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MAFIA BOSS'S DAUGHTER WRITES ABOUT GROWING UP WITH 'THE CHIN'



She's scheduled to speak in Morris on Thursday

Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, once the most powerful crime boss in New York City, holds his young daughter, Rita, shown recently above, in this photo from the family album.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RITA GIGANTE



By Lorraine Ash
@LorraineVAsh

PEQUANNOCK — Rita Gigante's upbringing in the affluent Bergen County suburb of Old Tappan was tense, scary, violent.

Her dad was Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, head of the Genovese crime family and, through the mid-1990s, top boss of the five Mafia families of New York.

"As a child, I could see him as my father because he was very, very loving. There was a lot of hugging and kissing," said Rita Gigante, now 47. "If I was sick or had really bad anxiety, my father would rub my back till I feel asleep."

She was 16 when she found out who he was. Coming to grips with Vincent Gigante, the icon, took years of inner grappling, all chronicled in her memoir, "The Godfather's Daughter: An Unlikely Story of Love, Healing, and Redemption."

Rita Gigante will read from "The Godfather's Daughter" and discuss her childhood with the public on

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UNEMPLOYMENT

What is the real reason?

Lazy layabouts or hapless victims of a cruel economy?

By Jean Mikle @jeanmikle

Lisa Chambers will turn 30 this year, but she admits she may not want much of a celebration for her milestone birthday. Last year, she had to move from her apartment in Toms River to her parents' house in Howell because she no longer could afford her rent.

She hasn't had steady full-time work since October 2012, when she was laid off from her job as an assistant manager in the Zumiez clothing store in Monmouth Mall.

"The worst thing is I feel stuck," Chambers said. "I can't progress, I feel like a child, living at home, not having funds to do things, having no social life because of it. I see friends buying homes and having families, and I'm nowhere near that."

Chambers is one of the thousands of New Jerseyans who have been searching for steady work for six months or more. For them, the economic "recovery" is nonexistent.

More than four years after the Great Recession officially ended, there are still about 3.9 million people in the U.S. who have been out of work for 27 weeks or more.

The loss of extended benefits has hit New Jersey particularly hard. A study by the Economic Policy Institute found that 46.6 percent of New Jersey's 328,000 unemployed workers — about 153,000, or enough to almost fill MetLife Stadium twice over — have been out of jobs for six months or more.

In the Garden State, the District of Columbia (also 46.6 percent) and Florida (46.2 percent), nearly half of all jobless workers are considered long-term unemployed, according to the institute, a Washington, D.C.-based progressive economic think tank.

Not from lack of trying

Like many of the long-term unemployed, Chambers gets upset when people imply she is lazy or doesn't want to work. She has applied for 225 jobs since Sept. 1. Just three offered interviews.

She has an associate's degree in business management but has applied for a variety of jobs, including positions as a custodian and a maid. She also submitted a resume to Wendy's, where she says she was rejected because she lacked "fast-food prep experience."

Chambers keeps meticulous records of her job search: She was one of 1,441 people to apply for a job at Dou-

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Whitney's digs back on market

Pop diva's dream mansion listed at \$1.5 million

By William Westhoven
@wwesthoven

MENDHAM TWP. — The late Whitney Houston's Morris County estate is back on the market.

The custom dream home she built 26 years ago for \$2.7 million originally was listed in 2009 for \$2.5 million and has been on and off the market several times, according to real estate sales agent Gregory Taylor.

Taylor said the pop-

music queen's estate no longer owns the home. He is unsure of the sale date. A previous listing dating back to February 2011 priced the house at \$1.75 million but was taken down in January 2012.

Taylor, a former music industry executive who branched into brokering real estate for celebrities and professional athletes, is listing the home for \$1,499,999.

"It was on the market several times but there were some hiccups along the way," Taylor said "It was purchased from the estate and cleaned up. The current owner wish-



Whitney Houston's former luxury home in Mendham Township is back on the market for \$1.5 million. FILE PHOTO

es to remain anonymous."

The home had been vacated years before Houston's untimely death on Feb. 11, 2012, at the Bever-

ly Hilton in Los Angeles. An autopsy attributed her death to drowning in a

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