

Bogota man continuing search for his missing wife

By Christina Rossi

BOGOTA— Jim Viola, who has been searching for his wife, Patricia, since she disappeared in 2001, is participating in a host of efforts to find her.

On Monday, Feb. 13, his daughter, Christine, 18, and the youth group at St. Joseph R.C. Church at Palisade Avenue and East Fort Lee Road sponsored a prayer service for her mother attended by about 50 people.

“The theme was hope,” Mr. Viola said, and included gospel readings and a poem he had written.

In addition, he said that state Senator Loretta L. Weinberg (D-Dist. 37) intends to sponsor legislation that will establish policies for the handling of missing persons’ cases. The proposed legislation is in the research and drafting stage.

The initiative is part of a national effort by the federal Department of Justice to institute the new legislation. Project Jason, a missing persons’ group, is working to get the new laws passed in individual states, currently numbering 35.

Mr. Viola said he, Christine and son, Michael, 15, will attend the Second Annual Missing Persons’

Conference sponsored by the CUE Center for Missing Persons in Wilmington, N.C., from Friday, March 24 to Monday, March 27. At the event, he will speak about his wife.

The following month, he will participate in New York’s Missing Persons’ Day in Albany sponsored by the Center for Hope.

On Thursday, May 25, Mr. Viola will speak to students at Lakehurst Elementary School in honor of national Children’s Missing Persons’ Day.

In June, he will participate in the CUE Center’s “On the Tour to Remember,” which will distribute information packets on missing persons, including his wife, to media outlets in states along the East Coast.

Mrs. Viola was last seen on the morning of Feb. 13, 2001, leaving E. Roy Bixby School after she finished a shift working as a volunteer in the school’s library.

Police know she reached her Chestnut Avenue home because she called her mother, who lived two blocks away.

Mr. Viola arrived home in the afternoon and found the house locked, but his wife missing. Her purse, credit cards, identification and epileptic medication were in the house.

She is 5 feet, 2 inches tall, 125 pounds with brown hair and eyes.

There is a \$10,000 reward for information leading to her safe return.

Her website is www.patriciaviolamissing.homestead.com.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts is urged to call Detective James Sepp at the Bogota Police Department, 201-487-2400.