

"PAST & PRESENT"

FR. JOHN J. KEANE, SA, 2944 BONSALL STREET, "LAST WEEK, I WAS IN THE TOWN OF SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO (ABOUT AN HOUR FROM FOGGIA IN SOUTHERN ITALY) TO VISIT THE TOMB OF PADRE PIO. IN THE EVENING, I WENT TO THE CENTER OF THE TOWN WHERE THERE IS A PLAZA. WHILE SITTING ON A SHADY BENCH, THE ELDER MEN OF THE COMMUNITY GATHERED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES OF THE DAY. I THOUGHT OF THE DAYS OUTSIDE GIUFRIIDI'S GROCERY STORE AT 23RD AND INDIANA AVE. I LISTENED TO THE SAME CHATTER IN ITALIAN- AND I FELT AT HOME AGAIN!"

RAY & MARIE MASSARA BALESTRUCCI, "WE HAVE MOVED AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE JJ. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO ASSIST WITH MAILING!"

ELEANOR MARCELLINO BALMOS, "THANK YOU FOR THE JJ! KEEP THEM COMING! IT IS GREAT TO READ ABOUT OUR OLD NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS. WE CAN NOT GO BACK, BUT WE HAVE WONDERFUL MEMORIES INCLUDING ST. MARY'S CHURCH. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO HELP WITH YOUR EXPENSES!"

THERESA VINCIGUERA CANUSO, 1950. "JUST A SHORT NOTE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR PUTTING TOGETHER SUCH A WONDERFUL NEWSLETTER. I THOROUGHLY ENJOY READING ABOUT SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND THE FRIENDSHIPS WE ALL SHARED AND ONLY THROUGH YOUR HARD WORK IS THIS POSSIBLE. I REGREAT TO INFORM YOU MY BROTHER

ANTHONY'S WIFE ROSE VINCIGUERA HAS PASSED AWAY. SHE WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY KIND AND THOUGHTFUL PERSON AND IS GREATLY MISSED BY ALL OF HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS IN BRINGING THE JJ TO ALL OF US! ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP YOU CONTINUE YOUR WORK!"

VIRGINIA & PAT CIAMMETTI, "ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO HELP WITH THE MAILING EXPENSES. WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND INTEREST IN HONORING THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR SONS OF ITALY LODGE NO. 2217!"

LOU DATTLO, 2824 N 22ND ST. "MY MOM CLEANED THE CHURCH FOR FR. BUSCO. MY DAD CUT FR. BUSCO'S HAIR AT HIS BARBER SHOP ON CROSEY AND CAMBRIA STS. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR YOUR EXPENSES!"

ANN DAVINO, 2957 N. JUDSON ST. "YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE DOING A GREAT JOB WITH THE JJ. I REALLY ENJOY READING IT. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP YOU WITH THE EXPENSES, KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!"

DOROTHY FEDELI DEPALMA, "I'M REPONDING TO THE INQUIRY FROM JOSEPHINE CALIANO ABOUT THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1927. SHE INQUIRED ABOUT JOSEPH FEDELI - MY DAD- WHO DIED SIX YEARS AGO. HE FOLLOWED MY MOM CLEMENTINE ROSSI BY ONLY FOUR AND ONE HALF MONTHS. PLEASE PASS THE INFO TO HER, GOD LOVE HER! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN KEEPING THE JJ AFLOAT! I LOOK FORWARD TO

RECEIVING MY COPY. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION IN APPRECIATION!"

HARRY DIGIACOMO, 2134 W. TORONTO ST. "I'M ONE OF THE OLDEST SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. MY PARENTS WERE LILLIAN AND ARTHUR. MY GRANDFATHER WAS VITO SPERA WHO OWNED THE SHOE STORE ON 22ND STREET. I HAVE THREE SISTERS, MARY BRESSI GIORNO MARRIED TO HANK GIORNO, REGINA TRAITZ WHO WAS MARRIED TO THE LATE PAT TRAITZ AND JOSEPHINE DOLLY DEMARCO MARRIED TO ANGELO. MY WIFE MARION ORIGINALLY FROM SOUTH JERSEY AND I CELEBRATED OUR 56TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON JULY 5TH OF THIS YEAR. WE HAVE TWO MARRIED SONS AND FIVE GRANDCHILDREN AND ONE GREATGRANDSON. WE BOTH ENJOY READING ABOUT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. WE NOW LIVE IN NORTHEAST PHILA. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP KEEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"

LOU GROSSO, SON OF LUCILLE GROSSO. "MY GRANDPARENTS ARMAND (Nags) AND IDA OFTEN TALKED ABOUT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD AS WELL AS MY MOTHER USE TO DO SO OFTEN. WE RECEIVED MANY CARDS OF SYMPATHY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD PEOPLE AND MANY NAMES DID COME TO MY MIND FROM HEARING MY MOTHER LUCILLE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE IN THE PAST. I WAS SIX YEARS OLD WHEN WE MOVED FROM TORONTO STREET TO NEW JERSEY, BUT I STILL HAVE SOME MEMORIES THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET. LUCILLE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO READING THE JJ AND WOULD LET ME KNOW

WHEN IT ARRIVED SO I COULD LOOK AT IT. MANY NAMES COME TO ME FROM THE PAST AND I AM NOW 39 YEARS OLD. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT!"

FRANK GUARNOCCIA, 2138 W. TORONTO ST. "I ENJOYED READING THE LATEST EDITION OF THE JJ. IT'S GREAT TO SEE HOW MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH THE JJ. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE REUNION IN 2004! ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO SUPPORT YOUR WORK."

PEGGY JACKSON, "THE CLASS OF 1937 IS INTERESTED IN THE REUNION. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN 2004! I WILL DONATE A DOOR PRIZE. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR THE JJ!"

RUTHANN KING, ST. COLUMBA'S 1957. "I REALLY ENJOYED READING THE JJ. I KNEW A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM ST. MARY'S PARISH. MY GROWING UP YEARS WERE SPENT BELOW LEHIGH AVE. PLAYING STREET GAMES IN THE SUMMER AND GOING TO THE SWMMIES ON 29TH STREET. WE MADE MONEY PARKING CARS FOR THE BASEBALL GAMES AT SHIBE PARK. I LIVED ON THE 2200 BLOCK OF SEARGENT STREET AND WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGED WE MOVED TO CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH. BIG MOVE! I LIVED IN THE SWAMPOODLE NEIGHBORHOOD UNTIL I MARRIED IN 1966. I DID NOT MARRY ANYONE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I HAVE A LOT OF FOND MEMORIES AS A CHILD AND SOME SAD MEMORIES... OUR FAMILIES DID NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, BUT IT WAS A VERY CLOSE NEIGHBORHOOD

AND EVERYONE WATCHED OUT FOR EACH OTHER. SOME OF THE PEOPLE I REMEMBER; GERRY RODGERS, LARRY MURRAY, JONH SHEVERN (TRIGGER), DREW LARRY, BILLY KOBIE, JEANIE HOFFMAN, COOKIE BACKMAN, FERN COHEN, JANET SECCIA, PAT MELIA, EILEEN TARPEY, KASS MCGOWEN, ROSEMARIE WALSH, ED STINSON, TOM ATMORE, LORETTA FAHEY, GERTUDE CUBBAGE, PAT MCDERMOTT, FRANNY DIROSATO, PAUL BALARDO, RICH MASSAMATEO, RITA & PAT MCCUNNEY, JACKIE DRUMMON, TOMMY SCHMIDT, JACK MCCREADY, RODGER MURPHY, DANNY SHIRLEY, BOB MURPHY THE DUFFY BOYS AND BOB SICORA. I THINK I COVERED ST. COLUMBA, CORPUS CHRISTI AND A FEW FROM ST. MARY'S. THE LEHIGH AND THE CAMBRIA MOVIES ON FRIDAY NIGHTS, AS WE BEGAN OUR TEENS! LOT'S OF MEMORIES."

KAY & JOHN MASCARO; "WE ENJOY READING THE JJ. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR YOUR WORK. KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT WORK!"

ALMA SALVATO MCBRIDE; "ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION FOR YOUR WORK! HOPE I CAN MAKE IT TO THE NEXT REUNION!"

JIM MCHUGH 3141 N. 23RD ST; "THANKS AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT REUNION - WHEN I'LL GET TO SEE ALL MY ITALIAN FRIENDS. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK! THE IRISHMAN WHO BROKE THE BLOCK!"

SUSANNE CRUPI PHILLIPS "I WILL BE HAPPY TO VOLUNTEER AGAIN FOR THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE! I REALLY ENJOYED SEEING SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES. COULD YOU PLEASE ADD MY MOM AND DAD TO YOUR MAILING LIST? MY DAD IS 86 YEARS YOUNG AND MY MOM IS 80 YEARS YOUNG. THEY JUST CELEBRATED THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION!"

CELESTE GENTILE RITALDATO "ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR EXPENSES! KEEP ME POSTED ON THE UPCOMING REUNION!"

RON ROCCO "THANKS FOR KEEPING ALIVE THE MEMORIES OF A WONDERFUL TIME GONE BY. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO HELP WITH EXPENSES!"

BILL "MUSCLES" SALINO "YOUR ARTICLE "IMAGINING LIFE ON CLOUD NINE" COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TIMED BETTER FOR ME AS I LOST MY WIFE GEORGEANN ON JULY 6, 2002. THE DAYS SINCE HER DEATH I TRIED TO PICTURE HER IN HEAVEN WITH HER FATHER WIMPY AND ALL THE OTHER DIFILLIPO'S WHO HAVE PASSED ON. YOUR ARTICLE MADE THE PICTURE I WAS TRYING TO IMAGINE COME TO LIFE ALONG WITH THE FLASH BACK OF MY UNCLE'S GERRY, FRANK AND JOE. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES AND KEEP THEM COMING. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO HELP OFFSET YOUR EXPENSES!"

LOIS ANN DAVINO SMITH
2957 N. JUDSON ST;
"ENJOYED EVERY REUNION
WE EVER HAD AND I WILL
COME FROM ROANOKE
VIRGINIA TO ATTEND THE
ONE SCHEDULED FOR 2004.
MY MOTHER ANN WHO IS 87
YEARS OLD, SISTER
MICHAELNE AND BROTHER
SALVATORE ALL ATTENDED
THE LAST REUNION AND WE
HAD A WONDERFUL TIME
REMINISCING WITH FRIENDS
AND FAMILY. THERE WILL
NEVER BE ANOTHER
SWAMPPOODLE! THEY WERE
THE DAYS WHEN WE NEVER
REALLY WORRIED ABOUT
TOMORROW FOR WE WERE
HAPPY WITH TODAY. TOO
BAD OUR CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN WILL
NEVER EXPERIENCE WHAT
WE ENJOYED GROWING UP
IN SUCH A CLOSE KNIT AND
LOVING COMMUNITY.
ENCLOSED IS A DONATION
TO HELP WITH EXPENSES!"

AMERIGO MEETS & GLORIA
VASSO, "GLORIA AND I
VISITED BATTIPAGLIA
SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND
PLAN TO RETURN IN 2004. IT
IS A NICETOWN, CULTURE
AND WONDERFUL PEOPLE.
WE REALLY ENJOY THE JJ.
ENCLOSED IS A CHECK!"

ANTHONY VINCIGUERRA
1953 "I AM MAKING A
DONATION IN THE NAME
OF MY WIFE ROSE. SHE
PASSED AWAY RECENTLY.
THANK YOU!"

FRANK YANNESSA, "I
REALLY ENJOY THE JJ.
SEEING NAMES OF
PEOPLE I KNEW IN THE
OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. IT
SEEMS LIKE ONLY
YESTERDAY WHEN WE WERE
YOUNG. TIME FLYS!
ENCLOSED IS A DONATION!"

FILOMENA DEMORA WALL,
"THANK YOU FOR THE JJ! I
ENJOY THEM MORE EACH
ISSUE. ENCLOSED IS A
DONATION!"

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARCELLE CAPRIOTTI

AFTER GLOW

I'd like the memory of me to be
a happy one

I'd like to leave and after glow
of smiles when life is done

I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the
ways

Of happy times and laughing
times and bright and sunny
days

I'd like the tears of those who
grieve, to dry before the sun

Of happy memories that I leave

When life is done

REUNION! REUNION!

Please take notice of the
attached questionnaire
form.

We hope that you will
complete the form and
send it back promptly!

This form will help us
ascertain how many of
you expect to attend the
reunion.

We still need more
volunteers. At this date
we have the following
people who have
volunteered to be on the
committee:

Salvatore Davino

Anthony DelloRusso

John DiBenedetto

Donna DiGiacomo

Janet DiLacqua Green

Susanne Crupi Phillips

Carmen Riccardi

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

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

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