



THE DARKEST DAY IN THE BURG

The 1974 Fourth of July celebration in Peterstown ended in a melee that resulted in arrests, damaged patrol cars, and both police and civilians being sent to the hospital. Sorting out the cause and affixing blame was as confusing as the fracas itself. A rally ensued, the voice of the people was heard and level heads prevailed.

Residents of Peterstown celebrated the Fourth of July in 1974 as they had in years past, a cookout in School 3 playground, live music from local bands and fireworks in the evening. Except this year an attempt by police to halt the fireworks escalated out of control and ended in a melee.

The Peterstown section of Elizabeth was predominantly Italian-American. It was a desirable neighborhood with a reputation of being safe. Residents had a strong sense of civic pride and effectively took care of problems before they required official intervention. The community always enjoyed an amicable relationship with the city administration and police. The reaction from the community was one of shock that something like this could have happened in their neighborhood.

There was no indication that a clash was about to erupt that Thursday evening. The holiday was no different than any other year. Always without incident, always safe and organized. O'Brien Field, the park's name, is one square block located in the center of Peterstown. The park is gated with entrances at the corners and two in the center of the long street sides. It was split-level with a softball field on the lower half. As dusk approached the field would clear, and an estimated 250 people would move to the outside of the fence or up the hill. The infield would be used to stage the fireworks display. As in years past there was never a large police presence; maybe one or two patrolmen, usually from the neighborhood, would be present. The bombs would be set off until the supply was out and everyone would go home. The Fourth of July celebration was not a product of an organization. It was planned and produced by residents ranging from 20 to 35 years of age.

The fireworks were not those that most people relate to. These were not expensive pyrotechnics that would light up the sky. These were Firecrackers, Cherry Bombs, Ash Cans, M-80's and Block Busters, a lot of big noise but not much to see. Everything was going along smoothly until police arrived with riot gear and a police dog. The initial account of what happened focused on a single police officer who was on the scene alone. The facts surrounding his call for backup and the force that was used when it arrived was the subject of inconclusive debates.

Questions remain as to whether or not a cherry bomb was hurled in the policeman's direction, and did the officer feel threatened or was he threatening. But what happened next is of no doubt. A squad of about six policemen with a K-9 tried to disperse the crowd and send everyone home. It was a request that was unenforceable and, in hindsight, not practical. The crowd ran the gamut from children to seniors. Trying to put together a concerted exodus from the field and back to their homes was impossible. Most people in other parts of the park were unaware that a confrontation was brewing. Those involved were the young group of guys setting off the fireworks.

Relationships between youth and authority were at a low point in America. Protest was the tool of the movements against the Viet Nam War and for civil rights. Friction between the youth movement and the establishment was an undercurrent in the American culture. People fighting for liberty; government trying to maintain control. What happened in the Burg that night was a perfect storm of both attitudes clashing.

The facts are ugly and undeniable. Two radio cars were damaged, thirteen police officers and four civilians were hospitalized, and crowds were maced regardless of age. Children and seniors suffered burns from a liberal use of the chemical spray, a new weapon in the police arsenal. Bystanders were indiscriminately hit with billy clubs and pushed around. The actions by the police enraged the group of organizers and they retaliated with force. More police arrived and six arrests were made.

By the time the dust settled, the neighborhood was in shock and disbelief. Burned skin, bruises and broken glass were harsh reminders of the evening. Frank D'Antico, a city employee who supervised the park, was nursing four stitches to his head. It was the result of a policeman hitting him as he tried to talk with him. The vivid memories for the older folks was not the physical abuse but the verbal abuse. Reports of police using ethnic slurs and taunts were universal; an additional wrinkle to add to the mayhem.

Mayor Tom Dunn responded immediately. He situated himself and staff in Spirito's restaurant a block away from the action. The mayor was upset and took full responsibility, promising to conduct a complete investigation. He called on community leaders to sit with him. Joe Ferrara was a respected community leader who tried to mitigate the situation to no avail. The storm outside subsided as Ferrara and Dunn discussed what action the city would take to remedy the situation.

The following week saw an ebb and flow of emotions from the community and police. A rally was held on Sunday, an opportunity for victims to vent and rant. Demands included a public response from the city. Mayor Dunn attended, as well as councilmen representing the community. Dunn gave his word that he would work with the community and find justice. Ferrara spoke on behalf of the community. Both men were sincere and trustworthy and the crowd accepted the offer.

Over the next few days, after a gathering of facts and private discussions between the mayor and community leaders, the ugly incident was put to rest. An official report was compiled by Officer Joe Scisione, but one wasn't needed. There was legitimate blame on both sides. The important thing was not to compound the negative energy unleashed by this anomaly and move on.

After a week the story disappeared from the newspapers. Nary a mention of it has been heard since. Future Fourth of July celebrations continued as usual and almost four decades have passed. It was so out of character for something like that to happen in Peterstown that the story seems more like myth than fact..



(above) Adel LaBrutto, Mayor Tom Dunn and Joe Ferrara on stage at Fourth of July rally.



(above, l-r) Vince Feminella's photo of a bloodied Frankie Duane being consoled by Carmine Corsentino.



June 12

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Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

PHOTOS OF 1974 JULY 4TH MELEE AND RALLY



Photos by Vince Feminella



President's Message



I really have no time to write something this month and in a way that tells you that there are a ton of events going on. Marciante's, fundraisers, the Mayoral election, the grammar School Fashion Show, Graduation, the Domino's reunion, and I can go on and on. it seems that there is an event every night. And thats a good thing. No one does parties better then this neighborhood. I'm going to end it here and get some sleep.

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God bless,

John F. Sacco
John Sacco, President
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

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everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

The code we lived by held emotions in check. It was also the reason that the Burg had a reputation of being the safest neighborhood in the city. The residents were so tightly knit that everyone regarded each other as family. My mother would watch over my friends as their mothers would watch over me. The idea of disrespecting someone's parents or sister was not even thought of. There was a calm and peacefulness in walking the streets and seeing women on their stoop, kids running around, and men playing cards in the clubs. There was never a worry of being a victim. We didn't lock our doors and you were safe after dark.

There was something different about that night that didn't follow the code.

No one ever really knew who said what first but there was an argument brewing. Which of the guys from the Burg was first to engage the officer is still not known. What's known for sure was that the confrontation was off script.

The one thing that was clear to those involved was that there was not one officer that anyone recognized. The perception was that the conflict was calculated and ethnically motivated. The police who were present were

I couldn't figure out the police's end game. At one point, I was standing out of the way with my friends and one cop rushed past us just spraying us in the face. Man, did that burn. I couldn't see for a while and my eyes teared all night. But I noticed that everyone was sprayed no matter what age or gender. I said to myself "This is nuts."

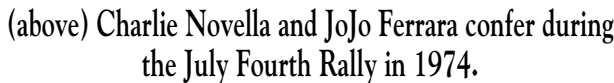
Police Director Joe Brennan described it as “a humane weapon that stings and momentarily suppresses the victim’s desire to breathe and consequently disables.”

The saddest part of the night was to see Frank D'Antico get hurt. Frankie Duane, his pro fighting name, was our park counselor. He worked for the recreation department of the City and supervised the park and got us supplied with Knock Hockey and other games to play. He hung out with us all day. He was 54 at the time. Frankie was talking to an officer when another came by and just clocked him on the head. He needed four stitches. We found his bloodied baseball cap in the park the next morning.

One by one girls and guys recited the abuse they suffered. Some parents spoke and then Jo Jo Ferarra, who served as our spokesman. Our councilmen were present: Angelo Paternostre, Pat Riccio, and Nick Soriano. Mayor Dunn addressed the crowd also.

Ferrara and Dunn both praised the Elizabeth Police Department though both condemned any officer that abused his power. “No Jive, Want 205” resonated throughout the crowd that filled center field. That was the badge number of the one officer who all agreed was the most aggressive.

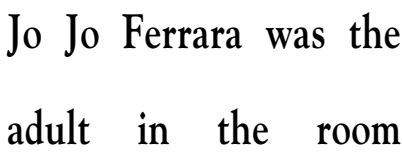
The rally had the effect of a big valve opening and letting steam jet out. The mayor and Ferarra left agreeing to work things out. after a few days everything was quiet and back in order. There was a lot of blame to go around.



I agree that what happened was the result of rogue cops who had no idea how to handle the situation; put into a position to prove themselves. It may have been just an issue of a bruised ego.

Charges of police brutality and the plight of those arrested were quietly settled. One thing was for sure: something like this was never going to happen again. I hesitated writing about this because it was such a negative thing. But since most of what I write in this newspaper is oral history that has the potential being lost, I thought it was important.

This thing was just plain wrong. I can only imagine what a quagmire this could have turned into, with no winners in the end. However, level heads prevailed. What a stark contrast to today's so called community activists who are nothing more than rabble rousers. Whatever happened during those negotiations should be in the textbook on diplomacy. 🇺🇸



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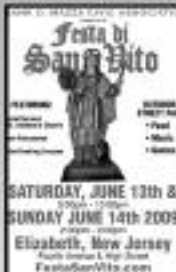
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PRE 40TH REUNION REUNION WAS A BLUR

St. Anthony's eighth-grade class of 1973 got together for a mini-reunion on Friday, April 28, at Michelino's Restaurant in Elizabeth. The event, put together by Nancy Malta and Lisa Gervase Colletti, was an overwhelming success. Some of the attendees hadn't seen each other since graduation but we seemed to pick up right where we left off – talking and laughing as if we were in eighth grade again and Sister Agatha was waiting for us after lunch with another science lesson.

About a quarter of the class attended what we hope was a precursor to our 40th anniversary of graduating from SAS in 2013. Hopefully, more will turn out next year. The general agreement about this year's get-together was this: Food and drink were excellent, but the company was even better. 📷

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Not for Nothing But...

I know every phone can
take a picture, does
anyone bring a camera to
an event anymore?

• • • • •



(above, back row, l-r) Maria Fiorillo Seemon, Lisa Gervase Colelletti, Henrietta Rugani Pozyc, Anthony Pugliese, Tom Nascondiglio, Tommy Guiliano, Barbara Miglioccio Knapp, Paul Sullivan, Frank Verde, Angelo Fiorillo.
(front row, l-r) Ann Marie Guiliano DiGregorio, Lynn Nardone, Nancy Malta, Angel Saraceno Toma, Divina Gabriel Spill and Cindy Calavano Bellino.



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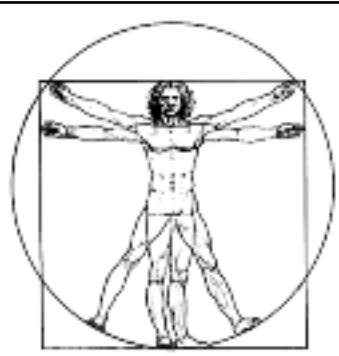
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PAUL AND RUTH PARTAZANA CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Former Peterstown residents Paul and Ruth Partazana happily celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 24, 2012. Paul and Ruth were born and raised in Elizabeth, NJ, and they currently reside in Toms River, NJ.

Paul and Ruth first met at Grover Cleveland Middle School, where they attended the eighth-grade dance and have been happily together ever since. During their years together, they were only apart when Paul served three years in the U.S. Army. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Paul joined the Elizabeth Police Department, which he proudly served for thirty years. Ruth previously worked for the Elizabeth Board of Education and Clear Venture, Inc. Paul was also the president of the Elizabeth Police Union (PBA Local #4) for 20 years.

They raised their four children (Janet, Debbie, Paul and John) in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, where they all attended St. Anthony's Grammar School and Elizabeth High School.

Paul and Ruth are actively enjoying their retirement years with their four married children and 14 grandchildren, all of whom reside in the New Jersey area.



(above, l-r) The Partazana family John, Debbie, Ruth, Paul, Janet and Paul.

(right) Paul and Ruth Partazana on thier wedding day February 24, 1962.



(above, l-r) Paul and Ruth Partazana's *Children and grandchildren, Theresa, Anthony, Alex and *Paul Partazana; John Michael, Robyn, *John, Miranda and Isabella Partazana; Mike, Michael, *Janet, Paul, Billy, Stephen, and John Caruso; Luciano, *Debbie, Antonio, Tony, and Angelica Spirito.
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Carl Corsentino



(above, l-r) Carl Corsentino, with his wife Pat and father Carmelo, holds a silver dollar that he is about to bury in the foundation during the construction of his funeral home in 1961.



(above, l-r) Carmelo and Mary Corsentino.

(below) Carmelo was very proud of being a “Doughboy” and fighting for America. A photo of his unit from Fort Dix, New Jersey hangs on Carl’s office wall, along with his commemorative flag (right)

CARL CORSENTINO LOOKS BACK WITH PRIDE ON HIS 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Corsentino Funeral Homes opened its doors in June 1962 on the corner of Second Avenue and John Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. It was the career venture of Carl Corsentino, who considers it an honor to have served his community for the past 50 years.

Carl pauses to think of the number of families he assisted in their most difficult of times, how many hands he shook or tears he wiped. The number cannot be calculated, considering the number of funerals he has facilitated over 50 years and the number of visitors to his funeral home for each one. Though the number is large, Carl feels a personal relationship with every family he helped. He believes it is a deep sign of respect that someone would choose him in their time of need. It’s a privilege for him to do the job and he holds his duty sacred. Carl stresses dedication, dignity and respect and says, “We serve every family as our own.”

The funeral business is not an easy path to follow. When Carl opened his business there were several homes operating in the Peterstown neighborhood already: Mastapeter’s, Scutro’s and Petruccelli’s. Starting a business is tough and it took a lot of hard work and the loving support of his family for Carl to succeed. Over time he became one of the most admired directors.

Carl’s motivation as a funeral director is his sincere desire to help others. He truly loves the community and considers Peterstown an extension of his family. His father, Carmelo, who was born in 1895, came to America from Ribera, Sicily, when he was 16 years old. He worked on the railroads for one year before being drafted to fight in France during World War I. He settled in Peterstown after the war and retired from working in the Standard Oil Refinery. He was 100 years old when he passed away. Carl’s mother, Mary (nee Colletti), was also from Ribera and living in Elizabeth when she met and married

Carmelo. Carl was born and raised in the house he still lives in.

The funeral home is located next to his home in a beautiful building that was custom built for his business. His parents encouraged and supported his career and sacrificed to see their son succeed. Carl was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and worked as a laborer after graduation in 1953. He married a local gal, Patricia Sullivan, in 1956. She was a graduate of St. Mary’s High School.

A family friend suggest that Carl pursue a career as a funeral director. Carl is very intelligent but was not a good student in high school. His guidance counselor told him he was enrolled in the Buck Rogers Course, meaning he was taking up space. After he was married and had a taste of being a laborer, Carl was ready to apply himself and enrolled in the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service.

Carl graduated the course in December of 1957 and worked at several funeral homes as an apprentice until he received his license in 1961. The new funeral home was built and Carl opened its doors in June of 1962.

It would take nine months before Carl signed his first funeral. Most of his initial customers were friends looking for discounts, but today pricing is regulated. Carl had a big heart and he says he was an easy mark. The early years were lean and there were times when he wondered if the business was going to make it. But with the support of his wife and parents he stuck to it, worked hard to build a reputation, and soon became very popular.

It has now been 50 years and Carl looks back with pride; happy and content with what he has accomplished. He is most pleased with having been a part of Peterstown his entire life, “God’s Acre,” as he calls it. He will never forget how wonderful it is.



(right, lower right) Close up of Carmelo (upper left) Carmelo’s pal Mariano Ciniglio from Peterstown.



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CARL INSPIRES CARLA

Carl and Pat Corsentino have a daughter, Pamala, who is a writer and works as an editor, a career that her parents are proud of. It came as a surprise when he was approached by Carla Sacco, who started asking him about his profession. Carl had no idea that he would be mentoring anyone, let alone Carla, who is the daughter of his dear friend John Sacco.

Carl never had an apprentice but he saw that Carla was serious and he in turn took her seriously. Carla says that it was Carl who inspired her to pursue the profession, for much the same reason that Carl did. As a young girl she was moved by how Carl worked with families. She attended wakes for neighbors and friends and even experienced his kindness firsthand when mourning members of her own family. She was impressed by his compassion and sincerity and thought that he really made a difference in people's lives. That impression never left her and she acted on the urge to become a funeral director.

Carla attended the same school as Carl did 50 years earlier. Though AAMI has a much different curriculum that it did a generation ago, it was still very demanding. Carla graduated in August of 2011. Carl, being an alum, was permitted to present Carla with her diploma.

Carla was an apprentice for Carl while she was earning her Degree in Funeral Service. She went on to pass her

national boards and is completing a one- to two-year internship that will culminate with an exam and observed performance in order to earn her license.

Carla enjoys science, which is a demand in this profession. More importantly, like Carl, she loves people, families and her community, though times have changed and Carla will be more versatile in her service. For the past five decades Corsentino's Funeral Home only needed to perform funerals within a limited scope of cultures, the majority being Italian Catholic. Carla is trained in numerous cultures and has already worked in several, from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Mormon, etc.

Corsentino's Funeral Home has a dedicated staff that has been together for over twenty years, a testament to Carl's good nature. Patricia Garron does the office work, Rosetta DiGiorgio is the cosmetologist and Joe Burrecci is Carl's assistant. Carl gives each of them credit for his longevity and success. He has now welcomed Carla into the family.

Carl is as exhilarated to teach Carla as she is enthused to learn. The trend in the industry is moving away from family owned, community-based funeral homes. While corporation-owned homes are moving away from personal service, Carla will offer a traditional service that can't be learned in a text book.



(above, l-r) Carl Corsentino presented and Carla Sacco with her diploma in Funeral Services in August 2011.

MEMORABLE EVENTS

Corsentino's has facilitated some funerals that were grand in scale. When asked which ones stand out over the past 50 years, owner Carl says he can recall all of them. No service was too small not to be important, but he did share memories of a few that were special.

He remembers his first funeral service in 1962, nine months after he opened his doors. The funeral in 1965 for Santo Tavormina was one of the biggest he ever did. It was a huge test for his 3-year-old business. Tavormina was a detective for the Elizabeth Police Department, and comrades from a wide area came to pay their last respects. Santo was also one of eleven children. Family and friends who came to visit were numerous.

Around the same time Carl was contacted by the Welfare Bureau to donate his services in burying a veteran who had no next of kin. Carl accepted the task without hesitation. He was sentimental about veterans, who reminded him of his father's service. To Carl's amazement, the soldier was a veteran of the 1898 Spanish American War. He was dressed in full regalia and laid to rest complete with feathered hat and sword. Carl gathered as many friends that he could to sit in mourning.

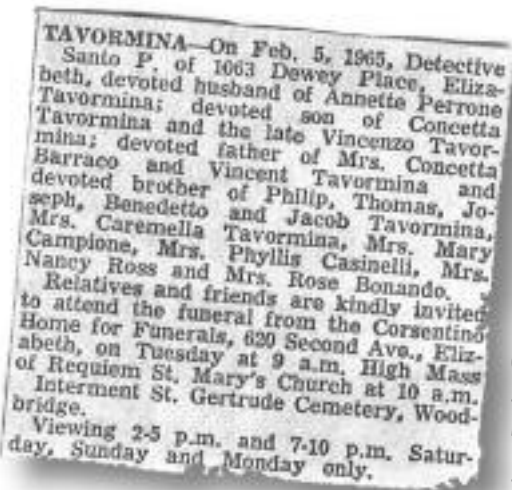
One of the saddest, most moving services at Corsentino's was the funeral for Cpl. Luigi Marciante Jr., and Elizabeth, NJ native who was killed in action on Sept. 20, 2007, in Iraq. The death transcended the community and brought a countless number of people together to pay their respects. Locally, the community said goodbye to a friend. For those who did not know him, they saluted a fallen hero.



(above) Corsentino's Funeral Homes serves as the starting point for the funeral procession of Louie Marciante. (photo album can be viewed at PeterstownNJ.com)



(above) Sample uniform from 1898 worn by a veteran reposed at Corsentino's in the 1960's.



(left) Obituary for Santo Tavormina from 1965.

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INSTALLATION OF 2012 OFFICERS AT THE JUNE 6, 2012 MEETING

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 2nd Vice PresidentJoe Chiari
 3rd Vice PresidentGeorge Marretta
 TreasurerPat Arena
 TreasurerPete Paolucci
 SecretaryAndrew Marcantonio
 Sergeant at ArmsPaul Rinaldi
 ChaplainDeacon Joe Caporaso



(above, l-r) Paul Rinaldi with scholarship recipient Lia Alexandra Ehrl-Corbo being handed the Brian Piccolo Award from UNICO District Gov. Bob Bengivenga.

UNICO AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO EIGHT STUDENTS

On Wednesday June 6, 2012, the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO awarded eight scholarships to deserving graduating high school students bound for college. The end of year celebratory dinner was held at Costa's Italian Restaurant in Roselle Park.

Awards are in recognition of superior scholarship, initiative and resourcefulness, a distinguished personality, outstanding leadership and the ability indicative of success in higher education. These individuals have demonstrated excellence in work performance and behaviors consistent with UNICAN values and contributions.

The objectives of UNICO are to promote and enhance the image of Italian Americans; for members to be of service to the community; to promote Italian heritage and culture; to promote, support and assist charitable, scientific, cultural, educational, and literary

projects; to promote members' interest in public welfare; and, to cooperate with others in civic, social and cultural development. Recipients were Matthew A. Borrelo, Lia Alexandra Ehrl-Corbo, Thomas Rocco DiPaola, Anthony Conte Markowitz, Brian P. Leary, Amanda DiGiorgio, Emily Grace Lubas, and Gina Maria Rodriguez.

The organization also used the event to introduce their selection for Citizen of the Year Vito Tropeano, an Elizabeth Police Detective. A Citizen of the Year Dinner is set for October 21, 2012 at 5:00pm at L'Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside, NJ.

The next meeting of UNICO will be September 5, 2012. Anyone interested in learning more about the organization, becoming a member, or attending the Dinner in October should contact Paul Rinaldi at 908-289-7979.



(above, l-r) UNICO Scholarship committee and recipients of 2012 awards: Emily Grace Lubas, Amanda DiGiorgio, Anthony Conte Markowitz, Deacon Joe Caporaso, Courtney Villani, Rocco DiPaola, Matthew A. Borrelo, Thomas Rocco DiPaola, Brian P. Leary, and Gina Maria Rodriguez.

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UNICO CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2012 VITO TROPEANO

Written by Josephine Vargas

Albert Einstein once said, “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.” Detective Vito Tropeano is no stranger to these words as he lives by them each and every day both as a son, husband, and father to his family and as a trusted friend and police detective to the community. Aside from his role as a father to his two children, he finds there is no job more fulfilling than of being of service to others.

It was his desire to help others that prompted his career in law enforcement with the Elizabeth Police Department (EPD) which began after he graduated from the Union County Police Academy in June 1991. During his more than 20 year tenure with the EPD, he has been assigned to a wide range of duties including the Walking Patrol Unit, Community Police, Patrol Division, Traffic Division and the Crime Prevention Unit.

He was promoted to Detective in 2000 and currently heads the Community Relations Division, a post that he is most proud of because it puts him face to face with the residents of Elizabeth. It helps him to get to know the people he vowed to protect and makes his job all the more meaningful.

In 2003, he started a City of Elizabeth Task Force which is multi-faceted consisting of the EPD, Elizabeth Fire Department, the Health Department, Construction Division, Animal Control, and the Public Works Department.

His priority is and has always been working for the good of others and it has paid off in many ways. Besides the personal satisfaction that he gets from his work, he has been recognized and honored for his dedication. For example, he was awarded the Union County Christopher Columbus Cultural Heritage Award in

2006. In 2009, he was honored for his exemplary work ethics by the White Rock Baptist Church.

Later that same year, he received an award from the Elizabeth Police Department for playing a key role in securing the arrest of a kidnapper and the safe return of the victim, a three-year old girl.

In 2010, he was honored at the Neighborhood Preservation Residents Organization Dinner for his dedicated service to the 5th Ward of Elizabeth.

Then in 2011, he received a Recognition Award for his repeated, loyal service to the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee. Also that same year, he received a resolution from the Elizabeth City Council at National Night Out for his dedicated service to the City of Elizabeth.

Detective Tropeano is also a proud member of the PBA Local #4, the Knights of Columbus #253 and Partners of Hope for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. During his spare time, he enjoys coaching Little League Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball.

When asked about his nomination as Unico’s Man of the Year, Detective Tropeano said, “I’ve been beaming and glowing with Italian American pride. It is an honor that I will never forget.”

“To me, Unico National represents everything that I stand for. This service organization began in 1922 as a way for Italian Americans to do charitable work and to help others. To me, this is what life is all about.”

Tropeano was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey and is the son of Angelo Tropeano of Avelino, Naples and Rosalia (DiBella) Tropeano of Palermo, Sicily. He is also one of six children: sister, Virginia (Elizabeth school teacher); brother, Michael (Elizabeth Police Officer); brother, Joseph (Elizabeth Fire Department); sister, Paula (Marketing Manager at Trinitas Hospital); and brother,



(above) Mario DiBella, a Charter member of the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO fixes a pin to the lapel of newest member Vito Tropeano at the UNICO ceremony on June 6, 2012. The chapter will be celebrating its 50th year as an organization in 2013.

John (Union County Correction’s Officer). He credits his parents for instilling in him the family values he holds so dear.

He and his beautiful wife, Denise, have two children: Daniela (10) and Vito Angelo (7).

Unico is the Italian word for “unique” and was chosen to represent the one-of-a-kind organization. It’s no wonder, therefore that Vito Tropeano was chosen as Unico’s Man of the Year. He is truly unique and most deserving of this prestigious award. 🇮🇹

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VISIT JOHN’S CAFFE AT FESTA DI SAN VITO

John Cerullo will have a stand the Festa Di San Vito June 14th through 17th. This is the fifth year that John is participating in the feast and it reminds him of his grandfather Giovanni making pizzas in the basement of the store and wheeling them one block over to the St. Rocco’s Feast. The tradition of street feasts and processions honoring a saint is rooted in Italy. Festa San Vito is an attempt to rekindle that tradition.

This year the feast has expanded to two blocks. It includes Fourth Avenue between Centre Street and South 7th and the dead end of High Street. A special mass will be held at St. Anthony’s Church at 7pm June 15th, followed by a procession through the streets.

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JOHN’S CAFFE COMES FULL CIRCLE

Giovanni Cerullo opened John’s Caffé on the corner of Second Avenue and Christine Street in 1968. Giovanni arrived in America and settled in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, in 1963. His son Gerardo (Jerry) and grandson John are preparing to celebrate the family’s 50th year in America and the 45th anniversary of John’s Caffé.

The caffè stared out as a pizzeria and evolved into a caffè, a coffee shop which was a meeting place for neighbors to play cards and socialize. After the death of Giovanni and the closing of the store, John with his

father Jerry reopened the store in April 2009, expanding the coffee shop to include a full Italian deli. After growing in popularity, John renovated and upgraded the kitchen and reopened in September 2011 as a full-service pizzeria, true to its origins.

John’s Caffé is much more than a pizzeria. Its lunch and dinner menu boasts of approximately 200 items in addition to special orders. Equally impressive is John’s Caffé’s catering menu and service.

The store is also a throwback to its origins in that it is still a live-work space. ☺

Recipes

Submitted by John Cerullo, John’s Caffé, Elizabeth, NJ

Pizza de batata al forno

Potato casserole baked in oven.

- INGREDIENTS:**
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Potatos (peeled) | Breadcrumbs (seasoned) |
| Sopressata (cubed) | Eggs (Beaten) |
| Mozzarella (shredded) | Butter |
| Parmesan cheese (grated) | Milk |
| Hard Boiled Eggs (crumbled) | Salt and Pepper (to taste) |
- PREPARATION:**
- 1) Boil Potatoes al dente and crush with a fork.
 - 2) Thoroughly mix Potatos, Sopressata, Mozzarella, Parmesan, Hard Boiled Eggs, Milk, Salt and Pepper and move into a buttered baking pan,
 - 3) Cover ingrediants with a layer of bread crumbs and sliced butter.
 - 4) Bake in oven until browned and crispy, (making sure inside is not too moist or dry).
 - 5) Make sit to firm up before serving.

Chicken a la Vodka

Served with Rigatoni

- INGREDIENTS:**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Olive Oil | Chicken Breasts |
| Garlic (chopped) | Flour |
| Prosciutto (sliced) | Tomatoe (sliced) |
| Peas | Mozzarella Cheese |
| Vodka | Salt and Pepper (to taste) |
| Heavy Cream | Pasta (Rigatoni) |
| Marinara Sauce (seperate recipe) | |
- SAUCE PREPARATION:**
- 1) Tear Prosciutto slices into smaller pieces and Saute in Olive Oil with Garlic, Peas.
 - 2) Add Vodka to taste and cook until alcohol evaporates.
 - 3) Add Heavy Cream and boil until mixture thickens.
 - 4) Add Salt and Pepper to taste.
 - 5) Stir in Marinara Sauce a bit at a time until sauce is pink in color.

- CHICKEN PREPARATION:**
- 1) Dip Chicken in Flour mixed with salt and pepper to taste.
 - 2) Fry Chicken in Olive Oil
 - 3) Layer top of Chicken with Prosciutto, Tomato and Mozzarella.
 - 4) Cover with Vodka Sauce and cook for 5 minutes and plate.
 - 5) Cook and plate Rigatoni along side Chicken and cover with Vodka Sauce.

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A photo album from the show named "An Evening in Paris" can be found at PeterstownNJ.com. 




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GRAN CENTURIONS AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS



(above, l-r) Recipients of Gran Centurion Awards:
 David Roglieri, Speaker Jeanamarie Banta, Laura Kircher, Ariana Vincenti,
 Jessi Costanzo, Danielle Vaccaro, Jennifer Kircher, Megan Byrne, John Ferrentino.



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 Marge Jasman,
 Henry Varriano.



Mrs. Josephine Vincenti, 2012 Chairperson of the Gran Centurions of Clark, announced annual scholarship awards were presented to graduating seniors at a dinner/reception at the Club. Guest speaker for the evening was Clark resident Jeanamarie Banta, a prephysical therapy student who attends Gettysburg College, Pa., who spoke about her experience with college life. In addition to Mrs. Vincenti, the following committee members presented the awards; Mrs. Marge Jasman, Mrs. Betty Rainone, Mr. Angelo Preite, and Mr. Henry Varriano.

Scholarships were presented to the following: Jennifer and Laura Kircher, Danielle Vaccaro, and John Ferrentino from Arthur L Johnson High School in Clark, and Ariana Vincenti, from Brick High School. Awards for proficiency in the Italian language went to Jessi Costanzo and David Roglieri from Arthur L. Johnson High School. The Twig Scholarship was awarded to Megan Byrne from Cranford High School. 


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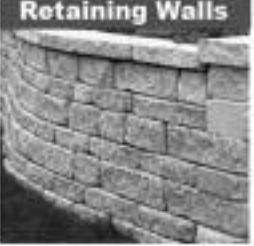
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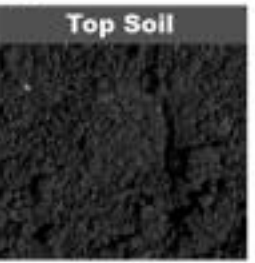
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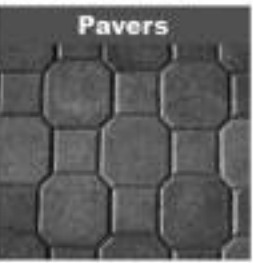
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Submitted by Salvatore Coppa

They say if you have only one true friend while on this earth that you are blessed. A truer statement has never been made. I am fortunate to have been blessed with more than one, but Jerry Maurigi will always hold a special place in my heart.

I met Jerry back in the 1970's. We both lived in “The Burg” our whole lives but only knew each other in passing prior to then. Jerry and his parents lived in a three family home on Centre Street. Jerry had the entire third floor to himself and that was very cool. Later, he moved to the second floor of the house and that was even cooler. I can’t even begin to tell you about the great times we and our group of friends shared with Jerry back in those days-- Anthony, Greg, Mark, Pat, Lino, and others.

In 1983 I asked Jerry to be in my wedding party and he told me that he was honored. In truth it was I who was honored. Generally, when one friend gets married and the other one doesn’t, the friendship can wane or cease altogether, but not so with Jerry and me. We remained friends through the years and saw each other frequently. It became a tradition that Jerry would share Christmas Eve

lunch with our family. When my daughter, Regina, learned to speak, she would refer to him as “a great big teddy bear.”

Over the years, a small group of old Peterstown friends including Jerry, Anthony Martinangelo, Mario Gurrieri, and Joe Venturini remained close and we got together every three months or so for a “Boys Night Out”. Our last one was in April when we ate “La Piz” (pizza) at Spiritos, where it all started. We had even formed a little private club which we affectionately named “Amici di Maurigi”. Jerry, of course, was our standard bearer.....and did we have fun!

Last year, I encouraged Jerry to join UNICO, the Italian service organization; and because of his photography hobby, he quickly became the Elizabeth Chapter’s official shutterbug. He would snap pictures at meetings, events, and most recently of our bocce team in action. Jerry was also helping me put together a photo slide presentation for this year’s UNICO Man of the Year, Vito Tropeano.

Jerry and I had a standing Saturday morning coffee date where we would talk about the week’s events. I always looked forward to hearing what I called “Jerry’s Tales” when he told me stories of his colorful life both past and present. Jerry would often say to me, “Salvi, I never married or had kids of my own but God has smiled on me by giving me fantastic Godchildren and great friends.” And he said it with a tone of sincerity in his voice that no one could ever mistake for being anything but genuine.

On May 18, 2012 The Good Lord took my friend of over 30 years to be with him. Jerry Maurigi had all the qualities that make up a true friend; he was loyal, trustworthy, compassionate, and understanding. He never passed judgment on others even those he didn’t agree with. I had never known him to fabricate a story or seek revenge. He would literally give you the shirt off his back if you asked for it and treated everyone with respect. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word and he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend. 🕊



Photo by Darren Bryden

JERRY F. MAURIGI, JR.

Jerry F. Maurigi Jr. passed away on May 18, 2012. His death came without any forewarning. It was a shock to his friends and neighbors, a cause to pause and reflect on how life is short and fleeting. Jerry was just 54 years old.

Born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, Jerry never moved from the neighborhood he called home or far from the people he loved. Maurigi was a lifelong resident of City of Elizabeth. He was a purchasing agent for the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. He was a member of UNICO International of Elizabeth, and an alumnus of Rider College.

Jerry had a magnetic personality and an unending passion for life. He was an avid photographer and a wine enthusiast. He was an asset to anyone who called him friend and he was friendly to everyone.

Jerry was the only child of Jerry and Filomena (nee Spezzano) Maurigi who are both deceased. He is survived by one uncle, Joseph Maurigi, and his wife, Anna, and also survived by many cousins, godchildren, and especially friends. 🕊



(above, standing, l-r) Bestest of friends Jerry Maurigi and Sal Coppa. (seated) Anthony Martinangelo and Mario Gurrieri.

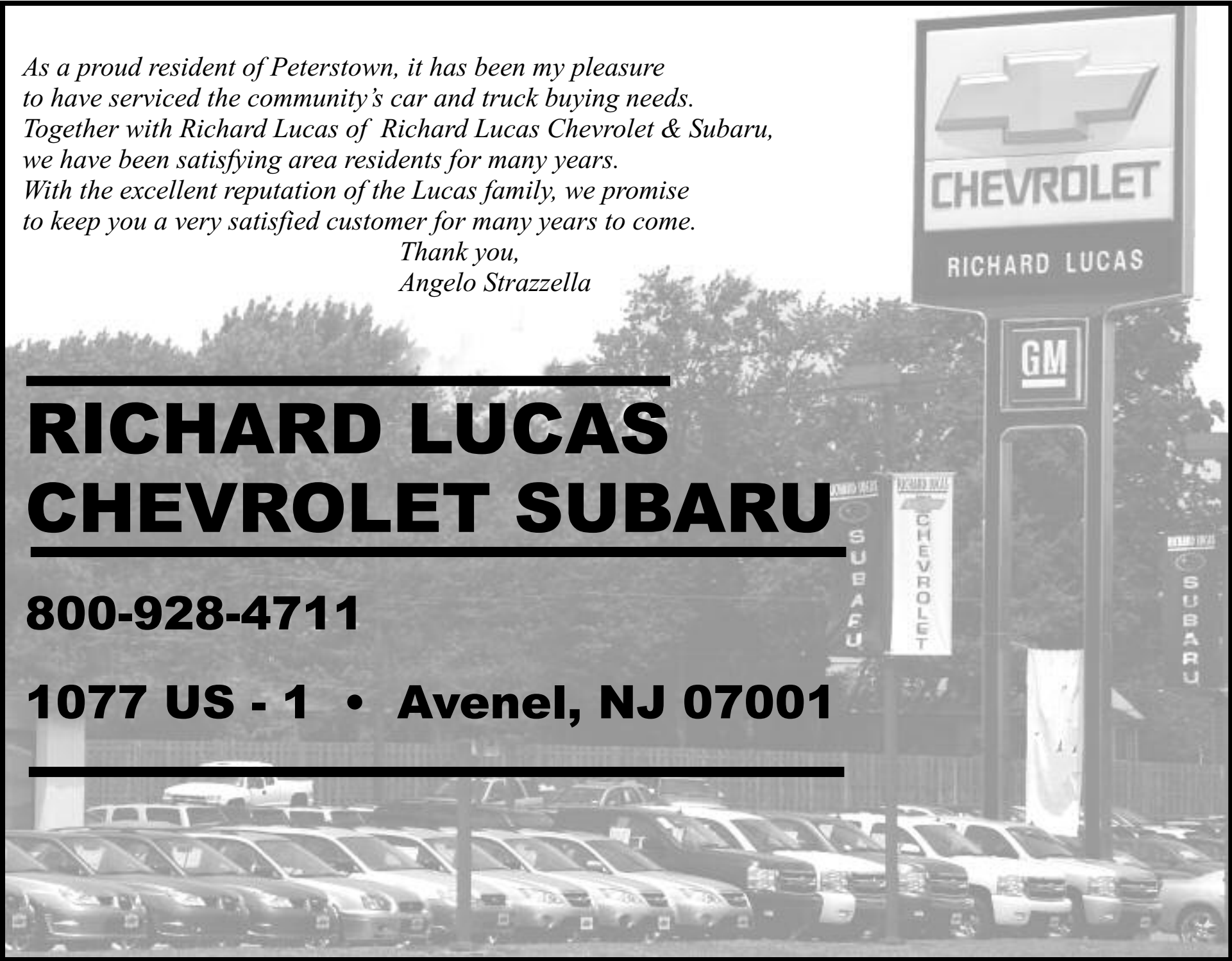
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(above, r-l) Peterstown natives Joe Monaco with his sister-in-law Michelle (nee Stango), married to his brother Bobby, at Michelle's Antique shop and Auction House, The Gilded Lily located on Main Street in Rahway. Joe was a fixture at the fun filed shop.

JOE MONACO

March 24, 1931 - April 17, 2012

Peterstown native Joseph J. Monaco passed away on April 17, 2012, at the age of 81. He was born on March 24, 1931, one of 14 children of Louis and Mary (Siano) Monaco. Joe served in the U.S. Army and retired as a brigadier general after 35 years in 1981.

Joe Monaco was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Elizabeth and went on to earn a BA and MA from Upper Iowa University in business and political science. Monaco worked at the GAF Corp. Plant in Linden, NJ before his Army career. In the Army he served as a cavalry officer and instructor to junior officers. After his retirement from the Army, Joe was employed as a business administrator by Clark Township in New Jersey, where he lived from 1956 to 1989 when he retired from that position. At that time he moved from Clark to Scotch Plains, NJ.

Joe's life was dedicated to community service as a volunteer at St. Mary's Thrift Shop Plainfield, and as an active member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church and St. Helen Church Westfield, where he worked on the homeless programs. He was also a member of the Hilltoppers Club, the St. Mary's High School alumni group.

Joe is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dolores Staryak Monaco. He also dedicated his life to raising his children, John Monaco of Clark, Mary Teresa Stawicki and her husband Raymond of Scotch Plains, the late Joseph C. E. Monaco III (1995) and the late Christopher J. Monaco (2011), daughters-in-law Jill Monaco of Clark and Jill Monaco-Brockway of Lake Clear, N.Y. He especially enjoyed his grandchildren, Nicholas Stawicki and Joseph, Christian, Brianna and Brooke Monaco. 🐾

PETER MADORMA

November 21, 1920 - April 15, 2012



Peter J. Madorma was born Nov. 21, 1920, in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, to Peter and Carmella (Fierro) Madorma. He passed away at his home in Cranford, NJ on April 15, 2012.

Peter served in World War II in the Army anti-aircraft regiment in Alaska and had a second tour of duty in Europe.

He retired from a career as a tool and die maker in 1984. He was a Eucharistic minister at St. Michael's Church in Cranford and liked to relax by spending time in his backyard and in the company of his grandchildren.

Peter is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ann (nee Rossi), daughter, Denise DiGiovanni and her husband Albert, his son Michael, and his daughter Angela, who predeceased him in 2008. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Michael, Robert, Stephen, Michael Peter, Alicia, Gina, Michelle and Ryan, a brother, Mario, and sister, Angelina Sterio. He is predeceased by his brothers, Frank, Leopold, and Jim. 🐾

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



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Flynn's Irish Pub & Steakhouse	1482 Main St	Rahway
Frank's Pitstop	515 Springfield Road	Kenilworth
Gourmet Deli	41 Alden St.	Cranford
Hotel Indigo	1 Carriage City Plaza	Rahway
John's Caffé	574 Second Ave.	Elizabeth
Julian's	1000 Roosevelt Ave.	Carterest
La Campagnola	520 South 31st St.	Kenilworth
Linwood Inn	15-19 South Wood Ave.	Linden
Little Portugal Restaurant	1507 Main St.	Rahway
Metro Liquors	1179 W. St. George Ave.	Linden
Michelino's	169 Washington Avenue	Elizabeth
Mike's Place	330 Monroe Ave.	Kenilworth
Napoli	523 N. Wood Ave.	Linden
O lagar Restaurant	1252 Stuyvesant Ave.	Union
Parkview Restaurant	2048 E. St. Georges Avenue	Elizabeth
Puf & Stuff	21 North Avenue East	Cranford
Red Cadillac	2258 Morris Ave.	Union
Robin's Nest R & B	3103 Tremley Point Rd	Linden
Santillo's Brick Oven Pizza	634 South Broad St.	Elizabeth
Scaturro's Pizzeria & Café	1210 Raritan Road	Cranford
South Side Café	219 Market St.	Kenilworth
Styles Inn Sports Bar & Grill	305 N.Stiles Street	Linden
Sunrise Diner	61 W. Westfield Ave.	Roselle Park
Tequila Grill	824 Pearl Street	Elizabeth
Torna A. Sorrento Ristorante	54 Westfeidl Ave.	Elizabeth
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In honor of Cpl Luigi "Louie" Marciante Jr we continue our ongoing commitment to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. This is our fifth year participating in the Hope & Possibility 5M and in those five years we have raised over \$100,000.00 and endowed twenty five handcrank wheelchairs. Since the tragic loss of my brother Louie in Iraq on September 20, 2007 we have been making a significant difference in his honor. Everyday a wounded veterans sits in one of our chairs or participates in an event it is because of people like you who have supported this amazing cause.

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

Enza Jacobowitz



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