

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Mike Johnson ([00:00](#)):

Here you go, Pop-Pop. You're ready.

Speaker 2 ([00:03](#)):

[inaudible 00:00:03].

Mike Johnson ([00:04](#)):

Mike Johnson, in the Town Center, Cherry Hill 606, Cherry Hill. Salmon cakes, here [inaudible 00:00:09], tilapia. Give you a nice pretty crab cake, Ms. Collins.

Ms. Collins ([00:13](#)):

Thank you.

Mike Johnson ([00:13](#)):

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*Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).*

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Thank you. 14 straight years, seven days a week, never miss a day. That's hard. How many people do that at a job? You see how pretty that look when you put the top on. I learned that watching... I watch Martha Stewart at night.

Melissa Gerr ([00:29](#)):

So you get your cooking tips from Martha Stewart?

Mike Johnson ([00:32](#)):

I watch her. I love watching her. She helps me out here to do some stuff here like the grilled chicken and stuff like that, cheese steak. And you see the way I chop. You're getting to taste all the steak. When you just put one slice like this, one whole slice, you're not going to taste the ingredients. So I learned that from Martha Stewart, see.

Mike Johnson ([00:54](#)):

I've been cooking a long time so I... You see how it look? You see how that look? Cheese just right, you see that? I want to make sure the customer come and get another one or something else.

Speaker 5 ([01:05](#)):

Thank you.

Mike Johnson ([01:06](#)):

Always a pleasure. We'll see you again.

Speaker 5 ([01:12](#)):

Okay.

Mike Johnson ([01:12](#)):

All right.

Speaker 5 ([01:13](#)):

Have a great day.

Mike Johnson ([01:14](#)):

That was easy, wasn't it? See? That right there, that's going to let her know she know where to come back and get hers. Yep.

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Speaker 6 ([01:19](#)):

[inaudible 00:01:19].

Mike Johnson ([01:19](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 6 ([01:20](#)):

All right. Thank you [inaudible 00:01:20].

Mike Johnson ([01:23](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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