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**Sharing the pain**

**N.J. man compiles DVDs to spread information about missing loved ones**

By Andrea Macko

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Behind every face is a story. And behind every story is a mystery torturing the minds of the family and friends of thousands of missing people across the county. The 2006 Ride for Audrey was held Saturday at Brennan's School House Inn and despite the soggy weather, dozens of people came out to keep Audrey May Herron's alive in their minds. Traveling all the way from New Jersey, Jim Viola can relate to Herron's friends and family better than most. On Feb. 13, 2001 his wife, Patricia Viola, then 42, vanished from their Bogota, N.J., home and has not been seen or heard from since. "I am by no means willing to give up," said Jim Viola as he stood inside Brennan's with a table full of pictures, news clippings, T-shirts, buttons and DVDs of his wife. Just like Audrey Herron, Pat Viola was a loving wife and mother. On the afternoon of her disappearance, Pat Viola came home from her volunteer job at a local school library and spoke to her mother on the telephone. Based on the time the alarm system was set, she is believed to have later left the house around 1:30 p.m., leaving behind her purse, cellular phone, identification, credit cards and keys. But Pat Viola also suffered from epilepsy, making Jim Viola and police question whether she experienced a seizure that caused memory loss. Flyers with Pat Viola's picture was sent to hospitals and shelters throughout New Jersey, but no one ever reported seeing her. She also took two types of daily medication for the epilepsy and while her prescriptions had been filled at RiteAid pharmacies, there are no records that she ever obtained a refill. Over the past five and a half years, Pat Viola has been featured on numerous television programs, including "The Montel Williams Show" and "Missing." New Jersey Congressman Steve Rothman held a press conference in March 2002 on the lawn of the Viola home. She may have been seen hitchhiking in Montana in 2003, but that sitting has never been confirmed and police agencies from as far away as California are still looking into the case. "We don't know what happened," said Jim Viola. "It is an unknown." Just as Jim Viola has compiled DVDs of Pat and many other missing people, including Suzanne Lyall, who disappeared from the University at Albany campus in 1998, he has also put together videos of Herron. Handing them out for free, the DVDs, Jim said, offer a different perspective on a person than a traditional photograph and when presented online, can reach a much larger population. "Looking at videos online is a powerful thing," Jim Viola said as a nearby television played scenes from the 2005 Ride for Audrey. Calling himself the "video guy," Jim Viola sadly is part of a growing network and support system of people who have a missing loved one. "It is kind of like a family you don't want to belong to," Jim Viola said. "We all try to help each other. "This fall, Jim Viola explained, a ground breaking is anticipated in Albany for a National Remorial for Missing Persons, designed and constructed by The Center For Hope <http://www.hope4themissing.org> to include an eternal flame in remembrance of all missing people. A not-for-profit organization, The Center For Hope was established by the parents of Suzanne Lyall <http://www.global2000.net/suzy/> and has been designated as the recipient of funds raised Saturday at the 2006 Ride For Audrey. More information about Patricia Viola is available on her website, <http://www.patriciaviolamissing.homestead.com>, and about Audrey May Herron at <http://www.audreymayherron.expage.com>. "If we can find just one person and bring them home." said Jim Viola.