

INSIDE:
THE SEVEN
WONDERS OF
ELIZABETH

Around About

Peterstown
ELIZABETH NJ

PRICELESS

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FEB/MAR 07

published by Joe Renna for the Sons of Peterstown Sports Club



VALLATESE CLUB CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

In 1907 immigrants from Vallata, Italy, living in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey, formed an organization that achieved its mission and then some. The club has adapted to societal changes to stay relevant 100 years later.

Vallata is a small agricultural town located in the mountains of Irpinia in the Province of Avellino, in the region of Campania. It is so small that it does not appear on many maps. Naples, the capital of Campania, is the closest big city. The architecture is pre-Roman built by Sarasins, its streets are narrow and irregular, its simply beautiful mountain town. The mass immigration of the early 1900's saw a large number of the small population come to America. The majority of them settled in New Jersey specifically in Elizabeth, Newark, Jersey City, Livingston, Montclair, and Trenton. Others stayed in New York and some leaped to other states such as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida and Washington D.C. Even though their settings were diversified the challenges they faced in their new world were the same.

Living close by friends and family from the old country was helpful. Sharing the same dialect and cultural nuances created a comfort level for the community. Though these similarities would help individuals to thrive within the community something else was needed to assimilate into the fabric of America. Work was scarce, and so the men and women accepted jobs in factories and with utility companies as they develop the ability to branch out into other pursuits.

The opportunity to start their own business, to work in a government or secure a management position was just out of reach because of the barriers that were inherent with being a new immigrant. The club that they created, "Vallatese Society of Elizabeth" was created to over come those challenges.

The club created a solution to the language barrier by offering English classes. The club was a resource for legal assistance or a place to get help writing a letter or filling out forms. Families, most split between the two countries, would be able to ease the burden of communicating and traveling abroad by doing it together. Being able to pool the community's resources, material and intellectual was an invaluable benefit the club delivered. Aside from the technical assistance, the Vallatese Club was the center for social activity as well. Members could congregate at the clubhouse and celebrate special events in their lives in its banquet hall.

By 1910 the Vallatese clubs in Elizabeth and Newark had over 1,000 members and as the second generation of Vallatese immigrants emerged they began to make their mark in mainstream society. Though they were very proud of their heritage the community embraced America as their new home and nothing represented their commitment and patriotism more then answering the call to arms in the First World War. As soldiers in the American army some had to return to Italy to do battle in the towns of Carso and Piova. Michael Catania, a Vallatese, served in both World Wars and was the president of the entire Marine Corps Reserve. The Vallatese in America were proud of their victory in World War I and appreciative of those who made the ultimate sacrifice that they erected a monument in Vallata in memory of the 80 Vallatese men who gave their lives for the cause. A plaque hanging in the clubhouse lists the names of members and sons of members who served in World War II.

The growth of the club was steady in the early years and so was its influence in how the city operated. In 1922 the members formed a Vallatese Political Club and became active in government. Many were also coming into their own as business owners and as the financial status of members grew so did the capabilities of the club. That same year the club also organized the Vallatese Benefit Association and purchased a building on the corner of Third Avenue and High Street, which still houses their present clubhouse.

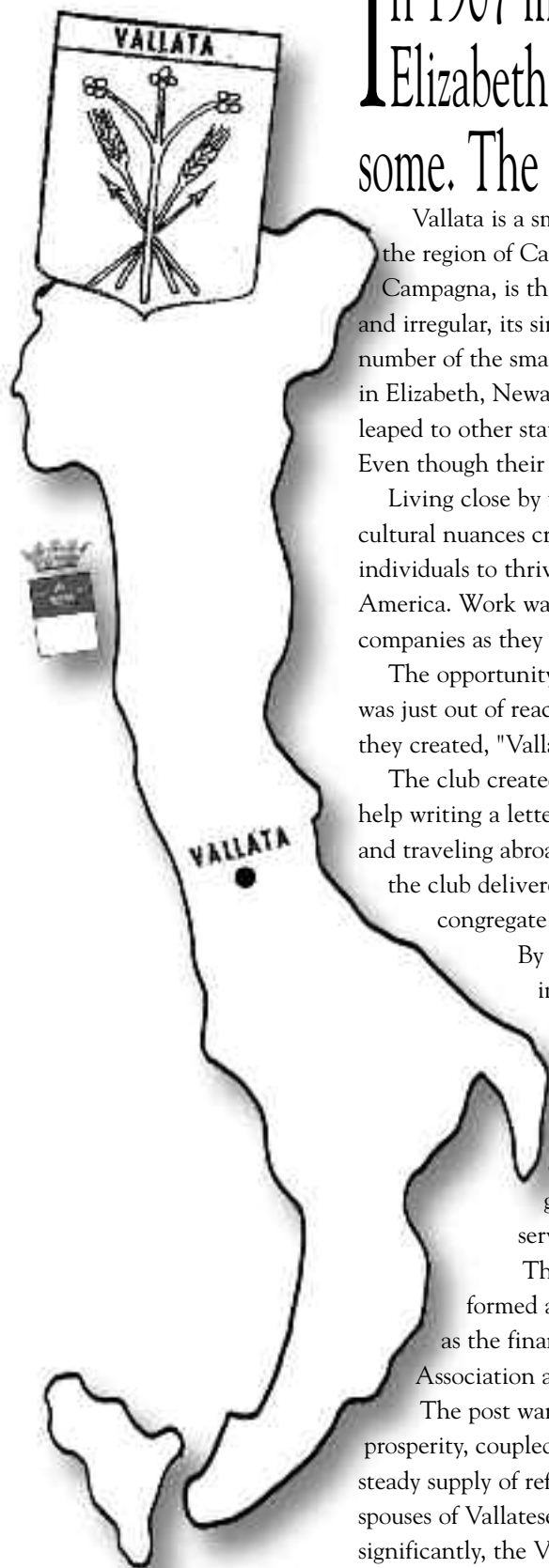
The post war era was a time for drastic change in America. Technology was developing faster than society can handle. Economic prosperity, coupled with ability, empowered masses to mobilize and challenge the norms of society. A baby boom assured that there was a steady supply of reformers. The Vallatese Club was no exception. Membership was extended to not only Vallatese decedents but also to spouses of Vallatese women. In 1968 a youth movement of Vallatese Club members started their own short-lived organization. And more significantly, the Vallatese women started their own association in 1940, which is still going strong.

Though the number of Vallatese decedents have grown they are less centralized. Getting together is not as convenient and, frankly, not as necessary. But the Vallatese Society of Elizabeth is still viable. The building has been recently renovated and as the level of participation of different members change there is excitement that the right combination will spark a renaissance.

(left) 2007 officers of the Vallatese Sociery of Elizabeth. (standing, l-r) Carmine Melchionna, Gerardo Giannetta, Armando Muscaritolo, Silvio Rosa, Vito Tanga, Tony DiCosmo, Gennaro Nigro, Erminio Palmisano, Luigi Guiducci, Franco Quaglia, Domenico LaFace, Antonio Chirichello, Giuseppe Cicchetti, Beniamino Farina (Clubhouse DJ). (sitting, l-r) Nicola Pavese, Mario Nigro, Peter Crincoli (President), Michele Ciccarella, Luigi Tanga.



(above) Monument in Vallata honoring Americans from Vallatese killed in WWI.



Around About Peterstown

ELIZABETH NJ

Feb 07

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President's Message



What a great Super Bowl Party we had this year in our new venue. We outgrew the previous place we have been holding it, St. Benedict's Club, and this year it was held in the cafeteria of St. Anthony's School. I'm so glad it was there because our record attendance topped 100.

I would like to give a sincere thanks to everyone who attended. There was a lot of new faces and I anticipate next year to be even bigger. I would also like to thank all the members and friends who helped in the kitchen, at the entrance table and those who cleaned up.

Most of all, on behalf of the Club I would like to thank Father Pat Diver and St. Anthony's for accommodating us. Words can not express our appreciation.

The guys enjoyed talking sports with Father Pat before the game especially when he correctly picked the Colts over the Bears (giving 7).

Thank you and God bless.

John Sacco, President

PRESS RELEASES

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

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Letters to the Editor



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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.

Hello Joe,

Thank you for these two great stories. I was a member and officer of the Crestlin Boys Club during the time we moved from Skinny's place, built the new club and a number of years thereafter. As an addition to the memorabilia: My oldest son, Robert (now 58 years old) won first prize with a rendition of 'Popeye the Sailor' at the very first Christmas Party around 1954. His Godfather was Carl Gambino (now deceased).

I am attaching a vintage photo of a Crestlin Boys Club bowling end of season celebration (I am between Charlie Montana (holding the bowling pin) and Vito Dadessa (holding the steering wheel). We were all very young then. They were great guys. All the members participated on the bowling teams!

I also enjoyed the tour of Sicily story by Debbie Harris. my folks and brother Tony (all now deceased) immigrated from Ribera and arrived at Ellis Island on Christmas Day 1919. I had the good fortune to visit my relatives in 1951 during my second tour of duty with the U.S. Navy (recalled in 1950 by President Truman). Debbie's photo of the "Ribera" sign brought back cherished memories.

Thank you Joe for reviving such great memories.

Leonard P. Conte
Punta Gorda, FL



(Detail of group photo)

Joe,

Your December edition of "Around about Peterstown" was great. I enjoyed reading it and I want to thank you for the article about the Crestlin Club. Also the obituary on my neighbor and friend of sixty (60) years, Charlie Bongiovanni, was excellent.

Thanks Again,
Frank Osnato
Elizabeth, NJ

Dear Joe,

Enclosed is an article about my parent's 60th Wedding Anniversary. They are currently living in Florida and subscribe to your newspaper and enjoy keeping up with the news in Peterstown.

Thank you so much.
Annette Moore
Bloomsbury, NJ

(See photos and write-up on page 17)

Dear Mr. Renna,

I enjoyed your article on the Crestlin Boys Club in your December 2006 issue of Around About Peterstown about their 70 year anniversary. The Crestlin Club was formed right after another club, Disgusted Millionaires, folded. I enclosed a photo of the Disgusted Millionaires from December 1929. The photo was taken of the members and a bunch of food baskets that they put together to distribute to needy families. It was during the time of the depression and there were many people who had trouble getting food. My father, Al Triano, was a member of the club and is standing in the center of the picture.

(below) Disgusted Millionaires in front of their clubhouse on Fourth Avenue in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth.

Joe,

I moved from Elizabeth in 1979 when I went to College in North Carolina. I saw a letter to the editor in the December 2006 issue that was written by Catherine Lamendola. Though I do not recall her from Peterstown, what intrigued me is that she now lives in Southport, NC. My wife and I lived there from 1990-1996. We currently live in Puyallup, Washington. I would like to hear from other former Peterstown residents who have left the area. Perhaps some of you live in the Northwest.

My e-mail is: summitchristiancenter@hotmail.com
John Nocera
Puyallup, WA

Dear Joe,

As luck would have it, I was in Elizabeth yesterday and went to Sacco's for veal (my family will only eat his). What a nice surprise to see that the paper was there. Thank you for the wonderful tribute to my dad, Charlie Bongiovanni, and mom. You have my sincerest appreciation.

As I was reading the paper I noticed the article on View Nam vets from Elizabeth. Two others you missed were Anthony (residing in Georgia) and Albert Annunziata (deceased). Thought you'd like to know.

Again, thank you and have a wonderful holiday.
Marie Schaible
Malvern, PA.

Joe,

I was doing a search on Peterstown and I stumbled on to your web site. My Grandfather grew up in Peterstown and I was just reminiscing about going back there with him when I was a kid.

I really enjoyed reading your articles. It makes you think about what's important. Thanks for writing the encouraging words. The 1st anniversary of Pop's death was yesterday, February 2nd, and I appreciate the invitation to submit family photos to the newspaper.

We do have pictures of Pop and his siblings growing up in Peterstown. Since my Grandmother moved in with my Mom, a lot of her personal items are still in boxes. It was a great experience for my Grandmother, mother, sister and me to be to go through all of the pictures as well as documents we didn't even realize we had.

Thanks for turning what could have been a difficult day into a way for us to all feel close to Pop. God works in funny ways.

Sincerely,
Mike Kuchar
Scotch Plains, NJ

(See photos and write-up on page 17)



everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

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MARCELLA TAKES LONG ROAD TO SHORT CUTS

Every since she was a little girl Marcella Perrotti would tag along with her brothers, Carmine and Anthony, to Frank's Unisex Barber Shop at 85 Elmora Avenue, a short walk from their home in Elizabeth, NJ. The owner, Frank Bentivegna, was a friends of Marcella's mother Nancy (Gurrato) Perrotti. They were were both from Italy were then neighbors living in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, NJ., Bentivegna being from Ribera, Sicily and Gurrato from Vallata.

Frank operated his barber shop for over thirty years. He cut four generation of hair with a fair share of the families being from Peterstown. Frank passed away in 1997 and Paula Rodriguez became the new owner, changing the name to Short Cuts. Marcella, a trained

cosmetologist, began working for Paula in 1999.

In January of 2007, Paula made a move to Florida which gave Marcella the opportunity to purchase the salon. Even though there is a manicurist on site long time customers are not fooled into believing it is a salon just for women. Marcella maintains all the old customers, women and men, including the families from Peterstown who bring their toddlers in for their first haircut. Short Cuts is every bit of a barbershop. cutting its fair share of men's hair as women's. Marcella is amazed at the number of customers who are city employees. She says it really has a down-home neighborhood atmosphere. It's very nostalgic, especially when her brother sits in the chair for a trim.



(left, l-r) Antonio Gurrato and his granddaughter Marcella.

(below, r-l) Marcella Perotti cuts her brother Anthony's hair as Lucy Perez give Christina Garcia a manicure.





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JOE MARINO HELPING PEOPLE CLOSE TO HOME

Peterstown native, Joe Marino is service coordinator of the New Vision program at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ. The program, which opened at Trinitas in 2003, enables Marino to work in his hometown delivering a unique service to a segment of society with limited options. His help puts people on track to getting their lives back and, often, even saving their lives.

New Vision is an inpatient emergency medical stabilization service for adults with drug, alcohol and related health problems. The program accepts patients who are experiencing incapacitation due to substance use or are experiencing acute withdrawal symptoms. The medically supervised hospital stay typically lasts three days.

While in the program, an assessment is made of the patients fundamental needs including a review of their medical history, a physical and a complete laboratory workup. Treatment, utilizing the hospital personnel, will include stabilization of any other health problems in conjunction with those caused by chemical substances. Discharge planning prior to leaving the hospital will refer the patient to appropriate community based aftercare programs.

New Vision deals specifically with patients who need medical attention, and though it is not a rehabilitation program it does assist in aspects of crisis intervention, assessment and referrals. Marino, who has a masters degree in social work, has over ten years experience as an alcohol and drug counselor, working with families as well as individuals.

Marino has been the service coordinator for New Vision for about 18 months. The program's parent company is Special Care Hospital Management, whose home office is in Earth City, MO. They have five such programs in New Jersey. Ted Cancel is the Regional

Director who oversees the Trinitas operation.

Patients are referred to the program from other organizations or may enter as self-referrals. Marino encourages anyone who may not be sure if they fit the criteria to enter the program to call anyway and his staff will assess the situation and make appropriate recommendations.

Marino has two intake coordinators who are also working in their home town. Juliet San Juan and Wendy Camacho are both from Elizabeth and have been good friends since their school days. They graduated Elizabeth High School together. They both went to Cook College in Rutgers University, where they were roommates, and both majored in Public Health. They are together again working for New Vision for the past 18 months.

New Vision accepts Medicare and Medicaid insurance and most managed care plans or patients may be referred to other sources for financial assistance. Marino would like to stress that the service New Vision offers is regional and anyone living anywhere is welcomed to call. Joe can be reached directly at 908-994-5175. 🐾

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE SONS OF PETERSTOWN

Special Care Hospital Management donates to local organizations through their affiliated programs in the communities in which they operate. In 2006 a \$250 donation was made to the Sons of Peterstown.

The members would like to thank their friend, Joe Marino, for his dedication to a career of helping others. It is a daunting pursuit which is unappreciated by few others than those you save. 🐾



(above, l-r) Service Coordinator for the New Vision program at Trinitas Hospital, Joe Marino and intake coordinators Juliet San Juan and Wendy Camacho experience extra satisfaction working in their home town of Elizabeth.

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FOUR ERAS OF THE VALLATESE CLUB

BOCCE BALL ANYONE?

A news clipping from a 1960 Italian language newspaper was found, and it contained an article about the Vallatese Club of Elizabeth opening their Bocce Ball court. The court was built for \$400 on a strip of behind the Clubhouse along High Street. The court sat behind New Felid's left field fence. New Felid was the home of St. Anthony's Little League. The Bocce court actually sat on church property and was built with the church's blessing.



(above, kneeling, l-r) Rosario Candilino and Angelo Crincoli measure the which ball is closest to the pallina. (Standing l-r) St. Anthony's pastor Father Dominic Battistello, Vallatese Club President Anthony Crincoli and members of the Club.



(above) Vallatese members at the inauguration of their clubhouse in 1922 in a building they purched in Peterstown.



(above) Officers of the Vallatese Benefit Association for 1950.

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(above) Club officers from the 80's (standing, l-r) Frank Mazza, Gerald Paternostro, Tony Cerullo, Silvio Rosa, Louigi Quioluci, Pasquale Melchiona, Angelo Strazzella, (sitting, l-r) John Cerullo, Rocco Quaglia, Tony Quaglia, Armondo Muscratola, Mario Nigro, Felice Quaglia, Rosario Candalino, Mike Crincoli.
(below) Vallatese Club members from the the Era of the 60's.

(below) Full color membership certificate from 1912 for Pasquale Chirichillo, which measures 20" x 14" and contains detailed illustrations of historic scenes and intricate ornamentation.



(1st Row) Joe Nigro Sr, Rocky DePaola, Carmine Crincoli, Phil Crincoli, Alfred Netta, Tony Crincoli, Albino Gallo, Benny LoBrace, Felig Collichio, John DiCosmo.
(2nd Row) Angelo Crincoli, Doc D'Antico, Antonia Loffa, unknown, Dr. Muscaritolo, Antonia Gallichio, Tubia Gallo, Jim Tango, Pete Piga, Mario DiDonato, Alphonse Muscaritola, Antonia Melchione, Joe Deadesso, Joe Addressa, Emilo Zamarra, Grazion DiCosmo, Vincenzo DiGeurge, Al Rugani, Rosario Candelino.
(3rd Row) Mike DeCarlo, Diadesso, Dallas Galasso, Frank Nigro, Sr., Frank Nigro, Jr., Dominic LaFace, Mike Bella, Mike Dusak, Rocco DiMaggio, Scanelle, Charles Scanelli (4th Row) Joe Delorenzo, Joe Nigro Jr., Ralph Gersick, Pete Renna (Top Row) Mike Crincoli, Patsy Moscratolo, Rocco Qualia, Gerado Zamarra

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NICOLE SPIRITO HONES SKILLS WITH FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



(above, l-r)
Nicole with her
father, Joe Spirito.

(right) High School
senior, Nicole Spirito
aspires to be a
broadcast journalist.



It's a blessing for a young person to have a passion for something that they would want to make into a career. Nicole Spirito knew that she wanted to be a broadcast journalist since she started first grade and every year she hones her skills with that dream in sight.

Nicole has always been a fervent reader and also loves to write. She's active in her school's drama club and has trained as a dancer and choreographer. Nicole is in her senior year at Central Regional High School in Bayville, NJ where she is also the Drum Major for the marching band. Her skills in performing arts coupled with her intellectual ability lend themselves perfectly for her career pursuit. She even interviewed Yankee pitcher Al Leiter for an assignment at school.

Her skills as a writer were showcased when she won first place in an audio/essay contest sponsored by the Bayville VFW, post 9503 entitled "Voice of Democracy".

The contest displayed Nicole's abilities as a writer and speaker. Entries were judged on content, continuity, and delivery among other criteria. Winners moved on to a regional competition with the possibility of going to the nationals. Nicole became involved with the competition when she was a sophomore.

Nicole was born in South Korea. She was adopted and came to America when she was 5 months old. Her father, Joe Spirito, is originally from the Peterstown section of Elizabeth and is very proud of his daughter. She's been offered scholarships from several universities and has chosen to attend Emerson in Boston in the fall of 2007. In a few years she may be coming through on the television into America's living rooms. 📺

(below) Nicole's award winning essay which she wrote and recorded for a national competition.

FREEDOM'S CHALLENGE

Nicole C. Spirito

Freedom's Challenge. The very utterance invokes deeper thought, more meaningful contemplation of a seemingly paradoxical oxymoron. Freedom. The ability to be free, without thought or consequence. In the world we live in, freedom is second nature to us; it is accepted, acknowledged, and almost taken for granted. But if that is so, wherein lies the challenge?

A child skips school because he is too afraid of the bullies that await him. Every day his mom sends him off with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and last night's homework, and he walks past his bus stop to the neighborhood playground where he woefully awaits 3 pm to walk home. That's freedom's challenge. When a boy is denied a spot on the cheerleading squad, that's freedom's challenge. No matter he can do a toe-touch into a standing back tuck and cheer just as loudly; he's a BOY. That's not how it's done.

to your guns, for believing and acting in what is right. Every time a child is bullied, discriminated against, defeated in the face of society; the challenge of freedom grows a bit greater.

By its very nature, however, challenges are simply obstacles waiting to be conquered. Freedom's challenge seems insurmountable until people start to defend the right to be free. In their own small way, standing up to the challenges against freedom all count together as one united effort. The next time you see someone violate someone else's freedom; speak out! Don't assume another person will handle it, for surely that person will think the same of the next person to come along. Do your part in keeping people free and living in freedom, for it's not the job of our government, or our military, or our President. It is our job, as a community, and as an individual living in this great country.

When a shopkeeper suspiciously eyes a girl in a hooded sweatshirt, simply because she is a minority, and blatantly ignoring the clean-cut male slipping merchandise into the pocket of his varsity letter jacket, that's freedom's challenge. A fresh-faced young man sent overseas gets killed by a person whom he is sworn to protect, leaving behind a bride and a new daughter. That's freedom's challenge.

Freedom is not free. The cost of freedom is great, paid in blood, sweat, and tears. In lives given, in sacrifices made. Freedom is paid for by taking a stand, by sticking

However, that is not all freedom's challenge is. Being free, living in freedom presents a challenge to us. Freedom challenges us to make a difference, to ensure that the others around us enjoy the same freedom we do. A challenge to open your eyes to the world around you, to pick your head up from the everyday muddling of your own life and peer into the life of someone else. A challenge to create random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty. Freedom is not truly all it can be until everyone can be free. And that is our challenge. Are you up to it? 📺

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COLUMBUS’ JOURNEY HOME TO PETERSTOWN

The August 06 Issue of *Around About Peterstown* featured the Sons of Peterstown dinner in honor of Christopher Columbus. The October 06 issue featured an article about the dedication of the Viet Nam memorial which was erected in Scott Park on a spot where a statue of Columbus once stood. The statue now stands in Peterstown along the Third Avenue side of the School 3 Playground.

How Columbus found its way to Peterstown was not explained in the article and some readers were curious and were confused by recent accounts as to who was responsible. Columbus was celebrated in Italy as well as in

FRIENDS HELP COLUMBUS NAVIGATE HOME

Submitted by John Riggi

I would like to thank you for sending me the Peterstown newspaper. I read about Chris Columbus and was very saddened that nobody had told how Columbus got to our Peterstown. It was mentioned as a matter of fact and then put on the back burner. I felt that I should write and tell what happened.

Everyday I would drive up Elizabeth Avenue and see Chris Columbus by Scott Place and I felt that something was wrong; he didn't belong there. I called up Mayor Dunn (God bless him!) and we met. I explained to him what I had in mind, that Chris Columbus belonged in Peterstown. He told me to give him a couple of weeks and he will get back to me.

In the meantime I called up Carl Barbado and Carl Corsentino, to meet me at O'Brian Field. I explained what I had in mind and asked them to pick out a place where we could put Columbus. They chose a spot on the Third Avenue side of the playground, midway between Christine and South Seventh Streets. I asked them to ready the place, remove the fence and have other fences ready to put in place.

After a couple of weeks, Mayor Dunn called and told me that it was O.K. to put the Christopher Columbus statue in the field in Peterstown. I then called my friend Frank Wade (God bless him!) who was the business agent of the Ironworkers and told him what I had in mind and that I needed a cherry picker and some ironworkers very early that Saturday morning so that we could take the statute to Peterstown. Frank said “No problem”. That was his answer whenever I asked him for something.

Next I then called my friend Simone Palermo (God bless him!) and I explained the plan to him and that I needed a low boy and a jacket hammer to move the statute from the concrete base. Simone also said “No problem”.

I then called up my friends, Pete Rizzutto (God bless him!), Mike DiMaria, Frank Miceli, Paul Mirabelli, Long Riggi, Carmelo Valentino and explained to each of them what I had in mind. The response from each of them was a familiar one, “No problem”.

To avoid causing any traffic problems, we started very early on a Saturday morning. We met on Elizabeth Avenue at Scott Park and proceeded to take the statute

America and the Italian-American population of Peterstown appreciated that the statue was put in their neighborhood.

There is no one who could better recount the story of how the Columbus statute was moved to Peterstown than John Riggi, the person who was the catalyst in getting it done.

Mr. Riggi wanted to acknowledge the individuals involved in seeing that the statue was in its rightful place. He was compelled to send the following letter to give his recollection, in his own words. 📧

down. We loaded it on the truck and drove down Elizabeth Avenue to Third Avenue. As we entered Peterstown, the driver started tooting the truck horn and the men on board started shouting “He's Home!, He's Home!”.

At that moment, Angelo Nigro, the Singing Mailman, happened to be walking by and witnessed the grand sight. Angelo was an avid songwriter and what he saw and heard that morning inspired him to write a song.

Two masons, Rocco Mazza (God bless him!) and Vincent Tammutto were waiting for us at the field. With the help of others pitching in as laborers, we erected the statue of Christopher Columbus in place where he stands today. That's how Christopher Columbus came home.

I think that it's right that these men should get their due respect, for if it wasn't for them, I believe Christopher Columbus would still be at Scott Place. Mayor Dunn, Frank Wade, Ironworkers, Simone Palermo, Carl Barbatto, Carl Corsentino, Pete Rizzutto, Mike DiMina, Frank Miceli, Paul Mirabelli, Tony Riggi, Carmelo Valentino, Mike Mazza and Vincent Tammutto.

Thank you gentlemen for bringing Christopher Columbus home to Peterstown. 📧

The memorial includes a plaque that lists the names of organizations that made the creation of the Columbus statue and it being erected in the first place possible through their generous contributions.

- American-Italian World War Veterans of UC Inc.
- Crincolo Gioventu Vallatese Inc.
- Gran Centurians
- Il Centro Italiano St. Antonio
- Kingston Athletic Club
- Original Mattano Democratic Club Inc.
- Original Vallatese
- Pat Riccio Association
- Rahway Italian-American Club
- Ribera Club Inc.
- Ribera Italian -American Sports Club
- Sixth Ward American-Italian Democratic Club
- Vallatese Ladies Society
- M. DeMartino Association



(above) Statue of Columbus sits in a fenced in area carved out of O'Brian’s Field. The area in which the statue stands actually has its own park designation.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

By Angelo Nigro

*It’s so great to have you here,
Christopher Columbus.
Here to stay year after year,
Christopher Columbus.*

*This is where you belong,
right here among us
where the love for you is strong,
Christopher Columbus.*

*You discovered this great land,
in fourteen ninety two.
We are living here today,
all because of you.*

*We are happy as can be,
to have you among us.
Standing proud for all to see,
Christopher Columbus.*

(above) Lyrics to Angelo Nigro’s song about the Columbus statue in Peterstown.

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1 UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

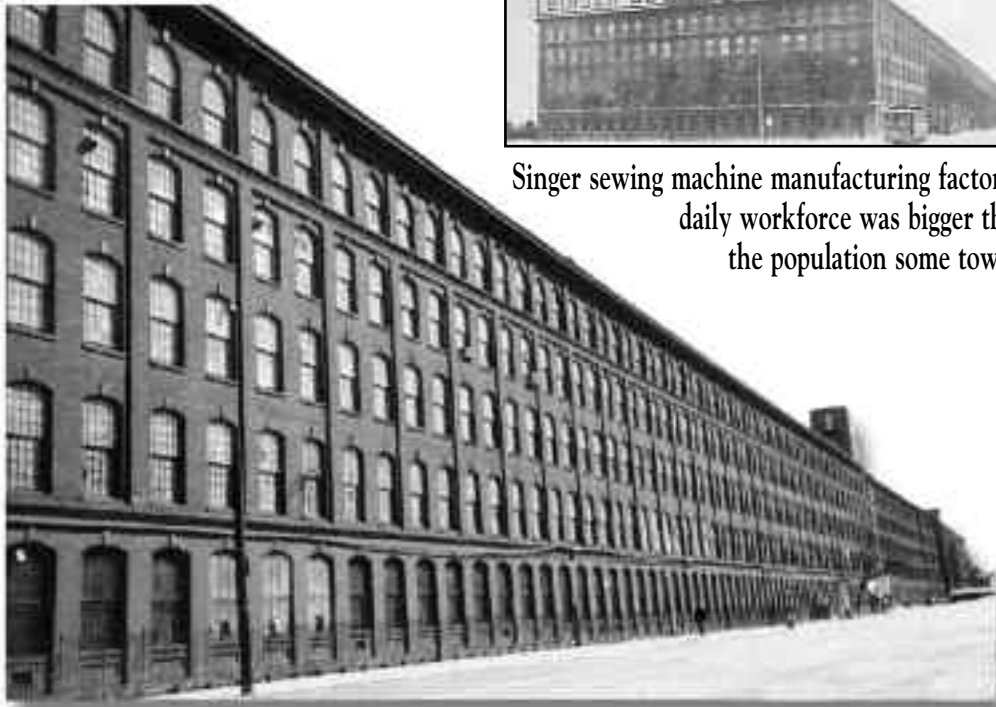


Illustration, circa 1932 of the Union County Courthouse complex. First Presbyterian Church can be seen off to the right.

The Union County Courthouse was constructed in three phases. The front section was built in 1810. It replaced the original two meeting houses that stood on the site but were destroyed in a raid in 1780 and then by fire in 1797. An additional structure was built around 1857 when Union County broke from Essex County, and in 1905 a three story structure was added. When the county government outgrew that configuration a seven story annex was built in 1925. The 17 story tower was added in 1931.

Classical Revival design contains many quality crafted architectural details feature a rotunda, open halls, classical crafted gold molding, and chandeliers. Different entrances have Corinthian columns and Tuscan columns.

3 THE SINGER BUILDING



Singer sewing machine manufacturing factory's daily workforce was bigger than the population some towns.

I.M. Singer built the factory in 1873 on a 32 acre plot on Trumble Street along the Newark Bay. The building is a magnificent 1,400,000 sq. ft. structure which produced three quarters of the world's sewing machines. The factory employed more than 6,000 workers in 1905 , the largest work force in the world at that time. It peaked at 7,000 workers in 1970. The method of mass production being used by Singer in the 1870's predated Henry Ford's techniques used in manufacturing automobiles. The Singer Company grew and by 1908 built the first skyscraper in New York City, which was the tallest building in the world at that time. Even though Singer closed its doors in 1982 and half of the complex was razed the doors to the remaining buildings reopened to businesses tenants. It is a symbol of the industrial revolution and stands like a museum of manufacturing ingenuity.

(below) Some wonders of Elizabeth considered for the top seven list.

Goethals Bridge

St. Patrick's Church

Arthur Kill Vertical Lift Railroad Bridge

City Hall

Liberty Airport Air Traffic Control Tower



The 7 Wonder

There is a new world-wide vote being taken to determine which are The New 7 Wonders of the World. The results will be announced during the Official Declaration ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal on Saturday, July 7, 2007 - 07.07.07. *Around About Peterstown* has come up with its own list of "The 7 Wonders of Elizabeth".

The debate on which wonders deserve to be in the top seven rests on the what criteria is used to judge them. That is why there are multiple lists to fill categories like Ancient World, Natural Wonders and Modern Times. To name just seven when there are dozen of deserving candidates becomes almost subjective. Choosing the seven wonders of Elizabeth was no different.

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World recognizes remarkable constructions of classical antiquity. Other lists of wonders may focus on human feats of engineering or some other criteria. There were a few rules established in determining Elizabeth's wonders and then it came down to the publisher's personal choice.

Some simple guidelines were easy to establish, for instance, the wonder had to be a structure within the present city boundaries. This eliminated Liberty Hall Museum, which was built in 1772 and was the home of the Livingston and Kean families. It is arguably the most spectacular historic site in Union County. It was once located in Elizabeth until it was engulfed by Union Township's borderline.

An argument can be made that the new air traffic control tower in the airport should be considered even though it sits in Newark, the majority of the airport is on Elizabeth soil. And do we count the Goethals Bridge? Half is anchored in Elizabeth. The same argument can be made about the Port Newark/Elizabeth, the most active container port in North America.

Another rule is that the building must still be standing. The A.W. Dimock mansion which was the first site of Battin High School may have been the most opulent residence in the city but it no longer exists. It would have trumped one of top seven picks.

Age was not a criteria but engineering as it pertains to longevity ads to the wonderment of the structure. Belcher-Ogden is not only the oldest building to make the



Hersh Tower is adorned with nickel silver ornamentation.

4 HERSH TOWER



The Hersh family moved to Elizabeth in 1866 and started out making paper bags. They made their fortune selling groceries and other supplies. In 1931 they built a fourteen story office building on the corner of Broad and East Grand Streets. It was considered a "Mini-Skyscraper" and was the tallest building in the city. The size is impressive but not as awe inspiring as the Art Deco architecture. The building is preserved in an era in which it was built with all the opulent details intact and restored, including terrazzo floors and imported hand-cut Italian marble facade. The glistening nickel silver ornamentation scales the tower. The building has been upgraded with things like state-of-the-art elevators and fiber optics but the improvements do not effect the beauty of the piece of art.

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's of Elizabeth

list is the most historically significant. It also earned points for its contents and the events that occurred there. This point is also represented by the Singer Factory complex. Though only half of it is still standing, the size of the remaining buildings are still massive and the din of the 6,000 workers which filled the place daily, decades ago can still be sensed.

Hersh Tower was chosen more for its artistry than for its size, though its size is a qualifying factor in its own rite. Which is why St. John Episcopalian Church got the nod over the dozens of deserving churches. It was difficult to leave St. Patrick's off the list. Churches deserve their own top seven list.

In choosing wonders of Elizabeth consideration was give to their uniqueness, for instance Elizabeth General Hospital is an impressive building, but there are many across the state that are equally impressive. This goes for the High School Campus, Cleveland Junior High and the Ritz Theater.

Engineering was a big factor in looking at a structure twice. But engineering would not do it alone or the Elizabeth river flood project, which cemented the river in, would have made it. The construction must also be awe inspiring, like the county court house, the archways of the train overpass on Broad Street and the draw bridge on Font Street. Anyone who hasn't stood under the the draw bridge and wonder is missing out on a few breathtaking hours.

The draw bridge is one of three fascinating bridges in eyesight of each other. The arches and courthouse are interactive. Walking, climbing and sitting and at an infinite number of vantage points shows the world in a totally different perspective, as if a the visitor was 5 years old on an elaborate jungle gym, dwarfed by the huge building blocks mysteriously defying gravity.

This exercise in choosing the Seven Wonders of Elizabeth is by no means the end all to a debate but was done to stir interest in the history and beauty of a great city. Readers are encouraged to take notice and reflect on sites which they would routinely pass by and establish their own list of wonders. No choice is incorrect. 🦋🦋



6 BELCHER-OGDEN MANSION

In 1680 one of the founding settlers of Elizabeth, John Ogden, constructed the oldest portion of their home. Their house would be Enlarged in the 1750s and developed by several subsequent owners, a beautifully proportioned example of Georgian architecture and the brick style known as Flemish bond. It became the official residence of Royal Governor Jonathan Belcher, appointed by King George II, from 1747 to his death in 1757. He conducted meetings of the legislature there when Elizabethtown served as the colonial capital.

In 1778 Alexander Hamilton played Master of Ceremonies to a wedding party there with George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette as guests. The British received sketchy information about the affair but arrived several days after it was over, failing to capture the Revolutionary leaders. They took out their disappointment on the house and sacked the Belcher-Ogden Mansion of many of it goods and furnishings

The house was restored in the 1960s, displaying outstanding interior moldings and furnished with antiques including pieces used by Belcher and Ogden and artifacts discovered at the site. A Federal parlor shows the room as it may have appeared when Aaron Ogden, Governor of New Jersey in 1812, resided there. The mansion, located at 1046 East Jersey Street, is operated by the Elizabethtown Historical Foundation and offers tours by appointment.



The contents of Belcher-Ogden spanning five centuries are part of the building's appeal.



2 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in 1705 Episcopalians formed St. John's church. The church was rebuilt in 1860 in its distinctive neo-Gothic style featuring a 126 foot tower. It has five of the largest Tiffany stained glass windows in the United States. The Church interior of the church was designed after St. Mary's University Anglican Church in Oxford, England. The exterior was modeled afer Merton College, also in Oxford. It seats approximately 700 and is the largest Episcopal worship site in New Jersey. Its adjoining historic cemetary is the burial site of the youngest signer of the US Constitution, US Senator Jonathan Dayton.



5 THE ARCHES / TRAIN STATION

The first railroad passed through Elizabeth in 1836. The Broad Street Station became the the centerpoint for transportation in the state. New Jersey Central and the Pennsylvania Railroad crossed there servicing passengers coming and going to New York and all parts West and South. In 1902 stone arches were built as part of the modernization of the railway system connecting Jersey City to Chicago. The arches separated three levels of transportation, elevating the one trainline over another and having the vehicular traffic of Broad Street, Morris Avenue and Grand Street pass under them. The arches also had a pedestrian tunnel.

The old Central Jersey Railroad Station is included in this wonder. Separately the arches and station can both make the top seven but they are part and parcel of one another. The station, a Romanesque Revival building with French Chateau overtones, was built in 1893. The architect hired to design and realize the station was the eminent American architect, Bruce Price. A west bound station house across the tracks was leveled after a derailed train wrecked it in 1972.



The old Rail Station has been completely renoveated



7 FRONT STREET DRAW BRIDGE

The size of the cement block that hangs ominously over front street is a marvel of ingenuity, engineering and originality. The bridge raises more questions than can be answered. Some deal with its mechanics, like how it works and how it was built. Other questions are more philosophical, like the reason for the design. Did a similar bridge preexist anywhere in the world? Was it ever duplicated? Compare the block to the bridge operator's station to appreciate the scale. Then consider the weight and complexity of the support beams. All this precisely balances to swing effortlessly into action to clear a path for passing watercraft. There was a time when the Elizabeth river made way for big vessels, evident by the existence of a Naval base that was located at the end of Palmer Street in the Peterstown Section of the city. Though it has been decades that the bridge was in operation it still seems very well preserved and just a few squirts from an oil can will reactivate it. It is truly amazing.



Within a few blocks up river from Front Street there are two more draw bridges which are just as interesting in concept and just as unique in design. They seem a little more practical, but barely.

Lino and Jovan
 Siconolfi
 September 3, 2006



LINO AND JOVAN - A STORYBOOK ROMANCE

Lino Siconolfi and Jovan Romeo may have been destined to be married long before they were even born. They did not meet by chance but through a series of relationships that spanned three generations, two continents, two countries and two states. The odds of them meeting was not astronomical but one can say it was in the stars.

Their story goes back to a town of Carife in Italy. That is where both Lino's grandfather, Pasquale Siconolfi and Jovan's grandfather, Pasquale DiMaggio were from. Pasquale's father, Dominic, DiMaggio was originally from Vallata, which was 2 miles away. The two families were best of friends in Carife and maintained their close ties after coming to America, even though they settled in different states which were 225 miles apart.

The Siconolfi's chose to live in Boston, Massachusetts while the DiMaggio's planted themselves in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Pasquale and his wife Maddalena raised three daughters on John Street, Vincenza, Dora, who arrived in 1955 with their father and Maria who came in 1958 with her mother.

The Dimaggio's and Siconolfi's kept in touch by telephone and periodic trips back and forth between the two homesteads. It came to pass that Luigi, the son of Pasquale in Boston, had a daughter Antonetta who married Tony, the son of Vincenza. The marriage brought the families even closer together and officially united the friends as in-laws.

Antonetta's brother was was in the bridal party as was Tony's cousin, Jovan, daughter of his Aunt Maria. There was no inkling that these two eventually become an item. In fact it took quit a few years for their mutual interest grew into a first date.

On September 3, 2006, nine years after they were in the same bridal party, Lino and Jovan, themselves, got married and standing up for them in their bridal party was Antonetta and Tony. To complete the storybook ending, Jovan was escorted down the aisle by her grandfather Pasquale at 95 years old. 🍷

(left) Family photo from Lino and Jovan's wedding including Jovan's grandfather, Pasquale, seated left; her aunts Vincenza and Dora, standing far right; her mother, Maria, standing between the bride and groom; Tony, Lino's best man and Antonetta, second from right.



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DIMAGGIO FAMILY
PHOTO ALBUM

(right) Photo, circa 1960, of the Dimaggio Family from their days living on John Street in Peterstown. Mother of the bride, (seated l-r) Maria, Pasquale, Maddalena. (standing, l-r) Vincenza and Dora.



(above) Pasquale Dimaggio escorts his youngest grandchild of six grandchildren down the aisle at her wedding on September 3, 2006. He also is a proud great-grandfather of 13.



(above) Dominic DiMaggio, Pasquale's father, Maria's grandfather and Jovan's great grandfather.

(above) Pasquale and Maddalena's daughters, Vincenza, Dora and Maria in a recent photo.



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(above) Gerarda Chirichiello, who cooks for the priests of St. Anthony’s Church submitted the recipes with her cousin Gerardina.



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Recipes

Submitted by Gerarda and Gerardina Chirichiello

Palone Sfritte

(Potatoes with Vinegar Hot Cherry Peppers)

INGREDIENTS

5 lbs potatoes
4 oz olive oil
4 cloves garlic (minced)
2 small jars of vinegar hot cherry peppers

PREPARATION:

1) Peel Potatoes, cut into cubes and boil until soft (but still firm). Drain and put some of the water aside.
2) Add 4 oz olive oil in a large frying pan, then add 4 cloves of minced garlic.
3) When garlic begins to brown add vinegar hot cherry peppers (including the juice) broken into pieces by hand. Mix and let simmer for 10 minutes.
4) Add potatoes with salt to taste. Mix all together and let simmer for 5 minutes. If too dry add a little potato water and let cook for a couple of more minutes.

Calzon Celli

(Chestnut Ravioli)

PREPARATION FOR STUFFING

1) Boil 5 lbs of peeled Chestnuts.
2) Peel the skin off and grind up chestnuts.
3) Add:
16 oz of liquid chocolate (Hershey's)
16 oz of grinded dark chocolate (hard)
16 oz Honey
4 tbsps of sugar
1 tbsp of vanilla extract
1 tbsp of clove
1 tbsp of cinnamon
1 tsp lemon zest
1 tsp orange zest
4) Mix together until soft (not too soft)
5) Put in refrigerator for 1 day.

PREPARATION FOR THE SHELL (DOUGH):
Prepare dough (shell) for ravioli's 3 hrs before filling. Using you favorite dough recipe.

1) Make the dough ready for raviolis by rolling it thin and flat. Cut into 5-6 inch wide strips.
2) Add one tablespoon of stuffing about 2 inches apart along one side of the strip and fold the other side over.
3) Cut them out individually and seal the sides with the tip of a fork.
4) Heat 1/2 gallon of oil in a pot until it's very hot.
5) Add ravioli's and cook until golden.
6) After they cool, drizzle honey on top and their ready to eat.



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Pizza di Patone

(Potato Pizza)

INGREDIENTS

5 lbs of peeled potatoes
8 eggs boiled
5 raw eggs
1/2 cup grated Ramano cheese
2-3 teaspoons of salt to taste
2 teaspoons of black pepper
1 lb Mozzarella cheese cut into small pieces
1/2 to 1 lb whole sopresata (diced)
1/2 lb hard prosciutto (diced)
1 cup milk

PREPARATION:

1) Boil potatoes and then pass through a Potato press
2) Cut 8 hard boiled eggs into small pieces and add to potatoes.
3) Add 5 raw eggs to potatoes.
4) Mix the remaining ingredients in with the potatoes until nice and soft and mixed well.
5) Put mixture into a large buttered or oiled baking tray.
6) Sprinkle Romano cheese on top and bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour @ 350 degrees.
7) Serve hot or cold.

Scallatelli Vallatessi

(Italian Pretzels)

INGREDIENTS:

1 dozen eggs
8 oz. vegetable oil
5 lbs of flour
3 tablespoons fennel seeds
7 grams of yeast (dissolve in 1 cup of warm water)
3 tablespoons of salt

PREPARATION:

1) Mix 1 dozen eggs & 8 oz. of oil and blend together
2) Put 5 lbs of flour on dough board
3) Add salt, fennel seeds and yeast to flour
4) Add blend of eggs and oil
5) Mix all ingredients together and add water if needed. When done mixing cover the dough with towels and let it rise for 1 hour.
5) Cut dough into small pieces and roll until thin and 6-7 inches long, make a circle and squeeze the 2 ends together.
6) Boil water in a large pot place 6-7 pretzels in at a time. They will drop to the bottom of the pot, when they rise to the top of the water, take them out and lay them flat on a table cloth.
7) Preheat oven @ 400° then lower to 350°. Lay the pretzels directly onto the oven rails. Bake for 1/2 hour to 40 minutes and turn if needed.

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Gerarda Chirichiello has been cooking for the clergy at St. Anthony’s seven days a week while Bridget Muscratola, who has been cooking at the rectory for 25 years recovers from surgery. Gerarda usually cooks on weekends while Bridget works Monday through Friday. Both women are from the small town of Vallata, Italy and cook in a style reminiscent of their home town. Recently Gerarda has been working seven days a week as Bridget has been off for health reasons.

There are seven residents living in the rectory. The cook would be responsible for preparing lunch and dinner for them. Sundays there may be as many as a dozen sharing dinner.

The menu is the chef’s choice, but there are never any complaints. Needless to say, there are a lot of Italian dishes on the menu but the variety is well balanced. Each meal includes salad and desert.

Not for Nothing But...
the food at St. Anthony’s
inspired Joe Caparaso
to become a Deacon.



(above, l-r) Brother Charles Mayer, Father John Masiello, Luigi Laricchiuta, Dieunel Victor, Gerarda Chirichiello, Sean Hogan, Deacon Joe Caparaso, Father Hector Paulin, Father Patrick Diver in the Rectory dining room.



15
Peterstown
Feb 07
(left) Bridget Muscratola has been cooking for the priests of St. Anthony’s Church for 25 years.



(above, l-r) Chestnut Ravioli and Italian Pretzels were made from two of the four recipes that Gerarda was kind enough to share with the readers of Around About Peterstown. They are identified as dishes being in the Vallatese tradition of cooking.

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GRANDSON SHARES MEMORIES OF POP

Submitted by Mike Kuchar

Although pop's name was Americo, people would call him Ricky, Rick, and while he was growing up in Peterstown, a lot of his friends would call him Breeks. His parents were from Centola, Italy, and five of their children were born there. He was born in Redbank on October 14, 1922, the son of Antoinette and Clement Pace. His father was a tailor. He was the seventh of eight children. He had 5 sisters, Josephine, Ellen, Mary, Linda, Margaret, and two brothers, Henry, and Gene. They lived at Centre Street, Niles Street, and then 19 Spencer Street until about 1949. His parents then moved to 545 Fourth Avenue. The family attended church at St. Anthony's, where he was an altar boy. He attended Elizabeth public schools and graduated from Edison Vocational School. Pop began working for Nietzel and Son at 513 First Avenue as an apprentice tool and die maker in about

1941. Later he worked for Thomas and Betts until his retirement in 1985. He played handball at the Elizabeth YMCA in the 70's. He played golf and bowled with Thomas and Betts. He met Margaret in 1944 at weekly dances in the area. They married in 1946. Had one daughter, Beverly, born in 1948. They lived at 513 First Avenue, and Beverly attended Holy Rosary School where they also went to church. They moved to Scotch Plains in 1958 but would regularly return to Elizabeth to visit family, to work at Nietzel's and Thomas & Betts, enjoy dinner at Spirito's, birthday cakes at Saraceno's, and the St. Rocco festival. In 1972, they vacationed in Italy where they were able to locate Americo's mother's sisters, Concetta and Eugenia, and their families in Salerno and Palinuro. They were also able to meet Pop's father's sister, Lucia, in Centola. 🇮🇹



60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Annette Moore

Vincent (Jim) Leo and Rose Salerno were married on November 16, 1946 in St. Rose of Lima Church in West New York, New Jersey. Jim was born on Fourth Avenue in Elizabeth to Anna and Joseph Leo. He has one brother, Anthony and a sister, Antoinette Scutro. Rose is from Jersey City and had one sister, Kitty and three brothers, Salvatore, James and Dominick. Later the family moved to John Street. Jim and his brother, Tony, their father, Joe and their uncle, Frank owned and operated Leo Transit on Elizabeth Avenue. Jim and Rose lived across the street from his parents on John Street until 1954 when they moved to Galloping Hill Road. They have two daughters, Annette and Marie. Marie is married to Joseph Mile and lives in Davenport, Florida. Annette is married to Michael Moore and lives in Bloomsbury, New Jersey. Jim and Rose have two grandsons and five great-grandchildren. Jim and Rose lived on Galloping Hill Road in Elizabeth until 2000 when they moved to Davenport, Florida. Jim received a Purple Heart during World War II and they were both active in the DAV, Purple Heart and visiting veterans at the VA Hospital. They belonged to the Senior Citizens in Elizabeth and enjoyed the monthly bus trips to Atlantic City. They were communicants of St. Genevieve's Church. Rose enjoyed bowling on their bowling league for many years. 🇺🇸



(above, l-r) Americo "Ricky" Pace age 10, and as an altar boy for St Anthony's Church

(above, l-r) Americo's parents, Clemente and Antonetta Pace, married in 1912 in Centola, Italy in a photo taken in 1920 when his mother came to the United States.



(above, l-r) Margaret and Americo in Warinanco Park on Easter Sunday, Circa 1959.



(above) Margaret and Americo on his 74th birthday in 1997.

(right) Antonetta Pace



(right, l-r) Americo and Margaret, their grandson Michael Kuchar and their granddaughter Melissa Hampton, their daughter Beverly Kuchar and her husband Matthew.

(right) Margaret is prepped by her parents for her First Communion at Holy Rosary Church.





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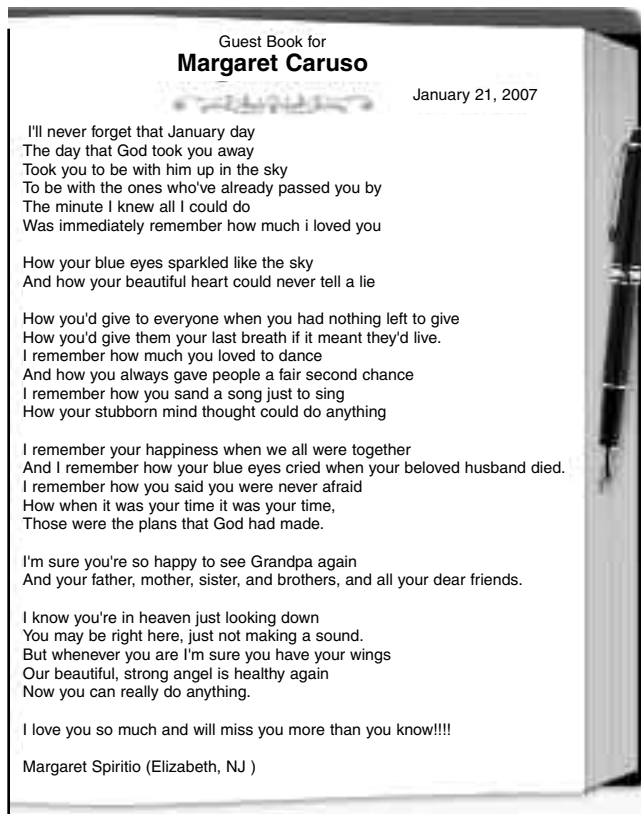
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(above) The illustration of Margaret Caruso's Guest book was captured from the *Star-Ledger* Website NJ.com. The book is a feature of their on line obituary column which invites people to leave messages and photos in honor of the deceased. Margaret Caruso's granddaughter, Margaret Spirito, daughter of Kathy, is performing in a North American tour production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She left the show in Canada to be with her family after the loss of her grandmother. She penned this poem on her flight home. Margaret is a gifted singer who performs under her grandmother's maiden name Mele. She will be doing two shows at the State Theater in New Brunswick, NJ on May 5, 2007.

MARGARET CARUSO WILL BE REMEMBERED BY MANY

Margaret Mele Caruso, 78, passed away on January 19, 2007 in her home located in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth, of which she was a life-long resident.

Margaret was a bookkeeper with Harritt Foods of Elizabeth for 10 years before retiring in 1979 and was a member of the Retired Men and Ladies Club in the Peterstown Community Center.

Margaret was predeceased by her beloved husband of 53 years, William Ken Caruso, who died in May 2004

and her brother Chic Mele, who died in Oct. 2006. Surviving are her children, Carmine, and his wife, Joan of Monroe; Katherine Spirito of Freehold; William, and his wife, Socorro of Hillsborough; Michael, and his wife, Janet of Toms River; Stephen, and his wife, Joann of Watchung; and her brother, John Mele of Cream Ridge. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and many extended family and friends. She touched many lives and will be missed by many.



(above) Margaret Caruso, (standing in center, wearing white) is surrounded by family at their annual get together at her son's Stephens Home in Watchung, NJ.

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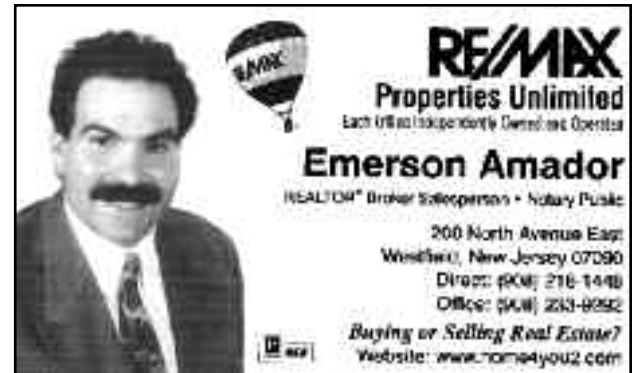
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HS SPORTS COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF COACH CICARELL



Frank Cicarell

Generations of student athletes are mourning the loss of Frank Cicarell, 80, who dedicated his entire 55 year career in education to youth sports and improving the quality of programs offered to student athletes across Union County. To a generation of Elizabeth students Frank Cicarell was simply known as “Coach”. Earlier in his career Cicarell coached the football, swimming and baseball teams at Thomas Jefferson High School, now known as Elizabeth High School. Students playing football for Cicarell enjoyed six consecutive conference championships and three NJSIAA state championships. His outstanding accomplishments as a coach earned him the *New York Daily News* All-Star Coaches Award, the Associated Press Football Coach of the Year honors and was inducted into the NJ Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Cicarell embraced every opportunity to be involved which organizations focused on education and youth sports. He was the Executive Director of the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference, which annually operated one of the finest county baseball tournaments in New Jersey. He was also an outstanding

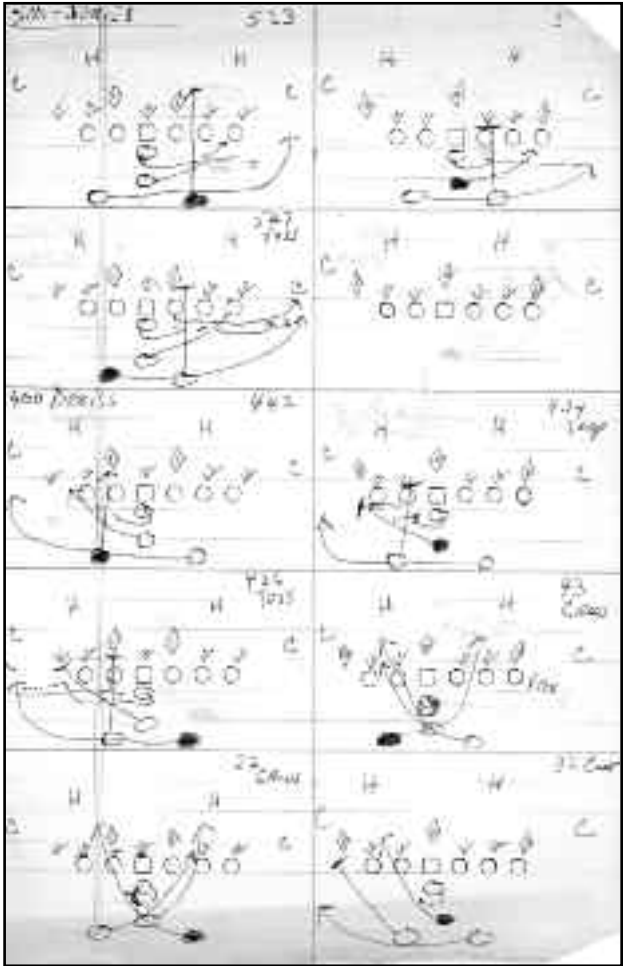
college and high school basketball referee. He served as a member of the Rahway Board of Education, Union County Education Services Commission and the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association. Frank also served as Past President of North Jersey Board 33 of Approved Basketball Officials Association, chairman of the NJSIAA Basketball Committee and chairman of the NJSIAA Basketball Tournament of Champions. Cicarell began his teaching career in 1951, in the Science Department, served as a health and physical welfare teacher, administrative assistant to the Principal, Vice Principal and Principal of Thomas Jefferson High School. Elizabeth High School with all houses collectively, is now notably the largest comprehensive high school in the United States with a current enrollment of around 5,300 students. Born in Elizabeth on May 26, 1927, Frank Cicarell moved to Rahway and attended Rahway High School, where he played baseball. He entered the Army after graduation, serving in the Signal Service Corps. When he was discharged he returned to school- attending Springfield College, where he continued playing baseball.

The son of the late William and Rose Cicarell, he is survived by fiancée Renae LaPrete, sisters Kathleen C. Gaylord and the late June Taranto, nephews Frank Taranto and Robert Gaylord, niece Kathleen Gaylord and great-nephews James and David Gaylord.



(above) Coach Cicarell in a timeless moment as coach.

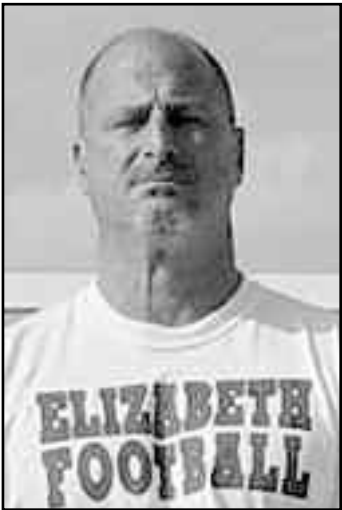
(below) Page from the coach Cicarell’s playbook from his coaching days.



EHS FOOTBALL COACH PARLAVECCHIO NAMED NY GIANTS TRI-STATE COACH OF THE YEAR
Guides team to State Championship in tradition of Cicarell

Elizabeth High School Head Football Coach Chester (Chet) Parlavecchio was announced as the NY Giants 2006 Tri-State Coach of the Year. Coming on the heels of the team’s NJSIAA/Gatorade North II, Group IV State Championship victory. The award is given to high school coaches who demonstrate a strong commitment to the fundamentals of football, their athletes' well-being and their community. Parlavecchio came to Elizabeth High School in June 2006. Quickly building a strong rapport with his team, the Minutemen went on to have a successful 7-1 regular season, 11-1 overall season record and won the State Championship. In Seton Hall Prep High School, Parlavecchio was named as one in five players in New Jersey history to earn the *Star-Ledger* First-Team All-State honors for both offensive and defensive play. In 1999, the *Star-Ledger* again recognized Parlavecchio as one of the Top 10 Defensive Players of the 20th Century for New Jersey High School football. He was then recruited to play for the Penn State Nittany Lions, where he was named the Lion’s Defensive Most Valuable Player in 1981 as team captain and was appointed a Co-Most Valuable Player of the 1982 East-West Shrine Game. The Green Bay Packers took notice of Parlavecchio s

defensive prowess and chose him as a linebacker in the 1982 NFL Amateur Draft. During his NFL career, he played for the St. Louis Cardinals as well. In addition to the extraordinary fore-mentioned accomplishments, Parlavecchio was also the Linebacker Coach for Temple University, staff member for Head Coach Joe Paterno at the Penn State Football Camp, New Jersey Hall of Fame member and a United Press International All-American. With all of these accomplishments under his belt, Parlavecchio is happy to be in Elizabeth, Head Coaching the winning team.



(left) Elizabeth High School Football Coach Chet Parlavecchio guided the 2006 Minutemen to an 11-1 record and a state championship in his first season as coach. This is the sixth state championship for the school.

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