

EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY



A last vestige of fall, Riverside Gardens, Red Bank, Wednesday, Nov. 19.

MICHELE J. KUHN

IT'S YOUR TURN

Letters to the Editor

Memories of Thanksgivings Past

To the Editor:

Growing up in Brooklyn, I remember Thanksgiving had a significant meaning for all of my friends and me.

Of course, as Italians we didn't celebrate the day with *just turkey* and its trimmings. Although, my mother made a juicy well-basted "bird," her stuffing was kind of unusual. She broke several eggs into a bowl, sprinkled in salt and pepper, diced up Genoa salami, pine nuts (pignoli), cut up the cooked liver and the heart from the turkey's inners, added pecorino and Romano cheeses, and added to the mix diced fresh parsley.

She cooked all of these blended ingredients in a frying pan with a drizzle of olive oil, then she stuffed them inside the bird.

While all of these wonderful aromas wafted out from her kitchen onto surrounding streets in our neighborhood, they blended in with the fragrances of other kitchens where sweet potatoes baked and apple pies cooled on windows.

The kids in my neighborhood of South Brooklyn, now called Carroll Gardens, dressed in their parents' clothes, and rang doorbells. When someone came to the door, we said in unison, "Anything for Thanksgiving," and lifted either our mothers' purses or brown paper bags.

It was sort of like "trick or treat" only better. We were never tricked and we always received a treat. Maybe we'd get a red apple or a bunch of cooked chestnuts, a cookie or two, perhaps even a nickel or quarter if we were lucky.

These traditions still linger in my mind 60 years later when our neighbors greeted us in anticipation of seeing just how much of a ragamuf-

fin we looked in our parents' get-ups. As pearls dangled from my neck as I wore my mother's polka-dotted dress. I took hold of the handrail catching up with the other boys and girls moving on down the block to our next adventure of the Thanksgiving of my youth.

God bless us on this holiday and may we be thankful for the towns and cities we call home.

Patricia Florio
Ocean Grove

Alzheimer's Association Offers Thanks for Successful Walk

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all of the Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex County area residents who supported our Alzheimer's Association® Southern Regional Walk to End Alzheimer's® event on Saturday, Sept. 27, in Point Pleasant Beach.

Nearly 3,000 community residents participated to raise awareness about the impact of Alzheimer's disease and to raise funds to support Alzheimer's Association care, support and research programs.

The walk is held in more than 600 communities nationwide.

Currently, over half a million people in New Jersey are living with Alzheimer's disease or are caring for someone with dementia, and that number is expected to increase dramatically by 2025. Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our

Walk Champion 94.3 The Point Radio personality Laurie Cataldo; Point Pleasant Beach Mayor Vincent Barrella; the police department; the township administration; and the public works department.

We thank our regional sponsors: Alcoeur Gardens; Arbor Terrace of Middletown; Bayside Manor Assisted Living; CentraState Health Care System; Compassionate Care Hospice; Dental Home Services; The Jordan Real Estate Group; Magnolia Gardens & Green Acres Manor; Memory and Aging Center; Meridian Health; and The Regency Memory Care Club; and Road Runner sponsor Barnabas Health.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated committee volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year in planning the event: Committee Chair Melissa Apel and Junior Chair Danielle Horowitz; Beverlee Bednarz; Dolores Rosen; Fran Patterson; Jackie McIntyre; Linda Meluski; Mike Fliegler; Pat Darcey; Danielle Dangioliillo; Mylene DiStefano; Peggy Grady; Sandy Frandano; Cherie Daly; James Daly; and Monique DeLorenzo.

We are united with the Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex County areas in our vision to one day have "a world without Alzheimer's disease."

We look forward to next year's Walk.

Kenneth C. Zaentz, CFRE
President & CEO
Alzheimer's Association

A Guess on a Two River Moment Photo

To the Editor:

The (Two River Moment) picture from Dorn's Classic Images in Friday, Oct. 31 issue asked about the location.

My opinion is that it is Atlantic Highlands Harbor, possibly the '44 hurricane, but this is only a guess. I spent a lot of time there in my younger days, so my opinion is the harbor.

Also, on the pole next to ESSO sign, it says, "Pier one." The reason I say hurricane of '44, is because there were "finger" piers there when I was hanging around there, which was in the early '50's.

Also missing were the big boats I can remember on Pier 1 – San Toy, Karp, Fantasy and Vixen.

Hope this helps in some small way.

I love your pictures and look forward to them every week. They bring back memories from my "days of old."

Bob Zerr
Rumson

County Façade Program, Shared Services, Tourism Growing

To the Editor:

Our Grow Monmouth Façade Improvement Program continues to be popular. We are still accepting applications and approving projects to help businesses improve the look of their building. We could not be more pleased with how the

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program is going.

The Grow Monmouth Business Roundtables will be continuing after the holidays. I look forward to getting back out to discuss the needs of Monmouth County's business community.

Neptune City and Middletown have completed their shared services agreements for the MOD 4 property tax-assessment shared service. We now have all 53 towns in Monmouth County participating. This will potentially save towns millions in lost revenues as they will now know exactly what their revenues will be before solidifying their budget rather than having to adjust later in the year based upon property tax challenges.

Additionally, Middlesex County has joined our Document Summary Management System Shared Service (DSMS). The DSMS is yet another example of Monmouth County's leadership in shared services. We are now partnering with other county's allowing them to utilize the state of the art systems we have built in Monmouth County.

The Monmouth County Tourism Advisory Group met recently to give updates and discuss how their summer season went. Among achievements, the NJ Repertoire Company located in Long Branch reported sold-out weekends the entire summer. Highlands added \$50,000 of improvements to the town and also stated events were well attended.

Freeholder Thomas A. Arnone
Monmouth County

Car Lights On During Bad Weather Means Safety

To the Editor:

I know many motorists in this state think it's all right to run red lights or ignore speed limits that have been posted for their safety, but I cannot figure the rationale for ignoring one of the simplest measures we have, which requires almost no effort.

New Jersey law says that in inclement weather, when your wipers are on, and after dusk you are required to have your headlights on.

I can't see why, if most new cars have automatic running lights that supposedly activate whenever the ignition is turned on, at least 20 to 30 percent of drivers insist on driving around in the dark and in the most inclement weather without lights on.

I noticed this particularly during the very heavy rain we had most of the day on Saturday, Nov. 1. Don't these drivers know that if other motorists or pedestrians can't see them they are brewing a recipe for disaster?

At least, I would like an answer – what is the rationale for driving around without lights after dusk and in inclement weather?

I think we need greatly increased enforcement or better driver education, if it is even possible to educate some drivers!

Bob Faszczewski
Springfield



COURTESY DORN'S CLASSIC IMAGES

Two River Moment

This undated photo shows the Monmouth Queen Diner on State Highway 35, which was located on what was once the Eatontown traffic circle near Monmouth Mall. An Exxon station stands in its place now.