



# LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

If history has taught us anything it is that the oppression of people is wrong, especially by their own leadership. Diplomatically, a country can only cringe at other countries violating the human rights of their own citizens. When the offending government crosses their boundary line, then justice has an obligation to intercede.

No one is immune to the effects of oppression. The goal of the oppressors is to expand. Power grows with each individual that is consumed. There is no negotiating with terrorists. For them, the only option is death to their so-called enemies and even themselves. We see the effects of this evil wherever terror surfaces. Large scale or small, attacks on innocent lives are an affront on the world.

Another lesson history has taught us is that it will be repeated. It is mind-boggling to think that past atrocities that have been revealed and defeated can resurface again and again. The conflict of good and evil is in the headlines today. Yet there is debate and opposition to rooting out the source of the affliction.

The liberation of Italy from the German forces during World War II was a victory for not only the Italian people but for America and the world as well. Had it not been met with successful opposition, the Nazi occupation of Italy would have eventually challenged the country's sovereignty and the sovereignty of the countries around it.

Opinions about the actions of allied forces and the factions operating within Italy were diverse. Criticism and support were equally directed at everyone involved. Most factions were working just to survive while the nazis were operating to conquer. Yet everyone thinks their own opinion is correct.

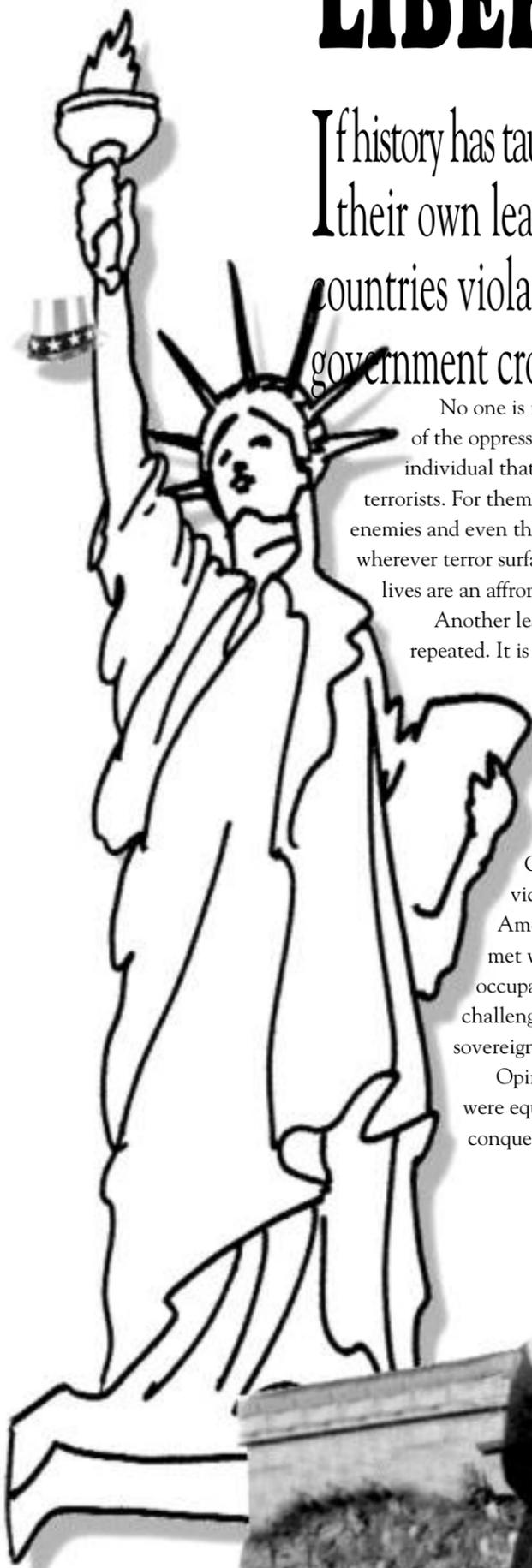
The conscience of the American people is rooted in the values of liberty and democracy. It is that perspective that has proven to be the most humane throughout history. That perspective should be kept in mind when looking at what is happening in the world today.

The foundation of liberty and justice is individual freedom. Individuals endure the brunt of the struggle. Like the veterans of past wars, American soldiers still sacrificed their comfort and safety to secure freedom. Keep in mind these individuals and what they are fighting for. Cast your criticism and support correctly. 🇺🇸

Jimmy Sacco was drafted by the Italian Army, spent time as a P.O.W. and served in the American Army throughout World war II.

The experience bounced him around three continents. He met his future wife, Rose Spano, in his travels in America and eventually settled down in Peterstown.

This picture of Jim and Rose was taken in Mattano Park on November 24, 1945.



New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey will be hosting a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the liberation of Italy at the end of World War II. The ceremony will take place at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the governor on April 27. The Princeton mansion was built in 1835. Its name is derived from two Scottish words: "drum," meaning hill, and "thwacket," meaning woods.



*Around About Peterstown* is published by Joe Renna. Ten thousand newspapers are printed and distributed bi-monthly, free throughout the County of Union and parts unknown and by subscription across the country.

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**



Selecting honorees for our picnic is one of the toughest jobs the members of the club face. There are so many worthy people to choose from. Generosity is an actual cultural trait for our residents. My only regret is that we can't honor all of them at one time. Common to every candidate on the list is the fact that they work virtually anonymously. Their efforts have helped so many people. And most people don't even realize it or the length of time the work was done. Without revealing anyone's age, most people on our list are senior citizens and have been contributing to the community for most of their lives. In Peterstown that's just the way it is.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the honorees at this year's picnic: Frances Chiavuzzi, Camile DiGeorgio and Gloria DeMartino. They represent all that is good in Peterstown and a host people whose lives are better because of them.

I hope to see you at our picnic on June 2nd. Young and old from near and far to have a great time. If you've been to one in the past, I don't have to tell you.

Thank you and God bless.

*John Sacco*  
John Sacco  
President

**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.

**ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA**  
908-709-0530

You can E-mail your letter to the editor:  
**[rentec@earthlink.net](mailto:rentec@earthlink.net)**  
Tell us what's on your mind.  
We don't care if you're controversial; just be sincere.



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**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.

Dear Editor and Publisher,

Would it be possible to send copies of your newspaper to The Chelsea at Fanwood? We are an assisted living facility and we have some wonderful residents who grew up in Peterstown who would LOVE your publication.

Thank you so much!

Michele Bucci  
Senior Community Relations  
The Chelsea at Fanwood,  
Fanwood, NJ

Dear Joe Renna,

I'm an old-timer from Peterstown. I was born and raised in Peterstown and moved away when I married 53 years ago. I received a newspaper from my cousin Rose Migliaccio and enjoyed it so much I just had to subscribe. I don't know if you are familiar with my family. My brothers are the Reina boys, Charlie, Jim, Joe and Julie. My sister had the lemon ice stand on Niles Street and Third Avenue.

Thanks for bringing good memories to us. God Bless,  
Sincerely,  
Bessie Reina Bussiere  
Pittstown, NJ

Hello Joe,

How are you, I hope you and all your family are well. My sister Jackie usually passes the paper to me and we read it to my Mom who now is living in Sunrise Assisted Living in Westfield. She loves to hear about some of the old-timers from the neighborhood. Keep up the good work!

I got a kick out of your recent article about erring. LET HE OR SHE WHO HAS NEVER ERRED CAST THE FIRST STONE!

I have to agree with you about your past employee, Jackie Salemi. She was the best. When she was behind the desk you had a safe feeling in your heart and you knew that all was well on Irving Street in Rahway.

You omitted one name from the old shop that I have to give his due respect. Fred Theiss was your part-time proofreader and desk man and did a fantastic job. I vividly remember his proofreading skill and unbelievable spelling skills. Him and Jackie were a great team.

Anyway, stay well, say hello to Tina, and again keep up the good work.

Regards,  
Lenny Merlo  
South Plainfield, NJ

Joe,

Though I no longer live in NJ, occasionally I have a copy of your paper sent to me. I believe you do a good job of covering the people, culture, events and history of Peterstown.

I lived on Amity Street from 1961-1973. I then moved to New York Avenue. In 1979, I got married and moved to North Carolina to attend college. I pastored several churches there and started a Christian school. My wife and I now reside in Puyallup, WA where I pastor an Assembly of God Church and she has a counseling practice.

I try to fly back each year or so to visit family and friends. When I do, it always rekindles old memories of Peterstown. Living in our old neighborhood was fun and carefree. Truly people cared for one another and the bond was intense. My life has changed a lot since those old days, but I will never forget my roots. Thanks again for the great work you and your wife and staff do.

God bless you all,  
John Nocera  
Puyallup, WA

Gentlemen (and Tina),

I enjoyed the paper so much. It is so nice to read stories and see pictures of old friends and neighbors I knew in the past. I went to School 3, Grover Cleveland Jr. High and graduated from Battin High School for Girls. I graduated in 1944, and that was during World War II. We had ration stamps for food and gasoline for the cars. We had air raid wardens and curfews. The happiest day was when the war was over.

Thank you for starting this paper about Peterstown. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Firetto Lamendola  
Colts Neck, NJ

Mr. J. Renna,

Someone sent your Feb 02 edition to one of my sons and it got to me recently. It was the first I've seen of your fine publication and I applaud your work. Some of your readers may want to know what's happened to 3 graduates of St. Anthony's School.

Victor Rotolo is a father of 4 children and an attorney practicing in Lebanon, NJ. James Rotolo is a urologist and father of 4 with offices in both Manasquan and Brick, NJ. Lissa Rotolo Cali is a mother of 3 living in Manasquan, NJ. As for me, I'm retired and enjoying life in West Palm Beach, Fla. Come on down.

Victor Rotolo  
West Palm Beach, FL

**And now a note from Lissa. What a coincidence.**

Dear Around About Peterstown,

I have very much enjoyed your wonderful newspaper for months. What a great concept! I know that everyone that reads it feels the same.

Recently I was gifted with a subscription from my own best friend with whom I shared a childhood in St. Anthony's and in Peterstown, Diane Migliaccio Nolan. I would now like to extend same to Marge Schiavino. She was lucky to have shared a life-long friendship also forged in Peterstown. Marie and my mother, Vincentina Conforti Rotolo met in kindergarten in 1930 and were friends until my mother died. Margie's daughter Joanne went through school with me and was a friend, too. I think of Mrs. Rita Ciaccio whom my mother also shared a life long friendship, and then her daughter Kathy Ciaccio Campo who was and still is one of my very best friends since the age of five. We are in fact blessed that there have been many friendships formed in Peterstown that last lifetimes and then repeat in subsequent generations. This is a very rare and beautiful phenomenon. We're lucky, we who have our roots here.

All of the Conforti and Rotolo families that once lived in Elizabeth have moved away. Most live in eastern Monmouth County and love it, of course. There is much to be said, however, for the spirit, the passion, the energy and the soul of Peterstown and the company of good people with a shared history.

Myself and my brothers Victor and Jim have made sure that who we are and where we are from has not been lost on our children. Our combined eleven have come back, often to Spirito's, to the two St. Anthony's reunions, etc. Thank you very, very much for the hard work that you do with your research and writing. You are helping to keep something very special alive.

Sincerely,  
Elissa (Lissa) Rotolo Cali  
Manesquan, NJ

# Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

This opinion piece is my opinion about opinions. If you don't care about my opinion that's OK. But human nature being what it is, if you read this far you will be compelled to read the rest or the thoughts of what you missed will relentlessly nag you.

Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. Opinions should be mandatory. Forming opinions should be a subject in school. Too many people don't have their own opinion and rely on others to tell them what they should think. This is the root of our world problems.

Popular opinion is thrust upon a society by cultural leaders. Their methods of persuasion are as diverse as their agendas. But the one thing these leaders all have in common is their ability to influence others. This becomes a problem when the opinion being induced is coupled with bad intentions.

Persuasion in and of itself is not a bad thing. We use some technique throughout our daily lives. It is the basis of parenting, business and socializing. It is truly a craft and its subtle use can make the difference in a child eating his vegetables or getting a date for the prom.

People who are in the persuasion business are not subtle at all. Advertising hits us like a hammer every day. But that doesn't make it bad. In fact, advertising is educational if presented truthfully. It is when the tools of deception are used that a consumer can be turned into a victim.

Ignorance is what devious marketers prey upon. The whole .com wall street fiasco was nothing more than a show of smoke and mirrors. Stock brokers were no different than a sideshow barker enticing a carnival crowd to see the man with the biggest shoes. (His feet were normal but his shoes were real big).

Fraud can be very costly. Usually it is tied to economic motivation. Financial ruin can be devastating but it is relatively minor compared to what can be lost.

Persuasion on the grandest scale can cost lives. We see the practice every day in countries that oppress their people. Oppression takes on many forms, the main one being withholding information. When education is denied or limited the result is a hybrid of ignorant subjects, fertile ground for evil to grow.

People trapped in the middle of a sea of ignorance have no other choice than to stay afloat and if there is but one raft the captain becomes their savior. He is their hero by keeping them alive in the water. Even though

there is dry land close by, his subjects don't know about it. He never told them. Even if they knew, their memory of how to walk is long gone.

The greatest weapon in a war against an oppressed people is knowledge. It worked against the former Soviet Union and it is being used in Afghanistan. When American products poured into the USSR, the Russian people began to realize what they were missing out on. The populous was dumb-founded by McDonald's Hamburgers and Jordash Jeans. Except once they started eating the burgers they couldn't fit into the jeans. When offered a choice of Coke or Pepsi, I think the kids just passed out.

What Farrah Faucet and Charlie's Angels did to Russian culture during the Cold War, Pamela Anderson and Baywatch could do today. Drop a plane full of Maxim Magazines into foreign military schools. Maybe the students could find something to live for.

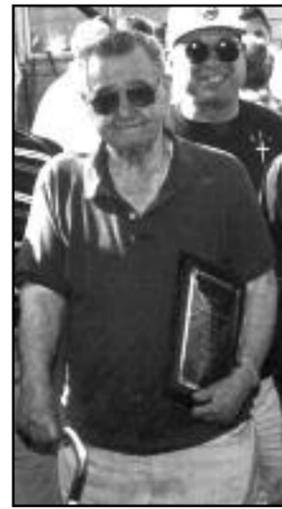
I'd be the first to admit this is a wacky metaphor. But the point I'm making is not. Influencing others to do terror is as evil a use of persuasion as can be mustered. The actual breeding of generations of ignorance is criminal. What's worse is that the victims are clueless to their situation. They live and die never exercising free will, rational thought or reasoning. Without options there are no choices.

If you lose a buck on the side show or your house to a 30 year old millionaire it won't kill you. Strapping a bomb to yourself or crashing a plane does. It also kills others. ☹



## Not for Nothing But...

ignorance is the felt strip that the Velcro hooks of oppression clings to.



(left) Hank Marcantonio with "Man of the Year" award that he received from the Sons of Peterstown at their Annual Family Picnic in 2000.

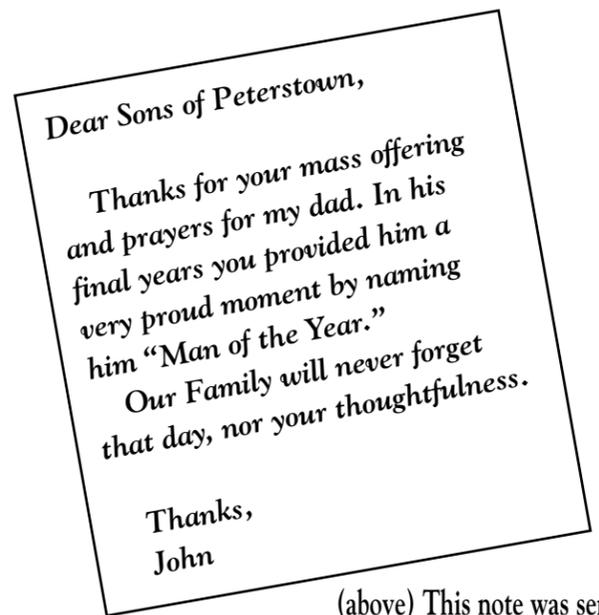
## HENRY MARCANTONIO

1920-2002

Hank Marcantonio passed away at the age of 82 on February 10. He lived in Elizabeth for 53 years. He retired from Exxon as a mechanic after working there 35 years. Hank worked hard at the refinery but he really got busy when he came home.

You could say Hank got involved. But there was no end to his involvement. He dedicated his life to St. Anthony's Church, its school, the neighborhood and anyone who needed help. He was the consummate committee member. And Hank got things done. He was involved in over a dozen organizations. Hank donated his most valuable possession - himself.

Hank Marcantonio will be missed dearly by those who worked with him and by those he helped. ☹



(above) This note was sent to the Sons of Peterstown by Henry Marcantonio's son, John. The club members will never forget Hank.

# PERFORMING ARTS IN 5th YEAR AT ST. ANTHONY'S

The 8th grade class of St. Anthony's grammar school performed the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday to a full church. Original book and score was written by Father Vincent Paczkowski.

The musical presentation featured students as narrators and as actors in a silent interpretation of the story of Jesus's capture, crucifixion, death and resurrection. ☹



(above) Roman soldiers, Christian Munoz and Jonathan Colon, take Andrey Loria, in the role of Jesus, into custody.

(left) Father Vincent playing guitar performed the original score to the passion play with St. Anthony's 7th grade teacher Ralph Marciano

# BONGIOVANNI FAMILY LEGACY

Submitted by Vincent DeTrolio

The year was 1906. Vincenzo Bongiovanni was a laborer in Cammarata, Sicily. He and his wife, Rosa Lieto had two young sons, Salvatore 3 years old and Giralamo 1 year old. Vincenzo had to make a gut wrenching decision. He would have to leave his wife and sons behind in Italy so he could travel to America in hope of finding a new home and better way of life for his family. Three years went by before Vincenzo could save enough money to bring Rosa and the boys to America.

The family settled on John Street in Peterstown. Vincenzo worked as a custodian in Singer Manufacturing. Rosa took in laundry. The family continued to grow. Soon they had 8 children and no more room in their small tenement apartment. In 1924 Vincenzo and Rosa bought a new two-family house on Second Avenue. They paid \$5,000 - a small fortune at the time. Even this house was small and the boys and girls slept in dormitory bedrooms. All the kids who were old enough worked odd jobs to help meet expenses.

Vincenzo loved his wife Rosa and their family

continued to grow. They had twelve children, six boys and six girls. Sal, Gerry, Joey, Anna, Mae, Mary, Connie, Charlie, Carmine, Lucy, Nicky and Rosalie. Times were very hard. The four oldest girls left school early to find work. They became seamstresses in a local factory. The boys and the two youngest girls were able to work part time and continue on through high school. The family struggled financially but stood together and got through the Depression and other hard times. Charlie, Carmine and Nicky fought overseas during World War II.

Vincenzo and Rosa were humble people but they saw to it that their children had aspirations and goals. Four of the boys, Gerry, Charlie, Carmine and Nicky became managers for Singers. Nicky, the youngest boy, went on to become Assistant Controller and Director of Manufacturing. Salvatore became an accounts manager with Armour Foods. Lucy and Rosalie married their childhood sweethearts and successfully operated small businesses in Elizabeth and Long Branch.

Today five of the twelve children are left. Mae, who

remained single, is the matriarch of the family. She resides in Clark with her nephew Vincent DeTrolio and his family. She will be 90 in December. Charlie, a widower, continues to live on Third Avenue in Peterstown. Nicky lives with his wife Alice in New Caanan, Conn. Lucy resides in Lakewood with her husband Tony Leo. Rosalie, the baby of the family, lives in Long Branch with her spouse Tom Marsico.

The Bongiovanni family started out with small humble roots. Vincenzo and Rosa's children blessed them with 17 grandchildren. Today there are 33 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Among them are doctors, engineers, lawyers, business executives, musicians, policemen, teachers, nurses, chefs, general contractors and entrepreneurs. The family resides predominantly in New Jersey but is dispersed from New Hampshire to Florida. Everyone, 105 in all, comes together every few years for a Bongiovanni Family reunion. While Rosa and Vincenzo may be long gone their legacy of love, hard work and achievement lives on. 🍷



## TWO GENERATIONS OF BONGIONANNI

(above) This 1927 photo of the Bongiovanni Family was taken in the back yard of their 613 Second Avenue home in Peterstown. Seated are Rosa and Vincent with their twelve children: Standing (l-r) are Charlie, Joey, Anna, Mae, Mary, Lucy, Connie, Jerry and Sal. Seated are parents, Rosalie and Vincenzo. Baby Rosalie is sleeping on her mothers lap. There is a 25 year span between the oldest, Sal, and youngest, Rosalie.

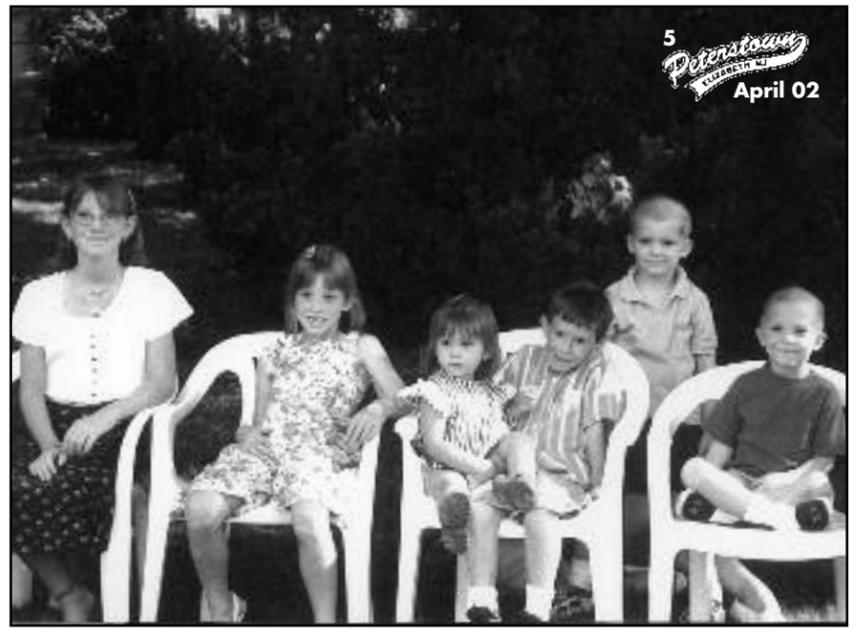
(left) This photo was taken at a family reunion in 2000. Pictured are five of the Bongiovanni siblings and their spouses. Standing are Nicky, Charlie, Rosalie and Tom Marsico, Tony Leo. Seated are Alyce, Alice, Mae, Lucy Leo.



●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●  
**Not for Nothing But...**

does having fewer  
than 3 kids seem  
self-centered to you?

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●



## THREE MORE GENERATIONS OF THE BONGIOVANNI FAMILY

Here are three more photos from the 2000 Bongiovanni family reunion. In relation to Vincent and Rose, pictured in top left photo are 15 of their grandchildren.

In the picture at left are 22 of their 33 great-grandchildren.

Pictured above right are six of their 10 great-great-grandchildren.

# CALLING GROVER CLEVELAND JR. HIGH CLASS OF 1952

.....  
**Not for Nothing But...**

how many of today's 9th graders know who Grover Cleveland was?

.....

The Battin High School 50th anniversary reunion in 2000 brought together alumni from the all-girl high school who hadn't seen each other in many years. It seems that folks from Peterstown bond more than most and so when the group that went to Battin from Cleveland Jr. High School got together they buddied up like they were bobby soxers once again.

They planned a casual get together the following year. This time they called on more friends, including some who went to the all-boy Thomas Jefferson High School.

The "mini-reunion" was a big success and so they formed a committee and planned a 50th anniversary reunion for their Jr. High School. The committee is working feverishly trying to contact all their classmates. Committee members are Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Alberta (Ferko) Simone, Jean (Neri) Maisano and Robert Fyne. 🐱

**GROVER CLEVELAND  
JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1952  
50th REUNION  
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002**

**1 PM - 4 PM**

**GEORGE'S CATCH 27**

**618 W. ST. GEORGES AVENUE**

**LINDEN, NJ 07036**

If you are a 1952 graduate from Cleveland, or know of someone who is, e-mail Carmella (Spino) Helminski at: [carmybob@bellatlantic.net](mailto:carmybob@bellatlantic.net)

(below) Cleveland alumni who reunited at Battin High School's 45th anniversary in October, 2000. (l-r) Emily (Albertino) Pirigyi, Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Anne (DeAlmeida) Mazza, Catherine Merlo, Jean (Neri) Maisano, Rose (Drago) Koziol.



(above) Attendees at last year's mini-reunion. Standing (l-r) Robert Frazier, Carol Morhart, Vincent Diamante, Robert Fyne, Alberta (Ferko) Simone, John Trabachino. Kneeling is Martin Kann.

# PHOTOS OF CLEVELAND 9th GRADERS FROM THE 1952 YEAR BOOK



(above) P.S.A.A. Football Field Day Class B 1951 Champions. (sitting, l-r) Carmine Campione, Carmen Urso, Louis Altobelli, Thomas Reina, Vincent Tallo and Anthony Ricadulli. (standing, l-r) Coach, Andrew Collins, Joseph Longo, Richard Meola, Joe Picallela.

(below) One of Cleveland Jr. High's 13 ninth-grade homerooms - #217  
Carmella Sino is seated third from the left and Jean Neri is in second row, second from left.



(above) Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Jean (Neri) Maisano and Patricia (McKenna) Kennedy are the height of fashion in their Loafers, Bobby Sox and Ship-and-Shore blouses.



**BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL  
 CLASS OF 1952  
 IS ALSO HAVING  
 A 50 YEAR REUNION** ◆

# MORE STUFF FROM 1952

(right) These are students from Grover Cleveland Jr. High School back stage at the St. Anthony's CYO Talent Show where they performed the Charleston.



(below) Another Talent Show, this time in honor of Fr. Dominick. Pictured (l-r) are Ed Dembach, Mayor Nicholas LaCorte, Fr. Dominic, and Frank DiMaggio.



Flapper,  
 Josephine Piga

Gertrude Gobel  
 and Frank Caruso



(above, l-r) Anthony Deltufo, \_\_\_\_, Jay Renda, June Lang.



The Carmine (on drums) and Mario (at piano) Orchestra.



## AND THE FIRST RUNNER UP IS...

Sure I have the names of these guys but, if you think I'm going to print them here then you're nuts.

Under pressure from feminist groups, and every rational thinking person, the bathing suit competition was not part of the 1952 Miss Peterstown Beauty Pageant. The competition was deemed exploitative and demeaning to the contestants; besides, the thought of it made the audience nauseous. That segment of the show was then replaced with arm wrestling.

The Pageant came down to two finalists and was decided by how they answered the final question. And the winner was...Miss Fourth Avenue. The first runner up was Miss Niles Street.

The talent part of the show was won by Miss High Street who spot-welded a tool chest. Miss Amity Street overhauled the engine of a 1948 Packard but lost points when she dropped the screw to the oil pan into the bucket of old oil. The contestants gave the gal from 2nd Avenue the prize for Miss Congeniality after she threatened to punch their lights out and the judges awarded Miss John Street an honorable mention for having the best gams. 🍑

### THE FINAL QUESTION

This year, Republican Assemblywoman Florence Dwyer, from Elizabeth, sponsored the New Jersey Anti-Wage Discrimination Act,\* prohibiting discrimination in the wage rates based on sex. Do you think that this law will correct discrepancies between female and male workers?

**Miss Niles Street's answer:**

That dame must be hitting the giggle water. Whose gonna cook, clean the house and take care of the kids if all us broads go to work?

**Miss Fourth Avenue's answer:**

I always thought I got paid a little extra because of sex.



**Not for Nothing But...**

we don't call it a beauty pageant. It's a scholarship program.



\*Source: Laws of New Jersey, 1952, Chapter 34, Section 11, 56

# CONFERENCE HONORS ITALY'S LIBERATION DAY

This year's theme, "Italian American History", will feature a "Homemade Wine Competition" for the best homemade wine in Union County. "This is one way for us to preserve our culture and heritage. Italian American immigrants were instrumental in developing the domestic wine industry in the US. The I.A.C. of U.C. is dedicated to the preservation of Italian and Italian American culture and heritage and the promotion of our accomplishments and contributions to today's world", said Angelo Paparella, the organization's founder. "Through this conference, we hope to renew a sense of community and pride amongst people of Italian descent in our area. We hope to tap the interest of people who haven't been involved in an Italian American organization before and now feel a desire to find a way to hold on to their own past. Additionally, we want to encourage membership in Italian American organizations and provide an opportunity for regional networking", he added.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Colavita USA are sponsoring the event. Local

organizations involved are Mt. Carmel Society of Berkeley Heights, Hillside UNICO, Columbus Parade Asso. of Union County, Sons of Italy Garwood, Vince Lombardi Lodge, and the Columbia Italian American Club of Union.

Along with the wine competition, there will be ethnic music and dinner. Exhibit tables will feature the "Italian American Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients" display provided by the Sons of Italy, along with displays from the areas Italian American organizations and businesses. The timing of the event will also honor "Italian National Day", (a national holiday in Italy celebrating the country's liberation).

The conference is going to take place at 6:00 pm in the Mt. Carmel Hall on River Rd. in Berkeley Heights. Everyone is welcome, pre-registration for the competition and advance ticket purchase is required, for more information or tickets, the I.A.C. of U.C. can be contacted at 908-486-6911, or by e-mail at [tuucco6@earthlink.net](mailto:tuucco6@earthlink.net). Tickets are \$35, student discount tickets are available upon request. 🇮🇹

## AN INVITATION FROM GOVERNOR JAMES E. MCGREEVEY

The following letter was sent out by the office of Governor James E. McGreevey. The program will honor Italian-American communities throughout the state. McGreevey had implemented this program in Woodbridge Township when he was mayor. He would recognize a different ethnic group and acknowledge their contributions to the community-at-large. Now he is doing the same as Governor but on a much grander scale. 🇮🇹

Dear Friend,

The Italian- American community is an important and vital part of both our State and Nation. New Jersey has benefited greatly from the rich culture, proud history and many contributions of the Italian-American people.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend a special flag raising ceremony scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2002. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Drumthwacket, the official Governor's residence located at 354 Stockton Street (Route 206), Princeton, New Jersey.

Together, we will honor the Italian-American community throughout the State of New Jersey. We will also commemorate the liberation of Italy at the end of World War II by the coordinated efforts of American and English armies and Italian freedom fighters. Your Attendance would be most appreciated and would contribute greatly to the success of this event.

At your earliest convenience, please RSVP to the Special Community Events Hotline at (609) 984-9852. Please be sure to leave your name (spelling included) and phone number.

I look Forward to seeing you on April 27th.

With all good wishes,  
James E. McGreevey

### DIRECTIONS TO DRUMTHWACKET

#### *From Elizabeth*

New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 9. Route 18 North 1/4 Mile to Route 1 South for approximately 16 1/2 miles, then turn right onto Washington Road (County Road 571). Follow Washington Road to Nassau Street, Then make a left onto Nassau (3 traffic lights; 1 1/2 miles). Turn left on Stockton Street (Route 206), proceed 1/2 mile to Drumthwacket - on the left.



# THE BIGGEST NEWS TO HIT UNION COUNTY

The premier edition of the "Union County Directions" will be in our mail boxes in June. Every Mailbox! The County of Union and the Union County Alliance are publishing the newspaper. It will be unmatched as an advertising vehicle. No other publication can offer the distribution of Directions.

There will be 200,000 copies printed quarterly. Directions will be mailed to every household and business in the county. The full-color newspaper, beautifully designed and printed, will be filled with valuable information about county services, various directories and a calendar of events. The publication is designed to be a keepsake. As reference material, readers will keep the quarterly publication handy in their homes or offices.

This is a not-for-profit endeavor, so the cost for ads will cover expenses only. Directions is only accepting the

first 23 advertisements. The space is being offered exclusively to Union County businesses. Directions will be used as an economic development tool. The opportunity for affordable advertising gives Union County businesses an edge over out-of-county competition.

The County and the Alliance are also in the position to offer a discount to businesses that place ads in the premier issue.

Because the publication is not-for-profit, Directions is only accepting the first 23 advertisers. And there will be only one ad per page. The cost is \$2,500 per ad. That includes postage to every household and business in Union County. That's about 1¢ per postal patron.

Space is limited and it's being offered on a first come / first served basis. So call Tina Renna, Advertising Coordinator, today at: (908) 709-0530 📞

## UNION COUNTY ALLIANCE

The Union County Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of our area's top leaders dedicated to the survival and recovery of Union County. The coalition is co-chaired by former Acting-Governor Donald DiFrancesco and Senator Raymond Lesniak and includes every major sector and organization in Union County - business and industry, organized labor, government, and civic and academic institutions. The Union County Alliance has developed and implemented a multifaceted strategic plan to foster progress and improvements for Union County residents and to create a sustainable, viable county for future generations. 📞

Edward Zarnock, Chairman  
Henry Ross, President  
Ann-Marie Kay, Executive Vice President  
(908) 527-2944

## SPECIAL OFFER AT A GLANCE



Union County A Service of  
the Board of  
We'reConnected to Chosen Freeholder

- **200,000** full-color newspapers printed.
- **Mailed** to every household & business in Union County.
- **Exclusive** to Union County businesses & organizations.
- Only **23** advertisers.
- **One** ad per page.
- Special rate **\$2,500**

**Call Tina Renna**  
for more information and insertion order  
**908-709-0530**

Deadline for advertising is May 10, 2002

# NO REST FOR LAPOLLA AS TURNPIKE DIRECTOR

Michael Lapolla was named executive director of The New Jersey Turnpike Authority. The appointment was made by Governor James E. McGreevey. Lapolla started his new job on March 18 and has his work cut out for him. Solving problems with E-Z Pass is just one.

The Peterstown native has been a shining star on the political scene ever since he was elected to County Freeholder in 1983 at the age of 27, the youngest ever in the state to hold that office. Michael served as assistant council to Governor Jim Florio in 1990 and as Director of the New Jersey Office of Senator Bill Bradley. In 1991 he became First Assistant Prosecutor of Union County. Michael most recently served as Union County Manager

after being appointed in 1997.

Family, friends, and co-workers from the county held a farewell reception for Michael. Approximately 250 attended to wish Michael well in his new position and to thank him for his seventeen years of service to the county. Long time associates including State Senator Ray Lesniak, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage and Union County Freeholder Dan Sullivan roasted Michael pretty good. But in typical Lapolla fashion he upstaged everyone by having the last laugh with his no-holds-barred speech.

Michael's star is still rising and still has a long way it could travel. 🍷



(above) Mike Lapolla with a gag from his party. The sign refers to the New Jersey Turnpike Elizabeth exit, Exit 13. Michael grew up just blocks away. In fact, the number on the interstate icon that appears on the sign, 404, is his house number from Loomis Street.



(above, l-r) Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, Mike Lapolla and State Senator Ray Lesniak.



(above, l-r ) Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union), Freeholder Daniel Sullivan and Mike Lapolla.



(above, l-r) Mike Lapolla holds a gift from Union County Alliance President, Henry Ross; Executive Vice President, Ann-Marie Kay; and Chairman Edward Zarnock.

(right) Marie Oakie Sang a rendition of "Along Came Bill", using Mike's name instead. Marie has just started her 41st year as a Union County employee.



(right) Michael Lapolla's next door neighbors from Loomis Street was at his farewell party. Mike lead the crowd in singing Happy Birthday to Frances, standing to the right, who turned 88 that day. Next to Frances is her grandson Angelo Paparella and her daughter Frances Paparella next to him. Seated is Frances's husband Vincent, aka Jimmy.



# ST. JOSEPH'S DAY - A TIME TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS



(above) Sal Mirabile sits at the feast table while his wife Enza stands behind him with their sons Nino and Joe.

(right) Children are more than welcome. They are dressed as angels and the room is totally draped and decorated.



(above) An altar of food and gifts. The small sculptures up front are made of bread and came from Italy with Enza's two aunts and uncle, who traveled to America to help prepare the feast. (right, l-r) Anna Marciante, Sal, Enza, Ninetta and Leonardo Spinelli.



In December of 2000 Sal Mirabile suffered an aneurism. He lapsed into a coma and his prognosis was questionable. The doctors were doing everything they could. It was a stressful time for his family. They felt helpless. Sal's wife, Enza, turned to St. Joseph to ask God to intercede in her husband's condition.

St. Joseph is a father figure and patron saint of family unity. Enza prayed to St. Joseph and she believed it was the power of those prayers that helped Sal in his ordeal. Sal made a full recovery. Her prayers were pure emotion, love and faith.

The Mirabile family joined in a different prayer this past St. Joseph's day. It was a prayer of thanks. Enza

fulfilled her promise of showing her gratitude by having a feast. She opened her home to family, friends and neighbors, to believers and non-believers. It was a celebration of life.

These types of celebrations are traditional in Sal's home town of Ribera, Italy. The Tavolata de (table of) St. Joseph feast offers 13 different dishes. Children dress as angels and an altar is adorned with bread, flowers and statues.

There is the hope of the hosts of these celebrations that those who attend will witness the good that was bestowed upon them and continue the generosity through their daily actions. 🍴

## Recipes

### St. Joseph's Pasta (Minestra)

Submitted by: *Liborio Firetto*

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Elbow Macaroni
- Green Broccoli
- White Broccoli
- Fresh Fennel (Finochio)
- Califlower
- Rice
- Onions - Scallions
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil

**PREPARATION:**

Boil Broccoli and Califlower for 10 minutes.. Meanwhile fry Onion in Olive Oil. Add Broccoli and Califlower to pan with Onions. Fry until cooked. Cook Rice. Boil Pasta al Dante. Mix everything together.

### St. Joseph's Pasta (Bread Crumbs)

Submitted by: *Liborio Firetto*

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Thin Spaghetti
- Bread crumbs
- Sugar

**PREPARATION:**

Boil Pasta. Roast Bread Crumbs until brown. Add Sugar to taste. Combine.

## RIBERA CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL ST. JOE'S EVENT

Every year the Ribera Club holds a feast in honor of St. Joseph around his name day, which is March 19. This is a big holiday in Ribera and other towns in Italy. The tradition is equally intact here in Peterstown. The event is always well attended.

The club used the occasion to honor Theresa Marabella for her contributions to Italian/American culture and her dedication to preparing the feast.

The club also acknowledges all the work done behind the scenes and would like to recognize Nella Firetto, Theresa Marabella, Loisa Mirabile, Maria Agliata, Linda Logiudice, Vita Fodera, N. Russo and Gina Torretta. 🍴



(above) Special guests seated at the head table included Elizabeth Councilwoman Carla Mazza (far left), Councilman Angelo Paternostro (5th from right) and Father Thomas from St. Anthony's Church.



(above) Club president Jack Torretta presents Theresa Marabella with a plaque in appreciation for her community work. Co-chairs of the feast Peter Agliata and Liborio Firetto stand to the left and right, respectively.

## GUILD GOING STRONG 50 YEARS

Walter Anton and his wife promised each other that they would never remarry if the other died. Instead, they would dedicate the rest of their life to helping others. Fifty years ago, Walter's wife passed away and he kept his promise and chose St. Joseph as the focus of his devotion. The Elizabeth Chapter of his Missionary Servents Guild of St. Joseph is still active today.

The guild, based in Peterstown, has members from seven different area parishes. Their charity is directed to The Shrine of Saint Joseph in Sterling, NJ which dispenses aid throughout the United States and abroad. The Guild meets at the Peterstown Community Center. They have an annual St. Joseph's Day feast, Christmas party and other fund raising events. 🍴



(left) Rose Migliore and Virginia Navarro are charter members of the Guild. They were honored for their 50 years of service. Pictured (l-r) Lee Merlo, Vice President; Migliore; Navarro; Lucille Albowicz, President; Ursula Marshott, Treasurer.

# THE NAVIGATOR - STEADY AS SHE GOES

If longevity is an indicator of quality, then The Navigator Restaurant is one of the best. It also was the first. Eighteen years ago Luis Dias opened the Portuguese restaurant in the Bayway section of Elizabeth. It was the first in that area.

Dias, a native of Portugal, came to America in 1973 and worked at The Manor in West Orange for 11 years before opening his own place. He named his restaurant in honor of Prince Henry, whose nickname was The Navigator.

Dias's fondness for the sea is evident in the collection of artifacts that adorn the walls. Antique pieces and nostalgic art are as tasteful as the food. Traditional Portuguese seafood dishes are combined with Spanish and American cuisine.

The lounge area in The Navigator is spacious and comfortable, a great place to unwind after returning from the high seas.

The Navigator Restaurant is open every day for lunch and dinner except Mondays. It has banquet facilities for private parties.

The service is pleasant and the atmosphere friendly. If you dine there it just may become your favorite place. 🍷



(left) The lighthouse on The Navigator's sign has been guiding cars around the Bayway Circle for 18 years.



(left) Owner, Luis Dias stands in the main dining room under an authentic Italian chandelier from the 1700's.



## CAMPUS INN HAS THE YES NETWORK

Yankee fans, Stephanie, Doreen and Michele, (pictured left) have reason to celebrate at the Campus Inn Sports Bar and Grill. They can catch Yankee baseball there on the Yes Network. If you like the Yankees, or any team for that matter, you can catch all the baseball action on one of The Campus Inn's 15 TV's. 🍷

## PINHO'S THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS - OLD AND NEW

Pinho's has a lot of everything you're looking for in a bakery, luncheonette, cafe and deli. The only thing more impressive than the volume and variety of the food is the quality. Patrons can be heard saying, "Boy, that's the best (cake/pastry/sandwich/coffee/omelet/espresso) I ever had." You can fill in any number of things there and be accurate every time.

There is indoor and outdoor seating plus orders to go. Specialty cakes and party platters are priced right and portions are generous. It really is a cool place to stop for a quick bite to eat or to stay a while for a good snack and friendly conversation.

Pinho's is family-owned and operated by Raul and Julie Pinho. Their sons Nathan and Christopher are official cookie tasters.



(above, l-r) Lesli Zambrana, Stephanie Barna and Rina Morales carefully transport Tick Tock, the clock from the TV show Blues Clues. It was made for Gavin, a fan of the show, for his first birthday party.

Raul Pinho  
and son,  
Christopher



(above, l-r) Ed Serratelli, Luigi Perrotti, Sy Lubin, Richard Hunt and Rudy Cammarota are Sunday morning regulars at Pinho's. A casual visitor cannot help but be drawn into the conversations about anything and everything.

(left) Mike Marino stands in front of one of Pinho's massive display cases. Mike decided on the St. Joseph's Pastry. Behind the counter is, aptly named, Tiffany Baker.



# PHOTO INSPIRES EMOTIONAL RESPONSE

Dear Joe,

My name is Labe Freedman. You may know me as Mary Monticello's husband. I just wanted to let you know how heart-warming your February issue was for me. First, I opened to page two only to see a picture of my grand daughter, Carla Mazza, receiving a Woman of the Year award. But then I saw the picture of the employees of Besco Shirt Factory on Fulton Street in Elizabeth. Standing to the right was my father, Isaac Freedman. I never knew that this photo existed. I can't tell you how overwhelmed I was.

There were originally eight children in my family. I only have one surviving sister, Harriet Steigel who resides in Pembroke Pines, Florida. I sent her a copy of your paper and she called me after receiving it to thank you for the wonderful memory. Seeing the photo of my dad was very emotional.

Thanks again.  
 Labe Freedman  
 Elizabeth, NJ

It often happens that people write in relating to photos and stories that appear in this newspaper. In this case one photo moved two octogenarians to write.

Labe Freedman (84) and Nick Badami (81) spotted their fathers in the 1933 photo of the Besco Shrit Company. 📷

Dear Around About Peterstown,

My cousin, Gene DeZefalo, sent me a copy of your February 2002 issue. I really enjoyed seeing the centerfold picture of Besco Shirt Co. The picture and article is about my father Louis Badami. I am the young boy in the lower right hand corner.

I shared the paper with friends from Elizabeth who are living out here in Tusan, Tony Bruno and his wife Jean (nee: Nittoli) Many people remember Tony as a surgeon from St. Elizabeth and Elizabeth General Hospitals.

Nick Badami  
 Tusan, Arizona



NEW BESCO SHIRT CO. ANNEX AUGUST 26, 1933



(above) Detail of Besco shirt Company photo that appeared in the February 2002 issue of this paper shows Isaac Freedman, sporting hat, and Louis Badami, with cigar. The younster is Badami's son, Nick.



# THIS OLD PIANO BAR



What better way to entertain guests than with a nice mixed drink. If your piano playing caused your company to run out of your house, here's a suggestion for that old piano. Make it into a piano-bar.

Regular readers of this paper may remember the false-fronted book case that was really a TV stand (Oct.01). The piano compliments the TV stand aesthetically and it also portrays an air of sophistication. Visitors not aware of the furniture's hidden dimension walk away thinking the occupants of the home are music aficionados and have a penchant for reading. In reality, they just like to watch TV and drink. 🍷



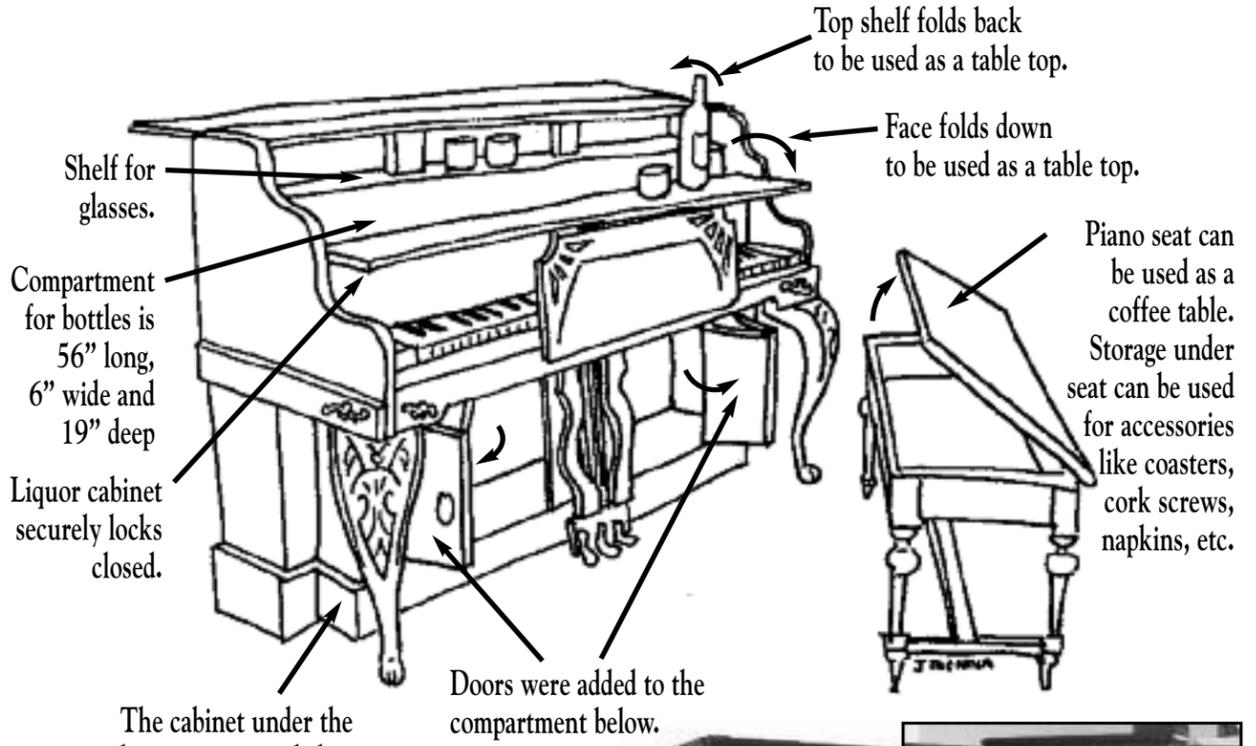
Piano bar open for business.

## PIANO BAR FEATURES

.....  
**Not for Nothing But...**

I'm now suspicious of every piano I see and must strike a key whenever I pass one.

.....



The cabinet under the keys was expanded to accommodate ice bucket, snack bowls and large glasses, pitchers and mixers.

(right) Reprinted from the October 01 issue are photos of the TV stand masquerading as a book case closed and opened.





(above left) In 1931 James Cagney in the movie *The Public Enemy* shoved a half of grapefruit into the face of Mae Clark. Now I could never hit a woman, even with a piece of citrus, but I understand why some guys could. I would have taken a more humorous approach like in the picture on the right. I would have made my point but Mae would have probably chuckled while she cleaned all that whip cream up. Besides the cake there are nine more changes to the classic scene. Find them and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern on the Park. (See form on right)

## EDDIE THE DOG

By Sal Arpino

Sal Arpino is a seventh grader at Deerfield School in Mountainside.



## ANDRE & CIRELL PLAY IN THE PARK

Bob D'Andre and Frank Cirell have been a staple act in Las Vegas and Atlantic City as well as in other glittery venues. This Dynamic Duo of Comady will bring their antics to Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park on Saturday April 20th.

Buffet with show is priced \$35. (buffet 6pm-8:30)  
Show only (9:00pm) is \$15. 🍷

## REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Spring is here!! The real estate market is still pumping throughout the United States. Real estate housing starts are up at an all time high. But to my surprise in New Jersey new construction is actually down 33%. These statistics amaze me because of the geography in our area. There is new construction going up all over Elizabeth and Newark.

The state of New Jersey with its new land preservation laws plus the lack of viable building lots in New Jersey has created a land shortage for new construction. Thus New Jersey is running contrary to national standards, not because of demand but because of no available building lots.

New Jersey, small in land size but large in population, is the most densely populated state in the union. Our population continues to grow and more demands are being created for housing. Simultaneously, there is a national cry for open space, wild refuge, resources, farming and parks which are now competing with developers for this precious land commodity in New Jersey.

Locally, we have seen the same demand and pressure because of lack of viable buildable lots

in our city. Many developers are now purchasing older homes and demolishing them to create new ones. Everywhere we turn it appears that a home is being built. The city of Elizabeth cannot expand its landmass. Zoning laws restrict homes in certain areas. Lot sizes also are a factor as to whether a new home can be constructed. All this adds up to more expensive lots, which equal more expensive homes. In the last year we have seen the prices increase by 4%. The typical new two-family home construction in 2000, which was selling in the vicinity of \$265,000 to \$275,000, is now selling for \$365,000. What a change!!!

Let's congratulate some local builders who are Sons of Peterstown. Recently, Al and Joe Mauti who have, been building homes in the neighborhood for years have been approved for five new homes. Vincent and Mike Firetto, who have also been building new homes for years, have completed three new homes and will begin construction on two more. On South 7th Street, Arthur De Maio is completing two homes. Jorge Zeich and Nick Riviera will shortly begin construction on eleven new homes. We are proud of all these individuals from the neighborhood. We hope their success will continue. 🍷

Submitted by Justino Rosa