ISSUE NO. 86

**FEB 13** 

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# DIFONZO MOVIE PREMIERS IN JERSEY

For as far back as he could remember Anthony DiFonzo dreamed about making a movie. Ten years ago he started to write a screenplay and on February 23, 2013 his film will be shown at The New Jersey Film Festival at Rutgers University Voorhees Hall. For many, fulfilling a dream seems impossible but Anthony proved otherwise.

Anthony DiFonzo grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New

Anthony DiFonzo grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. The tight knit neighborhood was safe and his parents, including Anthony's mom, Lina, trusted their children to be more independent. Romping around with friends from early on in life does two things. One thing is it allows kids to develop more freely and expressively and, secondly, the shared experiences cements strong bonds between the friends. These are two themes that Anthony drew upon in producing his movie.

Anthony describes his movie as "a gritty Elizabeth, NJ version of Romeo and Juliet. This is a story of true love, true friendship, and true betrayal." It centers around three childhood friends who, when faced with young love and jealousy, begin to find themselves growing apart. It contains many aspects of life that Anthony observed in the neighborhood and experienced with friends.

When it came time to make the film he turned to the community for help. He put a call out to family and friends to be in the film and offer locations to shoot. The response was superb. Fiends filled Michelino's Restaurant for a bar scene, Deacon Joe presided over a funeral scene, and

(above, 1-r) Boyz of Summer cast Devin Harjes, Erin O'Brien, Mark Sternberg, Sarah Golden, Keith Embler, and Christina Calph.

scenes were shot in the Farrara building as well as other locations around the neighborhood.

There was also a need for talented actors and skilled production people. Anthony sought out guys and gals in the same predicament that he was in, namely "Filmmakers and Actors Who Just Want to Make Stuff". He created a group with that title on-line at www.meetup.com/indie-196, in hopes of attracting folks like himself, who work full-time at a career but would love to make a film on the side. Anthony is a full-time employee with the Elizabeth Board of Education as a Vice Principal. His wife is a Music teacher in the district. The group did attract many interested hobbyists but it also attracted many serious acting and production people from all over New Jersey and the Five Boroughs of New York City. The group presently has over 1,000 members who create short films on a weekly basis. Anthony's movie is the first full length production that the group undertook. It meant a commitment from actors and a production crew to be available to film over the course of a year.

Anthony couldn't believe the talent that stepped up. He was blessed with a dedicated production team and skilled aspiring actors. Three members of his crew experienced success since. Devin Harjes has gone on to work on HBOs original series Boardwalk Empire, landing the part of Jack Dempsey; Christina Calph appeared in the movies Arthur, and Tower Heist; Rebecca Loebe, one of the films recording artists was featured on NBC's The Voice.

The film took about a year to shoot and another year to edit, working weekends and evenings on a zero budget. Anthony scraped together any funds that were necessary. It took another year to fine tune the production including getting the sound correct and cutting, cuttings and more cutting. Editing was tough for Anthony who had to choose from so many great scenes that he shot that were in the can.

Boyz of Summer already played in two Film Festivals, Long Island International Film Expo, and the New Filmmakers Film Festival in Manhattan. It was accepted to be screened at the Queens World Film Festival, in Queens, NY on March 6, 2013 and in New Brunswick, New Jersey on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm, at The New Jersey Film Festival to be held at Rutgers University Voorhees Hall #105, at 71 Hamilton Street.

Anthony is inviting everyone he knows to attend the NJ Filmfest to see his dream in action. He can be reached through his facebook account at facebook.com/anthony.difonzo.5 or through his email difonzoanthony@aol.com.

Anthony couldn't believe the talent that stepped up.

(left, r-l) Joe Renna stands with movie-son Devin Harjes and movie-wife Deirdre MacNamara behind Boyz of Summer writer / director Anthony DiFonzo.



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.

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

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## President's Message

Another great Super Bowl party is in the books and once again it is the best party of the year. Amazingly no one complained at all that there was no smoking allowed. The parties were good

for at least a dozen cigars and countless cigarettes being burned. Thought he cafeteria has some monsters smoke eaters, remanents for Bingo days long ago, they just don't cut it. I suspect that the new clear environment would actually attract more people to come next year. I have to thank everyone who attended the event and

those Sons of Peterstown members who volunteered their time especially officers Lou Labrutto, Jim palermo, Jack Labrutto. Everyone really chips in and keeps the cafeteria neat and cleaner than when we arrived, ready for the school day the next morning.

I would like to thank St. Anthony's Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy for accommodating the Club and for their support. The church and school supply a real service to the community. I hope our residents recognize all they do and support them in their efforts.

God bless 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.

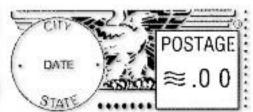
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#### LETTER POLICY

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 bermits. We reserve the right not to brint a letter without notifying sender.

Hi Joe,

My dad was in the New Point Campus of Trinitas Regional Medical Center when your December 2012 issue of the Peterstown newspaper came out. The hospital staff there were reading the article about dad when I arrived that night. What a great article, and nicely written. They were treating him like a "Rock Star". It made his day, and more importantly, made

Thanks so much. Kathleen D. Mollozzi Westfield, NJ

Dear Joe,

I am purchasing a subscription for my grandmother, Mary Ruddy, who just loves your newspaper. She is 94 years old and a life-long resident (born, raised, resides) of Elizabeth. I usually pick one up and bring it to her but she will be thrilled to receive it in the mail.

Thank you, Marigrace Brown Linden, NJ

Dear Joe,

Hi. My name is Nicole Lord. You know my mother Diane Migliaccio. Anyway, even though I do not know too many of the people, the names in your Peterstown Paper are always very familiar. I enjoy reading the newspapers and my favorite part is the recipes that you print in each issue. I love to cook Italian food (it's really the only thing I like to eat) but sometimes it's hard to find authentic recipes.

Thank you, Nicole Lord Rahway

## **CONGRATULATIONS POLICE CAPTAIN JIM SACCA**



(above) Mayor J. Christian Bollwage administers the oath to promote Giacumo "Jim" Sacca to the rank of Captain in the Elizabeth Police Department. Jim's mother, Maria is holding the Bible as his wife Rita and their son.

## HER BROTHER, HIS SISTER JOINS **BELLA GENTE**

Paul, Ginny & Kazia formerly of Her Brother His Sister Salon of Kenilworth have joined the Bella Gente crew located at 508 Boulevard in Kenilwrorth.



(above, 1-r) Grace of Bella Gente welcomes Ginny, Paul, Kazia formerly of Her Brother His Sister, with partner Erica, and former Bella owner Fred.

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# Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

I go out of my way to promote creativity. So much emphasis is put on sports when it comes to parents pushing their children that other talents that the child may have are never cultivated. I know parents who have their kids play a sport year round. And not a variety of sports but just one because they think that will help him turn pro. The kid becomes a phenomenon at the age of 12, but only when compared to other twelve year olds. The reality that their little meal ticket is just an average kid doesn't sink in until he misses the cut for his division three college team.

The hours that are dedicated to sports must be balanced with pursuits in science and the arts. The key is to expose your kid to as much opportunity as possible. They will gravitate to whatever interests them, to whatever they have a knack for, and to whatever makes them happy. It may not be playing shortstop.

There weren't many mentors in the arts when I was growing up in Peterstown, though my parents really tried to give get me some sort of exposure the best they could. I had a tremendous drive so I pursued my dreams early on. I'm happy to say that I made a career out of doing what I love. It could have come easier if I knew someone personally who blazed the trail before me.

Now if I get a whiff of someone interested in being an artist or writer or wanting to work in film or theater I try to help them out. The best way to do that is networking. Introducing students to accomplished professionals is the best way to grow.

This advise is not limited to the arts but to all disciplines like science and technology and, yes, even

I love playing chess and have the opportunity to take instruction from Grandmaster Leonid Yudasin, Chief

Instructor at Chessmates located at 1531 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ. Yudasin was ranked #3 in the world and competed for the World Chess Championship twice, losing to Champs Karpov and Kasparov. It's a great opportunity to learn now, but it would have been even better when I was 12. Its like shooting hoops with Michael Jordan.

Chess is like exercise for the brain, and I work at it as I do when I go to the gym. It's never too late to start pursuing your dreams, even if your dream is to be a 1900 rated chess player. Better yet, my advice to parents is to concentrate on giving the opportunities to your children so they can start to pursue their dreams at an early age. 🥨

help your child pursue their dream of what they want to be and not your dream of what you them want



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## **RENNA MEDIA GROWS TO 8 MONTHLY PAPERS**

Renna Media has introduced Warren Monthly to its family of newspapers. My wife Tina and I now publish eight monthly newspapers along with the bi-monthly Peterstown Newspaper.

The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information that is focused on the town where they are distributed. The newspapers are mailed for free to residents and businesses, up to 6,500 newspapers per town, a total saturation when possible.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote events and services. News from each department of the town's administration that is important to the residents is also accommodated. Community service organizations are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or reports on recent events for publication. Residents and organizations get a direct connection to the local market, a win-win for everyone.

Each newspaper also has a website that features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of past issues, photo albums, and advertising opportunities.

The hyper-local design gives businesses the highest value for their advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$50. A discount is also applied for those businesses involved in their local Chamber of Commerce. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for being in all three publications.

Call Tina for more information at 908-418-5586.

(left) Titles and circulation numbers for Renna Media's eight newspapers.



Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

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Advertising starts at \$60 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 709-0530. 🔝

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK HERE AT OLGA



Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy celebrated Catholic Schools Week, January 28, this year, by presenting "Wax Museum". Students in grades 6-8 were commissioned to research someone from history in areas such as American History, Greek Mythology, Saints, Science, and Art. They then gathered information on their person, assembled a costume, and memorized their script in preparation for their performance. Students were assembled, frozen in time, around the auditorium awaiting someone to 'push' their buttons so that they could come back to life and share their stories.

(left, 1-r) Chris Noguerol, as Julius Caesar, reenacting for the Kindergarten.

## **OLGA STUDENTS EXCEL AT WRITING**

The results of a recent national Writing Assessment administered to the students in our 4th and 7th grades reflect the emphasis we place on developing our students' writing skills.

Each student's response to a given prompt is submitted to CTB/McGraw Hill for scoring. Each student's writing sample is assigned a holistic score ranging from 1(unacceptable) to 6(very good). Generally, a score of 3.5 is considered average with scored of 4 and above, regarded as above average.

We are a happy to report that the 97% of our 4th grade students at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy received scores of 4 or higher. Based on the norm for the CTB Writing Assessment the majority of the students scored higher than 88% of the students in the national norm group.

Also, we are happy to report that 85% of the 7th grade students at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy received scores of 4 and above. Based on the norms for the CTB Writing Assessment the majority of the 7th grade students scored higher than 71% of the students in the national norm group.



(above) OLGA Student Matthew Burgos taking CTB/McGraw Hill writing test.

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## **FOUNDATION HONORS DEACON JOE CAPORASO AT UCESF AWARDS RECEPTION IN MAY 2013**

The Union County Educational Services Foundation (UCESF) is pleased to announce that Deacon Joseph Caporaso, "Deacon Joe," will be the 2013 recipient of the UCESF "Commitment to Education" Award to be presented at the Foundation's Eighteenth Annual Awards Reception at The Primavera in Stirling, NJ on Thursday, May 2, 2013.

Deacon Joe is Principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy (OLGA) in Elizabeth, a school fully accredited by the Middle States Association. He is also an ordained deacon at both St. Genevieve's and St. Anthony's churches, in Elizabeth. He received Citizen of the Year Award from UNICO in 2004 and was honored in 2006 with the Elizabeth Promise Scholarship Award.

After 30 years in the Elizabeth Public Schools, twenty three of those years as a principal, Deacon Joe decided to dedicate the rest of his life to Catholic education. When most people are edging towards retirement, Deacon Joe became invested in recreating the nurturing, community centered Catholic school experience he received as a child in Elizabeth. Being diagnosed with lymphoma almost 10 years ago did not hinder his mission at all.

His goal at Our Lady of Guadalupe is to focus on

instilling in the children and their parents a solid base of spiritual, moral, and social values. "I have tried to create a "family school" where children can feel safe while keeping the Catholic school tradition alive in an urban neighborhood which has lost 13 out of 15 Catholic schools." OLGA's focus on technology is reflected in their state of the art technology lab jammed packed with 27 Apple computers in addition to SmartBoards in every classrooms and iPads donated for every eighth grade student. Deacon Joe is invested in the learning of each and every student at OLGA. "We strive to give each child the opportunity to grow no matter what their level of expertise is."

One interesting side note, Deacon Joe Caporaso's office was his kindergarten classroom when he was a student at St. Anthony's. He has truly returned home.

For more information regarding sponsorships, advertising in the ad journal, and raffle tickets and/or attending the UCESF Eighteenth Annual Awards Reception at The Primavera in Stirling, NJ on Thursday, May 2, 2013, please contact Marlene Boyea at 908 233-9317, ext. 266, email at mboyea@ucesc.org or go to www.ucesc.org.





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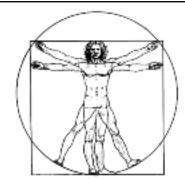


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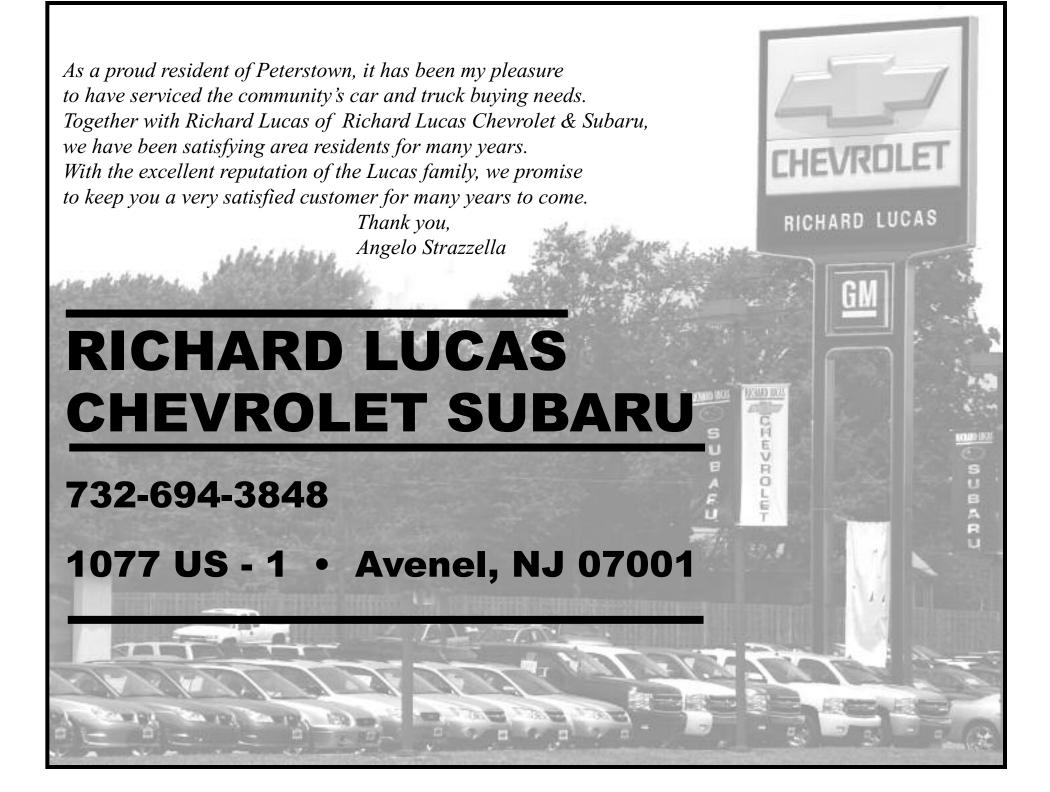
(above) Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy Chorus performed for at the school's annual Business Breakfast on January 28, 2013.



(above, 1-r) Elizabeth Rotary Club members Ceil Mantia, John Jacobson, Bob Tombs, Ken Richuso, Rich Growney and Club President Marie Krupinski accept a plague from OLGA Principal Joe Caporaso in appreciation for their generosity and support of the school.



(above, l-r) Honoree Ken Richuso and Joe Caporaso are flanked by OLGA Student's Board of Directors Johnny Tavarez, Kirrell Fereles, Anthony Pineros, Hilda Fernandez, Maria Meza and Mauryne Audige.



## **OLGA HOSTS ANNUAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST**

Every January the Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy hosts a Business Breakfast during which a local business or agency is honored for their contributions to the School and the Community.

The 2013 Breakfast was held on January 28th and

honored The Rotary Club of Elizabeth.

(right, 1-r) Carmen Rivera is Branch Manager of Investors Ban, sponsor of OLGA's 4th Annual Elizabeth Business Breakfast.

## WHAT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ACADEMY MEANS TO ME By Maria Meza

Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy is a second family . It is the best anyone could ask for in a school. It is a great support system and those who attend know it with all their hearts. The teachers and Deacon Joe and everyone are here for you. They help you if you have a problem with homework or something you just don't get, they push you to do your best even if it requires a ton of homework and lots of writing. They encourage you, they lend an ear when you just need to get something off your chest. I know that for me, my homeroom teacher, Mrs. N, sometimes is my therapist and I appreciate that a lot. It just shows you that everyone wants you to become a better person. They help you go for positive things you want, and you know they have your back. They tell you the examples they want you to follow: Great examples.

As president of the "Early Act Club" I am proud of the work we do with the Rotary Club. They have taught us to give back to the community and working with the community is very important. That's what it is all about. Learning that doing acts of kindness and sharing with the community is something that will mold our lives and strengthen our lives and community.

This is the guidance I want to have and I know that someday when I am older and have my own family and I' a professional at something I will look back at the wonderful years I spent here and I will say; "Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, thank you oh so very much for teaching me and guiding me in the fight path and for making a difference in the world and helping me to be a better person today." 🕃





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# (above) Carmela Bernardo at age 22. Carmela Lepore at age 103.



(above) Carmela on her wedding day at age 32.



## CARMELA BERNARDO LEPORE **CELEBRATES HER 103RD BIRTHDAY**

Carmela Lapore celebrated her 103rd birthday at a luncheon surrounded by family and friends. The party was held at Valentino's Italian Restaurant, located on St. Georges Avenue in Rahway, NJ. She goes there regularly on Sundays to enjoy a traditional Italian Sunday dinner. Tradition is something that Carmela has had time to hone. Her wonderful life is full of wonderful experiences. Her focus on family and friends is key to her enjoyment. Carmela is still spry for her age. Though she has moved on occasion, her home base was always Peterstown. Carmela's age is a testament to her wholesome lifestyle and the culture of the neighborhood she loves so much.

Carmela Bernardo was born in Midland, PA on January 30, 1910. When she was 5 years old she moved to Italy due to her father's health. At age 18, Carmela came back to the U.S. She arrived at Ellis Island, NY to join her her brother, Jimmy ("JB") who arrived in the U.S. a few years earlier. Because she was an American citizen, she was not detained, but was not able to venture off the island because of a technicality. Once cleared, Carmela stayed for a few weeks with family on High Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Carmela got off the boat but officials would not release her to her cousin, Tony Catone from Swissvale -Pittsburgh, PA. He also did not alow her to go off with her other cousin Louis Picaro from Elizabeth, because at first she did not recognize them. Males meeting females was not the norm and since she did not recognize them, Carmela's Aunt Stella Picaro was summoned to New York from Elizabeth to claim Carmela.

She and her brother lived with their Aunt Stella. their father's sister and her husband, Antonio Picaro's family in Elizabeth, NJ. Stella and Antonio had seven children of their own, Louis (Uncle Louis), Anthony (Uncle Tony), James (Uncle Jimmy aka Uncle Mo), Joseph (Uncle Hack), Florence (Aunt Pat), Mary (Aunt Mary/Cuma), and Yolanda (Aunt Sally).

Carmella and JB moved to Wilmington, DE to live with other family members. She got a job but she was lonely because there was no one her age living there. She did not speak English at that time which only enhanced her loneliness. She pined for the days when she lived in Elizabeth and made her way back to live with her Aunt, Uncle and seven cousins, who she got along with very well.

At age 32, on June 7, 1942, Carmela married (Constantine) Charles G. Lepore. Charles, a.k.a. Chris was four years her junior, born on May 26, 1914. The honeymoon was short lived in that she suffered an appendicitis attack three weeks into the marriage and in another three weeks Chris went into the army, first in Ft.

(left) Carmela and Chris (Constantine) Charles G. Lepore on their honeymoon at Niagra Falls in 1942. Dix before being sent to Ft. Knox, KY. Carmela moved to her Cousin Mary Catone's house in Swissvale as it was closer to Ft. Knox which made it easier for Chris to visit. When Chris was shipped to the Philippines, she returned to the Picaro house on High Street in Elizabeth.

Soon after the move back to Peterstown, she realized she was pregnant and opted to stay with her brother Jimmy and his wife Pauline in Iselin, NJ. Carmella moved back to Elizabeth to have her baby. This time moving in with her in-laws, Mary Scandone and Joseph Lawrence Lepore. Her son, Charles G. Lepore, Jr. was born July 11, 1943. Upon his return from the war Carmela and Chris continued to live with his parents.

As the family grew with the birth of Joseph Louis on May 26, 1947, they moved back to Peterstown. This time on Centre Street. Their daughter Kathleen Madeline was born on September 12, 1950. In need of a larger house they moved to a house owned by Chris' mother on Mravlag Place in Elizabeth in 1952.

Carmela lived on Mravlag Place until Chris passed away on November 9, 1982. She, once again moved back to Peterstown, to the house on Centre Street. She enjoyed being in closer proximity to her cousins.

All three children married, Charles to wife Shari, Joseph to MaryAnn, and Kathy to Bill Claxton. Charles passed away August 2012.

Carmella was an exceptional seamstress. The early part of her long career was spent in factories around Peterstown. Her first job was in a dress factory on High Street nearby was the Elizabeth open-air market. She had a tough time fending for herself because she did not speak English that well, but her aunt Stella would keep her bosses in check.

Carmela then went to work at Marabelli, near New Point Road, making leather coats. She left Marabelli for a better opportunity and a chance to work with her cousins, Pat (Florence), Sally and her good friend, Connie Oriscello, at the Acme Shirt Company on High Street. When Acme went out of business, Carmella did not look for new work. She got married at that time and dedicated her time to being a homemaker.

In 1954 her niece, Florence, came to the US from Italy to live with her and her family. Florence was the daughter of Carmela's sister. She was able to help Carmela and Carmela was able to work from home without being apart from her children. She became a coat lining seamstress for her boss Phil Pytill.

In 1955, Carmela changed jobs and worked for Annie Mirando on South Spring Street sewing coats. She was able to assemble and sew entire coats. Eventually she transferred jobs and worked for Annie's brother, Mike Miranda on New Point Road in Elizabeth as he replaced his sister in the business. She worked there until she was in her 70's and retired.

Carmella has been retired twenty years now and enjoys her time with family and friends.

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(above, l-r) Connie Oriscello, Carmela, Sally Marcantonio, Antoinette, Ann Picaro, Lil Picaro in Atlantic City during the 1940's.



(above) Workers of M&S Shirt Factory in 1941. Carmella is the eighth person seated on the left side of the table, the hands of Joe Gatto on her shoulders.



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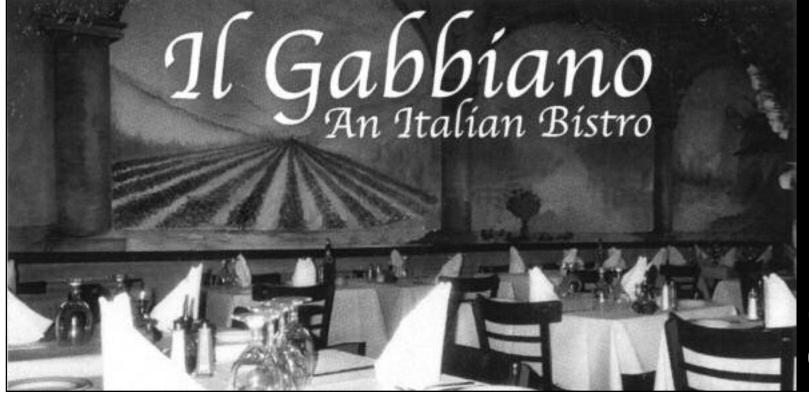
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(above) Carmella in Duffy Square in New York Times Square in 1942.



(above, 1-r) Carmela with cousins Sally Marcantonio, Florence Madonia walking down Broad Street in Elizabeth.



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(above, 1-r) Carmela Lepore and life-long friend Dotty Nascondiglio.



(above, 1-r) Carmela's daughter-in-law MaryAnn Lepore, daughter-in-law Shari Lepore, Carmela, and Kathy Claxton (Carmela's daughter).

(above, 1-r) Carmela's brother's daughter Madeline Cook and Madeline's daughter Madeline Zurick.



PHOTOS FROM CARMELA LAPORE'S **103RD BIRTHDAY PARTY** 

(above) Barbara Fevola



(above, 1-r) Carmela's niece Fran Marcantonio, Fran's daughter Aileen Marcantonio, Carmela's cousin Pat Matzek, and cousin MaryAnn Foster.



(above, 1-r) Maribel Maganinho, Tanya Maganinho, RoseMarie Maganinho.



(above, 1-r) Ginny Bizub, Taylor Olsen, Lisa Olsen, MaryAnn Gazal.

Photos by Joe Renna from this and other Peterstown events can be found at www.PeterstownNJ.com



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## Recipes

From the book Favorite Family Recipes compiled by the Loria Family dedicated to the "Fascella Women" - Aunt Rosie, Aunt Mary, Aunt Josie, Aunt Frances and their Mother Vita.

#### Easter Pie

Aunt Rosie Ingallinera

#### **PASTRY Ingredients:**

2 cups Flour, sifted

1 cup Sugar

Pinch of Salt 1/2 cup Butter

2 Eggs

1/2 tsp Grated Lemon Peel

#### **PASTRY Preparation:**

- 1.Mix Flour, Sugar and Salt
- 2. Cut in Butter and add Eggs
- 3. Don't add Water
- 4. Knead several times and refrigerate at least 30 minutes or overnight.
- 5. Grease 13 x 9 inch pan and cover with pastry

#### FILLING PART I Ingredients:

1 cup Rice

1 qt Milk

1/2 cup Sugar

1 tsp. Vanilla

2 tbsp Butter

#### **FILLING PART I Preparation:**

- 1. Cook until milk has been absorbed (30 minutes), stirring constantly.
- 3. Beat for 15 minutes

#### FILLING Part II Ingredients:

1 doz. Eggs

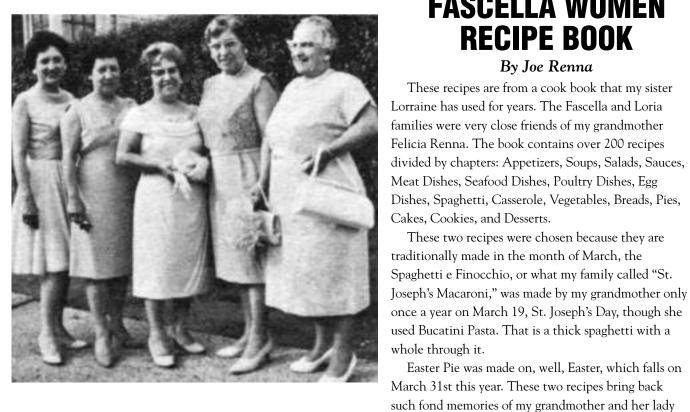
Pinch of Salt

1/2 tsp Vanilla

1/2 cup Sugar

#### FILLING Part II Preparation:

- 1. Beat together all ingrediates in Part II for 15 minutes
- 2. Mix together Part I to part II
- 3. Pour into pan with Pastry
- 4. Cook for 1 hour at 375°



### Spaghetti e Finocchio (Pasta a la Milanese)

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 lb Spaghetti
- 1 lb thin fresh Finocchio
- 4 tbsp. Oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 lb fresh Sardines
- 1 1 /2 cup Toasted Bread Crumbs
- 1 tbsp Pine Nuts (optional)
- Salt and Pepper

#### PREPARATION:

- 1. Clean and bome Sardines and clean Finocchio
- 2. Cook them in 1 quart of boiling salted water for about 15 minutes

friends.

- 3. Drain and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 4. Cook Onion in Oil in a saucepan about 3 minutes or until brown
- 5. Add sardines and saute for 10 minutes, stirring frequently
- 6. Add Finocchio and Pin Nuts, and 1 cup of cold water, salt and paper to taste and simmer for 10 minutes.
- 7. Cook Spaghetti and drain
- 8. Plate Spaghetti with sauce and top with toasted bread Crumbs.



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**RECIPE BOOK** 

By Joe Renna

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Easter Pie was made on, well, Easter, which falls on

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(Above) Felix and Mary Jane on their wedding day in 1942.





## DR. FELIX A. CRINCOLI WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GENEROSITY

Getting their eyes checked by Dr. Crincoli was a right of passage for any youngster who participated in a recreation program in Elizabeth, NJ. Dr. Crincoli was the City's Eye Examiner for over forty years, he also administered exams to students of Elizabeth's twenty five public and parochial and public schools. His involvement in the community was as equally impressive as his 65 year career as an optometrist.

Dr. Crincoli was born in Elizabeth on May 4, 1919 to Anthony and Mary (nee Marshott) Crincoli. The family was rooted in Peterstown and a section of the city where Italian immigrants settled in the twentieth century. Anthony was one of the early arrivals and helped many new arrivals get acclimated. Anthony ran a real estate business from the corner of Fourth Avenue and Centre Street. He quickly learned English and was able to assist newcomers with documentation. He was adamant about immigrants learning English. Anthony, who was also a sergeant in the Elizabeth Sheriff's Office, embraced America wholeheartedly. He strived to weave together the Italian and American cultures.

Anthony was one of the founding members of the Valletese Society. Vallata is a town in the Campania Region of Italy where many Peterstown folks originated.

It is important to know Anthony because his community service and generosity blossomed in his son Felix. Anthony guided his son to become an outstanding person, a real asset to his community and an American Patriot.

Felix made the best out of the opportunity offered in America. He attended the University of Illinois College



(left & above) Felix and Mary Jane are together 70

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of Optometry. It was there that he met his wife Mary Jane Damon. They got married in 1942 and moved back to Elizabeth. He was 22 years old and was drafted into the United States Army serving in North Africa in a ear nose and throat clinic and the 80th General Hospital in Casablanca prior to his honorable discharge after four vears.

Felix started his optometry practice after the war. He semi retired in 1997 after his office located at 55 Jersey Street was acquired to be redeveloped by the City. Though he did not have an office any longer, he continued to make house calls and see patients at his home in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. Where he lived with his wife since 1970. Mary Jane passed away on October 24, 2010 they were married 68 years.

Dr. Crincoli served on many boards and was involved in many community service organizations. He was Elizabeth's Police Commissioner under Mayor Nicholas La Corte in the 1950s and under Mayor Thomas Dunn in the 60s. He served as president of the Elizabeth Lions Club on several occasions and was the District Governor of the Lions. He played golf and was a past president of the Roselle NJ Golf Club. In addition, he was a former communicant of St. Anthony's and St. Michael's Churchs.

His generosity touched those in need, in Peterstown in Elizabeth and even in Italy. In 1980 Italy was rocked by an earthquake, almost 3,000 people died and approximately 300,000 were displaced. Many organizations and Churches in Elizabeth rallied support for the victims. Among them were the Vallatese and Ribera Clubs in Peterstown, UNICO, and the Elizabeth Elks Club. Dr. Crincoli donated 800 lenses and almost 300 frames. There was never a call for help that he did not respond to. For decades he was recognized by the City and service groups for his generosity.

Dr. Crincoli passed away on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Edison. He was 94 years old.

He is survived by three children; Anthony of Florida; Pamela Cannone of Pa.; and Philip of Point Pleasant; seven grandchildren: Brian Cannone, Stephanie Albanese, Michael Crincoli, Matthew Crincoli, Philip Crincoli, Jr., Daniel Crincoli and Thomas Crincoli. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren; Gianna, Emilio, Marco, Nicholas and Johnny.





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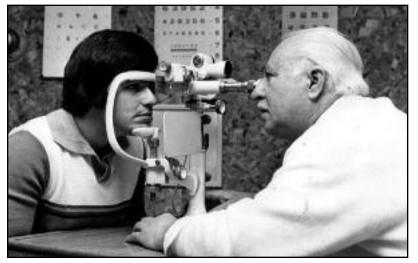
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(above) Dr. Felix examines his son Philip's eyes.



(above) Felix with his parents Anthony and Mary.



(above, 1-r) Anthony (Tough Tony), Felix and Uncle Phil Crincoli.



(above, I-r) The Crincoli family, Philip, Felix, Mary Jane, Pamela, and Anthony.



(above, 1-r) At his funeral, Felix Crincoli's casket was carried by his six grandsons Brian, Daniel, Matthew, Thomas, Philip Jr. and Michael.

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(above) Dr. Felix A Crincoli (center) shares the stage with Clay Cole and (second from left) at a Lions Club event the mid 1960s. Cole was a cutting edge TV dance show host who booked many of the greatest acts before Ed Sullivan and Dick Clark. he was very generous to the Elizabeth Lions Club and became close friends of Felix. He especially enjoyed going to the Crincoli house for Lasagna and meatballs. Cole acknowledges Dr. Crincoli in his book, SH-BOOM!: The Explosion of Rock 'n' Roll (1953-1968)

> (right) Dr. Crincoli (front row, right) served as Police Commissioner under Mayor Nick LaCorte (front row, third from left).



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### PHOTOS OF DR. FELIX A CRINCOLI



(above) The American Optometric Association recognized Dr. Crincoli as being a member of the organization for an amazing 65 cumulative years.

(right) Dr. Felix Crincoli speaking at one of many testimonial dinners that he was involved in. Attorney Rocco DePaola is sitting in the foreground.







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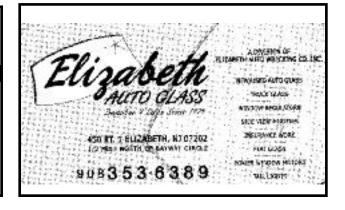
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## **UNICO RECOGNIZES VITO TROPEANO AS 2012 MAN OF THE YEAR**

By Salvatore Coppa

On October 21, 2012 The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO honored Elizabeth Police Detective Vito Tropeano as their "Man of the Year" for 2012 with a dinner dance. Over 425 family members, friends, and colleagues filled the L'Affair Fine Catering Banquet Hall to pay tribute to Detective Tropeano.

Master of ceremonies Lenny Guarino introduced Deacon Joseph Caporaso and Mgsr. Hugh O' Donnell said the invocation. The salute to the flag was lead by UNICO Sergeant at Arms, Paul Rinaldi followed by The National Anthem, beautifully sung by Vito's daughter, Daniela. Elizabeth Chapter President Courtney Villani welcomed everyone.

Guest speakers included Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage; Members of the Elizabeth City Council, Patricia Perkins-Auguste, William Gallman, Nelson Gonzalez, and Manny Grova who presented a City Council Resolution. Union County Manager, Al Faella presented a County Resolution and Assemblyman Joseph Cryan presented a State Assembly Resolution, both recognizing Vito for this honor. Additional speakers included Elizabeth Police Director, James Cosgrove; Vito's two sisters, Virginia and Paula who told some fun family tales, and Ann Walko, second Vice President of UNICO National who presented a gift. Salvatore Coppa introduced The Man of the Year to a standing ovation.

UNICO is an Italian Service Organization. Proceeds from the dinner are distributed in the form of scholarships to deserving high school seniors seeking higher education. In addition, monetary gifts are donated to various local religious, charitable organizations.



(above, 1-r) Elizabeth UNICO members: Paul Rinaldi, Pasquale Arena, Joseph Marretta, Ann Walko, Man of the Year - Vito Tropeano, Chapter President - Courtney Villani, George Marretta, Salvatore Coppa, and Louis Bani.

Photo by Darren Bryden: facebook.com/darren.bryden













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