



THE KIDS ARE PAYING THE PRICE

For years, critics of government waste and overspending warned that our children and grandchildren would be paying the price for irresponsible spending. The warning was no more than a watchdog crying "Wolf!" The buck was passed along. Now that the bill has arrived it's the children, as predicted, who are paying the price.

Newly elected governor Chris Christie proclaimed that New Jersey is on "the edge of Bankruptcy." He implemented reductions in spending including state aid going to local school districts. The news of drastic cutbacks in local school districts came as a shock to parents and to board of education employees as well. The budget crisis in New Jersey has been looming for years with very little acknowledgement by government officials. The reality of the crisis was generally understood but it was also universally accepted that it would be ignored. Everyone enjoyed the benefits of unbridled spending, parents, employees, contractors and politicians. There has been an uproar since the gravy train has been derailed.

There is no pleasant side to sacrificing but that is what the governor is asking the school districts to do. He is holding back up to 5% of each district's total budget and asking them to find it elsewhere. Most districts responded by cutting programs and employees, some combined those cuts with raising property taxes. For instance the City of Rahway plans to eliminate middle school sports, field trips, summer school and a counseling program for children with special needs. Some security personnel, guidance councilors, secretaries, paraprofessionals and administrators will lose their jobs.

How the cuts affect each of the 611 school districts in New Jersey is unique to each. The state cut \$14 million from aid to the Elizabeth Board of Education which manages over 21,000 students, 3.5% of its \$400 million budget which is nearly 100% funded by the state. Clark public schools lost 100% of its state finding, \$89,000. Its \$32 million budget educates a little over 2,500 students.

The budget crisis is not isolated. It encompasses the entire state, every segment of every level of government. They are all interconnected. There is no one group to blame; they are all to blame. The issue with school budgets has gotten the most attention and riles the most people because it hits home with parents who only want the best for their children. It is the taxpayer who will have to bail the state out of its crisis but the solution to provide for the needs of the children must come from the parents.

The issue of cuts hit home for Joe Grazio in the way of youth sports. Joe has been an advocate promoting opportunity for students through athletics for 50 years, not through an official capacity as an elected official or school administrator but as a concerned parent. He is able to view the situation from many vantage points: Urban and suburban, Joe is from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth and now lives in Clark; as a student athlete he graduated from Elizabeth's Thomas Jefferson High School in 1961, a stand-out in football and basketball. He is the parent of two daughters, Maria and Gina who were cheerleaders in Elizabeth High, and is the grandparent of five, with his sixth on the way. Joe Grazio

has seen these types of situations before and offered some solace to his son-in-law Greg Randazza after Greg heard the news that Clark is considering cutting the middle school sports programs before his daughters Gianna and Nicole have a chance to play.

Joe knew parents would make up for the government's shortcomings when it came to their children. The solution has always come from the communities. There was no football for Grazio before he entered high school. It was the volunteer police officers that developed the P.A.L. football program. Joe knew first hand the value of youth sports programs. For 20 years Joe volunteered as an assistant head coach at Elizabeth High School. Sports enhanced the education environment for the student and opened a whole world of opportunity. There were some college opportunities for Grazio when he graduated but they were not cultivated like they are today. Greg for instance was an ace pitcher for Elizabeth and was drafted by the Atlanta Braves. He opted to attend Auburn University on a scholarship.

Grazio points to Greg's father Joe Randazza as one of the best examples of a parent stepping up to provide for his child and the community on a whole. It was Randazzo who built the baseball fields on the corner of Elmora and Morris Avenues that was home for the Elmora Youth League. It was where Greg first took the mound along with his brothers Jamie and Kenneth.

Greg is coaching his daughters in town recreation leagues in Clark. Though the loss of sports programs in the public schools is disheartening, he knows he will do whatever it takes to give his daughters the same opportunities he had - at all cost. The politicians know that too.



(above) Product of Elmora Youth League Greg Randazza was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 1988 but opted to attend Auburn University.



(left, l-r) Joe Grazio, Maria, Greg, Gianna, Nicole and Joe Randazza. Both Joes are sensing a return to the days when opportunities for youth sports were relied solely on volunteers and community organizations.



Around About Peterstown

ELIZABETH NJ

April 10

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President's Message

The first year of Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy is almost in the books. I must commend Joe Caparosso for the hard work along

with the countless others who helped to get the Old St. Anthony's Grammar School up and going. It will still take a lot of work to get the footing stable but it is important that we do. It is amazing what the school does with so little. The quality of education is excellent and what's more important is the wholesome environment the students get to learn in. There is a value to a religious education that is worth sacrificing for.

As a community we should try to help the school anyway we can. Supporting its fund raising efforts is the most effective. The students in grade school today will be our leaders tomorrow. Nuff said.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco, President
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

PRESS RELEASES

Press Releases that benefit the community of Peterstown are offered free of charge. Every effort will be made to accommodate appropriate articles when time and space allows. Send any info in early.

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Letters to the Editor



Good Afternoon Joe ...

I look forward to every issue of Around About Peterstown and as usual there is always something about somebody with ties to my past...

In the February 2010 issue was a very interesting article concerning Linda Lee Russo... she makes me proud ... I knew her parents so well... they were part of the fabric that makes me proud of my Peterstown Heritage..

Below is a letter addressed to Linda but for everyone to read:



(above) Linda Lee Russo's book "Diary of a Court Reporter."

Hi Linda...

I read the recent article that featured your outstanding career in the Feb. 10 issue of "Around About Peterstown". My attention was drawn not only to your achievements, but that you are the daughter of Dominick and Tessie...

I knew your dad when I was a kid... my family lived at 321 John Street... following World War II I was employed at the Bayway Refinery... in 1950 I was employed at the Solvents Lab together with your Dad... in October of that year President Truman needed my military services in the Navy for the Korean Conflict... your parents were kind enough to allow the group to give me a send-off and provided your recreation room for the affair... during the course of conversation your Mom and Dad showed me a show-case of dolls from all over the world...

One of my deployments aboard the USS Monrovia APA-31 (the same ship from which Gen Patton made his invasion of Sicily) brought me to Monrovia, Liberia as envoys for the inauguration of President Tubman...

We were allowed ashore during daylight hours ... of particular interest was a street peddler with carved wooden dolls... one of those dolls carved of dark wood, perhaps ebony, should be part of your collection....

There is a similarity in our skills... during my previous assignment attaché to the USS Taconic AGC-17 the very first trial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice was held at the Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia... a search of the records disclosed my stenographic and typing skills... I was selected to record (Gregg) and transcribe all of the proceedings that lasted more than two weeks... I continued in this assignment until my separation from Navy service in 1952...

You may also be interested to know that my brother Anthony E. Conte was elected Councilman of the Third Ward for several terms... He ran together with Tom Dunn in his try for Mayor...

I just wanted to let you know how proud I am to read that the daughter of two of my very good friends from many years ago is doing so well in her accomplishments... I have ordered your book from Amazon and look forward to reading it..

Very best wishes
Leonard P. Conte
Punta Gorda, FL

Hey folks,

We'll be playing the legendary Kenny's Castaways, located at 157 Bleecker Street, New York, NY, Every Tuesday in April, from 9:00-10:00 pm. Come on out and hear some great sounds.

Also, our debut CD "Here Today," as well as T- Shirts will be available.

Hope to see you all there.

P.J. Cotroneo
PJ Cotroneo Band
Elizabeth, NJ

Dear Battin High Class of 1960,

There are three reunions for the class of 1960 being held this year. The one that I'm involved with is the only reunion that is being held for "Ladies Only".

There are different committees planning the different reunions. One reunion combines the Jefferson High School Class of 1960 and Battin High School Class of 1960 together, with spouses invited. The other reunion is for Battin High's Graduating Classes of 1950 to 1960. Ours is planned only for the students of Battin High School Class of 1960, no spouses.

Sorry if this seems confusing. It would be great if you can attend all three events but I would like you to consider our's first. I am working together with Katherine (Dowzycki) Kreshock, Geri (Schwartz) Grohol in organizing the event. Thanks so much for your attention to this.

Lucille Disano
Linden, NJ

P.S. Here are the details:

Battin High School Class of 1960 50th Year Reunion
September 11, 2010 • 6:00 pm - 10 pm
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and mail no later than JUNE 30th to
Lucille Disano, 411 Birchwood Road, Linden, NJ. 07036.
Please include your maiden name,
e-mail address, phone number and date of birth.
Any questions, please contact sixtybatingrad@aol.com.

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Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is taking a heavy handed approach to move the state towards being more fiscally responsible. Of course his tough love is not popular with those who suckle from the public teet. What Cristy is trying to reign in is the culture of waste and privilege that employees in the state pension system have grown to expect.

Politicians would love to pass the blame for the state's budget problems to the school systems. They do deserve blame but so does every segment of government. For the most part, except for the Abbott districts, communities fund their own school systems through property taxes. It is an intimate relationship between taxpayer and service provider. Every segement should be cutting back equally.

Instead of looking towards Christie to reinstate the spending, the unions, teachers, and parents should be going after the elected officials and their cronies responsible for the waste. That is where they will finds the funds they need.

We only need to look at the waste in the County of Union to show how out of control the system is. Nepotism and patronage is an epidemic and taxes are raised annually with total disregard of towns cutting teachers and police and firemen. In the past nine years Union County taxes have risen an unbelievable 84%, over 90% if you add the separate tax added for the open space fund. These are property tax dollars that are virtually unaccounted for. The county spends almost a half-billion dollars a year.

When towns and schools are making extreme cuts and sacrifices the County of Union is quietly raising taxes again. These are property taxes drawn from the same pool the schools and towns rely on. It is outrageous how every dollar spent by the towns and schools is scrutinized yet there is no accountability for the portion of taxes the county takes. About 25% of a homeowner's property

taxes go to the county. Some towns pay more in taxes to the county than they do to their own town.

There is more than enough tax money being collected to fund the teachers and programs that we need. It is just being misdirected. Waste and corruption is getting first dibs at the pot.

The gaps in the pension system has placed New Jersey on "the edge of Bankruptcy", as Christie put it. Our kids are now bailing out the abuse of this system that was tolerated for far too long. These cuts to the schools are being done to make up for wasteful spending in other segments of the government and from a different time.

There will come a time that the County of Union will have to make up the difference between what they promised their 3,000 employees upon retirement and what they actually have paid into the system. They don't really worry about it because they will be long gone when that bill comes. And when it does it will just be passed to the next generation to pay.



education is the football
of politics and it is
the students that are
being kicked around.

PARK GUILD AND KELLY POST SPONSOR BENEFIT



The Park Union Guild of Deborah and The Michael A. Kelly Post 2433, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Union are jointly sponsoring a Spring Benefit at the Kenilworth Inn on Sunday, April 18th. Beginning at 1 p.m., the program will feature a delicious luncheon, followed by a musical performance by world renowned singer, Moreno Fruzzetti.

Fruzzetti, a native of Pisa, Italy, who currently resides in New Jersey, has for many years thrilled audiences around the world with his music. His early years featured instrumental music providing the background for what became his true love, entertaining vocally. Using a magnificent tenor voice he mixes the program with selections of popular, classical and favorites from

the Golden Era of Italian Music. His flair for combing this beautiful music with an engaging onstage presence receives rave revues wherever he performs.

Proceeds from the benefit will go to continuing the work of the Guild on behalf of the Deborah Hospital and to the Kelly Post's Relief Fund, which is used to assist needy comrades both in veteran's medical facilities and the community. In 2009 Park Guild celebrated 50 years of service to Deborah and during that period it raised over 1.125 million dollars.

The cost to attend is \$50.00, and making early reservations is encouraged. For more information, or for reservations, please call Nina at 908 233 4533 or Jane at 908 687 1423. The Kenilworth Inn is located on the Boulevard at S. 31st St., and is easily accessible from the Garden State Parkway and local roads. 1230 Wildwood Terrace, Union, NJ 07083 Robert J. Knecht, Kelly Post Adjutant 908-688-8241.

PLEASE HELP DONNA

On September 30, 2009 Donna's life was forever changed. Sadly she was shot by her husband who then turned the gun on himself. Miraculously she survived. Donna has suffered the loss of the sight in her left eye and has undergone several surgeries. Her physical suffering is dwarfed by the emotional trauma she is enduring due to the circumstances of this tragedy. There will be a long road to recovery ahead of her before she can become the independent woman she once was.

To ease some of the financial burden that has been left to her, The Sons of Peterstown Sports Club is organizing a benefit dinner in her honor. Donna is the daughter of our dear friend and neighbor Gerry Milius. Most people know "Big Gerry" as an Iron Worker and former bartender at Halecki's Tavern in Relocated Bayway.

The Sons of Peterstown has organizing a Ziti & Meatball Dinner to raise money to help Donna through her trials. The event will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 4:00 pm at St. Anthony's Hall on 227 Centre Street. The dinner will feature a Tricky Tray Raffle as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 per person and \$10 for children from 6 to 12 years of age. Checks can be made payable to Sons of Peterstown and donations can be mailed or delivered to club president John Sacco, at his butcher shop, across the St. Anthony's Church at 806 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Gerry is greatly appreciative for the generous support that has been shown thus far. The club is asking to continue that support and help make the dinner a huge success for this beautiful young woman! They thank you in advance for your thoughts, prayers and generosity.

(below) Announcement for Sons of Peterstown Dinner to benefit Big Gerry's daughter Donna.

Sons of Peterstown Sports Club
is hosting a
**ZITI & MEATBALL
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Saturday, May 22, 2010
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UNION COUNTY WATCHDOG CONDUCTS STUDY ON COUNTY BUDGET AND PRESENTS FINDINGS.

On March 31, 2010, The Union County Watchdog Association (UCWA) sponsored a forum about the County of Union's 2010 Budget. The panel, moderated by Paul Payton of The Westfield Leader, proposed \$20.4 million in cuts from the county budget and \$11.5 million in savings by discontinuing the county's Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, which is an additional tax based on ones home value.

Invitations to county freeholders and officials to participate were ignored. The 2010 Union County Citizen's Budget Review panelists consisted of Bruce Paterson of Garwood, Budget Committee Chairman John Bury of Kenilworth, Founder and President of UCWA Tina Renna of Cranford and Niel Coleman of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association.

The forum took place in Cranford Municipal Chambers and was taped for broadcast by Cranford's TV35. Residents of Union County can call their local cable service provider and inquire about the forum's broadcast in their town.

The forum can be viewed on the UCWA website unioncountywatchdog.org. The group also produces a monthly show for cable broadcast and they regularly tape informal citizen meetings at a diner after regular freeholder meetings. These shows can be viewed on the web at unioncountycitizensforum.com

Both sites link to countywatchers.com, a blog written by citizen watchdogs of Union County government. 📺



(left, l-r) The Union County Watchdog Association Forum on the Budget panalists Bruce Paterson, John Bury, Paul Payton, Tina Renna and Neil Coleman.

Anyone intersted in finding out more about how their taxes are being spent by the County of Union can visit the following websites:

unioncountywatchdog.org
countywatchers.com
unioncountycitizensforum.com

The UCWA is a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)3 organization working on behalf of the residents and taxpayers of Union County monitoring the activity of county government and advocating change to eliminate waste, corruption and incompetence.

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THE LADY DOTTH PROTEST TOO MUCH, METHINKS

Sebastian D'Elia is Communications Director for the County of Union. Recently he has submitted a series of letters to various publications asking MTV to cancel its show "Jersey Shore". The Italian-American organization called UNICO National is concerned with how the Italian-American Culture is being depicted. Seb is also their Communications Director.

The irony in this is that Seb embodies the characters that he claims to protest, minus the hair gel.

Here is an excerpt from Seb's letter to the Star-Ledger except his references to MTV's show was replaced with references to himself (in brackets):

“(Seb’s action) is a carefully coordinated attack on (government watchdogs), which used pejorative, hate-speech terms against (government watchdogs) to promote (the Democrat Party in power). (Seb) use every technique possible, both blatantly and subliminally, to emblazon the (media) with negative stereotypes of (government watchdogs). This type of direct attack on a community would never have been tolerated by (the Democrat Party in power).”

The stereotyping and (political) bashing (by Seb) is not only (abuse of power), but also anti-American, and we have a right to make our voice heard, and to support legislators who do so on our behalf as well."

The last sentence is yet another ironicism, Seb wants

Not for Nothing But...

ironicism isn't a real

word but it fits well.


HILLSIDE UNICO PRESENTED PROGRAM “ITALIANS AND THE HOLOCAUST”

The Hillside Chapter of UNICO presented a program on April 12, 2010 on "Italians and the Holocaust" which examines one of the most extraordinary stories of World War II, the high survival rate of Italy's Jews

during the war despite Mussolini's alliance with Hitler.

More than 85 percent of Italy's Jews survived the Holocaust, second to only Denmark during the war. Attendees heard previously untold stories of how the

people of Italy and the Catholic Church defied the horrors of the Holocaust, and also a first hand account by one of the Schindler's List survivors, Abraham Zuckerman, a Hillside resident. Mr. Zuckerman authored, "A Voice in the Chorus: Memories of a Teenager Saved by Schindler" and was in the movie about the events. Speakers also included Vince Marmorale, documentary producer of "Italy and the Holocaust", promoting the little known story of saving Jews in Italy during the Holocaust.

UNICO was organized in 1922 as a national Italian American service organization to provide scholarships, Italian Study Chairs in universities and to give strength and force in fighting discrimination. 

(left, l-r) Hillside Mayor Joseph Menza, Vince Marmorale, Hillside UNICO president Angelo Bonanno, Abe Zuckerman, UNICO National President Andre DiMino and UNICO District 10 Governor Bill Hearon.



(above, standing) Cast of the Jersey Shore: Standing: Ronnie, Vinny, Ammi "Sweetheart", Nicole "Snooki", DJ Pauly D. (kneeling) Jennie "J-WOWW", Mike "The situation" (leaning) Sebastian D'Elia "The Hack".



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COLTON'S IS NOW VILLAGE PHARMACY



(above) New signage on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Smith Street Displays Colton's Pharmacy's new name.

(right) Front-counter cashiers Jessica Clemente and Milered Campo.

(right, back, l-r) Pharmacy staff, owner Nick Yasa, Violet Katigbak and Mary Don.
(front, l-r) Mariela Lemes, Sandra Marquez, Xiomara Naranjo, and Lucia Oliveira,

Phone number is still the same (908) 353-6653.

The name has changed but not much more. On February 12, 2010, Colton's Pharmacy changed its name to Village Pharmacy. New owner, pharmacist Naren (Nick) Yasa will continue the exceptional service for which Colton's is known.

Colton's was a popular pharmacy for generations of families in and around Elizabeth, NJ. Its huge retail space on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Smith Street is

fully stocked with health care and surgical supplies. The store also has a wide variety of school supplies, home goods and gifts.

If there is one thing that Colton's is known for, it is its friendly and helpful staff. The personal service sets Village apart from chain pharmacies. It is important that people have more than just a consumer relationship with their health services. The Village staff does that.





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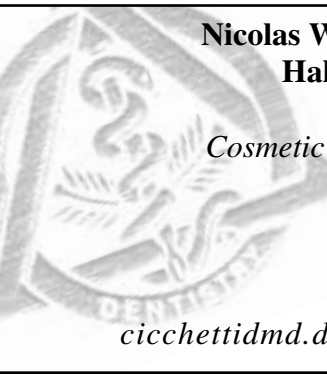
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JOANNE TIMPANO RUMBOLLO DEBUTS HER FIRST BOOK!

Joanne Timpano Rumbolo, writing as Joanna Aislinn, (www.joannaaislinn.com) announces the release of her first, full-length novel, No Matter Why, available in digital and print versions from The Wild Rose Press (www.thewildrosepress.com)!

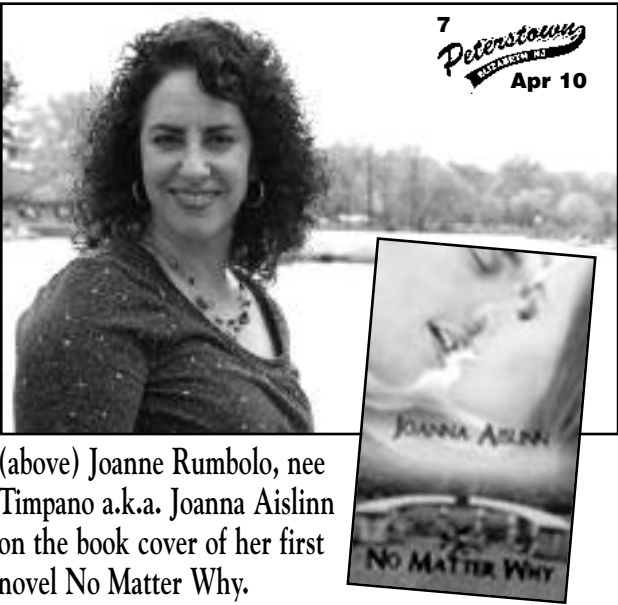
Joanna grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. She attended Christopher Columbus School #15; St. Anthony's and St. Mary's grammar schools and graduated from Elizabeth High School.

At present Joanna holds a day job as a school occupational therapist. She's written a sequel to No Matter Why (at present titled No Matter What) and has begun a sequel to that. She's building her web presence, learning about promo and doing as much of it as she can while keeping house and attending to a husband, two

boys and three cats in their Union home.

Joanne has fond memories of growing up in the Burg, especially the food. She is originally of Third Avenue near Calamusa's Deli and Joanne's Luncheonette and was a daily visitor, and she especially enjoying both the St. Anthony's and St. Rocco's feasts with her sisters Tony and Sarino. She loves to hear from her friends and neighbors from Peterstown, residents from the past and those remaining.

Joanna invites folks to visit her website and blog, www.joannaaislinn.com, to get reacquainted and/or to get to know her. Visitors can read her thoughts on other subjects at www.joannaaislinn.wordpress.com. Follow her on Facebook and Twitter, too! 



(above) Joanne Rumbolo, nee Timpano a.k.a. Joanna Aislinn on the book cover of her first novel No Matter Why.

JOSIE VARGA (TROPEANO) WILL SIGN HER NEW BOOK IN WESTFIELD BOOK STORE

Josie Varga does not consider herself disabled and never will. Her disability, she believes, is her strength not her weakness. Despite having both cerebral palsy and bilateral hearing loss, she considers herself very fortunate as she prefers to live her life focusing on the positive.

Discovering her passion for writing as a little girl growing up in Elizabeth, New Jersey, she went on to earn a degree in journalism and worked her way up to Director of Communications and Editor for an international trade association where she met and interviewed celebrities, authors, speakers, sports personalities and others.

Josie later became a successful communications consultant while authoring her first book, "Footprints in the Sand: A Disabled Woman's Inspiring Journey to Happiness," which was published in 2004. Since then, she has become a motivational speaker encouraging audiences to strive to overcome and sharing the importance of having a positive mental attitude in life.

Her second book, "Visits from Heaven" is a compilation of remarkable experiences by ordinary people who have been communicated with in some way

by loved ones who have passed on. These accounts all come with some form of "validation" from the communicator which make them difficult to dismiss as merely some sort of "dream" or "wishful thinking". It also has contributions from several noted experts in the field. It is available now.

She has nearly completed work on "Visits to Heaven," which can be considered a "sequel", this one focusing on NDE's (near-death experiences).

"Make Up Your Mind to be Happy: 105 Simple Tips" is another non-fiction work which has been completed and is scheduled for a 2010 release. It will combine her own simple, yet effective happiness "tips" with contributions from several renowned experts in the field.

A creative thinker, she holds patents for two inventions. Josie has also written treatments for a documentary version of Visits From Heaven as well as several new reality television shows, one of which is now being considered by producers in New York City and Los Angeles, California.

Josie lives in Westfield, New Jersey with her husband, two children and dog. 

(below) Josie Varga will be signing her book, Visits From Heaven, on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 2-4pm at Town Book Store in Westfield, NJ.



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(above) Carmella "Millie" Nigro age 16 in 1943.

(above) Pete and Millie Renna on their wedding day, September 3, 1950, and in March 10, 1985 with their family, (right, front, l-r) Michelle, Dana and Lorraine Kelly, Millie, Debi (Rombardo), and Nancy. (back) Tom Kelly, Tommy, Pete, Peter, Nicky, Joey and Phil, at Peter's and Debi's wedding.



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MY THOUGHTS OF MOM COME MOTHER'S DAY

Dear mom,

I miss you so much. This time of year is always tough for me. My Birthday is on April 30 and yours is ten days after on or around Mother's day. This year is particularly sad for me. I am turning 50 years old and it will be 25 years since your passing. I will have lived longer without you then when you were here. What is sad is that this should have been your time to enjoy.

You nurtured me from when I was a baby, totally dependent through all my schooling and the start of my life, when I should have been more independent. These past 25 years should have been a time for me to repay that love you gave me. I should have been taking care of you.

I took too much for granted when you were here. When I look back I wish for the opportunity to say how much I appreciated you but never did. How much I love you but never did and how thankful I am but never did.

Life wasn't fair to you. You deserved more for the sacrifices you made, not just for the family but also for everyone you knew. I never knew anyone who cared for others the way you did. You treated everyone equally with the same amount of love and compassion, never wanting anything in return. You never judged anyone or labeled them. So many friends and neighbors found comfort in your company. For many you offered sanctuary from personal troubles. Your door was always open and the coffee was always on, all comers were welcome.

I do find comfort at times when those you touched tell me how much you meant to them. In most cases I had no idea what burdens were left on the kitchen table. I don't know if there was anyone for you to lay

your burdens on. I know it wasn't me.

As the years tick by, my thoughts of you grow stronger. I look at how blessed I am and you are not here to share in my joy. You never knew your daughter-in-law Tina, my wife of 20 years. Or your granddaughters, Angela and Mia, both will now be adults this year and both attending college. You would have enjoyed helping me in my garden, one of your simple pleasures. And I think you would have enjoyed a cup of coffee in my kitchen most of all.

I don't know how you did it but I knew it wasn't easy. There were times when I saw you cry, when situations were just too unbearable. But those were private times I just happened upon. I was old enough to understand but too selfish to care. I was generous to everyone else but not to you.

You taught me to be generous, caring, compassionate, fair and honest. I try to live by your example but feel I fall short. You had a deeper understanding of life. It was simple and more spiritual than physical. I strive to reach that understanding, I still attach too many conditions to my actions.

There was a day when I was about fifteen and our neighbor, a boy my age, came walking by the yard. He had a rough upbringing. He was sometimes homeless and fended for himself. His canvas sneakers were in tatters. The acid from car batteries that he would bring to the junkyard for a few dollars would eat them away. You called him over and gave him your sneakers from your feet. They were a perfect fit. I could tell he was appreciative as he strolled along. The whole transaction was but a few minutes but it meant so much to him and to me. I try to be that generous but I first stop to weigh

the value of my generosity. You never paused.

I strive to do what is right but I pray that what I think is right is correct. I have my doubts. You raised seven children. If my memory serves me well I would have to say that we were a bit difficult to manage, especially the five of us boys.

I remember the times when you were so happy and proud. They were when one of us did good. I get that feeling myself with my girls. I think the happiest I ever saw you was at Peter's wedding. No one knew it at the time but you were already gravely ill. I felt Pete, the oldest boy, was a little special because you told me once he had a very bad fever as a baby and you thought it was a miracle that he survived. And now he is ready to start his own family.

Within a month you passed away, June 29th, Peter's birthday. I blamed myself and everyone as if we caused your hepatitis. I thought we took your will to live because we were all grown and didn't need you any more. I thought you gave all you had to give and Pete's wedding was the crowning achievement.

I struggle to this day hoping I didn't disappoint you. I know I disappointed myself on too many occasions. You are still my motivation. I strive to do things that would make you proud. One day I hope I actually achieve one. I set the bar impossibly high knowing you would leave it lying on the ground.

Your spirit is alive in me. Those who do not believe in another dimension, a spiritual existence or a soul that transcends the body has never been loved. Even though you are not physically with me you are in my mind. The concept of heaven was developed to describe my memory of you. I hope to someday be there with you. . 🍀

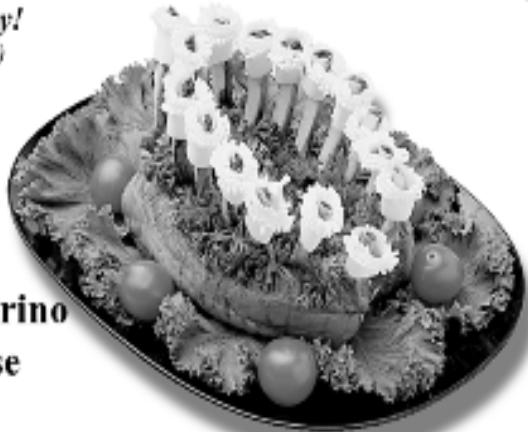
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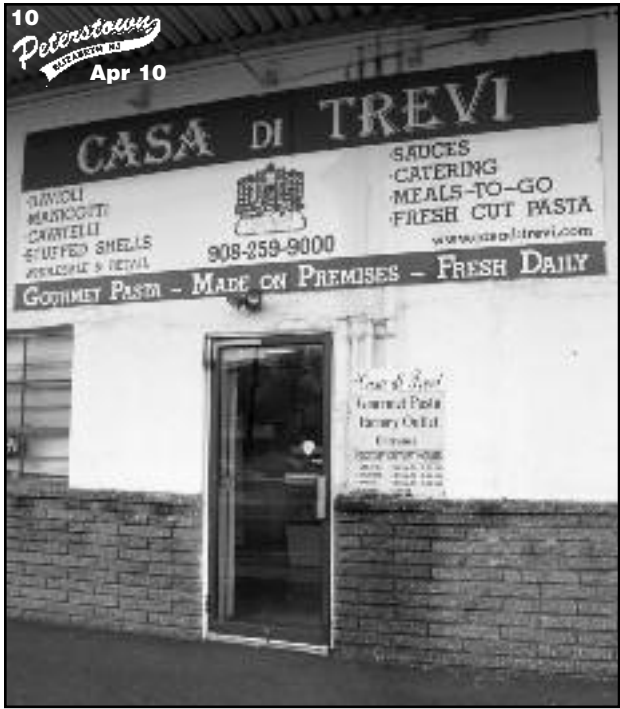
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(above) Although the outside of Casa simply looks like a warehouse, it is open to the public six days a week.

WOW! CASA DI TREVI IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

Casa Di Trevi does not look like a typical storefront Italian deli and it's not. It looks like a warehouse sandwiched in between other manufacturing buildings along West Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park, NJ. The building is non-descript except for a sign above the door. Even on return trips customers easily pass it by before they realize they did so.

Casa di Trevi is located on the eastbound side of the median past the parkway entrance and before the railroad overpass.

The reason that Casa di Trevi is perceived as a whole sale outlet is because it is. It has a reputation among the restaurant and catering industry as one of the best suppliers for quality fresh made products. It is a bonus to the retail shopper that Casa opens its door to the public where they can purchase the same products used in the finest restaurants.

Casa di Trevi is a manufacturer of gourmet ravioli, fresh pastas, sauces and other homemade Italian specialties. All of their homemade pastas are 100%

natural and are made fresh daily using only the finest ingredients. Their gourmet products are sold to wholesale customers including restaurants, delicatessens, gourmet shops, caterers and supermarkets all throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Casa di Trevi was established in 1995 it moved to its current location in Roselle Park, after moving from its original location in Kearny in 2000. It is proudly owned and operated by the Aiello family, who with a combined 39 years experience in the food industry, have been able to study and perfect what it takes to make a superior product.

Casa di Trevi was named after the beautiful Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy's capital. A traditional Italian tale says that if a visitor throws a coin into the fountain, they are ensured a return to Rome. The Aiello's ensure that once you try their delicious fresh cheese ravioli, you'll have to come back to Casa di Trevi for more! Buon Appetito! 🍴



(above) Casa di Trevi's retail store you has all of the same delicious items offered to their wholesale customers, as well as hundreds of other Italian specialty items.

(left, l-r) Casa di Trevi owner Mike Aiello checks the shopping list of customer Darrell Kaplan of Garwood shopping with his daughter Erin.

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Recipes

Submitted by Mike Aiello

Featuring Gourmet Pasta Products from Casa di Trevi, Roselle Park

Whole Wheat Pasta Salad

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. Fresh Whole Wheat Rigatoni
1/2 cup Red Onion, diced
1 pint Cherry Tomatoes
Fresh Mozzarella Cheese, cubed
3 TBS. Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3 TBS. Red Wine Vinegar
2 cloves Garlic, minced
Salt, to taste
Black Pepper, to taste
Fresh Basil

PREPARATION:

- 1) Cook the pasta according to the directions on the package.
- 2) Drain the pasta and rinse under cold water.
- 3) Toss with 1 TBS of olive oil to prevent sticking.
- 4) In a large bowl toss the pasta with the remaining ingredients.
- 5) Add salt and pepper to taste, garnish with fresh basil leaves, and enjoy this healthy and fresh summer salad.

Quick-and-Easy Fried Cheese Ravioli

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. Small Square Cheese Ravioli
2 cups Buttermilk
2 cups Italian Seasoned Breadcrumbs
1 pint Casa di Trevi Marinara Sauce
Grated Parmesan Cheese
Olive Oil, for frying

PREPARATION:

- 1) Pour olive oil into large frying pan to the depth to cover ravioli completely.
- 2) First, dip ravioli into the buttermilk and then into breadcrumbs. Once oil is hot cook the ravioli in batches until golden brown. It should only take a few minutes.
- 3) Remove ravioli and put on paper towels to drain.
- 4) Heat sauce in a small pot. Sprinkle ravioli with grated cheese, if desired, and dip in marinara sauce. A delicious snack and kids love it!

Margherita Pizza (Try it Gluten-Free!)

INGREDIENTS:

1 - 10 oz. Casa di Trevi Pizza Dough Ball or Gluten-Free Pizza Shell
1 TBS Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3/4 cups Mozzarella, grated
1 Roma tomato, sliced thinly
1 clove Garlic, minced
A few fresh Basil Leaves

PREPARATION:

- 1) Drizzle oil over pizza dough shell.
- 2) Sprinkle the mozzarella onto the pizza leaving a small border around for the crust.
- 3) Place tomato slices and minced garlic onto pizza and sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese.
- 4) Arrange a few basil leaves on top.
- 5) Bake the pizza until the crust is crisp and lightly browned.

For best results use a pizza screen.

Spinach Tortellini Soup

INGREDIENTS:

1 bag Spinach Tortellini
6 cups Chicken Broth
1 pkg. Chopped Spinach (Thawed)
1 can Chopped Tomatoes
2 tsp. Garlic (Minced)
Salt, Pepper, and basil (to taste)
1 cont. grated Parmesan or Romano Cheese

PREPARATION:

- 1) Simmer the chicken stock in a large pot.
- 2) Stir in one bag of spinach tortellini and continue to simmer gently for another 3 minutes.
- 3) Make sure excess water is squeezed from the spinach and add to pot.
- 4) Add garlic, basil, salt, pepper and tomatoes and stir well.
- 5) Return to a simmer and cook for 3-5 more minutes.
- 6) Serve with parmesan or romano cheese if desired.

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Photo of Vallata by John Zamarra

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TENOR NINO ROSSANO SINGS STANDARDS AND ORIGINALS, FROM POP TO OPERA, IN ITALIAN AND ENGLISH

(left) Nino Rossano is the stage name of Emanuel Giacobbe, who's family lived in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ after emigrating from Ribera Sicily.

Singing has been Nino Rossano's life-long career. The tenor has performed throughout the U.S. and has toured both the French and Italian Riviera, bringing love songs, some he composed, to appreciative fans all over the world. Nino has produced seven CDs filled with lyrical, heaven-sent sounds.

When he was growing up in Ribera, Sicily, actor Rossano Brazzi was his favorite on the screen. So he chose his stage name "Rossano" because of the actor. On his "Hidden Treasures" CD, Nino sings "Some Enchanted Evening," a song that Brazzi lip-synched in the movie "South Pacific" with such soul felt sounds it is breathtaking.

During his youth, his parents sent him to be a seminary student at the Collegio Giglio of The Third Order of St. Francis. Those seminary students study and become ordained priests that are sent to countries as missionaries. His mother took him out of the seminary and within a year he came to the United States. "Had my mother not taken me out, I would have been a missionary now."

Because his withdrawal from school was sudden, a problem arose. He was the main singer in a play the school was rehearsing when his mother removed him. In

Biography reprinted from website www.ninorossano.com.

order to get Nino to return for the play, the seminary withheld all his clothes, promising to return his clothes once he performed. But although he kept his end of the bargain, his "dowry" was never returned.

At the seminary, he sang with about 60 boys. One day the choir was recording a song. Nino was a soprano, and from the vibrations in his head from singing such high notes, he passed out. He has a "head voice," he says. "There are 'chest singers,' but I'm all head tone. It's all in the mask of the face."

Formal training as an adult changed his natural adult baritone voice to a tenor. Nino developed polyps in the 1970s, but with the help of a voice coach, he perfected voice placement, making his voice the best it had ever been.

Nino came to the United States as a teenager and subsequently volunteered for the Army. He said he wanted to spend a couple of years in the Army after what the U.S. did for him, "hosting me as an alien." He is very patriotic and had to give something back. He sang with a band in the Special Services division in Basic Training. A band was put together with all the talented musicians and they played at local Army camps.

Before joining the Army, Nino had applied for citizenship, and during his tour of duty he was called from Ohio back to New Jersey for his swearing in. The judge looked at him wearing a uniform and said that if he was good enough to wear a uniform, he was good enough to be a citizen. As a soldier, Nino worked in the Signal Corps during his Army tour, stationed in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Nino can play piano and compose music. His aunt had a baby grand piano (the only one in Sicily at that time) that he found as a young boy by going upstairs in her

home. He sat down and started playing. He could play naturally, by ear. Because he disobeyed and went upstairs when told not to, he "got a good beating." He said that if his parents had known how talented he was, his career might have started earlier.

Nino writes many songs, both lyrics and music. He can read music as well as play piano by ear. He interprets compositions on the piano, and records on tape, plays it back and writes down the notes. That's how he writes.

Italian and opera standards are a specialty, but he really loves to sing the popular songs. Nino's website receives many "hits," and he has sold 12,000 songs. Writing is an ongoing pleasure for Nino, and recently he has finished another 19 for an upcoming album. The singer said he likes to do anything that has to do with voice and would enjoy doing "voiceovers."

Twice a winner of a song parody contest hosted by radio jock Howard Stern, Nino's win took him to Los Angeles and then London. There were 15 winners, and Stern left Nino's song for last, called "Please take me to LA." Nino remarked, "It was the only song chosen that had clean lyrics!"

He sings his wondrous repertory of love, in both English and Italian, at night clubs and for weddings and funerals. When he got married, Nino said, no one sang, and he "had to sing in my mind. I must have sung for 400 weddings, but regrettably, not my own." He's married to Domenica, which means "Sunday" in Italian. The couple have five grandchildren.

Listen to Nino Rossano. It is like listening to an angel come to earth to sing. His music can be purchased online at CDBaby, iTunes and Amazon. His website is www.ninorossano.com. 🐾

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(above) The Giacobbe family, traveling with the Giovanni Musso clan, aboard the "General Langfitt" Merchant Marine ship on the way to the USA, on November 11th, 1956. The ship arrived in New York on November 24th, Thanksgiving day and so the passengers had to wait a day to leave the ship due to the dock being closed because of the Holiday.



(above, l-r) Nino, his sister Anna Ricca, his mom and dad Anna and Antonio Giacobbe in a 1960 photo in their home in Peterstown.



(above, l-r) Nino Rossano's discography of music consists of seven CDs, Tutto Volpe - Tutto Nino, Mama, The Best of Nino Rossano, Italian Eyes, Hidden Treasures, Festa Italiana, Let's Bring Back Romance. Samples of his music can be heard on www.CDBaby.com. Additional information can be found on his website is www.ninorossano.com.

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(above) Twelve year old Frankie (III) with his baseball trophies which he displays at home next to his dad's.


(left) Frankie's dad Frank (Jr.) at twelve with some of his baseball bounty.



This article is a surprise birthday gift from Diane Iazzetta to her son Frankie, who is turning 13 years old on April 29th. His father, Frank, passed away in 2003 at the age of 43. Young Frankie was just six years old but they were bonded by the sport of baseball and it's that passion that has helped Frank cope with missing his dad.

Frankie's dad was also named after his father. Frank Jr. was one of the best athletes in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, which was a mecca for great athletes. Frank got to coach his son for a year, introducing him to the game, teaching him the basics and to work hard and

show respect for the game. For the next six years Diane fostered the enthusiasm Frankie showed for baseball. Diane remembers sitting in O'Brian Field in the center of Peterstown to watch Frank play. She grows emotional when she now watches their son twenty-five years later.

Frankie just finished his little league career playing eight years in the Elmora Youth League where he earned all-star status. He said "Those spikes are large to fill" when referring to his dad. He plays with the memory of his dad as his motivation. He makes the sign of the cross every time he rounds third base, his father's favorite position. 

Frankie,

"You did fill those huge spikes" and mom knows now you will walk in your own respectfully. Go get them slugger. Congratulations!!!

Happy 13th Birthday, I love you son! Mom.

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Over a hundred family members and friends gathered together on April 18th to celebrate Joe Miragliotta's 90th birthday. Mary, his wife of forty years, hosted the event at the Grand Centurion in Clark.

Joe was born on April 24th, 1920 in the town of Capo d'Orlando, Sicila. In 1926 he along with his parents, the late Antonio and Carmella (nee Russo), and brothers and sister, emigrated to the USA. They first settled in Atlantic City, but soon found their way to Peterstown, an Italian neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ.

At one point all three floors of the Miragliotta home on Second Avenue were filled with Joe's brothers, Angelo, Nick and Ernest, his sister, Marie, and their spouses. Many of Joe's nieces and nephews were born in the home and baptized at St. Anthony's. Consequently, there were always lively celebrations in the garden under the grape vines. In the winter their basement turned into a virtual banquet hall where authentic Sicilian pizza and homemade wine were enjoyed.

One of the happiest celebrations was when Joe returned from service. During the early forties, Joe had been overseas. A decorated World War II veteran, he served as an infantryman with a rifle squad in both the Aleutians Islands and the Battle of the Bulge.

Today Joe is retired and resides in Colonia where he and his wife Mary have carried on family traditions, hosting an annual New Years day family re-union, replete with the very best Italian American food you can imagine.

Over the years Mary and Joe have enjoyed traveling to many places including Joe's birth place in Capo d'Orlando. As very active members of the Evergreen Seniors Club, they continue to enjoy a rich social life including line dancing, playing cards and enjoying Frank Sinatra music.

At home, "Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary's" yearly tomato and vegetable gardens have become a source of passion and pride for them and an inspiration for their many nephews, nieces, and grand nephews and nieces, who are gratified to have been the beneficiaries of the old world traditions Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary continue to maintain.

For all of his friends and family, Joe's birthday celebration was an opportunity to express the love they all have for him and a deep appreciation for the kind of family oriented life he and Aunt Mary have exemplified. Cente ani Uncle Joe!!! 🍅



(above) Joe Miragliotta, home from service in 1944.

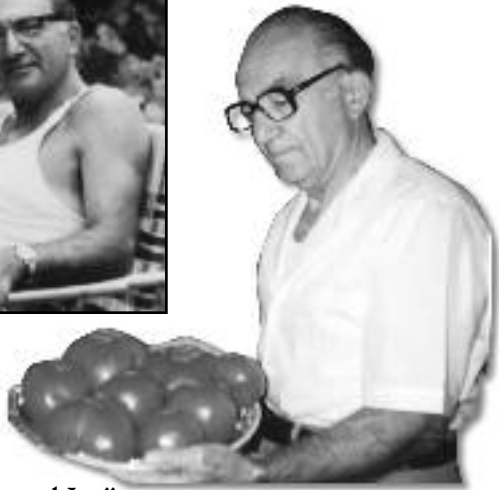


(above, l-r) The Miragliotta family in 1927, Mary, Joe, Carmella, Ernest, Tony, Angelo, and Nick.



(above, l-r) Maria and Joe.

(left, l-r) Maria and Joe newlyweds in 1970.



(right) Joe's tomatos are his "Pride and Joy".



(left) Joe and Marie surrounded by their many nieces and nephews.

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