



IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO BASICS

It's ironic how the same technology that has made the world small has also caused communities to disseminate. The necessity to cluster in urban centers is less crucial to survival. Value systems were once rooted in physical, spiritual and emotional interaction. To achieve the same level of community life has now become a challenge.

At one time, the family was at the base of the community, but that is no longer true in fact, even the meaning of the word "family" has changed. Today the word "family" refers to parents and their children. Anyone outside that core group is strictly an arms-length relationship. Up to the 1960's, families were extended past the range of second cousins, once removed. What was more remarkable than the family's social bonds was their geographical relationship. Generations were born and raised within city blocks of each other. In most cases, the units of a multiple dwelling were all occupied by the same family.


The next tier of the community consisted of relationships between neighbors. Friendships were so tight that they would blend together with family ties. The trust and love between neighbors was just as strong as family. Marriage between different families within the community strengthened ties even deeper. This was the way it was for many neighborhoods, especially the immigrant communities that huddled together out of necessity, before they assimilated or were even given the opportunity to assimilate. Life centered around the family, the church and work. These aspects of living were so paramount that everything else played second fiddle. Entertainment, recreation, and of course, socializing, revolved around those three mainstays.

Between the Industrial Revolution and WWII, society was turned on its ear. When the baby boomers hit the scene, all heck broke loose.

America had another revolution. This time it was social. New freedoms of expression and mobility upset the status quo. There were new ways of living. It was a time to tune out, turn off and drop out. The effect on the communities was shattering, like dropping a bowl of M&Ms on the floor. The core of the communities scattered. In the new order of things, the role that family played was diminished. Today the "me" generation looks out for number one. There is no time left to think of others. Life is defined by personal satisfaction.

Peterstown stuck to the traditions that brought it along into the new millennium. Many families have stayed within the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood. Those who didn't are faced with a task of preserving the value structure that was inherent with living there. That would mean leaving the cul-de-sac and making an effort to reach out to the community at large. Getting back to sharing and experiencing life together and helping others.

Some people yearn for things to be the way they remember they once were. But they speak as if it is impossible. The reality is that it is possible. There are enough people with the values that made the old neighborhoods so wonderful. The biggest hurdle is to understand the concept that thinking of the welfare of others first, results in the fulfillment of oneself.

Mother Teresa said "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." By starting with the elders and working on down, it is possible to touch every life in a positive way. But first someone has to get on their knees and pick up all those M&Ms. 



Passport photo of Sal Angelo's grandmother Caterina (Coniglio) Ciaccio, age 39. His mother, Mary and Uncle Joseph, ages 10 and 11, taken in Ribera Sicily September 1919. Sal traced his family tree back 5 generations to the 1700's. His second article on the subject is inside on page 10.



On May 30, 2003, Carmella Fortunato celebrated her 102nd birthday. On hand to share in the celebration were neighborhood friends from Peterstown, along with her children, her children's children and their children. Pictured with Carmella is her great granddaughter, Tiana.

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President's Message

We had a record snow this winter and now it is followed by record rains all spring. I feel like we should prepare for locust this summer.

Aside from the weather being brutal, all is well on the home front. Things are less stressful in the world but we must still be very cautious. The picnic went off well, though it was postponed a day because of rain. This was the first time we planned it on a Saturday and since we never plan a rain date it was almost divine intervention that gave us a beautiful Sunday to have the picnic the following day.

I would like to thank all the members who helped and all those in attendance who joined us to honor our man of the year, Carl Corsentino.

Club member, Joe Renna is running for Union County Freeholder this year. We wish him the best of luck and encourage everyone to get out and vote for Joe. Everyone knows Joe for his integrity, hard work and community service. He will surely do what's right for the people.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
John Sacco
President

PRESS RELEASES

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

ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA
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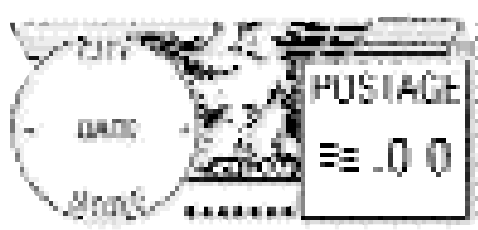
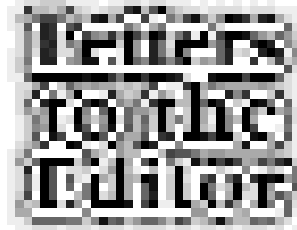
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LETTER POLICY

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

Dear Joe,

I'd like to share a story about my brother, Bob Lesniak, and his dog, Rusty with the readers of *Around About Peterstown*.

Bob Lesniak and his wife Barbara (the former Barbara Wade from Spring Street in Elizabeth) are crazy about this dog and treat him like their child. Bob and Barb have no children. They are so proud of him they had t-shirts and sweatshirts made with his picture on them and gave them to family members.

Several years ago, Bob and his co-workers, while having lunch outside, came across this pup, who was obviously starving and in poor condition. Bob took him home, and pending the approval of his wife, intended to keep him. She fell in love with the pup, and the rest is history.

Bob visits his parents (Loretta and Frank Lesniak) every Sunday morning for breakfast, along with Rusty, and Bob's dad makes Rusty a scrambled egg, which Rusty loves and goes over to the area in the kitchen where he knows the egg will be as soon as he goes through the door.

Rusty is an exceptionally smart dog and Bob has taken much pleasure in training him to perform many tasks.

Bob was born and raised on Fourth Avenue in Peterstown, 3rd generation, and while a member of the "Sons of Peterstown" held the distinction of being the only member of Polish descent.

Best regards,
Darlene Boyle
Rahway, NJ



**Happy father's day, Bob.-
Love Rusty**

Hi Joe

The article of my trip to Japan was really good. I liked the way you set up the photo with the text. I'm going to send a copy of the paper to Japan. They will be reading the *Peterstown* news in Komoro City, Japan.

Thanks!
Len Merlo

Dear Mr. Renna,

I love the paper and look forward to each edition. Such memories. The April 03 Issue had a picture of my beloved Paul with his 1937 championship basketball team.

Thank you, good luck and God bless,
Santina Novello
Delray Beach, FL

Dear Joe,

Thank you so much for your article about our son Joe. We are so proud of Joe and his brothers.

We received several calls from family and friends. As a life long friend you painted a true picture of Joe. He has achieved all the goals he set out to do and I'm sure he has not finished yet. As you know he would be the last one to blow his own horn.

Thanks,
Joe & Pat Brennan
Spring Lake, NJ

(above) Ed Boyle, ready to do his gardening, wears his "Rusty" T-shirt that he received from his brother-in-law, Bob.

Bob gave the shirts out to his entire family for Christmas. It was a thoughtful gift but what was he thinking?

(right) Regular contributing writer Charles Cusumano and his wife Carmela



Dear Tina & Joe,

The prodigal son has returned penitent and awaiting his penance. I can't seem to shake the cobwebs from my brain but I'm back anyway, and with a flourish.

By the way, here's something very few people know. We had a section in Elizabeth called New Mexico. It's boundaries were South Park and 6th Street (East) 6th Street to Trumbull Street and Mainline Central R.R., Trumbull Street North to Division Street, there Trumbull, South Park and Division Streets came together. The community had its own identity and the people who lived there had pride in their neighborhood.

We had separate football, softball, etc., teams. It was a great place to live, but Peterstown always beckoned. All our relatives and friends who came from Sicily joined St. Anthony's Church where I was an altar boy from 1930 to 1936. I thought I was so old back then. I remember Fr. Ruvola, Fr. Zolin, Fr. Rinaldi and Fr. Bregolstro. It was after Fr. Rinaldi came that I enlisted in the army. Fr. Bregolstro married Carmela and I in July 1941. I was already on my 2nd enlistment and a staff sergeant.

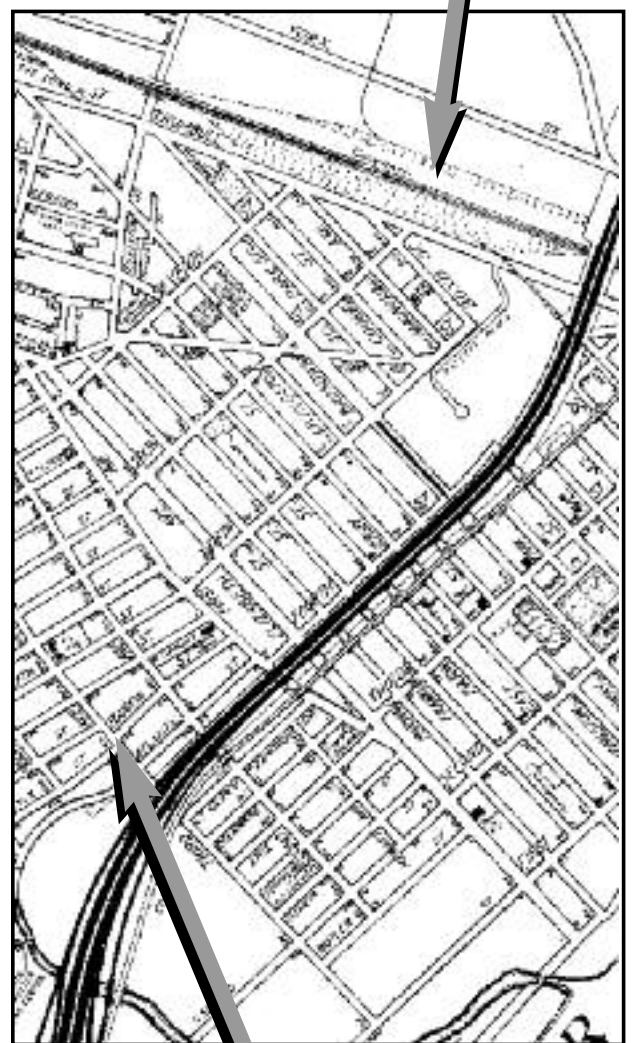
Well Tina and Joe until I can regain my span of concentration I will keep trying. I'm on my 84th year, maybe I should take a course or two at our community college. Help me to think.

With good wishes and affection,
Charles A. Cusumano
Stevensville, Maryland

PS. Please mail all back-issues available to my "Goomba" John Nash. John Nash and I grew up on South Park Street. We were and still are like brothers. He was my best man. He never married, he hasn't been able to find another Carmela Catalano. He knew all of my Peterstown friends.

(below) A detail of the map of Elizabeth indicating the parameters of an old neighborhood called New Mexico.

NEW MEXICO, ELIZABETH, NJ



PETERSTOWN, ELIZABETH, NJ

Editor's Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

According to the Election Law Enforcement Commission, the county wide expenditures for the Democratic Party for the 2002 elections was \$1,000,000. I'm no Milton Freedman but can the position of Union County Freeholder, that pays \$28,000 a year, be worth that much? You bet it is.

The Freeholders hold the purse strings of a \$341,000,000 budget. That's some righteous bucks. In fact it's your righteous bucks, the tax payer! And for the past three years in a row the county has raised their portion of your property tax bill almost 10% per year. There is no indication that next year is going to be any different.

Most people don't know what a Freeholder is or what the county does with the money it collects. If you look at your property tax bill you will see that about half goes to your Board of Education, about 25% goes to your municipality and about 25% goes to the county. In fact some people pay more tax to the county than they do their town. When the school or city taxes go up, everyone gets up and screams and hollers. When it comes to their county taxes most people don't even notice what is happening.

Many cities are struggling to make their budgets work. Last months newspaper reported that Rahway is looking to lay off policemen and educators in order to get the budget under control. At the same time the county has increased it's levy on the property tax. Cities and BOE's know how sensitive the property tax issue is and hesitate to raise the tax because there may be political repercussions. There is only so much tax that could be collected. When the county hits the property owners with a higher tax, then that is less that is available for education and safety on the local level.

The Union County Freeholders are immune to the threat of being voted out. With the amount of cash at their disposal, the incumbents can do anything they wish without fear of losing their seat.

The classic end to a con artists career is when he gets too greedy. The arrogance of the con causes him to extend himself, never thinking he will ever get caught. If the con was successful so far why not go for a bigger payoff? When he inevitably does, he gets noticed.

The county is creeping dangerously close to the point in which their actions will have a detrimental effect on some fundamental issues.

On May 29, 2003, just before the Freeholder Board voted on approving the 2003 budget, an additional \$500,000 was added to the tax levy. There is no checks or balance system in our county government. Taxpayers

are being fleeced. People are not informed and, even if they were, they are powerless to stop the Freeholders from doing what they want. The only way to stop this thievery is to elect new Freeholders who will balance the one sided Democratic board. At the very least an independent voice on the board can keep the public informed.

That is why I have chosen to run for Union County Freeholder this year. Running for office is something I have been wanting to do for a long time. For ten years I have been working with many municipalities, Urban Enterprise Zones, Special Improvement Districts, government agencies and non-profits. This has been my career. I sold my business and joined on with the county in 2001. I am a member of the American Society of Public Administration and I will receive my masters degree in public administration in less than a year. Details of my career can be found on my website under resume.

There are many services that the County delivers that are valuable to the public. But not \$341,000,000 worth. The waste is incredible. The money should be back in the hands of the people who earned it. The county should accentuate the programs that do the most good and cut the waste.

As a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders I intend to make sure that people are informed about how the county operates. As a board member, I will give the people the opportunity to have a real say in the decisions I make.

I can be a very effective representative of the people. That is what I would like to accomplish. I'm not running because I hate anyone. I don't hate anyone. I do realize people now hate me for running. It's sad to think that running for office is regarded as hatred for an opponent. I'm running because I believe that I can improve the County Government. I will show the deficiencies that exist and offer solutions.



could everyone stop

asking if I could

get you a job?



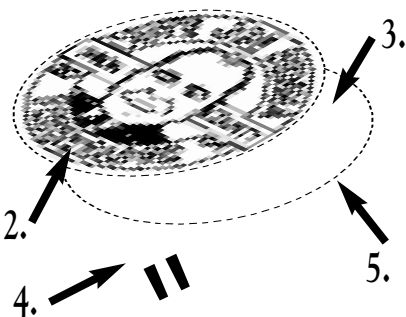
WINNING ON A SHOE STRING BUDGET

I intend to run my campaign using techniques that should cost little or nothing. I could never compete with the dollar amount that the incumbents are spending, but I do like to write. And so I will be combining my love of writing with the love of government and getting the word out.

I will be writing every day, in the Union County Forum of NJ.com. I will be posting articles on my website, joerenna.com and emailing to anyone who cares to know what I think on a certain issue.

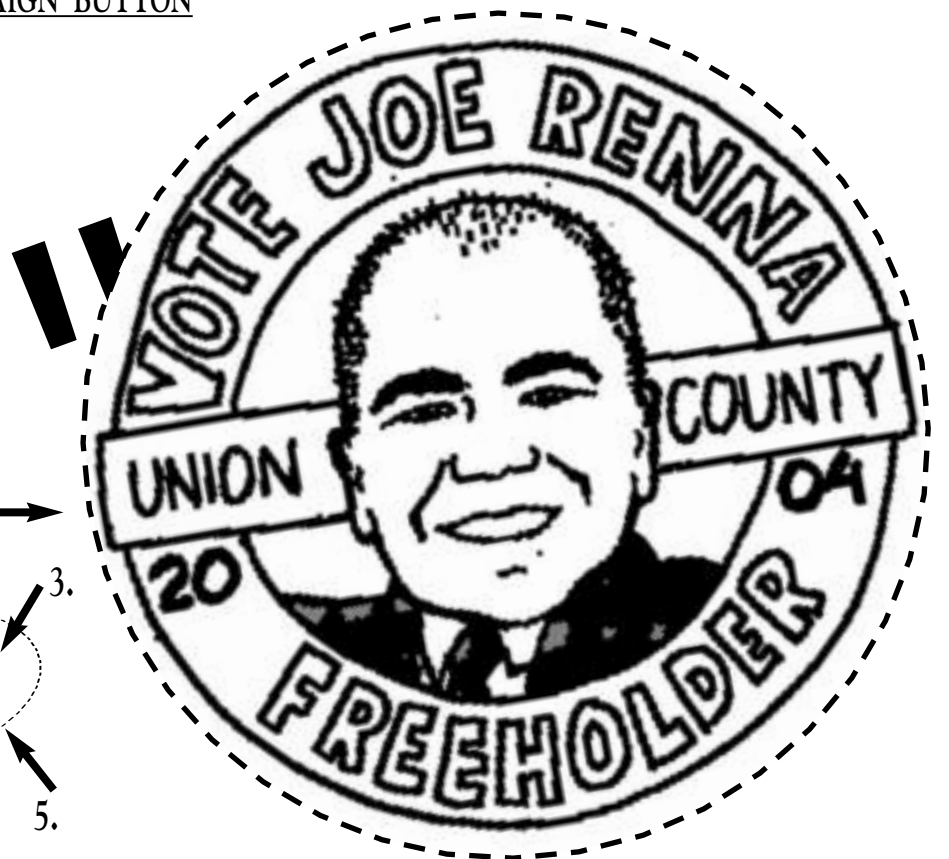
I would also like to set up a network of people who can help distribute a newsletter that I'm going to produce just for the campaign. Helping will be fun, educational and whatever else you want it to be.

I won't be beholden to corporate sponsors or individuals that contributed to my campaign. And so I don't expect much in the way of contributions. If you want to help then start talking. Good old word-of-mouth will get me the exposure I need. If you want to be active call my wife/campaign manager, Tina, at 908-709-0530.



MAKE YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN BUTTON

1. Make copies of the badge for friends & family.
2. Color them (if you wish).
3. Glue them to pieces of Oak Tag Paper.
4. Cut the circles along the dotted line.
5. Stick a pin through the back and wear with pride. 1.



MY DAD’S LIFE IS MY LESSON IN LIFE

By Joe Renna

I remember being 17 and arguing with my brother over who would get the car keys. I remember my father coming home, cold from working in freezing temperatures all day, 200 feet up on the rigging at the Exxon refinery. He didn't seem to mind the cold so much that day because he was more worried about his eyes. He had caught a "flash" while welding, which can burn the retinas of the eyes. Not much could be done when that happened. He would wait it out until he could see again. He would go to bed earlier than usual, the pain would make falling asleep difficult. He had to wake up the next next morning at the crack of dawn and live the same day over again.

Did I say he “had to”? I know no one “has to” do anything. My father chose to work hard every day. He had seven kids and he wanted to give them the best opportunities in life. Things he didn’t have. He wanted them all to have Catholic school educations. He wanted them all to go to college. He wanted them all to work in a way in which they wouldn’t dread the day.

My dad never had that. He never had much of anything. He scraped a social life together hanging with his life long friends, in their club house or local gin mill. They played cards and went home early. Everyone of them had to answer the whistles blow come morning. Every one worked hard, physical work. Every one was weary. But they chose to do it.

My father didn’t consider what he was doing as making a choice. He believed it was the right thing to do. He was providing for his family the best he could. Anything else would be a cop out; not an option.

I remember looking at my brother and giving up the keys, at that point I don't think he wanted them either. Here we were fighting over who gets the car and all I could think of was my dad. I thought about him at 17. He was in

the invasion of North Africa. His troop transfer ship was struck and he had to swim to safety. The same thing would happen to him again. This time in the Solomon Islands during the invasion of Bouganville. The following year, 1943, he was aboard the USS Penn and again was in a fight for his life. The ship was lost along with 98 of his shipmates. What was I fighting for?

My father continued his tour of duty assigned to a destroyer stationed in the Pacific. He was part of the 3rd fleet under the command of Admiral Bull Halsey. After his time in the service, he signed on for two tours with the Merchant Marines.

Compared to the war, his struggles at home must have seemed trivial. But of course they weren’t, not by my standards, anyway. Standards that he earned for me. Relative to his life, mine has been a blessing. I make my living writing. After the war getting work was tough enough. My dad drove a truck, shaped the labor hall even worked as a Union County corrections officer before learning his trade as a pipe fitter.

My father made choices his whole life but he couldn't tell me what choices to make. My world was light years away from his. Though he couldn't tell me what to choose he was able to show me why I should make my choices. It always came down to the doing what’s right.

I hope the date that I cancelled that night forgave me. But I had to make a choice. My brother and I both stayed home and hung out with dad. 🍷

Happy father’s day, dad. - Love Joey

The story on the following page is an account of the attack on the USS John Penn.

THE WRECK OF THE USS JOHN PENN

by Ewan Stevenson - <http://www.divenewzealand.com/backissues/47penn.html>



(above) Pete Renna
on duty for his country.

(left) He was on board
aboard the USS John Penn the evening it
went down after being attacked by a squadron
of Japanese fighter plans. A total of 98 men
were listed as killed or missing in action.

(above, l-r)
Father and son,
Nicholas and
Peter Renna

More than half a century ago, the USS John Penn was sunk at anchor in a daring night attack off Guadalcanal.

On the evening of Friday, August 13, 1943, an American convoy was busy unloading war supplies off Guadalcanal. A dozen big transports, cargo ships and oilers were anchored in line for some 26km. The attack transport USS John Penn (APA-23) was amongst them. As an APA (US Navy abbreviation for an attack transport) she was well armed, with one five-inch gun, four three-inch guns and eight 20mm Oerlikon cannons. She was 145 meters long and displaced 9360 tons.

Anchored off the American complex at Lunga Point, she was ablaze with lights as a working party of 20 Marines unloaded cargo. Five destroyers, three patrol vessels and a RNZN corvette patrolled outside the row of transports to ward off any lurking Japanese submarines. Hundreds of fighter aircraft, including night fighters, were based at the nearby airfields and a continuous shore-based radar watch was maintained.

At the Japanese end of the Solomon archipelago, the engine roar of seven Nakajima B5N2 Navy Type 97 attack bombers reverberated through the night air as they waited on the dusty, jungle-fringed airfield at Buin on Southern Bougainville. Allied intelligence knew these planes as 'Kates.' Used in the Pearl Harbour attack, the Kate was the mainstay of Japanese aerial carrier torpedo capability, but could also carry flares and bombs. The seven Kates from the Ryuho Naval Flying Corps were divided into two groups. Two, loaded with two 60kg bombs and flares each, were designated as a 'feint' group. The remaining planes comprised the 'attack' group and each carried a deadly torpedo that weighed nearly a ton. At 1845 hours, the two 'feint' planes took off. 15 minutes later, Lieutenant Hirao Kuwata pushed the throttle forward on his B5N2 and led off the five-plane attack group. They turned east and then southeast, settling to an economic cruising speed. They had a long over-water flight of some 750km just to get to the target area.

At about 2015 hours, the Marines working on the John Penn watched the last net full of 155mm artillery propellant being hoisted over the side. It was a calm, pleasant tropical evening, with bright moonlight, some low cloud and a gentle breeze from the southeast. As usual, numerous Allied planes could be heard and seen, taking off and landing at nearby airfields or streaking across the night sky. Five minutes later, as the Marines were gathering for the ride back to their quarters, the terrific noise of the ship's siren screeched suddenly through the ship: 'Condition Red!' The code translated

as 'Air attack imminent.'

The Marines had nowhere to go, but the John Penn's crew, trained for such occasions, rushed to battle stations, pulling on their anti-flash gear if they were gun crews or collecting binoculars if they were lookouts. The engineers dashed through the narrow corridors and slid down ladders toward the engine room. Others raced to 'Repair Stations.' In a very short time, the ship was ready for battle. Her exterior lights were doused and the anchor chain partially hove in to facilitate a fast getaway.

A few minutes after Condition Red was sounded, anti-aircraft gunfire sprang up over Cape Esperance. At 2100 hours, a high-flying plane dropped bombs on the beach and in the sea off Lunga Point. Two parachute flares were also released, and drifted slowly earthward. Fiery tracers from gunfire reached out to the culprit plane, but it quickly went into a power dive and escaped over the sea. 20 minutes later another bright double flare was released by a high-flying aircraft, this time in the vicinity of Fighter II airfield near Kukum, on the west side of Lunga Point. What did they mean? During the preceding months the John Penn crew had experienced a number of Condition Reds, but invariably the Japanese bombed the airfields and left the ships alone. On this night, it looked like much the same again. Their nervous eyes watched the mysterious flares and the lights from their own aircraft streaking across the sky. Then, a couple of minutes after the second flare, one of the destroyers patrolling a mile or two northwest of the ship suddenly erupted in gunfire to the north at a low angle.

Hundreds of tracers from the destroyer's automatic weapons streaked out in a solid cone of light that split the night sky like horizontal fireworks. The gunfire traversed rapidly towards the Penn. A destroyer tried to radio a frantic warning, but it was only partially received and it was too late anyway. In seconds, the enemy planes had passed through the destroyer screen and were homing in on the anchored transports. The gun crews of the John Penn had been waiting tensely for an hour since the first alarm, and now they released all their pent-up stress by pressing triggers and letting loose a devastating fusillade of gunfire.

In a remarkable display of coordination, or by incredible coincidence, three Japanese planes converged almost simultaneously on the John Penn. The effect was to divide the defensive gunfire from the target ship. The first plane approached directly abeam the starboard side. The damage control officer aboard the ship was First Lieutenant Alex Koppler. His report later recalled, 'I was standing on the starboard side of the upper deck about midships ... I then sighted a single low-flying plane with

running lights coming straight for us. The plane was no more than 50 feet above the water. This was also the height of my eye. The plane was coming in from the direction of Tulagi. The USS Fuller and USS John Penn commenced firing almost together and the sky was full of tracers. The attacking plane was also firing tracers of a pink and white type. The plane was approaching at tremendous speed. At this point I dashed for cover.

A moment later, crew members sighted a second plane screaming in obliquely off the bow. When just 150-200 yards away, the plane released a torpedo. The impact occurred on the starboard side, at Number Five hold near the stern. A dull, sickening explosion rumbled through the ship, then a crash and another shattering explosion rocked the ship. The crash came from the incoming plane. It had been caught by fire from the stern guns, and crashed into the aft section of the ship. The second explosion, which blew the aft gun platforms toward the stern, is believed to have been the aft magazine. The explosions were blinding - the entire vessel, surrounding ships and nearby clouds were lit up like day. The damage was tremendous. A huge hole in the side of the ship flooded the engine room and three aft holds. A third of the ship was full of water. The explosions also snapped bunches of electrical cables. The ship's electrical power failed, and with it all communications and lights. Steam lines were torn loose, and brickwork in the boiler furnaces collapsed. The loss of both electrical power and steam pressure meant there was no way to save the ship. A pool of flaming oil spread around the stern as oil spilled from ruptured bunkers.

The John Penn lurched slightly to starboard and settled fast by the stern. Less than ten minutes after the hit, the damage control party reported just two feet of freeboard aft. Orders were passed by word of mouth, 'Away all life rafts.' Three minutes later, the freeboard had diminished to just two inches and the anchor chain was strained to the limit as the bow rose out of the water. At 2140, as the ship continued to sink stern-first into the calm dark sea, Captain Need finally ordered, 'All hands abandon ship.' Ten minutes later, the bow of the USS John Penn slipped beneath the Solomon Sea.

In total, 98 men from the John Penn were listed as killed or missing in action. Many of the survivors were severely injured. Even for the physically unscathed, there was emotional turmoil as they reflected on their dead shipmates and friends. The Japanese flight crews claimed five transports sunk in the attack, but in fact only the John Penn was sunk. Five Kates out of seven returned to the Buin Airbase, just past midnight; mysteriously, the Japanese records admit the loss of one plane but neglect to mention the fate of the other. 🇺🇸

A REMARKABLE MAN, MY GRANDFATHER WAS

Submitted by George C. Rusciano with respect and honor to George Novello.



I was born, raised, and married (at St. Anthony's) in Peterstown. I'm compelled to share the history of a contributor to the welfare, safety, and unity of the Italian community in this very special neighborhood of Elizabeth. This individual was a self-made and self-educated man-my grandfather, George Novello.

He came to the United States as a 9-year-old from Naples, Italy, and settled in Pennsylvania with his family. Eager to see more and learn about this great country, he headed west at a young age and worked at a variety of jobs while acquiring many skills. He was employed by the railroad in the metal and woodworking shops, and he even became a cowboy on a cattle ranch in Texas. Upon his return to the east coast, he married Rebecca Smith

(left) Rebecca and George Novello with son John, one of their seven children.

(right) Elizabeth Detective/Sergeant George Novello in uniform.



from New York. They settled in Peterstown, and built a two-story brick home on the corner of Second Avenue and South Seventh Street, where they raised a family of seven children and made Elizabeth their home for most of their lives.

His life was as interesting as it was varied. He became the first Italian on the Elizabeth police force (a Keystone Cop). Being a crack pistol shot he first served as a special policeman patrolling the streets on foot throughout the community. However, after 11 years and many disagreements regarding the treatment and the culture of Italian-Americans, he quit the force as a detective/sergeant.

After leaving the police force he was a foreman for the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation during World War I, and became an authority on ship construction and design. Later, he established the first independent bus line (#30) to run from Elizabeth Port to North Elizabeth. He left the management of this business (George Novello & Sons) to his family. He was also a professional prize fighter.

Perhaps his most intriguing position was his job at the Nixon Shipyard. There he worked for his personal friend Mr. John Holland, the inventor of the first submarine. While a member of the first crew to test the submarine at Elizabeth Port, he developed a keen interest in naval vessels.

Subsequently, he spent much of his time in his workshop on South Seventh Street building scale models of naval battleships. The shop even had a concrete pool for testing the boats! Each hull was carved from solid wood, and all parts, including metal plates, screws, rivets, lifeboats, superstructures, and gun turrets made from six-shooters (no doubt from his cowboy days) were made by hand.

He had the idea of a crewless ship controlled by radio. He contacted a phone company friend who supplied the dials, antenna, and electrical parts needed. All the other parts were made by hand. The completed model-8 feet long, 510 pounds, mounting two #32 caliber guns-was loaded on a trailer and driven to Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, where it was successfully tested, the guns fired and the boat was directed back to shore. The vessel was also tested later in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. The event was covered in the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1934, and also became part of the Fox Pathe Newsreel, a common feature in movie theatres at the time. The United States Navy offered to purchase the boat and take it to Washington, DC, for further evaluation. However, this "deal" would not mention or give credit to my grandfather. Being a very proud and spirited man, he declined the offer.

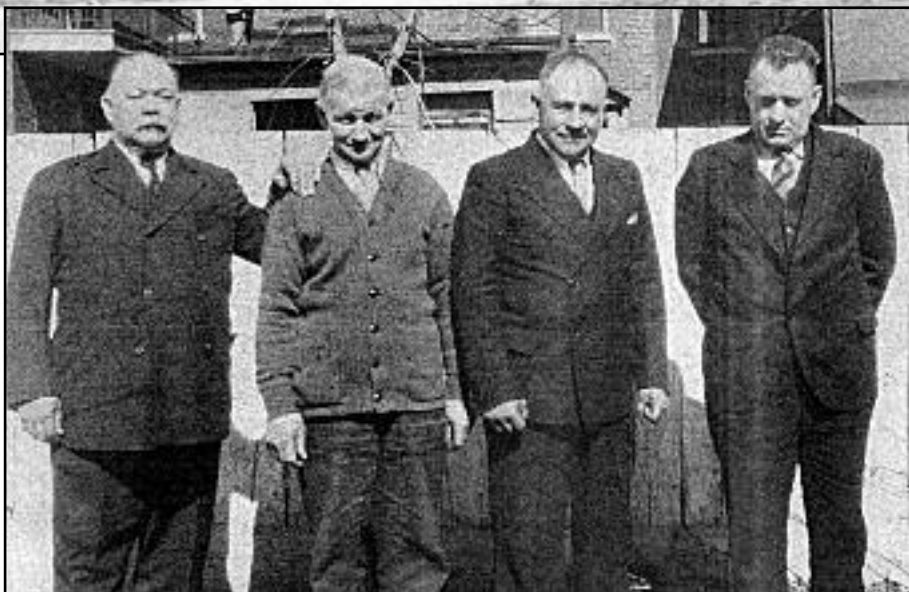
Along with his love for ships was his love for the ocean. He spent many summers at the Jersey shore and rented a summer cottage in Bay Head, New Jersey. Eventually he decided to buy land and build a home. Although the purchase and necessary permits were not approved by the local township, he successfully won an appeal at the state court level with the help of an Elizabeth attorney. He became the first Italian-American to own a home in Bay Head. He relocated his beloved workshop to the rear of the new home, and continued working on his boats, as well as fishing, crabbing, and simply enjoying the sea for many years. He died at the age of 80, and is buried in Linden, New Jersey.

Although the boats and many documents and pictures were unfortunately destroyed by fire, I'm sure there are some individuals and families still living in Peterstown (or reading this paper) who will remember him. I feel privileged to have spent many years of my childhood knowing and loving this truly remarkable man. 🇮🇹



(above) The Novello home, located on Second Avenue and South 7th Street, was fronted by one of the first corner candy stores in Peterstown.

(right, l-r) The Novello Brothers: George, Michael, Frank and Anthony.



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

I used to take dates down to the creek to watch the submarine races.



(left) The USS Plunger SS 2, later to be called A-1, was laid down May 21, 1901 at the Crescent Shipyard in Elizabeth, NJ. It was the navy's first successful submarine boat and it was built in Elizabeth, NJ by John Philip Holland.

OLD PHOTO INSPIRES TIME TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Carmela (Monaco) Ismail

My maiden name was Carmela Monaco. My family lived on 508 Spencer Street. I went to St. Anthony's School and Church as did my sisters, Andrea, Charlene and Carol. I lived in Elizabeth until 17 years ago, part of the time back on Spencer Street in the house where I grew up.

A few weeks ago, Antoinette and Henry Cistrelli called me long distance because of your newspaper. I've known them for more than 45 years and I've maintained a lifelong friendship. I used to baby sit for their four children, Diane, Donna, Darlene and Henry. Now the girls have 7 children among them. They called to tell me that they saw a photo of my Dad, Carmine (Charlie) Monaco in your April 03 Issue. My father died 30 years ago, at the young age of 59. It now seems like he was so young when he died because my husband of 25 years, John, is almost that age now, and he's just a baby.

The day that the Cistrelli's called was the 8th anniversary of the death of my mother. I received the newspaper in the mail on May 7th, the 30th anniversary of the death of my father. Mother's Day was that Sunday. I cannot tell you how much it meant to receive this newspaper in my time of grief and remembrance and, in particular, to see a picture of my dad at the tender age of 19. This is only the forth picture I have of him.

I also took time to remember my sister Carol. Carol's 44th birthday is May 21st. She died tragically at her own hand 23 years ago. She was just 21. She's now in heaven longer than she was with us on Earth. My daughter, Caroline, was named in my sister's honor. She is now 20 years old.

My Godfather, Joe Furiero, is also in the photo. I will put this picture in a place of honor in my home next to my parents' wedding picture. My Godfather was the best

man at their wedding.

Seeing that picture of my dad was the best Mother's Day present I could have gotten. It was like a warm hug. My dad is beloved and remembered by all who knew him.

My father was born on Palmer Street and lived on Spencer Street. He died entirely too young. He never saw his three grandchildren, Caroline, Giancarlo and Lauren, and he never saw his daughters graduate from high school or get married.

His wife and children meant everything to him. He was and nicest, kindest man who ever walked the face of the earth! He was my mom's husband and our father and everyone's friend! I am so proud to be his daughter!

I am totally and permanently handicapped and am now in a wheelchair as a result of an accident which occurred two years ago when I was picking up my daughter, Caroline from her first year in college.

I can't tell you how much your paper means to me. I read about people I consider family. Those with whom I grew and went to school. I have cherished memories of all of them. Elizabeth will always be home to me, The people there were such an integral part of my life and will always be more like "family" than "friends". 🇵🇸

(right) Reprint of phot that appeared in the April 03 issue of Around About Peterstown.
(standing, l-r) Alex Londino, T. Curtin, J. Calabro, A. Carado, J. Furiero, P. Chirachio (sitting, l-r) C. Monico, J. Melchione, Andy Santamaria, T. Bisco, A. Furiero, (holding sign) P. Mele.

1932 kingston club baseball team




CLIMBING UP YOUR FAMILY TREE

Sal Angelo has completed Pedigree Charts for both his parents and his wife's parents. His parents were John (Giovanni) Angelo and Mary (Audenzia) Ciaccio. His wife's parents were Giuseppe Luigi Moscaritolo and Carmela Mazza.

The sample pedigree charts below are of his mother's direct ancestors, e.g. her parents (Salvatore Ciaccio and Caterina Coniglio), grandparents, great-grandparents etc. In addition to the sample pedigree charts pictured are sample Family Group Sheets of his maternal great-grandfather Pelligrino Coniglio. These documents form summaries of the composition of his family as found in the microfilm vital records of the town of Ribera. Sal has a Family Group Sheet for every family group in both his wife's family and his.

He is now working on completing research on his “collateral ancestors”. Collateral ancestors are important because it can provide solutions to questions and problems in one’s family history. In case one wants to know the answers to why some family members are overly friendly to some people and how they are related to others.

Through his research, Sal now knows how his wife's mother and aunt are not only sister-in-laws but became

third cousins by having the same great-great-grandfather. Most of the answers come from marriages of previous ancestors into other families. There are also some fascinating “brick-walls” he has hit to be researched. A brick wall occurs when one receives contradictory or unexplained information during research, which can’t be explained by an original record. Sal promises to continue to share his findings in future issues of this paper. 

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Not for Nothing But...

readers can break into

a chorus of “I’m My

Own Grandpa" at

any time now.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

For any readers who may be interested in Italian family history research, Sal offers some brief suggestions:

1. Consult some reference books on Italian research. The two best books are; *Discovering Your Italian Ancestors* by Lynn Nelson. The second book is probably the most definitive in this field, *Italian Genealogical Records* by Trafford Cole. Both books can be found in your local public library. If after reading you wish to purchase them you can do so at any Barnes and Noble or Borders bookstore, at minimal cost.
2. Select persons' name and town where he/she was born. Be precise in the spelling.
3. Go to the Internet web-site www.familysearch.org and select the "Search the Family History Library Catalog" from its home page.
4. Page will appear - select "Place Search".
5. Place Search box appears - type in name of town in the Place box. Type in the word Italy in the Part Of box. Click the "Search Button".
6. Place Search Detail Page appears - click on Topic "Civil Registration" if it appears. (If "civil registration" does not appear, there may be no films available for that town.)
7. Topic Detail Page appears - click on Titles with dates (e.g. 1820 - 1910).
8. Title Detail Page appears - click on "View Film Notes" bottom.
9. Film Note Page appears with a complete listing of film numbers and their contents. Print this listing from your File Menu print command.
10. Select the type of microfilm(s) you wish to start with.
11. Contact the nearest Mormon Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Family History Center to you. There are seventeen (17) New Jersey locations. Irvington, Scotch Plains and Short Hills are close locations to Elizabeth. Eatontown and Toms River are locations on the Jersey Shore.
12. At this point the information you read in the reference books mentioned above will be of great help to you.

Page 1 of 2

Family Group Sheet #2/3

Name	Pellegrino CONIGLIO, G Grandfather	
Birth	28 Aug 1840	Ribera, Agrigento, Italy ¹
Birth Memo	His birth record was recorded in the towns records by Filippo Pasciuta, mayor. He was the first born of twins.	
Death	13 Jul 1894	Ribera, Agrigento, Italy ²
Death Memo	His death was recorded in the towns records by B. Cucalo, mayor. The informants were Vincenzo Barsalona age	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Occupation	Farm worker	
Father	Calogero CONIGLIO (ca1804-1856)	
Mother	Caterina PASCIUTA (ca1808-1854)	
Marriage	20 Jun 1865	Ribera
Marriage Memo	The marriage was recorded by the	
Spouse	Santa FIDANZA, G Grand	
Birth	9 Jul 1849	Ribera
Birth Memo	Her birth was recorded in the towns	
Death	18 Nov 1927	Ribera
Baptism	10 Jul 1849	Chiesa
Occupation	Housewife	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Father	Giovanni FIDANZA (ca1803-1857)	
Mother	Vita Giglio RIZZO (ca1818-1890)	
Children:		
1 M	Pellegrino Coniglio, G Uncle	
Birth	1868	Ribera
Death	25 Sep 1875	Ribera
Death Memo	His death was recorded in the towns	
2 F	Vita Coniglio, G Aunt	
Birth	ca 1875	Ribera
Spouse	Bernardo TRUOLO	
Marriage	14 Aug 1892	Ribera
Marriage Memo	The final marriage ban was	
3 M	Calogero Coniglio, G Uncle	
Birth	19 Feb 1871	Ribera
Birth Memo	The informant at his birth record	
Death	14 Mar 1951	Ribera
Death Memo	per birth record note	
Spouse	Rosa SALEMI	
Marriage	23 Apr 1896	Ribera
Marriage Memo	Final marriage ban was	
Spouse	P. ACCUZZIA	
Marriage	6 Apr 1922	Ribera
4 M	Giovanni Coniglio, G Uncle	
Birth	2 Sep 1873	Ribera
Birth Memo	His birth was recorded in the	
Death	3 Jun 1874	Ribera
Death Memo	His death was recorded in the	
5 M	Giovanni Coniglio, G Uncle	
Birth	14 Apr 1878	Ribera
Birth Memo	His birth was recorded in the	

Last Modified 24 Jun 2002

Pedigree Overview

Calogero CONIGLIO
b. ca 1804
d. ca 1856
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Pellegrino CONIGLIO
b. 28 Aug 1840
d. 13 Jul 1894
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Caterina PASCIUTA
b. ca 1808
d. 30 Aug 1854
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Giovanni FIDANZA
b. ca 1803
d. 12 Jan 1857
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Santa FIDANZA
b. 9 Jul 1849
d. 18 Nov 1927
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Vita Giglio RIZZO
b. ca 1818
d. 27 Sep 1890
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Pedigree

Pellegrino CONIGLIO
b. ca 1877
d. 2 Feb 1896
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Caterina PASCIUTA
b. ca 1808
d. 30 Aug 1854
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Giovanni FIDANZA
b. ca 1803
d. 12 Jan 1857
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Santa FIDANZA
b. 9 Jul 1849
d. 18 Nov 1927
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

Vita Giglio RIZZO
b. ca 1818
d. 27 Sep 1890
Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

(above) Family Group Sheet of Sal Angelo's maternal grandparents, Coniglio Pelligrino and Santa Fidanza. The form shows their children (Sal's uncles and aunts).

Pedigree Overview

4 Calogero CUNIGLIO
bd. ca. 1814
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 19 Jul 1828
wp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 23 Apr 1856
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

2 Pellegrino CONGILIO
bd. 28 Aug 1840
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 20 Jan 1866
wp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 13 Jun 1884
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

6 Caterina PASCUITA
bd. ca. 1808
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 30 Aug 1854
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

1 Cassiano CONGILIO
bd. 12 Jul 1881
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 16 Dec 1906
wp. St. Anthony's Ch. Elizabeth NJ 1st mar
dd. 23 Dec 1966
dp. Elizabeth, NJ

8 Giovanni FIDANZA
bd. ca. 1908
bp. Sciacca, Agrigento, Italy
m. 6 Oct 1840
wp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 12 Jan 1857
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

3 Sara FIDANZA
bd. 9 Jul 1849
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 18 Nov 1927
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

7 Vito Giglio RIZZO
bd. ca. 1818
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd. 27 Sep 1869
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

8 Pellegrino CONGILIO
bd. ca. 1777
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 2 Feb 1796
wp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
dd.
dp.

Giusseppe Paolo TRAMINE
bd. ca. 1796
bp. x
dd. x
dp. x

13 Filippo
bd.
bp.
ch.
wp.
dd.
dp.

11 Teodoro
bd.
bp.
ch.
wp.
dd.
dp.

12 Salvatore
bd.
bp.
ch.
wp.
dd.
dp.

10 Giuseppe CLACCIO
bd. 29 Nov 1811
bp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 25 May 1845
wp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 18 Aug 1873
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

2 Giuseppe Giorgio CLACCIO
bd. 8 Apr 1840
bp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 2 Jul 1868
wp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 22 Feb 1933
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

6 Anna Maria CANNOWA
bd. 7 Mar 1810
bp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 13 Dec 1886
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

1 Salvatore CLACCIO
bd. 25 Apr 1875
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 16 Dec 1906
wp. St. Anthony's Ch. Elizabeth NJ 1st mar
dd. 13 Dec 1928
dp. Elizabeth, NJ

8 Giuseppe RACCO
bd. 3 Apr 1814
bp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 7 Oct 1844
wp. Sambuca Zabai, Agrigento, Sicily
dd.
dp.

(above) Pedigree Overview
of Sal's mother-in-law.

Pedigree Overview

4 Giuseppe CIACCIO
bd. 29 Nov 1811
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 25 May 1845
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 18 Aug 1873
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

2 Giuseppe Giorgio CIACCIO
bd. 8 Apr 1846
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 2 Jul 1868
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 23 Feb 1933
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

8 Anna Maria CANNOVA
bd. 1 Mar 1810
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 13 Dec 1886
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

1 Salvatore CIACCIO
bd. 25 Apr 1875
bp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy
m. 16 Dec 1906
wp. St. Anthony's Ch. Hilarth N.I. Ist mar
dd. 13 Dec 1928
dp. Hilarth, N.I.

6 Giuseppe SACCO
bd. 3 Apr 1814
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. 7 Oct 1844
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd.
dp.

3 Antonino SACCO
bd. 9 Nov 1848
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 13 Nov 1938
dp. Ribera, Agrigento, Italy

7 Maria DI PRIMA
bd. 7 Oct 1827
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd.
dp.

9 Alberto CIACCIO
bd. ca 1771
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. ca 1805
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 5 Feb 1904
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

Bontrice TRILO
bd. ca 1769
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 21 Mar 1841
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

10 Giuseppe CANNOVA
bd. ca 1781
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. abt 1810
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 7 Jan 1835
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

11 Anna Maria MONTALBANO
bd. ca 1793
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 26 Dec 1863
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

12 Calogero SACCO
bd. ca 1783
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m. ca 1808
wp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 3 Apr 1817
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

13 Antonina Ingoglia
bd. ca 1793
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd.
dp.

14 Antonino DI PRIMA
bd. ca 1797
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
m.
wp.
dd. 7 Feb 1835
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

15 Vito MULE
bd. ca 1799
bp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily
dd. 31 Jan 1837
dp. Santhusa Zahat, Agrigento, Sicily

18 Giorgio CIACCIO
bd. ca 1749
dd. 15 Mar 1829
Margarita Caci
bd. ca 1755
dd. 20 Sep 1832

17 Giovanni TRILO
bd.
dd. 2 Nov 1786

19 Angela RENDA
bd.
dd.

20 Giuseppe CANNOVA
bd. ca 1796
dd. 15 Feb 1796

21 Maria PIAZZA
bd.
dd.

22 Antonino MONTALBANO
bd. ca 1760
dd. 22 Sep 1830

23 Andronia Caci
bd. ca 1770
dd.

24 Giuseppe SACCO
bd. ca 1746
dd. 14 Dec 1806

25 Antonina Maggio
bd.
dd.

26 Antonino Ingoglia
bd.
dd.

27 Unknown
bd.
dd.

28 Francesco DI PRIMA
bd. ca 1756
dd. 12 Sep 1812

29 Maria MAZZOTTA
bd. ca 1771
dd.

30 Biagio MULE
bd.
dd.

31 Serafin GULOTTA
bd.
dd.

Created: 13 Apr 2003 by EasyTree for Windows

(right) Pedigree Overview of Sal's father-in-law. These forms show sets of parents going back five generations.

This is a follow-up to an article submitted by Sal Angelo that ran in the October 2000 issue of *Around About Peterstown*. Look for future articles by Sal explaining more details of his research.

A FAMILY ROOTED BACK TO ELIZABETH

Joe Conforti had just one sibling, a brother Robert. By his grandparents' standard it was a small family, just starting out. But Joe didn't think of his immediate family in terms of being small because he counted his cousins in as part of his family - over one hundred of them.

Joe' father, Joe, had five brothers. His mother, Rose Migliori, was one of 12. All the members of the two

families lived their lifetimes in Elizabeth. They were active in the community and in St. Anthony's Church. The hundreds of great grandchildren probably know very little of their great uncles and aunts but for a generation past, everyone in Elizabeth had some connection to a Conforti or a Migliori, or both.



(left, l-r) The Conforti brothers took the following walks through life:

- Michael owned a hat cleaning and shoe shine store on Elizabeth Ave.
- Joe was a Painter.
- Tony owned a painting business.
- Peter was a bricklayer.
- Dominick (Chippy) worked for Singers and was known as the Mayor of Peterstown in honor of his charitable work for St. Anthony's and the community.
- John was a mailman.



(above, seated) Joe and Donna Conforti. (standing) Joe's Daughter, Susan Conover; Joe's son (the third in a line of Joe Conforti's) and his friend Jessica Tyler.

(right, l-r) As for the Migliori Brothers, they were known for the following:

- Sal was a bricklayer and business agent for the Bricklayers Union.
- Tom worked for, and retired from, the Board of Education as a mason.
- Nick was a policeman and rose to the rank of captain.
- Jim (a.k.a. Crash) was a policeman and basketball player who played in local leagues. He also owned a tavern/restaurant on Elizabeth Avenue.



(right, l-r) The Migliore sisters were all closely connected to St. Anthony's Church and participated in many community functions. Some even displayed their talents at the annual minstrel shows that were sponsored by the church. The following list utilizes their marriage name.

Malore Casano, Helen Gianastasio, Rose Conforti, Barbara Sissano, Norene Vacarro, Virginia Navarro, Vera DeBiasio and Gertrude Mele.

Sisters, Norene and Virginia and their brother Tom are still living in Elizabeth but have mourned the passing of their siblings.



Not for Nothing But...

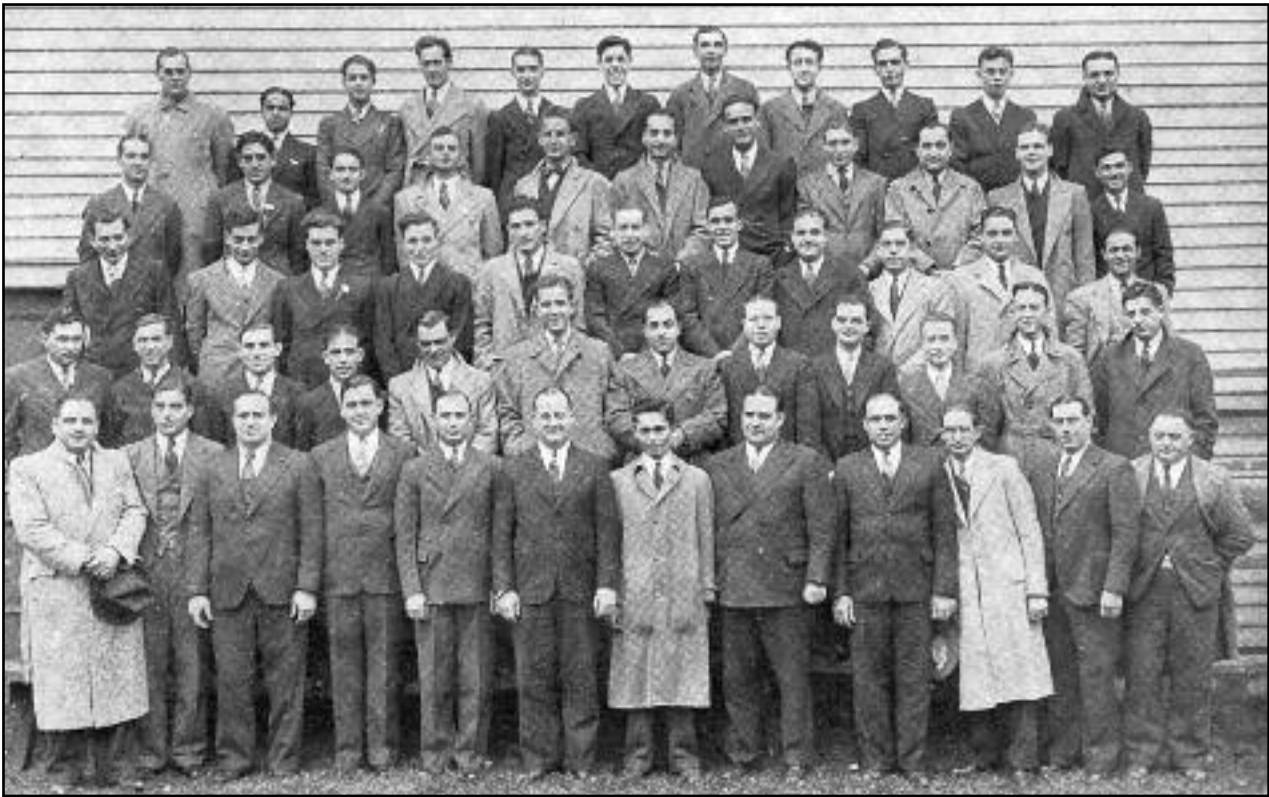
Joe Conforti looked up his family tree and found a forest.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS IN NJ <i>Family History Centers are branch facilities of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Centers provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Family History Library to help patrons identify their ancestors. Everyone is welcome to come to the centers and use Family History Center resources. (Call for schedule of office hours.)</i>			
IN UNION COUNTY			
Scotch Plains New Jersey 1781 Raritan Rd Scotch Plains, NJ Phone: 908-889-0628	Hours: Tuesday: 10am-4pm, 7:30-9pm; Thursday 10am-4pm; Saturday 10am-2pm.		
Source: http://www.familysearch.org			
<i>Note: These are not mailing addresses. Because of limited staff, Family History Centers cannot respond to mail inquiries.</i>			
Caldwell New Jersey 209 Mountain Avenue North Caldwell, NJ Phone: 973-226-8975	Cherry Hill New Jersey 260 E Evesham Road Cherry Hill, NJ	Eatontown New Jersey 14 Reynolds Drive Eatontown, NJ Phone: 732-542-2691	Ledgewood New Jersey 156 Mountain Rd Flanders, NJ Phone: 973-347-2856
Clinton New Jersey 9 Red Schoolhouse Road Lebanon, NJ Phone: 908-713-0292	East Brunswick New Jersey 303 Dunhams Corner Road East Brunswick, NJ Phone: 732-254-1480	Emerson New Jersey 840 Soldier Hill Road Emerson, NJ Phone: 201-262-7357	Morristown New Jersey 283 James Street Morristown, NJ Phone: 973-539-5362
		Fardale New Jersey 30 Youngs Road Mahwah, NJ Phone: 201-327-1940	Paterson New Jersey 42 - 48 East 39th Street Paterson, NJ
		Irvington New Jersey 1064 Clinton Avenue Irvington, NJ	Princeton New Jersey 610 Alexander Road West Windsor, NJ Phone: 609-452-0802
			Short Hills New Jersey 140 White Oak Ridge Road Short Hills, NJ Phone: 973-379-7315
			Toms River New Jersey 1350 Old Freehold Road Toms River, NJ Phone: 732-349-5947
			Union City New Jersey 2500 New York Avenue Union City, NJ Phone: 201-866-8118
			Vineland New Jersey 110 Highland Avenue Vineland, NJ Phone: 856-696-5002

DON BOSCO CATHOLIC CLUB

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS		
President	Salvatore Bongiovanni	
Vice President	Anthony Triano	
Secretary	Raymond Catalano	
Treasurer	Joseph Remite	
Patrick Acque	Frank DiMaggio	Anthony Marzotta
Jos. Archinisco	A. R. D'Amore	Philip Merola
Frank Alfano	Joseph DeMaio	Anthony Miele
Howard Bennett	Michael Federico	Anthony Minibello
Vito Bellino	Onofrio Fieretto	Alfred J. Manno
Joseph Bongiovanni	Joseph Fortunato	Nicholas Muccio
Rosario Bionde	Joseph Gatto	Paul V. Novello
Salvatore Barone	Luino Gatto	Joe. A. Novello
John J. Busichio	Charles Giglio	Paul W. Novello
August Busichio	Michael Galuppo	Charles Novello
Frank Caruso	Joseph Iadarola	Joseph Novello
Frank Carino	James Jozzi	George Natta
Albert Caruso	Mark Janelli	John Occhiuzzo
Jacques Caruso	Frank W. Jacques, Jr.	Ralph Orlando
Dominick Cistaro	Wm. Kowski	Joseph Pace
Vincent Catalano	Eugene Labonia	Louis Paluzzi
Samuel Catalano	Alfred Labonia	Kudolph Petrucci
Charles Catalano	Joseph LaBuitto	Peter Petrucci
Carroll C. Callina	Frank LaFaro	Michael Picarone
Edix Callina	James LaFaro	Anthony Palmkano
Anthony Conforti	Henry LaSalle	Joseph Renda
Michael Conforti	Victor W. Latta	Vincent Rotunno
Dominick Conforti	Anthony C. Lombino	William Richel
Joseph Conforti	Thos. P. Luchio	Joseph Rizzo
Peter Conforti	Michael Luchio	Julius P. Rosca
John Conforti	Peter Miller	Mark Rosca
Anthony Z. Conforti	Louis Magliano	Arthur M. Scuto
G. C. Cariglio	James Malta	Paul Segio
Anthony Caravano	Joseph Malta	Anthony Sica
Patrick Galie	Sylvester Manetta	Edward Sissano
Joseph Detollio	John Manetta	Michael Spirio
Joseph M. DeMarco	Sal. Manetta	Joseph Spera
William DeMarco	Nicholas Malsone	John Tuzano
Joseph S. DeMarco	John Marriano	Jacob L. Triarsi
Michael DeMarco	Nicholas Marriano	Anthony J. Triarsi
Joseph DePaola	Joseph Marriano	James Triarsi
Michael DeMarco	Ross Marriano	Joseph Ulsano
Anthony DeVito	Joseph G. Marriano	Louis Valtom
Anthony DiRuri	Peter Marione	Charles Veltre
Nicholas DiGiovanni	Anthony Mariano	Dominick Vaccaro
Dominick Donato	Arthur Mastroceter	Joseph J. Wade, Jr.

Thanks to Charles Cusumano for sending in his copy of the February, 1939 issue of "The Church Bulletin" of St. Anthony's, where these photos were found.



These photos were taken in 1939 in commemoration of the fifteen year anniversary of the clubs. The clubs existed to help the parish succeed in its endeavors. They were inspired by the examples of the Blessed Mother of Jesus and Saint Don Bosco, the founder of the Salesian order of priests and nuns.

More than 500 men and women have been members of the clubs. The ideals they set out for themselves were based in the teachings of Don Bosco who dedicated his life to teaching poor youth, homeless orphans and waifs. He taught them religion, trades and the arts. The club promoted social activities as well. They learned through

clean, wholesome sports and recreation, a trademark of Don Bosco. This club was the precursor to generations of dominant sports teams that emerged from Peterstown. They were champions in baseball, basketball and bowling, with a winning ration of over 90%.

These members are the epitome of friends, neighbors and brothers. The brother part is quite literal. A glance at the roster to the left would reveal 17 families in which brothers are members. Novello and Triarsi actually have three brothers each. But no others come close to the six Conforti brothers in the ranks. 🍷

CHILDREN OF MARY SODALITY



The founders of the Sodality were girls of teen age. They made a pledge to imitate the virtues of their patroness, the Blessed Mother, chastity, humility and charity.

Together, the Sodality and Don Bosco Club took part in stage productions sponsored by the parish. The comedies, musicals and dramas included: "Hurdy-Gurdy Girl", "Daddy Long Legs", "A Full House", "His Majesty The Queen", "The Vision of Bernadette Subiroux", "Jimmy Be Careful". "Sparkles of 1934" instituted the annual minstrel show that continued for 20 years.

The clubs were also responsible for the formation of the Drum and Bugle Corps. 🍷

.....
Not for Nothing But...
I'd like to see Father
Vinny do a revival of
"Hurdy-Gurdy Girl".
.....



(above, l-r) Director/Producer, Fr. Vince Paczkowski with cast of 2003 production of "Footloose"

JUMP BACK TO THE PRESENT

Submitted by Fr. Vince Paczkowski

For the last six years, it has been a pleasure to give our young people from our parish and neighborhood the opportunity to perform on stage. It is a long and time consuming project but the reward is in our young people, who gain self-confidence and develop community spirit.

The founder of the Salesian's of St. John Bosco said: "A school, parish or youth center without music, is a body without a soul." St. Anthony's Drama Club tries to fulfill this desire of St. John Bosco.

We have attracted youth and adults to our stage from all over Union County. This has been a great experience for our own youth to share their interest in the arts.

I'd like to thank all the people from Elizabeth who have supported us throughout the last six years. I look forward to even more next year.

Unfortunately we have lost our choreographer who had been with us since the start. If anyone would like to choreograph our next production, please call (908) 351-3300 or (908) 347-7566. Thank you and God bless. 🍷



(above, l-r) Charlie Tornatore, Joe Papetti and Bob Saraco still hang out together, but now it's long distance.

Not for Nothing But...

this is a typical
story of a friendship
in Peterstown.

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Distance never got in the way of these good friends. Charles Tornatore, Joe Papetti and Bob Saraco became close friends from the minute they met in kindergarten at Christopher Columbus School #15. That was over 60 years ago. They attended grade school at Cleveland together and stuck together through Thomas Jefferson High School where they graduated in 1954.

They did everything together; they were active in St. Anthony's CYO, they drove to school together, hung out in Mantano Park and triple dated to the prom. Joe Papetti says they are more like brothers than friends.

Each headed down different roads that brought them to different places. Charles who is married for 35 years to his wife Georgeann, lives in Florida, as does Bob who has also been married 35 years to his wife, Rosemarie. Joe is a newly wed. He and Janet have been together a mere 18 years. Joe lives in Clark, NJ.

A month hasn't gone by in which the three don't talk and every chance they get they triple date, taking turns picking the restaurant.

There is not a pact or promise or formal agreement to keep in touch. It's a friendship based on having not only similar interests but having similar values. One can only wish to have that trait in a friendship, let alone two. These guys had it since they were 4 years old. 🐼

Re-Visions

Famous movie scenes revisited.

By Joe Renna © 6/03



(above) James Stewart established himself as a leading actor with the 1939 film "Mr. Smith Goes to Hollywood". His co-star Jean Arthur plays the role of a cynical secretary. Stewart's character represents the powerful forces of American freedom, democracy and morality over oppression and evil in his emotional portrait of a naive, idealist, patriotic young politician.

Besides Joe Renna stepping in for Jimmy Stewart, find nine other changes to the scene and get a chance to win dinner for two at Tavern in the Park. (See form on the right for details.)

**SUBMIT ANSWERS TO CONTEST ON
LINE AND BE AN AUTOMATIC WINNER**

Tavern in the Park has added the “Re-visions” contest to his site. The contest is run in every issue of *Around About Peterstown*. Readers are challenged to find 10 alterations to a famous movie scene. They can mail in the entry form and be eligible for a dinner for two!


To encourage the use of his web site, owner Joe



(above) Joe Renna will star in the remake of the 1939 classic. He will be running for Union County Freeholder in order to do research for the movie. Renna is a method actor and this summer will live the life of a naive, idealist, patriotic young politician. Like Stewart, Renna plans to guard American values as a moral hero.

Montes, is giving a coupon for 10% off to every person who enters the contest on line.

The winners will also be announced on the site. So you must look for your name in order to win. Mail in winners will be notified by phone.

The email address for Tavern in the Park is
www.taverninthepark.com.. 





(above, seated, l-r) Some times 82 year old Marie Travisano and 92 year old Rose Carr (nee Minitelli) turn to 102 year old Carmela Fortunato, for her opinion. At 102, the elder Fortunato has more years of experience to draw from. The three were neighbors in Peterstown and are now neighbors once again at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights. They room next door to each other in the long term care facility. The young lady standing in back is also from the old neighborhood, 91 year old Libera Tenore.

RUNNELLS HOSPITAL SHINES ON HIGH

Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County is located on a mountaintop in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. The new, 178,000 sq. ft. facility, build in 1990, is situated on a 45-acre mountaintop tract of land and offers patients and residences breathtaking, panoramic views of the Watchung Mountains. The gifted healthcare professionals at Runnells are continuing a 90-year tradition of community service.

Runnells Specialized Hospital offers physical medicine and rehabilitation. The service is available for those who utilize the long-term and sub-acute care units as well as on an outpatient basis. The facility has 369 beds which includes an adult psychiatric unit.

Among nursing facilities the Runnells' Nursing Care Unit is unique in that it is staffed 24 hours- per-day by physicians and professional nurses. The medical team includes a geriatric nurse practitioner, psychiatrist, psychologist, and professional social workers, who are on staff and attend daily to residents' needs. Occupational, physical and activities therapists design individualized programs for residents to strengthen interpersonal skills, build greater self-reliance and improve physical abilities.

Short-stay nursing care is available to patients who have recovered to a point where they no longer require the services of an acute care hospital. Runnells offers an alternative to those not well enough to return home or to go through the rigors of acute rehabilitation.

Runnells Hospital specializes in taking care of the growing population of those who no longer have the ability to take care of themselves. The Respite Care Unit is dedicated to making the lives of residents more pleasurable. Every patient becomes part of the Runnells family and loved ones can rest assured that the care being delivered is the most accommodating.

Runnells Hospital is accessible from Routes 22, 24, and 78. The hospital can be reached by calling (908) 771-5700. For admissions information call (908) 771-5901. 🏠

ARTIST USES TALENT AS GIFT

Patricia Brantano Bramnick wanted to honor her parents in a way that touched the lives of the aged. Both her parents passed away after suffering from Parkinsons and Alzheimer's disease for nearly ten years. The community service project would involve the entire family.

The Bramnick's chose to paint a mural at Runnells Specialized Hospital. Pat is an artist who's work is shown in various galleries, and she is also an instructor at The DuCret School of the Arts. Her daughter, Abigail, is a Junior at Westfield High School. She will

be helping her mom after school and into her summer vacation. Her son Brent will also be by her side painting. Pat's husband, John Bramnick is State Assemblyman for the 21st District in which Runnells is located. He donated all the paint and supplies needed for the project.

Pat says she sees her parents in the faces of the patients at Runnells. She points to an activities room occupied by a number of residents, and says "Those are my parents in there." Pat's mural will be enjoyed by many residents, visitors and staff. The garden scene will brighten Runnells which many now call home. 🏠



(above) Sketch of one mural to be transferred to Runnells' wall.

(right, l-r) Pat Brentano Bramnick and her son, Brent, preps a wall that will receive one of two murals she has volunteered to produce.



VOLUNTEERS ADD SPARKLE TO DAILY LIVING

There is an aspect to health care at Runnells Hospital where an advanced degree from a medical university is not necessary. The only qualification needed for doing the job is a desire to help others.

The volunteers at Runnells give of themselves to enhance the world of the patients and residents. There are no gauges that can measure their accomplishments. There are no scales to measure the number of smiles that they bring to the patients.. There is no way to count the number of times that their actions resulted in someone feeling less lonely. It's true that the volunteers have chores to do but those chores mask the bigger service that they perform. The volunteers are first and foremost friends to the patients. The volunteers become an iatrical part in their lives. They form bonds with the residents that are as strong and as real as family. Their only motivation is pure love. The volunteers have built a community that concentrates on quality of life.

It is difficult to quantify the work that the volunteers do. Records are kept concerning time but the volunteer's value doesn't relate to time. It has more to do with

emotion, compassion and caring.

Tallies of last year's volunteer activity showed that 234 volunteers contributed 24,435 hours of service. These numbers are impressive but fall short in describing a service that is immeasurable. The fact that the volunteers saved \$293, 227 in salaries would make sense only if there was a job available that listed "friendly ear" in the job description.

The volunteers at Runnells Hospital are a superb bunch of people from every walk in life. The team includes junior volunteers who are in their teen years as well as seniors with a zest for life that is just as youthful as the juniors.

Volunteers assist the entire staff at Runnells. For instance, they work with the Activities Therapy Department in producing entertainment and recreational programs. There are always opportunities for anyone interested in helping. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer please call the Volunteer office at 908-711-5858. 📞



(above) Amy McHugh has been a Volunteer at Runnells Hospital for 12 years. Her dedication has been recognized this year by the VFW. Amy belongs to the Garwood Chapter #6807 Ladies Auxiliary. They nominated her in a statewide program and she was chosen to receive the 2002 Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award. Amy is modest about her devotion but stories like hers may inspire others.



(above) The Volunteer Guild operates the Hospital's gift shop and coffee shop among other programs. Learn more about the Volunteer Guild by calling 908-771-5815. (standing, l-r) Lynne Monson, Eileen Lieder, Peter Sequeira, Tommie Kelhoffer, Joan Comfort, Jim Piccozzi, Sywia DeBrito and Pat Scott. (sitting, l-r) Meida Alexander, Peg Teuber, Rosaleen Appenzoller, Pat DiFabio, Len Forgione and Joyce Endriss.

PLAYING THE STRAND WAS JUST A WARM UP FOR RUNNELLS

Joe Gatto started his musical career at age six. His family had little money but his father bought him a piano at a cost of twenty-five cents a week. It launched a career in music that spanned 76 years.

At age seven, his second grade teacher, Miss Attenborough of Public School #15 on Spencer Street in Elizabeth, gave him a violin and paid for his lessons for five years. When Joe turned 15, Miss Attenborough took him to an audition for the Elizabeth Philharmonic Orchestra. He won the audition and was placed in the 2nd violin section, last chair.

Joe's father passed away and his mother was left to raise eight children by herself. Joe was 17 and since he was the eldest son, he became the main provider for the family. He began playing at the "The 19th Hole" on Route 22, six nights a week. He earned fifteen dollars a week. Because he was working late hours every night, he was forced to quit school.

In the winter seasons he played in the clubs and hotels of Miami, Florida. In the summers he played Atlantic City.

Gatto was drafted into the army in 1943 during World War II. That is also the year he married his longtime love, Rose Pace, of South 7th Street. He formed his own band while in the 69th Infantry Division. He started an amateur night that became very successful. The show entertained about 500 soldiers every week.

When Joe was shipped to France, he auditioned for Jack Leonard, a vocalist for the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Joe was immediately transferred to Jack's unit to become his accompanist. They entertained the troops everyday all over France. The highlight for Joe was playing for Dinah Shore. Joe said "Dinah and Jack were good friends. We performed for the troop and had diner afterwards."

After the war, Gatto was shipped to an outfit in California. He became the leader of the Special Services Orchestra. He remained there until he was discharged in 1945.

After returning home, he started playing in local clubs again, like "Stone Corner" in Elizabeth, and the "Hawaiian Palms" in Linden. He met orchestra leader Herbie Fields there. He was offered a job and became a featured act for five years playing in all the big clubs, theater and hotels, all over the country.

Gatto performed with such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billy Eckstine, Patty Page, Ames Bros. and Mel Torme. He played "The Strand" in New York for one month with the original "Ink Spots".

While playing with Herbie Fields, Gatto recorded fourteen records; six on RCA-Victor, four with Decca Records and four on Coral Records. Their biggest hit to top the charts was "Dardenella" where Joe was the featured soloist.

In 1950, Joe decided it was time to come off the road and spend more time with his family. He formed a band and played mostly local engagements. Gatto played his last gig in December 2002.

Joe Gatto is now 83. He looks back on his wonderful career and treasures the many memories. He most enjoys spending time with his wife of 60 years, his 2

(right, top) Peterstown native, Joe Gatto played with the biggest names in his day.

(right) Joe Gatto, on keyboard, donated his talents to play for the patients at Runnells Hospital in 1991. Pat DiFabio is on drums and Tony Panzorino is playing the saxophone. Freeholder Walter McCloud is standing stage right grooving to the tunes.



(above, l-r) Runnells Hospital Volunteer Guild President, Pat DiFabio along with Walter Stewart, was named Grand Marshal of the 100th year celebration of the Garwood Fire Department. Pat has been a volunteer fireman for 52 years. Walter has been one for 53.

CARMELLA FORTUNATO CELEBRATES 102nd BIRTHDAY



Even at the age of a 102 Carmella Fortunato is still the consummate mother. She wants to know why her son Julius is wasting time visiting her when he could be working. Minucci, as she is referred to by her Italian friends, has been living in Runnells Specialized Hospital for almost ten years.

Minucci's daughter Josephine and or her son Jules is with their mom every day. Her other son, Angelo lives in Florida, but comes up to visit when he can. There's not much more a mother can ask for than to have the love, care and affection that she gave her children returned and then some.

Carmella has been the adopted mom to practically the entire staff of nurses and aids that tend to her. She is quick to offer advice on

romance and wouldn't hesitate to tell someone they have a big "culo". Luckily for some Minucci only speaks Italian so behind her big smile it sounds like a compliment.

Minucci passes the day visiting with her children, satisfying a hardy appetite and reminiscing of people she knew and places she's been. She gets a little excitement out of the daily soap operas. She doesn't hesitate to call an actress a "puttana" every time they jump in bed, which is quite often.

The thing that Minucci does is bring people together. She usually sits in the hall outside her room and like magic, a group forms and they start talking and laughing and sharing. Exactly how it was around her house in Peterstown. 🇮🇹



(above, l-r) Carmella Fortunato and her children on her 102nd birthday. Her son Angelo and his wife, Mary, her son-in-law Tom Cortese and her daughter, Josephine Cortese and her son Julius. Her children are 75, 80 and 81 years old respectively.

MEET THE FAMILY

Carmella and Frank Fortunato had three children: Julius, Josephine and Angelo. Josephine married Tom Cortese and they had two children, Tom and Andrew. Tom married Donna and they had two children, Jason and Scott. Andrew married Barbara and they also had two children, Drew and Greg. Carmella's son Angelo and his wife Mary had two children, Francine and Debbie. Francine and husband Joe have one child named Tiana. 🇮🇹

(right, l-r) Frank and Carmella with children, Josephine and Angelo.



(above) In this 1976 photo, Josphine hold's Carmella's first great-grandson, Drew.



(above) Carmella and with her husband, Frank who passed away in 1946.

(right) This photo was taken at Carmella's 100th birthday. Pictured are Carmella's daughter Josephine, her grandson Andy, and her great-grandsons Drew (far left) and Greg (far right).



(right) Vita Cortese and Carmella Fortunato, mother's-in-law to Carmella's daughter Josephine and her husband Tom.



(above) Friends and family of Carmella Fortunato gathered at Runnells Specialized Hospital on May 31, 2003, to celebrate her 102nd birthday. (standing, l-r) Vinny Tomasso, Jules Fortunato, Barbara Cortese, Libera Tenore, Josie Delazaro, Claudia Fortunato, Mary Fortunato, Pat Tomasso, Sue Tomasso, Andrew Cortese, Gloria Nigito, Anthony Fortunato, Peter Nigito, Rocky Mariani, Angelo Fortunato, (seated, l-r) Lucy Mariani, Marie Travisano, Rose Carr, Carmella, Josephine, Tom Cortese, Fran Arguinzumi. (kneeling) Tianni.



(above) Carmella in 1965 with grandson Tom Cortese.

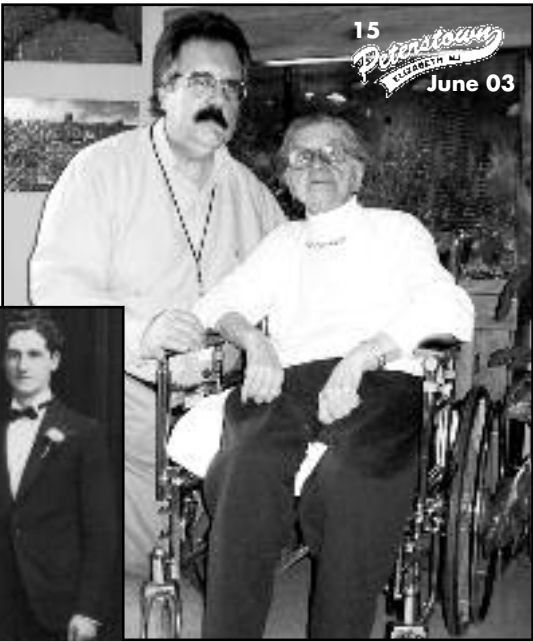
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NEIGHBORS ONCE AGAIN

One of Carmella Fortunato's neighbors at Runnells Hospital is Marie Travisano. The Travisano's and Fortunato's go way back as friends and neighbors in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth.

Marie is of Austrian decent but was born in the United States. She met her husband, Alfonso Travisano at a Peterstown Dance. 🇮🇹

(right, l-r) Bob Travisano visits with his mom Marie who is 82 and at home in Runnells hospital.



(above) Marie Travisano would like to share this October 25, 1941 photo of her wedding party with the readers of Around About Peterstown. The familier faces belong to (l-r) Olga Kobryn (cousin of bride), Helen King (friend of bride), Angelina Travisano (sister of groom), Marie Travisano (bride), Alfonso "Pigeon" Travisano (groom), "Sy" Russo (best man), Eddie Angin (friend of groom) and Michael "Wimpy" Cautillo (friend of groom).



(above) The Travisano boys Frank, Vito and Alfonso.

A SLICE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE GROWING UP IN PETERSTOWN

by Jimmy DeMaio

(Continued on page 22)

I was born on January 11, 1929 in my grandparents' house at 532 4th Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. I

lived in the same neighborhood until I married in 1956. Living during the Great Depression was often hard on my family. My father died at a very young age while my mother was pregnant with her eighth child. Although it was sometimes difficult, compared to these days, life was more simple, and as kids, we made our own fun.

I have many great memories of growing up in Peterstown or "The Burg" as it is sometimes called. The neighborhood was filled with large Italian families much like my own and we all watched out for each other. Some of the memories from my youth which especially stand out are as follows:

My maternal grandfather, Vincent Gagliardo, originated the St. Rocco's Festival in the neighborhood. The Feast of St. Rocco was celebrated every year on August 16th. The festival started with a parade down 4th Avenue. Some of the girls in the neighborhood would walk down the street with the statue of St. Rocco. People came from all over the state to visit and taste all the wonderful home-made Italian food. We ate sausage and peppers, zeppoles, funnel cakes and Italian candies. Italian singers would serenade all of us. My grandfather ran the Festival until 1955, and he passed away in 1956 at the age of 86.

During the summers when there was no school, we used to hang out at Mantano Park on South 5th Street. The camp directors took care of all the kids in the neighborhood and we played games and sports all day long. One game involved burying 2 tuna fish cans in the ground and then pitching metal washers into the cans to score. On the 4th of July we had a great fireworks display and people came from all over to see it.

Dowd's Pool was near The Port at Recreation Pier where the ferry went over to Staten Island. It was too long of a walk for us to go to the pool so we went swimming in the Elizabeth River at the end of Niles Street at the old barge yard. We used to call the river "The Crick".

On the corner of 4th Avenue and Niles Street, we used to hang out at Malgieri's Pool Room. There was only one pool table and a pot belly stove would keep us warm in the winter.

There was a farmer's market on 2nd Avenue. My friends and I would buy shopping bags for \$.01 and then sell them



(left) 1934 photo of Jimmy DeMaio and his Grandfather Vincent Gagliardo.



(above) Jim DeMaio in front of Ann and Pete's Pool Room on South 5th Street.

(left) DeMaio brothers and sisters. (l-r, top-bottom) Mary, Margaret, Jim, Mela and Duke.

to the housewives who were buying groceries for \$.03. Back then, that was a lot of money to us.

Across the Street from us on 4th Avenue, Joe Mauti, Sr. had a milk business and an ice house to store the milk. He used to sell a huge piece of ice to us for \$.15 and we would bring it home to put in our ice box.

To make money, my friends and I would work as pin setters at Edison Bowling Alley on Summer Street. We would make \$.05 a game. My buddies included Ricky Festa, Birdie Loffa, Johnny Guiro and Tony DePaola. During Christmas time, the owners of the bowling alley, the Joyce Brothers, would give all of the pin setters a silver dollar. We all thought we were in heaven.

After work we would go to the Silver Moon Tavern on South 5th Street and 4th Avenue. The owner, Carlo DiGiorgio, made the best pizza and meatball sandwiches and we looked forward to going there to eat after work. We also loved the birch beer.

The 28 Bus used to come through our neighborhood and we would pay \$.05 to take a 1-hour bus ride all around town. We would go to Bayway, Elmora, North End, Kerry Head, the Port, Frog Hollow, and then back to the best place of all, Peterstown.

We used to eat lemon ice from two places: DiCosmo's at the end of 4th Avenue and Bollero's on 3rd Avenue. It cost \$.05 for a lemon ice.

On Niles Street there were 2 junk yards run by the Kilow Brothers. People used to sell their junk, rags, metal, bottles and newspapers for money. When we saw the Cardinale 18-wheeler truck coming into the neighborhood, we knew it was going to the junk yard. We would run and ask Joe Kilow if we could work and load newspapers on to the truck. We would make \$.50 each per truckload (each truckload held many tons of newspaper!).

Angelo Lombardi was an old-timer who worked in the Singer factory. He had a garden behind his house on Niles Street and he also had a victory garden at the end of Niles Street on city property. Angelo put a well on the property and in the summers he would give us ice cold water to drink for free.

Rocco Melchione owned a grocery store and deli on 4th Avenue near Palmer Street. His sons, Philly, Joe and Ike, worked there with him. During hard times when we didn't have any money Rocco would still give you the food you needed and put you on the books. When you had the money, you would pay Rocco back.

Morris Weshnak had an egg business and my friend, Tony DePaola, and I used to work for him. We would deliver eggs to Pioneer Homes in the Port and Maravlag Manor in Bayway.

Times have changed so much, but the memories of those good 'ol days in Peterstown will live on forever. 🇮🇹

CRANFORD GIRL SCOUTS TO BENEFIT ST. JOSEPH’S

Cranford Girl Scout Troops #593, #853 & #814 collected a total of 37 Shopping carts of food and \$393.00 in cash for St. Joseph's Social Service Center Food Pantry in Elizabeth. Each troop held a separate food drive at a different supermarket, the A&P in Kenilworth, the Pathmark in Garwood and the Shop Rite in Garwood. The girls had a great time while performing a community service.

The food pantry has a constant need for food and financial donations. In the past year the demand for their services has increased by 50%. They distribute more than 500 bags of food monthly and have more than 1200 needy households on file. Up to seven new families apply weekly.

The pantry collects food that is non-perishable, such as canned soups, dried beans, cereal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, canned tuna/other meat.

Donations can be made any weekday, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:00pm. Saturdays before 10:30am. The pantry is closed on Sundays and they ask that food or other donations not be left outside the center when they are closed.

The experience was so worthwhile for people who

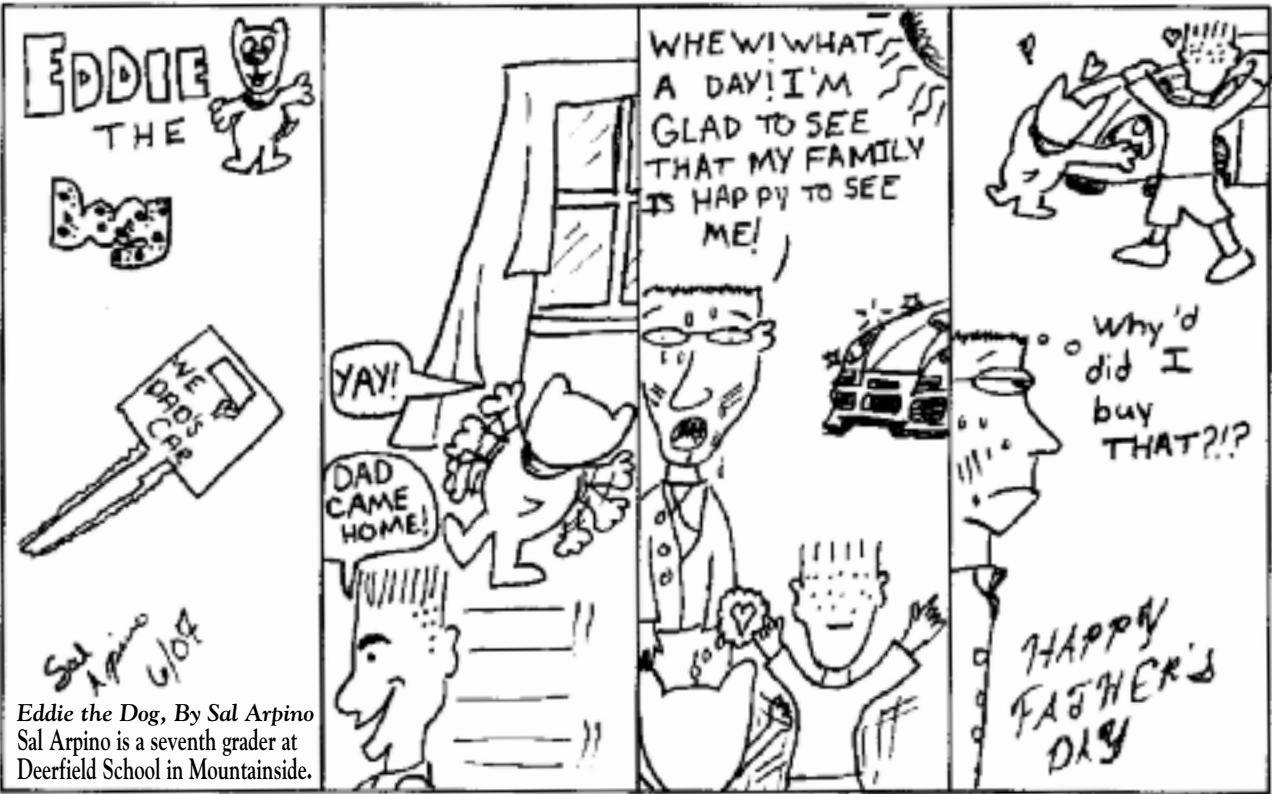
depend on the St, Joseph's pantry and for the girls that participated in the food drive. This was a new activity for the girls and they are anxious to do it again. There was a lot of interaction between the scouts and the public. There was meaningful dialogue about the good they were doing and the generosity conveyed was inspiring.

St. Joseph's and the Girl Scout Troops would like to give a heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave to their cause. They would like to thank the supermarkets for facilitating their efforts.

St. Joseph's would like to give a special thanks to Jim Puzzo of Printing Design Group, located at 1812 Front Street, Scotch Plains, NJ, for generously donating the printing of flyers, brochures and newsletters for the food drive.

There are many other ways that individuals, organizations and businesses can help the Center. If anyone is interested they may call Lila Montalvo at St. Joseph's 908-352-3989.

The address for anyone who would like to visit the center is: St. Joseph's Social Service Center and the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. 🐶



SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

(right, l-r) Cranford Girl Scout Troop #853:
Angela Renna, Klaudia Zielonka, Katherine
Van Benschoten, Geena Altebrando, Michelle
Cannon, Lia Jones, Michelle Checchia,
Stephanie Walls, Jackie Winnicki.
(not pictured) Jessica Heinle, Mary Kate Minitelli.



(below) Cranford Troop Number 593:
Brittany Kalajian, Geneveive Chaleff, Sara
Carolan, Colleen McGovern, Kate McCann,
Stephanie Koscica, Annie McGee, Lauren
Campbell, Sarah Fletcher, Kaitlyn Irwin,
Lauren onczyk, Lauren Campbell.
(Not all the girls are pictured
and names are not in order.)



(above1-r) Cranford Troop #814: Caroline Leber, Mary Kate Mueller, Anna Autillio, Maggie Mueller, Lauren
Wilson, Amy Negrin & Mia Renna. (not pictured) Meghan Bartsch, Kristen Cecchini, & Catherine Klimek.

CHECK THIS OUT!

A total of 37 shopping carts
full of food and \$393 were
collected from three Girl Scout
food drives.



(above, l-r) Staff members of St. Joe's include Betty
White, Al Wilson, Peggy Silvey, Melvin Lewis, Lila
Montalvo, Ralph Knight and Patricia Bohorquez.

(right) Open letters
to our readers.

A SHOUT OUT FOR THE CLASS OF 1953 OF THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear John Sacco, While At Spirito's about a week ago, I picked up a copy of Around About Peterstown, April Edition.

Our 50th Thomas Jefferson High School Reunion is scheduled for 8/12/03.

Many of our classmates are from “The Burg”, including Carl "Doc" Corsentino, Albert Lospinoso, Nick Netta, Rocco Candelino, Tom Diamonte, Pat Gargano, etc.

We have, however, lost track of some of the Peterstown guys and would appreciate your placing a public notice in your next edition.

Missing are the following: Anthony Constantino John Corallo, John Corsentino, Nick LaQualia, Joseph Luiga, Ben Mangini, Frank Tacca and Henry Verdini.

If your readers have any knowledge of or information about the missing persons, please call Don Schiessl at 908-353-0867 or Jack Padavano at 732-929-1666.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,
Richard M. Tahl
Oldwick, NJ

p.s. My wife and I make the pilgrimage to Spirito's about once a month even though I left Elizabeth in 1958.

To the Peterstown community and everyone that made my run for Elizabeth Board of Education memorable and enjoyable.

Running for the BOE was exciting and educational. It was the first time I ran for office and I wanted to work as hard as I could to succeed. Even though I did not win I felt that just being part of the process was success enough.

The best part of the entire run was the heartfelt support I received from all of you. It really warms the heart to know so many people believed what I had to say was important and that so many people agreed with me.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped me in my campaign and everyone who voted for me.

Sincerely,
Raymond Vella

PETERSTOWN FARMERS MARKET RETURNS

Elizabeth Avenue---The Elizabeth Avenue Partnership (EAP) is proud to announce that the long-awaited return of the Peterstown Farmers Market has finally become a reality as five Jersey Farmers have committed to sell fresh produce at the site of the newly renovated Historic Peterstown Farmers Market this summer.

“Farmers will be selling “Jersey Fresh” certified produce in the City of Elizabeth's Peterstown Section from July through November on Tuesday's from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,” said EAP Executive Director David Strochak. “We are planning a gala Grand Opening “Kick Off” Celebration to formally announce the start of the Elizabeth Avenue Farmers Market @ Historic Peterstown on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 12-noon and have invited the Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Kuperus to attend.”

The Peterstown Farmers Market area is also within the boundaries of the Elizabeth Avenue Special Improvement District (SID), which is administered by the non-profit EAP.

According to EAP Chairman Jonathan Phillips, New Jersey farmers coming from as far as Hunterdon, Morris and Middlesex Counties will set up shop from the newly streetscaped sidewalks and curbs on Second Street, High Street and Centre Street and will feature Jersey Tomatoes and Sweet Corn, Squash, Peppers, Onions, Peaches, Apples, Pumpkins and much, much more.


“We have worked closely with the Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Program to recruit farmers to our district for over a year now, and it has worked”, said Phillips, who is owner of Morris Aaron Bicycles and Repairing. “We feel that the Farmers Market will help attract additional shoppers to our district this summer to create a win-win situation for everyone.” The Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce (GECC) has also been

helpful in our recruiting efforts," Phillips said.

According to Mayor Chris Bollwage, more than half-a-million dollars in Streetscape beautification improvements have been completed, including new curbs, sidewalks, brick pavers, trees and turn-of-the-century lighting.

“We beautified this area with hopes of someday revitalizing the Farmers Market to its past glory”, Bollwage said. “I am pleased to see the EAP take the lead in reviving what was once an institution in the City of Elizabeth and I am eagerly awaiting its return.”

Many thriving businesses exist today in the Peterstown Farmers Market area such as Sutera Bros. Italian Market, Centanni's Meats, Algarve Fish Market, Bell Dee Produce, Live Poultry, Texteira Bakery, and one of the finest Cuban Restaurants in the area, El Mirador.

The Elizabeth Avenue Farmers Market @ Historic Peterstown is sponsored by the EAP, Papetti's Hygrade Eggs, M&M Construction Co., with support from the City of Elizabeth, Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce (GECC) and Department of Agriculture (Jersey Fresh Program). For more information about the Farmers Market, call the EAP at 908-965-0660. 

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Not for Nothing But...

I don't think tomatoes
should have bar codes.

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(above, l-r) L. LaBrutto, S. Binger, C. Diamonte, J. DeMaio, S. Monticello, L. Murro and F. Antonucci (top) J. Lentine

PHOTOS FROM JIM
DEMAIO'S COLLECTION



(above, top, l-r)R. Festa, W. Caruso, (center, l-r) J. Nigro, A. Esposito, S. DePaola, N. Russo, J. DeMaio, M. Spinelli, (bottom, l-r) F. Loffa, R. Loffa and J. Guiro.



(above, l-r) Duke DeMaio, Tom Carberry and Jim DeMaio on leave from Korea.

(right, l-r) Tony Loffa, Sal DeMaio and Rocky Loffa.



(above, l-r) T. DePaola, A. Loffa and J. Guiro boating in Warinanco Park.



(above) This is not the cast of “That 70's Show“. It is a photo of Jimmy's mother, Mary DeMaio (seated in center) and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.



(above) Anthony “Dike” DeMaio; his daughter, Amanda; Son, Ross and wife, Theresa.

FAST FORWARD SIXTY YEARS

Jimmy DeMaio’s reflections on growing up in Peterstown that appear on page 15, are based on his life in the 1930's and 40's. Just by coincidence his great nephew also submitted the essay below, reflecting his experience in the 90's. The two did not know the other was writing. This is some kind of kismet. The author, Ross's father is Anthony, son of Jim's brother Duke.

PETERSTOWN - THE WAY IT WAS - FOR ME

Submitted by Ross DeMaio

I think the old Italian people of Peterstown did a pretty good job of raising their kids. Everyone tried to raise their kids right, make sure they received a good education and give them the best of what could be afforded.

I can't get enough of the stories my dad tells me of him growing up. When I heard his stories about school, I wish I could have been there. The number of friends he had is amazing. The playground could have 30 kids in it every day. There seemed like there was always something going on. When it was time to go home for supper, they went home but went right back as soon as they were done. They felt they would have missed something.

The St. Rocco's feast was the greatest. It lasted for a week and everybody had the time of their lives. It had the best rides and games, but most off all, it had the best food: sausage, meatballs, rice balls, and zepoles. Everybody and their mother went to this feast and left with a smile on their face.

The boys from "The Burg" stuck together through everything. They went to school together, they hung out together, went to each others houses and grew up like they were part of each other's families.

The playground taking up the space between Second and Third Avenues and Christine and South Seventh Streets was the center of all the action.

Peterstown had everything going on when it came to eating. There was an outdoor market, delis, even a milk man, of course there was the best butchers and bakeries. It seems that everyone of my father's friends worked in one of the stores at some point.

The old timers made the neighborhood such a nice place to live that no one wanted to leave. But when their kid’s kid had kids, that kind of changed. I should

know because I'm one of them.

Most of my fathers friends moved away but some stuck around. My dad stuck around and I was glad because I got to hang out with his friend's kids. We went to the same schools and did a lot of what our parents did. But it still wasn't the same. There was no playground to ourselves, no more St. Anthony's carnival or St. Rocco's feast, and it got me mad because I wanted to experience all that for myself.

I hung out in the playground and rode my bike and even went down to the crick, but there was too few of us to do anything in a big way. My dad had full 11 on 11 football games just amongst his friends. They ran their own softball league in the playground, splitting a group up into five teams! It was way different for me.

When one of my friends moved and then another and another, I knew it would be my turn. When I had to move, I didn't believe it until the moving truck pulled in front of my house.

I felt like I picked up and left without finishing what I had my mind set on doing. I was going to start the feast again and I was going make the neighborhood better, make it like it used to be. But I guess that was nothing but a kids dream.

One day I know that Peterstown will be back to the way it was. Not that its bad, it's just different. I want to see the feast again and the smiles on the faces of the kids. I want to be one of the old Italian people at the carnival and watching the kids play in the park and it will feel like home again.

Ross DeMaio is a Junior at Toms River East High School in Toms River, New Jersey.

Recipes

Pascuacina

By Anna Moreira - Barone’s Deli

Tiramasu

By Phyllis Fernandez,
Joanne’s Luncheonette

INGREDIENTS:
1 1/4 cups heavy cream
1/4 cup confections sugar
1 cup Mascarpone cheese chilled
1/2 cup of Kahlua
1 1/2 tsp instant coffee grounds, grated
chocolate or shaved chocolate
(you can shave a Hershey's
Bar with a potato peeler).
Enough Lady Fingers to cover a 9"
serving plate two times. (Your may use
your favorite cake recipe in place of
the lady fingers.)

PREPARATION:
1) Beat the cream and sugar together
with a whisk until stiff.
2) Fold in Mascarpone and 2 tsps of
the Kahlua.
3) In a separate bowl combine the
coffee and the remaining Kahlua
stirring until the coffee is dissolved.
4) Cover 9 square inches of a serving
plate with lady fingers.
5) Brush ladyfingers with coffee
mixture.
6) Spread 1/3 of the cream mixture on
top.
7) Add a second layer of lady fingers.
8) Brush second layer with remaining
coffee mixture.
9) Spread the remaining cream
mixture over the top and sides.
10) Sprinkle with grated chocolate.

INGREDIENTS:
(FILLING)
2 packages of frozen Spinach
(thawed and drained)
1 onion
1 green pepper
2 or 3 Garlic Cloves
Handful of Grated Cheese (Romano)
Pepper and Salt to taste
2 eggs
(PASTRY)
2 lbs flour
2 tbls baking soda
2 eggs
4 ounces butter
1 egg, water and milk
on hand
(2 eggs for glaze)

PREPARATION:
(FILLING)
1) Slightly saute onion, pepper and garlic in a saucepan with a small
amount of oil.
2) Remove from flame and mix in spinach, grated cheese and eggs.
Add salt, pepper and oregano according to taste.
(PASTRY)
1) Mix flour, baking soda, eggs and butter. Add equal amounts of
water and milk in small doses until the dough is not dry but not
sticky either.
2) Roll dough into two flat pieces 12" x 18". Place one piece in a
12" x 18" baking pan.
3) Add filling evenly on layer of dough.
4) Cover with second piece of dough.
5) Mix 1 egg and 1/4 cup of milk and paint the top of the finished
dish.
6) Preheat oven to 350°. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden.

(above) Pascuacina is also known as Spinach Pie
or Spinach Pizza. Anna says the recipe that she submitted
is Italian and is very popular in her native country
of Uruguay but seems to be even more popular in Peterstown.
(right, r-l) Luis Moreira, his wife Anna and daughter in-law Tamara.

BARONE’S DELI IS LIKE BEING HOME

The Moreira Family at Barone's does all their own
cooking and baking on premise. The luncheonette/deli
by day turns into a cafe after working hours and on
weekends. Having lunch at Barone's has the same
feeling as eating home where everyone shared the meal
that was prepared. Barone's Deli does offer a long lunch
menu but their daily specials are just that - special. One
day they may have Trippe or Pasta Faggiolli. The next
day it may be Covetelli or Gallina Cacciatore. Barone's
also has a few signature side dishes that are irresistible as
a snack.Their stuffed Pizza is so tempting that customers
grab a slice just in passing. The baked goods that
Barone's presents are impressive in variety and in taste.
After stopping in for an espresso or a quick bite to eat
you may not want to go. There is always one more item
that must be sampled before you leave. 🍷



THIS OLD LICENSE PLATE

This map of New Jersey is made from old license
plates screwed together. It was created for the Union
County Employee Art Show and has been hanging since
May 14, 2003, in Liberty Hall Center on Morris Avenue
in Union, NJ, across from Kean University. The show
will be on view until June 16.
There are 26 plates used to make the 5' sculpture. A
few phone calls by the artist resulted in friends and
neighbors contributing old plates that were sitting in
their garages.
I'd like to collect more plates so additional maps can
be made. If you are in possession of old plates that you
could spare call Joe Renna at (908) 709-0530. 🍷
(right) Joe Renna with his sculpture "Creative License"



HIGH PERFORMANCE CARE FOR THE FAMILY CAR

In April, the father and son team of Tony and Pete Paolucci ended an era in auto care on the corner of South 5th Street and Fifth Avenue when they sold their Texaco service station. Now there are new owners, a new name and a new mechanic.

Victor Rivas owns the auto repair portion of the newly named Power Auto Care service station. He brings 20 years of experience with him and a 13 year old son, Victor Jr., who helps out after school. Victor is of Mexican decent and has lived in Elizabeth for 23 years. His wife Christine (nee Brady) is a native Elizabethan. Victor said “We’re hoping to serve the community with as much pride as the Paolucci family has for the last 20 years.”

Rivas has spent his career working for various Sonoco service stations. He has customers that follow him from the different locations where he once worked, as far as South Street in Cranford and the corner of Green Street in Woodbridge and as close by as the corner of Jackson

and Olive Streets in Elizabeth.

Victor’s experience with cars is far beyond most that of most neighborhood mechanics. He is a specialist in high performance rotary motors. The type used in ATCO racing. Victor used to race an ATCO car in Englishtown. He believes in putting the same effort into his customer's cars that he did in his own racing car. He believes that putting extra effort into even the smallest job improves engine performance.

Victor’s capabilities touch many aspects of auto care. He rebuilds engines, he is a front end specialist, he can even work on diesel engines. Victor is a certified technician when it comes to air conditioning repair and computer processes. Victor has an account with Nationwide Ambulance to maintain and repair its fleet of ambulances.

Peterstown wishes the new father and son team all the best. 🇺🇸



(right, top) Victor Rivas is the new master mechanic in Peterstown. He is pictured here with an emission analysis control system used for state inspections.

(right) No job is too big for Victor Jr. He helps his dad after school and on his days off. He’s in the 8th grade at Maple G. Holmes School.



(left) This new Power Auto Care sign now stands on the corner of Fifth Avenue and South 5th Street, where Paulucci's Texaco sign once stood.

In 1953 gasoline cost about .22¢ per gallon. Preserve this newspaper for fifty years. It would be interesting to see if gasoline prices raise to \$8.78.



(right) Carl Corsentino and family: (Front, l-r) wife, Patricia; Grandchildren Pamela and Sam Smart. (back, l-r) Samuel and Maria Smart.



THE HONORS GO TO CARL CORSENTINO

Those who know Carl Corsentino know that he is never short for words. Ask him "What's new?" and the answer will take a while. Amazingly though ask him about himself and he doesn't respond. Not that he doesn't answer, but he will tell you about how wonderful everyone else is. He can tell you stories about his parents, friends and people from the neighborhood. Great stories of great accomplishments by great people. But no stories about himself. And it's not that he hasn't done wonderful things. It's that he's just too modest to mention them.

Carl Corsentino has been one of the most generous supporters of our community. He has helped people in so many different ways and has supported the church, schools and organizations in Peterstown.

Each year, at our picnic, the Sons of Peterstown honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community through their work and good deeds. This year we chose Carl Corsentino.

The one quote about himself Carl did belt out for all to hear is. "I was born and raised in Peterstown. After 68 years I'm still here, I'm going to stay and I love it!" 🎤



(above, l-r) Sons of Peterstown Club President, John Sacco presented a plaque to Carl Corsentino in recognition of his service to the community while Vice President, Anthony Sacca and Secretary Lou LaBrutto look on.



(above, l-r) John Schipani spun CD's while Jake Miccelli spun cotton candy.

(below) John Sacco calling for the rain to stop.



REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

God bless America! Since our last article the war is over. Believe it or not its almost the 4th of July. Our weather gives us the appearance that we went from winter to fall, not spring. However if you look around, because of all the rain that we have had, everything is very green.

Springtime is the best time to sell your home. It's the time of year when the appearances of most homes are at their best. Many people take advantage of this time of the year to ride around the neighborhoods that they are interested in living in. This is why it's very important that if your looking to sell your home you should keep your lawn trimmed and make sure your house has plenty of lipstick on inside and outside. A well groomed home is the most desirable and has the best market appeal.

Owners should be aware that in today's real estate market that banks are more likely to lend on a home that is not in disarray. Because of the high prices and a high default rate on homes, which may lead to foreclosure, banks are now more stringent in lending on homes that need work. In fact, I will give you an example of what occurred recently. A bank recently delayed a closing because a step in the rear of a house was not painted. Another bank requested that the

basement wall be scraped and painted. Most banks now require that the appraiser certify the roof. Appraisers tend to not want to certify the roofs themselves and would rather require a roof certificate.

Can you believe that the rates are lower then they were 45 years ago? When I started my business in 1975 the rates were at 8-1/4%. The last time rates were this low was after World War II. Today the prevailing rate for a 15-year mortgage is 4 5/8% and for a 30 year mortgage is 5 1/8% both with no points. There are also first time buyers programs with lower rates, but you must qualify either by location or income.

More good things are happening in Elizabeth, last month there was an auction for city owned property. The city raised 2 million dollars on the sale of lots. The prices of these lots five years ago would sell for \$5000 today these lots go for \$90,000. Because of the demand for new construction in the city, many builders are buying homes to demolish them in order to construct new homes.

The whisper around city hall is that they may be changing the minimal lot size to discourage the demolition of old homes. A word to the wise if your property fits into this category and you're looking to sell, do it now before they change the minimal lot size.

I wish every one a happy vacation.

Submitted by Justino Rosa