

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 37

50 CENTS

MAY 18, 2001

## Fourth Annual Police Bicycle Rodeo Saturday

This Saturday, May 19, the South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting their fourth annual bicycle rodeo. The rodeo takes place in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring your kids with their bikes. They will get their bikes inspected, ride the obstacle course, have a drink and a hot dog and get to know the members of our police department. There is no charge for any of the day's planned activities.

The kids can ride an obstacle course presented and conducted by volunteer employees of State Farm Insurance. Proper riding techniques and rules of the road will be emphasized. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

There will be a limited supply of bicycle helmets, donated by the South Plainfield Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, which will be given to cyclists 14 years and younger who don't have a helmet. Those wearing their own helmet to the rodeo who register their bicycle with the SPPD, will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle or a locking device for their bicycle. Ron Sward, the director

of the Physical Therapy Center in Woodbridge and a member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, has donated a bicycle for this event.

Safety oriented literature supplied by AAA and the South Plainfield branch of the N.J. Div. of Motor Vehicles, will be provided to all participants. Bike N Gear from Middlesex will be on hand to conduct a safety inspection on all bicycles, free of charge.

In conjunction with their bicycle safety program, a unique bicycle registration/theft prevention program will be available to the public. The "Baron Von Pedaloff" program, designed by Officer William Frink of the Special Problems Unit, is specifically designed to reduce bicycle thefts. By encouraging bicycle owners to register their bicycle and taking anti-theft precautions, bicycle thefts can be reduced in South Plainfield. "Baron Von Pedaloff" literature will be provided in an effort to remind all those in attendance, not to give anyone the opportunity to "pedal off" with their bicycle.

Bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a fun filled day. Any questions? Contact (908) 226-7678.



## Railcar is Vandalized Once More!

Councilwoman Darlene Pinto reported during last week's council meeting that the railcar has been vandalized once again, and this time the damage is very extensive.

Actually, the police department found that someone has been living in the railcar. Police say they found the car was filled with food, garbage, and empty liquor bottles. Most of the windows are now broken and graffiti is painted all over the car, leaving the railcar a sad sight.

Pinto said she has contacted the company that leased the car to South Plainfield. She is asking that they take it back before the lease is up at the end of the year.

This is a sad ending to a project that has spanned more than four years. The railcar was brought to town with a vision that after it was restored to its original state and perhaps it might be used as a museum to display South Plainfield's history.

Numerous organizations and businesses in town volunteered their time and money to restore the railcar. Students from Middlesex County Vo-tech also spent the past few years working inside the car, restoring the tiles and woodworking. Last summer after most of the renovations were completed, a grand opening was held with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Since then, no one has stepped forward to adopt the railcar. After sitting vacant for almost a year, the decision has been made to send it back.

## Sacred Heart Funstival

Sacred Heart's Funstival, which began on Tuesday, will continue through Saturday night.

The Funstival is taking place behind Sacred Heart School, located between Maple and South Plainfield Avenues.

The hours are Thursday and Friday, 6 until closing and Saturday 2 to 5 p.m.. There is plenty of good homemade food, games and rides.



## A Night in Hollywood—SPHS Jr. Ball

By Patricia Abbott

On May 5, the Junior class of SPHS and their dates enjoyed "A Night in Hollywood," complete with red carpet and paparazzi. The Junior Class Prom was an incredible event that will be remembered for years to come. Class President Billie Jean Sarullo said, "The prom committee started planning for this on the first day of school. Our class has a great group of kids, anything we put our minds to will always turn out successful." Months of planning were put into action and the committee turned the gym into a stunning replica of a Hollywood Premiere. Advisor, Rita Marcocci said, "I was so glad to see the kids pull together. They made me proud to be an advisor to a class of such great individuals." Late afternoon the finishing touches were put in place. Activity was at a minimum leaving a shadowed, silent room awaiting the appointed hour.

The flower-lined red carpet, awaiting the arrival of guests, was just the beginning of a night of wonder and surprises. A marquee outside the school announced the Junior Classes *Night in Hollywood*. The roped-off carpet began at the curb and ran the length of the sidewalk and into the building. SPHS students elegantly at-



tired in gowns and tuxedo waited their turn to make a grand entrance. As each couple began their walk along the carpet, an assortment of cameras whirled and flashed capturing the moment. The couples were announced and

briefly interviewed by "host" Bob Diehl, before continuing past mini-bleachers packed with family and friends. As they passed under the white canopy they were applauded by

*Continued on page 8*



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

### AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, May 21 ..... Thursday, May 24  
Monday, June 4 ..... Thursday, June 7  
Monday, May 18 ..... Thursday, June 21

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

May 22 (no meeting), June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14, August 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Dec. 25 (no meeting).

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

May 29, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31, August 7, August 21, Sept. 4 (no meeting), Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 (no meeting), Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18.

### taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

### siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22 (no meeting), December 27.

### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Monday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

June 11, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, 2002

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Regular Board Mtg., May 22, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, June 12, 7 p.m., Regular Board Mtg., June 19, 8 p.m.

July -- No Meetings

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

### traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

May 23, June 27, July 25, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28 and Dec. 26.

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department  
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

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Dear Mrs. Reedy,

I read with concern, your comments regarding the Borough Council and I want to offer the following for clarification. The Democrats are not "in control" of the council. Each member has campaigned, stated their position on issues, gone door to door in South Plainfield, issued position statements and won the support of our residents. Never before in our history, has there been a more open and participative government in South Plainfield. All sides, resident and business interests, are heard and listened to. Our Business Advisory and Tax Advisory Groups, open meetings, responses to all concerns, clearly evidence our open door policy. With respect to a defeated school budget, as a former board member, you must know the legal procedure. The board is required by law to provide copies of the budget for review. The mayor and council meet with the Board to recommend, either approval or reduction in areas not effecting the thorough and efficient education of our students.

Finally, Mr. Cerami is not the liaison to the Board of Education. The governing body enjoys an excellent working relationship with the members of the Board of Education, with members of each attending the other's meeting. Please speak with the board members who regularly attend council meetings, or perhaps you, yourself, should attend one.

As Mayor, I assure you that each member of the council is responsive, not as you say, to both sides, but to all sides. The name calling, accusations, refusing to hear residents, false information is all gone and will not be returned to our Borough government.

Again, you are encouraged to attend meetings and see the process for yourself.

SINCERELY,  
DANIEL J. GALLAGHER, MAYOR

To The Editor,

It is hard to believe that we are at the midpoint of the fourth marking period and rapidly approaching the close of another school year. The staff and students at Grant Central Sixth Elementary School have had an exceptionally challenging year in meeting both academic and nonacademic goals, while adjusting to a new school environment. The overwhelming generosity of the Grant Central Sixth PTO has truly enhanced our experience this year. The members of this organization have worked so closely with us and our students to make this year not only successful, but quite unique. For without them, the students and staff would have missed so very much. Most importantly, was their commitment to all the students of Grant. This phenomenal group was always there to lend support whether it be with our assembly programs, book fair, Read Across America or the endless other

## In My Opinion

special activities that the PTO either planned or assisted with. Their words of encouragement, all their dedication, and let's not forget the wonderful teacher's luncheon and special treats, made this a pleasant year for all.

The staff of Grant Central Sixth Elementary School would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Grant Central Sixth PTO. You made our first year here quite a memorable one. We wish you and the students the best. You will surely be remembered and missed.

THANK YOU,  
GRANT CENTRAL SIXTH  
SCHOOL STAFF

To the Editor:

It has been a while since I felt I needed to write a letter, but last week's article in the *Observer*, May 11, on the candidates for Borough Council brought back a lot of old memories. First, may I say that Marjorie Reedy is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! Councilman Dennis Cerami is not the liaison to the Board of Education. Councilman Jim Vokral is and has been for the last six years. So you do not know who your council liaison is. Councilman Vokral has and does attend the Board of Education meetings, but chooses to stay out of the lime light. That is the way he is. He feels that as the Board has stated many times; it is an autonomous group and the Council should not get involved, just in case they do have to solve a budget issue. I have never known Councilman Vokral to ever turn away anyone who calls him, not even a member of the Board.

For your information Mrs. Reedy, Councilman Dennis Cerami is the Public Safety Chairperson. All you have to do is go down to Borough Hall and pick up one of the free cards with the Council's names and the offices that they chair. It is a shame that even before you get the facts straight, you are ready to accuse someone like Mr. Cerami of not doing his job. NOT TRUE! He is very diligent and professional and takes his position seriously. He does not go around slamming people or making mistakes. You have already made your first. You don't know who is who, or even which people are out there helping your own community!

As for your experience being on the Board of Ed. you wrote, "I have always put the children first and will do the same with the Council." In 1988 there were between 24 to 27 special education high school seniors that where allowed to quit South Plainfield High School, a few short months before graduation. I and a few other parents fought the school board, trying and help them and their teacher. Noth-

ing was done and the teacher was let go and the children all quit. Where was your help then? What part did you play to help keep those children in school? This past Jan, Feb, March and April, when I was at the school board meetings with a serious problem that needed to be addressed, you didn't come to me to see what you could do to help the situation. Not once did you show any concern or interest. It took ONE, fifteen minute meeting with the new Superintendent to take care and to solve my problem. You sat doing absolutely nothing! Where was your concern in this serious situation involving our school children? How did you help those parents and grandparents and who are the people you say you want to help now? If this is how you will work for the Council, then I say thanks, but no thanks..

As for your job experience—I live on the block next to where you work. When we called a month ago to complain, you answered the phone, listened and responded that it was not your firm that was the problem. Well, since my husband is the Councilman, the people on this block would call our house at 11 p.m., 11:30 p.m. and 12 a.m. to complain about the noise. Two nights later the noise returned, we called the police and your firm was the culprit. You did not address it or even call back.

As a very educated Republican on political issues in our town, county, state and beloved nation, I like to think I am fair, and I don't like it when people of any party use their position to make other people look bad. The Republican Party of South Plainfield still has not learned that lying or saying things that are not true will get them elected. You think that you can say what you want and no one will disagree. This is not where you ignore facts and you will not be held accountable for your actions. Welcome to the real world

I will say this, that with your experience in your job on the Board of Ed., and the knowledge of your Council members leaves a lot to be desired. Try learning more about the subject you are addressing before making more mistakes. It's cruel and very unbecoming. I have learned many years ago that it's who the person is and what values they have that makes them the right person for the job. Not what party line they are running under. I think you owe Councilman Dennis Cerami an apology. Maybe you should have attended some of the Government and Law classes at the high school. It would have saved you and me the time it took to write this letter.

RESPECTFULLY,  
DEBORAH VOKRAL

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We want to hear from you concerning what is going on around town. We will omit your name by request, but you must give us your name and phone number when you submit your letter. Send your letter/opinion to: *The South Plainfield Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield 07080. You can email us at ggnan@aol.com or fax to 908-668-8819.



# southplainfieldpeople

## Milestones

### Millie Brauer Celebrates 90th Birthday With Golfing Friends



Millie Brauer, a golfer at the West Nine Golf Course in Plainfield, recently celebrated her 90th birthday, with a party thrown by her golfing buddies at the golf course. Millie has been golfing with a league every Wednesday night for the past 40 years. While this avid golfer has been hitting the green for nearly 40 years, things haven't exactly been smooth. Along the years, Millie has endured two knee replacements, a hip replacement and wears a hearing aid, as well as a pace maker. Yet, she is determined to continue doing what she loves most. Millie resides in Linden.

### Tammy Goetz, Glenn DiLoreto Announce Their Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Goetz of South Plainfield, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Tammy to Glenn DiLoreto of Rockaway, NJ. Glenn is the son of Gretchen Rhoads of Sharon Hill, Pa. and Guiseppe DiLoreto of Castelfranco, Italy.

Tammy is a 1992 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She graduated from William Paterson University in 1997 with a BA in Sociology and is currently employed as a mental health counselor for St. Clare's Health Services in Denville, NJ.

Glenn graduated from Ramsey High School in Ramsey, NJ in 1989. He graduated from Trenton State College with a BA in Business and from William Paterson University in 1998 with a BA in Education. Glenn



Glen DiLoreto and Tammy Goetz is a fifth grade teacher at William Mason Elementary School in Montville, NJ. He plans to attend Columbia University in the Fall to pursue his Master's Degree.

A January 2002 wedding is planned at the Madison Hotel in Morristown.

### Mike and Marge Reedy Celebrate Their 25th Wedding Anniversary



Michael and Marjorie Reedy.

Michael and Marjorie Reedy will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary next Tuesday, May 22. They were married 25 years ago at the Pilgrim Covenant Church in South Plainfield. The Reedy's have lived in South Plainfield for the past 25 years they were married.

Marge just announced she will be running for Borough Council after serving nine years on the Board of Education.

The Reedy's have three children, Sandra, 20, who attends Westminster Choir College; James, 17, a senior in SPSHS and Patrick, 14, an eighth grader in the Middle School.

## Pal Expansion Nearly Completed

In just a few weeks, the newly constructed addition to the PAL Building will be completed.

The new building expansion includes a new larger weight room, which will also be used for aerobics and exercise classes; a locker room with showers; a concession stand and a large all purpose room planned for the wrestlers. When finished it will have bleachers to accommodate tournaments.

The entire building has been painted, inside and out and new furniture has been purchased for the PAL offices. Rooms now being used for temporary office space will be used for after school activities.

## GOLDEN OLDIES CONCERT

featuring  
1960's Recording Group

## THE HAPPENINGS

See You in September Go Away Little Girl

I Got Rhythm

Also appearing Comic Sheila Van Dyke

South Plainfield High School Auditorium  
South Plainfield, NJ

ONE BIG  
SHOW  
8:00 P.M.

TICKETS ONLY \$14.00

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Children 12 and under Free

Saturday  
May 19, 2001

Sponsored By the  
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Tony Feraro – President



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COMING SOON  
SUNDAY HOURS!



### Jennifer Gebbia, Stephen Spisso Announce Their Engagement

Joseph and Rose Gebbia of North Brunswick have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Grace Gebbia, to Stephen Andrew Spisso, son of Craig and Carol Spisso of South Plainfield.

The future bride is a graduate of North Brunswick High School and Rutgers University, and is now attending NYU Law School.

Her fiancée is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and Middlesex County College with an Associates Degree in Business. He is employed by CVS Pharmacy, as a store manager.

The couple will be married on July 6, 2001.



Jennifer Gebbia & Stephen Spisso



# events

## AARP Chapter Meeting

May 18

The general meeting for AARP Chapter 4414 will meet on Friday, May 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. Dorothy and Henry Meriwether will give a slide show and talk on Ireland. Volunteers will be recognized and Officers and Board Members will be elected for the new year. All are welcome.

## VFW Holds 55th Annual Installation of Officers

May 18

On Friday, May 18, VFW Post 6763 will hold its 55th Annual Installation of Officers. The event will be held at the VFW Post, 155 Front Street and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be provided and music from Billy Phillips will be featured. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Fourth Annual Police Bicycle Rodeo Coming

May 19

On Saturday, May 19, the SP Police Department will be hosting a bicycle rodeo. This takes place in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featured will be an obstacle course presented and conducted by volunteer employees of State Farm Insurance.

Safety oriented literature supplied by AAA and the So. Plainfield branch of the N.J. Div. of Motor Vehicles, will be provided to all participants. Bike N Gear from Middlesex will be on location to conduct safety inspections on all bicycles as well.

Don't forget, May 19, bring your bicycle, your helmet and be ready for a fun filled day. Any questions? Contact (908) 226-7678.

## Friends of the Library Schedule Special Program

May 22

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library will present a special program on "Portrait of a Century: A Photographic Retrospective of New Jersey", the latest exhibition at the Cornelius Low House Museum, on Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

The program will be hosted by Hillary Murtha, Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum, which is located in Piscataway. Ms. Murtha will

## Retirement Party To Honor Richard J. Nabereyny

May 30

On Wednesday, May 30, a retirement party in honor of Borough Engineer Richard J. Nabereyny will be held at Sherban's Diner. The party will take place from 6 - 9 p.m. \$20 per person includes a gift, cake and a choice of 1/2 roasted chicken, prime rib or roast beef, and sides of a vegetable, salad and potato.

All who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to Jean Sherwood at (908) 226-7640 by May 18. Make checks payable to "cash" or "Jean Sherwood."

give information, including a slide presentation, on the Museum and the exhibit, which examines New Jersey's first full century on film. She will also answer questions from the audience. No pre-registration is required; refreshments will be served.

The program will be held at the South Plainfield Free Public Library, located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield, NJ.

For more information, please contact Natalie Bergen at (908) 756-8679.

## Columbiettes Plan Trip to Bingo World in Baltimore

June 2

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring a bus trip to Bingo World in Baltimore on Saturday, June 2.

The bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. and return after the last game of the afternoon session.

Cost is \$55, which includes driver gratuity and admission pack for the main session. We will arrive in time to purchase discount early bird packs. For information and reservations, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

This trip is open to Bingo lovers.

## Trip to The Lion King

July 5

The Rec Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see *The Lion King* on July 5, 2001.

The cost is \$95 per person and includes your ticket and the bus. Purchase your ticket at the PAL. The bus leaves at 4 p.m.

## Elks to Hold Outdoor Chinese Auction

June 9

The South Plainfield Elks Club will be holding an outdoor Chinese Auction on Saturday, June 9. Doors open at 1 p.m., auction starts at 3 p.m.

There will be plenty of food and refreshments available, including hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill. Rain date is June 10.

Prizes include Diamond Club Mets, Yankee and Somerset Patriots tickets and many gift certificates. Admission is \$5. For ticket information call Lisa at (908) 668-9750.

## South Plainfield Rec Department and SAFTE Fishing Club Host Derby

June 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield High School S.A.F.T.E. Fishing Club invites everyone under the age of 18 to participate in their Annual Fishing Derby.

The Derby will take place on Saturday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It will be held in Spring Lake Park, and prizes will be given out to the winners. If you are planning to attend this event, please bring your own fishing equipment.

## Trip to Cape Cod, Taking Reservations

September 10-14

The PAL 5-day, 4-night trip to Cape Cod has been sold out, but according to Mike English, a second bus is being hired. The trip is Sept. 10-14, 2001.

Prices are \$325 per person double, triple and quad occupancy. Single supplement is \$78. For more information and reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714.

The package includes four night accommodations, four breakfasts, four dinners, including a lobster bake, fully escorted tours of the Hyannis area, the historic Massachusetts towns of Sandwich, Boston, Quincy Market, Plymouth and Provincetown and the Hyannis Harbor Cruisean evening of entertainment, a welcome reception, bag-

gage handling, all taxes and standard gratuities.

—Out of Town—

## Theology Course

May 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28

Searching for answers? Learn about philosophy and theology for ten weeks, starting April 26. This is a free event to be held at the Long Hill Chapel, 525 Shunpike Rd., Chatham. A buffet dinner and dessert will be served each night at 7 p.m., followed by a presentation and group discussion.

For more information, call (973) 377-2255, please reference course name of alpha.

## KISMET After-Work Social

May 11, 18

KISMET, a community organization for singles, will hold a "Single Professionals' After Work Social" on Friday, May 11 and 18, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., at The Inn, 161 Mount Bethel Rd., Warren. \$10 at the door includes refreshments. For more information, contact (908) 232-8827 or [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

## Brainy Boro Antiques Show

May 12

The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding a Brainy Boro Antiques Show, on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church Social Center, Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen. Donations are \$3, and verbal appraisals are \$5 each, with a limit of 3 items. Food and beverage will be available, and the show features a variety of quality antiques. For more information, contact the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce at (732) 548-2964.

## Alliance Bible Church Hosts Coffeehouse

May 18

Get a taste of Seattle right here in New Jersey! On Friday, May 18, at 8 p.m., the Young Adult Fellowship of Alliance Bible Church will be hosting a Coffeehouse, which features acoustic guitarist, John Reilly. John is a recent Rutgers graduate and is known for his smooth guitar stylings. Cover charge is \$3 which includes unlimited coffee, food and fun. All ages are invited. Alliance Bible Church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren, NJ. For directions or more information, call (732) 469-1425 or email at [ABCWarren@aol.com](mailto:ABCWarren@aol.com).

## McDonald's Presents Gospelfest 2001

May 20

McDonald's presents Gospelfest 2001: A Musical Odyssey, the 18th Annual celebration of one of African-American culture's greatest gifts to America. There will be a performance of this celebration on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m., held at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Tickets can also be purchased by calling (732) 499-8226.

## Adoption CHATS Meeting

May 21

Adoption Support CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet 7:15 to 9:15 on Monday, May 21 at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., N. Plainfield. "The Stories We Tell: Adoption in American Literature." Dr. Carol Singley, our speaker, is an associate professor at Rutgers in Camden and is parenting two biological brothers adopted domestically in an open adoption. For more information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

## Brass Lantern To Host 'Artisan's Day'

June 2

The Brass Lantern, at 335 Main St., Metuchen, will host 'Artisan's Day', on Saturday, June 2, from 1-3 p.m. The event will feature four local artisans; Vivian Hight, author; Diane Rubin, award winning poet; Dawn Rodriguez, member of the Doll and Artisan's Guild - Porcelain Doll and Fairy Artist; Lars Sorensen, acrylics, water colorist, oil painter, pen and ink and sculptor.

## Holy Spirit Prayer Breakfast for Men

June 12

All men are welcome to a Holy Spirit Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, June 2, from 8-10 a.m. at the Koinonia Academy, 1040 Plainfield Ave. in Plainfield. A free full breakfast will be served. The theme of the breakfast is from Isaiah 61. "The Spirit of the Lord God brings glad tidings to the lowly, healing to the broken hearted, liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners." No matter how far you might think you are from God, Jesus has His arms wide open, a smile on His face and love and forgiveness in His heart for you! Jesus loved you and so do we. Come join us for a free breakfast. This event is being sponsored by the People of Hope. For more information, call (908) 222-9722.

## How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

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**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

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## South PlainfieldScouting

### Girl Scout Council Holds Awards and Recognition Dinner



Once again this year, members of the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community, as well as, businesses and individuals in South Plainfield, were recognized by the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council for their contributions to their communities and Girl Scouting at the annual Awards and Recognition Dinner.

This year's recipients included Marsha Prah, who received the Emerald Award; Cindy Bosse, Caroline Harty, Kathy Jenkins and Linda Kelly, who received Appreciation Pins; Gail Dougherty, Boulevard Wholesale Warehouse, South Plainfield B.P.O.E Elks Lodge, and Wesley United Methodist Church, who received Community Awards; and the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community which received the President's Award.

Gail Dougherty is a member of the Domestic Violence Educational Outreach Committee and the Domestic Violence Intervention Team of the South Plainfield Police Department, who suggested a program on recognizing and preventing domestic violence. Boulevard Wholesale Warehouse has assisted the South Plainfield Service Unit with food purchases for their encampments, by supplying everything needed, helping them cut costs and delivering everything to Camp Lou Henry Hoover.

South Plainfield B.P.O.E Elks Lodge has generously offered their lodge for the Service Unit Leader's Meetings and waived their usual fee, assisted in setting up the room as needed, and even offered to escort during the evening meetings so as to accommodate the overflow parking.

Wesley United Methodist Church replaced the Plainfield Board of Education at the last minute as a place to hold the Summer Girl Scout Day Camp during the Summer of 2000.

Kudos to all! You make us very proud. Without you, where would Girl Scouting be?

Picture in top photo is Gail Dougherty and Joanne Otlowski, South Plainfield Girl Scout Service Unit Manger.

Picture bottom left, is Caroline Harty and Donna Dolce, WRGS Council Vice President.

Bottom right is Cindy Bosse and Donna Dolce.



### Cub Pack 224 Holds Blue and Gold Dinner

Cub Pack 224 from Riley School recently held their annual Blue and Gold Dinner at China Buffet on Park Ave.

The family-oriented Blue and Gold Dinner is an end of the year event, where scouts of all ages receive the various awards they have earned during the past year and move up from one rank to next. The buffet was a change of pace from the dinner usually held in the Riley School gym.

Story/photos by  
Patricia Abbott



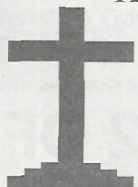
IS LORD!

### HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR MEN

*"The Spirit of the Lord God brings glad tidings to the lowly, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners." Isaiah 61*

**Saturday, June 2 (8-10 am)**

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## Art Muglia Appointed New Jersey Motor Truck Association President

Art Muglia, owner of Muglia Enterprises, has recently been appointed as the 2001 President of the New Jersey Motor Truck Association. Art has been a member of the association since 1971 and is also a member of the South Plainfield Business Advisory Group.

## Grant Central Grade Honor Roll

Grant Central Sixth Elementary School has issued its high honor roll and honor roll for marking period three.

**High Honor Roll:** Nicholas Baldassarre, Nicole Benak, Tina Bijlani, Julianne Bosse, Kiran Budhan, Melissa Budhan, Christopher Burke, Ryan Curtis, Charles Decker, Kathleen Eder, Matthew Fabino, Kimberly Galinski, Crystal Gorman, Samantha Granski, Amanda Harzula, Cassandra Hoffman, Asia Hollis, Barney Johnson, Gauri Joshi, Wael Kanj, Christine Lanza, Phuong Le, Dale McCook, Carrie Moore, Anthony Moretti, A Phi Nguyen, Sampson Nguyen, Jennifer Okuski, Stephen Parello, Nicholas Pasquale, Leslie Quicha, Trevor Rastelli, Kate Reichert, Karla Reyes, Tiffany Roth, Daniel Sambat, Christopher Stallone, Michael Stallone, Gary Stark, Lauren Stoessel, Brittanie Wong, Peter Yeung.

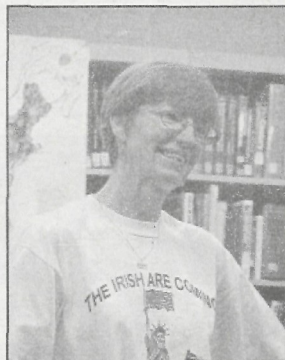
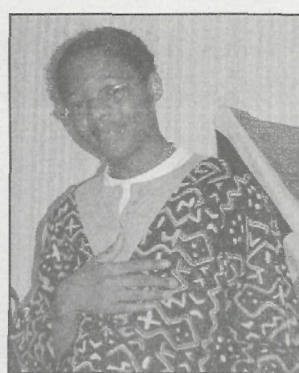
**Honor Roll:** Michelle Alcantara, David Alston, William Ashnault, Sean Battison, Jake Bayak, Daniel Becker, Amber Berkowitz, Paige Berkowitz, Dorian Bishop, Christopher Bizup, Megan Boyle, Courtney Breland, Steven Breslau, Caitlyn Brindley, Gina Butrico, Michelle Butrico, Dana Cacciatore, John Carigma, Cythnia Carlson, Anthony Cassano, Amit Chandler, Ashleyanne Chosney, Jefferey Cianfrocca, Samantha Cihanowicz, Zakiya Clark, Jonathan Clary, Kyle Corrado, Joseph Cupo, Kristina Cursi, Rebecca Dacchille, Kamal Darji, Nicholas DeSimone, Jenna DeLillo, Matthew Doell, Harrison Donahue, Nicholas Dorey, Kelly Downes, Jack-Duyphong Duong, Ryan Egan, Matthew Emery, Samantha Fiore, Alexandra Fodor, Melissa Franzson, Lauren Frazzano,

Nicole Freitas, Lauren Fry, Frank Fugazzi, Angela Furka, Donna - Garcia, Jennifer Garzon, Ashleigh Gaspari, Michael A. George, Michael J. George, Crystal Ghanem, Nicholas Giannakis, Garret Gianneschi, Matthew Gigantino, Caroline Guardado.

Stephanie Hansen, Katie Hardy, Meghan Hartmann, Allison Hart, Angelica Hebreo, Nicholas Hogan, Sara Holbrook, Brittany Hollis, Brianne Howarth, Daniel Hubner, Bryan Hunt, Trucly Huynh, Lalchan Jainarine, Michael Jakubik, Tony Joe, Kassandra Joyner, Ryan Kamen, Andrew Keraga, David-Josiah Krause, Richard Le, Ashley Little, Jennifer Little, Charles Loiacono, Alan Maglaque, Tyler Mandel, Jaliz Marrero, Heather Martin, Samuel Martin, Joy Maszczak, Nicole Mathew, Stephanie Mazurak, Daniel McCreesh, Tricia Merryman, Nicole Miglis, Benjamin Milcarek, Jacquelyn Miller, Ryan Miller, Jennifer Mocerino, Chintan Mody, Sherif Mohareem, Susan Mott, Krista Natale, Denise Nazario, Travis Noll, Kathryn Noonan, Tara O'Keefe, Lelosa Ogbeveon.

Aarti Patel, Sonali Patel, Justin Pauls, Jenna Pein, Elizabeth Pisack, Kelly Piwowar, Victoria Plasse, Christopher Pollin, Heather Prokopiak, Jessica Pryor, Martily Ramagado, Tabitha Ramnath, Heather Ray, Selene Rayho, James Rivas, Jessica Ross, Kyla Rouse, Jessica Rousseau, Kimberly Russell, Joseph Scarpitto, Lori Sepkowski, Abdussami Sheikh, Esmeralda Silvonek, Geovana Toca, Steven Tran, Joseph Turrisse, Dean Tuwaidan, Jessica Vasquez, Alexandra Viscosi, An Vo, Sean Walsh, Brian Wieckowski, Timothy Williams, Jalisa Williamson, Luigi Zeccardo.

## Jerseyan Club Proves "It's a Small World After All"



By Patricia Abbott

The sights, sounds and even tastes of a multitude of countries recently filled the SPSHS library in honor of Multi-Culture Heritage Day. The event was the culmination of work by the Jerseyan Club, the history classes and their teachers. Students were given the option of participating and the response was overwhelming. It was the first Heritage Day in five years and Jerseyan advisors Fran Flannery and Tony Barca were more than pleased with its success. They noted that students that had little interest in the project at the start were already talking of their contribution for next year.

The United States has always been a 'melting pot,' a fact that people often take for granted. Our country is a living mixture of traditions, of colorful and distinct ethnic backgrounds steeped with histories both long and short. Heritage Day highlighted the many cultures that thrive in America. It was a day of learning and discovery, a chance to sample more than just the food and culture from around the world. The biggest discovery was just how culturally diverse SPSHS really is. Flannery said, "As a long time resident and a global studies teacher, I felt I was already aware of the cultural diversity of SPSHS. Multi-Culture Heritage Day was an eye-opener. I was truly amazed at the breadth of that diversity and the pride and enthusiasm with which it was displayed."

Nineteen South American countries, 13 European, 9 Asian, 3 African, 6 Middle East countries as well as Native America and Australia were represented. The event offered displays of items that represented various countries. Students in their country's native costumes manned the displays or wandered throughout the room exploring all it had to offer. Music from far away nations could be heard from different parts of the room. One of the options given to students was to bring in a food item that represented their heritage. Two hundred chafing

pans were given out, and one hundred cans of sterno were used. The original plan to have a back up table to replenish food as the day continued, was forgotten. The food took up a full half of the library, lining one side with an amazing array that ranged from exotic sounding main dishes and staple items such as rice, to mouth-watering desserts. During the course of the day students were treated to a Filipino dance and Afghani dance, an Irish

song. Each class had just 40 minutes to 'travel' around the world. The committee members spent many weeks organizing and preparing. Working on the committee were Kayo Daimo, Manzoor Ahmad, Alex Huynh, Sejal Patel, Rupel Patel, Nadesha Hussein, Cathy Nguyen, Nicole Luthman and Appi Iyengar. The Multi-Culture Heritage Day they presented to SPSHS truly proved that it is indeed a "small world after all."

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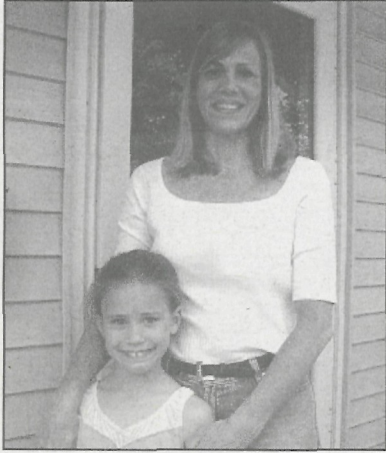
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# Mohn's Flowers and Essay Winners Surprise Moms



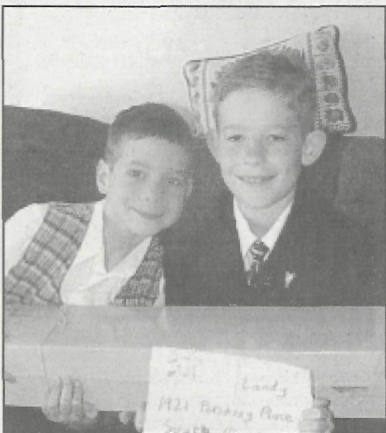
Robin Alba with daughter, Alexis.



Catherine Bosse with her niece, Courtney Easterday.



Toni Teller accepted roses for mom, Donna.



David and Patrick Landy accepted roses for mom, Patricia.



Marion Nash with daughter, Monea.

Mohn's Flowers brought huge smiles and a few tears to a dozen mothers, grandmothers and aunts in South Plainfield as part of their annual Mother's Day Essay Contest.

Elementary school children were asked to write essays about their moms. Each school picked three winners and gave the winning names to Mohn's Flowers, who delivered a dozen roses, along with the winning essay, to each winner. All elementary schools sent in winners except Roosevelt School.

The past couple of years, the *Observer* has had the privilege of riding along with what we've nicknamed the "Rose Patrol" and this year we were delighted when they asked us to accompany them again.

Each year this contest is more and more successful and rewarding. This year's winning essays included two grandmothers and an aunt. Also two brothers in separate grades were picked as winners to the delight of their mom. These moms could not have received a better Mother's Day gift from their child.

Each year co-owner Georgeann DiGrazi is in tears reading the winning essays and poems. She says she is glad she doesn't have to pick the winning essays. Delivering the flowers again this year was co-owner Bill Cochran. Georgeann and Bill donate both their time and the roses for this special Mother's Day contest. Mohn's Flowers deserves recognition for sponsoring this annual contest, as Mother's Day is one of the busiest days in the flower business.

Winning essays and poems were written by Troy Russell, Kristina Bottone, Toni Teller, Courtney Easterday, Matthew Little, Nicole Disch, Alexis Alba, Michael Dezmin, Johnathan Cursi, Matthew Moates, David and Patrick Landy, Monea Nash, Ivonne Martinez and Kristen Partesi. Congratulations to all the winners.

## Mother's Day Writing Contest

Many of the elementary school students wrote creative, fun entries to tell why their mom, grandmothers or even aunt are special to them. A few of the entries are featured below.

### Recipe for a Nice Mom

100 cups of silliness  
2000 cups of love  
1/4 teaspoon of anger  
49 teaspoons of hugs  
6 cups of bravery

Mix all the ingredients into some skin. Then run in the park with her. This is my mom. I love her. — *Daniel Landy, Sacred Heart School.*

### Mother's Day

My Aunt is special in every way. I know she cares for me, for she took me in. She helps me with my problems in life and helped me become as smart as I am. She always has explanations for everything I ask. She explains everything as much as she can.

A is for amazing in everyday  
U is for understanding  
N is for never giving up  
T is for a terrific childhood you made for me

When you put it together, it spells aunt, the one who always cared. You gave me shelter (chores of not). Here is my way of saying thank you, though you deserve more. I hope you enjoy this letter and treasure it. Thank you once more. — *Courtney Easterday, Riley School*

### Why My Mom Is So Special

My mom is so special because she's always willing to listen to me no matter how busy or angry she is. Even when she comes home from a tiring day at work, she'll sit down and talk to me. She is always giving advice to me whenever I need it. When I'm feeling down or in the blues, she'll brighten my mood with a joke, funny story or girl to girl talk. We may even spend a mom and daughter day together. She supports everything I do. For any sports or events I'm in, she's there in the crowd cheering me on. I could just hear her cheerful voice shouting, "Go, Monea, Go. You can do it, don't give up," which encouraged me to keep going and never give up.

During cheerleading, she supports me all the way. She helps me prepare myself for my competition by making sure my arms, flips, body and face expressions were perfect to help me get better. My mom always taught me to pursue my dreams, believe in myself and never give up. She also taught me that when you're lost or afraid, look to God. I'll always remember that. Once all homework is done, she'll turn on the stereo, begin singing, and asks me to join in with her. She may even get up and start dancing. Even at the banquet she got up and started dancing. She loves to have fun and see me have fun also. If I get a bad grade on my test, she tells me that she believes I can do better and helps prepare me for the next test. No matter how mad she may get, she'll tell me to keep trying. My relationship with my mother is like best friends, although more than that. If she needs someone to talk to, she knows she can depend on me to listen like I can depend on her.

My mom and I get along very well and enjoy each memorable moment that we spend together. I don't care how old I get, I'm never too old to spend time with my mom. She's never too old and I'm never too old to hang out with her either. We can be any age but we'll still love each other. The main reason that makes my mom so special is that no matter how angry, busy, or tired she is, she always has the time to say, "Monea, I love you," and I'll always love her too, no matter what course life takes us on. — *Monea, Grade 8, Sacred Heart School*



Mary Syers with her grandson, Troy Russell.



Julie Bottone and daughter, Kristina.



Debra Cursi with son, Jonathan.



Maria Partesi, daughter Kristen wrote the winning essay.



Susan Dezmin with son, Michael.



# A Night in Hollywood—The Junior Ball—May 4, 2001

Continued from page 1

white canopy they were applauded by fans that looked suspiciously like teachers; Ms. Joffe, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Naso as well as others.

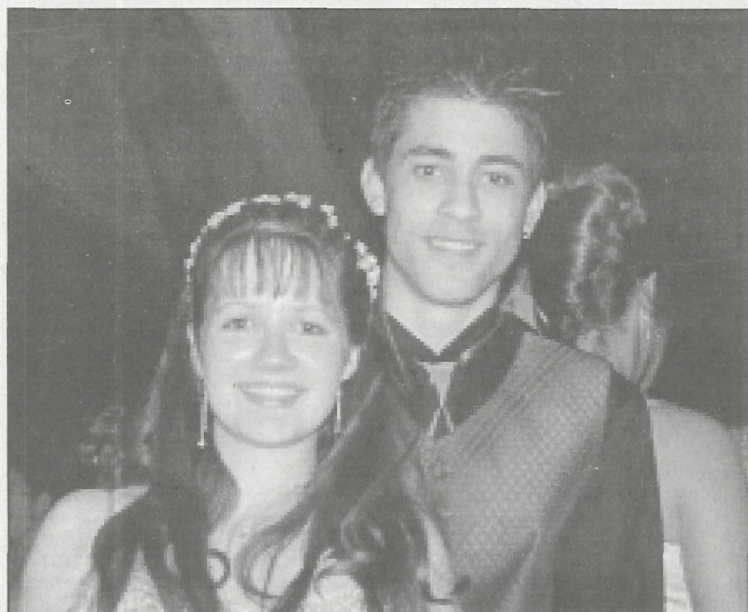
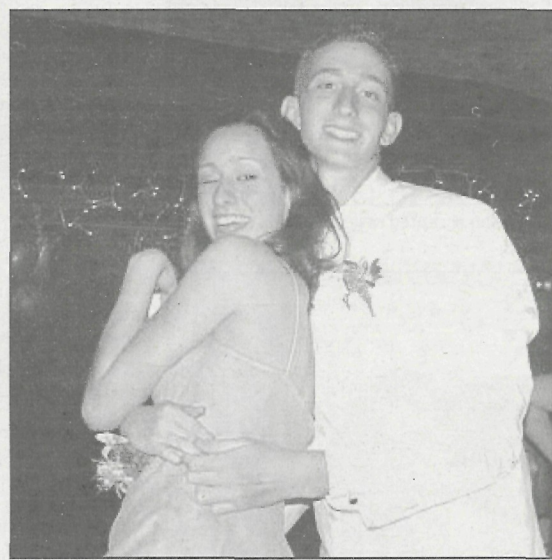
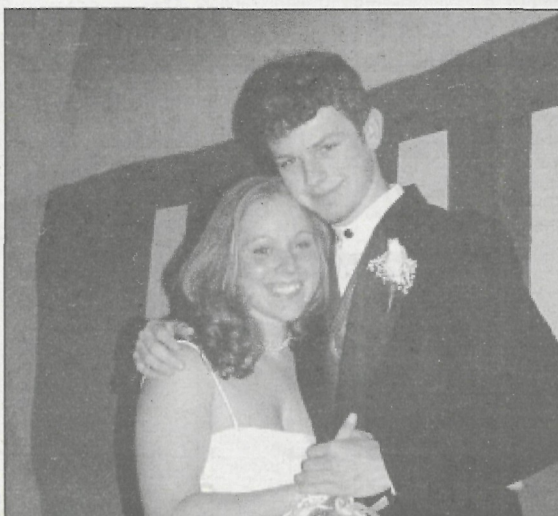
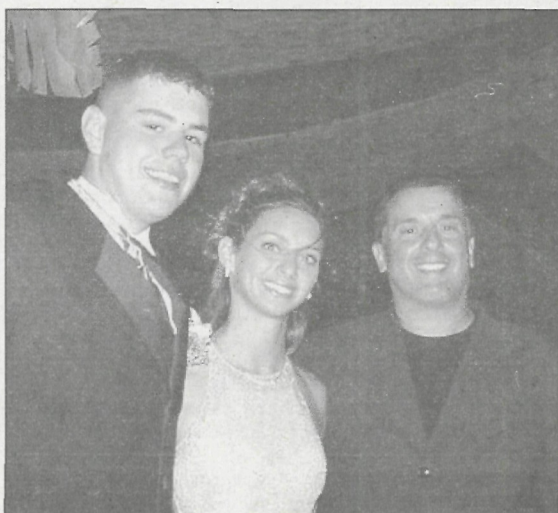
Once through the doors, the transformation continued. Gone was the bright orange locker-laden hallway. Instead walls covered with gold paper picked up the trail of the red carpet. Balloons floated along the ceiling and movie posters were scattered everywhere. Guests were greeted by Principal Tony Massaro and Assistant Principals Dr. Ken May and Helen Gottlieb. Smiles, greetings and camera flashes began in the hall and continued into what was once the gym.

Wide open doors framed by a white trellis led the way into the dimly lit room. The tables were set for the formal affair, with a small Oscar-type award marking each place. Diaphanous material draped from the ropes formed a low ceiling and created a more intimate atmosphere. Golden walls surrounded the room leaving no trace of the gym. Soft lights hung high above lit the room along with many strings of tiny white lights. The famous "HOLLYWOOD" sign filled the back wall. Powerful fans kept the warm night air circulating. Music was provided by DJ Chet Bogata. The dance floor filled, slowly but steadily. The music was eclectic; fast and slow, old and new and offered something for everyone. Hot hors d'oeuvres were served before guests enjoyed the buffet dinner. Tables filled with soft drinks and cold water sat along opposite walls and offered refreshment to thirsty dancers. Chaperones dressed for the occasion mingled with the young guests. On more than one occasion they were 'caught' having as much fun as the guests.

Junior class officers, President Billie Jean Sarullo, Vice President Gina Durso, Secretary, Brielle Anderson and Treasurer, Michelle Socha presented awards such as Best Actor and Actress as well as honoring their advisors and presenting them with flowers. Billie Jean said, "Mrs. Marcocci and Mr. Diehl are the nicest most hard working teachers I have ever met. We couldn't have done this without their help!" Guests of the Junior Class ranged from SPHS freshman and graduates to out-of-town dates. The theme song "That's What Friends Are For" was the perfect touch and was exemplified by the camaraderie of all who attended.

The evening came to an end as the guests, clutching their programs and Oscars, reluctantly made their way out the doors. Parents peeked in, astonished by what they saw. Assistant Principal Dr. Ken May said, "Every time I think I have seen the best from our students, something like this comes along and exceeds all the expectations I previously had. It is very rewarding to be a part of a culture that produces such results."

While some students headed home, others made the traditional trek to the shore. Many of the students returned the next day to restore the gym and hallway to normal. Principal Tony Massaro said, "The prom was one of the most wholesome things I have seen occur at the high school since I have been here. It was great to see so many students take ownership in such a project. It again showed that together—students, parents, teachers—we can make a difference!"



## Last Junior Prom Held 33 Years Ago

Junior Class Advisor Bob Diehl had this to say about the Class of 2002 prom, "It was extremely successful on many levels. Not only was the evening itself wonderful. The preparation was a major inclusive effort where kids of all interests and backgrounds worked together to bring about this historic landmark event." The event is even more historic than he knows. It is the first prom held in the 'new' high school. The 'new' is still added by anyone who attended the 'old' SPHS, now the Middle School.

It has been 33 years since the last Junior prom was held at SPHS. The theme was CAMELOT and it was held on May 20, 1968.

Bob Cobb, a 1969 graduate remembers the formal and the work that went into creating it. "We converted the gym into Camelot complete with a drawbridge. It took lots of paper mache and paint, and some creative technique. We covered the entire interior of the gym until it looked like the inside of the castle at Camelot. It was very impressive." He reminisced about the evening, "I took a girl from NPHS to the prom and double dated with Mickey Newman and Valerie Evans."

They only held two dances in the gym each year. One was the sock hop, because the gym floor was sacred, no shoes allowed, and the other was the Jr. prom. We all thought, 'how nice can it be, in the gym, with the folding wall and the bleachers. Not to mention the basketball hoops.' The first indication that this just might be something special, was walking across the drawbridge. When we stepped into the gym, it was gone! The walls were gray stone, and you really felt like you were in a castle of old, the transformation was complete!"

On May 20, 1967, the class of 1968 held their Junior prom. The theme was SHALIMAR and the Taj Mahal was looming in the distance. The first class to have their Junior prom outside of the school was the class of 1970 when they held their Junior Prom on May 29, 1969 at the Royal Oaks in Edison.





**FONTANA SUSHI** held their grand opening last Friday. Mayor Dan Gallagher was their cut the ribbon along with owner, Gary, Tommy, Dennis and John and many of their friends. The new restaurant located at 3600 Park Ave, next to Hone Kong Foods.

## Roosevelt Drama Club Performs *Pirates & the Princess*



Roosevelt School played host to a band of fiercely funny pirates. The high seas hooligans were none other than 14 members from the Roosevelt School Drama Club, who presented *The Pirates & the Princess*, which was written and directed by the *Observer's* Patricia Abbott. The show called for at least three male performers, but only two boys auditioned. Student director Chris Abbott came to the rescue by assuming the role of Morris the Pirate.

Two weeks before the show, one of the two remaining boys dropped out

and student assistant director stepped forward to fill the role. Eighth grader Katie Mott portrayed the King and Roger the Pirate. As a surprise for the cast and audience, Heather Crisitello, also in eighth grade, filled the role of the Pirate captain's fearsome mother.

The story began with the never-ending demands and complaints of Princess Missy, played by drama club veteran, Pauline Eskander. The Princess has an attitude and frightens the staff and servants at an alarming rate. The King and Queen, played by Katie Mott and Ashleigh Gray, are at their wits end, trying to marry off their difficult daughter. Enter Omar Rodriguez, the last Prince on their extensive list of suitors. He informs her parents, "No amount of gold or silver could entice me to marry her!" Little do they know that the answer to their problems awaits on a nearby pirate ship which is captained by the most notorious pirate in the world, The Big K, played by Diana Nasar, a four year veteran of the drama club.

The curtain opens to breakfast served by Cookie the cook, and Rosie

the wench, played by Jackie Laverne. The floating bandits enjoy a game of cards that ends in the mandatory brawl. The melee is broken up by Morris, who issues orders for the day. Pirate Sal the Slob, played by Allison Huffsmith, tests the plank and pirate Barney the Bumbler rants about having to swab the deck. The role of Barney was shared by Lauren Ciari and Tiffany Hunter. The Big K kidnaps the princess, much to the delight of the king and queen, who refuse to pay the ransom. This move ensures the royal family of some peace and quiet. The pirates, stuck with the princess, find themselves catering to her every whim until the Big K decides to put her to work. When she refuses to cooperate Morris cures her attitude by dumping her lunch over her head. The laughs continue as she is taught to clean the latrine, the galley, wash dishes and clothes, and test the plank. Morris notices her hard work and commends her and she is allowed to try to open the captain's newest treasure chest. The show winds down as Missy marries Morris and keeps the pirates hard at work. In a surprise ending, the arrival of the Big K's mother turns the fearless Big K into a blubbering baby. The students gave two performances; one for the school and a later show for parents.

Director Patricia Abbott said, "The talented cast worked hard to put the show together, despite many delays. I am very proud of them!" The show presented many challenges for Abbott, her staff and the cast. "We teach basic theater skills as we go along and stress that each cast member is important, no matter how many lines they have. We work with basic sets, props and costumes. With no real stage, we had to improvise a lot. This is hard enough for experienced performers, yet the kids came through. This show would not have been possible without the help of the middle and high school students. They truly enjoy sharing their theater knowledge with these younger students."



## CE Students Receive \$1,000 American Legion Scholarship

The South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 has created an ongoing partnership with the South Plainfield High School Cooperative Education Program.

The American Legion initiated a scholarship fund and essay competition to honor CE students excelling in both academics and on-the-job training during their senior year. A highly competitive competition was held by Legion members which considered a student's resume, recommendations, and community service

activities. Commander Donald "Doc" Austin, Finance Officer John Blanchard, Vice Commander Lou DeFillippo and Adjutant Richard Magri announced two \$1,000 winners for 2001. They are Marilyn Millard, daughter of Pat Millard of Kosciusko Ave., who will attend Middlesex County College to major in communications; and Shannon Regan (pictured above), daughter of Paul Regan and Rosemary Lewczak of Ten Eyck Street, who will attend Kean University to major in deaf education.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from the South Plainfield Library:

Starting off with our children's programs, at this writing there are still open spaces for today's Kidcraft program at 4 PM. It's for children age 6 and over; we'll provide all the craft materials. Call us at (908) 754-7885 to reserve a spot. And, next week, we'll follow our usual schedule of Storytime programs. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15; each program lasts about an hour. Storytimes are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen. We'll be open regular hours (1:30-5 PM) on Sunday next week. This will be the last Sunday opening of the season; Sunday hours will return in September.

We'll be hosting a special program on Tuesday night at 7:00. It's an introduction to "Portrait of a Century: A Photographic Retrospective of New Jersey", the new exhibition at the Cornelius Low House Museum in nearby Piscataway. Presented by the Friends of the Library, the presentation will be hosted by Hillary Murtha, Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum. The program will include a slide presentation and a question and answer session. You don't need to register in advance; refreshments will be served. If you'd like more information,

check with Natalie Bergen at (908) 756-8679.

Speaking of the Friends of the Library, there are still some items left over from the Friends' Book Sale earlier this month. You'll find a pretty good variety of hardcover books, paperbacks, audiocassettes and videos in the sale area. Prices are as marked; feel free to stop in and take advantage of all the bargains. We've scheduled our next class in how to use our Public Access Computer (PAC) terminals for Tuesday morning, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00. Space is limited for the class, so you must sign up in advance. If you'd like more information, call us and ask for Marcia Lubansky. Last week, we printed an explanation of how our Internet permission forms work. This week, we'll look at the bottom section of that form, dealing with A/V items. Unlike the Internet form, the A/V only applies to minors. In recognition of the fact that many parents prefer to carefully monitor what kind of A/V item their child borrows, the form is intended to specifically address the unrestricted borrowing of those items by children. By signing the form, a parent is giving the Library permission to loan any A/V items (including R-rated videos) to their child without restriction or supervision. If the parent would prefer not to allow this, they merely decline from signing the form; that way, we'll only loan A/V items to their child if a responsible adult is present. And, if a parent wishes to change their child's status (either by removing or restoring the restriction), they are free to do so at any time. Again, if you have any questions about this, feel free to ask. We'll wrap it up there for this week. See you next Friday for more.

### Copy deadline for the *Observer* is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us on our web page at [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com).

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# Sports

## SOCCER

### Typhoons Win One For Their Moms

The Boys U11 Typhoons soccer team took another step towards their second straight flight championship and an undefeated season by completely dominating the Millburn Comets 7-1 on Mother's Day.

The scoring started early as Pat Fabino's son Brian scored off of a deflected shot by Cathy Pompilio's son Danny and a 1-0 lead. Nancy O'Shea's son Brendan then scored two in a row, one on a breakaway through the center of the defense and the other off a nice pass from Fabino. Following a penalty kick goal for the Comets, O'Shea and Terri Christ's son John teamed up for a picture perfect cross and score by Christ for a 4-1 halftime edge.

The second half continued as the first did with O'Shea completing his hat trick as he and Fabino combined for the team's fifth score. Carol Ullom got a treat next when her son Brandon scored his first goal of the year followed by the final goal of the day by Fabino. While Roseanne Coppi's son Grey played an excellent first half in the goal for the Typhoons, he assisted on the last two goals, one with the help of Karen Licato's hustling son J.R.

Once again this game displayed the talents of the entire team, excellent

speed and ball handling by Sherry Marcoux's son Jonathan, Diane Polizzano's son John and Donna Helgesen's son Matt kept the offensive pressure constant. While Lynn Pennisi's son Chris did double duty by playing fullback in the first half and goalie in the second, Cindy Watts' son Greg and Joyce Heckel's son Keith were solid on defense shutting out Millburn in the second half.

The Typhoons will take to the field again this Sunday in Piscataway at 11:30 a.m. with their perfect 8-0 record on the line.

### Typhoons Whip The Wildcats

Last week the Typhoons improved to 7-0, as they decisively beat the second place West Orange Wildcats 6-2 and extended their unbeaten streak to eleven dating back to last fall.

The Typhoons took control early by scoring three times within the first five minutes of the game. Brendan O'Shea started by splitting the defense on an unassisted break away and beating the goalie for a 1-0 lead. David Alston followed that up with an unassisted goal of his own, as he put the ball high up into the net for score number two. And almost before you could blink, John Christ took a pass down the left

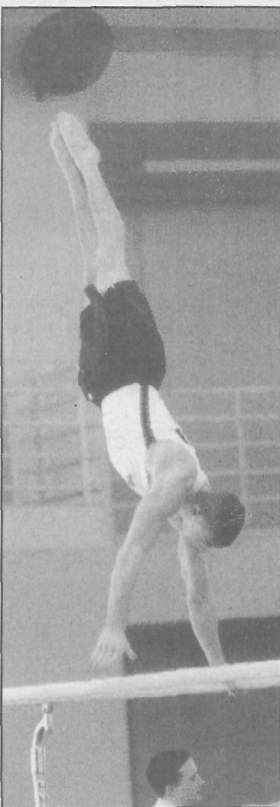
wing from O'Shea and placed it just out of reach and a commanding 3-0 lead.

But as good teams do, the Wildcats were not going to go down without a fight. They toughened up their defense and moved the ball effectively as they closed out the first half with two late goals and a reminder that they too are a defending flight champion and the battle was far from over.

However, Coaches Pennisi and Heckel were able to refocus the team for the second half and when Jonathan Marcoux maneuvered around his defender on the left baseline and scored his second goal of the year, the momentum clearly shifted back to South Plainfield. Eric Rovayo and O'Shea would add insurance goals to push the score to 6-2, where it would stand as the final.

Goalie Grey Coppi once again provided a stellar performance as did the rest of the defense, including JR Licato, Greg Watts, Keith Heckel and Chris Pennisi, stopping a number of scoring threats throughout the game. Brian Fabino, John Polizzano, Matt Helgesen, Dan Pompilio and Steven Guevara played exceptional games on the attack and their speed and ball handling contributed mightily in the victory. —Submitted by Jeff Marcoux

## GYMNASTICS



### Tim Goetz Places at Collegiate Gymnastics Nationals

Tim Goetz of South Plainfield, attends Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., where he is a freshman majoring in psychology. Tim is a member of Springfield's men's gymnastic team, competing in the All-Around division.

Goetz qualified and competed in the NCAA Gymnastic Nationals held at the University of Ohio, from April 5-7. One week later, he competed in the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships at UC Davis in Sacramento, CA. He placed fourth on hi-bar, with a score of 8.150.

Goetz received the Eastern College Athletic Conference "Rookie of the Week" award for competitions through February 13. He is coached by Dr. Stephen Posner.

Goetz graduated last June from South Plainfield High School and received his gymnastics training at Feigley's School of Gymnastics. He was coached by Ben Dungee.

### Blaze U-12 Overpowers Wildcats 4-Nil

The South Plainfield Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team continues

to crush the competition in a home game win this past Sunday. A 4-nil win

vs. New Providence Wildcats puts our record at a very impressive 7-0-1 and all alone in first place.

A sluggish first half for Blaze challenged our defense allowing our keeper, Becky Keller to show off her talents with some spectacular saves. Sweeper Elizabeth Flannery, stopper Jackie Miller, fullbacks left side Jenna DeLillo and on the right Megan Boyle also displayed their talent and at the same time produced our fourth shut out of the season. The link to our scoring came from the strong play and 110% effort from our midfielders Lauren Fry, Ashley Little, Joy Maszczak, Dorian Bishop and Katelyn Conrad. Six minutes into the second half Blaze broke loose. In as left forward, Denise Lopez did a great job keeping the defense off balanced with threatening breakaways just missing the posts. While in the 41st minute and on a nice feeding pass from Joy Maszczak, center midfielder Jennifer Copeland rolled in a shot for our first score.

Four minutes later and in the 45th minute, Jenna DeLillo sent off a well placed pass up the middle to right forward Kate Hardy who put the ball into the back of the net. The third strike for Blaze happened in the 56th minute when on a breakaway Kate Hardy punched in a nice shot. Beating her defender and putting the game out of reach in the 62nd minute, Megan Boyle blasted in a rocket from the eighteen. Final score Blaze 4 Wildcats 0. Fantastic job girls! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club web site at [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com).

Submitted by Coach Hardy

## ROLLER HOCKEY

### Rebels Roller Hockey

Today marks an impeccable day in history. The New Jersey Rebels have their first win of the new season in a stunning 5-3 victory over the favored Grizzlies. Game time was 8 p.m. on Monday night and the anticipation was extremely high going into the game. Through four years of roller hockey at the Inman Sports Complex, the rebels finally came through and defeated one of their oldest rivals in a classic show of pure heart and determination. The veteran Assist. Capt. Ryan Benward, opened the scoring quick with a wrist shot from the slot, that blew by the Grizzlies big goal tender. Benward has shown great leadership and his skating abilities are far beyond control of anyone in the league.

Rookie Matt answered the call next for the Rebels, with a stunning goal that put the team up 2-0 in the first. Matt is probably one of the two best acquisitions in the off-season for the Rebels. Unfortunately the glamour must come to an end in all events.

The Grizzlies struck twice to tie the score, ending the first period deadlocked. Captain Scott Malecki's stellar defensive play, along side Chris made up for a tough defensive game by the Rebels. The score remained the same almost throughout the second period when another great goal by the rookie Matt was added to the Rebels scorecard. With the grizzlies pressuring, a penalty was unavoidable for the veteran defenseman Chris. However, outstanding backchecking by Rebel's forwards, Pete, Stephen, Tommy, Ryan, Matt and Andy secured one of the best penalty kills of the year. At the end of the second, the Grizzlies look to score on an open net, when the all-impressive Robbie Perhach, dove and blocked the tying goal and preserved the Rebels lead. Robbie Perhach had a strong defensive game and his stickhandling was very impressive.

With an inspirational pep-talk by the Captain and star defenseman Perhach, the Rebels stepped out on the

rink with a 3-2 lead going into the third. A smart play by Perhach, hitting Ryan with a ESPN highlight pass over the blue line, turned into three quick passes and a goal for the Rebels bringing the score to 4-2.

A fluke goal through the five-hole brought the Grizzlies back within one. The net minder for the Rebels, Luke (the Duke) Tighe, definitely had his A game on this night. With over 25 saves and most of them Mike Richter like, kept the Rebels in the lead 4-3 late in the third.

Another penalty by Chris for interference was offset by a Grizzly penalty and left a 4-4 situation with plenty of court for Hollywood type action. Playing a defensive third, the Rebels got a chance when Stephen Perhach, who was drafted in the off-season by the Rebels, took charge and was headed down on a break-a-way. Stephen with quick thinking and everyone watching, faked the backhand and blew a wrist shot high glove side to score the game clinching goal. And folks, if you ever want to see someone make it look easy, come check out the Russian Rocket Stephen Perhach.

With only two minutes left to play, the Grizzlies took a penalty and the game was over. Rebels won 5-3. Come check out the Rebels next week at 9 p.m. at the Inman Avenue Sport Club. Well for the Rebels Reporter and this week, I bid you farewell, until next week, LET'S GO REBELS! —Submitted by Robert Perhach

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## Be A Part of the Most Popular Sport in the World

In association with MNJYSA, NJYSA, US Youth Soccer and FIFA, the South Plainfield Soccer Club announces tryouts for the Fall and Spring 2001-2002 season. Tryouts will be held on May 21-26, for ages 8-14, for both boys and girls teams.

For complete details, visit the tryout section of [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com) or call Pete Kelly at (908) 226-0387 or email [tryouts@soplfdsoccerclub.com](mailto:tryouts@soplfdsoccerclub.com).

Location for tryouts are South Plainfield High School Field, at the end of Lake St. Dates and times are as follows:

U-Age	Born Between	First Day	Second Day
U-8	8/1/93-7/31/95	May 22-6-8:30 p.m.	May 24-6-8:30 p.m.
U-9	8/1/92-7/31/93	May 22-6-8:30 p.m.	May 24-6-8:30 p.m.
U-10	8/1/91-7/31/92	May 22-6-8:30 p.m.	May 24-6-8:30 p.m.
U-11	8/1/90-7/31/91	May 22-6-8:30 p.m.	May 24-6-8:30 p.m.
U-12	8/1/89-7/31/90	May 21-6-8:30 p.m.	May 23-6-8:30 p.m.
U-13	8/1/88-7/31/89	May 21-6-8:30 p.m.	May 23-6-8:30 p.m.
U-14	8/1/87-7/31/88	May 26-8-10 a.m.	



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### Pontail Parents Announce Website

Pontail Parents' Association is pleased to announce that you can now visit Pontail Softball online anytime at our website...[SPONYTAIL.com](http://SPONYTAIL.com). You will find the latest news/events, team rosters/schedules, game highlights/pictures and information.



# Sports

By Tony Cassano



## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**TRAVELING ALL STAR MANAGERS SELECTED**—This years All Star managers have been selected for the following age groups. Representing the 8-year-olds is Chris Hubner, the 9-year-olds is Larry Hughes, the 10-year-olds is Dominic Papa, the 11-year-olds is Kurt Ullom, the 12-year-olds is John Stallone, the 13-year-olds (To date-No manager), 14- and 15-year-olds is Dave Spayder. Congratulations to each of you and good luck to each of you and your teams. This year for the 1st time ever, the SPJBC will be affiliated with Babe Ruth Baseball which will provide many of the age groups the opportunity of regional, state and national competition. All Star tryouts and parent meetings for each age group have been scheduled. Please see our community bulletin board at the clubhouse for more details or feel free to contact the club for additional information.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD / TRUSTEES ELECTIONS**—As discussed at our monthly meeting this past Monday (and at previous meetings), our annual elections will be held at the next Monthly meeting scheduled for Monday June 4th. Any interested club member should submit their name and position of interest to me by the mid-month meeting scheduled for Monday, May 21.

**SNACK STAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**—We are still looking for two Snack Stand captains for Saturday and Sunday nights. In addition we need volunteers and captains for our annual July All-Star Tournament that we hold at the club. The Snack Stand is very important to the club and raises a lot of income for us. Our goal is to put out a consistent food product and serve our baseball community with an inexpensive but enjoyable food experience. Please see Tom or Sally Curtis for details or contact any Board Member for information.

**WORK DETAIL - THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY**—Our standard scheduled weekend work details start at 7am on Saturdays and 9am on Sundays. Where very close to finishing several pre-season projects and need volunteers to finish them. If you have an hour or two, please come by either day.

**SOMERSET PATRIOT TICKETS ON SALE THROUGH TODAY**—Today is the last day for tickets for our annual trip to the Somerset Patriots. This years game, set for Friday, June 8 is against the Newark Bears. Former Yankee great and Seton Hall Alumni, Rick Cerone is the owner. The team features Jose and Ozzie Canseco along with recently signed ex-Yankee Jim Leyritz. Tickets are reasonably priced at \$8.00 a piece. Come share in a great time with your friends and family. Contact John Rayho at 908-754-8904 to purchase tickets or pick up a form at the SPJBC clubhouse.

**CASINO NIGHT - THIS SATURDAY**—Let the good times roll. This Saturday night we will be holding our annual 'Casino Night' at the local VFW. If you have not paid please do so by contacting the Women Auxiliary ASAP and/or Stacy Lake to make payment.

**SATURDAY - MAY 26 - COACHES CARE FOUNDATION -SOFTBALL FUND-RAISER**—The SPJBC has established a 'Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health' (COACHES CARE) Foundation. On May 26, the Coaches will be playing softball continuously for 12 hours, to help raise money for the Children's fund for the JFK Medical Center. In addition, there will be a Chinese auction and an authentic NASCAR Ward Burton #22 Caterpillar Simulator. For a cost of \$250 teams can play for 1½ hours against the coaches on the Small Fry B Field. There are a few spots available, interested teams can contact Tom McCreesh @ 755-8468. Letters have been sent out to local businesses and we hope that the community will rally around this most worthy cause. Log on to our website <http://members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html> for information.

### UPCOMING EVENTS / IMPORTANT DATES

**May 19th** - Casino Night - (SOLD OUT) All tickets have been sold. Price of \$45 per person includes Open Bar, Buffet Dinner, Entertainment along with \$500 of play money - Contact Stacy Lake to make payment at 757-9531  
**May 21st** - Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting (8:30pm @ the SPJBC Clubhouse)  
**May 26th** - Coaches Care Softball Fund-raiser - all day fund-raiser @ the SPJBC. Start time 9am.  
**May 27th & 28th** - SPJBC Complex Closed - Memorial Day  
**June 3rd** - All Star Sunday  
**June 3rd** - Raffle Drawing  
**June 4th** - June monthly meeting @ 8:30pm. Executive Board and Trustees elections.  
**June 8th** - Tickets are on now on sale for our 'Annual Somerset Patriot' trip. Contact John Rayho @ 754-8904 to purchase tickets.

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## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

### Chris Strani Pitches Perfect Game For Girls HS Softball

The Lady Tigers Softball Team's record currently stands at 18-2. The Tigers have won all of their last three games.

Last Wednesday, May 9, they improved their record to 16-2, defeating Old Bridge by a score of 2-0. Christine Strani pitched a perfect game, with 21 batters up and 21 batters down. Jessa Jones, Kelly Eustice and Shannon Bishop were all 1 for 2, as well as Chiara Tomei, who was 1 for 2, with an RBI.

On Thursday, May 10, South Plainfield beat Sayreville 2-1 and raised their record to 17-2. Christine Strani was 2 for 3 with an RBI and Kelly Eustice came through with one RBI.

The Tigers crushed North Brunswick on Saturday, May 12 by a score of 6-0. Danielle Schweers went 3 for 4 with an RBI, and Meaghan Schweers was 2 for 2 with an RBI as well.

The GMC County Tournament begins this weekend, May 19, at South Plainfield.



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

**Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 19th**

The recreation Appreciation Day softball game will be held at 4 p.m. on May 19 at the Pitt Street Park Complex. Coaches will be selecting five players from their team to participate in this game. The girls' selected will then be divided into two teams for the Appreciation Day game. Please join us on Saturday for this exciting softball game.

### Ponytail Softball Association Meeting on May 22

The South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 22 at 8 pm. in the So. Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on May 22. New members are always welcomed.

### Pool Party on June 8

The Ponytail Parents' Association will be sponsoring an end of season pool party. This event is open to all Recreation Ponytail softball players so please join us on June 8, at the South Plainfield Community pool. In the event of rain, the end of season party will be held indoors at the PAL Rec Center.

### All-Star Tag Day—June 9

All-Star tag day will take place on Saturday, June 9. It is a mandatory requirement that every All-Star player participate in two tag days. The tagging requirement can be fulfilled by participating in any two of the four tag days. If a player is unable to tag on June 9, they will be permitted to tag during any two of the three recreation tag days.

### Time Changes for May 19 Games

Due to the Appreciation Day softball game, the times for all of the regularly scheduled Ponytail softball games for Saturday, May 19 have been revised. The 9:30 a.m. game has been changed to 9 a.m., the 11:45 a.m. game will be played at 11 a.m. and the 2 p.m. game will be held at 1 p.m. All games will be played at the Pitt Street Park Complex.

## Jr. Baseball Club Helps JFK Medical Center Children

On Saturday May 26th, the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is holding a softball marathon to help the newly formed Children's Fund at JFK Medical Center. The club has formed C.O.A.C.H.E.s Care (Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health), and they will play twelve hours of softball between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. In conjunction with the softball being played, people will

have an opportunity to ride in the Ward Burton #22 Caterpillar NASCAR simulator.

There will also be a Chinese Auction with various prizes being raffled off. Some of the prizes gathered to date are a Reggie Jackson autographed ball and picture, 2 Phil Rizzuto autographed balls, Christina Applegate autographed Just Visiting promo poster, Jonathon Schaech

autographed The Forsaken Poster and T-shirt, a Ward Burton Autographed NASCAR poster, a cellular phone, and many other prizes.

Also the club is selling COACHES CARE T-shirts which can be purchased prior to the event by contacting Tom McCreesh. The Snack Stand will be open all day and everyone is invited down to share in this special day



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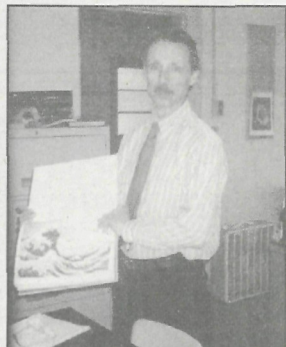
# Japanese Culture Day Celebrated at the Middle School



Mrs. Cocco's class performed a puppet show.



Mrs. Scarpulla class learned about the Noh play.



Mr. Rotunda was a guest speaker.

The Middle School celebrated Japanese culture making many Japanese decorations, guest speakers and art-work. Here are just a few of the things the classes did to celebrate.

## Puppet Show

Mrs. Cocco's class performed a puppet show based on the folktale "Isun Bashi, The One Inch Lad" written by the Japanese writer Yoshida Uchida. Mrs. Cocco rewrote the story into a play. Each student was given the opportunity to be a narrator, character, or biographer. It was fun to take time out of class to show expression and to learn about another culture. As they learned it didn't seem at all like schoolwork. For two weeks they worked in groups to pick parts. Everybody that had the same part practiced together. They presented the play to Mrs. Savage and the art class that made the puppets. We thank Mrs. Kardos and her class for making those great puppets. We also thank Dominic Sobers, our cameraman.

## Japanese Noh Plays

Mrs. Scarpulla's Language Arts Classes got actual experience in performing traditional Japanese drama in the classroom. Students first read about the Noh play, which is one of the world's oldest forms of drama. The actors wear long colorful robes and masks that represent a variety of characters and moods. The stage is simply decorated with a backdrop of pine trees. The plays combine human emotion with simple movement, a wind instrument and percussion.

Mrs. Scarpulla then presented four Noh plays she had written to imitate the traditional themes: jealousy, anger, friendship and true love. The plays were written in poetic language, which went along with the current class unit on poetry. The classes divided into groups, rehearsed the plays, and performed them in class. The plays were accompanied by chimes and were videotaped. The background of three pine

trees was painted by art teacher, Gail Merlo. The hand chimes were loaned to the class by music teacher, Andy Weiss. The costumes and masks, as well as the inspiration for the theater arts experience, was provided by assistant principal, Phyllis Savage, who recently visited Japan on an educational workshop.

## Writing Japanese Haikus

Mrs. Sampson and Mrs. Sausville's Language Arts classes studied how to write Japanese haikus. Toni Maiorino made the Japanese covers for the booklets of haikus. Japanese books used to be read from the back to the front, accordion style.

## Japanese Paper Dolls

Mrs. Merlo's art classes made paper Japanese dolls and displayed them outside in the hall. They also painted the backgrounds for the Noh plays performed by Mrs. Scarpulla's classes and the puppet shows performed by Mrs. Cocco, Mrs. Snee, and Mrs. Smith's classes.

## Mr. Rotunda Japanese Prints

One never knows what teachers know about besides what they teach. Well, Mr. Rotunda came to Mrs. Kardos's art class and taught the students about Japanese prints. You may not know it, but Mr. Rotunda is the Middle School psychologist. He has studied the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright for a longer period of time than we have been born.

The students learned a lot about Japanese prints, which began in about 1776. The prints were made from rice. The printmakers paint on blocks, not with a roller. They used some of the modern tools we use. Japanese prints are not three-dimensional. Men did the artwork. The early prints were usually about religion and water prints were about nature. Most prints depicted Japan's

largest volcano, Mt. Fuji. Other prints depicted the plays in the Kabuki theater, where all of the players were males. Lots of the prints depicted rain. Since Japan is an island, some prints look upon the Pacific Ocean. As many as three people worked for days on one print — the artist who drew the picture, the carver and the printer. One of the famous (and the favorite of Mike Daquitta) is the famous Japanese printer, Hokusai's "Great Wave." Most prints are abstract. There are no shadows, models, or shading in the artwork. The prints are multi-colored. One of the reasons prints took a long time to make was that they had to paint each color separately. The Japanese prints today don't look like they used to, they look like a painting, not a print. They also are more detailed and use people in the picture to express emotion more than the setting.

## Will Toller on Japanese Culture

Mr. Cefalo's seventh grade science class, Mrs. Wilusz's seventh grade science class, and Mrs. Dixon's seventh grade science class enjoyed a visit from Will Toller, a graduate science student from Rutgers. Mr. Toller has a great interest in the Japanese culture and has studied it on his own for four years. He speaks the language fluently. Mr. Toller explained that Japan is an island in southeast Asia and is divided into four islands: Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and the largest island Honshu.

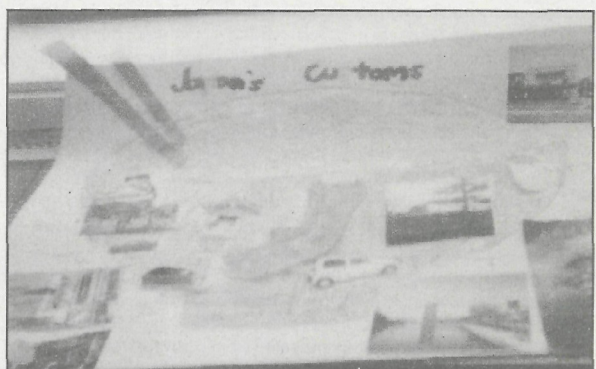
Mr. Toller talked about the bonsai, which is the art of making miniature trees and how growing bonsai teaches you how to be patient. The roots and branches are clipped to keep them small. It takes a long time to grow bonsai. Bonsai grows from three feet to ten feet tall. Students learned that Tokyo is the capital of Japan, soybeans and rice are the main agricultural products, Japanese food is mainly made from seafood, vegetables and soup; the most widely known food from Japan is sushi and "Ohiogozimas," which means "Hello" in Japanese. He displayed a large menu of Japanese food. The menu had American fries and pizza on it! A lot of the food was fried and a lot of the fish was raw. Many soy products were invented in Japan. Mr. Toller taught how to greet someone in the morning, afternoon and evening. The students enjoyed learning the language so much that Mr. Toller has volunteered to return on Thursday, May 17 to teach us more of the language.

Japanese currency is the yen. Students also learned how to say their name in Japanese and how to write Tokyo in Japanese.

## Japanese Clay Political Maps

The seventh grade geography classes of Mr. Meatto and Mr. Slavin made a variety of Japanese projects. They made clay physical maps, clay political maps, researched famous Japanese-Americans, and created collages of the products made by Japan that are sent to the United States. They worked in groups to make some of the projects, but also did some work at home. A map of Japan with the Japanese writing on it looked real strange.

Both Mr. Meatto and Mr. Slavin's first period geography classes also participated in the Japanese Culture Day, by making posters and writing reports of some of the country's customs.



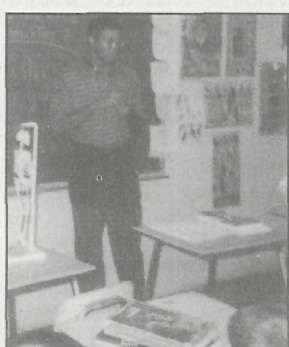
In charge of customs from Mr. Meatto's class were Becky Watts, Laurie Sobel, Kazuki Daimo, Breanna Fore, Lauren Santillo and Courtney Sacco. Pictured is a poster made about Japan's various customs.



Pictured from Mr. Slavin's class are (l to r) kneeling: Simone Taylor, Lea Visaggio, Kristen Gualano; standing: Andy Pinto and Jocelyn Thompson.



Mr. Makowski's class, kneeling are Walter Manna, Ed Cruz; standing are Amos Ramagodo, Jay Dowlat and Kodi Buttler.




Mr. Toller was a guest speaker.



Mrs. Merlo's class made Japanese dolls.

**The South Plainfield Rescue Squad**  
(2520 Plainfield Avenue)

 invites you to an  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
on Saturday, June 9, 2001  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**FEATURING:**

- Extrication, First Aid, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillation Demonstrations
- Ambulance Tours
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Child Car Seat Safety Check

**REFRESHMENTS:**

Hotdogs, Soda, Popcorn and Cotton Candy

**Heidi's**  
*Hair and Nails*  
"a unisex full service salon"

714 Hamilton Boulevard  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
(908) 755-8488

- Acrylic
- Skin Care
- Tanning
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**Aiello**  
Chiropractic Center, PC.

Your Hometown Source for Health & Wellness

2201 South Clinton Avenue, Suite H  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-1471  
On the corner of New Market and South Clinton

**755-2289**



## Japan Trip Remembered

*South Plainfield Middle School Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage recently returned from a trip to Japan as a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar. This is one of a series of articles about the trip.*

Today's Japan offers a great variety of learning opportunities in many places and in various forms. There are kindergartens, elementary schools, lower secondary schools, upper secondary schools, universities, and specialized training colleges. At the pre-school level, there are kindergartens and day nurseries which enroll about 1.8 million and 1.5 million children, respectively.

At the compulsory education level, elementary and lower secondary schools enroll nearly all of the children of the relevant age group (from 6 to 15 years of age), approximately 12 million. While attending school, many of them participate in extracurricular activities on a private basis as well as private classes on school subjects (juku). At the upper secondary level, after compulsory education, are upper secondary schools, specialized training colleges offering upper secondary courses in which approximately 5.8 million students are enrolled.

In addition to school education, a variety of learning opportunities are provided in the form of social education. Boards of education, citizens' groups, prefectural governor's offices, municipal mayor's offices, etc. organize classes, lectures, cultural programs and sport programs mainly for adults. Cultural centers and vocational training institutes also provide various adult learning opportunities. The number of participants in these programs is approximately 143 million a year.

It is a basic principal of the constitution that educational expenditures for compulsory education (elementary and lower secondary schools) are to be provided by the national government and local public bodies and that such education shall be furnished free to the students.

However, parents pay some amount during the course of their children's attendance of public schools. The 1996 figures show that parents paid 6.6 percent of total expenditures for public elementary schools and 12.9 percent of total expenditures for lower secondary schools. The full-day upper secondary schools parental expenditure was 25%. School lunch expenditure is not included. The actual government expenditure in yen per student varies according to the level of the school, 849,469-951,341. This translates in dollars to approximately \$8494.69-\$9513.41.

Besides the above listed expenses for school education, parents also pay for study at juku (private classes on school subjects). According to the 1996 report, the annual parental expenditure from elementary school through lower secondary ranges from \$523.47 to \$1538.17 per student. Many students attend juku schools after school and on Saturdays. The children go to regular school Monday-Friday and two Saturdays a month.

The visits to the schools were very

interesting, informative, and fun. The first school we visited was Sumiyoshi Elementary School. We took our shoes off at the door as is the custom. We had the usual warm reception in the library with the principal and the vice principal. It is interesting to note that every public school in Japan has at least one vice principal and a principal, regardless of the size of the student population.

Then we went to the gym for a reception that any American elementary school would have been proud to give. The elementary school children don't wear uniforms. We walked through flags of flowers and were welcomed with speeches in English. The band played for us and the children sang "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in English to us. We played games with all of the children; we were laughing, giggling, and running from group to group as we played the rock-paper-scissors game! The children were very relaxed with us and some actually wrote their names in English!

Armed with a computerized program of their classes and the floor plan, we were free to roam most of the time. The hours spent in the classroom are 8:15-2:45. Afterwards, the students spend time cleaning the school and indulging in an activity. The students are not always supervised during the cleaning or the activity. The cleaning and the changing of classes begin and end with the sound of music. At the sound of music, each child grabs whatever cleaning utensils are assigned to him and goes to the place he has been assigned previously and begins cleaning. Some were on the fire escape and leaning on the windows to wash them. We were told that no one sued if a child got hurt!

The teachers work until approximately 6 p.m. preparing for the next day. The curriculum includes Japanese language, social studies, arithmetic, science, life environment studies, music, drawing and handicrafts, homemaking, physical education, moral education, special activities, and integrated studies. The children were not grouped according to intellectual or performance levels. Everyone worked at the same pace and sometimes in groups helping each other.

We were assigned classrooms for lunch. At lunchtime the students put on white jackets, plastic caps, and gloves and went to pick up the lunch in big containers. They carried it between them and brought the rest in on wagons. The teacher served it in the elementary school. I saw them chattering among themselves and the next thing I knew I had a fork in my hand. I just couldn't pick up squid soup with the chopsticks! Each child brought his chopsticks in a holder. The children were very friendly and chatted freely with us or I should say around us. Even though I had studied Japanese, I understood very little when they spoke at their natural pace.

Our next stop was Aoba Junior High School. The 7, 8th, and 9th grades are called 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, respectively. After the usual



Phyllis Savage

warm reception, we met the students in the assembly. The students stood in groups by gender and grade. We knew what grade they were by the color of their shoestrings. It was so strange seeing the boys on one side and the girls on the other side. The students sang and gave welcoming speeches to us in English.

Again we were given a computer printout of the schedules and allowed to roam most of the day. The children always bowed to us when they passed us in the hall, but joked freely with us in conversation and loved making the peace sign! Every picture I have with the children has them making the sign.

Each day begins with a discussion of how the students expect the day to go and ends with a reflection on how it had been—the children go back to homeroom at the end of the day and the students reflect orally and then write all of the homework assignments on the chalkboard. Their curriculum includes Japanese language, social studies, mathematics, science, music, fine arts, health and physical education, industrial arts and home-making, foreign languages, moral education, special activities, elective subjects, and a period for integrated study. The Junior High ends compulsory education. The children go to their activity after school and go into action. The teachers are not with them in the junior high school or high school. The teachers' role seems to be to be available if needed.

Our next visit was to Ishinomaki Girls' Senior High School. Because all of the grades were not in attendance that day, their school hours were 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Their sports included swimming, tennis, basketball, and track teams. Their curriculum included Japanese language, geography and history, civics, mathematics, science, health and physical education, (Karate was among their gym activities and the instructor was a master), art, foreign language, and home economics. There were many more courses of

*Continued on page 15*

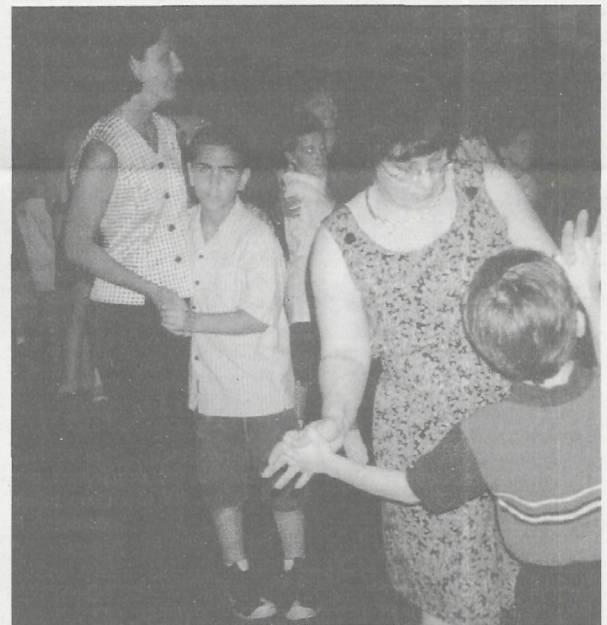
## Mother/Son Dance at Kennedy



By Patricia Abbott

Snips and snails and puppy dog tails were mixed with everything from dress shirts and ties to sneakers and shorts as the boys of Kennedy School enjoyed the annual Mother/Son Dance.

Moms varied their attire a great deal too, from dresses to jeans depending on their 'dates' choice of clothing. Both the moms and sons enjoyed a table full of fun food, as well as non-stop music. The boys seemed to enjoy the slow dances with mom just as much as the chicken dance. Some mom's danced with more than one son at a time. A good time was had by all.



# Congratulations

## You did it!

### Salute Your Graduates...

...in a 1 x 2 1/2 ad in the Observer!

Applaud the successes of your children, grandchildren, friends, brothers and sisters or loved ones with a personalized ad. The Observer will publish your college, high school, middle, pre-school and kindergarten graduates' photo along with your congratulatory wishes. All for \$20.

Send your check or money order with the graduate's name and your message along with your name, address and phone to: South Plainfield Observer Congratulations, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. (If you would like your photo returned, please include a SAS envelope.)

## Good Luck Class of 2001!!!

Christopher Atcachunas  
High School Graduation  
June 25, 1999



Congratulations Chris!!  
Love, Mom, Scott, Erica and Ashley

The Family Place

Carousel  
Hair Salon

307 OAK TREE AVE  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
908-668-8397

Wed~Thurs~Fri  
8am-4pm  
Saturdays~6:45 am-3 pm  
Closed Sundays,  
Mondays and Tuesdays



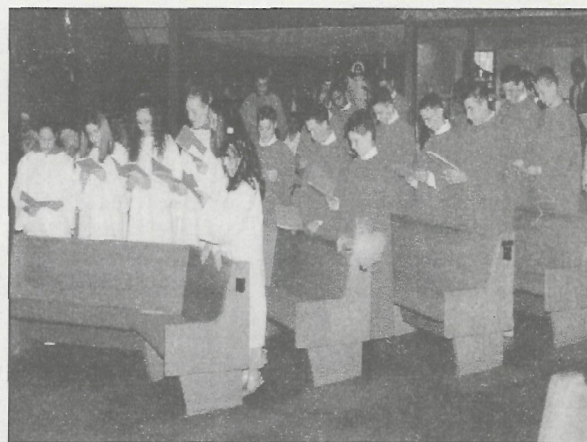
## May Crowning Held at Our Lady of Czestochowa



On Sunday, May 13, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church held their Annual May Crowning Ceremonies. Crowner of the Ceremonies was Joanne Michalski; the Court included

Lindsey Aiello, Katie Baldersarri, Tricia Chosney, Brittany DeNitzio, Cristina DeMatos and Danielle Skoba; the Crown Bearer was Bridgette Kelly, and the Angel was

Jena Cianfrocca. The ceremonies included the crowning, as well as preceded a Mother's Day Mass, lead by Rev. John M. Skwara, Pastor.



## Eighth Graders Receive Confirmation at OLC

Eighth graders at Our Lady of Czestochowa received the sacrament of Confirmation recently.

Edward T. Hughes, Retired Bishop of Metuchen Diocese was the main celebrant. He was assisted by Pastor Rev. John M. Skwara.

Receiving Confirmation were: Kristin Ann Badolato, Christopher Anthony Michael Bakazan, Michael Dean Mark Benak, Gerry William Charles Butrico, Angelica Elizabeth Cirilli, Shawn Patrick Michael Ferguson, Michael Anthony Ghigliotto, Lauren Marie Elizabeth Rose Hause, Jamie Lynn Emma Jakubik, George Samuel Peter Kleinknecht, Kurt Charles Alan Maglaque, Robert Cosmo Maistricke, Krista Lynn Elizabeth Malecki, Thomas Frederick Christopher Manolio, Charles Robert Martinez, Michael John Anthony Medici, Gregory Scott Allen Morris, Brian James William



Murtagh, Jeffrey Scott William Pollin, Joshua Steven William Prendergas, Ryan Matthew Antony Suleski, Jennifer Marie Rose Vasquez and Michael Ryan Anthony Wilson.

## Obituaries

### Harriet E. Munro, 83

Harriet E. Munro died on Tuesday, May 8 at the Greenbrook Manor Care Center in Greenbrook.

She was born in Bernards Township and had resided most of her life in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Munro had been a volunteer at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for over 30 years. Her other interests were caring for her garden and reading.

She was predeceased by her husband, Walter, in 1987.

Surviving are three daughters, Harriet "Tootie" Munro of South Plainfield, Judy Holtz and her husband, Gordon, of Henryville, Pa. and Carol Moraller and her husband, Ed, of Middlesex. She is also survived by her grandsons, Andrew and Barry Moraller.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Litland of Whiting and Shirley Andersen and Else Grinland, both of Norway.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Melissa, Bridgette, Daniel, Danielle, Derek and Tyra.

Funeral Services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

### Lillian Bjorlo, 68

Lillian Bjorlo died on Wednesday, May 9, in her home.

Born in Chicago, she was raised in Norway and returned to the United States in 1951, residing in Brooklyn, NY. Mrs. Bjorlo resided in South Plainfield for 30 years before moving to Whiting 2½ years ago.

She was a homemaker and volunteered as a home health aid for the elderly while residing in Whiting.

Her husband, Einar Bjorlo died in 1996 and her brother Sverre Litland died in 1995.

Surviving are two daughters, Linda and her husband, Michael Sticco of South Plainfield and Carolyn and her husband, Roger Weil of Bound Brook; three sons, Lloyd and his wife, Sharon Bjorlo of Atlantic Highlands, John Bjorlo of Edison and Glenn Bjorlo of Raritan; four sisters, Alice Andersen of Mt. Bethel, Pa., Gladys

### Patrick J. Gallagher, 46

Patrick J. Gallagher died on Tuesday, May 8 at his home.

Born in Newark Mr. Gallagher has been a life long resident of the boro.

In his youth, Patrick had been involved with the cub scouts, boy scouts and the South Plainfield Little League Baseball Club.

Patrick had been employed as the Caddy Master and Starter for the past 11 years at Bedens Brook Country Club in Skillman. Previously, he was employed in the same capacity for the Plainfield Country Club in Plainfield for many years.

Patrick was an avid golfer himself and enjoyed fishing as well.

He was a member of the South Plainfield B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge #2298.

He is predeceased by his parents, James and Elizabeth "Betty" Gallagher.

Surviving are his sister, Kathleen Gallagher of Piscataway; two brothers, James of South Plainfield and Timothy of Frenchtown and four nieces, Ashley, Erin, Megan and Melanie.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals in South Plainfield.

## Compare

Consider the beauty, service care and maintenance at Hillside Cemetery, 1401 Woodland Avenue, Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

Hillside Cemetery

www.hillsidecemetery.com

## Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

### HELPING HANDS

With a shared sense of warmth and trust, friends can help bereaved individuals overcome their losses. The first step involves helping friends anticipate loss by guiding them through gentle discussions and balanced realism that help them prepare for the inevitable. After the loss, the bereaved should be encouraged to express their feelings. Friends should offer their support as the grieving individuals confront anger and denial during the early stages of their grief. It is important to be empathetic and patient, as well as sympathetic and nonjudgmental. It should be recognized that grief is a powerful emotion that cannot be mitigated by encouragement to "cheer up." Beyond that, it is important for friends to simply be available, not intrusive.

It is important to remember, that with the loss of a close friend, family member, or spouse, that the bereaved may also have lost a way of life. The prospect of taking over tasks that were managed by the deceased is likely to be both painful and daunting. Thus, friends and relatives may wish to offer assistance in performing some of these duties. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, we offer thoughtful and professional assistance in arranging end-of-life services. To schedule a consultation, please call 756-2800.

"It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us."

-Epicurus



(908) 561-8000

McCriskin

HOME FOR FUNERALS

2425 PLAINFIELD AVENUE  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
FAX (908) 561-6744

RICHARD W. MCCRISKIN, Pres., Mgr.  
William C. McCriskin, V. Pres., Dir.  
James A. Gustafson, Dir.  
James F. Connaughton, Assoc. Dir.

## Recreation Summer Sports Camps

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is offering several sport camps. Call the PAL for further information.

**Soccer:** June 25-29; 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Location: South Plainfield Middle School. Rain site is SPHS gym. Camp is open to boys and girls ages 8-15. Director is Drew Smith. Cost is \$35.

**Baseball:** July 2-July 6, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: SPHS Ballfields. Rain site is SPHS Gym. South Plainfield residents ages 8-15. Director is Chet Czaplinski. Cost is \$35.

**Field Hockey:** June 25-29, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Location: South Plainfield Middle School. Rain site is SPMS

Gym. Camp is open to girls ages 8-13. Director is Cheryl Hughes. Cost is \$35.

**Wrestling:** July 2-July 6; 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Location: SPHS Gym. Camp is open to boys ages 7-15. Director is Bill Pavlak. Cost is \$35.

**Basketball:** July 9 - 13, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: SPHS Gym. Camp is open to boys and girls ages 8-13. Director is Jeff Lubreski. Cost is \$35.

**Softball:** July 16-July 20; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: SPHS Ballfields. Rainsite is SPHS Gym. Camp is open to girls ages 8-15. Director is Donald Panzarella. Cost is \$35.

## Branchburg Youth Baseball Tournament

The Branchburg Baseball Club is holding its 6th Annual Branchburg Invitational Tournament from June 29 through July 14. There will be seven age divisions: U-8, U-9, U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13/14 and U-15. The games will be played in a round robin format with each team guaranteed four games, two divisions per age division with playoffs for the top two teams in each age division. 1st and 2nd place awards plus all 8-year old teams will receive individual participation medals.

All games officiated with carded umpires. The entrance fee is \$365 and each team supplies 2 baseballs per game. All games are in one location at White Oak Park, Baird Rd., Branchburg. There is a Snak Shak with excellent food. There will be a mandatory coaches meeting on Thursday, June 21 at 8 p.m. at the N. Branch Firehouse, Rt. 28, North Branch. Contact Brian Callahan at (908) 575-7816 or bryola@aol.com to register or more information.

### Peter Allen Appolloni

08/09/60 - 05/18/81

The pains of losing you are slightly deadened;  
The eyes from tears no longer reddened.  
Although twenty years have now gone by,  
Remembering your death still makes us sigh.  
Your face and laughter go with us through the years  
And you're remembered so well by family and peers.  
Sleep well, dear Peter, with Dad and the rest,  
I guess God only takes the very best.

Love, Mom



## Japan Trip Remembered

Continued from page 13

ferings in each category. The high school was the only school that had a computer room.

The teachers' job was to teach and the student's job was to learn. The students and the parents assumed great responsibility for the children's learning. I attended an English class where the students were reading a story about the life of Jackie Robinson. The children were much more talkative in the Japanese schools than ours in America. Some of the girls had cell phones and were using them in the classrooms during their break. (Oh, there was a ten-minute break between classes.) However, I did not observe any verbal disrespect toward the teachers. In some classes, such as science and math, I noticed that the children were much quieter. Most of the children go to juku schools two or three times a week and on the Saturdays they don't go to regular school.

Our last public school visit was to the Minato Special School in Tokyo. The children were labeled "intelligent disability." They made us flowers and tissue holders for presents. There was an adult for every child. There are volunteers, students, paid aides, and teachers. They have elementary, junior high, and senior high departments. The aim of the school is to educate and train healthy bodies and minds, and encourage the pupil to take his/her rightful place in the world community. The curriculum of the elementary department includes activities of daily life, play guidance, morning meeting, walking, music, physical education, drawing and handicrafts, cooking, and task assignment.

They go to school 9 a.m.-1:50 p.m. The curriculum of the Junior High Department includes activities of daily life, Japanese language, arts and crafts, cooking, physical education, mathematics, music, unit of life experience, task assignment, extended homeroom activity, vocational activities, and club. These students go to school 8:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. The curriculum of the senior high department includes the same as the junior high department and social studies. They go to school 10 minutes longer than the Junior High School students do.

Continued in the next Observer

## Legal Notice

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1567

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD May 15, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning Board at its meeting held on May 8, 2001.

A. Case #634/V—Arbor Interiors—4301 South Clinton Ave.; Block 445; Lot 7, M-3 Zone.—Applicant's request for an amended final site plan was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #637/V—Site Development Inc.—Block 188; Lots 47 & 48; OBC-1 Zone; Plainfield Ave.—Applicant's request for final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED.

Jan. Mucilli  
Recording Secretary Planning Board  
\$15/00 1T May 18, 2001

### FOR SALE BY OWNER

#### NEWER COLONIAL, IMMACULATE

fully loaded, \$50,000-\$60,000 in upgrades. 3-4 bdrms, in-law setup. 17x21 fam. rm./w cathedral ceiling. Custom window treatment, molding & lighting. LR, DR, 3 new baths with skylight. Call 755-8930.

### OFFICE SPACE WANTED

**OFFICE SPACE WANTED,** Willing to pay up to \$250, call (908) 769-8602.

**CALL BY MONDAY, 5 P.M.  
TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED  
AD—908-668-0010.**

### AIR CONDITIONER FOR SALE

A 10,000 BTU FRIEDRICH air conditioner, 6 years-old, runs great, \$150. Call 732-248-0784.

### FOR SALE

#### TWO BRUNCH CRUISE

Tickets on the Cruise Cornicopia Princess, valued at \$90. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call Bill Tuthill at 756-9654.

### PHOTOS FOR SALE

**COLOR COPIES OF  
OBSERVER PHOTOS  
for sale. Call Pattie,  
756-801 or 668-0010.**

# Classifieds

**To place an ad call  
by 5 p.m. on Monday, 908-668-0010.**

**Rates -- 3 line minimum-\$11, \$1 ea. additional line.**

## GARAGE SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 19**

**SUNDAY, MAY 20**

**9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**517 MELROSE AVE.**

(FRANKLIN TO GRANT AVE.)

## GARAGE SALE

**ADVERTISE YOUR  
GARAGE/YARD  
SALE IN THE  
OBSERVER FOR ONLY  
\$15.  
CALL  
908-668-0010**

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT

(L. S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Hindra L. Balani

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiffs attorneys, whose address is Suite 420; Sentry Office plaza; 216 Haddon Avenue; Westmont, NJ 08103, phone # (856) 858-3242, an answer to the Amended Complaint filed in a civil action, in which Washington Mutual Bank is plaintiff, and Hindra L. Balani, unmarried is the defendant, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, MIDDLESEX County, and bearing Docket No. F-20008-00 within thirty-five (35) days after May 18, 2001 exclusive of such dates. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Solicitor Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated March 31, 2000, made by Hindra L. Balani, unmarried as mortgagor, to FGC Commercial Mortgage Finance DBA Fremont Mortgage Its Successors and/or Assigns recorded on April 7, 2000, in Book 6228 of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, Page 463, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Washington Mutual Bank, by Assignment recorded on February 27, 2001 in Book 0815 of Assignment of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, Page 415; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 113 Judy Drive; Kearsbey, NJ 08832.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-732-828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-732-249-7600.

YOU, Hindra L. Balani, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action, because you are the record owner of the mortgaged premises and because you executed the bond or note and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency thereon, and for any right, title claim or interest you may have in, to, or against said mortgaged premises.

\$77.00 1T May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1561

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1509 TO INCLUDE \$50,000.00 PAYMENT FROM THE WRESTLING CLUB FOR THE EXPANSION TO THE PAL BUILDING IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1563

**AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE YARD-WASTE FACILITY IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### LEGAL NOTICE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BLOCK 472, LOTS 7.03 and 2.01 (OBC-3 and M-3 Zones)

TAKE NOTICE that on the 5th day of June, 2001 at 8:00 p.m., a hearing will be held and the Borough of South Plainfield Board of Adjustment will consider an application on behalf of J.H. REID GENERAL CONTRACTOR seeking preliminary and final site plan and subdivision approval for property located on Block 472, Lots 7.03 and 2.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map. In connection with this application, J.H. REID GENERAL CONTRACTOR is requesting certain variances, waivers and other relief from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance as they pertain to the number of parking spaces and exterior parking lot lighting; and (v) any other relief as may be required by the Board of Adjustment.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of the requested relief and approvals, the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at the aforementioned date and time, and any interested person may be heard, either in person or through an agent or attorney, at the above-referenced time concerning said application.

The maps and documents for which approval is sought are available for inspection in the Code Enforcement/Zoning Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, any weekday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Connell Foley LLP  
85 Livingston Avenue  
Roseland, New Jersey 07068  
Attn: John S. Stolz, Esq.  
(973) 535-0500  
Attorneys for Applicant:  
J.H. Reid General Contractor

\$75.00 1T May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1562

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUS STOP ON OAK TREE ROAD, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1566

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING, STOPPING AND STANDING ON A PORTION ON GARDNER AVENUE, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1568

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #801 ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD", IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Thursday, May 10, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$15.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1564

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$286,000.00 FOR THE RESURFACING OF VARIOUS BOROUGH ROADS, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 18, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, June 7, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

### ORDINANCE NO. 1564

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$286,000.00 FOR THE RESURFACING OF VARIOUS ROADS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT:**

SECTION 1. The purpose hereby authorized is to repave the following borough roads: Adams Avenue, Carol Place, DeSepio Drive, Dumas Avenue, Leeds Drive, Manning Avenue, Moose Avenue, Morris Avenue, Morton Avenue, Seleno Avenue, Somersel Street, Sterling Avenue, Thomas Street, Vakerich Place, West Avenue, West Golf Avenue, and Yurgle Drive in the Borough of South Plainfield.

SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$286,000.00 to finance the total cost of the purpose as authorized in Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 3. The cost of accomplishing said purpose shall be paid as follows: \$286,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

SECTION 4. That no bonds or notes are to be issued or indebtedness incurred for this purpose.

SECTION 5. The Capital Budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the local finance board showing in full detail the amended Capital Budget and Capital Programs as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available for public inspection.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law.

Approved May 10, 2001

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$70.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1569

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 CAPITAL BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE FULLY-FUNDED PROJECTS OF: KENYON AVENUE, RAHWAY AVENUE AND TYLER PLACE, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 18, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, June 7, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

### ORDINANCE NO. 1569

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, that**

The 2001 Capital Budget is amended to include the following fully - funded projects:

- 1) Kenyon Avenue from Cedarbrook Avenue to Marsh Avenue.
- 2) Rahway Avenue from Plainfield Avenue to Kenyon Avenue.
- 3) Tyler Place from New Brunswick Avenue to South Clinton Avenue.

The Borough of South Plainfield has received \$210,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2001.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with New Jersey Law.

Approved May 10, 2001

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$45.00 May 18, 2001

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ORDINANCE NO. 1570

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 CAPITAL BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE FULLY-FUNDED PROJECT OF: THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ON BELMONT AVENUE, IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 18, 2001 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, June 7, 2001 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

### ORDINANCE NO. 1570

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, that**

The 2001 Capital Budget is amended to include the following fully - funded project:

- 1) Belmont Avenue Sidewalk Construction Project from Hamilton Boulevard to the Conrail Grade Crossing.
- 2) The Borough of South Plainfield has received \$72,000 from the State Fiscal Year 2001 Local Pedestrian Safety Program portion of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with New Jersey Law.

Approved May 10, 2001

Daniel J. Gallagher/Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 May 18, 2001



## Auditions To Be Held For SDW's Bye Bye Birdie

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, celebrating its 30th season, will hold auditions for the hit musical "Bye Bye Birdie" on June 4, 5 and 6 at the South Plainfield Middle School.

### police report

• On May 9, a Piscataway resident was apprehended by K-Mart security after taking items off shelves and attempting to return them for cash.

• A Tompkins Ave. resident reported that his daughter's bike was missing from the rear porch of the residence.

• An employee of Quick Response Fire Protection, New Durham Ave., returned to work to find the doors of the trailer open. The padlock had been cut and a generator, drill and bits, sawzall and three extension cords were missing.

• On May 8, Tingley Rubber on South Ave. reported the theft of a lawn mower.

• Three Plainfield women were arrested at Stern's on Thursday for shoplifting clothes, shoes and cologne.

• The owner of A-Tech Landscaping reported that his landscape trailer was entered and equipment removed.

• A Bridgewater resident reported that she lost her purse in the A & P parking lot. The purse was returned but was missing her Visa and social security card.

• Carmine Maggio, of Forgione Carting, reported that while on Hollywood Ave., looking for space to rent, he observed a row of dumpsters belonging to Forgione on the truck of D & G Services. The dumpsters were ultimately returned to Forgione.

• On Monday, a Clinton Terr. resident reported that his cell phone was stolen and believes that someone had removed it from his vehicle on May 10.

• A Wooden Ave. resident reported that her son had taken her car without her consent.

• Nancy Jackson, Account Executive for Lombardi Traffic Striping reported receiving a forged check.

• Cosmed, on So. Clinton Ave., reported the theft of a lawn mower, weed wacker, various cosmetic products, fax machines and scanners worth a total of \$1,880.

• On Saturday, a Hamilton Ave. resident reported that the driverside rear window of his vehicle had been smashed while parked in his driveway.

• The manager of Radio Shack reported the theft of three demo cell phones.

• American Panel Tec, on New Market Ave. reported that two soda vending machines had been damaged and broken into.

• A Bound Brook resident was arrested for shoplifting \$60 worth of items from K-Mart.

• On May 11, a Bricktown resident reported that someone had removed his vehicle from the Quick Chek lot, on Durham Ave. where it had broken down.

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## Memorial Day Rededication

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander of The Grand Army of the Republic, issued General Order No. 11 designating the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1868 to honor the memory of their departed comrades. This first Memorial Day had no prescribed form or ceremony, but it was suggested that the graves of their comrades who died in defense of their country be strewn with flowers or otherwise decorated.

The members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Gen. George A. Custer Camp No. 17 have been engaged in the restoration of The Grand Army of the Republic, Winfield Scott Post No. 73 Memorial Burial Site at Hillside Cemetery (Woodland Ave.), which contains the graves of 33 Union Veterans. The Restoration will be completed with the re-mounting of two Civil War era howitzers, which stood as silent sentinels for many years. The rededication of this site is scheduled for 11 a.m. on May 28 (Memorial Day). The ceremony will follow, as closely as possible, that which is prescribed by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for such occasions.

## American Martial Arts School 'Best on East Coast'

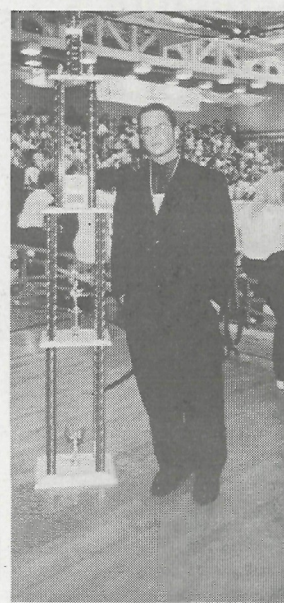
Becoming the Best Tae Kwon Do School in New Jersey for 2001 was not enough for Master Kevin Vigneri, owner of American Martial Arts, located on Oak Tree Rd., in South Plainfield.

His Tae Kwon Do Team was determined to compete in The Big East to become the best Tae Kwon Do School on the east coast for 2001, and they did just that.

To honor Master Vigneri's high achievement, his school was awarded another 8-foot trophy (pictured right) that stands tall in Master Vigneri's school. His students also stand tall, bringing home 13 gold medals, 8 silver, and 2 bronze.

The Big East, sanctioned by the United States Tae Kwon Do Union, was held on May 6, 2001 in Rahway.

Master Vigneri explains, "Parents will see that my 22 years of martial arts experience is being used to develop a school of proud, skilled, and most of all, the best martial artists."



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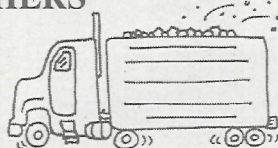
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