



**AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 848, JFK AIRPORT STATION, JAMAICA, NY 11430**  
**WWW.COLUMBIAASSNUSC.ORG**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....** Remember our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Italian Heritage Day is Oct. 7, 2010. I have invited six honorees to attend. Two of our prospective honorees, **Governor Chris Christie** and **NASA Astronaut Mike Massimino**, have just sent their regrets. My apologies for printing their names on our flyer. I have been waiting for their responses since June. I look forward to seeing you on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>... Stay well!

**ANNUAL DINNER DANCE.....**was held on June 18 at Leonard's of Great Neck. Thanks to our honorees **Domenico Calise, Peter Salamone and Donald Ambrosio** it was a huge success. The turnout was good and the souvenir journal was another success. Thank you to all our members and their friends for your support. A special thanks to **Arthur Lai** for taking pictures of our special night.

**ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY.....**will be held on Thur., Oct. 7, 2010 at Russo's On The Bay in Howard Beach. As usual the Columbia Association will subsidize this luncheon. The price is \$40 per person. I would like to explain how we came to pick our honorees this year. Last year we attempted to honor **Michael Massimino** the NASA Astronaut. I had the honor of speaking to him twice. Unfortunately his schedule wouldn't permit him to attend. He asked me to try again this year but he emailed me to say "sorry I will not be able to be with you at Italian Heritage Day. My work responsibilities require me to be in Houston at that time. My apologies to all & thank you for this great honor." I attempted to honor **Governor Chris Christie** to do honor to our members in New Jersey. Although he is not available this year, I will continue to invite the Governor in the future. If anyone has a political connection in NJ, please contact me. **Jill Biden**, wife of Vice President Joe Biden; **Alberto Zamperla** (look him up on the internet), the builder of the new Luna Park in Coney Island and **John Dabbene**, the President of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Staten Island have not answered our invitation at this time. I will keep everyone informed of their responses.

**COLUMBUS DAY PARADE-OCT. 11, 2010.....** As usual, we will meet on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. in NYC. I don't have the line-up of the march yet, but I will notify everyone before the parade. Any questions, please contact **Russ LoBello** in NJ at 973-332-4757 or **Phil Maddalena** at 516-791-2958. Please don't forget to use our web site at [www.columbiaaassnusc.org](http://www.columbiaaassnusc.org) or go to Facebook and bring up Columbia Association of U.S. Customs.

**29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.....**will be held on Fri. Sept. 17, 2010 at Douglaston Golf Course located at 63-20 Marathon Pkwy, Douglaston, NY. The price remains the same as last year, \$125 per person, which includes a continental breakfast, franks or hamburger at the turn, to be followed by a barbeque after the tournament. Any questions, please call Chairman **Don Ambrosio** at 516-790-7402 or refer to flyer for your area representatives.

**SCHOLARSHIPS.....**The Columbia Association has a scholarship program for members and their immediate family who have demonstrated academic ability and a commitment to community service. Each year, *if financially able*, the Association will award scholarships to High School seniors and/or current college students. In addition to academic achievements, the program will recognize students who have participated in community service programs, extra curricular activities including, band, athletics, clubs and service groups. This year, in Memory of Carmine Fasano, the father of Port Director **Adele Fasano**, the Columbia Association intends to award \$1,500 to a worthy needy Dental Student. If anyone knows of a worthy recipient, please contact us.

**NEWSLETTER.....** In this age of the Internet, The Columbia Association is preparing to post the newsletter on their web site. It would save us a substantial amount of money and work. Of course, if you do not have a computer, we will continue to mail you our newsletter. This is still a work in progress.

As part of this change over, we will need everyone's home email address. Please send it to [philmaddalena@hotmail.com](mailto:philmaddalena@hotmail.com) and make it clear who you are, where you work, your last job title and whether you are still working or are retired. Please let's give it a try.

**GILDA'S CLUB.....** Member **John Piraino** (JFK Liquidation Specialist) wants everyone to know about the wonderful community service performed by Gilda's Club NYC and how helpful and supportive it can be for those facing serious illness. Named for **Gilda Radner**, comedienne and one of the original cast members of *Saturday Night Live*, Gilda's Club NYC was founded by her husband **Gene Wilder** and cancer psychotherapist **Joanna Bull** in 1989 following Ms. Radner's death after a heroic battle against ovarian cancer. Since opening, Gilda's Club has offered a place where men, women & children living with cancer – and their families and friends – can join together to build social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care. In 2000, the success of the flagship location prompted the formation of Gilda's Club Worldwide, an organization dedicated to developing a national network of clubhouses. You can find the organization on the Internet at [www.gildasclubnyc.org](http://www.gildasclubnyc.org).

**SICK.....****MaryAnn Verdi**, Entry Spec (JFK) under going treatment for Lung Cancer for approx. 6-8 weeks is in the leave transfer Program & is in need of donations...**Jane Russo** (wife of Tom, Branch Chief, Penn Plaza) had open heart surgery to replace her Aorta Valve. Tom will remain at home to be at Jane's side...**Wendy Maddalena** (wife of Frank, C-TPAT JFK), fell and broke her shoulder. She is getting around in a sling.

**PROMOTED.....****Frank Formato** promoted to Deputy Chief at JFK...**Dominick Maddalena** (Director Situation Room Washington, DC) has been asked to be the Representative to the Information Sharing Coordinating, directly supporting the Secretary's Information Sharing Governance Board. The ISGB is a priority of Secretary Napolitano's and an important effort being undertaken by DHS to insure greater communication.

**DECEASED.....** Customs Operation Officer **Joseph Modica** (ret) passed away on Tue, July 27, 2010 in Irvington, NJ...**Michael Giammarino** (S/A ret) passed away on June 21, 2010 in Staten Island...**Maria Bessich**, mother of **John Bessich** (Customs Attorney & former Branch Chief for U.S. Customs), passed away on Oct. 25, 2009 & John's mother-in-law, **Jean Manfredonia**, died this past April 20 at 89...**Peter Liberti** (D. J. Customs Broker) a former Team Leader at JFK lost his Dad, **Peter**, on Dec. 25, 2009 at 85.

**CONGRATS.....**to **Jamie Bessich** (daughter of John). She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire...**Mario Tilelli** (CBPO NWK) says his oldest son **Mario Jr.** was promoted to Lieutenant with the Atlanta, GA Fire Dept...**Steve Del Casino Jr** graduated from Adelphi University a year early and was accepted to the Physicians Assistants program at the NY Institute of Technology (NYIT). **Steve Sr.** (S/A) is very proud...**Lou Piropato Sr** (ret NIS) celebrating 57<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary, Aug. 16. Lou also expecting his 11<sup>th</sup> grandchild in Oct...**John Riomao** (C-TPAT JFK) & **Jeanine Saporita** were married on Aug. 13, 2010 at the Fox Hollow Country Club. Good Luck!

**BABIES.....****Alicia (Zitowsky) and Kevin Jackson** had a baby boy, **Sean Douglas**, on June 8, 2010, 7lbs 3 ozs... **Patrick and Danielle Orender** celebrating the birth of **Conor Anthony**, born June 18, 2010, 8lbs 2ozs, 20 in. Pat is Liaison to DEA in VA. Everyone's in good health...**MaryAnn Verdi** happy with the birth of her new grandson born on July 14, 2010, 7lbs 6ozs, 21in.

**CHATTER.....****Mike Zitowsky** (ret CBPO NWK) doing a lot of babysitting for his 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild who is 2 ½. Mike also keeps himself busy playing golf with **Ritchie Schmidt and Joe Mannucci**...good luck to **Jamie Alvarado** (former CBPO Officer JFK). He was transferred back to Primary CBPO at Newark Airport...to **Diann Mello**, thanks for the 3 years dues...**Jimmy Taratunio** (ret Supervisory Insp JFK) had a pacemaker put in recently. He said he is really nervous now because he is not allowed to drive and he must depend on his wife to drive him around and she hasn't driven in 10 years!!...happy to hear from **Yvonne Powell** (ret NIS)...thank you to **Raffy** (CBPO JFK) for your card...thanks also to **Joe and Denise** for your card...**John Rinaldi** (CBPO JFK) became a lifetime member. Thanks Pal!...thank you to **Al Cangiarella** (Past President) for your thoughtful note...and **Mike LoPuzzo** (CBPO JFK) another lifetime member for your card...**Harvey Davis** (ret Supv CBPO JFK) thanks for your dues and please thank your wife **Andrea** for visiting me in the hospital...**Angela Stergiopoulos** (ret Import Spec. JFK) thanks for the healing prayers...to **Nancy Del Vicario** (NISA) thanks for your get well card and your dues...**Dino Goga** (Import Spec JFK) thanks for your dues...received a letter from **Evelyn Bulcroft** (ret Import Spec JFK). Evelyn, who lived most of her life in Howard Beach, has now moved to Eger Harbor House, an assisted living facility in Staten Island. A Message to all her friends, "Visitors are welcome!"...always good to hear from old friends like **Debbie Zezima** (former Insp JFK) who is now with the Federal Maritime Commission, Office of Operations in Houston, TX. Debbie says to say hello to all her old friends. If anyone remembers her, Debbie can be reached at (W) #281-591-6088. I will always be thankful to Debbie for all the times she met me, my wife Grace & son Phil at JFK when we were flying to many of the hospitals across the country looking for a cure for my son's Leukemia. Debbie's daughter **Ariana** will be going to college next year. A smart young lady like her mother. I am sure – Don't forget to apply for our scholarship.

Faternally,

Philip Maddalena, President