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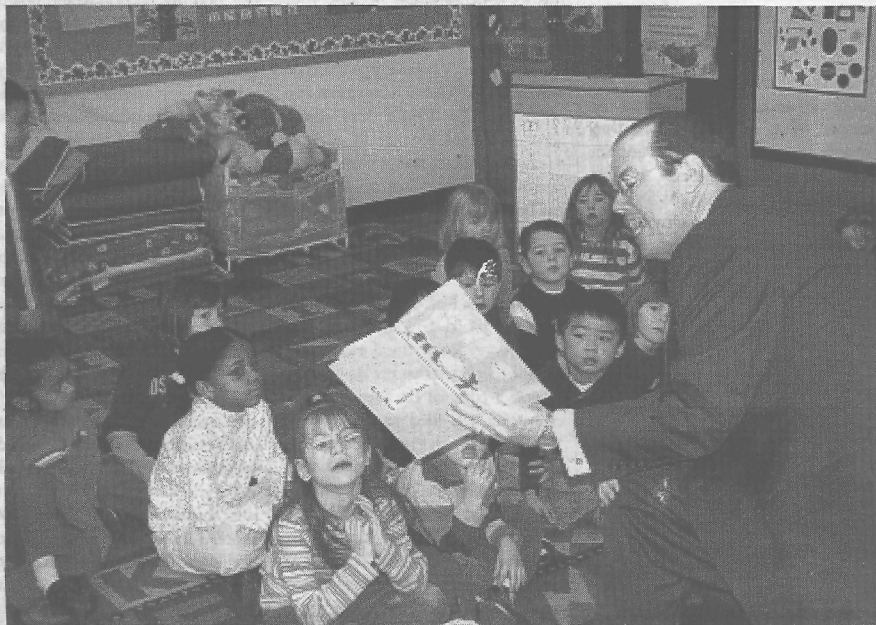
MAR 07 2003

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 27

50 CENTS

MARCH 7, 2003



State Assemblyman Pat Diegnan reads to Sacred Heart School Pre-K students in celebration of Read Across America and Dr. Suess's birthday. See page 6 for coverage of Roosevelt School.

## FCCLA Dishes It Out to Seniors

By Patricia Abbott

Approximately 100 senior citizens attended a luncheon sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Prior to the meal, they were entertained by the school band, chorus and orchestra, a preview to the evening concert.

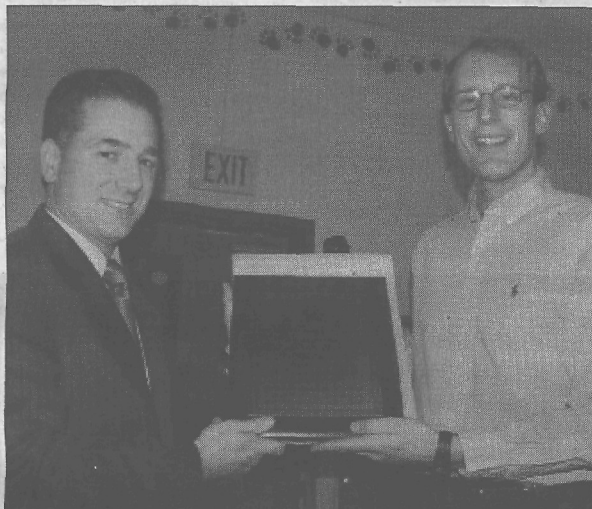
While the guests enjoyed the entertainment, the FCCLA members were busy setting up in the cafeteria. White tablecloths topped with individual salads, green utensils and napkins transformed the cafeteria, adding a touch of class. Advisors Loretta Tansey and Janet Flannagan-Wurtz made certain students had set each place properly. FCCLA members formed a line to greet the seniors as they entered the

room. On hand to welcome the guests was Assistant Principal Steven Katz. When all were seated the young men and women of the club served lunch. Steaming plates of food were quickly placed before each senior citizen. Coffee and tea were served from a rolling cart. As tables were being cleared, Loretta Tansey and a group of students were busy adding the final touches to dessert; peaches and vanilla ice cream topped with a hot raspberry sauce. After the last guest left, the students cleared the final dishes and cleaned the cafeteria. The food was prepared by the Marriott cafeteria staff.

The FCCLA has been hosting the senior citizen luncheon for about 10 years. The club does several community service projects each year. So far they

(Continued on page 7)

## Annual Art Auction Benefits High School Seniors



Honorary Art Auction Chairman Bill Ashnault (left) accepts a plaque as thanks from Business Foundation President Eric Ridell.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation, formerly known as Vision 2001 Education Foundation, recently held "An Evening of Art," an auction run by Ross Galleries of Holbrook, NY. The event, held in the high school cafeteria, boasted a diverse selection of artwork. More than 75 people attended the annual fundraiser raising approximately \$3,400.

This year's Honorary Chairman, former foundation board member William Ashnault, was chosen by the Foundation's Board of Trustees for his outstanding work with the children of the borough. "It was an honor being nominated as an honorary chairman of such a wonderful organization which promotes and furthers the education of our youth in South Plainfield. The youth are our future," said Ashnault.

Ashnault is well known for his participation in the sport's circle, as well as his volunteer work with numerous other organizations. He is a member of the Recreation Commission, Jr. Baseball Club coach, Recreation Wrestling Trustee and coach and a Middle School volunteer wrestling coach.

Bill's volunteer work extends far beyond sports. He is also a Senior Citizen Health Care volunteer, JFK Haven Hospice Specialist, Mulhenberg

(Continued on page 7)



A South Plainfield High School FCCLA student serves lunch to a local senior at the organization's annual senior luncheon.

## BOROUGHNOTES

### Council

■ The Borough has entered into a contract with Stilo Excavating, Inc. to perform sanitary sewer repairs along Murray and Park avenues at a cost not to exceed \$175,069.69.

■ Carol Grenier has been hired as Principal Cashier for the Tax Department effective March 10.

■ Craig Testing Laboratories will perform pavement testing and core extraction along Kenneth Ave, Walnut St. and Woodland Ave. at a cost of no

more than \$1,320.

■ Florence Construction will repair damaged curbing along Ivy St. and Clark Lane at a cost of no more than \$17,500.

### Board of Adjustment

■ Harry Popik was granted a use variance to construct a single family home on Somerset St.

■ Robert and Louise Doyle were granted a variance to construct an addition to utilize as a second dwelling unit.



A string ensemble entertains auction goers while they previewed artwork.

### \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*

**Project Graduation  
Auction/Raffle  
March 8—SOLD OUT!**

No tickets will be sold at the door

### South Plainfield Girl Scouts Blood Drive

**"GIVE BLOOD. SAVE A NEIGHBOR."**

Saturday, March 8, 9:30am-3pm • PAL Building

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO SAVE A LIFE.

For information, call 908-757-5785 or 732-220-7020.  
Donors must have identification, social security number.



# Mark your calendars

Log on to  
**southplainfieldnj.com**  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

**AGENDA MEETING** ..... **PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday, March 17 ..... Thursday, March 20

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

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

## board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. March 18, April 8.

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

## siteplace advisory committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August

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

April 1, May 6, June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (November 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

## 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

# IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Kudos to the wonderful service supplied by the South Plainfield Senior Citizens' Bus Service from one who has recently found it necessary to call upon them. Those who arrange transportation for us "recycled teenagers" and handicapped are to be applauded. I wonder if the folks who use this facility truly appreciate the efficiency of this service. It is offered generously, kindly, cheerfully and dependably. How truly lucky we are!

An article in last Sunday's New York Daily News described bus service for New York's disabled. Management must be horrendous. With five Boroughs, only one bus is available, why not one for each Borough?

I have heard several people complain that it takes "too long" to get home on our busses. This is not a taxi service. Many need to be picked up and/or brought home. The criteria seems to be to get patients to their scheduled appointments. As for me, I have not missed an appointment these past several weeks. I may be early, but a book to take along to read, passes the time enjoyably. We seniors have plenty of time.

While we are giving praise, how about Joanne Graff who schedules stops all over town, radioing the drivers when it's time to pick someone up? How about these kind, gentlemen drivers who get us around town so safely, and who see that we board (and leave) the vehicles safely? How about the extras, like escorting us to our doors on slippery or snowy walkways? I for one, am most grateful for what we have available.

South Plainfield is a wonderful place to live, and the people in it are the greatest. Bless you all!

IRMA TABIZ

Dear Editor:

I read your article about my dispute with the Borough of South Plainfield and others, and I offer you the following response:

1. I have not yet filed a lawsuit. What I have done is cause my attorney to send a demand letter on Feb. 7, 2003 to the Borough, the Council, the Mayor, Patrick Diegnan and the South Plainfield Democratic Party. On Feb. 24, 2003, I caused my attorney to file a Notice of Tort Claim with the Borough, Mayor and Council. The Notice of Tort Claim is, as I understand, simply that, a notice to a public

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

entity and public officials that I intend to bring a lawsuit against them. I bring this to your attention because your proposed headline says that I am suing the Mayor and Council and that the "suit sites (I believe this is a typo and should be "cites") harassment, discrimination." I do not think this is accurate. I think it would be accurate to say that I filed a notice of my intention to bring suit; but no such suit has been filed yet.

2. Mr. Diegnan is quoted in the article as follows, "The fact that her attorney is releasing it to the news media before the Borough is even served, takes the word 'frivolous' to a new level." As you know, this is a false statement. I requested that my attorney fax to you a copy of the notice of tort claim that was filed stamped by the Borough of South Plainfield. It is quite clear that before you received your copy of the Notice of Tort Claim, the Borough had already received its copy as evidenced by the file stamp. I am therefore requesting that you add after Mr. Diegnan's statement a statement that accurately states that the copy sent to the paper bore the Borough's file stamp, which strongly suggests that Mr. Diegnan is wrong on his facts.

3. As I believe my attorney informed you in a phone conversation, the notice of Tort Claim Notice was filed only because the mayor spoke to my attorney and showed no interest in resolving this matter discreetly. My attorney informed the Mayor that I had 90 days from Dec. 5, 2002 to file the tort claims notice, and the mayor told my attorney that "Darlene will do whatever she wants to do," and "you can do whatever you want to do." Under the circumstances, my attorney had no choice but to protect my legal rights in this matter.

SINCERELY,  
DARLENE PINTO

To the Editor,

Back in 1998 when I first considered running for the Board of Education, I was briefed on the politics and individuals of the sitting board, especially one in particular, Frank Mikorski. Much of what I was told about Frank was negative in nature, that he disliked teachers and administrators, that he was trying to cut programs to hurt children, he was cheapening the education of our children. Without knowing the man, I bought into the belief that these stories were true and developed a dislike for the man I had never met.

Upon my election to the Board of Education in 1999, I was appointed to numerous committees in which Frank Mikorski also served on. It was while serving on these committees, as well as the monthly board meetings that I began to quickly realize and see that Frank Mikorski's efforts were truly focused and devoted to the needs of the children in this district and that the stories I had bought into were not true. Frank's tireless efforts from board resolutions, to his constant treks to Trenton to badger the State Legislators for aid and support have benefitted not only the children and staff, but also shown responsibility to the taxpayers.

One only needs to look at the recent track replacement project as just a small example of Frank's efforts and his commitment to our children in all areas of education. I can honestly say that after the past four years having known, worked and witnessed the time, energy and effort Frank Mikorski has put in, that this is a man driven to do what's best and get as much as he can for our children.

Although we don't always agree on issues and decisions, I thank you Frank for your efforts and commitment and hope the residents join me in support of your bid for re-election to the board of education.

JEFF SEIDER

To the Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter to the Editor in February 28th's paper from "Concerned Residents of Oakmanor Parkway." Please know that I am a resident of Matis St. and that our street was not plowed until Tuesday either. One side of the street (the opposite side of where I live) was plowed at one point, but I too was snowed in until I made two calls to

Continued on page 10

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## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the 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 at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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The Observer will be mailed to every home in South Plainfield on April 4.

FOR ADVERTISING INFO, CALL 908-668-0010.



## Historical Society Seeks Present and Former Residents for Oral History

Members of the South Plainfield Historical Society are meeting with present and former residents of the Borough every Tuesday at the Senior Center. The purpose is to tape record oral histories for inclusion in the society archives. The archives will be accessible by anyone interested in learning about the history and heritage of South Plainfield through the eyes of its citizenry.

Participants are asked a few basic questions such as how long they lived in the Borough, where they lived and what school they attended. Memories of living here, such as the 10 cent movies at DeSabato's theater, swimming in Holly Pond, boating on Spring Lake, people they grew up with and so forth are recorded. Recent interviewees remembered Hogan's Pig Farm, Spicer Manufacturing, the Good Democratic Club and bowling at Hollywood Gardens.

The Historical Society is also col-

lecting old photos for the archives. Family photos in front of the house, portraits in old-fashioned clothing, friends and family skating at Spring Lake, children's school activities, participation in community functions, picnics at the park, a trip to Hadley Field, are some of the types of photos being sought.

Anyone wishing to help preserve the history and heritage of the Borough is encouraged to visit the Senior Center on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon. Special arrangements for tape recording an oral history from a house-bound resident can be made. Requests for more convenient days and times will be accommodated.

Photos can be brought to the next society meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in South Plainfield High School. Park in the student lot off Lane Ave. and enter the main doors. You will be directed to the meeting room.

Please contact Historical Society

President Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073 or Archivist Alice DiNizo at (908) 668-1137 for further information. E-mail the society at: SPHisHistoricalSociety.com. Visit our web page at: <http://community.nj.com/cc/sphistoricalsociety>.

## Columbiettes Hosting Two March Events

On Sunday, March 23, the women are sponsoring a fashion show and luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Blvd. The catered affair will include a relish tray, salad, chicken, beef, pasta, potato and vegetable dishes. Coffee, tea and soda will be provided and dessert will follow.

Fashions will be by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Woman, both in South Plainfield. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. The luncheon will begin at 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and reservations may be made by calling Geri Diegnan at (908) 753-2032. Deadline is Thursday, March 20.

The annual Easter Bunny Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 30 at Sacred Heart School, off of South Plainfield Avenue. The location changed this year due to the increase in the number of people attending.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. and the buffet lunch will follow. Cost is \$10 for all ages, one through adult, and children seven years and under will receive Easter baskets, given out by the Easter Bunny. There will be prizes and drawings for all ages.

Space is limited, so reservations must be made in advance by calling Geri at (908) 753-2032. Please provide the ages of all children attending. Deadline is Thursday, Mar. 27.

### Craft Fair Vendors Needed

Riley School will hold a Spring Craft Fair on April 11. Vendors wanted!! Please call (908) 561-2530 Laura Conrad ASAP!



Anita Hogan (right), vice chairwoman of the South Plainfield Republican Organization, presents outgoing Chairman David Guoth with a plaque recognizing his service as the group's leader over the past year.

## Dave Guoth Recognized For Service by Republicans

South Plainfield's Republican Organization saluted David Guoth, its former chairman, at the group's monthly meeting on Feb. 27. Guoth served in the position for a year and stepped down in January due to family commitments. "David did a great job for our organization," said newly-elected Chairman Bob Jones. "I don't think people realize the hard work he put in. He did a top-notch job."

During the meeting, Republican Organization Vice Chair Anita Hogan presented Guoth with a plaque recognizing his efforts. Also on hand to

thank Guoth was former Middlesex County Republican Chairman Dennis Little. Little, a former South Plainfield councilman, expressed the group's appreciation and commented on the superb work Guoth did over the past year. "I think I speak for everyone in the group when I say how proud I am of David's work," said Little.

Despite his limited time, he plans to stay involved in the Republican Party as well as other groups in town. He has also agreed to serve on the Republican Organization's fundraising and campaign committees.

## Lenten Fish Dinners Return To Sacred Heart Church

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, will once again be sponsoring their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on March 7, 14, 21 and 28, April 4 and 11.

Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, at 149 South Plainfield Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu will feature filet of fish

(fried, broiled, parmigiana) or pizza; fresh garden salad, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

Take out orders are also available. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7 p.m.

## Business Association Meeting Spotlights Area Businesses

The format for the monthly meetings of the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) have changed to attract more businesses to attend. Each month will feature a guest speaker and spotlight an area business.

February's guest speaker, Recycling Coordinator Alice Tempel, discussed South Plainfield's Clean Business Association, which awards businesses with a 'Glitter Award' when they improve the appearance of their property. She also discussed litter control and asked for volunteers for Clean-Up Week, an annual borough-wide clean up which takes place in mid-April. On Saturday, April 12, volunteers from all over South Plainfield will spread out and clean up streets, parks, streams and vacant lots. Afterwards, they will meet at Borough Hall for a pizza party. If you are interested in volunteering, call (908) 226-7621.

Theresa Christopher from Able Office Products, located on Sylvania Pl., was the spotlighted business. Christopher gave a short talk on the history, products and services of Able Office.



Theresa Christopher of Able Office Products

Most of their office products are delivered the next day. For a catalog, you can call Theresa at (908) 822-9988.

The South Plainfield Business Association, along with Commerce Bank, will hold an evening of networking on Wednesday, March 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Commerce Bank, located on Plainfield Ave.

Next month's SPBA meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner.

# Reserve Your Space Now!!



**On April 4, the Observer will be mailed to every household in South Plainfield (almost 8,000 homes). Don't miss this unique opportunity!**

**To reserve your space or for rates & info, call 908-668-0010.**

# Get on board!

**Set your business on the right course. Call today!**



# Around Town

## Farewell Party for Jim and Betty Eckert

March 8

Long-time residents Jim and Betty Eckert will be the guests of honor at a going-away cocktail party hosted by the South Plainfield Republicans at Flanagan's Restaurant on Saturday, March 8 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$60 a couple. To purchase tickets, contact Bob Jones at 908-222-9435.

Walk-ins are welcome!

## OLC Chicken Dinner

March 8

Our Lady of Czestochowa will hold their annual chicken dinner on Saturday, March 8, 4 to 8 p.m.

The dinner includes a ¼ chicken, baked potato, stuffing, applesauce, dinner roll, dessert, coffee, tea and milk.

Cost is \$7 for adults, children 5-12 are \$3.50. Children under 5 are free.

For pick up orders, call (908) 753-4077 after 3 p.m.

## Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 8

SPHS PTA's Project Graduation Auction/Raffle will be held on Saturday, March 8. Doors open at 6 p.m. The auction begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7. Prizes include a Dell computer, digital camera, flat screen TV, gift baskets, and more. The purpose of the auction is to raise funds for the SPHS Project Graduation, an all-night, substance-free party for the SPHS Class of 2003 held on their graduation night.

For tickets, call Janet at (908) 757-3148. For information concerning the raffle, including donations, contact Ellen at (908) 756-3731 or Pat at (908) 756-6512.

## Athletic Booster Club Meeting

March 11

The next meeting of the Athletic Boosters will be held Tuesday, March 11 at the new time of 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. They will be discussing nominations for next year, scholarships, the spring track meet, snack stand help, Winter Sports Award night (March 19) and requests from coaches. Come join us—all are welcome!

## Senior Center Membership Meeting

March 13

All members are invited to the Senior Center membership meeting on March 13. Monthly meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Speaker for this meeting will be Allison Cook of the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. The topic will be "Fraud Against Seniors"—what you should know and how to avoid being taken.

## Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner at VFW

March 14

A corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held at VFW Post 6763, Front St., on March 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$7, children 12 years and

## SEND YOUR EVENTSTO:

South Plainfield Observer,  
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South  
Plainfield, NJ 07080; fax (908) 668-8819;  
email ggnan@aol.com.

## What's happening in MARCH

Daily Events  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

## Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>EVENTS</b> Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30 Yoga 10:30-11:30am	Tax Prep Assistance, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon. March 12-Senior Center Meeting "Fraud Against Seniors" Guest Speaker-NJ Dept. of Consumer Affairs		Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch
	Bingo 10-2 PM Lunch Available AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon	Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45am Movie 11:30am AARP Crafts 1 PM SENIORS MONTHLY MEETING 1 pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am AARP Tax Preparation 9am-Noon	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Listening to Children 9:30am-12:30pm

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.

under are \$3.50.

For more information, phone (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after noon on weekends.

## Elks Annual Corned Beef And Cabbage Dinner

March 15

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is sponsoring their annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 15 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Adults are \$10; children are \$5. All you can eat. Beer and soda will also be provided.

## Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Party

March 15

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is holding their annual St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday, March 15, at the Knights hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd., 8 to 12 p.m. \$20 per person includes a corned beef and cabbage dinner. It also includes an open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ will play classic Irish music.

If interested, contact Jim Shea at 908-756-0478 for tickets. Seats are limited.

## Boy Scout Troop 207's 4th Annual Chili Fest

March 16

Boy Scout Troop 207 will hold its fourth annual "All You Can Eat" Chili Fest on Sunday, March 16, 3 to 7 p.m. at the South Plainfield High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$4 each. Games and prizes also.

If you need additional information, contact Troop 207 at (908) 753-2562.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

March 17

AARP Chapter #4144 will meet on Monday, St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. at 12:30. The Highland Lassies will entertain us with a lively performance of traditional Scottish Highland dancing. They will be in full costume and will take questions from the audience, time permitting. It will be fun!

Reserve for the May 13 trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see Agatha Christie's mystery, *The Mouse-trap*. Cost is \$54, which covers all ex-

penses, including transportation. Call May at (732) 752-3764 or Lee (732) 968-6613.

A Tuesday through Friday trip is planned at the Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills on July 15-18. Indoor and outdoor pools, daytime activities and entertainment at night available on premises. All meals, transportation, taxes and gratuities are included. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764 for more details and reservations.

## Auction/Raffle at Franklin School

March 22

The Franklin School PTA is sponsoring the Seventh Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. at South Plainfield High School Gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Advanced tickets are \$7 or \$10 at the door. For tickets, call Dorothea at 753-7117 or Terry at 753-2864.

Complimentary ticket for Grand Prize Drawing with every advanced sale. Food is welcomed. Soft drinks available for purchase.

## Fashion Bug Plus Size Fashion Show

March 22

25,000 women across the country will take to the runway on Mar. 22 at 2 p.m. for the 2003 Spring Plus Size Fashion Show, a chain-wide fashion show hosted by Fashion Bug, a women's retailer. Women of plus size are encouraged to become a model for a day by signing up at any Fashion Bug store in the country. All models are women who live in the communities surrounding Fashion Bug stores.

The community fashion show features looks for all walks of life and will highlight the best plus size looks from the Spring 2003 Fashion Bug collection.

For the Fashion Bug store closest to you, please call 1-888-289-8284, or contact your local Fashion Bug at (908) 757-0770.

## Recreation Plans Trip To Atlantic City

March 23

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will sponsor a trip to Atlantic City on Sunday, March 23.

The bus will leave the PAL at 10:45 a.m. and return around 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, with \$16 back.

Only 45 tickets will be available. Purchase your ticket at the PAL building located on Maple Ave.

## Rainbow Academy Open House

April 19

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten, half-day pre-school and summer camp programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of Parent-Watch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at [www.parent-watch.com](http://www.parent-watch.com).

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Recreation Plans Trip to "Aida"

April 27

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway on Sunday, April 27 to see *Aida*.

The bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. The musical starts at 3 p.m. You will have time to shop in NYC. Tickets are \$75 per person.

Purchase your tickets (only 45 available) at the PAL on Maple Ave.

## Senior Center to Visit Lancaster, Pa.

May 29 & 30

The South Plainfield Senior Center will offer an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on May 29 and 30. The bus trip includes transportation, one night's hotel accommodations at the Hawthorn Inn, tickets to a performance of "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village and Rockvale Square outlets, dinner on Thursday, breakfast on Friday, hotel tax and service. The cost is \$159 per person based on double occupancy. For reservations, stop by the Senior Center at 90 Maple Ave. A deposit of \$59 per person is required.

## Recreation Plans Trip to Mets

July 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Veterans Stadium on July 22. It's the Mets vs. the Phillies and this could be your last chance to visit Veterans Stadium. Gametime is 1 p.m. Bus leaves from the PAL at 10 a.m. Seats will be located in the outfield terrace box and tickets are \$25 per person. Only 45 tickets will be sold, so get yours now!

## Trip to Niagara Falls, Canada

September 8-12

South Plainfield Recreation is planning a five-day, four-night trip to Niagara Falls, Canada, with a side trip to Toronto. The trip will take place from Sept. 8-12.

The package includes White Star Escort for the entire trip, motorcoach transportation, four nights lodging in Niagara Falls, four full course breakfasts and dinners and all taxes and standard gratuities.

Activities include an all day tour of Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, an all day tour of Toronto, centering on a harbor cruise and Casa Loma, IMAX Theatre, Famous Maid of the Mist Boat Ride and a tour of the falls, tour of a local winery, including wine sampling, visits to the Welland Canal and the beautiful Floral Clock, to Casino Niagara and Rossi Glass.

The price is \$400 per person double, triple and quad occupancy. Single supplement is \$99. You must bring a raised-seal birth certificate and photo ID or passport along when traveling into Canada. Cancellation insurance is available upon request.

For reservations or information, contact Mike English at the PAL or call him at (908) 226-7714.

## Class of 1989 Plans 15 year Reunion

November 27

The South Plainfield High School class of 1989 is planning their 15th reunion to be held in Edison at the Sheraton in Raritan Center on Nov. 27, 2004. Price is \$80.

Contact SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com with address information.

## — Out of Town —

## Art/Music Programs for Children With Autism

Through April 12

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors have resumed. Workshops will be held Saturdays through Apr. 12, in New Brunswick, Morristown and Waldwick. The program is sponsored by VSA Arts of NJ, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible arts opportunities to children and adults with disabilities.

Saturday sessions provide young people with experiences in music and art, while developing communication, social and cognitive skills. Young people ages three to 17 are invited to participate.

Contact Karen Singer at VSA Arts of NJ at (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 (TTY) or [info@vsanjan.org](mailto:info@vsanjan.org).

(Continued on next page)



# even

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## SingleFaces Dances Planned

March 7, 14, 15

SingleFaces Dances—Elegant Locations for Sophisticated Singles will hold dances on the following dates and places:

- Friday, March 7, 9 p.m. Old Orchard Manor, 54 Monmouth Rd. Eatontown, \$12.
- Friday, March 14, 9 p.m. Oak Room of the Shadowbrook on Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury, \$13.
- Saturday, March 15, 9 p.m. Ramada Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave., Raritan Center, Iselin. \$12. Super double dance, two DJs—two rooms, two age groups (25-39/40 and up).

## World Day of Prayer

March 7

World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Church Women United, Plainfield Unit, will hold a service on Friday, March 7, 1:30 p.m., at the United Church of Christ, 220 West Seventh and Madison Ave. in Plainfield.

Women in the country of Lebanon, north of Israel, wrote this service of Music and reflection. "Holy Spirit, Fill Us," is the theme. Everyone in the community is welcome.

## AIDS Benefit/Auction

March 8

The AIDS Benefit Committee of New Jersey (ABCNJ) will hold its annual Gala Auction on March 8 at the Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.

Tickets are \$100 (which include a surprise door prize, dinner, cocktails, and the entertainment of John Bramick as the MC for the auction) and can be purchased by calling (908) 928-1600 or (908) 822-8553. If you cannot attend and want to contribute, donations can be sent to: ABCNJ, P.O. Box 847, Westfield, NJ 07091-0847.

## American Red Cross Open House

March 8

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at 302 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth. Events for adults and children include a fire safety smoke house (mock fire situations), fire truck displays, a blood drive, health and safety demonstrations, disaster preparedness, clowns and treats for everyone. For info, call (908) 353-2500.

## Autumn Woods Mardi Gras

March 8

Autumn Woods invites you to join us for a Mardi Gras Open House on Saturday, Mar. 8 from 2-4 p.m. at the Autumn Woods Assisted Living, 680, Rt. 202/206N in Bridgewater.

Food, dancing and entertainment will be available, as well as the opportunity to meet our staff and residents.

For reservations and directions, call (908) 252-3400.

## Chinese Auction In Dunellen

March 9

There will be a Chinese Auction on Sunday, Mar. 9 at the Resurrection of Christ Church, 649 Bound Brook Rd.

(Rt. 28) in Dunellen. Doors open at 12 p.m. and drawings will be at 2 p.m.

There will be a large variety of new items, door prizes, super raffle, gift certificates and much more! Admission is \$5, which includes one sheet of tickets. Food will be available. Call (732) 873-1731 or (732) 752-5741 for more information. In case of snow, the snow date will be Sunday, Mar. 16.

## 21st Watchung Hills Coin Club Show

March 9

The 21st Annual Watchung Hills Coin Club Show will be held on Sunday, March 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 375 Union Ave. in Bridgewater.

Approximately 35 dealers from the tri-state area will be buying, selling and trading U.S. and foreign coins and paper money. Admission is free.

For information, contact Peter Doelger (732) 469-0446.

## Tourette Syndrome Group to Meet

March 13

The next meeting of the Tourette Syndrome Association of NJ-Middlesex Union County Family Support Group will be held Thursday, March 13, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Neuroscience Institute Center of JFK Medical Center, 65 James St. in Edison.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Andrew Smith, a child Neurologist, who specializes in medical and neuro genetics.

For info, call Marilyn at (908) 757-5074. After 6 p.m. call Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

## Middlesex East WOWs Dance

March 14

Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, March 14, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Live music and refreshments. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

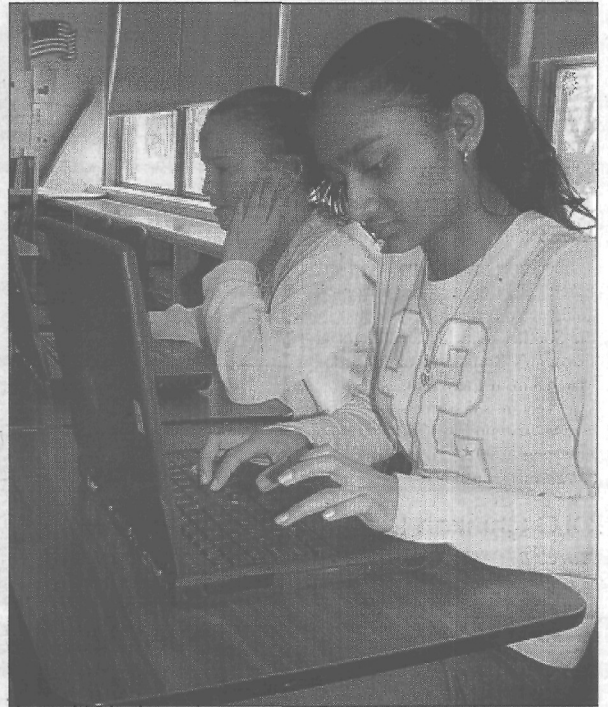
# Students Embrace the World through Project Harmony

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Middle School is proud to be just one of 19 schools in the country chosen to participate in Project Harmony. "Introduction and Interdependence," the third of four sessions, gave Barbara Pinelli-McDonough's seventh grade World Geography Class a chance to talk to students and teachers at a school in Armenia via the Internet. The youth in both countries discussed typical teenage topics about clothing, malls and food. They compared cultures, family and details of daily life in their countries as well as more serious subjects. Student Amanda Alemzohu said, "Project Harmony is a great program. It lets you talk to people in other countries. You get to know what they like and are interested in. The other part is that they're from another country, so sometimes what they like is different from what we like. I especially enjoyed my debate with Katy Pierce, the supervisor in charge. She got me thinking about the war in Iraq and she really got me going. It was fun and I hope to do it again!"

A notice from the National Council for Social Studies caught Pinelli-McDonough's eye. The hands-on program satisfied state and national social studies standards and sounded like a fun way to teach geography and culture. The lengthy application process was well worth the result. "I was drawn to the program because it teaches acceptance through knowledge," said Pinelli-McDonough. "I have always believed that if we educate our children about their differences, they will celebrate them, rather than be indifferent or resent them. This program allows a greater understanding of different countries and cultures, which leads to acceptance. My goal would be for the children to embrace their differences. This will hopefully allow them, as adults, to think before reacting, possibly avoiding wars and such. The unique program allows students to put a face to others. I enjoyed this as much as the children did."

The children learned far more than geography. Student Alison Smith was surprised to discover how wealthy many American families are compared to those in Armenia. She said, "I think that it is a good idea to get to know someone from another country. You realize how fortunate we are even though we don't realize it. For example, in America the average home



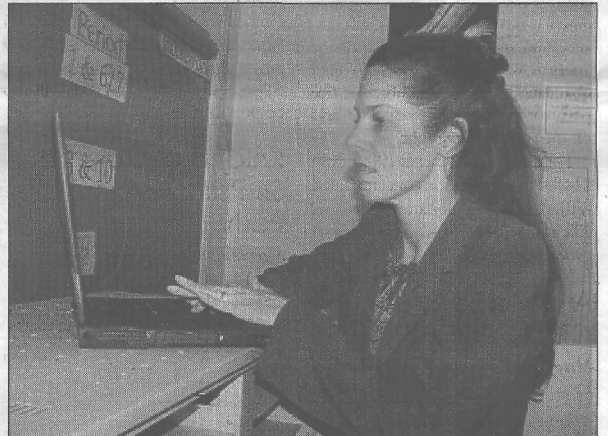
Middle School students Elizabeth Rodger and Anjani Patel.

has two to five televisions. Families in Armenia would be fortunate to own one."

Project Harmony is dedicated to eliminating the one-dimensional political facade that creates bias and barriers between people of different countries. They believe the power to change communities for the better and open the lines of communication is held by the people. By meeting face to face and sharing their hopes and dreams,

people of diverse cultures will embrace those things that make them different. The Project Harmony mission is "to empower individuals to create healthier communities through international training and exchange programs." The technology of the Internet and high-speed communications allows Project Harmony to provide more people with tools and information.

(Continued on page 12)



Middle School teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough offered her geography students the opportunity to communicate with Armenian students through Project Harmony.

## The Brush Stop

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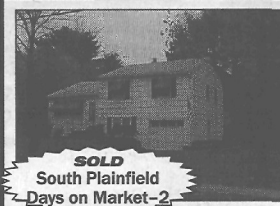


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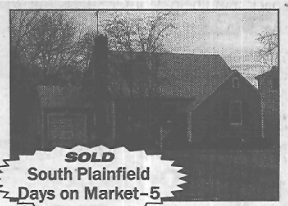
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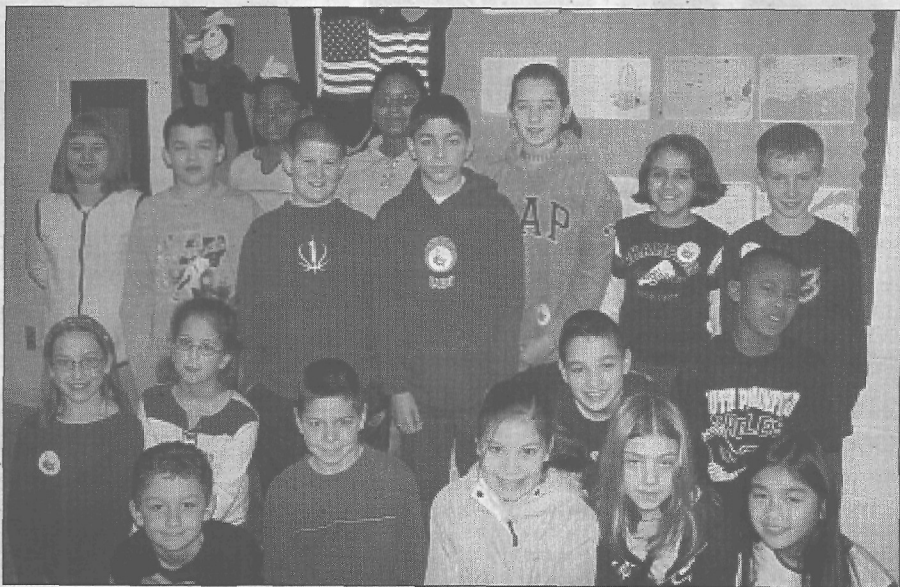


# Roosevelt Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss and Reading



It's Read Across America Week!

Roosevelt School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by inviting guests to read their favorite books to the students. Representatives from Roosevelt School Student Council introduced themselves to the Read Across America readers and escorted each reader to a

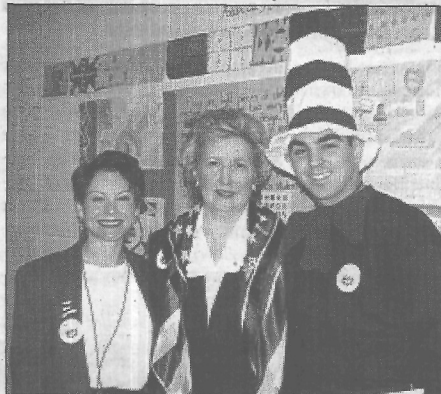


Standing left to right are Courtney Shaefer, Joey Fiero, Alana Franco, Katherine Douglas, Amanda Plum, Mark Brindley, Gerry Pinto, Brittany Alvarado, Tyler Driscoll. Kneeling left to right are Brigitte Kelly, Rachel Alexa, Charles Gruver, Kyle Pompilio, Jessica Scarpitto, Frank Licato, Christina Cody, David Smith and Ashley Nguyen.

classroom. The council is chaired by Mrs. Mosley and Miss Ferraro.

Reading volunteers during the National Read Across America Celebration included people from many fields, including Mayor Dan Gallagher, Dr. Rosado, School Superintendent; Mr. Barbieri, School Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Izbicki, School Business Administrator; Ms. Keogh, Roosevelt School Principal; Mrs. Martko, Staff Developer; Mrs. Mosley, Student Assistance Counselor; Alyssa Innes, Bank Leader Assistant; Mrs. Driscoll, parent and PTA Executive Board member; Mr. Decker, grandparent and community helper; Anthony Celentano, parent and community helper; Mr. Kelly, parent of teacher and community member; Mrs. Stoeckel, teacher; Bill Attardi, teacher; David Shiffel, student teacher and Mr. Hajduk, teacher and our own "Cat in the Hat".

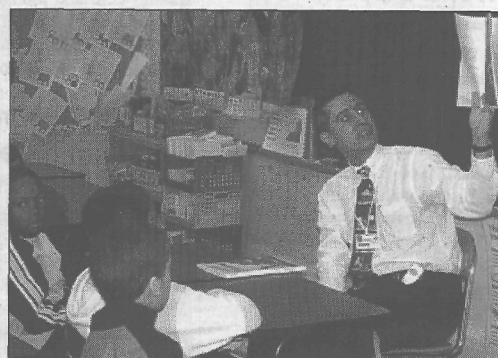
Started in 1998 as a way to promote reading while celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2, NEA's Read Across America has become a national tradition over the past five years.



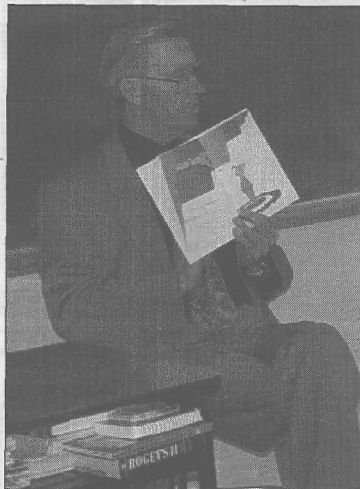
Roosevelt School Principal Miss Keogh, Reading Specialist Mrs. Soltesz and Teacher Mr. Hajduk assist in the celebration of Read Across America.



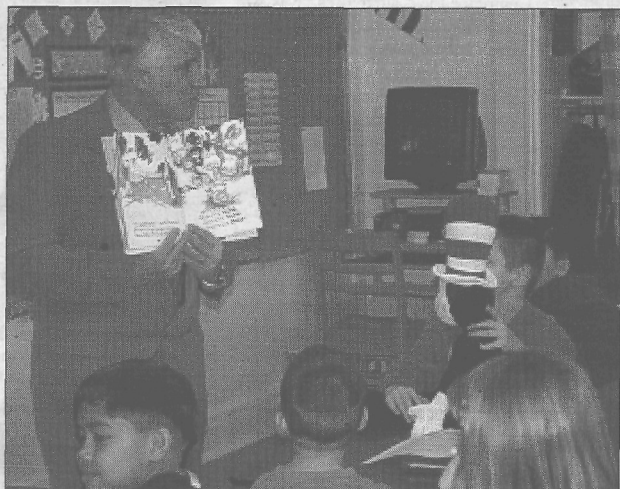
PTA Executive Board Member and Parent Mrs. Driscoll reads to Mrs. Wilson's Second Grade class.



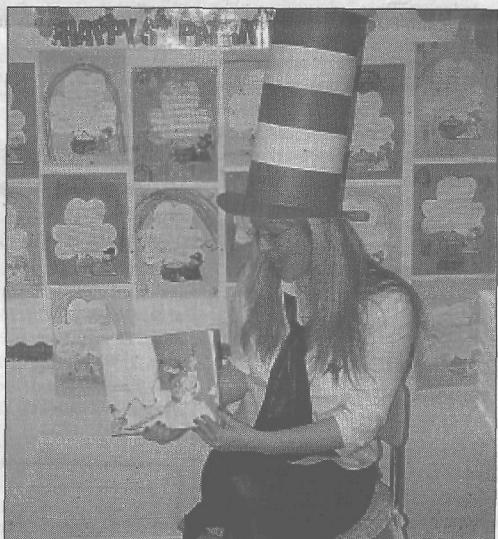
South Plainfield Public School Superintendent Dr. Rosado shares a story with Mrs. Czaplinski's Third Grade class.



Mayor Dan Gallagher



South Plainfield Public School Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri reads to Miss Mate's Fourth Grade class.



First Union Bank Leader Assistant Alyssa Innes reads to Mrs. Ferraro's Second Grade class.

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See next week's Observer for additional photos and stories about Read Across America in our schools.

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FCCLA students who served lunch to borough senior citizens.

## FCCLA Dishes It Out to Seniors

(Continued from page 1)

activity service projects each year. So far they have held a canned food drive and a FISH Food Bank cookie bake.

Freshman Kristi Lombard had this to say about the luncheon. "We seemed to get the job done, all in all it was a great success! I would personally like to thank all of the senior citizens who came, for being such great guests and having patience with

us!" Kristi really enjoys the club's activities. She said, "I joined the FCCLA because I like being involved with community and volunteer work. I think it's good to help participate in your community and at the end of the day it feels good to have known you did something nice and maybe even made someone's day. I hope to continue participating in this club for the rest of high school."

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Dombrowski Named to the Dean's List

Tamara Dombrowski, 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School, was named to the Dean's List in the Honors program for the fall semester at the University of Tampa, Florida. She was also admitted into the freshman Scholastic Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma.

Tammy is enrolled as a double major in Performing Arts and in Communications with a minor in dance. She has been involved with student choreographed productions and recently performed at the Spring Dance concert at the Falk Theater in Tampa.

## Cooking Craft for Children Feeds the Birds

Are the Winter Blues starting to get you down? Here is a fun, easy activity you can do with your children to help battle those blues. Not only does this activity provide you with quality time with your child, you can take this one step further and explain how they are helping their feathered friends in winter, especially with all this snow!

This is one of the ideas expressed at Kitchen Shows, by Marie Markey, independent kitchen consultant for The Pampered Chef. For additional Cooking Tips, or free cooking product in-

formation, call (908) 755-3213 or email mm\_pamperedchef@comcast.net.

#### Bread Bird Feeders

- Bread Tubes
- 2 Packages Refrigerator Biscuits
- Peanut Butter
- Bird Seed
- Twine cut to 25 inch lengths
- Wax or parchment paper
- Large eye needle

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease bread tubes. Place 1½ packages biscuit dough in each tube. Bake at 350° for

50 minutes. Immediately remove end caps from tubes and allow heat to escape. Remove shaped bread from tubes promptly. Place bread on cooling rack to finish cooling. Using a serrated bread knife, slice shaped bread about one inch thick slices.

Place bread slices on a baking stone and spray slices with oil. Bake to crisp, about 15 minutes. Thread needle with twine and push twine through center of slice to make hanger. Melt peanut butter in microwave and paint edges using a pastry brush. Place slices on cooling rack with parchment lined cookie sheet underneath to catch birdseed. Sprinkle peanut buttered slices with bird seed. Hang feeders outside on a tree by a window where viewing is easy and enjoy watching. After all, that's part of the fun.

Please note, you can also bake the biscuits without the tubes following manufacturer directions, but children seem to enjoy the shapes the bread bakes into using the baking tubes.

Although this recipe is great for children, adult supervision is necessary.

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## 'Reptile Man' Visits Roosevelt School

Michael Shwedick (the Reptile Man) presented an assembly about reptiles to the students at Roosevelt School last week. Shwedick has a reputation throughout the area as the "must-see" performer.

Shwedick brings considerable knowledge about animals, and his large collection of reptiles, to share with children. He educates on the different species of reptiles in his collection, where they originate from, how large they get and how long they live. His love of reptiles shows through the entire time he is talking about and handling each species.

Shwedick presents his Reptile World programs to schools, colleges, universities and festivals. Both the students and the teachers were well entertained and educated by this program, but we noticed that everyone made sure to stay far enough away whenever a reptile was out of its cage and on display.



"Reptile Man" Michael Shwedick offers a close look at a crocodile to Roosevelt students.

## South Plainfield Resident Crack's Da Code On Credit Card Debt

Sanyika Calloway Boyce, former debt strapped college student, do-it-yourself debt eliminator, South Plainfield resident and author, recently released *Crack Da Code: What Every College Student Needs To Know About Money, Love & The Dream Job*, a book sure to be on everyone's graduation gift list.

"With the economy in-flux, now more than ever it is important to understand that what you don't know about money, credit and debt can ruin your life," says Calloway Boyce. "Companies are looking at the way individual candidates handle their personal lives, particularly their finances to gauge the type of employee they are most likely to be. If you don't know what your credit report says about you, it's time to find out."

Calloway Boyce attended Norfolk State University where she graduated early, with honors, and \$15,000 in un-

secured debt. In 1997, she moved to South Plainfield. After being frustrated with the lack of financial information geared towards 20-something's, Sanyika founded SCB Enterprise. With a mission to "Spread Financial Literacy One Person At a Time," she travels nationwide to educate, empower, entertain and enlighten students with her

unique message of financial literacy and responsibility.

Endorsed by CEOs, school administrators, debt counselors, Miss USA Shauntay Hinton and students, *Crack Da Code* helps readers of all ages get the facts about money, credit and debt, and provides useful tips for those in a financially frustrating situation.

## Annual Art Auction

(Continued from page 1)

Hospital Home Care Comm. Representative, NJSIAA Official, Health Care speaker for South Plainfield Senior Citizens and co-organizer of the Rally for Riley fundraiser. Before the evening's bidding began, a plaque was presented to Ashnault by Foundation Business Vice President Eric Radell.

The auction is one of several Education Foundation fundraisers held throughout the school year, whose goal is to raise money for scholarships, academic incentives and Project Graduation. The auction is one of their major fundraisers. Some others include telethon telephone pledge campaign, an annual golf outing held in October, and a super 50-50 raffle in June. The raffle has five cash prizes.

The top prize is \$2,500. Two thousand tickets are sold at \$5 each.

The foundation, created in 1993, has a 15 member board of Directors/trustees and eight associate members. The president is Marge Reedy, business vice president is Eric Randell, Education Vice President is SPHS Head of Guidance Cindy Povall and Rich Regan is Secretary/Treasurer. Other members are Genevieve Pinto-Zipp, Barbara Florio, Myra Stillman, Tino Fontes, Robert Hunter, Ken LaFreniere, Steve Katz, Greg Blazka, Al Lepore, Janet Munger and Greg Young. Associate members are Georgeann DiGrazio, Eileen Boettger, Barbara Ballard, Frank Mikorski, Nancy Grenier, Libby Barsky, Richard D'Urso and Karen Harrington.

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# Sports

## Teachers "Challenge" Students in Middle School Fundraiser



Fans show their support for Middle School faculty at last week's fundraiser.

### Story and photos by Patricia Abbott

It was a monumental idea for a fundraiser, one sure to bring in a crowd—a Middle School student-faculty basketball game, the boys and girls teams, the Tigers, playing alternate quarters against two rag-tag faculty teams, the Dinos. Proceeds from the event are earmarked for the September 11 memorial monument to be constructed in the school's courtyard.

Teachers who were not up to taking on the students found other ways to show their support. Jim Makowski was the game's Master of Ceremonies, John Limyansky was DJ and also handled sound and lights. High school history teacher Fran Flannery was at the scoreboard. A teacher and sister of one of the star faculty players, Flannery was kept under careful surveillance throughout the night by student statisticians seated at her side.

The sold out evening began with the introduction of the student players and cheerleaders. The crowd roared their support and gave the

teams thunderous applause. The teacher's team, in an attempt to steal the limelight away from the youth, employed numerous special effects for their introductions. The room fell dark, spotlights, strobes and a fog machine hinted at the entrance of the



Faculty coach Terry Allen (left) disguised himself in an attempt to infiltrate the student team. He is pictured here with Middle School Principal Fredrik Oberkehr.

faculty team. The music grew louder, and faculty cheerleaders fell into formation to welcome their players. One by one, the not-quite-teenage team, burst into the gym bolstered by slightly exaggerated stats. Once again the crowd roared, this time with laughter.

The evening briefly took a more serious turn with the introduction of the South Plainfield Police Honor Guard, Captain John Ferraro, Sgt. Kevin Murtagh, and officers Wayne Diana, Raymond Jazikoff and David Franchak. In addition to the honor guard, there were representatives from the U.S. Military and emergency services from South Plainfield and New York. The South Plainfield Fire Department was represented by John Mocharski, Bob Harding, Ray Petronko, Michael Pelligrino, John Celentano and Joe Abbruzzese; South Plainfield Police by Chief Robert Merkler and Sgt. Chuck Seidenburg. Representing the New York City Fire Department Engine 40 were Ray Pfeifer and Joe Tisbe. From the Port



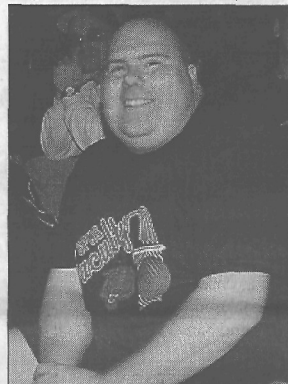
The "Dinos" cheerleaders team used theatrics to rally support for their team.

Authority Police Dept. were representatives Scott Kelliher and Tom Ruddy. On hand from the U.S. Military were Lt. Joseph Palazzo, US Navy; SSG Allen Cottonne, US Army; and Gunner Sgt. Edgar Ogaz, USMC. Representatives from the Air Force and the NYPD were unable to attend. The absence of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad was noticeable. Game coordinator Joe Blondo said a letter of invitation had been sent to the squad, but squad president Ron Sward claims it was never received. Blondo said, "It was an unfortunate mix up and we regret them not being there."

After the colors were retired the fun began. The teachers had height and experience... lots of experience on their side. Several of the teachers had played basketball in high school and college giving them a slight advantage, but working against them were lack of practice and a few decades. The students had youth and speed, and a strong desire for bragging rights.

The game was an odd mix of mass confusion, hilarity, good-natured taunts and lots of cheating. Many of the faculty appeared to have forgotten how many players are allowed on the court, but then, memory loss is said to be the first sign of old age! At

one point there were nine teachers playing against the regulation five students. The youth played fast and furious, but faculty team member Maureen Flannery Barnett could have taken on the entire student team single-handedly. The Flannery name



Event coordinator Joe Blondo is well-known in the annals of SPHS basketball.

The students held their own and the score bounced back and forth. In fact, so did the scoreboard. The clock raced forward and backward. A two point shot made by the faculty became a six

(Continued on page 10)

## SPMS Boys and Girls Basketball Squads Vie for 'March of Dimes' Title

March Madness has found its way to SP Middle School. With the recent success of both our SPHS Girls and Boys Varsity teams, basketball fever is red hot at the Middle School. After a successful regular season, which included a pre-season S.P.A.S.A. tournament championship for both teams in December, both the seventh/eighth grade girls and boys teams are currently participating in the 52nd Annual March of Dimes & Gavornik Scholarship Fund Basketball Tournament, which is held annually in Dunellen.

The SPMS Girls, who also won the

Sacred Heart Tournament in January, are coached by Mrs. Barnett and Ms. Curcio. To date, the girls record stands at 20-5. They'll be playing for the girls championship against Long Hill on Saturday at 6 p.m. To reach the title game, the girls had to beat both Green Brook and the host team, Dunellen.

The SPMS Boys, who are coached by Mr. Allen and Mr. Richkus, are 21-5 for the season and have advanced to the Final Four after impressive wins last weekend against Summit and Montgomery. They play this Friday night at 8 p.m. against Branchburg. If they win, they'll advance to the

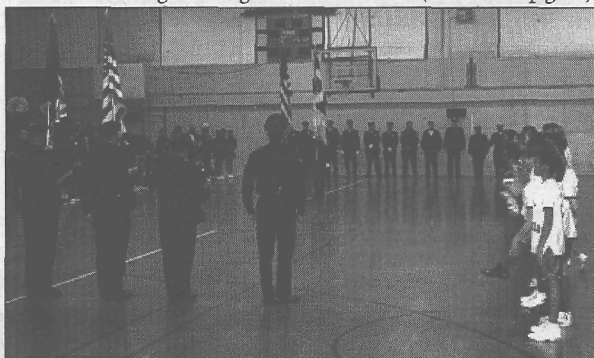
championship game on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. against the winner of the Middlesex vs. Mary Mother of God (Hillsborough) game.

Please come and support these teams. All games are played at Faber Middle School in Dunellen, located on First St. For directions, please call the Middle School at (908) 754-4620 or Faber School at (732) 968-5311. The boys consolation game for third place will be held at 4 p.m. just prior to the girls championship game at 6 p.m. Congratulations to both teams and good luck this weekend.

## Junior Baseball Club Taking Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for their college scholarship. Applications may be picked up at the guidance department of South Plainfield High School or contact South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating high school student this June, must be a South Plainfield resident and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years. Please note that the filing deadline is Apr. 1.



In attendance at the game were representatives from South Plainfield Police, the U.S. Military, emergency services from South Plainfield and New York, South Plainfield and New York City fire departments and the Port Authority Police Department.

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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 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.

and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass





# Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

## Tiger's Capture 19<sup>th</sup> District 12 Title

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team won their 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive District 12 championship, the state's longest district championship run. The Tigers captured the title by a score of 180.5 to 163.5 over second place Watchung; North Plainfield finished in third. After the first two rounds the Tigers were down by two going into the championship round. Watchung who sent seven individual wres-

tlers to the finals with South Plainfield sending five, it was sure to be a battle to the end.

In the finals Jimmy Conroy (103), got the Tigers off to a sizzling championship run when he pinned Thomas Ramos of North Plainfield at 1:05. Conroy had three pins for the tournament. Watchung, who lost at 112, 119 and 125 set the stage for the win.

Guy Severini (152), started off slow,

but turned it on at the midway point of the first period before pinning Roberto Cerbone of Colonia at 2:03. Severini's pin gave the Tigers the added bonus points needed for the win.

Glenn Gross (160), helped the team when he defeated Ryan Aldrich by major decision 17-5. By defeating Watchung head to head plus getting the bonus points, it secured the Tiger victory. Gross won his third district 12 title.

Steve Johnston (171), not happy with the narrow lead wasted little time when he got the takedown and proceeded to put Ryan Strasko of North Plainfield into a leg cradle and got the fall at 0:47 to add to the Tiger led. Johnston won his second district 12 title.

Ryan Elliot (Hwt.), the last Tiger wrestler to go put the icing on the cake when he pinned David Valguamera of Colonia at 3:08.

The Tigers also got much needed team points by placing third. Viet Vo (112), defeated Mike Hall of Middlesex 8-6. Pete DeAndrea (135), won by major decision 20-7 over Andrew Guild of North Plainfield. Paul Ritchey (140), won by decision over Pat Potok of North Plainfield 6-0. Joe DeBiase (171), who must be commended on his commitment to the team when he wrestled his consolation final on one leg. DeBiase went on to win a 10-6 decision over Louis Raymond of North Plainfield. Rob Maistickle (215), also did his part by pinning Tim Gallagher of New Providence at 3:06.

Eight Tiger wrestlers will advance to the Region 3 championship's, which will be held at Union High School. Coach McCann again did a great job and the wrestlers stepped up to accept the challenge. Great job, congratulations!

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes



It's been a while since my last message, but opening day is merely a month away and things are really starting to heat up around the baseball complex.

As you know, this past fall was very wet. This winter has seen colder temperatures and much more snow than was anticipated. As I write this, much of it is still on the fields.

We have scheduled major work details on each of the Saturdays in March, beginning at 8 a.m., to try to get the complex ready for opening day which is scheduled for Saturday, April 5. Much needs to be done after the extreme winter that we have experienced. Painting, field preparation and some repair work are among our primary concerns. If you can contribute an hour or two of your time on these days we would greatly appreciate your coming down. Every little bit will help.

On the baseball front; coaches have been selected, tryouts conducted, and drafts were being held during this past week. All players who registered should be getting a call from their coach sometime this weekend, or early next week.

Annually the club offers two \$1,000 scholarships to South Plainfield Seniors who played a minimum of five seasons here at the SPJBC. Applications have been distributed at SPHS, Bishop Ahr HS and St. Joseph's HS. See your guidance dept. for further details.

In the weeks to come leading up to opening day, you will hear more details about the parade, Little Miss Baseball 2003, opening day ceremonies and the celebration of our 50th season at the SPJBC. Until then let's all hope for better weather to get ready for 2003.

## Middle School Wrestlers Lose To Holy Angels

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team finished in second place at the First Annual South Plainfield Duals. Teams from Nazareth and Pennsbury Pa. along with Paulsboro and Holy Angels from Delaware meet head to head at the PAL on Sunday.

South Plainfield wrestled Paulsboro first and came away with a 60-33 win. They jumped out to an early lead when Nick Pauls (70), pinned Steve Mogar in 0:50.

Robert Gentile (75), kept things going with a fall over Chris Gentales at 0:54. Patrick Hunter (80), pinned Jason Buckley at 0:24. Nick Veruschi (85), won by forfeit. Billy Ashnault (90), then pinned Josh Klein at 1:10. Bryan Hunt (95), pinned Aron Wellington at 1:21. Nick Dorey (109), Mike Jakubik (113), Mark Wagner (119) and Sam Martin (133) all won by fall.

In the Nazareth match, the Tigers got off to a slow start winning three of the first seven matches. Robert Gentile won a close 5-4 decision over Ken Maciborski, Patrick Hunter won by tech fall over Julio Isdoro 16-0. Billy Ashnault got the Tigers going with a fall over Joe Myers at 4:08. Nick Dorey won a 6-4 decision over Tim Ottinger; Mike Jakubik then pinned Kent Beers at 0:23. Mark Wagner won by tech fall 15-0 over Darin Stout and Sam Martin pinned Eric Sergeant at 0:58. Travis Noll was tied with Dan Franack 8-8 at then end of regulation, but scored the takedown and a fall 14 seconds into overtime. Rocco Petriello Hwt., won by forfeit. Final score SP 52, Nazareth 33.

Next up was Pennsbury. Robert Gentile defeated Robert Milas 3-0. Nick Veruschi wrestling at 80 pounds pinned Tyler Wooley at 1:33. Patrick Hunter bumped up to 85 and took

an early 5-0 lead before pinning Charlie Moore at 1:03. Billy Ashnault followed with a fall over Josh Redner at 2:41. Bryan Hunt won by major decision 11-0 over Sean Healy. Nick Dorey pinned RJ Adams at 2:38 and Mike Jakubik pinned Chris Maples at 0:43. Mark Wagner was losing 5-4 with 45 seconds left when he reversed Binn Watson and scored a fall at 4:55. Sam Martin found himself in the same position as Wagner, but he escaped, then took his man down to his back for the win over Matt Cutcheneal. Travis Noll closed the scoring with a fall over Rob Watson at 1:53. Final score SP 52 Pennsbury 33.

In the championship round the Tigers faced undefeated Holy Angels from Delaware. This was the toughest team the Tigers faced all year, two undefeated teams facing off. The Tigers got a double overtime win from Robert Gentile on a ride out over Matt Buckworth. Patrick Hunter then faced Delaware State Champion Jarrod Garnett in what was supposed to be a battle between the two undefeated wrestlers. Hunter gave up the first takedown, but escaped seconds later and went on to dominate, winning a 14-2 major decision. Billy Ashnault then followed with another major decision 11-2 over Brandon Bruce. Danny Pompilio came through with a big pin over Kyle Davis at 4:15. Mike Jakubik helped the cause with a fall at 1:35 over Cody Dempsey. Mark Wagner then won a 5-0 decision over Cory Abbott. Sam Martin pinned Billy Shaw at 0:29. After receiving a forfeit at 160, the Tigers were down by one going into the heavyweight match, but could not pull off the upset. Final score Holy Angels 45 SP 38. The Middle School wrestlers are now 27-1-1 on the year.

## South Plainfield Soccer Club Looking for More Players

The U12 Girls team, The Strikers, are looking for a few more players for the spring season.

To be eligible for the U12 Strikers, your birth date must fall between Aug. 1, 1990 and July 31, 1991.

This is a traveling team so games will be played both home and away.

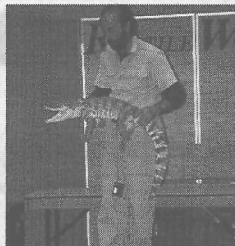
If interested, please contact Ele Soisson, coach, at (908) 757-2924 or Pete Kelly, president SPSC, at (908) 226-1999.

## Basketball 2003 Ed Niemczyk Basketball League

League B	
Timberwolves 28	Rockets ..... 18
Hornets ..... 34	Spurs ..... 27
Bulls ..... 27	Lakers ..... 24

Standings	W	L
Hornets ..... 12	..... 0	
Bulls ..... 10	..... 2	
Cavaliers ..... 9	..... 3	
Timberwolves ..... 8	..... 4	
Knicks ..... 7	..... 5	
Nuggets ..... 6	..... 6	
76ers ..... 6	..... 6	
Lakers ..... 5	..... 7	
Pistons ..... 4	..... 8	
Spurs ..... 3	..... 9	
Rockets ..... 3	..... 9	
Jazz ..... 0	..... 12	

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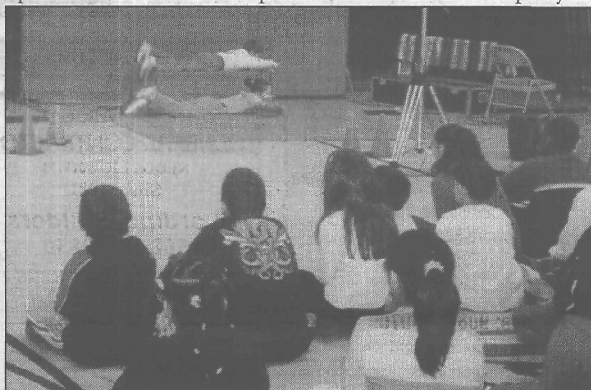
Sacred Heart School students (pictured above and below) enjoy a "little bit of Hollywood" at a recent school-sponsored program.

## "Lights, Camera, Action!" Comes to Sacred Heart

Last month, the Sacred Heart School's Home and School Association sponsored a special program which was a "little bit of Hollywood experience" for the students and teachers of Sacred Heart School. Representatives from "Lights, Camera, Action," a portable television studio developed

of ten pre-selected students.

All groups were exposed to a demonstration of a digital, state of the art television studio and how it works. The Mobile Ed Productions representatives showed the different pieces of equipment and how simple special effects can be used to create a completely dif-



ferent atmosphere. Students learned about video and audio "dubbing," character generators and assorted other "tricks of the trade."

Sacred Heart students were given "non-verbal exercises" such as jogging down the street and water skiing. With camera tricks, some students were shown "flying like Superman" and swimming underwater. Students and staff alike enjoyed watching this fun activity and seeing students "float" and "fly" over buildings. The students presented commercials, weather reports, public service announcements, doing a "lip sync" to music and even doing their own rock video.

When the two representatives from Mobile Ed Productions came to Sacred Heart School, they presented "Lights, Camera, Action" in an all day format consisting of four grade level assemblies (Pre-K-grade 2, 3-5, 6-8) approximately 40 minutes in length. During each session, a few students acted as "on screen talent." There was also one final editing workshop, 50 minutes in length, with a small group

## Memorial Services

### Ellis Williams, Paul Israel To be Remembered at Services

A memorial Service will be held for Ellis D. Williams on Sunday, March 9, starting at 4 p.m. at the Covenant Methodist Church, 631 E. Front St. in Plainfield. Everyone is invited to attend.

A 40-day memorial service will be held for Paul Israel at St. Stephen's Church, 609 Lane Ave. on Monday March 9 at 10 a.m.



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(Continued from page 2)

the DPW begging for a plow to come down our street. I was very thankful when the plow finally arrived and thanked the hard working DPW employee for his assistance.

Please note, there are South Plainfield policemen who reside on my block and it didn't make one bit of difference. I have the same concerns as the Oakmanor residents — what do I have to look forward to the next time it snows?

**CONCERNED RESIDENT OF  
MATIS STREET**

Letter to the Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank several businesses for their contribution to the South Plainfield Education Foundation's Art Auction that was held on Feb. 22.

Thanks to the following delis for contributing food for the auction: Corner Deli, Hometown Heros, Imperial Deli and Marriott Services for help with setup, food and drinks.

I would also like to thank the members of our organization for all their help in putting the auction together, as well as all those who attended and purchased art work that evening. This has been a very successful fundraiser for our organization and we will continue with it next year.

**SINCERELY,  
MARJORIE REEDY, PRESIDENT  
SP EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

To the Editor,

I was a little taken back with this week's headlines, but not surprised. I do have some words of encouragement for Darlene Pinto; there are many people behind you, don't back down! When Darlene was on council she was a caring councilperson, not about politics, about the quality of life of South Plainfield. I have to sit back and wonder if she was a man would this happen? I truly doubt it since other former councilmen do have jobs within the borough or county and I have to wonder if they were as quali-

fied as Darlene is for the position. But I think the difference is Darlene is true to herself and to the residents of South Plainfield a straight shooter.

I think the only thing "demeaning" as Assemblyman/Borough Attorney Diegnan says is he and his cohorts attitude towards an upstanding, out-standing mother and dedicated person to this town.

I think as citizens of South Plainfield we should really read into this, secret meetings...how many others have been held to decide the fate of other people or just of the fate of South Plainfield????

This is a perfect example of what happens when one party is in charge for any length of time. It is clearly time for two-party government when the party in charge turns on their loyal members!

My ending words for Ms. Pinto—you do whatever it takes, you have many behind you. You are a professional and a wonderful person and mother. Others have forgotten the true meaning of loyalty and in the end justice will prevail.

**SINCERELY,  
MARY VAN NEST**

To the Editor,

I think many people feel the same as I do when I say "you go girl!!!" I think it is about time someone stands up to the Democrats of this town. They have been in control too long and this is proof of it. While I only know what I read in the paper and I am sure there is more to come out, I do have a thought in my mind. Darlene Pinto was a stellar councilwoman and I am sure very qualified, if not over-qualified for the position. If her own party (the Democrats) lied to her and promised her a job and then went back on their word, I can only imagine what they are lying to the public about.

I read in last week's edition a letter from Jake Cataldo, responding to the Mayor picking on sladders but not doing anything about the bar near his home. Maybe that is because the entire strip mall is owned by a local Democrat.

Do we get the pattern here? My sympathies to Ms. Pinto. It must be a very rude awakening to realize all of the years you have been loyal to your group, they think so little to turn on you.

Please let Ms. Pinto know she has the support of many, she has always been an honorable person.

**MICHAEL DEFALCO**

To the Editor,

Everyday I read the *Star Ledger* about another appointment Governor McGreevey has made to one of political buddies or a big contributor to the Democrats. It has turned me off to big time politics and convinced me there is so much corruption that we read about and I think what we don't know is probably unthinkable.

I was naive to think that this doesn't happen locally, when in fact it appears to be worse. The common denominator is that it doesn't matter if it is local or state level, given the power, the Democrats are out of control. They are so much out of control on a local level, they have now turned on their own. I used to think that Ms. Pinto, at one point, paid you to have her picture in the paper, since it was a constant, until I realized that this woman truly does care about her town. I began to follow her political career and thought she would actually be our first woman Mayor one day, which would give all women a great boost. I was very disappointed when she stepped down and really didn't understand until now. Men and Democrats in power deciding who and who can't have a job when others within their own party were given jobs, most of which were men.

I think Ms. Pinto has a lot of guts to bring this out in the open and just like what is happening in Trenton we should not stand for this type of corruption anymore. I think an investigation is in need but we all know it would never happen. I am anxious to see were this suit goes and how much will be revealed. I do not envy her but I do applaud her!

**LINDA H. HOGAN**

## Teachers Challenge Students

(Continued from page 8)

point shot on the board. There were many a tug-of-war sessions between students and faculty over possession of the ball. Faculty player Mr. Terry Allen, coach of the boy's team, spent a lot of time on the floor, literally. His young charges seemed bent on some sort of paycheck as they repeatedly "accidentally" knocked him to the ground.

At half time, neatly clad Middle School cheerleaders performed aerial stunts that brought gasps and applause from the audience. Enthusiastic Dino Mascot Gina Capizola pranced across the gym floor in a costume that might have been mistaken for a certain "other" purple dinosaur. The faculty cheerleaders, in sweats and tee shirts, went for more sedate visual effects, such as pom-poms and felt lizard hats. When the Dino cheerleaders began to form the base for a human pyramid, cameras were quickly focused on the

group. Suffice it to say, the pyramid did not happen!

The Harlem Globetrotters would have been awed at their antics. As the final quarter approached, the Dinos gave up all appearances of fair play and fought to win the game. The young Tigers fought back, but despite the teacher's ally at the scoreboard, the game ended in a 58-58 tie.

Over 700 people witnessed what was clearly the game of the year. Approximately \$2,100 was raised for the monument. The event was coordinated by teachers Joe Blondo and Joe Bennett. More than 50 staff members and parents also worked to make the event a success. Watch the *Observer* for a upcoming story on the monument itself.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **MARCH 26, 2003 at \*\*\*10:00AM\*\*\*** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building 2420 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public.

**MASON DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW**

Specifications and other bid information maybe obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.) the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25, Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2 EOE. ADA

Vincent Buttiglieri/  
Municipal Clerk

\$39.80

March 7, 2003

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

March 3, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board at its meeting held on February 27, 2003.

A. Case #03-03-Robert and Louise Doyle; Block 342; Lot 9.01; 230 Arlington Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to construct an addition to utilize as a second dwelling unit, together with the lot coverage variance of 204.4 sq. ft.; the variance for the rear yard setback of the deck (15%); and the side yard setback variance for the pool (4 ft.) was hereby **GRANTED** with voluntary conditions.

B. Case #99-02-Harry Popik; Block 409; Lot 1; Somerset Street. The applicant's request for a use variance to construct a single family home was hereby **GRANTED** as amended.

C. Case #06-03-South Plainfield-Hadley, L.L.C. Block 528.01; Lot 48; 6000 Hadley Road. The applicant's request for the interpretation that the proposed Health club be classified as a personal service establishment was hereby **GRANTED**.

D. Case #83-02/S-AT&T Wireless PCS, L.L.C. Block 528.01; Lot 46.01; 4000 Hadley Road. Bruce A. Einstein, PhD, PE, is hereby **RETAINED** as the Board's Radio Frequency Engineer in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidir  
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$40.00

March 7, 2003



# Classifieds

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From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for more news from the South Plainfield Library:

At this writing, there's still space available for tomorrow's Job Information Center class on "Resumes and Cover Letters for Beginners." The class starts at 10:30 a.m.; space is limited, so pre-registration is required. To find out more, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Allan.

Turning to our children's programs, we've got a special program scheduled for tomorrow: the "Snow Quilt" Project. From 9 a.m. until 12 noon, children and their families are invited to come in and make a square for the Library's Snow Quilt. We'll provide all of the materials. (If you can't make it tomorrow, but would still like to make a square, please call us and ask for Miss Linda; she'll give you the details.) We also have our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn more about the Library's present and future plans.

The new group from the Video Circuit is now available for borrowing. Titles in this group include *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Babe: Pig in the City*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Memento*, *Murder by Numbers*, and, on DVD, *Crossroads*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

On the subject of Circuit items, here's a word regarding their renewal. The Library has a policy that, provided there are no reserves on an item, items may be renewed for at least two additional loan periods. At times, depending on the situation, we can extend renewal periods even longer. However, this is not always the case with Circuit items. Since we only have these items for a limited time, we want to make them available to as many patrons as possible. Thus, we simply can't allow one patron to monopolize such items for an extended length of time. While Circuit items may be renewed for the standard two times, they can't be extended any longer. Sorry if this causes some inconvenience,

but we're trying to provide the best possible service for the largest number of people. Hope you understand.

We're making another alteration in our internal arrangement. Following some weeding in our non-fiction collection, we're moving part of the remaining non-fiction books (the 900-919 section), previously located on the ground floor, to the upstairs shelves. How much of it gets moved depends on how much space we have available. If you can't locate something from that section, please ask at Reference for assistance. (As yet, we haven't linked our shelves to the GPS satellites.)

Finally, thanks to the 212 participants in our February "Bundle of Love" contest, and special thanks to the winners. Their names are posted on the message board next to the Children's Room.

That's about all for today. See you next Friday for more.

## policereport

• On Feb. 26 Able Laboratories Inc. on Hollywood Ct. reported that \$750 in petty cash was missing from a locked filing cabinet.

• On Feb. 27 a Scotch Plains resident reported the theft of her licence plates while parked at Dunkin Donuts on Maple Ave.

• Clinton Exxon on Clinton Ave. reported their front glass door had been smashed and 25 cartons of cigarettes valued at \$1,300 were taken.

• On Feb. 28 John E. Mobley, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for obstruction, an outstanding warrant and harassment during a dispute outside Borough Hall.

• A Smith St. resident reported that he received his bank statement and someone had taken a cash advance of \$37,000.

• K-Food on Park Ave. reported that the front door had been smashed with a brick and an unknown amount of cigarettes and \$200 in cash were taken.

• E Z Way Storage Group on

Roosevelt Ave. reported that the lock was missing on a trailer and approximately \$20,000 in car engine parts was missing.

• A Franklin Ave. resident reported that she had lost her ATM card and \$4,457 was withdrawn from her account.

• On March 1 Dennis Bernard Hobley, 52, of Plainfield was arrested at a motor vehicle stop for being a fugitive from justice out of Bucks County, Pa.

• Thong Nguyen, 31, of Middlesex was arrested for failure to wear a seat belt, driving while intoxicated and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle accident on Sampton Ave.

• Oscar Guardado, 43, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a breathalyzer test and careless driving at a motor vehicle

stop.

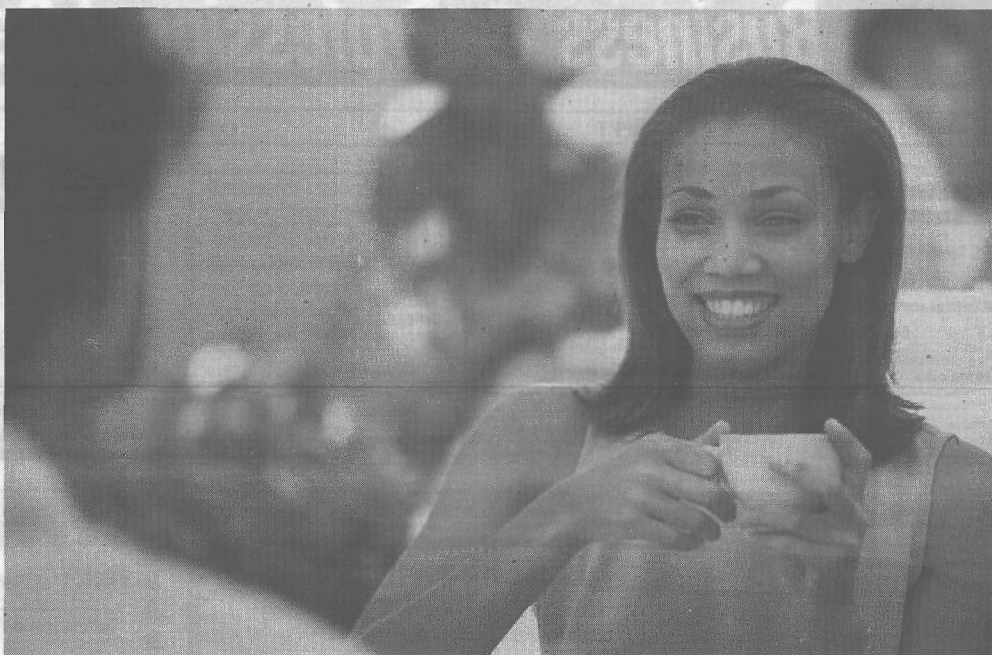
• Canada Dry on New Durham Rd. reported that their front door was smashed out and pry marks were found on a locked office door. Nothing was taken.

• A Carlisle St. resident reported the theft of his son's bike.

• On March 2 William Newman, 53, of South Plainfield was arrested for simple assault during a fight outside KC's Korner on Oak Tree Ave. His son, Peter Newman, 30, also of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct during the same incident.

• Carson Enterprises Inc. of Asbury, reported that a 48' storage trailer, which was rented to Flavor Innovations on St. Nicholas Ave., was missing.

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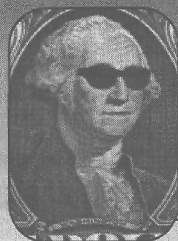
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## Students Embrace the World through Project Harmony

Continued from page 5

Founded in Vermont in 1985, the organization held a belief that tensions of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union could be eased by putting people before politics. They began with an exchange of student choirs groups between schools in Vermont and in Leningrad, Soviet Union. The successful program blossomed and today they have 17 offices worldwide. Project Harmony programs are sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of State.

Student Christopher DeOliveira shared his thoughts. "What surprised me the most was that some kids thought that war was good! I thought that war wasn't good because people die and countries hold grudges against one another." The class had fun comparing lifestyles with the Armenian children. They learned that sometimes their differences were minuscule.



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