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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 48

50 CENTS

AUGUST 3, 2001

In 1972 a new youth-oriented drama group helped fill the long summer days for numerous teenagers. It was something

new, exciting and different. The new venture produced a large turnout of youngsters, ages 11 to high school grads. Each youth had a role of their own on or off stage and each did their part to make the show a success. The 1972 production of *Bye Bye Birdie* marked the beginning of an ongoing South Plainfield tradition.

The fledgling group, named South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop, had simple roots with simple goals—to offer a fun, educational and enriching experience—one they would remember. The program has more than surpassed its goal of “filling summer days.” Three decades equals hundreds of teenagers. Some kids participated one season while others stayed on until college. Each summer new children join with SDW veterans working together to present South Plainfield with yet another hit musical.

The group celebrates their 30th season by bringing *Bye Bye Birdie* back to the SDW stage. The cast, staff and crew have worked hard to prepare a show which displays the many talents of everyone involved, one that exemplifies the spirit of Summer Drama.

Choreographer Patti O'Brien, who is returning for her second year with SDW said, “Summer Drama is a fantastic program for the students of South Plainfield. It is a great learning process in many ways. The kids are working together as an ensemble and as individuals. The students are encouraged to bring their own insights and creativity into their

characters, making for a very diverse and distinguished cast. Many of the students performing have never had a dance lesson, but are given an opportunity to perform various styles of dance during the show. The theater is a great way for these students to express themselves creatively in a positive way while working together to form a strong ensemble and show.”

Board Vice President Bill Mott noted, “This year’s cast and crew have pulled together working long hours and as a team to create an outstanding workshop. It is a pleasure to see older and younger children working together and helping each other. The cast and crew have developed a respect for each others roles in this play and the true dedication of the participants of this show is evident in the production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. It is a truly enjoyable performance.”

*Bye Bye Birdie* is a musical that appeals to all ages and SDW is hoping South Plainfield residents of all ages will celebrate with us. Included in the celebration of 30 years is Reunion Night. On Saturday, Aug. 4, SDW alumni are invited to attend the performance and be recognized. Visit with old friends, sign our guest book and browse through an extensive display of photos that covers nearly every show presented. Former students, staff, band, crew, or anyone who has experienced SDW, is invited to return and relive memories of stage lights and summer nights.

If you have a favorite memory of a SDW experience, share it with Summer Drama 2001. Email to [angelonly@aol.com](mailto:angelonly@aol.com) or fax to (908) 226-8830. For tickets or information, call (908) 561-5255.

By Patricia Abbott

2001 South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop

PRESENTS

OUR 30TH SEASON

Bye Bye Birdie





## mark your calendars

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://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, August 13 ..... Thursday, August 16 (Revised Date)

Tuesday, September 4 ..... Thursday, September 6

Monday, September 17 ..... Thursday, September 20

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

August 14, August 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27,

Dec. 11, 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

August 7, August 21, Sept. 4 (no meeting), Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 30,

Nov. 6 (no meeting), Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 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.

### site place sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

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

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

August 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, 2002

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Regular Board Mtg., Tue., August 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 23; 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Tue., Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11.

### 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 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall  
Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 26.

## Motor Vehicle Accident Victim Dies of Injuries

Ronald Hurst, a resident of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, July 26 at Somerset Medical Center, Somerville. Hurst died as a result of injuries he sustained in a motor vehicle collision that occurred on the evening of Sunday, July 1. The collision occurred on Hamilton Blvd. near Barone Ave. (See obituary on page 10)

Mr. Hurst was a passenger in a 1995 Chevy Tracker which was operated by Mary Ludlow, of Piscataway. Ludlow also sustained serious injuries in the collision.

The Chevy Tracker was southbound on Hamilton Blvd. when it collided with a 1996 Dodge Ram pickup that was traveling northbound.

The pickup truck was operated by Justin King, of Piscataway. A passenger in King's vehicle, Shelly Kurlew of South Plainfield, was ejected from the vehicle. Kurlew suffered serious injuries and King was treated for minor injuries.

King was charged with careless



driving and driving while intoxicated. Police said criminal charges are pending.

Police Officer Vincent Campagna of the South Plainfield Police Traffic

Safety Unit is investigating the accident. Police are asking anyone who witnessed the collision or have information pertaining to it, to call (908) 226-7693.

## In My Opinion

*I sent this letter to the mayor and council via E-Mail. That was four weeks ago and I still have not received his response.*

Mr. Mayor,

I'm writing to you to express my concern over the park benches that are in the center of town. I recently took my family to Ralph's Italian Ices, we then sat on the benches. The problem I have is that the benches are too close to the street. They are about one foot from the curb. I feel that is unsafe and they should be moved back against the fronts of the buildings. If a car was parked in the street at the curb the passenger door would hit whomever was sitting on the bench. I see no problem with unscrewing the benches and moving them, maybe more people would sit there.

The problem we are having with vandalism to the train car is common. The train car is out of sight and an easy target. Either put up lights and a monitor system directly to the police station or move the car to a more useful visible sight. I think we should put it on the new property of the senior citizens and make it a coffee and snack truck to supplement its costs.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING  
TO MY CONCERNS,  
ANONYMOUS**

Letter to the Editor,

The standard and acceptable rule of a train sounding a warning at vehicle crossings is four whistles, a long, a long, a short, then closing with another long.

Whatever the reason, an eastbound train at 2 a.m. on Sunday, July 29 sounded twelve long whistles each at all four crossings. They were the Prospect Ave. crossing in Piscataway, the New Brunswick Ave. crossing and the

Clinton Ave. site and upon reaching Front St. by Sherban's, no less than thirteen long blasts were made at 2:06 a.m.

What possible reason would this operator have other than total disregard of the peace and quiet on an early Sunday morning? Can our authorities get such an outrage curtailed?

**ROBERT COLLINS**

Dear Editor,

I am 12 years old and I am concerned about everyone's health here in South Plainfield. I am concerned about people getting sick and possibly dying just because of a tiny mosquito biting someone. I get mosquito bites, but this West Nile Virus is not a good thing.

If you want this town to be nice and safe, I suggest that something be done about this: spraying to kill the mosquitoes. I know that it can't hurt and won't be a waste of money.

Yesterday there was a dead crow found in South Plainfield that specialists found had died of the West Nile Virus. Something needs to be done about this right away. This isn't a little thing to put off. And I don't think that we would want hundreds of people leaving South Plainfield just because of mosquitoes. I have read that senior citizens and people with health related problems (like a bad heart or kidney disease) can be hit the hardest by West Nile. I have a senior citizen living one door down from me and I don't want anything to happen to her. I also know lots of other senior citizens that I care about.

I have read that Middlesex County and Union County officials have argued about where the infected crow may have come from. I say this arguing is just wasting time. Both counties should be sprayed immediately.

So I am asking our local officials to please spray South Plainfield and

neighboring towns, for me and everyone else that lives in this town, county and state.

**SINCERELY,  
MATTHEW KRUPIT**

To the Editor,

The Tiger Sharks swim and dive teams have just completed another successful season with the dive team placing second and the swim team placing third in the league championships. I would like to thank the coaches who were so dedicated, enthusiastic and supportive of all the athletes. For the swim team, they are Laurie Post, Robyn Bauer and Jen Odlowski and for the dive team, Mike Panzarella and Nicole Moretti. There are also many parents whose ongoing support helped keep the season running smoothly. They include Robyn and John Atcachunas, Mary and Ed Pikarski, Lynn and Andy Reed, Janet and Sean McDermott, Amy Dougherty, Cheryl Smiley, Debbie Boyle, Wayne Odlowski, Dave Krause, Kathy Moates, Jennifer Kelly, Marianne Petritsch and Donna Egan. A special thanks to Mike English, recreation director, and his pool staff for their continued support of this worthwhile program.

As a nurse, I am very aware of and concerned about the increase in obesity in our society. I am proud to be part of a community that provides our children with swim and dive programs to help achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle, as well as to promote teamwork and community involvement. It has been a pleasure working with those noted above, as well as all of the team families to offer our children a summer season filled with good, healthy competition.

**SINCERELY,  
ROSEANNE ILARDO  
PRESIDENT, TIGER SHARKS  
PARENTS ORGANIZATION**

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page:

[www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. **POSTMASTER:** Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

### 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](http://spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto: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](http://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. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.

### Send us Your Letters/Opinions

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, or it will NOT be published. In the past few weeks we have had several letters we did not publish because names were not submitted with the letter.

Send your letter/opinion to: *The South Plainfield Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield 07080. You can email us at [GGNAN@aol.com](mailto:GGNAN@aol.com) or fax to 908-668-8819.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

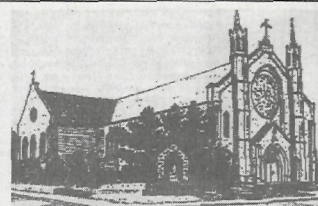
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m.- 12 noon, 4:15-4:45 p.m.

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass





From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

Welcome to August, and welcome to news from the South Plainfield Library:

Starting with our roster of children's programs, our Game Gang program is scheduled for 11 a.m. this morning. Children may bring in one of their own board games, or play one of ours. Our Monday Kidcraft program starts at 6:30 p.m. It's for children age six and older; please sign up in advance for this program, so we know how many kids to expect. And our normal schedule of Storytime programs is in place. Those programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. They're for children age three and older; no pre-registration is required. For more information, please ask Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The August group of Circuit videos and DVDs is now available. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. In addition to all the items ready for borrowing, we also have several items for sale. We still have a good amount of books, videos and audiocassettes in the Friends of the Library sale area; prices are as marked. Summer Reading Club T-Shirts are still available, but not for too much longer! All sizes are available; shirts are \$8 apiece. Finally, we're offering copies of *Recipes for All Seasons*, a recipe book from the Terra Nova Garden Club in Edison. They're available for \$10 each.

We've been reviewing our Reference Collection recently. It seems our copy of the Thomas Register is a

couple of years out of date. Do any of you have a recent copy of it that you don't need and are willing to donate to us? If so, we'd really appreciate it. Call us at (908) 754-7885; ask for Library Director Sundra Fenn.

The area chapter of the Lion's Club is collecting used eyeglasses of all types and in any condition. If you'd care to contribute, just drop them off in the collection box at the Circulation Desk.

It's pretty safe to assume that the last thing most schoolchildren want to think about right now is school. Be that as it may, many of them are, however, preparing for September by picking up selections from the school's "Battle of the Books" reading list. We're in the process of setting aside our copies of the "Battle" books, as well as purchasing additional copies. You'll find those selections shelved under the windowsill in the main room, between the Young Adult hardcover books and the Library's Large Print collection. "Battle" books may be borrowed for two weeks.

Time for a bit of a reminder regarding the Internet terminals. The terminals are available on a first come, first serve basis. Patrons use the terminals for a period of thirty minutes; that time may be extended, but only if no one else is waiting to use the computer. So, if all the terminals are occupied and you'd like to log on, let us know that you're waiting. We'll make sure you're assigned to the next available computer.

That'll do it for today. Thanks for your attention. See you next Friday.

## Brothers Separated at Birth and Continents Apart, Find Each Other



South Plainfield resident Tony Novak (left) is pictured holding daughter Virginia. His brother, Noel Morrissey, (right) holds niece Adrianne. Tony's wife Gerri is pictured in the center.

By Patricia Abbott

The postmark on the letter received in April of 2000 read "Ireland" and it was the first link in a chain of events that brought a major surprise into the life of South Plainfield resident Tony Novak. Born in Ireland, he was adopted by an American couple and grew up in Cranford, NJ. As a teenager he visited the land of his birth once with his adoptive mother. Tony explained that while he occasionally wondered about his biological family, he was content with the knowledge that he had been adopted. It was not until he and his wife Gerri had children, that he became interested in finding out more about his background. He began searching the Internet for information on how to begin searching his birth mother. The results were discouraging. It was a difficult task requiring a great deal of time — time better spent with his family.

Tony found a letter from Ireland in his mail when he returned from a vacation. The cryptic letter, from St. Patrick's Guild-Sisters of Charity, Dublin, Ireland, dated April 25, 2000, asked for his assistance. It inquired if he was Anthony Novak, if he was born June 12, 1956 and it included his adoptive parent's names and his childhood home address.

Intrigued and excited, Tony replied with information about his family, his wife, Geraldine and their two daughters, Adrianne and Virginia, then ages 8 and 2½. Correspondence went back

and forth with social workers in Ireland and finally revealed that his biological mother had been searching for him. Ironically, she lived in England, but had not had regular contact with the adoption agency. When they attempted to notify his mother about successfully finding her son, they discovered that she had passed away. The social worker had to inform Tony that his birth mother had died in December of 1999, four months before he received their letter. He never learned the reason for her search, but he did discover that he had a younger brother and sister. His sister, Sharon, had passed away years before at age 29. His brother, Noel Morrissey, three years younger, was alive and living in Newbridge, County Kildare, Ireland.

In June of 2000 he wrote a letter of introduction to his brother via St. Patrick's Guild. Not long after, a single phone call from Ireland, expanded his family by six people. He spoke to his brother Noel for the first time. He also spoke to his Aunt Margie, Uncle Bill and cousins Michelle, Darren and Abigail. In Tony's own word, his reaction was, "Sheer amazement and total coolness, knowing that our girls have a larger family and that they can learn more about our family history is wonderful."

That first phone conversation was more than just a long distance introduction. They talked about the pure luck of finding each other. Letters containing photographs flew back and forth across the Atlantic. The resemblance between Tony and Noel was astounding, right down to the same

style eyeglasses. In August Tony flew to Ireland to meet his brother and family. He learned of his resemblance to his great grandfather and his newfound family grew as he learned about generations of his ancestors. He and his family toured Ireland with his newfound brother and plans were made for Noel to visit America. For the past year the brothers have kept in touch with weekly phone calls, sharing their lives, celebrating birthdays and holidays, much as any siblings separated by a great distance.

Gerri is thrilled with Tony's good fortune, it means more of a sense of family to all of them. She explained, "Tony and I had five full years of heartache and tragedy." In 1993, her father succumbed to a long battle with cancer and her mother had a mild stroke and became more dependent on her. Between 1993 and 1998 they had to deal with the deaths of all their parents, as well as miscarriages. Gerri added, "After all the dust had settled you look around and say, 'OK where do I begin to pick up and live again?' It's very difficult after five years of mostly sadness. When we found out about possible blood relatives alive and living in Ireland, I felt so happy for Tony, the girls and myself. It really gave us a new start to living happily again. Finding family has recharged our lives."

On July 21, Noel arrived to visit Tony and his family. It was his first trip to this country. Tony drove Noel through Cranford sharing, some of his earlier years with him.

*Continued on page 10*

## southplainfieldpeople

### Milestones



Dorene Ann Pelech and Raymond Azar become engaged.

### Pelech, Azar Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pelech of South Plainfield, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Dorene Ann to Raymond Azar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Azar of Cranford.

The bride-to-be is employed at Ashley's Architectural Woodwork and Design in Plainfield. The groom works at American Tire in Flemington.

A fall, 2002 wedding is planned.

### Music in the Parks Series in Spring Lake Park

During the months of July and August, Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department have been presenting a series of free music concerts at five County Parks, including Spring Lake Park.

The following is a schedule of the performers that will be appearing during the month of August at the Gazebo of Spring Lake Park.

Sunday, August 5—The Billion Dollar Sound, (Fred Wesche - Leader).

Sunday, August 12—Bottom of the Ninth, (Bob Beck - Leader).

Sunday, August 19—The Associates, (Art Smith - Leader)

Sunday, August 26—The Dixie Six, (Jack Honnwill - Leader).

All of the concerts take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

### 25th Anniversary Special!!

## Ernie Temple's School of Karate

(located in the Dunellen Knights of Columbus, corner of Grove & South Ave., Dunellen)

*New Class Starts September 6*

- Adult Classes, Mon-Tues-Thurs, 7:30-9:30 PM
- Children's Classes, Mon-Tues-Thurs, 3:45-5:15 PM
- Karate Aerobics- Thurs, 6:00-6:45 PM, only \$5.00
- NO CONTRACTS, Compare Our Low Weekly Rates!
- \$\$\$ Ask About Our Refund Policy \$\$\$

**Call Now to Watch a Class**

**(908) 561-6464**



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# Around Town

## St. Stephen Church Piano Recital

August 3

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, located at 3145 Park Ave., will hold a Benefit Piano Recital, on Friday, Aug. 3 at 7:15 p.m. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit South Plainfield Social Services.

The program will include *Sonata in A minor, Op. 143*, by Schubert; *Moonlight Sonata, Op. 27, No. 2* by Beethoven; *Preludes in G sharp minor and B flat major* by Rachmaninoff; *First Ballade in G minor* by Chopin and *Hungarian Rhapsody #2* by Liszt.

Featured pianist will be Rev. Richard A. Mathisen. The program will include a brief intermission and will be followed by refreshments.

## Music in the Parks Series To Be Held at Spring Lake Park

August 5, 12, 19, 26

Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department are holding a series of free music concerts in Spring Lake Park.

The concerts take place on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Scheduled to perform are: The Billion Dollar Sound, Bottom of the Ninth, The Associates and the Dixie Six.

All of the concerts will take place at the Gazebo in Spring Lake Park.

## Cedarcroft Bible Chapel to Host Sonshine Bible School

August 6-10

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., will hold Sonshine Bible School on Monday, Aug. 6 through Friday, Aug. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The program is for children ages four to those entering fifth grade in September. The program is free and includes "The Ultimate Adventure

With Jesus," complete with Bible stories, songs, crafts, games and food. The closing program on Friday will start at 11:45 a.m. and will be followed by a light luncheon.

A Mothers' and Young Ladies Coffee and Chat will take place during the Sonshine Bible School, from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Babysitting for children three and under will be provided. Pre-registration for both programs is required. To register call Bobbie Bosse at (908) 754-8069.

## First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School

August 6-10

Join us at Beach Trek! The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield Vacation Bible School Experience is coming on Aug. 6 through 10 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. All children kindergarten through entering fifth grade are invited. Cost is \$5 per child, or \$10 per family with a request for \$2 for the cost of a t-shirt. Deadline to register is Aug. 3. For information, call The First Baptist Church office at (908) 753-2382.

## SPHS Tigers to Host 7th South Plainfield Open

August 8

The South Plainfield Golf Association has announced plans to hold the SOUTH PLAINFIELD OPEN on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at Bunker Hill Golf Course, located in Princeton. This is the Seventh Annual Golf Tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team.

This year's entry fee of \$85 includes green fees, cart, prizes, food & beverages. Check-in is at 7 a.m., during which a continental breakfast will be served. There will be a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for both men and women, including low gross, low net, low team score, longest drive, closest to the pin and a special hole-in-one prize.

All proceeds go to support the activities of the High School Golf Team and the SPGA's scholarship program. For information contact Lynne Gaspari (908) 668-1867, or Dick DeAndrea (908) 755-1700.

Register for the tournament online at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

## SPHS Class of 1980 Plans Picnic

August 11

South Plainfield High School

Class of 1980 will hold a Family Picnic on Saturday, August 11 at Merrill Park, Grove 1A, Iselin, NJ.

RSVP by contacting Dayel Jones Giammarino at (908) 754-4255 or by e-mail at [the8gs@aol.com](mailto:the8gs@aol.com) or Jackie DiDario Vill at (908) 757-0204 or at [Vill@erols.com](mailto:Vill@erols.com).

## Ice Cream Eating Contest at "Here's The Scoop"

August 12

On Sunday, August 12, Crossroads Assembly of God Church will hold an Ice Cream Eating Championship at Here's The Scoop Ice Cream Parlor, at the corner of Park and Oak Tree Rd.

Competitors in the competition will be Bill "Just Give Me The Darn Spoon" Abbas and the reigning champion, Diane "Anything But Chocolate" Jones. The competition will start at 2 p.m., and the rules set forth for the contest are very simple. Diane has agreed to defend her title at the parlor of Bill's choice, must be blindfolded, must put one arm behind her back, must eat three pints prior to Bill starting and must use chopsticks instead of a spoon.

Judges for the competition will be Pastor Matt of the church, and parishoners Deanna and the "Jones Boys."

## Wesley United to Hold Bible School

August 13-17

ALL ABOARD!!! Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 1500 Plainfield Ave., invites all children to journey with us on a "Good Neighbors Tour" of the Bible at Summer Vacation Bible School. The program runs Aug. 13 through Aug. 17, weeknights from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be fun activities including crafts, music and snacks. Please call 908-757-2838 and register by Aug. 1.

## SP Fire Department To Host Wetdown 2001

August 18

The Members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department invite you to attend the dedication of the new 2001 E-One Pumper 2000 G.E.M. on Saturday, August 18. Featured will be live music performed by The Rockets, as well as beer, soda, food, t-shirts and mugs. There will also be a DJ and a dunking booth. Registration for Fire Departments will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the dedication of the E-

One Pumper will be at 11 a.m. at Fire Headquarters. A parade will follow after the dedication.

The Wetdown will be held from 12 to 5 p.m. at South Plainfield High School. Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: Chief Trophy, Company Trophy, Best Appearing Pumper, Best Appearing Truck, Best Appearing Rescue, Furthest Distance Traveled by a Company, Bucket Brigade, 1 1/4" Hose Lay and for the winners of the Tug of War competition.

## Polish Home To Hold Annual Picnic

August 26

The Polish National Home will hold their annual picnic on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1-6 p.m., rain or shine. There will be beer, wine, soda, food, games and prizes. Prices are as follows; children under five are free, senior citizens and children ages 6-12 are \$6, members are \$10 and non-members are \$12. For more information, call (908) 668-9442.

## SP Fire Department To Host Wine Tasting Event

September 29

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will host a Wine Tasting event on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 11 p.m.

The event will be held at the Embassy Suites, in Piscataway. Ticket price of \$70 per person include a wine tasting reception, from 6 to 8 p.m., a buffet dinner from 8 to 9 p.m. and also features an open bar, DJ and dancing, held from 9 to 11 p.m. There are also special hotel room rates available for overnight stays.

For tickets or more information, contact John Celentano at (908) 757-5691 or Mike Gallagher (908) 755-9874.

## Recreation To Sponsor Two Trips to Broadway

October 13, December 16

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring two trips to New York to see Broadway Shows. The first show, *Contact*, will be on Saturday, Oct. 13. The cost is \$60 per

person and the bus leaves from the PAL Building at 10 a.m.

The second trip is to see the classic Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Show. Tickets are \$75 per person and the bus will leave the PAL Building at 1:30 p.m.

Each trip allows everyone to shop and dine before the show.

To purchase tickets, visit the Recreation Office, located in the PAL Building on Maple Ave. The office is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## —Out of Town—

## NJ Repertory Company Presents One-Woman Show

August 9 - September 2

The NJ Repertory Company, Lumina Theatre, 179 Broadway in Long Branch is proud to present award winning singer/songwriter/guitarist/concert artist, Christine Lavin, in her new one-woman show, "Getting in Touch With My Inner Bitch," Aug. 9 through Sept. 2, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling the theater at (732) 229-3166. For more information, visit their website at [www.njrep.org](http://www.njrep.org).

## WOWs To Hold Dance

August 10

The Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Aug. 10 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. \$7 at the door includes live music and refreshments. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

## KISMET Hosts Singles Event

August 15

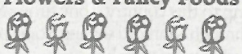
KISMET will host an After Work Social For Single Professionals, on Wednesday, August 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will take place at The Inn at Mount Bethel, 161 Mount Bethel Rd., Warren. \$10 at the door includes refreshments.

For information, contact (908) 232-8827 or visit [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

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

**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

**SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES,** i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

**IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**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).

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!

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2001

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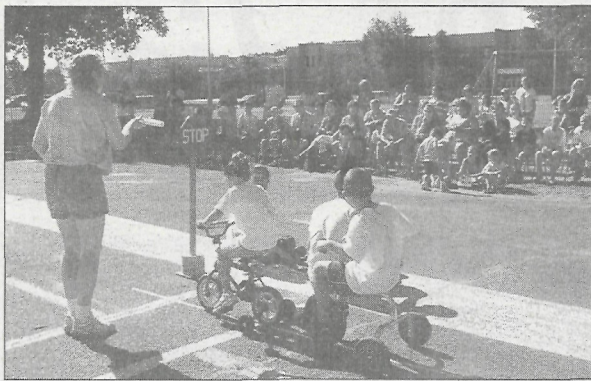
## Safety Town Graduates Second Session

Last Friday, children from the second session of Safety Town graduated after spending the week learning about safety.

The ceremony was held at the Grant Central Sixth Grade School playground. Danielle Eaton kicked off the graduation with a welcome to those attending. The graduates joined in song welcoming their parents to the graduation.

The graduates recited safety poems and demonstrated their safety skills, showing off what they learned from their teachers and mentors. Graduates were: Courtney Allocco, Sabrina Baratta, Kevin Belanger, Taylor Born, Alexandra Bosse, Kayla Caigma, A.J. Celentano, Cody Decker, Conal Delaney, Kaitlyn Faustini, Carlee Gonzalez, Zara Harris, Raymond Jazikoff, Meredith Malara, Aidan McDermott, Kate McLaughlin, Cody O'Connor, Brandon Ozbalik, Alison Ratti, Stephanie Rocco, Brian Roesch, Meghan Skelly, Joseph Spinella, Joseph Valentino, Kristen Wong.

The staff who worked steadily and diligently with the kids were: Nicole Aiello, Julianne Bosse, James



Conroy, Therese Dadezzio, Samantha Deffler, Daniel Erhardt, Kendall Green, Toni-Lynn Maiorino, Kaitlyn Negron, Eric Reiner, Amanda Smith, Kelly Thomas, Steve Turrisse, Kelly Whitney, Caitlin English, Dawn Besser, Vanessa Cassano, Mallory Cooper, William Daly, Heather DiBella, Breanne Fore, Michael Hanley, Bryan Milicia, John Rayho, Tiffany Roth, Melissa Szeliga, Janine Turrisse, Rebecca Watts and Carla Zappi.



## Flo's Kids Perform Recital in Rain Forest Cafe



On Sunday, June 3, Flo's Piano Studio held a recital at Rain Forest Café in Menlo Park Mall. Flo and her students were all in safari attire, a perfect setting for a recital in the jungle. The recital took place from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and was followed by a Safari party and lunch at the café.

Flo Powell, the studio's teacher and proprietor, opened the program by welcoming all who attended and introduced two special guest concert pianists, Nassali Mugwanya, who performed *Hero*, by Mariah Carey, and Jumba Mugwanya, who played *You Send Me*, by Sam Cooke.

The recital opened with Alyssa Collier, with *Trepak (Nutcracker Suite)*, by Tchaikovsky, and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, by Harold Arlen. She was followed with Julia Zappi, whose two pieces included *La Donna E Mobile (Opera-Rigoletto)*, by Verdi, and *The Greatest Love of All*.

Samantha Leigh Rebimas was next with *Minuet in G* by Bach and *Ding Dong the Witch is Dead*, by Harold Arlen. Cassandra Lee Vasquez followed with *The Blue Danube Waltz*, by Strauss and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Casey Garcia, who performed next, did *Roses from the South*, by Strauss, and *The Wonderful Thing About Tiggers*, by Sherman.

Ashley Emmett's two pieces were Beethoven's *Ode To Joy* and the theme from *Free Willy*, by Michael Jackson. Following her was Brittney Watkins, who performed *Musette in D Major* by Bach and *My Favorite Things (Sound of Music)*, by Rogers & Hammerstein.

Amanda Lynn Rebimas played *Habanera from Carmen*, by Bizet, and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Shamal Sherriffe did *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Music)*, by Mozart and the theme from *Free Willy*.

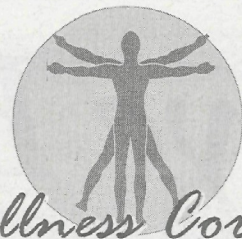
*Surprise Symphony* by Handel and *Linus and Lucy* by Guaraldi were the two pieces performed by Alexandra Milteer. Lacy Brunson played *Home in Salzburg (Rondo)* by Mozart and *I Will Get There*, by Boyz II Men.

Karel Marshall ended the recital with Beethoven's *Fur Elise* and *Memory* from the Broadway play *Cats*.

The recital was followed with the presentation of Best Kid Award. Each pianist received a certificate to honor them at this occasion.

## Residents Granted Grace Period To Pay Tax Bills

Property tax bills due on Aug. 1 now have until Aug. 30 to be paid. Because of a delay in the mailing of the tax bills, a grace period was granted.



## Wellness Corner

## Don't Harvest Back Pain This Summer

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello, D.C.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

As the fresh air and sunshine lure you outdoors to your yard and garden, don't let your enthusiasm for the summer gardening season actually plant the seeds for aches and injuries. Improper gardening practices can bring on more cases of back stress and other health concerns than many outdoor sports.

The best preparation for safe summer gardening is a body properly conditioned and supported by exercise, good posture and chiropractic all year round. Observing basic guidelines for proper positioning and movement while working in the garden will help ensure you enjoy a healthy experience outdoors all season long. When working in your garden, protect your back and let your arms, legs and tools do the work. You will help reduce your chances of back injury and will provide a strengthening activity for your arms and legs. Also, your endurance from the exertions of gardening will be enhanced as well.

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) has a list of 10 "Do's and Don'ts of Gardening" guidelines to help you garden safely.

### Do's & Don'ts of Gardening

1. Warm up with light movement or a brisk walk to loosen your muscles and increase your flexibility. The smooth coordination of your muscles and ligaments is an important part of safe exertion in gardening and other activities.
2. Know your strengths and limitations. Do not overexert, vary your activities, and take regular rest breaks.
3. Avoid bending over repeatedly while standing upright when performing ground-level work like weeding.

Get down closer to the task by kneeling or sitting on the ground or a gardening bench, rather than bending from the waist.

4. Keep your back protected when you stand up from a sitting or crouched position. Rise up by straightening your legs at the knees; don't lift your torso at the waist.

5. Lift dirt and plants by letting your arms, legs and thighs carry the load. Bend and straighten at the knees instead of the back and hips. Lift the load close to the body's torso and center of gravity, and handle smaller, more manageable loads at a time.

6. Use long-handled tools to give you leverage and help you avoid having to stoop while raking, digging, pushing or mowing.

7. Switch hands frequently when doing prolonged raking, hoeing or digging actions. Repetitive motion on one side can bring on progressively serious joint imbalances and may produce postural misalignments and pain, including muscle spasms in the neck, shoulder and lower back.

8. Don't work too long in one position, especially one that is awkward or unusual. This can reduce circulation, restrict mobility, and promote strain injuries.

9. Carry objects close to your body. Keeping the load close to your center of gravity reduces the risk of straining your neck and back.

10. Don't overexpose yourself to long periods of sun. Utilize protective measures for your head and skin, drink plenty of fluids and take frequent breaks. For further information on Chiropractic, visit the ICA's web site at <http://www.chiropractic.org>.

## Parade Comm. Seeks Grand Marshal Nominees

The Labor Day Committee is asking residents to submit their nominations for Grand Marshal.

If any individual has contributed outstanding service to the community, send a letter stating the reasons why this person should be considered for Grand Marshal. If you sub-

mitted a name last year, you must submit it again this year.

Send your nominee's name, address and telephone number to John Sorrentino, 225 Hopkinson St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Email: [jmsorrentino@home.com](mailto:jmsorrentino@home.com) or fax (908) 753-4003.

## Historical Society's Raffle Quilt Now on Display at Library

The South Plainfield Historical Society is displaying the quilt they will be raffling off on Labor Day in the South Plainfield library. The Annual Quilt Raffle is held on Labor Day, Monday Sept. 3. The winning ticket

will be selected at 2 p.m. in Veterans' Park after the parade.

Raffle tickets will be mailed this week.

Stop in the library and see this beautiful hand-sewn quilt valued at \$800.

## Back Issues of the Observer Are Available!

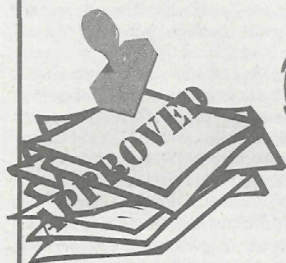
Do you need extra copies of the *Observer* or loved one who was pictured in the *Observer*?

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Questions? Call (908) 668-0010

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# Bye Bye Birdie Hits the



ERIC AMBIELLI



CHRIS BARON



KRISTIN TURNER



KATIE MOTT



CHRIS ABBOTT



## Cast

Albert Peterson  
Rose Alvarez  
Ursula Merkle  
Kim MacAfee  
Mrs. Doris MacAfee  
Mr. Harry MacAfee  
Mrs. Mae Peterson  
Conrad Birdie  
Hugo Peabody  
Mayor  
Mayor's Wife  
Mrs. Merkle  
Randolph MacAfee  
Gloria Rasputin  
Mr. Johnson  
Maude  
Helen  
Alice  
Nancy

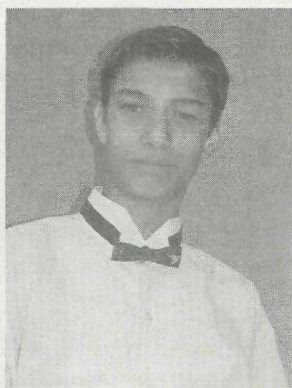
Chris Baron  
Kristin Turner  
Brittany DeNitzio  
Katie Mott  
Allison Provaire  
Josef Rodriguez  
Jamie Morris  
Eric Ambielli  
Christopher Abbott  
Waidi Kanj  
Pam Cianfrocca  
Amy Leso  
John Roesch  
Emma Fulton  
Joey Sierzega  
Vinnie Carubia  
Gina Severini  
Susan Mott  
Jacqueline Muglia



JOHN ROESCH



BRITTANY DENITZIO



VINNIE CARUBIA

## About the Cast...

**CHRIS BARON** (Albert Peterson)—Chris will be a SPHS junior this fall. In his second Summer Drama Workshop (SDW) production, he is thrilled to be playing the part of Albert Peterson. He also played the part of Vernon in the spring musical, *Damn Yankees*. Chris is an avid member of the chorus, Jades, marching band, concert band, Region II Chorus, NJ All-State Chorus and is currently junior class vice president.

**KRISTIN TURNER** (Rose Alvarez)—This is Kristin's fourth year and her first leading role. It marks her second SDW production, last year's production of *42nd Street* was her first. She performed in SPHS's production of *The Who's Tommy* and this year's production, *Damn Yankees*. In her four years at SPHS, Kristin was involved in color guard, band, chorus, cheerleading and the French Club. This past year, she was color guard captain, vice president of the French Club and a member of the French Honor Society. Dancing since she was five years old, she has recently studied dance at Encore Dance Studio. A June graduate from SPHS, she will be attending Elmira College in the fall, with theater as her major.

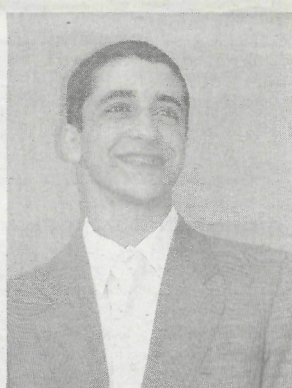
**KATIE MOTT** (Kim MacAfee) Katie will be a freshman at SPHS. *Bye Bye Birdie* is Katie's third SDW performance. She appeared in *The Music Man* and *42nd Street*. She has been a member of the school chorus and band since fourth grade. At SPMS she was a featured soloist with the



JAMIE MORRIS

chorus. Katie is a two-year member of Middlesex County Teen Arts Festival and was selected to perform with the state Teen Arts Festival. She performed a solo at the Middlesex County Board of Education dinner and has appeared in *Squad Room* and *Kokonut High* with the Middle School Players. Katie has been a member of 'Almost Famous Players' for two years, volunteering as a student director for the Roosevelt School Drama Club. She is a member of the NJ Renaissance Kingdom and was a Junior Reveler this season. She has also performed in the NJRK's *Finder's Keepers*, *The Pirates and the Princess* and in the 2000 Haunted Village.

**ALLISON PROVAIRE** (Mrs. MacAfee) Allison is entering her senior year at



WADIJ KANJ

SPHS. Her stage credits include roles in *The Who's Tommy*, *42nd Street*, *The Music Man*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Guys and Dolls*. She recently was seen as Meg Boyd in *Damn Yankees*. Allison is a member of the Emeralds, chorus, concert and traveling choirs, jazz, marching band (where she held the position of drum major) and lab bands. She is currently studying with professional opera singer Thomas Smargiassi III.

**JOSEF RODRIGUEZ** (Mr. MacAfee) Josef is entering his sophomore year at SPHS. He was last seen on stage in *Damn Yankees* this past spring with the SPHS Players. His stage credits include shows at the Middle School and Riley School. He played cello in the orchestra for the SDW production

## About Our Staff...

**~ERIC HAFEN** (Director) Originally from Pittsburgh, Hafen is the new artistic director at the Bickford Theatre. He has been active in the theatre for 25 years, directing both musicals and non-musicals throughout New England, New York and New Jersey, including works Off-Broadway and regionally. He has worked with many theatre companies, including the East Lynne Company, Worcester Civic Light Opera, Foothills Theatre Company, Phoenix Productions, Winter Theatre Company of Boston, Black Hills Playhouse, Plays-In-the-Park Attic Ensemble and last summer directed *42nd Street* for the Summer Drama Workshop. His directing credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Lysistrata*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Sweet Charity*, among others. Hafen is associated with the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

**~PATTI O'BRIEN** (Choreographer) Patti back for the second time after choreographing last summer's *42nd Street*. Favorite choreography credits include *42nd Street*, *The Music Man*, *Damn Yankees*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes* and *Grease*. She has performed in many productions throughout the state including *A Chorus Line*, *Once Upon*

*a Mattress*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Anything Goes*. When not involved in the theater, she teaches kindergarten in South Amboy.

**~JOAN STASIO** (Vocal Director) Stasio has been a music teacher in South Plainfield for the past 17 years. This production marks her 20th anniversary of working in musical theatre. She was assistant vocal director of the 1981 SDW production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Her love affair with musical theatre began when she was in her first musical, the 1978 SDW production of *Oklahoma!* at the age of thirteen. Since then, Stasio has held the position of music director/conductor for many productions with SDW, North Plainfield C.A.S.T., South Plainfield High School and Franklin, Riley and Grant Schools shows. Her show credits include *The Sound of Music*, *Mame*, *Lil' Abner*, *Annie* and *Guys and Dolls* in South Plainfield and *Oliver*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *No, No, Nannette* and again *The Sound of Music* (her favorite) in North Plainfield. Joan has also been an accompanist/pit musician for many shows at the Franklin Villagers Barn Theatre, South Plainfield, Franklin High School in Somerset, Middlesex County College and Kean College. A graduate of Douglass College with a de-

gree in Music Education, Joan enjoys playing percussion and piano with the Rutgers University Alumni Wind Symphony and the Central Jersey Wind Ensemble and teaching music students at Grant School. She recently co-directed *A Disney Spectacular* at Riley School and plans to continue sharing her love of musical theatre with the students of South Plainfield.

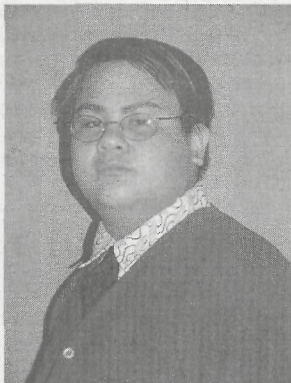
**~PAUL MCCULLEN** (Orchestra Director) After graduating from SPHS in 1997, McCullen attended the College of New Jersey and received his BA in Music Education. Currently on leave from college, he studies privately with Roger McKinney, Professor of Clarinet, at the College of New Jersey. No stranger to the DSW team, McCullen has played and helped manage the pit orchestra since 1994. He has played for shows such as *The Music Man*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Guys and Dolls* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Not only does this year's production of *Bye, Bye, Birdie!* mark McCullen's first directing position, it was the very first show in which he played in a pit orchestra. While working fulltime and teaching part-time, McCullen also finds time to participate in many bands and orchestras, including The Imperial Band of South River, The Eastern Wind Symphony, The Central Jersey Wind



# SDW Stage



ALLISON PROVAIRE



JOSEF RODRIGUEZ



EMMA FULTON

of *The Music Man*. Josef has been a cantor at Sacred Heart Church for six years, has studied piano for five years and has played the cello for seven years.

**CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT** (Hugo Peabody) Chris will be a SPSHS sophomore in September. A Summer Drama veteran, *Bye Bye Birdie* is his eighth SDW production and was also his first back in 1994! SDW appearances include *42nd Street*, *Oliver!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls*. Chris just finished six weekends as a junior reveler with the NJ Renaissance Kingdom. He also appeared in *Dragon Heart*, *Finders Keepers* and *The Pirates & the Princess* with NJRK and has performed in the Somerset Haunted Village for the past three years. Chris is a member of the 'Almost Famous Players' and a volunteer student assistant director with 'Almost Famous at Roosevelt School' for four years. Recent stage credits include *Damn Yankees* at SPSHS and *Macbeth* at Playhouse 22. He is a member of the SPSHS chorus and plays the sax in the SPSHS band.

**ERIC AMBIELLI** (Conrad Birdie) *Bye Bye Birdie* marks Eric's second appearance in a SDW production. Last year he played Mac in *42nd Street*. He appeared in the SPSHS Drama production of *The Who's Tommy*. Eric graduated SPSHS in June and was the proud recipient of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop Scholarship. He will be attending Rutgers University in the Fall as a Business Management major.

Ensemble, The George Krauss Memorial Band and South Plainfield Brass.

**~ROBERTA LESZCZYNSKI** (Costume Coordinator) Leszczynski has been designing and sewing for fun and friends since age 10. Her passion for the craft came from watching her mother sew. The hobby turned into a profession when her daughter's dance studio was unable to find the unusual costumes they needed. Roberta created "Alladin-type" costumes for the studio's recital. When the studio was invited to perform at Disney World she designed colorful Czech skirts for the dancers. This led to work with other local dance studios. In 1994, Roberta designed a number of unique costumes for the SDW production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She is pleased to be back for SDW's 30th season.

**~PAT GUARRACI** (Assistant to the Director) Guarraci is no stranger to SDW. She was initiated in 1982 when daughter Fay auditioned for *On The Town*. Pat is an artist and proved to be a wonderful help with scenery and sets. The following year the group was in need of a producer, she volunteered and remained for the next 14 years. Working with a shoestring budget, she produced another SDW hit, *The Sound*

**JOHN ROESCH** (Randolph MacAfee) This is John's third year appearing on the SDW's stage. His past productions include *The Music Man* and *42nd Street*. Plan on seeing John performing on the South Plainfield stage throughout the coming years.

**JAMIE MORRIS** (Mrs. Peterson) Jamie will be a SPSHS junior this fall and is making her sixth appearance with the SDW, including roles in *The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls* and parts in *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. She has been in the SPSHS Player's productions of *The Who's Tommy* and *Damn Yankees*. Jamie is involved in concert band, marching band and lab band. She also holds the position of librarian of the chorus.

**BRITTANY DeNITZIO** (Ursula Merkle) Brittany, entering her sophomore year at SPSHS, is thrilled to be playing the role of Ursula in this year's Summer Drama Workshop's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Past stage credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man* and *42nd Street*. At the high school, Brittany is involved in band, cheerleading and track and is chorus secretary and president of her class.

**EMMA FULTON** (Gloria Rasputin, Dance Captain) Emma, a 2001 graduate of SPSHS, is very excited to be performing in the SDW's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. This marks her sixth summer with the SDW. She appeared in *Oklahoma!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man* and *42nd Street*. Emma was also in the SPSHS productions of *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Who's Tommy*. Last year she also appeared in Kean University's production of *West Side Story*. She will be attending Towson University in Maryland, where she will be majoring in film and minoring in dance.

**VINIE CARUBIA** (Harvey Johnson/Maude) Vinnie will be a sophomore this fall. *Bye Bye Birdie* marks his fifth year with the SDW. His performances include with the SPSHS Players in *Damn Yankees*, in last summer's SDW production of *42nd Street* or *The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls* in a variety of different roles and as a Lollipop Kid in *The Wizard of Oz*. Vinnie is a volunteer with the Roosevelt Drama Club, as well as a member of the SPSHS Traveling Choir and soccer team. He is currently taking tap and vocal lessons at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio.

of *Music*. Over the years Pat quickly absorbed every aspect of producing, at times becoming a jack-of-all-trades, procuring costumes and props, fundraising, party planning, program production, set strike and everything in-between. She has worked with numerous directors and staff members, some of whom were one-time SDW students. One of her favorite shows is *Little Shop of Horrors*. In addition to SDW, Pat has served on the Public Celebrations Committee, the Cultural Arts Commission and Project Graduation.

**~STEVE AMBIELLI** (Production Assistant) This is Steve's first time behind the scenes. His role is off stage; however, a cameo appearance is always a possibility. Steve has been featured in many productions, such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *42nd Street*. Working on the 'other side' has been a new and challenging experience for him. Not only is he able to have a great time participating in the workshop, but he also gained production experience.

**~ADAM TOTH** (Rehearsal Pianist) Toth will be entering 10th grade in the fall and is an honor roll student. This is Toth's fourth production as a pianist having also played for *Tommy*, *42nd Street* and *Damn*

## Various Roles & Ensemble Dancers and Chorus

Lori Cushner, Cassie Hoffman, Erika Dixon, Damian Henderson, Tristan More, Nicole Aiello, Christine Benak, Amy Leso, Ariel Curtis, Eric Reiner, Katie Fasolo, Ginamarie Butrico, Marianne McBride, Jessica Musolino, Lauren Stoeckel, Justina Carubia, Nicole Miglis, Stephanie Troia, Carrie Moore, Jessica Ranger, Breanne Fore, Rula Kanj, Wael Kanj, Jesse Nietzer, Kristen Nietzer, Marianne McBride, Meghan Hartmann, Joey Sierzega, Wadij Kanj, Janara Krista Garcia, Danny Sierzega, Kristie Butrico, Emma Fulton, Kristina Latonia, Marianne Sansone, Gina Severini, Danielle Servedio, Nicole Sutherland, Steve Ambielli, Brad Tierney, Joel Cortese, Jessica Cristiello, Brittany DeNitzio, Andrea Doell, Claire Dolling, Marissa Judd, Nicole Miglis, Alicia Montanaro, Susan Mott, Jacqueline Muglia, Katie Noonan, Tara O'Keefe, Eric Reiner, Shannen Rivers, John Roesch, Caylee Ross, Nicole Sacci, Jeff Seesselberg, Danielle Servedio, Jeremy Vesper

## 2001 Summer Drama Orchestra

Chris Meyer • Stephanie D'Elia • Janice Hussain • Charlyn Magat • Michael Bartlett • Phyllis Sica • Erin-Leigh Van Orden • Zak Klase • Robert Setzer • Adam LaSpata • William Humber • Bill Holiday • Brian Peterson • Abbie Falato • Nicholas Figler • Mark Stasio • Luba Schnable • Barney Johnson • Bernard Lin • Carina Don • Derek Ongchin • Dave Louie • Caroline Leona • Joe Stasio Matthew Zebrowski • Joe Lubinski • Kevin Song • Dave Hartkern • Joshua Jackson • Joan Stasio • Adam Toth

## Production Staff

Producers ..... Charlie Butrico, Bill Mott  
 Director ..... Eric Hafen  
 Choreographer ..... Patti O'Brien  
 Vocal Director ..... Joan Stasio  
 Costume Coordinator ..... Roberta Leszczynski  
 Orchestra Director ..... Paul McCullen  
 Assistant to Director ..... Pat Guarraci  
 Production Assistant ..... Steve Ambielli  
 Rehearsal Pianist ..... Adam Toth  
 Dance Captain ..... Emma Fulton  
 Set & Lighting Design ..... Bill Seesselberg  
 Technical Director ..... Charlie Butrico  
 Stage Manager ..... Lory Jackson-Alcario  
 Additional Musical  
 Arrangements ..... Marc J. Stasio  
 Auditions & Registration ..... Patti Ambielli  
 Finance ..... Bill Mott, Bill Seesselberg, Kathy Winner  
 Tickets ..... Bob Ambielli  
 Logo Design ..... Larry Roibal  
 Props ..... Dianne Seesselberg, Jayne Mott  
 Costumes ..... Janis Nietzer, Karen Stahura  
 Program ..... Bill Seesselberg, Jackie Turner  
 Refreshments, Cast Party ..... Donna Tierney, Karen Stahura  
 Fund Raising ..... Bill Mott  
 Publicity ..... Pattie Abbott  
 Telephone ..... Bruce Gold  
 Scholarships ..... Gina Troia, Dee Carubia, Kathy Winner,  
 ..... Lynn Fasolo, Janis Nietzer  
 Web-Site ..... Charlie Butrico

**Scenery Building & Stage Crew:** Bill Butrico, Gerry Butrico, Jenn Gold, Nick Hogan, Alex Huynh, Jason Jackson, Brian Johanson, Michael Kasmer, Aaron Leszczynski, Kyle Luthman, Rich Muglia, Dawn Noonan, Colin Slattery, Steven Sobel, Alex Tierney, Michael Troia, Bob Alcario

*Yankees*. Adam has played the piano for eight years and also plays trumpet and trombone in the marching band and jazz band. He was the accompanist for the high school concert choir for their production of *La Traviata*. Two years ago, he performed on the piano with the junior high school Regional Jazz Band. Beside playing the piano, some of his favorite activities include playing on the high school tennis team, recreational baseball and basketball.

**~LORY JACKSON-ALCARIO** (Stage Manager) *Bye Bye Birdie* marks Lory's return to SDW. In 1972 she joined the crew of *Bye Bye Birdie* as a stage hand. Over the years she has worked with SDW in a number of positions. Her favorite role was Ado Annie in the '78 production of *Oklahoma!* Lory helped create the 20th season trophy winning SDW float in the 1991 Labor Day Parade. Other theater experience has taken her throughout Central NJ as a director and performer. She has worked with Parish Players, Westfield Community Players, Edison Valley Playhouse. She has also hosted and performed in numerous variety and talent shows. Lory's extensive theater/stage credits include artistic design and makeup and work on a TKR Cable documentary.



# Sports

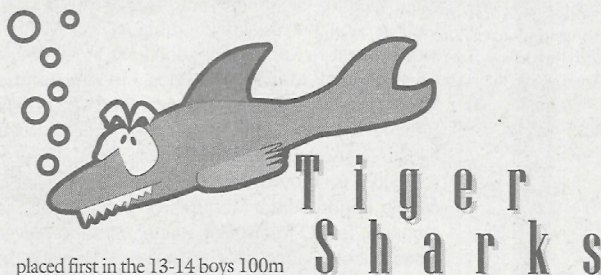
## Tiger Sharks Place Third in Central Jersey B-League Swimming Championships

The Tiger Sharks swim team, representing the South Plainfield Rec Community Pool, took third place among the eight teams competing in the Central Jersey B League Swimming Championships, held July 21 at the Frog Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, South Amboy.

Two South Plainfield swimmers became triple gold individual winners: Nina Byard in the girls 13-14 age group with first place wins in the 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, also the girls 200m medley relay, ages 13-18, with team mates Lisa Revolinski, Becky Brzozowski and Shannon Dabrio.

The second swimmer to receive triple gold was Dylan McDermott in the eight and under age group with first place wins in the boys 25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke; and in the boys 200 meter free relay, ages 9-12, with team mates Philip Luzny, Michael Boyle and Matt Moates.

Also winning medals, some of them multiples, were the following swimmers: Sarah Konops, second place, 25m freestyle, girls eight and under; Meghan Boyle, third, 50m freestyle girls 11-12; Philip Luzny, second, 50m freestyle boys 11-12; CalvinJohn Smiley, second, 100m freestyle 13-14 boys; and Chris Egan, sixth, in the same event as CJ Smiley. In the girls 15-18 age group, Shannon Dabrio took fifth in the 100m freestyle. For the eight and under girls 25m breaststroke, Sarah Konops took second place; Danielle Atcachunas, third, girls 9-10 50m breaststroke; Diane Romano, second, girls 11-12 50m breaststroke; and Julia Dougherty, fourth, in the same event as Romano. In the boys 11-12 50m breaststroke, Philip Luzny took first place; for the girls 13-14 100m breaststroke, Becky Brzozowski took second; and in the girls 15-18, Shannon Dabrio took third for the 100m breaststroke. Michael Boyle took third in the boys 10 and under 100m freestyle; Philip Luzny, third, boys 11-12 100m freestyle; Lisa Revolinski, sixth, 13-18 girls 200m freestyle; and Billy Moates, sixth, 13-18 boys, 200m freestyle. Maggie Valentino took second in the eight and under girls 25m backstroke; Chelsea Cullen, fifth, in the same event. Matt Moates took second in the boys 11-12 50m backstroke and Emmett Marsili, fourth, in the same event. CalvinJohn Smiley



placed first in the 13-14 boys 100m backstroke.

For the eight and under girls, Sarah Konops again took a medal, placing third in the 25m butterfly; Danielle Atcachunas, fourth, in the girls 9-10 50m butterfly; Michael Boyle, sixth, 9-10 boys 50m butterfly; Matt Moates, second, boys 11-12 50m butterfly; Katie Koury, sixth, girls 13-14 100m butterfly; CalvinJohn Smiley, second, boys 13-14 100m butterfly; Billy Moates, third, in the same event as CJ Smiley; and Karim Motani, sixth, boys 15-18 100m butterfly.

In the Individual Medley races: Emmett Marsili took fifth place in the boys 11-12 100 meter; Billy Moates also took fifth in the boys 200m, age 13-18; and Shannon Dabrio took sixth in the girls 200 meter, age 13-18. In the Medley relay races: the team of Maggie Valentino, Chelsea Cullen, Grace Piekarski and Sarah Konops took third place in the girls eight and under 100m; the team of Dylan McDermott, Michael Boyle, Philip Luzny and Matt Moates took second place in the boys 9-12 200m relay; the team of Meghan Boyle, Julia Dougherty, Danielle Atcachunas and Emily Piekarski took fourth place in the girls 200m relay for ages 9-12; and the team of Billy Moates, Chris Reed,

Chris Egan and Karim Motani took sixth place in the boys 200m race, ages 13-18.

It should be noted that points were given to swimmers for their team for taking first through sixth place. Every point added helped the teams in their quest for final standing.

Additional winners for the Tiger Sharks were: girls eight and under 100m free relay taking 2nd place was the team of Sarah Konops, Chelsea Cullen, Maggie Valentino and Grace Piekarski and in the same event, taking sixth place was the team of Kate McLaughlin, Kaitlyn Kenny, Kelly McLaughlin and Kate O'Brien. In the girls 9-12 200m free relay, taking second place was the team of Danielle Atcachunas, Meghan Boyle, Emily Piekarski and Diane Romano.

In the 13-18 girls 200m free relay, the team of Becky Brzozowski, Nina Byard, Lisa Revolinski and Shannon Dabrio placed fourth; and for the boys 13-18 200m free relay, the team of CalvinJohn Smiley, Billy Moates, Chris Egan and Karim Motani took third place.

Congratulations are due the entire Tiger Sharks team for placing third overall in the B League championships.

Submitted by Donna Egan

## Tiger Sharks Compete in Conference Championships

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks swim team was one of 27 teams competing at the conference championships of the New Jersey Swimming and Diving Conference on July 25.

In this event, awards are given to the top six swimmers only in each event, even though many swimmers compete to be in the top six. Tiger Shark swimmers who competed and

won medals were: Nina Byard, second place, 200m freestyle for girls 13-14 and also fifth place for the 100m freestyle in the same age group; Sarah Konops, fourth place, eight and under girls 25m freestyle; Leah Konops, third place, 11-12 girls, 100m freestyle; Philip Luzny, fifth place, 11-12 boys 50m freestyle and CalvinJohn Smiley, third place, 13-14 boys 100m freestyle.

Also winning medals: Dylan McDermott, sixth place, 8 and under boys 25m breaststroke; Danielle Atcachunas, third place, 9-10 girls 50m breaststroke; Philip Luzny, third place, 11-12 boys 50m breaststroke; and Becky Brzozowski, third place, 13-14 girls 100m breaststroke. In backstroke, CalvinJohn Smiley took second place for boys 13-14 100m; and Nina Byard took third place for 13-14 girls, also 100m.

In butterfly, Danielle Atcachunas placed third for 9-10 girls 50m; Leah Konops, second, 11-12 girls 50m; and CalvinJohn Smiley took fourth place for the 13-14 boys 100m. In the 200m individual medley, Becky Brzozowski placed sixth for the 13-14 girls. Congratulations to all the swimmers who competed.

Submitted by Donna Egan

## Tiger Sharks Diving Team Captures First Meet

The Tiger Sharks Diving Team captures its first meet! At the SP Community pool against Metuchen Municipal, the first team's win of the season felt good. Although new team parents ran the meet, it went smoothly under the direction of our team's new president Roseanne Illardo, who is doing an excellent and efficient job. With our strong divers and a beautiful July evening, the conditions were just right for a win!

The following divers competed in the following categories:

Girls eight and under Victoria Burke (fourth place), Amanda Caruso (third place) and Ali Burke (fourth place).

Boys eight and under: Michael Atcachunas (first place) and Patrick Boyle (second place).

Girls 9/10: Alexandra Petronko (third place), Elizabeth Fasullo (fourth place) and Julia Caruso (fifth place).

Boys 9/10: Michael Boyle (first place), Stephen Wagner (third place) and Stephen Kelly (fifth place).

Girls 11/12: Clare Kelly (first place), Julia Zappi (third place) and Rachel Esteves (fifth place).

Boys 11/12: Gregory Caruso (first place).

Girls 13/14: Kayleigh McGovern (first place), Nina Byard (second place), Kendall Green (fifth place) and Carla Zappi.

Girls 15/18: Vicky Zappi (first place) and Veronica Zappi (second place).

Excellent job Tiger Sharks! Keep up the good work!

By Tony Cassano

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**SPJBC ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT FINAL RESULTS**—Thanks to Kevin Lykes (Tournament Director and incoming Commissioner for the 2002/2003 season) and his tournament committee, along with the cooperation of mother nature, the 28th Annual Invitational Tournament at the SPJBC was completed last Thursday. I want to again acknowledge and thank all our players, coaches, parents, fans, umpires, snack stand workers, and volunteers that contributed their time and effort over the past 30 days to make this years tournament season a success. The SPJBC tournament is recognized as one of the best in the state and we are a first class organization.

Here are the results of our tournament by age brackets. Congratulations to all teams/towns that participated. 8 Year Olds: first place-North Hunterdon(Nat); second place-South Plainfield; third place-Warren. 9 Year Olds: first place-Warren; second place-Clark; third place-South Plainfield; 10 Year Olds: first place-Edison Boys; second place-Readington; third place-Iselin; 11 Year Olds: first place-North Hunterdon(Amer); second place-Cheesequake; third place-Middlesex; 12 Year Olds: first place-South Plainfield (Amer); second place-South Brunswick; third place-North Edison; 13 Year Olds: first place-Merrill Park; second place-Bridgewater; third place-North Brunswick; 14/15 Year Olds: first place-Carteret; second place-South Plainfield; third place-Matawan. **FALL BALL REGISTRATION TO BE HELD TONIGHT (8/3) AND TOMORROW (8/4)**—A second registration will be held tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. and tomorrow 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse. To date, our first registration brought in four solid teams in the 11/12 year old bracket with almost two teams in the 9/10 year olds and just over one team in the 13/14 year olds. This year marks the first time that the SPJBC will have a Fall Ball league. Registration costs will be \$50 per player and will include a t-shirt and hat. The age groups will be 9/10, 11/12, and 13/14 (\*based on next years playing age). Teams will be formulated and out of towners are welcome. Games will start in September. For any additional details, please contact or speak with our Fall Ball Committee of Lee Flanagan, John Polizzano or Jeff Marcoux at registration.

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, AUG. 9**—The SPJBC's Women Auxiliary will hold a meeting on Thursday, Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

### UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 3/4-Second Fall Ball Registration (Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Aug. 6-General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 9-Women's Auxiliary Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 8-Club Picnic

Sept. 10-General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Sharon Miller

**12-U (Bosse) Roselle Park Tournament**—Congratulations to our 12-U (Bosse) team for winning first place in the B division segment of this tournament. Watch for more details in an upcoming article.

**Tri-County Championship Games—August 2 and 3**—The Tri-County championship games for the 10-U and 12-U will be held on Aug. 2, with the 10-U games starting at 6 p.m. and the 12-U game beginning at 8 p.m. The 14-U championship game will be played on Aug. 3. The starting time will be announced. All games will be held at Krausche Field in North Plainfield. Please come out and support our teams. Good luck to all players and coaches.

### Ponytail Softball Association Meeting—August 28

The South Plainfield Ponytail Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. If you are interested in becoming a member and getting involved in girl's Ponytail softball, please join us on Aug. 28. New members are always welcome.

**Ponytail Softball Online**—You can now visit Ponytail softball online anytime at our newly created website...SPONYTAIL.com. You will find the latest news/events, team rosters/schedules, game highlights/pictures, information on our Parents' Association, and All-Star teams. Please feel free to contact us by keying on the email link WEBMASTER-SPPONYTAIL.com found on our home page.

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# Sports

## Terrific Season for 8-Year-Old All Stars



The 8-Year Old Traveling All-Star baseball team has enjoyed one of their finest seasons. The team went 20-2-1, which included a 14 consecutive winning streak. The only losses for the entire season were two championship games. The team also participated in three tournaments, taking second place in two and first place in one.

The All-Star team consists of Tommy Bowden, Brandon Downes, Daniel Hansen, Ryan Harrington, Riley Hubner, Randy Jakubik, Matt Miceli, Dylan Papa, Kyle Pompilio, Zachary Sikanowicz, Daniel Sticco, Richie Szeliga. Team manager is Chris Hubner and coaches are John Papa, Chris Hansen and Rich Szeliga.

Following is a rundown of their games, including wins and losses. Game one was a win against Edison Boys, 23-9; game two was a win against East Brunswick, 22-1; game three was their only tie against Millstone, with a score of 6-6; next they defeated Old Bridge, 15-4; won against Millstone 16-12. Next, was one of their only two losses of the season, in a championship against South Brunswick, 1-7. The boys came back in their next game against Westfield, defeating them 17-0. This started the 14-game winning streak, starting with an 11-0 win against Millburn, then a winning 10-0 against Cranford, 14-0 against Frechold Township, 15-1 against Berkely Heights, 8-6 against Milburn, 5-2 against Montville, 7-5 against North Hunterdon, 16-0 against Edison Boys, 23-1 against Long Hill Township, 12-4 against North Edison, 16-3 against North Edison, 6-4 against Spring Lake, 5-3 against Warren and 1-0 against Merrill Park. The boys then suffered a tough 15-6 loss against North Hunterdon. Their last game of the season was a 5-4 win in a championship game against Merrill Park.

## Roma Foods Dynasty Rolls On Captures Fourth Straight Men's A-League Title

During this year's playoffs, Roma Food achieved dynasty status with series victories over Bucey's Auto Body and Bazookas. In the semifinals, Roma took their 15 game winning streak and their number one seed into action against Bucey's Auto Body. In the first game, Roma Food found themselves behind in the fourth inning, 11-5, but then put together ten hits, including a titanic three run home run from Steve Bolesta to score eight runs and take the lead. Roma then trailed by two runs in the fifth as a determined Bucey's took the lead. Roma, however, put together five consecutive hits and went onto a 17-16 victory. In the second game of the semifinals, Roma put together timely hitting and the speed baserunning of Jim Parker to eliminate Bucey's by a score of 13-9.

On July 3, Roma Food met Bazookas for the coveted Men's A-League championship. The first game was a masterful pitching duel led by Roma's ace Frank Delgado. Roma found themselves behind 3-0 going to the bottom of the fourth inning but then four consecutive singles and sacrifice fly by Scott Oller put Roma down a run. In the fifth and sixth innings, timely hitting by the meat of Roma's order, Jim Parker, John Bjorlo, Steve Bolesta, Bill Mosier, Jay Culver and Kevin Bicanas were able to plate two runs to put Roma in front. However, in the top of the seventh Bazookas tied the score at 4-4. In the bottom of the seventh, Nick Rundella, Roma's standout second baseman, hit a laser-like homer to center field, giving Roma the victory of 5-4.

In the second game, Roma Food found themselves down by the score of 4-3 going to the fifth inning. In the fifth, Roma put together three straight hits, then a double by Steve Bolesta and a two-run homer by Bill Mosier put Roma in front by a score



Pictured are front row, left to right: Batboy/girl, Michael Boyle, Daniel Haus, Patrick Boyle, Megan Boyle; second row (L to R), Bill Mosier, Nick Rundella, Bob Boyle, Frank Delgado, Kevin Bicanas; top row (L to R), Steve Bolesta, Bill Haus, Jim Parker, John Bjorlo, Jay Culver, Rick Bolesta. Missing from photo are Howard Adler and Scott Oller.

of 7-4. In the sixth, Roma Food put the game away with six straight hits, including a grand slam homer by Rick Bolesta. Roma's ace hurler Frank Delgado assisted by some defensive gems by John Bjorlo at shortstop

sealed the victory for Roma at 14-6.

Roma has now won their fourth consecutive Men's A-League title and fifth in the past seven years. Roma closed out the season with 19 straight victories and a season record of 22-1.

## Record Turnout for First Day of SHOTMAN Basketball Camp

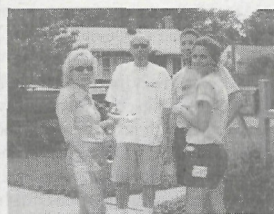
By Greg Machos

The first day of the 2001 SHOTMAN Basketball Camp at SPHS is now in the books. There was a record turnout of campers for the first day of camp. Last year, a total of 81 campers who attended the camp.

Unofficially, there were over one hundred campers, an all time high for attendance. Back in 1996, when the first edition of the SHOTMAN Basketball Camps website went online at

America Online, there were only 45 kids at the camp that year. Since then, the number of campers has more than doubled, with mini-camps and clinics starting to pop up everywhere.

Thanks to all the parents and kids who made the choice to go to our camp this summer and to all the coaches and staff who helped put this together. They include Coach Jeff Lubreski of SPHS, Gene Mosley and Nick Prybella, Shotman Basketball Camp alumnus and former player at SPHS.



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## Obituaries

### Ronald J. Hurst, 50

Ronald J. Hurst died on Thursday, July 26 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Hurst had resided in South Plainfield for most of his life.

He had been employed as a front end supervisor for The Home Depot in Edison since the store opened, transferring from the same position at the South Plainfield store where he began his career with the company almost ten years ago.

Mr. Hurst enjoyed spending his free time reading and watching movies.

He was predeceased by his parents, Walter B. Hurst, who died in 1995; and Helen (Kruzla) Hurst, who died in September of last year, and by his sister, Joan Carol Hurst, who died in 1943.

Surviving is a sister, Barbara, and her husband Henry McDevitt, of Springfield; a brother, George, and his wife Karen of Somerville. Also surviving is a niece, Siobhan McDevitt; three nephews, Robert, Christopher and Brian Hurst; a great niece, Danielle and three great nephews, Randy, Matt and Brandon. In addition to his immediate family, he is the god father of several children.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### James A. Kocha, 59

James A. Kocha died on Friday, July 27 in Rahway.

Born in Plainfield, Mr. Kocha had resided in South Plainfield for most of his life, later residing in Fanwood, until he recently moved to the Linden area.

He was employed by Waldren-Hardie of Somerset as an electrician, then became a real estate agent for Crestview Realty of Scotch Plains and then for the former Richard Weaver Realty. Changing careers, Mr. Kocha was employed by the Crummy-Deldayo Law Firm of Newark as a personal driver for Mr. Deldayo, and most recently driving for Linda's Sunshine Limousine of Garwood.

Mr. Kocha was an amateur photographer.

Surviving is a daughter, Terri Morrison, of Kingswood; a son, James W. Kocha of Fanwood; two sisters,

Sarajane Wymbs of South Plainfield and Estelle Arrants of Highland Park and three brothers, John J. of Woodbridge, Jerome E. and Joseph Kocha, both of South Plainfield. Also surviving is a granddaughter, Kayla I. Kocha.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Frances A. Hopkins, 79

Frances A. Hopkins died on Monday, July 30 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Hopkins had resided in South Plainfield for many years.

She was employed by Mack Truck, formerly of Plainfield and Bridgewater, for many years before retiring in 1976.

She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Post #6763 of South Plainfield and of the Women of the Moose in Cocoa, Fla., Chapter 1383.

Mrs. Hopkins was a member of St. Stanislaus Church in Plainfield.

Her husband, Edward, died in 1996.

Surviving are two sisters, Genevieve Van Zandt of Morristown, and Helen Karnell of AK and a brother, Edmund Mliczek of Middlesex. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Joseph C. Stopinski, 57

Joseph C. Stopinski, the former Greenbrook police chief, died on Tuesday, July 31 at the Largo Medical Center in Largo, Fla.

He was born in Plainfield and was raised in South Plainfield and was a former 30 year resident of North Plainfield before moving to Largo five years ago.

Chief Stopinski joined the Green Brook Police Department in 1971 and rose through the ranks and became chief in July of 1992 and served until his retirement in 1996.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 23 of Green Brook and the Somerset County Chiefs of Police Association and the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association.

He loved antique cars and spending time with his family and friends.

Surviving is his beloved wife, Cecelia Squero Stopinski; a son, Joseph C. Stopinski, Jr., of Holland Twp., a daughter, Linda Ann Stopinski of Largo, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Kevin and Amanda Stopinski.

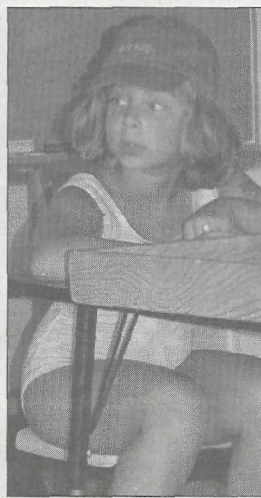
Funeral services were held at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the American Cancer Society, Somerset Unit, 120 Findeme Ave., Bridgewater, NJ 08807.



Summer Rec is in full swing—Kids at Kennedy School Recreation keep busy indoors and out. Keeping cool indoors, kids played games like knock hockey, worked on crafts and watched a movie. Outside the more adventurous played a fast-paced game of "Man hunt."

Photos by Christopher Abbott



## Brothers Separated at Birth and Continents Apart, Find Each Other

Continued from page 3

Noel visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. He experienced a Yankees vs. Detroit baseball game, as well as a Somerset Patriots game. He toured Manhattan, had drinks in the Twin Towers, went to the Winston NASCAR Race and, of course, he visited Flannigan's to enjoy a pint.

### The Newfound Brother

Noel Morrissey lived with his birth mother for his first two years. He was sent to live with his maternal grandparents until his grandmother became ill. He was eventually adopted by the family members at age seven or eight. His memories of his birth mother are simple. He was told that she lived in England and that he had been "brought to stay at home" with the rest of her family. Noel describes the information as "matter of fact." He knew she was his mother, there were infrequent visits and little communication between them. His grandfather told him he had an older brother who had been adopted by Americans. He kept this to himself, never telling his adoptive family that he knew he had a brother. He occasionally wondered what his brother looked like and where



Brothers Noel Morrissey (left) and Tony Novak are reunited after being separated at birth.

he lived but he had no real thoughts of finding him.

When the fateful letter arrived, Noel had mixed reactions — feelings of excitement and apprehension. It was later likened to a blind date. His family in Ireland was happy and excited, especially because he had found a more immediate family. His two young nieces were a wonderful surprise to Noel. As for his time in the USA, he said, "The pace is faster, cities and

buildings are much bigger. Its a great country, big! People around here are sound and friendly." After visiting New York City he noted, "It was a fascinating new experience, something I always wanted to do, it's great!"

Tony and Gerri just moved into a new house and having Noel visit with them just added to the celebration. They hosted a party on July 28, with a mix of relatives and friends. New neighbors joined the Novak's old neighbors, family came from near and far to meet Noel. The Novak's even had the builder of their home on hand for the event.

Noel, with his thick Irish brogue, chatted with guests and seemed quite at home. He answered questions about Ireland and had observations on life in the USA. In addition to house warming gifts for the Novak's, Noel received an appropriate gift to commemorate his visit to the USA, a carryall bag with a US flag motif from Old Navy.

Noel returns home on August 3, but there are already plans for more visits between the brothers.

### Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. Flowering trees and bushes accent the grounds. The serene landscape is meticulously attended and renowned for its care and upkeep. All lots are fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

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## Labor Day Parade Plans Moving Along

The 44th Annual Labor Day Parade will also be celebrating the 75th birthday of South Plainfield.

This year's theme is "To All The Generations of Families—Happy 75th Birthday." South Plainfield has many generations of families residing here, most of them have participated in past parades.

The parade, which will be held on Monday, Sept. 3, begins with the annual 5K Race and 1.5 Family Fitness Walk. Registrations forms can be picked up at The Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave.

The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. on Plainfield Ave. at Wesley

Methodist Church and ends up in Veterans' Park. Activities are planned after the parade in Veterans' Park, for both kids and adults, so plan on spending some time in the park. Games, contests, food and plenty of music are planned, both during and after the parade. And, of course, the *Observer* will be in the middle of the fun all day long. Remember, it's our birthday too!

The celebration shifts to Spring Lake Park in the evening. Music will be presented in the gazebo until dark, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Last year's fireworks were one of the best ever

presented and the same company is returning and promises to do an equally spectacular job.

If your group would like to march in the parade, they must fill out an entry form. Forms are available at Borough Hall or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. It's a great opportunity for your group or business to join in the celebration.

If you need information about marching in the parade, entering a float, volunteering to be a parade marshal, having a concession stand in the park, contact Councilwoman Darlene Pinto at (908) 561-1517.

## police report

• On July 23, a Piscataway resident was arrested at Pathmark for the theft of three packs of razors worth \$22 and charged with drug possession.

• On July 25, an Edison woman was arrested for attempting to leave Pathmark without paying for \$140 worth of DVDs and candy.

• A Kenyon Ave. resident was arrested for shoplifting \$159 worth of Duracell batteries from Pathmark and also gave false

information.

• A Philadelphia resident reported the theft of camera equipment from his room at Day's Inn.

• An employee of Au'some Candies on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of her purse from the receptionist area.

• On Friday, a Nunnink Ln. resident reported that the screen on her bedroom window had been cut.

• On Sunday, the owner of

John Sellino and Sons from Scotch Plains reported that someone had entered one of his trailers at 230 St. Nicholas Ave. and removed assorted landscape equipment.

• The assistant manager at Home Depot reported the theft of an Echo hedge trimmer.

• The manager of Drug Fair reported that a female came into the store, grabbed a gift bag, filled it with candy and left the store without paying.

## Legal Notice

July 30, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on July 17, 2001.

A. Case #9-01/S/V—JH Reid General Contract—Block 472, Lot 7.03; & Block 472 Lot 2.01; Applicant's request for use variances, bulk variances, minor and final subdivision and preliminary site plan were hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

B. Case #43-01-Raffaello & Therese Montuori—Block 430, Lot 2.02—Applicant's request for a rear yard variance was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #26-01—Northeast Developers, Inc.—Block 347, Lot 1; Applicant's request for variances for lot width and lot area was hereby GRANTED.

D. Case #44-01—Richard Massa—Block 148, Lot 3; Applicant's request for a side yard variance was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

E. Case #39-01—Jenkins-Quin & Quin—Block 290; Lot 5; Applicant's request for bulk variances for front setback and exceeding lot coverage was hereby GRANTED.

Janice Muccilli  
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$31.50 August 3, 2001

### NOTICE

At the Organization Meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education, April 25, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. by a majority vote, the following were chosen to represent the Board for the 2001/2002 school year:

Dr. Nicholas Celso III, partner in the firm of Schwartz, Simon, Edelstein, Celso & Kessler, as School Board Attorney at an annual retainer of \$5,000.00 and an hourly rate of \$130.00 per hour for partners and \$115.00 per hour for junior partners, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements.

Suplex, Clooney and Company as School Board Auditors at a cost of \$19,500.00 for regular funds including Special and Federal projects and the

school lunch audit as part of a single audit format.

A.H.E.R.A. Consultants as Asbestos Consultant at a cost of \$4,250.00.

Scott Prisco of Prisco & Edwards, A.I.A., as Architect of Record on a per proposal basis.

The appointment of McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C. was reaffirmed to provide bond services for our referendum in accordance with the terms and conditions previously approved.

The Financial Advisory Agreement with Capital Commerce Markets, Inc. was reaffirmed in accordance with the terms and conditions previously approved.

Doyle Consulting Group was appointed Broker of Record for Health Insurance for the 2001/2002 school year.

Lee Nestel, President, Grispac Insurance, was appointed Broker of Record for Property-Liability/Workers Compensation for the 2001/2002 school year.

Prisco & Edwards AIA, was appointed as Project Architect in accordance with the construction plan as approved by the Board at their November 28, 2001 Regular Public Meeting.

At the Regular Public Meeting of the South Plainfield Board of Education, May 22, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. by a majority vote, the following were chosen to represent the Board for the 2001/2002 school year:

The second year food service management contract with Sodexo Marriott Services was approved for the 2001/2002 school year at a cost of \$47,189.

The custodial/maintenance service contract with Sodexo Marriott Services was renewed for the 2001/2002 school year at a cost of \$1,927,361.00.

The Right To Know Service Agreement with Educational Data Services was approved for the 2001/2002 school year at a fee of \$5,500.00. The Bidding Service Agreement with Educational Data Services for the 2001/2002 school year was also approved at a fee of \$9,500.00.

\$67.00 August 3, 2001

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Congratulations to the 14-U All-Star team. Pictured are front row (L to R) Jessa Jones, Allia Ghanim, Kathleen Morgan, Morgan Walter, Coach Ken Rastelli; middle row (L to R) Allison DiMeglio, Kim Gaub, Amanda Rastelli, Mallory Cooper, Ashley Bishop, Coach Mike DiMeglio; back row (L to R) Amanda Fugate, Jessica Senz, Coach Gene Gaub, Caitlyn English, Jessica Miller and Coach Tom Walter.



The 12-U First Place Champs proudly display their well-earned trophies. Pictured are front row (L to R) Lacey Santone, Donna Garcia, Stephanie Wieckowski, Courtney Eustice, Carlie Kazimir, Katie Hardy, Christina Schuetz, Coach Tom Hardy; back row (L to R) Coach Ron Bosse, Julianne Bosse, Coach Kathy Downes, Kelly Downes, Melissa Szeliga, Darice Bishop, Dorian Bishop, Elizabeth Flannery and Jackie Miller.

## Ponytail All-Stars Claim Three Titles

Our South Plainfield teams came away with three winning titles at our second annual SP All-Star Softball Tournament.

Our very strong 14-U team combined their talents to win first place in the tournament by defeating Colonia 2-0; Delaware Valley 7-1; and Iselin 2-1. Delaware Valley placed second.

Our 12-U team should be proud of their victory as they captured first place by defeating Colonia 12-2; North Plainfield 19-3; and Iselin 7-0. Iselin placed second.

Our 10-U team comprised of our youngest group of girls, should be equally proud as they seized second place by defeating Iselin 13-0 and Colonia 6-3. North Edison placed first.

Congratulations to all of the players and coaches for these well-deserved championship titles.

A great deal of time and effort was put

into the planning and executing of this year's tournament. All of the visiting teams spoke very highly of and continually praised everyone associated with making this tournament such a success. A special thank you must go out to the tournament chairperson, Joe Miller, for his hard work and dedication in ensuring this year's tournament was successful. A special thank you is also necessary for our snack bar chairperson and tournament committee member Helen Gaub, for her devotion and hours of preparation to keep the snack bar running flawlessly. Thank you as well to the other members of our tournament committee comprised of Gene Gaub, Tom Hardy, Rich Szeliga, Kathy Downes, Mark Sutherland and Lisa Santone as well as the many parents, volunteers, coaches and especially the players for such a successful and enjoyable tournament.



The 10-U second place champions are front row (L to R) Sydney Gentile, Katie Baldassarre, Stephanie Szeliga, Jackie Kukuch, Jackie Bosse; middle row (L to R) Caitlyn Davies, Danielle Atcachunas, Stephanie DeCindio, Dana Alexa, Allison Huffsmith, Erica Bowden, Alyssa Sutherland, Rachel Senz, Theresa Huber; back row (L to R) Coach Don Alexa, Coach Steve Senz, Coach Rich Szeliga and Coach Mark Sutherland.

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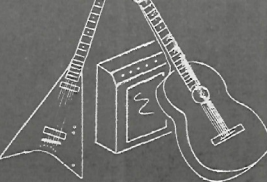
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