

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 2, NO. 11

50 CENTS

JANUARY 22, 1999

Propane Truck Accident Brings Out Volunteers

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, a propane truck owned by Amerigas, overturned on Belmont Ave. The truck was carrying 3,000 pounds of liquefied petroleum. When police arrived, they found a valve on the propane truck leaking. Propane, a dangerous gas, settles along the ground and is extremely explosive.

When the 911 call came in, dispatchers immediately notified the Office of Emergency Management, the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. Belmont Ave. and the side streets leading to Belmont were blocked off. A forward command post, staging and press area were established at Roosevelt School. In addition, the incident command was put into place.

With the temperature at 20 degrees and sleet and freezing rain falling, emergency workers, including police, fire and scores of volunteers, struggled to seal the leaking valve and upright the truck.

Approximately 100-200 resi-

denits in a one-square-mile were evacuated from their homes and sent to Roosevelt School.

Roosevelt School was opened and the incident command center was set up. Evacuated residents, as well as emergency workers and the many volunteers were also sent there. No one in the motor vehicle accident nor any of the evacuated residents were injured.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. the truck was uprighted and carefully escorted out of town. The area was then thoroughly checked for any lingering propane gas. Residents were allowed to return to their homes after each house was inspected for leaking gas.

Mayor Gallagher commended the scores of volunteers who rushed to scene and stayed until the emergency was under control.

Dennis Cerami added that the police and fire department, along with the many volunteers of South Plainfield are all trained for such emergencies and it was evi-

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Scene of Jan. 13 propane spill on Belmont Avenue.

Residents Flee Crash Scene

By Patricia Abbott

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, South Plainfield resident Lory Jackson spent an afternoon out with a friend. The return home from a routine shopping trip turned into a scene that rivaled the movie of the week.

A propane truck traveling west on Belmont Ave. was cut off by a car that had run the stop sign at Spicer Ave. The truck tipped over and skidded to a stop in front of

the Jackson home. As Lory approached Belmont Ave. she was surprised at the amount of traffic. It wasn't until she got closer to her home that she saw what she described as "a white cloud" in front of her house. Spicer Ave. was still open and Lory was able to get closer to the near disaster. As Lory recalls, "I arrived home from the mall to find a smashed up car and a smoking truck on its side, blocking the front entry to

my home. I ran across the neighbor's grass in a panic looking for my family, thinking the truck would explode at any second."

Propane gas poured from the truck onto the road and into the air. When the shout came to get out of the house, they had no time

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Borough Notes

Council News

■ The concrete structure known as the 'Elm Street Garage' has been deemed hazardous by the Public Works Department and will be torn down.

■ The council authorized \$7,500 to purchase property owned by the Italian-American Progressive League located on Harvard Ave. for a drainage easement. The easement is required to construct drainage improvements to relieve residential flooding problems on Harvard Ave.

■ Pyrotechnico, the vendor who was scheduled to provide the fireworks display last Labor Day, will be sent a letter of intent by the Council to provide the fireworks in 1999. Last year's fireworks display was cancelled due to inclement weather. Pyrotechnico has agreed to reimburse one half of the cancellation fee (\$577.50) in exchange for a letter of intent for the 1999 fireworks.

■ Mohawk Resources Ltd., of Amsterdam, NJ was awarded \$26,000 for the installation of a hydraulic lift at the Department of Public Works Garage. This was the only bid received for this project.

■ Annette Juliano of the Cultural Arts Commission submitted a letter of resignation.

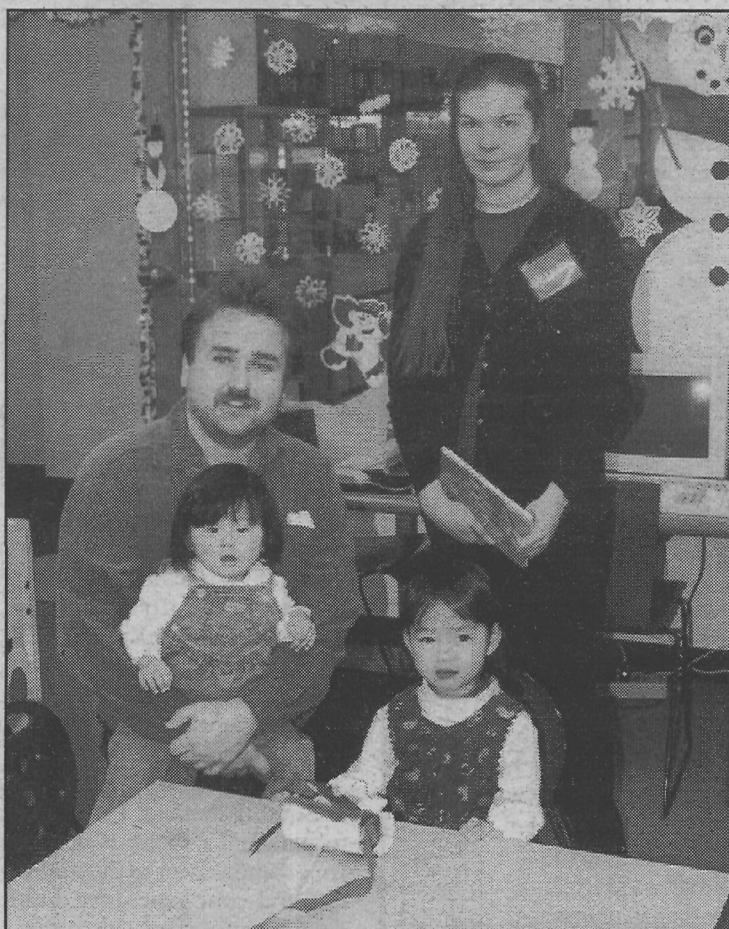
■ The PMK Group has been authorized to apply to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for funding under the Hazardous Discharge Site Redemption Fund, to obtain funds to determine the presence of and/or extent of hazardous materials on the site of Non-Ferrous Metals, located on Pulaski St. If the grant is made available, a contract will be awarded to the PMK Group to implement all necessary actions to remove any impediments toward the marketability of the property.

Continued on page 3

Did You Get Last Week's Observer Late?

Subscribers to the *Observer* complained they did not get last week's *Observer* in the mail until Tuesday. The paper was delivered to the post office last Thursday and was misplaced. We went to the post office Saturday and were told the newspapers were being delivered.

We regret the inconvenience. If you do not get your *Observer* in the mail on Fridays, call the post office and ask where it is.



Joseph Wolak, sitting with daughters Jennifer and Katelyn, visit the South Plainfield Library to hear Library Intern Linda Hansen read stories focusing on the Vietnamese New Year. After the storytime, the children each made paper dragons to take home.

Tax Bill Payment Dates Extended

The Borough Council passed a resolution to extend the due date for the payment of first quarter tax payments until Feb. 19 at the Jan. 14 Council meeting. The first quarter tax bills were mailed to residents recently, along with associate enclosures.

State statute establishes Feb. 1 as the due date for payment of taxes and allows a 10 day grace before late payment penalties are imposed. However, if the tax bills are not mailed at least 25 days prior to the statutory due date, the municipality can extend the due date and the grace period by a resolution.

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In My Opinion

Letters

To The Editor:

I was so happy to find your home page!

We grew up residents of South Plainfield. When my mother passed away, we moved to Michigan because my father had family here. But his heart has never left South Plainfield! Every holiday when we get together, he always talks about "our" hometown. Even though it has been 20 years since dad has been there — he still reminisces about the streets. I am amazed by his memory of every road, avenue and turn. I see a special gleam in his eyes when he talks about South Plainfield. Maybe it was because life was different there, and New Jersey brought him so much happiness.

I would like to order a subscription of the *Observer* for my dad (and myself). I can not tell you how happy I was to find your web page and how happy you will make my dad.

**THANK YOU,
DOUG PORRITT**

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to all the people who helped make my Eagle project (toy drive) a success. I collected 669 gifts along with almost \$1,000 in cash and gift certificates.

I would like to thank the following people and companies who helped make this toy drive so successful: Mr. Guy Ferri, for letting me put boxes in the elementary schools; Mrs. Fenn, for letting me put a box in the library; and Mayor Gallagher for letting me put a box in Borough Hall. Also the many companies and employees for their donations: VFW Post #6763, Church of Sacred Heart, Jayne Enterprises, Greenblatt Family C/O G&W Labs, Scott Environment Technology, No. American Philips Lighting, Cub Pack 207, Origin and Ricochet Racquet Club.

Also I want to thank Wal-Mart, my employer, for donating the

wrapping paper for the collection boxes and Innovative Folding Carton for donating the boxes. I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to my project and donated something.

And last but not least, I want to thank the people that came out and helped me package the toys for distribution. The many people that helped me were, my family and friends; Girl Scouts from Troop 318: Kristen Fredericks, Heather Barrett, Christina Lorange, Laura Painton, Danielle Larisch and their leader Mrs. Eileen Lorange; Boy Scouts from my Troop 309: Andrew Falocco, Keenan Gaynor, Christopher Tiefel, Lee Stellakis, and my leaders, Dr. Schroeder, and Mr. Goyette. I would especially like to thank Mrs. Ackerman, the Director of Social Services of South Plainfield, for her support in carrying out the project. I'm sure the families that received these gifts had a merrier Christmas because of all the people that helped me.

Thank you all once again.

**EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE,
TROOP 309, ERIC TOTH**

To the Editor:

My son recently handed me a notice from the Middle School stating backpacks will no longer be allowed in the classrooms. Safety reasons, such as crowded hallways and students tripping on bags that fall into the aisles, were cited. The students will now be 'allowed' to dash to their lockers between classes in order to alleviate the masses of backpacks in the hallways. My vision is that of many more students in the hallways, frantically trying to get the needed books before the next class. An obvious suggestion would be to bring the next class' books with them ... but oops, the books may also fall into the aisle creating a more complicated problem, more than just a single backpack to be placed under a desk. The notice asks parents to

"...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." Will extra time be allowed between classes? My son is concerned about being late for class. He said that often his locker is further than the next class. Will he be penalized for being less organized than others? He mentioned a petition that some students were circulating with the very reasonable suggestion that students promise to keep the backpacks out of the way. He further suggested that those students who fail to do so should be the ones who are not allowed to carry the packs to each class.

The early teen years are hard enough without throwing obvious contradictions at these young minds. My son asked me why there was more concern about the weight of the packs in school when they often carry equally heavy backpacks home. Daily I see students bent over, heads downward from the weight of the books they carry home. Is this not also a safety issue as well as a health issue? The name Middle School appropriately describes these school years. It is a midpoint between grade and high school. The students are required to do more for themselves, become more self reliant, to seek solutions, to become more efficient. Why not give them credit for recognizing a contradiction? Why not allow them to be part of the solution, rather than causing worry about compliance?

**PATRICIA ABBOTT
PARENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT**

Dear Editor:

In a society that is bombarded by violence, crime, and constant criticism of all that is open to scrutiny, it is nice to know that there are those who find it in their hearts to believe it is worth contributing to a very good cause.

The cause I am referring to is the United Way of South Plainfield and its Holiday Poinsettia Campaign. The campaign was very successful and raised \$2,400. This milestone would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of many valued merchants and companies that have chosen South Plainfield as the community for their businesses.

These folks deserve to be mentioned. They are Artists & Models, Brush Stop, Columbia Savings Bank, Corner Deli, European Hair Design, Franklin School, Giakas's Cleaners, Grant School, South Plainfield High School, John E. Riley School, John F. Kennedy School, Keystone Community Residence, Lynn Steel Corp., Middle School, Municipal Building, Pacer Tool & Plastics, Ricochet Health & Racquet Club, Sherbar's Diner, Summit Bank, Valley National Bank, Villa Pizza, VWR Scientific Products and White Star Diner.

On behalf of the United Way of South Plainfield, I would like to personally thank you all for your commitment to the community and your generosity during the holiday season.

**SINCERELY,
RICK STEFANY, PRESIDENT
UNITED WAY OF SOUTH
PLAINFIELD**

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board of Adjustment
1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:

January 5, January 19
February 2, February 16
March 2, March 16, March 30
April 6, April 20
May 4, May 18
June 1, June 15, June 29
July 6, July 20
August 3, August 17, August 30
September 21
October 5, October 19
Nov. 4 (Thursday), November 16, November 30
December 7, December 21

Site-Plan Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:
Fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27,
June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

Planning Board
1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as Follows:

January 12, January 26
February 9, February 23
March 9, March 23
April 13, April 27
May 11, May 25
June 8, June 22
July 13, July 27
August 10, August 24
September 14, September 28
October 26
November 9, November 23
December 14, December 28

Logon to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda .



**ALL
MEETINGS
ARE OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC.**

Just in Case You Missed It—
Check out Advertisers' Offers

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.

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

Heavenly Country Store—

Free angel pin with \$10 purchase. See page 3.

American Martial Arts—Free introductory offer. See page 3.

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*.

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 it must be submitted by Friday, 5 p.m. for publication in the following week's edition.

Copy can also 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.

South Plainfield
Observer

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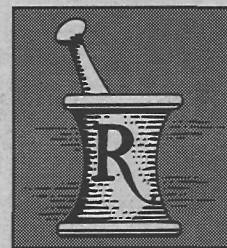
We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

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. 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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Come and See for Yourself!

Share Your Heart This Year with United Way

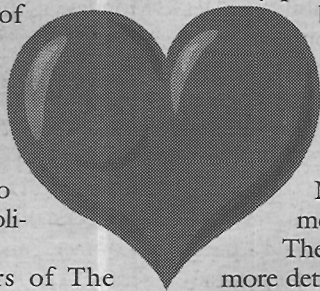
The United Way of South Plainfield wants to share their heart with everyone, at least for Valentine's Day! The sale of pointsettia cards during the holidays brought them \$2,100. This is \$1,400 short of their \$3,500 goal. Determined to raise the difference, they have come up with an ingenious way to supplement the holiday fund drive.

Four members of The United Way have been brushing up on their vocal skills and formed a barbershop quartet. For a \$50 donation to The United Way, the group will arrive at your

business or residence in tuxedos and croon a love song as well as present a gift.

For two members of this quartet, this will be easy. They regularly perform with a real barbershop quartet. The challenge is for the remaining two non-singing members to transform themselves into vocalists. No easy task by any means!

The *Observer* will have more details about this Valentine's Day quartet in the next issue. Help support the United Way of South Plainfield score big points with your Valentine in the form of a personal serenade!



Taxpayers Advisory Group Elects 1999 Officers

From Jim McNabb,
TAG Secretary

The Tax Payers Advisory Group held their first meeting of the year on Thursday, Jan. 7. The group welcomed three new members, Theresa Caslow, Fred Toth, and Carol Hunterton.

The first order of business was the election of officers for 1999. The results of the elections were as follows: Harry Kuhn, Chairperson; Richard Petrone, Vice Chairman and Jim McNabb, Recording Secretary.

Seven members of TAG attended the meeting, including Frank Cornell, who has been absent due to medical problems.

A motion was passed to examine our Borough ordinances. In an effort to make residents aware of what ordinances are presently in effect and how they reflect on their quality of life. As the study and examination progresses, the Taxpayers Advisory Group will share their results with local newspapers.

Democracy Day and the crosswalk at the post office were also discussed with Council liaison Vincent Buttiglieri.

The next meeting of the Taxpayers Advisory Group is Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. The Group meets the first Thursday of the month in Borough Hall.

Borough Notes *Continued from page one*

■ Advanced Communication Sciences, Inc. was awarded a contract for a file server, software and installation charges not to exceed \$9,000. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder.

■ The Council will renew the licenses of Conti Enterprises, Boro

Auto Wrecking and South Plainfield Auto Salvage to conduct sales of motor vehicles in the borough to the following:

Planning Board

■ Tonsar, Inc. was granted a two lot subdivision on Delmore Ave.



President Patrick Aiello presents Lawrence Massaro with a Lifetime Membership Certificate. Also pictured are Secretary Steven Cecchetti and Treasurer Ralph Russo.

Lions Club Awards Larry Massaro With Lifetime Membership

The Lions Club of South Plainfield announced that Larry Massaro, Lions Club member for 38 years, has been awarded one of the club's highest honors – a Lifetime Membership in the Lions.

Mr. Massaro has been a member of the Lions Club since 1961. He originally joined the Lions or-

ganization in Harrison, NJ and became a member of the South Plainfield Lions in 1965. He was elected president of the South Plainfield Club in 1972 and served as District Governor in 1978.

He has also been involved with Lions International and currently serves as the State Financial Chair-

man.

Mr. Massaro is an integral part of the South Plainfield Lions Club, organizing and coordinating such events as the Gourmet Breakfast on Palm Sunday and the Lions Labor Day cook out held each year in Veteran's Memorial Park as part of the Labor Day Parade Celebration.

Juniorettes Keep On Giving

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Juniorettes, a sister youth organization of the Junior Woman's Club, installed four new members in a candlelight ceremony held during their Christmas party. There are currently about eighteen girls in the community service club and four more girls will be installed at a later date.

A year-long Juniorettes project included the 'adoption' of a family through Marge Ackerman of the Health Department. They began the project at Thanksgiving by providing a food basket for the family. For Christmas, the girls provided stockings filled with gifts for 'their' family. Advisor Kathy Winner said, "You can't imagine how generous these girls are; with the giving they have done and are committed to doing in the future!" During the holiday season the girls prepared small cards with large lifesavers attached along with the message, "Be a lifesaver, don't drink and drive". The cards were given to local liquor stores to hand out to customers during the holiday season.

In November, the Juniorettes received 48 stuffed bears from the Salvation Army. The girls gave each bear a personality of their own, with clothing and other

adornments. The finished bears were returned to the Salvation Army, who in turn distributed them to children in need and those in shelters.

Future plans include working with the Junior Woman's Club. They will hold a "prom" fashion show in March with the girls as the models. The Juniorettes want to use their share of proceeds for two classmates diagnosed with cancer. Kathy Winner adds, "It gives me the chills when I hear of all their ideas. We as advisors have a hard time keeping up with their generous spirit and active commitment to service."

The girls have completed many projects in the past year, including a successful blood drive held in November. During this event the girls helped support Muh-

lenberg Regional Medical Center's outreach program for organ donation registration, handing out pamphlets explaining the need for organ donors, along with registration information. The Juniorettes are grateful for the support of the community. Advisors for the group are: Patti Taber, Kathy Raiti and Kathy Winner, all former Juniors and now members of the Junior's Alumni Club.

Members of the Juniorettes include: Amy Alles, Alison Barrett, Amy Bengivenga, Amanda Bertrand, Leyna Bollwage, Kim Bulla, Tarryn Carlton, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Dina Diaz, Catherine Flannery, Hollie Gaster, Krista Gunderson, Julie Palmer, Robin Stayvas, Nichole Wrublevski, Lauren Yulick. At least six of the girls are daughters of former Juniors.

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Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
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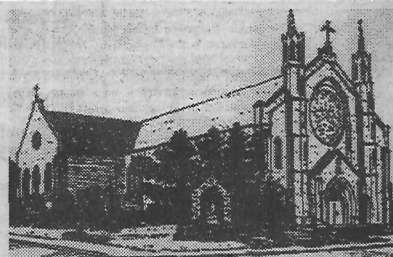
Very Rev. Michael A. McGuire, Pastor

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



AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

A Touch of Italy

Franklin School invites the public to the Second Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Jan. 22, 5-8 p.m. in the Franklin School cafeteria. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. Children are \$4; under 2 are free. Dinner includes a tossed garden salad, spaghetti with meatballs, Italian bread, beverage and dessert. All proceeds will benefit Franklin School's fifth grade trip to Stokes-NJ School of Conservation. There will also be a 50/50, a gift basket raffle and a gift corner with a variety of Valentine's Day items, jewelry and fine collectibles.

Columbiettes and Knights Sponsor Spaghetti Dinner

The Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 4-8 p.m. at the Knights of Co-

lumbus Council Hall located on Hamilton Blvd.

The price is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for children ages 4-11. The dinner will include spaghetti, sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, butter, dessert and coffee. Other beverages will be available for an additional charge.

For information or directions, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Aiello Chiropractic Plans Workshop on Balance and Stress

Aiello Chiropractic Center located at 2201 South Clinton Ave., Suite H will hold a workshop on balance and stress on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

The workshop is designed to help attendees maintain healthy and well balanced lives by teaching how to handle stress, which can make or break health. In that spirit, on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. sharp, Dr. Patrick Aiello will be holding a workshop

on balance and stress.

Natalie Gahrman, MA, of Personal Best Coaching & Development will run the workshop designed to educate attendees as to the principles, perspective and the tools to lead a rich, rewarding and balanced life.

This workshop is a must for all those who seem bogged down or can't seem to manage their time wisely. There is no charge for the workshop. Interested people should RSVP by Jan. 25. For more information, call Dr. Aiello at (908) 755-2289.

AARP Chapter 4144 Events

On March 22, a trip is planned to the Hunterdon Hills Dinner Theater to see "Catch Me If You Can." The cost is \$45, which includes transportation, dinner, show, taxes and gratuities. Call Lee (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764 for reservations.

A/C Bus Trip to Cesare's Palace

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 6763 will sponsor a bus trip to Cesare's Palace A/C on Feb. 21. The bus will leave the post on Front Street at 9 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20. (\$20 returned at destination.)

For reservations or more information call (908) 668-9751 and ask for Carol or Joan Jepsen.

To be included in **Events Around Town**, submit your information to the Observer at 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax information to 732 805-0815.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

As noted last week, this winter is considerably less mild than last winter. But, even with that, we at the South Plainfield Library recognize our responsibility to let you know what's going on here. So, here's the latest news.

We'll be holding our regular storytime programs next week. All are for children ages three and over. They're held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m.. Also, don't forget the craft program this afternoon at 4 p.m. It's for kids ages six and over; registration is required for this program. For more information, call us at 754-7885; ask for Linda Hansen.

One of several items decided during the Jan. 12 meeting of the Board of Trustees was the addition of new furniture. This will include some new chairs for our Internet terminal area, and some more new shelving. We'll keep you posted on developments.

We've just added a couple new features to our catalog terminals. The first is the "Super Search." With this, patrons can search for items using multiple terms or even truncated terms, rather like using an Internet search engine. We've also adopted a video index, which allows you to search for titles either by using keywords (titles, stars, etc.) or by simply browsing an alphabetical list of available titles. Please feel free to use these programs and let us know how they turned out.

On the A/V front, the new group of Circuit Books-On-Tape is available now; it'll be around until April. It features works by

James Lee Burke, Dick Francis, Toni Morrison and Lillian Jackson Braun, among others. Meanwhile, our present group of Circuit Videos will be available until Monday, if there's a video from this group you're interested in, now is the time. Meanwhile, we've just added some new videos to our own collection. The new titles in our general video section include "Enter the Dragon", "Close Encounters of The Third Kind", "Contact", and two from the TV series, "The Avengers". New tapes in our children's section include tapes from the "Wishbone", "Blue's Clues", and "Teletubbies" series, respectively. Please remember the new video arrangement we've put into place, fiction titles alphabetically, non-fiction titles by Dewey number.

We've gotten a very good response for this month's display. It's artwork by South Plainfield High School Freshman Sarah Miele, featuring works in scratchboard, pen and ink, and pastels. You can see her work on our display wall until the end of next week.

Finally, you probably noticed that on three occasions thus far in 1999, we've been forced to close or open late due to weather conditions. If you're not sure of our status when the weather gets rough, turn your radio to WCTC (1450 AM) or WAWZ (99.1 FM) to check if we're open. We'll try to get an announcement on one or both of these stations.

That's about all for this week. Thanks for reading and keep your snow shovels handy. You'll probably need them again before springtime.

Single Parents Form New Group

If you are looking for a chance to get out and meet with others in your situation, you may be interested in the newly formed Single Parents of Central New Jersey.

- As a single parent it is often difficult to get into a relationship with someone who does not have a child of their own.

- They don't understand the concept of "the kids come first" and sometimes just don't have the patience to deal with their boyfriend/girlfriend's child from a

previous relationship.

This is not meant to be a "parenting group," but a social, fun group where people can get out and meet others in similar situations.

The group will be meeting on the first and third Wednesday of each month starting on Feb. 3 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The hall has a small dance floor, a bar (non-alcoholic), a giant screen TV and a few cozy areas with sofas.

For info, call Sandra 732-283-1250 or email snglprntnj@aol.com.

January 1999

MEETINGS & EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Tuesday, 5 pm					1	2
3	4	5 Friends of the Library 7:30 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	6 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	7 Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm	8 Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	9
10	11 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	12 Historical Society HS Library 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	13 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	14 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	15 Rabbies Clinic 6-8 p.m. Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	16 Rabbies Clinic 9 am-12 p.m.
17	18 School Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	19 BOD Meeting 8 pm Early Dismissal All Schools Board of Adjustment 8 pm	20 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	21	22 Touch of Italy Franklin 5 pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	23
24	25 DARE Graduation Franklin 1:45 pm Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	26 DARE Graduation Sacred Heart 11:45 am Aiello Chiropractic Workshop 7pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board 8 pm	27 DARE Graduation Roosevelt 1:45 pm Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	28 DARE Graduation Kennedy 1:45 pm Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	29 DARE Graduation Riley 1:45 pm Publication of <i>So. Plfd. Observer</i>	30 Columbiettes/Knights Spaghetti Dinner 4-8 pm, KC Hall

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. See subscription form on page 12.



Roosevelt School's Daisy Troop #188 recently had their investiture into Girl Scouts. The members of the troop are from left to right: (front row) Julie Rosocha, Amanda Steger, Brigitte Kelly, Quantera Lightner, Jaclyn Handwerger, Connie Caldrony and Rachel Alexa; (back row) Danielle Schaaf, Marissa Petro, Kristianna Niemczyk, Joelle Butrico, Tara O'Day, Kaleigh Medici, Francine Glaser, Brittany Foran and Colleen Broderick.

YMCA Kid's Place to Open Feb. 1

A new YMCA Kid's Place, located on Park Ave., will be opening on Feb. 1.

A full day child care center, the YMCA Kid's Place is an affiliate of the Plainfield area YMCA, which is chartered to serve the South Plainfield area. The school offers a full day learning experience for children three months to five years of age, with options for part-time and full day care for two to five days a week, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cari Ann Flynn of South Plain-

field has been appointed child care director of YMCA Kid's Place. She brings 11 years of experience in child care and a philosophy to her position that is consistent with part of the YMCA mission.... We build strong kids. Cari states that "We need to respect children as individuals and remember that even though they are little, they are still people too." She feels that children learn at different rates and teachers need to provide them with as much hands-on learning as we can and expose

them to the world around them.

Cari, the mother of four, twin three-year-old girls and two sons, six and eight, has been married for 10 years to Craig Flynn.

The YMCA Kid's Place will host an open house on Sunday, March 7, at 1 p.m. For further information, call (908) 822-9076.

The Plainfield Area YMCA is chartered to serve youngsters and adults in Dunellen, Green Brook, North Plainfield, Plainfield, South Plainfield, Piscataway, Warren and Watchung.

MILESTONES

Dean's List

William A. Meixner on Dean's List

William A. Meixner, the son of Linda and Bill Meixner of Moose Ave. in South Plainfield, has made the Dean's List at Middlesex County College during the 1999 fall semester.

The Dean has encouraged William to participate in the Social Sciences and Humanities Divisional Council and The All-College Assembly's various task forces during the spring semester.

William is a member of the Track Club at Middlesex County College. He holds the record for

the best heavy weight throw during a track meet.

William attended South Plainfield schools from kindergarten through high school. He graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1995. He was a member of the high school track team for four years. He threw shot put, disc and javelin. He made the State Finals during his senior year, throwing the shot put and disc.

William plans to attend the College of New Jersey in the fall of 1999.

Engagement

Karla Galfetti, daughter of Harriet and Eugene Galfetti, will wed William Smith, son of Lorraine and William Smith on May 22, 1999. The wedding will take place in central Vermont.

The couple plan to honeymoon in the Greek Islands.



Karla Galfetti and William Smith

Do you know of a birth, marriage, promotion, etc. Send your information, along with a photo (if available), to So. Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 and we will publish it in Milestones. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your photos returned.

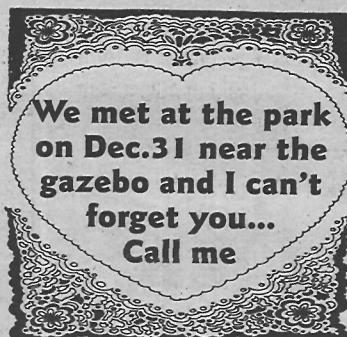
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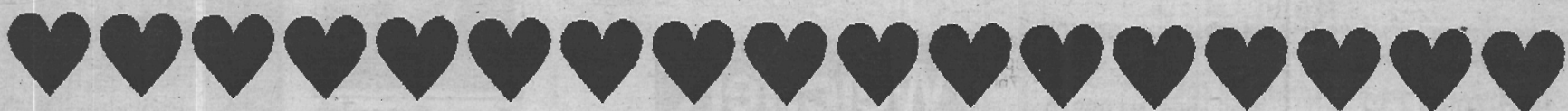
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Missing your sweet
lips..Wish we could
reconnect....
.... LONELY 4U



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IN OUR SCHOOLS

SPHS Chorus Paves the Road to Florida

By Eric Johnson

South Plainfield High School

When you think of chorus, you may think of students who sweat under the hot stage lights in Kelly green robes and sing until their voices are raw. However, chorus can be fun.

The chorus is planning a trip to Disney World April 5-11. They will be competing in the "Disney Magic Music Days Competition."

Sophomore Annette Papa said, "It's Florida! We really want to do well and prove that the chorus can do well representing the school."

They are leaving for Orlando the day after Easter and will be staying in the Disney All Star Resort.

This is the fourth time the chorus will be going to Florida. Their first trip there was seven years ago and ever since they have followed a tradition of going every other year.

Approximately half of the chorus will be going. This is not shocking because the trip costs \$1,050.

Freshman Allison Vaughn said, "I think that going to Disney World is going to be an interesting experience and a lot of fun to be a part of."

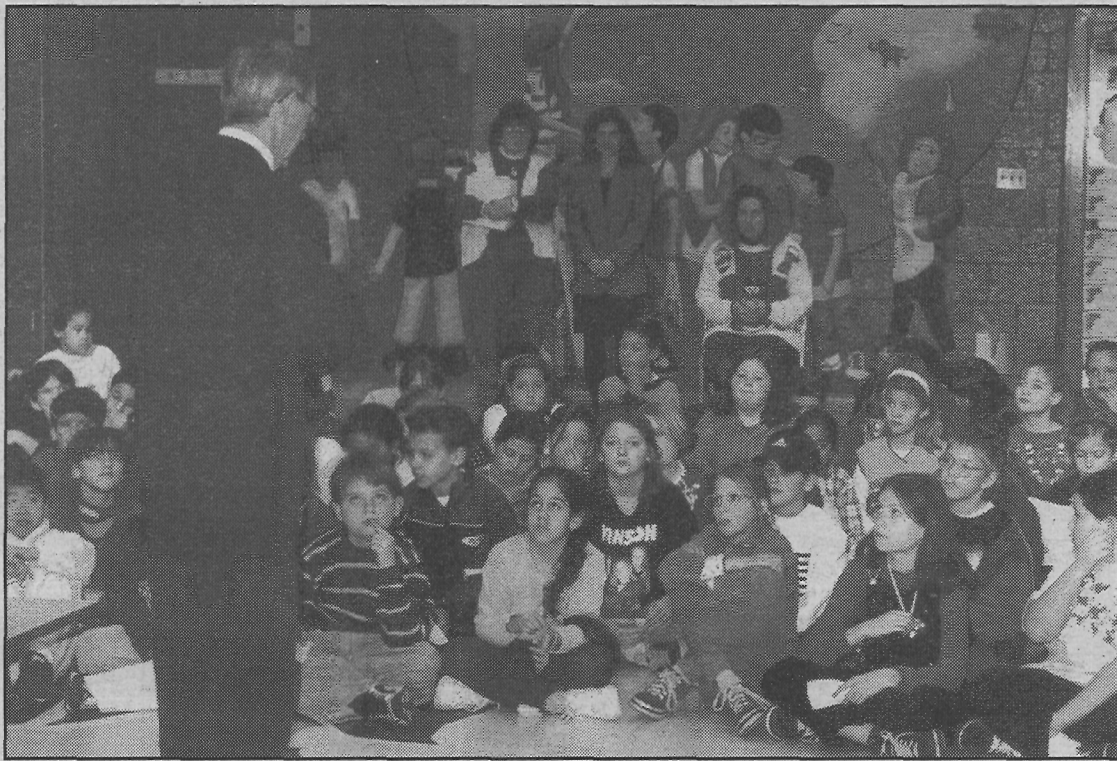
The president of SPHS's chorus, Senior Kristen Pfeifer said, "It is a good experience for the freshmen and for those who have never been there."

Junior Lisa Mocerino went on the trip two years ago. She said, "It was fun last time and it will be just as fun this time."

Sophomore Carrie Reilly, who has been to Florida once, is also looking forward to going. She said, "I'm very excited about going back to Florida. It'll be a lot of fun to perform there and to spend a week there. I love all of the music that we are singing."

The music that the chorus will be singing is "Jenny Rebecca" arranged by Clair T. Mc Elfresh and written by Carol Han, "Alleluia" by Randall Thompson and an assortment of Disney Music.

Some of the seniors feel that this trip will be their last memory of the high school. Senior Jackie Deutsch said, "This could be one of the last fun times that we have in South Plainfield."



Mayor Dan Gallagher reinforces the importance of recycling to Kennedy School students.

Mayor Talks Trash at Kennedy School

On Wednesday, Dec. 23, Mayor James Gallagher visited the fourth grade students at John F. Kennedy School to talk trash. Kate Pizzelanti, student teacher from Kean University, instructed Mrs. Szemborski's science students on the problems caused by trash.

Upon learning the four ways to deal with trash (burn it, bury it, make less of it and make new things of it), Mrs. Pizzelanti urged the fourth graders to write

to the mayor. In their letters, the students made suggestions on how to deal with trash in South Plainfield.

Mayor Gallagher decided to address the issues concerning trash in person. While talking to the students, Mr. Gallagher informed them that he would heed one of the suggestions offered by the nine-year-olds.

In order to make new things from trash, you must recycle. Students suggested that the recycling

yard be made more accessible. The mayor declared that the recycling center would remain open longer hours. The Kennedy students were pleasantly surprised to hear this news, as well as to receive information about recycling.

Before leaving the Kennedy School class, Mayor Gallagher encouraged the students to participate in the 'Clean Up South Plainfield Day' which takes place each year in the spring.

Twenty-Eight Years of Substitute Teaching

By Eric Johnson

South Plainfield High School

You might have seen her in algebra, chemistry or even gym. Some kids think that they can do anything that they want when a substitute is around, but Francis DeAndrea has been a substitute for SPHS for 28 years and she is "old enough to know better."

She taught for four years prior to moving to South Plainfield. However, she has been substituting for 28 years. All of those 28 years she has spent at SPHS.

"I moved to South Plainfield after I got married. After having my two children, I wanted to have a part-time job, and I thought that I could substitute."

DeAndrea said "Overall, it has been a rewarding job, but there are some days that I say to myself, 'Why am I doing this?' On the whole, I find most of my students very nice ladies and gentlemen. I have always tried to treat my students with the same respect they treat me with."

DeAndrea said that, though she has substituted in every subject, she does not really have a favorite.

Outside of school, DeAndrea has some very interesting hobbies. "I like to dance and sew. I used to be a lifesaver, and I used to water ski, snow ski, and do water ballet. I had to stop these activities due to my hearing handicap. Dancing was my first true love."

Some student also gave their views on Mrs. DeAndrea. Junior Mike Grasso said, "Mrs. D is the best. I love her as a sub. She teaches us more than just school work. She teaches us the way life is and shows us how to make it in the world."

Junior John Espin said, "She is such a sweet lady who never has anything mean to say. She is the bright spot in my day and she is my sun during cloudy days. She is a great gal."

Junior Ashley Rettburg said, "When she subs for us she always talks about real things that are going on in life. It is really interesting having her as a substitute."

One of the reasons that DeAndrea knows so much about life is because of her family.

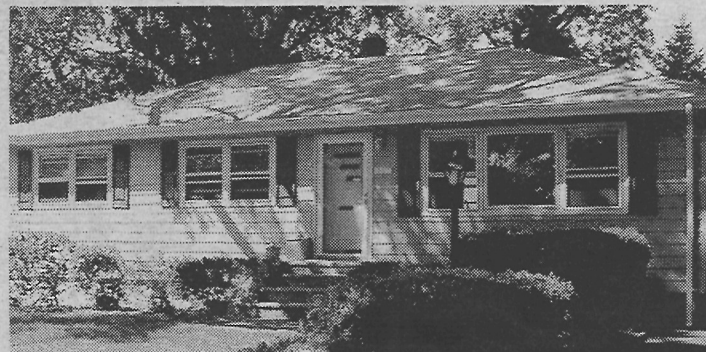
"My sister is a psychic. At first I did not believe in it, then I realized that she did have this special gift. I occasionally get readings from her."

So next the time you see Mrs. DeAndrea, don't think of her as just a substitute. Think of her as a woman who has come far and seen a lot of life.

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Board of Education Recognizes Student and Staff Achievements



Teacher Rachel Thompson and Dawn Wallis, Grant School nurse.

The South Plainfield Board of Education held a special meeting last week and presented Certificates of Appreciation to students and staff members for their achievement in academics, fine arts, athletics, school and community service and special programs.

Special Achievement Awards

Dawn Wallis, a nurse at Grant School, received a commendation for her work on the development and implementation of a health and safety curriculum for the Sunshine Pre-School program. Because of her work, the South Plainfield School District received a *Certificate of Outstanding Com-*

outstanding first year teacher. The American Association of School Administrators and Sallie Mae presented Thompson a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of her selection. Ms. Thompson taught last year at Riley School.

Academic Awards

This year's winners of the VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest were recog-

nized. A record of more than 200 essays were entered in this year's competition. Two essay contests were held by the VFW this year, one at the eighth and ninth grade level and one for upper school level students.

The Middle School winners of the "What Freedom Means to Me" essay contest from eighth grade were: first place to Rebecca Bianchi, second place to Glen Gross and third place to Katie Lawrence. The ninth grade winners were: first place to Jeffrey McKnight; second place to Gina D'Urso and third place to Rafael Dias. The first place prize winner received \$125, second place

who won \$100. Matthew went on to compete at the District Level and was awarded second place at the VFW District #8 competition.

Chiemeka Ejiochi was commended for being selected as a National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist.

Commendations were extended to Mohamed Shiliwala, Daniel LaSpata and Lisa Sepkowski for being selected as National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students. These students placed in the top five percent of more than a million students who took the 1998 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Selected as the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the 1998/99 academic year were: Rochelle Dimacje, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Amy Glowacki, Daniel LaSpata, Matthew LaSpata, Dimple Patel, Thais Petrocelli, Sandra Reedy, Lisa Sepkowski, Mohamed Shiliwala, July Wang and Matthew Wocik. This program recognizes the academic achievement of New Jersey's secondary school students and provides an annual scholarship award to be used toward up to four years of undergraduate study at a New Jersey college or university.

Athletic Awards

Trevor Willis was selected to the All-Greater Middlesex Conference. Trevor, a member of the soccer team, was the leading scorer on the team with 17 goals. He plans to attend Rutgers next year.

Dyshawn Washington was selected to Group II Allstate Football Team. Dyshawn, a defensive back on the football team, was also the leading scorer with 16 touchdowns.

Ryan Flannery and Dyshawn Washington were selected to the All-Greater Middlesex Conference. Ryan averaged 38 yards a punt this year. This was the second year he was selected for this honor.

Football Coach Philip McGuane and assistants Richard Fonti, Bill Schulte, Brian Bilal and Bill Hamilton were given the GMC Sportsmanship Award—Blue Division for the third year in a row. The football team this year had a 7-2 record.

Cindy Carlson was selected to the All-Greater Middlesex Conference for her participation in Girls Cross Country. Cindy is also a top student in her class.

Boys Cross Country Coach Mike Capizola was awarded the GMC Sportsmanship Award—Blue Division.

received \$100 and third place, \$75. The first place winner will be eligible to compete at the District Level and if successful there, will be eligible to compete at the state level and the finals held in Washington, DC.

The upper grades not only had to write an essay but were also required to record it on tape. Their essay was entitled, "My Service to America". The winners were: first place to Matthew LaSpata, who won \$150. Second place went to Mohamed Shiliwala, who won \$125 and third place to Daniel LaSpata



Marilyn Hawkins



Carol Celantano

Riley School Aides Retire

Marilyn Hawkins and Carol Celantano, aides from Riley School, recently retired.

A family relocation out of state was the reason for the retirement of lunchroom/playground aide Carol Celantano.

Carol has served Riley School children for over 20 years. She was also part of the school family on a personal level. Her children and, most recently, her granddaughter, Shannon, were students at the school.

Marilyn Hawkins was a lunchroom/playground aide for 30 years. One of her sons attended Riley School when it first opened. Mr. Tobias, principal during that time, asked Marilyn if she would like to work at the school, as she was always helping out in the building. That informal job offer was the beginning of her long tenure and commitment to Riley. Marilyn's granddaughter, Ashley, continues the family tradition as a second grader.



On Dec. 19, J.F. Kennedy School students and families had a wonderful time at the annual Breakfast with Santa. As a special treat this year, the children were also able to ride Santa's "reindeer".



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Due to inclement weather some sports events were cancelled last week

SPORTS

High School Sports

Boys Basketball Team Falls to South River

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield boys basketball team fell to 3-6 after dropping a weekend contest in South River 61-46. The Tigers were outscored 18-3 in the second quarter, but managed to stay fairly close thanks to the hot hand of Dominique Penders' team high 17 points. Steve Ambielli added 12 points in the loss. The next

home dates for the boys are on Jan. 21. It will be a revenge game against Carteret, and on the Jan. 27 the will pay another revenge game against Middlesex.

Note—The Tiger wrestling match against High Point which was cancelled on the Jan. 9, has been rescheduled for this Saturday Jan. 23.

American Martial Arts - A School With a Future

American Martial Arts, located in the Oak Park Commons Mall, (next to the A&P), has recently opened a state of the art school developed to teach people the true art of Tae Kwon Do. In addition, the school offers an innovative Aerobic Kickboxing Program as well as a real life situation Street Self-Defense class.

The schools founder, Sir Kevin Vigneri, is currently a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He also holds a black belt in Kickboxing and Hapkido. Sir Kevin has been studying the martial arts for over twenty years and has accomplished many goals. Most notable are: two time Governor Cup Champion, New York/New Jersey State Champion in Sparring, three time Tri-State Invitational Gold Medallist in Sparring Breaking/Weapons, Junior National Finalist in Forms and two time National Champion in Sparring.

Sir Kevin always keeps in mind what so many tend to forget, the true art of Tae Kwon Do. "I want the students to learn the culture as well as the physical aspect of Tae Kwon Do. Through this, students will become more well rounded and gain a greater appreciation for the art. When students at American Martial Arts are promoted in rank, their belts are recognized in over 150 countries," says Sir Kevin. "Their belts are earned rather than given to them. That's why American Martial Arts has been established, to bring back the true tradition of the martial arts, which has lost itself through the business aspect. It is a business but still a true art form. It does not need to be watered down. We do not make up colors

for belts. My forms as well as my belts follow the strict codes of the VVRF and the Kukkiwon, which are the governing bodies of Tae Kwon Do," he adds.

Sir Kevin is affiliated with the following, United States Olympic Committee, World Wide Taekwondo Association, World Taekwondo Federation, United States Taekwondo Association, United States Taekwondo Union, IAKSA Kickboxing Association, Island Martial Arts Federation and a Member of Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do.

For more information or to set up a free introductory, call Kevin at American Martial Arts at (908) 561-4100.

Youth Bowling

As of Jan. 2

NAME	WON	LOST	PCT
1. STRIKE FORCE	83.0	29.0	.741
2. ADRENELINE RUSH	74.0	38.0	.660
3. WHOPPERS	72.0	40.0	.642
4. BULL DOGS	68.0	41.0	.764
5. STRIKERS	67.0	45.0	.598
6. SLAMMERS	64.0	48.0	.571
7. THE MONKEYS	59.0	46.0	.561
8. WOLF PAC	49.0	54.0	.475
9. DUMONT BOMBERS	47.0	37.0	.559
10. I DON'T KNOW	43.0	65.0	.398
11. THE BEACH BUMS	36.0	53.0	.404
12. SUBS	00.0	00.0	.000

IND. BOYS HIGH GAME SCRATCH

Matthew Boley	190
Jon Jeglinski	146
Anthony Rowlands	140

IND. BOYS HIGH GAME HANDICAP

Tim McGovern	248
Pat Cantarella	228
Shawn Ferguson	222

IND. GIRLS HIGH GAME HANDICAP

Mallory Cooper	218
Melanie Foscolo	218

HIGHLIGHTED TEAM OF THE WEEK

	BULL DOGS	TOTAL PINS	AVG.
D. Jitten	3794		97
R. Ramgobin	4053		112

Football Eagles Hold Registration

The South Plainfield Football Eagles will be holding registration for the 1999 football season at the football fieldhouse, next to the Recycling Center.

The registration dates are Friday, Jan. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.; Friday, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tackle football is open to ages 7-14; flag football ages 5-6 and cheerleading ages 5-14.

Be sure to register early. All openings are filled on a first come, first serve basis. Rosters are limited in size. A registration fee is required.

Indoor Soccer Registration Being Held

Registration for Indoor Soccer is open to all boys and girls in grades 6-12 who are South Plainfield residents. All teams are co-ed and play on Sunday afternoons. The fee is \$22 per participant.

Register at the Recreation Office located in the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information call 226-7713.

Recreation Basketball

Submitted by South Plainfield Recreation

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	5	0
Texas	5	0
Maryland	4	2
Georgia	4	2
Tennessee	3	2
North Carolina	2	4
L.S.U.	1	4
Florida	0	5
Kentucky	0	5

A LEAGUE RESULTS-JAN. 16

Maryland	12
Tennessee	44

High scorers—*Maryland*: Dan Pollin-5; *Tennessee*: Marcellus Abrams-17, Jonathan Fredericks-8, Christine Strani-6, Sean Cassidy-6 and Mike Butrico-6.

Georgia	45
Kentucky	40

High scorers—Georgia: Jason Basile-17, Lee Stellakis-15, Mike Wiczorek-15, d Phil DeRosa-4; Kentucky: Tommy Toolan-22, Mike Chrysanthopoulos-8, Sean Keane-4.

Texas	49
North Carolina	34

High scorers—Texas: Francisco Guevera-17, Jerome Mason-8, Kyle Prendergast-6, Danny Melick-6; North Carolina: Ulysses Russell-15, Mike Jaghab-13, Tom Haus-4.

Florida	16
L.S.U.	28

High scorers—LSU: Kevin Joshi-6, Mike Espin-6, James Ales-4, Chris Catalamo-4 and Matt Grego-4.

South Carolina: Bye

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 11-12

Illinois	6	0
Michigan	5	0
Pittsburgh	5	1
Ohio State	4	2
Syracuse	3	3
Georgetown	3	3
Kansas	3	3
Notre Dame	2	3
Arizona	2	3
Rutgers	2	4
U.C.L.A.	1	4
Seton Hall	1	5
Kentucky	0	5

B LEAGUE RESULTS-JAN. 16

Georgetown	20
Pittsburgh	33

High scorers—*Georgetown*: Nick Cesare-11 and Jeff Toolan-6; *Pittsburgh*: Chris Horn-12, Chris McKnight-11, Adam Bianchi-6 and Melissa Hansen-4.

Illinois	49
U.C.L.A.	28

High scorers—Illinois: Andre Scott-20, Danielle Arndt-14 and Ankit Patel-11; UCLA: Chris Czaplinski-10, Allan Mazurak-8 and Kathleen Morgan-4.

Ohio State	29
Seton Hall	26

High scorers—Ohio State: Mike Downes-12 and James Charneco-11; Seton Hall: Daniel LaVerne and Andrew Miller-4.

Kansas	34
Rutgers	22

High scorers—Kansas: William Merkler-17, Vincent Velez-9; Rutgers: Jeffrey Pollin-10, Fernando Sandoval-6, Dane Miyasato-4.

Arizona	20
Syracuse	31

High scorers—Arizona: Ryan Decker-12, Brian Acrin-4; Syracuse: Andrew Cupido-15, Greg Garbowski-8 and Kyle Kazimir-6.

Michigan	32
Notre Dame	21

High scorers—Michigan: Chris Bakazan-12, David Acevedo-8 and Nick Jeffreys-8; Notre Dame: Mike Hanley-14.

Kentucky: Bye

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 9-10

Kings	6	0
Grizzlies	6	0
Warriors	5	1
Mavricks	4	2
Spurs	4	2
Nuggets	4	2
Trail Blazers	3	3
Rockets	3	3
Cavaliers	3	3
Suns	2	4

Wizards	1	5
Hawks	1	5
Supersonics	0	6
Bucks	0	6

C LEAGUE RESULTS-JAN. 16

Kings 20
Bucks 19

High scorers—Kings: Mike Stallone-10 and Chris Stallone-6; Bucks: Keith Dezmin-11 and Nick Haupt-4.

Warriors	40
Trail Blazers	25

High scorers—Warriors: Chris Pollin-16, Bill Daly-14 and Brett Morris-6; Trail Blazers: Erika Blaszk-9, Matthew Fabino-8 and Lacey Santone-4.

Supersonics	22
Rockets	43

High scorers—Supersonics: Samuel Martin-10 and Scott Hartje-8; Rockets: Zachary Gray-21, Charles Loiacono-10, Garrett Lake-6 and Harshel Patel-6.

Spurs	30
Grizzlies	39

High scorers—Spurs: Joseph DeFalco-10, Justin Basilone-7, Justin Kelly-6, Ryan Curtis-4; Grizzlies: Kyle Lendach-19, Scott Hunterton-8, Stephen Dvorak-6 and Andrew Pinto-4.

Wizards	20
Nuggets	30

High scorers—Wizards: Vincent Genova-8, Zack Familia-4 and Bennie Gibson-4; Nuggets: Kevin Siedenburgh-15, Carlie Kazimir-8 and Chris Weatley-6.

Mavericks	37
Suns	22

High scorers—Mavericks: Mike Piazza-27 and Jonathan Guirguis-8; Suns: Ramit Kalla-6, Stephen Richard-4 and Steven Tangorra-4.

Hawks	16
Cavaliers	22

High scorers—Hawks: Jonathan O'Connor-8 and Joey Denizio-4; Cavaliers: Robert Strani-14, Brian Wiczowski-6.

D LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 7-8

Raptors	6	0
Bulls	5	1
Knicks	4	2
Clippers	3	2
Nets	3	3
Celtics	3	3
Jazz	3	3
76ers	3	3
Magic	3	3
Pistons	2	3
Timber Wolves	2	4
Hornets	2	4
Lakers	1	5
Heat	1	5

D LEAGUE RESULTS-JAN. 16

Knicks	28
76ers	18

High scorers—Knicks: Mike Dezmin-10, Aaron Wright-8 and Nick Jeglinski-4; 76ers: Mike Muglia-8, Andrew Gray-8 and Jonathan Marcoux-4.

Nets	14
Raptors	28

High scorers—Nets: Sean Tamzoke-8 and Brandon Ullom-6; Raptors: Danny Espin-14, Blaire Houston-8, Robbie Hoffman-4.

Celtics	10
Timber Wolves	8

High scorers—Celtics: Kyle McMahon-4; Timber Wolves: Vinnie Padula-4.

Jazz	20
Lakers	8

High scorers—Jazz: Matthew Seider-14 and Jeffrey Licato; Lakers: Eric Steele-6.

Pistons	12
Bulls	26

High scorers—Pistons: David Alston and Steven Wiczorek-4; Bulls: Greg Watts-14, Matthew Kopchak-4, Grey Coppi-4 and Scott Barton-4.

Clippers	26
Magic	10

High scorers—Clippers: Brian Fabino-10, Ryan Bunting-8 and Peter Adorna-4; Magic: Keith Heckel-4, Jonathan Cursi-4.

Heat	18
Hornets	10

High scorers—Heat: Douglas Avery-6, Troy Russell-4 and Nick Giakas-4; Hornets: Jalil Williams-6.

Join the team.

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.

Tigers Wrestling

Junior Tigers Crush Kenilworth 70-12

Tigers back on winning track

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team bounced back after a tough opening loss to North Hunterdon with a 70-12 thumping of the Kenilworth Bears at a packed house at the PAL.

The match got underway with Robert Gentile posting a close 2-0 decision over Jason Calderon in the 50 pound weight class, giving the Tigers the early lead.

Next up at 53 pounds was Patrick Hunter who extended the Tiger lead with a 5-2 decision over John Kane. Hunter scored five near-fall points in the final period for the victory.

Kenilworth got on the board in the 57 pound weight class when Tom Bechtold caught Nick Valone for the fall to tie the score at six.

But that's all the Tigers needed see and then went on to take control of the match when Jimmy Conroy built an early 11-0 lead before scoring the fall at 1:55 over Joe Lospinoso in the 60 pound match up.

Billy Ashnault continued the assault in the 63 pound match when

he built a 14-0 lead over John Margolin before scoring the fall at 2:24 to give the Tigers a 18-6 lead.

In the 67 pound match, Danny Bayak got off to a slow start but turned it up in the second period, scoring an escape, a takedown and near-fall points over Dave Mannix to cruise to a 12-0 major decision.

Billy Padula was up next at 70 pounds and wasted little time in pinning Travis Dilts at 0:31 to give the Tigers a 28-6 lead.

In the most exciting match of the night Nick Dorey wrestled up at 73 pounds to face Kevin Gilligan. After a scoreless first period, Dorey scored the first points of the match with a reversal for a 2-0 lead heading into the final period. But Gilligan came right back with a reversal of his own to tie the score, sending the match into overtime. After a scoreless 30 second overtime, Dorey lost the toss of the coin and Gilligan took bottom and had 30 seconds to escape, but Dorey held on for the double overtime victory.

In the 77 pound match, Peter DeAndrea went right to work scoring five quick points before pinning Brad Lovello at the 1:35 mark.

Sam Martin wrestling in the 80 pound weight class continued the

assault with a fall over Jamie Evans at 1:50.

Brad Martin not to be out done by his older brother needed only 33 seconds to pin Dean Jayne in the 85 pound match.

Frank Stefanelli scored a reversal late in the second period in the 90 pound match to defeat Brian Hoag 2-0. Stefanelli controlled the third period to secure the win.

Kyle Bostick won by forfeit in the 95 pound match.

In the 102 pound match up John Schindeler score the first takedown, but Crilley came right back and reversed him to tie the score at the end of the period. Crilley scored another reversal and then the fall at 1:50.

Rob Mastickle closed out the action at 110 pounds when he pinned Chris Elshieke after a quick takedown at 0:46 for a Tiger victory. The Tigers forfeited heavy-weight with final score Tigers 70 the Bears 12.

The Tiger JV Team also had a good showing against the Bears. Winning five of eight matches.

Next Edition the JV Team

In our next report, we will take a look at our hard working JV team and some of their up and coming young wrestlers.

Tigers Handle Rahway 56-33

Eight pins help in victory

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield recreation wrestling team posted its second straight win with a convincing 56-33 victory over league rival Rahway.

The Tigers got the ball rolling early in the 50 pound class with Robert Gentile getting the early takedown and scoring the fall at 0:44 over Nick Caldwell.

John Wylam filling in for the injured Patrick Hunter in the 53 pound weight class had a tough first period but gained control in the second period and went on to pin Nick Esposito at 2:35 of the third period.

In the 60 pound match up Jimmy Conroy scored twelve unanswered points on Dan O'Laughlan before scoring the fall at 2:20.

Billy Ashnault wrestling in the 63 pound class went right on the attack scoring 10 quick points

before pinning Mike Chopmacki at 1:38.

The next win for the Tigers came at 70 pounds with Billy Padula wasting no time getting the early takedown and the fall at 0:48 over Dan Peptie.

Peter DeAndrea wrestling at 77 pounds gave Billy Rassussen a takedown lesson when DeAndrea had 4 takedowns en route to a 16-1 tech fall at the 2:40 mark.

Brad Martin wrestling in the 85 pound slot took an early 4-0 lead before pinning Danny Knox at 0:47.

Frank Stefanelli, the Tiger 90 pounder, had it tough going into the third period with the score 0-0. With Stefanelli having choice and starting on defense he scored a late reversal and a penalty point for an illegal move for the 3-0 victory over John Starling.

Kyle Bostick won by forfeit in the 95 pound match. In the final match of the evening Rob Maistickle wrestling at 110 pounds scored the final pin of the match at 2:36 over

Ryan Mess to give the Tigers the victory by the score of 56-33. Also wrestling for the Tigers were Nick Valone, 57 pounds; Danny Bayak, 67 pounds; Nick Dorey, 73 pounds; Sam Martin, 80 pounds; Kevin Crilley, 102 pounds.

JV Wrestlers On the Move

With the line up in place on the varsity team, some up and coming JV wrestlers to watch out for are Matt D'Alessandro, who wrestles 65 pounds, has claimed two third place medals this year. Tim Gaughan, wrestling at 60 pounds, also has done well with two first place medals. Bryan Hunt, wrestling at 65 pounds, has two medals and four victories. Mike Jakubik, 70 pounds, has two medals and five victories. Vinnie Padula has come on strong with one medal and five wins. Rocco and Jordan Petrillo with slow starts have come on strong, each winning four matches apiece. Danny Pompilio has also made great improvement, winning two medals and five matches. Mark Wagner, a first year wrestler, has been the biggest surprise of the year. He has won three medals and has won eight matches and is looking at possible varsity action. Also some intermediate and second year beginners to watch are Jonathan Conroy, Nick Pauls, Ryan Sacco, Corey Hay, Nick Heilmann, Frank DiBaise and Buzzy Martin.

Send us your sports stories. Fax us at 732-805-0815 or mail to The Observer, 503 Union Ave., Ste 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Raul Rodriquez to Speak at Terra Nova Meeting

By Mary Mazepa

The Terra Nova Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison Branch of the Public Library on Grove Ave.

The program will be presented by Raul P. Rodriquez of South Plainfield, who teaches culinary arts at Elijah's Promise Culinary Arts Training Center in New Brunswick. His repertoire includes elaborate garnishes, ice carvings and tallow sculptures.

The Garden Therapy Commit-

tee of Terra Nova will hold their monthly workshop at the Muhlenberg Hospital Adult Care facility to teach clients flower arranging on Wednesday, Jan. 20. Chairman Virginia Nuzzo of Edison will hold the preparation meeting at her home on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Guests are welcome to attend. Those wishing to participate in the workshop are asked to bring a sharp paring knife and should RSVP at 755-2655.

Sign Up for Aerobics And Body Toning

Shape up beautifully with exercises and dance routines choreographed to popular music. Aerobics is designed to condition the heart and lungs. Body Toning will trim and firm the body, as well as promote flexibility. Step combines the two for a total workout.

The classes are open to South Plainfield residents ages 18 and over and held on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Aerobics are held 9-10 a.m.; step 10-11 a.m. and aerobics 7-8 p.m. Classes are held at PAL Recreation Center. The fee for morning sessions is \$35 and evening sessions is \$45.

The instructor is Maureen Noil,

Certified Aerobic Instructor. The classes are limited to 50 participants. There are three sessions scheduled: session six starts on Jan. 11; session seven on March 5 and session eight on April 30. Each session is for 20 classes.

Babysitting services is available during the morning session. Each child must be preregistered. The fee is \$10 per child, per 20 class session.

Register at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave. Fees must be paid at the time of registration and is on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call the South Plainfield Recreation at 226-7713.

Rescue Squad Answers 141 Calls

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad responded to 141 calls in December.

They included 112 medical assistance requests, 12 motor ve-

hicle accidents, six fires, six transportations, one standby and four mutual aid requests.

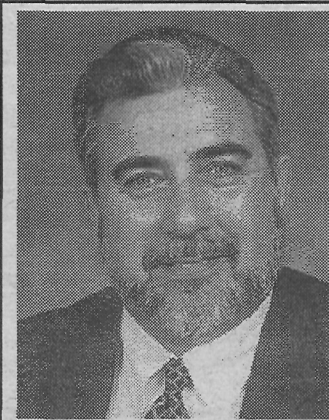
The rescue squad volunteers spent more than 289 crew hours answering December calls.

Members also put in nearly 15 crew hours on driver training for the squad's new crash truck.

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Obituaries

Josephine A. (Ostheimer) Zimany, 88

Josephine A. (Ostheimer) Zimany of Edison died Saturday, Jan. 16, at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Mrs. Zimany was born in Croatia and came to the United States in 1911, settling in Washington Heights, NY. She was a former resident of Woodside Queens and a former 36 year resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Edison three years ago.

Mrs. Zimany was a member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

For 16 years Mrs. Zimany volunteered at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield in the Arts and Crafts section of the recreation department.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward J. Zimany, Sr., who died in 1997.

She is survived by two sons, Edward J. Zimany, Jr. of Morris-town and Robert E. Zimany of Danville, Pa.; a daughter, June N. Naclerio of Dale City, Va. and seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

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

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internet at
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Because
We
Care



by Robert Hunter

Prayerful Thoughts

There are now scientific data that support what many have long known - that prayer and positive thinking have a calming effect upon the mind and a healthful effect upon the body. Those who take time out from their busy schedules to pray or meditate will be blessed with richer rewards. The paths to their goals will become clearer. Their relationships with others will grow deeper. And, most importantly, their sense of themselves will become enlightened. As the Roman philosopher Seneca noted: "The mind is never right but when it is at peace within itself, the soul is in heaven even while it is in the flesh, if it be purged of its natural corruptions, and taken up with divine thoughts and contemplations."

Whether your thoughts fall under the heading of prayer, meditation, or philosophy the time you spend in such activity is never wasted, and will add new dimension and clarity to other aspects of your day. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, we welcome members of all beliefs to explore our wide range of end-of-life services. We are always open to new approaches and ideas—to schedule a consultation please call 756-2800. We are located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

"Prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to heaven, and meditation the eye wherewith we see God." - Ambrose of Milan



Lori Jackson, pictured with her sons, Joshua and Jason, and her mother, Miep Devries.

Residents Flee

Continued from page 1

to get coats. Lory found her family huddled in the back yard along with their dog and two cats.

Lory's fiancée, Bob Alcaro, explained that the family was just about to sit down to dinner. "I heard a crash, then the sound of something sliding on the road and I ran out the back door to the truck. The driver was already out of the truck and I immediately ran back in to call 911. Then I went back out to find out what the truck was hauling. At that point the driver already was yelling for everyone to get away!" said Alcaro.

Alcaro said that the police were on the scene in under three minutes. He recalls that he reentered the house and hustled Joshua, Miep and Joshua's 15 year-old brother, Jason, out of the back door and into the yard. Alcaro had to dash back into the house to find the dog and one of the cats.

Lory related, "The family was panicked from a combination of not knowing if the truck would explode and the nauseating fumes in the air. All of us were huddled together, the dog, two cats, two kids, my mother and Bob, at the neighbors." Bob wanted to return to the house to lock it, but a fireman told him he could not go back inside and within minutes they were told they had to leave the area.

Lory said, "We left our home with dinner still on the counter and the doors wide open. We left with nothing but the clothes on our backs and a lot of love and faith."

The stay with neighbors was a brief one because the immediate

area had to be evacuated. They walked a quarter of a mile to Jackson Ave. There they were able to warm up and place a phone call to a nearby relative where they stayed for the evening. The television news filled in the sketchy details about the accident. They learned that a shelter had been set up at Roosevelt School.

Lory and Bob returned to their home in the morning. The water used to dissipate the gas was visible everywhere in the form of ice. Lory describes the incredible sight, "The trees, our cars, the house, the fence and driveway were coated in a thick layer of ice. It looked like superman's crystal cave. A tree limb broke off during the rescue effort and collapsed onto the mailbox. It was so frozen that access to their mail box was impossible." Bob described his truck as an ice sculpture, fully covered with an inch or more of ice.

A neighbor who had returned to his home several times had to let firemen in to check for gas fumes. They are grateful for his attention to detail. The appliances, left on in the rush, were unplugged and the doors had been locked. "The Barkalow family (their neighbors) was a tremendous help to us during this ordeal," Lory said.

Lory and Bob both commented about a fireman who had spoken to them. They did not catch his name but said he was very concerned and caring. He assured them that they would do everything possible to make sure no one approached or entered the home. Lory and her family want to thank him for his concern.

The Alternative View

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



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

What is homeopathy and how does it work?—H.C.

Dear H.C.:

The word homeopathy is derived from the Greek word *homoios*, meaning "similar" and *pathos*, meaning "suffering." It was founded in the late eighteenth century by the celebrated German physician Samuel Hahnemann, who was known for his work in pharmacology, hygiene, public health, industrial toxicology and psychiatry.

Reacting to the barbarous practices of his day, such as bloodletting (the use of leeches) and toxic mercury-based laxatives, Dr. Hahnemann set out to find a more rational and humane approach to medicine. His breakthrough came during an experiment in which he twice daily ingested cinchona, a Peruvian bark well known as a cure for malaria. Soon after Dr. Hahnemann began his experiment, he developed periodic fevers common to malaria. As soon as he stopped taking the cinchona, his symptoms disappeared. Dr. Hahnemann theorized that, if taking a large dose of cinchona created symptoms of malaria in a healthy person, this same substance, taken in smaller doses by a person suffering from malaria, might stimulate the body to fight the disease. His theory was borne out of years of experiments with hundreds of substances that produced similar results. Based on his work, Dr. Hahnemann formulated the principles of homeopathy:

1. **Like cures like (Law of Similars).** According to Dr. Hahnemann, "Each individual case of disease is most surely, radically, rapidly, and permanently annihilated and removed only by a medicine capable of producing (in the human system) the most similar and complete manner of the totality of the symptoms." In other words, the same substance that in large doses produces the symptoms of an illness, in very minute doses cures it.

2. **The more a remedy is diluted, the greater its potency (Law of the Infinitesimal Dose).** Most people believe that the higher the dose of a medicine, the greater the effect. But the opposite holds true in homeopathy where the more a substance is diluted, the higher its potency. Dr. Hahnemann discovered this Law of the Infinitesimal Dose by experimenting with higher and higher dilutions of substances to avoid toxic, side effects.

3. **An illness is specific to the individual (A Holistic Medical Model).** Practitioners of classical homeopathy consult vast compendiums called repertories and *materia medicas* to determine the remedy that most closely matches the total picture of the patient's symptomatology. These compendiums are compilations of the findings of thousands of tests, for over two hundred years, that record how healthy individuals react to different substances. The very detailed reactions of the subjects are catalogued in these compendiums and the homeopathic practitioner's task is to match them exactly to the patient's profile.

In homeopathy, the process of healing begins by eliminating the immediate symptoms, then progressing to the "older," underlying symptoms. Many of these "layers" are residues of fevers, trauma or chronic disease that were unsuccessfully treated or suppressed by conventional medicine. Thus, as the stages of homeopathic healing progress, the patient may get worse before getting better. This is often referred to as the "healing crisis." (Interestingly, a similar phenomenon often occurs in other natural or alternative healing arts. For example, in chiropractic, this phenomenon is referred to as "retracing.")

According to George Vithoulkas, director of the Athenian School of Homeopathic Medicine in Athens, Greece, "Homeopathy has been of tremendous value in reversing diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, bronchial asthma, epilepsy, skin eruptions, allergic conditions, mental or emotional disorders, especially if applied at the onset of the disease. The long-term benefit of homeopathy to the patient is that it not only alleviates the presenting symptoms but it reestablishes internal order at the deepest levels and thereby provides a lasting cure."

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 net at www.usalternativemedicine.com.

Volunteers Respond

Continued from page 1

dent with their professional response to this emergency.

Mayor Gallagher and his wife, Marion, along with council members Dennis Cerami, Darlene Pinto and Raymond Petronko, arrived at the scene, helping in any way they could.

Sherban's donated a steady supply of coffee and hot soup for the volunteers. Suburban Bus Co. brought buses to evacuate residents. Also helping were the Red Cross, who assisted at both the accident scene and Roosevelt School and Salvation Army.

The following South Plainfield department and personnel responded to the accident scene: Mike Zushma, Emergency Man-

agement; Chief Joe Abbruzzese, Fire Department, Lt. Paul Brembt, Police Department, Rescue Squad volunteers and Joe Glowacki, Public Works Department.

Also assisting South Plainfield were: Rich Kozub from Middlesex Hazmat, Middlesex County Fire Marshal, Middlesex County Emergency Management, Middlesex County Fire Coordinator, New Market Fire Department, North Stelton Fire Department, Plainfield Fire Department, Colonia Fire Department, Iselin Fire Department, Middlesex Fire Department, Metuchen Fire Department, Edison Fire Department, American Red Cross, Salvation Army.



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Members of Boy Scout Pack 324, Den 2, Kyle Quail, Timmy Moskal, Erik White, Scott Suleski, Dominic Papa and Nick Jeglinski, proudly display their hot plate projects created at the Kids Workshop sponsored by Home Depot.

POLICE REPORT

• Someone sprayed blue paint all over a car parked on Edgar Ave. The victim claimed that it was someone she knew who disliked her. Police are investigating.

• A truck turning left onto Durham from the ramp on Rt. 287 struck the stop light and pulled it out of the ground. The stop light was stuck on the top of the truck, with its polls hanging over the side. DOT was called and the stop light was removed from the top of the truck and put back in place.

• Two shoplifters were arrested at K-Mart. Both were carrying stolen merchandise valued at \$119. When police checked their records, one of the shoplifters was found to have an outstanding warrant for shoplifting for \$1,380. He was arrested and bail was set at \$900.

• Danna Thompson was arrested for driving through a red light at the corner of Maple and Park Aves. When first stopped he gave police a fictitious name. Police then checked the car registration and found out his driver's license was revoked. He also had five outstanding warrants.

He was charged with failing to stop at a red light and driving while on the revoked list.

• A car parked at the Ramada Inn on Hamilton Blvd. was broken into. The passenger side door was forced open and the steering column was smashed. The car thieves apparently gave up when they could not start the car.

• AT&T on New World way reported that someone cut the padlock on the storage bin of one of their parked trucks and stole hand/power tools valued at \$1050.

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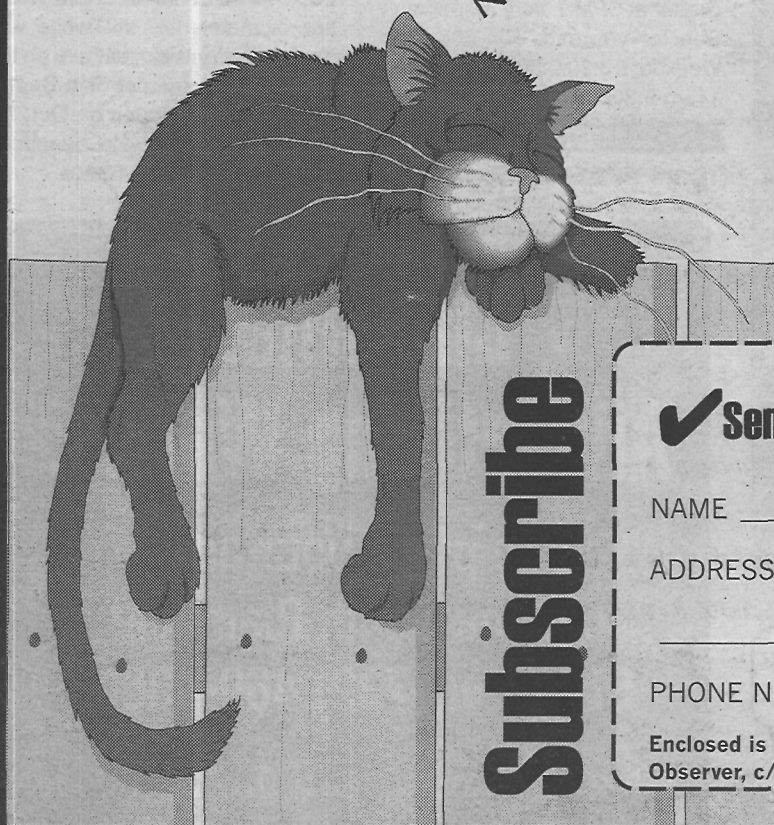
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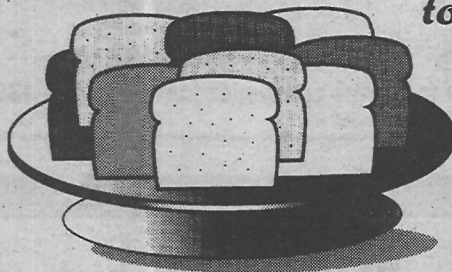
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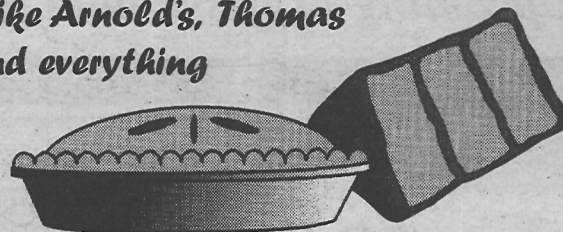
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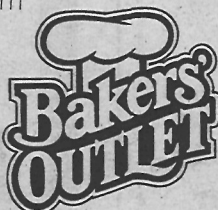
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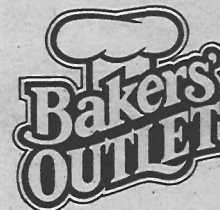
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