



CHOOSE ROLE MODELS WISELY

It's in vogue to mock religion and put down those who practice. Traditions make for easy material for comedians. Pseudointellectuals, who try to make a case that there is no God, miss the reasoning behind the belief that a higher power exists. Focus is only on the physical and the spiritual aspect of the human condition is ignored.

The concept of God is an attempt to explain man's multidimensional consciousness. Mankind must rely on language, something with no dimensions, to make sense of things that are philosophically complex. Humans are unique in that we have awareness of our own existence and a free will to act. The dichotomy of good versus evil is in play with every decision that is made. God is the moral compass for all that is good. Religion attempts to deliver that lesson the best it can.

The challenge of religion is trying to make devine concepts comprehensible to the masses, including both the illiterate and educated. The varied sophistication of the audience causes religions to address the lowest common denominator. They use symbolism, metaphor, and allegory to make their point.

Holy Scriptures that make up the Bible are over 3,000 years old. They can be interpreted differently by every individual, most in positive ways while others corrupt the message to their own satisfaction; and in there lies man's dilemma. We are free to choose, yet the idea that we are flawed is one of the tenets of the Catholic Church. Referred to as original sin, it is the impulse for evil that exists in human nature. Jesus offers the solution to overcome those temptations. His message is simple, the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would want others do unto you." There are verses that are equally as powerful and they all seem to point to love. If love is the greatest good, then God is love and Jesus was the most perfect example of devine love. Jesus is the ultimate role model.

St. Anthony's Church is the center of spiritual living in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Populated by Italian immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century it has kept its traditions intact for generations including a strong devotion to the church, family and community. There were never a shortage of positive role models. Living according to the teachings of the church was a way of life. A catholic education was available through the parish's grammar school. Teachers, clergy, aunts, uncles and neighbors all had interest in the common good. All followed the golden rule. There was so much positive reinforcement of what was right that even the bad apples served as examples of what not to do and not as influences. It was in this environment that the Peterstown community flourished. The mind and body is free when it isn't shackled by negativity. The worldly aspects of life flourish when living in God's grace. Life is more fulfilling and more enjoyable.

Each generation served as a role model for the next. And each generation elevated socially above the previous one. There was no finer role model than Brother Jerry Harasym who served the parish as coordinator of youth ministry from 1965 to 1970. He led by example emulating the teachings of Christ and he cultivated creativity. He inspired his young charges to pursue art, music and theater, to be creative and spread joy. He also inspired a few to pursue a religious vocation. The world is a better place because of those who work on doing what is right. Everyone

benefits.

Evil would pervade if not held in check by the righteous. Organized religion has done the greatest good in combating evil and helping those in need. Religion is a man-made element of spirituality and so it comes with all the flaws that are inherent in man. Nonbelievers get caught up in semantics and the church's earthly trappings. They miss the essence of the message. If someone believes there is literally a man with a beard living in the clouds they should have that right the same as a talk show host who thinks he's funny mocking that person. There are folks who are hung up on the use of the male or female pronouns when referring to God. Do they really think that is important?

When the world is right, people are safe to enjoy life without being bothered. Celebrities benefit the most and do become role models but their messages should be scrutinized. Many are self-serving with motives that may not jibe with what is right. Role models should be home grown. Unconditional love is best learned through experience. 

(left, standing, l-r) Brother Jerry Harasym on the set of a play produced at St. Anthony's in 1968, starring Dan DeRose, Joyce Mierzejwski, Rose Perone (Director), Kathy Caruso-Spirito. (sitting, l-r) JoMarie Gatto, Russell Nascondiglio, Judy Oriscello-Catenaccio.



(above) Brother Jerry (center) was on stage with some old friends at the Reunion of the Bands in 1999, (l-r) Gary DiGirolamo, John Marcantonio, Charlie Saemi, and Gary Tripiedi.



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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, *Around About Peterstown* assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

Around About Peterstown welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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President's Message



It's sad to see more and more of the greatest generation leave us. Tessie Pozyc, 90, and Pete Renna, 91, passed away in the same week. Though they lived long and productive lives, it is still hard to take.

When someone passes it does remind us that our time on earth is limited so make it count. Make an extra effort to help our seniors. Even if you just spend some time talking or visiting a shut-in. As the last of the WWII vets turn 90 thank them for their service. It is the least we can do for a generation that worked hard and fought hard to give us the quality of life they could only dream of.

My condolences to both families and to the family of Brother Jerry who passed away in August. He was the perfect example of the Salesian order that ran the church and school when he was here in the 60's. He focused on the troubled youth so they would grow up to be responsible adults. (Hey, That was us!)

God bless,
John Sacco, President
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

PRESS RELEASES

Press Releases that benefit the community of Peterstown are offered free of charge. Every effort will be made to accommodate appropriate articles when time and space allows. Send any info in early.

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Letters to the Editor



LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses. Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed). Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

To all my past pupils and friends,

On Sunday, July 17th, I celebrated 70 years as a Salesian Sister. You were all present with me as I renewed MY Vows. You will be with me in my heart, and prayers. To those who do the same, I appreciate the prayers.

Thanking God and His Blessed Mother, MHC for the love and the gift of MY Consecrated Life.

God bless you and Love from,
Sr. Domenica, FMA
North Haledon, NJ

To all,

So many of us are saddened at the passing of Brother Jerry Harasym on August 25, 2016. If you were a member of St. Anthony's parish, were a student at St. Anthony's school or attended camp St. Anthony, you were very familiar with brother Jerry. To so many of us he was a model Christian gentleman, a mentor, and a blessing beyond description. Not once in all the years I was acquainted with brother Jerry, did I ever hear him raise his voice in anger, lose his temper or act in any way unbecoming of a man of God. He was the kind of person you wanted be around. He loved all people exactly as Jesus taught us to do.....unconditionally. Brother Jerry you touched so many lives. You made a tremendous impact on me and countless others. We will never forget you and we will always love you and never forget the timeless lessons you taught us.

John Nocera (St. Anthony class of 1970)
West Monroe, LA

Dear Friends

I am publishing this issue of the Peterstown newspaper following my father's funeral. His death at 91 years old on September 2, 2016 made me reflect on the life lessons he and my mom taught me. The more I think about them the more I realize how special they were and how special the community I grew up in was. They were the best I could ask for as parents.

Peterstown also lost Tessie Pozyc, 90. I can say the same about her as I can many others, she dedicated her life to her family and to the community, always giving always helping. There were so many like her in the neighborhood. It was as if we were all one family.

Brother Jerry Harasym also recently passed away at the age of 79, and though he was at St. Anthony for five years he made a lasting impact to an entire generation. His devotion as a Salesian youth minister elevated his dedication to teaching and serving others. He was an inspiration.

There is a point where most people abandon their morality and do things that are self serving and hurtful to others. There are few that seem to never give in to that temptation and Peterstown had those types in abundance.

On behalf of my brothers and sisters I would like to thank all those who sent their condolences. I'm hoping I can thank everyone, those who sent flowers and mass cards, visited the funeral home, made donations to St. Anthony's Church, sent cards, emails or made contact through social media.

With love,
Joe Renna
Cranford, NJ

VISIT ST. ANTHONY'S TO SEE THE RESTORATION PROJECT PROGRESS



The Renna Family would like to thank those who sent gifts to St. Anthony's Restoration Fund. In memory of their father, Peter, who was dedicated to the church and extolled the value of a Catholic education.

St Anthony's Church and the grammar school, Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, can always use financial support to continue the work that benefited the community for generations.

To donate mail a check payable to St. Anthony's Restoration Fund, 853 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 or Contact the parish by phone at 908-351-3300 or email stanthonyofofpaduaelizabeth@gmail.com

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Editor's Opinion

by Joe Renna

I've been thinking about unconditional love lately and found that it is not as prevalent as it once was. It seems that, now, everyone has conditions and what's worse they have become extremely petty. There is so little consideration for others. It has become a "me first" society. The sense of community is disappearing.

This is so foreign to my experience growing up in Peterstown where I was taught to think of others first. It was an easy lesson because it was imbedded in the culture. Everyone looked out for one another and you can count on your friends' unwavering loyalty. I'm fortunate to still have those friends in my life.

Other folks, though, I'm not so happy about. There seems to be a point where, no matter how righteous the person pretends to be, there a point when they sell their soul, usually self-serving reasons. I see people abandon their morals the second money is the object, people who act Christian unless their job is on the line. It is at its worse in politics. Each person has thier own degree of corruption that they justify, from outright thievery to complacency.

That has been my struggle, I can't accept those who are corrupt, who hurt others, or are plain evil. Jesus says I should and so I try my hardest. But even Jesus lost His cool with the money changers. Right?

There are people who are in some way deficient and really don't know right from wrong. I have sympathy for them and find them easy to forgive, even if their wrong doing is directed at me. The type who are difficult to accept are the those who know better and are still depraved. Their hurtfulness is calculated.

These last few years the jerky behavior is off the charts. People treating each other badly over nonsense. I don't blame social media because I see the problem is live as well. Every opinion draws a hard line of being accepted or not, and when two people have different beliefs, civility goes out the window. And again politics is the worst.

Everyone is now labeled and even if you are neutral, you will be assigned a side. The pure venom spewed back and forth between conservatives and liberals is shocking. The words have been so twisted that no one even knows what they mean any more. People who are intelligent, educated, or otherwise pleasant are cursing each other out over the most mundane issues. Their vitriol is childish. No understanding and acceptance. But to what end, I don't know.

What's absurd is that people get all hot and bothered over things that they have absolutely zero influence over, unless the politics is live and local, then the absurdity really starts because these are neighbor to neighbor confrontations. There is a big difference when the politics are local and that is because people do have influence, but more importantly they can also benefit.

So now we go full circle. How big does the benefit have to be for someone to abandon their morals? The answer is, not big at all. Society is in chaos. People are isolating themselves. It's a luxury that is now affordable. Why be civil if you don't need anything from your neighbor.

I will continue to put others first and accept them unconditionally. It may seem naive to the rest of the world, but to my friends it is just natural.



Not for Nothing But...

could all the stand up

guys please stand up?



WE WILL MISS YOU DAD

(right) Peter Renna
August 6, 1925 -
September 2, 2016



(top to bottom) What matters most in dad's life:
Loving wife, children, grand and great-grand children,
brothers and friends.

PETER RENNA LIVED A LONG, FULLFILLED LIFE

Peter Renna, 91, peacefully passed away on Friday, September 2, 2016 surrounded by his loving family. He was born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey, the son of Nicolo and Fanny (nee Ceccia) Renna who both emigrated to the U.S. from Sicily, Italy. He enlisted in the U.S Navy at the age of 17 and proudly served during WWII in both the North African Campaign and the Pacific Theatre and was involved in many brutal battles, Peter received numerous medals and an honorable discharge in January of 1946. He was extremely proud to have served his country.

Back home he was a hard working family man, dedicated to St. Anthony's Church. Peter was self

employed in the dump truck business before joining Steamfitters Local #475 from where he retired. He was a member of The Knights of Columbus, and the Order of Elks. He was also a loyal member of the Peterstown based Kingston Club, along with his lifelong childhood friends. Peter was compassionate and generous to everyone.

He is the proud father of seven children, Lorraine married to Tom Kelly, Peter married to Debi Rombardo, Nancy, Nicholas, Joseph married to Tina Grosso, Philip married to Rose Addessa, and Thomas. He treasured his thirteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Carmella "Millie" (nee Nigro) who passed in 1985.

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TESSIE POZYC PASSES AWAY AT 90

Accursia 'Tessie' Pozyc, 90, a lifelong resident of Centre Street in Peterstown, Elizabeth, died on September 4, 2016 after a brief illness. Jessie passed away with her family at her side at Peggy's House at the Center for Hope Hospice.

Tessie attended Battin High School. She worked for many years as a waitress at Elizabeth General Medical Center and later retired as a security guard at Elizabeth High School. For most of her life, Tessie was a tireless volunteer with St. Anthony's school and parish. She was an adult leader in the CYO and a 40-year volunteer with the bingo program. She also served as president of St. Ann's Rosary Society and St. Anthony's Senior Citizen Organization.

She was an active member of the Senior's Club of Peterstown. And could be seen holding court at Caribe Bakery (formerly Saraceno's) on a daily basis right up through the end of May before taking ill. She helped her peers in making sure their needs were being met. She was a senior citizen activist without any formal title.

Tessie was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Walter "Pete" Pozyc, and brothers, Anthony and Joseph LaRocca. She is survived by her daughter, Pamela Palmieri and her husband Ed, of Scotch Plains, N.J., and her son, Michael Pozyc and his wife, Henrietta, of Clark, N.J. Tessie was the beloved "Gram" to Daryl Palmieri



(Casey), Kimberly Mouded (George), Nicole Altavilla (Joseph), Erica Stasio (Joseph), Michael and Michele Pozyc. She was the cherished "Nana" to eight great-grandchildren.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

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Advertising starts at \$60 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page.

Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 418-5586.

ADVERTISER	PAGE
AAA All Car Auto Salvage.....	13
American Plumbing & Heating Supply.....	11
Avon's Norwood Inn	12
Bella Gina's Italian Deli & Restaurant.....	7
Candelino Kitchens	13
City Tavern Restaurant	7
Cleveland Auto & Tire	13
Colton's Pharmacy.....	2
Corsetino Home for Funerals	4
Dimensions Hair Salon	5
Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti, D.M.D.....	5
Dr. Nicholas Palmieri, Chiropractic Sports Medicine	4
Dr. Frank Paternostro, D.M.D.....	5
Drew Memorial Company	4
Elizabeth Chiropractors	4
Elizabeth Yellow Cab.....	13
el Lechon de Negron.....	8
Flaming Grill & Supreme Buffet.....	16
Goodman's Restaurant & Deli.....	9
Hollywood Carpet.....	13
J. Sacco's Meat Market.....	10
Jersey Uniform	13
John's Caffe.....	7
Magic Fountain.....	8
Michelino's Pizzeria	8
O'Donnell Agency	6
Parkview Restaurant.....	13
Petrucelli Funeral Home	4
Pinho's Bakery.....	7
Richard Lucas Chevrolet Subaru	6
Richie's Auomotive	13
Rocco Auto Service	13
Santillo's Brick Oven Pizza.....	8
Torna Di Sorento	7
Urban Burger Truck.....	8
Villani Bus Company.....	6
Weichert Realtors.....	13

BRO. JERRY SERVED 56 YEARS WITH SALESIANS

Bro. Jerry Harasym passed away in a saintly manner after a two-year struggle with cancer on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016 at the age of 79. He will always be known as a dedicated Salesian Brother, a terrific youth minister and a creative artist. Involved in many civic and community affairs, he was known for leading youth renewal retreats and creating artwork.

Gerard Harasym was born in Saint-Boniface, Manitoba, on Nov. 12, 1936. He grew up in East Winnipeg. He attended High school at Don Bosco Technical in Paterson, N.J., a school run by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

He made his first profession of vows as a Salesian Brother on Sept. 9, 1960, at Don Bosco College in Newton, N.J. He went to St. Anthony Church in Elizabeth, N.J., to serve as the coordinator of youth ministry (CYM) from 1965 to 1970.

Bro. Jerry studied art at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, while the director of arts and crafts at the Salesian Boys Club of Columbus. He created several pieces of fine art which can still be found in Salesian locations in Canada and the U.S.A. From 1974 to 1981, Bro. Jerry was the national director of a school organization for children, called The Savio Club. He edited their monthly publication, Savio Notes. During that time he lived in Newton, N.J. and West Haverstraw, N.Y. He was a teacher, coordinator of youth ministry at Mission Dominic Savio, and a pastoral animator for the Diocese of Montreal.

Bro. Jerry exercised many talents including teaching, figure skating, singing, dancing, and an amazing artistic ability and lifelong devotion to the Church and community. Throughout his years and travels, he brought sunshine to all he met. He made a lasting impression on the youth of Peterstown, the Parish of St. Anthony's. He will always be remembered.



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PETERSTOWN RESIDENTS JOIN ELIZABETH'S BRAVEST

The tradition of Peterstown residents joining the ranks of the Elizabeth Fire Department continued on June 3, 2016 when three current residents, Joseph Marranca, David Fiorillo, and John Sacco, were among the ten new firefighters sworn in by J. Christian Bollwage at a ceremony held in City Hall.

There are approximately a dozen firefighters living in

Peterstown or who have Peterstown roots, including Director Onofrio Vitullo.

Another of the ten rookies with Peterstown roots is Vincenzo Soldano son of Jerry and Anna Maria Imbriacco. His uncle Frank Imbriacco, now deceased, retired from the Elizabeth Fire Department in January 1994 after serving 26 years.

LOVED ONES DO THE HONORS

Council Chambers was filled with family and friends of the new recruits.

Loved ones joined in the ceremony and had the honor of pinning on the badges.



(above) Vincenzo Soldano



(above) Joseph Marranca



(above) Peterstown residents and newly sworn in Elizabeth Firefighters Joseph Marranca, David Fiorillo, John Sacco with Fire Department Director Onofrio Vitullo at their swearing in ceremony on June 3, 2016.

Photos of this and other events can be found online at www.renamedia.com and on the PeterstownNJ Facebook page. Feel free to Like, Tag and Share.



(above) David Fiorillo



(above) John Sacco

New Elizabeth firefighters swone in June 3, 2016:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Rajael Alvarez | Cesario Rebelo |
| Gregory Borys | John Sacco |
| David Fiorillo | Vincenzo Soldano |
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(above) UNICO Citizen of the year Carol Cascio

2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CAROLE CASCIO

UNICO ELIZABETH CHAPTER - NEW JERSEY

We at the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO would like to thank you for the strong support you have given us in the past and are hoping we can count on you again this year. The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO is committed to supporting various organizations such as Cooley's Anemia, The Arc of Union County, Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Occupational Center, Elmora Youth League, Scholarships for Italian American Collegian Students, and many other charitable organizations, who desperately rely on our donations to continue their services.

If you are not familiar with our organization or UNICO National, we would like to introduce our Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO. UNICO, which stands for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Opportunity, has as its motto, "Service Above Self." Each year, UNICO sponsors a Dinner Dance as its main fund raiser. Additionally, the organization seeks to honor an Italian American who exemplifies the ideals of UNICO.

Carole Cascio is a lifelong resident of the city of Elizabeth, a community she has served in various ways. Carole was a business owner for over 30 years in Elizabeth and Roselle Park.

Mrs. Cascio received numerous awards while serving on the Elizabeth Board of Education as Vice President. Carole is currently Vice President of the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO.

She is the daughter of Italian American Parents. She has been married to John Cascio for 32 years and they are the proud parents of their son Jon Carlo Cascio who resides in Rahway.

We humbly ask you to help us achieve our goals this year. If you are not able to attend, we welcome you to contribute to our worthy causes by sending a donation. Again, you will be assisting charities and deserving students achieve their goals.

Our Award Dinner Dance will begin at 6:00pm on Sunday, October 16th, 2016 at The Grand Marquis, 1550 Route 9 South, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

Tickets are \$100 per person To Purchase tickets, please call: George Marretta: 908-925-9211 Lou Bani: 908-289-6259

Nino Quaglia: 908-415-6692 Or you may send us an email at: ElizabethUNICO@gmail.com

We thank you in advance and appreciate your continued support.

Respectfully,

Nino Quaglia

President, Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO

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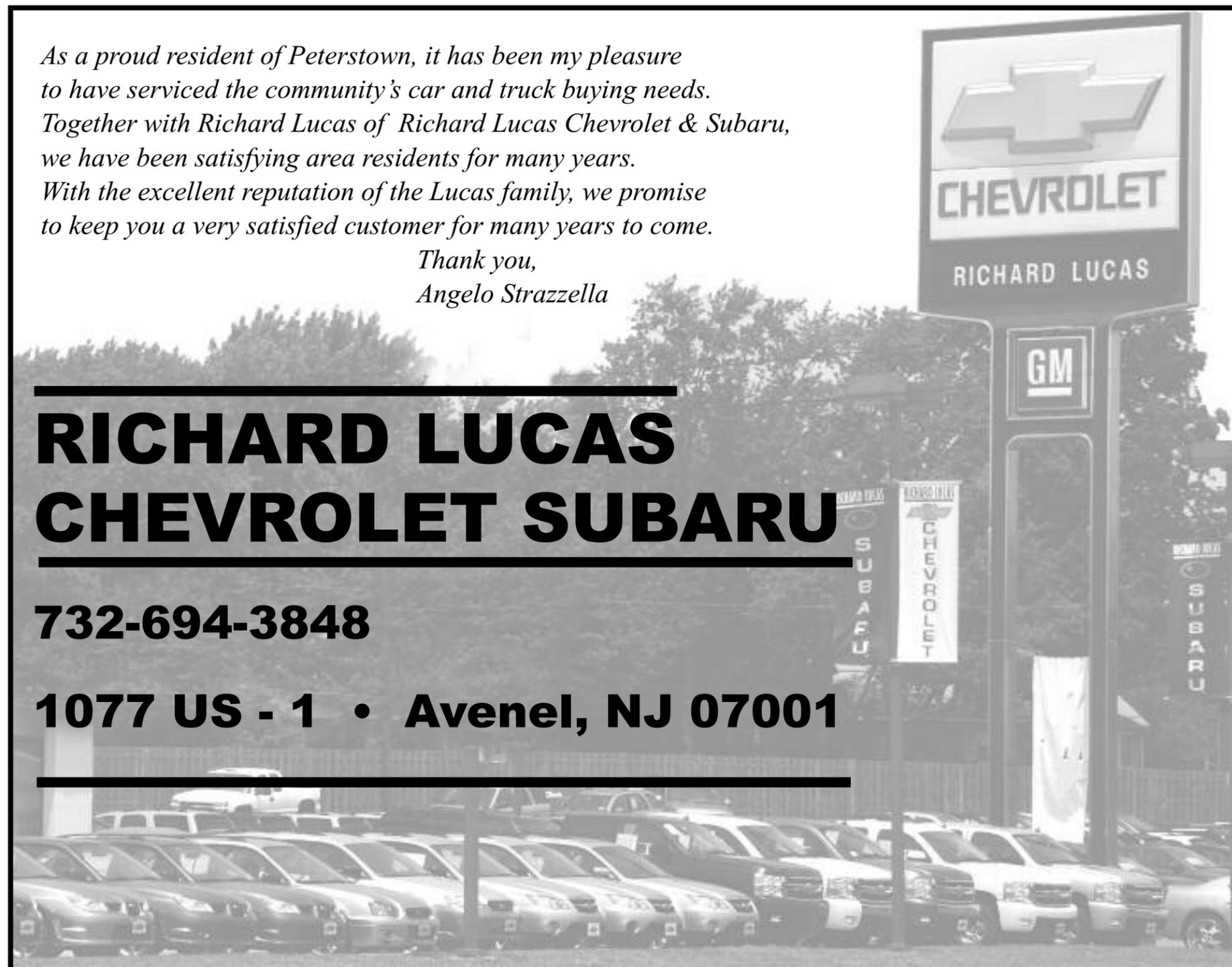
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ANNIE MIRANDO AND PINHO'S...PERFECT TOGETHER

Submitted by Frank J. Korn

The television sitcom "Cheers" was all about a Boston tavern that was warm and cordial, a place "where everybody knows your name!" And when a certain beloved patron came through the door all the others cried out in unison: "Norm!!"

There's a bakery-coffee shop on Chestnut Street in Roselle called Pinho's, also a warm, cozy, and cordial spot "where everybody knows your name!" And when a certain beloved patron arrives each day for lunch, the staff and all the other steady customers call out: "Annie!"

That would be 96 year old Annie Mirando, a proud product of Peterstown. Born on August 15, 1920 on Spencer Street, this charming lady likes to claim that she came into this world on "Mary's Day" for that is the date of the Feast of the Assumption which honors the Blessed Virgin's ascent - body and soul - into Heaven.

A devout Catholic, Annie has, throughout her long life, always been especially devoted to the mother of Jesus and to the Rosary. She was baptized, made her First Communion, and received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Anthony's. She has cherished memories of those days when the Church was at the center of not only the spiritual but also the social life of the community, through its dances and festivals. To this day, nearly a century later, Annie remains strong in her Catholic Faith. She still observes a weekly Adoration Hour at St. John's in Linden.

The daughter of immigrant parents, Annie had two brothers and two sisters of whom only her beloved younger sister Jane survives.

Annie attended Elementary School 15, then went on to three years at Cleveland Junior High. Like many others of her age, she then went out into the world to make a living. She is not at all embarrassed to tell you that her first job was as a domestic. She remembers cleaning houses, in particular the home of Mrs. Mancini on Elm Street, a fashionable district of Elizabeth in that long ago era. Annie still firmly believes that honest work of any kind ennoble a person.

Her limited education notwithstanding, Annie went on to remarkable success in the business world. After years of saving, she became founder, owner, and C.E.O. of Mirando Manufacturing Company, a clothing factory on Spring Street. Her enterprise afforded badly needed job opportunities for many residents of Peterstown.

Her life, however, has been, by no means one of "all work and no play." She has always been an avid reader

and an enthusiastic globe trotter. She has traveled the world, as far away as New Zealand. here she became fond of a promising race horse which she named "Mr. Chips." Annie arranged for Mr. Chips to be shipped back to the States where she housed and raced him at the Freehold trotters track.

Her fondest travel memories, are those of her numerous trips to Italy. She loved the sights of Sicily, which included the town of Ribera, the beach of Sciacca, and lofty Taormina overlooking Mt. Etna. She is proud of having had the courage and confidence to drive the length of the curving, precipitous, famously intimidating Amalfi Coast road.

In Rome, she marveled at the churches, the fountains, the squares, the antiquities. She climbed the hundreds of steps that took her out onto the balcony atop the dome of St. Peter's Basilica and thrilled to the panorama it afforded.

But she treasures most of all her private meeting in the Vatican with Pope John Paul II (now a saint).

These days she likes to sit back and reflect on a long, full, rich life. And her favorite place to do that is Pinho's, where she spends hours each afternoon. Her favorite lunch consists of a grilled cheese sandwich, coffee, and for dessert, a couple of custard cups.

The owners, Raul and Julie, love hosting Annie as do Julie's sisters, Annie and Linda. So too does the rest of the staff including Fatima, Silvia, Maria, Mary, Sandra, Asia, Kaderha and the others.

And Annie's soft spoken manner, her shy smile, and her joie de vivre have also earned her the affection and admiration of the regulars: Mattie, Jimmy, Leo, Bernie, Frank, Camille, Rose, Jina, who all gather each day at the cozy Pinho's ... "where everybody knows your name!"



(above) 96 year old Annie Mirando is a regular at Pinho's in Roselle, NJ.



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(above) Annie Mirando met Saint John Paul II, who was pope from 1978 to 2005.

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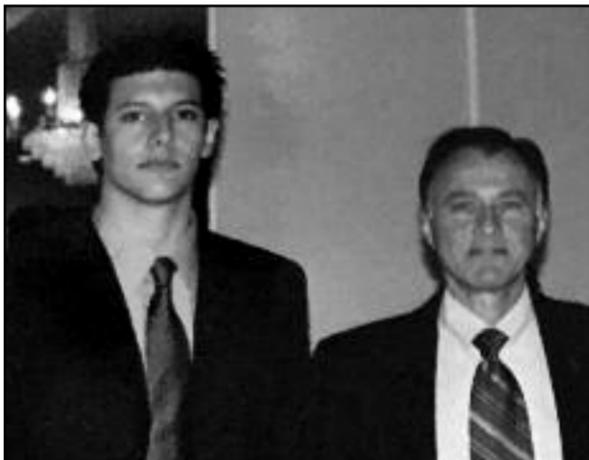
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(above, clockwise, from top) Vincenzo Soldano, Tiffany's sister Stacie Olmo, Tiffany Negron and her father Manuel Negron.



(above) Vincenzo Soldano with parents Jerry and Anna Maria Imbriacco on June 3, 2016 when he was sworn in as an Elizabeth Fire Fighter.



(above) Vince with his Uncle Frank Imbriacco who retired from Elizabeth Fire Department on January 1994 after serving 26 years.

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THREE MAYORS CUT RIBBON FOR EL LECHON DE NEGRON IN UNION

The mayors of three towns, Carl A. Hokanson of Roselle Park, Manuel T. Figueiredo of Union, and Chris Bollwage of Elizabeth, were on hand in January 2016 to cut the ribbon of a new restaurant in Union, New Jersey, el Lechon de Negron. The restaurant is located at 1331 Maggie Avenue close to where the three towns meet.

The restaurant serves authentic Puerto Rican cuisine. Owners Vincenzo Soldano and his fiance Tiffany Negron are hands on in the kitchen. Tiffany has been in the

food business for four years when she opened up her own food truck and catered to the workers during their lunch breaks. Her business grew and she has a full calendar of events that she caters, from private parties to corporate events, specializing in pig roasts. Tiffany stresses that they are "more than just pork" though. She never hesitates to cater a special order of any cuisine.

Residents of the three neighboring towns can call 908-577-6229 for take out and el Lechon de Negron will deliver. 🐷

Recipes

Submitted by: Tiffany Negron, el Lechon de Negron Restaurant

Tostones (Fried Green Plantains)

INGREDIENTS

3 Peeled Green Plantains Oil for frying
Garlic Powder Salt

PREPARATION

- 1) Slice the peeled Plantains diagonally into 1" slices.
- 2) Fry the slices over medium heat until they soften.
- 3) Remove from oil and drain on paper towels.
Using a tostonera (a press), slightly squash each piece to about half an inch in thickness.
- If a tostonera is not available insert the pieces between a folded piece of waxed paper and press down using a pan or plate. It is best to press all the pieces first before going on the next step.
- 4) Dip each piece in warm salted Water and fry again until crispy.
- 5) Remove from the oil and drain on paper towels.
- 6) Salt them.

Tostones may be served with Mayo Ketchup or Garlic Sauce.

Arroz con Gandules (Yellow Rice with Green Pigeon Peas)

INGREDIENTS

2 cups grain Rice (rinsed)
4 to 5 cups of hot Water, or choice of Broth
1/2 cup Sofrito - store bought or homemade
16 ounce can of Gandules
1 can Tomato Sauce
or one pureed Tomatoe and Red Pepper
1 packet of Sazon with Achiote
or homemade Achiote Oil
3 tablespoons of Oil
tea spoon of Cumin
Salt & Pepper to taste
Small hand full of Green Spanish Olives is optional

PREPARATION

- 1) In a medium size caldero which is a traditional rice pot (easy to find at a nearby super market, imusa is a top brand) add the Oil, Tomato Sauce, Olives, Sofrito and Sazon or Achiote Oil.
- 2) Cook over medium heat for 4 minutes.
Add all other ingredients, and enough Water to cover the rice 1" above the rice line.
- 3) Start with 1 teaspoon of Salt, stir and keep adding and mixing well until you are satisfied with the taste. Bring to a boil and cook over high heat until most of the Water is absorbed.
- 4) Once the Water has been absorbed, stir gently from bottom to top - once or twice only, cover and turn the heat down to low. Cook for 30 minutes or until the Rice is tender.
- 5) Let the rice cook, opening the pot and constant stirring the Rice after it has begun cooking may cause it to get sticky. Rice should be fluffy not sticky.
Note: Any rice that sticks to the bottom of the pot is called "Pegao" and is crispy and tasty and a favorite of true Arroz con Gandules lovers!



(above) el Lechon de Negron catering truck, on Facebook at ellechon.denegronfoodtruck, on instagram @lechon4life



(above, l-r) Vincenzo Soldano, Mayor of Roselle Park - Carl A. Hokanson, Mayor of Union - Manuel T. Figueiredo, Tiffany Negron, Mayor of Elizabeth - J. Christian Bollwage.

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(above) Jeffrey Di Maggio

JEFFREY DI MAGGIO COMPETES IN ULTRAMARATHON

Jeffrey Di Maggio of Millington, NJ competed in the 2016 Vol State Road Race, an ultramarathon totaling 314 miles. The runners start out from Dorena Landing, Missouri and finish in Castle Rock Georgia. There is a ten day time limit on the race which started at 7:42 am on July 14, 2016. Jeffrey finished in five days, one hour, and fifty-one minutes on July 19, his fortieth birthday. This earned him seventh place honors out of a field of ninety five entries behind the winning time of three days, seven hours and nine minutes. What is most amazing it that this was only the fifth race that he completed in.

DiMaggio was introduced to running as a hobby only three years ago. He trained with a friend and soon was able to last long distances without tiring. He bypassed the customary 5k and 10k community runs and ran in his first race in 2013, just a few months of training, a 50k / 8 hour race, approximately 31 miles. He followed that with a second race in March of 2014. This time it was a 100 miler at the New Jersey Ultra Festival. In May of 2015 he ran in a 56 mile race with a 12 hour time control. This was another New Jersey event called 3 Days at the Fair at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. Later that year in November 2015, DiMaggio ran in a 24hour / 83 mile race.

Ultra races use a time control and each racer is scored by how many miles they run in the determined amount of time. The Ultra marathon that DiMaggio ran in July was challenging on so many levels. The race challenges the runners equally physically and mentally. The following synopsis from the organizer's website, ultrasignup.com, describes it best:

It begins with a ferry ride across the Mississippi River, from Missouri to Kentucky, and finishes at "the Rock,"

high atop Sand Mountain in Northeast Georgia. What lies in between are 314 miles of the great unknown. From the time the Vol-Stater steps off the Ferry, until they reach the Rock, they are totally reliant upon their own physical and mental resources. For the next four to ten days, in the face of the heat and humidity of July in Tennessee, the Vol-Stater must make their way on foot, along highways and back roads, from one small town to the next, over hills and across rivers, up mountains and down long valleys, all the while accounting for all of their most basic needs; "what will I eat?" "When will I find water?" "Where will I sleep?"

Success is not guaranteed. There are no aid stations, teeming with volunteers waiting to tend to your every need and encourage you to continue. There are just miles and miles of empty road. Your friends can follow your progress from afar, but no pacers can carry your burden for you. If you do encounter another runner, theirs is the same desperate plight as your own. You will have doubts. Finishing will often seem an unfathomable dream. Your worst enemy may become the knowledge that an air conditioned ride to your car at the finish (in the dreaded seat of disgrace) is but a phone call away.

Many will fail. But, for those who find the steely will and muster the sheer dogged tenacity to overcome the impossible obstacles, and reach the rock on foot, the Vol-State can be a transcendental experience. No words can adequately describe the sense of combined relief and amazement to be experienced at the Rock. No one can explain the regret that this incredible journey has actually come to an end. Former King, Barry Crumrine probably summed up the Vol-State experience as well as it can be put into words; "I found in myself something that I never knew was there." 🏆

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(left) Jeffrey Dimaggio crossing the finish line of a twenty-four hour race in the brisk weather in November 2015. He next ran a five-day race in the one hundred degree heat of Tennessee.



(above, l-r) Dominick Jr., Jeffrey, Domenick Sr., and Michael.

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DI MAGGIO FAMILY TREE

Three generations of ultramarathon runner Jeffrey Di Maggio's family are rooted in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. His great-grandparents all immigrated from Italy. Dominic and Cathrine (nee DiBella) DiMaggio, and Louis and Angelina (nee DiMaio) Occhiuzzio. The Occhiuzzio family lived on the corner of 6th and Marshall Streets. The DiMaggios lived at 450 Third Avenue.

Dominic and Catherine's son Louis married Frances Occhiuzzio, daughter of Louis and Angelina. Their son Dominic is Jeffrey's father.

Dominic and Catherine lived on the second floor of 450 Third Avenue. Dominic worked for the City of Elizabeth and passed away in 1942. Louis and Frances lived on the first floor after they married in 1946. Their son Dominic was born in 1946 and they had a second son

Louis the following year.

Frances passed away in 1961 at the young age of 39. Catherine, who never remarried after her husband passed, moved in on the first floor to help her son raise her grandsons. The boys went through the Elizabeth public school system, Elementary School #15, Cleveland Junior High, and Thomas Jefferson High School. Louis passed away in 1992.

Dominick and wife Barbara had three sons, Dominick Jr., Michael, and Jeffrey, who were raised in Union, New Jersey before moving to Millington. Jeffrey graduated Watchung Hills Regional High School and Rutgers University.

Jeffrey completed the 2016 Vol State Road Race, an ultramarathon totaling 314 miles that he finished in five days. 🏃‍♂️



(above, l-r) Angelina (nee Dimaio) and Louis Occhiuzzio



(above, l-r) Father of the bride Louis Occhiuzzio, bride's sister Lois, and mother Anglina, Bride and Groom Frances and Louis DiMaggio, and Frances's sister Lucy.



(above) Dominic & Catherine Di Maggio in 1941 in the yard of 450 Third Avenue, Dominic was 64 and Catherine 48.



(above, l-r) Louis and Frances DiMaggio at thier football wedding reception, February 2, 1946, with thier cookie wedding cake. It was noted that her sister Lois had the first in the family to have sit down wedding.



(above, l-r) Louis DiMaggio congratulates, Barbara and Dominick, Jeffrey's parents.



(above) Jeffrey with his dad, Dominic.

MR. PAUL TURNS NINETY

Submitted by Maria Falzone

Mr. Paul Farina recently turned ninety years old on July 2, 2016. His friends at the Ribera Club threw him a wonderful surprise birthday party as the oldest member of the club. Mr. Paul was joined by many of his friends and family members, which included his sons-in-law and four grandsons.

Mr. Paul has been an active member of the club since the 1960's. He first arrived in the United States in 1954, where he joined his wife Cecilia. Their daughter Antoinette was born the following year in New York City. A few years later, the family moved to Elizabeth and lived in an apartment building on the corner of Palmer Street and Third Avenue in the Peterstown section of the city. Just a few years later, the Farina family bought a house on South 7th Street between Third and Fourth Avenues where their daughter Maria was born. In the 1970's, the family moved to Carteret where Mr. Paul and his wife still reside.

Mr. Paul began working for Laborers Local 394 in the 1960's as a construction worker and remained active until he retired in the 1990's.

Even though Mr. Paul moved from Elizabeth to Carteret, he still enjoyed spending time with the men at the club. There wasn't a week, evening, or any given Sunday morning that Mr. Paul wasn't present at the club. These days, although he relies on someone picking him up, he tries to get to the club as much as possible.

Above all, Mr. Paul enjoys spending time with his family: his lovely wife of 62 years, Cecilia; their daughter Antoinette and her husband Joe Guarraci, along with their children: Peter, Paul, Robert, Joanne and her husband Dan Ranhan and sons Jack and Ben; their daughter Maria and her husband Anthony Falzone, along with their two children, Diana and Anthony.

Since his retirement, Mr. Paul and Cecilia spend their winters as "snow birds" in sunny Florida. At home in Carteret, Mr. Paul is still actively growing tomatoes and can often be seen "putzing" around in his yard. Mr. Paul and his family are all very grateful that his friends were kind enough to honor his birthday with a memorable party to celebrate such an important milestone. 🍷



(above) Paul Farina celebrates his 90th Birthday.



(above, l-r) Paul Farina seated in front of his son-in-law Joe Guarraci, Grandsons Robert and Paul Guarraci, Anthony Falzone, Peter Guarraci and son-in-law Anthony Falzone.

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(above) Somerset County Business Partnership's 2016 Somerset County Outstanding Citizen of the Year Michael V. Camerino, Esq.

MIKE CAMERINO NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Somerset County Business Partnership has announced that Michael V. Camerino, Esq. has been selected as the 2016 Somerset County Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

The award is given annually to Somerset County's premier community leader. The Outstanding Citizen is the county's most prestigious individual reward for community and business activities, awarded to one person who has done the most to make Somerset County a special place.

Camerino served as chair of RideWise, directing the organization to an independent non-profit, updating the strategic plan, and establishing himself and the organization as leaders in transportation management in New Jersey.

He served as a member of the Somerset County Unit of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors; Chairman of the Somerset Raritan Exchange Club; and board member of the Care to Share Support Network. Currently he serves as trustee of the K-9 Soldiers Board; vice-president of the Central Jersey Housing Resource Center; and member of the Business Partnership participating on the Sustainability and Legislative Affairs committees.

A veteran who served in Vietnam, he has been a strong advocate for and contributor to the two visits of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute to North Branch Park in Bridgewater.

He credits his philanthropy on his upbringing in the Peterstown Section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. The values he learned as a child stayed with him throughout his life.

Michael and his wife Sharon have two children Mary-Sara and Michael J., and have four grandchildren. They will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversary.

He went through the Elizabeth public school system, Continental Elementary School #3, Cleveland Jr. High and Thomas Jefferson High School. He graduated with a law degree from Seton Hall Law School in 1967 and completed the R.O.T.C. program. He went active duty in the Army the following year as a commissioned officer and was shipped to Viet Nam. He rose to rank of captain and worked as an intelligence engineer.

Mike's parents were Hamlet and Sophie (nee Bellino). He was born in 1942 and had two younger siblings, Elvira Kresge and Geraldine Barcellona. He lived at 324 South 7th Street up until he left to serve his county. He now lives and practices law in Somerville, New Jersey.

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MIKE CAMERINO'S RICH FAMILY HISTORY

It may take several chapters to recount the Michael Camerino's family history. Each generation has several interesting story lines. Here is one sliver starting back in 1891 in the town of Melfi, Italy when his grandfather Michele Camerino married Elvira Ruggiero, he was 22, she 16.

Michele and Elvira's story included running a general store, traveling back and forth to Argentina to cook for the president, having six children, the youngest being Amleto, Michael's father.

The general store sold everything anyone needed other than food, including gun powder. Tragically the supply blow up while they were being stacked, instantly killing Michael and one of his sons. Elvira's mom died from the explosion but after saving the lives of two of her grandchildren, one being Amleto.

After the explosion, Elvira accepted an invitation from Michele's sister and her husband to come to America, which she accepted and then made the trip with her four children, her oldest daughter now married. They settled in New York on 116th Street.

Elvira's neighbor in the brownstone, Luigi, moved to New York from Elizabeth, New Jersey because of a job. He had a friend, Michele D'Ambrosio, who was recently widowed and figured he can do a little match making. D'Ambrosio had three children of his own, Margaret,

Albert and Josie. The two agreed to meet in Elizabeth at the home of D'Ambrosio's brother-in-law Antonio Spirito. Elvira saw a photo on Antonio's fireplace of her Uncle Giuseppe Spirito in Malfi. It was Antonio's uncle also!

After some courting, and D'Ambrosio's persistence, they married. He promised to build her a home in Elizabeth and did at 324 South 7th Street. The marriage also produced a baby named Dora, born on Elvira's forty-fifth birthday in February 21, 1921.

D'Ambrosio was a mason and worked on the construction of Saint Anthony's Church. He taught Amleto, now known more by his Americanized name Hamlet, how to work on the steeple. Hamlet was also a fixer working behind the bar at Spirito's Restaurant, where he was more known by the name Cousin.

The Camerino and D'Ambrosio families clans got along smoothly. Siblings and step-siblings did everything together. A romance brewed between Hamlet and Margaret and after a short courtship they married. Both sides of the family were happy for them and they moved on the second floor above Elvira and D'Ambrosio. The happiness would be short lived, though, when Margaret died suddenly of a heart attack.

Eventually Hamlet remarried, this time to Sophie Bellino, Mike's mom. But that's a whole other story. 🇺🇸



(above, l-r) Hamlet and Sophie

(right) Michele D'Ambrosio



(left) Michele Camerino
(below) His General Store



(above, l-r) Elvira and Dora D'Ambrosio



(above, clockwise from 6:00) Camerino and D'Ambrosio youngsters, Dora, Hamlet, Margaret, Jennie, Mary and her friend.

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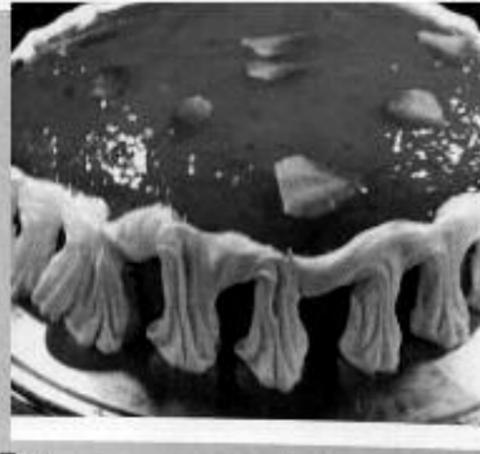
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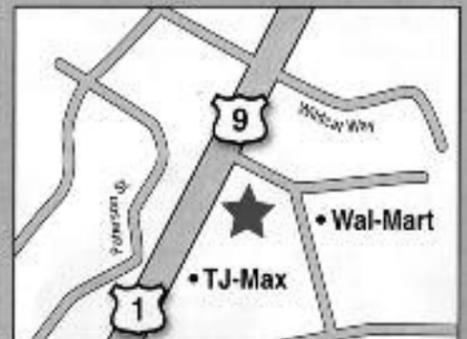
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