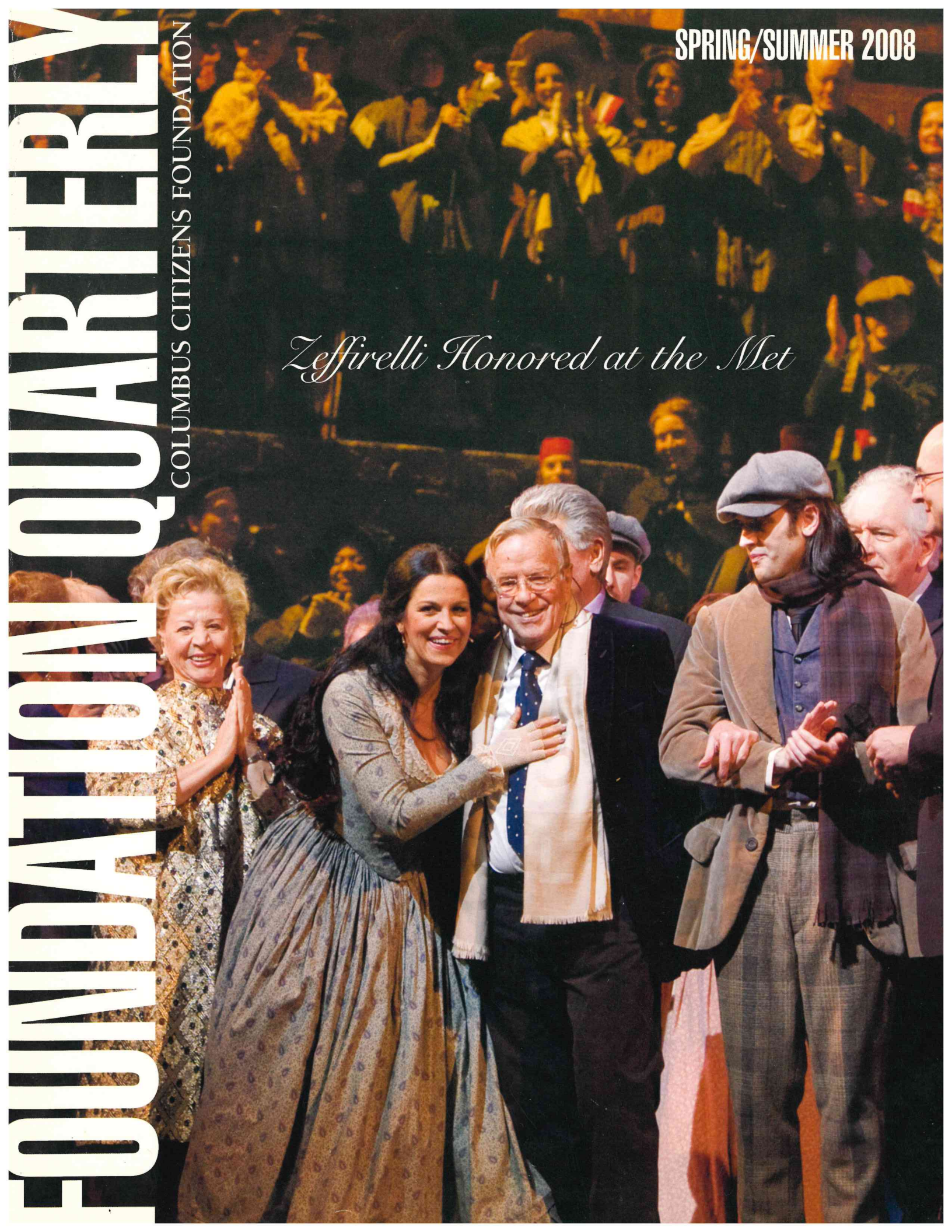


*Zeffirelli Honored at the Met*





# President's Message

Louis A. Tallarini

This spring, past Grand Marshals of the Columbus Day Parade have been widely and importantly celebrated. Comm. Mario Andretti was designated a "Living Legend" by the United States Library of Congress. Fellow Iстриan Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, with the able assistance of Foundation Member Angelo Vivolo, was selected to prepare meals for Pope Benedict XVI during his trip to New York. And Maestro Franco Zeffirelli was honored by the Met, one of America's greatest cultural institutions.

The richness of Italian culture as grown on native soil and as it has taken root in the United States continues to be an endless source of pride and inspiration for me and other Members of our Foundation. One native Italian who came to America was Generoso Pope, our co-founder. Mr. Pope led the 1929 Columbus Day Parade – in those days, there was more than one such event in Manhattan – from East Harlem down to Columbus Circle with a float representing the Santa Maria in tow. By then, Mr. Pope was quickly becoming a New York legend. He'd rescued Colonial Sand and Stone Co. from bankruptcy through sheer genius and long hours of hard work and had become one of the most powerful men in New York through his purchase of Italian-language newspapers and radio stations. I recently unearthed – through cyberspace – his obituary from the *New York Times*, which is reprinted in this issue of the *Foundation Quarterly*. (see pp. 16-17)

In March, the Foundation launched a redesigned and state-of-the-art website that will be useful for people interested in learning about our activities, getting directions to the Columbus Day Parade and getting details about our scholarship programs. I would like to thank Members Joseph Maniscalco and Michael Pedone for their work on this consuming and rewarding project.

In this issue, we welcome an article by Matilda Raffa Cuomo, New York State's former first lady, and Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D., who are staunch supporters of both education and the benefits of learning Italian. It's been 22 years since Mrs. Cuomo's husband, Hon. Mario Cuomo, was Grand Marshal of our Parade, and we are very pleased



to have the thoughts of Mrs. Cuomo and her daughter on two subjects that we feel strongly about.

Details of the 2008 Columbus Celebration will appear in the summer issue of the *Foundation Quarterly*, but it is my pleasure to announce that the Grand Marshal of the 2008 Columbus Celebration will be Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, (Ret.), who served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2005 to 2007. Adm. Giambastiani was the second highest ranking military officer in the United States. His 37-year career in the U.S. Navy included both demanding at-sea appointments, principally as a submariner, and the development of new technologies. His career and dedication to his family make him an exemplary member of our community.

The theme of the 2008 Columbus Celebration will be a remarkable naval mission undertaken between 1907 and 1909 – the sailing of The Great White Fleet. President Theodore Roosevelt sent 16 battleships to circumnavigate the globe on a goodwill mission, but when a devastating earthquake, followed by a tidal wave, hit Sicily and southern Italy, the fleet's mission changed dramatically, and American servicemen became part of the largest humanitarian rescue mission the world had ever seen. Their heroic achievements, and those of Americans who surpassed citizens of all other countries in providing aid and comfort to the families of the 200,000 people who perished, will be documented during the 2008 Columbus Celebration in Vanderbilt Hall.

As you may imagine, the chairs and committee members of the 2008 Columbus Celebration are well into the preparation of the 2008 Columbus Celebration. An article about them appears on page 10. If you are able to contribute your knowledge and time to one of the committees, please get in touch with the chairs and help make this one of the greatest Columbus Celebrations ever.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Tallarini, President

## COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

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 annual Columbus Celebration and Columbus Day Parade, which has celebrated Italian-American heritage on New York's Fifth Avenue since 1929.

**Columbus Citizens Foundation**  
8 East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021  
Phone: 212.249.9923 Fax: 212.737.4413

[www.columbuscitizensfd.org](http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org)

### Officers

Louis A. Tallarini  
*President*  
Amb. Joseph Zappala  
*Vice-President*  
Alfred M. Catalanotto  
*Secretary*  
Marian U. Pardo  
*Treasurer*  
Christine M. Meola  
*Executive Director*  
John L. Boden  
*General Manager*  
Lisa LoRusso  
*Controller*

### Board of Governors

Lawrence E. Auriana  
*Chairman*  
Maria Bartiromo  
John V. Cioffi  
Alfred T. De Maria  
Richard C. De Zego  
Nicholas T. Donovan  
Frank G. Fusaro  
Saviero Giarrusso  
Anthony F. Giordano  
Anthony M. Mallardi  
Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli  
Michael F. Pedone  
Matt Sabatine  
Vincent M. Toscano  
Angelo V. Vivolo



# Franco Zeffirelli's Timeless Artistry Celebrated at Met, Italian Cultural Institute

One of the greatest artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, Franco Zeffirelli, came to the Italian Cultural Institute on March 31st, where he discussed his unparalleled career in the worlds of film, theater and opera.

The reception and talk, which came on the occasion of the Metropolitan Opera House season's premiere of Mr. Zeffirelli's iconic production of *La Bohème* and the 40th anniversary of the release of his film *Romeo and Juliet*, were sponsored by the Foundation.

Mr. Zeffirelli, who is 85-years old, was honored by the Met for his 1981 *Bobème* on March 29th. During the opera's second intermission, Met General Manager Peter Gelb, with the cast and other artists who have worked with Zeffirelli onstage, including Eva Marton, Justino Diaz, Richard Stilwell, Lucine Amara and Rosalind Elias, presented the great Italian director and designer with a commemorative plaque during a ceremony on the Met's stage. Mr. Gelb said that plaques honoring Mr. Zeffirelli for bringing "unsurpassed joy to millions of opera lovers" had been placed in the wings on either side of the stage.

Mr. Zeffirelli has designed and directed 11 different productions for the Met, and his *Bobème* is the most performed production in the opera house's history, having been staged a remarkable 346 times.

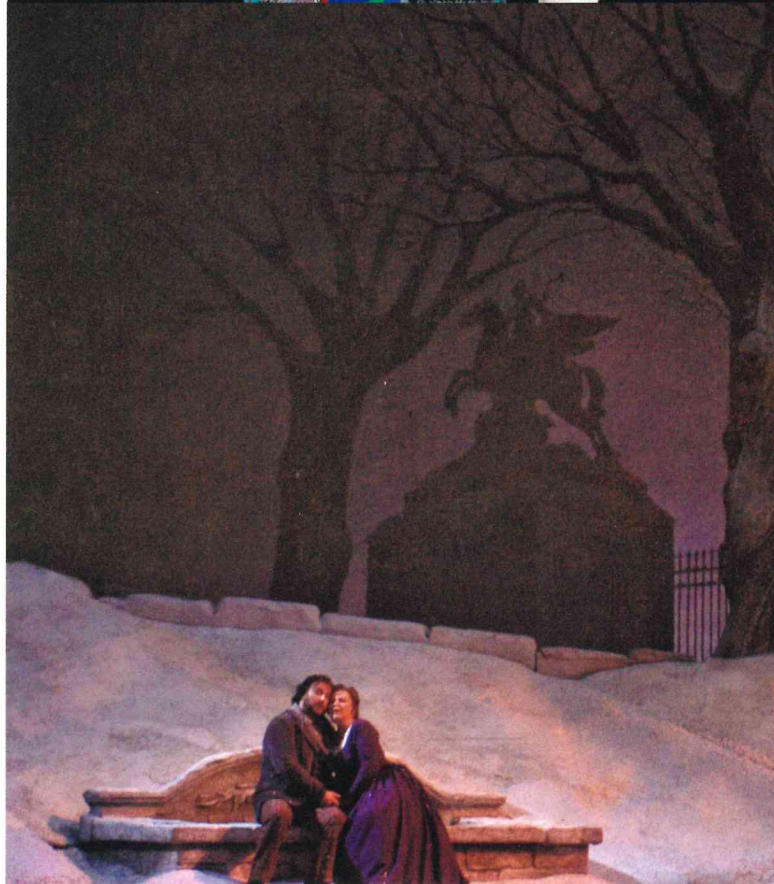
At the Italian Cultural Institute on March 31, Mr. Zeffirelli was celebrated by scores of admirers. Consul General Francesco Talò told the overflow audience, "It's a great honor to have you and Maestro Zeffirelli in our house, the house of the Italian Ministry of Culture. Franco Zeffirelli represents Italy at its best."

Lawrence Auriana, Chairman of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, recalled, "Franco is a man of substance in a very shallow world, and had used his genius to create works of art that have brought enduring pleasure to millions of people. He was Grand Marshal of the 2002 Columbus Day Parade, and we were able to inaugurate the Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship Fund for the Arts through his generosity. The fund is endowed with the proceeds of the premiere of his movie, *Callas Forever*, which was held here in New York the weekend of the Parade."

Mr. Zeffirelli recalled that he has created five productions of *Aida*, an opera he likened to "a beautiful old lady who every time you see shows a part of who she is." He has had eight productions of *Don Giovanni* and, regarding *La Traviata*, he said, "My god, I cannot even count the productions."

Asked if he dreamed of doing a production of an opera he had never done, he said, "All my life, if there has been something I wanted to do, I have always succeeded. There is a small repertory of great masterpieces. I don't want to waste my time doing an unknown opera by Donizetti. A forgotten masterpiece of Donizetti, it is alright for the critics, but for the rest of us..." Mr. Zeffirelli paused and pantomimed a yawn.

Asked about the response of audiences and critics to his work, Mr. Zeffirelli was nothing less than scathing – about critics. "People in the audience were in perfect shape," he said, "The critics were a bunch of fools who would do damage to the cause of opera."



"I am the last survivor of a certain approach with respect to good taste. The American audiences who love opera for all the right reasons always acclaim my productions – sometimes even beyond merit. I am a flag bearer of an aesthetic culture. It is a culture that is going out of fashion. Two nights ago I saw my *Bobème* from 1981, and these days are the 40th anniversary of the film, *Romeo and Juliet*. The groups that celebrate the 40th anniversary are not mostly couples that fell in love with it in 1968 – no, they are mostly young audiences."

Like the works he has directed, Mr. Zeffirelli is never outdated. ♣

Top: Lawrence Auriana, Franco Zeffirelli and Louis Tallarini at the Italian Cultural Institute reception and talk. Above: The Metropolitan Opera House set of *La Bohème*



Andy Anselmo's Singers Forum celebrated its 30th Anniversary on April 28 at the 2008 Andy Anselmo Achievement Awards Gala in a star-studded tribute to New York's leading vocal arts training academy. Dedicated to the development and appreciation of the vocal arts through vocal training, performance and community service, the Singers Forum works with 350 students each semester and has had as many as two Tony Award winning alumni and 30 students



Andy Anselmo, Broadway star and celebrated chanteuse Karen Akers, past Columbus Day Parade Grand Marshal Regis Philbin and Louis Tallarini at the 2008 Andy Anselmo Achievement Awards Gala.

performing on Broadway in the same season. Two of its alumni have won Tony Awards, Broadway's highest achievement. Alumni include Tony Bennett, news anchor Bill Beutel, Patrick Dempsey, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Jean Kraft of the Metropolitan Opera House, Liza Minnelli and Brooke Shields – as well as past Grand Marshal and television and recording star Regis Philbin, who received the 2008 Andy Anselmo Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Anselmo, who is Founding Director of the Singers Forum, was joined at the event by Foundation President Louis Tallarini, who has served on the Singers Forum Board of Directors for 21 years, including 12 as Chairman.



Jodi Pulice

Jodi Pulice, founder and president of JRT Realty Group, was recognized for her business acumen and commitment to diversity this spring when she garnered three coveted awards. Ms. Pulice was named one of the Top Women Entrepreneurs by *Enterprising Women Magazine*, one of 20 "Women of Influence" in commercial real estate by Real

Estate New York, and her company was cited as among the Nation's Top 100 Women-Owned Businesses, New York's Top 100 Diversity-Owned Businesses and Top 100 Small Businesses in New York by DiversityBusiness.com. "Women business leaders of today are creating a legacy for the female professionals of tomorrow," said Ms. Pulice. "We are empowering our daughters with the knowledge that their true strength can be found in simply being a woman." JRT Realty Group is America's largest woman-owned commercial real estate firm.

Mary Ann Mattone was elected President of Queens Library's Board of Trustees and cited in the *Queens Courier's* February 14, 2008 article, "Top Women in Business."

The election continues a distinguished career in community service and volunteerism dedicated to improving the lives of New Yorkers. Mrs. Mattone is also a member of the Queens Library Foundation's Board of Directors and has co-chaired three of its annual gala fund-raisers. "Mary Ann Mattone is an important and vital member of the Queens Library Board of Trustees. She



Mary Ann Mattone

has consistently given of her time and talents to enhance our ability to provide first-rate library service to the people of Queens," noted Library Director Thomas W. Galante.

At the Foundation, Mrs. Mattone has served as vice president, treasurer and president of the Ladies Auxiliary and has been involved with many other charitable activities outside the Foundation.

Steven M. Napolitano has been appointed chairman, CEO and president of First American Title Insurance Company of New York, the largest subsidiary of The First American Corporation. In addition, he has been named New York division president for First American Title Insurance Company. Bringing more than 20 years of title industry experience to his new position, Mr. Napolitano has been with First American's New York subsidiary since 1988 and has been actively involved in that company's

strategic planning and marketing initiatives. Mr. Napolitano's professional affiliations include the Mortgage Bankers Association of New York, Commercial Mortgage Securities Association and National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

Leandro Rizzuto, Jr., Senior Vice President of Conair Corporation, was honored by the *Federazione Siciliana del New Jersey* at its Tenth Annual Dinner Dance, which was held on March 2 at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ. The *Federazione Siciliana del New Jersey* promotes relations between the Region of



Photo: Vito Catalano

Mr. and Mrs. Leandro Rizzuto, Jr. at the *Federazione Siciliana del New Jersey's* annual gala

Sicily and the State of New Jersey and fosters the exchange of cultural, commercial and entrepreneurial interactions between the two countries. It cited Mr. Rizzuto's outstanding achievements in business, humanitarian activities and dedication to the Italian-American community.

It's been quite a spring for Lidia Matticchio Bastianich. She prepared meals for Pope Benedict XVI (see the forthcoming fall 2008 *Foundation Quarterly*), was honored by the Business Council for Peace, which bestowed on her its first Economic Impact Award, and Lidia's Italy, the 26-part Public Television show and nominated for an Emmy in the Outstanding Lifestyle Program category. On receiving news of the nomination, Ms. Bastianich said, "I love my profession and am forever grateful to all for these recognitions and honors and would like to share it all with my family and collaborators." Ms. Bastianich was Grand Marshal of the 2007 Columbus Day Parade.



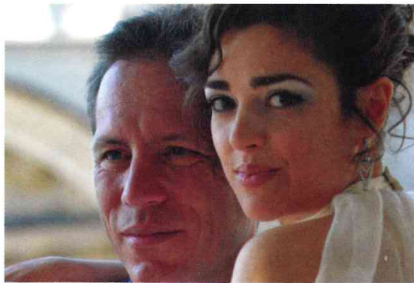
Oscar Nordstrom, Jr. and his daughter, Stephanie Ann Tassello, attended a White House Christmas Dinner on December 11 in Washington, DC. The ebullient Mr. Nordstrom recalled, "The biggest tree in the house – it must have been 15 feet tall – was adorned with Christmas ornaments from each of the 50 states! The idea for the decorations came from one of the President's daughters. New York's decoration was the Statue of Liberty! Also on hand were Lawrence and Irene Auriana and Angelo and Denise Vivolo.



To Oscar Nordstrom  
With best wishes,  
*Laura Bush*

Oscar Nordstrom, First Lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush and Stephanie Ann Tassello at the White House Christmas Dinner.

Steve Acunto was on hand when the Italian Academy Foundation presented its Bravo Awards to Italian-Americans who are active in the arts at its Winters Showcase Benefit Concert, held in Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall on December 15, 2007. Mr. Acunto is Chairman of the Italian Academy Foundation... Claudia Palmira Acunto, Mr. Acunto's daughter, was married to Mauro Benedetti on April 19 in Rome during a solemn mass celebrated by Father Antonino Massara at the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli e Martiri. On hand was Stephen Acunto IV, the brother of the bride.



Mauro Benedetti and Claudia Palmira Acunto.

Alfred Catalanotto received the President's Award at the National Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service at its annual dinner dance on April 13. Bestowed by the National Council's President, Joseph Guagliardo, the award recognized Mr. Catalanotto's service to the Italian-American community in his work with the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

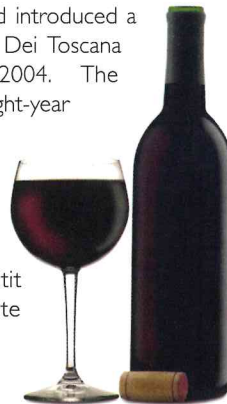
Past Grand Marshal (2004) Mario Andretti became the first race car driver honored by the United States Library of Congress as a "Living Legend." A Library of Congress

statement noted, "Referred to by many as the 'greatest race car driver of all time,' the skilled and versatile driver produced some of racing history's most notable wins including the Indianapolis 500, the Daytona 500, the Formula One World Championship and the Pikes Peak Hill climb." Mr. Andretti received his award on April 12 at the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building. The "Living Legend" award honors artists, writers, activists, filmmakers, physicians, entertainers, sports figures and public servants who have made significant contributions to America's diverse cultural, scientific and social heritage.

Past Grand Marshal (2003) Roberto Cavalli stepped outside the world of fashion in November and introduced a Tuscan red wine, Degli Dei Toscana IGT Cavalli Selection 2004. The launch grew out of an eight-year collaboration between Mr. Cavalli and his son, Tommaso. The wine is a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Alicante Bouschet grapes.

Stephen R. Aiello has been appointed Chair of New York City's newly formed Commission on School Governance, which was established in 2007 to review and make recommendations on the city's school governance structure. Mr. Aiello is Senior Counselor for Hill & Knowlton.

The Generoso Pope Foundation awarded a \$50,000 college scholarship to Yonkers High



School senior Ralph Esposito, Jr. at its Second Annual Anthony J. Pope Memorial Scholarship Dinner in Rye, New York, on October 5. David Pope, President and CEO of the Generoso Pope Foundation, said of Mr. Esposito, "He is a tremendous example of what young people can aspire to and a real tribute to my grandfather's memory." Mr. Pope established the scholarship in honor of his grandfather, Anthony John Pope.

Basile Donates Sculpture to Foundation In an act of great generosity, internationally recognized sculptor Pasquale Basile donated



Hon. Richard Greco, Jr., sculptor Pasquale Basile and Lawrence Auriana at the 2007 Wreath Laying.

his sculpture *Columbus Day* to the Foundation during the course of the 2007 Columbus Celebration.

Mr. Basile's sculptures, drawings and prints have been the subject of exhibitions in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, and he has received commissions from the Italian National Commission for UNESCO and other national and international organizations.

In his masterfully executed sculptures, Mr. Basile draws on characters from antiquity – Venus, Circe, a caryatid – and alludes to themes and the spirit of the Italian Renaissance. At the wreath laying, held the day before Columbus Day, 2007, Mr. Basile said, "In a way I feel myself like Christopher Columbus coming to America for the first time. I am grateful to be able to present this symbol for UNESCO which represents the preservation of the world's heritage and of Italian-Americans."

Continued on page 6



## Founding Member Guy R. Vitacco, Sr

As reported in the Winter 2007-2008 issue of the Foundation Quarterly "40th Anniversary of the Foundation at the Townhouse," pp. 16-21), a group of men with a shared heritage and love of Italian culture banded together to acquire the Foundation's townhouse in 1967. Since the publication of the article, the Quarterly has had the opportunity to interview Founding Member Guy R. Vitacco, Sr, Esq., who maintains his law practice in Queens. An excerpt from the interview follows.



Guy Vitacco with his son, Guy R. Vitacco, Jr.

The Columbus Citizens Committee was an informal club, but it had no home. The two most prominent people in it were Judge Samuel Di Falco and Fortune Pope. Judge Di Falco was a man of great personality. He was a very charming man and a very friendly person. He could make you feel like you were his cousin. Fortune Pope was seen as a statue on a pedestal. He was very, very self-possessed, and very friendly.

The Counsel to the New York State Assembly back then was Bernard Ruggiero, who approached me one day and said, "Judge DiFalco says you know him, and he wants you to come to a meeting." It was similar to an orientation meeting, and it was held at the townhouse. Around 40 to 50 men were there, and Judge Di Falco said that anyone who joined would need to buy a bond for \$2,500. In those days, \$2,500 was like \$25,000 today. I was in the back of

the room and when the presentation was over, I was about to leave. Judge Di Falco took my arm and gave me a tour of the building. He said that he wanted to make the Foundation the cultural center for Italo-Americans in New York. I thought it was a beautiful building – I thought it would be the perfect place to start an organization like the one he wanted to start. It was in a good location, in the midst of embassies and other important clubs in the city. I thought it was a good investment.

So I joined. I might have been the youngest person to be a Charter Member. Some people, like Mr. Pope, were very successful, but many of us had businesses we were building, and we were watching our money. I scraped together the \$2,500 to make the payment, and I never regretted it. It was the best \$2,500 I ever spent.

As the 2007 Columbus Day Parade wound down, an unidentified New York fireman got down on bended knee. We don't know the final outcome, but judging from their expressions in a photo taken moments afterwards, the answer seems clear - she will!



## Founding Members: 1967

### Founding Members Columbus Citizens Foundation

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

\* Deceased

Dr. Anthony J. Tortolani was honored twice since the last *Quarterly*. The Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., a publisher of consumer reference books, cited Dr. Tortolani as among New York Metro Area Top Doctors in its 2007 annual review. Key Medical Professional Media, Inc., cited him as among New York's 2008 Super Doctors. Nominations for the citations were made by practicing physicians. Dr. Tortolani is a member of The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College.



## Justice Alito Denounces Stereotyping in "Sopranos"

An Associated Press story that hit the wires on Valentine's Day warmed thousands of Italian-American hearts. The AP story led off as follows:

"Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, Jr. has convicted 'The Sopranos' of spreading what he says are stereotypes about Italian-Americans.

"During a visit to Rutgers University on Wednesday [February 13], Alito complained that the hit HBO television drama not only associated Italian-Americans with the Mafia, but New Jerseyans, as well.

"You have a trifecta — gangsters, Italian-Americans, New Jersey — wedded in the popular American imagination," Alito said at an event sponsored by the Italian studies program at Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey...

"He said the real story of Italian people who came here, some succeeding and some failing and going back to Italy, needed to be preserved because it told something about the United States' true nature as a nation of immigrants."

Commenting on the AP story and Justice Alito's talk, Foundation President Louis Tallarini said, "It is gratifying that Justice Alito, a man of great thoughtfulness and common sense, has stated a simple truth that has apparently been beyond the grasp of so many in the entertainment industry. We applaud his willingness to speak plainly about the kinds of associations that grow out of stereotyping, and we look forward to a day when negative stereotyping — of any ethnicity, race or religion — is no longer fodder for writers and producers looking to make a buck."

Justice Alito continued the theme on April 8, 2008, in a talk at John Carroll University in northeast Ohio as part of its Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies. According to the Associated Press, Justice Alito said that "movies and television have portrayed an image that being a mobster is as Italian as spaghetti sauce and stated that it is important for all Americans to "put aside all of the distortions of popular culture" regarding Italian-Americans and their contributions to America.

Justice Alito's grandmother, Maria Alati, immigrated to the United States in 1914 with her six-month-old son, Salvatore, according to an article in *Rutgers Focus* that



Photo Credit: Nick Romanenko

reported on the talk. Salvatore Alati's name was changed to Samuel Alito when he was enrolled in school — a common practice at the time — and his mother died when he was in his teens. Although Mr. Alito worked to help support his family, he still won a college scholarship and later became a researcher for the New Jersey Legislature and the first director of the Office of Legislative Services in Trenton.

Samuel Alito, Jr. was born in Trenton and grew up in Hamilton, NJ. He attended Princeton University and Yale University Law School, was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1990 and became Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 2006.

"Justice Alito's talk, titled 'Reflections of Growing up as an Italian-American in New Jersey,' was largely about his father and how education can be a transformative experience," said T. Corey Brennan, Chair of the Rutgers University Italian Studies Program.

Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. at the Rutgers University Italian studies program event.

"We invited him to speak in celebration of the program's fifth anniversary simply because when I was thinking of a prominent Italian-American from New Jersey, he was the first person to come to mind," Professor Brennan said. "To our great surprise, he immediately accepted."

The Rutgers Italian Studies Program is an interdisciplinary field of study that requires study in the fields of history, political science, music and art history, among others. It is one of fewer than two dozen Italian studies programs offered in the United States, said Professor Brennan. In addition to requiring course credits, students must perform community service to qualify for their degree. The Bishop Pilla Program at John Carroll University offers students an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the study of Italian and Italian-American history, culture, and literature.



# Bastianich, Vivolo Serve His Holiness

**A** weekend of grace was bestowed upon Angelo Vivolo and Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, who on April 18 and April 19 coordinated and prepared meals for Pope Benedict XVI during His Holiness's trip to New York.

"It was an incredible blessing, walking with the Pope, being his escort," said Mr. Vivolo, a Member of the Foundation's Board of Governors, Chairman, Columbus Celebration 2008, and owner of four restaurants in New York: Vivolo, Cucina Vivolo, Bar Vetro, and Bruschetteria. "Being so close to him, there was a calm. Aside from my wedding and the birth of my children, it was the most incredible experience of my life."

"When Archbishop [Celestino] Migliore first told me about being selected to prepare Pope Benedict's meals, it was at the Columbus Foundation, at one of the events," said Ms. Bastianich, the 2007 Columbus Day Parade Grand Marshal, restaurateur (most famously Felidia), cooking show host, and cookbook author. "At first I didn't feel it was real. The whole planning process was interesting for the logistics, which were handled by Angelo." (Ms. Bastianich's current, PBS-broadcast television show, Lidia's Italy, was recently nominated for an Emmy Award.)

Pope Benedict was born in Germany, and while the menus included risotto and other staples of Italian cuisine, it also included central European dishes such as goulash, chicken soup with organic dumplings, and strudel. Ms. Bastianich noted, "Pope Benedict said to Angelo, 'These are the flavors of my mother's cooking.'"

April 19 was His Holiness's birthday, and Ms. Bastianich created a cake in the shape of a mitre. Following a chorus of "Happy Birthday" in English and Italian, Ms. Bastianich helped the Pope cut the cake, her hand over his.

The meals were served at the residence of Archbishop Migliore. After the dinner on April 18, the Pope led the diners and kitchen staff outside, where thousands of people were waiting to see His Holiness. The crowd erupted in a roar on seeing Pope Benedict, who offered his blessings to those assembled. Mr. Vivolo witnesses the scene from behind Pope Benedict. "Their appreciation of him, their love – it was something you could feel, and it was unlike anything I've ever felt before." ❖

*Seated: Msgr. Bernardito Auza, Archbishop-designate, Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti; Pope Benedict XVI, Msgr. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Counsellor of the Holy See Mission to the UN; Dr. Alberto Gasbarri, Chief of Protocol of the Holy See. Standing: Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Angelo Vivolo, Joseph Bastianich, Archbishop Celestino Migliore.*





# Charles Gasparino and *King of the Club: Richard Grasso and the Survival of the New York Stock Exchange*



Clockwise from top left: author Charles Gasparino inscribes a copy of *King of the Club*; Lawrence Auriana, Mr. Gasparino and Louis Tallarini; and *King of the Club*

Peals of laughter alternated with shocked silences on March 25 when Charles Gasparino, CNBC reporter and author of the widely acclaimed book, *King of the Club: Richard Grasso and the Survival of the New York Stock Exchange*, came to the Foundation townhouse for a talk and book signing.

As he does in *King of the Club*, Mr. Gasparino provided frank, unfiltered insights into one of the biggest Wall Street scandals of the 21st century: former New York Stock Exchange chairman Richard Grasso's executive compensation package of \$30 million in salary and the early payment of \$140 million in deferred income.

*King of the Club* recounts Mr. Grasso's exceptional life. He grew up in Queens with the ambition of being a police officer. When he failed the eye exam, he got a job as an entry level listings clerk on the NYSE and ultimately became its chairman. He expanded NYSE's listings by bringing companies over from Nasdaq and got traders to execute transactions on the floor of the Exchange, rather than through outside services, keeping its earnings strong. (In one particularly brilliant move, he humanized the stock exchange by allowing a savvy young financial reporter – Maria Bartiromo – to broadcast live from the floor of the Exchange just after it closed.)

And following 9/11, Mr. Gasparino said, Mr. Grasso “got the Exchange up and running in seven days. Without stock trading, the engine of capitalism stops. He could get people who hated each other to work together. He had the stature and salesmanship to do it.”

The club in the book's title refers to the Exchange, which had its beginnings as “a place where a bunch of rich guys went and traded stock,” Mr. Gasparino said. “In my view, Richard Grasso broke a barrier – not

the color barrier, though he did that with some of his hires, but the class barrier. In the 1960s, Italians were the guys who swept the floor or were in the back room – there were very few Italian floor traders. He was the first Italian to become president of the New York Stock Exchange.”

Mr. Grasso's fall was as spectacular as his rise. “What made Grasso so interesting were his imperfections,” Mr. Gasparino said at the Foundation. “He had a wild temper. He loved publicity, but he didn't see the press's obsession with taking down Wall Street. He also thought that the press was tough and fair – which they're not. Media people saw a guy with a vowel at the end of his name, which fed into every negative stereotype that the elite media has. He was basically painted as a criminal.”

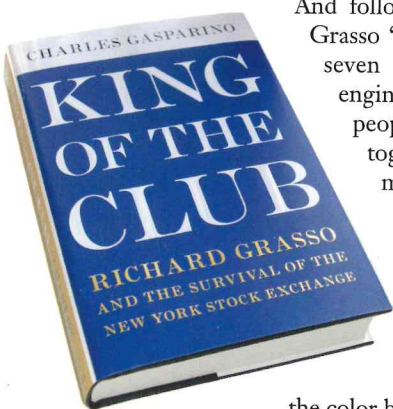
In 2003, Mr. Grasso was two years from the end of his contract with NYSE. The Exchange wanted him back, and Mr. Grasso demanded that he be paid deferred compensation of nearly \$140 million even though he wasn't scheduled to receive it for years. And with the revelation that as head of a non-profit organization he had received a salary of \$30 million, a zealous watchdog stepped in to investigate – the then-crusading former New York Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer.

“Eliot Spitzer went after Grasso in a way that was personal,” Mr. Gasparino said. “Spitzer painted Grasso as a wantonly corrupt guy. His compensation in 2001 was \$30 million, which is probably too much. You can make a case that it was wrong – but was it illegal?”

The Attorney General sued Mr. Grasso to recover part of the compensation package (the AG's office oversees non-profits, and the case is still making its way through the courts), and Mr. Grasso was ousted. The suit is still pending.

As the *New York Times* noted in its review of *King of the Club*, “It is not a pretty picture, but it demands the attention of anyone who cares about capitalism in this country.”

“I've covered a lot of big guys on Wall Street over the years,” said Mr. Gasparino, “and Dick Grasso was probably the most fascinating. He could sell sand to the Arabs, he had not an ounce of prejudice and he became the most powerful man on Wall Street. He was a fair guy and great businessman. When Grasso was at his height, that's where his demise began. It was almost Shakespearean.” ❖





# Foundation Honors 2007 Sponsors

**M**en and women from the companies and regions of Italy that made the Columbus Celebration 2007 possible turned out in high spirits at the Foundation on March 6 for the annual Sponsors Reception.

“This is the evening that we thank the sponsors of the annual Columbus Celebration on behalf of our Board of Governors and Members,” said Foundation President Louis Tallarini. “Our Columbus Celebration supports our mission of honoring our traditions and heritage and raising scholarship funds for deserving

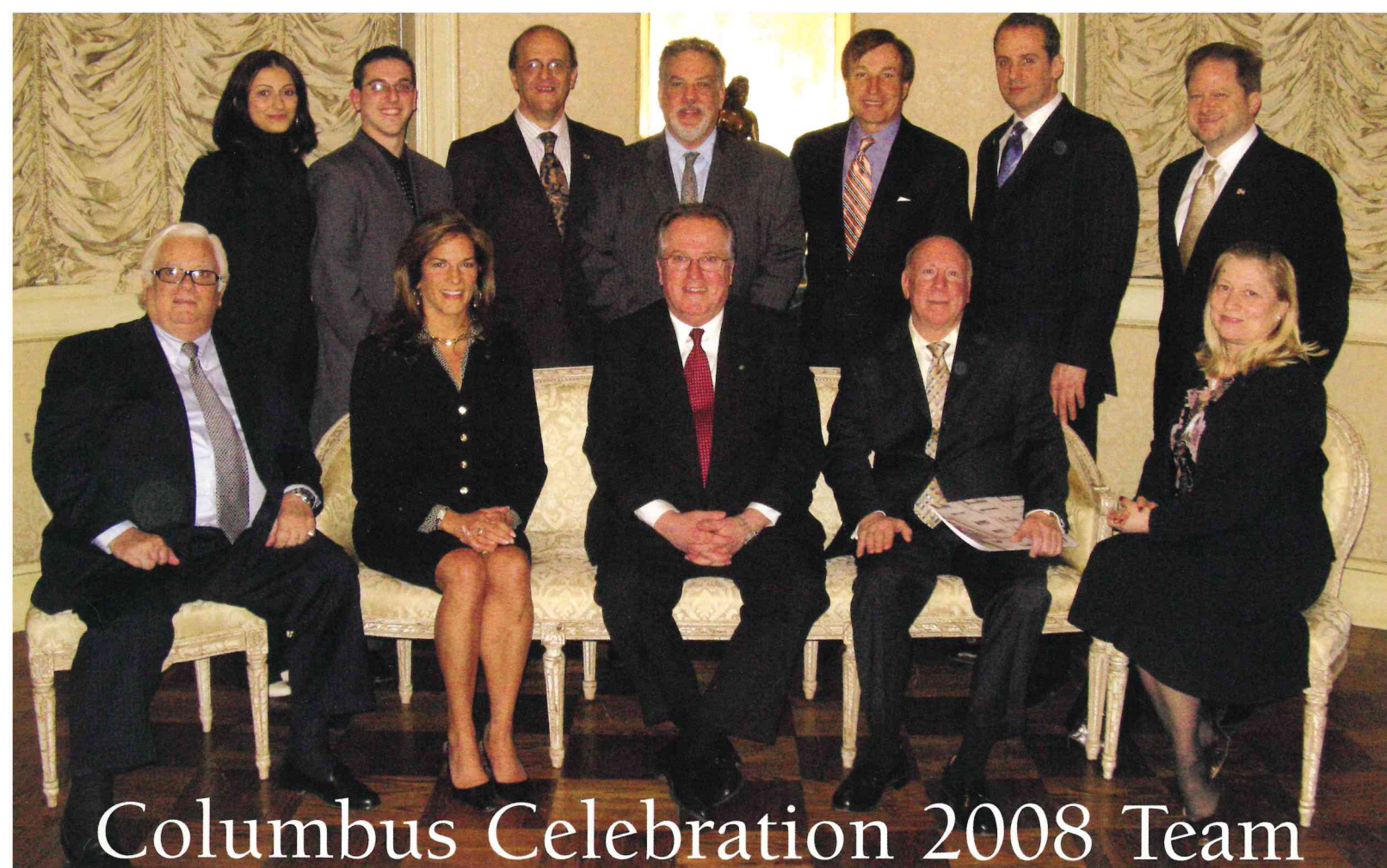
Italian-American students. This year, we are supporting the education of 850 students of Italian descent, and that support would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors.”

Saverio Giarrusso, Chairman, Columbus Celebration 2007, said, “We had a tremendous Columbus Celebration this past year, and it would not have been as successful as it was without the people here – our sponsors, the Columbus Celebration chairpersons, the dedicated individuals in the offices of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, and our Members.” ♣



Clockwise from top left: Major General Giuliano Ferrari, Hon. Francesco Maria Talò, Consul General of Italy and Renato Miracco, Italian Cultural Institute Director; Saverio Giarrusso, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Albert Paniccia, Jr., Albert Paniccia, Sr., Joe Piscopo, Louis Tallarini; Andrea Porru, Lucia Allo, John Di Rienzo (all from Alitalia); Gen. Ferrari and Lidia Matticchio Bastianich; Saverio Giarrusso, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, and Joe Piscopo; Joe Gurrera, Angelo Vivolo.





# Columbus Celebration 2008 Team

**O**n Saturday, October 12, 1929, Generoso Pope, President of the Italian Benevolent Society's Columbus Day Celebration and later Co-Founder of the Columbus Citizens Committee, led a Columbus Day Parade in New York City for his first time. The event featured cars that traveled from the Society's headquarters on East 116th Street in East Harlem – then an enclave of Italian immigrants – down to Columbus Circle. At the head of the Parade was a large floral wreath, which was laid at the base of the Columbus Monument at Columbus Circle.

What was especially newsworthy in the Parade? For the New York Times, it was “an elaborate float consisting of a reproduction of the Santa Maria, Columbus's flag ship, mounted on an automobile truck.”

This Columbus Day, October 13, a float bearing a likeness of the Santa Maria will head up Fifth Ave. in Columbus Celebration 2008 – as will approximately 35,000 marchers and 100 floats and contingents – in the 64th Annual Columbus Day Parade.

The Parade has become the capstone of an internationally recognized celebration of Italian and Italian-American culture and heritage. The Parade and other events are in the hands of an exceptional team of men and women in 2008. Most of the Columbus Celebration chairs are returning to continue their service to the Foundation, including Maria Bartiromo as Dinner Chair, Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo as Italian Affairs Chair, Anthony Giordano and Anthony Mallardi as Journal Committee Chairs, Frank Fusaro as

Media Chair, and Michael Pedone as Marketing Chair.

This year, Angelo Vivolo, who has served as Dinner Committee Co-Chair with Ms. Bartiromo for six years, becomes Columbus Celebration Chair, filling a position held last year by Saverio Giarrusso. Enzo Pizzimenti, last year's Parade Chair, will serve in the newly created position of Chairman of International Relations. Returning to the team, following a one-year sabbatical, is Alfred Catalanotto, as Parade Chairman. Mr. Catalanotto had previously been Parade Chair from 2001 through 2006.

Crucial to the team are Maria Fauci, Silent Auction Chair, Executive Director, Christine Meola, General Manager, John Boden, as well as Controller Lisa LoRusso, Project Director Sue Plant, Scholarship Administrator Stephanie Vano, and Marketing Coordinator Rosie Scavuzzo.

“Columbus Celebration 2008 – with our extended exhibitions in Grand Central Terminal, we've outgrown the Columbus Week title – is going to live up to the great tradition of Italian-American celebrations that the Foundation has organized for so many years,” said Columbus Celebration Chairman Angelo Vivolo. “This year's team is experienced and tremendously committed to our cultural events and fundraising efforts. Foundation President Louis Tallarini and I would like to thank all those who are serving on the various Columbus Celebration Committees, who will be sacrificing hundreds of hours to help the Foundation fulfill its cultural and fundraising mission.” ♣

Front row, from left: Marketing Chair Michael Pedone, Executive Director Christine Meola, 2008 Columbus Celebration Chair Angelo Vivolo, Journal Co-Chair Anthony Mallardi, International Affairs Chair Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo. Back row, from left: Marketing Coordinator for Italian Affairs Marianna Toggia, Parade Coordinator Anthony Sama, International Relations Chair Enzo Pizzimenti, Parade Chair Alfred Catalanotto, Media Chair Frank Fusaro, Journal Co-Chair Anthony Giordano, Foundation General Manager John Boden. Absent: Dinner Chair Maria Bartiromo, Silent Auction Chair Maria Theresa Fauci, Controller Lisa LoRusso, Project Director Sue Plant (Journal), Scholarship Administrator Stephanie Vano (Dinner), Scholarship and Marketing Coordinator Rosie Scavuzzo (Marketing / Silent Auction); Millie Aponte.



# Carnevale 2008!

**T**he spirit of Venice came to the Foundation on February 15 during the 2008 *Carnevale!*, with Members decked out in fanciful finery and exquisite masks.

The evening celebrated the great Venetian tradition, which dates back to 1268. Over the centuries, the Venetian forms of celebration ranged greatly. For a time, some celebrants disguised themselves as women to gain entrance to convents, where they would sit and talk to nuns for hours. Things got so festive that in 1339, a law was passed prohibiting masqueraders from roaming about the city at night.

At the Foundation, a masked jester greeted guests and gave a single long-stemmed rose to each woman, a magician practiced his mind-bending craft, a tarot card reader foretold futures and Lonnie Youngblood provided musical entertainment as Members and their guests danced until well into the night.

Decorations for Carnevale 2008 were arranged by Maria Theresa Fauci, and the evening was organized by General Manager John Boden. ♣



Above clockwise from top left: Anthony Dolce, Katherine Sparrow and Oscar Nordstrom; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred De Maria and guest; A festive table arrangement; Alfred and Christine Palladino; Mario and Kristine Occhicone; Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Mystery Man; Dr. Ottavio Arancio and Rosana Mazzia; Judy Amato and guests; Alice Maggiano; Group Shot with Mystery Man; Kathleen Mucciolo, Wayne Kolins and guests.









Left: Matilda Raffa Cuomo.  
Right: Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D.

Marinetti, Benedetto Croce, Dario Fo, Umberto Eco and many others.

Could there be music without the contributions of the Italians? Certainly the experience of opera as we know it would be impossible without the monumental contributions of Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini, and many other composers. Italy's famous opera singers, including Caruso, Pavarotti, Licia Albanese, Mirella Freni, Renata Scottò, Rosa Ponselle, as well as contemporary luminaries such as Marcello Giordani, Salvatore Licitra, Cecilia Bartoli, and so many others.

Contemporary Italian musicians have offered their gifts as well, with the songs of Andrea Bocelli, Eros Ramazzotti, Zucchero, Massimo Ranieri, and other exciting performers.

There are countless, memorable contributions in the area of art from Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo to Modigliani and Giorgio de Chirico and others, and architecture, from Brunelleschi and Palladio to Renzo Piano and Paolo Soleri and beyond.

Italian scientists ranging from the ancient Romans to Luigi Galvani (think "galvanize") and Alessandro Volta (think "voltage"), to Nobel Prize winners including Golgi, Marconi, Fermi, Segre', Levi-Montalcini, Giacconi, Capecchi, and many others, have significantly enhanced scientific knowledge and progress. Maria Montessori, the first woman physician to graduate from the University of Rome La Sapienza Medical School, created a new pedagogy for young children that is recognized globally.

Italian cuisine is another significant contribution. We are fortunate to have the gracious Laura Maioglio of historic Barbetta Restaurant, the ebullient Tony and Marisa May at San Domenico Restaurant with its outstanding chef, Odette Fada, the gregarious Sirio Maccioni of Le Cirque, the dynamic Chef Michael Cetrulo of Piano Due as well as the talented Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Giada De Laurentiis, Mario Batali, and, of course, Rachel Ray, and others who are some of the "superstars" of Italian cuisine in the U.S.

Italian fashion designers, including Armani, Benetton, Ferragamo, Fendi, Loro Piana, Missoni, Prada, Valentino, Versace, Vitadini, and hosts of others, are global leaders in style and quality. Italian jewelry designs by Buccellati, Bulgari, Roberto Coin, Damiani, Manfredi, and many more, shine in the finest stores globally.

The essence of what it means to be an Italian lies in the permanence and relevance of the vast Italian contributions to American society, and the global community. The Italian language connects us, as Americans, to that extraordinary heritage.

When we travel to Italy, we are humbled to hear well-wishers exclaim, "We are immensely grateful to the Cuomo family for creating such a positive image of Italian-Americans!"

Our response to these sincere and generous Italians is, "We are eternally grateful to the Italians for offering us an exquisite language and a culture so rich and beneficial to the entire world." ❀

*Matilda Raffa Cuomo is the Former First Lady of New York State, Chair of the Committee to Establish the AP Program in Italian, and Founder and Chair of MentoringUSA / ITALLA. Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D. is a member of the Committee to Establish the AP Program in Italian, a member of Princeton University's Advisory Council for the Department of French and Italian, Chair of Lago del Bosco, the Italian Language Village, and a member of the National Advisory Board of Concordia Language Villages.*

## Why We Should Study Italian

By Matilda Raffa Cuomo  
and Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D.

**W**hy should we study Italian?

Let's pretend that neither the authors of this article, nor any of its readers have any Italian heritage. What good reasons are there for taking the time to study Italian?

The student of a language other than English learns to understand speakers of the target language – in this case Italian – as members of a society apart from American society, with its unique contributions and attributes. Italian is the fourth most commonly studied language in American universities, and the numbers of students learning Italian increases each year.

When our non-Italian-American friends and relatives think of Italians in the United States, what images arise? Perhaps a strong sense of family, wonderful music, outstanding cuisine? Are we still struggling with the inaccurate and devastating association with organized crime? Is there a stigma attached to being Italian?

Experience has demonstrated that the teaching of the Italian language, especially in the pre-adolescent and adolescent years leading to college (i.e., middle school and high school years), is the key to changing the public's perception of Italian and Italian-American culture. Our own research in language learning over the past ten years indicates that foreign language learning is indeed the most effective way to understanding the culture and character of a country.

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) in Italian that is offered by the College Board in high schools nationally provides a chance for students to earn college credit for their study of the Italian language. Through the AP Program in Italian, students can fully appreciate idiomatic expressions, the nuances, and the significance of the spoken and written Italian language. By studying the history of Italy, and its many contributions to the world, American high school students develop a sense of admiration and appreciation for Italy, and Italians. The student can deepen that understanding of Italian language and culture with further study in college.

How do we contradict the media's negative and degrading images of Italians and Italian-Americans? The most powerful and effective way is by learning the beautiful and expressive Italian language, reading Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio, as well as more contemporary Italian poets and authors, including Luigi Pirandello, Carlo Levi, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Leonardo Sciascia, Filippo



# Marian U. Pardo: Foundation Treasurer

**W**hen it comes to her accomplishments, Marian Pardo is inclined to understatement and plain speaking.

As chair of the Foundation's Investment Committee from 1999 through 2007, she helped steer the Foundation's corpus through times that range from difficult to ebullient.

Of the difficult period, beginning in 2000, Chairman and former President (and fund manager) Lawrence Auriana said, "Marian shepherded the endowment through that terrible bear market of 2000 through 2002 without a loss of capital."

On the same subject, Ms. Pardo was characteristically modest and analytical. "The Foundation's scholarship funds had recently been built up through fundraising and the Board of the Foundation had just authorized broader investment guidelines so I felt we needed to walk before we ran. We had a lot of short term investments and bonds."

Sitting in the Ambassador Charles Gargano Library at the Foundation, Ms. Pardo pauses for a moment. A slight smile crossed her face, and she said, "Basically, we ducked."

Ms. Pardo knows markets and numbers. In fact, she describes herself as "a numbers kind of gal." She started her career with Morgan Guaranty Trust, where she worked for just over a decade as a commercial banker. From then until 2002, she was in the investment arm of one of New York's premiere financial institutions, J.P. Morgan, where she had responsibility for investment funds exceeding \$3 billion.

The impressive resume, for Ms. Pardo, has a humorous twist. Both sets of her grandparents immigrated from Italy at the turn of the century (Naples on her mother's side, Reggio Calabria on her father's), and they wound up on Long Island.

"My mother's father did a lot of landscaping on the Morgan estate. And my father's father, through his butcher shop, did catering in a sense for the Morgans. My first job was working for Morgan Guaranty Trust, so I used to tell people that it had only taken us three generations to still be working for the Morgans."

Today, Ms. Pardo is Managing Director of Virtual Capital Management LLC, which she founded in 2006 and she is working as a consultant to a global investment group.

Ms. Pardo is married for 28 years to Michael Toonkel, an independent consultant to Morgan Stanley for the management of high net worth accounts. She joined the Foundation in 1994 because, she noted, "as everybody says, I wanted to give back. When I went to college I got a scholarship from the Sons of Italy, and so when I first got to the Foundation I was on a scholarship committee."

She continues to serve on the Investment Committee but resigned her position as chair, which is now filled by Boniface Zaino, who had served as co-chair with Ms. Pardo for two years.

She ran for the office of treasurer, she said, because "There was a need, number one, and I'd been on the investment committee so I understood what some of the issues were. And accounting for non-profits is a little idiosyncratic. It's not like you can look at [the financial reporting] and understand it as you would the balance sheet of a corporation."

She will be reviewing and making recommendations about an issue that faces all charitable institutions – to what degree unrestricted donations should be distributed in scholarships immediately versus put into an endowment that helps fund scholarships for years to come.

"Our scholarship funds are pretty much as high as they've ever been," Ms. Pardo said. "One of the things I'd like to do is have a goal for increasing the corpus of the scholarship funds. The goal would be to get the corpus of the

funds up to a level where we can support scholarships without being dependent on a heroic rate of return or strictly donations to sustain our level of scholarship giving."

The overall economy will also influence projections and strategies. "We have to recognize that the rate of change that we've seen over the past several years may not be sustainable," she said. "We should consider the possibility of slower growth and husbanding our resources."

Since joining the Foundation, Ms. Pardo has become deeply immersed in its activities, for several reasons. "One is that it gives away most of what it raises because a lot of work is done by volunteers. Also, there's the camaraderie of the people who are part of the Foundation. And it's becoming more and more attractive to younger people, which is something I like seeing."

Among the younger people is her nephew and godson, Frank Cappelleri, who is a member of the Young Adults Auxiliary, so she makes a point of getting to the group's annual Casino Nights and Wine Tastings.

Outside the Foundation, Ms. Pardo is a theater buff, bridge player, and avid tennis player. And though she doesn't always have time for it, one of her greatest passions is to travel on extended trips, which she's taken to China, New Zealand and Vietnam.

Italy, of course, is part of her heritage and has been a source of strength throughout her life. Being Italian American, she said, "Is really having a great deal of pride in yourself and your heritage. When I started working in the corporate world, I realized that being Italian American meant retaining a fierce pride in the face of people who are happy to look for the negative in your heritage."

Other hallmarks of Italian-American character, she said, include "being exceedingly aware that your grandparents – or parents – came here with no money and made great sacrifices. It's very important that we remember what our forebears went through and accomplished to make our lives better, and it's very important that we do the same for others." ♣



Marian Pardo with husband Michael Toonkel at the 2007 New Year's Eve party at the Foundation.



*Generoso Pope, co-founder of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, passed away 48 years ago last month, on April 28, 1950. In memory of his exceptional life, we are reprinting the obituary that appeared in the New York Times on April 29, 1950 below.*

## Generoso Pope, 59, Publisher, Is Dead

Owner of 3 Italian-Language Newspapers  
Was a Political Leader Here Many Years

Came to U.S. with \$4 at 13

Made Success in Sand and Gravel Field as  
Young Man - O'Dwyer Pays Tribute

Generoso Pope, head of New York's leading sand and gravel company, publisher of Italian-language newspapers and an important figure in local, state and national Democratic politics, died yesterday morning in Post-Graduate Hospital. He was 59 years old.

Mr. Pope's health had not been good since he recovered from an attack of pneumonia four years ago. Recently he suffered a stroke while in Florida and returned to New York for hospitalization. He appeared to improve and left the hospital but returned soon after for further treatment.

A colorful and sometimes controversial figure in New York's business, political and philanthropic life, Mr. Pope was an outstanding example of an immigrant who made good in America. The orphaned son of a former mayor of Arpaize, Italy, he had only \$4 in his pocket when he arrived here at the age of 13 in 1904. His first job was carrying water to the men who were constructing the Pennsylvania Railroad's East River tunnel at \$3 a week.

At his death he was president and chief stockholder of the Colonial Sand and Stone Company, Inc., the largest supplier of sand, gravel, concrete, stone and cinders to the city's construction industry; owner and publisher of *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, oldest and largest Italian-language newspaper in the United States, and president and chief stockholder of the Atlantic Broadcasting Company, operators of Station WHOM.

### Saved Firm From Bankruptcy

His fortune, which contributed to his political and social influence, was founded on sand. He had progressed steadily from water boy to shoveler to foreman for the Manhattan Sand and Gravel Company at its Glen Head, L.I., pits when it was threatened with bankruptcy in 1916. He persuaded the company's creditors to give him a chance to put it back on its feet with the understanding that if he did so within two years he would get a half interest in its stock.

By working twelve to sixteen hours a day he succeeded. A great deal of his success resulted from an ability to find new customers. His sales office was a tiny shack at Fiftieth Street and Twelfth Avenue. His lunch during this period consisted of half a loaf of bread, garnished with green peppers eaten at Mike the Barbers, also on Twelfth Avenue.

By 1925 his company had been enlarged through mergers with former rivals. He was one of the key figures in the construction



Generoso Pope

industry, a friend of the late Mayor James J. Walker and Sam Rosoff, the subway contractor, and was beginning to establish the political alliances that were to make him an important factor in the city and state elections.

There were hints and innuendos from time to time that his political connections gave his company a decided edge over its rival. These were inquired into by Samuel Seabury during the Hofstadter legislative investigation in 1931 but never resulted in the formulation of any specific charges.

In 1928 he purchased *Il Progresso Italo-Americano* for \$2,052,000 and began the publishing career that added to his political strength and made him one of the leading spokesmen on national and international issues for Americans of Italian descent. Afterward he extended his newspaper holdings by buying the *Bollettino Della Sera* and the *Corriere d'America*. It was natural thereafter that he should enter the radio field when this became an important element in the nation's communication and entertainment field.

### Won Honors From Italy

Mr. Pope's progress in his adopted land was not overlooked in Italy. During the Twenties and the Thirties he was the recipient of many honors and decorations from Italy. Some of these were used after American entry into the second World War to support charges that he had Fascist sympathies, an allegation he resented bitterly.

In 1926, Mayor Walker, at the request of the Italian Government, pinned on his breast the decoration of the Order of Chevalier of



the Crown of Italy. In 1929, he was invested with the order of Commendatore of the Crown of Italy. The next year he received the honorary title of Grande Ufficiale of the Crown of Italy. On several trips to Italy he had interviews with Mussolini, and in 1936 he participated in a Madison Square Garden tribute to the former Italian dictator. In 1941, through an editorial in *Il Progresso* he publicly repudiated Fascism.

Because of his reputed Fascist sympathies, an attempt was made to assassinate him in 1931. Bombs were mailed to him and five other persons in the United States. Two of the bombs exploded in Easton, Pa., killing two post office clerks and injuring four others. Mr. Pope's bomb was intercepted by postal inspectors.

Strong protests were made to former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman and the late President Roosevelt against his appointment as a member of a draft appeals board in the second World War. Neither was impressed.

Mr. Pope had been a strong political supporter of the wartime President since Mr. Roosevelt was Governor and had been received by Mr. Roosevelt at the White House on several occasions. He supported Mr. Lehman also in all his campaigns. Edward J. Flynn, Democratic national committeeman from New York, said publicly on one occasion that he was glad to call Generoso Pope his friend.

Despite the impairment of his health after his siege of pneumonia in 1946, he threw himself with full vigor into last year's campaign to persuade Mayor O'Dwyer to seek re-election and thereafter served as treasurer of Mr. O'Dwyer's campaign committee.

### Led Columbus Day Parades

A participant in many activities of Americans of Italian descent, Mr. Pope was grand marshal of the annual Columbus Day Parade up Fifth Avenue for many years. He served also as president of the Columbus Citizens Committee, Inc., which provided scholarships for students in public and parochial high schools in New York.

Many observers credit him with a decisive role in saving Italy from a Communist government in the last Italian election campaign.

When reports from abroad indicated that, discouraged and dispirited, the Italian people were looking with favor on the Communist cause, he organized a letters-to-Italy campaign among the readers of his newspapers. This resulted in the dispatch of thousands of letters from Americans of Italian origin in the United States to kinfolk and friends in Italy urging them to reject Russian blandishments.

Mr. Pope was active also in Catholic charities. He was a member of the Cardinals Committee on the Laity and in 1932, by order of Pope Pius XI, was made a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

In 1916 Mr. Pope married Miss Catherine Richichi. Three children were born to them, Fortune, Anthony and Generoso. All three and Mrs. Pope survive.

Mr. Pope's body will lie in state at the Campbell Funeral Home, Madison Avenue and Eighty-first Street, until Monday. A mass of requiem is to be offered in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10 A.M. Monday.

### Called "Builder" by O'Dwyer

In a statement last night offering his sympathy to members of the Pope family, Mayor O'Dwyer said that Mr. Pope's death "terminates a friendship in which I had and have great pride - he was a builder who thought for others rather than for himself."

The United Press reported from Albany that Governor Dewey said the death of Generoso Pope was a personal loss as well as a state loss.

"Throughout his many years of community service," Mr. Dewey said, "his warm and vibrant personality won for him the respect and admiration of many thousands of friends throughout the world who knew and loved him.

"I have lost a good friend and our state has lost a fine publisher and public-spirited citizen." ❖

© 1950 *The New York Times*. All rights reserved. Used by permission and protected by the Copyright Laws of the United States. The printing, copying, redistribution, or retransmission of the Material without express written permission is prohibited.

---

## In Memoriam: Dr. Frank Celenza

Dr. Frank Celenza, an exemplary member of the Foundation, a devoted family man and a consummate professional, passed away on May 17 with his wife, Raquel nearby.

Dr. Celenza was best known within the Foundation as Chairman of the Executive House Committee, from 1998 to 2007, and as the host of our Opera Nights, which he not only organized but led in his capacities as moderator, opera historian and culinary designer. Dr. Celenza also wrote articles for the *Foundation Quarterly* on operas he loved dearly.

Dr. Celenza worked closely with John Boden on the Taverna's menu, and in an article in the Fall 2007 *Foundation Quarterly*, Dr. Celenza attributed his love of food to his father: "My father always used to do the cooking on weekends. It was a Sunday tradition - my father in the kitchen, with me at his side." The items on the menu of the Foundation's Annual Shore Dinner - spaghetti with blue crab sauce, lobster oreganata, salad and peaches and wine with Italian cookies - are Celenza family recipes.

Professionally, Dr. Celenza was a pioneer in the field of prosthetic dentistry, wedding the disciplines of engineering, physiology and dentistry. He was the author of two books and approximately 50 articles on the subject that were published in peer reviewed journals. His innovative methods led him to teaching appointments all over the world, including Europe, South America and the Pacific Rim. As someone once said, "To call Frank Celenza a dentist is like calling Babe Ruth a baseball player."



Dr. Frank Celenza

Dr. Celenza is survived by his wife of 57 years, Raquel; children Vincent, Frank Celenza, Jr. and Andrea Celenza Embry, all of whom are doctors, and Raquel. He had eight grandchildren: Frank, Luke, Derek, Ethan, Christopher, Nicholas, Olivia and Alex.





Scholarship Recipient  
Ronald Anguas:

“...Taking  
Advantage of Every,  
Opportunity...”

**L**ast October, Adopt-A-Scholar college scholarship recipient and Harvard University student Ronald Anguas sat at a table in Piccolo Pete's Restaurant in Omaha, Nebraska and took a long, slow pull on a root beer float.

The all-American drink had been ordered for him by his host at lunch, billionaire investor and philanthropist, Warren Buffet. “We'd driven to the steak house in his Cadillac – and Mr. Buffet was actually behind the wheel!” Mr. Anguas recalled. “He said,



‘This is my car. It’s not that expensive. Someday you’ll have one like it.’ He has not forgotten what it’s like to be a student, someone with modest resources. For one of the richest people in the world, he is very down to earth.”

Mr. Anguas met Mr. Buffet with a group of students through the Harvard Undergraduate Business Association, which organized the trip to Mr. Buffet’s hometown of Omaha. Mr. Buffet is perhaps the wealthiest person Mr. Anguas has met during his nearly four years at Harvard, which he is attending thanks in part to Adopt-A-Scholar donors Matt and Lee Sabatine. Mr. Buffet is one of many exceptional people that Mr. Anguas has had a chance to spend time with since receiving a Columbus Citizens Foundation college scholarship in 2004.

That year, Mr. Anguas was a senior at Dade Christian School in Miami, Florida and destined to be his school’s valedictorian. As a U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholar, Mr. Anguas was among 121 students recognized for exceptional academic, extracurricular and community service achievement.

In thinking about college, and paying for it, he learned of the Foundation on-line and, despite his parents’ concern, came to New York for an interview.

“My father [Ronald] is a mechanic for American Airlines,” he said, “so I am able to travel nearly for free. My parents were a little concerned about my coming up – I’d never been to New York, and though the flight was almost free, I still had to have a hotel for the night.”

Mr. Anguas remembers the interview most distinctly for the large number of people interviewing him and for the remarkable diversity of their professions, including a lawyer and a priest.

“The scholarship has definitely helped defray the cost of coming to Harvard,” said Mr. Anguas. “With the Foundation scholarship and other financial aid, I’ve really been able to focus on my studies and extracurricular activities.”

In addition to maintaining a 3.96 grade point average and being selected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society at America’s preeminent university – he will be pursuing a four-year joint law and business degree at Harvard in the fall – he has been deeply involved with two student groups.

Because he is majoring in government, Mr. Anguas joined the Harvard Model Congress Asia, which he has now visited three times. “We work with high school students from these areas and pretend they’re members of Congress or international organizations,” said Mr. Anguas. “Both we and they learn about government and the role of people throughout the world in government and their own countries. I never would have thought before I came to Harvard that I would have the opportunity to go to Thailand three times and learn about so many different cultures.”

Mr. Anguas, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Harvard Cooperative Society (the official Harvard book and clothing store), also works with the Small Claims Advisory Service. “We provide legal information primarily about landlord-tenant issues to low income people in the Boston area – helping people get their security deposits back, deal with abusive landlords, and get information about their options. It’s a give back to people who reside around here in Cambridge and Boston, who often are concerned about losing their apartment. We try to take the complexities out of the situations. When the landlords learn that the tenant is considering going to court, things get resolved pretty quickly.”

Scholarship recipient Ronald Anguas with investor and philanthropist Warren Buffet.

One other group Mr. Anguas is involved with is purely pleasurable – it’s the Harvard Italian American Association. “It’s great to meet other people here who have the same background and interests – Italian-American heritage, food, fashion, and the long-standing exchange between the United States and Italy.”

Since arriving at Harvard, the world has opened up enormously to Mr. Anguas, both through his education and more personal opportunities. This spring, and because of his father’s job and the nearly free airfare, Mr. Anguas and his grandfather, Joseph Maio, who lives in southern Florida, flew over to Italy in a voyage that would take them to

**“For one of the richest people in the world, he is very down to earth.”**

Mr. Maio’s birthplace of Padula, near Salerno. “We met in Rome and went to Naples and then Padula,” said Mr. Anguas. “It’s a small town of around 5,500 people. People seem much more laid back. Everything closes in the afternoon. People go home for lunch. The next door neighbor remembered my grandfather, who left when he was 16. She’s a little bit older and remembered him!”

The two things he misses most about home are the weather – clear sun, balmy February days in the 60s and 70s – and, of course, his family. An only child, Mr. Anguas, is deeply devoted to his parents and grandparents. He grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, a town not known for a large Italian-American population. Yet the characteristic traditions prevailed. “We have a very strong emphasis on the family getting together. Every Sunday, everyone comes over for lunch, which is something I want to continue when I have children.”

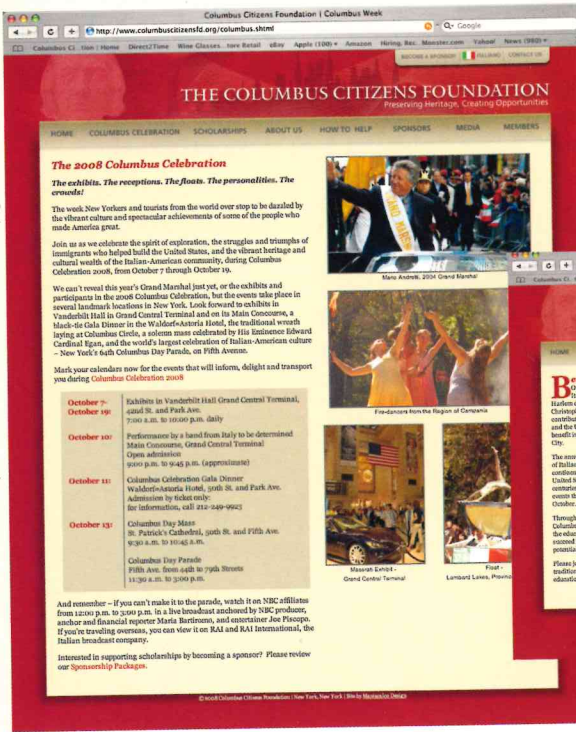
And he’s able to get home regularly, a fact that became critical during his time at Harvard. “Two years ago, my grandfather was diagnosed with lung cancer,” he said. “When I can, maybe once a month, I get back to Florida. He’s been fighting it actively, and doing pretty well. In two years, the cancer hasn’t really progressed. He’s going to be able to see me graduate,” a moment that will be momentous: none of the members of Mr. Anguas’s immediate family attended college.

“I came to Harvard with a bunch of strangers and I’m leaving with a lot of friends I’ll know for a long time to come,” Mr. Anguas said. “I’ve had access to a lot of great professors and just remarkable people. With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Sabatine and the Columbus Citizens Foundation, I have had many opportunities here at an undergraduate level, and I like to think I have taken advantage of everyone that time would allow.” He feels his college experience “includes many of the most memorable moments of his life.”

Back in October, at Piccolo Pete’s Restaurant in Omaha, Mr. Anguas was reminded of two life lessons in his conversation with Mr. Buffet. He asked if the investor had ever been afraid of doing something and, if so, how he’d overcome the fear. Mr. Buffet said that he used to dread public speaking. To solve the problem, he signed up for a class in public speaking. Never one to waste a hard-won opportunity, Mr. Buffet later practiced his newly found skills – with a woman who later became his wife.

The other life lesson Mr. Buffet discussed related to another passion: work. “If he weren’t an investor himself, he would become an investment advisor on behalf of other people,” said Mr. Anguas. “Mr. Buffet said he doesn’t feel like he ever works. He has found a career that is intellectually engaging and satisfying. That has become a goal of mine.” ❀





# Foundation Launches Revamped Website

CEO of Pedone & Partners, Inc., Susan E. Plant, Project Director of the Foundation, and communications consultant Andrew Decker provided assistance in the development of the site.

"Since the early days of the internet, the Foundation has had a substantial presence on the world-wide web," said Mr. Pedone. "Through the efforts of Mr. Maniscalco, the website was able to keep up with the Foundation's events and activities. With the emergence of what is called 'Web 2.0,' it was imperative that the Foundation develop a fully-integrated site that presents our activities and mission to students, parade-goers

and sponsors in a way that reflects the sophistication and richness of the Foundation itself."

The site is broken down into sections that detail the Columbus Celebration, the scholarship programs, the Foundation's history and activities, and announcements and video clips about Foundation news.

"Our goal was to give all site visitors a full sense of what the Foundation is about and news they can use," said Joseph Maniscalco. "Whether people are coming to the site to learn about criteria for scholarship applicants or download application forms, are trying to find directions to the Columbus Day Parade or want to make a tax deductible, charitable donation, we felt they should be able to find what they need on our site. Now they can."

Still under development, and projected to be completed by August, are pages that will let prospective donors make contributions on-line to the scholarship fund and a password protected Members section that will provide information about events open to the Foundation's Members but not to the general public. ♣

The redesigned Foundation site is online at:  
[www.columbuscitizensfd.org](http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org)

**O**n March 30, the Foundation launched a fully redesigned, state-of-the-art website that brings to virtual life the organization's vast and varied activities. The site uses text and extensive photographs to illustrate and explore the Foundation's Columbus Celebration events, its scholarship programs and its mission and history. It also pays tribute to the donors and sponsors who make the Foundation's philanthropic efforts preeminent among private cultural, ethnic organizations.

"Our newly designed website incorporates leading technologies and a vibrant design," said President Louis Tallarini. "Site visitors, whether seeking information about our public events, scholarships or funding opportunities, are now able to find a great wealth of information about the Foundation on-line."

The implementation and design of the site were developed by Maniscalco & Associates under the supervision of Member Joseph Maniscalco. Overseeing the project, which spanned several months, was Foundation Board of Governor and Columbus Celebration Marketing Chair Michael F. Pedone, President and

## Vocal Competition Winners at Foundation

**A**rias of Puccini, Rossini and other composers resounded throughout the Foundation on May 2 in An Evening of Arias and Songs that featured the winners of the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition.

Among the highlights were Luigi Boccia's rendition of "And This is My Beloved" from George Forrest's *Kismet*, Katherine Whyte's "O Mio Babbino Caro" from Giacomo Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and Christopher Bolduc's "Largo Al Factotum" from Gioachino Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia*."

The Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation was founded in 1974 and assists young singers through scholarships, study grants, and master classes presented by Foundation Member and legendary soprano Licia Albanese. Born in Bari, Italy and now a United States citizen, Mrs Albanese made her unofficial debut as a stand-in in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* in Milan in 1934. Her debut at La Scala came less than a year later and launched a career that included 26 seasons and 427 performances at the Metropolitan Opera House. ♣



Soprano Licia Albanese, who has been working with students for over 30 years, in an undated photograph.



# New Members: Active and Passionate



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

As the Foundation closes in on 600 Members – we now have 576, a 20% increase over the past several years – I would like to thank the many Members who have nominated highly qualified and active people to join our organization. Your efforts help the Foundation pursue its mission of celebrating Italian heritage in America and providing educational opportunities through scholarships to highly deserving young men and women.

In recent months, new Members were particularly active in helping to organize the *Ballo Primavera* and other Foundation events. They join us in rediscovering the nuances of our rich heritage and to share our success with those less fortunate. As Members, they are serving our community of Italian-Americans and the greater New York area, which increasingly recognize the significant contributions that men and women of Italian heritage have made to New York and our country.

I would like to thank the men and women who serve on our Membership Committee, who devote tremendous time and energy to helping build the Foundation: Lawrence E. Auriana, Lewis Barton, Alfred T. De Maria, John M. Desiderio, Anthony F. Giordano, Richard H. Girgenti, Robert R. Guinta, Anthony Mallardi, Marian U. Pardo, Angelo V. Vivolo, Louis A. Tallarini and Amb. Joseph Zappala

If you know of someone who would be a welcome addition to our Foundation, please contact Millie Aponte or Lisa F. LoRusso for assistance at 212.249.9923.



**Vincenzo Alessi**

Sponsors:  
Frank Lo Re, Jr.  
Alfred M. Catalanotto

Mr. Alessi is the CEO of Alessi Management LLC, a real estate development, management and construction materials company. His father was born in San Giovanni Gemini, Sicily. Mr. Alessi along with his company has made substantial donations to political, charitable and educational funds. He hopes that by becoming a Member of the Foundation, he can continue to support Italian-American heritage in the New York area and provide an example for his children and future generations.



**Anthony J. Ceglie, Jr.**

Sponsors:  
Mario Occhicone  
Frank J. Borelli

Mr. Ceglie is the Founder, CEO and President of the Italian American Network. His mother was born in Canegate, Sicily and his father was born in Foggia. Mr. Ceglie is affiliated with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and he is a member of the National Police Defense Foundation. He was presented with three New York Emmy awards and three Super Bowl Rings. Mr. Ceglie founded the Italian American Network, which has a mission very similar to the Foundation's: to promote the positive aspects of Italians, Italian-American heritage and culture.

**Alberto Cribiore**

Sponsors:  
Lawrence E. Auriana  
Michael D. Tusiani

Mr. Cribiore is the Managing Principal of Breta Capital Partners, LLC, a private equity company. He was born and raised in Milan, Italy, but his family hailed from Sicily. Mr. Cribiore came to the United States at the age of 30 and began working at Warner Communications. He is a director of Merrill Lynch, the Metropolitan Opera House, the Council for the United States and Italy and a trustee of Reed College. He is also affiliated with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation and the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture.



**Rory J. Cutaia**

Sponsors:  
Louis C. Grassi  
Anthony Charles

Mr. Cutaia is the Executive Director of Corinthian Capital Group, LLC. He is a second generation Italian-American whose grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Cutaia is the founder of the U.S. chapter of Innocence in Danger, an international non-profit organization devoted to helping abused children and their families. He is also a member of the Bar in New York and Connecticut. Mr. Cutaia looks forward to making a meaningful contribution to the Foundation's cultural, educational and charitable goals.



**Donald J. D'Amico, MD**

Sponsors:  
Dr. Lawrence A. Yannuzzi  
Louis A. Tallarini

Dr. D'Amico is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College. His maternal grandparents were from Sicily and his paternal grandparents were from Florence and Naples. Dr. D'Amico is the President of the Retina Society, is on the Executive Committee of the Gonin Club and is extremely active in many medical societies. Dr. D'Amico has been presented with the Taylor Smith Award, the American of Ophthalmology Senior Achievement Award and many others. He hopes to play a role in deepening the many activities related to his Italian heritage.



**Dr. Francis J. DeVito**

Sponsors:  
Aldo Verrelli  
Angelo Vivolo

Dr. DeVito is a pediatrician, currently practicing at DeVito and Alvarado Pediatric Associates, PLLC. His father's family is from San Vito, and his mother is from Guardia Lombardi. Dr. DeVito has served as President of the Brooklyn Pediatric Society and is currently a member of King's County Medical Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has also received a Clinical Teaching Award at New York Methodist Hospital. As a Member, Dr. DeVito will work to promote his heritage by advancing the education and potential of young Italian-Americans.



### **Christopher Esposito**

Sponsors:  
George Simeone  
William Freda

Mr. Esposito is a partner at Deloitte and Touche LLP. His mother immigrated to the United States from Foggia, and both of his paternal grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Esposito is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and he has participated in Deloitte's United Way Campaign. He joins the Foundation so that he can give back to the Italian-American community. Mr. Esposito intends to focus on supporting the Foundation's education-based initiatives.



### **Vincent J. Esposito**

Sponsors:  
Frank G. Fusaro  
John V. Cioffi

Mr. Esposito is the owner of VMJ Esposito, a wholesale distributor. His grandparents are from Naples, and his grandfather Jerry Esposito was a former member of the Foundation. Mr. Esposito is looking to continue the family's long-term relationship with the Foundation. Mr. Esposito would like to contribute to the philanthropic and cultural initiatives of the Foundation by participating in the Columbus Celebration Committees.



### **Gerald Flamio**

Sponsors:  
Anthony Dolce  
Judith Amato

Mr. Flamio is the Senior Vice President of RC Dolner LLC. Both of his grandparents were born in Italy. Mr. Flamio is currently a member of the Sons of Italy and looks forward to supporting the Foundation's philanthropic initiatives. He will also use the services that the Foundation provides to foster the appreciation of Italian-American heritage.



### **Bruno Guarini**

Sponsors:  
Anthony Dolce  
Matt Sabatine

Mr. Guarini is the Senior Vice President of RC Dolner LLC. His mother and her parents were born in Mola Di Bari, and his father was born in Mesagne. Mr. Guarini recognizes the Foundation's reputation for preserving Italian-American heritage and looks forward to perpetuating the traditions and values of the past through the Foundation. He is fluent in Italian,

which will help facilitate interactions with those from Italy, and would like to be part of the Dinner Committee.



### **Anthony LoGiudice**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Anthony Cilmi

Mr. LoGiudice is the CEO of Castle Industries Inc. His father was born in Castellammare del Golfo, and his mother was born in Lercara Friddi, Palermo, Sicily. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Mr. LoGiudice values his Italian-American heritage and will participate in the Foundation's initiatives to maintain and uphold its values. He would like to be part of the Journal Committee.



### **Vito LoGiudice**

Sponsors:  
Saverio Giarrusso  
Anthony Cilmi

Mr. LoGiudice is the CEO of Universal Ready Mix. His father was born in Castellammare del Golfo, Trapani, Sicily, and his mother was born in Lercara Friddi, Palermo, Sicily. Mr. LoGiudice is currently a member of the National Ready Mix Association. He would like to serve on a committee and looks forward to supporting the Foundation's endeavors.



### **Joseph Frank Mannello**

Sponsors:  
Joseph Forgione  
Joseph Gamberale

Mr. Mannello is the Managing Director of BNY Capital Markets, Inc., a fixed income broker/dealer firm. Both parents are from San Andrea, Calabria. He is affiliated with the Bond Market Association, the Essex County Country Club and the Springbrook Country Club. Mr. Mannello's Italian-American heritage is very important to him and he would like to serve on the **Philanthropic Committee** so he can give back to the Italian community.

### **Fabio N. Mariani**

Sponsors:  
Lawrence E. Auriana  
Giuliana Ridolfi Cardillo

Mr. Mariani is Managing Director of Goldman Sachs & Co., an investment bank. His father was born in Chieti and his mother was born in Reggio di Calabria. Mr. Mariani is very proud of his Italian-American heritage and would like for others

to know of the achievements Italians have made and continue to make in this country. He would like to serve on any committee that helps the cause of the Foundation and Italian-Americans.



### **Michael B. Oropollo**

Sponsors:  
Dr. Anthony P. D'Amato  
Peter P. Cuttita

Mr. Oropollo is the Sr. Equity Partner of Hardwood Lloyd, a law firm. Both of his parents were born in Italy. He is past President of Rutgers Newark Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Oropollo is affiliated with the NJ Bar Association and the American Board Trial Advocates. He was presented with the Rutgers Newark Athletic Hall of Fame Award and the Best Lawyers *New York Magazine* Award. Mr. Oropollo would like to join the Foundation because he wishes to contribute to its civic and philanthropic endeavors.



### **Louis P. Pataki**

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

Mr. Pataki is a Master Teacher at New York University. His maternal grandparents were born in Calabria. Mr. Pataki is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America as a volunteer and fundraiser, the American Astronomical Society, Rowayton Hose Co. #1 and the Yale Club of New York City. He has received the National Council Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award for Service to Youth and the *Federazioni Nazionale De Calabresi del Nord America, Inc. Premio Calabria America 2003* among other awards. As a lawyer, educator, and, at one time, a scholarship student, he feels he can make valuable contributions to one of the **Foundation's scholarship committees.**

### **Domenico Procopio**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Hon. Vincent R. Rippa

Mr. Procopio is the Chairman/CEO of Wine Italia, a food and wine importing company. His father was born in Calabria. Mr. Procopio is a member of the Sons of Italy and the New Rochelle Police Foundation and is the President of the Calabria Society. He received the Man of the Year award from the Italy 2000 Club. Mr. Procopio values the Foundation's activities of keeping Italian heritage alive through the Columbus Day Parade and helping young Italian-Americans achieve a better education through scholarships.



**Michael F. Puntillo**

Sponsors:  
Michael S. Puntillo  
Joseph D. Monticciolo

Mr. Puntillo is the President and Owner of Jobco Realty and Construction, a real estate development/

home builder company. His father, Michael, is a Foundation Member and was born in Calabria. Mr. Puntillo is affiliated with the Urban Land Institute and is a Board Member of Vision Long Island, the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation and the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. Mr. Puntillo will continue his family's support of the wonderful work the Foundation is engaged in, especially its scholarship programs.

**Joseph Rienzi**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Lawrence E. Auriana

Mr. Rienzi is Vice President of Rienzi & Sons, a food and wine importing company. Both of his parents immigrated from Basilicata. Mr. Rienzi is the President of the Michael Rienzi Foundation for Cochlear Implant Research. Mr. Rienzi would like to join the Foundation to foster cultural initiatives. As an importer of food and wine, he believes he can help the Foundation promote Italian products that truly personify Italian heritage and its importance in the world.

**Michael Rienzi**

Sponsors:  
Louis A. Tallarini  
Lawrence E. Auriana

Mr. Rienzi is the President and CEO of Rienzi & Sons, a food and wine importing company. He was born

in Basilicata. Mr. Rienzi is affiliated with the Michael Rienzi Foundation for Cochlear Implant Research and the Order Sons of Italy in America. He received the Lions Club 2006 Humanitarian Award and the Leadership Award from the Order Sons of Italy in Washington, D.C. Mr. Rienzi will support the Foundation's mission by keeping the Italian spirit, language and culture alive.

**Charles Rinaldi**

Sponsors:  
John D. Filice  
Giulio C. Monaco, Sr.

Mr. Rinaldi is the President of Madison Service Corporation. Both of his grandparents come from Italy, and he

is currently a member of the National Fire Protection Association. Mr. Rinaldi has a history of donating to Italian charities, and he underwrites the tuition of a student enrolled in the grammar school that his children attended.

**John Rinaldi**

Sponsors:  
Lawrence E. Auriana  
Angelo V. Vivolo

Mr. Rinaldi is the Vice President of Madison Service Corporation. His grandfather's family is from Naro, Sicily, and

his grandmother's family is from Catania, Sicily. Mr. Rinaldi is currently a member of BOMA/NY, and he sits on its Codes and Regulations Committee. Mr. Rinaldi joins the Foundation to help preserve Italian-American heritage.

**Raymond A. Sanseverino**

Sponsors:  
Salvatore J. Zizza  
Salvatore M. Salibello

Mr. Sanseverino is a partner at Loeb & Loeb LLP. Both of his grandparents come from Italy. Mr. Sanseverino has served as

President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Franklin & Marshall Alumni Association and is currently a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Sanseverino was named Super Lawyer in Real Estate by Law & Politics (2006). Mr. Sanseverino is joining the Foundation to share pride in his Italian heritage with a larger community of Italian-Americans and to support the Foundation's scholarship programs.

## In Memoriam

Dr. Frank V. Celenza  
Member since 1975 (see p. 17)

Grace Fiadiani  
Mother of Madeline and  
mother-in-law of **Frank Lo Re**

Vincenza Concetta Genova  
Mother of **Angelo Genova, Esq.**

Suzanne Smith Maggio  
Wife of **Dr. John J. Maggio**

Rosario "Russ" Mannino  
Father of **Ronald Mannino**

Joanne Marzano  
Mother of **Frank Marzano**

Palma Nardelli  
Mother of **Hon. Eugene and Vito Nardelli**  
and grandmother of **Eugene Nardelli, Jr.**

Mary Siracusa  
Mother of **Mary S. Parisi, M.D.**

Maria Vincenza Tagarelli  
Mother of **Amb. Joseph Zappala**

Caterina Tardibuono  
Grandmother of **Hon. Richard Greco, Jr.**

**Townhouse Dress Code:**

Men: Jacket and Tie. Women: Appropriate Attire.

**Dr. Andrew Franks**

Founding Member **Dr. Andrew Franks** passed away on February 10, 2008 at the age of 100. A leading dermatologist, Dr. Franks maintained a private practice in New York City and taught at New York University and was a Chief of Service at NYU's Skin and Cancer Unit clinic. He contributed to three textbooks and over 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles, co-founded the American Academy of Occupational Medicine and was active in the Dermatologic Society of Greater New York.

The son of immigrants from Pisa, Italy, Dr. Franks was born in Leckrone, PA, where his father worked as a coal miner. He received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law, now part of Emory University.

In 1967, Dr. Franks joined other prominent Italian-Americans as a Founding Member of the Columbus Citizens Foundation to help the Foundation acquire its townhouse.

Dr. Franks was awarded the Greatest Generation Medal in acknowledgement of his military service during World War II and in 2005 was honored as Grand Marshal of the Pelham, NY Memorial Day Parade. He was predeceased by Lydia Benigo Franks, his beloved wife of 70 years, and his daughter Norma. He is survived by his daughter **Joy Catapano** and his son and daughter-in-law, Drs. Andrew G. Franks, Jr. and Linda K. Franks, whose practice is located in Dr. Franks' original office at Gramercy Park. Donations may be made to The Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology, New York University School of Medicine, 550 First Ave., New York, NY 10016.

## 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, Andrew Decker  
Mirror Imaging, Printing





# Save the Dates!

- July 1**      **High School Scholarship Awards Ceremony**  
Dicapo Opera Theatre
- July 24**      **Shore Dinner**  
Foundation Townhouse
- July 31**      **Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner**  
(invitation only)  
Foundation Townhouse
- Oct. 7 – 19**    **“The Great White Fleet”**  
Vanderbilt Hall,  
Grand Central Terminal
- Oct. 10**      **Columbus Celebration Sponsor and Media Reception**  
Vanderbilt Hall,  
Grand Central Terminal
- Oct. 11**      **Gala Dinner**  
Waldorf~Astoria Hotel
- Oct. 12**      **Wreath Laying**  
Columbus Circle
- Oct. 13**      **Columbus Day Mass**  
St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- Columbus Day Parade**  
Fifth Ave.

## Taverna Summer Schedule 2008 Closed July 4, 5, and 6

### Summer schedule begins Monday, July 7

Open for dinner Monday – Friday  
Open for lunch Tuesday and Thursday  
Closed Saturday and Sunday

### Summer Closure: August 16th and will re-open for dinner on September 2nd.

During this time Members are welcome to use our reciprocal arrangement with Tiro A Segno. All charges incurred do not apply to our minimum, and you will be billed through your account here at the Foundation.

**Tiro A Segno**  
77 MacDougal Street  
New York, NY 10012  
212-254-2500

### Dining Hours:

Sunday & Monday – Closed  
Tuesday – Saturday: Dinner @ 5:00 pm  
Tuesday – Friday: Lunch @ 12:00 noon

## **COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION, INC.**

8 East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021-4906  
[www.columbuscitizensfd.org](http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org)