



IT'S A HARD KNOCK LIFE FOR US

In 1919 the seven Gallo brothers were orphaned. What was amazing is how they didn't get caught in a spiral of despair. Not only did the parentless children overcome their dire situation but they flourished and their children excelled.

Fate dealt them a losing hand and yet they prevailed. Considering that the family went through the Great Depression it would seem that the cards were stacked against them. So how did they prevail when most indigent families today can't seem to break the cycle of poverty?

The only conclusion is that the Gallos are a product of a community who's value system would not allow the least of their brothers to despair. It is a community where family values trump every suit, where the church is part of each home. The Peterstown Community is such that no one is alone. It is a blessing to have grown up in such a community. The tradition of helping others and unselfish generosity is still alive.

What happens to those who are not fortunate to be part of a support system? The individuals that are alone, with no one to turn to, no family, who played their last card and have no chips to cash in?

Historically religious and social service organizations have taken the responsibility of caring for the poor. It is not the optimal method of doing it and they can never meet the demand. In a perfect society the government should ensure that the people's basic needs are met. For 21 municipalities that responsibility lies with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. They have the authority as elected representatives to do what's best for the people and they are guaranteed the resources necessary to do so.

The abundance of poverty is the lack of government performing their duty. A breach of the public's trust. Nowhere is this more evident than in Union County government. The latest malignity was the cancellation of a \$20,000 annual grant the county gave to St. Joseph's Social Service Center for their Prescription Assistance Program.

The program fills prescriptions for people who have no insurance which covers medication and have no other means of getting a prescription filled. Chronic illnesses are top priority. Medicines for heart disease, diabetes and asthma are commonly dispensed. Also, patients on medicare or social security, who may wait up to a year for their coverage to kick in, can be covered by this program during that period.

Though the annual county grant only lasted half a year it was vital to the existence of the program. St. Joseph's can actually use four times the amount. St. Joseph's uses funds from its other programs to fulfill the prescription commitments. The program can literally mean the difference between life and death.

This year the county changed the criteria for who gets the grant money. It seems that out of the 50 programs identified, prescriptions was not on the list. What is on the list are descriptions of programs which would give the funds to organizations run by the familiar names associated with political players in the county.

It is one thing for government to neglect a social ill but it is horrible when it causes the afflictions. Critics of the county, including this writer, claim Union County government is systematically eroding the human service programs that are one of the main reasons for the need for county government. Union County residents are suffering from four property tax increases over the last four years and a cut back in services.

The county budget for 2004 will climb to over \$360 million. Consider that the county spends about \$20,000 on donuts for their administrative meetings. The way the county sucks the people of their money and dignity is inexcusable. The way they deprive them of essential services is immoral.

The Freeholder's tag line is "Where Connected to You". It seems that they are connected only to themselves and unless you have a connection to them then your out of luck.

The county spent over \$1 BILLION over the past three years. What do they have to show for it? Are they connected to you? They certainly aren't connected to St. Joseph's and the people they service.

Freeholders are up for reelection every year so voters can make a difference and stop this cycle of abuse and in turn help stop the cycle of poverty. It takes some effort to unseat the powers that be. It's a fight worth fighting. 🐾

(left) Amerigo Gallo tunes in the radio at the Elizabeth Orphanage. He was 6 years old when he entered. He died at 12, getting hit by lightning while camping out with his boy scout troop.



(above, l-r) Board of Education President, Carole Cascio, with candidates Carlos Cedeño, Madinah A. Hawkins, and Ed Whelan. Carole is the daughter of Thomas Gallo who, with his six brothers were orphaned in 1919. He was 10 years old.



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President's Message



Frank Mazzarella has been a volunteer to St. Anthony's Church and School longer than I've been alive. You could guess my age but he's been calling bingo for over fifty years.

When the club started honoring people at our annual picnic, members started thinking of names of people who contributed to the community and deserved to be honored. Well the list is so long that we can honor someone for the next century and still not be finished with the list. Peterstown is just that type of community. Community service is part of the lifestyle.

Because there are so many worthy candidates, the club now honors more than one person some years. Joining Frank in this special day are Louis Malillo, president of the Peterstown Men's and Woman's Retirement Club who is also a volunteer for the city's Nutrition Program and Russell Harris, a long time active member of the St. Anthony's Senior Citizen Club serving as president and treasurer. Both these men have worked countless hours over countless years to improve the quality of the social life for the senior citizens of our community.

These three honorees never stepped into the limelight or asked for anything in return for their generosity. They just do what has to be done.

Thank you and God bless.
John Sacco, President

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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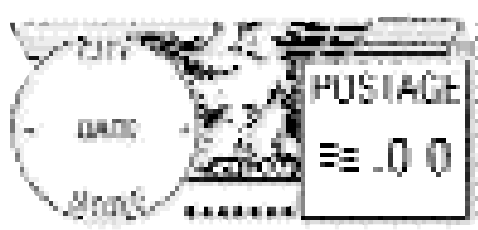
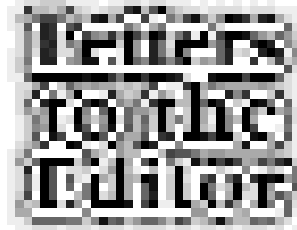
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LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses. Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed). Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

Hi Joe --

I LOVE the paper and look forward to each and every new publication. I was really surprised when I picked up the February 04 copy and saw Billy Higgins' picture on the front. I was terribly upset to hear of his recent problems, but thankful that he has Charles to help him out. That's quite a sacrifice, even for a family member, but I know I would do the same if the situation ever presented itself.

My best friend, Connie Isner and I knew Billy back in the "disco days", when we were frequenting RODZ (by Jerry's Hot Dogs). Even though we have lost touch over these last 25 (or so) years, we always talk fondly of Billy and all the good times we used to have.

Both Connie and I want to send our greetings and well wishes to Billy. We want him to know we are thinking of him and praying for his complete recovery.

THANKS A MILLION,
Debbie Scheidegger & Connie Isner

Dear Editor,

As a Peterstown native, I have enjoyed your newspaper. I have many memories of living and growing up on Christine Street and having nice neighbors like the Catalanos, Miglores and Castronovas and a few others. Of course, I can't leave out St. Anthony's Church, which is the best church in the state of New Jersey.

Peterstown will always be in my heart.
Marie (Senese) Bloodgood
Lakewood, NJ

Hi Joe,

I have been subscribing to your Around About Peterstown for about 3 years and I just love it. My dad was born and raised down the Burg as was I. Allot of the people and stories are very familiar to me and my family.

Thanks,
Pat Kero
Linden, NJ

Dear friends,

We would like to thank everyone who made a donation toward the purchase of the statue of St. Francis of Assisi which stands next to St. Anthony's church. The statue was erected in loving memory of Franciscan Brother Frank Cicchitto, OFM, PH.D., our son and brother.

May he rest in peace,
Jenny Cicchitto
Union, NJ

To whom it may concern,

In the "Around About Peterstown" paper (Feb 04) you have the Saint Anthony's class of 1974, who is having a reunion. The last picture on the page is of Miss Mierzejski. I am her great aunt.

There were two girls. Linda and Joyce. They were both teachers. Linda taught in public school. Joyce taught in St. Anthony's. She played the organ and guitar at mass and became a Selesian nun.

Linda died several years ago leaving three children. Joyce is in Lakewood. She lost her father, my nephew a few months ago. I am a former teacher of Saint Adalbert's School on Third Street in Elizabeth, NJ. I would like to know if the teacher in the reunion picture is Joyce or Linda.

Thankfully, Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Joan Nizio
Linden, NJ



Joyce Mierzejski

To the Peterstown Community,

Many thanks for your expression of sympathy. We would like to especially thank John, Jr. and Marielo, Jr. We would also like to thank the students and staff of the Learning Community Center in Edison, NJ. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be remembered with deep appreciation.

From the Diaz-Oyola family,
Dad and mom, Armando & Zaida
Brother and sisters,
Mileidys, Zeny, Vladimir,
Kein Carlos (ñaña) & Lisa.
Niece & nephews, Elisa, Brittney, Mathew & Raymond.



Joel Diaz
8/13/84-12/19/03

To Deacon Joseph Caporaso,

Congratulations on being selected UNICO's "2004 Man of the Year". An honor well deserved. With our best wishes,
The Parish of Saint Anthony's
Peterstown, NJ

ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '74 THE REUNION IS ON!

The committee putting the reunion together has had a great response. The cost for the evening of great food and drink will be just \$30 per head, \$1 per year. The balance for the cost will be paid for by an anonymous donor.

The reunion will take place on October 23 at at the elegant La Cantena Restaurant on Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park.

The committee is asking their classmates to save the date and, if they haven't done so, to email or mail their address and phone number to this newspaper so that invitations can be sent. ✉



(above, l-r) 30 year reunion committee Manny Fortunato, Patricia Dagro, Larry Higgins, Nick Cistrelli and Joe Renna. Classmates should send their address and phone number by email to:

joerenna@joerenna.com

or mail to: Around About Peterstown,
202 Walnut Avenue,
Cranford, NJ 07016

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Rennan

People should have access to public records free of barriers. The technology exists which would enable government agencies to post public records on the internet and have them available for review and to be downloaded by the public. The cost savings of record keeping and retrieval would be cut tremendously. For instance if someone were to request the minutes of a public meeting they must make the request using an OPRA request form and submit it to the custodian of records. The custodian must then locate the document, copy it and then arrange to have it sent to the person who requested it. The requester would also be charged a fee for copying or any other cost in retrieving and sending the document. If someone were to go and request the same document the next day the process would then be repeated.

OPRA gives the public more leverage in their right to obtain public records but it also puts the burden of proof of denial and delay on the public's shoulders. Even actions that are illegal according to OPRA must be formally challenged by the public.

I am developing a website utilizing this concept. I will use OPRA to obtain public records and then post them on this site. I will also be a conduit for requests. People seeking public records can request the records anonymously through this website, and I will retrieve them and post them. This service should be offered free of charge by the government. Some requests impose substantial costs so there must be a need for some type of fee. That has to be worked out.

The site will be housed on my existing website while under development. Visit www.joerenna.com and check the progress. I'd also like to invite visitors to email me questions on issues or even requests for documents and I will post responses. 


Not for Nothing But...

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The website Stateinfoservices.com does exactly what I am proposing (see ad below). The website contains tax data and maps for the entire state of New Jersey. Anyone who ever tried to purchase a copy of a tax map or tried to get the tax data knows what a hassle and expense that process could be.

Besides all 21 New Jersey counties tax data which are updated monthly, you can use the site to get homeowner mailing lists, new homeowner lists, real estate property

There is also a built in mailing label program. Anyone who markets by mail knows the cost of mailing lists. Here they can get any number of mailing lists using any number of search fields for only \$5.


The recommendation is to try the site just once and discover its value. Government should be doing this but aren't. 



(left) Kim and Bob
on their wedding day,
October 10, 1998.

On January 23, 2004, Robert Leonardo, (resident of Scotch Plains, NJ), husband of Kim Bobish Leonardo and father of Rhiannon 4, Robert 3 and their 3rd child due in June, was taken suddenly in a tragic car accident.

This tragedy has placed a tremendous burden on Kim. Little can be done to ease her heartache, but the community's support can make it a little easier for her to cope while she is on maternity leave.

Tickets are \$10 each. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or making a donation, can call Maria at home (908) 352-9534 or (908) 370-8786. Make checks payable to "Friends of Kim". 



LEARN & SERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Charles J. Hudson School # 25 - Leo Rose, Health and Social Services Coordinator

Once a month, a small group of students from School 25 spend an hour at the Peterstown Community Center, Palmer Street, Elizabeth, as part of the Learn and Serve Community Outreach Program (Freedom Corps-America). School 25 is located where Holy Rosary school and church used to be.

Educational and recreational activities are planned including musical presentations, discussions, games, and

crafts. Mr. Rose, Health and Social Services Coordinator supervises the students on each visit.

The goal of the monthly visits is to enrich the community, inspire our adolescents, and cherish our senior citizens. Clearly, energetic young adolescents have much to offer a group of senior citizens. Likewise, senior adults are a wonderful source of wisdom, history, and experience. 🏠



(above, l-r) The program on April 1 included student performances in singing and dancing. Pictured is Alex McClain and Jenisith Torres Rockin Round the Clock.



(above) Students ask seniors at the Peterstown Community Center trivia questions while program coordinator, Leo Rose (standing in back) moderates.

ANOTHER BIG VALENTINE’S DAY PARTY



(left, l-r) Jimmy “Buddy” Cortese was honored at the Sons of Peterstown 2nd Annual Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance. He was presented with a plaque by club president, John Sacco, on behalf of the members in recognition for the generosity he has shown the Peterstown Community through the years. He always came through.



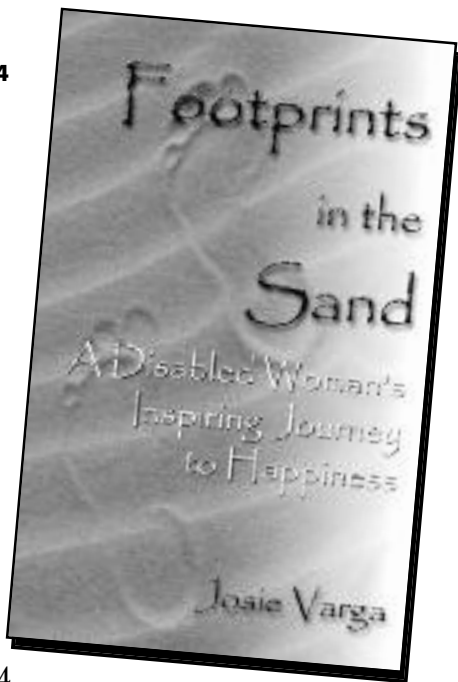
(above, l-r) Three Mayors, of sorts, in a photo op at the Valentine’s day party. Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, Club President and unofficial Mayor of Peterstown, John Sacco and Peterstown native, Mayor of Oceangate, NJ, Pete Tarranova.

(left) There was room for one more photo and the LaFace family is it.
(standing, l-r) Joe, Joseph, Frank and Sara LaFace.
(seated) Marie and Will, guests of the LaFaces.



(above, l-r) Mike Maris, owner of Rustic Mill Diner in Cranford hosted Channel 12’s “Voice of the Voter” program in which news reporter Cynthia Scott and cameraman Joe Caruso do a remote broadcast from a different location each day. Your’s truely made an appearance in March.

(right)
“Footprints
in the Sand”,
the first book
written by
Peterstown
native, Josie
(Tropeano)
Varga, will be
released on
April 23, 2004.



The book can be ordered from Publish America (ISBN# 1-4137-0696-7) at www.publishamerica.com or by calling (301) 695-1707. Visit www.josievarga.com for more information or to contact the author.



(above, l-r) Author Josie Varga, lives in Westfield, NJ with daughters, Erica (4), Lia (2), and husband John.



(above & below) The Tropeano family.



(above, l-r) Michael, Virginia, Carmine, Ann and Josie.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND: A Disabled Woman's Inspiring Journey to Happiness

If you need a reminder about what is truly important in life, run out and get the provocative and heartwarming new book, *Footprints in the Sand: A Disabled Woman's Inspiring Journey to Happiness*. This true story, written by Peterstown native Josie Varga (maiden name Tropeano), will challenge readers to concentrate on the positive no matter what life may bring.

Based on the authors life and the many challenges she encountered due to having cerebral palsy, severe bilateral hearing loss and skin cancer, the book details how she refused to give up and later finds success, love and happiness.

Once the reader begins, the book is very difficult to put down. Each and every page is jam-packed with strong emotion as the author hooks her readers from one chapter in her life to the next.

“Despite my relentless efforts to gain the acceptance of others, I was often ridiculed and picked on”, she writes. “There were many people who did not accept me and probably still don't today. The difference is back then I thought I had to make everyone like me. But today, I know that it is impossible to satisfy everyone. And I'm O.K. with that because the only person I need to satisfy is me.”

Although this story is autobiographical, Varga writes with a compelling style that grips the reader like a suspense novel. Readers feel as though the author is actually talking to them because of the books very conversational manner which makes it flow easily from start to finish.

Throughout the book, Varga talks openly about many events in her life which teach readers lessons about life in general. Here are a few inspirational examples:

- It's all up to you. You can't blame every little misfortune in your life on someone or something.

- You and only you control your destiny.
- It's not what happens to you in life that matters, but how you choose to respond.
- You can't go back to yesterday and you don't even know if you will have tomorrow. The one thing that is for sure is today.
- It is only in giving that we truly receive.

Varga paints a vivid picture of her proud Italian heritage and what it was like growing up on Redcliffe Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. It is absolutely impossible for the reader not to sense the pride she has in her family.

“I am very fortunate to come from a very close-knit family with about a thousand first cousins,” she writes. “O.K., maybe not that many, but I do have a lot. Some people say Italians call everybody their cousin and I do agree with that to a certain extent. But in my family, I really do have a lot of cousins from all different age groups. Despite the age differences, we all get along. We all care about each other.

My whole family played a very big role in building the blocks to my confidence and who I am. I am grateful for their love and support. Without them, I don't know where I would be today.”

The last chapter is followed by an inspiring epilogue by Rich Lee, a friend who died in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Two years prior to his death, Lee had written about the death of his father in which he talks about the importance of life. His message is so powerful the reader can almost feel his voice.

This is a book that will stir every possible human emotion in its readers. They will laugh and cry and even feel angry at times. And when they finally come to the end, readers will discover a priceless lesson or two about life. This is a book that should be read by all. 🇮🇹

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Josie Varga does not consider herself disabled and never will. Her handicap, she believes, is her strength not her weakness.

Despite having both cerebral palsy and severe bilateral hearing loss, her relentless determination brings her success and happiness as she lives a dream come true preferring to focus on the positive not the negative.

Discovering her passion for writing as a little girl growing up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey, she went on to earn a degree in journalism and, after many setbacks, worked her way up to director of communications, editor and consultant.

In her youth, Josie Varga was Josephine Tropeano. She makes reference to her family and the community in

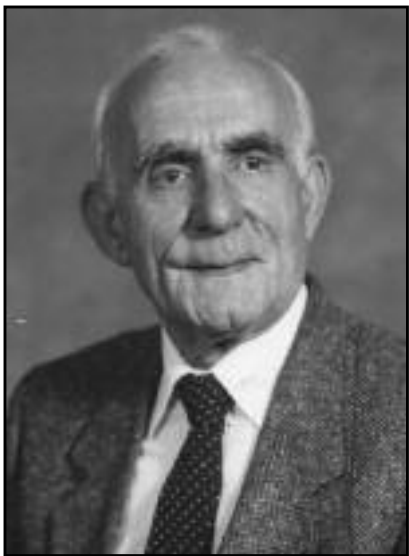
her book. Many people knew her dad, Carmine, as the owner of Ann's Dinner, named after her mom, on Division Street in Elizabeth. He later went on to own the Rainbow Club, also on Division Street.

Josie's mom, maiden name Oliveri, is from Palermo, Sicily. Her father, Carmine, is from Grottolella, a small province in Avellino, Italy. They met and married in Elizabeth. Josie has a brother, Michael, and a sister Virginia Pennell.

Josie went to grade school at Holy Rosary then to St. Mary's High School. She received an Associates Degree from Union County College and a Communications Degree with specialization in Journalism from Rowan University. 🇮🇹



Josephine's father, Carmine, with members of the Italian American War Veterans Club (above, seated, l-r) Rafael Santagata; Felice Mummolo and Carmine Tropeano (standing, l-r) Frank Antonacci; Paul Coladonato; Joe Nastasi; Mike Morano; Duke DiMeo and Nick Dammiano



**Igino Grossi,
M.D., F.A.A.F.P.**

Dr. Igino Grossi, born on April 5, 1910 in Lenola Italy, passed away on February 5, 2004 at home in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Dr. Grossi first came to the United States by boat into Boston Harbor on October 4, 1911. After several crossings, Dr. Grossi stayed in Italy to pursue his education. Prior to WWII Dr. Grossi served as an officer in the Alpine Troops, fulfilling his compulsory military service. Dr. Grossi graduated with honors from the University of Rome in 1939 with a degree of Doctor in Medicine and Surgery.

In 1940, Dr. Grossi attempted to rejoin his family in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately he could not leave the country as Italy had entered WWII and physicians were too valuable a commodity to release. From 1940-1947 Dr. Grossi, as a civilian physician, worked in the province of Aquila at the Civilian Hospital of Avezzano. During one air raid, Dr. Grossi helped American soldiers paint a red cross on the roof of the hospital, securing the safety of scores of wounded Allied soldiers.

THE LEGENDARY DOCTOR GROSSI

Avezzano was also the site of a large internment camp. Dr. Grossi performed countless operations and saved the lives of many Allied soldiers. He even helped some disappear under the cover of nightfall to return to their units. Some of them passed on to him their names and addresses. After returning to the United States, Dr. Grossi visited one of the American soldiers he had helped who lived in Pennsylvania.

In 1947, Dr. Grossi was able to obtain a Visa and return to the United States. Then, after a twenty-six year absence, he rejoined his family who were living in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

On July 15, 1947, Dr. Grossi began an internship at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey. There he met his future wife, Irene Hudak, RN. They were married on February 3, 1951 and moved to Glen Bernie Maryland to take over a private family practice. Dr. Grossi and his growing family returned to Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1955, where he opened his new family practice in the predominantly Italian section of Peterstown.

Dr. Grossi was a dedicated physician who maintained staff privileges at the three Elizabeth hospitals: Alexian Brothers Hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Elizabeth General Hospital. Dr. Grossi remained in practice until 1981. His philosophy was, "a good Doctor needs to watch the development of his patient's illness closely". To that end, he made frequent house calls to those too ill to come to the office. Patients often brought fruit baskets, homemade wines, and other Italian specialties in appreciation of his service. Nurses referred to him as a true gentleman. Administrators saw his dedication. Colleagues held him in high esteem. To many patients he embodied what good medial care was all about:

compassion and expertise.

Dr. Grossi was: a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians 1967-1997; Chairman of the Department of Family Practice, St. Elizabeth's Hospital; Public Health Physician City of Elizabeth, 1960-1987; a ten-year President of the Italian Center of St. Anthony's Church; Man of the Year, Elizabeth Chapter of Unico International May 5, 1985. He received the Golden merit Award from the medical Society of New Jersey on April 28, 1989 celebrating fifty years as a physician; Commendations from the Mayor and the City Council of Elizabeth for his contributions to the Italian-American and Medical communities. He was the Grand Marshall for the American-Italian Cultural Society of Union County Columbus Day Parade 1973. He served as a physician for St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth. During his career Dr. Grossi was active in the Kidney Transplant Program of New Jersey; a supporter of Boys Town of Italy; and a Life member of the Knights of Columbus #3310. Dr. Grossi enjoyed photography, listening to opera, mushroom hunting, fishing with Red's Surf Devil Fishing Club, and playing cards with family and friends.

Dr. Grossi is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years., Irene; his endearing brother and sisters, Ted Grossi, Violanda Grossi, Zara Marrocco, Lena Graci and Sara Rossi; cherished children Maria Masciandaro, Cecilia Cassidy, Antonina Colabella, Igino, and Michael; 14 loving grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. His grandson USC Corporal Patrick Cassidy listened attentively as his cherished grandfather offered him words of wisdom before leaving for Afghanistan. 🇺🇸

“ANGELS ON DUTY”

On Saturday, March 6, 2004 "Angels on Duty" were in action once again in its fight against Breast Cancer. Twenty female members of the Elizabeth, New Jersey community received free mammogram screenings.

Every year since the inception of Angles on Duty the nonprofit organization, consisting of the Female Realtor Associates of RE/MAX 2000, have volunteered their time and efforts towards Breast Cancer awareness and prevention.

Throughout the years they have generated various donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. All proceeds go towards covering the costs of mammogram screenings.

On Friday evening, April 30th, 2004 at 6:30 pm the Angels on Duty will be holding their Annual Angels on Duty fund raiser in Elizabeth, New Jersey. A \$60 donation includes the gala dinner, open bar, and dancing to a variety of music. If you are interested in attending, sending a donation, receiving a free mammogram screening, or further information about Angels on Duty please contact RE/MAX 200 located at 520 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07208 or call (908) 353-7700 x 300, 310 or 331 or you can visit their website at www.angelsonduty.org. 🇺🇸



Carmela Fortunato 1901 - 2004

CARMELA FORTUNATO DIED IN MARCH AT 102

Carmela Fortunato passed away on March 1, 2004 she would have been 103 years old on May 30. She arrived in Peterstown 79 years ago and lived on Fourth Avenue until 1994 when she moved to Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights. The story of Manucci's life was featured in the June 03 issue of Around About Peterstown celebrating her 102nd birthday. 🇺🇸

(right)
Sal Angelo's
mother Mary
Audenzia
Ciaccio,
circa 1925
age 16.



SAL ANGELO’S BRICKWALL ANALYSIS

OBJECTIVE: To determine if the Triolo family of Giovanni Triolo and Angela Renda, whose four children married four children of my fourth-great grandparents Giorgio Chiccio and Margarita Cari, between 1795 - 1804 in Sambuca Zabat (present day Sambuca di Sicilia) are related to the Triolo family of Domenico and Bernardo Triolo who married my grandmother and grandfather's sisters Maria Audenzia Ciaccio and Vita Coniglio in Ribera.

PROBLEM: Between the years 1795 - 1804 four of my third great aunts/uncles, children of Giorgio Ciaccio and Margarita Cari married four Triolo siblings. They were: 1. Alberto Ciaccio and Beatrice Triolo (my third great-grandparents); 2. Maria Ciaccio and Calogero Triolo; 3. Calogera Ciaccio and Antonito Triolo; 4. Giuseppe (Bartolomeo) ciaccio and Audenzia Triolo

These four marriages produced nineteen (19) children all wo lived to adulthood and married. The genealogy records of their offspring have been recorded in my ancestral records, primarily for the town of Sambuca.

On June 2, 1881 my 2C3XR (second cousin three times removed) Alberto Ciaccio, the grandson of my third great-grandparents married Anna Triolo, in Sambuca, the granddaughter of Calogero Triolo and Maria Ciaccio. Ana is also my 2C3XR. They had six (6) children. Both their ancestries go back to Giorgio Ciaccio and Margarita Cari and Giovanni Triolo and Angela Renda.

The Ribera records show that y two great aunts Vita Coniglio and maria Audenzia Ciaccio married two Triolo brothers, Bernardo and Domenico. Vita who is my grandmother's sister married Bernardo in 1892 and Maria Audenzia who is my grandfather's sister married Dominico in 1900. The Triolo brother's birth and marriage records indicated that their parents were Antonio (Antionino) Triolo and Domenica LaSala. Antonio's birth record was approximated at 1834 but it was not found in the Sambuca or Ribera records.

Further research found Antonio's death record i 1904 in Ribera. The death record stated that his parent's names were Mateo Triolo and Rosalia Mauceri and more

TWO MORE WALLS TUMBLE

Sal Angelo traced his family tree back 5 generations to the 1700's. This is the fourth report on his developments. Genealogy information appeared in the October 00, June 03 and December 03 issues of Around About Peterstown.

Angelo mentioned hitting several “brick walls” during his research. A brick wall occurs when one receives contradictory or unexplained information during research, which can’t be explained by an original record. Sal is conducting “brick wall” analysis to ensure that his records are correct. Two brickwall solutions appeared in the December 03 issue. The following are two more “Brickwall Problems” that he solved.

The first study involves the two Triolo families that married into my grandfather and grandmothers' families, between 1800 - 1804 in Sambuca and 1892 - 1900 in Ribera.The second looks at the illusive but true death records of my maternal great-great grandparents Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi.

This will leave only one other brickwall problem to study that of my Uncle Vincenzo Virgilio the husband of my Aunt Francesca Angelo. His Italian military record states he was killed in 1917 in WW1, this is difficult to believe since he married in 1919, immigrated to be best man at my parents 1927 Elizabeth wedding and shows up on the 1930 US Federal Census in Brooklyn, NJ. 🇺🇸

importantly Antonio was born in Calamonaci. I located his birth record in the Calamonaci microfilm records of 1833. I also found the 1825 marriage record of his parents, along with its marriage “processi” documents. “Processi” are document’s presented by the bride and groom when recording their solemn promise of marriage. They usually include: birth and baptismal certificates for the two spouses, death certificates of their parents, grandparents and former spouses. Many of these documents are in Latin and signed off by the local church pastor and can go back to 1600's. These documents can provide two or more extra generations of genealogy and did in this case.

The 1825 “processi” stated the parents of Matteo Triolo were Francesco Triolo and Francesca Vasile. The documents further stated the name of Frncesco’s parents were “Mattheus” (Latin name version) and Antonina Quattano. Francesco was born ca 1722 and died Jan 19, 1774 in Calamonaci.

Conclusion: The Triolo family in Sambuca was not related to the Ribera Triolo’s. The husbands of my two great aunts have their ancestry from the town of Calamonaci. If there is a relationship it had to occur sometime between 1666 and 1700 but the records of the three towns do not clearly indicate this. However the Coniglio pedigree chart sent by Mr. Raimondo Lentini of Ribera shows that my fifth and sixth great grandparents Giusepe and Calogero Coniglio were born in Calomonaci. Could the Triolo and Coniglio families had their initial connections in Calomonaccci?

OBJECTIVE: To locate the true Ribera death records of my third-great grandparents Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi, parents of my 2nd great grandmother Caterina Pasciuta.

PROBLEM: As we have seen from past research, the vital records of many towns can and do contain errors. Many errors are due to the Vital Records Official writing incorrect information from what was said to him. When they correct this they usually place a marginal note

explaining the correction, along with an underline of the word(s) in question.

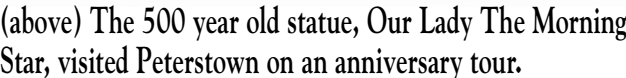
Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi were both alive at their two daughters weddings, Fraesca and Caterina. Francesca was married May 22, 1822 to Giuseppe Amodeo and Caterina (my 2ns great grandmother) was married to Calogero Coniglio July 19, 1828. The wedding records show that both Filippo and Francesca were alive at this time.

However when their son Giacomo married Giuseppa Puccio ion Nov. 8, 1933 they both were listed as “deceased”. Thus they died between July 19, 1828 and nov. 8, 1833, a five and one half year span. The only records during this period that referred to a Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi showed their spouses names differently.

Filipo Pasciuta died Feb. 14, 1829 and his wife’s name was listed as Francesca “Borngiorno” not Riggi. Francesca Riggi died Oct. 12, 1830 and her husbands name was given as Fiippo “Gransantore” not Pasciuta. Interestingly enough the parents of each were the exact same given names of their first four children, Pelligrio, Francesca, Giacomo, and Caterina. (Given the naming traditio of first son and daughter after parents of the groom and second son and daughter after the brides parents.) Their fifth child Grazia Pasciuta wedding record of Feb. 1838 also showed they were both deceased.

No marginal notes or corrections appear on either death record. No birth, a marriage or death record from 1821 to 1910 in Ribera had the name Borngioro or Gransantore.

Conclusion: It is reasonable to conclude that these two death records were of Filippo and Francesca because they are the only ones that fit in the 5 and on half year span listed above and their ages coincide with the period of their life events. Also the parent’s names show o the death records are the same that was given to their first four children. Why the spouses’ last names were changed is still not fully understood.



500 years from
now you can call
this statue grand.

The initial devotion towards Our Lady of the Morning Star goes back to the peak of the Middle Ages. The statue had been venerated in the town of Vallata for quite some time. However, as tradition has it, one day the statue disappeared and was found near the town Andretta.

The people of Vallata were flabbergasted. Once again they rescued the statue and took it back home. This time they built a contraption that secured the statue so no one would be able to take it again. And so when the statue was missing again the people of Vallata were in shock. To their amazement the statue once again returned to the spot in Andretta where it was previously turned up.

A church was built at the location and people made the pilgrimage to visit the shrine. The church was dedicated as Our Lady The Morning Star. A community of Cistercian monks sprung up and flourished and a small convent was built next to the church.

Even though the church and convent were expanded throughout the years it was still small compared to the faithful that would come and visit. So between 1820 and 1830 a new convent was built and was run by the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts founded by Venerable Cajetan Errico.


Local history saw a sad period during which religious congregations were suppressed and the shrine and convent was left empty and the faithful were left

The devotion of towards the Heavenly Mother was rekindled. People once again flocked to the shrine. To pray and sing hymns of praise. People from towns like Vallata, Conza, Morra De Sanctis, Cairano, Castelnuovo e S. Andrea Di Conza, Guardia dei Lombardi, Pescopagano, Calitri, Lioni, Teora, S. Angelo dei Lombardi. These towns kept the last Sunday of the month of May as the day to honor Our Lady The Morning Star in a solemn way.

The Frank O. Mazza Civic Association in collaboration with the Vallatese Italian American community produced a street procession and a dinner dance honoring the guests from the towns of Vallata and Andretta who were accompanying the statue on its journey.

The procession through the streets of Peterstown was emotional and inspirational. It was 15 years since the statue of Saint Rocco was carried in an annual procession. It gave a generation younger than that a glance at a tradition of their culture which has faded.

For the families who remember visiting the shrine back in Italy it was a remembrance of a different time and place, of family and friends gone by, a chance to touch the statue and pray as countless others have done for 500 years, and to imagine others doing the same 500 years from now.

The statue carries with it a lesson in mortality. This chance of seeing it is just a blip in its history, yet, the essence of what the statue represents is eternal, as is the spirit of those devotees. 

Special thanks to Fr. Vincent Zuliani
for translating the facts of the story.

TRADITION SENDS PEOPLE BACK IN TIME



(left) Women of the Ladies Valletese Society carried the statue from their home town through the streets of Peterstown in a procession reminiscent of past generations.



(left, l-r) Travelling with the statue from Italy were Reverend Francesco Martino, Pastor of Andretta and Reverend Gerardo Ruberto, Pastor of Vallata.

(below) Over two hundred people marched in the procession lead by the beloved statue, while scores watched from their front stoops along the ten block route.

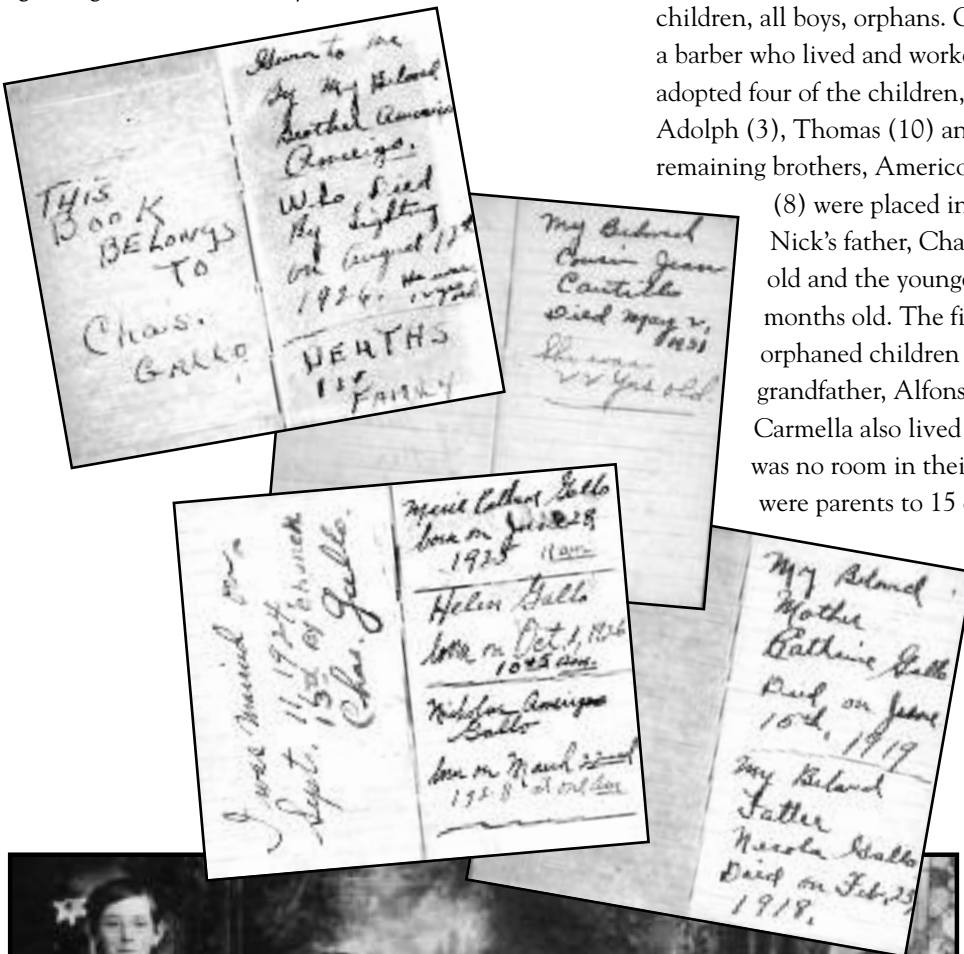
(below) Elizabeth Mayor, J. Christian Bollwage, walked along flanked by Dr. Giuseppe Guglielmo, Mayor of Andretta and Carmine Michele Casarella, Mayor of Vallata.



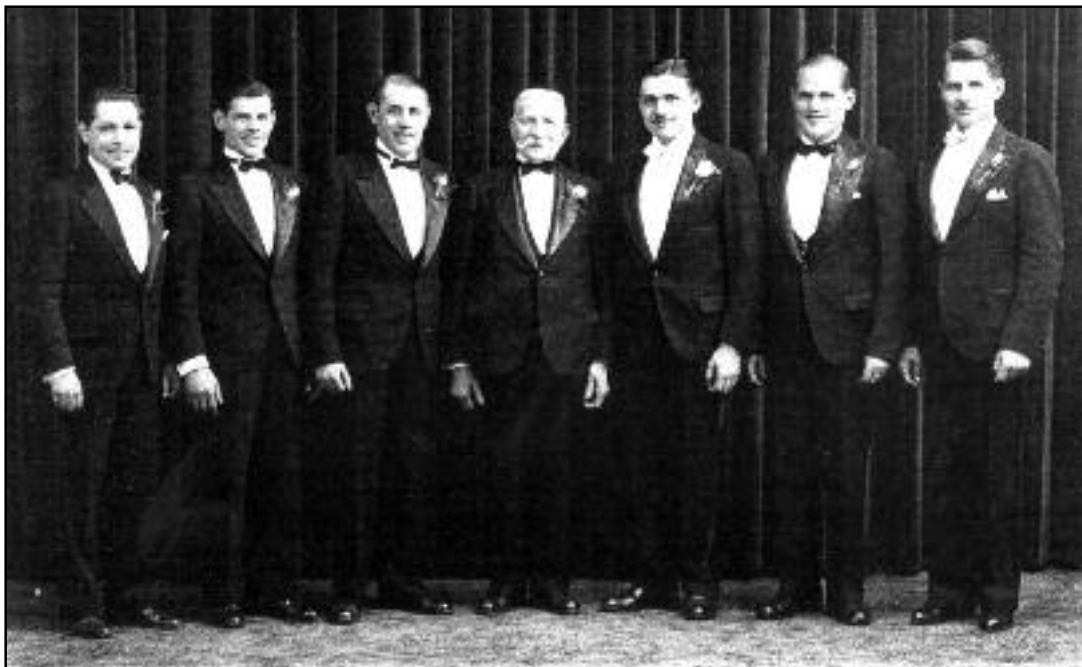


(above, r-l) Nick Gallo and his wife Jean (nee Reitzer) share a moment reflecting on his family's past.

(below) Pages of a tiny book which belonged to Nick Gallo's father Charles record important names and dates in the family's history. The books were given to Charles by his brother Amerigo who died by being struck by lightning when he was 12 years old.



(left) This is a photo of Catherine (Cautillo) Gallo and her sons taken around 1913, before her sons Adolf and Nicholas were born. The boys (pictured l-r) are Charles, Alfonso, Amerigo, Louis and Tom. A son, Dante was born between Charles and Tom but passed away at 7 months old.



(above, l-r) The Gallo brothers with their grandfather at the wedding of Nicholas in 1939. Tom, Alfonso, Charles, Alfonso Cautillo, Nicholas, Adolph and Louis.

THE REMARKABLE RESILIENCE OF THE GALLO FAMILY

The Gallo family is inspirational. Their story can give hope to anyone challenged by hardships. Their story was shared by Nick Gallo who was born in Peterstown 75 years ago on the corner of Spencer and Fourth Avenue. He tells the story of his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. The world he describes seems fictional, from a time long ago and a place far away. It couldn't possibly have happened in this lifetime in this place.

It was not that long ago that Nick's grandparents died just one year apart. His grandfather, Nicola Gallo died first in 1918 of an unknown ailment. The following year, his grandmother, Catherine, died tragically when hit by a stray bullet in a gun battle. The family owned and operated a tavern at 553 Fourth Avenue. A fight between patrons over a pool game escalated in gunfire that hit Catherine in the stomach. Her father, Alfonso Cautillo, was also hit by a bullet in his hand.

The deaths of Catherine and Nicola left their 7 children, all boys, orphans. Catherine's brother, Michael, a barber who lived and worked at 435 First Avenue, adopted four of the children, Nicola Jr. (an infant), Adolph (3), Thomas (10) and Charles (14). The remaining brothers, Amerigo (6), Alfonzo (7) and Louis

(8) were placed in the Elizabeth Orphanage. Nick's father, Charles was the oldest at 14 years old and the youngest was Nicholas, at just a few months old. The first option was to place orphaned children with relatives. The boys grandfather, Alfonso, and grandmother, Carmella also lived on First Avenue but there was no room in their home for the boys. They were parents to 15 children themselves. Though most were grown their house was still at capacity.

Charles didn't stay around too long. He had a priest change his birth certificate to say that he

was 18 years old instead of 14 so he could join the navy. After four years Charles got out of the navy and came back to Elizabeth where he married Helen Bauso and settled in their home on Amity street in Peterstown.

Every day the next oldest brother, Louis, would take his younger brothers, Amerigo and Alphonso on a two mile walk to Amity street. Once there Helen would care for her in-laws. She would make sure they were clean and well fed until the authorities came to take them back to the orphanage.

This routine went on for quite a few years. Helen was like a second mother to those children. It was tiresome work considering that her and Charles had 5 children of their own. Nick, the source of this story, being one of them. The seven brothers were together every day spending their time with their grandparents, uncle Michael or Charles. Louis, who was 8 when he entered the orphanage eventually joined the Army in his early teens.

Nick had fond memories of growing up with his uncles and eventually the scores of cousins they produced. It's hard for Nick to fathom the number of children each generation produced. Yet the number of children is what enabled the family to prosper. Older siblings watching out for the young ones. Aunts and Uncles helping out. The family had a built in support group.

The issue was never about poverty or having too many children. The fact of the matter was that the family did the best with what they had to work with. Despite the untimely death of their parents, the Gallo family pulled together to make it through the tough times. Not only that but they made a better life for future generations of Gallo's.

The love that brought this family through its turmoils was more important then their lack of material wealth. Nick realized that. Compared to his father who had few options presented to him, the opportunity he had for an education and job training was special and he did not squander it. Neither did his cousins. In fact his cousin, Carole Cascio is the president of the Elizabeth Board of Education. 🇺🇸



(left l-r) Carmella and Alfonso Cautillo pictured in 1938 at the celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 8, 1873 in St. Joseph's Church in their home town of Vallata, Italy. They came to America in 1902 and settled in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. They had 15 children, 14 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren at that time.

(left) This is a photo of Catherine (Cautillo) Gallo and her sons taken around 1913, before her sons Adolf and Nicholas were born. The boys (pictured l-r) are Charles, Alfonso, Amerigo, Louis and Tom. A son, Dante was born between Charles and Tom but passed away at 7 months old.



(above, l-r) Photo of Nick Gallo's father, Charles, taken in 1925. The tiny girl is Nick's sister, known as "Wee" Marie because of her tiny stature. She was even the subject of an article in the Daily Journal at that time because of her size and that she survived being born premature, which was against the odds. Marie sprouted in height in her teens.



(left) Nick's mother Helen.

TRAGEDY HITS A THIRD TIME



(above) Father Leonard Ruvolo conducts the funeral service for Americo Gallo. The church is filled with family, neighbors and the girls and boys from the Elizabeth Orphanage where he lived.

Americo Gallo was only six years old when he was left an orphan as the result of his mother being shot dead in 1919. His father had died just one year prior to that. Americo spent the next seven years as an “inmate of the Elizabeth Orphan Asylum”, to use the vernacular of the 1920s.

Americo was a healthy 12 year old in the sixth grade. An athletic boy who was courteous, obedient and good natured according to the home’s matron, Mrs. E. Pratt. Americo especially enjoyed being a boy scout. It was on an overnight camping trip at Surprise Lake in the Watchung Mountains that he would suffer an untimely death.

It was August 12, 1926 that Americo was found motionless in his tent having been struck by lightning. Efforts to resuscitate him were futile. The news shocked his family and the Peterstown community where they lived.

Six comrades from his boy scout troop No. 18 carried his casket into Saint Anthony’s Church where a funeral service was held before a packed house.



(left) This postcard was written and mailed by Americo the morning of his death. It was sent to his brother Charles. It read: “Dear Brother, I am having a good time up here. I sleep in the sixteenth tent. I just came from swimming and I swam more than ten feet. The lake is a big one. Last night I went rowing in a boat. From Americo.”



THE GALLOS TODAY

Nick Gallo and his wife, Jean live in East Brunswick. They have three daughters, Janet, Denise and Joanne. Nick was one of five children. He had two sisters, Marie and Helen, and two brothers, Charles and Dennis. His sister Marie and brother Dennis live close to each other in the Clearwater area of Florida. Helen and Charles have passed away.

Nick does get to see his cousins Carole Cascio and Patti DiMaria. Patti is the daughter of Nick who died of Leukemia in 1942. Patti is married to the legendary Joe The Barber who is still cutting hair in his Morris Avenue shop. They have two sons Carmine and Nick.

Carole Cascio has a sister, Betty Templeton, who lives in Colorado. Betty has three sons Thomas, Robert and Vincent. Their father was Thomas Gallo.

These are the children and grandchildren of the Gallo brothers who lost their parents when they were young children. Their accomplishments are a testimony to the strength of the community and family values that helped this family recover from the ultimate hardship.



(above, l-r) Patty (Gallo) DiMaria, pictured with her husband Joe. They have two sons, Carmine and Nick. Patty is the daughter of Nicholas who passed away of Leukemia in 1942.

Not for Nothing But...
my head is spinning
from sorting out
this family tree.

GOOD TURNS RETURNED

Carole (Gallo) Cascio stayed close to her roots and has been dedicated to volunteering for community service organizations and working to better the education system in Elizabeth. Carole has served as president of the Board of Education for the past two years. She also served as vice president and was the number one vote getter the both times she ran.

Carole considers it an honor to represent the people. It may be that her penchant for helping others is in her genes. She has offered her help to a community the same way that community helped her parents.

Carole is the daughter of Thomas who was ten when he became orphaned. Tom went to live with his uncle with whom he learned his trade as a barber. Tom married a local gal, Lee Caprio, and stayed close to the rest of the family.

Carole grew up on South Street, attended St. Mary’s grammar school and graduated from Battin High School. Carole also married a neighborhood guy, John Cascio. They have one son, Jon Carlo.

Carole has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society for 14 years. She is also on the board of the Salvation Army. She involves herself with charitable groups too numerous to count.

Some students in the school system may be living through some extraordinary hardships at home. Carole Cascio has no problem understanding what that may be like.

Cascio advances the notion that board members, educators, students and parents work as a T.E.A.M. because Together Everyone Achieves More. She knows this is true because she saw it work first hand.



(above, l-r) Carole (Gallo) Cascio with son Jon Carlo and husband, John.



THE ELIZABETH ORPHAN ASYLUM

There was a surge of orphanages being built in the mid 1800’s to address the issues of parentless or neglected children. Urban areas grew with industry and created conditions that resulted in more children that were abandoned or on their own. The civil war had some effect as did the high rate of women who died in labor. Orphanages were the child care system for parentless children but they were also a safe haven for children from homes with no means to care for them as well as troubled and abandoned youth.

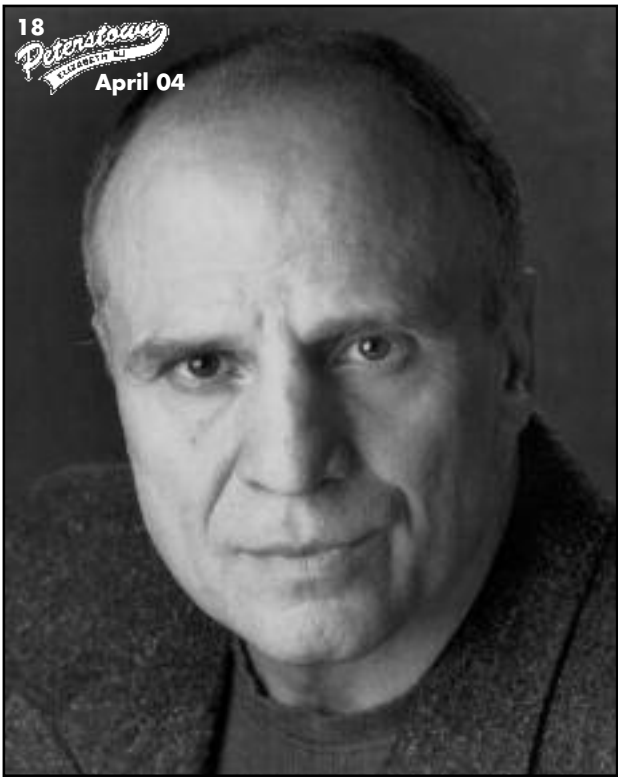
The City of Elizabeth built an orphanage in 1858. It was on the corner of Cherry and Murray Streets. A new building was constructed on Westminster Road in 1911. This grand victorian was named the Janet Memorial Home in honor of Janet Eyck Edgar, whose daughter donated the money.

The orphanage was built in time to accommodate a spike in its need. The depression devastated many families and left many children on the street and the Great Immigration left some children to fend for themselves in a new world. Some times the orphanages were a temporary holding ground for children while families got back on their feet.

Orphanages were sometimes run by the government or by a religious organization, using public or private funds. Either way the responsibility of society is to care for those in need. The story of the Gallo family is a perfect example of how with the right support people can flourish.

Orphanages began to disappear as attitudes towards child care changed. The institutional care of children was replaced with a foster care system and group homes. The Elizabeth Orphanage officially closed in 1962. The beautiful building fell into disrepair and was leveled in 1996.

Everyone has their own image of what an orphanage is like. Very few people have first hand experience with one and so they depend on the movies. This raises the question “Which movie best depicts the Elizabeth Orphanage, Oliver Twist, Annie, The Blues Brothers or Anne of Seven Gables?”



Actor Bruno Iannone

DON'T I KNOW YOU?

Everyone knows Bruno Iannone. (Correction) Everyone thinks they know Bruno Iannone. People think they met him somewhere or mabe he was that cop who pulled them over or is he that gangster hit-man I saw on the news. Most people think he's the guy who sold them a Philly cheese steak the other day. The funny thing is they would all be right.

The line between television reality is a bit blurred for some people. They do know Bruno but not in the real world. They see him playing all types of characters on TV and in the movies. The latest was the popular McDonnalds original Philly cheese steak commercial that deputed at this year's super bowl. In the spot, Bruno's the tough looking owner of Eddies Famous Cheese Steaks.

Once familiar with his face audiences could notice him in shows like "Law and Order", "Third Watch", "Guiding Light", "Unsolved Mysteries", "The Equalizer" to name just a few. He has appeared on the New York stage in about a dozen shows and has acted in a half dozen movies including "The Money Pit" with Tom Hanks and "Once Upon A Time In America" with Robert DeNiro and James Woods.

If you thought you saw Bruno's mug hanging in the post office, you may not be that mistaken. He did appear as a fugitive on "Americas Most Wanted". 📺

(right) Stills from the McDonnel's Original Philly Cheese Steak Commercial



THE REAL BRUNNO IANNONE

In real life, Bruno Iannone could not be further than the sometime tough guy he portrays. He is an attentive son, caring father and loving husband. Works as a recruiter and counselor for Union County College's Center of Economic and Workforce Development program in the Elizabeth campus. The center offers occupational training for displaced, unemployed and disadvantaged workers. 📺

(left) A promotion for the Play "Burn This". Bruno acted with Joanne DiMauro who played his wife. They are now newlyweds in real life.



(left) Bruno ia a widower from his first wife, the mother of his daughter, Daniella who is an aspiring actress.

(below) Bruno cares for his dad, Antonio, who is 94 years old.



(left) Bruno's mom, Maria, passed away in 2000 at the age of 88. (right) Antonio and Maria immigrated from Montagano, Italy with thier son, Bruno and two daughters, Liliana and Vilma and settled in the Paterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.



HAYDU CHOSEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On way to statewide consideration

Patricia Haydu, R.N. M.A. has worked for the Elizabeth Board of Education for 27 years. She has also worked in the health care industry. In 1982 Pat brought her extensive experience to the class rooms of Edison House, the technical branch of Elizabeth High School. She serves as a teacher and the coordinator for Health Career Services and Occupations.

Students who are pursuing careers in health care are fortunate to be a part of the program Haydu administers. Not only do they get hands on experience with the equipment needed to do their jobs they are also working towards their NJ State Department of Health Nursing Assistants Licensing Exam. Very few high schools offer licensing as part of their program.

Students also have the opportunity to work in the field while they are learning. Students and graduates are placed in hospitals and assistant living facilities to gain experience in an actual work environment.

The students are familiar with the hospital room



Vito Nufrio and Carole Cascio check on rehearsals of a play written and performed by students of Edison House.

equipment before they arrive. Their class room is actually a simulated hospital room complete with all the machines to test vital signs. The hospital beds have medical manikin's ready to have their blood work checked and glucose monitored.

The students are also trained in the proper use of stretchers and wheel chairs. CPR equipment is used as part of their training also. Most importantly the students learn proper procedure and protocol of the workplace. Haydu stresses professionalism. The stories of the successes her students achieve is a clear indication that her methods are right on.

It is in acknowledgement of Haydu's exceptional leadership that she was nominated as a candidate for teacher of the year by administrators and staff. She was selected to represent the City of Elizabeth school system in a district run off in which the district winner goes on to compete for the state title.

Patricia has the support of the city behind her, proud to have her as a representative. They wish her all the good fortune there is. 🏆



(above, l-r) Edison House Director, James Feehan and Assistant House Director, Vito Nufrio share the good news with Pat Haydu of her being selected as 2004 Elizabeth Teacher of the Year. They are standing in the Health Career classroom which is a fully functional simulated hospital room. The statewide teacher of the year award is being given out by NJ Principal and Supervisors Association, which is an affiliate of NJEA.

VOTERS DETERMINE PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS

School board elections are April 20th. Educators, administrators and school board members could not stress enough the importance of getting out to vote. Carole Cascio, president of the board, listens to concerns expressed by the community when implementing programs in the school system. She encourages parents to get involved in the process.

Cascio was twice elected to the board and has noticed a rise in standards of many aspects of the school system. She attributes the positive changes to an

environment where everyone is working together, parents, students, teachers and administrators.

Vito Nufrio is Assistant House Director of Edison House, the High School's Vo-Tech campus. He is also the union president of the Elizabeth Administrative and Supervisory Council. He was an employee of the district for 33 years. He credits the progress to the leadership of the Boards of Education and those administrators that he represents. He is impressed by how the level of education rises each year. He is excited by having it continue. 🏆

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAMER

Bruno Iannone was more of a celebrity in his high school years than he is today. He played ball for St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth under the tutelage of the renowned "Buzzy" Fox from 1966 to 1969.

Iannone earned honors as All-Union County, All Central Jersey, All Parochial State and All-American Honorable Mention. His baseball skills were good enough to earn him the County Batting Championship with a .444 average.

Iannone played his college ball at Texas University at El Paso which had captured national recognition winning an NCAA title that showcased Nate Archabald.

Iannone was a straight A student in high school and graduated college Summa Cum Laude majoring in English and Philosophy.

During 1973-74 Iannone played professional basketball in Italy for G.S.A. Benevento. He averaged 17 points and 6 assists a game. It was there that he began taking art and drama instruction. He also worked tutoring Italian children in English

and Spanish.

When Bruno returned to America he began a career in teaching and coaching. He assisted "Buzzy" Fox and then went on to coach at North Brunswick High School.

Bruno was inducted into the St. Pat's Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Elizabeth Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.

Bruno ia still working in education in the Union County system and he could still bury a three-pointer at will. 🏆



Three stages of Iannone's Basketball career (above) with St. Pat's (right) with Texas University and (left) with G.S.A. Benevento (#11) a professional team in Italy.

Recipes

This issue’s recipes come from Costa Rica. The tradition for catholics in Costa Rica is to not eat meat during lent on Wednesdays or Fridays. During the entire length of Holy Week, Palm Sunday to Easter, no meat is eaten; only seafood and great deserts! Processions depicting the crucifixion of Jesus are conducted throughout Holy Week. All businesses close from Holy Thursday though Easter Sunday. 🇸🇨

Fish Head Soup

by Jousette Renna

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. of Fish heads
- 4 cups of Water
- 1 lb of Potatoes
- 1 lb of Carrots
- 2 cups of Milk
- Sliced Sweet Peppers
- Sliced Onions
- Cubed Sweet potatoes
- Adobo (spice mixture)
- Salt & Pepper

PREPARATION:

- 1) Boil fish heads in water add salt for taste.
- 2) Pour water through colander to another pot to remove fish heads. (throw fish heads out)
- 3) Add all other ingredients to water.
- 4) Leave under medium flame until water comes to boil.

Spaghetti with Shrimp

by Jousette Renna

INGREDIENTS:

- 250 g. of Shrimp
- 250 g of Spaghetti
- 250 g of Tomatoes, cubed with seeds removed
- 1 Garlic Clove, smashed
- A little bit of Pepper Powder
- 3 Table Spoons of Olive Oil
- Salt and Pepper for taste

PREPARATION:

- 1) Warm the oil in a medium size pan.
- 2) Add Garlic, Pepper and Shrimp.
- 3) Cook for 2 minutes stirring frequently.
- 4) Remove from pan (keep warm)
- 5) Put Tomatoes, Salt and Pepper in pan.
- 6) Cook covered for 6 minutes over medium flame.
- 7) Add back Shrimp, Garlic and Pepper.
- 8) cook for an additional 2 minutes.
- 9) Cook Spaghetti in separate pot in water and salt.
- 10) Drain Spaghetti pour in bowl.
- 11) Pour Shrimp sauce over Spaghetti
- 12) Serve while hot.

A GOOD DEED UNCOVERS GOOD DEEDS

When Sue Romanowski calls to confirm that the name and address of the person she called is accurate, she never knows what the reaction will be from the stranger on the other end of the phone. For the past four and half years Romanowski has called nearly 5,000 Union County residents that have come up on the published list of people with unclaimed property that is held by the state. Some people think it's a scam, some people want to know what she is selling, but most are pleased at the prospect of retrieving money they have due them. This time around she found about 300 people.

Sue calls this her hobby but it is more like a public service. She remembers the first name she looked up just because she was curious to see how hard it would be to find someone on the list. There are companies that do this for a percentage of the claim.

Sue believes that most people did not abandoned their money as presumed by the state. Property deemed abandoned may have resulted from financial transactions invisible to the benefactor. She has found that companies who re responsible for contacting people with accounts being turned over to the state usually do not. The burden is on the public and she now feels compelled to help.

She found flaws in the state system which she advocates to improve. She made some inroads to the state by informing Governor McGreevey that his father, Jack, his mother, Veronia, and his sister Caroline were all listed. She did receive acknowledgement and even a Star-Ledger article about her work.

She always enjoys the surprise reaction of the high ranking government officials she calls but the reaction she was hoping for was a reform of the system. Many unclaimed property is the result of sloppy bookkeeping by government agencies. Too often a municipality or county

is listed as the benefactor. Type-o's in persons names are very common and information listed in the wrong field makes it virtually impossible for someone to find their claim or sometimes "In Care of " is listed as the last name.

The one change Romanowski did notice after contacting the Governor was the change in law that made it possible for the state to transfer funds from the unclaimed account into the general budget after 3 years instead of 10. This put \$260 million dollars into the state's general fund in 2002. There are many reasons the money is in the unclaimed account. It may have been a bank account that saw no deposits or withdrawals for ten years. They may be unclaimed utility deposits, IRA's, pensions, stocks, bonds or paychecks. Checks lost in the mail may never reach a person who moved. Sue says "It's really the people's money. They should should have it."



(above) Super sleuth Sue Romanowski

PETERSTOWN PEOPLE ON THE LATEST LIST

Every quarter the state releases a list of the most recent persons who are owners of personal property presumed to be abandoned. The list contains approximately 900,000 names. The names are never removed and claims can be made any time no matter how many years old. Names regarding personal property can be obtained from the Division of Taxation website at:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/updiscl.htm.

Each county has a newspaper designated to print the list. In Union County they are the weekly papers published by Worrall Community Newspapers.

The last list published on March 18 contained approximately 2,400 names. The following list are those names of people with Peterstown addresses.

Information concerning the amount and description of the personal property may be obtained by any person possessing a legal or beneficial interest in the aforesaid personal property by completing the claim form and mailing it to the address below.

Pagano Decd, Angela
574 Third Avenue
Elizabeth, 07202

Alicea, Tomas
448 Third Avenue
Elizabeth, 07206

Caling, Virgilio
38 Niles Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Kapustinsky, Steve
632 3rd Ave, Apt 2
Elizabeth, 07202

Renna, Joseph
534 Fourth Avenue
Elizabeth, 07202

Alvarez, Mr. & Mrs.
208 Christine Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Cusmano, Theresa
433 Loomis Street
Elizabeth, 07206

Marranca, Odette
572 1st Avenue
Elizabeth, 07206

Schneider, John
10 S 7th Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Anastasia Colondres, Ugma
569 4th Avenue,
Elizabeth, 07202

Henaoospina, Maria
5-A High Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Mauti, Angelina
535 Fourth Avenue
Elizabeth, 07202

Sorrentino, Nicky
815 2nd Avenue
Elizabeth, 07202

Cabrera,Earnesto
608 4th Avenue,
Elizabeth, 07202

Holobinko, Michael
21 Palmer Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Monticello, Katherine
324 Niles Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Terranova, John
409 Niles Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Caiano, Roberto
210 Hight Street
Elizabeth, 07206

Jazesf, Ninfa
324 Loomis Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Moyer, Theresa
428 Amity Street
Elizabeth, 07202

Vina, Ana
434 2nd Avenue
Elizabeth, 07202

NEW JERSEY UNCLAIMED PROPERTY CLAIM FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Print Neatly 2. Answer All Pertinent Questions 3. Cut Out and Mail to:
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, PO Box 287, UNCLAIMED PROPERTY, TRENTON, NJ 08645-0287

NOTE: ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE CLAIM FORMS WILL BE RETURNED

1. Print name and address EXACTLY as it appears in this newspaper.

Last Name or Company Name First Name MI
Address or Unknown
City
Name of Newspaper WORRALL NEWSPAPERS Date MARCH 18, 25, 2004
If this is your current address, then place your Zip Code Here

2. Is the name in the ad your current name? YES NO
If yes, please complete 3, 4 and 5. In no, please complete 2a thru 5.

a. The name above is (check one): My married name Company name My maiden name Another person's name
Social Security Number / FID # associated with printed name (For Ownership Verification)
If name appearing is not your current name, or current company name, or you are not the person in the ad then post:
Your Last Name or Company Name First Name MI

b. My interest is that of: Executor / Administrator Guardian Beneficiary Attorney Company Official
c. Is the person whose name appears in this ad deceased? YES NO

3. My Social Security Number is:
4. Is the address as it appears in the ad your current mailing address? YES NO
P.O. Box, Your Current Street Address
City State Zip Code

5. Your Signature
Daytime Phone (Area Code)
Date

USE636 WCN March 18, 25, 2004 (\$10,365.00)



(above) Poet Joe Weil grew up on Dewey Place and lived for a stint in Peterstown. He attended St. Mary's grammar school and high school, graduating in 1977.

A BARD OF PASSION AND OF MIRTH


Poets are hard to come by. Good poets are even more rare. The odds of finding a poet from Elizabeth are incalculable. So a good poet from Elizabeth is almost mythical. With that being said, Joe Weil is a literary Holy Grail.

Joe published his first short book of poems, known as a “chap” book, in 1994. The title of the chap was “Ode to Elizabeth and other Poems”. The book title was borrowed from the title of one of the feature poems in the book. Much of what Weil writes is drawn from his experiences growing up in Elizabeth. References to the people and places of his youth dominate his prose.

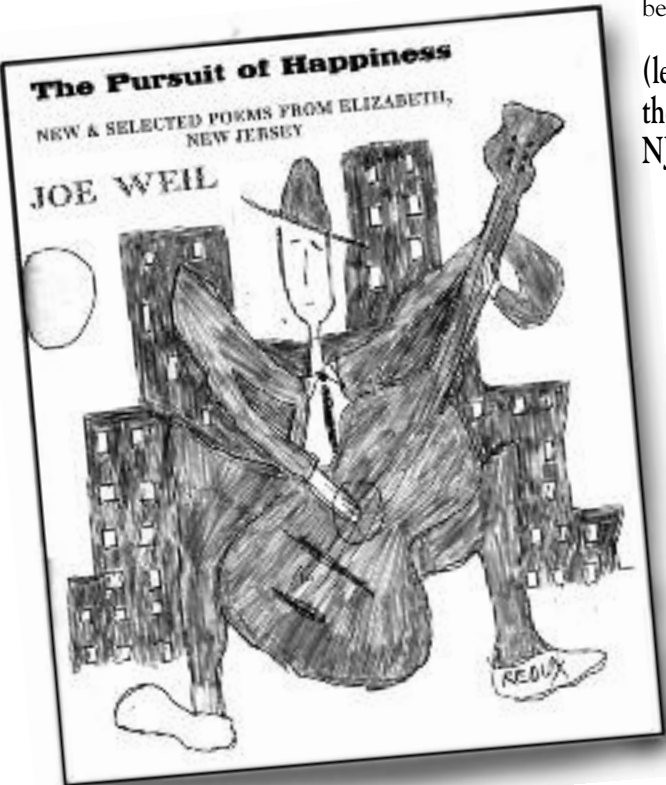
Readers familiar with Elizabeth can reflect on the picture of the city that Joe paints with his words. Those with no reference to Elizabeth are not lost for Weil also

illustrates the drama and emotion of growing up in the quirky urbanish city with mixed cultures where old world charm reluctantly makes way for new age culture.

“Ode to Elizabeth” was written in response to a New York Times Magazine article referring to Elizabeth as “grimy Elizabeth”. The poem is a literary smack down as if the Times was an obnoxious rhinestone clad professional wrestler. Elizabeth was Joe’s house. According to Joe critics can keep their sorry-ass negative commentary to themselves. If Elizabeth is going to be criticized, she will take care of that herself, thank you.

Joe Weil managed to capture many aspects of living in “The Proud Lady”. His current book, “The Pursuit of Happiness”, released in 2003, is filled with more local color that is both vibrant and subtle. It is a perfect read between breaks from the jackhammer. 

(left) Joe Weil's latest book is available by sending \$5 to the publisher, Dave Roskos at P.O. Box 54, Manasquan, NJ or call Joe direct at 908-931-1343.



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Not for Nothing But...

the only poetry I saw
growing up was written
inside bathroom stalls.

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ODE TO ELIZABETH

by Joe Weil ©1986

“Grimy Elizabeth,” Time Magazine intones.
This city escaped the race riots
Never quite sank
And, consequently, never rose.

It’s not a town for poets.
You live here, you work the factory or a trade.
Down the burg, in Peterstown,
Italian bricklayers sit
on stoops, boxes, chairs,
playing poker
into one a.m.

Drive up Elizabeth Avenue
and you’ll hear the salsa music blast from every window.
Even the potted geraniums dance.
In La Palmita, old Cuban guys sip coffee
from little plastic cups.
They talk politics, prizefights, Castro,
soccer, soccer, soccer.

Our Mayor looks like a lesser Mayor Daley:
smokes cigars, wears loud plaid suits,
the penultimate used-car salesman.
He’s been in since ’64, a Mick with a machine.
He’s re-elected because he’s a consistent evil
and, here in Elizabeth, we appreciate consistency.

Half the law of life is hanging out, hanging on
to frame houses, pensions.
Every Sunday, ethnic radio: Irish hour, Polish hour,
Lithuanian hour. My father sits in the kitchen
listening to Kevin Barry.
He wishes he could still sing.
Two years ago, they cut his voice box out:
Cigarettes, factory, thirty years’ worth of double shifts.
My father’s as grimy as Elizabeth,
as sentimental, crude.
He boxed in the Navy, bantamweight.
As a kid I’d beg him to pop a muscle
And show off his tattoo.

We are not the salt of the earth.
I’ve got no John Steinbeck illusions.
I know the people I love have bad taste
In furniture. They are likely to buy
Crushed-velvet portraits of Elvis Presley
And hang them next to the Pope.
They fill their lives with consumer goods,
Leave the plastic covering on sofas
And watch “Let’s Make A Deal.”

They are always dreaming the lottery number
That almost wins.
They are staunch Democrats who voted for Reagan.
They are working class, laid off when
Singer’s closed, stuck between chemical dumps and oil
refineries in a city where Alexander Hamilton
once went to school.

In the graveyard by the courthouse,
lie Caldwells, Ogdens, Boudinots.
Milton is quoted on their graves.
Winos sleep there on summer afternoons
under hundred-year-old elms.
They sleep on the slabs of our Founding Fathers
and snore for History.

I have no illusions. We belong:
the winos, the immigrants, the prospering
Portuguese with their sweet-looking daughters
marching off to law school and leaving their parents’
broken English behind.

The Irish of Kerry Head have vanished,
but up in Elmora, you still can see
the Jewish families walking home from synagogue.
They are devout, they are well-dressed,
They read the Talmud.
They are not full of shit.

Twelve years ago, I used to go to the Elmora Theater
with twenty other kids.
It was a rundown movie house that never
got the features till they’d been out a year.
Because the Elmora was poor, it showed
foreign films; art films we didn’t know were art:
Fellini, Wertmuller, Bergman.
It cost a dollar to get in.

We’d sit there, factory workers’ kids, half hoods,
watching *Amacord*, while in the suburbs
They played all the other shit.
When the grandfather climbed the tree
In *Amacord* and screamed, “I want a woman!”
we all agreed.
For weeks, Anthony Bravo went around school
screaming, “I want a woman!” every chance he got.
I copped my first feel there,
saw *Hester Street*, *The Seduction of Mimi*.
Once they had a double feature:
Bruce Lee’s *Fists Of Fury* with Ingmar Bergman’s
The Seventh Seal.

I remember two hundred kids exploding
when Jack Nicholson choked the nurse
in *Cuckoo’s Nest*.
Sal Rotolo stood up, tears streaming down his face,
screaming, “Kill the bitch! Kill that fuckin’ nurse!”
and when they took Jack’s soul away,
We all sat there silent.
It lingered with us all the way home,
empty-eyed and sad.

Here in Elizabeth, the tasteless city,
where *Amacord* was allowed to be just another flick,
where no one looked for symbols,
or sat politely through the credits.
If Art moved us at all, it was with real amazement;
We had no frame of reference.

And so I still live here,
because I need a place where poets are not expected.
I would go nuts in a town where everyone read Pound,
where old ladies never swept their stoops
or poured hot water on the ants.

I am happiest in a motley scene,
stuck between Exxon and the Arthur Kill...
I don’t think Manhattan needs another poet.
I don’t think Maine could use me.
I’m short, I’m ugly, I prefer Mrs. Paul’s Fish Sticks
to blackened redfish.
I don’t like to travel because I’ve noticed
no matter where you go, you take yourself with you,
and that’s the only thing I care to leave behind.

So I stay here.
At night, I can still hear mothers yelling,
"Michael, supper! Get your ass in gear!"
Where nothing is sacred, everything is sacred;
Where no one writes, the air seems strangely
charged with metaphor.

In short, I like a grimy city.
I suspect “culture” because it has been given over
to grants, credentials, and people with cute haircuts.
I suspect Poetry because it talks to itself
too much, tells an inside joke.
It has forgotten how to pray.
It has forgotten how to praise.

Tonight, I write no poem. I write to praise.
I praise the motley city of my birth.
I write to be a citizen of Elizabeth, New Jersey.
Like a goddamned ancient Greek, I stand for this smallest
bit of ground, my turf, this squalid city.
Here, in the armpit of the beast.

Tonight, the ghosts of Ogdens, Caldwells, Boudinots
walk among the winos.
They exist in the salsa music blaring on Elizabeth Avenue.
They rise up and kiss the gargoyles of Cherry Street.
They are like King David dancing naked
unashamed before the covenant.

Tonight, even the stones can praise.
The Irish dead of Kerry Head are singing in their sleep.
and I swear, the next time someone makes a face,
gives me that bite the lemon look, as if to say,
"My Gawd...How can you be a poet and live
In that stinking town?"
My answer will be swift:
I’ll kick him in the balls.

ST. JOSEPH’S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

St. Joseph's is a place where the homeless and materially poor are welcomed as our brothers and sisters. They come to us in need. And we strive to serve them with compassion and love.


St. Joseph's is a community that unites city and suburb, poor and affluent, young and old and people of all colors. It is a place where hearts are touched and consciousness raised among many, so that together we can begin to build a more just society where all people can live in peace.

Since 1983, the Center has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, NJ, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medication, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social support they need to live with integrity.

St Joseph's staff includes 5 full-time employees, 6 part-time employees and could not operate without the help of many dedicated volunteers.

St. Joseph's cannot continue its vital work without the financial support of generous individuals and corporations. The Center depends primarily on donations to operate its programs and maintain the facility. Your contribution provides hope for people in need.

St. Joseph's staff prays that the day will come when

these services are no longer needed. The day when all will have adequate housing and sufficient food. The day when we will live as one family in a community of peace and love. 

OVERVIEW

The Center helps people work for a brighter future by:

- Distributing 500 bags of food to needy families each month, and distributing sandwiches and bread daily
- Offering a hot meal to 200 people each Saturday through the efforts of eight churches and temples
- Providing donated clothing, household items, and furniture daily
- Making available individual, family, and substance abuse counseling and referral
- Helping 100 people per year prepare people to secure employment through job readiness classes
- Assisting 75-100 uninsured patients with prescription medications every month
- Providing a forum for educational workshops
- Providing 40-50 children with the opportunity to attend camp each summer

Donations are always accepted.
Clothes - Non Perishable Food - Money

REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD’S

Submitted by Justino Rosa

Spring is here! A wonderful time of the year, when everything comes to life. Pretty soon flowers and trees start to bud. Green all over, the color of spring. After this winter we are all looking forward to warm weather. People will start to go out to shop and our streets will be alive again with activity.

April is around the corner and Palm Sunday will be on April 4, a week later Easter and Passover will be here. We at the Rosa Agency wish everyone a Happy Easter and a wonderful Passover. Lets take some time to think about our troops who are in Iraq and Afghanistan and hope that this year peace will come to the Middle East.

Spring is a time of year when people start to look for new homes. It is the most active period in the real estate business. Sellers should consider refreshing their homes with paint and landscaping. The real estate market in December and January had slowed down, interest rates had crept up and there was an uncertainty in the air concerning our economy. The FEDS had made a statement that interest rates would be going up.

In the middle of March the rates began to drop and automatically the real estate market picked up. The FEDS have now stated they will hold the rates for some time. I want our readers to understand that this is subject to change on a day-to-day basis. Economy and world events dictate what the rates will be.

Presently the world is facing an increase in the oil prices, which will eventually cause inflation. The demand for oil has increased and production levels have not increased. China which is the worlds largest populated country has now become the largest new consumer of oil in the world causing prices to rise. Libya is not producing oil in the same capacity and Venezuela and Iraq are not producing oil in the same

fashion they once did. The consumer is paying the price.

Oil and housing are interrelated. Many homes are heated by oil. Homeowners use their cars to get to work and home. The price of gas may determine where you live.

Recently we have experienced at Rosa Agency numerous incidents on the sale of a home where the oil tank has become an issue. The State of NJ in 1992 passed a law that required all abandoned oil tanks to be removed or filled according to law. Back in the 70's when we had an oil embargo many homeowners converted their heating system to gas but never properly removed or filled the oil tanks. Now these same homeowners are looking to sell their homes and are confronted with an additional expense, namely to remove or fill the tank.

When the State of NJ passed this law they also required the testing of the soil surrounding the abandoned tank. If the tank was not removed when it was abandoned the state required that a permit be taken out and a certification was to be provided to the new homeowner showing the property was not contaminated.

On commercial properties the state required that all properties that had a tank active or abandoned be removed. You are not allowed on a commercial property to have an underground tank. Lenders require an environmental audit prior to lending on such properties.

A word to the wise to our readers, if you live in a home that has an oil tank whether your selling or not you should have the tank tested. After the tank is inspected an insurance policy at a nominal fee will be offered to give you peace of mind. If you have an abandoned underground oil tank you should have it properly removed immediately. The possibilities of contamination are great and somewhere down the road you or your heirs will have a problem.

Again I wish everyone a Happy Easter and a great Passover! 