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# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 2, NO. 9

50 CENTS

JANUARY 8, 1999



Standing are Councilmembers Dennis Cerami, Darlene Pinto, Ray Petronko and Vinnie Buttiglieri; sitting, Ed Kubula, Mayor Dan Gallagher and James Vokral.

## Council, Mayor Sworn in at Reorganization Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 3 marked the day the Borough Mayor and Council were officially sworn in. The Reorganization meeting, usually held on New Year's Day, was re-

See page 5 for mayor's inaugural address

scheduled so that families could enjoy the New Year holiday together. The weather proved to be the only thing that dampened the celebration. The heavy downpour

did not stop the turnout for the ceremonies. Borough Hall was packed with officials, guests and friends, many of them standing. Dan Gallagher was sworn in as mayor for an unprecedented the third time. Also sworn in were Councilman Dennis Cerami, who was reelected to a second term and newly elected Councilwoman Darlene Pinto.

Darlene replaces the seat vacated by John Pulomena, who chose not to run for reelection.

John, who currently serves as Middlesex County Freeholder, received a Plaque of Appreciation from the mayor and council for his public service to the community. Pulomena thanked all those he has worked with during the last few years and said he will attend future council meetings as a spectator.

The Mayor's speech outlined some of the accomplishments of the past year. It also promised to

Continued on page 5

## Observer Publishes Weekly!

In response to readers requests, the *South Plainfield Observer* will be published weekly beginning with this issue. Please note that the publication date will be Friday instead of Thursday.

So look for *The Observer* every Friday from now on. This newspaper is the only vehicle residents have to get a complete overview of South Plainfield activities, happenings and local advertisers - always presented in a positive light.

We live in a very busy town. Activities are always taking place. If you would like us to cover an event, be sure to call us well ahead of time. At the bottom of page two we provide information on how to submit pictures and copy.

There are also phone and fax numbers as well as e-mail information. Take advantage of this newspaper and inform us as to what your organization or group is doing.

We are still looking at several sites in South Plainfield to relocate our office. We'll keep you informed about where and when we move.

Again, we must remind you that all of this cannot be done without the help of our advertisers, who have been very supportive for the past year and a half. Visit their stores and businesses to tell them how glad you are that they support the *Observer*.

If you have ideas or suggestions about what you would like to see in the newspaper or you would like to submit a story or happening in your life, we welcome them - the more local news, the better.

Every issue of *The Observer* has a subscription blank. Just fill it out, send in your check and you will be guaranteed to be a part of the latest happenings in South Plainfield.

## Special Meeting Called

A special public meeting has been called by Mayor Gallagher for the entire Governing Body on Monday, Jan. 11, at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall. The purpose of meeting is to introduce Salary Ordinance.

## Secret Santa Makes Christmas Wishes Come True for Kids

By Patricia Abbott

The Secret Santa project began with a simple question Mary Sacks pondered, "Where is my money going when I donate to a charity?" The media often reports of organizations that claim part of donations as "expenses". Mary wanted to see 100% of her donations go directly to the needy. And three years ago she single-handedly set out to accomplish just that. Thus, Project Secret Santa was born.

Mary and her ever growing list of "elves" help local families who need an extra boost to provide a special Christmas for their children and to get through the holidays. This year Mary's Secret Santa project provided gifts for 44 children. On Dec. 19, the courtroom at Borough Hall was the site of a fun-filled party complete with Santa and Mrs. Clause. The event featured reindeer rides, Frosty the Snowman, pizza and other goodies as well as a box full of wrapped wonders for each child. Santa greeted each child by name as he handed out the parcels to the

wide-eyed guests. Four pickup trucks were needed to transport the gifts from Mary's house to Borough Hall. Volunteers lined up the boxes behind Santa. Each box was labeled with a child's name. The mayor, council and board of education members were on hand, as well as Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Guy Ferri.

### How it all Began

Mary related the beginnings of the project. She noted that she never expected it to be come so big. She wanted to help children whose Christmas might not include gifts from Santa. "I don't give my own kids used toys for Christmas," she says. "Every child deserves new toys." Three years ago Mary spotted brand new, unopened toys at garage sales. With an eye for a bargain, she purchased them, knowing that the prices were far less than that in a retail store. She searched for sales in stores as well. She contacted friends for help and donations poured in. Word of mouth al-

lowed the project to blossom almost overnight. She contacted Marge Ackerman of the South Plainfield Welfare Department and received a list of children she could help. Mary opened her home to volunteers who helped wrap and label the mountain of gifts. The packages were stored in her home until Christmas. The first year Mary invited 22 children and their families into her home for a party and presented them surprise gifts from Santa. Georgeann DiGrazia and Bill Cochrane played "Santa" at the first party.

Mary realized that Project Secret Santa was expanding beyond the boundaries of her home. Mary spoke to Marion Gallagher, a staunch supporter of this project, who then spoke to her husband, Mayor Dan Gallagher, about the location dilemma. Dan immediately offered the use of the courtroom for their second party.

The project began to grow at an incredible rate. Mary said that many people who would not nor-

Continued on page 5



Just a few of the many gifts given out by Mary and her 'elves'.

*In my*  
**OPINION**

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library want to thank you and the *South Plainfield Observer* for your help in advertising our collecting of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves during the holiday season.

They have been delivered to the Fish Organization.

**SINCERELY,  
DORIS A. LANT, RECORDING  
SECRETARY**

To the Observer,

On December 14th, the sound of fire engines roared and lights were flashing. No it wasn't a fire (Thank God!), it was jolly old St. Nick.

I can't thank the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department enough for putting a sparkle in my children's (Mark, 6 and Megan, 4) eyes.

They went to sleep with sugar plums dancing in their minds and they had me crying with joy.

Keep up the good work!

**MR. & MRS. SCOTT ROSMAN**

To the Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their extraordinary efforts in making our Christmas, along with all the other families in our community, a very special and most enjoyable one. To see the

look of joy and excitement on the children's faces, when the fire truck pulled up in front of our house with Santa, was priceless and from the expressions on their faces, the firemen, along with Santa, had the same look!

I know from speaking to some of the firemen and also watching them, that their hearts and souls were in this 100 percent.

MY HATS OFF TO ALL OF YOU!

**PATTI AND JOHN HIAVKA**

To The Editor

Over the past few months, three local Girl Scouts have undertaken a large task, collecting items for the many hurricane victims. Their collection included cash, clothing, food, first aid items and baby needs, just to name a few. The drive also collected over 100 winter coats, which were not needed in the hurricane hit areas, so they were donated to other organizations. The drive was their way of earning their Silver Award, the highest award you can earn as a Cadette Scout.

The task could not have been completed without the help of many including: Marriott Services, for the contribution of containers to place the donated items in; Innovative Folding Carton and Squirre Corrugated, for the donation of the many boxes;

Halls Fast Motor Freight, for the use of a trailer to store items in a location to sort and box, and their willingness to transport the 225 plus boxes to the drop off point in Perth Amboy.

The girls made a connection with the 7th Day Adventist Church in Perth Amboy who will ship them to Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. The cash will be given to the Red Cross.

The people of South Plainfield really came through to help this needy cause! On behalf of Stefanie Zarra, Cheryl Yates and Mary Otowski, thank you, you made their project a success!

**GINA ZARRA, LYN YATES,  
CO-LEADERS**

Dear Secret Santas,

The cat got out of the bag this year. Let me start off by telling you we did it for the third year, with many more to come. This year, as you know we were able to provide gifts for 44 children. In my eyes this year was the best, but it couldn't have happened without all of you.

To Miss Erickson and members of Franklin School PTA, along with staff and children, you gave me such a great start this year. We were able to add more children to the list. I also wish to thank the following: first to my husband Bob and my children and parents for dealing with my moods while under stress; then to my friends Diane and Alison, who reach out to everyone during this very trying time and to Marge Ackerman and Dan and Marion Gallagher, you really make this work for my friends and myself.

Others I wish to thank are Georgeann, owner of Mohn's Flowers, the entire Butrico family, Sue for reaching out to so many families at church. Also thanks to Sue Gaughan, Sue Desdranda, Bob and Sandy Buck, Simone, Brian and Mary Cargnill, the Scavone Family, Doctor Ferrante and Family, Linda Duquetta, Lori Smith, Debra Kravic, Maria Huber, Michelle Bellich, Alice Dembia, Karen Ciampi, Menak Destefano, Ivan and Marisa Palme, Ellen Gentile, Sherry Butrico, Beth Caldrony, Chris the owner of Domino's Pizza and Debbie Chabok.

I also wish to thank Ms. Mruz and Mrs. Winston for their help in putting boxes in the classes. Also to Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ferri, Mrs. Stillman and Mrs. Kane — thank you for taking time out to join all of us on this very special day. I apologize to all who I may have left out. Thanks for standing with me on this very special project.

**MARY SACKS**

(See story on front page)

**DEADLINE FOR COPY**

We invite you to send in your letter or opinion on subjects pertinent to South Plainfield. If you choose to not have your name published let us know, however, you must provide your name and phone number when submitting a letter.

To have your copy included, submit by Friday, 5 p.m. for publication in the following week's edition.

Copy can be dropped off at Mohn's Flowers, Plainfield Ave., Twice Is Nice, Front St. or e-mail us at nancyg@spobserver.com. Mail to G&G Graphics 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax at 732-805-0815.

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO**

**Middle School Parents/Guardians:**

Although student backpacks have become almost a way of life across America, we are concerned that the popular devices are creating a safety problem in our school. Our hallways are crowded during the passage times. When students place their backpacks on the floor in order to remove books and supplies, other students and faculty members must navigate between and among them, thereby causing a safety problem.

Moreover, in classrooms some backpacks find their way into the aisle between rows of desks, increasing the risk of tripping accidents. Still another concern is the sheer weight of the backpacks. When fully loaded, some of them weigh 25 pounds or more. There are many other situations, too numerous to mention, but be assured that we are convinced that backpacks are a disruption to the learning environment.

Therefore, beginning on Monday, Jan. 4, 1999, backpacks will no longer be used to carry books and supplies between classes, including lunch. Students may use backpacks to transport instructional materials to and from school. Once in school, the backpacks are to be placed in hall lockers until the end of the day.

As a result of this decision, students will be allowed to go to their hall lockers between classes to get necessary items. It is important that you help us reinforce to your child that this change will require organization and efficiency on their part so that they will arrive to class on time.

Your children deserve a safe environment. We feel that this decision, together with your support, will have a positive impact.

**Sincerely,  
Robert Doggett, Middle School Principal**

**Local Resident Opens  
Martial Arts Academy**

South Plainfield native and owner of *American Renaissance Martial Arts Academy (A.R.M.A. Academy)* Ken Andes is presently offering readers of the *Observer* gift certificates for one free month of martial arts lessons as part of the grand opening of his new school, which is located in the *Italian American Progressive League* on Garibaldi Ave., near Roosevelt School.

Andes, a holder of three black belts with over ten years of experience in the martial arts and a board certified social worker, founded *A.R.M.A. Academy* with

the goal of providing the highest quality instruction in self-defense, physical fitness and personal growth for his students. "I've been teaching the martial arts for several years now," says Andes, "and nothing has given me more enjoyment than watching my students become great martial artists who possess the confidence and skills to achieve anything they want in life. That's my promise to them."

For more information about *Ken or A.R.M.A. Academy*, check out the web site at [www.armaacademy.com](http://www.armaacademy.com).

**Just in Case You Missed It...**

If you haven't had time yet to check the ads in this issue, here are a few bargains you might not be aware of. Check the ads for coupons and use them when you shop.

**American Renaissance Academy** - Welcome to town this new business, which is offering one free month of karate lessons as a grand opening special. See page 3.

**Freihofer's**—You can get a free dessert or loaf of bread when you buy two, with a coupon. See page 12.

Many local merchants and professionals support this newspaper by advertising in the *Observer*. If you need a service or product, why not try one of our advertisers and make sure you tell them you saw their ad in the *Observer*.

**CORRECTION**

In the December 17 issue, the story titled "Michael English Appointed Director of Recreation Director," the names of the recreation commissioners who served on the search committee was incorrect. The commissioners were Jim Curcio, Bill Cochrane and Mike Alveras. We regret the error.

**Sacred Heart Principal's List**

In last issue, when we listed the names of the Sacred Heart Principal's List, we omitted the name of Rachel Pinto from grade 2B.

In order to be placed on the principal's list, students must have achieved As on their report cards. We are sorry for the omission.

**South Plainfield  
Observer**

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**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES**

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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 e-mail us on the web page at [spobserver.com](http://spobserver.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

1. Make sure the photograph is sharp and bright.
2. Black and white pictures are preferred.
3. 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.
4. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.

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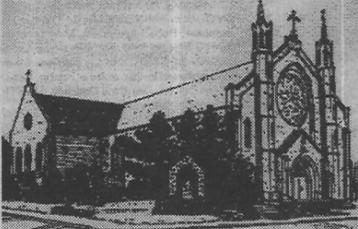
Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

**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**

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 5:15 -5:45 p.m.  
and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



# Residents Object to New Senior Housing

A large group of residents who live in the area around the proposed senior housing on the corner of Morris and Cedarcroft attended the Borough Council meeting held on Dec. 17 to voice their objection to the proposed plans.

The majority of the residents complained about building a five story building in a residential area. They said repeatedly that nowhere in South Plainfield is there a five story building in a residential neighborhood. They asked that the plans be modified for a three story building.

Mayor Gallagher said he would meet with the Lutheran Ministries, the builders of the proposed senior housing project, and pass on the residents' objections. He also added that the plans have been underway for a

long time. The Lutheran Ministry has been in front of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments and already received approval for the senior housing project.

The site was originally used as a police firing range and was thought to be contaminated. There have been extensive studies of the environmental content of the soil and for Indian artifacts. After years of delays, these studies have been resolved and the go-ahead has been given to build the senior housing.

Mayor Gallagher added that South Plainfield seniors will not be guaranteed housing, but will be given preference. He also reminded residents that this project is part of a court-ordered settlement which designated this senior housing project.



Pictured left to right: Capt. Gear; Dale Jayne and Bill Jayne from Hall's Fast Motor Freight; Bobbie Dowling from Degussa Corp.; Stanley Niemczyk from Statewide Environmental and Kevin Gennarelli from United Steel Deck.

## Police Department Gets New Emergency Lifesaving Equipment

In its continuing effort to obtain new, innovative technology to provide the community of South Plainfield with increased services, the police department has announced the acquisition of new emergency medical equipment.

On Dec. 15, the South Plainfield Police Department received three automated external heart defibrillators to use as lifesaving devices for sudden heart attack victims. These units, the Forerunner Heartstream Semi-automatic Defibrillator, are manufactured by the Hewlett Packard Corporation and distributed by The Laerdal Medical Corp.

The purpose of instituting defibrillators for police use is due to the fact that in any emergency, (but especially those involving sudden heart attacks) which requires the need of basic and/or advanced life support services, the police department is usually the first to arrive at the scene. The Emergency Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation Techniques employed during the first several minutes of a sudden heart attack episode is critical. These units would provide essential, on scene medical information prior to the arrival of the basic or advanced life support units and will provide a course of action necessary to increase the probability of saving the life of the heart attack victim.

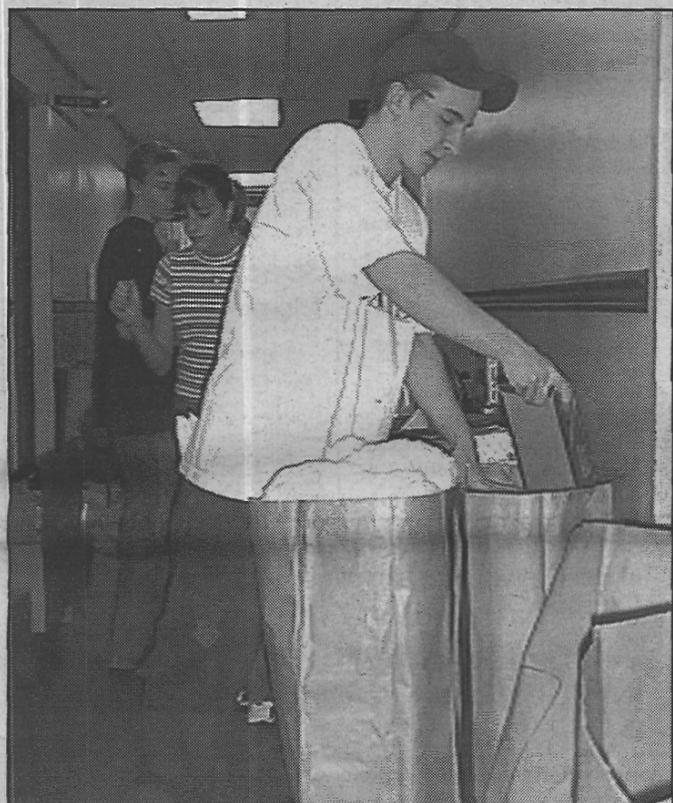
The three defibrillators will initially be carried by specially trained patrol division personnel while they are performing their regular duties. It is projected that eventually all police officers will be trained in their use and that more units will be added.

The cost of each unit, with all accompanying software, hardware, case and equipment is approximately \$3,800. The entire cost of \$11,400 for the three defibrillators was provided by the generous donations of the following South Plainfield businesses: the Degussa Corporation/Metal Division; Halls Fast Motor

Freight, Inc.; Statewide Environmental Company and United Steel Deck, Inc.

On Dec. 18 representatives of these corporations were recognized at Police Headquarters for their important contribution to the community and to the residents of South Plainfield by the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation, issued by Chief of Police Steven A. Merkler and presented in his absence by Captain John Gear.

It is anticipated that after training and the installation of required computer software. The units will be placed into service in the early part of January 1999.



## Eric Toth Holds Toy Drive

Eric Toth of Boy Scout Troop 309 conducted a toy drive for underprivileged children as his Eagle Scout project. Eric said he wanted a project that would benefit the community. He chose a toy drive because he had participated in similar projects and felt he had enough experience and knowledge to run a successful drive.

The project exceeded his expectations. A week before Christmas, huge bags lined a corridor of Borough Hall. Eric and his many assistants moved from bag to bag, filling them to the top with age appropriate gifts.

Eric began work on the project in November. He approached stores and businesses throughout town requesting donations of new toys. Boxes for donations were placed in a number of locations; elementary schools, library, administration building, and Borough Hall.

Eric said that the donations started poured in. He was surprised and pleased to find donations of new clothing, as well as toys. Helping Eric to help those in need were members of his troop, family and friends and Girl Scouts.

## Weekend Storm Causes Havoc in the Borough

Last weekend's heavy torrential rains, which were first predicted as snow, wreaked havoc around town.

The storm began during the early morning hours of Sunday and the roads around town immediately became slick with black ice causing several motor vehicle accidents.

Sgt. Michael Grennier, who responded to an early a.m. call, slipped on the ice and fell. He is hospitalized with a compression

fracture in his back.

Maxims, located on Oak Tree Road, had to call out the fire department when their automatic sprinkler system burst, flooding the front of the store. The interior of the store was not affected by the flooding.

The shopping center located on the corner of Clinton Ave. and Seventh St. was also extensively flooded when basement pipes burst, causing extensive flooding to the building.

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# Cooperative Education Teams Up With Foley, Ind. to Recruit Students



Pictured are Board of Education member Frank Mikorski, Cooperative Education Advisors John Lartaud and Deirdre Falato, Glenn Carrezola and Joe Janda representing Foley, Ind. and Emil Leporino from Vision 2001.

Representatives from Foley, Ind., a trucking and heavy duty equipment operator, came to talk to the students in the Cooperative Education Classes at South Plainfield High School on Dec. 11. The visit was made possible through the combined efforts of Board of Education Member Frank Mikorski, Emil Leporino of Vision 2001, Foley employee Larry Randolph, along with the Cooperative Education Advisors Deirdre Falato and John Lartaud. The purpose of the visit was to introduce and possibly recruit students for employment at Foley, Ind.

Training Coordinator Glenn Carrezola started the discussion off by telling students about the wide range of employment opportunities Foley has to offer. He explained that Foley presently has seven locations and over 400 employees. He also emphasized that the image of the repair person has changed in the last few years. Heavy equipment and trucks now use computers and sophisticated equipment to keep them maintained and in good repair. A videotape was shown further explaining employment opportunities at Foley and the type of education and experience required. Foley is also willing to school some of their employees.

Also speaking were Marketing Manager Joe Janda and Field Service Manager Larry Randolph. Larry is a resident of South Plainfield and a member of the Environmental Commission. Joe Janda

personally invited the students to tour the Foley facility in nearby Piscataway and see what job opportunities Foley has to offer cooperative education students.

As a result of their visit, two stu-

dents, Peter Papa and Brad Carlton were hired and are presently working at their Piscataway location. Peter is working as a diesel mechanic and Brad is in engineering as a computer draftsman.



Glenn Carrezola explains to the Cooperative Education class some the benefits of working for Foley, Inc.

## events around town

### Our Lady of Czestochowa Hosts Parish Wafer Supper

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish will be hosting their annual "Parish Wafer Supper" on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Hall on Hamilton Blvd. Music will be by Frank Szencik and his oompah band, "The Happy Tones."

Donation for adults is \$12 and children 6-12 years is \$5. For reservations, call Isabelle at (908) 561-6367.

### Annual Rabies Clinic to be Held

The annual South Plainfield Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs will be held on Friday, Jan. 15 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 16 from 9 a.m.-noon.

The rabies clinic will take place at the Borough Garage located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave. Dog and cat licenses will be available. Cats must be in a carrier.

For more information call 226-7631.

### Renaissance Kingdom Auditions

The 1999 New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom will be holding auditions January 14 through 17. The audition schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 14, 6:30-10 p.m.—Musicians and Dancers.

Friday, Jan. 15, 6:30-10 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 16, 12 noon-6 p.m.—Actors of all types: comedy, Shakespeare, improvisational, storytellers, fighters, jugglers, villagers and many more roles available for men and women ages six and older.

Sunday, Jan. 17 will be call-backs for all roles.

All auditions are at the Hampton Inn on Davidson Ave. in Somerset. Call (732) 356-1497 ext. 2 for additional information, or visit our website at [www.NJKingdom.com](http://www.NJKingdom.com). The festival runs Saturday and Sunday, May 22 to June 27, including Memorial Day, from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rehearsals are scheduled to begin in mid-February.

### Historical Society Meeting

The South Plainfield Historical Society plans to meet Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the high school library at 7:30 p.m.. The public is invited.

### Special Public Meeting Called

A special public meeting has been called by Mayor Gallagher for the entire governing body on Monday, Jan. 11, 1999 at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall. The purpose of meeting is to introduce Salary Ordinance.

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 information to 732 805-0815.

# Jan 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Friends of the Library 7:30 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm	Copy Deadline for next <i>Observer</i> Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Historical Society HS Library 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
School Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	BOD Meeting 8 pm Early Dismissal All Schools Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am & 7 pm		Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
DARE Graduation Franklin 1:45 pm	DARE Graduation Sacred Heart 11:45 am	Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	DARE Graduation Roosevelt 1:45 pm Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	DARE Graduation Kennedy 1:45 pm	DARE Graduation Riley 1:45 pm	Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>
	Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm			Borough Council Meeting 8 pm		

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Mary Sachs and the many "elves" who bring Christmas cheer to local needy children.

## Secret Santa Project *Continued from page one*

mally make donations opened their hearts and wallets when they realized that their money was going directly to where it was needed. The list of volunteers, or 'elves,' as Mary fondly refers to them, is extensive. To many it has become a year long project. Others help make the organized chaos of preparation more enjoyable. Chris, owner of Domino's Pizza on Plainfield Ave., has donated pizzas for three years - not only to the party, but to Mary's home to feed the many volunteers as they sort and wrap gifts. Mary said that every year Vinnie Butrico donates the use of his pick up truck to transport the gifts to the party. Ciccio's Pizza has also made a number of donations and supports the efforts as well.

This year the project included 44 children, the largest group to date. The list of 'elves' continues to grow as well. Franklin School got involved in Mary's Secret Santa project. Principal Nancy Erickson, the PTA and the student council all reached out to help. Boxes were placed in the classrooms and Mary issued a challenge - the class with the most toys would win a pizza party. Mrs. Murz's first grade students filled the box in record time and claimed their prize. The teachers at Franklin also filled a box with new toys.

Mary has a few favorite tales to tell about her 'elves'. Franklin PTA President Linda Duquette wanted to wrap boxes for girls. With two boys at home she didn't

get much of a chance to hold dolls. When "elf" Sue Gaughan was in line in a toy store, she began to chat with the man in front of her. She related the story of the Secret Santa project and the stranger handed her \$20 towards the gifts.

Mary said friends and neighbors drop off gifts on a regular basis. She added that these people, along with her family, are the true backbone of the project. "I just motivate them," she said. Among those who spread the word and help with the many different aspects of the Secret Santas are: Sue Butrico and family, Sandy and Bob Buck, Sherri Butrico and family, Debra Krawiec, Michelle Billich, Maria Huber, Lori Smith, Clare-Franklin's crossing guard Pat Mahoney, Cathy - owner of Landmark Pizza in North Plainfield, Mena Deste-fano, Karen Ciampi, Mark Hol-lian, Mr. and Mrs. Rae Quast of the Warren Police Dept. who filled the roles of Santa and Mrs. Clause this year. Also, Mary and Brian Cargill, Kenneth Luckey, her neighbors Luke, Diane and Simone Lunane, Vinnie and Maria Butrico, Mr. Bowden, her close friends Alison Scavone Axelson and Diane Leary and many more.

Mary's daughter Ashley wrote a letter to Mohn's about her Secret Santa Project and she won a Christmas centerpiece in her daughter's name. See page 7 for Ashley's letter.

Mary added that without the

support of her family - her husband Bob, her children Ashley and Bobby, and her parents, Al and Josephine Ebbe, there would be no Secret Santa. She said husband Bob is not often in the spotlight, but he stands behind her 110%. Much of his holiday pay goes towards gifts. Her parents donated 25 basketballs and several bikes. Not only do they help with the work involved in this huge project, they provide Mary with the support needed to get through those moments of panic that occur with any project like this. She said the most important thing her parents provided her with is something she received growing up, the ability to open her eyes as well as her heart to those in need. After the party the *Observer* spoke with Mary again. She grinned as she said, "You should see what I bought for next year....!"

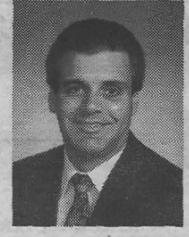
## Man Badly Burned in Electrical Mishap

Jim Brabazon, an employee of Diversified Electric located on New Market Ave. was badly burned in an electrical accident on Dec. 23.

Mr. Brabazon was working on the electrical panel which caught fire due to an electrical short. He received burns to his face and hands and was treated at the scene by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and Mercy 6. NorthStar Helicopter transported him to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick.

The South Plainfield Fire Department responded to the scene to investigate the cause of the fire.

## The Alternative View



By Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C.

Dear Dr. DeCosta:

In one of your past articles, you discussed a study which found that one in three people in the United States were seeing alternative health care providers. Do you find this trend continuing or are people reverting back to traditional medical practices? - C.R.

Dear C. R.:

The previous study which you are referring to was published in the Jan. 23, 1993 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The study, which was headed by Dr. David M. Eisenberg from the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care Department of Medicine at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School, found that United States patients made 425 million visits to alternative care givers in 1990, compared to 388 million visits to all U.S. primary care physicians combined. This study sent shock waves and panic in the world of traditional medicine.

Well, traditional medical practitioners should hold onto their seats because Dr. Eisenberg just published another article in the Nov. 11, 1998 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, entitled, "Trends in Alternative Medicine Use in the United States, 1990-1997." Dr. Eisenberg states that it appears that the public is continuing to move down the alternative care track and gaining more and more fellow travelers as the train rolls along!

Eisenberg, when comparing the 1993 data versus the 1997 data, found that:

- The percentage of the U.S. population who use alternative care increased from 33.8% (60 million people) to 42.1% (83 million people).
- The probability of an alternative care user seeing an alternative practitioner increased from 36.3% (22 million people) to 46.3% (39 million people).
- "Extrapolations to the U.S. population suggest a 47.3% increase in total visits to alternative medicine practitioners, from 427 million in 1990 to 629 million in 1997, thereby exceeding nearly double the total visits to all U.S. primary care physicians (386 million)."
- "Estimated expenditures for alternative medicine professional services increased 45.2% between 1990 and 1997 and were conservatively estimated at \$21.2 billion in 1997 with at least \$12.1 billion paid out-of-pocket. This exceeds the 1997 out-of-pocket expenditures for all U.S. hospitalizations. Total 1997 out-of-pocket expenditures relating to alternative therapies were conservatively estimated at \$27 billion, which is comparable with the projected 1997 out-of-pocket expenditures for all U.S. physician services."
- "Alternative medicine use and expenditures increased substantially between 1990 and 1997, attributable primarily to an increase in the proportion of the population seeking alternative therapies, rather than increase visits per patient."

What this means to you as a health care consumer is that millions more people each year are turning to alternative health care providers for their health problems and wellness care. People are getting tired of taking drugs, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, merely to mask symptoms while ignoring the underlying cause of their health problem. People are also becoming more wellness conscious, looking towards prevention and staying well rather than waiting until a problem symptomatically shows up and then trying to deal with it. Lastly, people are willing to pay out-of-pocket to get these services even if their HMO or insurance company doesn't cover it.

In fact, this newest study begs the question about what term should be used to describe nonmedical care ("alternative," "complementary," etc.). As this trend continues, the form of care most in danger of being labeled alternative could be traditional medicine.

Questions for *The Alternative View* should be addressed to: *The Alternative View*, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Visit *The Alternative View* on the web at [www.usalternativemedicine.com](http://www.usalternativemedicine.com).

## Rescue Squad Answers 123 Calls

The Rescue Squad responded to 123 calls in November, including: 88 medical assistance requests; 22 motor vehicle accidents; one fire; two hazmat calls; seven community

service requests; two transportations and one mutual aid request. The squad's volunteers spent more than 348 crew hours answering the November calls.

To find out what's happening in South Plainfield

Visit our official web site at [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com)

Mayor & Council • Boro Officials and Agencies • Police - Fire - Rescue Squad • Recreation: summer fun, game scores & cancellations • Seniors Corner • Youth Activities • Professional & Business Directory • Community Bulletin Board • Yard & Garage Sales, Classifieds, Messages

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The South Plainfield Health Department Is Conducting Its Annual RABIES CLINIC

At the South Plainfield Borough Garage (corner of Spicer and Belmont Ave.)

Dog and Cat Owners are urged to bring their pets for innoculation.

Dog & Cat Licenses Will Be Available

Please Note: Cats must be in a carrier

Dates: Friday, January 15, 1999 • 6 pm-8 pm Saturday, January 16, 1999 • 9 am-12 noon

For More Information Please Call 226-7631

# Santa Clause and Volunteer Fire Department Deliver Christmas Cheer to Young and Old

This year the South Plainfield Fire Department decided to try a new fundraiser. For a \$10 contribution Santa would visit homes on a fire truck and deliver a gift to local children. The parents had to supply the gift and Santa took care of the rest.

Well over 400 families signed up and over 600 gifts were handed out by Santa and his helpers. Each evening on the week before Christmas, no less than three fire trucks with 20 volunteer firefighters decked out with lights and Christmas carols playing, crisscrossed the town to deliver presents. Along the way they passed out candy canes to the many kids who ran out to see the fire truck.

The volunteer firefighters who worked on this project were having just as much fun as the kids, all enjoying the kids' smiling faces when they arrived. The spirit of Christmas was spread everywhere they went. Each of the three trucks was accompanied by a chase carrying the gifts. Parents were told approximately when to expect Santa so they could take pictures.

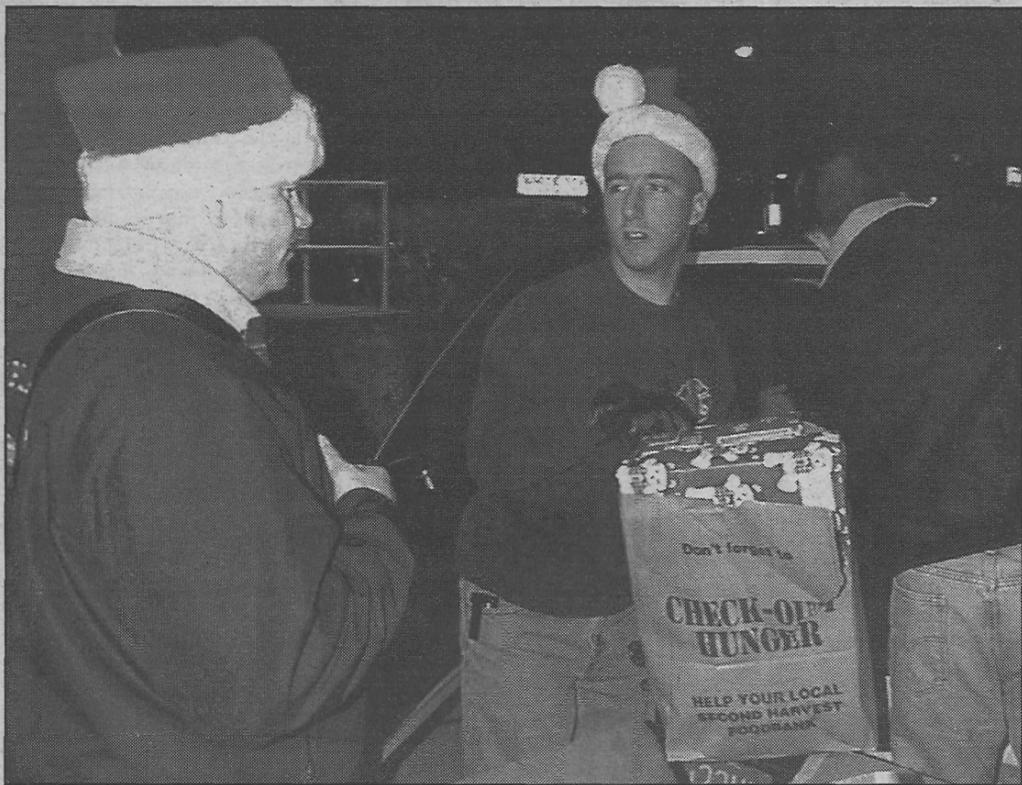
The job of mapping out where the fire trucks were going each night was a logistic nightmare, but handled expertly. No child was disappointed. Santa even managed to surprise the Mayor and Council at the council meeting. Santa's "ho-ho-ho" and his sleigh bells could be heard coming down the corridor at Borough Hall. Everyone at the meeting was greeted with a Merry Christmas and presented with a candy cane.

To all the volunteers who participated in this program, we would like to say, "great job" and thanks for making this Christmas special for South Plainfield kids.

The fire department is planning to repeat this event next year.



*Santa Clause, along with The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, spent five days delivering Christmas gifts by fire trucks to excited kids. Santa's visit is set to become an annual event.*



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**The South Plainfield Observer**

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The South Plainfield Observer is looking for a highly motivated individual to join our growing weekly newspaper in the position of advertising salesperson. No experience is necessary - we're looking for a self-starter with the desire to earn commission in a position with limitless earnings potential.

**Respond to South Plainfield Observer at 469-4380.**

# Residents and Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods "Wish A Merry Christmas" to Many

Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods on Plainfield Ave. sponsored a December contest whereby residents could send a "thank you" to someone who has done something special for them. Mohn's delivered nine Christmas bouquets in thanks. These are the three winning letters Mohn's received.

**Letter to Mohn's,**

I am writing this letter to express my sincere thanks to the following women.

These ladies have opened their hearts and have welcomed my four new children. The women are Theresa DiSesso, Angela Prybella, Mary Nelson, Betty Jane Tingley, Joanne Semon and Nancy Grennier.

On Oct. 20, 1998, I gave birth to quadruplets. Never having a child before, let alone children, I had no idea what to expect. While the children recuperated in the intensive care unit of St. Peter's

them because they all have families of their own to care for. Mrs. Nelson's mother is ill, Mrs. DiSesso and Mrs. Tingley have sick husbands and Mrs. Prybella and Mrs. Semon have young children. Yet out of their busy schedules they find time to come and assist me in taking care of the quads. They are all so wonderful with the children and don't realize how appreciative I am for their time and help. I would consider them all role models for future mothers, because they have already taught me so much.

Please consider these women in

er grew a lump in her throat and didn't sleep. I gave birth on Oct. 20, 1998. She worried about me night and day and rightfully so, it was a difficult job carrying four babies. I barely lived in my own home for the eight months I was pregnant. If I was not residing in St. Peter's Medical Center for some sort of complication, I was residing with my parents. It is never easy for a child to move back home after moving out. In my case, due to the set-up of my home, I needed to stay in my parent's ranch. For the last month of the pregnancy, I was a permanent fixture in their home.

My mother works full-time, so her daily schedule is lengthy. After teaching all day, she had to come home and tend to the daily jobs of keeping up with a house and a family. On top of all of this, she had me on her hands. She did a great job and I am extremely grateful for her help, time and patience with me during the last month.

With all of the pre-term labor I was experiencing, everyone in the house was always on edge as to the exact moment of the babies' arrival. My mom knew just how to keep everyone calm. When Oct. 20 arrived, and the c-section was performed, I was so glad to have her be able to experience firsthand the birth of her grandchildren.

Now that Anthony, Joseph, Patricia and Stephanie have arrived, roles have reversed. Grandma is now a permanent fixture in my home. Instead of caring for me, now she comes to care for the four babies. Her undying love for them is so apparent I have already learned more from her than I could have in any book. To show my appreciation and love for her, one of my daughters is named after her. I am glad to have been able to make her a grandmother and I'm glad she is enjoying her new job.

Thank you mom for your undivided love of your grandchildren and your daughter!

*Danielle Lacasale*



Danielle Lacasale with her helpers. Not pictured is her mother.

Medical Center, Nancy Grennier contacted me. She had run a story in the *South Plainfield Observer* about my pregnancy. She had petitioned her readers for volunteers to help with my babies and she found me helpers to care and feed the babies. These women come weekly either mornings or afternoons and stay several hours with the children and I am personally grateful to Nancy for spreading the word about my four babies. I feel that if it was not for her, I would not be as calm as I am nor as confident in what I am doing. She is a wonderful human being who I feel deserves much out of life for what she has personally done for South Plainfield and me.

The five other women mentioned are my helpers. They are all wonderful people who have a lot to offer. I feel so grateful for

your Christmas flower contest. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again.

Another woman I want to add to this Christmas flower giveaway is my mother, Patricia Harris.

Since the time of my own birth, she has constantly been the guiding force in my life. Whenever I was sick or upset, she would know just how to comfort me. In times of happiness and joy, she would know how to praise me. When I was lazy, she would challenge me to do my best. Besides doing the same as most parents do (feed, bath and assist their children), my parent became my friend. That is how I got through the greatest challenge life has presented me thus far.

From April 6 when the pregnancy was confirmed, my moth-



Mary Sachs receives bouquet from Mohn's as a special thank you from her daughter, Ashley. Pictured also are two of her "elves."

**Dear Mohns,**

Hi, my name is Ashley Sacks and I am nine years old. I feel that my mom, Mary Sacks, should get rewarded for her time and effort over the past three years. Along with the help of her friends and many businesses she made the Christmas dreams of about 50 unfortunate children come true for the past three years.

My mom has gotten donations from Franklin School in South Plainfield and also from friends, family and businesses. She doesn't give them one toy, she gives them egg boxes filled to the top and some kids gets bikes, plus a full egg box.

Each year Santa Clause, Mrs. Clause and Frosty the Snowman come out in costume along with the reindeer which the children get to ride to hand out the gifts. It makes the parents cry.

I would like to take this time to thank my mom for making all this happen.

*Ashley Sacks*

**Dear Mohns,**

I would like to send a special Christmas thank you to my husband, Wayne, who has been battling with illness and job preservations this year, harder than ever.

Wayne joined a gym last January, lost some weight, built some muscle and is probably gaining serenity from it all because even when I get angry and frustrated with all he is going through, he hasn't lost his temper and reacted negatively. He's somehow become proactive and managed to get right back on track and even help me and our children along the way.

I know life is a struggle for him this year, especially. I want to encourage him to keep up the good work and to thank and remind him that even after six years in our teens and 23 years of marriage, *we're still having fun and your still the one.*

Thank you for caring enough to carry on and stick it out and manage to give your wife and children a very Merry Christmas.

*Love always, Diane*

## Chief Steven Merkler Graduates FBI Academy



S.P. Police Chief Steven Merkler

FBI Academy, offers 11 weeks of advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers having a proven record as a professional within his or her agency. On the average, these officers have 16 years of law enforcement experience, and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive level positions.

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh was the principal speaker.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their field of expertise.

Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia due to the accreditation by the University of many courses offered.

The graduating officers were represented by the class spokesperson, Sergeant Ronald Paul Campurciani, West Springfield, Mass., Police Department. A total of 31,854 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, more than 19,500 are still active in law enforcement work.

South Plainfield Police Chief Steven Merkler, along with 257 law enforcement officers, recently graduated from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Va. The 195th Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 24 international countries, five military organizations, and two Federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the

### Police Department Accepting Police Officer Applications

Applications for the N.J. Department of Personnel written examination for the position of police officer are now available at the South Plainfield Police Department.

The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Applications may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center.

**FILING DEADLINE**  
29 January, 1999

**RESIDENCY**

Must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and maintain continuous residency in South Plainfield up to and including the date of appointment.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** As listed in the application.

**STARTING SALARY:** \$32,399.00 (1998)

**BENEFITS:** A listing of job benefits may be obtained with the application.

**DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A brief summary of duties & responsibilities may be obtained with the application.

Any questions please contact Lt. Robert Merkler at (908) 226-7674.

The Borough of South Plainfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

*"Setting the Standards of Excellence"*



# Sounds of the Season

## Schools Celebrate Holidays with Music

### Kennedy School Holiday Concert

The Kennedy School String Ensemble, under the direction of Carleen C. Tedeschi and with Barbara Habeeb on the piano, performed in concert on Dec. 16.

Performing on first violin were Katie Hardy and Melisa Budham; on second violin were Tina Bijlani and Elizabeth Pisack; on viola were Devin Kile and Daniel Becker and on cello was Brittany O'Brien.

Members of the school band were: on flute, Rebecca Watts; on tenor saxophone Stephen Lindgren; on baritone horn, Kevin Graham; on percussion, Kristen Boyle, Alyssa Babinetz and Matt Jeglinski; on alto saxophone, Brian Shulte, Keith Dezzmin and Scott Rann; on trumpet,

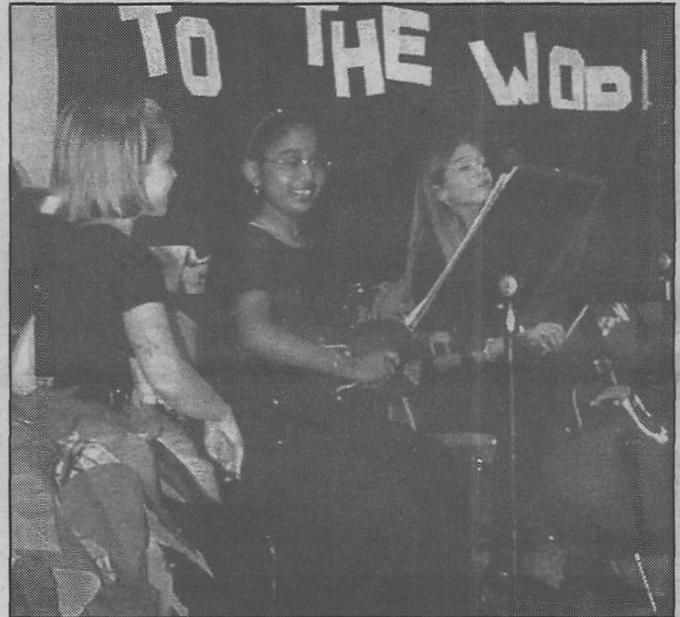
Nichole Aiello and on trombone, Zacharia Famula.

The Kennedy School Chorus performed under the direction of Conductor Barbara Habeeb and Accompanist, Carleen Tedeschi. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Kristen Boyle.

Vocal Soloists were, Alyssa Babinetz, Ashley Bodner, Darice Bishop, Nikki Cursi, Lindsay Loiacono, Kristine Mascco, Jennifer Olson, Heather Palitto, Courtney Sacco and Natalia Tamzoke.

Members of the fourth and fifth grade chorus were: Alyssa Babinetz, Allie Baggstrom, Tina Bijlani, Darice Bishop, Dorian Bishop, Ashley Bodner, Kristen Boyle, Melissa

Budham, Cindy Carlson, Amber Crosby, Rose Crosby, Nikki Cursi, Katie Eder, Cassandra Elkasim, Anthony Ettore, Breanne Fore, Lauren Fry, Jennifer Garzon, Ashleigh Gaspari, Samatha Granski, Amanda Harzula, Brittney Holloway, Kristen Johnson, Becky Keller, Lindsay Loiacono, Kirstina Mascolo, Joy Maszczak, Kory McGovern, Tricia Merryman, Jackie Miller, Kaitlin Negrón, Brittney O'Brien, Jennifer Olson, Heather Palitto, Sonali Patel, Elizabeth Pisack, Jessica Ranger, Kyla Rouse, Kim Russell, Courtney Sacco, Rohanda Sharbash, Alexandra Stath, Natalia Tamzoke, Alexandra Viscorsi, Morgan Walter and Becky Watts.



### Roosevelt School Holiday Concert

Roosevelt school held their Holiday Concert on Dec. 21 under the direction of music teachers Bruce Mikolon, Sharon Perez and Tobie Baldwin.

Band members consisted of Julianne Hudak, Gabriel Franco and Gina Severini playing flute; Mallory Cooper on trumpet; Nicole Sacci, Jessica Schwartz and Alyssa Kurilew on clarinet; Thomas Penderson on tuba; Jeffery Cupo on French horn; Walter Menna on alto saxophone and Harmet Puar on drums.

Members of the String Band

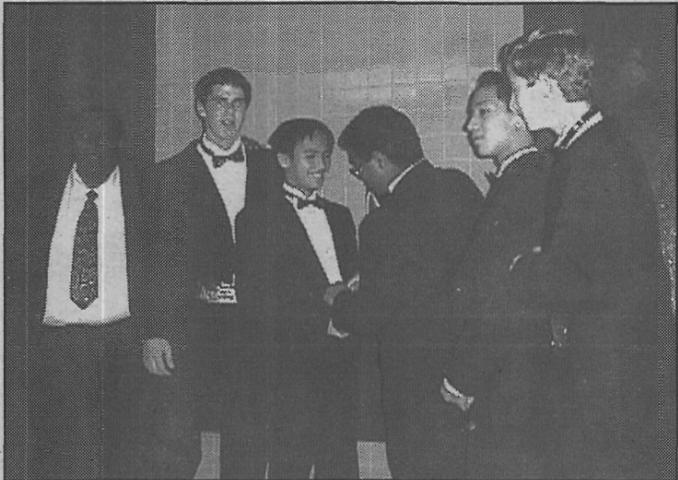
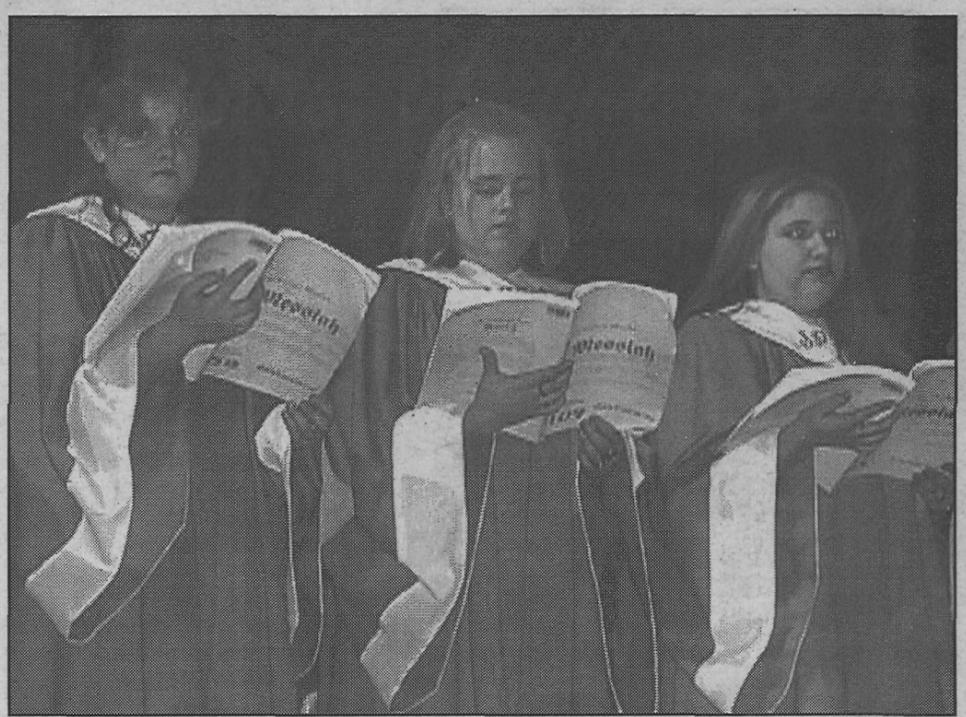
were: Dunia Galarza, Jonathan Guirguis, Shaunique Cisson, Cheryl Kotelsky and Anthony Petriello on violin 1; Daniel Sambat, Adam Cruz, Trevor Rastelli, Samantha Horvath, Brittany Moloughney, Emily Gee, Diane Dimayuga and Richard Lin on violin 2; Erica Bowden, Pauline Eskander and Brandon Ullom on viola; Justin Huffsmith, Charles Decker and Christopher Spayder on cello; Larnardo Pittman on base and beginners Tiani Allen-Lightfoot, Ashley Alvarado, Michael Ascencio, Jose Charneco,

Jason Dowlat, Allison Huffsmith, Daniale Hundley, Nabia Khan, Andrea Lozarito, Aarti Patel, Alison Smith and Phuong Trinh.

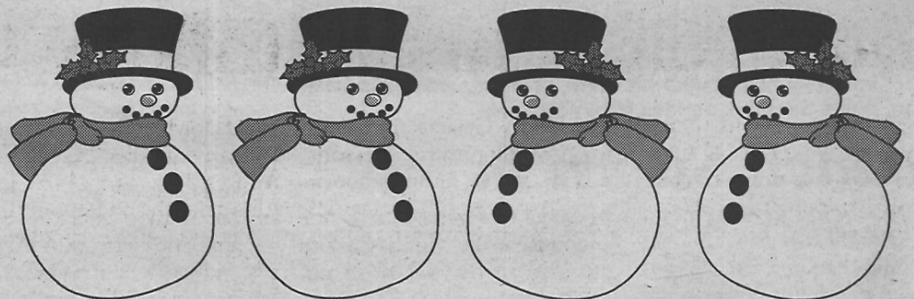
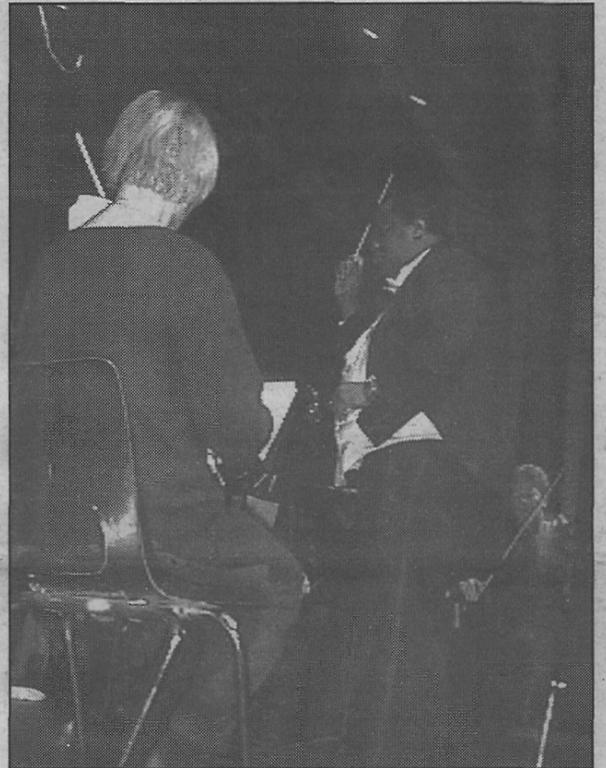
Members of the school chorus are: Michelle Anim, Karylann Baker, Aliuska Borrero, Courtney Breland, Anjelica Brooks, Kiran Budhan, Michelle Butrico, Jennifer Chiang, Samantha Cihario-wya, Shaunique Cisson, Mallory Cooper, Amanda Deba, Katherine Diaz, Jay Dowlat, Sandya Dowlat, Russell Drumbore, Anthony Fierro, Nicholas Fierro, Samantha Gaughan, Emily Gee, Aisha Gray, Kristen Gualano, Samantha Horvath, Julianne Hudak, Jillisa Jones, Kasandra Joyner, Victoria Kedmenec and Brittanni Kennedy.

Also in the band were: Cheryl Kotelsky, Cassandra Krajcik, Alyssa Kurilew, Ariana Makoski, Shalini Mangra, Jacqueline Matchett, Breanna Miyasato, Alicia Montanaro, Maria Naylor, Jonathan O'Connor, Kelly Orlandini, Jeffrey Osley, Julian Pantaleon, Anthony Petriello, Larnardo Pittman, Victoria Plasse, Kaitlyn Pollock, Trevor Rastelli, Love-E Raynes, Asley Rivera, Nicole Sacci, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini, Devanee Sewdat, Brian Spisso, Heather Thalheimer, Heather Thompson and Jalisa Williamson.



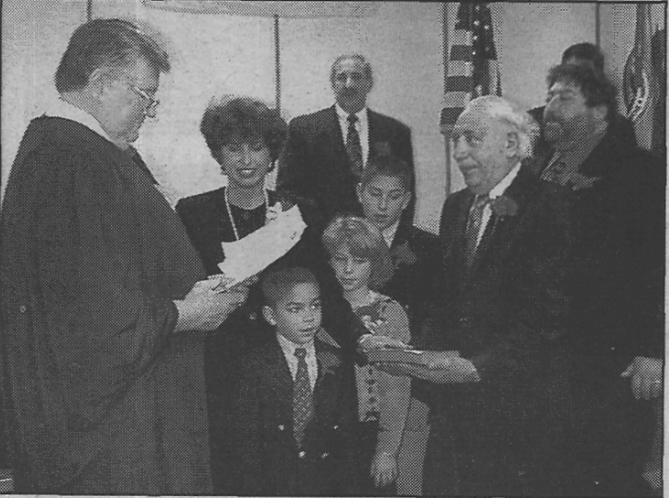


**High School Chorus Director Tracy Murray conducts the orchestra for the chorus' presentation of Handel's Messiah.**





Municipal Judge Daniel Murphy swears in Councilman Dennis Cerami as his family looks on.



Surrounded by her family, Councilwoman Darlene Pinto is sworn in by Municipal Judge Daniel Murphy.



Mayor Dan Gallagher takes his oath of office while his wife, Marion, holds the bible and his family look on.

## Council Sworn In From page one

continue on a pay-as-you-go basis, with the Municipal Budget remaining the same. He also announced that he has come to an agreement with the LaCosta family on the property across the street, and he plans to build the long promised Senior Citizen Complex. The appointment of

residents to several boards were announced. We will have a complete list of the Boards in next week's issue.

Also the *South Plainfield Observer* was listed as one of the official town newspapers. We thank the Mayor and Council for recognizing us.



John Pulomena receives plaque of appreciation for years served as Borough Councilman.

## From Mayor Dan Gallagher

# "No Tax Increase; New Senior Citizen Building"

Thank you all for once again joining us as witnesses to the most essential element of our democracy. As Darlene, Dennis and I taking the oath of office we have confirmed the will of the people. Today we once again validate the process for which our forbearers gave their lives... "That government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this Earth."

First, let me welcome Councilperson Darlene Pinto to the Borough Council. Darlene, take note of this special day. You have been given the highest of honors, always listen to those whom you represent, always follow your conscience and you can not fail.

I also want to welcome Councilperson Dennis Cerami to his second term on the council. Dennis you have served our citizens well over the last three years and I know you will continue to do so for the next three years.

I must also acknowledge freeholder John Pulomena. John served this borough proudly for nine years. Last year the citizens of Middlesex County recognized what we in South Plainfield learned a long time ago ... that John Pulomena is an exceptional public servant. As a freeholder he is now able to work for all of the residents of our great county. John we are proud of you but we are sad to see you go, your guidance, your leadership, your dedication is a model for all councilpeople. We will miss you. God's speed and success in all of your future endeavors.

Reorganization Day is a day to reflect on what was accomplished in the prior year and to set the agenda for the upcoming year. As we approach the new millennium, we have much to be proud of in South Plainfield. This governing body has accomplished what the naysayers said was impossible. For six consecutive years we have run borough government on a pay as you go basis, starting with the election of Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral on Jan. 1, 1994, not one penny has been borrowed for day to day operating expenses. At the same time, our infrastructure has been improved without borrowing money to do it. A new roof has been put on our public works facility, our library has been renovated, a new air conditioning/heating system and roof installed at Borough Hall and 52 roads have been improved. Under the direction of Councilperson Ray Petronko, a new roof has been put on the P.A.L., our pool facility has been upgraded, hockey rinks have been installed behind Borough Hall, new playground equipment and improvements installed at Veteran's Park and Putnam Park — all on a "pay as you go" basis.

It is only through the support of the citizens of our great borough that we have been able to recreate government in South Plainfield. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish but our work is far from finished.

This year, under the direction

of Councilperson Vinnie Buttiglieri, 10 additional roads will be repaved on a pay as you go basis, including Montrose Ave., New Market Ave., Hillside Ave., Muglia Place, Gubernat Drive and Wickford Road.

Also this year, under the leadership of our Recreation Commission and our new Recreation Director Michael English, we will restore our recreation program to the eminent place that it traditionally has held in our borough. The addition to the P.A.L. will be completed in 1999.

Our entire recreational complex will be upgraded, including landscaping, refurbishing of the pool facility, painting and landscaping of the exterior and general upgrade of the P.A.L. Building and complex in 1999. Our recreation department will once again be number one.

Also in 1999, we will have a new Senior Citizen Center. Today, I am proud to announce that we have reached agreement in concept to acquire the property directly across the street from Borough Hall, which is owned by the LaCosta family. That property is particularly important because it gives access from both Lane Ave. and Plainfield Ave. I will ask for the support of the council to direct the borough attorney to do what is necessary to acquire title to the property next to the LaCosta piece including condemnation if necessary.

After that property is acquired, it is my intention to utilize developer's funds to construct a 10,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Senior Center at no cost to the taxpayers. Therefore by the end of this year we will have a state-of-the-art addition to the P.A.L. and a state-of-the-art Senior Center, both at no cost to the taxpayers. It is my hope that next year at this time we will all be able to walk across the street and see our Senior Center. Our seniors deserve nothing less.

The one accomplishment that I was most proud of last year, was the commitment by this Mayor and Council that there would be no tax increase in 1998 and also in 1999. Our political opponents said it couldn't be done. After our budget was adopted without a tax increase, they then switched their message to "wait until next year." Well next year is here and our pledge remains the same. There will be no municipal tax increase in 1999. This will be the first time in memory that there will be no municipal tax increase for two years in a row. The citizens of our borough have worked with us for the last six years to get South Plainfield's finances under control. The time has come for our citizens to be rewarded for their discipline and that reward will once again be no tax increase in 1999.

While sadly, divisiveness and petty politics have taken over the process of government in Washington, D.C., we in South Plainfield have made government

more responsive and more civil to a large extent. I believe that our taxpayers advisory group, business advisory group and Democracy Day have been responsible for that change in attitude. This mayor and council are committed to listening to the people. It may sound simple, but it's what representative government is all about. I hope our representatives in Washington will take a cue from South Plainfield and stop thinking they are smarter than the people who elected them. Democracy works! I am today asking Councilperson Buttiglieri to sit down with the members of the Taxpayer's Advisory Group and develop proposals which will be put before the voters on Democracy Day which, as always, will be held in March.

Although the borough's infrastructure has been improved over the last six years, there are some areas of our borough which need a general sprucing up. For example, the Hamilton Blvd. corridor from Valley National Bank to the Lakeview Ave. overpass needs improvement. In particular, the intersection of New Market and Hamilton Blvd. Although the vast majority of businesses take pride in their property there are some that need attention. Today I ask Councilperson Darlene Pinto, who is the chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, to sit with the Businessperson's Advisory Group, the property maintenance officer and the Clean Business Assoc. to form a committee to encourage voluntary improvements along Hamilton Blvd. Hamilton Blvd. is one of the gateways to our borough. Improving the appearance of that area can only be good for business and for our residents. From my experience when businesses are asked, they do the right thing. I'm confident that this will be no exception.

As we approach the year 2000, I am both optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of our borough. South Plainfield is a great borough in which to live and work. It is a great place to raise a family. We really care about each other here. You can't go to the Drug Fair or the A&P, or to the movies without seeing somebody you know and saying hello. That's why I moved here and that's why I asked to serve as your mayor. I am particularly humbled to know that I am the only person who has been given the honor of being elected to a third term as mayor of South Plainfield. I thank my loving and supportive wife Marion, sons Michael and Dan, daughter-in-law Linda and my grandson Daniel. I promise you I will always work my hardest to make South Plainfield the best it can be.

I wish you and your families and all of the residents of our great borough, a healthy, happy and prosperous 1999.

Thank You  
Mayor Dan Gallagher

News from Sacred Heart School...

**"What Does Christmas Really Mean?"**

By Kristina Latonio

Have you ever wondered what Christmas really means to a child or a teen? Students from Sacred Heart School were asked to tell what Christmas really meant to them.

Timothy Zoda, KA—I think the real meaning of Christmas is Jesus' birthday. It would still be Christmas to me even if Santa didn't come.

Gina Marcussen, KB—Christmas is special because my family puts ornaments on the tree together. Santa comes with presents because it is Jesus' birthday.

Katelyn Christie, 1B—Christmas is about Jesus and love.

Samantha Argueta, 2A—Christmas is the gift from God, and it is the love from others.

Jordan Madsen, 3B—Christmas is a time to share and to love each

other. It is a time to give and to have peace on earth.

Megan McHugh, 3B—Christmas is for loving, giving and caring about people. Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

Adam Barletta, 4A—Christmas means that Jesus is born and God is watching us because he loves us very much. I think everyone gets a present because that's what Jesus is.

Juliet Fryszczyn, 5A—To me Christmas means that we give gifts to the less fortunate. I would rather give than receive: Christmas means giving from our hearts.

Samantha Moctezuma, 5B—Christmas means joy and love to me. Christmas means spending time with your family.

Alexandria Gamboa, 6A—Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birth as God's gift to man.

Christmas is a time to give to charity.

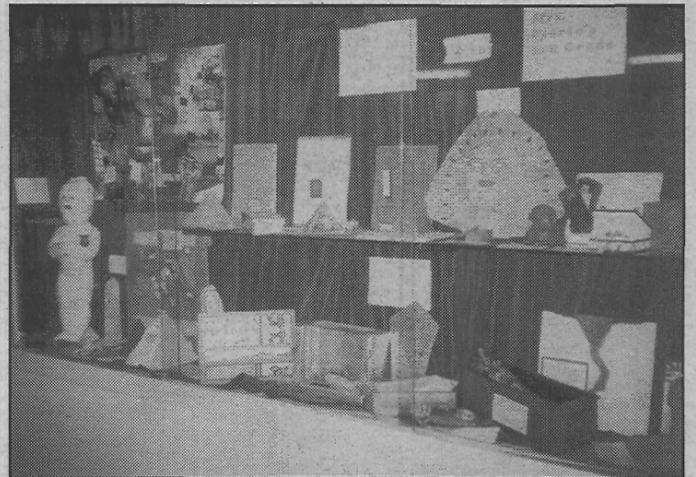
Kevin Hobner, 6B—To me, Christmas is a time for family to get together and give and receive presents. Most important of all Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Nicole Gutierrez, 7A—What Christmas means to me is the gathering of families, waiting for the arrival of our Lord, Jesus, and going to mass. It also means giving presents, and spending more time with relatives.

Raymond Kardos, 7B—Christmas, in general, is a time for giving and receiving. To me, Christmas is the beginning of a new era each year.

Margaret Monroe, 8A—Christmas is the time of year when everyone is equal. Everyone is wished a "Merry Christmas."

**School Work**



**Come Visit Egypt With Us!**

By Diane M. Scarpulla

Pyramids, yes. But a cartouche? The Great Sphinx, yes. But Imhotep? Just a glance at the showcase outside the main office of South Plainfield Middle School brings a whole world of learning to the viewer. Mrs. Barbara Florio, grade 6 social studies teacher, will tell you most enthusiastically that her students know all about ancient Egypt. She has stressed to them that many things in our own culture began in ancient times.

The month-long study of Egypt culminated with a student project which "teaches" others some ancient facts. Now those who stop by the displays learn that Imhotep was the first known architect, that a cartouche was an oval-shaped plaque

used to identify ancient Egyptians and that when a ruler died his organs were stored in a jar, but his brain was thrown away (all this was after honey was poured on him). Also, by the way, it takes 1,188 sugar cubes to construct a replica of a pyramid.

What's the reason these students are so "alive" about "dead Pharaohs" and their environment? The leadership and motivation of their teacher, Mrs. Florio. The students are now headed for the ancient worlds of Greece, Rome, India and China, where they will continue to see the beginnings of the advanced civilization we know today.

Additional projects from Mrs. Florio's and Mrs. Duetsch's classes were on display at the library.

**Student of the Month Program**

This school year Sacred Heart School has introduced a new program. It is called the "Student of the Month Program." Each month the teachers observe their students, and they pick the student who best fits the theme for that particular month. After the First Friday Mass of the following month, the names of the students are announced, and they are presented with certificates and pins. This program enables students to realize that they have accomplished acts of love towards their school and their classmates.

Mrs. Pryor, 5A teacher and the moderator of this program, explained more about it. "The Stu-

dent of the Month Program gives children something for to look forward to each month of the school year. The decision is not very easy for the teachers because they would like to pick more than one student, but they only can choose one. The program provides an opportunity for the children to achieve something; whether it is academics or a quality that makes them a better person here at Sacred Heart School. This program should be a good experience, and it should promote a positive atmosphere for the school."

The theme for November was "Charity—giving of time and talents."

The students of the month for November are the following:

KA-Joseph Landry, 1A-Alfonse Muglia, 1B-Ashley Venino, 2A-Kaitlyn Salvatore, 2B-Rachel Ann Pinto, 3A-Kevin Peterson, 3B-Olivia Gerlitz, 4A-Lisa Del Negro, 4B-Kimberly Arlci, 5A-Adam Pruss, 5B-Amanda Veinott, 6A-Kate Pofifka, 6B-Kristy Glavasich, 7A-Marsia Palma, 7B-Jayson DeMarco, 8A-Margaret Monroe and 8B-Anna Cho.

Congratulations to all those students who gave of their time and talents to be charitable. They truly deserved this great honor. Next month's theme is "being able to forgive and to apologize."

**Sacred Heart's Christmas Show**

On Dec. 16, Sacred Heart School performed a Christmas show. This year's show was directed by new music teacher, Mrs. Sikanowicz. The gym was beautifully decorated with stars hanging from left to right. The show started with a wonderful performance by the eighth graders. They put on a Christmas play called, *The Reform of Mini Scrimp*. It was about a girl named, Mina Scrimp, who only cared for money until she realized how important friends and family are. This play was inspired by Charles

Dickens's, *A Christmas Carol*! The second grade performed an adorable play of the nativity scene. Added to their play, they sang "If I Could be a Shepherd."

The show was full of various Christmas songs and each performance was amusing and delightful. We cannot forget the stage crew who did a wonderful job setting up the chairs, adjusting the lighting, playing the music, helping with the props and handing out programs. Sacred Heart's friends and families enjoyed the fun-filled show. It turned out to

be very successful and all the students enjoyed singing/acting.

**St. Nick Visits Sacred Heart!**

On Dec. 3 all the students in Sacred Heart School hung Christmas stockings outside their classrooms. The students were eagerly awaiting for St. Nicholas to pass by with goodies and treats. When the students arrived the next morning, the stockings were filled with delicious candy and small toys. Everyone, including the teachers, enjoyed the wonderful surprise.

**Spirit Ensemble Performs at Middle School**

By Phyllis Savage

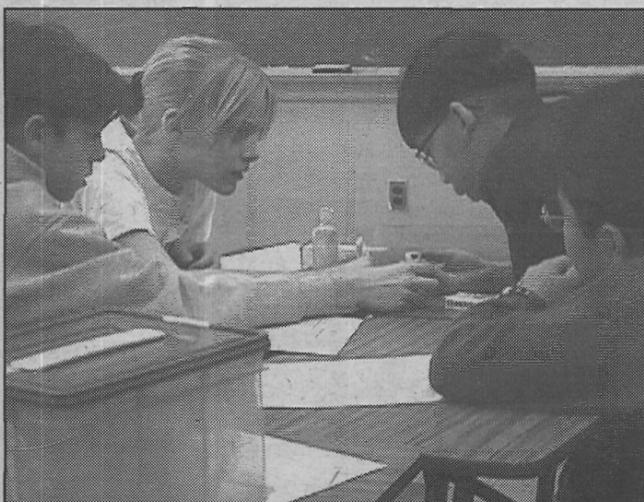
The Spirit Ensemble performed "The Roots of Rhythm" at the Middle School on Dec. 14.

Drawing inspiration from the rich cultural and musical heritages of Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, the Spirit Ensemble performed on a wide array of instruments they've collected from around the world. The students were treated to a collage of rhythm and melody as they were introduced to the very distinctive sounds of the mbira (African thumb piano), Trinidad's steel pan, China's six-hole flute, the kora and shekere. The excellence of musicians Nell Clarke, Jimmy

Cruiz, Melvin Dion, Bill Dotts and Zeleka Jenkins created pulsating bright rhythms — sounds and colors dancing, weaving a tapestry of percussive pattern and melody. The ensemble performed a repertoire that ranged from the traditional songs of West Africa to original compositions influenced by the steel drum sounds of the Caribbean and the rhythms of Latin America.

The Spirit Ensemble also conducted an exciting and informative performance/lecture demonstrations in which songs were played and each instrument was demonstrated along with historical information.

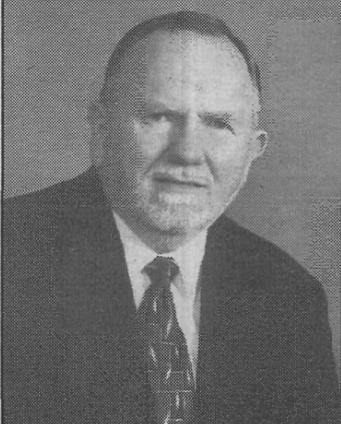
**Archaeologist Workshop At the Middle School**



Each year the six grade students in the Middle School are given a chance to see firsthand the work of local archaeologists.

A simple workshop is held explaining how an archaeologist determines information about the bits and pieces found.

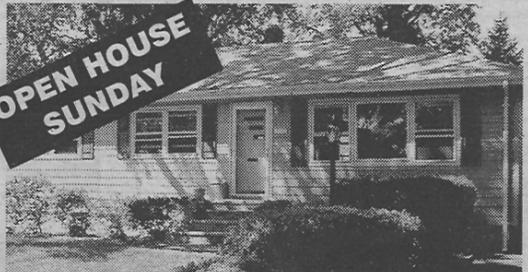
The students are given basic facts about pieces of pottery or tableware, etc. and then they are led a process which determines the date and place of origin.



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# Youth Basketball Results — Dec. 19 & Jan. 2

The South Plainfield Recreation Youth Basketball Program consists of 50 teams — 420 girls and boys ages seven to 14 years. Games are played at the Middle School and the PAL.

## A LEAGUE STANDINGS

### AGES 13-14

So. Carolina	4	0
Maryland	4	0
Texas	4	0
Georgia	3	1
Tennessee	1	2
No. Carolina	1	3
Florida	0	3
Kentucky	0	3
L.S.U.	0	3

## A LEAGUE SCORES-DEC 19

L.S.U.	25
Texax	52
High scorers—LSU:	Mike Espin-8, James Ales-4, Chris Catalelamo-4 and Christine Magat-4; Texas: Framcoscp Gievara-18, Danny Melick-13, Justine Toth-8 and Chirs Sanchez-7.
North Carolina	30
Georgia	43
High scorers—NC:	Ulyssess Russell-21 and Nick Green-5; Georgia: Jason Basile-12, Phil DeRosa-12, Lee Stellakis-11 and Kelly Eustice-4.
Kentucky	43
Maryland	44
High scorers—Kentucky:	Tom Toolan-15, Mike Chrysanth-6, Joe Smalley-6 and Sean Keane-6; Maryland: Anthony Vitelli-19, Aaron Parks-6, Dan Pollin-6, Erica Parks-5 and Rich Muglia-4.
Tennessee	27
South Carolina	51
High scorers—Tenn:	Christine Strani-10, Marcellus Abrams-8 and Johnathan Frederick-6; SC: Joe Dezmin-14, Mike Alloco-9 Victor Essien-9 and Jeff McKnight-6.

## A LEAGUE SCORES-JAN. 2

So. Carolina	59
Kentucky	16
High scorers—SC:	Jeff McKnight-6, Shannon Horvath-28, Mike Alloco-8, Joe Dezmin-8 and Steve Janiszak-6; Kentucky: Tommy Merkle-8, Mike Tudor-4.
Maryland	37
No. Carolina	34
High scorers—Maryland:	Aaron Parks-12, Joe Sorrentino-8, Anthony Vitelli-6 and Rich Muglia-5; NC: Mike Jaghab-10,

Tom Haus-9, Ulysses Russell-6 and Kim Kulick-6.

Georgia	38
L.S.U.	18
High scorers—Georgia:	Jason Basile-18, Tim Keller-8 and Lee Stellanis-6; LSU: Kevin Joshi-6 and Matt Wells-4.
Texas	45
Florida	20
High scorers—Texas:	Jerome Mason-10, Chris Sanchez-10, Francisco Guevarra-8 and Kyle Prendergast-5; Florida: Alex Ferraris-10, Jessica Irber-4 and Chris Fortunka-4.
Tennessee	Bye

## B LEAGUE STANDINGS

### AGE 11-12

Illinois	4	0
Michigan	3	0
Pittsburgh	3	0
Notre Dame	2	2
Syracuse	2	2
Rutgers	2	2
Georgetown	2	2
Ohio State	2	2
U.C.L.A.	1	2
Arizona	1	2
Seton Hall	1	3
Kentucky	1	1

## B LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 19

Notre Dame	23
Arizona	33
High scorers—ND:	Amanda Fugate-6, Douglas Dietzold-5, Mike Hanley-4 and Mike Richard-4; Arizona: Dan Sierazega-10, Drian Acrin-9, Ryan Decker-6, Dani Dimaria-4 and Bill Weaver-4.
Syracuse	34
Kansas	17
High scorers—Syracuse:	Andrew Cupido-10, Kyle Kazimir-10, Rachel-Cupido-4, Jonathan Donahue-4 and Steven Mincevich-4; Kansas: Joey Jaghab-9, Eddi Kania-4 and Vincent Velez-4.
Rutgers	21
Ohio State	28
High scorers—Rutgers:	Dane Miyasto-10 and Brian Cantor-6; Ohio: Michael Downes-15 and James Charneco-7.
Seton Hall	18
Illinois	35
High scorers—Seton Hall:	Daniel Laverne-6, Erik Vesper-4 and Andrew Miller-4; Illinois: Andre Scott-12, Ankit Patel-10 and Alan Dummett-8.
U.C.L.A.	19
Georgetown	41
High scorers—UCLA:	Allan Mazurak-8 and Chris Czaplinski-5; Georgetown:

Terry Paschall-12, Nicholar Grego-9 and Nick Cesare-6.

Pittsburgh	48
Kentucky	13
High scorers—Pittsburgh:	Chris McKnight-22, Michael Salerno-8, Chris Horn-8 and Adam Bianchi-5; Kentucky: Coral Willis-4 and Matthew Boley-3.

## B LEAGUE RESULTS JAN. 2

Kentucky	19
U.C.L.A.	38
High scorers—Kentucky:	Jasen Ortiz-8 and Amanda Rastelli-5; UCLA: Chris Czaplinski-18, Allen Mazurak-6, Brian Murtagh-4, Kathleen Morgan-4 and Joe Teller-4.
Georgetown	32
Seton Hall	17
High scorers—Georgetown:	Terry Paschall-12, Nick Cesare-10 and Thomas Halowaka-6; Seton Hall: Chris Bojarski-6, Jimmy Bataille-4 and Erik Vesper-3.
Illinois	42
Rutgers	14
High scorers—Illinois:	Cattlin English-4, Danielle Arndt-18, Ankit Patel-10 and Andre Scott-4; Rutgers: Brian Cantor-6.
Ohio State	31
Syracuse	20
High scorers—Ohio:	James Charneco-15 and Michael Downes-12; Syracuse: Andrew Cupido-14 and Steve Mincevich-3.
Kansas	23
Notre Dame	29
High scorers—Kansas:	William Merkle-8, Vincent Velez-6, Eddie Kama-4 and Joey Jaghab-3; Notre Dame: David Caccatore-8, Mike Hanley-6, Doug Dietzold-5, Amanda Fugate-4 and Mike Richard-4.
Arizona	23
Michigan	36
High scorers—Arizona:	Ryan Decker-9, Jaclene Prongay-6 and Danny Sierzega-4; Michigan: Chris Bakazan-10, Jason Cosma-8, Nick Jefferys-8, Dan Piwawar-4 and David Acevedo-4.

## C LEAGUE STANDINGS

### AGE 9-10

Kings	4	0
Grizzlies	4	0
Mavricks	3	1
Spurs	3	1
Nuggets	3	1
Warriors	3	1
Trailblazers	2	2
Suns	2	2
Wizards	1	3
Rockets	1	3
Cavaliers	1	3
Hawks	1	3
Supersonics	0	4
Bucks	0	4

## C LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 19

Supersonics	22
Wizards	24
High scorers—Supersonics:	Samuel Martin-10, Scott Hartje-8 and Kelly Downs-4; Wizards: Kyle Matthews-6, Chintan Mody-6 and Zack Famula-4.
Spurs	18
Nuggets	25
High scorers—Spurs:	Justin Basilone-12 and Ryan Curtis-4; Nuggets: Kevin Siedenber-15 and Lori Sepkowski-4.
Cavaliers	16
Mavricks	24
High scorers—Cavaliers:	Amber Hartman-10 and Brian Wiechowski-4; Mavricks: Mike Piazza-16 and Jonathan Guirguis-6.
Suns	24
Bucks	16
High scorers—Suns:	Anthony Petriello-10, Stephen Richard-4, Alex Ramos-4 and Tommy Smith-4; Bucks: Courtney Eustice-14.
Hawks	17
Warriors	23
High scorers—Hawks:	Nichole Cortese-6 and Michael Mocerino-5; Warriors: Chris Pollin-6, Joey Turrise-6, Bill Daly-6 and Brett Morris-3.
Kings	22
Rockets	16
High scorers—Kings:	Tim Kean-6, Michael Stallone-6, Charlie George-4 and Courtney Alston-4; Rockets: Garret Lake-6 and Harshel Patel-6.
Trail Blazers	17
Grizzlies	25
High scorers—Trail Blazers:	Ryan Fredericks-4 and Lacey Santone-5; Grizzlies: Klye Lendach-23.

## C LEAGUE RESULTS JAN. 2

Wizards	12
Cavaliers	39
High scorers—Wizards:	Kyle Matthews-4; Cavaliers: Robert Strani-22, R.J. Romano-10 and Matthew Ramos-4.
Grizzlies	30
Bucks	22
High scorers—Grizzlies:	Kyle Lendach-18, Andy Pinto-4, Steve Dvork-4 and Kevin Cantor-4; Bucks: Nick Baldasarre-14 and Courtney Eustice-4.
Rockets	26
Warriors	21
High scorers—Rockets:	Zachary Scott-12, Charles Loiacono-4 and Harshel Patel-4; Warriors: Chris Pollin-10, Brett Morris-4 and Bill Daly-4.
Mavricks	36
Trail Blazers	34
High scorers—Mavricks:	Mike Piazza-28, Jonathan Guirguis-4 and Bryan Wagner-4; Trail Blazers: Lacey Santone-12, Erika Blaszk-6, Andy Roibal-4, Matthew Fabino-4, Jannesso Cassando-4.
Supersonics	17
Kings	24
High scorers—Supersonics:	Samuel Martin-9 and Scott Marje-6; Kings: Chris Stallone-8 Michael Stallone-8 and Danny McCreech-6.
Spurs	26
Hawks	19
High scorers—Spurs:	Joe Defalco-10, Matthew Jeglinski-6, Justin Basilone-6 and Justin Kelly-4; Hawks: Nicole Cortese-4, Joey Denizio-4 and Johnathan O'Connor-4.
Nuggets	14
Suns	12
High scorers—Kevin Siedenber-6,	Charlie Kazimir-4 and Trevor Rastelli-4; Suns: Travis Noll-4.

## D LEAGUE STANDINGS

### AGE 7-8

Bulls	4	0
Raptors	4	0
Magic	3	1
Clippers	2	1
Knicks	2	2
Nets	2	2
Jazz	2	2
Timber Wolfs	2	2
76ers	2	2
Hornets	2	2
Pistons	1	2
Celtics	1	3
Lakers	0	3
Heat	0	3

## D LEAGUE RESULTS DEC. 19

Celtics	18
Pistons	12
High scorers—Celtics:	Jordon Petriello-8 and Kyle McMamon-6; Pistons: David Alston-4 and Erick Paley-4.
Jazz	8

Bulls	32
High scorers—Jazz:	Matthew Seider-4; Bulls: Scott Barton-10, Greg Watts-10, Grey Coppi-8 and Scott Modede-4.
Hornets	16
Clippers	22
High scorers—Hornets:	John Christ-6, Jose Charneco-6 and Jalil Williams-4; Clippers: Ryan Bunting-12 and Brian Fabino-4.
Magic	10
76ers	8
High scorers—Magic:	Brad Martin-6; 76ers: Andrew Gray-4.
Heat	10
Raptors	34
High scorers—Heat:	Troy Russell-4 and Douglass Avery-4; Raptors: Danny Espin-12, Blaire Houston-10, Robbie Hoffman-4 and Steven Kelly-4.
Knicks	10
Timber Wolfs	12
High scorers—Knicks:	Aaron Wright-4; Timber Wolfs: Vinnie Padula-8 and Nick Levandowski-4.
Nets	22
Lakers	16
High scorers—Nets:	Brandon Ullom-10 and Bobby Harrington-6; Lakers: Brendan O'Shea-10 and Sohan Guatesh.
D LEAGUE RESULTS JAN. 2	
Pistons	26
Hornets	24
High scorers—Pistons:	David Alston-12, Erick Paley-6, Steven Wiecezorek-4 and Bob Stilo-4; Hornets: Jalil Williams-8, John Christ-6 and Jose Charneco-4.
Lakers	32
76ers	36
High scorers—Lakers:	Brendan O'Shea-18 and Chris Deolivera-10; 76ers: Andrew Gray-26 and Michael Muglia-6.
Timber Wolfs	14
Raptors	28
High scorers—Timberwolves:	Justin Cantor-8, Vinnie Padula-4; Raptors: Danny Espin-14 and Blaire Houston-10.
Clippers	16
Nets	8
High scorers—Clippers:	Brian Fabino-8 and Ryan Bunting-6; Nets: Sean Tamzoke-4.
Celtics	14
Knicks	20
High scorers—Celtics:	Kyle Darr-12; Knicks: Aaron Wright-14.
Jazz	22
Heat	6
High scorers—Jazz:	Matthew Seider-10, Jeff Licato-6 and Anthony Simone-6; Heat: Douglas Avery-4.
Bulls	34
Magic	12
High scorers—Bulls:	Greg Watts-16, Scott McDede-8 and Scott Barton-6; Magic: Brad Martin-8, Taylor Curtis-4.

## Junior Baseball 1999 Season Registration Dates Set

The Junior Baseball Club will hold its registration for the 1999 season on Thursday, Jan 14 and Friday, Jan. 15 from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the baseball complex. Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents between eight and 16 years old before Aug. 1, 1999. New players must bring their birth certificates. Children must be accompanied by an adult or guardian at the time of registration. The cost of registration is \$45 for a single player, \$70 for two

or more players in the same family. Late registration will cost \$50 per player and no multiple player discount will be allowed. All players will receive a hat, shirt and pair of pants to keep at season's end. The Women's Auxiliary will be selling SPJBC jackets, sweats and shirts. Sign ups for managers, coaches and umpires will be held at registration. For more information, visit their website at <http://members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html> or you can e-mail them at [SPJBC99@aol.com](mailto:SPJBC99@aol.com)

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## Youth Bowling

### Recreation Bowling

As of Dec. 26, 1999

NAME	WON	LOST	PCT
1. STRIKE FORCE	71.0	27.0	.724
2. WHOPPERS	63.0	35.0	.642
3. BULL DOGS	63.0	21.0	.750
4. ADRENELNE RUSH	62.0	36.0	.632
5. STRIKERS	58.0	40.0	.591
6. THE MONKEYS	559.0	365.0	.604
7. SLAMMERS	54.0	44.0	.551
8. DUMONT BOMBERS	47.0	30.0	.610
9. I DON'T KNOW	38.0	58.0	.395
10. THE BEACH BUMS	36.0	461.0	.439
11. WOLF PAC	35.0	54.0	.393
12. SUBS	00.0	00.0	.000

#### IND. BOYS HIGH GAME SCRATCH

MATTHEW BOLEY	190
JON JEOLINSKI	146
ANTHONY ROWLANDS	140

#### IND. BOYS HIGH GAME HANDICAP

Pat Cantarella	228
Shawn Ferguson	222
Anthony Rowlands	222

#### IND. GIRLS HIGH GAME HANDICAP

Mallory Cooper	218
Melanie Foscolo	218

#### HIGHLIGHTED TEAM OF THE WEEK 12/12/98

BULL DOGS	TOTAL PINS	AVG.
D. Jitten	3178	96
R. Ramgobin	3444	114

#### HIGHLIGHTED TEAM OF THE WEEK 12/12/98

WOLF PAC	TOTAL PINS	AVG.
T. McGovern	2133	64
J. Milliron	1871	56
S. Gullace	1132	66

## High School Sports By Brian Cochrane

### Girls Basketball Team Captures Bound Brook Tournament Crown

The South Plainfield Girls Basketball Team began their season with a trip to division rival Bishop Ahr and the Trojans of Edison. The Trojans clearly wanted to send a message as they came out fast and furious to take a 15-3 first quarter lead.

The Tigers were forced to turn the ball over numerous times because of a Bishop Ahr full court press that was relentless. The Tiger foul troubles also played a role as

Dana Curcio, Kim Wilcox and leading scorer Cheryl Cwiekalo had to sit for minutes at a time in order not to foul out. The Trojans' 29-14 half time lead was too much to overcome as the Tigers fell 50-34.

The Tiger girls came out with a vengeance in the Crusader Holiday Classic in Bound Brook by first hammering Mt. Saint Mary's on Tuesday then beating the Pioneers of Somerville on Wednesday 42-33 to take first place hon-

ors. High scorer Cheryl Cwiekalo netted 14 points and took home the tournament MVP award. The rhythm of the game was nonexistent at times as the Tigers surged ahead at times only to allow Somerville glimmers of hope in the later stages. Senior guard Dana Curcio, who finished with 8 points, hit two key free throws with under a minute left to seal the victory and the championship for the Tigers.

### Tiger Boys Season Off to Slow Slow Start

The South Plainfield Boys Basketball Team began their season on the losing side as they traveled to Carteret for a Saturday midday match up. The Tigers kept it close the whole game, trailing by only one at the half, but ultimately losing 56-53. Senior Jason Yniguez and Steve Ambielli tallied 11 points each to lead the Tiger scoring.

Two days later the Tigers were back home to face J. F. Kennedy. South Plainfield came out pumped up and physically out-matched J.F.K. the whole game scoring 30 of their 88 points in the fourth quarter alone to win easily 88-69. Dominique Pender led the scoring with 22 points, Justin Benford poured in 13, and Steve Ambielli and Wayne Whittsitt netted 12 apiece to contribute

to their first win of the season.

Then they were off to Middlesex for another road match up and another close game right up to the final buzzer. With the score tied 44-44 with 26 seconds left, Middlesex hit the front end of a one and one foul shot to take the lead. The Tigers had one last shot to win the game, but Tiger leading scorer Dominique Penders' jump shot with under ten seconds left rimmed out and the Tigers fell 45-44.

Next up for South Plainfield was the Bound Brook tournament and the Tigers played strong, first by beating Hopewell Valley 67-60 behind the hot hand

of Dominique Penders' team high 17 points, thus reaching the finals and facing Josh Hobbs and the Pioneers of Somerville. The match up began pretty even as the teams went basket for basket in the first quarter. Then Somerville pulled away, outscoring the Tigers 24-5 in the second frame to come away with a 67-42 Pioneer victory.

Leading the Tiger scoring were Steve Ambielli with 14 points and Justin Benford, adding 10 to secure a second place finish in the tournament. The Tigers start the new year with three consecutive home games next week including a much anticipated match up with Highland Park on Jan 11.

### SP Wrestlers Start Off Season Strong

The South Plainfield Tiger Wrestlers rolled into the holiday season with three impressive outings to start the season 2-0. First, in the Morris Knolls Tournament, the Tigers came away with five first place finishers as Rich Gebauer (112), Billy Wilson (119), Dave Stoekel (125), John Blondet (130) and Colin Hunter (275) all won championship bouts. Mike Buteas (140) and Chris Francis (171) grabbed second place honors, while Matt Anderson (103), Matt Gati (135), David Fiore (145) and Chris Cioffi (215) took home third place finishes. The Tigers placed second overall to the host team Morris Knolls by a mere 8½ points.

The Tigers came home on Dec. 23 for a regular season match up with J.P. Stevens., in what turned

out to be a tune up for the upcoming Hunterdon Central Tournament.

Our wrestlers won going away 45-15, posting three major decisions and three technical falls to defeat a J.P. Stevens squad who were totally outclassed the entire night.

In the Hunterdon Central Tournament, the Tigers were led by Rich Gebaur (112), with a pin in 2:53, Billy Wilson (119) winning 7-2, John Foscolo (160) majoring at 15-1 and the big man Colin Hunter (275) crushing host Hunterdon Central's Dan Eberstien 11-3 to take home respective championships.

Up next for the Tigers are two home bouts, on Jan. 8 against East Brunswick and on Jan. 9 against a strong High Point squad.

## Junior Tigers Claim Thirteen Medals At Annual Turkey Day Classic

By Robert Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team opened its season with a strong showing at the annual Voorhees Turkey Day Classic.

Jimmy Conroy, the Tiger Midget 60 pounder claimed the only title of the day, scoring falls over Brian Lifser of Hunterdon, Phillip Maffe of Danbury Conn. and Kyle Jablon of Blairstown in the finals.

In the Bantam 51 pound division John Wylan won his consolation match with a 10-2 decision over Jeremy Leibler of Tewksbury for third place.

In the Bantam 46 pound class Nick Pauls lost his first match, but came back to win his next two for fourth place.

Also wrestling but not placing were Ryan Sacco, Bissy Martin, Jonathan Conroy, Jordan Petriello, Nick Vallone and Mike Wagner.

In the Midget Division, Rocco

### Recreation Wrestling

Petriello lost his bid for a title when he lost a close decision Justin Rycicki of Williamstown Pa. Robert Gentile won his consolation match with a fall over Ben Hackler in the 43 pound class. Sam Martin also came up short in the 76 pound weight class, but

### Tiger's Lose Opener to No. Hunterdon

The Tigers opened their dual meet season when they traveled to North Hunterdon, the start of the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League 12 team competition, and lost a tough 49-22.

The Tigers got off to a close start with Robert Gentile winning a close 2-1 decision over Kevin Cerullo at 50 lbs. At 53 lbs. Patrick Hunter lost a close 4-2 decision to

came back strong to win his consolation match by decision for third place. Winning fourth medals were Bryan Hunt 62 lbs., Nick Dorey 65 lbs. and Dan Pomilio 76 lbs. Winning fifth place medals were Brad Martin 75 lbs. and Frank Stefanelli 85 lbs. Also wrestling but not placing were Tim Gaughan, Mark Wagner

In the Junior Division, the Tigers had two fifth place finishers with Matt D'Alessandro 61 lbs. and Kevin Crilley 96 lbs.

Tony Fusco, tying the score at three apiece. Nick Valone lost his 57 lb. match to Chris Kane. At 60 lbs. Jimmy Conroy pinned Andrew Boyle at the 0:58 mark. Bill Ashnault took early control and went on to pin Len McGuire at 1:00. Danny Bayak lost his 67 lb match to C.J. Wagner and Billy Padula lost a close 1-0 decision to Dennis Boyle. Nick Dorey, jumping up to 73 lbs., lost a tough decision to Jim Ramano giving North Hunterdon the lead 22-18.

Peter DeAndrea won his 77 lb match by a 4-2 decision over Andrew Murray. Sam Martin lost a heart breaker in OT to Nick Corsentino 4-2.

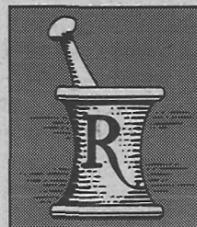
The Tigers had it tough in the next three weights classes losing the 85 lb., 90 lbs. and 95 lb. weight classes. In the 102 lb. class Kevin Crilley got the Tigers back on track with a fall over Chris Weeler at 0:38. In the 110 lb. class Rob Mastickle won a major decision 11-0 over Peter Flugfelder to round out the scoring. Also wrestling tough were Danny Pompilio, Frank Stefanelli and Kyle Bostick.

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# Obituaries

## Eleanor (Castelino) Noto, 73

Eleanor (Castelino) Noto died on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the Willow Creek Care and Rehabilitation Center in Somerset.

Born in Italy, Mrs. Noto came to the United States as a young girl, settling in Pennsylvania. She had resided in Brooklyn for many years before entering the care center several years ago.

She had been a homemaker for many years.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony Noto; his daughters, Loretta Dimestria of South Plainfield and Margaret Balconis of Rahway; her son, Frank Alessio of Staten Island; his two sisters, Carrie Barbett of Toms River and Frances Romanzes of Lanoka Harbor and her two brothers, John Schandra of Mass. and James Schandra of Dixon City, Pa. Also surviving are nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## Peter Bondra, 75

Peter Bondra died on Monday, Dec. 28, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Roselle Park and was a former resident of Union before moving to South Plainfield 32 years ago.

Mr. Bondra was an inspector

for Alcoa Aluminum Co. in Edison for 32 years before retiring in 1972. He then worked as a mail carrier for the Westfield post office for 11 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Church.

Mr. Bondra served in the 11th Airborne Division of the Army Air Corps as a corporal during WW II. He was a life member of the 11th Airborne Association.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Kascin Bondra, who died in 1995.

He is survived by two sisters, Sue Margle of Toms River and Katherine Cannon of Carteret and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

## Evelyn M. Baber Hopkins, 82

Evelyn M. Baber Hopkins died on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the Genesis Eldercare the Woodlands in Plainfield.

She was born in Kokomo, Indiana and was a former resident of Brooklyn, NY before moving to South Plainfield two years ago.

Mrs. Hopkins was a pharmacist's mate in the US Navy during WW II. She was a member of the American Legion Bayridge Post 157 in Brooklyn.

She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Hopkins, who died in 1972.

She is survived by two sons, Thomas F. Hopkins of Springdale, Arkansas and Steven B. Hopkins of Piscataway; three daughters, Jennie A. Massey of Brooklyn NY, Melinda E. Mercurio and Beatrice K. Hopkins, both of South Plainfield and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

## Thomas J. Heron, 84

Thomas J. Heron died on Tuesday, Dec. 15, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Kearny, he had resided in Newark before moving to South Plainfield in 1964.

He was employed as a laborer for the former Cleanese Corp. of Newark (now the Hoechst Corp.) for 30 years before retiring in 1976.

Mr. Heron had served in the United States Navy during WW II and was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine E. (Sarnowski) Heron; a son and daughter-in-law, John T. and Shirlee Heron of South Plain-

field. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Lisa, James and Ron Heron, all of South Plainfield and two great grandchildren, Brittany and Daniel Heron, both of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## Ryszard A. Laskowski, 59

Ryszard A. Laskowski of Middlesex died on Friday, Dec. 25, at his home.

He was born in Wejherowo, Poland and came to the United States in 1957 settling in Dunellen. He was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving back to Dunellen then to Middlesex three years ago.

Mr. Laskowski was a plumber and the owner and operator of R.A. Laskowski Plumbing in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1995.

Mr. Laskowski served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield and a member of the Polish Falcons Nest 281 in Dunellen.

He is survived by two sons, Richard and Lester Laskowski, both of New Jersey.

Funeral services were private. Arrangements were by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

## Olga Mammone, 70

Olga Mammone died on Monday, Dec. 28, in her home.

Born in Bayonne, she had resided in Jersey City for eight years before moving to South Plainfield in 1960.

Mrs. Mammone was a homemaker.

She had been an avid bridge player and bowler and had bowled in many bowling leagues, including the South Plainfield Recreation Mixed Bowling League.

She was also a member of the Suburban Women's Club of South Plainfield and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Frank J. Mammone, Sr., died in 1993.

Surviving are three sons, Frank J., Jr. and Robert J. Mammone, both of South Plainfield and Joseph F. Mammone of Cinnaminson, NJ; a brother, Stanley Stanpaniko of Roselle; two sisters, Ann Bogden of South Plainfield and Marion Higgins of Bayonne. Also surviving are three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Belated Happy New Year! Welcome to the first column from the South Plainfield Library for 1999!

We have several important news items this week. First of all, our regular storytime schedule continues. The programs, all for children age 3 and over, are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. There will also be a special storytime, again for children ages three and up, on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. It will focus on Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, and feature a story and craft activity. You don't need to register for these programs.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Please be sure to attend and learn about some of the Library's plans for 1999.

We have a new display for January. Artwork by local resident Sarah Miele can be seen at the Library throughout the month.

Here's a big change, reference-wise. You will note our telephone directories are gone. We've decided to move into the age of high technology and rely on the Internet for phone numbers. You can look up the numbers you need on our Internet terminals, or ask the Reference Librarian to look them up for you. Don't be alarmed, though; we still have a local phone book at the reference

desk, in case of emergency.

You can get books, CD's, videos, cassettes and lots of information at the library. Now, we've added one more thing: stamps. Stamps can be bought at the circulation desk at the current postage rate: 32 cents per stamp, or \$6.40 per booklet. Unfortunately, this will be going up when the new rates kick in. Please address your comments to the Postmaster.

Our January group of Circuit videos is in place and available for borrowing. Some titles featured in this group are "The Wings of the Dove", "Prime Suspect", "Mercury Rising", "Paulie", and the Oscar-winning documentary, "When We We're Kings". The tapes will be available until Jan. 25. Meanwhile, the Circuit books-on-tape are not on the shelf at the moment. We're between groups; they'll be back ASAP.

Finally, a request. One of the projects we're working on is getting more of our resources on line. For example, we hope to be able to send out reserve notices via computer, as well as the Post Office. One way you can help us is by letting us know your e-mail address, if you have one. We appreciate your help with this.

That just about wraps it up for this issue. As always, please let us know your questions or comments. Our phone number is (908) 754-7885. We'll be right back.

## Brownie Troop 759 Tours Pathmark Store

Members of Brownie Troop 759 recently toured the Pathmark store located on Hadley Blvd. Store manager James Conroy greeted the girls and spoke to them of the importance of safe food handling. The first stop on the tour was the pharmacy department's preventative health station. The girls were given several pamphlets with tips on safety and keeping healthy.

They were shown the flower, video and seasonal departments, while they learned about the grocery business. The girls' tour made a stop in the bakery department where they watched as Mr. Conroy demonstrated decorating a birthday cake and explained how bread, rolls and cakes are mixed, proofed and baked. Each girl was

allowed to choose a cookie from the display case to enjoy.

The girls learned how food arrives in bulk at the store and is prepared for sale in smaller packages. They watched as meat was cut, wrapped, weighed and placed in the proper case for sale. They were treated to freshly sliced American cheese as part of the presentation of the deli department.

Mr. Conroy led the girls on a storewide hunt for foods that are plants or made with plant products as part of their work on the Plants Tryit.

At the checkout area the girls were allowed to scan cereal as a hands-on demonstration of how the cash registers worked. The tour ended with a several questions from the girls.

Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

### SHOULD CHILDREN GO TO FUNERALS?

Parents should bear in mind that numerous studies indicate that children who have the hardest time are those who either are not allowed to attend a funeral or are forced to go. The children who best cope with death are those to whom choices are given allowing them a sense of control at a time when things may seem out of control. Aside from asking children if they want to attend the funeral, ask them if there is something they would like to do or say at the funeral. Children may want to put something into the casket or even help choose the casket. These actions bring a sense of tangibility to what may otherwise be an elusive experience.

As difficult as it may seem to discuss the subject of death with children, the best approach is the most simple. Start by informing them when the funeral or memorial service will be held. Most children will respond by asking the questions that most concern them. Follow their lead and keep your answers simple and brief. The JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, invites you to call 756-2800 to learn more about our wide range of end-of-life services.

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-Pythagoras

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## School Board Candidacy Information Available at Local District Office

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, March 1, 1999, announced Ellen B. Johnson, South Plainfield Business Administrator. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20.

Prospective school board candidates may obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their community's schools to consider board of education membership," said Charles V. Reilly, NJSBA president. "You don't have to be an education expert to serve on your local school board. What counts most is a sincere interest in children and their education."

## SPHS Class of 1958 Holds 40th Reunion



By William Tutbill

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1958 held its 40th reunion recently at Cafe Piancone on Hamilton Blvd. Fifty-five former students and six teachers/advisors were present. Fifteen members of the class are still in South Plainfield teaching or working in other professional fields. Class members came from as far as Florida and Alabama; nine states were represented in all. Thirty-three classmates could not be found.

The guest speaker was Wayne Dibofsky, Associate Director of Government Relations for New Jersey Education Association, Trenton. Mr. Dibofsky was formerly a teacher in New Brunswick. He said he is very interested in justice for all school students. He emphasized that "all politics

are local" and that all community functions have to work together to be successful. It was noted that local politicians must keep a watchful eye on the state-aid portion of our school budget. South Plainfield receives 11% of its school budget from state aid and as a result of the declining aid, teachers are asked to do more with less.

School population figures for the state showed there were 25,000 more students entering school last September than left in June. It is projected that there will be 65,500 more in 10 years.

Those that served on the reunion committee were Joyce Colum Sherlantz, Judy Felthan Krieg, Jack Kirchner, Nancy Randolph, Betty Recifo Cortazzo and Nancy Santy Senia. The committee plans to have another reunion in the year 2003.

## POLICE REPORT

- A Disch Tree Service truck that was parked in a locked, fenced-in area was broken into and seven chain saws valued at \$7,000 were taken. The lock on the fence had been pried open to gain entry.

- A resident on Bell Place reported a check he had noticed missing from his check book was cashed for the amount of \$5,700. He noticed the check missing in Dec. When he received his bank statement he noticed the missing check had been cashed.

- Someone broke into a locked shed at a house on Montrose Ave. and stole power tools, hand tools and a bicycle.

- Jamie Valentine of Somerset was arrested for shoplifting two TV sets valued at \$339.98. After her arrest she was found to also have a \$1000 outstanding contempt of court warrant.

- The hood of a car parked on Bushwick Ave. was opened and someone placed pieces of plastic and brown paper bags on the engine of his car. The owner said that the "check engine light" now is on all the time.

- A shopper at Maxims reported that her purse was stolen while she was sitting in the restaurant. When checking with the manager, it was revealed that the security camera has no tape in it. The purse contained a cell phone, cash, a checkbook, all valued at \$175.

- Two vans parked at Quality Glass on South Clinton Ave. were broken into. The passenger side window was smashed in and tools, tool box, and a shop vacuum were taken.

- An employee of Haborlite Distributing Corp. on Kentile Rd was arrested and charged with stealing five quilts, valued at \$420. He was observed putting the quilts outside the ramp near the parking lot.

- \$100 was reported missing from a wallet of employee of Hair Trek, located in the Middlesex Mall. The employee said she was ready to close the store when three people came in and started to ask questions and distracted her. When they left, she noticed the money missing.

## Borough Clerk James Eckert Honored by International Assoc.

James V. Eckert, CMC, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield, has been awarded the prestigious designation of "Certified Municipal Clerk" (CMC) from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) for achieving its high educational, experience and service requirements.

Mr. Eckert has been employed with the Borough of South Plainfield since January, 1986, where he serves in the position as Municipal Clerk.

He attained his status as a Certified Municipal Clerk by receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

He received the State of New Jersey Registered Municipal Clerk designation in March, 1987 and has attended seminars and conferences sponsored by Rutgers — The State University of New Jersey, Institute for Professional Development, and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Active in professional and civic affiliations, he is a member of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey, Middlesex County Municipal Clerks Association and Middlesex County Ethics Board.

Mr. Eckert has been a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks since January, 1986. He joins 164 other active Municipal Clerks from the State of New Jersey who currently hold

the designation of "Certified Municipal Clerk."

The unique Certification Program of the IIMC was launched in 1970, climaxing a decade of planning. The program aids municipal clerks and deputy clerks in improving job performance and recognizes the professionalization of the Municipal Clerk's office. Completion of a recognized career development institute or a baccalaureate degree in public administration or related field, responsible experience in local government and participation in conferences, meetings and educational seminars are required to earn this prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Qualifications of applicants are reviewed and approved by the IIMC Program and Review Committee.

## Senior Club Elect New Officers

The Senior Citizen's Club of South Plainfield held their election of officers for 1999 on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

The following new officers were elected: President-Joseph Zekas, First Vice President-Fran Strobeck, Second Vice President-Gloria Corio, Secretary-Gloria Harupa, Ass't. Secretary-Dolores Zekas and Treasurer-Alice

Calulfield.

Residents of South Plainfield, 55 years or older, are eligible to join. The group meets every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities are bingo, card playing, socializing, trips to Atlantic City and dinner theaters.

For information, call Joe Zekas at 757-2575.

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### LOST

LOST—PAPER MACHE CHICKEN, approximately 24" tall, white with black spots and red feathers on top of head. Last seen at First Baptist Church Coffee House on Oct. 23. Reward for return. No questions asked. Call (908) 754-3214.

## Classified Advertising Works.

Call (732) 469-4380 to place your classified ad.

3 line minimum, \$10.00. \$1.00 per additional line. All classifieds must be prepaid. To place a classified send your check to the Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Ste. 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Deadline for next issue is Monday, January 11.

## South Plainfield Observer

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- Mohn's Flowers, Plainfield Ave.
- Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Road
- Pauls Stationery, Hamilton Blvd.
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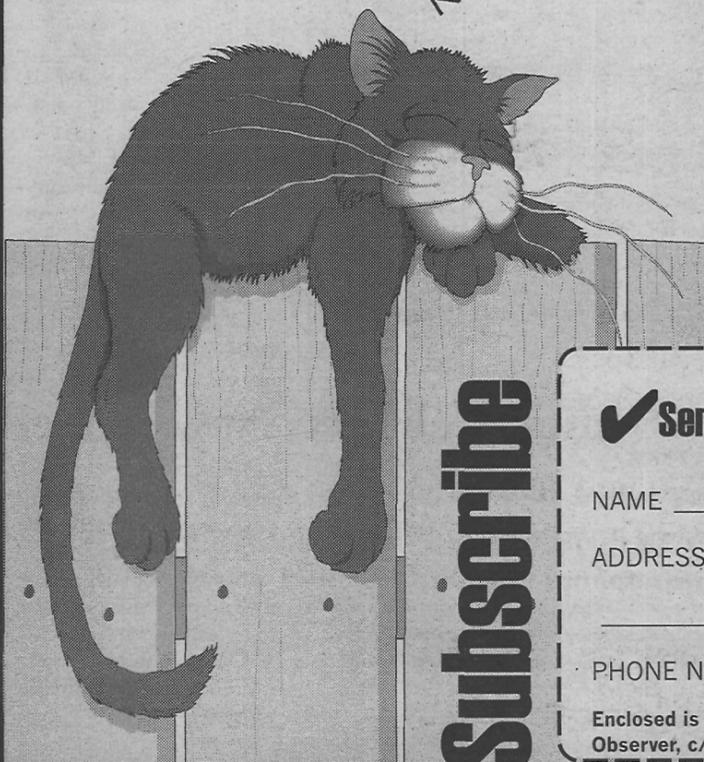
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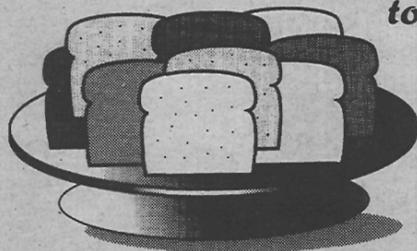
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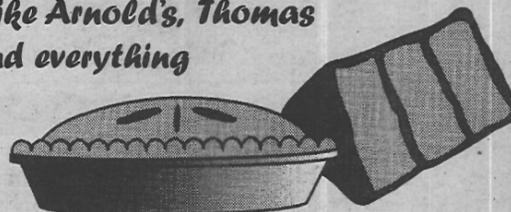
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