



**AND AFFILIATED FEDERAL AGENCIES, INC.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....once again, I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. Since September 2009, I have experienced some minor and not so minor medical emergencies that have kept me close to home and unable to perform my duties in a timely manner. I am sure everyone is aware that I suffered a heart attack Labor Day Weekend. I am feeling very well but had to have 3 stents implanted. Another 4 were implanted within two weeks of my first episode. Unfortunately, at the same time, I was experiencing a kidney stone attack. I have been unable to pass it and my Cardiologist advised me not to undergo anesthesia so soon after my heart attack, to have it removed. So, I am drinking a lot of water and doing a lot of ...you know what. Hopefully my doctor will give me permission to go into the hospital this week and things will be back to normal...whatever that is...in the meantime, be well!

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION WEBSITE.....www.columbiaassnusc.org. Our webmaster is **Peter DiSalvo** (son of **Joe**). We are still in the process of adding information. Comments are welcomed. **Russ LoBello**, who originally volunteered to put together our website, had to give it up because of personal time constraints, but he has put together a conglomerate of pictures on Facebook, depicting events of the Columbia Association. To bring it up enter, Columbia Association of U.S. Customs.

GOLF.....our 28th Annual Golf Outing was held at Clearview Golf Course on Mon., May 18. Thanks again to **Don Ambrosio** for his Chairmanship, to **Ken Rich** for his usual generosity in supporting our tournament, and also to **John Swift** (ret CBPO JFK) for his generosity in donating a case of wine for our raffle. John shipped it up from Florida.

ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE.....May 29, 2009, honoring **Adele Fasano**...I don't know how I forgot to put it in the last newsletter, but I did. Thanks to Adele Fasano, it was a huge success and thanks to our members for their support.

ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY.....was held at Russo's On The Bay on Thurs., Oct. 1. Our honorees were **Joseph Esposito**, Chief of Department, NYPD; **Dr. Joseph Scelsa**, PhD, President of the Italian American Museum in NYC; **Hon. Joseph Lentol**, NYS Assemblyman 50th District; **Jill Nicolini**, Channel 11 TV News; and **Anne Romano**, PhD, author. The Columbia Association was also happy to give a Special Award to **John Naclerio**, who before his retirement in 2005 served as Assistant Director of Mission Support at Penn Plaza. John was a dedicated member of the Columbia Association during his career with U.S. Customs and CBP. The Columbia Association was happy to finally have the opportunity to recognize John for all his work on behalf of our organization. John now serves as a full Professor of Management at Nassau College. Heritage Day was one of the most successful and interesting we have ever had with over 400 people in attendance and the honorees' presentations were outstanding. Thank you to our members and friends for your participation.

CONGRATS.....**Joseph DiSalvo**, son of you know who, was hired as an Import Specialist at JFK in September 2008. Joe received his training at FLETC and graduated at the head of his class. He was appointed class Valedictorian and received the Assistant Commissioner for Training's Special Award for Academic Excellence...**Peter DiSalvo** (The Brain), Joe's middle son, was hired at JFK under the Student Cooperative Employment Program and started in Nov 2009. Peter graduated from Nassau Community College, magna cum laude, with an Associate's Degree (Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society) in December and will be attending NY State University at Farmingdale enrolled in the Computer Technology degree program...Joe Sr. refused to open up a job opportunity by retiring...

Sal Giaccone is Chairman of Circolo Santa Margherito Belice, Inc an Italian Organization founded in 1913 by Sicilian Immigrants migrating to the United States. Sal was honored by this organization at Leonard's of Great Neck on Nov. 7...**Danielle Grace Maddalena**, daughter of **Frank** (C-TPAT JFK) and granddaughter of **Phil**, is President of the Student Council at Jacob Gunther Elementary School...**Mike Zitowsky** (CBPO NWK) retired after 35 ½ years. Mike worked as an Import Spec in Bldg #80 before he accepted a position as an Insp. He started his career on July 8, 1974. Mike, **Ed Nagle**, **Henry Hill** and **Phil Maddalena** shared many good years together...**Paul Rivosecchi** (ret Supv CBPO Orlando, FL) was recently promoted to Asst Federal Security Director for Screening in Orlando (T.S.A.). Great!! Paul was a former Senior Inspector at JFK before transferring to Orlando and has always been a member of the Columbia Association...**Debbie Marinucci** (Supv Nat'l Commodity Spec) was married on Oct. 3, 2009...**Camille Ferraro** (ret Nat'l Import Spec) ran in a special election for a seat as a Councilwoman in E. Brunswick, NJ and won. Look her up on Google.

RETIRED.....from JFK – **Richard Pileggi** (Deputy Chief, Passenger Operations); **Barry Braverman** (Supv Import Spec); **John Cianci** (Senior S/A ICE); **Harvey Davis** (Supv CBPO); **Henry Zanetti** (Chief of Staff); **Tom Recupero** (Supv Import Spec); **Bob Meekins** (Asst Port Director, Tactical Enforcement); **Connie Ragin** (Supv Entry Spec); **Judy Tandeynick** (Supv Import Spec)...from Newark – **Doug Montone** (Senior Inspector/CBPO); **Mike Zitowsky** (Senior Inspector/CBPO); **Richard Tursi** (Supv CBPO); **Richard Rinaldi** (Senior Inspector/CBPO); **Anne Dyer**, **Tom Hickey**, **Pat Murphy** and **Judy Wolf**...from One Penn Plaza – **Rich Foley** (National Import Specialist); **Jeff Konzet** (Supv NIS); **Martha Smith** (NISA); **JoAnn Howard** (NISA).

BIRTHS.....it's a boy for **Jackie (Kudlack)** and **Scott Salamon**. Baby **Robert Scott Salamon** was born on Oct. 30, 8lbs 2ozs...**Randy Morabito** and wife **Jennifer** celebrating the birth of their baby girl **Sabrina** born Sept. 26, 7lbs 15ozs...son of **George Aprigliano** (ret Nat'l Analysis Staff) and wife **Jennifer** had a baby boy **Daniel**, born Aug. 31, 7lbs 7 ozs...**Ema Qyteza** celebrating the birth of her son **Erlis**, born Dec.12, 8lbs 2ozs ...**Mario Tilelli** (CBPO NWK) is proud to announce the arrival of his 3rd grandchild, **Sophia Tilelli**, born on Sept. 1, 7lbs 7ozs...**Janice Scotti** (ret Import Spec JFK) writes from South Carolina to tell me that her son **Duane** and wife **Debbie** made her a grandmother for the second time when their 2nd daughter, **Gabriella Marie Scotti** was born on Aug. 2, 6lbs. Janet also had surgery for melanoma skin cancer last Nov.

SICK.....**Anthony Centola** (Import Specialist JFK) underwent 45 treatments for prostate cancer. Tony started his treatments in July. He received his treatments everyday at 7am from his oncologist before reporting to work. Talked to Tony in Dec and he looks and sounds great...**Mike Triola** (SAC NY), undergoing treatment for throat cancer...**Steve Twarowski** (ret Supv Customs Officer JFK), has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. He cannot accept calls but cards are welcomed. His address is, 115 Harmony Drive, Massapequa, NY 11762 ...**Cathy Schiebel**, wife of our own **Gerry Schiebel** (Deputy Chief JFK), at home fighting a valiant fight against cancer...**Jerry Monaco** (ret Asst Area Director JFK), had a triple bypass last year. I saw him in Dec. and he looked great...**Joe Mannucci** (Deputy Chief NWK) had arthroscopic knee surgery in Oct. for the 3rd time ...**Joseph Pahopin**, son of **Rich Pahopin** (Deputy Chief NWK), doing well after laser surgery on his eyes.

DECEASED..... **Eileen Manna** (CBPO JFK) lost her Mom on July 3. For those of us who know Eileen, we know the dedication that Eileen gave to her Mom, who was well loved by everyone...**Thomas Maher** (ret Area Director NY Seaport) passed away in Nov. ...**Herb Schnitzer** (ret Import Specialist JFK) passed away in FL in Aug. Herbie and I worked on the same team for many years, and to say he was a funny guy would be an understatement. God Bless...Pal!...**Larry Moore** (CBP Mail Spec JFK) passed away in Sept...**Carmine DeCroce** (ret Mgr Motor Pool NWK) passed away last year. He retired 22 years ago and was 83 years young...**Patrick D'Ambrosio**, the father of **Don**, our Golf Chairman, passed away after a long illness on Nov. 19...I played golf with Pat, a real nice guy, just like his son Don...**Carmine Fasano**, the father of **Adele Fasano**, our Area Director at Newark passed away on Nov. 27. Carmine was a ret Lt. Commander in the Navy. He was loved and admired by his family. At the request of Adele and her family that in lieu of flowers for Carmine, donations be made to The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund in memory of Carmine.

CHATTER.....thank you **Paul Rivosecchi** for the thoughts of my son Phil...**Tom Leippert** (ret Customs Supv Insp JFK) and wife **Marsha** (ret Customs Insp JFK) traveled to Italy in Sept. to visit Tom's mother's homeland. Tom, who has been retired 13 yrs, says he thinks often of the JFK crowd and enjoys reading about their families. He tells me he see's **Judy DeCordero** who longs to return to NY. Thanks Tom for also getting me **Joe Ania's** new address...good to hear from **David DiConza** (Spec Agent ICE NY). Dave is a former CBPO from JFK ...heard from **Linda Vercillo** (ret Insp) who visited England with husband Eric in Sept. Linda sends her regards to everyone at JFK...always good to hear from **John Tufano** (ret Import Spec JFK and former Treasurer of the Columbia Association). John is very active in Wilmington, NC in Italian affairs. He is also on the Law Enforcement Committee with some retired FBI and Secret Service Agents...it was nice hearing from **Patrick Orender** who I first met when he was an Explorer Scout in NWK. Since we last talked, Pat was married to his beautiful wife **Danielle** and has had two children, **Caitlen Elizabeth** and **Patrick Frances**. He now lives in Virginia and is assigned as the Lead CBP Liaison to the DEA, thanks for paying your dues...**Marilyn Yevoli** (ret Import Spec JFK), thanks for your emails...good to see **Steve DelCasino** (ret S/A) at our Italian Heritage Day celebration...**Santo Ponticello** (ret Insp JFK) sends regards to everyone...Happy Birthday to **Justine Kuntz**, daughter of **Bill Kuntz** (CBPO NWK)...and a big thanks to **Sal Dalessandro** (ret S/A In Charge NY) for attending our Italian Heritage Day...and special thanks to **F.L.E.O.A. Foundation** for their generosity...

thanks to **Angela Stergiopoulis** (ret Import Spec JFK) for her generous donation in memory of her beloved son Andrew, who loved everything about being Italian, the food, the culture and of course the people...if you missed **Joe Mannucci** at our Italian Heritage Day Celebration, it was because his wife **Jill** had a kidney stone attack that morning.

Fraternally,

Philip J. Maddalena