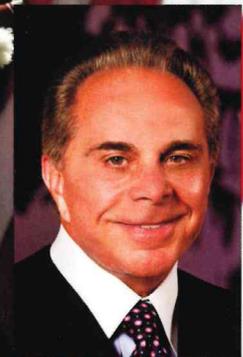
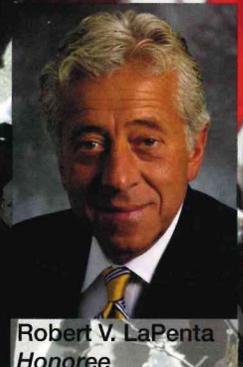


MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

# ONE MILLION PEOPLE LINE THE PARADE ROUTE



Joseph J. Plumeri  
*Grand Marshal*



Robert V. LaPenta  
*Honoree*



Stephen J. Squeri  
*Honoree*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking back at 2011, I'm delighted to report that, by any measure, our Columbus Celebration exceeded all projections. Our Parade, broadcast on WABC, was first in the ratings for the three hour telecast and drew a record number of people to Fifth Avenue. Despite an uncertain economy, the fundraising efforts of our outstanding Grand Marshal, Joe Plumeri, and Honorees, Bob La Penta and Steve Squeri, set all records. Their generosity and the efforts of all of those involved in the Celebration will allow us to continue providing approximately \$2 million in scholarship assistance to nearly 600 Italian-American students. Above all else, I believe this defines us as an organization.



Frank Fusaro

Our Annual Gala again filled the Waldorf=Astoria to capacity. As I looked out on over 1,100 guests, my thoughts invariably turned to our parents and grandparents. How proud they would have been to see how far we've come. We must never forget that all of our successes are built on their sacrifices. We must ensure that their resolute work ethic, devotion to family and values be perpetuated.

Our Speakers Bureau continues to thrive with outstanding presentations from Commissioners Ray Kelly and Salvatore Cassano, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Ken Langone, Frank Bisignano and Maria Bartiromo, just to name a few. We are now scheduling dates for Governors Andrew Cuomo and Chris Christie as well as former Governor Mario Cuomo, who have all agreed to participate in the program.

Our Medical Committee has been most helpful in affording members seeking counsel and access to some of the top facilities and doctors in the country. It is comforting to know that such an accomplished group of members is willing to extend a hand.

Last year over 50,000 people visited our entirely revamped website

to learn of the outstanding work of the Foundation. Among the many features, the site is now linked to Shutterfly.com, which enables us to download and purchase photos of events going back to 1960.

This past year saw us deliver on our solemn vow to the people of L'Aquila, whose city suffered extensive damage in a severe earthquake in 2009. After reviewing scores of requests, the Foundation acquired a Mobile Command Center for the L'Aquila Police Department that will provide much needed assistance to the more than 10,000 residents still in temporary housing in that beautiful medieval city. We will also expand the Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship program to provide aid to students in L'Aquila. In speaking to so many of the town's people, it was clear that while the buildings were damaged, the heart, warmth and most of all the spirit of the people are firmly intact.

While we have never been stronger, an increased membership will allow us to expand all of our initiatives. Please contact individuals you feel would embrace our mission and join us at the prospective new member dinners held each month.

It is also important to recognize that, in 2011, we lost three Founding Members: Peter Bonafede, Jimmy Peters and Cesar Taormina. In 1967, each of these men contributed to acquiring and renovating our Townhouse. They were among the pillars of our organization for decades, and they will be greatly missed.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of the members and staff who work so tirelessly to perpetuate the mission of our Foundation.

Frank G. Fusaro, President

## Columbus Citizens Foundation Mission Statement

Recognizing the incredible impact that our Italian heritage has had on our lives and its contribution to our individual successes, we the members of the Columbus Citizens Foundation dedicate ourselves to preserving and enhancing the culture, traditions and values we were so blessed to receive.

Furthermore, we will commit to honor those that came before us by ensuring that their love of country, family and tireless work ethic are passed to our children and all future generations. We firmly commit to raise and distribute financial aid to educate children in need and pledge to extend ourselves in perpetuating the philanthropic work that has been synonymous with our Foundation.

**Columbus Citizens Foundation**  
8 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10021  
Phone: 212.249.9923 Fax: 212.737.4413  
[www.columbuscitizensfd.org](http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org)

### Officers

Frank G. Fusaro  
*President*  
John V. Cioffi  
*Vice President*  
Matt Sabatine  
*Secretary*  
Lawrence E. Auriana  
*Treasurer*  
David J. Iommarini  
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Lisa LoRusso  
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Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli  
Marian U. Pardo  
Michael F. Pedone  
Vincent M. Toscano  
Angelo V. Vivolo

One million strong came out and enjoyed  
the 2011 Columbus Day Parade





Grand Marshal

**Joseph J. Plumeri**  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

October 19, 2011

Mr. Frank Fusaro  
President  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
8 East 69th Street  
New York, NY 10021

**REPLY TO:**  
Willis Group Holdings PLC  
One World Financial Center  
200 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10281

Direct Line: +212 915 8999  
Direct Fax: +212 915 8969  
E-mail: [plumerij@willis.com](mailto:plumerij@willis.com)

Dear Frank.

Last week passed in a flash. When I had the honor of walking up Fifth Avenue as the Grand Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade, with my family beside me, 35,000 marchers behind me and a million people lining the sidewalks, it was the grandest day of my life.

When you came to see me all those months ago to ask me to serve as Grand Marshal, I couldn't have imagined how much work, or how much fun, it would involve. Thank you for the privilege.

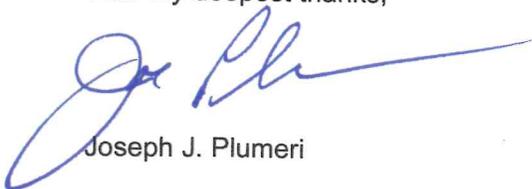
I want to also thank you for all you and the Foundation did to ensure such a successful series of events. I know there were scores of moving parts at every turn, but your team managed everything down to the last detail and the entire weekend could not have gone more smoothly. You have a talented team, and I was very grateful for their help!

I also enjoyed doing the media opportunities we did together and the work you do year round to advance the message of the Foundation. It is so important to ram this home.

I don't forget for a minute the real purpose of the weekend: our effort to raise over \$1.4 million to help educate young people and steer them in the right direction so that they can be the next da Vinci, Galileo or Marconi. And even if they never reach those heights, we can take great pride in having given them a better shot than they might have had without the assistance of the CCF. Throughout my long career, I can honestly state that I have had fewer prouder moments than this.

When I took the stage on Saturday night, my heart was full of appreciation: for the work of the Foundation and the other causes I support; for my family who gave me the values I've followed in life; and for a few people who steered me toward new opportunities and new dreams. As I thank them, I'd like to thank you again for all you and your Foundation colleagues did to make this a weekend of my dreams. The memories will last me a lifetime.

With my deepest thanks,



Joseph J. Plumeri

Willis Group Holdings PLC  
Grand Mill Quay  
Barrow Street  
Dublin 4  
Ireland



Robert V. LaPenta  
Chairman, CEO and Founder

December 12, 2011

Frank Fusaro  
President  
Columbus Citizen's Foundation  
8 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Frank,

When we first spoke about being an honoree at the 2011 Columbus Day celebration, I was hesitant thinking about the effort involved during a particularly busy time. Thanks to your persistence I agreed and I cannot tell you how grateful, and proud both I and my family are to have participated. You and the Foundation did an incredible job in organizing a weekend of memories that will last a lifetime.

The Gala was extremely well done; the entertainment was great as were the presentations by my fellow honorees, Maria Bartiromo, our hostess for the evening, and other program participants.

The Mass at St. Patrick's and the Parade will always have a new and special meaning to the entire LaPenta family.

It was also particularly gratifying being able to participate in the true purpose of the weekend – raising \$1.4 million to assist deserving young people to receive an education.

Thank you and everyone involved at the Foundation for the privilege of being an Honoree.

Warm regards,

Robert V. LaPenta

177 Broad Street · Stamford, CT 06901 · Phone: 203 504 1101 · Fax: 203 504 1110

October 24, 2011

Mr. Frank Fusaro  
President  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
8 E. 69 St.  
New York, NY 10021

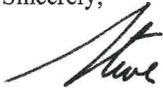
Dear Frank,

The Columbus Celebration is just days behind us, and what a week it was.

Being selected as an Honoree by the Columbus Citizens Foundation and being honored at the Gala and marching in the Parade was a thrill for not only me but my family. I will never forget the overwhelming feeling of pride that I had marching up Fifth Avenue with my daughters and dad as we celebrated our Italian heritage and culture. It was a time to reflect on my grandparents' determination and courage in coming to the United States in pursuit of the American dream. The Gala provided me with an opportunity to thank those people who are and were central to my life – my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends but most importantly my parents and my daughters Marissa and Monica for their love and support.

Thank you, and the many men and women from the Foundation who worked so hard, for making the experience possible. It was a weekend I will never forget.

Sincerely,

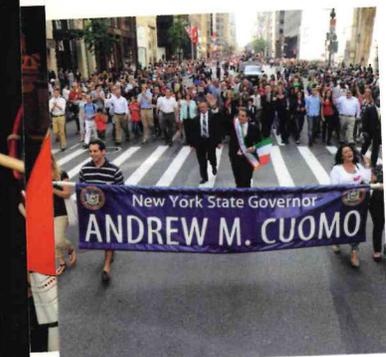


Stephen Squeri



**Stephen Squeri**  
Group President, Global Services  
**American Express Company**  
200 Vesey Street, 51st fl.  
New York, NY 10285





STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2011

Frank Fusaro, President  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
8 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Mr. Fusaro:

I want to thank you and the Foundation for allowing me to participate in the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbus Day Parade festivities.

I was honored to once again be part of this unique celebration and proud to join in saluting our Italian-American heritage. As always, the festivities brought back a lot of great memories for me, and I will remain grateful to you and the Foundation for having me as your special guest.

Thank you for your friendship, support, and leadership. Your advocacy continues to make you a tremendous resource to the Italian-American community and the people of our State.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

*Best personal regards!*



printed on recycled paper

# Columbus Celebration 2011: Building Towards a Greater Foundation

By Louis A. Tallarini  
Chairman

As Columbus Celebration Chairman, I am pleased to report that the 2011 Columbus Celebration was an unqualified success. We reached greater numbers of people than ever before. Working closely with WABC in an innovative broadcast partnership arranged by Frank Fusaro, we saw television viewership triple. Attendance at the parade grew to over one million people, thanks in large part to the work of our Marketing Chair, Michael Pedone. The parade once again paid homage to traditional Italian American culture and its dynamic future through the tireless work of Parade Chair, Alfred Catalanotto. The Gala Dinner and Journal reached new heights of success, thanks to the efforts of Frank Marzano, Anthony Giordano, and Anthony Mallardi. And we paid tribute to the immortal genius of Italian composers with a Columbus Celebration Concert in commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of Italy [see p. 27].

It is now 33 years since I became a member of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. I have served as General Chairman of the Columbus Celebration seven times, as President for four years, and now as Chairman of the Board for two years, with more to come.



Billboard in New Jersey

I can report first-hand that in a little more than a generation, the Foundation has become an irreplaceable part of the culture of New York City and the United States. We have had a series of exceptional Grand Marshals leading the Columbus Day Parade. We have made major donations of humanitarian and other aid, most recently to the City of L'Aquila and Region of Abruzzo [see p. 29]. We are



Grand Marshal Joseph Plumeri and WABC anchors Joe Piscopo and Foundation member Maria Bartiromo in the parade broadcast booth. New marketing initiatives, including billboards on New York and New Jersey interstates, drove attendance of the parade to over one million people.

helping to foster a love of our community's heritage and culture by helping to underwrite The College Board's Advanced Placement Program in Italian Language and Culture. And we have provided scholarship funding to nearly 2,000 students blessed with the capacity to excel in competitive schools but not the resources to attend them without our assistance.

The work we do, based on our fundraising efforts, is indispensable. Our efforts also fulfill a promise to our parents, grandparents and ancestors: just as they made sacrifices for us and strengthened their communities, we gladly take on the responsibility of helping others and honoring our culture and heritage.

Looking towards the 2012 Columbus Celebration, we have a great Grand Marshal in Mario Gabelli. Our goals are to continue strengthening and building our Foundation and our community and to continue our philanthropic and cultural work, which serve as a model of inspiration for all Italian Americans. I look forward to a remarkable 2012 and to your participation in making this year's Columbus Celebration an unparalleled success.

## Mayoral Reception Launches Columbus Celebration

The Columbus Celebration kicked off at Gracie Mansion on October 5, 2011 at the Mayor's Reception for Italian-American Heritage Month. New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg presided over an evening of antipasti and entertainment as the leaders of the area's Italian American community and representatives of Italy came together at Gracie Mansion. Mayor Bloomberg presented a Proclamation that declared that the city is "proud to join the Consulate General of Italy in New York, the Columbus Citizens Foundation, and all our residents and visitors in commemorating Italian Heritage and Culture Month."



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg presents Mr. Fusaro with a Mayoral Proclamation attesting to the contributions of Italian-Americans to New York.

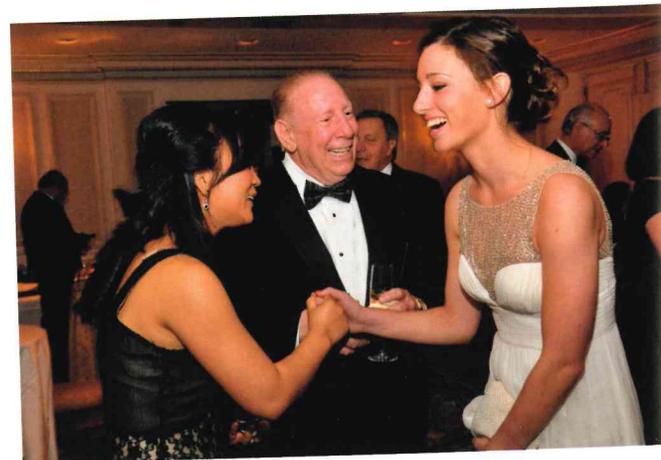
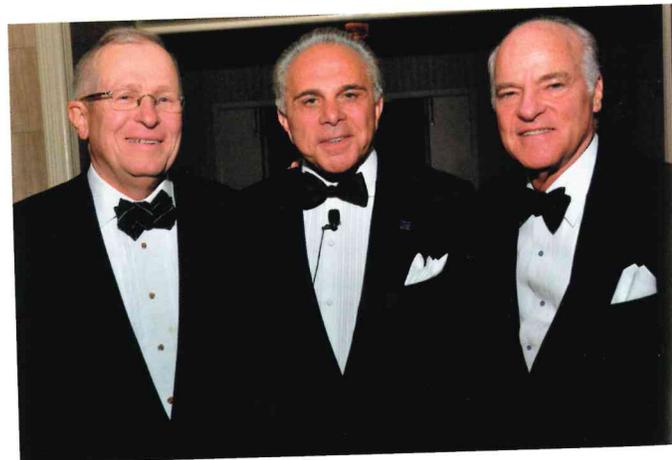
# Columbus Celebration Gala

**B**lack tie, designer gowns, the Silent Auction, the fundraising Journal that helps send hundreds of students to better schools, the Maserati raffle: the Columbus Citizens Foundation Annual Gala, held at the Waldorf=Astoria Grand Ballroom on October 8, 2011 defines style, elegance, and a level of generosity that is unsurpassed.

Held during the tumultuous year of 2011, when Italy celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its unification, Osama Bin Laden was finally called to account, and the underpinnings of financial markets continued to quake, the Foundation remained true to its mission. The Gala brought home the eternal importance of heritage, family and

envisioning a greater future and helped set a fundraising record of \$2.5 million.

Speaking from the podium to a room filled with over 1,100 people, Honoree Robert LaPenta, Founding General Partner of Aston Capital Partners, said, "Education has always been important, but I don't think there's ever been a time that it's more important than today, when the world is truly in economic and political turmoil. I'm very proud and privileged to take part in this event and in what the Foundation is about. And that is providing one of the greatest gifts you can to young and adult Italian-American children: the gift of education."





Opposite, clockwise, from upper left: Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a guest and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. The Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria. Thomas Roberts, Grand Marshal Joseph Plumeri, and Henry R. Kravis. Myoung Yee Na, Anthony Mallardi, Journal co-chair, and Anna Tallarini at the Gala reception. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, at right, with his wife, Veronica Kelly, Joseph Plumeri, and a guest. Violinist Joe Ginem, a cancer survivor supported by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey, performed at the Gala. Clockwise from top left: American Idol finalist, and New York idol and native Pia Toscano. Honoree Stephen Squeri, Matilda and Governor Mario M. Cuomo, and Foundation Chairman Louis Tallarini. Mr. Plumeri at the Gala Reception with a young admirer. Angelo and Denise Vivolo (at left) with Irene and Lawrence Auriana. Foundation President Frank Fusaro, Maria Bartiromo, Honoree Robert LaPenta, and Louis Tallarini.



Throughout the evening, Foundation members and guests filled the hall with toasts, laughter, and applause. Honoree Stephen Squeri, who is Group President, Global Services of American Express, recalled his grandfather who arrived in America without speaking English and eventually owned a tavern and a home. "He had courage, and he had determination. He was an unbelievable role model to his entire family, because he showed us all that if you have a dream and you work hard, anything is possible," Mr. Squeri said. "And to all of you tonight, you are all true role models. Through your support of the Foundation, you are demonstrating that it is important to be proud of our culture and heritage, it's important to celebrate our past, and it is important to give our young people the same opportunities for success that we've had."



"I stand here to tell you today that I believe in my heritage," 2011 Grand Marshal Joseph Plumeri said. Mr. Plumeri, the Chairman and CEO of Willis Group Holdings, said, "I believe all of us should build monuments to our heritage. We can build those monuments through the students whose education we fund so they can go to school and carry on our traditions and build on them in their turn."

# Annual Columbus Celebration Wreath Laying

The Columbus Celebration annual Wreath Laying was held on October 9, 2011, to pay tribute to the visionary navigator and explorer and to the civil servants of New York who help make the city the greatest on earth.

Among those who spoke at the event was Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant'Agata, who at the time was Italian Ambassador to the United States. Amb. Terzi said, "Columbus was the first of many millions of Italians who arrived here not knowing what the future would be. The growth and the future of the Western world, even today, are connected to this thirst of discovery that is so typical in all Italian Americans who are contributing to the growth of society."

In remarks to the crowd of over 200 people, Frank Fusaro, President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, said that the Foundation had raised a record \$2.5 million net during the 2011 Columbus Celebration. "Every dollar will go to educating students. We know they're terrific kids who have the capacity to learn but not the means to pay for a first-class education. And that's the way we're going to raise our ethnicity and the way we're going to fight the *Sopranos* and *Mob Wars* and *Jersey Shore* and *Growing up Gotti* and all the other trash that's on the air."

Joseph Plumeri, 2011 Grand Marshal, remarked, "My grandfather immigrated from Sicily on a ship in 1903. Columbus came in a parade of ships. Tomorrow I will lead a parade of 35,000 people. It's a metaphor about life, about leading people in a direction, unified, to celebrate an occasion. To go in a direction full of passion, full of life, in celebration of our heritage. It's what we're all about."



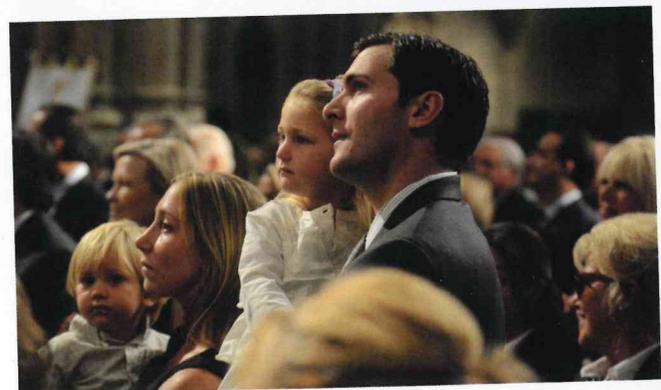
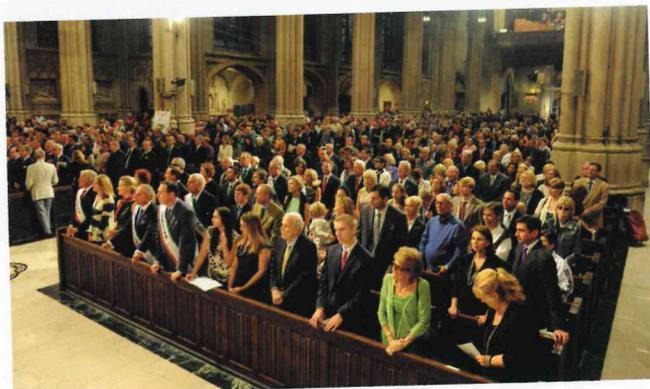
Grand Marshal Joe Plumeri (left of wreath) and Joseph Guagliardo, President of the National Council of Columbian Associations in Civil Service, at the annual Wreath Laying ceremony as members of the Columbian Associations look on.

Mr. Plumeri continued, "We are a people who have great traditions, but we cannot let those traditions be our jailer. We have to build on tradition. We can't be a group of people of memories, we have to be a group of people with dreams. We are here this weekend to celebrate the dreams of tomorrow and the students we fund who will continue those dreams so that we find new horizons through those students."

## Columbus Day Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

On the morning of October 10, 2011, St. Patrick's Cathedral was filled to capacity for the annual Columbus Day Mass. Timothy M. Dolan, then Archbishop, Edward Cardinal Egan, and auxiliary Bishop of Genoa, Ernesto Palletti, celebrated mass with over 3,000 people, including Honorees, dignitaries, and Foundation members and friends.

Clockwise, from right: Timothy M. Dolan, then Archbishop and now Cardinal, speaks with members of the Foundation. The beauty of the celebration of mass is reflected in the expressions of people of all ages. St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Columbus Day Mass.



# Foundation Fetes 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Italian Unification with Lincoln Center Concert

The beauty of soaring melodic lines and brilliant orchestrations by Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Gaetano Donizetti and other Italian composers proclaimed a tribute to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italian Unification on October 9, 2011.

The Petruzzelli Theater Orchestra, of Bari, Italy, performed under the baton of Alberto Veronesi, the orchestra's internationally celebrated music director. Held at the Rose Theater in Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, the concert brought together dignitaries from Italy and the United States, including Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant'Agata, then Italian ambassador to the United States, and Natalia Quintavalle, the Consul General of the Italian Consulate in New York.

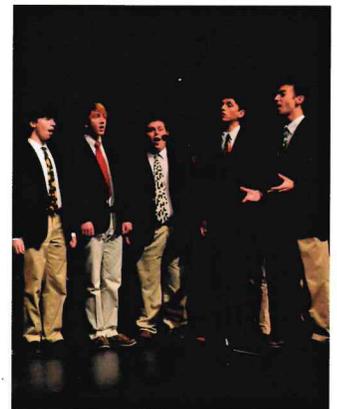
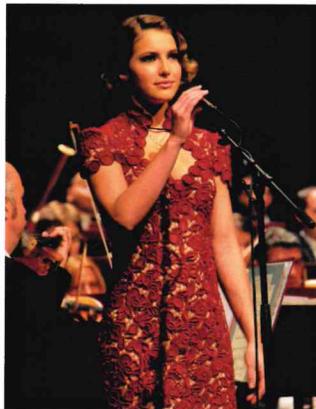
A rapt audience was held in thrall as soprano Marina Shaguch gave crystalline renderings of "Tacea la notte placida" from Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and other works and as Massimiliano Pisapia sang "Nessun dorma" from Puccini's *Turandot*. Among the encores commanded by the appreciative audience were "Donde lieta" from Puccini's *La Bobeme* in a performance by American soprano, recording artist and songwriter, Caroline Jones.

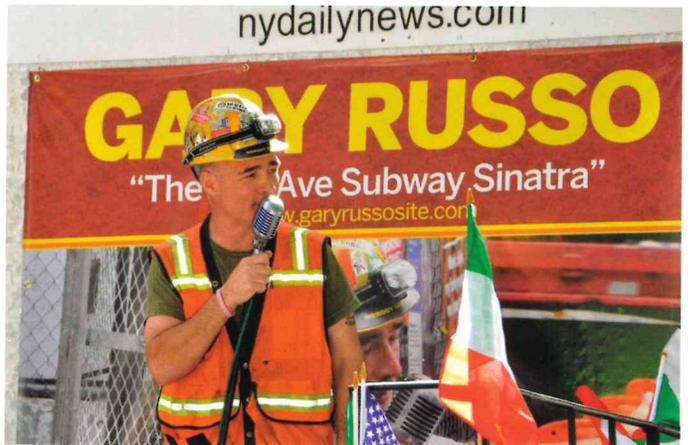
And in a warm tribute that spoke to the bonds between Italy and the United States, the Chorus of La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi – the only English and Italian dual language school in New York City – performed the Italian National Anthem.

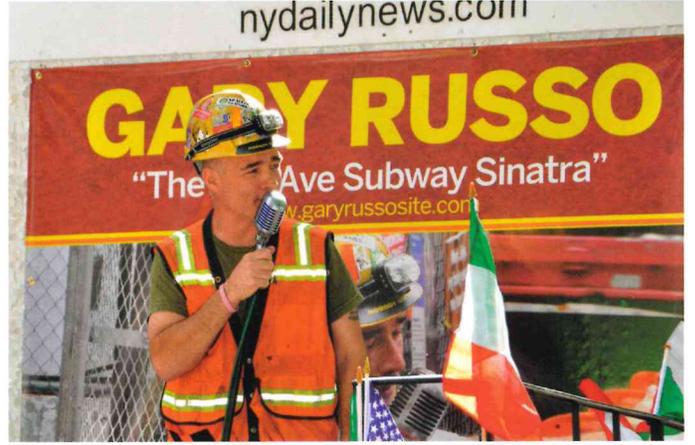
Foundation Chairman Louis Tallarini, who played a critical role in bringing the concert to fruition, said, "For many years, Columbus Day was celebrated in New York with a concert held in Carnegie Hall. It has been a pleasure for the Foundation to bring back to life a tradition that celebrates one of Italy's many indelible and eternal legacies – the music of its brilliant composers and the words of its unsurpassed librettists."

The Foundation organized the concert with the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institute and the sponsorship of the city of Bari, the Petruzzelli Theater and the Associazione Sviluppo Sinfonico. The concert was given under the patronage of the Embassy of Italy to the United States.

From top: Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, then Italian Ambassador to the United States and now Minister of Foreign Affairs, New York Italian Consul General Natalia Quintavalle, and Louis Tallarini before the Columbus Celebration Concert. Soprano Caroline Jones. Members of the College of William & Mary's Gentlemen of the College. Tenor Massimiliano Pisapia takes a bow as Music Director Alberto Veronesi looks on. Soprano Marina Shaguch with Maestro Vereonesi and the Petruzzelli Theater Orchestra.







the face of terrorism. On view, too, was a float announcing the reinstatement of The College Board's Advance Placement Program in Italian Language and Culture (AP Italian). The program, briefly suspended, is being brought back to schools throughout the United States because of the generosity of the Foundation, the government of Italy, and contributions from other American organizations.

Ms. Toscano, who is from Bensonhurst and was an *American Idol* finalist before launching a successful solo career, drew cheers along the avenue before reaching the Red Carpet. There, she performed *I'll Stand By You* and her hit single, *This Time*. While Ms. Toscano was the headliner for the 2011 Red Carpet performances, where the

stage was decked out with the logo of sponsor American Express, a number of other noted artists celebrated traditional music of Italy and contemporary song, among them Michael Amante, Italian chanteuse Giada Valenti, and the twins Will and Anthony Nunziata.

The performances were again viewed by viewers in the grandstand and by those watching the live broadcast of the parade on WABC-TV. The parade was later rebroadcast twice on the Public Broadcasting Service and on the Italian channel RAI. In 2011, Maria Bartiromo – after serving as Grand Marshal in 2010 – returned to the anchor table, where she was joined by performer Joe Piscopo. All told, the broadcast of the parade reached millions of people on five continents.



Clockwise, from top left: An Italian gondola makes its way up Fifth Avenue. Bensonhurst native Pia Toscano. Salvatore J. Cassano with Joseph Plumeri. A festooned cart recalls 19th century Italy. Cast members of *The Magical World of the Italian Fairy* approaching the Red Carpet. Members of the New York City Council show once again that on Columbus Day, everyone is Italian.



WABC-TV

Dave Davis  
President & General Manager

**Frank Fusaro  
President  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
8 East 69th Street  
New York, NY 10021**

Dear Frank,

I am writing to tell you how excited WABC-TV is to work with the Columbus Citizens Foundation again this year, and to bring our viewers the Columbus Day Parade on Monday, October 8, 2012.

Last year's parade on Channel 7 was the most watched program in New York from noon to 3pm, the largest TV audience in recent years.

As New York's leading television station, WABC-TV/Channel 7 is proud to promote the positive contributions of Italian Americans, and to help the Foundation further its cause of cultural education and philanthropy.

Thanks Frank - now, *ANDIAMO!*

Sincerely,

**Dave Davis  
President & General Manager**

7 World Trade Center, New York, New York 10021  
Tel: 212-424-1273, 1-877-834-6229



## Silent Auction Screams Success

A staple of the Gala and the Columbus Celebration – the Annual Silent Auction – offered a potpourri of the exceptional. Drawing on a pool of seemingly endless friends and contacts, Silent Auction Chair Maria Theresa Fauci delivered one of the most varied series of offerings with events on both coasts – and in Vatican City.

Perhaps the most exceptional offering in recent memory was a trip to Rome (airfare included) for once-in-a-lifetime experiences: a Mass in Papal Audience with VIP seating and private tours of the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel to view the incomparable artwork of Sandro Botticelli and Michelangelo, including *The Creation of Adam*. Travel was also in the offing for winning bidders. Golf aficionados had the opportunity to bid on rounds at Trump National Golf Clubs in Bedminster, NJ and Westchester, NY and Trump International West Palm Beach, FL with airfare for four. Fashion and accessories included a men's BVLGARI-BVLGARI black automatic watch and a chic Doncaster scarf and necklace and a bronze Bella Collection evening bag.



Maria Theresa Fauci

The offerings spoke of Mrs. Fauci's dedicated efforts and the great respect the Foundation has in the community. Once again, as in all benefit auctions, a number of Foundation members and guests left the Gala with the promise of exceptional values and incomparable experiences.

## Foundation Inaugurates Trading on Columbus Day



NASDAQ kicked off Columbus Day with Board of Governor Member Lawrence E. Auriana (above, left) ringing the Opening Bell, accompanied by Anthony M. Mallardi, co-chair of the Journal Committee and Board Member. The stock market cited the Foundation for organizing the Columbus Day Parade and for providing "\$2 million a year in scholarship assistance to over 500 deserving students."

## Gala Journal Notches Record Year

The record-setting success of the 2011 Columbus Celebration and the hundreds of families who benefit from Foundation scholarships owe a great deal to the Gala Souvenir Journal and the men who make it happen, Anthony F. Giordano and Anthony M. Mallardi, co-chairs of the Journal Committee.

Just don't try telling them: they are too modest. "Anthony and I just pull it all together – we have so many great people to call on and who make great efforts," Mr. Giordano said. "All the pieces are there." A backbone of the broader Columbus Celebration, the 2011 Journal claimed record revenues of nearly \$855,000, no small feat at a time when economic uncertainty lingers.

Mr. Giordano cited a number of people as the reasons for the Journal's success. At the top of the list was Richard DeZego, who in his day job is Senior Executive Vice President, Real Estate, HSBCBank USA. Mr. DeZego was responsible for over 20% of the Journal's revenues and brought in pages from Asia and Australia. Lawrence Auriana, Senior Portfolio Manager of the Federated Kaufmann Fund, once again delivered a series of pages before the closing of the Journal drive, which pushed the publication to a new level.

And notably, Grand Marshal Joseph Plumeri, Chairman and CEO of



Journal Chairmen, Anthony Mallardi and Anthony Giordano with his daughter Tara



Willis Group Holdings, sent out a personal appeal to friends and associates. "Mr. Plumeri's letter was very powerful and spoke from the heart," Mr. Giordano said. "In essence, he said that supporting the Foundation is a worthy endeavor that is very important to him. People responded emphatically."

"The Journal's success is an extension of the Foundation's mission, goals, and achievements," Mr. Mallardi said. "For the members who participate in the Journal, they are saying loud and clear to everyone in our community that they are committed to supporting Italian-American heritage and culture and to helping accomplished and financially needy students receive a better education. And when people who are not members get involved – and this year, fully half of all pages were taken by non-members – it's a great achievement. They are recognizing the importance of the work that the Foundation does and they are paying tribute to the vision, commitment and selflessness of the members who bring the Foundation to their attention."

"The truth of the matter," Mr. Giordano said, "is that whatever success Anthony and I achieve is a reflection of the effort of the people on the Journal Committee and the men and women who are so passionate about our heritage. This year in particular, Frank Fusaro, Louis Tallarini and Frank Marzano as well as the other chairs of the Columbus Celebration, helped make it a great success."

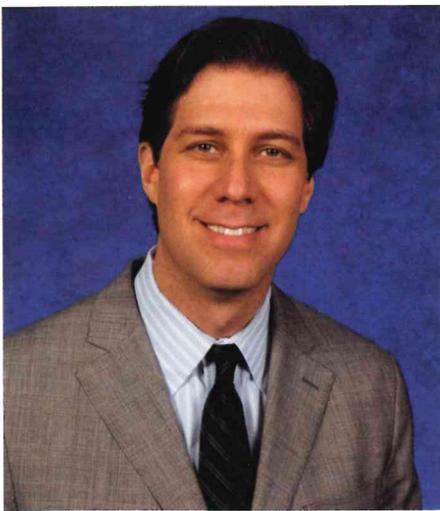
# Foundation's Commitment to Millennium High School Pays Huge Dividends

The tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York, and New York City's irrepressible will to rebuild, were commemorated in the Columbus Day Parade by a float that paid tribute to the Millennium High School, a public school conceived in the days after 9/11 and completed through the Foundation's generosity.

The summer before the attacks, the city had been considering where to establish a new high school. In fact, on September 7, 2011, a group met to discuss possible locations, and the leading candidates were the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side. But immediately afterward 9/11, recalls Robert Rhodes, principal of the Millennium High School, who was involved in the meetings and had been charged with opening a new school, the thinking changed. "The idea to create the school in Lower Manhattan was developed by people who wanted to do something for downtown after 9/11," Mr. Rhodes said.

On September 20, 2001, recalled Louis A. Tallarini, Chairman of the Foundation and then a member of its Board of Governors, "our Board met to consider cancelling the Columbus Day Parade because of what had happened. We decided to speak with Mayor [Rudolf] Giuliani and Governor [George] Pataki for guidance, and both emphatically felt that the city needed to move forward. We resolved to hold the parade, and at the suggestion of Ambassador Charles A. Gargano, who was president of the Foundation at the time, we dedicated \$1 million of the proceeds of the Columbus Celebration to a new school in Lower Manhattan."

Possible sites for the Millennium High School, as it was called, were limited, and an office building at 75 Broad Street was chosen.



Principal Robert Rhodes

The building had no auditorium, no gym, and no large meeting room. No alternative spaces were available in lower Manhattan, but the need to revitalize the area – including schools to attract residents – was paramount.

The Foundation's donation turned a grimy unused area that housed generators into a multipurpose room that serves both the school and the community. In 2002, the school opened and has become a remarkable post-9/11 success story. Students must test into it, over 95% of them enroll in college, and the great majority are the first members of their families to pursue higher education. In 2011, it received 4,500 applications for 150 freshman seats, and it has sent students to colleges as diverse as the student population itself, from state schools to Ivy League colleges.



Millennium High School Float

Speaking at a dedication ceremony in 2007, Dennis M. Walcott, then Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development and now Chancellor of the city's Department of Education, said, "To Louis Tallarini and to the members of the Columbus Citizens Foundation Board, thank you. Thank you for your generous gift. Thank you for your dedication to the Millennium High School, and most of all thank you for the lesson in civic service. You saw a need, and you responded to that need. We are here in a room that improves the life of a school. It is an auditorium. It is a gymnasium. And it's all a result of the generosity of the Foundation."

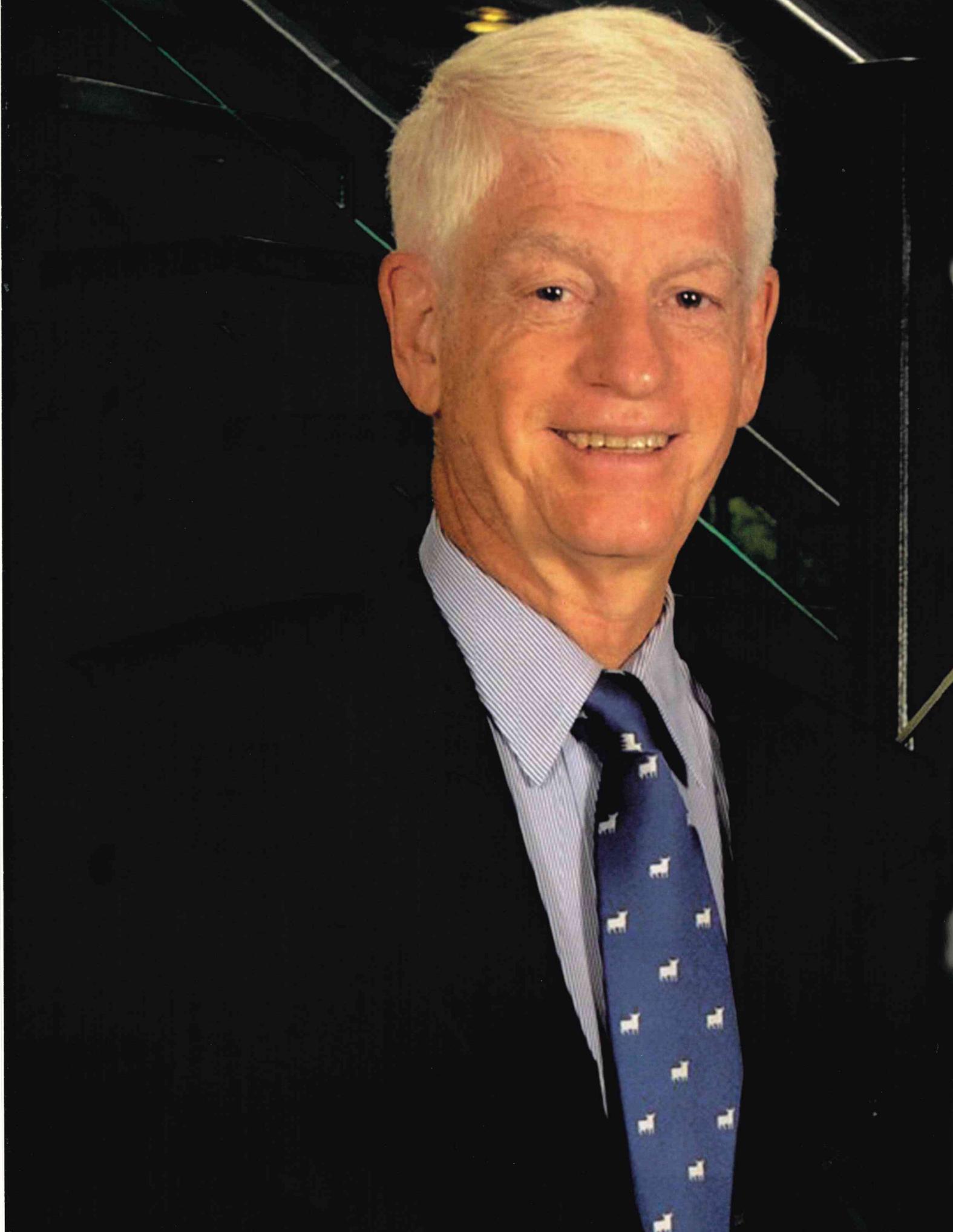
"This facility was completed with the assistance and generosity of the Columbus Citizens Foundation" said Mr. Rhodes. "It has also become an important part of our community. Over one half of the students in this school were the first college-bound generation in

"Our students and community owe a debt of thanks to your Foundation's generosity and your concern for the City of New York and its students.

Without the generosity of the Foundation, it would never have happened."

their families. Like us, they owe a debt of thanks to your Foundation's generosity and your concern for the City of New York and its students. Without the generosity of the Foundation, it would never have happened."

On October 10, 2011, dozens of Millennium students traveled up Fifth Avenue on a float in memory of 9/11, in tribute to the city's great spirit and in acknowledgement of the Foundation's commitment to New York and the education of its students.



# Philanthropist and Wall Street Leader and Innovator Mario J. Gabelli To be Grand Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade

**T**he Grand Marshal of the 2012 Columbus Day Parade, Mario J. Gabelli, is a strong proponent of education and he practices what he preaches. In 2010, he donated \$25 million to Fordham University (the largest gift in the school's history) to help globalize the undergraduate business program, known now as the Fordham University Gabelli School of Business.

Speaking that year to students at Fordham, where he received his undergraduate degree summa cum laude, Mr. Gabelli said, "When everyone is looking for what can go wrong, think about what can go right and how you can change the world."

A renowned philanthropist, the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc., and a Foundation member since 1976, Mr. Gabelli is a relentlessly forward-looking man. The trait has served him well in business. In 2011, he was awarded Money Manager of the Year by *Institutional Investor*, having returned 28.6% for his institutional clients in 2010 and 16.3% since GAMCO Investor's founding in 1977. He was also inducted into the *Barron's* All-Century Team, a listing of the most influential fund industry portfolio managers in 2010 and was Morningstar, Inc.'s Domestic Equity Fund Manager of the Year in 1997.

"Mario Gabelli is a most deserving Grand Marshal for our 2012 Columbus Celebration," said Foundation President Frank G. Fusaro. "Mario excels at everything he does, whether managing and guiding an enormously successful company, identifying deserving charitable causes, or contributing to his community. As a matter of record, Mario was one of the initial and largest supporters of the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program, a fact that speaks to his dedication to giving back and to helping those who are less fortunate. We are extremely pleased that he has accepted our invitation to be Grand Marshal."

Mr. Gabelli grew up in the Bronx and lives in Greenwich, CT, with his wife, Regina Pitaro, who also graduated from Fordham. His interest in the financial markets began at an early age. While in high school, he hitchhiked to a Westchester country club where he worked as a caddy. Instead of heading home as dusk fell, he remained to listen to the members talk about stocks. Always an avid reader, as he is to this day, in high school he consumed the *Wall Street Journal* and *Business Week*.

After graduating from Fordham, Mr. Gabelli received his masters from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business, where he studied under Professor Roger F. Murray, a leading proponent of the Graham and Dodd school of securities analysis: seek out companies whose value has not yet been recognized by the market.

A day after getting his masters in 1967, Mr. Gabelli began his career as an automotive and farm equipment analyst at Loeb Rhodes & Co. He later covered the broadcast and entertainment industries, and in 1977 founded Gabelli Asset Management as an institutional broker-dealer that has since grown into the diversified financial services corporation with the name GAMCO Investors.

As an analyst, Mr. Gabelli has introduced innovation in the field. His proprietary Private Market Value with a Catalyst™ methodology is now an analytical standard in the value investing community.

In 1995, he was introduced at the Fifth Annual Graham & Dodd Breakfast at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business by Professor Bruce C.N. Greenwald, The Robert Heilbrunn Professor of Asset Management & Finance. Professor Greenwald said, "What Mario has done, and I think it's one of the great intellectual contributions to the practice of value investing, is to extend the notion of where you can calculate tangible value... What Mario did was to look around and see that there's a lot of tangible value information out there in the form of private market transactions..."

"So, the second thing Mario really developed, and it's part and parcel of the strategy, is the idea of a catalyst; something in an investment opportunity that you can point to that, in a reasonable amount of time, will unlock any private values and bring them home to the investors – whether it's retirement, family disputes, takeovers, or ultimately, and I think this is Mario's final leap of genius, Mario himself operating to lead management to behave in the interests of their shareholders."

In 2011, talking to students at Roger Williams University, home of the Mario J. Gabelli School of Business, he asked, "Where is the world going to be two to three years from now?" he said, He talked about having forward-thinking vision in business, using Wayne Gretzky as an example: "... it's not where the puck is, but where it's going." Later in the same discussion, he said, "Oil saved the whales, but how are we going to save the planet?"

In addition to being a major supporter of the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program, Mr. Gabelli or the Gabelli Foundation or the Gabelli Family Foundation at the Jewish Communal Fund have been benefactors to Columbia Graduate School of Business, Boston College, Roger Williams University, Pace University, the University of Miami, Fordham Preparatory School (his high school alma mater), the Children's Hospital at Montefiore School Health Program, the National Italian-American Foundation and the American-Italian Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Gabelli has received numerous awards, including the *Cavaliere, Ordine al Merito* in 1996, bestowed by the Italian Government, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for Business Leaders, the South Bronx Educational Foundation's Distinguished Public Service Award, the Sacred Heart University Discovery Award, and the Columbus Citizens Foundation Award for Business and Education.

"I am delighted to serve as Grand Marshal of the 2012 Columbus Celebration," Mr. Gabelli said. "The Celebration presents the best of Italian-American culture and heritage while raising funds for scholarships. Education is the great leveler, the engine of America's meritocracy, and it must remain so for the country to compete in the global economy."

Mr. Gabelli returned to a theme he addressed on the renaming of the Fordham University Gabelli School of Business. He said, "My grandfather died in a coal mining accident in western Pennsylvania 100 years ago, and my family always stressed the importance of education as a stepping stone to creating a better life. I am proud and blessed to be able to contribute to that effort."

# Scholarship Programs, Fundraising Nearing Milestones

This June and July, eager students will come to the Foundation on three evenings. Accompanied by their parents or guardians, they will be among the 168 students who will receive newly awarded scholarships from the Foundation and will matriculate in elementary school, high school or college in the 2012-2013 school year.

The evenings are among the more touching of those held at the Foundation. They are a celebration of students who dedicate themselves to schoolwork, who recognize and honor their Italian-American heritage, and who, on the high school and college levels, perform community service activities.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Foundation's scholarship programs are providing financial assistance of nearly \$2 million to over 500 students. Each of the awards is for a multi-year scholarship – three years for high school students, or four years for those in college – that provides families the security that high-performing students will have their assistance needs met.

"In one generation, we've gone from awarding a couple of handfuls of scholarships to, in 2011-2012, a total of 170 new awards," said Frank Fusaro, President of the Foundation. "This dramatic

increase grows out of a number of factors. Our members have achieved great professional success. They are unwavering in their commitment to our community. They are resolved to honor the sacrifices of their parents and grandparents by sacrificing on behalf of others. And they recognize that providing educational opportunities to those who have the capacity for success but not the means for a first rate education is the single best way to elevate the Italian-American community."

The scholarships open doors and create opportunities for learning and advancement, facts demonstrated in letters students and parents send the Foundation. A high school recipient, Sabrina, who attends Archbishop Molloy High School, wrote, "I volunteer my time as a camp counselor for the special needs camps run by the Marist Brothers in Esopus, NY. I have decided to work towards becoming a special education teacher. I am grateful to the Columbus Citizens Foundation for providing me the opportunity to attend a Catholic high school, where I have been exposed to so many enriching experiences. Thank you!"

A college scholarship recipient, Eric, wrote, "Since being given a scholarship last year from the Columbus Citizens Foundation,



Clockwise from top left: Antonio and Anna Marie Osso, son Francesco, and Elementary Scholarship Committee Member Dr. Anthony Orlando. Nancy Cuttita and Denise Vivolo with (top, from left) Christian and Ashley Pasalau and (lower row, from left) Alexander Stefanini, Maria D'Aria, and Kaitlyn Raiola. Michael and Deborah DelPrete with daughter Nicole and Elementary Scholarship Committee Member Mario Occhicone. Frank and Camille Fortino with Adopt-A-Scholar Recipient Brianna Contorno, her parents Bernardo and Joann Contorno, and Frank Fusaro, President of the Foundation.

I have strengthened my love for my wonderful Italian-American heritage. I am extremely proud to share a heritage with some of the greatest thinkers, entertainers, and politicians. I will take advantage of the chance you are giving me to learn more about my heritage. Thank you!"

One theme that stands out is the transformational nature of the scholarships. A college student, Cady, wrote, "I can't say enough how thankful I am. You've truly changed my life."

Life change is a motif that Paula Lobello Raiola returned to again and again in a telephone interview. Both her daughter, Samantha, and her son Georgie, were the Foundation's guests at Lago del Bosco, the immersive Italian summer camp in Minnesota, where Georgie learned to eat more than french fries, chicken nuggets, and pizza. "Now he eats everything Italian that there is," Mrs. Raiola said.

**"I want the people of the Foundation  
to think of my family and how much  
you change lives. The Foundation  
has helped us raise these kids.  
They're such great kids.  
We could never have done it  
without the Foundation."**

Samantha received a high school scholarship and attended Bishop Kearney High School, where she did so well that she received a scholarship outside the Foundation to attend St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn. Georgie, however, faced hurdles in learning and speech. Receiving an elementary school scholarship let him attend a school where he received the assistance he needed. When it came time for high school, Mrs. Raiola was concerned he might not be able to maintain the 85 average necessary for a new scholarship from the Foundation, so she made a plea to members of the High School Scholarship Committee. She said, "I can't promise that he will always have an 85 average, but I can promise that he will always work harder than other kids."

Georgie did receive a scholarship and is attending Xaverian High School. He has an 88.3 grade point average and received an award from the Police Department's 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct for outstanding community service. The reason for his success? According to Mrs. Raiola, Georgie said to her, "These people [at the Foundation] are counting on me - they believe I can do it, and I have to do well for them."

Mrs. Raiola, whose husband, George, is a dry wall tapper and who herself is a homemaker, said, "When Georgie came back from camp in Minnesota, he came back a different kid. When he had the chance to go to a better school, he got the help he needed. If you direct a kid in the right direction in the right school, if you direct them to success, they work harder, they take pride in their culture."

Taking a moment to collect her breath, Mrs. Raiola said, "I want the people of the Foundation to think of my family and how much you change lives. The Foundation has helped us raise these kids. They're such great kids. We could never have done it without the Foundation."

## Adopt-A-Scholar Endowment Nears \$10 Million

The Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program has now passed the \$9 million mark and continues to grow.

Created in 2001 under the direction of current Foundation President Frank Fusaro, the program gives donors the opportunity to create scholarships in the names of a family member, a family, or loved one.

There are two levels of Adopt-A-Scholar donations. Four-year high school or college scholarships require a minimum gift of \$25,000, which provides for the four-year education of a single student. Perpetual Scholarships, which on an ongoing basis provides for the four-year educations of students in perpetuity, start at \$100,000. Donations are typically spread over four years and can be made by an individual, groups of individuals or organizations.

The student candidates for the awards are approved based on achievement and need by one of the Foundation's scholarship committees. In addition to academic success, the candidates are selected for their strong identification with the Italian-American community and in the cases of high school and college recipients a commitment to community service.

As well as naming the scholarships after a loved one, benefactors may specify that the scholarship be awarded to a student attending a particular school. One Foundation member teamed up with family members to create a Perpetual Scholarship for a student going to Penn State, the alma mater of three people in the family. If no student has applied to and been accepted at Penn State during the year the scholarship is awarded, then the funds are used for a student attending St. Francis Preparatory School, the alma mater of one of the donors.

In its 10-year history, the Adopt-A-Scholar Program has seen donations for a number of reasons. Beyond the Penn State / St. Francis example, one woman who had no particular ties to the Italian-American community created a College Perpetual Scholarship named after her family. Her original goal was to determine the best way to handle appreciated securities that had risen sharply in value. After considering selling the stock or making a donation, she was inclining towards a donation. On learning about the Foundation's scholarship program, and the opportunity to memorialize her family with a named scholarship, she opted to make a gift of the stock. The deciding factor was the fact that the gift would change the lives of motivated young adults.

Donations have come from foundations and groups, as well as individuals and families. The Generoso Pope Foundation created a Perpetual Scholarship in memory of the Foundation's co-founder. Year after year the Ladies Auxiliary raises funding for Adopt-A-Scholar and the Young Adults support the program as well. Benefactors make gifts or pledges of over \$100,000, and Patrons donate between \$20,000 and \$100,000.

To learn more about the benefits of participating in the Program, please contact the Foundation's Executive Director, David Iommarini.

# Speakers Bureau, House Committee Deliver

**W**orldwide leaders in the fields of business, entertainment, scholarship and cuisine are increasingly a central and irreplaceable resource at the Foundation through the House Committee's Speakers Bureau. Month after month, under the aegis of Anthony N. Correra, House Committee Chair, men and women of significant achievement share with Foundation members lessons learned and their unique views on pivotal moments in a wide range of areas.

And while these opinion leaders and taste makers offer inside insights into executive offices, governance, and culture, the House Committee also provides opportunities to enjoy the best of New York's cultural menu in events where camaraderie is offered by members of the Foundation.

"We create events that give members a cross section of everything," said Anthony N. Correra, House Committee Chair.

Among the corporate leaders who have recently spoken at the Townhouse were Frank Bisignano, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and the CEO of Chase Mortgage Banking. Also at the Townhouse was Kenneth Langone, past Grand Marshal, noted philanthropist, chairman of the Trustees of New York University Medical School and Hospital, co-founder of Home Depot and founder and Chairman of Invemed Associates LLC., a New York Stock Exchange member firm engaged in brokerage.



Frank Bisignano

Governmental leaders, also, have brought their views to the Foundation, including New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. And the House Committee brought to the Townhouse Bobby Valentine, who has since joined the Boston Red Sox.



Bobby Valentine and Frank Fusaro

Recent book signings included past Grand Marshal, restaurateur, author, and television celebrity Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, who presented *Lidia's Italy in America*, and past Honoree Kara DioGuardi, who read from *A Helluva High Note: Surviving Life, Love, and American Idol*.

Mr. Correra and the House Committee have also arranged highly successful outings, including a guided tour of Ellis Island, a private viewing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collections of Italian art, and, in an evening arranged by Louis Tallarini, group tickets to *Chicago* followed by a backstage tour with Ms. DioGuardi, who was then performing in the show.



Kara DioGuardi

And of course there were also Opera Nights, a film night featuring the Italian classic, *Il Postino*, seats in the Mickey Mantle Party

## From the Director's Desk

*The Blind Side* is a wonderful story of Michael Oher, a boy condemned by parental negligence to foster care and homelessness whose life changed when Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy became his guardians. The Tuohy's insisted that Mr. Oher – a gifted high school athlete who as a boy had repeated both first and second grades – receive tutoring for 20 hours a week. As a result, Mr. Oher earned a degree from a Division I college and had a successful career in the National Football League.



David Iommarini  
Executive Director

I am reminded of *The Blind Side* when I think of the generosity of our members. I am impressed with the assistance we offer in providing scholarship funding for students who would otherwise not be able to afford the schools they are qualified to attend. Few, if any, may become NFL stars, but all find their opportunities in life improved by the Foundation's generosity. Today, through our Adopt-A-Scholar Program, we are providing funding of approximately \$2 million for the benefit of more than 500 students.

One of the Foundation's 2011 initiatives has been a redesign of the website, which relaunched last year. It now includes significant new functionality: a password protected area for members only. Members can go online and review and make reservations for upcoming events.

We are also developing another new section of the site that will turn scholarship recipients into virtual Foundation alumni. This new area will let past and present scholarship recipients communicate with each other and the Foundation as do alumni offices at high schools and colleges.

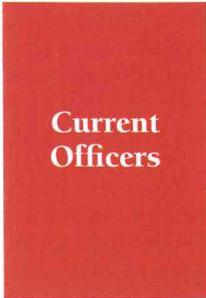
Each of these initiatives will strengthen the unity of our community as we champion Italian-American culture and heritage and continue to offset the cancer of negative stereotyping. While we cannot and do not wish to dictate what people choose to view as entertainment, we will continue to let everyone know something more about Italy and people of Italian ancestry than what they see on TV. You only have to look around you to see the prominence of Italians in architecture, mathematics, physics, science, medicine and so many other noble professions. We must never forget that it is part of our mission to promote Italian heritage and culture – and to fight defamatory, sensationalist stereotyping.

Suite at Yankee Stadium, a Golf Tournament and Bocce Tournament with dinner at the Sands Point Golf Club, performances by comedian Pat Cooper and singer-entertainers Will and Anthony Nunziata. And, in honor of our heritage and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italian unification, a talk by Antonio Rutigliano, Ph.D. on the untold history of Southern Italy from the Phoenicians to the unification.

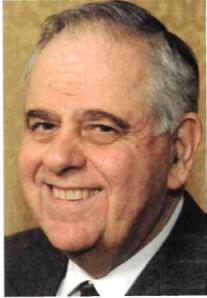
"The events we organize are among the many activities that make membership in the Foundation meaningful," said Mr. Correra. "Our goal is to make sure that nothing unimportant happens at the Foundation."

# The Foundation Moving Forward

The Foundation's Annual Meeting, held on November 10, 2011, recapped an exceptional year at the Foundation. Highlights included the vigorous and robust participation of Grand Marshal Joseph Plumeri and Honorees Steve Squeri and Robert LaPenta, as well as the devotion and hard work of our Board and the 2011 Columbus Celebration Committee Chairs, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Young Adults.



Board of Governor Members Alfred Catalanotto, Saverio Giarrusso and Anthony Marino stepped down after many years of dedicated service. Newly elected to three-year terms on the Board are Vincent Cappucci, Anthony Corraera and Frank Marzano.



There have been changes in the Officers, as well. Matt Sabatine and Lawrence E. Auriana become Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, filling positions left by Anthony F. Giordano and Marian U. Pardo, who will serve on the Board. Frank G. Fusaro was reelected to a second term as President, and John V. Cioffi will continue to serve as Vice President.

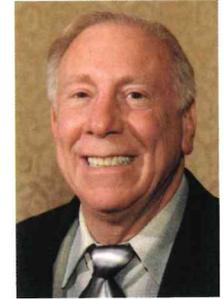
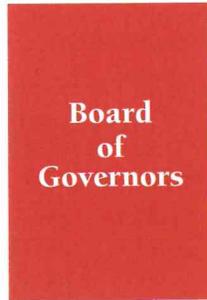


Left to right by row: Frank G. Fusaro, *President*, John V. Cioffi, *Vice President*, Matt Sabatine, *Secretary*, Lawrence E. Auriana, *Treasurer*, Louis A. Tallarini, *Chairman*

is now among those granted Honorary Membership in the Foundation. Foundation members may now take leaves of absence that last three years rather than the one-year leaves previously allowed. Both amendments passed by unanimous vote.

## 2012 Columbus Celebration Chairs

- Louis A. Tallarini, Columbus Celebration
- Anthony F. Giordano and Anthony M. Mallardi, Journal
- Alfred M. Catalanotto, Parade
- Frank P. Marzano, Dinner
- Michael F. Pedone, Marketing
- Frank G. Fusaro, Media
- Maria Theresa Fauci, Silent Auction



Left to right by row: Maria Bartiromo, Vincent R. Cappucci, Anthony N. Corraera, John Desiderio, Richard De Zego, Anthony Dolce, Anthony F. Giordano, Anthony Mallardi, Frank P. Marzano, Hon. Eugene L. Nardelli, Marian U. Pardo, Mike Pedone, Vincent Toscano, Angelo V. Vivolo

# Foundation Membership



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

I have chaired the Membership Committee for over 12 great years. During this time the Foundation's membership has grown tremendously and our activities have as well.

When people ask me about the Foundation or about becoming a member, I could start by telling them all the wonderful things we do. I could tell them how important it is

that we give hundreds of scholarships to the most needy of our community. I could say that we reinforce a positive image of our heritage in both words and deeds. I could recount the many philanthropic projects we have supported over the years.

But instead, I tell them what I love about being a member of the Foundation.

As a member, I am part of a group – not just any group, but a very prestigious, successful group of men and women I identify with. Collectively, we had similar childhoods. We enjoy the same food. We remember Sunday dinners at our parent's house or our grandparents' if we were so lucky. We appreciate fine clothes. We play together and sometimes we even work together. Keeping our family and our friends around us makes us happy. Most of all we have fun together!

What is the role of the Foundation in all of this? Let's start with family. We just had our Easter Dinner, when members and spouses bring their loved ones for a great event. On Columbus Day we march in the parade, our children and grandchildren ride on the floats and we come back to our home in the Townhouse to celebrate together. Our wonderful children's Christmas Party provides an opportunity for members' children to meet one another (by the way, we have a Christmas party for the adults, too). The same holds true for events held by our Young Adults and Ladies Auxiliaries. There are too many events throughout the year to mention them all.

And who doesn't love sports? I'm thinking of our Monday Night Football dinners and an occasional cigar. Then there are the golf outing and bocce tournaments, and skybox seats at Yankee Stadium, maybe against the Red Sox. We also had Bobby Valentine as part of our Speakers Bureau series.

Speaking of the Speakers Bureau, there is no other club in New York where you get the chance to hear from fellow members like Home Depot founder Kenneth Langone, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

executive Frank Bisignano, or Commissioner of the New York Police Department Ray Kelly. We had a fabulous event with award winning songwriter and former *American Idol* judge Kara DioGuardi. Celebrities in many fields come to the Foundation to talk about key issues of today, whether in business, the arts or entertainment industry and other areas.

We do cultural events as well: a performance of *Chicago* on Broadway with a backstage visit, a tour of the Italian art collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (it doesn't get any better than this!) with a museum curator. And there are the Opera Nights at the Townhouse, with large-screen projections of selected scenes from legendary performances, accompanied by dinner and a discussion led by an opera aficionado.

Our magnificent Townhouse – home to the Foundation – is the site of private events, also. A member recently held the 90th birthday party for his mother at the Townhouse. Friends, family and foundation members came together to celebrate the joyous occasion. As a matter of fact, my wife, Connie, and I had our wedding reception at the Townhouse. We still remember how our guests called afterwards to tell us how great the evening was.

Even without these special and regularly scheduled events, the Townhouse is a unique venue. It is home to a terrific group of men and women who know how to have a great time. Maybe they're coming for the wow factor of entertaining a relative or business associate over a five course meal and a great Barolo in this beautiful setting with its wonderful service. Or maybe it's just the fun that comes with sitting down to a meal like grandma would make, maybe with meatballs (sometimes that's all the members can talk about)... like going *home*.

Who wouldn't want to share this with someone they hold special!

I encourage you to let your friends, family and colleagues know about the great things membership can offer them. If you need more information, a good place to start is our website, on the Who We Are page in the About Us section: there you will find a great introduction to the Foundation by our own Maria Bartiromo, the author and award winning financial reporter and producer.

If you need additional information, please call David Iommarini, our director, who could be of great help (212.249.9923) or call me or anyone on the Membership Committee. We can reach out to prospective members with information about membership and the chance to make their lives fuller and richer by becoming a member.

## CCF Website Report

Relaunched in March 2011 with a clean, modern design and new functionality for Foundation members, the CCF website has carved out an important place on the Internet for our activities and efforts. The site attracts nearly 3,500 visits a month and peaked at over 28,000 in October. Thousands of students get information about scholarship applications. Tourism sites now link to us, bands use the site to apply to march in the parade and 16 businesses accessed promotional materials and inquired

about sponsorship opportunities. The site is delivering.

Our new Membership section is also getting increased use and offers an exceptional feature: members can access the Foundation's photo archives dating back to the 1960s - over 125,000 photographs in all - and order prints through Shutterfly.com. Memories can now come back to life through the click of a mouse. Please visit our online home.

# Italy at 150

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unification of Italy was celebrated around the world on March 17, 2011. The Foundation commemorated the event with the Columbus Celebration Concert [see p. 13] and in the parade with a contingent of dignitaries from the Republic of Italy. Along the parade route, spectators proudly held up colorful signs proclaiming “Italia 150!”

Yet in the decades before unification, the possibility of a unified Italy had seemed little more than a dream. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Austrian statesman Prince Klemens von Metternich, believing that unification would never happen, in 1847 famously described Italy not as a nation or state but as a “mere geographical expression.” How little he knew.

Like many others – including the rulers of Austria, France, and Spain, not to mention those in many of the city-states of Italy – Metternich underestimated the will and determination of the people of Italy. Foremost among the early proponents of unification was Giuseppe Mazzini, the politician, journalist and activist who as early as 1831 founded *La giovine Italia*, or Young Italy, a group that at one time had 60,000 followers. Repeatedly condemned to death in absentia for his role in organizing insurrections and revolts, Mazzini’s vision came to fruition through the work of others.

The remarkable statesman and prime minister of Sardinia, Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, set the stage for an Italy free of foreign influence. In 1846, he said, “Therefore, if we so ardently desire the

emancipation of Italy – if we declare that in the face of this great question all the petty questions that divide us must be silenced – it is not only that we may see our country glorious and powerful but that above all we may elevate her in intelligence and moral development up to the plane of the most civilized nations.”

Working on an international level, Count Cavour orchestrated a series of far-sighted alliances that brought various regions into Italy’s sphere, including Lombardy. Cavour also, on behalf of Victor Emmanuel II, King of Sardinia, encouraged Giuseppe Garibaldi to commence an offensive against the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Garibaldi led the remarkable Expedition of the Thousand, the volunteer army that defeated the far larger forces of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. He and his men met up with Victor Emmanuel in Teano in the Kingdom of Naples. On ceding the newly liberated areas to ensure a unified country, Garibaldi proclaimed, “Hail to the first King of Italy.”

Writer Dante Matelli, in an interview on *Morning Edition* last March, stressed the importance of Italian culture, even before statehood. “Italy was a cultural idea before being a nation. The notion of Italy — Dante had it, Boccaccio had it, Ariosto had it.”

Another Italian steeped in the culture was the Italian patriot, poet, and writer Goffredo Mameli. In 1847, the year Metternich made his short-sighted proclamation, Mameli wrote a poem that began, “Brothers of Italy / Italy has woken.”



A contingent of Italian dignitaries marched in the parade under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Italy, Hon. Giorgio Napolitano.



Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Rome, 13 MAR. 2012



*Dear Frank,*

I have received with special pleasure the kind letter you sent me following your visit to Italy of last January. I could not miss such opportunity to see you again and to express my personal gratitude for what the Columbus Citizens Foundation is doing for the people affected by the 2009 devastating earthquake in the Abruzzo Region.

Your extraordinary effort of generosity certainly ranks high in the list of the outstanding philanthropic achievements to be credited to the Foundation. Among them, I will always pay a special tribute to your contribution to reinstate the College Board's Italian Language and Culture Advanced Placement program. You know how hard we have been working together to achieve this goal.

I am also extremely pleased to accept your invitation to a dinner for the next time I will travel to New York. Most likely, the first opportunity will present itself next September, when I am due to attend the ministerial session of the UN General Assembly.

Lastly, I can not fail to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful Columbus Medal you awarded me with on behalf of the Foundation. I will keep it with pride as a lasting sign of our friendship and cooperation.

Sincerely yours, *with sincere friendship*

*Federico*



-----  
Mr. Frank G. Fusaro  
President  
Columbus Citizens Foundation  
NEW YORK, NY

# Foundation Delegation to Italy Explores Partnerships, Provides Aid to Earthquake Ravaged L'Aquila

In mid-January 2012, a delegation of Foundation members met with Italian leaders to discuss present and future sponsorships in the Foundation's Columbus Celebrations and delivered on a promise to the earthquake-stricken city of L'Aquila.

In a packed four days, from January 17 to 20, Foundation President Frank G. Fusaro, Chairman Louis A. Tallarini and Board Member Eugene N. Nardelli visited six cities and towns and covered over 500 miles on the *Autostrada* and smaller roads. Along the way, they met with leaders and officials in Italy, from private industry and tourism to mayoral and city council levels to that of the Italian cabinet.

The first stop for the delegation was the offices of Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, who until recently had been the Italian Ambassador to the United States. As ambassador, Minister Terzi had played a key role in partnering with the Foundation to reinstate The College Board's Advanced Placement Program in Italian Language and Culture. During the meeting held in the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as in a later letter to Mr. Fusaro [see p. 28], Minister Terzi expressed his appreciation both for the Foundation's support of AP Italian and its aid to L'Aquila. The meeting extended into a reception held for the Foundation's delegation. That night, Minister Terzi's office issued a press release about the visit and the Foundation's commitments to Italy, which was picked up throughout Italy.

In subsequent meetings in the nation's capitol, the delegation met with representatives of the City of Rome's economic development team and with Edmund Cirielli, President of the Province of Salerno and Parliamentary Defense Commission Chairman. En route to L'Aquila, the delegation visited Naples, the city of Benevento, and the town of Castelvenere, where they held meetings with Paolo Romano, President of the Regional Council of Campania, leaders of regional industry and tourism concerns, Castelvenere Mayor Alessandro Di Santo and members of the City Council.

On the morning of January 20, the delegation traveled to L'Aquila, a city that nearly three years after the April 6, 2009 earthquake

continues to rebuild. Today, approximately 18,000 L'Aquila residents continue to live in temporary housing constructed on the outskirts of the city.

The Foundation's delegation met with officials to present L'Aquila and Abruzzo with a much-needed Mobile Police Unit and to announce an ongoing scholarship that will fund studies in New York for a local student of the arts. They also participated in the unveiling of *Eagle Portrait*, a sculpture donated by internationally renowned artist Greg Wyatt, who is Sculptor-in-Residence of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City and Master Teacher of the Foundation's Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship Fund for the Arts program. The donation was made in association with the Newington-Cropsey Foundation, of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY.

Describing the event as "a feast of solidarity," L'Aquila council woman Stefania Pezzopane said, "L'Aquila expresses its greatest gratitude to the Foundation, which in its solidarity with our community is donating a Mobile Unit that we could never afford. Three years after the tragic event, it is very important for us to know that there are still people thinking about us and working to help us."

"On April 6, 2009, the City of L'Aquila and the Province of Abruzzo suffered a devastating earthquake that took hundreds of lives, left thousands injured and many more homeless, and destroyed or damaged thousands of buildings and monuments in this great medieval city," said Mr. Fusaro. "The event was as devastating to them as the 9/11 terrorist attacks were to us. When the earthquake struck, the Columbus Citizens Foundation contacted officials here to let them know that they were in our hearts and that we would stand at the ready to provide aid as needed. That day has come, and we have not forgotten our solemn vow to our brothers and sisters in Italy."

"As representatives of an Italian-American organization, we are proud and privileged to share a common ancestry with the people of L'Aquila and Abruzzo," said Mr. Tallarini. "Their plight and determination, their resourcefulness and their continuing need must not be forgotten."



Left to Right: Dedication of the Mobile Unit with, from left, Eugenio Vendrame, L'Aquila Traffic Police Chief, Sculptor Greg Wyatt, Louis Tallarini, Chairman of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, Eugene Nardelli, Member of the Board of Governors of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, Frank Fusaro, President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, and Stefania Pezzopane, L'Aquila Town Councillor, holding the ribbon to be cut; Police Chief Vendrame, Mr. Fusaro and Councillor Pezzopane, following an inspection of the newly dedicated Mobile Unit.

# In Memoriam

## Eulogy for Jimmy Peters Given at St. Patrick's Cathedral by Judge Eugene Nardelli April 7, 2011

Vincent "Jimmy" Peters loved the Columbus Club. Let me tell you something about the Columbus Club. The Columbus Citizens Foundation was founded to encourage recognition of the contributions made to the United States by those of Italian ancestry. It fosters cultural, social, educational and charitable activities, one of the happiest of which is the raising of money and the distribution of it in scholarship aid for promising young people.

Only hours after the Pearl Harbor attack, 600,000 Italian citizens, legally living in America, were classified as "enemy aliens." Some were placed under curfew, suffered confiscations, had travel restrictions imposed or were relocated, and even a few interments occurred. On Columbus Day, October 1942, President Roosevelt lifted the curfew. That memory was fresh in the minds of American Italians. During World War II, with Jimmy in the Marine Corps, the Columbus Day Parade was suspended. On December 16, 1944, the Columbus Day Committee was established and the parade stopped off again on Columbus Day, October 12, 1945.

In 1966, 8 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street was owned by the Kingdom of Sweden and served as a cultural center. Cesar Taormina, a founder, was called to give an estimate on plastering work for the building, which was up for sale. As fortune would have it, the organization was seeking to purchase its own home. So Cesar immediately notified the building purchase committee of the availability of 8 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street. That committee visited and proposed to the Board that it immediately be purchased. Jimmy Peters, in total agreement, was delegated to negotiate a purchase price, which he did, for \$575,000. On March 15, 1967, the Board approved the purchase. You can see from the inception, Jimmy's hand in the Foundation.

The Foundation's cultural, educational, charitable and social base has been scholarships endowed and awarded, parades organized, language lessons taught and learned, music performed and enjoyed, meals relished, occasions celebrated and accomplishments of those of Italian descent acknowledged. In this work, Jimmy was unparalleled. He was a bulwark in the fulfillment in the purposes of the Columbus Citizens Foundation.



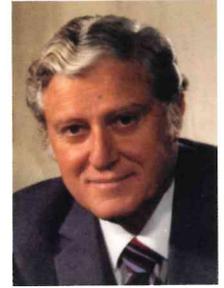
Peter Bonafede

**Charter and Founding Member GR. UFF. Peter F. Bonafede** passed away last fall. Mr. Bonafede became a Charter Member in 1944 when the Columbus Day Citizens Committee, as it was then known, was founded by Generoso Pope. He became a Founding Member when the Foundation acquired the Townhouse in 1967. A retired architect, Mr. Bonafede was remembered by Vito Nardelli: "He always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. He was a dapper man who always had his *bastone*, or

walking stick." Founding Member John Loconosolo recalled, "He was old style, courtly, almost from a different era.

Mr. Bonafede was predeceased by his son, Peter R. Bonafede, MD, his wife, Antoinette and his second wife, Lucia. He is survived by sister Rose Anselmo, grandson Philip and daughter-in-law Jackie; Andrew and daughter-in-law Mara; Dr. Christopher P. Bonafede,

It goes without saying that Jimmy Peters was a successful man with a distinguished business and military career, with a generous heart that made him well known in the charitable arena, and the target of many a solicitation from friend and stranger alike. Not too often did Jimmy refuse a request for a needy person or cause.



Vincent "Jimmy" Peters

The measure of a person, however, is so much more intangible than the job he held or the money he made, or even the amount of his charitable largesse. At a time like this we take the measure of his character, and the impact he had on those who knew him, or at least came into contact with him. And when that test is made Jimmy Peters was a very successful person. Anyone who knew him was better for the experience. The joy with which Jimmy lived his life was passed on to all of us. A conversation with Jimmy could often be the highlight of a day. He conveyed a sense of well-being and security that left the listener with the same sense of satisfaction that life was worth living, and living well, that every day was a gift to be treasured, that all our roads are two-way streets in which we must give in order to receive.

I think of the many times I spoke with Jimmy and ended conversations with the mixed emotion of being glad that I had run into him, and regret that the conversation was too short. And funny, even today, despite the grand life that Jimmy led, I still think the conversation was too short.

Jimmy was the Foundation's third president and in 1977 Jimmy was selected as the Grand Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade. I can still see Jimmy that day stepping off smartly in the required morning coat leading the parade as Grand Marshal – and worthy he was. Jimmy Peters was a proud American, a proud U.S. Marine, a proud New Yorker, and proud of his Italian heritage. He loved his wife, Toni, very much. He was a lover of humanity.

Jimmy, take good care on the next leg.

We miss you.

and granddaughter-in-law Dr. Elizabeth Valentine; grandson Michael P. Bonafede and granddaughter-in-law Jenny.

**Founding Member Cesar A. Taormina** passed away on November 5, 2011 at age 81. Known for his warmth and good humor, Mr. Taormina was operating the Taormina Contracting Company in 1967 when he was called to 8 E. 69<sup>th</sup> Street by the Swedish Consulate to put in a bid on some work. Instead, he arranged for the Foundation to purchase the Townhouse.



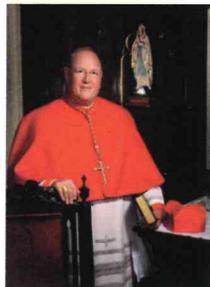
Cesar Taormina

Mr. Taormina is survived by his wife of 55 years, Theresa (née Caliendo), sister Lee Galdi, children Joseph Cesar Taormina, Maria Elena Taormina and Elizabeth Ann Byrnes and son-in-law of James Byrnes, and grandchildren Joseph Cesar Taormina, Russell L. Taormina, Grace Elizabeth Byrnes and James Eugene Byrnes.

# Foundation News

**Frank Bisignano**, Chief Administrative Officer of JPMorgan Chase, CEO of Chase Mortgage Banking and a past Honoree, played a key role in a historic \$25 billion mortgage servicing settlement among five major banks, 49 state attorneys, and the federal government. The agreement, reached in early February, closes a troubled chapter of the housing market, which Mr. Bisignano termed "at a bottom" in an interview on CNBC. The primary goal of the settlement is to stabilize the housing market. Asked if the settlement was good for the banks, Mr. Bisignano displayed his trademark diplomacy. "Putting it behind is good for us," he said. "It's one of those logjams that had to get completed." Mr. Bisignano had been tapped by JPMorgan Chase Jamie Dimon in February 2011 to oversee the company's mortgage business.

His Eminence **Timothy Cardinal Dolan** was formally elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI on February 18, 2012 during a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.



Archbishop of New York since April 15, 2009, Cardinal Dolan (shown at left) quickly became a central figure in the spiritual and moral life of New York. As reported in *Catholic New York*, Cardinal-designate Dolan said, "I am honored, humbled and grateful."

He termed the appointment "a gift" from His Eminence, Pope Benedict XVI that honored the Archdiocese of New York and its people. "It's as if Pope Benedict is putting the red hat on top of the Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty or...the spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral." In recognition of Cardinal Dolan's good works in the field of education, the Foundation is establishing a scholarship in his name. On November 3, 2011, the Foundation had held a reception and dinner for Cardinal Dolan to welcome him as an Honorary Member of the Foundation.

Angelina Vivolo, daughter of Board Member **Angelo V. Vivolo** and Ladies Auxiliary President Denise Vivolo, was married to James Lewis on August 13, 2011 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Mrs. Lewis is a second-grade teacher at the Epiphany School, a Roman Catholic elementary and middle school in New York, and Mr. Lewis manages cash and analyzes trades for Ellington Management Group. Among Foundation members present at the wedding were **Frank** and **Carol Fusaro**, **Louis Tallarini** and **Mary Young**, **Lawrence** and **Irene Auriana**, **John** and **Connie Cioffi**, **Maria Bartiromo** and **Jonathan Steinberg**, **Alfred** and **Toni Lynn Catalanotto**,

**Anthony Giordano**, **Mary Giambelli**, **Frank** and **Maura Corvino**, and **Michael** and **Beatrice Tuisiani**. Past Grand Marshal **Lidia Matticchio Bastianich** was also present.

**Dr. Lawrence A. Yannuzzi** was honored with an extensive article in the prestigious publication, *RETINA: The Journal of Retinal and Vitreous Diseases*, in "a tribute to an incredible human being." Among the foremost ophthalmologists of our day with a particular interest in diseases



of the macula, *RETINA* cited Dr. Yannuzzi's innovations, numerous publications, many awards, and gave him perhaps the greatest accolade a doctor could hope for: "He is the consummate physician." Dr. Yannuzzi (shown at left) is a vitreo-retinal surgeon,

a professor of clinical ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical School, vice-chairman and director of The Retinal Research Center of the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital, and founder and president of The Macula Foundation, Inc.

The 2012 Maserati Raffle featured one of the world's finest luxury sedans, a Maserati Quattroporte S. The sedan's Pininfarina's exterior styling, spacious interior and advanced technology proved irresistible to ticket buyers. The raffle winner, holding ticket number 205, was **Vincent Cappucci**. The raffle was held at the Gala Dinner on October 8, 2011.



## IL GIORNALE



**Michael Pedone, Editor-in-Chief**  
**Andrew Decker, Executive Editor**  
**Joann Coates, Art Director**  
**Alejandro Acosta, Associate Editor**  
**Don Pollard, Anita and Steve Shevett,**  
**Vito Catalano, Photography**

# In Memoriam

**Vincent A. Bonomo** passed away on April 25, 2011 at age 74. Mr. Bonomo was born in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from Pace University, and was president of B & B Realty in West Caldwell, NJ.

**Euclid F. Maggiani** passed away on August 15, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Anne.

**Alfonse M. Mattia** passed away October 2, 2011 at age 69. He is survived by his former wife of 43 years **Joan Hamblin Mattia**, son **Michael** and his wife, **Stacy**, son **Stephen**, daughter **Allison M. Roberts** and son-in-law **Pat**, brother **Robert**, and grandchildren, **David** and **Kaitlynn Mattia** and **Sophia** and **Ryder Roberts**.

**Michael B. Oropollo, Sr.**, an attorney, passed away on November 17, 2011, at age 66. He is survived by his wife, **Dr. Toni Centanni Oropollo**, son, **Michael B. Oropollo, Jr.**, brother, **Dr. Anthony Oropollo** and many nieces and nephews.

**Frank E. Desiderio**, father of **Frank J. Desiderio**, passed away August 15, 2011. He is survived by wife **Virginia (Jean)**, children **Frank** and **Barbara**, daughter-in-law **Barbara**, and grandchildren **Christopher** and **Marisa**.

**Justine Pullo-Ciampa**, daughter of **Gino Pullo**. She is survived by parents, **Gino** and **Ann Pullo**, husband, **Joseph**, and daughter, **Giovanna**.

**Michael P. Ricatto Jr.**, son of **Michael P. Ricatto**, passed away April 4, 2011 at age 29 in Phuket, Thailand. He is survived by father **Michael P. Ricatto**, mother **Laura Failla**, brother **John V. Ricatto**, **Vincenzo V. Ricatto**, **Santino V. Ricatto**, and **Nicholas Failla**.

**Sarah Spinella**, sister of **Vincent J. Esposito**, passed away and is survived by parents, **Anthony** and **Dolores Esposito**, husband **Michael Spinella** and children, **Michael Jr.**, **Robert** and **Frances**.

**Jean Ruggiano**, mother of **Richard Ruggiano**, passed away at age 98. Mrs. Ruggiano was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, **Emilio (Rudy)**, and is survived by two children and their spouses; daughter and son-in-law **Renata** and **Jeffery Robinson** and son and daughter-in-law, **Richard** and **Kathleen Ruggiano**.

**Conrad J. DeZego**, brother of **Richard DeZego**.

**Adolfo Zimbaro**, father of **Frank Zimbaro** and father-in-law of **John Desiderio**, passed away on April 27, 2011 at age 92. He is survived by his wife, **Gasparina (nèe Pagnotta)** and children **Frank**, **Aldo** and **Louis Zimbaro** and **Maria Desiderio** and five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and a brother in Italy.

**Sebastiano (Sam) Giarrusso**, father of **Saverio (Sam) Giarrusso** passed away last summer at age 91. Mr. Giarrusso helped liberate Sicily during World War II and received a hero's welcome in his hometown of **Vizzini, Catania**.



**Columbus Citizens Foundation**

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