

**FINAL
ISSUE**

Around About *Peterstown* ELIZABETH NJ

PRICELESS

ISSUE NO. 108

OCT/NOV 16

Published by Joe Renna for the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club



CIAO, ARRIVADERCI, ADDIO

After eighteen years in print the Peterstown Newspaper as you know it is ending. Documenting the one hundred year history of the Italian American neighborhood in Elizabeth NJ has been fulfilling and rewarding for publishers Joe and Tina Renna. Their labor of love will continue online at PeterstownNJ.com.

The first issue of The Peterstown Newspaper, the colloquial name for Around About Peterstown, was published in December 1998 and then every other month until November 2016. The inspiration for starting the publication was to create a way to keep in touch with friends and neighbors who have moved away from the neighborhood. It would also serve as a newsletter for the newly formed Sons of Peterstown Sports Club. The plan was to print 3,000 and circulate them locally and mail some to out of town friends. The response to the first issue was overwhelming, an additional 2,000 were printed and soon the circulation jumped to 10,000 and then 15,000. Subscriptions came from all over the country and across the state. The newspaper was available for free through drop points in all twenty-one towns in Union County.

Advertisers supported the production of the free newspaper and covered costs. For the most part it was a labor of love. The Peterstown Newspaper had multiple purposes. It was a way for folks to share news, the stuff that would be day to day conversation in the cafe's and shops, like birth announcements, deaths, and what's happening in the family. It also recorded the oral history of the neighborhood that would otherwise be lost. Backgrounds and experiences of families and individuals were traced back to their home towns in Italy. These stories illustrated the traditions and lifestyles of the Italian-American culture, including religion, work, education, sports, and food. Accomplishments in arts and science, politics and business were plentiful, and all achievers gave credit to the work ethic and moral values that were handed down from one generation to the next.

Like every other aspect of life, things go through cycles and the time has come for the Peterstown Newspaper to end. It seems like a natural occurrence, like the geopolitical cycle that economists refer to, which is also eighteen years. The beginning and ending of the newspaper may also be symbolic. It started when Joe and Tina moved from his family home on Niles Street. His daughters were the fourth generation to live there. The Sons of Peterstown was emerging and had purchased the old Stallion's Clubhouse. This was also symbolic of changing times. The club was formed by a younger generation in the wake of many of the older social clubs folding. After eighteen years the Renna's children are now adults and independent, the clubhouse was sold and replaced with houses, and the members of the Sons of Peterstown are fewer. Some moved on, and far too many have passed away. It's time for the next generation to take the baton. The sons of the Sons of Peterstown are about the same age now that their fathers were when the club was first formed.

Another contributing factor for ending the production of the Peterstown Newspaper is the growing success of Joe and Tina's business, Renna Media. Besides the Peterstown Newspaper, Renna Media publishes eighteen community newspapers on a monthly basis. Joe no longer has the time to dedicate to the Peterstown Newspaper, what he calls his hobby.

Though this is the last issue of the Peterstown Newspaper as we know it, it is not really the end. The newspaper, like the community itself, is just changing. Joe will continue his passion of writing stories and recording history but it will be done on the internet and through social media. There may be some form of the newspaper out spontaneously in the future. And the idea of a volume two of the Peterstown book is a recurring dream. Friends and neighbors from Peterstown are encouraged to record the oral history that has been passed down. Photos, captions and write-ups can still be sent to Renna Media which will continue to build an archive. 📷



(above) Joe and Tina Renna look back on publishing the Peterstown Newspaper for eighteen years and thank the readers and contributors who supported the effort.



(left, standing, l-r)
Stalwarts of the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club,
members Charlie Babeia, P.J. Cotroneo,
Jimmy Palermo, Mario Perez, John Sacco, Jr.
(sitting, l-r) Tony Izzo, Lou LaBrutto,
Anthony Bottitta, John Sacco, Charlie Colletti,
Jack LaBrutto and Joe Renna.



Oct 16

Around About Peterstown is published by Joe Renna. Ten 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



It's sad to see our newspaper ending its run of 18 years. I do understand why its happening. I know more than anyone the amount of effort that was put into the paper. I think everyone would agree that it was a source of pride to the neighborhood.

The Newspaper also benefited the St. Anthony's church and school, and every other club and organization that was doing a community service. I can't even put a value to how it assisted in fundraisers over the years. I will personally miss reading about my friends and neighbors, present and past. Looking at their photos and remembering the old days.

It reminds me of when George Harrison sang "All things must pass: "None of life's strings can last, So I must be on my way, And face another day."

Thank you, Joe and Tina, for all you did the past 20 years. It was much appreciated.

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.

Greetings Joe:

I never imagined, waiting for my cheese pie to cook yesterday that I would find myself reading a hearty rejection of atheism. I'm talking here about the front-page article in the August 2016 issue of the *Peterstown Newspaper*, which I picked up at Michelino's Pizzeria on St. Georges Avenue in Linden.

When I began reading my eyes just blinked with a little disbelief because it's a topic that's been on my mind a lot lately. But let me say, before continuing that I couldn't agree more and was much grateful to read your article. I wish more people were speaking out that way. The influence of these Godless atheists is really very negative and can only get worse.

I've spent some time recently reading up on some of the science as well. All this stuff they thought Darwin explained is all a heck of a lot more complex than anyone ever imagined, staggeringly complex - and beautifully designed. Anyhow, I'll leave it at that.

Thanks again for the article.

Blessings,
Al Fabrizio
Roselle, NJ

Hi Joe,

I want to thank you for doing such a great job writing the article for Jeff and the Di Maggios in the August 2016 issue of the *Peterstown Newspaper*. It was very touching with a personal effort on your part.

I brought a paper to my cousin Tommy Di Maggio who is in the VA Hospital at Lyons, NJ. He cried while reading and looking at the pictures. It was probably a combination of his issues, being in the hospital for over 6 months, and his 94 year old mother being diagnosed with cancer. The article sent him over the edge.

I dropped papers at Marino's Fish Market in Springfield, put a stack in Swiss Pastry Shoppe in Scotch Plains, the Quick Check, and my service station.

Thanks again,
Dominick Di Maggio
Scotch Plains, NJ

Hi Phil,

The beautiful article from the August 2016 issue of *Peterstown (Elizabeth) Newspaper* by your brother Joe gave us a peak into the life of your dad.

We shared it with a group of The Bobby Byrne Show fans when the band played at your bar in Avon, The Norwood Inn, and this donation came to be.

We were also impressed with Joe's front page article, "Choose Role Models Wisely", and how St. Anthony's church was the spiritual center in your hometown.

This positive environment surrounding St. Anthony's Church and flourishing through the Italian Immigrants resonates with us personally. Our traditions of Faith, Family and Community were enriched through Regina Pacis Parish in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn where we lived.

We smiled reading this newspaper. It was a delight learning about your dad and your hometown.

Fondly,
Mr. & Mrs. "G"
(Nancy and Ken Genalo)
Brick, NJ

The Renna Family would like to thank those who sent gifts to St. Anthony's Restoration Fund, in memory of their father, Peter, who was dedicated to the church and extolled the value of a Catholic education. St Anthony's Church and the grammar school, Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, can always use financial support to continue the work that benefited the community for generations.

To donate mail a check payable to
St. Anthony's Restoration Fund,
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or Contact the parish by phone at 908-351-3300
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Message: Brother Jerry Harasym.

Although I have already shared some thoughts on Brother Jerry, I felt compelled to add some additional remarks.

As a pastor, I can look back and name about seven people who had a strong and profound influence on me, that to this day I not only vividly recall them, but I put into practice daily what they taught me. Brother Jerry was one of those seven people. Here's a few things he passed on to me . . . Integrity, honesty, genuineness, God's peace regardless of the circumstances, compassion, kindness and non-judgemental love.

I am forever indebted to this great man of God. He saw something in me that very few saw . . . potential.

Brother Jerry, I will never forget you, never forget what you taught me, and never cease to reach out to the hurting, broken and unloved and unwanted in our world.

Looking forward to seeing you in Heaven one glorious day.

Love,
John Nocera
Calhoun, LA

(Brother Jerry Harasym, who served the Peterstown Community through St. Anthony's Church passed away on August 25, 2016. He was featured in the August 2016 issue of the *Peterstown Newspaper*.)

Dear Joe

The Battin High Class of 1956 held their 60th class reunion on Sunday, October 9th at the APA Hotel in the Metropark complex in Iselin. There were 48 former classmates (52 attendees) who spent the better part of the afternoon catching up on where their lives have taken them. Quite a few have been taken many miles from Elizabeth, New Jersey! Beverly Lear Ganschow traveled the farthest from Woodstock, IL with Evelyn Haschin Kurfess not far behind, coming from South Barrington, IL. Pat Trocino White drove from Pisgah Forest, NC and Heather Seaton Yurgeles from Ashville, NC. Anita Hood Schuhmacher was unable to leave Pawleys Island, NC due to Hurricane Matthew interrupting her travel plans. Fortunately, there was no damage to her home!

Many gals still have their roots planted in or around the vicinity of Elizabeth and, why not?? All agreed that it was a very special and wonderful city in which to reside. All Jersey Girls at heart!!

Among the gals were the author Judy Sussman Blume, who resides in NYC and Key West, FL. Judy spoke about her latest novel, "In The Unlikely Event", which reminded everyone there about the horrific tragedies that literally fell on the City of Elizabeth in 58 days from December 16, 1951 to February 11, 1952. The January 22nd crash almost landed on our Alma Mater Battin High.

Also another member of the class, Beverly Corvelli Colicchio, is mother to Tom Colicchio, a celebrity chef who was the co-founder of Gramercy Tavern, the head judge on Top Chef on Bravo, founder of Craft Restaurants nationwide and the owner of the new Fowler and Wells in the Beekman Hotel in NYC. Beverly is a star in her own right since Tom's favorite dish of all time is Bev's "Sunday Gravy" made with lots of love!

Had it not been for the remarkable coverage from The *Peterstown Newspaper*, there might not have been a reunion at all. Trying to contact everyone was impossible but the coverage afforded us by Renna Media made our reunion possible. We are most appreciative for all they have done for us.

The five-hour long get-together seemed to be over in no time as wonderful times were shared by all.

Thanks!
Lucille Disano
Elizabeth, NJ

(See page 12 for Battin Reunion Article)

Hello Mr. Renna

We look forward to receiving every issue of The *Peterstown Paper*. We enjoy reading the articles because they bring back many fond memories. The nostalgia has motivated us to write a little something and share some photos.

James L. Wilgus
Gladstone, NJ

(See page 12 for James Wilgus's article)

Editor's Opinion

by Joe Renna

Everyone says how great it was to grow up in The Burg. The Peterstown Newspaper was an effort to explain what that means. Almost every story points to culture, value, ethics, and morals. Without fail, homage was paid to our parents and grandparents. I'm sorry to say that their influence has been deteriorating with each generation.

Many stories, going back a hundred years, are about sacrifice, generosity, and courage. They were immigrants, in extreme poverty who ventured to a new world to build a better life for their families. They did it with hard work, education and faith in God. The most important aspect of their culture was that is was always community first. People truly cared for each other and without an agenda or expectations. Their love for family and friends was unconditionally.

The key word is unconditional. We live in a "me first" society. We have so much more than our parents had and more than our grandparents could have imagined. But, as material wealth and opportunity increased the need for community disappeared. So did the qualities that make for being a good neighbor. You can never know how to love someone unconditionally unless some one loved you

unconditionally. I'm finding folks nowadays are more independent, isolated and self centered. It's why I value my relationships with my Peterstown friends so much. Relationships that are three generations deep. I don't have to wonder if I could count on them. They will always be there for me, as I would for them. It's hard to find that trust outside of The Burg or amongst the younger generations. The Peterstown Book can serve them as a lesson manual.

There comes a time when one generation becomes less relevant. This year I felt that the baton has been passed and, like a true old fogie, I don't like what I see. I understand it and accept. That's how my generation was viewed at their age.

I do find it hard to accept or understand what I am seeing from my generation now. The self-righteous indignation spewed on the internet at each other is ridiculous; and for the most asinine reasons. We are children of the sixties for Christ's sake. We've overcome so much adversity only to be the ones dialing the clock back. It's disgraceful to be so self absorbed after what our parents and grandparents went through to give us the life

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

It is impossible to name everyone who helped to make the Peterstown Newspaper so successful. I fear by naming even one person I will offend others, except for my wife Tina who was involved in every aspect of getting it done.

In general terms I have to thank the family, friends and neighbors who helped in so many different ways, the contributors who shared their stories, photos, recipes, and wrote letters, the readers who responded so positively, and the businesses that advertised covered the cost of printing. I'd like to thank the many community service organizations who keep the traditions and culture of the community intact. Again, too many to name.

I do have to thank one person in particular, John Sacco, who embodies the moral and ethical fiber of what makes Peterstown great. The newspaper reflects the traditions and culture of a past era that he still cultivates through his generous support of the church, school, and to those in need. The newspaper would not have existed without his support and guidance through the years.

The decision to stop publishing the Peterstown Newspaper was not easy. The burden of producing the newspaper every two months was easily outweighed by the positive experience of doing it. What saddens me the most is losing the connection to all the beautiful people that the newspaper brought together.

Not for Nothing But...

political correctness has more to do with politics than it does being correct.

we have. More energy is being spent on dividing one another than it is on unifying. Society is becoming more fragmented in the name of diversity. Being American is no longer the superset that unites everyone. The baby Boomers have to own this. The political correctness movement is running amuck. What value, ethics, and morals are the Baby Boomer generation teaching future generations? It's embarrassing. That is why the millennials are hiding in their safe spaces clutching their participation trophies.

PETERSTOWN NEWSPAPER BY THE NUMBERS

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The PeterstownNJ.com website contains all 108 issues of the Peterstown Newspaper. It already has over one thousand photos in various albums and thousands more to be uploaded. Not doing the print version of the newspaper will allow time to digitize old prints, newspaper clippings and other records. Starting in 2017, the site will also feature old home movies shot on 8mm film and VHS tapes.

There is a cabinet full of Peterstown memorabilia to be scanned and uploaded. One project in particular is a historical collection of School #3, one of the public

grammar schools serving the Peterstown neighborhood. Photos, letters, note books, and newspaper clippings go back over one hundred years. The process is long and arduous and will be done incrementally.

Internet users are encouraged to visit the site regularly for updates. Facebook users will be prompted as to when new information is uploaded to both the website and on facebook. "Like" the PeterstownNJ page on facebook to keep in touch. Content will also be shared on RennaMedia.com and the Renna Media facebook page. 

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 3, 1956



ELVERA CAMERINO



CONSTANCE MAZZELLA



DANIEL DeMICO

Elizabeth children who entered competition under Boudinot Chapter sponsorship.

(left, above, below) Samples of School #3 memorabilia includes a 1961 letter from The White House, a 1956 newspaper clipping, and a class photo from 1921.

3 in City Schools Get DAR Prizes

Three Elizabeth public school children have won first prizes in the state Daughters of the American Revolution poster, essay and poem contest.

They were among members of Junior American Citizens' clubs throughout New Jersey who entered the competition. The Elizabeth entrants were sponsored by Boudinot Chapter, whose JAC committee is headed by Miss Gertrude E. Tichenor.

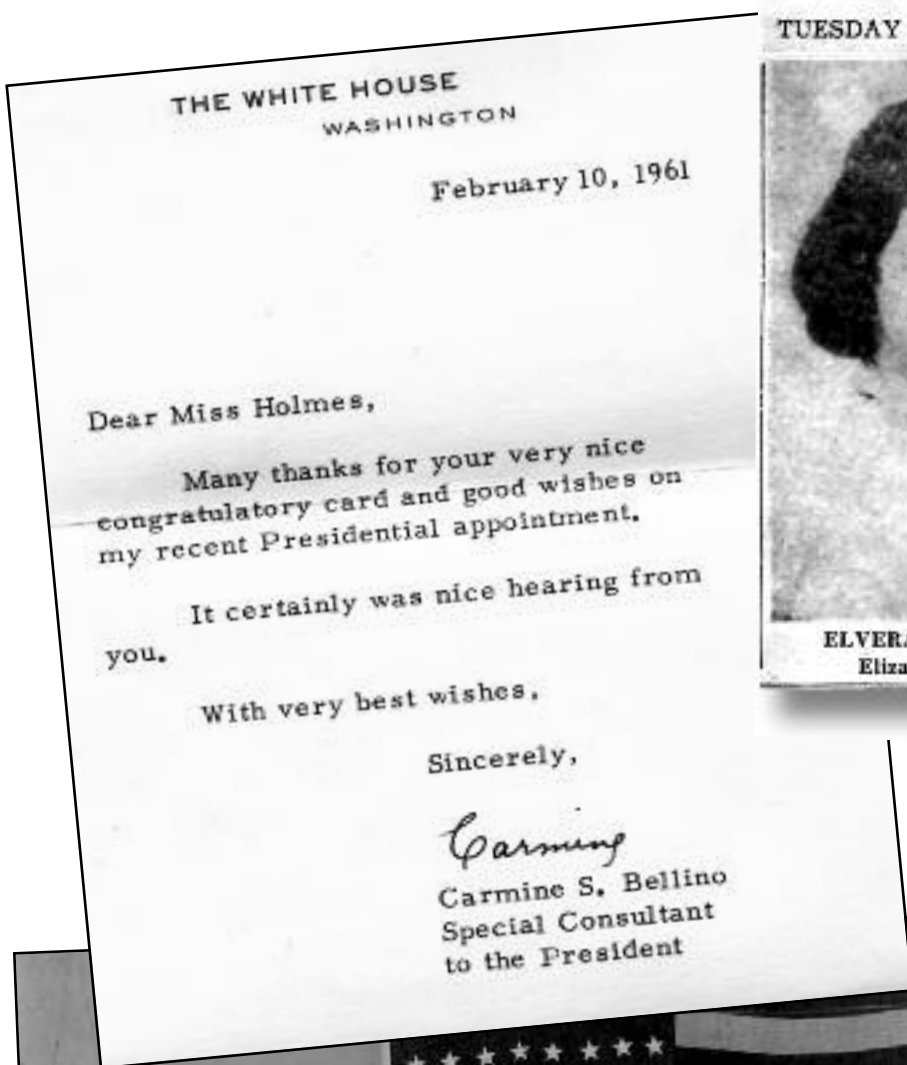
The winners, who topped their respective divisions, are: Elvera Camerino and Constance Mazzella, both of Continental School 3, and Daniel DeMico of Philip Carteret School 8.

Elvera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hamlet Camerino of 324 S. Seventh St., was honored for her poem, "The Two Citizens." She is in the sixth grade.

Constance, a fifth grader, entered a poster, "The Birth of the Red Cross." She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Mazzella of 317 Christine St.

Daniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent De Mico of 515 Elizabeth Ave., is in the third grade. The subject of his poster was "The Golden Spike Ceremony."

Throughout the school system there are 790 children enrolled in 28 JAC clubs at 10 schools. The program was originated by Mrs. Charles M. Tull in the spring of 1937. School 3 was the first to organize a unit.



GRADUATES OF SCHOOL #3 - 1921

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HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES

NAME THE MOVIES THAT FEATURED THESE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Headlines appear on 19 newspapers published by Renna Media

1 **Berkeley Heights**
CANDIDATE KANE CAUGHT IN LOVE NEST WITH "SINGER"

2 **Clark Monthly**
VITO CORLEONE FEARED MURDERED

3 **CRANFORD MONTHLY**
KRIS KRINGLE KRAZY? KOURT KASE KOMING "KALAMITY!" KRY KIDDIES

4 **Fanwood Post**
GALLAGHER KEY SUSPECT IN DIAZ DISAPPEARANCE

5 **Green Brook Gazette**
CLOCK TOWER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

6 **KENILWORTH LIFE**
SOPHOMORE DIES IN KILN EXPLOSION

7 **LIFE IN LINDEN**
JOHN HAY FORREST KILLED IN ACCIDENT

8 **Long Hill Leader**
PRESIDENT DECORATES HARRY BAILEY

9 **MOUNTAINSIDE VIEW**
PENGUIN FORGIVES PARENTS

10 **New Providence NEWS**
THIRD GOLDEN TICKET FOUND

11 **The PRIDE of North Plainfield**
APOLLO CREED TRAINS FORMER RIVAL

12 **OUR TOWN**
ALIEN STOLE MY HUSBAND'S SKIN!

13 **Scotch Plains NJ**
INCREDIBLE RESCUE AT SEA

14 **Summit Times**
STORM OVER "CRIME CURE" BOY

15 **Spirit of UNION**
ROXIE ROCKS CHICAGO

16 **WARREN MONTHLY**
WHO'S THAT GIRL?

17 **Watchung Post**
CAPED WONDER STUNS CITY

18 **Westfield MONTHLY**
NAME JOHNNY FRIENDLY AS WATERFRONT MURDER BOSS

19 **Peterstown Newspaper**
WET BANDITS ESCAPE!

Answers can be found at RennaMedia.com

1. Berkeley Heights News	11. The Pride of North Plainfield
2. Clark Monthly	12. Our Town Rahway
3. Cranford Monthly	13. Scotch Plains Monthly
4. Fanwood Post	14. Summit Times
5. Green Brook Gazette	15. Spirit of Union
6. Kenilworth Business Life	16. Warren Monthly
7. Life in Linden	17. Watchung Post
8. Long Hill Leader	18. Westfield Monthly
9. Mountainside View	19. Peterstown Newspaper
10. New Providence News	

Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Thank you,
Joe and Tina Renna



5 *Dimensions*
Oct 16



(above, l-r) Grace (LaBrutto) and Erica (Netta) from when they first opened in February 2011.

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(above) Courtney Villani with parents Diodato and Linda at her award reception on November 14, 2016.

COURTNEY VILLANI NAMED ONE OF 2016’S TOP 25 LEADING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The Top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs were recognized at a reception held on November 14, 2016 at the Liberty House in Jersey City, NJ. Among them was Courtney Villani, President of Villani Bus Company.

Leading Women Entrepreneurs is a media and events company that recognizes outstanding women business owners. Their annual award was developed for the purpose of acknowledging female, business owners who exhibit outstanding performance in four areas: market potential, innovation, community involvement, and advocacy for women. Courtney Villani excels in all categories and is well deserving of the recognition.

The twenty five awardees were chosen from 150 finalists. Approximately seven hundred nominations were received from women entrepreneurs who are all accomplished, intelligent and inspired by their work.

Courtney Villani, daughter of Diodato and Linda Villani, is President of Villani Bus Company located in Linden, NJ. Honored to be the third generation running the company, Courtney leads the charter and school bus

company created by her grandfather, Frank Villani, Sr., and successfully developed by her father, Diodato Villani who more than doubled the business in size when he was President. Courtney looks to continued growth as Villani Bus approaches its 100th year in business.

Courtney joined the family business because it had provided her with every opportunity in life at the time her father encountered some health issues. Prior to working with buses, she studied Sociology and Anthropology at Hofstra University.

At the age of 16, Courtney became a firefighter in Upper Black Eddy, PA and continued to serve while studying at Hofstra in Uniondale NY's Engine Co. 3.

Courtney’s resume of community service includes charities in Elizabeth and its Peterstown Community through the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO National, an Italian-American service organization. In 2012 Courtney Villani served as the club’s president. Courtney also served as Governor to UINCO National District X.

LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER RUSS HARRIS PASSES AWAY AT 92

Russell M. Harris was 92 when he passed away on May 17, 2016. He will be remembered for many reasons, including as an advocate for worker’s rights, being active in veteran affairs and his involvement in Community

service organizations. He will be remembered mostly, though, for his kind and generous nature that he showed everyone he met. Above all Russell loved and cherished his family, three children, eleven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Russell was born on February 6, 1924, to Romaine and Sarah Morgan Harris. He was raised in Elizabeth and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, where he excelled in both academics and sports.

He was married to the love of his life, Ann Nigro, on August 29, 1943. They lived in Linden, N.J., Roselle Park, N.J., and the Peterstown section of Elizabeth before moving to Berkeley Heights in 2014. They were in their seventy-third year of marriage when he passed away.

After graduating high school Russell joined the U.S. Navy where he was assigned to the Destroyer Escort No. 532, U.S.S. Tweedy during WWII. After the end of the war, Russell returned to Elizabeth and commenced a 37-year-long career with Standard Oil Company (now known as Exxon). Russell proudly represented his co-workers as a charter member of Teamsters Local No. 877 and member of its first executive board.

Inspired by his involvement with the labor movement,

Russell attended and graduated from St. Peter's College Institute for Industrial Relations. His education and experience made him a successful advocate for workers' rights and one of Local 877's most admired presidents.

He was a member of the Exxon Annuitants Club; Treasurer of the Admiral Halsey Chapter 73 of the Disabled American Veterans; Saint Anthony of Padua Senior Organization; Retired Men and Women's Club of Peterstown; a Eucharistic Minister at St. John's Episcopal Church, Elizabeth, and an avid golfer.

He is survived by his wife Ann; daughters Patricia Guidetti (Vic) of Berkeley Heights, and Kathleen Brophy (George) of Union, N.J.; daughter-in-law Debbie Harris of Roselle Park; grandchildren Vic Guidetti (Stefanie), Lisa Guidetti, Michael Guidetti (Wendy), Mark Guidetti (Jennifer), Kelly Ann Harris, Russell M. Harris II (Laura), Matthew Harris, Allan Brophy (Lisa), George Brophy (Melissa), Michael Brophy and April Brophy, as well as 16 great-grandchildren.

Russell was predeceased by his beloved son, Russell R. Harris, in 2014; his parents, Romaine and Sarah, and sisters, Dorothy Harris and Jean Jepsen Donofrio.



(below) Russ and Ann Harris in 2006

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SOPHIE AND HAMLETT ROLE MODELS FOR MIKE

Mike Camerino shared his family history of his paternal ancestors with the readers of the August 2016 issue of the Peterstown Newspaper. The story was complex but rich with intrigue. It had all the makings of a Hollywood movie. A story of love found and loss, international royalty, and an exploding building. The uncertainty of traveling to America was challenging. Family dynamics were complicated and got even more so when his widowed grandmother, Elvira found new love in the new world.

Elvira had four children when she remarried, this time to Michele D'Ambrosio, a widower with three children of his own. Elvira's son Amletto, A.K.A. Hamlet, and Michele's daughter Margaret got married but she died shortly after. Hamlet remarried, this time to Sophie Bellino. They had three children Michael Camerino being the oldest.

Sophie was the daughter of Gerolima and Vincent Bellino. Her father, Vincent, died in a work accident when she was just five years old. Her mother remarried,

a widower by the name of Rosario Garrutta who had two daughters, Mary and Sadie.

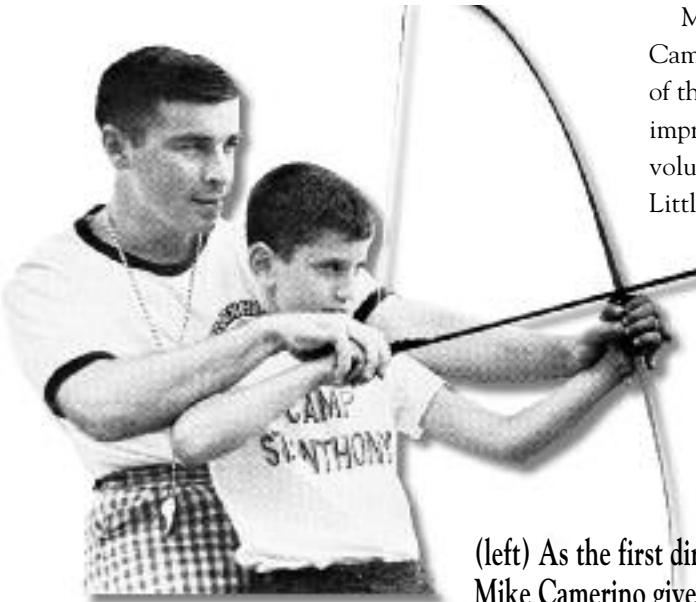
Hamlet and Sophie lived at 324 South Seventh Street in the Peterstown Section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Mike and his two sisters Vera and Gerri attended Elementary School #3 and Grover Cleveland Jr. High. The girls attended Battin High School and Mike went to Thomas Jefferson High School. Sophie was an exemplary mother, a giving, self-sacrificing woman and who cared for her step father who moved in with her family. Sophie passed away in 1994.

Sophie's cousin Carmine Bellino was special consultant for Robert Kennedy. He examined and analyzed financial records associated with Senate subcommittee investigations. Kennedy was fond of Carmine's family and enjoyed their company. In 1961 they gathered at the Essex House in Newark, New Jersey for a testimonial dinner honoring Carmine. The relationship with the Kennedys was a great source of pride. for Sophie and the family.



(above, l-r) Robert F. Kennedy, Sonia and Hamlet Camerino at a June 1961 Testamonial Diner for Carmine Bellino.

THANKS GOES TO MICHAEL CAMERINO



(left) As the first director of St. Anthony's Summer camp, Mike Camerino gives archery instruction to a camper.

Many fond memories were shared about Michael Camerino after he was featured in the August 2016 issue of the Peterstown Newspaper. Mike made a lasting impression of a host of people who he helped as a volunteer for the youth of St. Anthony's, including as a Little League coach and director of the Summer Camp.



(left) Michael Camerino, who was recently selected as the Somerset County Outstanding Citizen of the Year in part for his community service, credits his parents for his compassion and charitable nature.



(above, l-r) Carmine's wife Santina (Novello) Bellino, Robert Kennedy, Diner Chairman Dan Ohara, Carmine's mom's brother Paul LaFaso, Carmine Bellino, and Hamlet Camerino.

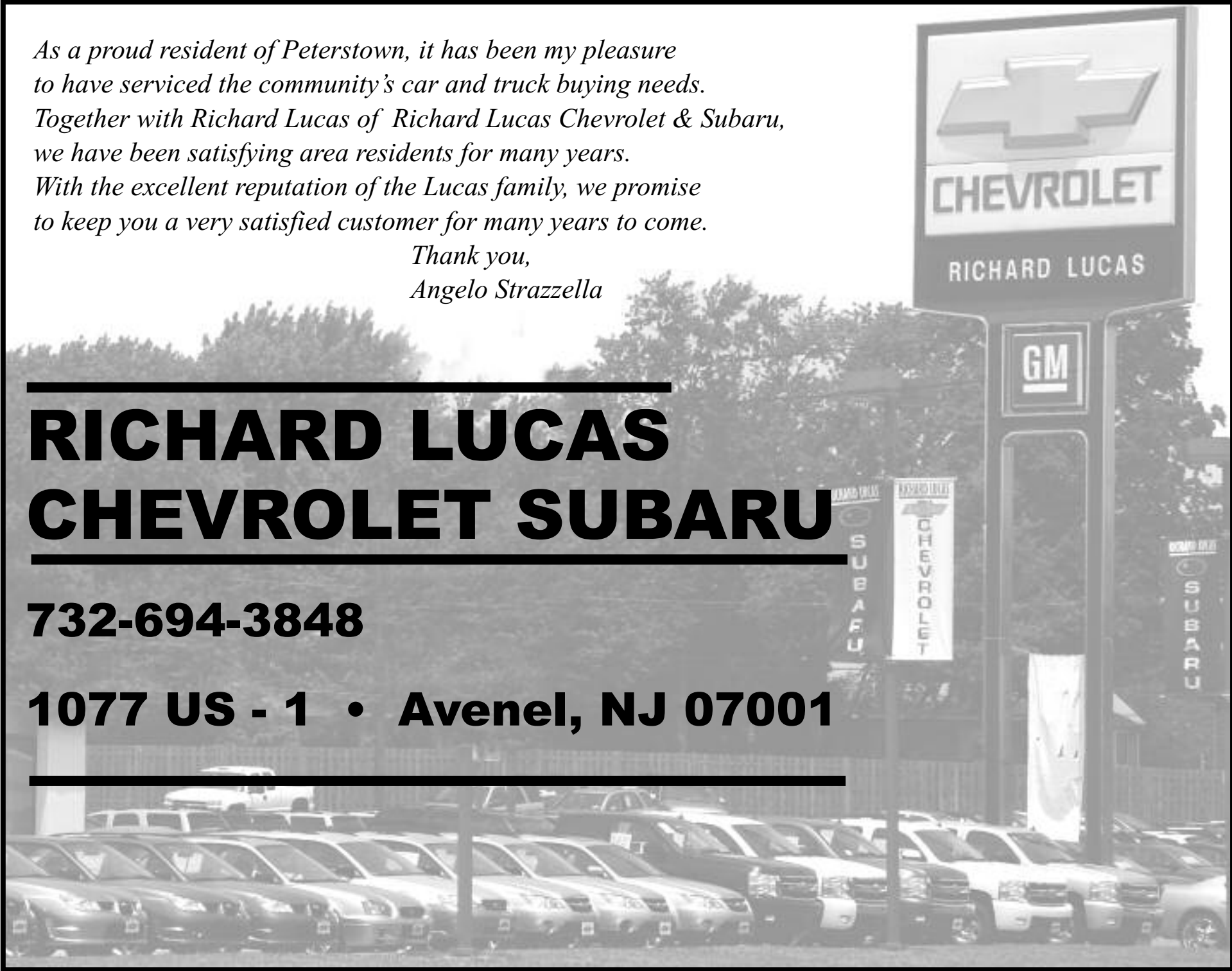
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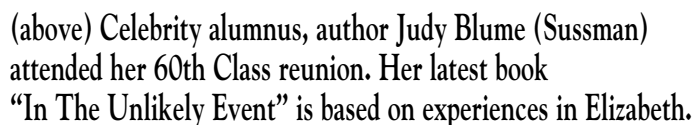
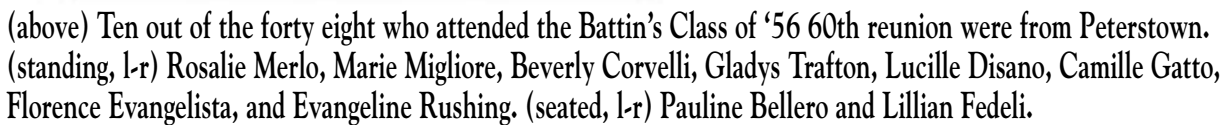
*Thank you,
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BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1956 CELEBRATES 60TH CLASS REUNION

Submitted by Joanne Tischler Stern


We were girls again for a few wonderful hours! On Sunday, October 9, about 50 graduates of Battin High School in Elizabeth gathered to celebrate the 60th reunion of the Class of 1956. Held at the APA Hotel in Metropark, formerly the Woodbridge Hilton, they came from Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, New York and all points Jersey, many hadn't seen each other in decades. Much had changed - physically and psychologically - but to hear the animated conversations and see the smiles of recognition, nothing much really did change since the spirited lunchroom and homeroom talks or of Pamel's after school or Spirito's at supper. There was

even a spontaneous group singing of the Alma Mater, with many showing the remembered techniques learned in Miss Johnson's glee clubs. Tears were spotted on more than a few cheeks.

Months in planning, the reunion was coordinated by Arlene Serpico Lospinoso of Middletown and Lucille Disano of Elizabeth. They announced that all the money left over would be donated to Trinitas Hospital in honor of our class.

Among the highlights of the afternoon were from Judy Sussman, now known around the world as the author Judy Blume of Florida and New York. Her 2015 novel, *In the Unlikely Event*, was based on the very real events of the winter of 1952 when three airplanes headed for Newark Airport crashed in Elizabeth within a period of 54 days. Classmates agreed that grasping the depth of these tragedies was more than most 14-year-olds could comprehend and found that her novel, built around those facts brought some clarity and understanding of those pre-Internet and instant news days.

Conversations about illness and family loss, grey hair and wrinkles couldn't be found. Instead, groups were heard sharing memories of classes and teachers, after school events, what we wore and listened to, and some of the lifelong lessons and memories of those carefree days. Most agreed that today's high school students have a much more challenging time navigating their teen years. Many brought yearbooks, photos and newspaper clippings as reminders of the three years spent at Battin.

Most were reluctant to leave after more than four hours. There were hugs and kisses and promises to do this again. 

Not for Nothing But...

the word from the
bird is Judy Sussman
makes the king's jive.



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RUDY JOINS CARMINE AT CIANFANO'S AND OPENS 4TH AVE BAR & GRILL

Rudy Lopez and Carmine Cianfano are lifelong friends from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. They went through St. Anthony's Grammar School and Edison Tech High School together. On December 1, 2016 they will joined forces to open 4th Ave Bar & Grill. 4th Ave is a rebirth of Cianfano's Restaurant on the corner of Fourth Avenue and High Street.

Carmine runs the family business that his father and mother owned and operated . Before them it was the Third Round owned by Armond Mone and before that it was Candee's, owned and operated by the Candelino family, and Jimmy Zangara had it before them. Rudy and

Carmine will continue the tradition of keeping it a family owned and operated neighborhood bar and restaurant.

Rudy has been cooking since his teen years and has worked and trained in a variety of restaurants, some local and some known regionally. His repertoire includes Italian, Spanish, Cajun, Seafood, and Americana cuisine. 4th Ave will have a menu with specials sampling all of his talents. Raviolis, Veal and Peppers, Wild Boar Burgers, Steaks, Chops, and Cuban nachos will be staples.

The restaurant, located at 715 Fourth Avenue will be open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Recipes

Submitted by: Rudy Lopez, 4th Ave Bar & Grill

Fritura Bacalao (Cod Fritters)

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 lb Boneless Bacalao | 1 large Onion |
| 5 medium Eggs | 1 bunch chopped Parsley |
| 2 cups Flour | Cooking Oil |
| 1 teaspoon Baking Powder | |

PREPARATION

- 1) Cook dry Cod - bring to boil three times. Changing the water each time. Allow water to cool after last boil.
- 2) In a mixing bowl, stir shredded Cod and add all ingredients. Then mix well.
- 3) Heat oil to medium-high in a fry pan.
- 4) Drop spoonfuls of mixture in to pan. Do not over crowd.
- 5) Continue frying until fritters turn golden brown.

Longganisa (Spanish Sausage)

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 lb ground Sausage | 2 slices of Lime |
| Hog Casing | 2 tablespoons smoked Paprika |
| 1 bunch Parsley | 1 1/2 cups iced Wated |
| 1 bunch Cilantro | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 2 slices of Lemon | |

PREPARATION

- 1) Mix all ingredients well
- 2) Stuff in Hog Casing
- 3) Boil for 10 minutes. Let rest and cool
- 4) Heat oil to medium-high in a fry pan. Add sausage. Cook til well done.



(above) Rudy Lopez back home cooking in Peterstown making his signature Wild Boar Burger. (left)

GOOGLE LETS YOU WALK THROUGH THE DOOR AND INSIDE CIANFANO'S

Cianfano's is using the latest technology to get people in their door literally and virtually. Two brothers, Danny and Leo Zuñiga and Peterstown natives and friends of Carmine and Rudy. Leo is one of eight Google licensed photographers in New Jersey that can video a walking tour of the interior of a business and stream it

into the Google Maps program.

With that service, users can search and address, view it by satellite, zoom into a street view and enter the business and take a virtual tour. Check out 715 Fourth Avenue, Elizabeth Avenue on Google maps for a demonstration.



(above, l-r) Three views of Cianfano's (soon to be 4th Ave Bar & Grill) on Google maps, the satalite view from Google Earth, a street view from the corner of Fourth Avenue, and the view as you walk in the door.

4th Ave Bar & Grill

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(above, l-r) Danny and Leo Zuñiga putting 4th Ave bar & Grill on the map.

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(above) Lois and George Sr. holding daughter Rose, while the fashionable George Jr. strikes a dramatic pose. The family is standing in front of a three car garage that served as the headquarters for the family business.

Tidbit: George Jr. was way ahead of his time in the 1970s by using solar energy to heat the built in pool next to the garage. He had the entire three car garage roof covered with garden hoses attached end to end and had the pool filter pump water through them. The water would be heated by the sun during its journey back through the filter and into the pool.



(above) George Jr. continued the family masonry business that was started by his dad. George Sr. ran the original Triola's Brother Contracting business that also enabled his father, Joe, to become a general contractor. The family business prospered and George Sr. sought to give opportunity to other immigrants. In the early days Lois would drive to wher where her husband was working, bring him dinner and illuminate the job site with her car.

TRIOLA'S HOME WAS CATCHALL FOR COMMUNITY

The Triola house, located at 417 Spencer Street, was a compound of sorts. It not only housed the family of twelve but was also the headquarters for the family business. George Triola built a three car garage on the property from which he ran the family's contracting business, Triola's Brothers. The business would morph into Quick Masonry and be taken over by George Jr. in the late 1980's, when his parents were transitioning to living in Florida.

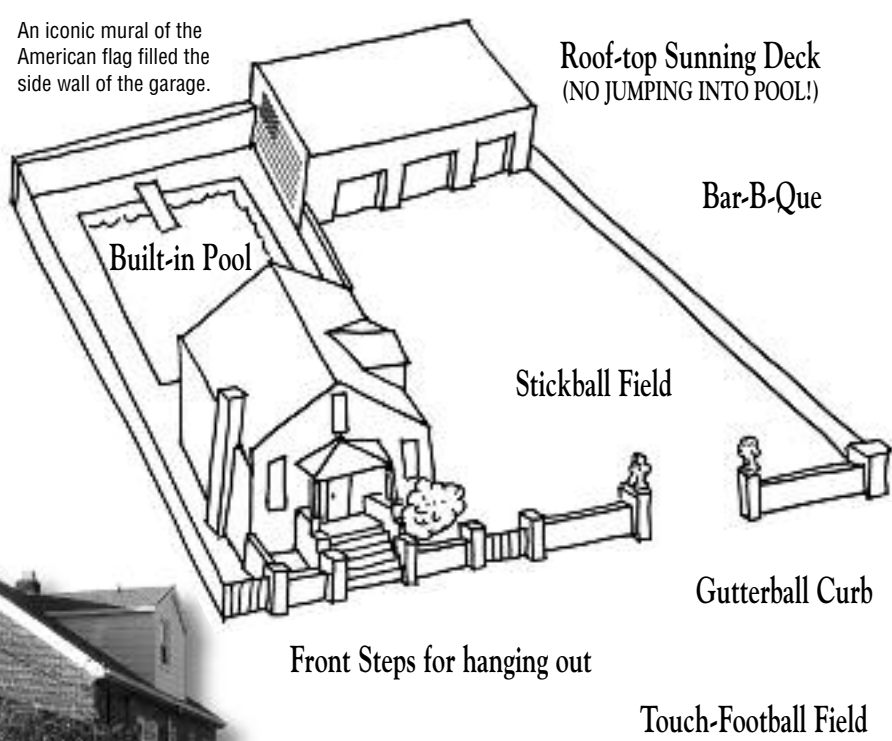
FEATURES OF TRIOLALAND

The Triola family generously opened their home to neighbors and friends. Everyone was welcomed. Like an amusement park it had many attractions including a built-in pool with a bar-b-que. The nine car driveway was a perfect stickball field with the garage door as a backstop and the front fence as a homerun. The street curb was for gutter ball and touch football was played in

The third facet of the compound was the recreation center. The Triola's had a built in pool, measuring 16 'x 32' x 8' deep, and a big driveway to play in. It was a catchall for the neighborhood kids to swim and play. The house had a great brick stair case in the front, perfect for just hanging out. Mary Triola explained the amenities of the house was the alternative to her parents going out, "Who could they visit with ten kids?"



(above) Poolside at the Triola's



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THE LAST OF THE BIG ITALIAN FAMILIES

Peterstown, the Italian neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ has had its share of families numbering the teens. The Peterstown Newspaper featured many of those families histories. Those stories, though, are very dated. They harkened back to the early part of the 1900's when things were cheaper by the dozen. The baby boom in the second half of the century saw a return to the tradition of big families but none in double digits except for the Triola family, they were the last of the big Italian families from Peterstown, and were actually half Irish.

Lois McCutcheon was a beautiful Irish girl from Elizabeth and attended St. Mary's High School. George Triola was from Mravlagv Manor in the Bayway section of Elizabeth before moving to Spencer Street in the Peterstown section. They were one year apart in age. George was born on January 15, 1934 and Lois on February 12, 1935. George went to Elizabeth's Thomas Edison Technical High School and Lois went to St. Mary's. Lois had a friend, Mary Bonner, who transferred from St. Mary's to Edison. George first saw Lois when she visited Mary at Edison and he was hit by the thunderbolt. It was love at first sight. It was also an unrequited love though, or, to be more accurate, a forbidden love. Lois's father would not allow her to date an Italian boy.

Prejudice be damned, love conquers all. Lois and George did not deny their feelings. It wasn't an easy choice for Lois. He father disowned her and wanted nothing to do with the relationship. The young couple proved he was on the wrong side of history. Lois and George married on September 20, 1953 in St. Mary's Church. They went on to have ten children, in birth order, George Jr., Rose, Nancy, Joey, Albert, Mary, Tommy, Lisa, Frankie, and Kathleen. They in turn produced

twenty-six grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Lois and George were a dedicated couple for forty three years up to when George passed away in 1995.

The clan were parishioners of Holy Rosary Church located in Peterstown at the end of Palmer Street and along Elizabeth Avenue. They would also attend the parish's grammar school. Lois was one of three children and George one of seven. George's parents, Joseph and Rose, were supportive and it was their house on 417 Spencer Street where the burgeoning family would call home. Lois's parents held a grudge and never met their grandchildren.

The Triola family were good neighbors and friends to everyone, the last of the big Italian families from Peterstown. They did a great job representing.



(above, l-r) Kathleen, Mary and Frankie celebrating their mom's 80th birthday on February 12, 2015.



(above, l-r) Lois and George Triola



(above, l-r) Joseph and Rose Triola



(above, l-r) The Triola clan: Joey, Albert, Nancy, Tommy, Mary, Lois, Lisa, George Sr., Kathleen, Frankie, Rosie, and George Jr.

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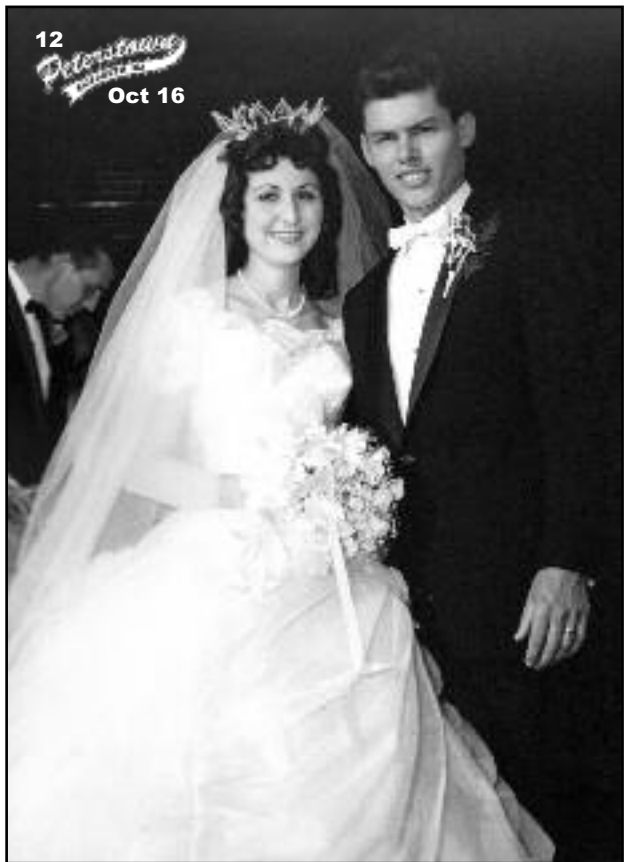
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(left) Bella and James Wilgus on their wedding day, October 8, 1960.

BELLA AND JAMES WILGUS CELEBRATE 56TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Bella Masapolli was born and raised at 310 Spencer Street and was married on October 8, 1960 to James Wilgus at St Anthony’s Church by Father Dominic Battistello on a beautiful Fall day.

Bella is the daughter of Grace Marangia Masapolli and James Masapolli, who spent their entire life in Elizabeth. She became a teacher and realtor and Jim became an engineer and entrepreneur. They lived on Spencer Street with her parents for the first 5 years of their marriage and will always look back on their special memories of Elizabeth.

Their wedding party also has roots in Peterstown. Joseph Occhipinti, Niles Street, the Best Man became a builder and later a Charter Captain. Kathleen DiAntinio, 3rd Ave., was the Maid Of Honor. Rodney Proto, Spencer St., the Groom’s Ring Bearer, graduated from St. Anthony’s and became President/CEO for Waste Management. Frank Rocca, 3rd Ave., the Brides’ Ring Bearer became Principal of Jefferson H.S. Linda Proto, Spencer St., Flower Girl, graduated from St. Anthony’s and is a Professor at Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO. Mary Ann Cotroneo, Bridesmaid worked at Saraceno’s Bakery every Sunday. Eileen Galinis, who lived down the “Port”, was also a Bridesmaid who became a teacher in the Elizabeth school system. Her name may be familiar because her father was a Police Chief in Elizabeth. John Campo, a cousin who lived in Brooklyn, was also a Flower Boy. The tradition was to get as many

of the “family” involved in the wedding party and they certainly did not want to break tradition.

Peterstown was a typical small town where boy-meets-girl, but more important, it’s where married couples lived until they could afford their starter house, even if it meant living with “Mom and Dad”. It was fortunate to start married life living in Peterstown near family and friends.

Bella and Jim still live in NJ and have 2 children, Wendy and Jimmy. They still return to Spirito’s at least once a year, proud to show their children where they grew up. Their memories from Peterstown included Friday nights at the Ritz for a double feature and shopping at “Poppy Made Mommy Stop Knitting” where they could buy matching sweaters. While dating, Bella’s dad would take them to the Armory on Saturday’s to see wrestling and her mom would take them to the Armory to see roller derby. Bella went to Benedictine Academy and graduated Kean College. Jim was originally from Staten Island, and he never went back once he met Bella, and graduated Newark College of Engineering. They both worked at Olympic Park every summer from 1965 – 1966 operating rides and games owned by her parents to make enough money to pay college tuitions.

The memories are endless, but that’s all they could share for now. Perhaps on their 75th Anniversary they’ll share more personal memories of life in the mid-20th century in Peterstown.



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CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS CELEBRATE 60 YRS


Submitted by Bella Piga

Sal and Anne Piga (nee Winkler) were married on September 8, 1956 at St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

On September 19, 2016, a gathering was held at Michelino's Restaurant in Elizabeth to celebrate their sixtieth anniversary. Pastor Debbie from Christ Fellowship Church, also in Elizabeth, performed a short ceremony of a blessing and renewal of their vows with their son Peter and daughter Sally Anne as their attendants.

Sal grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth and lived on Fourth Avenue. Anne, originally from Newark, moved to John Street as a teenager, a short way up from Fourth Avenue. Her father worked in Brown's Bakery on Elizabeth Avenue.

Anne soon made friends with a group of guys and girls who hung out on the corner of Fourth and John where she met Sal, became childhood sweethearts and fell in love. The close knit group were inseparable. They played Bingo at the Elks Club once a week and would go to the State Theater where they received a dish for five cents. Most of the time, though, they just hung out close to home and had fun. The group of friends were all in the bridal party when Sal and Anne got married.

Sal and Anne loved to travel and visited most of the United States. They still live in Elizabeth, their son Peter and his wife Eve live close by and Sally Anne lives in Florida. 



(left) Sal and Anne Piga's on their wedding day,
September 8, 1956.



(above) Childhood sweethearts Sal Piga and Anne Winkler at their senior prom on May 21, 1954.



(above, l-r) Groomsmen: paul Varrecchia, Charles Panchery and Amidio Veltre, Best man: Pat Balboa, Groom: Sal Piga, Ring bearer: Michael Ragazzo, Flower girl: Denise Dubell, Bride: Anne Piga, Maid of honor; Bella Piga, Bridesmaids; marie DeMaio, Joyce Dalia, and Lucille (LuLu) Balboa.



(above) Peter (l) and his sister Sally Anne (r) stood up for their parents Anne and Sal Piga when they renewed their vows in 2016 marking their 60th anniversary.

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 Wide Selection of Air Fresheners &
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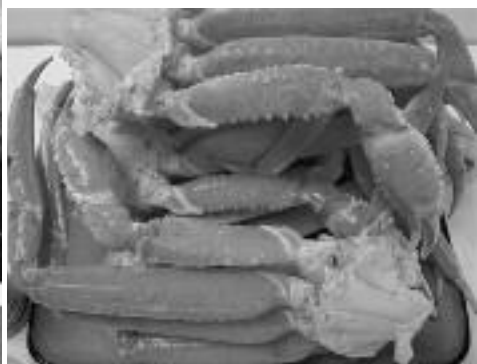
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BUFFET**

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11AM - 3:30PM

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**SUNDAY
ALL DAY DINNER
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Expires 1/15/17

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BUFFET**

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BUFFET
DINNER ONLY**

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Limit 2 adults per coupon. Not valid with any other offer or holidays.
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