



AGE 102 IS THE NEW FIFTY-ONE

When Carmela Lapore was born on Jan. 30, 1910, the life expectancy rate was 51. She just celebrated her 102nd birthday and shows no sign of slowing down. Some baby boomers half her age are restarting their lives in new careers and some, out of necessity, are following their dreams. Frank Verde is doing both.

Carmela has lived two lifetimes. It would have been very difficult for her to plan for the second half of her life, especially because the technology that would play such a large part in her life was not even conceived of then. She witnessed the emergence of automobiles, air travel, motion pictures, television and computers. All before she was 50. The computer microchip did not come into use until after that and now is a part of everyone's daily life. Carmela was 18 years old when Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin.

When Frank Verde was born in 1959 the age expectancy was 73. Back then it was reasonable to believe that one would work until the age of 62 and enjoy retirement for the remainder of his or her life. Frank was 51 when he left his job as an editor at The Star Ledger newspaper, facing the challenge of finding a new career with few opportunities. Just like a growing part of the population in the United States.

Frank had a long and successful career in journalism. Twenty-nine years ago he started as a sports writer for The Daily Journal, a newspaper published in Elizabeth, N.J., Frank's hometown. He continued his career at The News Tribune, The Press of Atlantic City and finally The Star Ledger. He's held various positions over that time, from reporting to editing, but he never strayed far from his passion as a sports writer.

Frank's career came to a halt in 2010 when the Star Ledger was making budgetary cuts and offered him a buyout. At 50 years old Frank was too young to retire, but he decided to take the year's pay and invest in himself. During that time Frank completed three books that he never had time to finish before. He published the first last December, the second a month later and is about to publish his third.

This new venture is symbolic of starting a new life. Professionally, it is almost as if he is 20 years old again. But this time around he has a lifetime of experience and maturity to go along with his wide-eyed optimism.

Frank is publishing e-books now. They can be read on your computer or on Kindle e-book devices. This technology has made entry into publishing possible for aspiring authors. That opportunity did not exist a few short years ago, and it could not even be conceived of in 1982 when Frank started at the Daily Journal.

Frank now writes regularly about sports on his blog that can be found at frankverde.com. He also promotes his books through that website. The books can be purchased through Amazon.com for \$2.99. The first book, "One Christmas Knight," is a story about family and friends. It reflects on growing up in an old traditional, Italian neighborhood, where Christmas is never out of season. If this sounds vaguely familiar to the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, where Frank grew up, it lends truth to the old adage that says every author's first novel is autobiographical.

"Devil's Hollow" is the name of Frank's second book. It is a detective mystery that introduces hardnosed Detective Gino Tenpenny. Frank is deliberately writing in several genres to gain more exposure and to test which one gets the most attention. His third book, "Star Camp," is a science fiction tome suited for a younger audience. He also is planning a couple of baseball books in the coming months.

E-books have their advantages, Frank says. If you walk into a bookstore, you can expect to pay more than \$20 for a new hardcover book. All three of Frank's titles cost less than \$9 total. Delivery is immediate and they're available 24 hours a day, every day.

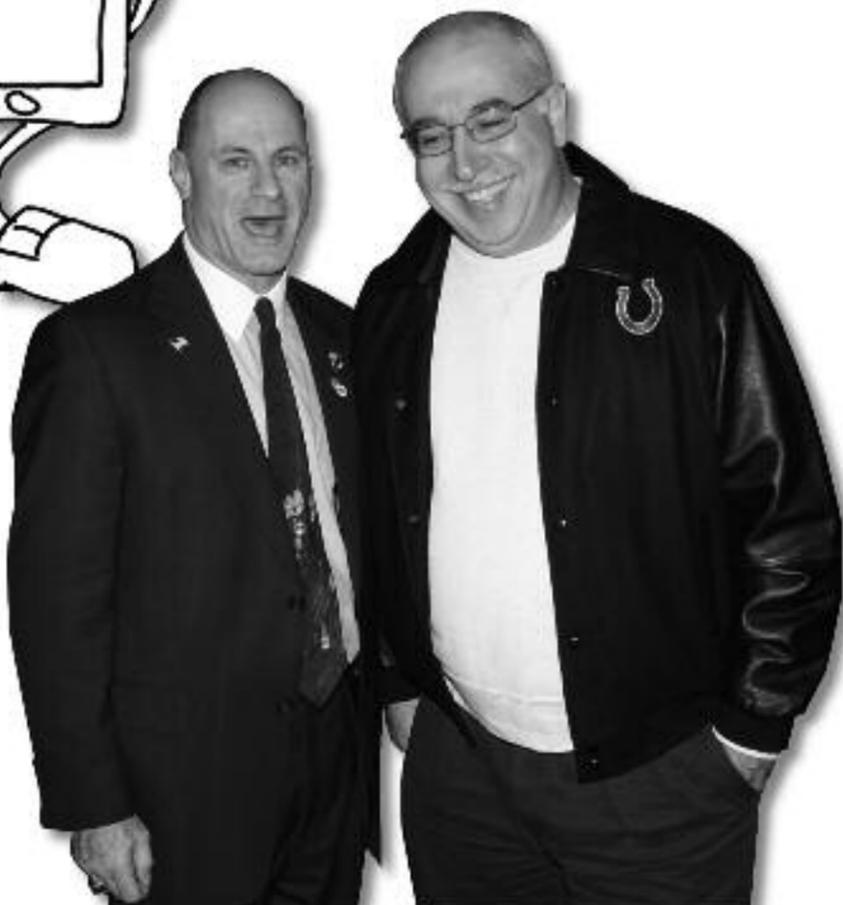
So Frank will continue to write, publish and promote as he starts the proverbial second half of his life. In a few years he will be an empty nester, too, another symbolic start of a new life for him and his wife, Eileen.

It is as if a person in their fifties is coming of age once again, just as teenagers are maturing into adults. The idea that mid-life is a turning point in the downward direction is being challenged. Technology has given an aging population a second breath and they are taking full advantage, achieving far more than past generations later into their lives.

What is more fascinating is the unknown. Just as a young Carmela Lapore did not imagine air travel in her future, Frank Verde could not imagine the internet. It is a wonder what Frank's children will be doing in thirty or so years, when they will be in their fifties. It is possible that life expectancy will have surpassed 100 by then. Frank could be working at his second career longer than his first. Imagine that. 📖



(above) Carmela Lapore at 100 years old in 2009 attending the St. Anthony's Church Calendar Party at the Peterstown Community Center.



(left, r-l) Frank Verde congratulates and reminisces with his childhood friend Joe Massaro at Joe's induction ceremony into the NJ Softball Hall of Fame.

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President's Message



Well, it's official . . . I'm getting old. There was time that Me and the guys would hang out a few hours after the Super Bowl, maybe go out down the street then end up back at the clubhouse or in my store. Those days are gone. I don't think I ever felt as run down after an event than I did after this last Super Bowl party. I'm not complaining. I may be a little disappointed in my brain admitting that my body isn't 20 years old any more.

All that aside, once again, the Sons of Peterstown has put on the best party of the year. We had over 100 in attendance. Another exciting game that went down to the last possession and the Giants won. What else could we ask for?

It was nice seeing a lot of new faces. There were a few faces that I did miss seeing. The loss of our friends who have passed away is always felt at these types of events. It is another reason why making the time to get together and enjoy each other's company is an important thing to do.

God bless,

John Sacco
John Sacco, President
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

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Letters to the Editor



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TWO PAISANOS



(above, l-r) Joe Nigro and Emilio Zamarra outside Joe's home on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Niles Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

To the editor (Joe Renna),

I recently came across this old photograph of two dapper Dans in their prime. On the left is your grandfather, Joseph Nigro, Sr., and on the right is my father, Emilio Zamarra. They and their families came to this country from Vallata and remained close friends for the rest of their lives. They have long ago departed this earth for a better resting place. The photo is a reminder of days past and there may be a few readers who remember these two paisanos.

Sincerely,
John E. Zamarra
Fairfax, Virginia

FREE JOB READINESS PROGRAM

Project Ready will be accepting applications for its free six week job preparedness program on Tuesday, February 14th at 9:30 sharp. Applicants should be prepared to stay until 12 PM. A six week program is offered to people seeking to improve their skills as they search for employment. Students receive training in basic business and computer skills. They learn interviewing skills, resume writing, Math and English. Upon completion, the staff assists students with job searches.

Project Ready is located within St. Joseph Social Service Center 118 Division St. in Elizabeth. For more information please call (908) 353-1045, email projectreadyprg@yahoo.com or visit www.stjosephelizabeth.org

Dear Joe,

I love reading *Around About Peterstown* every time my husband brings it home! It was wonderful seeing Joe the Barber on the front page of the December 2012 issue. I must tell you that the picture from 1960 with Joe and Tom Colicchio cutting hair brought back some great memories. The other barber in the picture, though, is not Henry (Henny) LaSalle as you have captioned, but of his brother Leo. Henny, my godfather, died on December 21, 1959. Thanks for the memories. You have a great paper!

Arlene Serpico Lospinoso
(Mrs. Maurice/Butch)
Middletown, NJ

NOW CORRECTLY CAPTIONED



(above, l-r) Working at LaSalle's Barber Shop, 1960, Tom Colicchio, Joe DiMaria and Leo LaSalle.

Advertising in this newspaper

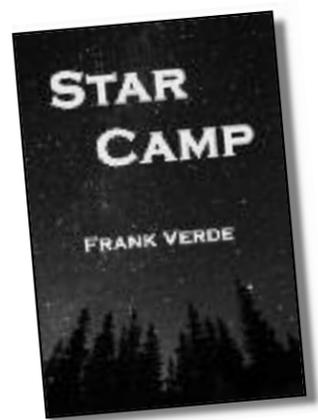
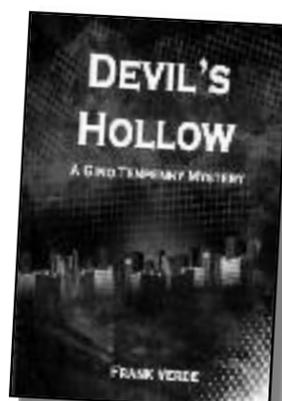
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Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

Frank Verde was different from the guys I normally hung out with in The Burg. And I mean different in a good way. I ran with a ragtag group of guys and the only place that my circle and Frank's would intersect is on the ball field. We played baseball together in grammar school and against each other in softball for a few decades. He was a good ballplayer, much better than me. I admired Frank, not for his playing ability but because he became a writer.

Frank wouldn't know how he inspired me until he reads this, but he was the only person I knew growing up who chose to work in a creative field. I had creative juices flowing though my veins and a craving to express myself. The Burg was a very blue collar neighborhood. I didn't know anyone who was interested in the arts or entertainment. There was definitely a lack of mentors in my life.

I now run into quite a few people from The Burg who have made careers in creative fields, but when we are young our world is made up of cliques. Frank was a year older than me and might as well have been living on the moon. He was always conservatively dressed with a neatly parted clean-cut hairdo. He wore glasses and looked very studious even in a uniform. I was the total opposite, in manner and maturity.

When he started working at The Daily Journal I was in my senior year of college. I thought it was so cool that he was doing that. Soon after he actually took a stab at writing a screenplay. I found out through a fellow sports writer of

his and collaborator on the project, Joe Skrec. The script was based on the Newark Eagles of the Negro Leagues. They shopped it around, not knowing anything about how to get the piece produced and finally gave up when it became too complex and demanding a process.

It's funny that we never talked shop in all these years although I kept tabs on him. Getting together with Frank recently has, once again, been inspiring. I am recharging my battery now that I, too, am starting the second half of my life and am already an empty-nester. Maybe we can even collaborate on a creative project. 🐼



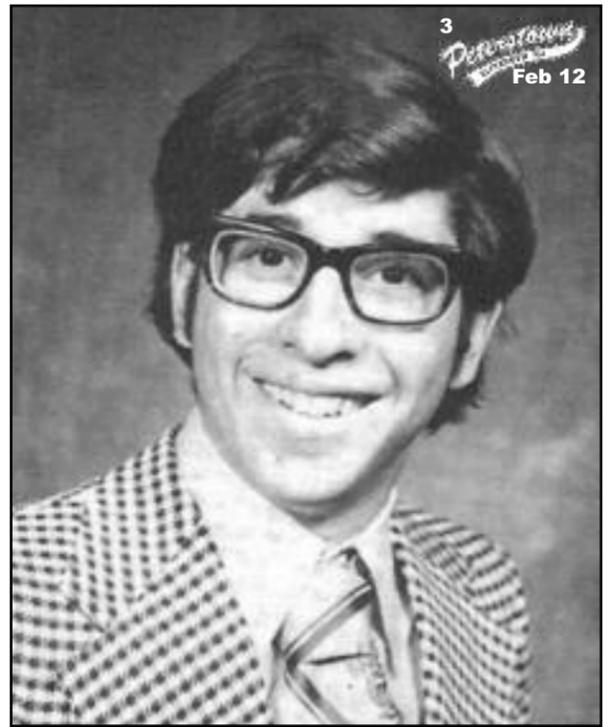
Not for Nothing But...

our fathers worked as

laborers and tradesmen

so we can be

writers and artists.



(above) Frank Verde's Thomas Jefferson High School yearbook photo from 1977.

(below) Photo of Joe Renna published by the Daily Journal under the direction of Frank Verde.

NOTE: The photo was a bit embarrassing, but not as bad as Frank's graduation photo. For Joe it was only 1/60th of a second in time, but Frank looked like that all the time. Frank's prank was funny, but not as hilarious as that leisure suit he was wearing.

A FRIEND WITH INFLUENCE

I trained in the legendary Elizabeth Recreation boxing gym in the basement of Kirk Center. The gym produced many pros from the neighborhood, the last being Vito "Big Hands" Micelli. I watched Vito fight in local venues and eventually on television. The opportunity to train with him was off-the-charts exciting.

I trained for about six years, mostly as a hobby, and still do. But I did have a few fights when the shows were in Elizabeth. My last fight was in the ballroom of the Carteret Hotel on East Jersey Street, part of the 1983 New Jersey Golden Gloves Tournament.

I knew I wasn't going to box anymore and wanted a photo in the newspaper for posterity. So I asked my pal Frank Verde, who was working as a sports reporter for the Elizabeth-based Daily Journal, to do me a solid. I said "Frank, this is my last fight. Can you get a photo of me in the newspaper? You know, like something I could show my kids one day." My good pal Frank said "Sure, Joe. No problem."

Frank came through on his promise. The next morning, above the fold and on the cover of the sports section, was a large shot of me. There was one slight problem, though. It wasn't something that I wanted to show my kids, or anyone else for that matter. Cornelius "Widow Maker" Smith was landing a jab that contorted my face and twisted my torso.

Frank thought it was very funny. I've come around to agree and laugh every time I see it. 🐼



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ANOTHER SUPER SUPER BOWL PARTY!!!

Giants Win Super Bowl XLVI over Patriots 21-17

Over 100 guys attended the 2012 Sons of Peterstown Super Bowl party in the cafeteria of Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy on February 5. Young, old, family,

friends, friends of friends, everyone is welcome. A great time was had by all, a lot of eating, drinking, card playing, and the always impeccable cooking of John Sacco. 🍴



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(photos) Mugs of some of the hundred plus guys who attended the 2012 Super Bowl party.



SUPER SPECTACLE, SUPER RAMBLINGS

From the blog at frankverde.com. Posted on February 6, 2012

Heard this one a long time ago: God always answers prayers. Sometimes, he just says no.

Whether it's Madonna pleading for "World Peace" at the conclusion of her halftime show at Super Bowl XLVI (not long after British rapper M.I.A. flipped us the bird during her performance). Or whether it's a supermodel imploring family and friends to pray for her husband to come out on top in the big game.

This being the age of instant information, Gisele Bundchen's gushing e-mail on behalf of her "Tommy" prior to the Super Bowl became news. As did her reaction to fans taunting her on the way out of Lucas Oil Stadium with "Eli rules!" and "Eli owns your husband!" after Eli's Giants prevailed over Tommy's Patriots, 21-17.

Keeping with the theme of instant information, Bundchen was caught on camera after the game ripping her husband's receivers for dropping passes. According to

video obtained by gossip website The Insider, the Brazilian beauty threw New England's receivers under the bus in rushing to Brady's defense.

"You (need) to catch the ball when you're supposed to catch the ball," she is heard saying. "My husband cannot (expletive) throw the ball and catch the ball at the same time. I can't believe they dropped the ball so many times."

Ouch. That's embarrassing.

For the record, Bundchen may have a point about some of the dropped passes, but I thought Tom Brady was just a little off on a couple of those passes. Aaron Hernandez flat out dropped a perfect pass, but one throw to Deion Branch was behind the receiver, and the most crucial pass of the game forced Wes Welker to twist in midair. Welker got his hands on the ball and usually makes receptions like that, but not this time. He accepted full blame for the drop, but I thought there was enough

blame to go around.

As it turned out, Brady and the Patriots had time for one last Hail Mary pass into the end zone. Catch it, New England wins. But it was deflected and fell to the turf before tight end Rob Gronkowski could reach it.

God said no, and He meant it. 🙄

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Feb 12



(above) Carmela Lepore at 100 years old in 2009.

CARMELA LEPORE, 102 AND GOING STRONG

Carmela Lepore (nee Bernardo) was born in Midland, PA, on Jan. 30, 1910, to Luigi and Madelena Bernardo. Luigi ran a grocery store in the Swissvale section of Pittsburgh. When Carmela was 5 years old, her father took ill and needed a "Mediterranean climate," so the family moved to Castel Morrone, Italy, where Carmela, along with her brothers and sisters, stayed until she was 18. Her father ran a grocery business in Italy and then became a carabinieri (Italian National Police Officer) for his district.

Carmela's brother Vincent, known as Jimmy and later, J.B., was the first to return to the United States. Carmela was soon to follow. The family settled in with Luigi's sister, Stella Picaro, and her family on High Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

Carmela worked as a seamstress at several clothing factories and remained on High Street until meeting and marrying her husband, Charles "Chris" Lepore.

When Chris left for the Army to serve in WWII, Carmela moved in with her in-laws, Joseph and Maria Lepore, on Spring Street. Joseph was a barber and had a shop on Elizabeth Avenue near the Betsytown Station branch of the Post Office. In 1943, while Chris was overseas, their first child, Charles Jr., was born. Chris' father died in 1945, shortly before Chris returned from

the Pacific.

In 1947, Carmela and Chris' second son, Joseph Louis Lepore, was born. They moved from their in-laws' home to Centre Street to accommodate the growing family, and in 1950 their daughter Kathleen was born.

Again more room was needed and the family moved from Centre Street to W. Mravlag Place, formerly known as Spring Street. This was the home where the children grew up and were schooled until they would leave the nest on their own.

In 1982, Chris passed away and eventually Carmela moved back to the original family home on Centre Street, where she currently lives. Carmela celebrated her 102nd birthday in great spirits with family and many friends in her life.

Carmela is a parishioner of St. Anthony's Church, located on the corner of Third Avenue and Centre Street, just down the block from her home. She is still active in the St. Ann's Society and Peterstown's senior citizen organization. She tries to attend as many events and parties that she can, where she knows everyone and everyone definitely knows her. 🐶



(above) La Famiglia photo taken in Italy (back, l-r) Mary, Carmela, and Antoinette (front) Antonio, Madalena, and Luigi.



(above) Stella Picaro in front of her home on High Street.



(above) Jimmy (JB) Carmela's oldest brother.



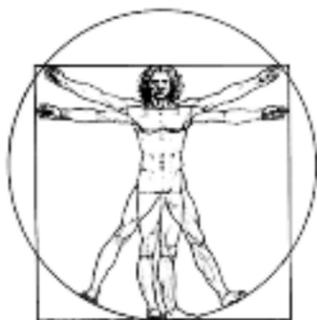
Lepore Family 1950: Back row, Charles Jr (Charlie), Charles Sr (Chris). Front row, Joseph (Joe) Carmela holding Kathleen (Kathy) on Centre St.

(right, l-r) Carmela is surrounded by her children. Joe, Charlie, Kathy, Mary Ann, (Joe's wife), Shari (Charlie's wife), Bill Claxton behind (Kathy's husband) at her 100th birthday celebration.



Not for Nothing But...

Carmela is only 38 years old Celsius.



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JOE MASSARO IS INDUCTED INTO THE NJ SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME

Joe Massaro has been umpiring for 35 years. His first season was in 1977, when he was 19 years old. Before that he showed interest and learned the trade from his mentor, Ray Ortel. On Jan. 29, 2011, Joe was inducted into the NJ Hall of Fame under the auspices of the Amateur Softball Association of New Jersey (NJASA). This is no small honor. It is a very elite group and uses strict criteria.

Joe grew up on Spencer Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, a neighborhood known for producing athletes who developed their skills in a variety of sports on playgrounds and dirt fields. Joe was typical in that he would run out of the house and play all day in pickup games and street rivalries, Joe playing for Spencer Street with the likes of Frank Verde and Benny LaSala. Football, street hockey and basketball all had their place, but softball reigned supreme.

Though Joe was raised in an era of slow-pitch softball, where the ball is tossed in an arc up to 12 feet, there were still remnants of the fast-pitch leagues prominent one generation back.

Joe showed interest and asked an established umpire and coach about getting into umpiring. Ortel was on the staff at St. Mary's High School and well known in softball circles. Ray help Joe sign up for training with the Union County Chapter of the NJASA. He brought Joe to Slim DiBella. Slim was the Program Director for the Recreation Department of the City of Elizabeth and in charge of the softball leagues. Slim put Joe to work keeping score until he learned the ropes of umpiring.

Slim, an accomplished fast-pitch softball pitcher in his day, is also a member of the Hall of Fame that inducted Joe. Also included in Joe's graduation class of umpires is Elizabeth's St. Patrick High School Athletic Director Red Miglorie and Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage.

The NJASA is a chapter of the ASA of America, the

national governing body of softball since 1933. The organization offers support in every aspect of organizing and running leagues and events. Technical training for umpiring is available as well as certifying coaches. The organization maintains rules and regulations, facilitates organizations and runs tournaments on the local, national and international levels. New Jersey alone has approximately 2,200 adult teams and 1,600 youth leagues. Approximately 6,000 players are active.

Joe Massaro's umpiring résumé is extensive and includes participation at every level of competition. It is an opportunity that is earned through skill and accomplishment. Officiating in the upper levels of the sport is more competitive as the game stakes rise. Besides being ASA certified, Joe is an NCAA and International Softball Federation umpire. Working in both fast and slow-pitch leagues, he's umpired state championships, USA Olympic team games, World Cup events, and NCAA conference and national championships in all divisions, including the Woman's College World Series.

Massaro is the Umpire-In-Chief for Union County, N.J. and an instructor for the NJASA Umpire Program. He sits on the board and is past chairman of the New Jersey Board of Collegiate Softball Umpires. The recent Hall Of Fame honor is the latest in a list of awards that Joe has received, including the nod as ASA Mid-Atlantic Region Umpire of the Year in 1999.



(above, l-r) NJASA Hall of Fame Chairman Doug Smith and Latest inductee Joe Massaro.

(left) NJASA volunteers Judy Peters, Jr. Olympic Commissioner Patricia Spirito, and Candice Cambridge.

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WRITE WHAT YOUR KNOW



(above, l-r) The Verde family, Megan, Eileen, Matthew, Frank, Katie and John.



(above) Groomsman Benny LaSala escorts Anna and Nicki at their brother Frank's wedding.



(above, l-r) Newlyweds Frank and Eileen with his parents Maria and Carmelo, August 20, 1989.

Frank Verde published his first e-book, "One Christmas Knight", in December of 2011. For any readers who are familiar with growing up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, the book may seem like a trip into the past. Some settings in the book may be very familiar, like the luncheonette across the street from the church. Can anyone say Malta's?

Aside from the physical trappings, readers may relate more to the mannerisms of the characters in the book. Frank did not stereotype the residents of a working-class Italian neighborhood but instead he gave reason to what his characters were doing based on how they thought or felt. Growing up in an Italian American culture gave cause to why the characters felt the way they did, but was not the reason for why they acted a certain way. Any ethnicity could relate to the story by replacing their own accent in the dialogue.

Frank's parents, Carmelo and Maria, were from the same province of Agrigento, Sicily, his dad from Ribera and mom from Racalmuto. They lived on the Lower East

Side of Manhattan when they first came to America. That is where Frank and his younger twin sisters, Anna and Nicki, were born and raised before moving to Elizabeth in December 1968.

The Verdes would move to four different places within the neighborhood, and all the while the three siblings would attend St. Anthony's Grammar School. The parish described in his book, St. Dominic's, is not much different than that of St. Anthony's. The book is so endearing in that, though it is a work of fiction, it can very well be a true story.

The characters and situations are so believable because the reader can sense that the author can write in the first person for each character from experience.

Frank has been a writer and editor for almost thirty years. His experience as a ballplayer also shines through in the columns he wrote in the past and presently in the blog on his website, frankverde.com.

Frank's second book, "Devil's Hollow", is not based on his own experiences but is inspired by stories shared by his father-in-law, John McGuire, a retired Elizabeth police officer. "Devil's Hollow" is a detective mystery. The main character, Lt. Gino Tenpenny, believes in tradition and retribution. He used to run the vice squad – until the brass determined that he was psychologically unfit to command. Now he's working major cases again, where his new partner is a single mom, nearly twenty years younger than himself, and just plain different.

Frank and his wife Eileen are married 22 years. Eileen grew up not far from Warinanco Park and graduated from St. Mary's High School. Frank is a 1977 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. They have two daughters, Megan, 21, a senior at York College of Pennsylvania, and Katie, 20, a sophomore at Rowan University. Their son Matthew, 18, is a freshman at Montclair State University. The youngest son, John, 15, is a sophomore at Toms River High School North. 🐾

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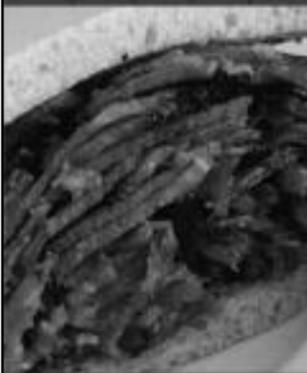
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BIG POND, LITTLE POND. TWO CHAMPS

From the blog at frankverde.com. Posted on February 2, 2012.

Angelo Dundee died yesterday. The legendary trainer for Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard was 90.

When Angelo Mirena got his start in boxing during the 1940's, he changed his name to Dundee – just as two of his brothers had done – to hide their work in boxing from their parents. Today, all these years later, tributes are pouring in from all over the country. A part of boxing died with Dundee, they all say.

Dundee's death brings to mind another longtime boxing trainer that I once knew, long since gone. He didn't swim in the same world-class waters as Dundee, but he left his own long-lasting impression nonetheless.

Tony Orlando Sr. operated the gym in the basement of Kirk Center in Elizabeth, N.J. He trained fighters for five decades and worked well into his 80s. Anyone would be hard-pressed to meet a nicer man and gentler soul in such a violent world than Orlando.

My nights at Kirk Center during the late-1970s and 1980s involved mostly basketball upstairs, but I liked to arrive early sometimes to watch the guys train downstairs. Poppy Rolon from Elizabeth and Ricky Meyers from Woodbridge come to mind. Two young fighters with bright futures in the ring.

But there were plenty of others who had dreams of fighting in the Golden Gloves or just wanted to mix it up in the ring. Orlando gave them a chance, too. He watched over them, put them in the best possible position for success, and tried to see that they didn't get hurt.

Joe Renna was in college when he decided to give boxing a whirl. He had wrestled in high school, played soccer and baseball, and even tried fencing. Boxing? No problem.

Orlando trained Renna at Kirk Center and got him a few local fights. Joe's technique was still in the developmental stage, but he had a big right hand that

gave him a puncher's chance on most nights.

One time, before a fight in nearby Roselle Park, Renna's trainer came up to him for a quick talk. As usual, Orlando had arrived early to make sure everything was as it was supposed to be. What he found had disturbed him.

"Joe."

"Yeah?"

"You're in college, right?"

"Yeah."

"You don't wanna fight today."

"Huh?"

"You don't wanna fight today."

He shook his head. Put his arm around his fighter and walked him away. He repeated his mantra.

"You don't wanna fight today."

He took Renna off the card. It turns out that although both fighters had three bouts apiece, Renna's would-be opponent's short boxing career was interrupted by a six-year stint in prison.

"Dis guy's had nuttin' to do but train for da last six

MY FAVORITE TONY ORLANDO MOMENT

by Joe Renna

I returned to my corner after the first round of a fight, frustrated that I was missing my opponent's head with my punches. He was quick to dodge my right and I was missing. My trainer, Tony Orlando Sr., said, "You're doin' good, kid, but you gotta fight like you're shooting an airplane. You gotta fight like you're shooting an airplane."

I'm thinking, "What the heck is he talking about? Is he losing his marbles? I was never in a war shooting at planes."

I answered the bell for the second round, got up and moved toward the center of the ring. Tony called out one more time: "Like shooting an airplane." Now this was all



(above, r-l) Tony Orlando in action between rounds instruction Joe Renna.

years," Orlando explained. "Joe ... he'll kill ya. He'll kill ya." That's what a trainer can do for you. He can make you a champion ... He can save your life.

Ali and Leonard were glad to have Dundee with them. Renna and many more like him through five decades of hard work were just as glad to have Orlando in their corner. 🐾

I could think about. I nudged my headgear, hit my gloves together and got on guard. I didn't throw a punch, though, because I was still trying to decipher Tony's advice. After dancing around a bit defensively, it clicked. What Tony meant was, "Shoot where the plane is going to be. Don't shoot at the plane."

With that, I threw a punch into the space a few inches off my opponent's right shoulder. Predictably, he ducked to his right like he did the entire first round and accommodated me by filling the space with his head. I won the fight and returned with a big grin on my face, thinking, "This old geezer knows what he's talking about." 🐾

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(above, l-r) Jerry and Silvester Primavera.

PRIMAVERA MEANS THE SEASON OF SPRING

Brothers Jerry and Silvester Primavera used their surname for the restaurant they opened in April of 2011. The English translation for Primavera is “the season of spring,” which evokes images of bright sunshine, greening landscapes, budding flowers and cultivating gardens. This describes the atmosphere in Primavera’s perfectly.

The restaurant’s decor is beautiful – modern but rustic – and diners may get a sense that the vegetables are picked from a backyard garden as needed. Primavera’s is a restaurant, but it is also a pizzeria and cafe. The pizzeria is separate from the dining area, which is elegantly styled with colorful ceramic floors, flowing window treatments and interesting lighting.

The trappings are second only to the quality of the food. Silvester is the main chef for the restaurant while Jerry handles the demands of the pizzeria’s ovens.

The café, which sits within the restaurant,

welcomes customers who may want to sit and chat over coffee and pastry.

The pizzeria side of the business accommodates sit-down customers along with its pickup and delivery service. The restaurant can seat up to 60 people. Private parties and outside catering rounds up the full list of services that Primavera’s offers.

Primavera’s is a cut above typical pizzerias because of the way Silvester manages things. This is his first restaurant after working 12 years in the hotel industry as a food and beverage director. That experience, and the level of quality that the hotel industry demands, is evident in his business.

Primavera’s is located at 628 N. Stiles Street in Linden, NJ, across from Linden Lanes bowling center. Reservations are not necessary and diners are invited to bring their own spirits. Calls for take-out and delivery orders can be made to 908-486-7466. 📞



(above) Primavera’s Café-Ristorante-Pizzeria held a ribbon cutting ceremony at its grand opening on May 25, 2011.

Alexa Cangelosi, Jessica Gallicchio hold the ribbon as Linden Mayor Richard J. Gerbounka does the honors. Assisting the Mayor is Linden Chamber of Commerce Co-Chairwoman Janet Miller and owner Silvester Primavera. They are surrounded by neighbors of the business community and chamber of commerce members.

Lucille Disano, (far left) helped Sly, her hometown neighbor from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, coordinate the event.

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Jerry Primavera's son A.J. works for his dad on weekends. During the day he is a student, a senior at Linden High School. Week nights he's busy rehearsing. Alex has the lead role in the Linden H.S. Musical Theater production of Barnum. This is the thirtieth year the company is producing a show.

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(above) A.J. Primavera

(right) Alex learns that waiters are not allowed to punch customers unless, of course, they are your younger brother who is being annoying. In this case its Alex, a Linden High freshman.

(far right) Two recipes for dishes that will appear on a special menu for Valentine's Day. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 908-487-7466.



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Recipes

Submitted by Sylvester Primavera,
Primavera's Restaurant, Linden, NJ
Bruschetta Tri-colore
(Appetizer)

INGREDIENTS:

Italian Bread, sliced 1/2 in thick
Chopped Garlic and Oil mixed in bowl
Roasted Red Peppers- sliced thin
Fresh Mozzarella- 1/4 in thick slices
Fresh Basil-chopped
Salt, Pepper to taste

PREPARATION:

- 1) Spread Oil & Garlic mix on 1 side of sliced Bread and Toast
- 2) Top with 1 slice of Mozzarella, Roasted Peppers, Garnish with Basil
- 3) Drizzle Oil mix, Salt and Pepper and serve

Rigatoni Veneziana

INGREDIENTS:

Rigatoni (cooked)	Baby Spinach
Oil	Grated Cheese
Garlic-sliced thin	1/4 cup White Wine
Mushrooms-sliced	1/2 cup Beef Stock
Sundried Tomato-chopped	Salt, Pepper, Parsley

PREPARATION:

- 1) Saute Garlic in oil until golden brown
- 2) Add Mushrooms, Sundried Tomato and toss
- 3) Season with Salt, Pepper, Parsley
- 4) Add Wine and Stock, cook until sauce reduces to half
- 5) Add Spinach, Rigatoni, Grated Cheese, toss and serve.

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SLICES ABOVE THE REST



(above) Slices Pizza, located on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Seventh Street in Elizabeth, NJ, went under a total renovation of its interior and a face lift outside. The name Slices is also new. The Pizzeria was named Elin's for over 32 years. Elin's owner is still at the helm of the new kitchen and enlarged dining area.

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(left, l-r)
Hillside UNICO Chapter President Angelo Bonanno, Honoree Dominick Perpetual and his nephew, Hillside Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Deo.

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(left)
Elizabeth Rotarian Ken Richuso distributes dictionaries to third grade students at Christopher Columbus School No 15 located at 511 Third Avenue in the peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ

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WHAT MAKES A RESTAURANT A GREAT VALUE

There are many ways to judge a restaurant. Depending on the occasion, different restaurants fill the needs of diners in different ways. Variety is the spice of life and there is enough demand for all sorts of food establishments to keep everyone busy. One of the prime measures that is universal in judging a good place to eat is value. Napoli Pizza and Pasta scores high in that department.

People take into account many factors in determining their favorite places to dine. Depending on the circumstances, some factors outweigh others. Speed may be more important on one day than the next. Convenience may win out over drive time. Mood and ambiance are subjective and their consideration can be based on an infinite range of how the person is feeling at that time.

What people look for after processing the type of food they want and the type of place they want to visit is value, a combination of cost and quality. Napoli's owner Everest Mulaj has put together a perfect combination of both at its location on 523 N. Wood Ave. in Linden, NJ.

The restaurant is newly renovated. It was previously named Verona Pizza, more of a pizzeria than a take-out place. It is now an attractive room suitable for intimate dining. It is a BYOB that has soothing standards playing in the background, where the setting is casual but neat. The true value, though, can be found on the menu.

Everest owns a restaurant in Metuchen named Turino II, but the building and location on Wood Avenue prohibits anything on the scale of his other place. More importantly, Everest considered the marketplace and has developed a menu that is affordable for his clientele. Napoli's has a booming take-out and delivery service. The take-out menu is priced to accommodate families on tight budgets and the hundreds of small businesses that call in their lunch orders.

The sit-down menu is quite different with dishes that are more involved to prepare but just as affordable.

Everest also offers daily specials. What makes both menus a great value is that the quality of the food is the same as what you would find at an upscale restaurant. For instance, the pasta is homemade and all entrees are served with salad. The ingredients are always fresh.

Everest is originally from Linden. His family settled there when they immigrated from Albania when he was 9 years old. He is a graduate of Linden High School and loves the idea of having his business in his hometown.

Everest learned the business while working for over five years at Benito's in Union, an upscale restaurant with an impeccable reputation. The transformation from Verona's, which Everest opened in 2009, into Napoli is dramatic. Those who remember Verona will notice the stark contrast. For instance, it is no longer a place to get slices. Instead, a variety of personal pies is offered. It will be a pleasant surprise for anyone visiting for the first time. Quality food that is easy on the wallet. 🍷



(above) Everest Mulaj with a view of Wood Avenue from Napoli's storefront window.



(left) The modest building that houses Napoli matches the modest pricing on the menu. It has seating for up to 80 people and is available for private parties.

(below) Napoli's take-out and delivery menu which includes a reference to its off-site catering service. The sit-down menu is complimented by twelve desert items.

Appetizers	
Pasta Fagioli	4.00
Minestrone Soup	4.00
Tortellini Soup	4.00
Eggplant Rollatini	7.00
<i>Eggplant stuffed with Spinach & Ricotta, topped with a light tomato sauce</i>	
Calamari Fritti	9.00
Served with Marinara Dipping Sauce	
Portobello Balsamic	8.50
<i>Portobello Mushroom with Gorgonzola Cheese in Aged Balsamic Vinaigrette</i>	
Mussels Fra Diavolo	8.50
Clams Casino	8.50
Hot Antipaste for 2	14.50
<i>Calamari, Musels, Eggplant & Stuffed Mushroom</i>	
Chicken Fingers with French Fries	6.00
Salads	
<i>Add Chicken 4.00 or Steak 7.00 or Shrimp 7.00</i>	
Mixed Greens Salad	3.50
Caesar Salad	4.50
Baby Green Salad	5.50
<i>Walnuts, Pear, Gorgonzola Cheese in a Raspberry Vinaigrette</i>	
Grilled Portobello Salad	6.00
<i>Portobello Mushrooms with Melted Mozzarella Cheese over Mixed Greens with a Balsamic Vinaigrette Reduction</i>	
Caprese Salad	6.50
<i>Fresh Mozzarella, tomatoes, olives and roasted peppers in Olive Oil and Balsamic Vinegar</i>	
Pasta	
<i>All Pasta served with salad</i>	
Penne Bolognese	\$10.50
<i>Pink Vodka Meat Sauce</i>	
Penne Vodka / add Chicken	9.95 / 11.95
<i>Pink Sauce & Peas</i>	
Whole Wheat Spaghetti/add Meatballs	9.95 / 12.95
<i>Fresh Oven Roasted Tomato Sauce, Basil & E.V.O.O</i>	
Tortellini Pesto	9.95
Rigatoni	9.95
<i>Sweet Italian Sausage with Peas in a Pink Vodka Sauce</i>	
Capellini Primavera	9.95
<i>Angel Hair Pasta in a Fresh Oven Roasted Tomato Sauce, Basil & E.V.O.O, and Mixed Seasonal Vegetables</i>	
Four Cheese Ravioli	10.95
<i>in a Pink Vodka Sauce</i>	
Ravioli Bolognese	9.95
Linguini with Clams	13.50
<i>Choice of Red or White Clam Sauce</i>	
Goat Cheese Gnocchi	10.95

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Mixed Green Salad	20.00	Chicken Sorrentino	75.00
Caesar Salad	25.00	Chicken Parmesan	70.00
Eggplant Rollatini	55.00	Chicken Scarpariello	75.00
Four Cheese Ravioli	60.00	Veal Marsala	75.00
Penne Bolognese	60.00	Veal Saltimbocca	75.00
Penne Vodka	55.00	Pan Seared Salmon	80.00
Rigatoni Verona	70.00	Almond Crusted Tilapia	80.00

Specialty Sandwiches

Italian Chicken Sandwich	5.50 / 9.00
<i>Grilled Chicken, Roasted Peppers, mesclun, tomatoes & Mozzarella with creamy ranch</i>	
Meatball or Sausage Parmesan	5.50 / 9.00
Eggplant or Chicken Parmesan	5.50 / 9.00
Grilled Chicken	5.50 / 9.00
<i>Roasted Peppers, Spinach & Mozzarella</i>	
Philly Cheese Steak	6.00 / 9.50
Buffalo Chicken Cheese Steak	6.00 / 9.50
Sausage Peppers & Onions	5.50 / 9.00
Flank Steak Sandwich	7.00 / 11.00
Grilled Chicken Panini	6.00
Steak Panini	7.00
Buffalo Chicken Wrap	6.50
Chicken Caesar Wrap	6.50
Philly Cheese Steak Wrap	6.00
Chicken Parmesan Wrap	6.50
The BIG FAT Sandwich	\$8.00
<i>Cheese Steak, Chicken Fingers, Mozzarella Sticks, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Ketchup, Mayo and American Cheese</i>	

Entrees

All Entrees served with salad	11.95 / 14.95
Chicken Sorrentino	11.95 / 14.95
Veal Sorrentino	11.95 / 14.95
<i>With Prosciutto, Eggplant and Mozzarella Cheese in a Marinara Sauce</i>	
Chicken Parmesan	11.95 / 14.95
Veal Parmesan	11.95 / 14.95
Chicken Milanese / Veal Milanese	11.95 / 14.95
Chicken Scarpariello	11.95
<i>Boneless Pieces of Chicken Breast, Sweet Sausage, Hot Cherry Peppers, Rosemary Potatoes & Marsala Wine</i>	
Chicken Balsamic	11.95
<i>Topped with Portobello Mushrooms and Aged Balsamic</i>	
Eggplant Parmesan	11.95
Tilapia Livornese	14.95
Salmon Dijon	14.95
Shrimp Scampi	15.95

Prices & Menu subject to change without notice. Prices do not include taxes.

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1. Personal Pizza 2 toppings
 2. Chicken Caesar wrap
 3. Meatball Parmesan sandwich
 4. Grilled Chicken sandwich
 5. Personal specialty pizza
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Pizza	Small	Large
Plain	7.00	11.00
Toppings(ea)	1.00	1.75
Pizza Toppings:		
• Bacon • Beef • Chicken • Genoa Salami • Ham		
• Italian Sausage • Meatball • Pepperoni, Steak		
• Anchovies • Artichoke Hearts • Banana Peppers		
• Broccoli • Cherry Peppers • Eggplant • Extra Cheese •		
Onion • Fresh Garlic • Olives • Peppers • Jalapenos		
• Mushroom • Pesto • Pineapple • Ricotta Cheese •		
Sliced Tomato • Sun-Dried Tomatoes • Spinach		
Specialty Pizza	Small	Large
Meat Pizza	12.00	15.00
<i>Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Genoa Salami & Meatball</i>		
White Pizza	10.00	13.00
<i>Ricotta & Mozzarella</i>		
Aloha Pie	11.00	13.00
<i>Sliced Pineapple & Ham</i>		
Margherita	12.00	14.00
<i>Crushed Roasted Tomatoes with Fresh Mozzarella, Basil & E.V.O.O.</i>		
Super Veggie	12.00	15.00
<i>Roasted Peppers, Mushrooms, Eggplant & Zucchini</i>		
Buffalo Chicken	12.00	15.00
<i>Sauteed Chicken, Mozzarella, Spicy Buffalo Sauce & Blue Cheese</i>		
Chicken Penne Vodka Pizza	12.00	15.00
Chicken Scarpariello Pizza	12.00	15.00
Chicken Parmesan Pizza	12.00	15.00
Side Orders		
Garlic Bread / w. Cheese	3.00 / 4.00	
French Fries / w. Cheese	3.00 / 4.00	
Vegetables	4.00	
Sauteed Spinach	4.00	
Mozzarella Sticks	4.50	

OLGA THANKS BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORT



(above, l-r) OLGA Honorees David Strochek, executive Director of The Elizabeth Avenue Partnership, and Vice Chairman Sal Coppa, with Partnership board members Angel Rodriguez and Emerson Amador.

(left, l-r) Our lady of Guadalupe Academy Advisory Board members Sal Coppa, Ken Richuso, Carmen Rivera of Investors Bank, Chairperson Lorraine Cunningham, Principal Joe Caporaso, Ada Melendez, Tony Zengaro, and Rocco De Paola.

(below, bottom) Members of Our lady of Guadalupe Academy student choir performed at the breakfast under the direction of Ms. Diana.



On Tuesday, January 31, 2012, Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy held its third annual Elizabeth Business Breakfast in the school cafeteria.

The breakfast this year was sponsored by Investors Bank and Flynn & O' Hara Uniform Company. The breakfast was catered by John Sacco.

The honoree included The Elizabeth Avenue Partnership, The St. Anthony's Alumni Association and Joanne and Andrew Muldoon.

The Elizabeth Partnership has been an important part in helping the Academy to get recognition at many events sponsored by the City of Elizabeth due to the school's proximity to Elizabeth Avenue where many of these wonderful events take place.

Because of the unselfish generosity of past pupils of St.

Anthony's, an Alumni Association has been established and formulated a team of members whose main objective is helping to maintain the school mission of educating children in the traditions of the Catholic faith which they were raised. They recently held a fund raiser dinner dance and raised a wonderful amount of money which the school will put to a good use.

Joanne and Andrew Muldoon also raised a generous amount of money for the Academy by coordinating their efforts in getting people to help in The Barclays Golf Championship and the First Tee program for the children of the Academy.

Because of their commitment to Catholic Education, and to the Academy, these groups were specifically singled out and honored at the Breakfast. 



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OLGA'S PRESS CORE UNVAILED

Photographers are by definition, work behind the scenes and are seldom the subject of their craft. The Peterstown newspaper has turned the focus around to a crop of shutterbugs that attended the Elizabeth Business Breakfast hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy.

Between the five venues represented, there is a rich archive of daily life in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The photos can be found at various locations in print and on the internet. It is an invaluable service that is sometimes only realized decades into the future.

Photos available on line:
 PeterstownNJ.com
 facebook.com/Elizabeth.Speaks
 facebook.com (Jerry F Maurigi Jr)
 elizabethinsideout.tv



(above, l-r) Joe Renna, Publisher, Around About Peterstown; Darren Bryden, Public Information Office, City of Elizabeth; Jay Davis Sr., LaVoz Newspaper; Jerry Maurigi, Bare Knuckle Photography; Bryan Culbetson and Sylvia Jauregui of Elizabeth Inside Out Enterate.

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