



RAISED IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS

It is common for children to take over the family business, especially in a live/work environment. Since 1887 four generations of daughters have run the Petrucelli family business. They learned the trade by helping their parents until it became second nature. It didn't seem odd to them that the business was a funeral home.

When Dominic Petrucelli married Mary Joan Mecca he joined her family business. Being the daughter of a funeral director, it was Mary Joan who had the expertise in the business. Dominic learned the trade from her and her family. The business was in the Ironbound section of Newark for thirty-three years until it moved to the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1920.

The great immigration in the early 1900s brought many Italians to America and Peterstown was one of the fastest growing enclaves. A German family, Peters, divided their farmland and sold parcels to the new arrivals. Peterstown, or The Burg as it was referred to by the new arrivals, was just a few miles south of Ironbound. It made good sense for the Petrucelli Funeral Home to move to the new neighborhood that needed its services in the tradition of their Italian culture.

Dominic went to Elizabeth to get the lay of the land and find out what opportunities existed. He walked into a flower shop on Elizabeth Avenue and met the owner Peter Scutro. Dominick explained to Pete that he was interested in moving his business to town and Pete graciously offered to help him scout locations among the new buildings being constructed lining the new roads of the neighborhood. Petrucelli made his first office on John Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues, and then moved to the corner of Christine Street and Third Avenue. They finally settled in at 232 Christine Street where they have been for ninety five years.

The move had the makings of a beautiful love story. Dominic and Peter became close friends and they would eventually become business partners and in-laws. Dominic and Mary Joan had four children, Anthony, Joseph, Maggie and Elizabeth. It was Elizabeth who caught the eye of Peter and the romance brewed into a marriage. Peter was welcomed into the family and into the business. Like his father-in-law he too married into the funeral home business. The young couple ran the business full-time after Dominic passed away in 1946.

Elizabeth and Peter had two daughters Mary and Adelene. Like their mother and grandmother, they helped out with the family business from a very young age. It was Mary who pursued a degree in the field and while doing an apprenticeship at Haerberle & Barth Funeral Home in Union, New Jersey, met another funeral director in training, Robert Belmont. Mary was all business when at work and didn't notice Bob's personal interest in her. It wasn't until he and a friend made an unannounced visit to her family business that they got to know each other socially. Mary's father was impressed by Bob's manners and told her "I like the little guy." Mary and Bob would also get married and as tradition goes they took over the reins of the business.

Bob passed away in 2013 and Mary, at 88, still is active in caring for the families who use Petrucelli's for their funeral services. The day to day management, though, is done by her daughter Marie (Belmont) Baio, the fourth in line of women running the business spanning five generations.

The business is quite different for Marie today than it was in the past. Early on it was customary for the body of the recently deceased to be displayed in the person's home for the wake service. The business was basically a store front office. When the trend turned to move the viewing to a funeral parlor the Petrucelli's accommodated and in 1963 the family put an addition on the Christine Street building and added a viewing room. Marie was a toddler at the time. There were also three other funeral homes that started businesses in Peterstown. Two of the proprietors were nephews of Peter Scutro, Scutro's Funeral Home, and Mastapeter's; the fourth was Corsentino's.

The biggest difference between Marie and her ancestors is that she is not living above the funeral parlor. He mother still lives on Christine Street but Marie raised her family in Colonia, NJ. Though her three children have helped out during services they do not share the same familiarity that she had growing up above the funeral home. Marie says it is too soon to tell if anyone of them is interested in the family business, but for her it was a perfectly natural ambition. 🐾



(above, l-r) Mary Belmont and her daughter Marie.



(left, l-r) Mary (nee Scutro) Belmont, her mom Elizabeth (nee Petrucelli) Scutro and dad Peter Scutro, and her sister Adelene (nee Scutro) Pelosi.



Feb 15

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

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President's Message



It's time to say farewell to our good friend Joe Caporaso as he retires from being principal of Our Lady of Guadeloupe Academy (OLGA). He is a Deacon with the church and has been dedicated to the

Peterstown community his entire life. It is rare for a church to have a home grown clergyman and a school to have a home grown principal but we had both in Joe.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend a retirement party for Joe on May 21st. OLGA will also be holding a pasta Dinner/ Karaoke Night as a fundraiser on February 21st in the school's cafeteria. Details for both events are on page six of this newspaper.

Most people will read this after the Super Bowl but I want to thank in advance those who come out every year to watch the game at St. Anthony's. It is always well attended with about 100 guys spending the day eating, drinking and just having a great time. It is definitely the biggest and best party of the year in Peterstown every year.

I understand from Joe Renna that people can read this on his website and face book before the party so if you don't have plans just show up. Its \$35 - includes all you can eat and drink.

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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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.

Dear Joe,

My Aunt grew up in that area and was familiar with some of the people in your October issue. She is now 91yrs old and she thoroughly enjoyed reading it. We live in Texas and I would love to make it possible for her to receive this on a continuous basis. I want the first copy of the newspaper to be a surprise for her to receive in the mail.

Thank you,

Tina Casano

El Paso, TX

Joe,

Thank you for taking an interest in our family. We have discovered cousins that we didn't know before. I came away with a beautiful wedding picture of my parents in pristine condition.

That was a terrific article. You did a great job of recreating our family relationship. I really enjoyed reading it. The article and the interest you have shown in publishing it had given us an opportunity to reconnect with family that we haven't seen in many years. I did get a chance to visit my 96 year old aunt Carmella who lives with her daughter Janice in Freehold, we had a great reunion. My cousins Theresa and Mary Ann joined us. What fun. My Aunt was so happy to see us.

Thanks again.

Phyllis Grillo Lindquist

Basking Ridge, NJ

Hi Joe

So excited about your newspaper. I am one of the 34 first cousins in the Grillo family, who were featured in stories in the October '14 and December '14 issues of the Peterstown Newspaper. I have one brother, Joseph, who lives in Florida who would like 3 copies of those two issues. I will be seeing my brother in January and will bring them to him and give another one to my nephew, Joseph, who I will see at Christmas. He is very interested in our family tree.

I have many happy memories of visiting our grandparents on John Street. Many thanks to cousin Phyllis for reaching out to the family. I was so pleased to hear about the relatives I have on my grandmothers side. I am married and have 4 married children and 9 grandchildren. I was born and raised in Elizabeth.

Many thanks. Looking forward to the papers and to keeping in touch.

Dora (Grillo) Lynch

Manchester, NJ

Hello,

Just want to thank you again for making my grandmother Mary Rudy's year. She just loves and looks forward to receiving her subscription to the Peterstown newspaper every two months.

This year she got her best present ever in The Peterstown Book. I don't think she has put it down at all. She is so thrilled with it, and all the stories and pictures. It brings back great memories for her, along with your newspaper. As a life-long Elizabeth resident, and going strong at 96, she can't wait for her newspaper to come and what is inside to read.

Again, thank you for making her so happy.

Mary Brown

Linden, NJ



(above) Mary Rudy with her favorite Christmas present that "made her year."



(above) The Grillo family from 1954, Dora's brother Joe, 9-years-old, mom Louise (nee Rocco), Dora, age 15, and dad Vito.



(above) Dora's Lynch's grandparents Phyllis and Joseph Grillo in 1935.

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(above) A funeral service conducted in the early 1920s by the Petrucelli Funeral Home for three young children who drowned in the Elizabeth River. The horse drawn hearses stand in front of the old St. Anthony's Church on Centre Street where the grammar school now stands.



(above, l-r) Peter Scutro and Dominic Petrucelli lead the two rows of pallbearers in front of St. Anthony's Church on the corner of Third Avenue and Centre Street in Elizabeth, New Jersey.



(above) Military funeral procession turning at a unidentified corner in Peterstown section of Elizabeth.



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(above) Photo of the funeral for the three children shows Dominic Petrucelli standing in the center in a top hat with his son-in-law Peter Scutro to his right.



(above) Peter Scutro directing the casket of a fallen World War I soldier as the casket is carried from St. Anthony's Church to a waiting hearse.



(above) Petrucelli Funeral Home was a store front business before a viewing parlor was added in 1963.

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PETRUCCELLI FUNERAL HOME PHOTO ALBUM



(above, l-r) Elizabeth (Petrucelli) and husband Peter Scutro.

(below, l-r) Bob Belmont, grandson Louis J. Baio, Jr., granddaughter Elizabeth Baio, daughter Marie E. Belmont Baio, grandson Peter Baio, and wife Mary Belmont.



(above and left) Robert and Mary (Scutro) Belmont.

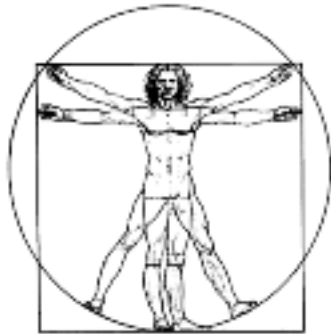


.....

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attend every wake at
Petrucelli's so she can
pay her respects in case
she knew the person.

.....



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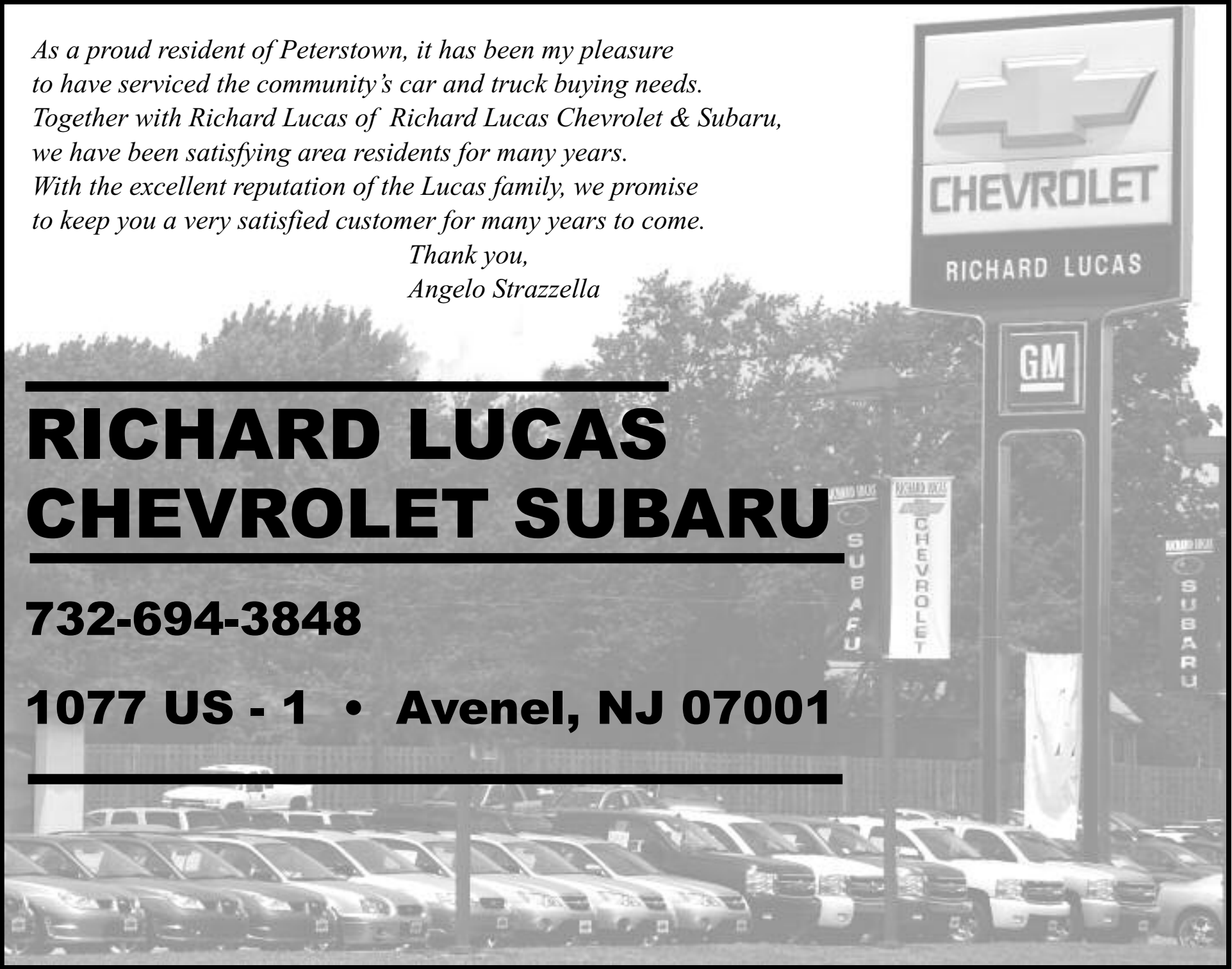
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A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT ELIZABETH

Rich Koziol is a native of Linden but he has Elizabeth blood running through his veins. His father, John, was born in Elizabeth on Little Smith Street, in a neighborhood known as Relocated Bayway. The street is no longer there, a casualty from when the Goethals Bridge was built in the late 1920s. He went on to live on Franklin Street near Marshal in the Frog Hollow section of town and then to Richmond Street in Bayway. John moved to Keep Street in Linden after marrying his wife Helen Haligowski.

Even though Rich, born in 1960, was raised in Linden he knew a lot about Elizabeth through his dad and Elizabeth piqued his interest in local history. His father managed two fast pitch softball teams in the 1940s and 50s, The Bayway Eagles and The Dows.

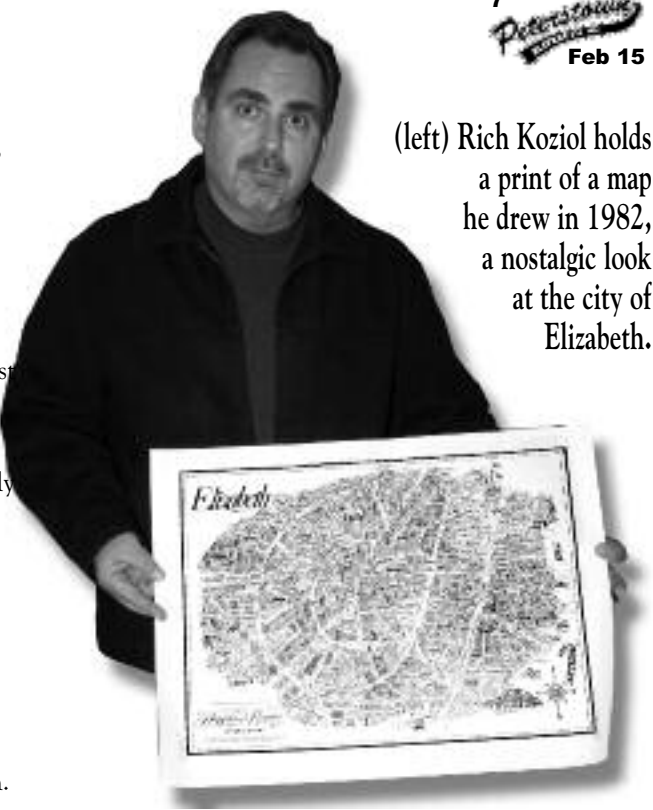
Rich is a graduate of Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts and was working at his first job at the now defunct Galligar Advertising in Westfield, NJ when the idea to draw a nostalgic map of Elizabeth was developed by owner Pat Galligar and his friend and client Eddie Bonner of Bonner and Higgins Funeral Home. The home was located in the Westminster section of Elizabeth.

The year was 1982 when Rich, fresh out of art school, was given the task of drawing the picture. An assignment he whole-heartedly accepted, it combined his love of art

and history. Rich spent about three months researching iconic Elizabeth landmarks, well known businesses, old and new, neighborhoods and points of interest. He spent a lot of time in the library and talking to folks who knew local lore, of course his father was included.

Rich spent a whole bunch of time in his car driving from block to block, pulling over to sketch a particular building. His suspicious behavior would attract the interest of the local police but after a few outings the force knew who he was and didn't need to bother him. The original pen and ink drawing was 40" x 30" and the Elizabeth Daily Journal printed it as a double-truck advertisement (two-page spread) to announce its creation. It made such impact with readers, that people were saving the paper's edition and wondering if prints were available. Higgins and Bonner had the map printed on 24" x 18" stock suitable for framing.

The maps are still in circulation and can be seen hanging on the walls of many businesses around Elizabeth. It is a great legacy for Koziol. The map showcases his talent and is a fine representation of the great things about Elizabeth. The drawing commingles images and facts from different eras into one time plane. A viewer can spend hours looking at the intricate details of the map.



(left) Rich Koziol holds a print of a map he drew in 1982, a nostalgic look at the city of Elizabeth.

See a reproduction of Rich Koziol's map on pages 8 and 9..

RICH KOZIOL

Rich and his wife Kelly Anne have two sons, Jonathan and Matthew, and reside in his native Linden, NJ where he served as councilman for three terms from 2004 to 2013. He was a member of the Linden Board of Education for three terms also, from 1995 to 2004, a commissioner on the Zoning Board of Adjustment from 1993 to 1995 and co-founder of Linden Society for Historic Preservation, with Lauren Pansurak Yeats.

Rich is a Linden City historian, he volunteers with the PTA and is a Boy Scouts of America trained leader. He currently works as the Creative Director at Turchette Agency in Fairfield, NJ.

JOHN KOZIOL, A.K.A. MR. ELIZABETH

John Koziol was known by many as "Mr. Elizabeth." He forged long lasting friendships with folks from the various neighborhoods that he lived in, with classmates and as coach for fast-pitch softball teams.

John graduated Jefferson High School and served during WWII in the CBI (China, Burma, India) Theater in the Engineering Corps. In the 70's, 80's and 90's, he organized yearly "Bayway Reunions." These social events

were for celebrating and remembering the families, businesses and history of the Bayway section of Elizabeth.

He became involved in the Elizabeth fast-pitch softball leagues of the late 40's and early 50's after returning from the war. He managed the Bayway Eagles and the Dows, playing games in Mattano Park and Drotar Field, and had great competition with the teams of the day from Singers, Phelps Dodge, Thomas & Betts, etc.



(above) John and Helen Koziol



(left) John Koziol (Second from right), with his two brothers, (far left) Matthew Koziol and (right) Frank Koziol in Elizabethport circa 1939.

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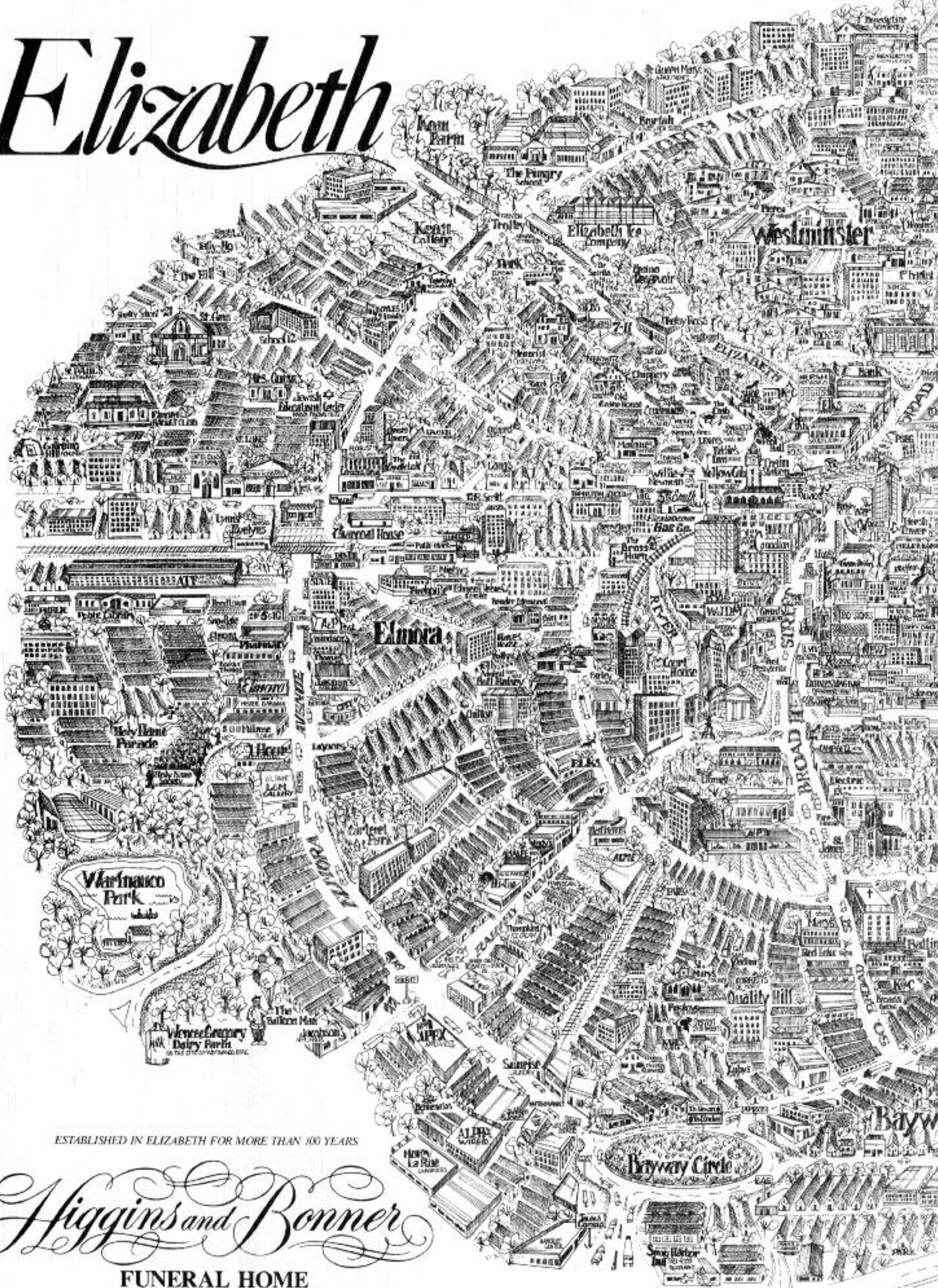
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(below) Illustration of a nostalgic look at Elizabeth by Rich Koziol, 1982.

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FUNERAL HOME

A nostalgic view of Elizabeth, commissioned by Edward J. Bonner
as a tribute to Richard J. Higgins, a true lover of Elizabeth and its lore.





(above, l-r) Owners of Shaan's Deli and Mart, formerly JoAnne's Luncheonette, Harpreet Singh and wife Satvir Kaur.

(above, l-r) Navpreet Kaur with Marie Pasko stand behind a wall of lottery tickets.

(right, r-l) Marie shows Satvir the ins and outs of working the kitchen as a short-order cook.



JOANNE'S LUNCHEONETTE CLOSES BUT LEAVES 34 YEARS OF MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

JoAnne and her husband Joe DeVito opened the luncheonette JoAnne's in 1980 along with her sister Nancy and her husband Joe DeMarco. After 34 years the family sold the shop to new owners. JoAnne's was truly a family business with three generations working behind the counter. It was also the quintessential neighborhood eatery where the customers were treated like family as well.

JoAnne's was located on the corner of Third Avenue and Loomis Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. The family catered to the Italian-American community mixing homemade Italian dishes with the regular Americana breakfast and lunch menu. The family specialized in baking and made cakes, cookies and pastries for parties.

JoAnne and Nancy passed the shop down to their children Marie and Phyllis DeMarco, who continued the tradition of being an integral part of the community. The luncheonette was a place for both nutritional and social sustenance. In a way it was the family's living room where they invited loved ones to share the holidays, celebrate birthdays, and mourn together following a wake. The families opened their doors to new neighbors;

they hosted a bible study group and the Neighborhood Watch group. They stayed open during emergencies to accommodate first responders and displaced residents with food and shelter, even cooking by candle light during the power outage following hurricane Sandy.


As of October 23, 2014, the luncheonette has new owners and a new name. Shaan's Deli and Mart looks slightly different. Gone are the good-humored knick-knacks and chachkies that accumulated over the decades and adorned the walls and shelves. Added was a full display of ice cream and a deli section.

New owners Harpreet Singh and wife Satvir Kaur show the same warmth towards the customers that JoAnne's was known for. Many people know Harpreet already because he has owned the gas station, Power Gas, just two blocks away on the corner of Fifth Avenue and South 5th Street, for the last 10 years. Satvir's sister-in-law Navpreet also works at Shaan's. Harpreet came from India in 2001 and wears the religious headgear associated with his Sikhism.

Customers may notice a change in appearance but not the food. Marie and Phyllis have been involved during the transition and continue to cook breakfast and lunch the way the regulars like them. Satvir is learning the nuances of everyone's tastes.

The deli and mart section includes Boar's s Head meat, ice cream, shakes and smoothies, pizza, fried chicken and a line of Broaster Express grab 'n' go appetizers.

The Peterstown community wishes Marie, Phyllis and their family all the best for the future and a sincere thank you for the generosity and care they showed to their customers and neighbors. It is an end of an era.

Good luck to Hapreet and Satvir, much success. 



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VICKI REFLECTS UPON THE CLOSING OF HER FAMILY’S BUSINESS

I took off from my job at WBG0 88.3 FM that Friday in October. Like going to a wake, I was ready to pay my respects and say good-bye. T-shirt and jeans on, ready for work, I tucked a bottle of wine under my arm and headed to the luncheonette. Familiar faces were waiting; some also took off from work to make special trips out for one more slice of banana cream pie, one more grilled cheese with the lunch crew, or one more dose of good old-fashion ribbing from Marie behind the grill.

At JoAnne's...they always knew how you take your coffee..or that you preferred tea. They sculpted such a perfect looking cake for your family celebration, you didn't even want to cut it...but you're glad you did because it tasted amazing. Lisa kept track of your dietary restrictions, and actually made you stick to them. She also was an adopted member of our family but insisted she was the "red-headed step child". Visiting the luncheonette always made you feel like you were visiting family.

I took some photos in between helping out at the register and tried to appreciate and capture my last moments there. Standing behind the counter, I reached down to grab something from a shelf when one of our regulars locked eyes with me and said, “This place is something special, I don’t know what I will do without it.” I quickly looked down, nodding in agreement and quietly made my way to the rest room to dry my newly formed tears. I could not tell you what I was going to miss most about JoAnne’s, but yes- it indeed was a very special place.

The luncheonette was an institution of the neighborhood. Some customers would come in for breakfast and lunch every day, and come back later to pick up dinner on the way home. When something happened in the neighborhood during the night. whether it was a power outage, a big accident or storm...JoAnne's would open with coffee for the responding crews. When everyone else was closed during Hurricane Sandy, they stayed open cooking by candle light. JoAnne's was the kind of place that if you forgot your wallet at home and didn’t know how you would pay for lunch, you were told to just come back and pay for it another day. Marie and "A Team/ 6 am crew” gave you a much needed laugh on your way to work and the smile continued when you found the little note on your lunch containers left by the ladies.

The place was a shrine of memories from childhood birthdays, family holiday dinners, and loved ones who passed away. Much like the bar "Cheers," the family at JoAnne's made everyone feel welcome. More importantly, I was proud that we often gave back to the community that embraced us. Whether it was donating baked goods to charity events, opening our doors to community groups' meetings, or hosting school groups of kids with special needs for field trips; customers always knew the luncheonette's love reached beyond its kitchen doors.

When I asked my mom Phyllis, “What’s the most important thing you want people to know about the luncheonette?” she said, “How much we loved meeting everyone, and adding so many of them to our family.”

At the end of this last day at JoAnne's, I popped open the bottle of wine to share with the family, that included our extended luncheonette family. We made a toast... to all the memories, to the customers we called family and finally blessings to new beginnings. For the umpteenth time that day, I shed many tears.

Now there is a new family at "the store". We wish them the very best, as we welcome them in our hearts and through the doors of Shann's. 🍷



(above, seated l-r) Marie (DeMarco) Pasko, Victor and Phyllis (DeMarco) Fernandez, Marie’s daughter Beverly DaSilva. (standing, l-r) Cedric Johnson, fiancé of Vicki Fernandez, and Beverly’s son Brandon and husband Tony DaSilva.

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Indian Samosa

INGREDIENTS

Pastry

2 cups all purpose Flour	1 tsp Carom Seeds
4 tbsp Oil	Salt as desired
5-6 tbsp Water	(I added 3/4 tsp salt)
(Add 5 tbsp and 1 tsp water)	Oil for deep frying

Stuffing

3 medium sized Potatoes	1/2 tsp Cumin Seeds
3/4 to 1 cup Green Peas	1/4 tsp Red Chili Powder
1 Green Chili and 1/2 inch	1 pinch of Asafoetida
Ginger crushed to a coarse	1/2 tbsp Oil
paste in a mortar and pestle	Salt as desired

Whole spices to be ground

1/2 tsp Fennel Seeds	2 Black Peppercorns
1 tsp Coriander Seeds	1 Clove
2 tsp dry Pomegranate Seeds	1 Green Cardamom
or 1 tsp dry Mango powder	1/2 tsp Cumin
1/4 inch Cinnamon	

PREPARATION

Pastry

1. Take the flour, carom seeds, salt in a bowl. mix well and add oil.
2. With your fingertips rub the oil in the flour to get a breadcrumb like consistency.
3. The whole mixture should clamp together when joined.
4. Add 1 or 2 tbsp water.
5. Begin to knead adding water as required.
6. Knead to a firm dough. cover the dough with a moistened napkin and keep aside for 30-40 mins.

Stuffing

1. Boil the potatoes and peas till are cooked completely.
2. Peel the boiled potatoes and chop them into small cubes
3. Dry roast all the whole spices mentioned in the above list till fragrant.
4. Once cooled, grind them in a dry grinder or coffee grinder to a fine powder.
5. Heat oil in a pan.
6. Add the cumin seeds and crackle them.
7. Add the ginger-green chili paste.
8. Saute till the raw aroma of ginger goes away.
9. Add the peas, red chili powder, the freshly ground spice powder and Asafoetida.
10. Stir and saute on a low flame for 1-2 minutes
11. Add the potato cubes and saute for 2-3 minutes with frequent stirring.
12. Keep the filling aside to cool.

NOTES

Many times samosa is served with fried green chilies. Slit the green chilies keeping it whole. Shallow fry them and later sprinkle some salt and mix. You can also sprinkle some mango powder.

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Recipes

Palak Paneer

INGREDIENTS

Palak Puree

200 to 250 grams fresh Spinach/Palak, about 7 to 9 oz Spinach	1/2 inch Ginger, roughly chopped
1 or 2 Green Chilies, chopped	3 cups water for blanching Spinach
1 or 2 small to medium Garlic, roughly chopped	3 cups Water for ice bath

Palak Curry

1 small to medium sized Onion, finely chopped,	1 small to medium indian Bay Leaf
About 1/3 cup finely chopped onion	200 to 250 gms Paneer or Tofu,
1 small or medium sized tomato, chopped,	About 7 to 9 oz Cottage Cheese
About 1/3 cup finely chopped Tomatoes	1/3to 1/2 cup Water or add as required
4 to 5 small to medium Garlic finely chopped	1 or 2 tbsp Cream, low fat 25% to 35%
1/4 or 1/2 tsp Garam Masala powder (add more if desired)	2 tbsp oil
1/2 tsp Cumin seeds	1 tsp dry Fenugreek leaves
1/4 tsp Turmeric powder	Salt as desired
1/2 tsp Red Chili powder	A pinch of Asafoetida

Garnish

A few teaspoons of Cream or Butter	1/2 inch Ginger, julienned
for topping the Palak Paneer	Lemon slices

PREPARATION

Spinich Puree

1. Rinse the palak or spinach leaves very well in running water. tender stem are fine. if the stems are stringy, then discard the stems.
2. Boil 3 cups water in a pan or microwave add 1/4 tsp salt to the hot water and stir. then add the palak leaves in the hot water. close with a lid and let the palak leaves sit in the water for 2-3 mins.
3. Strain the palak leaves.
4. Immediately add the palak or spinach leaves in a pan containing ice cold water. this method helps in preserving the green color of the spinach. just add 8 to 10 ice cubes to 3 cups water to get cold water. allow the spinach leaves to be in the cold water for a minute or two.
5. Then drain the ice cold water. add the spinach in a blender with chopped ginger, garlic and green chilies.
6. Make a smooth palak puree. no need to add water while making the puree. keep the spinach puree aside.

Palak Curry

1. Heat oil in a pan.
2. Add the cumin and let them splutter.
3. Then add the bay leaf.
4. Add the finely chopped onions. saute till the onions become golden.
5. Then add the finely chopped garlic. saute till the raw aroma of garlic goes away. no need to brown the garlic.
6. Add the chopped tomatoes. stir and saute the tomatoes till they soften.
7. Once the tomatoes are softened and you see fat releasing from the sides of the mixture. then add the turmeric powder, red chili powder and asafoetida.
8. Stir very well.
9. Then add the palak puree.
10. Stir well.
11. Add about 1/3 to 1/2 cup water or as required. stir again.
12. Simmer for 6-7 minutes or more till the palak or spinach is cooked. Season with salt. The gravy or sauce will also thicken by now.
13. Stir and add garam masala powder.
14. Stir again and then add the paneer/cottage cheese cubes.
15. Stir gently and simmer on a low flame till the paneer cubes become soft and succulent. about 1 to 2 minutes.
16. Lastly add cream. stir gently again so that the cream gets incorporated in the palak paneer gravy uniformly. switch off the flame.
17. Stir and serve the palak paneer hot with some naan or rice. you can top the palak paneer with some butter or cream also while serving. also drizzle a few drops of lime or lemon juice on top along with ginger julienne.

NOTES

The paneer of tofu cubes can be also be lightly fried and then added to the curry. In this case, you don't need to cook the paneer or tofu in the gravy as when frying they are already cooked.

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

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in the Peterstown

Newspaper that calls for

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A TREE GROWS IN PETERSTOWN

In the 1930s, Philomenia and Rocco Crandelino purchased three homes on Fourth Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. Their daughter Mary Tito Candelino spent forty-nine years in one home at 808 Fourth Avenue and then fifteen across the street in 811. When Mary died in 1988, her grandson Dan Balko planted a tree in her memory on the property. Twenty-six years later the Blue Spruce stands at 50-feet tall. It was used for an official Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on December 15, 2014.

The event was planned by 6th Ward Councilman Frank O. Mazza and Mayor Chris Bollwage. It featured a horse drawn wagon ride, hot chocolate, DJ music, and a visit from Santa Clause.

Philomenia and Rocco lived at 811 Fourth Avenue as did their daughters Mary Candelino and Ann Tito after them. Mary had two other siblings, Francis Palermo, and John Tito. Mary's daughter Minnie lives there presently.

Minnie was joined by her sister Josephine in an emotional tribute to their mother. They also memorialized their younger brother Rocco who had passed away. They were joined by their children, nieces and nephews.

The dedication of the tree was very special to Minnie, who at 90-years-old is almost totally blind. She did see the glow of the lights and the smiling faces of the neighbors who came out to share in the moment.

(right, l-r) Josephine Balko, Trudy Carpignano, Minnie Candelino, Leanora Tito Hearther, Karen Dragon, Lenore Grubman and Dan Balko.



Photo from this and other events can be viewed, shared, & downloaded on-line at RennaMedia.com

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QUIETLY MAKING NOISE IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Bob Travisano was born in 1946 and started playing music when he was just four years old when he began taking accordion lessons at the John Bastardo Music Studio. The studio was located on South 5th Street, just a few blocks from where Bob lived in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Many of the neighborhood youth were taught by Mr. Bastardo; Bob was one of the rare students that were blessed with special talent.

There was something innate in Bob's ability to understand and play music. He had what is known in the music industry as perfect pitch, meaning he had the ability to recognize the pitch of a note or to produce any given note. He was also able to sight read, which meant he can play any piece by reading the sheet music. Bob also had an impeccable ability to remember tunes and can play a countless number of songs by memory.

Bob showed his skills at a very young age and would practice all the time. His favorite place to practice was in the stairwell of his home at 316 Loomis Street. The sound from his accordion would echo through the halls and sound full and loud. He remembers playing his accordion upside down but doesn't remember why he did

it that way.

Travisano was also proficient at playing the piano and organ and had his first professional gig at the age of twelve. It was the wedding of a neighbor, Anthony "Hippy" Calavano, at the Elks Club in Elizabeth. His band's name was The Monterey's and included Dr. Richard "Buddy" Misella on guitar, Kenny Destpheno on the drums and Rich Centalanza on the saxophone. Rich went on to be one of the premier woodwind musicians in the country.

The high school years were a lot of fun for Bob, playing with friends and in several bands. He played with the Mariano Brothers, Tom and Dan, in a band called The Kingsmen. They played regularly at the Elks Club and at high school dances as well at local lounges like Jake LaBrutto's La Stanza Club, and Jack's Mali Bar.

The Kingsmen had a local following but his next band, Robin and the Hoods, began playing bigger venues in other towns. He and band mates were still in their teens when they were playing places like the Roxy and the famous Silhouette in Bloomfield, New Jersey. It was there that he first met Frankie Valli who was just breaking out. Their musical paths would cross throughout their careers.

At sixteen Bob teamed up with Emanuel Giacobbe, known more by his stage name Nino Rossano. Nino was born in Ribera, Sicily and met Bob in Elizabeth when he came to America. Bob became a sought after keyboard player and started traveling with Joey Dee and the

Starliters. He also played with Felix Cavallieri and The Young Rascals. He was just barely out of high school, Thomas Jefferson class of 64, and was traveling all over the United States and Europe.

One of the most memorable moments came in 1961 when he was just fifteen. He was finishing as the opening act at The Beachcomber in Seaside Heights, New Jersey and the crowd was waiting for the Beach Boys to take the stage. They weren't able to take the stage because their organ player Daryl Dragon missed his flight from California. Bob got up all his nerve and offered to sit in. The Beach Boys were skeptical that he could do the job and not because of his age, his experience wasn't in question, it was because there was no sheet music. It was all with Dragon in California. Bob calmly explained to their manager that he knew everyone of their songs by memory and could play without the sheet music. He filled in and the show went on without skipping a beat.

Over the years, Bob has written, arranged, performed and recorded with Joey Dee and the Starlighters, Little Anthony and the Imperials, The Young Rascals, The Cascades, Vito and the Salutations, and legendary saxophonist King Curtis. His musical journeys included working with many notable producers. He is listed on the credits of hundreds of albums.

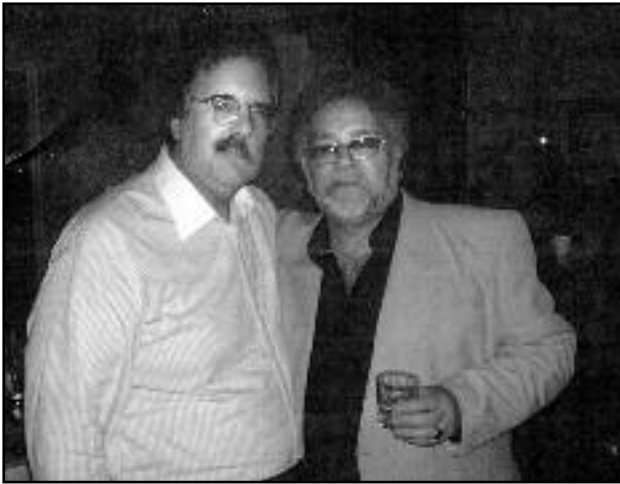
Bob was never one for the limelight and after getting married in 1969 he took a more structured approach to working, he cut out the traveling and played local social events so he could spend time raising his family.



(above) The Valentinos (front, l-r) Don Syntak, Andy Cortese, Joey Campione. (back, l-r) Bob Travisano, Ronnie Rodgers, Ralph Guida.



(above, l-r) Robin and the Hoods, Benny (Buddy Troy) Lamanna, Bob Travisano, Tommy Orsini, Frank Sicoli, and Ralph Guida at the famous Silhouette.



(above) Bob Travisano celebrating his sixtieth birthday with Larry Chance of Larry Chance and the Earls.

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BOB TRAVISANO SURROUNDED BY MEMORIES

(right) Bob Travisano sits at his piano in his den surrounded by memorabilia from decades on the road with national acts that originated from New Jersey and New York.



(left) 10-inch drum head signed by all four of The 4 Seasons Band, Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Nick Massi, and Tommy DeVito from 1966.



(right) A signed framed copy of the Young Rascals' album cover share Bob's den walls with The Earls, Little Anthony, Vito and the Salutations, and The Federmen.



(above) Bob playing accordion with the Mummers in the Philadelphia's New Year's Day Parade in 1963.



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(Above) CD jacket of Travisano's latest CD For Those We Love.

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