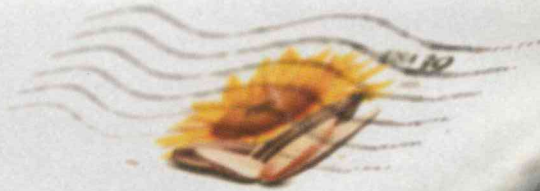


FOUNDATION QUARTERLY

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

Columbus Citizens Foundation
1000 East
100th Street
Columbus, OH 43210



No... that gives me seven
 backp... In the mean time, we
 savings I have. I figure as long as I've got a plane
 there and a plane ticket back, I'll fill in the bl
 the experience of a lifetime. summer, I'm gunning to be
 I hope this note finds you all healthy in th Tom Goldsano, back near h
 year. I promise that I will do a much better job going to happen, but I'm thinki
 keeping in touch. For starters, if I pull this Ari of the experiences I've had here could have been
 And, again, I cannot say it enough: thank yo without your help. Everyday, I've got a new reason
 thankful for being at this school, and that means reason to be even more grateful to you.
 Take care.

Sincerely,
Thomas R. Macrina

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION



Officers

Louis A. Tallarini
President

Amb. Joseph Zappala
Vice-President

Alfred M. Catalanotto
Secretary

Richard C. De Zego
Treasurer

Christine M. Meola
Executive Director

Board of Governors

Lawrence E. Auriana
Chairman

John V. Cioffi

Anthony N. Correra

Alfred T. De Maria

Nicholas T. Donovan

Frank G. Fusaro

Amb. Charles A. Gargano

Anthony F. Giordano

Anthony M. Mallardi

Richard J. Naclerio

Vito R. Nardelli

Marian U. Pardo

Matt Sabatine

Vincent T. Toscano

Angelo V. Vivolo

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

8 East 69th Street
New York, New York 10021

Phone: 212.249.9923

Fax: 212.737.4413

www.columbuscitizensfd.org

President's Message



As I write this, our scholarship committees are reviewing applications and interviewing candidates for our three programs – the Elementary School Grant Program, the High School Scholarship Program and the College Scholarship Program. The Foundation has awarded scholarships since Generoso Pope founded our predecessor organization in 1929, and we formalized our first scholarship program in 1985 during the tenure of past President John Loconsolo. In less than a generation, we have gone from supporting the education of a handful of students each year to providing scholarship funding for 749 young Italian Americans. Our success is a result of the truly incredible efforts of our Members and of the Columbus Week Celebration committee members. As a result, we are both one of the smaller Italian-American organizations in the United States and the single largest funding source of scholarships for Italian-American students in this country.

The Adopt-A-Scholar Program has been one of the Foundation's great achievements of the past 10 years. The students and schools that have benefited from Adopt-A-Scholar owe a debt of thanks to our many donors and to Frank Fusaro, who conceived and implemented the program. An exemplary beneficiary of the program is Thomas Macrina, who is profiled on page seven of this issue and wrote the letter that appears on its cover.

Formal education was not an option for two people close to the Foundation who recently passed away. As a child, Member *Ciro (Jerry) Esposito* didn't go to school beyond ninth grade: he was too busy selling produce from the back of a horse-drawn wagon. Yet he provided for his children in a different way. In 1949, he founded *J. Esposito & Sons*, a produce company that is now run by three of his grandsons. *Vito Nardelli*, the father of two Foundation Members and grandfather of a third, did not graduate high school, but he made sure that his four children received an education. Three became lawyers, and the fourth became a teacher. We will miss *Mr. Esposito* and *Mr. Nardelli*, men who made sacrifices throughout their lives so their children and grandchildren could prosper and so our community could grow stronger.

An important source of our success has been the sponsors who participate in the Columbus Week Celebration. On March 22, we honored the generous companies, provinces and regions that helped make the 2006 Celebration a great success. The Awards Ceremony was hosted by renowned actor, and past Grand Marshal, *Paul Sorvino*. We took the occasion to introduce our Grand Marshal for 2007, *Lidia Maticchio Bastianich*, the First Lady of Italian Cuisine (see pp. 3 – 4). *Ms. Bastianich's* great love of Italian cuisine and culture, as seen in her cookbooks, nationally broadcast television programs and syndicated newspaper column, as well as in her restaurants and travel company, have inspired countless Americans to explore the pleasures of Italian dishes and the beauty of her native country. We are proud to count her as part of our community and among our friends, and we are honored that she accepted our invitation to serve as Grand Marshal of the 2007 Columbus Day Parade.

In closing, I would like to encourage all Members to participate in the Columbus Week Celebration by serving as committee members. The chairs of this year's celebration are: *Saverio Giarrusso*, General Weekend Chairman; *Enzo Pizzimenti*, Parade Chairman; *Anthony Giordano* and *Anthony Mallardi*, Journal Chairmen; *Angelo Vivolo* and *Maria Bartiromo*, Dinner Chairs; *Frank Fusaro*, Media Chairman; *Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo*, Italian Affairs Chairman, *Michael Pedone*, Marketing Chairman; and *Father Michael Moynihan*, Mass Chairman. Please get in touch with them and offer your support and help as they put together another wonderful week of celebration.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Tallarini, President

First Lady of Italian Cuisine and 2007 Grand Marshal, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich

Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, the Italian-born émigré to America who brought an appreciation of fresh Italian cooking and of Italian culture to the homes of millions in the United States, will be Grand Marshal of the 2007 Columbus Day Parade in New York City.

Lidia was invited to be Grand Marshal by Foundation President Louis Tallarini at the recommendation of her long-standing friend, Angelo Vivolo. Lidia graciously accepted despite an exceptionally busy year. Lidia just launched her fifth book, *Lidia's Italy: 140 Simple and Delicious Recipes from the Ten Places in Italy Lidia Loves Most*, which she co-authored with her daughter, Tanya Bastianich Manuali. And her newest American Public Television series, *Lidia's Italy*, just hit the airwaves. The 26-part series explores various regions as she prepares and tastes delectable dishes with her Italian family and friends.

"Lidia's great love of Italian cuisine and culture, as seen in her cookbooks, nationally broadcast television programs and syndicated column, restaurants and travel company, have inspired countless Americans to explore the great pleasures of Italian dishes and the beauty of her native country," said Mr. Tallarini. "Her passion for her art, for life, for the people of Italy and for her adopted land of America make her the ideal person to lead our pageant of Italian and Italian-American culture. She is an enormously warm, genuine person who selflessly gives her time and efforts to numerous humanitarian and philanthropic causes. We are proud to count her as part of our community and among our friends."

Lidia was formally introduced to the Foundation at the Sponsor Award Reception, on March 22. Speaking briefly at the event, Lidia said, "It's an extraordinary honor and opportunity for me to be Grand Marshal and to take part in this wonderful event of Italian American culture. Grand Marshals of the past have been among my heroes, and I remember watching the Parade as a youngster on Fifth Avenue never to dream that some day I would become the Grand Marshal. I will carry proudly my nationality."

Among the foremost chefs, restaurateurs, entrepreneurs and humanitarians in the United States, Lidia is now an owner of five restaurants, author of five cookbooks and a nationally syndicated



Lidia Matticchio Bastianich in her vineyard in Friuli, 2006, as shown on the cover of her new book, *Lidia's Italy: 140 Simple and Delicious Recipes from the Ten Places in Italy Lidia Loves Most*.



Lidia in front of Buonavia, her first restaurant in Queens.

newspaper column, creator and host of four television series that appear on public television, the co-founder of a tour company that celebrates Italian art, history, cuisine and culture, and the founder of a philanthropic foundation.

Lidia was born in 1947 in Pula, Istria, a region formed by the Gulf of Trieste at the juncture of Italy and the former Yugoslavia and, in a notable coincidence, also the birthplace of 2004 Grand Marshal Mario Andretti. Her grandparents ran a trattoria that championed fresh food and drinks: they produced most of the food they sold. Among her early memories was going to the local mill with her grandmother to grind wheat.

In 1956, Lidia and her father, Vittorio, mother, Erminia, and older brother, Franco, fled the communist regime of Marshal Josip Tito after Istria had been ceded to Yugoslavia in the wake of World War II. They sought refuge near Trieste and initially lived in a refugee camp that during World War II had been a concentration camp, San Sabba. They later moved to Trieste and then, in 1958, to the United States.

The family initially settled in North Bergen, New Jersey, but soon moved to Astoria, Queens. In her teens, Lidia worked in a bakery and met Felice (Felix) Bastianich, also an émigré, whom she married in 1966. Three years later, they purchased Buonavia, a restaurant in Forest Hills, Queens that offered traditional Italian fare. They gradually expanded the menu by introducing then-novel specialties unfamiliar to Americans, including polenta and risotto. They opened another restaurant, Villa Secondo, in Fresh Meadow, Queens in the early 1979. By that time, their family included their son, Joseph, and daughter, Tanya.

In 1981, the Bastianiches sold both restaurants and used the proceeds to open Felidia on East 58th Street in Manhattan. Felidia has become one of the most highly regarded restaurants in New York City. In 1995, and again in 2006, it received three stars in *New York Times*

reviews. Lidia built on Felidia's success by opening additional restaurants in Manhattan: Becco, which she owns with Joseph, Esca and Del Posto, in which she is a partner with Joseph and chef Mario Batali. She also opened restaurants named Lidia's in Kansas City and Pittsburgh, both of which she owns with Joseph.

Continued on page 4

Lidia Bastianich, Grand Marshal

Continued from page 3



Lidia as a young girl in Pula.

Lidia received the 2002 Outstanding Chef Award from the James Beard Foundation, which in 1999 had named her Best Chef in New York, and Felidia has consistently been listed as one of the top Italian restaurants in New York in Zagat surveys. In 2000 it received the *Wine Spectator* Grand Award Winning Wine List and kept that award through 2006. In 1997, it was named one of the *Wine Spectator's* Top Ten Italian Restaurants.

Lidia's five cookbooks are *Lidia's Family Table*, *La Cucina di Lidia*, *Lidia's Italian Table*, and *Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen*, which in 2002, won recognition from the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) as the Best Ethnic Cookbook. *Lidia's Italy* was released on April 10, 2007.

Lidia is perhaps most widely known as the star of four television series: *Lidia's Italian Table* (1988), *Lidia's Italian American Kitchen* (2001) and *Lidia's Family Table* (2005), and this year's *Lidia's Italy*. The multi-part series are broadcast on public television and in Australia, Canada and Southeast Asia.

During the shows, Lidia shares her extensive knowledge of food and food preparation (a noted food historian, she gives lectures on Italian cuisine throughout the United States and Italy) and her belief that food and cuisine are not only part of the world of gastronomy but of culture, as well. Her programs have featured members of her family: her mother, Erminia; Joseph, who is an Oenophile, owns wineries in Friuli and Maremma, Italy, with Lidia; Ms. Manuali, who received a Ph.D. in art history from Oxford University in 2000; and all of her grandchildren. Lidia also frequently appears on national television networks and shows such as *The Today Show*, *Martha*, *Live with Regis and Kelly* and *The CBS Early Show*.

Lidia and Ms. Manuali co-founded Esperienze Italiane, an international tour operator that specializes in upscale trips to Italy, in 1996. The tours feature arrangements for couples, groups and organizations, and its itineraries include both celebrated and little known destinations that reveal highlights of Italy's rich culture, food and wines.

Lidia is also tireless philanthropist. In 1999, she established the Lidia Matticchio Bastianich Foundation to benefit the indigent, abandoned, oppressed, neglected, ill or disabled without regard to race or creed by promoting their health, welfare, happiness and academic and vocational training and development. The Bastianich Foundation funds educational programs at the elementary through post-graduate levels. It has provided aid to immigrants to the U.S. for housing, educational and financial assistance and funded activities to help preserve their cultural and ethnic heritage.

In other charitable activities, Lidia has organized benefits and generated support for numerous humanitarian causes, including UNICEF and UNIFEM, Share Our Strength (SOS), and Catholic Charities, which provided housing for her family when they emigrated to the United States.

Lidia returns to Pula annually, whenever possible, to her family's ancestral home. ♣



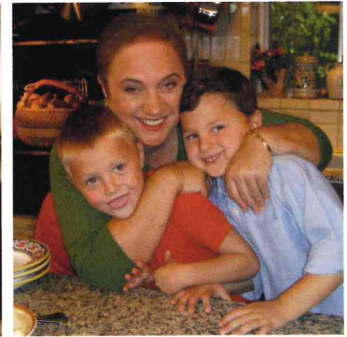
Lidia (second from right) with her mother, Erminia, brother, Franco, and father Vittorio.



Tanya Bastianich Manuali (Lidia's daughter and co-author of *Lidia's Italy*) with Lidia in her home kitchen in New York.



Lidia with Julia Manuali



Lidia with Miles Bastianich and Lorenzo Manuali



Lidia with her son, Joe, daughter-in-law Deanna, and grandchildren Olivia, Miles and Ethan.

Member Spotlight: Gail R. Guy

Like many Foundation Members, Gail Guy knows about financial need and difficult circumstances. When she was of college age, she was working the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in order to help support her recently widowed mother and her younger brother. Given her family's situation, attending college herself was out of the question.

Yet she squeezed enough out of her salary to make her first charitable donation, to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "We were getting by," she recalled in a recent interview. "I knew there were other people out there, and a lot of kids, who were struggling more than we were."

Ms. Guy's sense of helping those who are less fortunate and her understanding of the importance of education, have made her a natural fit with the Foundation, which she joined in 2001. Since then, she has become a passionate supporter of the Foundation's goals and mission. She has served on the Dinner, Journal, Elementary School and Ballo Committees and currently is on the Parade and College Scholarship Committees.

Ms. Guy is co-chair of the College Scholarship Committee and one of three women who serve on the 24-person group. All of them put in hours reviewing the half-inch-thick application packages that each student submits. Committee Chairman Peter Campanella noted that Ms. Guy "brings a great deal to the committee. She picks up on things that others of us miss."

Serving on the committee is demanding work and requires an eye for detail. Like the other committee members, Ms. Guy reviews 10 to 15 application packages, which include the students' academic records, information about their community service and extracurricular activities, and essays that accompany the applications. The family's financial records are also scrutinized. But serving on the committee also requires an ability to see the family's situation behind the numbers.

She mentioned an application from a young man whose family name was German and was being raised by his father and step-mother, who was also of German descent. "When his application came up, someone mentioned that the name didn't sound Italian. That boy had the same family profile as my daughter – a non-Italian father, an Italian mother. All of us came to feel it was crucial, at this stage in his life, that he be reminded of his heritage in a very positive way – that his community is there for him."

When Ms. Guy was in her teens, her father passed away. After high school, she became one of her family's breadwinners, balancing work and helping out at home. After a stint at New

York Telephone, she worked for AG Becker and then smaller brokers. "It was a very stressful job," she said, "and I loved it."

Through work, she met Cleveland Guy, a specialist working at a large brokerage house. They married, and she was soon juggling the responsibilities of raising their daughter, Melissa, keeping the house, and attending Wagner College, where she studied music history and performance: she played the piano.

"My husband put me through college," said Ms. Guy. "He also had to struggle – he put himself through school, so he knows what it's like. What's so amazing is that I have 100% support from a non-Italian for a 100% Italian-American organization. When we made our first Adopt-A-Scholar donation, people came up to thank me. I said, 'Don't thank me, thank my husband – and he's not even Italian!'"

Ms. Guy has made two Adopt-A-Scholar donations, one of which is a Perpetual Scholarship that will provide scholarship funding in perpetuity. She sponsored Loretta Terrigno, who was studying piano at the Mannes School of Music and has gone on to win a Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts award. For her second recipient, she sponsored Michael Abbatemarco, who had rarely traveled outside New York but wanted to attend Macalester College, a well respected liberal arts college in Minnesota. "I asked why he wanted to go to Macalester. Michael described the school's programs in detail and said he wanted to see something different. I was impressed by the amount of thought he'd given to his choice and the fact that he was willing to challenge himself."

For Ms. Guy, the Foundation is not entirely about work and philanthropy. Since joining, Ms. Guy and her husband have developed several friendships. "I've become good friends with Madeline LoRe, whose husband, Frank, is a Member. Last year, we met them in Venice, which was a highlight of our trip. We went to Borano, Murano, and Torcello, where we had a great meal at Locanda Cipriani. All these things were wonderful and memorable, but to do them with close friends, halfway around the world, made each of them an experience I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Sitting in the Charles A. Gargano Library, with stacks of college scholarship applications in front of her, Ms. Guy took a moment to reflect on the Foundation. "Cleve and I are involved with several philanthropic organizations in one way or another. But we get so much out of the Foundation – most of all, the chance to give students a better future by helping them go to a good school. We feel that we're privileged to be part of the work that goes on here." ❖



Member Gail Guy

"My husband and I get so much out of the Foundation – most of all, the chance to give students a better future..."

We feel that we're privileged to be part of the work that goes on here."

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight: Richard DiTuri, M.D.

On an average day, former scholarship recipient Dr. Richard DiTuri sees over a dozen children and adolescents who are grappling with some aspect of their lives. As director of Morristown Memorial Hospital's Department of Child Psychiatry, he works with general concerns, specialized psychiatric issues and also difficulties that arise when a child's family member has been admitted to the hospital. (He also develops strategies to let the hospital serve its community better.) And Dr. DiTuri has active private practices in Madison, New Jersey and on Staten Island, New York, where he is the only psychiatrist in the county who is dually board certified to treat children, adolescents and adults.

In addition, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Hospital Foundation in Bloomfield, NJ, a not-for-profit hospital located squarely within an Italian community.

Dr. DiTuri's success and community service date back, at least in part, to a spring day in 1988. He was a senior attending Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island and had traveled to the Columbus Citizens Foundation for a scholarship interview. He'd heard about the scholarship from his school guidance counselor, and he thought he might qualify: his grades were excellent, and his family met the Foundation's criteria for financial need.

Dr. DiTuri's father had passed away when he was two years old, and his mother, Paula, had raised him and his older brother and sister. "My mother needed to return to the work force full time in order to support herself and her three young children."

He entered the Foundation Townhouse through the ground floor, passed the Taverna and made his way up to the library. "I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I remember sitting at a long conference table in a very ornate room, with a number of very impressive people. I was nervous – who wouldn't be, considering why I was there. But after a few minutes, everyone in the room had put me at ease. I realized that I was surrounded by men and women who were Italian-Americans like me and had tried to better themselves in life, and that was my goal."

Dr. DiTuri was approved for the scholarship and entered Brooklyn College, where he entered an accelerated seven-year medical program that he finished at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York. "The scholarship helped a great deal in getting my tuition and bills paid," he said, "and even though my undergraduate work was completed in three years, the committee graciously extended the funding

for the fourth year to help defer the cost of medical school."


He completed his residency training at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and New York University Hospital Centers, better known as Bellevue Hospital. "I figured if you want to learn psychiatry you need to go where the people who need it are, and that's Bellevue," said Dr. DiTuri, who clearly sees extraordinary challenges as opportunities.

Dr. DiTuri, now 36 years-old, lives in New Jersey with his wife, Dr. Suzanne DiTuri, and their son Dante, who is 16-months old. His family remains important to him. His brother, Christopher, is a prosthodontist and a Foundation Member. His sister, Donna, used to train dental hygienists. His mother is still working, currently within the New York City public school system.

"When I applied for the Foundation scholarship, I had to write an essay about the person of Italian heritage I'm most proud of," Dr. DiTuri recalled. "I wrote about my mother, and today I think about how much she did for us. She was such a driving force behind my brother's and sister's lives. I see so many children who lose a parent, and their lives just stagnate. Our mother wanted all of her children to go higher with their educations than anyone in our family had done before. We started in a little, tiny house on Staten Island. Now all three of us have become professionals, and I'm the first physician in our family tree."

The Foundation continues to be an indirect part of his life through his brother and a man he met during his scholarship interview. "When I went to the Foundation for my interview, Dr. [Lawrence] Yannuzzi was on the scholarship committee. He's a highly respected ophthalmologist, and today, years later, he's my father-in-law's doctor."

"It's a small world," said Dr. DiTuri, "but what it really says is that the Columbus Citizens Foundation is an oasis in the desert. There are so many negative stereotypes of Italians, starting with the Sopranos, and it seems that so few people understand the generosity and sacrifice of the Italian community. No one at the Foundation knew me when I walked through those doors, and I learned something that day. If you attain some level of success, you need to help others. Every time I go to a board meeting at the Columbus Hospital Foundation, I remember the generosity of the Columbus Citizens Foundation and think about how I can help someone in my community." ❖



Dr. Richard DiTuri College Scholarship Recipient, 1998

"My mother was such a driving force behind my brother's and sister's lives... We started in a tiny, little house on Staten Island.

Now, all three of us are professionals, and I'm the first physician in our family tree."

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight: Thomas Macrina

Adopt-A-Scholar recipient Thomas Macrina is very close to his grandfather, Savino, who came over from Italy in 1948. “He always tells the story,” Thomas said. “He came over with a suitcase and \$5.00 for the opportunity to improve his life and that of his family. He’s very big on making the most of opportunities when they’re given to you.”

At Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School in Verona, New York, Thomas committed himself to his studies and was ultimately class salutatorian. He was involved with the school’s theater productions, both performing and behind the scenes. He played varsity tennis for four years, varsity soccer for three, and was on the local travel team, which competed in tournaments.

Thomas applied to a number of elite schools, among them the University of Pennsylvania. “Not many people from my high school, in central New York, had ever gone to an Ivy League college, and most didn’t even know Penn’s name – they thought, ‘Oh, yeah – Penn State. Go, Nittany Lions.’”

He was accepted into Penn’s Jerome Fisher Program of Management and Technology, which is a joint degree in business and engineering run by the university’s storied Wharton School of Business and its School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “It’s a very selective program,” he said, “and I thought that I really can’t turn down this opportunity.”

“This is the reason my grandfather came over – for opportunities. His education ended abruptly with World War II,” said Mr. Macrina. “Shortly afterwards, he emigrated to the United States, where he worked a couple of odd jobs in New York and then for UNIVAC, a computer manufacturer, in the Mohawk Valley. Because of events in his life, he’s always emphasized the importance of education to the rest of us.”

Mr. Macrina’s father went to Union College in Schenectady and works with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation. His mother, Sarah, is a dental hygienist. He has a younger sister and brother. Although his parents are committed professionals, the cost of an Ivy League education – at over \$45,000 a year – would have been a substantial hardship. It was also an opportunity that Thomas’ grandfather would not want passed up.

Mr. Macrina’s college acceptance letter came with a financial aid package, but it was not enough. He turned to the Foundation, which had already received his application to be considered for a scholarship. With his acceptance letter from Penn in hand, he was quickly spon-

sored by the Young Adults Auxiliary (YAA).

“Thomas is in the program that is considered the most difficult undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania,” said Justin Foa, President of the YAA and a Penn alumnus. “He’s very responsible and obviously a very smart young man. It’s great that we were able to help him enroll in a school that might otherwise have been beyond his family’s reach financially, or that we could make it possible for him to spend more time devoted to the business of being a student, rather than working one or two jobs to help pay for his tuition.”

Mr. Macrina is now in his second year at Penn and is a candidate for two Bachelors in Science degrees – in economics and engineering. He’s also treasurer of Penn Engineers Without Borders, which supports sustainable development through hands-on engineering projects, and has traveled to Honduras to review a water distribution system the organization had installed. He will return there this spring to install pour-flush latrines.

“I’m really enjoying it here,” he said. “It’s incredible because you’re able to meet all kinds of people – people who are related to United Nations officials, movie stars, and big time businessmen. Growing up in Central New York – I’ve only been to New York City a couple of times – you live outside the world of ‘power and influence.’ What I’ve learned at Penn is that no matter who we are related to or where we come from, we’re all human. It’s what we accomplish that distinguishes us.”

Penn has proved very challenging in one area: food. “I can’t eat sauce from a jar, so I have to make my own,” Thomas said. “I’m not very good at it yet, but at least it’s an attempt. When I’m eating dinner, I have to be talking with somebody. My roommates come in with take-out and five minutes later they’re back to work. My natural instinct is to sit, relax, and enjoy a meal. My idea of heaven is sitting at a table for 30 stretched out in the garage of my grandparent’s house on a warm summer night just talking from six in the evening until 11:00 at night.”

The scholarship from the Young Adults Auxiliary and the Foundation, Thomas said, “is a very big deal – I don’t think I’d be here without it. I was blessed with a wonderful, loving family, and the value of hard work, and those things helped me earn the opportunity of going to a great school. The scholarship from the Foundation turned that opportunity into reality. You can imagine how grateful I am. And so is my grandfather.” ❖



**Thomas Macrina
Adopt-A-Scholar Recipient,
2006,
and author of the letter
pictured on the cover
of this Foundation Quarterly**

“This is the reason my grandfather came over – for opportunities... he’s always emphasized the importance of education to the rest of us.”

Foundation Scholarship Program: The Beginning

The Foundation's College Scholarship Program in its present form started in the 1980s under John Loconsolo, who became a Founding Member of the Foundation when it acquired the Townhouse in 1967 and became its President in 1983.

"I was born and raised in Brooklyn," said Mr. Loconsolo. "When I was a youngster, many of my friends didn't go to college. I didn't go for two reasons. We didn't have the wherewithal. And it helped for me to earn a few bucks for the home. I'm lucky," he said with a laugh. "We had a small family."

When he became President of the Foundation, Mr. Loconsolo was faced with a problem that the leader of any charitable organization would envy. "Our Members wanted to support charitable endeavors," he said. "We were spending \$50 here, \$100 there, \$500 there. We couldn't keep doing that because every Member had a charity they liked. So I spoke to the Board of Governors and said, 'I think we should concentrate on scholarships and getting Italian-American youngsters into school,' and that's what we did."

Mr. Loconsolo reached out to people who had experience in the field. He called Elizabeth DiFies, who was both a professor at Seton Hall and an attorney, and former Foundation Members "Chips" Maggiani, and the Hon. Rose Caputo. "Those three put it together," said Mr. Loconsolo. They drew up the By-Laws, they did all the legal work. It was all pro bono, of course."

The College Scholarship Program formalized a practice started by the late Generoso Pope, who founded the Columbus Citizens Committee in 1929, when the Committee organized New York's first regularly held Columbus Day Parade. The Committee was then made up of a handful of prominent Italian-American businessmen who saw the importance of illustrating the community's indispensable contributions to New York – the laborers who helped build the city's streets, tunnels and bridges and civil servants who kept the city safe and clean, among others.

Mr. Pope, one of the most accomplished businessmen in America, also recognized the importance of education, and through the fundraising efforts he organized with the Committee was able to send promising and deserving young Italian-Americans to college.

In the early days of the College Scholarship Program, the Foundation was able to underwrite scholarships for one or two students,

recalls Member Vincent Toscano, who received a scholarship in 1987. Over time, it has grown to approximately 90 recipients a year and spawned substantial elementary and high school programs that now provide scholarships to well over 100 additional students each year.

"We started to accumulate some serious funds when Michael Santangelo was President," said Mr. Loconsolo. "When Ambassador [Charles A.] Gargano was President, the funds increased dramatically to a level we had not thought possible. And then under Lawrence Auriana, we reached again an entirely new level. The scholarship programs have much to thank these gentlemen for."

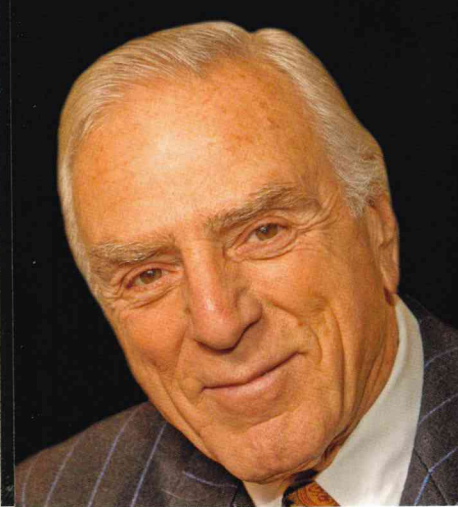
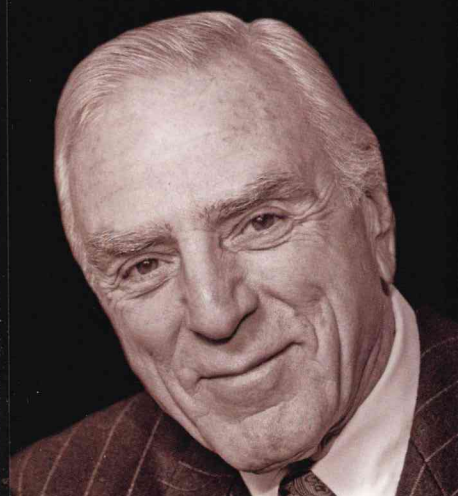
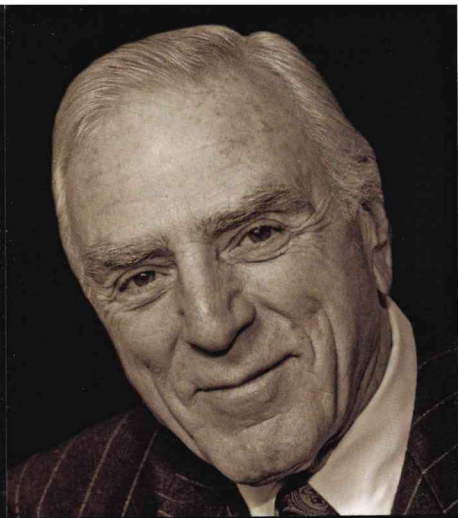
The program's recipients have changed also. Some of the parents are new immigrants, some of whom speak little English, and yet the children have adapted quickly. Also, Mr. Loconsolo said, "The students are more successful academically. When the top score of the SATs was 1600, one applicant scored 1580. Now the top score is 2400, and we get some youngsters who are very close to that."

The biggest change has been the scale and scope of the College Scholarship Program. Foundation records regarding the programs earliest days are unavailable, but according to Mr. Toscano, just a couple of students received scholarships in the mid-1980s, when the program was launched. By the early '90s, the program was granting around 10 scholarships a year and providing approximately \$85,000 in annual funding. During the 2006 to 2007 academic year, the program provided over \$1 million in scholarship aid for nearly 300 students.

Evolution and growth have changed the dimensions of the program and its effect on the community, but they have sprung from the same root: the Foundation. The program grew out of the determination of Mr. Pope, and later, within a formalized structure, of Mr. Loconsolo.

"It was essential to our community, and remains essential, that our children are well educated," said Mr. Loconsolo. "The only way we were ever going to break the glass ceiling in the corporate world was for Italian-American youngsters to go to college and get their degrees."

Nearly a generation after it was founded, the College Scholarship Program has helped shatter the glass ceiling. Since its inception in the 1980s, the program has awarded scholarships to over 500 students. ❖



John Loconsolo
Past President, Columbus
Citizens Foundation

"It was essential to our community... that our children are well educated. The only way we were ever going to break the glass ceiling in the corporate world was for Italian-American youngsters to go to college and get their degrees."

College Scholarship Program Matures

On a gray day in early March, Peter Campanella was at the Foundation in his capacity as Chairman of the College Scholarship Committee. He met with Committee Member Gail Guy and Scholarship Director Isabella Patrick to review a couple of short stacks of 2007 scholarship applications. Short by their standards, in any case: about a foot tall each.

“These are just the ones where they haven’t provided all the information we require,” said Mr. Campanella. A trolley cart laden with documents from the other 150 applicants – high school seniors who hope the Foundation can help provide the means for their educations – stood nearby.

“The decision to award a scholarship is based on need and potential,” said Mr. Campanella. “The idea is to give as many scholarships as we can, but we’re very careful to give them only to people who are truly qualified. There are too many deserving kids who go begging each year for us to support someone’s education needlessly.”

Last March, the scholarship application process kicked into high gear following months of preparation by Ms. Patrick and Anthony Vassallo, Scholarship Coordinator. The next day, the College Scholarship Committee would have its first full meeting to distribute applications for review. It had been nearly a year since the committee members had met and immersed themselves in the lives of 17- and 18-year-old students, boys and girls who trekked to the Upper East Side to lay bare their lives, hopes and dreams to a group of distinguished strangers – men and women whose success the students hoped to emulate.

“People on the committee cry at these meetings,” said Mr. Campanella. “Last year, there were applicants whose fathers were deceased or incarcerated. Or they were being raised only by their mother. These kids come in all dressed up, and they’re kids who have done well in school, have given back to their communities, and you ask yourself how on earth did these kids come out so well. It’s heartbreaking. It breaks your heart not just to see the need, but to see how successful these students are and how well they are doing.”

The College Scholarship application process involves a series of steps. Applications go directly to a financial review service which identifies those where the family’s annual gross income is greater than \$30,000 per dependent. The applications also contain family trees that illustrate the students’ Italian heritage, two essays, reference letters, grades, SAT scores and a listing of community service activities.

The information is reviewed separately by two committee members and scored according to a ratings system. A separate category for evaluating the applications is for intangibles.

In past years, one Foundation applicant had no community service, which would normally have disqualified her. But a committee member dug through the extensive folder and found that the girl had a job after school every day to help support her mother, who was afflicted with multiple sclerosis. The community service requirement was waived, and the girl received a scholarship.

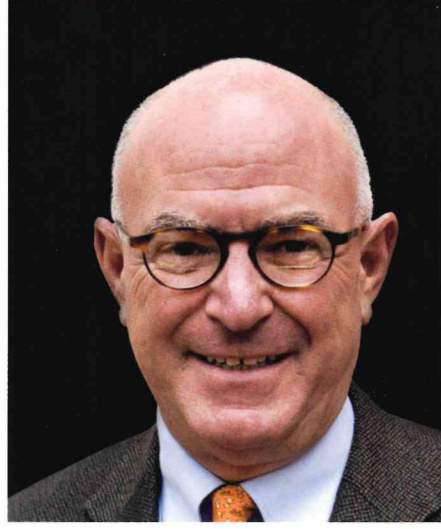
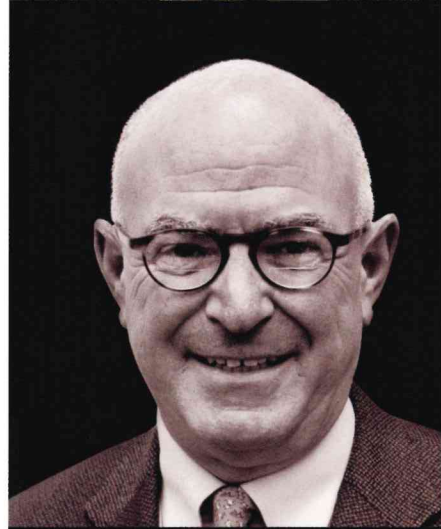
The decision on who will receive a scholarship is made after the applicants have been interviewed at the Townhouse and the committee considers the students’ need and potential.

“Our goal,” said Mr. Campanella, “is to continue to give fair and equitable scholarships to a greater number of students who are both in financial need and who we believe have the potential to be successful in life – not just by having high incomes, but also by being able to contribute to the community. One hundred percent of our recipients receive aid from other sources, and we demand to know that before they are interviewed.”

The payoff, for both the students and the committee members, comes in early summer when the students receive certificates attesting to their commendable success. The presentations are made at an awards ceremony and reception hosted by the Foundation.

“What’s really nice about the events is that the recipients get really dressed up – it’s almost like graduation,” said Mr. Campanella. “They come with their parents, their brothers and sisters, their grandparents, aunts and uncles, or their guardians. For them, it’s a pretty big trip – even if it’s just from Brooklyn or Queens or the Bronx, because so many come with large groups of people. The parents seek you out and let you know how appreciative they are of the Foundation, of how much it means to them and how proud they are of their son and daughter. Some of them are just bursting with pride and gratitude.

“These events, coming at the end of a long, often intensive process, are very, very warm and family oriented,” Mr. Campanella continued. “You see first hand that you’re doing something for someone who really needs help – both the student and their families. The support these kids get from our Members, and all the work we do during Columbus Week and throughout the year, has the effect of changing these students’ lives. You can see it in their faces. And we’ll be seeing it in their futures.” ❀



- COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**
 Peter Campanella, Chairman (Pictured above)
 Gail Guy, Co-Chair
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Michael Arena | Thomas B. Matarazzo |
| Peter Cuttita | Rev Michael Moynihan |
| Dr. Anthony D'Amato | Alfred Palladino |
| Frank Delape | Hon. Vincent Rippa |
| Anthony Dolce | Joan Sacks |
| Maria Theresa Fauci | Dr. Joseph Scelsa |
| Vincent Gelardi | Peter Speziale |
| Dr. Victor Guadagnino | Charles Valenti |
| Robert Ingenito | Aldo Verrelli |
| Joseph Maniscalco | |
| Ronald Mannino | |

High School Scholarships: “The Perfect Age”

High School Scholarship Chairman Vincent Toscano was at Merrill Lynch for a meeting a few months ago when he heard someone call his name. “This man, who I recognized but couldn’t place, said, ‘I’m Mitch Magalhaes – you awarded a scholarship to my daughter!’

“He works in operations at Merrill Lynch,” Mr. Toscano recalled, “and he’d told everyone there about the scholarship. So many of his co-workers knew of this story – he’d been bragging about it for so long. It changed Mitch’s family’s life. He went to his office to find the photo of his daughter and Louis Tallarini and me when she received her scholarship certificate, and he brought it out to show to his co-workers – and not for the first time.

“This man works two and three jobs and sometimes works 24 hours straight to provide for his kids. But he thinks nothing of that – he’s just so proud of his daughter and that we had helped them. It really made my day.”

Mr. Magalhaes’s daughter, Alexa, is just one of the hundreds of students who have been able to attend a private high school because of the Foundation’s High School Scholarship Program. The program was founded in 1995, ten years after the Foundation launched its formal College Scholarship Program, and it has taken off. In 1995, it awarded five four-year scholarships worth a total of \$64,000. In 2006, it committed to \$1.1 million in funding for 73 students over the course of four years.

Mr. Toscano has witnessed much of the program’s growth. He joined the Foundation and the High School Scholarship Committee in 1998, after founding the Young Adults Auxiliary, and he became the committee’s chairman in 2002. He was also a college scholarship recipient in 1987, making this year the 20th anniversary of his involvement with the Foundation.

The program has changed over the years. “We hear from more applicants,” he said. “More schools know about the Foundation, and its scholarship programs, and so do more students. Even though they’re only at the high school level and are just 12- or 13-years old, they manage to find us. One thing that is striking – though I’m not sure this is a change – is that we get about two applications from girls for every application from boys. Girls are at a different developmental stage at 12 or 13.”

One thing that hasn’t changed is the devotion of the committee members. “Even throughout the year some of us get together and really

brainstorm,” he said. “The committee is a diverse mix of people of various ages, males and females, and everyone has something to bring to the table.”

“The committee is totally a team effort,” said Mr. Toscano. “Some people are very, very passionate and sometimes the meetings get a little heated. Each member feels strongly about the students whose applications they’ve reviewed. We’re all trying to determine who the semifinalists or finalists should be, and everyone is given an opportunity to share their thoughts. We may have an applicant who has a medical issue, and we have doctors on the committee who will further explain the implications of the condition. We feel we need to take into consideration the challenges that their families are facing. The applicant may be one of six kids, and his father is trying to provide for all of them. Each of us tries to bring the words that are part of the application to life. Nothing falls by the wayside.”

As of early April, the committee was awaiting its batch of 2007 applications. The High School Scholarship Committee follows the Foundation’s new standardized guidelines. Its applicants are first screened for financial need by the Private School Aid Service, an outside company. Applications that qualify are then reviewed by the Scholarship Office and, if appropriate, are distributed among committee members who review them and evaluate the applications. The reviewed applications are brought to a committee meeting and discussed among its members.

In keeping with the Foundation’s overall philosophy, the committee seeks to identify the students who have significant need and are most likely to achieve success as people who give back to the community. “What we do takes a great deal of work but is so simple,” Mr. Toscano said. “We find smart, ambitious young men and women who have financial need and the drive and the ability to achieve success, and we reward them.”

“There’s a great reward for us, as well,” said Mr. Toscano. “We have an impact in giving someone the opportunity to go to a good school, or helping someone from a broken home, or providing assistance in a situation where a parent is deceased. Just as importantly, we let them know that they have achieved something. In receiving the scholarship, the student gains confidence, and it comes at a time when they are moldable. At that age, they’re old enough to understand that there are rewards for achievement and they can still change their habits. It’s the perfect age.” ❖

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Vincent Toscano, Chairman
(Pictured above)

Christopher J. Alaimo	Peter Pastorelli
Loretta Berardi	Michael Petralia
Dominick Capolarello	Blaise Punturo
Anna Deluca-Roffe	Joanne Sylva
John Desiderio	Paul Tocci
Mario Gabelli	Dr. Robert Tornambe
Dr. Alfred Liotta	Joseph Uvino
RoseMary Maniscalco	

K Through 8 Program Strengthens

The Elementary School Grant Program Committee has its own standards for evaluating applicants. Where members of the High School and College Scholarship Committees look at the community service activities and SAT scores, the Elementary School Grant Program Committee looks at art.

"We don't look at grades for kindergartners," said committee chair Desiree Cilmi-Vitali. "For older kids we look at grades and extra-curricular activities, and of course financial need and Italian heritage. With the little guys, the kids draw pictures for us that they submit with their applications – a drawing of the favorite thing they did on vacation or the favorite thing they do at home."

This April, scores of freshly scrubbed and very well mannered children, from the ages of four through 12, are coming to the Foundation with their parents, older siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents or guardians with the hopes of claiming a prize – the funding that will let them enroll or continue at a private school. And their art is just part of the picture.

The Foundation established the Elementary School Grant Program in 2003. It serves children from grades K through 8 and was developed after consultations with education specialists. The Foundation learned that getting children into good schools at an early age helps them develop the habits and thought processes that will help them succeed throughout school and into adulthood. At its founding, then President and current Foundation Chairman Lawrence Auriana said, "We are making substantial commitments to the long-term education of young children because all the data we reviewed indicates that supporting early education provides the greatest returns for our community and for our society in general."

In awarding scholarships, the committee carefully considers the applicants' families, starting with their financial status. Applications are sent first to the Private School Aid Service, an outside reviewing firm. To qualify for a scholarship, household gross income must be \$20,000 per capita or less. "Our outside financial reporting company is very thorough," said Ms. Cilmi-Vitali. "They look at income and expenses and calculate what they feel the family should be able to afford for education. Many of the applications we receive are from families that have qualified as zero family contributors – they have no discretionary income for education."

The applications are then sent to the Foundation, where they are again analyzed for financial criteria, screened by the Scholarship Office and then, if appropriate, distributed among committee members to review.

The make up of the families varies widely. "Some are families where a single parent is raising the children," said Ms. Cilmi-Vitali. "All families are of Italian heritage, and some are immigrants where the father is earning a living and the mother is taking care of the house. In some cases, the extended family is living at the home, including the child's grandparents, who often do not have jobs."

The families' providers have a variety of jobs, including a number who have positions with the City of New York. There are also a number who are tradesmen.

The cost of parish schools, which are attached to churches, is about \$2,000 to \$2,500, and academies run about \$5,000 a year. The tuition is far less than at independent schools, but it is still beyond the reach of the applicants. "The families truly believe that a parochial school is the best education for their children – all of them go to Catholic schools. We don't see applications for children who want to go to independent schools," said Ms. Cilmi-Vitali.

Reviewing the financial reporting, the tax forms, the lists of the children's activities outside school are the labor intensive detail work of the committee. The joy comes during the interviews. "These children can bring tears to your eyes," said Ms. Cilmi-Vitali. "Some come right from school and have their uniforms on, their jackets or dresses. Others are in their Sunday best, or their Easter attire, with their suits or freshly ironed dresses.

"We ask what they like to do in school, what they did on their last vacation," she continued. "In just a few minutes, you can see their personalities as they open up. Very rarely do we have anybody shy away. We ask them what connection they have with their grandparents and where their grandparents came from. Obviously a lot of these children are very young, so it's surprising how many do know that they are Italian. They even tell us their favorite Italian food and tradition."

A telling argument in favor of granting scholarships is often seen in the parents' jobs and commitment to education. "The families are putting whatever disposable income they have into their children's education," said Ms. Cilmi-Vitali. "You can tell from their applications and financial records that we're getting parents who graduated from high school but went no further with their education, and that is reflected in their salaries. That's why it's so important that the children have the chance to learn in a constructive setting and get into good habits at school – we need them to get to college and get their degrees. It's all about their futures and the future of our community." ❀



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRANT COMMITTEE

Desiree Cilmi-Vitali, Chair
(Pictured above)
Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, Co-Chair

Toni Elliott
Dr. Alfred Liotta
Anthony Nastasi
Mario Occhicone
Dr. John Romano
Roxann Romano
Frank Somma

Adopt-A-Scholar Breaks \$6m Mark on Way to \$10m Goal

The Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program passed two significant benchmarks this winter. It has now received donations totaling over \$6 million, and the number of donations to the Program now exceeds 100 gifts.

Five years into the program, we can all be proud of the generosity of so many of our Foundation Members. We have also been fortunate enough to have as friends people who are not Foundation Members but who have made significant donations to the Program. Like our Members, they recognized the benefits that the Program has to offer and the importance of providing opportunities to deserving and needy children and young men and women of Italian descent and the tax advantages of giving.

The Adopt-A-Scholar Program gives donors the opportunity to establish scholarships in the name of a family, family member or loved one. They range from four-year high school or college scholarships to Perpetual Scholarships, which on an ongoing basis provides for the four-year educations of students in perpetuity. Adopt-A-Scholar donations start at \$25,000, and Perpetual Scholarships require gifts of \$100,000 or more. The donations are typically spread over four years.

These students, whose applications are carefully reviewed by our scholarship committees, are among the most determined and courageous young men and women in the Italian-American community. None of them come from a wealthy home. Some face overwhelming hardship and tragedy. The loss of a father in a random street crime in one case. A brother who was slain in Iraq in another. And terminal illness within the family in yet another. Their achievements in the face of the most trying of circumstances are inspiring and moving beyond words. Many of them look to us as their role models. In some cases, it should be the other way around. They have earned every cent of support we give them.

As our Members reach greater levels of success and achievement, we are increasingly giving back to our community and to those who are less fortunate. Yet we are still well short of our goal of an endowment of \$10 million, and there are a number of qualified applicants each year who don't receive scholarships because we simply don't have the resources.

Each of our Foundation Members has received so much from our ancestors, from our heritage and from our community. It is time for all of us to give back by making an Adopt-A-Scholar donation. We still have a lot of work to do. ♣

Partnership in Education Enters Second Year

The Foundation's Partnership in Education Program headed into its second year gaining traction. The Partnership program is effectively a three-for-one matching program that brings together a college or university, one of its benefactors, and the Adopt-A-Scholar Program to provide a scholarship to an Italian-American student. In effect, we are enlisting each school's development professionals to approach their potential donors to participate in the program.

Under the program, donor gifts are matched by equal contributions from the college or university's scholarship funds and from the Foundation. To date, two schools have participated: Hofstra University, and Wagner College, through the efforts of Dr. Richard Guarasci, President of Wagner and a Foundation Member. In the case of Wagner College, the Foundation converted two, \$20,000 four-year scholarships for students we

selected to \$60,000 grants by using the matching funding. It's a win-win-win proposition: the donor triples the effect of his donation; the school is directing their scholarship funds to our students, and the Foundation, in selecting the students, is tripling the effect of its donation.

We are continuing to work closely with development directors and school presidents to help them understand the great benefits to them, and to their donors, that the program offers.

Please consider contacting your alma mater's development office to make them aware of this program. Our Executive Director, Christine M. Meola, can provide you with information about the program and will be happy to follow up with contacts you establish at your alma mater. She may be reached through the Foundation at 212.249.9923. ♣

F.F.

PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE

Frank Fusaro, Chairman
(Pictured above)

Lawrence E. Auriana
John V. Cioffi
Mario J. Gabelli
Anthony F. Giordano
Anthony Mallardi
Anthony J. Marino
John Pugliese
Matt Sabatine
Carl Simoni

Adopt-A-Scholar Donors

FOUNDERS

\$400,000 and above

Lawrence Auriana
The Bellucci-DePaoli Scholarship
Mario Gabelli

BENEFACTORS

\$100,000 to \$400,000

Anthony S. Abbate
John B. Amodio
Salvatore and Helen Calcagno
Vincent and Anna Cappucci
and Family
John and Connie Cioffi
Denise and James Daly
Leonard De Luca
Anthony Dolce
James and Anna Fantaci
Frank and Carol Fusaro

Louis and Frank Fusaro
and Joseph Valenti
The Gaccione Family
Francesco and Mary Giambelli
Foundation, Inc.
Gail and Cleveland Guy
Robert and Lyn-Miriam Ingenito
James Kerwin
Joseph and Geraldine C. La Motta
Karen Legotte Langdon
Ronald and Suzanne Mannino
The Marzano Family

Madeline Morrea
Madeline Penachio
David A. Pope
Michael S. Puntillo
The Sabatine Foundation
Dr. Thomas P. and Cynthia D. Sculco
Angelo and Constance Silveri
and Rev. Francis J. Fajella, M.S.A.
Tom and MaryAnn Tizzio
Ambassador Joseph Zappala
and Isabella Zappala

PATRONS

\$20,000 to \$100,000

The Amicucci Family
John J. Amore
George A. Bellini
Peter and Monica Campanella
Region of Campania
Louis J. Cappelli
Frank V. Carone
Robert and Maureen Castro
Foundation
Dr. Frank Celenza
Anthony N. and Mariuccia Correra
Joseph De Gennaro
James and Biruta Dell'Orto
Peter and Marie De Luca
Alfred T. and Cindy De Maria
Richard C. De Zego
Nicholas Donovan
Michael Ferraguzzi
Virginia and Al Ferrara
John D. Filice

Joseph Forgione
Paul and Kristine Fornaby
William C. Freda
Nicholas L. Giannuzzi
Sam and Pam Giarrusso
Richard and Catherine Girgenti
Victor J. and Claudia Guadagnino
Alan C. Guarino
Joseph and Yusi Gurrera
The Ingenito Sisters
Ladies Auxiliary
Kathryn and Joseph Licata
Bartley and Julie Livolsi
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Lo Buono
John A. Loconsolo
Region of Lombardia
Johnny Maestro
Anthony Mallardi
Anthony and Gail Marino

Angelo Mozilo
Richard and Barbara Naclerio
Eldo S. Netto, Jr
Marian U. Pardo and Michael S. Toonkel
Michael A. and Catherine Petralia
Tal and Lena Piccione
Vincent Pizzimenti
John and Donna Pugliese
Mauro C. and Camille C. Romita
Peter and Dorette Sacripanti
Salvatore Family Foundation
Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
George and Maria Simeone
Carl Simoni
Louis A. Tallarini
Nicholas Tommasino
Van Hise Estate
Aldo and Melissa Verrelli
WNBC-TV
Young Adults Auxiliary

Adopt-A-Scholar: A Tale of Two Gifts

This winter, Member Frank Marzano brought two Perpetual Scholarship donations to the Foundation that will fund scholarships for Italian-American students in perpetuity. He contributed to one and helped arrange the other. The impetus behind both gifts was the desire to support the education of Italian-American students, but the nature of the gifts was different.

The first donation was a gift of appreciated securities. It was made by an anonymous donor of substantial wealth and of Italian heritage, though she is not a Foundation Member. The security was stock in a major corporation worth \$100,000 that had appreciated substantially over the years that she owned it (her cost basis was approximately \$20,000). She became aware of the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program from Mr. Marzano, a CPA, CFP and Managing Principal, GM Advisory Group in Port Washington, New York, who is her financial advisor. They determined that if she simply sold the stock, she would realize \$100,000 and pay taxes of approximately \$20,000, leaving her with \$80,000.

The alternative option was to donate the stock to the Foundation. The donation would provide several benefits. She would not have to pay approximately \$20,000 in capital gains tax. Additionally, because she is in a high tax bracket, the \$100,000 tax deduction resulting from the donation would reduce her 2006 tax bill by \$45,000.

In real numbers, donating the stock would mean she would be giving up \$80,000. However, the IRS would allow her a deduction of \$100,000, which would reduce her current tax bill by \$45,000. The actual cost to her of the \$100,000 donation to the Foundation would be \$35,000: the \$80,000 asset she gave up less her tax savings of \$45,000.

There was one final consideration. The woman was in her 80s, and would someday leave a substantial estate. Everything in the estate would be taxed at a rate of 50%. If she sold the stock, half the profit would be taken from her estate in taxes.

The donor decided to transfer the stock to the Adopt-A-Scholar Program and establish a Perpetual Scholarship in her family's name. "She felt that she could change the lives of motivated young



Frank Marzano

adults through a scholarship that will last forever at a relatively small cost," said Mr. Marzano. "She is very happy with the decision, and I am pleased to have been a part of it."

"When an individual has the resources and the charitable intent, making a planned gift through the Adopt-A-Scholar Program becomes a tremendously rewarding experience," Mr. Marzano said.

In addition to arranging his client's Adopt-A-Scholar donation, Mr. Marzano established one in his own family's name. The Perpetual Scholarship

that Mr. Marzano has created is more traditional in that it is being made in cash and spread out over time. The scholarship is being funded by several members of his family, all of whom share a passion for education and the Italian-American community. The Marzano family will make donations that total \$25,000 during each of the next four years and will share in the resulting tax deductions.

The gift, which is being made in his family's name, provides an ongoing scholarship to a student interested in attending Penn State, the alma mater of Mr. Marzano, his brother Michael, and his cousin, Angelo. If no applicant has applied to Penn State when the scholarship is being awarded, the funds will be used for an education at a cousin's high school alma mater, St. Francis Preparatory School, which is located in Queens. "We're choosing Penn State as a way of giving back to a school that has meant so much to us and has been such a big part of our lives. We wanted to offer someone the same experience we had, someone who would not have been able to afford it otherwise," said Mr. Marzano.

"My efforts are in support of the Foundation and in support of the Program," said Mr. Marzano. "Being involved with both of these scholarships has given me so much – the chance to help dedicated and committed kids who are of Italian descent with an education that would have been beyond their reach. Our hope is that by having the chance to get a higher education, they will improve their lives and, someday, the lives of their children." ♣

Adopt-A-Scholar Program Adopted by Friars Club

The value of Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar program was reaffirmed this winter when New York's storied Friars Club – the group that holds annual roasts of comedians and performers – sought the counsel of the Foundation and replicated the program for its members.

Friar's Club member Ambassador Joseph Zappala, who is also Vice President of the Foundation and a two-time Perpetual Scholarship benefactor, called the Foundation in late 2006 and arranged a meeting with Friars Club Executive Director Jean Pierre Trebot. They realized they hadn't done much with scholarships, so they made the effort and in two to three months, utilizing the Adopt-A-Scholar model, they had raised

over \$750,000. Upon raising the money, the Friars Club came back to us for advice on arranging scholarships with performing arts programs, and apparently they again took our advice. We were recently informed by Dr. Richard Guarasci, President of Wagner College and a Foundation Member, that six Wagner students each received \$12,000 scholarships from the Friars Club.

It's a credit to the Foundation that they have modeled their program after our Adopt-A-Scholar Program. They've even replicated our Adopt-A-Scholar plaque, and it's in their lobby!

F.F.

Scholarship Office Comes of Age

In 2006, the Foundation faced a welcome problem: the success of its scholarship programs had outgrown the organization's administration. From 2002 through 2006, the Foundation's scholarship programs experienced literally staggering growth. The number of scholarships and grants awarded soared from 273 to 749, a jump of 274%. Scholarship funding also exploded, soaring from just under \$1 million in 2002 to \$2.4 million in 2006.

During those five years, the Foundation's scholarship programs became the largest source of financial aid for Italian-American students in the United States.

The funds that make the programs possible were generated through the remarkable success of the Foundation's Columbus Celebration, Adopt-A-Scholar Program and Ladies and Young Adults Auxiliaries. The critical role of selecting the recipients was filled by growing scholarship committees made up of Foundation Members who devoted days and nights to reviewing applications and interviewing the students. Yet the administration supporting the scholarship programs went unchanged.

The back-room role of the Scholarship Office is extensive, if little known. This year, the Scholarship Office is processing over 450 applications and the related letters, calls and e-mails from eager and anxious students and families; scheduling 20 committee meetings with attendance confirmed for the 51 committee members; tracking (and in some instances tracking down) the transcripts of 749 ongoing scholarship recipients who are in the second, third, or fourth year of their scholarships; putting a closer lens on students whose grades are slipping below the Foundation's minimum requirements; reviewing the scholarship award levels of students who have transferred to schools that have lower tuitions that may require reductions in their scholarships; and putting together brief biographies for each of the nearly 250 new scholarship recipients for the presentation of their certificates at the annual awards ceremonies.

In addition, the Scholarship Office manages the Concordia Language Village summer immersion program for high school and elementary school recipients, serves as a liaison to the Young Adults Auxiliary and coordinates and manages aspects of the Adopt-A-Scholar Program and the Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship Fund for the Arts, as well as pitching in with countless Foundation events unrelated to scholarships.

When the position of Scholarship Director opened up in the spring of 2006, the Foundation recruited Isabella Patrick, who was Assistant Director of Development with Young Audiences, Inc. to join the Foundation and work with Anthony Vassallo, Scholarship Coordinator.

In reviewing the scholarship process, Ms. Patrick sought input

from scholarship committee chairs and implemented a series of changes that streamlined the processes and simplified the work of the committees. The Foundation engaged the services of the Private School Aid Service, a company that specializes in analyzing a family's need for scholarship assistance. The service ensures that the committees receive only those applications that meet the Foundation's criteria for financial need, flagging hundreds of others that are incomplete. Additionally, a scoring system has been put into place to help committee members evaluate the candidates' suitability: their heritage, academic performance and community service or extracurricular activities. The system also created a category for special circumstances to allow for worthy but unusual cases.



Anthony Vassallo and Isabella Patrick in the Scholarship Office.

The committees' chairs unanimously applaud the office's efforts. Elementary School Committee Chair Desiree Cilmi-Vitali said, "It's a very professionally run office, very systematic, very organized. The efforts and diligence of our committee members are now matched by those of the Scholarship Office. Everyone on our committee has welcomed the standards of professionalism the office has established."

On joining the Foundation, Ms. Patrick was stunned by the breadth of the office's activities. "Essentially, the Foundation is working with 750 students and their parents and families and the schools they are attending, as well as organizing a number of wonderful events," she said. "The Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner is one of the most gratifying nights, when you actually see the young men and women get to meet the person who is supporting them. Having been here for nearly a year, what has really struck me is the involvement of the committee members. Anyone outside the Foundation wouldn't believe that the committee members are simply volunteering their time - they take everything they do to heart. It's a level of participation I've never seen before. It's a pleasure to work with people who are so committed to this labor of love." ❀

Foundation Scholarship Programs at a Glance

Program	Year Initiated	Scholarships Awarded to Date	Scholarship Funding Awarded to Date
College Scholarship	1985	Nearly 600	\$ 7.3m
High School Scholarship	1995	440	\$ 6.6m
Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts	2003	8	\$ 65,000
Elementary School Grant	2004	166	\$ 420,000

"Scholarship Office Comes of Age" is the first in an ongoing series of planned articles that will feature some of the notable activities taking place within the Foundation.

Sponsors Celebrated at Townhouse

Dozens of 2006 Columbus Week Celebration sponsors came to the Townhouse on March 22 in an evening of gratitude that was hosted by actor and past Grand Marshal Paul Sorvino and featured the surprise introduction of the 2007 Grand Marshal, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich (see pp. 3-4).

“We would like to thank the sponsors of our 2006 Columbus Week Celebration,” said Foundation President Louis Tallarini. “Their participation and generosity helped the Foundation in its vital mission of supporting the education of hundreds of deserving Italian-American students.”

“The artistic heritage of our Italian ancestors, and of those who came to America, is great,” said Mr. Sorvino. “One only need think of the paintings and innovations from Roman times, and of the Renaissance. Italians have excelled in everything we’ve ever tried – in the areas of food, science, literature, scholarship. We come from a line of earthshapers and pathfinders... For those of us who are successful, it behooves us to remember our heritage and find out why others have not achieved success and give them that hand up that they need.”

The event had added significance because for the first time since 2001, Alfred M. Catalanotto was not present as the upcoming Parade Chairman. For six years, Mr. Catalanotto made the ever-expanding venture run like clockwork to the delight of millions of spectators and hundreds of sponsors. His successor, Vincent Pizzimenti, who is known as Enzo, and the Foundation will miss Mr. Catalanotto’s efforts greatly. ♣



Tenor Carlo Barricelli Performing at the Townhouse.



Columbus Week Celebration General Chairman Saverio Giarrusso.



Host and past Grand Marshal Paul Sorvino with Marketing Chairman Michael Pedone and Louis Tallarini.



2007 Grand Marshal Lidia Matticchio Bastianich with Columbus Week Celebration Dinner Chairman Angelo Vivolo.

Columbus Week 2006 Sponsors

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Consiglio Regionale
Della Campania | Casa Building Materials |
| Lamborghini | Commerce Bank |
| Consiglio Regionale
Della Lombardia | Consiglio Regionale
della Calabria |
| Angelo Mozilo Family
and Countrywide
Financial Corporation | Gabelli Funds |
| Sidoti & Company | Mecc Contracting Inc. |
| Federated Kaufmann Fund | Mediterranean Pleasures |
| Federated Investors | Medaglia D'Oro |
| Fortunoff | Pepsi-Cola Company |
| Generoso Pope Foundation | RAI Corporation |
| Joseph R. and Amy Perella | Value Investors, Inc. |
| TD Ameritrade | Bacardi |
| Confesercenti Roma | Alitalia Airlines |
| Cooley's Anemia | Big Apple Circus |
| HSBC Bank | Coachman Limousines, Inc. |
| Provincia di Benevento | Jack FM Radio |
| Apt Servizi Emilia Romagna | Radio City Rockettes |
| Sweet 'n Low | WNBC TV |
| | Conair Corporation |
| | New York Post |

The Art and Life of Ancient Rome Revealed in New Galleries at Metropolitan Museum of Art

The spectacular glory of ancient Rome and Italy was unveiled as the Metropolitan Museum of Art opened its new galleries of Hellenistic, Etruscan, South Italian, and Roman art on April 20.

Larger than life statues of Hercules, busts of members of the Imperial Roman family, Apulian kraters for mixing wine, ancient millefiori and cast glass and a striking Etruscan chariot from the sixth century B.C. are among the thousands of works of art on view from the Met's superb collections.

The New Greek and Roman Galleries house art created between about 900 B.C. and the early fourth century A.D., tracing the parallel stories of the evolution of Greek art in the Hellenistic period and the arts of southern Italy and Etruria, culminating in the rich and varied world of the Roman Empire.

Museum director Philippe de Montebello has said that the Met is "a cultural family tree in which every visitor can find his roots." His

comment has never been more true at the Met for Italian-Americans than it is now.

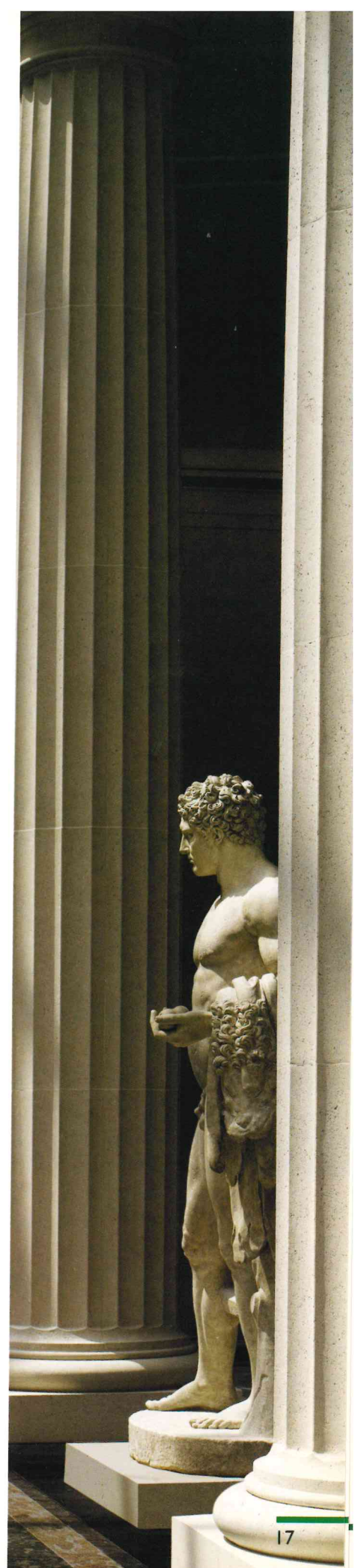
The galleries' centerpiece is the towering Leon Levy and Shelby White Court, which presents two Roman statues of Hercules from the first century A.D. Hercules is shown in his youth, beardless and with a lion skin draped over his arm. In the other, the older, bearded Hercules wears the lion skin across his shoulders, with the lion's head and mane forming a hood on his head.

In addition the large spectacular works the galleries present numerous small masterpieces, including part of a one-and-a-half inch amber fibula, or safety pin, carved out of amber and a remarkable cameo of the emperor Augustus.

Also on view are frescoes from the bedroom of a villa that was buried, with its wall paintings preserved nearly intact, by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. in a recreation – like so much of the galleries – of Roman wealth, power and artistry. ❖



Clockwise, from far right: A Roman marble statue of the youthful Hercules in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new Leon Levy and Shelby White Court with a Roman marble statue of the youthful Hercules from the Flavian period • Frescoes from a Roman bedroom, Late Republican, ca. 50-40 B.C. from the villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale, near Pompeii • Etruscan Chariot with scenes from the life of the Greek hero Achilles, Archaic, 2nd quarter of the 6th century B.C., Bronze inlaid with ivory • A small (one-and-a-half inch) Etruscan carved amber bow of a fibula (safety pin) with reclining woman and youth, attendant, and bird, Etruscan, Archaic or Classical, ca. 500 B.C. • Another mural from the bedroom of the villa of P. Fannius Synistor • A Roman marble portrait of the emperor Caracalla, A.D. 212-217. Photos courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Membership Committee Welcomes Our Newest Members

Please join us in welcoming our new Members, who bring our total Membership to nearly 550, the highest level ever.

The growing awareness of the Foundation and its mission has led to a welcome increase in applicants. We must continue to exercise great care and diligence in the critical review process that includes interviews, background checks and member comments. Since this can take up to six months, we ask for your patience and indulgence.

I would like to thank the Foundation Membership for identifying and recruiting candidates and the staff and my fellow committee members, who have spent many hours reviewing applicants. I encourage all of you to continue sponsoring friends and colleagues who share our Italian-American heritage and the desire to support our philanthropic and cultural initiatives. If you know of a suitable candidate for Membership, you can start the process by contacting Millie Aponte or Lisa F. LoRusso.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

John V. Cioffi, Chairman
(Pictured above)

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
Amb. Joseph Zappala



Massimo Alois

Sponsors:
Lawrence E. Auriana
John V. Cioffi

Mr. Alois is the President of Alois Group, a fabrics, wine and real estate company. The Alois Group has generously helped in some of the Foundation's renovations by donating fabric. Mr. Alois was born in Italy and currently resides there. He received his masters in law from the Università di Napoli and supports the Foundation's cultural and philanthropic activities.



Photo not available

Francesco W. Caputo

Sponsors:
Lawrence Caputo
Alphonse A. Ferrara

Mr. Caputo is a managing partner of The Background Trattoria, a restaurant establishment. He derives his Italian heritage from his grandparents who were born in Bari, Naples and Sicily. Mr. Caputo is a fourth-generation member of the Foundation: his great-grand-father, Lorenzo, was a founding member, his grandfather, Frank, was a member and served as treasurer, and his father, Lawrence, is a current member.



Daniel Castellano

Sponsors:
Matt Sabatine
Anthony Dolce

Mr. Castellano is a Managing Partner of Castellano, Korenberg & Co., CPAs. His family immigrated to the United States in the early

1900s. Mr. Castellano is on the Board of Directors of QBBA and the Homecoming Dinner Committee of the New York Yankee Foundation, among other organizations. Mr. Castellano was awarded the Good Scout Honoree Award from the Suffolk County Boy Scouts. He embraces the Foundation's cultural and philanthropic activities.



John C. Crimi

Sponsors:
Pasquale P. Diccianni
Frank Lo Re

Mr. Crimi is the President of County Concrete, a concrete, sand and gravel supply company. Both sets of his grandparents were born in Sicily. Mr. Crimi is on the Boards of Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering and the Tri-County Scholarship Fund. He has many years of experience with fund raising and activities that assist with and provide funding for scholarships and other charitable programs.



Joseph A. Franciosa, M. D.

Sponsors:
Dr. Richard A. Guarino
Matt Sabatine

Dr. Franciosa the Principal of Joseph A. Franciosa, M.D., Pharmaceutical and Health Care Consultant. Both of his parents were born in Italy and immigrated to the United States in 1911. Dr. Franciosa is affiliated with many institutions and organizations, including the American College of Physicians and has been cited in many major reference works, including the *Guide to America's Top Cardiologists*. Dr. Franciosa is aware of the Foundation's goals and is willing to do what he can to assist.



Rev. Robert Grippo

Sponsors:
Lawrence E. Auriana
Richard J. Naclerio

Rev. Grippo is a Roman Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of New York. His mother was born in Puglia, Italy.

He is affiliated with Our Lady of Abondanza and Our Lady of Monte Virgine. Rev. Grippo has received a number of awards, including the Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge #2583 Order of Sons of Italy in America Award. He admires the Foundation's scholarship programs and looks forward to helping the Foundation in any way possible.



Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò

Sponsors:
Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo
Lawrence E. Auriana

Baroness Marimò is a philanthropist who was born in Lombardy. Baroness Marimò has

been a New York University Trustee since October 1990 and is affiliated with numerous organizations, including the World Health Policy Forum. Given the experience she has acquired through her activities at NYU's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, she looks forward to collaborating with the Foundation on its cultural and philanthropic activities.



Thomas B. Matarazzo

Sponsors:
Frank G. Fusaro
John V. Cioffi

Mr. Matarazzo is a Wealth Management Advisor at the financial services firm, Merrill Lynch. His maternal

and paternal grandparents were born in Naples and Sicily, respectively. Mr. Matarazzo is presently on the Board of Directors of the Upper Montclair Country Club. Mr. Matarazzo feels that he can make a positive contribution to the Foundation since he has been involved in various charitable organizations and fundraising efforts.



Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D.

Sponsors:
Michael D. Tusiani
Lawrence E. Auriana

Dr. Michelassi is the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor/Chairman and Surgeon-in-Chief

of Weill Medical College. He was born and

raised in Pisa, Tuscany. Dr. Michelassi is affiliated with Academy of Surgical Research, Central Surgical Association Foundation, International Association of Pancreatology, and many other institutions and associations. He has received the distinguished Leadership Award from Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America and numerous other awards.



Mark Damon Penna

Sponsors:
Edward N. Constantino
Louis P. Salvatore

Mr. Penna is Vice President of Neuberger Berman, LLC, an asset management/finance company. His grand-

mother and great-grandparents were born in Calabria and Sicily. Mr. Penna was affiliated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York. He is a member of the Columbia Business School Alumni Association and had been selected to represent his class at the Columbia Business School Graduation. Mr. Penna looks forward to participating in the Foundation's fund raising and educational events and helping to identify more ways to continue the Foundation's mission.



John Piccard

Sponsors:
Marian U. Pardo
Jason R. De Sena Trennert

Mr. Piccard is the Senior Analyst of Lord Abbett & Co., an equity fund management company. His father and

grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Piccard is on the Board of Saint Francis Xavier Youth Sports and is the fund raising Chairman of Xavier High School. He is also affiliated with CFA Institute and the New York Society of Security Analysts. Mr. Piccard joins the Foundation to reinforce and strengthen ties to his family's heritage. He feels that by being involved in the Foundation's cultural and charitable events he will set a strong example for his children to take pride in their Italian heritage.



Jodi Pulice-Smith

Sponsors:
Vincent J. Peters
August A. Di Renzo

Mrs. Pulice-Smith is the Founder and President of JRT Group, Inc., a commercial real estate firm. All of her grand-

parents were born in Italy. She is affiliated with the Women President's Organization, the Real Estate Board of New York and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. She has received numerous

awards, including the Top 50 Women in Real Estate Award. Mrs. Pulice-Smith's motivation in joining the Foundation is to teach her children to be proud of their Italian heritage and to achieve her larger goal of promoting her Italian heritage.



Gary E. Redente

Sponsors:
Alfred T. De Maria
Rosemary Maniscalco

Mr. Redente is an Associate at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, a law firm. His paternal

grandparents were born in Musellaro, Italy. He was awarded the Katherine Duffy Prize while attending college and is currently a Council Member of the National Italian American Foundation and is affiliated with many other organizations. Mr. Redente recently relocated to New York. He joins the Foundation to help promote the positive aspects of Italian-American culture.



Joan Calcavecchia Sacks

Sponsors:
Lewis Barton
John Loconsolo

Mrs. Sacks is a broker for Stribling & Associates, a real estate company. Both her parents were

born in Italy. Mrs. Sacks is a committee member of the Coalition for Shelter and is on the Board of Directors of 174 E. 74th Street and 45 Sutton Place South Cooperatives. She was awarded the History Medal from Fordham College. Mrs. Sacks is very impressed with the Foundation's mission in helping less fortunate members of our community by providing assistance through scholarships.



Charles J. Valenti

Sponsors:
Hon. Vincent R. Rippa
Richard J. Naclerio

Mr. Valenti is the Chairman of Landmark Associates, a real estate development company. His maternal and paternal

grandparents were born in Sicily and Naples. He has also been affiliated with Iona Prep and Mt. Vernon Hospital Golf Outings, New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Parade and received the Iona Grammar School Man of the Year Award. He wants to keep his and his son's heritage alive by being involved with a Foundation that shares his values and beliefs.

Zeffirelli Scholarship Program

The Foundation's Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts was brought to life on December 28, 2006, when representatives of the State Institute of Art of Florence and internationally renowned American sculptor Greg Wyatt gave a presentation about their activities to a group of over 50 Members at the Foundation.

During the past two years, Mr. Wyatt has worked with Italian students from the institute who came to New York through the Zeffirelli Scholarship program. Mr. Wyatt, who is also Sculptor-in-Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, was joined by Maria Anna Franceschini, President of the Istituto Statale d'Arte of Florence, and Professor Laura Felici, the Chair of the school's Department of Art History.

"We established the Zeffirelli scholarship program with the proceeds from the world premiere of Mr. Zeffirelli's *Callas Forever* in 2002 when Mr. Zeffirelli was Grand Marshal," said Lawrence Auriana, Chairman of the Foundation. "The Istituto is his alma mater, and during the past two years it has selected students to study in New York under Greg Wyatt. We are very pleased to sponsor this trans-Atlantic program in the tradition of the cultural exchange between Italy and the United States that goes back to the founding of our country."

Mr. Wyatt, whose monumental sculptures can be found at St. John the Divine, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon, England and the U.S. Department of State, said, "It is absolutely true that artists learn from artists, and as a young man I learned about the tradition of studio apprenticeship while studying

in Italy. The studio apprenticeship moves the student from studying theory to practicing art as the youth works side by side with an artist to learn the processes and develop their own creativity."

Ms. Franceschini described the Institute as an academy of applied art where students from the ages of 15 through their mid-20s study design in the fields of graphic art, textiles and jewelry as well as sculpting, printmaking, bookbinding and woodworking and print and digital photography. The students also take courses in the



From left: Professor Laura Felici, Dr. Maria Anna Franceschini, Lawrence Auriana, Greg Wyatt and Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo.

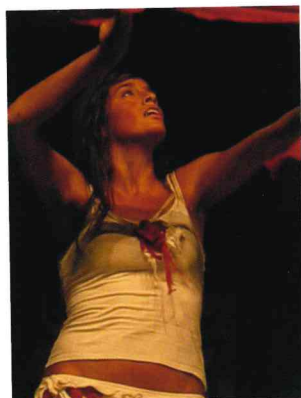
history of art, mathematics and physics, among other subjects. The Institute is similar to schools in New York such as the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Parsons School of Design. ❀

Puglia's Pizzica

The driving, intoxicating passion of the *taranta* and *pizzica* came to the Foundation on February 22 when Pugliesi natives demonstrated dance and music from the Region that makes up the heel of the Italian boot.

Accompanied on accordion by Antonio Melegari, dancer Serena D'Amato rendered the *tarantata* dance in a Dionysian blur of rapture. "Traditionally, *pizzica* was a form of music played to accompany a dance of purification performed by women," said Maria Galetta, who arranged the event on behalf of the United Pugliesi Federation and DiscoverPuglia. "The woman wanted to rid herself of the poison from the bite of a tarantula, which was considered a particular form of possession. The *tarantate* – the spider-bitten women – could be cured only by dancing to the rhythm of the tambourines and reaching a state of euphoria."

Pizzica music has a second purpose, Ms. Galetta said: "It's also dance of courtship. Stances, movements and gestures express the ancient dance between men and women – the desire the man has for the



Serena D'Amato performs the *Tarantata* to *Pizzica* music.

woman and the desire of the woman to be flattered by her pursuer."

Ms. D'Amato performs with the folk group Tamburellisti di Torre Paduli. Mr. Melegari is part of Kumenei, a young *pizzica* group.

"Everyone knows Puglia for the trulli buildings in Alberobello, the Baroque architecture in Lecce and the octagonal Castel del Monte in Andria," said Ms. Galetta, a native of the Region. "But Puglia is also home to the remains of Saint Nicholas – better known here as Santa Claus – in Bari, and it is the largest producer of extra virgin olive oil in Europe and the wonderful producer of *primitivo* wine."

Both the music and dance of the *pizzica* are indigenous to the Salento area of Puglia and are in the midst of a nationwide revival. In late August, Italian national television broadcasts *Notte della Taranta*, a music and dance concert featuring traditional performer and international recording stars who have adopted the rhythms and passion of the folk art form.

The performance at the Foundation was underwritten by the United Pugliesi Federation (www.unitedpugliesifederation.org), an association of 18 groups that promote Puglia, and Discover Puglia (www.unitedpugliesifederation.org), a tour operator based in Lecce that also has a representative in Manhattan. To sample *pizzica* music, visit <http://www.castrignanodeigreci.it/lanottedelataranta/audiofile/showlist.asp>. For more information about Mr. Melegari, visit <http://www.kumenei.com>. ❀

Young Adults Continue to Thrive



By C. Justin Foa
President, Young Adults Auxiliary

In 2006, the Young Adults Auxiliary (YAA) again met and surpassed our fundraising goal of \$30,000, a figure that will allow us to raise our level of financial commitment to the Foundation. We plan to fund additional scholarships this year and have the long term goal of endowing a full scholarship in support of the Adopt-A-Scholar Program. It is our hope that our donations can assist young Italian-American men and women in pursuing an education that will bring them success and eventually allow them to support their heritage, either through the Foundation or through other means. We hope the recipients of this year's scholarships can aspire to match the achievements of our 2005 recipient, Thomas Macrina (who is profiled on p.5).

The scholarships are especially evocative for us as young adults. Not that long ago, each of us was facing the challenges and great rewards of college – creating a social life, keeping up with our studies, the all-nighters, the clubs, and, ultimately, the diploma that has unlocked many of the opportunities we enjoy today.

This year the YAA elected new officers. I was honored to be elected President, and I hope to meet the responsibilities of the position in the tradition of my predecessors, Frank Zimbaro, Stephen Acunto and

Chelsey Ingenito-Fields. Joining me as officers are Valentino A. Verrelli, Vice President; Mark Alberici, Treasurer; and Marcella Vescio, Secretary.

On April 13, we hosted our Annual Young Adults Auxiliary Casino Night, an evening filled with games of chance, fine food, raffles, dancing and good times. Contrary to widespread belief, Casino Night was open to Foundation Members and their wives or husbands as well as YAA members. The evening was more than just a fundraiser with great entertainment. It was also an opportunity for us to meet Foundation Members and to learn more about the Foundation and its goals. One of our ambitions is to bring more young adults into our organization as a step towards possibly becoming Foundation Members. We would like to thank the nearly 150 people who attended Casino Night, whose participation helped us take a great leap toward our fundraising goal for this year.

Our other goals are to continue to grow the group and continue with our fundraising efforts so we can provide another Adopt-A-Scholar scholarship in 2008 and leave a lasting impression on the Foundation.

All of us would like to thank the Foundation Members for letting us pitch in and help support the organization's mission. We would also like to thank the Foundation's President, Louis Tallarini, and its Executive Director, Christine Meola, for their support and guidance, and the office, notably Isabella Patrick, who is our liaison with the Foundation. ❀

Zeffirelli Students Perform at Foundation

Two Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts recipients presented a recital at the Foundation on April 4, 2007, to an enthusiastic and highly appreciative full house.



Zeffirelli Scholarship Recipients
Christopher Temporelli and
Loretta Terrigno.

Loretta Terrigno, a graduate level piano student at the Mannes School of Music in New York, performed Franz Schubert's challenging Sonata in A Major, D. 664 and two movements from Frederick Chopin's Sonata in B Minor, Opus 58, including the fiercely difficult *Allegro Maestoso*.

Bass-baritone Christopher Temporelli gave a recital of songs from *Le Bestiaire*, by Francis Poulenc, various songs by Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, and selections

from *Chansons de Don Quichotte*, by Jacques Ibert. The haunting and mournful "Chanson de la mort de Don Quichotte" ended the recital and its beauty left the room still and silent for over 10 seconds after the performance had ended.

"The Franco Zeffirelli Fund for the Arts was established in 2002 when Mr. Zeffirelli was Grand Marshal, and he was generous enough to hold the world premier of his movie, *Callas Forever*; here

The Ladies Auxiliary is pleased to present *Bill Blass: New York 2007 Spring-Summer Collection* at its annual fashion show. The collection is true to the legacy of the design house and represents the best in American glamour. A consultant from the company will be on-hand to take special orders following the show. The event is part of the Ladies Auxiliary Spring Luncheon and Boutique and Mega Buck drawing, which will be held at the Foundation on May 15, 2007. All Members and their guests are invited, early reservations are recommended, and everyone is welcome to take advantage of the discounted vendor shopping. As always, proceeds from the event will help fund the Auxiliary's contribution to the Adopt-A-Scholar Program and its philanthropic activities. Please call Phyllis Rizzo at the Foundation (212.249.9923) and come and share the day in service of a worthy cause. ❀



in New York, and donate the proceeds to establish the fund," said Chairman Lawrence Auriana before the performances. "That event generated almost half a million dollars and has to date provided financial assistant for students of dance, the fine arts and music."

The recital was organized by Anthony Correra, Chairman of the Foundation's Cultural Committee. ❀

In Memoriam

A Remembrance of Vito Nardelli: An Italian-American Life

Vito Nardelli, father of two Foundation Members and grandfather of another, passed away on February 22, 2007. He was 94-years old.

Mr. Nardelli was born in Apulia in 1912 under very modest circumstances. In the 1930s he married, started his family, moved to New York, and for over 20 years ran a green grocery in East Harlem. He moved to Jackson Heights in the 1960s and retired in the late 1990s.

Mr. Nardelli is survived by his loving wife of 74 years, Palma; his sons, Justice Eugene Nardelli and Vito Nardelli, Esq.; his daughter, Laura Nardelli; his grandchildren, Paul, Eugene, Jr., Robert, Michael and James; and his great-grandchildren, Paul, Lisa and Genna. He was predeceased by his son, Camillo Nardelli, Esq.

Following Mr. Nardelli's passing, he was remembered in an interview with Justice Nardelli.

My father and mother married in 1933. She had been born in America but her family moved back to Italy when she was nine. My father had difficulty getting out of Italy, but he wanted his family to be safe from Mussolini, so he sent my mother, my late brother Camillo and myself to New York in 1937. It was the middle of winter, and we never saw daylight during that long voyage. Laura was born seven days after we landed.

My father followed in 1939, just weeks before the outbreak of World War II. The five of us moved into a four-room box apartment in East Harlem with my grandfather and uncle. We were lucky, we had a bathroom, and even a bathtub, which was in the kitchen. Uncle Stephen volunteered for the Army and served in the African campaign through the invasion of Sicily. He was a professor of Romance languages at Iona and St. John's. My grandfather worked at the First Avenue Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market. My father opened a small green grocery in a storefront on First Avenue and 101st Street. When I was a little boy – five or six years old – I would go there after school to help him.

My father had little formal education. He did not go to school past the third grade. But he loved to read and he had a vocabulary in Italian second to none. His Italian was Dantean and his speech was Ciceronean.



February 16, 1912
Vito Nardelli

My father was a man of culture. He was very, very erudite. He knew Petrarch, he knew the Latin poets and even some of the Greek authors. He taught himself English, and eventually Spanish, because after a time so many of his customers were Spanish-speaking.

In addition to enjoying the classics left by my uncle, my father devoured newspapers and listened to Italian radio. In the green grocery, we would have the Texaco Opera of the Week on the radio, the kind where one had to run a wire out of the door to get reception.

My father retired from the green grocery at some point in the mid-to late-1960s. He moved to Jackson Heights, Queens. But he wanted to stay busy, so he worked in an Italian pastry shop. He opened the shop in the morning and closed it in the evening. People thought he owned it, but he was a 70-year old guy who just helped out. He retired for good when he was 85.

He said he left the known to come to the unknown. He was a very courageous man. He worked day and night, seven days a week, with Sundays being a half day. On Sundays he dressed impeccably - suit and tie. He always wore a tie, even under his white grocery apron.

He was honorable, and he was a tough. He often said, "You come into this world with nothing, and you leave with nothing except your reputation" - that's the lesson he taught all of us.

He celebrated his 90th birthday at the Foundation and was happy to return for the 95th birthday celebration of Chairman Lawrence Auriana's mother. He'd known Larry's mother from my childhood. He sang to her in Italian - it was so touching to see these two old friends, both over 90 years old, celebrating their long, wonderful lives together.

He had one objective in life, and that was to make sure his children had an education. Some months before he died, I took him to have lunch with a friend and his grandmother. When she asked my father what he did in life, he said, "Three of my children are lawyers and one is a teacher." That's what he did in life, that was his mission.



Mr. Nardelli with long-standing friend Jean Auriana at her 95th birthday party in 2005.

Ciro Esposito

Ciro Esposito, a Foundation Member since 1972 and a retired fruit and vegetable importer, passed away at his home on August 24, 2006. Mr. Esposito was 86-years old.

Known as Jerry, Mr. Esposito was born near Naples, Italy and moved to Brooklyn with his mother and two sisters when he was six. His father, a barber, had emigrated earlier to find work and set up a household for the family. When Mr. Esposito was in elementary school, his son, Anthony said, "My grandfather would meet my father at school with a horse and wagon full of fruits, which my father would sell off the wagon. When he was done, he'd go home, have dinner and do his homework."

Mr. Esposito dropped out of school after ninth grade and worked in fruit stores. "His family depended on him," said Anthony



Anna and Jerry Esposito

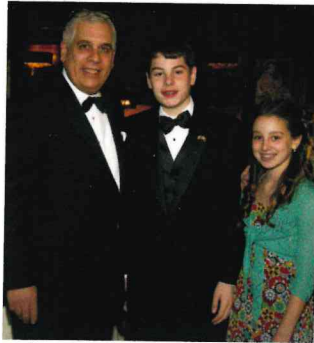
Esposito. "He made good money." He later opened several fruit stores, but a back injury kept him from attending to his interests and the businesses went under.

In 1949, Mr. Esposito founded a banana importing and distribution business, which later expanded to include fruits and vegetables. He retired in 1969 and left his sons in charge of the company. J. Esposito & Sons is still in business and is run by three of his grandsons.

"We always had everything we wanted," said Anthony Esposito, "but we had to earn it." He instilled in us the understanding that we always had to go out and get what we wanted because nobody was going to give it to us, but he always insisted that we be fair."

Mr. Esposito is survived by sons Anthony and Andrew, daughters Marie Buonato and Nancie Esposito, 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. His wife of 59 years, Anna, predeceased him in 1999.

Louis Tallarini was the Honoree of the Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi's 30th anniversary benefit, which was held on March 16 at Cipriani's 42nd Street. "I am here because I'm a second-generation Italian American who celebrates his heritage here in New York and because like everyone in this room I care deeply about education," Mr. Tallarini said. "I am also President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, which organizes the largest celebration of Italian-American culture in the world – the Columbus Week Celebration."



Louis Tallarini with children Annie and Matt.

Attending with Mr. Tallarini were his mother Mary Tallarini, who is 93-years old; his brother, Anthony, and his wife, Mary; his sister, Sandra; and his children Annie and Matthew. Also present at the event were **Mrs. Lawrence Auriana, Dr. Ottavio Arancio, Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo, John Cioffi, Anthony Giordano, Frank Fusaro, Anthony Giordano, Anthony Mallardi, Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò, Executive Director Christine Meola, Matt Sabatine and Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Vivolo.**

On March 8, 2007, numerous Members attended a reception held at the Foundation for the Italian American Museum (IAM).



From left: IAM Director Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa; IAM Leadership Council Co-Chair Toni J. Elliott; NIAF President Salvatore J. Zizza; IAM Leadership Council Co-Chair Saverio Giarrusso.

The museum is exploring the possibility of acquiring a building at the corner of Mulberry and Grand Streets in Little Italy for its permanent home. The museum is a cultural and educational not-profit institution that explores the cultural history of Italians and Italian Americans by collecting archival and cultural documents and through lectures, publications and at least five exhibitions a year (*Faces of ItaliaNY* by photographer Salvatore Sparavigna will be on view from April 16 through June

29, 2007). Since receiving its state charter in 2001, the museum has been housed at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, and since 2003 it museum has been affiliated with the City University of New York. Its board includes **Dr. Joseph Scelsa** (President) and **Cav. Maria T. Fosco** (Vice President).

Christophe L. DiFalco wed Talina Ferrero Valpassos on May 24, 2006 in a civil ceremony held in the DiFalco Room at the Columbus Citizens Foundation. The ceremony was conducted by former Member, Hon. John E. Sprizzo, Senior Justice of the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. They were later wed in a religious ceremony on December 9, 2006 at the Church of Nossa Senhora Do Carmo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Christophe L. DiFalco and Talina Ferrero Valpassos DiFalco.

Mrs. DiFalco, an architect, is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mr. DiFalco, an attorney, became the youngest Member in Foundation history when he joined at age 24 in 1999. He is the son of **Hon. Anthony G. DiFalco**, former N.Y.S. Assemblyman, former Chairman of our Board of Governors and one of our Founding Members. He is also the grandson of one of the two Founders of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, the late Judge S. Samuel DiFalco, and of Emma DiFalco, who founded and chaired the Ladies Auxiliary.

Attending the ceremony at the Foundation were Mr. DiFalco's parents, **Ambassador Charles Gargano, John Loconsolo, Peter Faucetta, Sr., Nicholas Giannuzzi and Nicholas Donovan**, among other Members and friends of the bride and groom.

Scholarship Recipient Arianna T. Sotos, a seventh grade student at Immaculate Conception School in Stony Point, New York, will be featured in *Who's Who Among Outstanding Middle School Students* 2006-2007 edition.

Upcoming Events

May 15 Spring Luncheon, Boutique and Mega-Buck Drawing
The timeless American style of Bill Blass designs are featured in the annual event.
Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary

Please join us as we grant awards to this year's scholarship recipients at the DiCapo Opera Theater, 184 East 76 Street:

May 22 Elementary School Grant Awards

June 20 College Scholarship Awards

June 26 High School Scholarship Awards

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



Carnevale 2007!

A Roman emperor, counts and countesses and men and women of mystery and intrigue descended on the Townhouse on February 16, 2007, for the Foundation's annual Carnevale celebration. Magician P.G. Varola's sleight of hand left Members and guests enthralled and in wonder, and artist Akbar sketched *al fresco* portraits to the delight of all.