



## JUDY BLUME NOVEL TAKES FLIGHT

Author Judy Blume launched her new novel, "In The Unlikely Event" in June and chose her hometown of Elizabeth, NJ to do it in grand style. The setting was special in that the novel is based on true events surrounding three plane crashes that occurred within three months of each other in Elizabeth, during the winter of 1952.

Judy Blume is an Elizabeth treasure. Her novels have inspired generations of readers, from young girls coming of age to themes of adult life. The multi-best seller has always been generous with her time and has visited Elizabeth throughout her career to speak to students and fans. Her success is an inspiration to students to consider writing as a career. They are walking the same halls Blume, a graduate of Battin High School's Class of 1956, did in her youth as Judith Sussman, her maiden name.

On June 1, 2015, Mayor Chris Bollwage hosted the event in the Council Chambers of City Hall, just blocks from where the tragedies took place.

Blume spoke to fans, answered questions and signed books. Quite a few attendees were able to share firsthand accounts of the events that happened sixty three years ago, including Blume who was in Hamilton Junior High at the time.

For many Peterstown folks the tragedies hit close to home, literally and figuratively. The crashes occurred within a few blocks of each other around Battin High School located across the river from the Peterstown neighborhood. Over one hundred people died in the crashes including those living in the homes that were hit. Some with families rooted in the Peterstown community.

The first crash happened on December 16, 1951 just after takeoff from Newark Airport. The fifty-six people bound for Florida were killed. No one died on the ground. The plane with flaming engines passed within yards of Peterstown rooftops before crashing into the opposite bank of the thin, shallow Elizabeth river.

Less than a month later on January 22, 1952, a second plane crashed with casualties that included U.S. War Secretary Robert Patterson. This flight was arriving from Buffalo, New York and was fighting through heavy rains and fog on its way to Newark Airport, less than three miles away. It lost its battle with the elements and went down near Williamson Street, barely missing the roof of Battin High School. Besides the twenty-three on board, seven on the ground and in the homes hit were killed, three were children.

Eleven others were seriously injured. On February 11, 1952, the third in the series of plane crashes occurred.

Like the first, this one was after take-off, just past midnight. The troubled plane, in flames, shaved the tops of several homes but managed to miss an orphanage where approximately sixty children were sleeping. It crashed into the playground next to the orphanage, minimizing casualties.

The heroic efforts of the pilot and rescuers saved lives but not before twenty-nine of the sixty-three passengers and crew members died along with four residents of the buildings that were hit. The survivors were joined in the hospital by approximately a dozen who were injured on the ground. A few passengers miraculously escaped without injury.

The details of the plane crashes vary from source to source. Total counts changed as some seriously injured died, and when those who were missing were accounted for. Up to 120 people died and approximately fifty were injured in the span of a few months. The reaction of the public and elected officials was loud and swift. Mayor James Kirk demanded the newly expanded airport closed. Protests and demands led the federal government to study and establish new safety standards for air travel and airports.

The triple tragedy is the backdrop of Blume's novel. She weaves a story of a young girl, Mari Ammermand, her family, and the community that is devastated by the crashes. Blume draws from her personal experiences and other witnesses to flesh out her fictional characters. She shared insights to the novel and openly discussed her career with the crowd of over one hundred, who came to see her at the standing-room-only event held at Elizabeth City Hall.

Judy Blume is beloved throughout the world but not as much as she is in her hometown of Elizabeth. According to a recent interview this may be the last time she tours. It made her visit even more special. 🐾

(left, r-l) Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage presents author, and Elizabeth native, Judy Blume with a copy of the The Peterstown book as a gift at the event he hosted at City Hall to launch her new book "In The Unlikely Event." The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and book signing.

Photos by Darren Bryden, Facebook.com/cityofelizabethnjcityhall



(left) Ralph Abbate brought a framed newspaper report about the 1952 plane crash that killed and injured family members on ground to the Judy Blume book signing.



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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**



What a great time we had at Deacon Joe's retirement party. He took a lot of ribbing for his multiple retirements. It's like The Eagles fare

well tours.

We Wish Joe all the best and a well-deserved break from work. He was truly dedicated to his career as an educator and generous with the time that he devoted to the church and school. They don't make many like him.

We all look forward to a new era at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy. The school is still an important part of the community. The challenges of running a private school grow every year. OLGA will continue to need the support of the community and alumni.

It was rare to have a home grown principal. Let's make sure we make the new one feel welcomed and right at home.

God bless,  
John Sacco, President  
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

*John F. Sacco*

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**Letters to the Editor**



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*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.

Hi Joe /Tina,

I'm writing about the picture of the School #15 Kindergarten Class of 1940 that appeared in the April 2015 issue of the newspaper. My brother Sal Piga is in this picture. I picked him out and the next day my sister Jo picked him out. Everyone I show the photo to ID's him as well. So, I thought we (my sister Jo and I would let you know) so you can tell Phil Borsellino, who submitted the photo and wanted to name his classmates.

My brother Sal Piga is in the front row, first boy from the right, sitting in front of Nickie Netta. He is the one wearing the neck tie. We also think the blond boy next to him is Frankie Nigro. My brother, Nickie Netta and Frankie hung out together. We lived on Fourth Avenue, next to Nickie, and Frankie lived on Amity Street.

This is the first time we are writing you, so we thought we would let you know how much we enjoy the paper. Looking forward to the next issue!

Thanks for doing this! Keep up the good work.  
Bella & Jo Piga



(left, r-l) Detail of the School #15 Kindergarten Class of 1940 photo showing Frank Nigro, maybe, and Sal Piga sitting in front.

(below, r-l) the original photo is posted on Facebook.com/ Peterstownnj where visitors can ID students.



Hi Joe,

Again thanks ever so much for the fine job you do with the newspaper *Around About Peterstown*. In reading the article on the memorial mass for Frank Mazzarella I noticed that he had served on the Battleship USS Roche. I don't know if it meant the Roche was a ship for battle or their was a mistake in naming it a Battleship. As an old Navy man I know that battleships are named after states. i.e. USS New Jersey, USS Iowa, USS Missouri, USS Wisconsin, etc. I name them four as they were the last battleships built by the U. S. Navy during WW II. After the Korean War they were put into moth balls, and some were taken out to serve in Viet Nam and a few other conflicts. Now all four are museums.

I did find a USS Roche DE 197. DE designates a Destroyer Escort a bit smaller then the ones designated as Destroyers DD's I am thinking that is the one Frank served on as it was built during WW II and was in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

I, myself served aboard the Destroyers USS John W. Weeks DD 701, and was on TAD orders briefly to the USS James C. Owens DD 776 this was during the Korean War. They were classified as Summer Class built in 1944 and most of them served in WW II during the invasions of Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Philippine Liberation. A lot of the Summer Class were put into the reserve fleet (mothballed) in 1949-1950 only to be recommissioned in late 1950 and 1951 with the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. We were affectionately called "Tin Cans" as our structure was not much thicker than a Campbell Soup can. A direct hit on a DD or DE and it would sink in two minutes. Thankfully I came through my 5 years unscratched.

In no way am I criticizing anyone for designating the Roche as a battleship, but it certainly can be classified as a "SHIP OF BATTLE."

Sincerely,  
Jack Joyce  
Ex Navy Vet and former Jersey Boy now living in FL  
Spring Hill, FL

Hi Joe;

I just want to tell you how much I enjoyed your article and pictures of the Kingston Boys at the Copa. These pictures were very familiar and comforting to me. I know the names very well, as most were friends of my Uncles, Tony and Mario Di Bella.

I was fairly young at the time, but I remember the 50's well. Men knew how to treat their ladies and everyone knew how to dress appropriately. The guys were so handsome and the girls were all very pretty. You can just tell how close these people were and what they meant to each other.

It makes me so sad to think about the ones that are gone (only three of the 20 who are pictured are alive, Marie Lamorte, Pete Renna and Blue randazzo). They all had smiling, happy faces in the photos, anticipating the rest of their lives. I hope that they all had good lives and I know that they left a wonderful legacy to their families.

True friendship and mutual respect was very common in those days. It's really nice to see it in your thoughtful presentation.

Thanks again. It brought back memories of wonderful times.

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# Editor's Opinion

by Joe Renna

It's been one year since my friend Bob Rixon passed away on May 8, 2014 at the age of 66. He was one of the most influential people in my life. He was the only "true artist" that I knew. The term artist is over used & has lost its meaning, at least for the people that I reserve it for. I feel the same way about the word hero. Going into a burning building to rescue someone is heroic; revealing that you have changed your gender, not so much. We need a new word to describe a hero, & an artist as well.

To me, an artist exists at a higher level of consciousness than regular folks, intellectually, spiritually & creatively. They transcend the conventional confines of human nature & live their lives more in the psychological plane than a physical one. This is not to say that artists are not grounded in the physical world, on the contrary. They usually reveal themselves in some form of physical production, like literature, painting, music, etc. There are no limits to the disciplines that an artist can work in. Bob Rixon was a poet. But that was just the medium that he channeled his creativity through. He was an artist because he had an understanding of the world more astute than anyone I know. He had a keen insight into every aspect of life that was well thought out & consistent in that it was hard not to agree with him. Bob was tremendously well read & could speak on subjects with clarity, music, literature, history, politics, nature, & religion. He could write about astrology & astronomy with equal conviction.

I met Bob in 1990 in Rahway, New Jersey. He lived up the block from my design studio & we hit it off from the first time we met. He started working for me after he left his job at Pearl Paint & he has been an inspiration ever since. He taught me a lot about writing, but more importantly he taught me a lot about purpose & reason, intangibles that guide the creative mind. Though I consider myself creative I'm as far from my own definition of an artist as I can be. I'm way too worldly to express myself artistically. Bob, though, was pure emotion even when he was at his most intellectual.

There were so many facets to Rixon's life that no one can be used to describe him. He was an accomplished DJ going back to WFMU & being one of the original on-air personalities that defined free-form radio in the 1980's when it first broadcasted out of Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey. Rix's playlists & archived shows can be found on his wfmua.org page. (WFMU is at 91.1 FM)

As a poet Rixon has put his heart & soul on paper. He had a beautiful command of the English language & wrote with intense desire for perfection. He filled journals & notebooks with poems & essays & later he maintained a blog & a Facebook page. His volume of writing is staggering. Rix followed the Beat poets, academically & substantially. Rix felt a kinship with Allen Ginsburg & Jack Kerouac though he, born on November 11, 1948, claims to be two generations too late to be their contemporaries.

Even though, Rix was well respected by many of the poets he idolized. He was with Ginsburg the day his father passed away.

Rix was very active in the poetry scene. He attended readings but seldom read. He wrote plenty but seldom published. He took his craft to a limit but not beyond. So you may wonder how I could think that Bob is the one true artist in my life if he was not accomplished, or rich, or famous, or anything that one would use to define an artist. My response is not easy to understand & like art itself not many people will understand it. Rix created art & was an artist regardless if anyone ever experienced his work. I was one of the few lucky ones who were close enough to Rix to see it. Rix was an artist even if it was for an audience of one. He was a great artist.

Rix worked in my studio & jump started my writing career. He helped me launch the Peterstown Newspaper & wrote the first few issues until I had enough confidence to write myself. It was easy for me having him as an editor & safety net.

I can theorize to why Rix is not renowned but he did a much more thorough job through his writing. He was way to self-critical. Maybe he felt inferior to his own expectation of perfection, but I think he was alone in that critique. For years I wanted to publish his work but he was always reluctant.

Rix had health problems that plagued him. I'm not revealing secrets for Rix himself wrote about his challenges openly & honestly. He wrote about his problems with depression & how it affected him. He shared his experiences in such great detail that he took a lot of the mystery out of understanding what a depressed person goes through, & to understand how medication & therapy worked on him. I feel an intense sadness when I read some of his personal reflection. Even so, Rix could make me laugh as easy as cry.

When Rix went to the Trinitas Hospital for the last time, he knew he wasn't getting out. No one told him but he sensed it. He gave me a call & said he needed a phone & some clothes. We had a long, last chat reminiscing & laughing. He loved the times we spent in Peterstown & loved getting waited on hand & foot by the Italian women at the club picnics. He asked me to clean out his apartment before everything ends up in a dumpster. He said I would understand what to keep.

It took four days to sort through stuff stacked floor to ceiling in two rooms. I left with truckloads of poetry books & boxes cassette tapes of his WFMU shows. There were also boxes of hand written journals, poems & correspondence. These are what he was referring to. They could have easily have been mistaken for trash. I've spent the past year reading his poems & journals while listening to his tapes. It will take a while but I want to sort through it all, digitize the tapes & keyboard the poetry. Though I do not mind being an audience of one, I think the world should get to experience Rix. 🐾

## R.I.P. RIX

Check out Rixen's blog:  
bobrixon.blogspot.com

On facebook at:  
bob.rixon.5

Listen to Bob on WFMU.com:  
wfmua.org/playlists/RX



## Not for Nothing But...

If Caitlyn Jenner is a  
hero then Bob Rixon is  
certainly an artist.

No artist lives to know the true value of his or her work. Who reads the once famous poetic "masterpieces" of Stephen Vincent Benet now? Yet other poets of his time who lived & died in relative obscurity are remembered, enjoyed & studied. Artists can only seek the true value of the creativity & ideals in themselves, & not count on public applause; but can insist that value be mirrored in some way by the people the artist knows & trusts. Otherwise, the artist exists, like one in abject poverty, in a living death, without "bread or Torah." Without food or hope.

-Bob Rixon

Note: As a tribute to Rix & his commitment to using them, only ampersands were used in writing this article.

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FIRST ANNUAL PETERSTOWN CUP

The Frank O. Mazza Civic Association held three fundraising events leading up to the 8th Annual Peterstown Cultural Festival to be held July 23rd to 26th.

On May 9, 2015 the group hosted the inaugural soccer tournament played for the Peterstown Cup. Four teams got together to play in a round robin format. The six games were played on the newly renovated O'Brien Field. The teams were sponsored by the Frank O. Mazza Civic Association, Michelino's Pizza, Tommy's Pizza and Elizabeth Mini Mall. Plans are being made to follow up

the annual Peterstown Cup in May with the Columbus Cup in October. The Mini Mall team won The Cup.

On May 15th a spaghetti dinner was held at the Vallatese Club Hall located on Fourth Avenue and High Street. And a fundraiser was held again at the Vallatese Club following a procession of St. Anthony and St. Vito after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on June 13th. The procession, featuring the Elizabeth High School Marching Band, made its way through the streets of Peterstown starting from the Church steps and ending at the hall.



(above, back, l-r) Frank O. Mazza, Felice Tanga, Stefano Calella, Eric Kulic, Andres Cano, Julio Bulio, Mike Firetto, Mike Cortico, Matt Curty, Jose Sanchez, and Joe Renna. (front, l-r) Gianfranco Triscari, Ivan Calderon, Jose Luis Moreno, Vito Mazza, Mike Merlo, Mike Lobraces.

*Photos of the Peterstown Cup  
and the St. Anthony and St. Vito Procession  
can be found on the website [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com)  
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# DEACON JOE CAPORASO RETIRES AS OLGA PRINCIPAL

The St. Anthony's church and school community came together on May 21, 2015 to celebrate the retirement of Deacon Joe Caporaso as Principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy at Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, NJ. Well wishers included friends and colleagues from the many aspects of Joe's career, including clergy, educators, and elected officials. All came to wish him Godspeed in both humorous and a touching fashion. Deacon Joe is a also a retired principal of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Photos of this event can be found on the website [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com) and on [Facebook.com/PeterstownNJ](https://www.facebook.com/PeterstownNJ)



(above, seated) Deacon Joe Caporaso is congratulated by Salesian nuns and priests, both colleagues and friends.

## A TASTE OF ITALY IN THE CATSKILLS

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and customer service, they take pride in providing a personal experience for every guest looking for an intimate getaway or planning a destination wedding.

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(above, r-l) Linden Chamber Person of the year Courtney Villani with dad and mom, Diodato and Linda.

## CONGRATULATIONS COURTNEY VILLANI

Courtney Villani, daughter of Diodato and Linda Villani, has been named 2015 Person of the Year by the Linden Chamber of Commerce.

Courtney is currently the President of Villani Bus Company. Honored to be the third generation family member of Villani Bus Company, Courtney hopes to continue the success and growth of the well-established charter and school bus company created by her grandfather, Frank Villani, Sr., and successfully grown by her father, Diodato Villani for over 60 years!

Courtney studied Sociology and Anthropology at Hofstra University. While at Hofstra, she was active in various musical groups as well as the yearbook. She served as a firefighter in PA and Uniondale NY in Engine Co. 3. Throughout her years at Hofstra, she volunteered and worked with the Uniondale Community Council which led to various positions within that organization primarily as Director of the After School and Summer programs.

Since working in the family business, Courtney proudly served several organizations: Linden Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO, UNICO District X District Governor, Trinitas Health Foundation, Motor Coach Partners with Integrity, and NJ School Bus Contractors Association.

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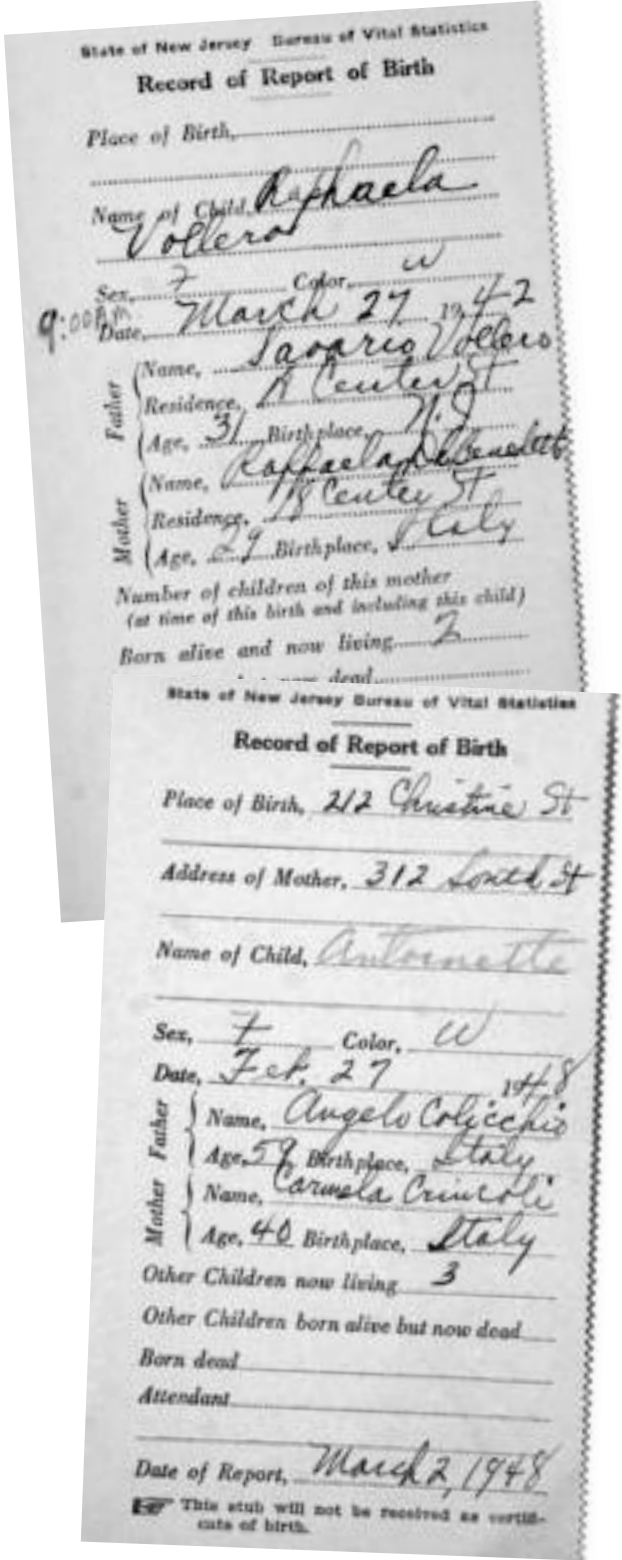


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(above, l-r) Lucille Disano, Antoinette (Colicchio) Calicchio, Lucille Disano, and Rae (Vollero) Peterson.



(above) Dr. Guidi birth records of Antoinette Colicchio and Rae Vollero.

# THE DR. GUIDO GUIDI CONNECTION

The cover story on the December 2014 issue of the Peterstown newspaper featured a neighborhood doctor, Dr. Guido Guidi, who despite being blind continued his obstetrician practice and eventually delivered a total of 465 babies between the years of 1912 and 1948. His grandson came across a stash of all of his grandfather's birth records. He shared them with the Peterstown community on the newspaper's website, [www.RennaMedia.com](http://www.RennaMedia.com).

Photo albums of the records were made and placed on the Peterstown page of the website for visitors to view, download and share. The records appear in chronological order and are also numbered.

There may be a kinship among the 465 babies that Dr. Guidi helped into the world. Several folks visited the website after reading the article and found their birth records. Old neighbors and friends started to reach out to each other as they rediscovered family names paging through the albums. A few of those calls culminated in a meet-up at Spirito's Restaurant.

Lucille Disano found her younger sister Roseanne's record #486 from January 10, 1943. She found her cousin Carmine's also born in April, 1942, along with the record of his father, and her uncle Carmelo from November 29, 1912 record #007.

Lucille continued browsing and recognized the names of many of her neighbors. She called her cousin, who is also named Lucille, to share her findings. They both started to contact some of the people they found.

One person they found was Anna Maria Faccone. After attending mass at St. Anthony's church, Lucille approached Mike Faccone who works in the rectory. Anna Maria is his aunt, Mike is the son of her brother George.

The Faccones lived on South Avenue, behind the church, between Third and Fourth Avenues. The family occupied two houses which were located next door to the Colicchio family. Lucille had also found the records of

Antoinette Colicchio.

Mike Faccone told Lucille that the Colicchios still lived on South Street, so Lucille took a walk to the house and found Antoinette Colicchio's husband Philip Calicchio, sitting on the porch. Antoinette was the youngest of the four children of Angelo and Carmela (nee Crincoli). She was able to find the records of two sibling, Carmella (#504) and Angela (#496). She did not find the record of her oldest sister Maria born in August 1943 or her parents, Angelo and Carmela, nee Crincoli. Antoinette's record (#509) was the last image in the albums. Dr. Guidi was 73 years old when he delivered her.

Lucille also saw the record of one of her cousin's good friends Rae Peterson, nee Vollero (#481). Rae's brother Frank is record #508. Lucille (the cousin) and Rae were raised together in a four-family home at 337 Centre Street. They went through school together, #3, Cleveland Jr. High and Battin High School. Lucille was in Rae's bridal party fifty-seven years ago. The two still remain close.

Rae, Antoinette and the two Lucilles got together to reminisce. Other folks they contacted were there in spirit but could not make it to the restaurant. Carmine Disano, for instance, lives in North Carolina. Anna Maria Faccone had a prior engagement.

The four women shared stories for a few hours, reminiscing about all the friends and neighbors that they had in common, and sharing stories about Dr. Guidi. Antoinette remembers her sister Mary, when she was six or seven-years-old, walking from South Street to Christine Street to escort the doctor to and from a house call.

Rae's parents, Salvatore and Raffaella, told her that when she was born, the umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck four times. She was still and blue when she was delivered. Her dad remembered holding her, and even though he was told that the baby was in God's hands he prayed and prayed while crying. Rae slowly started to come around, little by little her life blossomed in her father's hands. 🌱

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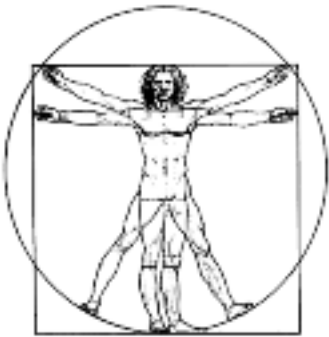
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(above, l-r) Caterina and Giovanni



(above) Agnes and Alfred



(above) Nancy and John



(above) The fifth generation of the Dicosmo family waiting on the sidelines, Amy, James, Cait and Declan.

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The lemon ice stand, located in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey, is a neighborhood landmark. People come from miles to get a taste. A visit does more than quench a “voglia” but it is a social event. A trip to DiCosmo’s usually turns into a neighborhood reunion. In a short time old friends and neighbors are

reminiscing and catching up on family news while their flavored ices melts on their pallets.

John and Nancy live in the family’s home next to the ice stand, It is a throw back to when live/work spaces were the norm for local merchants. For the DiCosmo family selling ices is a way of life. It was for Caterina and Giovanni Di Cosmo in 1915, Agnes and Alfred DiCosmo after them, and John and Nancy today. Their children are the fourth generation to work in the family business.

The fifth generation of Dicosmo family is waiting on the sidelines. John and Nancy have six children and fourteen grandchildren. Children are Eileen, Amy, Kate, MaryEllen, John and Colleen. Grandchildren are Declan and Cait (Eileen's children) Maura, Michael & Maeve (Amy's children) Michael & Mia (Kate's children) Lily, Nina & Emme (MaryEllen's children) Lucia (John's little girl) James, Amy & Clare (Colleen's children).

Eileen is actively working on ways to expand the business through licensing and distribution. More information about the company can be found on the company’s Facebook page: DiCosmo’s Italian Ice.

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## BRANDON VITABILE SIGNS WITH THE COLTS

Brandon Vitabile earned acclaim playing football for Bishop Ahr High School in Edison, New Jersey, where he lettered in baseball and basketball for the Trojans. He continued his illustrious playing center for the North Western University Wildcats. His accomplishments playing center earned him national recognition and on May 15, 2015 he signed with the Indianapolis Colts as an undrafted free agent.

Brandon is 6'3" and 310 lbs. and was team captain at North Western where he started all fifty games over four seasons. Brandon couples his prowess on the field with performance in the classroom. Scouting reports recognized his intelligence and leadership skills on the field. He was a National Honor Society member and finished in the top 10 percent of his senior class at Bishop Ahr and won the National Football Foundation's prestigious National Scholar-Athlete Class of 2014 while at North Western.




(above, l-r) Brandon Vitabile wearing his National Scholar-Athlete medal with his father Peter and brother Steve, who is a Judicial Law Clerk at the Superior Court of New Jersey.

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(left) Linda Russo is prolific with both a pen and wooden spoon.

.....  
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.....

## COOK ITALIAN WITH LINDA RUSSO

Linda Russo has published three books and is working on a fourth. The most recent, "Cook Italian with Me," is not at all like her other books which offered intriguing insight into the world of politics and justice.

Her first was "Diary of a Court Reporter." It is a true crime novel written with George Blake, based on four individual trials, including a captured foreign abductor of an American citizen. Linda was an official court reporter working in Federal Court in Washington, D.C. and has worked on such cases as John Hinckley, Scooter Libby. She also worked with Donald Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers on Capital Hill, and has reported on thousands of trials, including working on many of the terrorist cases. Her second book, "Decline and Fall of the U.S. Empire," was written with Joseph Pappy after two years of research regarding the Muslim communities in America.

Her cook book is light hearted and nostalgic. She draws from her life experience of growing up in a large family in Peterstown, an Italian-American neighborhood in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Many of these recipes were hand-me-downs from her mother and both

grandmothers, but because they did not have exact measurements she would make the dish and figure out the measurements the closest she could while she was writing the recipe. Linda offered alternatives to many of the recipes with ingredients and measurements that can be changed depending on personal taste.

A unique and helpful part of the book offers suggestions as to what to do with leftovers. For instance, she shares ideas about what can be done with a pot of leftover gravy with meatballs and sausage for the rest of the week.

The cookbook is rich in desserts and pastry recipes, including instruction on cake decorating. Wine makers can use the book, as well as beer brewers. Linda has recipes for several homemade beer and wines. She includes details about the equipment needed as well the process and ingredients.

Linda's cookbook and her other books can be purchased on Amazon.com by typing the name of the book in the search field. Linda also maintains a Facebook page named Lindasbookclub where she posts recipes and photos for all to enjoy. 🐾



(above, l-r) Linda's grand-dog, and food critic, Harley with Linda's son Joseph Costanzo.

## FOOD CRITIC HARLY, LINDA'S GRAND-DOG

Linda Russo has a rating system based on the critique of her faithful grand-dog Harley, who watched her prepare and tasted almost everything she cooked, except for the beer, wine and chocolate.

Though she promised her son, Joseph, that she would not give Harley table food, she fed Harley plenty, like every grandmother would do. It was their little secret.

At the end of the recipes Harley tasted Linda would conduct a "Harley rating," numbers from one to five. Five being the best. Macaroni and Italian bread were always fives. 🐾

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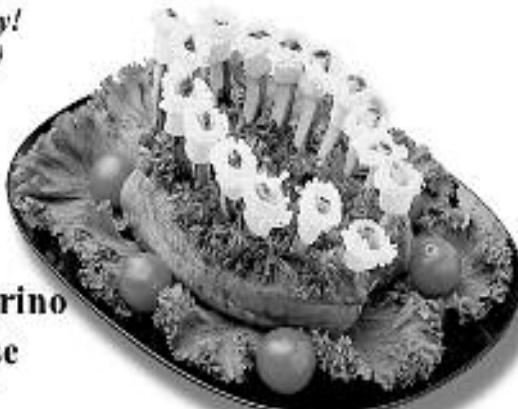
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# Recipes

From the cook book “Cook Italian with Me” by Linda Russo

## Pecan Maple Pie

### PIE CRUST INGREDIENTS

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 cups flour            | 1 teaspoon salt     |
| 1 Tbsp. sugar           | 1/3 cup cold Crisco |
| 12 Tbsp. (1 1/2 sticks) | 1/2 cup ice water   |
- well-chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces

### PIE CRUST PREPARATION

1. Cut the butter into pieces and return to refrigerator to keep cold.
2. Place flour, sugar and salt in bowl and mix very quickly to combine all ingredients.
3. Cut in butter and shortening with two knives until mixture is the size of peas.
4. Add ice water and mix with your hands.
5. Dust your hands with flour, take mixture out of bowl and roll into a ball.
6. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
7. After 30 minutes, take mixture out of refrigerator and let it set about 10 minutes.
8. Roll pastry out on a lightly floured surface, from center to edge, until it measures 1 inch larger than your pie pan.
9. Fold dough in half and place over pie pan.
10. Cut edges 1 inch larger around pan, and then fold the edge under and crimp with fingers.

### FILLING INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup corn syrup (light or dark)  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
4 Tbsp. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted  
3 large eggs lightly beaten  
1 Tbs. Bourbon  
1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
1/2 tsp. grated orange zest  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 1/2 cups pecan halves

### FILLING PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix together all ingredients except pecans. Mix good so you get the bottom of the bowl.
3. Stir in the pecans and mix lightly.

### BAKING

1. Pour into the unbaked pie shell.
2. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Poke the center with a knife, and if it comes out clean, the Easter Bunny did it again.



## Italian Cream Puffs

### PASTRY INGREDIENTS

- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1 cup water         | 4 eggs |
| 1 stick butter      | Salt   |
| 1 1/2 cups of flour |        |

### PASTRY PREPARATION

1. Boil water and butter
2. Lower flame and flour and a dash of salt
3. Shut flame and add 4 eggs, one at a time.
4. Mix really, really well.
5. Drop by teaspoon onto greased shallow pan.
6. With back of spoon, shape into rounds, leaving center thicker than edges.
7. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.
8. Let cool and cut in half.

### FILLING INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Ricotta  
1 cup sugar (or 1/2 cup Splenda)

### FILLING PREPARATION

1. Mix Ricotta and sugar
  2. Fill bottom pastry halves with filling
  3. Place top half slightly to the side.
  4. Add a cherry to filling and Sprinkle with confectionary sugar.
- (Or you can sprinkle with multicolored sprinkles to liven it up. You can even add chocolate bits to Ricotta.)



(above) Linda’s cookbook can be found and purchased on Amazon.com by typing the name of the book in the search field. Recipes and photos can also be found on Linda’s Facebook page named Lindasbookclub.



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(above, l-r) Dominick and Theresa Russo



(above, l-r) Linda, Betty, Gloria, Dee Dee and Dad.

# STRAIGHTING OUT LINDA RUSSO'S FAMILY TREE

Linda Russo stopped counting her relatives when she reached 10,000. The truth in her joke is that she does come from a huge family that branches in all directions and despite the numbers many of the relatives stayed in close company with each other, many with roots planted in Peterstown.

Linda's Grandmother Elizabeth (Liz) Fera was married and had three children before she was widowed. Her son Moses Mangano had two children, Frank and Dominick. Her son Morgan Mangano had two daughters, Carol and Betty. And her daughter Mary had three children, Betty, Marion and Louie.

Liz remarried Frank Russo and they had eight children. Their son Dominick and wife Theresa were Linda's dad and mom. Her uncles and aunts were Cy, married to Mary; Artie and wife Mary; Noe and Marie, Freddy married Carol and then Seline, Anna and husband Pete Bodnar; Rose and husband Sam Vitale, Frank married Genevieve, then Barbara.

Dominick and Theresa, better known as Tessie, had

four children. Their daughter Gloria married Pat Gargano from Spencer Street and Second Avenue.

They had a son Pat. Gloria later married Lindy Restaino, and had two sons Lindy and Dominick. Then Elizabeth, or Betty. Dolores, who was called Dee Dee. She married Augie Schumatti. They had a son, John, a daughter, Gloria, and another son, Little Augie.

Linda married Tony Costanzo and had son Joe. Joe wife is named Heather, and they have a daughter Isabela, better known as Izzie, and a son, Max.

Uncle Cy and Aunt Mary had Ronnie and Lorraine (Corallo). Uncle Artie and Aunt Mary had Artie, Peter and Brenda. Uncle Noe and Aunt Marie had Norman, Jeff and Lisa. Uncle Freddy and Aunt Carol had Carol, Patty and Joey. He married Aunt Seline and had Freddy and Seline. Aunt Anna and Uncle Pete Bodnar had Joan and Kathy. Aunt Rose and Uncle Sam had Paulie and Ernie.

Uncle Frank and Aunt Genevieve had Frankie and Loretta, who married Vern DeCosmo. Linda was born and grew up at 336 Spencer Street, on the corner of Fourth Avenue. Her dad always wanted a boy, but after he had four girls he got a dog and named him Junior.

Linda's mom's side of her family all lived in California except for her sister Julie, who married Uncle Skippy, and they had Nicky Schipani and Theresa. Theresa married Frank Dazzo and Nicky married Mary Ann, their children are John, Nick and Frank.

The house on Spencer and Fourth was next to Uncle Cy's candy store on the corner. Next to that was Foti's Barbershop, and on the corner of Fourth Avenue and South 5th Street was the Amoco gas station. Linda's backyard backed up into the gas station's lot. She has memories of hopping over the fence to go into the gas station's barn and taking their horses out and riding them.

Linda's dad was an Elizabeth councilman. Her mom actually gave it a go at running for Mayor of Elizabeth, which was unheard of in those days for a woman to attempt.



(above, l-r) Dominick's Mom and Dad, Lisa (Fera) and Frank Russo.



(above) Grandpa Falcone

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Tuesday 11:00 – 10:00  
Wednesday 11:00 – 10:00  
Thursday 11:00 – 10:00  
Friday 11:00 – 10:30  
Saturday 11:30 – 10:30  
Sunday 12:00 – 9:00



Additional photos can be found on the Peterstown page on RennaMedia.com, and at facebook.com/PeterstownNJ



(above, l-r) Grandma Isabela Falcone with Gloria.




(above, l-r) Aunt Julie (mom's sister) and Uncle Skippy.



(above, l-r) Linda, sister Betty, cousin Theresa Schipani


Re-elect





Pull Lever 16C


DOMINICK RUSSO


Democratic Candidate for Member of City Council—Fifth Ward

  
GLORIA

  
BETTY JANE

  
TERE

  
DOLORES

  
LINDA

Friends and Voters:

Just one last reminder before going to the polls Tuesday.

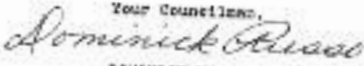
I was born and raised in the Fifth Ward, and, for 19 years, have been living with my wife and family at 339 Spencer Street. My wife, Theresa, and four daughters, Gloria, Betty Jane, Dolores and Linda, are pictured above.

For the past 28 years I have been employed by Esso Standard Oil Co., Linden, N. J. as a laboratory technician.

During the 35 years that I have represented you in City Council, I have done all in my power to keep the welfare of the residents of the Fifth Ward uppermost in my mind. As a member of several of the more important committees in City Council, I have taken part in activities which have benefited both the Fifth Ward and the city.

You have seen me throughout the Fifth ward night and day. I know most of you personally. If you have had the occasion to call on a ward problem, I have tried to take care of it to the best of my ability. For these reasons I ask you to again support me in Tuesday's election.

Your Councilman,



DOMINICK RUSSO

PAID FOR BY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

(above) Dominick Russo's Re-election Campaign mailer for Elizabeth City Council featuring his wife and daughters.

*As a proud resident of Peterstown, it has been my pleasure to have serviced the community's car and truck buying needs. Together with Richard Lucas of Richard Lucas Chevrolet & Subaru, we have been satisfying area residents for many years. With the excellent reputation of the Lucas family, we promise to keep you a very satisfied customer for many years to come.*

*Thank you,*  
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# ELIZABETH ROTARY AWARDS \$21,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELIZABETH HIGH STUDENTS

The Albert & Louise Davis Scholarship Fund of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth awarded scholarships totaling \$21,000 to 14 promising Elizabeth High School seniors for their higher education.

"This is an amazing group of students," stated Scholarship Selection Committee Chairman Katherine Smith. "Not only are they very talented academically, they are also very committed to their community and to their families. Future careers planned by the students include medicine, accounting, aeronautical engineering and teaching. Students will attend colleges including Rutgers, Boston University, The College of New Jersey, Lehigh University and the University of Pennsylvania."

The 2015 scholarship recipients include: Latifa Ali,

Alex DaSilva, Alexandra Gonzalez, Eva Lynch-Comer, Florencia Medina, Michelle Megala, Kristian Melo, Hector Meneses, Andrea Mora, Geneis Quitto, Katie Ramierez, Alessandra Reyna, Michael Rojas and Xiaowen Yang.

Held at the Garden Restaurant, Union, the event was attended by students, family members and staff and administration from the Elizabeth High School and Board of Education, and Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage.

Since its establishment in 1986, the Albert & Louise Davis Scholarship Fund of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth has provided over \$484,500 in grants to a total of 325 students. 📷



(above) Bob Tombs (left) President of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth, and Ken Richuso (right) President of the Davis Scholarship Fund with scholarship recipients.

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**ANN J. FERGUSON, P.H.M.**  
*President*

**GEORGE KOSTRY**  
*Vice President*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

MONGIL CORPORATION WILL BE OFFERING PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR MONGIL CORPORATION (JOHN T. GREGORIO TOWERS) 78 UNIT PRAC SENIOR CITIZENS DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE ALL ONE BEDROOM UNITS LOCATED AT: 1425 DILL AVE., LINDEN, N.J. 07036.

APPLICANTS MUST BE 62 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND BE INCOME ELIGIBLE. CURRENT INCOME ELIGIBLE LIMITS (INCLUDING INCOME FROM ALL ASSETS):

1 PERSON .....\$32,050  
2 PERSONS.....\$36,600

PREFERENCES: IF YOU LIVE, WORK OR HAVE BEEN HIRED TO WORK IN UNION COUNTY YOU MAY CLAIM THIS ON YOUR APPLICATION. ALL INCOME AND PREFERENCES CLAIMED WILL BE VERIFIED BEFORE ANY SUBSIDY IS APPROVED.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP IN PERSON OR BY REPRESENTATIVES STARTING JUNE 16TH, 2015 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:30AM TO 12PM AND 1:30PM TO 4PM AT MONGIL CORPORATION'S JOHN T. GREGORIO TOWERS, 1425 DILL AVENUE, LINDEN, N.J. OUR LIST WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL WE HAVE 200 APPLICATIONS.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED AND MAILED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

JOHN T. GREGORIO TOWERS, 1425 DILL AVENUE, LINDEN, NEW JERSEY 07036

PLEASE NOTE..... NO PRELIMINARY APPLICATION SWILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE JOHN T. GREGORIO OFFICE. ALL MUST BE MAILED.

PRESENTLY WE HAVE 12 PEOPLE ON OUR WAITING LIST WHO WILL REMAIN IN THEIR POSITION. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED, AS NEEDED, FOR VACANCIES.

IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY AND NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE CALL: 908-298-3821 EXTENSION #407

ANN J. FERGUSON, PHM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A VISO PUBLICO**

MONGIL CORPORACIÓN OFRECERÁN APLICACIONES PRELIMINARES PARA EL CORPORATION MONGIL (JOHN T. GREGORIO TORRES) 78 UNIDAD PRAC SENIOR DE DESARROLLO QUE SON TODOS UNIDADES DE UN DORMITORIO UBICADO EN: 1425 EN LA AVENIDA DILL EN LINDEN, NJ 07036

LOS APLICANTES DEBEN DE TENER 62 AÑOS DE EDAD O MÁS Y SER ELEGIBLE INGRESOS. LÍMITES ELIGIBLE INGRESOS CORRIENTES (INCLUIDAS LAS RENTAS DE TODOS LOS ACTIVOS):

1 PERSONA.....\$32,050  
2 PERSONAS.....\$36,600

PREFERENCIAS: SI USTED VIVE, TRABAJA, O HAN SIDO CONTRATADOS PARA TRABAJAR EN LA UNIÓN DEL CONDADO DE USTED PUEDE RECLAMAR ESTE EN SU APLICACIÓN. TODOS LOS INGRESOS Y PREFERENCIAS RECLAMADOS SERÁN VERIFICADOS ANTES DE CUALQUIER SUBVENCIÓN HA SIDO APROBADA.

LAS APLICACIONES PUEDEN SER EN PERSONA OA TRAVÉS DE REPRESENTANTES A PARTIR DEL 16 JUNIO, 2015 ENTRE LAS HORAS DE 9:30 AM A 24:00 Y DE 13:30 A 16:00 EN MONGIL CORPORATION DE JUAN GREGORIO TORRES T. , 1425 DILL AVENUE, LINDEN, NJ QUE RECOJAS. NUESTRA LISTS PERMANECERÁ ABIERTA HASTA TENEMOS 200 APLICACIONES.

APLICACIONES DEBE COMPLETARSE Y ENVIARSE POR CORREO A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN:

JOHN T. GREGORIO TORRES, 1425 ENELDO AVE, LINDEN, NJ 07036

NOTA: NO ACEPTAMOS APLICACIONES PRELIMINARES SERÁN ACEPTADAS EN LA JOHN T. GREGORIO OFICINA. TODO DEBE ENVIARSE POR CORREO.

ACTUALMENTE EN ESTE MOMENTO TENEMOS 12 PERSONAS EN NUESTRA LISTA DE CORREOS QUIENES PERMANECERÁ EN SU POSICIÓN. USTED SERA NOTIFICADO, SEGUN SEA NECESARIO, PARA VACANTES.

SI USTED TIENE UNA DISCAPACIDAD Y NECESITA AYUDA CON SU SOLICITUD, LLAME AL: 908-298-3821 EXTENSION #407

ANN J. FERGUSON, PHM  
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7-10 y/o .... **\$4.95**

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Adult ..... **\$11.99**

KIDS  
3-6 y/o ..... **\$4.95**

7-10 y/o .... **\$6.50**

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BUFFET  
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