

# FREEDOM THROUGH INFORMATION

It is no wonder that New Jersey is considered the most corrupt state of the union. The incompetence, arrogance and the immorality of our politicians that surface in the media are deserving of scrutiny and ridicule. We need much more of it.

The reason government officials are running slipshod through our state is that there is very little information about what they are actually doing. The resources dedicated to watching the government are minimal. The majority of news entering our homes is from out of state. Television networks and newspaper publications originating from New York and Philadelphia overshadow New Jersey's home grown news agencies. Only the most egregious acts make it to press and they disappear very quickly.

New Jersey Newspapers have a hard enough time covering state government, it is impossible to do the same for the state's 566 municipalities and 21 counties. This results in a free ride for shifty officials. The percentage of operations that are made public is so small that the odds of getting caught doing anything unethical is slim to none. The payoff has been very good and politicians are willing to take those odds. If they do get exposed then it's a matter of "I'm sorry I got caught."

News reporting is a very tough business. Good journalism comes at a very high price and the government has a corner on the market. It is ironic that most news of government is generated from the county's or city's public information departments. Without balance, New Jersey can only expect more of the same deceit that it has been subject to for years.

A few brave local papers and renegade websites are diligent in reporting government activity and explaining the effect it has on the people. It is refreshing to see this grass roots effort. The hope is that their spark can ignite a movement. The ranks of this movement must be recruited from the tax paying public. They have the most to gain for it has been on their backs that the politicians and recipients of patronage have been allowed to prosper.

Inspiration for this article came from the publisher and editor in chief of New Jersey Monthly Magazine, Kate Tominson. Her column in the January 2003 issue included a list of New Years Resolutions. Included in the list were "Be an informed citizen" and "Get involved". She resolves, after living in Union County almost fifteen years, "to finally figure out what the freeholders in her county are up to." She goes on to explain how it's the attitudes of the citizens that encourage politicians to make promises that they can't keep and choices that mortgage the future.

Following the release of New Jersey Monthly The Sunday Star Ledger of January 12 ran part one of a three part series called "The Ethics Challenge" in New Jersey. The Ledger has been more intense at holding the politicians to task. It has been doing its best hard hitting journalism as of late. It would be easy to think that it is because the politicians in power are so brazen that they are making it easy to point out their transgressions. That's true but it's only part of the reason. Credit must be given to those doing the reporting. New Jersey politics will change only if the people want it to. Information is the best means to do so.

People wishing to get involved should start local. Big government is just a sum of its parts. The higher power gets its strength by controlling the smaller groups. Correcting the big problems starts by eliminating the little ones. There are plenty of good elected officials in this state but they are burdened by a system that runs counter to their productivity. Getting elected is nearly impossible when challenging an incumbent machine. The people can change all that. Voters need to attend meetings, write their representatives, get on the internet, send letters to the newspapers, and ask questions. Without accountability, freedom is lost.



Positive news is needed to show the right way to do things. For example, Elizabeth native, Dr. Joe Brennan, pictured with his wife Pam, has been promoted to the rank of full colonel in the US Air Force. His story is inspirational.



(l-r) New Jersey Governor James McGreevey greets Garwood Mayor, Michael Crincoli. Crincoli passed away in January in his 11th year as mayor. The Peterstown native was regarded by his colleagues as a formidable leader who's only motivation was the good of the people.

Micheal Crincoli was a diamond in the rough of New Jersey politics. The people of Garwood, of Union County and of New Jersey lost a precious resource determined to make a brighter future for all.

Michael was an example of how the system should work. He was one with his constituents. They were involved and he was accountable. He should be the model for aspiring politicians and the motivation for voters to get them elected.

*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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Sergeant-at-Arms

**President's Message**



The super bowl party was another great success. Thanks to the members and those who attended. It was great seeing many new faces this year. Though there is a strict members only rule to our clubhouse the events are intended to be just the opposite. When an event does come along it is hard to gauge what the turnout will be. Even though I know how close knit Peterstown is, I still get surprised when I see people turn out. The best surprise is when a friend shows up out of the blue that I haven't seen in years.

This month is the Club's 15th Anniversary Dinner Dance. One of the few times we plan a formal event. The party was carefully planned and all the club members were in on the preliminary plans. None of us imagined the response that we received. We booked the event in a hall with the capacity of 140 people. It turns out that we could have doubled the size. Because of the size of the room many people who want to go, can't. It is a nice feeling when all the calls started coming in for tickets, but it really stinks to turn people away.

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.

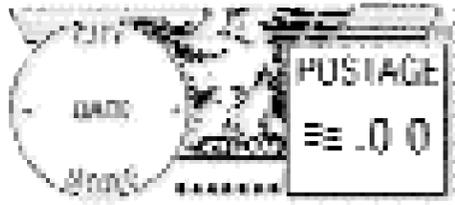
**ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA**  
908-709-0530

You can E-mail your letter to the editor:  
**joerenna@joerenna.com**  
Tell us what's on your mind.  
We don't care if you're controversial; just be sincere.

Member:



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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 Joe Renna,

Many thanks for the file of AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN. Indeed it does fit within our scope as a source of documentation on contemporary Italian American life. Please do continue to send copies of current issues.

Appreciate your offer to help. As you know, ours is a national project which seeks to document the experience of Italian Americans all over the county. We still actively seek records of all kinds, published and unpublished. You will find a description of our Italian American Collection at the IHRC Web site. Also we have a new project to digitize photos and documents called COLLAGE. It also can be accessed at the web site.

If you know of any materials which record the history of Italian Americans in your area, please do let me know.

We are also establishing an endowed curatorship to care for the Italian American Collection. Since we do have New Jersey records, e.g., UNICO, Sons of Italy, any contributions from Jersey will be welcomed.

About thirty years ago I taught at Rutgers-New Brunswick for a couple of years. While there I wrote THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY as a volume in the tercentenary series. It contains a chapter on Italians.

I will send further information by snail mail.

Cordiali saluti,  
Rudy  
Rudolph J. Vecoli

Professor of History and Director  
Immigration History Research Center  
College of Liberal Arts  
University of Minnesota  
Elmer L. Anderson Library, Suite 311  
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Minneapolis, MN 55455  
612-625-5573  
fax 612-626-0018  
E-mail: vecol001@tc.umn.edu

VISIT THE IHRC WEB SITE: <http://www.umn.edu/ihrc>

Dear Joe,

I would like to put together a past history of Saint Anthony's Bugle and Drum Corp. It was disbanded in the mid to later 1960's at which time I was drum major.

(see photo below)

Info requested are as follows:

- A) When first organized
- B) Names of instructors both Bugle & Drums
- C) Pastor at time organized
- D) Quarter Masters (names)
- E) If possible names of members
- F) Who picked & designed the uniforms.

Anyone who has photos and written articles, can send them to me at:

Al (Pickles) Piccolella  
23 Brant Drive  
Brick, NJ 08724  
(732) 899-7354

Dear Mr. Renna,

My name is Michael Consiglio. You could say I had the misfortune of not growing up in Peterstown. I grew up in Union and now live down the shore. My father, Nicholas, however, did live in Peterstown. He lived on John Street with his parents Charles and Dora along with his three sisters. He subscribes to your paper *Around About Peterstown* and enjoys reading it. It brings back a lot of memories for him. I too enjoy your articles. Sincerely,

Michael A. Consiglio  
Down the Shore

Mr. Renna,

I'm a former Elizabeth resident. In the December '02 issue of the Peterstown paper I saw a photo of my father on page five. There are three men standing next to a barber pole. Left to right are Frank [Jazz] Colletti, my father, John Angelo and I don't know the other man.

Sincerely,  
Mike Colletti.  
Jensen Beach, Fl.

P. S. My friends, Charlie & Georgeann live at the same Condo in Jensen Beach, Fl. I read the article in their Sub.

Dear Editor,

A photo from an article in your Dec. 02 issue about barbers from Elizabeth was of Lou Terracina. Is this the barber who had a shop on Vauxhall Road and Salem Road in Union on the corner in the 1980's?

I was one of his customers and did not know much about his family. He had news clippings on the wall from the Star Ledger about his brother in Florida that was making a picture. I don't know whether the film was ever made.

John Zimmerman  
Union, NJ

Dear John,

The brother you refer to who was shooting a film in Florida was Lou's brother Joe. The film was completed. It is called "Cuba Crossing" and it is actually a film about another brother, Captain Tony.

I received the following email in January from a friend of Sal Terracina informing me that Joe had just passed away. An article about Joe appears on page 8.

Thank you, Joe Renna

Good Day Joe,

Hope you are keeping warm and toasty in this frigid weather we have been having. The attached is for your consideration...

With sadness Joe Terra passed away this month, the youngest of the Terracinas, he had a great career as a musician...

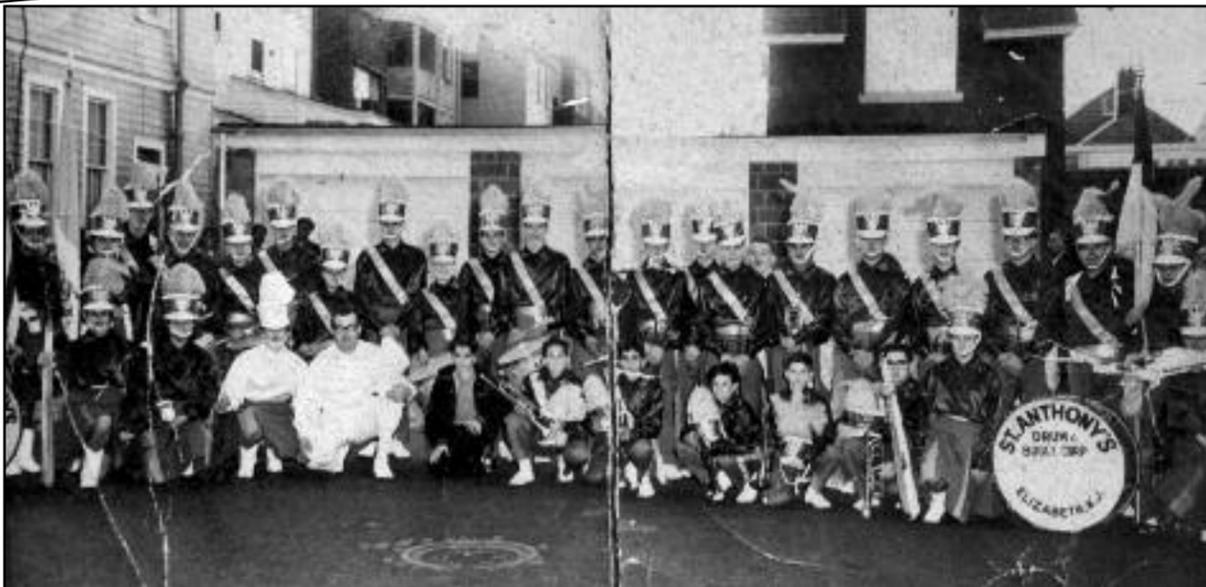
The picture of Your Fathers Mustache was taken by Sal Terracina.

AKA Christopher Atkinson!

>>>Adrian Bleakley<<<

"Coming Semi-Live from Hell's Kitchen, NYC"

**ST. ANTHONY'S DRUM AND BUGLE CORP**



# Editor's Opinion

*everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna*

Equality has been a driving force of American culture and though it is a constant struggle to achieve, the progress we made is remarkable. By world standards its unique. The level of freedom and equality sets America apart from countries that practice all sorts of separatism. Our approach to freedom is also the reason for our great success.

America's success is the target of hatred around the world. The countries that harbor this hatred practice the most atrocious forms of oppression. Equality and freedom would crumble their dictatorial governments.

The fear of losing power leads to drastic measures to preserve it. A consorted effort to destroy America is a serious consideration, though not feasible. The only way that these rogue governments maintain their power is by abusing their own people.

Techniques range from suppression of information to murder. In the eyes of these leaders there is no difference between the two. What ever means is necessary to keep power is justified. The elite few capture the wealth of the entire country. It is sickening to civilized nations to watch.

America has been watching for years and is faced with a dilemma. We are a passionate people and yearn to right wrongs. But our desire to liberate others is considered counter to peace. It is the greatest propaganda coup ever devised.

It should go without saying that everyone is opposed to war. Anti war protesters make the assumption that America is the hawk. If anything America has been demonstrating an over abundant amount of restraint. What protesters must realize is that America is not making the rules. We were brought into this conflict. It originated elsewhere and we are forced to respond.

I support the protesters even though I do not agree with them. If anything it illustrates why America should defend itself at all costs. Protesters have been right in more cases than not, from the Boston Tea Party to the March From Selma. It is our right to speak our minds.

Protest forces a deeper evaluation of a situation and it is actually a service to both sides. If it is found that war is

the answer then it would be a decision guaranteed to have been scrutinized to its limit. It wold be easier to move forward with confidence.

The debate over war does expose a flaw in America culture. It is only now that we see everyone concerned about what our government is doing. In the fat years, people just sit back on their laurels and pay no mind. Situations brew over time. They don't just arise. This is a domestic problem that has been elevated onto the world scene.

If Americans were consistent at monitoring government, problems would never develop into crises. Protesters do too little too late. The energy they muster up to fix problems would be better spent preventing them. Instead of being labeled a protester they would be called concerned citizens.

We have a right to be angry at politicians who abuse the public's trust. But we should be more angry at ourselves for letting it happen. This is a government of the people. Let's get involved.

Writing this paper has given me this enlightenment. The more I learn of the past from interviewing the senior population the more I realize how wonderful my life has been. And it has been because these men and women really sacrificed, worked and fought for freedom, liberty and equality. I haven't done any of that.

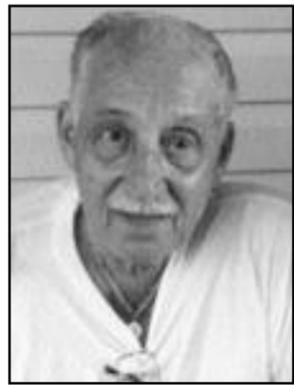
But I will now. 🇺🇸



**Not for Nothing But...**

**does contentment**

**bring on adversity?**



Charles Cusumano makes another appearance in this paper as a member of the Thomas Jefferson Class of 1937. (pages 10 & 11) His letters in the past have been touching and inspiring. Not only to me but to the readers. As evident from the correspondence below.

Dear Joe,

As you and your regular readers may be well aware, I have reviewed "The Last Cannoli" by Camille Cusumano in October 2000 (issue #12) and it is an enchanting story that I highly recommend. That said, my letter is directed in response to a frequent correspondent and the father of the author, Charles A. Cusumano, Arnold, MD. Based on his correspondence, this guy has a lot to say. He needs a journalistic assignment, that's clear.

While, I don't always agree with Mr. Cusumano's opinions--who could?--I would like to say that I find him to be compelling and original. As a suggestion to you, I think that he should be a regular columnist. He is a dynamo that, I would think, any periodical would love to have write a column to shake up its readers. (I would certainly find myself regularly writing reprisals to his firm likes and dislikes.) See, he's inspiring!

He's irritating and, I think, irrational, daunting and didactic, ridiculous and romantic and, finally a poet with pain that needs expression. That's how I see this guy. Really, I'd love to see a column written by him. But, again, that's just my opinion which I wish to express and, of which, I hope, you are kind enough to publish, because I know a little bit about Peterstown and would like to see more enthusiastic opinions about the World as we now know it from a fading legacy. I think Mr. Cusumano is the one to awaken that!

Thank you,  
Donna C. Jokic,  
NYC



## SUPER BOWL PARTY!

The sons of Peterstown would like to thank everyone who made our Super Bowl Party a big success and a ton of fun. 🇺🇸





**Not for Nothing But...**

the real measure of a great coach cannot be put into a box score.

**FALLING CLOSE TO THE APPLE TREE**

The skills Frank Malta brings to the field, both as a player and manager can not be learned from a book. They must be learned first hand. Not everyone has the opportunity to have a quality mentor growing up. That is why sports is such a valuable supplement to the classroom and why good coaches are invaluable.

Frank's role models growing up were his father, Frank and his uncle Vince Malta. They were both formidable ball players. Frank Jr.'s prowess on the field was definitely influenced by his elders but even more important is the values that were also instilled.

(left) The height of Vince Malta's glory days may have come in 1965 playing for the Fighting Angels of St. Anthony's Grammar School, two time Elizabeth Recreation Parochial Grammar School Baseball League Champions.

**FRANK MALTA SETTING THE STANDARD**

Frank Malta is at the top of his game. He always has been as a player, now he is there as a coach. Frank has just started his career in baseball. He is the head Varsity Baseball coach at Arthur Johnson High School in Clark. In 2002 The Star Ledger named him Union County Baseball Coach of the Year. It was only his second year as coach. Given Malta's history it is just the beginning of a brilliant career with many more accolades.

Malta is a master technician. He is an accomplished student of the game. He brings an expertise to the field of someone twice his age. More importantly he has a healthy perspective on sports and life. Malta is the kind of coach parents wish for their children.

Too often, young players don't have their future in perspective. A disproportionate emphasis on sports can have an adverse effect on other decisions. Having priorities correct is one of the first things he teaches.

Frank believes that if your going to do something then give it your best. A lesson that transcends the field of sports. Its a lesson Frank teaches his players and not only by lectures but by example.

Malta has done all his playing and coaching in Union County and at each level has achieved the highest honor. As a player for Elizabeth High School in 1991 he

was named Union County player of the Year. He played at Kean University and in 1995 was selected New Jersey College Baseball Player of the Year by the conference coaches. He was also the selected Most Valuable Player by the NJAC for that year.

The student athletes that will pass through Malta's program will be ahead of the game when they leave. Technically, they will learn baseball and be better players but in practicality, they will learn life skills and find themselves a better person and if they work hard enough they will be in a career doing something they love; just like Coach Malta. 🇺🇸



**NEWLY CROWNED CHAMPS:** St. Anthony's boys won Recreation Department's Parochial Grammar School Baseball League title second time in three years. Front row, left to right: Lee Navarro, Neil Zampella, Vince Malta, Robert Piccolella and Benny Candelino. Middle row: Gary DiGirolomo, Anthony DeRosa, Russell Harris, Danny DeRose and Steve Campo. Top row: Mario Cipriano, Carmine Caruso, Pete Casano, Santo Renda, who pitched one-hitter in title game Saturday, and Coach Mike Camerino.

# GARWOOD WAS FAMILY TO MAYOR CRINCOLI

On January 15, 2003 the mayor of Garwood, Michael Crincoli, passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack. Michael was only 53 years old and in the prime of his life. The entire borough mourns for him as well as friends and family through out the county and around the state.

Michael put people first. To Michael, nothing was more important in life than family and he treated everyone like family. He had an extra ordinary bond with his parents, siblings nieces and nephews. It was with the same intensity that he conducted business. As mayor that ment helping people.

Garwood was Mike's extended family. He was a hands on mayor and would lend a hand where ever needed. His down to earth approach was successful in bringing people

together. Michael had a way of elevating everyone up to one level. Barriers were broken down and everyone worked together and things got done.

Michael worked along side his constituents. To his staff he was more friend than boss. For those who knew him longest he was more like family than friend.

Michael Crincoli has a long and impressive political resume but it's not what he will be remembered by. From where he grew up in Peterstown to the County Court House he will be remembered for being Michael not for being mayor.

A biography could never express the true essence of who Michael was or what he ment to people. The following two reflections would be more appropriate as his curriculum vitae. 📖

## UNCLE MIKE

I wanted to share a story with all of you that I thought really captured how most of us felt about Uncle Michael.

The other day I called Uncle Michael to wish him a happy birthday. We talked for a little while and we asked how each other were doing. We started talking about a humorous e-mail he had sent me and then we got on the topic of my web site. We kidded around for a little while and then he said that he was upset that there weren't many pictures of him posted on the web site. We laughed and I responded by saying "Well that's because you're always leaving early and nobody ever gets a chance to take your picture". We both enjoyed the humor for a little while and then he made some comment about putting me over his knee... that was even funnier.

Anyway, I was pretty upset the night I heard about what happened to Uncle Michael. I was home in North Carolina and I was feeling pretty helpless being so far away from my family. I tried reassuring myself by understanding that God needed Uncle Michael to be by his side more then we did. I convinced myself that it was our love for him that made us selfish and made us want him with us instead. Then I thought about the conversation we had on his birthday. He was always leaving too early. Even now, he had to leave all of us too early. But this time, it was not to take out the dog, or to go to bed on time; it was to serve a much higher purpose.

Uncle Michael may have always been leaving our parties early, but even when he wasn't there beside us, he was always in our hearts and always will be.

## Dear Michael

*You left us far to soon.*

*You went to rest before we were done.*

*Maybe you were tired.*

*I guess I'll never know.*

*I'll miss you.*

*I'll miss your smile.*

*I'll miss your laugh  
and the sound of your voice.*

*I'll miss how you always made me laugh.*

*I'll miss your frequent phone calls.*

*I'll miss your guidance and friendship.*

*I'll miss you my friend.*

*I'll miss you my mayor.*

*Garwood has lost you.*

*We have lost you.*

*Our leader, our friend.*

*Your legacy will live on.*

*We'll see to it that your voice reigns on.*

*Talking to us still.*

*I'll miss you,*

*But more I'll never forget you.*

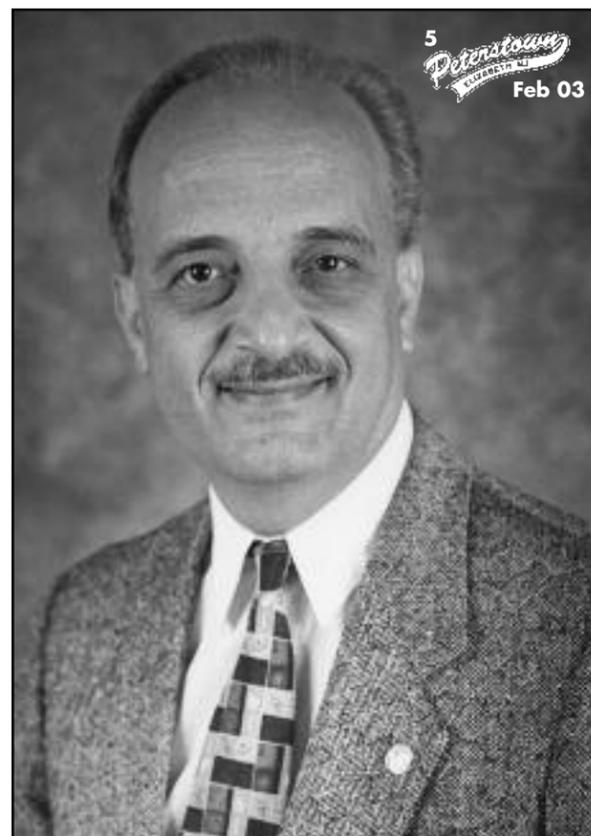
*We'll fulfill your dreams*

*Don't worry about that.*

*I guess I'll say good-bye.*

*Rest in peace my friend.*

*Rest in peace my mayor.*



*I want to wish the Borough  
and its residents the very best.  
I hope the future continues to be bright  
and prosperous for our Borough.  
I look forward to working with  
everyone to achieve this goal.  
Yours always,  
Michael Crincoli/Mayor*

(above) A message from Michael to the people of the Borough of Garwood on the occasion of the town and fire department's 100th Birthday.

(far left) Letter written by Michael's nephew Paul Kutsy and which was read at his funeral.

(left) The sentiments of borough employees, business people and residents of Garwood were expressed in this poem written by borough clerk Christina Ariemma.

(below) An article from clicktown.com announcing Michael's selection into the Mayor's Hall of Fame.



(top right, l-r) Mike; his dad, Rocco; sister, Pauline and brother, Alfonse.

(top right) Mike's parents, Anna and Rocco.

(above) Mike's nieces and nephews.

(left) Mike's great nieces and great nephews.

## GARWOOD MAYOR IS NOW A HALL OF FAMER

After a decade of service, the Hall of Fame beckoned to Mayor Michael Crincoli.

At a ceremony in Atlantic City on November 20, Crincoli was awarded with an induction into the League of Municipalities Mayor's Hall of Fame in the silver category, which awards mayors who have held office for at least 10 years.

"I'm very proud and happy. It was nice to have Garwood employees there, with my family and friends to support me," he said.

According to the League of Municipalities Web Site, "Induction into the Mayor's Hall of Fame recognizes municipal officials who have selflessly guided their communities through the good times and troubled times with little recognition of their sacrifice."

About his new term, Crincoli said, he becomes the longest-serving mayor in Garwood history. He was first elected in 1992 to finish out the two-year unexpired term of his predecessor, and has since been elected to two four-year terms.

"I was very proud and happy to represent the residents of Garwood. Now, we have recognition in Trenton," he said.

# HOME CARE IS NOW CLOSER TO HOME

People Choice Home Care has opened offices at 430 Morris Avenue in Elizabeth. The agency provides service to those who need help due to injury or illness and are unable to perform daily living activities in the privacy of their home.

People choice uses certified home health aids, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and physical therapists. Live-in companions are available to assist patients with medical care and household needs with 24-hour supervision.

There are many situations where a nursing home

or rehabilitation center is not suitable for a temporary or permanent disability. People Choice may be the best choice for care based on individual needs.

If you are on Medicaid then People Choice offers a free consultation to see if you are eligible for home care. Call 908-355-0006 for more details. 📞

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AS A HOME HEALTH AID



People Choice is accredited for training home health care professionals. Classes are offered through the agency that can lead to certification in this growing field. This is a great opportunity to start out on a new career in a growing industry.

People Choice is continually looking for quality personnel to accommodate the growing demands in the market. If you would like to have a good profession and become a certified home health aide call us at 908-355-0006 to sign up for classes.

**PEOPLE CHOICE IS NOW HIRING and paying up to \$10.00 per hour weekdays and \$11.00 per hour on weekends.**

(above) People Choice has opened its newest office on 430 Morris Ave.

## MOOSE CLUB LOYALISTS AT JOANNE'S LUNCHEONETTE

*Submitted by Phyllis Fernandez*

The Linden Loyal Order of Moose #913 and Women of the Moose Chapter #595 are located at 43 Luttuns Place in Linden. The members support many charitable causes as well as community functions. In the past two years we have had fund raisers for many in need. To name a few, Devon Rodrigues, Angela Dombrowski, Jenny Ciano and on March 23, 2003 for Amanda Evelyth.

The members also contribute to the daily care and upkeep of our orphanage "Child City" called "Mooseheart" in Chicago and "Senior Citizens" housing called "Moosehaven" in Florida.

In November with the generosity of many local citizens and businesses in Peterstown the Women of the Moose held their annual Tricky Tray at the Lodge. The chairwomen of the event were Marie Pasko, Diane Galgosci, and Beverly DaSilva. JoAnne's Luncheonette has three generations of Woman of the Moose. Nancy DeMarco, Marie Pasho, Beverly DaSilva and Phyllis Fernandez are all active members. Marie Pasho is a past senior regent and has earned her "Green Cap" and is eligible for her "College of Regents" to be presented in Chicago in May. Our chapter has not had a member receive this degree since 1976. Chapter 595 also received the "Award of Achievement" and "Academy of Friendship" with the help and cooperation of all our members. The Moose is a family fraternity and welcomes families at all times!

John (Chris) Pasko and Victor Fernandez are also members of the Moose. Victoria Fernandes, John Pasko and Denise Pasko, although not members, often contribute their time and expertise to help their parents at the Moose functions. JoAnne's fourth generation, Brandon DaSilva happily attends our children's functions throughout the year. 📞

(above, seated, l-r)  
Anne Gundry,  
Tille August,  
Angela Corrigliano  
& Beverly DaSilva,  
(standing, l-r)  
Gary Galgocci,  
Diane Galocci,  
Marie Pasko  
& Nancy DeMarco



### NEXT EVENT

March 23, 2003

### SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR AMANDA EVELETH

(10 yr old girl diagnosed with Germanoma)

The raffle tickets & dinner dance tickets will be available at Joanne's Luncheonette

461 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ

908-355-3513



(above) DJ John Schipani and stepson, Chris, from Howel, NJ sing Karaoke at Cafe Italia in Peterstown. DJ John brings his brand of Karaoke to Cafe Italia every other Saturday night. His next show is February 15, 2003. John is also at the Villa Nova on Pearl Street every Friday night. Shows start at 9:00.

## ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH EVENTS

### PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND TURKEY

#### *in the footsteps of St. Paul*

St. Anthony's Church is very glad to announce it's third year of pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey. Most of the participants of the first and second pilgrimage have expressed with great enthusiasm the desire to go for a pilgrimage following "The footsteps of St. Paul", and to see the seven early Christian communities that he has founded and to nourish our faith.

The pilgrimage is from September 17th to September 27, 2003. It will be led by Fr. Thomas like the last two years. The flyer and the registration forms are available in the church and in the parish rectory. All those who want to witness and experience the roots of our faith and to enjoy a five day cruise are most welcome.

For more information please call Fr. Thomas at:

<b>Rectory</b>	<b>Convent</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Youth Center</b>
<b>908-351-3300</b>	<b>908-354-0825</b>	<b>908-352-7419</b>	<b>908-353-0177</b>

### ST. ANTHONY'S SENIORS

#### *Valentine Dinner Dance*

St. Anthony's Seniors will hold a Valentine Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 15, 2003. The dance will be held at the Peterstown Community Center on Palmer Street. A Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 pm. The Dinner Dance will follow from 5:00 pm to 10:00pm Admission is \$18.00 per person.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### *Snow-tubing*

St. Anthony's Youth Ministry is sponsoring a snow-tubing outing at Alpine Mountain on Monday, February 17, 2003. The cost is \$22.00. See Fr. Vince for a registration form.

# EVERY DAY SHOULD BE VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's day is the super bowl of romance. A glitzier version of a regular season game. The difference is that in football only one team is victorious. But for couples and romance, nobody loses. The extra hype that surrounds the Super Bowl is consistent with the added pressure of the big game. For the loving couple, the opposite happens. Pressure to perform is heightened on Valentine's Day as a result of all the hype.

Even though a couple in love has already won, it would still be fun to meet on the gridiron and play. It is so much fun that they should want to play every night.

The restaurants advertised in this paper are the field of dreams for romantic interludes. If you can't decide on a place to dine then schedule a championship series and try them all.



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

Valentine's day

is for amateurs.



# JOE TERRA

*Musician - Entertainer - Comic - Actor*

Joe Terracina was a throw back to the original song and dance men. One would think that his fame was a birthright. His brothers were also world renowned. The amount of talent in that family is remarkable. The Tarrecina's have been featured in the last few issues of this paper and it seems that it would take a few more to cover all of their accomplishments.

The photo library of Sal Terracina has been a great resource for many photos that are printed in this paper.

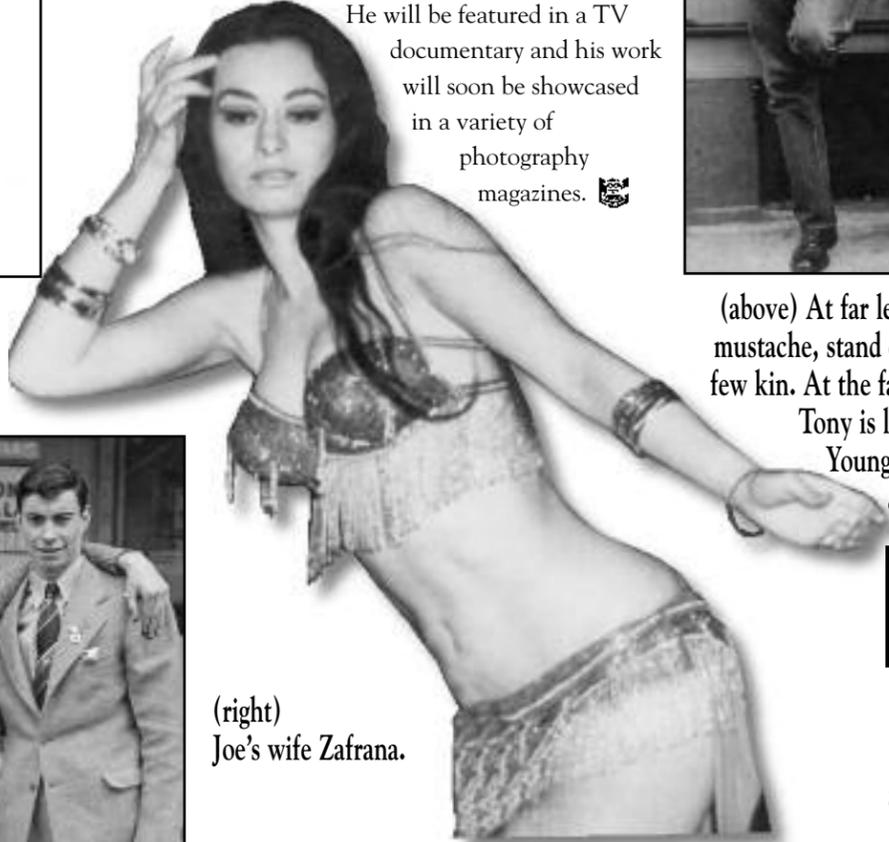
He will be featured in a TV documentary and his work will soon be showcased in a variety of photography magazines. 📷



Joe Terracina, aka, Joe Terra, passed away on January 24, 2003 at the age of 78.



(above) At far left, Joe Terracina, before his beard and mustache, stand outside his home in Peterstown with a few kin. At the far right is his brother "Captain Tony." Tony is locking arms with his wife Mimie. The Youngsters are Tony's sons, Louie and Rich.



(right) Joe's wife Zafrana.

(left) Joe Terracina, in sailer suit, hanging out on the streets of Peterstown.



**Not for Nothing But...**

Zafrana could motivate any school boy to practice his mandoline.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF JOE TERRA'S MULTI-FACETED CAREER

Joe had the distinction of performing at the White House for Presidents L.B. Johnson and Ronald Reagan, and for Robert F. Kennedy's political campaign. He was featured at Jackie Gleason's club in the Hilton Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach where he delighted audiences as a baggy pants comic playing washboard and singing. He will always be especially remembered for his fabulous performances at Your Father's Mustache Club in Greenwich Village, at the Red Garter in Wildwood, New Jersey, at Capt. Tony's Saloon in Key West and in the bahamas at the King's Inn. He appeared at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas and many of the casinos in Atlantic city and at hundreds of club dates across the country. People recognized him wherever he went!

As a musical entertainer, his TV credits included the Ed Sullivan Show, Johnny Carson Show, Mike Douglas Show and others.

He captivated audiences with his exciting trap set drumming and his virtuoso harmonica, slide-whistle and mandolin playing. It was amazing how much music he brought forth from these instruments. Joe was a master juggler, a Three Card Monte expert, a one-man band and kept people rolling on the floor with a comedy bit replete with ball, paddle and hi-li. His impersonation of Charlie Chaplin was outstanding!

Joe was a talented and versatile actor and appeared on TV in "All My Children" and "One Life to Live" and in the film about Captain Tony, "Cuba Crossing." He had a cameo role in "Fort Apache, the Bronx." Other acting credits included roles in Off-Broadway productions.

Joe was an expert horseman and worked on the racetrack as a trainer before his show biz career. He played a mean game of softball in Manhattan with the theatre group teams. He was a skilled and talented photographer. 📷

(right) Joe (Terracina) Terra with the Great One, Jackie Gleason. Terra appeared on Gleason's show four times. (below) Terra with Ed Sullivan after one of his seven appearances on the show.



(below) Joe, pictured at far left, with Lady Bird and President Lyndon Baines Johnson and his fellow band players of the band Your Father's Mustache.





(above) Frank Yori and wife Mea Just celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. Frank organized the Thomas Jefferson Class of 1937 reunion to coincide with "The Old Guard" Christmas Observance Dinner. Yori is a member of both groups. Over two dozen classmates and wives were in attendance.

# MINUTEMEN MEET FOR 65 YEAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

On December 13, 2002, alumni from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson High School class of 1937-38 attended the Old Guard Christmas Party at Nuno's Pavilion in Linden, NJ. A great many tears of joy were shed as old friends who haven't seen each other in years, met up.

The idea was hatched by Frank Yori. Most of the graduates from that year were also members of the Old Guard, a World War II veterans organization. The sad matter of fact is that the number of alumni is dwindling. There were not enough guys around to have a reunion on their own.

The absence of many dear friends adds to the emotion of the event. These school chums, who are now in their mid 80's went through similar experiences. It would be difficult for younger generations to comprehend. These men lived through the Great Depression and were the first wave of soldiers in World War II. When they returned they prepared America for the 21st Century. The seeds that grew the modern marvels of today were planted by this generation fifty years ago.

Not much has to be said in these types of social situations. There is an understanding and sharing of experience conveyed with the minimal effort. Seymore Krevsky was planning to attend but passed away just days before. Some one brought copies of his obituary and Seymore was remembered along with the others who could not be there.

Krevsky's obituary was remarkable. Two columns of accomplishments that included his military experience and his career as an engineer. Frank Yori described his generation on a whole as "making the largest contribution to America." It would be hard to argue otherwise.

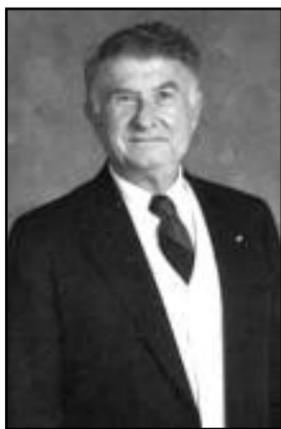
He rattled off a few names and a list of credentials. Pointing to Lieutenant Walter Sottung who was on an aircraft carrier that was hit by a Japanese Kamikaze Pilot. The fact that he survived and was sitting there is only a side bar to the life he lead and the things he did between those times.

The story of these men does not end with them. Their accomplishments are continued through their children and grand children. Their names could rightfully be added to the credits of these achievements. For instance Henry "Hank" Chieffo joined the Elizabeth Fire Department after his discharge from the service. His son Dennis is a detective for the City of Elizabeth and was instrumental in coordinating one of the biggest drug raids that encompassed three cities. Dennis is one of four children who together gave Hank 13 grandchildren and a great great grandchild. Hank talks with pride about every one. They are his legacy.

John Raudonis went on to be an electrician after his stint in the service and owned 9 patents while working at Singers. John's brother-in-law, also a graduate from this class worked on the first satellite to orbit the earth. His ashes are buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Walter Truzack became an Elizabeth police officer in 1947. Eventually he made the rank of captain and was in charge of the Detective Bureau. He is a graduate of the F.B.I. 68th Session, and created the Elizabeth Police Athletic League. Walter has hundreds of stories to tell but his favorite is how he saw his wife at a U.S.O. dance and telling his buddy that was the girl he is going to marry. She is sitting by his side as he tells the story 59 years later.

Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Zeleniak Mr. & Mrs. Walter Truzack



Walter Sottung



Anthony Bellerio



Andre Kovocs



Seymour Krevsky

(below) Elsi Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Frank Yori Mr. & Mrs. Warren Scheller Mr. & Mrs. Mike Laskodi

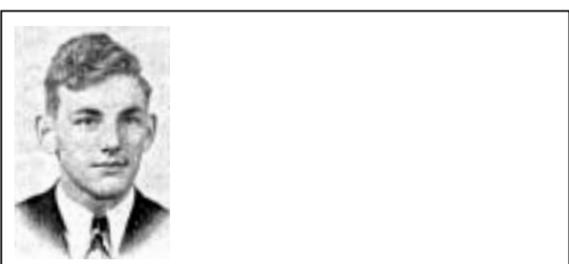
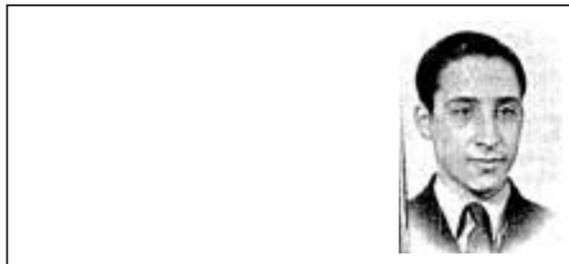
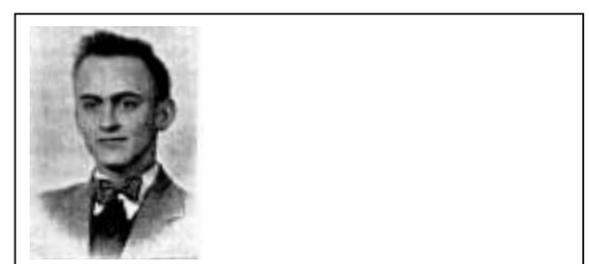
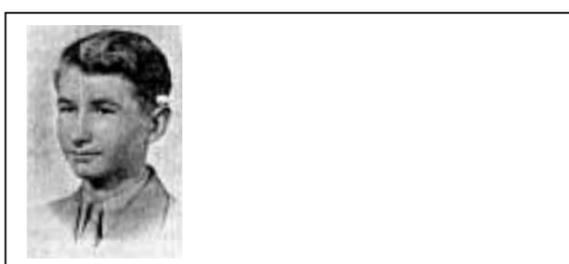
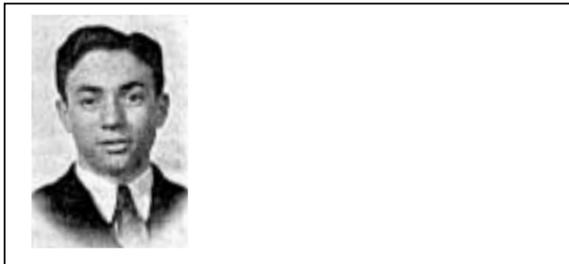
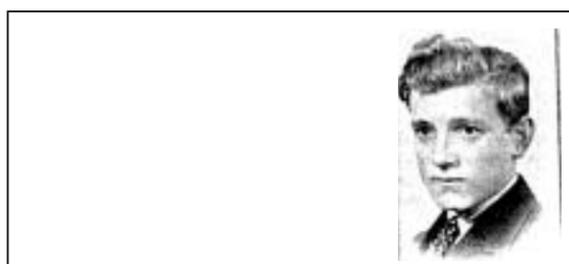


Lorraine Rummel Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Nigro



Henry Chieffo Tom Morris Fred Arena Walter Sottung Mr. & Mrs. John Raudonis

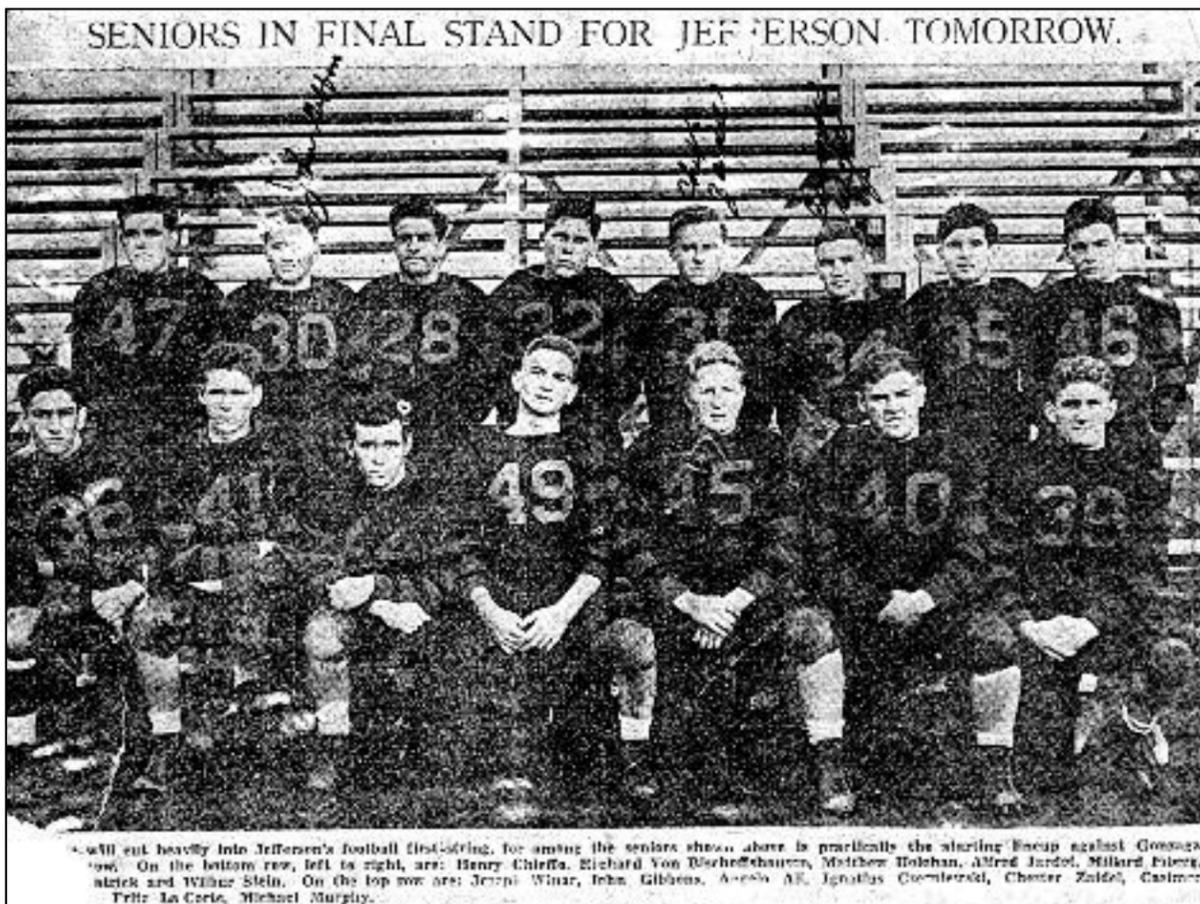
# THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1937



These are yearbook photos of some of the guys who attended their 65th reunion party. Some attendees are in the picture of the football team.

“The Old Guard”, who hosted the party is dedicated to preserving the memories of those who payed the ultimate price so that others can live in freedom.

Number 49, Alfred Jardot, and number 45, Millard Piberg, were lost in the service of their country.



This issue's recipes come from Elizabeth native, Tom Colicchio, who was featured in our Dec 02 issue. Tom is Chef/Co-owner of Gramercy Tavern and Chef/Owner of Craft & Craftbar and Chef at Craftsteak. All three are located in Manhattan. Tom's first book "Think Like a Chef" won the James Beard KitchenAid Cookbook Award in 2001. It's full of recipes, antidotes and plenty of references to his local upbringing. Ask for it any where that books are sold.

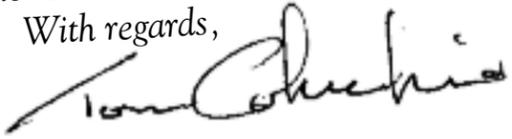
(below) A note sent by Tom in regard to the article.

Joe,  
 Thanks for the fabulous article in the Peterstown Paper. Over the years I have had countless stories in so called "prestigious" publications but this one really warmed my heart.

I guess there is nothing like a "hometown crowd".

Thanks for including my entire family. We are extremely proud and honored.

With regards,



**craftbar**  
 47 East 19th Street New York City 212 780.0880

# Recipes

## Roasted Potatoes, Leeks and Bacon

By Tom Colicchio

### INGREDIENTS:

- (4 servings)
- 3 leeks, white part only, trimmed
- 2 Yukon gold or other all purpose potatoes, scrubbed
- 1/4 pound slab bacon
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme

### PREPARATION:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Quarter the leeks lengthwise. Slice the potatoes into 1/2-inch rounds and dice the bacon. Heat the oil in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat until it simmers. Add the leeks, potatoes, bacon, salt, pepper and thyme. Cook, turning the vegetables frequently, until the leeks and potatoes begin to brown.
3. Transfer the skillet to the oven and roast the vegetables, turning occasionally until they are tender, about 15 minutes. Serve warm.

### NUTRITION INFORMATION

Per 6-ounce serving: 210 calories; 110 calories from fat; 5g protein; 23g carbs; 2g sugar; 12g total fat; 2.5g saturated fat; 10mg cholesterol; 3g dietary fiber; 280mg sodium; 4% Daily Values calcium; 10% Daily Values iron.

## Oyster Chowder with Roasted Cod, Celery Root, and Potatoes

By Tom Colicchio

### INGREDIENTS:

- (Serves 4 appetizer portions - Total time: 1 Hour)
- 6 ounces of cod fillet (1-inch thick)
- 12 oysters, opened (reserve juice)
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil
- 2 medium potatoes, diced
- 2 celery root knobs, diced
- 2 ribs of celery, sliced across
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 leeks, split lengthwise and sliced across
- 1 quart of heavy cream
- 2 cups of milk
- 1 tablespoon of fennel seed
- 1 tablespoon of caraway seed
- 1 bay leaf
- salt and pepper to taste

### PREPARATION:

1. In a medium-sized soup pot, place 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Add onions, leeks, and celery, and cook over medium heat until vegetables begin to soften (about 5 minutes). Add potatoes, celery root, and spices. Cook for another 5 minutes. Add milk, cream, and reserved oyster juice. Simmer until potatoes are cooked through (about 6 to 10 minutes).
  2. Season cod with salt and pepper to taste. Place remaining tablespoon of olive oil into a non-stick pan. Once oil is hot but not smoking add cod. Cook until golden brown, then turn fillet over, and cook for 2 more minutes.
  3. One minute before serving, place oysters in chowder. Flake cod into six pieces, place each portion into a soup bowl, and ladle hot chowder over cod.
- Serve with a high-acid wine, such as a Riesling or a Sauvignon Blanc.

## OLD PHOTOS BRING BACK FOND MEMORIES

Finding a lost memento when you weren't looking for it is always a pleasant surprise. It is cause to stop and reminisce as you hold the trinket in your hand. You may carry the fond memories that were triggered by your little treasure, with you the rest of the day.

Every so often this happens to the readers of this paper. Old photos, sometimes unidentified, are printed along with a story. The faces are generic to almost

everyone. The exception is when the image of a loved is discovered. The image jumps out of the sea of faces.

The photo's composition is magically changed. This one face now dominates the image. It becomes the center of attention, the reason the photo was taken.

Staring at the photo puts you in that place at that time. The past is a nice place to be. It may take hours to get back. 📷

### NEW BESCO SHIRT CO. ANNEX AUGUST 26, 1933



(above) Rocco Crincoli found his wife in this 1933 photo of the Besco Shirt Factory.

(left) Detail of Besco shirt Company photo shows Anna (Venezio) Crincoli at age 18.

(right) A photo of Ann and Rocco Crincoli taken just prior to her death in 1993.





(above) Flower child, Adele Labruzzo spreads Peace, Love and Woodstock at the Club's 60's Party. On April 30, 1990.

# SONS OF PETERSTOWN TURNS 15

The idea of organizing a club fifteen years ago did not seem that important at the time. There were many reasons to do so. The social aspect, as enjoyable we imagined it would be, quickly became a by-product of a more important cause. Communities need to be self sufficient and clubs are Peterstown's way of doing it.

As the dozen or so clubs in existence were showing signs of wear, there seemed a need to continue the tradition. The clubs that were started by our parents and grandparents were slowly shrinking as the members aged. These clubs existed to support the community. They were part of our culture. Peterstown is a community that believes in being self sufficient, in taking care of each other, protecting children and respecting elders. These

clubs were there for individuals and families, who through tragedy or misfortune, needed help. Cases that fall between gaps left by social service programs or insurance coverage and are left to fend for themselves. The clubs have always been there for those who need help, through illness or loss, when immediate relief is needed, before agencies even started to process paper work.

This is the cause that the Sons of Peterstown has taken up. For up to 100 years those other clubs have been doing this charitable work. Their original members are either not capable of continuing or may even be in need of special assistance themselves. It is up to our generation to step up. The Sons of Peterstown is committed to continuing this legacy. For our parents and grandparents, for our children and grandchildren, for our friends and neighbors.

The members of the club are committed to continuing their work. The club is appreciative of those individuals and businesses that answer the call and give generously when asked.

Unquestionably, there is no better time in the world than hanging out with 40 or 50 life long friends. And though it may seem like bedlam, nothing is more fun than when our members work on producing an event. And nothing is more rewarding than when we see our efforts go to helping someone. 🍷

(below) The club's first official club house was in the old Arace Travel Agency building at 656 Third Avenue on the corner of South 7th Street.

In the summer of '88, The Sons of Peterstown held their first picnic for members, family and friends in School 3 Playground, O'Brian Field. (right) Lines formed to throw pies at president John Sacco, who's face is on Marilyn Monroe's body.



## 1987

The club was established in June of 1987. Our first meeting place was in the basement of Alibi's, formerly Pebble's Lounge, previously known as "Joe Tiger's Place".

(right and below)) On September 13, 1987, the club held its first fund raiser - a Spaghetti Dinner for the Charles Dagro Fund. Held in St. Anthony's school cafeteria.



(below) Members huddle for a group shot in the basement of Alibis in October 1988.





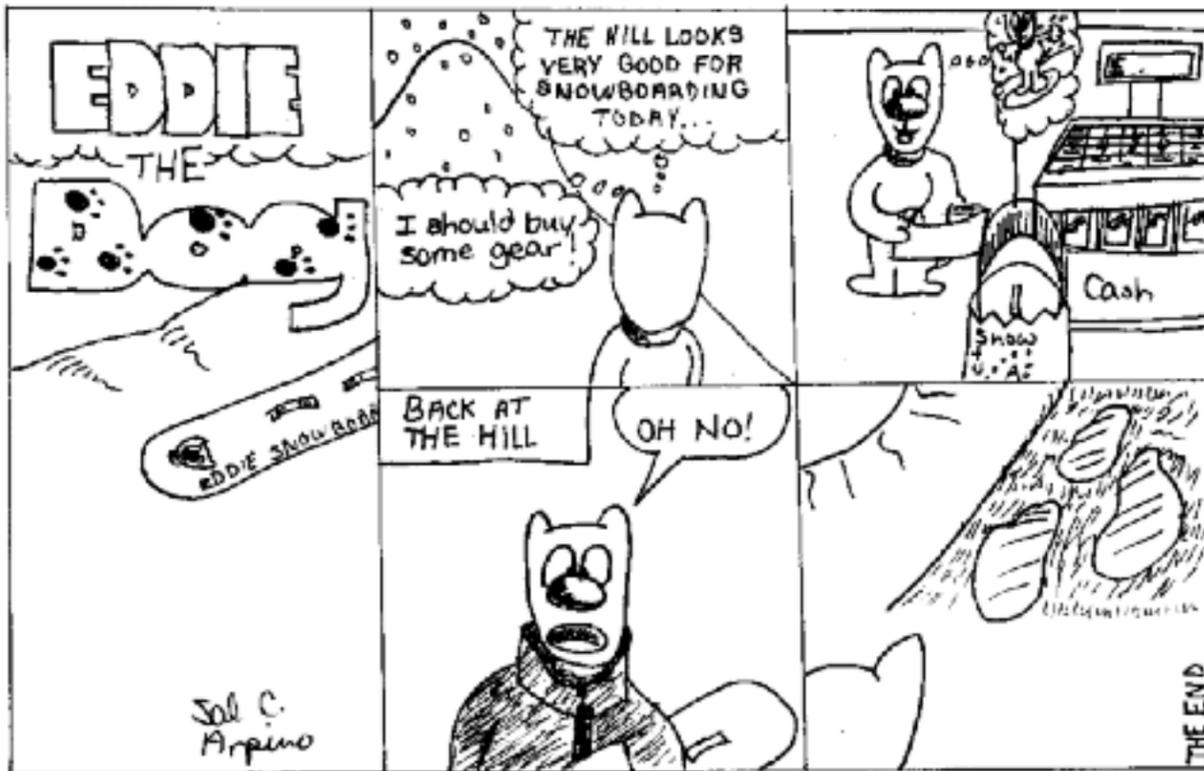
(above, l-r) Special effects in the 1977 movie, Star Wars, made science fiction believable. Chewbacca could be the illusive Bigfoot monster. Mark Hamil, as Luke Skywalker, seemed almost masculine. Shakespearian actor Alec Guinness did a fantastic job acting dignified even though he took the part of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Harrison Ford, a sexy leading man? Pa-lease.

(above ) Now, if real life F-16 Fighter Pilot Joe Brennan played Hans Solo then the movie could have been labeled a documentary. As a sexy leading man, Brennan would have ditched Princess Leia, played by Carrie Fischer, for being too high maintenance. Besides Brennan, in his rightful role as Solo, find nine other changes to the scene and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern in the Park. (See form below for details.)

## EDDIE THE DOG

By Sal Arpino

Sal Arpino is an eighth grader at Deerfield School in Mountainside.



This writing gem was found on the Peterstown message board on the joerenna.com website. Eventually each issue will make it's way to the site. Trying to find the time to do so has been the major hurdle. An advantage the site has over the printed paper is that it can accommodate many more images. For instance about 40 photos from the 1999 reunion of the bands party in St. Anthony's are posted.

The message board should be the hottest feature. The response to the initial promotion has been sparse. But the few messages that were left are very wacky. Much like this list of resolutions. The posters chose to be anonymous but the suspicion is that they are the publisher's screwball friends of 35 years.

Some people had a little trouble logging on to the message board and some times it is a little slow. Anyone experiencing any problems should keep trying.

The hope was that the message board would take on a life of it's own and be a place where anyone anywhere can leave information or ask questions. But if it turns into a home for wayward wit masters, that'll be cool too.

*Leave a message on the  
Peterstown Message Board  
or read what others have to say.  
joerenna.com*

## SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE 2003 YOUR BEST YEAR YET!

These really work. Try them and see for yourself.

1. Wake up your taste buds. Introduce them to new flavors and sensations. One of my favorite discoveries this past year was cooking bacon with a teaspoon of vanilla and a handful of organic potting soil.
2. Make a promise to yourself to enjoy yourself more. Laugh at things that in the past would make you cry. If a friend or neighbor confides in you about some personal tragedy, laugh right in his/her face. You will feel just great!
3. Help another person establish self-esteem. Tell a casual acquaintance that without them in your life, you would have no direction or purpose. Think of how good you would feel if somebody you hardly knew told you that!
4. Show respect to all. Address strangers as "Your Highness" or "Mr. President". The respect you show will someday come back to you. Establish your karma before you die. Because then it is too late. When you are dead. Too late.
5. If you really want to achieve self-renewal, shave all your body hair, including your head and eyebrows, and hang upside down for 6 hours. When you right yourself you will feel light on your feet and clean as a whistle. If possible, lay in a field of clover or a crowded fast-food restaurant for another hour while thinking happy thoughts.
6. Protect yourself by paying more attention to your personal safety. Avoid eye contact with clowns. Regard all midget's as innately evil. If you encounter a stray camel, sing to the beast in a high-pitched voice until it falls asleep. Then do all mankind a favor and kill the water hoarding hump-back with your bare hands and teeth.
7. Take a vow of silence at work. Issue an email one Monday morning stating that henceforth you will only communicate through facial expressions. This may seem risky, but in the long run it will boost your professional standing.
8. Attempt to break all ten of God's Commandments in one day. Begin the chosen day with a long, luxurious bubble bath and then commence to reek havoc over the next 24 hours. If you get hung up on "thou shalt not kill", just take your own life if you feel that is easier.
9. Address all 4-legged mammals (except camels) as "sir" or "madam". This will payoff big time in the afterlife.
10. Come to the realization that, despite your best efforts, everything in life - EVERYTHING - will end badly. Accept this, embrace it, and then live your life accordingly.
11. Treat yourself to a custom made suit of polished tin. Wear this out during the first full moon of each month. If approached by children or policemen, tell them you are a "child of the moon whose God-given mission is to lead the way". Then lead them to the nearest all night diner and order the pot roast special.
12. Install a cup holder in your shower. You may never use it, but at least you know that thanks to you it is there.
13. Treat others as you would want them to treat you. Treat yourself best of all. And if you happen to see me, treat me to a good meal.
14. For once and for all, prove to yourself how tough you really are. Buy a pair of shoes one size too small and wear them for a whole day. Tell yourself that you can easily tolerate this pain and that it will make you a better person somehow. At the end of the day donate those shoes to a charity. On the way home, run in your bare feet at full speed into walls head first.
15. Improve your failing memory by jotting notes on yourself while people are talking to you. They will be greatly impressed by your interest in their comments.
16. Invent and speak a made-up language while shopping for a new car. When the salesperson attempts to give you the worst deal ever possible, reveal yourself as a native born speaker of English and threaten to tell his mommy on him. You will have saved his soul and have a fascinating story to tell at otherwise boring dinner parties.

### And...

Keep this in mind as you enter the new year:

I knew a man that I did not care for and then one day this man gave me a call we sat and talked about things on our mind and now this man, he is a friend of mine. Lets make this a good year! We can do it.

# DR. BRENNAN PROMOTED TO FULL COLONEL

Those who are not familiar with the military should do a little research to understand the significance of the rank of colonel. For Elizabeth native, Dr. Joe Brennan, it is just one of many accomplishments that are equally distinguished. Success on this scale does not come overnight or as a result of some big action or undertaking. Brennan's accomplishments as a colonel and as a surgeon came from hard work over a long period of time. His goals were incremental and culminated in his recent promotion. More significant is the fact that he has been in the business of saving lives.

Presently, Joe is the Chairman of Otolaryngology at Wilford Hall Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas. It is the largest air force hospital in the world with 400 beds and treats patients from around the world. Brennan is also the Chief ENT surgeon in the Air Force and the ENT Consultant to the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General.

There is no easy way or fast track to what Brennan has accomplished. One may think so for Brennan is but 42 years old. What he has accomplished in that time can be attributed to the quality of Brennan's intellect and the integrity of his work ethic. Both are extraordinary. He was shown how to use those gifts by his father, Joseph,

who was the Elizabeth, NJ Police Director under Mayor Dunn, and his mother Pat.

Joe had no special advantages growing up except loving parents and solid family values. The course Joe took in his career he paved himself. He is an inspiration to our youth. A testament to American freedom and how we truly are in a land of opportunity.

Joe attended Thomas Jefferson/Elizabeth High School and graduated in 1978, he then went to the United States Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982. He continued his education attending Tufts Medical School in Boston on an Air Force scholarship and graduated in 1986. He then trained at a 6 year ENT residency at the University of Colorado in Denver and then continued his education with a 2 year Head and Neck Cancer Fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Besides his duties at the Wilford Hall Medical Center Brennan lectures and has been published.

Parents encourage their children to pick entertainers and sports figures that are celebrated in society as role models. Our youth would be far better off knowing about Dr. Joe Brennan and his accomplishments.



(above) Dr. Joe Brennan rests in a state of euphoria. Special bonds are developed between friends over the course of 35 years that allows the spirit of the individuals to soar. No longer is the mind trapped by the confines of self consciousness. Psychological defense mechanisms melt away with the knowledge that your friend is present. A level of comfort can be achieved akin the metaphysical states achieved by meditating gurus. The subconscious, usually on guard, is given furlough but the mind does not feel vulnerable as long as a friend is near. Even though that friend may happen to have a camera handy.

As Joe's friend, I consider it an honor to see him in this position. It is a tribute to our friendship and the repose he has in me, as I do him. Except, Joe screwed up. He trusted me.

(left) 1978 Elizabeth High School Valedictorian Joe Brennan as he entered USAF Academy.

## LIVING LARGE ON THE LAZY J. RANCH

Dr. Joe Brennan resides at the Lazy J. Ranch in Boerna, Texas with his wife, Pam, four sons and a small menagerie which includes a horse named Skip.

(below) The Brennan Boys: Brendan, Liam, Joseph and Daniel.



*I attribute all my success to mine pallies Vito, Mac, Laface and Joe R. We have all been friends for over 35 years. Some of my best memories are from my many days spent in Peterstown at the festivals, playing whiffle ball, and eating Italian ice.- The Texan*

(above) Brennan gives his hommies their props. (right) Joe Brennan (center) is flanked by his lifetime friends - Vito, Mac, Laface and Joe.



## CLOSING FOR KIDS

Westfield, NJ, January 2003-Emerson Amador, REALTOR Broker Salesperson with RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield, has joined the national RE/MAX Children's Miracle Network Home Program. Under this program, Emerson will donate a specific amount of money to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) per sales transaction.

Emerson will display the colorful "Miracle Home" riders on top of his RE/MAX yard signs and home seller and buyer can feel good knowing that their transaction has made a positive change in the lives of children in New Jersey.

"Participating in the Miracle Home Program is just one way to give back to the community that has given so much to me," said Emerson. "It's a great feeling to know that with every transaction, I am not only helping a client, but I am also making a positive difference in the life of a child."

Emerson Amador can be reached by calling RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield at (908) 233-9292 ext 34, Direct (908) 216-1448 or visit his website [www.home4you2.com](http://www.home4you2.com).

RE/Max is the exclusive real estate sponsor for CMN, a national non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the children's hospitals. This year RE/MAX associates made a record contribution of 4 million dollars to CMN. 

## REAL ESTATE CORNER

### TINO & HOWARD'S

Well its no secret that its cold out. For the last three weeks the east coast has been bombarded with arctic weather. Unfortunately many people cannot afford to have their heat on when they need it most. Occasionally the elderly will by pass having oil delivered to their homes because their social security checks did not arrive.

Recently in Elizabeth we have had many major fires. Due to the cold weather people attempt to keep their homes warm by keeping the stove on. This causes a very dangerous situation, not only to the homeowner or their tenants but also to the neighbors.

Spring is almost here. Believe it or not in another forty days or so we will be turning back our clocks and we will have more daylight. Valentines and Easter are just around the corner.

Typically the real estate market heats up with more daylight and the blossoming of the trees and flowers. This year interest rates are still very low. At present time they are at 6% and the real estate market continues to thrive because of the low interest rates. As a realtor, I hope the rates will remain this way forever but its unlikely. Buyers should take advantage of these rates now. Housing prices have stabilized in our region but come spring there may be a rush to buy again. If the rates remain the same we may see prices creep up once again. The real estate market has been the back bone of our economy for the last three years. The real estate industry in general is typically the locomotive that spurs our economy. When

people buy homes they also buy furniture and other appliances. When the real estate industry slows down those other industries also slow down. Could you imagine our economy today if the real estate industry was slow?

Governor McGreevy has stated that his intent is stopping sprawl. The governors intents are good but practically speaking our state is too small to restrict growth. People want to live close to their jobs. They do not want to live in the north and commute to the south. The idea is that you can still develop housing in Bergen and Hudson counties is ridiculous because there is no land to develop. The governor does not realize how many people depend on the building industry. If you stop developing you will cause more un-employment. If people do not have jobs they cannot pay taxes. The State of NJ has a 5 billion deficit presently.

Imagine in the future what will happen if carpenters, laborers and construction workers had no jobs. Not everyone is qualified to be a white-collar employee. There are people who dirty their hands everyday to make a living and take pride in the work that they do. I will take the traffic and the inconvenience any day over unemployment.

I agree with the governor that we should maintain farmland and open space were appropriate. But I do not believe that putting a one-year moratorium on construction is good for the State of NJ. The state should set aside certain areas of raw land for farming. We cannot also forget that there are not many farmers left in NJ. Depriving a potential homeowner a location to live will not bring back farmers.

*Submitted by Justino Rosa*