

# GLOBAL

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

FALL 2009



# President's Message

Louis A. Tallarini

Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of visiting Venice – one of the most beautiful and magical cities on earth – or traveling to a spa in the Dolomites knows that the Region of Veneto is entirely unforgettable. And beginning next month, even those who haven't had that privilege will learn about Veneto, as well. Working closely with the government of the region, we will be installing two exhibits in Grand Central Terminal, *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York* and *The Imagination and Artistry of Veneto*. From wines and *Denominazione di Origine Controllata* cheeses to world-class bicycles to Murano glass and the spectacular beauty of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake, the many splendors and thriving industry of the region will be on view for millions of people to enjoy as a centerpiece of the 2009 Columbus Celebration.

Another centerpiece is the Columbus Day Parade, the largest celebration of Italian culture in the world, which will take place on October 12. This year, our Grand Marshal is Kenneth Langone, a man of great character, vision and generosity. Mr. Langone is a co-founder of Home Depot, a company that has succeeded by making home improvement an essential part of American life, and Chairman of the New York University Langone Medical Center, one of our country's finest health care and teaching facilities. We are honored that he is part of our community.

Our Honorees this year are Frank A. Corvino, President and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Hospital, the Connecticut institution that has experienced unprecedented growth under Mr. Corvino's leadership, and Ronald J. Ferrelli, a Managing Director with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, who oversaw Smith Barney's sponsorship of New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman's Neighborhood Preservation Program. Both Mr. Corvino and Mr. Ferrelli have enjoyed great success, in part as a result of the values



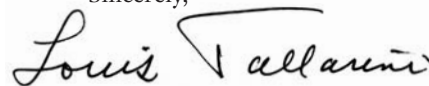
they learned in their Italian-American homes and communities, and have made great contributions in helping improve the lives of those less fortunate.

We are joined in our Celebration this year by our new Executive Director, David Iommarini, an experienced executive and fundraiser Director of Development of Catholic Charities USA and the Italian American Heritage Foundation. Mr. Iommarini has become Executive Director as the Columbus Celebration preparations are in high gear, and we look forward to helping him navigate a tremendously exciting and complex time. We also look forward to receiving his guidance and suggestions regarding the Foundation's future activities and initiatives.

This year's Columbus Celebration comes during a period of economic uncertainty. As Treasurer Marian Pardo notes in this issue, we have streamlined many aspects of our operations and programs to conserve resources and remain strong going forward. (For example, the *Foundation Quarterly* is now semi-annual and has been renamed *Il Giornale*.) Among those being most deeply affected during this period are the laborers, educators, and other members of our society who are raising families and trying to provide their children the best education possible. Now, more than ever, it is critical that all of us participate in helping those in our community who work hard and instill timeless values but who are unable to fund their children's education. As you receive calls from members of our Journal Committee or plan your participation in our events, keep in mind the thousands of Italian-American families struggling to make our community stronger.

I look forward to seeing you throughout this year's Columbus Celebration events and to enjoying the finest that Veneto, Italy, and the Italian-American community has to offer.

Sincerely,



Louis A. Tallarini, President

**On the Cover:** The Campanile in the Piazza San Marco is just one of the many spectacular features of Veneto that will be highlighted during the 2009 Columbus Celebration.

## 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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# New Executive Director David Iommarini: Extending the Foundation's Reach

**D**avid Iommarini, the Foundation's new Executive Director, grew up in Brooklyn. The son of first-generation Italian Americans, he remembers going to the Columbus Day Parade as a child, and it's a tradition he's continued since.

"Along with great entertainment, the Parade creates a sense of camaraderie by bringing various ethnic groups together and creating greater recognition of the many contributions of Italian Americans to our country," he recently said. "Those contributions are not widely enough recognized, and the Parade and the Columbus Celebrations do a great deal to make more people aware of them. Where would we be without Columbus?"

"The Columbus Citizens Foundation offers much to the Italian American community and its students, yet more people need to learn about who we are and what we do. Few people know about the Foundation's vital scholarship programs, and we would like more people outside the Foundation to realize that they can participate by supporting our programs."

Generating support for important non-profit ventures is Mr. Iommarini's stock-in-trade. A seasoned fundraiser with extensive experience in individual, corporate and foundation gifts, Mr. Iommarini comes to the Foundation after achieving great success as Director of Development of Catholic Charities and the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation, where he increased fundraising receipts by 60.7% in a six-month period over an entire preceding twelve-month period. Prior to the Italian American Heritage Foundation, he spent nine years as Director of Development for The Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York, where he significantly increased receipts through major outright gifts, life income plans and bequests.

"I'm a certified financial planner," Mr. Iommarini said. "I do not do financial planning for a fee, but maintain my license to better help donors combine their charitable and financial objectives, which can involve an estate plan."

Mr. Iommarini also sees possible opportunities through a broad range of venues. "We might consider reaching out to Italian Americans through direct mail, newsletters, public service announcements, ads in local newspapers – there are many ways we can broaden our outreach," he said. "There are lots of Italian American clubs that raise funds that they then pass on to worthwhile charities. If we could get funding from a significant number of these groups, we would realize substantial growth."

"If you do an online query for Italian Americans as a group, search results show thousands of restaurants. What if there was a program for Italian restaurants to participate in our scholarship fund and be recognized in our newsletter or website and receive signage stating that they support education? There are a number of ideas that we can explore that may not have been considered previously."

Mr. Iommarini is well acquainted with Italian American heritage and culture. His father's parents are from Abruzzo, and his maternal grandparents were from Salerno, outside Naples. Both came over in the early 1900s and settled in Brooklyn, which was where he was born and grew up.

"I grew up with the Italian way – working hard, families educating their children, achieving success, owning a home," Mr. Iommarini



David Iommarini

said. "The family is incredibly strong. Help, encouragement and support are ingrained in Italian families."

"I can recall sitting with my grandfather in the yard and hearing the stories we've all heard – coming here when he was 15 or 16 years old with basically the clothes on his back and a little money in his pocket, and all these people worked hard and created new lives for themselves and their families. That's a tremendous accomplishment."

Mr. Iommarini now lives in Staten Island with his wife, Barbara. Their children are grown, and among his interests he counts travel (Italy, of course), reading, and music, from classical and opera to contemporary.

He was interested in working with the Foundation for a number of reasons. "The Foundation has long provided important services to the community," Mr. Iommarini said. "It offers a greater knowledge of the many accomplishments of Italian Americans by making people aware that Italians have contributed so much to our society and culture. We are not the TV Italians."

But for the moment, Mr. Iommarini said, his mandate is clear. "The immediate need is to raise funds for the Foundation's scholarship corpus. I'll be going to our Membership and then going beyond Membership. The Foundation has very ambitious and inspiring goals, and we need to be proactive, even during these times of lingering uncertainty."

"Helping to provide an education to students who have the ability but not the means is a most worthwhile cause," Mr. Iommarini said. "Education is the key and our children are the future."

# Kenneth G. Langone, 2009 Grand Marshal

**K**enneth G. Langone, investment banker, venture capitalist and philanthropist, will be Grand Marshal of the 2009 Columbus Day Parade in New York City, and the Foundation could not be more honored.

Mr. Langone's life of achievement and philanthropy traces the arc of the American Dream, from growing up in a home of modest means on Long Island to becoming a co-founder of what has become one of the United States' most successful corporations, Home Depot, and in 1999 Chairman of the New York University Medical Center, which in 2008 was renamed NYU Langone Medical Center.

"Ken Langone is a virtuous man of good character who is an ideal role model for Italian-Americans and indeed all Americans," said Lawrence Auriana, Chairman of the Columbus Citizens Foundation.

"Mr. Langone is living proof that the American dream continues," said Louis Tallarini, President of the Foundation. "Ken was able to attend college because of sacrifices that his parents made, and he worked his way through school as a construction laborer, a golf caddy, and a butcher's assistant. Ken succeeded beyond his parents' wildest dreams in business and in his philanthropic work: he has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to universities, hospitals, and foundations. We are deeply honored that Ken has agreed to be the standard-bearer for the Italian-American community and for all Americans who commit themselves to hard work and helping those in need."

Mr. Langone was born in Roslyn Heights, NY to working class parents in a close-knit Italian family. His father was a plumber, and his mother worked in a cafeteria. Although Mr. Langone's high school principal stated that sending the boy to college would be a waste of money, the Langones mortgaged their house so their son could attend Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. Mr. Langone received a BA in Economics and Political Science. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Army for two years.



Following his military service, Mr. Langone worked in the investment department of Equitable Life Assurance Company and in 1960, after attending night classes, received an MBA from New York University. In 1961, Mr. Langone became an associate at broker/dealer R.W. Pressprich & Co. and in 1968, as an Executive Vice President, handled the highly successful initial public offering of Ross Perot's Electronic Data Systems (EDS).

In 1974, Mr. Langone founded Invemed Associates, Inc., a small Park Avenue investment bank established to finance start-ups in the medical field. Among Invemed's major transactions was the takeover of medical electronics company Ivac, which Langone later sold to Eli Lilly. Ivac became Eli Lilly's medical instruments division, which has grown into a multi-billion dollar division.

Mr. Langone is perhaps best known as a co-founder of Home Depot, which he established in 1978 with Arthur Blank and Bernard Marcus. Mr. Langone provided venture capital for the company through Invemed. He served on the board and was a member of the Executive Committee of Home Depot until May, 2008. Home Depot employs over 300,000 people and has reshaped the home improvement industry, saving the American consumer billions of dollars annually.

He also serves on the boards of YUM Brands, Unifi, Inc. and Micell Technologies. YUM Brands, the world's largest restaurant chain, owns and franchises Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken.



From top: Angelina and John Langone, Mr. Langone's parents, on their wedding day, 1928. Mr. Langone and his late brother, Michael (in his Boy Scout uniform) on Memorial Day 1943 following Mr. Langone's First Communion. Richard and Marion Abbe, Elaine Abbe Langone and Mr. Langone, and Angelina and John Langone at Mr. and Mrs. Langone's wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Langone with sons (from left) Kenneth G. Jr., Stephen, and Bruce, circa 1980.

In addition to his business affiliations, Mr. Langone currently serves on the Board of Trustees of New York University and on the board of Overseers of its Stern School of Business. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NYU Langone Medical Center, formerly the New York University Medical School and Hospital, which was renamed in his honor as a result of the generous support that Mr. Langone and his wife, Elaine, provided.

From 1980 to 1996 he was a member of the Bucknell University Board of Trustees where he served as Chairman of its Nominating Committee, its Endowment and as a member of its Executive Committee.

Mr. Langone serves on the boards of the Cancer Research Fund of the Damon Runyon Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House, the Robin Hood Foundation, CSIS, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and the Harlem Children's Zone. He is also Chairman of the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter Schools of New York City. Mrs.

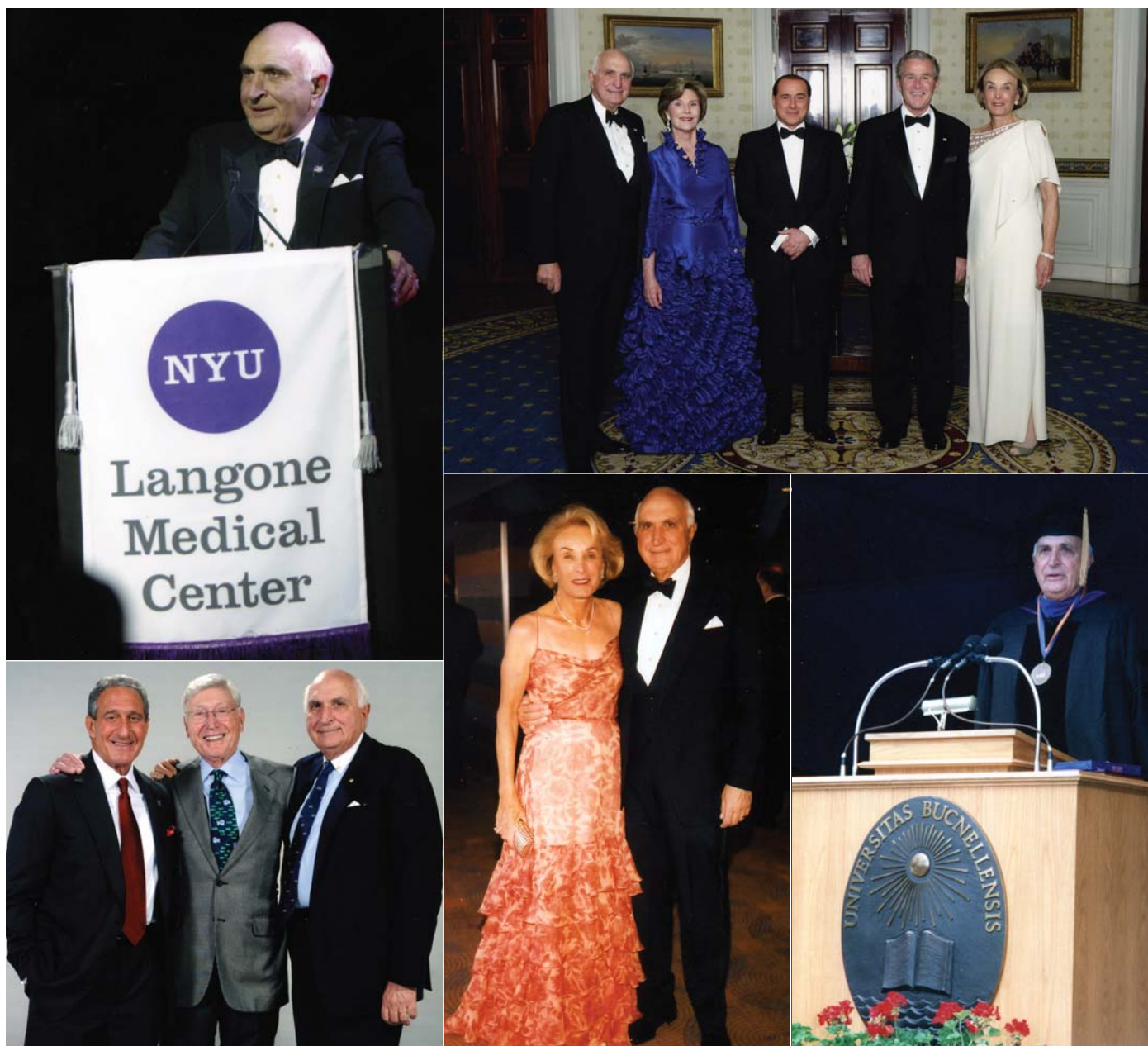
Langone serves on the boards of The Boys Club of New York and the Animal Medical Center.

A noted philanthropist, Mr. Langone has donated both his money and time to charities. He has made major gifts to his alma maters, Bucknell University and New York University, as well as the NYU Langone Medical Center. And, in recognition of his support for Catholic causes, Mr. Langone was made a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Benedict XVI.

Mr. and Mrs. Langone have three grown sons. In his free time, Mr. Langone enjoys reading and playing golf with Mrs. Langone.

"New York and America have provided opportunities for millions of people who came here in pursuit of a better life," said Langone. "I am extremely fortunate that my grandparents were among them, and I am honored to represent the men and women from Italy who came to the United States before me and who helped make America the greatest nation on earth."

Clockwise from top left: Mr. Langone at the dinner announcing the naming of the NYU Langone Medical Center, 2008. The Langones with President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi at the White House, 2008. Mr. Langone giving the commencement address at his alma mater, Bucknell University, 2002. Mr. and Mrs. Langone at the Spring Dance for The Boys' Club of New York, 2005. From left: Home Depot co-founders Arthur Blank, Bernard Marcus, and Mr. Langone, 2009.



# Honoree Ronald J. Ferrelli: Honoring Ancestors and Their Accomplishments

**R**onald J. Ferrelli is currently a Managing Director with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. He is responsible for the Northeast Division of the firm's Wealth Management organization. He also sits on the firm's Operating Committee. The division Mr. Ferrelli oversees is made up of over 4,500 Financial Advisors. Those professionals assist more than 590,000 clients in deciding how best to reach their life goals by giving advice on over \$350 billion in clients' assets. "The trust placed in us by our clients is a tremendous responsibility, which we take very seriously," said Mr. Ferrelli. "Our clients' interests must always come first."

Mr. Ferrelli began his career with Loeb Rhoades & Co. in 1968. Throughout his career he has been at the center of sweeping changes in the financial services industry. He has played a role in the integration of several firms prior to the current Morgan



Stanley Smith Barney combination. Among them: Loeb Rhoades Hornblower, Shearson Loeb Rhoades, Foster Marshall, Robinson Humphrey, Shearson Lehman Brothers, EF Hutton, Smith Barney Shearson and Legg Mason.

Mr. Ferrelli has also had the privilege of having worked with some of the industry's visionaries: Sandy Weill, retired Chairman and CEO of Citigroup; Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JP Morgan; Hardwicke Simmons, former Chairman & CEO of Prudential Securities; and Joseph Plumeri, Chairman & CEO of Willis Group Holdings and a former Columbus Citizens Foundation Honoree.

Mr. Ferrelli credits much of the success he's achieved throughout the length and breadth of his career to his Italian heritage. "As I look back on my career, it is startling to see how many decisions I have made, and how my views on specific issues were formed, based on the foundation of my Italian-American upbringing," he said. "Hard work, passion and respect – all were instilled in me by my heritage and all have served me well throughout my career."

His paternal grandparents arrived in this country from Vasto in 1909 and his maternal grandparents, the Ghiraldi's, from Naples a few years later. Both families eventually settled in Brooklyn, New York and became next door neighbors. "Through hard work and a strong sense of family, my grandparents were able to make a new start in America," Mr. Ferrelli said. "Like many from that generation, they came to this country with a dream, understanding that through hard work, they could realize that dream for themselves and for their families."

Despite the time demanded by his family and his career, Mr. Ferrelli has always made a point of actively giving back to the community. Most notably, he was a driving force in New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman's Neighborhood Preservation Program. Under Mr. Ferrelli's leadership, Smith Barney sponsored over a dozen community projects throughout New Jersey, from inner city library reading programs to the construction of playgrounds where none existed and to home rehabilitations for single mothers. "I am most proud of the personal involvement of Smith Barney employees all over New Jersey who made a meaningful difference in communities like Asbury Park," Mr. Ferrelli said.

Mr. Ferrelli and his wife Nancy have been married for 25 years and live in Monmouth County, New Jersey. They have two daughters, Christina and Angela.

"I am honored to have been recognized by The Columbus Citizens Foundation," Mr. Ferrelli said. "But to me, this is not in recognition of my achievements, but in honor of my ancestors – and their accomplishments."



From top: Mr. Ferrelli. Mr. Ferrelli with former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Nancy Ferrelli, Angela Ferrelli, Leo, Ron Ferrelli, Christina Ferrelli.

# Honoree Frank A. Corvino: Health Care Success

**H**onoree Frank A. Corvino is President and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Hospital, the Connecticut institution that under his stewardship has become the region's premier healthcare facility. He is also the Executive Vice President of the Yale New Haven Health System. Under Mr. Corvino's 21-year leadership, the hospital has experienced unprecedented growth, including the opening of the Helmsley Medical Building and the Olive and Thomas J. Watson Pavilion. Together, these buildings replaced the Greenwich Hospital that existed in 1996, and the new state-of-the-art facility has been hailed as a model of healing for future hospital designs.

Mr. Corvino is responsible for instituting an "enhanced service excellence culture" at the hospital. Under Mr. Corvino's guidance, Greenwich Hospital has consistently ranked among the top hospitals nationwide in patient satisfaction, according to Press Ganey Associates, the country's leader in healthcare satisfaction measurement.

Along with his executive skills, the keys to his success have been attributed to his ability to work effectively with physicians, patients, trustees, advocacy groups, hospital staff and others – abilities that took shape when he was growing up in the Arthur Avenue section of the Bronx.

"My Italian heritage instilled values that impacted my personal and professional life," said Mr. Corvino. "I learned the importance of family, community, friendship, courtesy and respect. I also developed a strong work ethic - an example set by my dad. He always held two jobs, as a postal worker and as a TV repairman. Our family and friends were our life. We hung out together most of the time. People sat on their stoops. We played stickball and congregated in the playground across the street from my house. Families sat down and ate dinner together—no ifs, ands or buts. There are few neighborhoods like that anymore."

Mr. Corvino's father immigrated from Andretta, Italy, when he was 12. He settled in the Belmont community, married Grace Stiso, who lived a few blocks away, and they had three children. "My two brothers and I grew up in the same house where my mother was raised," Mr. Corvino said. "I was baptized at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and attended its grammar school. My brothers and I were altar boys. The sacristy window overlooked our backyard.

Whenever Bishop Pernicone was short an altar boy, he'd open the window and call out to dad, who would then press one of us into service."

Mr. Corvino's first job, at 14, was at "the corner drug store, which was an Italian pharmacy," he recalls. "I needed to help pay for high school and college. Although my parents spoke English, I had to learn Italian because all of our customers spoke it. We were a close-knit community. My experiences working in the neighborhood drug store—recognizing the importance of communicating with customers and treating them with courtesy and respect—stayed with me throughout my career. The values I learned throughout my upbringing also helped me professionally because possessing strong interpersonal skills is key to becoming a successful executive."

Trained as a pharmacist, Mr. Corvino is a graduate of Fordham and St. John's Universities. He was an Executive Vice President at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center in the Bronx, NY before joining Greenwich Hospital in 1988.

Among the many awards garnered during his career are the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the St. John's University Alumni Outstanding Achievement Medal, the Greenwich Rotary Club "Citizen of the Year" Award, the Malcolm T. MacEachern CEO Award, the Port Chester/Rye Brook, NY Chamber Community Leadership Award, and the United Way of Greenwich Helen Alvord Award for Excellence in Humancare Services.

Mr. Corvino, who has two grown children, Timothy and Aimee, enjoys traveling, gardening and boating and has served as a member of the Rotary Club and the board of the United Way of Greenwich. Currently, he serves on the boards of the Norwalk Community College Foundation and the Connecticut Hospital Association.

Reflecting on his heritage, Mr. Corvino said, "Italian Americans have played a huge role in the development of our country. They are hard working people who came to America to earn a living and succeeded in becoming the cornerstone of many of our nation's greatest achievements. Just look at the former grand marshals and honorees of the Columbus Day Parade—admirals, surgeons, business executives and a poet—and you see examples of the very best that Italian Americans have to offer."

From top: Mr. Corvino (right) with his parents, Grace and Frank, and brothers, Michael (left) and Nicholas. Recognized with an Ellis Island Medal of Honor by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Mr. Corvino celebrated with his children, Aimee and Timothy. With students from North Mianus Elementary School in Greenwich, CT, who took part in Run Across America, an innovative exercise program sponsored by Greenwich Hospital.



# The Antiquity and Contemporary Vitality of Veneto to be Featured in Grand Central Terminal

For the first time, the Region of Veneto is a sponsor of the Columbus Celebration, an event that will be spectacularly commemorated in two exhibits in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal. *The Imagination and Artistry of Veneto* and *A Bridge Between Venice and New York* will highlight Veneto's glorious past and the unique vitality of a region that is a laboratory for innovative entrepreneurial ideas.

The exhibits which will run from October 5 through October 17, will showcase many facets of Veneto's rich and diverse landscapes, from its natural resources, scenery and intriguing tourist destinations to its culture, food, wines and thriving technology industry.

*The Imagination and Artistry of Veneto* will touch on the region's many sites of interest. After all, only Venice is home to the legendary Piazza San Marco and the Doge's Palace, and Verona was the site of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and is now a UNESCO world heritage site. And the region gave civilization Andrea Palladio, seminal Renaissance artists Giorgione and Titian, and Galileo Galilei, a key figure in the Scientific Revolution. While Venice is the region's capital, the region boasts the smaller cities and towns rich in art, history and culture: Padua, Vicenza, Treviso, Rovigo and Belluno.

For sheer natural beauty, there are the 75 miles of beaches stretching along the Adriatic coast, the mountain resorts nestled in the Dolomites, a haven for skiers and hikers, spectacular Lake Garda, and the spas that dot the region, notably in the areas of Abano and Montegrotto.

In fact, the region draws visitors for over 60 million overnight stays annually, making Veneto the most frequently visited destination in Italy among foreign tourists.

They come to Veneto for its unparalleled glassworks, couture, and leather goods, among so many other things. The outstanding

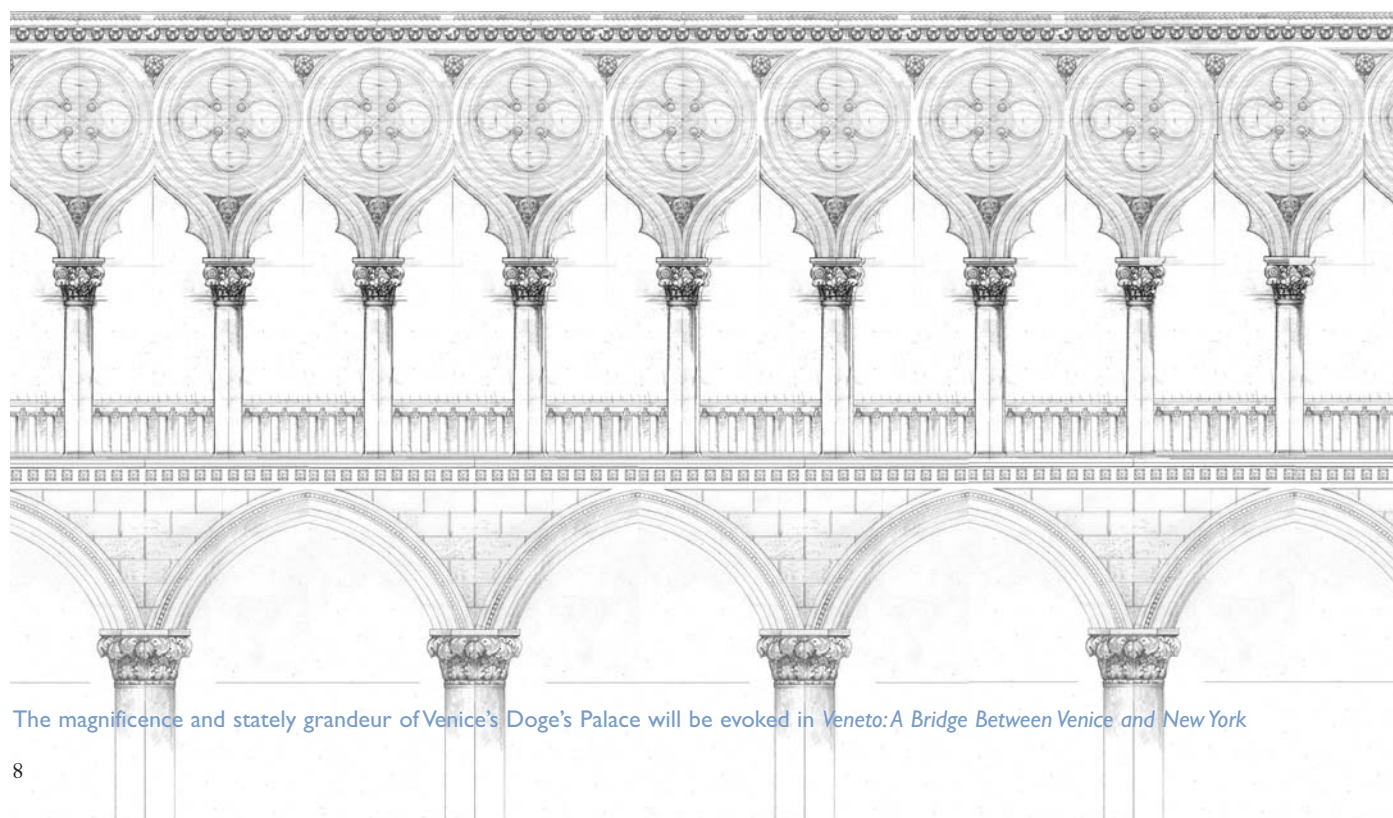


Exquisitely hand-crafted miniature shoes in historical styles will be presented in *Piccolo Passi*, an exhibit in Vanderbilt Hall.

workmanship of Veneto artisans will be breathtakingly evident in a small exhibit, *Piccolo Passi*, a unique collection of miniature shoes, entirely made by hand by Pietro Martello, a skillful artisan from the Riviera del Brenta. The complete collection consists of more than a thousand shoes of different styles that reflect the fashion of various historical periods.

The beauty of Veneto and the innovations and expertise of its people could not be illuminated without displays and performances, so Veneto will be bringing to Vanderbilt Hall a series of artistic and musical events that bring the region's spirit to life in New York. Among the events will be jazz and operatic performances that will reverberate through Vanderbilt Hall's marble-lined walls.

While Veneto has an antique heart, it is a major player in the future of Italian-American relations. At first glance, the two great cities of Venice and New York seem wildly different. Yet they share much in common: identities as trading ports, as major international cities, and tourist destinations. This October, Veneto's glorious past and vibrant culture – and its affinities to New York – will be revealed in Grand Central Terminal. It's a display not to be missed.



The magnificence and stately grandeur of Venice's Doge's Palace will be evoked in *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York*

# Ballo di Primavera 2009

**T**he Foundation's annual Ballo di Primavera brought together 80 Members and guests in a traditional celebration of spring on May 30, 2009. With the Joe Volpis Orchestra on hand providing musical entertainment, the evening featured a seasonal dinner, wine pairings and dancing. General Manager John L. Boden and his talented staff worked closely with the Executive House Committee to produce the festive and exuberant evening.

## Executive House Committee

### Matt Sabatine, Chairman

Michael S. Arena  
 Anthony N. Correra  
 James Dell'Orto  
 Maria Theresa Fauci  
 Albert E. Gardini  
 Dr. Richard Guarino  
 Joseph Gurrera  
 Frank Lo Re

Mario Occhicone  
 Angela R. Prestia  
 Gary E. Redente  
 Hon. Vincent R. Rippa  
 Dr. John F. Romano  
 Lawrence Trapani  
 James F. Trezza  
 Angelo Vivolo



1. Louis Tallarini, President with guest Mary Young. 2. Matt Sabatine, Chairman of the Executive House Committee and member of the Board of Governors. 3. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gardini, members. 4. From left: Kathleen Mucciolo with parents Mario and Katherine Mucciolo and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Aidala 5. Dr. Richard Guarino and guest. 6. Peter and Nancy Cuttita and Anthony Giordano. 7. Oscar Nordstrom and guest Katherine Sparrow 8. Dr. John Roman with his wife, Catherine Marino, M.D.

# View from the Treasurer

By Marian Pardo

Scholarships are our most important product. Keeping the Foundation sound to meet, and increase, our scholarship commitments is our most important job.

Since we raise funds and create an environment conducive to philanthropic enterprise at the Townhouse, we also need to keep the House on a solid footing.

Those of you at the annual meeting in 2007 will remember that we anticipated a difficult environment for fundraising, investment returns and operating expenses. And indeed, throughout 2008 we experienced a perfect storm that intensified in the fourth quarter of 2008 and continues through today.

On the expense side, since we did anticipate a difficult patch, we took steps to reduce headcount, re-bid all contracts and reduce expenses without doing long-lasting damage to our staff and services.

The House's operational revenue streams are House dues, Taverna minimums and banquet revenues. The house receipts are below prior years. While net Membership numbers have held up, banquet revenues are down: as a group we are holding fewer and more modest events. Facing this continuing dynamic, the Treasurer recommended that the House dues be increased. We have also started charging a nominal amount for cultural events. Legally we are not allowed to have Foundation assets support the House, and these and other measures help insure that the House is self sufficient.

The Foundation supports our charitable endeavors, the largest of which is of course our scholarship program for awards to college, high school and elementary school students. To support the Foundation we have annual contributions (general and Adopt-A-Scholar), general contributions, and the earnings on the general scholarship funds and the Adopt-A-Scholar perpetual funds (existing and new). As with net Membership rolls, the annual contributions are stable. While our investment corpus remains in excess of total future commitments, it has been impacted by declines in the stock market and decreases in interest rates for fixed income investments.

Our single biggest source of funds for scholarships is the net proceeds from the Columbus Celebration events. While we are always hopeful of a successful weekend, typically the net proceeds of the Celebration fund only about half of our scholarship obligations. (Remember that a scholarship awarded in year one creates a new and continuing obligation of three times that amount because the awards are for four years.) In this difficult environment, we need to insure that our resources are and will continue to be sufficient to meet our current and future scholarship obligations. In view of that, the Treasurer recommended, and the Board approved, a reduction in annual scholarships. We hope this reduction is temporary. This unwelcome but necessary change takes pressure off of current cash flow and the compounding future obligations.

With a successful Columbus Celebration and an improving economy, we are hopeful of recommending to, and having the Board approve, an increase in annual scholarships for next year.

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## Italian Language Education on Long Island

The sounds escaping Simona Rodano's afterschool classroom tell the story.

*"Buongiorno!" "Dove il mio gelato!"*

The words and phrases pierce the glass-paned door of the Buckley Country Day School, where since September 7, 2008 enthusiastic students have been tackling the language and culture of Italy, the home of the Coliseum, the Roman Senate, and countless immortal artists, composers and inventors.

"They don't even know they're learning," said Ms. Rodano. "Between the music, the singing and the dancing, the kids just think it's another playful afterschool program. When they're having that much fun, it's easy to sneak in lessons about the alphabet and the days of the week."

The afterschool program, held at Buckley Country Day School in Roslyn, NY, is a world language initiative implemented by the independent school's headmaster, Dr. Jean-Marc Juhel. Tanya Bastianich Manuali, a recent addition to the school's board of trustees, took the lead on the program after watching Ms. Rodano work with kids – her own. Ms. Manuali is the daughter of past Grand Marshal, restaurateur, and celebrity chef Lidia Matticchio Bastianich.

"Italian is an irreplaceable part of Western Civilization, and teachers like Ms. Rodano make it accessible and fun," said Ms. Manuali. "Grammar, sentence structure – these are all indispensable, but the first step is to create a sense of joy about the activity, and this is where so many teachers of Italian excel."



Teacher Simona Rodano with Italian language students at Buckley Country Day School.

Ms. Rodano, known to her charges as the *fata azzurra*, or blue fairy, is a teaching artist with 15 years of experience in music and theatre for children and adults. Raised in a family of musicians, she studied music at the International Academy of Milan and worked for RAI, the Italian television network, as a vocalist for seven years.

World language programs have been facing challenges during a time of budget cuts in departments of education and reorientations of priorities. The afterschool program at Buckley is a step in the opposite direction – a direction that serves both the children and American society and culture very well. Or, as they would say in Rome, *molto bene*.

# Foundation Scholarships 2009

**T**he Foundation's scholarship awards ceremonies of 2009 brought to the Townhouse beaming students, relatives and guardians who celebrated the hard work and achievement of the young men and women who are this year's new scholarship recipients.

The scholarship programs provide grants and assistance to students in elementary school, high school and college, as well as graduate level studies through the Franco Zeffirelli Scholarship for the Arts. In 2009, the Foundation will be providing assistance to over 600 students in the amount of \$1.8 million.

The ceremonies were the culmination of months of painstaking and exhaustive reviews by the members of the scholarship committees of students' academic records, community service and family history and circumstances. "Our philanthropic activities, the largest of which involves our scholarship funding, are, in concert with our cultural mission, among the most critical functions of our Foundation," said Frank Fusaro, Chairman of the Philanthropic Committee. "The men and women of our scholarship committees devote long hours and many nights to see that our resources are judiciously awarded. Their commitment helps ensure that no Italian-American student of character and commitment to their studies is unable to pursue their dreams in a highly regarded academic institution."

Additionally, on June 26, the Foundation hosted the touching and inspiring Adopt-A-Scholar Dinner (please see sidebar, at right), when the students receiving scholarships created in honor of Foundation Members, friends, or their loved ones met and had dinner with their benefactors.

## Elementary School Grant Committee

**Desiree Cilmi-Vitali**, Chair

Anthony J. Nastasi  
Mario Occhicone  
John M. Puppo  
Roxann Romano  
Lawrence Trapani

## High School Scholarship Committee

**Dominick A. Capolarello**, Chair

Loretta Anna Berardi  
Frank M. Calabro  
Anna DeLuca-Roffe  
Rosemary Maniscalco  
Peter Pastorelli  
Michael A. Petralia  
JoAnne Cammarata Sylva, D.Litt  
Paul R. Tocci  
Robert M. Tornambe, M.D.  
Joseph F. Uvino  
Vincent M. Toscano

## College Scholarship Committee

**Gail R. Guy**, Chair  
**Aldo Verrelli**, Co-Chair

Michael S. Arena  
Marcia M. Caruselle  
Louis C. Ciliberti  
Peter P. Cuttita  
Anthony P. D'Amato, M.D.  
Frank M. Delape  
Francis J. De Vito, M.D.  
Anthony Dolce  
Maria Theresa Fauci  
Joseph Germanotta  
Robert Ingenito  
Joseph A. Maniscalco  
Ronald J. Mannino  
Thomas B. Matarazzo  
Alfred Palladino  
Louis Pataki, Ph.D.  
John Pugliese  
Hon. Vincent R. Rippa  
Joseph V. Scelsa, Ed.D.  
Peter J. Speziale  
Charles J. Valenti

## "A Great Reservoir of Hope"

Leonard and Geraldine Healy De Luca are grateful Adopt-A-Scholar donors, who created the DaVinci Leonardo De Luca Scholarship in 2005, in honor of Mr. De Luca's father, an educator.

The endowed High School Perpetual Scholarship supports one student through four years of school and, when he or she graduates, goes towards another student. The De Lucas' first recipient was Giancarlo Rindone. "I'm a Boston College undergraduate and Law School grad, so I wanted to pick someone going to a Jesuit high school," said Mr. De Luca, Senior Vice President, Programming and Acquisitions at ESPN. "The scholarship committee found the perfect candidate – someone going to Xavier, who just graduated and will now be going to the U.S. Military Academy. Giancarlo is such a



Philanthropic Committee Chairman Frank Fusaro, Andrea Haimindra, Geraldine Healy De Luca, Adopt-A-Scholar Recipient Mario Haimindra, Leonard De Luca and Mario's mother, Maria Callarame.

good speaker, such a ham, and so good with his brothers. He became an Eagle Scout and raised money for causes related to autism since his younger brother is autistic. And we have kept up with him and his family. That really is one of the benefits of participating in Adopt-A-Scholar. I got to meet a future leader and give him the opportunity to go to a school that has also given us a Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia.

"This year, we met our new recipient Mario Haimindra and his family. He will be going to Fordham Prep, so he'll be part of the Jesuit world. Maria Callarame, Mario's mother, was so appreciative of what the Foundation has given her family – a chance for her son to go to a great school.

"Participating in the Adopt-A-Scholar Program is about using our philanthropic power for good. I would encourage anybody to do it because it opens a door to new people. The Program introduces people to the Foundation who will get to know and appreciate the Foundation for what it truly is, which is a great reservoir of hope."

## Foundation Events in High Gear

The House Committee, under the direction of Chairman **Matt Sabatine**, has been working overtime. Recent events include informative lectures, celebratory dinners, feasts and events, and performances by some of the best talent in New York, including the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation singers and vocalists from the Singers Forum and cabaret star Christina Bianco. Other highlights included evenings with New York State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo and Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli (see various stories in this issue.)



**Matt Sabatine**

**John Loconsolo** is now Commendatore Loconsolo. The Papal Honor, of Knighthood in the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, was conferred by Pope Benedict XVI and awarded by Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Archbishop of the Brooklyn

Diocese in a ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of St. James on June 7, 2009. The honor is bestowed upon individuals who serve the Catholic Church with faith and dedication or who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefiting society. In his letter announcing the Honor, Archbishop DiMarzio wrote that Mr. Loconsolo was

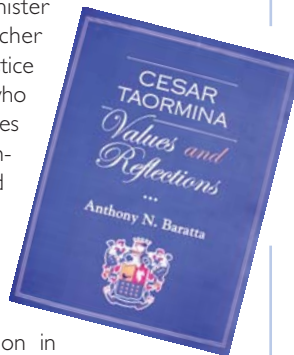
receiving the Honor "because of your long-time service to the People of God of the Diocese of Brooklyn." Mr. Loconsolo has been active in fostering Catholic education throughout his professional life and was instrumental in helping the Diocese create the Futures in Education Foundation's *Be An Angel to a Student* Program: he personally sponsors over thirty children annually. The Diocese noted, "Through his work with the Columbus Citizens Foundation, he has assisted hundreds of Italian-American students obtain scholarships to high school and college, most especially by establishing its College Scholarship Committee. His dedication to Catholic education and to children of limited means is indicative of Mr. Loconsolo's desire to live his Catholic faith in everyday life."



**John Loconsolo**

## The Wisdom and Virtues of Age

Founding Member **Cesar Taormina** has collaborated on a book that pays homage to his family, the Catholic Church and the remarkable achievements and wonders of a life well led. Entitled *Cesar Taormina: Values and Reflections*, by Anthony N. Baratta, the book emphasizes the enduring importance of family, work, patriotism, civic responsibility and faith. It also contains speeches and comments on remarks by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, who Mr. Taormina cites as shining examples of virtue and knowledge.



Mr. Taormina, who scouted possible homes for the Foundation in 1967 and proposed the Townhouse, devotes several pages to discussing the formation of the Columbus Citizens Foundation and the contributions of like-minded individuals who banded together to find the organization a home in the current Townhouse (see also *Foundation Quarterly*, Winter 2007).

Bishop DiMarzio also presented papal honors to **Mary Ann Mattone**, wife of Member **Joseph M. Mattone**, June 7, when Mrs. Mattone received a Knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Mrs. Mattone has been active in the charitable works of the Diocese, particularly as Co-Chair of the Annual Bishop's Christmas Luncheon benefitting Catholic education. Many of her efforts have been dedicated to assist the sick, particularly at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center and Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Queens.

**Comm. Mary Ann Mattone with Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Archbishop of the Brooklyn Diocese.**



## First Italian Immigrant Commemorated

A long-neglected granite tablet that commemorates the first Italian to come to New Amsterdam – in 1635! – was rededicated and reinstalled in Bowling Green Park on June 2, 2009. Speaking at the re-dedication and reinstallation, Foundation President **Louis Tallarini** commented, "Nearly 375 years ago, Pietro Alberti



**The granite tablet.**

arrived in the Americas from Venice at the age of 26 and became the first Italian settler here, giving birth to the Italian-American experience. He became a farmer who later moved to Brooklyn and fathered seven children. This marker, far too long hidden out of public view, commemorates the beginning of Italy's tremendous



**Louis Tallarini with Arthur Piccolo, Chairman of the Bowling Green Association.**

contributions in blood, sweat and tears to what has become one of the greatest countries on earth."

The re-dedication and reinstallation was organized by Arthur Piccolo, Chairman of the Bowling Green Association, and the event was attended by representatives of New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Italian Consulate, and the Italian American Historical Society, whose President, Dr. John LaCorte, Jr., paid tribute to his late father, John LaCorte, Sr. The elder Mr. LaCorte was a fierce champion of Italian heritage who commissioned and oversaw the placement of the tablet in 1959.

**The Ladies Auxiliary Continues To Flourish**  
By Nancy Cuttita

The Ladies Auxiliary has reached a high-level of participation in all activities and continues to be a major benefactor to the Foundation's scholarship programs. I am very pleased to announce that we have completed funding for a Perpetual



From left: Nancy Cuttita, President, Carol Fusaro, Secretary, Janice Peretti, Vice President, and Angela Prestia, Treasurer.

Scholarship, which provides an industrious and accomplished student four years of financial aid. Through our successful fundraising initiatives, we have also been able to make donations to support the scholarship of a student in the New York School of Ballet, as well as smaller contributions to several charities.

The Ladies Auxiliary is comprised of female Foundation Members and wives of Members, and it holds monthly meetings at the Townhouse. Our fundraising activities focus on two annual events, our Christmas Luncheon and Boutique and our Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show. During the past two years, both were very well attended. The spring event brings major designers to the Foundation, most recently Alfred Fiandaca of Boston, New York and Palm Beach for "Sophisticated Ladies Day," and LUCA LUCA designs in spring 2009 for "Un Bel Fiore." We are deeply grateful to these designers and to Connie Cioffi, who made important contributions of time and energy to make these events a success.

At our most recent holiday events, we were able to raffle two extraordinary vacations. In our 2008 "Neapolitan Christmas," we raffled a one-week stay for two at the four-star hotel The Grand Hotel Salerno on the Amalfi Coast. The second raffle featured a one-week stay at a Villa in Tuscany for eight

people that was donated by Gail Guy, a Member of both the Foundation and the Ladies Auxiliary, as well as the Chair of the College Scholarship Committee.

While fundraising is a main goal of the Ladies Auxiliary, we are able to attract so many committed women to our organization through social activities: a Couples Night, lunch outings, museum visits, social teas, and theater days: *Jersey Boys*, *Mama Mia* and *South Pacific* recently, and more in the coming year.

I would like to thank the Foundation for its commitment to the Ladies Auxiliary and all the dedicated, generous, and reliable women who are supportive of our endeavors. It has been my pleasure to lead a delightful group of women.

Our next event will be held on December 1, 2009. We look forward to seeing all our high spirited guests who regularly attend and invite new ones to join in our undertakings.

**Young Adult Auxiliary's Steadfast Support**  
By Christine Freda

The Young Adults Auxiliary (YAA) is once again gearing up to host a Food and Wine Tasting fundraiser at the Foundation's Townhouse later this fall (date to be announced). All proceeds will be donated to the Columbus Citizens Foundation Adopt-A-Scholar Program.



Young Adults Auxiliary Board Members, from left: Dennis Loiacono, Treasurer, Christine Freda, Secretary, Marcella Vescio, President, Victor Lo Re, Vice President.

In addition to event planning and sponsorship recruiting, this month volunteers from the YAA will join the Foundation's Journal Committee in its Phone-a-thon initiative to encourage participation in the 2009 Columbus Celebration Souvenir Journal.

The YAA is a proud part of the Columbus Citizens Foundation and a continuing supporter of the Adopt-A-Scholar Program. The group has been in existence for over 15 years and is comprised of volunteers who are relatives of CCF members or past scholarship recipients in the age range of 21 to 35.

The YAA participates in meeting the cultural, charitable, and social goals of the Foundation. The primary initiative of the group is to raise funds to benefit the Italian-American and New York communities in the form of educational scholarships. The YAA hosts two annual charity events that bring hundreds of people to the Foundation in support of its scholarship programs: a wine and food tasting and a casino night. These fundraisers support the group's \$100,000 perpetual endowment to the Foundation's Adopt-A-Scholar Program.

The group is led by Marcella Vescio, President; Victor Lo Re, Vice President; Dennis Loiacono, Treasurer; I serve as Secretary. The Board of the YAA was inducted in January 2009 and will serve for two years.

The Young Adults Auxiliary is always happy to welcome new members! If you are a relative of a Foundation Member, are between the ages of 21 and 35, and are interested in learning more about our group, please email Marcella Vescio at [yaa@columbuscitizens.org](mailto:yaa@columbuscitizens.org).

James J. Veneruso was presented with the "Above the Bar Award" for the Most Socially Conscious Attorney by a selection group that included the Westchester County Bar Association, Pace Law School and the *Westchester Business Journal*. A partner in



Mr. Veneruso

the Bronxville, NY firm, Griffin, Coogan & Veneruso, P.C., Mr. Veneruso is active with Heartsong, a music and art therapy group for children with disabilities, the Bronxville Beautification Council, Habitat for Humanity, the nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization that buildings affordable housing in partnership with people in need, and numerous other organizations.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 15

## Italian Welfare League Still Going Strong

While Foundation Members are well acquainted with the first four floors of the Townhouse, few realize that the Foundation makes itself available to other philanthropic organizations that provide services and assistance to those who are less fortunate.



Italian Welfare League President  
Linda Carlozzi and Chair Bea Tusiani

Among them is the Italian Welfare League (IWL), which shares an office on the fourth floor of the Townhouse. Founded in 1920, the members of the IWL initially greeted Italian families with babies born on the trip over from Italy with bassinets and enough clothes for a year. During its first decade, the non-partisan, non-sectarian service organization processed 384,000 immigrants.

Today, the IWL meets the needs of hard-pressed Italian Americans through fundraising and financial assistance to worthy causes. In the past year, the organization donated \$110,195 to children of Italian descent who are ill or otherwise suffering emotional trauma.

"Last year we gave two Freedom Bicycles to children who have cerebral palsy," said IWL Chair Bea Tusiani. "Insurance companies don't pay for them because bikes seem frivolous. But in fact, children exercise muscles and develop reflexes as part of their rehabilitation on these bikes, and they work on them with their physical therapists.

The IWL shares space with the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit and is next door to an office that the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation uses. "We're grateful to the Columbus Citizens Foundation for giving us that space," Mrs. Tusiani said. "The Columbus Citizens Foundation plays an important role in supporting us and other charitable organizations.

The Italian Welfare League's fall event is its Autumn in New York Luncheon, which will be held at the St. Regis Hotel on October 17. For more information, please visit [italian-welfareleague.org](http://italian-welfareleague.org).



Lawrence A.  
Yannuzzi, M.D.

Lawrence A. Yannuzzi, M.D. was recently awarded the Hennan Wacker Prize of the Club Jules Gonin, considered to be the most coveted and prestigious award in the field of medical-retinal diseases. Dr. Yannuzzi was cited as "an extraordinary healer and restorer of sight...a master of innovative and lasting thinking through original observations and voluminous or encyclopedic publications... and a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather." Dr. Yannuzzi is founder and chairman of Vitreous-Retina-Macula Consultants of New York, 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.

## Zeffirelli Scholarship Recipient Performs Purcell

Federico Zeffirelli Scholarship in the Arts recipient Christopher Temporelli performed last spring and summer in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, which is based on a section of Virgil's *Aeneid*. The production of the seminal Baroque opera integrated a full baroque orchestra, new choreography and innovative staging that pushed the timeless and tragic work's boundaries. It was produced by Opera Meraviglia in collaboration with the Flying Form Baroque Ensemble, and performances were given in New York City, on Long Island, and in Boston. Mr. Temporelli is shown below in his role as the Sorcerer.



Christopher Temporelli

On March 14, the Comunita Andrettese honored **Mario Occicone**, a founder of the Ramapo Twinning Program, which set up a foreign exchange program between Andretta and the Town of Ramapo, where Mr. Occicone lives. Established in 1996, the Twinning Program has overseen the exchange of scores of students between the towns to promote educational and cultural exchange between the youth of Ramapo and Andretta. Mr. Occicone's grandfather Giuseppe grew up in Andretta, and the Foundation Member is now leading an effort to find a home and headquarters for the Comunita Andrettese Club, of Harrison, NY.



Mario Occicone



Kara DioGuardi

Past honoree and two-time Gala performer **Kara DioGuardi** enjoyed a stellar first season as a judge on the top-rated television show, *American Idol*. Joining judges Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell and Randy Johnson, Ms. DioGuardi quickly asserted herself as an insightful judge who was quick to praise outstanding efforts and offer criticism and guidance to aspiring singers. One of the industry's most sought after songwriters and producers, Kara DioGuardi's songs have appeared on more than 100 million records. They have been recorded by Grammy award-winning artists, including Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani, Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood, and many others.

## In Memoriam

**Joseph A. Giamboi**, a **Founding Member** of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, passed away on March 19, 2009. Mr. Giamboi was the second President of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, serving from 1972 – 1973, and had previously served as Vice-President under Fortune R. Pope. Joseph Giamboi is survived by his wife, Irma, sons Gary and Ronald, and three grandchildren.

Lucia Contessa Sutera Bonafede, wife of **Founding Member Comm. Peter F. Bonafede**, (GR. UFF, Member of the Republic of Italy), passed away earlier this year. Mrs. Bonafede is survived by her husband, children Frank Sutera, Regina Sorrentino, Philip Bonafede and Andrew Bonafede and their spouses Melissa, Frank, Jackie and Mara. She is also survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bernadette Moglia Cracco, sister of **Joseph Moglia**, passed away on April 9, 2009, at the age of 56. The daughter of the late John and Frances Moglia, she is survived by her brothers Joseph, John and Paul and her sister, Mary.

Joan Ferrara, mother of **Joseph J. Ferrara**, passed away on March 5, 2009. Mrs. Ferrara was survived by her husband Joseph A. Ferrara, sons Joseph, Perry and Jeffrey and daughters-in-law Vicki, Cathy, and Alison. She is also survived by eight grandchildren.

Theresa Ficarra, mother of **Robert Ficarra**, passed away on September 21, 2008, at the age of 100. Mrs. Ficarra, with her late husband Frank, established the Cooley's Anemia Foundation in New York, worked as a custom bedspread and drapery seamstress for more than forty years, and continued to enjoy dancing and visiting Atlantic City and Las Vegas even into her ninth decade. Mrs. Ficarra was predeceased by her husband, son Frank Ficarra, Jr. and daughter Carol Dalia. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Marianne Ficarra; son-in-law Jack Dalia, three grandsons and four great grandchildren.

Emily ("Molly") Giamboi, wife of **Hon. Joseph N. Giamboi**, passed away on February 15, 2009, at the age of 81. Mrs. Giamboi is survived by her husband, her three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Virginia Naclerio, sister of **Richard J. Naclerio**, passed away on May 28, 2009, at the age of 75. She was predeceased by her parents, Salvatore and Elizabeth Naclerio, five brothers, Joseph, Thomas, Salvatore, Edward and Raymond, and two sisters, Frances and Nancy. Ms. Naclerio is survived by her twin sister Rosann, her brother Richard and sister-in-law Barbara, and many nieces and nephews.

Lena Riggio, mother of our **Leonard Riggio**, passed away on September 10, 2008. Mrs. Riggio, wife of the late Stephen Riggio, is survived by children Leonard, Vincent and Stephen and daughters-in-law Louise, Laura and Joann. Mrs. Riggio is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Vivian Salibello, mother of **Salvatore Salibello**, passed away on March 3, 2009.

Rocco Vendome, father of **Antonio (Nino) Vendome**, passed away on January 13, 2009, at the age of 86. A hero to thousands of September 11th volunteers, Mr. Vendome and his wife of 65 years, Josephina, and sons Nino and Genaro served free meals to volunteers from their restaurant just north of Ground Zero from September 13, 2001 to February 12, 2002. Over 1,000,000 meals were served and donated by the Vendome Family and the private sector with no government assistance. Mr. Vendome is survived by Mrs. Vendome, Nino and Genaro, and three grandchildren.

Frank Vivolo, father of **Angelo Vivolo**, passed away on April 24, 2009, at the age of 90. Mr. Vivolo is survived by children Angelo, Carmine and Raffaella and by seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Recording artist Lady Gaga (know also as Stefanie Germanotta to her father, Foundation Member **Joseph Germanotta**) received a Grammy nomination in the Best Dance Recording category, a tremendous accomplishment for a performer's debut album. The nominated song, "Just Dance," which she wrote with Colby O'Donis, appeared on her album *The Fame*, which also contained the hit release "Poker Face." "Just Dance" reached number one in seven countries, and "Poker Face" did the same in 20 countries. Another song from the album, "LoveGame," also topped charts in the U.S.



Lady Gaga

In a remarkable coincidence, both Ms. DioGuardi and Lady Gaga appeared on *American Idol* on April 1, 2009, Ms. DioGuardi as a judge and Lady Gaga with a performance of "Poker Face."

### Christina Bianco Performance at the Foundation

On November 6, 2008, Christina Bianco treated a large crowd of Foundation Members and their guests to a thrilling and moving evening of song. Ms. Bianco's performance included songs from her Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs (MAC) award nominated show, *Small Wonders*, and "Someone to Watch Over Me," by George and Ira Gershwin, "Time to Say Goodbye," by Francesco Sartori and Lucio Quarantotto, and the Giacomo Puccini aria,



Christina Bianco

"O Mio Babbino Caro." Classically trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Ms. Bianco has performed in over 40 theatrical productions across the country and in New York, including Lincoln Center, The Rainbow Room, and Symphony Space. Information about Ms. Bianco's appearances and recordings may be found at [www.christinabianco.com](http://www.christinabianco.com).

Photo: Aaron Fallon  
courtesy of Interscope Records.

## IL GIORNALE

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# New York State Leaders Offer Insights and Present Strategies at the Townhouse

The House Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Matt Sabatine, brought two prominent Italian-American leaders to the Townhouse in the first half of 2009.

On February 24, the Foundation hosted a lecture and cocktail reception for New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. The Townhouse was filled to capacity with Members and guests eager to hear an update from the Attorney General, ask questions and voice their concerns about the status of state government.

Mr. Cuomo touched on his role as Attorney General and what he would like to accomplish for the State of New York during his tenure.

Mr. Cuomo spoke passionately about his view that New York State is suffering from an abundance of local government entities overlaying many communities with administrative costs that are unjustified and services that could be more efficiently delivered by consolidating many government entities across community lines. Mr. Cuomo made a persuasive case that New York pays a steep price for its large number of local governmental groups and discussed the benefits of evaluating and winning statewide support for eliminating unnecessary layers of local government.

The question and answer period that followed was moderated by President Louis Tallarini, who helped manage the many questions that Members had on issues as diverse as fraud in the financial system and Mr. Cuomo's future plans in politics. In response to a question regarding negative stereotyping, he strongly endorsed the Foundation's policy of speaking out against defamatory depictions of Italian Americans in the media, arts, television and film industry who seek to profit from exploiting stereotypes. He recounted his own experiences in the heartland of the United States, where the image of Italian Americans has been negatively influenced by the entertainment industry's portrayal of Italian Americans as gangsters.

As the lecture drew to a close, Mr. Cuomo entertained the audience with stories of his time in the Clinton White House as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

On June 10, 2009, the Foundation hosted another of New York's leading government reform advocates, Thomas DiNapoli, the 54th Comptroller of the State of New York. A Long Island native, Mr. DiNapoli has the distinction (at 18 years of age) of being the youngest person in state history to win a school board seat when he successfully ran for a seat on the Mineola Board of Education.

Mr. DiNapoli discussed the importance of having a Comptrollers office that is transparent and accountable to its constituents. He reviewed the process that he instituted immediately upon taking office of publishing for the first time all investments made by the New York State Pension Fund. The publication of the investments, which appeared on the Comptroller's website, marked the first time that this information became readily available to anyone.

His discussion on state pension fund reform and city budgets prompted many questions from the audience. Among the Members eager to have their questions addressed were Louis and MaryAnn Aidala, who were joined on this evening by their son, attorney and Fox Legal Analyst, Arthur Aidala. Also in attendance were Members Maria Bartiromo, Angelo Vivolo and Alfred Catalanotto.



Top: New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo; Above: Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller of the State of New York

# Save the Dates

**October 5 through 17** *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York and The Imagination and Artistry of Veneto*  
Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Terminal  
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily

**October 7** **Mayor's Italian Heritage Month Reception**  
Gracie Mansion  
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Invitation Required

**October 9** **Sponsor and Media Reception**  
Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Terminal  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Invitation Required

**October 10** **Gala Dinner**  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
6:30 p.m. Reception • 7:30 p.m. Dinner  
Reservations Required

**October 11** **Wreath Laying**  
Columbus Monument • Columbus Circle  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**October 12** **Solemn Mass Celebrated by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan**  
St. Patrick's Cathedral  
9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
Tickets Required

**Columbus Day Parade**  
Fifth Ave. from 44th to 79th St.  
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**Start your engines!** The 2009 Columbus Celebration offers up the raffle of a powerful and stunningly elegant Maserati Quattroporte S. The sedan features a 425 hp V8 engine and is loaded with everything from rear parking sensors and navigation system to a tire pressure monitoring system. Only 400 raffle tickets will be available, for \$1,000 each. On view in Grand Central Terminal from October 5 to October 17, the Quattroporte S is being raffled as a result of a partnership between the Foundation and Maserati USA to benefit the Foundation's scholarship programs. For full details, visit [www.columbusraffle.com](http://www.columbusraffle.com).

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

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