

Free Skin Cancer Posting on Barista Post – June 2 2009



In Ray's Honor, Cover Up

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Here at Baristanet, we try very hard to let you know what's going on: news, controversies, events, good causes. Sometimes, we drop a [ball](#) or two. While we hate being scooped, it's even worse to let down people who are working hard on a good cause who were just looking for some publicity. And that was the case last week, when the Ray Festa Foundation held a [free screening for skin cancer](#) at Montclair High School. WCBS-TV [was there](#). But we wish we'd given the event some advance publicity so even more people could have taken advantage of the free screenings.

Ray Festa, owner of Ray's Luncheonette, was a well-known figure in Montclair. He died of skin cancer at the age of 53. His son Rick wrote about his father in an email to us a while back:

My dad Ray Festa passed away from cancer (Melanoma) in 1992. To give a brief background, he was born and raised in Montclair, was a three sports star at MHS he was the founder, owner and operator of Ray's Luncheonette on Walnut Street for over thirty years. He loved this town, and he gave so much back. Ray's was an interesting place in the day, you could sit at the counter with Senator Lautenberg on one side and a local sanitation man on the other. It was an eclectic mix for sure. He loved the kids from both Montclair High and Glen Ridge High that would come every day for lunch. It was a fast paced, high volume place, but my dad always took the time to show each and every customer that he cared about them. High school kids would run tabs, that he usually wound up collecting 50 cents on the dollar, but he didn't care, he just loved the kids.. After his passing, we started a scholarship fund in his name and for the past fifteen years we have given two scholarships at MHS to worthy students.

The foundation will announce its [2009 four-year-scholarship](#) in the amount of \$10,000 this Thursday night at Montclair High School.

We apologize to the Festa family for letting their screening fall through the cracks at Baristanet. But in honor of Ray (and the beginning of pool season), here are some skin cancer prevention tips from the [Centers for Disease Control](#):

To help prevent skin cancer while still having fun outdoors, regularly use sun protective practices such as

- * Seek shade, especially during midday hours (10 a.m.-4 p.m.), when UV rays are strongest and do the most damage.
- * Cover up with clothing to protect exposed skin. A long-sleeved shirt and long pants with a tight weave are best.
- * Get a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck.
- * Grab shades that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.
- * Rub on sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.

The Ray Festa Foundation plans more screenings and fundraisers in the fall.

Posted by Debbie Galant on June 2, 2009 2:00 PM
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COMMENTS (9)

Love Rays



Jimmytown | [June 2, 2009 2:38 PM](#) | [Reply](#)


My husband Kelly and I opened our business down the block from Rays, next to the Sanitation Men's Social Club on North Willow, in 1978. We became regulars there, and Rick is right. There would be ex cons sitting next to cops, joking around. Yogi

Berra was Ray's friend and often came to eat -- I believe he donated a truckload of potatoes to Ray which he was given after making some off-hand remark about Idaho. The entire restaurant used to break into some lunchtime theme like ethnic mattresses, everyone laughing hard. It could have been a TV show. The neighborhood was far less gentrified then and much more colorful.

In the mornings, when the clientele was split between blue collar working guys and besuited train commuters, Ray used to (subtly) take care of the blue collars first. In the early '80's, there was a bad recession and we found ourselves having to retrench. The only thing we could actually cut was lunch at Rays. Ray asked my husband why we had stopped coming, and he told him. That night, our doorbell rang --- it was Ray with a big container of lobster bisque left over from a catering job. He did that a few times for us. That was the kind of guy he was.

I announced my pregnancy in Rays when I found out a woman getting lunch from O.A.Peterson (across the street) was due on the same day. After that, Ray became fiercely paternal, yelling at me whenever he saw me lifting lumber or doing something physical. It was uncanny, but he managed to drive by every time I lifted anything. He'd pull over and yell at me.

There was no one else like him. He made the character of the neighborhood. He is still missed.


 Kit Schackner | [June 2, 2009 2:42 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Used to go into Ray's for a snack or drink when I'd volunteer at PAWS. It's a great place with a personality all its own.

I'm light-skinned and love the sun so am skin cancer waiting to happen. These prevention tips remind me that I need to be careful. Thanks fro sharing!

 Nellie | [June 2, 2009 2:54 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Gosh, Kit. I never met Ray but I'm sitting here teary-eyed after reading your post. It's rare that a post on B-net makes me feel that way. :-)

 Mrs. Martta | [June 2, 2009 2:54 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

fro=for

 Nellie | [June 2, 2009 3:02 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Sunscreen should be used 12 months out of the year and not just in the warmer months.

 AnitaSmith | [June 2, 2009 3:24 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Kit, your description of Rays took me right back to MHS- on the stool during 4th period (not my lunch period btw) with 2 cheeseburgers, 1 fry with gravy, and a piece of coconut custard pie in front of me. Great memories of Rays never to be forgotten..

 christoph212 | [June 2, 2009 3:53 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Ray used to (subtly) take care of the blue collars first.

Who could object to that?

 walleroo | [June 2, 2009 4:20 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Gosh, Kit. I never met Ray but I'm sitting here teary-eyed after reading your post. It's rare that a post on B-net makes me feel that way. :-)

Mrs. M, posts on B-net occasionally make me want to cry for other reasons.

 Nellie | [June 2, 2009 4:50 PM](#) | [Reply](#)