



# PAOLA, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

**H**enry Murillo loves Paola and wants the world to know. He wants to spend the rest of his life with her as husband and wife. And he wants his proposal to reflect his level of his sincerity. So when she reads this head line, Paola, and five thousand other readers, will know Henry is committed.

Is this not the most romantic thing you've ever seen. Henry's proposal is steeped in all the traditional aspects of love and romance. The protocol for Henry's actions came from lessons on courtship learned not from text books but from example and instruction from parent to child. It's true by going public Henry did introduce a new twist to the old bended knee but it is an addition worthy of its own chapter.

A couple's conduct during courtship, engagement and marriage is an outward expression of things that have no mass like feelings, respect, desire, commitment and emotions. To share feelings with the community strengthens their essence. A healthy relationship is a model for others to emulate. So it is with great significance that this headline appears. In the event that some lessons have been lost though the years, Henry's engagement will restore a sense of virtue.

Henry draws from his family's Nicaraguan culture and with respect to Paola's Ecuadorian roots has already expressed his intentions to her father. It is with her father's blessing and a strong belief that she will accept that he has planned a special evening that will bring both families together so they too can share in this celebration. During desert a patron at a neighboring table will start to read this paper in Paola's line of vision. She won't be able to help but to notice her name in the headline. Once her curiosity is piqued the realization of the message will closely follow. Punctuated by flowers and a mariachi band serenading her Paola will be in for an experience that will be remembered for a life time.

Expressions of love in today's pop culture is less evident than in the past. Romance has always been a difficult issue for people especially our youth. It is difficult enough to deal with self awareness let alone committing to be aware of someone else. The only true way to learn the rich, fulfilling lessons of love is to be a student of life. Surround yourself with loving people and you will learn to love.

Peterstown is in the Ivy League when it comes to love of God, love of family and love of life. We could all use a refresher course once in a while. All you have to do is visit the Peterstown community center and talk to the seniors. They will set you straight.

As for Paola, she shall remain anonymous for now. Our readers must tune in to the next edition of this paper for her response.



Henry's mom, Maria Lopez (right) is pictured with her close friend Mariana Cevallos. Maria will be celebrating her 60th birthday. The party will bring together the future inlaws.

Henry will use that occasion to propose.



Henry Murillo is set to pop the question to his girlfriend Paola. He is standing in "Flowers by Emilio" surrounded by traditional tokens of love and affection.

Owners Liz and Emil Ragone deal in romance on a daily basis. They believe every day should be Valentine's Day.

# Around About Peterstown

ELIZABETH NJ

Feb 01

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

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

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## President's Message

Every season our super bowl party gets bigger and better. Even though the Giants got spanked the fact that they were in it made the day more exciting. It is the best party around and next year will be even better.

Tops on the agenda for our club's February meeting is plans for our Annual Neighborhood Picnic. This will be our Fourteenth picnic. Our previous success was due to the support and donations from organizations, businesses and individuals. We will be accepting food, refreshments and cash donations for the next few months. Details about the picnic will be announced in the April Issue of this paper.

From toddlers to seniors, this picnic is for our families, friends, and neighbors. This is truly a community event. Anyone interested in helping out can call me at my shop at 908-355-5469.

Thank you and God Bless.

**John Sacco**  
President

P.S. Winners of this years Sons of Petertown Super Bowl Raffle were Dave Kattowski Mike DeRosa and Mike Camiche.

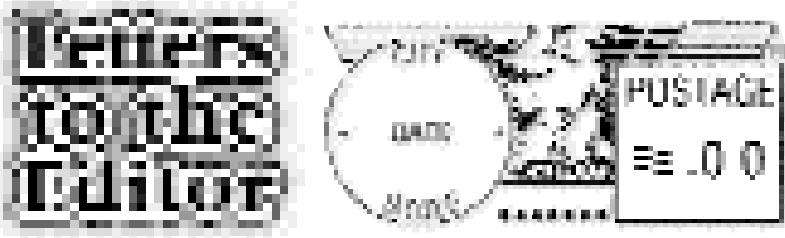
## PRESS RELEASES

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

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## 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 Friends,

Jennifer Ciano is 16-year-old. She grew up in the Elmora section of Elizabeth. Jenny has been in the Gifted and Talented system of the Elizabeth schools, maintaining high grades, playing in school bands and singing in the school chorus. She also loves sports and has been involved with the Elmora Youth League since she was five years old. You can imagine the shock when during a routine eye exam it was discovered that Jenny has an inoperable brain tumor on her optic nerve. Immediately, her family sought out the best doctors for treatment. She attempted several different types of chemotherapy, but, unfortunately, she was unable to tolerate them. She became extremely ill, so her parents started to investigate alternative medicine. They have found Dr. Burzynski in Texas who has had great success with brain tumors, but the insurance company won't cover any of his very costly treatment. The initial visit to Texas cost \$21,000.00, and the monthly cost will be \$7,200.00. she began treatment at the Burzynski Clinic in November.

A small group of friends started fund raising and formed "Angels in Action for Jenny". Our first fund raiser brought in \$10,000.00, but so much more is needed. We are in the process of planning a benefit for Jenny and her family. We would appreciate anything that you could do to help in this effort. If you would like to contribute, please send a check made payable to "Angels in Action for Jenny" to 738 Magie Ave. Elizabeth, NJ 07208. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dona Gutchess, Chairperson - "Angels in Action for Jenny"  
Elizabeth, NJ

Dear Joe & Tina,

I loved your editorial, it was beautiful and to the point. We had teenagers in our home forever. Never any problems. Give them love and respect and discipline when needed and all will go well. You do not raise children, you nurture them, like flowers. Know when to water them and when to fertilize them. Love and discipline. We had 10 children, they all had friends. We lived in Rahway 15 years. No one had a key to our doors, they were never locked. All were welcome in our home. My wife Carmela is a great cook and baker. Friday nights were pizza nights, 10 - 12 pizzas, with pizza fritta. The Baptist girls used to say "Mrs. C, you are the only person we know who makes the main meal and dessert with the same ingredients".

Thanks for the memories. I Wish you and yours a healthy and happy successful 2001. May it bring all your desires.

Sincerely yours

Charles A. Cusumano  
Arnold, MD

Dear Mr. Renna,

I was born in Elizabeth, N.J. I moved to Pennsylvania when I was three years old. My mom Sandi Guida was raised there. Even though I really don't remember much about N.J., my mom talks about it so much I feel like I grew up there.

When I was visiting my grandma's, Florence Guida, I saw your newspaper and I became very interested in it. I always look forward to receiving and reading your paper. We try to come back as often as we can.

Some of my mom's favorite places to go when she was growing up were: Spirito's, St. Anthony's Youth Center and CYO dances. Thank you for printing *Around About Peterstown*. You and your staff are doing a great job. Keep up the good work!

Thank you,  
Jillian DeMarco  
Plains, PA

To whom it may concern,  
I would love to have a Monticello Family Cookbook.  
Could you let me know how I could go about it.  
Thank you.

Mickelina Nigro Crincoli  
Toms River, NJ

Dear Readers,

It's easy to think of stories as mere entertainment but they are much more. Storytelling is a way of communicating who we are, and where we've been, and want to go. They are a way to explain what our culture represents and a way of gluing the family structure together, of creating a past family history and a dialogue of a family's story for future generations. Family stories are the main way we share traditions and links between generations. They represent conversations that pass on celebrations and traditions, events, memories, funny and sad. All these things together create images in which our children see the past and the present. By encouraging them to be better story tellers they will become better observers of life around them and of people's reactions and feelings. There are great lessons that stories contain, as they help us think about all aspects of life. Our children need stories of hope, inspiration, kindness, courage and confidence. They need to be uplifted, transformed and reassured by our family stories.

Growing up and even to this day I remember many wonderful stories of my family. We had many wonderful family members who were funny and wise storytellers, even though they were embellished a little, it made it even better. We didn't have video games, C.D.'s, V.C.R.'s, computers, etc. to entertain ourselves so we sat around the table and listened to great stories, and learned powerful lessons from them. It brings a tear to my eye that some of my best story tellers are now gone, but their spirit is still here in our hearts, and we carry on the tradition to our children and grandchildren. So, share your rich life stories.

Yours truly,  
Jacqueline (Merlo) DeMaio  
Clark, NJ

Consider this letter an open invitation to all readers to submit any stories, memories or news that may relate to the common bond of our readers. Accompanying photos are encouraged. There have been pieces that appeared in the paper that were submitted by our readers. In this issue, on page 4 Virginia Navarro reflects on her trip to Sicily.

Her experience along with others will create an image of what life was like in 20th century America, in the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey and the community of Peterstown.

Keep those stories rolling in.  
Thank You,  
Joe Renna

## TWO CHURCH'S - TWO FUND RAISERS - SAME DAY - THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Don't look now but one of these is not politically correct.

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7:00 pm**

**Chinese  
Auction  
St Anthony's Church  
Elizabeth, NJ**

**March 2, 2001  
7:00 pm**



# Editor's Opinion

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

3  
Feb 01

Marriage is an institution under which a man and a woman become legally united on a permanent basis. For most people it is also a religious rite. The spiritual and legal implications of the contract seem far more serious than the practice indicates. Society's casual attitude towards marriage is inconsistent with its treatment of other matters. There is more paper work involved in returning a gift at Macy's.

Cultural and religious tradition adds significant importance to a couple's actions. The more pre-marital counseling a couple receives the better the chances that they will be making an informed decision. The enlightenment doesn't only come from the church. In fact parents will have more to do with the couple's outlook on marriage than any other influence. That is why it is so important to communicate to our children. Through actions as well as words.

Catholics are required to go through Pre-Cana in preparation to marriage. The course covers issues the couples inevitably must face. For some couples it is a reinforcement of what was learned in the home, for others it is an important first step to understanding what marriage is all about. The emphasis is on communication, economics, family and sexuality. Not the more common of topics at the dinner table, but, they should be.

When spirituality is removed from the marriage equation then the essence of the institution is lost.

The statistic that half of all marriages end in divorce has almost reached cliche status. The stats are tainted by mixing all marriages together. Marriage has grown to mean different things to different people. There should be different services and different contracts to suit the couple's needs. The broad brush of the civil ceremony can't possibly paint the same meaning for every couple that takes the vows.

If it truly is a legal contract then treat it as such. It is only during divorce that couples become junior attorney's learning complex code to come out a winner. If half the energy spent on divorce was applied to the vows couples would be much better off.

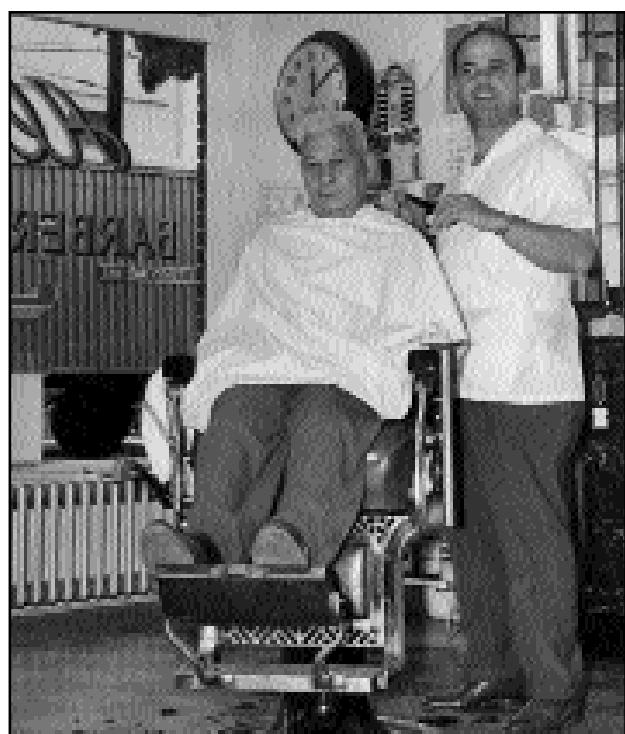
The legal aspects of marriage are so far removed from the original meaning of the term that it should be time to create new institutions. Ones that will address common-law marriages, co-habitation relationships, marriage between homosexuals, and multiple marriages. If the government wants to dictate law over marriage it must be consistent.

Social ills stem from dysfunctional families. We could all use our experience and be a positive influence to our youth. Don't let them rely on the news and entertainment for their image of marriage. The institute of marriage is the cornerstone of a good community. We should work on cultivating healthy relationships. For our children's sake. 

## Not for Nothing But...

Some people ponder  
signing the terms of a car  
lease longer than they do  
contemplating marriage.

## BIG SHOES TO FILL



Albine Gallo puts the flat-top to Benny Labrace. The photo was taken at Al's Barber Shop in Hillsdale, NJ, in 1963 at 12:10 pm. Labrace and his familiar do was a Milkman servicing Peterstown for 50 years.

In the last issue of this paper, Angelo Acito bade farewell to his customers at Cranford Barber Shop from which he retired. In this issue we introduce his replacement. Another time tested professional from Peterstown. Albino Gallo moved to Peterstown from Vallata, Italy in 1949. He cut hair in Al's Barber Shop in Hillside for 43 years.

If your Local barber shop doesn't have a Peterstown Haircutter on board than ask them to get one. 

## VALLATESE LADIES SOCIETY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

The Vallatese Ladies Society of Elizabeth celebrated their 60th anniversary at a dinner dance at the Garden Manor. The following ladies were honored for over 40 years of membership: Angie Campanelli, Vincenza Candelino, Mary Mazza, Louise Colicchio, Mary LaFace, Marie Paternoster, Dora Ricerca and Adrianna Palmisano.

Also honored were senior members with over 25 years of active membership: Theresa Colicchio-Fusciello, Edith D'Antico, Yolanda Meyers and

Clara Travisano.

The officers for 2001 are Jo Piga, President; Alba Zamarra Conklin, Vice President; Rosalie Tanga, 2nd Vice President; Lorraine Renna Kelly, Secretary; Bella Piga and Mary Mazza, Co-Treasurers; Theresa Colicchio-Fusciello, Sargent-At-Arms.

The next club event will be a bus ride to Atlantic City in March. Call Rosalie Tanga for details. (908) 289-6190. 



At the Age of 96, Angie Campanelli is the oldest original member of the Vallatese Ladies Society.



Pictured above (standing, l-r) Chairperson Maria Chirichillo, Dora Ricerca, Marie Paternoster, President Jo Piga, Co-chairperson Rosalie Tanga, Adrianna Palmisano, Edith D'Antico, Treasurer Bella Piga, Secretary Lorraine Renna Kelly, Trustees Gilda Melchionna and Phyllis LoBrace. (seated l-r) Mary LaFace, Vincenza Candelino, Mary Mazza, Theresa Colicchio-Fusciello, Yolanda Meyers and Clara Travisano.

# MEMORIES OF CAMMARATA

*Excerpts from a story written by Norene Navarro*

All my life, I wanted to visit Sicily. My grandparents, Thomas and Giovaninna Migliore, had immigrated to America in the early 1900's. They came from a town in Sicily called Cammarata. It was located in the mountains in the province of Agrigento, so famous for its Greek ruins. It intrigued me to think that they could leave their beloved town and travel to a country so different from their own.

My grandfather, a mason by trade, worked very hard, as did my grandmother raising their 12 children.

My grandparents took in boarders to make ends meet. It was tough during the depression and grandpa, or Papa as we called him, struggled to get jobs in his trade.

These memories were recanted by my mother one spring evening as we sat in her kitchen at our family home in New Jersey. Dad had passed away 10 years before, and it had been a big financial burden for mom to keep the house. It was a large Colonial. At 78, she was still mowing the lawn, changing curtains, and cleaning that big house. But this night, as she reminisced about her own mother and father, and their struggles, she told me she had decided to sell our family home. It was a decision my sister Meel (a nick name for Carmella) and I had anticipated for a while. She then looked at me with a twinkle in her eyes and said that when the house was sold, she intended to treat my sister and me to a trip to Italy, Sicily to be exact, Cammarata, to be specific.

It was decided that the three of us would go in July. We would land in Rome and take a small plane to Palermo, the capitol of Sicily. After three days in Palermo, we would travel to Agrigento, Sorrento, Naples, and finally back to Rome. During the time we stayed in Agrigento, we would visit Cammarata.

Upon arrival in Rome, we transferred to a smaller plane and proceeded to Palermo - Bella Palermo! What a beautiful city. We toured this lovely city for three days. The long awaiting visit to Cammarata was finally here! We were very excited.

As we left Palermo en route to Agrigento, and proceeded

into the countryside of Sicily, it was clear to me how beautiful this land of our heritage is. The mountains were like no others that I have seen. They rose to dizzying heights and dropped just as suddenly. Nestled in the cliffs of these mountains were numerous stone houses and always lovely gardens and trees. Olive trees, almond trees, grape vines, and vegetables of all kinds were planted in neat rows up and down the mountains. On the way, we passed a small sign which read, Cammarata. At once my heart began to race as I glanced up a huge mountain thinking, is that our town, all the way up there?

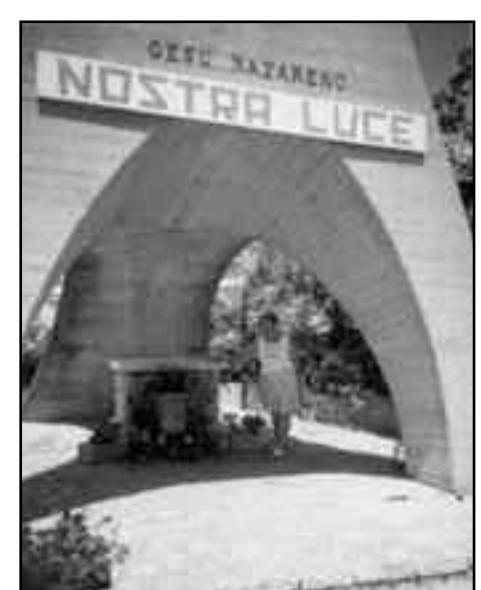
We arrived in Agrigento, a three to four hour ride from Palermo. We checked into our rooms at the hotel Della Valle and hurriedly freshened up in order to meet our driver for the trip to Cammarata.

We began our trip with Mom in the front seat, Meel and I in the back. My mother greeted our driver Francesco in Italian and at once, after hearing mom speak the Sicilian dialect, Francesco became very animated - telling us about himself, his family, his life in Italy and how he came to be a driver.

Up, up, up we climbed, never seeming to reach the top. All the while passing olive trees and a profusion of bougainvillea flowers in a bright magenta color. Here and there were remains of small stone houses, bombed during the war and never rebuilt among the newer cement houses with striped awnings shutting out the glare of the ever present sun.

We came to the shrine of Jesu Nazarena. Francesco stopped the car so we could get out and take a few more pictures, and say a prayer. My mother remembered stories about this shrine from my grandparents - I wonder how often they may have stopped here for a silent prayer. Perhaps, on their journey to America, they stopped here one last time for a prayer of encouragement, and hope for a better life in the U.S.

We got back into the car and proceeded on our trip. Another sign for Cammarata, a turn of the mountain road, and we began a steep climb to the top. 



(above) Virginia's driver, Francesco guided her to roads her ancestors traveled and places they went like this outdoor alter pictured at right.



Virginia Navarro (center) with cousins that she met in The Sicilian town of Cammarata. Navarro made the trip back to the home town of her grandparents.



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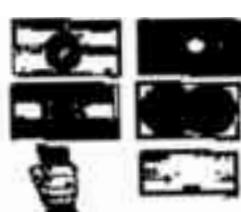
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# LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

5  
Feb 01

The City of Elizabeth continues to be on the cutting edge of public service. The talent in our administration is constantly put to the challenge and they always perform beyond the call.

Heavy snow fall spells despair for everyone. Blizzard conditions can shut down cities. Towns without an efficient snow removal plan are faced with days of congestion, confusion and frustration. With safety always being the number one concern for a municipality. Elizabeth looked at the city's predicament in the blizzard of 1996 and developed a program that improved on every aspect of the emergency operation. Though we accumulated up to 16 inches, inconvenience was at a minimum.

The Urban areas of Elizabeth have very little off street parking. The task of plowing those streets was time consuming and labor intensive. It was a huge hit to the budgets of the public works department, the police department and residents. In the past if a car was not moved to allow the street to be plowed it would be towed and impounded. One car at a time. Which meant a police officer having to spend time writing reports after a morning of trying to find the owners of the car. The owners, who were most likely working, were now faced with a \$70 towing bill. The process would last hours. It was the way it was done for years.

The storm of 1996 was the first to occur with Mayor Bollwage in office. Under his lead the program was designed and executed without a hitch. They set a standard for service that was put to the test again this winter and, once again, the process proved to be successful. Coordinating the efforts of the police department was Police Lt.. Edward Baginski, of the Traffic Division and Blaise LaPolla, Director of the Department of Public Works.

The main objective was to clear hospital routes, then bus routes and then school routes. If a car was impaired by snow the option of public transportation was readily available.

Following a snow storm police vehicles would make announcements to residents over their PA system to move cars for the purpose of plowing. The announcement went over in english as well as the language prevalent in each neighborhood. The cars remaining were then towed to a different spot and after the plow did its business the cars were put back in their original spots. Some residents had no

idea their car was ever moved. The program has received the approval from the community. As a bonus, the police were able to locate cars that may have been stolen or used unlawfully.

Snow removal that took 25 minutes per block now takes a quarter of the time. The old method required two police officers per block and would tie them up for hours writing reports and a special lot for impounding the cars.

Most residents know very little of the inside workings of government. The media is not always gracious when reporting news from city hall. The day-to-day challenge of running a city is taken for granted. What seems routine is sometimes extra ordinary. The smoother the operation the more stealth in appearance. Government employees are not just doing their jobs they are doing the work of all of us. 



Elizabeth Police Lieutenant Edward Baginski heads the Traffic Division for the department and coordinates the effort of his officers during emergency snow removal operations. He works closely with Highway Towing and the city's Department of Public Works' director Blaise LaPolla and City Yard supervisor Nick Schipani.



(l-r) Sisters, Theresa and Ashley Renna and, thier cousins, Mia and Angela Renna built a snow man and snow dog during January's snow storm. The storm set the wheels of Elizabeth's innovative snow removal plan into action.

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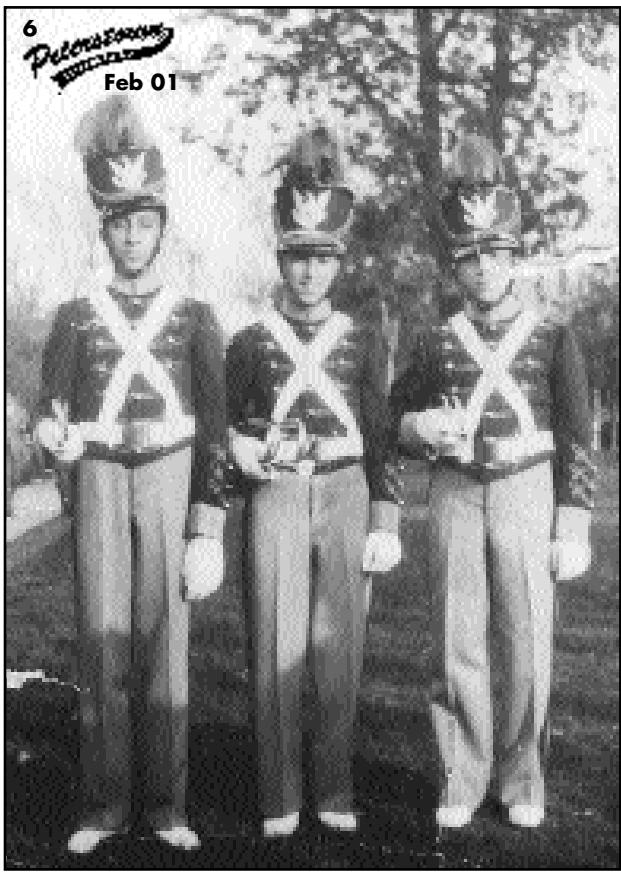
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(above) Charles Cusmano, Anthony (Dundee) Ballero and Paul Segro stand at attention in their 1936 St. Anthony's Drum and Bugle Corps uniforms.

# THE DAYS OF DRUMS AND BUGLES

The feature of every feast day celebration was a procession through the streets of the neighborhood. The focus of the march was a statue of the particular Saint being honored. Escorting the holy statue would be a marching band. The band would parade during the day and give a concert in the evening during the festivities.

The tradition of the drum and bugle bands trace back to Italy where each town had its own band. The concentration of Italians in Peterstown made the neighborhood a natural resource for talent. It was there that in 1936 that Joseph Zaccaro started a band. Zaccaro taught many of the members of the band. He also managed getting the band playing dates in different towns and leading the band in their performances.

Saint's feast days were celebrated in Westfield, Jersey City, Bayonne and of course Elizabeth. The Band from Peterstown played at every one. They were sought after

and played in many other towns. They were polished and professional. Band members would get paid \$2.00 for the day's work.

Sunday was their day to practice. They practiced in the clubhouse of the Italian War Veterans on John street between Third and Fourth Avenues. The music from their rehearsal filled the streets. The Veterans Club sponsored the group lending support any way they could like paying for their uniforms.

The band was a source of pride for the neighborhood. It was a link to the traditions of their home town over seas. It bonded the musicians together and their fans. Modern day marching bands seem distant and out of touch. They are usually reserved to play in stadiums at half time shows or in parades on big avenues. It would be refreshing to see a group up close marching through the small streets of the neighborhood, available to the kids who form their own line to strut along side.

The photo below was given to me by Dom Sestito. For the past 40 years, Dom has been cutting hair in his barber shop on Westfield Avenue in Clark. He named a few of the band members and then the photo was sent to Charles Cusmano to see if he knew some names. (See next page) They did pretty good. It has been sixty years since the photo was shot. Some names they were sure of. Some not so sure. Some faces drew blanks. Charles supplied clues to the identification of musicians who's faces were familiar but names escaped him. Some may be highly speculative.



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<sup>1</sup> Hearing aid users report varying results. Individual experiences vary depending on hearing loss, severity of condition, age, and ability to adapt to new hearing aid. Please consult your audiologist for more information.

# THE LEGEND OF THE BAND

7  
Feb 01



1. Looks like the shoe maker who had a shop across from St. Anthony's on Centre Street.
2. Anthony Papetti
3. Sal Insalaca
4. #4 & #13 are sisters who worked in or owned a tailor shop on 2nd Avenue, around the corner from Palmer Street. One of them married #6.
5. Lived on 3rd Avenue across from Frank Marranca's Shoe Shop which was just past LaPolla's Tavern. (Frank was Rosa's father. He was married to a Remite from Fourth Avenue near Christine St.) #3 could have been a DeMarco. Mr. DeMarco had a small ice house there (10-15-20¢ a piece) I have Mr. DeMarco in a photo of the St. Lucy Society. They Look alike.
6. Anthony Ferrara
7. Frank Marranca
8. Lived on Centre Street near 2nd Avenue.
9. Maganelli
10. Leo Giacalone
11. Dom Sestiti
12. Mario Ianarillo
13. See #4.
14. Livio Dimperio
15. Red Dieso

16. Sal
17. Sarica
18. Cosmo
19. Joe Zaccaro
20. John Nidia
21. Louis Longabardi
22. Paladino
23. Charles Cusmano
24. Ross Marranco
25. John Giamarra
26. Chicel Palmisano
27. Cosmo Zaccaro
28. Joe Gatto

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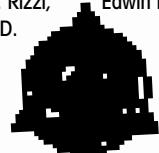
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## THE IZZETTA FAMILY STANDS PAT WITH TWO PAIRS

The chances of having twins quadruples for a couple who already had one set. Figuring the odds was purly academic because the Izzetta family from John Steet did just that. Both sets were fraternal. Both sets consisted of a boy and girl. The first set, Carmine and Camile were born in 1951 and the second set, Frank and Karen were born in 1960.



(above) Camile and Carmen, the first of two sets for the Izzetta family. (right) The second set, born nine years later, was made up of Frank and Karen.



(left l-r) Though not identical in looks The Buckley twins, Mike and Luke, were a perfect match when it came to the heart.



(right) The bookends leading the procession are Joe and Tony Paternostro.

The Passion Play is a Good Friday tradition in their home town of Vallata, Italy. They were five years old then and in seven years would move to Elizabeth.

(right) At 15 years old Joe and Tony payed JV Soccer for Thomas Jefferson High School.

(below) Joe and Tony standing outside their pizzeria, Tommy's, on Fairmount Avenue in Elizabeth.



(above) Joe and Tony made a custom pizza for New Jersey Governor Jim Florio in the shape of the state.

## TWINS TWINS OF PETERSTOWN PETERSTOWN

America has twins in the White House. George W's daughters Jenna and Barbara are twenty year old fraternal twins. There is now a renewed interest in the phenomenon of multiple births.

Twin births are becoming more common. Statistics have risen 50% in the last forty years. In the 1960's the rate for multiple births was 1 in 85. Today it is down to 1 in 55, or 1 in 35 if you factor in multiple births due to fertility drugs. Chances for multiple births increase with the age of the mother. Statistics also show a dramatic difference due to ethnicity. Though they are more common, twins still pique our curiosity; and with good cause.

There are many beliefs surrounding the lives of twins. Frankly most are myths. It is intriguing to think that they possess extrasensory perception or that one twin could feel the pain when their sibling's toe was stepped on. Science says it's impossible to prove paranormal activity but twins do have a connection to each other that is extra ordinary. Especially identical twins.

Fraternal twins, not identical, occur almost

three times as often than maternal, or identical, twins. Causes for fraternal twins can run in the gene pool of a family but identical twins are said to be the product of chance. Making the occurrence even that much more interesting.

Peterstown had its share of twin births. At some time, it had more than its share. The clusters of multiple births seemed to ride a wave that peaked around 1950 then again in 1960. Conspiracy theorist tie the cluster to a particular batch of tomato sauce. Well, whatever the reason, the small neighborhood of Peterstown enjoyed the novelty of having 10 sets of twins born within the same number of years. The next generation of Peterstown twins has reached grand proportions. Though they were born and reside in all directions far from Peterstown, an attempt is under way to gather photos of the post 60's duos.

Anyone with photos can send them to Around About Peterstown, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. Make sure the photos are accompanied by a caption which includes birthdays and parents names.

## CLASS OF 1960

Besides Frank and Karen Izzetta being born in 1960, five other sets of twins made the scene. All of them identical.



The Pantaleo brothers were able to switch class rooms during school and the teachers were none the wiser. They would play toward their strengths during exam week.

(above l-r) Thomas and Louis during in grade school. (right l-r) Louis has his arm around Thomas.



(above l-r) Anthony and Patrick Festa grew upon the corner of Fourth Avenue and Spencer Street. This picture was taken at their mom and dad's 50th wedding anniversary.



(right) Diane and Sue Scalegnio moved to Elizabeth from Staten Island. They kept their New York accents but made all new life long friends.

# MICHAEL AND STEPHEN CARUSO

9  
Feb 01



The Caruso twins were born in 1961. They were the last of a run of twins born in Peterstown. If there were degrees of identical, then they are very identical. 

(below l-r) Stephen and Mike



(above l-r) Stephen and Mike

(above) Grandpa Carmine Caruso Bounces baby Stephen and Michael on his knees.



• • • • • • • • • •

## Not for Nothing But...

If you are blessed  
when you have one  
child, then you are  
doubly blessed when  
you have twins.  
• • • • • • • • • •

# MARYANN AND THERESA DECESARE



Maryann and Theresa were born in 1956. They are two of five sisters who are close in age. They are close in looks and any two may pass as twins. 



(above) Theresa DeCesare, seated, and her five daughters.  
(l-r) Maryann, Theresa, Toni, Ginny and Connie.

(right) Theresa, seated, was maid of honor when Maryann married Mike Dagostino. They are encouraging Tom as he slips a garter up to Theresa's knee.

# CARAVANO TWINS



Joey and Jimmy Caravano were born in 1951, the same year as the first set of Izzetta twins. The four twins made the newspapers when they started kindergarten together. 



(above left) Identical twins Joey and Jimmy at five years old. (pictured above)  
The entire Caravano family when the boys were twenty years old.

(left) Joe Caravano in his familiar stripes as a high school basketball referee. In a pre-game conference, Governor Livingston Captain greets Roselle Catholic's Geanna Bonavitacola, Danielle DeRosa and Leanne Potochney.



# CARAVANO TWINS THE BOVINE VARIETY

The birth of twin calves is so rare that the birth of a set in 1939 made headlines. The pair were born right on Spencer Street to the Caravano herd of Holsteins. The dairy also had twin calves born twenty years earlier. Maybe what ever was in their milk was the cause to the slew of human twins in the neighborhood.

Cows usually went nameless in the business-like setting but after the birth the mama cow was named Victoria. The twins, one of each sex, were kept in the barn instead of being sold. The Caravano dairy kept about twenty five cows on their eight lot farm. There were about 4,000 cows kept on Union County farms. According to Fred Osman, the county's agricultural agent, it was the first he has heard of twin calves anywhere in the county. 



(above) This photo of "Victoria" and her twin Calves appeared in the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1939. The birth of the twins is a rarity in animal husbandry.

# SEPARATED AT BIRTH

There have been a few instances of identical twin births in Peterstown that resulted in one of the babies being sent off to live with adopted families.

Records were obtained that revealed the names of the lost twins. Attempts to reunite the siblings has

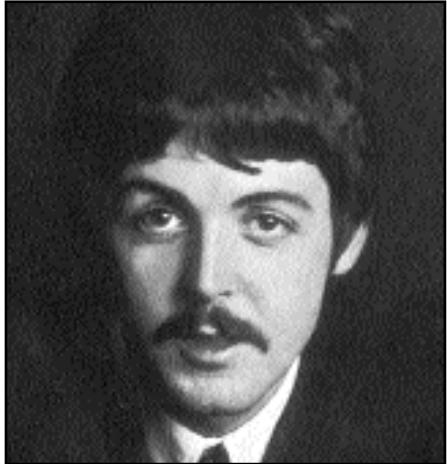
not been successful. Though one of each set is still rooted close to the place of their birth, the counter part could be living anywhere in the world. The possibilities of finding them is almost impossible.



(below) Four sets of identical twins separated at birth.



Louis LaBrutto



Paul McCartney



Vito Bellino



Ernest Borgnine



Steve Mirando



Humphrey Bogart



Maryann (Laquaglia) Parrish



Sahrah Jessica Parker



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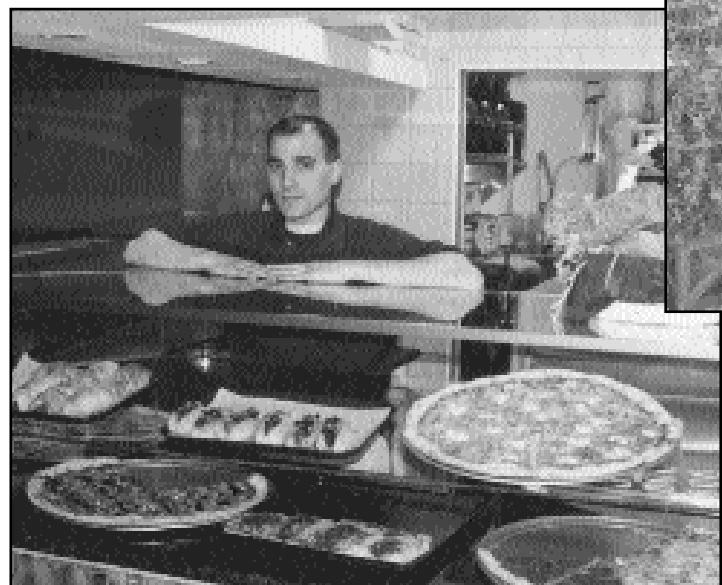
# MICHELINO'S ADDS SIT DOWN DINING

11  
Feb 01

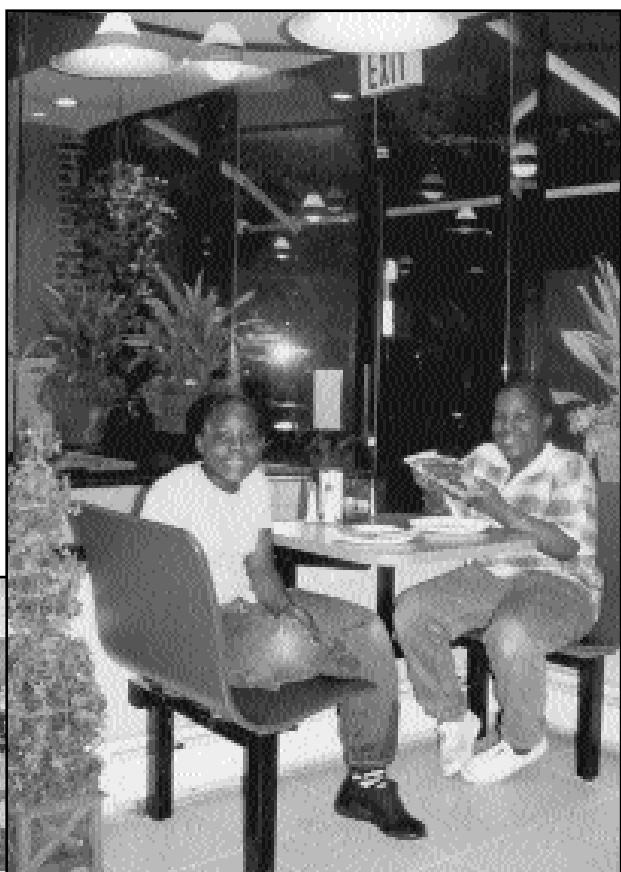
Michelino's Pizzeria located on the corner of Washington Avenue and South Street in Elizabeth has now expanded the shop to accommodate seating. Michelino's has operated as a take-out and delivery place only. Now patrons are invited to sit and enjoy a pizza and a full hot and cold menu.

The new room is complete with a display case full of fancy pizzas with a variety of topping combinations. The interior design is more restaurant than it is pizzeria. The modern windows and lamps compliment the floors and walls done to look like old European masonry. Decorative borders and plants tie the whole look together.

The atmosphere is only the second reason to go there. The food of course is number one. 



Jerry Nigro at the ready to serve you behind the display case which is part of the new addition to Michelino's Pizzeria.



Our two models are set in front of the spacious window setting of Michelino's dinning area. The girls who are nine years old attend Woodrow Wilson School 19.

Their names are Alexandra and Alicine Similien. They happen to be sisters but even more amazing, since this paper featured twins, they also happen to be twins. How about that.

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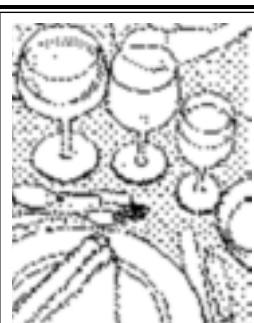
Sat 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sun 8:00 am to 1:00 pm



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## Recipes

### Shrimp in Garlic Sauce

Submitted by Joe Montes, Tavern in the Park

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. of medium shrimp  
1 tablespoon of minced garlic clove  
3 oz. of virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon of paprika  
flakes of crushed red pepper seed (to taste)  
3 oz. of a dry white wine  
1 oz. of cognac or brandy  
a pinch of salt

#### PREPARATION:

Heat the oil up in a sauté pan, just before it smokes add the garlic, salt and red pepper seed. When the garlic starts to brown add the shrimp. Sauté until the shrimp begins to turn pink in color, stirring constantly. Now add the paprika and sauté for 1 minute. Follow by adding the cognac (brandy) but be careful, because it will flare up on you. After the fire goes out add the white wine and sauté for another 2 minutes....Grab a nice chunk of your favorite bread and ENJOY!!!

### Baccala Con Pepperoni (Dried Salt Cod with Peppers)

Submitted by Russo's Deli

#### INGREDIENTS FOR 6 SERVINGS:

2 lb. Baccala softened in water  
6 large green peppers  
2 onions  
1 lb. tomatoes  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil  
1 tbsp chopped parsley

#### PREPARATION:

Remove the skin from the salt cod, spread it out on a board and cut it into pieces of about the same size. Put the pieces to soak in water for two days changing the water once a day.

Roast the peppers, remove the skin, stem, seeds and filaments and cut them into long, wide strips. Cut the onions in thin slices. Peel the tomatoes, remove the seeds and cut them into small pieces. Heat some olive oil in a large frying pan and lightly brown the onions. Add the tomatoes, remove the seeds and cut them into small pieces. Heat some olive oil in a large frying pan and lightly brown the onions. Add the tomatoes, cook for a few minutes, then put the peppers in the pan. Drain the cod and dry the pieces with paper towels pressing out excess moisture.

When the peppers are nearly cooked, add the cod to the pan and stew over moderate heat for about 5 minutes. Before serving, sprinkle the dish with chopped parsley.



### An Around About Elizabeth Trivia Contest

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V V V 4 Winners V V V V

1. How do you say "I Love You" in Italian?

2. How do you say "I Love You" in Spanish?

3. How do you say "I Love You" in Filipino?

4. How do you say "I Love You" in Portuguese?

5. How do you say "I Love You" in Polish?

Fill out as many answers as you can.

Four winners will be picked at random from entries with the most correct answers.

Deadline for entries is Monday, April 2, 2001.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail answers to or drop off at:  
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Elizabeth, NJ 07201



12  
Feb 01

## 640 CLUB MORE THAN JUST A GREAT RESTAURANT

The 640 Club has always had the reputation of being an outstanding steakhouse with a full menu. Rudy and Chrissy Lopez have transformed the 640 Club into a dinning experience featuring entertainment as eclectic as their new menu.

Traditionalist can still dine in the back room as their parents had. Anyone looking for a little something different can check out one of the nights featuring entertainment. It is a big time evening in a home town atmosphere. To know what is planned for future dates you can call (908) 353-9826 or visit often and become a regular.

(left) Chrissy Lopez manages the day to day at 640 Club.

## A MAGICAL NIGHT

Slight of hand artist Rocco Silano will be working the crowd at the 640 Club on Wednesday, February 21. Silano will work his magic up-close starting at 7:00 pm.

The unique night of entertainment will be videotaped to be aired on PIX, channel 31 or the following Saturday evening show.



Magician Rocco Silano

## ONE DIZZY CHRISSY COMING RIGHT UP

Chrissy Lopez of the 640 Club was one of eleven mixologist recognized in the Fall Issue of "Bartender Magazine". Her original drink, the "Dizzy Chrissy", was chosen from a national search for original signature cocktails. Clip the following recipe and give it to the next barkeep when ordering, or go to the 640 Club on South Street in Elizabeth for a "Dizzy Chrissy" to judge all other's by.

### Dizzy Chrissy

Fill blender with ice and add:

2 1/2 oz. Barcadi Tropico

1 oz. Light Rum

3/4 oz. Gold Rum

1/2 oz. Pineapple Juice

1/2 oz. Orange Juice

splash Cranberry Juice

Blend until slushy.

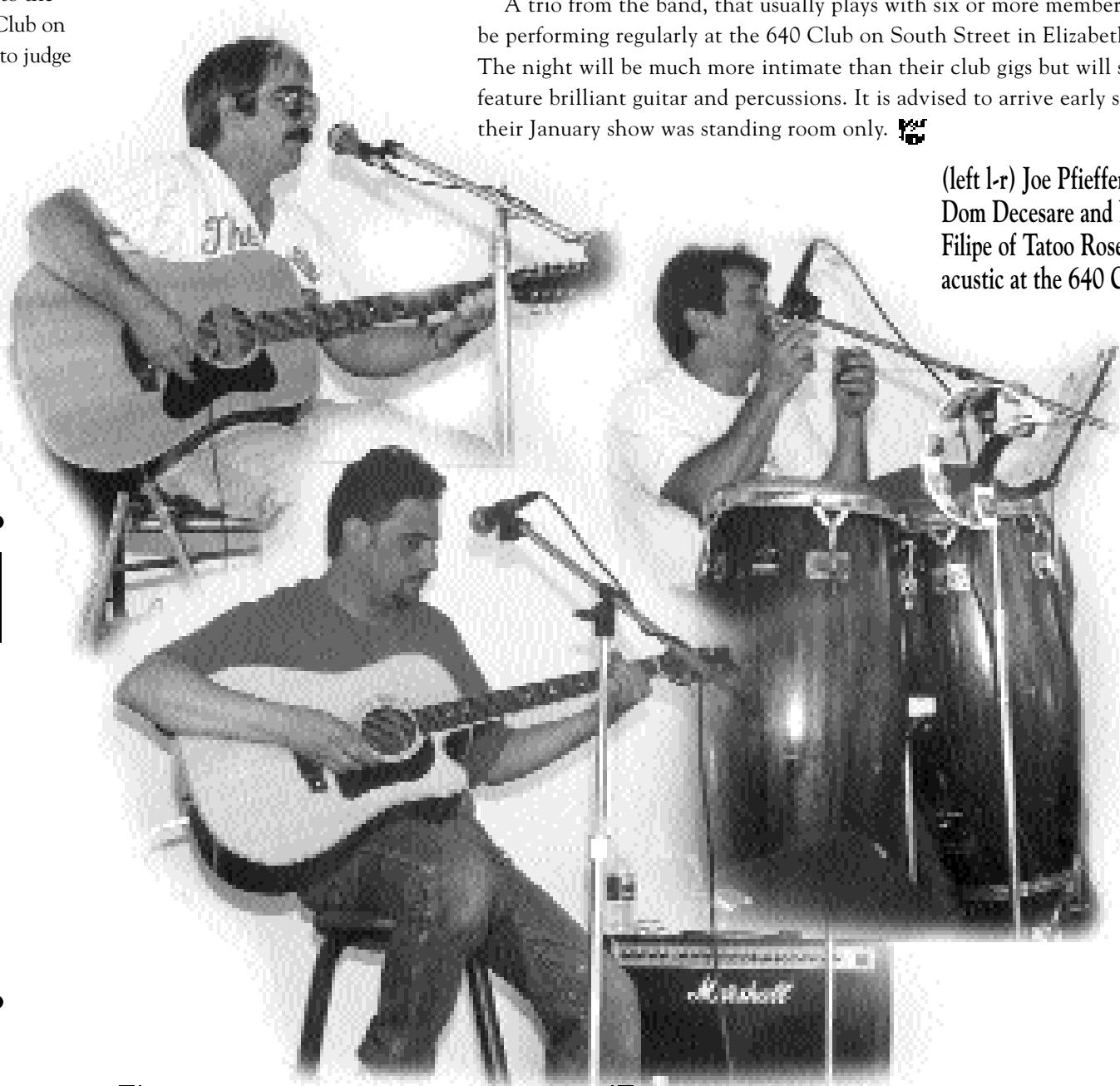
Serve in tall hurricane glass and garnish with pineapple slice.

## TATOO ROSE UNPLUGGED

The band Tattoo Rose has been a local favorite for decades. The band of home grown talent usually clubs with a unique blend of music. Drawing a wide range of R&B and Rock standards. The mix also includes tunes that were not the commercial hits most cover bands perform. Their play list also makes a cross over to other styles.

A trio from the band, that usually plays with six or more members, will be performing regularly at the 640 Club on South Street in Elizabeth, NJ. The night will be much more intimate than their club gigs but will still feature brilliant guitar and percussions. It is advised to arrive early since their January show was standing room only.

(left l-r) Joe Pfieffer, Dom Decesare and Lou Filipe of Tatoo Rose go acoustic at the 640 Club.



### Not for Nothing But...

remember when  
the 640 Club was  
known for its  
liver and onions?

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# VALENTINE'S DAY INCLUDES THE WEEKENDS

When Valentine's day falls on a Wednesday couples may choose to celebrate on the Saturday before or after, or both! Maybe even a third night out on the Wednesday also. Tavern in the Park is ready for all three nights.

The restaurant is taking reservations for Wednesday evening from couples who want a very romantic candle lit dinner complete with roses for the ladies.

On the Saturdays before and after Valentine's Day couples can swoon to the tunes of Sinatra performed live by, well, Sinatra. Actually a Sinatra sound-a-like. The show has been a favorite for patrons who dine at the Tavern and those who relax in the lounge and bar areas. There is no admission fee tied to the show. The room is full of singles as well as couples.

On Saturday, February 17th Jo Bonanno and the Godsons of Soul will be performing on stage in the Tavern's Dance Hall. Admission is \$8.00 doors open at 8:30 pm. 

## Not for Nothing But...

I wonder if Sinatra sounded like a regular guy when he sang in the shower.



(left) Teddy Halek does an impeccable Sinatra imitation. Young lovers are invited to "An Evening with Sinatra" at Tavern in the Park, in Roselle Park, on Saturdays, February 10th and 17th.

For bookings call 732-738-6126.

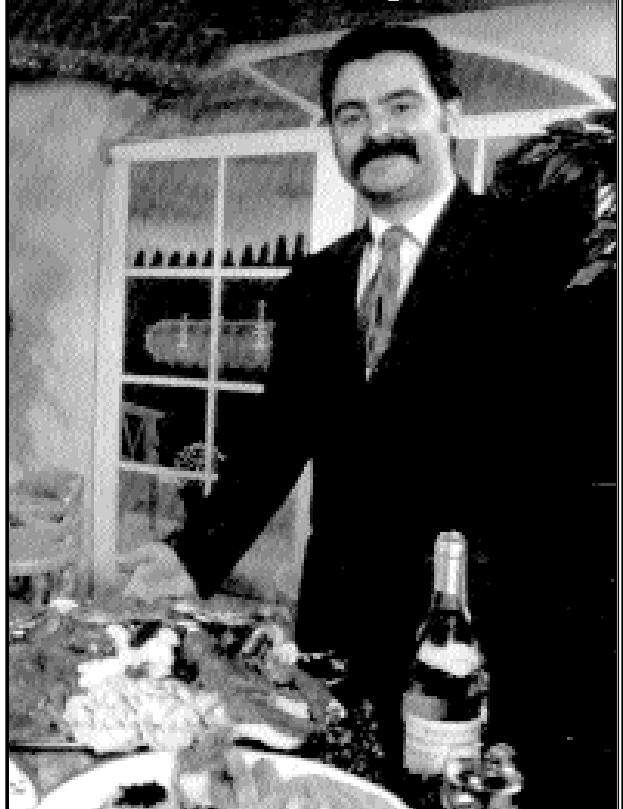
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# 2001 PIZZA CHASE ENDS IN CONTROVERSY

## SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE WINNER

There is still no winner to the third annual Pizza Chase. The contest invited all Elizabeth Pizzerias that delivered to Peterstown to strut their stuff at a party for senior citizens at the Peterstown Community Center.

Six pizzerias each generously donated three pies and sodas to the party. About eighty seniors enjoyed the variety of pizzas. The party gives the opportunity to taste a pizza from different pizzerias. Pizzerias may gain new customers as a result. It's a win win for everyone. Except there is no one winner.

In the past a winner was chosen by calculating delivery time, hotness of the pie, size, and other variable in a complex equation that kicked out a winner on points. Every effort was made not to make it a taste contest. But, with human nature being the way it is, it was felt that the contest was interpreted as such.

We took a page from Florida election law and went to a butterfly ballot. Do to the inaccuracies, and claim's that

the Seniors were confused, a clear winner has not been determined. Dimples, hanging and pregnant chads marred the process. Chads are those pieces of paper that are punched from the ballot cards. Some were almost mistaken as a topping and sprinkled on a pie. Needless to say the contest was a draw. And rightfully so.

Pizza represents the best America has to offer. Pizza is the exemplification of our freedom of choice. Elizabeth has 26 pizzeria's and countless variations of styles within them. I refuse to sit in judgement and choose one over another. In fact I contend that all pizza is equal under God. And one should judge pizza not by the speed of delivery but by the crispness of it's crust. You may choose what pizza is best for you and I will defend your right to eat it.

This is a call for every American to go out and order a pizza from any pizzeria they wish, especially if the pizzeria advertisers in this newspaper! 

These six pizzerias are all winners for their generosity, good spirit and service to the community. They should all be rewarded with our patronage. Pictured below are the Pizza Chase delivery persons.



George's Pizzeria  
47 Broad Street  
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Medhat Meleka



Mario's Famous Pizza  
175 3rd Street  
908-558-1959  
Juan Molina



**Pinocchio's Restaurant  
545 Bayway Avenue  
908-355-7768  
Denielle LoPiccolo**



**Primo Pizza**  
1127 Elizabeth Avenue  
908-820-0886  
Gustavo Marin



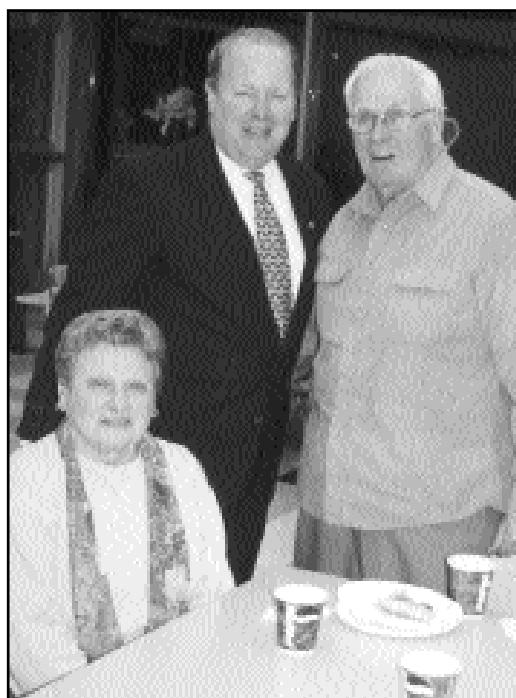
Tommy's Pizzeria  
1063 Fairmont Avenue  
908-289-2277  
Heriberto Rodriguez, Jr.



Spinner's Pizza  
946 S. Elmora Avenue  
909-527-0800  
(left) Paul Santos  
(right) Diego Hernandez



(above) Pizza party volunteers at your service: (back l-r) Tina and Joe Renna, Carla Rose and Maryann Jazikoff, Kay Martinangelo, Vikki Fernandez, (front) Angela and Mia Renna.



(above) Mayor Bollwage, pictured with Ann and Russ Harris, diplomatically gave the thumbs up to all participating Pizzerias.



(above) 4th Ward Councilman Carlos Alma suspects a political conspiracy behind the Pizza Chase controversy.



(left) After the pizza was gone the seniors broke into card games. Playing "31", a popular game at the club are: (l-r) Angie Dallesandro, Millie Favor, Ann Tito, Minnie Candelino, Ursula Marshott and Angela DiMaggio.



Thanks to Michelino's Pizzeria and Vesuvio's Feed Co. for their donation of paper goods.

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A national survey taken recently shows that only 3% of qualified buyers in the US were actually looking to buy a home. This is a serious problem for our economy. The reason that this is such a serious problem is that the average homebuyer spends approximately fifteen thousand dollars after he purchases his home. The ripple effect of a slow real estate market transcends our entire economy. No homes sold, no linens sold, no new chinaware sold, no carpeting sold, no cabinets sold, all this creates unemployment. Truth be told the real estate industry is the

engine that powers our economy.

The Fed's have begun to reduce the interest rates, hopefully within the foreseeable future the real estate market will rebound. The reduced interest rates have an immediate positive effect on any potential homebuyer by reducing his mortgage payments approximately \$100.00 per \$100,000.00 mortgage loan. This reduced interest rate should also be an incentive for any of our readers who are paying mortgage payments with interest rates higher than 8% to consider a refinance.

For people who have yet to purchase a home and are qualified to buy, the reduced interest rates means that you qualify for a larger loan. A home that you may have looked at in the past may now be affordable to you. This is subject to the lenders interest rate. Each lender's rate may vary. Some lenders may not pass the savings immediately to consumers. The prudent word is "Buyer Beware". Dealing with reputable lending institutions is one of the most important decisions a homebuyer can make. We suggest that if your not sure of the lenders credentials, call the NJ Banking Commission.

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**Elizabeth - Frog Hollow** - Same owner since bilt. Feat: 5 rm on each flr, 2 brs, liv, din, kit, 2 car garb det on a 50 X 100 lot. New elect, plumbing, heating & windows. Asking \$179,900.



**Westfield** - Lovely split level with with 2 car garage must see to appreciate it. Consisting of: 3 brs, liv, din, kit, fam rm, enclosed porch, hard wood floors under carpets, 1 1/2 baths all on a 95 x 120 lot. Asking 379,000.



**Elizabeth** Brand new 2 family home Feat: 6 rms on each flr, 3 brs, liv, din, kit, 2 fbths, hw flrs, ceramic tile, 2 car garb det on a 50 X 100 lot. One of 8 homes to be bilt within a 1/2 mile. Asking \$295,000.



**Elizabeth - S. Elmora Ave.** - 2 family home w/pos proff off possibility. Feat: 5 rm apt 1fl, 2 brs, liv, din, kit, 2fl: 6 rms, 3 brs, liv, din, kit, fin bmt w/summer kit & bth, fin attic, 2 car garb det. All on a 33 x 125 lot poss 3f w/city approval. Asking \$295,000.



# THE ORIGINAL OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKET IS STILL ALIVE IN PETERSTOWN

Submitted by Maryanne Garbowsky

I remember my trips to Elizabeth's Union Square Market as a child. There was a distinct carnival air that hung over the place.

The crowds of people jamming the sidewalks and spilling over into the narrow streets that were so packed with wagons that no vehicles, two-wheeled or otherwise, could get through.

There were the freshest, finest fruits and vegetables of the season, variously shaped, richly colored, and painstakingly arranged for the discriminating eye.

At the corner there was the hot dog cart where for 15 cents you could get the best tasting frank in town.

There were the specialty stands: the banana man who sold nothing but bananas all sizes and shapes. I remember huge stalks, three feet high, and the exotic red-skinned varieties that were sold at special times of year.

Next to him was the baked goods man. He sold long thick loaves of rye and pumpernickel which he'd buy and sell by the pound.

He had an assortment of sticky buns and jelly doughnuts which looked especially tempting to the sweet-toothed passerby. My main interest was in the large basket of bagels which he kept in the front of his stand.

My aunt would dip in, select six of the crispest, saltiest bagels she could find and pass one to me to eat on the way home.

There was the fish stand with its rows of dad fish staring out at you as you walked by, and the fresh shellfish - clams, mussels, crabs resting on a carpet of chopped ice, their smell trailing you for at least a block.

My favorite place was the cheese shop where the sight of heavy hanging Provolones and the tangy smell of ripe Italian cheese teased me to distraction.

I could spend eternity there, but by grandmother, a sharp old Italian lady, shopped quickly, selecting first a "wet" mozzarella cheese from a tub filled with water, and they a "dry" one with a "head" which she twisted off for me to eat.

The market bristled with activity: the old ladies dressed in black who drove through the crowd like fullbacks, their purses clutched to their sides like footballs; the junior businessmen hawking shopping bags for a nickel apiece. The street rang with the sound

of life, of people talking, shouting, laughing, arguing. I loved it, every minute of it.

Walking on High and Center streets, I feasted my eyes on the abundant fresh fruits and vegetables that lined the tables like museum still lives: the firm red cherries arranged neatly in rows; the pyramids of peaches, on one perfect peach atop the rest, cut in half to show off its rosy, moist interior; the lusty red meat of a watermelon freshly quartered, its tantalizing aroma accenting the morning air; the piles of Jersey tomatoes; the long green stringbeans; the curly hot Italian peppers.

The vendors too come in all shapes and sizes. They smile and sing out to you as you walk by: "We got peaches and melons. Our corn is sweet as sugar."

When they are slow, they pay the passerby even more attention: "C'mon don't be shy. See anything you want?" When you do stop to make a purchase, the attendant is quick and courteous, filling your order carefully and marking its price with black crayon on the back of brown paper bag. "anything else?" he asks. With 10 dollars and an hour of time, you walk away like a beast of burden; your arms laden with shopping bags full of delectables to see and eat.

The anonymous, impersonal world of modern man stops right here. Shopping in your local supermarket, pushing a stubborn metal cart up a sleekly waxed aisle is dull alongside a morning outdoors in this fresh-air farmers' market.

Prepackaged, cellophane wrapped merchandise cannot compare with first quality fruits and vegetables chosen by your own hand and eye.

So too the sweet strains of "caned" Muzak are no match for the noises of real life, of people engaged in day to day living.

Although the crowd are gone, it is business as usual for the Elizabeth market. There are still a few throwstore fronts preserved in the tradition of people first service. Why not get your shopping bag ready and go to market?

(Maryanne Schillaci Garbowsky grew up in Peterstown and found it has a lasting effect, especially the farmers' market at Union Square. Toady she teaches English at Morris County College and has articles published in the New Jersey English Association's newsletter and in the Emily Dickinson Bulletin.)

