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South Plainfield Observer

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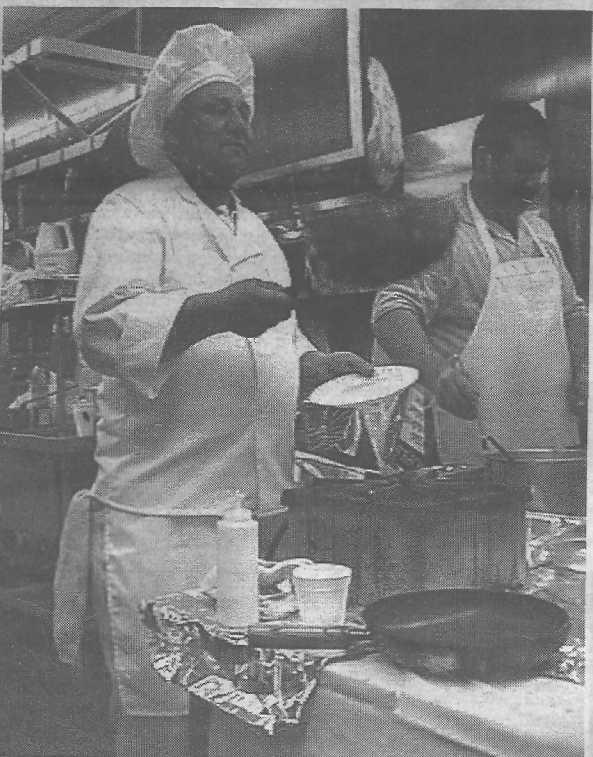
VOL. 1, NO. 15

50 CENTS

APRIL 9, 1998



"Hoppy" the Bunny hugs a friend at the Annual Spring Egg Hunt sponsored by the Recreation Commission.



Lions Club member Larry Massaro flips an egg for an omelette as Sal Severini prepares the next omelette at the Annual Lions Gourmet Breakfast. See story and photo on page 9.



So. Plainfield High School Graphic Arts Teacher Rich Dorso and a student council member assist at the April 3 Vision 2001 Art Auction. The auction was a huge success. More on the Auction in the April 23 issue.

BOROUGH NOTES

Council Notes

■ The Borough Council awarded Certificates of Appreciation to several senior citizens for their volunteer help in the preparations for Democracy Day. They are Loretta Conroy, Josephine Johnston, Alice Caufield, Alma Kenney, Rebecca and Al Tumminello, Gloria Corio, Gloria Harupa, Nicki Panzerella and Fran Strobeck.

■ Putnam Park will be adding a new multiple slide and swing set as a part of its renovation. Ray Pentronko announced that the park will purchase the new, handicap-accessible playground equipment at a cost of approximately \$25,000. This will come from developer's fees, not tax revenues.

■ Ed Kubala reported that the \$50,000, discretionary grant recently applied for has been approved. The grant money will be used to purchase a new senior citizens van. Bids will be going out shortly.

■ Mayor Gallagher warned residents that someone is illegally soliciting money by phone for the South Plainfield Fire Department.

Continued on page 10

Rescue Squad Plans To Offer First Responder Course

In an effort to attract desperately needed volunteers, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad is planning to try something new. In addition to requests for donations in the spring fund drive letter, the squad will be including information about a potential "First Responder" course.

Serving on the reserve squad is time consuming. Most members volunteer at least 75 hours per month, and not everyone can make that commitment. With that in mind, the rescue squad wants to gauge interest in implementing a "First Responder" program in the borough.

In this program volunteers would learn the basics in first aid and CPR in a 45-hour course, as opposed to the 130-hour course EMTs complete. Although First Responders can not render the same medical care as EMTs, these helping hands could ride with the EMTs, volunteer just a few hours per week and still ease the bur-

den on the squad's shrinking membership. (State laws says squads now can answer calls with one EMT and one First Responder who can help with the basics and drive the ambulance while the EMT remains in back with the patient.)

The rescue squad membership situation is critical. Members who have families, second jobs and/or other obligations are finding it more and more difficult to dedi-

(Continued on page 10)

Darlene Pinto To Run for Council Seat



Darlene Pinto

The South Plainfield Democratic Committee has unanimously endorsed Darlene Pinto as a candidate for borough council. Mrs. Pinto will join Mayor Daniel Gallagher and Councilperson Dennis Cerami who are seeking re-election in November.

Mayor Gallagher summed up the reaction of the Democratic Committee saying, "I couldn't be more pleased. Darlene Pinto

(Continued on page 6)

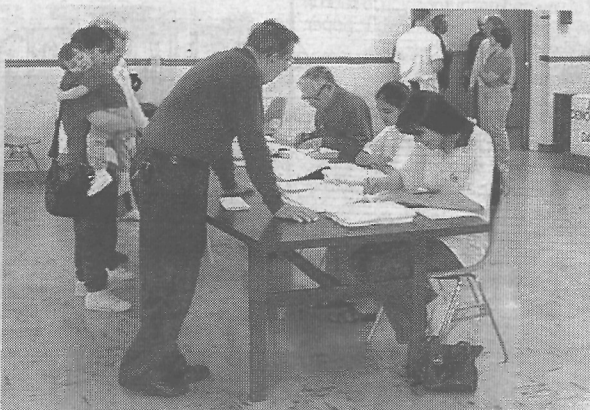
Residents Vote "No" On Flood Proposal

Voters told the Borough Council emphatically that they are not willing to go into debt for \$1.4 million. The issue was a flood control project on New Market Avenue. On Democracy Day, Saturday, March 28 the residents turned down 718 to 124 a proposal to buy out homeowners on New Market Ave.

South Plainfield High School Social Studies students from Michael English's classes directed voters to sign in according to their voting districts. After the voting was closed the students sorted out the "ayes" and "nays", and totalled

them up in less than a half hour.

The following students are highly appreciated for their assistance: Kyan Bowman, Adrienne Nagy, Alison Butrico, Emma Fulton, Ronia Younes, Sue Joshi, Jolinia Londono, Amanda Bremed, Kieth Ducker, Joshua English, Angelique Gonioreis, Lindsey Aiellio, Jessica Ardis, Marty, Schreck, Che Bowman, Alison Tielon, Julie Palmer, Paul Isreal, Malissa Jamieson, Carrie Reilly, Erin Makey, Syckine Prybella, Kimberly Benson, Brenda Mendez, Nicole Lutman and Eman Younes.



South Plainfield High School students assist voters on Democracy Day.

Sunrise Service Celebrates Easter Sunday

The Easter Sunday Ecumenical Sunrise Service is set for 6:15 a.m. at the Gazebo in Spring Lake Park. The participating directors are Jim Horvath, Emma Jean Delk, Tom Baker, and Elizabeth Harrington.

The service will include the voices of these director's respective parishes on Easter Morning in the park or at Pilgrim Covenant Church if the weather is inclement. This is an ecumenical service and all are invited to attend.

In my OPINION

Dear Editor,

Steven Bohn, Carol Byrne and Marjorie Reedy are running for reelection to the Board of Education. Why should you support these candidates?

Steven Bohn is the Board of Education member who represents the young families of the district. He and his wife Dorothea have two children under the age of four and a new baby on the way. Steve is concerned about the future of the South Plainfield school district, in part, because of his own children, but also for your children as well. During his tenure on the Negotiations Committee four contracts were settled. Steve was committed to conducting negotiations that were fair and equitable to all. He is a member of the Athletic Boosters organization and is truly an advocate for the children of South Plainfield.

Carol Byrne has over 12 years experience serving the children of South Plainfield. She served as President for the past two years and raised two daughters who graduated from South Plainfield schools. She has an understanding of the history of the district which is invaluable knowledge that benefits the children. Carol has been active with the music boosters, athletic boosters and served as president of elementary, middle and high school P.T.A.s. Carol has been an outstanding president and has all the qualities to move this district forward to the future challenges of meeting the needs of the children in the South Plainfield schools.

Marjorie Reedy is the parent of three children who are enrolled in the schools of South Plainfield. Just simply being a parent of school aged children, she has an understanding of the inside information facing the student of today. Marge has served as Treasurer of Riley School P.T.S.O. and is currently Treasurer of the Music Boosters organization. Marge is serving as chair of the Policy Committee for the Board of Education this year. She and the committee are constantly reviewing the district's policies on issues such as attendance, health exams and smoking. She is also a member of the finance committee and is striving to save money for the district by look-

ing at, among other things, building impact fees and insurance costs while keeping the budget's integrity intact. Marge has served the residents of South Plainfield for ten years and her knowledge and expertise has been an invaluable contribution to the Board of Education.

Steve, Carol and Marge are dedicated to the children and the future of the South Plainfield school district. Your support for these three outstanding candidates is a vote for moving forward in South Plainfield with confidence. Vote Lines 1, 2 and 3 on April 21.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
JANET KOLVITES**

To the Editor:

I am a resident of South Plainfield living on the now infamous Spicer Avenue. I love this town - my family resides here as do most of my friends, and after an absence of a few years, I have returned to where I began 42 years ago.

I chose Spicer Avenue to live as both an established and new neighborhood. I have been happy here. A year ago, I was informed of the contaminated land directly across from my property. A fence was subsequently erected surrounding this property, and hazardous waste signs placed in adequately visible locations.

This is bad enough! During the past few months, people, whether residents of South Plainfield or not, have chosen to dump beer and soda cans, an old toilet seat, papers, boxes and the like on this vacant property. It is not a town dump!

I have made one visit - and several phone calls - to the Public Works Dept. on Spicer Avenue, requesting a clean-up. So far, nothing has been done. I am dismayed and feel a letter to the editor informing my fellow residents and neighbors is in order. This is our town. Please keep it clean!

**MARGE REIDY
SPICER AVE RESIDENT**

Dear Editor:

On March 13, John E. Riley School hosted the Mother/Son Dance. This year we had a sports

theme. The moms and their sons came dressed in their favorite sports shirts. The boys answered sports trivia questions and received prizes for their efforts. The moms had a chance to win door prizes. The gift certificates for these prizes were donated by Sherbans Restaurant, Fairway Golf, Razors Edge, Crossroads Hair Fashion Centre, New Wave, Mohn's Flowers and Plants and Yogurt Express. Marriott School Services donated the paper products and the ice cream cones. I would like to thank these businesses for helping to make the night a success with their generous donations.

**ALISON TIETJEN
CHAIRPERSON**

Dear Residents:

I am a candidate for the South Plainfield Board of Education because I am interested in improving the communication of the Board's work with the community.

I believe that when goals are defined, promoted and properly communicated it will give residents the opportunity to support and work towards the realization of those goals and work towards improving and supporting Public Education in South Plainfield. I realize attending BOE meetings is not always possible or desirable for every resident, but with the BOE's newsletter mailed to each resident, the Board has the opportunity to communicate all goals. The newsletter should contain information such as long range plans for Roosevelt School; plans for accommodating the upcoming growth on the south side of town, centralized Kindergarten, full day Kindergarten, repairs to the High School track and tennis courts, technology plans, improving test scores, etc. In short this newsletter should address the subject areas residents are concerned about.

A seat on the board is a commitment I am willing to make to play an important role in shaping the future for the children of our community. I believe my commitment to this community is evident in the service areas I already participate in. I have attended BOE meetings since my first child entered the district in 1992. I attend Curriculum Committee meetings, participating when appropriate in discussion. I participated in the Whole Language Par-

ent/Teacher group, and attended the New Jersey Boards Association - Involving Parents as Partners in Education seminar last year.

I have made every effort to keep involved and informed and actively participate in promoting public education in our community. I feel becoming a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education is the next step available to me in service to our community and a Partner in Public Education.

**DAWN JEFFERYS
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE**

Dear Editor,

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to publicly thank Burger King (Park Avenue) and Domino's Pizza, Maple Avenue, for sponsoring the Riley School Playground fund raisers this past March.

Burger King generously donated 20% of all sales from 4-8 p.m., netting a total contribution of \$220. Thanks to manager Fran for getting the payment to us so quickly.

Domino's agreed to contribute 10% of all sales made the entire day as well as spreading the word over their telephone lines accompanied by a postcard mailed throughout the town. Sales that day provided the committee with a return of \$310. However, the manager Chris was unhappy with that amount and kicked in an additional \$190 to bring it to an even \$500!

Riley's Playground Committee is thrilled with the financial results of both fundraisers and equally impressed with the eager participation by both local establishments. In addition, the committee would like to thank all the residents, teachers, staff and Riley families who patronized these restaurants on our behalf. Your continued interest and support is inspiring.

Hats off to committee members Tracey Hartmann and Cathy Parillo for organizing the events and handling the promotion; to Kim McMahon for managing the newspaper publicity.

In closing, I'd also like to thank the *Observer* for advertising these fundraisers. Your paper's coverage transforms our school events into community events, resulting in larger profits for our school children.

**DEANNA L. FREDERICKS,
CHAIRPERSON
PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**

To the Editor,

The South Plainfield Board of Education will be facing the challenges of a student growing population, school funding, State of N.J. mandates and transportation of our students, just to name a few of the many issues that the Board of Education will be addressing in the near future.

It is important to have school board members with experience and leadership in knowing how to effectively handle the challenges that will be in the best interest of the

South Plainfield Schools and taxpayers.

Steve Bohn, Carol Byrne and Marge Reedy have the experience that is surely needed for the South Plainfield School district to continue "moving forward" positively into the future.

Voters support of the Board of Education maintenance budget and the three incumbents, line 1, 2 & 3 is needed as we turn the page into a new century.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MYRA M. STILLMAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

To the Editor:

On April 21, 1998 you will have the opportunity and a responsibility to vote for members of the South Plainfield school board and the school budget. Both of these issues are very important to you as a taxpayer and parents of students in the system. Therefore, it is important to give serious consideration to candidates who have demonstrated their concern for the students and the taxpayers. Incumbents Mr. Steve Bohn, Mrs. Carol Byrne and Mrs. Marge Reedy have served this district for a number of years. They have demonstrated by their actions their genuine concern for the students, the taxpayers and the staff. The district has made progress in all areas of academic achievement. In addition, they have each served on numerous committees and dedicated many hours in meeting the responsibilities of their office.

Not only have they moved issues to improve academic achievement but have at the same time exercised and applied diligence in the budget process to insure the maximum value for the dollars expended.

As board president, Mrs. Byrne has promoted and led the board to submit a resolution to the State Legislature and Governor to request that our district receive an increase in State aid for education.

Their years of experience, dedication and efforts to work as a team has earned them the opportunity to serve again. I urge you, on April 21, 1998, to vote for Steve Bohn, Line 1; Carol Byrne, Line 2 and Marge Reedy, Line 3. Exercise your privilege to vote.

**FRANK A. MIKORSKI
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

South Plainfield Police Hold Bicycle Auction

The South Plainfield Police Department will hold a bicycle auction on Saturday, April 18 at the Public Works Department located on Spicer Ave.

Viewing of the bicycles will begin at 9 a.m. The auction starts at 9:30 a.m. Sale is cash only and all sales are final.

South Plainfield Observer

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2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or email us on the web page at spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

1. Make sure the photograph is sharp and bright.
2. Any size picture will do.
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4. Type the names of all the photographs, or accurately describe the action in the photograph. Do not write on back of photograph, except with non-reproducing pen or pencil.
5. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to the *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of the *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.

UPCOMING OBSERVER PUBLICATION DATES:

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
April 23	April 16
May 7	April 30

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events around town

Rescue Squad Plans Easter Flower Show

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will be holding their seventh annual Easter Flower Sale on Good Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will go toward supporting the Rescue Squad.

Available for purchase will be azaleas, cinnearia, daffodils, assorted flowering hanging baskets, hyacinth, hydrangea, Easter and hybrid lilies, mums and tulips. All flowers will cost between \$7-\$14.

Jr. Woman's Club to Hold Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Junior Woman's Club will sponsor their Fifth Annual Fashion Show on Friday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 6763, Front Street. A cold buffet and dessert bar is planned. Admission is \$15. For further information call Shannon Jefferys or Carolyn Allen at Columbia Savings Bank, (908) 757-1055.

Auction/Raffle Set For May 2

South Plainfield Project Graduation will sponsor an Auction/Raffle on Saturday, May 2 at South Plainfield High School.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The auction is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission to the auction is \$7 for advance tickets and \$10 at the door.

Admission price includes 25 auction tickets. Food and drinks will be available. The event will benefit South Plainfield High School Project Graduation, which provides a safe, drug- and alcohol-free environment, where the graduating seniors can celebrate with each other one of the most important days of their lives.

For more information call (908) 756-4530 or 756-6512.

To have your organization included in events around town, submit your information to the Observer editorial department at 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax to 732 805-0815.

Passports Available At Borough Hall

South Plainfield residents will be able to obtain a passport with a quick visit to Borough Hall. Until last year the most convenient way for local residents to obtain a passport was a trip to the Middlesex County Clerk's office in New Brunswick. But that has changed. The County Clerk's office is providing a mobile service to towns requesting this service.

On April 20 the county will move its mobile passport service into South Plainfield from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Any New Jersey resident may apply for a passport at this location, which is valid for ten years and can be used as an identification. A minor's passport (under 16) is valid for five years.

Applicants must complete an application and prove citizenship: original birth certificate, previous passport or naturalization certificate; two identical 2x2 photographs taken within six months and a driver's license. Two checks or money orders are required; \$45 made payable to Passport Services and \$15 made payable to the county clerk. Minors under 16 re-

Outdoor Flea Market

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts are sponsoring an outdoor Family Fair and Flea Market on April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PAL building, Maple Ave. The raindate is May 2.

For further information, please call, Cindy Bosse at (908) 756-9257.

AARP Chapter 4144 Announce Meeting

The next meeting of AARP, Chapter 4144 will be held on April 17 at 12:30 p.m., at the PAL Building, on Maple Ave. Alice Cook of Franklin Park will demonstrate her award winning paintings on jewelry and fine china.

A May 7 trip to Three Little Bakers to see *Phantom of the Opera* is \$48 and will include the cost of bus, dinner and show.

For more information please call Lee at (732) 968-6613. Leave word for call back if necessary.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate for officers, directors and nominating committee for May elections at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken at that time.

Friends of the Library to Hold Flea Market

Spaces are still available for the April 25 Flea Market being sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The flea market will be held indoors at the Middle School, rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the second year for the flea market. Last year's was very popular.

A varied mix of crafts, new items and exceptional use items are expected to be for sale. Refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Library. Anyone interested in obtaining a space, please call Barbara at (908) 753-9898. Vendors must provide their own tables. Come join us for a fun shopping experience.

ceive a discount the fees are a \$25 check payable to Passport Services, and \$15 to county. Renewal is \$40. to Passport Services and can be obtained by mail with no additional fee required. Old passport is required with expiration date within two years and two new photographs.

For additional information call (908) 745-5723.

Makowski Receives Middle School Caring Award

By Patricia Abbott

When James Makowski received the Middle School PTA Caring Award on March 18 it would have been no surprise to the boy he taught at age 14. The annual award, presented by PTA President Ellen Melanson, is given for "tireless leadership, guidance, and devotion to the students of South Plainfield Middle School."

When asked how he came to choose Special Education, James had a special story to share. At age 14 he befriended a six year old boy who was non-verbal. James began teaching him vowel sounds, then consonants. He enjoyed working with the young child and taught him to speak his first word. James says, "I taught him his name and when he said it for the first time, his face lit up! I gained much personal satisfaction from helping this child and I realized that one person can make a difference."

A lifelong South Plainfield resident, James attended Kennedy and Riley Elementary Schools, Cedar-croft School and the Middle School. He is a 1975 graduate of South Plainfield High School. He graduated from Middlesex County College with an A.A.S. in 1977 and went on to attend Kean College where he received his B.S. Degree in 1980, Master's Degree in 1986 and his Supervisor's Certificate in 1991.

Before completing college James knew he wanted to return to his hometown to teach. He began his teaching career at South Plainfield High School. He taught Special Education from September, 1980 through June 1987. In September of that year he moved to the Middle School to teach Special Education. He has been the Special Education



James Makowski

Team Leader at the Middle School since 1991. He received the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award in May of 1996.

Hobbies and relaxation time for James include reading, movies and his guitar. Not only does he play but he writes songs as well. He said that when he was in college he tried his hand at writing stand up comedy. He extends this love of comedy and humor into the classroom. James pointed out, "A learning experience has to be fun and enjoyable for me in order to convey that experience to my students." A lesson on Christopher Columbus may well become a rap song. James' quest to capture the attention of the students involves one of his more unusual hobbies. He collects ties and owns over 220, which allows him to wear a different tie each day. He displayed one of the more unique ties on Tie Day. A blue tie with the large white polka dots fell past his knees and was more than four feet long. His fish tie is a common sight on Fridays. His students enjoy his tie-a-day routine; it becomes a morning conversation piece. They especially love his Looney Toons

ties. The outrageous collection keeps the staff on their feet, too, watching for his next tie. Referring to his tie collection James says, "The wackier the better! I have Campbell's soup ties, Chinese food ties, and animals of every shape and kind." An unusual addition to the tie collection is the assortment of ties designed by an organization called *Save The Children*. The ties are designed by children between the ages of 5 and 12.

When not teaching, James can often be found involved in the school's extra curricular activities. Master of Ceremonies seems to be another calling for James. He has MC'd the talent show, the Battle of the Classes, and the Evening of Cultures program. He can also be found chaperoning school dances and functions.

Outside of the school, James continues to help others. At Thanksgiving he assists with the Thanksgiving dinner at the People Care Center in Bridgewater. Christmas Eve and Christmas day he volunteers as Santa Claus for nearby hospitals and nursing homes.

The State PTA organization gives a Caring Award on a state wide basis. The Middle School PTA adopted their own version of the award a number of years ago to acknowledge outstanding teachers. The first recipient was Betty McHenry. Others who have received the award from the Middle School PTA are Gail Schwartz, Rachel Villani, Jeff Spezio, Bill Mosca, Donna Tierney, Joanne Haus, Mickey Sammons and John Limyansky. All these teachers have given their all and shown "tireless leadership, guidance, and devotion" to the Middle Schools students.

High School Students Inducted Into National Honor Society

On the evening of March 16 junior and senior high school students were inducted into the school's chapter of the National Honor Society with the traditional candle lighting ceremony. High school principal Tony Massaro invited Kenneth Abbott, a 1979 SPHS graduate and National Honor Society member, to be a guest speaker. National Honor Society Advisors are Lois Crespy and Kay Linger. Officers are Jennifer Borgia, vice president; Carolyn Timinski, secretary; Stephanie Wrublevski, treasurer and Dana Bertrand, public relations. Also on hand for the ceremony were Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lillian DeSimon.

Students are nominated for membership into the prestigious organization on the basis of four

criteria. The nominees are evaluated by the Faculty Council which consists of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The first criteria in the selection process is scholarship; each student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 throughout grades 9-11 in order to be eligible. Character, leadership and service are equally important. Those students who were inducted are Leyna Bollwage, Melanie Carmon, Lisa Christensen, Rochelle Dimacja, Sunaina Joshi, Daniel LaSpata,

Matthew LaSpata, Khanh Le, Michael Maina, Erica McGrath, Joseph Monahan, Melissa O'Connor, Dina Pasco, Bhaven Patel, Dimple Patel, Thais Petrocelli, Sandra Reedy, Candace Romascindo, Lisa Sepkowski, Elizabeth Serago, Mohamed Shiliwala, Elaine Smith, Roger Vroom, Erin Walter, Judy Wang, Matthew Wojick, Riza Ysla and Sara Ziobro.

After the ceremony the National Honor Society members, along with their proud parents and friends, celebrated with a reception in the cafeteria.



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Observer Spotlights Darlene Pinto

By Mary Hobner

Darlene Pinto doesn't miss a beat. Whether she is researching an issue pending before the Planning Board, hanging upside down in a tree meticulously arranging Christmas lights on the storefront of Twice Is Nice, or helping her son decipher his math homework while she cooks dinner, Darlene focuses clearly and competently on the task at hand.

"I like to do it right the first time," she comments.

According to people who know her well, this all-or-nothing approach prevails in all facets of Darlene's life. As long time friend Maria Elena Gennette says, "When you want the job done, give it to Darlene." When her interest is piqued, she automatically embarks on a fact finding mission to determine what she can bring to a situation, either to lend support to a favorable status quo or effect a positive change. "She brings new meaning to the word 'involved'," Maria Elena notes. Consequently, she is a local business owner who actively participates in the South Plainfield Business Association as well as holds a seat on the Planning Board. Darlene also helped to put the spark into Labor Day by working on the 1997 Public Celebrations Committee. As a mother of three, Darlene steadfastly volunteers her time to activities that promote educational and recreational opportunities for kids. She serves as treasurer of the Home and School Association (HSA) of Sacred Heart School, and she initiated and organized the HSA's most successful and profitable fund raiser to date. She has been a girl scout co-leader for her daughter's troop, the snack coordinator for her son's cub scout pack and a team mom for his basketball team. She is always a classroom mother.

"In this busy world we live in, sometimes children are pushed aside," Darlene observes. "I want my own children, I really want all children, to know how important and special they are. We all need to remember to put children first."

NOTE: This Spotlight story was planned and written before Darlene Pinto announced her candidacy for council. It is not meant as any endorsement, but rather to spotlight her community involvement.

While Darlene is a very familiar name and face around town, she actually grew up in Scotch Plains and moved to South Plainfield in 1986 when she married Andy Pinto, co-owner of Pinto Brothers Disposal Service.



Darlene Pinto (L-R) with her daughter Rachel, Taylor Boosemann and sons Andrew and Gerry.

At the time, Darlene was working for First National State Bank Division at their Maple Avenue location as an assistant manager, and she remained there until her son, Andrew, was born in 1988. Andrew was joined by Rachel in 1991 and then Gerry in 1992. During these toddler years, Darlene kept her feet wet in the business world by working part time in the Pinto Brothers' office, a job she continues to this day.

"I am very fortunate because I'm with my children at breakfast, take them to school and go to work," Darlene explains. "I am able to pick them up at the end of their school day, help with homework, drive to after-school activities, negotiate disagreements over the television set and cook dinner. I want to be there when they need me."

Although Darlene has played a strong role in her husband's company for years, she is also a business entrepreneur in her own right. In November of 1996, she opened the doors of Twice Is Nice, a consignment boutique for women's and children's clothing located on Front Street. Darlene credits her younger sister, Michele, with introducing her to the world of consignment shopping during the summer of 1995.

"I had never really heard of consignment stores before," Darlene remembers. "My sister took me around to the shops which she frequented down at the shore, and I was amazed by the great bargains, especially in children's

like they are wearing originals."

Twice Is Nice was also a recipient of the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award in July of 1997. Darlene was honored for the attractive appearance and outstanding property maintenance of Twice Is Nice at the CBA's Seventh Annual Award and Appreciation Breakfast held last December.

As Darlene's children reached school age, she approached Mayor Gallagher regarding a possible position on one of the Boards in town. At the time, the Planning Board had an open spot, and Darlene submitted a resume for consideration. She was appointed to the Planning Board in June of 1997, and then re-appointed in January of 1998. Darlene is also an active member of the South Plainfield Business Association, for which she served as Membership Chairperson in 1997 and currently serves as Newsletter Chairperson.

John Hogan, Chairperson of the Planning Board, describes Darlene as a member who is a valuable, dedicated addition to the Board. "She is quick to grasp the issues, and she asks profound questions," he said.

In addition, Darlene worked on the 1997 South Plainfield Public Celebration Committee, a volunteer group who take on the monumental task of organizing the annual Labor Day parade and festivities. Darlene's specific responsibility included coordinating the participation of the concessions in Veteran's Park.

"I've enjoyed the Labor Day parade for years," she explained, "and I never really thought about what it takes to pull it off. Well, now I know. It is mind-boggling that a committee of only seven people are able to coordinate such a huge effort. It is an incredible amount of work, but it was well worth it just to see the joy it gives people, especially the children in this town."

When asked to explain what motivates her strong commitment to our community, Darlene answers, "I believe that my contribution can make a difference. I also like to understand how things work. I've spent the last six months on the Planning Board listening carefully, asking questions and visiting every site under consideration." Darlene pauses for a moment, and then adds, "I think that if more people could take the time to study what it takes to accomplish this town's goals, there would be less frustration and more productive progress."

As a parent, Darlene is concerned about the educational opportunities and experiences available to children. This interest prompted her to volunteer her time as a board member on the Sacred Heart Home and School Association. Her first year on the board was rather remarkable by any measure; she organized the

(Continued on page 10)

Kindergarten Registration Set for April 20-24

Registration of children for the September 1998 kindergarten class will take place in the Board Room of the South Plainfield Board of Education Administration Building, 305 Cromwell Place, during the week of April 20-24, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To be enrolled in kindergarten this September, children must have been born on or before October 1, 1993.

Parents/guardians of prospective Kindergartners are required to submit the following documents when registering their children:

1. Application For Enrollment - completed and signed by the parent or guardian.
2. Original birth certificate with raised seal from the Bureau of Vital Statistics OR a valid passport for the child. Photocopies of these documents are not acceptable.
3. Child's social security number.
4. Medical record form with required immunization records—dated, stamped and signed by the child's doctor. Physical examinations must be completed after January 1 of the year that the child enters kindergarten. If all immunizations cannot be completed prior to kindergarten registration week, these should be completed as soon as possible and a physician's verification thereof submitted to the Registration Secretary in Room 21 of the Administration Building prior to September 1, 1998. NOTE: The only acceptable medical record form is the one issued by the district.
5. Two proofs of residency - e.g., utility bills (PSE&G, telephone, cable, water, etc.) with parent's name and address dated within the last two months OR a current tax bill from the South Plainfield Tax Office OR a legal contract showing purchase of home (deed) or rental of a residence (lease) in South Plainfield. A driver's license is not acceptable as proof of residency.
6. If the child does not reside with both parents, official custody documents will be required.

In order to expedite the registration process, parents are encouraged to assemble, complete and bring the above documents with them at the time of registration. Parents/guardians may obtain blank enrollment and medical forms prior to kindergarten registration week (April 20-24) in the office of any elementary school or in the Human Resources Office (main office) in the administration building.

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Bill Staats

South Plainfield Scouting



Girl Scouts Silver Award Honors Achievements

The Silver Award Ceremony for Troops 2, 33, 397 and 843 of the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community was held on March 22 at Wesley United Methodist Church.

South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Cadette/Senior Consultant Connie Palmer acted as master of ceremonies and welcomed the girls, parents and friends, guests and various dignitaries.

Leono, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church.

Joanne Otlowski, South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Manager, explained the significance of the Silver Award, Girl Scouting's second highest award. Flora Rockett, Community Association Chairperson and Community Treasurer, read a congratulatory letter from Governor Christine Whitman.

Mayor Daniel Gallagher congratulated and thanked the recipients for all of their hard work for the community and explained that they would each be recognized with Certificates of Achievement.

Mayor Gallagher, along with Councilman Buttiglieri, assisted the Silver Award Advisors Daisies from Daisy Troop 129 in presenting the Silver Award pins, certificates and letters from the

Governor, as well as daisies to each of the recipients.

Finally the recipients rededicated themselves with a candle lighting ceremony and reciting of the Girl Scout Promise. Closing remarks were read by Patricia Anderson, South Plainfield Community Consultant Coordinator and after the Benediction, Brownie Troop 690 retired the colors.

The ceremony was assisted by Junior Troop 117, Cadette Troop 318 and Brownie Troop 690 and was concluded with the serving of refreshments.

A Flag Ceremony, including the Pledge of Allegiance, was conducted by Brownie Girl Scout Troop 678 and preceded the presentation of awards to recipients Melissa Anderson, Courtney Burke, Jessica Graisson, Rosa Hernandez, Jacqueline Herzog, Kristen Herzog, Rebecca Hom, Lauren Maione, Erica McGrath, Sabina Montanaro, Kristine Noel, Thais K. Petrocelli, Patricia Reach, Tracey Regan and Jillian Stokes.

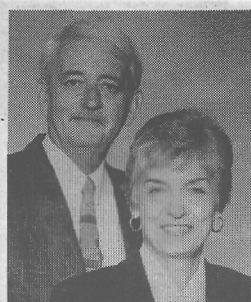
Following the presentation of awards was an invocation by Reverend Dr. Henry



FRANKLIN SCHOOL CUB SCOUT PACK 207 HOLD PINWOOD DERBY—Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 207 Pinewood Derby winners were, front row left to right, Webelo first place, Kyle Bostick; second place, Matt Fladger and third place, Gary Smith. Second row left to right, Cubs first place, A.J. Baryisky; second place, Chris Burke and third place, Nick Giannakis.

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A Few Good Women

As part of Volunteer Week and Leader Appreciation Day included here are just a few of the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community leaders who are recognized for their dedication as leaders and their commitment to Girl Scouting.

Junior Leader Amy Rastelli has been a Girl Scout Leader for three years at Junior Troop 109. Amy is employed by Merrill Lynch Trust Company as a personal senior trust administrator and serves as South Plainfield's Cultural Arts Commission Secretary. Amy has two children, Amanda and Trevor. Amy still finds time for Girl Scouts. Amy says, "Although much time and effort is spent planning and attending Girl Scout functions...it's all worth it when you see the pleasure and enjoyment of the girls in the various events and activities." Amy also enjoys sports, crafts and especially shopping in her spare time!



Cadette Leader Marlene Dabrio is the wife of Larry and the mother of two daughters, Shannon and Kristen. Marlene is executive assistant for Central Jersey Builders Association in Piscataway. Marlene and her husband Larry spend a lot of time year round at their daughters' swim meets. They belong to the JCCs in Edison and the Tiger Sharks in South Plainfield. Marlene is currently Secretary of the Tiger Sharks Parents Organization and has been a Girl Scout volunteer/leader for more than seven years for Troop 136. Marlene says: "I have enjoyed spending time with my troop and watching them become young ladies. We've had a lot of fun on our trips. I especially enjoy watching their enthusiasm when they are working on a project."



Brownie Leader and Consultant Dede Barletta is entering her fifth year as a Girl Scout leader. She is a stay-at-home mom of three. She will continue to serve as a Brownie Leader of Troop #91, Riley School, as well as become the leader for the newly-formed Daisy Troop #786 at Riley School. Dede was chosen to be a Brownie Consultant for the South Plainfield Girl Scout community. She is also active in the Riley School P.T.S.O. Her interests include music, computers, trivia. Her hobbies are playing piano, reading and out-of-doors activities. Being a Girl Scout leader has enabled her to explore areas of Girl Scouting not available to her when she was a Girl Scout as well as provide the girls in her troops with a rounded assortment of skills and knowledge.



Troop 117 Junior Leader Nancy Regan has for the past four years been the Director of Children's Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen where she is responsible for program planning for the Sunday School, production of the annual Children's Christmas pageant, and direction and/or support of Vacation Bible School. Nancy lives in South Plainfield with her husband, Rich and daughter, Tracy who is a Senior Scout. Tracy recently received the Silver Award.



Ms. Regan's fondest memory of scouting was when her troop had a luau and her mother made her a hula skirt from crepe paper and tissue carnations for her hair.

She has assisted with her daughter's troop for 14 years, and after taking a year off, she took on a first grade Brownie troop. The best part about being a leader is seeing the girls grow and feeling their enthusiasm.

Troop #42 Brownie Leader Tracey Hartmann is in her third year as a Brownie leader. The troop got off to a rocky start, but looking back on the years, it was all fun. Tracey saw the girls needed someone to talk to and she shared her interests and talents. She is the mother of two children, Meghan and William. Tracey is also involved with the Junior Women's Club of South Plainfield and teaches children's liturgy at Sacred Heart Church on Sundays.



Troop 136 Cadettes Leader Joanne Cox became a leader when her daughter, Jaclyn, was in first grade. She says that she has many good memories from her experience as a girl in scouting and wants her daughter and her friends to have the same kind of fun and memories.

Over the past five years she has enjoyed so many fun and exciting times. Joanne did things she would probably never have done if she weren't in scouting.

Troop 91 Brownie Leader Doreen Whitney's family is her husband Scooter, son Keith and daughter Stephanie. She graduated from Kean College with a B.A. in Psychology. Doreen is interested in anything that makes her feel good and laugh, especially being with people. Her hobbies are so few now but she still enjoys a good workout at the P.A.L. Being a Girl Scout leader enables her to participate in activities she never had the opportunity to do before. She also gets pleasure guiding children in the "Scouting Way" and seeing their smiling faces. Most of all she says she can enjoy all this with her daughter, Stephanie.



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Following a slightly longer-than-usual gap between issues of the *Observer*, here's some news from South Plainfield Library.

The Library will be closed on Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday and Passover.

Next week, we'll be having our regular schedule of children's storytimes. The programs for children ages 3-6 are on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The program for children age 15 mos.-three years is on Thursday at 11 a.m. The programs will feature stories about Earth Day, which is April 22. The following week, the Thursday morning program will not be held. That week's program will have a "National Library Week," theme (more about that later). For more information check with Judy Fischer, the Children's Librarian.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. This promises to be an

informative meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The following day is April 15, TAX DAY!!! For those who forget to file, we'll be open from 10, a.m.-9 p.m. Our remaining tax forms and booklets will be available, and our photocopier will be running all day. For those who did file, feel free to come in and relax with a good book.

Here's some information for those who borrow from our popular circuit collections. The video, compact disc and large print book circuits are all available. However, the book-on-tape circuit is between groups and should be back in a few days.

There's been an update on our Internet situation. The Internet terminal in the children's room is not available at the present time. We'll let you know when it will be back in place. The terminal in the main room, though, is operational.

We've added a new display for April. Rosaries by Robert Seliga, as well as books on jewelry design and repair, can be seen throughout the month.

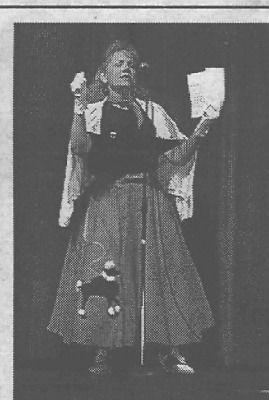
Finally, April 19-25 marks National Library Week. Why should libraries get a week in their honor? Because a library is your gateway to all sorts of information and entertainment. All libraries, including ours, offer a wide variety of books and recordings for you to borrow and enjoy. Fiction and fact, music and movies, books and bytes; all are available to let you know more about your world as it is and how you'd like it to be. And now, with our new computer systems, we can give you access to information from across the country and around the world. And, best of all, it's available to everyone for free. If you'd like to know more about what our library has to offer, and how to get a South Plainfield Library card, stop in and ask us or call (909) 754-7885.

We're just about done for this issue. We'll be back with more next time.

Recycling Center Closed on Good Friday

The Kenneth Avenue Recycling Center and Yard Waste Site will be closed on Good Friday, April 10th. Both facilities will be open as usual on Saturday, April 11th from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Regular spring hours through April at the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site are Tuesdays, noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For updates call the Hotline: 226-7620.



"The Drifters" Come to Town

Saturday March 28 saw "The Drifters" breeze into town along with area bands 'Class of 57' and 'Sound Investment.' The successful concert was a Project Graduation benefit. Tom Duddy of Class of 57 and Dan Ugarte of 'Sound Investment' are South Plainfield residents. The music of the 50s and 60s had the whole auditorium rocking. 'The Drifters' phenomenal show was truly a "Magic Moment." If it's true that a picture is worth a thousand words then a 'Drifter's' song is worth a million memories.

Story and Pictures by Patricia Abbott



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Litter Clean-up Week April 25-May 1

Are you Bitter About Litter? Welcome spring by clearing away winter's grime! The Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-wide clean-up during the last week in April. The main clean-up event will be held Saturday morning, April 25th. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot at 2480 Plainfield Avenue to collect equipment and clean-up assignments. Roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots will be targeted. All volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free Pizza Pickup Picnic, complete with environmentally-friendly door prizes.

Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come alone. Call Alice Tempel at 226-7621 for more information.

A Clean Borough Is Everybody's Business.

Pinto Running for Council

(Continued from page one)

represents the best South Plainfield has to offer. She has dedicated a major portion of her life towards serving the community. As a member of our planning board, public celebrations committee and the South Plainfield Business Association, the Sacred Heart Home School Association and the girl scouts, she is already integrally involved in numerous projects which enhance the quality of life in South Plainfield. On top of all of that Darlene owns her own business and is a terrific wife and mother."

When asked for her reaction to her endorsement by the Democratic Committee, Mrs. Pinto said, "I am excited by the challenge of serving as a member of the South Plainfield borough council. I am a firm believer that everybody should try and give back to the community as best they can. I am doubly thrilled to be running with Mayor Gallagher and Dennis Cerami who are a model of what public service is all about. My husband, Andrew and my children Andrew, Rachel

and Gerry are 100% behind me. In fact I think they are looking forward to the campaign more than I am." When asked what are her goals for South Plainfield, Mrs. Pinto explained, "I have a particular interest in improving the environment of our Borough. As a member of The Business Association, we have worked hard to obtain and refurbish the railroad car for the historical museum in addition to the revitalization of the downtown area. We are also pursuing projects which will enhance the overall beauty of our town. That is an area that I specifically want to put my efforts into as a member of the borough council. I also want to continue the fiscal responsibility which has been put in place by Mayor Gallagher and the Democratic council and continue to enhance open government for which South Plainfield is a model."

At prestime the Republicans announced their candidates. Anthony "Jake" Cataldo will run for mayor and Henry Grabarz and Susan Crystopik will be running for Council.

Sacred Heart Church Holy Week Schedule

CONFESSIONS

Friday, April 10-Good Friday 4-5 p.m.
Saturday, April 11- Holy Saturday 11-12 Noon.

HOLY WEEK MASSES

HOLY THURSDAY

April 9 at 7:30 p.m., Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession.

ADORATION OF REPOSITORY

9:00 a.m. until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

(No Mass Today)

April 10 - Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 7:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 11, Blessing of Easter Food at 12 Noon
Solemn Easter Vigil Ceremonies and Mass at 8:00 p.m.

EASTER

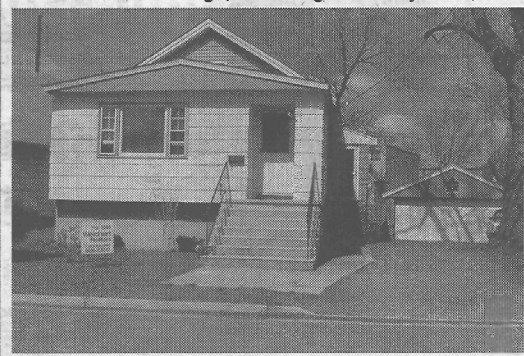
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April 12 at 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon.



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Woman's Club and Carousel Beauty Salon Plan Cut-a-Thon

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield and Carousel Beauty Salon on Oak Tree Road will sponsor the second annual benefit Cut-a-thon on Sunday, April 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The cut-a-thon proceeds will go toward a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating South Plainfield High School senior. The scholarship be presented by Filomena Viola, Education Chairperson of the Suburban Women, at the High School awards assembly to be held in June.

Martha "Martie" Papa, owner of the Carousel Beauty Salon, will host the benefit cut-a-thon. All haircuts will be \$10. In return, participants will receive a haircut or style plus five free tickets for door prizes. Additional gift certificates for cuts at \$10. each can be purchased for use throughout the year. Raffle tickets will be available for prizes, baskets and a Lady Di Beanie Baby, which will be donated by the suburban Woman's Club members, their friends and local merchants.

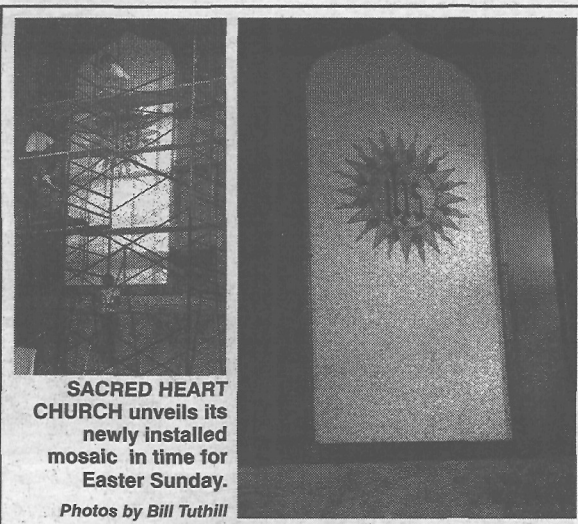
Refreshments will be served. Please note that no appointment is needed for the cut-a-thon. For further information, call 757-5629.

Little Miss Baseball Winner Announced



Dana DeCillis

Dana DeCillis was named as the winner of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's 1998 Little Miss Baseball contest. She will receive a \$50 savings bond and will march in the Opening Day Parade on April 18 along with the other contestants, Carlie Kazimir and Gina Severini.



SACRED HEART CHURCH unveils its newly installed mosaic in time for Easter Sunday.

Photos by Bill Tuthill

Grand Opening at McDonald's

The March 23 grand opening of McDonald's new Oak Park Commons location was indeed grand. The tables in the spacious new dining room were bedecked with tablecloths and flowers. The crowd was at standing room only capacity. A balloon arrangement in the shape of the famous golden

After Mayor Gallagher cut the ribbon officially opening McDonald's, the managers presented the local Girl Scout and Boy Scout Councils with checks for \$500 each.

McDonald's is active in a number of youth programs in the schools. They sponsor a reading



McDonald's presents local Girl and Boy Scout Councils with checks for \$500.

arches sprawled across the front of the room. A gourmet breakfast was offered those who arrived early for the festivities. Among the offerings were fruit, cheese, Belgian waffles, bacon and sausage. The made-to-order omelettes were the order of the morning.

The McDonald's staff was kept busy greeting guests and handing out grand opening tac pins, balloons and goodies for the kids. On hand for the celebration was Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilman Ray Petronka, Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma and many others.

program as well as offer several cultural programs.

A variety of grand opening specials and events are being offered throughout the month. An Easter egg hunt is scheduled and well as visits from Grimace and Birdie. For more details visit McDonald's, across the street from their former location on the corner of Park Avenue and Oak Tree Road.

ELKS TALE

The South Plainfield Elks proudly announce that Briggs Longbothum and Nancy Murtagh have been elected to lead the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Elks, respectively for the upcoming year. The Men and Women of the Elks congratulate and pledge support to their new officer teams in looking forward to a new year of benevolence and support to our community and our country. The South Plainfield Elks are especially active in support of handicapped children, American veterans, neighbors in need and our community's youth through activities, donations, and scholarships. The Elks are second only the United States Government in academic scholarships given annually. Additionally, it was the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks who created and established Flag Day in America.

Riley/Kennedy School Art Work Displayed at the All-district Festival

Riley and Kennedy School Art Teacher Barbara Harris is proud to recognize the many students whose art work was displayed at South Plainfield High School on Friday, March 27 to celebrate the All-district Art and Music Festival and the designation of March as Youth Art Month.

The following work and children represented Riley School. In first grade Stephen Kelly, Kevin Scholato and Mark Sprenger drew portraits of "Samuel Adams" and "Rebecca Boyleston" from paintings by John Singleton Copley. Transitional first graders created Native American Portrait Paintings. These students were Alex Green and Tareek Watkins. Second graders Rebecca Bosse and Rachel Estevez did Mixed Media Portraits of George Washington based on Gilbert Stuart's famous painting. Fantasy drawings inspired by Paul Klee's "Goldfish" were the third grade entries from Meghan Hartmann and Samantha Bowser. Fourth graders Michael Sivo, Katie Koury, and Zachary Gray submit-

ted Aluminum Relief Animals. In fifth grade the children created Native American Anthropomorphic Masks. These young artists were Peter Kelly, Stephanie Stellakis and Billy Padula.

At Kennedy School the following students and projects represented Mrs. Harris' classes. First graders Anthony Simms and Amber Scott created Mixed Media Native American Portraits. Second graders Jonathan Cursi, Joseph Horn and Amy Pornovets made Layered Weavings. Fourth grade Mixed Media Native American Symbolic Images were included by Robert Stranni, Courtney Alston, Brian Schulte and Morgan Walter. Fifth grade classes created Assemblages of Animal Heads using found objects. Leslie Sweeney, Jessica Miller, and Jaclynn Johnson were the students whose work represented this project. A Special Needs class was also included. Two children from that group, Jonathan Wiseman and Michael Pekunas, displayed Wire Figures in the style of Alexander Calder.

Earth Day Celebration and Poster Contest Sunday, April 19

The South Plainfield Environmental Commission and Friends of the Woods will co-sponsor a celebration of Earth Day at the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Sunday, April 19, from 1-4 p.m.

Borough children can enter the poster contest by bringing their original 8 1/2 x 11 posters, illustrating the theme "Earth Day '98," to the Reserve entrance on Sylvia Place between 1 and 3 p.m. Children and adults can join in the nature walks or participate in the Plant Swap. Children's librarian Judy Ellsworth will be leading a 'Critters' walk, and local naturalists Dorothy and Sarah Miele will point out the spring wildflowers.

At the plant swap, people who have an abundance of one kind of plant can trade for something

new from their neighbors' yards. Plants should be potted and labeled. Nothing on hand to swap? Some plants will also be available for a modest charge.

Call Alice Tempel, the Environmental Specialist, for more information at (908) 226-7621.

Golf Outing Update

The SP Business Association of has an update on the Annual Golf Outing which is set for May 5. The Hole-in-One prize is a Cadillac sponsored by Kemper Pontiac-Cadillac of Bridgewater. A second Hole-in-One prize of a European Golf Vacation is also being offered. The SPBA is seeking sponsors for the event. For information call Maria Elena Jennette at 908 561-3890.

J&S USED APPLIANCES

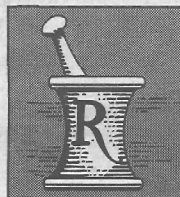


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School Work



Tammy Dombrowski Reports... Notes from the Middle School

Hi, I'm Tammy Dombrowski "Marching" in with news from the South Plainfield Middle School.

The students have been busy with testing through the month of March. The 8th graders took the Early Warning Tests (EWT's) and the GEPA tests, and the 6th and 7th graders took new tests called the TerraNovas. We were all glad when the tests were over with!

We had a blast at our last school dance held on Friday, March 20th. Almost 400 students celebrated St. Patrick's Day on the first day of spring.

The students of the month for March were Carly Stoechel and Joe DeBiase. Congratulations on their achievements.

The 7th and 8th grade boys' and girls' basketball teams have been involved in two tournaments. The first one was held at Wardlaw Hartridge. The boys' came in 4th place and the girls took second. Special recognition went to Aaron Parks as Most Valuable Player, Danielle Schweers and Shannon Horvath received All-Star awards.

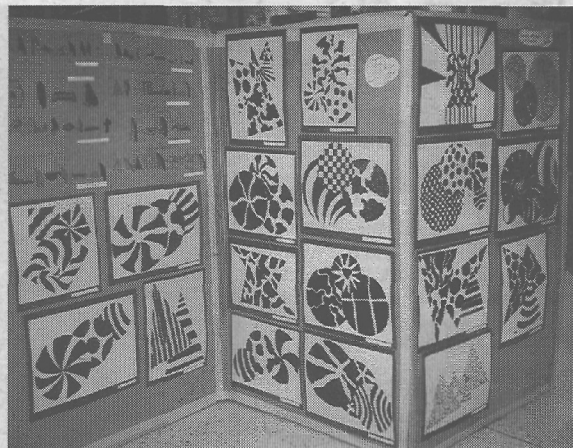
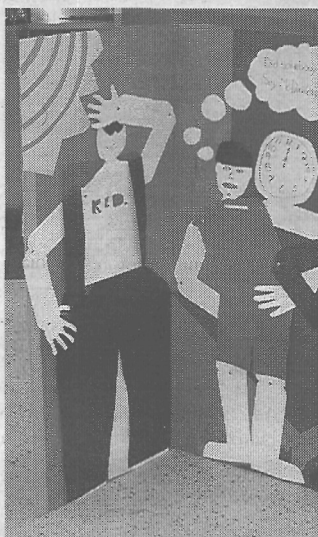
The second tournament was the 47th Annual March of Dimes and

Gavornik Scholarship Fund Basketball Tournament that was held in Dunellen. The boys fell in the Championship game to Springfield 36-29. David Francis and Tommy Rutter chipped in with nine points, and Ulysses Russell added six points to the South Plainfield score board. But, our Lady Tigers won the Championship against Bedminster 41-22 that same Saturday. Kelly Ritchey fired in 15 points and Shannon Horvath added 11 points for the Tigers. Danielle Schweers chipped in six points and Amy Leso brought in three points. The Most Valuable players for both games were Kelly Ritchey and David Francis. The SPMS Cheerleading squad who attended every game for both teams, and kept up the Tiger Spirit and was awarded the Best Cheerleading Squad Trophy.

Our 8th graders have started fundraising for the Washington D.C. class trip scheduled for May 11 and 12. So, if you see a student asking you to buy a Gertrude Hawk candy bar, please do so, it's for a good cause.

Our musicians and singers have been busy singing and practicing for the All District Music Festival which was held on Friday, March 27. The elementary, middle, and high schools all performed a great show!

Happy Easter, Passover and Happy Spring to everyone!!



Sacred Heart "Shows Off" at Catholic Schools Art Show

Sacred Heart School displayed their artistic, musical and dramatic talent at the Catholic Schools Art Show held at Middlesex Mall on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday March 22, 1998. Art teacher Mrs. Loretta McCabe oversaw the display of works in

several mediums, including: painting, drawing, sculpture, weaving and ceramics.

For musical offerings Takara Kaczowski and Toni McCloud played keyboard selections, and a small chorus under the direction of Mr. Paul Deloia, sang "The

Lion Sleeps Tonight", "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" and "I Can See Clearly Now."

Sacred Heart Drama Club members Tracy Johnson, Krystal Ladao, Toni Bottone and Margaret Monroe performed short excerpts from three plays.



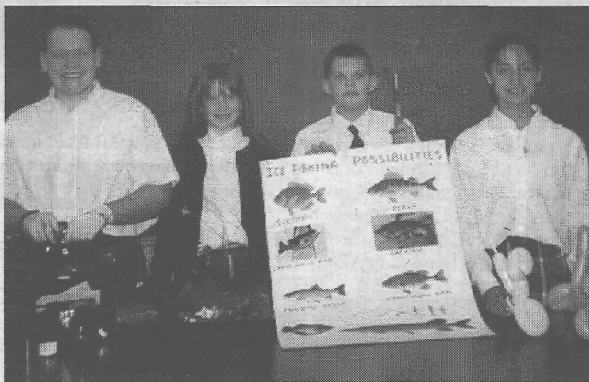
Students enjoying themselves at the recent Middle School St. Patrick's Day.

Sacred Heart Students...

Sacred Heart School students have been involved with projects and reports having to do with a wide variety of topics. These are some of the things that have been going on recently.

How-to-Reports

The 7th graders were required to write and demonstrate an approved topic of their choice. The students showed their classmates and teacher how to do things such as: use karate, find finger prints, ice



Pictured above are Sacred Heart students Lauren Martina, Margaret Monroe, Kevin Meisnest and Toni Marie Bottone presenting their "How-to's."

fish, bake lollipop cookies, create an angel from old magazines, make balloon animals, and much more. Everyone learned something new and had fun at the same time.

Anthologies of Poems

The 8th graders have just concluded a section in poetry. On March 18 and 19, they shared poems from their anthologies with their classmates and teacher. They enjoyed reading their poems aloud and showing their poetic sides.

We hope you liked this column. Please stay tuned for more news "Write from the Heart".

Middle School To Host Technology Fair

"Middle School Students Using Technology" is the theme for the Tiger Tech Fair to be held Wednesday evening, April 29, 1998, from 7-8:30 p.m.

The public is invited to view the "Hall of Technology" set up by the students and teachers to celebrate Technology Month. In the computer labs and at the specially-arranged work centers in the Information Center, students will be demonstrating their skills using the technology which enhances their learning during their

years at the Middle School.

"Parents and guests are urged to experience 'Tiger Tech' by viewing student demonstrations of how the final project was achieved," said Jeff Spezio, Chairman of the event, and Technology Instructor at the school. District Technology Coordinator Mr. Fred Oberkehr, will be on hand to answer questions about current and forthcoming technology innovations at the Middle School. Refreshments will be served.

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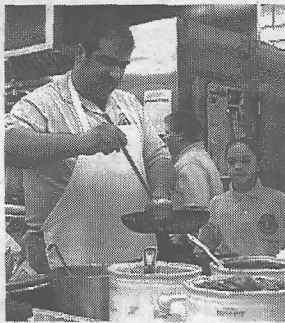
Lions Club Holds Annual Gourmet Breakfast

By Patricia Abbot

If you could have found someone without a mouth full of the tantalizing gourmet breakfast at the Annual Lions Club Breakfast the morning of April 5, they would have told you without a doubt that it was a resounding success. Dr. Patrick M. Aiello, President of South Plainfield Lions Club, pointed out the variety of the goodies available. Served and prepared by Lions Club members, breakfast included omelettes—made to order, pancakes, bacon, sausage, beverages, and an assortment of pastries.

Lion member Larry Massaro was singled out by Aiello for special praise for his dedication and hard work, noting that Larry did much of the organizing and planning for the Breakfast and was a much valued member of the organization.

The Lion's Club of South Plainfield is part of Lions International, one of the world's largest service



Sal Servini of the South Plainfield Lions Club prepares an omelette as his daughter Gina watches.

organizations. They provide financial support to the visually and hearing impaired as well as services in the prevention of eyesight loss and aid to the blind. The South Plainfield Lions Club was organized in 1947 and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Dr. Aiello said that the breakfast was one of three major fundraisers the organization holds each year. They also run a successful concession at Veteran's Park after the Labor Day parade and then run a White Can Day, soliciting donations from the public to help those in need.

First Baptist Support Group For Hearing Impaired

SHHH, The Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, is an organization of hard of hearing people, their relatives, and friends. This is a support group for people who do not hear as well as they used to and are interested in learning whatever they can to make life easier and to make the

most of their hearing.

The group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd.

Those interested are invited to join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. For additional information you can call Marie Nordling at (732) 721-4183.

Pilgrim Covenant Easter Schedule

- Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. an all family Seder Meal celebrating the Last Supper.
- Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Service.
- Easter Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Celebration at Spring Lake Park Pavilion.
- Easter Sunday, April 12 at 11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Hymn Sing at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome!
- Pilgrim Covenant Church is located at 3121 Park Avenue, South Plainfield. Reverend Cathy Stanley and Reverend Jim Erickson are Co-Pastors

Trail Guide Book Available

Veterans Park Nature Trail

The South Plainfield Environmental Commission has reissued the popular "Self-Guiding Nature Trail to Veterans Park, South Plainfield." Printed in a new format with room for notes and sketches by the user, the guide provides an introduction to the plant and animal communities that lie along the trail.

Individual copies are free and \$.50 each in quantities over 10. Call A. Tempel, Environmental Specialist, (908) 226-7621 for information.

1998 GMC Wrestling All-Stars Announced

GMC All-Conference Team

- 103 Tom Noto, South River
- 112 Tom Doerr, South Plainfield
- 119 Griffin Banos, Edison
- Joe Celentano, South Plainfield
- 125 Nick Cilento, Colonia
- 130 Shaun Marosy, Piscataway
- Tim MacLellan, Old Bridge
- 135 Chris Johnston, South Plainfield
- Jeff DiPillo, Colonia
- 140 Jarrod Hahn, Edison
- Jeremy Nowak, John F. Kennedy
- 145 Dave Braine, Bishop Ahr
- 152 Brian Voliva, Piscataway
- Bill Deniz, South River
- 160 Ricky Santos, South River
- 171 Milton LaTorres, South Brunswick
- Felton Monroe, Edison
- 189 Pete Esposito, Old Bridge
- 215 Jimil Johnston, Colonia

Mike McManus, East Brunswick
HWT Colin Hunter, South Plainfield

GMC "Coach Of The Year"

Bill Voliva, Piscataway

All-Red Division Wrestlers

- 103 Chris Hrabar, Piscataway
- 112 Tommy Doerr, South Plainfield
- 119 Griffin Banos, Edison
- Phil Leotta, East Brunswick
- 125 Joe Celentano, South Plainfield
- 130 Shaun Marosy, Piscataway
- Tim MacLellan, Old Bridge
- 135 Randy Reina, John P. Stevens
- 140 Jarrod Hahn, Edison
- Chris Johnston, South Plainfield
- 145 Dave Gangadual, Sayreville
- Russ Leotta, East Brunswick
- 152 Brian Voliva, Piscataway
- 160 Lou Riggi, John P. Stevens
- Mike Reitemeyer, Piscataway
- 171 Ken Goy, Old Bridge
- 189 Pete Esposito, Old Bridge
- Larry Benson, East Brunswick
- 215 Mike McManus, East Brunswick
- Rob Rosant, Old Bridge
- HWT Mike Smith, Old Bridge

Red Division "Coach of The Year"

Bill Pavlak, South Plainfield

Sportsmanship Award

Edison High School

All-White Division Wrestlers

- 103 Joe Gemgnani, Woodbridge
- 112 J. C. Francisco, North Brunswick
- Oliver Risha, South Brunswick
- 119 Joe Herits, Colonia
- 125 Nick Cilento, Colonia
- 130 Jeff Kostiw, Bishop Ahr
- 135 Tom Hydzik, Perth Amboy
- Jeff DiPillo, Colonia
- 140 Ali Lee, Woodbridge
- 145 Dave Braine, Bishop Ahr
- Felix Rodriguez, Perth Amboy
- 152 Rackene Lee, North

- Brunswick
- Kevin Braine, Bishop Ahr
- 160 Rich Chaillot, Bishop Ahr
- Scott Tugya, South Brunswick
- 171 Milton LaTorres, South Brunswick
- T. J. Gavor, Woodbridge
- 189 Alex Montes, Bishop Ahr
- Danny DeJesus, Perth Amboy
- 215 Leo Mateo, Perth Amboy
- HWT Jose Correa, Perth Amboy

White Division

"Coach Of The Year"
Joe Dougherty, So. Brunswick

Sportsmanship Award

North Brunswick High School

All-Blue Division Wrestlers

- 103 Tom Noto, South River
- 104 Ed Gutnik, John F. Kennedy
- 119 Rich Cegelski, Metuchen
- 125 Rich Viera, South River
- 130 Zach Morolda, Monroe Township
- 135 Tom Calise, Spotswood
- Rod Carrera, John F. Kennedy
- 140 Allen Jensen, Metuchen
- John Behan, Spotswood
- 145 Andy Blumenstock, Monroe Township
- Jeremy Nowak, John F. Kennedy
- 152 Tom Gennarelli, John F. Kennedy
- Bill Deniz, South River
- Kevin Falkner, Spotswood
- 160 Rick Santos, South River
- Jeff Horsch, Monroe Township
- 171 Mike Vogt, John F. Kennedy
- Joey Young, South River
- 189 Dan Mar, Spotswood
- 215 Andrew Joyce, Metuchen
- HWT Charles Bowles, Metuchen

Blue Division

"Coach Of The Year"
Bob Ulmer, Metuchen

Sportsmanship Award

Monroe Township High School

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In Level 4, age 10-11, although not winning any individual honors, Jamie Wongbandue of Piscataway earned a spot at the Regional Championships.

In Level 3, age 14-15, in addition to being crowned State Champion on the pommel horse, Nixon, from Somerset, placed second on the still rings, third on both the vault and high bar, sixth on the parallel bars and floor, and third overall. Piscataway's Jonathan McCary finished second on the pommel horse, fourth on the still rings, fifth on the floor and high bar, sixth on the vault, and fourth overall.

Finally, in Level 1, age 16-18, Tim Goetz of South Plainfield had two fifth place finishes in the still rings and vault, three seventh place finishes in the floor, pommel horse and high bar, and an eighth place finish on the parallel bars, earning him sixth place overall. Jason Douglas, Plainfield, competed in only three events but placed in all, eighth on the floor and pommel horse, and tenth on the vault.

Based on their performance, Wongbandue, Donnelly, Glowacki, Gentzel, Nixon, McCary and Goetz qualified to compete against the best gymnasts from seven states at the 1998 Regional Championships to be held at the Parkettes Gym in Allentown, Pa. on April 4th and 5th.

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Spotlight on Darlene Pinto

(Continued from page 4)

school's first Chinese Auction, and it was the most ambitious, profitable fund raiser in the HSA's history. She is also quick to say that it is a record she hopes to beat this year. While other board members were reluctant and nervous about undertaking such a formidable endeavor, Darlene's confidence was both contagious and reassuring.

According to a fellow HSA board member, "The rest of us didn't have a clue how to do this. It was Darlene's idea, and she was sure that we could make it work."

Darlene laughs when posed the question every working mother is inevitably asked — how do you do it all? She immediately credits her husband and children for making it all possible.

"I have great, well adjusted

kids," Darlene explains. "And my husband, Andy, supports my efforts 100 percent. Without his encouragement, none of this would be feasible. It also works out well that I am at Pinto Brothers or Twice Is Nice when the kids are at school, and most of my town meetings are in the evening when Andy is home, and the kids are asleep. When we get stuck in a tight spot, my mother-in-law always helps out."

Best friend Maria Elena describes Darlene, "As essentially a dynamo. She has the talent and drive to beautifully balance her home and career. She is as involved with her children as she is with her business interests. She is also a loyal, dependable friend. She is a very tenacious, determined lady."

Darlene's three children, Andrew, almost 10; Rachel, 7 and Gerry, 5 smile and say enthusiastically that their mom is definitely the best, and they are very proud of her. While they do think it is very impressive that Darlene helped to put the Labor Day celebration together, what matters most to them is, quite understandably, that she's their mom.

"My mother is really nice," Andrew says. "She loves us very much. She takes us to the video store, helps with homework, and lets our friends come over to play." Rachel and Gerry concur, adding that "she also makes the best chicken in the world!"

BOROUGH NOTES

(Continued from page one)

The Fire Department does not solicit money by phone. If you receive a call for a donation, please call the police department immediately.

■ Officer Joe Papa will donate his time to work at Project Graduation this year.

■ Metuchen Team Sports was awarded the contract to provide athletic equipment for the Borough's 1998 recreation program at a cost not to exceed \$4,457. Metuchen Team Sports was the low bidder.

■ Dominos Pizza will provide pizza to the Pool Concession for the South Plainfield Community Pool.

■ Karen Hogan will become a full time police telecommunicator. Ms. Hogan is presently employed as a part-time telecommunicator at the police department.

■ Petriello Landscaping was awarded the contract for the lawn and ground maintenance at the Community Swimming Pool for the 1998 season. Petriello was the only proposal generated from a solicitation for proposals in accordance with borough and state purchasing procedures.

Planning Board

■ Woodland Manor Associates application requesting amendments to their previously approved final site was granted. Each unit will now have its own storage unit. Because of the water level, 40,000 pounds of fill will be needed.

■ Lutheran Ministries made changes to their previously granted site plan. There will be 101 units in the proposed senior citizen housing unit. The changes to the site plan were granted.

Rescue Squad Plans New Course

(Continued from page one)

cate the time necessary. Unless we can recruit new members to help carry some of the weight, South Plainfield may be forced to resort to other sources of EMS coverage for at least part of each day.

The squad is planning an open house Sunday, May 17 in celebration of national EMS Week.

History of the Rescue Squad

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad was established in 1944 and remains staffed strictly by volunteers. Every municipality surrounding South Plainfield (Piscataway, Edison and Plainfield) uses paid EMS help at same point during the day or night.

As of March 1, 1998 the rescue squad had 26 active, volunteer riding members providing 24-hour coverage to the borough's approximately 22,000 residents (6800 plus homes) as well as to hundreds of businesses.

Riding members are all EMTs trained in first aid and CPA. Each riding member volunteers at least 75 hours per month for duty. Additional training classes (such as defibrillation, extrication and paramedic assistant courses), recertification trainings (such as CPR renewal each year), squad board and committee meetings, building and ambulance maintenance time, open houses and additional on-call duty bring most members volunteer closer to 100 hours each month.

The initial EMT certification course involves 130 hours of class, practical and emergency room observation time, followed by a probationary period for each new EMT. The EMT recertification course, which must be completed every three years, is a 30-hour program.

Last year SPRS Volunteers answered 1,637 calls for help from homes and businesses throughout the borough. Rescue squad volunteers save South Plainfield's homeowners and business owners tens of thousands of dollars in emer-

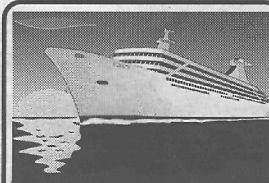
gency services salaries each year, help keep taxes down and help residents avoid paying for private ambulance services.

The squad relies heavily on donations from residents and businesses to pay for insurance and supplies, to reimburse members for mandatory classes once they complete them successfully, for building upkeep and so many other costs associated with running a rescue squad. The squad never charges for its services.

NOTABLE MENTION

William and Renee Dunn, residing in Chalfont, Pa., are the proud parents of Matthew Francis, who weighed in at 10 pounds on March 30. Matthew has four brothers at home who are delighted that they can now form their own basketball team.

Renee is the daughter of Wayne and Nancy Grennier of South Plainfield. This addition is the seventh grandchild for the Grenniers.



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Our Lady of Czestochowa Church Easter Schedule

Rev. John M. Skwara, Pastor
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Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday 3:00 p.m.
Stations 7:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Mass
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. &
12:15 p.m.



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Sacred Heart Church

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Very Rev. Michael A.
McGuire, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon

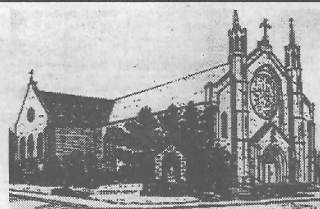
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7, 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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Obituaries

■ Mae J. Stranzenbach, 87

Mae J. Stranzenbach died on Monday, March 31 in Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Poland, Mrs. Stranzenbach came to the United States at a very early age and resided in Brooklyn, New York. She had lived in South Plainfield and North Plainfield for many years. She had resided in Pennsylvania for 16 years before moving to Rahway in 1986.

She was a former member of the Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield.

Mrs. Stranzenbach was a homemaker.

Her husband, Fred E. Stranzenbach, Sr. died in 1985.

Surviving are a daughter, Joan Ryan of Carteret; four sons, Richard of South Plainfield, Roger of Neschanic Station, Larry of Voluntary, Conn. and Robert of Rahway.

Also surviving are 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

■ Helen M. (Bretch) Romer, 88

Helen M. (Bretch) Romer died on Thursday, March 19 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Carthage, NY and had resided in Fords for most of her life before entering the JFK Hartwyck Convalescent Center at Cedarbrook in Plainfield in 1993.

During the 1940's and 1950's Mrs. Romer had owned and operated, with her late husband, the former Park Bowling Academy in Highland Park and later the Spotswood Lanes in Spotswood. In 1957 they opened the Joe Romer Trophy Shop at their original location in Metuchen, where Cryan's Restaurant is today. They later relocated to Fords and in 1986 relocated the shop to its present location on Route 1 South in Avenel. She retired in 1993.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords.

Her husband, Joseph J. Romer died in 1982 and she is also predeceased by her sister, Marion Bretch.

Surviving are her daughter, Shirley Feaster of Littleton, Colo. and a son, Joseph G. Romer of

South Plainfield. Also surviving are six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

■ Kevin D. Leavitt, 45

Kevin D. Leavitt died on Friday, March 20 at his home in Middlesex.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Leavitt had resided in the Central New Jersey area and in Piscataway for 15 years before settling in Middlesex five years ago.

He was a 1972 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Mr. Leavitt had been employed by Marriott Management and Services Corporation in the buildings and grounds department for the South Plainfield Board of Education. He was previously employed by the South Plainfield Board of Education in the grounds and maintenance department for 20 years before privatization with Marriott.

He was an avid sports fan. Mr. Leavitt was an assistant coach for the South Plainfield Varsity Football Team, a volunteer coach for Piscataway Recreation girls softball teams, an avid bowler with the Wednesday Night Bowling League at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway and the Men's Thursday Night Industrial Softball League in Piscataway.

He was a member of the National Bowlers Congress and the Flanagan's Breakfast Club of Flanagan's Restaurant of South Plainfield, as well as an avid fan of the New York Rangers and the New York Yankees.

He is predeceased by his father, Thomas Gorman who died in November of 1992.

Surviving are his wife Bettie (Anderson) Leavitt; two daughters, Stefanie Corliss of Middlesex and Deborah Corliss of Dunellen; his mother, Lois Eggers and stepfather David Eggers of Piscataway; two sisters, Lois Feber of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. and Debra Panek of East Brunswick and seven brothers, Michael Leavitt of Seaside Heights, Steve Leavitt of Manasquan Park, Paul Graczyk of Piscataway, Thomas Gorman of Spotswood, Darren Gorman of South Plainfield, James Gorman of Piscataway and Wayne Graczyk of Japan. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews and his two cats, Bear and Precious.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

■ Ludwig C. Michalewsky, 78

Ludwig C. Michalewsky died on Tuesday, March 24 in the Palm Garden of Largo Nursing Home in Largo, Fla.

Born in New York, Mr. Michalewsky had resided in South Plainfield for many years before moving to Clearwater, Fla. in 1984.

He had been employed as a laboratory technician for Union Carbide Plastics of Piscataway for 28 years before retiring in 1981.

He had served in the United States Army during WW II and was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He was a member of the American Legion Iselin Post #471 and a member of the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church in Edison, where he had been ordained as an Elder of the church.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Marven Michalewsky; two sons, David of Somerville and Warren of South Plainfield. Also surviving is his granddaughter, Allyson Michalewsky of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund, 455 Plainfield Ave., Edison, NJ or The Hospice of the Florida Sun Coast, 300 East Bay Drive, Largo, Florida 33770.

■ Agnes R. (Kennedy) Murphy, 80

Agnes R. (Kennedy) Murphy died on Sunday, March 22 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lyons.

Mrs. Murphy was born in Kearny and had resided in Califon, Warren Township, for many years, as well as Dunellen for a brief while, before she entered the Veterans Administration Nursing Care Facility in Lyons in 1995.

During WW II she enlisted in Army and served with the Woman Army Corps (WAC), serving State-side. She had been stationed at various Army hospitals as a nursing assistant. At the time of her discharge, she held the rank of sergeant.

For 15 years, Mrs. Murphy had worked in electronic production with the former Burroughs-Unisys Corporation at the company's Warren facility. She retired in 1982.

She was a member of the Penn-Jersey WAC Vets #74 and a member of The American Legion Post #0447 of Trenton.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

■ Lucien F. Romeo, 70

Lucien F. Romeo died on Sunday, March 15 at the Kimball Medical Center, Lakewood.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Romeo had resided in Plainfield where he was a graduate of Plainfield High School, and has resided in Piscataway for the past 41 years.

He was employed as an instrument mechanic for Bristol-Myers Squibb of New Brunswick for 23 years before retiring in 1989.

Mr. Romeo had served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, and had served as a 10th Core Ranger. He was also a member of the Squibb Retirees Club.

His brother, Anthony Romeo died in 1958.

Surviving are his wife, Eunice C. (Vogel) Romeo; a daughter, Gayle L. Welch-Jackson; two sons, Frederick of Lake Hopatcong, NJ and Robert of Peach Tree City, Ga.; a brother, Robert of Hollywood, Fla. Also surviving are eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs Longbothum
and Eric Tillman



Welcome back, I'm suspecting everyone is enjoying the early Spring weather and getting ready for some serious gardening, sun worshipping, camping-fishing-hiking, and baseball (Let's go Yanks). I know I am, and shame on you if you're not! I've got to start with a short rant this time around. It has to do with basic manners and respect. And yes that does apply in cyber space too. With laptops and PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) that access the Internet for email etc., please be careful to always use proper telephone area codes. I suffer the unfortunate coincidence of having the same phone number as an Internet POP (Point of Presence) in another area code. Locally you don't need to use the area code, but out of area you do! You would not believe how often some slug's computer dials my number when he forgets he's out of his local area! I ALWAYS track down these butt-heads, and of course they're always apologetic, but I shouldn't have to do that. Please be careful when mobile computing. Thank you in advance. (Now if I can only find a way to charge for machine dialed wrong numbers).

TIP: It helps to spend a few minutes polishing your keyboard and typing skills. You can do that online with "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing" at www.mavisbeacon.com and "Power Typing" at www.kagi.com/edicom/typing.html. I thought I was good, but now I'm better thanks to these fun programs and self-tests.

TIP: And just when you thought you were ready to graduate high school or if you already have, try www.bremenbraves.com/algebra/index.html for a fun look back on linear equations. (What's that you say, linear what?) I did ok, how about you?

TIP: Here is another good way to use your computer and email program together. Next time you get a roll of film developed, ask the store clerk to also put your prints on a floppy diskette. You can access these pictures on your computer and send them as is or "edited" to friends and relatives anywhere. A great way to share some fun moments with others in far away places. Go to www.kodak.com for more info. There is a difference between diskettes for pictures and "photo-CDs." The CDs hold more (650MB Vs 1.44MB) and this greater capacity allows more pictures etc. Have fun with this.

Last issue we were buying a new computer and we were learning about how to buy smartly. The prices are down still lower now than before.

I'm know I keep harping on the same theme, but when you need service on your computer large superstores will either keep your machine for weeks to fix it or you'll have to deal directly with the manufacturer for service. To get that service: 1) you either have to burn a lot of time waiting on hold to get them on the phone and then; 2) maybe burn some more

while they try and get YOU to fix it by talking you through it (is that what you had in mind?). That or schedule to have a contract technician come by your home for a house call. And then 3) you have to be there when the tech guy shows up late! All the while, you're likely to be out of your machine's full use for several days at best.

TIP: Be sure to buy very locally where you can drop off your computer one day, and pick it up the next! Bingo! Doesn't this sound more like what you really want! Unless you can fix it yourself for sure and in a timely fashion, think wisely about from whom and where you buy.

TIP: The Trenton Computer Fair (www.tcf.com) is coming up April 18-19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. As the 23rd edition, this is the world's longest running and oldest PC show. And Big too! Make it a date and also check out the website for details and special seminars you won't want to miss. Including "how to build your own computer and save even more!" "The Internet for marketing, investing, fun etc." This is the show to attend. I'll see you there. In fact, I'll defer to TCF for the best in computer buying advice.

TIP: Check into the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey (ACGNJ) website at www.acgnj.org for meeting times and places (usually Scotch Plains Rescue Squad building second floor) for informal group meetings on subjects which would be very beneficial to you. I've been a part of this group for a year and a half and they are a very helpful lot. Their monthly newsletter is full of good stuff too. Go ahead and bookmark their website and check in often. This is a very active group and in addition to the main meeting, there are special interest groups that in total meet about 18 times a month.

TIP: The Internet is a wonderful place. In particular, the Layman's Forum and PC Users Group are great for "newbies" as is the Random Access group which focuses on PC problems.

Before signing off for this week, I would ask all you Internet fans to hammer harder on Comcast Online to bring their cable modem internet access to South Plainfield. We're in the second quarter of 1998 and this marks the third time they've missed their own date to deliver for us. When someone tells me they are going to do something by a certain date, I rather expect them to do it. When they don't come through, shame on them. When I don't voice disapproval, shame on me! I really hope I'm not the only one who's holding their feet to the fire. Call them and let them know you tired of them dancing on South Plainfield. Remember how other cable companies have been dumped for poor performance. This outfit is off to a real poor start and they're not even online yet! Don't let them forget it! We can make it happen. See you all next issue.

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Next issue deadline
is April 16.

POLICE REPORT

• An elderly women was knocked down and her purse, containing \$501, was snatched in the parking lot of the Acme store on Park Ave. The suspects fled in a car. The woman was taken to Muhlenberg Hospital for treatment. Witness gave police a description of the suspects and the car. Plainfield police spotted the car and pursued it, but lost it. It was later seen parked on a street in Plainfield, but the car was unoccupied. Police searched the car and in it they found a purse with ID from an Edison resident. When they went to the address in Edison, the son of the owner of the car was identified by a witness and he fit the description given. He was taken into custody and later admitted he and a friend had snatched the purse. The mother of the suspect later searched her house,

Resident Sentenced For Sexual Assault

Christian D. Bizer was charged with sexually assaulting his five year old niece while living in South Plainfield. At the time of the sexual assault she was residing in the same house as Bizer.

Bizer pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to seven years in prison. He will also have community supervision for life. He must register with the police department in any community he will reside after his release from custody.

found the money and turned it over to the police. The victim's purse was also found on a street corner in Plainfield.

• A car parked at Home Depot had the side door window smashed and a CD/player and several tapes stolen.

• Black spray paint was sprayed all over a car parked at Canada Dry on Durham Ave. The doors, trunk and hood were all painted black.

• A Dodge minivan was stolen from a resident on Edgar Ave. on the night

of April 2. The keys were in the ignition.

• Police stopped a vehicle which had expired plates. The suspect got out of the car, locked it and refused to give either proper ID or unlock the car. He was placed under arrest and became abusive. Police had to use OC spray to subdue him. He also spit at the officers and became abusive. He was charged with obstruction of justice and simple assault.

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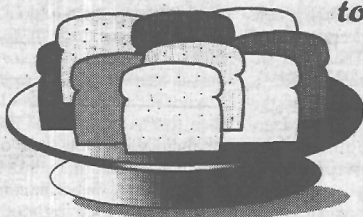
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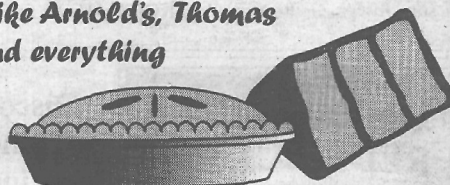
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Feast your eyes on all the goodies we carry from master-bakers at Freihofer's! Pick three, any kind whatsoever, and the lowest price box is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in South Plainfield with this coupon. Limit two free boxes per customer per visit. While supplies last.



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We're giving away top-quality bread baked by Arnold and Freihofer's! Pick any three loaves, and the lowest price loaf is your free. Only at Freihofer's Outlet in So. Plainfield with this coupon. Limit one free loaf per customer per visit. While supplies last.



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