

**FESTA
SAN VITO
JUNE 13 & 14
Details on pg 3.**

Around About

Peterstown
ELIZABETH NJ

PRICELESS

ISSUE NO. 64

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Published by Joe Renna for the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club



WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM?

Being dropped down the chimney by a stork would have been more believable to Paul Cuzzola than what his parents told him. But the truth was that his mother's friend, Anna Ferrara, delivered him, then placed him in a shoebox and put him in the oven until he was done. It is a remarkable story of a devoted caring midwife.

As was customary in the early part of the 1900's, midwives would make house calls to assist mothers giving birth. There were several midwives in practice at that time in Peterstown, an Italian neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Over the years midwives would develop special bonds with the families they serviced. In a tight knit community like Peterstown those relationships were preexisting.

Lucy Cuzzola and her husband Anthony were friends with Anna Ferrara so it was natural for them to call her when the couple was preparing to have their first child. The year was 1937. Anthony and Lucy were married the previous year in St. Anthony's, the local parish church. They met while living in Peterstown. The Cuzzola family immigrated from Calabria, Italy and Lucy's family, whose maiden name is Perrotti, were from Vallata, Italy.

Anna, nee Micali, was from Terracotta, Sicily. Her husband Giuseppe was from Valdena, which was located in the same province of Messina. Anna was a licensed midwife, a skill that she brought with her from Italy where she received her degree. She was in practice for over 15 years and that experience played a critical roll when Lucy was having difficulty and needed help.

Lucy was just in her seventh month when she gave birth to her son Paul, who weighed less than a pound and a half. One of the local doctors was summoned to the house but his evaluation of the situation was not promising. He told Lucy and Anthony "Bury it in the yard. It won't survive the night." Anna thought otherwise.

She assured the young parents that the baby was strong and could make it. It would take a tremendous amount of tender loving care, but Anna was in the TLC business. She created an incubator for baby Paul. She rapped the infant in cotton and gauze, put him in a shoebox and placed him next to an open stove. Anna sat with the baby through the entire night. With no sleep she monitored the baby's vital signs and made sure the temperature was just right.

Paul would need special care until he grew in size and development. Lucy's cousin Rose Perrotti was a registered nurse and moved in to care for the baby full-time. Anna would also visit on a daily basis to monitor the progress. Six months would pass before Anna and Rose felt confident that Paul was strong enough not to need special assistance.

It was a relief to Anthony and Lucy who had been living with the prospect of losing a child hanging over their heads. Their entire life was dedicated to the wellbeing of their son. At that time Anthony was earning \$18 per week, ten of which went to caring for the baby. Anthony would stand guard at the door to greet his neighbors who came by to visit to wish them well. He would cordially turn them away in order to keep the germs out of the house. The Cuzzola's prayed a lot and their prayers were answered.

When Paul was five years old, his dad took him by the hand and together they walked to the doctor's office that visited him the night of February 27, 1937 and said, "This is the guy you said wouldn't make it through the night."

Paul is now 72 years old and it is with reverence to Anna Ferrara that he loves telling this story. She always had a special place in her heart for him. Prior to her death on June 8, 1991, Anna was blind. After years of being apart Paul saw her son sitting in a parked car and went over and said "Hello". Anna was sitting in the passenger seat and recognized his voice and responded, "Paul, is that you?" It is always quite emotional for him to think about her. 🐣



(above, l-r) Paul Cuzzola and wife Lucy will be celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. They have three children and nine grand children.



(left, back, l-r) Anna Ferrara born 1899 and husband Giuseppe, born 1895 with sons (front, l-r) Paul and Frank.

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

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Around About Peterstown assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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

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President's Message



I's like to give a big thank you to Joe Marino and Denis Horin for organizing the Baby Boomer get together on May 2nd. It was a tremendous success and may be the start of something regular. The idea was sparked by a whim but like more often than not the the best times we have are never planned.

The Sons of Peterstown Sports Club has found a home in cyberspace. Joe Renna who publishes Around About Peterstown will put club news on his new website www.peterstownnj.com. In fact photos from the Boomer party are there now. He will be adding features and information as the site develops and invites submissions from the entire Peterstown community.

Personally I am in the throes of helping my daughter Alessandra plan her wedding. She got engaged to Giuseppe Russo. So sometimes, if you are talking to me and I am not quit all there, you will know why.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
 John Sacco, President
 Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

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



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



Letters to the Editor



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.

VICENT GAZZO 1925 - 2009



Vincent Gazzo of Union passed away Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at home. He was 84 years old.

Vincent resided in Union, but he was born on Third Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth where he spent a good part of his life. He was a sergeant in the Army serving in the South Pacific during 1943-1946.

He was a member of the Avalon Club, and worked the Outdoor Market in Petersatown in its hey day. He owned the Price Rite Garden Center in Roselle for over 25 years. People always remembered the beautiful Christmas trees that he sold.

He was the husband of Margaret Gazzo (nee Cipolla) for over 60 years. Devoted father of Judith Prause and Vincent M. Gazzo. Dear brother of Anne Picaro and Dolly Smith. Grandfather of Chris Prause and Max and Kate Gazzo.

Marge wrote to Around About Peterstown to express her appreciation to John Sacco for his thoughtfulness and for being there for her husband. No matter how he felt, Vince would always find his way to Sacco's Butcher Shop in the morning. Because, she said, "He loved to be with his friends." She added that "Vince will be remembered for his ambition and hard work. He worked right up til the end! We will miss him very much." 🐾

BRING MOM HOME BENEFIT

Dear friends and neighbors,
 We are inviting friends and neighbors of our mother, Ines Schifilliti, to a special benefit luncheon to raise funds needed so that she may come home and receive the care she needs.



She is currently in a nursing home and is in need of private home care. We felt that this luncheon would enable us to make that happen through the needed support of those who know and love her.

Mom's maiden name was Barbera and her family was from Messina, Sicily. She was born on Third Avenue, next door to Sacco's Butcher Shop. She had three children, Joe, Ann Marie and Anthony, who is deceased.

She has many fond memories of living in Peterstown and though she moved away years ago still has an attachment. One of her favorite memories is selling Arancini di Riso (Rice Balls) every year at the St. Rocco's Feast.

I am hoping that this appeal reaches those who knew my mom and can help her come home. John Sacco has graciously allowed me to leave tickets to the event at his store for the convenience of anyone who would like to come. His family has been close to her's for ever and we thank him.

The benefit, costing \$65 per person, will be held June 28th, 2009, at the Quality Inn, 815 Route 37 W, Toms River, NJ 08755, from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm. It will consist of a four course luncheon served along with music.

Any questions please call Joe Schifilliti at 732-600-7276.

Thank you,
 Joe and Ann marie Schifilliti
 Toms River, N



Dear Friends & Family

It's that time of year again for the Hope & Possibility 5M! I am hoping I can count on your support to raise money for the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans.

Please make a donation by visiting my Firstgiving page:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/supportoursoldiers>

You can donate online with a credit card. All donations are secure and sent directly to Achilles Track Club by Firstgiving, who will email you a printable record of your donation.

You can also send a donation by check payable to: Achilles International and kindly mail to: Enza Jacobowitz 477 S. Cooks Bridge Road, Jackson NJ 08527.

Please send my page on to anyone who might like to donate!

All My Best,
 Enza Jacobowitz
 Jackson NJ 08527



(above) The Motivation Behind Team S.O.S. is Enza's brother, Cpl. Luigi Marciante Jr. who lost his life on September 20th, 2007 in Muqadiyah, Iraq. Louie is one of many to give the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Our family can think of no greater way to honor his memory than to raise awareness for wounded and disabled veterans. With your support we will cross the finish line with Louie and his comrades watching over us.

PETERSTOWN ADVERTISERS TO SUPPORT TEAM S.O.S. (Support our Soldiers)

Around About Peterstown Publisher Joe Renna will be running in the Hope & Possibility 5 Mile event on Sunday, June 28, 2009 in Central Park, NYC.

Advertisers in the newspaper are paying into a gift certificate package that will be given away to the lucky donor who gets closest to guessing the time the Joe will finish the run in.

All advertisers where the certificates will be honored will appear on the certificates in the August issue of the newspaper where the winner will be announced. Prizes will be split among winners tied for first.

The amount of the certificates will increase as more advertisers participate. Extra proceeds above the value of certificates will be donated to the cause. Donations of \$5 earn the donor one guess. Multiple guesses are allowed and encouraged. All donations go to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded and Disabled Veterans. www.firstgiving.com/supportoursoldiers. 🐾

To send a donation make all checks payable to: Achilles International. Submit form below with payment to: Around About Peterstown, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ, 07202

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Donation amount (\$5 per guess): _____

Time Guess(s): (Pick minutes and Seconds): _____

5 M? I THOUGHT IT WAS 5K!

My over/under time for 5 miles is 60 minutes, but probably not under. Good Luck.

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

I have to wonder why someone would argue that a baby in the womb is not a human being. If this beautiful cover story of Paul Cuzzola does not reach their sensibility then what motivates their denial is a mystery to me that I just can't figure out.

Cuzzola was a one and half pound "preemie" given little chance of survival, from a medical doctor no less. Yet he survived through the care of loved ones. He was no less a human an hour before delivery, when a half inch of flesh separated him from the atmosphere, than he was an hour later .

Terminating a pregnancy by aborting a fetus has been the premier political hot button. The legalization of abortion draws hard lines, yet few politicians have the courage to proclaim their personal convictions. This is not so for those who support the legislation, it has become the politically correct stance of many special interest groups and has been supported by the main stream media.

The issue is difficult to debate because it has become too complex. But in its purest form the argument should end if the determination is that the baby in the womb is a human being. The issue has become complicated by design. Those who support abortion, or more accurately promote it, benefit when the life of the baby is not part of the debate.

So, I must ask, what is the motivation for promoting abortion? Like any political issue, I must conclude it is power and money. The voting power of the pro-abortion lobby holds sway over the feckless politicians. The funding of many special interest groups are directly associated with the dollars generated from the abortion industry. Political power keeps those gears oiled.

The motivation of the pro-abortion leadership is

clear. But what puzzles me is the sentiments of the women in general. The word "abortion" in the debate has been replaced with the word "choice". It was a public relations coup. How could any right thinking woman not want the right to make her own choices? If the unstated subtext were included "To choose to end the life of my baby", there would be fewer women holding placards.

This issue has been a disservice to women. I think about the stigma that an unwed mother had to face a generation ago. It was a long and hard fight by feminists to liberate women and their sexuality and declare that they were not less of a person because of an unplanned pregnancy. Now another stigma is being indoctrinated upon woman who oppose abortion. Acceptance into many social circles require that the women, and men also, wear a pro-abortion band on their arm.

I know women who have had abortions and I know that the decision to do so has tormented them. It is not an easy decision to make, though it is presented as a procedure that is as routine as a getting a pedicure. It is deceitful to present the circumstances surrounding an abortion in any other way than extremely intense.

As for motivation, I tried to understand the reasons why some women would choose to have an abortion. For those who I know it was all situational. And with the passage of time and the inevitable change in the situation, the women was plagued with second guesses.

The reasons given to support abortion still do not outweigh the killing of the baby. Even if the child is a result of a violent act, it does not make it any less a human being. Cases where the life of the mother is at risk are rare but the term "health of the mother is used" and this could mean anything from stress to stretch marks.

I know that I run the risk of offending women who are in situations in which carrying a baby full term would be dire in their minds. I would rather put the time, energy and resources that is spent promoting abortion into helping these women. If our government has proven anything it is that there is no limits to funds for the things they want.

It is too often claimed that children are a burden because of monetary reasons. Though children come with costs, equating human life to a monetary value is like going back in time to the days of slavery. In supporting birth control, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi actually said that it "reduces costs to the states and to the federal government." This is crazy talk.

The birth of a child should be celebrated. The human mind is the only resource that we have that can cure the ills of the world. It doesn't matter if the child was born of a single mother in the South Bronx or in Kenya for that matter. 🐾



Not for Nothing But...

does the father have a choice in this matter?



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The Eddie Gray Camp Fund is seeking funds to send inner city children to Summer Camp. This year our cost per child is \$100 for one week. However, we will be grateful for donations of any amount. Every donation helps and is greatly appreciated! Please make checks payable to the Eddie Gray Camp Fund and mail them to: Sister Jacinta Fernandes, St. Joseph Social Service Center, 812 Rebecca Place, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. Thank you for providing a happy and healthy experience for an inner city child! 🐾

YOUTH CENTER NEEDS VOLS

The St. Anthony Youth Center is looking for adult volunteers (age 21 and up) who are willing to commit to help out one evening per week. The Youth Center is open Thursday and Friday each week from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Fr. Richard Cramer at 908-351-3300. 🐾

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't miss an issue! Have *Around About Peterstown* delivered to your home or office.

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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

If you like the paper, please thank an advertiser. The businesses that advertise in this paper make it possible to print. You can show your appreciation for their support by patronizing their business's. If they keep advertising, we will keep printing.

Advertising starts at \$45 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 709-0530.

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ANNA FERRARA LEVATRICE ITALIANA

Giuseppi Ferrara was born in Valdena and Anna Micali was born in Terracotta, both towns were in the Province di Messina, Sicily. Guiseppi moved to America at 4 years old and met Anna when he went back to visit his home town over twenty years later.

Giuseppi and Anna married and moved back to Caroltown, PA where he worked in the coal mines. Anna went to school in Sicily to become a midwife.

They had two sons, Frank and Paul before moving to the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, where their third son Joseph, was born.

They resided in Elizabeth the remainder of their lives. Anna and Joe's family now includes six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, and growing.

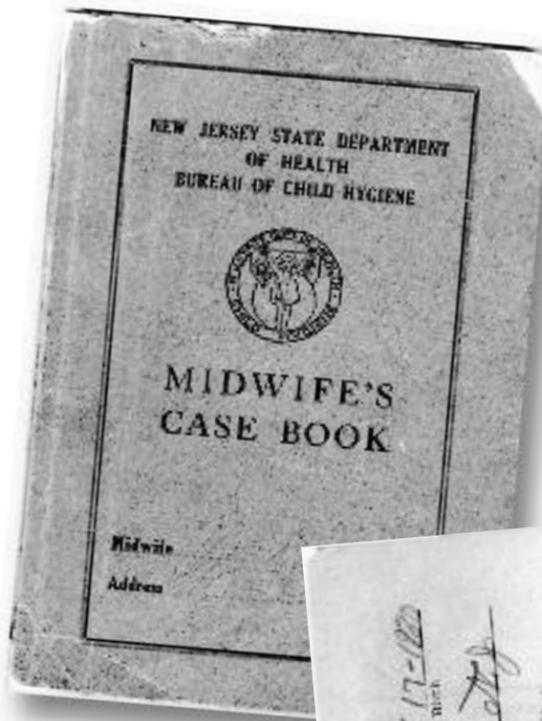


(above) Anna's shingle which hung outside her home on Fourth Avenue.



(left) Anna and Giuseppi Ferrara.

(right) Anna Ferrara holding her son Joseph, while talking with her friend, Henrietta Ruggani.



(above & right) A page from Anna Ferrara's Midwife Case Book shows a seven day, postnatal record for Francesca Riggi (nee Nufrio) after the birth of her daughter Lucia on August 17, 1930. The record shows that Francesca, age 24 and Emanuele, 28 had five children and one of which passed away as an infant.

DATE OF VISIT	TEMPERATURE	PULSE
Aug 18	98	70
19	98	70
20	98	70
21	11	11
22	11	11
23	11	11
24	11	11

Handwritten notes on the page include: 'Date of Birth August 17-1930', 'Mother's Name Lucia Riggi', 'Father's Name Emanuele Riggi', 'Address 207 John St Elizabeth, NJ', and 'MIDWIFE'S NAME Anna Ferrara'.

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PAUL'S BRANCH OF THE CUZZOLA FAMILY

Paul Cuzzola considers himself blessed. He lives each day of his seventy plus years in a meaningful way. His generosity and penchant for helping others is a trademark. The compassion he displays is a return of the love and kindness he received. Paul believes that it was the support of his parents, friends, neighbors and midwife Anna Ferrara, that got him through the vulnerable months as a premature baby.

He is especially proud and supportive of his children and grandchildren. Evidence of his kindness can be seen in each of them.

Only time will tell what achievements the future generations of Paul's family generate. What ever the accomplishments are, they will have been influenced by a quiet unassuming man a few branches closer to the trunk of the family tree.

(right, l-r) Paul with wife Lucy and brother Frank, who was born a year after Paul and delivered by the same midwife.



(above, l-r) Paul Cuzzola's parents Anthony from Calabria, Italy and Lucy, nee Perrotti, from Vallata, Italy, were married in St. Anthony's Church in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth in 1936.

(below, clock wisefrom top left) Paul and Lucy's grandchildren, Nicholas, Gabriella, Michael, Angelica, Lauren, Allyson, Michael, Samantha. (center) paul.



(above) A very dapper Paul at 16.

Not for Nothing But...

after starting out at just over a pound, Paul's family totals about a ton.



(right, l-r) Paul and Lucy's children with spouses, Tina and son Michael, daughter Lucy and Michael, Kelly and son Paul.



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ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL NOW HAS ROOM TO GROW

(left, l-r) Janet M. Malko has been a math teacher at St. Mary's for forty years, the last 20 she served as principal, with secretary of 16 years and alumnus Mary Ann Markowycz.



The announcement of the closing of St Mary's Grammar School at the end of June 2009 raised some questions about the continuance of St. Mary's High School. The concerns arose due to the fact that the grammar school and high school are housed in the same building. The perception is that St. Mary's was all one school from K-12. In actuality, the High School is its own entity, it always has been since 1930 and will continue its tradition.

High school Principal Janet Malko views the closing of the grammar school, though with sadness, as an opportunity for the high school to grow. The first floor of the building that housed the grammar school classes will now be used by the high school. The move has doubled the capacity of the high school.

The high school has a deep history and has been an integral part of education in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Saint Mary of the Assumption Church was established in 1844 with 25 parishioners, mostly Irish laborers working on the Morris Canal. In a span of 20 years the number of parishioners grew to 5,000.

In this time, the Parish established a grammar school in a two room building that was constructed in 1851 next to the church on Washington Street. As the population grew, so did the school. Nuns from the Sisters of Charity order answered the call to run the school and had been a presence teaching through the 1970's.

Work was completed on the present day building on

the corner of South and South Broad Streets. It featured an auditorium with a balcony and the largest stage in the city.

In 1930 a third floor was added to the building and the auditorium was converted into a gymnasium. The renovation facilitated the newly established high school. The total student body consisted of 18 boys and 27 girls. Enrollment peaked in 1962 with 730 students.

St. Mary's was one of four Catholic high schools in Elizabeth. The others being Benedictine Academy, Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's.

The education landscape has changed dramatically over the past forty years. The opening of parochial regional high schools and the expansion of the public schools system diluted the pool of prospective students. The trend resulted in the closing of many private schools county-wide. The three grammar schools in Elizabeth that are closing, St. Mary's, Blessed Sacrament and St. Anthony's, are the latest casualties of the challenge to supply affordable private education.

The silver lining in the dark cloud of the closings is the rebirth of St. Anthony's Grammar School just four blocks down hill along South Street from St. Mary's. The three grammar schools will combine to form Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy.

As for St. Mary's High School, Principal Malko looks forward to the graduates from the Academy choosing St. Mary's for their secondary school education. 🐾

For information about St. Mary's High School, please call Mr. Jean Paul at 908-352-4350.



(above) The School's three story building stands at the corner of South and South Broad Streets.

ST. A'S FAMILY TIES

Second only to St. Mary's grammar school, many students attending came from St. Anthony's. For many it was a family tradition. For instance the Cistrelli sisters, Mary Ann, Lori and Lisa all went to St. Anthony's and then St. Mary's. All four of Mary Ann's children did the same. 🐾

(right, l-r) Markowycz family with years that they graduated St. Mary's H.S., Mary Ann, class of 1969, husband Jan, a Jefferson H.S. Grad, Nikki, class of 2000, Jennifer, class of 1993, Michael, class of 96 and Jamie, class of 06.



Not for Nothing But...

what does the St. Mary's Hilltoppers' mascot wear on the sidelines?



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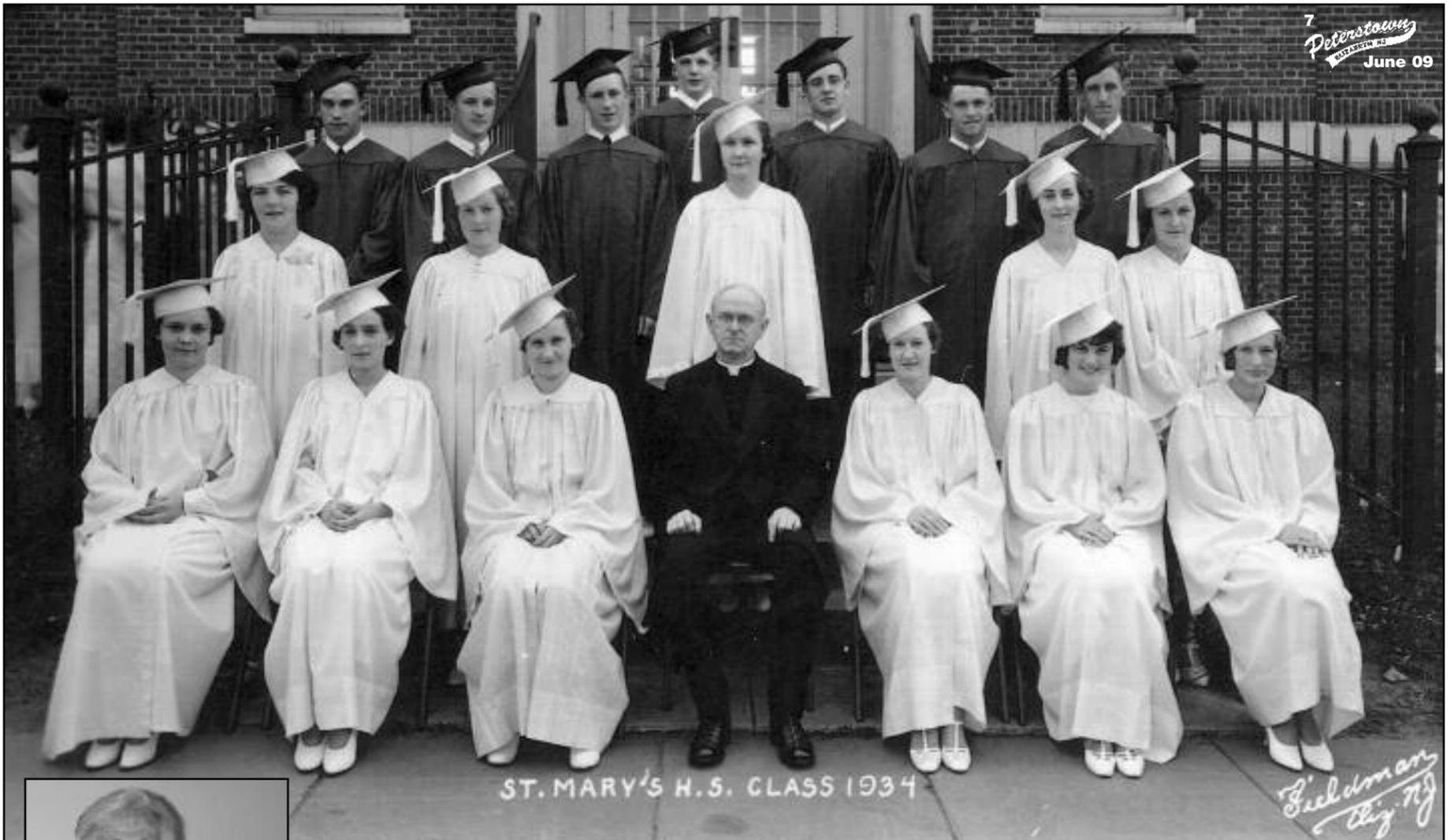
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(above, back row, l-r) Ed Halbfooster, Robert Riehl, Joe Conroy, Paul Bender, Leo Lutz, John Brennan, and John Christel,
(middle row, l-r) Gert Kendig, Eleanor Ing, Betty Beylon, Bernadette Boyle, and Mary Doherty.
(front row, l-r) Peggy Kehoe, Helen Powers, Helen Sauer, Father James Lundy, Mary Breslin, Betty Rogan, and Cecilia Gaffney.

(left) Mary Doherty, a member of the first graduating class, which attended St. Mary's four years, from 1930 to 1934, lives in Cranford, NJ and has vivid memories of her school days. Remarkably, at 92, she was able to identify every one of her classmates in the photo above from 75 years ago. She started her education in the original grammar school build next to the church featuring outdoor toilets.

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(above, r-l) A match made in Elizabeth. Anthony, a English teacher, and wife Kate, a music teacher, met when both worked at Roosevelt School #17. He asked her to marry him at the school's 8th grade prom.

LOCAL PRODUCTION LOOKING FOR ACTORS AND LOCATIONS

Peterstown native, Anthony DiFonzo will be filming *The Boyz of Summer*, a script he started writing with his brother Frank over ten years ago. He describes the script as "A gritty Elizabeth, NJ version of *Romeo and Juliet*. This is a story of true love, true friendship, and true betrayal." It centers around three childhood friends who when faced with young love and jealousy, begin to find themselves growing apart.

Anthony and his brother were raised on High Street in a single parent household and watched their mother Lina struggle to support them. Anthony or "Mr. D" as his students fondly refer to him, sees many of these same stories day after day working at the School Disciplinary for Theodore Roosevelt School in the

Elizabeth Public School system. Anthony learned that hard work, compassion and kindness can overcome any adversity. With this sense of pride he now races to school each day with the hope of impacting his students and supporting them in creating their dreams no matter the obstacles.

He recently obtained his masters degree in Administration and Supervision and plans on continuing his work in educating the students of Elizabeth for years to come. He is currently drafting a curriculum for the social and emotional troubles students face in their day to day lives.

As he works to achieve his long awaited dream of bringing *The Boyz of Summer* to life, Anthony is hoping to have both the people and sights from Elizabeth in his film. In fact his wife, Kate, a music teacher at Albert Einstein Academy in Elizabeth, will be contributing to the film with original music.

"I think about how far I have come from those humble beginnings. I don't think about the past and how difficult things were. I think about the present, all the gifts that I have to be thankful for, and I always strive to give back."

Anthony is looking for actors and bars or restaurants in Elizabeth where he can film.

For more information on this film visit www.boyzofsummermovie.com or log onto www.indiefile.meetup.com/196



(above, r-l) Anthony with mother Lina and brother Frank.

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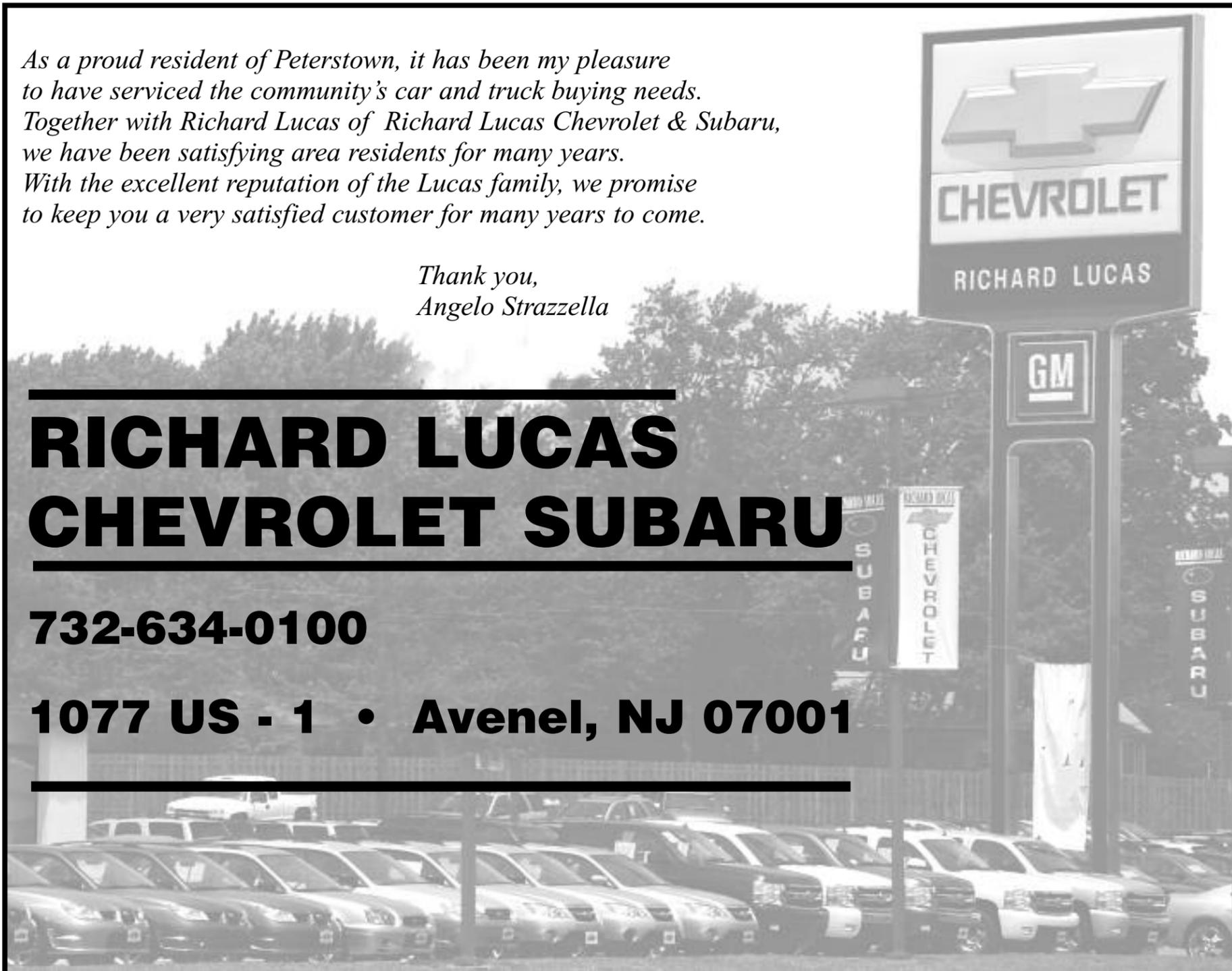
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PHOTO FROM THE BABY BOOMER REUN

The Peterstown Baby Boomer Reunion was a big success there was a shifts in different groups forming ot discuss the old days and share what is new. The pockets of prople kect changing based on age, street affiliation, family ties, etc. The flow was interesting to see.

The one and only important common denominator was being from the Burg. 🍷

(right , l-r) Joe Engesser, Manny Disporto, Don Mollozzo, Zeke Bucci, Vincent Guliano, Peter Espisito, Joe Marino, Anthony Pantina, Joe Tarranova, and Denny Horin.

(below, roughly l-r)

Laying claim to Fourth Avenue:

Nancy DiCosmo, Joe Engesser, Lois Mazza, Maryann DeStevens, Margherita Carlino, Cathy Novello (Melchione), Louis DaMelio, Connie Jaques, Andrea Paternotrer, Joe Adessa, Lnancy Ronaldo (Bottitta), Josephine Merlo, John DiCosmo, Joyce Coletti, Donna Dering, Cathy Espisito, Mary Ann Mele, Vickie Gurio, and Janet Esposito.



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ION OF MAY 2, 2009

Maiden names were used in most cases. Sometimes married names were added in parenthesis used when the husband is a Peterstown guy.

More photos at: PeterstownNJ.com



(above, l-r) Lorraine Renna, Tom Yanusz and wife Janet Espisito.



(above, l-r) Ginny and Margherita Carlino.



(above, l-r) Nick Orachullo traveled the furthest, from Arizona, to meet up with his Rocco Crincoli. They were partners as Elizabeth Police Officers.



(above, l-r) Debbie Steele (Harris), Patricia Altobelli.



(above, l-r) Jackie Salemi, Joanne Parse, Rita Ciaccio (LaBrutto), Mary Lee Castagna.



(above, l-r) Maria Gurio, Connie Pavese (Ferraro), Linda Nigro (Malta), Carol Gallo (Cassio).



(above, l-r) Mrs. and Mr. Mike Bauggenti, Arthur and Christine Mederios, and Elaine Santillo.



(above, l-r) John and Nancy DiCosmo, Mary Ann Destevens, and Lois Mazza.

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FOUR NEW EATERIES OPEN IN ONE MONTH IN PETERSTOWN



For over a decade, the Paterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ has been going through a renaissance. New buildings, renovations and business growth has been a breath of fresh air. As always, great places to eat has been at the forefront of the neighborhood's reputation. Now, four more places to eat have officially opened in the month of May 2009. The four places join about two dozen food service places offering a variety of ethnic cuisines from casual to very casual settings.

Valentina's Hot Dog and Grill is a new breakfast and lunch stop located on Atlantic Street where the old Betsytown Seafood store once was. Calabria's Caffé is an Italian coffee house that also features a brick oven for light fare. It is on the corner of John Street and Third Avenue in a space which was the old Ribera Club Clubhouse. 3rd Ave. BBQ has reopened under new management. The past owners renovated what was Kevin's Korner on the corner of Third Avenue and Palmer Street, but never made a go of the business. The cuisine is mostly Portuguese. John's Caffé has been a landmark on the corner of Amity Street and Second Avenue for what is now the third generation of Cerullo's at the helm. 🍷

3RD AVE BBQ

Justin Gomes was born and raised in Elizabeth and wants to lay claim to serving the best Barbecue chicken and ribs in his home town. He is getting a good start on the corner of Third Avenue and Palmer Street in a newly renovated deli complete with a rotisserie pit.

The business is a family affair as Justin works side by side with his mother and father, Carmin and Agostinho. 🍷

(right) Justin Gomes watches over his frango.



CAFFE CALABRIA

The long wait anticipating the opening of Calabria Caffé is over and was celebrated with a Grand Opening on May 31, 2009 with Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage doing the honors of cutting the ribbon.

Caffe Calabria is the opened by the Paparatto Family, Frank and his two sons Sammy and Joey. All three share in overseeing the day to day operation. They took the space the was once the clubhouse for the Ribera Club and transformed it into a beautiful spot for espresso, deserts, deli and brick oven pizza. The Ribera Club moved to their newly built two story clubhouse and meeting hall on Palmer Street, off Fourth Avenue in 2008. The corner was missing the presence of a coffee shop when Caffé Italia on the opposite corner turned into a full fledged bar and restaurant. 🍷

(below, center, l-r) Mayor Bollwage, with Frank Paparatto, cuts the ribbon symbolically opening Calabria Caffé .



VALENTINA'S HOT DOGS AND GRILL

Ray and Angela Vella saw a great opportunity to do something that they always wanted, open a food stand. It's more of a home style barbecue than it is a restaurant. Ray put his own personal touches to preparing the grilled fare and shopping for a specific style and quality of ingredients.

His growing menu features burgers, steaks, sausage, hotdogs, chicken fingers and fries. He is also introducing signature sandwiches of his own creation.

The location is set across the street from the city's new public works department building on Atlantic Street. It is a busy thoroughfare for traffic going to and from work in the port section of Elizabeth. The business also caters to a lunch crowd south of the Peterstown section of town offering a fresh alternative. It is perfectly situated for a quick breakfast or lunch break. Most patrons are on the run and get take-out but there is outdoor seating under umbrellas if someone wants to relax a while. 🍷

(right, l-r) Ray and Angela Vella with brother-in-law Christopher Guenther ready to serve on opening day, June 1, 2009.



(above) Elizabeth Fire Director waits behind Al and Mary Barello as Chris fills their order.



(left) Ray and his son, Carmine, 7 mos. old.

JOHN'S CAFFÉ CONTINUES LEGACY

When John Cerullo stands behind the counter of his coffee shop he is overcome by nostalgia for his grandfather who for so many years stood in the same place serving customers.

His grandparents, Giovanni and Inconronata Cerullo came to America in 1963 from Vallata Italy and settled in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. They arrived with three children, Vito, Gerardo and Michele, and had a fourth while here, Anna.

In 1968, Giovanni opened a cafe on the corner of Amity Street and Second Avenue, calling it John's Caffé, using the American version of his name. The shop was a live/work space with Giovanni raising his family in an attached apartment. The living situation made everyone an employee by default. All members of the family helped around the counter and kitchen. They all know the business well.

It was only natural for the family to continue the business after Giovanni passed away on February 13, 2009. It was a great loss for the family who loved him very much. Giovanni worked in the Caffé until the day he got sick in September of 2008 and could no longer do it. The store was closed with no future plans in mind.

Giovanni's children had careers and his adult grandchildren, who also grew up around the business, were working different jobs. After a period of mourning, Gerardo and his son John, named after his grandfather, started to think about reopening the store. They called their siblings and cousins and had a family meeting around the kitchen table in the back, like Giovanni would do back in the day. John had a feeling that his grandfather was watching over the situation.

The family agreed to reopen the store and did so in Giovanni's memory, dedicating their effort to his forty years of hard work.

Little things like keeping the old cash register operational act as tributes to the old store. Even continuing to carry Italian magazines, CDs and items is a way to keep his legacy going. Few stores still carry these types of products.

The family worked out a schedule so that the hours that they work in the store does not interfere with their regular work schedule, some of who work odd hours. John, for instance, is on a swing shift working as an Elizabeth Firefighter and his father Gerardo has his own landscaping business, started after his retirement from Phelps Dodge.

A real throw back to the old days is the continual game of Bricculla being played in the front window. Bricculla is an Italian card game that Giovanni would play endlessly with his friends/patrons.



(above, l-r) Gerardo, son John and daughter Christina.
(right) John's mom, Maria making an Espresso.



(above, l-r) Cerullo family in the 1970s: Anna, who now has five children, Gaetano, Maria, Leonnia, John Michael and Marcella; Michael, deceased; Gerardo, father of Susan, Giovanni (John) and Cristina; Vito father of Michela and Lucia; Giovanni and wife of 61 years Inconronata.



(above) One year old John being supported by his grandparents.

Recipes

Submitted by John Cerullo of John's Caffé,
Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ

Fat Gerry Panini The "Burg" Panini

INGREDIENTS

Prosciutto Di Parma,
Boars Head Soppressata,
Cappicola,
Fresh Mozzarella,
Hot Peppers,
Fresh Basil,
Bread
Garnished with
Balsamic Vinegar,
and olive oil.

PREPARATION:

Grill to Perfection!

INGREDIENTS

Crispy Chicken Cutlet
Prosciutto,
Grilled Eggplant,
Provolone,
Bread,
Garnished with
Balsamic Vinegar
and Olive Oil.

PREPARATION:

Grill to Perfection!



(left, l-r) Giovanni with Tony Paternostro working at his pizza stand at the St. Rocco's Feast in the 1980's. In parallel with the past, John and Tony, who owns Tommy's Pizza, will be vendors at this year's second annual Festa San Vito.

(left, l-r) A tradition being continued at John's Caffé is the annual Egg Raffle at Easter. A photo from the archives shows Gerardo, Tony, Adrianno and Giovanni with Angelo Nafoli. Little Giovanni (John), in front, picked the winning ticket.

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NICK CISTRELLI HEADS "NO TAP" BOWLING LEAGUE



(above, clockwise from front) Nick Cistrelli, sister Mary Ann, nephew Mike, brother-in-law Jan, and niece Nikki. Missing from photo is niece Jamie.

Bowling is fun even for serious competitive players. Bowling allies have traditionally been a venue for recreation along with sport. What is more significant is the social aspect of the allies.

Bowling crosses all demographic lines. People of different age, ethnicity, and gender can all play together. The sport is assessable to families, athletes and individuals looking for a fun pastime and socializing at the same time. There are any number leagues to join that fit specific tastes.

Nick Cistrelli and his siblings have been bowling their entire lives. The tradition of bowling together as a family continues and now includes their next generation. The Cistrelli interest in bowling is purely recreational. A good time is far more important to a good score.

Nick started and runs a "No Tap" mixed league on Wednesday evenings at Jersey Lanes on Park Avenue in Linden, New Jersey. For non-bowlers, a Tap refers to tapping down a single pin on the second shot for a spare. In his league, knocking down nine pins with the first roll is scored as a strike. No need to tap the last pin down, hence "No Tap".

It is obviously less intense of a game but can still be equally competitive. It definitely results in higher averages. And there is much more celebrating.

The league has 14 teams and will run for 13 weeks. Nick's sister Mary Ann Markowycz, her husband Jan and their three children play on various teams. Any individual is welcome to join the various leagues that the bowling ally hosts but it is usually a group of friends joining and playing together. At some instances it seems that the teams delineations were in name only. The casual interaction between lanes during the evening is so

free flowing that it is hard to tell who was bowling with whom.

There are other bowlers from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, where Cistrelli is from. The lanes are less than two miles from where Nick grew up on Niles Street and hosted many a bowler from the neighborhood over the years.

Nick continues to run a winter league at Jersey Lanes on Sunday mornings. This is also a regular mixed league. It is the old Thomas and Betts League that he took over after the previous longtime coordinator Ronnie Brewer passed away in 1995.

Anyone looking to join that winter league or any other one that better suits a time schedule can call Jersey Lanes at 908-486-6300.

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BOWLING SCORES ARE ALL RELATIVE



(above) Joe April receives a few hi-fives from his teammates after throwing a strike on his final ball to finish the game with a 279.

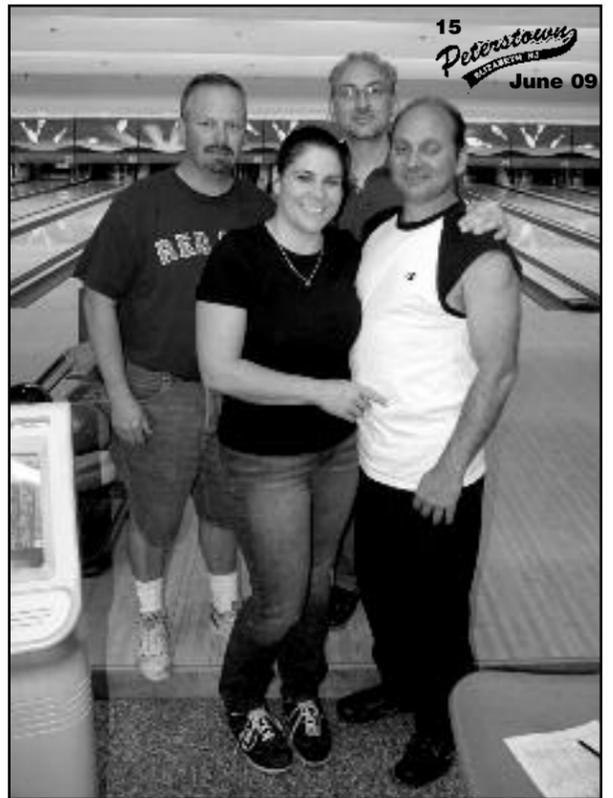
With all else being equal, winning comes down to the skill of the bowler. For instance Peterstown native Joe April who plays in Cistrelli's "No Tap" league for the team Pin Action rolled a 279. Even though he did benefit from the no tap rule he had an exceptional game by conventional standards.

Scoring at Jersey Lanes is automated and the computer can be programmed to calculate using the no tap rule. When a nine is rolled on the first ball a NT appears in the score box to indicate that the rule was applied.

Joe's 279 game had only one open frame, the first one in which he rolled a seven and a two, totaling nine. The rest of the game he rolled nine legitimate strikes! He also knocked down nine pins with his first ball twice to score two NTs. If Joe was to actually tap those two lone pins he would have had a conventional score of 247, which is outstanding. 🎳

KENNY	30	60	90	120	148	168	188	207	216	222	185
	4	7	7	X	7	7	7	63	X	7	11
JOE A	5	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	9	39	69	99	129	159	189	219	249	279	279
PINFALL	216	310	397	485	568	665	754	838	913	965	1000
MARKS	4	10	14	19	24	30	35	40	45	50	55

(above) Computer screen shows Joe's scoring through nine frames, an open frame in the first and just two NTs. The rest were strikes. Note that his teammate Kenny's score shows that he did not do as well with just two real strikes, one NT and no marks in the rest of the frames.



(above, l-r) Nick Cistrelli with his Rolling Thunder teammates Peterstown native Lisa Gomes, Angelo Guarnaccio and his brother Patrick.



(above, l-r) Rocco Mazza with fiancée Chrissy who spectates but doesn't bowl.



(above, l-r) The Kashifs include team's namesake Kashif, Ray, Jan and Jan's daughter Jamie, not pictured. (left, l-r) No Name* teammates Mike Markowycz with his girlfriend Nicole Carrano, his sister Nikki and her fiancée Kevin Kratzer. *No Name is the name of the team.

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(above, l-r) Dolly had a very close relationship with her sister Frances, seen here working at General Extrusion in 1944.



(above, l-r) Dolly with BFFs Lillian Renna and Florence LaTorraco in 2007.

(right, l-r) Dolly and Charlie going to her brother Robert's wedding in October 1967.



(right, l-r) Best man, Charlie's brother-in-law Albert "Happy" Killeen; Groom Charles Koch; Bride Rosemary "Dolly" Monaco; and maid of honor Dolly's sister Frances Monaco at Dolly and Charlie's wedding day, July 22, 1950, at St. Anthony's Church.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROSEMARY "DOLLY" MONACO KOCH

submitted by Mary Joan Renna

Rosemary "Dolly" Monaco Koch passed away on January 14, 2009 at Rahway Hospital.

She died from congestive heart failure. Her two daughters and son-in-law were at her side, Mary Joan Siano Renna and her husband Sal Renna with whom she lived in Linden and Esther Paskey from Somerville.

Her family was always #1 in her life and we would like to thank those who payed their final respects to her at Rahway Hospital: Her sisters Jennie Ricks, Fran Brown and Theresa Marchese; her brothers Angelo, Joseph and Robert; her godchild Victoria Dellutri, and her sister-in law Barbara Monaco and her family. Also there were Esther's best friends Mary Ellen Berg and her family and Maria Kanaley along with Mary Joan's best friends Kathy and Casey Dominic, Sue and Mike Keicher and Kathy and Vinnie Yacullo and Mom's best friend, Lillian Renna. The following people came from out of state: her brother Carmine Monaco from Florida, Sal's sister Phyllis Iannarone from Aiken, South Carolina and Sal's nephew Michael DeStefano, his wife April and our godchild, Capricia from Tucson, AZ. We thank everyone for their thoughtfulness.

Mom was predeceased in 1976 by her husband, our Dad, Charles Koch. She was also predeceased by her parents, Louis "Poppy" Monaco and Mary "Mommy" Siano, brothers Louis Jr, Anthony and Joseph John and sister Kathryn Sullivan.

Mom was born 4th of 14 children. We loved to hear stories about mommy's cooking and poppy's garden and animals when they lived on High St then later moved to Rector St.

Dolly & Charlie were married July 22nd 1950 at St. Anthony's Church. We knew how much they loved each other when Dad was diagnosed with cancer. She never left his side at home or in the hospital. And we never left my mother's side, at home or at the hospital.

After my Dad died she still kept in touch with her in-laws. Her great-niece Kelly was her favorite, always spoiling her with her favorite foods. And Kelly's mom Barbara couldn't send her enough tomatoes - mom ate them faster than Barbara was growing them. Mom had her traditions - meat pies at Easter and 100's of cookies at Christmas. Mostly all recipes came from Mommy.

One of her doctors called me & told me "Dolly was one of the most stoic people I have ever met". And yes she was. We could tell by the look on her face she was in pain but she never complained about the pain. She had breast cancer in 2002 & 2005. But her downfall was the massive heart attack she had 2 days after Thanksgiving in 2007. I was going thru chemo for invasive breast cancer and we took turns talking care of her. My husband, Sal, took care of her like she was his own mother and took care of me at the same time. I thank God for him every day. 🙏



(above, l-r) Dolly, Mary Joan, Sal, Esther & Paul at Mary Joan's Wedding in 1984.

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Advertisement for Rocco Auto Service Inspection Center. Text includes: TEL: (908) 289-9315, 633 THIRD AVE., ELIZABETH, NJ 07202. Features an image of a car.



(above) Dolly's family circa 1951 at the wedding of her brother Louis Monoco Jr. and Katherine Loffa. (front row, l-r) Brother Joe-John, sister Frances, sister Diane, sister Theresa, nephew David, brother Carmine, sister-in-law Ann, Dolly, sister Kathryn and brother Robert. (back row, l-r) Brother Anthony, brother Joe, Poppy, Mommy, new sister-in-law Katy, brother Lou, brother John, sister Jennie, brother-in-law Buddy, Dolly's husband Charlie, brother Angelo and grandfather Giovanni Monaco.

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GRANDMA'S PHOTO ALBUM

Theresa Colicchio Santillo Schade



(above, l-r) Gina on her wedding day with grandmom.



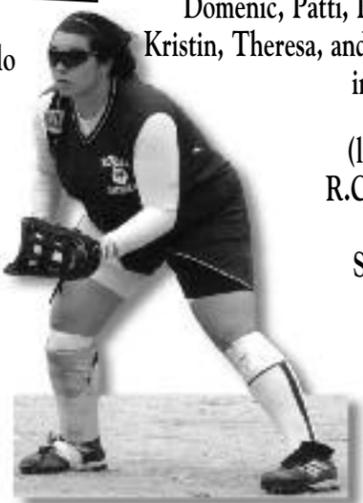
(above, l-r) Anthony and Patrick Conforti at Patrick's wedding.



(above, l-r) Natalie and Joseph Santillo



(above, l-r) Natalie with her father Joe and brother Joseph Santillo.



(left, l-r)
R.C. MVP
Natalie
Santillo.

Like every grandmother, Theresa (Santillo) Schade (nee Colicchio) is very proud of her family and loves to show pictures to her friends and tell them what her grandkids are up to. She thought that there was no better way to do this than to write something and put some photos in the Peterstown Paper, so that 15,000 of her closest friends could see them.

Theresa has a daughter, Patti, who is married to Gene Conforti. They have three children, Gina, Patrick and Anthony. Her son Joe has two children with Maribeth, a son, Joseph and a daughter natalie. Theresa's also had a son Frank who passed away.

If you were to be at the beauty salon with Theresa here is the basic overview of what her grandchildren are up to, complete with photos from her wallet.

Joseph graduated from Roselle Catholic in 2008 and will be a sophomore at Union County College.

His sister Natalie is graduating in June 2009 from R.C. also. She will be attending Seton Hall University, majoring in Environmental Science. Natalie was quite an accomplished athlete. She played varsity soccer for R.C. beginning as a freshman position as a goalkeeper. She played varsity softball as first baseman and was named MVP for 2009. Natalie also holds a World International Title for fighting in Tae Qwon Do as a Black Belt.

(right, l-r) Conforti family photo from Gina's wedding, Eric and Liza Schneider, Anthony, Gene, Gina, Domenic, Patti, Patrick, Kristin, Theresa, and Aidan in front.



Gina, who is 29 years old, is a research scientist for Pestka Labs in Piscataway. She is also a part-time professor of Biology at Middlesex County College. She lives in Warren with her husband of two years Domenico DiGioia.

Gina earned her B.A. in Biology from Drew University in Madison, NJ and her Phd in Microbiology and Genetics from The University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, NJ.

Patrick 28, is a senior scientist for Spectral Sciences in Burlington, Mass. He received his B.S. in chemistry from Nortre Dame, graduating cum laude. He received his Phd in chemistry from Penn State. Patrick married his high school sweetheart, Kristen (nee Capece) in 2005 and are living in Andover, MA.

Anthony, who is 23, attended Eberly College of Science at Penn State where he earned a B.S. in mathamatics and a minor in statistics. He lived in Hoboken and works as an actuarial associate in Manhattan for Towers Perrin HR Services.

All three Confortis are graduates of Toms River High School East. Gina was 4th in her class, Patrick 6th, and Anthony 10th.

Patti and Gene are proud grandparents of Miles and Aiden sons of Gene's daughter from a previous marriage, Liza and her husband Eric Scheider.

There is plenty for Theresa to be proud about. 📷

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VITO BELLINO IMMORTALIZED ON CANVAS

Passers-by walking down Cherry Street in Rahway, New Jersey may be startled by the larger-than-life - hulking image with brooding eyes and an intimidating scowl but they should not be frightened. It is just Vito Bellino relaxing in front of his building. Even more startling is the even more larger-than-life painting of him hanging in the window above his head.

Vito can be found sitting in the same spot most every day. He is the landlord of the building that houses multiple businesses and apartments. The peaceful tree lined setting of the cobblestone street is one of his favorite respites. The waft of his cigar announces his presence to pedestrians turning the corner off Irving Street.

The painter, Jim McKeon has captured Bellino's essence in his uncanny likeness. McKeon's portraits are life like yet they possess a painterly style that is distinctly his. McKeon is constantly producing. He paints on a daily basis and invites visitors in to his studio. The studio is open late during the first Thursday of each month, part of a regular attraction in downtown Rahway.

McKeon shares the space, called The Hive, with four other artists, John Kronemeyer, James O'Connell, Ekaterina Kardanova and Stephen Salek.



19 *Peterstown*
June 09

(left) Portrait entitled "Vito" can be seen hanging in the window of the art studio "The Hive" on Cherry Street in Rahway. It can also be seen on the website www.rahwayarthive.com

(below) The artist, Jim McKeon, stands next to the painting illustrating the large scale of the painting and his dog.



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The unscrambled letters appearing in the shaded squares spell out: "Feast of St. Rocco"

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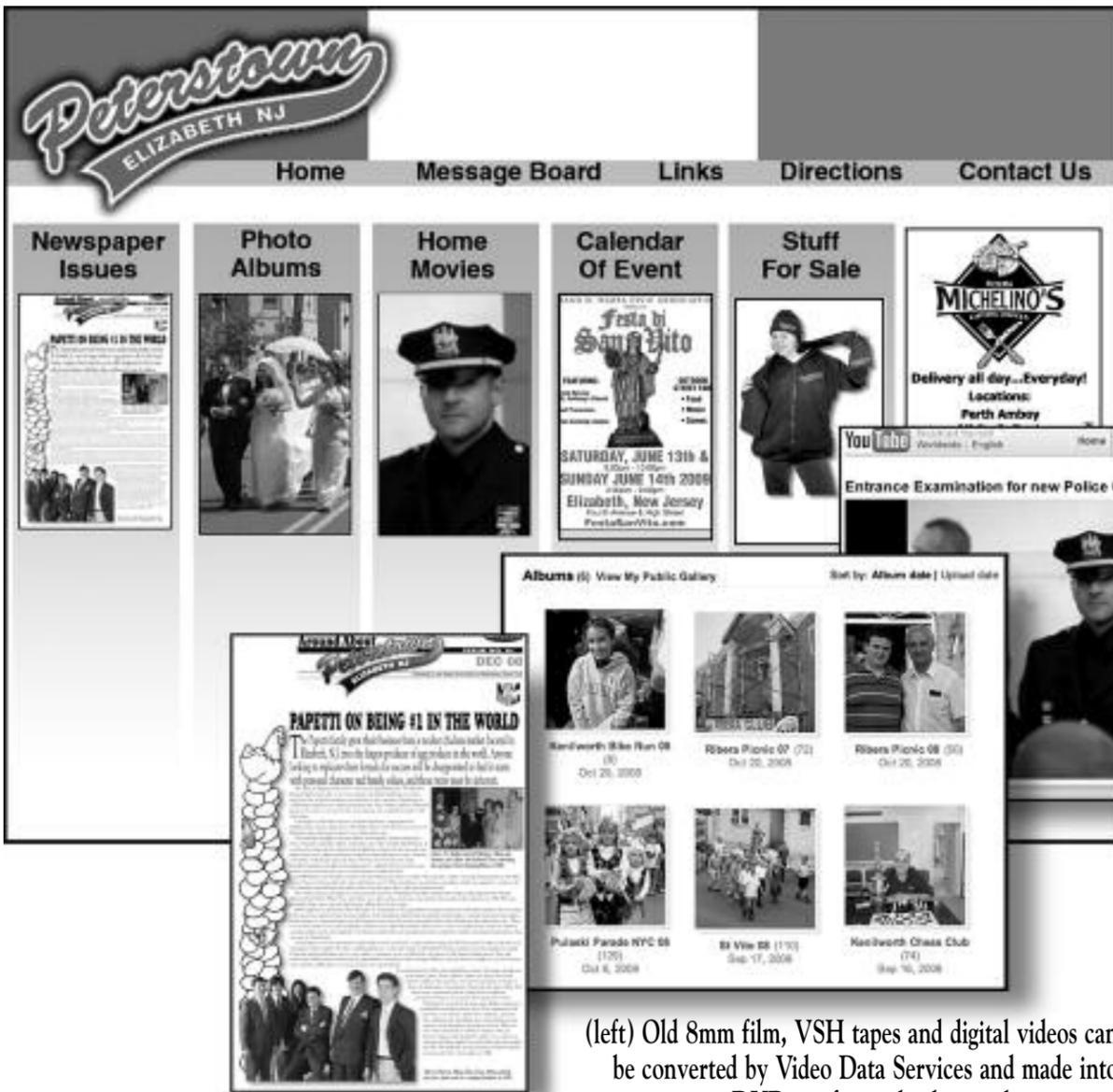


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The long awaited Peterstown Website has arrived! It contains many features that the readers of Around About Peterstown newspaper have been asking for. Including a PFD copy of every newspaper, photo albums, videos, calendar of events, stuff for sale, advertising opportunities, a message board and more.

The website will invite viewers to submit their own material, such as photos, videos, messages, etc.

Though the site is up and running it will be a continual work in progress, as viewers get involved and suggestions are sent in. Visitors are being asked to be patient. It is being maintained on a part-time basis and

there is an enormous amount of archival records to post. Once the initial work is done the future uploads will be more timely. Viewers are encouraged to visit often for there will be material added on a continual basis.

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