

The Truth About PHISH



by Ana Friday

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I've been meaning to do this one for a while, but I couldn't find a compelling "in". It's already known that half of the band is Jewish (Mike Gordon and Jon Fishman). Funny enough, jewornotjew.com gives the band a full 10 on the Jewdar despite only admitting half the band is Jewish. The band is named after Fishman, so even the band's name is Jewish. As it turns out, their fanbase is also largely Jewish, according to a 2023 book entitled *This Is Your Song Too: Phish and Contemporary Jewish Identity*. Per the book's description on Amazon:

Phish has a diehard fan base and a dedicated community of enthusiasts—called Phishheads—who follow the band around the country, some fans attending every show. What may be surprising is that a significant percentage of Phishheads are Jewish.

Two members of the band—bassist Mike Gordon and drummer Jonathan Fishman—were raised in Jewish households, and Phish has been known to play Hebrew songs in concert. At live shows, many attendees, some wearing T-shirts emblazoned with "Phish" written in Hebrew letters, express feeling something special—even distinctly Jewish—during their performances. As this book shows, Phish is one avenue through

which many Jews find cultural and spiritual fulfillment outside the confines of traditional and institutional Jewish life.

We get more about Phish's Jewish beginnings [here](#):

The band got its start playing in cities, towns and colleges in areas with large Jewish populations, and the majority of their performances are still close to metro areas with large Jewish populations. Frontman Trey Anastasio played a solo show at the Sixth and I Synagogue in Washington, D.C., in 2018.

Hmm. What else do we know about Phish? Pianist Page McConnell's father worked at McNeil Laboratories and helped to develop Tylenol and the MRI. Between the four band members they attended several elite schools, including Gill St. Bernard's School (Gladstone, NJ), Lawrence Academy (Groton, MA), Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, Goddard College, and the University of Vermont. Gordon's father was the founder and CEO of New England convenience store chain Store 24, which had 80 locations by the time it was acquired by Tedeschi in 2002. All this proves exactly what you'd expect about an immensely famous American band: **they are a bunch of wealthy, privileged Jewish kids from New England.** They didn't make it big on talent or luck or some combination of the two. Like everyone in the music industry, they made it on family money and connections, two things I bet you don't have. Which is why you're not in a band like Phish and never will be.

But all of that is just Wikipedia fodder. What I really needed to justify a paper was something new on the frontman, Trey [Anastasio](#). Wikipedia doesn't give us much, only mentioning that his mother Dina is a children's book author and his father Ernest was an executive at the Educational Testing Service. I dug up [the obituary for Dina's mother](#), Jean Kinney (later Jean Jones), discovering she worked with Ronald Reagan and his brother Neil at a radio station in Davenport, Iowa, and later shared a house with Neil Reagan and his wife. Was your grandmother friends with a U.S. President? I thought not.

I also dug up more on Trey's father [here](#), where we learn he was also a Senior Advisor for Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) and Chief Education Officer of Sylvan Ventures, an education venture capital company. One source I found claims that Ernest actually developed the SAT. You might think this means he was involved in raising the education level of American children, but the opposite is true. Education standardization has been a major factor in the death of critical and independent thinking, and this has always been goal number 1 of ETS and other so-called "educational" agencies.

But there's more. Ernest himself taught at the graduate level at both Princeton University and the [New School for Social Research](#). The New School is a huge red flag, being funded by Hiram Halle, Jewish billionaire, and the Rockefeller Foundation. It is and always has been a CIA front. Miles has encountered the New School many times. Just go read a list of its notable alumni and you'll get a sense of the ilk there; it's nothing but Jewish spooks.

Given that I had to do quite a bit of digging to find Trey's father's connection to the New School,

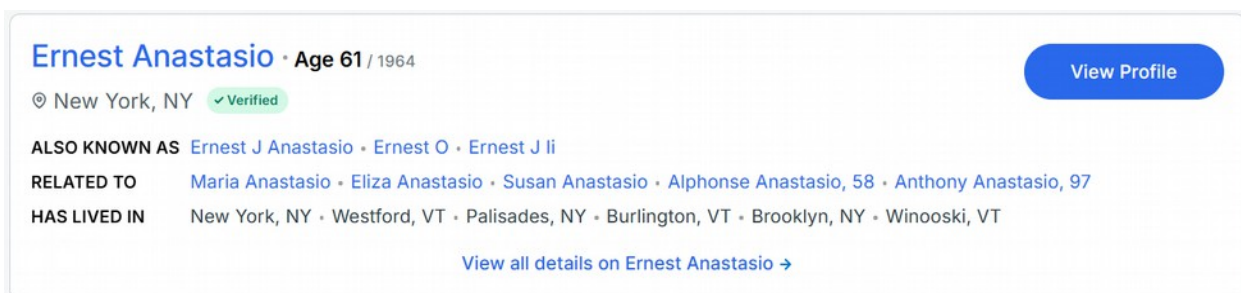
it made me wonder if they were hiding anything else about Trey – for instance, that he’s actually Jewish. It turns out the mainstream sources are hiding quite a bit, starting with his name. It is given almost everywhere (including Wikipedia) as Ernest Joseph Anastasio III. But I distinctly remember his middle name being Giuseppe when I learned about him back in high school. It appears they’re trying to memoryhole that name by Americanizing it to Joseph, but why? In fact, if he’s a III and his grandfather immigrated from Italy, his real name should be Ernesto. And in fact, it is. [At a 1996 concert in Italy](#) he tells the crowd in Italian:

My regular name is Ernesto Anastasio. My grandfather comes from Minori close to Amalfi. He immigrated to the United States in 1909.

So his name is Ernesto Giuseppe Anastasio III. Sounding like Phoenician Navy, ain't it? Like Greek shipping. But there’s a problem here. Google AI thinks that Trey’s grandfather is [this Ernest Anastasio](#), but he was born in New Haven, CT in 1917 and therefore couldn’t have immigrated to the U.S. in 1909, as Trey states. Trey’s genealogy is not posted anywhere that I could find, which is unusual for such a popular artist. I’m getting the feeling that something is being hidden, but what?

If you’re a Phish fan, you might already know where this is heading. It has long been an inside “joke” among the Phishhead community that Trey’s ancestors are the notorious [Anastasio mafia family that headed up Murder Inc.](#) I’m not aware of anyone proving this connection. But let’s see if we can.

I did a Radaris search and quickly found Trey. Age and current location are a match. We also see one of his aliases is “Ernest O”, which is probably just “Ernesto”, proving I was right about his birth name.



The screenshot shows a profile for Ernest Anastasio. At the top, it says "Ernest Anastasio • Age 61 / 1964" with a "View Profile" button to the right. Below that, it indicates "New York, NY" with a "Verified" badge. Underneath, there are sections for "ALSO KNOWN AS" (Ernest J Anastasio • Ernest O • Ernest J li), "RELATED TO" (Maria Anastasio • Eliza Anastasio • Susan Anastasio • Alphonse Anastasio, 58 • Anthony Anastasio, 97), and "HAS LIVED IN" (New York, NY • Westford, VT • Palisades, NY • Burlington, VT • Brooklyn, NY • Winooski, VT). At the bottom, there is a link to "View all details on Ernest Anastasio →".

Eliza is his daughter and Susan is his wife. But we also get an Anthony Anastasio, age 97, which just happens to be the name of one of the top dogs in the Anastasio crime family. It wouldn’t be the same “[Tough Tony](#)”, who was born in 1906, but it could be his son or nephew. Tony allegedly didn’t have any sons, but one of his sons-in-law was Anthony Scotto. What about Tony’s brother, the crime boss [Umberto “Albert” Anastasia](#)? He had two sons, Bert and Richard, both of whom relocated to Canada and changed their last names to Anisio. Interestingly, actor Jack O’Halloran (who played Non in the Christopher Reeve Superman movies) has also publicly claimed to be an illegitimate son of Umberto.

Anthony Anastasio · Age 97 / 1928 View Profile

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| | |
|----------------------|--|
| FULL NAME | Anthony R Anastasio |
| NAME VARIANTS | Antony · Anton · Tony · Toni |
| ALSO KNOWN AS | Anthony A Anastasio · Tony R Anastasio |
| RELATIVES | Maria Anastasio · Francis James Anastasio, 79 · Cesar Forero, 82 · John Wilkinson, 74 · Maria E Castro, 58 · Ellen Anastasio, 64 |
| ADDRESSES | 7014 Fort Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11228 |
| PHONES | (718) 238-0660 · (718) 680-2067 |
| AGE | 97 (1928) |
| OCCUPATION | Executive chef |

[View all details on Anthony Anastasio →](#)

So who is this 97-year-old Anthony Anastasio to whom Trey is related? Since there are no genealogies for Trey posted online, I thought I had hit a dead end. Until I stumbled across [an old New York Times article](#) from 1979. It describes the joint trial of Anthony Scotto, who you'll recall was Tough Tony's son-in-law, and...Anthony Anastasio.

Mr. Anastasio's uncles are Anthony (Tough Tony) Anastasio, the former head of the union, whose daughter is Mr. Scotto's wife, and Albert Anastasia, the alleged Mafia enforcer who was slain in 1957. Mr. Anastasio, the I.L.A. leader who was on trial with Mr. Scotto, was deported, but was allowed to immigrate legally a few years later and is now a citizen.

My hunch was right that this Anthony is one of Tough Tony's nephews. The article says he was 50 at the time of this trial in 1979, which means he was born in 1928 – the same year as the Anthony Anastasio to whom Trey is related. Radaris only lists close relatives, so Anthony must be either Trey's uncle or father. Since we know his father was Ernest II who worked for ETS, that must mean Anthony is Trey's uncle. So Trey's grandfather must be a brother of Tough Tony and Albert. It turns out they had six, which Wikipedia names as Raffaele, Frank, Joseph, Gerardo, Luigi (who relocated to Australia), and Salvatore. Can you guess which one? It would have to be Joseph, a.k.a. Giuseppe, though that must be his middle name. Yet another way the mainstream sources are trying to smudge the link between Trey and his mobster relatives.

Here's where AI becomes our unwitting ally. When I straight-up asked Google if Trey is related to the Anastasio crime family, it admitted he is...

◆ AI Overview

Yes, Phish frontman Trey Anastasio is distantly related to infamous New York mobsters. www.nytimes.com

His great-uncles were high-ranking members of the Gambino crime family: www.nytimes.com

...claiming at first that he is “distantly related” but then immediately stating his great-uncles were high-ranking mobsters. [Strangely it says of the Gambino crime family, not the Anastasio crime family, although the two families were closely associated.] Of course, a great uncle is not a “distant” relative; this is just proof that AI is being trained to downplay connections between famous people. Why else would it give a schizophrenic answer like that? But in both cases it links to the same *NYT* article I quoted above, which is strange since that article says nothing about the Phish frontman. How could it, being from 1979? The article proves nothing about Trey’s relationship to mobsters, so why is AI saying it does? Because AI is pulling information from other sources that it refuses to cite, but which nevertheless prove my case. Again, more evidence that AI has been trained not to show all of its hand. It may have collated info from Radaris like I did, which shows the missing link between Trey and the mobsters. This also means AI knows to ignore Trey’s claims that his grandfather came from Amalfi, since the Anastasios were from Calabria.

But why are these people so bent on obscuring Trey’s family ties? Because it might cause you to question whether Trey became famous on merit or on family connections. If you continue to believe the world is meritocratic, you’ll happily go along with it, trusting that the most successful people are also the most deserving, while people like you must not be as smart or talented as they are.

But we aren’t finished with the Anastasios. Google AI again gives away more than it should:

The Anastasi (also Anastasio) family of Malta is an ancient Italian noble lineage tracing its roots back to medieval Ravenna and Sicily before settling in the Maltese islands. They established themselves as key players in Maltese society, with a history deeply intertwined with the Knights of the Order of St. John.

That would be the **Order of St. John of Jerusalem**, a knighthood comprised entirely of Phoenician spooks. Malta is off the coast of Sicily, which is just below Calabria at the southern tip of Italy. The likelihood of these mobsters coming from this “ancient Italian noble lineage” is high, which means the story of Anastasios’ father being a poor railway worker is sheer cock-and-bull. Several of the brothers, including Tough Tony, Albert, and Trey’s grandfather “Joseph”, supposedly entered the U.S. illegally by jumping off a freighter they were working on and swimming ashore. Within two years Albert was convicted of murder and awaiting execution in Sing Sing Prison, but due to a “legal technicality” he won a retrial, and since four of the original prosecution witnesses had since “disappeared”, Albert was “released from custody”. How lucky

for Albert. He was arrested two more times in the next decade, one for illegal firearms possession and another one for murder, yet he skated again because witnesses “disappeared”. He was in the country illegally, yet they never bother to explain why the authorities didn’t just deport him, instead trying him as a citizen. By 1928 he was a top leader of the longshoreman’s labor union, controlling six local chapters despite his being an illegal immigrant and frequently jumping in and out of jail. He also became best buddies with future *La Cosa Nostra* bosses Lucky Luciano, Vito Genovese, and Frank Costello. As you do. Soon thereafter Luciano placed him in charge of Murder Inc., the “enforcement arm” of the National Crime Syndicate. Murder. Inc. was “a group of Jewish and “Italian” contract killers that operated out of the back room of Midnight Rose’s, a candy store owned by mobster Louis Capone in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn.” It had to be either a candy store or a bakery, I guess. Notice they admit some of these mobsters were Jewish, not Italian. Miles has already shown that *all of the “Italian” mobsters were actually Jewish*. This goes for the Anastasios, as well. Just take a look at Albert’s nose:



By 1941 the feds had effectively broken up Murder Inc., convicting seven members. You’d expect Anastasio, as the head of Murder Inc., to be their top target, but no, they let him skate as usual, not even bothering to indict him. In fact, in 1943, as a “reward for his military service”, he received U.S. citizenship. The feds had to have known Anastasio’s criminal record and mafia ties, and yet because he spent less than a year “training soldiers to be longshoremen”, he’s granted citizenship? None of that makes sense. For one thing, illegal immigrants can’t serve in the military. For another, what would have been the use of training soldiers to be longshoremen? Shouldn’t it have been the other way around, training longshoremen to be soldiers? This was at the height of WWII; we needed more soldiers, not more dockworkers. Anyway, spending less than a year doing this relatively unimportant job wouldn’t have earned him citizenship. We’re told later that the federal government filed suit to revoke his citizenship because he lied on his citizenship application. But that contradicts what we were just told about Anastasio being rewarded with citizenship, which implies that he skipped the whole application

process. Did anything come of this suit? Of course not. The federal government successfully petitioned to revoke Anastasio's citizenship so he could be deported, but **the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the revocation**. Despite his being a known mob boss who lied on his citizenship application, the feds were powerless to arrest him, revoke his citizenship, or touch him in any way. All of this goes to show that Anastasio was a protected asset from the very beginning. Everything about his mafia career screams FBI asset. That's because the FBI created the mafia from the ground up. It was never more than a bunch of Jewish actors pretending to be tough guys. They admit Anastasio started working with the FBI shortly before his death in 1963. Why not just admit he was working with them all along?

Here's something else you may find interesting. Per Wikipedia, it was rumored that one of the reasons Anastasio was killed was because he had tried to move into Cuba, where mobster Santo Trafficante Jr. had already established his turf. That's all as maybe, but the reference to Cuba shortly before his death may be a clue as to where he ended up after they faked his death, at least temporarily. Why is that interesting? Because according to Radaris, Anthony Anastasio (Trey's uncle) is related to Castros. Could the Anastasios be related to Fidel Castro? The Castro at Radaris is related to a Reyes. Fidel's father's first wife was a Reyes, which means several of Fidel's half-siblings and cousins were Reyes.

When I started this paper, I didn't think I'd be able to tie the U.S. mafia to Fidel Castro, or the Phish frontman to both. But that's how these things go.

At this point there are probably lots of Phishheads out there asking, So what? You've proven that Phish is a very Jewish band, that even Trey is likely Jewish and is definitely the grandson of a mobster, coming from ancient Italian (read: Phoenician) noble lines, and that they have lots of family connections to wealth and notoriety. So what? They're still a very talented group of musicians, beloved by tons of fans. Is that so bad? No, it isn't. I'm not saying they aren't talented. But there are lots of talented musicians and songwriters out there. Who decides who gets famous, or even who can just eke out a decent living on their art, are the very wealthy families behind the famous people. They always choose their own, and since there are so many of them, they crowd out the rest of us, making it nearly impossible to make a living as an artist. Think of it this way: if Phish hadn't had any family connections, they'd never have gotten famous and you would never have had the pleasure of listening to their music. But that means there are hundreds or thousands of other musicians who could be the next Phish, but you'll never hear them. If the music industry was a true meritocracy, Phish might still be popular. But we'll never know since the dice are heavily weighted in every field – art, science, business, etc. Even worse, the people who do get famous can only do so if their work aligns with whatever is the current social agenda of the powers-that-be. In Phish's case, the agenda was derailing a generation of young men into passivity through recreational drug use. It was the same thing they used the Grateful Dead for a generation earlier. That has always been my issue with Phish's music. Yes it's fun and somewhat unique, but 20-minute-long jams with no substantive lyrics strike me as a good way to blow off steam and nothing more. It's largely just another opiate for the masses, one more way of luring us off the path of real spiritual growth and social change.

One thing Ana may have missed: Phish = Phoenician Fish.