



ACTIVISM IS MORE OF A CALLING THAN A CHOICE

Two years ago Tina Renna requested a public record from the County of Union and caught the county lying in their denial of the request. Subsequent requests resulted in more stonewalling and chicanery. Access to public records is an important right of the people. It's one Tina feels is worth fighting for.

Tina has been labeled an activist and was awarded a citizens activist award, on April 30, 2005, by the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG). The organization was instrumental in getting New Jersey's Open Public Records Act (OPRA) passed in 2002 and has since been monitoring the enforcement of that Act by the state's Government Records Council (GRC).

Tina caught the attention of NJFOG when her name appeared several times on the agenda of GRC meetings. She submitted numerous complaints concerning Union County's OPRA violations. The GRC has found the county in violation of OPRA several times, yet there has been no penalty. The worse punishment that the GRC has dished out to offenders is to be placed on their so called "Matrix". This is their equivalent to double secret probation. The County of Union has been placed on the Matrix three times with more complaints still pending.

The lack of accountability at the all-Democrat controlled county and the absence of any recourse in her pursuit should have discouraged Tina years ago, but to her it would have been turning a blind eye to deeper corruption at the county. The only tool that the public has in holding government accountable is information; when the government delays or denies access, the public is vulnerable to corruption.

Tina felt alone in her battle. After there was no action taken by the GRC to the county's violations she was ready to accept that this is business as usual for New Jersey government. A call from her mentor, Martin O'Shea, on behalf of the NJFOG changed everything.

Martin O'Shea is an octogenarian from West Milford and a retired newspaperman with an interest in promoting more open government and greater access to public documents. He has been in the forefront of getting the GRC more teeth. It was O'shea who nominated Tina for the NJFOG 'Lift Award' which acknowledges the work of activists in keeping the doors of government open and shining a light on what their government is doing.

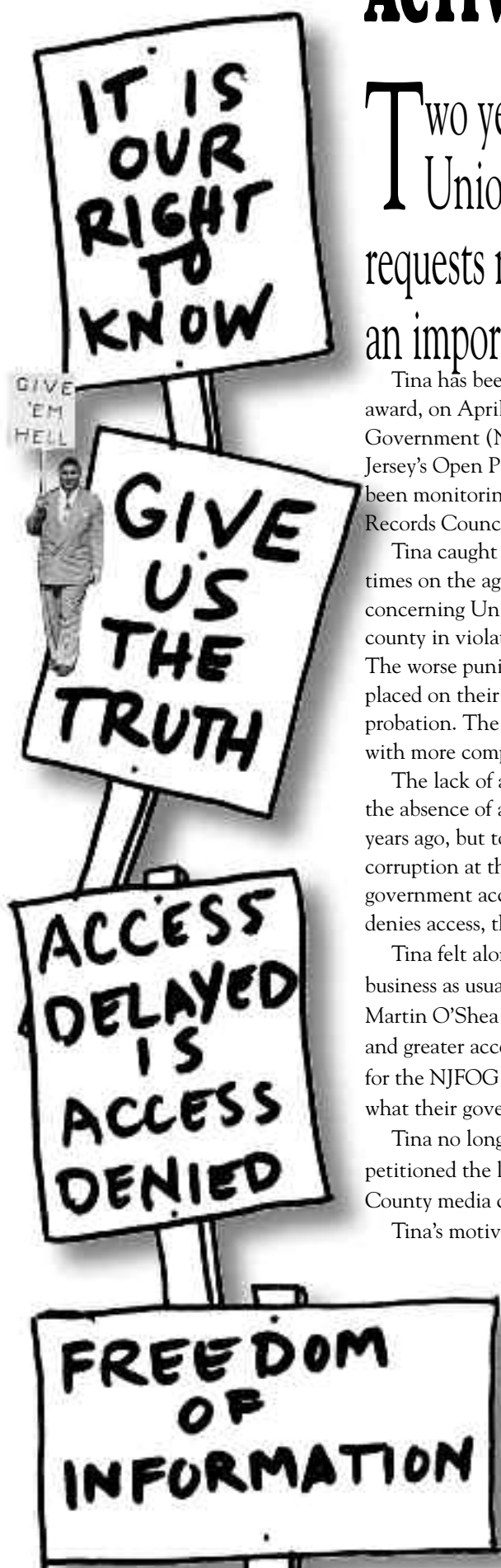
Tina no longer felt alone in her battle. In fact, she had supporters state wide and was now receiving some press coverage. She has petitioned the local press to do more about this issue. She sees them as the eventual solution to this problem, but as it stands now, Union County media complacency only compounds the problem.

Tina's motivation has been the effects that the county has had on people. Excessive property taxes have effected the communities that are most in need. Diverting funds from service programs to political coffers and patronage jobs has minimized the relief to seniors and the poor. Mismanagement and corruption at the county has taken its toll on all property taxpayers. The most egregious example is the death of a 17 year old while being held in the unsafe and mismanaged county-run Juvenile Detention Center and the ensuing multi-million dollar lawsuits the taxpayers are now faced with.

Tina is paying heed to Ronald Reagan who said "Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem," and will continue to fight the good fight. And this writer loves her for that. 🇺🇸



(above, l-r) Tina Renna and mentor, Martin O'Shea, a proponent of open government. O'Shea nominated Renna who received an award from NJFOG for her work in getting access to public records.



(left, l-r) 2005 NJFOG Conference, discussing what changes should be made to OPRA are panelists: Tina Renna; Assemblyman Robert Morgan, M.D.; Ann Graham, President, People for Open Government; Senator Ellen Karcher; and John Paff, Libertarian Party Chairman.

To learn more about NJFOG visit their website at: www.njfog.org.

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:

AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN

202 Walnut Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 709-0530
Fax: (908) 709-9209
E-mail: joerenna@joerenna.com

JOE RENNA
Publisher / Editor

TINA RENNA
Copy Editor



SONS OF PETERSTOWN SPORTS CLUB
412 South 7th Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

JOHN SACCO
President

JIM PALERMO
Vice President

LOUIS LaBRUTTO
Secretary

JACK LABRUTTO
Treasurer

SAL PICCARELLA
Sergeant-at-Arms

**President's
Message**



June 5th was the club's 18th annual family picnic. Who would have thought that a spur-of-the-moment Bar-B-Que in School 3 playground would turn into an annual event that draws a few hundred people.

I get a little nostalgic looking at photos from some earlier picnics. It is sad looking at the many faces that are no longer with us. The opportunity of spending the day with family, friends and neighbors is the true value of the picnic. Seldom do we make the time to say hello or visit someone. Before we know it, months and years have passed by.

Even though there is great distance between some of us and the circles we run in never intersect, there is at least one day we can set aside for some quality time. That day is The Sons of Peterstown Annual Family Picnic. I hope to see you all there next year. Well, why wait until then? Let's keep in touch regularly.

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.

**ADVERTISERS: CALL TINA RENNA
908-709-0530**

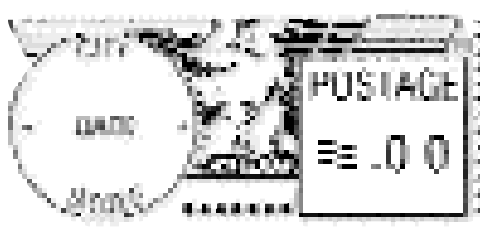
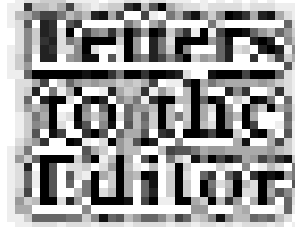
www.

Joe Renna
.com

Visit our website.
Leave a message
on our Peterstown
Message board.



Printed on
Recycled Paper



LETTER POLICY

Around About Peterstown welcomes Letters to the Editor at our postal, fax or e-mail addresses.

Letters must include sender's name, address and phone number (only name and town will be printed).

Letters should be typed. Letters appear as space permits. We reserve the right not to print a letter without notifying sender.

Dear Joe,

I just finished reading your April edition of *Around About Peterson*. My son Jack who still lives in Elizabeth, in the Elmora section, knew that some of the people mentioned in this edition were people I knew. Joe Long nee LaBracio was a classmate of mine at Thomas Jefferson High School Class of 1950. I knew Joe had his own group for awhile before joining the Four Seasons.

I was a big fan of that group, and knew the originals consisted of Frankie Valli, Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi. I believe Joe took Nick's place. I had seen them in person many times, but one night while watching the Ed Sullivan show I saw the Four Seasons on. I was surprised when Joe came out with them, I said "Hey, I know that guy. I went to Jeff with him." I had seen them also perform in Asbury Park at Convention Hall in the early 70's. In fact I have a picture of them from that night.

The other person you mentioned was PJ Cotroneo. I didn't know PJ but back in the 60's I worked for his father, Phil, when he owned a tavern in North Elizabeth called the Meadow Club. Phil's cousin was Vinnie Saraceno a Peterstown boy who was running the bakery at the time. Vinnie was a big Four Seasons fan, and he and Phil made sure the juke box at the tavern had plenty of Four Seasons platters in it. I had e-mailed Joe a few times, he lives in the Jersey Shore area, but he didn't make our 50th class reunion. I haven't heard from him in a few years.

Another name that appeared was Sal Terracina. I remember that he played the piano/organ in a place on Elizabeth Avenue the name slips my mind which a lot of things do today. I believe when Sal played there I was not of age to go to the night clubs.

I did not grow up in the BURG. I came from North Elizabeth, but I sure went to school with may fellows from that area, Sal Angelo, Ben Caterniccio, and another person who was an up and coming singer Guilio Lembo who was killed in an automobile accident at a very early age.

Great reading your paper,
Jack Joyce
Spring Hill, FL

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the Palmieri and Arnone families we want to thank you for your recent headlines dedicated to Don Arnone. He was a fantastic musician, and although he was recognized as a great by his peers, his talents were often unrecognized by the public.

Even though he has been retired for many years, Don is always thrilled when an article like this appears.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Don's career, or interested in obtaining any samples of his work, they can contact me at drnick@palchiro.com.

Please keep up the great work with your paper!
Thanks,
Nicholas F. Palmieri
Linden, NJ

Hi Joe,

A Kean University classmate of my son Andrew saw the article in your April 05 Issue and signed our website guest book stating he found out about Andy in the Elizabeth Peterstown Newspaper, which printed a very nice article about Andy.

I picked up several papers when dining at Buona Gente. Their ad was on the opposite page of the article you included on Andrew. I really appreciate your inserting the photo of Andrew and a photo of the Volume 1 CD released by Centaur Records. When Volume 2 is released later this year, I'll send you a copy. Thanks again for the interest you have shown to honor Andrew.

Best wishes,
Libby DeGrado-Condo
Springfield, NJ

Dear Sons of Peterstown,

Thank you for sponsoring the annual picnic which gave me the opportunity to renew lifelong acquaintances with friends I have not seen for twenty plus years. By chance, I happened to be visiting my family and the timing could not have been better. I thoroughly enjoyed myself on my trip down memory lane.

Though the numbers get smaller as the years pass, the memories grow larger. We were and continue to be truly blessed since you all keep the spirit workin and alive.

Thanks again and God bless you all.
Vinny Malta
Vinny1529@comcast.net
Alpharetta, GA

Dear Joe,

Your article about Araneo's Tavern in your April 05 issue was a wonderful tribute to my father and my family, as well as letting people know the history behind it all. The article meant a lot to me, and I'll never forget it. I have always been proud of my name, first and last, and I have told my kids a long time ago to do the same and to respect it.

After I read the article, I looked up at my father and said, you would have been very proud of this, as I am.

It was something that an article about my old friend Joe Long was in the same paper. That brought back good memories as well. The picture on the front was signed by all of them, and it was hanging in the tavern. It was given to me backstage after a concert. He used to get me backstage a few times, and even got me a front row table at the Waldorf Astoria. His family were nice people as well, and the pictures of him in the article are from a program I got at a show they did in Convention Hall in Asbury Park.

Thanks again, Best Regards,
Peter B. Araneo
Howell, NJ

p.s. Joe, are you any relation to Lisa Renna, the actress?
I'd like to get backstage after one of her shows!

Dear Around About Peterstown,

My father Albert Pandolfi grew up on 2nd Avenue in Peterstown. I decided it would be a great idea to receive a subscription as a gift so he could read about the old neighborhood and people from Peterstown. He still goes to church at St. Antony's every week. I also made my communion and confirmation from St. Anthony's when I was younger. Thank you for providing this newspaper.

Eileen Pandolfi Ramkosky
Linden, NJ

Dear Joe,

Your articles are oddly interesting to me seeing as I don't know the people or the place you write about. It might just be that slice of American life that makes it seem familiar.

I took some of your papers with me to lunch yesterday and had a great time reading *Around About Peterstown*. It surprised me how much it took me back to my own childhood in Chicago. I went to Catholic school and my Dad was a marine so my background is similar although I'm not Italian. It sure was a different time, wasn't it?

Sincerely,
Ann Berger
Short Hills, NJ

Joey,

Been following the paper long distance for some time now. It's good to see someone keeping the neighborhood alive and remembered. The article on Quicksilver really brought it back, as I had just returned from living in Lauderdale the night before.

Your old friend,
Jim Milano
Barnegat, NJ

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Sons of Peterstown. It was such a great honor to be surrounded by our family and fiends on Sunday, June 5, 2005. It's wonderful to have such a closeness within the Peterstown community of the City of Elizabeth. May God bless each of you for your hard work and dedication. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,
Manny Caravano and Willie LaMorte
Elizabeth, NJ

Hi Joe,

I received a nice letter from Carmen Evangelista in response to my letter that appeared in your April Issue. She asked me to write back but she forgot to give me her return address. I hope she gets to see this letter to the editor. It would help me out, for it means a lot to me to answer her.

Thanks a million
Always a JERSEY BOY
Frank Nigro
Kansas City, Missouri

Peterstown Newspaper,

I lived in Peterstown from 1939 when I was born to 1978 when I ,moved to Florida. Many of the articles are familiar to me in one way or another. My family and I enjoy keeping up with what is happening there. Thank you for putting it all in print for us.

Sincerely,
Cathy Wanat
Orlando, FL

Editor’s Opinion

everybody has one - this is mine - by Joe Renna

Elected officials’ support for a citizens’ convention on property taxes is nothing more than a way to skirt their own accountability. Officials up for reelection are actually making the need for a convention a campaign platform! Claiming that the present system has failed is admitting that they have failed to do the job that they were elected to do.

The rise in property taxes is under the direct control of elected officials. They were put in power to run our governments efficiently, which includes being fiscally responsible with our taxes. Now that their tax and waste actions have reached outrageous proportions, our officials are asking the same citizens that elected them to fix the problem.

New Jersey doesn't need a convention to fix our property tax system. What is needed is a reversal of unethical and corrupt practices which funnel property tax dollars into the coffers of political operatives. No property tax system will work if political power brokers are allowed to use taxes to award no bid contracts as kickbacks for campaign contributions. No property tax system will work that allows payrolls to swell by dolling out needless jobs to unqualified political cronies. Our property tax crisis can only be fixed by cutting the waste and legalized corruption in government.

The only promise we hear from our officials is that they will seek alternative ways to raise money. Not one presents a plan to cut spending. We are asked to believe that every dollar being sucked out of the people is necessary. The thought is absurd.

The County of Union has an annual budget of \$400 million. The all-Democrat freeholder board led by State Senator Raymond Lesniak's (D-Union) nephew who is the appointed county manager, have raised their portion of our property tax bill 50% over the last five years. They have also implemented a series of alternative ways to raise revenue, namely raising fees for services, licenses and permits and the installation of the Open Space Trust Fund. These are nothing more than a tax using a different name. This was still not enough for the freeholders to operate the county. They also found it necessary to borrow money during this period. Our county debt is \$400 million. It costs almost \$40 million a year just to service it.

The ratables in the county have increased over the past two years by 28%, or \$13 billion, from \$43 billion to \$56 billion. Elected officials have capitalized on this increase in home values by increasing their take. Not because they need it, but because they could.

Instead of figuring out what is needed to run the government and raising the revenue to do so, the freeholders raise as much tax revenue as possible then

find ways to spend it. It doesn't matter what tax system is in place, their way of doing business is not going to change.

The county accounts for about 25% of our property tax bill. Our municipality and school system takes the rest. The problem with out of control property taxes is in the hands of our elected officials, those on the town councils and school boards included. They have the power to reverse the double digit tax increases we see each year by cutting waste and eliminating corrupt and unethical behavior.

The problem is that there is no incentive to do so. government bodies, like Union County's, with one party rule lack the oversight necessary to keep wasteful spending in check. Majority control of the electorate ensures their retention of power. The threat of a revolt at the voting polls is minimal, and there lies the problem.

This is a paradox. The power to do what is right by the taxpayers is in the hand of those who use the taxpayer's to retain power.

Property tax is regressive and hits moderate and low income households hard, very hard. The very people that our elected officials have a duty to help are being abused. And now the officials are telling us “It’s not our problem, it’s yours, you fix it.” 🙄

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



campaign slogans

should read, “We

support a citizens’

convention on property

tax because we are too

incompetent or corrupt

to to do it ourselves.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



(above, l-r) Graduate Joe Renna with his Professor, and Cranford neighbor, Susan Ault.

KUDOS TO KEAN UNIVERSITY

On May 10, 2005, I received my Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Kean University. It was a demanding three years and extremely rewarding. I wanted to thank my professors for their instruction and guidance, for the experience effected me both academically and personally.

The faculty and staff at Kean is top shelf. The curriculum was challenging, relevant and inspiring. In fact it was so inspiring that I ran for office twice during my tenure. The knowledge I gained can be applied to many facets of my life, in journalism, service to non-profit organizations and community service.

The accomplishment was sweetened when they presented me with a, "Honors with Distinction" certificate at a special dinner. The award recognizes students who completed their graduate-degree requirements with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. There were only 22 recipients out of the 748 graduates. I was the only student from the MPA program.

I would like to personally thank each one of my professors: Dawood Farahi, Donald Difrancesco, Jon Erickson, Craig Donovan, Morgan Laury, Patricia Moore, Stephen Genzer, Susan Lederman, Susan Ault, Irene Beveridge, and Audry Kelly. It was my honor. 🙄



(above, l-r) Classmates and now good friends. Linda Ferguson, Joe Renna, Perle Almeida, John Neiman, and Pat Hora.

THOMAS JEWELERS CLOSES AFTER 76 YEARS

Thomas Jewelers located at 159 Elmora Avenue in Elizabeth has closed its doors after being in business for 76 years. Frank Tomasso and Catherine DelGabbo Tomasso opened the business in 1929. The building, which houses the jewelry store was also built in that year and is attached to the original two-family home where Frank and Catherine lived, and was moved back, away from Elmora Avenue.

Catherine worked on Wall Street in New York City taking the ferry from Jersey City. Frank worked in the store repairing clocks and jewelry. He learned his trade in various watch factories in Waterbury, Connecticut after immigrating to the United States from Montagano, (Campobasso) Italy when he was 16 years old. He learned different phases of watchmaking and became a skilled craftsman.

Frank also had a passion for plants and flowers which led him to build two greenhouses in the backyard. He sold plants in beautiful ceramic pots in the store as well.

Frank moved to Elizabeth after serving in the U.S. Army in World War I, where he received the Purple Heart. He met and married Catherine DelGabbo and resided with the DelGabbo family on the corner of First Avenue and South 7th Street, where their son, Richard was born, before moving to their Elmora Avenue home where they raised Richard and his sister Joan.

Richard apprenticed under his father, and after graduating from Jefferson High School, he enlisted in the Navy during WWII. After returning from service, he continued his work in the family business. Richard was called back into military service at the outbreak of the Korean War. Because of his watchmaker's training, he was given an instrumentation specialist title.

Shortly thereafter, he married Verna Vescovi. They also resided on Elmora Avenue where they raised their three children, Richard, Jr., Robert and Karen. Verna became involved in the selling aspect of the jewelry business. Their son, Robert, after graduating from Bowman Technical School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with a certification in gemology, worked in the family business for over 25 years.

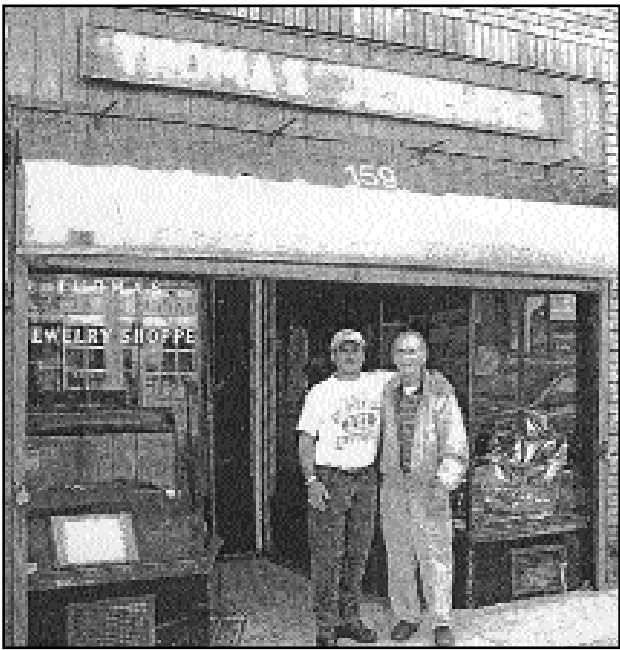
After Richard's wife, Verna, passed away in 1997, he continued to work in the store six days a week helping his son Robert with the business. Richard's grandchildren, Tara and Joe worked in the store helping

out as well. Richard has now retired after having worked 70 years in the business.

Four generations of Tomassos have served the Elizabeth community. Robert and Richard are both feeling melancholy that the business is closing although Robert is looking forward to a career change and Richard, Sr. is looking forward to retirement.

Even though there is sadness that Thomas Jewelers is closing its doors, there is great pride that the family business survived for so many years with such loyal patronage. Family-owned businesses and skilled watchmakers are rare today. Jewelers face tough competition from jewelry outlets, malls, the home shopping networks, etc.

The Tomasso family thanks the entire community for its loyal patronage. The business district of Elmora Avenue has seen many changes and Elmora Avenue just won't be the same without the Tomasso family and Thomas Jewelers. Richard, Sr. and Rob will surely be missed. 🌹👉



(above) In May, 2005, Robert and Richard Tomasso said “fare well” to friends, neighbors and patrons outside their jewelry store at 159 Elmora Avenue. Four generations of the Tomasso family lived and worked at the location over its 76 year history.

TOMASSO FAMILY ALBUM



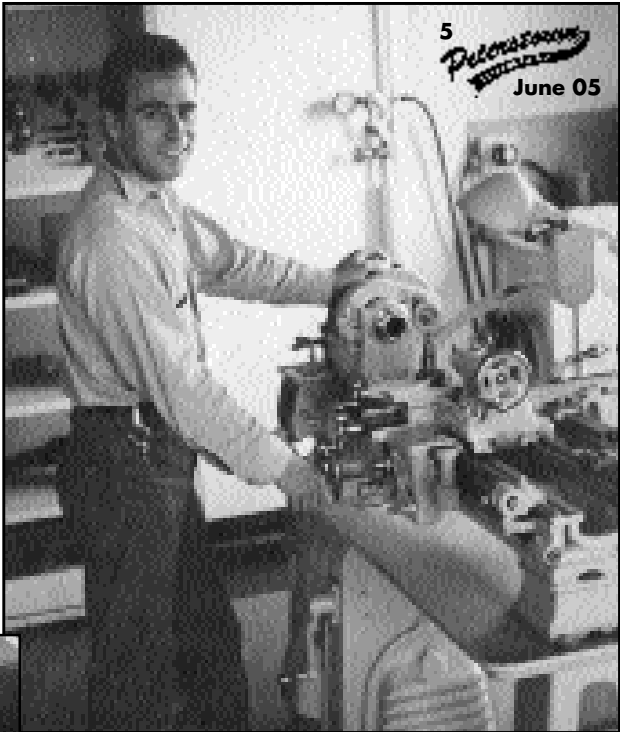
(above) 1923 wedding picture of Frank Tomasso and Catherine Del Grabbo.



(above) 1954 wedding picture of Richard and Vera Tomasso.

(right) Richard Tomasso, in the military during the Korean War, is operating a precisian lathe in the optical shop.

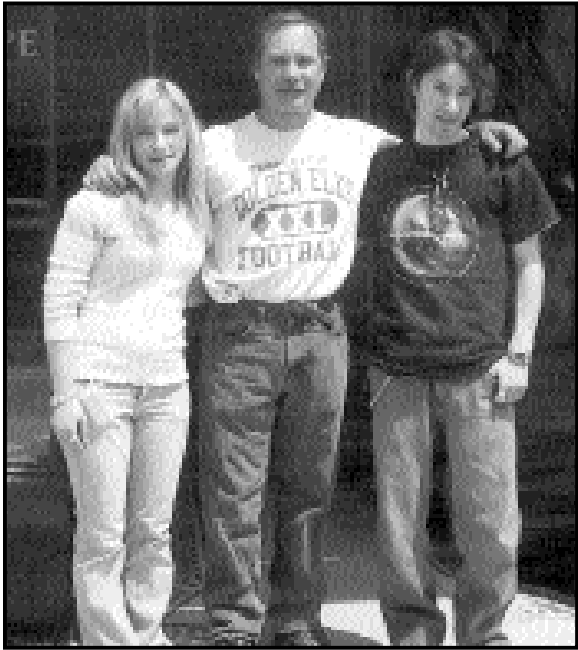
(below) Catherine Tomasso holding her grandson richard in front of the jewelry shop.



(left) Frank Tomasso built two greenhouses behind his home and jewelry store on Elmora Avenue.



(right) Robert Tomasso flanked by his daughter Tara and son Joseph.



A DIFFERENT REASON TO CELEBRATE MARISA MALTA

On Sunday, May 15, 2005, the family and friends of Frank and Joanne Malta, gathered at Roosevelt Park in Edison, N.J. to help them celebrate their daughter Marisa's successful completion of chemotherapy for retinoblastoma.

Retinoblastoma is the most common eye tumor seen in children. It is a tumor of the retinal layer of the eye and is usually found between the ages of 6 and 24 months. Marisa was diagnosed at 9 months. Retinoblastoma occurs in approximately 1 in 15,000 live births and it is estimated that 250 to 300 children are affected each year in the United States.

Retinoblastoma occurs equally in both boys and girls and it is seen in all races. It can affect one or both eyes. Marisa was fortunate enough to only have her right eye affected. In some cases, there is a family history of retinoblastoma, but in the majority of cases, there is no other member of the family affected with the tumor.

The cause of retinoblastoma is unknown. It seems to develop despite a normal pregnancy, labor and delivery of the baby and normal health of the parents.

There are 5 ways to treat retinoblastoma depending on the size of the tumor. Marisa was treated with cryotherapy (freezing the tumor in the operating room) as well as a six-month cycle of chemotherapy.

Marisa's prognosis is excellent. Although she has limited vision in her right eye, doctor's are working on strengthening any sight that she does have through the use of eye-patching.

Marisa will require close follow-up by Will's Eye Hospital during the first ten years of her life. Until she is 5, an examination of both eyes under anesthesia every 3-6 months is necessary. Eventually the examinations will be done in the office. Marisa will need to be examined at least once a year for her entire life.



(above, l-r) Marisa is the center of attention of her Uncle Anthony, dad, Frank, and her Godfather, Uncle Anthony.



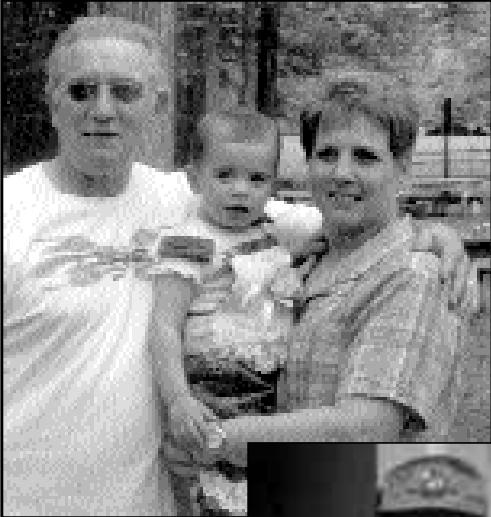
(above) Marisa's mom, Joanne, gets a hug from the Cookie Monster.



(above, l-r) Lila celebrated with her best friend Marisa.



(above) Members of the Malta, Nigro, Schepelenko, and Sorrento Family.



(above, l-r) Proud and grateful grandparents Frank and Linda Malta.



(right) Great Grandpa Angelo Nigro bounces Marisa on his knee.

Anyone wanting more information or wishes to donate can write to Eye Tumor Research Foundation
P.O. Box 832, Philadelphia, PA 19105
or log onto: www.etrff.org

(right) The officers and Dinner Dance Committee of the Ray Vella Civic Association with Ed Jackus, who received Man of the Year Honors at their first annual dinner dance, held on May 21, 2005 at L’Affaire in Mountainside, NJ. The association extends its appreciation to the businesses and individuals who supported the event and the association's formation.

(front row, l-r) Al Borrello, Marlene Nilsson, Clara Goodridge, Joseph Paternostro, Nelson Gonzalez. (back row, l-r) Raymond Vella, Amilcar Colon, Edward Jackus, Alfonzo Colon, John Moretti.



UNION HOSPITAL SALUTES VOLUNTEERS

By the end of 2004, Lena Meidlein of Union had worked 27,500 hours at Union Hospital, or the equivalent of 13 years at a regular 40-hour-a-week job. But what makes her tenure at Union Hospital unique is that she's not an employee -- she's a volunteer who's been helping at the hospital since 1980.

Ms. Meidlein is one of 57 volunteers who were recently recognized by Union Hospital for collectively donating 192,500 hours of community service as of the end of 2004. Their individual service spans over as little as one year to as much as three decades. All received a pin commemorating their service.

"You are the heart and soul of our hospital," said Kate W. Coyne, executive director of Union Hospital, during the recognition breakfast. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you do for our patients and employees."

Union Hospital's volunteer services program began in 1944 with five volunteers and has since grown to over 200. Volunteers assist with many tasks around the hospital, including managing the gift shop, visiting with patients, escorting patients in wheelchairs, clerical duties, and delivering flowers and mail. The program provides a unique community service opportunity for people of all ages. For those interested in volunteering, please call 908-851-7014.

Union Hospital, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, is committed to supporting the health of community by providing compassionate and personalized care to its patients. For more information about our facility, please visit www.saintbarnabas.com and click on “Union Hospital” in the “System Facilities” menu.



Not for Nothing But...

volunteering for 27,500

hours is equivalent to

working full-time for

over 15 years straight.

Union Hospital said “thanks” to 57 volunteers this year for their collective 192,500 hours of community service to the hospital and its patients through 2004.

(above, l-r) James Masterson, Union Hospital's Human Resources Vice President, Lena Meidlein, 27,500-hour volunteer, Bertha Meidlein, 22,000-hour volunteer, and Julieanne Trumbull, the hospital's director of volunteer services.



HILLSIDE UNICO MEMBERS TAKE IT FROM THE GRAPEVINE

It was hard work, but a delicious time was had by all of the Hillside UNICO members present for Bob Varady's semi annual wine bottling. Almost 500 bottles of Petite Sirah were filled from two 55 gallon wood casks. One coming from the Jack Daniels mash whiskey distillery in Tennessee. It imparts a special flavor to the wine.

Varady has been making wine for twenty five years. He has trained in Italy and under the tutelage of his late father-in-law, Gaetno DeVito. Varady's basement in Hillside has been converted into a temperature controlled wine cellar. Bottling is done in the spring and fall, which is when his friends and family are invited to an authentic wine party. 🍷🍷

(left) Hillside UNICO members: Joe Pugliese, Mark Colicchio, Angelo Bonanno, Bob Trotte, Bob Varady.

BABY YOU COULD DRIVE MY CARD

This picture was taken over 60 years ago in 1940. Mike Nigro was a senior and the others were juniors. The group poses on a 1930 Ford Model A Rumbleseat Coupe with a grey body and black fenders. As with any high school senior, they all hoped for a car to cruz around town. This one was given to Mike Nigro by his grandfather, Joseph Nufrio of Fourth Avenue. This same car was then sold to a cousin years later for \$30.

Michael Nigro, now a grandfather of ten with one on the way, recently met Dr. Gary Wheeler, a family friend, who had just purchased a 1930 Ford for \$7,000. The value since his purchase has skyrocketed to \$18,000. 🚗👨👩👧👦

LOCAL WEICHERT BROKER RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AWARD

Robert T. Spillane, Jr., Managing Broker of Weichert Realtors' Union Office, has received the 2004 Ronald Reagan Gold Medal Award. It was announced on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 by House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Chairman Tom Reynolds.

Mr. Spillane was selected based on unyielding support and outstanding leadership in business and for displaying a commitment to President Ronald Reagan's vision for an entrepreneurial America.

Only an elite group of business and professional people were nominated to receive the award before the awards selection committee reached a final decision.

Commenting on the selection, Congressman Tom Reynolds said, "Mr. Spillane has served as an Honorary Chairman of the Business Advisory Council and has provided much needed support. This award could not have gone to a more deserving candidate."

"It is such an honor to receive such a prestigious award," said Spillane. "Real Estate is a career made for people who are entrepreneurial and want to take control of their lives. I am dedicated to helping these people achieve their life goals."

Weichert has more than 13,500 sales associates in nearly 300 company-owned and independently owned and operated franchised sales offices. Robert Spillane may be reached at the Weichert Realtors Union Office at (908) 687-4800 or visit Weichert's Web site, www.weichert.com. 🏆👨👩👧👦



The boys from Thomas Jefferson High School from left to right, Paul Volpe, Michael Nigro and Vincent "Sonny" Campanelli, pose with the girls from Battin High School from left to right: Dorothy Newallis, Ann Baranicki and Alice Paz

.....

Not for Nothing But...

I'd like to see a cooking

show taped at cheeque's.

.....

Recipes

Submitted by Seth Perlman of Cheeque's

This issue's recipes come from Seth Perlman the Chef at Cheeque's Go-Go Bar. Normally people don't think of Go-Go bars as a place to go for a gourmet meal but, scantily clad dancer's aside, Cheeque's actually has a reputation for fine food that attracts a lunch and dinner crowd.

Perlman, who has been an experienced chef for 25 years, has been operating out of Cheeque's kitchen for the past eight months. Perlman, originally from Brooklyn, now lives in Jersey and brought his catering business with him.

Portobella Delight

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 Portobella mushrooms
- 6 Slices (thick) wet mozzarella
- 1 lb Roasted Red Peppers
- For the Dressing:**
- 1/2 Cup olive oil
- 1/2 Cup Balsamic vinegar
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 Tbls Aregano

PREPARATIONS:

- 1) Mix all ingredients for the dressing together with a wisk.
- 2) Take each Portobella cap and liberally cover with dressing.
- 3) Place in tin pan.
- 4) Cook at 450 for 20-25 minutes.
- 4) Let mushrooms cool then top with wet mozzarella & roasted red peppers. Garnish with fresh parsley & shaved or grated Locatelli cheese.

Cheeque's kitchen is open seven days a week; monday through Saturday, from 11:30am until 11:00pm, on sunday, 1:00pm to 9:00pm.

Besides a regular menu of bar fare, Seth picks a specialty off his catering menu for his special for the day. He has many dishes to chose from including jumbo shrimp, shell steak and assorted Italian specialties.

Seth's salads and antipastas are exceptional, full with items he marinades himself, like artichoke hearts, sundried tomatoes and roasted peppers. The following recipes are two popular selections from his daily specials. 🍴👨🍳

Pasta all the way!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb Penne pasta
- 1 lb Thin sliced chicken breast
- 1/2 lb Sundried tomatoes
- 1/2 lb Roasted red peppers
- 1/2 lb Artichoke hearts
- 6 Cloves of garlic minced
- 1/2 Cup chicken broth
- 1/4 Cup olive oil
- Salt & Petter to taste
- 1/2 Teaspoon crushed red pepper

PREPARATION:

- 1) Cook pasta accordingly.
 - 2) Grill chicken breasts in olive oil and lemon and cut into bite sized pieces.
 - 3) Saute all ingredients leaving out the pasta and chicken broth.
 - 4) Add pasta and chicken broth and toss.
- Serve with grated cheese.
- Serves 4-6



ORLANDO NAMED CHAIRMAN NEW JERSEY STATE ATHLETIC CONTROL BOARD

Tony Orlando was appointed chairman of the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board by Acting Governor Richard Cody. The position oversees the rules and regulations of boxing in New Jersey. Orlando said “I am very honored to be appointed to this very important position and I am looking forward to working with commissioner Larry Hazzard.” He added “We have the best boxing commission in the world right here in New Jersey, and I will take my position very seriously.”

Orlando has been involved in boxing his entire life, starting as an amateur boxer then as an amateur boxing referee. He became a professional boxing referee in 1982 and officiated in over 50 world title fights throughout the world.

Orlando was inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame in 1991 following his father's footsteps who was inducted in 1986. 🍴👨🍳

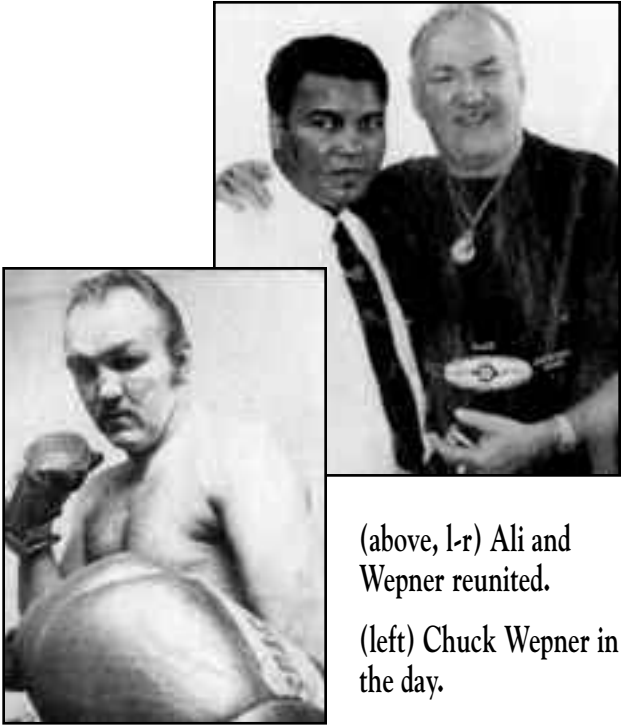
(left) Tony Orlando holding the W.B.O. World Championship belt in Colobra, Italy.

CHUCK WEPNER TO HOST PARTY AT CAMPUS INN

Chuck Wepner, "The Bayonne Bleeder", rose to fame by going 15 rounds with Muhammad Ali in 1975 and sending the champ to the canvas for only the fourth time in his career.

Wepner gave hope to people that dreams can come true. His once in a lifetime shot at the title was storybook and became the bases for the academy award winning movie "Rocky".

Wepner's biggest fan is his nephew Joe Sharkey who owns The Campus Inn on North Avenue in Union. Wepner will host a "Apple-Tini Party" on June 23, 2005 at 8:00pm. Patrons will be treated to a free buffet, T-shirt giveaways and a chance to win Yankees or Mets Tickets, and of course share the company of real “Champ”. 🍴👨🍳

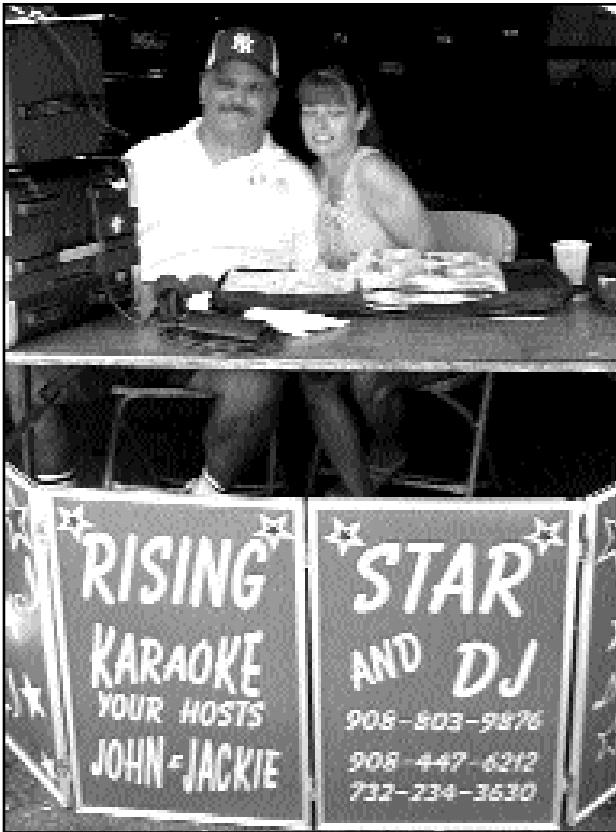


(above, l-r) Ali and Wepner reunited.

(left) Chuck Wepner in the day.



(above, standing l-r) Sons of Peterstown Officers: Secretary, Louis LaBrutto; Vice President, Jim Palermo; Treasurer, Jack LaBrutto; and President, John Sacco, presented Willy LaMorte and Manny Caravano with plaques as the club honored two neighbors for having made outstanding contributions to the community. LaMorte retired form the City of Elizabeth after forty years of service. He was a Building Inspector for 14 years and also held the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Caravano has worked for the City for 20 years, presently as the Director of Weights and Measures. This was his second career. He was the neighborhood milk man for 40 years before that.



(above, l-r) A fantastic selection of music was pumped out by DJs John and jackie Schipani.

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PICNIC

The following businesses and individuals generously donated food, supplies and money to the Sons of Peterstown Neighborhood Picnic. Their generosity was shared by hundreds of friends and neighbors and is greatly appreciated. Together with the support from others, too many to list, and the volunteers, they make our community events possible.

Thank you, on behalf of our members,
John Sacco, President

ORGANIZATIONS

- Bel Dee Produce
- Cleveland Tire
- Cody Transport
- DiCosmo's Italian Ices
- Emilio's Bayway Florist
- Joannes Lunchenette
- Laborer Local #394
- Michelino's Pizza
- Park Trophies
- Petrucelli Funeral home
- Retired Mens & Ladies of Elizabeth,
- Ribera Italian Club,
- Sacco's Meat Market
- Seniors of St. Anthony,
- Sinners
- Tops Meats
- Toscan Dairy (Anthony Sacca)

INDIVIDUALS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Vito Bellino | Anthony Mazza |
| Mayor Chris Bollage | Carmen Mazza |
| Manny Caravano | Frank & Lina Mazza |
| Carl Corsentino | Nufrio |
| Buddy Cortese | Ralph Pillo |
| Anthony Demaio Sr. | Nick Romanelli |
| Peter Espo | Johnny Cat Sacca |
| Frank Guarraci | Mike Spirito |
| Paul Insalaca | Mark Stiles |
| Billy Lamorte Jr | Joe Tramuta Sr. |
| Blaise Lapolla Sr. | Joe Tramuta Jr. |
| Max | Ralph Yanuzzi |

Plus many more in thier own way.

PHOTOS GO BACK TO THE FUTURE

These photos were taken at the Sons of Peterstown's 18th annual picnic. Looking through photos from the past picnics brought back fond memories and pleasant emotions.

Photos increase in value over time. The time they represent and the people they capture are more interesting as things change. They can be funny, sad and nostalgic all at once. Images of those who have passed are mixed with babies who are now young adults. Looking at ourselves can be the most fun.

The following pages are filled with photos of this year's picnic with the hopes that 18 years from now they can be viewed and will evoke memories of this time and these people in our lives.

(below) Manny Caravano and wife Tessie are surrounded by their children and grandchildren, at least the ones who

.....

Not for Nothing But...

will these be considered
“good ol’ days”
in the future?

.....

(right, standing, l-r) The LaMorte family: Michael, Amanda, Gina, Billy, Evan, Jennifer, Billy Jr., (Seated, l-r) Willy, Marie and Joey.



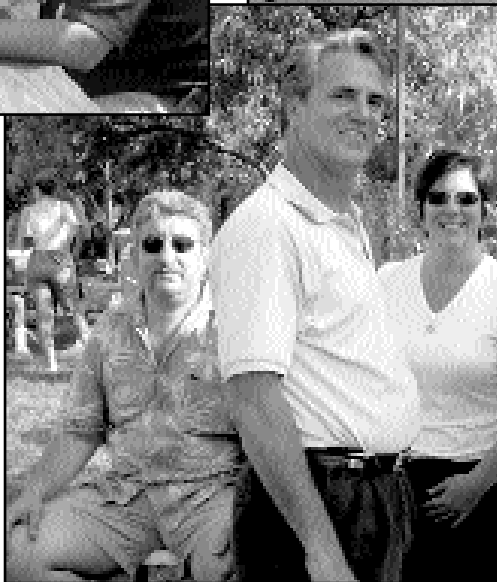
(right, l-r) Frank Farrarra
checks in with Jim Palermo,
Lou and Jack LaBrutto



Br. Diego Borges, Mr. Albert Rugani, Fr. Patrick Diver and Br. Charles Mayer.



(right, l-r) From
Union, Anthony
Andriola and his
daughter Rose.



(above, l-r) Joel Feller, Rick Basile, Grtchen K.



(above, l-r) Ronald and Joana Arnold
and Rahmon Spencer.



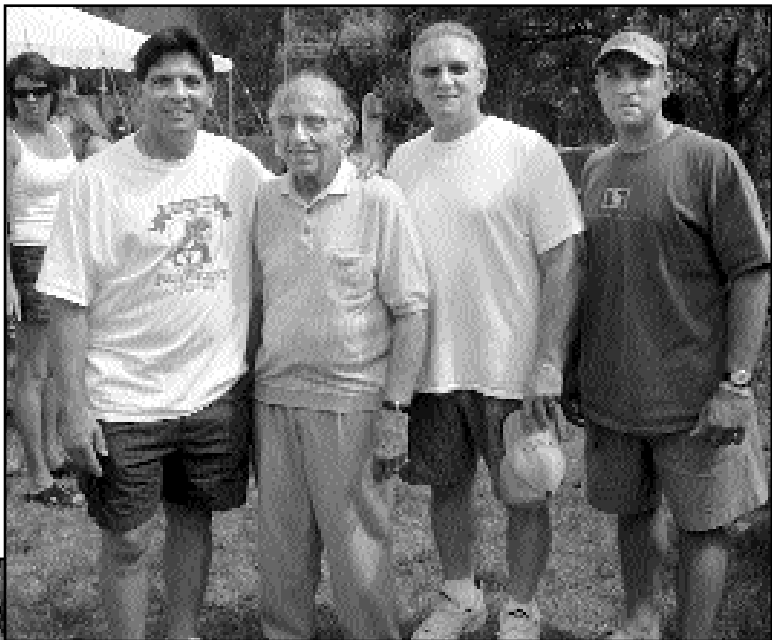
(above) Joe and Anthony Dorso



(above, l-r) Ida Jane Mazza, Patricia Dagro, Alison Lodato
and Vinny Santillo.



(above, l-r) Mike and
Mathew and Nicholas

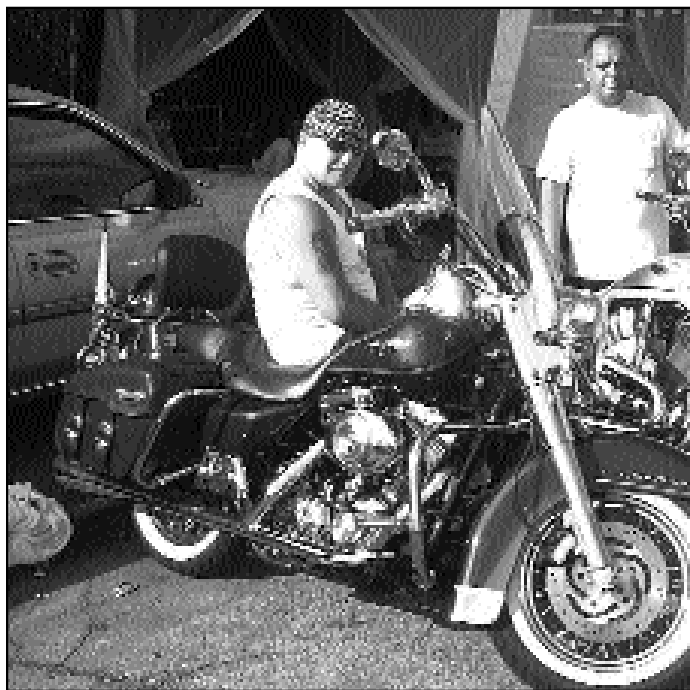


(left, l-r)
Malta family
reunion. Vinny, up
from Georgia,
joined his dad,
Jimmy, his brother,
Frank and Frank's
son Frank Jr.

(right, l-r) Kay
Martinangelo and
Anne Campanella.



(above, l-r) Nicole, Walter and Jodi Banocco





(above, l-r) Anna LaPorta, Francesca Larocca and Frank Mazza.



(above, l-r) Lou Felipe, John Schipani, Vinny Cannady and Carl Stozza, sang a set in four part harmony.



(above, l-r) Luciano Spirito and Mike Neiwinski.



Korn and Nick Renna.



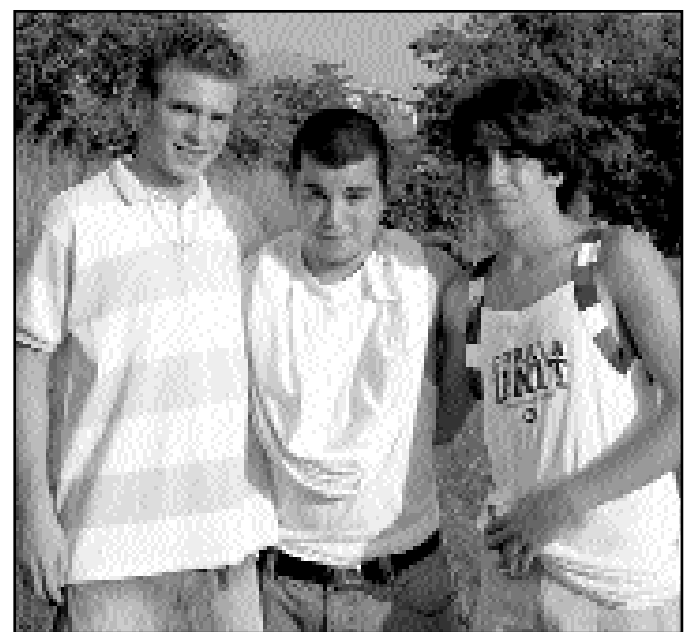
(above) The Lino/Reyes Families.



(above, l-r) Denise Pasko, Beverly Dasilva, and Marie Pasko holding Brandon DaSilva.



Nick Netta and Nick's children, Brittany,



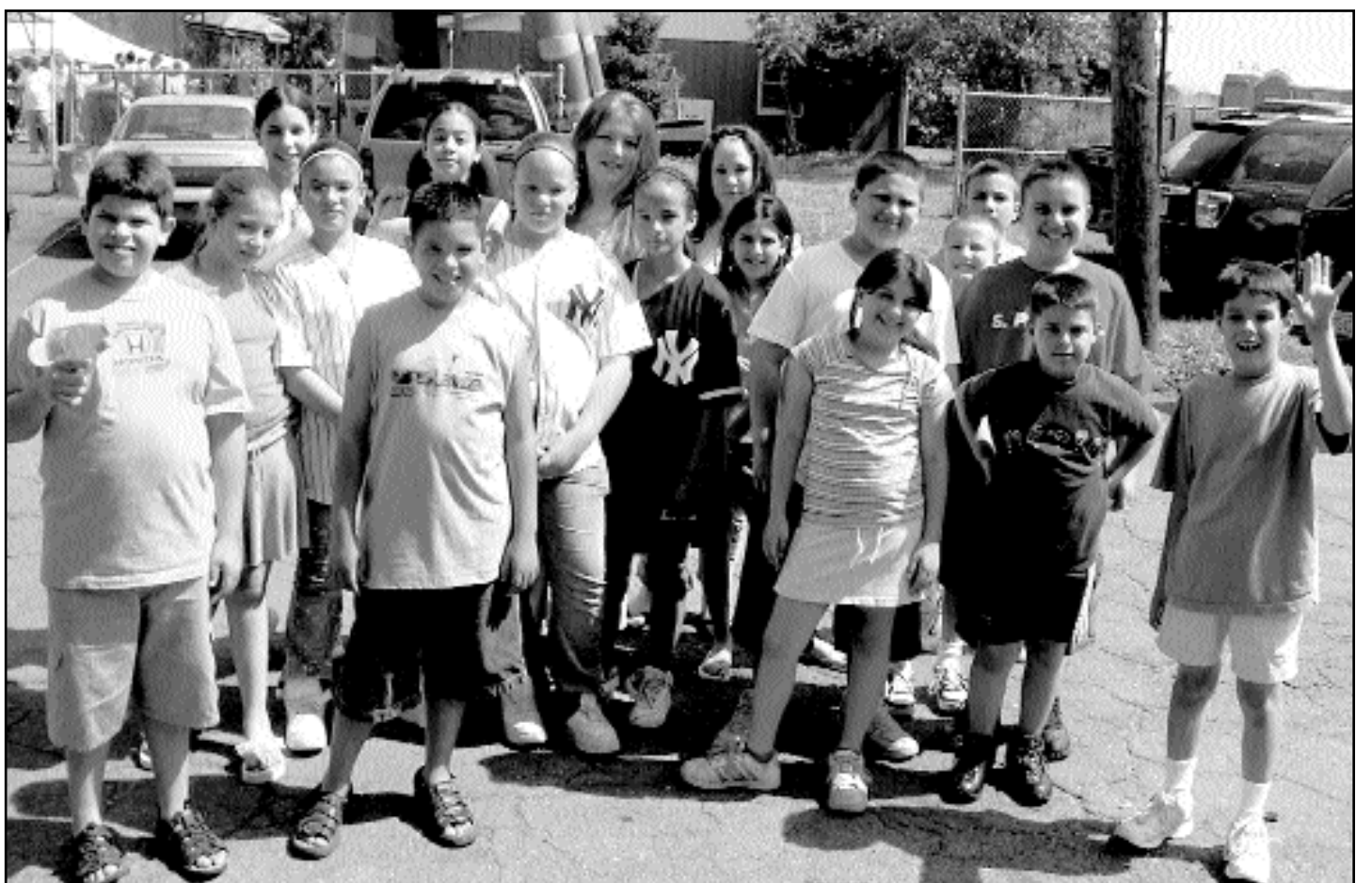
(above, l-r) Jonathan Suarez, John Sacco and Jordan Suarez..



(above, l-r) Nick Schipani's Grandsons: Nicholas Bebria and Raul Matos.



(left, l-r) Frank and Nick Schipani.





ST. ANTHONY'S CLASS OF '69 REUNITES

On April 15, 2005, the St. Anthony's Grammar School Class of 1969 held their 36th year class reunion at the Galloping Hills Caterers in Union, N.J. Yes, that's right, 36 years. A lot of these classmates hadn't seen each other since June of that year. Needless to say, they had much to discuss and reminisce about. Around 42 people attended, 25 of them from the class.

It was a night of genuine friendship and warmth, funny stories, laughter and dancing to the great sounds of Papa Joe Colletti the D.J. They even had their own version of The Supremes. Well, I guess you had to have

been there.

A few classmates even came from as far away as Florida to attend the affair, which shows the strong bond that these young eighth graders had developed as they departed that St. Anthony's world, in the summer of that big old concert in upstate N.Y. and man stepped on the moon.

As the night drew to a close, most of them traded phone numbers and e-mail addresses, agreed to contact each other more often and there was even mention of planning for their 40th !! 🎉



CLASS ROLL CALL

Paul Adessa	Helen Cullen
William Brozos	Camille DeFranco
Carmine Campo	Linda DePaola
John Cascio	Theresa DiGirolamo
Salvatore Chillemi	Maria DiPaola
Salvatore Cimino	Lilyanne Dippolito
Alfonso Crincoli	Antoinette Farina
Joseph Dagro	Kathleen Ferrara
Arthur DeMaio	Darlene Foti
Dennis DiMizio	Sharon Gudell
Louis Felipe	Cheryl Guiliano
Paul Firetto	Debra Kwiatkoski
Thomas Kelly	Germaine Lacorte
Micheal Malloy	Patricia LaVolpe
Lawrence Marino	Margaret Miceli
Mario Mazza	Vita Michna
Alfred Mollazzi	Mary Ann Pagano
Dominic Navarro	Sally Pantina
Carl Peitz	Regina Pillo
Joseph Randazzo	Pamela Pozyc
Peter Renna	Nancy Reading
Victor Rotolo	Victoria Saraceno
Gary Siravo	Karen Sciscione
Craig Sullivan	Margo Spirito
Eugen Vaccaro	Toni Spirito
Sandra Ciaramella	

A NOTE OF THANKS

A great way to lighten your life is to see old friends. Last night we gathered for our St. Anthony's Class of '69 Reunion. Some of us had not seen each other since 8th grade graduation and we were all so excited. Thinking back, we spent half of our waking hours together that we feel more like family. We were thankful for all who attended, missed those who did not attend, and for those who are no longer with us - they were certainly in our hearts and on our minds. To top it off, we had an outstanding nostalgic memory book made up for everyone by Alice Pantina. We appreciate the many hours and professional work she gave us. We thank her immensely and will cherish our reunion book along with our many friendships. One more thanks to our parents for sending us to a great school!

Sally Ann Ferry
The Class of '69

(below) Alice Pantina produced a 20 page souvenir book filled with old photos and remembrances of St. Anthony's Grammar School.



THIS WAS THEM THEN



THINKING BACK, AND AHEAD

The 8th grade class of 1969 is pushing 50. Telling stories of grammar school is put in a different perspective when one considers that their own children are at that age. Old photos bring us back in time. Memories of what we were doing, and how we were thinking. The choices that we made back then shaped our lives, our loves. In hindsight, we know what choices were good and bad. At the time we relied mostly on hope.

The past is the past, uniforms and all. We are who we are. And now, our children are becoming who they will be. 🐰

.....

Not for Nothing But...

do kids think now

as we thought then?

.....

ST. ANTHONY'S MEMORIES

You ask me what's my favorite memory
Of good ole' St. A's. well many come to me
Our minds were keen and our laughter so hearty
I cherish the memory of every great party
The schoolyard and classrooms, somehow come to mind
All the stressed out teachers, that we left behind
Father Louis, Murphy and a few Sister Mary's
Sister Superior and Lucy, don't forget Brother Jerry
All those crowded classrooms and their joyful noise
And let's not forget to mention all those holy altar boys
The Sisters dressed up, all in their habit
Oh! those loud "CAHOOTS" from our friend Pete the Rabbit
The morals and goodness that they all strived to teach
As we schemed and prepared, for our trip to Rye Beach
Like a storm we gained strength, as each year passed by
Poor Sister Eileen, the storm made her cry
I reflect on each friend, as my heart says I must
And recall the few, that are no longer with us
The smiles and the laughter, from all our young faces
As our world would soon bring us, to all different places
Oh! those checkered skirts and those skinny blue ties
All these silly things, bring a tear to my eyes
So whether you're here tonight or maybe far away
Please always remember, that our love's here to stay
So, what I most recall from that year of "69"
Are all those wonderful St. A's classmate friends of mine!
God bless us all !!!!!
Lou Felipe

(above) Memories shared by Lou Felipe at the reunion party.
(left) In uniform, at recess, in St. Anthony's school yard.





(above, l-r) The Aprigliano Girls: Dolores first granddaughter Marissa Joan, daughters, Angela, Michele and Rosemary.



(above, l-r) Dolores and Frank



DOLORES APRIGLANO
October 5, 1930
to
April 22, 2005.



WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

When Dolores Aprigliano passed away in April of this year her son in-law wanted to make a mention of it in this newspaper. Remembering those who have departed is a big part of maintaining our culture. For what is culture but the way we live our lives. Dolores exemplified the good that the community had to offer and that is what her son-in-law, Mark Douglass, who is married to Dolores’ daughter Angela, wanted to share with the readers. Mark ended up submitting a 2,100 word article about his mother-in-law. Space does not allow us to print the entire piece.

Mark wrote about the values system that Dolores Aprigliano lived by, her love for her family, her dedication to the church and the importance of being part of a community.

Community was so important that Dolores chose to stay close to her friends and neighbors in Peterstown despite opportunities to move. One opportunity that Mark wrote about was when the new Elizabeth High School was being built in the mid ’70's Dolores had to vacate her house and property to clear the land. Mark

writes that Dolores not only wanted to stay close by, but she wanted to stay in that very house. She ended up doing both by moving the actual building to a new lot close by.

This kept Dolores and her family in the same parish where she generously volunteered her time and services. Mark gives an idea of that dedication by making the following calculations:

“She must have attended over 3000 Sunday Masses (that’s giving her 800 off for special reasons). I know that she spent at least 70 Christmas’ Masses (sometimes more depending on choir schedule) and as many Easter Masses. She did all of this in the same Church over the past 75 years.

She sang in the choir all her life (as far as I know) until she was too tired to keep up with the schedule. As a young girl, she helped count out the collections. She always cooked and helped out with cleaning in the rectory. She was always part of the Altar Guild

Dolores was baptized, made communion, confirmation, was married and now was laid to rest in St. Anthony’s. She has known every priest, nun, brother and deacon that has served at that Church since she was a child.

Dolores shared her life with her childhood sweetheart, her husband Frank. There was a lot of enjoyment in their lives and the humor showed in the story of how Frank was a replacement first date for his brother Nick. Dolores, part shocked and part curious, gave Frank a chance. It turned out to be a chance of a lifetime.

Dolores and Frank had 3 daughters Rosemary, Angela and Michele. It surprises some that as strict as Dolores was with her own daughter she was that soft on her grandchildren: Billy, Ziggy, Evan, Marissa and Frankie.

Mark pleaded with Dolores to come and move closer to him and Angela out to the western side of New Jersey and she would look at them and honestly say without doubt, “Why would I want to move away from my house, my neighborhood, my friends and most importantly, my church? You live in a beautiful place and I like to come out and visit and sometimes stay, but I love my home. I want to always be there. I can’t imagine living anywhere else.” 🌹🌹

(left above) Dolores and Frank’s wedding photo from December 1952.

(left) Dolores in 1949.

Summer is approaching and school is out. Many of our readers at this time of the year are wondering where they are going for vacation. Some are planning graduation parties for their children who may be graduating high school or college.

These events in family lives also have a direct affect on many homeowners lives. Decisions are made as to whether the home is to small or to big depending on the age of their children. Many families consider moving to a new district to either enhance their children's education or to be closer physically to a school to make their day-to-day lives easier.

Real estate and housing are intertwined with school needs. For most first time buyers a good school district may be the final reason a buyer chooses a specific home. No one buys a home because the school system is bad. Elizabeth and the surrounding communities all offer excellent school systems. In fact, if you ride by all the neighborhoods in Elizabeth today you will see new schools being built. Elizabeth is part of the Abbot school district. Recently in The Star-Ledger there was an article referring to the City of Elizabeth that Elizabeth has received more than its fair share of the Abbott funds and that future funds should be reduced. We encourage all of our readers to write to their elected officials and protest in writing the reduction of these funds.

Recently the Federal government made an announcement that they are bringing back the 30-year bond. The reason is the Fed's felt that many institutionalized investors who invest on behalf of pensions, need an institution that can predict a rate of return over a 30-year period. Previously all fixed

30-year mortgages were based on the 30-year bonds. Approximately two years ago the Fed's did away with the 30 year bond and 30 year mortgages where then based on the 10 year bond. The Fed's had thought the 30-year bond was archaic, that most homeowners would payoff their loans way in advance. This is partially true, most home owners today have refinanced over and over again. Hence, the mortgage payment is recalculated over and over again and never reaches the 30-year period.

The 10-year bond has remained constant and the rate has not fluctuated a great deal in the last two years acting almost as a stabilizing factor for 30-year mortgages. When the Federal Reserve reinstitutes the 30-year bond, investors will take their money out of the 10-year bond and purchase a higher yielding 30 year bond. Which in turn will put pressure on the 10-year bond to raise the yield and will also raise the 30-year mortgage rate. We recommend the if your interested in obtaining a low 30 year mortgage you should do so now when the rates are between 5 7/8 and 6%. All home buyers and home owners should be aware that their rates will go up substantially within the next year and a half and this will make housing less affordable.

I would like our readers to think about all Americans who have served in the armed forces and have passed away defending our county. Memorial Day is more than a day off or a day to shop for bargains. We should thank the families who have lost a loved one, especially now when so many Americans have died in Iraq. A small prayer for our soldiers goes a long way. 🙏

Submitted by Justino Rosa