

Clifton Merchant Magazine • Volume 30 • Issue 8 • August 1, 2025

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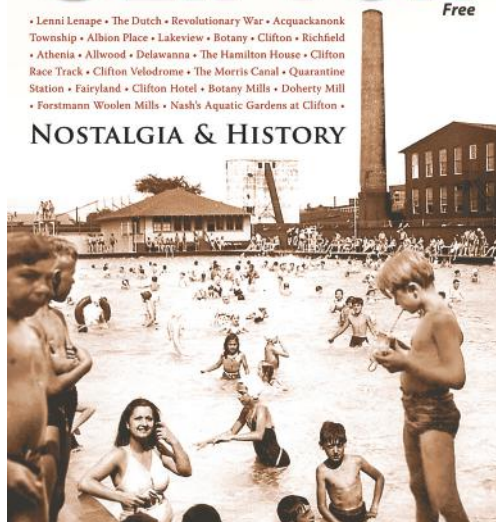


# CLIFTON

Clifton Merchant Magazine • Volume 11 • Issue 7 • July 7, 2006

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**NOSTALGIA & HISTORY**



# Bellin's Swim Club

From the Editor, Tom Hawrylko

**Enjoy a summer day in Downtown Clifton.** That's what generations of Cliftonites did from 1932 until 2006. The photo here is from when that 2.5-acre oasis was known as Rentschler's Pool, which opened on Memorial Day, 1932. Over the decades, it was the Clifton Pool or Bellin's Swim Club. What follows is a story from that last summer, in 2006, and photos from our archives...

*At left, a look back at Rentschler's Pool from our July, 2006 magazine. Below, in August 2005 lifeguards Sal Farino, Anthony Calo, Jennifer Montanile, Sergio Roa and Rizkullah Dogum at Bellin's Clifton Swim Club on Main Ave.*



## Clifton Merchant Magazine

# CLIFTON

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**Located near the Passaic border on Main Ave.,** Bellin's was originally named Rentschler's Pool and would attract up to 2,000 people on a Saturday.

Admission to the pool was a nickel—an oasis in a town where the only other relief from summer's heat came from air conditioning inside the Clifton Theater.

Within the property were volleyball and basketball courts as well as plenty of room to have a picnic. And of course, there was that expansive body of water.

In 1942, the late George Bellin Sr. became the pool's manager (son George Jr. was born that same year). He purchased the pool in 1965.

After converting the pool to a membership-only facility in 1970, Bellin's Swim Club had enjoyed both prosperous and lean periods.

In the mid-1980s opening the pool to out-of-town-ers, Bellin's drew nearly 800 members. But with lean economic times later in the decade and through the early 1990s, membership declined.

As real estate prices increased over the decades, that strip of land was looking like the perfect place for the next big development. Starting back in 1999, there had been talk of the pool being a site for senior housing or a retail development.

"The sale for the place is in the works, that's true," George Bellin Jr. confirmed in the summer of 2006.

"But we'll definitely be here this summer until Labor Day," he continued in 2006. "I can't predict the future and when the sale will happen. 🐾"



*George and Diane Bellin with their son Chris, at left, in 2006.*







## ON3 | CLIFTON/NUTLEY, NJ

# *Heartfelt Congratulations and Thanks* to our City of Clifton Council Members

Here at ON3, we are so excited about the future of this mixed-use development. We wanted to thank the Clifton City Council for their vision and efforts in understanding the need to create a vibrant mix of uses on this Campus for the benefit of the community at large. We are also thankful for the incredible support from the public for the introduction of residential uses at ON3. Your many letters and emails were instrumental in securing approvals to make the ON3 Mixed-Use vision a reality. The commitment to fostering growth and progress will create valuable jobs in the community and enhance the daily lives of all the nearby residents. By bringing new opportunities to Clifton, you are helping to generate essential tax revenues and driving economic growth to support the City for the long term. Together, we are building a brighter future, one that reflects our visions and aspirations and enhances the quality of life for everyone in Clifton. Thank you once again for joining in our vision! Let's continue to work together to make Clifton and ON3 the best we can be.

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## A Summer Day in Downtown Clifton

Bellin's Swim Club and Teddy's just before the Herald & News building on Main Ave., near the Passaic border, prior to its 2009 demolition. Below are 2025 photos giving a "before and after" perspective of the same site today.



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There are always obstacles, and when they come up, you get delayed—sometimes six months, sometimes a year.”

Bellin had mixed emotions about seeing the pool close. But at age 64, he felt it was time.

“The people have been wonderful,” he said about his many customers. “They come to grill, relax and enjoy themselves—from kids to grandparents. We put out 115 outdoor sets with umbrellas and tables to make them comfortable. But the pool is a dinosaur—they don’t make pools like this anymore. But it’s a good place, one that’s enjoyed... then and now.”

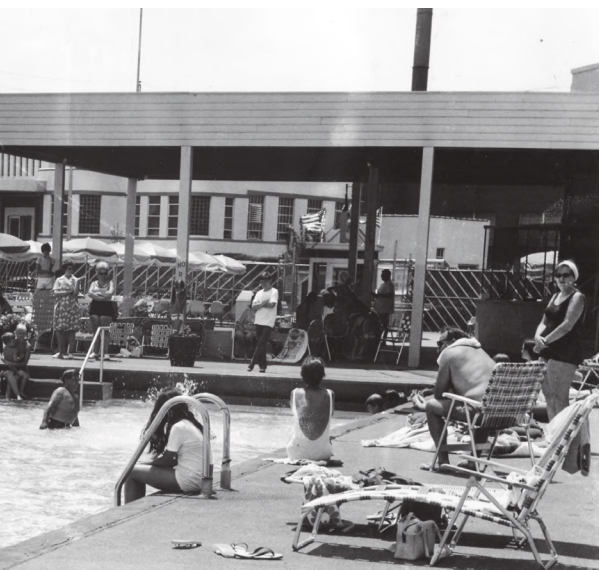
So that makes two dinosaurs that you will read about in this month’s edition...

As far as the Bellin family, they did sweat through the ups and downs of the sale of the property, but it finally came through. George and Diane retired and their son Chris became a teacher in northern New Jersey.

After its demolition in 2009, the site became a retail development, opening in 2014, and evolving ever since.

And Bellin’s Swim Club in Downtown Clifton is yet another summer memory packed within the pages of this edition of *Clifton Merchant Magazine*.





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# 8 Vehicles Refurbished for



*Ivo and Vania Rodrigues of New Trimble Auto Body, now in the fourth year of refurbishing vehicles for veterans.*

**Ivo Rodrigues long ago realized that giving back was neighborly**, and a good business philosophy. That's why he and his wife Vania, owners of New Trimble Auto Body, became involved with the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides nearly four years ago.

On July 23, Rodrigues teamed up with his auto collision vendors to refurbish and donate another two vehicles to veterans in need of reliable transportation.

Since they began, that's eight vehicles, a pretty sizable donation, likely worth thousands in staff, new parts, skilled trade work and technology.

Last year, on Sept. 11, 2024, they donated three vehicles. Two of them, a 2017 Hyundai Tucson and a 2018 Honda Accord, went to veterans. The third, a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan, was given to Clifton Outreach, a program that provides rides to seniors and disabled adults who have no means of transportation. He learned of Clifton Outreach through a customer, Deidra Hughes, the Senior Outreach Transportation Supervisor at Clifton Senior Services.

"My family and I do this to help. No other reason," said Rodrigues. "I wanted to do something unique and the people in Deidra's program have made good use of this minivan." For 2025, Rodrigues kept it simple: two vehicles to two veterans. "We love Clifton and our veterans."

## **Humble Beginnings**

When he was age 29 in 2013, Rodrigues purchased the former Trimble Auto Body, adding "New" to the logo—and the rest is Clifton history.

He and his team of craftsmen earn accolades and repeat business for their work. The dividends are obvious: a growing business, and in 2024, the completed construction of a three-story building across Trimble Ave.

Now 42, Rodrigues said Recycled Rides is in Clifton to stay. "Giving back is neighborly," said Rodrigues. "We want to give back, no other reason. I want to thank my team, my vendors and friends, who contributed time, resources and funds to help make it happen."



# Veterans and Community



2022



2023



2024



In 2022, that's Frank 'Doc' Schupp of the New Jersey Veterans Network and a US Army Combat Medic in Iraq.

In 2023, Ivo, daughter Brianna, wife Vania and their boys Michael and Jason with US Army vet Dickens Dumont and US Air Force vet Diamonique Swindle.

In 2024, Army vets Krystal Cordero and Juan Perez, and Deidra Hughes of Clifton Senior Services.

In 2025, USMC vets Dominick Carpentieri (left) and Miguel Arocho with NABC director Deborah Robinson.



2025







# Frankie Randall

by Jack De Vries

A Life in the **Spotlight**

**It was only 16 miles from Clifton,** but to Frankie Randall playing at Jilly's was like performing in the Emerald City of Oz. It was a bar/restaurant similar to others around Midtown Manhattan but with one big difference—Jilly's was Mr. Frank Sinatra's favorite joint.

Stars came to Jilly's, along with the near stars, wannabe stars, and people wanting to

be seen with stars. The place also attracted a big after-Broadway show crowd and tourists wanting a taste of the big town.

Some nights—on some magic nights—everyone got what they wanted and more at Jilly's—especially when Sinatra, the “Chairman of the Board” as WNEW-AM's William B. Williams called him, came in and stopped the world.





Facing page, that's young Frankie Randall directly facing Frank Sinatra at Jilly's in NYC. Above, at the Rancho Mirage home of Frank Sinatra. Frankie Randall with Dean Martin. Frankie with Peter Lawford while he appeared at the famed Copacabana in NYC.

That's what happened one night when Randall was at the piano.

"When Frank walked in," said Randall (who passed away in 2014 and was interviewed for this profile in 2007), "this silence, this awe swept through the place. When Sinatra walked to his table, it was like Moses parting the Red Sea – everybody watched him. Frank was bigger than life."

Then in his early twenties, Randall was already a seasoned performer. By evening's end, he had gained an important fan. When the place closed at 4 am, owner Jilly Rizzo told him that Mr. Sinatra invited him to have a drink at his table.

"Frank liked my act," Randall said, "and we talked. Jilly even went back in the kitchen and cooked for us. After we ate, Frank said, 'C'mon, kid, let's do a song.' We went back to the piano and sang Where or When together."

It was a memorable performance and Randall made an impression and a lifetime friend. A few weeks later, on Sinatra's recommendation, Randall was signed by RCA Victor records.

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## Frankie Randall

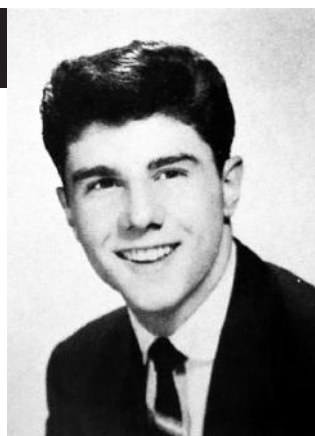
"After graduating college," said the Clifton native, "I'd worked the Shore, the Catskills, and Easton, Pa. – from Cleveland to Chicago. But it was at Jilly's where I met the people who would influence in my career ... people like Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, and, of course, Frank Sinatra."

### Clifton Dreams

When Randall was a child, his mother Grace would look out of her apartment window on Clifton's Getty Ave. and stare at the house on 62 West 2nd St., dreaming of living there. Seeking to make his wife happy, Randall's father, Joe Lisbona, knocked at the home's door, telling the elderly couple that if they ever wanted to sell the house to let him know.

Turns out the house was for sale, along with the soda bottling company and building next door that the elderly man owned. Lisbona made an offer and became the owner of Belfi Bottling, gaining a business and a new home.

"My parents were diligent workers and proud people," Randall said. "During WWII, my father would work at the



Frankie Lisbona, CHS '55.

soda company during the day and then go to his job at Curtiss-Wright in Woodridge from 4 p.m. to midnight."

His high school sweetheart and now friend Arlene Carole commented, "Frankie's parents adored him. His parents nicknamed him 'Chico' as a baby. His mother was funny and feisty, and his father was sweet. They were good to me."

The Lisbonas were originally from Passaic and Frankie was born in St. Mary's Hospital. They moved to Clifton in search of a better life.

Friend Al Mardirossian Jr. remembered: "Frankie's parents were terrific with all the kids – it was like they were part of our group. And his sister Gracie is a great gal. She worked for many years in Clifton as a special education teacher with Coach Joe Grecco, who thought of her as another daughter."

Life wasn't always easy for the future singer. A rheumatic fever bout ended any thoughts of playing sports as he was often confined to his house. Fortunately, there was music.

When Randall was in the second grade, his father's cousin Jack Fina, a noted pianist, composer and

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# Frankie Randall

bandleader, came to Clifton High to play a concert.

“He performed with the Freddy Martin Orchestra,” Randall said, “and played at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. After the concert, I saw how the people clamored around him, the adoration they gave him. On the way home, I told my father that I wanted to play piano, too. He paid \$10 for an old upright piano and I began taking lessons with Marian Baldino in Passaic.”

Joe Lisbona understood his son’s musical dreams. A trumpet player, he continued to perform in a small band at weddings and parties after taking over the bottling company. He encouraged his son to play but made sure he was classically trained, exposing Frankie to Chopin and Rochmaninov.

“Frankie was not only a great piano player,” said Mardirossian Jr., who backed Randall at gigs on the conga drums, “but could play other instruments as well.” His friend Carole, also an entertainer, described Randall as “a child prodigy.”



*Just beyond his Mustang teenage years, that’s Frankie Lisbona (soon-to-be Randall) up front with one of his early groups, The High Fives.*

“When I got into high school,” Randall said, “I became interested in jazz, listening to all the popular piano players of the time. The one who made the most impact on me was Nat King Cole – a great jazz piano player, excellent singer and classy individual.”

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# Frankie Randall



*Above in 2009, that's Frankie on the piano at a Frank Sinatra Foundation Fundraiser. From left, Dennis Farina, Deana Martin, John Griffeth, Jerry Vale, Ken Venturi, Pat Boone, Tony Lo Bianco, Vince Ferragamo. At right, that's Frankie in Clifton with his old pals Terry La Corte, Al Mardirossian, jr. and Tom Cupo. The legendary musical Mustang died in 2014 at the age of 76.*



## Ups & Downs

"Classy" was not the way the nuns at Pope Pius High School described Randall's behavior as a student. The future singer spent three years at the Passaic school until the good sisters could take no more. "My discipline," Randall admits, "was not what it should be. I was always cutting class and smoking cigarettes—that sort of stuff. Finally, the nuns called my parents down for a meeting." At the time, Randall remembers, there was a state law stipulating a student could not be expelled without sufficient reason.

"The sisters told my father that they didn't care about the law," he says. "They said, 'You can take us to court, we don't care. We want this guy out of our school.'" Ironically, the nuns at Pope Pius were educating two future stars at the time. One of Randall's classmates was the late Loretta Swit, who went on to star in the TV show M\*A\*S\*H as Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan.

However, the school was only big enough for one future performer. Rather than battle the nuns to stay, Randall transferred to Clifton High for his senior year. "I don't know what I was rebelling against at Pope Pius," he says, "but at Clifton High, my conduct was impeccable. I made a lot of friends there – guys like Terry LaCorte, Tommy Cupo, and Al Mardirossian Jr."

Randall also spent his high school years getting an education in his future profession, performing in bands like the Rhythmers and in places like the Eclipse and Wishing Well off Route 17, and the Four Roses on Ellison St. in Paterson.

He started performing in bands at age 12 after using photo-developing chemicals to change the date on his baptismal certificate.

"Once I did, I used it to get an ABC permit to work in places where they served alcohol. I'd make \$3 or \$4 a night and learned to save my money. When my dad needed a new truck, he'd come to me and I'd loan him the money, which he always paid back.

"I liked earning money and what it could bring—nice new clothes and new cars."

## Running with the Rat Pack

After graduating from CHS in 1955, Randall went to Fairleigh Dickinson University, earning a degree in psychology. Despite offers then to go on the road, including one to join singer Louie Prima in Las Vegas, he stayed in school.



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# Frankie Randall

"My father wanted me to graduate from college first," he remembered, "then do anything I wanted to do, which I did." With his degree complete, Randall hit the road, playing in small clubs across the country until his Jilly's gig.

"That was a thrill for his friends from Clifton," said Mardirossian Jr. "At Jilly's, he'd be surrounded by stars (Judy Garland sat next to him at the piano as he sang). We loved hearing Frankie perform there."

After his RCA deal, appearances on the Tonight Show, Merv Griffin Show and Danny Kaye Show followed, along with his first starring movie role in the 1965 teen flick, Wild on the Beach. The film featured the music of Sonny and Cher, also making their movie debut.

The following year, Dean Martin called. "Dean had taken a liking to me," Randall said, "and asked me to be a regular on the Dean Martin Summer Show."

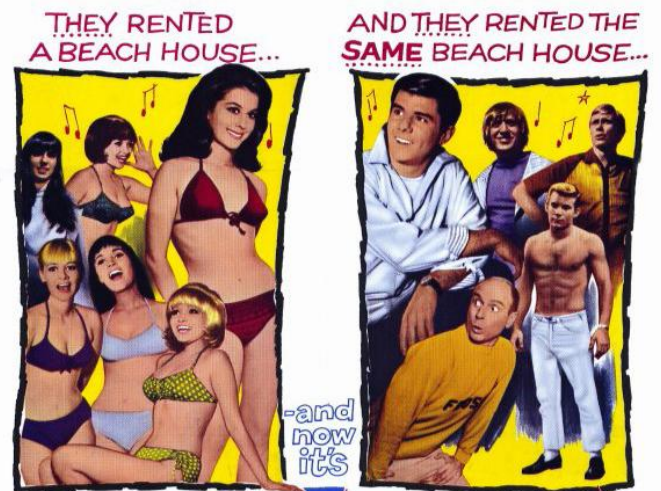
"That was another thrill for us," said Mardirossian Jr. "We'd put on the TV and there would be one of 'our guys.'"

Even with his new fame, Randall kept his perspective.

"He was always the same – never changed, never got a big head," said friend Cupo. "He always was 'Chico' to us."

Randall appeared as a show regular for one season working with the legendary crooner. "Dean was a piece of cake to work with," he said. "He was so casual, happy – easy to be with. One story said everything about Dean's personality. Once in Vegas, he came to see me perform with the Buddy Rich Band. On a break, Dean and I were sitting together when a drunk walked in. He looked at Dean and said, 'I don't know what my girl sees in you – I don't like you... no, I don't like you at all.'"

"Instead of telling the guy to go away like Sinatra would have done, Dean said, 'Sit down, pal.' Within 10 minutes,



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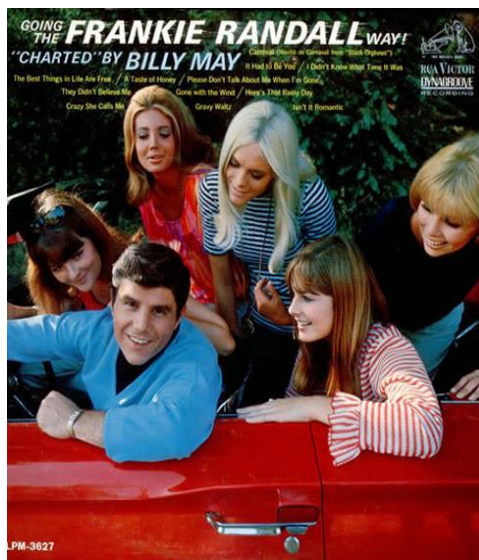
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the drunk thought Dean was the greatest guy in the world.”

Randall remembers the dynamic Sammy Davis Jr. as a “salt of the earth”-type of guy.

“I had some of my best times with Sammy,” Randall said. “When you got him alone, he was more of a regular guy. He also told some of the most interesting stories I’d ever heard in my life.”

But it was Sinatra who made the biggest impact.

“If Frank liked you,” he said, “you were his friend – that was all he needed to know. But, his mood could change in a flash, from happy to miserable or angry. Thankfully, I

didn’t see that side of him often – I had so much respect and admiration for him that I tried to escape that situation whenever I could.

“He was also one of the easiest people to work with – always on time, always professional. And he stood up for others. When he first started working in Vegas, Black entertainers like Lena Horne and Sammy Davis were not allowed to stay in the hotel. That was until Frank took a stand. He was instrumental in getting that changed.”

### Showbiz Life

At 24, Randall married wife Sue and they had three children Lisa, Joseph and Frank Jr. However, the marriage didn’t last. “That was a time in my life when I didn’t behave myself,” Randall said.

Before long, he was divorced and living in Beverly Hills, California. A move to Las Vegas followed and then, at Sinatra’s urging, he moved to Palm Springs.

“We spent many a night drinking ‘lemonade’ until 4 am at Frank’s house in Palm Springs,” Randall laughed. “Those were fun times.”

“Whenever you called Frankie,” said Cupo, “say if you were out in Vegas and wanted to see a show, he’d

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# Frankie Randall

do anything to help you. His friends from Clifton stayed at his house in Vegas and Palm Springs, and he'd introduce us to his showbiz friends.

"We went to a party at comedian Pat Cooper's house and were even invited to one at Sinatra's. Unfortunately, that was the night Sinatra's mother died in a plane crash and the party was cancelled."

Though happy to earn a living as an entertainer, Randall never achieved the huge fame of his idols who had attained their stardom decades before. One reason was a new kind of music that was changing the world.

"When rock and roll got big in the sixties, it was frustrating," he said. "I knew the quality of the music I was singing – songs by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and others. Musicians and singers who were not very good were making hits with 'bubblegum songs.' It was tough, but you had to grin and bear it."

However, Randall continued to enjoy modest success. He sang the theme songs for the popular TV shows *Flipper* and *Bewitched*, and earned a reputation as a crowd-pleasing entertainer.

"My life in show business was not all roses," he said. "I went broke a few times but was always able to bounce back and make my living with music, whether it was singing or owning a piano store."

## New Chapter

In 1982, Randall arrived for a month-long gig at the Golden Nugget Hotel Casino in Atlantic City. The crowds came and management extended his engagement. He also began developing a relationship with the Golden Nugget's chairman Steve Wynn, who asked his advice about the casino's entertainment.

A year later, Randall became vice president of entertainment director for the Golden Nugget's operations in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, booking himself whenever he got the itch to perform. He also remarried in 1984, becoming a father to two daughters, Laura and Ava.

Using his showbiz connections and friendships, Randall flourished in his job. In 1987, when Bally's bought the Golden Nugget, he worked in the same role for the new company. He left his position in 1991.



*Grace Lisbona with Grace and Frankie, at their home on 2nd St. Frankie Lisbona at his old family home on 2nd St. in 2007. Inset, Frankie at age 10.*

"It was a high pressure life where you were always putting out fires, always making things right," said Randall. "There were long hours – I'd walk Mr. Sinatra to his room at 2 am and be up the next day for a 9 am meeting. But the job was also rewarding. It was a time in my life of stretch limos and corporate jets. In fact, after I left the job, I was getting on a commercial jet with my daughter Laura who couldn't understand why we had to fly with other people."

After leaving corporate life, Randall went back to his first love – performing. A memorable show in 2007 at Resorts International in Atlantic City brought out his Clifton friends.

"I've watched Frankie perform for years," said Cupo, "and that show was the best I've ever seen him put on."

"After the show," added Mardirossian Jr., "he made sure we went backstage to see him in his dressing room. He's still a great entertainer, his voice is still great. Frankie doesn't imitate Sinatra but if you close your eyes, you can hear Sinatra's style in his songs."

Before he died, Sinatra had a final gift for friend Frankie Randall, giving him the arrangements to many of his songs. In tribute, Randall performed the songs through the remainder of his career just as his mentor did, much to the joy of audiences.

Sinatra once said: "Frankie Randall is my favorite piano player and a marvelous talent who sings great and plays more piano than there are keys."

And Clifton couldn't be prouder.





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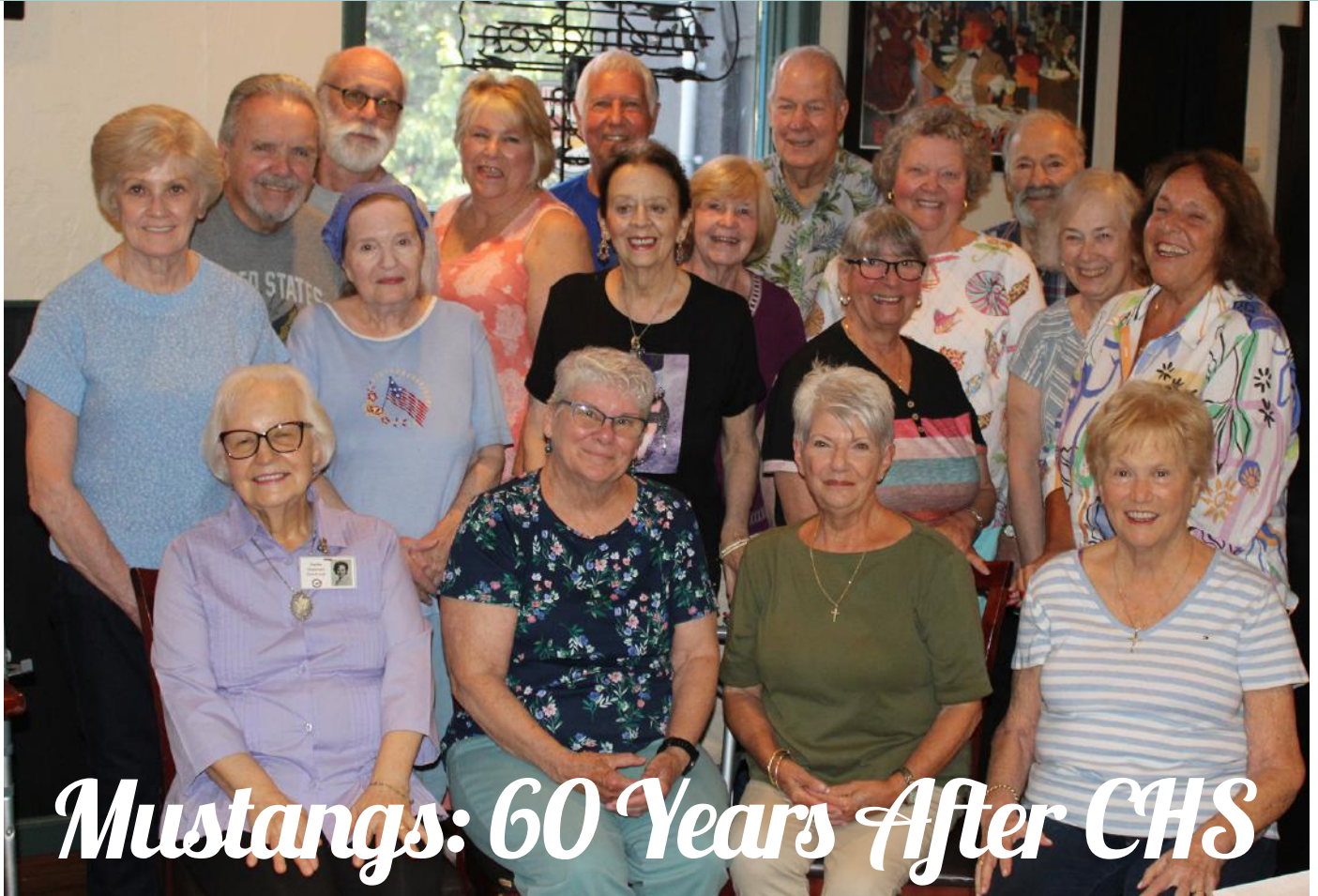
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# Where Are These '65 Mustangs Now?

By Ariana Puzzo



## Mustangs: 60 Years After CHS

The CHS Class of 1965 keeps the connection strong. Not just with monthly lunch get-togethers in Clifton and Toms River either.

They've held a 70th birthday barbecue, summer dine-outs, their own Alumni Athletic Association with annual get-togethers, and, during COVID-19, a Zoom call for the classmates. The last class reunion "50+1" was so well-attended that it included 225 attendees, with 12 faculty members.

The 60th reunion is Sept. 13, 2:30 to 7:30 at Cucina Calandra, Fairfield. Call Jodi Alex at 973-575-7720. Leave a phone and email; CHS 1965 coordinator Loretta (Wilson) Greenleaf will follow up.



Who knows? Maybe you'll see double like back in the day. In a class of almost 900 graduates, there were nine twins: four sets of girls, one set of boys, and four sets of fraternal twins.

These aren't the only classmates who stayed in touch, so-to-speak. There were 26 classmate couples who ended up married. Some started dating while in high school, but "newlywed" couple Bill and Marylyn (Schwartz) Capuano wed in September, 2024.

When the Mustangs started on Colfax Ave. with over 1,000 students, they were the first class to have all three of their high school years at the new building that opened in September, 1962. It also wasn't unusual to encounter alumni staff.



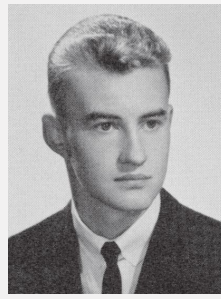
Facing page at the 1965 prom Carol Ann Sconzo Danieli and John Raineri. Top, the 1965 Mustangs at the July 8 reunion at Yesterdays, seated front left: Cecile Mastroeni Spanburgh, Linda Gage Krewer, Darlene Webster Mulholland, Maryann D'Agostino Ceria. Middle: Rosemary Plonski Brown, Nancy Trabucco Barcelona, Darlene Bordino Franek, Eileen DeMario Brodsky, Marylyn Schwartz Capuano, Lucille Lewis Hanlon. Third row: Dave Soltis, Linda Tuzzeo Schulz, Sally Anderson, Bette Mol Devroe, Bill Capuano. Fourth row: Rich Huth, Mike Glowacki, Greg Sekula.

CHS had about 3,300 students total and close to a dozen staff members from the Class of 1957. Greenleaf recalled what it was like to have class on the third floor of one of the wings when you had to get to the gym by the next period.

"It was quite a challenge to get there in the three minutes allowed," said Greenleaf, who hosts a monthly class luncheon. "The building and facilities were very impressive — with state-of-the-art design. We were all very proud to be a part of it."

There's more to be proud of today. As ninth graders, '65 grads in the Marching Band traveled to Holland and took first place in the competition. Some of their seniors went on to make All-State Band and All-State Orchestra.

The class has had 91 known veterans, representing all branches of the military. Two classmates made the ultimate sacrifice, killed in the line of duty in Vietnam: Bohdan Kowal, US Army, and Al Pino, USMC.



Mike Osman gets the game ball from Coach Severin Palydowycz. Ken Wanio above.



### The '65 Mustangs' First "New" Soccer Team

For the first time since 1939, CHS fielded a varsity Soccer Team in 1965. Under Head Coach Severin Palydowycz, the team produced a fair record of three wins, five losses, and four ties.

Led by senior co-captains Mike Osman and Carlos Arlotta, the team quickly defeated such opponents as East Paterson, Ramapo, and Bergen Tech.

Helping on the offensive attack was junior Chet Guzik who ranked high in scoring in the Passaic-Bergen standing. Center half-back, Ken Wanio (inset), exhibited much aggressiveness and ability throughout the season. The yearbook concludes with noting goalie, Pete Dobko, brilliantly defended Clifton's goal from onrushing rivals.

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# Where Are These '65 Mustangs Now?

Valedictorian, Dr. Warren Jaeger, went to the US Air Force Academy, then medical school, and then spent 27 years as a physician in the USAF, retiring from the military and going into private family practice.

The Class of 1965 includes 13 physicians, three dentists (two having offices in our city), a dental surgeon, attorneys, PhDs, registered nurses, CPAs, business owners, first responders, and more.

"A large number of classmates became Hoffman-La Roche employees," said Greenleaf. "Many became teachers, seven of whom taught in Clifton schools, some for 40-plus years."

Of the known 618 classmates, 290 of them live in New Jersey and 98 live in our city. Others spread across 37 states and the District of Columbia, as well as the world. The next largest groups are 61 in Florida, 36 in Pennsylvania, 26 in New York, and 24 in California.

Six live in other countries, including two in Mexico and one each in Denmark, France, Honduras, and Jamaica. Thanks to the contributions of Greenleaf and her husband, Wayne, we got to hear from some of them about their lives these past six decades.

## **Paul Ayick (Lakeview)**

Paul Ayick's music career began with the Mustang Band. He was first solo trumpet and went with the band to Holland in 1962.

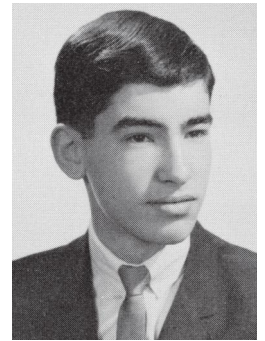
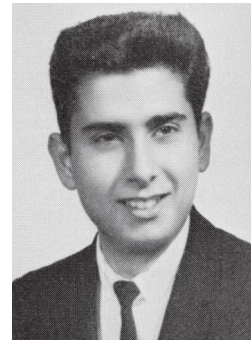
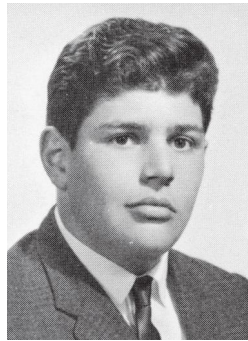
"I taught music and played music for a living," said Ayick. "I worked with folks like Debbie Boone, Little Anthony, Les Elgart, Ray Anthony, Gene Krupa Memorial Band, Iris Sullivan, and Connie Francis."

He married his wife, Rose Marie, in 1984 and has lived in South Florida since 1987. They have one adult child, Lisha. Ayick collects and repairs vintage brass instruments.

"The loves of my life are my 2015 Stingray coupe Sophia, my dog Roxy, my cat, and my wife Rose Marie. You put them in order."

## **Dr. Joe Concodora (Athenia)**

Life is great for Dr. Joe Concodora — and still more than a little busy. Concodora retired in 2014 after practicing urology for 39 years. He has cycled avidly, wracking up to 80 miles weekly. Concodora is a collector of Lionel trains and has a dedicated train room with a large operating layout. He most recently parted with his '66 Mustang.



*Paul Ayick, Joseph Concodora, Bruce Kalnitsky in 1965.*

A father of four and grandfather of eight, Concodora has been married for the last 42 years to his second wife, Frances. "We enjoy traveling to Florida, Sint Maarten, Las Vegas, and Atlantic City several times a year," he said. "We are fortunately in very good health. We've done several half marathons and enjoy a very active life."

## **Bruce (Kalnitsky) Michael (Delawanna)**

Bruce (Kalnitsky) Michael achieved the realization of two dreams. He was just 7 when he first visited Radio City Music Hall and decided to one day join the team responsible for its spectacular extravaganzas. From 1989 to 2005, he was VP/ Creative Producer of the Radio City Rockettes. But he also wanted more.

"I wanted to work on a project that would bring an old theater back to new life," he said.

Which is how he came to serve as the Executive Director of the Space at Westbury, a former movie palace that is now a multi-faceted concert hall and special event center. He conceived and operated the Hampton's Experience Tours, enjoyed by visitors hoping to experience the beauty of Long Island's East End.

Michael divides his time between homes in Manhattan and Southampton, plus winters in Palm Springs with his partner of 32 years, Clif de Raita, and their two Grand Champion maltese, La Ti Da and Baby Grand.

## **Vincent Lanteri (Delawanna)**

Life could have gone a few ways when Vincent Lanteri learned that his draft number was two. That's when Lanteri accepted a teaching position in Maryland after attending Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee, majoring in Biology and Education. He simultaneously received his acceptance letter to medical school in Guadalajara.





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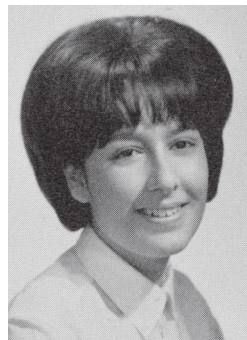
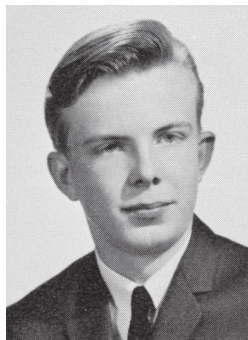
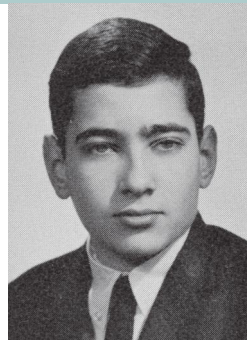
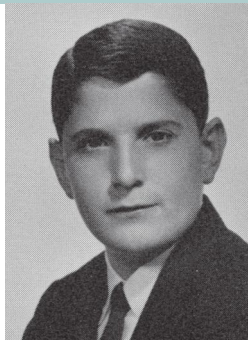


# Where Are These '65 Mustangs Now?

ra, Mexico. Lanteri graduated medical school in 1975 and accepted a five-year residence in Urology at UMD-NJ and then a Urological-Oncology fellowship in Buffalo.

He and his wife, Susan, wed in 1981 and he began his urology practice in Hackensack while they raised their three daughters. "The highlight of my professional career was being a pioneer in the field of robotic surgery in 2001," said Lanteri.

The family has traveled throughout Europe, Australia, Africa, and throughout the United States. They have spent summers in Spring Lake for 40 years, where Lanteri plays golf. "My wife and I are blessed with two grandchildren," said Lanteri. "Life has turned out a lot better than I could have ever imagined."



*Vincent Lanteri, Barry Lafer,  
Van Olinger and Judith Trojan.*

Olinger then applied to Virginia Tech and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1971. He received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated with an MS in Aerospace Engineering in 1972.

The former Mustang lives in Reston, Virginia and has worked in different capacities for the Department of Defense. Olinger's last position was with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

"I retired from federal service in 2006 and began working as a Technical Consultant to the DOD in Arlington," he said.

Olinger is married to his wife of 56 years, Marlene, with two daughters and two grandsons.

## Barry Lafer (Upper Montclair)

Barry Lafer has no shortage of interests.

Enjoying travel, skiing, golf, music, cinema, theater, food, and wine all have special places in his heart. He is also a family man. Lafer and his wife, Jill, wed in 1982 and have three adult children and two granddaughters.

Lafer is also a hard worker. In 1988, he founded Lafer Management Corporation in New York. The president holds 40 years of hedge fund experience, specializing in event-driven activism and special situation investing.

During the last 30 years, he has managed Lafer Equity Investors, L.P., Beach Securities Inc., and Strategic Initiative Investors, L.P., I, II, and III, which are all affiliates of Lafer Management Corp. He is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Brooklyn Law School.

"I am a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and also a board member of Roundabout Theatre Company in New York, which is the largest nonprofit in the country," said Lafer. "I was also a fellow at Stanford University's Distinguished Career Institute during 2018 and 2019."

## Van Olinger (Delawanna)

Immediately following CHS saw Van Olinger moving to Virginia and getting a full-time job in a gas station.

## Judith Trojan (Allwood)

If you're interested in "media that matter", just ask Judith Trojan. The award-winning journalist has written and edited more than 1,000 film and TV reviews, plus celebrity profiles, magazines, newsletters, and several books.

Trojan's interviews included best-selling authors Mary Higgins Clark, Ann Rule, and Frank McCourt; Academy Award-winning costume designer Anne Roth and screenwriter Eric Roth; documentary filmmakers Ken Burns and Albert Maysles; legendary actor Carroll O'Connor, folk icon Judy Collins, and Sesame Street's Big Bird.

Her favorite film and publishing gigs were Editor-in-Chief of Sightlines magazine, AmericanFilm Festival staffer, Corporate Communications Managing Editor at Simon and Schuster, and as Director of the Christopher Awards. Follow her blog, FrontRowCenter, at [judithtrojan.com](http://judithtrojan.com).

## Dr. John Vester (Lakeview)

The grass is always greener on John Vester's old horse farm. Vester is married to his wife, June, of 55 years. The couple have two grown children and two grandchildren. He's led a full life. After time as a javelin thrower and member of the squash team at Seton Hall, Vester attended medical school at Georgetown with residencies in Internal





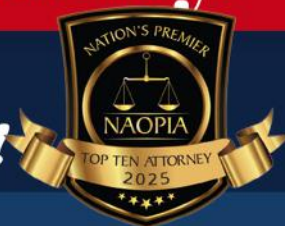
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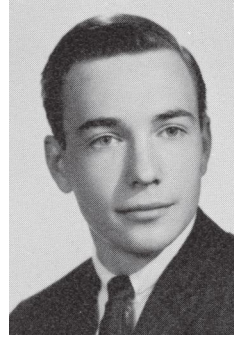
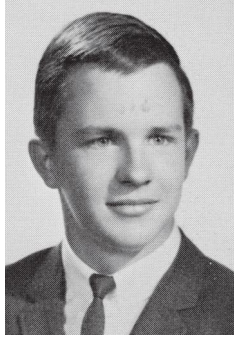
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# Where Are These '65 Mustangs Now?

Medicine and Neurology. He served as the Chief of Neurology at Princeton Medical Center for 15 years.

Vester is also no stranger to athleticism, running six triathlons and still active in bicycle events. "I'd love to stay on the right side of the grass for the next 10 years," he said. "The rest is gravy."



*John Vester and Richard Schwarz.*

## **Richard S. Schwarz (Richfield)**

From humble beginnings, Richard Schwarz's determination, focus, and accomplishments were many and an inspiration to others.

Schwarz, who passed away in August of 2022, was the son of Austrian immigrants John and Emma. Schwarz's parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1936 from the tiny village of Gaas in the Austrian state of Burgenland.

Growing up in a bilingual household meant that Schwarz was fluent in English and German, spending many summers after college traveling throughout Europe. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Aeronautical Engineering.

Schwarz moved to Boston and worked for the Raytheon Corporation, developing their Hawk Sparrow guided missile system. He attended Albany Law School and began his legal career in the New York State Senate as Counsel to the Senate Labor Committee.

Schwarz spent the majority of his professional career as an Attorney at the Business Council of New York State, specializing in tax law until retiring in 2007. But the intellectual giant never lost his passion for travel. He visited five of the seven continents and 30 countries, as well as 47 of the 50 States in the U.S.

Schwarz notably swam Australia's Great Barrier Reef, walked the Great Wall of China, sat in the Sistine Chapel, stood in the Roman Colosseum, attended Sumo wrestling in Japan, ventured the Forbidden City in Beijing, went deep sea fishing in Alaska, stood at the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor and spoke with President John F. Kennedy.

The former Mustang is survived by his son, Dr. Timothy John Kingsley Schwarz, and his former spouse, friend, and co-parent, Dorothy H. Reynolds.



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Won 11 of 13 Clifton Battle of the Bands.  
Then They opened for The Rascals.

*The Jades, circa 1965, at the CHS talent show: Roy Parian, Wayne LoPresti, Tom Kondra, Craig Parian, Fred Sakacs. The story here originally appeared in August, 2010 in our second Clifton music edition.*

They last performed nearly 60 years ago, but Tom Kondra vividly remembered his time drumming for The Jades, and how the band evolved with the times.

“All of the guys were from Clifton,” Kondra explained of the five-piece band in a 2010 interview. The band ran from 1964 to 1968, with members pictured above and on the next page. “We won 11 out of 13 battles of the bands.”

“The other two, we didn’t win. We came in second,” laughed Kondra (CHS 1968), who pursued a career in the telecommunications industry. “I thought that was a pretty good record.”

Though the group didn’t form until high school, the origins trace back several years. “I grew up on Edison St. with Craig and Roy Parian,” said Kondra. “I grew up with them and I had to be a musician. I was playing drums at 10. They played the piano.” The group picked up Wayne LoPresti and Fred Sakacs along the way, which would eventually go on to form The Jades. Inspired by a number of prominent



musicians during the decade, the band started by primarily playing cover songs.

“Then we started doing stuff like The Kinks, The Animals, The Rolling Stones and that kind of sound,” recalled Kondra. “When The Beatles came out, that’s when everything hit for us.”

“We played with what we grew up with,” said LoPresti, who passed away in May of 2023. “Things were changing around us and we changed, too.”

As the popularity of the British Invasion continued, the band augmented its cover song line-up to include The Beatles, as well as some Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Vanilla Fudge, Deep Purple, and other bands.

Another major inspiration for the band from Clifton was Paul Revere and the Raiders. The Jades were particularly fond of the group’s style. “They were one of the house bands on one of Dick Clark’s programs,” he said. “We emulated them. They had ruffled shirts and bell-



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bottom pants and jackets that matched. It was the Beau Brummell look.”

The Jades honed their sound and settled on a style, and the band’s popularity began to take off.

“We were playing school dances and stuff like that,” said Kondra. “Later, we ended up playing in clubs and bars and finding gigs like that. We started off playing at the Boys Club for \$5 a guy.”

But it was the Battle of the Bands events that really cemented The Jades in Clifton music lore.

“I don’t really know how we got into them,” said Kondra. “It was probably Craig. He was kind of the leader, he had a business sense. He was the one who really got us into the Battle of the Bands in Clifton and Wayne.”

Other gigs followed. The Jades performed at the opening of the new Wayne Mercury Lincoln car dealership on Rt. 23. LoPresti was interviewed on FM radio.

The band rode the surge of popularity to the recording studio and even made appearances on a locally produced TV show by Ed Zacherley in the 60’s.

“[Ed] was a ghoulish guy that used to have a TV show on Channel 47 in Newark,” said Kondra in 2010. “People in their 50’s will recognize it. We also did some original material, but not a lot,” he added. “We went to a recording studio in New York City in 1968 and put together a single, Blew Over You. It got some FM play.”

Perhaps most memorable to Kondra and his bandmates was the time that The Jades opened for The Rascals at the Lady of the Valley Church in Wayne in 1967. “They were like the kings to us,” said Kondra. “To warm up for them — that was definitely one of my favorites.”

“We actually had an argument before the show,” added LoPresti. “We wanted to play some of their songs. How can you beat The Rascals at their own songs?”

The Jades disbanded in 1968, as each of the members went their separate ways following graduation. Most went on to continue to play years after the breakup.

“Wayne and I had a wedding band that lasted for 10 years in the 90’s,” said Kondra. “It was New Sensation. We got that from the In Excess song.”

Kondra ended up in Rockaway and played with a band called Bad Kitty. He lives today in Perkasio, Pennsylvania.

Though nearly 60 years have passed since The Jades last performed and LoPresti has since passed, Clifton never forgot the band’s short-lived success.

And, at the time of this interview, neither did the band.

“We just played our music,” LoPresti had said. “And we had some fun at the same time.”



*Wayne LoPresti then & in 2010.*



*Craig Parian then & in 2010.*



*Fred Sakacs then & in 2010.*



*Tom Kondra then & in 2010.*



*Roy Parian then & in 2010.*





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## CHS Students Protest on Decision to add Speed Bumps

It was the Age of Aquarius, the time of the Beatles, and an era of social upheaval. Women burned bras, students burned draft cards, and the establishment burned with anger as hippies, yippies, and assorted radicals challenged the status quo.

Adults were confused and angry. The kids grew their hair long, communicated in a new groovy language, and listened to ear-splitting, root-of-all-evil noise called rock 'n' roll.

And it seemed kids during the 60's were upset about everything. They rallied against discrimination, screamed for equal rights...and demanded the government in Clifton ban the bumps!

That's right, bumps—as in speed bumps.

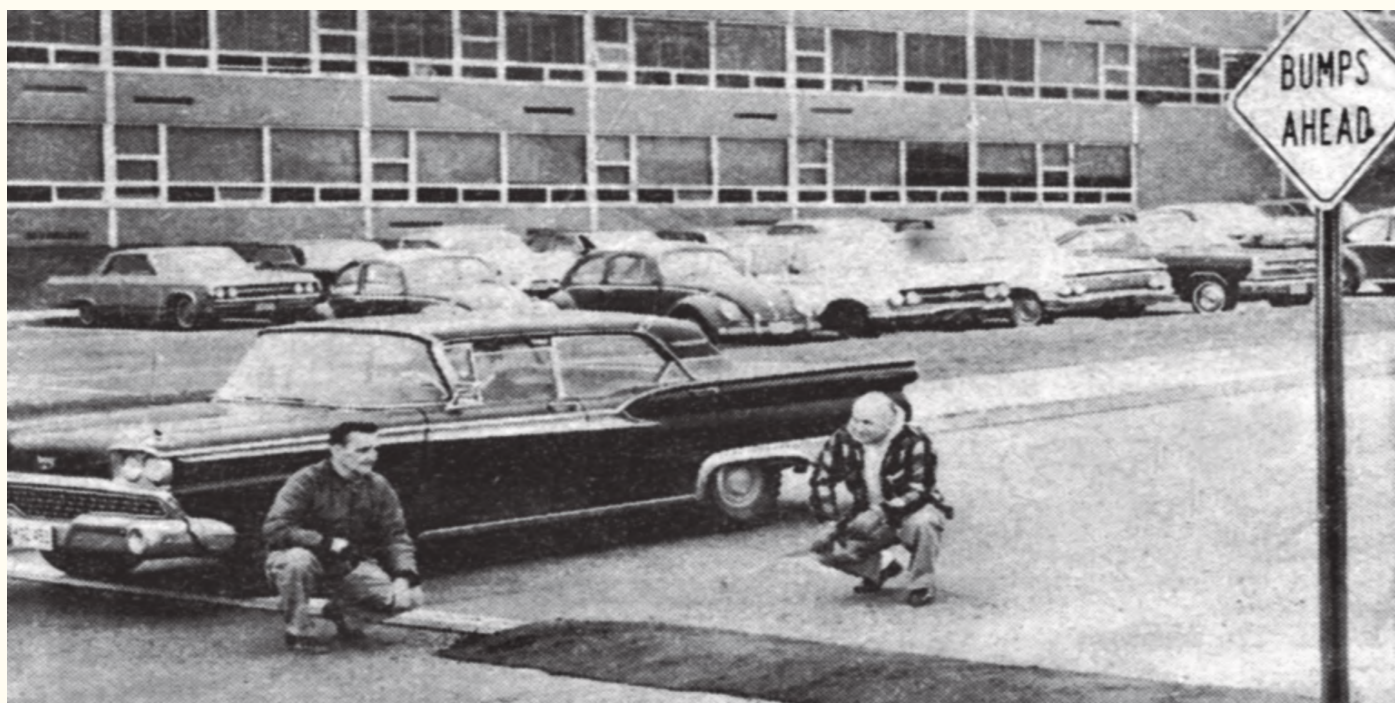
At least Clifton High School students did back in 1966 when they focused their youthful rage on the macadam mounds.

The problem started when kids began drag racing in the school parking lot. The Clifton Board of Education decided to erect a fence to keep the hot rods out. The fence worked...until a befuddled milkman plowed his truck through it.

With the fence a mess, a new solution was needed.

"We were afraid a kid was going to get killed," said the late Fred Lombardo, a retired industrial arts teacher. "The kids would drive into the parking lot with their souped-up





*Looking over a partially installed bump leading to the entrance of CHS are Walter Senko (right) and Emil Mihalik, two high school custodians. The car is stopped at a board, which will later be covered by macadam.*

cars and start racing. Either someone was going to get run over or a driver was going to lose control and crash. One of the teachers came up with the idea for the speed bumps because he'd seen it used somewhere else."

The Clifton Department of Public Works (DPW) got to work, determined to create a hassle for GTOs and little deuce coups.

But no one in the high school or over at city hall would realize what a commotion this action would cause.

To create the new speed bumps, workers took 2-by-8 boards, placed 2-by-6 boards on top of them, and covered the boards with macadam. They installed six bumps and planned to build 29 more.

That's when the trouble began.

First, school janitor Charles Bruin was hurt after crash-

ing his car on a bump. Three Public Service busses also had nasty bump encounters.

Students scraped their cars' oil pans on the speed bumps, and industrial arts teacher William Borowski's little foreign car got stranded on a macadam mountain. Even parents dropping off underclassmen began freaking out when the bottom of their station wagons scraped on the bumps.

What a drag! It was time to question authority, and CHS began to rise up and protest.

"Like any change, there's always a reaction," recalls Lombardo. "But the teachers were surprised how the kids reacted." On a March morning before school, 20 students staged a sit-in on one of the 6-inch high, 49-foot wide bumps.

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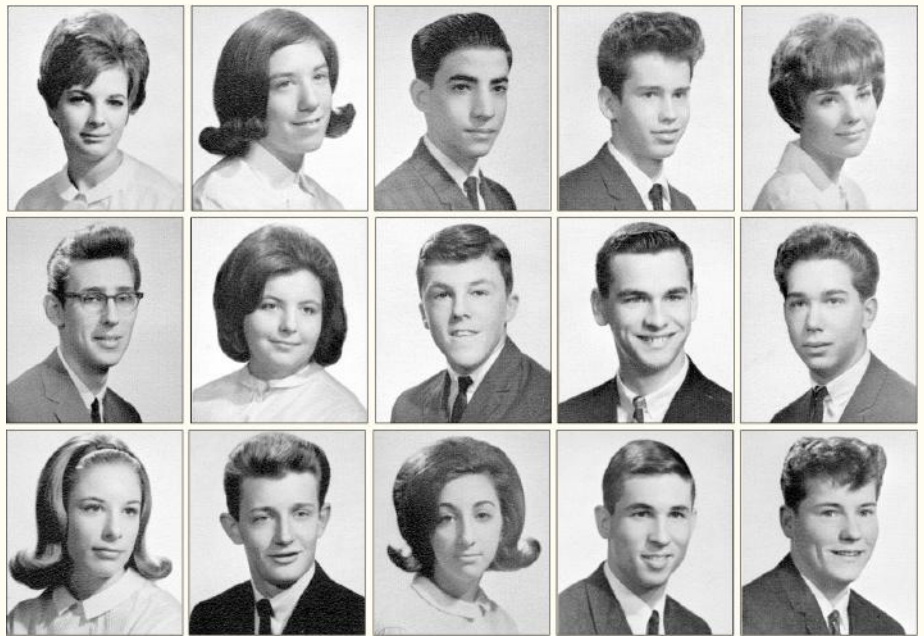
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# BAN THE BUMPS

*Who are the radicals that took over CHS that cool March day back in 1966? Are some of the protest organizers pictured here? And whatever happened to that card-burning Terry Krinsky? We're not sure but here are some of the potential protestors... Nancy Maurer Muddell, Jackie Sussman Schein, Bennett Wasserstrum, Michael Ressetar, Nancy Demattia Ressetar, Nicholas Telep, Norma Smith, Robert Castronovo, Robert Morgan, Ralph Caprio, Murem Sakas Sharpe, Michael Telofski, Dan Goodell, Stephen Morici.*



Herald-News reporter Gordon Bishop wrote: “The 20 card-carrying demonstrators were supported by almost 200 pupils, crowding about them on the sidewalks.”

Students carried signs and chanted, “Ban the Bumps!” and “What’s next? Bars on windows?”

Other students voiced their support by hanging banners from classroom windows. But before the protest could escalate, the Clifton Police were called and herded the students back into school.

The next day, the students staged a demonstration that would make Abbie Hoffman proud.

“I can’t even remember who started the protest,” claimed Nancy Muddell, a student at the time and retired Clifton school teacher.

“But it became the thing to do,” she admitted. “Most of us were coming into school when it started and we stayed outside and took part.”

Cars with beige masking tape spelling out “Ban the Bump” drove around the school. Marchers sang, “Old MacDonald Had a Bump.” Nearly the entire student population of 2,500 united behind removing the speed bumps.

“Most kids were just protesting for the sake of protesting,” Lombardo believed.

Nonetheless, things did get heated.

Newspapers reported students grappled with police. Four protesters were taken away, including a 17-year-old senior who struck a police officer trying to disperse the crowd.

Cries of “police brutality” rang out. Sergeant Frank Strawz had to wrestle with one 6-foot 2-inch senior to subdue him, and Patrolman Gerald Wirt injured an ankle while struggling with another protester.

The demonstration continued inside the school.

After classes started at 8:05 am, some students continued to march in the hallways, chanting against the bumps.

Student Terry Krinsky tried to burn his student activity card (that’s him mid-torch failure on the previous page) but it wouldn’t ignite because of the plastic coating.

And poor Aaron Halpern. The principal of Clifton High returned from a business trip to find his school in an uproar. He called a special session of the student council to allow student president John Clark to speak with his fellow students.

At the end of the school day, Halpern met with student representatives and agreed the bumps were too high and would be “trimmed down.”

Like many 60’s protests, the great “Ban the Bumps!” demonstration led to positive change. With lower speed bumps, Clifton High returned to normal.

The students of CHS from that era had lived their own civics lesson, using their voices to defeat the establishment—much to the chagrin of city’s auto mechanics.

“We got over it pretty quickly,” recalled Muddell, who has helped coordinate reunions for the Class of 1966. “Today, when we ask our classmates to write down their memories, the most frequently mentioned is the ‘ban the bumps’ protest.”

The speed bumps that now guard the CHS parking lot are a testament to Muddell’s class—a time when courageous students showed what the phrase “Power to the People!” really meant.

Yeah, right, a Mustang of today might say... “a protest over speed bumps? Get real— that’s not even worth closing out of TikTok.”





*Michael, Kevin, Stacey and Stephen.*



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This is our way of expressing gratitude for your years of support and welcoming you back to the newly revitalized Corbo Jewelers.

### **Come See Us**

We invite you to visit our beautifully renovated store and experience the next chapter of Corbo Jewelers. Whether you're looking for that perfect gift, a meaningful piece to mark a special occasion, or simply want to say hello. Our doors are open and we're excited to welcome you back.

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Warmest regards,  
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# Photos and Documents

Property of Joseph Bellanca

## Found in a Suitcase

## Put us on a Search for

## Photographer Joseph Bellanca

by Joe Hawrylko

Here is a story that began in 2008 when Ann Simpson found a suitcase of photos while cleaning out Room 208 in the Hotel Passaic on Henry St.

Four years later, in February 2012, when Simpson worked at DeLuxe Cleaners, she visited and shared the contents, which included some papers offering scant clues to who the photographer was.

Lonely and contemplative but also sexy and inquisitive, the photographs were taken by Joseph Bellanca. The contents of the suitcase revealed he was born July 7, 1930, served in the US Army from 1951-1954, and received an Honorable Discharge as well as the Korean Service Medal.

His discharge stated his address as 228 Parker Ave., while a résumé from the mid-60's lists it as 13 Van Riper Ave. In March 2012, we published a two-page spread asking for help. Readers responded. In April of 2012, this is what we published...







# *Lonely and contemplative but also provocative and abstract.*

The talents of Joseph Bellanca go far beyond the collection of mysterious photos first presented in the March 2012 edition of *Clifton Magazine*.

At the peak of his career, this Botany Village native had his works on exhibition on several occasions at the Museum of Modern Art. In fact his talent is so unique, Bellanca's photos are part of MoMA's permanent collection.

And, thanks to the dozens of readers who helped us with our search, we located Bellanca in 2012. The then-81-year-old who was living at the Hamilton Plaza Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Passaic.

Milagros Negron, the Center's Recreation Director, reached out after reading the story, and helped set up a meeting with Bellanca (they are pictured). And after that meeting with writer Joe Hawrylko, and letters, calls and emails from readers, we present once again his interesting life story.





## Photographer Joseph Bellanca

Born in Passaic on July 7, 1930, Bellanca was raised in Botany Village, fell in love with photography during his teenage years and attended the School of Modern Photography in New York.

"It was a good profession at that time," he recalled of those early years. "At school, it was all veterans who had returned from the war. I was the youngest kid there. And then I decided to explore the world and life with my camera."

Bellanca, who graduated from Clifton High School in June of 1948, achieved success early on in the Big Apple.

By 1950, at the age of 20, he had his first piece on display at the Museum of Modern Art: 'Untitled', a black and white shot of men with warped faces carrying a casket during a funeral, which is in the MoMA permanent collection.

"With that photograph, I was experimenting a lot in the dark room," he explained of his craft. His work evolved much over those early years and his services were in great demand. "It is intensely black and white and spooky."

Bellanca's photographic art appeared in three separate exhibitions at MoMA: Photographs by 51 American Photographers, from Aug. 2 through Sept. 17, Then and Now, from Aug. 5 to 18, 1952, Photographs from the Museum Collection, on display from Nov. 26, 1958, to Jan. 18, 1959.

Bellanca also had two other pieces in the MoMA permanent collection: 'Man of the Planets', 1963, and 'A Special Place', 1964. Both were gifted by the Clifton artist. "At one point, I had more color photographs on display in MoMA than any other photographer," Bellanca claimed proudly. "That was my favorite memory."

'A Special Place' appeared in the exhibit, Mirrors and Windows: American Photography Since 1960, which was on display from July 27 through Oct. 2, 1978. Many of the press releases announcing these exhibits and others can still be found on the Museum's website at [moma.org](http://moma.org).

Bellanca's work was not just limited to the confines of the Museum of Modern Art. Before the age of 21, he had work appearing in numerous high profile publications: Vogue, Modern Photography, Pageant, Jubilee, Esquire, Theater Arts and more.

"I worked in New York and photographed a lot of stars," explained Bellanca, who noted (as did other readers) that



the photo of the individual on page 76 of the March Clifton Merchant is of actor Barry Sullivan. "That's a toupee that Barry was wearing!"

While staking a claim for himself in the City, Bellanca continued to live on Parker Ave. in Botany Village with his parents Joe Sr. and Francis. "I lived between a chicken

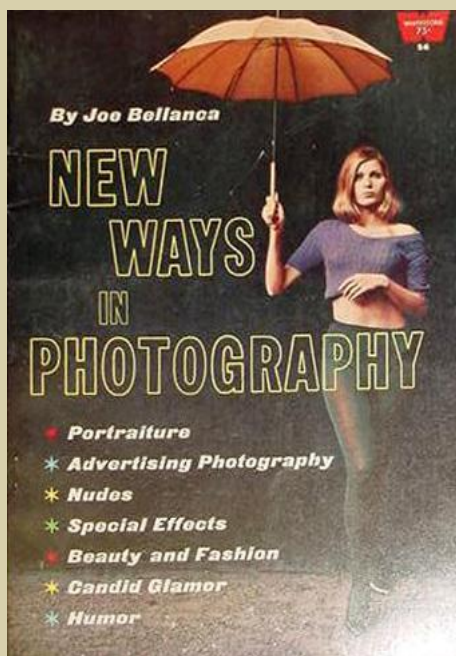


market and a dry cleaners,” he recalled and said with a laugh: “You’d open one window and get a smell of the chicken market. At the other you’d get a face full of steam.”

Bellanca’s career in the Big Apple was temporarily put on hold when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1951. Working as an Army photojournalist, he spent 1953 and 1954 in Korea on photographic duty with combat engineers. Many of these pictures ended up in spreads in the NY Times Magazine, Vogue and MoMA. Bellanca, who traveled to Japan while on R&R in Korea, also did pen and ink cartoons for Stars and Stripes while on duty.

Back in the States in 1954, Bellanca resumed his successful career, eventually spending more than two years living and working in New York City. He worked in the movie and Broadway worlds, spending time with and taking photos of some of the era’s stars. “Chita Rivera! I used to go get Communion with her,” smiled Bellanca, commenting on the dancer’s legendary gams.

Such was the day of the young, emerging artiste... Featured at MoMA and touted in top magazines, he developed a relationship with MoMa’s Edward Steichen who arranged for the Cliftonite to meet his idol, Alfred Stieglitz.



He unsuccessfully tried to become an assistant to the great photographer. “Alfred Stieglitz was the father of photography,” Bellanca said at the time, still with awe.

Bellanca took on other business endeavors. In 1958, he opened his own studio, Grand Central Palace, and his work was published frequently on the pages of Life, Look, Time, Esquire, as well as The New Yorker. He was also in demand by advertising studios and others.





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## Photographer Joseph Bellanca

Bellanca also published a magazine called *Tropical Fish World*, after picking up an interest in aquariums. “I bought a lot of pictures from this German photographer, Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod. He was king of the tropical fish world,” he explained.

Another accomplishment was when Bellanca had an exhibit of his photos from Korea at the US State Department. “It then went to Europe and around the world,” he recalled. “That was a great honor.”

In his matter of fact manner, Bellanca forgot to mention that in 1964 he authored *New Ways in Photography*, a 112-page book detailing the different disciplines in his field. He received \$2,500 and it had a print run of 125,000. *New Ways* can still be found online. “You better believe that was a lot of money then,” he said.



*Actor Barry Sullivan, who we mistakenly thought was Joseph Bellanca in 2012.*

Bellanca’s story also has a happy ending. After locating him, he reunited with Cliftonite Francine Ferlise, who lost touch with Joe many years ago. She was one of many tipsters to help us in our search.

Silvia Hart was the first to reach out: “My mom, Angelica Salvi, was friendly with his mom so occasionally we’d visit,” she recalled, adding that the Bellancas were parishioners at Sacred Heart Church. “They lived diagonally from the old movie house called The Strand on Parker Ave., next to the poultry market, Kastan’s. All of that is since gone from Botany.”

On Aug. 1, 2013, Joseph Bellanca died two years after we published his photos and story.

So to the many folks who helped us bring this Clifton Mystery full circle back in 2012—Ann Simpson, Francine Ferlise, Silvia Hart, Rich DeLotto, Philip Read, Rosanne Zisa, Milagros Negron—we offer our thanks. Please excuse us if we omitted any other callers or writers.

*Here’s how Vogue described the abstract art of the teen-aged Bellanca.*

### Camera Eye of Bellanca - Vogue June 1950

**Old as the art of photography** are the uses of “out-of-focus” to create a misty, poetic overtone: of the sharp black-and-white print to intensify a documentary reality.

Joseph Bellanca, a young American photographer not yet quite twenty, combines these opposite techniques to attain an emotional dimension. (“Why shouldn’t photography,” Mr. Bellanca asks, “be as powerful as music?”) In his compelling pictures, out-of-focus carried to a fine far point is coupled with the most intense “contrasty” print that it is possible to get (by a right conjunction of object, light, and darkroom mysteries).

Mr. Bellanca is sensible of the limitation of this style to a subject matter both visually and characteristically relevant. As example, the funeral (featured in the magazine) where his dense blacks, deep whites, and diffused outlines evoke a sense of death; and the study of one of his classmates - in which he has recorded an elusive visual effect of the subject’s personality.

Currently in 1950, some of Mr. Bellanca’s colour transparencies are in the exhibition, “Colour Photography”, arranged by Edward Steichen, Director, Department of Photography, at the Museum of Modern Art.







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**NATIONAL****NONPROFIT****DAY****AUG. 17***By Ariana Puzzo***As Fred Rogers once encouraged:**

“Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” But those helpers also need our support and, with National Nonprofit Day on Aug. 17, there is no shortage of ways to show your appreciation for your favorite local nonprofit and the support they provide to your neighbors. Whether you dedicate time, money, or resources to a cause, the need is great and the support is always appreciated. And now as the Season of Giving is approaching, we’ve outlined what you can look forward to and do to help.

**St. Peter’s Haven** strives to close the hunger gap with every donation that comes its way. But did you know that nearly 1.1 million New Jerseyans are food insecure? The Haven was established in 1986 as a ministry of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and serves approximately 1,400 households consisting of almost 3,700 individuals each month.

Federal cuts to programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) have far-reaching effects. More than 75% of households receiving SNAP have at least one child, senior, and/or disabled person living there.

“These cutbacks are placing significant financial strain on families who are already hard-pressed living in one of the most expensive states in the country,” said Executive Director Pam Fueshko. “We are also experiencing reductions in both the amount of food received from the food bank and our gleaning partners and funds from our consistent funding sources.”

Supporting St. Peter’s Haven also means supporting its three shelters that are “consistently full as more and more families are facing evictions.” One shelter funding source has “placed a hold on distribution of funds, which come from the federal government.”

“We would appreciate any information about foundations, corporations, or individuals that you are aware of who would be willing to support our mission,” said Fueshko. Contact Fueshko at [pam@saintpetershaven.org](mailto:pam@saintpetershaven.org).



*On July 12, the Clifton Advisory Committee For Individuals With Disabilities held the 1st Annual Disability Pride Flag Raising on the Great Lawn of the municipal complex. At front is Committee Chair Ryan Powers. Standing, from left, Janice Struwe, Secretary Pat Bednar, Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Arnold Korotkin, and Colleen Murray.*



*Harpist Laura Perrius performs at Empty Bowls on Nov. 14.*



To donate or get involved, visit [saintpetershaven.org](http://saintpetershaven.org). St. Peter's Haven and its partners are hosting these events...

**The Annual Tricky Tray is Sept. 12** at the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton from 6-10 pm. Donations are needed by Aug. 31. Donations of prizes accepted. Cost is \$25 and includes one sheet of tickets. Reserve tables of 10. Bring your own food and drink. Tickets at [saintpetershaven.org](http://saintpetershaven.org).

**The Feeding Our Families Food Drive** is Sept. 13 and sponsored by Channel 4/Telemundo 47 and Stop & Shop. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Kingsland Ave. and Broad St. stores between 8 am – 6 pm, collecting food and monetary donations. Volunteer shifts are two hours. Questions? Call 973-546-3406 ext. 711.

**Mark your calendars for Empty Bowls on Nov. 14** at Athenia Veterans Post, 147 Huron Ave., from 6-9 pm. Empty Bowls is an grassroots effort, striving to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. All proceeds support the food pantry at St. Peter's Haven. Empty Bowls ticket donations include: a handcrafted ceramic bowl to use and keep, signature soup or chili donated by local restaurants or cooks, and hearty breads/desserts donated by local bakeries and bakers. Guests can purchase extra soup/chili. Enjoy harpist Laura Perrius and Russ Koch on the accordion. A 50/50 and a Holiday Craft table will also be available.



*Kim Castellano revs up the Power of One school supply drive.*

**The Clifton Unhoused Initiative highlights dignity, compassion, and most importantly urgency.** The city's newest nonprofit is dedicated to serving neighbors in need, alongside the Health Department and local groups. Mail tax-deductible contributions to organizer Margaret Curreri at 70 Maple Pl., Clifton, NJ 07011. Year-round outreach will include aid for the Lauren Murphy Warming Center. Questions? Call 973-317-8722 or email [clifton.unhoused.initiative@gmail.com](mailto:clifton.unhoused.initiative@gmail.com).

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Summer Camp at the Islamic Center of Passaic County on Pershing Rd. The Salvation Army needs your help. In 2019, helping the Salvation Army raise funds are Penelope Surgent and the late Clifton Councilwoman Lauren Murphy.

**Power of One Christian Coaching** knows that education is the best solution to ending poverty. The Back2School Outreach School Supply Drive, in partnership with St. Peter's Haven, runs until Aug. 18 to provide school supplies to Clifton K-8 children in need. Items will be distributed on Aug. 24 at the Power of One's Family Fun Day. Find the full list of needed items @powerofoneministriesinc on Instagram. Send a check to Power of One at PO Box 6080, Clifton, NJ 07015. Visit [powerofoneccom.org](http://powerofoneccom.org) to donate online. Amazon drop ship to A1 – Affordable Construction, 164 Getty Ave. Drop off at the Haven, 380 Clifton Ave., Tuesday-Friday (8 am to 3 pm) or Saturdays (8 am to noon).

**Islamic Center of Passaic County's Substance Abuse Initiative** provides confidential services to those who need rehab and referrals. Email [isai@icpcnj.org](mailto:isai@icpcnj.org) or call 973-553-5578. ICPC works with Cure Med Pharmacy to provide low-income and uninsured families with prescription medication. Visit [icpcnj.org](http://icpcnj.org) to learn if you qualify.

ICPC began in 1990 (and still continues) in Paterson and also at 259 Pershing Rd., which opened in 2016. Sleepaway summer camp for boys and girls, ages 12-18, is offered. Learn more at [icpcnj.org/summer-camp](http://icpcnj.org/summer-camp). There is Ihsan Academy, a general summer program in Paterson for kids ages 5-12, and Quran Camp at ICPC-Clifton for kids ages 5-18. Donate or sign up to volunteer at [icpcnj.org](http://icpcnj.org).

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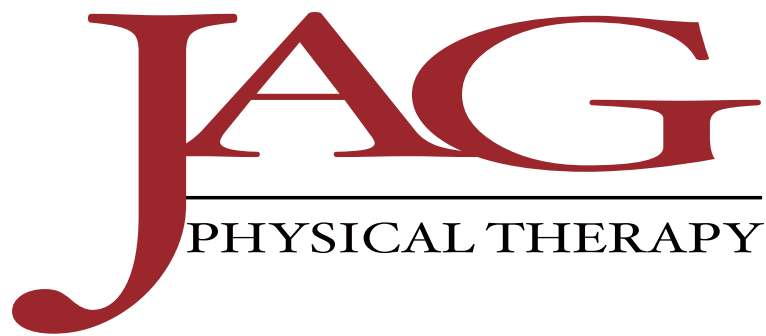
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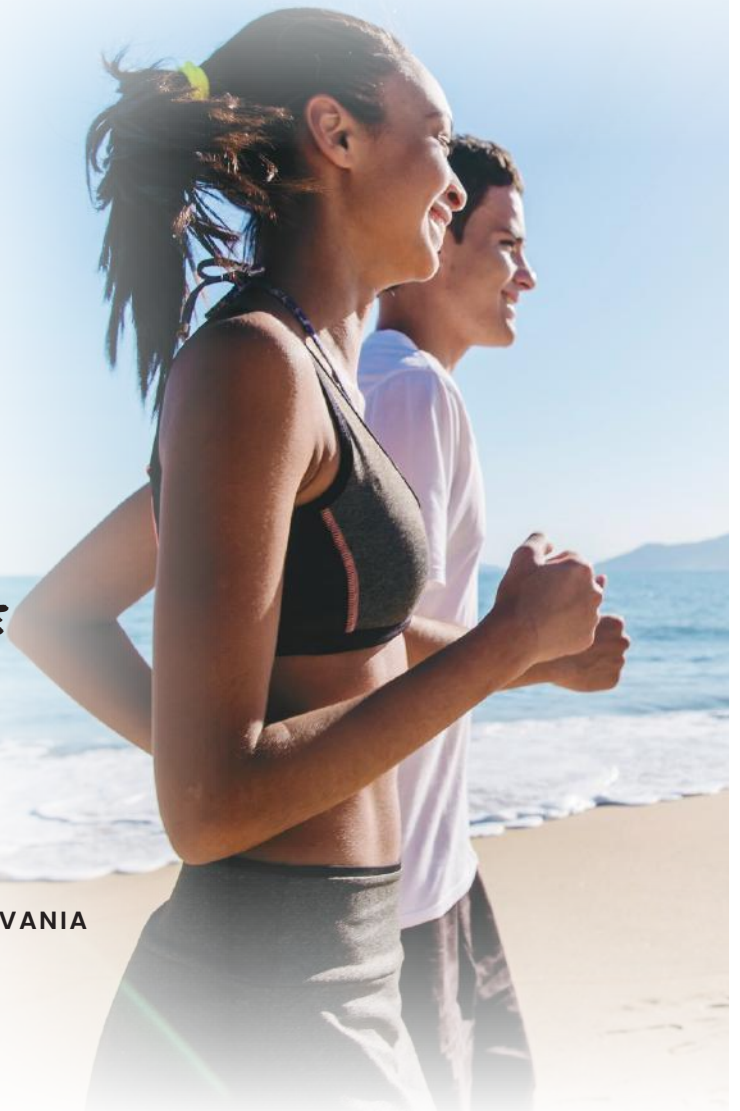
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*At the 2024 Boys & Girls Club Car Show, which returns to 1255 Broad St. on Sept. 14 with a rain date of Sept. 28.*

**The Salvation Army in Passaic** feeds an average of 156,000 each day in the U.S. and provides year-long programs. The Passaic branch offers: Worship Services and Sunday School, a Soup Kitchen, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, a Food Pantry, Prayer and Bible Study, and Youth Programs. Need support? Call 973-779-1155 or 973-745-0152. To donate or volunteer, visit [easternusa.salvationarmy.org/new-jersey/passaic](http://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/new-jersey/passaic).

**Generosity has met gratitude for over 75 years** at the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton. Inspiring our city's young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and compassionate citizens is The Club's mission. The community's ongoing generosity is what makes pursuing its mission to roughly 6,000 children possible each year.

The Club's Annual Summer Scholarship Campaign gives kids access to Arts & Crafts, STEM projects, sports, field trips, and mentorship. The Annual Campaign raises critical funds that go toward services preparing kids for the future. The fundraiser runs from November to March.

Other ways to support The Club is by planned giving, corporate giving, a personalized engraved seat plate, or a personalized paving brick. Volunteers are always needed for sports, academics, fundraising, Bingo, and special

events. Individual or group volunteers are welcome. Call James Castillo at 973-773-0966 x133. To donate, visit [bgcclifton.org/donate](http://bgcclifton.org/donate). Upcoming events include the Car, Truck, & Motorcycle Show (Sept. 14), A Taste of Clifton (Oct. 27), plus the Golf Classic and Great Futures Gala in 2026. Find more events at [bgcclifton.org/events](http://bgcclifton.org/events) or @bgc-clifton on Instagram.

**The North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency** has helped enrich the quality of life for individuals with disabilities for over 75 years. NJEDDA, previously the Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center, challenges children and adults to learn and to grow while in supportive educational, therapeutic, and vocational environments.

NJEDDA offers special education from preschool through age 21. NJEDDA students from three facilities also participate in Special Olympics. Therapy ranges from physical, occupational, and speech to language and assistive technology. Contributors can make a donation online at [njedda.org](http://njedda.org) and select the "Support Us" drop-down menu option. Interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, making matching contributions, or arranging planned giving? Call Director Rachel Harrington at 973-772-2600.





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Founder Evelio Cuellar opens President's Supermarket in Passaic in 1984.

1984

Evelio passes away in 1996 and Rafael leaves the US Navy as a Lieutenant Commander to manage President's Supermarket.

1996

The Cuellar Family sells President's Supermarket in 2005.

2005

Rafael opens Paulison Avenue ShopRite August 8, 2005 and establishes Cuellar Family Markets.

2005

ShopRite Wines & Spirits opens July 28, 2016.

2016

Crunch Fitness opens January 23, 2019.

2019

Fully Promoted opens July 1, 2024.

2024

**We know you have a choice. Thank you for patronizing Cuellar Family Markets.**





The Clifton Education Foundation provides grants for innovative and everyday programs and projects not typically supported by the annual budget in all Clifton Public Schools. The CEF's Second Annual Endless Summer Fundraiser for retired city Board of Education employees is Sept. 16 at Shannon Rose, 98 Kingsland Ave., from noon to 4 pm. Reunite with your former colleagues and friends with all proceeds funding grants in every Clifton Public School. Show your support online at [cliftoneducationfoundation.org](http://cliftoneducationfoundation.org) by clicking the "Donate" button or when you mail donations to: CEF, P.O. Box 2071, Clifton, NJ 07015. Follow the CEF on Instagram @cliftoneducationfoundation and on Facebook.

**It's summertime for the Friends of the Clifton Public Library.** The Friends will reunite Sept. 8 (now in their 40th year) for a meeting in the Main Library at 11 am on Mondays. Remaining 2025 meetings are: Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1. The group is governed by community volunteers. Fundraising, membership drives, and corporate sponsorship assist the Friends in donating to the CPL with the goal of fostering cultural



*Clifton Education Foundation's Endless Summer Fundraiser.*

and educational programs. Renewing membership annually can be done at any time by filling out a membership form and returning it to the library (Attn.: FRIENDS) along with a check. The public can purchase items from a Gift Gallery in the Main Library or donate time to assist with special and ongoing events. Email President Joyce Frommer at [MembershipfriendsofCPL@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipfriendsofCPL@gmail.com) to discuss donations, gifts, and bequests. For more info, visit [cliftonpl.org/FRIENDS-of-the-library](http://cliftonpl.org/FRIENDS-of-the-library) or call 973-772-5500.

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*An aerial view of the Clifton Arts Center and part of the Sculpture Park on the city hall campus. At left, that's Gloria Kolodziej in April 2011.*

**Art comes alive and extends beyond the exhibits** hosted by the Clifton Arts Center. Founded in 2000 by the late Mayor Gloria J. Kolodziej, the origins of the Arts Center date back to the 80's and the Barns Museum-Workshop Committee, led by Rita Cadorin-Foti and other city officials. Rounding out its 25th year, the Arts Center has evolved into a space where children and adults can take classes, visit in-person and virtual exhibits, attend many diverse programs and events, and join webinars. One-time or recurring donations can be made to Clifton Arts Center, Inc., the nonprofit that supports the CAC for special exhibitions, education programs, and renovations or restorations for the facility. Visit [cliftonartscenter.org/donate](http://cliftonartscenter.org/donate) or email [CliftonArtsCenter@gmail.com](mailto:CliftonArtsCenter@gmail.com).

**Clifton PRAISE** (Parents Requiring Action and Information for Special Education) can always use support when it comes to keeping kids both active and socially involved. The community support group acts as a resource for parents and families of special needs children and adults. Meetings are every fourth Monday during the school year with different speakers.

The group organizes a Bambino Buddy Ball baseball team for kids 5-20 and a Special Olympics bowling team.



*Commissioners Orlando Cruz, Sandi Lazzara, Terry Duffy, Thomas, Bob and Gabriella Marriello of Clifton PRAISE.*

Join the Facebook group "Clifton P.R.A.I.S.E." for resources or to receive support in a safe, non-judgmental environment. To make a donation or to volunteer as a sports shadow, visit [cliftonpraise.org](http://cliftonpraise.org) or email [cliftonpraise@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonpraise@gmail.com).



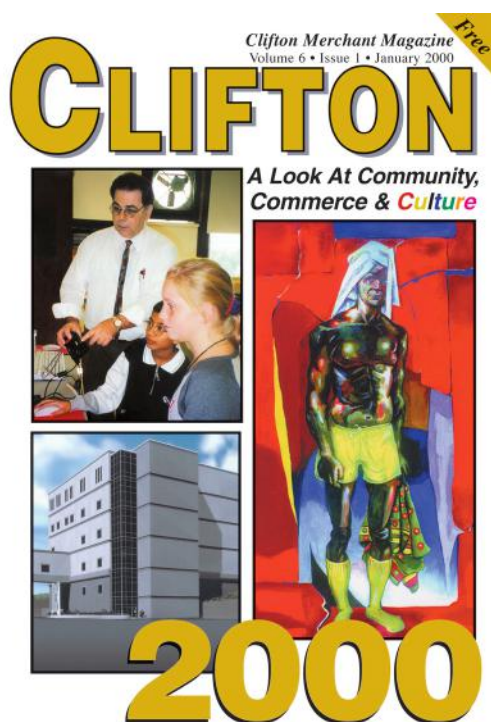
**The Theater League of Clifton** hustles to keep the lights on. The stage lights, that is.

Founded in 2005, TLC has an important 'ask' for the city: Keep the arts alive and well in our community. Any donation makes a big difference and does more than provide first-class theater productions. It funds artistic endeavors.





TLC was honored on its 20th anniversary by the Mayor and Council on July 15. Founded in 2005, TLC is a non-profit community organization dedicated to fostering the arts in Clifton. Pictured from left: Councilmember Tony Latona, Mary Sadrakula, TLC Board members Prashant Arora, Stephanie Yoda, Christine Potash, John Traier, Barbara Novak, Jalmari Vanamo and Mark Peterson. Councilmembers Rosie Pino, Chris D'Amato, Mayor Ray Grabowski and Councilmember Joe Kolodziej.



The Clifton Arts Center officially opened on Jan. 6, 2000 and presented its first one-person show featuring painter James Carlin, whose abstract painting is pictured on the right side of the January 2000 cover.

ors, such as offering a scholarship for CHS students to encourage our youth to engage in the arts.

Buying an ad in their Playbill or becoming a sponsor are other forms of support. Details: [theaterleagueofclifton.com](http://theaterleagueofclifton.com) or on Instagram @theaterleagueofclifton.

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**Clifton Cares supports our troops** during the holidays but cares about them all year long. The organization has prepared holiday care packages for our city's military members stationed in Korea, Japan, England, Germany, Iraq, and Africa. Packages of goodies with their favorite candy, cookies, and toiletries have been sent to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines since 2010. Our city has also answered a need for supplies like toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, baby powder, white socks, hard candy, and individual powder drinks. Ramen noodles, beef jerky, and magazines are also big hits. Mail monetary donations to Clifton Cares Inc., 900 Clifton Ave. Clifton, NJ 07013. Questions? Call Dona Crum at 973-881-7295 or Chris Liszner at 973-650-2719.



**The 2,287 displays of patriotism and Clifton's** ultimate salute to its veterans is none other than the Avenue of Flags. Proudly displayed five times per year on patriotic days, volunteers erect flags through lanes on the grounds of the Municipal Complex. To honor a Clifton veteran by purchasing a flag, fill out an application form and mail it in with a \$120 check and proof of veteran's service. Get an application: [cliftonnj.org/222/Avenue-of-Flags](http://cliftonnj.org/222/Avenue-of-Flags).

The purchase includes a durable flag pole with a 3 feet by 5 feet 100% nylon embroidered flag, a protective sleeve, a name plate, and a ground socket. The veteran's name, branch of service, and the donor's name will be placed in a registry book located in City Hall. Flags go up around dawn and come down at dusk. The next patriotic day is Patriot Day, Sept 11, then Veterans Day. To volunteer, contact the group's City Hall barn at 973-365-2630 or chairman Joe Tuzzolino at 973-632-9225.



*Clifton Cares collects, packs and ships items to the troops annually.*

**Relay For Life of Clifton and Rutherford** will keep the momentum going until its next event in May 2026. The Garage Sale & Clothing Drive Fundraiser is Sept. 13 at Rea Avenue Reformed Church, 89 3rd Ave. in Hawthorne, from 8 am to 4 pm. Proceeds support cancer research and patient services. Donate household goods, toys, games, books, tools, small furniture, or home décor. Clothing donations can be: year-round wearable clothing, handbags, backpacks, and toys. Drop-off: Rea Avenue Reformed Church on Sept.

6, 11 am to 1 pm. Need a pickup? Email Diana at [stride-againstcancernj@gmail.com](mailto:stride-againstcancernj@gmail.com). Visit [relayforlife.org/crnj](http://relayforlife.org/crnj) or FB "Relay For Life of Clifton and Rutherford".

**The Knights of Columbus Regina Mundi Council 3969** is a Roman Catholic ministry serving Clifton since 1955. Regular Council meetings are held at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, 400 Mt Prospect Ave., with Martin Kless presiding as Grand Knight. Call 973-248-7731 with questions or send an email form at [kofcreginamundi.org](http://kofcreginamundi.org). Join the Facebook group "Knights of Columbus, Regina Mundi Council #3969, Clifton, NJ" for event updates.

**Clifton Against Substance Abuse** is grass-roots and dedicated to addiction prevention and education. CASA welcomes volunteers from the business, governmental, and educational communities. CASA receives grant funding from the City of Clifton and Governor's Council Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, but involvement is encouraged. Email President Thomas Whittles at [twhittles@yahoo.com](mailto:twhittles@yahoo.com) or call 862-686-3112.



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*Some of the board members of The Ukrainian Center, at 240 Hope Ave., Passaic, from left front: Mykhaylo Yemtchuk, Lillianna Chudolij, Jerry Zawojski, Maryann Kosciolek Zawojski, Zenon Betley, Irene Lesiw, Catie Russell, Peter Zielonka. Behind them: Roman Witek, Peter Mychalko, Michael Betley, Richard Hoholuk, Pawlo Figol. Board Members not pictured: Roman Diduch, Walter Diduch, Maryann Hoholuk, Nick Holowko, Jim Fedorko, Larissa Kushnir, Daria Patti, Roman Posiko.*

**City of Clifton**

# ZONING MATTERS

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**Dominic Iannarella**

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**On Aug. 24, 2025, the Ukrainian World Congress** is calling on the international community to mark the 34th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence. The goal is to highlight the ongoing war brought on by Russia and the need for support. Events are planned in cities across the globe, including here in Clifton at 1 pm on the Great Lawn in front of City Hall.

On this 34th year of independence, join in to raise the gold and blue flag as songs and speeches will tell of Ukraine's ongoing effort to commemorate its freedom from Russia and the ongoing struggle against Soviet oppression.

Following the flag raising, festivities will continue at The Ukrainian Center, where all are invited to a casual reception and open house. Founded in 1959, the Ukrainian Center is a central gathering place for Ukrainian organizations and the broader northern New Jersey community.

The volunteers above and generations of others have been advocates to preserve the Ukrainian language, culture and history for over six decades. Today, owing to renovations, the "Ukie Center" can be rented for cultural events, private celebrations and gatherings. Call 862-882-1904 for info.

Other events on the horizon: On Sept. 5, there will be an Accordion Fest & Sing-Along starting at 7 pm. The Ukrainian Center's Christmas Bazaar is Nov. 30 from 10 am to 5 pm for a day full of vendors, crafts, Ukrainian food, and drinks.

Follow @ukrainiancenterpassaic on Instagram.



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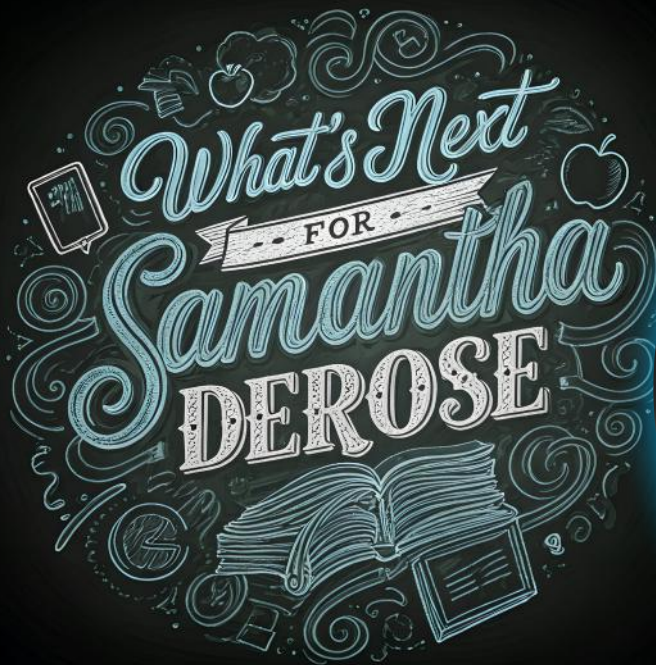


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**UKRCOC.ORG**







By Ariana Puzzo



From her years as a Mustang, then as a teacher to her final act as the Communications Specialist for Clifton Schools, Samantha DeRose experienced the essence of education in our community. But that didn't begin at School 9 on Brighton Rd.

**"Story Hour at the Allwood Branch Library is my first true memory of education,"** said DeRose (CHS 1986). DeRose, now in her 25th year in Clifton Schools, will retire effective Aug. 31. She joined the district in 2000 as a Certified K-8 Elementary Teacher, teaching Basic Skills Instruction and Middle School Computers.

She became a Certified 9-12 English Teacher and has also worked as an SAT Verbal Instructor, a District Home and Alternative Education Instructor, an NJASK Enrichment Course Instructor, and an Adult Professional Development Trainer.

In August 2019, DeRose was ready for change. Several administrators had also recommended her for the newly created communications position.

"It sounded like the perfect way to blend my eclectic set of work experiences with my teaching endeavors," said DeRose, 56. "So I applied and was hired."

Despite not having a formal background in Public Relations, DeRose's expertise allowed her to build a Communications Department for a district of 11,000 students and 2,500 staff members.

"It took research, thinking outside the box, creativity, and building solid connections," said DeRose. "The job is demanding, grueling. It's 24/7 when you're the only one, and, at times, thankless. But I wouldn't trade the knowledge that I've gained, or the glimpses into the classrooms of such incredible students and compassionate educators, for anything in the world."

#### A Fourth-Gen Cliftonite

DeRose's paternal great-grandparents lived on the corner of Lakeview and Clifton Ave., making her a fourth-generation Cliftonite and her kids, eventually, fifth.

She described an idyllic childhood in the Allwood section, walking to Carl's Hardware Store and "epic" Halloween parties with neighborhood kids "wrecking harmless havoc." In the evening, they met extended family at their grandparents' on East 6th to double their "sugary loot."

Parents Art (CHS 1955) and Sandy (CHS 1956) also made sure that DeRose and her siblings, Alisa Corbett (CHS 1978) and the late Arthur Jr. "Chip" (CHS 1982), did their part for others.

"I remember my parents making us mow all of the lawns for the senior citizens who lived in our neighborhood from the time that our arms could reach the handles of the lawn mower," said DeRose. "Now I see my father, at 88 years old, still cutting neighbors' lawns and my mother driving friends around town who aren't able."

DeRose and her siblings worked at the Mande Shop and Rowe-Manse Emporium, which employed most of her





*In a recent photo, Samantha DeRose and her family, from left, Ryan DeRose, Ethan DeRose, Sabrina Jenkins, Lee VanZyl, Samantha, Jordan VanZyl, Dennis Ganley, and Ramon Jenkins.*

family. Arthur Sr. was their commercial artist/advertiser. The men in DeRose's family were also dentists, architects, and sculptors, designing many buildings in Passaic County. Her grandfather designed the original Clifton Public Library. "That's the true heart of Clifton. These little pockets of kindness that exist all throughout our town," said DeRose. "The diversity, despite the usual rumblings, is the heart of this city."

"Their stories are not unlike other immigrants who planted their roots in Clifton at the turn of the century, each facing their own challenges," she continued. "We've come a long way since then, and it gives me hope that our diversity in this town will continue to be our greatest feature."

DeRose attended School 9 and CCMS, where she was an Alto Clarinetist, then CHS, where she played Field Hockey. DeRose matriculated at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), studying English Education.

She joined the corporate workforce in electronic finance and worked for Electronic Data Systems, Ross Perot's first company at the time of his presidential bid. Her next stop was NYCE Corporation in their Electronic Finance Divi-

sion (Automatic Teller Machines) as a supervisor in the Testing and Certification department.

"That was an incredible experience working on Y2K protocols and processes before the end of times," she said. "I remember having a 1.5-year-old in one arm, eight months pregnant with my second child, and testing remotely (long before Zoom and Google Meets) with banks in Hong Kong to make sure we had every scenario tested so people would be able to get their money."

"Looking back," she continued, "I can't even believe that that was a part of my life."

### Keeping Clifton Connected

DeRose was working for an ad agency when her mother Sandy, a secretary in personnel at School 6, casually mentioned taking the Praxis for Alternate Route.

DeRose passed and Sandy told her that Janina Kusielewicz, now the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, might have an available Basic Skills position.

"Janina took a gamble on me," said DeRose, "and I am forever grateful for her trust in me."



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Returning to Clifton Schools gave DeRose a chance to work with some of her former teachers, including Bruno Ciavetta, Pat Bender, Rob Dominiani, and Elaine Franek.

It also reconnected her with peers. Donna Testa went from an acquaintance to someone who was DeRose's "rock" during her teaching career.

"John Silva was [someone] who, from the time we were kids, could always be counted on for a warm smile and kind words of encouragement," said DeRose.

Her lesser-known responsibilities in District Communications included technical troubleshooting and developing automation, plus training staff or learning to fly a drone for promotional videos.

"I think that my overwhelming need to get into the weeds of how things work has benefitted me. If I think something can make life easier for someone, I'll learn how to do it," said DeRose. "Like the SGO calculator that I developed with an Excel spreadsheet, which hopefully helped to save the teachers a lot of time and headaches."

DeRose's efforts extended to the broader community. She live-streamed Board of Education meetings on Facebook with her iPad before there was a technical team.



*Sons Ryan and Ethan shaved their heads with mom in July of 2012 after challenging her class that she would shave her shoulder-length hair if each student earned a passing grade.*

She also recognized the power of social media. Instead of snail mail and letters home, DeRose leveraged social media, their website, and PeachJar to reach the learning community.

Although she was new to the job during the coronavirus pandemic, she taught herself Google Data Studio and built a COVID-19 Reporting Dashboard that was displayed on the website to inform parents in multiple languages of outbreaks and exposure.

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"Transparency was key. I was surprised to receive calls from other districts who asked me to help set theirs up for their districts. I'm really proud of that," she said. "The experience that I gained in order to help people is priceless." The people that she has worked closely with have had a lasting influence. She cited her collaborative relationship with the Clifton Education Foundation.

"Seeing their growth, generosity, and their hard work has been one of the highlights of my career," she said. "Seeing good people from our community come together so selflessly to give back restores my faith in humanity on a daily basis."

"The Foundation began [around] when I started teaching and to see how it's evolved is nothing short of miraculous," DeRose continued. "I'm so lucky to have worked with them more closely."

### Bringing It Home

DeRose has plenty of ideas and dreams that she will put to use while managing projects for her friend Andrea Bongiovanni's business on a part-time basis. She and Bongiovanni met 40 years ago through the latter's cousin while DeRose worked at Rowe-Manse.

"It's as if my life is coming full circle," said DeRose.

DeRose's sons are Ryan, who graduated from Paramus Catholic, and Ethan (CHS 2018). She looks forward to



*In 2016, from left: Sandra, Ethan, Samantha, Ryan, Ron, Arthur Sr.*

spending her retirement with her family, which includes her grandson. Her family has owned three houses, side-by-side, on Harrington Rd. for decades, which means she only needs to walk next door to see her parents or the other direction to see her sister.

As for DeRose, keep an eye on the App Store.

"My close friends know that I've got a few app prototypes up my sleeve," said DeRose. "Or perhaps I'll sit down and write that memoir or novel that I've always dreamed of writing. Just think," she continued, "everyone that I've encountered in the past 25 years may very well become a character in my novel."

## CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Registration is now open!

To register:

- Go to Student Registration from the Registration Services page of the Clifton Public Schools website
- <https://www.clifton.k12.nj.us/Page/4900>
- Select Step 2: Student Registration
- Select Pre-Register a Student
- Select 2025-2026 for the Pre-Registration School Year





# POU - PINO - PREMPEH



**Rosie Pino is running for Congress.** On July 10, the Clifton councilwoman declared her candidacy for the Republican nomination for New Jersey's 9th Congressional District.

Pino, left center, was first elected to political office after her second run for a seat on the city's Board of Education. She served two years on the BOE. In 2018, she ran for City Council and is currently serving her second term that ends in November, 2026.

Pino is involved in several nonprofit organizations, having founded the Latino Leaders of Clifton, and PINO (Providing Individuals New Opportunities), which is a collaborative effort to address poverty.

Pino will square off in a Republican Primary in June 2026 with fellow GOP candidate Billy Prempeh, left bottom. He ran against the late Congressman Bill Pascrell in 2020 and 2022. Pascrell beat him both times.

Prempeh is a Paterson resident and a US Air Force vet who served as an aerospace ground equipment journeyman. Prempeh ran on a platform focused on term limits, abortion access, and education reform. After Pascrell's death, Prempeh went up against

Democrat Nellie Pou in November, 2024. Republican Prempeh, in his third shot for the seat, lost to Pou 51% to 46%.

But Prempeh came close, catching the tail of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump who surprisingly won the traditionally Democratic-leaning Passaic County. As a result of that gain, the national GOP party has targeted the district as vulnerable and will likely invest heavily in the 2026 race.

Pou, a resident of North Haledon, was backed by state Democratic leaders as the candidate to replace Pascrell on the ticket. Pou is a 27-year lawmaker who served in the NJ Assembly from 1997 to 2011. She then was elected to the NJ Senate in 2011, and won re-election four terms.

In Congress, her work focuses on veterans affairs, job growth, gun control, immigration, and a woman's right to make her own medical decisions.

Pino or Prempeh will appear on the November 2026 ballot opposite the incumbent, Pou. Have you registered to vote? Get started on the process.

Visit [voter.svrs.nj.gov/register](https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register).



## What's on the November 4, 2025 Ballot

### Governor:

Mikie Sherrill (D)  
Jack Ciattarelli (R)

### Passaic County Commissioners:

Christina Schratz (D), Michael Ramaglia (D)  
Nicolino Gallo (R), Danilo Ramirez (R)

### General Assembly, 27th District:

Alixon Collazos-Gill (D)  
Rosy Bagolie (D)

### Board of Education:

*Terms Expiring:*

Richard Mejia, Anthony Santiago, Mark Brunciak

Robert M. Iommazzo (R)  
Adam Kraemer (R)

*Three Candidates for Three-Year Terms:*  
Anthony Santiago, Mark Brunciak, Alias Ragsdale



**Come out for a food truck, vendors, crafts, car show, cornhole tournament, and music festival on Aug. 31 at the City Hall campus, 900 Clifton Ave. at Linzenbold and Well Rd., from 11 am to 7 pm.** Admission is \$5, kids 36" and under are free. Free parking is available at the venue and at CHS, 333 Colfax Ave. All proceeds benefit the Clifton Heroes Parade Committee to support the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades. Find a new favorite brew at a Beer and Wine Garden before browsing through the exhibits. Kids can enjoy a Kids Fun Zone with rides before signing Christmas Cards for our troops, all while enjoying musical performances by Swingman and the Misfit Mutts (noon to 2 pm), Orquesta La Caribena (2:30-4:30 pm), and Alternate Groove Party Band (5-7 pm).



**Cadence Hoogmoed** and five other students were the recipients of the Passaic County 200 Club's scholarship program. Hoogmoed is a 2025 PCTI grad and daughter of Clifton Firefighter Robert Hoogmoed III. The 200 Club supports first responders in Passaic County and the scholarship awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to six students. Recipients received a \$5,000 scholarship, acting as a stipend as they prepare to head for college this fall. Info: [pc200club.org](http://pc200club.org).



**Abby Zoobi (left) is extraordinary!** The founder and CEO of Optical Academy, 1430 Main Ave., was named one of NJ's Most Extraordinary Women in Business by Forbes, Fortune, & Entrepreneur Magazines. Her story will appear in the October's Extraordinary Women in New Jersey. The feature will celebrate her work delivering vision screenings, eye exams, and glasses to over 2.5 million students nationwide.



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**Clifton Hours:**

**Mon.-Fri., 8:30am – 5pm**

**Wed. 8:30am - 8:30pm**

**Sunday for Sick Visits - 8:30am - 2pm**

**Weekend sick visits also seen at our Teaneck and Paramus locations**

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**Leaning into Art-making: Drawing, Painting, Prints & Sculpture** is displayed at the Clifton Arts Center through Aug. 30. The exhibit features the work of Peter Allen, Pedro Luque, Laurie Pettine, Ray Heinz, Sarah Kurz, Neha Sampat, Judy Leeds, Joshua Lopez, John Powers, DeAnn Prosia, Linda Streicher, Elaine Smith and Robert Smith. Open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm, more details at [cliftonartscenter.org](http://cliftonartscenter.org) or call 973-472-5499.

**Historic Botany's Summer Concert Series** concludes Aug. 1 at Sullivan Square, 270 Parker Ave. Music begins at 6:30 and is subject to weather. Questions? Call Joe Waninger at 856-900-2200. Bring chairs and enjoy an evening of music under the stars.

**Clifton Rec's Obser Concert Series** runs through Aug. 24, Sunday evenings at 7:30 in Main Memorial Park (Park Slope & Main Ave.) Free performances by: Mushroom (Aug. 3), Cindi Rand Band (Aug. 10), Tequila Rose (Aug. 17), The Guys on the 2nd Floor (Aug. 24). Call the weather hotline 973-470-5680 after 5 pm. Info at [cliftonrec.com](http://cliftonrec.com).

**Up-Cycling Adventures with Clifton Rec & Recycling** will get kids thinking and creating about the planet. Drop in the Recycling Center behind City Hall from 10 am to noon on Aug. 9 and Sept. 6 with your family to create a one-of-a-kind up-cycled art creation. Free program. No registration is required. Visit [cliftonrec.com](http://cliftonrec.com) or call 973-470-5956.

**Summer Art Camp 2025** is Aug. 11-15 from 9 am to noon at the Clifton Arts Center, 900 Clifton Ave., for ages 7-12. Cost with materials is \$200 (residents) and \$225 (non-residents). Instructor Beth Kearney helps students explore painting, drawing, collage and sculpture to create several 2-D and 3-D pieces. Students must bring snack, beverage, and sunscreen. Call the Arts Center to register by check or cash at 973-472-5499 or online at [allpaid.com](http://allpaid.com).



*Celebrating Peru's 204th anniversary of General José de San Martín's declaration of independence on July 28, 1821, Downtown Clifton was the crossroads for the July 27 Peruvian parade. Participants wore traditional attire, performed music, dances and showed their pride.*

**The Clifton Garden Club** meets Aug. 12, 6:30 pm at the Allwood Library, 44 Lyall Rd. Speaker John Angeleri is a certified arborist and master tree steward. Guests are welcome. Questions? Call Donna Fantacone at 973-473-0577.

**True Colors Independent Indoor Color Guard** practices Monday nights in September from 6-8 pm at School 3, at 365 Washington Ave. Open to students ages 12 through 22 in and around the Passaic, Bergen, and Essex County areas. No experience necessary. No tryouts or auditions. Questions? Visit [truecolorswg.org](http://truecolorswg.org) or contact Tony Pagnozzi at 973-941-3797 or [acp0709@optimum.net](mailto:acp0709@optimum.net).



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### Summer Art Camp

For children ages 7 thru 12  
**August 11th thru 15th**  
9am until 12 pm  
Residents \$200 for all 5 days  
Non-Residents \$225

### Arts Adventures Storytime & More

For children ages 1 thru 5  
plus caregiver  
**Sept. 18th, 25th**  
**Oct. 9th, 16th**  
9:30am until 10:15am  
Residents \$50 for all 4 days  
Non-Residents \$53

### Watercolor Techniques

Adult Classes  
**Sept. 9th, 16th,**  
**23rd and 30th**

**Morning Classes ...**  
11am until 12:30pm  
Residents \$80 all 4 mornings  
Non-Residents \$83

**Afternoon Classes ...**  
1pm until 2:30pm  
Residents \$80 all 4 afternoons  
Non-Residents \$83



All students must bring  
their own watercolor  
supplies. A supply list will  
be emailed to students.

### Prince & Princess Tea Art Party

Dress up in your favorite costume

For children ages 1 thru 6  
Caregivers stay and play  
**Oct. 18th**  
2 pm until 3pm  
Residents \$25 Non-Res. \$28





A look back at the 2010 Clifton Street Fair on Van Houten Ave., across from Shook Funeral Home and in front of Dingo's Den. The 22nd fair returns Sept. 21 from 11 am to 5 pm. Visit [atheniabusines.com](http://atheniabusines.com) or call Laurie at 973-202-8578 or Chris at 201-410-1686.

**Clifton Behind the Scenes** with Echo Unity Series is a free program that explains services offered through Clifton government. Programs are in English and Spanish, at 5:30-7 pm and 7-8:30 pm. Visit @rosiepino04 on Instagram to RSVP. Dates are: Sept. 9, Oct. 15, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

**Valley Seniors Social Club** visits Dutch Country in Lancaster, PA, Nov. 18-19. For tour details, costs and more info, call Karen at 973-420-8605 or Janet at 973-473-2321.

**CHS Class of 1970's 55th reunion** is Oct. 11 at the Best Western, Fairfield. Email [clifton1970reunion@gmail.com](mailto:clifton1970reunion@gmail.com).

**CHS Class of 1975's 50th reunion** is Nov. 15 at the Glen Ridge Country Club. Join Facebook group "CHS Class of 1975" or email [CHS1975cliftonNJ@gmail.com](mailto:CHS1975cliftonNJ@gmail.com).

**The CHS '76 Mustangs** will host its 50th reunion in June of 2026. Email John George: [georgesservice@gmail.com](mailto:georgesservice@gmail.com).

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# 300 Apartments

## on Paulison Avenue

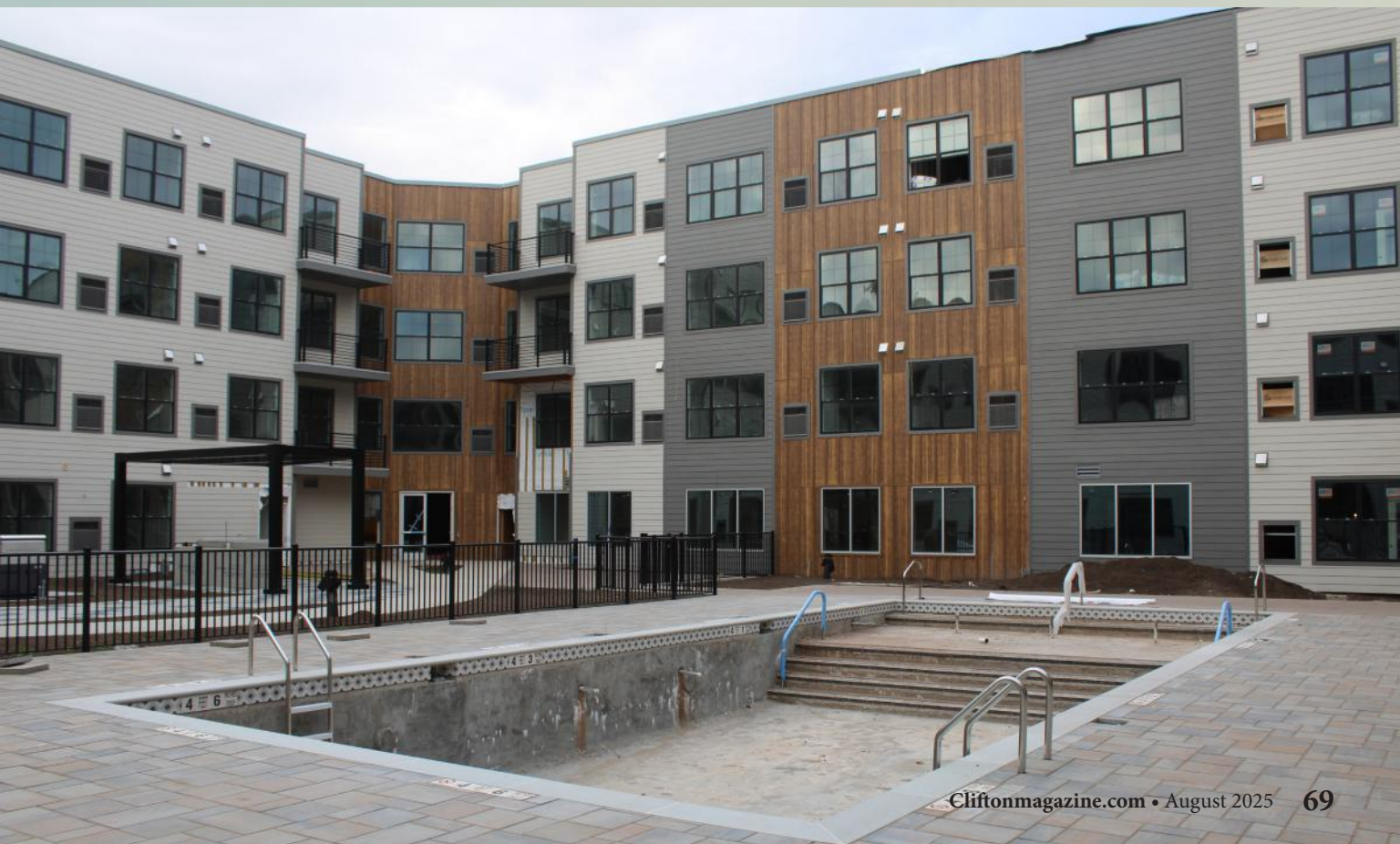
Here is a tour of the four-story, 300-residential unit apartment complex at the corner of Paulison and Clifton Ave. Workers are on-site six out of seven days finishing hallways, a small pool area, other common areas, and the reception and commercial space at the intersection.

Hallways are long and many of the dwellings have balconies while work continues by adding electrical services, windows, plumbing, kitchens, and other finishes. In other words, the Black Prince Redevelopment project looks like it is a long way to occupancy. Let's recap...

**October 2019:** The city declares that the 7.72-acre site — 691 Clifton Ave. and 839 Paulison, Block 30.01, Lots 7 & 8 — is in need of development. Earlier that same year, Black Prince Distillery moved its warehouse to Tennessee.

**October 2020:** The City Council approves a plan to redevelop the former Black Prince with 300 residential units. Due to its proximity to the Clifton train station, city officials would regard it as a transit-oriented village.

**June 8, 2021:** The property sells for \$8,150,000 to Clifton Station Developers, LLC and is now overseen by project developer Kevin X. Codey. The property is resolved to become a four-story, multi-family residential building with a





# 300 Apartments on Paulison Avenue



108,075 sq-ft building footprint and a six-tier parking garage. Four hundred and forty-two parking spaces would accompany the 300 units. The total parking would offer 23 on grade spaces with 410 spaces in a multi-level garage. The proposed apartment types included: 60 units as two-bedroom units, while 240 units are either studio, one-bedroom with den, or one-bedroom units. Other site amenities, as per the developer, were a gym, business center, a virtual fitness center where people can Zoom into Soul Cycle classes, a rooftop amenities space, pool, lobby, and a game center. There is no retail in the building.

**December 2023:** Codey says an official name for the site is in the works and the developers expect to move in the first residents come Spring of 2024.

**December 2023:** Municipal Tax Assessor Matthew Rinaldi provided assessments on the land. The merged lots at 691 Clifton Ave. and 839 Paulison, Block 30.01 were respectively assessed at \$1,860,000 and \$1,140,000. The \$3 million total assessment, divided by 100, times the 2023 tax rate of 5.794 meant that the developer paid \$173,820 in land tax for 2023.

**April 26, 2024:** Paulison paused? After months of steady construction, Clifton Merchant noticed the Paulison Ave. project seemed to halt. There was no sign of workers. The windows remained unfinished. Even the decorative brick facade laid there untouched. Zoning Officer Liana Bolcato confirmed at the time that any stalling was not a zoning matter. Separately, Codey noted: "I had to pull a lot of [subcontractors] off the site to finish two to three jobs that needed to be finished [elsewhere]. Now you'll start seeing, within the next seven to 10 days, more and more activity."

**Sept. 24, 2024:** Clifton Station Developers has stopped construction and looks to be "under water" as they put the project on the auction block in a public online bidding. The property owners were reported at the Sept. 17 City Council meeting to "have brought their property tax payments current", avoiding default of the developer's agreement with the city. The property was offered through Mannion Auctions, LLC, with debt "in the approximate amount of \$15,606,182.01, including principal, interest on principal, and reasonable fees and costs, plus default interest through September 24, 2024."







Annual taxes: \$221,760

Fair market value: \$9,975,100



### Which brings us to Summer, 2025.

The site is busy again. Bricklayers, window and siding installers, and others are creating an infrastructure, including elevator shafts. But apartments are still vacant shells, with no walls nor lighting or appliances. The facade has shaped up nicely with a mix of brick, multi-shaded siding and balconies.

As some have incorrectly stated, the project did not receive a PILOT, a discounted Payment in Lieu of Taxes, sometimes granted as an incentive to developers.

The current land and partial improvement assessment is at \$3.6 million. The equalized fair market value is \$9,975,100 and annual taxes are \$221,760.

Two factors may affect that tax number in the future: a final inspection upon residents moving in and a citywide property tax revaluation, which will be completed in 2026.

As far as “Who is the current owner?” — we’ll include it with updates to come in future months.





# Birthdays & Celebrations - August 2025



**Kevin Kurnath** turns 60 on Aug. 30! **Emilie Oakley** will be 32 on Aug. 22. **Aubrey Lynn Toro** turns 17 on Aug. 8. **Reilly Tedesco** turns 22 on Aug. 31. **Kateryna and Bohdan Baran** celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary August 3.



**Aiden Peterson** turns 1 on August 16! **Elena Vatasin** is 31 on Aug 30. **Luciana Meneses** will turn 19 on Aug. 23. **Peter & Christina Kedl** celebrate their 22nd anniversary on Aug. 21. Their children **Otilia Kedl** turned 19 on July 23 and her brother **Alexander** celebrates his 17th birthday on Aug. 28.

Margot Villanova.....8/1  
Kim West .....8/1  
Angelo Greco .....8/2  
Karen Lime.....8/2  
Michael Urcioli .....8/2  
Christian Gomez.....8/3  
Kevin Ciok .....8/4  
Scott Malgieri.....8/4  
Mark W. Mikolajczyk.....8/5  
Christina Sotelo.....8/5  
Ed Gasior Sr. ....8/6  
Sean McNally.....8/6

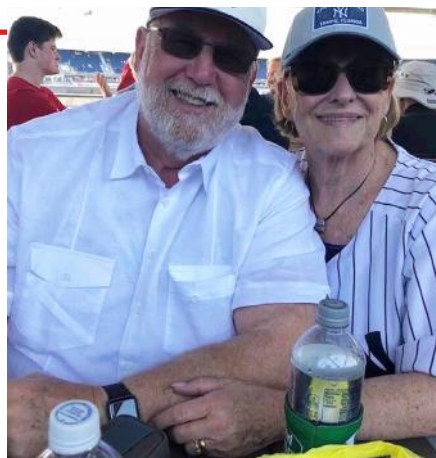
Sebastian Satizabal.....8/7  
Gladys Shefchik.....8/8  
Chiara Cristantiello.....8/9  
Jean Schubert.....8/9  
Emily Hawrylko Crawford.....8/12  
Danielle Swede.....8/13  
Andrew Cronin.....8/14  
Kimberly Mozo .....8/14  
Michelle Smolt .....8/14  
Christopher Antal.....8/15  
Peter Bodor.....8/15  
Tom Hawrylko Sr.....8/15

Andrew Noblett .....8/15  
Jessica Oliva .....8/15  
Maria Pinter.....8/15  
Susan Van Blarcom.....8/15  
Daniel Wolfe.....8/15  
Arlene Hard.....8/17  
Bella Bulsara .....8/18  
Alexandria Veltre .....8/19  
Michael Melendez .....8/20  
Rachelle Swede .....8/20  
Luciana Meneses .....8/23  
Cara Cholewczynski .....8/24





**Brandon N. Gentiluomo**  
turns 40 August 15.



**Bruce and Diane Drake** will  
celebrate their 55th wedding  
anniversary on Aug. 22.



**Viviana Wright** is 10 on Aug. 5  
and her brother **Rocco**  
will be 5 on Aug. 11.

Yasmin Ledesma..... 8/24  
Robbie Lucas..... 8/25  
Eileen Gasior..... 8/26  
Cameron J. Popovski ..... 8/26  
Adam Brandhorst.....8/27  
Peter Fierro, Jr. .... 8/28  
Nicholas Swede. .... 8/29  
Michelle "Mish" Choy..... 8/30  
Joe Rushen..... 8/30  
Kathleen McKenny ..... 8/31

**Ted and Barbara Guzowski**  
celebrated their 43rd wedding  
anniversary on July 10.

**Ken and Marianne Kurnath**  
celebrate their 61st Anniversary  
on Aug. 22



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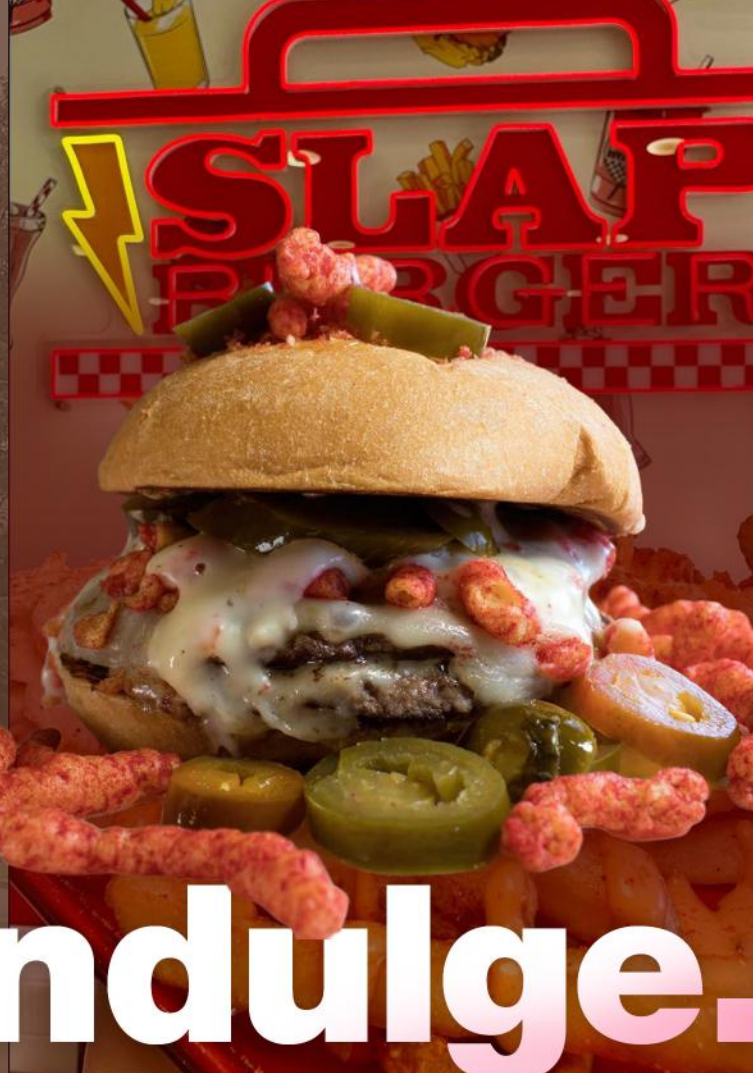
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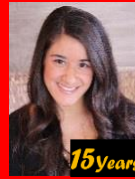
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