

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

154 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307 201-876-1980

www.riverviewneighborhood.org



December 2011

[Remembering Maria Tuzzo](#)

[A Big Thank You](#)

[Christ Hospital Proposed Sale](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00PM (Note earlier time - HOLIDAY PARTY)

Location: Harbor View Health Care Center
1st Floor Cafeteria
178 Ogden Avenue

Holiday Party (no charge):

- Dinner
- McNair H.S. Glee Club
- Tribute to Maria Tuzzo
- Food Drive

Membership Dues

Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10. Please contribute at an RNA meeting or make checks payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail c/o RNA, 154 Ogden Ave., 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.

Greetings!

The holidays are upon us and **we hope you will join us at our annual holiday party at the Harborview Health Center, 178 Ogden Ave. (at Franklin) at 7:00PM on Tuesday, December 13th.** There is no charge for attending and the party includes a light dinner (food from Rizzo's), a chance to meet your neighbors or introduce a friend to RNA (all are welcome), **holiday performance by the McNair High School Glee Club** and a time to **pay tribute to all our volunteers** who helped us with our events this year. We will also **toast the life of Maria Tuzzo**, a founding member and active volunteer in RNA, who passed away on December 4th. **Please bring a dessert to share and/or a non-perishable food item for our food drive to support St. Lucy's Shelter.**

Remembrance of a Great Lady

By: Vito Brunetti, founding member and former Chair of Riverview Neighborhood Association



Vito Brunetti & Maria Tuzzo - May 2011

At first sight, Maria looked like just an ordinary and unassuming lady. But once you met her, you realized that Maria was someone with an enormous heart and boundless energy. She unhesitatingly told you her direct and honest opinions about everything from her neighbors to the politics of her beloved Jersey City. Her indomitable spirit infused all who knew her with that special belief that we ourselves were capable of improving the quality of life for our own neighborhood.

She wasn't a politician or an elected official. She didn't make loud and lengthy speeches in City Hall. She didn't lobby for inside contracts or oversized (and overpriced) development projects. She wasn't on a government payroll. And she was rarely if ever written about in the Jersey Journal. (Though I think she was honored once as Jersey City Woman of the Year.)

But Maria was more important than any of those things. As an indispensable part of our neighborhood, she was responsible for helping to make RNA what it is today: one of the oldest established permanent neighborhood organizations in Jersey City. And through her character and example, she helped establish RNA's untarnished and unbiased reputation.

Maria worked effortlessly, making sure that those little and sometimes forgotten, but extremely necessary chores were done to keep RNA going every month during its twenty-seven year existence. She was consistently re-elected as secretary of the organization. Her responsibilities included not only taking the minutes at our monthly meetings but also getting out our monthly newsletter. Originally the RNA newsletter was a 7 to 10 page production with many articles about the current events of our community, its history and the never-ending goal to improve our municipal services. Every month Maria would allow her living room to be turned into a newsroom, where she would personally collate, fold and staple, label and stamp several hundred copies of the newsletter to be mailed not only to our members but also to people throughout the City.

Maria also made sure that our members felt welcome at RNA's monthly sessions by being responsible for providing fresh hot coffee and baked (sometimes even home made) goods at the end of each meeting. She also helped organize the two annual holiday parties: one for our members and a separate event for the residents of the Harborview Health Care Center (where RNA still holds its monthly meetings). It was at these parties that Maria surprised everyone with her lovely singing voice as she led the caroling of Christmas songs.

One of Maria's greatest contributions to our neighborhood was to organize the annual RNA Flea Market every year, including the advertisements, selling of spaces and then personally managing the event itself.

All in all, RNA and our neighborhood will forever be in debt to Maria Tuzzo for her contributions to help improve our community. And in that spirit, I think it fitting that RNA initiate a petition to have a part of our neighborhood dedicated to her: a place where Maria's memory and spirit will live on as an inspiration to future generations of our community. Already our members are considering several ideas and locations in our neighborhood for this honor to her.

Thank you, Maria Tuzzo. RNA will miss you. Your neighbors and friends will never forget you.

A Big Thank You

RNA wishes everyone a healthy, happy holiday season and New Year. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to our community during the past year. **Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and we thank each and every one of you who lent a hand during 2011.** Our board members are all volunteers and gave countless hours this year to improve our neighborhood. Dozens of neighbors lent an hour or more at the RNA booth at the Riverview Farmers Market, the Everything Jersey City Festival, served popcorn at Movies in the Park, helped out at our benefits, stuffed envelopes, worked on our website/social media sites, participated in our park cleanups, the Big Dig, at the Flea Market, our Read for the Record event and at the holiday party. Thank you!

Christ Hospital Proposed Sale - Public Meeting

Save Christ Hospital, a community group that has come together over concerns about the hospital's proposed sale to California-based for profit hospital Prime Healthcare, **is hosting a public meeting on December 14th to inform the public about the proposed sale and rally support for the hospital.**

Prime Healthcare has asked the state to expedite its mandated review of the sale so that the deal can close quickly. Save Christ Hospital is lobbying elected officials and the appropriate agencies to ensure that there is a full and open review of the proposed sale (no fast track), that other bids/buyers are considered, and that ANY sale must come with strong conditions to protect neighborhood health care and jobs and safeguard the community investment in the hospital properties (139 years of tax-free status).

We encourage you to come out to this meeting and learn about the proposed sale, read about Prime Healthcare and the proposed hospital sale at savechristhospital.org or on their Facebook page, and to stay informed about this critical component of our neighborhood. Christ Hospital is a large employer and holds significant real estate on the Palisade cliffs and we want to ensure that any sale is done with the needs of the community in the forefront.

Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday, December 14th

Time: 7PM

Place: Abundant Joy Christian Center, 137 Bowers (between Central & Summit Aves)

Invited Guests: NJ Attorney General Paula T. Dow, Christ Hospital Board of Trustees and NJ Commissioner of Health & Senior Services, Mary E. O'Dowd and others

Additional Information: savechristhospital.org or [facebook.com/savechristhospital](https://www.facebook.com/savechristhospital)



Becky Hoffman
Riverview Neighborhood Association