

# FOUNDATION QUARTERLY

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

WINTER 2007



63 Years OF TRADITION





# COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION



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

## Columbus Citizens Foundation

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# President's Message



The 2007 Columbus Week Celebration featured three of the things most dear to the hearts of the Italian-American community – food, women and song – and the results were outstanding. Two of our honorees – Grand Marshal Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, and Honoree Kara DioGuardi – were exemplary role models. Both women are entrepreneurs, leaders in their industries and very close to their families.

The theme of the 2007 Parade was music and song. Parade Chairman Enzo Pizzimenti arranged "From Opera to Jazz, Broadway to Pop," which featured terrific performances on a new addition to the Parade – the Red Carpet Stage – by singers and who are passionately skilled in the fields of opera, jazz, pop music, and rock. The performances included a series of songs by the legendary songwriter, Harry Warren, who was born Salvatore Antonio Guaragna! Among the hundreds of songs he wrote were "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," "Lullaby of Broadway," and "That's Amore".

During the week leading up to the Parade, the Foundation once again turned Grand Central Terminal and Vanderbilt Hall into a visual and, for the first time, culinary feast for Italophiles of all backgrounds. Through the sponsorship of Cuisinart, Vanderbilt Hall East was transformed into a tasting hall where Ms. Bastianich and other highly accomplished chefs gave cooking demos. Vanderbilt Hall West featured a 45-foot wide panoramic iMax-style screen that featured videos of Italy's incredible culture and settings, from thriving cities to serene countrysides and small villages.

The Main Concourse of Grand Central Terminal again featured examples of brilliant Italian automotive design. Maserati exhibited a *Quattroporte* and a *GranTurismo* that the Foundation later raffled to raise funds for our scholarship programs. Foundation Chairman Lawrence Auriana spearheaded this effort, and we and the students who benefit from our philanthropic efforts should be grateful to him.

Our Special Honored Guest from Italy, Minister of Justice Clemente Mastella, was gracious and statesmanlike throughout the weekend, attending and enjoying the many events that celebrate Italian and American friendship and camaraderie.

I would like to thank our Columbus Week Committee Chairs, who devoted literally thousands of hours to making the Week such a tremendous success: General Columbus Week Chairman, Sam Giarrusso; Parade Chairman Enzo Pizzimenti; Journal Co-Chairs Anthony Giordano and Anthony Mallardi; Dinner Co-Chairs Maria Bartiromo and Angelo Vivolo; Media Chairman Frank Fusaro; Marketing Chairman Michael Pedone; Italian Affairs Chairman Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo; and Columbus Day Mass Chairman Father Michael Moynihan.

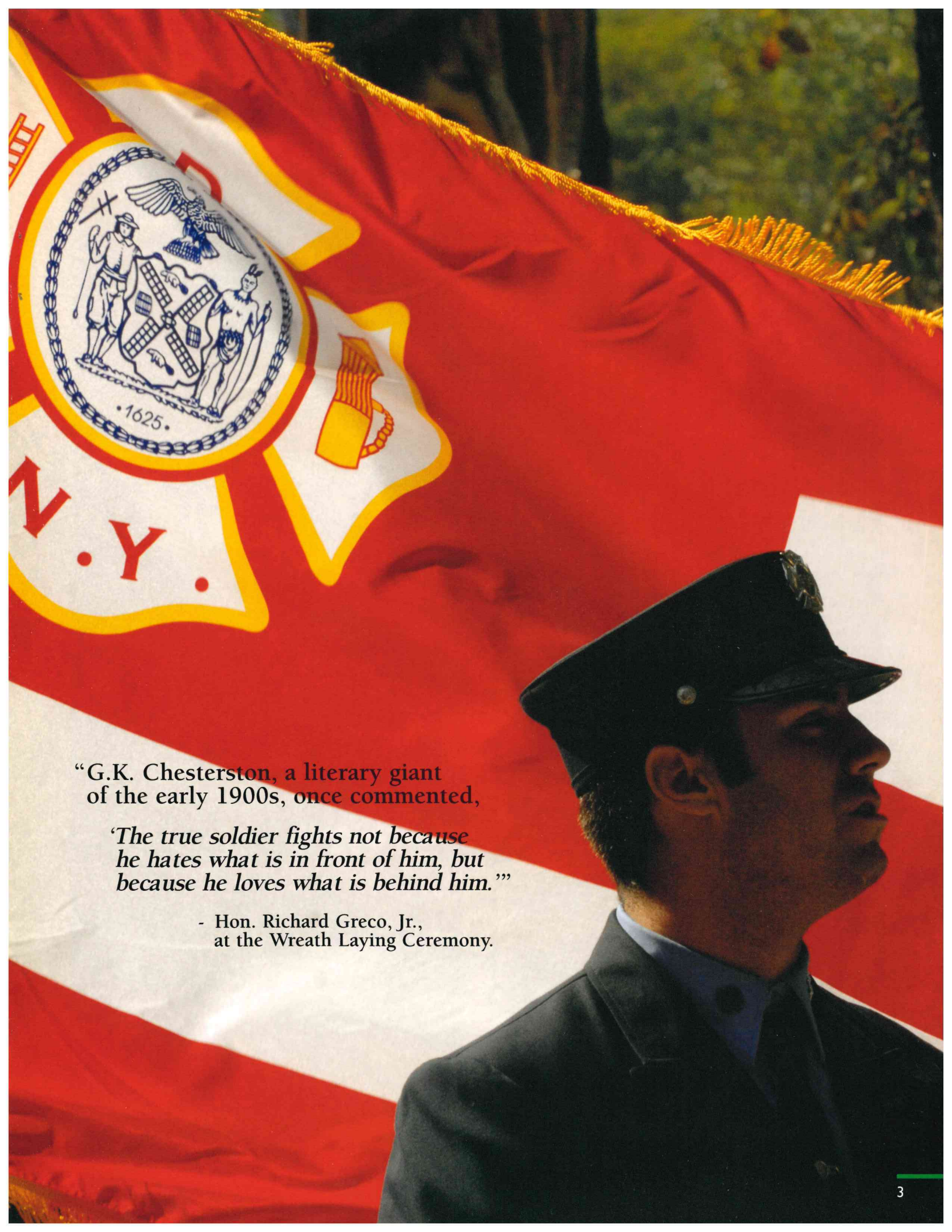
Last November, the Foundation elected new members to the Board of Governors. Retiring from the board are Amb. Charles A. Gargano, who had served admirably as President and Chairman, Anthony N. Correra, Richard J. Naclerio and Vito R. Nardelli. Joining the Board are Maria Bartiromo, past president Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli, and Michael F. Pedone. I look forward to working with them during my second term as president.

As 2007 draws to a close, we are honoring in this issue a remarkable group of men who 40 years ago came together to purchase and renovate our Townhouse. Led by Foundation co-founder Hon. S. Samuel Di Falco and Fortune Pope, the son of co-founder, Generoso Pope, these men are listed on page 20 as part of an article that records – in the words of some of the Founding Members themselves – the circumstance around the acquisition and restoration of the Townhouse. Many of the original Founding Members are no longer with us. We are grateful for their visionary participation. And we honor the Founding Members whose companionship, knowledge and spirit continue to enrich our Foundation as we pay tribute to our Italian-American traditions and strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Tallarini, President





“G.K. Chesterton, a literary giant of the early 1900s, once commented,

*‘The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.’”*

- Hon. Richard Greco, Jr.,  
at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.



# Lidia's Italian Kitchen, Italia on Tour Exhibitions Turn Grand Central into Italophile's Dream

Vanderbilt Hall became an oasis of Italian food and culture during Columbus Week as a parade of chefs – including Grand Marshal Lidia Matticchio Bastianich – gave demonstrations of Italian cooking in one wing of the hall while the other featured the sights and sounds of Italy on a 45 foot panoramic screen. Together, the two events combined to touch each of the visitors' senses.



Lidia Matticchio Bastianich



Fortune Nicotra



Mark Ladner demonstrates the details of Italian cuisine.

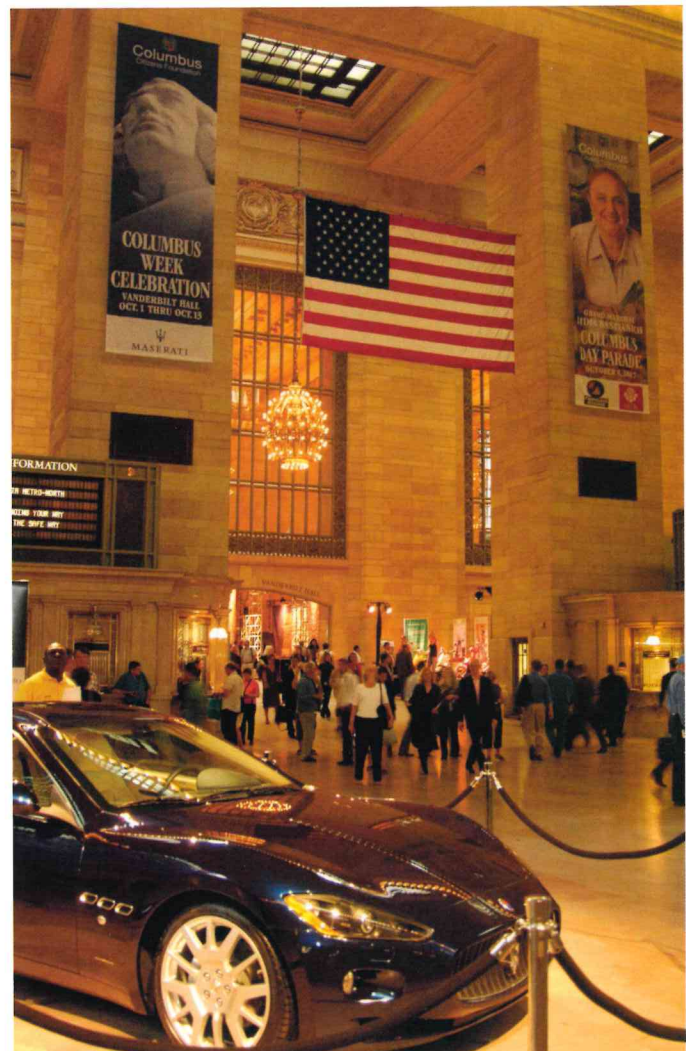
Working in a kitchen installed specially for *Lidia's Italian Kitchen*, Ms. Bastianich and her colleagues gave step-by-step instructions for preparing classic Italian meals, like Fettucini Alfredo.

Ms. Bastianich, who owns five restaurants and is widely known as a cooking show host on PBS stations, appeared at the kitchen on October 3 and was followed on succeeding days by a series of all star chefs. On October 4, Fortunato Nicotra, executive chef of Felidia, took to the stage, and on October 5, Mark Ladner took to the burner-laden stage. Mr. Ladner is a chef at and partner in Lupa Osteria Romana and Otto Pizzeria and executive chef at Del Posto. Cuisinart executive chef and award-winning cookbook author Fabrizio Bottero gave a two-hour cooking demonstration on Columbus Day, October 8.

In Vanderbilt Hall's West Wing, Italy came to life in *Italia on Tour*, an exhibition sponsored by various regions, provinces and cities. The video tour film was projected on a panoramic, 45-foot wide by



Louis Tallarini, Lawrence Auriana, Minister of Justice Clemente Mastella and Alessandra Lonardo Mastella, President of the Regional Council of Campania and wife of Minister Mastella.



Banners announcing events of the Columbus Week Celebration provided the backdrop in Grand Central Terminal for a Maserati GranTurismo.



13-foot tall screen and included breathtaking aerial footage and street-level scenes of exquisite historic landmarks of Italy and its vibrant contemporary culture. Among the sponsors of *Italia on Tour* were the Regions of Abruzzo, Emilia-Romagna and Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the Province of Benevento in the Region of Campania, and the cities of Bologna, Milan and Ravenna.

The exhibitions served as a backdrop for several events held by the Foundation, including a press conference announcing Ms. Bastianich as Grand Marshal that was reported on by the Associated Press and the annual Sponsor and Media Reception, which was attended by this year's honorees: Special Honored Guest from Italy, Justice Minister Clemente Mastella, who was accompanied by his wife, Sandra Lonardo Mastella, President of the Regional Council of Campania, and Honoree Kara DioGuardi, BMI Songwriter of the year and daughter of Member Joseph DioGuardi. ❖



Enzo Lucchini, Vice President of the Regional Council of Lombardia, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Adolfo Orsi, and Italian Affairs Chairman Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo at the Sponsor and Media Reception.



Flag-throwers from the Region of Abruzzo added color to the Sponsor and Media Reception.



The Banda della Guardia di Finanza trumpeted the Columbus Week Celebration to crowds in Grand Central Terminal.

## Elegance and Power Come to Grand Central, the Parade, Courtesy of Maserati

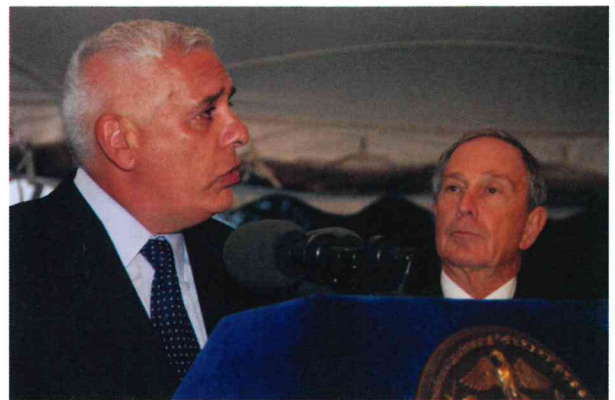
The bold, stylish lines of two Maserati automobiles – a *GranTurismo* and a *Quattroporte* – were the centerpieces of Grand Central Terminal's Main Concourse for two weeks in early October. The powerful and elegant cars were exhibited before being raffled as part of the Columbus Week Celebration. Millions of viewers stopped to admire the sleek Pininfarina styling and luxury appointments that included 20-inch Birdcage design rims, titanium colored calipers, a Bose surround sound system and a multimedia system with a 30 GB hard drive.



Maserati's Andrea Soriani, Director of Marketing, and Laura De Stefanis, Marketing Coordinator, with Lawrence Auriana.

The raffles were the result of a partnership between Maserati and the Foundation in recognition and support of the Foundation's scholarship programs and of the company's own Italian heritage. The *Quattroporte* was raffled at the Gala [see p. 7], and the two-door *GranTurismo* was raffled at Grand Central on October 15.

That evening, under the watchful eye of accounting firm Condon O'Meara McGinty & Donnelly LLP, past scholarship recipient Alyssa Arroyo pulled a numbered ping pong ball from a brass cylinder. The number, 129, was claimed by Gregg J. Pacchiana, who was awarded the *GranTurismo*. ❖



Louis Tallarini talks about the significance of Italian Heritage Month at the Mayoral Reception at Gracie Mansion, on October 3, 2007 with Mayor Michael Bloomberg.



# Italian-American Women, Italy's Minister of Justice Feted at Gala Dinner

In a setting that featured a Maserati luxury car on stage and a sold-out ballroom at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the Foundation celebrated three remarkable people – two of them women – at its annual Gala Dinner on October 6. The evening recognized the achievements of Grand Marshal Lidia Bastianich, Honoree Kara DioGuardi, and Special Honored Guest from Italy, Justice Minister Clemente Mastella.

“We are here tonight to honor people who share our love of Italy and Italian culture and the recognition that education will better our community,” said President Louis Tallarini. “I am referring to our honorees, and also to all the Members of our Foundation who are committed to our great cultures and helping young Italian-American students on their way to the American dream.”

The evening featured music by the Hank Lane Orchestra and a performance by *American Idol* star Katharine McPhee, who closed out her mini-set with a soaring rendition of “Over the Rainbow.”

Gala Dinner Co-Chair Maria Bartiromo hosted the evening, and said, “I remember gathering for our Sunday dinner, talking about nothing and about everything, just basking in family. No matter how many things are going on in our lives, I know we share the



Gala celebrities Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Minister Clemente Mastella and Kara DioGuardi in the Grand Ballroom.



Francesco Maria Talo, Consul General of Italy; General G.A. Cosimo D'Arrigo, *Comandante Generale della Guardia Di Finanza*; Louis Tallarini, Clemente Mastella, Minister of Justice.



*American Idol* star Katharine McPhee shares the spotlight with the Maserati *Quattroporte*.



Gala Dinner Co-Chair Maria Bartiromo gives the good news to the Maserati *Quattroporte* raffle winner with Lawrence Auriana.



Ever modest, Journal Committee Co-Chair Anthony Mallardi accepts the appreciation of Foundation Members.



same traditions – of family, hard work and good food. These are touchstones that I know all of you in this room share.”

Ms. Bartiromo’s feelings were reflected in comments throughout the evening. Foundation Chairman Lawrence Auriana said, “This evening, by honoring two outstanding Italian-American women, Lidia Bastianich and Kara DioGuardi, the Columbus Citizens Foundation is expressing the recognition and appreciation that Italian-American women so richly deserve.” He continued, “Italian-American women have achieved many historic firsts. The first American saint to be canonized was Mother Cabrini. The first woman to be elected governor of a state was Ella Grasso, of Connecticut. The first woman to run for national office was Geraldine Ferraro. And the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives is Nancy Pelosi.

“But I would like to say a few words about unsung heroes – women you and I know: our grandmothers, mothers and wives. These women were and are the cement that has made the Italian-American family the strong part of our society for which it is known.”

General Weekend Chairman Sam Giarrusso said, “I love to say to people that I’m just a poor Italian kid from Brooklyn. And of course I jest when I say that, because I was never poor, ever, ever. We didn’t have much money, but I was never poor. I was rich because I had traditions. I was rich because I had heritage. I was rich because I had *la famiglia*. And we were rich because we had love.”

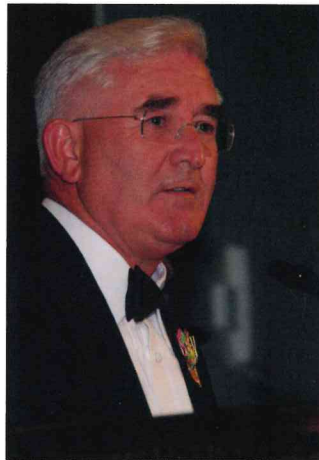
In introducing Ms. Bastianich, Dinner Co-Chair Angelo Vivolo said, “Restaurateur, television star, cookbook author, ambassador of everything Italian and more, Lidia is a woman of passion and commitment, and she inspires us all to participate and make a difference.”

“I came here at 12 years old, as an immigrant, and I vividly remember those first parades,” Ms. Bastianich said. “I used to squeeze through the crowds on Fifth Avenue and watching those parades go by with the big eyes of a young immigrant. Little did I ever even imagine that someday I would be leading that parade.

“It is tremendously rewarding to be given this honor for something



Pamela and Sam Giarrusso (seated) and guests.



Left: Columbus Day Mass Chairman Rev. Michael R. Cipolla Moynihan. Right: Italian Affairs Chairman Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo with Ladies Auxiliary President Nancy Cuttita.



The Waldorf=Astoria Grand Ballroom was humming with excitement throughout the Gala.



## Gala Dinner *continued*

that I love to do. I was blessed with the two cultures and the capability of maybe connecting the two. I know that as a young child in America, trying to assimilate into America, I always wanted my Italian heritage, the heritage of home with me to give me the security, because that's the grandmother I left behind, the cousins I left behind and I knew that they were part of me. And then I was blessed with the capabilities of combining and sharing my traditional culture with my adopted culture. It is the greatest pleasure and the greatest honor."

The Gala marked a reprise for Kara DioGuardi, BMI Songwriter of the Year and daughter of Member Joseph DioGuardi. "You can't be more happy than I am tonight," said Mr. DioGuardi. "Twenty-four years ago I introduced Kara to this stage. I was the chairman of this dinner, Sophia Loren was the Grand Marshal, and Kara was up here, and she sang four songs and brought the house down. I think that was the beginning of Kara's real confidence to continue to do what she is doing today."

Ms. DioGuardi, who has written numerous hits for international recording stars, said, "Like many people here tonight, I have been blessed with a loving family who instilled in me a strong work ethic and a sense I could do anything I put my mind to." She cited her grandparents and parents as the "role models I have gained strength from when the mountains seemed too high and my dreams seemed unattainable. As Italian-Americans, we come from an ancestry of fighters – people who worked hard and overcame tremendous obstacles to establish themselves in a foreign land, and they never gave up. It is our duty to impart these values to generations of Italian-Americans to come."

Minister Mastella recalled that he met his wife, Alessandra Lonardo Mastella, President of the Regional Council of Campania, in the United States over 30 years ago. "This is probably because of my personal history," he said, "but for me the link and friendship between Italy and the United States is solid and important and the



Honoree Kara DioGuardi (center) with father Hon. Joseph DioGuardi and Shirley Cloyes, his wife.



Katharine McPhee with a young admirer, Santana Caradonna.

founding basis between Italy and the United States. This is a very important night to keep our friendship and show our love and solidarity between Italian-Americans and Italians of Italy." ♣

World-Telegram photo by Fred Palumbo.



## Fiorello H. LaGuardia: 1882 – 1947

**B**orn 125 years ago, the Little Flower, as Mayor LaGuardia was known (or Fio to his family and friends), was among the greatest mayors in New York City history. A fierce defender of immigrants and utterly intolerant of negative stereotyping, Mayor LaGuardia was a pilot in the armed forces during World War I (he was awarded the Italian War Cross), represented East Harlem in the House of Representatives, served three terms as mayor (1934 to 1945), and was the director general for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. During the Depression, he oversaw New York's massive public works programs, including the construction of the New York Municipal Airport, which was renamed LaGuardia Airport in 1947. An ardent music lover and a proponent of quality public education, Mayor LaGuardia opened the High School of Music & Art in 1936. Now named the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, he termed it the "most hopeful accomplishment" of his years as mayor. ♣

Mayor La Guardia speaks over WNYC in 1940.



# Columbus, Civil Servants Remembered at Wreath Laying

In a tradition going back over 40 years, the Foundation and members of the Italian-American community laid a wreath at the foot of the Columbus Monument at Columbus Circle on October 7, 2007.

Joseph Guagliardo, president of the National Council of Columbian Associates in Civil Service, and Louis Tallarini, president of the Foundation, which sponsored the event, were joined by honorees of this year's parade, dignitaries and members of the New York City's Departments of Police, Fire, Sanitation, Correction Officers, Transit and Court Officers.

"New York is one of the safest cities in the world because of the men standing behind me, and I congratulate them," said Louis Tallarini.

Mr. Guagliardo recalled that Christopher Columbus was a civil servant, having sailed at the behest of the King and Queen of Spain, and said, "The deaths of firemen in August at Ground Zero were a reminder of the devastation of 9/11 and the Italian-Americans who gave their lives."

On August 18, 2007, firefighters Robert Beddia, 53, and Joseph Graffagnino, 33, died in the line of service while battling a fire at the Deutsche Bank skyscraper.

Foundation Member Hon. Richard Greco, Jr. articulated the drive behind those who serve. He said, "G.K. Chesterton, a literary giant of the early 1900s, once commented, 'The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him but because he loves what is behind him.'"

Present at the wreath laying was Francesco Paolo, Italy's Consul



Lidia Matticchio Bastianich with Joseph Guagliardo, president of the National Council of Columbian Associates in Civil Service, at the wreath laying.

General in New York. "It is my honor to be here for the first time," he said. "We are here to serve, we are here to say thank you to all the people of New York who make New York the greatest city in the world, and we are here to commemorate a great Italian hero. Christopher Columbus is a true Italian hero, and his spirit was that of an American. He was an intrepid man who crossed the sea to find something better. And this is the spirit of Italy and this is the spirit of America."

Clemente Mastella, the Italian Minister of Justice and one of this year's honorees, said, "Christopher Columbus was the first Italian-American. He came to this country in pursuit of a dream, and this morning, I celebrate the men and the memory of all Italian Americans."

Lidia Bastianich attended the event and joined Mr. Guagliardo in laying the wreath. She said, "To lay the wreath for the uniformed servicemen of the City of New York who continue to dedicate themselves to the City of New York is to honor the Italian-American spirit. They continue to energize the city of New York and keep it safe and clean and beautiful." ❖



Members of the **Banda della Guardia di Finanza** prepare for a brief performance at Columbus Circle.

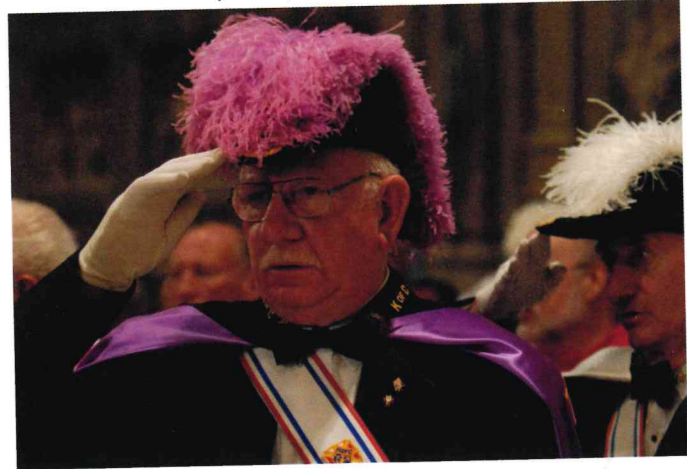


# Columbus Day Mass

The traditional Columbus Day Mass, celebrated by Edward Cardinal Egan, held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, lay the foundation for the Columbus Day festivities. Cardinal Egan recalled the visionary, historic voyages of Christopher Columbus and his solemn dedication to his faith, which is shared by so many of the Foundation's Members.



Regardless of their ages, celebrants at the Columbus Day Mass were inspired by the annual event at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Edward Cardinal Egan greets Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, with Dinner Chairman Angelo Vivolo and General Weekend Chairman Sam Giarrusso in the background.



# Warmth and Appreciation at the Columbus Day Parade

Enticed by the sights and sounds of Italian heritage and culture and the chance to greet Grand Marshal Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, nearly one million people came out to see the 63rd annual Columbus Day Parade, which was held on October 8.

With temperatures for the day soaring into the 70s, the crowds enjoyed perfect weather and a broad sampling of traditional flag throwers, folk groups and floats reminding them of Italian innovation and creativity.

“Columbus Day is one of the great days of the year for our community, for New York, for our nation, and of course for our Members,” said Louis Tallarini, President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. “Marching up Fifth Avenue, I saw thousands of Italian flags, many held by people who are not of Italian descent and who love Italy and its traditions and thriving culture. All along the way, there were cheers of ‘Viva Italia!’ Those of us who are of Italian descent are blessed to be welcomed in two homes – our ancestral Italy, and the United States.”

Interviewed along the parade route by New York 1 News, Ms. Bastianich said, “Being an immigrant, I love America as our home, and I always remember the country that we left behind. This unification on Columbus Day, this honor towards the Italian people in America, is just extraordinary. There’s such a feeling of camaraderie, of pride, of a sense of really being proud and happy.”



Louis Tallarini, Lidia Bastianich and Sam Giarrusso on the Red Carpet.



Parade broadcast anchors Joseph Piscopo and Maria Bartiromo.



Minister Clemente Mastella enjoying the warm reception along the parade route.



Philanthropic Committee and Media Chairman Frank Fusaro goes live on WNBC to talk about the Foundation's scholarship programs.



Honoree Kara DioGuardi and her dog, Tiki, with Marketing Chairman Michael Pedone at the start of the parade route.



## Columbus Day Parade *continued*

Around 35,000 marchers and more than 100 bands and contingents participated in the 2007 parade. The groups included everything from New York civil servants of Italian descent, a spectacular procession of vintage and contemporary Maserati sports cars that spanned five decades, flag throwers who left the crowds breathless, folk dancers performing the tarantella and other traditional Italian dances to performers garbed in replicas of Roman armor and borne by horse-drawn chariots.



Lawrence Auriana with Lee Rizzutto, Jr.



Parade Chairman Enzo Pizzimenti with Rosemary Maniscalco on Fifth Avenue.

The 2007 Honorees drew attention for a multitude of reasons. Clemente Mastella, Italy's Minister of Justice, endured a barrage of questions from reporters at the start of the parade. Asked if it was too warm for the event, he replied with a wry smile and referred to the often politically charged situation at home: "This isn't so warm, compared to what I face every day in Italy."

Kara DioGuardi, BMI songwriter of the year and daughter of member Joseph DioGuardi, headed up Fifth Avenue in a Maserati sports car with her dog Tiki held in her arms.

The parade and Red Carpet performances were broadcast on NBC

## Columbus Day, 2007

### A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

*In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail on a journey that changed the course of history. On Columbus Day, we celebrate this voyage of discovery and honor an Italian explorer who shaped the destiny of the New World. . .*

*Christopher Columbus' bold journey across the Atlantic opened new frontiers of exploration and demonstrated the power of perseverance. His journeys inspired other risk-takers and dreamers to test the bounds of their imagination and gave them the courage to accomplish great feats, whether crossing the world's oceans or walking on the moon. Today, a new generation of innovators and pioneers continues to uphold the finest values of our country – discipline, ingenuity, and unity in the pursuit of great goals.*

*As we look back on the contributions of the great explorer from Genoa, we also celebrate the many contributions that generations of Italian Americans have made to our Nation. Their service to America and ties to family, faith, and community have strengthened our country and enriched our culture. . .*

*George W. Bush*

affiliates and featured co-anchors Maria Bartiromo and Joe Piscopo. They were also broadcast by RAI and RAI International to audiences in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Australia. The major theme of the 2007 parade was music and song. The Red Carpet and a stage constructed for the event was a continual site of spirited, free performances enjoyed by crowds in the grandstand and television viewers on four continents.

The Red Carpet performances were held under the billing "From Opera to Jazz, Broadway to Pop" and included a raft of performers in various styles. The bands that performed were the U.S. Marine Corps Band and Italy's Banda della Guardia di Finanza, which gave the premier of "Ode to the Columbus Citizen's Foundation," a composition presented to the Foundation as a gift by Maestro Angelo Condello, musical director of the Banda.

The performances were kicked off by Parade Chairman Enzo Pizzimenti, who began his singing studies with the legendary tenor, Giovanni Consiglio. Mr. Pizzimenti gave a moving rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Throughout the afternoon performers stepped to the stage. Tenor Roberto Iarussi sang an aria from Giacomo Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*. Marcello Giordani sang "Nessun dorma", an aria from



the final act of Puccini's opera, *Turandot*. The Antonio Ciacca Trio performed an original composition, Giada Valenti sang the popular song "Non Dimenticar," with music by P. G. Redi and original Italian lyrics by Michele Galdieri. A series of songs by Harry Warren, who was born Salvatore Antonio Guaragna, included performances by JoAnn Robertozzi, Theresa Sareo, Lorrain Ferro, and Michael Amante.

The up-and-coming recording artist La Sara performed honoree Kara DioGuardi's "Walk Away." And, less than two weeks after his sold-out performance at Carnegie Hall, Zucchero performed a series of original compositions. Other performers included Luigi Boccia, women and men from the U.S.O., and Mr. Piscopo who closed out the music with his Sinatra-esque "New York, New York."

The Red Carpet entertainment provided a glimpse into the achievement and talent of the Italian-American community, but even as it continued, there were smaller events taking place. Staten Island students from the Italian Academy Language School marched in the parade and, at its end, were greeted by their grandparents, according to the *Staten Island Advance*. "A lot of these kids ... have recreated a bond for their grandparents because some of them are third-generation Italian and have only grandparents who are still speaking Italian and it created that unison again," Michelle Scibetta-Nicolo, who founded the academy, which offers before- and after-school courses in Italian, told the *Advance*. "They regain an appreciation [of their Italian heritage], and they become con-



International rock star Zucchero on the Red Carpet stage.



Folk dancers bring Italy to America.



A high school band on Fifth Avenue.



A pyramid of flag throwers along the parade route.



Chanteuse Giada Valenti lends her talents to the parade's first on-stage performances.



The parade beat goes on.



Columbus Day Parade *continued*

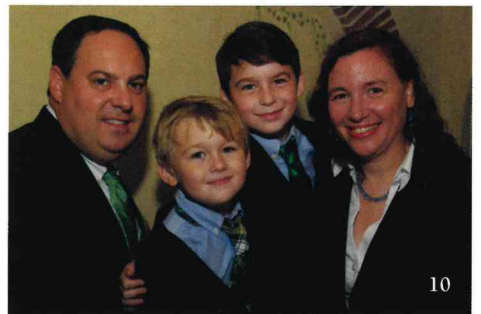




# It's All in the *Famiglia!*

The colorful traditions, floats and spectacle of the Columbus Day Parade are enjoyed by millions of people in New York and around the world, but no one appreciates the exuberant labor of love - and love of heritage - more than the Foundation's Members and their families.

*Salut* to the parade and to the families of our community!



1 – George Greco and family 2 – Matthew and Anna Marie Tallarini with Mary Young 3 – Lawrence Auriana with mother, Jean 4 – Lida Bastianich with daughter, Tanya Manuali, and mother, Erminia 5 – Richard Greco and children 6 – Amb. Joseph Zappala, wife Isabella Arjona and son 7 – Alfred and Toni-Lynn Catalanotto with children 8 – Anthony Giordano and daughter, Joie 9 – Angelo Vivolo with children Angie and Chris and friend, Valerio Riccioli 10 – Robert and Kim Diccianni and family



# 40th Anniversary of the Foundation at the Townhouse

In 1967, a group of Italian-Americans banded together to buy the Columbus Citizens Foundation's Townhouse. The acquisition changed the Foundation overnight. What had been a very small group that organized the annual Gala Dinner and Columbus Day Parade grew into one of the more prominent organizations in New York, which now has over 570 Members.

The men who combined their resources - money and, in some cases, weeks and months of labor - to acquire and renovate the building came to be known as Founding Members. Records of those who participated are lost, as are many details of the transaction and the work that went into creating one of the most refined and elegant organizations in New York. A number of the Founding Members have passed away. Below are accounts by some of the Founding Members that describe the process and history behind the purchase of the Townhouse.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** I became a Founding Member because of my father, Judge S. Samuel Di Falco, who was a co-founder of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. In fact, everything the Foundation does, and has done, goes back to Generoso Pope and my father.



Generoso Pope, Co-Founder of the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

in 1906, at the age of 15, from the province of Benevento and arrived in New York with just \$10 in his pocket, no place to stay, and only a few words of English. He landed a job for \$3 a week carrying water to the men who were constructing the Pennsylvania Railroad's East River tunnel, which is now known as the Holland Tunnel. He worked as a laborer on construction jobs and toiled in the sand pits for five years while going to night school. In 1911, he joined the newly-formed Colonial Sand and Stone Co., becoming its superintendent.

In 1916, he became the head of Colonial Sand and Stone and later acquired several Italian-language newspapers and radio stations. In those days, the Italian community relied on newspapers and radio for their information about America and the world, and the papers carried columns on learning English and American customs to help immigrants settle in to their new home.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** Generoso Pope was a very, very successful man. I remember my mother telling me that he had a triplex on Fifth Avenue, and during the Depression, he supported the entire building.

Generoso Pope was my godfather, and my father was like a son to



President Harry Truman with Fortune Pope to his right and, on his left, Gene Pope Jr. and Anthony Pope.

him. My father was born in Palermo, Sicily. He emigrated to the United States when he was four-years old, became a lawyer, a New York City Councilman, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and the Surrogate of New York County. Since a lot of people, because of their last names, were stereotyped as gangsters, he also founded the Italian League to Combat Defamation.

The main function of the Columbus Citizens Committee was to preserve our Italian heritage and to be philanthropic by raising money for scholarships for Italo-American elementary school students to go to high school.

The Columbus Citizens Committee had an important dinner every year at the Waldorf-Astoria on the Saturday before the Columbus Day Parade. It was in the Grand Ballroom, and there was a three-tier dias attended to by city, state, and federal office holders, as well as leaders of industry. Everyone wanted to attend. Initially, the dinner was the sole source of funds for the scholarships that the Committee awarded.

In 1950, the Foundation and the Italian community lost a great friend and champion when Generoso Pope passed away at the age of 59. Mr. Pope probably did more for Italian-Americans than any other individual, and one can only imagine how much more he would have done. His dream of educating and improving the lives



The Townhouse as the Eastman Residence in 1953: School Room.



of Italian-Americans and their involvement in American society lives on through the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

Even as late as the 1960s, the image of Italian-Americans was still a little bit rough, and their language was mocked. Americans who traveled to Italy knew its beauty and its culture, but most Americans had never been to Italy, and they viewed Italians here as uncultured. At the time there were two prominent clubs for Italian-Americans in New York, The Progressive Era, on Washington Street, and Tiro a Segno, a private members club in Greenwich Village with a dining room and shooting range downstairs. Both of these clubs had charm and were atmospheric, but neither showed the elegance of Italy and Italian culture and neither had the standing or presence of other private clubs in New York. My father wanted the Italian community to have a place that reflected the elegance and refinement of Italy, a place where fellow Italo-American professionals and businessmen could socialize and, if they needed to, do business. It would also be open to non-member functions such as annual corporate meetings, etc., to showcase our elegant home and to raise additional funds.



Judge S. Samuel Di Falco with his son, the Hon. Anthony Di Falco and his son's future wife, Jacqueline at the Ballo Romantico in 1972.

**Vincent Peters:** The men who were in the Columbus Citizens Committee – which organized the parade – included Generoso Pope, Vincent R. Impellitteri, who was President of the City Council and then Mayor of New York, and Judge Di Falco. Charlie Rao may have been. There were only five or six members. Maybe seven, and they would meet twice a year to set up the annual dinner and the parade.

**Hon. Frank Guarini:** Back in the 1960s, with the increasing success of the Columbus Day Parade, it became apparent that the Italian-American leadership needed a home for their growing community.

There were two distinct groups who proposed a townhouse. One was headed by Judge Sam Di Falco, a highly regarded Surrogate in New York City, who had considerable political patronage. The other group, of which I was a member, consisted of friends of Fortune Pope, the eldest son of Generoso Pope. Really, they were factions, but they shared a common goal. We celebrate both these leaders because each in his own way epitomized the true spirit of the Italian-Americans. Between them they welded together different segments of our community and made the dream of a strong Foundation happen.



S. Samuel Di Falco Room.



## 40th Anniversary *continued*

**David Anthony Pope:** Fortune Pope and his brothers Anthony, who was my grandfather, and Gene, Jr. and family and business partners and associates – including Judge Di Falco – and friends wanted to see the parade continue in perpetuity. It was very important that they have a home for their offices and to host cultural and social events. Putting on the parade is pretty much a year-long project.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** My father and Jimmy Peters [Vincent Peters, who is known by his nickname Jimmy] and his late brother, Leone, would go out and look for buildings that could serve as the home of the Foundation. Jimmy and Leone were principals of Cushman Wakefield, the real estate company. Sometimes I went along. I was busy with a law practice and had just been elected to the state assembly. I'm not taking any credit for the purchase of the building – all I did was drive my father around on weekends to look at places.

**Cesar Taormina:** I was a contractor and got around. Judge Di Falco asked me to find a building, and I showed him a lot of buildings. I showed him a building on 64th Street and Fifth Avenue that was listed at \$450,000. The Foundation didn't have a lot of money in those days. Whatever money they raised went to scholarships.

I came across the Townhouse in the course of contracting work for the Swedish Consulate, which owned the building. The Swedish Consulate wanted to have a more modern office, where everyone was on the same floor. The building wasn't on the market, but they said they might be interested in selling it. Charlie Rao, who was the father-in-law of Fortune Pope, invited me to have dinner with him and Fortune Pope, and I told them about the building. Later, I showed it to Judge Di Falco.

The building was offered to us at \$600,000. I said we can give you \$575,000, all cash.

**Vincent Peters:** Judge Di Falco called me one day and said he'd pick me up in his car. My office was at 44th and Fifth then – I've been with Cushman Wakefield for 67 years. He picked me up and we went and looked at the townhouse. The price was \$575,000. He asked what I thought of it and I said, 'If you don't buy it, I will – the *land* is worth half a million.'

**Cesar Taormina:** I had keys to the building so I could bring people in to look at it. We had two showings, and I still have the expense receipts for those evenings!

**John Loconsolo:** There were meetings with potential contributors held at the mansion. These contributors had the privilege of listening to a few excellent speakers explain why we were there and who we are, and why we should participate in the fundraising. These marvelous speakers were: the Honorable Joseph Carlino, the Honorable John Lomenzo, and the Honorable Judge Anthony DiGiovanna.

**Hon. Frank Guarini:** Each group toured the present day townhouse independently. All knew each other well and were extremely impressed by the elegance and potential of the building. They examined it thoroughly, beginning in a really rough basement (now the Taverna) and through the various floors. It was a moment of truth as it became obvious that we had finally found a location we could be proud of, and especially at the right price. Fortune Pope took his friends to dinner in the Village to discuss financing the property.



Comm. Peter Bonafede



Vincent (Jimmy) Peters



Cesar Taormina

**Anthony Di Falco:** My father came up with the idea of a bond, that is, a Mortgage Participation Certificate. They were for 20 years, for \$2,500, with interest at six percent a year. Every year, people who held the bonds received a check for their six percent. At the maturation of the bonds, the Foundation would buy them back, unless the bondholder wanted to return the bond and receive a charitable donation. My father got \$2,500 from me, and I put in another \$2,500 in my eldest son's name.

**David Anthony Pope:** Financially, my family was a driving force behind the acquisition of the building. [The Pope Foundation, itself, which had been established in 1947, donated \$100,000 towards the purchase and renovation of the building.] There were bonds that people bought for the purchase of the building, and because our family did a lot of business with a lot of people in New York, we were able to contact a lot of people. Fortune and Anthony reached out to everyone they knew to make it happen. Gene, Jr. wasn't really involved in the decision. He had moved down to Florida and was involved in his own business.

Certainly I remember my grandfather talking about the townhouse. They were asking associates and friends for \$5,000, \$10,000. There were people who bought \$2,500 in bonds, which was probably most people, and there were also larger commitments.

But it never would have happened without one person – Catherine Pope, Generoso's widow. Her sons didn't make a move without her. She was called "the general," and she was instrumental in my family's decision to contribute to the Foundation. Fortune was running the newspapers, including *Il Progresso*, and Anthony was





When the Townhouse was a residence, it featured a soaring atrium.

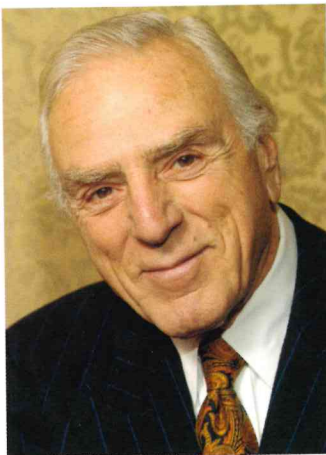


## 40th Anniversary *continued*

running the family businesses.” But it was Catherine who gave the blessing and said, ‘Let’s do this.’ It was a very traditional, old-fashioned Italian family. Both sons had enormous respect for their mother, and she had very good business acumen, which is why she and Generoso made such a great team.

**John Loconsolo:** The Pope Foundation grant was made with the following stipulation: “The Committee will establish and maintain an Educational and Vocational Counseling Service for the benefit of all who shall seek its help.”

**Vincent Peters:** During the course of drawing up the contract, another party made an offer of \$585,000. Sam asked what I thought and I said that we offer \$585,000, or \$590,000 if we had to, but they turned down the other offer and kept their word, so we got it at \$575,000.



John Loconsolo



Hon. Frank J. Guarini



The Main Foyer.

**Cesar Taormina:** When it came time for the contract, my attorney did this as a favor to me. I got the building permit.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** Not long after we bought the building, an art dealer came in who wanted to pay \$300,000 or \$400,000 just for the hand-carved panels in the Oak Room. My father said no.

The townhouse was in terrible condition. It needed major work. A small group of the people involved did the hands-and-knees work or got people who would – contractors Tony Marino, John

## Founding Members: 1967

### *Founding Members Columbus Citizens Foundation*

Vincent F. Albano Jr. *	Hon. Frank J. Guarini
Vincent Ascrizzi *	Dr. Frank Guidotti *
Dr. Richard Bellucci *	Andrew La Sala *
Comm. Peter F. Bonafede	Anthony La Sala *
Joseph F. Carlino *	Frank La Sala *
Frank Caputo *	Steven La Sala *
Bernard Castro *	John Loconsolo
Frank Catapano *	Lawrence Marchini *
Dr. Salvatore Ciaccio *	Anthony Marino
Peter Cirillo *	Julius Nasso *
Mario De Vita *	Gino Nepola
Hon. Anthony G. Di Falco	Leone J. Peters *
Hon. S. Samuel Di Falco *	Vincent (Jimmy) Peters
Dr. Andrew G. Franks	Joseph Picone *
Francesco Giambelli *	Anthony Pope *
Joseph A. Giamboi *	Fortune R. Pope *
Andrew Giffuni *	Joseph V. Spagna *
Joseph V. Giffuni *	Cesar Taormina
Joseph A. Gimma *	Guy Vitaca *

\* Deceased

Loconsolo, and others. It was a lot of people calling upon friends. Everybody did what they could – ‘Could you give me a painter, or a contractor.’

**Vincent Peters:** We had a friend, Anthony Marino, who grew up on the same street I did in Brooklyn – West 5th Street in Bensonhurst. We lost contact with each other until we became involved in the club. Anthony had a contracting company with his father, and he did most of the work on renovating and restoring the townhouse. Anthony Marino was just a treasure.

**John Loconsolo:** We had to rebuild the basement so as to provide a dining area, adjust the kitchen to suit our needs, redo all the rest-rooms with new tile and fixtures, install “scalamadre” fabric for the walls, and clean and paint the entire building. All this work was done on a very limited budget.

The entire project from start to finish was organized and supervised by our member, Anthony Marino, who managed all this, by taking time away from his own business to complete the work within the budget. He never asked for or received any remuneration for the many days and hours it required to complete this project. We all owe a great deal to this man. Thank you, Anthony Marino!

I participated, in a small way by comparison, with the painting work.

**Anthony Marino:** We were introduced to the townhouse by Cesar Taormina. The building was abandoned by the Swedish Embassy. And it was run down. I had to do the job out of allegiance to Sam Di Falco. Unfortunately we had no money to pay for the work – everybody donated their time.

I worked at my family’s company, Colmar Construction, and every Saturday I would go in and raise hell with my father because we had a lot of work to do for our business, but we had to work on the townhouse. After 3:00 on weekdays we would go over and work late to get the place into shape, and on Saturdays, as well. I drove



in from Brooklyn, and I used to get a lot of tickets. One time my car was towed by the police to the pound.

We had to redo the whole inside of the building. We had to take down partitions, put in new windows, a new stoop so there would be an entrance to the Taverna. There was construction of everything on the ground level, and we put it together. Thank God for the help. I brought my men. My cousin Joe did the carpentry. John Loconsolo did the painting. The paneling was all there in the Oak Room. Emma Di Falco was the one to see to it that it was all refurbished.

Once we got started, it took about six months.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** My mother, who started the Ladies Auxiliary, was the decorator. She got silk fabric for the walls since to refinish them would be too costly. The walls of the stairways were horrendous. If you feel them now, you feel padding behind the silk. You don't want to know what's behind the padding.

A number of my father's friends belonged to the Young Men's Philanthropic Club, which was on 81st or 82nd Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues. All the members were Jewish, and my father was a member there, as was I. I think he got the idea for the Foundation to have a townhouse from them. They donated the tables and chairs and dishes used in the taverna so we could sit and eat.

Craftsmen worked on details. A unique example of it is on the fireplace mantle in the Di Falco Room, on the second floor. There are figurines on the mantle, some of which had been damaged or were simply gone. The craftsmen made individual molds of the figurines and replicated them in the molding, one by one.

Downstairs, we had a piano on the right side when you got to the bottom of the stairs, and my father sometimes tried to play. It was a gathering place.

**Cesar Taormina:** I helped out where needed. I did the plasterwork on the second floor – the molding that replicates the molding around the fireplace – and I designed the piano bar in the Taverna. They were going to have a straight bar.

**Vincent Peters:** The Founding Members put up a minimum of \$2,500 each, and I had the pleasure of sitting in the Board of Governors with some very remarkable people. There was John Lomenzo, who was politically involved in Albany and was Secretary of State [from 1963 to 1974]. Bernie Castro, of Castro Convertibles, Joe Gimma, Fortune Pope, who was the first president, and Judge Di Falco, who was the first chairman.

It opened in October 1967.

**John Loconsolo:** We were able to furnish the different rooms with beautiful furniture, artwork, and exceptional antiques and precious bronzes, some of which were donated by members.

Finally, the 'home' was ready. The Judge hired a Maitre d' and on a Saturday, when the kitchen was stocked, the Maitre d', who was a fine chef, surprised us with a light lunch. The splendid lunch consisted of shrimp in lemon and wine sauce, a salad, and cooked vegetables, a glass of fine wine and espresso. It was the first meal cooked in 'Our Home'. It was an excellent and wonderful reward for those of us, especially Anthony Marino, who were involved in the restoration.



From left, standing: Frank LoRe, House Manager John Boden, and the late Richard Bellucci with (seated) Chairman Lawrence Auriana and the late Mrs. Eastman.

Eastman visited the Foundation unannounced in 2006 and returned for lunch, bringing with her the exceptional images printed in this Quarterly. To view the photographs, make an appointment with John Boden, General Manager.

## The Eastman Residence Photographs

The black and white photos accompanying the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary article were donated to the Foundation by the late Laura Delano Adams Eastman, who grew up in the Townhouse. Although her family later sold the building to the Swedish Embassy, she retained black and white pictures from 1953 that show the building in its elegance as her family's home, including the first-floor through third-floor atrium that was part of the residence. Mrs.

Eastman visited the Foundation unannounced in 2006 and returned for lunch, bringing with her the exceptional images printed in this Quarterly. To view the photographs, make an appointment with John Boden, General Manager.

As an aside, regarding the fundraising, many of us donated back the interest on the bonds and at the redemption donated them to the Foundation as a contribution.

**Hon. Anthony Di Falco:** It took a couple of years for the Foundation to get going. Vincent Albano, one of our founders, was the Republican County Chairman. He knew a lot of people and talked to them about the club, as did all of the other Founding Members. It became the popular place to go and, finally, after a year or two, a lot of people came on board.

Because of all the work that the Founding Members did, the originators, the Townhouse became one of the most beautiful and elegant clubs in New York and was sought after as a unique location for functions of all sorts. I have six friends of the Jewish faith who married there, and there have been bar mitzvahs. In New York there are only so many ballrooms, only so many townhouses for social events. The Columbus Club was and is number one not only for the food but also for the ambience. It is one of the best places in town to visit and be a member of. The highest accolade is the philanthropic deed of providing deserving and qualified students of Italian American heritage the opportunity to attend and achieve in higher education. ❖



The Amb. Charles A. Gargano Library was a room for reflection and contemplation.



## Foundation Board Election Results

During the Foundation's annual meeting, held on November 15, 2007, four members of the Board of Governors stepped down after years of service, and four new directors were elected to two-year terms on the Board. The elections take effect January 1, 2008.

Retiring from the Board is Charles A. Gargano, who has served as President (1998-2001), Chairman (2002-2005) and Board Member (2006-2007). Under his guidance and inspired leadership, Amb. Gargano brought the Foundation's scholarship programs and relationships with regions of Italy to a new level. Also stepping down after several years of service are Anthony N. Correra; Richard J. Naclerio, who both served on the Board and developed and implemented the Elementary School Grant Program; and Vito R. Nardelli.

Marian U. Pardo, who has been on the Board of Governors, was elected Treasurer. Outgoing Treasurer Richard C. De Zego was elected to the Board of Governors.

Alfred De Maria was elected to a second term. Maria Bartiromo and Michael F. Pedone join the Board for the first time, and past president Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli returns to the Board.

Continuing as Officers are Louis A. Tallarini, President; Hon. Joseph Zappala, Vice President; and Alfred Catalanotto, Secretary. The remaining members of the Board of Governors are Lawrence E. Auriana, Chairman, John V. Cioffi, Nicholas T. Donovan, Frank G. Fusaro, Anthony F. Giordano, Anthony M. Mallardi, Matt Sabatine, Vincent M. Toscano, and Angelo V. Vivolo.

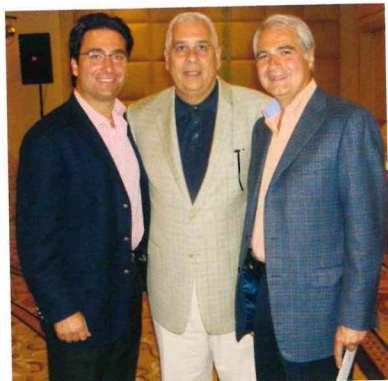
## Annual Golf Outing Revived

Following a hiatus of several years, the Foundation revived its annual Golf Outing. Around 50 Members traveled to North Hills Country Club, in Manhasset, New York, on September 13 for the event, which was organized by Frank Marzano and Louis Grassi.

"The weather was beautiful, the golf was great and the best part of the day was that people had a chance to interact with each other – make new friends and enhance friendships between people who had met but hadn't had a chance to get to know each other," said Mr. Grassi.

While a few people shot in the high 70s and low 80s, most scores were higher. "We had a number of very honest golfers," a smiling Mr. Grassi said. "The golf was good, but the friendship was great."

The 2008 Golf Outing will be held on September 8, once again at the North Hills Country club. Golfers – mark your calendars!



Frank Marzano, Louis Tallarini and Louis Grasso at the golf outing.

## Melissa Errico at the Foundation

Broadway singing sensation and recording artist Melissa Errico appeared at the Foundation for a one-woman show on November 14, 2007, to the delight of a packed house. Praised by the *New York Times* as "The voice of enchantment," Ms. Errico showed her stylistic sensitivity and versatility in a range of pop and show tunes, from Fats Waller and Andy Razaf's flirty "Honeysuckle Rose" to the urbane and erudite "Just One of Those Things" by Cole Porter and "I Remember" by Stephen Sondheim.



Louis Tallarini with the multi-faceted performer and composer, Melissa Errico.

Thrown into the mix was her own song, "Gentle Child" from her upcoming album on Universal Records, *Lullabies and Wildflowers*, which will be released in May 2008 in time for Mother's Day. She released her debut album, *Blue Like That*, in 2003.

Ms. Errico has starred on Broadway in *My Fair Lady*, *High Society*, *Amour* and *Dracula* and has appeared off-Broadway in plays by Oscar

Wilde, George Bernard Shaw and Wally Shawn and has numerous Hollywood and television credits to her name.

For more information, including the dates of her engagement with the New Jersey Symphony, visit [www.myspace.com/melissaerrico](http://www.myspace.com/melissaerrico)

## Giuseppe Garibaldi Bicentenary: 1807 - 1882

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) falls this year. He was an Italian patriot before the country even existed, a soldier and general of the *Risorgimento*, or Resurgence, which brought the states of Italy together into a unified nation. Garibaldi was so highly a respected military strategist that President Abraham Lincoln offered him a post as general of the Union Army. (He declined.) Garibaldi often refused payment for his efforts, and had no budget and no standing other than the force of his vision of a unified Italy and his successes in military campaigns in Europe and South America. He promised his volunteers "heat and thirst by day, cold and hunger by night... exhausting vigils, extreme marches, and fighting at every step." They stayed with him. Having taken most of the south of the Italian peninsula, he handed over his military gains to King Victor Emmanuel II, of Piedmont-Sardinia, rather than risk a civil war. The renowned historian A.J.P. Taylor described Garibaldi as "the only wholly admirable figure in modern history." ❀



Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi, circa 1860.

Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images



## In Brief

In a ceremony held in Rome on September 19, 2007, members of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit – including several Foundation Members – presented the organization's gold medallion to His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano, President of the



From left: ASLIM members Cav. Joseph Del Raso, Esq; Cav. Michael Santangelo, Esq; Gr. Uff. B.ssa Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimo; Cav. di Gr. Cr. H. E. Paolo Fulci, Special Representative in Rome; Cav. di Gr. Cr. Dominic Massaro, President; H. E. Giorgio Napolitano; Comm. RoseMarie Gallina-Santangelo, President Emerita and Chief of Protocol; Cav. John Fiorilla, Esq.

Republic of Italy. The medallion recognizes President Napolitano's position as head of all Italian orders of knighthood and was awarded in Rome's Quirinale.

Several Foundation Members were honored on October 18 at the Coalition of Italian American Associations Dinner meeting, held at the Foundation. At the event, New York City Councilman Tony Avella, Chair of the Italian American Caucus, presented the Italian American Museum's 2007 honorees with citations.



From left: IAM President Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, Councilman Tony Avella, Thomas Morano representing IAM Board Member Vincent Morano, 2007 Honoree Angelo Ponte, IAM Board Member Maria Fosco, IAM Board Member Michael Ricatto, IAM Board Member and 2007 Honoree Sam Giarrusso and IAM Board Member Eugene Limongelli.

## In Memoriam

**Joseph A. Americo**  
Member since 1988

**William V. Giove**  
Member since 1982

John Amicucci, Jr.  
Son of **John Amicucci, Sr.**  
and brother of **Dario Amicucci**

Eugene Boffa, Sr.  
Father of **Eugene Boffa, Jr.**

Angelina Brusco  
Mother of **Anthony Brusco**

Salvatore Capano  
Brother of **Ronald F. Capano**

Grace DioGuardi  
Mother of **Hon. Joseph DioGuardi**

Helen Gurrera  
Mother of **Joseph Gurrera**

Joseph R. Monti  
Former Member and father-in-law  
of **Arthur J. Saladino**

Nancy Andrews and Frances Capasso  
Sisters of **Richard J. Naclerio**

Elizabeth Patricia Nepola  
Wife of **Gino Nepola**

Michael Peretti  
Son of **Robert and Janice Peretti**

Anna Punturo  
Mother of **Blaise Punturo** and  
sister of **Anthony Marino**

Louis Romita  
Brother of **Mauro Romita**

Gaetana Scavone  
Wife of **Gaetano Scavone**

Arthur G. Scotto  
Father of **David Scotto**

Marie Tobia  
Mother of **Ronald L. Tobia**

Dominick Tocci  
Father of **Paul Tocci**

Salvatore P. Tortolani  
Father of **Dr. Anthony J. Tortolani**

On September 27, **Louis Tallarini** received the 2007 Italian American Heritage Award from the Columbia Association of the New York City Police Department.

**Dr. Frank Celenza** and Foundation Executive Director Christine M. Meola were honored by New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. at an Italian Heritage and Culture celebration held in City Hall on October 18, 2007. Comptroller Thompson cited Dr. Celenza, who was unable to attend the event, "For a career full of excellence and outstanding work; for his pioneering work in the field of dentistry; for being a constant source of support and encouragement to his family; and for his firm commitment to creating new chapters in Italian-American and New York City history." Ms. Meola was praised for "promoting and celebrating her community's rich heritage and culture" and her past non-profit experience at New York Weill Cornell Medical Center and Fordham University. Speaking at the event, Comptroller Thompson said, "The contributions made by the Italian-American community on New York City have had a great impact on the history of this city. We honor a special group of men and women who continue adding to that rich tradition." Also honored were Dr. Celenza's sons Dr. Frank Celenza, Jr. and Dr. Vincent Celenza.



Photo: © Maria S. Mantzer

Christine Meola receives a commendation from New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr.

## Births

**Peter and Nancy Cuttita**, are proud grandparents of a baby boy, Julian Matthew, born August 16, 2007, weighing 8 lbs, 14 oz., to Jessica and Michael Cuttita.

**Robert and Lyn-Miriam Ingenito** announce the birth of a grandson – Martin Robert Ingenito Fields, born July 18, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. The proud parents are Chelsey and Ian Fields.

## FOUNDATION QUARTERLY

Michael Pedone, Editor-in-Chief  
Andrew Decker, Executive Editor

Joann Coates, Art Director  
Susan E. Plant, Associate Editor  
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and Steve Shevett, Andrew Decker  
Mirror Imaging, Printing

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



# The Foundation Recognizes, with Gratitude, the Sponsors of the 2007 Columbus Week Celebration



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