



Oceanport Remembers Felix Foggia

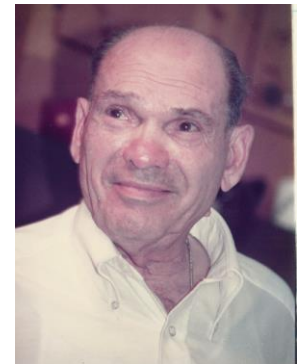
1908-1991



*In every flower garden,
There is always one flower that everyone admires and would like to take home with them.
Felix Foggia is remembered not only for the flowers that he supplied to others,
But for the love and dedication he put into every flower he grew.
Felix was the flower that was always admired,
And will be remembered for the friendship and compassion he gave to everyone he knew.*



Felix J. Foggia was born on December 18, 1908 in Long Branch. He was the oldest of seven children born to Angelo and Rose Foggia. At the age of 11, Felix started working after school and on vacations for W.G Eisle, a florist located on Cedar Ave. in West End. It was the job he had at the age 11 that would change the rest of his life.



On February 22, 1930 at age 20, Felix purchased a small shop and one greenhouse from Mr. Alfred Sanders. That was the start of F.J. Foggia Florist, located on Monmouth Blvd. in the Port-au-Peck section of Oceanport where it still exists today.

On October 29, 1931 Felix married Margaret Valenti. They became the proud parents of three daughters, Rosina, Marie and Margie. Felix worked long hard hours to grow his business and he depended on help from his family who were always there to support him.



Felix along with daughter Rosina, in the yellow dress, discuss flowers with a customer

The friendships and relationships that Felix built would pay dividends. In February 1944 tragedy struck and a fire broke out in the shop, destroying the building and damaging the four greenhouses. Felix did not have insurance and he thought that everything he built was lost. Friends and neighbors that knew Felix helped to rebuild that which the fire had destroyed which is the foundation of the quality of life in Oceanport. The story of Oceanport is best told by the coming together of people helping people.

F.J Foggia Florist continued to grow adding 9 green houses, doing a growing wholesale business, and adding a retail flower business. F.J. Foggia florist was one of the largest growers in Monmouth County and central New Jersey area. *They were known everywhere for supplying plants and flowers for the Monmouth Park Racetrack each year.* Flowers were Felix's life and his family was the only thing that came before the business. His three daughters had key roles in the growing business. Rosina went to New York to study and learn floral design to become the head floral designer. Marie learned bookkeeping and handled finance. Margie handled sales and customer service. Felix's 10 grandchildren worked every holiday in the shop and delivering flowers. The area that included the florist shop, the green houses and the three homes his daughters lived in became known throughout the area as "Foggiaville." The three daughters continued to run the business until they retired in 1999. F.J. Foggia Florists Retail was sold to the current owner Bill Hazely. Felix's grandson Ricky Gallo. now runs the Green houses and wholesale business. As of February 22, 2014 F.J. Foggia Florist and Greenhouses have been in business for 84 years.



Flowers supplied to Monmouth Park Racetrack by Foggia's Florist

Felix Devoted a Lifetime of Service to Others

Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority

Felix was a founding member of the Northeast Regional Sewage Authority, whose name was later changed to the present, Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority.

Felix served on the Regional Study Committee which recommended the formation of the Sewage Authority in 1965.

He served as Treasurer of the Authority from 1974 to 1980.

He served as Commissioner on the Authority until 1989.

The clean water throughout the town and our rivers that we enjoy today is in part because of the time and wisdom that Felix devoted to the formation of the Authority.

Local Organizations that Felix Joined which helped make Oceanport the special place that it is today

For 25 years, Felix served as an Oceanport Councilman and helped guide the community through years of challenge and change.

Felix also served in the following Organizations:

- Director of the Shrewsbury State Bank and Twin Boro Savings and Loan.
- Charter member of the Oceanport Lion's Club and served faithfully throughout his lifetime.
 - Port 'au Peck Fire Department Member
 - Oceanport Board of Education Member



Felix's Grandson Rickey Gallo carries on the family Tradition as Councilman.



Officers of the Oceanport Lion's Club
Joe Buccieri, Dan Herring, Felix, Lou Deller

- Board of health Member
- Vespucci Society
- Felix practiced his faith not only in the raising of his family and the running of his business but as a member of Holy Trinity Church, the Holy name society, and the Nights of Columbus.



Father Tomaini with Felix and Margaret.
They had a private audience with the Pope in Rome.

The three Foggia Daughters

Rosina Foggia MacStudy

The MacStudy Family Children and Grandchildren



Mike MacStudy (pictured above), like Felix, is very dedicated to the betterment of Oceanport. He is/was apart of the following organizations:

- Oceanport Parks and Recreation Committee - Chairman/Vice Chairman
- Oceanport Baseball Association - President/Vice President/Treasurer/Coach
- Oceanport Basketball Association - Coach
- Oceanport Roller Hockey - Coach
- Shore Pop Warner Football - Treasurer/Coach
- Shore Wrestling Club - Coach

Marie Foggia Gallo Quackenbush

The Gallo Family Children and Grandchildren



The Gallo boys Tommy, Rickey, John, and Jim were all Officers and Fire Chiefs in Oceanport.

Margie Foggia Minnisch



The Minnisch & Brando Family Children and Grandchildren



Foggia side cousins reunion: Rosina, Margie, and Marie With their family +25 grandchildren

*Former State Senator Tom Gagliano
Remembers...*

I first met Felix and Margaret Foggia in 1959 when I graduated from Georgetown Law School. I recall stopping in and chatting with Felix about politics and always admiring the way he worked with his flowers and how proud he was of his greenhouses, the florist shop, and, mostly, his family. His talent with plants and flowers was magical and he was just as good with people. Everybody loved him.



Tom's Ford Convertible, 1968 Columbus Day parade.
Tom driving with Felix waving in the back seat.

And what a great partner he had in Margaret. Together they created what we all called Foggiaville, where family, kindness and mutual respect was a way of life – every day and in every way. If you needed a mortgage, Felix would take you to Twin Boro Savings and Loan Association where he served as a board member; helping people who might otherwise not know where to turn for a loan. To a great extent the Foggia traditions live on in town, a credit to a fine family that began many, many years ago; a family that has flourished from the time that its forbears arrived at Ellis Island from Italy to today, generations later.

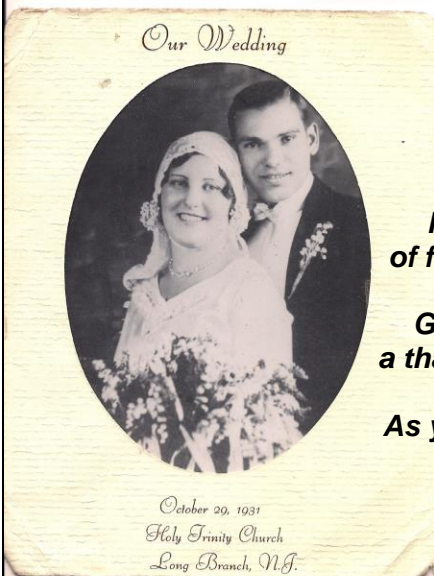


Former Mayor Tom Cavanagh Remembers...

When my wife and I moved to Oceanport in 1975, we had an advantage that most new residents did not share. Her family had lived in Long Branch for decades and was familiar with the Foggia family. Felix Foggia was an iconic figure in Oceanport for many years. He served as a Councilman, Sewerage Authority Member, Fireman and in many other areas too numerous to mention. In addition, he was well known for his personal assistance to many people in town during his life. Felix was a compelling political force throughout his years in Oceanport. After I became involved in the local political world, we remained friends, even though he always felt I chose the "wrong" party. Despite my choice, I was always welcome to sit with him at Old-Timers night at the Firehouse and to visit him on Election Day at the Flower shop. During my tenure as Mayor, I was pleased that the Oceanport flag was flown at half-staff on the day of his funeral. Of all that he accomplished, I think he would be proudest of the many years of service his grandsons have given to the town as firemen, and that one of them serves on the Borough Council today.

John and Barbara Bonforte Remember Felix Foggia

Barbara and I from the 60's on spent many enjoyable times with the Foggia family. A special event was when I would bring crabs caught in the Shrewsbury River and Mrs. Foggia would make pasta with crab sauce. The Bocci games, swimming in the pool and dinner in the greenhouse are memories that all of our children have.



This is not goodbye

Felix, you and Margaret started your life together, planted & nurtured god's garden of family and friends. As a couple you gave your all to anyone whose life you touched. God returned to you in each flower you planted a thank you for all the both of you have done to help make the world better for all of us. As you share your loving ways in heaven know that we all appreciate both of you and today...

"Oceanport Remembers"

