

JUNE PERSON OF DISTINCTION

Rita Venturino

Rita Venturino was born to cook. Brought up in an Italian home where cooking was a way of life, it's only natural that her career choices have revolved around food. From the marketing division of H. J. Heinz to running her own cooking school, she has always brought to the table a passion for good food and a love of entertaining.

"When friends visited, there was always food," says Rita. "The combination of the family food and the career with food never really gave me an opportunity to think of anything else. I would go home on the weekends and cook to blow off steam."

Working at H. J. Heinz, she was involved in the marketing aspect of the business. "Marketing is primarily involved with making profit, but marketing managers had impact on coming up with new varieties," she notes.

Over the years, people have approached Rita about starting their own cooking schools. Others would dine at her home and ask her to teach them to cook. Her husband's business in specialty

food and restaurant equipment connected her with customers who enhanced her thought process. She taught classes at outside locations for a



time but gradually came to the conclusion that she should start her own school, which she now runs out of her Gibsonia home.

"I always liked to entertain and present food, and I can't entertain every weekend. The classes give me an opportunity to do this on a regular basis," says Rita.

The environment at Rita's cooking school is different from most classes. "Mine is more homey. People get the feeling of being in their own kitchen. And they keep coming back, so there's something in it that makes them feel a part of it. They're up-close and comfortable, and it's a friendly environment," she explained. Rita herself is vibrant and passionate, always wearing a fresh red rose in her pocket when she teaches.

Students sit at the bar in her well-equipped kitchen so they can see exactly what she's doing and get hands-on if they want. Her menus combine traditional Italian cooking with modern cuisine.

Venturino also offers private classes, so people can come in with a group of friends. Rather than designing their own menus, private groups must choose from the published classes. But with so many menu choices, this is a small concession.

The class schedule can be seen at <http://www.ritaventurino.com/schedule.html>. ❖

FILTERANDASSOCIATES

A specialized insurance and financial planning firm

159 Perry Highway, Suite 106
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-459-0203 F: 412-459-0206
Bryant@filterandassociates.com
www.filterandassociates.com

Personal Insurance:

Automobile, homeowners, personal liability, life, disability, health & financial planning.

Commercial Insurance:

Commercial package, general liability, business property, business automobile, professional liability, workers compensation & group benefits.



Educate Manage Protect

Replacement Windows Installed



FREE
Low "E" Glass

Any Size Installed \$298
Double Hung or 2 Section Sliders

Solid All Welded Vinyl 2005 model

No Minimum Amount,
For a FREE Estimate, Call
David Felman 412-441-8180

OUT OF INK ?

ON-SITE REFILL SERVICE



Save up to 60%

ISLAND INKJET

- ◆ Ink-Jet Cartridge Refill
- ◆ Compatible Cartridges
- ◆ Refill Kits
- ◆ Laser Toner

ROSS PARK MALL

Lower Level Kiosk

(412) 358-0144

www.islandinkjet.com