sallian School, which provides a free education to children of low-income families. Mr. Spilabotte looks forward to working with the Foundation to support the Italian-American community.



**Ronald J. Sylvestri, Jr.**

Sponsors:  
Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli  
Alan C. Guarino

Mr. Sylvestri is a Partner at Diamond Edge Capital. His paternal great-grandparents came from Gagnano. Mr. Sylvestri is Chairman of the Junior Committee of the NYU School of Medicine and is affiliated with the Children's Aid Society. His past experiences, of co-chairing fundraising, galas and dinners, combined with pride in his Italian heritage, motivates him to be

actively involved in the Foundation's endeavors.



**Dr. Gioia Turitto**

Sponsors:  
Paul Dalmazio  
John V. Cioffi

Dr. Turitto is the Director of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Services at New York Methodist Hospital.

She was born in Siena and came to the U.S. in 1985. Dr. Turitto is affiliated with the American Medical Association. Joining the Foundation will give Dr. Turitto the opportunity to connect with other people with her same background and experience. Her goal is to improve the Italian image in the community and make the culture better known.



**James J. Veneruso**

Sponsors:  
David Anthony Pope  
Frank G. Fusaro

Mr. Veneruso is a Partner at Griffin, Coogan & Veneruso, P.C., a law firm. His family comes from

Sicily and Ischia. Mr. Veneruso is on the Board of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Westchester, the Generoso Pope Foundation and the Habitat for Humanity. He has received numerous awards, including the Habitat for Humanity's American Award and the Heartsong Foundation's Community Leader Award. Mr. Veneruso is deeply impressed with the Foundation's cultural and philanthropic initiatives and is interested in serving on the Foundation's Legal Committee.



**Dr. Francesca Verga**

Sponsors:  
Lawrence E. Auriana  
Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo

Dr. Verga is a Physician at MPV Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. She was raised in Rome, where the rest of her

family lives. Dr. Verga is affiliated with the Fellow American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, on the Advisory Board of the American-Italian Cancer Foundation and a Trustee member of the Italian School (La Scuola). Dr. Verga received the Radio Maria Yearly Award in 2006 for her help and dedication to people that needed medical help. She is very interested in helping the Foundation expand its membership and goals.

# Members in the News

On August 24, **Louis Tallarini** became an honorary citizen of Lacedonia, the small village in Campania, Province of Avellino, where his maternal grandfather was born. "It was with great pleasure that we conferred Honorary Citizenship upon Mr. Tallarini," said Mario Rizzi, Mayor of Lacedonia. Attending the event were Clemente Mastella, Italian Minister of Justice; Sandra Lonardo, President of the Regional Council of Campania; Mario Rizzi, Mayor of Lacedonia; Giuseppe Di Milia, Mayor of Calitri; and Antonio Caruso, Mayor of Andretta... In New York, on July 16, Mr. Tallarini was the Foundation's ambassador at the opening of *The Hidden Campania*. The exhibition was held at the Regione Campania Bureau in New York City... Mr. Tallarini was among the attendees at a benefit for St. Joseph's Church in New Rochelle on April 14. (In 1906, Mr. Tallarini's paternal grandparents, Ermenglido and Concetta Eriminta Tallarini were married at St. Joseph's in the first wedding held there.) The Guest of Honor was Nicholas Trotta, the head of President George W. Bush's Secret Service detail.



Giuseppe Di Milia, Mayor of Calitri; Mario Rizzi, Mayor of Lacedonia; Justice Minister Clemente Mastella; an aide to Minister Mastella; Louis Tallarini; Sandra Lonardo, President of the Regional Council of Campania; Antonio Caruso, Mayor of Andretta.



Anthony Mallardi, Matt Sabatine, Amb. Charles Gargano, John Loconsolo, Anthony Giordano, Louis Tallarini and Angelo Vivolo.

**John A. Loconsolo's** remarkable philanthropy was recognized on March 28, when he was honored as the High-Way Democratic Club's Man of the Year. Numerous New York City leaders joined the event to celebrate Mr. Loconsolo and the Club's Woman of the Year, Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council.

*New York Magazine* once again cited **Dr. John Romano** as one of the city's top dermatologists in its annual "Best Doctors" survey.

Columbus Week General Chairman **Sam Giarrusso** was honored at the Italian American Museum's annual gala on April 28. At the end of 2006, he had been named President of the New York City/ Long Island Region of M&T Bank. Mr. Giarrusso had previously served as senior vice president and head of commercial real estate in New York.

**Leandro Rizzuto Jr.**, Chairman of the Council of Italian American Organizations, was among those who presented Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele with a Proclamation recognizing him as Council of Italian American Organizations' Cultural Ambassador on May 30. The presentation was made during a ceremony at which the state's governor, M. Jodi Rell, declared May 30 Italian Republic Day. The proclamation cites Italy's turn toward democracy in 1946 and notes that the "Italian community living in Connecticut continues to enrich our state with their significant contributions to the diversity of our region and their rich cultural and historical heritage..." Approximately 19 percent of Connecticut's population is of Italian descent.



Leandro Rizzuto Jr. speaking at the Connecticut Capitol on Italian Republic Day.

## FOUNDATION QUARTERLY

Michael Pedone, Editor-in-Chief  
Andrew Decker, Executive Editor  
Joann Coates, Art Director  
Susan E. Plant, Associate Editor  
Photographs: Vito Catalano,  
Anita and Steve Shevett  
Mirror Imaging, Printing

Columbus Citizens Foundation Townhouse Dress Code:  
Men: Jacket and Tie. Women: Appropriate Attire.  
Taverna Policy: Tipping is not allowed.

# Save the Dates!

## The 2007 Columbus Week Celebration

**Monday, October 1 to Saturday, October 13 • Lidia's Italy**  
 Vanderbilt Hall East, Grand Central Terminal • 42 St. and Park Ave. •  
 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Food fans will be treated to cooking demonstrations in Vanderbilt Hall this October as Cuisinart presents *Lidia's Italy*, an interactive exhibition and demonstration of Italian culinary arts. Notable chefs from Italy and New York will illustrate the fine points of pasta, sauces and presentation. Among those giving demonstrations will be none other than celebrated chef, restaurateur, cookbook author, internationally broadcast cuisine host and Grand Marshal of the 2007 Columbus Day Parade, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich. The demonstration kitchen will be flanked by food and beverage displays and oversized cityscape and landscape photographs of Italy.



Photo: Christopher Hirschner

**Monday, October 1 to Saturday, October 13 • Italy on Tour**  
 Vanderbilt Hall West • Grand Central Terminal • 42 St. and Park Ave. •  
 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Italy will come to spectacular life in an exhibition sponsored by its regions, provinces and cities. The video tour will be projected on a panoramic, 45-foot wide by 13-foot tall screen and include breathtaking aerial footage.

**Friday, October 5 • Sponsor and Media Reception**

Vanderbilt Hall East, Grand Central Terminal •  
 42 St. and Park Ave. • 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Delegations of dignitaries from Regions of Italy arrive for the Columbus Weekend Celebration on Friday night and are welcomed by Foundation Members and the media.

For reservations, please call 212-249-9923



**Friday, October 5 • Banda della Guardia di Finanza in Grand Central Terminal**

Grand Central Terminal • 42 St. and Park Ave. • 9:00 PM to 9:45 PM (approximately)

The Italian ensemble of 102 conservatory-trained musicians brings its breathtaking arrangements of Italian arias and classic American songs to one of our country's great landmarks. Now in its 81st year, the Banda della Guardia di Finanza will be led by Artistic Director, Gino Bergamini.

**Saturday, October 6 • Annual Gala Dinner**  
 Grand Ballroom • Waldorf=Astoria Hotel • Park Ave. at 50 St. •  
 6:30 PM to Midnight

A special guest performance by Katharine McPhee, American Idol recording star, will highlight an evening of trans-Atlantic friendship. Dinner and dancing are among the other great pleasures of the evening, which also celebrates Grand Marshal Lidia Bastianich; Special Honored Guest from Italy, Clemente Mastella, Minister of Justice; and Honoree Kara DioGuardi, BMI's 2007 Pop Songwriter of the Year. Please call 212-249-9923.



**Sunday, October 7 • Wreath Laying at Columbus Circle**  
 Columbus Monument • Columbus Circle • 59 St. and Eighth Ave. •  
 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

A decades-old tradition, the Annual Wreath Laying takes place at the foot of the Columbus Monument, which the Foundation restored in 1991. Join the Banda della Guardia di Finanza in paying tribute to our ancestors, who brought our families to the United States in the face of great risks and challenges.

**Monday, October 8 • Columbus Day Mass**  
 St. Patrick's Cathedral • Fifth Ave. between 50 and 51 Sts. •  
 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

A solemn Mass celebrated by Edward Cardinal Egan remembering Christopher Columbus and the many and varied communities and groups that are now part of the United States.

Doors open for general admission at 9:15 AM.

**Monday, October 8 • 63rd Annual Columbus Day Parade**  
 44 St. and Fifth Ave. north to 79 St. and Fifth Ave.  
 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM (Approximately)

Italian and Italian-American dignitaries, folk dancers, street performers, and bands join members of New York's civil service departments in a colorful display of heritage, culture, tradition and innovation that includes 35,000 marchers. Dignitaries include Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Grand Marshal; Clemente Mastella, Italian Minister of Justice and the 2007 Special Honored Guest from Italy; and Kara DioGuardi, BMI 2007 Pop Songwriter of the Year and Honoree. This year's performances on the Red Carpet are highlighted by Zucchero, the international rock star, composer and arranger who has recorded or performed with a striking array of artists, from Luciano Pavarotti to Bono to the late Miles Davis. Zucchero joins us following a September 28 concert at Carnegie Hall. For Grandstand tickets, please call 212-249-9923.

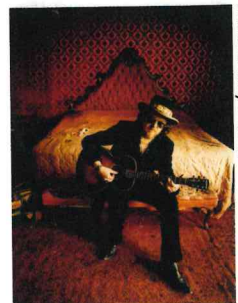


Photo: Danny Clinch

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