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UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 36 • January 2014

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## “SANTAS IN BLUE” DISTRIBUTED OVER 3,000 TOYS

This year residents had an early visit from Santa, when the Township of Union Police Department made some stops on their annual route as “Santas in Blue”.

The Santa in Blue Program was established in 1995 by Police officers Michael Boll, Walter Stinner, and Thomas Ronan. The Santa in Blue program utilizes police officers, who hand deliver toys to needy families in uniform, during the holiday season.

This year township schools and the following businesses and community groups participated: PBA local # 69, Independence Bank, General Office Supply Red Cadillac, Multi Chevrolet, Planet Honda, Tessler & Weiss, Union Pontiac & Buick, Dr Golden Chiropractic, PNC Bank, Bed Bath & Beyond, Marvic, Unity Bank, Jahns, Ironbound Bank, Modells, Italian American Club, Irish American Club, Holy Spirit, Democratic Club, Unico, Meyersville Inn, Burnet BBQ and Roselle Catholic High School. These businesses placed toy boxes in their lobbies, where people have dropped off various gifts and certificates. Once all the toys are collected the schools and the Police Department sort the toys for needy families and local charities. Then the toys are wrapped, collected and made ready for Santa's special delivery.

“Hours spent on collection, wrapping, and distribution of toys by officers and community volunteers increased greatly over previous holidays. We couldn't have accomplished our mission without the assistance of volunteers from schools, PTA's groups, and local residents,” said Sgt. Michael Boll, Police Department Project Coordinator. This year was extremely rewarding because we were able to supply toys for so many children, bringing holiday joy to local families. Residents and employees of surrounding businesses should be proud of themselves for being responsible for bringing so much joy to our needy children. It's unbelievable how much people in this



*(above) Union Township Police Sargent Michal Boll is surrounded by members of Union UNICO, just one of many township service organizations that participated in collecting toys for Santas in Blue.*

community are so unselfish and care about each other, which makes the Township of Union the best town in the country.” added Boll.

This year over 3,000 toys were distributed to local children and special places, as well as some other charities in the area. Toys were also sent to Colorado to aid flood victims. Police Sgt. Michael Boll added, “It made me proud that both our officers and volunteers can work so well together.”

P.B.A Local #69 President Detective Lenordo Digena was deeply touched by the local response, “It's great when the people from Union and our officers can work so hard together and build such a special bond with one another.” Said Digena, “Our community has once again proved that we stand together during the time of need.”

Union Police Deputy Chief Captain Landolfi supports the efforts of his officers, “The Santa in Blue Program exhibits what can be done when police officers and citizens work together. The caring spirit and concern exhibited by officers and citizens alike are to qualities that make great communities. This is one of a myriad of programs in our community policing arsenal.”



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## A SEABRA OPENS COFFEE BAR IN 5-POINTS SUPERMARKET



Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. 5,500 newspapers are printed monthly and 5,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents in Union and distributed free at distribution sites throughout town.

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

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A Seabra Foods , a super market located at 1350 Galloping Hill Road at 5-Points in Union has recently opened a Coffee Bar in thier facility.

The Coffee Bar offers a resting place for shoppers to relax and socialize. The shop features espresso, cappuccino, and regular coffee along with other refreshments. A large selection of pastry and deserts are available.

Lunch can also be purchased from a menu of sandwiches to eat on location or for take out.

A Seabra Foods is open Sunday through Saturday from 7 am to 9 pm. It is a full-service market that features fresh produce, flower shop, fish market, butcher shop and deli. A Seabra also sells beer and wines..

A Seabra Foods also has a variety of ethnic products that you may be looking for. They carry products from Portugal, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Spain, and much more.

(right, l-r) Coffee Bar barista Aylin serves espresso to Francesca Guercio, Nora Guercio, Joseph and Maria Manto.



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## HOSPITAL ELDER LIFE PROGRAM (HELP) AT TRINITAS KEEPS SENIORS ENGAGED, SAFE AND WELL-CARED FOR

The new Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at Trinitas Regional Medical Center now reduces cases of hospital-acquired delirium among the senior population. A multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals has successfully reached more than 550 patients since March 2013. The Hospital Acquired Delirium Project at Trinitas was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of NJ.

“As many seniors are faced with debilitating cognitive and memory issues, they and their families frequently become frustrated with the onset of these impairments,” explains Johanna Thomas, Intervention Clinician, in the Behavioral Health & Psychiatry Department, who adds, “Often, hospital stays can contribute to such declines.”

The Trinitas team developed its program based on evidence of successful programs across the country and around the world. Tim Clyne, Nurse Manager, notes, “HELP has a proven track record as a cost-effective approach to preventing an under-recognized condition during hospitalization.” He further notes that since older patients have a higher risk of rapidly developing a sudden change in mental status, the onset can have severe consequences in the recovery of older patients.

The program addresses daily, repetitive actions that are familiar to seniors. They receive help from Johanna Thomas as well as



(above) HELP Intervention Assistant Diana Noboa and HELP volunteers Adriana Dominguez and Rosa Alexandra spend time with patient Armande Samanamud.

Intervention Assistant Diana Noboa. In addition, 16 well-trained volunteers bring a world of cultural sensitivity to the program since they speak Spanish, French-Creole, Portuguese, and Vietnamese that reflects the cultural diversity of the hospital’s patient population.

Each morning, volunteers greet patients to inquire if they have slept well and to help with their breakfast trays. “Beyond these practical concerns, the volunteers offer companionship, engage patients in reminiscent conversation, assist with meal selections and participate with the patients in cognitive and motor skill activities,” explains Johanna.

As volunteers get to know the patients on a personal level, they help to identify more quickly any changes in a patient’s mental status, even if a patient is not able to communicate on his or her own. Through this close monitoring, any change in a patient’s mental status is immediately communicated to Tim Clyne and Clinical Nurse Specialist Diane Reehil.

The nursing component of HELP can’t be emphasized enough. “When any confusion is seen in a patient,” Diane Reehil explains, “the

patient’s nurse is notified so the cause of the confusion can be targeted before it escalates. In these instances, family input and involvement help tremendously.”

Communication with the patient’s family further optimizes the benefits of HELP. “By bringing the family into the conversation in person or by phone, we can find out more about a patient’s preferences in food, music, television shows and their room environment,” says Diana Noboa.

To keep senior patients in HELP remain engaged and involved, Elisabeth Marrapodi, Director of Library Services, recommends appropriate CDs and DVDs. She explains: “Music therapy has benefitted patients in hospitals and other healthcare facilities for many years. At Trinitas, we’ve seen comparable results with HELP patients. Our world music collection lets patients enjoy music in English to Spanish, Polish to Greek, and many other languages. Inspirational DVDs provides positive and uplifting viewing for our patients, too.”

Patient and family response to HELP is reflected in increased patient satisfaction rates. “We’ve seen a complete culture shift in the approach to the care we give to our most fragile and vulnerable population, the elderly,” adds Mary McTigue, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer. “Our increased satisfaction rates are also the result of our culture of safety that promotes less restraint of elderly patients and a focus on reducing falls in this population.”

Tim Clyne reports that patients and families appreciate the extra attention they receive. “Once patients are admitted to the unit devoted to senior patients, HELP offers reading glasses, reading materials, hearing devices, and other activities if needed. Patients and their families are extremely surprised when they learn that the services are free of charge and designed to help in a speedy recovery.”

## UNION HS PRODUCES IN THE HEIGHTS

On November 17th, 2013, the Union High School Performing Arts Company closed their production of *In the Heights*, the 2008 Tony Award winning Best Musical about the community and culture of New York's Washington Heights. This modern day musical conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda, book by Quiara Alegría Hudes and music and lyrics by Miranda, helped to tell the story of a small community in Washington Heights over a three-day weekend as they struggle with change, tragedy, hardships and what it means to be home. The entire UHS auditorium was swaying to the beats of salsa, merengue, bachata and reggeaton, throughout the story.

The Cast included: Javon King as Usnavi, Raquel Martinez as Nina Rosario, Jordan Brown as Kevin Rosario, Brianna Javis as Camila Rosario, James Fraizer as Benny, Amanda Figueiredo as Vanessa, Jason Rivera as Sonny, Beyanka Wheatley as Abuela Claudia, Brielle Mayes as Daniela, Jazmine Ramos as Carla, Teddy Ignacio as Graffiti Pete, Kerry Jules as the Piragua Guy and a talented ensemble including: Kristian Adap, Calvin Orallo, Jonathan Duvelson, Jason Yanto, Joseph Laurino, Ashley Figueiredo, Emma Magbanua, Leanne Laurino, Charlene Puertollano and Crystal Wright. The production team included Director James Mosser, Choreographer Jennifer Williams, Assistant Musical Director, Melissa Abbate, Costume Designer, Karen Criss, Scenic Designer, Scott Aronow, Lighting Designer, Jason Fok and Technical Director, Al Levitz.

## KEVIN HALL WINS AT UNION'S GOT TALENT



Kevin Hall has lived in Union all his life. He currently works as a teaching assistant at Hannah Caldwell Elementary School. On weekends, he is also a manager at The Comedy Cove at Scotty's in Springfield, NJ. He started performing as a sophomore at Boston College. In addition to winning first prize at Union's Got Talent, Kevin has also performed as part of Rooftop Comedy, the Hoboken Comedy Festival, and most recently the Boston Comedy Festival. Kevin performs in New York and New Jersey as often as he possibly can, and has opened for acclaimed comics such as Eric O'Shea and Rajiv Satyal. He currently runs a showcase entitled "Par Fives and Punchlines" at Oh Brian's on the Green in Clark, NJ. The next show there will be on January 25th.

## JUNIOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Junior National Honor Society of Burnet Middle School held a fundraiser to benefit the Santa in Blue program of the Union Police department. The Honor Society was able to purchase 15 gift cards to be distributed to families during the holiday season.



*(above) Officers of the society who organized the entire project: President Tochukwu Okemezie, Vice President Dean Burrell, Secretary Anne Tantuico, Treasurer Harold Taylor and Sergeant at arms Crystal Mota.*

# Kick your Knee Pain Good-Bye!

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Trinitas Regional Medical Center is a Catholic teaching institution sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation.

## UNION CELEBRATES BROADWAY

A benefit concert celebrating the journey of the Broadway musical, will be held for ONE NIGHT ONLY Saturday, January 18th, 2014. The show will feature Union High School Performing Arts Company students Past, Present and Future.

Union Celebrates Broadway is a ONE NIGHT ONLY concert fundraising event presented by the Union High School Performing Arts Company in conjunction with the Encore Orchestra of New Jersey. Featuring performers from across Union as well as Broadway leading man Willy Falk (Miss Saigon, Les Miserable) the program, benefiting the UHSPAC, will take you on a journey through the evolution of the history of the Broadway musical, tracing the development of the musical through performances of some of Broadway's most iconic songs.

The event will be held on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 in the Theatre at Union High School, 2350 North Third Street, Union, NJ. Tickets are \$14.50 and are available for purchase online at [uhspac.com/Union\\_Celebrates\\_B-Way.html](http://uhspac.com/Union_Celebrates_B-Way.html) or by calling 866.967.8167. It is encouraged to buy tickets in advance.

The history of the Broadway musical is an exciting journey to follow. Union Celebrates Broadway will take you down memory lane featuring Broadway classics such as "Dance at the Gym" from West Side Story, "Bushel and a Peck" from Guys and Dolls and "Carousel Waltz" from Carousel as well as modern day Broadway hits from Les Miserable, Miss Saigon, The Phantom of the Opera, A Chorus Line, Ragtime and many more. The show will trace the evolution of the Broadway musical as told by various members of the Board of the Education, Township Committee Members, Township of Union School Administrators, Teachers and Alumni. "There are a lot of very exciting things about this concert: a partnership with a new local professional orchestra, getting to work with our very talented alumni again, and my favorite, the material. I love the idea of getting to walk an audience through a history lesson about the evolution of the Broadway

musical, using the incredible talent in our town as examples. We want our audience to see the depth and impact of each of these historic shows. It has been incredible working on this fantastic music; some of the greatest songs ever written for the stage. I also hope that it helps to expose a new generation of theatre goers to the wide array of material that is out there." says Director James Mosser. The concert will feature over 75 performers including current UHSPAC performers and future stars! Take a stroll down memory lane welcoming back to the UHSPAC stage alumni: Meridoc Burkhardt, Nicole Martone Deleon, Mathew Corbin, Eric Jackson, Amina Brister, Antonio Amorim, Erica Diaz, Alexandra Brown, Serenity Simmons, Althea Nava, John Magbanua, Lauren Gramatica, Allison Proano, Laurie DelGuercio, Ferris Muniz Nardone, Josephine Quayay and James

Fraizer Sr. "It's been a wonderfully rewarding experience getting to work with performers from the past as well as our current students and upcoming performers" says choreographer Jennifer Williams. "It's been so much fun getting to see everyone work together, helping each other out and sharing their experiences. It's definitely not a show to miss!"

Proceeds from the concert will help benefit UHSPAC's spring musical Miss Saigon: The School Edition, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. Miss Saigon: The School Edition will open March 28th, 2014 and run through April 6th, 2014. It's an exciting year the UHSPAC so don't miss your chance to see fantastic live theatre right in your own backyard!

For more information about upcoming events please visit [www.uhspac.com](http://www.uhspac.com) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, #UHSPAC.

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(above, l-r) Meridoc Burkhard and Nicole Martone DeLeon



(above, l-r) Meridoc Burkhard, Aminah Brister and James Fraizer Sr.



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**Dr. Huang** joins the group from a private practice at Beth Israel Medical Center as Chief Resident. She attended SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine & Biomedical Education, completed research at Columbia University and has published multiple abstracts. Dr. Huang specializes in minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures and speaks English and Mandarin Chinese.

**Dr. Patel** joins the group from a private practice in Philadelphia. She attended Stony Brook University and trained at the prestigious Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She received her Master of Public Health at Columbia University, continued her training in Pennsylvania as a fellow in minimally invasive gynecological procedures and published multiple research articles. Dr. Patel specializes in minimally invasive alternatives to surgery and speaks Gujarati and medical/conversational Spanish.

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## JETS' STAR DEMARIO DAVIS VISITS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

New York Jets Linebacker, Demario Davis, visited Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County in December. He met with over 200 youth at the Union Club and discussed the importance of staying in school, making smart decisions, having a dream and staying focused on your goal. Demario answered questions about his career path and signed autographs for all the youth. He spent time with younger members reading a storybook and talked about the value of reading.

"It was an exciting day for us, as Demario shared his enthusiasm with our youth" stated Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer. "Our members were truly inspired by his journey to the NFL from a small town, and the lessons he learned along the way to achieving your goals.

We are thrilled to have a professional athlete meet with our members and provide support on having your dreams come true." Ronald Brangman, Associate Club Director, commented, "Demario was inspiring! He spoke about dreams and remaining focused on your goals."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County impact the lives of over 4,000 youth in Union County each year, by providing the tools for them to be productive citizens and meet their full potential as adults.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seeks to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of

some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Known as "The Positive Place for Kids," the Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time Professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.

For more information on our mission and programs, please contact Lisa Sepetjian, Director of Development & Marketing at 908-687-7976 ext. 4.





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/ Wed: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. / Friday: Closed / Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

No registration required unless indicated.

#### Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, January 23rd and 30th at 10:30am.  
for children 3 1/2 through kindergarten

#### The Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturdays, January 18th at 11:00am

Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

#### Bedtime Storytime

Mondays, January 6th, 13th and 27th at 7:00pm  
Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games.  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

#### Mother Goose Time

Tuesdays, January 14th, 21st and 28th at 10:30am  
for children 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 and their caregivers,

#### Toddler Time

Wednesdays, January 15th, 22nd and 29th at 10:30am  
for children 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 and their caregivers

#### Library Lego Club

for children ages 5 through 12. This is an opportunity for kids to get creative and build anything they choose. The library will provide the Legos, while the kids provide the imagination! All materials must stay at the library so bring your camera to document your creations. This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Caregivers are asked to stay in the library and are welcome to assist. We are also looking for donations of gently used or new Legos for this program. Please call or email Mary Pritting, Head of Children's Services, at [mpritting@uplnj.org](mailto:mpritting@uplnj.org) or 908.851.5450 x3 for further information.

### The Union Public Library has started an informal Homeschooling Meeting for homeschooling families

This will be a place to meet and share information and ideas with others and also become familiar with the Library and the resources we have to offer. Families are encouraged to bring their own board games to the meetings. This month's meeting will be held on Monday, January 27th from 10:30am to Noon. Please call or email Mary Pritting at [mpritting@uplnj.org](mailto:mpritting@uplnj.org) or 908.851.5450 x3 for more information.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT VAUXHALL BRANCH

No registration required unless indicated.

#### Let's play chess

Tuesdays, January 14th, 21st and 28th at 3:00pm  
Learn to play or improve your game with instructors, Mr. Perry and Mr. Outlaw. Children, ages 8 through 16, are invited to attend. Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### "I Have a Dream Mobile" School-Age Craft Program

Thursday, January 16th at 3:30pm

This program is for children, grades 1 and up, and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### The film, "LeapFrog: Scout & Friends

- Adventures in Shapeville Park"

Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00am  
Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend. No signup required.

#### After School Game Day

Thursday, January 23rd at 3:30pm  
for children in grades 1 through 6 and their caregivers  
Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### Game Day

Tuesday, January 28th at 11:00am  
for children ages 3 - 5 and their caregivers  
Space is limited. Signup is required.

#### After School Movie Presentation of, "Disney's Tarzan"

Thursday, January 30th at 3:00pm  
Children of all ages are welcome to attend.  
No signup required.

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*Spirit of UNION* • Page 9 • January 2014

## BELOW SPONSORED BY THE VAUXHALL COMMUNITY GROUP

The Vauxhall Community Group is a group of local residents and those who have had ties with the community who choose to be actively concerned about what goes on in our community. ANYone and EVERYone is invited to be a part, no membership required!

For info please contact: Deborah Cross-Williams – [NJDiva1@gmail.com](mailto:NJDiva1@gmail.com)  
or Tyrone G. Tutt, Jr. – (908) 578-5920

THE VAUXHALL COMMUNITY GROUP PRESENTS

## POVERTY & HUNGER In OUR Community What Can WE Do?

Whatever befalls the least of us so shall we all share in the misfortune. The Vauxhall Community Group in its effort to bring awareness and provide resources for a social problem "locally", provides a program devoted to poverty in OUR community.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2014  
12:00 - 3:00 P.M.**

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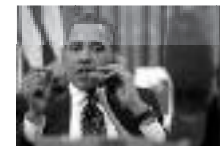
(Participants are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item)

THE VAUXHALL & VICINITY GROUP'S,

## BLACK HISTORY Observance

#1

James Weldon Johnson



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# UNION CHAMBER JOINS WITH AREA CHAMBERS FOR SUPERBOWL MULTI-NETWORKING EVENT

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is joining with the Cranford, Westfield and Springfield Patriot chambers to hold a SuperBowl-themed event on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at AVE Residential Living, from 5-7 p.m.

"The purpose of this event is to unite and allow for networking of members from various chambers in celebration of this year's SuperBowl being held in New Jersey," explained James Masterson, Chamber Executive. "We anticipate a great turnout and are grateful to the folks at AVE for hosting our

first party of 2014."

The event will feature a variety of football-themed snacks and drinks, along with special raffles and presentations.

Pre-Registration is required by contacting the Chamber at 908-688-2777 or by emailing [executivedirector@unionchamber.com](mailto:executivedirector@unionchamber.com). Admission for the various chamber members is \$10 and for guests is \$15.

The Union Township Chamber of Commerce is a professional association organized to unite, strengthen, represent and promote the growth and success of its member businesses.

## WINTER OPEN HOUSES AT CALDWELL PARSONAGE

From 2 to 5 pm on Sundays - January 19 and February 9 and 23

the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, will be open to the public.

Rebuilt on its original foundation in 1782, the home had been burned by the British in 1780, during the Battle of Connecticut Farms. Now a museum, it once served as the residence of the "Fighting Parson," Rev. James Caldwell, and his wife, Hannah, who was killed during the battle in the presence of two of their nine children. The Parsonage is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Lore Ullrich and Anita Centeno, members of the Union Township Historical Society, will act as docents dressed in authentic colonial attire. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Info available at the Society's websites, [www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com](http://www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com) or by calling Barbara La Mort, Secretary, at 908-687-0048.



## UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2014 2:00 pm



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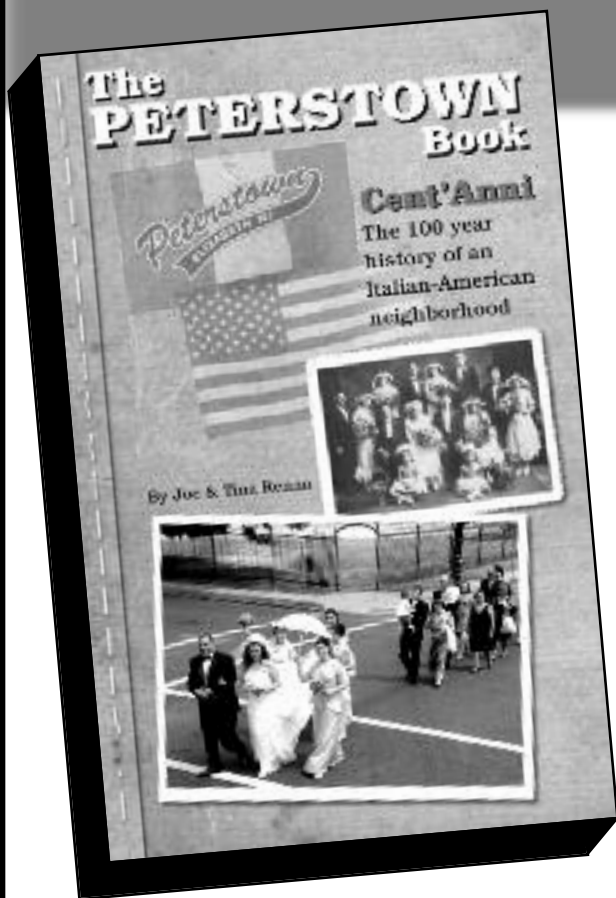
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