

# IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO BASICS

It's ironic how the same technology that has made the world small has also caused communities to disseminate. The necessity to cluster in urban centers is less crucial to survival. Value systems were once rooted in physical, spiritual and emotional interaction. To achieve the same level of community life has now become a challenge.

At one time, the family was at the base of the community, but that is no longer true in fact, even the meaning of the word "family" has changed. Today the word "family" refers to parents and their children. Anyone outside that core group is strictly an arms-length relationship. Up to the 1960's, families were extended past the range of second cousins, once removed. What was more remarkable than the family's social bonds was their geographical relationship. Generations were born and raised within city blocks of each other. In most cases, the units of a multiple dwelling were all occupied by the same family.

The next tier of the community consisted of relationships between neighbors. Friendships were so tight that they would blend together with family ties. The trust and love between neighbors was just as strong as family. Marriage between different families within the community strengthened ties even deeper. This was the way it was for many neighborhoods, especially the immigrant communities that huddled together out of necessity, before they assimilated or were even given the opportunity to assimilate. Life centered around the family, the church and work. These aspects of living were so paramount that everything else played second fiddle. Entertainment, recreation, and of course, socializing, revolved around those three mainstays.

Between the Industrial Revolution and WWII, society was turned on its ear. When the baby boomers hit the scene, all heck broke loose.

America had another revolution. This time it was social. New freedoms of expression and mobility upset the status quo. There were new ways of living. It was a time to tune out, turn off and drop out. The effect on the communities was shattering, like dropping a bowl of M&Ms on the floor. The core of the communities scattered. In the new order of things, the role that family played was diminished. Today the "me" generation looks out for number one. There is no time left to think of others. Life is defined by personal satisfaction.

Peterstown stuck to the traditions that brought it along into the new millennium. Many families have stayed within the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood. Those who didn't are faced with a task of preserving the value structure that was inherent with living there. That would mean leaving the cul-de-sac and making an effort to reach out to the community at large. Getting back to sharing and experiencing life together and helping others.

Some people yearn for things to be the way they remember they once were. But they speak as if it is impossible. The reality is that it is possible. There are enough people with the values that made the old neighborhoods so wonderful. The biggest hurdle is to understand the concept that thinking of the welfare of others first, results in the fulfillment of oneself.

Mother Teresa said "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." By starting with the elders and working on down, it is possible to touch every life in a positive way. But first someone has to get on their knees and pick up all those M&Ms. 



Passport photo of Sal Angelo's grandmother Caterina (Coniglio) Ciaccio, age 39. His mother, Mary and Uncle Joseph, ages 10 and 11, taken in Ribera Sicily September 1919. Sal traced his family tree back 5 generations to the 1700's. His second article on the subject is inside on page 10.



On May 30, 2003, Carmella Fortunato celebrated her 102nd birthday. On hand to share in the celebration were neighborhood friends from Peterstown, along with her children, her children's children and their children. Pictured with Carmella is her great granddaughter, Tiana.

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:

**AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN**  
202 Walnut Avenue  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
(908) 709-0530  
Fax: (908) 709-9209  
E-mail: joerenna@joerenna.com

**JOE RENNA**  
Publisher / Editor

**TINA RENNA**  
Copy Editor



**SONS OF PETERSTOWN SPORTS CLUB**  
412 South 7th Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

**JOHN SACCO**  
President

**ANTHONY SACCA**  
Vice President

**LOUIS LaBRUTTO**  
Secretary

**JIM PALERMO**  
Treasurer

**CHRIS COLLETTI**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**President's Message**



We had a record snow this winter and now it is followed by record rains all spring. I feel like we should prepare for locust this summer.

Aside from the weather being brutal, all is well on the home front. Things are less stressful in the world but we must still be very cautious. The picnic went off well, though it was postponed a day because of rain. This was the first time we planned it on a Saturday and since we never plan a rain date it was almost divine intervention that gave us a beautiful Sunday to have the picnic the following day.

I would like to thank all the members who helped and all those in attendance who joined us to honor our man of the year, Carl Corsentino.

Club member, Joe Renna is running for Union County Freeholder this year. We wish him the best of luck and encourage everyone to get out and vote for Joe. Everyone knows Joe for his integrity, hard work and community service. He will surely do what's right for the people.

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

www.  
**Joe Renna**  
com

Visit our website.  
Leave a message  
on our Peterstown  
Message board.

Member:



Printed on  
Recycled Paper



**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,

I'd like to share a story about my brother, Bob Lesniak, and his dog, Rusty with the readers of Around About Peterstown.

Bob Lesniak and his wife Barbara (the former Barbara Wade from Spring Street in Elizabeth) are crazy about this dog and treat him like their child. Bob and Barb have no children. They are so proud of him they had t-shirts and sweatshirts made with his picture on them and gave them to family members.

Several years ago, Bob and his co-workers, while having lunch outside, came across this pup, who was obviously starving and in poor condition. Bob took him home, and pending the approval of his wife, intended to keep him. She fell in love with the pup, and the rest is history.

Bob visits his parents (Loretta and Frank Lesniak) every Sunday morning for breakfast, along with Rusty, and Bob's dad makes Rusty a scrambled egg, which Rusty loves and goes over to the area in the kitchen where he knows the egg will be as soon as he goes through the door.

Rusty is an exceptionally smart dog and Bob has taken much pleasure in training him to perform many tasks.

Bob was born and raised on Fourth Avenue in Peterstown, 3rd generation, and while a member of the "Sons of Peterstown" held the distinction of being the only member of Polish descent.

Best regards,  
Darlene Boyle  
Rahway, NJ



**Happy father's day, Bob.-  
Love Rusty**



(above) Ed Boyle, ready to do his gardening, wears his "Rusty" T-shirt that he received from his brother-in-law, Bob. Bob gave the shirts out to his entire family for Christmas. It was a thoughtful gift but what was he thinking?

Hi Joe

The article of my trip to Japan was really good. I liked the way you set up the photo with the text. I'm going to send a copy of the paper to Japan. They will be reading the Peterstown news in Komoro City, Japan.

Thanks!  
Len Merlo

Dear Joe,

Thank you so much for your article about our son Joe. We are so proud of Joe and his brothers.

We received several calls from family and friends. As a life long friend you painted a true picture of Joe. He has achieved all the goals he set out to do and I'm sure he has not finished yet. As you know he would be the last one to blow his own horn.

Thanks,  
Joe & Pat Brennan  
Spring Lake, NJ

Dear Mr. Renna,

I love the paper and look forward to each edition. Such memories. The April 03 Issue had a picture of my beloved Paul with his 1937 championship basketball team.

Thank you, good luck and God bless,  
Santina Novello  
Delray Beach, FL

(right) Regular contributing writer Charles Cusumano and his wife Carmela



Dear Tina & Joe,

The prodigal son has returned penitent and awaiting his penance. I can't seem to shake the cobwebs from my brain but I'm back anyway, and with a flourish.

By the way, here's something very few people know. We had a section in Elizabeth called New Mexico. It's boundaries were South Park and 6th Street (East) 6th Street to Trumbull Street and Mainline Central R.R., Trumbull Street North to Division Street, there Trumbull, South Park and Division Streets came together. The community had its own identity and the people who lived there had pride in their neighborhood.

We had separate football, softball, etc., teams. It was a great place to live, but Peterstown always beckoned. All our relatives and friends who came from Sicily joined St. Anthony's Church where I was an altar boy from 1930 to 1936. I thought I was so old back then. I remember Fr. Ruvola, Fr. Zolin, Fr. Rinaldi and Fr. Bregolstro. It was after Fr. Rinaldi came that I enlisted in the army. Fr. Bregolstro married Carmela and I in July 1941. I was already on my 2nd enlistment and a staff sergeant.

Well Tina and Joe until I can regain my span of concentration I will keep trying. I'm on my 84th year, maybe I should take a course or two at our community college. Help me to think.

With good wishes and affection,  
Charles A. Cusumano  
Stevensville, Maryland

PS. Please mail all back-issues available to my "Goomba" John Nash. John Nash and I grew up on South Park Street. We were and still are like brothers. He was my best man. He never married, he hasn't been able to find another Carmela Catalano. He knew all of my Peterstown friends.

(below) A detail of the map of Elizabeth indicating the parameters of an old neighborhood called New Mexico.

**NEW MEXICO, ELIZABETH, NJ**



**PETERSTOWN, ELIZABETH, NJ**

# Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

According to the Election Law Enforcement Commission, the county wide expenditures for the Democratic Party for the 2002 elections was \$1,000,000. I'm no Milton Freedman but can the position of Union County Freeholder, that pays \$28,000 a year, be worth that much? You bet it is.

The Freeholders hold the purse strings of a \$341,000,000 budget. That's some righteous bucks. In fact it's your righteous bucks, the tax payer! And for the past three years in a row the county has raised their portion of your property tax bill almost 10% per year. There is no indication that next year is going to be any different.

Most people don't know what a Freeholder is or what the county does with the money it collects. If you look at your property tax bill you will see that about half goes to your Board of Education, about 25% goes to your municipality and about 25% goes to the county. In fact some people pay more tax to the county than they do their town. When the school or city taxes go up, everyone gets up and screams and hollers. When it comes to their county taxes most people don't even notice what is happening.

Many cities are struggling to make their budgets work. Last months newspaper reported that Rahway is looking to lay off policemen and educators in order to get the budget under control. At the same time the county has increased it's levy on the property tax. Cities and BOE's know how sensitive the property tax issue is and hesitate to raise the tax because there may be political repercussions. There is only so much tax that could be collected. When the county hits the property owners with a higher tax, then that is less that is available for education and safety on the local level.

The Union County Freeholders are immune to the threat of being voted out. With the amount of cash at their disposal, the incumbents can do anything they wish without fear of losing their seat.

The classic end to a con artists career is when he gets too greedy. The arrogance of the con causes him to extend himself, never thinking he will ever get caught. If the con was successful so far why not go for a bigger payoff? When he inevitably does, he gets noticed.

The county is creeping dangerously close to the point in which their actions will have a detrimental effect on some fundamental issues.

On May 29, 2003, just before the Freeholder Board voted on approving the 2003 budget, an additional \$500,000 was added to the tax levy. There is no checks or balance system in our county government. Taxpayers

are being fleeced. People are not informed and, even if they were, they are powerless to stop the Freeholders from doing what they want. The only way to stop this thievery is to elect new Freeholders who will balance the one sided Democratic board. At the very least an independent voice on the board can keep the public informed.

That is why I have chosen to run for Union County Freeholder this year. Running for office is something I have been wanting to do for a long time. For ten years I have been working with many municipalities, Urban Enterprise Zones, Special Improvement Districts, government agencies and non-profits. This has been my career. I sold my business and joined on with the county in 2001. I am a member of the American Society of Public Administration and I will receive my masters degree in public administration in less than a year. Details of my career can be found on my website under resume.

There are many services that the County delivers that are valuable to the public. But not \$341,000,000 worth. The waste is incredible. The money should be back in the hands of the people who earned it. The county should accentuate the programs that do the most good and cut the waste.

As a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders I intend to make sure that people are informed about how the county operates. As a board member, I will give the people the opportunity to have a real say in the decisions I make.

I can be a very effective representative of the people. That is what I would like to accomplish. I'm not running because I hate anyone. I don't hate anyone. I do realize people now hate me for running. It's sad to think that running for office is regarded as hatred for an opponent. I'm running because I believe that I can improve the County Government. I will show the deficiencies that exist and offer solutions. 🗳️



Rita LaBrutto, Consistent, Passionate, Tenacious, Practical, Sincere

## CRANFORD VOTES FOR LaBRUTTO IN NOVEMBER

Voters in Cranford will be treated by having Rita LaBrutto as a choice for Township Committee. Rita (nee Ciaccio) is on the ballot this November 4th, running on the Republican line. Rita took to following local politics when she noticed the effect development was having on quality of life issues. In 2001 she took a monumental step up to the microphone at a committee meeting and the rest was history.

For the past three years Rita has taken the opportunity for public comment at both the Committee and Zoning Board meetings. She makes the majority of meetings which, in turn, made her a little bit of a celebrity on channel 35, the local access station where the meetings are broadcast.

She is sometimes critical, sometimes supportive but always inquisitive. Clarification on the issues is her main goal. Her main concern is density and how it effects the schools and public safety.

Rita intends to put public interests first. She intends to do that using a common sense approach to promote fiscal responsibility, stop over-development and preserve historic and open space.

This is Rita's first run at public office. She considers serving as a community service. She learned that trait from her dad, Benny, who was very active in Peterstown. If elected Rita will bring her experience from working 30 years for Verizon, where she is a Corporate Finance Director.

LaBrutto is an experienced project manager, skilled contract negotiator and astute in budgeting and forecasting.

Rita married her childhood sweetheart, Louis, and moved to Cranford 16 years ago. They have three daughters - Cristina 14, Victoria 11, and Jaqueline 9.

Rita LaBrutto proposes to use sound judgement in her role on the committee. Sound judgement by the voters would result in her winning in November. 🗳️



**Not for Nothing But...**

could everyone stop asking if I could get you a job?



## WINNING ON A SHOE STRING BUDGET

I intend to run my campaign using techniques that should cost little or nothing. I could never compete with the dollar amount that the incumbents are spending, but I do like to write. And so I will be combining my love of writing with the love of government and getting the word out.

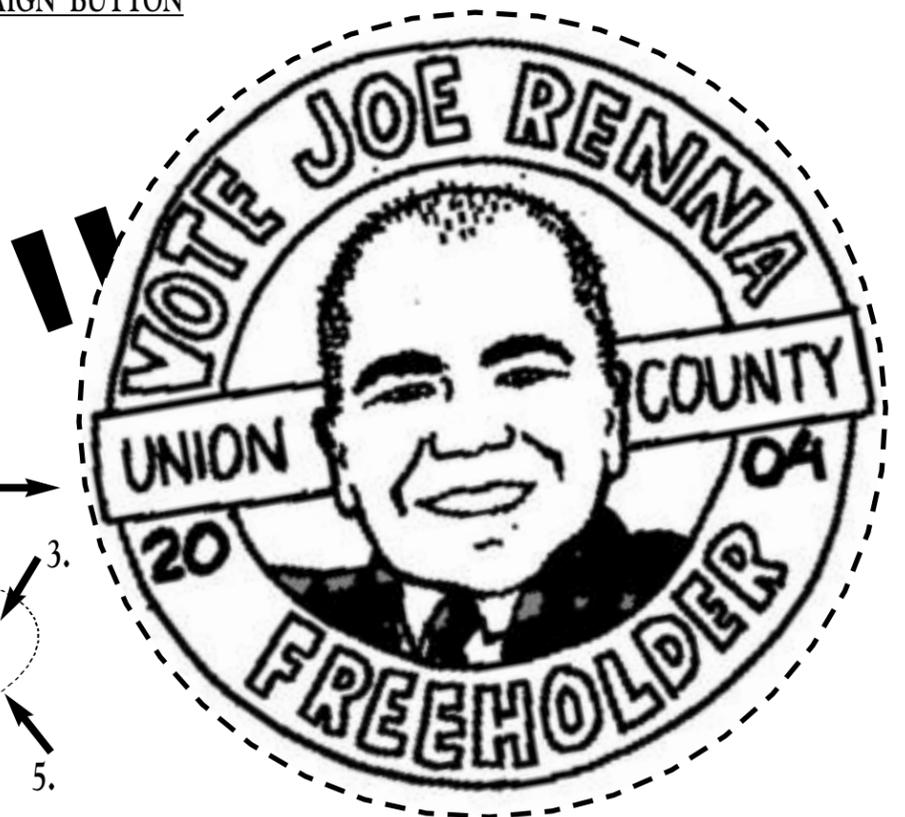
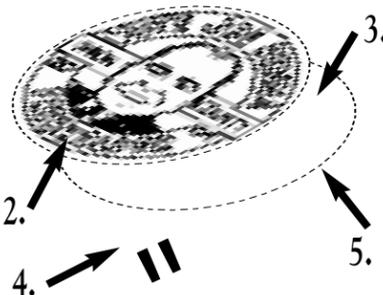
I will be writing every day, in the Union County Forum of NJ.com. I will be posting articles on my website, joerenna.com and emailing to anyone who cares to know what I think on a certain issue.

I would also like to set up a network of people who can help distribute a newsletter that I'm going to produce just for the campaign. Helping will be fun, educational and whatever else you want it to be.

I won't be beholden to corporate sponsors or individuals that contributed to my campaign. And so I don't expect much in the way of contributions. If you want to help then start talking. Good old word-of-mouth will get me the exposure I need. If you want to be active call my wife/campaign manager, Tina, at 908-709-0530.

### MAKE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN BUTTON

1. Make copies of the badge for friends & family.
2. Color them (if you wish).
3. Glue them to pieces of Oak Tag Paper.
4. Cut the circles along the dotted line.
5. Stick a pin through the back and wear with pride.



# MY DAD'S LIFE IS MY LESSON IN LIFE

By Joe Renna

I remember being 17 and arguing with my brother over who would get the car keys. I remember my father coming home, cold from working in freezing temperatures all day, 200 feet up on the rigging at the Exxon refinery. He didn't seem to mind the cold so much that day because he was more worried about his eyes. He had caught a "flash" while welding, which can burn the retinas of the eyes. Not much could be done when that happened. He would wait it out until he could see again. He would go to bed earlier than usual, the pain would make falling asleep difficult. He had to wake up the next next morning at the crack of dawn and live the same day over again.

Did I say he "had to"? I know no one "has to" do anything. My father chose to work hard every day. He had seven kids and he wanted to give them the best opportunities in life. Things he didn't have. He wanted them all to have Catholic school educations. He wanted them all to go to college. He wanted them all to work in a way in which they wouldn't dread the day.

My dad never had that. He never had much of anything. He scraped a social life together hanging with his life long friends, in their club house or local gin mill. They played cards and went home early. Everyone of them had to answer the whistles blow come morning. Every one worked hard, physical work. Every one was weary. But they chose to do it.

My father didn't consider what he was doing as making a choice. He believed it was the right thing to do. He was providing for his family the best he could. Anything else would be a cop out; not an option.

I remember looking at my brother and giving up the keys, at that point I don't think he wanted them either. Here we were fighting over who gets the car and all I could think of was my dad. I thought about him at 17. He was in

the invasion of North Africa. His troop transfer ship was struck and he had to swim to safety. The same thing would happen to him again. This time in the Solomon Islands during the invasion of Bougainville. The following year, 1943, he was aboard the USS Penn and again was in a fight for his life. The ship was lost along with 98 of his shipmates. What was I fighting for?

My father continued his tour of duty assigned to a destroyer stationed in the Pacific. He was part of the 3rd fleet under the command of Admiral Bull Halsey. After his time in the service, he signed on for two tours with the Merchant Marines.

Compared to the war, his struggles at home must have seemed trivial. But of course they weren't, not by my standards, anyway. Standards that he earned for me. Relative to his life, mine has been a blessing. I make my living writing. After the war getting work was tough enough. My dad drove a truck, shaped the labor hall even worked as a Union County corrections officer before learning his trade as a pipe fitter.

My father made choices his whole life but he couldn't tell me what choices to make. My world was light years away from his. Though he couldn't tell me what to choose he was able to show me why I should make my choices. It always came down to the doing what's right.

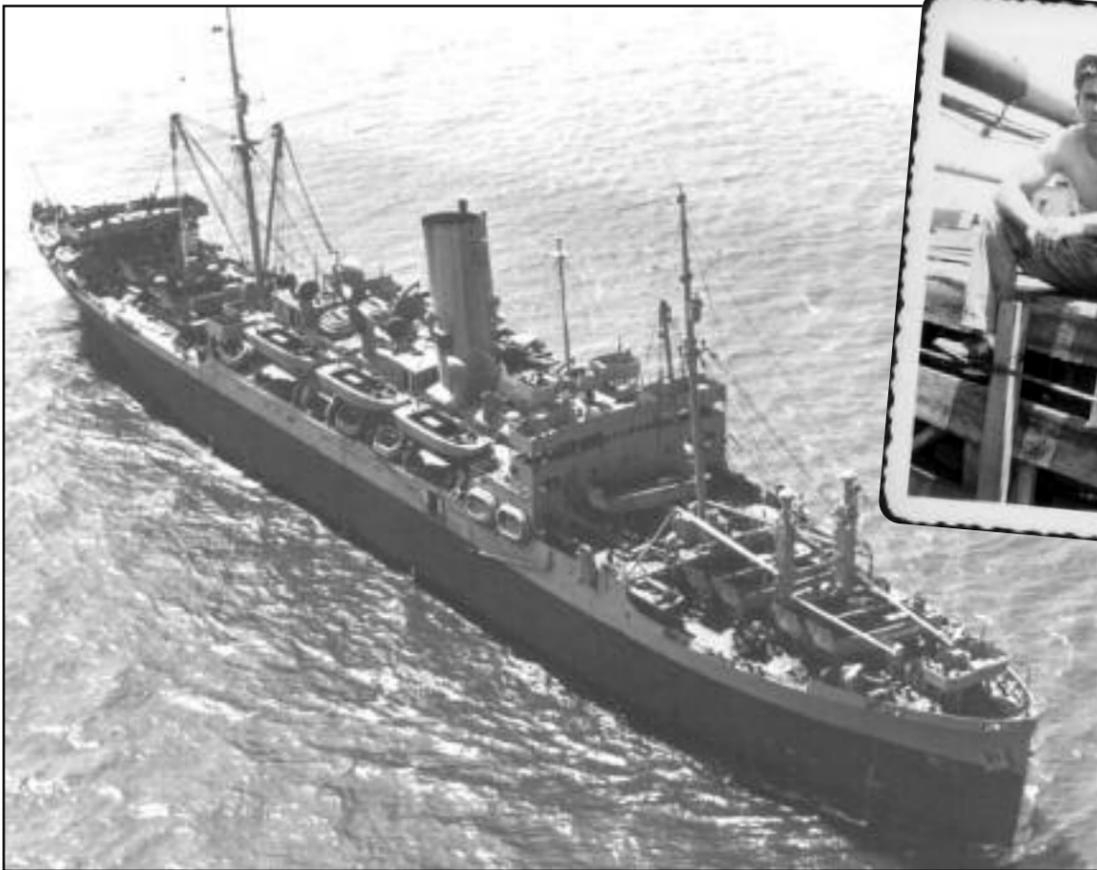
I hope the date that I cancelled that night forgave me. But I had to make a choice. My brother and I both stayed home and hung out with dad. 🍷

*Happy father's day, dad. - Love Joey*

The story on the following page is an account of the attack on the USS John Penn.

# THE WRECK OF THE USS JOHN PENN

by Ewan Stevenson - <http://www.divenewzealand.com/backissues/47penn.html>



(above) Pete Renna on duty for his country.

(left) He was on board aboard the USS John Penn the evening it went down after being attacked by a squadron of Japanese fighter planes. A total of 98 men were listed as killed or missing in action.

(above, l-r) Father and son, Nicholas and Peter Renna

More than half a century ago, the USS John Penn was sunk at anchor in a daring night attack off Guadalcanal.

On the evening of Friday, August 13, 1943, an American convoy was busy unloading war supplies off Guadalcanal. A dozen big transports, cargo ships and oilers were anchored in line for some 26km. The attack transport USS John Penn (APA-23) was amongst them. As an APA (US Navy abbreviation for an attack transport) she was well armed, with one five-inch gun, four three-inch guns and eight 20mm Oerlikon cannons. She was 145 meters long and displaced 9360 tons.

Anchored off the American complex at Lunga Point, she was ablaze with lights as a working party of 20 Marines unloaded cargo. Five destroyers, three patrol vessels and a RNZN corvette patrolled outside the row of transports to ward off any lurking Japanese submarines. Hundreds of fighter aircraft, including night fighters, were based at the nearby airfields and a continuous shore-based radar watch was maintained.

At the Japanese end of the Solomon archipelago, the engine roar of seven Nakajima B5N2 Navy Type 97 attack bombers reverberated through the night air as they waited on the dusty, jungle-fringed airfield at Buin on Southern Bougainville. Allied intelligence knew these planes as 'Kates.' Used in the Pearl Harbour attack, the Kate was the mainstay of Japanese aerial carrier torpedo capability, but could also carry flares and bombs. The seven Kates from the Ryuhō Naval Flying Corps were divided into two groups. Two, loaded with two 60kg bombs and flares each, were designated as a 'feint' group. The remaining planes comprised the 'attack' group and each carried a deadly torpedo that weighed nearly a ton. At 1845 hours, the two 'feint' planes took off. 15 minutes later, Lieutenant Hirao Kuwata pushed the throttle forward on his B5N2 and led off the five-plane attack group. They turned east and then southeast, settling to an economic cruising speed. They had a long over-water flight of some 750km just to get to the target area.

At about 2015 hours, the Marines working on the John Penn watched the last net full of 155mm artillery propellant being hoisted over the side. It was a calm, pleasant tropical evening, with bright moonlight, some low cloud and a gentle breeze from the southeast. As usual, numerous Allied planes could be heard and seen, taking off and landing at nearby airfields or streaking across the night sky. Five minutes later, as the Marines were gathering for the ride back to their quarters, the terrific noise of the ship's siren screeched suddenly through the ship: 'Condition Red!' The code translated

as 'Air attack imminent.'

The Marines had nowhere to go, but the John Penn's crew, trained for such occasions, rushed to battle stations, pulling on their anti-flash gear if they were gun crews or collecting binoculars if they were lookouts. The engineers dashed through the narrow corridors and slid down ladders toward the engine room. Others raced to 'Repair Stations.' In a very short time, the ship was ready for battle. Her exterior lights were doused and the anchor chain partially hove in to facilitate a fast getaway.

A few minutes after Condition Red was sounded, anti-aircraft gunfire sprang up over Cape Esperance. At 2100 hours, a high-flying plane dropped bombs on the beach and in the sea off Lunga Point. Two parachute flares were also released, and drifted slowly earthward. Fiery tracers from gunfire reached out to the culprit plane, but it quickly went into a power dive and escaped over the sea. 20 minutes later another bright double flare was released by a high-flying aircraft, this time in the vicinity of Fighter II airfield near Kukum, on the west side of Lunga Point. What did they mean? During the preceding months the John Penn crew had experienced a number of Condition Reds, but invariably the Japanese bombed the airfields and left the ships alone. On this night, it looked like much the same again. Their nervous eyes watched the mysterious flares and the lights from their own aircraft streaking across the sky. Then, a couple of minutes after the second flare, one of the destroyers patrolling a mile or two northwest of the ship suddenly erupted in gunfire to the north at a low angle.

Hundreds of tracers from the destroyer's automatic weapons streaked out in a solid cone of light that split the night sky like horizontal fireworks. The gunfire traversed rapidly towards the Penn. A destroyer tried to radio a frantic warning, but it was only partially received and it was too late anyway. In seconds, the enemy planes had passed through the destroyer screen and were homing in on the anchored transports. The gun crews of the John Penn had been waiting tensely for an hour since the first alarm, and now they released all their pent-up stress by pressing triggers and letting loose a devastating fusillade of gunfire.

In a remarkable display of coordination, or by incredible coincidence, three Japanese planes converged almost simultaneously on the John Penn. The effect was to divide the defensive gunfire from the target ship. The first plane approached directly abeam the starboard side. The damage control officer aboard the ship was First Lieutenant Alex Koppler. His report later recalled, 'I was standing on the starboard side of the upper deck about midships ... I then sighted a single low-flying plane with

running lights coming straight for us. The plane was no more than 50 feet above the water. This was also the height of my eye. The plane was coming in from the direction of Tulagi. The USS Fuller and USS John Penn commenced firing almost together and the sky was full of tracers. The attacking plane was also firing tracers of a pink and white type. The plane was approaching at tremendous speed. At this point I dashed for cover.

A moment later, crew members sighted a second plane screaming in obliquely off the bow. When just 150-200 yards away, the plane released a torpedo. The impact occurred on the starboard side, at Number Five hold near the stern. A dull, sickening explosion rumbled through the ship, then a crash and another shattering explosion rocked the ship. The crash came from the incoming plane. It had been caught by fire from the stern guns, and crashed into the aft section of the ship. The second explosion, which blew the aft gun platforms toward the stern, is believed to have been the aft magazine. The explosions were blinding - the entire vessel, surrounding ships and nearby clouds were lit up like day. The damage was tremendous. A huge hole in the side of the ship flooded the engine room and three aft holds. A third of the ship was full of water. The explosions also snapped bunches of electrical cables. The ship's electrical power failed, and with it all communications and lights. Steam lines were torn loose, and brickwork in the boiler furnaces collapsed. The loss of both electrical power and steam pressure meant there was no way to save the ship. A pool of flaming oil spread around the stern as oil spilled from ruptured bunkers.

The John Penn lurched slightly to starboard and settled fast by the stern. Less than ten minutes after the hit, the damage control party reported just two feet of freeboard aft. Orders were passed by word of mouth, 'Away all life rafts.' Three minutes later, the freeboard had diminished to just two inches and the anchor chain was strained to the limit as the bow rose out of the water. At 2140, as the ship continued to sink stern-first into the calm dark sea, Captain Need finally ordered, 'All hands abandon ship.' Ten minutes later, the bow of the USS John Penn slipped beneath the Solomon Sea.

In total, 98 men from the John Penn were listed as killed or missing in action. Many of the survivors were severely injured. Even for the physically unscathed, there was emotional turmoil as they reflected on their dead shipmates and friends. The Japanese flight crews claimed five transports sunk in the attack, but in fact only the John Penn was sunk. Five Kates out of seven returned to the Buin Airbase, just past midnight; mysteriously, the Japanese records admit the loss of one plane but neglect to mention the fate of the other. 🇺🇸

# A REMARKABLE MAN, MY GRANDFATHER WAS

Submitted by George C. Rusciano with respect and honor to George Novello.



I was born, raised, and married (at St. Anthony's) in Peterstown. I'm compelled to share the history of a contributor to the welfare, safety, and unity of the Italian community in this very special neighborhood of Elizabeth. This individual was a self-made and self-educated man-my grandfather, George Novello.

He came to the United States as a 9-year-old from Naples, Italy, and settled in Pennsylvania with his family. Eager to see more and learn about this great country, he headed west at a young age and worked at a variety of jobs while acquiring many skills. He was employed by the railroad in the metal and woodworking shops, and he even became a cowboy on a cattle ranch in Texas. Upon his return to the east coast, he married Rebecca Smith

(left) Rebecca and George Novello with son John, one of their seven children.

(right) Elizabeth Detective/Sergeant George Novello in uniform.



from New York. They settled in Peterstown, and built a two-story brick home on the corner of Second Avenue and South Seventh Street, where they raised a family of seven children and made Elizabeth their home for most of their lives.

His life was as interesting as it was varied. He became the first Italian on the Elizabeth police force (a Keystone Cop). Being a crack pistol shot he first served as a special policeman patrolling the streets on foot throughout the community. However, after 11 years and many disagreements regarding the treatment and the culture of Italian-Americans, he quit the force as a detective/sergeant.

After leaving the police force he was a foreman for the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation during World War I, and became an authority on ship construction and design. Later, he established the first independent bus line (#30) to run from Elizabeth Port to North Elizabeth. He left the management of this business (George Novello & Sons) to his family. He was also a professional prize fighter.

Perhaps his most intriguing position was his job at the Nixon Shipyard. There he worked for his personal friend Mr. John Holland, the inventor of the first submarine. While a member of the first crew to test the submarine at Elizabeth Port, he developed a keen interest in naval vessels.

Subsequently, he spent much of his time in his workshop on South Seventh Street building scale models of naval battleships. The shop even had a concrete pool for testing the boats! Each hull was carved from solid wood, and all parts, including metal plates, screws, rivets, lifeboats, superstructures, and gun turrets made from six-shooters (no doubt from his cowboy days) were made by hand.

He had the idea of a crewless ship controlled by radio. He contacted a phone company friend who supplied the dials, antenna, and electrical parts needed. All the other parts were made by hand. The completed model-8 feet long, 510 pounds, mounting two #32 caliber guns-was loaded on a trailer and driven to Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, where it was successfully tested, the guns fired and the boat was directed back to shore. The vessel was also tested later in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. The event was covered in the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1934, and also became part of the Fox Pathe Newsreel, a common feature in movie theatres at the time. The United States Navy offered to purchase the boat and take it to Washington, DC, for further evaluation. However, this "deal" would not mention or give credit to my grandfather. Being a very proud and spirited man, he declined the offer.

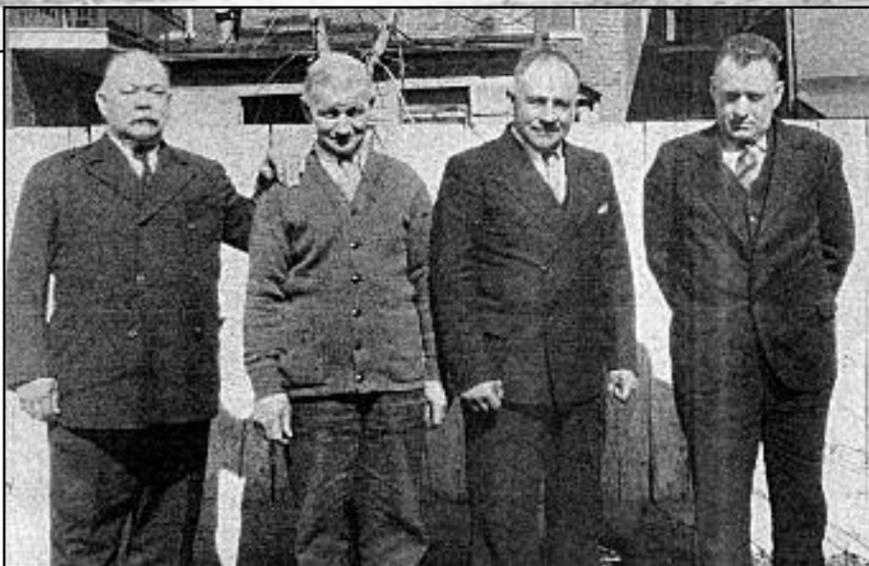
Along with his love for ships was his love for the ocean. He spent many summers at the Jersey shore and rented a summer cottage in Bay Head, New Jersey. Eventually he decided to buy land and build a home. Although the purchase and necessary permits were not approved by the local township, he successfully won an appeal at the state court level with the help of an Elizabeth attorney. He became the first Italian-American to own a home in Bay Head. He relocated his beloved workshop to the rear of the new home, and continued working on his boats, as well as fishing, crabbing, and simply enjoying the sea for many years. He died at the age of 80, and is buried in Linden, New Jersey.

Although the boats and many documents and pictures were unfortunately destroyed by fire, I'm sure there are some individuals and families still living in Peterstown (or reading this paper) who will remember him. I feel privileged to have spent many years of my childhood knowing and loving this truly remarkable man. 🇮🇹



(above) The Novello home, located on Second Avenue and South 7th Street, was fronted by one of the first corner candy stores in Peterstown.

(right, l-r) The Novello Brothers: George, Michael, Frank and Anthony.



.....  
**Not for Nothing But...**  
 I used to take dates down to the creek to watch the submarine races.  
 .....



(left) The USS Plunger SS 2, later to be called A-1, was laid down May 21, 1901 at the Crescent Shipyard in Elizabeth, NJ. It was the navy's first successful submarine boat and it was built in Elizabeth, NJ by John Philip Holland.

# OLD PHOTO INSPIRES TIME TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Carmela (Monaco) Ismail

My maiden name was Carmela Monaco. My family lived on 508 Spencer Street. I went to St. Anthony's School and Church as did my sisters, Andrea, Charlene and Carol. I lived in Elizabeth until 17 years ago, part of the time back on Spencer Street in the house where I grew up.

A few weeks ago, Antoinette and Henry Cistrelli called me long distance because of your newspaper. I've known them for more than 45 years and I've maintained a lifelong friendship. I used to baby sit for their four children, Diane, Donna, Darlene and Henry. Now the girls have 7 children among them. They called to tell me that they saw a photo of my Dad, Carmine (Charlie) Monaco in your April 03 Issue. My father died 30 years ago, at the young age of 59. It now seems like he was so young when he died because my husband of 25 years, John, is almost that age now, and he's just a baby.

The day that the Cistrelli's called was the 8th anniversary of the death of my mother. I received the newspaper in the mail on May 7th, the 30th anniversary of the death of my father. Mother's Day was that Sunday. I cannot tell you how much it meant to receive this newspaper in my time of grief and remembrance and, in particular, to see a picture of my dad at the tender age of 19. This is only the fourth picture I have of him.

I also took time to remember my sister Carol. Carol's 44th birthday is May 21st. She died tragically at her own hand 23 years ago. She was just 21. She's now in heaven longer than she was with us on Earth. My daughter, Caroline, was named in my sister's honor. She is now 20 years old.

My Godfather, Joe Furiero, is also in the photo. I will put this picture in a place of honor in my home next to my parents' wedding picture. My Godfather was the best

man at their wedding.

Seeing that picture of my dad was the best Mother's Day present I could have gotten. It was like a warm hug. My dad is beloved and remembered by all who knew him.

My father was born on Palmer Street and lived on Spencer Street. He died entirely too young. He never saw his three grandchildren, Caroline, Giancarlo and Lauren, and he never saw his daughters graduate from high school or get married.

His wife and children meant everything to him. He was and nicest, kindest man who ever walked the face of the earth! He was my mom's husband and our father and everyone's friend! I am so proud to be his daughter!

I am totally and permanently handicapped and am now in a wheelchair as a result of an accident which occurred two years ago when I was picking up my daughter, Caroline from her first year in college.

I can't tell you how much your paper means to me. I read about people I consider family. Those with whom I grew and went to school. I have cherished memories of all of them. Elizabeth will always be home to me, The people there were such an integral part of my life and will always be more like "family" than "friends". 🇮🇹

(right) Reprint of phot that appeared in the April 03 issue of Around About Peterstown.  
(standing, l-r) Alex Londino, T. Curtin, J. Calabro, A. Carado, J. Furiero, P. Chirachio (sitting, l-r) C. Monico, J. Melchione, Andy Santamaria, T. Bisco, A. Furiero, (holding sign) P. Mele.

1932 kingston club baseball team





# A FAMILY ROOTED BACK TO ELIZABETH

Joe Conforti had just one sibling, a brother Robert. By his grandparents' standard it was a small family, just starting out. But Joe didn't think of his immediate family in terms of being small because he counted his cousins in as part of his family - over one hundred of them.

Joe' father, Joe, had five brothers. His mother, Rose Migliori, was one of 12. All the members of the two

families lived their lifetimes in Elizabeth. They were active in the community and in St. Anthony's Church.

The hundreds of great grandchildren probably know very little of their great uncles and aunts but for a generation past, everyone in Elizabeth had some connection to a Conforti or a Migliori, or both. 🇺🇸



(above, seated) Joe and Donna Conforti. (standing) Joe's Daughter, Susan Conover; Joe's son (the third in a line of Joe Conforti's) and his friend Jessica Tyler.



(left, l-r) The Conforti brothers took the following walks through life:

- Michael owned a hat cleaning and shoe shine store on Elizabeth Ave.
- Joe was a Painter.
- Tony owned a painting business.
- Peter was a bricklayer.
- Dominick (Chippy) worked for Singers and was known as the Mayor of Peterstown in honor of his charitable work for St. Anthony's and the community.
- John was a mailman.

(right, l-r) As for the Migliori Brothers, they were known for the following:

- Sal was a bricklayer and business agent for the Bricklayers Union.
- Tom worked for, and retired from, the Board of Education as a mason.
- Nick was a policeman and rose to the rank of captain.
- Jim (a.k.a. Crash) was a policeman and basketball player who played in local leagues. He also owned a tavern/restaurant on Elizabeth Avenue.



(right, l-r) The Migliore sisters were all closely connected to St. Anthony's Church and participated in many community functions. Some even displayed their talents at the annual minstrel shows that were sponsored by the church. The following list utilizes their marriage name.

Malore Casano, Helen Gianastasio, Rose Conforti, Barbara Sissano, Norene Vacarro, Virginia Navarro, Vera DeBiasio and Gertrude Mele.

Sisters, Norene and Virginia and their brother Tom are still living in Elizabeth but have mourned the passing of their siblings.



## Not for Nothing But...

Joe Conforti looked up his family tree and found a forest.

### FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS IN NJ

Family History Centers are branch facilities of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Centers provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Family History Library to help patrons identify their ancestors. Everyone is welcome to come to the centers and use Family History Center resources. (Call for schedule of office hours.)

### IN UNION COUNTY

Scotch Plains New Jersey Hours: Tuesday:  
1781 Raritan Rd 10am-4pm, 7:30-9pm;  
Scotch Plains, NJ Thursday 10am-4pm;  
Phone: 908-889-0628 Saturday 10am-2pm.

Source: <http://www.familysearch.org>

Note: These are not mailing addresses. Because of limited staff, Family History Centers cannot respond to mail inquiries.

Caldwell New Jersey  
209 Mountain Avenue  
North Caldwell, NJ  
Phone: 973-226-8975

Cherry Hill New Jersey  
260 E Evesham Road  
Cherry Hill, NJ

Clinton New Jersey  
9 Red Schoolhouse Road  
Lebanon, NJ  
Phone: 908-713-0292

East Brunswick New Jersey  
303 Dunhams Corner Road  
East Brunswick, NJ  
Phone: 732-254-1480

Eatontown New Jersey  
14 Reynolds Drive  
Eatontown, NJ  
Phone: 732-542-2691

Emerson New Jersey  
840 Soldier Hill Road  
Emerson, NJ  
Phone: 201-262-7357

Fardale New Jersey  
30 Youngs Road  
Mahwah, NJ  
Phone: 201-327-1940

Irvington New Jersey  
1064 Clinton Avenue  
Irvington, NJ

Ledgewood New Jersey  
156 Mountain Rd  
Flanders, NJ  
Phone: 973-347-2856

Morristown New Jersey  
283 James Street  
Morristown, NJ  
Phone: 973-539-5362

Paterson New Jersey  
42 - 48 East 39th Street  
Paterson, NJ

Princeton New Jersey  
610 Alexander Road  
West Windsor, NJ  
Phone: 609-452-0802

Short Hills New Jersey  
140 White Oak Ridge Road  
Short Hills, NJ  
Phone: 973-379-7315

Toms River New Jersey  
1350 Old Freehold Road  
Toms River, NJ  
Phone: 732-349-5947

Union City New Jersey  
2500 New York Avenue  
Union City, NJ  
Phone: 201-866-8118

Vineland New Jersey  
110 Highland Avenue  
Vineland, NJ  
Phone: 856-696-5002

# DON BOSCO CATHOLIC CLUB

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS		
President	Salvatore Bongiovanni	
Vice President	Anthony Triano	
Secretary	Raymond Catalano	
Treasurer	Joseph Remeze	
Patrick Acoue	Frank DiMaggio	Anthony Marzotta
Jos. Archinisco	A. R. D'Amore	Phil Merola
Fred Alfano	Joseph DeMaio	Anthony Mele
Howard Bennett	Michael Federico	Anthony Minitello
Vita Bellino	Onofrio Firetto	Alfred J. Manno
Joseph Bongiovanni	Joseph Fortunato	Nicholas Mucciro
Rosario Biondo	Joseph Gallo	Paul V. Novello
Salvatore Barone	Luino Gallo	Joe. A. Novello
John J. Busichio	Charles Giglio	Paul W. Novello
August Busichio	Michael Galuppo	Charles Novello
Frank Caruso	Joseph Iadarola	Joseph Novello
Frank Carino	James Jasi	George Natta
Albert Caruso	Mark Janelli	John Occhiuzzo
Jacques Caruso	Frank W. Jacques, Jr.	Ralph Orlando
Dominick Castano	Wm. Kowski	Joseph Pace
Vincent Catalano	Eugene Labonia	Louis Paluzzi
Samuel Catalano	Alfred Labonia	Kudolph Petrucci
Charles Catalano	Joseph LaBrutto	Peter Petrucci
Carroll C. Callina	Frank LaFaro	Michael Picarone
Felix Callina	James LaFaro	Anthony Palmiano
Anthony Conforti	Henry LaSalle	Joseph Renda
Michael Conforti	Victor W. Lolite	Vincent Rotunno
Dominick Conforti	Anthony C. Lombino	William Richel
Joseph Conforti	Thos. P. Luchio	Joseph Rizzo
Peter Conforti	Michael Luchio	Julius F. Rosca
John Conforti	Peter Miller	Mark Rocca
Anthony Z. Conforti	Louis Magliano	Arthur M. Scuto
G. C. Cariglio	James Malta	Paul Segio
Anthony Caravano	Joseph Malta	Anthony Sica
Patrick Galie	Sylvester Manetta	Edward Sissano
Joseph Detrollo	John Manetta	Michael Spina
Joseph M. DeMarco	Saf. Manetta	Joseph Spina
William DeMarco	Nicholas Malbone	John Tuzano
Joseph S. DeMarco	John Marriano	Jacob L. Triarsi
Michael DeMarco	Nicholas Marriano	Anthony J. Triarsi
Joseph DePaola	Joseph Marriano	James Triarsi
Michael DeMarco	Ross Marriano	Joseph Uliano
Anthony DeVito	Joseph G. Marriano	Louis Valtom
Anthony DiFiori	Peter Marione	Charles Veltre
Nicholas DiGirolamo	Anthony Mariano	Dominick Vaccaro
Dominick Donato	Arthur Mastroceter	Joseph J. Wade, Jr.



These photos were taken in 1939 in commemoration of the fifteen year anniversary of the clubs. The clubs existed to help the parish succeed in its endeavors. They were inspired by the examples of the Blessed Mother of Jesus and Saint Don Bosco, the founder of the Salesian order of priests and nuns.

More than 500 men and women have been members of the clubs. The ideals they set out for themselves were based in the teachings of Don Bosco who dedicated his life to teaching poor youth, homeless orphans and waifs. He taught them religion, trades and the arts. The club promoted social activities as well. They learned through

clean, wholesome sports and recreation, a trademark of Don Bosco. This club was the precursor to generations of dominant sports teams that emerged from Peterstown. They were champions in baseball, basketball and bowling, with a winning ration of over 90%.

These members are the epitome of friends, neighbors and brothers. The brother part is quite literal. A glance at the roster to the left would reveal 17 families in which brothers are members. Novello and Triarsi actually have three brothers each. But no others come close to the six Conforti brothers in the ranks. 🇮🇹

Thanks to Charles Cusumano for sending in his copy of the February, 1939 issue of "The Church Bulletin" of St. Anthony's, where these photos were found.

# CHILDREN OF MARY SODALITY



The founders of the Sodality were girls of teen age. They made a pledge to imitate the virtues of their patroness, the Blessed Mother, chastity, humility and charity.

Together, the Sodality and Don Bosco Club took part in stage productions sponsored by the parish. The comedies, musicals and dramas included: "Hurdy-Gurdy Girl", "Daddy Long Legs", "A Full House", "His Majesty The Queen", "The Vision of Bernadette Subiroux", "Jimmy Be Careful". "Sparkles of 1934" instituted the annual minstrel show that continued for 20 years.

The clubs were also responsible for the formation of the Drum and Bugle Corps. 🇮🇹



(above, l-r) Director/Producer, Fr. Vince Paczkowski with cast of 2003 production of "Footloose"

## JUMP BACK TO THE PRESENT

Submitted by Fr. Vince Paczkowski

For the last six years, it has been a pleasure to give our young people from our parish and neighborhood the opportunity to perform on stage. It is a long and time consuming project but the reward is in our young people, who gain self-confidence and develop community spirit.

The founder of the Salesian's of St. John Bosco said: "A school, parish or youth center without music, is a body without a soul." St. Anthony's Drama Club tries to fulfill this desire of St. John Bosco.

We have attracted youth and adults to our stage from all over Union County. This has been a great experience for our own youth to share their interest in the arts.

I'd like to thank all the people from Elizabeth who have supported us throughout the last six years. I look forward to even more next year.

Unfortunately we have lost our choreographer who had been with us since the start. If anyone would like to choreograph our next production, please call (908) 351-3300 or (908) 347-7566. Thank you and God bless. 🇮🇹



**Not for Nothing But...**

I'd like to see Father Vinny do a revival of "Hurdy-Gurdy Girl".







(above, seated, l-r) Some times 82 year old Marie Travisano and 92 year old Rose Carr (nee Minitelli) turn to 102 year old Carmela Fortunato, for her opinion. At 102, the elder Fortunato has more years of experience to draw from. The three were neighbors in Peterstown and are now neighbors once again at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights. They room next door to each other in the long term care facility. The young lady standing in back is also from the old neighborhood, 91 year old Libera Tenore.

## RUNNELLS HOSPITAL SHINES ON HIGH

Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County is located on a mountaintop in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. The new, 178,000 sq. ft. facility, build in 1990, is situated on a 45-acre mountaintop tract of land and offers patients and residences breathtaking, panoramic views of the Watchung Mountains. The gifted healthcare professionals at Runnells are continuing a 90-year tradition of community service.

Runnells Specialized Hospital offers physical medicine and rehabilitation. The service is available for those who utilize the long-term and sub-acute care units as well as on an outpatient basis. The facility has 369 beds which includes an adult psychiatric unit.

Among nursing facilities the Runnells' Nursing Care Unit is unique in that it is staffed 24 hours- per-day by physicians and professional nurses. The medical team includes a geriatric nurse practitioner, psychiatrist, psychologist, and professional social workers, who are on staff and attend daily to residents' needs. Occupational, physical and activities therapists design individualized programs for residents to strengthen interpersonal skills, build greater self-reliance and improve physical abilities.

Short-stay nursing care is available to patients who have recovered to a point where they no longer require the services of an acute care hospital. Runnells offers an alternative to those not well enough to return home or to go through the rigors of acute rehabilitation.

Runnells Hospital specializes in taking care of the growing population of those who no longer have the ability to take care of themselves. The Respite Care Unit is dedicated to making the lives of residents more pleasurable. Every patient becomes part of the Runnells family and loved ones can rest assured that the care being delivered is the most accommodating.

Runnells Hospital is accessible from Routes 22, 24, and 78. The hospital can be reached by calling (908) 771-5700. For admissions information call (908) 771-5901. 🏠

## ARTIST USES TALENT AS GIFT

Patricia Brantano Bramnick wanted to honor her parents in a way that touched the lives of the aged. Both her parents passed away after suffering from Parkinsons and Alzheimer's disease for nearly ten years. The community service project would involve the entire family.

The Bramnick's chose to paint a mural at Runnells Specialized Hospital. Pat is an artist who's work is shown in various galleries, and she is also an instructor at The DuCret School of the Arts. Her daughter, Abigail, is a Junior at Westfield High School. She will

be helping her mom after school and into her summer vacation. Her son Brent will also be by her side painting. Pat's husband, John Bramnick is State Assemblyman for the 21st District in which Runnells is located. He donated all the paint and supplies needed for the project.

Pat says she sees her parents in the faces of the patients at Runnells. She points to an activities room occupied by a number of residents, and says "Those are my parents in there." Pat's mural will be enjoyed by many residents, visitors and staff. The garden scene will brighten Runnells which many now call home. 🏠



(above) Sketch of one mural to be transferred to Runnells' wall.

(right, l-r) Pat Brentano Bramnick and her son, Brent, preps a wall that will receive one of two murals she has volunteered to produce.



# VOLUNTEERS ADD SPARKLE TO DAILY LIVING

There is an aspect to health care at Runnells Hospital where an advanced degree from a medical university is not necessary. The only qualification needed for doing the job is a desire to help others.

The volunteers at Runnells give of themselves to enhance the world of the patients and residents. There are no gauges that can measure their accomplishments. There are no scales to measure the number of smiles that they bring to the patients. There is no way to count the number of times that their actions resulted in someone feeling less lonely. It's true that the volunteers have chores to do but those chores mask the bigger service that they perform. The volunteers are first and foremost friends to the patients. The volunteers become an integral part in their lives. They form bonds with the residents that are as strong and as real as family. Their only motivation is pure love. The volunteers have built a community that concentrates on quality of life.

It is difficult to quantify the work that the volunteers do. Records are kept concerning time but the volunteer's value doesn't relate to time. It has more to do with

emotion, compassion and caring.

Tallies of last year's volunteer activity showed that 234 volunteers contributed 24,435 hours of service. These numbers are impressive but fall short in describing a service that is immeasurable. The fact that the volunteers saved \$293, 227 in salaries would make sense only if there was a job available that listed "friendly ear" in the job description.

The volunteers at Runnells Hospital are a superb bunch of people from every walk in life. The team includes junior volunteers who are in their teen years as well as seniors with a zest for life that is just as youthful as the juniors.

Volunteers assist the entire staff at Runnells. For instance, they work with the Activities Therapy Department in producing entertainment and recreational programs. There are always opportunities for anyone interested in helping. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer please call the Volunteer office at 908-711-5858. 📞



(above) Amy McHugh has been a Volunteer at Runnells Hospital for 12 years. Her dedication has been recognized this year by the VFW. Amy belongs to the Garwood Chapter #6807 Ladies Auxiliary. They nominated her in a statewide program and she was chosen to receive the 2002 Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award. Amy is modest about her devotion but stories like hers may inspire others.



(above) The Volunteer Guild operates the Hospital's gift shop and coffee shop among other programs. Learn more about the Volunteer Guild by calling 908-771-5815. (standing, l-r) Lynne Monson, Eileen Lieder, Peter Sequeira, Tommie Kelhoffer, Joan Comfort, Jim Piccozzi, Sywia DeBrito and Pat Scott. (sitting, l-r) Meida Alexander, Peg Teuber, Rosaleen Appenzoller, Pat DiFabio, Len Forgione and Joyce Endriss.



(above, l-r) Runnells Hospital Volunteer Guild President, Pat DiFabio along with Walter Stewart, was named Grand Marshal of the 100th year celebration of the Garwood Fire Department. Pat has been a volunteer fireman for 52 years. Walter has been one for 53.

## PLAYING THE STRAND WAS JUST A WARM UP FOR RUNNELLS

Joe Gatto started his musical career at age six. His family had little money but his father bought him a piano at a cost of twenty-five cents a week. It launched a career in music that spanned 76 years.

At age seven, his second grade teacher, Miss Attenborough of Public School #15 on Spencer Street in Elizabeth, gave him a violin and paid for his lessons for five years. When Joe turned 15, Miss Attenborough took him to an audition for the Elizabeth Philharmonic Orchestra. He won the audition and was placed in the 2nd violin section, last chair.

Joe's father passed away and his mother was left to raise eight children by herself. Joe was 17 and since he was the eldest son, he became the main provider for the family. He began playing at the "The 19th Hole" on Route 22, six nights a week. He earned fifteen dollars a week. Because he was working late hours every night, he was forced to quit school.

In the winter seasons he played in the clubs and hotels of Miami, Florida. In the summers he played Atlantic City.

Gatto was drafted into the army in 1943 during World War II. That is also the year he married his longtime love, Rose Pace, of South 7th Street. He formed his own band while in the 69th Infantry Division. He started an amateur night that became very successful. The show entertained about 500 soldiers every week.

When Joe was shipped to France, he auditioned for Jack Leonard, a vocalist for the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Joe was immediately transferred to Jack's unit to become his accompanist. They entertained the troops everyday all over France. The highlight for Joe was playing for Dinah Shore. Joe said "Dinah and Jack were good friends. We performed for the troop and had diner afterwards."

After the war, Gatto was shipped to an outfit in California. He became the leader of the Special Services Orchestra. He remained there until he was discharged in 1945.

After returning home, he started playing in local clubs again, like "Stone Corner" in Elizabeth, and the "Hawaiian Palms" in Linden. He met orchestra leader Herbie Fields there. He was offered a job and became a featured act for five years playing in all the big clubs, theater and hotels, all over the country.

Gatto performed with such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billy Eckstine, Patty Page, Ames Bros. and Mel Torme. He played "The Strand" in New York for one month with the original "Ink Spots".

While playing with Herbie Fields, Gatto recorded fourteen records; six on RCA-Victor, four with Decca Records and four on Coral Records. Their biggest hit to top the charts was "Dardenella" where Joe was the featured soloist.

In 1950, Joe decided it was time to come off the road and spend more time with his family. He formed a band and played mostly local engagements. Gatto played his last gig in December 2002.

Joe Gatto is now 83. He looks back on his wonderful career and treasures the many memories. He most enjoys spending time with his wife of 60 years, his 2

(right, top) Peterstown native, Joe Gatto played with the biggest names in his day.

(right) Joe Gatto, on keyboard, donated his talents to play for the patients at Runnells Hospital in 1991. Pat DiFabio is on drums and Tony Panzorino is playing the saxophone. Freeholder Walter McCloud is standing stage right grooving to the tunes.



# CARMELLA FORTUNATO CELEBRATES 102nd BIRTHDAY



Even at the age of a 102 Carmella Fortunato is still the consummate mother. She wants to know why her son Julius is wasting time visiting her when he could be working. Minucci, as she is referred to by her Italian friends, has been living in Runnells Specialized Hospital for almost ten years.

Minucci's daughter Josephine and or her son Jules is with their mom every day. Her other son, Angelo lives in Florida, but comes up to visit when he can. There's not much more a mother can ask for than to have the love, care and affection that she gave her children returned and then some.

Carmella has been the adopted mom to practically the entire staff of nurses and aids that tend to her. She is quick to offer advice on

romance and wouldn't hesitate to tell someone they have a big "culo". Luckily for some Minucci only speaks Italian so behind her big smile it sounds like a compliment.

Minucci passes the day visiting with her children, satisfying a hardy appetite and reminiscing of people she knew and places she's been. She gets a little excitement out of the daily soap operas. She doesn't hesitate to call an actress a "puttana" every time they jump in bed, which is quite often.

The thing that Minucci does is bring people together. She usually sits in the hall outside her room and like magic, a group forms and they start talking and laughing and sharing. Exactly how it was around her house in Peterstown. 🇮🇹



(above, l-r) Carmella Fortunato and her children on her 102nd birthday. Her son Angelo and his wife, Mary, her son-in-law Tom Cortese and her daughter, Josephine Cortese and her son Julius. Her children are 75, 80 and 81 years old respectively.

## MEET THE FAMILY

Carmella and Frank Fortunato had three children: Julius, Josephine and Angelo. Josephine married Tom Cortese and they had two children, Tom and Andrew. Tom married Donna and they had two children, Jason and Scott. Andrew married Barbara and they also had two children, Drew and Greg. Carmella's son Angelo and his wife Mary had two children, Francine and Debbie. Francine and husband Joe have one child named Tiana. 🇮🇹

(right, l-r) Frank and Carmella with children, Josephine and Angelo.



(above) In this 1976 photo, Josephine hold's Carmella's first great-grandson, Drew.



(above) Carmella and with her husband, Frank who passed away in 1946.

(right) This photo was taken at Carmella's 100th birthday. Pictured are Carmella's daughter Josephine, her grandson Andy, and her great-grandsons Drew (far left) and Greg (far right).



(right) Vita Cortese and Carmella Fortunato, mother's-in-law to Carmella's daughter Josephine and her husband Tom.



(above) Friends and family of Carmella Fortunato gathered at Runnells Specialized Hospital on May 31, 2003, to celebrate her 102nd birthday. (standing, l-r) Vinny Tomasso, Jules Fortunato, Barbara Cortese, Libera Tenore, Josie Delazaro, Claudia Fortunato, Mary Fortunato, Pat Tomasso, Sue Tomasso, Andrew Cortese, Gloria Nigito, Anthony Fortunato, Peter Nigito, Rocky Mariani, Angelo Fortunato, (seated, l-r) Lucy Mariani, Marie Travisano, Rose Carr, Carmella, Josephine, Tom Cortese, Fran Arguinzumi. (kneeling) Tianni.



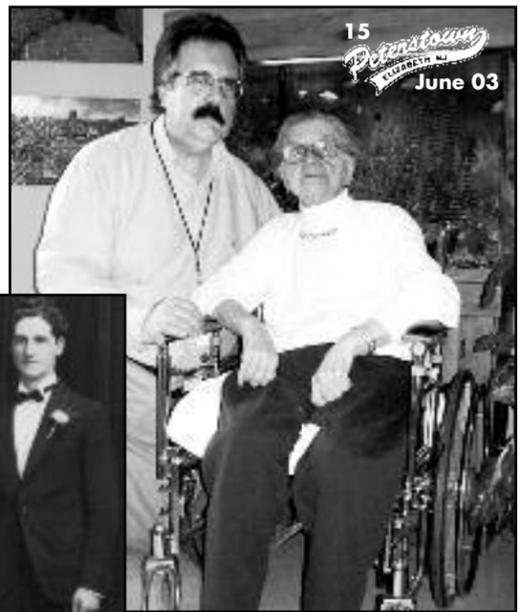
(above) Carmella in 1965 with grandson Tom Cortese.

# NEIGHBORS ONCE AGAIN

One of Carmella Fortunato's neighbors at Runnells Hospital is Marie Travisano. The Travisano's and Fortunato's go way back as friends and neighbors in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth.

Marie is of Austrian decent but was born in the United States. She met her husband, Alfonso Travisano at a Peterstown Dance.

(right, l-r) Bob Travisano visits with his mom Marie who is 82 and at home in Runnells hospital.



15  
Peterstown  
Elizabeth NJ  
June 03



(above) Marie Travisano would like to share this October 25, 1941 photo of her wedding party with the readers of Around About Peterstown. The familiar faces belong to (l-r) Olga Kobryn (cousin of bride), Helen King (friend of bride), Angelina Travisano (sister of groom), Marie Travisano (bride), Alfonso "Pigeon" Travisano (groom), "Sy" Russo (best man), Eddie Angin (friend of groom) and Michael "Wimpy" Cautillo (friend of groom).



(above) The Travisano boys Frank, Vito and Alfonso.

## A SLICE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE GROWING UP IN PETERSTOWN

by Jimmy DeMaio

(Continued on page 22)

I was born on January 11, 1929 in my grandparents' house at 532 4th Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. I



(left) 1934 photo of Jimmy DeMaio and his Grandfather Vincent Gagliardo.



(above) Jim DeMaio in front of Ann and Pete's Pool Room on South 5th Street.

(left) DeMaio brothers and sisters. (l-r, top-bottom) Mary, Margaret, Jim, Mela and Duke.

lived in the same neighborhood until I married in 1956. Living during the Great Depression was often hard on my family. My father died at a very young age while my mother was pregnant with her eighth child. Although it was sometimes difficult, compared to these days, life was more simple, and as kids, we made our own fun.

I have many great memories of growing up in Peterstown or "The Burg" as it is sometimes called. The neighborhood was filled with large Italian families much like my own and we all watched out for each other. Some of the memories from my youth which especially stand out are as follows:

My maternal grandfather, Vincent Gagliardo, originated the St. Rocco's Festival in the neighborhood. The Feast of St. Rocco was celebrated every year on August 16th. The festival started with a parade down 4th Avenue. Some of the girls in the neighborhood would walk down the street with the statue of St. Rocco. People came from all over the state to visit and taste all the wonderful home-made Italian food. We ate sausage and peppers, zeppoles, funnel cakes and Italian candies. Italian singers would serenade all of us. My grandfather ran the Festival until 1955, and he passed away in 1956 at the age of 86.

During the summers when there was no school, we used to hang out at Mantano Park on South 5th Street. The camp directors took care of all the kids in the neighborhood and we played games and sports all day long. One game involved burying 2 tuna fish cans in the ground and then pitching metal washers into the cans to score. On the 4th of July we had a great fireworks display and people came from all over to see it.

Dowd's Pool was near The Port at Recreation Pier where the ferry went over to Staten Island. It was too long of a walk for us to go to the pool so we went swimming in the Elizabeth River at the end of Niles Street at the old barge yard. We used to call the river "The Crick".

On the corner of 4th Avenue and Niles Street, we used to hang out at Malgieri's Pool Room. There was only one pool table and a pot belly stove would keep us warm in the winter.

There was a farmer's market on 2nd Avenue. My friends and I would buy shopping bags for \$.01 and then sell them

to the housewives who were buying groceries for \$.03. Back then, that was a lot of money to us.

Across the Street from us on 4th Avenue, Joe Mauti, Sr. had a milk business and an ice house to store the milk. He used to sell a huge piece of ice to us for \$.15 and we would bring it home to put in our ice box.

To make money, my friends and I would work as pin setters at Edison Bowling Alley on Summer Street. We would make \$.05 a game. My buddies included Ricky Festa, Birdie Loffa, Johnny Guiro and Tony DePaola. During Christmas time, the owners of the bowling alley, the Joyce Brothers, would give all of the pin setters a silver dollar. We all thought we were in heaven.

After work we would go to the Silver Moon Tavern on South 5th Street and 4th Avenue. The owner, Carlo DiGiorgio, made the best pizza and meatball sandwiches and we looked forward to going there to eat after work. We also loved the birch beer.

The 28 Bus used to come through our neighborhood and we would pay \$.05 to take a 1-hour bus ride all around town. We would go to Bayway, Elmora, North End, Kerry Head, the Port, Frog Hollow, and then back to the best place of all, Peterstown.

We used to eat lemon ice from two places: DiCosmo's at the end of 4th Avenue and Bollero's on 3rd Avenue. It cost \$.05 for a lemon ice.

On Niles Street there were 2 junk yards run by the Kilow Brothers. People used to sell their junk, rags, metal, bottles and newspapers for money. When we saw the Cardinale 18-wheeler truck coming into the neighborhood, we knew it was going to the junk yard. We would run and ask Joe Kilow if we could work and load newspapers on to the truck. We would make \$.50 each per truckload (each truckload held many tons of newspaper!).

Angelo Lombardi was an old-timer who worked in the Singer factory. He had a garden behind his house on Niles Street and he also had a victory garden at the end of Niles Street on city property. Angelo put a well on the property and in the summers he would give us ice cold water to drink for free.

Rocco Melchione owned a grocery store and deli on 4th Avenue near Palmer Street. His sons, Philly, Joe and Ike, worked there with him. During hard times when we didn't have any money Rocco would still give you the food you needed and put you on the books. When you had the money, you would pay Rocco back.

Morris Weshnak had an egg business and my friend, Tony DePaola, and I used to work for him. We would deliver eggs to Pioneer Homes in the Port and Maravlag Manor in Bayway.

Times have changed so much, but the memories of those good 'ol days in Peterstown will live on forever.

# CRANFORD GIRL SCOUTS TO BENEFIT ST. JOSEPH'S

Cranford Girl Scout Troops #593, #853 & #814 collected a total of 37 Shopping carts of food and \$393.00 in cash for St. Joseph's Social Service Center Food Pantry in Elizabeth. Each troop held a separate food drive at a different supermarket, the A&P in Kenilworth, the Pathmark in Garwood and the Shop Rite in Garwood. The girls had a great time while performing a community service.

The food pantry has a constant need for food and financial donations. In the past year the demand for their services has increased by 50%. They distribute more than 500 bags of food monthly and have more than 1200 needy households on file. Up to seven new families apply weekly.

The pantry collects food that is non-perishable, such as canned soups, dried beans, cereal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, canned tuna/other meat.

Donations can be made any weekday, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:00pm. Saturdays before 10:30am. The pantry is closed on Sundays and they ask that food or other donations not be left outside the center when they are closed.

The experience was so worthwhile for people who

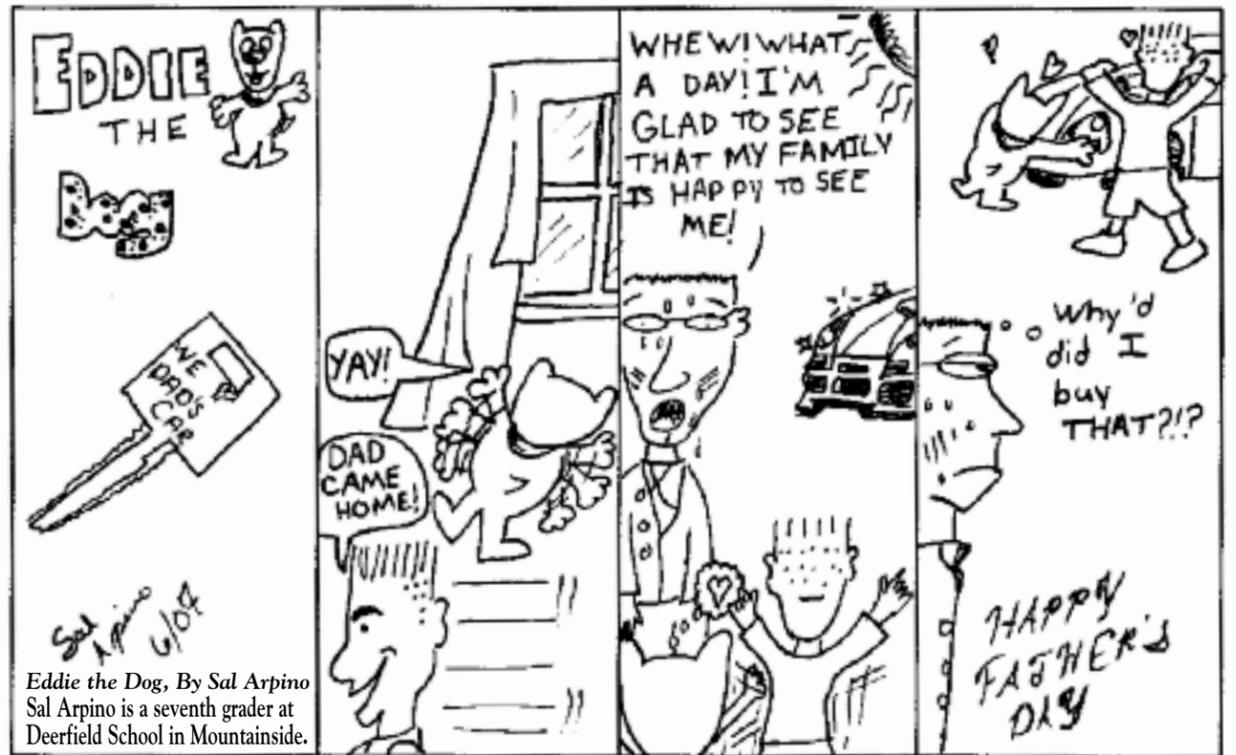
depend on the St. Joseph's pantry and for the girls that participated in the food drive. This was a new activity for the girls and they are anxious to do it again. There was a lot of interaction between the scouts and the public. There was meaningful dialogue about the good they were doing and the generosity conveyed was inspiring.

St. Joseph's and the Girl Scout Troops would like to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave to their cause. They would like to thank the supermarkets for facilitating their efforts.

St. Joseph's would like to give a special thanks to Jim Puzzo of Printing Design Group, located at 1812 Front Street, Scotch Plains, NJ, for generously donating the printing of flyers, brochures and newsletters for the food drive.

There are many other ways that individuals, organizations and businesses can help the Center. If anyone is interested they may call Lila Montalvo at St. Joseph's 908-352-3989.

The address for anyone who would like to visit the center is: St. Joseph's Social Service Center and the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. 🐶



(right, l-r) Cranford Girl Scout Troop #853:  
Angela Renna, Klaudia Zielonka, Katherine  
Van Benschoten, Geena Altebrando, Michelle  
Cannon, Lia Jones, Michelle Checchia,  
Stephanie Walls, Jackie Winnicki.  
(not pictured) Jessica Heinle, Mary Kate Minitelli.

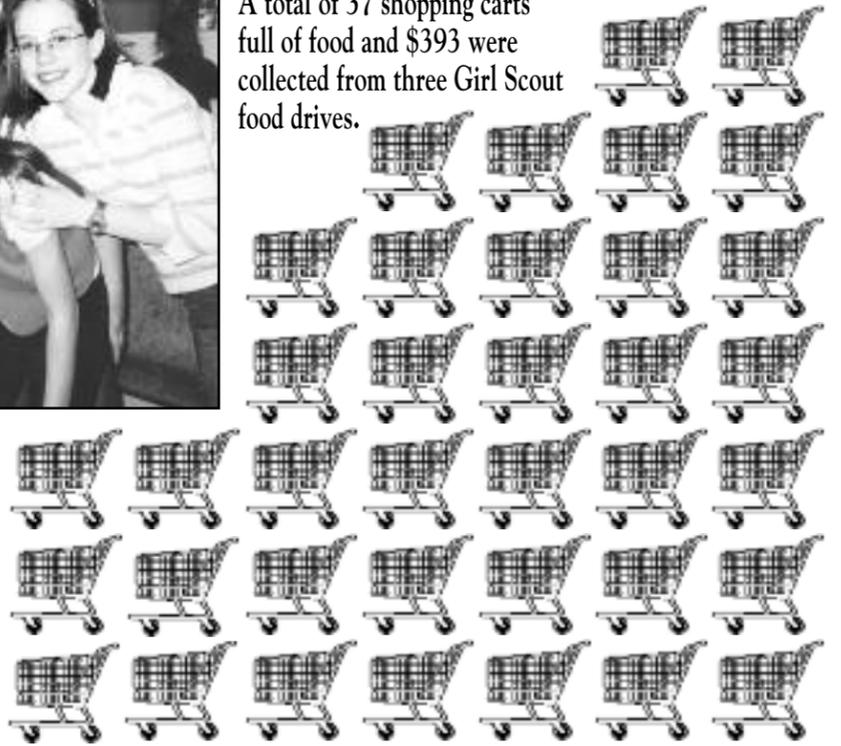


(below) Cranford Troop Number 593:  
Brittany Kalajian, Geneveive Chaleff, Sara  
Carolan, Colleen McGovern, Kate McCann,  
Stephanie Koscica, Annie McGee, Lauren  
Campbell, Sarah Fletcher, Kaitlyn Irwin,  
Lauren onczyk, Lauren Campbell.  
(Not all the girls are pictured  
and names are not in order.)



**CHECK THIS OUT!**

A total of 37 shopping carts  
full of food and \$393 were  
collected from three Girl Scout  
food drives.



(above, l-r) Staff members of St. Joe's include Betty  
White, Al Wilson, Peggy Silvey, Melvin Lewis, Lila  
Montalvo, Ralph Knight and Patricia Bohorquez.



(above l-r) Cranford Troop #814: Caroline Leber, Mary Kate Mueller, Anna Autillio, Maggie Mueller, Lauren  
Wilson, Amy Negrin & Mia Renna. (not pictured) Meghan Bartsch, Kristen Cecchini, & Catherine Klimek.

(right) Open letters to our readers.

# A SHOUT OUT FOR THE CLASS OF 1953 OF THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear John Sacco, While At Spirito's about a week ago, I picked up a copy of Around About Peterstown, April Edition.

Our 50th Thomas Jefferson High School Reunion is scheduled for 8/12/03.

Many of our classmates are from "The Burg", including Carl "Doc" Corsentino, Albert Lospinoso, Nick Netta, Rocco Candelino, Tom Diamonte, Pat Gargano, etc.

We have, however, lost track of some of the Peterstown guys and would appreciate your placing a public notice in your next edition.

Missing are the following: Anthony Constantino John Corallo, John Corsentino, Nick LaQualia, Joseph Luiga, Ben Mangini, Frank Tacca and Henry Verdini.

If your readers have any knowledge of or information about the missing persons, please call Don Schiessl at 908-353-0867 or Jack Padavano at 732-929-1666.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,  
Richard M. Tahl  
Oldwick, NJ

p.s. My wife and I make the pilgrimage to Spirito's about once a month even though I left Elizabeth in 1958.

*To the Peterstown community and everyone that made my run for Elizabeth Board of Education memorable and enjoyable.*  
*Running for the BOE was exciting and educational. It was the first time I ran for office and I wanted to work as hard as I could to succeed. Even though I did not win I felt that just being part of the process was success enough.*  
*The best part of the entire run was the heartfelt support I received from all of you. It really warms the heart to know so many people believed what I had to say was important and that so many people agreed with me.*  
*I'd like to thank everyone who helped me in my campaign and everyone who voted for me.*  
*Sincerely,  
Raymond Vella*

## PETERSTOWN FARMERS MARKET RETURNS

Elizabeth Avenue---The Elizabeth Avenue Partnership (EAP) is proud to announce that the long-awaited return of the Peterstown Farmers Market has finally become a reality as five Jersey Farmers have committed to sell fresh produce at the site of the newly renovated Historic Peterstown Farmers Market this summer.

"Farmers will be selling "Jersey Fresh" certified produce in the City of Elizabeth's Peterstown Section from July through November on Tuesday's from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.," said EAP Executive Director David Stochak. "We are planning a gala Grand Opening "Kick Off" Celebration to formally announce the start of the Elizabeth Avenue Farmers Market @ Historic Peterstown on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 12-noon and have invited the Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Kuperus to attend."

The Peterstown Farmers Market area is also within the boundaries of the Elizabeth Avenue Special Improvement District (SID), which is administered by the non-profit EAP.

According to EAP Chairman Jonathan Phillips, New Jersey farmers coming from as far as Hunterdon, Morris and Middlesex Counties will set up shop from the newly streetscaped sidewalks and curbs on Second Street, High Street and Centre Street and will feature Jersey Tomatoes and Sweet Corn, Squash, Peppers, Onions, Peaches, Apples, Pumpkins and much, much more.

"We have worked closely with the Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Program to recruit farmers to our district for over a year now, and it has worked", said Phillips, who is owner of Morris Aaron Bicycles and Repairing. "We feel that the Farmers Market will help attract additional shoppers to our district this summer to create a win-win situation for everyone." The Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce (GECC) has also been

helpful in our recruiting efforts," Phillips said.

According to Mayor Chris Bollwage, more than half-a-million dollars in Streetscape beautification improvements have been completed, including new curbs, sidewalks, brick pavers, trees and turn-of-the-century lighting.

"We beautified this area with hopes of someday revitalizing the Farmers Market to its past glory", Bollwage said. "I am pleased to see the EAP take the lead in reviving what was once an institution in the City of Elizabeth and I am eagerly awaiting its return."

Many thriving businesses exist today in the Peterstown Farmers Market area such as Sutera Bros. Italian Market, Centanni's Meats, Algarve Fish Market, Bell Dee Produce, Live Poultry, Texteira Bakery, and one of the finest Cuban Restaurants in the area, El Mirador.

The Elizabeth Avenue Farmers Market @ Historic Peterstown is sponsored by the EAP, Papetti's Hygrade Eggs, M&M Construction Co., with support from the City of Elizabeth, Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce (GECC) and Department of Agriculture (Jersey Fresh Program). For more information about the Farmers Market, call the EAP at 908-965-0660. 



**Not for Nothing But...**

I don't think tomatoes should have bar codes.





(above, l-r) L. LaBrutto, S. Binger, C. Diamonte, J. DeMaio, S. Monticello, L. Murro and F. Antonucci (top) J. Lentine

## PHOTOS FROM JIM DEMAIO'S COLLECTION



(above, top, l-r) R. Festa, W. Caruso, (center, l-r) J. Nigro, A. Esposito, S. DePaola, N. Russo, J. DeMaio, M. Spinelli, (bottom, l-r) F. Loffa, R. Loffa and J. Guiro.



(above, l-r) Duke DeMaio, Tom Carberry and Jim DeMaio on leave from Korea.

(right, l-r) Tony Loffa, Sal DeMaio and Rocky Loffa.



(above, l-r) T. DePaola, A. Loffa and J. Guiro boating in Warinanco Park.



(above) This is not the cast of "That 70's Show". It is a photo of Jimmy's mother, Mary DeMaio (seated in center) and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.



(above) Anthony "Dike" DeMaio; his daughter, Amanda; Son, Ross and wife, Theresa.

## FAST FORWARD SIXTY YEARS

Jimmy DeMaio's reflections on growing up in Peterstown that appear on page 15, are based on his life in the 1930's and 40's. Just by coincidence his great nephew also submitted the essay below, reflecting his experience in the 90's. The two did not know the other was writing. This is some kind of kismet. The author, Ross's father is Anthony, son of Jim's brother Duke.

## PETERSTOWN - THE WAY IT WAS - FOR ME

*Submitted by Ross DeMaio*

I think the old Italian people of Peterstown did a pretty good job of raising their kids. Everyone tried to raise their kids right, make sure they received a good education and give them the best of what could be afforded.

I can't get enough of the stories my dad tells me of him growing up. When I heard his stories about school, I wish I could have been there. The number of friends he had is amazing. The playground could have 30 kids in it every day. There seemed like there was always something going on. When it was time to go home for supper, they went home but went right back as soon as they were done. They felt they would have missed something.

The St. Rocco's feast was the greatest. It lasted for a week and everybody had the time of their lives. It had the best rides and games, but most off all, it had the best food: sausage, meatballs, rice balls, and zepoles.

Everybody and their mother went to this feast and left with a smile on their face.

The boys from "The Burg" stuck together through everything. They went to school together, they hung out together, went to each others houses and grew up like they were part of each other's families.

The playground taking up the space between Second and Third Avenues and Christine and South Seventh Streets was the center of all the action.

Peterstown had everything going on when it came to eating. There was an outdoor market, delis, even a milk man, of course there was the best butchers and bakeries. It seems that everyone of my father's friends worked in one of the stores at some point.

The old timers made the neighborhood such a nice place to live that no one wanted to leave. But when their kid's kid had kids, that kind of changed. I should

know because I'm one of them.

Most of my fathers friends moved away but some stuck around. My dad stuck around and I was glad because I got to hang out with his friend's kids. We went to the same schools and did a lot of what our parents did. But it still wasn't the same. There was no playground to ourselves, no more St. Anthony's carnival or St. Rocco's feast, and it got me mad because I wanted to experience all that for myself.

I hung out in the playground and rode my bike and even went down to the crick, but there was too few of us to do anything in a big way. My dad had full 11 on 11 football games just amongst his friends. They ran their own softball league in the playground, splitting a group up into five teams! It was way different for me.

When one of my friends moved and then another and another, I knew it would be my turn. When I had to move, I didn't believe it until the moving truck pulled in front of my house.

I felt like I picked up and left without finishing what I had my mind set on doing. I was going to start the feast again and I was going make the neighborhood better, make it like it used to be. But I guess that was nothing but a kids dream.

One day I know that Peterstown will be back to the way it was. Not that its bad, it's just different. I want to see the feast again and the smiles on the faces of the kids. I want to be one of the old Italian people at the carnival and watching the kids play in the park and it will feel like home again.

**Ross DeMaio is a Junior at Toms River East High School in Toms River, New Jersey.**

# Recipes

## Tiramisu

By Phyllis Fernandez,  
 Joanne's Luncheonette

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 cup confections sugar
- 1 cup Mascarpone cheese chilled
- 1/2 cup of Kahlua
- 1 1/2 tsp instant coffee grounds, grated chocolate or shaved chocolate (you can shave a Hershey's Bar with a potato peeler).

Enough Lady Fingers to cover a 9" serving plate two times. (Your may use your favorite cake recipe in place of the lady fingers.)

### PREPARATION:

- 1) Beat the cream and sugar together with a whisk until stiff.
- 2) Fold in Mascarpone and 2 tsps of the Kahlua.
- 3) In a separate bowl combine the coffee and the remaining Kahlua stirring until the coffee is dissolved.
- 4) Cover 9 square inches of a serving plate with lady fingers.
- 5) Brush ladyfingers with coffee mixture.
- 6) Spread 1/3 of the cream mixture on top.
- 7) Add a second layer of lady fingers.
- 8) Brush second layer with remaining coffee mixture.
- 9) Spread the remaining cream mixture over the top and sides.
- 10) Sprinkle with grated chocolate.

## Pascuacina

By Anna Moreira - Barone's Deli

### INGREDIENTS:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| (FILLING)   | (PASTRY)                      |
| 2 packages of frozen Spinach (thawed and drained) | 2 lbs flour                   |
| 1 onion   | 2 tbs baking soda             |
| 1 green pepper                                    | 2 eggs                        |
| 2 or 3 Garlic Cloves                              | 4 ounces butter               |
| Handful of Grated Cheese (Romano)                 | 1 egg, water and milk on hand |
| Pepper and Salt to taste                          |                               |
| 2 eggs  | (2 eggs for glaze)            |

### PREPARATION:

- (FILLING)
- 1) Slightly saute onion, pepper and garlic in a saucepan with a small amount of oil.
  - 2) Remove from flame and mix in spinach, grated cheese and eggs. Add salt, pepper and oregano according to taste.
- (PASTRY)
- 1) Mix flour, baking soda, eggs and butter. Add equal amounts of water and milk in small doses until the dough is not dry but not sticky either.
  - 2) Roll dough into two flat pieces 12" x 18". Place one piece in a 12" x 18" baking pan.
  - 3) Add filling evenly on layer of dough.
  - 4) Cover with second piece of dough.
  - 5) Mix 1 egg and 1/4 cup of milk and paint the top of the finished dish.
  - 6) Preheat oven to 350°. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden.

(above) Pascuacina is also known as Spinach Pie or Spinach Pizza. Anna says the recipe that she submitted is Italian and is very popular in her native country of Uruguay but seems to be even more popular in Peterstown. (right, r-l) Luis Moreira, his wife Anna and daughter-in-law Tamara.

## BARONE'S DELI IS LIKE BEING HOME

The Moreira Family at Barone's does all their own cooking and baking on premise. The luncheonette/deli by day turns into a cafe after working hours and on weekends. Having lunch at Barone's has the same feeling as eating home where everyone shared the meal that was prepared. Barone's Deli does offer a long lunch menu but their daily specials are just that - special. One day they may have Trippe or Pasta Faggiolli. The next day it may be Covetelli or Gallina Cacciatore. Barone's also has a few signature side dishes that are irresistible as a snack. Their stuffed Pizza is so tempting that customers grab a slice just in passing. The baked goods that Barone's presents are impressive in variety and in taste.

After stopping in for an espresso or a quick bite to eat you may not want to go. There is always one more item that must be sampled before you leave. 🍷



## THIS OLD LICENSE PLATE

This map of New Jersey is made from old license plates screwed together. It was created for the Union County Employee Art Show and has been hanging since May 14, 2003, in Liberty Hall Center on Morris Avenue in Union, NJ, across from Kean University. The show will be on view until June 16.

There are 26 plates used to make the 5' sculpture. A few phone calls by the artist resulted in friends and neighbors contributing old plates that were sitting in their garages.

I'd like to collect more plates so additional maps can be made. If you are in possession of old plates that you could spare call Joe Renna at (908) 709-0530. 🍷

(right) Joe Renna with his sculpture "Creative License"



# HIGH PERFORMANCE CARE FOR THE FAMILY CAR

In April, the father and son team of Tony and Pete Paolucci ended an era in auto care on the corner of South 5th Street and Fifth Avenue when they sold their Texaco service station. Now there are new owners, a new name and a new mechanic.

Victor Rivas owns the auto repair portion of the newly named Power Auto Care service station. He brings 20 years of experience with him and a 13 year old son, Victor Jr., who helps out after school. Victor is of Mexican decent and has lived in Elizabeth for 23 years. His wife Christine (nee Brady) is a native Elizabethan. Victor said "We're hoping to serve the community with as much pride as the Paolucci family has for the last 20 years."

Rivas has spent his career working for various Sonoco service stations. He has customers that follow him from the different locations where he once worked, as far as South Street in Cranford and the corner of Green Street in Woodbridge and as close by as the corner of Jackson

and Olive Streets in Elizabeth.

Victor's experience with cars is far beyond most that of most neighborhood mechanics. He is a specialist in high performance rotary motors. The type used in ATCO racing. Victor used to race an ATCO car in Englishtown. He believes in putting the same effort into his customer's cars that he did in his own racing car. He believes that putting extra effort into even the smallest job improves engine performance.

Victor's capabilities touch many aspects of auto care. He rebuilds engines, he is a front end specialist, he can even work on diesel engines. Victor is a certified technician when it comes to air conditioning repair and computer processes. Victor has an account with Nationwide Ambulance to maintain and repair its fleet of ambulances.

Peterstown wishes the new father and son team all the best. 🇺🇸



(right, top) Victor Rivas is the new master mechanic in Peterstown. He is pictured here with an emission analysis control system used for state inspections.

(right) No job is too big for Victor Jr. He helps his dad after school and on his days off. He's in the 8th grade at Maple G. Holmes School.



(left) This new Power Auto Care sign now stands on the corner of Fifth Avenue and South 5th Street, where Paulucci's Texaco sign once stood.

In 1953 gasoline cost about .22¢ per gallon. Preserve this newspaper for fifty years. It would be interesting to see if gasoline prices raise to \$8.78.



# THE HONORS GO TO CARL CORSENTINO

(right) Carl Corsetino and family: (Front, l-r) wife, Patricia; Grandchildren Pamela and Sam Smart. (back, l-r) Samuel and Maria Smart.



Those who know Carl Corsetino know that he is never short for words. Ask him "What's new?" and the answer will take a while. Amazingly though ask him about himself and he doesn't respond. Not that he doesn't answer, but he will tell you about how wonderful everyone else is. He can tell you stories about his parents, friends and people from the neighborhood. Great stories of great accomplishments by great people. But no stories about himself. And it's not that he hasn't done wonderful things. It's that he's just too modest to mention them.

Carl Corsetino has been one of the most generous supporters of our community. He has helped people in so many different ways and has supported the church, schools and organizations in Peterstown.

Each year, at our picnic, the Sons of Peterstown honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community through their work and good deeds. This year we chose Carl Corsetino.

The one quote about himself Carl did belt out for all to hear is. "I was born and raised in Peterstown. After 68 years I'm still here, I'm going to stay and I love it!"



(above, l-r) Sons of Peterstown Club President, John Sacco presented a plaque to Carl Corsetino in recognition of his service to the community while Vice President, Anthony Sacca and Secretary Lou LaBrutto look on.



(above, l-r) John Schipani spun CD's while Jake Miccelli spun cotton candy.

(below) John Sacco calling for the rain to stop.



## REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

God bless America! Since our last article the war is over. Believe it or not its almost the 4th of July. Our weather gives us the appearance that we went from winter to fall, not spring. However if you look around, because of all the rain that we have had, everything is very green.

Springtime is the best time to sell your home. It's the time of year when the appearances of most homes are at their best. Many people take advantage of this time of the year to ride around the neighborhoods that they are interested in living in. This is why it's very important that if your looking to sell your home you should keep your lawn trimmed and make sure your house has plenty of lipstick on inside and outside. A well groomed home is the most desirable and has the best market appeal.

Owners should be aware that in today's real estate market that banks are more likely to lend on a home that is not in disarray. Because of the high prices and a high default rate on homes, which may lead to foreclosure, banks are now more stringent in lending on homes that need work. In fact, I will give you an example of what occurred recently. A bank recently delayed a closing because a step in the rear of a house was not painted. Another bank requested that the

basement wall be scraped and painted. Most banks now require that the appraiser certify the roof. Appraisers tend to not want to certify the roofs themselves and would rather require a roof certificate.

Can you believe that the rates are lower then they were 45 years ago? When I started my business in 1975 the rates were at 8-1/4%. The last time rates were this low was after World War II. Today the prevailing rate for a 15-year mortgage is 4 5/8% and for a 30 year mortgage is 5 1/8% both with no points. There are also first time buyers programs with lower rates, but you must qualify either by location or income.

More good things are happening in Elizabeth, last month there was an auction for city owned property. The city raised 2 million dollars on the sale of lots. The prices of these lots five years ago would sell for \$5000 today these lots go for \$90,000. Because of the demand for new construction in the city, many builders are buying homes to demolish them in order to construct new homes.

The whisper around city hall is that they may be changing the minimal lot size to discourage the demolition of old homes. A word to the wise if your property fits into this category and you're looking to sell, do it now before they change the minimal lot size.

I wish every one a happy vacation.

*Submitted by Justino Rosa*