VOL. 2, NO. 22

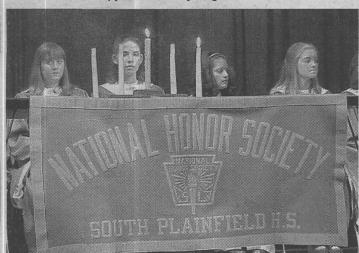
50 CENTS

APRIL 9, 1999



High School National Honor Society Inductees

South Plainfield High School's 1999 National Honor Society inductees are: Diana Algoo, Johanna Alzate, Steven Ambielli, Alison Barret, Krissy Brooks, Cindy Carlson, Sheryl Cwiekalo, Brian Donnelly, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Pamela Eng, Krista Gundersen, Rebecca Horn, Krishnan Iyengar, Eric Jackson, Stefani MacDougall, Lisa Mocerino, Jane Nguyen, Tejal Patel, Rebecca Perez, Jennifer Rayho, Tracy Regan, Carol Serago, Kaminee Sewdat, Katherine Skoba, Robin Stayvas, Jillian Stokes, Bradford Tierney, Eric Toth, Laura Walter, Nichole Wrublevski, Rania Younes, and Lauren Yulick. The ceremony took place on Monday, March 29 in the high school auditorium. Advisors for the National Honor Society are Mrs. Lois Crespy and Mrs. Kay Linger.



Inside

Borough Notes	. 3
Tigers Baseball Season Begins	. 7
International Woman's Month at Middle School	. 8
Roosevelt School Grandparents Day	. 9
Cultural Arts Spring Into Dance Festival	12

To subscribe to the Observer, see p. 9

Traffic Advisory

South Plainfield Police Dept. Traffic Safety Section

New Market Ave. Closure, April 16

New Market Ave. between Hamilton Blvd. and New Brunswick Ave. will be closed to traffic for milling and paving between April 5 and April 16. Detours will be posted. It is recommended that motorists take alternate routes.

Fourth Annual Vision 2001 Art Auction Set for April 16

By Patricia Abbott

Supporting South Plainfield's students, seeking ways to encourage them and provide new opportunities is the driving force of Vision 2001 Education Foundation. With that goal in mind the organization is rounding the home stretch towards their Fourth Annual Art Auction will be held on Friday, April 16 at South Plainfield High School. Preview begins at 6 p.m. and the auction will commence at 7 p.m.

The annual auction offers art in all media by a variety of artists. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be awarded. Major credit cards

for purchases are accepted. Tickets are \$3. Vision 2001 is a non-profit organization created to seek financial support of the business community for scholarships and other motivational programs for South Plainfield students. Founded in 1991 the fifteen member group is comprised of nine business leaders, five educators and one PTA/PTSO representative.

Serving the children of the community is the goal and Vision 2001 feels it is important to recognize

South Plainfield residents who exemplify this goal. This year's honorary chairman is Tom McCreesh. Tom is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. He has been serving the youth in our town with the recreation department for over 25 years. He began as a volunteer scorekeeper for basketball games as a teenager. His coaching record is extensive. He has coached T-Ball and boys and girls Teener Ball, Recreation Soccer, basketball and Baseball Traveling All-Stars.

coaching, Tom has been Junior Baseball Club Manger for three years. He has refered youth basketball for the past 20 years and youth hockey for

In addition to

two years. He has also been a baseball umpire. When not on the field working directly with children, Tom continues to serve our youth on the Junior Baseball Club Executive Board. He has been a trustee and a director of "C" league as well the Pony "A" and "B" leagues. He has been involved with the booster committee and the scholarship committee. Recently, Tom penned the letter that resulted in the renaming of the Youth Basketball League to honor his long-



Honorary Chairman Tom McCreesh

time friend Ed Nymczyk. Tom McCreesh's dedication to the youth of South Plainfield is clearly a wonderful example of one of the goals of Vision 2001. Other honorary chairpersons include Arlene Kelly, John Alles and Jim Curcio.

Among the Vision 2001 projects are the Gold Card program at the high school, Tiger Gold at the Middle School, endowment funds for scholarships, and co-operative work opportunities for high school students. Their support of Project Graduation is in the form of the annual 50/50 raffle that has been in progress since the beginning of the school year. The winning ticket will be drawn on the night of the auction.

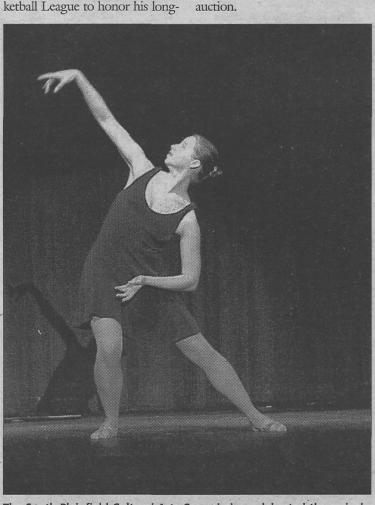
Candidates' Night Set for April 12

The district PTAs/P.T.S.O.s of South Plainfield will host their ninth Annual Board of Education Candidates Night at John E. Riley School located at 100 Morris Ave. The event will be held on Monday, April 12 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Moderator will be Ms. Ann Armstrong, a member of the New Jersey League of Women Voters, who has experience in this area.

The format will be a two minute opening statement from each of the candidates. Responses will be limited to one minute for each question, a rebuttal of one minute is allowed. The evening will conclude with a two minute closing statement.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.



The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission celebrated the arrival of Spring with its Fifth Annual Dance Festival. See page 12 for story and additional photos.

In My Opinion

Letters

Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of the South Plainfield Juniorettes and the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield, we would like to thank the following people for their contribution to the Prom Fashion Show: Aggie Knapik from Mary Kay, Danielle from the Brush Stop, Terry Monahan, Eileen from BZ's Fashions, Joe from Ducoff's, Moose Bullwinkle and the VFW, Mr. Guy Ferri, Detective John Alles, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Kathy O'Keefe and Sue Rickert from Avon, Sal's Spirit Shop, Terry Pisano, and, of course, all who bought tickets and contributed in any way.

The South Plainfield Juniorettes and the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield are members of two vital volunteer organizations in town trying to serve our community and benefit the world around us. Our efforts are futile without the kindness, generosity and cooperation of many people like yourselves. You make the difference between our success and failure.

This fashion show was held to benefit several different projects. The Juniors plan to direct their proceeds to the Code Adam and Safe Return Program, a special project of the New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs working toward implementing sound procedures for the safe return of lost or missing children. The Juniorettes plan to direct their share of the proceeds to a classmate who has cancer. You can feel proud that your contribution was in support of some very worthy causes.

Both organizations are actively looking to increase their membership. If you know any female resident of South Plainfield interested in community service and would like more information, please call: between the ages of 12 and 18, Kathleen Raiti at 732-220-0638 or over 18, Chris Sienkielewski at 908-561-8057.

Our heartfelt thanks from the South Plainfield Juniorettes and the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield

DINA DIAZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD JUNIORETTES

Dear Editor;

I am currently a Life Scout in Troop 324 at St. Stephen's Church in South Plainfield. For my Eagle Project, I am chairing an Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Drive in and around the South Plainfield community with New Eyes for The Needy Organization, Inc. New Eyes for The Needy has helped more that five million visually handicapped people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and foreign countries.

Residents of the United States are given vouchers with which to purchase new prescription eyeglasses. New Eyes sends reusable donated eyeglasses to medical missions and hospitals in over 25 countries around the world, reusable hearing aids are sent to medical missions in South America. My project is to collect donated used eyeglasses and hearing aids to help the needy.

I would like to ask for your help. The drive will begin on April 1 and run for one month. Coupon boxes will be at various locations in and around South Plainfield. Locations where eyeglasses and hearing aids can be donated are:

All South Plainfield public schools, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Library and P.A.L. Building, Sportsworld on Oak Tree Rd., Eckerd's Pharmacy on Park Ave., Twin City Pharmacy on Park Ave., CVS Pharmacy in Oak Park Commons, Opti-Care Optical on Oak Tree Rd., Pathmark Supermarket in Middlesex Mall, Pearle Vision Center on Stelton Rd., Carpet Bazaar on Montrose Ave. and WAL-MART Vision Center, Centennial Park in Piscataway.

Please call me at 908-754-5409 with any questions or concerns about my project. Thank you for your much needed help.

SINCERELY, CHRISTOPHER LAMBERTI EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE

To the Editor:

A number of our faculty (SPEA members) have responded to your request for personal anecdotes about a favorite book or happy reading memory. The va-

riety of choices and experiences is quite interesting. We hope you can devote space to them in an upcoming issue of your newspaper. We wholeheartedly agree in the importance of reading and in the importance of adults using every opportunity to express this value to our children. We hope you receive additional responses.

YOURS TRULY, BARBARA HARRIS SPEA COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

My favorite book is *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper. I read it to my first graders on the first day of school every year! What a great story, which shows how hard work pays off!!! — *Jennifer DeHart, Riley School*

Whenever I'm having a very bad day I always think of my favorite book, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, and I'm reminded that I'm not alone! Everyone has bad days, even in Australia. — Sue Mariani, Riley School

Pve always loved to read and one of my fondest childhood memories was bicycling to the library every Saturday. Dr. Seuss books were my favorites until I switched to the Nancy Drew Mysteries. — Marie Stemmie, Franklin School

My favorite book to read as a young "stay at home mom", caring for a newborn, was All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot. It was so interesting to me and so funny, that I had to buy the rest of the series. The adventures were very different from anything I could imagine and my love for animals brought me many hours of entertainment. I found myself re-reading many chapters and looking forward to learning more about other "animal antics." — Carol Christatos, Kennedy School

I always enjoyed reading and still do. Visiting the library was always my favorite thing to do and the Nancy Drew Mysteries were my favorite books to read. I would become totally involved with reading books right off the shelf, sitting on the floor of the library. Even now, when shelving books, I'll find myself becoming engrossed with a book instead of putting it away. — Joanne Otlowski, Riley School Librarian

Three of my favorite children's books are Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Goodnight Moon, and Catapiller. These are great books for preschoolers because they are very easy for them to understand. Brown Bear teaches them animals and colors and makes them think they are reading the story. The children love Catapiller because it shows them how a butterfly is born. — Margaret Parillo, Grant Pre-School Program

One of my favorite childhood memories is being read to by my parents each night before bed. I enjoyed this so much that I used to pick books with a lot of pages. My favorite book was *Charlotte's Web* written by E. B. White and illustrated by Garth Williams. I often thought of Fern, (the little

girl in the book), as a hero for saving Wilbur's (the pig) life. I thought it would be fun to raise a baby pig. — Jane Bishop, Riley School.

Eve always enjoyed reading ... especially mysteries and historical fiction. I made it a goal to read every Nancy Drew book, and I did it! I also read all the books I could find on Greek and Roman mythology, fairy tales and anything involving King Arthur and his knights. I use a lot of the information and stories I read as a child in my teaching today! — Margie Gumina, Riley School

My favorite children's book is Snapping Turtle's All Wrong Day by Peggy Parish. This story is about a young native American boy who wants to find a special present for his mother's birthday. Everything seems to go wrong for him until the very end of the story. This book always made me feel better when I was having an "all wrong day." — Mrs. Weller, Roosevelt School

I recall enjoying the series of Pippi Longstocking books. I found it really "cool" that a little girl lived only with a horse and a monkey. It was amazing how clever and resourceful Pippi always was. She was able to recover from any problem that ever arose.

— Nicole Zablocki, Riley School

In the Sunshine Pre-School class, (children with special needs), I read Today I Feel Silly, and Other Moods That Make My Day by Jamie Lee Curtis. The children seemed to really enjoy it, especially when they were invited to act out the mood depicted and find the face that best described the feeling. — Dawn Wallis RN, Grant School (Administration Building) Nurse

Wheelie and the Chopper Bunch was a book that was read to me by my grandmother before I was able to read. Every summer when I visited her, Grandma would read the book over and over at my request. To this day I still remember the words and pictures vividly. — Lori Lee Dress, Riley School

To the Editor

South Plainfield Board of Education has an awareness and vision for our children of our community. Many times you have heard me say that I am an advocate of public education and that I have a deep feeling of pride for our school district. It is important for school board members to have a sense of knowing and understanding what the needs are for the families of our town. When a latch key program was needed, we have made provisions for that assistance to our families at a reasonable fee. When New Jersey incorporated the basic standards for all school districts, we had these standards long before the State of New Jersey told us to do so. We have made sure that the curriculum is the same information taught at all the elementary schools. All the elementary schools are using the same textbooks. The technology area of our district has kept up with the times for our pupils as well. Our district is now on line with our own web page and Internet access and next year we will have a long distance learning lab available for our children. We are constantly searching for improvement with the learning tools that are provided to our students. All of these improvements have been made available because of experienced school board members who are willing to put the time and energy into the future of South Plainfield.

Continued on page 10

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

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

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:

April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1999 Meeting Dates Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as Follows:

April 13, April 27
May 11, May 25
June 8, June 22
July 13, July 27
August 10, August 24

September 14, September 28
November 9, November 23
December 14, December 28

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS	PUBLIC MEETINGS
Monday, Apr. 19	Thursday, Apr. 22
Monday, May 10	Thursday, May 13
Monday, May 24	Thursday, May 27

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Logon to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

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:

Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.

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.



RESCUE SQUAD EASTER FLOWER SALE—Pictured above are Gary and Marlene Toth and Kyle, Ryan, Katlyn Hughes with their mother. Pictured below are Ron Seward, Gary and Marlene Toth with squad cadet, Jessica Cerami.



Borough Notes

Council

- A bonding ordinance in the amount of \$247,000 was introduced for the expansion of the PAL Building.
- Mayor Gallagher announced that Planning Board Chairman John Hogan has resigned. John has been a member of the Planning Board for 17 years and served as chairman for 15 years. His last meeting will be April 27. The mayor said he will be sorely
- A proclamation was issued declaring April 24-30 South Plainfield Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week.
- The Library is planning an open house to show off the renovations on Sunday, April 11 from 2-4 p.m.
- A second rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Borough Garage, on the corner of Spicer and Belmont avenues.
- PMK Engineering has been awarded a contract to perform engineering and site investigation and assessment for property located on Clinton Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$82,172.



Decisions, decisions, decisions.... children "case" the choices of ice cream at Scoops Grand Opening.

Grand Opening at Here's The Scoop

On March 27 Here's the Scoop Ice Cream Parlor celebrated its grand opening. Located in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, Here's The Scoop gave out free soft ice cream cones from 12 noon until 3 p.m.

About 400 visitors came in for their ice cream treat. Many also came to purchase cakes from their wide variety.

Sesame Street's "Elmo" was there to greet excited children and their parents.

Bitter About Litter? Sign up for Litter Clean-Up Week

Welcome spring this year by clearing away winter's grime! The vacant lots will be targeted. All Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a Borough-April. The main clean-up event will be held Saturday morning, April 24. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough collect equipment and clean-up assignments.

Roadsides, parks, streams and volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free wide clean-up the last week in pizza pickup picnic, complete with environmentally-friendly

Residents are welcome to organize a crew or to come on their Hall located on Plainfield Ave. to own. Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at 226-7621 for more information.

Home Depot, Federal Metals & Alloys Renew Adopt-A-Spot Agreements

Thomas Dietz, President of Federal Metals and Alloys, recently renewed his contract with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association (CBA) for 1999 to maintain the stream crossing on Belmont Ave. Lisa Granakie, office manager for the Home Depot Northeast Store Support

Department is distributing free

gun safety locks to residents. The

dently discharging.

locks prevent guns from acci-

The trigger locks are being pro-

vided by the Middlesex County

Prosecutors Office, the Middlesex

Free Gun Safety Locks

Available to Residents

The South Plainfield Police Middlesex County Association of

Chiefs of Police.

cannot be discharged.

adoption agreement with the CBA, for the stretch of Hamilton Boulevard between South Clinton Ave. and AJV Auto.

Federal Metals is a charter member of the Adopt-A-Spot program. They have been cleaning litter and trash from the Bound Brook where it crosses Group, has also signed a renewal Belmont Ave., as well as weed-

The locks, made of plastic, fas-

The locks are available free of

ten around a trigger so that a gun

charge to residents with no ques-

tions asked at police headquarters

ing and mulching since 1993. Mr. Dietz's business also has the distinction of having won two CBA Glitter Awards: one for their previous address on Kennedy Boulevard and one for their newer home on Skyline Drive.

The Home Depot first joined Adopt-A-Spot in 1995. The Home Depot parking lot generates a lot of litter because people leave fliers and empty bags in their shopping carts. These blow out and around until they get caught along the Route 287 fence. Ten to 15 employees go out twice a month to pick up the litter. The Home Depot store won a Glitter Award in 1992, for initiating their litter clean-ups even before the CBA started its Adopt-A-Spot program.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

U.S.S. Hayter Sailors Plan **Reunion in South Plainfield**

By Bill Tuthill Shipmates from the U.S.S. Hayter, D.E. 212 will be holding their annual reunion here at the Holiday Inn, from May 20

through May 24. The group of men served on the Hayter from the time the ship was commissioned on March 16, 1943 until she was decommissioned on March 3, 1946.

The sailors served during WWII, first in convoy escort duty on the Atlantic, covering many ports. In April 1945 the ship was assigned

to a "Hunter-Killer-Group." Its job was to hunt down enemy subs and sink them. At that time the ship was converted to what was called an A.P.D., an All

U.S.S. Hayter D.E. 212

Purpose Destroyer. The ship is still afloat in Korea serving as a power ship. Her new name is "Jon Nam" #84.

About 30 sailors and spouses are expected to attend. If you meet someone this time asking questions about our town or the area, be sure to give them a big welcome.

Vendors Sought for Flea Market

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council are seeking vendors for their Family Fair and Flea Market to be held on April 24, (raindate May 1) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

Set up is 7:30-9 a.m. and clean \$15 for 15x15 foot area. Each additional space is \$10. You must supply your own table. Fur further information, call Lisa at (908) 769-9116. Sorry, no food vendors.





AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Country Style Breakfast at VFW

The VFW located on Front Street will hold a Country Style Breakfast on Sunday, April 11 from 8-11 a.m. After the breakfast a trip to Atlantic City is planned. The public is invited. The bus will leave for Atlantic City at 12 noon. For information, call 688-9751.

Killington, Vermont Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to the Cortina Inn in Killington, Vermont. The bus trip, scheduled June 27 to July 1, will leave from the church parking lot.

During our stay in Vermont, the group will visit The Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, Shelburne Museum, Hubbardton Battlefield, Montpelier State Capital Building, Morse Farm, Rocking Horse Country Store and cruise the southern part of Lake Champlain. No tour of the area would be complete without a visit to Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory.

The Cortina Inn offers a gourmet restaurant, swimming, tennis and golf facilities.

The cost is \$589 per person, double occupancy, which includes transportation, baggage handling, four nights hotel, four buffet breakfasts, four dinners, sightseeing, tour guide and driver gratuities.

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

Riley School Sponsors Car Wash

On Saturday, April 10, Riley School will sponsor a car wash at the PAL building, 1250 Maple Ave. The fundraiser will support the Riley fifth grade trip to Stokes State Forest. The car wash will run from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. The cost is \$5 per car. Rain date is April 17, 1-4 p.m.

U.N.I.C.O. Sponsors Golf Outing

Plainfields' Unico Chapter of South Plainfield invites you and/or your foursome to join them on Monday, May 17 at the Beaver Brook Golf Club in Clinton. Registration is 12 noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and awards and prizes will be at 7 p.m. There will be a \$10,000 putting contest, longest drive, closest to the pin on all par 3's, low net and low gross prizes.

Dan

The Calloway system will be used for scoring. The cost for the day, including green fees, cart, buffet dinner, locker and storage, is \$110 per person.

Gold and Silver Corporate Sponsorship are still available. Dinner only is \$25. For information call Mike Cortese at (908) 561-1539 or Dick Grillo at (908) 754-1653.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting and Trip

The next meeting of AARP Chapter 4144 will be held on April 16 at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m. Samuel Handleman of Highland Park will do skits with the group. He also does skits for the Mental Health Association and he also does line dancing. He will bring memorabilia with him to exhibit and lecture.

Myrtle Beach, SC is the destination of a trip planned from Apr. 25-May 1. The cost: all inclusive (except for lunch) double room, \$490; single, \$585. A complete itinerary is available upon request.

Call (732) 752-3764 or (732) 968-6613 for information. For information about how to join the chapter call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

5th Annual Family Fun Fair/Flea Market

The South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Association is planning its Fifth Annual Family Fun Fair and Flea Market on April 25 (rain date May 1) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the PAL Building.

Thee will be something for everyone including: pony rides, moon walk, photos with Tweet (the Yellow Bird), games, prizes, hands on art projects, food, baked goods, flea market, craft fair, sponge toss and a community organization exposition.

For additional information contact Lisa at 769-9116 or Maria at 753-9610. All proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community Association.

Historical Society Plans Harbor Cruise

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be sponsoring a New York Harbor Cruise from Perth Amboy on Sunday, May 30, aboard the *Cornucopa Princess*. Boarding will be at 11 a.m. from the Smith Street Dock. The cruise begins at noon and returns at 2:30 p.m.

This is a 2½-hour "Buffet Cruise," which includes pastas, omelettes

Jeff

Meet the "New" Candidates

in this year's Board of Education elections

Friday, April 9, 1999

7:30-9 p.m.

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and carving stations. Brochures and tickets are \$40. Price includes tax and gratuities.

Call Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9654 or Mary Mazepa at 754-3503 for information. Send check or money order to South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 by May 25.

Senior Trip to Atlantic City

Sign ups are being taken for the senior trip to the Tropicana and the Senior Festival on April 29. The cost is \$10 for a resident and \$15 for non-residents. The bus leaves at 7:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 8 p.m.

The first stop will be the Tropicana Casino where you receive \$10 in coins and a free brunch. The bus will depart at 3 p.m. and take the group to the new Atlantic City Convention Center and pick up there at 6 p.m. for the return trip.

Sign up at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

First Baptist Church Spring Fashion Show

Women's Evening Circle will be sponsoring a Spring Fashion Show on Saturday, May 1 at 2 p.m.

Clothing and accessories, compliments of Dress Barn and Dress Barn Plus, will be modeled by members. The cost is \$10 per ticket. This event is a fundraiser for the church general fund.

Ticket information may be obtained by calling Midge at (908) 561-0482.

Business Association Golf Outing May 4

The Business Association will hold its Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 4 at the Cranbury Golf Club in Cranbury. This popular annual event was a sellout last year. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, straightest drive, low net, low gross, most honest golfer and a hole in one. There will also be many door prizes.

will also be many door prizes.

For information on becoming a sponsor or to register for the golf outing, call Paulett Giroux at (908) 754-8086 or Carolyn Allen at (908) 757-1055.

Caring and Sharing Group Trip

The Caring and Sharing group is sponsoring a trip to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater on Sunday, April 18.

Tickets are \$48 each. For additional information and reservations, call Lydia at (908) 755-1596.

Tourette Syndrome Meeting

The next meeting Association Family Support Group will be held on Tuesday evening, May 11 from 7-9:00 p.m. – at JFK Hospital, 65 James Street, Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department.

Meetings this year will be held on Sept. 14 and Nov. 9. For more information call Debbie, 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

PBA Local 100 to Sponsor Car Show

PBA Local 100 is sponsoring a car show on May 22, 1-7 p.m. on Cragwood Rd. Rain date is May 23,

9 a.m-3 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 756-4466.



Pictured are some of the items that were available at the One-Stop Shopping event, sponsored by the Elks Ladies Auxiliary which was held last month.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

If you can divert your attention from the increasingly Spring-like weather outside, here's some news from South Plainfield Library:

Here's one last reminder about our Open House program. It happens this Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited. Please stop in and help us toast both our renovated library and the start of National Library Week.

We've been getting a pretty good turnout lately for our children's storytime programs. This makes it all the more surprising that some people don't know about them. Well, for their benefit, here's the story: the programs 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. Each program features songs, stories and a craft activity. No registration is required. For more information, give us a call at (908) 754-7885 and check with Linda Hansen. We've also got our monthly children's craft program coming up on Friday, April 23. You have to sign up for it, so please call to register.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. This should be an informative meeting, so please attend.

As promised, here's some updated information about book donations. Starting Monday, we'll be accepting items for the big Friends of the Library Book Sale. The donations must be in fairly decent condition. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The parade of bargains contin-

ues. Once again, we're offering children's book bags. At present, we have bags featuring, respectively, children's characters Franklin and Arthur, as well as a dinosaur bag. They're available at the main desk for 50 cents each. Also, South Plainfield coverlets are now available, for a limited time, at the sale price of \$35 each. (Yes, we know the weather is getting warmer, but this is a way to prepare for next winter.)

As always, the library is ready to aid charitable organizations. A local Boy Scout has set up a collection box for used eyeglasses. The glasses will be donated to those who need them, via the appropriately named New Eyes For The Needy.

We're continuing our progress towards the 21st century, technology-wise. You may have noticed a number of new computer terminals. You may have also noticed that they may not be up and running yet. Please be advised that we're still getting them settled in. If you're not sure about a terminal or are having a problem with one, please let us know at once. They'll be fully set up very soon.

Lastly, you may have noticed something odd about our main doors. Specifically, that two of them aren't there. This is not due to hallucination on your part, or to theft. We're just replacing them, that's all. The outside doors are set and, at this writing, the inner doors are on the way. The job should be finished soon; we hope this doesn't cause a problem for you.

That will take care of our column for this week. Thanks for reading. Now go outside and enjoy the weather.



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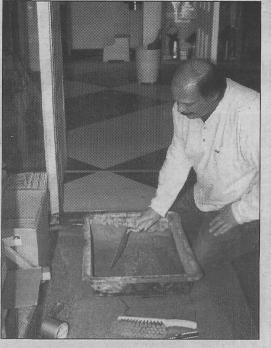
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Library Gets Finishing Touches For Open House

The Library will hold an open house this Sunday, April 11 from 2-4 p.m. The library has undergone many renovations in the past year and is inviting the public to come out and see the improvements. Pictured below are Bob Lipese and Jim Stony, working on the new doors being







Razor's Edge Celebrates **Ten Year Anniversary**

The Razor's Edge on South Plainfield Avenue recently celebrated their 10th anniversary. The salon first opened on December 19, 1988. The owners are Sandy Castagno, Donna Haines and Oscar. Both Donna and Sandy worked at the Razors Edge for three years before purchasing the Salon and have been hairdressers for over 17 years.

Sandy is also a makeup artist for

Hot Shots Photography. Oscar is an innovative hair design artist in current hair fashion as well as a master colorist specializing in collective haircolour and dimensional highlighting and an expert in chemical processes such as perms, hair straightening, etc.

The Razor's Edge is a full service salon specializing in color, perms, makeup, updo's, facial waxing, earpiercing and hair straightening.



Repairs are being made to the Senor Citizens Center located on the corner of Hamilton Blvd. and South Plainfield Ave. The building was damaged when it was hit by a truck which slid on the ice and spun Photo by Bill Tuthill out of control during a January snowstorm.

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Project Graduation Organizing Auction/Raffle

The South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Committee is working to raise money for this year's celebration. The purpose of Project Graduation is to eliminate the tradition of partyhopping on graduation night and provide a safe, drug and alcoholfree environment where graduating seniors can celebrate with each other.

Preparation for an Auction/ Raffle to be held on May I at the high school are in full swing. We have over 35 businesses in our community alone that have donated gifts to this event and they keep coming in. Other prizes include a 25" TV, VCR and 2 nights at Bally's with show tickets, gas grill, microwave, day at the races for four. Sporting event tickets include: Yankee's, Net's, N.J. Jackals, theme baskets and much

Admission is \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission price includes 25 free tickets for our potpourri section.

For tickets, call Pat at 756-6512 or Ellen at 756-3731. Come out to support our graduating se-

Last Chance for Early Bird Rates at Pool

The last chance for early bird sign-up for the Community Pool is April 15.

This year the pool will offer a variety of programs including swimming lessons and a recreation program for children in the pool compound as well as topnotch and fun competition on their award-winning swimming and diving teams.

Registrations are now being accepted at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave. Take advantage of the reduced prices and sign up before April 15. Membership rates are \$220 for a family, \$120 for individuals, \$45 for senior citizens and \$175 for a husband and

Other memberships are available. Call (908) 226-7713 for details.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

Did everyone hear that alarm clock last week? You know, the

one they called "Melissa?" Knock on wood, I have never been hit with a virus. At least not one that I didn't nip in the bud before I got hurt, and by the sound of all the hoopla last week, not everyone else can say that.

Let me digress for moment and describe my first real foray into the world of chat rooms. Yes, I have done chat before, but that was ICQ or AOL's IM chat, not the real live stuff with anonymous and motivated dialog with total strangers having a point to make. I was asked to join a chat room discussion about what should be done to this guy who was caught for perpetrating the Melissa virus. (I'm in the virus/anti-virus hotline, and when something like this hits the fan, I usually hear about it in very short order). My response was roundly supported, but that only means I was popular not necessarily correct. Here's what I said and I invite your feedback: "The Melissa virus was a non-malicious virus of the macrovirus type. As such, it should have been easily prevented by disallowing your computer from automatically opening macros. To allow your machine to run macros without your consent is just plain and simply "careless," and you deserved the darn thing if it got you! Trouble is, that if it did get you: 1) you probably didn't know it, and 2) the first fifty addresses in your address book were also hit because of your inattention. It's sort of like not putting your car in park and thus letting it clobber something downhill from you. The only damage here was that it did a great job of clogging email servers in several large organizations, and it ticked off some network administrators. Big deal,

"The Melissa virus was only a wake-up call, and we actually benefitted from its warning. Much worse can, and sometime will happen if you don't take reasonable precautions against such things.'

TIP: Bone up on viruses by searching using keywords: "virus", and "anti-virus information" as well as the websites for Norton and McAfee. Learn how to use and update anti-virus software.

As for the guy who did it all, I do think he should be pointed out for what he did, but no more! The guy certainly has the technical bility to do malevolent things, but chose not to. I don't

By Briggs Longbothum

think I'd go as far as he did, but if he caused users and administrators

to re-evaluate their vulnerability; he did everyone good, not harm. Let's get wise and get over it!

On the lighter side, I heard from a friend in the business who said he had updated all of his computers and programs etc. so that he is finally "Y to K" compliant. In brief, he wrote: "I have all mk potential problems solved! I never understood the whole thing in the first place, but ank problems kou have can't be blamed on me! I've changed all mk Mondaks, Tuesdaks, etc and now all is fine on mk end. Good luck to kou!"

I thanked him and wished him well too! Hey, did ankone (kidding!) ever think of what it was like was like with the "Y zero K" problem??? Here's some insight translated from a Latin scroll dated somewhere around 1BC.

Dear Cassius,

Are you still working on that "Y zero K" problem? Changing from BC to AD is a pain in the butt. Counting downwards has been easy, and counting upwards might screw up everything. Caesar is quite annoyed that it's been left to the last minute, and wondered why Julius didn't fix this thing when he sorted out the calendar. Caesar called in Consultus, who did nothing useful as usual, and it cost him a small fortune. He only said that "using 'minus BC' wouldn't work."

Do we have to throw out all our hardware and start over with new? Macrohard will probably just make another fortune. The moneylenders are freaking because they think the usury rates will invert and that they'll have to pay people to take out loans. I've heard the sand in the hourglass may flow upwards, but I doubt it myself! Supposedly there are three wise men in the East who have a solution, but they won't be here till it's over. I'll send you a parchment if anything else develops. Got any ideas? Pluto-

Keep smiling, see you next

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SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes

With Opening Day is just one week away, the club is busy making the final preparations. As in the past, there will be a parade followed by the Opening Day ceremony at the complex. The parade starts at 10 am from Borough Hall. Players should assemble behind the Library before 9:30 a.m. Due to a schedule conflict, SPARKEE, the Somerset Patriots mascot, will not be able to attend Opening Day. The club is looking to invite the Patriots to the complex sometime in the near future.

All managers, coaches and parents are reminded that a work detailed is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday April 10th at 8:00 am. There is a lot that still needs to be done to get the complex ready.

The club has organizing a trip to see the Trenton Thunder on Friday night May 14th. Tickets are \$13.00 which includes admission, hot dogs, soda, and a souvenir cup. Contact John Rayho at 754-8904 for tickets and more information.

Woman s Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary will be selling 'cash and carry" flowers at the complex on Opening Day. The flowers will consist of 8 inch hanging baskets (Geraniums, Fuchsia, New Guinea Impatiens, Proven Winners, and Verbena) and 2 - 3 gallon perennials.

The SPJBC Dance will be held on Saturday night June 12th from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Polish National Home on New Market Avenue. Tickets are \$35. per person and must be purchased by May 29th. A \$10 deposit is required and must be received by May 15. Admission includes an open bar, buffet, entertainment and tickets for great door prizes. Groups may reserve tables. Contact any member of the Woman's Auxiliary or call Cindy Eichler at 908-769-4047.

Contact the SPJBC ... Clubhouse 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com.

Events at a glance

Work Detail - Saturday April 10 Work Detail - Friday April 16 OPENING DAY - Saturday April 17 Trenton Thunder Trip - Friday May 14

Tiger Boys Split First Two Games

By Brian Cockrane

The South Plainfield boys baseball team opened their season last Thursday with a trip to Somerville and they did not disappoint us, coming home with a 5-4 victory over the Pioneers. Mike Kapsch had the big day driving in three of the Tigers five runs sixth inning which proved to be the game winner. Steven Bucchignano, this years Tigers ace, loss.

got the victory to go 1-0.

On Monday the Tigers home opener saw Perth Amboy come to town and hand South Plainfield their first loss. Perth Amboy took a 4-0 lead into the seventh inning as the Tigers made a valiant attempt to come back, scoring two runs on three hits, only including his clutch at bat in the to fall just short. Ryan Flannery went three for three with a double and Steven Bucchignano too the

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Left to right: (bottom row) Kiersten Whitaker, Captain Maria Lipnick, Captain Erica Palma, Olivia Gerlitz, Captain Marie Cunicella, and Megan McHugh; (middle row) Krista Barrow, Catherine Phillips, Cassie Wilkowski, Elizabeth Blackford, and Captain Amanda lavarone; (top row) Coach Jessica Cerami, Coach Lauren Campos, Coach Mickey Cerami and Coach Babette Lipnick; (not pictured) Coach Kristen Pietruski and Jaleesa Chap-

Hawks: Unstoppable!

On Sunday, March 21, the Sacred Heart Hawks Junior JV Cheerleaders competed in the Somerset County Cheerleading Tournament at Christ the King School in Manville. The team went home with Second Place Overall and First Degree of Excellence. Sacred Heart School dominated the Miss Yell competition with fourth grader Kiersten

Whitaker placing First Overall and First Degree of Excellence. The Hawks were also successful in the Double Miss Yell Competition where fourth graders Erica Palma and Maria Lipnick took Second Place Overall and First Degree of Excellence. In addition, fourth grader Marie Cunicella received the Most Outstanding Cheerleader Award.

The Hawks competed in the Junior Varsity Division against teams of fifth and sixth graders from area elementary schools. These winnings are a great accomplishment for the Sacred Heart Squad of all third and fourth graders. This is the first time that the Sacred Heart Junior JV Cheerleaders have competed and they definitely stole the show.

Tigers "Diamond" Season Starts Off Strong

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield High School baseball and softball season got under way last weekend as both the girls and boys each came away with impressive vic-

On the ladies side, junior Alison Barret takes the reigns this year as South Plainfield softballs ace of staff." Many Lady Tigers have dominated the pitching position in the last decade and Alison seems to be no exception. Facing Metuchen in their season opener Alison pitched a complete

game shutout yielding only one hit while fanning seven.

Offensively the Tigers waited until the third inning to erupt as Carolyn Schweers led off with a single, stole second and came around to score on Dana Curcios single between short and third. Things settled down and then in the sixth inning, Tiger endurance prevailed as Metuchen began committing mental and physical errors that led to three more South Plainfield runs as the icing. The Schweers sisters, Carolyn and Danielle, went four for six collectively.

to Perth Amboy and again outclassed their opponent, coming away with the 12-0 drubbing. Just about everybody got on the offensive bandwagon this game as the tigers scored in every inning but the third.

Dana Curcio had the big day getting three hits, scoring three runs and knocking in another. Danielle Schweers and Kelly Ritchey each had a pair of hits and three RBI's.

Alison Barret surrendered just two hits this time, while once again striking out seven.

Date to Watch: Tuesday, April On Monday the Tigers traveled 13—home against Bishop Ahr.

Community **Pool Swim** Lessons

Eight-30 minute classes per session

Categories are: Exploration, Journey Series and Voyager Series Fees: Member, first child-\$30; each additional child-\$25. Nonmembers; first child-\$60; each additional child-\$45. Registration is first come, first served. Sign up at the PAL

building, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Moms Honored at International Woman's Month at Middle School



Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage was Administrative Coordinator

By Pattricia Abbott

On March 31, the Middle School Human Relations Committee joined in the celebration of International Woman's Month by honoring the mothers of the committee members and mothers of seventh grade students with a dinner. Administrative Program Coordinator of the event was Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage, along with Norma Ghanim, parent program coordinator and Angela Sivo, student program

The mothers were greeted at the door by committee members and each were presented with a carnation. The program opened with a welcome by Phyllis Savage and acknowledgements by

Norma Ghanim. Poems and a brief history of Woman's Month followed. The highlight of the program was the open mike. Students introduced their mothers and expressed their thoughts and thanks, and love. Many of the students had prepared in advance to speak but others simply spoke from the heart with the same affect, smiles and tears from mom.

Donating to the success of the evening were Piscataway Edwards Super Store, Union Carbide Corporation, South Plainfield Dunkin Donuts, Ciccio's Pizzeria, Palilo's Barbecue, Pizza Stop and South Plainfield 1-800-FLOWERS. Many of the committee members parents also contributed. Mrs. Savage plans for



the celebration to become an annual event. Student members of the newly formed South Plainfield Middle School Human Relations Commission are: Angela Sivo, Kristina Lopez, Shari

Sangster, Chelsea Falato, Charlyn Magat, Kwenneth Wakefield, LIzzette Seay, Crystal Soto, Jazzmine Washington, Tiffany Boyle, Shante Edelman, Annette Anderson and Allia Ghanim.







Mrs. Norma Ghanim, parent



POLICE REPORT

· A Merchants Ave. resident reported his front picture window was smashed with a rock while he was at home. He told police he heard a

 A Carmine Ave, resident reported a bike stolen from her garage. The garage had been unlocked. The family were at home but no one heard the garage door open. She noted that a more expensive bike had not been touched.

· An Edison resident reported his car stolen from Pathmark on Hadley Road. The victim stated he locked the car and went into the store for approximately 15 minutes. When he returned the vehicle was missing. Police searched the lot and the area the car had been

parked. There was no sign of broken glass. · A Jamesburg resident reported the theft of a cell phone and beeper from the inside of his vehicle which had been parked on Wade Ave. The unlocked car was inside a fenced area.

· Police responded to phone calls of explosions near the Elks Club and Fred Allen Drive. They discovered a car on fire on L.V. Railroad Road. The fire department extinguished the blaze. The vehicle had NY plates and had not been reported stolen. Police were unable to contact the owner

· A framed newspaper article was reported missing from the American Legion. The frame had been hanging in the front hall. A similar incident occurred in March when a frame was

removed from the exact same location. · A Franklin Ave. resident reported a bag of garbage had been thrown at her car breaking the rear drivers side light. The contents were

checked for possible names of suspects with negative results.

 The owner of DMD Landscapes and Lawn Care reported that someone had broken into his landscaping trailer and stole \$2,260 worth of equipment.

· A Plainfield Ave. resident reported that someone had dented the hood of his vehicle while it was parked at his home.

· Harbor Light Distribution Center on Kentile Road reported that someone had cut the chain on the gate to the yard, then broke the lock to a chassis holding a storage container. The chassis was loaded onto a tractor and removed from the yard. The container held 480 cartons of backpacks with 24 packs in each carton. The company noted to the police that the FBI had been notified as well

· Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident involving injuries at Durham and Rt. 287. An Airborne Express driver had phoned his manager that he had been in an accident and was bleeding. The manager responded by calling the police. The driver later called back and told the manager April Fools. Police located the driver at the BP gas station where he was arrested and charged with false reports to law enforcement authorities. The driver said it was just a joke on his manager and he didn't think it would go that far. An ambulance had been dispatched and had to be cancelled.

· Markita Arrington of Bedminster was arrested for shoplifting \$184.94 in jeans from Sterns on Hadley Rd.

Christina DeMatos & Katie Lawrence Report... Notes from the Middle School



Kristen Fredericks and Stephanie Swierc study their lines for the Middle School play "Squad Room." Photo by Christina DeMatos

This month there is much going on in the Middle School. There were so many activities, Mrs. Capizola and Mrs. Trusewe could only name a few. One wicz are the directors. of our most important activities

this month is our school play "Squad Room" by Tim Kelly.

"Squad Room" is a drama/

comedy about a chaotic squad room and its daily predicaments. This play debuts April 30th at 7:30 p.m.; its only showing.

Also going on this month is the seventh and eighth grade Battle of the Books. This will be held the 15th and the 30th. The students in Reading classes are in groups of about five people. Each group reads certain books, and at the competitions, are asked questions concerning them.

The Middle School is also having a Tiger Tech display throughout the month of April. This display represents exceptional designs of art, graphic arts, wood shop, metal shop, mechanical drawing, computers and other classes. All of the projects have been made by students who are skilled in their craft.

We hope that you will come to the previously addressed activities and support our Middle School students.

For all interested parents, there is a PTA meeting April 12th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Middle School Conference Room.

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Photos by Patricia Abbott





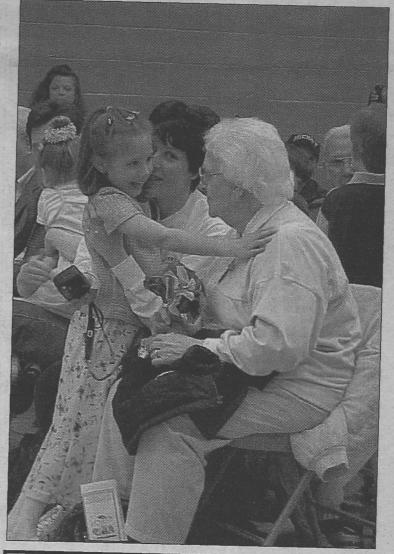
Grandparents Day at Roosevelt

By Patricia Abbott

Neednesday, March 31 the so-called generation gap was far from evident at Roosevelt School. The Kindergarten classes paid a loving tribute to their grandparents. Grandparents Day at Roosevelt School is a tradition that goes back many years. Songs and poems presented by the youngsters just beginning their school days expressed how important grandparents are in their lives.

Teachers Miss Frank and Mrs. Publik, along with music director, Miss Perez worked hard to present a program that as predicted by Principal Mario Barbiere, brought a tear to many an eye. As the program closed children exited the stage and heading straight for the audience to present colorful paper flowers to their grandparents. Smiles, hugs, happy tears and some very special brand of kisses swept through the gym. After the program the children, grandparents and parents enjoyed refreshments and basked in the glow of proud grandmas and grandpas.





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Obituaries

Anna Baron Hasulak

Anna Baron Hasulak died suddenly on Monday, March 29 at her home (of natural causes).

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and has resided in South Plainfield for over the past 70 years.

Hasulak had worked as a seamstress many years ago, for the former Bruno Dress Co. of South Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Hasulak was an avid bingo player. Over the years, she had played at most of the church bingos in the area and for the past few years she was a regular player at Our Lady of Fatima Bingo in Piscataway.

Her husband, William Hasulak, died in 1988. She was also pre-deceased by her sisters, Julia Faryniak and Mary Pastuck and by her brother, John Baron.

Surviving are a son, William P. Hasulak of Piscataway and her two grandchildren, Heather and Derek Hasulak, both of Piscataway.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Angelina (Angie) Tadesco Rundella, 82

Angelina (Angie) Tadesco Rundella of South Plainfield died on Wed., March 30 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plain-

She was born in Plainfield and had lived in South Plainfield for the last 62 years. She was a seamstress for the former Bruno Dress Company in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1986.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and a former member of the parish Altar Rosary Society. For the last 25 years she



worked in the Italian booth making pizza frittas at the annual Sacred Heart Funstival (Bazaar).

She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Sacred Heart Senior Citizens.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph S. Rundella, who died

She is survived by a son, Battista Rundella of So. Plainfield; two brothers, Angelo Tadesco of Slidell, La. and Alexander Tadesco of South Plainfield; a sister, Virginia Robertson of Lakehurst and three grandchildren.

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

Louise Austin Apgar, 83

Louise Austin Apgar died on Sunday, April 4, at St. Peter's University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Apgar was born in Salisbury, Maryland, and had resided in South Plainfield for 33 years before moving to Piscataway in 1953. She was a 1936 graduate of St. Peter's School of Nursing in New Brunswick. She had served on the staff of the former Middlesex County Hospital for the Chronically III as a registered nurse for over 20 years and at the time of her retirement in 1982, when the hospital closed, she was serving as the director of nursing. She had previously served on staff as chief nurse for the former Middlesex County Rehabilitation Center in North Brunswick for 10 years. She was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield and also a member of the Piscataway Senior Citizens.

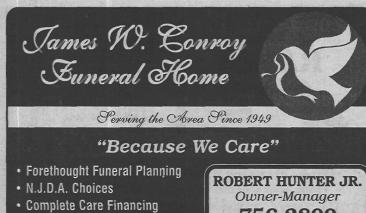
Her husband, Mervin Apgar, died in 1966 and her brother, Edward W. Austin, in 1973.

Surviving are two daughters, Nancy C. Stucka of Piscataway, Deborah L. Apgar of Metuchen; a son, Retired US Navy Lt. Commander George Duryea of Belen, New Mexico; a sister, Jacqueline Buckelew of South Plainfield; two brothers, Floyd L. Austin and Donald "Doc" Austin, both of South Plainfield. She is also survived by six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield Building Fund, c/o 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.





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Letters

Continued from page 2

A school board member's role is that of being a good listener and being able to identify policies and procedures to encourage public involvement with their schools. I think it is important for the taxpayers of South Plainfield to be informed of discussions and actions taken by the Board of Education. One of my goals which I am ever aware of is continued communication between the Board of Education and the community. My goal has generated the Community Contact newsletter and the Board of Education information leaflet which is available at school board meetings. I have been involved with contacting legislators about improving the funding made available to our schools as well. This is the type of experience and dedication that I bring to the table of being an effective school board member for South Plainfield.

I want to continue to work for the children of South Plainfield. Vote April 20 and please remember the names Byrne (line 1), Stillman (line 2), LaFreniere (line 3) — the candidates who have the "EXPERIENCE COUNTS" slo-

SINCERELY, **MYRA STILLMAN**

To the Editor,

While attending the National Honor Society installation last Monday, I felt renewed in the commitment I have always had to our school district. We have every reason to be proud of our students and their achievements. South Plainfield has always supported their athletic teams, their musical groups and their student population in general. Our students frequently achieve in many areas simultaneously because we provide a balanced, yet varied, school experience.

As fans of both music and sports, we have been consistent in having large groups of us cheering them on; win, lose or draw. Being on a Board of Education that re-instituted the justly deserved recognition of our students and staff is one of the many highlights of my service. Our Board of Education values the efforts made in all areas of achievement and is proud of their accomplish-

South Plainfield is appropriately perceived of as a place that supports its children in all areas. We have always made the effort to give as much as we can to assure that our students and our employees have what they need to succeed, while keeping a close eye on the tax dollar. We consistently get the most from our money, as well as from our staff and students.

As April 20 approaches, please remember how much you care. Last year only 1,200 people voted in the Board of Education election. That is a drop of more than 600 people who normally vote. Because of that fact, people say you don't care, I disagree. I believe that many voters were happy with the way things were being handled and didn't feel they were needed in the voting booth. BUT YOU ARE!

Please, come out to vote on April 20 to support my election to the Board of Education. Support Carol M. Byrne, Line 1; Myra M. Stillman, Line 2; and need your help to keep South Plainfield on the right path. Experience does count when your children are at stake.

SINCERELY. **CAROL M. BYRNE**

Dear Observer,

As a taxpayer and especially as a parent, I urge every registered voter to vote 'Yes' on the South Plainfield School Budget on April 20. Our school taxes are finally going down! We have received extra money from the state to make this possible. The extra money has also made it possible for summer school to be put back into the budget. Do you remember summer school? It has been three years since we have had a summer school in South Plainfield.

There is a catch to this. If the school budget fails, there is a possibility that summer school could be one of the programs that are cut! I think we owe it to our children to make sure this does not happen.

For three years, I have attended just about every Board of Education meeting to try to understand how things are done. I have added my input time and time again of how important I feel summer school is for our children. I finally feel some progress has been made.

As parents, we see the kind of work our children bring home. It is totally mind boggling on some days. My third grade daughter brings home work that I know I learned in a much higher grade. Besides, it's been a long time since I've been in third grade.

We basically all know the curriculum is a lot harder now then when we were in school. Our children are expected to learn a lot more, in less time and retain all this information. In the interim some of the children have a hard time with all this work. Then comes summer time and they are left to stagnate for the summer.

We need to have a summer school in our town to help these children. We need to grab the bull by the horns now! Children need to know they can do the work. With a little extra help it will give them the confidence they need to try even harder. The last thing we want is for any of our children to feel they are unintelligent and will never succeed. So please vote Yes on April 20 for the school budget.

P.S. It would be nice to see a few more faces at the Board of Education meetings. Our children are our future. Let's not let them down.

Thank you, **GWENN KURILEW**

To the Editor:

This is to let you know a little about myself. I have lived in South Plainfield for the last 29 years with my wife Christine of 32 years. We have three children who have all graduated from the South Plainfield School System and have gone on to college. All three have graduated (one from Trenton State, one from Seton Hall University and one from University of Scranton).

I am retired from AT&T after 30 years. I enjoyed my career, but I know it is time to give back to the community that has made my life as good as it is. I have worked very hard for eight years with the "Project Graduation Committee" to make it one of the best events

Kenneth LaFreniere, Line 3. We in South Plainfield for our students. For the last two and half years I have been a Trustee for the South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, working for scholarships for our students.

I am running for the Board of Education to take what I am proud of and make it better for the students of South Plainfield. A need that the district must focus on is the infusion of technology in all curriculum at all levels and all subjects. This is not only hardware and software that must be provided, but the training that the administration and staff must have in order to use this technology effectively. The development of objectives, goals, tactics and an implementation plan for technology for the current year and a five year plan are in place to insure the success. This will provide a positive direction so that administration and staff can work together to insure that our students receive the best education with the utilization and infusion of technology in the curriculum.

The South Plainfield School District needs to focus on communications between the board of education, administration and staff so that we all have the same objectives and goals. It is important that in all this rhetoric that the priority of education in South Plainfield addresses children first. If we can achieve a school system that is dependable, accountable, reliable and energetic the district would be able to enter the 21st century at the speed of light. Thank you, I am looking forward to your support for me and my running mates, Myra Stillman and Carol Byrne, (1,2,3) in the upcoming Board of Education election.

KENNETH E. LA FRENIERE

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Jeff Seider's candidacy for a seat on the South Plainfield Board of Education. I have had the pleasure of being a friend and neighbor of Jeff and his family for

Jeff has a true concern for the quality of education in South Plainfield and attends board of education meetings regularly. In fact he has encouraged me to attend also. He believes the residents should speak and be heard when decisions are being made which affect our children and their education and when decisions made will affect the taxpayers.

On October 16, the Board of Education held a meeting at the high school auditorium. It was at this meeting that Mrs. Myra Stillman said she favored centralizing kindergarten as a way to address the overcrowding at the various elementary schools. Several residents spoke who have children currently enrolled in our schools. Jeff Seider then addressed the Board of Education and reminded the Superintendent and Board of Education members that Grant School is currently being used to hold the offices of district administrators, special services, special education preschool classes and the semi-private Future Stars Preschool Program, was intended to be used as an elementary school. He asked the board and superintendent, "Why should administrators use this space when our children could be using it?" He pointed

Continued on next page

Letters

Continued from page 10

out that using this building as a school again would address the overcrowding at elementary level. He pointed out that centralizing kindergarten would only free two classrooms at the most, at each building, while a building originally designed to hold 400 plus students continues to be used as office space, would not be a responsible direction for the BOE to go. Incumbent Carol Byrne also spoke supporting centralizing kindergarten saying, "It was a long time coming."

Our BOE needs members who have vision for the future, who will speak out and make decisions in the interest of promoting excellence in education. Maybe board of education members who walk daily into our school buildings have better ideas. After all their children are there each day.

Our SAT scores have dropped below the state and national levels. We need members who are committed to seeing those numbers rise.

Jeff Seider and Dan Smith have young children in our school district, each have recently moved into their second homes in South Plainfield. Each have decided that it is in South Plainfield they would like their children to be raised and educated. They want their property values to increase, they want their taxes stable, they want their children's education to be excellent. They want to represent you and me on the South Plainfield Board of Education. Some of the incumbents have sat between six and twelve years on this Board of Education, they say experience counts. I'd like to know what it counts for? Does it count that we are not trying to address an overcrowding situation which should have been addressed in long range planning

years ago? I think it is time for new ideas, fresh minds and responsible thinking. I think it is time to elect Jeff Seider and Dan Smith on April 20. Please join me and others concerned for the future in voting lines

SINCERELY, **DEBBIE MILLER**

To the Editor,

In previously submitted articles, I have been identified as a candidate for the South Plainfield Board of Education Election, April 20, as part of a ticket. I would like to further give the voters of South Plainfield a chance to know who I am and what I stand for.

I am a life-long resident and graduate of the South Plainfield public school district. My wife Debbie and I have three children, Matthew, Megan and Jake. Matthew and Megan currently attend elementary school at John E. Riley School. My commitment to raising my family stems from the many good memories and positive experiences I have had while residing in South Plainfield.

I believe in community involvement, having served on the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and coaching various youth athletic teams. I also remain active in my children's education by participating and supporting our elementary school PTSO and its activities. I believe being involved in our community gives me the opportunity to give back some of what has been given to me, it also keeps me informed and aware of residents concerns about public

I believe the South Plainfield school district offers a good education for all children. I think, however, the educational bar should al-

ways be raised. The quality of education affects every resident, through taxes, property values and the perception others have of our community. It is important to have members of the BOE not only hear the concerns, but to listen to those concerns brought forward by the community and be guided by those they represent. Only then can we look forward to a raised educational quality, a safe environment for all children to learn, responsible spending and affordable tax levels. I believe I am the person that can be counted on to make fair minded decisions that balance the education of our children as well as the taxpayer's concerns.

I believe, if elected, I can offer my time and commitment to our community through service and my sincere hope that educational quality is always a raised bar, that residents be included in decisions and their concerns are always listened to and addressed. The time is right for a FRESH START and NEW IDEAS. Vote lines 4 and 5 for Dan Smith and Jeff Seider on April 20.

JEFF SEIDER

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- longer be a fixture in your backyard!
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Weekly Horoscope 4/9-4/15

ARIES (3/21-4/20) Look for positive nanges, the Sun conjoins Jupiter in Aries. You should be opening your mind to new things in the way of greater understanding. Seeking out the truth will provide you with better awareness of your life around you and also change your view about life. And after all, change is good when a thought process is used, instead of it just

TAURUS (4/21-5/20) This is a time to confront anything that was in your past and you've been burying. Then you'll be able to be rid of those issues and never look back. Also you may be having some interesting dreams during this time. I suggest looking in a dream book for interpretations. Knowledge is powerful.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20) Watch out for the beginning of April, it may start off a little bumpy. But just like a roller coaster ride at the end it smooths out. The opportunities will come at you from many directions, with emphasis on writing, publishing, and advertising. And if you recently had a serious breakup, look to your heart.

CANCER (6/21-7/22) Be on top of a situation at work. Any meetings going on are important for you to attend. Lost information has you trying to play catch up. You have a wonderful side of your personality, making a break to the forefront, which makes people want to be around you. Key word POPULAR.

LEO (7/23-8/22) A tricky situation here for you. What you may have perceived to be a lie by someone you trust in a delicate situation could have been misinterpreted by you. So do not aggravate the situation by telling your own falsehood to save face. Honesty is the best policy. Hold off for the truth around the 15th.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22) Jupiter is in trine with Pluto at this time and you may be dealing with deep emotional issues. Get in touch with your real feelings. "You have the strength" and you will be able to blow away anything that is negative. They are less threatening when we bring them out into the open, then when buried.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) Why don't you have a discussion with either a love interest or trusted friend. Sitting down and talking is better at this time than trying to express them emotionally. This will help bring to bring out any difficult situations that are now happening. Also this is the time to form business partnerships if they present themselves.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) Now is the time to move forward. In your career path there is nothing to stop you but you! You want a new opportunity and will be more self-directed. And, of course, over time the money will follow. If people offer suggestions listen with an open ear. They will offer choices you did not think of.

SAGITTARIUS (1 1/21-12/21) No get rich quick schemes this month for you. An opposition between Saturn and Mars has con-artists abound. Stick with the slower moving transit of Saturn in your money sector of Taurus. And later on watch who is laughing on their way to the bank. Lèmon balm tea is good for your cold.

CAPRICORN (12/21-1/19) Thoughts of your past may be appearing in your mind and you seem to want to confront them. A mutual concern with a family member needs a heart to heart talk. This will all tie in and show you how your life has been mapped out to this point in your life. Continue to grow.

AQUARIUS (1/19-2/18) Now is a good time to be with your close friends. When in a group you feel like this is your "breakfast club." Traveling in groups, getting away on weekends will increase the bonds that were built over the years. Isn't it great talking about the old stories, with new ones to start! ROYAL BLUE!

PISCES (2/19-3/20) This is a good time to pursue any projects you are working on. So be active, this is a good time to start them, with rewards at the end of the rainbow. Someone out there may even be willing to give you the lucky break you've been waiting for. And for those of you who like to write, your imagination is full of

TID BITS - Sorry I am a little late with this but HAPPY BIRTHDAY ARIES. This seems to be your year. After feeling like you've been put to the test the last couple of years, you are ready to show people what you have to offer. The eclipses of the moon and sun will help you explore the real meaning of love, either through a new relationship or one that has been building. You will find a special place in your heart for these. Also, children will be important to you this year. It may even cause passion enough, to go back to your own inner child. So this year let the love flow. You have enough to give to all those you want to. And one other happy birthday to one of my own special Aries friend,

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Deadline for next issue is Mon, Feb. 29.

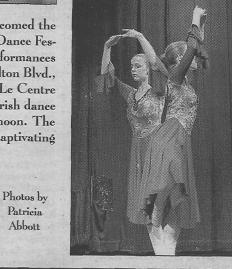
Cultural Arts 5th Annual Spring into Dance Festival



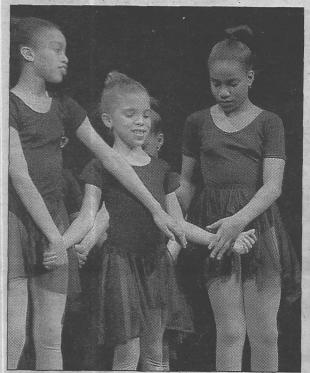




The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission welcomed the arrival of spring with their 5th Annual Spring into Dance Festival. The festival is a celebration of dance featuring performances by three local dance studios; Spotlight On Dance, Hamilton Blvd., Plainfield Performing Arts and Jo-Ann's Dance Studio, Le Centre Dance Ensemble, So. Clinton Ave. S.P. A professional Irish dance troupe opened the show and set the mood for the afternoon. The full-house was treated to over 25 dances ranging from captivating solos to lively group numbers.











April 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	S ATURD AY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	John E. Riley School Car Wash 9am-1pm
11	12	13	14	15	AARP Chapter #4144 12:30 p.m. 16	17
Open House at the South Plainfield Library 2-4 p.m.	School Board Candidate Night at Riley School 7:30 pm	Library Board 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm		Vision 2001 Art Auction, SPHS 7 p.m. Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	UNICO Golf Outing at Beaver Golf Club
18	Land Management 19	20	21	22	23	24
Caring and Sharing Group Trip	Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Borough Council Meeting 8 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	
25	26	27	28	29	Historical Society Harbor Cruise from Perth Amboy, noon	Project Graduation Auction/Raffle
		Planning Board 8 pm	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	Senior Trip to Atlantic City and Senior Festival Bus leaves 7:45 am	Middle School Play: "Squad Room" 7:30 pm Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	A at SPHS Y Fashion Show at First Baptist Church 2 pm
2	3	Business Association 4 Golf Outing Cranbury Golf Club	5	6	7	8
	Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL	Court 9:30 am Board of Adjustment 8 pm	Court 9:30 am	Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	Publication of So. Plfd.Observer	

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