



FRANKENSTORM HITS NEW JERSEY

Hurricane Sandy slammed into the Jersey coast on Monday evening October 29, 2012 and left a trail of destruction that will linger for years. The tragedy spurred an immediate outpouring of support for the victims. Relief efforts brought out the best that human nature had to offer in generosity and compassion, in all cases but a few.

New York and New Jersey were hardest hit by the storm dubbed Frankenstorm because of its arrival near Halloween. Over 100 people died, 40 from New Jersey. Entire communities were destroyed, tens of thousands of people were left homeless. Power outages extended over weeks, disrupting work, school and basic living. Coastal towns were hardest hit with countless homes and business being washed away. It will cost billions of dollars to repair damage to the infrastructure. Inland communities suffered power outages caused mostly by downed trees.

The City of Elizabeth was not as badly affected as other towns. According to a video briefing by Mayor Bollwage two days after the storm 25,000 in the city were without power, down from 48,000 from the day before, a little less than half the population. The heaviest damage was along the Arthur Kill where the marina recreation pier was destroyed. According to the Mayor's report, the approximately 25 people who needed shelter were back in their homes.

Other towns in the Union County had it worse, some, like Union, suffering total black outs for longer periods of time. The City of Linden had homes with structural damage which displaced 25 families.

Rebuilding homes and businesses will be a long arduous task for the victims. For some it will be impossible. The loss of income for companies and individuals during the month-long saga is irretrievable. The collateral effects cannot be calculated.

First responders, utility workers and maintenance crews worked diligently to bring order to the chaos. Many earned high praise for their tireless efforts and performing above and beyond normal duties. Work crews were sent from across the country to assist in getting power restored and trees and debris removed. These repairs addressed only the physical part of the damage. There was an entire emotional aspect of loss that needed equal attention and that relief came from neighbors, local businesses and community service organizations. There was no shortage of generosity shown towards the victims. Some support was financial and some came in the form of friendship.

St. Joseph's Social Service Center located on Division Street in Elizabeth helps the homeless and materially poor. Each month the center distributes 500 bags of food to needy families along with serving daily meals in their soup kitchen. On weekends hot meals are distributed to over 200 people. They also provide clothing and household items.

Super Storm Sandy devastated lives. It showed no discretion in choosing victims. It turns out that natural disasters are regressive. Those with property to lose are considered big losers but those who have little have little to lose but can easily lose everything. Community service organizations must stretch their resources to accommodate the victims of the tragedy along with their regular recipients. Help came in many forms, big and small. The Red Cross, for instance, delivered food and blankets to 600 seniors and homeless residents of Elizabeth, NJ, victims of Hurricane Sandy, while the students of Our lady of Guadalupe Academy (OLGA) in Elizabeth donated fifteen food baskets to St. Joseph's for Thanksgiving.

The Students at OLGA have a club called "Early Act" which performs community service. It is sponsored by the Elizabeth Rotary Club. The storm hit just prior to Thanksgiving and disrupted many plans for families to celebrate. The worst hit had no food and were displaced from their homes. Thousands were without electricity or heat. The students stepped up and did what they can to help. They solicited donations for food and The Rotary Club Donated turkeys. The students sorted and arranged the bounty into family size dinners for Thanksgiving. 🐔



(above) An Elizabeth employee removes debris from the waterfront pier totally destroyed by Super Storm Sandy.



(left, l-r) The Earlyact Club of Our Lady of Guadalupe academy had a Thanksgiving food drive and donated Thanksgiving Dinners to St. Joseph's Social Service Center. Patricia Nicodemus, Faculty Advisor, Club officers Maria Mesa, Johnny Tavarez, Mauryne Audige, Hilda Fernandez, Anthony Pineros, Kernel Fenelus, Principal Deacon Joseph Caporaso. The Earlyact Club is a community service club for grade school students sponsored by the Elizabeth Rotary Club.

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:

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President's Message



I'd like to thank everyone who came by for my 65th anniversary in business. My family really enjoyed seeing every one.

The Storm affected a lot of people I know and I must count my blessings that we didn't get hit too hard. A few days without electric was all we had. I lost a few items but sent most of my inventory elsewhere.

It will take a while for things to get back to normal for some folks. Some businesses who had to close for a few weeks may not be able to rebound. I think of service employees who live month to month relying on tips and busy restaurants.

I'm telling everyone to over tip in the wake of the storm and help get these folks back on track. Every little act of kindness goes a long way. People who were never in the position of needing help before are finding out what it is like.

If anything positive came from this storm it is that people found a place in their heart to help others. If we can just keep that going.

God bless,

John S. 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.

*Merry Christmas
and a have a
Prosperous New Year*

Thanks to all our advertisers and readers.

Joe & Tina Renna

Hi Joe,

Glad to see your paper finally bringing in the Puerto Rican side of Peterstown in the October 2012 issue of the newspaper. Ha, ha.

John Urrutia was my mother's cousin. My mother's maiden name by adoption (long story) was Minet. However, she was one of the Pelliccia's that John refers to in his articles. John's book is the history of the Corsican to Puertorican side of our family and their journey from northern Italy to Corsica to Puerto Rico. I always wondered why we did a lot of our shopping in the Burg during the holidays...Sareceno's Bakery and a deli right down the street where my grandpa would buy those little hard salamis.

Also, thanks for the tribute to Santo's dad, Joe Barraco.

Leon Alirangues
North Plainfield, NJ

Dear Tina and Joe,

As long time subscribers to your Peterstown Paper, we've enjoyed reading every issue. What a pleasure it is to read about the families that make Peterstown such a gem of an area that contributed so much cultural value to the City of Elizabeth and surrounding Union County. We particularly want to "Thank You" for highlighting our 65th Wedding Anniversary.

i.e. Val & Agnes Imbriaco, in the Oct./Nov. edition of your paper. The article and pictures were wonderful and very much appreciated.

Good Health to you, Tina and family.

Best Regards,
Val & Agnes Imbriaco
Linden, N.J.

Just a Note:

Love the Newspaper. I am from the Carlino family that sold fruit in the market. I am also related to Phil Renna of Linden. He has a son and daughter, Sal and Frannie. My dad was Emanuel, my mom was Julia, from Westfield. I have a sister, Virginia, age 61 and a brother Manny age 48. I am 65. We lived at 614 First Avenue. down the block from Corsentino's and the Colicchio bar.

Margherita Swick
Scotch Plains, NJ

ROBINS NEST HOSTS DINNER FOR STORM VICTIMS

On November 19th, the Monday before Thanksgiving, Robins Nest Rhythm and Blues located at 3103 Tremley Point, Linden, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for their neighbors in Tremley Point who were affected by Super Storm Sandy. Live entertainment was provided by the group T-Ray and giveaways were provided by generous donations.

Approximately 25 homes were totally destroyed or seriously damaged. The event was organized by employee Marie Pizzi, who also lives in Tremley Point.

Robin's Nest Owner Robin Bacote would like to thank the following for their generous support which helped make this benefit a success: Linden Fire Department Local 34, Linden Fire Department Local 234, Eddie Kushner, Karmyda, Clark Family, Mikey Jones, Stevo, Bill Cameron, J. Tomaselli, Karen Reilly, Life in Linden, Sharon Silverstein, Wrap in Love, Krup's Landscaping, Apple Bees of Linden, Smokehouse of Linden, Starbucks of Linden, RC Jewelers, Joe's Barber Shop and Control Associates. 🐶



(above) Music was provided by the group T-Ray.



(above) Robin Bacote and Marie Pizzi.



(above) The dinner brought smiles to Tremley Point residents, some who lost their homes.



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Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

I saw so much outpouring of good will in the wake of super storm Sandy it gave me such joy in my heart, but all that good feeling was overshadowed by the scoundrels working for the County of Union. While victims of the storm in the county were struggling to get back some basic necessities and keep their businesses running, some highly employees of the county took generators home for personal use.

I've witnessed so many people stepping up, giving generously of their time, money and service to help total strangers find some sort of normalcy. I must say it restored my faith that the nature of man is good. But of course evil must rear its head whenever there is opportunity.

It was revealed that employees of the county took home generators for their personal use. It only came to light because of a few open government advocates who keep a watchful eye on Union County government. My wife Tina reported on tips she received and followed up by placing an Open Public Records Act request and found that the county had purchased tens of thousands of dollars' worth of generators using Federal Hurricane Sandy Relief Funds. She questioned the freeholders about the generators but received no explanation. The case, we are told, is now under investigation by the County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, so the officials are not allowed comment.

The saga is on-going and being reported on the Union County Watchdog Association (UCWA) blog www.countywatchers.com. This latest misuse of public funds is not surprising to the UCWA because they have reported similar activity in the past. Presently Freeholder Scanlon's son is under investigation for allegedly taking county chainsaws while he was an employee. That investigation was opened on or around January 30, 2012 and no end is in sight. Last year the Prosecutor investigated missing cash from the 2010 Musicfest run by the county. The former county manager, George Devanney, Senator Ray Lesniak's nephew, resigned shortly afterward, but no one was held accountable and the Prosecutor stopped short of filing criminal charges.

The theft of the generators rises to a new level of corruption because it had a direct effect on people who were suffering. Thousands of county residents were without power for weeks. Those generators could have been used to power shelters. Neighborhood stores and restaurants had to throw away food because of lack of refrigeration. Strategically placed generators could have given entire communities much needed access to food. Service stations had gas could not pump it because of lack of electricity. These generators could have powered those pumps and saved people the need to stand in line for hours waiting for gas.

Seniors who were trapped in their homes and children who were without nutrition were the hardest hit by the storm and were victimized a second time by their own government.

If the UCWA, which is manned by volunteer citizen

activists, had not reported this no one would be the wiser. Other media still have not questioned the county. There was a county generated press release submitted to the Star-Ledger feigning concern by the freeholders but it wasn't followed-up with any investigative reporting.

The Freeholder board is controlled by the Union County Democratic Committee and self-proclaimed power broker Senator Lesniak. Most of the employees who are politically or personally connected to the machine earn six figure salaries.

These employees can afford their own generators but have assumed a position of privilege.

Consequences to their actions are not even considered, as they don't expect there to be consequences.


Employees took home generators in other counties and it was dealt with swiftly. In Sussex County, an Undersheriff resigned after having been found to have taken a generator home and in Passaic County, the use of borough generators by North Haledon Mayor Randy George and police chief Robert Bracco caused the prosecutor to go before a Grand Jury to decide if criminal charges should be brought.

I have to wonder why there isn't more outrage for what the county does, from the people and from the town councils. The county spends half a billion dollars of our tax money a year, that's over one million dollars a day, and operates invisibly with no accountability or consequences. Unless people demand change the county will continue to drain us of our property taxes and give little in return. The UCWA has documented a history of the county for over six years now, misusing tax dollars for both personal and political gain.

This case is different because even though the citizen watchdogs expect that Prosecutor Romankow will once again turn a blind eye to his cronies, the use of federal funds may make this a case for the F.B.I. This may be hopeful, but even the feds don't have the resources to address the volume of corruption in New Jersey. Our politicians count on that.

The New Jersey State Attorney Generals office has been M.I.A. on public corruption, it's disappointing that this is under the leadership of the former corruption busting U.S. Attorney turned governor Chris Christie.

I encourage everyone to get involved in watching their government officials and hold them accountable. They do work for you. They are spending your money. Employees who are not part of the political machine should also be outraged. You are victims as well. Your jobs and work environment are made more difficult by corruption, although I understand your limits in being able to speak out, and you should do so carefully.

Our freedom of speech is our strongest weapon against government corruption. Everyone should write letters make phone calls and attend meetings and demand answers from public officials. And don't stop until you get them. 



The **UCWA** acts as a vehicle for the public to, **hold elected officials accountable**. We strive to make county government more transparent by gaining access to public records and being a public **resource for information**.

The **UCWA** routinely requests public records pertaining to the expenditure of tax dollars by Union County government and the independent county authorities through the **Open Public Records Act** (OPRA) and posts them on our website for easy public access. These documents are not posted on the county's website.

UnionCountyWatchdog.org

Read our blog at

CountyWatchers.com

***“Information is the
currency of democracy.”***

-Thomas Jefferson

Not for Nothing But...

information is kryptonite

to corrupt politicians.

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EMERSON GOES FULL CIRCLE BACK TO ELIZ AVE

Emerson Amador and his family lived in one of two apartments above the satellite Post Office on Elizabeth Avenue, one door in from Reid Street. His father and mother, who were Cuban immigrants, purchased the building when they arrived in the United States in the 1950s. It was Emerson's childhood home and now he has returned and made it his Real Estate office.

Emerson has worked in Real Estate for 24 years for several agencies. Two years ago he decided to start his business, Alligator Property Management, a full service brokerage firm offering a wide range of services from selling your property, to managing properties, to short sales and rentals. He chose to move into his old homestead in a community he knows well and wants to be part of.

His office is just one block from his grammar school alma mater St. Anthony's, class of '79, now called Our Lady Of Guadalupe Academy. He has returned to the school to explore ways they he can help in making it thrive. Emerson has also joined the Elizabeth Avenue Partnership which manages the Special Improvement District. He volunteers as the organization's secretary. He is also a member of the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and Elizabeth Development Company.


Emerson's experience in business and his first hand knowledge of the city enables him to service his clients like no one else. The Elizabeth High School graduate says, "I feel at home working here." he means that literally because the apartment he grew up in has been converted into office space. He means it figuratively also because he is surrounded by friends and neighbors, some life-long and others new, but either way they feel like family.

For more information, call Alligator Property Management at 908-289-5108 or on the web at www.home4you2.com 




(above) Alligator Property Management owner Emerson Amador located his business above the Post Office at 946 Elizabeth Avenue, a building that the Amador family owned for over 50 years and housed the Post Office for over 100 years.


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ST. ANTHONY'S ALUM COME THROUGH AGAIN

The organizing committee of the St. Anthony's Alumni Memorial Fund, would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and support we received for our Second Annual Benefit Dinner Dance honoring Mayor J.Christian Bollwage on October 27th, 2012 at L'Affaire in Mountainside, NJ. Many thanks go out to all the alumni, family and friends who made this another memorable evening and for helping us to continue our goal of keeping Catholic education alive in the City of Elizabeth, and especially at St. Anthony's (Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy), the beautiful school and church which our Italian ancestors worked so hard to build.

The St. Anthony's Alumni Memorial Fund is proud to say that in the last two years we have raised and donated over \$25,000 to Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy for building updates, tuition and the general education fund of the school. With the help of our faithful and dedicated alumni and friends we hope to keep this tradition going in the years ahead. May St. Anthony, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Good Lord above continue to guide us in the coming years.

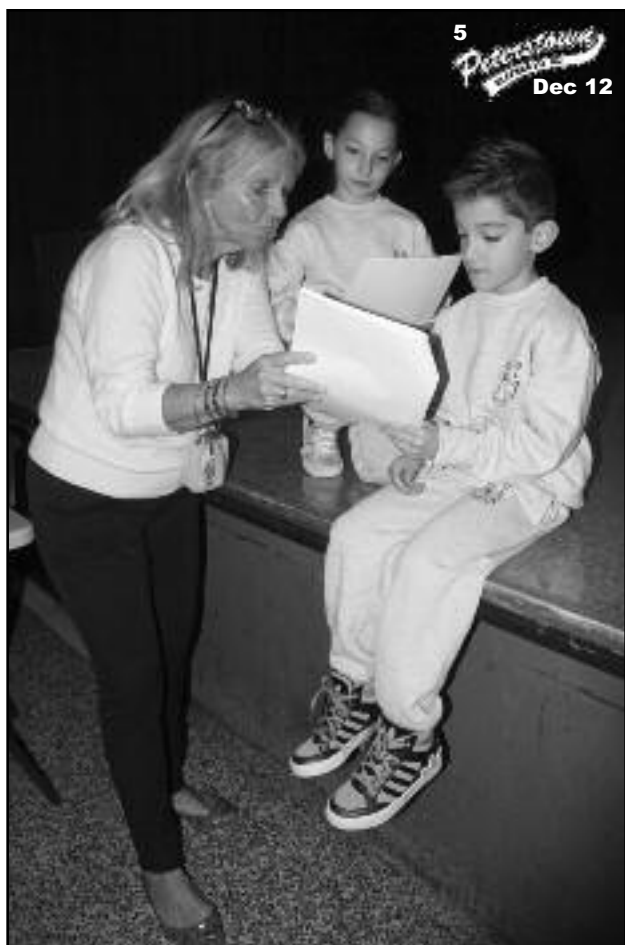
Please check our website www.stanthonyfund.org for future news and events. 📧

*A special thanks goes to
the organizing committee.....Class of 1970
Vicky Carta Miller • Sue Guida Jackson
Jackie Salemi • Joanne Pareso Megill
Giuseppe 'Joe' Tedde • Anthony Bartone
Ray Masters • Pat Mele
and many more
Have a wonderful Holiday Season!
Please use this email
staclass1970@gmail.com
for any questions or comments. Thank you.*



(above, l-r) Vicky Carta Miller (SAS ') presents Deacon Joe Caporaso (SAS '63) with a check for \$10,000 under the watchful eye of St. Don Bosco.

(right, l-r) Carmen (Batone) Rooney (SAS '63), who co-directs the Nutcracker with Natalie Rakowsky reviews the script with Michaela Firetto who plays the Sugar Plum Fairy and her brother Carmelo who plays Fritz.



OLGA TO PRESENT "THE NUTCRACKER" DEC 19

Our Lady of Guadalupe continues on their road to excellence. Christmas stars will be shining brightly at the school this holiday season.

Students will be participating in a Christmas Gala showcasing their talents. The program will include students in the Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten

giving their rendition of "The Night Before Christmas".

The Choir and first and second grades will perform holiday favorites, and "The Nutcracker" will be presented by the third thru eight grade students.

The students' and teachers' dedication to OLGA shines in all aspects of the school. 📧

*The Program is opened to the public.
It will be presented on*

*Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 10 AM and 1 PM.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at OLGA.*

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(right)
"South Street Slugger"
Tic Mollozzi.



Dear Joe,

In a recent letter to your paper a reader asked if you ever wrote about Dominick "Tic" Mollozzi who was an up and coming boxer from Peterstown in the late 1940's and early fifties. The reader claimed that "Tic" is now eighty eight years old and still punching. What great news to hear since "Tic" was one of my favorite fighters of that time. I had the privilege to see him box often, at Elizabeth Armory and Twin City Bowl fighting on Promotor George Kobb's boxing cards. When fans knew Tic was on the card they knew they were in for a treat for all his fights were jammed full of action. Here is my thumbnail sketch of Dominick "Tic" Mollozzi.

Bob Fernandez

TIC MOLLOZZI - A PETERSTOWN FAVORITE

Submitted by Bob Fernandez, Sr., Boxing Historian

Dominic "Tic" Mollozzi was a 135lb. fighting fury. Known as the "South Street Slugger" he had a host of loyal fans. He belonged to the Angelo Pucci stable of fighters whose top draw was Tippy Larkin Jr. Welterweight Champion of the World. Frankie Duane also graced that stable along with Tic and Tommy Kaczmarek, another Elizabeth fighter. Duane was a top welterweight and a Peterstown favorite.

Kaczmarek and Mollozzi were real boxing buddies doing their roadwork together at Warenaco Park and sparring at Kirk Center.

Kaczmarek was a good boxer known for his durability, he was never stopped in his entire amateur and pro careers, and if anyone could testify about how tough Mollozzi was it was Tom who boxed countless rounds with "Tic" at Kirk Center. I sat in on some of their "workouts" which were all out wars. Tommy a long time friend of mine claimed boxing Tic Mollozzi was like battling spring steel, he was relentless in his attack, always coming forward in an attempt to knock you out. Watching their work-outs was like watching two fighters trying to kill each other. Yet after their sparring they were great friends. Go figure.

After Kaczmarek's boxing career was over he became a very successful politician, at one time mayor of Clark, New Jersey. After politics he became Boxing's Premier judge of fights. Tom traveled all over the world giving seminars and teaching judges the finer art of scoring

fights. We can take Tommy's word "Tic" was tough. There was another popular fighter from the "Burg" whose name cannot be left out when writing about Mollozzi. It would be like leaving Mickey Ward out of a story on Arturo Gatti. Or a Rocky Graziano without Tony Zale.

Lenny LaBrutta known as the "Peterstown Little Wild Bull" was undefeated and "Tic's" bitter rival. Each fighter had a host of favorite supporters. Long on a collision course, they finally met at Twin City Bowl. I attended this torrid slam bang battle of the two unmovable objects locked in downright frightful combat.

It came to an end in the fourth round when the referee stopped the riotous brawl when LaBrutta was badly cut over the eye giving Mollozzi a 4th round TKO win. The fight was so close and had the fighters rabid fans so worked up that many fist fights erupted at ringside,. It was LaBrutta's first loss and a rematch was demanded.

Charley Fusari, New Jersey's "Golden Boy" was upset and lost a decision to the New England Champion Johnny Cesario at Newark Armory. Jersey fans were in a revenge mode and wanted our next best welterweight Tippy Larkin to even the score. The match was made but Larkin fell ill. Angelo Pucci would use his very talented Frankie Duane to sub for Larkin and save the match from cancellation. He also made sure that Tic Mollozzi also a member of his stable was matched for the second LaBrutta fight.

Angelo proposed an all out "Peterstown Boxing Night" to be held at a larger facility then Twin City Bowl or the Elizabeth Armory.

Frankie Duane would be making his "coming out party" his first big time fight after serving four years in the Navy. Peterstown fans would flock to see it happen. But the huge bonus given to the fans would be the eight round semi final match which they had been waiting for. "The South Street Slugger" vs "The Peterstown Little Wild Bull" LaBrutta vs. Mollozzi #2. Truly a Peterstown Boxing bonanza at Newark Armory.

On November 20, 1947 Frankie Duane fans saw their man lose on an eye injury. It was a case of too much too late for Frankie, he wasn't the same fighter he was before the war and his Navy hitch. Cesario won by TKO. Tic and Lenny repeated their first fight thrills in a rousing eight round slug-fest. But this time LaBrutta walked off with a razor thin victory. All three fighters brought pride to Peterstown on their valiant showings. Those two fights Lenny and Tic had were the high points of their careers. They never fought a third time. LaBrutta retired with health problems. I have never recalled before or since when convoys of cars from Peterstown loaded with fans ever set out on fight night to attend their heroes fights.

Only these three beloved fighters could accomplish it. Frankie Duane, Lenny LaBrutta and Tic Mollozzi. They were appreciated by their loyal Peterstown fans for the never to be forgotten fistic thrills they provided. 🥊



(above, l-r) Tic Mollozzi with his daughter Kathleen who now, along with her sister Susan, cares for her dad who is 88 years old. His wife, Kathleen (Bradley), also from Elizabeth, passed away in 1991.

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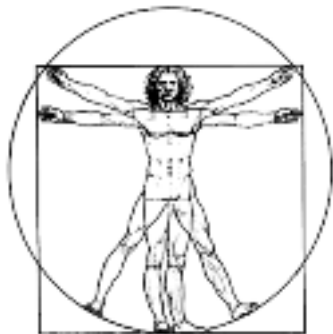


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JEFFERSON AND BATTIN
CLASSES OF 1955
GET TOGETHER

Submitted by Ron Jacobson

The Jefferson and Battin High School classes of 1955 held a bi-annual get-together on Sunday October 7, 2012. Thirty one alumni attended. Many stories were swapped, memories revisited, and deceased friends remembered. A good time was had by all.

The classmates were joined by fifteen spouses, friends and significant others who were also having fun and taking pictures. Though the stories shared by classmates were true, thier guests found them a little hard to believe. A 60 year reunion in 2015 was discussed.

(right, l-r) Alice Schnarr Sporer, Cannella Spino Helminski, Alberta Ferko Simone, Jean Neri Maisano, Anne Mazza Mirlocca, Rose Marie Severini Moretti.



(above, l-r) Dick French, Lee Spechts, Richard Jones, John Neidenbach, Jerry Steinberg, Lou Costanza, Frank Kemper, Tony Orlando, Art Rennings, Bob Kluge, John Trabachino, Ron Jacobson, Joe Siegel, George Dubroski, Mike DiCarlo, Ed Goldberg, Gerald Highsmith, John Ucci, Mike Weiner, Bob Fyne, Bruce Shapiro, Bob Frazier, Jim Hynes, Jacob Stockl, Jim Green.

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(above, l-r) The reunion committee:
Geri Schwartz, Lorraine Flammia, Kathy Dowzycki.



(above, l-r) Camille Sammartino, Joan Fedin,
Joan Hergert.

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BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL - CLASS OF 1960 - 70TH BIRTHDAY BASH

On October 6, 2012, forty five members of Battin High School "Class of 1960" had a "Birthday Bash" to celebrate their collective 70th birthdays. The party was held at Luciano's Italian Ristorante, in Rahway. They enjoyed a bountiful buffet luncheon, danced to the music of the 50's and 60's and sang Karaoke to songs of their high school days. Each classmate received a canvas tote bag decorated with a B.H.S. Birthday Bash 2012 logo.



(above, l-r) Lynda Solomon, Carole Goldblatt,
Virginia Franz, Sybil Isaacs.



(above, l-r) Joan Thorpe, Margaret Mariano,
Carmelina Davenia.

Inside the bag was a homemade CD of 20 songs that were popular during their high school days. Everyone had a great time. The only complaints were that it ended too soon. A lot of friendships were renewed and information exchanged to 'keep in touch'.

If you have not been contacted by the Class of 1960, please e-mail sixtybattingrad@aol.com and we will put you on the list.



(above, l-r) Barbara Kocot, Mary Jane Krok,
Karolyn Lenard, Diane Dysko, Christine Kutschman.



(above, l-r) Joan Hergert and Lucille Disano.

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BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL - CLASS OF 1960
70TH BIRTHDAY BASH - OCTOBER 6, 2012



(above, front row, l-r) Joan Thorpe, Virginia Franz, Carmelina Davenia, Claudette Martinelli, Beth Sternlicht, Ellen Platt, Mary Ann Irwin, Mary Diamante, Geri Schwartz, Camille Sammartino, Marilyn Gagliano, (second row, l-r) Carol Piserchia, Carolyn Lenard, Christine Kutschman, Janet Hayes, Brenda York, Sybil Isaacs, Lynda Solomon, Carole Goldblatt, Judy Enright, Antoinette Sterphone, Joan Kachur, (third row, l-r) Barbara Kocot, Mary Ann Farbaniec, Mary Jane Krok, Sharon Elbert, Juanita Bryant, Joan Hergert, Paulette Hojnoski, Marleen DeFranco, Lucille Disano. (fourth row, l-r) Margery Gale, Susan Silverman, Diane Dysko, Joan Fedin, Barbara Jacek, Merle Lear, Kathy Dowzycki, Ida Jane Freedman, Lorraine Flammia, Margaret Mariano, Joan Stacy, Rose Ann Balboa, Gertrude Cicchitto.

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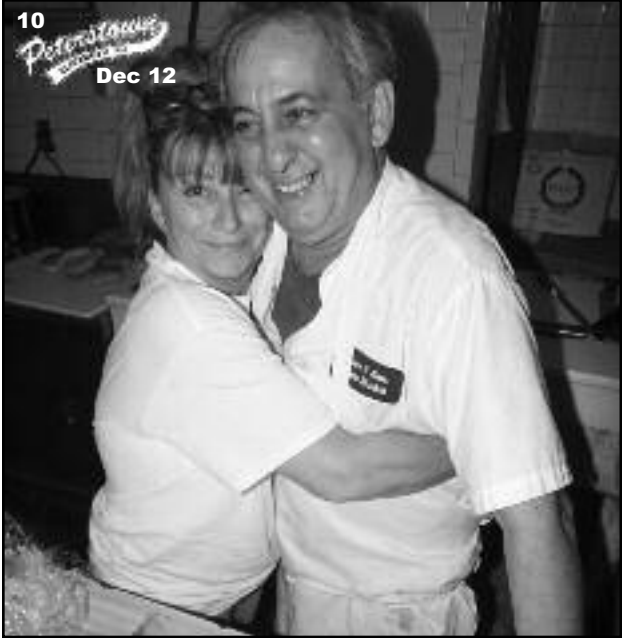
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(above, l-r) Doreen and John Sacco

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(above, r-l) J. Sacco & Son

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(above, l-r) Sacco Brothers Frank, John and Joe.

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Denise and Lina always enjoyed baking and like working together. They started out baking for friends and relatives in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. Word of mouth spread and demand was overwhelming.

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Deelicious Deelights now caters parties from a dozen people at a house party to large wedding banquets.

Denise and Lina can be reached though Facebook and by email at Deelicious.Deelights@gmail.com or by phone by calling Denise Difederico at 973-732-8169 and Lina Serafin at 908-566-6917. 

Recipes

*Submitted by Denise Difederico
and Lina Serafin of Deelicious Deelights*

Thumb Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups flour
2 sticks butter melted
1/4 cup confectioners sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup finely chopped walnuts
Fruit preserve

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven at 325°
2. To form cookie dough, mix all ingredients together except walnuts and fruit preserve
3. Roll into small balls
4. Then roll the balls into the walnuts to coat them
5. Place on cookie sheet and make a thumb print in center of cookie fill with your choice of preserve
6. Bake about 15 minutes until golden.

• • • • •

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Knots

INGREDIENTS:

9 eggs
1/2 pd. butter softened
1 cup sugar
1tbsp. vanilla extract
5 1/2 cups flour
9 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp salt

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven at 300°
2. Mix all ingredients together to form a dough
3. Roll out and cut into pieces that can be tied into knots
4. Put knots on cookie sheet and bake for about 20-25 minutes or until golden.

ICING:

1. Mix milk and confectioners sugar until you get a thick consistency
2. Add Anisette as an option to add flavor
3. Ice cookies and top with sprinkles.



(left) Lina Serafin displays a custom "Cow" cake made to commemorate the 65th Anniversary celebration of J. Sacco and Sons Meat market.


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(above) This photo was my Grandfather's only unfinished painting. He never got to finish it. During the time he worked on this painting he fell and broke his hip. He never returned to his artwork after that.



(above) These three cartoon drawings he did after the war. There is a full collection of these. Some are pretty serious and others make me smile. I'm sure fellows who were there could appreciate them even more.

GALLERY OF ART BY SAL DECESARE

Captions by his granddaughter Heidi Caruso



(above) There is a note at the bottom of the pic that he did this one in 1945 . . . end of the war.

(right) Three sculptures of battles displayed under glass. The one in the forefront is of the Invasion of Normandy.



(left) This painting is an example of what he did for his church - First Baptist Church, Union, NJ. He gave this to them two years ago for Christmas. He was very proud of the work he did for his church and always poured his heart into it. He loved God and the church was his second family. He became affiliated with this church through his first wife, Martha.



Quote under my Grandfather's high school picture said:
"Give me a pen and paper to draw my cartoons and I'm happy".



(above) This is one of my favorites. He was in The Battle of the Bulge which to me makes it that much more special. When he would tell this story he would always stress to me how very cold it was. He would make a joke out of how he was shot at sometimes but never revealing to us any details. He would tell how he helped men that were shot. It really is hard for me to imagine what this experience must have been like.





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SAL DECESARE DOCUMENTED WWII IN HUNDREDS OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND SCULPTURES

Salvatore DeCesare passed away on November 6, 2012. He will not only be remembered by those who had the good fortune to know him personally but by future generations of history and art lovers, for Sal left behind a collection of original art that he created throughout the 88 years he lived.

Sal showed talent at a very young age and honed his interest in art all through his school years. He received state-wide recognition for a pastel drawing of the Peterstown Market in a contest he entered as a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth, NJ. Peterstown is the Italian section of Elizabeth where Sal grew up, one of ten children.

Sal's father Michael DeCesare was born in 1879 and also came from a family of 10 children. His mother, Vincenza Capozzi came from Vallata, Italy. She was one of five siblings. Both parents came through Ellis Island, NY in the early 1900's.

Carmella's sponsor for her trip to America was Carmella Strazella, Michael's aunt. It was through her that she met Michael in 1909 and got married that same year in St. Michael's church in East Newark, NJ. They then settled in Elizabeth, NJ and raised a family of 10 children. Their children's names were, Lucy, Mary, Dominick, Joseph, Anthony, Rocco, Salvatore, Carmine, Anna and Vito. Michael was a mason and worked on the Hudson Tubes in NY and NJ and Carmella was a housewife.

Salvatore was drafted into WWII as an Army Field Medic. This didn't stop him from drawing. During his time in the war he continued to draw cartoons but his inspiration was his surroundings...the war. He asked an Elizabeth librarian to accept delivery of any cartoon drawings he sent home from Europe. She agreed and she collected them as she received them and returned them to him upon his return to Elizabeth when the war was over.

During the war Salvatore created an "Invasion Diary", a book of drawings that he produced by illustrating stories of men he cared for who were wounded. They would dictate what they saw, felt and went through and Sal would then put his pen (or chalk) to paper. After his drawing was complete he would ask if what he drew was an accurate depiction of what they saw and went through. After approval from the participant he would have the soldier sign the drawing.

Sal came home after the war but it never left his memory. He was a very proud man. He was a part of "The Greatest Generation" he knew it and was proud of it. He was proud to have served his country and to have been a person in the Army who cared for others as an Army Medic.

Upon returning from the war, Sal met his first wife Martha Cushing at a YWCA dance. They married but had no children. Martha passed away and it was a difficult time for Sal who had also lost his job.

A few years later Sal attended an art exhibit at the YWCA, the same place where he met Martha. This is where he met his second wife, Gertrude. They dated for about three years before he popped the question, over the phone. "Hey Trudy, how about you and I get married?" Though she was not impressed by his romantic style, she did accept.

He found peace of mind with Trudy and started assembling model ships, which he did with extreme care and patience. Sal would assemble and construct entire battle scenes from the war. He would reconstruct the battles complete with aircraft that he would hang from fishing line. The battles would then be mounted and put under glass. His basement was filled with these dioramas.

Sal DeCesare's true talent showed though his drawing. He continued to draw scenes of the war from memory, intent on being true to reality, adding to his already impressive collection. The art is a unique depiction of history and the war, full of feeling and emotion.

After Trudy passed in 1995, Sal focused some of his time on doing artwork for First Baptist Church in Union, NJ where he was a parishioner. He painted scenes of Christmas each holiday season for the church to display. The paintings spurred him to begin painting battle scenes of WWII, something new and exciting for him.

On July 7th 2011, Sal was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer of the lung, liver and spine. He didn't live out his life like a sick man. He insisted on living his life like any other man would. He got up out of bed every day, got dressed, fixed his own meals, shopped, painted, watched the news and movies and enjoyed his family. He did all this mostly on his own for 12 months. In August 2012, he broke his hip, had surgery and went to rehab. Afterwards he was unable to live on his own in his Linden home anymore and moved in with his granddaughter Heidi Caruso.



(above) Sal DeCesare proudly sports his Veterans hat.



(right) Sal serving as a Medic in WWII.



(above) Heidi Caruso stands between her grandparents Trudy and Sal DeCesare. Heidi was instrumental in sharing what she knew about her grandfather and how wonderful of a man he was. She has done a great service by preserving his memory and his art.

Heidi says the stress of Hurricane Sandy took its toll on her grandfather and he never recovered. The following is a beautiful tribute by Heidi speaking of her grandfather:

During my Grandfather's wake and funeral I hear many people tell me that he was a great man, a giving man, kind, loving of his family and friends, proud of his past and of himself. I now realize that during his last 16 months I learned so much more about him...about who he was. He was a soldier - until the very end. He did his best to LIVE every day that he was sick. He fought to live his life and die with dignity.

During the time when my Grandfather was sick everyone would tell me how lucky he was to have me. I always said, "NO, I'M lucky to have HIM". I believe that to the bottom of my heart. 🐾



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(above) Harriet and Blaise in 2001 when he was honored as "Man of the Year" by the Boys Town of Italy.



(above) On their wedding day September 11, 1954.



(above, l-r) Blaise with mom, sister and dad.

DEDICATED ELIZABETH CIVIL SERVANT BLAISE LAPOLLA PASSES AWAY AT 81

Mike Lapolla owned and operated Lapolla's Tavern since the 1920s, a bar on the corner of Third Avenue and John Street in the heart of Peterstown, an Italian neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. During the 1940's and 1950's, Lapolla's Bar was an integral part of life in Peterstown. Mike and his wife Angeline, nee Cirasa, lived upstairs in one of the four apartments over the tavern and raised their two children there, Rose born in 1928 and Blaise born three years later in 1931. The Lapolla family operated the business for over fifty years. Blaise ran the bar in the 1960's after his father died.

Blaise graduated from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson High School in 1947 and then attended the University of Detroit. After college he served in the United States Army. While stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey he offered another soldier a ride home to Bayonne. It was then that he met the love of his life, Harriet McCurnin. They were married on September 11, 1954.

They lived in one of the apartments above the tavern and in 1956 started to grow their family with the birth of their son Michael. In 1958, just three months after the birth of their second son, Richmond, Blaise purchased a home on Loomis Street. The house was one of the newly built single family homes with front lawns and driveways, much different than the multi-unit buildings like the one in which he was raised.

Blaise and Harriet had another son, Blaise, in 1959. Their daughter Camille was born in 1961 and was followed by two more sons Charles born in 1964, and Thomas in 1966.

Blaise understood that he was blessed with opportunities that weren't readily available to his father, like a college education and private schools for his children. All six children graduated from St. Anthony's Grammar School in Peterstown. And although his life

style was much different than his father's, Blaise raised his family in much the same way that he was. The most significant trait that Mike instilled in Blaise was a sense of community and civil service. The Lapolla family has been active in local politics for three generations. Mike was elected City Councilman in 1947 and served as Council President. When he stepped down to become City Treasurer in 1957, Blaise succeeded him on City Council. Blaise worked for the City of Elizabeth until his retirement in 2003 as the Elizabeth Public Works Director.

Like his father Blaise was a dedicated civil servant and a stalwart of the Democratic Party. He passed that same dedication on to his own children. His son Michael was elected to the Union County Freeholder Board in 1983 and served for two terms. He retired from public service after working in various positions including First Assistant Prosecutor, County Manager and Executive Director of the Turnpike Authority. All of Blaise's children, except Charles, work in the public sector.

The Lapolla clan is very tight knit and lives by the traditional values that their father instilled, work, family and community. They were surrounded by wonderful neighbors with whom they always remained close. Theirs was always a home where all were welcome.

Blaise and Harriet moved to Cranford in 2009 to be closer to their children. He died on October 22, 2012 at his home after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was surrounded by his loving wife, his six children and seventeen grandchildren.

Bob Belmont from Petrucci's Funeral Home told Michael that Blaise had one of the largest wakes they ever had, well over a 1,000 people visited to pay their last respects. For Mike it was a wonderful tribute to his dad. 🐾



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BLAISE LAPOLLA
PROGENY

In addition to his wife Harriet, Blaise Lapolla is survived by his son Michael and his wife, Susan MacMullan of Westfield; his son Rick of Cranford; his son Blaise Jr. and his wife, Lynn, of South Plainfield; His daughter, Camille Busichio and her husband Peter, of Cranford; his son Charles, and his wife Kathleen, of Manalapan; and his son Thomas and his wife, Maria of Union. He is also survived by his seventeen grandchildren: Blaise III, John, Meghan, Rick, Cara, Thomas, Kristen, Matthew, Erin, Michael, Danielle, Charles, Michael Blaise and Maggie Lapolla and Mary, Christine and Angela Busichio. He is also survived by his sister, Rose Migliore of Elizabeth, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. 📷

(right) Blaise and Harriet sit among all seventeen grandchildren during their 2011 family Christmas party.



(above, standing, l-r) Michael Lapolla, Blaise Lapolla Jr., Thomas Lapolla, Richmond Lapolla, Charles Lapolla.
(seated, l-r) Blaise Lapolla, Camille Busichio on Fathers Day 2012.

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