



OF WRATH

NOW AVAILABLE - THE PETERSTOWN BOOK!

The Peterstown Book is a compilation of articles published in the Peterstown Newspaper over the past 14 years. It is a the 100 year history of an Italian-American neighborhood, preserving the rich culture through articles and images of families who weaved into American society their old-world traditions and values.

Four generations of my family lived in the same corner house in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, N.J., and when I sold it and moved out of the neighborhood I was filled with emotion and nostalgia, and probably guilt. It was the end of a way of life for me and, especially, my daughters. The close-knit neighborhood was slowly disbanding, at least physically. It was only natural that as generations grew, the housing stock could not accommodate the populous. The ease of mobility and the ability to upgrade to home ownership were big factors in the exodus from the neighborhood. It was the realization of The American Dream. The reason our forefathers immigrated in mass a hundred years ago. The greatest loss to the community as families moved away was the personal disconnect. The daily interaction between neighbors was disappearing, and with it the sharing of information, old and new. It was the prospect of losing that oral history of the neighborhood that prompted me to start writing.

My wife Tina and I collaborated in putting a newspaper together. We called it Around About Peterstown. Tina was managing the operation, which included the

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY SAT. NOV. 16, 2013 ST. ANTHONY CAFETERIA 6:00 PM FOOD • DRINK • MUSIC

Event is free and open to the public. Books will be available to purchase. If you can't make it see page 3 to order books by phone, mail or on-line.

burden of trying to corral me, who created the content in a free-wheeling way with mistakes abounding. It was designed first as a newsletter for the new social club that guys of my generation formed, The Sons of Peterstown. I started gathering stories from my old neighbors and taking photos. The first run was 3,000 newspapers, but the floodgates soon opened with requests for the newspaper and people submitting news to share. Circulation soon peaked to 15,000 newspapers with subscribers from all over the country, and a few overseas. The newspaper was not only popular with people who were from Peterstown or Elizabeth, we had readers from all over and of many ethnicities: German, Irish, Jewish etc. The themes that I wrote about resonated with many folks who went through the same experiences, immigration, The Great Depression, World War II, etc. The stories were universal, but I used Peterstown to illustrate them. One person told me that the newspaper reminded him of a real-life version of Lake Wobegon.

As the paper grew we published up to 28 pages every two months. We were never short for material and always had stories in reserve. It remained a labor of love of mine for 14 years. An inordinate amount of time went into putting each issue together. Cost for printing was covered by a stable of steady advertisers. The positive response, especially from senior citizens, was motivation enough for me to continue. The biggest motivator was the recording of the oral history, my original inspiration.

There were so many great people to come from the neighborhood who would probably be forgotten, or whose stories would never be told again. Some of the greatest stories are about people who were not celebrated but did great things privately, and quietly. It is the butterfly effect in full operation. The success and prosperity of the current generation is directly tied to the culture that was developed by our forefathers, who first immigrated to America. They took the best aspects of their culture with them from Italy and wove them into the fabric of their new society in America. Love of God, love of family, love of county, love of neighbor all played a key role in the lifestyle of the community. These values, along with a work ethic based on fairness and integrity, was practiced and taught.

Our forefathers had pride in themselves; that elevated everything to a higher standard. This is evident in many of the stories. It can be seen in each chapter, whether you are reading about craftsmanship, sports or cooking. Though the teacher / apprentice aspect of the parent / child relationship is evident, what makes the child achieve is the work ethic and moral compass that is instilled in him. A carpenter cannot teach his son how to be a doctor, but he can show him how to make the right decisions to be anything he wants. This is the greatness of the Peterstown community. The first wave of immigrants came with little but the clothes on their backs, yet they were able to reach the heights of The American Dream through integrity and hard work. They could never have immigrated to the world as it is today. Their focus was giving their children an opportunity for a better life. It is what I strive for today, a hundred years after my grandfather arrived from Italy and settled in Peterstown.

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(left, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna look over the 776 pages of The Peterstown Book that they will officially release at a launch party on November 16, 2013.



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

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

concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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President's Message



I'm overwhelmed by the book Joe Renna has published. Every page is filled with photos and stories of my friends, family and neighbors. Every page takes me down a nother memory lane. It says it is a 100 year history of the Burg but I think it will take me

100 years to read through it. It is a good reason for another neighborhood get-

together (as if we need a reason). On November 16th we will celebrate the launch of the book in the St. Anthony's School cafeteria, at 6pm after the 5 O'clock Mass. I'm sure, like usual, it wil turn into another reunion of old friends we haven't seen for years and we will pick up our conversations as if they were never interrupted. Fr. Pat was installed as Pastor of St. Anthony's Church

on October 6, 2013. I wish him all the best and I urge everyone to support him in his task. The church faces challenges but they can be overcome if everyone does a little bit. Please make an effort to support the church. He wrote a beautiful piece for the bulletin about our

Italian heritage that I though was important to share. It is reprinted in this newspaper. I hope that it inspires each reader to think and act accordingly.





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 brint a letter without notifying sender.



by Fr. Pat Angelucci reprinted from the October 26, 2013 St. Anthony Church Bulletin.

This week I want to share a few random thoughts with you on our celebration of Italian Heritage Month.

In these weeks I have been to a number of celebrations. Naturally, as a first generation Italian American myself, these celebrations fill me with a sense of deep pride in my Italian heritage and gratitude for all that has come to me from my Italian roots. At the same time, these celebrations, as wonderful and important as they are, have challenged me in my mind and heart. Has my (our) Italian heritage been reduced to raising the Italian flag marching in the Columbus Day Parade - speaking some Italian words and taking part in dinner dances? Again, please don't get me wrong, I appreciate these events; they are important – but our Italian heritage is much more than that – it has to be!

The Italians that came to this country were rooted in their Catholic faith. They loved their Church; it was the center of their lives and family activity. Is this really the case today or have some of us become absorbed by a secular culture that gives little or no attention to God and faith in daily life? The Italians that came here held dearly to the value and importance of family – family life, children, Sundays as family days gathered around God's table at Mass and the family table at home. At a time when "family" is so much under attack in our society, can we, as Italian Americans, honestly say we value family differently than the society in which we live? The Italians that came to this country were proud to be Americans. Many gave their lives in war to protect the freedoms of our nation and they raised their children to take advantage of the opportunities for education and work that America afforded to them. In an America today that sometimes shows no pride or respect for our flag and for the sacrifices of those who died for it, are we Italian-Americans also sometimes indifferent to our country? The Italians that came to this country suffered and had to overcome deep prejudices merely because they were "Italian"; they were different. All of us have stories we can tell of family members who suffered - perhaps some of us even saw our family names changed because it was the only way to get a job or an opportunity to get ahead. As America faces the challenges of new immigrants today, do we remember our suffering and reach out to them or do

FR. PAT EXTOLS THE VIRTUES **OF HIS ITALIAN HERITAGE**

"From the Desk of the Pastor" we forget what is was like for those early Italians? Italian Heritage Month should be a time of pride, but also of reflection and challenge for those of us who are rightly proud to say: "I am an Italian American!" Recently, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, spoke about what he called "painted" Christians - they have a superficial coating of Christianity with no substance. It made me reflect not only on my Christian heritage but also on my Italian heritage. I can run the risk of being a "painted" Italian – the colors are there, but it is a superficial coating, with no substance. My Italian heritage calls me to deepen my Catholic faith and live and practice it every day. My Italian heritage calls me to renew my love and commitment to true family values. My Italian heritage calls me to have a love for America and a desire to safeguard our truest American values of religious freedom and the right to work and

the dignity that comes from an honest day's work. My Italian heritage calls me to reach out and help and support the new immigrants that come to our country with their dreams and aspirations.

I am proud to be an Italian American but I don't want to be a "painted" one, happy with superficial show - that fades and is not "heritage". No. I want to be Italian in my core, which means faith and family and country and concern for others. This is my prayer for all the members of the parish – but especially those of us who, this month, celebrate what it truly means to be Italian! God bless you! 💭



the forces of societal change be must contended with lest we lose our heritage.

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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Editor's Opinion everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

It is impossible to thank everyone who helped produce president of the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club, this paper over the past fourteen years. So many people helped in little ways, but there were those who were consistently generous in their assistance. I would like to thank every one of the thousands of smiling faces that appear in the book, the families and people who make up The Burg. Tina and I always felt it was a privilege to have them share their life stories with us.

The Peterstown Book has been a labor of love for me and a very personal endeavor. I'd like to thank my family for their support, and especially acknowledge those who guided me to such a wonderful life, my mother, grandmothers and my aunts. The women in our Italian-American culture played the most important part in raising the children and managing the family. I salute them all.

I always had the desire to be an artist and there were a slew of teachers who taught me technique but no one influenced me more than poet Bob Rixon, the only person who I know personally that is a true artist.

Getting 15,000 newspapers produced and distributed every two months was a daunting task. First and foremost, thanks must be given to the advertisers. Without their support there would have been no newspaper. Thanks must also be extended to the readers. The popularity of the newspaper prompted the submissions from the community and interest from businesses.

There were many friends who worked behind the scenes. One of my key go-to people was Mike LoBrace of Michelino's Restaurant, who has an amazing knowledge of language, culture and local history.

I cannot thank John Sacco enough. He has been at the forefront of keeping the neighborhood intact. His generosity in support of the Church and neighborhood is unmatched. He has kept traditions alive and as the

extended those traditions to another generation. The newspaper would not have existed without his support. His butcher shop has been my virtual office and served as my distribution center.

The book is far from perfect, but it is the best I could do. Through the years I struggled with spelling, names and some facts that may be inaccurate, but that is the nature of oral history. Lore, legend and memoirs tend to be romanticized and embellished, for which, I am the king.

It was only after I applied Voltaire's aphorism "Perfect is the enemy of good," that I was able to proceed. Any resemblance to professionalism must be attributed to my wife Tina, who not only had to deal with my proclivities but had to make sense of what I was writing, sometimes to no avail. By taking responsibility for every practical aspect of the production and business, she allowed me to run wild with my creativity. It was a perfect marriage of my fantasy and reality.

Her initial concern that the newspaper would be too esoteric was pleasingly dispelled, but she sill kept a watchful eye on it. She worked with no fanfare and allowed me to take all the credit. It is with extreme gratitude to Tina that this book was made possible, and that my life has been tremendous. 🎇

Not for Nothing But		
perfect	is	the
enemy	of	good.



NERSTOW



(above Tina Renna at age 14 climbing the Grease Pole at the San Gennaro Feast in Little Italy, NYC. Photo by: Susan Meiselas

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO TINA

The love of my life, my wife of 25 years.

Tina Renna (nee Grosso) at age 14 climbing the Grease Pole at the San Gennaro Feast in Little Italy, NYC. I love this photo because it shows how tenacious she is. Tina approaches every aspect of her life with the same intensity. She gives her all, as a wife and mother, friend and neighbor, in running the house and the business, and in charity and public rights advocacy. She may be a long way from those days scampering around the streets of Little Italy but the spirit of that scrappy little rascal is 100% intact. 🔛

Anyone who would like to retail the book in their place of business should contact Joe at 908-447-1295 or email info@rennamedia.com

- 776 Oversized Pages By Joe & Tina Renna Thousands of Photos
 - Hundreds of Recipes

The Peterstown Book is the 100 year history of an Italian-American neighborhood told through stories about the people and families who lived there. The book records the oral history in danger of being lost and illustrates the traditions and customs of the community through thousands of photos, hundreds of recipes, and antidotes shared by residents past and present.



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HACE 75TH ANNIVERSARY LEGACY CAMPAIGN **TO SHARE SUCCESS STORIES: RAISE FUNDS FOR** LESNIAK RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

Legacy Reception to be held at MetLife Stadium on Thursday, November 14, 2013, 6pm

This fall, the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth MetLife Stadium as preparations are made for the 2014 (HACE) will celebrate 75 years of service in the community. From its inception in 1938, the organization has provided affordable and low income housing and services, to thousands of families and spearheaded over \$200Million in redevelopment projects. HACE will celebrate the occasion with a 75th Anniversary Legacy **PAGE** Campaign to share tenant success stories and highlight past and current projects.

As a major part of the campaign, HACE has partnered with Prevention Links, a 501c3 organization, to raise funds in support of opening the Raymond Lesniak ESH Recovery High School with a special reception at MetLife Stadium on Thursday, November 14, 2013, 6pm. The event, entitled "HACE presents The Big Game Experience", will be attended by NY Giant Football Legend Harry Carson, feature a 75-year timeline display, and provide the chance for guests to learn more about the charter high school. Guests will also be treated to a behind the scenes look at

NYC/NJ Super Bowl and live entertainment by Valarie Adams & the Dimension Band.

"One of the central themes of our 75th Anniversary Legacy Campaign will be to change the perception about public housing programs and the people we serve. Many of our residents go on to purchase homes, open businesses, attend college, and give back to the community. These success stories represent our legacy in the community, one which we look to build upon in the future," stated William Jones, Executive Director of HACE.

In addition to the fundraiser, HACE will dedicate all of its fall programming to the 75th Anniversary Legacy Campaign, launch a new website, and hang commemorative banners at housing sites. The business and local community are encouraged to become involved in the campaign by attending an event, becoming a sponsor, or nominating a tenant (past or present) to be featured in the history exhibit and legacy campaign.

For more information about the HACE 75th Anniversary Legacy Campaign or "HACE presents: The Big Game Experience" contact Barbara Johnson, HACE Director of Administration & Finance at 908-965-2400 x 113 or via email at biohnson@haceni.com.



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(above) By far the most accomplished alum from RCs class of '78 is Kurt Sutter. In 2001, he became a staff writer on FX's "The Shield" for seven years, finishing up the last two seasons as Executive Producer. Kurt is the creator of Sons of Anarchy on FX and writes, produces, directs, and performs for the series now in its 6th season. Sutter has projects in development at Warner Bros and Paramount. He is married to Katey Sagal, star of the series.

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After our second successful Fundraising Dinner/Dance in October 2012 in which \$10,000.00 was raised and donated to Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy (formerly St. Anthony's Grammar School), and a restful summer for all our devoted alumni, the call came out from Principal Deacon Joe Caporaso for some cases of copy paper which the school needs to function. A contact was made to the St. Anthony Alumni Memorial Fund Committee and within 24 hours 10 cases of much needed paper was personally delivered to the school by alumni members. Thanks to the thoughtful and generous donations of our members and supporters they were able to promptly help Deacon Joe and the school. Many thanks to all involved. St. Anthony's school spirit is alive and well.



(left) St. Anthony Alumni Memorial Fund member, Anthony Bartone (Class of 1970) and Our Lady of **Guadalupe Academy** Principal Deacon Joe Caporaso receiving donation by the St. Anthony Alumni Memorial Fund.

Visit our website for news and upcoming events: www.StAnthonyfund.org



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I recently read that when a couple was asked for the secret to their longstanding marriage, they answered that they "grew up in and were married during a time that if something was broken, you fixed it. Everything is disposable today." As I started to prepare myself to write this, I thought how that statement really was so appropriate for my mother-in-law and father-in-law.

On August 29, 2013, Ann (Nigro) and Russell Harris celebrated 70 years of marriage. At the beginning of this year, their children knew that such a milestone demanded a special celebration. After all, not too many people get a chance to celebrate a marriage of seventy years. A party was planned and their 70th wedding anniversary was celebrated with all of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and friends on August 25, 2013 at the Galloping Hill Club House.

Deacon Joe Caporaso of Saint Anthony's Church was invited to give a blessing and, amazingly, their best man and maid of honor, Joe Urso and Sue Tomasso, were able to once again stand by their side.

Ann tells the story of seeing Russell each day from the window of her classroom at Battin High School. He would be on his way to Thomas Jefferson High School and would wave up to her. They began to run into one another with their friends at the local Friday night dances and before long, they were a couple. They were married

SEVENTY YEARS OF LOVE

Submitted by Debbie Harris

in 1943 in a religious ceremony in Saint Anthony's Church Sacristy. They both tell the story of how, when they were talking to the priest in Saint Anthony's about their wedding plans, he immediately separated them and spoke to them individually when he learned that Russell was not Catholic. He tried to assure Ann that she could find a nice Catholic boy to marry, but she wasn't having any of it. They loved one another and they were going to be married.

Because of the difference in religions, they were not permitted to have their marriage ceremony in the Church itself, but were married in the Sacristy. Thankfully, Ann did not take the priest's advice.

For several years, the couple lived in areas around the country in places where Russell was stationed while in the Navy. Eventually the war came to an end and he was discharged. They had their first child, Patricia, and a few years later, added to their family with the birth of their son, Russell (Rusty). Eight years later, their daughter, Kathleen, was born. The family resided in Elizabeth and Roselle Park before returning to Elizabeth when Ann's father passed away. They moved back to Ann's childhood home at 30 Palmer Street, where the couple lives to this very day.

The years came and went and the couple's lives together withstood the pressures of the loss of family members and sickness. Any problems they encountered only strengthened the bonds between them.

Patricia went on to marry Vic Guidetti of Berkeley Heights and they had four children together. Rusty married Debbie Steele of Elizabeth and they had three children. Kathy married George Brophy of Elizabeth and they had three children. Through those marriages, Ann and Russell have been blessed with 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. In February, they will be blessed with their 15th great-grandchild.

Fifty years after their marriage, when they were about to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Russell asked the priest whether or not Ann would finally be allowed to walk down the aisle. Of course, the thinking of the Church had changed drastically by that time and his beloved Ann walked down that aisle in front of all her family and friends with a beaming Russell by her side. The couple's marriage had not only survived, but had thrived for 50 years, despite advice from that priest that they should not marry. The difference in religions made no difference in the love or commitment that this couple had for one another. They would go on happily for another twenty years to reach their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Yes, Ann and Russell have been blessed to be able to live long enough to celebrate 70 years of marriage, but again, I am reminded of the elderly couple who was asked the secret to the longevity of their marriage. Ann and Russell grew up in a time when something was broken, you fixed it. You don't reach 70 years of married life without problems. You reach 70 years of marriage by love and commitment to one another. This is exactly what Ann and Russell have done. They stuck with the vows they made all those years ago. God bless them with many more years together.

(left, l-r) Deacon Joe Caporaso administers a 70 year anniversary blessing to the original cast of the 1943 wedding, best man Joe Urso, Bride Ann Nigro, Groom Russ Harris and Maid of Honor Sue Tomasso.



(above, seated, l-r) Ann and Russ Harris with children (standing, l-r) Patricia, Rusty and Kathy.



(below) Harris grandchildren and (right) Great-grandchildren





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BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1960 CELEBRATES 50TH CLASS REUNION

On September 11, 2010, the Battin High School Class of 1960 celebrated its 50th reunion at Boulevard Five 72, in Kenilworth.

Everyone enjoyed seeing their classmates, renewing old friendships and reminiscing the good times they shared during their high school years. The night also presented a few surprises such as a booklet of pictures and events from previous reunions along with a CD of popular songs of the '50s and '60s that was given to each gal in attendance.

In her opening speech, Kathy (Dowzycki) Kreshock acknowledged departed classmates and those who wanted to be there bur couldn't due to illness.

After an evening of delicious food and drink, singing and dancing to the 'old songs', members of the reunion committee: Geri (Schwartz) Grohol, Lorraine (Flammia) Stinner and Lucille Disano passed out questionnaires to get input for future events. Also assisting the committee were, Joan (Hergert) Pignataro, Joan (Fedin) Shyjan and Carole (Goldblatt) Beck. Kathy came up with an idea for a "Battin Birthday Bash" in 2012 to celebrate everyone's 70th birthday, with a 55th reunion to follow in 2015. These events were overwhelmingly approved by everyone there. The evening proved to be an enormous success.

Anyone who would like to contact the Class of 1960 with information about classmates or for future events, email sixtybattingrad@aol.com, kathyklmt@verizon.net, or 732 381-0118.





(above) Battin High 50th Reunion Committee (standing, l-r) Lorraine (Flammia) Stinner, Geri (Schwartz) Grohol and Joan (Fedin) Shyjan (sitting) Committee Chairman, Kathy (Dowzycki) Kreshock.

(left) Committee members (l-r) Lynnea Prunkel, Lorraine (Flammia) Stinner and Lucille Disano.



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Our freind needs our prayers

As some may already know, a true, lifelong Son of Peterstown, Mr. Salvatore Coppa, has been hospitalized. Born, raised and still a resident, he has given much to the city and neighborhood he loves and at this time we ask simply for your prayers during this unfortunate time. Please include and keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers."----Friends of Sal Coppa





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UNICO MAKES IT TO SEMIS IN BOCCE TORN

The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO's bocce team has greatly improved over the past year making it all the way to the semi finals at the District XI bocce tournament. The team consisting of Chapter members Lou Bani, Joe Chiari, Lou Di Leo and Salvatore Coppa took part in the event which was held on September 22 at Montville Community Park. All proceed were donated to cancer research. UNICO Chapters from all over the area joined in on the fun.

The daylong event was attended by UNICO National President Michael Veselka and Second Vice President Dominick Nicasrto as well as several hundred bocce players, family, friends and spectators. As with any Italian event food was plentifully. Long tables of Italian specialties such as stuffed shells, meatballs, sausage &

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By Salvatore Coppa

peppers, octopus salad, tripe, chicken & veal parmesan and much more lined the pavilion. All the food was donated by local Italian restaurants. Homemade Italian cookies and zeppoli topped off the day.

Elizabeth Chapter Second Vice President Joe Chiari summed it up best "A fun family oriented event raising money for a good cause, I'm happy our chapter participated."...indeed!



(above, l-r) Lou Di Leo, Joe Chiari, Sal Coppa, Lou Bani,





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(above) Peterstown Newspaper publisher Joe Renna with a cucuzza from his garden is standing in front of his fig tree that was started with a shoot from Maria and Danny Loffa's tree ten years ago, just prior to Danny's passing. The old street sign is from the corner of Fourth Avenue and Niles Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. NJ where the Renna and Loffa families homes were located. They are neighbors once again in Cranford.





Recipes

Submitted by Maria Loffa

NOTE: Maria says that it is very difficult to make these without having seen them being made. The measurements are not accurate and the consistency of the mixtures and the construction of the shape is hard to put into words. The Marmalade Cookies are made like Raviolis and the Figs are made in long rolls, flattened a little, then sliced. Using the cuccuzza, sometimes called Italian squash, in place of fruit marmalade is common with Sicilians. Maria says "My family continued to make these cookies every Christmas holiday since my mom passed away in 1994. We missed just one year when My husband Danny passed away in 2008. My daughters Jennifer and Angela help me while my son Arminio does quality control. Good luck to who ever tries these recipes. These amounts below make a lot of cookies." 🔛

Marmalade Cookies

4 1/2 cups Sugar

1 1/2 cups Milk

10 tsp. Baking Powder

4 tsp. Vanilla

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 cups flour
- 2 10 oz. Jars Peach Marmalade 2 1/2 cups Crisco Shortening
- 12 Eggs

PREPARATION: ORANGE MARMALADE:

- 1) Save skins from 4 dozen oranges. Boil till skins are tender, changing water 3 or 4 times.
- 2) Drain skins well, grind skins coarsely.
- 3) Weigh skins and add equal amounts of sugar.
- 4) Put skins back in pot over very low heat, add sugar stirring constantly till sugar melts.
- 5) Remove from heat, add 1 to 2 (10 oz.) jars of peach marmalade until proper consistency is achieved.
- 6) Add 1 ¹/₂ cups of chopped walnuts.

PREPARATION: DOUGH:

- 1) Blend Crisco into flour with the palms of your hands.
- 2) Add baking powder.
- 3) Beat eggs, add sugar till it dissolves.
- 4) Add milk, and vanilla.
- 4) Mix into flour mixture and knead
- (add flour as needed, mixture should not be sticky). 5) Roll and fill
- 6) Bake at 350 till golden brown.

PREPARATION: CUCUZZA MARMALADE:

- 1) Peel, remove seeds and cube Cucuzza
- 2) Boil cucuzza until tender changing water 2 to 3 times.
- 3) Remove and strain water out as much as possible using
- a strainer.
- 4) Then process in a meat grinder of similar contraption.
- 5) Weigh what is left of the cucuzza and measure out an equal amount of sugar.
- 6) Put cucuzza back into the pot and while constantly stirring over low heat adding sugar two cups at a time.
- 7) Continue to cooking and stirring over low heat until it has the consistency of jam.

(left) A page from Jenny's notebook, that she bought at Newman's Five and Dime, shows recipes for marmalade cookies titled "Cucki di la Zia Maria" renamed "Gandma Jenny's Cookies" by her granddaughters. Also on the page is a recipe for Scardellini.

Fig Cookies

INGREDIENTS AND PREPARATION: FIGS:

- 3-4 8 oz packs of dried figs
- Sugar to taste
- 1) Boil figs until they are soft enough to grind.
- 2) Stain and save half of the juice.
- 3) Grind figs to a paste, place them back in the pot and add sugar and stir constantly.
- 4) When sugar is melted cook another 10 to 15 minutes and remove from heat.
- (If mixture is to hard add some of the left over juice.) INCOEDIENTS

INGREDIEN 15:			
1 2	and affland		

12 cups of flour	l cup milk
1 cup of sugar	6 tsp. baking powder
2 ½ cups of Crisco Shortening	1 tsp. vanilla
5 eggs	½ cup red wine

PREPARATION:

- 1) Mix Crisco into flour using the palms of your hands
- 2) Add baking powder and set aside.
- 3) Beat eggs, add sugar and mix until it dissolves.
- 4) Add vanilla, milk and wine. to egg mixture
- 5) Add to dry ingredients. (Add flour mixture as needed)
- 6) Roll out and fill.
 - 7) Bake on greased cookie sheets at 350 until golden brown.



(above) Photo of the Smeraglia family taken in Sicily in 1957 a year prior to immigrating to America and settling in Peterstown at 606 Third Avenue, above Manetta's Butcher Shop between John and Amity Streets. Maria is being held by her mom Giovanna (Jenny) with her father Domenico by her side and brother Giuseppi standing in front.

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(above) Linden Lions Club member Nancy Gersick standing in front of the mailbox which the club had stationed outside of Linden City Hall on Wood Avenue, Linden, NJ. If you have used eyeglasses you no longer need, you can deposit them into the mailbox. Lions accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed.

CRANFORD SALON OFFERS FIFTH ANNUAL BLACK FRIDAY TWO-FOR DEAL ON GIFT CERTIFICATES

It's All About Me Salon and Day Spa located at 25 North Avenue East in Cranford, NJ is owned by Peterstown native Gina (Malillo) Torretta. Five years ago she offered a two-for one deal on all spa gift certificates purchased on Black Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving, which is the biggest shopping day of the year. This year it wil fall on November 29, 2013.

The success of the first year lead to Gina repeating the offer and has done so every year since. It has become a welcomed tradition for her regular customers and has attracted new customers along the way. The offer includes every gift certificate purchased - no matter how many, no matter what the amount.

The Black Friday celebration also includes raffles for holiday baskets, give-aways and special pricing on a wide range of salon and spa services. The salon will be opened that day from 10am to 10 pm.

It's All About Me Salon and Day Spa specializes in pampering - from basic hair cuts, manicures and pedicures to Japanese hair straightening, exotic facials, collagen treatments, microdermabrasion and a wide selection of body treatments including hot stone massages, Caribbean salt scrubs and deep tissue massages.

"Our place is a quiet, peaceful retreat from the stress of the outside world," Torretta said. "Most places offer a 50-minute massage. Our massages are a full hour. This is the place where you get pampered."

For directions and more information, Gina can be reached at the Salon by calling 908.276.2940.







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(left) Frances Malgieri and Al Stango married in 1942

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IN MEMORY OF ALBERT A. STANGO WHO PASSED AWAY NOVEMBER 11, 1963

Fifty years have passed since Al is gone. He was born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. He served in WWII as a sergeant in the Army. In 1943 he was a boxing champ in his division. Later he worked for Standard Oil in Linden, NJ. He was a the Montano Club where he loved to play cards with his best buddies.

Al was married to Frances Malgieri for 22 years before his death. Frances passed away in 1991. Surviving is his only daughter Michele A Stango Monaco who shared the following sentiments: "Many years have passed, I was 16-years-old when you left and life has gone on, the short time we had together has been cherished and the pictures have become the source of memories. But the heart is heavy, because we missed so much together. Since you've been gone I have always loved and missed you."

JOSEPH F. NIGRO OF FORDS, 95



Joseph F. Nigro was born August 8, 1918 in Elizabeth, NJ and grew up in the Peterstown section. He later relocated to Fords where he lived most of his life with his wife Gertrude. Joe passed away on October 21, 2013 at 95 years of age. Gertrude passed away in 2007.

Joseph was a custodian for the Woodbridge Board of Education. He served in the US Army during WWII. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace Church; a member of the Fords-Edison Seniors; an honorary member of the Fords Ladies Club; a member of the Elizabeth Seniors and a member of the Vallatese Association of Elizabeth.

Joe was also predeceased by three sisters Mary DePalma; Angelina Gallaso and Edith D'Antico, four brothers Mike, Americo, Frank and Angelo Nigro.

He is survived by his son Gary Nigro and his wife Jean of Old Bridge; granddaughter, Sherry Oliveira and her husband Eddie; great-grandson, Nicholas; sister, Ann Harris and her husband Russell of Elizabeth; his, sisterin-law, Katherine Nigro.





(above) Sergeant Albert Stango served during WWII with the Service Battery of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade.

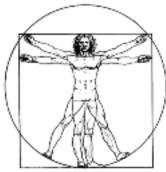
> (right) Al in top boxing form in 1943.

VITA "WINNIE" PEPE PASSES AT 96 YEARS



Vita "Winnie" Pepe passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at Father Hutson's City of Hope in Elizabeth. She was born and raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. Up to her passing she was a faithful parishioner of St. Anthony's Church and kept active with the church organizations, St. Joseph's and the Peterstown Community Center. The family extends their thanks to all who visited and offered blessings and prayers in her honor. She will be missed by many.





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FRIENDS MOURN LOSS OF NANCY BOTTITTA



Nancy A. Bottitta (nee Rinaldo), 63, of Elizabeth, N.J., passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2013. She never strayed from keeping what was most important in the forefront of her life and that was friends and family.

Nancy was a lifelong resident of Elizabeth,

and she married her childhood sweetheart, Anthony Bottitta. They were together over 35 years. While some people are lucky to have a close circle of a few friends, Nancy's circle was in triple digits. Her close friends dated back to grade school. There is no mystery to her popularity. Nancy was caring, compassionate and had a great sense of humor. No matter what she was going through she was always there to lend a hand, a shoulder to cry on or an ear for listening. In other words a great friend. With a twinkle in her beautiful eyes or an arch in her eyebrow, she had a great impact on many lives.

Nancy worked at the Elizabeth YMCA for 16 years before being employed by the Elizabeth Board of Education as administrative secretary for the Supervisor of Grants. She enjoyed shopping, cooking and traveling to Antigua with Anthony and family.

She is survived by her husband, Anthony; sisters-inlaw, Eileen Cotroneo and Lisa Bottitta; brother-in-law, Christopher Bottitta; nephew, PJ Cotroneo; many loving cousins, relatives and dear friends. She was predeceased by her beloved parents, George and Nancy Rinaldo (nee Mark).

JOE NIGRO PASSES At Age 83

Joseph A. Nigro, 83, of Old Bridge, N.J., passed away Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Elizabeth, N.J., Joseph lived in Sayreville, N.J., for 24 years before moving to Old Bridge 35 years ago. Before his retirement, Joseph worked in construction as a member of Local 394 in Elizabeth for 20 years, and then for Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals in Summit, N.J., for 10 years. After his retirement he worked for McDonagh Chrysler in East Brunswick, N.J., for 10 years. Joseph was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War and a communicant of St. Bernadette's R.C. Church in Parlin, where he was a member of their Knights of Columbus Council; he also belonged to the Vallatese Italian-American Association in Elizabeth.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Mary DeLorenzo and Carmella Renna, and his brother, Michael. Surviving are his wife, Kathryn Elaine Sieber; his children and their spouses, Shirley Jean Bergin and Kevin of Long Beach Island, N.J.; Joseph William and Sharon of Florida; Kathryn Mary Surowiec and Thomas of Clifton, N.J.; Christopher and Diane of Clifton, and Maryanne Ford and James of Old Bridge; his sister, Frances Gersick of Linden, N.J.; his grandchildren, Matthew, Kathleen, Elizabeth, Joseph, Paul, Thomas, Andrew, Jacqueline, Tyler, Amanda; and eight greatgrandchildren.

To his many nieces and nephews he was "Uncle Junior." He cared for everyone like they were his own children. He taught, through his actions, what was most important in living a good life. He always did what was right and his decision to live out his life after his cancer diagnosis at home with family was consistant with what he valued. He found greater quality of life in sharing a shorter time with family than an extended one isolated.



(above) Joe and Elaine Nigro, married 62 years.

His many daily visitors would agree.

Thomas Surowiec had these words to say about his grandfather. "I've spent the better part of the last 13 years studying science and mathematics. During that time I earned a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, and a Ph.D. Nevertheless, nothing that I learned during that period of time outweighs the simple rules and lessons taught to me by my grandfather Joseph Nigro. These include, amongst other things, the importance of family, work, and moderation."

Thomas' mother Kathy shared the following, "When I think of my dad, these are the words that come to my mind. Strong, hard working, caring, kind and loving father."

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RICHARD PANTINA PROMOTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS

Captain Richard Pantina was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department on August 28, 2013. Pantina was hired in July 1989 and was assigned to the Patrol Division. Prior to his appointment with Parsippany, Pantina served as a Police Officer in his home town of Elizabeth for approximately three years. Pantina has received awards for Exceptional Duty. He served as a Community Relations Officer in the Planning and Research Section, a Sergeant and Lieutenant in the Patrol Division, functioned as a firearms instructor and the department's Assistant Firearms Coordinator and currently serves as the Division Commander of the Investigative Division. Pantina attended Union County College where he majored in Business. He is also a graduate of the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership Program. He resides in Berkeley Heights with his wife and two children.



(above, l-r) Deputy Chief Pantina is joined by his siblings after his promotion, Pete Casano, Patricia Brehme, Rich Pantina, Sally Ferry, Nick Pantina, Bob Pantina and Joe Pantina.



(above, l-r) Rich's lifelong friends from Peterstown attended his promotion ceremony, Phil Colicchio, Mike LoBrace, Rich Pantina, Percy McNab, Sergio Cianfano & Danny DeMarco.





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