



## CAN YOU HELP ME FIND MY FATHER?

A girl's search for her father has led her to the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. Though the path seemed to end in no avail, the experience did refresh her enthusiasm. Eliminating leads in her search is helpful but what inspired her most was the help she got from strangers. Hopefully this cover story will lead to a new path.

Jacqueline Scrofini Mazzatosta speaks openly about her upbringing, what she actually experienced and what she has pieced together from her sleuth like research. She faces difficulty in finding her father because the facts surrounding her mother's and father's lives are so sketchy or outright conflicting. Research into finding an answer to one question sometimes raises a few others.

Jackie has both her birth certificate and her baptismal certificate from the Holy Eastern Orthodox Church. Both have her as Jacqueline Denise Scrofini, born on March 1, 1966 on Wilkes-Barre. Her parents on both are listed as Loretta Mary Skaff and Anthony Robert Scrofini.

As far as she knows, her parents split up before she was born or shortly after. Jackie's mom, Loretta Mary Skaff had both physical and emotional problems and could not care for her. She was raised by her grandparents, Thomas and Nellie Skaff from Wilkes-Barre, PA. Her mom lived in New York and had little contact with her. Her mother and grandparents are all deceased. Her grandparents shared very little information with her about her father and she was not inquisitive about him in her youth.

When Jackie was around eight years old, her dad did go to visit her for the first time. She didn't remember much about the visit except that he bought her her first record player, several Donny Osmond albums, and a birthstone ring, which she still has although the stone is missing. She found a photo of her dad from that visit and it is her main clue to finding him.

She did not have any contact with him again until she was 18 and graduating from Meyer's High School in Wilkes-Barre in 1984. Jacqueline says she may not have been very warm towards him at that time. She felt estranged and maybe bitter that he did not visit her in ten years. If she didn't act cold purposely it must have felt that way to him. Her dad brought a female friend with him on the visit and they both attended the graduation ceremony. Later, a classmate told her that he cried when she received several awards.

In hind site, Jackie thinks her anger was misplaced. Her grandparents raised her in a loving and safe environment. It was probably her grandfather that told her dad, after his visit when she was eight, not to contact her until she was 18. It made sense to her that that is what he did.

Jackie could not begin to speculate what her mother's life was like. Her research actually turned up a marriage certificate dated May 18, 1962. The certificate is for a civil service ceremony in Arlington, VA between Loretta Mary Skaff, her mom, and Robert George Ridilo. She wonders if this is the same person as Anthony Robert Scrofini, and how Ridilo could have turned into Scrofini. Maybe Ridilo is the person in the photo she found.

Her questions were not too far fetched. Her grandmother once told her that she was never really sure that "Scrofini" was her dad's real name. Jackie has a memory of her father receiving a phone call during his 1984 visit and the person calling asked for him by a different name. She doesn't remember what that name was.

Her dad did give her an address and phone number at the end of his 1984 visit of where she could reach him. The address was 459 Marshall Street in Elizabeth. She called the number that summer and had a short, awkward conversation with him. She never tried to contact him again, thinking it should be up to him. She was still a little standoffish. The call back never came.

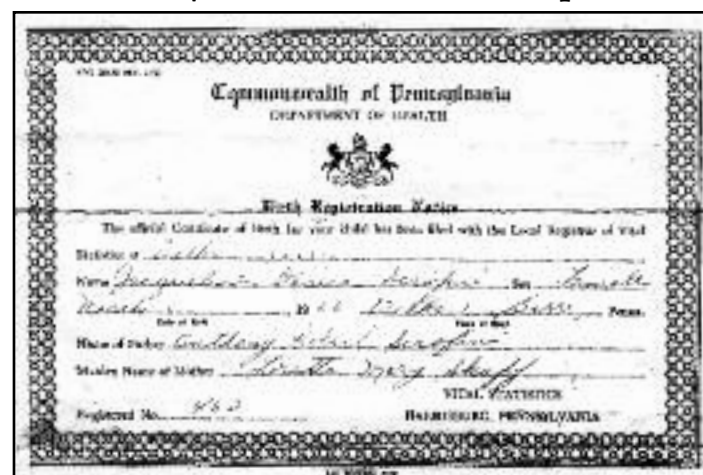
A few years ticked by and Jackie's grandparents were aging and ailing. Her grandfather passed away in 1989. Jackie moved out on her own and her mom returned to care for her grandmother. Jackie's mom died a few years later. Her sickly grandmother lived in a nursing home until her death in 1996, six months before Jackie was to get married.

It was her marriage that inspired her to find her dad again. The development of the internet offered new hope and opportunity. It has been over 20 years since her dad moved from Marshall Street and his phone number changed.

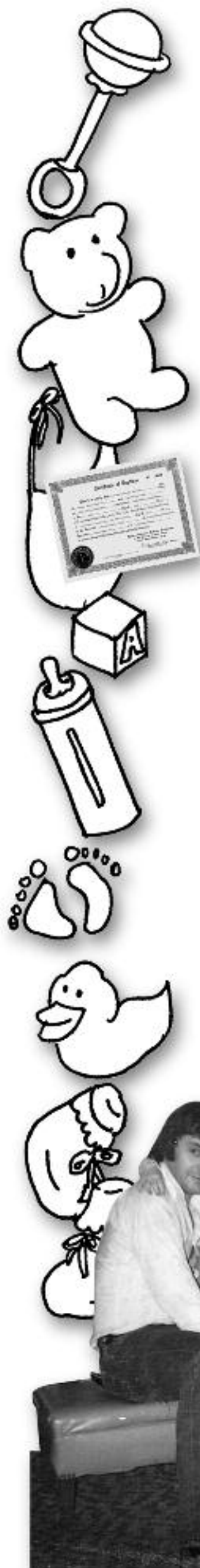
Her life was so different and the prospect of her new life starting her own family may be something that her dad would want to share in. Part of her realized that there has been no attempt on his part. Another part of her thought that there was a chance that he wouldn't appreciate her search. Still, a lot of time has gone by, she changed, he probably changed. Jackie is now 44, married with two children. She's doing what she feels is right. She would really love to meet my father again. Being a parent has made her realize how important it is for her to reconnect with him.

She is still trying to contact a number of Anthony Scrofinis who are in their late 60s that she has found on the internet. She is also going to contact the Circuit Court in Virginia to find out more about Robert Ridilo. In the mean time anyone reading the Peterstown Newspaper who recognizes the man in the photo can contact this newspaper at joerenna@joerenna.com with any information that may help Jackie in her quest.

(left, l-r) A 1974 photo of Jaqueline's dad, Jaqueline and her grandmother, Nellie Skaff.



(above, l-r) Jacqueline Denise Scrafini's Birth Certificate.



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

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### President's Message



I don't need another reminder of how old I am getting. But I am now older than the pastor of my church. We wish Father all the best while he is here at St Anthony's, and all the support that he needs to have a successful tenure here.

His background is not that much different than those of us who grew up in the Burg. He may not feel as home sick here as if he would elsewhere.

It is still a great sacrifice to choose the priesthood as a vocation and the Peterstown community appreciates those who do. Like their health, some people don't think about religion it until there's a problem. And like a doctor a priest can help you spiritually heal.

It would be nice to see the younger generation make the church a bigger part of their lives, maybe Fr. Tom is the inspiration they need. They can relate to someone closer to their own age.

Thank you and God bless.

*John Sacco*  
John Sacco, President  
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

### PRESS RELEASES

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

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## Letters to the Editor



### LETTER POLICY

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

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

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

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM LINDA MIRANDO



To all of you who sent flowers, cards, came to Steve's funeral or just said a prayer for my dearest husband Steve, I would like to take this time to sincerely thank you for your kindness and compassion.

I am sorry if you have not received a thank you card from me personally. There were a lot of people who attended Steve's funeral and may or may not have signed the registry book. I have not been able to attain many of your addresses, hence the reason for this thank you letter.

August 31st is Steve's birthday he would have been 54 years old. How the time is just passing by. I just really want all of you to know how grateful I am to have such wonderful family and friends. Steve, you were truly loved by many, many people and I my Darling will LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND FOREVER.

Once again, my sincere thank you for those of you whom I haven't had the chance to thank.

Sincerely, Linda Mirando  
Clark, NJ

Dear Joe;

Could you please send me the map of Elizabeth and Peterstown. I live in South Plainfield but grew up in Peterstown on Second Avenue. I'm selling my house and moving to Arizona and wanted to take the map with me.

Thank you,  
Thomas DeStefano, Jr.  
South Plainfield

Hi Joe:

LOVED LOVED getting the Peterstown maps with the last issue. I lived on Rankin Street and NOBODY ever really understood that we DID live in Peterstown. My parents grew up and lived on 2nd Avenue; Palmer Street and also on 4th Avenue but I never did.

Thanks,  
Fran Mariano Reeher  
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Joe;

I come to visit someone I know in Cranford several times a year, and I always pick up your newspaper every time I come. I live in Bayside, Queens and do not live in Peterstown, but boy do I relate to your paper.

I am a first generation girl from Spanish Harlem, both my parents and older sister are from Calabria, Italy. I can relate to the stories in your newspaper, and I always get an extra copy to bring to my father (Carmelo), who is in a nursing home here in Queens.

I find some of your stories funny. You have to be Italian to appreciate them. Years ago, when I was growing up in Harlem (I was born there in 1956), it was all Italian and Irish and I recall it well. There was six of us in a one bedroom, railroad apartment. And one bathroom!! How we did it? I don't know! I think of what I had then (which was practically nothing) and look around me and see all that I have now. It is mind-boggling!!

My parents and sister came to the USA with just one trunk of clothes and a bit of money. Yes, like some of the stories in your newspaper, I've seen it all. I'm 53 years old now and very much look like a Maria and look very much Italian.

I feel like I'm very wise, I was raised with nothing and know what it's like to have nothing. I remember the family gatherings, my mom making pasta from scratch, my uncles, who I adored, making me laugh, Sunday dinners, my grandfather who used to fix his own shoes and mix his own cement. From all of that, I can repair a lot of things on my own, including household repairs, which today's generation cannot do.

Unfortunately, in my family those traditions died out when some of the relatives passed on, but I still carry some of them on, everything but the mixing cement part. I hope you always continue your newspaper. I just wanted to say Hi and how much I love reading it.

Maria Manno  
Bayside, Queens

### FREE MAPS OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH

are available at businesses who advertised on the map and by mail.

Advertisers appear in bold face and are marked with an "M" in the index of newspaper advertisers on page 4. They have been supplied with maps for distribution.

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# Editor's Opinion

*everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna*

There is something in the ethers surrounding Peterstown that connects people. It's almost a spiritual phenomenon. Over the years this newspaper has been a medium for organizations to connect people in need with generous donors, artists have connected to patrons, classmates have reunited and long lost family and friends have found each other. The story of Jacqueline Scrofini Mazzatosta's search for her father has a fringe connection with Peterstown but there is a good chance that one of this newspaper's readers can help.

Helping Jackie not only seemed right but it seemed destined. At the same time that I received my first email form Jackie I received a packet in the mail form Sal Angelo. The packet contained a "Five Generation Pedigree Chart" of my family, copies of the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census listing details of both my maternal and fraternal family members and information from the ship's manifests from the Ellis Island Archives. This package came unsolicited. Sal was inspired by an article about my mother in the previous issue of the paper and thought I would appreciate the research.

Jackie's email and Sal's package were more than just coincidence to me. This sort of thing happens too often to me to happen just by chance. Jackie and I could not be any more diametrically opposite. Here she was, sharing her story of her search for a father she only saw twice in her 44 years, and here I am with a family tree going back to over 100 years.

Jackie doesn't even know if the name she was given is her father's real name, yet I can tell you that on May 19, 1905, my great grandfather, my maternal grandmother's father, Giuseppe Nufrio arrived in America at the age of 24 from Vallata Italy to join his brother Antonio who lived on 620 Fourth Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, and he had \$10 in his pocket when he got

here. Jackie found me first by searching the internet for persons with the name Anthony Scrofini. She was particularly interested in one found in an online memoir written by Bob Baptista, a native of Elizabeth. Bob mentioned family and friends growing up and though the Scrofine mentioned in his writing ended in an "e" and not an "i" Jackie thought she would reach out to him anyway.

Bob directed her to a facebook group started by Paul Cusmano called "I grew up in Peterstown 'the Burg', Elizabeth, NJ". Bob suggested she also contact me at the newspaper that was posted on the group's Wall.

If anyone recognizes the person in the cover photo or has any information that may help Jacqueline please email me at joerenna@joerenna.com and I will forward the messages to her.

.....

**Not for Nothing But...**

\$10 in 1906 would be  
about \$235 today.

.....

Pages 12 to 14 of this issue of the Peterstown Newspaper features the writing of Bob Baptista and Sal Angelo related to their work (hobby) in genealogy.

Dear Joe,

Your recent article about your mother in the April/May 2010 issue of Around About Peterstown, and her picture at the age of 16 opened up my memory banks. She and your maternal grandmother lived around the corner from my home at 327 South 7th Street. Her picture is exactly as I remembered her, even though she was four years older than me. Her brother Michael and I worked together in the early 70's at Airco Inc. in Union. I recall saying "Hi" to her many times while walking down Fourth Avenue going to DiCosmo's Lemon Ice Stand or to watch the Vallatese Club members play bocci.

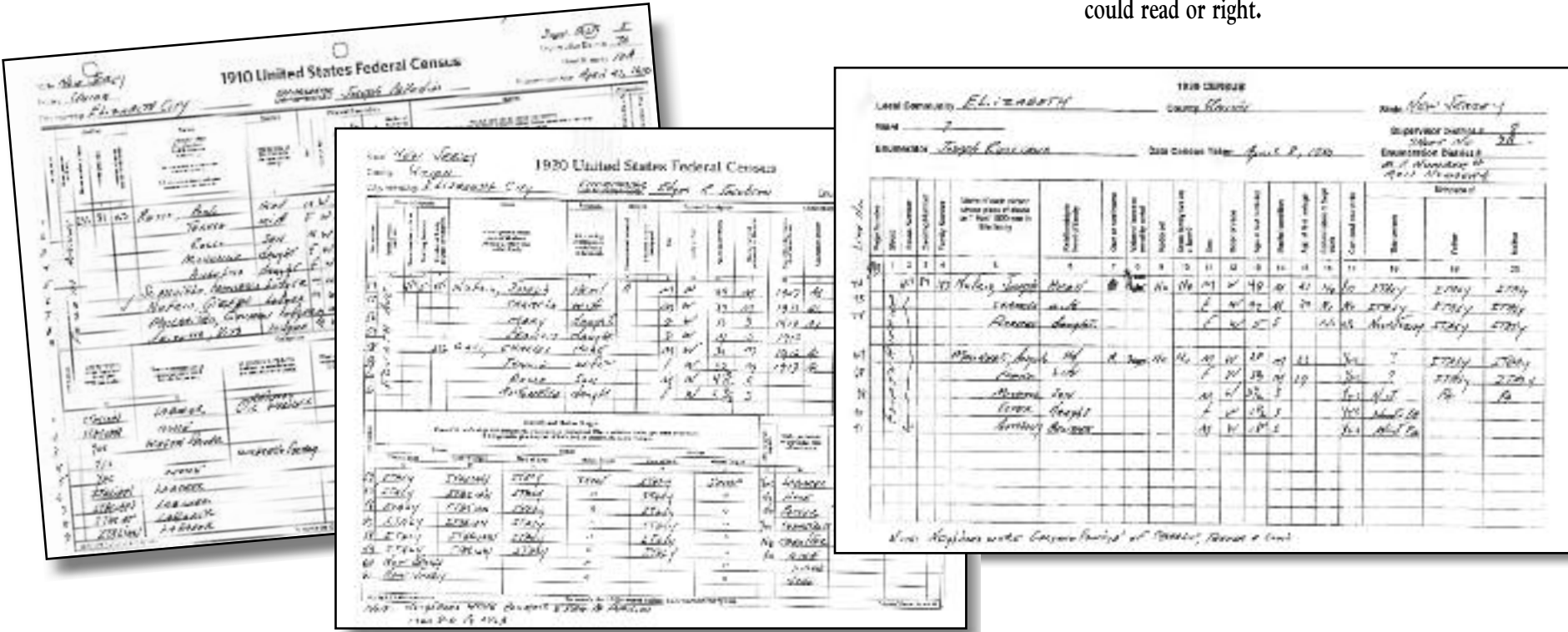
Your work writing about the families of various Peterstown residents is not only heartwarming but needed so we don't forget those who came before us and their many struggles. With this in mind I'm sending you a package of documents relating to your family's genealogy which I located from the archives of Ellis Island and Heritage Proquest US Federal Census.

The 1930 census shows your great-grandfather, Salvatore Renna, and your grandfather, Nicolo, families living at 223 John Street. Between 1920 and 1930 my maternal grandparents, Salvatore Ciaccio and Caterina Coniglio, my mother, and uncles lived at 223 1/2 John Street.

Sal M. Angelo  
Freehold NJ

(above) Letter from a package sent to me from Sal Angelo about his work researching my genealogy.

(below) Included in the packet was U.S. Census reports from 1910, 1920 and 1930. This set features my maternal great grandparents, Joseph and Carmela Nufrio. The reports are a wealth of information including the year my great grandfather arrived from Italy, the ages of my grandmother and great aunt, where they lived, what they did for a living, and even if they could read or right.



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Advertising starts at \$45 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 709-0530.

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## THREE RECEIVE UNICO BRIAN PICCOLO AWARD

UNICO Brian Piccolo Award Members were honored at a dinner on April 30, 2010 at the UNICO National NJ District X Piccolo Awards dinner.

Awards were bestowed on Michael Bani, Caitlin Abbate and Daniel DiPaola of Elizabeth, NJ. Michael attended David Brearley High School. Caitlin and Daniel attended Roselle Catholic High School.

Caitlin played Volleyball, Swimming and Softball during her four year career. Michael played on the Elizabeth, High School Bowling team. He also participated in football, basketball and golf during his high school career. Danny bowled, did spring track (javelin) and cross country. He also participated in basketball and baseball during his four year career.



(above) Michael Bani, Caitlin Abbate, Daniel DiPaola.

## HILLSIDE UNICO PLAYS JOE PESCI'S GOLF OUTING

Members of the Hillside Chapter of UNICO National participated in the 2010 Joe Pesci's Skin game golf matches. This is the event's ninth year and has raised \$1.8 million in support of pediatric programs for Saint Barnabas Care Systems.

(right,l-r) Tommy DiVito, formerly of the Four Season's musical group, UNICO members Bob Trotte and Frank Torlucci, Academy Award winning actor Joe Pesci and Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno.



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# THE 2010 UNICO CITIZEN OF THE YEAR HONOREE IS JOHN PAPETTI

John Papetti is a lifelong resident of the city of Elizabeth, and a graduate of Kean University. John works for the City of Elizabeth as Director of The Public Works Department. He has been married to wife Maryann for 22 years, together they have a son John III. After college John started his career with the City of Elizabeth, first working in the Recreation Department in the parks and gyms. He was instrumental in the opening of the new Elizabeth Marina where he was responsible for the daily operation. John then became Supervisor of the Public Works Department before being promoted to Director by Mayor Bollwage.

Although John put a lot of time into his career with the city his family was always his top priority. Whether it is a family vacation or a school function for his son, John was sure to be there. He has never forgotten his roots. He is the son of John Sr. & Elizabeth Papetti. While living near his parents John makes it a point to stop by and is with them on a regular basis. Be it a major family affair or a weekend barbeque John enjoys being there to spend time with the people he loves.

While growing up in the North End section of Elizabeth John and his friends spent many days in Kellogg Park playing sports. As time went on John and his friends each got married and were all together for the special occasions in their lives. John was a friend you could count on for a good time but was also there when you needed a shoulder to lean on. After over thirty years John still finds time to spend with the friends he grew up with. They get together a few times a year to reminisce of their times in "North End".

"Johnny" is a dedicated family man, devoted son and loyal friend. He is the person willing to help anyone he can and does not look for anything in return. Be it family or friend or the residents of Elizabeth, John is there to make the quality of life better. For these reasons there is not a more fitting citizen who deserves this honor from the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO.

The Awards Dinner in which we will honor John will be held on October 24, 2010 at L'Affaire Fine Catering, Route 22 East, Mountainside, NJ. 🍴



(above, l-r) John Papetti and Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO President Joseph Marretta.



(below, l-r) From October 2005: Bill Battaglia, Stan Wnek, Al Demicco, Tom Fowler and John.



(left) From 2001 at Tom & Maria's Annual Get Together with significant others!



(above, l-r) From 1970 on Carolynn Road: Steve Z, Michael F, Lucy & Al Demicco, John holding Patches & Bill Battaglia.



(above, l-r) From 1978 Memorial Weekend Camping at Round Valley: Tom Fowler, Bill Battaglia, John, Al Demicco, Steve C. & Jimmy L.

## UNICO SUPPORTS VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO is appreciative of the generous support that they have received in the past and they are continuing their efforts this year with their Citizen of the Year event honoring John Papetti.

The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO is committed to supporting various organizations such as Cooley's Anemia, The ARC of Union County, Center of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Occupational Center, Elmora Youth League, Scholarships for Italian American Collegian Students, and many other charitable organizations, who desperately rely on donations to continue their services.

Businesses and individuals may contribute to their efforts by purchasing tickets to the event or placing an advertisement in the event's Souvenir Journal.

The Awards Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2010, 5:00pm at L'Affaire Fine Catering, Route 22 East, Mountainside, NJ.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or placing an ad in the journal can call one of the following volunteers:

Pat Arena 732-695-3846

George Marretta 908-925-9211

Tony Zengaro 908-352-7411

Lou Bani 908-289-6259

Tom Fowler 908-289-9198

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(above) Fr. Tom is pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church located in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. On the wall behind him is the image of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salisian order of priests.

## GREETING FROM ST. ANTHONY’S NEW PASTOR FR. THOMAS PROVENZANO

I have been here at St. Anthony’s Parish for about six weeks now, and everyone has made me feel right at home. I am happy to take this opportunity to share a little about myself, and to assure you of my prayers for each and every one of you.

I was born March 18, 1967. I grew up, the youngest of four sons, born in Bronxville, New York in suburban Westchester county. My father owned a produce store called The Farm. It was very much a family business; my brothers, my mother and even my grandmother all worked there. It was there that I learned the value of family and hard work.

Growing up our local parish was an important part of my life. I was a member of the youth group, and was a volunteer in the religious education program. By the time I was a senior in high school I was a lector. While the experiences I had in the parish were positive, and I made friends that I still have to this day, it was my time at Salesian High School that really gave me a sense that God might be calling me to be a priest. The Salesians there showed me God with a human face. They knew the music we listened to, the shows we watched and seemed to understand the problems we faced. They weren’t distant, but very close to us. Don Bosco was in my blood, even though I didn’t know it at the time.

After leaving high school I went off to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. While my years there

were happy, I knew that there was something missing. The Lord was calling me, but I didn’t want to listen. I fought the call, which in the end only made me unhappy and frustrated. So I took the leap of faith and left Xavier, entering a discernment program with the Archdiocese of New York. There I came to see God’s call more clearly. As I wrote, Don Bosco was in my blood and my call was not just to be a priest, but to be a Salesian as well.

After finishing my undergraduate degree at Iona College, I entered the Salesians in the fall of 1991. My Salesian formation was spent in South Orange, NJ, Rosemead, CA, Columbus, OH and Guadalajara Mexico, where I studied theology in preparation for the priesthood. Before going to Mexico I taught two years at my Alma Mater, in what we call “practical training.”

After ordination in 2001, I was assigned to St. Anthony’s Parish in Paterson, NJ, followed by five years in Chicago, IL at St. John Bosco Parish. In 2007 I was made Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Salesian High School in New Rochelle.

As you can see it’s been quite a journey. When you say yes to the Lord you never know where it will lead you, and it was with great joy that I accepted the pastorship here at St. Anthony’s. It is a community with a rich tradition that I am proud to be a part of. I ask for your prayers as I begin my service to you. 🙏



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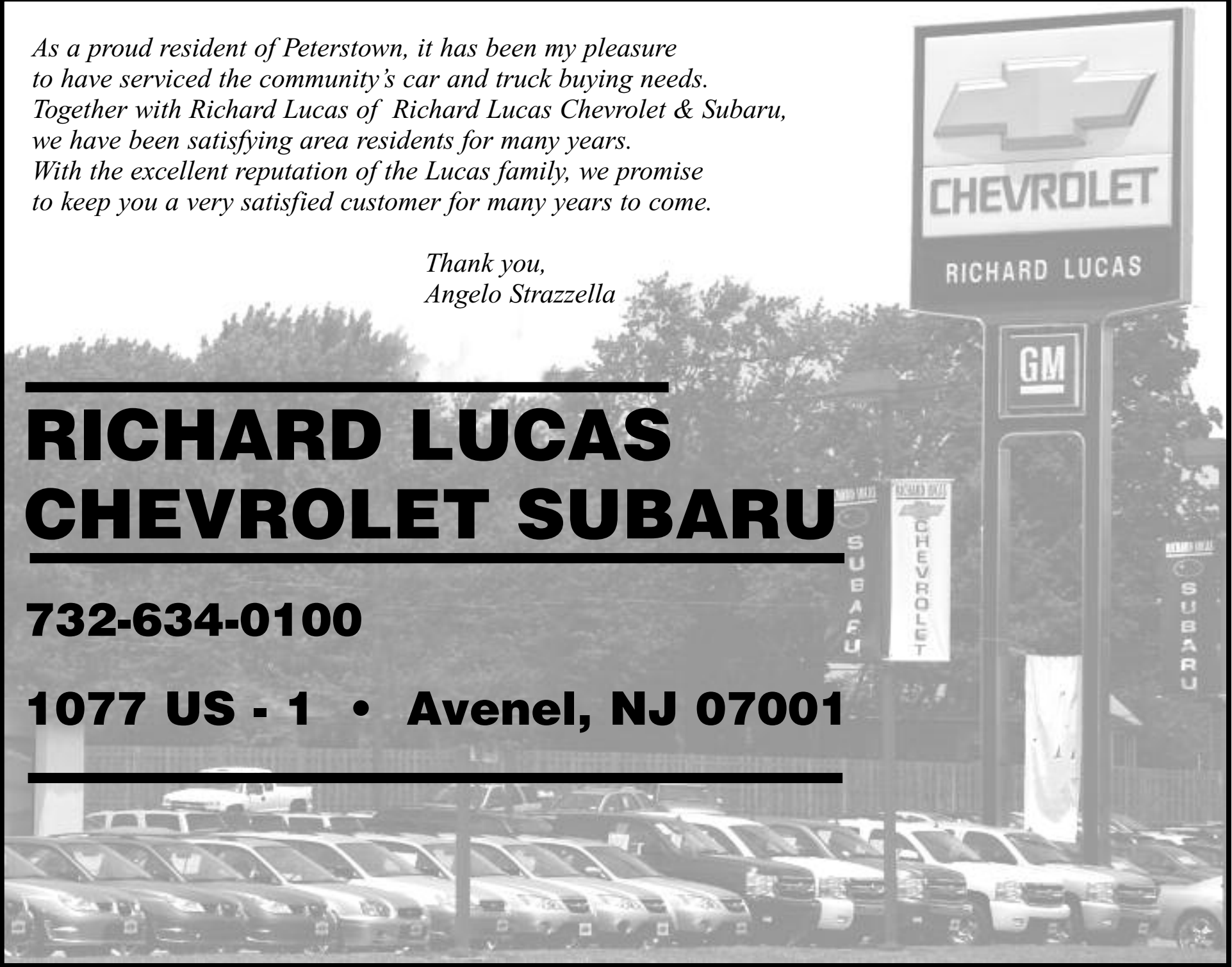
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# CAN YOU RELATE TO WHERE FR. TOM IS COMING FROM?

Submitted by Fr. Thomas Provenzano

My paternal grandmother, Marie Rose Nicolazzi, was born on 59th Street in Manhattan. Her parents came from Italy before the turn of the century. My grandfather Salvatore Provenzano came, by himself, from Belmonte di Calabro, Cosenza Calabria in 1920 at the age of 18. He settled in Manhattan where he met my grandmother. By the early 1930's he had three produce stores, but lost them during the Depression. My father, Anthony, was born in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx. After a few moves the family eventually settled in the small town of Tuckahoe, New York. It was there that my father met my mother, Edythe Volpe.

My maternal grandmother, Giuseppina Visconte, came to the US from Monteleone, Puglia around 1915. She was quite literally married off by her brother within a few months of arriving. It seems he didn't want the responsibility for caring for his kid sister. Though she only knew Giuseppe Volpe for two months before marrying, they ended up having 12 children, so I'm guessing they hit it off.

I never got to know my grandfathers very well. Giuseppe died of cancer in 1950, so obviously I never met him. My father never met him either, but there is a story that the first time he went to the house to pick my mother up for a date Giuseppe, laying in bed sick, saw them leave out of his window. He turned to my grandmother and said, "They're going to grow old together." My grandmother scoffed "He's a kid, what are you talking about?" He retorted, "Yeah, and Eda is an old lady." Well, they did marry and they have grown old together.

I have vague memories of my paternal grandfather. He was sick and had lost the ability to speak when I was a child, and he passed away when I was five years old. After World War II he started his own business, again produce, in the village of Bronxville, New York. My

father took it over in the mid 1960's. All of my brothers and I worked there, along with my mother, and Grandma Provenzano was the bookkeeper.

When I was still too young to work my Grandma Volpe babysat me on Saturdays. I loved it; lots of homemade pizza and cavatelli. Once I was old enough, it was after school and Saturday's in the store. Ours was a full service store. We waited on the customer from the moment they walked in through check out. We build a good rapport with our customers, and many became like family. 🐾

*From the desk of Fr. Tom*  
*I'm still learning the needs of the parish, so I ask for your help and patience. We are a diverse community and it is my goal to help form one community where the richness of our common Catholic and Salesian heritage is celebrated and our diverse backgrounds are respected.*  
*At the end of September the relics of Don Bosco are coming to the New York area, and we are already making plans to bring groups to St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan and the Marian Shrine in Stony Point. I'm hoping that this will be a graced event for our parish, and that many participate.*

St. Anthony of Padua Church  
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Saturday: 10am - 12 noon

(left) St. Anthony's Pastor Fr. Thomas Provenzano shares his background and family history which is not too much different than that of his parishioners.



## BEING NAMED PASTOR

Since St. Anthony's is a Salesian parish the position of Pastor has traditionally been tied to the director of the Salesian community. Whoever the pastor of the parish is, is also the director of the Salesians who serve here. The director serves three year terms. It is common, though not a hard and fast rule, to change the director after six years. When Fr. Pat's term was up, Fr. Tom felt blessed to be asked to come in his place. The parishioners feel blessed too. 🐾



(above, l-r) Fr. Tom with Mary Wilk, (nee Ientile), who has been parish secretary for 14 years and now working with her fourth pastor.



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## BATTIN/JEFF CLASS OF '71 REUNION DINNER & CRUISE

The dinner is March 19, 2011

6:00pm - 11:00pm

at the Crowne Plaza in Somerset

Reunion Cruise leaves Bayonne for  
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Buffet Dinner (\$85 per person) with open bar (two hours)  
cocktail hour preceding, one hour passed hors d'oeuvres.  
Dinner buffet with cash bar (3 hours), DJ, and dancing.

Overnight rooms at group rate of \$99  
which includes 2 breakfast buffets. Use of all hotel facilities:  
indoor pool, sauna/whirlpool, exercise room.

The cruise prices range from \$889 to whatever  
depending on the accommodations you choose.

Diamond Travel is handling the cruise details.

Information is available on Facebook web  
page: Battin/Jeff reunion

Cheryl Davis Ficarro and Ina Klasko are coordinating.

## ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ALL YEARS REUNION

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Convocation Mass:

10:00 am at St. Michael's Church

Reunion: 4 to 8 pm

L'Affaire, 1099 Rt 22 E, Mountainside, NJ

Buffet Dinner with Beer, Wine and Soda included.

Seating is limited; reservations are first-come first-served.

We will have a Memorabilia Table available if you would like  
to share any photos, uniforms, etc.

Please be sure to include your name on your mementoes.

No tickets or confirmations will be sent.

Attendee list will be posted on our website:

[capemayteddybear.com/StMichaels/index.htm](http://capemayteddybear.com/StMichaels/index.htm)

email: [stmikealumlists@aol.com](mailto:stmikealumlists@aol.com)

Questions??? Please call or email:

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Jeanne Stevens Degatano '66: 732-513-4470

Yoli Diaz '66: 908-354-1274

Carol Vetterer Jolly '62: 908-925-2857

## ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '70 REUNION PLANS

Can you believe that 40 years have passed since we graduated?  
Well, it's about time we got together again to reminisce about  
all those years we spent at St. Anthony's, the lifelong friends  
we made, and the fun we had. A chance to go back in time!!

Tentative dates of October 15 or 16, 2010  
Have been proposed.

Give us your feedback on what date is best for you.

Some of our classmates have already been contacted,  
but we need help finding the rest.

Contact

Joanne Pareso Megill at 732-585-6524

email: [Joanne.Megill@conocophillips.com](mailto:Joanne.Megill@conocophillips.com)

Ken Nascondiglio at 508-868-7728

email: [nasconk@mindspring.com](mailto:nasconk@mindspring.com)

Just remember that we were not just school friends but  
neighborhood friends and all part of the Peterstown puzzle.  
So if you're not there, a piece of the "puzzle" will be missing!!

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(above, l-r) Onofrio Castagna and Anthony Sortizza load up on minestrone, seafood salad and whitting.



# RIBERA CLUB FAMILY STYLE DINNER

The men of Ribera Italian America Cultural Center located on Palmer Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ have been getting together every Monday to give their wives a break and cook for their families.

The weekly get together has grown over the years and

many members have gotten involved in preparing the food. There are some very experienced cooks and the menu is different each week from fish to meat to home grown vegetables. Women club members bring home made deserts to have after dinner. 

## Recipes

*Submitted by Ribera Club members cooking for their families at weekly dinner.*

## Seafood Salad

*Enzo LoGuidice, Jim Fodera  
and Stefano Bongiovi*

## INGREDIENTS\*:

Squid (chopped)	Red Onions (Chopped)
Octopus	Garlic (Chopped)
Clams	Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Mussels	Lemon Juice
Shrimp	Oregano
Green Mussels	Peppercorn & Bayleaves
Celery(Chopped)	Salt & Pepper

Ribera Club cooks make 35 lbs of Seafood Salad.

Quantity of ingredients vary per cook and number of diners.

**PREPARATION:**

- 1) Boil Octopus in a pot of water with a lot of salt, peppercorn and Bayleaves for one hour until tender. Then Chop.
- 2) Clean Clams, Mussels with brush sautee with Squid in pot with Olive Oil and Garlic until they open.
- 3) Boil Shrimp\*
- 4) Add Octopus, Shrimp to pot with Mussels, Clams and Squid. Mix in the remaining ingredients.
- 5) Chill for 1/2 hour.

\* Stefano's Bongiovi's technique for cooking shrimp is to bring water to a boil, shut flame and then add shrimp. The shrimp is done when the water reaches room temperature.



## Minestrone

*Carmelo Marabella*

### INGREDIENTS:

String Beans	Green Brocoli
Fennel	Tomatos (peeled)
Zucchini	Rice
Celery	Ditalini Pasta
Potatoes	Salt & Pepper

Ribera Club cooks use 7lbs of Pasta and 5 gallons of Water. Quantity of ingredients vary per cook and number of diners.

**PREPARATION:**

- 1) Chop String Beans, Fenil, Zucchini, Celery, Potatoes, Onions, Green Brocoli and Tomatos and place in a pot of water with Rice and Pasta.
- 2) Bring to boil and stir periodically until rice is cooked.

## Whiting

Accursio Margiotta and Angelo DiPaola

**INGREDIENTS:**

Whiting (washed with heads off and guts out)

Flour

Olive oil

Garlic (chopped)

Salt & pepper

Ribera Club cooks make 30 lbs of Whiting. Quantity of ingredients vary per cook and number of diners.

PREPARATION:

- 1) Dry Whiting and roll in flour mixed with salt and pepper.
- 2) Fry in pan of Olive Oil until golden brown.
- 3) Layer Whiting in pan lined with paper towels and cover with chopped Garlic.

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# MIRACLE GROW IN PAULINA’S GARDEN

Paulina Martino has been tending her garden this season alone. Her husband, Carlo passed away a year ago and her work in the garden brings her peace. She misses her husband very much and the garden brings back vivid memories of their time together.

There is a certain pride attached to successful gardens and Paulina’s is bigger than most with a very diverse set of crops. The plan is for more variety than quantity and so she has as many different types of lettuce, tomatoes, and even cucumbers that she can fit.

Carlo owned the gas station on Rts 1&9 next to the McDonalds in Elizabeth. For the last 23 years, Paulina has been an assistant cook at Jefferson High School. Her daughter Margherita is a guidance councilor in School #15 in the Peterstown section of town. Paulina has three grandchildren.

Each season, one of each vegetable is allowed to over grow in order to get seeds for the following year. Paulina was shocked by the size of one of her cucumbers, a variety from India. She brought a scale out and measured the weight at over ten pounds.

Paulina’s had an exceptionally successful season in the garden and felt that Carlo was guiding her along.



(above) Paulina Martino weighs her ten pound cucumber and immediately alerted the media.



(right) Paulina with three variety of cucumbers from America, Italy and India.

.....

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is newsworthy for the  
  
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Photo of Vallata by John Zamarra

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# THE IMBRIACO FAMILY SOUTH STREET MEMORIES

*Excerpt from South Street Memories posted on myheritage.com by Robert Baptista*

Earlier this year I exchanged a few e-mails with my sister Emilia and cousins Millie and Carol about growing up in Elizabeth and the wonderful times we had together at the Jersey shore. As I wrote the e-mails, so many memories came back that I decided to write in more detail and share the experiences with all members of the Imbriaco family. I was also motivated by the genealogy work done for the 1996 Imbriaco family reunion by Lisa and other cousins who prepared the family tree and documentary video.

Our grandparents Giovanni (John, born 1877) Imbriaco and Carmela Marsicano (born 1879) married in Centola, Italy in June 1901. John came to the U.S. first, arriving on the S.S. Gergovia on November 21, 1901. The ship manifest indicated he was a laborer, in good health, could write and was to be met by a cousin. He moved to Hazelton, Pennsylvania where he worked briefly as a coal miner. He came back to Elizabeth and started a landscaping business. Carmela arrived on the S.S. Liguria on December 31, 1902. She was traveling with their seven month old daughter Annie and 46 year old cousin Luigi Caputo who had previously been to America. Carmela traveled under her maiden name which was the custom for Italian women at the time. The ship manifest incorrectly listed Annie as a boy "Antonio". Her actual name was Antonetta. The manifest also noted that Carmela could not read or write, was in good health, that her husband paid for her fare and that she had \$60 upon arrival. After going through the day long immigration process at Ellis Island, the family was met by John who was then living at 22 High Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. I can imagine how excited he was to see Carmela after a year's separation and to hold Annie in his arms for the first time. John's landscaping business flourished. At the time there were many large homes in Elizabeth owned

by wealthy merchants and professionals who hired John to maintain their manicured lawns and formal gardens. The Imbriacos lived on Olive St., then 223 South St., and as their family grew, moved to a 14-room home at 44 Reid St. They eventually had nine children including Annie, Dominic, Nunzio, Joseph, who died in a plane crash in 1929, Viola, Millie, Patrick, Mary and Louise. Sadly, John and Carmela died a few months apart in 1942 before many of the grandchildren, including myself, were born. Today the only surviving children are Patrick, age 95, and Louise, age 91. Viola was my mother and she married my father Joseph Baptista in 1936. Some of the other Imbriaco children had already married and moved into the two 4-family homes at 223 and 219 South St. These large homes were built in 1904 and were within walking distance to the grandparents' home on Reid St. After living in another section of Elizabeth, my parents moved into a ground floor flat at 219 South St. This was on the northern edge of Peterstown, a solidly Italian section of the city since the 1920s. The Peterstown street boundaries ran from South St. to South Fifth St. and from 2nd Ave. to 4th Ave. The Italians living here spanned several generations and were culturally bound to each other, creating one of the most distinctive neighborhoods in Elizabeth.

My cousin Lisa Breiling remembers when I was born in June 1944, just 15 months after Joey. In order to help Mom, Aunt Fill and Uncle Dom took care of Joey and four year old Mia that summer at their bungalow on Pelican Island, near Seaside Heights. This was just one example of how the families helped each other.

My earliest memory of South St.? I clearly recall being wheeled in a baby carriage with Joey up and down the sidewalk and Mom stopping near the big tree just outside our front door. She was talking to a neighbor, I think either Mrs. Gartz or Mrs. Ciccio.

There was a huge snowfall in the late 1940s, with snow piled high in the backyard. The older cousins built an igloo with blocks of snow and we played inside. Lisa and Mia remember it more than I and I think Mia still has a photo of this scene. Cousin Ronny, who lived next door, was born just two weeks before me and we grew up together, sharing many experiences and adventures living on South St. . . .



The above story about life in Elizabeth, NJ written by Bob Baptista (left) who now lives in Orange, TX, continues for 22 pages and is complemented by dozens of photos and can be found on myheritage.com

## SEE MORE OF BOB'S MEMOIRS

Robert Baptista started The Imbriaco Family website on myheritage.com to preserve and share the memories of the Imbriaco family. Bob invites friends and family to post your photos and documents via the site or just post any comments. His family tree is posted online on this site with 240 names on it. The earliest event is the birth of Giuseppe Imbriaco (1875). The most recent event is the death of Albert Forestiere (Apr 13 2007). Bob also made The Imbriaco Family History video, weddings video, and home movies available at his web site vimeo.com/8739660. Bob has several tomes about his family and his experiences growing up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. There is even a family cook book featured on the site.

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Photos posted by Robert J. Baptista on [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) (right, l-r) Carmella and Giovanni Imriaco, ca. 1941.



(above, l-r) Lisa, Mia, Cynthy, Bobby, Joey, Johnny and Patti around Easter 1947.



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the Little Rascals theme

is stuck in my head.

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# SALS ANGELO'S RESEARCH INTO DOZENS OF COUSINS

*Submitted by Sal Angelo*

We must acknowledge some things about our ancestry. None of us arrived on this planet isolated from the past. Each of us was preceded by two people – biological parents – who each had two biological parents before them, and so on back to a time in history that is to distant and remote to imagine. Reference books tell us that every one has a vast network of living cousins. Most of them unaware of each other's relationship and existence. However most of us cannot go beyond one or two generations of cousins.

In researching my family ancestry I have come across two interesting cases of who my "cousins" were. One involves my paternal and one involves my maternal families.

**PATERNAL LINE:**

My father Giovanni (John) Angelo was born in the Sicilian town of Monte San Giuliano (present day Erice) in the province of Trapani. In late 2008 I was reviewing information on a surname message board website. I posted the names of my grandparents and their town, seeking info about them. I received inquiries about the maiden name of my paternal grandmother, Nunzia Maiorana. One response was from Kathy Koszulinski of Fort Myers Florida; the other was from her Aunt Angela who lives in north New Jersey. Kathy spoke of a Mario Maiorana, her great grandfather and Angela's

.....  
**Not for Nothing But...**

I just assume that  
  
everyone is my cousin.  
.....

grandfather. We corresponded and shared information by mail and phone. Too our surprise her great grandfather turned out to be the older brother of my paternal grandmother. This was verified when we compared copies of their birth and marriage records. Both Nunzia and Mario had the same parents, also Kathy's 90 year old aunt verified that Mario had a sister named Nunzia.

This information made me go back to review all the vital record copies I had and discovered many records had his name e.g Mario and my grandfather Giovanni Angelo were both witnesses at Mario's sister Rosa's 1891 wedding, also Mario and his brother Francesco Paolo stood in for my grandfather at my great aunts Mattia Angelo's 1896 birth. The record notes my grandfather was away on business and Mattia had an earlier birth than expected, in Mario's brothers home.

Kathy also sent me a NY Times Obituary about a first cousin of ours, Ronald Maiorana who died Oct 9, 2008 at the age of 78. He was a former NY Times reporter, press secretary to NY Governor Nelson Rockefeller from 1969 to 1973, a campaign strategist and speechwriter in the 1990's for NYC mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He also held several prominent positions in city and state government. Ron was the grandson of my great uncle Mario Maiorana. I regret we never met, since we were of the same generation.

Lastly: Kathy sent me information about her great uncle Paul Maiorana who went to California, took the professional name of Paul Marino and hobnobbed with many famous actors.

**MATERNAL LINE:**

This cousin connection came as a result of a Letter to the Editor in the October 2009 issue of Around and About Peterstown. The letter was from a Gioacchino (Jake) Coniglio, a 93-year-old writing from Wichita, Kansas about his time living in Elizabeth at 20 Christine

Street. Because of his surname, Coniglio (which is my maternal grandmothers surname) I contacted him and his wife Faith several times. This is what I found out. His father and mine were with the Barbers Association, he knew my father, his father Calogero and his uncle Frank Firetto attended my grandmother December 1966 funeral and had signed her funeral register. Because of my records I was able to trace his family back to his 2nd great grandparents in Ribera. I forwarded this information and also immigration data (from the Ellis Island website) for his family to him. He was delighted and pleased.

What followed was really a surprise. We spoke about a Coniglio family who lived on Amity St. during our time in Elizabeth. I attended school and participated in many sporting event with two Coniglio boys: Paul and Carmine, in fact Paul graduated with me in 1950. Gioacchino knew of them because their mother, Lena Veneziano was a stepsister to his father Calogero. Her husband was Mariano Coniglio, using a combination of public information e.g. federal census, Ellis Island data, social security death index etc. I was able to trace Mariano's ancestry through my records. To my surprise I already had him in my computer database, assembled when I reviewed the 1820 to 1928 microfilm vital records of Ribera. He and my maternal grandmother, Caterina Coniglio Ciaccio have a common ancestor. Mariano's 2X great grandparents and my grandmother's great grandparents were the same: Pelligrino Coniglio and Giuseppa Proto Termine. Two of their sons were Calogero and Nicolo. Of these two brothers; Calogero is my grandmother's grandfather and Nicolo is Mariano's great grandfather. This makes Mariano my 3C1R (third cousin once removed). Mariano's two sons and I spent more than thirty years in Elizabeth together never knowing of this relationship. Go figure. ☺

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# LOCAL TEAM ARE STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPS

15  
*Peterstown*  
Aug 10

A local area softball team with numerous ties to Peterstown and also the Elizabeth and Linden area won the prestigious New Jersey Senior Softball Association (NJSSA) 50+ State B Division Championship in Linden over the weekend of July 10th. The team name is SMC and features many players who started their careers or played numerous softball games at O'Brien Field over the past forty years.

Two players who grew up in the Burg are Harry Streep, a legendary star pitcher and hitter for the feared Sticky Fingers squad of the 80's and 90's. Harry is widely recognized by his peers as one of the best softball pitchers in the state. John Amato is a living Peterstown softball icon respected for his skills and abilities by everyone within the county based on his play in the Elizabeth softball league for numerous years.

Ed Kushner of Linden who was a star shortstop in the Elizabeth league and has played in numerous State and National softball tournaments over his forty years of playing organized ball was a key contributor to the SMC effort. "Kush" is poised to enter the Union County Softball Hall of Fame - an honor that Streep and Amato also deserve.

Other players on the squad included Ed Lubas and Bill Dugan both of St. Mary's fame who despite having played for arch rival Halecki's Tavern in the Elizabeth league remain in good graces by having married women with Italian bloodlines.

Some other notable SMC players with connections to the Peterstown area include Chris Paterek (St Patrick's star), Dennis Valvano (grew up in Elmora and a frequent visitor to Spirito's) and Jeff Baier and Paul Levenberg (both star players of the local Sierra's Tavern team).

Ray Pelesko and Walt Serafyn, both graduates of Thomas Jefferson High, spent their formative years playing baseball on the various fields in Elizabeth and going to the Saint Rocco festival.

Jim McCullough is a ringer brought in from Westfield combining a strong competitive spirit with outstanding


offensive and defensive skills. Jim made numerous outstanding catches during the five game tournament and contributed several key hits.

The SMC squad which plays in the Union County Senior Softball League compiled a perfect 5 -0 record and swept Check Exchange of Middlesex County in the finals. Harry Streep was the winning pitcher for all five games and also contributed many clutch hits batting in the clean up spot for Manager Ed Lubas' team in the tournament. Outstanding performances both offensively and defensively were received from Bill Dugan, Jim McCullough, John Amato, and Ed Kushner.

In game one of the finals on Sunday, SMC battled

back from an early eight run deficit fueled by a dramatic three run homer by Jeff Baier in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game. Ray Pelesko hit a two run double in the eighth inning to win it for SMC by a score of 16 to 15.

Game two was won by a score of 11 to 7 by SMC which was led by Walter Serfyn, Chris Paterek, Dennis Valvano, and Paul Levenberg in the championship clinching victory.

SMC had a perfect 3 - 0 record on Saturday parlaying outstanding offensive performances from Amato, Dugan, Lubas, McCullough, and Paterek in support of Streep's pitching and defensive performance. 



(above, kneeling, l-r) Jim McCullough, Ray Pelesko, John Amato, Dennis Valvano, and Chris Paterek. (Standing, l-r) Jeff Baier, Paul Levenberg, Ed Kushner, Harry Streep, Ed Lubas, Water Serafyn, and Bill Dugan.

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