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Comedy Columns

Summer Devotional

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Wildwood Calendar  
of Events



**Clady Records  
Recording Artist**

**Maura McKinney Mastro**

**Free Concert**

**Cape May Rotary Park**

**Sunday July 18th 7pm**

**Sunday August 1st 7pm**



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THINGS TO MAKE YOU SMILE  
Gender Pronouns, Seriously?

by Frankie M.

What is up with the new gender neutral pronouns when someone no longer wants to be described as the traditional "He or She"? Have you heard some of them?

There is Ze and Zers and Ve and Vers, Zir and Zirs and Zerself and Verself. I'm already getting a headache. And there are over 60 of these complex pronouns which are all meant to replace "He and She". I have enough trouble remembering peoples names.

Can't we all just settle on the pronoun, "It"? Of course that would make for some really strange conversations. Hey congratulations on your new baby "It". I hope "It" grows up to be an "It" that will make you both proud "Its" and maybe someday you can spoil new "Its" if you become Grand "Its". No offense to all the Ze and Zers, Ve and Vers, Zir and Zirs, Zerself and Verselfs but I just don't have enough grey matter to store all this new information. I don't want to mess up and call a Ze a Zir or a Ve a Zerself.

As for me, you can call me anything....Just don't call me with your new pronoun.

"A joyful heart is good medicine"...Proverbs 17:22  
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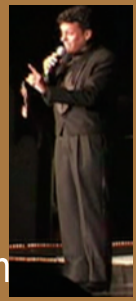
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## TaLKIN' LIFE Taking The Time

by Maura McKinney Mastro

Something a guest pastor on Christian radio said, resonated with me. He said, "It seems clear to me that living an effective Christian life requires living a life of interruptions." This makes sense to me. If we truly desire to serve others, then we should be willing to change our ordered schedules (when possible) to assist a person or situation in need of our support. Not just for family and friends but for strangers as well.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" Hebrews 13:2 NIV

In a recent devotional, Dr. Charles Stanley wrote about the importance of building solid friendships. He said that genuine friendship takes time and that The lord designed us to be in relationship with others.

"Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice"

Proverbs 27:9 NIV

Another wise pastor suggests that The Lord always hides something we need in someone we don't see. I thought "Hmmm. And as true as that may be, The Lord also can hide something in us that they may need". Since then, if I encounter someone I don't understand. I remember the pastor's words and try to take the time to dig deeper to see what surprising needs and gifts I might discover in that new person.

It brought to mind a lyric from one of my own songs:

"Lord, I will love the people that I meet today. I'll smile at them and try to hear Your Voice in things they say.  
Try to understand their hearts the way I know you do"...

Do these words remind you of times that you have done just that? They convict me that I have not done that enough.

Taking the time you thought you didn't have can make an everlasting, spirit changing impression on a hurting heart. Let's never tire of being sensitive to the needs of the people that we meet.

Taking the time to love them is a wonderful way to serve The Lord.

[SpreadHisJoy.com](http://SpreadHisJoy.com)



## Two Lonely Shovels

by Frank Mastro

Two lonely shovels  
Said goodbye to that covid summer.  
Praying this year's summer sands  
Will reunite them with  
children's hands.

## Summer Devotional

by Pastor Kevin Brennan (Guest Pastor & Chaplain with the FBI.)

Day after day people sunbathing along the beaches of Florida's East Coast would witness an old man carrying a bucket filled with shrimp and hurling the shrimp in the air toward the awaiting hordes of seagulls. The old man was returning a favor.

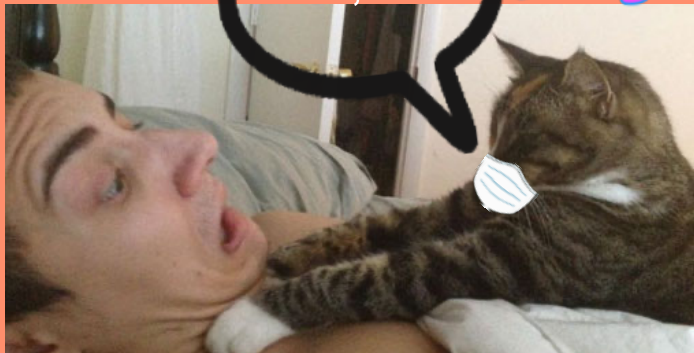
Eddie Rickenbacker had been adrift at sea for 24 days after his twin engine plane crashed in the Pacific. At a point of desperation Eddie cried out to God for help, tipped his hat over his eyes, and laid back in the scorching sun.

Within moments he felt something land on his head. He instinctively knew it was a Seagull, and an answer to his prayer. That bird provided the nourishment he needed as well as the bait necessary to catch the fish he needed to survive.

When you hear the seagulls this summer, remember Eddie and remember that we have also had a year of desperation that the Lord has taken us through. Let's not forget to show Him our gratitude as well.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and our strength,  
a very present help in times of trouble.

Photo Put on your Mask, NOW! Laugh



Caption by Frankie M.



Frank & Josephine Garippa

## MY BIG, CLOSE ITALIAN FAMILY by Donna Lee

Imagine how you would feel if you saw the Statue of Liberty, landed on Ellis Island after a seasick journey and were told that you had to return to Sicily because your sponsor did not arrive to claim you. That was the heartbreaking experience of my grandmother and great-grandmother in 1913. Their sponsor became ill. Fortunately, before they were sent back, another relative claimed them.

My big, close Italian family: the original family of fifteen has grown to over 200 members. Faith, family gatherings and fun and laughter have kept us close.

Faith is foundational to everything we do. Jesus said that He came to give us abundant life (John 10:10). Our faith in Jesus is the main reason that our family is so close.

Family gatherings are also important. We enjoy a family picnic on July 4<sup>th</sup> and parties at Christmas and New Year's. The men and boys have a campout Memorial Day weekend. These celebrations help us stay connected.

Fun and laughter are family trademarks. We have fun being together and enjoy many funny stories. My grandfather and his friend were picking dandelion greens near the hospital and saw a sign that said, "Hospital Quiet." Not knowing English that well, Grandpa's friend said, "Frank, we have to stop. The sign says, "Hospital Quit." And home they went! Another story is about a guy named Pasquale who came to pick up my aunt for a date. He brought her a box of chocolates and ate most of them while waiting for her to get ready.

My big, close Italian family: faith in Jesus is our foundation; family gatherings keep us connected; fun and laughter are trademarks. If my grandmother and great-grandmother were sent back to Sicily, I might be writing this in Italian. I'm thankful I grew up on this side of the Statue of Liberty, and that I'm sharing about my big, close Italian family with you.



My Grandmother Josephine

## THINGS TO MAKE YOU SMILE

### Financial Planner



by Frankie M.

My wife and I met with a financial planner a few years ago because it seemed like the thing to do. The first question he asked was, "How long

can you sustain your way of living without working?"

I said, "Probably next Wednesday." That's when he first put his head in his hands. Not sure if he was praying for us or wishing he never met us.

The rest of what he said was totally confusing. "We'll get you into a 401K, then hook you up with a 22J. Of course, that's not tax exempt unless you get the 66ZX5.

At this point, I didn't know if he was talking about Retirement Plans or Sports Cars. But I was impressed with the fact he obviously could count and knew the alphabet.

I told him we wanted either a tip on a Stock or a Horse. He said, "Ok I can get you 1,000 shares of a new Steel stock or place a \$1,000 on Bluebell in the 5th at Belmont."

I said, "Steel, what do I know about Steel?"

"A joyful heart is good medicine...Proverbs 17:22

[FrankMastro.com](http://FrankMastro.com)

## In This Corner

### "Bill Nolan"



by Frank Mastro

Bill Nolan was a guy's guy. He originally was our handyman but over the years we became friends and we grew to love this man. He was a kind and generous guy, street smart, with an innate sensibility about life. Although he was very accomplished himself, serving in the Army, as a firefighter in Philly and a handyman that could fix just about anything, he would rather tell you about others, his wife, his children, and always his grandchildren. He would regale me with colorful stories of guys back in the army, or old friends from the firehouse or in the parish and in so doing brought each of them to life in his own enthusiastic and comical way, and during those moments, *I felt like I knew them.*

Even after he became sick the last year, we chatted a few times by phone and after awhile he would say, "Ok I've beaten your ears long enough." But he hadn't. Wish I could hear another one of those stories. I thank the Lord I knew Bill Nolan and for those who didn't know him, I hope that during these moments, *you'll feel like you did.* Goodbye old pal.





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## TALKIN' LIFE

by Maura McKinney Mastro

Recently, my husband Frank and I celebrated another wedding anniversary. When we dated and married there was an excitement in building our home and dreams together. We started out with little but certainly enough for us. We purchased my engagement ring after we were married in an estate jewelry shop in Cape May and he made monthly payments while we were performing on a cruise line. I still store the ring in its ring box with sand and a shell from the Cape May beach. At the time, my dear, friend, Martha suggested that I write a song about the ring. I said, "That's a great idea!" Well, this year, we had to replace the center stone and when we brought it home again, repaired and glistening, I relived our joyful engagement and then remembered that I had never written the song. Suddenly, I felt a chill and a song poured down from Heaven. Some songs take a great deal of time and crafting and some just flow out in literally minutes. It makes me feel The Lord approves and so provides His inspiration and confirmation. So, Thank You Lord. May it bless someone. And thank You for the blessing of a beautiful marriage.

## This Ring Copyright © 2021 Maura McKinney Mastro

I wonder who she was?  
I wonder who she loved?  
I wonder who loved her enough to give her this ring she used to wear?  
When we walked into that shop  
Our diamond search was stopped  
We both loved it a lot  
The ring she used to wear  
It was a beautiful summer night  
We sat in the cool sand  
There beneath the bright moonlight  
He slipped it on my hand  
(And I thought)  
I wonder where she is  
As he and I kiss?  
I feel so blessed by this ring  
This ring she used to wear  
And now after all these years of us  
I thank God for her because  
From what her life story was  
She shared this ring  
This ring she used to wear  
And my love loved me enough to give me this ring  
This ring that I still wear.





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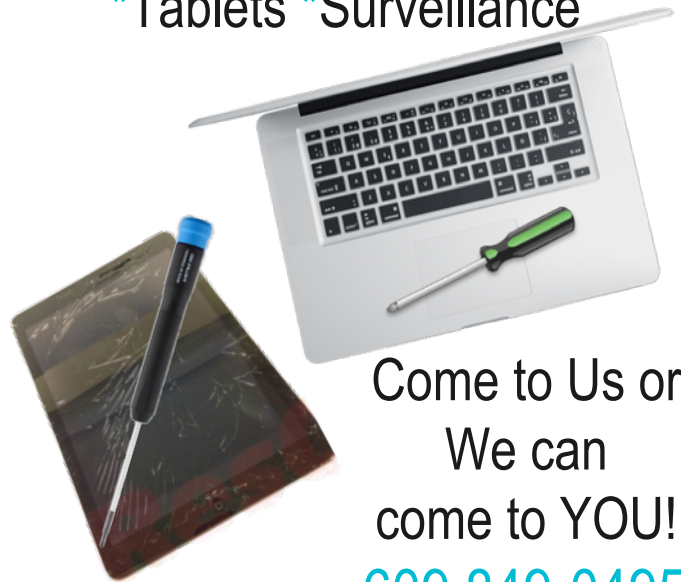


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