



THE “HAVES” AND “HAVE NOTS”

There is a tendency for people who reach a higher level in their socioeconomic scale to totally forget the realm they left. They deny the compassion they once sought when they had less means of fulfilling their needs. The energy needed to ignore those less fortunate is more than that spent accumulating riches.

People convince themselves that what they have has been earned independent of any societal cause or effect. Erased from the debit list is any service that does not have a written receipt. Kindness, compassion and caring are seldom paid back. Yet without that favor or referral or absolution no progress would have been made. It is the kindness of others that allow resources to flow from one hand to the next and not the aggression of the grabber.

Justification for a job well done is measured quantitatively. There is no place in the cost/benefit analysis equation to interject a value of oppression. To acquire wealth one must cause money to flow to one spot, namely a bank account. There is a void left from where that money came. Since the flow ascends vertically the people lowest on the chain have no opportunity to replenish their resources. People who have nothing also lack the ability to acquire more than what it costs to live.

The same people who have convinced themselves that they earned and deserve what they have are blind to the sacrifices that were made on their behalf by people in their lives. Not just parents and grandparents but neighbors, educators and clergy. There is a whole host of volunteers working in charitable organizations who generously give their time and money to help those who have the least. What is given to these people eventually finds its way up the socioeconomic ladder. The benefit in helping the poor eventually benefits the rich but very few rich recognize this or chose to address it.

People are in poverty not because of the lack of money. What they lack, more importantly, is the means of earning it. Lack of opportunity, handicapped abilities, health and environmental tragedy can cause someone's world to come crashing down with no way up. People can find themselves in a crisis through no fault of their own. The only cure is the compassion of others.

Billy Higgins checked into a hospital with chest pains. The doctors figured it was caused by a kidney malfunction. An X-ray revealed that Billy only had one kidney. He is 52 years old and has always been in good health. This was the first time he ever knew he only had one kidney. And now it was failing.

Billy felt this was a death sentence. Without a transplant he would not make it. He knew the difficulty of finding a donor. His only son was not a match and other family members were not suitable either. Without hesitation his nephew, Charles Higgins, stepped up and offered his.

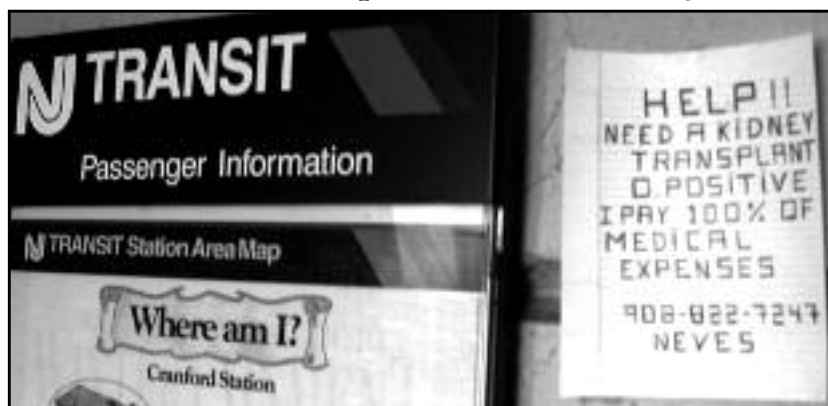
He went through a litany of tests, passing each one over the course of 9 months. Charles is 43 and realizes the risk he is putting himself at. He says its small compared to the risk his uncle has if he doesn't do it.

In contrast of the Higgins story is that of Padro Neves of Plainfield. Padro is 44 years old and had kidney disease for seven years. He is finding it very hard to find a donor. He has exhausted every source he knew. Family and friends either don't match or do not

want to take the risk. His wife Amy took to asking the public. Even posting written flyers at train stations. Except for a few offers from people looking for payment in return, which is illegal and a bit ghoulish, they have come up empty.

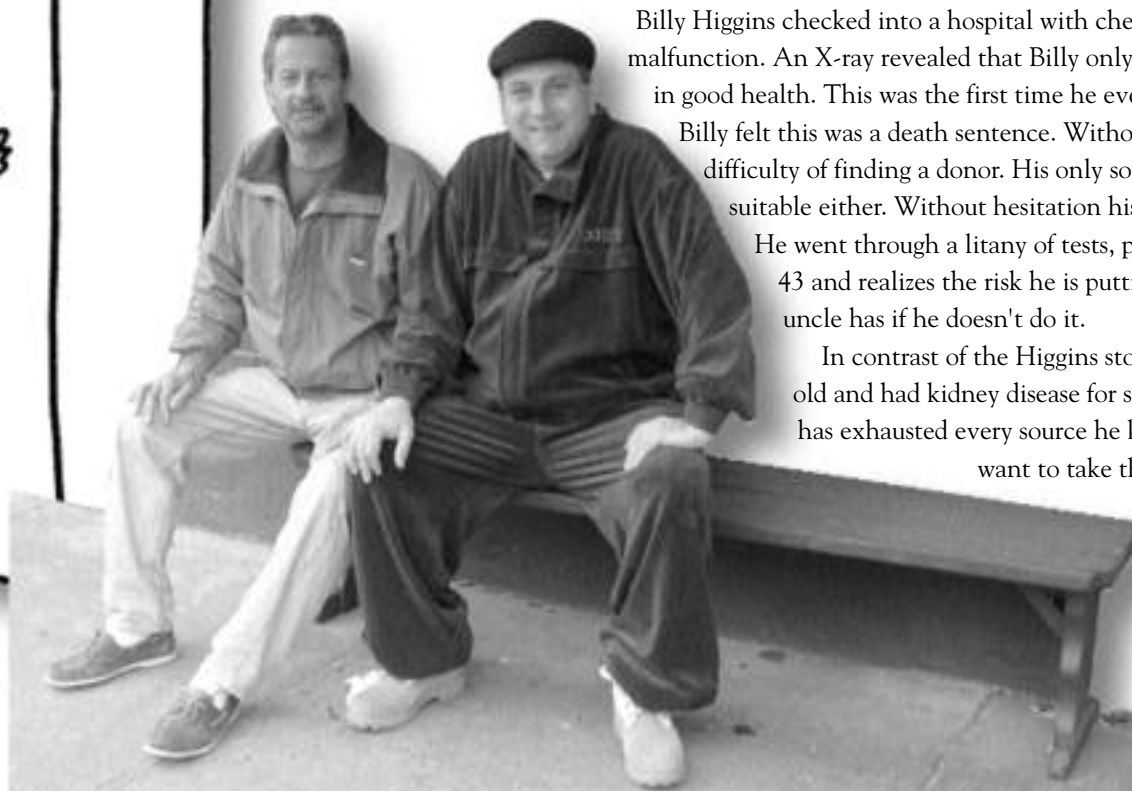
These two cases show the fine line between the “Haves” and “Have Nots” and that the terms can refer to more important things than money.

(left, l-r) Billy Higgins will be the recipient of a kidney donated by his nephew Charles.



(above) In a hand written flyer posted at train stations by his wife Amy, Padro Neves seeks a kidney donor. The flyer reads:

**HELP!! NEED A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT
O POSITIVE.
I PAY 100% OF MEDICAL EXPENSES
908-822-7247 NEVES**



Around About Peterstown is published by Joe Renna. Fifteen thousand newspapers are printed and distributed bi-monthly, free throughout the County of Union and parts unknown and by subscription across the country. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Around About Peterstown assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Around About Peterstown welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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President's Message



The Sons of Peterstown Super Bowl party is one of the neighborhood's best events. It is one of those events where the people are what makes it special.

There are friends at the Super Bowl party who don't have the opportunity to see each other often. This party has a special way to get friends, who may have hung out on a daily basis as kids, together again, and the casual setting brings them back to those old days. Every year for eight hours on a cold Sunday it feels like we went back in time.

The party gets over 80 guys together. We encourage the regulars to bring along friends who may not be from the neighborhood and it is great to see new faces who are now new friends.

What I enjoyed most was seeing a whole new generation attend. Guys brought their sons along in the past but all of a sudden they don't seem like kids anymore. This year the kids came on their own. As I looked at all the young faces, I saw the future of the community. Our sons are building their friendships the same as we did. They are establishing their own traditions and this Super Bowl party is one of them.

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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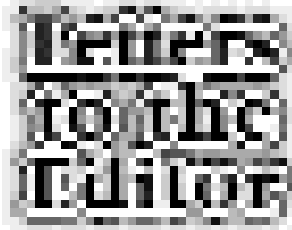
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LETTER POLICY

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.

Hi Joe !

I just saw the page you did in the Dec 03 issue on JoBonanno and the Godsons of Soul. Wow! What a pleasant surprise.

I joined the band last year and had a very busy and really fun 03 playing Rock-n-Roll in many cool venues and meeting allot of interesting and famous people.

On behalf of the band, let me thank you for the great article. I was REAL happy to see it. Great job !

Thanx!
 Lou Felipe



Dear Joe Renna,

Just wondering if you are related to anyone from Lyndhurst. My Name is Jeff Ranne. My Great Grandfather Angelo was from Aveolene, Italy, but before the gavones at Ellis Island misunderstood his Italian accent and wrote Ranne, it was however - Renna, at that time in history. His two brothers were able keep the Renna name, if you have time to respond please do.

God bless,
 Jeff Ranne(Renna)
 Lyndhurst,NJ

Dear Joe,

I recently came across some old pictures which I thought would be of personal interest to you (below). Your grandmother, Fanny Renna, is in them. She was a very good friend of my Aunt Rose Ingallinera. In fact, she was my Aunt Rose's maid of honor when my aunt got married.

As a young man, your father's family were our tenants in our two family home on Fifth Street. Our families became very close and your grandmother was included in all our family gatherings.

Every tuesday night, at 8 pm, she came upstairs to watch the Milton Berle show with us because she did not have a TV. Fanny had a great sense of humor and we enjoyed her company and laughter.

Another note of interest is that your grandfather, Nick Renna, worked with my father at General Aniline in Linden.

Josephine Loria Vincenti
 Clark, NJ

Hello Joe:

I have received your publication for December 03. Page 10 has a great picture of six guys from Peterstown enjoying the boardwalk at Atlantic City in 1934 (above). The great looking guy on the extreme right is NOT Ciccarelli. He is my father-in-law William "Willy" Stanziola. Willy operated the Cadillac Barber Shop on East Jersey St. next to the Ritz Theatre for many years. He later moved to New Port Richey, Florida in 1973. He passed away at the age of 88 in 1995 and his wife, the former Aileen Dalton died in 2002 at the age of 94.

I was born on John Street in 1926, the son of Antonio and Francesca (Tagliavore) Conte. My brother was the late Anthony E. Conte (former Councilman and Assistant Superintendent of Schools).

Presently, I live in Punta Gorda, FL and enjoy reading the paper and seeing the similarity in the faces of the new generation to their parents who are from my generation. Keep up the good work and best of luck in all your endeavors.

Leonard (LEN) Conte
 Punta Gorda, FL



(above, seated, l-r) Josephine's family Celebrating New Years Eve 1949, her cousin Connie Scibano, grandfather Joseph Fascella, Victor Loria, Carmine and Rose Ingallinera, Fanny Renna, Her father Philip holding baby Joe Loria. (Standing, l-r) Aunt Josephine Fascella, Josephine (Loria), and mother Vita Loria.

(left, l-r) Dressing their 1947 Christmas tree with decorations are Josephine's Aunt Josephine, Fanny, and her Aunt Frances Fascella.

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

The cover story of Charlie Higgins donating his kidney to his uncle, Billy, has had a profound effect on me. Charlie is basically risking his own life to save that of his uncle's. It is an ultimate act of unselfishness. What makes it more special is that he must plan for almost a year to do it. This is not a spontaneous act or reactionary response. At a time when it is hard to find compassion in people, Charlie has restored my faith in the nature of man being good.

It is one thing when people of need are deliberately not attended to but recently there has been so many instances where the suffering is deliberately caused. It has gotten to a point where I questioned if it is possible to remedy societal ills at all.

The article on page 7, which brings to light the plight of homeless children, questions the effectiveness of the system that is in place to help them. One of the primary roles of government is to correct inefficiencies in society that strip some people of their basic human needs. It is heart breaking to think that those given the power to do so actually do the opposite.

What we are dealing with is a case of the "haves and have nots". On a personal level Billy Higgins was blessed with having his nephew in his life. In contrast, Padre Neves is not as fortunate. It leads to thinking of those, like the Arroyo family, who have nothing and no one.

I've gained so much appreciation for growing up in Peterstown because, even though the community was not affluent, it was rich in humanity. The compassion and love that was shared by neighbors overcame adverse circumstances. The greatest thing one could have is the simplest to supply - some one to call.

Last year, on Mothers Day, Edward Sinclair Jr., 17 years old, hung himself while in custody in the Union County Juvenile Detention Center. He was convicted of stealing a bike. For years, the state has cited the county for neglect and mismanagement of the center. Still the county is has not made it an initiative.

Edward was a "Have Not". He had no one to call for help. He suffered excessively for his crime. I look at the

people I meet each day through work and socializing and think how no one I know runs the risk of ever having their child locked up. They all have means to avoid it. They all have some one to call.

About the same time Edward was going through his ordeal, the son of one the county freeholders was involved in a hit and run accident. He was young, probably panicked and left the scene. A stupid thing to do? Sure. Dumber than stealing a bike? You decide. The fact of the matter was that a few phone calls were made and the young driver was retrieved back to the scene and a very serious lesson was learned.

This kid probably would never do something as irresponsible again as long as he lives. One could argue that justice was served. Whatever reparations had to be made, his daddy must have taken care of them. He was given a second chance. The "Have Nots" don't even get a first chance. 🍷



Not for Nothing But...

the "Haves" are more concerned about keeping what they have than the "Have Nots" are about gaining it.



(First row, l-r) Stephanie George, Samantha Caporaso (MVP award for the tournament) TinaMarie Rodriguez, Vanessa Moncada. (Second row, l-r) Allana Bennett, Natalie Chiribao, Stephanie Moncada, Ana Clara Morelli. (Third row, l-r) Assistant coaches: April Chowanec, Rebecca Burgos, Angelica Garcia. (In back) Assistant coach: Gloria Rodriguez. (not shown) Head Coach Mr. Kevin Rodriguez Assistant Coach Roland Martinez.

ST. A'S GIRLS B-BALL CHAMPS

On Saturday, January 3rd, the girl's basketball team of St. Anthony's School won the 2003 Christmas Tournament vs. St. Genevieve's School of the girl's division of the Parochial Grammar School Basketball League. The score was 24 to 16. Individual trophies were presented to each player by the mayor along with a school trophy. This was the first time the girl's division had a Christmas tournament. We congratulate the players and their coaches for this great accomplishment. 🍷

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS HONORED

January held Catholic Schools week and the feast days of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint John Bosco. During the celebration of the Eucharist, Deacon Joe Caporaso shared stories of these two great saints and their call to be educators of the young and the powerful marks they left on our school system. 🍷

ST. JOHN BOSCO (1815-1888) Patron Saint of Editors

John Bosco lost his father at the tender age of two, but spent most of his life as a "father" to hundreds of poor boys in Italy. He tended to the roughest of street children with unfailing love and limitless patience. John Bosco taught the boys trades that would allow them to create a life for themselves off the streets. He built churches, performed miracles of healing, wrote popular books and founded the order of salesians. Pope Pius XI canonized John Bosco in 1934, saying, "In his life the supernatural almost became natural and the extraordinary, ordinary".



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774-1821) First American-Born Saint

St. Elizabeth was the first American-born citizen to be canonized. She lost her mother at an early age and later in life became widowed after ten years of marriage. Originally a Protestant, she entered the Catholic Church. She became known as "Mother Seton" and in 1812 founded the Sisters of Charity. She was beatified in 1963 and canonized in 1975.



CHURCH DEDICATES THREE NEW STATUES

Saint Anthony's Church held a ceremony on January 25, 2004 to dedicate three new statues that were placed on the church grounds. A space was made along Third Avenue, in front of the rectory to accommodate the life size statues and the new landscaping that surrounds them.

The first statue is of Don Bosco, the founder of the Salesians, which is the order of priests and nuns who have ministered and taught at the church and school. It is fitting that Don Bosco is depicted with children by his side. Don Bosco dedicated his ministry to troubled youth by helping hundreds of poor children in Italy.

The statue of Don Bosco came from Italy and was paid for by the Salisian Fathers.

The second statue is that of Saint Jude. It was one of the favorite saints of Jacob Maurigi. Jacob was an usher at St. Anthony's. He was well loved and well respected for his dedication to the church. The statue replaces one of Saint Jude that was damaged. It was made in America and is a gift to the church from family and friends of Jacob Maurigi.

The third statue is of Saint Francis, the patron saint of the Franciscan order of priests. The statue, which was also crafted in America, was given to the church by Jennie Cicchitto in memory of her son, Frank, who was a Franciscan Brother.

Trees used in the landscaping were donated in memory of Dominic and Mary Sancilardi. 🍷



FAIRY TALES DO COME TRUE

When Alyssa Cohen turned 6 years old, she had a very special birthday party. Everybody who attended was a princess. The party was held at Dimensions Hair Salon in Avenel. Alyssa's parents, King Scott and Queen Joanne, whose castle is located in Union, NJ, hosted the gala.

Joanne (nee Paranella) is a long time regular customer of the salon and a friend of owner Karen (Iazetta) Kotas. The pair held the theme party on a Sunday when the salon is closed. During the party Karen and hair stylist Denise (Steele) Konca transformed 13 little girls, who arrived dressed in gowns, into little princesses. The day of beauty included hair, nails and makeup. The girls played games and enjoyed pizza, snacks and birthday cake.

Karen and Denise enjoy the parties as much as the guests. The parents of the girls also have a great time. Anyone interested in booking a Princess party can call Dimensions at 732-636-6677. 🏰



Not for Nothing But...

no princes were invited
because they were
considered yukkie.



(above, l-r) Birthday girl, Alyssa (6) and her sister Jessica (3) are transformed into princesses like magic.

(left) Alyssa's party was attended by all her princess fiends, like Bel, Snow White and Cinderella.



PORTRAIT OF THE HIGGENS FAMILY

One reason many people knew the Higgins family from Peterstown was because the family was so big. Billy Higgins, who is featured on the cover story of this newspaper, is the youngest of 14 children, 12 boys and 2 girls.

Bill's brother Charles and his wife Millie are parents to Bill's nephew, Charles Jr., who will be donating his

kidney to his uncle. Charles and Millie also have a son David and a daughter Millie. Bill has one son, whose test revealed he was not a match for the transplant. Charlie Jr. has two sons of his own, Charlie III and Cody.

The community of Peterstown wishes the family the very best, a speedy recovery and good health in the future. 🏰

(left, l-r) Charles III, Cody and Charles Jr.

(below, l-r) 1991 photo of the elder Higgins clan, Joe, Billy, Fran Occhuizzi, John, Charles and George.



SPIRITO'S FIRST FILM HITS HOME & HEART

Submitted by Anthony Spirito

INTO THE ARROYO is a documentary film about Jose Arroyo and his family who lived at the Emergency Residence Shelter (ERP) of the YMWCA in Newark, NJ. In this one-hour documentary, we watch Jose, age 12, the middle of three children, struggle to cope with the multiple stresses of shelter life, uncertain meals, illiteracy, and parental abuse.

I met Jose among a group of children in Military Park in Newark, NJ. It was 7:30am and the children were unattended, so I naturally asked where they'd come from. "The Y," they said.

I learned that 200 children (approximately 300 individuals in total) live at the YMWCA at 600 Broad Street, forced into the shelter by unemployment, drug abuse, or as in the case of the Arroyos, by fire. The Arroyo's stay at the Y was cut short due to the implementation of the Welfare Reform Act, first initiated in 1996, which permanently ended financial assistance for families that had been on Welfare for five or more years. INTO THE ARROYO plays itself out under the storm clouds of permanent, irreversible eviction.

The film has multiple purposes: 1) to raise awareness of the enduring homeless problems and the potential epidemic unleashed by the 1996 Welfare Reform Act; 2) to shed light on the structural barriers to escaping poverty; 3) to explore the "flip-side" of charity and the ways in which welfare "benefits" are often anything but; and 4) to witness the love within a family even as it bends under the weight of its transitory existence.

Equally important, the film will reach other homeless children so they may relate to Jose's experience and see their own lives reflected through the eyes of a peer. Jose's charm, charisma, and innocent wisdom suffuses and buoys the film. His hardships have not made him cynical or angry.

Two days into the filming, Jose's stepfather, Pedro, returned from prison. The re-introduction of the stepfather into the lives of the family created a world of tensions and dilemmas the film tries to explore. Pedro wouldn't allow me to film him. He appears initially only as a disembodied voice or physically as a powerful presence. Pedro's return launches a theme in the film of discipline and control. Challenging the present-day, "hands-off" theory of child rearing, Pedro's ideas and

behavior seem atrocious and cruel at times, but Pedro speaks what he believes to be his "truth".

A major subplot of the film is Jose and his sisters, Denise and Keishla's participation in the Military Academy of NJ, a voluntary Military School, run by Commander Jose Lopez. Parents turn to the Military Academy when their disciplinary measures at home no longer work. The discipline and instruction Jose learns at the Military Academy is in stark contrast (and sometimes surprising overlap) with that offered by his mother and stepfather at home.

When the children's relationship with Pedro begins to deteriorate, it is the Military Academy instructors the children turn to and ask to intervene on their behalf, setting up a struggle for the children's hearts, minds, and safety.

In April, discussions began between Olga (Jose's mother) and the Program Director of the ERP about where the family would move when their stay at the ERP ended. Olga told the director she was moving in with a friend in Camden, NJ, but all along planned to move to Bridgeport, Connecticut, where Pedro was living after breaking parole for a third time.

I discovered this truth on the day of the move when Pedro called me to say that I was "the only one he could trust" to deliver his family safely to him without being "turned in." I took the family out of the fire and into the frying pan - something I never anticipated as a human, let alone as a filmmaker. Lines crossed? Without a doubt; and though I make no effort to moralize or excuse my behavior, I anticipate the film will end with the Arroyo's forced exodus from the YMWCA. Soon after, the family moved to Puerto Rico.

In October 2003 I flew to Puerto Rico to follow up on the family and give the movie viewer an update on Jose, now 14 years old.

Not only does INTO THE ARROYO render the simple details of children trying to cope with their everyday surroundings, it provides insight and understanding into the functioning and effectiveness of the current welfare and emergency relief systems in the United States, particularly as it relates to children. INTO THE ARROYO shows a family slipping through the fraying safety net of social services despite the best efforts of many caring individuals. 🐾



(above, l-r) Into the Arroyo cast, Olga, Keishla, Pedro, Denise, Anthony and Jose.

MEET THE MAKER

When Anthony Spirito is not bartending at the family restaurant, Spirito's, he is promoting his first film, Into the Arroyo. Spirito lives in Peterstown on South Street. He is the son of Anthony and grandson of Dr. Michael Spirito. He is a self taught film maker and his film which is playing on the festival circuit has received great reviews. He is now trying to secure a distributor.

In November 2000 Anthony was awarded a film fellowship from Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience which enabled him to begin work on the feature length documentary.

The next local showing of the film will be on March 10, 2004 at The Dana Library in Rutgers University's Newark campus.

Visit Spirito's website <http://asfilms.tripod.com> for more info about him, the film and his other projects.

He can be reached by email at aspirito70@hotmail.com or drop by the Restaurant on a night he is working. 🐾



(above, l-r) Elizabeth's 4th Ward Councilman, Carlos Alma. Mayor Chris Bollwage, Dianetics Foundation's Jodi DeSena and Mission Holder Michele Kenny stand under clock during the dedication celebration of L. Ron Hubbard Park. The park was adopted by the Church of Scientology which was founded by L. Ron Hubbard (insert) who passed away in 1979. Kenny owns the foundation center and has filed the role of director of the 125 member organization.

(below) A letter shows the hoop-la that surrounded the L. Ron Hubbard and his Aberdeen Road residence (below, right) in the wake of his book hitting number one on the best sellers list.

ELIZABETH IS BIRTHPLACE OF DIANETICS

Submitted by Sharyn Runyon

Because Dianetics began in Elizabeth, and because some famous people like John Travolta are Dianetics adherents, many are curious about Dianetics. Dianetics comes from the Greek word DIA (through) and NOUS (soul). L. Ron Hubbard further defines Dianetics as what the soul is doing to the body, through the mind.

Author and humanitarian, scientist, aviator and engineer, L. Ron Hubbard lived in Elizabeth on Aberdeen Road in 1950 when his book *Dianetics, The Modern Science of Mental Health* was released to the public. The book is a methodology that can easily be learned to alleviate unwanted sensations and emotions, irrational fears, and psychosomatic illnesses (illnesses caused by mental stress). The goal of Dianetics is to clear the individual of these stresses.

When the book was released in 1950, people flooded to Mr. Hubbard's home on Aberdeen Road to learn more about it. This excitement and curiosity propelled the opening of the Hubbard Dianetics Research Foundation at 227 Morris Avenue. Dianetics went to the top of the

best sellers list. A local diner in town started making Dianetics burgers.

Dianetics has since become a grass roots movement and is currently being used in over 130 countries. It has been translated into 52 languages.

Mr. Hubbard precisely delineated the parts of man as being composed of three parts: body, mind (series of mental image pictures) and the individual himself - the spiritual being. Mr. Hubbard's research into the spiritual being culminated into the Scientology religion.

Scientology can be defined as the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, universes, and other life. It is an applied religious philosophy, supplying tools to improve conditions in life. A process called auditing is used to provide an exact route to higher states of spiritual awareness. Scientology is non-denominational and was developed for all of mankind. Many Scientology adherents are also members of a Catholic or Christian church. L. Ron Hubbard wrote the Aims of Scientology to be achieving "A civilization without insanity, without criminals and without war, where the able can prosper, and honest beings can have rights, and where man is free to rise to greater heights." 📖

DIANETICS FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO SERVICE ELIZABETH COMMUNITY

Michele Kenny and Jody DeSena, cousins and co-owners of the Elizabeth IHOP, were introduced to Dianetics and Scientology in the early 1990's. Michele was drawn to Scientology because she "wanted to be able to help others more - family, employees."

When Michele and Jody learned of the history of Dianetics in Elizabeth, they decided to join the team to return Dianetics to Elizabeth in 1998. A mission was opened to deliver basic Dianetics and Scientology services to the people of Elizabeth. They even recreated the "Dianetics Burger" in their restaurant to add to the excitement of history repeating itself in our town.

Two years later, they also connected the Friends of L. Ron Hubbard Foundation with Mayor Bollwage's adopt a

park program. Together, they beautified the old Salem Park on the corner of Salem and North Broad. The park was renamed L. Ron Hubbard Park, and a 16-foot clock stands tall, and lights up the corner. City council also adopted a resolution in April of 2001 to give Aberdeen Road the honorary name L. Ron Hubbard Road.

Michele recently became the mission holder for the Elizabeth Church of Scientology. She wanted to contribute to the spiritual growth of her community.

The church, located at 433 N. Broad Street, is open Monday through Thursday from 6-10pm and Sunday 9:30-5pm. Many come to Elizabeth because L. Ron Hubbard used to live on Aberdeen Road in Elizabeth and this is where it all began.

Michele is the driving force behind the Elizabeth church offering training courses in their upstairs classroom.

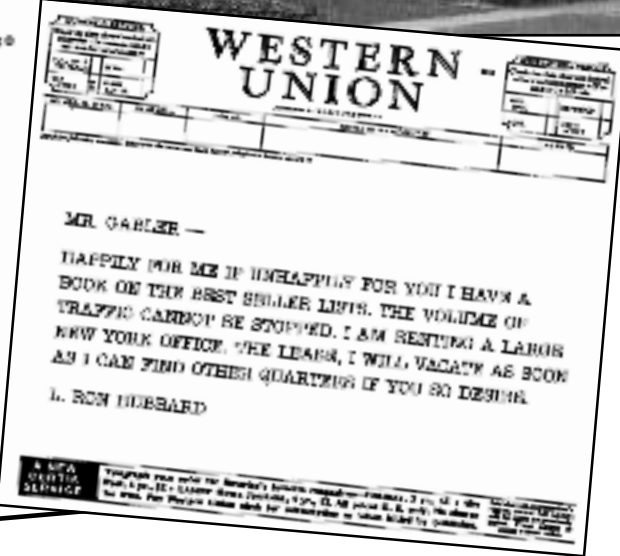
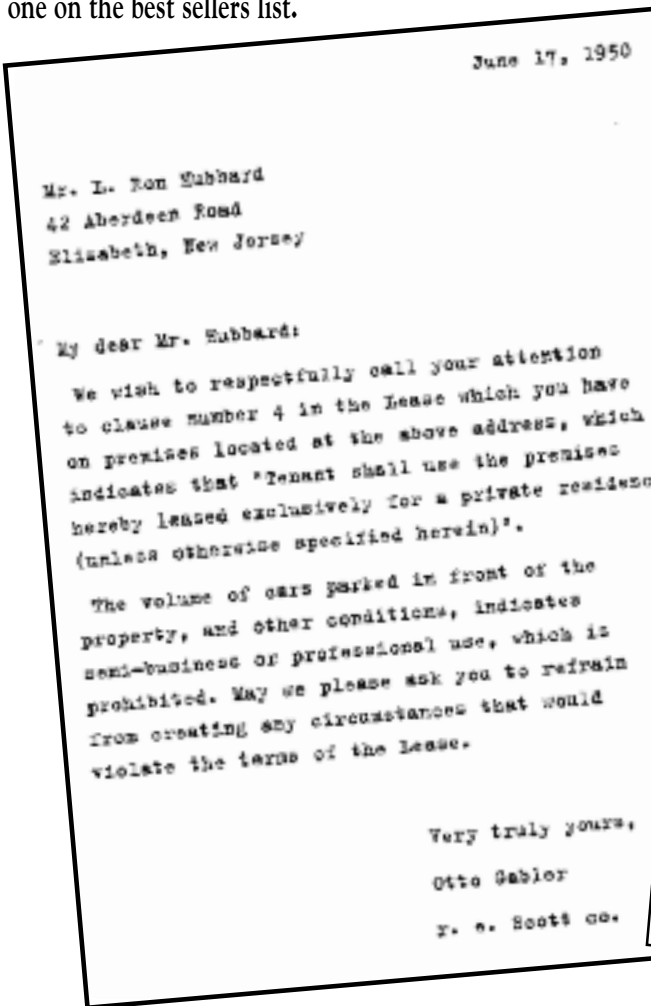
There are several community celebrations that now take place in L. Ron Hubbard Park. The spring event started with the 50th Anniversary of Dianetics in May 2000. "This was a great project, and a great way to acknowledge the anniversary and the role that Elizabeth played in this world wide success," said Michele Kenny.

"Since that time, we have sponsored annual community celebrations and each holiday have put up over 18,000 lights in the park and arranged for Santa to present hundreds of gifts to the local children."

"The city's Fire Department, Police Department and Union County Sheriff's Department have all been part of these events bringing something to this area of town that wasn't here before."

This year's December event featured live caroling provided by the Elizabeth Development Council, free pancakes donated by the IHOP, pizza from Staten Island's Goodfella's and toys from the Friends of L. Ron Hubbard. Over 200 families came to the park to take part in the holiday spirit with a special visit from city council members and the Mayor.

While the park continues holding community events, the Hubbard Dianetics Foundation continues to service the public. 📖



A PETERSTOWN VALENTINE STORY

By Joe Renna

It was almost 3 o'clock and I was leaning out of my desk so I could be the first one out of school. It was Valentine's Day and I had a plan to ask Maria Facile out on a date. I knew she would be hanging out at the ice house after school and I had allot to do before I could get there. I had a perfect plan. I was going to pack a picnic basket and take her across the creek so I could be alone with her and ask her out. It would be difficult to do if my friends were around so I wanted to beat them there.

I ran to Sacco's Meat Market, across from St. Anthony's and picked up the stuff I ordered during lunch time. I had a nice piece of provalone, some pepperoni and a loaf of Italian bread from Saraceno's Bakery. Mr. Sacco made me two cappacola sandwiches with fresh mozzarella and roasted peppers. The plan was flawless.

Maria and her friends were already at the ice house when I got there. There was no sign of the guys so I was safe. I already arranged to have the raft on the bank of the creek. Building clubhouses and rafts was a regular pastime down the creek. I was all ready to go until my brother Nick appeared from around the corner of the ice house. I was relieved that he was alone. I gave him the high sign and tried to give him the heave-ho. He understood my plan to be alone with Maria but he didn't leave. He had his own designs to be alone with her.

We hung out awhile until I made a move and asked Maria if she wanted to go on a picnic across the river. I tried to sound platonic in order to not tilt my hand too early. Her girlfriends took the hint and graciously made themselves scarce. My gaba doust brother was still hovering. That's when Maria, being her normally cordial self, invited Nick to come along.

I didn't want to look like a jerk in front of Maria so I said it would be a great idea. The only problem was that the raft can only fit two people on it. Now here comes the dilemma. I did not trust Nick alone with Maria or the basket of food and had to do some quick thinking to get all of us across safely. If Nick had his druthers he would consume both the food and Maria.

If I took Maria across first the sandwiches would surely be gone by the time I returned for Nick. If I took the basket over first then Nick would have put the moves on Maria.

In a stroke of genius I figured a way we could all safely make it across intact. I had to work fast because I could see the guys coming from about a block away. If Nick and me were still at the ice house when the guys arrive then the plan disintegrates. We would be stuck playing stickball like we do every day with the he-man-woman-haters club. I would lose my chance to be with Maria and the food.

Nick had no choice but to follow my plan. I held all the cards and so he agreed to go across the creek with me first. I told him I would leave him there and go back for Maria.

Nick thought he was sitting pretty across the creek. He knew that I had to return with either Maria or the basket so he was licking his chops anticipating either one. I was younger than Nick but not that much. I did return with the basket of food but before my brother had a chance to ravage it I told him that he had to return to the ice house with me so I could keep them separated. I

explained that I would drop him off and take Maria across and then return to get him.

His glee departed when he figured that he would not be alone with either of the two prizes. But all was not lost. During our return trip we discussed how we would both share the picnic with Maria, explain our intentions and have her choose which one of us she would date.

I dropped Nick off and picked up Maria. On my way back across the creek I gave Nick the high sign. It took him a few seconds to realize that I wasn't coming back for him. By that time the guys were there and had already chose sides for stickball. Nick and LaRocca beat Colletti and Skinman. Nick had a home run and I got to first base. 🐾



Not for Nothing But...

You can walk across
the creek if you know
where the cars are.





(above) Hector Alvarez is seated next to the fireplace in the main dining room of Cervantes of Spain. The restaurant was redesigned to reflect the warmth of the Spanish culture and to complement the authentic cuisine. Renovations also include a new lounge/cafe along with the restaurant, a casual space for cocktails, coffees, tapas and deserts.

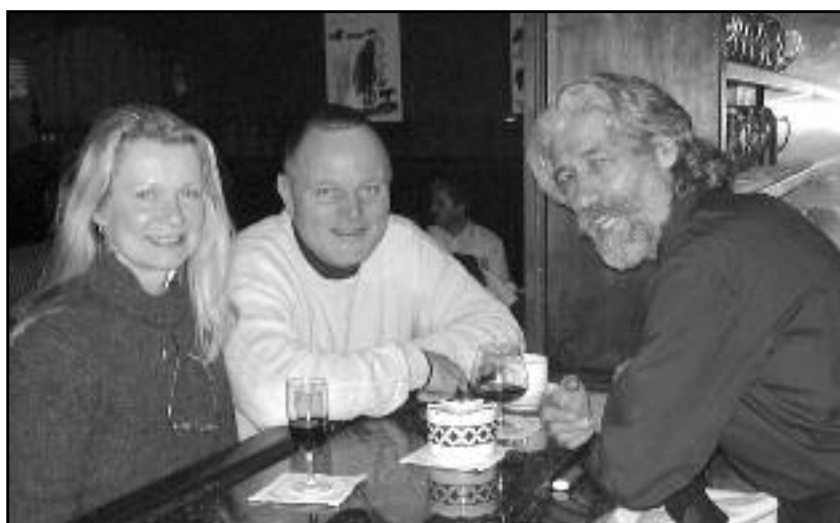
CERVANTES OF SPAIN NOW IN CRANFORD

Cervantes of Spain Restaurant is now open in Cranford, NJ. A casual, yet elegant, cozy restaurant and tapas bar that serves the finest Spanish cuisine, and without a doubt, Spain's most distinguished wines. Although Cranford has been recognized for its many restaurants, one that has been highly anticipated is one that serves Spanish food. Hector Alvarez, whose background is from Northern Spain, has been in the restaurant industry for over 15 years; he is the owner of Cervantes of Spain Restaurant, no longer the Coach and Four.

Cervantes of Spain Restaurant is an ideal place for dinner with friends, family or any kind of social event. The restaurant is named after Miguel de Cervantes, the most famous figure in Spanish literature and author of

Don Quixote. This restaurant offers the most authentic Spanish cuisine and feeling of Spain, the land of Don Quixote, flamenco, and its warm people, guaranteed to make your dining experience, a great one. Along with Spain's history and geography, the Spanish cuisine, is recognized as one of the most varied and rewarding cuisines in the world. Essentially, it is family cooking, prepared and characterized by fresh ingredients. Besides meat, poultry, and fish entrees, there are a wealth of dishes featuring vegetables, eggs and rice, including, paella, which provides colorful and festive dishes for a crowd. Also, tapas -- appetizers in great variety -- are a favorite throughout Spain. A variety of tapas can make an excellent meal.

So, if you are looking for a new place to dine, call Cervantes of Spain Restaurant, located at 24 North Avenue East, directly across from the Cranford train station. Restaurant and bar, non-smoking dining room and party banquet facilities for up to 50 people. Reservations accepted for parties of 6 or more and take-out available. Dress code casual. For more information call 908-276-3664 or visit the website, www.cervantesofspain.com. 🍷



(left, l-r) Michele and Bill Drejko enjoy a glass of wine served by bartender João B. Picado in the lounge of Cervantes before dinner.

FROM THE 6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION FILE

Connections made between people in association with this newspaper happen far too often to mark up as coincidence. As publisher, I constantly receive stories sent from around the country of encounters that people have with others who hail from this area. This story is mine and it happened last month in Florida at Disney World.

My family was entering Epcot when the woman at the ticket booth noticed my wife's shirt that said Peterstown. She smiled and said she was from Cranford. I explained how we now live in Cranford and then spoke for a while about the town and changes since she left. Her name was Neva Bibby.

What moved this meeting into the Twilight Zone was that she and her late husband owned The Coach and Four Restaurant for 47 years. Coach and Four is now Cervantes of Spain. I told Neva how I was just there two nights ago to write a story for this paper. She had such fond memories of the restaurant and said to her "it would always be an English pub".

Neva lives in Kissimmee, Florida with her son Alexander and her daughter Dr. Neva Lee Roper who lives next door. Neva was a nurse up north and enjoys

working for Disney after her retirement. She said it is a lot of fun and keeps her busy. She loves the perks of working in the park, like meeting people from back home. 🍷



(above) All employees at Disney wear name tags that include their original home town.

(left, l-r) A photo op for the Renna family. Joe, Neva Bibby, Tina, Mia and Angela.

(right) George Fencik in Frontier Land says "Howdy" to all his friends in Linden.



DiCOSMO'S RECEIVES MUNCH MOBILE HONORS

Every year the Star-Ledger assembles a team of regular folks to trek to every corner of the state in search of the best taste in every conceivable category of eating from the best bagel to the most succulent filet mignon. So wide is their search that the Munch Mobile has grown in popularity and in recognition. It has the reputation for being the consummate no-nonsense critics for the people who love to eat with gusto.

DiCosmo's Deli on Raritan Road in Clark received best sandwich honors for their foccacia bread sandwiches. Foccacia bread is thick, round and soft. It sops up and holds any sauce or dressing that is placed on it. It is big enough to hold mass quantities and strong enough not to fall apart.

Quality and preparation of ingredients is what makes one sandwich different from another. DiCosmo's uses mozzarella that they make fresh every day. The vinegarette dressing is their own blend of herbs and spices. The peppers used are roasted in the store as is the turkey. The Virginia ham is baked on premise and the eggplant is also grilled in their kitchen.

Recipe Faccacia Bread Sandwich

DiCosmo's Italian Deli

INGREDIENTS:

- Fresh Mozzarella
- Balsamic Vinegarette Dressing
- Roasted Peppers
- Lettuce
- Grilled Eggplant,
- Roasted Turkey
- or Baked Virginia Ham.

PREPARATION:

Making a foccacia bread sandwich is more sculpting than it is cooking. The photo to the right shows three sandwiches in different stages of development to show the layers of ingredients. There are three sandwiches, one is eggplant, one is turkey and one is ham. Start building.



(above) Cross section of Faccacia Bread Sandwiches.
(below, l-r) Sandwiches in three stages of development.

1. Faccacia Bread
2. Dressing
3. Lettuce



4. Turkey, Eggplant or Ham
5. Mozzarella
5. Roasted Peppers

DiCOSMO'S CELEBRATES 5th YEAR IN CLARK (OVER 50 YEARS TOTAL)

Garry DiCosmo is the third generation at the helm of DiCosmo's Deli. His grandfather, Graziana, started the business in the 1950's in Peterstown, on Second Avenue the site of the outdoor produce market.

Garry's dad, Mike, took over in the 60's. The business moved to Linden, on St. Georges Avenue, in 1978. In 1987 Garry moved the deli across the street to Blockbuster Plaza and added a restaurant. Garry opened a second location in Clark in 1999. He recently sold the Linden location and has dedicated his time to Clark.



(left, l-r) DiCosmo's is truly a family business. Mike had help from his brother Rocco during the holidays and as Garry was learning the ropes.

(right) Garry's mom, Antoinette, still puts in a full day in the kitchen. Here she watches Garry turn a pot of fresh Mozzarella.



SAY CHEESE

(below) Graziana DiCosmo displays cheeses in the window of his Elizabeth store.



(below, l-r)Erika Dent checks out customers at the counter in Clark. Alan Bailey, Katarzyna Kosier, Wendy Rotella with baby Tyler, Robert Sottos and Angelo LaGrasso.



UNCLE FRANK, HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?



(left) Frank Loblance gets two thumbs up from his family.

Anthony Bottitta has such a profound respect for his Uncle Frank Loblance that he was torn thinking of a way in which he could express his gratitude. For Bottitta, words or gifts were not enough. In fact, nothing could be enough. Uncle Frank deserved something larger than life because that is what his uncle gave - more than he had.

Frank Loblance did not stand out as a celebrity at any level. At a glance his life may even be considered ordinary. There were some flashes of greatness in sports and a consistency in business that was admirable. But the most outstanding thing about Frank Loblance was his dedication to his family. His nephew wanted to share his uncle with the world and praise him publicly.

Showing love and support for one's family seems like a basic role in life. Especially when it is embedded in the culture of the community as it is in Peterstown. But when you scratch the surface of many people you may find that many families lack the unconditional love and unselfish sacrifice you may have experienced.

Growing up in such an environment causes one to

believe that every family is blessed with the same values. In reality, the caring that Frank expresses to his family is not ordinary at all. The more one considers the scope of Frank's dedication over his lifetime, the more appreciative one becomes.

Consider these reflections shared by his children, nieces and nephews. Consider yourself blessed if there is someone in your life who cared for you in the same way. More importantly, evaluate your own actions and priorities to see if they are in line with the family values that you admire.

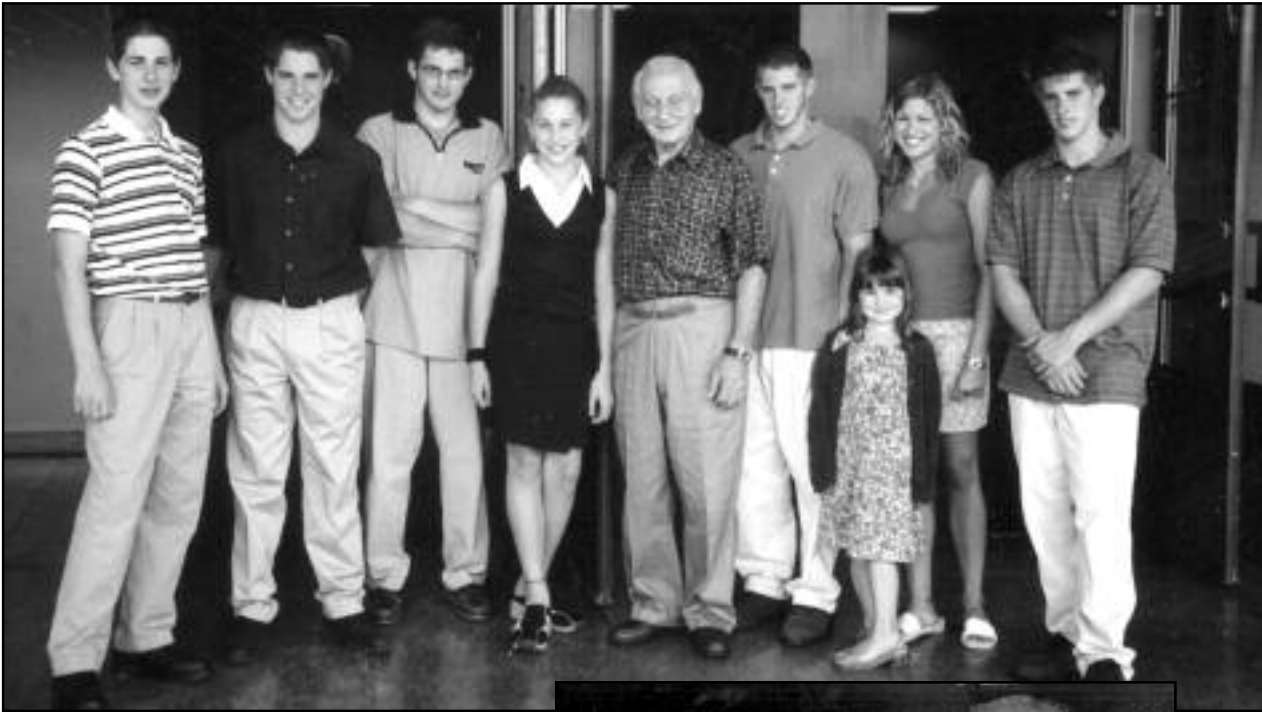
Frank's sons expressed the way their dad instilled in them the importance of responsibility and the value of personal sacrifice for the well being of the family. He did this by working hard.

Frank was a self employed milkman most of his adult life. He had no paid vacations or sick time. He worked with fevers, the flu, broken arms and feet. Frank would say that he was "just making a living" but his sons realized what a sacrifice he made for them. It's a wonder if the present generation realize how easy jobs are compared to the past and if they attribute the comforts of their own lifestyles to that of their elders.

Frank's dedication did not stop with his immediate family. He embraced all his nieces and nephews as if they were his own. His daughters-in-law, Marisa and Nancy are as close to him as if they were his daughters. He also plays the classic role of doting grandfather to his eight grandchildren.

Anthony Bottitta was Frank's nephew by his mother being the sister of Frank's wife Millie (Riccio). Anthony has a brother, Chris, and two sisters, Eileen and Lisa, and a nephew, PJ Cotroneo. They regard their uncle as a second father. To put it simply "Uncle Frank has always been there for them." He stepped up when their father passed away and again when Eileen lost her husband Phil, PJ's father. Uncle Frank continues to be a shining light of love and guidance. Knowing he is there warms all their hearts. Anthony says "If it wasn't my father, it was Uncle Frank".

Anthony wondered if a story of his Uncle Frank was worthy of publication. Of Course it is. In its own subtle way, Frank's story is a lesson in family values that we can all use. 🐾



(above, l-r) Frank with his grandchildren, Danny, Joey, Christopher, Jenna, Frank, Matthew, Christina, Jessica, and Andrew.



(above, l-r) Frank and Millie Loblance will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June of 2005.



(left, l-r) Vacationing in Antiqua is Frank's wife Millie, brother-in-law Anthony Battitta, niece Eileen, Frank and Sister-in-law Frances Battitta.



(right, l-r) The Loblance family, last year at Frank's 75 Birthday at Monmouth Park, Bennett, Frank, Frank, Millie and Joseph.

A SNAPSHOT OF FRANK LOBRACE

Frank's parents, Benny and Carmella Loblance came from Vallata, Italy in 1921 and '26 respectively. They settled in Peterstown and raised Frank and his brother Ralph and sisters, Josie (Cortillo) and Mary (Minitelli).

Frank graduated Thomas Jefferson High School. He won the City of Elizabeth Men's Tennis Championship and excelled as a pitcher in softball and baseball and bowled on many Elizabeth teams.

Frank was a member of the Kingston Club and the Crestlin Boys. Frank was known throughout the community. As the owner operator of Bee Jay's Dairy, he was in daily contact with his neighbors, delivering milk door to door from 1956 to 1998.

His nephews would come running when they heard his horn. It ment a chance to ride along the route. It was a treat just be with their Uncle Frank. 🍷



(left) Frank Loblance was a corporal in the Korean Conflict. He recently received a New Jersey Metal of Honor for his valor.

LoBrace Ace In Softball

Frank LoBrace spun a four-hit shutout for the Villago Longban Softball at Warhancoc. Bill Royal, Ron Koel, homers for place to 14 Skill Corp.

3-Hit Shutout By LoBrace

Frank LoBrace spun a three-hit whitewashing as the ferid A. A. Auto team routed Baker League last night at o Park. The Avilomen captured eight of nine outings. e, who belted a solo ank Soucek and Bill ected three safeties as winners pounded Skill Corp. tallied the first inning on 13-6 triumph over l.

Labrace Stops Grover Post With 3-Hitter

Hanson Post came through with a 10-3 triumph over Grover Post last night behind the three hit twirling of Frank Labrace in a Comm. Joshua Ringle Greenville Senior Softball League game at Jersey City Teachers College Field.

While Labrace handcuffs on Hanson Post w the tilt in th with five tallie UPYL kept it a playoff berth Church Leasur St. John's Lut turn Field. U four runs in three more in

LoBrace Tennis Victor

Frank LoBrace advanced to the semi-final round of the city play-ground junior tennis tournament yesterday afternoon by defeating Edwin Harkinson, 6-3, 6-4, at Condonal Field. Rain interrupted play in the second set of the other match, with Robert Harding holding a 6-4, 4-2 edge over John Covasino. The boys will continue play from they' went this afternoon.



SINGER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL

STANDING (left to right): Joe Westrol, Walter Baran, Chet Grovitz, Joe Reinhard, Frank Chirichillo, Irv Rollhard, Joe Neenan, Fred Groppe (Recreation Director).

KNEELING (left to right): John Naha, Jim Byrnes, Tony Paes, Frank LoBrace, Charles Bellero, Tony O'Brien, Jim Iozzi, Sr. (Manager), Jim Iozzi, Jr. (Bat Boy).

(left) Clippings of Frank Loblance's triumphs as a sportsman was common back in the day. Frank also pitched in Korea in 1953 and received a trophy as tournament champ during the war.



DISNEY WORLD '04

One of the perks of being a publisher

Readers of this paper must sometimes indulge the personal interests of the publisher. As publisher, I do make every attempt to make articles relevant to the shared experiences of living locally or at least interesting as a human interest story to as many people as possible. In the case of the photo on the left, there is no attempt in making it interesting to anyone except for those who appear in the picture. So with that being said, you may move on to the next page, unless you are actually in the photo.

This picture was taken in January during a week long vacation in Disney World. It was the Renna family's first trip to Disney but it ran as smooth as silk because I was with one of my best friends, the smartest person I know, Mr. Disney himself, Rich Wischusen. Rich and family members in assorted combinations make the Disney trip quite often. They invited my family along this year to share in the excitement.

Rich is one of 10 children. Together they spawned over 30 cousins. So, even when a small sampling gets together they are 20 large. There were 22 on this particular trip including Rich's mom; Grandma Lillian who was celebrating her 72nd birthday at Disney and his wife, Amy's mom; GaGa Roe.

Four branches of the Wischusen family included Rich and his four children, his sister Betty with her husband Kevin Heine and their three, and his sister Carol with her husband Bill Snyder who brought along three of their 8 children. Rich had the week scheduled out so no time was wasted on the pitfalls of being a rookie tourist. The itinerary was fulfilling and flexible. While New Jersey recorded the coldest January in history, we were sitting poolside.

I'm running this photo to say thanks to a family who thought to include my family in theirs. It was a privilege to be considered. The experience is one that the Renna family will never forget. 🍷

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

In the last issue of this paper Larry Higgins piqued the interest of other classmates of St. Anthony's class of '74. A barrage of emails and phone calls set the wheels in motion for an October event. The place, date and time will be determined by the April issue of this paper.

A few people stepped forward to organize the event and to start the effort to contact everyone. The key to planning the event is getting an accurate head count of those interested in attending, alone or with a guest.

The committee is asking for anyone interested to email or mail their address and phone number to this newspaper so that invitations can be sent.

The best way to achieve our goal of reaching everyone is for each member of the class to become a conduit to others. If you know someone's address, phone number or whereabouts, please inform them of the plan. Or forward the information along to the committee and they will make the effort to reach out. 📧

Patricia Dagro and Larry Higgins have started the ball rolling to get a grammar school class reunion together. Classmates should send their address and phone number by email to: joerenna@joerenna.com

or mail to: **Around About Peterstown**
202 Walnut Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016



REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

Submitted by Justino Rosa

Have you noticed that during this cold snowy winter that the streets of Elizabeth have been kept free of snow and clean for the most part? The City of Elizabeth has always taken pride in keeping our streets safe and clean. We should thank all elective officials in the city in their efforts in making our roads passable during this harsh winter.

People tend to purchase homes in towns where services are provided in an efficient manner. Education is also a factor in a perspective buyers mind when he decides to purchase his home. This spring we will see new schools being built throughout our city. Elizabeth again will change for the better. You should take pride in the accomplishments that this great city has achieved during these last twelve years. New housing, new mall, new theaters, new hotels and now new schools!

Elizabeth is becoming one of the most desirable cities to live in New Jersey. Our close location to New York City, all major highways, airports and to the port, are bringing new jobs and businesses to our city.

Very soon the City of Elizabeth will have a decision on the midtown redevelopment area, which will bring a new life to our downtown area. Something that the city has been missing for over twenty years a downtown with life after 6:00 pm where people can walk, and eat. Imagine the future with condos, storefronts, coffee shops and restaurants where all the residents can go to eat and be entertained. Imagine our train station with a viable restaurant and people coming from all parts of New Jersey to wine and dine in our city. The future may bring more theaters and movie houses. The future is now!

All residents of the City of Elizabeth should welcome new development and encourage our elected officials to do more. I foresee that the City of Elizabeth will retain its neighborhoods and develop new ones, just as

attractive. It's important that our city retains its cultural heritage and opens its arms to the new cultures that are arriving.

Values of real estate have increased dramatically over the last three years. There is a direct affect from new immigrants purchasing new homes and values going up.

Real estate news! Our city will see in the near future new proposals for mix use buildings combining the need for office, retail space and apartments with parking. I hope our city fathers will look favorably on these new proposals. The lack of viable new apartments for rent or sale is evident in the multiple listing services with virtually no condos for sale and apartments for rent. Many residents can no longer pay the high price of a new home but may easily afford a condo or an apartment. Combining this with new retail space for business is a wonderful thought. 📧