



LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

If history has taught us anything it is that the oppression of people is wrong, especially by their own leadership. Diplomatically, a country can only cringe at other countries violating the human rights of their own citizens. When the offending government crosses their boundary line, then justice has an obligation to intercede.

No one is immune to the effects of oppression. The goal of the oppressors is to expand. Power grows with each individual that is consumed. There is no negotiating with terrorists. For them, the only option is death to their so-called enemies and even themselves. We see the effects of this evil wherever terror surfaces. Large scale or small, attacks on innocent lives are an affront on the world.

Another lesson history has taught us is that it will be repeated. It is mind-boggling to think that past atrocities that have been revealed and defeated can resurface again and again. The conflict of good and evil is in the headlines today. Yet there is debate and opposition to rooting out the source of the affliction.

The liberation of Italy from the German forces during World War II was a victory for not only the Italian people but for America and the world as well. Had it not been met with successful opposition, the Nazi occupation of Italy would have eventually challenged the country's sovereignty and the sovereignty of the countries around it.

Opinions about the actions of allied forces and the factions operating within Italy were diverse. Criticism and support were equally directed at everyone involved. Most factions were working just to survive while the nazis were operating to conquer. Yet everyone thinks their own opinion is correct.

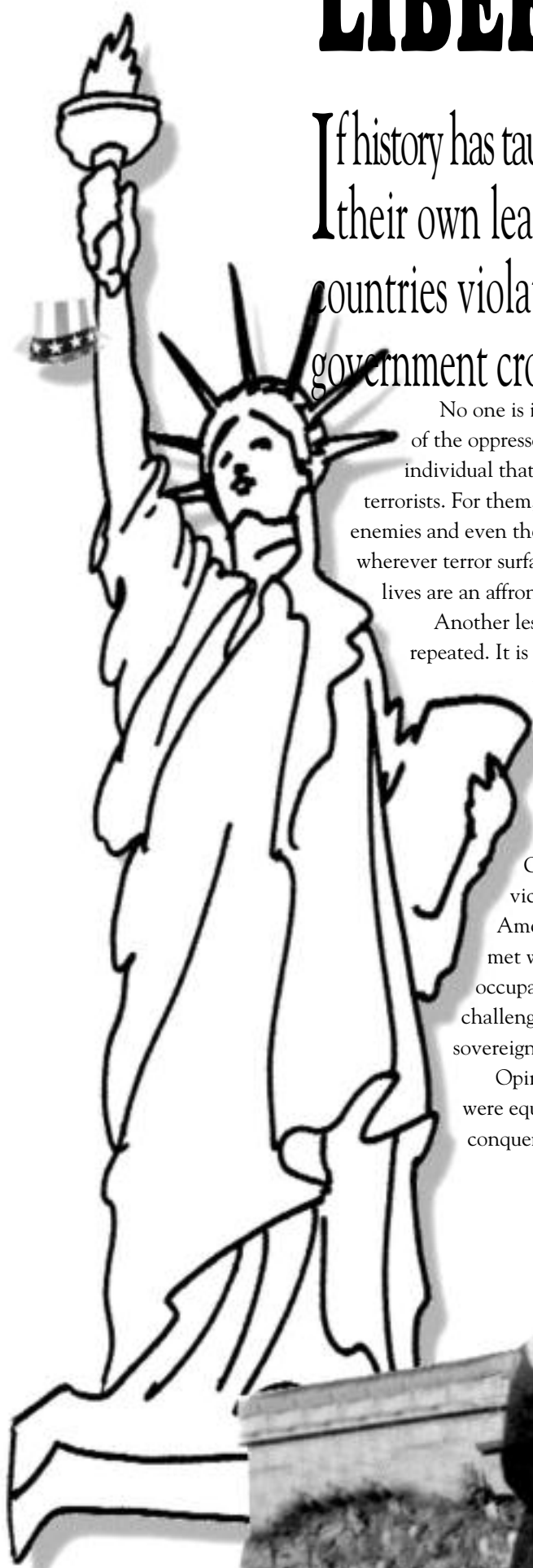
The conscience of the American people is rooted in the values of liberty and democracy. It is that perspective that has proven to be the most humane throughout history. That perspective should be kept in mind when looking at what is happening in the world today.

The foundation of liberty and justice is individual freedom. Individuals endure the brunt of the struggle. Like the veterans of past wars, American soldiers still sacrificed their comfort and safety to secure freedom. Keep in mind these individuals and what they are fighting for. Cast your criticism and support correctly. 🇺🇸

Jimmy Sacco was drafted by the Italian Army, spent time as a P.O.W. and served in the American Army throughout World war II.

The experience bounced him around three continents. He met his future wife, Rose Spano, in his travels in America and eventually settled down in Peterstown.

This picture of Jim and Rose was taken in Mattano Park on November 24, 1945.



New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey will be hosting a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the liberation of Italy at the end of World War II. The ceremony will take place at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the governor on April 27. The Princeton mansion was built in 1835. Its name is derived from two Scottish words: "drum," meaning hill, and "thwacket," meaning woods.



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:

AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN

202 Walnut Avenue

Cranford, NJ 07016

(908) 709-0530

Fax: (908) 709-9209

E-mail: rentec@earthlink.net

JOE RENNA

Publisher / Editor

TOM PLANTE

Copy Editor



SONS OF PETERSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

412 South 7th Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

JOHN SACCO

President

ANTHONY SACCA

Vice President

LOUIS LaBRUTTO

Secretary

JIM PALERMO

Treasurer

CHRIS COLLETTI

Sergeant-at-Arms



President's Message

Selecting honorees for our picnic is one of the toughest jobs the members of the club face. There are so many worthy people to choose

from. Generosity is an actual cultural trait for our residents. My only regret is that we can't honor all of them at one time.

Common to every candidate on the list is the fact that they work virtually anonymously. Their efforts have helped so many people. And most people don't even realize it or the length of time the work was done. Without revealing anyone's age, most people on our list are senior citizens and have been contributing to the community for most of their lives. In Peterstown that's just the way it is.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the honorees at this year's picnic: Frances Chiavuzzi, Camile DiGeorgio and Gloria DeMartino. They represent all that is good in Peterstown and a host people whose lives are better because of them.

I hope to see you at our picnic on June 2nd. Young and old from near and far to have a great time. If you've been to one in the past, I don't have to tell you.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
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.

ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA

908-709-0530

You can E-mail your letter to the editor:

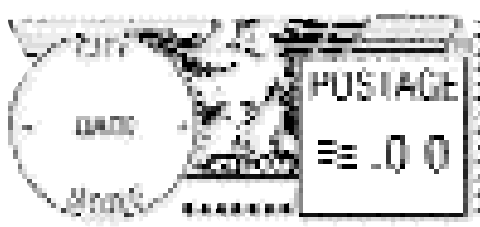
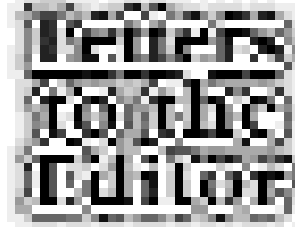
rentec@earthlink.net

Tell us what's on your mind.

We don't care if you're controversial; just be sincere.



Printed on
Recycled Paper



LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses.

Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed).

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

Dear Editor and Publisher,

Would it be possible to send copies of your newspaper to The Chelsea at Fanwood? We are an assisted living facility and we have some wonderful residents who grew up in Peterstown who would LOVE your publication.

Thank you so much!

Michele Bucci

Senior Community Relations

The Chelsea at Fanwood,

Fanwood, NJ

Dear Joe Renna,

I'm an old-timer from Peterstown. I was born and raised in Peterstown and moved away when I married 53 years ago. I received a newspaper from my cousin Rose Migliaccio and enjoyed it so much I just had to subscribe. I don't know if you are familiar with my family. My brothers are the Reina boys, Charlie, Jim, Joe and Julie. My sister had the lemon ice stand on Niles Street and Third Avenue.

Thanks for bringing good memories to us. God Bless,

Sincerely,

Bessie Reina Bussiere

Pittstown, NJ

Hello Joe,

How are you, I hope you and all your family are well. My sister Jackie usually passes the paper to me and we read it to my Mom who now is living in Sunrise Assisted Living in Westfield. She loves to hear about some of the old-timers from the neighborhood. Keep up the good work!

I got a kick out of your recent article about erring. LET HE OR SHE WHO HAS NEVER ERRED CAST THE FIRST STONE!

I have to agree with you about your past employee, Jackie Salemi. She was the best. When she was behind the desk you had a safe feeling in your heart and you knew that all was well on Irving Street in Rahway.

You omitted one name from the old shop that I have to give his due respect. Fred Theiss was your part-time proofreader and desk man and did a fantastic job. I vividly remember his proofreading skill and unbelievable spelling skills. Him and Jackie were a great team.

Anyway, stay well, say hello to Tina, and again keep up the good work.

Regards,

Lenny Merlo

South Plainfield, NJ

Joe,

Though I no longer live in NJ, occasionally I have a copy of your paper sent to me. I believe you do a good job of covering the people, culture, events and history of Peterstown.

I lived on Amity Street from 1961-1973. I then moved to New York Avenue. In 1979, I got married and moved to North Carolina to attend college. I pastored several churches there and started a Christian school. My wife and I now reside in Puyallup, WA where I pastor an Assembly of God Church and she has a counseling practice.

I try to fly back each year or so to visit family and friends. When I do, it always rekindles old memories of Peterstown. Living in our old neighborhood was fun and carefree. Truly people cared for one another and the bond was intense. My life has changed a lot since those old days, but I will never forget my roots. Thanks again for the great work you and your wife and staff do.

God bless you all,

John Nocera

Puyallup, WA

Gentlemen (and Tina),

I enjoyed the paper so much. It is so nice to read stories and see pictures of old friends and neighbors I knew in the past. I went to School 3, Grover Cleveland Jr. High and graduated from Battin High School for Girls. I graduated in 1944, and that was during World War II. We had ration stamps for food and gasoline for the cars. We had air raid wardens and curfews. The happiest day was when the war was over.

Thank you for starting this paper about Peterstown. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Catherine Firetto Lamendola

Colts Neck, NJ

Mr. J. Renna,

Someone sent your Feb 02 edition to one of my sons and it got to me recently. It was the first I've seen of your fine publication and I applaud your work. Some of your readers may want to know what's happened to 3 graduates of St. Anthony's School.

Victor Rotolo is a father of 4 children and an attorney practicing in Lebanon, NJ. James Rotolo is a urologist and father of 4 with offices in both Manasquan and Brick, NJ. Lissa Rotolo Cali is a mother of 3 living in Manasquan, NJ. As for me, I'm retired and enjoying life in West Palm Beach, Fla. Come on down.

Victor Rotolo

West Palm Beach, Fl

And now a note from Lissa.
What a coincidence.

Dear Around About Peterstown,

I have very much enjoyed your wonderful newspaper for months. What a great concept! I know that everyone that reads it feels the same.

Recently I was gifted with a subscription from my own best friend with whom I shared a childhood in St. Anthony's and in Peterstown, Diane Migliaccio Nolan. I would now like to extend same to Marge Schiavino. She was lucky to have shared a life-long friendship also forged in Peterstown. Marie and my mother, Vincentina Conforti Rotolo met in kindergarten in 1930 and were friends until my mother died. Margie's daughter Joanne went through school with me and was a friend, too. I think of Mrs. Rita Ciaccio whom my mother also shared a life long friendship, and then her daughter Kathy Ciaccio Campo who was and still is one of my very best friends since the age of five. We are in fact blessed that there have been many friendships formed in Peterstown that last lifetimes and then repeat in subsequent generations. This is a very rare and beautiful phenomenon. We're lucky, we who have our roots here.

All of the Conforti and Rotolo families that once lived in Elizabeth have moved away. Most live in eastern Monmouth County and love it, of course. There is much to be said, however, for the spirit, the passion, the energy and the soul of Peterstown and the company of good people with a shared history.

Myself and my brothers Victor and Jim have made sure that who we are and where we are from has not been lost on our children. Our combined eleven have come back, often to Spirito's, to the two St. Anthony's reunions, etc. Thank you very, very much for the hard work that you do with your research and writing. You are helping to keep something very special alive.


Sincerely,

Elissa (Lissa) Rotolo Cali

Manesquan, NJ


everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

People trapped in the middle of a sea of ignorance have no other choice than to stay afloat and if there is but one raft the captain becomes their savior. He is their hero by keeping them alive in the water. Even though

If you lose a buck on the side show or your house to a 30 year old millionaire it won't kill you. Strapping a bomb to yourself or crashing a plane does. It also kills others. 

ignorance is the
felt strip that the
Velcro hooks of
oppression clings to.



Hank Marcantonio will be missed dearly by those who worked with him and by those he helped. 

(above) This note was sent
to the Sons of Peterstown
by Henry Marcantonio's son, John.
The club members will never forget Hank.

The musical presentation featured students as narrators and as actors in a silent interpretation of the story of Jesus's capture, crucifixion, death and resurrection.



(left) Father Vincent playing guitar performed the original score to the passion play with St. Anthony's 7th grade teacher Ralph Marciano

BONGIOVANNI FAMILY LEGACY

Submitted by Vincent DeTrolio

The year was 1906. Vincenzo Bongiovanni was a laborer in Cammarata, Sicily. He and his wife, Rosa Lieto had two young sons, Salvatore 3years old and Giralamo 1 year old. Vincenzo had to make a gut wrenching decision. He would have to leave his wife and sons behind in Italy so he could travel to America in hope of finding a new home and better way of life for his family. Three years went by before Vincenzo could save enough money to bring Rosa and the boys to America.

The family settled on John Street in Peterstown. Vincenzo worked as a custodian in Singer Manufacturing. Rosa took in laundry. The family continued to grow. Soon they had 8 children and no more room in their small tenement apartment. In 1924 Vincenzo and Rosa bought a new two-family house on Second Avenue. They paid \$5,000 - a small fortune at the time. Even this house was small and the boys and girls slept in dormitory bedrooms. All the kids who were old enough worked odd jobs to help meet expenses.

Vincenzo loved his wife Rosa and their family

continued to grow. They had twelve children, six boys and six girls. Sal, Gerry, Joey, Anna, Mae, Mary, Connie, Charlie, Carmine, Lucy, Nicky and Rosalie. Times were very hard. The four oldest girls left school early to find work. They became seamstresses in a local factory. The boys and the two youngest girls were able to work part time and continue on through high school. The family struggled financially but stood together and got through the Depression and other hard times. Charlie, Carmine and Nicky fought overseas during World War II.

Vincenzo and Rosa were humble people but they saw to it that their children had aspirations and goals. Four of the boys, Gerry, Charlie, Carmine and Nicky became managers for Singers. Nicky, the youngest boy, went on to become Assistant Controller and Director of Manufacturing. Salvatore became an accounts manager with Armour Foods. Lucy and Rosalie married their childhood sweethearts and successfully operated small businesses in Elizabeth and Long Branch.

Today five of the twelve children are left. Mae, who

remained single, is the matriarch of the family. She resides in Clark with her nephew Vincent DeTrolio and his family. She will be 90 in December. Charlie, a widower, continues to live on Third Avenue in Peterstown. Nicky lives with his wife Alice in New Caanan, Conn. Lucy resides in Lakewood with her husband Tony Leo. Rosalie, the baby of the family, lives in Long Branch with her spouse Tom Marsico.

The Bongiovanni family started out with small humble roots. Vincenzo and Rosa's children blessed them with 17 grandchildren. Today there are 33 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Among them are doctors, engineers, lawyers, business executives, musicians, policemen, teachers, nurses, chefs, general contractors and entrepreneurs. The family resides predominantly in New Jersey but is dispersed from New Hampshire to Florida. Everyone, 105 in all, comes together every few years for a Bongiovanni Family reunion. While Rosa and Vincenzo may be long gone their legacy of love, hard work and achievement lives on. 🇺🇸

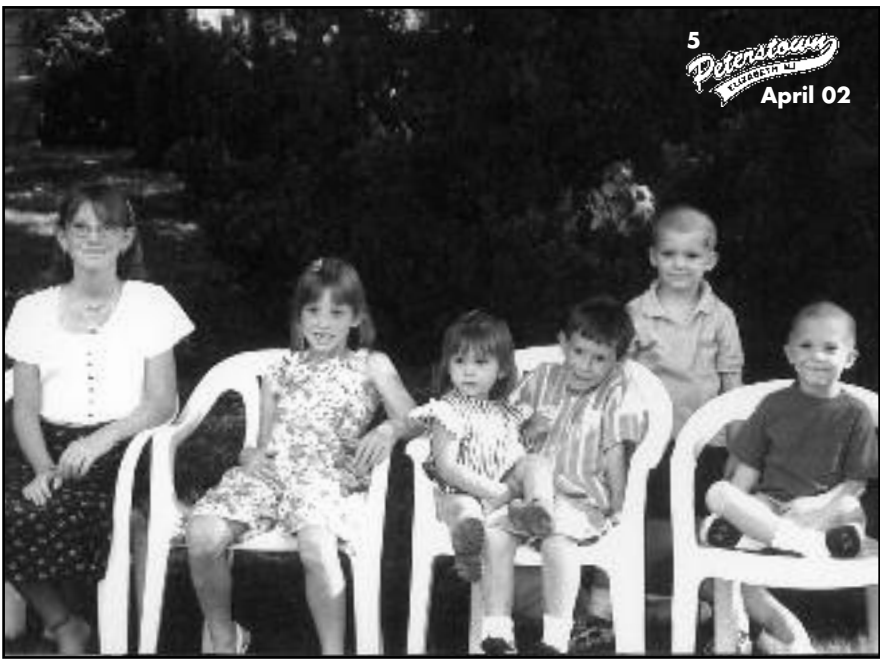


TWO GENERATIONS OF BONGIONANNI

(above) This 1927 photo of the Bongiovanni Family was taken in the back yard of their 613 Second Avenue home in Peterstown. Seated are Rosa and Vincent with their twelve children: Standing (l-r) are Charlie, Joey, Anna, Mae, Mary, Lucy, Connie, Jerry and Sal. Seated are parents, Rosalie and Vincenzo. Baby Rosalie is sleeping on her mothers lap. There is a 25 year span between the oldest, Sal, and youngest, Rosalie.

(left) This photo was taken at a family reunion in 2000. Pictured are five of the Bongiovanni siblings and their spouses. Standing are Nicky, Charlie, Rosalie and Tom Marsico, Tony Leo. Seated are Alyce, Alice, Mae, Lucy Leo.

.....
Not for Nothing But...
does having fewer
than 3 kids seem
self- centered to you?
.....



5
Petersburg
April 02



THREE MORE GENERATIONS OF THE BONGIOVANNI FAMILY

Here are three more photos from the 2000 Bongiovanni family reunion. In relation to Vincent and Rose, pictured in top left photo are 15 of their grandchildren.

In the picture at left are 22 of their 33 great-grandchildren.

Pictured above right are six of their 10 great-great-grandchildren.

CALLING GROVER CLEVELAND JR. HIGH CLASS OF 1952

Not for Nothing But...

how many of today's 9th graders know who Grover Cleveland was?

The Battin High School 50th anniversary reunion in 2000 brought together alumni from the all-girl high school who hadn't seen each other in many years. It seems that folks from Peterstown bond more than most and so when the group that went to Battin from Cleveland Jr. High School got together they buddied up like they were bobby soxers once again.

They planned a casual get together the following year. This time they called on more friends, including some who went to the all-boy Thomas Jefferson High School.

The "mini-reunion" was a big success and so they formed a committee and planned a 50th anniversary reunion for their Jr. High School. The committee is working feverishly trying to contact all their classmates. Committee members are Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Alberta (Ferko) Simone, Jean (Neri) Maisano and Robert Fyne.

**GROVER CLEVELAND
JR. HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1952
50th REUNION
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002**

**1 PM - 4 PM
GEORGE'S CATCH 27**

**618 W. ST. GEORGES AVENUE
LINDEN, NJ 07036**

If you are a 1952 graduate from Cleveland, or know of someone who is, e-mail Carmella (Spino) Helminski at: carmybob@bellatlantic.net

(below) Cleveland alummi who reunited at Battin High School's 45th anniversary in October, 2000. (l-r) Emily (Albertino) Pirigyi, Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Anne (DeAlmeida) Mazza, Catherine Merlo, Jean (Neri) Maisano, Rose (Drago) Koziol.



(above) Attendees at last year's mini-reunion. Standing (l-r) Robert Frazier, Carol Morhart, Vincent Diamante, Robert Fyne, Alberta (Ferko) Simone, John Trabachino. Kneeling is Martin Kann.

PHOTOS OF CLEVELAND 9th GRADERS
FROM THE 1952 YEAR BOOK



(above) P.S.A.A. Football Field Day Class B 1951 Champions. (sitting, l-r) Carmine Campione, Carmen Urso, Louis Altobelli, Thomas Reina, Vincent Tallo and Anthony Ricadulli. (standing, l-r) Coach, Andrew Collins, Joseph Longo, Richard Meola, Joe Picallela.

(below) One of Cleveland Jr. High's 13 ninth-grade homerooms - #217
Carmella Sino is seated third from the left and Jean Neri is in second row, second from left.



(above) Carmella (Spino) Helminski, Jean (Neri) Maisano and Patricia (McKenna) Kennedy are the height of fashion in their Loafers, Bobby Sox and Ship-and-Shore blouses.



BATTIN HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1952
IS ALSO HAVING
A 50 YEAR REUNION

MORE STUFF FROM 1952

(right) These are students from Grover Cleveland Jr. High School back stage at the St. Anthony's CYO Talent Show where they performed the Charleston.



(below) Another Talent Show, this time in honor of Fr. Dominick. Pictured (l-r) are Ed Dembach, Mayor Nicholas LaCorte, Fr. Dominic, and Frank DiMaggio.



Flapper,
Josephine Piga

Gertrude Gobel
and Frank Caruso




(above, l-r) Anthony Deltufo, ____, Jay Renda, June Lang.



The Carmine (on drums) and Mario (at piano) Orchestra.

Sure I have the names of these guys but, if you think I'm going to print them here then you're nuts.

The talent part of the show was won by Miss High Street who spot-welded a tool chest. Miss Amity Street overhauled the engine of a 1948 Packard but lost points when she dropped the screw to the oil pan into the bucket of old oil. The contestants gave the gal from 2nd Avenue the prize for Miss Congeniality after she threatened to punch their lights out and the judges awarded Miss John Street an honorable mention for having the best gams. 

I always thought I got paid a little extra because of sex.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

CONFERENCE HONORS ITALY'S LIBERATION DAY

This years theme, “Italian American History”, will feature a “Homemade Wine Competition” for the best homemade wine in Union County. “This is one way for us to preserve our culture and heritage. Italian American immigrants were instrumental in developing the domestic wine industry in the US. The I.A.C. of U.C. is dedicated to the preservation of Italian and Italian American culture and heritage and the promotion of our accomplishments and contributions to today’s world”, said Angelo Paparella, the organization’s founder. “Through this conference, we hope to renew a sense of community and pride amongst people of Italian descent in our area. We hope to tap the interest of people who haven’t been involved in an Italian American organization before and now feel a desire to find a way to hold on to their own past. Additionally, we want to encourage membership in Italian American organizations and provide an opportunity for regional networking”, he added.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Colavita USA are sponsoring the event. Local

organizations involved are Mt. Carmel Society of Berkeley Heights, Hillside UNICO, Columbus Parade Asso. of Union County, Sons of Italy Garwood, Vince Lombardi Lodge, and the Columbia Italian American Club of Union.

Along with the wine competition, there will be ethnic music and dinner. Exhibit tables will feature the “Italian American Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients” display provided by the Sons of Italy, along with displays from the areas Italian American organizations and businesses. The timing of the event will also honor “Italian National Day”, (a national holiday in Italy celebrating the country’s liberation).

The conference is going to take place at 6:00 pm in the Mt. Carmel Hall on River Rd. in Berkeley Heights. Everyone is welcome, pre-registration for the competition and advance ticket purchase is required, for more information or tickets, the I.A.C. of U.C. can be contacted at 908-486-6911, or by e-mail at tuucco6@earthlink.net. Tickets are \$35, student discount tickets are available upon request. 🇮🇹

AN INVITATION FROM GOVERNOR JAMES E. MCGREEVEY

The following letter was sent out by the office of Governor James E. McGreevey. The program will honor Italian-American communities throughout the state. McGreevey had implemented this program in Woodbridge Township when he was mayor. He would recognize a different ethnic group and acknowledge their contributions to the community-at-large. Now he is doing the same as Governor but on a much grander scale. 🇮🇹

Dear Friend,

The Italian- American community is an important and vital part of both our State and Nation. New Jersey has benefited greatly from the rich culture, proud history and many contributions of the Italian-American people.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend a special flag raising ceremony scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2002. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Drumthwacket, the official Governor's residence located at 354 Stockton Street (Route 206), Princeton, New Jersey.

Together, we will honor the Italian-American community throughout the State of New Jersey. We will also commemorate the liberation of Italy at the end of World War II by the coordinated efforts of American and English armies and Italian freedom fighters. Your Attendance would be most appreciated and would contribute greatly to the success of this event.

At your earliest convenience, please RSVP to the Special Community Events Hotline at (609) 984-9852. Please be sure to leave your name (spelling included) and phone number.

I look Forward to seeing you on April 27th.

With all good wishes,
James E. McGreevey

DIRECTIONS TO DRUMTHWACKET *From Elizabeth*

New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 9. Route 18 North 1/4 Mile to Route 1 South for approximately 16 1/2 miles, then turn right onto Washington Road (County Road 571). Follow Washington Road to Nassau Street, Then make a left onto Nassau (3 traffic lights; 1 1/2 miles). Turn left on Stockton Street (Route 206), proceed 1/2 mile to Drumthwacket - on the left.

A SOLDIER'S STORY

Submitted by Maria Sacco Vivier

Jimmy Sacco was a sergeant major in the Italian army. He was almost 21 years old when he was drafted in 1939. After basic training he was sent to North Africa. He was one of the first in combat when the war broke out on June 10, 1940.

After 3 years of fighting in Libya and Egypt, he was sent home to Castagna, Catanzaro in Calabria for a short leave. From there he was sent to the Coast Guard in Trapani, Sicily. By this time, the Nazi army had moved into northern Italy. Italy was in turmoil. Mussolini was overthrown and King Victor Emanuel III was exiled. Italy's army was disbanded. Some soldiers were arrested by Nazis, some became refugees, others joined the Italian partisan movement that fought the Nazis and Fascists. Many, like Jimmy, were taken as P.O.W.s by American allied forces.

On July 24, 1943, Jimmy was taken prisoner by American forces and he found himself on a prisoner troop ship that was heading to the USA. First stop was Mississippi where he picked cotton for 5 months. From Mississippi he was transported to an Army base outside of Tallahassee, Florida. It was here he signed collaboration papers in accordance with the Italian and American governments. This allowed him to shed his POW uniform and wear an American uniform with a patch on the right arm that said ITALY. No longer considered a POW, he now worked for the US Army. After three months of training in Florida, he was sent to Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn and was assigned work on repairing US Army trucks and jeeps in Port Johnson, Bayonne, NJ.

On June 10, 1944, a beautiful young woman named Rose walked into Port Johnson with her parents John and Caterino Spany. They were looking for news from their hometown in Reggio Calabria. They had no word from Rose's sister, Concetta, since 1936 because there was no mail service between Italy and the U.S. Rose came looking for news but she found something she was not expecting. She found Jimmy.

For the next 1 1/2 years, a romance started that was to last a lifetime and span two continents.

Jimmy was finally repatriated back to Italy on December 18, 1945. Rose followed on September 4, 1946 and they were married in Jimmy's hometown on October 19, 1946 surrounded by his family and friends. Jimmy's immigration visa took a year to get approved so they spent a long honeymoon in Italy visiting Rome and Naples while they waited.

However, Rose was called back to the States four months before his visa was approved because her mother was very ill.

On October 21, 1947, Jimmy arrived back in the USA and on October 25th, he opened a small neighborhood store called J. Sacco's Grocery Store at 815 Third Avenue, right across the street from St. Anthony's church. It wasn't long before the store's name was changed to J. Sacco and Sons.

Jimmy never forgot his homeland and regularly sent packages to his family in Italy. At that time, there was a "very grouchy old man" working at the nearest post office on Elizabeth Avenue, who looked for any excuse to refuse a package. Jimmy started to go to the 3rd Street office down the port to mail his packages and there he met a wonderful gentleman named Charlie Cusumano, who

spoke his language and always tried to help him in whatever way he could.

Jimmy and Rose moved to 806 Third Avenue in 1955, where they raised their four children, Frank, John, Maria and Joe. The family business still is operated to this day by their son John but the other three "kids" have moved to Florida.

In 1985, Jimmy and Rose retired to Hollywood, Florida to enjoy their golden years. Rose fell in love with Florida at first sight. The blue aquamarine waters reminded her of her hometown in Southern Italy.

Sadly, in 1997, she passed away after suffering many years from the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Jimmy will be 85 years young this December and he still looks forward to flying back to Peterstown at Christmas and Eastertime to help his son John in the store and to see his grandchildren and old friends and customers. 🇺🇸



(above) Photo of newlyweds, Rose and Jimmy Sacco, upon his arrival back to America.



(above) Jimmy Sacco, with his son, John, on right, and Lou Labrutto, on left, in front of the family butcher shop. The original sign from 1947 still hangs over head.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Not for Nothing But...

some paths in life,
paved or not, are
chosen for us.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

THE BIGGEST NEWS TO HIT UNION COUNTY

The premier edition of the "Union County Directions" will be in our mail boxes in June. Every Mailbox! The County of Union and the Union County Alliance are publishing the newspaper. It will be unmatched as an advertising vehicle. No other publication can offer the distribution of Directions.

There will be 200,000 copies printed quarterly. Directions will be mailed to every household and business in the county. The full-color newspaper, beautifully designed and printed, will be filled with valuable information about county services, various directories and a calendar of events. The publication is designed to be a keepsake. As reference material, readers will keep the quarterly publication handy in their homes or offices.

This is a not-for-profit endeavor, so the cost for ads will cover expenses only. Directions is only accepting the

first 23 advertisements. The space is being offered exclusively to Union County businesses. Directions will be used as an economic development tool. The opportunity for affordable advertising gives Union County businesses an edge over out-of-county competition.

The County and the Alliance are also in the position to offer a discount to businesses that place ads in the premier issue.

Because the publication is not-for-profit, Directions is only accepting the first 23 advertisers. And there will be only one ad per page. The cost is \$2,500 per ad. That includes postage to every household and business in Union County. That's about 1¢ per postal patron.

Space is limited and it's being offered on a first come / first served basis. So call Tina Renna, Advertising Coordinator, today at: (908) 709-0530 📞

UNION COUNTY ALLIANCE

The Union County Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of our area's top leaders dedicated to the survival and recovery of Union County. The coalition is co-chaired by former Acting-Governor Donald DiFrancesco and Senator Raymond Lesniak and includes every major sector and organization in Union County - business and industry, organized labor, government, and civic and academic institutions. The Union County Alliance has developed and implemented a multifaceted strategic plan to foster progress and improvements for Union County residents and to create a sustainable, viable county for future generations. 🏡

Edward Zarnock, Chairman
Henry Ross, President
Ann-Marie Kay, Executive Vice President
(908) 527-2944

SPECIAL OFFER AT A GLANCE



Union CountyA Service of
the Board of
We'reConnected to Chosen Freeholder

- **200,000** full-color newspapers printed.
- **Mailed** to every household & business in Union County.
- **Exclusive** to Union County businesses & organizations.
- Only **23** advertisers.
- **One** ad per page.
- Special rate **\$2,500**

Call Tina Renna
for more information and insertion order
908-709-0530

Deadline for advertising is May 10, 2002

NO REST FOR LAPOLLA AS TURNPIKE DIRECTOR

Michael Lapolla was named executive director of The New Jersey Turnpike Authority. The appointment was made by Governor James E. McGreevey. Lapolla started his new job on March 18 and has his work cut out for him. Solving problems with E-Z Pass is just one.

The Peterstown native has been a shining star on the political scene ever since he was elected to County Freeholder in 1983 at the age of 27, the youngest ever in the state to hold that office. Michael served as assistant council to Governor Jim Florio in 1990 and as Director of the New Jersey Office of Senator Bill Bradley. In 1991 he became First Assistant Prosecutor of Union County. Michael most recently served as Union County Manager

after being appointed in 1997.

Family, friends, and co-workers from the county held a farewell reception for Michael. Approximately 250 attended to wish Michael well in his new position and to thank him for his seventeen years of service to the county. Long time associates including State Senator Ray Lesniak, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage and Union County Freeholder Dan Sullivan roasted Michael pretty good. But in typical Lapolla fashion he upstaged everyone by having the last laugh with his no-holds-barred speech.

Michael's star is still rising and still has a long way it could travel. 🏠



(above) Mike Lapolla with a gag from his party. The sign refers to the New Jersey Turnpike Elizabeth exit, Exit 13. Michael grew up just blocks away. In fact, the number on the interstate icon that appears on the sign, 404, is his house number from Loomis Street.



(above, l-r) Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, Mike Lapolla and State Senator Ray Lesniak.



(above, l-r) Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union), Freeholder Daniel Sullivan and Mike Lapolla.



(above, l-r) Mike Lapolla holds a gift from Union County Alliance President, Henry Ross; Executive Vice President, Ann-Marie Kay; and Chairman Edward Zarnock.

(right) Michael Lapolla's next door neighbors from Loomis Street was at his farewell party. Mike lead the crowd in singing Happy Birthday to Frances, standing to the right, who turned 88 that day. Next to Frances is her grandson Angelo Paparella and her daughter Frances Paparella next to him. Seated is Frances's husband Vincent, aka Jimmy.



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY - A TIME TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS



(above) Sal Mirabile sits at the feast table while his wife Enza stands behind him with their sons Nino and Joe.

(right) Children are more than welcome. They are dressed as angels and the room is totally draped and decorated.



(above) An altar of food and gifts. The small sculptures up front are made of bread and came from Italy with Enza's two aunts and uncle, who traveled to America to help prepare the feast. (right, l-r) Anna Marciante, Sal, Enza, Ninetta and Leonardo Spinelli.



In December of 2000 Sal Mirabile suffered an aneurism. He lapsed into a coma and his prognosis was questionable. The doctors were doing everything they could. It was a stressful time for his family. They felt helpless. Sal's wife, Enza, turned to St. Joseph to ask God to intercede in her husband's condition.

St. Joseph is a father figure and patron saint of family unity. Enza prayed to St. Joseph and she believed it was the power of those prayers that helped Sal in his ordeal. Sal made a full recovery. Her prayers were pure emotion, love and faith.

The Mirabile family joined in a different prayer this past St. Joseph's day. It was a prayer of thanks. Enza

fulfilled her promise of showing her gratitude by having a feast. She opened her home to family, friends and neighbors, to believers and non-believers. It was a celebration of life.

These types of celebrations are traditional in Sal's home town of Ribera, Italy. The Tavolata de (table of) St. Joseph feast offers 13 different dishes. Children dress as angels and an altar is adorned with bread, flowers and statues.

There is the hope of the hosts of these celebrations that those who attend will witness the good that was bestowed upon them and continue the generosity through their daily actions. 🍴

Recipes St. Joseph's Pasta (Minestra)

Submitted by: Liborio Firetto

INGREDIENTS:

- Elbow Macaroni
- Green Broccoli
- White Broccoli
- Fresh Fennel (Finochio)
- Califlower
- Rice
- Onions - Scallions
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil

PREPARATION:

Boil Broccoli and Califlower for 10 minutes.. Meanwhile fry Onion in Olive Oil. Add Broccoli and Califlower to pan with Onions. Fry until cooked. Cook Rice. Boil Pasta al Dante. Mix everything together.

St. Joseph's Pasta (Bread Crumbs)

Submitted by: Liborio Firetto

INGREDIENTS:

- Thin Spaghetti
- Bread crumbs
- Sugar

PREPARATION:

Boil Pasta. Roast Bread Crumbs until brown. Add Sugar to taste. Combine.

RIBERA CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL ST. JOE'S EVENT

Every year the Ribera Club holds a feast in honor of St. Joseph around his name day, which is March 19. This is a big holiday in Ribera and other towns in Italy. The tradition is equally intact here in Peterstown. The event is always well attended.

The club used the occasion to honor Theresa Marabella for her contributions to Italian/American culture and her dedication to preparing the feast.

The club also acknowledges all the work done behind the scenes and would like to recognize Nella Firetto, Theresa Marabella, Loisa Mirabile, Maria Agliata, Linda Logiudice, Vita Fodera, N. Russo and Gina Torretta. 🍴



(above) Special guests seated at the head table included Elizabeth Councilwoman Carla Mazza (far left), Councilman Angelo Paternostro (5th from right) and Father Thomas from St. Anthony's Church.



GUILD GOING STRONG 50 YEARS

Walter Anton and his wife promised each other that they would never remarry if the other died. Instead, they would dedicate the rest of their life to helping others. Fifty years ago, Walter's wife passed away and he kept his promise and chose St. Joseph as the focus of his devotion. The Elizabeth Chapter of his Missionary Servents Guild of St. Joseph is still active today.

The guild, based in Peterstown, has members from seven different area parishes. Their charity is directed to The Shrine of Saint Joseph in Sterling, NJ which dispenses aid throughout the United States and abroad. The Guild meets at the Peterstown Community Center. They have an annual St. Joseph's Day feast, Christmas party and other fund raising events. 🍴



(above) Club president Jack Torretta presents Theresa Marabella with a plaque in apprieciation for her community work. Co-chairs of the feast Peter Agliata and Liborio Firetto stand to the left and right, respectively.

(left) Rose Migliore and Virginia Navarro are charter members of the Guild. They were honored for their 50 years of service. Pictured (l-r) Lee Merlo, Vice President; Migliore; Navarro; Lucille Albowicz, President; Ursula Marshott, Treasurer.

THE NAVIGATOR - STEADY AS SHE GOES

If longevity is an indicator of quality, then The Navigator Restaurant is one of the best. It also was the first. Eighteen years ago Luis Dias opened the Portuguese restaurant in the Bayway section of Elizabeth. It was the first in that area.

Dias, a native of Portugal, came to America in 1973 and worked at The Manor in West Orange for 11 years before opening his own place. He named his restaurant in honor of Prince Henry, whose nickname was The Navigator.

Dias's fondness for the sea is evident in the collection of artifacts that adorn the walls. Antique pieces and nostalgic art are as tasteful as the food. Traditional Portuguese seafood dishes are combined with Spanish and American cuisine.

The lounge area in The Navigator is spacious and comfortable, a great place to unwind after returning from the high seas.

The Navigator Restaurant is open every day for lunch and dinner except Mondays. It has banquet facilities for private parties.

The service is pleasant and the atmosphere friendly. If you dine there it just may become your favorite place. 🍷



(left) The light house on The Navigator's sign has been guiding cars around the Bayway Circle for 18 years.

(left) Owner, Luis Dias stands in the main dining room under an authentic Italian chandelier from the 1700's.



CAMPUS INN HAS THE YES NETWORK

Yankee fans, Stephanie, Doreen and Michele, (pictured left) have reason to celebrate at the Campus Inn Sports Bar and Grill. They can catch Yankee baseball there on the Yes Network. If you like the Yankees, or any team for that matter, you can catch all the baseball action on one of The Campus Inn's 15 TV's. 🍷



Raul Pinho
and son,
Cristopher



PINHO'S THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS - OLD AND NEW

Pinho's has a lot of everything you're looking for in a bakery, luncheonette, cafe and deli. The only thing more impressive than the volume and variety of the food is the quality. Patrons can be heard saying, "Boy, that's the best (cake/pastry/sandwich/coffee/omelet/espresso) I ever had." You can fill in any number of things there and be accurate every time. There is indoor and outdoor seating plus orders to go. Specialty cakes and party platters are priced right and portions are generous. It really is a cool place to stop for a quick bite to eat or to stay a while for a good snack and friendly conversation. Pinho's is family-owned and operated by Raul and Julie Pinho. Their sons Nathan and Christopher are official cookie tasters.



(above, l-r) Ed Serratelli, Luigi Perrotti, Sy Lubin, Richard Hunt and Rudy Cammarota are Sunday morning regulars at Pinho's. A casual visitor cannot help but be drawn into the conversations about anything and everything.

(left) Mike Marino stands in front of one of Pinho's massive display cases. Mike decided on the St. Joseph's Pastry. Behind the counter is, aptly named, Tiffany Baker.



(above, l-r) Lesli Zambrana, Stephanie Barna and Rina Morales carefully transport Tick Tock, the clock from the TV show Blues Clues. It was made for Gavin, a fan of the show, for his first birthday party.

PHOTO INSPIRES EMOTIONAL RESPONSE

Dear Joe,

My name is Labe Freedman. You may know me as Mary Monticello's husband. I just wanted to let you know how heart-warming your February issue was for me. First, I opened to page two only to see a picture of my grand daughter, Carla Mazza, receiving a Woman of the Year award. But then I saw the picture of the employees of Besco Shirt Factory on Fulton Street in Elizabeth. Standing to the right was my father, Isaac Freedman. I never knew that this photo existed. I can't tell you how overwhelmed I was.

There were originally eight children in my family. I only have one surviving sister, Harriet Steigel who resides in Pembroke Pines, Florida. I sent her a copy of your paper and she called me after receiving it to thank you for the wonderful memory. Seeing the photo of my dad was very emotional.

Thanks again.
Labe Freedman
Elizabeth, NJ

It often happens that people write in relating to photos and stories that appear in this newspaper. In this case one photo moved two octogenarians to write.

Labe Freedman (84) and Nick Badami (81) spotted their fathers in the 1933 photo of the Besco Shrit Company.

Dear Around About Peterstown,

My cousin, Gene DeZefalo, sent me a copy of your February 2002 issue. I really enjoyed seeing the centerfold picture of Besco Shirt Co. The picture and article is about my father Louis Badami. I am the young boy in the lower right hand corner.

I shared the paper with friends from Elizabeth who are living out here in Tusan, Tony Bruno and his wife Jean (nee: Nittoli) Many people remember Tony as a surgeon from St. Elizabeth and Elizabeth General Hospitals.

Nick Badami
Tusan, Arizona

NEW BESCO SHIRT CO. ANNEX AUGUST 26, 1933



(above) Detail of Besco shirt Company photo that appeared in the February 2002 issue of this paper shows Isaac Freedman, sporting hat, and Louis Badami, with cigar. The younster is Badami's son, Nick.

DICOSMO'S
HOMEMADE ITALIAN
ICE STAND IS OPEN!
(4/8 - The earliest ever)

THIS OLD PIANO BAR



What better way to entertain guests than with a nice mixed drink. If your piano playing caused your company to run out of your house, here's a suggestion for that old piano. Make it into a piano-bar.

Regular readers of this paper may remember the false-fronted book case that was really a TV stand (Oct.01). The piano compliments the TV stand aesthetically and it also portrays an air of sophistication. Visitors not aware of the furniture's hidden dimension walk away thinking the occupants of the home are music aficionados and have a penchant for reading. In reality, they just like to watch TV and drink. 🍷



Piano bar open for business.

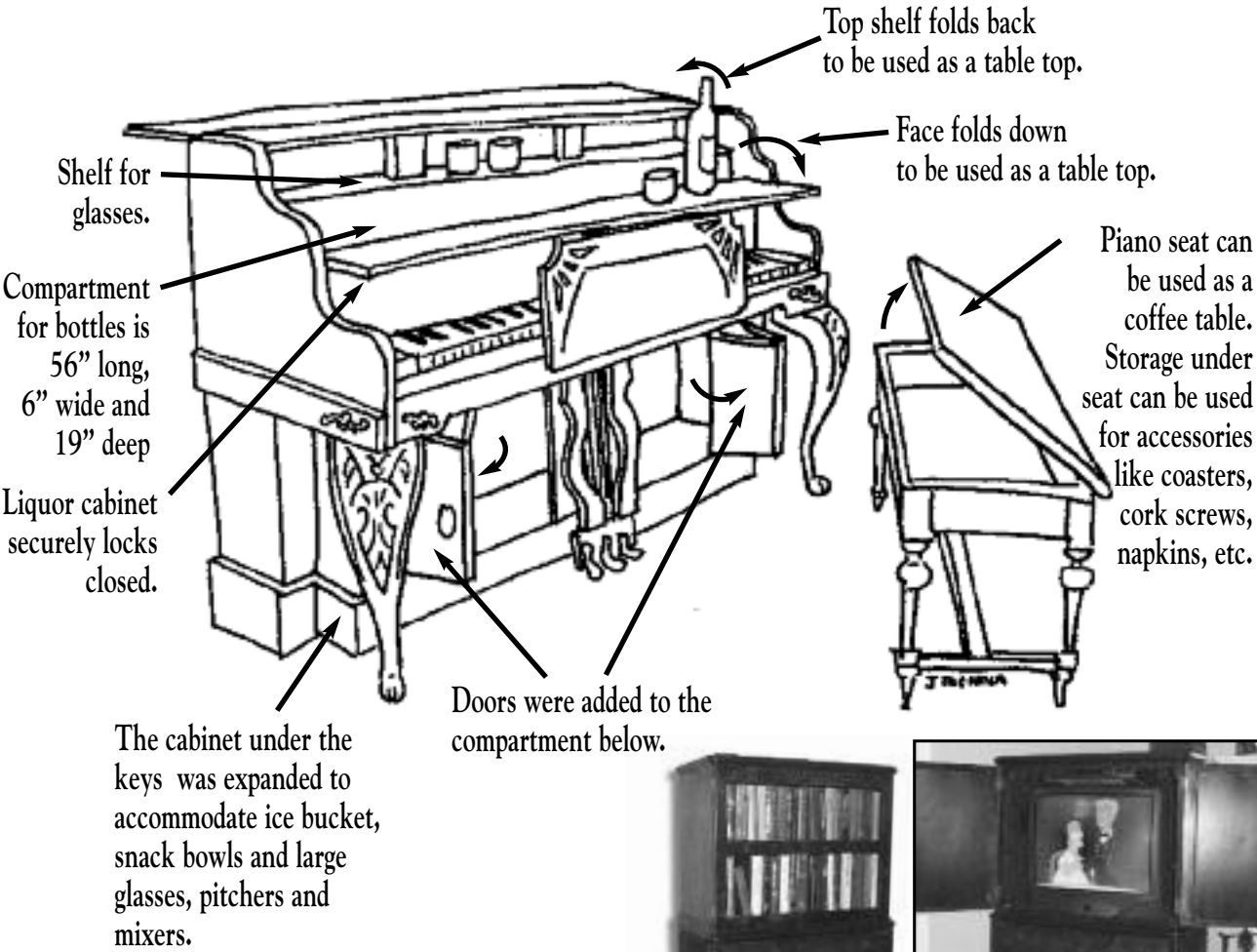
PIANO BAR FEATURES

.....

Not for Nothing But...

I'm now suspicious of every piano I see and must strike a key whenever I pass one.

.....



(right) Reprinted from the October 01 issue are photos of the TV stand masquerading as a book case closed and opened.





(above left) In 1931 James Cagney in the movie The Public Enemy shoved a half of grapefruit into the face of Mae Clark. Now I could never hit a woman, even with a piece of citrus, but I understand why some guys could. I would have taken a more humorous approach like in the picture on the right. I would have made my point but Mae would have have probably chuckled while she cleaned all that whip cream up. Besides the cake there are nine more changes to the classic scene. Find them and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern on the Park. (See form on right)

EDDIE THE DOG

By Sal Arpino
Sal Arpino is a seventh grader
at Deerfield School in Mountainside.



ANDRE & CIRELL PLAY IN THE PARK

Bob D'Andre and Frank Cirell have been a staple act in Las Vagas and Atlantic City as well as in other glittery venues. This Dynamic Duo of Comady will bring their antics to Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park on Saturday April 20th.
Buffet with show is priced \$35. (buffet 6pm-8:30)
Show only (9:00pm) is \$15. 🍷

REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Spring is here!! The real estate market is still pumping throughout the United States. Real estate housing starts are up at an all time high. But to my surprise in New Jersey new construction is actually down 33%. These statistics amaze me because of the geography in our area. There is new construction going up all over Elizabeth and Newark.

The state of New Jersey with its new land preservation laws plus the lack of viable building lots in New Jersey has created a land shortage for new construction. Thus New Jersey is running contrary to national standards, not because of demand but because of no available building lots.

New Jersey, small in land size but large in population, is the most densely populated state in the union. Our population continues to grow and more demands are being created for housing. Simultaneously, there is a national cry for open space, wild refuge, resources, farming and parks which are now competing with developers for this precious land commodity in New Jersey.

Locally, we have seen the same demand and pressure because of lack of viable buildable lots

in our city. Many developers are now purchasing older homes and demolishing them to create new ones. Everywhere we turn it appears that a home is being built. The city of Elizabeth cannot expand its landmass. Zoning laws restrict homes in certain areas. Lot sizes also are a factor as to whether a new home can be constructed. All this adds up to more expensive lots, which equal more expensive homes. In the last year we have seen the prices increase by 4%. The typical new two-family home construction in 2000, which was selling in the vicinity of \$265,000 to \$275,000, is now selling for \$365,000. What a change!!!

Let's congratulate some local builders who are Sons of Peterstown. Recently, Al and Joe Mauti who have, been building homes in the neighborhood for years have been approved for five new homes. Vincent and Mike Firetto, who have also been building new homes for years, have completed three new homes and will begin construction on two more. On South 7th Street, Arthur De Maio is completing two homes. Jorge Zeich and Nick Riviera will shortly begin construction on eleven new homes. We are proud of all these individuals from the neighborhood. We hope their success will continue. 🍷

Submitted by Justino Rosa