



CHOOSE ROLE MODELS CAREFULLY

Most people choose role models based on accomplishments and not how the accomplishments were achieved. In life, the end does not justify the means. In fact, the end is meaningless if the path taken to get there is destructive.

Role models are most important to the very young and become less necessary as life experience becomes one's own mentor. Parents are, and should be, a child's first role model, but a child will be looking beyond what is familiar and want to choose their own role models to suit their own interests. Parents should teach their children what to look for in a role model. That is, if the parents themselves know.

People, young and old, tend to be mesmerized by celebrity and blinded by wealth. The character of the person being admired seldom comes into consideration when choosing a role model. Most people pick a hero by reading box scores and music charts. There are many reasons why someone makes it to the top of their field. Some are outright unethical, immoral and illegal.

A home run record is fraudulent if the ball player used illegal performance enhancing drugs to achieve it. There's no work ethic for a youngster to emulate. A businessman who may be successful but operates in an unethical manner is worthless to a young entrepreneur looking for guidance. Corruption in business, as well as politics, should be shunned and not dignified.

There are people who take on the persona of a character portrayed by an actor, forgetting that it is just a product of a writer's imagination. As endearing as Dr. Heathcliff Huxtable may be, he is not real. Parents should encourage their children to get to know a real doctor. If someone is aspiring to be a comedian then they should find out more about Bill Cosby.

A person choosing someone famous as a role model should be prepared to abandon their devotion quickly. When the surface of their public persona is scratched, and their true character is revealed, it may be very disappointing. News stories of someone's career unraveling or whose life is falling apart because they are unsavory appear all too often. If a person's success was obtained illegitimately, they can only inspire another generation of miscreants, unless they are used as a role model in reverse fashion where a protege learns how not to act.

Someone choosing a role model should keep it simple. The best role models are people in one's own community. Someone from a similar background has a lot more to offer in guidance based in reality instead of a dream. It is much better for a role model to be assessable. Role models at one level will lead to others in the next as people progress. A good role model is never lost, other good ones are added. There is no limit to how many good role models one could have, each representing a different aspect of life.

Look for the people who are the most content, who are happy and who share their happiness with others. The true value in personal achievement is in the contribution made to society on a whole, professionally, culturally or neighborly. Role models are the stepping stones to a better way of life and they are present in our daily lives, teachers, civil servants, businessmen and women, clergy, medical workers ... the list is endless.

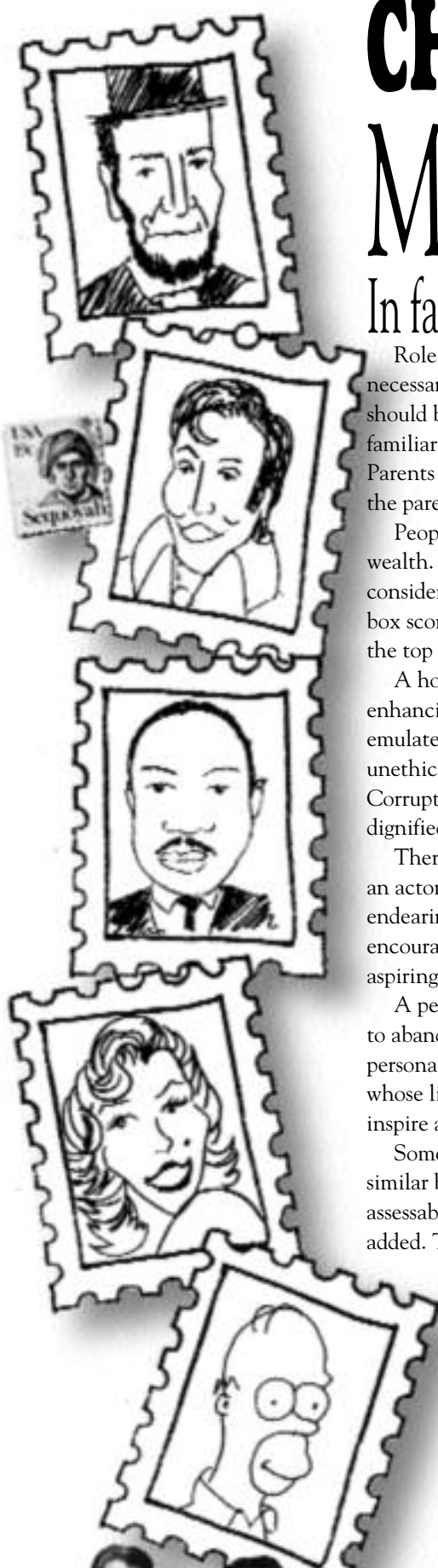
Whom to choose as a role model should be easy. It should be the person who is most respected by their peers and by the community. It is the person whose value system is in the right order. The person who is true to others and to themselves. It is the person who helped you before you sought help. Good role models stand the test of time. Their main traits are honesty, sincerity and integrity; and those are hard to fake over a long period of time.

Fame and fortune can come and go easily. Character is permanent. It is that character, and the values that shape it, that a child sees in his first role models, his parents.



John Basilone, Medal of Honor recipient, killed in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He is the only American in history to win the nations two highest military honors, The Congressional Medal of Honor and The Navy Cross. His selfless actions in the defense of his country and personal sacrifice for the well-being of others will be commemorated in a stamp by the U.S. Postal service.

(above, insert) Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone retired from the Marines but then joined the Navy. "Manila John" was killed during the landing at Iwo Jima. He is the only American in history to win the nations two highest military honors, The Congressional Medal of Honor and The Navy Cross. His selfless actions in the defense of his country and personal sacrifice for the well-being of others will be commemorated in a stamp by the U.S. Postal service.



(left) In 1987, the grammar school class of 1940 of Continental School #3 had a reunion and paid tribute to their role model, Mabel Holmes (center). Holmes was one of the state's first African American teachers and the first African American School Principal. She retired in 1963 after dedicating 42 years as an educator. Though Mabel Holmes passed away over 15 years ago her memory and inspiration will continue to thrive in the minds and hearts of the thousands of students who were affected by her example.



Dec 04

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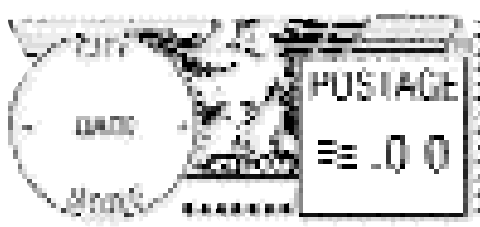
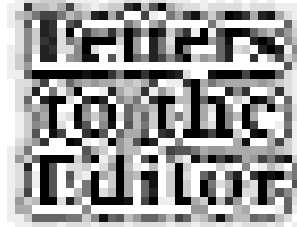
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LETTER POLICY

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

Hi Joe,

In your October issue *Letters to the Editor* you had a nice letter from a Carmen [Albano] Balboni. If possible I would like very much to locate her for we grew up together in the Burg. Her letter took me back to the days when I was a young boy. Her Mom and Dad were very good to me.

Thank you,
Frank Nigro
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Joe,

Just love your newspaper! It always triggers the most fond memories for me.

In the October 04 issue, I particularly enjoyed the letter from Carmine (Albano) Barboni...Remembering the cows and oh those stops at the Silver Moon on our way home from Edison Vocational School.

I grew up at the 200 block of Amity Street with my brother Nat (Red), my sister Nikki, and my sister Carmela. Can we ever forget the aroma of the breads from the local bakeries???

Then in later years, every Saturday night myself, my wife, and John and Ann O'Brian, gathered up our kids and we all went to DiGiorgios Restaurant on South Fifth Street for supper or pizza. Those were the days when a young family could afford to eat out together on a Saturday night.

Sadly, last summer the Lord took both mine and my wife's mom from us. My mom, who was born in Peterstown, was 97 years young. Genevieve Sales, my wife's mom was 87. The family values they instilled in us will be with us our whole life through and we are hopefully passing them on to our three sons, our six grandchildren, and the two little ones that made us great.

Your great newspaper offers a similar function. It opens up and releases many heart felt memories to warm and nourish our beings.

Thank you Again!
Pat Nocera
Thompson, PA

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

When I left Boston six months ago to come to Elizabeth to serve at St. Anthony's, I felt a little like the Baby Jesus. I was leaving all my "Bostonian" roots to enter into the strange world of "New Jerseyans" that loved the "Yankees". I wondered if I could survive in this foreign land.

Now, Having spent a few months with all of you, I realize that you are just wonderful people. Your welcoming spirit, your cheerful laughter and your deep faith have made me feel right at home. I experience each day your love for the church, your concern for your neighbor and your openness to share. These gifts and so many others have made me aware of how lucky and blessed I am to have parishioners and friends like all of you.

Yet, I also think of Jesus and how He must have felt on Christmas Day. He had emptied Himself to become one with us. He was born in a stable because no one could make room for Him in the town. He shared His manger and its few wisps of straw with the cattle and had lowly shepherds celebrate His birth. All this was done for love of you and me.

As God gives himself to us, so we should give ourselves to Him in a complete gift of self, our hearts swept clean of sin and alive with love. Only then shall we truly find Jesus this Christmas Day - and every day.

THANK YOU for being a part of the St. Anthony's Family. We are grateful for your help and loyalty during the past year and we count on your cooperation and good will during the New year for the success of our parish.

My prayer for each of you and from all who serve you at St. Anthony's is that you may experience the love, joy and peace of Christ the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Pat Diver, SDB
and all who serve you here at St. Anthony's
Elizabeth, NJ

President's Message



On behalf of the Sons of Peterstown I would like to thank all those who came out to support our dear friend Big Joe. Dealing with health problems is tough. Friends are an important part of healing and nothing fills the prescription better than the Peterstown community.

Peterstown has extended far beyond the neighborhood boundaries. Each year I see more and more people who have moved further and further away coming back to the neighborhood to attend club events. Most communities shrink but not ours. There are extended families, new generations and friends of friends who keep the neighborhood growing. These are the people that I see at our annual picnic, Super Bowl Party and Valentine's Day Dance.

The Super Bowl and the dance are coming up. The invite is open to all our new friends (and friends of friends). No one ever feels like an outsider. If you have an inkling of coming, don't hesitate. We would love to have you.

Thank you and God bless.
John Sacco
John Sacco, President

PRESS RELEASES

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

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BASILONE STAMP - A LONG TIME COMING

World War II Citation Medal of Honor
Sgt. John Basilone

Rank and Organization: Sergeant,
U.S. Marine Corps.
Born: November 4, 1916; Buffalo, NY
Accredited to: New Jersey
Other Navy award: Navy Cross

The President of the United States
takes pleasure in presenting the
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR
to Sergeant John Basilone
United States Marine Corps

Citation: For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on October 24th and 25th, 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sergeant Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sergeant Basilone's sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sergeant Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

/S/ Franklin D. Roosevelt



Sgt. John Basilone
Nov. 4, 1916 - Feb. 19, 1945



(above) The
Congressional
Metal of Honor.

(right) The Navy Cross.

(left) Wording from the
Metal of Honor Citation.

The United States Postal service will honor World War II hero John Basilone with a commemorative stamp. Basilone grew up in Raritan NJ and it was the efforts of many people who petitioned for the stamp.

Peter and Florence Ippolito of Union spearheaded the last campaign by accumulating more than 500 signatures over the last five years. Pete's brother Joe served with Basilone in the Marines. Pete joined many others who are dedicated to keeping the memory of Basilone alive. There is a foundation that is dedicated to just that. There is also an annual parade in Basilone's honor every year in Raritan. John Pacifico is the chairman and he submitted 6,000 signatures before Ippolito got started.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, called, "A one-man army," by General Douglas MacArthur, "annihilated an entire Japanese regiment on Guadalcanal". Retired from the Marines but not content to rest on his laurels, John Basilone joined the Navy. On February 19, 1945, "Manila John" was killed during the landing at Iwo Jima. He was just 28 years old. For his bravery during that fierce battle, Basilone was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, becoming the only soldier in American history to win the nations two highest military honors, The Congressional Medal of Honor and The Navy Cross.

February 19, 2005 is the 60th anniversary of Basilone's death. There will be a special ceremony in his honor on that day. The Sergeant John Basilone Foundation encourages everyone to attend and to go to the parade in September. 🇺🇸

Find more info on the
The Sergeant John Basilone Foundation
website at: www.sgtjohnbasilone.com

EXCERPTS FROM TWO BOOKS DEPICTING THE HEROISM OF JOHN BASILONE

LEATHERNECK *by Eric Hammel* October on Guadalcanal

On the night of October 24, 1942, the weapons man of the hour was "Manila John" Basilone, the platoon sergeant of the heavy .30-caliber machine-gun platoon attached to Co. C, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv. Basilone

was everywhere at once, clearing jams, calming nervous gunners, replacing parts, and repositioning guns. John Basilone inspired all who saw him that night He became the glue that bound Co. C together, and for that he earned the Medal of Honor.

IWO JIMA - LEGACY OF VALOR *by Bill D. Ross*

But newspapers and radio told millions of another D-Day loss [on Iwo Jima] - Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. Already a Marine Corps legend as the first Leatherneck to be awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II, "Manila John" was leading his machine gun platoon through the fury of Red Beach II when a mortar cut him down.

In 1942, on a black October night in the steaming jungles of Guadalcanal, Basilone had single-handedly wiped out a company of Japanese trying to overrun his position on the Tenaru River. With a Colt .45 pistol and two machine guns - one cradled in his arms after the other was knocked out - he stopped a screaming banzai attack and held out until dawn, when reinforcements came up. Nearly a hundred sprawled enemy dead were around his cut-off outpost.

Basilone was dark complexioned and handsome, had big ears like Clark Cable, and a wide grin. His Italian parents beamed with pride on a very special afternoon in 1943 when 30,000 well-wishers honored him at a gala celebration on the 2,000-acre estate of tobacco heiress Doris Duke near Raritan, New Jersey, his hometown.

"Manila John" blushed when photographers snapped his picture while being kissed by a Hollywood starlet, smiled broadly when an oil portrait was unveiled in the tiny brick town hall, and was shyly grateful for the \$5,000 bond his neighbors gave him. He turned down

the bars of a second lieutenant. "I'm a plain soldier," he said, "and I want to stay one." From earliest memory, Basilone had wanted to be a professional fighting man. He had done a hitch in the Army before joining the Marines in 1940, and had served in the Philippines - hence his nickname.

To millions, Basilone was a hero, one of the first of the war, and could have remained stateside training troops and selling war bonds. Instead, he said farewell to his new wife, also a Marine, and joined the Fifth Division. Staying behind, he told buddies, would be "like being a museum piece." And it wouldn't seem right, he said "if the Marines made a landing on the Manila waterfront and 'Manila John' wasn't among them."

Now, with the invasion ninety minutes old, the intrepid sergeant had one thought. "C'mon, you guys! Let's get these guns off the beach!" he yelled at the gunners just behind, backs hunkered low and straining under the heavy loads of weapons and ammunition amid the blistering fire. The wasplike whir of an incoming mortar sounded its eerie warning; then a shattering blast.

Basilone lunged forward in midstride, arms flung outward over his head. He and four comrades died in that instant. On his outstretched left arm was a tattoo: "Death before Dishonor!" "Manila John" wouldn't see Dewey Boulevard again, but he had won the Navy Cross, The Marine Corps' second highest decoration for valor.

www.sgtjohnbasilone.com

SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE FOUNDATION

It is the mission of the Sergeant John Basilone Foundation to support and promote the principles exemplified in the heroic life of Sergeant Basilone. We commit ourselves to protecting the lives, safety and dignity of all members, active and retired, of the armed forces of the United States.

We further resolve that a permanent and complete record of Sgt. Basilone's extraordinary life and valorous deeds should be created and preserved in the Library of Congress and that his memory should be preserved and promoted as a testament to the highest ideals of our citizens in service to our country. It is for these principles exemplified in Sergeant Basilone's life and for the brave men and women who pay the price for these principles that we dedicate the efforts of our Foundation.

The Foundations goals are to provide assistance for:

---The John Basilone Scholarship in cooperation with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. (Underway)

---Christmas packages to be deployed to troops (completed)

---Assistance to needy Marine families of active duty Marines. (Underway)

---The John Basilone "Museum Room" in his home town Library in Raritan, NJ (Project completed)

---The John Basilone annual Parade in Raritan, NJ (Contribution made)

---Assistance toward the refurbishment of the Basilone Memorial Athletic Field at the Bridgewater-Raritan High School. (Contribution made)

---The commemorative stamp campaign to issue a US postage stamp in his honor. (To be issued in 2005)

---The preservation of the life story of John Basilone. (Project underway)

ANGEL ORNAMENTS CARRY NAMES IN REMEMBRANCE



(left) The Tree of Remembrance



(left) Angel ornament hanging on the Tree of Remembrance in Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home.

(below) A greeting from the Krowicki Family posted alongside the tree.

During Christmas, we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Let us not be sad when reminded of a loved one's absence, but celebrate their birth into eternal life. This Christmas Tree of Remembrance is dedicated to all the families whom we served during the past year. Each angel ornament is a special keepsake dedicated to the memory of the deceased. As you observe the tree, please say a prayer for the families of the deceased, so their burdens may be lightened during this holiday season.
*Wishing you a Blessed
Holiday Season
The Krowicki Family*

The “Christmas Tree of Remembrance” is a beautiful centerpiece in the holiday interior design of Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home in Linden, NJ. The tree serves as a memorial to the deceased who have passed through the funeral home in the year 2004. The tree is decorated with angels, each of whom carries a banner with the name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death.

The “Tree of Remembrance” is dedicated to the families of those who passed and the funeral home management welcomes the families to return during the holiday season to sit and reflect in the room dedicated to the tree display. As a gesture of their appreciation for those who chose Krowicki McCracken to assist in the funeral services of loved ones, the angels are being offered as a gift. The angels are a keepsake that would inspire remembrance for many holiday seasons to come when it is once again hung on a family tree, and passed down generations. 📖

ACCUCARE’S VERSATILE GABRIELE P. JASPER, MD- DEVOTED TO THE ELIMINATION OF PAIN

Fluent in Italian, the versatile Dr. Jasper began his extensive medical training at the Scientific Undergraduate School of Malpighi in Bologna, Italy. He then attended medical school at the prestigious University’ Degli Studi Di Bologna (The University of Bologna). His early field experience includes student assistanceships in general pathology, pediatric surgery, clinical pathology, clinical medicine and radiology at various prominent teaching hospitals in the United States and Europe. After formally returning to the United States, Dr. Jasper attended a two year residency program in general surgery and trauma surgery at Monmouth and Jersey Shore (southcentral New Jersey’s level one trauma center) Medical Centers respectively. He then broadened his medical perspective by completing a residency program in clinical anesthesia at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, in Newark.

During his residency in clinical anesthesia, Dr. Jasper developed a high degree of interest in two highly specialized fields. His love of children drew him toward the difficult and precise science of Pediatric Anesthesia and his capacity for compassion created an interest to treat patients experiencing debilitating chronic pain. After attaining his broad certification in anesthesia and entering private practice, Dr. Jasper vigorously pursued both of these areas of interest within his specialty. While at Community Medical Center in Toms River, New Jersey, as an attending anesthesiologist, he was chosen to handle the more complex pediatric cases along with a normal adult patient case load. Because of his residency in general and trauma surgery, Dr. Jasper also served as

the First Assistant in General Surgery on an emergent basis.

Having been interested in pain medicine since his first year of anesthesia residency in 1993, Dr. Jasper decided to expand his practice in 1996. His subsequent involvement with the Center for Pain Management at Community Medical Center (Tom’s River, NJ), lead to his total dedication to the science of pain medicine. This association ushered Dr. Jasper toward his current affiliation with Accucare Interventional Pain Medicine, “A practice totally devoted to the elimination of pain”. 📖



(above) Dr. Gabriele Jasper at the forefront of pain relief in the spine by performing minimally invasive, non surgical disc decompression in the lower back.

The Den 5

Tiger Cubs must complete a five category program in order to earn a “Tiger Cub Badge”. They are: Making Family Special, Where, Keeping Myself Healthy and Safe, How to tell it, and Let’s Go Outdoors.

Each category has a number of activities that can be performed in order to satisfy the requirement.

The “How to Tell It” category is designed to teach cubs how people communicate. Den 5 put together this page of Around About Peterstown and visited a printing plant to see how newspapers are made.



(right)
Tiger
Cub Badge



Photo by Nicolas Nazario
(above, l-r) Parent leaders of Den 5, Ninetta D'Angelo, Yvette Nazario, Grisel Orlando-Shirley, and Doris Vazquez.

(right, l-r) Den 5 members Andrew Vasquez, Nicolas Nazario, Daniel Shirley, Emmanuel D'Angelo, and Gregory Markowitz,

HELPING YOUR BOY ALONG THE TIGER CUB TRAIL

Submitted by Grisel Orlando-Shirley


The Boy Scouts of America stated the Tiger Cubs program in 1982. A boy and adult partner team with shared leadership. The Tiger Cubs is a family and home centered program that encourages ethical decision making skills for first grade (7 year-old) boys. Tiger Cubs teaches the boys moral values such as respect, cooperation, resourcefulness and to be helpful to others, to name a few. The program encourages them to do the best they can and feel confident that they tried their best.

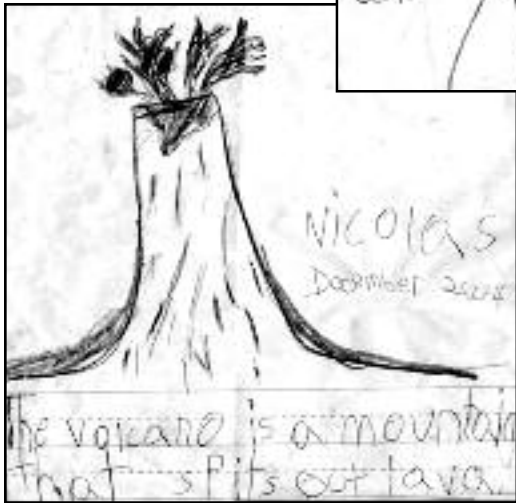
Our den is Den 5, which consists of five boys. The boys are Emanuel D'Angelo, Gregory Markowitz, Nicolas Nazario, Daniel Shirley and Andrew Vasquez all age six. At this point in their lives they each have aspirations to become productive members of society. Emanuel wishes to be a fireman, a community hero and lifesaver. Gregory grows to lay the foundation for a better tomorrow by

becoming a construction worker. Nicolas strives to build bigger and better things as a contractor. Daniel aspires to become a lawyer and defend the innocent. Andrew dreams of protecting and serving, as one of our finest, a police officer.

Combined, our future seems to be secure with this group of boys who, with the help of the Tiger Cubs and their families, will surely prove to be responsible, dependable adults.

If you want your son to learn leadership skills and moral values to last a lifetime, then, the Boy Scouts of America and the Tiger Cubs are for you and your family.

Our Tiger Cubs are working towards earning their Tiger Cub badge. They must accomplish many tasks set out for them during this first year as Tiger Cubs. Including knowing the motto: Search, Discover, Share. 



Art work created
by Den 5 cubs:
(above, l-r)
Daniel, Emanuel,
Andrew.
(left) Nicolas
(right) Gregory



(right) Big Joe, center, with (l-r) brother, Charles; father, Paul, brother-in-law, Paul Baiamonte; and brother Anthony.



FRIENDS RALLY AROUND BIG JOE

Joe Colletti is one of the most respected people amongst his peers. He is the definition of “A stand up guy”. When the time came that Joe needed a boost his friends and neighbors came out of the woodwork on his behalf.

Joe has battled diabetes for many years, yet through his struggles, he remained consistent in his outlook on life - never dwelling on his pain. Even after he lost his ability to work, Joe kept busy helping out his friends and neighbors. Big Joe is one of the most generous people anyone could know.

In the last year, complications due to his diabetes, landed Joe in the hospital a few times and into a regiment of kemo-therapy treatments. The people he helped his whole life felt it was time to show their support and love for their friend. The Sons of Peterstown called for an impromptu get-together and, even though it was just promoted casually through word of mouth, almost a hundred guys showed up. Some who haven't been around in years who happened to hear about the event.

Big Joe's friend's date back to his days in grade school in St. Anthony's and High School in Edison Tech. (Class of '68) and from Labor Union 394, where Joe worked as a laborer after serving in the army during the Viet Nam War.

The guys got together to lift Big Joe's spirits through a tough time, but it was Joe who had everyone roaring with laughter. He's just that kind of guy. 🍻



(above) Friends of Big Joe Colletti packed the Sons of Peterstown clubhouse to show their support. There were many more who could not show but sent their well wishes along. Here are just some of those the club was able to list.

- William Vanesko • Margarita Palermo • Alphonso Ciiberto • Independence Bank • The Ribera Club • Pete Canu • Valentina Coffee Shop • Joe Gabino • Jack Marabella • Peter Vitable • Fran Gurarcci • Anthony Colletti Family • Frank Ferrarro • Mike Dimaria • Nufrio • Rocco Netta • Mike Derosé • Carpenters Local 715/155 • Al Santillo • Charlie Higgins • Blaise LaPolla • Rusty Harris • Russel Harris Landscape Design • Peter Cassano • Salvatore Inbornone • Ed Kirk • Steve Dicky • Jimmy Calavano • Joey Calavano Tommy Wansaw • Mike Wansaw • Frank Nigro • Chris Colletti • Charlie Colletti • Mike Colletti • Carmelo Catalano • Lenny Merlo • Anthony Mirabille • Bobby Lesniak • Tommy Guiliano • Jo Jo Ferraro • John Sacco • Jimmy Palermo • Louie LaBrutto • Jack LaBrutto, Anthony Batitta • Tony Izzo • Frank Crincoli • Frank Bravo • Perry • Joe Renna • Donny Foleo • Nick Schipani • Frank Schipani • Larry Iannacone • Johnny Sacca • Carl Corsentino Funeral Homes • By the Sea/Rockafellas Restaurant • Michael Lomabardo/Labors Union #394 • PJS Construction • Simone Palermo • Alex and Guy DeMicco/Bel-Dee Produce •



(above) Sons of Peterstown president and life-long friend Johnny Sacco, said a few words on behalf of all Joe's friends who were their and those who couldn't show.

VALOR CAST IN BRONZE (A WWII STORY)

Submitted by Peter Cascio

When the word valor is examined, it is defined as: Strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness, personal bravery; courage; prowess and intrepidity.

Sacrifice is often times the blood brother of valor. When we as human beings sacrifice, we are in most cases forfeiting something highly valued for the sake of one considered to have grater value or claim. Such was the mindset of one United States soldier, Medical and Surgical Technician Fifth Grade, Gaspar J. Cascio.

On June 14, 1945, he was given a merit citation and consequently awarded the Bronze Star medal "for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy".

An excerpt from the actual citation...

"...During an attack on enemy fortifications in the vicinity of **** Germany, (**** indicates that the region in question is classified), Technician Fifth Grade Cascio and his squad did, without regard to their own safety, enter an open field that was under intense artillery and machine gun fire. They scouted the area and located casualties, but were pinned down for two hours by enemy artillery fire. Hearing calls from the wounded, on his own initiative, he decided to chance the enemy fire and led his squad and evacuated the wounded through the day and night. Twice during the night they ran into enemy positions and machine gun fire, but continued to evacuate the wounded until the field had been cleared."

At the time, he was only 22 years old, in the middle of a world war that would reshape the globe more profoundly and dramatically than any previous time in human history. Of course like all military men, he was trained to perform under such conditions of duress. Moreover, he was able to cope with the stress and strain of mending the bloodied bodies of his brother soldiers. Bodies and souls ripped by the hell of a war filled with bullets, bombs, mortars, and fear. But no matter how prepared in life we think we are, fate, and the forces that drive it, tend to be tireless in their ability to confound and surprise us more than we ever expect.

There are many ways soldiers arm themselves for battle. Technician Fifth Grade Gaspar J. Cascio was always armed with his faith in God, his medical bag, and his compassion for others.

Gaspar J. Cascio, (or "Red" Cascio to his friends), always prided himself on treating others the way he would want to be treated. His actions in the military were just a natural progression of the man himself.

Even after the war, with an omnipresent smile, a willingness to always help others, and a sheer love of people, Gaspar J. Cascio never lost touch with the young soldier he once was.

The soldier that never hesitated when it came to saving the lives of those who would have done the same for him.

Technician Fifth Grade Gaspar J. Cascio was stationed in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II for fifteen months. His time of service in the United States Army (369th Medical Battalion) was from May 7, 1943 to March 24, 1946.

The 369th Medical Battalion was part of one of the most heralded infantry divisions in all of WWII, "The Fighting 69th".

Looking back now in retrospect, the book of the life of Gaspar J. Cascio had many, many chapters. As a son, a brother, a soldier, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and always a friend, the book's denouement underscored our common revelation that we were all better for knowing him.

We all miss you Pop...Love Peter



Gaspar J. Cascio (Technician Fifth Grade, U.S. Army)
Born: February, 10 1923 Died: February 26, 1989



(above) Most folks remember Red Cascio, pictured with his son John, as a fixture in the Peterstown market as a fruit and vegetable vendor.



(left)
Gaspar Cascio looking dapper in a souvenir photo from Martha Raye's 5 O'clock Club in Miami Beach

(right) Technician Fifth Grade Gaspar Cascio, second from left, in service for his country during WWII.

(below, circled) Cascio in a photo with fellow soldiers of Company "A" - 369 Medical Battalion at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, March 1944, part of "The Fighting 69th", one of the most heralded infantry divisions of WWII.



Company 'A' - 369 Medical Bn. - Camp Shelby Miss. - March 1944 - -

THE FINAL WALL FALLS

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, June 03, December 03 and April 04 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 conducted “brick wall” analysis to ensure that his records are correct. The following is the solution to his last problem. 📖

MY LAST BRICK WALL SOLVED

Submitted by Sal Angelo

In the April 04 issue I stated that there was only one more brick wall to solve, that of my Uncle Vincenzo Virgilio's military record. The records I received from the Italian military district office where on two other Vincenzo's with the same surname, town and month and year of birth. What a coincidence. Both of these documents had them dying in battle. Since my uncle and aunt immigrated to Brooklyn and appeared on the 1930 census these could not be his military records.

I have now received the correct military curriculum documenting his WW I service from Jan. 16, 1916 to his discharge on August 16, 1919. He served in the 4th and 5th Infantry divisions and the 6th and 8th Military Brigades. He received several metals and was granted a

good service conduct award for his service of "fidelity and honor".

I have taken the information I gathered in my research and have written a manuscript, incorporating data from the various vital records. Its title is "Blood is Relative - A Family History of the Angelo and Ciaccio Families". It records my parent's ancestry from about 1735 Sicily to the present. Some interesting bits of information have surfaced in this research, which makes me appreciate more than ever those who came before me.

There is a section I have included concerning my memories of Peterstown. I look forward to sharing selections of my manuscript with the readers of Around About Peterstown. 📖

WATCH AND PLAY AT REX PLEX'S NEW FIELD HOUSE SPORTS BAR & GRILL

Elizabeth, N.J.-Now you can watch all the games in addition to playing them at the area's number one indoor sports, entertainment and recreation facility, Rex Plex, which will now be home to one of the area's largest sports bars.

Rex Plex officials are proud to announce the highly anticipated addition of a brand new, state-of-the-art, sports bar called “The Field House Bar & Grill”. Rex Plex, which was built in 2000, is the most complete sports and recreation facility standing at an impressive 200,000 square feet, and is the only state-of-the-art sports and recreation megaplex located in New Jersey.

With the Field House Sports Bar and Grill, the Rex Plex experience has now come full circle where people can play on the numerous indoor soccer fields, basketball courts, hockey rinks, outdoor flag football, soccer and lacrosse fields and now watch any sporting event.

“This is definitely one of the largest sports bars in the area,” said Randy Taylor, president and founder of Rex Plex. “We are going to have any game imaginable for any sports fan and are really looking forward to the live music and entertainment we have planned.”

The Field House Sports Bar & Grill is a 4,700 sq. ft. sports bar fully equipped with an abundance of satellite TV's that will feature live sports and games including, NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, MLS, European and Latin Soccer.

“It's a great place to come have a beer with your teammates after that hard fought soccer, hockey or basketball game,” said Taylor.

The Field House Sports Bar will also be home to

entertainment many Thursdays through Sundays, including live music, latin nights, comedy, jazz, blues and karaoke.

According to Taylor, The Field House will be a perfect fit for those parents who would like to catch a game after dropping off their children to either play at the arcade, obstacle course or the very popular skate park.

"It's the best of both worlds,” said Taylor. “The serious sports fan can spend time with their kids, let them go play and never miss their favorite sport, especially with the NFL playoffs coming up.”

For more information or directions call Rex Plex at 908-355-7797 or log onto their website at www.rexplex.com.

In creating the facility, the owners of RexPlex recognized the lack of space for the children of the new millennium to enjoy the more traditional sports as well as what is fast becoming their past time, aggressive in-line skating and skateboarding and the newest, hottest sport of all- paintball. In recognition of this RexPlex has recently completed the construction of an all new state-of-the-art X Ball field to accompany their extremely popular existing paintball arena.

RexPlex promotes a wide array of fun, competitive activities in a safe, controlled environment where there is something for children of all ages. At the same time, RexPlex also recognizes the importance of the combination of teamwork, discipline and fair play while having fun in every facet of our facility. 📖

Anyone seeking assistance from a full service commercial bank can contact any one of the Elizabeth branches of Independence Community Bank as follows:

- Alfonso Cilierto, 1st V.P.
Regional Manger
973-286-7512

Enzo Priolo, 1st V.P.
Loan Officer
973-286-7512

Raquez Saafigueroa
Elizabeth Avenue
Assistant Secretary
& Branch Manager
908-351- 4330
- Rosemary Madeira
North Broad Street
Branch Manager
908-351-1000

Lucy Reis, V.P.
Bayway Branch Manager
908351-1000

Maria Leite, V.P.
Elizabeth Avenue
Branch Manager
908-289-1800

Mortgages, business and personal deposit accounts, consumer and commercial loans, insurance and investment services.

INDEPENDENCE IS TRULY A COMMUNITY BANK

The Ribera Club’s 2004 Man of the Year, Alfonso Ciliberto, was recognized for his community service work. Alfonso’s involvement is not only personal but it is an extension of where he works. Alfonso is a regional manager for Independence Community Bank, which gives him the opportunity to be active in many towns. Independence is a community oriented bank in the tradition of how banking was years ago.

Independence has four branches in Elizabeth. The first opening in Bayway in 1986. There are two branches on Elizabeth Avenue and one on North Broad Street. All four branches provide full service banking. More importantly, all branches are active in the communities they serve.

Independence can be found supporting a variety of ethnic and community based organizations in Elizabeth. They take an active involvement in organizations and in many occasions a lead roll in supporting causes. For instance, throughout the year, branches have food, clothing and toy drives. They also host hypertension screenings and blood drives. Employees can be seen out walking the course of the annual Breast Cancer Walkathons. The bank is also involved in many education and scholarship programs. On a large scale, the

Independence Community Bank Foundation has been a valuable resource for many non-profit agencies in the area.

The key to Independence’s success in being a true community service bank is the personal involvement of its employees like Alfonso. In this day and age of revolving door banking it is refreshing to see that Independence hasn't changed the personal way they do business. It is no wonder since the management and staff in the Elizabeth branches have been working for Independence a remarkable average of 20 years. They are able to relate to their customers like family.

The employees at Independence like to think of themselves as a family and that includes their customers. They also treat Elizabeth as their neighborhood. That is why it is not uncommon to see a branch manager at a community event or giving advice over a casual cup of coffee at a corner cafe.

Over fifty people associated with Independence Bank attended the Ribera Club Dinner Dance in Alfonso's honor. That goes far beyond a polite gesture extended to a coworker. For the employees of the bank and their spouses it was like a family get together. 



(above) Independence Community Bank employees joined the Ribera Club in Honoring their coworker. (standing, l-r) 1st V.P. Enzo Priolo and spouse; 1st V.P. Gerardo Otero; Man of Honor, 1st V.P. Alfonso Ciliberto; 1at V.P. Mary Parnagy and spouse. (seated, l-r) 2nd V.P. Ron Schwarz and spouse; 2nd V.P. Ellen Marshall and spouse; 1st V.P. Ron Fraser, and 1st V.P. Robert Beringer.

RIBERA CLUB HONORS ALFONSO CILIBERTO - MAN OF THE YEAR

Alfonso Ciliberto was born in Ribera (Sicily) Italy. As a young child, together with his parents and two sisters, Alfonso relocated to Elizabeth, New Jersey. Today, he continues to reside in Elizabeth with his wife Janine and two children, Pietro and Colette.

Alfonso was raised in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. He is grateful for the sound academic and moral grounding he received from the Salesian priests and nuns of St. Anthony's Grammar School and the Sisters of Charity of St. Mary's High School. Alfonso grew up in the typical American fashion, always involved with team and neighborhood sports and activities. Through all this, his family, particularly his father, cultivated in him an awareness of his Italian heritage and instilled in him great pride in his roots reaching back to Ribera. Alfonso has been a member of the Ribera Italian American Club since his youth and has continued to impart that same sense of cultural awareness to his own family. Alfonso went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University and earned an Applied Banking Diploma in Branch Operations from the American Institute of Banking.

Alfonso has devoted his career to helping local families and businesses in New Jersey meet their financial needs for more than 30 years. His expertise includes retail and commercial banking, business development and sales. He is currently First Vice President/ Regional Manager with Independence Community Bank, linking up with Independence in 1994. His banking experience also includes service at Natwest from 1991-1994 and United

(below) Ciliberto was honored at the Ribera Club's Annual Scholarship Dinner-Dance. This year's recipients were Laura Guarraci and Nick Managinelli, standing between Peter Agliata (left) and Laura's dad, Frank Guarraci.



Counties Trust Company from 1973-1991. Alfonso is a twenty-four hour banker. It is not unusual for him to receive telephone calls at home from friends and neighbors seeking his advice and assistance. His family has become accustomed to the impromptu "business meeting" he usually ends up having whether he be on a trip to the local hardware store, out to dinner with family and friends or watching a soccer game at the club.

In addition to helping customers and businesses in his professional life, Alfonso is also actively involved in public service and civic activity in his community. He is a member of the Elizabeth Host Lions Club, the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, the Gateway Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Business Partnership and the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce.

(below, l-r) Ribera, Italy Mayor Guiseppe Cortese and Ribera Italian American Club Man of the Year Alfonso Ciliberto.



(above, l-r) Joe Amato, Alfonso Ciliberto and Club VP Peter Agliata



(above) Alfonso Ciliberto and family, (standing, l-r) son, Pietro; brother-in-law, Federico Licausi; Alfonso; wife, Janine; brother-in-law, Gino Bisconti; daughter, Colette. (seated, l-r) sister, Rosa Licausi; mother, Cologera; sister, Anna Bisconti.

30 YEAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNION



In attendance at the reunion were:
 (Back Row, l-r)
 Joe Orlando,
 John Gogliardo,
 Rocco DiPaola,
 Joe Renna,
 Charles Higgins,
 Manny Fortunato,
 Mike Milano,
 and Wilma Fuentes/Lydon.
 (Front row, l-r)
 Nick Cistrelli,
 Margarita Martino/Avella,
 Nicolina Verde/Brennan,
 Carmella Borsellino/Petrick,
 Angela Aprilgano/Douglass,
 Patty Dagro,
 Larry Higgins,
 Lisa Lang/Sortino.
 (seated)
 Dominc Sacca.

R.I.P.
 Bobby,
 Mike,
 and Steve.



ON FOR ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '74

St. Anthony's Grammar School, Class of 1974, 30 year reunion was held on October 23, 2004. Sixteen classmates, plus some spouses, enjoyed a full course dinner at La Catena Restaurant on Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park, NJ.

St. Anthony's school and church is located in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth but its parish extended into neighboring communities. Looking back thirty years was cause for a lot of laughs. The classmates attending

(below) The class of '74 was the height of fashion during its eighth grade trip to Washington DC, when bell bottom leisure suits were all the rage. The class never got to meet the President. He was busy writing his resignation speech.

.....

Not for Nothing But...

today eighth graders won't know what being cool is until they wear a bow tie.

.....

the reunion reminisced about those care free days, which didn't seem so care free back then. They did all agree that they would love to go back and relive those times.

The reunion brought old friends together who haven't been in touch with each other for a long time but now reach out to each other regularly. 🍷

(below) The graduation of St. Anthony's Kindergarten class of 1965 recently had their 39 year reunion.



Nice shoes Larry!





NEW FAMILY IN OLD MOM & POP STORE

The Fourth Avenue Deli, or for those who may remember it as Melchione’s Store, or if you really want to show your age, you would refer to it as Rocky’s, has reopened. The store located between Palmer and Amity Streets maintains its “Mom and Pop” status. Like the last owners, Joe and Sue Czylek, and the Melchione family before them, the new owners, husband and wife team Mario and Nelly Mosquera, operate the deli in much the same way with personal, friendly service and home cooking. They have made small changes to the store in its appearance, a spruced up interior and several seats to name a few. They also made changes to the menu. Cindy Lou’s still has all the regular groceries the neighborhood is used to for the home plus they serve breakfast and lunch. The cuisine is both Italian and Spanish, hot and cold. The standard fare, like subs, soda and cigarettes now share equal billing with espresso, cappacino and hot chocolate. The Mosquera family lives in the Elmora section of Elizabeth having moved to America from Equidor 15 years ago. Mario owned a bakery for 15 years and his wife and children all do the cooking. 🇵🇸

(right, l-r) Mario and Nelly Mosquera with son, Edison, and daughter, Gabriela at their grand opening on November 21. Not pictured is their youngest daughter, and deli’s namesake, 8 year old Cindy Lou.



Recipes

Recipes and commentary submitted by Joe Adona

I've always found cooking to be therapeutic. Rather than spend thousands of dollars with a shrink to deal with their stress, more people should try making a roast or baking a pie. It's a lot easier than it seems and always seems to impress others.

The last few years I have taken on the chore of preparing the holiday feast. My mom, God love her, is getting too old to read the cookbook and my dad still doesn't know that the room with the refrigerator in it is called a 'kitchen' (I hope they know I'm kidding).

Here is some of the fare I will be preparing this year. 🇵🇸

Leg of Lamb

Tasty and juicy, perfect for a holiday feast.

Makes 8 -10 Servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 pounds whole leg of lamb
- salt to taste
- ground black pepper to taste
- 6 ounces prepared mustard
- 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced (optional)

PREPARATION:

- 1) Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- 2) Generously salt and pepper lamb. Smear the mustard all over the lamb and sprinkle it with a fine coating of flour. Place lamb in a roasting pan and place slices of garlic over top. Sprinkle with Worcestershire sauce to taste.
- 3) Roast uncovered until desired doneness. About 20 minutes per pound for a pink roast.
- 4) Remove from pan to a heated platter. Use the drippings to make a gravy by mixing a little flour and water. Season with salt and pepper.

Bacon Turnip Mash

Cooked and mashed turnip with savory bacon.

Makes 8-10 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 pounds orange turnip
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 pinch salt
- 2 pinch ground black pepper
- 2 dash garlic powder
- 1 pound bacon - cooked and crumbled
- 4 tablespoons rendered bacon fat

PREPARATION:

- 1) Peel and cube the turnip. Cook in a saucepan in salted water until very tender. Drain then mash with the butter or margarine, salt, pepper and garlic powder to taste. Set aside.
- 2) In a skillet fry the bacon until nice and crispy. Remove from the skillet and crumble. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the bacon grease.
- 3) To the skillet with the 2 tablespoons of bacon grease add the mashed turnip and crumpled bacon. Stir and heat to the desired temperature before serving.

Cranberry Relish

The fresh zing of cranberries
mellowed by oranges and Ingredients: apples (and
sugar!)

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 large oranges
- 2 pounds cranberries
- 4 apples, cored and diced with peel
- 4 cups white sugar

PREPARATION:

- 1) Prepare cranberries according to directions on bag.
- 2) Take the yellow peel from oranges; trim off and discard white part.
- 3) Put orange pulp and yellow peel, cranberries, and apples through food chopper. Add sugar and mix well.
- 4) Cover and refrigerate. Or pour into glass jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Seal and freeze.

Tiramisu

Tiramisu is a classic Italian dessert. Ladyfinger cookies are dipped in coffee, then layered with mascarpone (a rich Italian cream cheese) and dusted with cocoa powder.

Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 egg yolks
- 1 cup white sugar, divided
- 1 pound mascarpone cheese
- 6 egg whites, stiffly beaten
- 3 tablespoons cognac
- 1 1/4 cups strong brewed coffee, cold
- 25 ladyfingers
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

PREPARATION:

- 1) In a medium bowl beat together the egg yolks and 1/3 cup of sugar. Using a wooden spoon stir in mascarpone cheese, beaten egg whites and cognac; stir until smooth. Set aside.
- 2) Dissolve remaining 2/3 cup sugar in coffee. Quickly, to avoid complete saturation, dip ends of ladyfingers in coffee mixture. Place ladyfingers in a single layer in a 9 x 13 inch glass baking dish. Spread a layer of cheese mixture over the ladyfingers; repeat layers, ending with cheese mixture.
- 3) Cover and refrigerate for several hours. Sprinkle with cocoa just before serving.

Christmas Fruitcake (yes Fruitcake)

It's a shame that fruitcake as a species gets such a bad rap. With its two key ingredients - rum and butter - it ought to be a hit. This recipe includes dried fruit, instead of the glowing, candied stuff we've all learned to associate with fruitcake, and is less dense and more cake-like than many fruitcake recipes. It's delicious by itself or covered with a layer of almond paste.

Makes 1 - 6 inch round pan (12 servings).

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/8 cup chopped dried cherries
- 1/8 cup chopped dried mango
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup dried currants
- 2 tablespoons chopped candied citron
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup light rum
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 8 tablespoons butter

PREPARATION:

- 1) Soak dried fruit in 1/4 cup rum for at least 24 hours. Cover tightly, and store at room temperature.
- 2) Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Butter and line with parchment paper a 6 inch round pan.
- 3) Whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon.
- 4) Cream together the butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in the egg. Add the flour in three batches, alternating with the milk and molasses. Stir in the fruit/ rum mixture and nuts.
- 5) Scrape batter into prepared pan, and bake for 40 to 45 minutes.
- 6) Let cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then sprinkle with 2 tablespoons rum.
- 7) Place a piece of parchment paper, large enough to wrap entire cake, on a flat surface. Moisten a piece of cheese cloth, large enough to wrap the cake, with 1 tablespoon rum. Place the cheesecloth on top of the parchment paper, and unmold the cake on top of it. Sprinkle the top and sides of the cake with the remaining rum.
- 8) Wrap the cake, pressing the cheesecloth closely to the surface of the cake.
- 9) Place the cake in an airtight tin, and let age for at least 10 weeks. If storing longer, douse with additional rum for every 10 weeks of storage.



JOE TRAMUTA

After 40 years of working with the Labors Union Local 394, Joe Tramuta finally retired at the age of 62. Joe came from Italy in 1964 and settled in Peterstown on Niles Street. Joe now lives in Union with his family. His wife of 37 years Tina, son Joe and daughter-in-law Janet and grandsons Luca, 10 years old and Nicholas, 5 years old.

A celebration was held on Saturday, October 23 at Costas Restaurant in Roselle Park. Many friends and family wished him well and a good time was had by all. On Thursday October 28, Joe and his wife Tina left for Sicily, Italy to visit family and friends for 5 weeks. Bon Voyage.

ST. MARY'S MARKS 75 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Alumni representing most classes, from 1934-2004, filled the gym on October 22, 2004 as St. Mary of the Assumption High School kicked off its Diamond Jubilee. Throughout the afternoon Msgr. Harrington introduced several speakers including Mayor Bollwage (class of '72) who presented St. Mary's with a proclamation from the City of Elizabeth. Mayor Bollwage reminisced about his years in high school and thanked St. Mary's for the outstanding education he received while he was a student there. In the proclamation Mayor Bollwage stated that "for the past 75 years, St. Mary's has remained a staple in the community, providing religious education and fostering a sense of community for the children of Elizabeth...Through the passing of time and significant change, St. Mary's is still a small, family oriented institution following the traditions of a Catholic Education".

The student council presented St. Mary's with a gift in memory of St. Mary Matilda, high school principal from 1961 through 1987 and St. Mary's newly formed choir performed two uplifting gospel songs.

But the highlight of the afternoon was Bishop Dominic Maconi's blessing of the school, its students

and alumni.

St. Mary's is proud of its long tradition of providing excellence, faith and leadership. For 75 years, St. Mary of the Assumption High School has been preparing tomorrow's leaders in a safe, caring and Christ centered environment.



(above) Mayor Bollwage presents a proclamation to Ms. Malko, St. Mary's High School principal.

2004 CRESLIN CLUB TANKSGIVING DAY DINNER



BASIC SKILLS AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

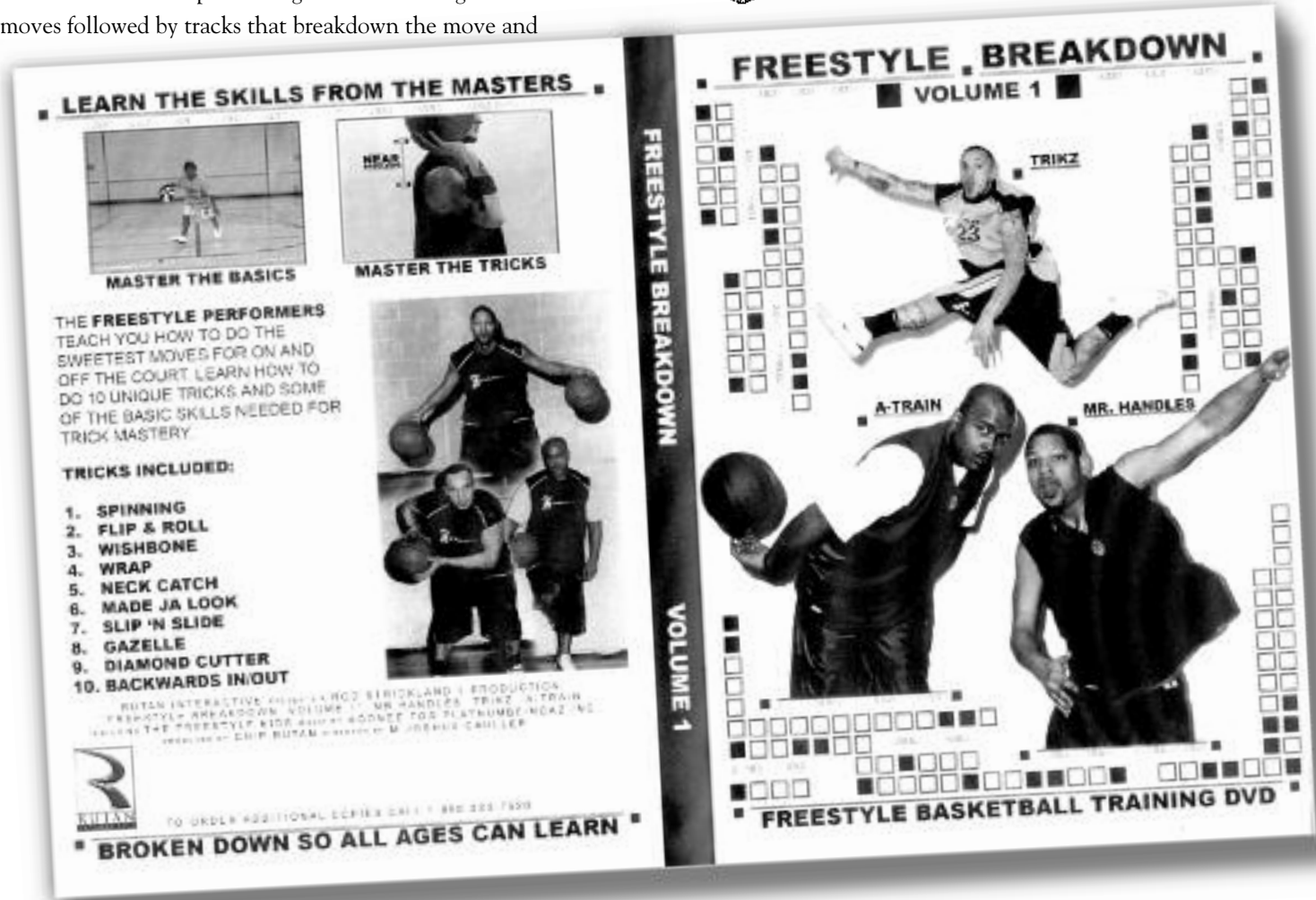
In a few short years, Luis "Triksz" Dasilva went from the playgrounds in Elizabeth to being a premier freestyle basketball performer worldwide. Together with his fellow master ball handlers, Mr. Handles and A-Train, he just released volume 1 of a series of instructional DVD's.

The DVD's are instructional for players of any age and skill level. Tracks include the basics of dribbling and ball handling to advanced trikery. The DVD features tracks of the three masters performing some of their signature moves followed by tracks that breakdown the move and

teaches the skills needed for the viewer to master them themselves. The DVD also includes a grade schooler demonstrating the techniques, just in case the viewer may think it impossible to learn.

The DVD is worth the price just for the basics alone. The tricks supply the most fun. They are even entertaining if the viewer never intends on leaving the couch. Add one or two tricks to your game and you can rule the court.

(right) Elizabeth native Luis "Triksz" Dasilva is a premier freestyle performer for Nike.



Not for Nothing But...

these guys faked me out
even in slow motion.

(left) DVD cover
for Freestyle Breakdown Volume 1
available by calling 866-383-7526.

Only \$19.95

RETIRED MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUB
2004 HALLOWEEN PARTY





From the Renna family: Tina (age 6) Mia (age 7) Angela (age 8) Joey (age 9)
Santa (ageless)

MY COUSIN VINNIE

Submitted by Joan Migliore Hajeski

Where do I start? She was not only my cousin, but also my friend. Her heart was huge; she loved everyone dear to her and gave everything she could without question. She was a loving and caring mother to her boys: Louis, Peter, Frankie and Mark. They were her life as were all her grandchildren. She was eternally grateful to Joann, Donald, Leslie and Jay for taking such good care of her in the last few years of her life. She hated to be a burden on anyone. She spoke so often of Aunt Mickey and Uncle Duke as she looked to them as a substitute mom and dad.

Vinnie and I spent endless hours sharing our feelings and thoughts. We were alike in many ways. We truly bonded talking about high school, our children, our marriages, our families, vacations that never happened, and our hopes for the future. I will never forget our times together.

Years ago in high school my mom and dad went away for a few days and I talked Vinnie into cutting class and taking my father’s car out for a joy ride. Of course, Vinnie

Vincentina Aurora (Mele) Caruso passed into eternal rest October 2, 2004

was reluctant but she agreed to do it and we had a blast. When my parents got back we got caught, because we didn't fill up the gas tank. My father called Aunt Gerti and guess who got grounded...Vinnie. We have laughed about that story for many years.

She has suffered for eight years, and now she is in a better place with her mom and dad. There are no more needles, hospitals, oxygen tanks, tubes or pills. God needed this angel and took Cousin Vinnie.

I will miss her forever, as all of us will, not a day will go by when I don’t think about ”My Cousin Vinnie”.

I love you, Cousin Joanie. 🐾



(above) Cousins Joan Hajeski and Vinnie Caruso

VETERAN GRAVE MARKERS GET THEIR DUE ATTENTION



(above, l-r) Members of the American Legion Bayway Post 260 ready to put flags on veterans’ graves, an annual memorial day program; Vice-Commander Tony Grace, Jim Sennot, Bill Barry, and Commander Pete Beal.

(below, l-r) A footstone before and after being tended to.



(above and right) There is always plenty of work for volunteers to do to clean up the gravesites.



(above) “The Bridge Youth Ministries” from Christ Fellowship Church of Elizabeth and Pastor Carlos Cedeno helped apply “U.S. Veteran” decal's to the headstones of a deceased veteran.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery is owned by St. Mary’s Church of Elizabeth, NJ. It was opened in 1871 and sits on the Newark / Elizabeth city line. Since 1919, over 900 veterans have been entombed in the cemetery. Unfortunately, over the years many footstones (plaques) have been covered by grass and ground. In 2003, the American Legion Bayway Post 260 implemented a program to uncover the headstones.

Post 260 enlisted the help of Boy Scout Troop #23 of St. Genevieve’s Church located in the Elmora section of Elizabeth and the “Bridge Youth Ministries” from Christ Fellowship Church of Elizabeth, along with Pastor Carlos Cedeno. A total of 35 youths and 10 adults have worked on the project over the past two years.

The project turned from grooming around the sites for better visibility and recognition to a more complex project of raising some of the stones. It was found that many footstones have sunk deep into the ground and must be raised to ground level. The procedure is a bit

more complex and costly and requires material and equipment. The footstones must be dug out and the space left filled with stone and soil and then the stone can be repositioned. The cost per repair is \$50. Post 260 has donated \$500 to get the project started. To date 11 footstones have been restored to ground level.

The American Legion Bayway Post welcomes groups and individuals who would like to volunteer or donate funds for this ongoing project. Interested parties can contact the Post’s Commander Pete Beal at 908-789-0948, Vice-Commander Tony Grace, 908-351-3860, or Mt. Olivet at 973-621-2220.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the "Fund Project" may send a check payable to "American Legion Post 260" and mail to:

Commander Pete Beal, 519 Spruce Street, Garwood, NJ 07207 or Vice Commander Tony Grace 1070 Dewey Place, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 🇺🇸

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE RYAN SCOTT TAKES ON VETERAN ID PROJECT

Boy Scout Ryan Scott has been helping the American Legion with repairing veterans headstones in Mount Olivet Cemetery and has also been involved on a additional project. Ryan has taken on the tremendous task of identifying veterans graves. It is part of the American Legion's Bayway Post 260 effort to honor deceased U.S. veterans by placing an American flag on their graves on Memorial Day.

Ryan, together with the Legion volunteers and fellow scouts are applying “U.S. Veteran” decal's to appropriate graves and crypts. So far 100 man hours have been put into the project.

The American Legion does need help in recognizing who the veterans are and are reaching out to family members and friends of deceased U. S. veterans whom are buried in Mt. Olivet to call the post and ensure that the veteran is being recognized.

Those with information can contact the Post’s Commander Pete Beal at 908-789-0948 or Vice-Commander Tony Grace, 908-351-3860. 🇺🇸



(above) Boy Scout, Ryan Scott, on right, took on a huge project of identifying the grave sites of over 900 deceased veterans in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.



REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Happy belated Thanks Giving and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!! Another year is coming to an end. It amazes me, as I get older, how quickly time goes by. It seems that the year just began yet so many things have happened, wars, presidential election, numerous hurricanes, floods, and not to mention one illustrious scandal here in New Jersey involving the governor.

Locally, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bolwage was -reelected with all the councilmen at large.

New legislation was passed concerning open space in the highland area of New Jersey, restricting further growth or as former

Governor McGreevey called it sprawl. The impact of this legislation will directly affect every homeowner and potential buyers in the future. Land for development will become scarcer pushing up the prices on all new construction throughout the state. New laws are being proposed for developers. Which will be combined with legislation for affordable housing. A proposal is now being presented in Trenton for an eight to one ratio where developers will be required to provide one affordable unit per every eight market rate

units. This combined with the restrictions that are being proposed for the highland area and open space throughout the state of New Jersey will further increase the price of land for new development.

The FEDS have raised rates numerous times this year. At present 30 year fixed mortgages are stable, short-term rates or adjustable rates mortgages have increased dramatically. We finally suggest to our readers that if your thinking of buying or selling a home although this is the holiday season this may be your last opportunity to see low interest rates.

Locally in Elizabeth more and more developments and new homes are being built. You will see that every vacant lot in the city will eventually be developed. The trend is now for condos. 2005 will bring in a new era in Elizabeth, where developers will shift from two families to condos and town homes. Communities will be created in Elizabeth that will be self contained and more affordable for the single and recently married individuals. This will surely make Elizabeth a renaissance city. Once, again Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all and keep in mind a prayer for our soldiers. 🇺🇸

Submitted by Justino Rosa