



## THE ARTISTS ARE IN OUR MIDST

There is a secret society, a subculture of people of similar ilk who coexist with the general population, assimilating by working mundane jobs and talking about the weather. They come from every walk in life and recognize no distinctions of race, status or wealth, meeting in small groups at odd times. They are called theater folk.

New Jersey has a rich history of performing arts. There are at least three hundred community theaters and production companies not counting all those associated with schools. It is impossible to calculate the number of people that work on stage and behind the scenes to bring the thousands of performances to life. The majority of who are non-equity/non-union volunteers.

Non-equity theater makes up the vast majority of production, a tremendously large industry yet one that is almost invisible to outsiders. For an industry that trades in fanfare so little of it reaches mainstream society. It is so big that odds are everyone has some relationship with a performing artist, but doesn't even know it.

The people involved in theater are truly fulfilling a passion. It takes a tremendous amount of dedication yet it doesn't pay the bills. These are artists who sacrifice for their art. All the cast and crew have day jobs, another life away from the theater, grinding out a living and raising families. It is a rare triumph to be able to make a living at it. It takes a perfect mix of ability, opportunity and timing. This doesn't mean that theater is not rewarding for the almost famous. It means they work harder.

The Cranford Dramatic Club is the longest continuously producing community theater in the state of New Jersey. It is a model operation in its successes and challenges. The level of professionalism is second to none. Performers are talented and well rehearsed while the technical crew creates demanding sets with minimal budgets, while the production staff and directors work their magic. The group is managed by seven officers and a board of governors. Everyone involved is a volunteer.

A CDC production can utilize up to one hundred volunteers from producer to usher. The logistics would be daunting even to a fortune 500 project manager. Yet each morning they return to their other lives, students, teachers, truck drivers, and waiters. Tiffany Wilson who is in the cast of CDC's current show "The Light in the Piazza" is an Assistant Prosecutor for the County of Union.

Cranford's club members are mostly home grown. There was a time when only residents were allowed to govern. Today the club attracts talent from across the state, actually the lead in Piazza lives in New York City. The depth of the talent pool gets deeper each year and the quality improves accordingly. The artist faces an ever increasing level of competition and less opportunity.

In an effort to promote the performing arts industry and create opportunity Mike Pierone and Joe Renna have launched [stagemanagernj.com](http://stagemanagernj.com), a comprehensive website for the industry with tools for producing shows and assisting interested people in finding each other. There are existing websites promoting established venues and performers but this new site speaks to the aspiring actor, the interested volunteer, those seeking the limelight as well as the those who prefer the rafters.

The increasing amount of media and entertainment venues has taken its toll on community theaters. CDC is successful in spite of a thousand channels on cable television and multiplex cinema houses. Logic dictates that there is a need to bring performing arts back into mainstream society. The arts are absurdly subordinate to the attention and resources poured into sports. Students and parents must have equal exposure and opportunity to music, dance and acting as they do to soccer, baseball and basketball.

The public needs an attitude adjustment. In 2003, the Urban Institute studied the issue and concluded that even though 96% of Americans value arts highly in their lives and communities, only 27% believes that the artist does a lot of good for society. So, they love art but don't have much use for artists. It is no wonder that creative people live on the fringes.

Around About Peterstown newspaper has always promoted the arts, reporting on anyone doing anything creative: writers, musicians, actors and the like. Letting their secret out, so to speak. Others may get inspired. The popularity of Karaoke may be a cause for being optimistic.

(left, l-r) Stage crew members hustle to prepare the set behind Actress Tiffany Wilson and actor Bob Pells confer with Liz Howard, producer of the "The Light in the Piazza" for the Cranford Dramatic Club directed by Jefferey Fiorello.

The show dates and times are:

Fridays February 5, 12, 19

Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20 - 8:00pm

Sunday, February 14 - 2:00pm

CDC Community Theatre, 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford, NJ

For tickets: 908-276-7611



(above) Homepage of [StagemanagerNJ.com](http://StagemanagerNJ.com) being launched February 2010 designed as a self-help solution for artists to cultivate the world of performing arts opportunity.



*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



Hellooooooooooooo Peterstown!  
I'm no Lloyd Lindsay Young but its cold out there. Another winter storm hits us in February. Don't get me wrong I love the winter. To all these guys who head to warmer sates I say "See ya."

My point is this talk of global warming is turning out to be laughable but its getting tiresome. I wanted to mention this mainly for prosperity so I could pull this letter out thirty years from now and show my grandkids that most people didn't believe the craziness. Thirty years ago we were told that the next ice age was coming.

I know this is a departure for me. I usually talk about the Sons of Peterstown Club or neighborhood stuff but I'm in a good mood today. I love the snow.

Thank you and God bless.

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

### PRESS RELEASES

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

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## Letters to the Editor



Dear Joe,

Thanks for the fantastic article on Casper Bellino. He had so many stories to tell about his adventures traveling with "The Show". He spent many years traveling throughout North America and The Caribbean - and along the way experienced things that a young boy growing up in The Burg could never have imagined. He often spoke about the beauty and excitement of pre-Castro Havana - and how gracious and kind the people there were. He also told the story of being robbed at knife point by a Giant in Barbados...and of witnessing a fistfight between a drunk Wild Bill Cody the Second and a team of French acrobats...and about the time a "woman" who had worked with him for 2 years was arrested by the Canadian Mounties and was revealed to be a Man wanted for murder.

He especially loved Western Canada for its natural beauty and pristine landscape.

Uncle Casper also worked in Las Vegas before it transformed into what it has become today. He spoke fondly of that old Las Vegas...and the characters he met and worked with there. And he loved the Winters he spent in Miami Beach. He read the NY Times from cover-to-cover daily. There wasn't a subject he could not speak about - for a man without much formal education he was one of the most educated people I ever met.

The only topic he didn't like to discuss was World War II - in which he served. The memories of what he experienced there always upset him.

During his later years he often spoke about his childhood growing up down The Burg, and how much he missed the old neighborhood of his youth.

And he always spoke very highly of his parents (my grandparents) and was amazed how Italian immigrants were able to work so hard and give him and his 5 siblings such a good childhood...and when he spoke about his Mom's cooking his eyes always lit up - especially the Sicilian dishes and cookies whose recipes are long forgotten.

Thanks again Joe.

Vito Bellino  
Middletown, NJ

Dear neighbors,

I'd like you to join me in thanking the students of St. Mary's High School for their work and prayers in response to the Earthquake in Haiti

The students assembled 196 personal care packages consisting of personal hygiene items. The packages were blessed at a prayer service on January 20, 2010 and delivered to New Jersey for Haiti on January 22, 2010.

Participants in the prayer service were: Nathalie Augustin, Nicholette Bonhomme, Natalie Didier, Woody Jacques, Yvana Monnay Stephanie Odige, Jasmine Noel, and Fritzner Phileomon all of Haitian ancestry.

Maritess Kaminski, Principal  
St. Mary of the Assumption High School  
Elizabeth, NJ

## DIARY OF A COURT REPORTER BY LINDA LEE RUSSO

Linda Lee Russo grew up at 336 Spencer Street on the corner of Fourth Avenue, in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ, with her three older sisters: Gloria, the oldest, Betty Jane, and Dee. Her father, Dominick, was Councilman of the Fifth Ward at one time, and her mother Theresa, better known as Tessie, ran for Mayor of Elizabeth at a time when it was rare to see a woman run for office, let alone a mayor of a big city.

Linda is an official court reporter, working in Federal Court in the District of Columbia, and lives in Northern Virginia. She started her career in County Court in Sarasota, Florida, moved to Arizona where she worked in Maricopa County Superior Court, and subsequently moved to Virginia to work in Federal Court.

She's had extensive training as part of her court reporting studies in fingerprint analysis, firearm law, autopsies, and has gone out with the SWAT Team and medical helicopter.

While in D.C., Linda has worked on hearings with Scooter Libby, John Hinckley, worked with Donald Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers on Capitol Hill, plus many more interesting cases.

Linda has put all this experience into a 619 page book called "Diary of a Court Reporter," which is a true



(above) My Uncle Casper, right, was as comfortable sitting in a night club as he was working in a traveling show.



(left) Cover of Casper's membership booklet for Showmen's League of America, an organization dedicated to "out-of-doors showmen".

(right) Casper Bellino, at 18 years old participated in the Normandy Beach invasion as part of the Calvary Armored Division.



Hi Everybody,

I would like to know if anybody is planning another Peterstown "Baby Boomer" reunion this year.

Geri Galuppo  
Phoenix , AZ

murder/mystery/suspense book all in one.

A local book signing tour in Union County, NJ is being scheduled with details to come. The book could be purchased at numerous on-line book selling sites. 📖



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

Though government likes to say they support the arts, relatively speaking it is not a high priority. In 2009 New Jersey dedicated about \$17 million to the arts. This figure was \$5.2 million lower than the previous year. When budgets hit the skids, which is every year in New Jersey, the arts are the first item on the butcher block.

For instance, in my county of Union, \$6.2 million was spent on renovating of the Union County Performing Arts Center. The county purchased the building for \$1.7 million. That's a total of almost \$8 million, almost half the amount Governor Corzine gave the entire state.

The year before the renovations were proposed, 2002, the Arts Center's total expenses were \$1.96 million. That year it ran a deficit of \$160,000. The \$900,000 in revenue included a \$75,000 grant from the County, \$30,000 from the State and \$50,000 from the City of Rahway. The balance comes from corporate sponsors, including Merck, and over 4,000 individual patrons and supporters.

Organizations given grants or laudatory resolutions by government officials must pose for photos and kowtow at

In 2007, the Fergusons are trying it again with The Star City Playhouse in Roanoke, Virginia, where Karon




Florence had the Medici family, one of the wealthiest in Europe as their patron. It's going to take the private sector in this country to cultivate the arts in this country. State funded arts is too socialist a concept for Americans to whole heartily embrace. 🇺🇸

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

I wasn't planning on  
applying for a grant from  
the county anyway.

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## RALPH ABBATE IS A BIG FAN OF SCREAMING FEMALES

In the tradition of Grateful Dead fans and with a nod to the movie Animal House three guys got in a car and drove from Elizabeth, NJ to Columbus, Ohio to see their favorite band. This sounds like the plot of a bad Hollywood script filled with frat brothers yahooping like party animals and gratuitous scenes of busty girls behaving badly. In reality it is a story that is more deserving than how Hollywood would treat it.

This story doesn't feature college-age pretty boys but three guys in their 50's sharing a ride so one won't fall asleep at the wheel. Mainly it is a story told by Ralph Abbate who's son, Mike, plays in a band and experienced a steady rise in success. The band, Screaming Females, have been playing bigger venues to larger audiences and landed opening gigs with well-



(above, l-r) Ed Sisk, who called "shotgun" with Gregory Mulroy and Ralph Abbate before heading out on their road trip.



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established bands.

Ralph had tickets to see Mike play on July 17, 2009 in New York City at the Terminal 5, one of the city's hottest music venues capable of holding 3,000 people. That evening Ralph's father, \_\_\_\_\_ passed away. Mike was opening for Dead Weather a band made up of established artists of alternative rock. This was a huge break for the band. Mike's excitement goes without saying but Ralph seemed even more excite for his son.

Ralph had a strong bond with his dad and felt the same with his own son. Getting over the loss was not easy. It was important for him to share in his son's big stage experience. The following Saturday the bands were playing in Ohio, part of a thirteen show tour in twelve cities that included Chicago, Detroit, Boston, NYC, DC and Montreal. He told Mike of his plans who arranged first class treatment for his dad, VIP seats and backstage passes.

Ralph's good buddies, Ed Sisk and Gregory Mulroy made the road trip with him making for one of those "remember when" moments when they are convalescing on a park bench 40 years from now. 📞

*Not for Nothing But...*

who is the last person

a punk rocker would

what to see crowd

surfing at his gig?

(left) Grandpa Gino Abbate Sr., with three of his grandsons at the 1991 St. Benedict Society Picnic. (l-r) RJ Abbate, Michael Abbate and Mark Feola Jr. Gino Abbate Sr passed away on July 17, 2009. The 2nd night of the Screaming Females / Dead Weather show in NYC. On July 16, RJ attended the show as a guest of his brother Michael.

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(above, l-r) Principal cast members of *The Light in the Piazza*, Lara Hayhurst as Clara, Jeff Price as Fabrizio, and Gabrielle Visser Trumbull as Margaret, rehearse with Music Director Clifford Parrish.



(above, l-r) CDC volunteers involved in lighting design are Maurice Moran, Jack Frey, Mark Reilly, Terry Schultz, Nick Romano, David Frey, and John Duryee.

**“A PERFECT SHOW FOR VALENTINE’S DAY”**  
The theatre has scheduled a special Valentine’s Day matinee to help couples celebrate the day.

# CRANFORD DRAMA CLUB IN ITS 90th YEAR

*Submitted by Maurice Moran*

The Cranford Dramatic Club is the longest continuously producing community theater in the state of New Jersey. It began as a small group of townspeople who wanted to share good theater with their friends and neighbors. The first meeting took place on October 8, 1919 and they have produced plays in Cranford every year since then.

The first performances took place in the Sherlock Hall of the Trinity Episcopal Church. In the 1920s, they moved to the now-defunct Casino in Cranford. After World War II, many of the shows were produced at Cranford High School.

Then, in the mid-1950s, a group of the club’s members decided to build their own theater. Placing their names on the mortgage guarantee, work began on the building that would become CDC Theatre on Winans Avenue. It officially opened to the public in 1957.

In the decades that followed, CDC produced four major shows each year (now down to 3), a children’s production during the holidays and, on occasion, one or two “members’ only” productions of new or experimental productions. In 1992, the theater underwent some renovation – replacing its chairs, a new façade on the front, and modernizing its plumbing and storage areas. In 2003, just in time for its 85th season, the lighting system was completely re-done, adding a dropped ceiling, new lighting instruments, and a computer operated dimming system.

A fundraising effort has allowed the theater to add a downstairs handicapped accessible bathroom.

Find out more information about the CDC Theatre production by calling 908-276-7611 or visit [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org). CDC Theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford. 📍

## "THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA"

The delightfully romantic Broadway musical, “The Light in the Piazza”, will warm up the winter blues at the CDC Theatre in February, running Fridays and Saturdays, February 5 through 20, with a special Valentine’s day matinee at 2 p.m. “Light in the Piazza” was recently named by The New York Times as one of “the most significant musicals” of the first decade of the 21st century, with writer Charles Isherwood calling it a continuation of “superior achievement on the classic mold of musical theatre.” The CDC production marks one of the first productions in New Jersey of the musical since it won 6 Tony awards for its 2005 Broadway production.

A lush romantic score by Adam Guettel is in the tradition of classics like “South Pacific”, perhaps fitting since Guettel is the grandson of its composer, Richard

Rodgers. The book, based on a popular romance novella by Elizabeth Spencer, has been adapted by Craig Lucas, perhaps best known for his play, “Prelude to a Kiss”. The CDC production, directed by Jeffrey Fiorello, features some of the best voices in NJ community theatre.

Clara, a young American tourist in Italy, is played by Lara Hayhurst. She meets and falls in love with a young Italian boy, Fabrizio, played by Jeff Price. When her mother Margaret, played by Gabrielle Visser Trumbull, learns of the affair, she tries to stop it. The reasons for her anger become clear only gradually through the course of the musical.

The music in Cranford is under the direction of Cliff Parish, with choreography by Billy Brisley. Others involved in the unfolding love story include Andrea Brooks as Franca, John Sechrist as Giuseppe, and Ken Magos as Signor Naccarelli. His wife is played by Karen Cantor, with Paul Rivers playing Roy Johnson. An ensemble cast adds harmonies to the musical: John Merkel, Bob Pells, Justin Pollinger, Jarrett Francaville, Arlene Britt, Kimberly Mesiti, Shelon Cafaro, and Tiffany Wilson. Costumes are designed by Cathy Cohane. The musical is produced by Liz Howard and stage managed by Rosemary Schultz.

John Simon, in New York magazine said that “The Light in the Piazza should – must - be seen” by anyone who cares about American musical theatre. 📍

CDC Community Theatre Presents

# *The Light in the Piazza*

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# MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS OF LINDEN

Mystic Vision Players is based in Linden, NJ. It was founded by Anthony and Barbara Greco along with thirteen others who had a penchant for performing on stage, including their parents Tony and Rita. Both siblings have pursued careers in performing art. Anthony is a music producer in Tennessee and Barbara is a dance director and teacher in Linden High School.

Rita, who now produces the shows for the ensemble, admits she knew nothing about running theatre shows before her children started taking dance and music lessons. Over the years of chaffering them to classes and recitals she was able to observe the behind the scenes action and absorbed what the technicians were doing. She began producing shows for Roselle Catholic High School, where she taught and continued to do so for sixteen years.

Barbara and Anthony are the producers of American Rapture, the Rock 'n Soul Revue, which runs during each fall season. The Mystic Vision Players also conducts summer workshops at Linden High School and offers scholarships with profits that it makes from their shows.

The organization does have its challenges. They lack a place to call their home and must find available space to rehearse and perform, sometimes it is a local church or an empty hall that is made available. Maintaining a stable of lighting, sound and stage hands from year to year is also a common challenge.

The Mystic Vision Players have been able to manage though for over 15 years acknowledging the tremendous support they receive from Linden's Mayor Richard Gerbounka, the Linden Cultural & Heritage Committee and the Board of Education of Linden. All the struggles seem to disappear when the curtain rises.



(above) Tony gives his wife a congratulatory kiss at the conclusion of The Mystic Vision Players presentation of the award-winning American Rapture, a rock 'n roll revue. Their son, Anthony, is playing bass on right.



(left) Barbara Greco executes a high kick as Cassie during a dance number in the 2007 production of A Chorus Line.

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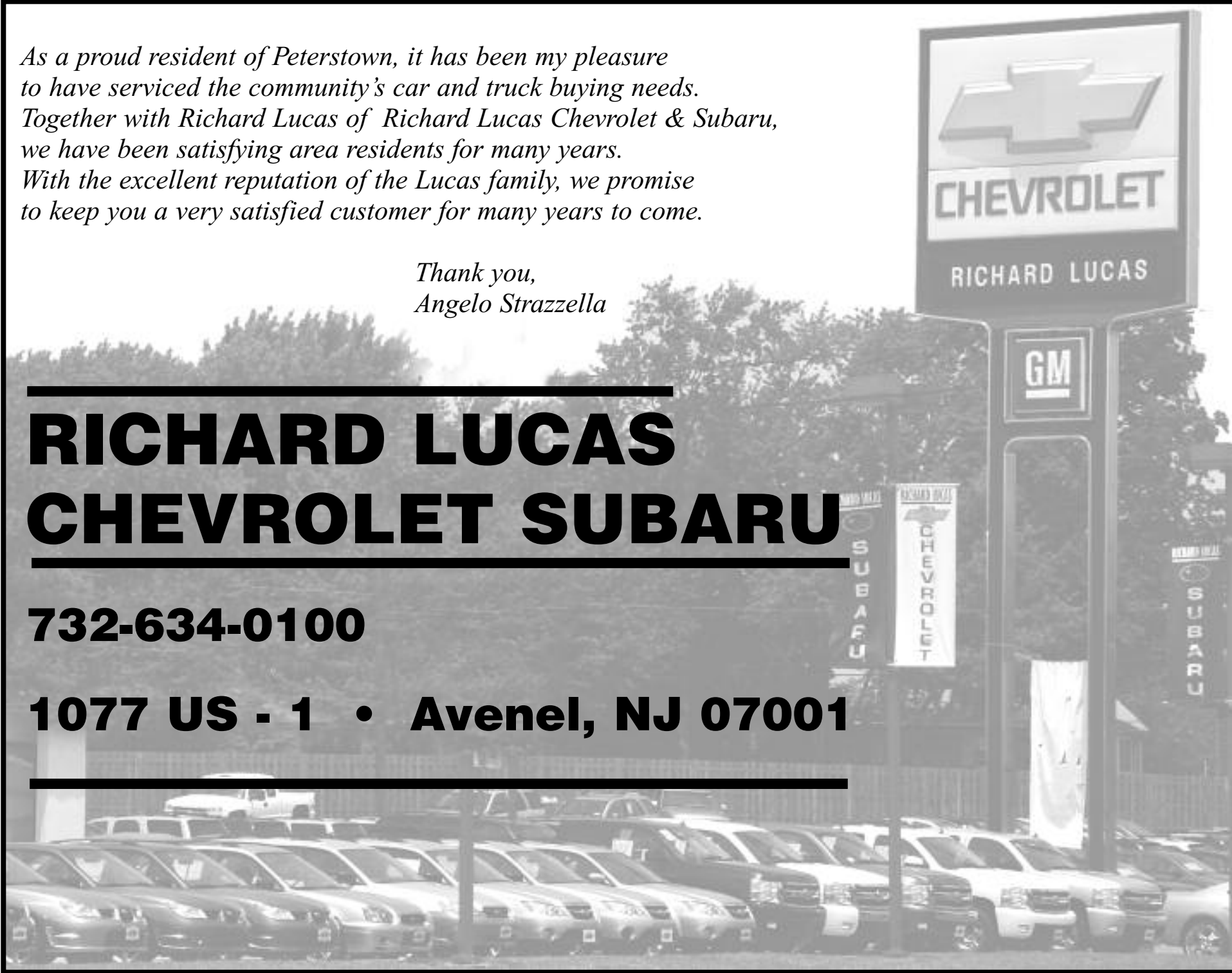
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Stage Manager New Jersey is designed to be the premier website serving the performing arts community of New Jersey. Our mission is to offer a comprehensive resource for people involve in every aspect of production. The site is a place where producers, talent and technicians can find each other, and where businesses servicing the community can advertise. Our goal is to make it easier for individuals who want to be involved in performing arts to find opportunities. We would like to see performing arts in New Jersey grow and prosper. The performing arts industry in New Jersey lacks proper support, especially at the community theater level. No publication or website that caters to the specific needs of these groups existed, until now. 🎭

## PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS

These groups include production companies, dance troupes, theater groups, chorus and music groups. They are also invited to list FREE of charge.

## DIRECTORY OF VENUES

This directory will list all performing arts venues in the state, big and small, everywhere from theaters and art centers, to auditoriums and stage halls. These listings will be a FREE service to the venues. The listings will be searchable by various fields like size and location. The listing will be linked to the venue's website if available.

## TALENT SEARCHES

Performers can build a resume page in a database that is searchable through numerous fields of traits and abilities. The original program will be an indispensable tool for producers and directors to find a specific type of artist. It will give the artist a unique opportunity to showcase themselves statewide with little effort and at a nominal cost.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Venues and groups have the opportunity to post events on this calendar with links to further information. The calendar will contain show information but more importantly, information about auditions. This is also a FREE service for registered groups and venues.

*Stagemanagernj.com is  
**FREE** to populate!*

*This website is  
a self-help solution  
to cultivating  
a world of  
performing arts.*



## FORUMS

A discussion forum centered on the performing arts community in New Jersey is a vibrant place for Stage Manager site members to network, share ideas, concerns and promote the arts. This is a monitored site with no anonymity allowed. Constructive criticism and opinions are welcomed only in good taste.

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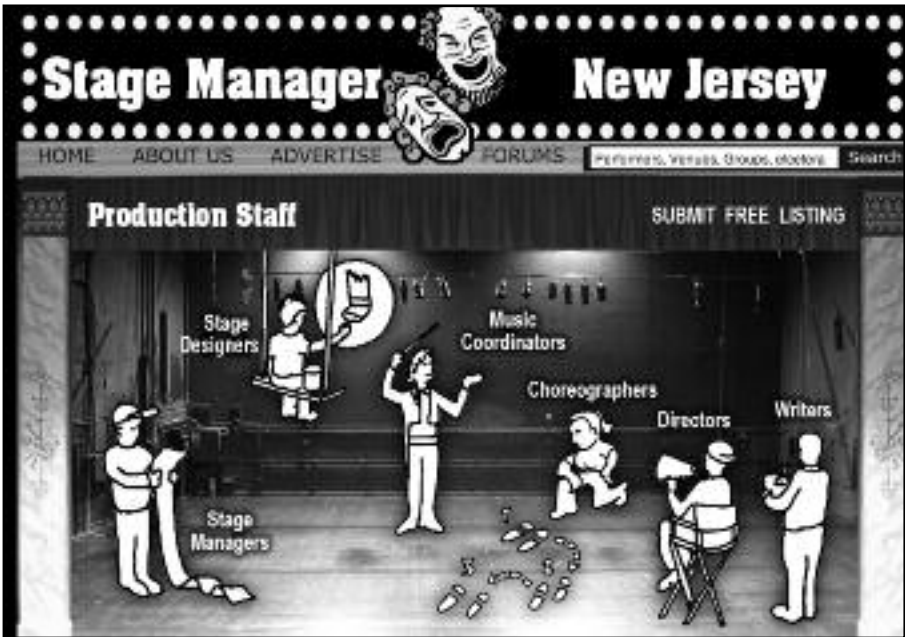
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# IS SET TO BE POPULATED

## PRODUCTION STAFF

The creative staff behind the scenes is vital to the success of a show and a it is difficult task to find a team. They must be a good match for a particular show as well as compliment each other and work well together. Our data base can act as a referral service.



## ADVERTISERS

It is equally important for producers to find the goods and services needed to put on a show as it is for businesses to find costumers. Stage Manager New Jersey is the best place for businesses of all sizes to market themselves to the performing arts community. Businesses such as caterers, car services, printers and storage companies are just a few examples of the types of businesses that service the theater community in an indirect way.

## CLASSIFIED PAGES

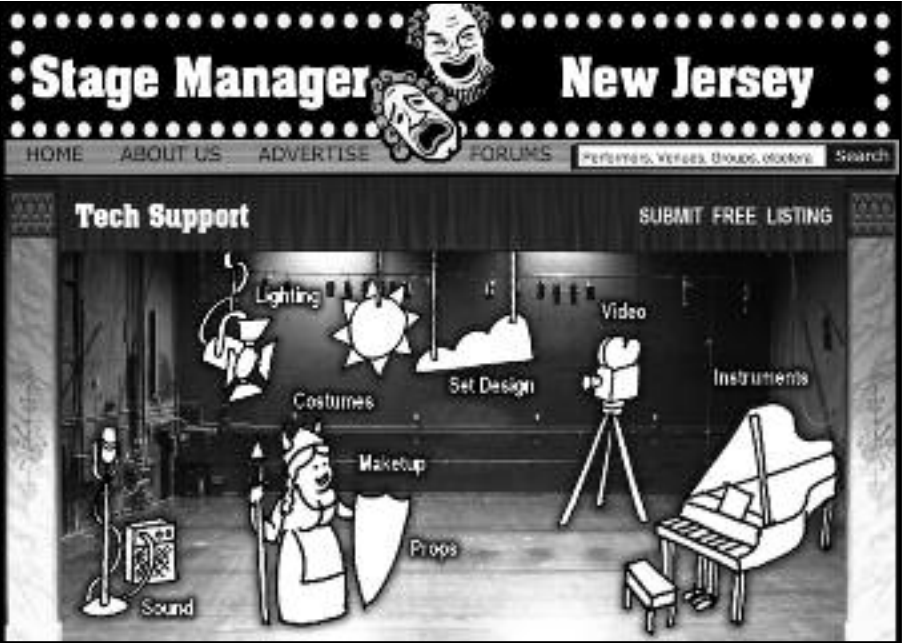
Only registered venues, groups, businesses and artists will be able to post classified ads. Though any visitor may respond to the ad, the exclusivity adds value to the members of the site and keeps merchandise and services within the realm of the community.

## SCHOOLS, TRAINING AND COACHES

This directory will give the opportunity for schools, tutors and coaches to advertise for a nominal fee. It is designed to accommodate businesses as well as freelancers.

## THEATER TECHNICIANS

This is a rare database of support staff for theater productions of all sizes. The directory remedies the problem producers' face in finding technical staff. It is especially effective in matching individual theater enthusiasts with community based venues of limited funds.



Stage Manager New Jersey is dedicated to promoting performing arts. We encourage participation at every level and hope to inspire individuals to pursue theater as a career or hobby. There is no more rewarding pursuit for the participant and society on a whole.

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# PETE RYAN OF SHARKY'S CAMPUS INN A FIXTURE IN LOCAL TAVERNS

Peter Ryan arrived in New Jersey from Ireland in 1964. He was a tin knocker by trade but started tending bar as a side job. He liked it so much that he left the sheet metal business behind and became a full fledged barkeep.

His resume contains a list of taverns popular in their day, maybe because Pete was working at them. The taverns were all similar in that they were not pretentious in any way, just a lot of fun filled with many familiar faces. Like Pete these places had no gimmicks, no fancy drinks with umbrellas hanging out, no tofu on the menu or computers in place of a cash register

Beginning with Morley McGoverns in Roselle Park, Pete worked in Tevnan's in Elizabeth, Macadoo's, Commander Ryan's, Carl's Tavern, Casey's Pub in Linden and presently at Sharkey's Campus Inn in Union.

Pete fit right into the Campus Inn as if he worked there all forty years, some of the patrons seemed to know

him for that long from his past places of employment.

There is nothing typical about the crowd at the Campus Inn. It is an interesting mix of couples, singles looking to be couples, young and old. Some are there to socialize, or play pool, darts, or watch a game on T.V. Owner Joe Sharkey boasts of having every sports package offered, every sport, college and pro. There can be as many as twenty different games playing on his twenty different televisions.

No matter what someone is there for - lunch, dinner or a snacks are very tempting. Joe, who lives in Bayonne, brings thin crust pizza made in Bayonne to cook and serve in the Tavern. It is as popular as his famous grilled burgers.

Of course there is a well stocked bar commanded by Pete Ryan, at your service. Alway pleasant, always smiling and always generous when pouring. 🍷



(above) Pete Ryan at home at the Campus Inn.

*Not for Nothing But...*

Pete Ryan is the real McCoy when it comes to Irish bartenders.



(above, r-l) Boxer Chuck Wepner, inspiration for the movie "Rocky" is Joe Sharky's Godfather, mentor and closest of friends. Both are from Bayonne. He makes frequent appearances at the Campus Inn including a send off party held for family friend Nick Zingara who is in the Army and is being deployed on February 18.



(left, l-r) Larry Gallo, Edna Kose, Matt Porter, John Wolf, Mike Cruder, Jim Ferrante and Ted Berglund line the bar at Campus Inn with barkeep Pete Ryan.

## TEVNAN'S REUNION AT CAMPUS IN FRIDAY, FEB. 12

Pete Ryan worked a neighborhood bar named Tevnan's throughout the 1970's. Many strong bonds were formed between partons and with Pete. Tevnan's was located on Sayre Street. Thirty years later a few old friends found Pete working at Sharkey's Campus Inn on North Avenue, not too far from where Tevnan's was.

After reminiscing over a few pints of beer the group hatched a brainstorm to have a reunion of "Anyone that remembers Tevnan's or who went there!!!" 🍷

### SHARKY'S HOSTING TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

After UC Parade Party on Sat., March 13th, 2010  
On St Patrick's Day March, Wed., March 17, 2010



(above, r-l) Pete and Kathleen, his wife of 18 years, who he met at Tevnan's when she was a nursing student Kean College, on their honey moon in his home town of Pipperry, Ireland. They have one daughter.

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# PARKVIEW IS FILLED WITH SURPRISES

Parkview Tavern and Restaurant is nothing like it was five years ago. Over that time Luis Jerez has transformed it from a no frills tavern into a quality restaurant. In January 2010 Parkview opened a new dinning room and introduced a new menu. Some endearing aspects of the past are still preserved though. For instance, the intimate setting and friendly hospitality still makes one feel at home, a regular even though it may be the first time there.

It feels like home for other reasons too. The restaurant was retro fitted into an old home. Though the interior is all business the outside still looks like a residence, sans the Corona banner flapping in the wind. Another home based aspect of Parkview is that owner/chef Luis is joined by his brother Padro who is the hands-on manager.

## Recipes

Luis Jerez,

Parkview Restaurant, Linden, NJ

### Linguini nere con Gamberetti

(Black Linguini w/ shrimps, white beans in spicy sauce)

#### INGREDIENTS & PREPARATION:

- 1) Boil serving of Black Linguini  
(Parkview used hand made pasta darkened with squid ink)
- 2) In a pan, saute:  
Shrimp, Catalina Beans, Basil, Tomatoes, White Wine, Spicy Maranara Sauce, Garlic.
- 3) Add linguini to sauce pan and saute until blended.
- 4) Dust with Parmesan Cheese

Quantities are your guess.

### Pollo de Casa (House Chicken)

#### INGREDIENTS & PREPARATION:

- 1) Coat 2 Chicken breasts in flour.
- 2) Saute in pan with Mushrooms, Sundried Tomatoes, Garlic, Butter, Sauce (made with Sherry Wine and Heavy Cream), Salt and Pepper.
- 3) Dish and serve with sides of vegetables and potatoes.

Parkview's name becomes obvious as patrons have a wide view of wide sprawling Warinanco Park across St. Georges Avenue. Windows along the front of the building dominate the face to aid viewing. The biggest change from Parkview in the past is the newly renovated second floor dining room, cozy and romantic with a bird's eye view of the park. The room can also be used for private affairs comfortably seating approximately 35 people.

The most pleasant surprise is the food. Luis has owned several popular restaurants in New York City and prior to Parkview, he owned Tutto Bene in East Brunswick for eight years. The liqueur license is what attracted him to Parkview. He created a menu of some of his most outstanding dishes of Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Luis also has a menu of authentic dishes of his native Ecuador. It's not advertised but choice people know its there.

Parkview is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, with patio service when weather is permitting. Just another little unexpected surprise.

Parkview Tavern and Restaurant is located at 2048 E. Saint Georges Avenue in Linden, NJ. ☎



(above) Tavern patrons are greeted with the pleasant smile from Paola Gomez.

(right) Parkview, with its unassuming exterior, sits opposite to Warinanco Park on St. George's Avenue in Linden.



(above, l-r) Parkview manager Padro Jerez with brother, owner/chef Luis sit in newly created second floor dinning room.



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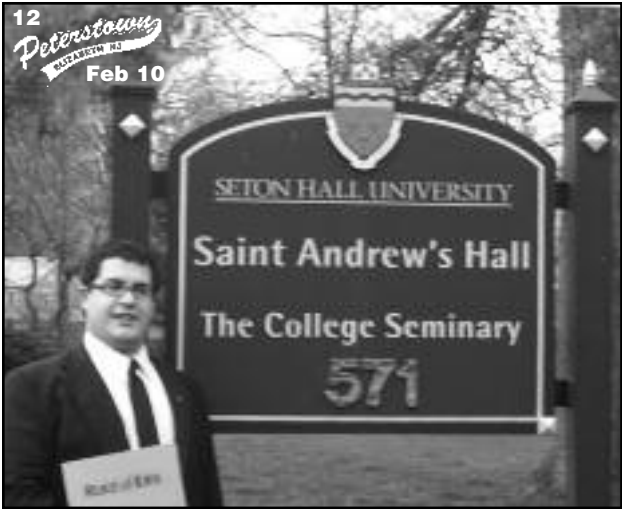
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(above) Renato Esposito with his Rules of Life on the campus of Seton Hall University.



(above) Ron Esposito, back row, second from right, and his St. Anthony's 7th grade class, Sister James presiding.



(above) Ron assists at a youth mass at St. Peter's church in Merchantville, NJ.

(left) On Jan 19, 2010, Ron served mass for Archbishop Myers, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark at a mass for Governor Chris Christie's Inauguration.

# HEARING THE CALL AND FOLLOWING ITS WORD

It is rare to know someone personally who answers the call to serve their faith, yet the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ has had an abundant number of sons and daughters who became priests, nuns, brothers, deacons and monks and ministers. The question of who pursues a vocation is less mysterious when they are one's own family, friends and neighbors.

Renato (Ron) Esposito, Jr. is the most recent local considering a career in ministry. Ron is in his third year towards earning a BA degree in Catholic Theology from St. Andrew's Hall, a college seminary that is part of Seton Hall University, where he is student president.

Ron also sought opportunities to grow in his faith outside of the school environment. In 2008 he visited Lourdes in France and was a Lector in a mass that was

broadcasted worldwide. In 2009 he walked 800 miles from Maine to New York City. Ministering on the road and raising awareness of the teachings of Jesus through the trek.

Though Ron had inklings of living a religious life early on he didn't act on them right away. He pursued other interests along the way. He attended Kean University for two years as a graphic arts student and continued his education at DuCre School of the Arts in Plainfield, NJ and The School of Visual Arts in New York City. He bowled and played soccer at St. Mary's High School in Elizabeth, and was a member of the St. Anthony's Drama Club. Ron, who plays guitar and drums, even formed a band with friends for a while.

At 24 years old Ron thought seriously about his calling. As an alter boy and member of the CYO in St. Anthony's he was inspired by the parish priests, Fr. John Mozzorello, Fr. Pat Diver, Fr. Sesto, and Fr. Vinny - Fr. Vince Paczkowski, who started the drama club. His interests were supported by his parents, Ron and Marie (nee Augello).

What Father Vinny showed Ron is that religious life does not inhibit developing other interests and talents. Ron plans to continue to develop as an artist and use his skills as a teacher or other capacity within the church. First he plans to pursue a masters degree in Sacred Theology after graduating from Seton Hall, a four-year degree at Major Seminary.



(above, l-r) The Esposito family, Marie, Renato Sr., Renato Jr., and Lisa Marie.

## WHAT ABOUT RON'S SISTER

Lisa Marie Esposito attended the School of Visual Arts in New York and is interested in pursuing a career in film. She is living in Elizabeth and is working from a home studio shooting portrait photography and videotaping weddings and events. Anyone interested in using her service can email her at eck0girl72@yahoo.com. (that "O" is a zero).

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# ANGELA RENNA RETIRES FROM BOARD OF ED

Angela Renna started working for the Elizabeth Board of Education in 1974 and retired in February 2010, after serving over thirty-four years.

Ms. Renna was an administrative secretary working in the High School system. She started working under Principal Dominic Parisi and saw the many changes in the school system as trends in education changed. Jeffrey Roszkowski is the current principal.

Ms. Renna began her career at Battin High School, which was then an all-girls school with the boys attending Thomas Jefferson High School a few blocks away. Edison Technical High School was a few blocks in the opposite direction. On August 17, 1977 the High School consolidated into a new four-house campus which sprawls along Pearl Street. Today the high school has added several new houses and academies, operating ten facilities to accommodate over 5,000 students.

Ms. Renna enjoyed her time at work and brought

her own brand of style and class, always smartly dressed and charming. She loved the children and got satisfaction from seeing them mature into young adults and get ready to face the world. She hoped that her work helped make their education experience successful.

Still full of energy and pep, Ms. Renna has already filled her plate with volunteering for several organizations and causes and getting more involved with programs at St. Theresa's Church in Kenilworth.

Visits from two grandchildren keep Ms. Renna busy at home. Her son Nick and wife Moreen have seven year old Julianna. Eleven year old Anthony is the son of her son Paul and his widow Laureen. Her Daughter Angela and husband Paul are newly weds.

Ms. Renna appreciates all the wonderful friends she made at work over the years and the outpouring of well wishes upon her retirement. 🍷.



(above) Angela Renna

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOUND IN KENILWORTH

Angela Renna found her first volunteer opportunity since retiring without even looking and when she least expected, while getting her hair styled. Her hair dresser, Enza Emma, told her of a fund raiser being organized for her neighbors, the Family of Robert C. Ghigliotty and Jolene Mazza-Ghigliotty.

Robert was recently killed in a car accident and left behind 2 beautiful children and his wife Joleen. The shock of the untimely loss has been compounded by the difficulty of economic stress from lack of income. The response from friends and neighbors was almost immediate and automatic.

The outpouring of support from the Kenilworth community has been overwhelming. Businesses and individuals have responded with merchandise and donations and volunteers are helping out. The Kenilworth VFW has donated the use of their hall and food and beverages have been donated for the event.

Angela helped put together over 200 gift baskets that

will be auctioned off at a Tricky Tray event on February 19, 2010 at the the VFW Hall on 21st Street in Kenilworth.

Helping Enza organize are Rose DeLucca, Joanne Petruzzella, and Victoria Crespo. No more merchandise is needed but financial contributions are always

welcomed. Organizers would like to see a huge turnout for the event and suggests everyone planning to come to bring along a friend.

The family has many ties to Peterstown and many people from the Elizabeth neighborhood are expected to turn out. 🍷



(above, l-e) Jolene, Robert, amber and Jonathan Ghigliotty.

**“Tricky Tray” for the Family of Robert C. Ghigliotty**  
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(above) Arthur Macaspac born in the Philippines and moved to the United States after college. He is currently a US Army Reserve Captain (CPT) and served in the navy as well. Arthur was deployed twice to the Middle East and once to South East Asia. He has returned to the world of Chess after returning from his year-long deployment in June of 2009.



# CHES MATES CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING IN RAHWAY, NJ ON MARCH 1, 2010

Local chess players are in for a special treat when Arthur Macaspac opens Chess Mates on Monday, March 1 in Rahway, NJ. The storefront will be part cafe, part club and part school featuring instruction by International Grandmaster Leonid Yudasin, a two time candidate for world champion who was ranked one the top five players in the world.

Macaspac is a formidable player in his own rite. A national master since 1998, Macaspac won the US Army Championship for twice and was a team Captain for US Military Team in NATO Competition.

Chess Mates is located in the newly build Park Square building in downtown Rahway, one block from the train station making it convenient for players to travel from New York and Philadelphia as well as across New Jersey. Park Square is in the heart of the revitalized downtown arts district. With ample parking and plenty of restaurants in walking distance.

The public is invited in to sit and play at any time in the cafe area at no charge during business hours. The doors will be open seven days a week for classes and tournaments, Monday through Wednesday from noon to midnight, Thursdays from noon to 6:30pm, Friday from

6pm to midnight, Saturday/Sunday from 10am to 9pm. Chess Mates will offer lite fare, coffee and snacks for casual players and have dinner and lunch catered by Michelino's Pizzeria and Restaurant for students and tournament players.

Lessons are offered for every level of player, beginner and veterans. Classes are organized by age starting with the 55 and older community in the early after noon, followed by youth lessons for six to thirteen year-olds and early evening classes for fourteen to 54 year olds. These restrictions are casually enforced and players may opt for private lessons also.

A variety of tournaments are schedules on a daily basis, with short and long time controls. There are different entrance fees with several prize structures applied. Details about class schedules and tournaments can be found on the website ChessmatesNJ.com.

The Grand Opening will feature a ribbon cutting celebration with refreshments being served. Afterwards, GM Yudasin will conduct a simultaneous chess exhibition where play all comers as they sit. There is no charge to play.

Attendees will also have a chance to sit in a chess lesson. The evening will be topped off by a Speed Chess tournament.

Chess Mates is looking to attract not only top chess players and enthusiasts but the casual and curious players. Part of Arthur's goal is to introduce chess to youngsters and help the game grow in popularity.



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# FRANK LESNIAK PASSES AT AGE 88

On November 3 Frank Adam Lesniak, passed away at the age of 88. Born and raised in the Frog Hollow section of Elizabeth, NJ, he eventually moved to the Peterstown area after getting married in 1943. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Army, serving in the 29th Division during World War II. After training in England with his unit, he participated in the D-Day invasion, landing on Omaha Beach in one of the first waves of the attack. The division advanced to St. Lo, through France and, finally, into Germany itself. He received the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal.

Upon his return, Frank was a maintenance mechanic for the Elizabethtown Gas Company for 25 years before retiring in 1983. He was an extremely talented carpenter, working as a self-employed contractor until 1989. Over his lifetime, he built and renovated several

homes in which he lived, and also enjoyed making benches, wine racks and birdhouses in his garage where he worked nearly every day.

In his youth, he was a fastball pitcher as a member of the Sailors Athletic Club, and also pitched for the Kingstons, Stallions and the Montanos, all of Elizabeth. He was also proud of his Polish heritage and enjoyed dancing the Polka every week at the Bayway Polish National Home.

Frank was the beloved husband for 66 years of Loretta (Pasquarelli) Lesniak; devoted father of Darlene Leary Boyle and Robert Lesniak; loving grandfather of Philip Leary and the late Paul Leary; and loving great-grandfather of Katie and Emily Leary. He is also survived by his sister, Marie Vincent, and beloved nieces and nephews.

He was an Elizabeth native, a hero to his country and



(above, r-l) Frank Lezniak and wife Loretta.

a wonderful husband and father. His selfless devotion and generosity to his family and friends will be greatly missed but always remembered. 🕊️

## VILLANI DRUMS IN LONDON’S NEW YEAR

Armand Villani of Prescott Valley, AZ, the grandson of Dee Villani, President of Villani Bus Co., in Linden and the son of Frank Villani of Prescott Valley marched in the New Year's Day Parade in London, England.

Armand, who is a drummer, was joined by his mother, Valerie and his stepfather as chaperones.

His school was invited by the Lord High Lieutenant who visited the high school and presented them with the official invitation. Approximately 100 of the 125 members of the band were able to make the self-funded trip. The high school was one of ten in the United States that were invited to play in the 2010 New Year's Day Parade.

Armand’s two aunts and several cousins, who live in England, were able to attend the parade and see him march. His aunts are Francine Bosco and Maria Bosco-Brown, the daughters of Rosalie Villani Bosco of Linden. 🕊️



(above) Armond Villani

## JOSE LINO FOLLOWS IN DAD’S FOOTSTEPS

Jose Lino opened Lino Bedding & Furniture in January 2010, on Fourth Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. Jose grew up helping his father, Paco, who also had his bedding store in Peterstown.

Jose has sixteen years experience and works towards giving his customers the quality brand products at low prices.

Most business is done through his website [www.linobedding.com](http://www.linobedding.com) and by phone 908-296-1353.



(above) Jose Lino sits in his no frills space in Peterstown and operates his storefront on the internet at [www.linobedding.com](http://www.linobedding.com) while offering free delivery.

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