

## "PAST & PRESENT"

MARIO AMICI, 2132 W. CLEARFIELD ST. "ON SUNDAY 11/17 MANY FORMER PARISHONERS FROM ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL ATTENDED MASS AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH IN ROXBOROUGH FOR THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE 32 SOLDIERS FROM ST. MARY'S KILLED IN WWII. I SAW THE NOTICE ABOUT THIS EVENT IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE JJ. LATER, WE ALL MET FOR COFFEE, WHICH BECAME A MINI-REUNION TO SEE OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. BEFORE THE MASS BEGAN, I VIEWED THE WHITE MARBLE PLAQUE WITH THE 35 NAMES ENGRAVED ON IT. A THOUGHT CAME TO MIND THAT THESE MEN WERE JUST LIKE ME IN THE SENSE THEY LIVED IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY WALKED THE STREETS; ATTENDED MASS; ATE A FEW HUNDRED CHEESE STEAKS; PALYED POOL AT CATS; THOUGHT THAT THEIR MOTHER'S GRAVY WAS THE BEST; WALKED DOWN 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET; PLAYED HALFBALL; DUNKED A FEW GIRLS UNDER A FIREPLUG; WENT TO THE PHILLIES GAME; HUNG OUT ON THE CORNER ETC. ETC. ETC. BUT THEN THEY WENT TO WAR AND NEVER CAME BACK. WHAT DID THEY THINK ABOUT IN THE LAST WEEK OF THEIR LIVES? WERE THEY AFRAID? WERE THEY TOGETHER OVERSEAS? DID THEY THINK ABOUT ALL THE GOOD TIMES, HAPPY TIMES AND TOUGH TIMES BACK HOME? THEIR MEMORY BECAME MORE APPARENT, MORE VIVID TO ME ON THAT SUNDAY. I DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT THEM AND THE SACRIFICES THEY

MADE FOR OUR COUNTRY WHEN I WOULD LOOK AT THE PLACQUE AT THE BACK OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH YEARS AGO. BUT NOW, ALMOST 58 YEARS LATER, IT'S GOOD THAT WE STILL REMEMBER THEM AND CAN SAY:  
FRANK BALLESTRUCCI  
JOHN BENEDETTO  
ALFRED BENINCASE  
ALBERT CERVONE  
JAMES CIOCIOLA  
WILLIAM CLIMALDI  
JOHN DAMBRA  
JOHN DIBENEDETTO  
SANTINO DIPERZIO  
NORMAN DIPROBERT  
LAWRENCE FANELLI  
SABATO FERRIZZI  
JOHN FUSCO  
ROCCO GIANNETTI  
JOHN GREGORIO  
ALBERT GOOD  
THEODORE KREITZER  
ERNEST MAZZA  
MICHAEL MONTI  
JOSEPH MONTELONE  
VINCENT PACIFICO  
WALTER PETKA  
JAMES PICARIELLO  
JOHN PAONI  
WILLIAM RICHARDS  
DOMINIC ROMANO  
JOSEPH ROSSETTI  
ALBERT SALVIA  
LAWRENCE SALVIA  
ALFRED SANTO  
ARTHUR SEALY  
JERRY SCRITTORE  
JOHN SERPICO  
ALBERT SCOGLIO  
JOHN VESPA  
THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID SO LONG AGO!

GEORGE ALBURGER, 2856 N. 23<sup>RD</sup> ST. "THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DO ON THE JUDSON JOURNAL, I REALLY ENJOY IT AS I KNOW SO DO MANY OTHERS. ALTHOUGH, MOST OF THE STORIES YOU TELL AND THE PEOPLE YOU MENTION ARE A LITTLE BEFORE MY TIME, I

AM STILL ABLE TO FONDLY RELATE. I GRADUATED FROM ST. MARY'S IN 1968 WITH YOUR COUSIN MARY RITA. MY CLOSEST FRIENDS TODAY ARE THE SAME FRIENDS I HAD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE ALSO ENJOY THE REUNIONS AND HAVEN'T MISSED ANY OF THE LAST FOUR. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT. AGAIN THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE FOR THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES AND BRINGING US BACK TO A HAPPIER TIME."

JOAN BEHNKE "HERE'S SOME SAD NEWS FOR THE JJ; JOSEPH A. GAGLIARDI FROM OUR OLD NEIGHBORHOOD PASSED AWAY. HIS BROTHERS WERE VINCENT, FRANK, AND A SISTER CATHERINE. WE ALL WENT TO ST. MARY'S DANCES WHEN FR. WALKER HAD THEM. ALSO, MY COUSIN NELSON PACIFICO DIED LAST YEAR. I KNOW PEOPLE WOULD REMEMBER HIM. ALSO, IF ANGELO GUERRA GETS THE JJ, TELL HIM HIS BABY SITTER REMEMBERS HIM VERY WELL, PLUS HIS MOTHER AND FATHER WERE GOOD FRIENDS WITH MY DAD." [Seabornier@aol.com](mailto:Seabornier@aol.com)

VINCE BUONFIGLIO, 3118 N. JUDSON ST. "I JUST FINISHED THE FALL EDITION OF THE JJ. IT WAS GREAT TO READ ABOUT PEOPLE WHO'S NAMES I REMEMBER SO WELL. I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLE 'ONCE UPON A TIME BEFORE-EVER'. I LOVED READING ABOUT MY COUSIN DOMINIC (BUCK-EM-UP) BUONFIGLIO. ACTUALLY, HE WAS GIVEN HIS NICKNAME BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE PLAYED A CERTAIN GAME INVOLVING SMALL CUBES WITH BLACK DOTS, AND NOT FROM HE AND CATHERINE'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE TWINS! MY LATE SISTER PAULINE AND DOM



REMAINED CLOSE FRIENDS ALL THEIR LIVES. THERE WERE OTHER NAMES THAT STIRRED MY MEMORIES. FOR EXAMPLE, MAESTRO TAMBORINI, ASIDE FROM SELLING SHOES IN SWAMPOODLE, HAD SONS WHO BECAME EXCELLENT MUSICIANS. JOHN CALABRESE, JOE BROKENHEART, KENERTZ, AND JACK LARUE WERE ALL COTEMPORARIES OF MINE. BOBBY GATTO'S LATE FATHER INTRODUCED ME TO THE WORLD OF MUSIC, IN WHICH I STILL REMAIN ACTIVE. MY BROTHER, CARMEN, AND HARRY CAPPÀ WORKED FOR MERCK SHARP AND DOHME FOR MANY YEARS TOGETHER. AND BY THE WAY, I BELIEVE THERE WERE TWO BOSTON BLACKIES IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, JIMMY "BOSTON" ALFIERI AND THE OTHER. I COULD GO ON AND ON, BUT FOR NOW, THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE JJ. PLEASE KEEP IT COMING!"

MICHAEL P. BLASETTI  
"MICHAEL HAS BEEN MARRIED TO A LANSDALE GIRL FOR 24 YEARS. HER NAME IS DEBBIE. THEY HAVE 2 SONS; MARK AGE 35, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND JANNA GUFFEY, AND SEAN BLASETTI, AGE 21, WHO IS IN HIS 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR AT MILLERSVILLE COLLEGE. MIKE AND HIS WIFE DEBBIE HAVE WORKED AT SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS (WHICH IS LOCATED IN LANSDALE) FOR 29 YEARS. THANKS!"

ELEONOR CAMPELLONE  
CALABRESE, 3025 N. 24<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
"IT'S A PLEASURE RECEIVING THE JJ. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING ABOUT THE PAST AND HOW MANY OF THE FAMILIES ARE DOING. I AM ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT REUNION. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DONATION. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE

MEMORIES. GOD BLESS YOU FOR DOING ALL OF THIS!"

VIVIAN CATALDI, 3150 N. 24<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
"FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WISH TO COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR CONCEPT, VISION, AND CREATIVITY IN PRODUCING THE JJ. THE TIME, DEDICATION, WORK, AND EFFORT YOU PUT INTO IT ARE TO BE PRAISED AND APPLAUDED. YOU HAVE PROVIDED THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WITH AN AVENUE WHEREBY WE CAN COMMUNICATE, REMINISCE, LAUGH AND CRY, AND RECALL A SEGMENT OF WHAT WAS "OUR CAMELOT".

THOUGH IT WAS NOT PERFECT, IT WAS A PERIOD IN OUR LIVES WHEREBY WE ENJOYED AND APPRECIATED SIMPLE TIMES, SIMPLE THINGS, BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE IT WAS ALL ABOUT OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. SO MUCH OF OUR ACTIVITIES REVOLVED AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ST. MARY'S PARISH/CHURCH. AND OH, THOSE NEIGHBORHOOD DANCES! BUT ESPECIALLY SPECIAL, ST. MARY'S SUNDAY NIGHT DANCE WITH THE TOMMY VARRONE BIG BAND SOUND AND THE CRYSTAL BALL THAT MADE FOR SO MANY MAGICAL AND MEMORABLE EVENINGS. TO QUOTE THOSE OLD LYRICS . . . *"IT WAS JUST A NEIGHBORHOOD DANCE, BUT OH, WHAT IT SEEMED TO BE"*.

I AM SENDING YOU AN ARTICLE *"NO ONE COVERED THE FIG TREE"* THAT RECENTLY CAME ACROSS MY DESK. UPON READING IT, IT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE, A TUG TO MY HEART STRINGS, AND A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA. THOUGH THE AUTHOR IS UNKNOWN, THE PERSON WHO WROTE IT TOLD IT JUST THE WAY IT WAS, SO TYPICAL, REALISTIC, AND BEAUTIFUL. I THOUGHT YOU

WOULD LIKE TO PUBLISH IT IN THE JJ. SURELY, MANY OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO RELATE TO IT. AS FOR MYSELF, IT CONJURED UP RECOLLECTIONS OF COMING FROM ST. MARY'S SUNDAY MASS, STOPPING AT MELI'S BAKERY, AND RETURNING HOME TO WHERE WE WERE GREETED BY THE DELECTABLE AROMA OF MY MOTHER'S GRAVY. WHO COULD RESIST MAKING A MEATBALL SANDWICH? MY GRANDPARENTS, JOSEPH AND CONCETTA TOZZI, 3006 N. 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET, HAD TWO ENORMOUS FIG TREES THAT THEY GAVE SUCH TENDER LOVING CARE. THOUGH *THEY* ARE NO MORE, I AM SURE THOSE TREES ARE NO MORE EITHER, BECAUSE "NO ONE COVERED THE FIG TREE". I ADORED MY GRANDPARENTS, KNOWING THEM WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS OF MY LIFE.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILIES WERE GOOD, HONEST, CARING, HARDWORKING PEOPLE WHOM, THOUGH THEY HAD VERY LITTLE, WERE SATISFIED AND CONTENT. THEIR CHILDREN CAME FIRST; THEY WERE DEDICATED TO MAKING A BETTER LIFE FOR THEM, EDUCATION AND INSTILLING IN THEM, THEIR OWN VALUES AND INTEGRITY.

OUR GRANDPARENTS/PARENTS BRAVED THE UNKNOWN WHEN THEY LEFT THE SECURITY OF THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES IN ITALY TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY TO MAKE A NEW LIFE. THEY ALSO HAD THE ADDED OBSTACLE OF A LANGUAGE BARRIER. THEY STRUGGLED THROUGH THE GREAT DEPRESSION, WARS, AND ENDURED MANY OTHER HARDSHIPS. NO WONDER THEY ARE CONSIDERED THE "GREATEST GENERATION". HOW PROUD THEY WERE TO BE



AMERICANS AND HOW THEY LOVED AND CONSIDERED AMERICA TO BE THE BEST AND THE GREATEST NATION! AND MIGHT I ADD, "OUR NEIGHBORHOOD" TO BE THE MOST CONVENIENT AND "GREATEST LOCATION"! HERE'S HOPING THAT MANY OTHERS WILL ENJOY THE ARTICLE AND IT RECAPTURES SOME REMEMBRANCES OF CHERISHED YESTERDAYS AND LOVED ONES, OF A BYGONE ERA LONG AGO, AND A TIME AND PLACE THAT WAS SO VERY SPECIAL IN OUR LIVES. YES, GONE, BUT NO, NEVER, EVER FORGOTTEN.

AT THE PRESENT, I LIVE IN ROXBOROUGH WITH MY MOTHER, JOSEPHINE TOZZI CATALDI, NOW 88 YEARS OLD. MY SISTER, NANCY CATALDI STELLA, LIVES IN THE SOMERTON AREA WITH HER HUSBAND OF 49 YEARS, DAN STELLA. THEIR CHILDREN, DIANE, DANNY, AND JOHNNY HAVE BLESSED THEM WITH SIX BEAUTIFUL GRANDCHILDREN. MY MOM STILL GREETES ME WITH THAT DELICIOUS AROMA OF GRAVY WHEN I RETURN HOME FROM WORKING AT CHESNUT HILL COLLEGE. SHE STILL COOKS, BAKES, AND DELIGHTS IN PASSING ON HER CULINARY SKILLS/RECIPES TO HER GRANDCHILDREN. SHE STILL HAS THAT REMARKABLE WORK ETHIC, VERY FAMILY ORIENTED, AND A LOVING MATRIARCH OF OUR FAMILY, RESPECTED AND LOVED BY HER CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND NOW, GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. GRANDPARENTS ARE SUCH VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE. THANK GOD OUR CHILDREN HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW HER AND EXPERIENCE HER AND THEIR HERITAGE. ABSOLUTELY, THEIR FAVORITE TRADITION IS

THE FAMILY GATHERING ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND THE CUSTOM OF THE SEVEN FISHES WHICH WE STILL KEEP. WE OFTEN TELL THEM STORIES OF THE "OLD NEIGHBORHOOD". THEY COMMENT, "WOW, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME NEIGHBORHOOD!"

AND SO IT WAS!! DON'T WE KNOW IT??? AND DON'T WE MISS IT?? I KNOW IT WILL FOREVER AND ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE IN MY HEART. MY SISTER SHARES HER JJ COPIES WITH ME AND I, IN TURN, MAKE COPIES AND SEND THEM TO MANY OLD AND DEAR FRIENDS FROM ST. MARY'S. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DONATION FROM NANCY AND I. PLEASE ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND KEEP THOSE PRESSES ROLLING! EACH ISSUE IS LIKE A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE!

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, AND ABOVE ALL, MY MOST HEARTFELT . . . "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!"

Because the article, "No One Covered The Fig Tree", has no author listed we are unable to print it. We are unable to obtain permission from the author.

GUS LUDOVICI & PAT CIAMMETTI. "GUS AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PUTTING THE NOTICE OF THE MEMORIAL MASS IN THE JJ. WE HAD AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE TURN OUT. WE WERE BLESSED TO HAVE BISHOP PEPE FROM LAS VEGAS TO SAY THE MASS. HIS MOTHER RESIDES IN ROXBOROUGH. JOSEPH BRACKMAN WAS OUR LECTAR. HE ANNOUNCED ALL THE DECEASED VETERANS AND ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS FROM OUR LODGE, IT WAS VERY TOUCHING TO HEAR ALL THIS. AFTER MASS, OUR GROUP SPENT SOMETIME IN SULLIVAN HALL

TALKING OVER OLD TIMES AND EATING DANISH AND PASTRIES. IT WAS GREAT SEEING EVERYONE. WE WANT TO THANK CHICK DI BONES, FRANK SABATO, AND LOUIS VIOLA FOR ALL THEIR HELP IN PREPARING THIS RECEPTION. AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"

MARIE DIRUSSO, CLASS OF 1964. "MY BROTHERS ARE JERRY & ANTHONY, AND MY MOM, MARY, WORKED AT MELE'S BAKERY. SHE IS 89 YEARS OLD. I WAS FRIENDS WITH JOAN COSTELLO AND ROSEMARIE TARTAGLIONE. HOPING TO SEE THEIR NAMES PUBLISHED; WHERE ARE THEY? WE LIVED ON CLEARFIELD ST. I REMEMBER WHEN WE, AS A CLASS, WENT TO THE CAMBRIA MOVIE THEATER AND WE WOULD PASS MY HOUSE AND ALL THE KIDS WOULD PUT THEIR HEAVY SCHOOL BAGS ON MY PORCH SO THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO CARRY THEM TO THE MOVIES. IT WAS A LONG WALK. LOVE THE MEMORIES; KEEP THEM COMING. THANKS! HERE IS A DONATION FOR WHATEVER."

PHIL COLASANTI. "LIKE THE JJ ON THE WEB. HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO HELP ON THE NEXT JJ. GOOD TO SEE NAMES LIKE JOHN (SNIZ) DILACQUA. MY SISTER EDITH MANDIA (NEE) COLASANTI LOST HER HUSBAND LAST FEBRUARY. TO SNIZ DILACQUA, MY BROTHER, ANGELO, SAYS HELLO. HE IS NOW GOING ON HIS 86<sup>TH</sup> YEAR. GOOD LUCK TO ALL!"

ANTHONY COSSA. "THE JJ, AGAIN, WAS SUPERB, MY FRIEND. THANKS MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK TO KEEP THOSE MARVELOUS MEMORIES OF THE PEOPLE AND



TIMES IN OUR OLD NEIGHBORHOOD ALIVE! YOU'RE PROVIDING SUCH A MARVELOUS SERVICE TO EVERYONE. (BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR TAKING MY SUGGESTION ON E-MAILING IT TO THOSE WHO'D RATHER GET IT THAT WAY - HOPE IT SAVES ON POSTAGE, PAPER, AND ENVELOPES). THANKS AGAIN FOR THE MEMORIES!"

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LOU DATTLO, 2824 N. 22<sup>ND</sup> ST. "MY DAD HAD A BARBERSHOP AT THE CORNER OF CROSKY & CAMBRIA. MY MOM USED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH FOR FR. BUSCO. I TOOK MY FATHER'S BARBERSHOP OVER AND RAN IT FOR 7 YEARS. I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THE NORTHEAST FOR 34 YEARS. I HAD A BARBERSHOP IN THE NORTHEAST FOR 30 YEARS. I'M RETIRED NOW. I WAS A GRADUATE OF ST. MARY'S CLASS OF '49 AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CLASS OF '53. GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU AND THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. HERE IS A DONATION FOR THE JOURNAL."

ANNE B. DI GIACOMO. "THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS IN PUBLISHING THE JJ. YOUR JOURNAL HAS ENRICHED MY LIFE BY KEEPING ME CONNECTED WITH FRIENDS. LIFE GOES BY LIKE THE WINK OF AN EYE, BUT MEMORIES CAN LAST A LIFETIME. TODAY OUR LIVES ARE FAST AND SOMETIMES LIKE A FRENZY. I LONG FOR THE SIMPLICITY OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. OUR COMMUNITY WAS BLESSED WITH CLOSE-KNIT, CARING, AND DOWN-TO-EARTH PEOPLE, AND I MISS THEM DEARLY. MY FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW AND THANK GOD THAT ALL ARE HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND VERY SUCCESSFUL! PLEASE ACCEPT

MY CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT YOUR PAPER AND FEEL FREE TO LET ME KNOW HOW I MAY BETTER SHARE IN THIS WONDERFUL EXCHANGE. LOOKING FORWARD TO A FUTURE REUNION."

DONNA DI GIACOMO. "THERE IS A MESSAGE BOARD ON THE INTERNET THAT PEOPLE MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT. WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM IS ONE OF THE BEST GENEALOGY SITES OUT THERE AND THEY HAVE MANY TYPES OF MESSAGE BOARDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO, INCLUDING SURNAME MESSAGE BOARDS. I HAVE RECENTLY SUBSCRIBED TO THE DI GIACOMO BOARD.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE LIST, SEND AN E-MAIL TO: [digiaco-mo-f-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:digiaco-mo-f-request@rootsweb.com) (mail mode) or [digiaco-mo-d-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:digiaco-mo-d-request@rootsweb.com) (digest mode). MAIL MODE IS WHERE YOU WILL RECEIVE MAIL FROM THE BOARD EVERY TIME SOMEONE POSTS A MESSAGE. DIGEST MODE IS WHERE SEVERAL MESSAGES ARE GROUPED TOGETHER AND SENT TO YOU AS ONE E-MAIL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SITE AND WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER, GO TO [WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM](http://WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM). TO CHECK OUT OTHER MAILING LISTS, SCROLL DOWN TO WHERE IT SAYS 'MAILING LISTS' FOR ADDITIONAL MAILING LISTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO PEOPLE."

[Beatles0223@aol.com](mailto:Beatles0223@aol.com)

PAULA DIGIACOMO FAN, "IT SADDENS ME TO SHARE THIS NEWS WITH YOU... MY DEAR FRIEND, JEAN ANNE LAMBERTO COLOMBO PASSED AWAY ON 10/2/02. JEAN ANNE WAS MY LIFE-LONG FRIEND.... FROM KINDERGARDEN AND TO SPENDING EIGHT YEARS IN GRADE SCHOOL AT ST. MARY OF

THE ETERNAL, THROUGH OUR FOUR YEARS AT HALLAHAN HIGH AND BEYOND! TIME NEVER GOT AWAY FROM US. THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE HER INNER STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO SURVIVE THE ILLNESS SHE FOUGHT EVERY DAY THESE PAST YEARS. JEANANNE RADIATED THE SIMPLE GOODNESS AND LOVE THAT WAS HELD INSIDE OF HER. I WILL TRULY MISS HER AND THE SWEETNESS OF HER SMILE.... SHE WILL ALWAYS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. GOD BLESSED HER WITH A TRULY LOVING FAMILY: JIM COLOMBO, HER HUSBAND OF 32 YEARS, HER CHILDREN; JEANNIE, JIMMY AND JASON; HER GRANDCHILDREN, BRITTANY JEAN AND MORGAN KATHLEEN. SHE IS ALSO SURVIVED BY HER SISTER CINDY MCKENNA. PLEASE REMEMBER HER IN YOUR PRAYERS. THANK YOU!"

[jim@citetta.com](mailto:jim@citetta.com)

RALPH HOWARD, "CONGRADULATIONS ON ANOTHER EXCELLENT ISSUE OF THE JJ! MY WIFE EVELYN MARCELLI OF 3100 N. 24<sup>TH</sup> ST., AND I OF 2800 N. JUDSON ST. ALWAYS ENJOY YOUR GOOD WORK. CAN YOU SEND US THE PRESENT ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND OR E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF THREE PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE LAST ISSUE? THEY ARE; STELACIO, BILL AND CHARLES LOUIS BRENDLEY. THEY MAY BE DISTANT RELATIVES. MANY THANKS!"

[rhoward@comcast.net](mailto:rhoward@comcast.net)

BIANCA IOANNUCCI, 2040 W. INDIANA AVE. "ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION IN MEMORY OF MY LATE HUSBAND BENNY IOANNUCCI. HE WAS A GENTLEMAN. HE LEFT BEHIND



FOUR CHILDREN. ONE SON GIANCARLO IS A BARTENDER AT TRUMP PLAZA. PLEASE INCLUDE MY NAME ON YOUR MAILING LIST. GOD BLESS YOU!"

MARIE VASSOLOTTI  
MARRONGELLI, 3024 N. JUDSON ST. "SO GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU AT THE RECENT MEMORIAL MASS AT IHM. AS I MENTIONED, I ENJOY IMMENSELY THE JJ, BUT I OBSERVE VERY LITTLE FROM MY ERA. MOST IS 20 YEARS LATER. WE MOVED FROM JUDSON STREET TO 24<sup>TH</sup> AND ALLEGEHENY WHEN I WAS 12 YEARS OLD. I GRADUATED FROM ST. MARY'S IN 1935. WHILE NAMES ESCAPE ME SOMETIMES NOW.... I REMEMBER OLIVIA PALLOTTA, ELIZABETH CAMPOLEI, SANTINA DESIDERIO, ANGELO BUSTER MEGLIO AND JOSEPHINE TORDELLA. WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT SOME OLD TIMERS. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. MANY THANKS!"

JOE MARTOSELLA, 2409 ELKHART ST. "IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU AT THE RECEPTION AFTER THE MEMORIAL MASS AT IHM IN THE ANDORRA SECTION OF ROXBOROUGH ON NOVEMBER 17 WHICH WAS HELD FOR THE MEN FROM ST. MARYS WHO WERE KILLED IN WWII. THIS ANNUAL MASS, ARRANGED THROUGH THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF PAT CIAMMETTI AND GUS LUDOVICI, IN ADDITION TO ITS PRIMARY SPIRITUAL PURPOSE, PRESENTS AN OCCASION FOR A MINI-REUNION LOOKED FORWARD TO AND ENJOYED BY MANY OF US. THIS YEAR IT ALSO GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU IN PERSON FOR THE WORK YOU DO WITH THE JJ. I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL OF US

WHO ENJOY THE JOURNAL CONSIDER IT SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A NEWSLETTER. IT'S A SPECIAL MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATIONS, OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE TO US, THROUGH WHICH SEPARATED OLD FRIENDS JOYFULLY REMINISCE AND ALMOST RE-LIVE AN ERA THAT IS STILL CHERISHED ALTHOUGH GONE FOREVER. THE HERITAGE, ECONOMIC STATUS AND VALUES COMMON AMONG US IN THE ST. MARY'S NEIGHBORHOOD CREATED A SPECIAL BOND NOT MEANT TO BE BROKEN BY DISTANCE, AND THE JJ GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE SAVORING THIS BOND."

ANGELO "AO" PACIFICO, "I BUMPED INTO TWO OLD FRIENDS FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE JJ. THEY ARE GUIDO FESTA AND JUDY D'AMICO FERRANTE. ALSO ENCLOSED IS A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SILVER STAR FOR BRAVERY IN THE PHILIPINES DURING WWII. IT WAS FOR CARMEN MORELLI FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> AND INDIANAN AVE. HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE JAPANESE AND WAS IN THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH. HE DID GET THE SIVER STAR MEDAL MANY YEARS AFTER THE WAR. THANKS!"

OLIVIA PARISSE, 3000 BLOCK OF JUDSON ST. "THANKS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR THE JJ."

FERNA FESTA PERGOLINO, TORONTO STREET ACROSS FROM CATS CLUB. "IT'S SUCH A JOY TO RECEIVE AND READ WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE JJ. AT MY AGE OF 82 MOST OF MY CLASSMATES... FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS HAVE MOVED OR

GONE ON TO ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL LIFE. I AM SO DELIGHTED WHEN I READ ABOUT A CLASSMATE FROM ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL. I GRADUATED IN 1933. A LOT OF OUR PARENTS COULDN'T AFFORD TO SEND US TO HALLAHAN HIGH SCHOOL. TUITION, BOOKS ETC. AND THE TROLLEY FARE. AT THE TIME IT WAS TWO FOR 15 CENTS. SO THEY STARTED A COMERCIAL CLASS.... MISS COLLINS WAS OUR TEACHER. SHE TAUGHT US WELL. MEMORIES....MEMORIES! ENCLOSED IS A CHECK. REMEMBER ME TO ALL THOSE WHO READ THE JJ!"

CAROL PICARELLO, "IT IS WITH GREAT REGREAT AND SADNESS THAT I INFORM YOU OF THE SUDDEN PASSING ON DECEMBER 29, 2002 OF LOUIS PICARELLO, FATHER OF ANTHONY, CONCETTA AND THE LATE RACHAEL, HUSBAND OF ANNE, GRANDFATHER OF SIX. A MASS WAS CELEBRATED ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2003 AT ST. TITUS CHURCH IN NORRITON, PA. IF YOU WISH, DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN LOUIE'S MEMORY TO THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REACH ANTHONY HIS EMAIL ADDRESS IS

[Apicara1164@aol.com](mailto:Apicara1164@aol.com). I KNOW HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR FROM HIS OLD SCHOOL CHUMS. WE WILL MISS MY FATHER-IN-LAW. YOU MAY REACH CONCETTA AT [JC1M2@aol.com](mailto:JC1M2@aol.com). THANK YOU!"

CHANCEY CERINO PINEDA. "I RECENTLY RECEIVED A COPY OF THE JJ AND WAS HOPING THAT SOMEONE MIGHT REMEMBER MY GRANDFATHER WHO WAS A CERINO. I THINK HIS NAME WAS LOUIS AND HE WAS MARRIED TO A GERMAN



BORN WOMEN. HE WAS, AT ONE TIME, A SCOUT LEADER WITH MARIO GREGORIO IN PACK 245. I DO NOT HAVE ANY OTHER CURRENT DETAILS ABOUT HIM, (NOT EVEN SURE OF HIS FIRST NAME), AND I WANT TO CONTACT ANY CERINO RELATIVES TO FIND OUT IF HE IS STILL LIVING. MY FATHER, THEIR SON IS HELMUT WALTER CERINO. I LIVE IN DUNCAN OKLAHOMA AND MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS

[Puffyswife2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Puffyswife2000@yahoo.com). IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION, I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT. I LOVE THE JJ AND ALL THE FAMILY DETAILS. THANKS!"

ERNEST PISACANO 2011 W. INDIANA, "RECEIPT OF WINTER EDITION OF THE JJ WAS A REMINDER TO FOLLOW UP WITH MY ANNUAL DONATION, AS I HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, (CHECK ENCLOSED). THE ARTICLE ON CASINO A.C. BY JOHN SALVIA (MY COUSIN) WHICH APPEARED IN YOUR SUMMER EDITION OF THE JJ WAS A TREAT TO READ WHICH BROUGHT BACK FOND MEMORIES. IT IS AMAZING HOW YOU HAVE BEEN CAPTURING AND SPREADING THE NEWS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, OF THE MANY RESIDENTS FROM OUR OLD, LARGE NEIGHBORHOOD. MAY YOU AND YOUR HELP BE BLESSED WITH GOOD HEALTH AND DONATIONS SO THAT YOU MAY CONTINUE YOUR WONDERFUL WORK."

CELESTE GENTILE RITALDATO, "THANK YOU FOR THE JJ. I LOOK FORWARD TO IT EVERY FEW MONTHS. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS DONATION AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"

RONALD ROCCO, "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! ENCLOSED IS

SOMETHING TO HELP WITH EXPENSES."

JOE RODDY 25<sup>TH</sup> & CAMBRIA, "JUST RECEIVED MY FIRST COPY OF THE JJ AND I WAS DELIGHTED. I NOTICED MANY ARTICLES MENTION FR. MAGUIRE. I WAS STATIONED WITH FR. MAGUIRE AT JACKSONVILLE NAVAL AIR STATION IN 1953. WITHIN A WEEK AFTER I ARRIVED I WAS CALLED INTO THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE BY FR. MAGUIRE. ON THE WAY TO HIS OFFICE I WAS CONCERNED MY MOTHER HAD WRITTEN HIM ASKING HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME, AS SHE WAS APT TO DO. BUT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. HE HAD SEEN MY ADDRESS AMONG THE NEW ARRIVALS. HE WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT TALKING TO SOMEONE FROM SWAMPOODLE, EVEN THOUGH I WAS FROM ST. COLUMBA'S AND HAD NEVER MET HIM BUT HAD HEARD OF HIM. HE WAS PROUD OF ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL, BECAUSE OF THE CLOSENESS OF THE FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY. WE SPENT A GOOD TWENTY MINUTES GOING OVER DIFFERENT FAMILIES. I KNEW SOME BUT NOT ALL. I DO REMEMBER HE MENTIONED JOE THE BARBER AND HIS BROTHER WHO HAD A SHOP AT TAYLOR AND CAMBRIA. I TOO WAS HAPPY TO MEET HIM, AS I MISSED THE NEIGHBORHOOD SO MUCH. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION AND I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING FUTURE ISSUES. I TRULY ENVY ST. MARY'S PARISHONERS BEING ABLE TO STAY CLOSE ALL THESE YEARS. THANK YOU!"

JERI GAI ROMA, "ENCLOSED IS SOMETHING TO KEEP THE JJ GOING. IT'S SO NICE TO GO BACK IN MEMORY LANE - EVEN THOUGH MY STAY IN THE

NEIGHBORHOOD LASTED ONLY SIX YEARS."

PETER ROSSETTI, 31 N. HEMBERGER ST. "ON MARCH 3, 2002 I WENT TO EDISON, N. J. TO VISIT MY BROTHER, FR. ROSSETTI, O.P. WITH MY SISTER MARY MURPHY. WE WERE INVITED BY HIS PASTOR MSGR. PERINI TO CELEBRATE FR. ROSSETTI'S 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. HE HAS BEEN THE ASST. PASTOR AT ST. HELENA'S FOR OVER 20 YEARS. HE WAS ORDAINED AS A PRIEST FOR THE ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC, (ORDER OF PREACHERS), IN JUNE 1941 IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND CELEBRATED HIS FIRST MASS AT ST. MARY OF THE ETERNAL CHURCH. HE STILL PERFORMS HIS PRIESTLY DUTIES EVERY DAY AND FOR EXERCISE PLAYS GOLF WHEN HE CAN. WHILE MANY OF HIS FRIENDS, DRS. DOMINIC AND JAMES CUCCINOTTI, PETE MARTOSELLA AND BILL MARINELLI ARE ALL GONE THERE MAY BE SOME FRIENDS WHO WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH HIM. HE MAY BE REACHED AS FOLLOWS; REV. S. J. ROSSETTI, O.P. ST. HELENA'S RECTORY 950 GROVE AVENUE EDISON, N. J. 08817. PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED CHECK TO KEEP THE JJ COMING!"

FRANK SABATO 3029 N. WOODSTOCK ST. "THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREAT WORK THAT YOU DO! ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO KEEP THE JJ COMING."

MAURICE SCALVINO, "KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! BOTH PAM AND I AND MY SISTER MADELINE, ENJOY EACH AND EVERY JJ THAT WE RECEIVE. I KEEP ALL THE COPIES. WE



HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE MAKING PLANS FOR THE NEXT REUNION. PAM AND I ATTENDED THE LAST TWO AND WE REALLY ENJOYED OURSELVES. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK! PLEASE KEEP IT UP! I AM ENCLOSING SOMETHING TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES."

GRACE ANTONACCI SKLENCAR 2951 N. JUDSON ST. "ITS WONDERFUL GETTING THE JJ. THANKS TO MY DEAR FRIENDS EILEEN CAMPOLEI KEANE, MARGUERITE CAMPOLEI HOOVER AND MICHAELINE DAVINO LODISE! THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS IN TO THE JJ, SO I COULD RECEIVE THIS WONDERFUL WALK DOWN MEMEORY LANE. LENNY ANTONACCI IS MY BROTHER; WE ARE A CLOSE FAMILY AND SEE EACH OTHER AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. HE LIVES IN FLORIDA AND VISITS FROM TIME TO TIME. HE HAS THREE WONDERFUL BOYS AND THREE BEAUTIFUL GRANDCHILDREN. I AND MY HUBBY JOE HAVE TWO MARRIED CHILDREN AND ONE BEAUTIFUL GRANDCHILD. KEEP THE MEMORIES COMING WITH THE HELP OF THE ENCLOSED DONATION!"

GERI CARUSO STAUFFER 2425 W. ELKHART ST. "I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I RECEIVED MY JJ, AREN'T COMPUTERS WONDERFUL? WHAT A NICE E-MAIL TO OPEN. ALSO SOME SAD NEWS, MY MOM LENA CARUSO PASSED AWAY IN JULY 2002. SHE WAS 92. WE ALL MISS HER VERY MUCH. TAKE CARE! THE JJ IS GREATLY APPRECIATED."

PAT ROSSI STEWART, "THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK ON THE JJ! IT IS VERY MUCH ENJOYED BY MYSELF AND MY FATHER, PAUL ROSSI. HE

WOULD LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH GLADYS & BETTY SMITH FROM 21<sup>ST</sup> AND SOMERSET STREETS. HIS PHONE NUMBER IS 215-428 7772."

MARY MANDIA THOMPSON, 3020 N. 23<sup>RD</sup> ST. "YOU PROBABLY WON'T REMEMBER ME, BUT YOU WILL REMEMBER MY THREE BROTHERS, GEORGE, (THE JAVELLA WATER MAN), BILL AND SHOWBOAT AL. BILL AND AL ARE NO LONGER WITH US, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE! I DO HOPE THEY RECEIVED THEIR REWARDS IN HEAVEN, BECAUSE THEY WERE TWO OF THE BEST.

WE ALL SHOULD BE PROUD OF OUR PARENTS. THEY WERE HONEST, HARD WORKING PEOPLE AND DID EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER, AND MADE SCARIFICES TO MAKE A GOOD LIFE FOR US. THEY ALWAYS STRESSED UPON A GOOD EDUCATION. EVEN THOUGH THEIR EDUCATION WAS VERY LIMITED AND FOR SOME MAYBE NONE, I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THEY TURNED OUT A BETTER PRODUCT THAN THESE SO CALLED COLLEGE GRADUATES OF TODAY. THEY LEFT US A LEGACY OF DOCTORS, LAWYERS, PHARMACIST, ACCOUNTANTS, ETC. MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE! I AM 92 YEARS OLD BORN AT 2047 W. INDIANA AVENUE AND LIVED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR SIXTY YEARS. I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT I HAVE NOT AND DOUBT IF I EVER WILL FIND ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD WITH PEOPLE AS CARING, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING AND HELPFUL AS WE HAD. TO ME THE PEOPLE ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE SELFISH. IT IS A ME, ME, ME WORLD AND THE HECK WITH YOU. LET US ALL HOPE AND PRAY IT WILL GET

BETTER. THANKS FOR THE JJ! IT HELPS KEEP GREAT MEMORIES ALIVE. GOD BLESS EVERYONE!"

JOHANNA AMICI THOMAS 3252 N. 27<sup>TH</sup> ST. "THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES! I TOOK MY AUNT ANNA CONTI TO THE LAST REUNION. MY BROTHER LOUIS IS IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. MY DAD ANTHONY PASSED AWAY IN 1972. MY MOM EMMA PASSED AWAY IN 1986. I AM LOOKING FOR MY NEIGHBORS BERNIE DIGREGORIO AND CONCHETTA DONOTO. I HAVE 2 SONS AND 4 GRANDCHILDREN. MY DAD HAD THE A&M FURNITURE STORE ON 22<sup>ND</sup> ST. THEN HE WORKED AT BALABAN'S FOR 20 YEARS." Johan81@localnet.com

JOSEPHINE TRIOLO ZULLO 2024 W. INDIANA AVE. "THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE JJ! I JUST LOVE TO READ IT. I AM SENDING A CHECK, DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH IT."

### PRAYER TO SAINT RITA OF CASIA. MY CONSOLER.

GLORIOUS ST. RITA, THOU WHO MIRACULOUSLY SHARED IN THE PAINFUL PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, OBTAIN THAT I MAY BEAR THE SORROWS OF THIS LIFE WITH RESIGNATION, AND PROTECT ME IN ALL MY NEEDS.

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