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EVELYN HERSHEY: Today is October 7, 2016. My name is Evelyn Hershey. I am the Education Director at the American Labor Museum and I have the pleasure today of being in Long Branch, New Jersey at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church with five women who are descendants of families who came to the United States as immigrants from Calabria in Italy. We're

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going to spend some time talking about their story and their experiences. The church itself was founded in 1906. It was and continues to be the home of Italian immigrant families and in its early years was a resource; was a place where Italian immigrants came for community, for sustenance and came to

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become part of New Jersey and New Jersey's story and our nation's story. So, we are very happy to be with all of you. As we go around the table, we'll take a moment to introduce ourselves at this time.

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So, we'd like to start with Mickey who's here, and Mickey if you wouldn't mind introducing yourself and telling us a little bit about your childhood. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: I'm Michellina Sorrentino Gagliano born in Long Branch, New Jersey [on] May 8, 1925. I grew up about two streets over from

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the area of this church. In fact, I could just walk over to church every day and as a child, my first memories of coming to Holy Trinity was that, being that my parents were -- my mother especially -- was in the bakery business, it was my job to get bread and food to the priest. So, I would walk over, drop it off, but I would never come into the rectory because in those days there was only a little pot stove and chickens

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running around and I couldn't take that.

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So, I would ring that bell, but Father spared no time in calling my mother telling her how naughty I was because I wouldn't stop and greet him to say hello to him in the morning. My mother would always know when the phone rang it was because I misbehaved again, but that's OK.

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I went to the school right across the street from my house so I didn't have far to go to school. In grade school – Kindergarten -- I had [to] walk about five or six blocks to school. Then, of course, I went to Long Branch High School which was moved from Morris Avenue to Westwood Avenue and that was a little walk to school there too. I graduated in January 29th in

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1944; however, I had to wait until July 4, 1944, to enter Temple University in Philadelphia. I went to pharmacy school. At the time, we were supposed to do two years and to take a four-year course, but completed in two years. We would go from morning to night due to the war. However, after the first year they were not defying [unclear meaning] the students,

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so, we were called back to go full-time. There were weeks, first semester in my sophomore year,

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I had to go to school just for two classes and have the rest of the day to be free and study or whatever I could. But I couldn't come home because I would stay up at school rather than just try to come home and go back.

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I stayed at the dormitories and that met a lot of nice people, but I wasn't too happy. EVELYN HERSHEY: I'm going to stop you for one moment, because for that time it is quite extraordinary to have a woman going to pharmacy school.

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How many women were in your class and how did you come to be a good student and what prompted you in your family or in your community that made you like education? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Truthfully, I did want to go to school because it was my mother said education was very important, but I really wanted to be a corporate lawyer. However, because my cousins; one was a professor of physics at Temple Pharmacy School

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and my other cousin had just graduated from pharmacy school, but was going on to med school and I think that's the dream my mother had for me. But it didn't so happen that way. I just decided to go to pharmacy school. We were four girls and about 15 boys in the classroom because it was wartime. EVELYN HERSHEY: How much education did your parents have? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: No education. My dad could write and read a little bit. My mother

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just knew how to make an "X," but with her head and mind, she was the most successful businesswoman. I used to go to the bank with her and even the President at the bank would say you don't have to talk, I know what your mother's trying to tell me. EVELYN HERSHEY: Their bakery business was very successful and their bakery

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business was a bedrock of the community. They and you knew a lot of people through their bakery business?

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Yes I did, and we also had not only the bakery, we had a candy store and also a little restaurant on one side of the building. It was a two-store front. On one side was the bakery, the other side was a candy store and behind the candy store was a little restaurant. EVELYN HERSHEY: The bakery was busy all the time or busier on certain occasions? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Of course, for the holidays it would be extremely busy and [in] the summertime you never could make enough bread, because people used to [come] from the Newark area and Philadelphia area

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just swamped to our beaches here. EVELYN HERSHEY: And your parents at home spoke English and a dialect of Italian? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Only a dialect of Italian.

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My mother knew...my dad knew a few words in English, but my mother was totally with her little dialect and that's how we got to grow up and speak. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do you remember anything that she would say [that] allotted as advice in her dialect? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: In her dialect? She used to say.

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Trying to think. EVELYN HERSHEY: In English or Italian? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Well she used to tell me to behave myself and be respectful and give of yourself. Never expect anything in return. She also used to say "sante da, es et fruichi da" (sp). Meaning don't go live with a million people, just be yourself and continue your life. But she had a lot of trouble because all the people

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on the block and our relatives used to say to her you're crazy sending your daughter to school. She's only going to get married and get pregnant and there goes that money. She would defend people and tell them to keep quiet, but my children have to have the education that I didn't have. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, you became a pharmacist.

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: I was a pharmacist from 1948 to 1965. Then I changed careers. However, my mother was not lucky enough to see me at my graduation because she died a month before graduation, which has been, I don't want to talk about it.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: She was a young woman. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She died very young. ROSE FERRAR: My mother too. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She was a hard worker. Hundred-pound bags of flour on her head, stay up all night and bake, take care of us. However, I have to say my aunts were very good and Barbara's mother and father were always very good to us.

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To come and help out.

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But as a child, I remember from the bakery business, that if it snowed she would sweep the driveway and at 4:00 or 5 o'clock in the morning send my brother and I out to bring the bread to Mary's parents' house, to Barbara, and to Tootsie's grandfather. I used to argue with her and say nobody is going to work this morning. She

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didn't care. She didn't want to hear that you're taking it or she used to pack it on a box on the sled and we'd come from Morris [Avenue] over to where they lived in Springdale and that was no joke. When I think back I don't even know how my brother and I survived that.

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But we had to do it.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Maybe you could just explain how you are connected with the other ladies at the table. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Well, with Mary, I'm connected. We are cousins on my father's side.

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Her father and my father were first cousins and my grandmother was a Devito. Before she married my dad. With Barbara, our relationship is not so much that I'm related to her, but through my brother-in-law, we became family. In other words, my nephews are her cousins and both her father and my brother-in-law had the same name, Joseph Fiumello (sp), and

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he had the same problem when he first came to America with that "I" business, but then he went and straightened it all out. They spelled his name with a "Y". Tootsie, the relationship goes back to her grandparents. I believe, on my father's side also, on the Devito side, somehow. I believe her grandmother was related. Because I know that the relatives that used to come from Boston they'd

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share their holidays at his house or at our house. In fact, one of them, my cousin Al, came and spent his honeymoon with us. A marriage that shouldn't have ever lasted they thought because he married a young girl, but their marriage lasted 68 years. She just recently died and he just made 100 on May 26th.

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That's my childhood story.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Your family came from the Calabria, correct? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: But my mother came from a little town further away called Centrache. My dad was born in Amaroni and I have a picture here of his house. One of my cousins from here, when I went the first time in August 15, 1980,

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I found the house exactly as one of my cousins from here described to me. However, I knew when I went to visit my cousin's family which I had the pictures here and she didn't even have to show me the house because he described it to me so beautifully. I have a picture here to show it.

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I took a picture and brought it back. EVELYN HERSHEY: You have wonderful pictures in front of you and maybe we could hold up for the camera some of them. Maybe we could start with the largest wedding picture. If we just rolled it up towards the camera. Maybe you could just say a few words about the picture. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: In this picture, I'm 5 years old. My brother-in-law and my sister were married on December 30, 1930, and the witnesses, the best man and maid of honor was Mr. & Mrs. Thomas

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Gagliano.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: There are other pictures in front of you.

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: This is my dad's house, which I visited. My dad's house in Amaroni in August of 1980. August 16th to be exact. EVELYN HERSHEY: Why did your parents come from Calabria to Long Branch? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Well my dad was here first and he was living near Fort Monmouth. I guess in those days there was real houses there and he eventually, through Mary's father and another

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one of my uncles, they called for my mother and she came over when my sister was only maybe three weeks old. I don't know how she made that trip because when I went to Naples for the first time and I saw that ocean and everything, I said my mother must have had such a wonderful courage to leave her land to come to the United States and not know what she would find.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Are there any other photos that you have in front of you that are particularly important to you?

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: I have a photo here. This is my little photo I.D. at college. Even in those days we had to have ID. This was my sophomore year. Unfortunately, [Hurricane] Sandy took a lot of my pictures and very valuable papers away from me, but I happened to have this one in my wallet. So, I have it. These are some. This is Amaroni [and] some of my cousins. This

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is my favorite Mickey Sorrentino, November 16, 1946, Temple University homecoming. I borrowed the football suit [uniform] us girls from the boys that we liked the most and we joined them in the Homecoming.

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This is with the gang, some of the girls. This picture I love the most because it shows the background of our bakery. You can see it in the picture and it's myself, my nephew, Joseph Fiumello, Jr., and my brother, Joseph Sorrentino in our I believe...

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I don't know. That could have been. I don't know what year car that was.

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I know maybe I was no more than just 17 or 18 [years old] I guess in that photo.

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I have a lot of pictures.

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This one is a favorite one. This is the Mayor of Amaroni

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and that's myself in the middle and this is Father Marcello who was the priest at St. Barbara's church in Amaroni. This was the trip in 2006 and Donna Franca. Well the mayor gave us a big party at the hotel and then they put on here "Donna Franca.

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Congratulations." Honored the tour company. Then I found out that the Mayor was related to me. Also Mary Sustito (sp). EVELYN HERSHEY: That's wonderful. That is wonderful. We could share some other pictures too and we can ask a few questions

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of Rose. Maybe you could introduce yourself. By your full name. ROSE FERRAR: I was born September 1927. My real name is Angel Rose Ferrar.

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I was born in Rumson, New Jersey. At that time, we belonged to Holy Cross Church and it was a big deal in Rumson. There weren't many Italians, but the few that were there, we stuck together. So, we started school. We couldn't speak English; not at all. My father did because he worked on a private estate. But my mother did never learn English. My father came over here before the first war. At that time there wasn't a draft

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system in the United States and the gimmick got out that if you join the Army, regardless of what country came from -- Germany, France wherever it was -- you became a citizen if you came back safely and you were discharged honorably. Your wife and children were included. Fortunately, my father did, he came back and he came from -- my grandmother had lived in Long Branch. He enlisted from here, but he left my mother, she was pregnant with my oldest sister.

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He joined the Army at Fort Dix and he was trained at Fort Hancock. I don't know if you've ever been to Sandy Hook [and] you saw the big cannons. They learned how to protect New York Harbor. Then he was sent overseas to France. He served over there about three or four years.

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Fortunately, he came home, but he worked in a horse stables dragging in the canyons and all that stuff and muck out the stables. Then he came back.

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He was discharged from Fort Dix and they gave him his discharge and his American citizenship paper, and one for my mother and my sister was born over there [in Italy].

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So, we sent for them and they came in. They did no land Ellis Island. They landed in Hoboken.

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Whereabouts I don't know where the embarkation point is, but it was in Hoboken. My mother never learned English, but my father was so proud to be an American. This is his picture during World War II. He was too old to go back in the Army, but he joined the police reserves in the town. EVELYN HERSHEY: Could you hold that picture up again?

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Just so the camera can get a view of it.

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And what was his name? ROSE FERRAR: Frank. Francesco. All right. Meantime, I grew up. I couldn't speak English because we had to talk Italian to my mother and

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English to my father. We fortunately had a kindergarten teacher in Rumson -- this is where this picture come from -- while I was dancing. They had an All Nations party at the school. I was in kindergarten. We had a teacher who would sit with us. There were other Italian children -- about four or five of us. She would sit down and she would tell us different things. So we were able to mingle with the kids in the school and we did learn English when you mix with other children. But we had an All-Nations

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party and I represented.

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I had the American flag and the Italian flag.

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I had to dance to the song Nola, and who was Irish, who was German. So, I had a very good education. I can't complain. I graduated from Rumson High School.

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I had met my husband.

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We got married at 19 and in the meantime, I worked at Fort Monmouth.

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The war was just finishing, the second war and Monmouth Park Race Track they were building up in Oceanport there. At the time it was a Boy Scout camp and there were huts that had to be torn down

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to make way for the brick buildings. In the process of cleaning up their grounds, I'll never forget it, I was working as a secretary.

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I was working in the office and the men that cleaned the old barracks there where Myrtle Avenue used to go from Long Branch into Oceanport,

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they built the stable area. When they cleaned the grounds, they came across a burnt cross. The Ku Klux Klan used to meet here.

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If you have seen pictures of Long Branch, there was a Klan March down Broadway. That's where they wound it up and had their meeting and they burned the cross when they were finished. Then my husband and I got married in 1946

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and we were married 52 years and then he passed away.

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He was a hardworking man. He worked two jobs a day to educate our five children. I have four daughters and a son and as a result they're married and they gave me 10 grandkids. Then out of the 10 grandkids, five of them are married. I got six great-grandchildren.

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EVELYN HERSEHY: Can you talk about, just maybe a short list, you were mentioning before what types of occupations your children and your grandchildren. ROSE FERRAR: You really want to know?

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My oldest girl graduated from Monmouth University. She was a Social History teacher [social studies]. Then she went in business with her husband. She got married. My second daughter, Maria,

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she taught first grade in the Long Branch School System for 32 years. She retired now. So, my kids are old. My son is an attorney. He went to Seton Hall and William and Mary in Virginia. He's in business in North [Jersey]. He's a partner.

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Also, he is one of the owners of the Beach Club in Long Beach, on the Promenade. Let me see now.

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There's Angel. She graduated from Seton Hall. She teaches Spanish

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at Allied School in Neptune.

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My youngest one teaches autistic children and speech defect in Long Branch School System.

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Now my grandchildren? Everyone went to college. EVELYN HERSHEY: Let me ask you this, how did your father learn English? ROSE FERRAR: He was in the Army. In the first war. EVELYN HERSHEY: What work did he do when he was out of the service and living in this area? ROSE FERRAR:

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He built the house. See, they all. This is in Rumson. There was a small population, but they all lived on one street, West Street. I don't know if you might be familiar with Judge Bellochi? His father was a mason [and] used to build all their houses. They all stuck together and they worked on the private estates in Rumson as landscapers.

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And what else? The owner of the estate my father worked for -- it was during the Depression era, the Crash they called it-- he lost everything and he jumped out of a window on Wall Street. He killed himself. He lost everything. So, the wife couldn't keep my father on. Just then the second war was starting and there was this Bendix Aviation in Red Bank who built airplanes.

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They turned government contracts and he worked there. Then he retired when he was 60. I lost my mother. When I was 19, my mother died.

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She was only 52. It's hard to talk [about it]. Anyway. She never saw my children.

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My grandchildren. I'm lucky enough to be alive. My husband had passed away 18 years ago and I've been alone since then, but the kid.

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My husband's name was Carmine. Carmine Joseph. [unintelligible] We had a good life. He worked hard. We built our home.

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But the funny thing is, we moved. We didn't live in this immediate area. We moved to Moreford Avenue and there was a lot of

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other nationalities there. We were the first, second Italian family to move into that street. EVELYN HERSHEY: How were you treated? ROSE FERRAR: I don't know how to explain it. Very cold. Until another one moved into that street and we got together, but we all belonged to Holy Trinity. I've been here since, almost 70 years I've belonged to Holy Trinity church. This St. Barbara statue that

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we're talking about -- being my mother and father were strictly Italians, they went to church in Rumson. We got our sacraments and everything. But on holidays like St. Barbara's, Christmas,

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we always came to Holy Trinity.

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We made a day of it. My father would dress up in his suit and his top hat, and we would go to St. Barbara's mass. That was a feast you had to have. It was a proud time. I was only in school, I was a little kid. I had to stay home from school. I used to get restless in mass.

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You know, and my mother would fuss at me in Italian and all that stuff. But anyway. EVELYN HERSHEY: You have some other pictures in front of you too. ROSE FERRAR: This is when my husband and I got married. This is a picture of my mother. OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say you were 19? Nineteen when you got married? ROSE FERRAR: 1946 we got married. I was 19. He was 22. EVELYN HERSHEY: Share it to your left a little bit. ROSE FERRAR: See this picture? Here's one

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with my mother. We came back from our honeymoon.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Where was your honeymoon?

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New York. Poconos I think it was. Didn't go far. This is a picture of my family. Before the great grandchildren came.

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My father was proud to be an American. He would never go back to visit. Never. He used to call it a dirty country. He left when there was trouble. I think it was King Emanuel [III], wasn't it? Yeah. Nineteen something. It was terrible. Terrible.

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He met my mother. My mother lived in the town next to Amaroni, Civita (sp). We used to write back and forth and all that, but they never wanted to go back.

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But fortunately, my husband, he came from Italy. One of my daughters had decided... I don't know if you are familiar with this. Around Ellis Island

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there's this... I don't know what you would call it.

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The names were engraved as an immigrant and they sent his name in and they'd put it on. He'd be so proud. He'd point it out and make sure you knew it was him.

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I had a good life with him, but it ended too soon. That's it. EVELYN HERSHEY: I know that you probably can all talk about it, but I'll just ask you since you're being so nice to talk right now, what exactly is the Feast of St. Barbara like? ROSE FERRAR: She is the patron saint of the town. The hometown.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: What happens during that? I heard it is a feast day so no school. Can you say how you experienced it? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: You would get all dressed up. ROSE FERAR: You'd stay home from school. Yes. My father put a suit on. In fact, this is one of the times. Even as, I was about sixteen there. That was the day. They stayed with all the Italians. Because we lived in Rumson, but there was a lot of "paisan". In fact, Barbara's uncle married

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my father's sister. Anyway, everybody interrelated. It was just.

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I don't know. But even though we lived in Rumson. But after my husband and I got married, we moved to Long Branch. We built a home. We lived there for 52 years.

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Then that is it. I'm very proud of [them]. I am sorry you can't see all of the children and how they -- they married good men.

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My son married a wonderful young woman. I don't even call her a daughter-in-law, she's like a daughter to me. You saw this didn't you? That's all the great ones [great grandchildren]. But anyway, that's it. EVELYN HERSHEY: For now. Now I am going to ask Mary a few questions too and

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move around the table. You have some wonderful photographs here too.

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Maybe you could introduce yourself. MARY DEVITO: My name is Mary DeVito D'Lisa.

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I was born here in Long Branch at Hazard Hospital [for the Poor], which no longer is here. They knocked it down. I think now there are Victorian homes or condos. I went through the Long Branch school system. I graduated [from] Long Branch High School, but when we were in ninth grade we were at the Chattel High School. They used to call it the Junior High at the time.

Mickey, I think, graduated high school there and at the time they would pick one person from each of the grades -- like commercial college or general

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course --

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and I was lucky enough to get picked for the commercial course to have a speech prepared and speak for graduation on Buddhism. I don't remember a lot of it. It was quite a few years ago.

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I'm one of five children and I was the only girl. I had four rambunctious brothers and I loved them the dearly. My parents were both born in Amaroni and my father came over first. He didn't come to Long Branch. He went to a place called Stoughton, Massachusetts. He had two brothers there, I believe, at the time, and he stayed there for a while and they opened up an ice cream shop. I think it was [in] Weymouth and he stayed there for a couple of years, but then he decided it was time

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to get married. So back he went to Amaroni to find one of the best girls there and he married my mom. Her name was Barbara Olivadadi -- which there are a lot of those in Long Branch that I'm related to -- they came back and they came back to Massachusetts. When my mother got there, she was not happy. She was so homesick and she was pregnant and expecting my oldest brother. So, she just cried and cried every day and my father decided we have to do something about this. My

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mom had relatives here in Long Branch. Dr. Chompa was one. The Bova's who happened to be bootleggers I found out later. They made a fortune that way, right Mickey?

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Excuse me. So, they moved here to Long Branch and that made my mother so happy to be with first cousins and other people that she knew. Where we grew up was 100 percent Calabraise on my street. I'm still living in that house today and we just had great times together. Everybody was so friendly and doors were always open. Nobody locked their door or anything in those days and we used to celebrate the Feast of St. Barbara because that was the patron saint [of Calabria] and

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still is in Amaroni. I was lucky enough to experience the feast there when I was there about eight years ago. Now the feast itself is December the 4th, but being it's cold and a lot of the relatives are away working in Switzerland or Germany, they hold it the end of July instead. I was so thrilled to be there and I have a picture of the same priest that Micky had a picture of.

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His name was Don Marcelo. They did the mass and this is a picture of them coming out of Saint Barbara, the church of the little town, and we were doing a procession and I was so happy to be able to walk it. I could hear them saying 'Merican, 'Merican. They could pick me out as an American anytime I guess. My dad was a carpenter and he used to walk to work, h never drove. He could never drive, he was too nervous

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he kept saying. I remember one of the places he worked a lot at was Mickey's parents' bakery over there and he would come home with the bread if Mickey didn't deliver it to us. They would always have the bread handy and all to us. I have one daughter and she graduated. She was a roommate of Rose's daughter Pauline and they went to Montclair State together and they remain friends and great friends to this day. I also remember growing up, how my father

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would always make wine. It would be about this time of year I guess,

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and I was so happy that I was a girl because I didn't have to get all purple on my hands. My brothers would be squeezing the grape and doing the barrels and whatnot, but I always didn't like those gnats that were flying around all over the place. It was really, you know, not a lot of fun for me. But as far as St. Barbara's day here in Long Branch, we would do the same thing as Rose's family did. We would come to Mass. Nobody went to school. Nobody worked and then you'd have a little reception here. But later

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on my mom would cook a great meal and we'd have relatives galore coming over. It was always so much fun and on Sundays I always remember that my mother would have people over -- especially her two cousins and they played mandolin, the two of them. My mother would play guitar.

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The lady across the street would come over with an accordion and another lady that wasn't too talented I guess, she would shake the tambourine. I always called it an Italian hootenanny. I just love it to this day. When I think about it. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do you remember any of the songs they would sing? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Of course, "C'e la luna mezzo mare". Everybody sang that. Every once in a while one of them would get up and dance a tarantella. They would do that. My

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mom always used to say too, when you do something for somebody, do it and forget about it [because] you're doing it for the poor souls in Purgatory. I try to remember that to this day. Also, during World War II, I was maybe four or five years old, the neighborhood would get together and cook things and we would have a lot of the Italian prisoners at Fort Monmouth that we would go visit. We were not able to go into the fort itself, but through the fence

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we would pass some food and we would talk to them and all. It was really a great thing to be able to do that. Yeah and I was happy that I was able to speak a little dialect and make myself understood a bit too. So basically. EVELYN HERSHEY: Can anyone else say anything about the Fort Monmouth WWII experience? That's an important part of history. ROSE FERRAR: I was married and

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my husband worked at Fort Monmouth at the time. Sometimes they would have the prisoners go and... See, my husband was a chef in the Army. When they were first captured -- the Italians and the Germans --

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they had to do KP [kitchen patrol] duty.

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My husband says the Italians were from all over and you couldn't understand half of them, but the German soldier was very quiet,

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humble, they didn't even want to be there. That's the way the war turned out,

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but like Mary said, a lot of those prisoners, Italian prisoners, were stabled there at Fort Monmouth. Like she said, we rode by there, my husband and I, a lot of times and we saw them. They were standing way back. It was one there who was very famous, who was it? He was a big cheese over there. I don't remember his name, but he carried a lot of clout with him. He was like a spokesman for them. They couldn't speak English, but when they found out my husband was Italian,

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oh my God,

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they wanted to be catered to and all that nonsense and my husband says, "You were an enemy too, so that's it."

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But anyway, now. EVELYN HERSHEY: How long did that go on? To go there. Do you remember?

MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I don't really remember. Like I say. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, it was more than a couple of months. ROSE FERRAR: Oh yeah. They had the USO here in Long Branch.

MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Yes, and Mary Sustito (sp) was one of the directors. ROSE FERRAR: If you brought them into town, you had to make sure they had to go back. It was one of those...

They were released in the control

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they had on them, but yet they didn't -- you know what I mean?

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My husband should tell the story. EVELYN HERSHEY: What happened after the war? To the prisoners? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: They were brought back [to Italy]. My sister-in-law

married one of the prisoners. EVELYN HERSHEY: She did? ROSE FERRAR: Some of them married the girls from Long Branch. EVELYN HERSHEY: They met them while they were here?

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ROSE FERRAR: Yeah, and they couldn't get married until the girls went to Italy. They got married and they got their excuse, they got their citizenship, and they came over. MICHELLINA S.

GAGLIANO: Yes, because my sister-in-law married one of the prisoners. Then her sister went back and married the brother. That was some episode for all those years in the family. EVELYN

HERSHEY: Mary, your family is quite musical. Still. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yes. I

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should have brought that picture of my grandson. I have it on Facebook, but I don't know if it'll come out on camera.

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Yeah. My mother loved to play. She had her brother, who left Italy at the age of 18 or 19 because his parents did not approve of the girl he wanted to marry. So, he got mad at all of them and they went and they got on the boat and off he came. They settled, I believe, in Chicago and all the years my mom was alive -- she died young -- she kept trying to get in touch with him. In fact, my mom was sick with a brain tumor and we knew she didn't have long to live,

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and my father got ahold of her brother and tried to get him over here and he wouldn't come. But he was a very, very classical musician from what I understand. I think he changed his name to Oliveri and I know he's written music. We've never been able to research it, but he was a fabulous musician. My daughter plays piano and my grandson -- handsome boy -- he plays guitar. He's a member of a band called the Taylor Tote Band. He's the lead guitarist

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and he plays all over. They are hoping to go to California. They've been to Nashville a couple times. It skipped me unfortunately. I don't play. MICHELLINA: But you dance. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I do line dancing,

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I do, at our senior center. I take tap dancing too and our teacher is an 84 or 85-year-old former Rockette. We usually meet on Fridays and we perform for the seniors. Once in a while we go to school here in Long Branch and dance for the children. I just, I do, I love it. ROSE FERRAR: I don't know if Mary told you, but we're on the advisory board of the senior center. Barbara too. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I'm treasurer so,

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they give me all the money, which I have to go pick up later today, and I write the checks that they need and all. Yeah, it's a fun place to be. We do a lot there too. It's a great place. EVELYN
HERSHEY: Would you like to share some of the pictures that you have? right. MARY DEVITO
D'LISA: Yeah. Here's a picture of me and my mom. I was crying. I guess I didn't want to be in the picture with my brothers. You know, I want to show you too, I have my mother's citizenship paper. I've had it for years. The

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thing is, my mother never went to school. In Italy they never educated the girls. My father went to fourth grade and then he had to stop because his father died,

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and I guess that's how my father became a carpenter. But when my mom had to go for her citizenship paper, she couldn't even write her name. So, as you can tell, she was she was just learning. You know, we taught her. Us kids taught her.

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Yeah, she did pretty good. MICHELLINA: My mother could only make an "X". I'd have to sign her name. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: She was so proud to be an American citizen. She really was. This with 1946 I believe. Nineteen forty-six, yeah. The 12th of November actually. She was so happy and proud. She loved being an American. MICHELLINA: Well, they had to register in those days because I had to take my mother and father to the post office and register them. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: This is my parents' wedding

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picture too.

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They were married in Amaroni, at St. Barbara's Church in Italy. Then they came here shortly after.

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My mom never really spoke English because our neighbor was all Italians so they all spoke Italian when they got together. So, when she would answer the telephone she'd go, "hello," and if they were looking for my father she go, "She's not home. Imma just left." I used to make fun of her.

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She used to say, "You laugh. I can speak better Italian than you." ROSE FERRAR: You know who actually -- can I speak? In Rumson, when the war broke out, you had what you call the Eisner Factory in Red Bank. OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Oh yes. Right. That's right.

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ROSE FERRAR: So, a lot of them went to work there and they learned to speak English. A lot of them couldn't go. They used to have men bring the bundles of clothes into the house and the women would clip the threads or do what they do. They were so proud because they were making Army uniforms. My father, he went to work at Bendix where they were making the airplanes. They were gung ho. They would be proud to be a part of it. They were. EVELYN HERSHEY: Are there any

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other photos that you have to share? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: This one here is my father-in-law and my husband when he was about 15 or 16. There was a barbershop and Red Bank [that] he had and it was my father-in-law, that was his neighbor, I don't know his name, that was Uncle John -- my husband's uncle -- and this was Mr. Kisselin who had a store in Red Bank for years. Mr. Kisselin, a sports store,

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and one time he walked in. From what I understand, I never met my father-in-law, but when Mr. Kisselin came one time to get his haircut, my father-in-law took the scissor and cut his tie instead. He said, "I don't like your tie." ROSE FERRAR: Oh my God. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yeah. He eventually forgave him because he stopped paying for haircuts. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do you have any other, just like childhood pictures? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh yes. I should show the one with my brothers. This is me and my baby brother -- two years younger than me --

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this is me and little Robert. He is still my baby. This is my mother and father and the five of us. Everybody always said oh you were the only girl you must have been so spoiled and I wasn't. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: They always used to say, "Here's my favorite sister." MARY DEVITO D'LISA: But Italians, you know, are a little chauvinistic.

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The males come first. So, my mom and I would do what we could for them first. On Saturday night when we took our weekly baths, you know, I was the last one.

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I was not the first. ROSE FERRAR: My son came right in the middle; two girls a boy, then two more girls. My husband said well, let's try, the iron is hot. I had two more girls.

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MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I was next to last. EVELYN HERSHEY: Maybe we can turn to Joe. Do you have another picture? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I have plenty. You know what I do have? My nephew went online. There's a lot of

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stuff here. Wait a minute, let me see. That's another picture of my brothers. I must have been crying in the other picture. That's us. This one my nephew dug up on the Internet. My father was going to be drafted it looked like. I'm trying to figure out the year. EVELYN HERSHEY: He had to register? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yeah. He had to register for the draft. Yeah.

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So, that's a copy of it. I don't know how well it's going to show up, but I thought that was amazing. Here's another picture that when I was in Italy eight years ago I swore I was going to kiss the ground when I got in the hometown and this was the compound where my cousins live. That was me kissing the ground.

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I showed the one with the church with St. Barbara, right? Didn't I? With Don Marcelo. OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I showed that. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: He was handsome. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yeah. He was a good-looking man. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Good looking priest, but he scared me when I walked in church. He says to me, "Michellina! [unintelligible Italian] pronto."

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I said, "For what?" I didn't even talk Italian at that point. He said, "legita," I said, "No." MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh, you had to read. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: There was this Bible that he had, but no ligeta (sp)." So, he made me read in English and everybody was clapping. They probably didn't know a word I said, but they were all proud. I had a cousin, she wouldn't leave my hand and I had to get back in with the group. I tell you, in that

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town,

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they had not too much. The younger ones are building gorgeous homes, like she mentioned her cousins, the Chompas. They've got villas really and all the other younger cousins, but the old people are still in their little old houses. They are very happy. I found a woman, the first time we went, she was washing in the fiume [river]. I said just like my mother told me washing [clothes in the river]. I asked her, "Where is Amaroni?" because we were in Citifarco (sp) because we got lost. She

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says, "Oh, darita, darita, darita." And they're so happy. They have nothing. They're happy you know. I want to just take them all back with me.

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Do you know what the priest said to me, he said they wouldn't even be happy in America. ROSE FERRAR: No. It's a whole different scene. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I remember when I was there that summer too they said we're going to sun-dried tomatoes. So, we went out I had to go help him pick all the plum tomatoes and stuff. They put on these big screens and throw it up on top of the garage roof to let the sun-dry. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Then they make sauce. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: They have a day in the summer

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there too still they call Faragosa and it's a day when everybody, the whole country, stops working. They have picnics. They all stop. This one, well when I was there, my cousin didn't have enough gas to take us where we were supposed to go. So, we did in the backyard instead, you know. We had a good time. It was really great. I loved it. I have a picture when I was growing up with some of my little girlfriends too. EVELYN HERSHEY: What other things did you do with your girlfriends. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh, we would play

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a lot of games. Well, like the whole neighborhood. It was so close knit. On my street alone, we only had like ten houses. There must have been about 15, 18 kids there growing up. We would play Hopscotch, Hit the Bat. Because in those days there weren't many cars, so you put the bat in the middle of the road and throw the ball to it and all that. We would play Kick the Can, Hide and Seek.

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Well some of us thought we were so cool we would play and when we were hiding we'd run all the way uptown, three or four of us. We would come back they'd forgot all about us. They were playing something else. Jax, of course, we played. You know, things like that. We used to have a great time. I loved it. I wish those days were back sometimes, you know? It was so close knit. Beautiful. On Sunday and Thursday you smelled sauce. Everybody had pasta. The sauce smelled

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so good. It was really great. ROSE FERRAR: And you ate Sundays at 1 o'clock.

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MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh yes. We had our dinner at one o'clock in the afternoon.

MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: You would have a snack that night at 5:00pm. MARY DEVITO D'LISA:

Yeah that's right. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: My brother in law used to say, "Silenzio. Ce

mangia." MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Mosa mangia (sp) - no talk. EVELYN HERSHEY: Maybe we could

turn to Joe. Josephine you can introduce. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: My name is

Josephine Maggiarino Chevalier. Chevalier, I married a Frenchman. I

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grew up -- I had four brothers -- I was, no, five brothers, and I was the only girl. My mother was an only girl; she had six brothers. But I only really met one and he used to come on the holidays and cook with US. He used to cook eels because my mother would never cook on Christmas Eve.

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Yeah. I he married a woman -- his second marriage -- my Uncle Joe, and her daughter I always considered a cousin. She became a nun and I still see her now and then, but I have too many pictures. This is a picture

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of my four children. I had three boys and a girl. The tradition, the only girl.

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My grandfather, who I lived in the house with him. He had a farm and he used to grow vegetables and things and he used to sell them. This is a picture of my dad --I don't know if you can see it --showing his garden. He didn't sell, but it's a description of the things that he grew

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in there. I have too many pictures.

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This is a picture of our house. This is a picture of me with my brother Anthony. We're three years apart. I used to dance on stage. This is my other brother, Anthony. He was in the Navy. That's a picture of me with him. This is a picture of me with my girlfriend who lived two

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doors over, Bavaqui (sp). This is a picture of the mothers on our street with their kids. EVELYN
HERSHEY: What was your mom like? What was your mom's name and what was your mom like?

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Her name was Philomena but they called Minnie and she worked in a factory after a while.

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My dad bought this house on Taber Street and he built the bathroom inside there and the whole patio in the back. Everybody in the neighborhood was very close. All the girls on there -- there were about 10 of us and they all had brothers -- and we used to all play on the street. We used to play Kick

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the Can at night and everything. The women always got together. My mother's house was always open for coffee. My dad, when they were first married -- they both came over from Italy at 10 years old and my mother was engaged to somebody because she was supposed to marry this guy. But she ended up marrying my

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father. He was an only child, but she used to tell me that when they wanted to go --after they were married -- when they wanted to go to the movies, the mother and father had to go with them. ROSE FERRAR: Sounds familiar. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Yes. God forbid. EVELYN HERSHEY: Does your family have a Newark, Newark, New Jersey [connection]? The city of Newark; is that important for your family?

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JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: No, not really. Not really. My mother had a very good friend that lived in Brooklyn. She was my godmother and her daughter I went to see her every once in a while and we spent time there. No, but we used to go to Boston a lot, the family because that was my dad's cousins.

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I still speak to one of the daughters. EVELYN HERSHEY: Where was your grandfather's farm? JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Right there on Vanderbilt Avenue. We had a house and after I got married, they had an apartment. They built an apartment upstairs and my grandmother and grandfather lived downstairs. After my grandmother passed away

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I used to take care of my grandfather. Yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: You were close to him.

JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Yeah. Well he had, Mickey can tell you, he had this old station wagon, you know, with the wood, the wood sides. He would go out because

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my grandmother hadn't passed away, and he'd go out and go visiting, you know, the women. He would come back. He had too much to drink, but he would go, he'd drive that truck right into the garage there and hit both sides and he knew he was in. This is a picture of the priest, Father Pete Tamaino (sp).

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He lived. His family lived down the street from us and my grandmother, my mother's mother, was very close to them.

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So that's when she was old. She passed away at 97. These two are my dad's mom and dad. Oh here's a picture. This one, my grandmother, Raphaela, her name was. EVELYN HERSHEY: The big photo on the back? JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: That's me. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Your

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granddaughter looks like you.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: That's your birthday? Your birthday is in a few days. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: I have this picture of my mom and dad on their 60th wedding anniversary. I have five grandchildren. One passed away already.

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This is my new great granddaughter. She just turned on one. I think that's it.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Mickey knows about you?

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JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Yes. My relatives. The relatives in Boston. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: And I think we are related too.

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JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Yes. You are. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I'm trying to figure it out.

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: You are. The DeVito's from Everett Street. ROSE FERRAR: There are DeVito's in Rumson. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I thought I was related to them. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: You are. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: On my father's side. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Her family was very close with Tootsie's mother. Gagliaro.

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MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Gaglioaro? Oh, I know that name. [unintelligible] I remember them. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: My dad and she would do. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She was always up there. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: I know. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: It was so funny, I didn't know your mother was visiting and I went visiting and I was planning on staying there, but there was no room for me. I had to drive all the way back to Long Branch. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I remember that name. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: They were very close. They would sit around the table, the kitchen table, and talk and have their wine with the peaches in it and all the cold cut, you know and all like that.

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are mothers and that well look how you know that. Yeah.

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That's what they used to do. EVELYN HERSHEY: And everybody knows you as Tootsie? JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Yes. My nickname is Tootsie. A woman that lived across the street from us, when I was born, she used to play with me all the time. She used to take care of me and she nicknamed me Tootsie. So, a lot of people don't know my real name.

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But Rose won't call me Tootsie, she calls me Josie. EVELYN HERSHEY: That's a wonderful photo too.

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Maybe we could turn to Barbara now since we've been talking about the patron saint here. If you could introduce yourself. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): My name s Barbara Iamello Hagy and I'm a Long Brancher all my life. I was born

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on 319 Chelsea Avenue in Long Branch. We lived on Springdale Avenue and then we moved to this house across the street. That was during the war. Then after the war, the soldiers had preference, so we had to move out and my mother and father bought the house -- a double house -- as you come out of the church parking lot on Willow Avenue. So, I went from one block to the other, but I was always in church. I lived in church honestly and at the time, where the school is now, there

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was a house and that eventually became the convent for the sisters. I used to go there all the time. I'd come home and

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my mother would say, "Why don't you move your bed there? You are there more than you are home." MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: We all said that. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Their chapel had a wooden floor and every Saturday I used to go and scrub this wooden floor on my hands and knees. At home I wouldn't do anything because I'd say I'm too little I can't do that. My sister was older than me and she was strict. When my mother had to go to work, I had certain things that I had to do and if

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I didn't finish them -- I would sneak out and go out to play -- my sister would say, "All right. "She'd lock the door. "When mom comes home I'll tell her that you didn't do all your chores.". So, I got panicky and I knocked and knocked and knocked until my hand went right through.

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I still have a scar. Of course, this was during the war, there was only one doctor and that was Dr. Chompa. I had to go down to the corner and he had to patch me up and was trying to do stitches. But like I say I lived in church all my life. I was probably going to be a sister until one day my mother said, "If any of my girls ever wanted to become a nun, I would kill them."

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Because, you know in those days, they were very strict. They didn't want their daughters becoming nuns or priests. Not for anything, they were very, very religious, but they just didn't want to give up their child to do that. Growing up my father worked for Guggenheim, who was the copper magnate from New York City. He worked there for years and years and years, and they had a big estate which is now, they

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turned over to the college [Monmouth University]. But in Sycamore Avenue in Long Branch they had their own private greenhouses. My father took care of the greenhouses and on Sunday when my uncle came down from Perth Amboy -- because my father didn't drive -- we would go to the greenhouse and they had refrigerators for these special plants needed to be cooled and they just had rows and rows of greenhouses. My father would say to everybody, "Put your hands at

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your side," because he didn't want us to touch the flowers because they would call from New York, "Joseph we're having a party and we're sending the chauffeur down and he would have to cut all the plants and load all the ferns and whatever and they would have their parties in New York City. Then they would drive back and he'd have to put the plants back into the greenhouse. But the best stories of my life was when my mother had

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been married before and her husband passed away, so my brother and sister were my half brothers and sisters but to me, I was so young, they were my sisters and brother. My mother said to my father, because my uncle sold Castle Ice Cream and he used to make deliveries to Long Branch. Their home base was Perth Amboy and my uncle got to meet my father and one time my uncle starts talking to my father and he says, "Joe, I

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have my sister and she doesn't have a husband. Her husband passed away and she has two young children." He said, "Would you like to meet her and get married?" He said, "Yeah I'd like to get married." At that point, he was a bachelor. He was like forty-five or older and he married my mother. So, my mother gave him the ultimatum. I never forgot. She says, "Now Joe, I know you've been a bachelor all your life and I have two children

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that I'm responsible for. You're either going to have to stop drinking or stop driving. So he sold his pickup truck and he bought a bicycle and he used to go from Long Branch, ride the bicycle all the way down to the beach in Elberon and take care of the greenhouses, and pedal all the way back home again. He did that. I mean he just loved working and he just did that for years and years and years.

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But, I mean, he took care of my brother and sister like they were his own. I can remember one time when I was very young and we lived across the street and I was leaning on the kitchen table. I said Mommy I want ice cream. I want ice cream so bad. Please can I have ice cream and my father turned to my mother and says, "Do you have enough money for ice cream for both of them?" And she says, "No, I only have enough money for one." He said, "Well then nobody gets ice cream tonight." ROSE FERRAR: [He was] Being

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fair. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Yeah. My brother had passed away, but my sister and I - - we fought like hell -- but we always got long and ended up living on the same street.

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We built our homes in West Long Branch and she wanted us to be together, but fortunately she got cancer and we only could get through about five or six years and then she passed away. But her two kids and, you know, [I'm] very, very close with them. EVELYN HERSHEY: You have some other nice pictures there.

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BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): This was me, across the street, I was about I guess ten or twelve years old. My fancy stance. And this is my graduation from Long Branch High School. EVELYN HERSHEY: That's very nice. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): This is my

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Markison (sp) Studio's picture when I was about nine years old and I guess that's it. Like I say, I was always very, very close to church.

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I used to love [it]. Like I say, I would go to the convent on Saturdays and I used to scrub the wooden floors on my hands and knees and then in the afternoon we would sit in the backyard and the nuns would teach us how to crochet and do all these fancy stitches. Then we would start singing songs and it was just great. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do you like to sing? ROSE FERRAR: Yeah. She has a beautiful voice. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: She used to sing at weddings and funerals.

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She has a beautiful voice. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yes. She's in the choir. EVELYN HERSHEY: You sang with the nuns.

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BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Oh yes. I started singing in the choir when I was seven years old. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: You were seven? BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Yeah. And I still sing in the choir. EVELYN HERSHEY: Do you have favorite music. ROSE FERRAR: When you're there! BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Well of course growing up, everything was Latin, so once in a while you throw in a Latin song, but everything was Latin. We did all that. MICHELLINA S.

GAGLIANO: All the masses. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): We used to have processions and then my father worked for the Guggenheim's. They [the nuns] would say, you know we're having

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a feast day. Do you think your father could bring some flowers to church? So, he would get boxes and he would cut the flowers. Even when I went to public school, up on Broadway, Miss Ryan was our Principal and she would say, "Would you tell your father that we're having a play next week. Do you think he would be able to bring us flowers?" He would cut the flowers and bring them up there. He was great.

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He was. The both of them, they were funny and they were always telling stories, but they were wonderful together. ROSE FERRAR: Her mother spoke such good English.

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I thought she was born in Europe. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): She was. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She was the only one in the group that really spoke well.

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BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): She grew up in Perth Amboy. This was my favorite story. She was 10 years old and the little girl next door was about four or five. She said they would sit on the steps and she would say to the little girl, "Now how do you say this?" and "How do you say this?" and "How do you say this?" And she would learn. That's how she learned her English. ROSE FERRAR: She spoke beautifully. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): My uncle,

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who was, I guess a very nice man, but I never liked his because of the stories my mother would tell us. He send for my mother and my grandmother from Italy to come here, but in those days, they used to buy houses or rent them whatever and they used to rent the rooms out of the single men that used to come from Italy. So, what he needed was a housekeeper and a cook which happened to be my mother and my grandmother and they had to cook for all those

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men and clean and wash their shirts. My mother used to say that there was a store on State Street in Perth Amboy and my father -- they would tell my mother rather -- she had to go to the store and get kerosene. She went to the store to get kerosene knowing that man would not give her kerosene if he had other customers

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because the kerosene would get on his hands and then he couldn't cut meat or, you know, cut the bread or anything. So, she would always be there a long time and when she would come home my uncle would start smacking her in the face for taking so long and she couldn't explain to him that they wouldn't serve me because they didn't want to get the kerosene smell on things. But she lived there until she married my father

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and then they moved to Long Branch. She was a real pepper, she was the funniest thing. You couldn't say -- she wanted to do something [and] if you took too long, she had it done back again. When I was working for a fuel oil company which was near the train station in Long Branch, and she would come in and she'd say to me, "Barbara, I'm going to go

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uptown to cash my check, will you stop here at lunchtime?" "Well mom, you know I have this and this to do but I'll try. Don't walk." She would call me up and she'd say to me, "What are you doing?" "I'm getting ready to go to lunch now." "Well, don't forget. Forget about it," she goes back again and walk all the way uptown and back. She never walked. She ran. But she did that all her life. That's how she walked and she'd say, "Forget

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about it." She would come into the office and she'd take out a bag and she'd have a cup of coffee for me and she'd have a

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bun or a roll or something all wrapped up. "Did you have breakfast. Yes. No, I bet you didn't. Here take this." Oh God, she was a wonderful, wonderful person. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She was the only one in the group that didn't pass away [young]. ROSE FERRAR: She lived a very long time. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): She got cancer and passed away. Like I say, that little three-year-old taught her [English]. One other story that she used to tell. When she

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came off... When they came to New York I guess from the boat,

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they had put food on the table to feed them and she wouldn't eat on the boat because she was so sick. She couldn't

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each for the ten days or twelve days that it took to get here. She never had anything in her stomach. They had the table all set and she saw this, what she thought was a piece of cheese, and she grabbed it. She started chewing on it. It was a stick of butter.

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She had never seen a stick of butter before in Italy. They didn't have such a thing,

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but she was so hungry and she couldn't eat on the boat. She was so sick. She always had her stories for us. EVELYN HERSHEY: Somebody mentioned here before a little bit of a story about bootlegging. New Jersey, not all the time

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was it actually bootlegging, but I know the police were checking, looking for bootleggers. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: That was because we would go, as Barbara said, her family came from Perth Amboy, but in the Summer we had a little bungalow not too far from Perth, from here – called Cliffwood. It's right at the Raritan Bay. So, maybe two, maybe even sometimes every night of the week, they decided that they wanted to go up and stay at the bungalow. So my sister would put in this van. Barbara had to sit in

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the front with her, by her sister and myself, and occasionally my brother would come. He didn't want to be bothered with us girls. We'd be on the Highway 35 and next thing you know we were frisked over, to move over because the state trooper sees a young girl driving a truck and, you know, Barbara was just very small. I guess he couldn't even see her. We get stopped.

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So, my sister used to warn me, "Now, when we get stopped you keep quiet," but of course I couldn't keep quiet. I tried to bribe the state trooper, I'd say do you want bread, you want salami, and my sister used to get so annoyed with me. For the first few times I couldn't understand it. So, one night I discussed this with my mother and my father was there -- I think even Barbara's father was there that one night -- and I said how come every time we go out in the truck every once in a while

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some state trooper stops us. Her father says, "Well maybe they think we are doing bootlegging.

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Well I really didn't know too much about that because I know one time they came and looked over in, you know, a couple of houses. I know they inspected our house because we used to keep the flour in the garage because the bakery itself, my mother didn't want the flour in there. Of course, you couldn't even go in that bakery -- you couldn't smoke in there, you couldn't have nail polish on your hands -- my mother was very particular. We used to get stopped pretty occasionally. That's why now every

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once in a while when we were here and we'd have a something going on at the church I used to say -- especially sister Domenica -- you want to come meet a state trooper at the diner? Right Barbara? Didn't I always say that to her and she'd get with those little dimples and just smile. She said, yes just me. That's the story behind it, we used to get stopped because there was a lot of it going on here. I remember them buying some kind of a different color stuff, but I never remembered what they were doing with it. ROSE FERRAR: I remember this story. My

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mother father built their house and they had already lived in there four years. My father was at work, this man, two men knocked on the door. Well, they saw my mother was pregnant with me. She was eight months -- very big -- and not to startle or alarm her they said there were electricians they wanted to check the electric of the house. My mother didn't understand them. So, anyway they went up in the attic. What had happened; someone had killed somebody in Long Branch who

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was a friend of my father's and they were investigating. When they saw my mother in that condition...Meantime, my father gets home from work. [He says] What are two men doing in the attic, to my mother. My mother explained to him.

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He said no, the house has been inspected. The men came down and my father started yelling at them. They were county detectives. "You have some nerve coming in here. You see the condition she's in. You could have come back when I'm home. My mother heard what had happened.

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Somebody had been killed in Long Branch who was a friend of my father's. She got so upset, she grabbed -- my father had a '32 Ford -- not a '32, an old Ford, Model A -- grabs the fender and she starts to hemorrhage.

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It was me. She was eight months when she had me. My father chased those detectives home. He said he didn't care who got killed in Long Branch. You got some [nerve]. [Detectives said] Well you knew the guy. He said, well that doesn't mean I know who would kill him. I was at work. But, you remember years ago -- you've probably heard it from your husbands maybe. There was a man in Long Branch who lived near Morris Avenue School. He used to instruct the

people who were going to get their citizenship papers. Do you remember that? MARY DEVITO
D'LISA: No. ROSE FERRAR: Pasquale Bruno? You ever hear of him? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh,
Bruno. Now I know

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that name. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: My neighbor. [may have said he used to be "mayor"
ROSE FERRAR: He used to bring a lot of these men - yes -

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they'd come into Long Branch, he'd give them the rundown of what they asked you when you
go for your citizenship paper. Well I don't know who the man was, but I heard, he just idolized
this Pasquale Bruno. He went to Freehold to get his citizenship paper. You know how they stand
there, they swear up and the judge asks you questions? The judge asked them

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who was the first President of the United States,

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and he said Pasquale Bruno. Was that true Mickey? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: He was my next
door neighbor and he was -- I think he had, if I am correct, 17 or 18 kids. My uncle had 16, so,
he beat my uncle Joe. He kept his girl so strict it

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was unbelievable. They sometimes used to just tremble those girls. One of the daughters, she always wanted me to steal candy out of our store to give to her because she never got money for candy. But my brother-in-law, when he used to make the candy order, he used to order two extra Hershey Bars and Milky Ways because that's all she liked. My brother-in-law would say, "You can take them." MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Was Barbara Bruno their family? Our organist? MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Yeah. Barbara, Barbara. I had to pay her fifty cents for my wedding picture which they lost here

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when we did the 100th Anniversary. I gave it to them to put in and I don't know what happened. EVELYN HERSHEY: Can somebody share or whoever would like to share, a phrase, a sentence in the dialect? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: My mother always used to say, "Fabona tu te quas," (sp) [unintelligible Italian]. Before you say anything, weigh it in life [unintelligible] so that you won't hurt anybody behind it. That's one

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that I can think of. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Well I quoted the other one, but my mother always used to say, "Solita asanti ta" (sp) meaning, [be] silent and be good. ROSE FERRAR: I heard, "statti zitto," (sp). MARY DEVITO D'LISA: That's all I heard. EVELYN HERSHEY: What does that mean? ROSE FERRAR: Stay quiet. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Or "scusta mata," (sp) meaning you're being bad or fresh. ROSE FERRAR: I don't know if any of you girls had come across this, my mother used to -- this is -- MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Go ahead. ROSE FERRAR: Used to pass the malocchio. OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Oh

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yeah. Oh yes. Yes. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: I used to go to this lady. Where is she? ROSE FERRAR: Where is the picture? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: My mother -- we used to have paper [unintelligible] get schooled in that on Christmas Eve. We used to have to do this. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: This lady was the maloccio. ROSE FERRAR: Yeah. Let me see. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: What was her name? [unintelligible] Mrs. Racinio (sp).

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ROSE FERRAR: Oh, Racinio (sp). MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Al Racinio's mother. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: His mother? JOSEPHINE: My father's mother used to do that. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: [unintelligible] stand and she'd spit all over me. EVELYN HERSHEY: Can somebody explain, without giving away the secret, what that means? ROSE FERRAR: Let me see. Maloccio. It means evil eye. Now the evil eye,

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somebody goes up to you enviously, "You look beautiful today." They're really don't [mean it]. It's just like that. I can't explain it. My mother used to. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: It's like it gives you the jinx. ROSE FERRAR: My mother used to pray to the person and it would get rid of it.

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My mother would end up crying like hell, and these people would go away just, with no headaches. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yeah. She used to take an article that they had, a shoe, a sock and they removed the evil eye. My mother used to tell me, "fiya garda" (sp), it means do this. If somebody's saying something, do it behind your back, you know, so it's against evil eye. ROSE FERRAR: A lot of us you know -- I don't know if you girls

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do it either -- I do. I don't believe in the evil eye because I think it is a lot of crap.

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It's like voodoo. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: But it's true. You do feel better when you're wearing your... MARY DEVITO D'LISA: With the medal. We used to do a medal. ROSE FERRAR: ...in their underwear. I don't know why. I don't believe in it, but it even works for adults. One of my granddaughters had a shower now about 10 years ago. I don't believe in that stuff and I saw some people there who worked with my son in Newark, the law

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office. This woman kept saying, oh she made such a fuss. She just met me! "Oh Rose, you look so lovely, blah, blah, blah." The usual stuff. Passing compliments. I said to myself, I'm not going to let her override me like that, but I kept quiet. I walk out of the restaurant. I was getting into my daughter's car, and I felt like somebody hit me in the back of the head. I had a terrible time. An awful headache, and I don't believe in that [stuff]. That's why I tell that.

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But anyway, somebody said a little prayer and then it was all right.

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But my mother used to sit there crying. She'd take -- cast off their evil eye, she would absorb it.

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I think that contributed to a lot of her illness and my father made her stop. She'd say, well I gotta and he'd say no, you stop. EVELYN HERSHEY: She would do it for everybody, not just family? ROSE FERRAR: You override it. You have to override. No. Yes. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, people might have come to her. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: People knew who to go to. ROSE FERRAR: And she'd cry.

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MARY DEVITO D'LISA: How about the red, we had the red ogordon (sp) we called it. The red pepper that they used. We had that at our house. ROSE FERRAR: Phyllis is absorbing all this.

MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Right Phyllis? BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): When I was growing up, living across the street, at the very end pf Exchange Place was a lady, Mrs. Strollo, and she's the one that cast the eye. On the corner of Division, Exchange Place and Division Street was Michellina Difazio, Joey and Lois Difazio's mother. She

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and my mother were very, very close friends. One day she calls up and she says Angie -- Angelina, my mother -- would you send Barbara down to Mrs. Strollo because I think somebody -- this is all in Italian -- somebody passed the evil eye over me. It was pouring, pouring rain so my mother says, Barbara, you have to go down to Mrs. Strollo and tell her cast the eye because Michellina is very sick. I said, "Oh Mommy it's pouring rain. You're going to make me walk so far?" I mean the streets are actually

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flooded -- the gutters. [Her mother says] "You have to. You have to. "I never ever did this before so I said, "Mommy please.

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Next time you tell me I'll go, but wait awhile, call her up and tell her that I went already. Don't make me go walking down there." I mean it was flooding in the streets. So, she waited a while, calls up, " Michellina? Barbara is home. Everything is all right." She said, "Oh thank you. I could tell. I know just when she went there because I could feel my head clearing up." That was without them sending me out there in all that rain.

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I knew just what time she went there because I started feeling better already. ROSE FERRAR: You could only pass to someone to learn on Christmas Eve. [unintelligible] MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: She asked me if I wanted to learn it. EVELYN HERSHEY: So, someone

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who can do it on Christmas Eve can share it to someone who is willing to learn it. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yes. On Christmas Eve. ROSE FERRAR: My father used to holler at her and made her stop.

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He made her stop because she would sit there cry. She would have hair from the person or she'd have rosary beads or whatever they gave her. There was a doctor in Long Branch, a pediatrician, I don't know if you remember a Doctor Maisy. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: No, I don't remember him. ROSE FERRAR: All right. He was on Liberty Street. My sister used to bring her little girl for him to take care of. She was just chronically moody.

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It was just, and then the doctor could never find anything wrong with her. So, he told my sister the story -- when he was in residency in New York, he said he worked in the Italian section, of course everyone was Italian.

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He was the doctor on this floor for children. There was a little boy, three years old. They brought him into the hospital and they didn't know what was wrong with him. He was just....you know what I mean [malaise]. Out of it.

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They did tests. They couldn't find anything wrong. This doctor was in residency. On the third day a woman came into the ward, all dressed in black, an old-time lady.

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They heard these footsteps going up the stairs and he says, in Italian she said, but I'm going to tell you in English, "Where is the little boy that's been ill?"

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So, the doctor said that's the little boy there. She said to get away from the bed, I'll take care of him. She stamped her foot. She threw salt on her shoulder. She did this. She did that. She walked away. An hour later the little boy sat up and said he was hungry. He wanted to eat.

MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Oh wow. MICHELINNA S. GAGLIANO: Isn't that something? ROSE FERRAR: That was the story. So that's what the doctor said to my sister. He said, "I'm not supposed to practice this, but have you ever had your daughter, evil eye passed on her?" She was a little doll. Oh, she was beautiful.

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My sister said no. He said, "Well maybe you ought to do it. I'm not supposed to tell you." And damn it, the little boy sat up and said he was hungry. So, it's just something. I don't know, it's hard to believe. It really is. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: I believed it because it happened to me. ROSE FERRAR: Yeah, you know first-hand. EVELYN HERSHEY: I wanted to thank all of you for the pictures and your stories that you shared today. It really is important to document

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and record this part of New Jersey history and our immigrant story. So, before we finish, is there any other experiences that come to mind that you would like to share so that we have them

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today? MARY DEVITO D'LISA: When we were talking about Pasquale Bruno, I started thinking, Pasquale COD, on the radio that our parents used to listen to. It was supposed to be an Italian immigrant who came here he writes his mother Dear Mamma Mia. Every week the letter would be to his mother and he'd tell about his experiences. I always loved that. Also, I remember on Sunday morning, when my mother was making sauce, we were getting ready for church, she played Carlo Buti on the radio. Remember that? All the Italian music and everything.

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I used to just love that. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: That was their entertainment. Listening to those Italian shows. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Yeah, I used to love that. Those were great times. ROSE FERRAR: It's so different today. They don't have the values they had then. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: No. When I became 90 that was the first question that people would ask, because once they saw my picture in the paper, they'd say, "Mickey what's life like now from when you were growing up? I'd say, a

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big change. First of all, it was the attitude of the young people. There is no respect. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Nobody drove, like the women mostly, we stayed home a lot. Now we are always out gallivanting. We are involved. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: A lot of them too, they needed that extra money. When I came down here in Long Branch and the Jewish -- I became friends with the boss that was there, Mr. Kersh, and when

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I started to work in the Deal Pharmacy and he says, "My God, those women know more people. Every day they are asking me for time off to go to some wake or funeral. They have a lot of comrades," he said.

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A lot of them had to stay home because they had a lot of children to take care of. JOSEPHINE MAGGIARINO CHEVALIER: Well my mother worked. She worked in a factory. She even worked at Podell's (sp) because my grandmother, her mother, lived with us and she didn't speak any English at all. Just the Italian. So that was the reason why she went because my dad was always working. ROSE FERRAR: Well

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here's my sister, my brother, and my other sister and myself, we talked Italian to my mother, but my father would talk English. She spoke Italian to him. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: I used to get embarrassed when my mother and I would be out shopping or something.

She'd start talking Italian I'd go, "Ma, please speak some English. They're going to think we're talking about them." She couldn't. She really couldn't speak good English at all. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: My mother couldn't at all. EVELYN HERSHEY: How would you cope if there was discrimination or

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if people were cold? How did your families cope with that? I think that was the word that we used. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: It didn't happen too much. When we were kids we all grew up together. We were all Italians in our neighborhood. When we went to school, the kids were fine. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: But the other people used to call us names like Guinea and Wop. You used to hear that a lot because there weren't that many Italians and I know in high school when I went to school. ROSE FERRAR: I had a little problem when I was about 9 years old. When I was

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growing up in Rumson and most of them are Irish or German. They used to work on Rumson Road on the big estates. But anyway, I befriended an Irish girl in my class and we were good friends. She'd go, "Rose, come to my house and play with the dolls." You know. So, I asked my mom and she said OK you can go, but be careful. Come back and I'll come and get you.

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Well I went to her house.

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I was sitting on the porch. The girl went and asked her mother if she could bring me in. Remember that. I heard the mother yelling, "Get that Wop out of here. I don't want her here." The girl come out crying. She goes, "Rose, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry." I ran all the way home and I never talked to that little girl again. Well, I wasn't welcome.

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Yeah it was hard because there were about four or five families in Rumson who were Italian who worked, who lived on a private estate, who lived up the street. When somebody died, everybody went to go help them or somebody would. They didn't do that. The other people didn't do that. She said get that Wop home. I ran all the way home. I was nine years old. I crossed the street [and] oh my mother had a fit. [OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBERS - unintelligible]

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MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Little Italy. ROSE FERRAR: Excuse me. This mother of this girl was a laundress. She used to launder clothes from people's houses to wash -- from the Italians too. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: Uh-huh.

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ROSE FERRAR: Oh yeah. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: She would take their clothes, that was OK, but not socially. ROSE FERRAR: Oh yeah. EVELYN HERSHEY: I think we might close our session now. ROSE FERRAR: I'm sorry. EVELYN HERSHEY: No! I'm so glad you shared that story. I asked

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and we are all so appreciative to have a chance to look at all these pictures and hear these stories in your own words. Thank you, very much for what you said.

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BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): Like I say my mother was a pepper. She was fast. She never walked slow. Everything was [fast]. So, we were in the grocery store one day with my sister and she's buying this and this and that and she says get me this and this in Italian. My sister says to her, "Mom, you're in the United States, speak English." So, my mother turned around and she says, "Go to hell." [laughter]

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ROSE FERRAR: In English. MARY DEVITO D'LISA: In English! That was good. EVELYN HERSHEY:

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BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): She used to, you know, rattle off her Italian. My sister could understand more Italian, because like I said, my grandmother was alive. But then my grandmother passed away and my mother didn't have anybody to talk Italian to except when my father came home. JOSEPHINE: I understood more than I could express. BARBARA IAMELLO HAGY (SP): I could understand it as long as they speak our dialect I'm fine. When they go something after that, I can't understand them.

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I could understand -- in fact I gotta tell you one more thing, I'm sorry. When I worked for the fuel oil company a lot of our customers were Italian and they would come in and

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my boss's father used to sit in the office with me sometimes and he'd say, you know, this one is this one, you know this Mr. Smith on this street, well this is the mother and this is the father. I said, "Mr. Sustito (sp) is everybody in Long Branch related?" So, when the Italian customers would come in he'd say, "I'll take care of it." I'd say, "No, that's alright Mr. Sustito (sp), I can 'capische' them." So, they would come in and they would look at me smile and think, "She don't know nothing." [laughter]

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I'd say, "That's alright, I 'capische' you." Then one day they said something and I said, Mr. Sustito (sp), how do you say forty (40) in Italian?" I

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was able to. I could understand everything they said, but I just couldn't answer them all the time. MICHELLINA S. GAGLIANO: Can I just say one more thing? I just. Through my life, like most people call me Mickey, right? As my nickname.

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But actually, the older people always said here comes Maria Panaterra's (sp) daughter. Especially,

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what was their name? They live right here on Willow Avenue to this day. Here comes Maria Panaterra's (sp) daughter. I'd say, "No, I have a name."

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MARY DEVITO D'LISA: In your own right.

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EVELYN HERSHEY: Well thank you again. It has been a pleasure. Thank you all very much.

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[AUDIENCE MEMBERS] Thank you.