



Entertainment

Cocktail Event

Gerard Esposito

Dinner & Dancing

Mystical Entertainment Group

Door Prizes & Super 50/50 Raffle

CULTURAL

CHARITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS



The Columbian Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping improve the cultural, educational, economic and social welfare of the citizens of New Jersey.

The Foundation was founded in 1941 by a group of business and professional men of Italian descent from Essex County and its surrounding communities. They were the originators of what has become a heritage of charitable giving that has surpassed anything these founders could ever have imagined.

Today, The Columbian Foundation engages in a broad range of philanthropic activities, providing financial support in the form of donations to support special causes and a variety of institutions and organizations. From scholarships for needy students and donations to area colleges and universities, hospitals, community groups and charitable organizations, to the support of a broad array of cultural endeavors, The Foundation and its supporters have helped enrich the lives of thousands of individuals. For further information please visit our website at www.columbianfoundation.com.

The Annual Awards Dinner is the most critical of all the Foundation's fund-raising efforts. The attendees of this time-honored event not only provide tremendous support through their generosity, but also honor some of the truly outstanding men and women in our community.

We salute those who have made our annual dinners so successful and proudly applaud the extraordinary individuals honored at this evening's event.



THE COLUMBIAN FOUNDATION OFFICERS

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COLUMBIAN FOUNDATION



79th Annual Gala

Honoring

Louis LaSalle

Anthony Lupica

Katia Passerini

James R. Spango

WWW.COLUMBIANFOUNDATION.COM



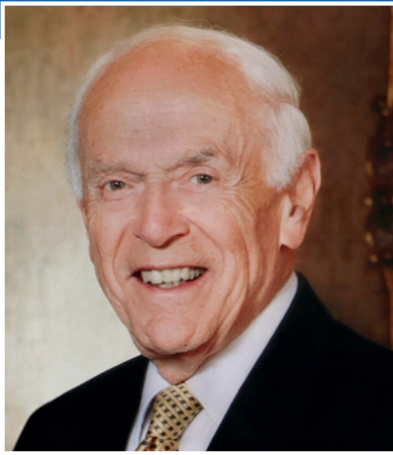
*The Columbian Foundation
cordially invites you to attend the
79th Annual Humanitarian Achievement
Award Dinner*

*Saturday, the Twenty Third of October
Two Thousand and Twenty One*

*Birchwood Manor
111 N. Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981*

*Doors Open at 5:30p.m. for Registration
Cocktail Event 6p.m. - 7:30p.m.
Dinner and Dancing 7:30p.m. - 11:30p.m.
Black Tie
\$250 per person*

*Benefitting Student Scholarships at
Rutgers NJ Medical School, Seton Hall Law School,
NJIT, Montclair State University, and various charities*



2021 HONOREE
LOUIS LASALLE
Senior Vice President Emeritus
RWJBarnabas Health

A graduate of Rutgers University with a B.S. in Accounting, and from Seton Hall, with an MBA in Finance and a certificate in International Finance, Louis LaSalle has proven to be a seasoned professional in all aspects of community, public affairs, and governmental affairs. As the Vice President of External Affairs for Barnabas Health – Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston for more than two decades, Mr. LaSalle was responsible for Community Relations, Public Relations, Audio Visual Communications, the Auxiliary, the Gift Shop, as well as liaison to Government Affairs, Public Relations, and Development.

In his RWJBarnabas Health role, Mr. LaSalle continued to be liaison to Government Affairs, Public Relations and the Development Foundation for an additional 11 years and was instrumental in developing strategic alliances for community health and wellness. He directed Corporate External Event Sponsorships such as American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, Valerie Fund, Lupus Foundation, and hundreds more community galas and events. After serving SBMC and RWJBarnabas Health for a total of 31 years, Mr. LaSalle retired on April 30, 2021 with the honorary title of Senior Vice President, Corporate External Affairs - Emeritus and continues his community services.

Mr. LaSalle has served as Chairman for numerous community organizations and committees such as the American Heart Association, Planning Board and Council of the Borough of Roseland, the Essex County Parks Centennial Committee, and the Essex County “Save Turtle Back Zoo” Committee. He has also served and continues to serve as President of the Essex County Parks Foundation, Caldwell University President’s Advisory Council and on numerous boards of local municipalities. He also is Chairman of the Roseland Planning Board and continues to serve as a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association.

Among the many honors awarded to Mr. LaSalle, some of the most recent are: The American Heart Association, 2016 “Lifetime Achievement Award”, The North Essex Chamber of Commerce Award, 2017 “Outstanding Community Leader Award”, the Cardinal Joseph Tobin’s, 2017 Annual C.Y.O. Business & Labor Recognition Reception as the “Business Honoree”, the New Jersey Business and Industry, 2017 First Annual “Icon Honor Celebrating Leaders Over Age 60”, the City of East Orange’s, 2018 “Hall of Fame - Enterprise Award”, Greater Newark Conservancy, 2020 “Community Vanguard Award”, Essex County Meet the Mayors, 2021 “Lifetime of Service to the Community Recognition Award”, and the Men of Essex, 2021 “Special Continued Service Recognition”.

Louis LaSalle has been recognized by his colleagues as an indefatigable community-minded professional who is able to gather the best resources to help foster a sense of community spirit and a purpose to improve the health and well-being of New Jersey residents.



2021 HONOREE
ANTHONY LUPICA
*Retired Teacher of Italian
Language, History & Culture
Seton Hall Preparatory School*

Anthony Richard Rocco Lupica is one of New Jersey's premier teachers of Italian language, history, and culture.

Anthony was born on March 10, 1951, in Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent his childhood. In 1973, he graduated Cum Laude from Bowling Green State University of Ohio. He continued his studies at Indiana University, where he completed his Master's Degree in Italian Studies. His courses included an Italian Masters Language Program at Universta' di Bologna, Italy.

His teaching career brought him to the New York metropolitan area, where he taught Italian in West Orange, Brooklyn, and Nutley.

In 1980, Anthony was hired by Monsignor Michael E. Kelly to teach Italian at Seton Hall Preparatory School, where he enjoyed a 29-year illustrious career. He headed up the school's Italian Club, which was the largest active student group at SHP. For 20+ years, he took trips to Italy with SHP students, parents, and friends. In 1993, Anthony won the Salvatore N. Caprio Award for teacher, Counselor, and Moderator at SHP. Upon his retirement in 2019, SHP named the Italian Language Award in his honor.

In addition to spearheading Italian culture at SHP, he served as Soccer Coach for JV/Freshman for 17 years. He won the Monsignor Thomas A. Touhy Award in 1996 for his contributions to SHP Athletics.

From 1977 until today, Anthony is a proud member of UNICO National of Orange/West Orange. Anthony's other contributions to Italian education include hosting a radio program on WSOU Seton Hall University radio and teaching private Italian language for adults.

Since 1997, Anthony has served as an interpreter and translator for the Italian Polizia di Stato and the New Jersey State Police for Columbus Day Parades in New York City and New Jersey. He has translated for dignitaries such as New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani and NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly, among many others.



2021 HONOREE
KATIA PASSERINI, PH.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Seton Hall University

Katia Passerini, Ph.D., a nationally recognized knowledge management scholar with extensive higher education experience, was appointed the Provost and Executive Vice President at Seton Hall University in February 2020.

Previously, Passerini served as the Lesley H. and William L. Collins Distinguished Chair and Dean of the Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies at St. John's University. As the chief academic officer of the Collins College, the largest undergraduate college at St. John's, Passerini was responsible for strategic and operational planning, faculty and staff recruitment, academic program and curriculum development, and fundraising. During her tenure as dean, she grew enrollment at the College, launched an array of new academic programs, and raised student retention and success to new heights. She also served on several senior-level committees, including the President's Advisory Committee; Provost Committee on Academic Prioritization; the Academic Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee; and the Academic Technology Governance Committee.

Prior to St. John's University, Passerini served as the interim dean and then dean of the Albert Dorman Honors College at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). In this position, she served as the college's chief academic officer and was responsible for strategic planning, operational management and business process improvement, student recruitment and fundraising. At NJIT, she also served as a full professor and the Hurlburt Chair of Management Information Systems in the Martin Tuchman School of Management.

Passerini earned a doctoral degree in Information and Decision Systems from George Washington University, a master's degree in economics (equivalent) from the University of Rome II -Tor Vergata, a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University, where she was a Fulbright and Bank of Rome Scholar, and a combined bachelor's/master's degree in political science from LUISS University in Rome.

As the Provost/EVP and Seton Hall's chief academic officer, Passerini coordinates the efforts of a Senior Associate Provost who co-facilitates the administration of academic programs and management of the Division of Academic Affairs; an Associate Provost with responsibility for strategic planning, accreditation and assessment; an Associate Provost for Strategy and Finance; and an Associate Provost for Academic and Graduate Affairs and Institutional Research. Additionally, the deans of the 10 colleges and schools, library, and the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies report to Passerini.



2021 HONOREE
JAMES R. SPANGO

Mayor of Roseland, NJ
Chief & Business Administrator for the
Essex County Sheriff's Office

Mayor James R. Spango of Roseland has been an active and dedicated member of his community and has served in various roles in public service over his career. In his youth, Mayor Spango became involved in many community projects, volunteered for various Democratic political campaigns and in Democratic organizations, and has been a youth coach and mentor since 1996. A graduate of Seton Hall Prep he continued his education and graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration from Seton Hall University in 2000. Mayor Spango started his life in Public Service in 2005 working for the Essex County Sheriff's Office and currently serves as Business Administrator & Chief.

In the Sheriff's Office, in addition to being Chief and overseeing the day to day operations of the largest Sheriff's Office in that state of New Jersey, Mayor Spango also creates and manages an almost 50 million dollar budget, is in charge of human resources and personnel, supervises labor relations and contract negotiations with various unions, as well as supervising payroll, purchasing and acquisitions, facility management, risk management, and internal controls and billing. Spango also represents the Sheriff's Office in arbitration cases, at Board of Commissioners Meetings, and when dealing with state and federal agencies. Mayor Spango also briefly served as the Hearing Officer for the County from 2016 to 2019 where he oversaw and rendered decisions for disciplinary hearings.

In November 2018, James Spango was elected as the 20th Mayor of the Borough of Roseland and assumed office in January 2019. During his time in office, Mayor Spango has put a focus on improving Borough parks, increasing communications between the Borough and residents, keeping taxes stable, and striving to bring the community together and rebuild a sense of community through additional and revamped community events and also by creating more public boards and committees that solicit input and feedback from residents. Mayor Spango treats his role as Mayor as an additional full time job and enjoys the opportunity to assist his residents in any situation no matter how small it may seem. During his tenure as Mayor, Roseland rose in the rankings of Best Places to Live in New Jersey from 117th to 14th.

Mayor Spango is also an executive member of the Essex County Chiefs of Police Association, a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a member of the legislative committee of the New Jersey Association of Mayors and serves as the Democratic Chairman of Roseland.

Mayor Spango resides in Roseland with his wife Dawn and twin 12 year old daughters Brooklyn and Madison.