



## FAITH BASED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Historically faith based organizations have been providing social services to communities with or without government support. These organizations fill the void when government neglects the health and welfare of the people.

Faith based organizations are traditionally small and community based. They draw their sustenance mostly from the very community that is in need. Working with limited resources these groups are remarkably efficient and effective, a total contrast to when government bureaucracy gets involved.

It doesn't matter what religion incorporated the organization for the tenants are the same. Helping those in need is the catalyst of the service. Judeo-Christian religions challenge themselves to do for the least of their brothers. Buddhists are dedicated to acts of compassion and Islam promotes works of mercy and giving of alms.

The needs are endless and ever changing. Trends in economy, technology, environment and society uplifts certain segments in society while some people are cast off.


Most organizations work it alone. Government subsidies sometimes have stipulations attached to them that offset the benefit of the grant. When government efforts go array, it's the people that are in need that suffer. Faith based service organizations and churches ease the burden of the government to supply those services. This led the way for faith based and community initiatives which would allow tax dollars to go to these groups. The initiatives make sense but there is an outcry that they violate the separation of church and state.

Without the community organizations in place the symptoms caused by the ills of society would be catastrophic. Their effect would resonate through the entire population regardless of social and economic status. The benefits that society as a whole gets from the service groups is immeasurable. Disdain for the use of tax dollars to help the hungry, homeless and materially poor are loudest from the most affluent. They also happen to be the same people who have the most influence over politicians.

Local towns are beginning to measure the return in services that they are receiving from the 10 to 20 million in taxes that they are sending to Union County government. The analysis shows that they are receiving back about 10¢ on a dollar. Each town is blaming the county for redistributing the wealth to other towns, especially the urban ones, and they want it stopped. The problem with that claim is that the urban towns are getting short changed also. The bulk of county taxes are going to the individuals and companies connected to the Democratic party that is in absolute power.

Even though the county budget has grown to \$366 million this year and the county increased their portion of the property tax over 40% the last four years, they actually cut the percentage of the budget that goes to "Health and Welfare". This puts an added burden on the backs of charitable organizations to supply social services. As always, the charge is being picked up by the faith based organizations and churches. These groups are relying on private contributions from individuals and businesses while being run by a mostly volunteer staff.

Social programs are considered a trade mark of the Democratic party. It is ironic that Democrats are the ones in absolute power at the county and that they are cutting services. It is equally interesting that the federal and state faith-based and community initiative programs were introduced by the Republican Party. Union County and local municipal governments need to take a look at these programs. It would improve the quality of life for the least of our brothers without further burdening the property taxpayers.

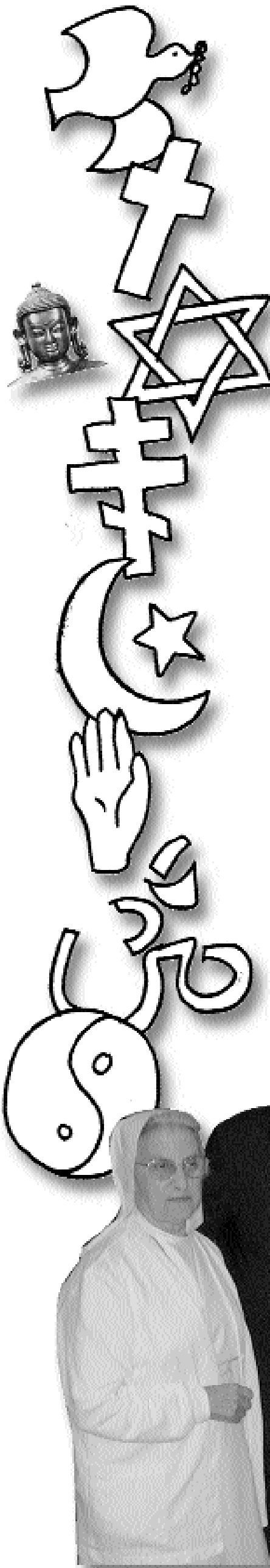
This is a non-partisan issue. Voters need to abandon their blind allegiance to outdated party demagogues and vote for what is best for the people. 

(left) Deacon Joe Caporaso of St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth, was reunited with Salesian Sisters, Sr. Domenica DiPeri, Sr. Gisella Bonfiglie, Sr. Mary Rinaldi, Sr. Susan Bagli, and Sr. Rosalie DiPeri, who came from North Haledon, NJ to celebrate his being honored as Citizen Of the Year by the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO National.

The order of Salesian sisters taught Joe in grade school and he continued the relationship as their associate and friend, committed to a community lifestyle of educating youth, especially those who are poor and marginalized.



(above) Last year 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. Pictured are Cranford Girl Scout Troop #853: Angela Renna, Klaudia Zielonka, Katherine Van Benschoten, Geena Altebrando, Michelle Cannon, Lia Jones, Michelle Checchia, Stephanie Walls and Jackie Winnicki.



# Around About Peterstown

ELIZABETH NJ

Oct 04

Around About Peterstown is published by Joe Renna.

Fifteen thousand newspapers are printed and distributed bi-monthly, free throughout the County of Union and parts unknown and by subscription across the country.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Around About Peterstown assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

Around About Peterstown welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

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## President's Message



I'm a bit preoccupied at this moment and would like to keep my message short but to the point. I would like to share my thoughts on how important our times together on

this planet is.

During this time of war, the election season and our daily scramble to make a buck, our value system sometimes gets all screwed up. In the end the only thing that counts is the love of family and friends. Nothing in the world is as valuable.

So, I want to remind everyone to make every minute count. Don't squander precious time on trivial pursuits. This is how we were raised in Peterstown. Preserving this tradition was one of the founding principles of the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club. It is a living tribute to our parents and grandparents that their values are not lost.

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**  
908-709-0530

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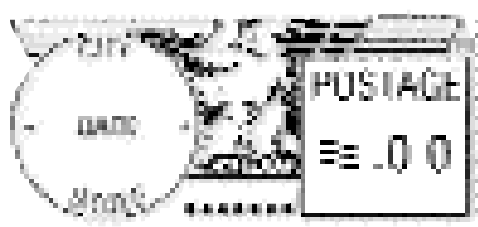
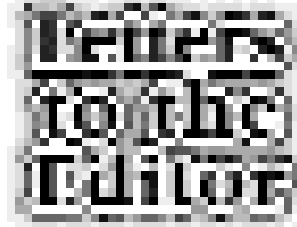
*Joe Renna*  
**com**

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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,

As a former resident of Elizabeth, I lived there from 1937 to 1985, with 5 years out for service during the Korean War, I read a copy of your newspaper that my son brought down to me last week. I now live in Florida, and he still lives in Elizabeth. It was the August 04 issue. I read the list of the men we lost during World War II, I knew some of them, one lived on my block, Alfred Roble, one around the corner a fellow named Thomas Norton, and a priest from my parish, Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Eugene Pholemus. There were two names omitted from that list a Joseph Lynch twin brother for Francis Lynch who was lost on a submarine, and a John Keane, who was killed on the carrier Bunker Hill.

I was educated in Blessed Sacrament Grammar School, a year at St. Mary's High School and then down to Thomas Jefferson where I graduated in 1950, upon graduation I enlisted in the Navy just as Korea broke out and served aboard a destroyer both in the Atlantic and the Pacific, stopping for a bit in Korea.

I do miss news from Elizabeth, and was sad to see the Daily Journal fold, I still have the last copy they printed up in my attic.

Keep up the good work.

Jack Joyce  
Spring Hill, FL.

Dear Joe:

Cristina.... has been selected to play for a travel softball PONY A tournament team up in North Jersey.

The process for her to become a member of this organization was through many tryouts and hard work.

These Pony teams travel throughout the Tri-state area to play hoping to get to the National Championships in July where teams from all over the nation gather to compete for national rankings.

As you know Manny and I were prepared to take on this responsibility and are both excited to see Cristina get this wonderful experience.

This year the players are required to get sponsors.

If there are donations that are collected in Cristina's name, she will receive 50% back off all her fees.

Do you think it would be possible to run an article in the Peterstown paper for her to see if she could get local sponsors? No pressure, Just trying to explore every option to help her. If you don't ask... nothing ever happens....

Maybe it could be headed "ONE of PETERSTOWN'S OWN" or something like that. Please let me know either way

Thanks for your time,  
I have attached a PIC of her.....

Hello to Tina and the kids

Frances Caravano

Good , Better, Best

Never let it rest

UNTIL

Your Good is better

And your Better is Best

Dear Joe,

Congratulations on your great work. I read names and see photos in every issue of people we know. What a great way to reminisce. Wish all my relatives and friends good health and a long life.

Peace be with you.  
Mike Moscaritolo,  
Thomas Jefferson Class of 1940!!  
Kissimmee, FL

(below) Angie (Nigro) Gallaso sent this note to let everyone know how great her great-grand son is.



Logan Whitaker, 10 of Alexandria Township competed in the 2004 USA Jr. Olympics National Judo Tournament held this summer in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Logan took the silver medal in his age and weight class. He is a member of the Central Jersey Judo Club in Whitehouse, NJ. He also competed in the 2004 Morris Cup Competition held in Albany, NY where he also took second place.

To whom it may concern,

Recently my sister-in-law called me to come over her house, she had something to show me. She receives your paper, "Peterstown", and saw some pictures she thought would bring back memories. Well, lo and behold, I was looking into my father's eyes in your issue of '02.

I was born on Fourth Avenue and in those days you had a mid-wife doing the deliveries. Being an only child, I vowed never to have only one child. My husband of fifty three years and I went ahead and had six beautiful children. We have fourteen grandchildren and another on the way, six great grandchildren, and guess what, I'm still employed at the same place for the past thirty years. After raising my children I went back to work. I'll be seventy six years old in November, and occasionally I baby sit for he kids. My husband passed away seventeen months ago, and you can bet your life I miss him. I sure would like to tell you what life was like back then, and I'm sure you would be surprised.

I remember when the LoBrutto family had a cow barn with live cows and how you would have fresh milk squirted in your face if you peeked in during milking time. My mom would send me to Pappeti's Chicken Market on Palmer Street to buy fresh fowl and ask for extra chicken feet to make soup. And about that time Aurelio had his butcher shop between John Street and Amity Street on Fourth Avenue.

Oh, and by the way, The Crestlin Boys Club had their start in my father's building which was once my grandfather's bar. That may tell you a little of what I remember. When I started school I went to school #15 and had to learn english because having spent my earlier years with my grandmother while my parents worked we only spoke Italian at home.

Although my mother spoke fluent Italian she was referred to as "The American" because she came form German-Irish parents. She was once elected as President of the Vallatese Women's Society, what an honor for her.

My dad was short-order man at Gary's Diner on Elizabeth Avenue, and was also bartender at the Victory Tavern and Angelo DeMartino's.

My uncle and aunt, Carl and Kate DiGiorgio owned the Silver Moon Tavern and Pizzeria on South Fifth Street and Fourth Avenue.

I could go on and on like this for hours. Thanks for taking the time to read this little bit of my history, and I'm waiting to read your next issue.

I remain,  
Carmen (Albano) Barboni  
Bound Brook, New Jersey

Joe,

Now that Sam Arena is gone we have to lean on you for the Peterstown/Frog Hollow wonderful years!

The Imbriacco and WWII story was priceless. Who could ever forget the softball games at Continental. Keep WWII stuff coming. "We Really were the greatest generation!"

Thanks for the reading fun, and for remembering.

Gerry Imbriacco pledged for me at St. Pat's. Super guy who made me a coach.

Ed "Buzzy" Fox  
Union, NJ

Hi,

We used to live at 319 John Street. I'm one of the Buckley girls, Larry's sister. We sold our home and moved up here in Branchburg, N.J.

I still miss Peterstown, up here you don't know your next door neighbor. My husband Duke doesn't drive he has eye trouble.

Give Johnny Sacco our best regards.

I enjoy the paper very much. One of our friends up here goes to Elizabeth and brings us one to read. Thank you. Waiting to read the next one.

Loretta (Buckley) DeLorenzo  
Branchburg, NJ

Hi Joe,

Love the Paper! After reading Lou Felipe's letter about the St. Anthony's class of 1969, a bunch of us got together to see Lou's band, Jo Bonnano and the Godsons of Soul. We had a blast! Getting together prompted us to get rolling on our class reunion. So, class of 1969 please reserve this date, Friday, April 15, 2005.

Please forward all addresses to: Karen Cicalese@aol.com; LFelipe422@aol.com; or to jollycool@comcast.net.

More info will follow. We would love to have everyone attend. Looking forward to hearing from everyone!

Thanks,  
Karen Sciscione Cicalese  
Union, NJ

# Editor's Opinion

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

I first met Sheriff Froehlich when I was 12 years old. He was coaching my PAL football team, the Elizabeth Packers. He was very involved in community service which offered me many opportunities to run into him. He had an uncanny ability to relate to everyone he met on an individual basis. He did not merely make small talk but spoke with genuine concern and attention to whomever he met. Just as he remembered everyone, he is also unforgettable.

Ralph Froehlich has been the Union County Sheriff for 26 years and if my research serves me well, he is the longest serving sheriff in the history of Union County. His record is remarkable. Law enforcement is his life and he demonstrates a passion for those who choose the profession. He has a deep respect for men and women who wear a badge. He is always cognitive of their willingness to sacrifice their own well-being for the safety of others.

I could hear the pride in his voice whenever he speaks about one of his officers. He speaks of the accomplishments of the men and women who serve under him like a proud father. Pinning a citation on a young officer is as rewarding to him as it is for the recipient.

The only thing that may eclipse the sheriff's passion for his officers is the love and respect he shows to war veterans. I heard him speak at ceremonies and memorials honoring our vets and his words are always heartfelt and sincere. He is an eloquent and forceful speaker. Froehlich's a tough guy but I've witnessed, on more than one occasion, his voice cracking and his eyes welling up when he speaks of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country.

As sheriff, Froehlich must make life and death decisions. He does not take this responsibility lightly. The safety record of his department is a tribute to his leadership. He attributes his success on the job to his experience and believes the men and women serving under him deserve someone with law enforcement experience to ensure that they are getting the best support possible to minimize the risk they take every day. This has been the theme in many of his campaigns. Sheriff Froehlich has been elected to the three year term eight times.

Sheriff Froehlich stood by his record and his experience time and time again. He was especially critical of candidates that opposed him who had no law enforcement experience whatsoever. The voters agreed with him. I sat through his last two debates where he made his argument, and I agree, which is why it is very hard for me to believe that he would have created the new position of Undersheriff and fill it with someone with no law enforcement experience. The only reasoning that I could figure is that it wasn't his doing, which

would be a disservice to his great legacy.

Sheriff Froehlich is not young. This may very well be his last election. I believe his party bosses are counting on it. What would happen if Sheriff Froehlich retires mid term? Would the democratic power brokers appoint his undersheriff the new sheriff? It is a calculated affair that the Union County Democratic Committee orchestrated as a reward for a political operative. What it is, is a slap in the face to Sheriff Froehlich, a man who has dedicated his life to his vocation and has been loyal to his political party.

These turn of events must pain the Sheriff. He deserves much better. The new leadership of the Union County Democratic Party has tightened the circle of their power and distanced themselves from their rank and file supporters, and are now whittling away at the long time stalwarts, like Sheriff Froehlich, who were responsible for the parties fading greatness.

In the twilight of his long and distinguished career, I hope the Sheriff can muster the passion to challenge the pressure that his political party has exerted on him. The county should do away this third undersheriff position or at least allow Sheriff Froehlich to pick a person to fill the position whom he could be proud of, someone he can introduce to his officers with dignity.

Sheriff Froehlich has more character than all his party bosses combined. If any has the right to thumb their nose at a cheap political maneuver, it is Sheriff Froehlich, especially when it comes to law enforcement. He owes it to the residents of the county who voted for him. He owes it to the men and women who trust him. Most of all he owes it to himself. He's earned it. 🍷

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*Not for Nothing But...*

the person stapling the

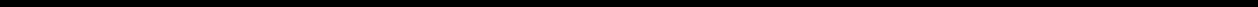
sheriff's campaign

signs to utility poles

around the county is

breaking the law.

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# MOTHER MARY COMES TO ME

## FRANK INSALACOS JOURNEY OF LOVE

Frank Insalaco did not consider himself a religious man. He grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. Like the rest of the neighborhood he was a catholic Italian American. He was a parishioner of St. Anthony's church and would attend mass occasionally. For the most part Frank was living his life day to day, without much direction or purpose. His lifestyle was more self indulgent than healthy.

In 1981 Frank found himself in a state of misery. He was separated from people he loved, not only physically but emotionally. It was Thanksgiving day and even though his family was celebrating at home on Third Avenue Frank was alone. He ended up by himself in the Chapel of St. Elizabeth's Hospital where a thanking service was being held. During the mass he began talking to God.

Frank remembers telling God that he had nothing to be thankful for. He was not expecting a reply but he heard a voice inside him. Frank didn't know what to think of the experience. He wondered if he was going crazy or was just caught up in the emotion of the moment. The voice told him what he should be thankful for, "I gave you the gift of my Mother." The voice was that of Jesus.

Frank left the chapel not sure of what the message ment. He never told anyone what happened and went about his job in the Union County court house. As time went on he put what happened to him that Thanksgiving day behind him, but it wouldn't stay put.

He started to become curious about the Blessed Mother and began reading about her. He started to feel differently about Mary and the lessons she taught. Frank started to practice his religion more. This was a contrast to the life

he was leading up to this point where having a good time was his only motivation.

Frank started to go to church often and he joined a prayer group. He studied and became a Cooperative in the Salesian order of St. Don Bosco and he started to volunteer at the Blue Army Shrine of Our lady of Fatima in Washington, NJ.

Frank made a vow to Jesus to serve him for the rest of his life by spreading devotion to his Mother. In 1985 Frank went to Portugal and brought back a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This was the start of his collection of statues, images and books. He started to bring part of his collection around to people's homes and give talks about the Blessed Mother. He soon began speaking in churches, prayer groups and rosary societies around New Jersey.

For Frank the road that he started to travel when he left the chapel in 1981 was long and difficult with many ups and downs. Frank attributes the success of his journey to Jesus and the gift of His Mother, and for that he is appreciative.

Frank believes that the love that Jesus and Mary exemplifies can help everyone. He echoes the French Saint John Vianney when he says that Mary is the safest, easiest and surest way to heaven. To have a devotion to Mary is great gift from God, a sign of predestination.

Frank Insalaco is spending the rest of his life to do all in his power to make others love her. He is always available to speak and loves to share his collection of stories of apparitions which are documented and authenticated by the church. 🙏



(above) Frank Insalaco stands next to one of the statues that adorns his home in Peterstown. This statue is Our Lady of Grace and depicts the 1830 event in Paris when Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and gave her a miraculous medal.

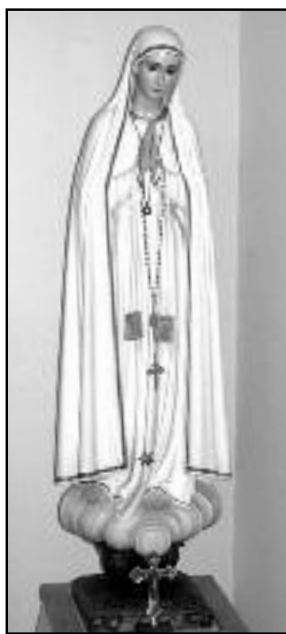
## SHOW ME A SIGN

(below) The statue of Our Lady of Fatima stands in the garden on Centre Street in front of St. Anthony's Church. She appeared to three children in 1917. Two were ordained saints and the third is still living.



(right) The statue of Our Lady of Fatima stands in the corner of a room in Frank's home.

(far right, l-r) A picture of Our Lady of All Nations marking the 1945 appearance of Mary to Ida Peerdeman and the message of the 5th Marian Dogma. A picture of Our Lady of Guatalupe memorializing Mary's appearance in 1951 to St. Juan Diago. Both pictures, along with others, hang in Franks home.



(above) Frank Insalaco sits in a pew in the chapel of St. Elizabeth's Hospital on Broad Street in Elizabeth (now Trinitas Hospital) where he first heard the voice of Jesus that inspired him on his life's journey.

(right) Frank returns to the chapel to reflect on moments in his life since the fateful Thanksgiving day in 1981.





# MICHAEL & HELEN CAMPIONE: A PETERSTOWN LOVE STORY

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN

When she moved from Carteret to Third Avenue in Elizabeth after marrying my grandfather, Peterstown native Michael Campione, pierogis, cabbage rolls and babka colored the tapestry of my Polish grandmother’s life.

Fair-haired and demure, she was a foreigner to the Peterstown landscape for a short while, because, as she often told me, the neighbors “took her under their wings” and made her “one of their own”.

My grandmother, who passed away on April 19 in Union Hospital, was not raised in a very emotionally reactive setting. In her Polish neighborhood in Carteret, folks did not speak animatedly with their hands or use colorful language. Everything about her life, including the food, was mild until she came to Third Avenue.

Now, sheltered by her new Peterstown friends and family, she became the master of making mouth watering “gravy” for Sunday and holiday dinners and spoke candidly with no-holds-barred mannerisms and imparted wisdom in a way that made you think she was born Italian.

When my grandmother and grandfather relocated to Linden with their young daughters, Norma and Ellen, they carried on the same traditions and values that were taught in the “old neighborhood,” instinctively passing them down to a generation of three grandchildren, Stephen and Sherry Pizar and Michelle Le Poidevin.

Gram educated me about Italian traditions at the counters of Sacco’s Meat Market, where Johnny Sacco would let me slip behind the counter for a slice of provolone, and Saraceno’s, where we would select our cookies and cannolis.

Throughout my childhood, Gram would tell me about those early days of her marriage and speak with tears in her eyes upon recalling those who sheltered her and welcomed her into their warm and gregarious fold.

She lived 17 years beyond my grandfather, who died in 1987, always recalling with pride that he was known as “Champ” – the protector of the neighborhood. How proudly she walked beside him at the old St. Rocco’s Feast as he would wave over to his friends perched on their porches, yelling, “Hey, Champ!” Her brown eyes would just gleam and a grin would spread across her face.

As they would glide across the dance floor at the Gran Centurions in Clark – her feet barely touching the ground as he cradled her in his strong arms -- they were evidence that love stories are not merely found in fairy tale books.

Perhaps Helen and Michael (my namesakes) came from two different worlds, but Peterstown will always be their home.

Helen and Michael would have celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on August 30. 🍷



(left) Helen and Michael Campione memorialized by their loving granddaughter Michelle Helen Le Piodevin.



(above) Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti and Dr. Jennifer Marzarella took the Toothprints of Jeremy Johnson from Maplewood in their offices on Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park.

## TOOTHPRINTS: CHILD ID PROGRAM OFFERED FREE

The dental office of Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti and Dr. Jennifer Marzarella located at 18 East Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park, will be offering a free Toothprints dental ID for children of the community. Appointments can be scheduled for Wednesday afternoons beginning October 6th by calling (908) 245-9463. Toothprints is a method of identification should your child ever become lost or abducted. By biting into a soft wafer your child's tooth characteristics and position are recorded as well as their saliva. This information is unique to every individual juts as fingerprints are. This complimentary procedure only takes a few minutes and is safe and comfortable for your child. You will be given the Toothprints to take home and store in a safe place. The appointment will consist of a clinical exam, brief medial history, and the Toothprints. Any additional treatment, including x-rays, can be scheduled on an individual basis. 🍷

## TWIN CUTS HITS ONE YEAR MARK

In November Twin Cuts owners Carmella (Merlo) Lucio and Donna Merlo are celebrating the one year anniversary of their hair salon on Wood Avenue in Linden.

The salon maintains a clientele from New York as well as New Jersey. Carmella was licensed and worked in a Brooklyn salon for 13 years and many of her customers travel to Linden for their styling. Carmella actually started cutting hair in her basement on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Spencer Street in Peterstown. She

would have a full house most every night of neighbors and her brother's friends. That was 24 years ago after graduating from Capri Institute in Kenilworth.

The salon is still a family affair and it has the warmth of a home and not a business. Carmella's mom, Lee, is the receptionist but also assumes the duties of director of entertaining and socializing. Donna, who is married to Carmella's brother Philip, is mother of the the twins, Joseph and Michael, who the salon was named after.

The salon has built quite a reputation in the year it has been open. There is plenty of parking behind the building at 425 N. Wood Avenue. Appointments are appreciated but walk-ins are welcome. 🍷

***As gratitude to their loyal customers, Twin Cuts is offering a FREE chance at a raffle of a gift basket with any salon service up until the November 11th drawing. Mention you read about it in Around About Peterstown. Winner need not be present.***



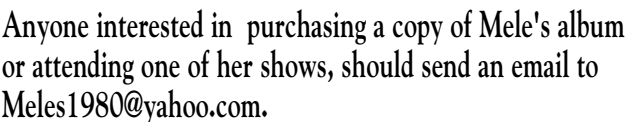
(above) Carmella Merlo blows out the hair of long time customer Doris Matey while Debbie Ferlantis combs out Carmela' s mom, Lee, hair.



(left) Christina Merlo, married to Carmella's brother Anthony, is attended to by Lucy Sutera. Christina's children, Michael, Gina and Anthony, Jr. wait patently with fire fighting apparatus in case something goes horribly wrong.



(above) Mother and Daughter Lee and Carmella Merlo.



Margaret Spirito is not your average 24 year old college graduate. She doesn't have a steady job bringing in a steady paycheck. She doesn't have a boyfriend who she's planning to marry soon. She doesn't know what she'll be doing next week, let alone next year. Margaret chose to do something much more out of the ordinary, sacrificing all the comforts that a normal life offers.

Margaret, a graduate from Wagner College with a B.A in Theater, is now known as "Mele", the blue-eyed soul singer of R&B music. For as long as anyone who's known Mele can remember, she's been shooting for the stars. Once she realized she could sing, that's all Mele has wanted to do. She sang at weddings for family, friends, and eventually had strangers asking her to bless them with her voice at their ceremonies. She was actively involved in theater programs while in intermediate and high school, starring in every production she was in.

She worked in community and regional theater, attended the NJ Summer Arts Institute for two years, performed at the State Theater in a show with Mark Avery Brooks. Determined to study theater in college, Mele was accepted to Syracuse University American Musical and Dramatic Theater at Wagner College, the school she chose to attend. There she performed leading roles in *Company*, *City of Angels*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *Grease*. After the Irene Ryan National Acting Competition for her performances in *TOMMY* and *Grease*, in college, Mele performed opposite *Boyz n the City* showing off her vocal talents, as well as playing a stuck up choir girl in the CBS musical *PRODUCTION OF MAX BIXFORD*.


music industry was calling her and she felt she owed it to herself to stick to the decision to focus solely on music, allowing it to open the doors to the theater and film world. She was signed to a NJ independent label right out of college, which is where Margaret Spirito became Mele. The music industry wanted something short, sweet, and mysterious. Still wanting to keep her grandmother's name, Margaret took on her grandmother's maiden name Mele.

Since then, she has performed at NYC nightclubs; Duplex, China Club, and Le Bar Bat. The infamous R&B station KISS 98.7FM used her as the opening act numerous times for their comedy shows that they hold every Tuesday in NYC. She's also been seen as the opening act for comedians TK Kirkland, Talent, and R&B singer Mickey Howard.

Last summer you may have seen her on the NBC reality talent show FAME, hosted by Debbie Allen. Mele was one of the top 15 semi-finalists in New York and was dubbed “the next Teena Marie”.

Not really agreeing with the way the label was handling her career, Mele dissolved her contract a year ago. She just finished her first album independently and is searching for the perfect recording contract. Her music is being heard overseas and will hopefully be heard on the radio in the states soon.

Her rock wail and soulful alto voice blended with her deep lyrics and love for Motown and classic rock are soon to set people back a few steps in amazement. If you are interested in possibly purchasing a copy of her album or attending one of her shows, send an email to [Meles1980@yahoo.com](mailto:Meles1980@yahoo.com).

“When asked about her choice of careers, Mele answered “ I can’t see myself ever being truly happy doing anything else. This is my art, it’s who I am. It’s been a struggle; I’ve cried a lot and gave up a lot just to pursue it. I don’t need to be a superstar; I just want to be as successful as I feel in my heart I’m meant to be. I want to be able to take care of my family doing what I love. To break it down, I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if I didn’t at least try. So many people have dreams that they never have the guts to pursue. In the end, whether people look at me as a success or a failure, at least I can say I tried.” 

UNICO presents the Brian Piccolo Award to college bound student athletes who displayed exceptional character and achievement athletically and academically. The 2004 recipients were Todd Rinaldo and Erica Palmieri.

Todd is the son of Matthew and Sherry Rinaldo. He attended Holy Cross High School in Delran, NJ before transferring to Manasquan High School.

As an athlete he avidly participated in football, wrestling and lacrosse while still maintaining his place on the academic honor roll as an outstanding student.

Todd worked his parents' farm, feeding the animals as well as taking care of the ground maintenance. He also served as a clerk at a law firm.

Todd was named as a Shore Conference Football Scholar Athlete. His physical skills, athletic prowess, and scholastic accomplishments have earned him a scholarship to Saint Peter's University in Jersey City.

Erica Palmieri has served her school, family and community with distinction. At Roselle Catholic High School, Erica consistently made the honor roll and graduated in the top 10% of her class. Erica was a cheerleader throughout high school and was captain her last season. Her team competed in many competitions in New Jersey and throughout her career.

Erica is also a member of the French Honor Society and co-editor of her high school yearbook.

Erica now attends Drew University in Madison, NJ and remains active in athletics as a member of the Drew Dance/Cheerleading team. 🏆

## Not for Nothing But...

the Brian Piccolo  
movie should be  
required viewing for  
all student athletes.

(above, l-r) George Marretta, Vice President; Todd Rinaldo, Erica Palmieri and Paul Rinaldi, Awards Chairman.

Luis "TriKz" Dasilva is just 22 years old. Sooner or later everyone will know his name. From what venue, is the only question that needs to be answered.



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終身學習 · 永遠年輕

**TIME**  
for  
**Students**

22 2001 AUGUST

嘻哈風潮  
銳不可擋

Top 100 Hip-hop Artists  
Hip-hop's rise in the mainstream  
Male and female students' preferences  
The rise of the 'new' hip-hop  
The rise of the 'new' hip-hop  
The rise of the 'new' hip-hop

3000

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## Not for Nothing But...


without his school  
smarts, Dasilva would  
still be using his street  
smarts on the street.

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# THE UNICO BOWL



Dubbed the "UNICO Bowl", the winning school receives the coveted trophy. The 2004 winner was Elizabeth High school by a score of 48-8. 





(above, l-r) UNICO officers and Man of the Year, Deacon Joe Caporaso. (standing, l-r) Pete Paolucci, Joseph Marretta, Arnold Ricerca, Pat Arena, Treasurer; (seated, l-r) Al Rugani, Luigi Marciante, President; Deacon Joe Caporaso and George Mareta, Chairman.

## HALF THE GUESTS HONORING JOE CAP

(Photos of all tables were not available)



# CROWD GATHERS TO HONOR UNICO'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

An award dinner honoring Deacon Joe Caporaso was held on October 3, 2004. Joe was named as 2004 Citizen of the Year by the Elizabeth chapter of UNICO National. A capacity crowd of friends and associates were on hand at the Westwood, in Garwood, NJ to honor him.

Joe Caporaso retired after 30 years in education, twenty-three as a principal. He was dedicated to the youth of Elizabeth, spending his entire career locally. He was equally dedicated to serving the parishioners of St. Anthony's church. He is presently an ordained Deacon assigned to St. Anthony's. His life long dedication is being recognized by the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO.



(above, l-r) Each year at this annual event, UNICO also awards scholarships to college bound students. The 2004 recipients of the 2 Year Scholarships are Melissa Borrello, Salvatore DiGirolamo, Erina Farina, Rocco DiPaolo, Scholarship Award Committee Member; Anthony Zengaro, Scholarship Award Committee Member; Erica Palmieri and Gaetano Marretta



Guests at the reception had a chance to express their wishes of a safe return to Luigi Marciante Jr. who was shipped to Iraq in the service of his county. The entire community is praying for the quick and safe return of Luigi and all our soldiers in harms way.

(left, l-r) Luigi and his buddies, Salvatore DiGirolamo, Giovanni "Dalish" Damiani, Luigi Marciante Jr. and Beniamino Farina.





# CAMPAIGNING THE OLD FASHION WAY: WITH A SMILE AND A HAND SHAKE

Pressing the flesh is an essential part of campaigning. Many candidates deem it cumbersome, but for the Republican freeholder candidates it is the basis of their campaign. Joe Renna says “We are engaging the public in our campaign as we would when elected.” He added “Presently, the public is not part of the decision process of county government. Public participation is discouraged and the actions of the freeholders and how our taxes are wasted is invisible.” Renna's running mate, Patricia Quattrocchi, says it is her favorite part of campaigning. She says “We attend as many events in every one of the county's 21 municipalities. We don't have the advantage the incumbents have of using tax dollars to campaign. Every FREE concert and event they sponsor, along with all the press releases that the county's public information department generates, promotes the party in power.” Frank Arena pointed out that, for the past few years, the Democrat party in power spends \$1 million dollars county-wide on their campaign, “Outspending the Republican party five or six to one.” The fourth Republican candidate was less supple in his criticism of his opponents, suggesting that their campaign tactics are nothing short of “buying an election.”

All four candidates agree that the taxpayer should have more say in how their money is spent, at the very least they should be aware of what is going on in the county. Renna concluded by saying “The public will never know what is going on if only one party is in power. It is up to the voters to restore a balance to the all Democrat freeholder board. We are campaigning for a more open and honest government. Right now, the people have no say. We want to change that.” - *Reprinted from the Westfield Leader*

## MARTINA DEFINITELY DOES NOT ENDORSE JOE RENNA, NO WAY NO HOW.

Martina Navratolova would like everyone to know that because she is in a photograph smiling with Joe Renna it does not mean she endorses his candidacy. She made this clear by calling the local newspaper that ran a photo and caption of the two. They did print a note from the editor in a subsequent issue.

Renna met his tennis idle by chance at a Garwood street fair. An employee for a local weekly took the photo of the two and Renna submitted it to the Cranford Chronicle along with a caption (see photo and caption above). A few days later Renna received a call from the tennis star who was livid that she was in a photo with him. Well actually not Joe Renna in particular but a Republican in general.

Martina made it clear that she was upset that she did not know he was a Republican candidate and would not have taken the picture if she knew he was. She said she definitely would not have been smiling.

The half hour conversation swayed from Martina explaining how she hated George Bush and how Renna should not be running as a Republican. She also accused Renna for using her to garnish the immigrant lesbian vote. Renna denied the accusation and explained it was just cool to meet her at a street fair in Garwood, New Jersey. He also explained his stance on the local issues,

how he believes in a two party system and that it doesn't exist in the county and how the taxes are rising and services to the people are declining because of this.

Martina confessed to agreeing with Renna's stance and said she would read his website, joerenna.com, but continued to criticize his party affiliation, suggesting that he is really an Independent and should run as one as he did last year instead of just riding the coat tails of the president. She also wanted to know why he wasn't running as a Democrat.

Though Renna explained how the Republican party invited him to join their ticket and the Democrats only run candidates that work for the party and not the people, she did not really want to hear any explanation. The fact that Renna was a Republican was repulsive to her. And though she said she believed in the two party system, Renna left to wonder, what other party would she tolerate?

The problem with party affiliation is that people are blindly loyal to their party. In Union County the urban areas overwhelmingly vote Democrat, yet they are the biggest victims of tax and spend corruption.

Renna's opponent was just arrested for domestic violence. It would be interesting to know if Martina would smile in a picture with him because he is a Democrat. 🐻



### RUBBING TENNIS ELBOWS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Freeholder candidate Joe Renna got to meet his tennis idol, Martina Navratilova, while campaigning at the Garwood Family Fair on September 12. Renna and his running mates plan to meet thousands of people across the county over the next few weeks leading up to the elections. Renna stated "When meeting so many people, odds are I will run into somebody real cool, like Martina.



.....

*Not for Nothing But...*

I bet Chris Evert would

smile in a photo with me.

.....

## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

(right, l-r) Freeholder candidates Joe Renna and Pat Quattrocchi with President Bush's sister, Dora Bush Koch, Surrogate candidate Mike Ponagas.



(below) Last year James Gandolfini wore Joe Renna's campaign button to the Emmy's.



(below) Rudy Giuliani at the statue of Liberty.



(right, l-r) Joe Renna with Creslin Club and Elizabeth mayoral candidate Dan Nozza at their Annual Members and Friends Picnic.



**PLEASE GET OUT  
AND VOTE.  
DEMOCRACY IS  
NOT FREE.  
BRING A FRIEND!  
IF YOU NEED A  
RIDE TO THE  
POLES CALL  
908-709-0530**

# A TREE GROWS IN ELIZABETH

“Cool Cities” is a statewide urban forest energy-efficiency initiative that is designed to address the urban heat island effect by reducing summertime temperatures in cities through shading of trees. Planting trees reduces air pollution, lowers energy costs and improves the overall quality of life in urban communities.

The program is planning to plant 1500 shade trees in

Elizabeth. The program was kicked off in Peterstown on September 23 with the planting of nine trees on Centre Street in front of St. Anthony's Grammar School. The ceremony was well attended by the media, area residents, and parents of the students. The program is a joint effort between the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Tree Foundation and the City of Elizabeth. The program will continue throughout Peterstown and other parts of the city.

The actual planting of the trees started early that morning. Employees and volunteers from the New Jersey Tree Foundation and Groundwork Elizabeth were joined by the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students of St. Anthony's. The event offered a great opportunity for the students to learn first hand how to improve the environment. They will also be able to see the trees grow from year to year and can proudly lay claim to their existence.

In addition to providing shade from the sun, trees cool the air by emitting droplets of water that draw heat as they evaporate, which is a process called “evapotranspiration”. Trees absorb sound, prevent erosion and provide habitats for birds and animals. Their leaves help improve air quality by absorbing noxious gases and trapping particulate matter. Trees make towns more attractive to business and tourism, transforming neighborhood's appearance and increasing home market value, as they bring nature closer to where we live and work. 🌳

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## Not for Nothing But...

evapotranspiration

just came up in

conversation the other

night at dinner.

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(above) Jeanne M. Fox, president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities addressed the crowd at the tree planting ceremony. Standing behind her are Patrick Diver, pastor of St. Anthony's Church; Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection; Sister M. Charitina Frabizio, principal of St. Anthony's Grammar school; and Linda Morgan Co-President of Groundwork Elizabeth.

(above) Students from St. Anthony's did the grunt work helping plant nine Green Ash and Cumulus Serviceberry trees on the street in from of the school. Pictured under the tree are David Shaw, President of New Jersey Tree Foundation; Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director of Groundwork Elizabeth; and Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage.

# FROM THE 6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION FILE

David Shaw, the president of New Jersey Tree Foundation, grew up just blocks away from the spot where the trees were planted on Centre Street. He lived in Elizabeth for 22 years, went to School #20, Cleveland Jr. High and Thomas Jefferson High School.

Jeanne Fox, President of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is the cousin of Guy and Alex DeMico of Bel-Dee Produce located on Second Avenue and High Street. The theory that everyone knows someone who is somehow connected to Peterstown stands pat.





# A NEW AND IMPROVED MADRID

Madrid Cafe and Restaurant has had a long tradition of being one of Elizabeth's best restaurants. The building, located across from the Alexian Brothers Hospital (now part of Trinitas) has been fully renovated with sharp interior design and beautiful details. The change was completed in August by its new owner Miguel Munoz.

Munoz, a chef for 20 years at the Landmark Inn, gave the menu a lift by also featuring Spanish and Italian cuisine. The menu is sure to please both those looking for traditional dishes and others looking for specialties.

The restaurant can accommodate three different dining venues. There is a quiet dinning area, a bar and lounge and a private party room. The three rooms are separated by a common foyer that acts as a buffer and offers privacy between venues.

The restaurant continues to be the choice of area professionals and couples. There is ample off street parking which is an asset for those planning private parties. Munoz caters parties off premises as well.

Madrid's Paella alone is worth a trip, but dinners would surely return for the pleasant atmosphere, friendly staff and a chance to try the rest of the menu. 🍷

(right, l-r) Madrid owner, Miguel Munoz and head waiter of 5 years, Hector Saldarriaga welcome dinners in the spacious dinning room.



(left, l-r) Mario Saavedra enjoys the service of Tamara Jaramillo and Nelly Pinzon. Mario was a regular at Madrid when he lived in Elizabeth on Third Avenue. He now lives in Hunterton County but was in town on business. He was pleasantly surprised to find the restaurant all spruced up.

## Recipes

*Deserts for the holidays in Tina Renna's collection of recipes from family and friends*

### Apple Cake

#### INGREDIENTS:

##### (Cake mixture:)

- 3 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs (slightly beaten)
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 3 tsp vanilla

##### (Apple mixture:)

- 4 apples peeled and sliced
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

#### PREPARATION:

- 1) Grease and flour tube pan and heat oven to 350 degrees
- 2) In large bowl mix the cake ingredients
- 3) Place 1/2 of the cake batter in pan
- 4) Mix apple mixture and spread 1/2 over the cake batter
- 5) Pour rest of cake batter on top
- 6) Finish off with the rest of the apple mixture
- 7) Bake for 1 1/2 hours

### Zucchini Cake

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tea each of baking powder, salt & vanilla
- 2 tbs. Cinnamon
- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

#### PREPARATION:

Mix with electric mixer and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hr & 15 min.

### Yule Log Cookies

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb butter/or margarine
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups chopped nuts
- 4 cups sifted flour
- 2 tsp. vanilla

#### PREPARATION:

- 1) Cream butter, add sugar flour & vanilla and mix thoroughly.
- 2) Add nuts
- 3) Chill about 1/2 hour.
- 4) Roll into logs.
- 5) Bake 12-15 mins at 350 degrees
- 6) While warm, roll in powdered sugar

### Vermont Peanut Butter Hershey Kiss Cookies

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 3/4 sifted flour
- 2 tsp each of vanilla and baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter
- 2/3 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup each of brown sugar and regular sugar
- 2 eggs
- 5 dozen Hershey Kisses

#### PREPARATION:

- 1) Mix dough thoroughly then roll each cooking into a ball making a thumb print in the middle.
  - 2) Bake at 350 degrees for 6 mins (when done they will be wrinkled on top)
- Remove from oven and put kisses in center immediately.

# MAKING FAMILY HISTORY LIVE ON

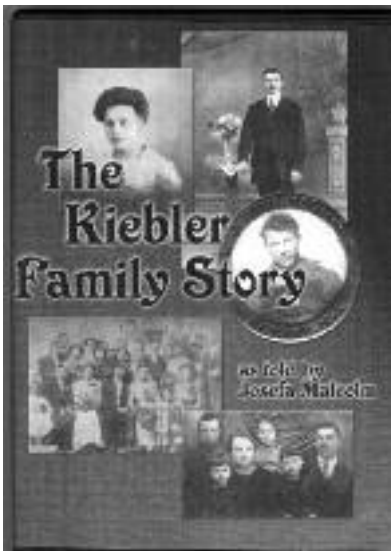
In 1993 Scott Rokosny did a video interview with his grandmother. He wanted to capture the stories of her life, the warmth with which she spoke and her loving expressions. His grandmother passed away in 1997 at the age of 80 but Scott has a priceless memory of her that he could share with his two sons.

Scott did not intend to go into business making family documentaries when he videotaped his grandmother but the reaction to his tape prompted him to do others. He has since transferred the video of his grandmother to DVD and added music and photographs.

In 2002 Scott recorded WWII veterans on Veterans Day. They relayed their war experiences filled with antidotes, remembrances and emotion.

Scott started Garden State Video and offered to professionally produce family history documentaries. He conducts interviews and edits them in with photographs and music.

Family get togethers around the holidays always spur the idea to record what is left to oral history. It's when Scott gets most of his calls. Scott could be reached at 973-884-3636.



19 *Peterstown* WILMINGTON, NJ Oct 04

(left) Cover of the Kiebler Family Story documentary produced by Scott Rokosny of Garden State Video .

## THE KIEBLER FAMILY TOLD IN PICTURES



(above, l-r) Janina Kiebler, born in 1892 in Poland; Jan David, her husband, born in 1885; and John Chester Kiebler, one of their sons. The picture is an ID badge from L.J. Wing company in Newark where John worked. John was born in the United States in 1914 and died in 1995. This family lived in Irvington where they built a house on Mount Vernon Avenue.



(above) A stamped picture ID of the Kiebler family that was used for identification on a return trip from Europe to Ellis Island in September 1923. This family picture shows Jan and Janina Kiebler (husband and wife). Their 4 children pictured are as follows: Oldest girl is Lottie Kiebler, John is the next oldest born in 1914, the next girl is Josefa born in 1916 and the youngest is Helen Kiebler. In this picture Janina is pregnant with Amiel Kiebler who will be born days later in September 1923.



(above) John Kiebler working on Anderson Dam in Idaho. This may have been a WPA project.



(above) Janina and Jan Kiebler.



(left, l-r) John Kiebler (born in 1914) his wife Eloise, John's sister Helen and her husband Steve Choborda at John & Eloise's wedding. Steve was a former senator from Idaho. Helen Kiebler is the youngest daughter and lived on Gertrude Street in Hillside .

## SNIPPETS FROM THE GENERAL FILE



### CONGRATULATIONS JAY!

Since the Aug 04 Issue of this paper that featured the writing of our favorite cigar store clerk from J&S News & Cards on Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park, Jay Abbasi, the Pakistan immigrant became an American citizen.

### AT BAT FOR CHRISTINA

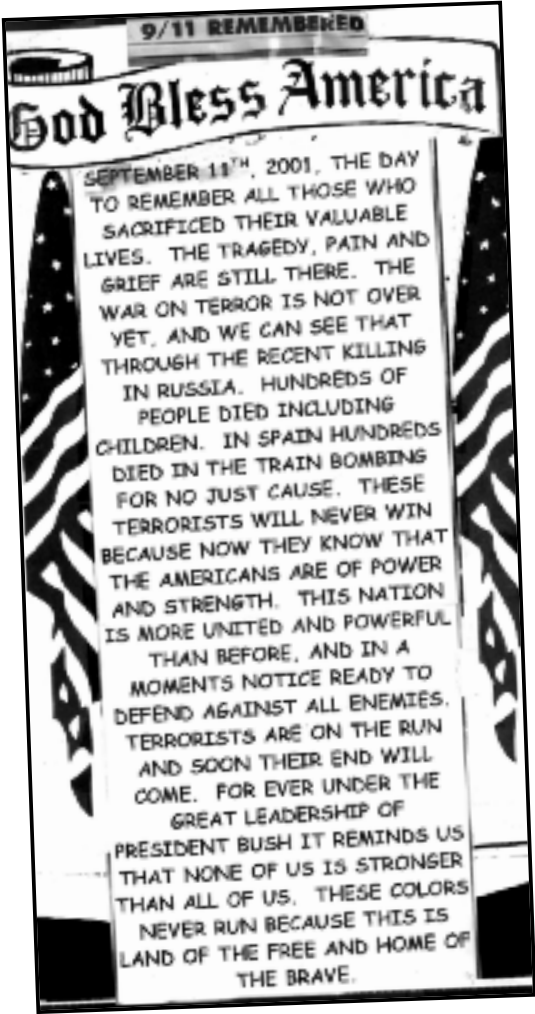
Cristina Carravano, daughter of Manny and Francis, has been selected to play for a travel softball PONY. A tournament team up in North Jersey. The process required many tryouts and hard work. These Pony teams travel throughout the Tri-state area to play towards National Championships in July where teams from all over the country compete. The players are required to get sponsors and Christina wanted to reach out to the readers of this paper for donations. This would account for half of her fees. Christina wanted to try and do this on her own. Anyone wishing to sponsor her can call her at (908) 352-0597.



### SPANNING 95 YRS



Mary DePalma 94 years old feeds her 4 month old great-granddaughter, Jill Louise Cafaro. They were the oldest and youngest to attend the Annual Nigro Family Reunion Picnic. Mary will be 95 in December.



(above) 9/11 memorial by Jay Abbasi

### DOLLAR BILL MEMORIALIZIZES POW/MIA SOLDIER

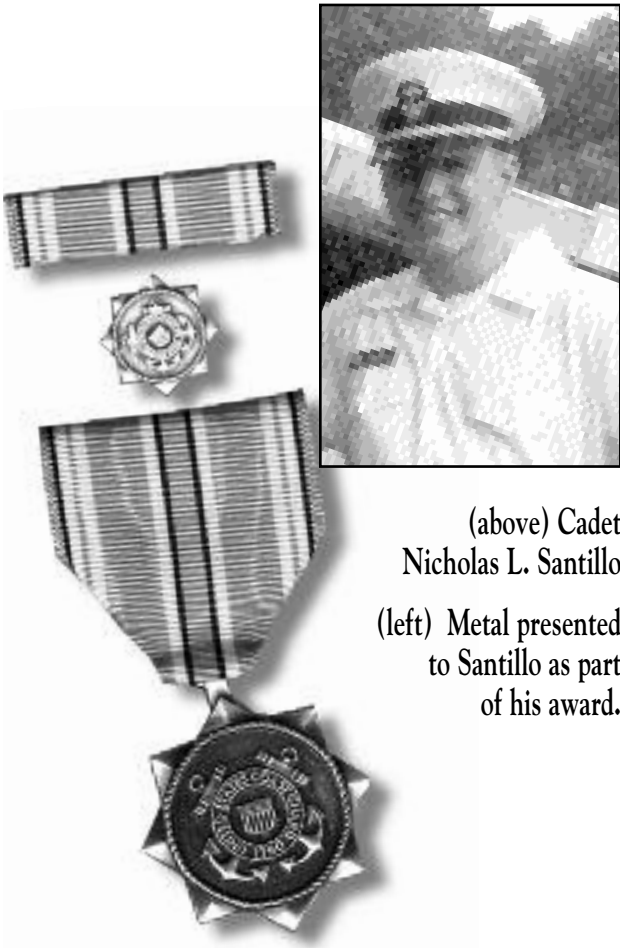


(above) Came across this in the course of a day and thought it was worthy of sharing.

# SANTILLO RECEIVES MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Cadet Nicholas L. Santillo was presented with the Meritorious Public Service Award on June 7, 2004 by the Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard. The commendation came in recognition of notable services which have assisted greatly in furthering the aims and functions of the Coast Guard. 🇺🇸

(right) The official account of Santillo’s heroic actions as it appears on his commendation.



(above) Cadet Nicholas L. Santillo  
(left) Metal presented to Santillo as part of his award.

The Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District takes great pleasure in presenting the U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award to Mr. Nicholas L. Santillo, Cadet on the M/V RESOLVE, for actions in the rescue at sea of two shipwrecked fishermen on the afternoon of December 13, 2003. The M/V RESOLVE was at the beginning of a transatlantic passage off of Frying Pan Shoals, North Carolina, when members of the crew overheard a partial distress call from the F/V ALL HOOKED UP. Captain Frye, Master of the M/V RESOLVE, notified the nearest Coast Guard station of the call and then, lacking more precise location of the distress, diverted his ship to begin a precarious search based only upon the maximum potential range of radio reception of the call. Shortly thereafter, the Coast Guard correlated the distress call heard by M/V RESOLVE to an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) signal and a cellular telephone call from two fishermen who had abandoned the F/V ALL HOOKED UP as it sank, and now were adrift in the vessel’s life raft. The Coast Guard notified Captain Frye and his crew of this additional information and the specific distress position received through the EPIRB. Captain Frye immediately altered course and made best speed to the identified coordinates. Combating heavy seas and deteriorating weather, the crew of the M/V RESOLVE located the life raft containing the two survivors. Working in extremely dangerous seas and near gale force winds, Cadet Santillo was part of a crew lowered in a rescue boat to retrieve the two hypothermic survivors. After providing essential medical attention, the crew coordinated the transfer of both survivors from the M/V RESOLVE to a Coast Guard helicopter. The two survivors were then safely brought ashore for medical evaluation and treatment. The heroic, unselfish actions of Cadet Santillo and his shipmates, despite the treacherous weather conditions and the danger to their own vessel, saved two lives and upheld the highest traditions of humanitarian service.



## DOLORES SANTILLO REMEMBERED

Dolores Santillo passed away September 17, 2004 at the age of 81. Dolores owned and operated Santillo’s Pizzeria with her husband from 1957 to 1986 when her son Al and his wife Lorraine took over the family business.

Dolores then worked as a clerk in Bayway Pharmacy for 10 years before retiring in 1996. She also volunteered at Elizabeth General Hospital.

Surviving Dolores are her sons, Alfred Jr. and Vincent; daughters, Elaine Cittadino, Noreen Specht, Alison Lodato, Adelene Sant Foster, Denise and Marlane; a brother, Hubert Conrad; 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. 🇺🇸

*Dolores Santillo*  
1923 - 2004

## PAOLA OLIVERI MADE THE BEST OF WHAT SHE HAD

*Submitted by her children*

Some people measure their lives by what they don't have. Their pursuit of comfort items becomes what matters most. The things they want become more important than the things they need. This is because the things they need were always there for them. The question is, “What if they weren't?”

Paola Oliveri had to struggle for the things she needed. Her life wasn’t easy but she never complained because she had the thing she valued most, her family. Paola passed away in August, 2004 after a long battle with illness. She made it through her ordeals because her children made her their priority.

Paola Oliveri, nee LoCascio, came to America from Partenico Palermo, Sicily in 1971. She traveled with her husband Leonardo and his mother Josephine. Paola settled in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth and worked at the Leventhal Shirt Factory on Broad Street.

Paola and Leonardo had their first child, Anthony, in 1972 and their second, Luigi in 73 and then their third, Joseph, in 74. Complications with her last pregnancy were so severe that she risked her own life for that of her baby. Both baby and mother were fine.

In 1977 a fifth son, Leonardo Jr., was born. Another complex pregnancy resulted in the loss of another son at birth. Though life was tough for the Oliveris, Paola's family brought all the joy she needed.

The tough times were smoothed through by neighbors who treated her like family and the love that was shared was so greatly appreciated by Paola and her children. It was that love that sustained her through the very painful years that laid ahead.

Paola had a reputation of being an interpreter of dreams and one night she dreamt of the blessed Mother. She was holding two babies, one clothed and one bare. The Blessed Mother said to her “I will keep the boy and give you the girl.” The dream was an announcement of

her sixth child, a daughter named Anna Maria. During this pregnancy, Paola was diagnosed with diabetes. She struggled with the illness and raising the children was difficult. Problems mounted, both physical and financial. Against her wishes her two oldest sons dropped out of high school to get jobs. They felt it was their obligation to their family.

After 20 years in an apartment the family scrimped and saved enough money to buy a house. This was in 1991. In 1995 Paola became ill with pneumonia and was hospitalized. Her diabetes was getting worse and she suffered a massive heart attack. After surgery she suffered another congestive heart failure. The years that followed found Paola in and out of the hospital regularly. She needed constant care and her children supplied it.

A moment of great happiness came to Paola in September of 2000 when her son Luigi and his wife Adriana gave her a grandson, Luigi Jr. He became the purpose for Paola to wake up every morning.

Paola was still plagued by physical complications including recurring congestive heart failure and infections of the pancreas, gal bladder and kidney.

This is a tragic story of a person’s struggle through life when even basic good health is denied them. Most people are not touched by the needs of others. If it is not in their life they don't go looking for it. It can only stand in the way of their own pursuits.

Paola's story is important because there are many people out there like her. Her children thought it important to tell the story. They considered themselves blessed to have been able to help her and they considered themselves blessed for having neighbors who shared the burden when they could, the Reina, Delsol, Lobrache and Mortillaro families.

*R.I.P. Paola Oliveri: 2/21/1943 - 8/25/2004*

(right) Paola and Leonardo are seated holding their grandson Luigi Jr.



(above) Leonardo and Paola holding Luigi Jr.  
(below) On their wedding (below) Paola in her youth.





# THIS OLD POND

By Joe Renna

Adding water to a garden transforms it into a entirely different place. A pond is reflective visually and spiritually. It develops its own ecosystem that is entertaining and interesting. The aquatic plants in and around the water offer a contrast to the dry land variety. Moving water is even more dynamic.

There are many ideas to introduce water to a garden. The designs found through a little research are amazing. Every garden has a personality that reflects its owner. It is always a nice touch to personalize the details in the garden just as one would the interior of their home.

The pond pictured to the left is contained by a wall of old bricks that came from my neighbor's house in Peterstown that was demolished to make way for new construction. They represent a connection back to the neighborhood from where I moved. The bricks were also used as fence posts and barriers for flower beds. It is a little taste of the urban life of Elizabeth in suburban Cranford.

The water is pumped up and out of an old industrial shower head and bath tub spout. The relic was part of the "junk" found in my basement when I moved from my childhood home. My father was a pipe fitter and had all kinds of odds and ends hanging around.

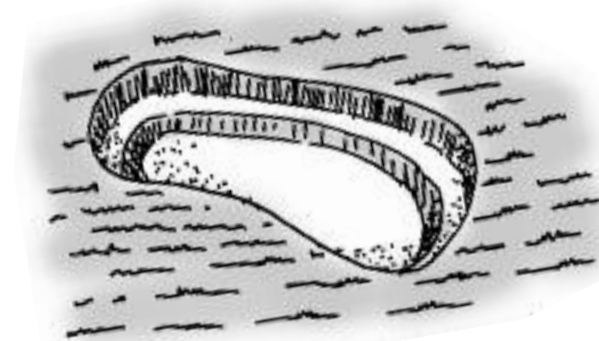
Neighborhood kids enjoy watching the action in and around the pond. Birds, bugs, fish, frogs and turtles keep things constantly new. For me, I like to sit on a bench next to the pond and read or just swing on a hammock with the sound of the water as a backdrop.

The waterfall doesn't only sound nice, the rocks act as a natural filter that removes algae from the water and keeps it crystal clear. 🐸

(left) An old industrial shower head makes for a funky start of a water fall.



## BUILD A POND STEP BY STEP

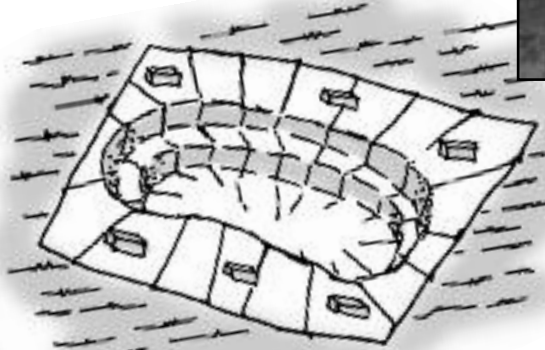


**1** Draw outline of pond onto the ground and dig at least 18" deep leaving a ledge 8" to 12" wide and 8" to 12" deep. Angle the walls out slightly. Make sure roots and rocks are cleared out. Add a half inch layer of sand or an old rug to protect the liner. Great care should be taken in keeping the top edge of the pond level.

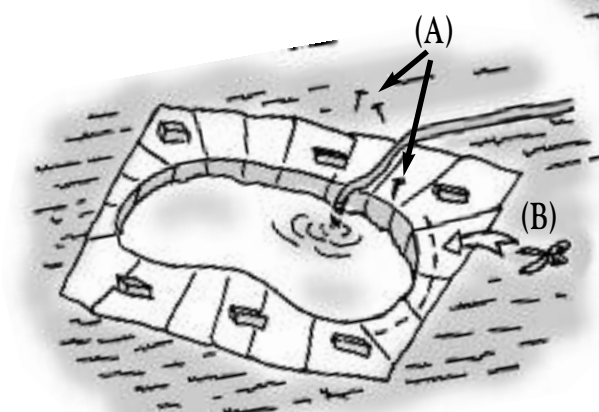


(above) Bruce Watts of White Way Pet Shop on Elizabeth Avenue in Elizabeth has everything you need to create a pond including prefab liners and waterfalls. White Way has a full selection of fish and plant life.

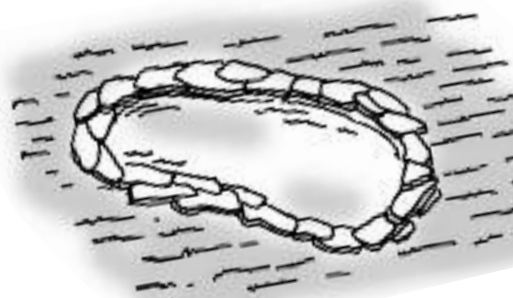
**2** Drape a thick mil. liner into the pond and anchor with bricks. Liners specially made for ponds can be purchased at garden and pet stores or roofing material (untreated) can also be used.



**5** Let water settle, replace it if it is too muddy or dirty. Add aquatic plants and let them thrive a bit before introducing fish, frogs and turtles. Filter, pumps and other equipment can be introduced if desired.



**3** Fill the pond with water flattening the liner as the weight pulls it down. (A) Peg the liner down when pond is full and liner settles. (B) Cut excess liner away.



**4** Place flat stones around the edge of the pond to hide edge of liner.





(above, l-r) Max, John the Mailman and Duke.



(right) The “Not for nothing but” was written by John Neabor who had a regular column in a newsletter published for his union, National Association of Letter Carriers John Enz Branch #67. It is a sample of John's humor, wit and wisdom. If you were a letter carrier, you would agree.

# MY THOUGHTS OF JOHN THE MAILMAN

*Submitted by Manny Fortunato*

Before I came to work for the Elizabeth Post office 20 years ago, I only knew two letter carriers. Norman Harris and John Neabor. Norman was my mailman, and he delivered Spencer, Niles and Palmer streets, and Big John who over the years delivered from Amity Street to South Street.

Both of these men were adopted by this Italian neighborhood and loved by all their patrons. My fondest remembrance of John back then was that you never saw him without his two helpers, Max and Duke. They were the two neighborhood dogs that met him every morning, and followed him on his whole route. I also recall him being a very friendly guy.

Years later, when I joined the postal service, I naturally gravitated towards these two familiar faces during my probationary period. They helped me get through the tough times, and we became very good friends.

John Neabor was one of the funniest people I had ever met. Sometimes corny, other times inappropriate, but always hilarious. He was also one of the most generous

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*Not for Nothing But...*

why does a casual get  
only one or two days  
training and a 204B  
gets a week plus?

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people I knew. You know the homeless people begging outside the 7-11 that we ignore? John would stop and give them a few bucks. Stray cats and dogs never went hungry if John was around, and I don't have enough fingers and toes to count all the coworkers who borrowed money from John over the years. I'm pretty sure some never paid him back, but John really didn't care about that. He still treated everyone nice.

On a personal note, my father Joe Fortunato, who was sickly in his later years, had a special delivery of his social security check from John every third of the month. He wasn't even my dad's mailman, but he knew that he lived on Norman's last street, and John would meet him at Kevin's Corner before he started his own route so my dad could get to the bank before it closed. That's just the kind of guy John was.

Back then nobody in Peterstown ever had to go buy stamps. They would just see John and he would take care of all their Postal needs. John's excellent service did not go unrewarded. He would come back during the summer with bag after bag of tomatoes and other vegetables from the gardens of Peterstown. In the fall, he would come back with homemade wine and he would share it with the other carriers. At Christmas time, John would return to the office with homemade baked goods, and once again share it with his envious coworkers.

John also wrote for our Union newsletter, "The Dispatch", for many years. His articles were always the first thing that people would read when they got their issue.

When I heard about John's tragic murder, I thought of what Andy Warhol once said. He claimed that everyone has their own 15 minutes of fame. It is a shame that John's came in his death, because he deserved to be famous for his life. 🐾

## REAL ESTATE CORNER

TINO & HOWARD'S

The school year is just beginning. Children are now in the classrooms learning. Pretty soon many of these same children will be entering into brand new schools in the City of Elizabeth. New homes new schools. What more can we ask of a city?

The other day I attended ground opening ceremonies for the conversion of the old Spencer auto body store into 12 luxurious apartments with indoor parking and on the second floor an atrium with skylights and also a lounge area for the residents. This was an old movie theatre that lost its luster into an auto parts store and will now become apartments. The new Elizabeth is rekindling its glory from the grand old lady to the prosperous new woman.

On Westminster Avenue thirty-two new apartments are being built with balconies, indoor parking, and a courtyard, exactly what our city needs. Good rental units to give the population an alternative.

On North Broad St. in July, they had the ground breaking ceremony for fifty eight condo units plus a parking garage, the first new high rise to be built in many years. On North Avenue and North Broad St. construction has begun on two new schools. The Old Mansion and the old Cedar Restaurant will now be places of learning to further educate children in Elizabeth.

Everyday as I ride through the city I see the vast improvements that have taken place over the last eight years. New shopping centers (Jersey Gardens Mall), new movie theatres, new parking garages in

downtown, new construction of one and two family homes in every neighborhood. I have seen vacant storefronts on N. Broad St. being turned into prosperous businesses. New banks emerging throughout the city of Elizabeth. We must pay homage to the city fathers for their thorough planning and encouragement that they have given the developers. The wisdom and guidance that the Department of Development under Oscar Ocasios, must be commended. His vision of Elizabeth is coming to fruition.

On another note people who are on the market to buy are always confused about rates. The Feds have raised the prime on two different occasions over the past four months. The general public is mistaken in thinking that mortgage rates have also climbed up accordingly. The record interest rates on a 30-year mortgage are lower today then they were in June of this year. The 30-year mortgage rate stands at approximately 5.8%. Thirty years ago, in 1974, when I first started in the real estate business the interest rates were at 8%. What a difference thirty years make!

As we approach Veterans Day and Thanksgiving lets keep our thoughts on our brothers and sisters, friends and relatives who are serving in the armed forces. Little prayers will go a long way in keeping them healthy. This month I have learned that one of our sales associates brother, who is a Captain in the Marines, has been sent to Fallujah, Iraq. For those who do not know this location, this is where the most intense fighting is going on. I wish that all of you would have a prayer for him. 🐾

*Submitted by Justino Rosa*