



AN EXCESS OF VIRTUE IS A VICE

The life of John M. Riggi has been sensationalized in the media and his trials have been aggrandized in the courts. His bio reads more like a Hollywood script than as a true reflection of his character. His image has been grossly distorted and it has made it almost impossible for him to shed his dubious notoriety and return home.

Home for John Riggi was Linden, New Jersey. He is one of four children born to Emmanuel and Frances (nee Nufrio). The family moved to Linden from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth in 1927 when John was two years old. He loved Linden and bought a home there with his wife Sarah (nee DiLeo) where they raised their six children.

John Riggi was a natural leader. He was class president in Linden High School's class of '43, played football and ran track, and was voted the Most Popular Male Student. His popularity was derived from the way he treated others. He respected everyone equally. He was a loyal and compassionate friend. These were his most defining traits to anyone who knew him personally.

Though his generosity and philanthropy are legendary, they are never referenced in any reports about his life. It may be that Riggi never mentioned them himself. He was very humble and never took credit for his charitable work. Those records were kept in the hearts and minds of the people he helped. His biography should include all the good he did.

It should show that one month after graduating high school he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. Schooled as an engine and airplane mechanic, he was stationed on an airbase in Debach, England during WWII, repairing B-52s and B-17s. He reached the rank of buck sergeant and was honorably discharged.

Back home, Riggi worked as a laborer out of Union Local #394 headquartered in Elizabeth. John's father was Business Manager From 1942 to 1959. The Union was chartered in 1903 to represent the local labor force that were subject to abuses in the workplace. Many of those workers had limited means, and most were recent arrivals to America. The concept of the Union was not much different than the principles that guided Emmanuel and that he instilled in his son; everyone would prevail through the united effort of the community. His father's spirit of self-reliance inspired John to be successful, but he did not measure his success by his personal achievements but by what was accomplished for the community, especially the youth. He left his mark, but not his name in both Linden and Elizabeth.

In 1960 he was honored by the city of Linden as the Most Civic Man In Town. He was also inducted into the Linden Athletic Hall of Fame, not for athleticism but for his patronage.

As president of the P.A.L. in the early 1960s he put a plan together to build a children's recreation center. He followed that with the construction of baseball fields adjacent to the Linden Airport and the formation of a Pop Warner football team. Riggi takes no credit but gives all the credit to the many friends who stepped up to help make his plan a reality. Labor and material were donated by the local businesses and trade unions. They would all say that it was only through his vision and leadership that anything was accomplished at all.

Following the Newark Riots of 1967, Riggi chaired Linden's Human Relations Commission and with other neighbors eased tensions by speaking to students and youth groups. The organization's community outreach efforts promoted unity and began helping residents in need, inspiring others to do the same.

As in his personal life John Riggi's only interest in business was the well being of others. In 1964, he was elected business manager of Local #394 and established a benefits program that was unprecedented. For example, his was the only Union in the country to offer 100% pension benefits to the spouse of a deceased member, and an annuity was put in place that would go to their children upon the death of the spouse. When he retired in 1986, there were 128 widows collecting a pension.

Riggi extended his community service into his hometown of Elizabeth, especially the neighborhood of Peterstown where his family and

friends still called home. He is passionate about his heritage. His mother was from Vallata, Italy and his father from Sicily. He supported the civic and social organizations that worked to preserve the culture and, like his father, gave generously to St. Anthony's Church.

Riggi was totally selfless in his work ethic. He lived modestly and worked long hours. His concern was to protect the workingman and his family, which he did. In his 20 years as head of the union he helped a countless number of men secure work in a safe environment at a decent wage. His efforts translated into those workers being able to elevate themselves out of poverty, for many to go onto college and pursue their dream careers, and to create opportunity for their children to enjoy a better quality of life.

The good that John Riggi did is immeasurable, but his foibles trump any possibility of that news to shine through. In spite of how he is depicted by tabloid journalists, Riggi's reputation at home is intact. He is loved and revered by those who know him, by those who needed a leg up, and those who turned their lives around with his help.

(left, back, l-r) Presenting trophies to 1968 P.A.L. Football Champions were P.A.L. President John Riggi, P.A.L. Co-founder Officer Ed Flanagan, Assistant coach Bob Smith, Mayor John Gregorio and head coach Paul Casino.



(above, l-r) John and Sarah, now deceased, were married in 1946. They have six children, sixteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.



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 was invited to sit on the board of directors for Our Lady of Guadalupe academy. I'm still trying to get used to the name. Its' a tough habit to break after 50 years of saying St. Anthony's. More than anything else, most people I talk to have taken to calling it OLGA, using the school's new initials.

All kidding aside I must say that I have been very impressed by what has been done since July1. Deacon Joe Caparosso has put together a great team and the archdiocese of Newark has been very thorough and professional.

This is the first opportunity for some of the people involved with the school to get a close look at our community. I received many compliments about the generosity of the parishioners and how close knit the neighborhood is.

It's easier to see what makes the Burg special through an outsider's eyes. And it feels good to be reminded of it once in a while.

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco
John Sacco, President
Sons of Peterstown Sports Club

PRESS RELEASES

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

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Letters to the Editor



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,

On a recent trip back to NJ I got a chance to meet up with Pete Nozza, my old football coach from Jeff. It was great talking to him. We probably hadn't seen each other in 60 years.

While in NJ I got a chance to visit my old Grammar School, Blessed Sacrament, a few days before it's final closing. Thanks to your newspaper I found out that they were shutting the doors for good. It was very sad, and the teachers I spoke to were very upset, they believed that the school would stay open.

I had not been back to the school in 60 years, and I had a chance to show my wife the school, and all the classrooms I had been in. It looked pretty much the same on the inside. I met with the Principal, Sr. Ursula Butler the only remaining Nun there, all the rest were lay teachers. I went up to the auditorium where I played grammar, and CYO basketball. The only thing I noticed different was the curtain on the stage was newer. This auditorium was also where they had the dances on Sunday evenings.

At one time there had been four bowling lanes down in the basement of the school, and when I mentioned it, very few remembered them, They had been converted into classrooms. I used to set up pins there for \$2.00 an alley. If you jumped alleys you received \$4.00 which wasn't bad back in the 40's.

I was shocked when I learned that the tuition was \$3,500 a year. When I went there you were given a dues card, and dues were \$.10 for parishioners, and there were children who couldn't afford that. But they never held it against you if you couldn't pay. My sister and I both attended the school, and my parents always made sure that our dues were paid. After my sister went there it went up to \$0.20 a week.

I attended there from 1937, Kindergarten, until 1946 when I graduated from the 8th grade. I have a lot of pleasant memories of the school. It was at that time a very active parish, and none of us kids that attended ever got into any major trouble. The Good Nuns made sure of that.

Our stay in NJ was a bit cold and damp, but in 7 days we accomplished what we had set out to do. A cousin of my wife celebrated 80 years on the face of the earth, and my sister Joan, and her husband Bob celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. And last but not least, I got to spend some quality time with my only Grandson, who lives in Berkeley Heights.

Regards,
Jack Joyce
Spring Hill, FL



(above, l-r) Jack Joyce shared his visit to New Jersey with his old freind Pete Nozza at the Rustic Mill Restaurant in Cranford.

Dear Joe,

Thank you for publishing Mary Joan Renna's recent tribute to her Mom, "Dolly" Monaco Koch in the June 09 issue of your paper. To have known Dolly (aka "Rosie" to some of us), was to love her! Her wit and sense of humor combined with her strength and courage were a recipe for one terrific and unforgettable lady...and that she was. Her memory remains in our hearts forever.

Phyllis Renna Iannarone
Aiken, SC & Naples, FL

Hi Joe,

I just finished looking through your Peterstown newspaper and had to let you know how much I enjoyed it - especially the lead article on the midwife, Anna Ferrara's care of Paul Cuzzola. I wasn't going to do more than skim that article, but your first paragraph really intrigued me and I had to finish the entire story! Very clever – and very sweet.

Regards,
Linda Levitt
Somerville, NJ

Dear Peterstown newspaper and friends,

When my Aunt Sybil sent me the article about the closing of St. Anthony's School, I was compelled to write.

Hi, it's your home plate, Lucille Cavalla who grew up in Peterstown, 549 4th.Ave, I lived across the street from the Renna house where I played with Lorraine and her brothers and sisters. Mrs. Renna drove us to school in her giant station wagon when it rained. Looking back, it was our Camelot.

Seeing the picture of the nuns swept me in. Sr. Joanne was principal and Kindergarten teacher and a very kind person. Her assistant, Sr. Theodora, went to Saraceno's bakery every day to get sesame seed cookies that we ate at recess. And I remember Sr. Raphael in the 3rd grade. She glided around the classroom as if she was walking on clouds.

We had lots of fun at St. Anthony's. I was in the same class as John Sacco and so many other great folks. The boys always did bad things, and the girls never squealed on them. Every day, a group of us would walk home together down Third Ave, each peeling off at their side street. Mine was Palmer.

Time changes things all right. The closing of St. Anthony's is the end of our era, and we will hold the memories of that time deeply. We have to. We have no choice. No matter how far away we roam, Peterstown always stays in our hearts.

My travels have taken me to Raleigh, NC, where I taught First Grade at a Catholic school, Sacred Heart Cathedral. It was so much fun being with and teaching the boys and girls. I was the liberal on the faculty that's for sure. My self-appointed job was to liberalize rules whenever I could.

I met my husband, Stewart Rogers, in Raleigh. We will be married 10 years this October. We moved several years ago to Olympia WA to be near our granddaughter.

This past March, Stewart took a job in Honolulu, HI. I live in the countryside in a small Hawaiian village that's been around almost a hundred years. I found my dream job, Beachcombing.

If anyone would like to be in touch, please do.
angelshorses@yahoo.com.

With peace and love,
Lucille C. Rogers
Hauula, HI

Dear Joe,

We just received word from a cousin of ours that my uncle's high school graduation picture was in your June/July 2009 edition. His name was Joseph (Joe) T. Conroy, and he was a proud member of the first graduating class of St. Mary's High School in June of 1934. My mother, Kathleen Conroy Burns, had only heard that her brother's name was mentioned in the local Peterstown paper. Right away I googled Peterstown, Elizabeth, NJ and came to your website. I was so excited to see my uncle and to read my mother the article. She knew every member of his class and related some fond memories of nearly every one.

My mother, along with Uncle Joseph's wife, Patricia Conroy and his seven children would love to have a copy of this edition of your paper. My mother became the "keeper" of the family papers, and she said that is one photo that they never had a copy of. We'd love to see it, and then to pass it on to his wife and children as I am sure it would bring great joy to all of them.

I appreciate your attention to my request and hope to hear from you soon.

Elizabeth Burns Tiazkun
Toms River, NJ

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to Dennis Horin and Joe Marino for their hard work and dedication in making the Baby Boomer Reunion so successful. It was good to see so many friends from years ago as we renewed the good times of the past which brought back many fond memories. Special thanks to you, Joe, for continuing to publish a paper with so many interesting Peterstown stories.

Lois (Mazza) Chryssikos
Clinton, Ct.

Joe,

What a beautiful pro-life editorial in the June/July 2009 edition of *Around About Peterstown*! May God bless you for being a voice for the unborn. It is rare that editors, writers or just everyday folk take the risk and speak out on behalf of the most innocent!

Very inspiring!
Michelle H. LePoidevin
Linden, NJ

MORE LETTER ON PAGE 5

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

extortion.

It can get really scary. A team of Union County prosecutors investigated and arrested our state assemblyman and county undersheriff, Joe Cryan's, ex-girlfriend after a sour breakup. Subordinate government employees must do the bidding of their bosses; it's their job. It would be tough for them to determine the legality of the orders.

Which brings us to the issue of organized crime organizations. It was the use of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, enacted in 1970 and known as RICO, which brought about a collapse in crime syndicates across the country. In 1985 New York City District Attorney Rudy Giuliani dreamed up using the Act to bring down Joe Bonanno. As Giuliani put it, “The idea of the act was that the ongoing criminal enterprise is more dangerous to society than any specific criminal.” His problem was proving that an organization existed. He used Bonanno’s own words from a book he wrote describing “The Commission.” This gave investigators a huge net to cast over a large area to load the boat and sort through their catch later.

The problem with RICO is that it is selectively enforced. Big business and financial institutions are never targeted. And you can forget about the Act ever being used on political party organizations.

The political party committees in this state operate every bit like an organized crime unit using the public's resources as their collateral. They maintain a hierarchy of power that includes elected officials and government employees. And, as in classic organized crime fashion, the party elite is far removed from the political hacks doing the grunt work.

The state is rampant with government abuses, from no-show jobs to no-bid contracts. It is no secret. In fact, officials are continually getting found guilty of violations but when the charges are initiated at the local or state level very little, if anything, is done about it.

My own Union County has been sued repeatedly by employees claiming they were passed over for promotions or harassed for political reasons. The political machine is so fine-tuned that no one ever suffers the consequences of breaking the law as long as they are doing the bidding of the administration.

Not only should the employees be arrested, but the case should be made that the bosses be charged as well. During a trial where the County was found guilty of an employment violation in a “pass-over” case, it was revealed that the appointee bragged that, “he was going to get the job because he was a Democrat, his father was a Democrat and that they had made connections to Sen. (Raymond) Lesniak,”

Our State Senator Ray Lesniak actually refers to himself a “Power Broker”. His nephew is the county manager in charge of 3,000 employees and a \$470 million annual budget. Not bad for his first real job.

But it is only a pipe dream. Even if convicted, government officials are seldom punished, and they know that. Newark Mayor and State Senator Sharp James was facing 20 years behind bars and got 27 months. Lesniak's counterpart in South Jersey, State Senator John Lynch, was found guilty of illegal conduct while in office and is serving 39 months. He was allowed to serve part of his sentence in his home. Of course both of these examples are federal cases.

The F.B.I. conducted a corruption probe culminating in July 2009 that resulted in 44 arrests, including three mayors, a deputy mayor and two state assemblymen. It makes me wonder what is going on in the state's 566 municipalities and 21 counties that we are not investigating.

I won't hold my breath waiting for the State Attorney General's Office or the county prosecutors to rattle anyone's cage, anytime soon. Either by choice or coercion law enforcement officers in New Jersey are the foot soldiers of the political bosses. I feel bad for them and any government employee who must take orders from a political hack.

John Riggi has accepted his fate and has sat quietly away for almost twenty years. Maybe it is his quietness that keeps him from being released. After ten years behind bars he was still being charged with crimes. He chose to sit tight before he would compromise his integrity. His freedom was leveraged in an ongoing game that he refuses to play.

The piles of court documents I've read don't seem to justify the treatment he has received, and his treatment in the press is totally out of wack and over the top.

Well I have to go. I see flashing lights outside my window and someone is rapping on my door. 🚔

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Advertising starts at \$45 for a business card size ad, up to \$600 for a full page. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact Tina Renna at (908) 709-0530. 📞

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FROM THE 6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION FILE

Marty Jacobson, originally from Elizabeth, is living in Valkaria, Florida. At 62 years of age, he still plays Senior Softball with other men over 50. The league has over 100 players playing double headers every Thursday evening, year round. They practice on Saturdays.

During one practice Marty mentioned New Jersey in conversation and it piqued the interest of another player, Dave Syrkus, who asked Marty where he lived in Jersey. When Marty replied "Elizabeth," Dave began to tell him how he grew up in Elizabeth. He lived on Pennington Street and his family owned a store on St. Georges Avenue in Linden. Marty also talked about his past in Elizabeth and mentioned that his uncle had an appliance store on Rahway Avenue (Rahway Ave. is the St. Georges Ave.'s name in Elizabeth) that his cousin Allen now runs.

Later in the day Dave talked to his mother and asked if she knew the Jacobsons from Elizabeth. It turned out that not only did the Syrkus's know the Jacobsons but they were good friends with his Uncle Nat, and cousins Allen and Ronnie. The Syrkus family also owned another store in Linden named "Lenny's of Linden," which sold furniture and appliances. His uncle and cousins actually worked for them at one point.

Marty called his cousin Ronnie to share the experience with him. Coincidentally, Ronnie had just arrived in Florida

for vacation was about to call Marty to plan a visit. The following day Marty and his wife met Ronnie and his wife Susan at the Gaylord Palms Hotel in Kissimmee and had a good time reminiscing over lunch. As Marty left the parking lot, he noticed the name tag on the attendant listed his city of origin, which is customary in Florida, and that was, what else but, Elizabeth, NJ. That's a whole other story. 📞



(above, l-r) Cousins on a Florida visit Marty and Becky Jacobson with Susan J. and Ron Jacobson.

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MORE Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Jacobson's

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County wish to thank Jacobson's Appliances in Elizabeth for their generous donation of a floor model refrigerator. This refrigerator is used for storage of fresh produce grown and harvested from the Master Gardener "Sharing" Garden, our flagship project at Watchung Reservation.

Since it "sprouted" in 2002, the "Sharing" Garden has provided 7,600 pounds of vegetables to low-income families and individuals throughout Union County, including 1,867 pounds donated to over 20 local food pantries, soup kitchens and churches in 2007.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Rutgers' Agricultural Experiment Station in its mission to deliver horticulture programs to the general public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Master Gardener. No previous education or training in horticulture is required.

Union County Master Gardeners are celebrating 20 years of volunteer community service in 2008. For more information about the Master Gardener program, please contact Lynne Orlofsky at the 20 Rutgers Cooperative Extension office located in Westfield at (908) 654-9854 or the web at <http://mastergardeners-uc.org/>

Joanne Krueger,
Union County Master Gardener,
Scotch Plains

Dear Joe,

Thank you for sending me this link to www.PeterstownNJ.com. I grew up in North End, graduated from Jeff in 1965, and I recognize several of the guys pictured in your June 09 issue. My cousin is Allen Jacobson whose advertisement I see in your paper. My father and my uncle started that business together years ago, and my father left when the business could not support two families. He was a painting contractor in Elizabeth until 1977 when he retired. I rarely get to New Jersey these days, I live in Florida, but it is always interesting to see what's going on in Elizabeth.

Thanks again.
Marty Jacobson
Valkaria, Florida

PETERSTOWN REUNION FOR 40 SOMETHINGS Hosts: Diane Scalegno, Tina Sacca & Santa Guddemi AUGUST 15, 2009 Reunion starts at 3pm till closing CIANFANO'S RESTAURANT on the corner of 4th Ave. & High St. FIND US ON FACE BOOK

Buffet, Cash Bar,

Admission is \$20.00 per person at the door.

Please spread the word to all your friends that you still keep in touch with who grew up in Peterstown. If you know of people who are coming that are not on face book. please let us know by writing on the events wall.

Thank You All :)

Dear Joe Renna,

Thank you for your wonderful paper *Around and About Peterstown*. It brings back old memories of the times before I met and married Mickey and the Renna family.

I can still recall your grandfather Nick standing in the doorway of his house on Third Avenue and your grandmother's always happy and joyful smile.

Most of my connections were with your father and uncles from when they moved from Boston to live on Spencer Street a long-long time ago and I lived on Third Ave and Spencer. I also remember your mother from Fourth Avenue and Niles Street before she married your dad.

Reason for this note besides saying hello is to tell you that my mailing address changed from Hawaii to Las Vegas. I will be living there with my daughter JoAnne Cortese Lynch. Thank you again for the pleasant memories of my youth through your paper.

Love,
Joe
Las Vegas, NV

5
Peterstown
Aug 09

Dear Joe and Tina,

I just wanted to thank you for your article "Grandma's Photo Album" about my mom in your June 09 issue. My family were all very happy and full of pride. I am so proud of my children and my nieces and nephews.

I would like to add other members of my family to the tribute. My wife and "Earth Angel" Gina and my stepsons Troy and Jamie. It has been through their love and support that I have been able to survive so long since being stricken with terminal cancer.

I was blessed with many others in my life that have helped me, especially my cousin Mike DeRosa and his family, and Jo and Bella Piga. I could write down names for a month in order to get all my thank you notes done.

Thank you,
Joe Santillo
Linden, NJ

(right, r-l) Joe Santillo
dances with his mom
Theresa.

(below) Troy and
Jamie flank their
mom Gina on her and
Joe's wedding day
in June 2006 held
on the Oak Ridge
Golf Course
in Clark, NJ.



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(left) 2005 Ford Explorer will be delivering the Peterstown Paper.



NEW (USED) BURG MOBILE

The third Ford Explorer to don THEBURG license plates is on the road. The first two, a 1991 and a 1992 edition, both past the 200,000 mile mark and are still going. This one is a 2005. The last one was donated to St. Joseph's Social Services.

The new (used) explorer is a 2005 and was found on the lot Car Stop on St. Georges Avenue in Linden, owned by Tony Percario. Great service, great deal, highly recommended. 🐾



(above) Tony Percario, owner of Car Stop attaches THEBURG plates to latest newspaper delivery truck.

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF SCOTCH PLAINS VICTIMS OF L'AQUILA EARTHQUAKE

In April 2009 an earthquake rocked the Abruzzo region of Italy. The tragedy killed hundreds, injured thousands, left dozens of towns damaged, and tens of thousands of people homeless. The Italian American Club of Scotch Plains held a fundraiser to help rebuild the town of Villa Sant'Angelo.

Many members of the club can trace their roots back to the Abruzzi region and still maintain ties with friends and relatives who were affected.

The dinner dance was held on June 28 and raised over \$24,000 with donations continually being made. The money is earmarked to build a school playground.

The event drew over 500 attendees including Scotch Plains Mayor Nancy Malool, former mayor and current assembly candidate Martin Marks, Andrea Barberia from the Italian Consulate of Newark, and Don DiFrancesco,

former governor of New Jersey and whose father was originally from Montazzoli in the Abruzzi region.

Several Italian dignitaries were also in attendance, Ercole Del Negro, mayor of Montazzoli, Pierluigi Biondi, mayor of Villa Sant'Angelo, and Dr. Luigi DeFanis, Consigliere Regionale d'Abruzzi and President of the VI Commission of the European Community.

Chairman of the fundraising event, Renzo DiCarlo, was pleased with the results of the party, thanked those who generously donated and everyone who helped make the event a success, including the Scotch Plains High School band who performed.

Donations can be made via check to:
Attn: Amerigo Checchio. Italian American Club
L'Aquila's Earthquake Fundraising,
1976 Valley Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076, 🐾



(above, l-r) Former Mayor of Montazzoli Felice Novello, Regional President Luigi DeFanis, Ital-Am Club President Romano DelRoio, Mayor of Montazzoli Ercole Del Negro and wife, Former Club President Peter DiNizo and Club Treasurer Amerigo Checchio.

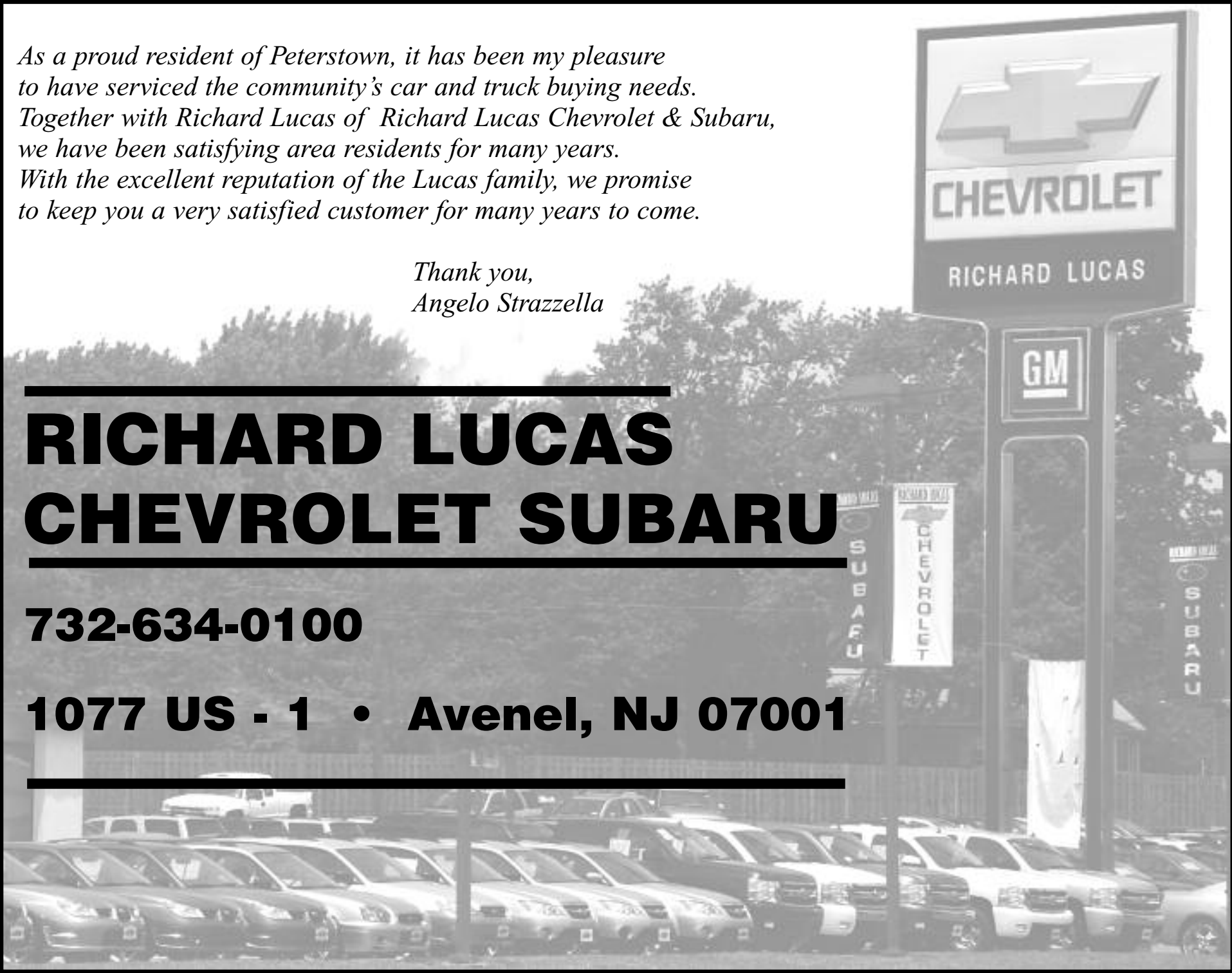
As a proud resident of Peterstown, it has been my pleasure to have serviced the community's car and truck buying needs. Together with Richard Lucas of Richard Lucas Chevrolet & Subaru, we have been satisfying area residents for many years. With the excellent reputation of the Lucas family, we promise to keep you a very satisfied customer for many years to come.

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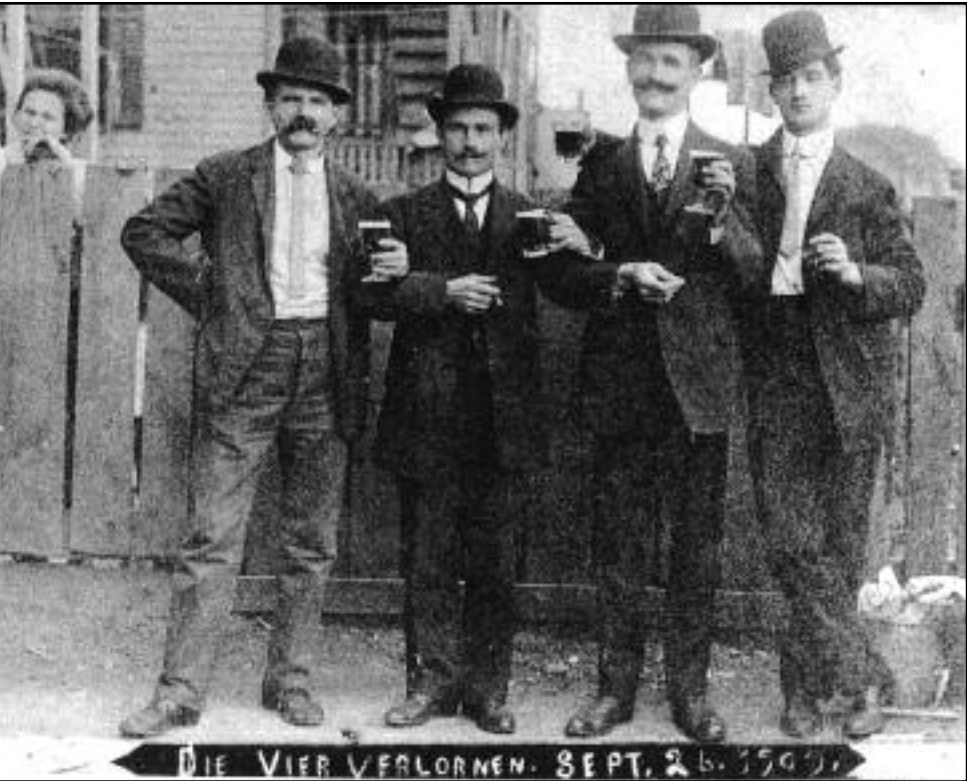
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BETTINGTON FAMILY PHOTOS



(above Jacob Bettinger with his string quartet “The Four Forlorn”



(above) Theresa Bettinger could sit in with her husband’s band when she wasn’t delivering babies.



(above, l-r) Jacob Bettinger with Casper Bauman who he sponsored for his Confirmation at St. Michael’s Church in Elizabeth.

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A black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform, wearing a garrison cap and looking directly at the camera.

Enza would like to thank the amazing community of Peterstown – the heart and soul of Elizabeth, NJ, Lt. Jim Sacca and colleagues of Elizabeth's finest, and her awesome team of 85 members who traveled from all over New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York to participate. 



L. Cpl. Michael Schwarz
Carlstadt, New Jersey
Marine
KIA November 27, 2006

Check out the ad for the busiessses that donated on page numer indicated in the left column.

- 13 **BAYWAY LIQUORS**
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- 14 **BELLA GINA DELI**
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- 13 **CAFFE CALABRIA**
620 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
- 8 **COLTONS PHARMACY**
851 Elizabeth Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
- 14 **DICOSMO'S ICES**
714 Fourth Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
- 14 **JOANNE'S LUNCHEONETTE**
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- 14 **TOMMY'S PIZZA**
1063 Fairmount Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
- 17 **UNION COUNTY GARDEN SUPPLY**
1455 St. Georges Ave, Roselle, NJ 07203
- 13 **VALENTINA'S GRILL**
313 Atlantic Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

He regrets that he did ask more advertisers because those who were not asked stated they would have loved to participate. This just shows that the generosity and support for one another in Peterstown community is phenomenal.



(above) Joe puts on an extra kick to pass a runner at finish line who was texting while she ran.

(left) Joa Adona. (above) Joe and Tom MacNamara.

(left, top) the list of advertisers in the Peterstown Newspaper that donated gift certificates.

(left) The front and back of the gift certificates that were given to the winners.

(below) List of contributors and the times that they guessed.

GUESS	CONTRIBUTOR								
30:35:00	Elaine Nigro	55:21:00	Angela Vella	60:15:00	Royal Moore	65:23:00	Carmine Giannetta	77:26:00	Simone Pace
38:54:00	Peter Canu	55:46:00	Joe Adona	60:30:00	Mark Corsi	65:35:00	Anthony Searisi	79:00:00	Onofrio Vitullo
48:00:00	Paul Cuzzola	56:16:00	Joe Adona	60:35:00	Al Santillo	65:45:00	Rahway Art Hive	79:19:00	Lorraine Kelly
48:36:00	Robert Borg	56:20:00	Tom Donahue	61:03:00	Jim DeSalvo	66:32:00	Giovanni Cerullo	80:07:00	L.J. Orsi
49:30:00	Dennis Horin	57:00:00	Spirito Girls	61:04:00	Mike Giordano	67:10:00	Tom Donahue	80:18:00	Jaqueline Fabre
49:59:00	Dita Brodin	57:13:00	Charlie Wischusen	61:09:00	Marie Pinkiewicz	67:22:00	Angela Vella	80:20:00	John Sacco
50:00:00	Jim Sacco	57:20:00	Bob Wischusen	61:20:00	Royal Moore	67:56:00	Robert Shelbourne	83:12:00	Jaqueline Fabre
50:10:00	Rahway Art Hive	57:29:00	Dita Brodin	61:25:00	Tom Macnamara	68:00:00	Rich Mazza	84:20:00	Jim Palermo
50:15:00	Tom Macnamara	57:30:00	Louis LaBrutto	61:32:00	John Sacco	68:02:00	Dr. Richard Lewis	85:02:00	Joe Caporaso
50:25:00	John Sacco	57:30:00	Joe Adona	62:10:00	Lou Sturniolo	68:02:00	Antonio Milano	86:00:00	John Sacco
51:12:00	Cathy McCue	58:10:00	Lou Sturniolo	62:15:00	Christina DasDantos	68:07:00	Mike Giordano	86:37:00	Raymond Vella
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52:00:00	Charlie Mushalko	58:20:00	Rita LaBrutto	62:29:00	Dita Brodin	69:00:00	Paul Aliranges	89:10:00	Rahway Art Hive
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52:30:00	Tom Macnamara	58:38:00	Beniamino Farina	62:35:00	Vincent Renna	69:48:00	Michael Vena	90:00:00	Rahway Art Hive
52:48:00	Joe Adona	58:45:00	Royal Moore	62:46:00	Anna Crincoli	70:00:00	Anthony Izzo	92:17:00	Javier Alvarez
53:17:00	Joe Adona	59:00:00	Jim DeSalvo	63:00:00	George LaBrutto	70:03:00	Mike Giordano	95:00:00	aldo Perrotti
54:00:00	Paul Cuzzola	59:09:00	Angela Vella	63:00:00	Dr. Richard Lewis	70:10:00	Lou Sturniolo	100:00:00	Anthony Magaletta
54:10:00	Joe Adona	59:14:00	Stella Agliata	63:35:00	Jim Cole	71:00:00	Dr. Richard Lewis	100:00:00	Cheryl Hathaway
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54:59:00	Dita Brodin	60:02:00	Mike Giordano	64:07:00	Marie Pinkiewicz	72:30:00	Onofrio Vitullo	113:00:00	Paul Aliranges
55:00:00	Linda Tirone	60:05:00	Charles Saunders	64:15:00	Tom Donahue	72:37:00	Vincent Renna	113:03:00	Doris matey
55:05:00	Rahway Art Hive	60:10:00	Rev Pat Diver	64:19:00	Beniamino Farina	73:00:00	Dr. Richard Lewis	113:04:00	Nino Arcieri
55:10:00	Lou Sturniolo	60:12:00	Paul Cuzzola	64:59:00	Dita Brodin	75:00:00	Steve Fedorchko	117:08:00	Joseph Gambino
55:16:00	Vito Bellino	60:15:00	Paul Cuzzola	65:10:00	Lou Sturniolo	75:24:00	Angela Vella	118:11:00	Diane Iazetta
						75:30:00	John Sacco	125:15:00	lim Malta



PeterstownNJ.com
www.firstgiving.com/supportoursoldiers

Around About Peterstown Publisher Joe Renna ran in the Hope & Possibility 5 Mile event on Sunday, June 28, 2009 in Central Park, NYC. Advertisers in the newspaper donated gift certificates that were given away to the lucky donor who was closest to guessing the time that Joe finished the run.

- Certificate can be used as cash at the business to the right.
- Certificate and not be redeemed for cash or receive cash back as change.
- Valid only if signed by recipient.

Signatur

All donations go to the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded and Disabled Veterans. www.firstgiving.com/supportoursoldiers.

TEAM S.O.S.



(above) Luigi’s son Lorenzo is encouraged across the finish line by Alisha Donnelly (573) Katie Clark (380) and his mom Stephanie (5705).



(above) Team S.O.S. had 85 runners/walkers as part of 4,000 participating in the Hope & Possibility event on June 28, 2009 in Central Park, NYC.



(above, l-r) Runners representing Elizabeth’s Finest were Mike Kurinzi, Helder Deabreu, Ryan Shaughnessy, Rich Shaughnessy, James Kearns, Howard Decker, Giacomo Sacca, David Derosa, and Chris McMahon. All are police officers except Ryan who is Rich’s son.



(above, l-r) Christine Cardona, Dani Cardona, Tom Macone, Regina Cimino, Shannon Santiago tie a computer chip to their running shoes. The timing device was supplied by the New York Runners Club who lists the official results of the run on their website www.nyrr.org.

BROKEN HEARTS MEMORIAL WILL BE A LIVING TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES

The vision for The Broken Hearts Memorial came to artist Jim McKeon one day during a conversation about iconic tattoo symbols with a friend who had a son serving in Iraq. It started out as a small idea to paint a cracked heart on a canvas and grew into a wall consisting of nineteen interlocking panels that, when assembled, stretch over 36’ long and reach over 9’ high.

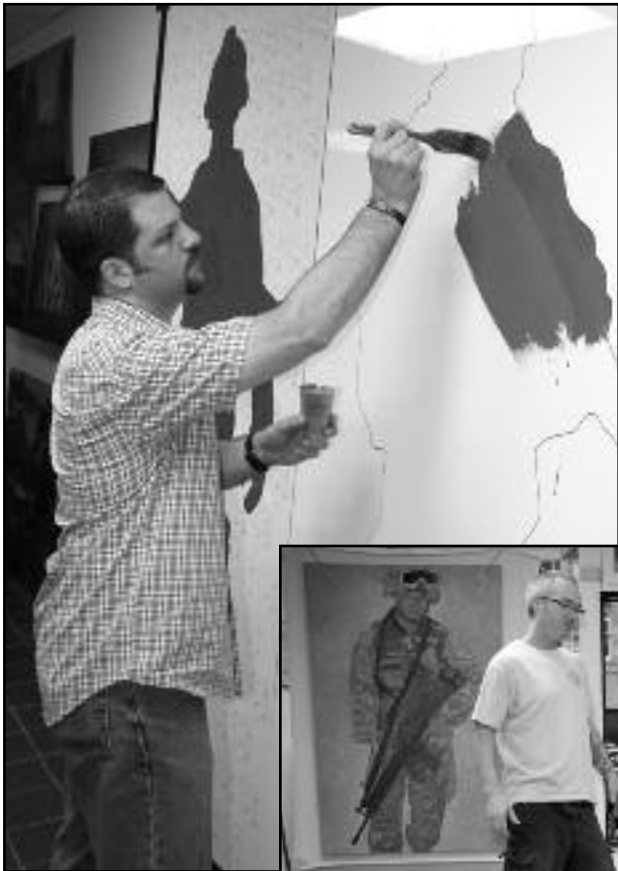
In honor of every U.S. Soldier who has lost his or her life in Iraq, along with their parents and families who have had to endure the loss, a broken heart with the word “MOM” will be painted on the memorial. It will be a small tribute to the great sacrifices these brave soldiers and their families have made for our country.

By receiving a pledge of a \$10 donation for each heart, Jim’s goal is to raise over \$43,000 for The National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, MD. The National Intrepid Center of Excellence is a new state of the art research and treatment facility for injured soldiers and their families.

On September 12th, the City of Rahway will have an Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the general public will be invited to come participate and show their gratitude to our fallen soldiers and their families by painting a heart with the word “MOM” on the memorial. (Rain date : September 13).

All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to: “The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund” c/o the Broken Hearts Memorial 43 East Cherry Street, Rahway, NJ 07065

Donations can be made directly on the memorial’s website, fallenheroesfund.org., with the promo code “HEART” typed in the comment/note box.



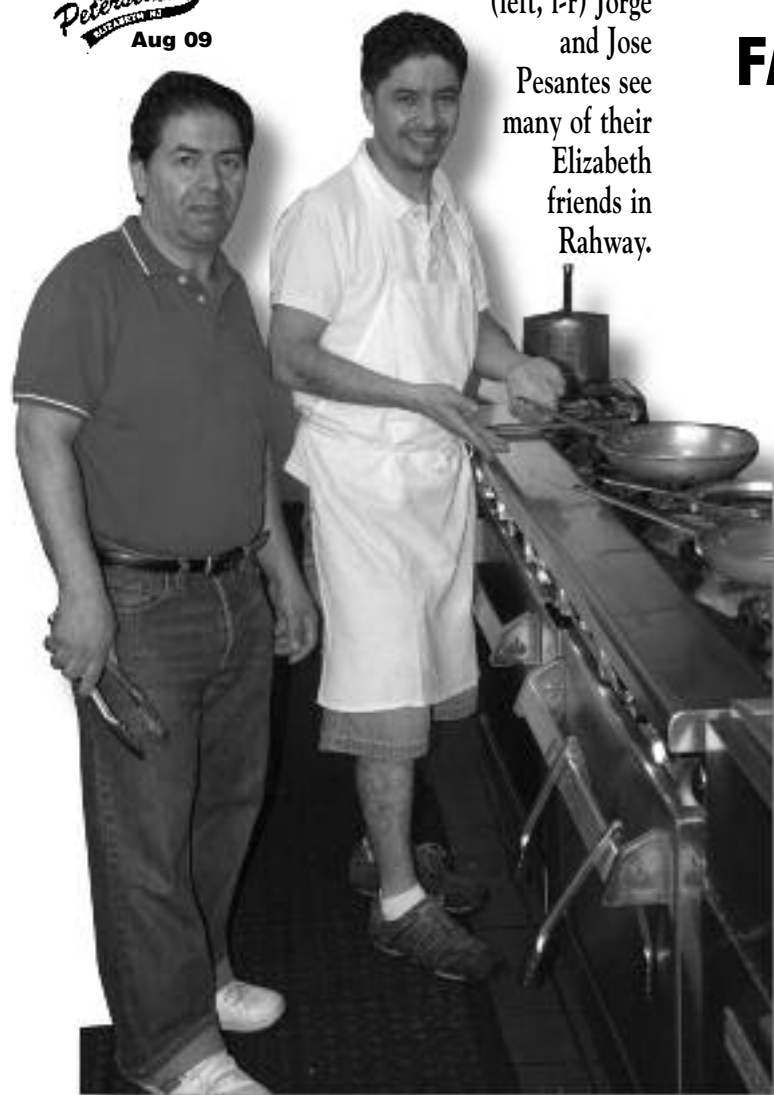
(above) Accursio along with his father and other volunteers helped paint the background on the panels, a single, life-size silhouette of a soldier on duty.



(below, l-r) Artist Jim McKeon describes his concept for the memorial to Lorenzo Marciante and his son Accursio using a scale model in his studio on Cherry Street in Rahway, NJ. Lorenzo’s son Luigi was killed in action on September 20, 2007

The shape of the wall is open hexagons - vulnerable when standing alone, but strong when placed together. The design symbolizes how our soldiers protect each other everyday in combat - sometimes giving their lives.

The wall is constructed so that it can be a permanent, traveling, or temporary installation.



(left, l-r) Jorge and Jose Pesantes see many of their Elizabeth friends in Rahway.

REGULAR PINOCCHIO DINERS FOLLOW FAVORITE CHEFS AT VALENTINA'S IN RAHWAY

.....

Not for Nothing But...

unlike his flamb , Jorge is not a flash in a pan.

.....

Pinocchio's Restaurant was a landmark on South Elmora Avenue and a favorite for many regular customers looking for a pizzeria with a full menu. The place was family friendly and always busy. One of the reasons for its success was a pair of brothers, Jorge and Jose Pesantes, who were as much a part of Pinocchio's as its light fixtures.

Jorge worked at Pinocchio's for nineteen years. His first job when he arrived from Ecuador. He was able to get his brother a job at the restaurant the following year. Over the years they worked at every task needed to run the restaurant, from washing dishes to management. Over a twenty year span they easily became experts as restaurateurs.

When Pinocchio's closed down two years ago the brothers had to think about their future. It wasn't a hard decision for older brother Jorge to take a chance and open his own place with his brother by his side.

He found a restaurant that had a long history of its own that was closed down. Teps was located at 956 St. Georges Avenue in Rahway and maintained a popular base of people looking for authentic Italian food.

Jorge renovated the old Teps local and renamed it Valentina's. He took his menu that he developed over the years at Pinocchio's and spruced it up with specials . The menu is still Italian cuisine but he has improved some dishes with his own personal touch. For example where a recipe once called for ham Jorge and Jose substitute prosciutto.

The displaced Pinocchio folks that he has known for two decades don't mind the five mile trek from Elizabeth to Rahway to see their old pal. Tep regulars have also tested Valentino's and have been returning.  



(right) Specials appear on a sandwich board outside of Valentina's Italian Restaurant. The specials indicated on this day are: Crabs, Steamed, Scampi or Fra Diavolo; Fresh Tuna, Zuppa di Clams; Buffalo Calamari; Oysters Rockefeller; and Cat Fish Fra Diavolo.

Recipes

Submitted by Jorge and Jose Pesantes
Valentina's Italian Restaurant, Rahway, NJ

Shrimp Palermo

INGREDIENTS & PREPARATION*:

Butterfly cut buttered shrimp for one serving.
Cook in seafood broth adding:
a splash of Sherry Wine,
a splash of lemon juice,
a pinch Parmesan Cheese, *All pinches and
a pinch garlic powder, splashes are
a pinch Nutmeg, measured to one's
a pinch Salt & Pepper personal taste.

Chicken da Vinci

INGREDIENTS & PREPARATION:

Sautee Chicken Breast in Olive Oil, Garlic, Balsamic Vinegar, and onions until fully cooked. Plate Chicken then top with fresh Mozzarella and Roasted Peppers. Serve with a starch side and vegetables.



HERE ARE SOME OF OUR DISHES:

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TRY THE RENNA BURGER

Ray Vella once asked me what I liked on my hot dog and I said that I preferred hamburgers, and that I like to mix relish, mayonnaise and ketchup in a bowl and use it as my specials sauce. Now I see that Ray has put the burger topping on his menu and named it the Renna Burger.

Ray has been a great supporter of the newspaper and a loyal friend to me for years. I, in turn, try to help him as much as I can with his civic association. He wanted to show his appreciation for my help and to acknowledge the work that goes into putting the Peterstown Newspaper together.

Seeing my name in his menu feels a little funny, but it is also touching. It is a pretty bold statement that is made with much sincerity. It is not just a gratuitous sign of appreciation of a commitment to his word.

Thanks Ray, and your lovely wife Angela for thinking of me in such a special way. 🍔

DO NOT BE CONFUSED BY THE TWO VALENTINA’S

Valentina’s Hot Dogs & Grill, which is located on Atlantic Street in Elizabeth is not affiliated with Valentina’s Italian Restaurant located on St. Georges Avenue in Rahway.

The one in Elizabeth serves quick breakfast and lunches to the on-the-go work force in Elizabeth and neighborhood folks that are looking for a convenient place for takeout, The other is a full sitdown restaurant with a full menu and B.Y.O.B. accommodations, for families, couples and business lunch and dinners.

Though both are excellent places to eat, they serve two different clientele, or better yet the same clientele but at different times. 🍔



(above) Inside spread of Valentina’s menu with the Renna Burger listing blown up in the insert.

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(above, r-l) PJ is visited on stage at Just Jake's in Montclair by his uncle, Anthony Bottitta and his mother Eileen, joined by drummer Corey Rawls, bass player, Antar Goodwin.

PJ DEBUTS NEW CD

After years of playing Jazz PJ Cotroneo has regrouped and went back to his rock roots. PJ is a guitar virtuoso and his exceptional skill comes through clearly on his new CD. He is even more impressive live.

PJ debuted the CD on Sunday July 26, 2009 at Just Jake's in Montclair, New Jersey. The CD, named Here Today, consists of ten original songs. They are distinct from one another but are tied together by a common original style.

PJ's jazz influences come through on many cuts and more so when he is seen live. The tenor sax and trumpet sets the music apart from the ordinary.

PJ's playing is very clean. It can be hard, but not over whelming. With eyes closed it would be hard to tell if the guitar playing was PJ or one of his iconic influences. At times the band sounded like Cream, other times like the Allman brothers. He mixed some rhythmic Rock and Roll numbers in with some long jams with every member of the band taking a turn at the lead.

PJ keeps his fans posted on his my space site PJCotroneoband.com. He is selling his CD for \$10, shipping included, to anyone who sends a check payable to: PJ Cotroneo Band

P.O. Box 964, Union, NJ 07083.



(above, r-l) Giovanni Cerullo and Christa Sporer.

WEDDING AND DINNER BELLS

On October 11, 2009 Giovanni (John) Cerullo will marry Christa Sporer. Both are from families that have food establishments in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ.

John is the grandson of the late Giovanni Cerullo who opened his Cafe in 1963, that the family still operates on the corner of Second Avenue and Amity Street. Christa is the granddaughter of the late Frank Spirito of Spirito's Restaurant which is still family owned since 1932.

John is an Elizabeth Firefighter and Christa is a teacher in town.

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NICOLE SPIRITO: TOP INTERN TO TOP CHEF

Nicole Spirito is a senior at Emerson College in Boston, MA, majoring in Entertainment Marketing and Public Relations with a minor in Business. She is 20 years old but is very driven and works hard in her pursuits.

She balances her course schedule with a full time job as a bartender in Cambridge, and also finds the time to coordinate a few charity events for local causes including the Avon Foundation, the Red Sox Scholars and The Neely House of the Cam Neely Foundation.

With idle time on her hands between semesters, Nicole started looking for opportunities to work in her field of study. The experience working on a real production would be a great learning experience.

Finding a paying job for students is a very competitive ordeal, especially with a prestigious show. But Nicole knew people in high places and went right to the Top, literally and descriptively. Top Chef, the Emmy award winning cooking show on the Bravo network is one of T.V.'s top rated shows. The head judge on the show is

Tom Colicchio who's family hails from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey where, as fate would have it, so does Joe Spirito, Nicole's father.

Joe contacted Tom in search of an opportunity for Nicole and in turn, Tom set Nicole up with the company that produces his show.

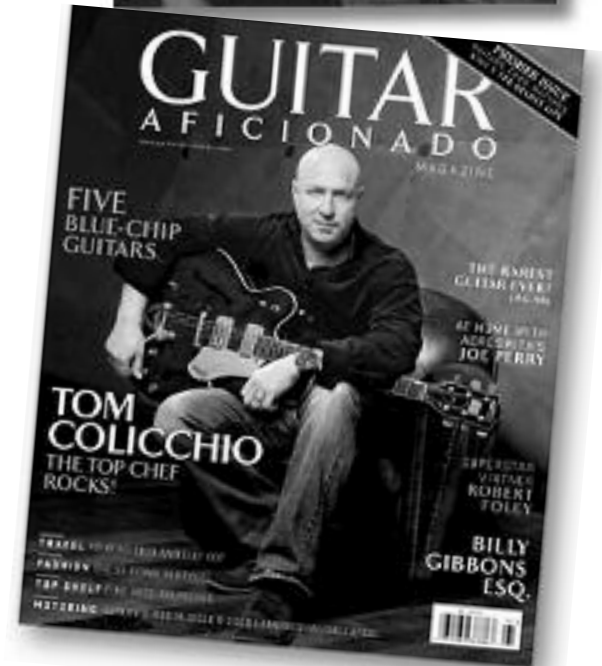
The sixth season was taped in Las Vegas and Nicole went out there for approximately thirty days, the entire month of May. She worked in production, and assisted in a myriad of assignments, including clerical and on-the-set, that helped the show run smoothly and be executed on time. She worked with Tom directly quite a few times on the set.

Nicole described the experience as amazing and would absolutely work on season seven if she was given the opportunity again.

Top Chef: Las Vegas, is premiering Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 9 p.m. ET/PT. 🍴

(right, l-r) Nicole with her dad Joe Spirito.

15
Peterstown
Aug 09



(above) Tom Colicchio on the cover of the premier issue of Guitar Aficionado magazine.

TOM COLICCHIO CAN COOK ON GUITAR TOO

Celebrity Chef Tom Colicchio is gaining notoriety in an entirely different venue recently, the stage. Sightings of Tom joining bands on stage to jam a little have surfaced over the years on the blogosphere. Posters, who tend to be kvetching, actually had high praise for his playing, and for his singing to boot.

Tom's received official recognition as a guitar enthusiast by being selected as the cover story for the premier edition of Guitar Aficionado magazine which gives an inside look at the exotic instruments and wondrous collections of people who are passionate about guitars and life's finer things-including watches, spirits, cars and fashion. 🍴

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fire but Tom could

flambé dinner with his.

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(above, l-r) Receptionist Secretary Lisete Gomes, Assistant Secretary Martina Torretta, and Principal Deacon Joe Caporaso prepping Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy for its grand opening in September.

NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ACADEMY

Everything is in full swing for the opening day of school, which will be September 9, 2009. Enrollment is on the upswing, so much so we have a waiting list for certain classes.

On August 14, students from Paramus Catholic will be arriving to paint our school. The students are completing a community service project.

Note these dates:

September 9, 2009	Opening Day of School
September 22 at 7 PM	Back to School Night
Friday October 2 at 9 AM	Feast of the Guardian Angel*

*Celebrate with Bishop Marconi and Bishop Cruz.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

CARPENTER'S UNION REACHES OUT TO THE POOR

Submitted by Sister Mary Eleanor

On Saturday, July 11, 2009, six volunteer carpenters from the Carpenter's Union, Local 119, arrived early in the morning at St. Joseph's Social Service Center, to build shelves in the garage so the staff would have a place to store the supplies for the Soup Kitchen which serves over 200 people every Saturday of the year.

The staff has very little space in which to store their paper supplies to feed the hungry each week and these carpenters turned the garage into a beautiful storage space where things can now be stored neatly and efficiently. St. Joseph's staff and the people they serve

are deeply grateful to the six men from the carpenter's union who so generously gave of their time and skills for an entire day to help the poor in this way.

A great big thank you must go especially to Manuel Ortega and Michael Travistino, Council Representatives for the New Jersey regional council of carpenters, who coordinated the entire effort and made it possible for St. Joseph's to better organize their supplies and donations for the soup kitchen and the Food Pantry. God bless these men from Local 119 for their generous service to the poor. 🙏



(above, l-r) Ken Negrod Manuel Ortega Michael Travistino, Lonnie Hedges Michael Hedges and Taras Dyachenko.

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MIKE MOSCARITOLO AUTHORS NOSTALGIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Mike Moscaritolo wanted to give his grandchildren a meaningful gift, a keepsake that can be passed on to future generations. He thought about his life and his family and decided that sharing his experiences with his grandsons would be the perfect thing to do. So Mike, a retired barber, sat down and wrote a book titled “A True Story In My Own Words.”

The book is an amazing look at the world over the past century from Mike’s perspective. What is amazing is that every reader can relate to his story.

The emotion, passion and angst that her refers to in himself is experienced universally. Even though the reader may not have been in the same situations as Mike, he writes in such detail that he puts the reader in them. The reader feels what Mike felt.

The book has a historic appeal to it also. The world events that Mike does write about were actually part of many people’s lives. His recollections of his life as a soldier during World War II are written with accuracy. He adds his personal feelings to otherwise academic accounts of the Battle of the Bulge and the Battlefield in Belgium. He writes of the lost lives and the mystery of his own survival.

Though the perils of War seemed overwhelming, the prevailing concern for Mike, above everything, was his wife Mary. His love for his wife is the common theme throughout the entire book.

He treats their relationship with the same candor he did the war. The love story blossoms from their shy meeting, onto the high school prom and through 65 years of marriage.

Mary Faccone and Mike both grew up in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ. A neighborhood with many first and second generation Italian immigrants. Mike writes richly about his culture and makes refferences to his neighbors and friends to a point that his tome can easily be passed down to their families as an heirloom as well.

The book is written in small vignettes. Though he claims not to be a writer many people would argue otherwise. The photos alone are worth a thousand words each. The sixty photos include family portraits from Vallata, Italy, pictures from parts of Europe during the war and family and friends for Elizabeth from the past and present.

There has been a clamor from people who want to purchase the book but Mike only self published 100

copies to give as gifts with no intention of selling any. Now that his stock is depleted he may be coaxed into printing another run.

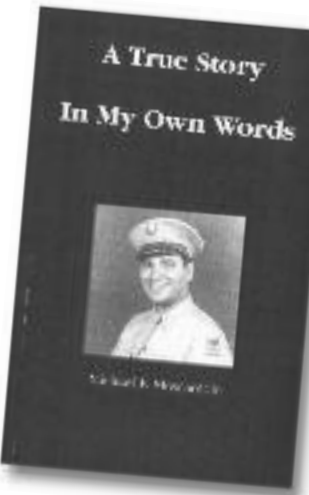
Today Mike and Mary liveing Kissimmee, Florida. They have one son, Michael, who is a Medical Doctor, and two grandsons, Eric and Brian. And now a legacy that will last forever. 🐾

(right) Mike book was written as an heirloom for his grandsons.



(above, l-r) Mike and Mary in 1943.

(right) Mike’s Grandmother Vincenza Mazza carrying water on the streets of Vallata, Italy in 1946.



(above) Mike, owner of Elmore Barber Shop, cutting hair in 1966.



(above) Mike coming home from Bremman, Germany in 1946.

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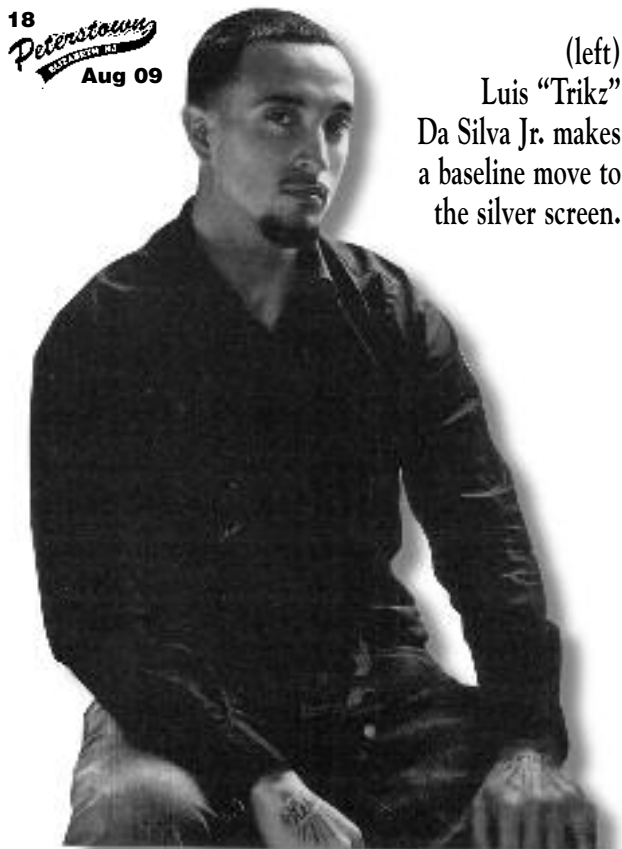
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(left)
Luis "TriKz"
Da Silva Jr. makes
a baseline move to
the silver screen.

TRIKZ IS NOW ON THE BIG SCREEN AND IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS.

Luis "TriKz" Da Silva Jr., the basketball handling phenom from Elizabeth, has traveled the world putting his skills on display. He has been able to parlay his success by pursuing several of his ambitions.

Since his breakthrough performance on a Nike commercial when he was 18, Luis has ventured into different venues that showcased his basketball prowess. He also made use of his creativity, imagination and interest in style to develop other enterprising interests.

Luis circled the globe playing for the Harlem Wizards. In 2007 Stephon Marbury chose Da Silva to represent his clothing line "Starbury" in which he toured the U.S.

He combined his interest in technology with his knowledge of the game and starred in several video games including the "NBA Ballers" series. He also starred in "L.A. Rush" which sold over a million copies in its first month. The moves on the "AND1 Street Ball" game use a motion capturing technique of TriKz

performing.

During the halftime show of the 2009 NBA All-Star Game, Da Silva made it into the Guinness Book of World Records by catching a basketball on his neck 24 consecutive times as 30,000 fans chanted him on.

Luis was the fourth overall pick in the inaugural draft for the Premier Basketball League (PBL) in 2007. He has since been picked to play by the league's Maryland NightHawks.

TriKz has started his own entertainment company producing instructive basketball DVDs. He has an interest in creating his own style, from his car to his clothing.

Out of all the projects that Luis is involved in, he gets most excited about his acting. His resume on imdb.com (Internet Movie Database) now has four films to his credit, added to his four T.V. appearances and eleven commercials.



(above and right) Luis is finding his range as an actor with roles in Frankie's Mambo (04), The Brave One (07), Clear Lake (08) and Pride & Glory (08)



(above, r-l) Da Silva plays opposite Naveen Andrews and Jodie Foster in the 2007 movie The Brave One.



(above, r-l) Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage presented Da Silva with trophy when he was inducted into the city's Athletic Hall of Fame, with Chairman Ed Jackus.

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TORRETTA GOING TO JR. PAN AM GAMES

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Calogero Torretta of Cranford, NJ, has made the U.S.A. Junior Olympic Team. At 15 years old he will be competing in the 2009 Pan-Am Games in El Salvador and the the Junior World Championships in Morocco. He is the only team member from New Jersey.

Calogero has been competing in karate for twelve years, since he was three years old, having won or placed in nearly every tournament. At the "Nationals," he has taken six gold medals, three silvers and three bronzes. In 2009, Calogero accomplished his dream to make the Junior Olympic Team by winning first place in his weight division and is now on the U.S.A. karate team.

The culmination of his efforts earned him the extraordinary opportunity to reach his goal of making the U.S.A. Olympic Team for the 2012 Olympics, the same year karate debuts as an Olympic sport.

For his first eight years he trained in Cranford at "Judo Karate Center." Now he is training in Long Island with World Champion Olympic coach Tokey Hill.

Calogero is a Sophomore at Cranford high school where he also plays on the soccer and basketball. Both his proud parents, Jack and Gina (nee Melillo) are from the Peterstown Section of Elizabeth.

Under normal circumstances the U.S.A. team would pay the expenses, but unfortunately due to the current economic crisis the U.S. National Karate Federation is unable to pay for junior contestants to attend their events.

Calogero is trying to raise the money for his traveling expenses to San Salvador and Morocco. A foundation had been set up at TD Bank. His friends and classmates are helping him and he is reaching out to individuals and businesses for support.

Calogero has many people who are supporing him and feels that he is representing each one of them along with the U.S.A., New Jersey, Union County, Cranford and Peterstown.

Calogero is personally taking on the responsibility of his fundraising and coordinating his efforts from his mom's beauty salon. Donations can be made by check payable to "Big C Challenge" and mailed to:

Gina Torretta

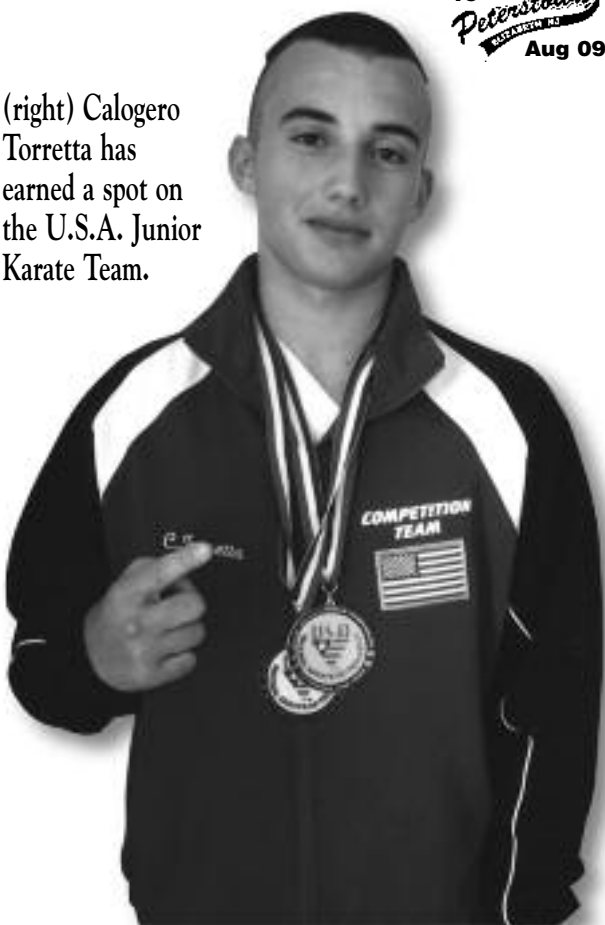
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(right) Calogero Torretta has earned a spot on the U.S.A. Junior Karate Team.



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