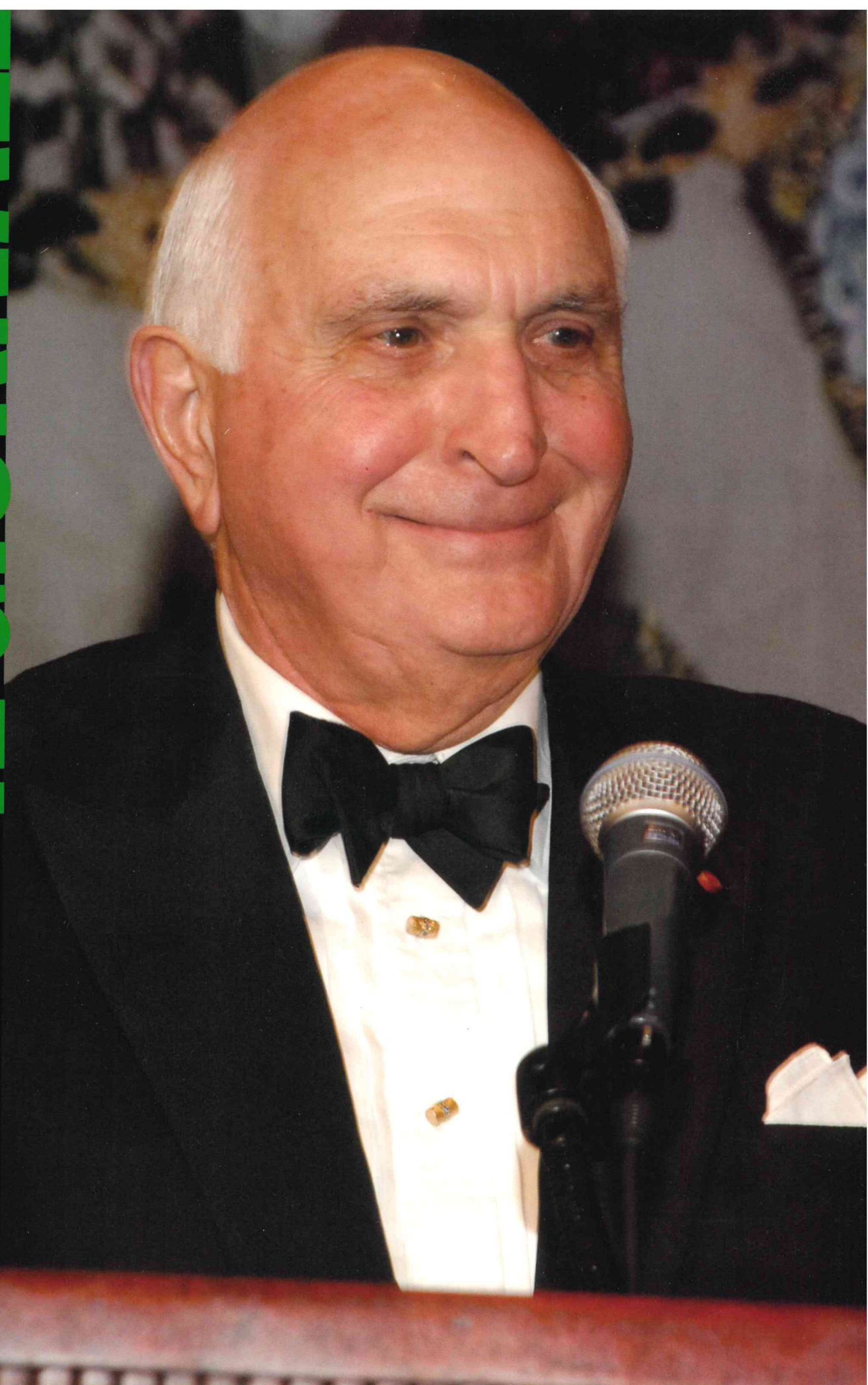


FORWALE

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION



COLUMBUS
CELEBRATION
2009

President's Message

Louis A. Tallarini

The 65th annual Columbus Celebration was the most successful in the history of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. This achievement, during a period of recession, grew out of our commitment to bring the best of Italian and Italian-American culture to New York in the largest celebration of Italian culture and heritage in the world and our commitment to give deserving students from our community the opportunity to receive a good education.



We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Kenneth G. Langone, a man who has achieved outstanding success in business and whose generosity has been unsurpassed both within our community and in American society in general.

We are also deeply indebted to the Region of Veneto. Aside from the great natural and historical wealth of the region, Veneto's industry and far-sighted initiatives have brought to the United States remarkable opportunities for men and women of countless generations and continues to inspire growth and development.

Many men and women worked together to make the 2009 Columbus Celebration an unprecedented success. I would like to thank our Chairman, Lawrence Auriana, who orchestrated many of the events that made the 2009 Columbus Celebration possible. The Foundation's Columbus Celebration Chairs did outstanding work throughout the year to make the Celebration so successful: Parade Chair Alfred Catalanotto, Dinner Chair Maria Bartiromo, Journal Co-Chairs Anthony Giordano and Anthony Mallardi, Marketing Chair Michael Pedone, Mass Chair Father Nicholas Lombardi, and Silent Auction Chair Maria Theresa Fauci. The Foundation's President-elect, Frank Fusaro, served as both Media Chair and General Celebration Chair. Lorenzo Candelpergher, a recent Member of our Foundation, devoted himself in innumerable ways to helping Veneto achieve recognition for its art, music, culture, wine, food and industry here in New York.

On the Cover: Kenneth G. Langone, Grand Marshal of the 2009 Parade, at the Gala Dinner.

Our success came during the 100th anniversary of Columbus Day as a holiday in New York State. As you'll read in the article on pages four to seven, the Columbus Day celebration has featured many highlights over the years, from grand gestures that included a piano case overflowing with flowers that was laid at the foot of the Columbus Monument to a simple handwritten note left at the Monument that read, "Thanks, Christopher, for discovering the sweetest land." What has remained constant throughout the past century is the recognition that Columbus Day has brought to members of the

Italian-American community, to Italy itself, and to one man – Christopher Columbus – whose bravery and courage led Europeans of all nationalities, religions and races to these shores. At a period of great discoveries and explorations, those of Columbus were second to none.

On a personal note, it has been my honor to serve as President of the Foundation over the past four years. During that time, dozens of our Members have devoted themselves to providing and raising funds for our scholarship programs, bringing wonderful cultural programming to New York and America, and sharing the unique bonds that grow out of our common heritage. These men and women are too numerous to name, but I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Auriana, who has been an exceptional Chairman, a tireless leader and champion of the Italian American community, and a great friend.

In closing, I want to congratulate the Foundation's new officers: Frank Fusaro, the Foundation's new President; John Cioffi, Vice President; and Anthony Giordano, Secretary. Marian Pardo will continue as Treasurer. This is an extraordinary and qualified team of volunteer officers. I know they will continue our traditions with the passion and vision worthy of our heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis A. Tallarini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louis A. Tallarini, President

2010 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.

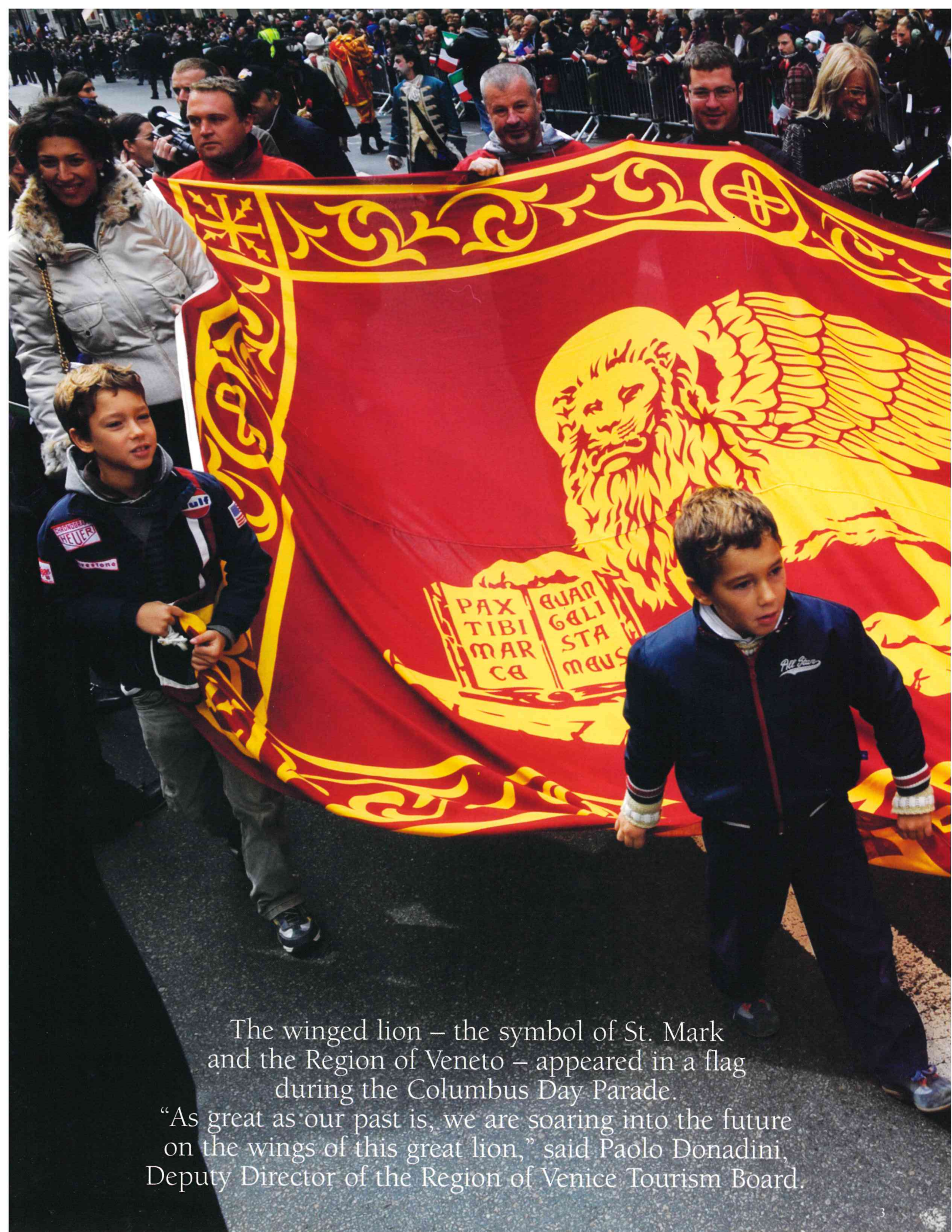
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The winged lion – the symbol of St. Mark and the Region of Veneto – appeared in a flag during the Columbus Day Parade.

“As great as our past is, we are soaring into the future on the wings of this great lion,” said Paolo Donadini, Deputy Director of the Region of Venice Tourism Board.

Columbus Day's 100th Anniversary

One-hundred years ago, Columbus Day became a state holiday in New York. At the time, a wave of immigration that would bring roughly four million Italians to America was enriching the American landscape in all areas of life and setting the stage for what has since been called the American century.

And what a century it was. Two World Wars. A Great Depression. The Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall. A moon landing and space missions to Mars and beyond.

Every year, throughout the century, Columbus Day served as a milestone that reflected events around the world, the development of the United States and, closer to home, the history, growth, and development of the largest celebration of Italian culture in the world, the Columbus Day Parade and that of its organizer, the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

The Foundation's records are very uneven – few if any people thought back then that the traditions being created would continue into the next millennium – so the Foundation has conducted a review of archives from the *New York Times's* coverage of Columbus Day and related events. The highlights follow.

1909 On March 23, New York Governor Charles Evans Hughes signs a bill making Columbus Day a state holiday. Introduced by State Senator Timothy D. Sullivan and Assemblyman Alfred E. Smith, the bill had been denounced by most newspapers. The *New York Times* calls it a “foolish bill” and adds, “The most slothful nations are those whose holidays are the most numerous.”

Columbus Day itself is celebrated by 300 Italian American societies, which put on a parade 30,000 strong up Fifth Avenue and across 59th St. to Columbus Circle. The *Times* describes it as “the most brilliant parade ever given by Italians in this city” and notes that Grand Marshal Frank C. Marsh is followed by 300 bicycles, “their wheels and handle bars wound with red, white and green.” Columbus Day features two other parades in Brooklyn and an evening of speeches and music in Carnegie Hall organized by the Knights of Columbus.

1910 An instant tradition: the Columbus Day sale. On lower Broadway, the *Times* reports, “Every retail store downtown was apparently doing good business. The street itself was thronged. Every department store was also wide open and many of them advertised special sales.”

Columbus Circle is the destination of a parade that begins at Canal Street and marches from Little Italy to Washington Square and then up Fifth Avenue before heading west on 59th

Street. One group lays a full-sized piano case filled with roses at the foot of the Columbus Monument. The Grand Marshal is James E. March, Republican leader of the Sixth Assembly District, who had been born Antonio Maggio in Albano de Lucania, Province of Potenza, Italy. The parade route runs from Washington Square Park up Fifth Avenue and across to Columbus Circle.

1912 The Knights of Columbus held a dinner at the Hotel Astor.

1914 Among the large crowds at the Columbus Monument are Rivelli Rafaele and Visiano Domenico, “men in their eighties with bent backs,” the *Times* reports, the city's only surviving privates “of Garibaldi's own forces in the Sicilian campaign of 1860.”

1915 “The 423rd anniversary of the discovery of America was celebrated quietly because of the European war,” the *Times* notes, “and for the first time in eighteen years there was no great street parade in honor of Columbus.”

1918 A reception at the Waldorf followed by a rally at Madison Square, where U.S. troops and “the famed Bersaglieri” marches.

1919 The Italian War Relief Fund starts a drive to raise \$135,000 for 185,000 war orphans in Italy.

1922 Vito Contessa, president of the Italian Benevolent Society, Sons of Columbus, holds a Grand Charitable Festival in East Harlem at the Star Casino, a tradition that dates back to 1896.

1924 On the eve of Columbus Day, Mr. Contessa reads a letter from President Calvin Coolidge, which states, “The



Top: President Wilson and Wife with Edward M. House; President Woodrow Wilson and his wife, Edith, are joined by friend and advisor Colonel Edward M. House for Columbus Day in New York in 1918. © Bettmann/CORBIS. Above: New York City Notables at Columbus Day Ceremonies; The annual wreath laying dates back to early in the 20th century and was usually held in the mornings before the Parade started. In 1938, Generoso Pope, who later founded the Columbus Citizens Committee (front left) stands alongside Judge Charles Polletti, Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York (with pipe), Alex Pisciotta, commissioner of weight and measures of New York City; and John Freschi, former judge. © Bettmann/CORBIS.

discovery of America must always rank among the foremost accomplishments of a single man's genius and purpose. Against discouragement, ridicule and ignorance, Columbus clung to his conviction, fought for the opportunity to put it to the test, and staked everything on the results... today, Columbus holds place as one of the few greatest among men."

1926 Two groups – the Italian Benevolent Society and the Order of the Sons of Italy – hold separate wreath layings at the Columbus Monument. Mr. Contessa speaks on behalf of the Italian Benevolent Society, whose members include Generoso Pope, later a founder of the Columbus Day Citizens Committee.



In 1962, President John F. Kennedy became the first sitting president to participate in the parade, though President Harry S. Truman had attended a Gala Dinner and President Dwight D. Eisenhower had participated in a Wreath Laying. President Kennedy, riding in an open convertible, entered the Parade at 59th St. and joined the viewing stand at 64th St., where he was greeted by New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, center. © Associated Press.

1929 During its wreath-laying at Columbus Circle, Mr. Contessa reads a message from President Herbert Hoover, which states, "My dear Mr. Contessa, All Americans share a common pride in the daring and perseverance of Columbus in his discovery of America. The story of his trials and triumph has colored the whole tradition of life on this continent, and will ever continue to be an inspiration to courageous youth bent upon the pursuit of difficult but great ideals." Also in 1929, Mr. Pope is invested with the order of the Commendatore of the Crown of Italy on behalf of King Emmanuel III.

1931 In May, Mr. Pope holds a dinner to protest the depiction of Italian Americans in movies. Broadcast by WOR radio, the dinner includes the reading of a resolution that denounces stereotyping in which Italian-Americans are "frequently depicted in a manner and of a speech which holds them up to scorn, contempt and ridicule" and creates "an unwarranted feeling of ill-will and prejudice toward American citizens of Italian origin." The resolution asks that "there may be promoted toward one another among the various racial groups that form the body of American citizenship greater good-will, happiness and accord." The resolution is sent to Will H. Hays, chairman of the board of the Motion Picture Industry, to the Actors' Equity Association and to theater and motion picture producers.

1935 *Il Progresso*, the Italian language newspaper owned by Mr. Pope, sponsors a morning wreath laying organized by the Sons of Italy that includes Italian patriotic groups and features as a speaker New York Governor Herbert H. Lehman. As in the previous and subsequent years, the United Anti-Fascist Committee gathers at the Maine Monument in protest of Mussolini's policies. The Knights of Columbus, as it had in the past, later held a parade from its headquarters at 51st and Eighth Avenue to Columbus Circle, followed by a wreath laying.

1940 People march to Columbus Circle from various locations in Manhattan to attend a morning wreath laying sponsored by *Il Progresso*. That evening, the newspaper sponsors

a dinner and dance in honor of 1940 college and university graduates of Italian origin.

1941 World War II raises questions of allegiance among ethnic communities, and in an editorial in *Il Progresso*, Mr. Pope denounces Fascism. He writes: "Since the European war started and Italy and the United States definitely took sides in opposing camps, and since President Roosevelt declared a state of unlimited emergency I, as a loyal American, took my stand for the United States.

"I am against any government that is against the Government of the United States. I am unequivocally against any diffusion of all foreign and anti-Americanisms in this country, whether

it be communism, nazism, or fascism."

1943 Mr. Pope leads a parade up Fifth Ave. At 59th St., it turns west to Columbus Circle. Mr. Pope is described by the *Times* as the Grand Marshal and Chairman of the Columbus Day Citizens Committee. The parade features 10,000 marchers from city offices and the 518th Battalion of military police of the Army.

1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt states that Columbus is being honored "at a time when his own countrymen face the prospect of a new freedom in Italy as part of an old world rejoicing in new liberation. Like discovery, liberation is a beginning but in terms of the ties of blood and of remembrance we must be sure that the deliverance of Italy from fascism shall mean a new, free Italy worthy of the best in the spirit of its people, to which we owe the discovery of our own America."

1945 The Columbus Citizens Committee is first identified as the organizer of the parade, which runs up Fifth Ave. from 44th to 86th St.

1947 The Knights of Columbus joins the Fifth Ave. Parade for first time and does not hold one of its own on Eighth Ave.

1948 At the pre-parade dinner at Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Attorney General Tom C. Clark, representing President Truman, notes that in the recent elections in Italy, Italians had voted for democratic candidates, and says, "Thank God that the peoples of the Italian homeland, with the aid of America under the leadership of President Truman, stopped communism in its tracks and did it through the ballot and not by bullets and bombs."

1950 In April, Mr. Pope dies, and it is announced that proceeds from the dinner will be used for scholarships in Mr. Pope's memory. No Grand Marshal leads the parade.

1951 At the Waldorf-Astoria Dinner, Columbus Citizens Committee Acting President Fortune R. Pope, the second

Continued on page 6

son of Generoso, announces that proceeds from the dinner will go to the Generoso Pope Memorial Scholarship Awards. Mr. Pope is Grand Marshal of the parade.

1954 Secretary of State John Foster Dulles speaks at gala dinner and praises Italy for the "important contribution" it



Surrounded by a sea of blue, Frank Sinatra served as Grand Marshal of the 1979 Columbus Day Parade. When a reporter asks if he could describe how it feels to be Italian American, Mr. Sinatra says, "You got a month?"

has made to the solution of the issue of who should govern Trieste, which both Italy and Yugoslavia claimed as theirs. Italy retained control of Trieste and its environs but ceded an area farther south of the city to Yugoslavia, resolving what Secretary Dulles describes as "one of the most difficult and dangerous problems of our time."

1956 At the Gala Dinner, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., criticizes restrictive American immigration laws and states, "If our present immigration law had been in effect when our parents came over here, many of us would not be here today. There might not have been a Generoso Pope Scholarship Fund and certainly the nation would have been much the poorer." Mr. Pope announces that the Columbus Citizens Committee's scholarship fund organized by the late Generoso Pope in 1945 has awarded more than \$300,000 since its inception.

1958 President Eisenhower is among 10,000 people who attend the Wreath Laying at Columbus Circle. In a brief speech, he says, "Columbus opened the door to the New World, to a new world of opportunity for the millions who have followed the path he blazed. In recent times, we have witnessed a profound change in the life and attitude of our people. We know that we are no longer living in a 'new' world; we are rather living in a part of the whole world - and our fortunes are intimately related to the fortunes of our neighbors overseas - on every continent."

1962 At the Gala Dinner, Governor Nelson Rockefeller pays tribute to Filippo Mazzei, who Rockefeller notes wrote "a series of articles in 1773 declaring that all men are by nature created free and equal to each other in natural rights." Mr. Pope states that 2,915 scholarships totaling \$583,000 had been presented since 1945 to private and parochial high school students.

President John F. Kennedy becomes the first president to ride on the parade route. He enters the Parade at 59th St. and rides, in an open convertible, to the reviewing stand at 64th St.

1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson stops briefly at the reviewing stand. In a speech while in New York, he says that Columbus Day honors Italian immigrants and their descendants who had helped make America great. "Yet it hasn't been too many years since Italian Americans felt the raw pain of discrimination in America," President Johnson says. "There are many Americans tonight who need to see the cardinal American virtue of fairness to all regardless of their religion or their ancestry or their race."

1969 The United States Congress passes legislation making the national observation of Columbus Day the second Monday in October.

1971 For the first time, Columbus Day is observed on a date other than October 12 - on October 11, the second Monday of the month. Although the wreath laying is held, the Parade is cancelled by a steady rain "for the first time in its 27-year history."

1974 Surrogate Judge and Columbus Citizens Committee co-founder S. Samuel Di Falco serves as Grand Marshal.

1979 Grand Marshal Frank Sinatra marches with his friend, Governor Hugh Carey, who says, "It's the first time I ever marched with a guy who can keep time." At the reviewing stand at 68th St., Mr. Sinatra is interviewed by a television reporter. Asked if he could describe how it feels to be Italian-American, Sinatra responds, "You got a month?"

1980 Grand Marshal Luciano Pavarotti, dressed as Columbus, rides the parade route on a NYPD mounted squad horse.

1983 The parade is cancelled in observance of the passing of Terence Cardinal Cooke, who dies on October 6, 1983.

1987 The Grand Marshal is U.S. Attorney Rudolf Giuliani, who had successfully prosecuted many in organized crime. Citing the continued negative stereotyping of Italian-Americans, Columbus Citizens Foundation President Vincent Tese says, "We thought it was important to make a public statement. Italian-Americans would like to dispel this association with organized crime once and for all."

1992 For the quincentenary of Columbus's arrival in America, New York museums and libraries hold numerous exhibitions. Sophia Loren is Grand Marshal. Columbus, who has begun to be attacked for his shortcomings as an administrator and as a symbol of the catastrophic effects of British, French, and Spanish exploitation of natives of the Americas, is a controversial figure in some quarters. New York Governor Mario Cuomo dismisses the controversy. "It's like talking about Abe Lincoln's constipation or Thomas Moore's occasional moods of despondency," Governor Cuomo says. "Christopher Columbus pushed open the door to 500 years of progress. What we're celebrating today is 500 years of the American experience."

1995 Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Louis J. Freeh is Grand Marshal. The *Times* reports, "Mr. Freeh, who has dedicated much of his career to fighting organized crime, brought with him relatives of two judges in Italy who were killed in their own battles against organized crime."

1999 Columbus Day Weekend events raise over \$1.2 million. One scholarship is presented to Richard R. Castaldo, 18, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado in April, who attended the Parade in a wheelchair.

2001 September 11 changes the world. After consulting with

Frank G. Fusaro Elected President of Foundation



Frank Fusaro

Franks G. Fusaro, a Member since 1984, was elected President of the Foundation's Board of Governors at the annual meeting on November 19, 2009. Serving with Mr. Fusaro on the Board as Officers will be John V. Cioffi, Vice President, Anthony F. Giordano, Secretary, and Marian U. Pardo, Treasurer. The Board of Governors will also include Lawrence E. Auriana, Chairman, and Maria Bartiromo, Alfred T. De Maria, John M. Desiderio, Richard C. De Zego, Saverio Giarusso, Hon. Richard Greco, Jr., Anthony M. Mallardi, Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli, Michael F. Pedone, Matt Sabatine, Louis A. Tallarini, Vincent M. Toscano and Angelo V. Vivolo.

Several Foundation Members rotated off the Board following years of devoted service. They are Amb. Joseph Zappala, formerly Vice-President, and Alfred M. Catalanotto, formerly Secretary.

Mr. Fusaro's achievements at the Foundation are legendary. As Parade Chairman, he successfully negotiated the move of the Parade broadcast from WPIX to WNBC and secured coverage with RAI International and RAI Italy. As Chair of the Philanthropic Committee, he conceived and implemented the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program. The Adopt-A-Scholar program lets donors create multi-year scholarships in their names or in the names of loved ones and provide the opportunity for an especially accomplished student to receive a full four-year's worth of high school or college scholarship assistance. Donors may specify the high school or college that would benefit from the scholarship, and students are selected by the Foundation's scholarship committees. To date, the Adopt-A-Scholar program has raised nearly \$8 million in scholarship funding.

In addition to the Adopt-A-Scholar program, Mr. Fusaro created the innovative Partnership in Education Program. This collaborative venture requires that a high school or college contribute one-third of the scholarship costs for a student and that it identify a private donor who would provide another third. The Foundation would complete the circle, creating a three-for-one donation for each of the parties involved that results in the education of a deserving, highly motivated student.

At the Gala Dinner, Mr. Fusaro said, "We have an Italian gene. Italy is a tiny country that has brought more to the world in the fields of art, culture, science, engineering, medicine, than any other country of its size in the world. When I visit Rome, I'm awestruck by the genius and creativity of its people. I marvel at the Coliseum, an arena built thousands of years ago, the size of Yankee stadium wrapped in Corrae marble and adorned with priceless works of art. The amazing engineers of Rome transported the marble from the quarries of Tivoli to Rome by barge via a specially constructed canal some 22 miles long, utilizing water from the Pyrenees Mountains. Only the Italians could have done this. We're blessed to have their genes."

Mr. Fusaro added, "The Foundation's Membership is 600 strong. We're bound by a love of our heritage and a desire to promulgate the Italian culture. Most importantly, we are obligated by a debt to our parents and grandparents to whom we owe so much of our success to continue our philanthropic works in their name."

Mayor Giuliani, the Foundation decides to hold the Parade. Comments during the day record New York and America's eternal strength.

Given the heavy loss of life during the September 11 attacks, city policemen and firefighters do not march but are represented by vehicles. The 777th Regional Support Command marches in battle fatigues and is greeted by chants of "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" One man shouts out, "Stand tall, boys!" Another doffs his stars-and-stripes baseball cap and hollers, "Thank you!"

"I think it's important that we aren't afraid," said Tim Amuchastegui, from Oregon. "Osama bin Laden has done what he's done and he may do more. We came all the way across the country to show support for New York."

Ron Horan, of New Jersey, says that the parade "reaffirms our faith in America," he said. "Look at all the flags here. It's absolutely wonderful. I think it's the best thing we could do."

2002 Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg,



The year 2008 marked the 100th anniversary of the earthquake that decimated southern Italy and Sicily and brought the United States' Great White Fleet to the region in America's first major international humanitarian mission. In honor of the anniversary, the U.S. Navy sponsored The Great White Fleet exhibition in Grand Central Terminal and brought to New York the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) as a reminder of America's longstanding ties to Italy and its enduring role in providing relief to needy people of the world. U.S. Navy/Getty Images.

whose invited guests from *The Sopranos* were barred from participating in the Parade, joined them for lunch in the Bronx instead of marching. Grand Marshal Franco Zeffirelli says, "I think it's time the Italian community begins to protect itself from these stupid insults. *The Godfather* was a masterpiece, a work of art. This [*The Sopranos*] is really trash."

2005 Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, the first Italian American to serve on the Supreme Court since it first met in 1790, is Grand Marshal.

2009 In a presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama states: "Born in Genoa, Italy, Christopher Columbus' journey aboard three Spanish ships revealed a new land for many European nations whose people would later flock to our shores in search of prosperity and freedom... Today, Italian Americans continue to contribute immeasurably to the identity of our Nation, as role models, leaders, innovators, and committed public servants. From the boardroom to the classroom, they are prominent in every facet of American life."

Veneto Festival in Grand Central

The historic grandeur of the Piazza San Marco and the soaring beauty of the Dolomites came to life last October in an exhibition in Grand Central Terminal's Vanderbilt Hall. *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York* highlighted the region's timeless beauty and vibrant culture through free exhibits, theatrical performances, and concerts.

Speaking at a press preview with winged lions from the Venice International Film Festival as a backdrop, Paolo Donadini, Deputy Director of the Region of Venice Tourism Board, said, "The great fortune of the Veneto Region is that within 40 miles of Venice, we have so much to offer – the Dolomite Mountains, which are considered the patrimony of Unesco, over 70 miles of the world's most beautiful beaches, and of course historic works of art and gastronomic delicacies. As great as our past is, we are soaring into the future on the wings of this great lion," which is the symbol not only of the Film Festival but also of St. Mark, the patron saint of the region. "We have the highest concentration of entrepreneurship in Italy."

Hundreds of thousands of affluent commuters, New Yorkers and tourists from around the world partook in the myriad free offers served up by Veneto. They sampled complementary bottled water and espresso, jazz and theatrical performances and examples of the region's remarkable craftsmen. Thousands more participated in invitation-only wine tastings and a Venetian Aperol Spritz aperitif hour, featuring the world famous refreshing Aperol and prosecco cocktail accompanied by Grana Padano.

Among the highlights of *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York* were an inspiring replica of the façade of the Doge's Palace, instantly recognizable for its Gothic arches. Two golden winged lions – symbols of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice and of Veneto – recreated the glamorous atmosphere of the enchanted city and its internationally renowned film festival. A brilliantly lit 14-foot-tall steel tree was blanketed with hundreds of examples of Murano glass creations that illuminated Venice's long tradition of exceptional glass blowing, and on October 10, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg received the tree from the Region of Veneto and the

Promovetro Consortium, an association of Venetian glass artisans and craftsmen.

The outstanding workmanship of Veneto artisans was also evident in a small exhibit, *Piccoli Passi* (*Small Steps*), a unique collection of miniature handmade shoes, made by Pietro Martello, a skilled artisan from the Riviera del Brenta. The collection illustrates fashions in footwear over the span of several centuries recreated in two- to four-inch miniature.



The Tree of Friendship brought to New York masterpieces of Murano glassworks, a Venetian tradition dating back to the 13th century.

Tens of thousands of commuters, New Yorkers and tourists sampled the humorous and poignant delight of Fondazione Aida's *The Harlequin's Secret*. Set in the Republic of Venice, the 50-minute play explored questions of love and power in the tradition of *Commedia dell'Arte*. Fantastical masks and vibrant costumes were used in the service of improvisation, as the players incorporated duels, magic acts, and ballads in telling an age-old story of true love.

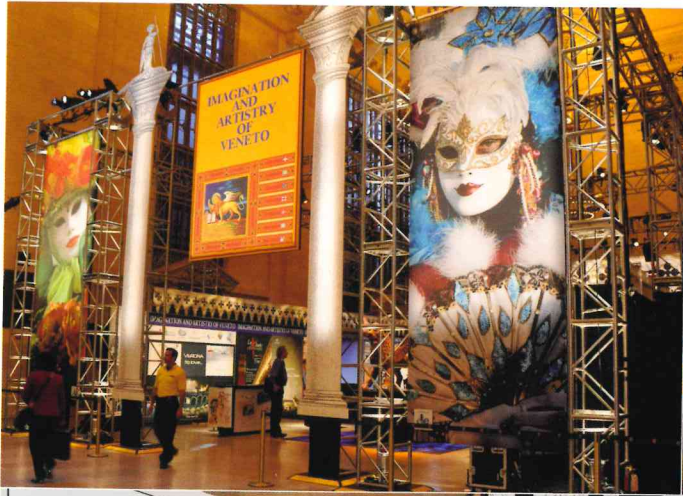
The Region of Veneto also brought performances of jazz and popular music to Vanderbilt Hall in a series of concerts. The performances were sponsored by Veneto and by Veneto Jazz, an Italian cultural association that organizes concerts of jazz and contemporary music, art exhibitions, and the prestigious, Europe-based Summer Jazz Workshop / *Bassano del Grappa* in collaboration with

the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music of New York. Performers range from Americans who grew up with the idiom to musicians from France and Italy who were drawn to the music and have developed distinctive styles within the genre.

And as in the past few years, Maserati partnered with the Columbus Citizens Foundation in the raffle of one of its powerful and elegant luxury cars in recognition and support of the Foundation's scholarship programs and of the company's own Italian heritage.

This year, Maserati and the Foundation offered a silver Quattroporte S sedan. The drawing was held on October 16 in Grand Central Terminal, and the lucky winner of the Maserati was Catherine A. Peters.

Facing page, clockwise from top left: The imagination and artistry of Veneto came to life in Vanderbilt Hall in two exhibits organized by the Foundation that were visited by hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, commuters and tourists. Denise Vivolo, Carol Fusaro, Nancy Cuttita, Irene Auriana and Kathryn Licata enjoyed the exhibit of hand-crafted miniature shoes, *Piccoli Passi*. Honoree Ronald J. Ferrelli, Gail R. Guy, and Columbus Celebration Chairman Frank G. Fusaro at the Sponsor and Media Reception. Members of the delegation from Italy and Foundation Members and friends in Vanderbilt Hall. Members of the Fondazione Aida paused for a photo op before a performance of *The Harlequin's Secret*. Richard and Debbie De Zego at Vanderbilt Hall. Mrs. Licata toasts 2009 Grand Marshal Kenneth G. Langone as he appeared in the exhibit celebrating the storied investment banker, venture capitalist and philanthropist.



65th Annual Gala Dinner a Great Success

A night of buoyant celebration featured Italian-American friendship and cooperation as over 1,000 people attended the 65th Annual Gala Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on October 10, 2009.

Honorees Frank Corvino and Ronald Ferrelli were joined by Grand Marshal Kenneth Langone and Foundation Members, guests and friends. Past Grand Marshals Admiral Edmond P. Giambastiani, Jr. and Governor Mario Cuomo, and his wife, Matilda, were among the many dignitaries, a list that included the Italian Minister of Defense Ignazio LaRussa, Ambassador to the United Nations, Giulio Terzi, Italian Consul General, Francesco Talò, former Minister of Italians Abroad, Mirko Tremaglia, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio, New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi, and Chairman and CEO of RAI Corporation, Massimo Magliaro.

Although not an official honoree, Foundation Chairman Lawrence Auriana received the Knight of the Grand Cross from Minister LaRussa and Ambassador Terzi. "It is especially meaningful for me to be presented with this high honor from the Italian government by Minister LaRussa because among all nations, Italy, the country of my grandparents, has been the most reliable ally of the United States in the Post-War period, bar none."

At the start of the evening, Dinner Co-Chair Maria Bartiromo asked the diners to look under their bread plates, where 600 people found cards bearing the name of a scholarship student whose education is being partially underwritten by the Foundation – one scholarship for each of the Foundation's nearly 600 Members.

Foundation President Louis Tallarini set the tone for the evening in his opening remarks. "We are here tonight because our parents or grandparents took tremendous risks," Mr. Tallarini said. "They journeyed into the unknown with the faith and belief that they or their children or grandchildren would succeed in a country where ability and dedication were the currency that charted futures.

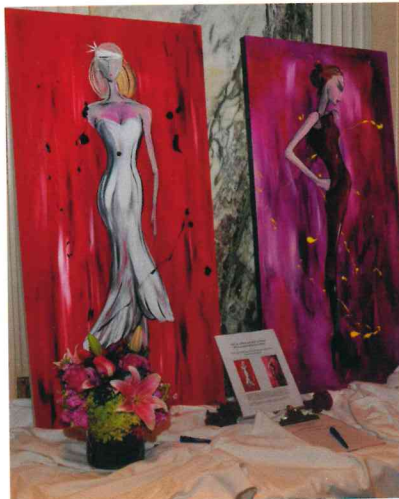
"I am proud to share this evening with so many people whose grandparents and parents came to a foreign land and over time made a home for themselves and their families. I am proud to be here tonight with people who consider it a pleasure and a privilege, to honor their ancestors and their heritage, not only through words, but also with deeds.

"I am proud to be Italian-American and I am proud to greet you as president of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, for our 65th annual dinner."

The Chairman of the 2009 Columbus Celebration, and President Elect of the Foundation, Frank Fusaro addressed the audience as well. The Foundation's Members, he noted, are "bound by a

desire to promulgate Italian courage and to pass down all the gifts that we received, those many gifts that we received from our parents and our grandparents, to our children and their successors.

"Our scholarship recipients are over 600 children who have the capacity to be successful, but not the means to get the first class education that we are bound and determined to provide to them. Despite the difficult economy, this is the biggest and highest revenue-producing Columbus Celebration in our history. Over \$2 million this year will go to our scholarship fund."



The Silent Auction

The 2009 Columbus Celebration's Special Honored Guest from Italy was Ignazio LaRussa, the Italian Minister of Defense. Describing the Foundation's Members as "ambassadors for Italy," Minister LaRussa said, "Columbus Day is a great celebration of the Italian spirit and character that makes Italy proud."

"Two days ago, I came back from Afghanistan, where I saw Italian and American soldiers together, with their common commitment, which is the best evidence of the friendship between the United States and Italy," Minister LaRussa said. "During yesterday's hard times – for Italy I refer to the years in the aftermath of the Second World War – America has been the generous uncle, providing hope, support and consolation to many

Italian families. Today, you have shown your will to support the Italian people whenever it is necessary, as in the case of the recent tragic earthquake in the Abruzzo region. Thank you."

Among the speakers of the evening were Mr. Langone (see P. 12) and the evening's honorees. Frank A. Corvino, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Hospital, said, "Although many decades have passed since my days growing up in the Bronx, I have vivid memories of my family and the Belmont Arthur Avenue community that helped shape the values I hold dear today. I can still hear my mom saying, 'Frankie, actions speak louder than words.' As a boy, I wasn't quite sure what that meant, but in time I came to understand exactly what she meant: that the actions which we take in life define who we are as individuals and as a society. We all have a responsibility to take action, by giving back to the communities that nurtured us."

Ronald J. Ferrelli, a Managing Director of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, said, "I want to thank the Columbus Foundation, because it's given me an opportunity to think back and reflect on all the things that were instilled in me as an Italian American, growing up Italian American and what that meant to me, and how my experience has formed me as a professional and as a person... The lessons I learned from my family were lessons of hard work, the lesson of being passionate about what you do, a lesson about the importance of family. These lessons of respect, of integrity, and of loyalty have helped me tremendously throughout my life."

Dinner Co-Chair Maria Bartiromo drew the winning raffle ticket for the opulent and powerful Maserati Quattroporte S, which was won by Catherine A. Peters.

Clockwise from top left: Isabella Arjona Zappala, at far left, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Langone, at far right, with Gala celebrants. Hon. Mario and Matilda Cuomo (left) with Maura Delehanty and Honoree, Frank A. Corvino; Lawrence Auriana, Maria Bartiromo, Honoree Ronald J. Ferrelli and Louis A. Tallarini. Patrick De Iorio, Hon. Vincent De Iorio, Joseph Licata and John Cioffi. The Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom. Ray Kelly, second from left, with friends. Gala guests. Hon. Ignazio La Russa (center) enjoying the festivities.



Grand Marshal Kenneth A. Langone

Kenneth Langone addressed the audience at the Gala Dinner, and his remarks, edited for length, follow.

Thank you. Thank you very, very much.

I have the great joy of going to my office every single morning and next to my office is the office of my son, Bruce. And the first thing we do is give each other a couple of kisses.

And I'll tell you, whatever the day brings, I'm ready for it.

I received a telegram this afternoon from the former governor, Eliot Spitzer, apologizing that he couldn't be with us tonight. But I sent him back a telegram and said I understood he had a date and there was no problem.



The Langone family

People don't understand what Italian Alzheimer's disease is. We forget everything but the grudge.

Let me be serious for a moment. This honor is certainly one of the greatest honors in my life. And it's not about me. It's about my grandparents, it's about my parents, it's about my wife, it's about my sons. It's about my many cousins, who are here tonight, and my many friends.

We live in the greatest country on earth. My story is no different than most other stories. When I saw the pictures up here on the screen tonight, of the Sunday dinners, it dawned on me that we all share a rich heritage, starting with family. As I speak of family, I think first and foremost of the greatest single decision I ever made in my life, and that was marrying my wife.

Allow me to put the spotlight on her for a moment. We started out in a little one-bedroom apartment in Flushing, New York, where the rent was \$128 a month. When I was called back into the army, we had a 10-month-old son. I made \$80 a month. She made more in a week than I made in a month. I remember one Sunday afternoon, we were watching a movie and a man in the movie said, "Listen, who pays the bills around here?" And just as soon as he said it, I turned to my wife and said, "You do."

She laughed, and I laughed. But I want to tell you, Elaine, I could never, if I spent the rest of my life thanking you, I could never, ever properly tell you how precious and how important you are in my life. I am forever grateful.

My parents – my father had an eighth grade education, and my mother had a seventh grade education. My father was a plumber, working night and day. My mother, a cafeteria worker. There was always plenty of food. Always a warm house. We were always dressed well, and they sacrificed so much.

My grandfathers worked in the sand pits, where the sand was mined to build New York City. I had the good fortune to know my grandparents on my mother's side. If you come to my office, you'll see a picture of my grandfather and my grandmother at their 50th anniversary. His arm is down by his side, and if you look closely, you'll see a very grotesque thumb.

The reason it's grotesque is because for more than 50 years, that hand was on a shovel for eight hours a day. And every once in a while, I go to that picture, and I pick it up and I say, "Grandpa,

thanks for coming here, because you made it all possible."

Tonight, we're celebrating a rich heritage. They struggled, much like all of your ancestors, and they sacrificed. They came to this great country for the opportunities that this great country offered. That lady down by the tip of this island, she's there to remind the world that this is a land of opportunity. This is a land where if you work hard and do your best, you might succeed.

A lot of it's good fortune, a lot of it's good luck. But at least you've got a chance to succeed. One of the things that turned me on when I was asked to receive this honor was when I heard that the net proceeds go to scholarships.

What brings all of us here tonight, every one of us, one way or another, is education.

The myth is I am a self-made man. In my heart of hearts, I believe there is no such thing as a self-made man. I can think of all the people throughout my life who have helped me, who gave me a moment of encouragement when I needed it, who gave me a shove along the way, the people who, at many times, had more faith in me than I had in myself. I can assure you that I am not a self-made man: I am a mosaic of the kindness and the efforts of so many people who have helped me along the way – my family, my friends and business partners, and my teachers.

We need to understand that the life we all love, the quality of life we have, is in serious peril if we don't figure a way to give kids today – the kids like I was 50 years ago – the chance for an education, the kind of good education that will allow this nation to remain a competitor on the world stage.

Because frankly, right now, that is not happening. There isn't one of us in this room tonight that doesn't owe an enormous debt to this great country of America, which by the way, was named after an Italian, Amerigo Vespucci. Everything we cherish, everything we care about, everything we want, is based on a society where people have upward mobility, where a kid has a reason to wake up tomorrow, or a kid has a chance to look five years ahead and say, "I can do it and I'm ready to be a player, and I'm ready to compete."

So I want to thank the Columbus Foundation for the fact that the more than \$2 million net that we raised is going for scholarships.

There is a group here tonight, I don't know if you can turn the light on them, there is a gang of people here from Home Depot, and I want you to know why they are precious to me. Because they are helping to keep America great. There are about 12 of them here, and they represent about 325,000 hardworking, educated, dedicated American people.

From the bottom of my heart, being Grand Marshal is an honor I will never forget, and I certainly will think every day of the obligation I have to do what I can to make all of us proud, and to do whatever I can to help this great country, called America, carry on, because it's all about why our grandparents and great grandparents came here.

Thank you very much and good night.

Mayoral Reception at Gracie Mansion

Hundreds of leaders of New York's Italian-American community joined visiting dignitaries from Italy and around the country on October 7, 2009 as the Foundation sponsored the Mayor's Italian-American Heritage Month Reception at Gracie Mansion. In an event sponsored by the Foundation, Mayor Bloomberg welcomed guests from around the world.

Mayor Bloomberg said, "The story of America is really an Italian story. After all, it was Giovanni da Verrazano who was the first European, in 1524, to sail up these shores and enter what is today New York Harbor."



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg presents the 2009 Columbus Day Mayoral Proclamation to Foundation President Louis A. Tallarini.

Annual Wreath Laying

Continuing a tradition that dates back to the early years of the 20th century, the Foundation again sponsored a wreath laying at Columbus Circle to honor the explorer and Italian Americans who serve in New York's civil service. Among the hundreds of people present were Hon. Ignazio LaRussa, the Italian Minister of Defense, Joseph Guagliardo, president of the National Council of Columbian Associates in Civil Service, Foundation President Louis A. Tallarini and Chairman Lawrence E. Auriana, and members of the New York City's Departments of Police, Fire, Sanitation, Correction Officers, Transit and Court Officers. Mr. Guagliardo reminded the assembled crowd that Columbus, himself, sailed on behalf of a government and was thus a civil servant, and Mr. Tallarini noted, "New York is one of the safest cities in the world because of the men standing behind me, and I congratulate and thank them for the great work they do on behalf of us all, 365 days a year and 24 hours a day." The Wreath Laying was held on October 11, 2009.



Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli, Lawrence E. Auriana and Hon. Ignazio LaRussa, Italian Minister of Defense, at the annual Wreath Laying.

Columbus Day Mass at St. Patrick's

Archbishop Timothy Dolan celebrated the Columbus Day Mass for the first time as Archbishop on October 12, 2009, leading a packed congregation of nearly 3,000 people in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Among the celebrants, many of whom participated in the Parade, were members of the Foundation's Board of Governors, the honorees, dignitaries from Italy and Grand Marshal Kenneth G. Langone.

Archbishop Dolan was named Archbishop of New York by Pope Benedict XVI on February 23, 2009 and installed as Archbishop of New York on April 15, 2009.

Following the Mass, by tradition, Archbishop Dolan reviewed the Parade as it headed up Fifth Avenue. Interviewed on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral by a Newsday reporter, Archbishop Dolan said, "I especially appreciate the fact we start with prayer, we start with Mass [and] New York is just so infused with the beautiful Italian culture."



From top: A member of the Knights of Columbus in salute. Edward Cardinal Egan greeting Kenneth G. Langone following the Columbus Day Mass. Journal Co-Chairs Anthony M. Mallardi and Anthony F. Giordano in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

65th Annual Columbus Day Parade

Fifth Avenue became a sea of red, white and green on October 12, 2009 as the 65th Annual Columbus Day Parade gave hundreds of thousands of spectators a dazzling display of culture, heritage, history and innovation.

The crowds that packed Fifth Avenue got to see a model of the famed Juliet Balcony – which exists in Verona, the site of William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* – in a float conceived by the Region of Veneto, home of Verona, the Lido, and Venice. History far more recent came to life as astronaut Buzz Aldrin rode up Fifth Avenue in a Maserati sports car. The second man to walk on the moon, the eternally youthful Aldrin’s appearance came during the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing, the most famous and world-changing exploration since Columbus’s 1492 voyage.

The Parade, as reported by *Examiner*, documented “the countless Italian contributions to the world of culture, science, arts, fashion, medicine and technology, lest we forget the Italian penchant for designing some of the most breathtaking cars in the world such as Lamborghini, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo and Maserati.”

“Columbus Day celebrates the Italian-American experience, and the tremendous sacrifices and contributions our parents, grandparents, and millions of ancestors made to the United States,” said Louis Tallarini, President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. “Held on the day of Christopher Columbus’s landing in what was to Europeans a New World, we are also celebrating the spirit of

exploration and man’s quest for knowledge and opportunity, a search that continues to this day.”

Among the marchers were some of the hundreds of students receiving scholarships from the Columbus Citizens Foundation this year, as the Foundation is providing \$2 million in financial aid. The scholarships continue a tradition put in place in 1945 by Generoso Pope, co-founder of the Columbus Citizens Committee, the Foundation’s predecessor.

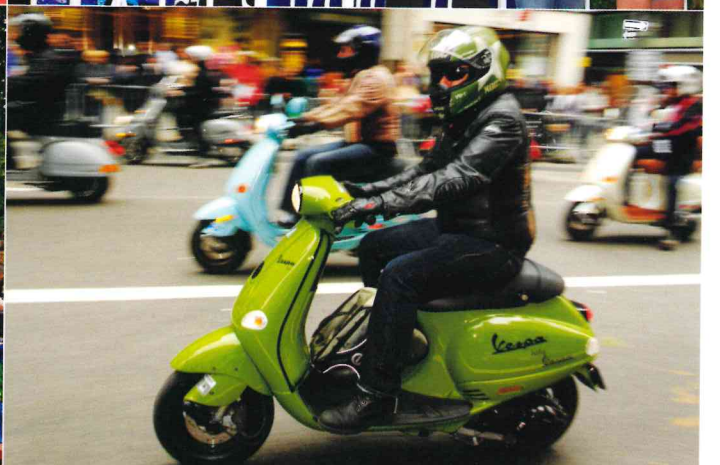
The scholarship students, from elementary school through college, were joined by dignitaries from Italy, including the 2009 Columbus Celebration Guest of Honor, Minister of Defense Ignazio LaRussa. Also marching up Fifth Avenue were Giulio Terzi, Ambassador to the United Nations, Raffaele Francesco, President of the Region of Sicily, Franco Manzano, Vice President of the Region of Veneto, Antonio Borrello, Vice President of the Regional Council of Calabria, and Francesco Talò, Consul General.

The parade brought to New Yorkers and tourists a spectacle of Italian culture and heritage. The famed *Fanfara Bersaglieri*, known for its long strides and rousing brass, brought thunderous cheers from the crowds all along Fifth Avenue.

Performances on the Red Carpet, broadcast by WNBC and by RAI and RAI International, featured performers, including Bobby Rydell, Giada Valenti, Michael Amanti, Tiffany Giardina and Tre Bella.

Clockwise from top left: Native sons from Veneto Titian, Marco Polo and Galileo Galilei were represented in the Parade. Columbus Celebration Chairman Frank G. Fusaro, Grand Marshal Kenneth G. Langone, Honoree Frank A. Corvino, Angelo V. Vivolo and Honoree Ronald J. Ferrelli at the reviewing stand. The famed Juliet Balcony was suggested in a float that reminded the nearly one-million Parade spectators of Veneto’s tremendous cultural history. Archbishop Timothy Dolan greets Columbus Day celebrants as he oversees his first Columbus Day Parade as Archbishop of New York.





Clockwise from top left: USO Performers on the Red Carpet Stage. New York Governor David A. Paterson was among the dozens of dignitaries to attend the Parade. Baci and Vespa were among the international sponsors who participated in the Parade. Astronaut and explorer Buzz Aldrin, 40 years after the first moon landing, embodied the spirit of exploration. Fans young and old came from around the world to attend the Parade. Sponsor Ronzoni highlighted the freshness of a new product line. WNBC Parade Anchors Joe Piscopo and Maria Bartiromo on the Red Carpet with members of the United States Marine Corps Color Guard and Band in the background.

Columbus Celebration Sponsors



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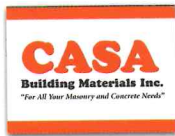
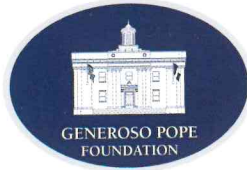


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