



IT'S TIME TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

Most immigrants, like the hundreds of thousands who came during the great immigration, were escaping poverty. They held a valise in one hand and hope in the other. For them, the opportunity alone, was enough reason to be thankful. The stories of these immigrants should serve as a lesson for today's society.

People have become so accustomed to the rewards that living in America has given them that they are taken for granted. Recent generations are so privileged that wealth has come to be expected. Any type of setback is considered an outrage. The trend in today's society is to rant if they don't receive what they think is an entitlement. What is needed is an understanding of what it is like to have nothing.

After three generations, first hand accounts of the immigrant experience is no longer part of a child's upbringing. Documentaries and text books can only simulate the emotion and passion that oral history can offer, where stories are told not only in words but in the sparkle of an eye or the touch of a hand. Each story is unique yet together they are one. That experience should stand as a reference in measuring the fortunate times of today.

Gains came through hard work and against tremendous obstacles, some natural and some cultural. But the one constant in the equation was opportunity. Where it didn't exist it was created. The ability to provide for the family fulfilled the most basic need. Given that opportunity was enough.

What that opportunity afforded new arrivals was the ability to labor long hours, sacrifice amenities, and even go to war to preserve the opportunity for others. The things that held the most value could not be put in a suitcase. To have a safe and healthy family meant everything.

Our culture is less humanistic. The values and mores that enriched past generations are hard to find. In place is a society where possessions and access to power, or lack thereof, defines a person's worth. A system designed by political strivings and corporate economic gain established new criteria for people to measure success. But using financial indicators to measure quality of life issues neglects the emotional and spiritual aspects of human existence. What has happened is that the individual has become isolated and the desire for personal fulfillment has replaced that of the community. The standard of success in the past was communalistic. Individual success was appreciated only after the basic needs of the less fortunate were satisfied. The definition of "basic needs" must be reestablished. Contrary to conventional wisdom, it does not mean "money".

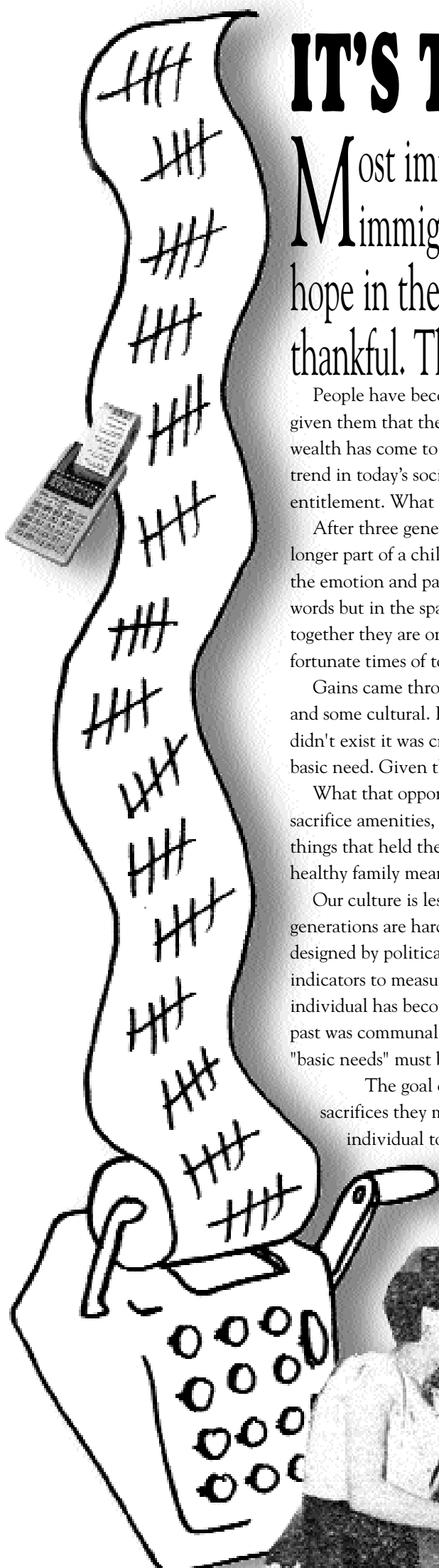
The goal of the community was to give the next generation greater opportunity while repaying the previous generation for the sacrifices they made in doing the same. Progress created independence and the lack of reliance on the community enabled the individual to pass on responsibility. Self reliance and individual success was a product of a community working together for a common good. It should be the duty of those who achieve great individual success to reciprocate to the community.

Job security is a thing of the past. Seniors are being taxed out of their homes and health care is barely affordable for most and unattainable for many. Families are splintered and neighbors are transient. The value system which made up the foundation on which all modern advances were made has eroded. It must be repaired if future generations are to have a chance to stand steady.

The material to build the foundation for our future is sitting untapped in in our senior citizen community centers and nursing homes. Their experiences are responsible for everything that we value today. Society would be best served to tap that resource. The only investment is time for a friendly conversation. 📞



(above) Larry Higgins became a self made success by using street smarts he learned from his grand-father. He built a business from being an advocate for public access to government records. His success is secondary to what really matters to him, his family.



(left, l-r) Guiseppa Sortino (nee Scirica) helps her 6 year old daughter, Liboria, fit into a dress given to her by a volunteer for the Red Cross. Ten members of the Scirica family lost their possessions but survived the fateful night when the Andria Doria, the ship bringing them to America, crashed and sunk.

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President's Message



Last year's 15th Anniversary Dinner Dance was so successful that we planned to do it again. We had 150 people there and we turned dozens away because of the limitations to the room. This year's dance is still at The Westwood in Garwood but we booked a bigger room and anticipate even a larger turn out. My suggestion is to start putting your tables together now.

Last year's dance fell right on Valentine's Day. So there was a little more romance in the year. This year the dance is the day before on Friday February 13, 2004. I checked with the priests at St. Anthony's and they said attending does count for Saturday.

Tickets are printed and available. They are only \$75 which includes dinner, entertainment and open bar. Call me at my store for more info or drop in to pick up tickets. Do it soon. February will be here in no time.

Don't forget to plan for our superbowl party, January 26, 2004 at St. Benedict's Club on Amity Street. It's open to anyone so bring a friend.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
President

PRESS RELEASES

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

ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA
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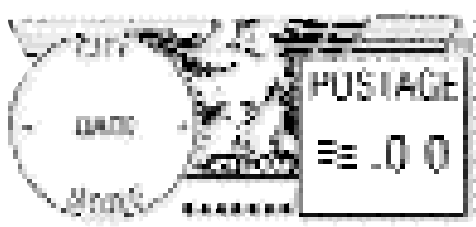
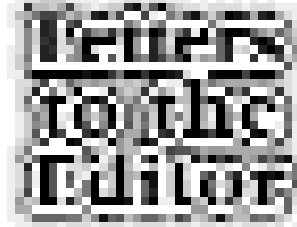
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LETTER POLICY

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

Dear Petersown,

I just received a copy of your December 02 (#25 issue) with the article on Tom Colicchio, my cousin Bev & Tom Sr.'s son, of who we are so proud of! Tom excelled in everything he set his mind to! One thing the article didn't mention was that he was also a prize champ in our swim club! His dad, Tom, was the head coordinator and starting person of all meets, he was always there for his boys, and his mom and several of us were lane judges. She was always there for her boys too!

I also worked with Peg Coloney and Fr. Hudson at the Center for Hope Hospice and often cared for many people in the Burg. The best part of which was sharing stories of growing up. I sat with many souls of which their last smile was of the neighborhood!

Anyone wishing to get a book about Fr. Hudson, which Peg has just completed prior to her recent passing to heaven, can order one from the Center for Hope in Linden.

I love this paper and I wish to order it for my brother Mat Orlando, who is also from the Burg. There was no better place in the world to grow up than the Berg. All Gods best for all of you who do such a great job on "Peterstown".

Love and Best Wishes,
Joanne (Caivano) DeLuca
(previously lived at 625 2nd Ave.
across from Corsentino's. I am a retired RN in Florida and still volunteering at hospice.)

Dear Around About Peterstown,

Having spent forty (40) years at the Courthouse in Elizabeth, I made many friends in Peterstown and spent a great deal of social time "in the Burg".

Walter Halpin,
(former County Clerk of Union County 1966-1995)
Fanwood, NJ

Joe,

Love your paper. I get the paper when in Trinitas Hospital visiting my mom or dad.

I came from Vallata in '64 and moved to John Street. I'm proud to be from Elizabeth/Peterstown/1st generation from Italy. I'd never deny it and don't know why anyone would.

By the way, my husband is Jack Gulino. Do you recognize the guys in this photo (below)?

Rose LoBrace Gulino
Millstone, NJ



(above, l-r) Jack Gulino, Frank Sortino, Anthony Parentti,
John Amato, Johnny Lang, Mike Tropiano.



Subject: Hi Joe!

My mother saves all of the "Around About Peterstown" issues for me to read when I get back to Elizabeth. I was there over the Thanksgiving holiday and she had this photo attached to her refrigerator (see above). I suggested that I scan it and submit it to you. It was taken on October 12, 1968 at a St. Anthony's CYO fund raising event. It includes Marie Campanelli (left), your sister Lorraine, and my brother Russell. She has loads of these old stills as well as movies, since she was always the one with a camera at all the events.

Ken Nascondiglio,
Worcester, MA

Joe,

A friend told me your October 03 issue had an article that mentioned Elizabeth Auto Wrecking and many other people I know. I'm a native of Elizabeth, St. Mary's 57, Magie Avenue in Elmora. Bill Donahue, the founder of Elizabeth Auto, was my fathers best friend.

Bill Meehan
Inverness, IL

Dear Peterstown,

I live in Bound Brook now, originally from Elizabeth (Port), but my former husband was from Peterstown (Rankin St.). Would love to know what's going on in the "Burg". Barone's (made the best spaghetti gravy, besides Grandma Rose of course) St. Anthony's Church, Saracino's Bakery, of course Spirito's & St. Rocco's Festival.

Thank you,
Bernadette
Bound Brook, NJ

Hi Joe.....I really enjoy your website and your articles.....especially liked the one about "Things are not the way they used to be"...but what does the expression "Not for nothing.." mean??.....

I live in Canada and only seem to see/hear that expression on your website...is it a NJ expression??

David J. McNab
Edmonton, Canada

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

Christmas promotions start earlier each year, along with critical response. No doubt there is a definite commercial aspect tied to the holiday but so what. Starting the season earlier has a positive effect also, and it is more powerful than the commercialism.

The message of Christmas is not lost in the malls as some may think. The bombardment by the retailers losses it's impact over time. It is no longer an impulse to buy if the sales pitch is being made over a two month period. What does grow over time is the lessons that the holiday is ment to teach.

Christmas is a time of giving and caring. The story of the birth of Jesus is one of love, acceptance, humility, faith and hope, plus many other virtues that not only make us better individuals but the world, as a whole, a better place. The Christmas story leads us to wonder about our lives spiritually, above material trappings and physical fulfillment. It promotes the idea that we are all connected and responsible for one another. A tiny bit of that is present in every advertisement. The more we are deluged by the media reminding us to shop the more we are being reminded about the story of Christ. Some of that message is going to stick and mabe even inspire.

Arm in arm with the early arrival of merchandising is the annual appeal of charitable organizations. Poverty is not seasonal and charity should not be reserved either. Some people only think of giving when a guy in a Santa suit rings a bell in their face. If the extended holiday causes more people to be aware of those less fortunate then I'm for Christmas carolers in July.

The Christmas season has engulfed Thanksgiving, not too shabby a holiday in its own rite. Giving thanks for what we have leads to acknowledgment that there are those without. There is no better way to show thanks for what we have than sharing it with those who haven't.

The lessons brought to us through Christmas is not exclusive to Christians. The virtues that are extolled and concepts of what is right and wrong are universal beliefs that almost everyone embraces, regardless of their religion. It does seem that some people who believe need

to be constantly reminded of it. And some of those people need a production as big as the Christmas holiday to realize it.

I could understand holidays that celebrate events like the Fourth of July but some holidays seem odd, as if the celebration wasn't scheduled then the concept is lost. For example, mother's should be honored everyday of the year not just when the Hallmark calendar says so.

Think of the lessons that the holidays teach, not just Christmas and Thanksgiving, but every holiday throughout the year. We should be living each day in that respect. Since very few people do so, holidays remain a necessity.

I must say holidays are magical. I've seen some people who are the biggest scoundrels year round being most gracious on a holiday. If the holiday can be extended to all year with the same result then lets go for it. Then we wouldn't need any holiday. Everyday will be a celebration of life. 🍷



Not for Nothing But...

I know a guy who
breaks up with his
girlfriend just before
Christmas so he
doesn't have to buy
her a present.




ST. MARY'S 1st GRADUATING CLASS REUNITES

St. Mary of Assumption High School in Elizabeth, NJ opened in 1930. Its first class to graduate did so in 1934. On September 25, 2003, 69 years later, classmates gathered at a luncheon at the school, hosted by principal Janet Malko.

The five alumni were able to tour the school and interact with the students. They spent hours in classrooms reminiscing over fond memories, and sharing funny stories of their high school years. They spoke of the world then and now and of their accomplishments.

Mary Doherty Barbieri, Betty Beylon and Betty Rogan Tunis represented the high school graduating class, while Sr. Margaret Elaine and Mary Applegate represented the

commercial school. Several members of the class of 2004 assisted in the event. It was hard to tell who enjoyed the day most, the students or the guests.

St. Mary's is proud of its excellent reputation of offering quality education to the children of Union and Essex County for over 70 years. 

(below, seated, l-r) Class of 1934 alumni Sr. Margaret Elain, Mary Applegate, Betty Beylon, Betty Rogan Tunis, and Mary Doherty Barbieri. (standing, l-r) Class of 2004 Victor Cisneros, Melissa Borrello, Andres Barquin, Ciselle Sedano, Antonia Ortega-Rocha, Yamila Lopez.



MERRY CHRISTMAS RICHIE!

Judy Yorkowitz was stuck on what to give her son for a Christmas gift and came up with this super idea. She wrote in a letter to this paper:

*“Where running out of ideas
of what to give our son Richie, who has
enough shirts, ties, sweaters and “stuff”.*

Judy is a fan of Around About Peterstown and knew her son was also. She also knew the value of advertising. Richie owns an antique shop in Garwood and so she placed the ad below as a Christmas gift. Its a gift that keeps on giving. Not only was this a unique gift idea but it is also a surprise. Richie won't know the ad is running until he sees the paper or customers go into his shop and say:

“Hey, I saw your ad in the Peterstown Paper!”



(left) Classic Antiques’ building fronts the south side of North Avenue in Garwood. There is off street parking.

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Not for Nothing But...

what do you get

someone who has

10,000 square feet

of everything?.

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RIBERA CLUB TAPS LA CORTE AS MAN OF THE YEAR

The Ribera Italian American Club held their annual Scholarship Dinner Dance in November, 2003 at L'affaire in Mountainside. Every year, the club uses the forum to award scholarships and to honor a person for outstanding achievements and contributions to the community. This year's "Man of the Year" award went to Union County Surrogate James S. La Corte.

As an elected official, La Corte continues the tradition of one of the most distinguished families in the County of Union and the City of Elizabeth. With particular roots in Peterstown that reach back to Sicily, the honor given to James honors three generations.

Nicola La Corte, James' Great grandfather, came to America in 1879. His grandfather James B. La Corte was born in Elizabeth and had an honorable career as a deputy sheriff for Union County. His grandfather's brother Salvatore served as a county court judge in the 1930's.

La Corte's father Nicholas was born and raised in Peterstown in 1911. After his discharge from the army following World War II, he became the first and only Italian-American Mayor of the City of Elizabeth. He went on to become State Senator and State Tax Appeals Court Judge.

The Ribera Club's Honoree was elected Surrogate of Union County in 1999. A surrogate insures the orderly administration of decedent's estates and to make certain that legal procedures are followed in all matters related to probate of last wills and testaments. Last year La Corte was selected by his fellow surrogates in the state to act as president of their association.

Jim La Corte's role as surrogate follows a 25 year career practicing law in the City of Elizabeth. He served

on the Union County Judicial Review Panel and the Union County Fee Arbitration Committee among others.

Jim was born in 1947 and is a graduate of Fordham University and Southern Methodist University School of Law. He has been married to his wife, Pam, for thirty three years and has two children, Kristin and Meredith. Kristen and her husband, Terrence Kloss, recently blessed their parents with their first grandchild, James.



(above, l-r) James La Corte receives a plaque in recognition of being named the Ribera Club's "Man of the Year" from the dinner dance committee chairman Joe Amato.

(left, l-r) Proceeds from the dinner dance and souvenir book help fund the club's college scholarship program. This year's scholarship recipients are Laura Fodera and Joe Firetto. Laura graduated from Woodbridge High School in 2003 and is now in her first year at Middlesex County College. Joe graduated in 2003 from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark and is attending City University of New York studying dental lab technology.



Members of the Ribera Club's 2003 Scholarship Dinner-Dance Committee.

(standing, l-r) Charles Mirabile, Carmelo Marabella, Jake Miceli, John LaBarbera, Simone Palermo, Frank Gaurraci, Joe Amato, Enzo LoGiudice, Pete Cottone, Pete Agliata, Marione Turturici, Steve Bongiovi, Angelo DiPaola, Sal Ferina. (kneeling, l-r) Raymond Vela, Frank Reina, Sam Russo, Jim Fodera, Laborio Firetto, Ignazio Farina.

EDUCATING LARRY

Larry Higgins doesn't fit a mold. Never has. Never will. From as far back as grade school he operated on a different level and at a different speed than everyone else. He would wonder about things that other kids his age took for face value and was driven to know everything there was to know about how a certain thing ticked. It wasn't enough to know how to change the oil in his car, Larry had to know how to rebuild the engine, and did. So how do you educate a kid in grammar school who runs home to tinker with physics?

That was the question the nuns at St. Anthony's would ask each other over dinner. The answer was logical. A guy like Larry should be let go. The conventional system of education would only have slowed him down. The teachers knew that and his parents knew it also. Larry was home schooled through high school. The concept is common now-a-days but in the 70's it was outright peculiar.

Higgins did go on to earn a masters degree from Steven's Institute of Technology in computer science, in the artificial intelligence option to be specific. He even taught Computer Science at his alma mater, Kean University.

Of all the teachers and programs he worked with, Larry attributes his great success to the people who raised him. He was blessed with very supportive parents but what he valued immensely was his grandparents. He says, "It was my grandfather who taught me how to be in business. And he lived a simple life, a professional house painter with a third grade education, but he knew more about doing what is right than anyone I know." His Grandpa Jim told him "Everything can be done better, faster and cheaper. Find that way and do it." Another

key point his grandfather made was that work isn't work if you enjoy it. Then you will enjoy life. His grandfather really enjoyed life and he enjoyed working. He did his last paying job when he was 88 years old.

Larry considers himself lucky to have had three grandparents still with him in his 40's. The three just recently passed away and they were all in their 90's.

Another part of Larry's life that he attributes to effecting the biggest change in him is martial arts. His instructors Jim Carras, Gary Alexander and Alex Wilkie transformed his body and mind. Higgins was alert and aware and in control. The discipline and the analytical system of thinking that went into learning karate became second nature in everything he does. 🥋

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Not for Nothing But...

Larry doesn't only march to a different beat, he composes the score and conducts the band.

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(above) Larry Higgins was most in tune with his grandfather Jimmy despite the 50 years age gap.

(right) Larry's maternal grandparents Gillian and James Remite were married 68 years. He passed away in 2000 on her birthday and she followed him 18 months later. They were both 91 years old at the time of their passing.



(right) Larry's fraternal grandparents Deliah and Lawrence Higgins. Lawrence died over 20 years ago but Deliah was 93 years old when she passed away 2001.



THE FACULTY IN LARRY'S LIFE

We are all students of life but we choose our own curriculum. Some people take basket weaving and because they get an A, they think they have succeeded. The core course that gives the skills to live a fulfilling life is Family 101. A student can't graduate without this class. Larry Higgin's parents and grandparents held Phd's and they taught him well. 🎓



(left) Angelina (Gina) and Edward Higgins. as newly weds in 1959 and more recently (below). Besides Larry they had a daughter, Angela.



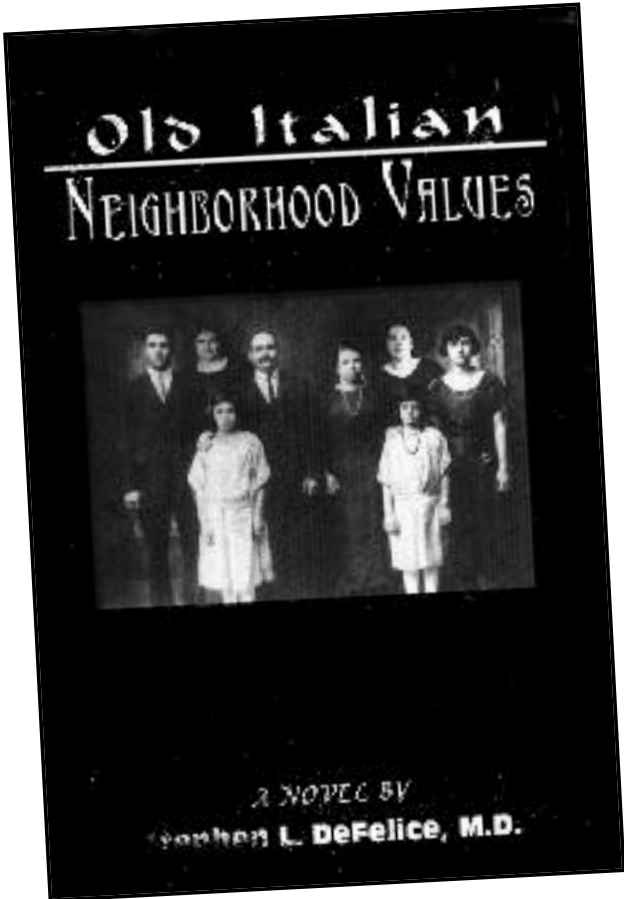
(left, l-r) Rosario and Angelina Remite. Larry's grandfather Jimmy shared the lessons that he learned from his parents.

(below, l-r) Nicole and Irene Netta



(below, l-r) Nicole and Irene Netta were the maternal grandparents of Larry's mom.

OLD ITALIAN NEIGHBORHOOD VALUES



(above) “Old Italian Family Values”, the first novel by Stephen L. DeFelice, M.D. Features a family portrait of the doctor’s family on the outside and a spirited description of how he was raised on the inside.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the book can call 866-653-4825 for more information or visit www.OldItalianValues.com on the internet.

If you never had the chance to talk to your grandfather then you should read the novel “Old Italian Neighborhood Values”. The book, aptly named, was written by Dr. Steven DeFelice, an M.D. living in Westfield, NJ but who grew up in a traditional Italian neighborhood in Philadelphia. DeFelice believes that there is much to be learned from the lifestyle and values from those days in the 1950's and wanted to share his insight with today's readers.

Though the title suggests it, this is far from a text book on how to live. If anything it will raise so many controversies in you that it will start you questioning what is up or down. That effect is just what the doctor is looking for. Nothing is cut and dried when it comes to morals and values. Who is to say what is right or wrong? The best that a person can do is have knowledge of all options before deciding a path. That's what “Neighborhood Values” does and in a most unique and entertaining way.

The story is based on six lifetime friends who meet once a year for dinner and discuss anything and everything. The guys bring to the table their experiences, beliefs and opinions which are as diverse as they could be.

The particular meeting that this novel is based on has a twist. The replacement for one of the friends who passed away recently is a madam.

“Old Italian Neighborhood Values” pulls no punches. Some language is course and some topics are dicey. The author tried to be as authentic with the dialog as possible. Part of the story is autobiographical so the reader knows some dialog is true to form.

The conversation moves from casual discussions about careers, kids divorce and relationships to heated arguments about politics, sex, abortion, God and the liberal media. The controversy continues as the different

points of view collide over the dinner table. The reader inevitably chooses sides and roots for the person with whom they identify with the most. The reader will agree with some opinions and others would compel them to wish that they can jump into the book and choke somebody.

But it is only a book so no one has to get choked. Dr. Defelice found a way to get his point across without force. Instead the book is fun and sometimes funny. It is really a reflection on the readers and everyone they know. What pops into the reader's mind with every statement made by a character in the book is the face of someone they know who would say the same thing. There is a cast of thousands in just these characters.

Those who chose to dismiss the lecture will find a storyline that is compelling in its own rite. The book uses frequent flash backs to experiences from when the dinners were young. The imagery is nostalgic and familiar for those who lived through the same era. The current events are stark. The dinner takes place just five days before 9/11.

There is a unique aspect to the book and that is the passion in which it was written. There is no doubt that the book was a labor of love for the author. His love for the Italian culture pours from every page. He writes about food and opera and family and community as if he is shouting from a mountain. His voice thunders through the dialog. He knows the secrets to a wondrous life and he wants the world to know.

This is a book that doesn’t go away after you read it. The conversations and characters constantly pop into your head throughout the day, while talking to someone or sitting in your car at a red light. It's a book you don't give away because you will want to go back and check if you are remembering what was said correctly. 🇮🇹

MEET THE DINNER GUESTS

- GENELLA, the modern madam with traditional values who shares some helpful professional inside information with the men.
- MARIO, the restaurant proprietor who loves life but has little time to truly experience it.
- MISERABLE, the pessimistic but kind congressman who fears being close to a woman.
- MO, the tough, bold self-made businessman who epitomizes the classic strong male leader in the old Italian neighborhood.
- PIGNACHI, the optimistic Catholic priest who sees the good in people as the driving force that can resolve many problems in our materialistic culture.
- PUSSEY RAPPER, the liberal media publisher with three divorced sons who has lots of experience and advice to offer on contemporary marriage.
- SPINUZZI, the philosopher physician and problem solver who loves to observe life intellectually but uncommonly experiences it emotionally.
- THE PIG, the sensitive homosexual social worker who is ambivalent about some of the old Italian neighborhood values and raises issues that get the other dinners thinking.

.....
Not for Nothing But...
this book would make
a great movie.
.....



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen L. DeFelice, M.D.

Dr. Stephen L. DeFelice is the founder and chairman of FIM, The Foundation for Innovation in Medicine, a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to help speed up medical discovery in order to reduce unnecessary suffering and premature death. He believes that the potential weapons of modern technology can dramatically reduce or eliminate many diseases. He is the author of a number of books on medicine and health, and this is his first novel.

His interest in medical discovery began in 1965 when he conducted the first United States clinical study with carnitine, a naturally occurring substance, which is now approved by the FDA and has saved the lives or reduced the suffering of children with rare diseases. As a young medical researcher, Dr. DeFelice was heavily involved in directing clinical studies on psychotropic drugs for anxiety, depression and a variety of major psychotic conditions such as schizophrenia and manic depression. Regarding the latter, he was involved in the development of lithium.

At that time the so-called Age of Anxiety was leading into the Age of Depression. With the

technological revolution came personal and familial instability which led to the most rapid change in society’s values in the history of mankind - and it continues!

Dr. DeFelice was reared in an old Italian neighborhood where stability and strong family bonds were common. There was much love and consideration for others. Italian immigrant parents, enthralled by the opportunities in America, worked hard and saved money to send their children to college and a number of them made it.

Dr. DeFelice is fully aware that we cannot return to the lifestyle and values of the old Italian neighborhood but believes there is much to be learned from this tradition that can be helpful to many of the readers in these trying times. For example, respect for others was on the top of the list of values but, according to Dr. DeFelice, seems to be disappearing at a rapid rate playing a significant role in the unhappiness in our country.

In “Old Italian Neighborhood Values,” Dr. DeFelice draws from his personal experiences to give readers a revealing look at how traditional values are changing in modern America. 🇮🇹



THE HEIGHT OF FASHION

The above photo was taken in 1934 on Labor day, on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. It was submitted by JoAnn Ulisano. The guys in the photo are from Peterstown, one of them being JoAnn’s dad, Joseph. JoAnn’s mom Lillian (nee Colicchio) did her best to identify the six fashion plates but would feel better if someone confirmed her recollection.

The names she came up with are as follows. She left blanks for the two first names she didn’t recall. Pictured from left to right, according to Lillian are _____ Siano, Joseph Ulisano, James Bellero, Joseph Pace, Sebastian (Tootsie) Manetta, and _____ Ciccarelli.

DENTAL OFFICE EXPANDS AND UPGRADES

Doctors Nicholas W. Cicchetti and Jennifer D. Marzarella have started renovations on their dental office located at 18 East Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park. The construction will include an addition to the building and an expansion of the parking area. The changes are being made to accommodate the growth they have experienced in their practice.

Along with the structural upgrades the doctors have updated their equipment to the most current technology available. The offices will also be 100% handicapped accessible.

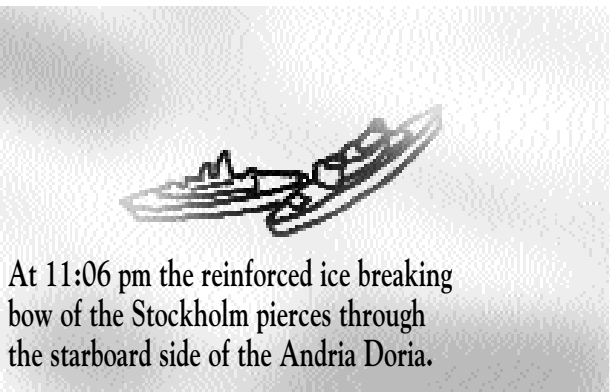
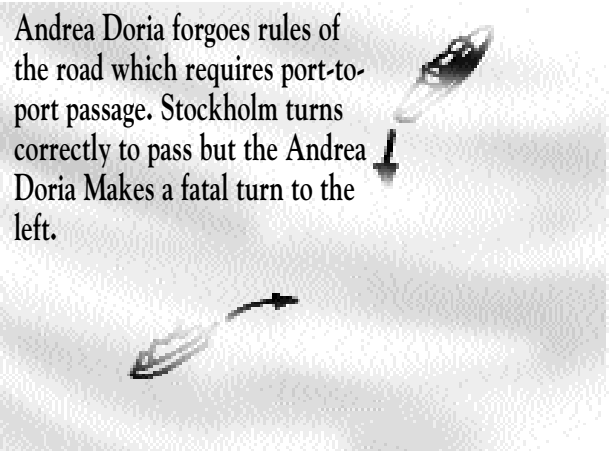
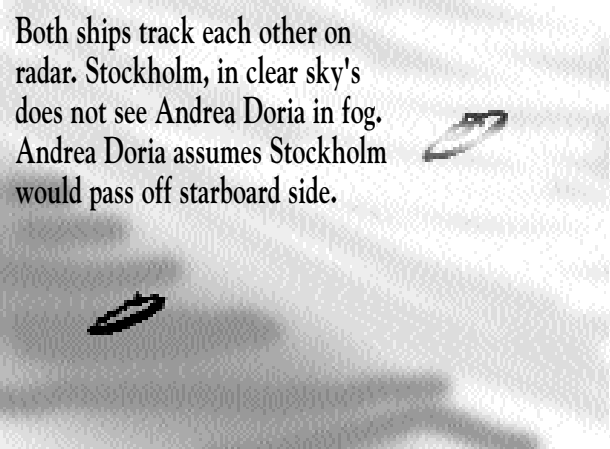
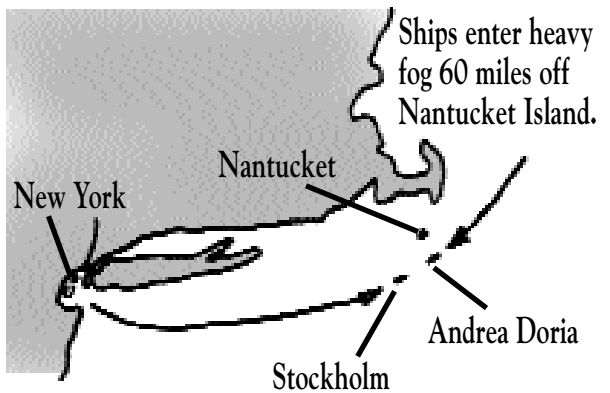
Cicchetti and Marzarella have also added two new

procedures to their list of services. The first is a new 1-hour Tooth Whitening System that lightens teeth two to seven shades in one visit. They still offer a take home whitening system as well. The second new addition is invisible braces for adults and teenagers called Invisalign.

Along with the advancement in orthodontics the doctors have added a new flexible monthly payment plan called CareCredit. It has replaced their open - billing payment policy. Anyone can go to the office without an appointment to see if they qualify or they may do it online at carecredit.com.

THE WORLD WATCHED AS THE ANDREA DORIA PERISHED

HOW IT ALL WENT DOWN



Despite the state-of-the-art equipment the ships collided and the accident was attributed to careless and negligent operation of the radar. In the end, 46 lives were lost, the \$30 million Andrea Doria had gone under.

(below) The Stockholm, though crushed remained afloat and hurried back to New York with its passengers. The bow was eventually repaired at a cost of \$1 million.



(right) The Boston Herald Photographer, Harold Trask, recorded the last fifteen minutes of the 11 hours it took for the ship to capsize and sink. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his chronicle of the event.

The photos and the accounts of the Andrea Doria were found on various websites and books. The most extensive being andreadoria.org where I found the Scirica photos.

On the evening of July 25, 1956, the Andrea Doria collided with the Stockholm at sea. Forty six people perished and by the next morning the ship went under. The story of what happened can be told from any number of vantage points. As a luxury liner it stood mastheads above the others. No ship was more opulent. It was one of the largest and fastest ships in the world. It was also considered one of the safest, featuring the latest technology, the RADAR.

The story of the Andrea Doria can be told by the 1,662 passengers and crew that were saved. Or by the countless crews of rescue ships that came to its aid. The story has already been told in great detail by the world's media, who were on the scene of the rescue.

The circumstance surrounding the crash between the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm is still not totally resolved. The participants and actions leading up to the collision that damaged the hull of the Stockholm and sent the Andrea Doria to the depths of the Atlantic reads like a mystery novel with two endings. As far as the last chapter of one version goes, the Captain of the Andrea Doria, Piero Calamai, served 10 years of a 13 year prison sentence.

To this day, the ship is a magnet for thrill seeking divers. Resting off the cost of Nantucket at a depth of 235 feet it is below the safe distance for divers, yet many flock to what is known as the Mount Everest of wreck diving. The chance at pocketing an artifact cost a few their lives.

The timing of the Andrea Doria disaster had historical significance. It was the first passenger ship built in Italy following World War II. It was on its 51st journey across the Atlantic but in the mid 50's the airplane was gaining in popularity. Some say that the Andrea Doria disaster was the end of the era of passenger ships and the birth of air travel. It would seem inevitable, for in 1958 the Boeing 707 inaugurated nonstop jet

THE MIRACLE GIRL'S REMARKABLE STORY

Linda Morgan was 14 years old when travelling on the Andrea Doria with her mother, her step dad and her younger sister. She went to bed in the top bunk of her cabin clutching her red autograph book. She was undisturbed as another ship, the Stockholm, ripped a gapping hole into her ship, twisting through the cabins on the starboard side of the ship including hers.

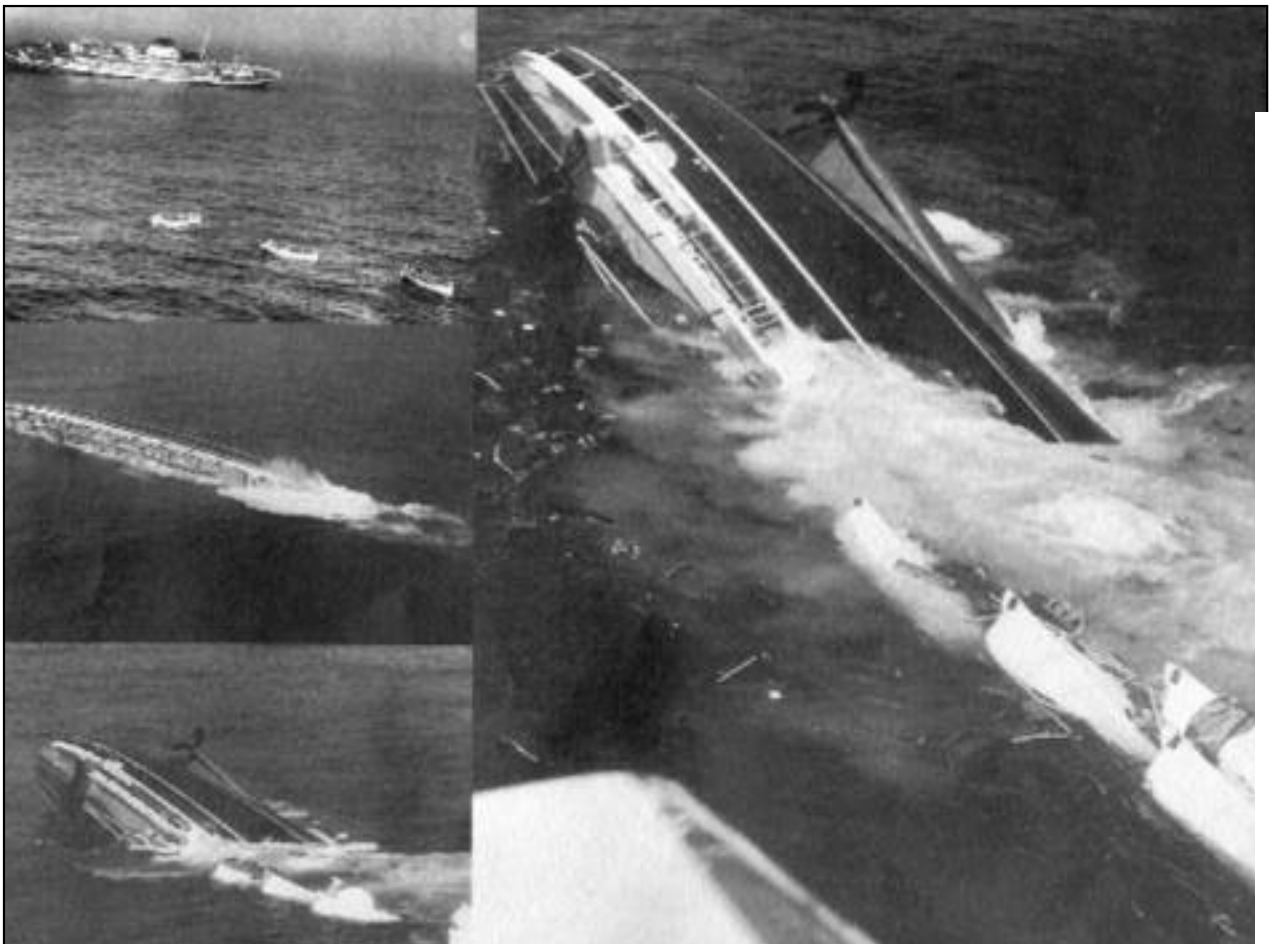
The two ships separated leaving the Andrea Doria fatally damaged. The devastating effect of the collision left the Andrea Doria crippled until it met its final doom the following morning. It also caused the death of 46 people including Linda's sister and step father. Linda's mom was trapped in the wreckage but was eventually saved. She wouldn't know that Linda survived until a day later.

service between North America and Europe. The technology of the day probably resulted in saving all of those lives. TV and Radio allowed the world to listen and see live updates of how the event was unfolding.

A slew of rescue vessels responded to the distress signals sent from the Andrea Doria, most notably the Ile de France, which turned around from its trip an hour and a half ahead of the collision sight. The Ile de France was able to accommodate most of the passengers from the doomed ship, because of its tilt half of the life boats were useless.

By chance a Life Magazine photographer was on board the Ile de France and snapped photos of the rescue and its aftermath which were featured in a full color 12 page spread in the magazine. Film crews and photographers floated and flew around the wreck for the entire 11 hours it took to sink. Frame by frame, moment by moment, everyone watched this great tragedy.

A Google search under the words "Andrea Doria" resulted in 75,200 websites. No account was as passionate or engaging as an interview with those who lived through it.



SCIRICA FAMILY ARRIVES IN PETERSTOWN SAFE AND SOUND

Ten members of the Scirica family were on board the Andrea Doria the night it went down. The excitement of arriving in America was growing as the ship approached New York but the excitement turned to panic as a cloud of doom and uncertainty surrounded the ship.

The excitement and anxiety brought on by the anticipation of moving to America was months old. The dream of emigrating was sought after by many of the Scirica's neighbors. The stories of how wonderful America was had been shared by friends through correspondence and return visits to the homeland. The opportunity that awaited them piqued their imagination.

Though the mood of the family concerning the trip was euphoric, there existed an underlying current of uncertainty that could not be ignored. Though the change was considered positive, it was still a change, a big change.

The Scirica family were leaving their home town of Ribera, Sicily, and a lifestyle they knew and loved. They were saying good bye to friends and family that they

knew for a lifetime. They were trading problems they knew they had for problems they could not imagine. It was a calculated chance but a chance none the less. The calming factor was that they were following the footsteps of thousands before them. There was a good chance that the footsteps that originated in Ribera would lead to Elizabeth, NJ, in a neighborhood known as Peterstown. The plan to relocate

to a community that you were familiar with was common practice. It made the most sense. They would be surrounded by people from their same culture, who spoke the same language and understood their plight. Every ethnicity had built a network for themselves where the community worked together to help each other.

On July 17, 1956, the Scirica's packed up all their cares and woes and all their worldly possessions and began their journey. Whatever problems they would face in the new land were packed away also. There would be time to unpack them after they arrived. For now they were set to enjoy a nine day cruise on the most luxurious ship on the seas.

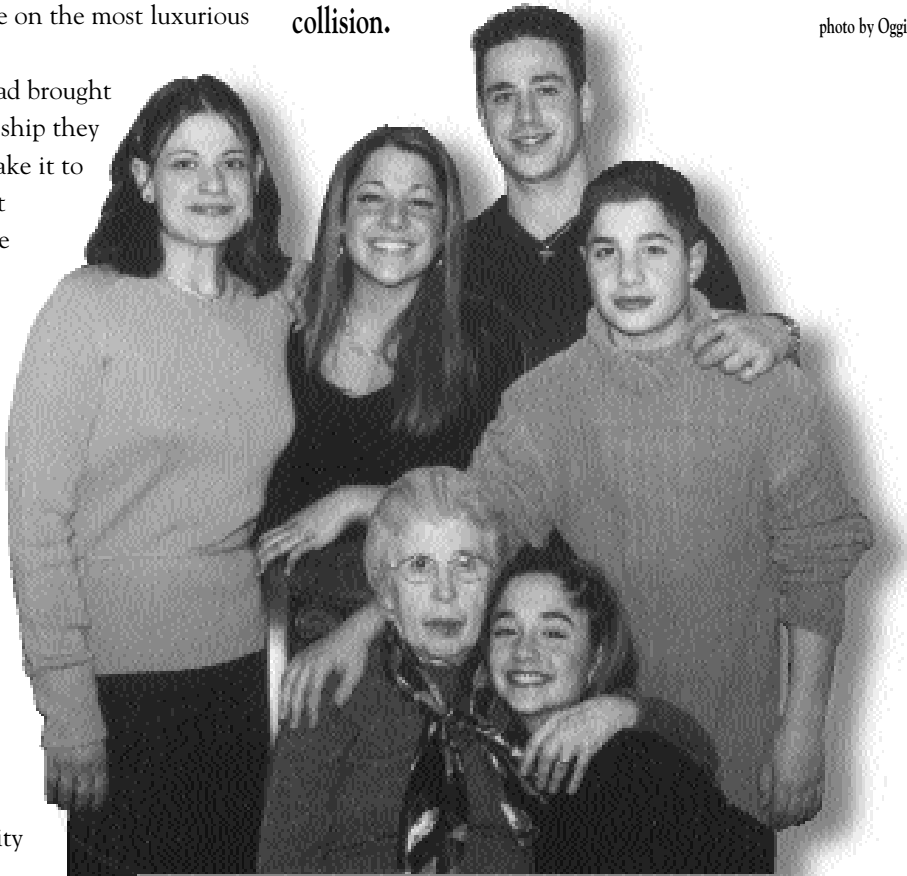
One worry that the Scirica's had brought along was the possibility that the ship they were traveling on would never make it to its destination. Fate would have it that, the evening before they were to dock, the Andrea Doria collided with the Stockholm and the Scirica's found themselves scrambling to survive.

Everyone lost their possessions. A setback? Yes, but a meir annoyance after considering the fate of the 46 who perished. Once in America and in Peterstown the mood of the family began to reclaim its euphoria. For them all was well. They were safe and happy and had an entire community that embraced them. Most of all they had an opportunity to live the American dream. 🇺🇸



(above) Matteo Scirica carries his 3 year old son, Paulo, on the deck of the Andrea Doria in the aftermath of the collision.

photo by Oggi



The Scirica Party of ten included Matteo and his wife Anna along with their sons, Antonio and Paulo. His sister Maria Riggi and her sons Antonio and Pietro. Their sister Guiseppa and her daughter Liboria. Guiseppa and her husband Guiseppe had a second child stateside named Frank. Frank was a big help coordinating this article.

(above) Guiseppa (Scirica) Sortino pictured with her grandchildren. (standing, l-r) Catherine, Julianne, Bernard and Joseph. Wrapped in her grandmothers arm is Loralyn. Not pictured is the newest member of the clan, Cathrine's son and Guiseppa's first great-grandchild, Joseph Brian, just 6 weeks old.

TAKE MY CHANCES ON A BIG JET PLANE

Yolonda Grison was living in Trieste, a city in northern Italy about one hour north of Venice. She was 24 years old and a seamstress by trade. There was much talk about America and the idea of moving was stirred by a campaign that the Eisenhower administration initiated that sought to recruit talented trades and crafts persons.

Yolonda read the ad that promised employment to anyone with skills who

wished to emigrate to America. Yolonda packed her things and booked a ride on the Andrea Doria. Her luggage was sent ahead and she would follow by train, with stops in Rome and Genoea. A brave girl entering a new world on her own.

She was contracted to work for a Sicilian couple who owned a sewing factory in Newark. They also found accommodations for her to live.

In Rome, Yolonda met a man who was also traveling to America but he was going by plane. Air travel was just getting popular at the time and some of the public weren't sold on its safety or reliability. This guy was one

of them. Because he was afraid to fly he offered Yolonda an even trade for her ticket on the Andrea Doria. Yolonda made the trade and wished the stranger a good trip. The plane was to leave from Rome.

This would be the first plane ride for Yolonda and things went fine up to a point. After refueling in Nova Terra, two engines of the four engine Pan Am plane burned out. The pilot had to circle back. After failed attempts to repair the plane the passengers were transferred to another and completed the trip without any problems.

Yolonda touched down in America three days before the Andrea Doria was to dock. The news of the Andrea Doria colliding with the Stockholm spread like wild fire. At the time it should have been entering port it was sinking to its grave. Yolonda accepted that all her possessions were lost and still reminisces about the fine fashions she was bringing over from Europe.

Yolonda took her close calls with tragedy in stride. Just another road bump on the road. On that road she met Anthony LaFace, who was born and raised on South 5th Street in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. They met through a friend from the factory at Club Champaign off Broad Street in Newark. LaFace was on the Andrea Doria three years earlier when he visited Italy.

They got married in 1958 had a pair of twins in 1960 and lived happily ever after. 🇺🇸



(right) The newly-weds, Anthony and Yolonda LaFace in a photo from their 1958 wedding album.



(above) Yolonda Grison in 1956 in a green and white polka dotted original.

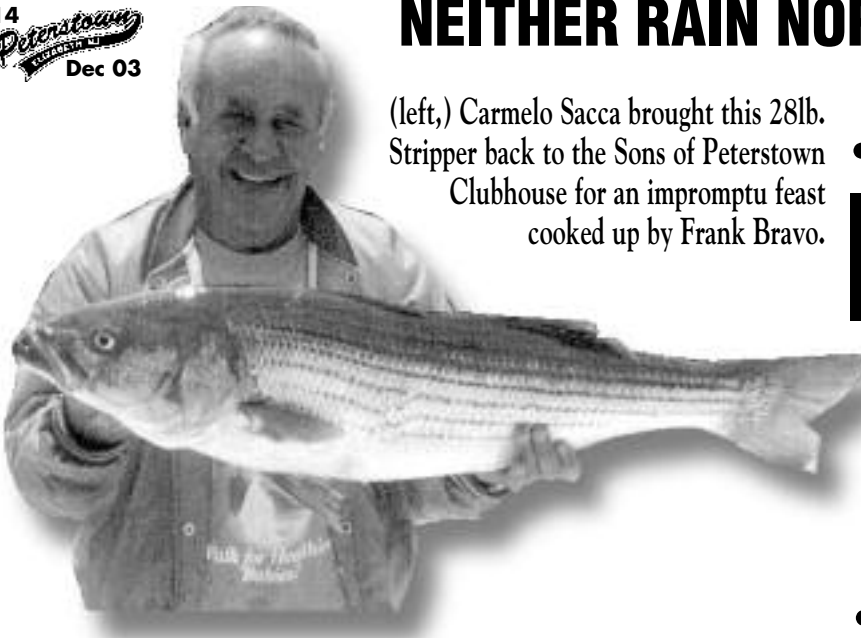


(below) The LaFace Family today: Yolonda and Tony are to the far left. Seated is their daughter Annette and her husband Phil Russo. Their daughter, Angelica, is standing behind them.

Standing in the Back is Annette's twin brother Paul, his wife, Cindy and their two sons , Michael and Nicholas.

NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW NOR HEAT NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT ...can keep me from fishing

(left,) Carmelo Sacca brought this 28lb. Stripper back to the Sons of Peterstown Clubhouse for an impromptu feast cooked up by Frank Bravo.



Not for Nothing But...

teach a man to fish
and you will never
see him again..

It is universally accepted that people who fish are a bit extreme. Then there are an elite sub set that are outright crazed. A few members of the Sons of Peterstown are just that. Given their way they would fish every day of the year.

Carmelo Sacca just wrapped his boat for the winter. He still goes out on charters. He keeps his boat, a 24' Searay named "Justin 1", after his first grandson, at the Elizabeth Marina.

Carmelo along with Frank Bravo and Anthony Sacca would fish year round as much as possible. There were times when it was so cold, ice would form on the line. It is never too cold or windy or wet. The only time they don't go is if there is lightning. They may be crazy but they are not stupid. 🐟

FISHTORIC PHOTO

The photos to the left and on the facing page are from the walls of Navet Printing on Elizabeth Avenue. At the age of 82, Larry Franchini is still working at his pristine letter press printer. He started his business in 1946 and has been a fixture in the Elizabeth business community for almost 60 years. Every Wednesday in the 1950's and into the 60's, Larry and his business buddies, merchants from the Avenue, would charter a boat from a Staten Island Marina and head out to the deep seas with Captain Bailey at the helm.

Larry said that it was a fishing club but describing it as a bunch of friends taking a break from the long work week would be more accurate. The guys loved to fish and they enjoyed each other's company. They always gave their catch away. Their friends and neighbors liked that. 🐟

(left, l-r) Carl Reese, Whitey, Guy Pergouliza, Anthony Foti, Larry Franchini, Carlie Antonucci with the catch of the day, Blue Fish.



A PLACE WHERE FISHIN’ FOLK MEET . . . TO LIE AND EAT

Fishin’ Folk are in their own world and they should have a place of their own where others can relate to them and visa-versa. Now there is a place. It’s Cabin Fever Cafe and Tackle Shop at 15 E. Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park. It was opened by two brothers, Mark and Vinnie LaPrete who think that there are many people, like them, who, if they can't go fishing would want to hang out in a tackle shop and talk about fishing...and since they are hanging out they might as well serve coffee and snacks...and if they were going to serve food they might as well serve breakfast and lunch...and the place should have a few televisions to watch the fishing channel, some funny movies or the Giants Game.

A visit to the cafe is a must because if you're a fisherman you would love it. If you aren't then you will be amazed that an entire subculture exists around outsmarting a fish. Either way the place is enjoyable. Mark owns a restaurant in Morristown, so the food is quality. The only vagary to consider is the hours of operation. The brothers are still working them out. Right now there is a suggestion of normalcy. Since they work full time elsewhere they open the shop at around 4pm Tuesday to Thursday. Mondays they are closed. They stay open until 9ish, give or take an hour. On the weekends they open at 7 or 7:30 am or sometimes 6 if a charter is scheduled to go out. Then they stay open late Saturday night and close by 2 on Sunday. The times are subject to change with the tide, the crowd or marital strife. So it’s best to call 908-620-9300 before you head out. 🍷

(right, l-r) Photo from the 1950's of local anglers, Arthur Scutro, Auggie Milo, “Nash” Nashelsky, Larry Franchini, Guy Pergouliza.

If you’re this girl, please write us. ➡



Recipes

Note: Any fish will do well if substituted into these recipes...

Striped Bass Di Marki

Mark LaPrete
Cabin Fever Cafe' and Tackle

Bluefish Fahitas

Mark LaPrete
Cabin Fever Cafe' and Tackle

INGREDIENTS:

- Striped Bass Filets
- Olive Oil (approx. 4 ozs.)
- 4-5 Cloves of Minced garlic
- 3 tbsp of Red Pepper seeds
- Basil (Fresh or Flakes)
- 1 Cup White Wine
- 1/2 pt of Heavy Cream
- Salt and Pepper to taste

PREPARATION:

1. Heat large saute pan on high flame... add Olive Oil and Garlic, cook til golden brown.
2. Add Fish Filets..cook 3-4 minutes each side (more or less depending on thickness) Til white and flaky.
3. Remove Filets to a warm serving dish.
4. Add Pepper Seeds, Basil, Salt & Pepper to pan, turn down heat and stir for 1 minute til blended.
5. Slowly pour in White Wine (Chicken Broth may be substituted) to de-glaze the pan, stir til blended...while stirring, slowly add Cream til smooth.
6. Pour Cream Sauce over Fish and enjoy with full bodied pasta (Fettucine or Penne).

INGREDIENTS:

- Bluefish Fillets
- Soft Flour Tortillas
- Diced Tomatoes
- 1 cup Lime Juice
- 3-4 Cloves of Minced Garlic
- 1 Medium Spanish Onion
- Finely Chopped Jalepeno Peppers
- 4 ozs. Olive Oil
- Cilantro

PREPARATION:

1. Heat large skillet and add Olive Oil...When hot, add Garlic and Onions and Jalepenos (substitute Green Peppers if too hot for your taste)...Cook til Garlic is golden and Onions are clear.
2. Add Filets to pan (cut into “finger size” strips)... Cook til Fish is white and flaky.
3. Add Lime Juice to pan...Let simmer for 2 minutes then remove pan from heat...let sit for 2 minutes
4. Spoon onto a Tortilla...
5. Top with diced Tomatoes and Garnish with Cilantro.
6. Roll and eat.

(left) We can help folks catch fish, and we help them cook them too! We’ve travelled the world stealing...oops, I mean amassing great fish recipes to delight any fish lover. Right now, these two are getting hooked mostly. Hope you like ’em!

Bon Appetite! From Mark’s kitchen
at “Cabin Fever Cafe and Tackle”

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE CALAVANO FAMILY



(above) The Calavano family (adults, l-r) Carol, Bob, Vito Bellino (Cindy's husband), Anne Margaret (nee Donnigan, Ron's Wife), Ron, and Cindy. (youngsters, l-r, children of Ron and Margaret) Michael, Laura, Monica, and Meghan.

ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '74 EYES 30 YEAR REUNION



Larry Higgins (kneeling second from left) supplied this photo of his seventh grade class. He wanted to remind the class that 2004 is the 30 year anniversary of graduating and would like to spark a reunion. St. Anthony's had two classes for each grade, so this is just half of the students. Rumor always had it that the class

was split according to smarts but the nuns always denied that. Of course every class thought they were the smart one and it was healthy to believe that. Anywho, if you're part of the class of '74 start contacting your classmates and stir interest in the idea. Look for details in the February '04 issue of this paper. 🍪

Every Christmas, Cindy Calavano helped her mom bake cookies to give as gifts. It was a tradition that started with her maternal grandmother, Tina Corrado. The cookies were beautifully presented in colorful tins tied with bows. They were a real treat for the family and friends who received them. And as the family grew so did the number of friends. Production grew to a point where Carol and Cindy were baking up to 400 each of eight different kinds of cookies. Carol's health problems interrupted production but the family would like to extend their warm wishes to their friends by sharing one of their favorite recipes. Cindy suggests baking the Butter Horn cookies as a family. The experience is rewarding on so many levels. It gives a family an opportunity to bond like no other and it is a nice feeling knowing that what you are doing will produce a gift for people you love. 🍪

Butter Horn Cookies

The Calavano Family

INGREDIENTS:

Basic Dough

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 2 sticks margarine or butter
- 1 egg yolk
- 3/4 cup sour cream (6 oz)

Topping

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tbs cinnamon

PREPARATION:

1. Cut margarine/butter very fine and mix by hand into flour (no mixer)
2. Add egg yolk, sour cream and mix
3. Shape into a roll
4. Sprinkle very lightly with flour
5. Wrap and chill for several hours or overnight
6. Mix ingredients for topping together in separate bowl
7. Roll dough into circles (not too thin)
8. Sprinkle with topping
9. Cut into triangles - approximately 1 to 1 1/4 inches at widest part.
10. Shape into horns (fold triangles)
11. Place on parchment paper in tray
12. Bake in oven at 375 degrees for 12 - 15 min (on parchment paper)


JOBONANNO & THE GODSONS OF SOUL

“Soul in Rock-n-Roll”, like the Supreme Court once said of obscenity, is hard to define, but you know it when you see it! Or in this case when you hear it! Jobonanno and The Godsons of Soul have it!!

For the past 10 years this N.J. based band has been electrifying the tri-state area’s rock clubs and concert halls with its infectious style of high energy-rock and soul!

Recently voted as one of the top-ten Jersey bands by News-12-New Jersey, this group has opened concerts for James Brown, Eddie Money, Mitch Ryder, Bad Company, Rick Derringer, Marshall Tucker, Danny Federici, Clarence Clemons, Gary U.S.Bonds, The Monkees, Gary Puckett, Beaver Brown and has been joined onstage numerous times by the likes of Jon BonJovi and Bruce Springsteen.

The highlight of 2003 was performing at Giants Stadium during Bruce and The E Street Bands 10 night run. This past year the band completed a very successful four night stand at the Boulder Station Casino in Las Vegas and is looking to return this coming fall.

JB and The Godsons new CD TURN UP THE HEAT is now available at cdbaby.com and most record stores in your area. 

TURN UP THE HEAT
(below) 13 New hot rockin' tracks performed by the band you all know and love. Order your very own copy of the bands new release!
Call Toll Free 1-877-833-4483 or email: jobonannoband@aol.com with any questions about "TURN UP THE HEAT" \$14.99



(above, l-r) On Friday, December 5th, Bruce Springsteen held a holiday pre-show party. He called Jobonanno to the stage to do a few numbers together. Admission for the show was canned foods collected for The Food Bank of NJ.

Check out Jobonanno New Year’s Eve between 7 pm and 9 pm at First Night at Brick Township.

THESE CATS ARE HOMEGROWN JERSEY BOYS



(above) Jobonanno and the band on stage at Giant Stadium. The band performed ten nights, rocking the crowd before Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band took over. A Boardwalk was constructed in the parking lot of the Meadowlands complete with a ferris wheel, carnival games and beach volleyball.

(right) Jobonanno hooked up with Bruce at a concert to benefit the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation. It was the forth year in a row that Springsteen made an unbilled performance. The concert was held at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park. Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson’s, jammed on the song “Light of Day”, the events theme song written by Bruce. (right) Peterstown’s own Godson of Soul, Louie Fellipe, on percussion.



(above, l-r) Members of Jobonanno and the Godsons of Soul, towns of origin and instruments:

DENNIS MIELE (Vailsburg) GUITAR	BRUCE MARSON (Cranford) KEYS / VOCALS	TOM CREANZA (Elizabeth) BASS/VOCALS	DAVE "G" GONOS (Hillside) SAX / VOCALS
PAT CALABRESE (Bayonne) DRUMS	JOBONANNO (Roselle) VOCALS	LOUIE FELLIPE (Elizabeth) CONGAS / HARP / VOCALS	PAT TONER (Roselle) GUITAR / VOCALS

(right) Sal Angelo
in 1949 student at
Thomas Jefferson
High School.



There are at least five more “brick walls” Sal Angelo is trying to solve:

1. My uncle Vincenzo Virgilio who married my fathers’ older sister was listed as killed in 1917 per his military record. Interesting, since he married in 1919, immigrated in 1920 and 1928 to the U.S. and lived in Brooklyn until his death after 1930.
2. The true death records of my maternal great-great grandparents; Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi. They were alive up to the July 19, 1828 marriage of their daughter Caterina (my great-great grandmother) but were listed as deceased at the November 8, 1833 wedding of their son Giacomo to Giuseppa Puccio. Thus they died between July 1828 and November 1833. But the only two records that exist for a Filippo Pasciuta and Francesca Riggi for this period are death records listing their spouses with the same first name but a different surname. Why a different surname for each?
3. I am attempting to determine if my fourth great grandparents Giorgio Ciacio and Margarita Cari’s three children who married three Triolo’s in Sambuca Zabat in the early 1800’s are related to the two Triolo brothers, Comenico and Bernardo who married my grandfather and grandmothers sisters in Ribera. If so it will show 100 years of marriage between the Ciaccio and Triolo families.
4. There are two other brick walls to be solved, but because of privacy concerns I will circulate their findings only to immediate family members.

BRICK WALL BREAKTHROUGHS

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

Angelo mentioned hitting several “brick walls” during his research. A brick wall occurs when one receives

contradictory or unexplained information during research, which can’t be explained by an original record. Sal is conducting “brick wall” analysis to ensure that his records are correct. The following are two problems that he solved. One concerns his fathers’ family and one his mothers’ family. 📖

BRICK WALL ANALYSIS

OBJECTIVE: To determine the correct name of my grandmother, Caterina (Coniglio) Ciaccio’s grandmothers surname, was it Vita Giglio or Vita Rizzo?

PROBLEM: The information given to me on a pedigree chart from Mr. Ramonido Lentini, a retired lawyer from Ribera, Sicily, was in conflict to the information I had seen on the vital records of Ribera. The pedigree chart shows the name as Vita Rizzo, my grandmother’s mother was Santa Fidanza born in 1849. Her birth record an her 1927 death record list her mothers name as Vita Giglio and not Rizzo, all records show Santa’s father as Giovanni Fidanza.

Other records had to be reviewed to obtain the correct information. The Ribera marriage records show only one marriage of a Giovanni Fidanza and it was to a Vita Rizzo on October 6, 1840. No Giovanni Fidanza marriage to Vita Giglio was found. At this point it really became confusing. The birth records contain both Vita Giglio and Vita Rizzo as the mother to six children and the father being Giovanni Fidanza for all of them. children born to Giovanni and Vita Giglio are listed as Vita (1843) Antonio (1846) Santa (my great grandmother in 1849), and Giovanni (1857 approximately eight months after his fathers death), but his death record lists Vita Rizzo as his mother. Children born to Giovanni and vita Rizzo were Rosario (1841) and Giuseppe (1852).

CONCLUSION: Several points favor the name of Vita Rizzo as my great grandmothers mothers name, they are:

1. If you rearrange the birth years of the six children in sequence they are the same names as the parents of Giovanni Fidanza and Vita Rizzo. First born male and female were Rosario and Vita the names of Giovanni’s parents. The second born male and female were Antonino and Santa the names of Vita Rizzo’s parents.
2. The 1887 death record of their last child Giovanni shows his mothers name as Vita Rizzo and not Viat Giglio.
3. Knowledge of the Sicilian custom of using a “ditti” name must be understood. It was not uncommon to use a “ditti” name in the vital records. Vita Rizzo’s mother’s maiden name was Santa Giglio and at times town officials themselves will use the parent’s maiden name or a nickname. This is also seen in the name of Giuseppa Termine, my great-great-great grandmother who interchanges the name “Proto” with “Termine”. Proto was her mothers maiden name.

OBJECTIVE: Locate the correct birth record of my paternal great grandfather Giovanni Angelo

PROBLEM: All the birth records of my great grandfather and his wife Maria Pace’s children point to their birth year as 1831. I found my great grandmother, Maria Pace’s birth record of June 17, 1831 but could not locate my great grandfathers. I reviewed the vital record indexes from 1829 to 1833 and found several Giovanni Angelo’s but none of whom whose father was named Giovanni. In 1831 there were two Giovanni’s but their fathers name was listed as Giuseppe. However one had the name of my great-great grandmother Mattia Martines. I then reviewed this document, number 79, and initially couldn’t see any connection, until I noticed the marginal note written on the upper left side of the first page, which didn’t appear in my microfilm reader until I inadvertently moved the image. The note when translated stated "In the year 1853 on the 13th of the month of January, I Luigi Coppolo, Official of the Office of Vitelal Records of the town of Monte San Giuliano, in the province of Trapani was approached by Giovanni Ange who stated that the fathers name of Giuseppe is incorrect and the fathers name should be Giovanni." I found my great grandfathers birth record dated March 1, 1831.

CONCLUSION: The date of the marginal note is interesting because it precedes by 9 days the date of my great grandparents marriage on Jan. 22, 1853. Its apparent that my great grandfather had to obtain a copy of his birth record to include in the marriage procession package (this grouping of information was required by all couples getting married). When doing so he noticed the error on the individual record and had it corrected via the note. However the town official apparently never corrected the index of that year. which caused the confusion I had in locating it.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



people nowadays, with

multi-marriages, hit

brick walls when

sending birthday cards

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



(above) Jack Nicholson and Peter Fonda in a scene from the 1969 counter culture movie “Easy Rider”. Nicholson plays a ACLU lawyer, George Hanson, who hooks up with Fonda and Dennis Hopper, who play free wheeling bikers, Wyatt and Billy, are on a search for freedom in a conformist and corrupt America. This anti-establishment film was also directed by Hopper. The low budget flick made Nicholson a star and inspired a generation of young film makers that followed in the genre.



(above) Larry Higgins sits comfortably in the role played by Nicholson. A young upstart up against the machine of injustice. Though he seems unconventional to most, Higgins is a stiff suit compared to the dysfunctional characters in the movie. In fact, Larry beats the system on their turf by their rules. It still wouldn't be a shock to see Larry on his Harley out looking for America.

Besides Larry Higgins enjoying himself, find nine other changes to the scene and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern in the Park. (See form below for details.)



Eddie the Dog creator Sal Arpino is a seventh grader at Deerfield School in Mountainside.

Re-Visions Answer Form

1)

Larry Higgins Riding easy

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

Name:

Address:

Write down as many changes as you can find. One winner will be drawn from the submissions with the most right answers and awarded a dinner for two from our Ala-Carte Menu. Mail or drop your answers off at the address below. Deadline is February 15, 2004. Cannot be combined with any other offer. One entry per person.

Tavern in the Pa

147 W. Westfield Ave. • Roselle Park, NJ • 07204

908-241-7400 or 908-245-SANGRIA

For menu and banquet prices log onto:

SENIOR NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Peterstown Community Center is always bustling with excitement. The source of the activity is usually generated by the various senior citizen organizations that utilize the facility.

It seems that they are ready to party at a drop of a hat and rightfully so. Every day is cause for one celebration or another. Birthdays, anniversaries or a big win at bocce ball. The monthly birthday party draws 250 seniors to the center. Coupled with holiday parties, club meetings and celebrations fill the calendar. The center is also the launch pad and landing strip for the many bus rides to Atlantic City.

The most recent big event was Halloween and three days later the local club The Crestlin boys held their annual memorial mass and community breakfast in

honor of their deceased members and war veterans.

Most remarkable was the two wedding anniversaries celebrated in August. Ann and Russell Harris were married 60 years ago on August 29, 1943 in St. Anthony's Church. They stay active in the Exxon Annuitant Club, the St. Anthony's Senior Club and the Retired Men and Woman's Club of Elizabeth.

No to be outdone, Fances and Vincent Gambino celebrated their Anniversary two days later, but for them the year was 1938, 65 years ago.

The Peterstown Community Center has had a magical, age reversing effect on the senior population of Elizabeth. Nutriceutical companies are investigating to see if the essence of the center can be captured and packaged for distribution. 🐾



(right, l-r) Scene from the 2003 Senior Halloween Party at the Peterstown Community Center featuring Captain Lillian Ulisano, Flapper Louise DiStefano, their Majesties Joseph and Josephine Augugliaro, Count John Novak and his feline spouse Marion.

(above) Ann and Russell Harris celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August.

(right) Also in August, Francis and Vincent Gambino reached the 65 year mark.



HOMECOMING FOR AN ORIGINAL CRESTLIN BOY

Walter Scutro and his wife Elsie trekked up from Brick, NJ to join in the annual memorial service and community breakfast held by the Crestlin Boys Club. Walter is an original charter member of the club which just celebrated its 67th anniversary.

Scutro is the oldest member of the club and shared allot of stories of the past with the nearly 100 people who attended. He got to spend time with many life long friends he hadn't seen in years and was yukking it up

with Joe Nigro as if they were teenagers again.

Walter's son Thomas and his wife Patricia made the trip up from Manalapan along with his daughter Barbara Ferriol, who traveled from Lanoka Harbor.

The Crestlin Boys is the oldest club in Peterstown and are actively recruiting new members. Anyone interested in joining can visit the clubhouse, located at 433 Fourth Avenue on the corner of Amity Street, in the evening with no obligation. 🐾



(above, l-r) Walter Scutro (seated) was all smiles at the Crestlin Boys Annual Community Breakfast. Walter was accompanied by his wife, Elsie; Son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Patrica; and daughter, Barbara Ferriol.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN

We would like to thank everyone that supports this publication. Thanks to those who place advertising to cover the cost, thanks to those who submit photos, articles and letters. Thanks to those who distribute and subscribe. Thanks to all the readers for your interest and feedback. This is the sixth year of production and as long as we see the positive support we will continue publishing. If it is half as enjoyable reading as it is writing then I think we will never stop.

We would also like to thank everyone that supported us during the campaign. The response was tremendous and the campaign was so fulfilling. It was educational and exciting. We highly recommend the experience. A special thanks to the 4,764 voters who found Joe's lever. A more open and honest government is a worthy cause. Finally, we would like to thank God for His divine guidance and hope that His love finds its way into the hearts of those who have lost their way. 🇺🇸

(below) When I look at this photo I think of how we had no knowledge of what the future would bring. In a way it is no different for us now. We should act accordingly.

*With our love,
Tina and Joe*



REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all!!! Especially to the family members of our readers who are serving in our armed forces in Iraq.

As we walk thru our neighborhood the smell and sites of Christmas are all around us. On December 2nd for a brief time we had snow, a sign that winter is around the corner. Then on the 5th -POW! It came. Christmas trees are for sale on street corners, the smell of roasted chestnuts penetrates our senses as we walk our neighborhood. Many homes are decorated with signs of the holiday with reindeer's, Santa Clauses and lights in abundance. Even those who have the most fortune sense this is a difficult time of year. Let us not forget those who have no family, while we are rejoicing. Christmastime is a time for giving. We reward our family members and friends with gifts. These are troubled times for many who cannot afford to give. In your own way if you can, help those who are more unfortunate. You will have a more joyful holiday.

Christmas is a time to give thanks and stop to remember all the good that the world has to give. I have been in the real estate business for 30 years and all homeowners and buyers should give thanks to the opportunity to be able to own a home. Our economy struggled through the last three years. The real estate market has out performed all of our expectations, interest rates have remained low and house prices are skyrocketing making many of our readers extremely happy. We hope things continue the same for next year.

I would like to pause for a moment and thank many of our native sons who have invested in Elizabeth to make our city one of the best in the state. Their efforts have beautified our city and given numerous people an opportunity to own a new home. Albert & Joe Mauti, Vinnie Firetto, Arthur De Maio, John Valenti, Mario Paternoster, George Zeik, Nick Rivero, Victor Sousa, Adelino Pereira, and Fernando Amaral just to name a few. We hope they all continue their efforts and investments.

Some real estate news, very shortly George and Nick Rivero will begin a new construction of eleven new homes on Bond St. and Livingston St. Albert and Joe Mauti will begin construction on two new homes on Christine St. and they are in the process of completing seven new homes on S. 7th St. and High St. plus three more new homes on Amity St. On the corner of Chilton St. and W. Jersey St. the city has approved an 18 story high rise with 365 condo units, 40,000 SQ FT of office space and 40,000 SQ FT of retail space plus a five story parking garage, swimming pool with recreation and health club only two blocks away from downtown and train station. It will be the tallest building in Union County and surely it will be the most prestigious. This will give first time buyers and renters the opportunity to own and live in Elizabeth at an affordable price. We hope that this is the first of many projects so that our midtown and downtown will come to life after working hours.

Elizabeth is a grand old city and now it has an opportunity to become a grand new city!

Submitted by Justino Rosa