



# ST. PATRICKS WILL PERSEVERE

The oldest parochial high school in New Jersey is at a crossroads of its existence. In the face of its inevitable demise, the school administration, board of directors and dedicated alumni have rallied to keep the school going. Their efforts reflect pure emotion. Their love for the school drives a plan that is courageous and a bit defiant.

The short version of a very complicated story is that St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, N.J., will no longer be a parish high school under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. The school will reorganize and open as a private institution for the next school year, beginning in the fall of 2012. To do so the administration is hard at work deciding on a location and putting the corporate infrastructure in order.

There are several circumstances beyond anyone's control that have caused the struggles that challenge St. Pat's. Changes in demographics, an improved and competitive public school system, and a dismal economy are universal indicators. The archdiocese has been battling for years to save the churches and schools under its jurisdiction. The sprawl from the cities has left a dwindling number of families in the urban parishes. St. Patrick's enrollment of approximately 150 students is less than half of what it used to be.

Like all complex issues there are different viewpoints on finding a solution. The archdiocese has different concerns in the matter than the school board. Pencil pushers approach the issue in financial terms while educators are measuring the value to the community. There's a cavern of other interests in between. Barring a miracle, or last-minute pontiff intervention, the era of St. Patrick's being a parish high school is over.

There is an expressed disappointment by the St. Patrick's community about the high school no longer being a parish school. Historically the school has bucked the trends in recent years to go private and was not interested in combining with another school. The people behind the school were defiant in the face of the challenges and stood strong. Principal Joe Picaro says that he has never seen alumni show so much pride for their school as he has with St. Pat's. The alumni are tight-knit and dedicated to the school's survival. There is a confidence from within the school's community that the school will thrive. It's the people who make St. Pat's special and they don't appear on a spreadsheet.

The parents of the students are the most vocal in praising the school. They see the value of an education that has produced a long list of accomplished graduates. Graduate Thomas Mitchell, an American actor, playwright and screenwriter, was the first person to win an Oscar, an Emmy, and a Tony Award. In government, St Pat's claims Jamie Fox, State Sen. John Fay, Judge John Ard and Superior Court Judge and past Elizabeth Mayor Steve Bercik and U.S. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell. The school's academic accomplishments and record for students attending choice universities is overshadowed by its famed basketball program going back to the 1930s. Though the school does not have a gym it is a perennial national powerhouse in basketball, producing countless Division One players and a slew of professionals, currently Samuel Dalembert and Al Harrington. Graduate Eddie Donovan was the general manager when the N.Y. Knicks won their first NBA championship in 1970.

The essence of what makes St. Patrick's special is not the famous alumni but those who work day to day at running the school. This includes staff along with volunteers, alumni and parents working together as a family. The size of the school allows for personal attention to be paid to each student. Athletic Director Robert "Red" Migliore has dedicated his life to the parish. He grew up across from the church in the now defunct Pioneer Homes. He was a parishioner and attended grammar and high school at St. Pat's. He stayed active volunteering for the parish after returning from serving in the Army during the Korean War. He worked for Kraft Foods in Hillside but declined to follow the company to Pennsylvania so that he could remain close to the church and school.

Principal Picaro grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. He attended Sacret Heart, another Elizabeth Catholic high school, which was razed to make room for a parking lot in the 1960s. He knows how the alumni who are losing their alma mater feel. After 40 years there, St. Patrick's has become his school, too. Picaro started as an assistant principal in charge of discipline in 1971. The principal then was Sister Dorothy Jose, a nun with the Sisters of Charity, who ran the school. She started at St. Pat's in 1958 and was principal for 25 years. After 21 years as assistant, Picaro stepped up as principal in 1991 and held the position for the past 20 years.

Sister Dorothy Jose, Red Migliore and Joe Picaro are just three examples of the dedication that surrounds the school. From the point of view of anyone who sat in a St. Patrick's desk, there is no replacing that. Testimonials from graduates credit their success to the individual attention that they received at St. Pat's. They also feel that the school staff really cared and was sincere in helping them to achieve their goals and dreams.

Though the sign says 1868, documentation was found that shows the school was actually opened in 1863 as a vocational school. The class of 2013 will mark its 150-year anniversary. The school is stepping up its recruiting and encouraging parents to take a new look at an old school. Those interested can call Joe Picaro at St. Patrick's offices at 908-353-5220.

(left, l-r) Joe Picaro celebrating his 40th anniversary working at St. Pat's along with Sister Dodothy Jose who celebrated her 90th Birthday at a gala in 2011, with Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Red Migliore.



(above) Basketball great Al Harrington is lead in St. Patrick's production of Annie Get your Gun.





Apr 12

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

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

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

#### AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN

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#### President's Message



The Dominos are getting together. If anyone is looking for the next Burg get together this is it.

Since we sold the club house and don't have the annual picnic the opportunity to get together are fewer but this should be a home run. Mainly because it just stated as a casual get together but it grew into more and more people wanting to come. The guys were together at the Super Bowl Party and that started us planing.

We really wanted to do something special for Rocco Netta. He's been going through medical treatments and they have really been a drain on him. Every aspect of his life is a struggle. And it's just not fair. You will never meet a nicer guy and a more beautiful family.

We love Rocco like a brother. The Dominos and the Sons of Peterstown want to do everything we can to give pick him up. What better way than to have a party. This is not only for close friends and family. we want the entire Burg to be there. Lets fill the The St. Anthony's School cafeteria on June 9 . . . again.

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.

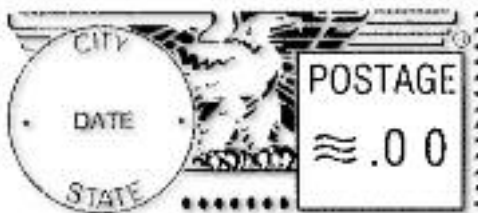
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# Letters to the Editor



## 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.

Joe:

I had the chance to read your articles about my grandfather, Tony Orlando, in your Feb/Mar issue of *Around About Peterstown*. I always enjoy hearing or reading stories like that about my grandfather - I have continued to find that he was beloved by all that knew him. More often than not, I think he was teaching lessons that were more about life than boxing, although you wouldn't know it at the time. To this day, I believe he is one of the finest people I have ever known and I am happy to hear from time to time about how he really had a positive effect on the lives of young kids. Thanks for sharing your memories so that he is not forgotten.

Anthony M. Orlando, Esq.  
Mount Bethel, PA

Dear Joe and Tina,

I want to thank you both for the beautiful article you did on our mom Dolly Chichele in the December 2011 issue. I can't tell you how much it meant to her children and what it meant to her! It added more spark to her already full lived life and help continue her to thrive and do well in her surroundings.

Your newspaper is the best and you both should be very proud as you touch so many people's lives in a wonderful and happy way!

Much continued success. Sincerely,  
Pat Mirabella  
Clark, NJ

Joe:

Our family always enjoys reading *Around About Peterstown*, however the Feb/March 2012 issue was especially appreciated. It was an honor to see that it celebrated our mother's (Carmela Lepore's) 102nd birthday. We loved it and she was delighted by it. The article has been posted at Rosa's Beauty Shop, Elizabeth where Carmela is a regular customer and also on a bulletin board at the entrance to Valentina's Restaurant, Rahway, NJ under the heading: "Valentina's Oldest Customer". Thanks for your consideration, we wish the best for you and Tina. May good things happen in our lives.

Charlie Lepore  
Westfield, NJ

Dear Joe,

Thanks for your coverage in the February 2011 edition of "Around About Peterstown," but just as important to me, thank you for the behind-the-scenes look at how this community newspaper is born every couple of months. As a former newspaperman, I'm familiar with what it takes to produce what we used to call "The Daily Miracle." I'm equally impressed how you continually turn out "Around About Peterstown" after all these years. You can make me laugh or bring a tear to my eye, oftentimes in the same edition. That's a gift, my friend. And everyone who grew up in or knew somebody from our neighborhood is better off for it.

I'm tempted to call "Around About Peterstown" one of the neighborhood's great natural resources, but that would discount all the hard work that you and Tina put in to make the paper a success. I've heard it said that alongside a successful man is an equally or even more so successful woman. I'd have to agree. You make a great team.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for everything you've done for me since the edition was published. This goes for your brother Tommy as well. He's been a huge help in introducing me to this ever-changing world of technology. His encouragement has been priceless. It's all part of the behind-the-scenes look that most people don't get to see. I'm glad that I got the chance to see it. It was a reminder, actually, because I've seen the same energy and enthusiasm from the Rennas before -- when we were still kids. All these years later, it's still very much appreciated.

Keep up the great work,  
Frank Verde  
Toms River, NJ

## SAVE THE DATE

St. Anthony's Alumni Memorial Fund

Second Annual Benefit Dinner Dance

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012**

L'Affaire

1099 U.S. 22 East, Mountainside, NJ

908-232-4454

Since we had an overwhelming response to our first fundraising event, we want to give you advance notice of our second dinner dance. Please check the next issue of *Around About Peterstown* for all the details.

## KENILWORTH LIBRARY PRESENTS FRANK VERDE

"MY STORY: THE ROAD FROM NEWSPAPERMAN TO EBOOK AUTHOR,"

The Kenilworth Library will host a presentation by writer Frank Verde with the topic "My Story: The Road from Newspaperman to e-book Author," at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 26, in the library's activity room. Verde will address the decision he made, after spending 29 years as a journalist, to leave the world of newspapers and become a fiction writer, with three of his works currently available for purchase as e-books through Amazon.com.

Having grown up in Elizabeth and earning a bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of South Carolina, Verde worked as both a news and sports writer and editor at several New Jersey newspapers including the Elizabeth Daily Journal, the News Tribune of Woodbridge, the Press of Atlantic City, the Asbury Park Press and the Star-Ledger.

Concerned about the path he saw traditional print journalism heading down, Verde decided to trade that life in for the more solitary pursuit of writing fiction. Writing from personal experience, Verde has completed *Devil's Hollow*, a mystery set in a fictional New Jersey town, *One Christmas Knight*, a holiday themed novella also set in New Jersey, and *Star Camp*, a novel written for middle school readers. He is currently working on *Gun to My Head*, which is a light story regarding a near death experience set in the world of professional baseball.

Verde's presentation at the library will include both a



(above, l-r) Author Frank Verde chats with Library Director Dale about publishing his first three books.

discussion of his experience as a journalist who dealt in facts and how he was able to transition into becoming a writer of fiction. Verde will also discuss his experience with getting his book into print including why he eventually turned to Amazon.com to publish his work as e-books, and what he needed to do to make this happen.

This program is free and open to all members of the general public. Because space is limited, preregistration will be required and can be done in person at the library or by calling 908 276-2451 during regular library hours. The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 548 Boulevard. More information about the library can be found at [www.kenilworthlibrary.org](http://www.kenilworthlibrary.org).

# Editor's Opinion

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

I'm not a runner but for the last three years I ran in the Hope and possibility 5 Mile Run in Central Park. the event attracts over 6,000 participants and benefits the Achilles Foundation, which among other things supplies wheel chairs to wounded vets. There is no greater organization or no greater cause than to support our wounded Veterans.

I figured a way to earn even more by my run and want to step the effort up this year. I'm going to get a good head start soliciting donations. The idea is great. The generous advertisers of this news newspaper have donated \$1,000 worth of gift certificates. Lots of dinners out. In turn I ask people to wager on what place I wil finish in. It is really a crap shoot since there are four or five thousand finishers and of unpredicable ability. My last two finishes

were 1479 and 2474.  
There is an entry form on the back page of this newspaper. Please mail it in with your donation. As always all proceeds from our events support the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans and their mission.

Any business can donate prizes to the prize pot, not just advertisers. They should eb made in \$25 increments. I designed a gift certificate in case the business does not have their own.

Don't forget the May 5, 20102 Pasta and meatball Dinner Fundraiser at St. Anthony's Cafeteria. Both the race and dinner is being organized by Enza Jacobowitz, the sister of Cpl Luigi Marciante, who lost his life on September 20, 2007 serving in Iraq. Her efforts is in his honor. 🇺🇸

## A TUNE UP

Joe Adona, who is a runner, has joined Team S.O.S. and ran in Central Park last year and wil again this year. He wants me to train. His opinion is that I shouldn't only run once a year and then when I do run for 5 miles. so he signed me up for the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge 5K. This is a fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics. 🇺🇸

*Not for Nothing But...*

I count my blessings  
with every step



*Join us for a  
Pasta & Meatball Dinner Fundraiser  
In honor of  
Cpl Luigi Marciante, Jr.*

**Food \* Fun \* Door Prizes**  
**Saturday, May 5, 2012  
from 4 to 8 PM**  
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227 Centre Street, Elizabeth NJ**

**Tickets in Advance:  
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To purchase tickets in advance please contact:  
Enza Jacobowitz (908)451-7658  
Frank Zeppieri (908)355-8815  
Deacon Joe (908)352-7419

All proceeds donated to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans

Make checks payable to Achilles International

If you are interested in donating a basket or auction item for the event, please contact: Enza Jacobowitz (908)451-7658 or email: enzajacobowitz@gmail.com



## ENZA'S GEARING UP FOR BIG EVENT

In honor of Cpl Luigi "Louie" Marciante Jr we continue our ongoing commitment to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. This is our fifth year participating in the Hope & Possibility 5M and in those five years we have raised over \$100,000.00 and endowed twenty five handcrank wheelchairs. Since the tragic loss of my brother Louie in Iraq on September 20, 2007 we have been making a significant difference in his honor. Everyday a wounded veterans sits in one of our chairs or participates in an event it is because of people like you who have supported this amazing cause.

This year Team S.O.S. will reunite on Sunday, June 24th in Central Park NYC. If you are interested in running, walking, rolling or cheering with us please contact me for additional information: enzajacobowitz@gmail.com. To make an online donation visit [www.louieslife.org](http://www.louieslife.org) and join the movement today!

Another opportunity for you to support the Freedom Team is on Saturday, May 5 at Our Lady of Guadalupe from 4PM - 8PM. Join us for Food, Fun, Door Prizes and much more!! Tickets in Advance: \$20 for Adults; \$25 at the door; Children 12 and under: \$10

To purchase tickets in advance please contact:  
Enza Jacobowitz (908)451-7658  
Frank Zeppieri (908)355-8815  
Deacon Joe (908)352-7419

I could never pull off any of these amazing events alone. Special thanks to Lt. Giacomo Sacca and Elizabeth PBA Local #4, John Sacco and Family, Villani Bus Company, Liz and Emilio Rangone, Deacon Joe Caporaso, Joe Renna and the countless friends and family who support us in so many ways! 🇺🇸

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BATTIN CLASS OF 1950 BIRTHDAY BASH!

Two years ago the Battin High School Class of 1960 had thier fiftieth reuinoon. the party gals could not wait another three years to celebrate a nothe rgraduation milestone so they are throwing themselves a birthday bash. This year the classmatres will be turning 70 years old and they don't care it the world knows about it.

Just as battin High School was a girls only school, this will be a ladies only event.

*The event will be held at Luciano's,  
1579 Main Street, Rahway, New Jersey  
on Saturday, October 6, 2012.  
A buffet will be served from 12p.m. to 5p.m.  
Anyone interected in attending could email  
sixtybattinrad@aol.com.*

*Those who don't use e-mail can call and  
leave a message at 302-378-3830  
or 732-259-9584.  
Please respond by April 30th.  
Responses after the 30th,  
regretably will not be honored.*



(above, l-r) Lucille Disano, Peggy Kennedy, Carmelina Davenia, Jean Venezio, Rose Ann Balboa



( above, l-r) Claudette Martinelli, Mary Ann Farbaniec.



(above) Lorraine Flammia.

Not for Nothing But...

I say, "Let's join  
the women and make  
one big woman."

(below) Photos from Battin High School Class of 1960's 50th reunion, September 10, 2010.



(above, standing, l-r) Lorraine Flammia, Geri Schwartz, and Joan Fedin.  
(seated) Kathy Dowzycki.



(above, l-r) Mary Diamante, Ann Mazza, Ida Jane Freedman.

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## ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '73 TO MEET AT MICHELINO'S APRIL 27TH

*Submitted by Nancy Malta*

Our mini-class reunion came about at the St. Anthony's reunion in November 2011. Tommy Guiliano and I were talking about the people from our class, and it was his idea to try to put something together. I told him I would take it on.

Lisa Gervase Colletti and I have been trying to reach out to people and so far we have about 15 people who will be coming. Some have moved out of state, but others are elusive. We would love to have as many of our classmates, and any teachers, who would be interested join us. I know we are especially anxious to find Mrs. Lorraine Mayefski, who was a favorite of many of us.

The dinner will be held at Michelino's 169 Washington Avenue on the corner of South Street in Elizabeth, on Friday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. We are still figuring out the cost. We are hoping this is a precursor to our 40th anniversary of graduating from SAS in 2013.

Anyone interested can contact myself at 908-477-3429, or by email at nmalta209@verizon.net or Lisa at 908-591-5425.



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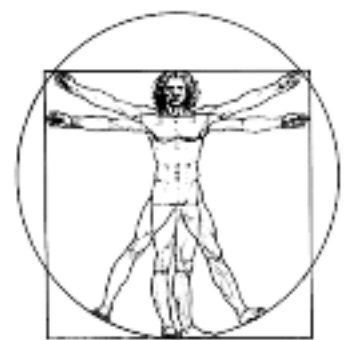
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## DOMINOS HAVE A BOND LIKE NO OTHER

One of the assets of growing up in a neighborhood like Peterstown is the culture of friendship. The bonds between friends were strong and long lasting, more so than those in other communities that were more transient. The nature of families to stay in the neighborhood for generations was conducive to friendships lasting a lifetime. One group of friends known as The Dominos had an extraordinary bond even by Peterstown standards.

The group of guys were all born in 1950, give or take a few months. They all lived in the Burg, which was the colloquial name for the neighborhood, and attended one of two public grammar schools, School 3 and School 15. They were close friends in grade school but the group became cemented when they all attended Cleveland Middle School.


Most cliques of friends are smaller than the Dominos, who numbered anywhere between fifteen to twenty. A

few blocks was enough to separate two totally different groups of otherwise likeminded youths. Any slight difference – a few blocks, a few years of age, or slightly different interests – would make two otherwise pals be worlds apart and orbit in different circles. For whatever reason the Dominos hit it off in Cleveland and stayed a tight-knit bunch the next 50 years. Some attended Edison Tech High School while others opted for Thomas Jefferson. Upon graduation, when most childhood friendships drift apart, The Dominos formed even tighter bonds.

The name Dominos came about when the guys were putting a team together to play in a football league. Being big fans of Eric Clapton they went to see him in concert. Clapton was constantly reinventing himself and exploring different styles of music. In this particular time of his career, in the 1970s, he was fronting a band called Derek and the Dominos. The Dominos football team was

born, but the name carried over to softball teams and became synonymous with the group of guys long after their playing days were over.

The guys have stuck together through good times and bad. They would share in celebrations, standing up for each other in weddings and baptizing each other's children. Birthday parties were celebrated yearlong as each hit the same milestone. They were there for each other in times of need, lending their expertise to fix up a house or help out if someone got sick and needed a little support. The guys helped Big Jim when he was seriously ill with a brain tumor. They held a benefit softball game to help with his home expenses. Jim battled and beat his inflection and made the medical books in the process. He's been healthy ever since.

They all still mourn the loss of members of their crew, Joe Esposito, Alan Mollozzi, Big Joe Colletti, Little Joe Colletti, Charlie Novello and Albie Irwin. 



(above, l-r) The guys at 19 years old in 1969 at the wedding of George Anderson (seated) John Sacco, Charlie Novello, Joe Esposito, Russ Harris, Pete Casano, Big Joe Colletti, Rocco Netta, Alan Mollozzi, Anthony Bottitta, and Albert Irwin.



(above, l-r) In 1993 the Dominos crew celebrated along with John Sacco (seated) when he was named UNICO Man of the Year. Frank Crincoli, Rocco Netta, Russ Harris, Anthony Bottitta, Pete Casano, Lenny Merlo, and Joe Spirito. Not pictured are Vito Tarranova and Joe Digregorio.

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DOMINOS TO REUNITE AND HOLD BENEFIT FOR ROCKY

The Dominos are holding a benefit for Rocky Netta. Rocky grew up in the Burg and married a Burg girl, Joanne LaBrutto, in 1975. They have four daughters: Jessica (Calas) Netta, Erica (Tromp) Netta, Joanna (Penn) Netta, and Roxanna (La Corte) Netta. His five grandchildren mean the world to him! Sofia & Camila Calas, Angelina & Josephine Tromp, & Julia Penn.

Rocky spent his career as a member of the Millwright/Carpenter Local 715. He is the President of Retirees for the Eastern Millwright Regional Council. In his 42 years he has served on the local's Board of Directors for 12 years. His goal throughout his career was to be known as a good union man.

Rocky considers his friends in the Dominos to be his brothers. He was with many of them through his entire school days, from kindergarten through Edison Tech High School. It is no surprise that the crew is getting together in a big way to show Rocky their support while he is laid up getting medical treatment.

Though Rocky is very modest and shuns attention his friends are going to throw a party for his benefit anyway and are inviting the neighborhood, family friends and co-workers.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Dominos and Sons of Peterstown, so a splendid time is guaranteed for all. For sure, a few Clapton tunes will be played. 🎸



(above, l-r) Lenny Merlo, Alan Mollozzi, Lou LaBrutto, Jim Camicia, Rusty Harris, John Sacco, Big Joe Colletti, Pete Casano, Anthony Bottitta, Frank Crincoli, and Rocco Netta.

ROCCO AND THE GIRLS: HIS WIFE, 4 DAUGHTERS & 4 GRANDDAUGHTERS



(above, l-r) Jessica, Erica, Rocco, Joanna, and Roxanna Netta.



(above, top row, l-r) Rocco Netta. Josephine Tromp. JoAnn Netta. (botom, l-r) Sofia Calas. Julia Penn, & Angelina Tromp.

Sons of Peterstown and Dominos  
invite you to  
a benefit for Rocco Netta  
June 9, 2012 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm  
St. Anthony's Grammar School Cafeteria  
Food and refreshments will be served.  
\$25 per person / Donations welcome.  
make checks c/o Rocco Netta  
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Tickets can also be purchased at  
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PICARO PHOTO ALBUM



(above) Joe, far left first row, with Miss Smith's first grade class at School 3.



(above, l-r) Lou Picaro with Hank Marcantonio. Lou was sponsor for hank at his confirmation and Hank eventually married Lou's sister Sally.



(above) Joe Picaro with his paternal aunts Sally and Mary in 1980.



(left, l-r) Lou Picaro started played the Baritone in his father Anthony's marching band, Picaro's Savoia Nationale Banda.



(above) Anna Pulumbo seated at right at the wedding of her brother Pasquale in 1949 to Peggy Dunn, sister of Elizabeth Mayor Dunn.

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(left) Picaro with Al Harrington, USA Today 1998 High School Basketball Player of the Year.

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# JOSEPH SCUTIERI CELEBRATES 101ST BIRTHDAY

Joe Scutieri will be 101 years old on February 13th. A lifelong resident of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Joe recently had hip surgery to everyone's amazement pulled through like a champion. With three daughters, eight grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren and two great great grandchildren, Joe hardly misses a birthday party! His passion or horses led him to an over fifty year career of trotter horseracing at both the Meadowlands and Monmouth Race tracks. His current setback still does not stop Joe from saying "I have people to see and places to go". Joe's family and friends wish him good luck and a speedy recovery. 🐾

# GIUSEPPE BONGI, PASSES AWAY AT 88

Giuseppe Bongi, 88, of Berkeley Township, NJ passed away at home on September 3, 2011 while surrounded by his loving family. Born in Rome, Italy, Giuseppe came to the US in 1950 first settling Fourth Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

After living in Connecticut for several years he moved to Holiday City at Berkeley in Toms River NJ in 1991. Giuseppe was a kind and gentle man. He loved spending time with his family, reading and discussing world events. Always willing to lend a helping hand, Giuseppe very often assisted those in this neighbourhood, yet never asked for anything in return. He was a WW II Veteran of

the Italian Army and fought in many campaigns throughout North Africa. Giuseppe worked as a terminal supervisor for Tenneco Oil Co for 25 years retiring in 1985. He was a communicant of St. Maximilan Kolbe Roman Catholic Church in Toms River NJ.

Giuseppe is survived by his wife of 42 years, Rose Bartone Bongi; two daughters, Maria Ragno of Enfield, CT and JoAnn and Michael Doner of Southington, CT; two sons, James Bongi of Manchester, NJ and Colonel (R) David Bongi of NYC; a sister, Marisa Montanari of Viterbo, Italy. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. 🐾



(above) Giuseppe Bongi 1923-2011  
(left) Giuseppe as a young man in his hometown of Viterbo, Italy 1948.

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*Submitted by Joe Renna*

## A la Johnny Sacco

**INGREDIENTS:**

4 Pork Chops  
Mix of Sage, Garlic, Thyme, Allspice, Paprika, Salt  
1 Onion  
2 Apples (diced)  
2 tbs. Brown Sugar (2  
1/3 cup Apple Juice

**PREPARATION:**

- 1) Sprinkle spices on both sides of chops and brown in olive oil, remove from pan.
- 2) Sauté Onion, add apple, brown sugar, apple juice.
- 3) Return chops. and cook to desired finish.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pieces thinly sliced Veal
- 6 slices of Prosciutto
- 4 cloves of Garlic
- 1 Onion (Chopped)
- 1/3 cup of grated Pecorino Romano Cheese
- Fresh Parsley
- Hard boiled Egg Whites
- Salt and Pepper to Taste
- Olive Oil
- 1 can peeled Tomatoes

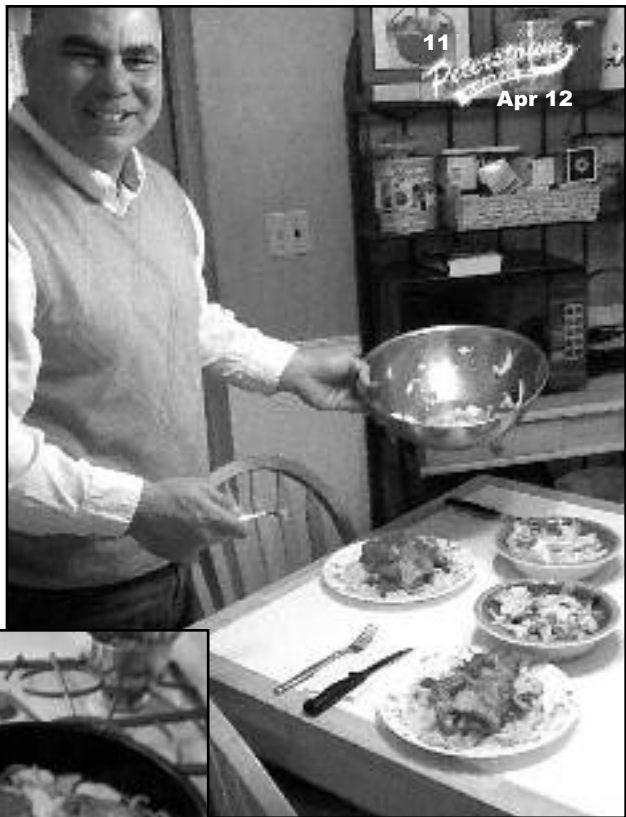
PREPARATION:

- 1) Sauté Onion in a little Olive oil add veal and brown.
- 2) Lay Veal out and layer with Prosciutto, sprinkle grated cheese, crumble on Egg Whites, add fresh parsley and peeled tomatos.
- 3) Roll up Veal and secure ingredients inside with tooth picks or by tying string around roll.
- 4) Add peeled tomatoes, Garlic, to Onion in saute pan and place Bracciola in also.
- 5) Cook to desired finish.

NOTE:

I told Tina that I will help her more around the house and start by cooking one meal a week. These two are my first, very successful, attempts. The Bracciola recipe was shared with me by word of mouth by John Sacco when I was at his Meat Market buying the veal. I didn't write it down and there was no amounts mentioned so I eyeballed it.

Pork Chop recipe was on the side of spice box but I threw it out. I have no clue of amounts for that also. I could sense how much of a certain ingredient to use. It worked out just fine. I'm going to take a few weeks off. I don't want to spoil Tina. 🐷



(above) Dishing out Veal Bracciola with a salad on the side.

(left) Apple and Sage Pork Chops.



***Not for Nothing But...***

Joe cooks one meal

in 22 years of marriage

and he makes headlines.





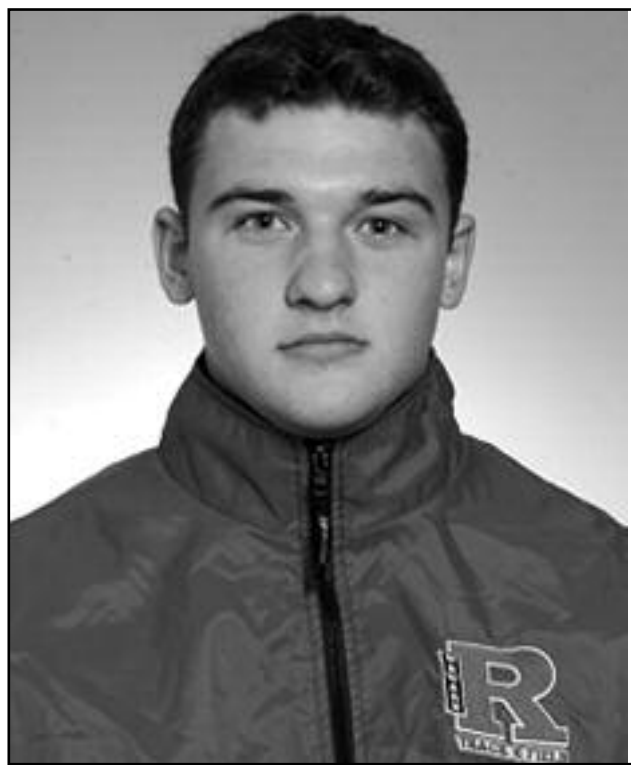


## ALYSSA COLICCHIO PICKED POP WARNER 1ST TEAM SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Congratulations to Alyssa Colicchio and Lauren Mulvihill. Alyssa is a student at Hehnlly and Lauren is a student at Valley Road in Clark, NJ. Both 5th grade students were chosen as first team for Pop Warner Eastern Region Scholar Athletes. Out of 1,927 applicants who submitted from 5 states, the top 35 football and top 35 cheer were chosen. Alyssa and Lauren were the only students selected out of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in Clark Pop Warner. They were given a certificate and medal at the awards banquet on March 18, 2012, at the Woodcliff Hilton. These athletes qualify only if they have a 96% or higher average in grades. In addition, they take into consideration the students' participation in clubs, groups, volunteerism, community service, etc. They were also chosen second team nationally out of 9,200 applicants. For their achievements, they have been invited to attend the 52nd Annual Pop Warner All-American Scholastic Banquet, taking place May 25-26, 2012 at the Disney Yacht and Beach Club Resort in Orlando, FL.

(left) Alyssa, holder her award at the ceremony, with parents, Mr. Phil and Dr. Laila Colicchio, brother, Tommy, and little sister, Gia.

## DEROSA RECEIVED ROOKIE HONORS



Rutgers-Newark freshman Nick DeRosa has been named the New Jersey Athletic Conference Men's Outdoor Track & Field Rookie of the Week after shattering the school javelin record at the Danny Curran Invitational hosted by Widener University in West Chester, PA on March 31, 2012.

DeRosa uncorked an effort of 57.05 meters (187' 2") to become the first javelin thrower in the history of track and field at Rutgers-Newark to qualify for the East Coast Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships which will be held in Troy, New York on May 17th and 18th, 2012. He easily surpassed the ECAC qualifying standard of 55.5 meters.

As a senior last year at Roselle Catholic High School, Nick helped his team win a Union County championship and a State championship. Nick was the Union County Javelin champion and the NJ State Non-Public B champion, where he broke the meet record and holds the all-time state record with a throw of 190' 6". As of this writing, Nick is currently ranked 20th in the nation among college javelin throwers in NCAA Division 3. His is the son of Anthony (Chuck) and Joyce DeRosa.

## GOOD LUCK TO THE U.N.I.C.O. BOCCE TEAM

The UNICO Elizabeth Chapter has formed two teams to compete in a Bocce Tournamnet being held on Sunday April 29, 2012 by the Passaic valley UNICO organization in Totowa, NJ.

This is the third year of the annual event and the first year that Elizabeth will field a team. The two Elizabeth teams practice on the a Bocce court located behind the Peterstown Community Center.

The rosters for the two teams are:

Team 1: Lou Bani, Joe Chiari, Pat Arena, Sal Coppa

Team 2: Henry Marcantonio, Tom Fowler,

George Marretta, Lou DiLe

The teams are meeting at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park at 8:00am and will take a bus donated by Villani Bus Company to the match.

Find out more about UNICO at [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org).



(above, l-r) Joe Chiari, Lou Bani, Henry Marcantonio, Tom Fowler, Sal Coppa, Jerry Maurigi.

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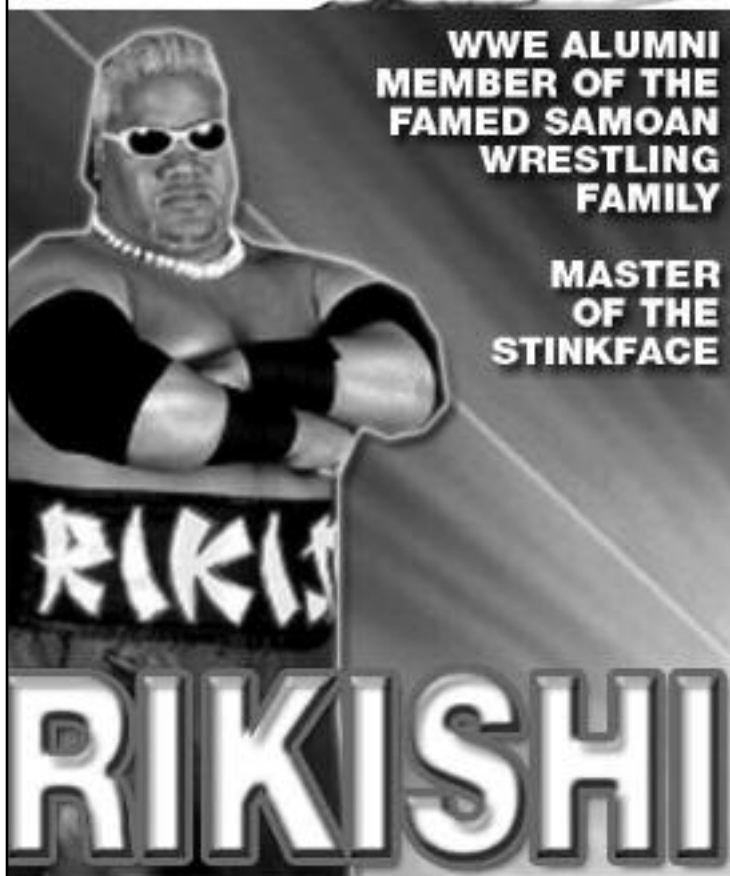
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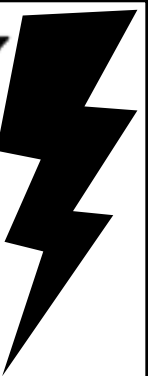
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(above, l-r) 2012 World Amateur U1300 Team Champions Chessaholics #4: Sriranga Dattatreya, Joe Renna, Jared Gonzales, and Ed Helmstetter. Not pictured: Evan Chowdhury.

Not for Nothing But...

just because you see me  
in my Chassaholics shirt  
does not mean you can  
take my lunch money.



# WORLD CHAMPS! RALLY WORLD CHAMPS!

Joe Renna and fellow Chessaholics reign supreme

This is the sixth year that I have played in the U.S. Amateur Team East Champions. Since 2007 the tournament has grown in size and is now the biggest amateur team tournament in the world, about 1,300 players, 294 four-player teams. The tournament was recognized by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) as a world championship. It is now known as the World Amateur Team Championship

In the past, including this year, most players enter the tournament to be part of the biggest chess event around. Most Jersey folks are extremely lucky that it is right in our backyard in Parsippany, NJ, and there is no need for overnight hotel rooms. The Hilton is filled with players from all over the country and beyond. Though there is no prize money, the prestige is still very valuable and makes the sacrifice to play three days of grueling chess worthwhile.

The Swiss-style tournament is Saturday, Sunday and Monday of President's Day weekend. There are two games a day. Time controls for each game is 40/2, SD/1, which means that each player has 2 hours to make his first 40 moves and a one hour sudden death to finish the game. There is also a five-second time delay in which a player's clock does not start to count down until 5 seconds have passed. My first game took over six hours.

For competitive teams a lot of thought is put into the team makeup. The average of all four players is used to determine the team average. There is a frenzy among players to get the right combination to be competitive at a certain rating level. Aside from the overall open winner, prizes are awarded for each 100 rating level from under 1000 to U2100. All Teams must enter with an average rating of under 2200.

Players are lined up per rating: board one being the highest, down to board 4. I was rated 1425 and played board 2 for our team. I didn't know my teammates on board one or two and they did not know each other. I called Michael Wojcio, who was one of the founders of the Kenilworth Chess Club, where I am an officer. Mike teaches chess and puts teams together of pupils, past and present. I was solo and needed a team and he told me he had two others solo players, but we needed to find a fourth. He had an alternate who was available if needed.

Mike called all his teams Chessaholics. We were Chessaholics #4. Sriranga Dattatreya from New York City was rated 1700 and played on board one. Jared Gonzales, also from New York and rated 1327, was on board three. Our alternate was Evan Chowdhury of Millburn, who had a beginner's rating of 703. Our team average was 1288 so we would compete for the U1300 crown.

Wake up, I'm only halfway done.

I still had to find a fourth player. Everyone I knew who

plays were already on a team so I took a shot and asked a friend and neighbor in Cranford, Ed Helmstetter, if he was interested. Ed plays guitar for the Brother John Brown Band, a local group that plays regularly on Sunday Nights at the Riverside Inn, a short walk from my house. I usually go see the band and afterward Ed and I would play chess for a few hours. He is very good and we trade wins back and forth. Ed's problem was that he had very little experience playing live or playing over the board. His experience was with a computer screen and flat pieces. The 3-D board would take getting used to. Though he hesitated he was psyched to play in the tournament.

Ed had to play with the band Saturday and Sunday nights so Evan had to step in for him. He had to join the United States Chess Federation to qualify to play in a rated tournament and he would compete using Evan's rating as his provisional.

The tournament was a shocking surprise for the team. We played up in every game and totaled 3 1/2 team points as a team. Each player scores a point for a win and a 1/2 point for a draw. The team with more points gets a team point for the round or 1/2 point if games are split 2 wins apiece.

Individually we played outstanding, each of us racking up impressive wins. More importantly, as a team we won three and drew when needed. Ed beat a 1500 rated player his first game. It was only just before the game that I taught him how to keep notation, which is mandatory for tournament play, and how to use the clock, which he had never done. He followed up that win with a stunning win over an 1800 player. Ranga on board one got the better of a 1900 and 2000 player. Jared won games in which he was the underdog by a few hundred points. Evan was in line for the biggest upset with a win over a 1600 player.

I played an 1820 rated player in the fourth round and won. The team faced harder competition with every round we played. Our average was 1285 and we played teams that were 1875, 1721, 1788. In our last game we faced a Russian team with a Grand master on board one and an International master on board two, Giorgi Bakhtadze, with a 2458 rating. They made easy work of us, but by that time we had clinched first place for the under 1300 bracket.

All five players improved their rating as a result of the tournament. I jumped to 1463, my all-time high. Ed is sporting a provisional rating of 1698 based on his four games. He will establish a regular rating after 20 games.

Each team member received a digital chess clock and the team as a whole received a wall plaque to commemorate our accomplishment.

I called the USCGF to verify if it was accurate to claim the World Champion status. I was skeptical because in some other sports – yes, I said sport – world championships are claimed willy nilly. I was assured that this is the real deal. 🏆

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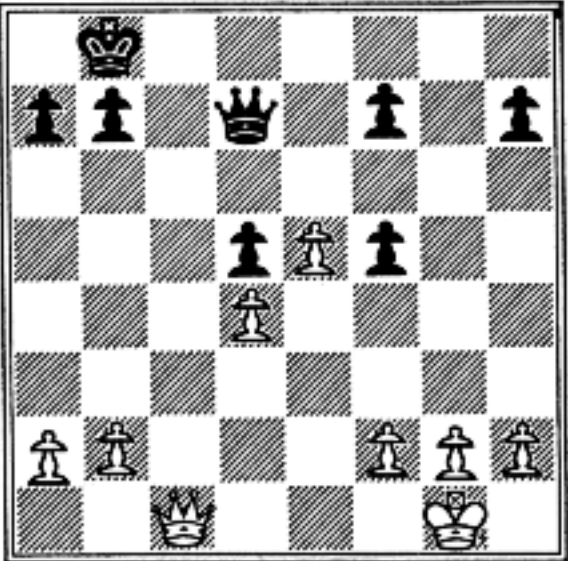
MY BIG WIN

Over the past five years I've played Glen Hart about a dozen times in Kenilworth Chess Club tournaments and in the Garden State Chess League. I've never once beaten him or drew for that matter. Now, in Round 2, he is sitting across from me and I'm a 300-point underdog. I was pumped, though, with the confidence of winning a game against a 1694 rated player. My strategy was to shock and awe, play aggressively and just go for it.

By move 20 Glen had an advantage that he may have been able to ride into an winning end game. On move 25 he could have made a decisive Queen move that would have given him a big advantage, but instead he played a quieter move that seemed okay but in reality lost him tempo and allowed my Queen to get active. I was equalizing the position.

By this point I didn't play any horrible moves. I missed

Glen B Hart (1721) - Joe Renna (1425) [C02]  
World Amateur Team / US Team East Championship  
Parsippany, NJ  
2/18/2012, Table 103, board 2,  
#134 Occupy: The Center Squares  
vs. #229 Chessaholics #4



Position after 24. ...Kb8

a good pawn move on 10, but I didn't make any mistakes or blunders. Glen played solidly and after move 25 still was very confident he had the win. I noticed that I could draw him by repetition and was jumping up and down in my head. A draw for me against Glen was okay by me. But then there was a bit of a surprise, on move 28 Glen blundered and opened the way for me to mate him. As Mike Goeller put it in his analysis of the game, (white was) "Trying too hard to still win." Thanks to Goeller and John Maldovan for analyzing my games. Both maintain blogs for the Kenilworth Chess Club at [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org). The club is open every Thursday at 8 pm until whenever. Everyone is welcome, beginner to master. You need not be a member.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Bd3 Bd7 6. O-O Nxd4 7. Nxd4 cxd4 8. Qg4 Qb6 9. Nd2 O-O-O 10. Nb3 g6?! (10...f6!) 11. Bd2! Bb4 12. Bxb4 Qxb4 13. c3! Qe7 14. cxd4 Nh6 15. Qf4 g5 16. Rfc1+ Kb8 17. Qd2 Rc8 18. Nc5 Ka8 19. Nxd7 Qxd7 20. Qxg5 Nf5 +/- 21. Bxf5 exf5 22. Rxc8+ Rxc8 23. Rc1 Rxc1+ 24. Qxc1 Kb8 25. f4? (25. Qh6! Qc7 (25... Qc6 26. Qxc6! bxc6 27. Kf1 Kc8 28. Ke2 Kd7 29. Kf3 Ke6 30. Kf4 [white has a decisive advantage] and Black will eventually be forced to surrender the f-pawn by zugzwang.) 26. g3 a6 27. Kg2! with a winning advantage for White, who will soon pick up loose pawns on the kingside. 25. ... Qa4 26. Qc5? Qd1+ 27. Kf2 Qd2+ 28. Kg3?? (Trying too hard to still win, White walks into mate.) 28. Kf1= Qe3+ 29. Kh4 Qxf4+ 30. Kh5 Qg4+ 31. Kh6 Qg6# 0-1 (Michael Goeller])



(above, l-r) Joe Renna instructs First Class Scout Matt Capone, 14, andhis brother Tenderfoot Scout Sam on chess theory and strategy.

BOY SCOUTS INTRODUCE MERIT BADGE IN CHESS

On Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011, the Boy Scouts Merit Badge was unveiled in St. Louis outside the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis and the newly opened World Chess Hall of Fame.



Anthony Capone of Cranford, NJ, called on neighbor Joe Renna to see if he could administer the program to Cranford Boy Scouts Troop #80. Anthony's sons Matt and Sam are both Scouts. Joe had to go through some training to be certified to instruct the Scouts and will finish instructing the first group of Scouts in a few weeks, according to the club's requirements. Interest in Scouting should be directed to The Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, at [www.ppbsa.org](http://www.ppbsa.org)

Scout troops interested in arranging instruction for Chess merit badges can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

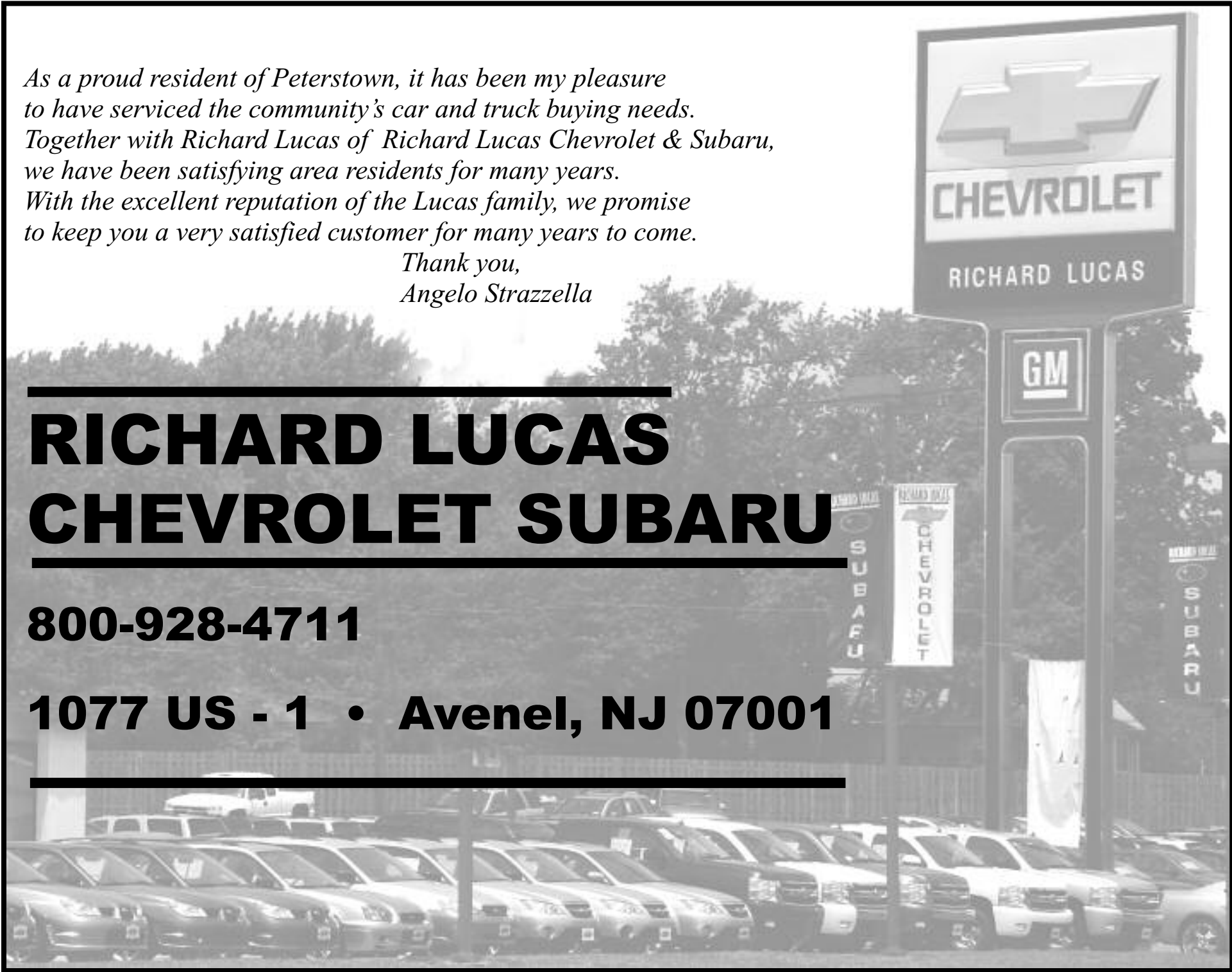
Anyone looking for a quality chess experience should visit Chessmates at 1531 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ or visit [chessmatesnj.com](http://chessmatesnj.com)

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Around About Peterstown publisher Joe Renna will be running in the Hope & Possibility 5 Mile event on Sunday, June 24, 2012 in Central Park, NYC. Guess what place he will finish in. Closest Guess wins.

**All donations go to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded and Disabled Veterans in memory of Cpl. Luigi Marciante Jr.**



In honor of Cpl Luigi "Louie" Marciante Jr we continue our ongoing commitment to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. This is our fifth year participating in the Hope & Possibility 5M and in those five years we have raised over \$100,000.00 and endowed twenty five handcrank wheelchairs. Since the tragic loss of my brother Louie in Iraq on September 20, 2007 we have been making a significant difference in his honor. Everyday a wounded veterans sits in one of our chairs or participates in an event it is because of people like you who have supported this amazing cause. This year Team S.O.S. will reunite on Sunday, June 24th in Central Park NYC. If you are interested in running, walking, rolling or cheering with us please contact me for additional information: enzajacobowitz@gmail.com. To make an online donation visit [www.louieslife.org](http://www.louieslife.org) and join the movement today!

Enza Jacobowitz

(left)  
A recipient using one of our chairs

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Hope & Possibility 5M June 27, 2010	Renna, Joe	M50	Cranford, NJ	SOS	5.0		56:49	11:21	2474	1391	106	42.9 %	
Achilles Hope & Possibility 5M June 28, 2009	Renna, Joe	M49	Cranford, NJ	SOS	5.0		52:39	10:31	1479	800	62	45.9 %	

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