

Look for the winners of the Holiday House Decorating Contest next week.

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 20

50 CENTS

JANUARY 2, 2004

## The Spirit of Giving Abounds

### Borough Residents Offer Holiday Miracles for Needy Families



Shirley Thompson, with the help of her family, packs up Christmas dinner for 61 borough residents.

The spirit of giving was evident in South Plainfield last week. Two generous families took time out of their busy schedules to give to those in need.

Bob and Fran Yurgel spend each Christmas Eve distributing gifts and food to families who are less fortunate. Shirley Thompson, along with her family and friends, spent Christmas Day delivering dinners to 61 people.

For the past 21 years the Yurgels have spent Christmas Eve driving around South Plainfield, handing out toys, gifts and food to families. With the assistance of Marge Ackerman, South Plainfield Social Services director, the Yurgels are able to locate families in need.

When we arrived at the Yurgels house on Christmas Eve, the kitchen

was filled with bags of presents, including five baskets filled with enough food to cook Christmas dinner, each topped with a huge ham.

With the help of Police Officer Dave Franchak, who also volunteered to donate his Christmas Eve to help, the Yurgels loaded their sleigh (the DARE van) and took off on their an-

nual trip to deliver their gifts to each family. This is the second year that the DARE van was used.

Dressed in full Santa gear, Bob Yurgel visited the homes, while Fran organized the gifts. Fran said she calls each "adopted" family to find out what the children need and want for Christmas. One child's wish was just to have his own bath towel. Simple requests are the norm for these kids and the Yurgels never let them down.

The Yurgels have raised five children, one of them a priest. They spend the year collecting money to buy gifts for the kids. If they run short of money, they use their own. The five baskets of food were donated by the Yurgels. During their 21 years of giving, many businesses and individuals have added their support. Some donate gifts, some money, but the end result is the same: kids enjoy a Christmas they may otherwise not have been able to. Fran says it's very hectic getting everything purchased and wrapped, but when they arrive at their first house and start handing out presents, it is all worthwhile.

**Thompson Cooks for a Crowd**  
This is the first year that Shirley



Bob and Fran Yurgel follow their 21 year tradition of "adopting" needy families in South Plainfield at Christmastime with the help of Police Officer Dave Franchak.

Thompson has cooked dinners for the elderly and needy. Thompson said the idea was born on Thanksgiving Day when she picked up her daughter at the deli where she works.

An elderly woman there was upset because the deli wasn't serving hot food that day. She said all she wanted

was a Thanksgiving Dinner. That very night Shirley started to make plans to cook and deliver Christmas Dinner to any South Plainfield resident who was elderly or handicapped and was not going to have a Christmas meal.

She asked her family for their help,  
*Continued on page 2*

## Borough Reorganizes Sunday Petronko, Cusick to Take Office

The annual reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body will be held on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Court Room at the Municipal Building.

Councilmen Bob Cusick and Raymond Petronko will be sworn in for three year terms.

The council is also expected to name a replacement for Council

President Jim Vokral who resigned his seat on the council after accepting a job as administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections.

In addition, names of those who will be appointed to serve on the many Borough boards and commissions will be announced and they, too, will be sworn in.

The public is invited to attend.

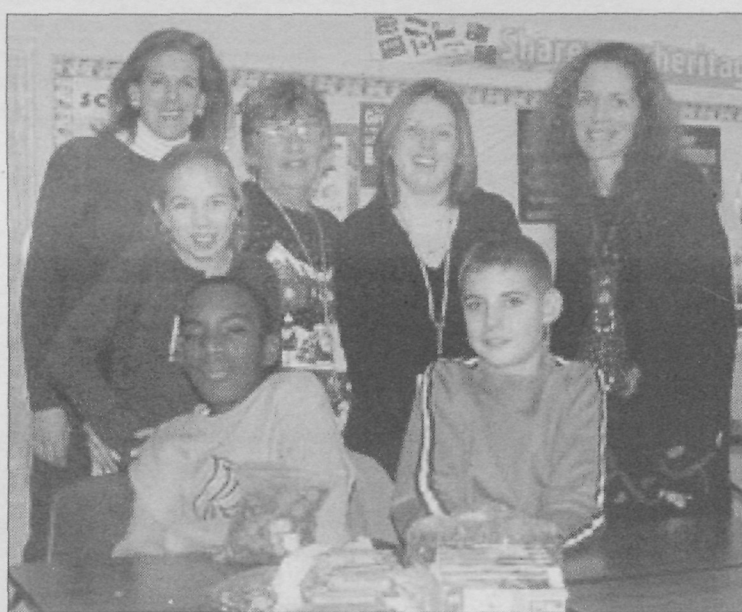
## Middle School Share "Pennies from Heaven"

The expression "Pennies from Heaven" seems most appropriate for the small Holiday miracle that enveloped South Plainfield Middle School over the last two weeks.

Students at the middle school opened up not only their hearts, but also their change purses, for families in need in Appalachia, Kentucky.

This year, the middle school delved into the educational process of Team Teaching. The school was divided into six teams, three for each grade level. With the onset of the holiday season, students felt a need to give back to a world that gives them so much. Team Monsoon of the seventh grade chose to sponsor families in Appalachia, Kentucky through CAP (Christian Appalachia Project). The kids understood that there are families not only in our area, but also in other parts of the country, that are less fortunate than they may be.

With the help of Principal Fred Oberkehr, Vice Principal Phyllis Savage and the faculty and staff of the school, the students of Team Monsoon decided to open up their



Standing are Middle School teachers (L-R) Ginny Cocco, Gerri Heim, Kristin Tomasula and Barbara Pinelli-McDonough. Students (L-R) Faryn Evans (standing) and Steven Sharpe and Ryan Voekel (sitting).

charitable fundraising to the entire school by running a Penny War. They never imagined that it would be so successful. And success they did achieve, not only monetary, but also in

learning a valuable lesson in charitable work at a time of the year when it's needed most.

Bottles were set up in the cafeteria during all lunches, as well as

in the conference room before and after school. Each team competed to earn the most positive points for their team. Every penny counted as one positive point. Silver coins and dollars counted as negative points, taking away from any positive points earned in the bottles. No one expected to raise the amount that was totaled up Monday afternoon, Dec. 22.

Thanks to the teachers of Team Monsoon, Gerri Heim, Ginny Cocco, Barbara Pinelli-McDonough and Kristin Tomasula, who regulated and assisted the students in counting and gathering the money.

Students gave up allowance money, part of their lunch money, worked extra chores at home and around their neighborhoods, and asked teachers and parents for assistance. And assistance they were given! The students raised a total of \$1,553 in six days! Every penny will be sent to Kentucky in the form of ShopRite gift certificates to buy food for those families in need.

In addition to learning the valuable  
*Continued on page 10*



**Santa Takes A Break!**

Santa relaxes with the "Observer" before his big night.





**If you enjoyed this edition of the Observer & would like to subscribe, call 908-668-0010.**



## The Spirit of Giving Abounds

(Continued from page 1)

and if they would be willing to give up their Christmas dinner to help deliver the meals. Thompson's family thought it was too enormous an undertaking for her. When they realized that she had already made up her mind, everyone agreed to help.

Thompson came to the *Observer* office to place an ad in the paper asking people to call her if they were unable to cook Christmas dinner.

We ran the ad for three weeks at no charge, and before Thompson knew it, phone calls started pouring in. Before she knew what had hit her, there were 61 meals to prepare. She began shopping, planning and cooking for Christmas Dinner in earnest. She also had to take into account special dietary needs, such as those who had diabetes.

After talking to several of the callers, Shirley realized that some needed more than just a Christmas dinner. Her family put together food baskets, and her children bought and wrapped gifts to donate. Everything was planned out perfectly. With the help of a map of South Plainfield, the organized group delivered 61 meals to 39 homes

in South Plainfield in just 2½ hours.

Shirley would like to thank all those who called with offers to help in any way they could. She also would like to thank her family, John, Deneen, Kasi, Jerry, Sandy, Danielle, Tony, Daniel, Candy, Heather, Peggy, her dishwasher who never fails her—her mom, and of course, her husband, John, who always agrees with everything she says or does. She says she loves them all and couldn't have done it with their help.

Bob and Fran Yurgel would like to acknowledge those who donated to their cause. They were Rose Pelton, Dick Bartell Landscaping, Coopers Office Furniture, Dave and Barbara Boyd, Color Techniques Inc., Carolyn and Tom Edridge, Jane Hollenberg, Carolyn Napolitano, John Pisula, J.T. Penyak Roofing, Jeanne McElevee, Andy Pinto, Mahmoud Hassani, DBA Colors on Parade, Anthony and Danielle Kowalski, Hometown Heros, Stilo Excavation Inc., Di-Lex Trucking Inc., Butch and Cindy Pizazza, Dunkin Donuts at Maple Lakeview, Chief Bob Merkler, Lt. Michael Grennier and Sgt. Charles Siedenber.



Riley School Cubs from Tiger Den 5 and Bear Den 9, Pack 224 wanted to do something helpful for the animals this holiday season. The boys strung apples, cranberries, bagels and cereal to make edible ornaments for animals during their holiday meeting. After their meeting adjourned, they met at the Highland Ave. Woods and hung the ornaments on trees, making a tasty dinner for the animals. Many of the scouts returned to the Highland Avenue Woods and found that all the food was enjoyed and eaten by the animals. Participating scouts were: Cesar Fernandez, Anthony Austin, Anthony Santone and James Markey. In the first row are John Michael O'Sullivan, Christopher Markey, Frank Ferraro, Joshua Coupe, and Joshua Siepmann. Not pictured are David Vargaz and Zachary Henderson, who helped make the ornaments, but did not go to Highland Woods.

## IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

We, as members of the War Memorial Committee, would like to respond to Anthony Pisaniello's comments regarding the installation of the Veteran's War Memorial being built in the Borough of South Plainfield. It is important for Mr. Pisaniello to understand the facts concerning the War Memorial and its installation.

The estimate of \$100,000 for the construction of the Park is accurate. However, all of the money has been donated to the committee by local residents and business owners in the area.

All work being done has been volunteered by many local businesses with the exception of direct expenses such as concrete, electrical and paving materials, costs concerning the clock itself and some of the military artifacts.

Members of the committee have worked countless hours on their own time to plan, coordinate, schedule and secure the placement of the memorials. Professional input was also necessary from local professional engineers and architects to insure proper design and building standards. These services were also donated freely and at no cost to project.

In addition, no taxpayer money was used to implement any part of the project.

The Memorial is scheduled to be dedicated in the spring of 2004 and will serve as a pedestrian link from South Plainfield Borough Hall to the new Senior Center.

While the committee decided to make the Military Veterans Monument the centerpiece of the park, we also wanted to give recognition to those individuals who served their community either in the capacity of police officer or a rescue squad member. Within this park, we are going to be including individual monuments dedicated to police officers and rescue squad members who served the public and who have since passed away. We wanted to pay homage to those who served their country or their community with pride, dignity, compassion and honor. Each monument will have a walking path up to it and benches will be placed nearby to sit. Flagpoles have been placed near the monuments so that flags of each branch of the military, the police department and rescue squad can be flown. Military artifacts (a U.S. Navy ship anchor, an anti-aircraft gun and Cobra helicopter) have been donated and will be placed within the park.

If Mr. Pisaniello would like to add names of qualified family members to a particular monument, the committee would be glad to do so. The Fire Department is building their own memorial adjacent to this project and

### 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](mailto: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 400 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.

should be contacted independently for their requirements. All names on monuments will be updated during the course of construction.

In closing, the committee would be glad to accept additional donations to keep the Veteran's War Memorial on track for the spring 2004 dedication.

Donations to this non-profit or-

ganization can be made to: Monument Park of South Plainfield, P.O. Box 496, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The members of the committee would like to thank all those people and businesses who have helped in this endeavor and guaranteed the success of this project.

Members of the War Memorial Committee are: Phil Cortese (representing the VFW), Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Bob Longo, AIA (Cornerstone Architectural Group), Bill McCrisky (McCrisky Home for Funerals), Police Chief Robert K. Merkler, Retired Police Chief Steven A. Merkler, Bob Stilo (owner Stilo Paving), Stan Werchinski, PE, PLS, PP (Stilo Paving - Director of Engineering), OEM Coordinator Michael Zushma, Dominick Papa (HCR Electric) and Councilman Ed Kubala.

**MEMBERS OF THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

## Mark your calendars

Log on to [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com) for the latest meeting agenda

**Look for 2004 schedule of borough meetings in the January 9 issue of the Observer.**

### South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 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](mailto: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

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## BOROUGHNOTES

■ Blaise Coppola retired from Public Works Department on Dec. 31.

■ Glenn Cullen has been appointed to the position of Sewer Utility Supervisor.

■ Vincent Buttiglieri was appointed to the position of Director of Personnel.

■ The Council authorized a "Professional Services" contract with CME Associates to prepare bid specifications for a standby generator for the North Pumping Station at a fee not to exceed \$7,200.

■ The Council authorized a "Professional Services" contract with PMK Group to perform wetland restoration at Veterans Memorial Park at a fee not to exceed \$29,000.

■ The Council authorized the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Interlocal Services Agreement with Middlesex County Health Department for the period of Jan. through Dec. of 2005.

■ The Council authorized a "Professional Services" contract with Craig J. Coughlin, Esq. to negotiate property acquisitions along Rt. 287 for the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction project at a fee not to exceed \$5,000.

■ A "Professional Services" contract

was awarded to Grotto Engineering Associates for arbitration pertaining to the 1995 Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority agreement.

■ A "Professional Services" contract was awarded to CME Associates to perform design and contract administration services for the Durham Ave. road project.

■ The Council authorized a maintenance contract for the mobile video equipment utilized by the Police Department to Electronic Risk Consultants at a cost not to exceed \$3,791 for the period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

■ A Cooperative Purchasing Agreement was authorized with the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System.

■ The Council approved the person-to-person transfer of liquor license #1222-33-016-007 from Roma Foods Enterprises, Inc. to Sharda Veshno Corporation for premises located at 2991 Hamilton Blvd. effective Dec. 12, 2003.

■ Docket Clerk Barbara Tacon resigned, effective immediately.

■ Dawn DaPonte was hired as a Docket Clerk in the Municipal Court effective Jan. 5.



## Mr. Kurt Sings Silly Holiday Songs at the Library

By Jane Dornick

Once again, funny man "Mr. Kurt" Gallagher brought along his repertoire of silly songs to entertain children at the South Plainfield Library on the evening of Dec. 17.

He mixed his classic silly sing-a-long favorites with holiday songs like *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*. The room was filled with children singing, jumping, twirling and giggling at his

antics.

Mr. Kurt considers himself a "children music specialist" and has been an entertainer for eight years. He loves playing the guitar, sharing songs, stories and rhymes with kids. He has made five CD's, which can be purchased on his website [www.kurtgallagher.com](http://www.kurtgallagher.com). Several times a year he appears at the Library, so check the Library News section of the *Observer* for upcoming appearances.



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## Athletic Booster Club Visits Charlie Decker

The South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club paid a visit to Charlie Decker and other patients at the JFK Hartwyck Rehabilitation Center on Oak Tree Rd. in Edison. The club entertained the group during their Holiday Party with a sing-a-long.

## Sweeney/Buono Bill to Provide Payment of Registered Nurse First Assistants Advances

A bill sponsored by Senators Stephen M. Sweeney and Barbara Buono, which would require insurance companies to provide payment to registered nurse first assistants in any instance where they take the place of a surgical first assistant, was approved by a vote of 38 to two in the Senate.

"This bill requires insurance companies to compensate registered nurse first assistants for the skilled services they provide," said Senator Sweeney, D-Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

The bill, S-1825, would require insurance companies to provide identical payment for services provided as a surgical first assistant, whether provided by an actual first assistant or a registered nurse first assistant. Regis-

tered nurse first assistants are defined as any State licensed registered nurse who has completed a surgical first assistant program approved by the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. For the purposes of a third-party insurance billing, the registered nurse first assistants would be grouped with surgical first assistants, as they perform tasks comparable to those of a surgical first assistant.

The provisions of the legislation would apply to health, hospital and medical service corporation contracts, individual, small employer and group health insurance policies, the State Medicaid program, the State Health Benefits Program and medical expense benefits under the State's automobile insurance laws.

The bill now awaits action by the Assembly.

## Keystone Community Celebrates Christmas at Sacred Heart School

By William Tuthill

Santa visited Sacred Heart School to greet the residents of the Keystone Community. The Christmas Pageant and mass in preparation of Christmas is held annually for the residents.

Many of the Keystone guests wore costumes representing the three wise men and the shepherds.

The mass was followed by a luncheon in the school cafeteria, which was sponsored by the Plainfield Area's Chapter of UNICO. The honored guests were served hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies.

Santa handed out gifts donated by members of UNICO, merchants, industries and organizations. Santa's helper gave out candy canes.

UNICO members and family members who served were Frank Licato, Herb and Angelina Mercurio, Rick McNalley, Nancy Madison, Nina Licato, Grace Farunello, Dolly Carotenuto, Victoria DeAugustine, John Faranello, Frank Licato III, Mike Haney, Lou DiFillipo and Renado Birbin.

Accordion music was supplied by the duo of John and Linda Gibriano of Plainfield.

## Workshops for Financial Aid

Families of South Plainfield High School Students and the community are invited to attend the following evening workshops:

**Financial Aid Workshop**- Overview of college financial aid, how to fill out the FAFSA, how to work with college financial aid office, presented by Ben Curtis, Assistant Director of Admissions, Elmira College, Elmira, NY. The presentation will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 7-9 p.m. at the high school, in cafeteria A/B.

**Making College Financing Count**-

How to plan for and manage college costs. Strategies that will help prepare you and your family for the next steps, ways to navigate the college financial aid process, presented by Making It Count and College Solutions Network. The presentation will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 7-8 p.m. at the high school, in cafeteria A/B.

The workshops are sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Guidance Department.

Please R.S.V.P. to Cindy Povall at (908) 754-4620 ext. 464.

## ALERT

### BOE Retreat Announced

The South Plainfield Board of Education will hold a Board Retreat to discuss District goal planning on Monday, Jan. 29 from 6 to 10 p.m. This meeting will be held in the High School Faculty Dining Room, 200 Lake St.

### AIDA SANTOS

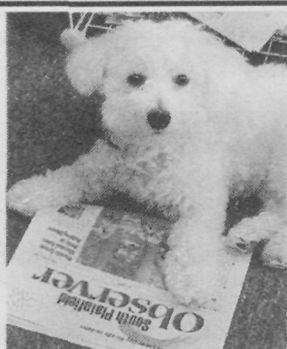
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# Around Town

## VFW Post 6763 Country Breakfast

January 4

The VFW Memorial Post 6763 is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. Suggested donation is \$5; for children 12 years and under, \$3. For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and 12 noon on weekends. The VFW is located at 155 Front St.

## Life Line Screening at Czesochowa

January 5

Our Lady of Czesochowa Church, 120 Kosciusko Ave. is holding health screenings on Monday, Jan. 5.

Life Line Screening Radiology, LLC provides non-invasive, completely painless screenings using Doppler ultrasound technology: Stroke Screening/Carotid Artery (\$45), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening (\$45), Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Screening (\$45) and Osteoporosis Screening (\$35). Buy the Complete Vascular Package (first three screenings) for \$99, or buy all four for \$125. Pre-registration is required. Call (800) 407-4557 if you have any questions or to register.

## SPHS Music Boosters Monthly Meeting

January 7

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the high school band room. All parents of students in band and chorus are invited to attend.

## Historical Society Monthly Meeting

January 13

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave.

This is the official Annual Meeting at which time officers for the year 2004 will be elected. The public is invited to attend.

### SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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

## What's happening in JANUARY

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 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

## Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month				
January 7 - Atlantic City Trip				
January 19 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Best of Branson"				
March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	5 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Computer Classes 12pm & 2pm Men's Forum 1:30pm	6 Exercise 8:45-9:45 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm Atlantic City Trip 9am	7 Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am	8 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Available Bridge Club 12:30pm
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

## AARP Chapter Trip to Hunterdon Hills

January 13

The AARP Chapter #4144 is planning a bus trip on Jan. 13 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for lunch and to see "The Rainmaker." The cost of \$60 covers all expenses, including transportation from South Plainfield.

For further details and reservations, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

January 22

AARP Chapter #4144 will hold its first meeting of 2004 on Thursday, Jan. 22 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. The speaker will be Capt. Giardo Balmori of the Salvation Army Corp. headquarters in New Brunswick. Our Chapter has been privileged to do community service with his group for many years and he will talk about the services they make available to our citizens.

## Tickets For Harlem Globetrotters

February 14

Tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters at Continental Arena on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. game are \$22 each. The tickets are Section 211 upper tier lower. (Seating will be filled on a first ticket

purchase availability.)

Make checks payable to Cub Scout Pack 224 and mail to 201 Lane Ave., South Plainfield. Tickets are for admission only, you must provide your own transportation. Admission includes a two hour meet-and-greet prior to the game, Globetrotter University and a badge. You can only attend the meet and greet through a group purchase.

## Rec Plans Trip To See Hairspray

February 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see "Hairspray" on Sunday, Feb. 22. Bus will leave the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and return around 7 p.m. There will be plenty of time to shop and eat before the show. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at the PAL between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Only 45 tickets are available, so come and get yours now!

## AARP Chapter 4144 Drivers Course

March 10-11, 13 & 20

A defensive drivers course will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Mar. 10 and 11 at the Senior Center. A second course will be held on Saturday, Mar. 13 and 20 at Muhlenberg Hospital. For more details and reservations, call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

### — Out of Town —

## Moonrakers Club's "Meet and Greet"

January 13

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott, located between Rt. 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, Jan 13 at 8 p.m.

Prospective members are encouraged to inquire. Prospective members must meet certain criteria. Women: 5'10" and taller and men, 6'2" and taller (in stocking feet) and over 21.

For further information about the club, or for a schedule of our social events, call out 24-hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648 or visit the website at <http://www.njtall.org> or email at [newjersey@tall.org](mailto:newjersey@tall.org).

## SingleFaces January Dances Announced

Month of January

The following is a list of dances planned by SingleFaces for the month of January.

Friday, Jan 2 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 494-6200.

Saturday, Jan. 3 at the Shadowbrook, Rt 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 747-0200.

Friday, Jan. 9 at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. at 9 p.m. in Edison. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 549-2859

Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 494-6200.

Friday, Jan. 16 at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For additional information call (732) 542-2200.

Friday, Jan. 16 at the The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9.m. Cost is \$12

Saturday, Jan. 17 t the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 8 p.m. Free Dance Lessons 8 p.m-9 p.m. Dance 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18 at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. in Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m.a Cost is \$12. No Work Monday, always a great crowd.

Friday, Jan. 23 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is 12.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. in Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m.a Cost is \$12. Chinese New Year.

Friday Jan 30 at the The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd., Staten Island at 9.m. Cost is \$12.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Shadowbrook, Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

## Moonrakers Tall Club Meetings

February 10

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott Hotel, located between Rt. 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook, on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. Prospective members (women 5'10" and taller and men 6'2" and taller, both over 21) are encouraged to attend.

For further information about the club, or for a schedule of our social events, call our 24-hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648.

## 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](mailto:ggnan@aol).

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

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**SMALL WORLD PRESCHOOLERS** entertained at the Senior Center. They sang their theme song, "It's a Small World," as well as Christmas songs. The children then presented the ladies in the audience with a flower. Students pictured above are Justin Spry, Lindsay Celentano, Stephanie Boettger, Sarah Walsh, Matthew Celentano, Glen O'Brant and Sebastian Abisleman.



## Unity Bancorp Declares Cash Dividend

Unity Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: UNTY), parent company of Unity Bank, announced that its Board of Directors has declared a cash dividend of \$0.03 per common share. Such dividend is payable on Jan. 31, 2004, to shareholders of record as of Jan. 15.

"Unity's financial performance continues to be strong and warrants a cash dividend payment to our shareholders," said Unity Chief Executive Officer, David D. Dallas. "The Board will consider future dividends on a regular and recurring basis as earnings growth continues."

Unity Bancorp, Inc. is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton, New Jersey, with \$460 million in assets and \$400 million in deposits. Unity Bank provides financial

services to retail, corporate & small business customers through 13 retail service centers located in Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union coun-

ties in New Jersey. For additional information about Unity visit our website at [www.unitybank.com](http://www.unitybank.com) or call (800) 618-BANK.

## Police Are Accepting Applications For Written Exam

Applications for the N.J. Department of Personnel written examination for the position of police officer for the South Plainfield Police Department are now available. The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Applications may be obtained any time at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center, on the internet at [www.state.nj/](http://www.state.nj/)

[us/personnel](http://us/personnel), during normal business hours at the South Plainfield Public Library or South Plainfield Police Athletic Building (PAL).

The filing deadline is March 31, 2004.

The candidate must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and maintain continuous residency in South Plainfield up to and including the date of appointment. There are other requirements as listed in the application.

The starting salary is \$37,265 (2002).

A listing of job benefits as well as a brief summary of duties and responsibilities may be viewed at Police Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Sgt. Chuck Siedenburgh at (908) 226-7674.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

by Kenneth Morgan

Now that the parades and football games are over and a new year has begun, let's get back to the normal routine of things. And, of course, that includes a report on the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

After a break of a couple of weeks, we'll be open again during normal hours (1:30-5 p.m.) this Sunday. Speaking of Sunday, one of the more frequently asked questions here at the Library is, "Why aren't you open every Sunday?" We've passed along the reasons for this before, but they bear repeating. Besides a few budgetary concerns, there's also the matter of providing sufficient staffing on Sundays year round. Also, during the summer months, we've noticed a reduced demand for Library services amongst our patrons, what with vacations, outdoor activities and all. While we'd ideally like to be open every Sunday (as many patrons have asked us to), we're just not able to do so at this time. We'll let you know if the situation changes.

While we're at it, we may as well review our normal operating hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday we're open 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday we're open 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday we're open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday we're open 1:30-5 p.m.

Next week, we'll follow our usual children's Storytime schedule, said usual schedule being Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Those programs are for children age three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. We also have our Books-N-Babies program next Friday morning at 10:30. It's for children up to three-years old; again, no pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information about our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The latest group of Circuit videos

will be available by Monday. Titles this month include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Secret Garden*, *Blood Work*, *Men in Black II*, *Gods and Generals* and, on DVD, *The Scorpion King*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. We also have a new group from the Large Print Circuit. That group includes *Air Battle Force* by Dale Brown, *Gone for Good* by Harlan Coben, *From a Buick 8* by Stephen King, *The Nutmeg of Consolation* by Patrick O'Brian, and *Face the Fire* by Nora Roberts. LPC books may be borrowed for two weeks. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Audiobook Circuit today. The next group will be available later this month.

Here's an advisory regarding Inter-Library Loans. The statewide computer system that is used for most ILL requests is being upgraded. Until the system is fully operational, there's probably going to be an additional time lag between your request and the actual delivery of the item. Please take this into account when asking for ILLs. Things should be up and running in the very near future.

Finally, here's another Internet advisory: Please do not use someone else's bar code to access the 'Net on our computers. Beyond the ethical concerns over the theft of another's identity, it violates the Internet User agreement patrons must sign in order to be granted access. Those found to have done this will be subject to revocation of their computer privileges.

That's about all for today. Thanks very much for your attention. See you next week.

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.  
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

#### Mass Schedule:

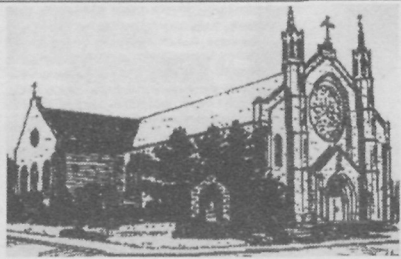
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 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.



## ob·serve (v.t.): 1. to

celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

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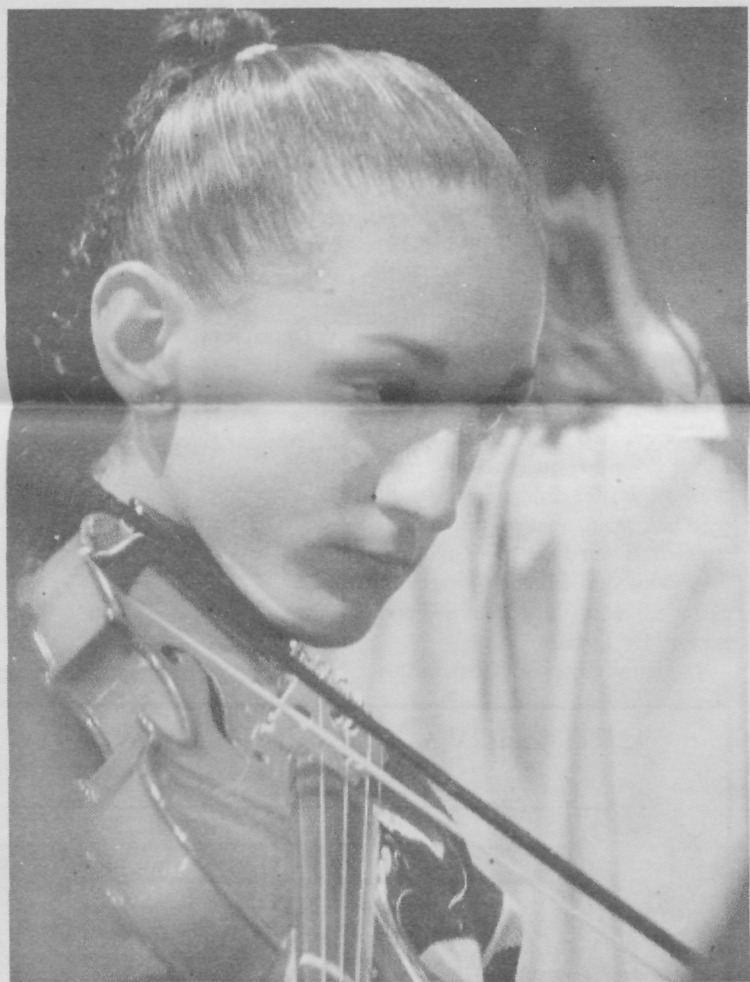
Call 908-668-0010 for rates





The school holiday concert season concluded on December 22 with a musical presentation by the high school orchestra (pictured here on page 6) and the chorus (pictured right on page 7). The concert also featured the Emeralds, Jades and Traveling Choir. Soloists included Chrisann Zushma, Kazuki Diamo, Josef Rodriguez, John Roesch, Cassandra Krajcik, Vincent Carubia and Steven Tietjen. Katie Mott performed a hysterical number entitled, "A Letter to Santa." In keeping with tradition, the evening concluded with Hallelujah from the Messiah. The combined chorus was joined by over a dozen SPHS alumni.

Photos by Patricia Abbott



## South Plainfield High School

### Ninth Grade

Michelle Alcantara, Joseph Anarumo, Kimberly Arki, Cathryn Avery, Nicholas Baldassarre, Robert Barnard, Nicole Benak, Tina Bijlani, Dorian Bishop, Julianne Bosse, Ryan Bovee, Megan Boyle, Courtney Breland, Steven Breslau, Caitlyn Brindley, Kiran Budhan, Melissa Budhan, Christopher Burke, Gina Butrico, Dana Cacciatore, John Carigma, Stacie Carrasca, Derika Catalano, Amit Chandler, Ying Chen, Kristen Ciandella, Jeffrey Cianfrocca, Samantha Cihanowycz, Zakiya Clarke, Jonathan Clary, Kyle Corrado, Joseph Cupo, Ryan Curtis, Kamal Darji, Dana Decillis, Nicholas DeSimone, Dianna Kaye Dimayuga, Matthew Doell, Harrison Donahue, Kelly Downes, Jack-Duyphong Duong and Stephen Dvorak.

Kathleen Eder, Matthew Emery, Matthew Fabino, Alexandra Fodor, Melissa Franzson, Lauren Frazzano, Nicole Freitas, Lauren Fry, Frank Fugazzi, Kimberly Galinsky, Donna Garcia, Ashleigh Gaspari, Jerold Geczy, Michael A. George, Michael J. George, Garrett Gianneschi, Matthew Gigantino, Crystal Gorman, Samantha Granski, Matthew Gross,

Katie Hardy, Amber Hartman, Amanda Harzula, Angelica Hebreo, Christopher Herbster, Jessica Hill, Cassandra Hoffman, Sara Holbrook, Asia Hollis, Brittany Hollis, Brianne Howarth, Daniel Hubner, Bryan Hunt, Padmani Itwaru, Laichan Jainarine, Tony Joe, Maxwell Johnston and Gauri Joshi.

Wael Kanj, Devin Kile, David-Josiah Krause, Christine Lanza, Sebastian Lasota, Phuong Le, Ashley Little, Jennifer Little, Charles Loiacono, Kyle Lykes, Amanda Makowski, Taylor Mandel, Brittany Marino, Jaliz Marrero, Melvin Martinez, Stephanie Mazurak, Daria McCall, Daniel McCreesh, Erin McGill, Shannon Meehan, Nicole Miglis, Jacquelyn Miller, Jennifer Mocerino, Chintan Mody, Carrie Moore, Anthony Moretti, Susan Mott, A Phi Nguyen, Kathryn Noonan, Tara O'Keefe, Jennifer Okuski, Julian Pantaleon, Justin Panzarella, Nicholas Pasquale, Meshva Patel, Sonali Patel, Justin Pauls, Jenna Pein, Christopher Pollin, Jessica Pryor, Thomas Pryor, Leslie Quichua, Trevor Rastelli, Selene Rayho, Kate Reichert, Karla Reyes, Stephen Richard, James Rivas, Jessica Ross and Kimberly Russell.

Daniel Sambar, Christina Schuetz, Nicole Scott, Abdussami Sheikh, Tiffany Smith, Christopher Stallone, Michael Stallone, Ceaphas Stubbs, John Sullivan, Steven Tran, Michael Troia, Joseph Turrise, Dean Tuwaidan, Jessica Vasquez, Alexandra Viscosi, Sean Walsh, Brian Wieckowski, Brittanie Wong, Alyssa Woodel and Luigi Zeccardo.

### Grade 10

Nicole Aiello, Gaelle Amazon, Alyssa Babinetz, Darice Bishop, Ashley Bodner, Ashley Britton, Terrence Brown, Eileen Cameron, Shaunique Cisson, Matthew Coffey, Brian Cole, James Conroy, Joel Cortese, Jeffrey Cupo, Nicole Cursi, Kristen Dabrio, Kazuki Daimo, William Daly, Benny David, Amanda Deba, Samantha Deffler, Joseph DeNitzio and Keith Dezmin.

Azubuikwe Ejiochi, Francisco Farfan, Breanne Fore, Brittany Frazer, Dunia Galarza, Kristine Gawroriski, Jane Gomez, Zachary Gray, Kristen Gualano, Jonathan Guirguis, Shivani Itwaru, Beverly Jamieson, Victoria Jennings, Ramit Kalia, Guiliana Kay, Felix Koemarhadi, Kathryn

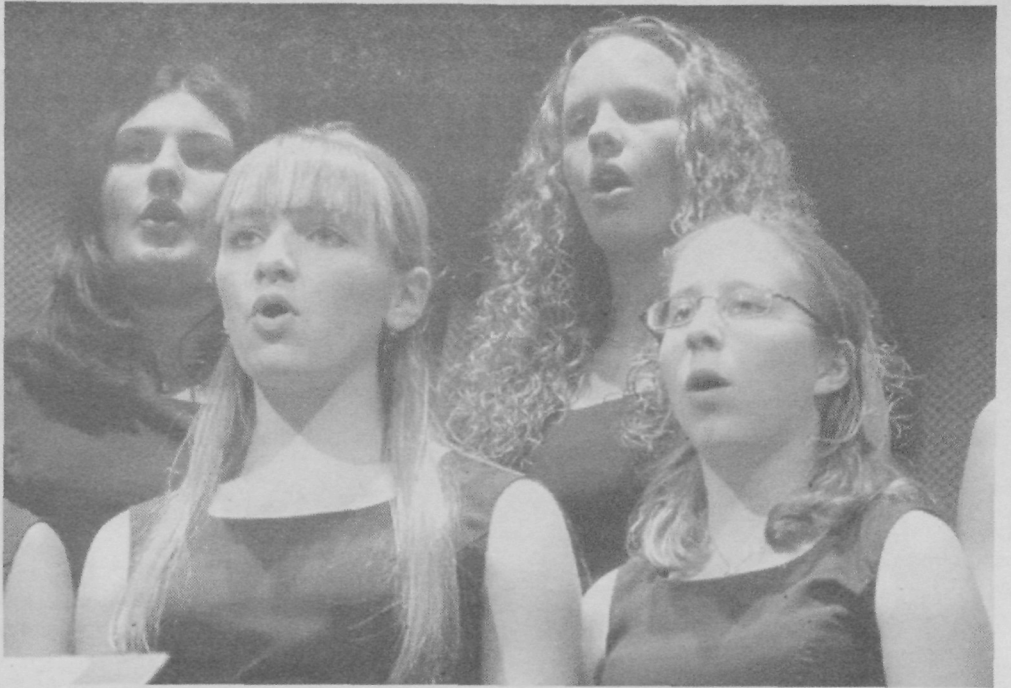
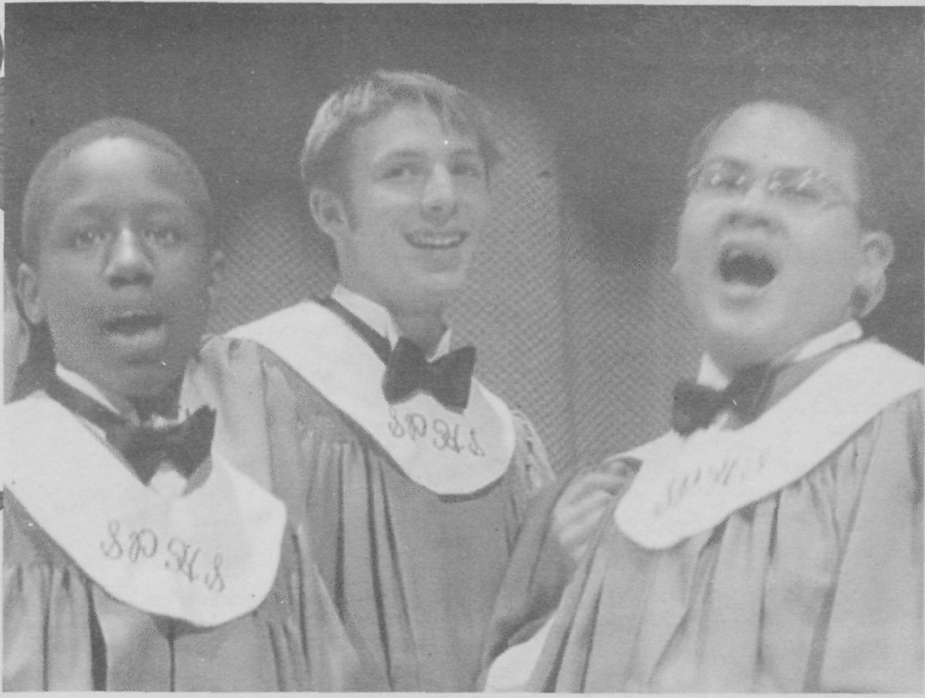
Koury, Cassandra Krajcik, Jonathon Lazar, Kristi Lombardi, Bryan Milicia, Samuel Mootoo, Alexander Nau, Kaitlyn Negron and Joshua O'Neal.

James Olson, Heather Palitto, Dipal Patel, Harshel Patel, Satyam Patel, Jeffrey Pham, Kaitlyn Pollock, Eric Reiner, Andrew Roibal, Angelique Rualo, Nazreen Rushianally, Nicole Sacci, Courtney Sacco, Lauren Santillo, Denise Scavone, Brian Schulte, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini, Devance Sewdat, Kevin Siedenburgh, Divya Sindha, Ryan Smith, Laurie Sobel, Melissa Szeliga, Natalia Tamzoke, Steven Tangorra, Lee Tetreault, Heather Thompson, Huong Tran, Stephanie Troia, Amanda Veinott, Jesse Ventura, Bryan Wagner, Christopher Weakley, Krystal Williams, Megan Wilson, Carla Zappi and Matthew Zebrowski.

### Grade 11

Darshan Amin, Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Christopher Bakazan, Mohan Aaron Bayona, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Shakera Beverley, Ashley Bishop, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Jennifer Braco, Vijay Budhan,





## ool Announces Honor Roll

Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Pasquale Cantarella, Trisha Capparelli, Kristina Carigma, Fabian Castebianco, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Ciandella, Toni Ciccio, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Paul Corrado, Anthony Costante, Jesse Cribb, Rachel Cupido, Nicholas Curcio and Robert Cusick.

Cassandra D'Urso, Seiichi Daimo, Alissa Davis, Peter DeAndrea, Aimee Demegillo, John Louine Demegillo, Stacey Diana, Christina DiFrancesco, Allison DiMeglio, Kaitlynn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Duquette, Jeffrey Eng, Caitlin English, Melanie Foscolo, Keenan Gaynor, John Geczy, John George, Carolina Gomez, Kendall Green, Sara Grillo, Jeffrey Grubesh, Michele Hardgrove, Emily Harkins, Lauren Haus, Joseph Helgesen and Phu Huynh.

Jamie Jakubik, Peter Kelly, Ryan Kenny, Thomas Kiczula, Jessica Kizmann, Veronica Konya, Kevin Lahey, Linda Lee, Jonathan Lopez, Kurtis Maglaque, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Thomas Manolio, Ashley Martin, Christina Martin, Allan Mazurak, Christopher McKnight, William Merkler, Jayne Merlo, Andrew Miller, Stefanie Miller, James Milliron,

Rosanna Mootoo, Kathleen Morgan and Brian Murtagh.

Huan Nguyen, Thao Nguyen, Jesse Nietzer, William Padula, Eigil Pantaleon, Abby Papa, Valerie Pasquarella, Deep Patel, Krutarth Pathak, Daniel Piwowar, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Jalil Qayum, Dwight Quichua, Patrick Reedy, Eric Rhode, Michael Richard, Jessica Senz, Jarret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Darren Smith, Derek Smith, Trevor Smith, Sara Sukine, Darshan Suthar, Nicole Sutherland, Kelly Thomas, Melissa Tinana, Ashlen Udell, Jennifer Vasquez, Michael Wilson, Linda Wong, Philip Zazzara and Brian Zielinski.

### Grade 12

Christopher Abbott, David Acevedo, Elaine Alexander, Regina Alin, David Allara, Michael Alvarez, Jonathan Alves, Sandra Amaya, Arti Amin, Almasa Amini, David Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Timothy Barkalow, Alex Barletta, Robert Barone, James Bataille, Karolina Blazejowicz, Yemili Boldo, Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggey, Kaitlin Bundy, Kelly Butrico and Kristie Butrico.

Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Vincent Carubia, Jonathan Chiang, Jeanine Christopher, Shade Coleman, Zachary Coppola, Jason Cosma, Justin Czarnik, Lucia D'Addario, Kelly Daley, Daniel DeAndrea, Ryan Decker, Stephanie DeGennaro, Siobhan Delaney, Christina DelGenio, Kevin Demarest, Brittany Denitzio, Elvis Diaz, Allison Dicanto, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold, Lindsay Diller, Claire Dolling, Ryan Dolling, Jenee Douras, Alan Dummett, Derek Dundi, Christopher Egan, Chelsea Falato, Rahik Farhi, Nicholas Figler, Mathew Finn, Catherine Flannery and Michael Fry.

Matina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Dana Genova, Samantha Gentile, Corey Gilmore, Selina Giuliano, Jacquelyn Graisser, Sarah Green, Johanna Hedler, Christine Helbo, Jorge Henao, Robert Hoffman, Thomas Holowka, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Jamie Irber, Tara Israel, Joshua Jackson, Galen Johnson, Austin Johnston, Marissa Judd, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Angelica Keller, Christopher Kelly, Reynold Kissoon, Wendy Kollarik, Courtney Krajcik, Gregory Krylowski,

Kristen Kunie, Lauren Laferrera, Daniel Lammi, Kristina Latonio, Daniel Laverne, Margaret Lay, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Courtney Leporino, Gary Levendusky, Ian Levine, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch, Kerry Mackey, Alonzo (Omar) Madinah, Charlyn Magat, Amy Magner, Michael Maher, Earl Marcelo, Darleen Marin, Jennifer Martinez, Ashley Mazellan, David Miglis, Tristan More, Danielle Nobile, John Okuszki, Jasen Ortiz, Laura Papp, Francesca Pasquale, Ankit Patel, Anuj Patel, Hardik Patel, Julie Patel, Ravi Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Bonnie Pornovets, Jaclene Prongay, Gregory Publik, Yorka Rawlins, Amanda Rastelli, Ashley Ritchey, Jessica Rodger, Jonathan Rodger and Josef Rodriguez.

Michael Salerno, Edmond Samayoa, Shari-lane Sangster, Matthew Santone, Rachel Schwartz, Andre Scott, Guy Severini, Daniel Sierzega, Derek Smith, Lauren Smithline, Lisa Sniscak, Deana Spisso, Carly Stoeckel, Renee Stopherd, Vernal Sundalangi, Rachel Tambone, Alexander Tierney, Charles Tinana, Stephen Turrise, Christopher Uffer, Gerber Vasquez, Kenneth Wakefield, Erin Walsh, Meagan Wilson, Michael Zeno and Chrisann Zushma.



## Filipino American Lions Host Luncheon for Seniors



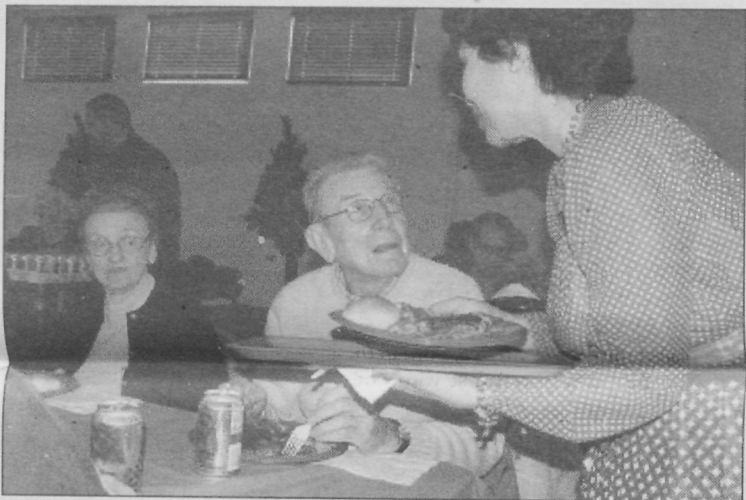
Members of the Philippine American Lions Club served a lunch for the seniors recently. They also provided entertainment.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Filipino American Lions Club held their first holiday luncheon for the Senior Citizens on Dec. 3. The organization donated the funds for a meal prepared by Spisso's Catering. Over 160 seniors attended the event where they were served by FIL AM Lions, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Councilmen

ber. There are currently approximately 53 charter members. Eighteen members live in South Plainfield, and five are from Piscataway. The remainder live throughout New Jersey and New York.

There are 22 lady Lions in the club. Their First Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance and Raffle held at The McAters Restaurant in Somerset on Nov. 22, raised approximately \$5,400.



Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami and South Plainfield Lions Club President Bob Desch. After lunch the Lions utilized the Senior Center's new Karaoke machine and entertained the group with Christmas carols.

The South Plainfield FIL AM Lions Club began their new charter on Nov. 22, 2002. The officers and members were inducted and accepted their charter at the Sheraton Hotel in Woodbridge on March 22. President is South Plainfield resident Bert V. Latonio; his wife Emma is also a mem-

The club plans to make the Senior Citizen holiday luncheons and entertainment an annual event. They are currently looking for more local projects here in the community.

The Lions share a common spirit and work towards a single goal to help those less fortunate. They have been recognized throughout the world for their service to the blind and visually impaired. The Lions Club International, with 1.4 million members in 180 countries, is the largest service club in the world.

## Senate Approves Buono Bill to Help Vets

The Senate recently approved a bill, sponsored by Senator Barbara Buono, designed to ensure an adequate number of well-trained, licensed veterinarians in New Jersey.

The measure, S-2049/A-2642, would require veterinarians seeking a license renewal to complete at least 20 hours of continuing veterinary education approved by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners during each two-year license renewal period. The bill received final approval 38-0 in the Senate and now goes to the Governor.

A new applicant for a veterinary license would be required to pass a national licensing examination and out-of-state applicants would be eligible for NJ licenses if they are certified specialists in clinical specialties recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The bill would also require out-of-state applicants to have practiced clinical veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry for at least three of the five years prior to their applications.

## Mohegan Sun Tour to Benefit Homeless Pets

Enjoy the Presidents' Holiday Weekend by joining People for Animals on a two-day motor coach tour to the Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Casinos. The tour is Sunday and Monday, Feb. 15 and 16. Included with the tour is an overnight stay at the Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino, a five hour visit to the Foxwoods Casino, two buffet meals and \$30 in gaming coupons.

All proceeds from this trip will benefit People for Animals.

To reserve a place on the tour, call Progressive Travel at (908) 688-8787. The cost is \$159 per person for double hotel room occupancy and \$225 per person. Reservations must be made by Mon., Jan. 5.



Approximately 70 seniors enjoyed a holiday luncheon courtesy of the SPHS Student Council.

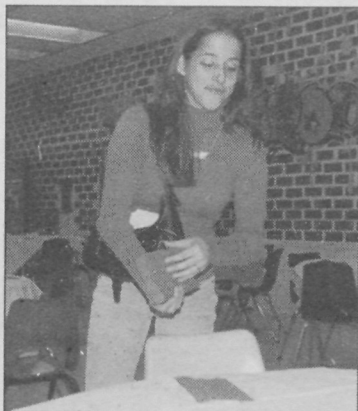
## SPHS Students Host Holiday Lunch for Seniors

Members of South Plainfield's Senior Citizen Center received a great holiday treat courtesy of the high school on Dec. 18.

Guests enjoyed a brief preview of the band and chorus concerts. When the entertainment concluded the seniors filed into the cafeteria where they were greeted by their luncheon hosts, the school's Student Council.

The food was prepared by Marriot Food Service. Students waited on tables providing coffee, tea and water.

Approximately 70 senior citizens attended the event.



Jackie Muglia prepares the tables.



A senior enjoys lunch at South Plainfield High School.

# Excellent!

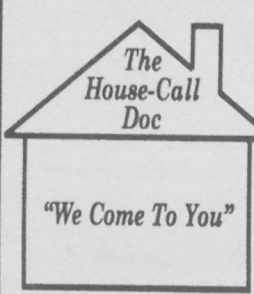
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# Sports

## SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

### SPHS Tiger Bowlers Sizzle in Statewide Tourneys!

The boys' and girls' bowling teams, competing against top-notch competition and finished in the top 10 five of six times in statewide tournament action.

#### Boys

**Westfield Invitational-Warren Wheeler Memorial**  
At Jersey Lanes, Linden  
1000 810 797 ..... 2607  
Vin Genova rolled 225 and a pair of 178's for a 581 high set to get the Tigers started with a big first game. However, the Tigers cooled off in the next two games and settled for 13<sup>th</sup> place out of a strong field of 24 teams. Nick Grego's 225-195-557; Shawn Ferguson's 214-537 and Matt Boley's 180-188-526 bowled well for the Tigers. Home team Linden ran the event.

By Lee Flanagan

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see everyone there at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

Our last registration dates for the 2004 baseball season are Jan. 15, 16 and 17 at the SPJBC Complex. This will absolutely be your last chance to register for the 2004 season. Registration fee is now \$95.

The next Coaches' Clinic is scheduled for Tuesday night Jan. 20. This is free to all parents, coaches and players. The clinic will start at 7:30 p.m.

We are also selling SPJBC club members cards for \$10. A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member card and must have completed the Rutgers Certification Program. If you have an interest to manage or coach a team in the spring season of 2004, this serves as a reminder that you MUST complete the Rutgers Certification Program. For more information about this course, please contact the Recreation Department.

The Junior Baseball Club ran a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. On Monday Dec. 29, we left the SPJBC Complex at 6 a.m. by bus and arrived in Cooperstown at 10:45 a.m. The Baseball Hall of Fame is under renovation, but the busload of people from the SPJBC had a great time. We stopped at the Old Country Buffet on the way

**Joe Romer Memorial XXVIII**  
913 871 898 ..... 2682  
At Carolier Lanes

The boys placed tenth in the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Joe Romer Memorial, which included all GMC teams. Capt. Matt Boley paced the Tigers with a pair of 210's and 596 set. George Kleinknecht rolled a 203 game and 554 set, Nick Grego's solid 192 game and 542 set and Vin Genova's games of 183 and 180.

**Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic**  
At Carolier Lanes  
1007 1008 868 ..... 2883  
Matt Boley and Shawn Ferguson each shot 256's in the first game and the Tigers followed that with a big 1008 second game, making them the leader of the 46-team field going into the final game. A mediocre 868 third game gave the Tigers a fifth place finish in

the tournament, which was won by GMC rival JFK with a 2945 pinfall. Boley finished with games of 208-207 for a sparkling 671 total. Shawn Ferguson followed with a 224 and 639 set. Chipping in were Vin Genova's 541; David Eichler's 576 and Nick Grego's 511.

#### Girls

**Westfield Invitational Warren Wheeler Memorial**  
799 807 730 ..... 2336  
Vicki Boley bowled games of 204-188 and 566 set to earn honors by the Tigers while teammate Kim Gaub rolled a 217 and 520 set and Angelique Rualo added a 170 game. The Tigers placed fifth in a very competitive field of 16 teams, which was won by NJSIAA champion Brick Township.

**Joe Romer Memorial XXVIII**  
749 793 750 ..... 2292  
The Lady Tigers finished in eighth place in the GMC studded tournament. The Tigers received stellar performances from Capt. Vicki Boley, 199-202-539; Beverly Jamieson, 195-536 set and Kim Gaub, 181-187-510. State finalist Woodbridge won the event.

**Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic**  
905 777 776 ..... 2458  
The Lady Tigers bolted out of the starting gate to lead the statewide 26-team tournament with a big 905 first game effort. Vicki Boley's 237 was the high game in the event and complete with

her games of 216 and 175 had the third high set with a 628. Beverly Jamieson's 215-164-171 and 550 a solid act also contributed big in the totals. Also bowling great were Kim Gaub's 160

and 456 set and Angelique Rualo's 191 and 481 set. Katie Eder chipped in with a 146 game. Brick Township won the tournament and the Lady Tigers placed sixth in the highly competitive event.

### St. Joseph's Swim Team Results

The swim team at Saint Joseph High School, Metuchen, defeated two of their greatest competitors. On Dec. 19, Saint Joseph broke the 113 continuous meet record of La Salle Prep School, Philadelphia, Pa., by winning with a score of 88 to 82. The following day, the swim team destroyed Christian Brothers Academy with a score of 106 to 64.

South Plainfield residents Calvin-John Smiley and Philip Luzny are members of the St. Joseph's swim team. Calvin-John is a senior and co-captain of the team. Philip is a freshman.

At La Salle, Smiley placed third in the 50 freestyle, fourth in the 100 freestyle, and was on the 200 free relay and the 400 free relay teams. Both relays placed second. Luzny placed fourth in the 100 butterfly (varsity) and second in the 200 Individual Medley (junior varsity).

Swimming against CBA, Smiley placed third in the 50 free, third in the 100 free, and placed first with both relay teams (200 free and 400 free). Luzny placed fourth in the 100 fly.

St. Joseph has three All-American swimmers-Scotch Plains residents Eric Swenson and Brian Gartner, and Metuchen resident Bobby Savulich. Savulich, 16, is trying to make the U.S. Olympic Team for the 200-meter freestyle long course. In Nov. at the U.S. Open he missed the cutoff by .8 of a second. He will attempt it again at the Bergdoff Meet on Jan. 9-11 at Rutgers University.

Smiley, along with teammates Swenson, Savulich and Monroe Township resident Michael MacDonald are in contention for an All-American Status for the 200 freestyle relay. Smiley is also a favorite to place in the 50 freestyle at the Greater Middlesex Conference Championship.

Luzny, as a freshman, has already started swimming varsity events. The team is coached by Steve Whittington, a science teacher at Saint Joseph High School, who also holds backstroke records for the school. Assistant Coach is Matt Severino, an alumni of the school and a teacher in the New Brunswick school system. The team record is now 4-0.

home and arrived home safely at 8 p.m. A huge THANK YOU to Chris Hansen for organizing this trip.

Our next endeavor is the Pancake Breakfast that is scheduled for February. Further details will follow on this event.

We also wish the Community of South Plainfield a continued safe and happy holiday Season.

The SPJBC is always based on volunteer efforts by parents, grandparents and friends. A big THANK YOU to those individuals that have volunteered their time and effort helping the new executive board during the past four months. Those of you who would like to manage and coach with us, this is a big part of the criteria for being selected to do so.

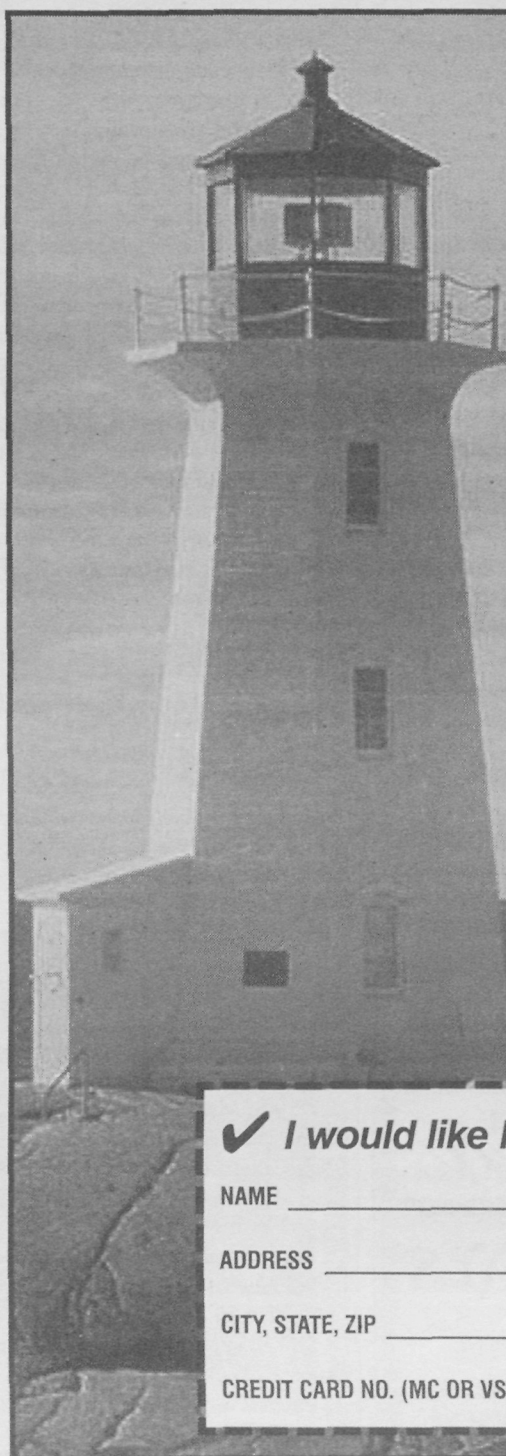
Anyone interested in sponsoring a sign at the baseball club please call Bill Cochrane at (908) 561-6574 or the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090.

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## Music/Movement, Art Program For Children with Autism

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors will resume in February. Workshops will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 7-April 10 in New Brunswick, Morristown, Waldwick and Glassboro. The program, now in its 20th year, is sponsored by VSA Arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to providing accessible arts opportunities to children and adults with disabilities. These workshops are offered free of charge.

The 10 weekly Saturday sessions will provide young people with experiences in music and art that serve as an introduction to the arts while

developing communication, social and cognitive skills. The arts provide an ideal medium for developing and retaining a wide array of skills for children with autism. Young people, ages three to 17, are invited to participate. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

At Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Visual Arts Department and the ELKS Lodge in New Brunswick, music/movement and art workshops will be offered. The Karen Hess Art Workshops will be offered at the Forum School in Waldwick and art will also be offered at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown. Music/Movement will be held at Rowan University in Glassboro.

VSA/NJ is cosponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Funding has been made possible by the United Way of Central Jersey, the NJ State Council on Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Chancy Memorial Foundation and the central office of VSA Arts, under an award from the U.S. Dept. of Education. VSAA is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

For information and registration, contact Karen Singer at VSA arts of NJ, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, 754-3913 (TTY), [info@vsanji.org](mailto:info@vsanji.org). Application deadline is January 15, 2004.

## policereport

• On Dec. 24 Joel Mendez, 26, of Passaic was arrested at the DMV for exhibiting a fraudulent driver's license and outstanding warrants.

• Dana Lee Webb, 37, of Plainfield was arrested at Burlington Coat Factory for shoplifting two bottles of perfume, a glass cross and a wooden animal worth \$97.92.

• On Dec. 25 Jayson O. Bautista, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for criminal attempt. He had cut a neighbor's bedroom window screen in an attempt to speak to a friend and co-worker who lived there.

• On Dec. 27 Thomas Patrick Stull, 43, of Perth Amboy was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to keep right and refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test at a motor vehicle stop.

• A North Plainfield resident reported that the tailgate window of his vehicle was smashed out while parked at Kohl's.

• On Dec. 28 Charlene Sophia Gantt, 37, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, no turn on red, driving while suspended, driving an uninsured vehicle and failure to exhibit a registration at a motor vehicle stop.

• Dirk Henry Smith, 57, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Whispering Hills Rd. resident reported that the plastic front grill of his vehicle had been knocked out.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
An appeal has been filed by Carol Lynn Bacher requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit 1) a shed that cannot be located on easement without approval by Mayor/Council; 2) the shed must be 5' from the property line on survey and 3) needs consent letter from other condo owner; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 547 Carmine Avenue on Block 315.03, Lot 3 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T January 2, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
An appeal has been filed by Sylvia Jacobs requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit addition to home—proposed addition lacks side setbacks 8' required, 6' being proposed left side; 8' required, 6' being proposed right side, exceeds lot coverage by 87 sq. ft. or 1.7%; 1,250 sq. ft. allowed 1,337 sq. ft. being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 226 Delmore Avenue on Block 339, Lots 6, 8 & 11 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T January 2, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
An appeal has been filed by Pedro Salvado requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a detached garage. Garage lacks the required 30' front setback; 24' is being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1103 Clinton Avenue on Block 152, Lot 1 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

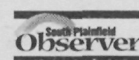
\$35.00 1T January 2, 2004

## Middle School Share "Pennies from Heaven"

(Continued from page 1)  
Lesson of giving to others, students also learned about important issues in politics and geography in other parts of our country. What started as a good cause for others became a self contained unit on charity and love. The administration and faculty also learned a wonderful lesson from the students. They saw a new light in the future that they touch everyday. The future touched the present in more ways these past six days then a year of math, writing, and reading could have done.

Submitted by Kristin Tomasula,  
7th Grade Language Arts Teacher,  
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## Donald L. Pollin, 75

Donald L. Pollin of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Dec. 21 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Donald was born and raised in Plainfield and lived there before moving to South Plainfield 52 years ago.

He was a supervisor for PSE&G Tower Division in Sewaren for 47 years before retiring in 1993.

Donald was a member of the Anchor Lodge 149 of the Free & Accepted Masons in Plainfield and a life member of the Italian American Progressive League in South Plainfield. He was a member of the New Jersey Police Square Club and a former member of the Plainfield Moose Club.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 55 years, Joan Marra Pollin, who died in July of 2003.

He is survived by two sons, Donald L. and his wife, Kathy Pollin of South Plainfield and Kenneth R. and his companion, Jill Reilly of South Plainfield; a brother, Kenneth Pollin of North Plainfield; four grandchildren, Tracey and her husband, Tom Gratta, Daniel, Jeffrey and Christopher Pollin and two great grandchildren, Elizabeth and Briana Gratta.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Masonic Charity Foundation, Inc., 902 Jacksonville Rd., Burlington, NJ 08016.

## Grace Colangelo, 85

Grace Colangelo of Plainfield died on Monday, Dec. 22 at the Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg.

Grace was born and raised in South Plainfield and lived here before moving to Plainfield 38 years ago.

Grace was a seamstress for the former Middlesex Dress Company in South Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1966.

She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 149 in New York.

She is survived by two sisters, Josephine Delnegro of Piscataway and Margaret Naples of Florida and several nieces and nephews.

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

## John Zolkowski

John Zolkowski died on Tuesday, Dec. 23 in Stuart, Florida.

Born in Bayonne, John grew up in Bayonne and later resided in Ortley Beach from 1975 until the early 1990's, when he settled in Florida.

A master mechanic by trade, he worked for American Can Company in Jersey City for 33 years before taking an early retirement in 1974.

John had been an active member of the Ortley Beach First Aid Squad. He had also been active with the Bayonne Booster Club.

An avid fisherman, John was also a very hands-on person with an ability to fix almost anything.

His first wife, Mildred (DeCicco) died in 1977.

He is survived by his second wife, Helen; two sons, Donald and his wife, Deena Zolkowski of South Plainfield and Dr. Walter Zolkowski, MD and his wife, Laraine of Great Falls, Virginia and five grandchildren, David, Donna, Mark, Robert and Geoffrey.

Also surviving are two great grandchildren, Nicholas and Cara.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Ortley Beach First Aid Squad, 119 Sixth Avenue, Ortley Beach, NJ 08751.

## Adele Rita Cichinski, 82

Adele Rita Cichinski died on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born Adele Rita Gargano in Elizabeth, Mrs. Cichinski was a 1940 graduate of the Battin High School in Elizabeth. She later graduated from the nursing school of Elizabeth General Hospital in 1943 and had lived most of her adult life in Edison prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1993.

She worked as a registered nurse in various hospitals and nursing homes in the area, including Elizabeth General Hospital, Roosevelt Hospital in Edison and Oakview Nursing Home in Sayreville before her retirement in 1980.

Mrs. Cichinski also held a patent for a magnetic needle threader.

She is predeceased by her husband, Walter Cichinski.

She is survived by six children, Steven, Walter and his wife, Volena, Caroline and her husband, John Touzeau, Catherine, Matthew and Stanley Cichinski; four grandchildren, Jacqueline Touzeau and Vincent, Nicholas and Walter John Cichinski; a sister, Mrs. Helen Mondel and a brother, Dr. Fred Gargano.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association 2550, Rout 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

## Frances Mirabella Galley, 92

Frances Mirabella Galley of Green Brook died on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at the Harborside Care Center in Bridgewater.

Frances was born in New York City and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Green Brook 34 years ago.

Frances was a piano teacher and the former owner of the Rega School of Music in Springfield. She then operated the Frances Galley Piano Instruction in South Plainfield and Green Brook for 20 years before retiring in 1985.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Theodore Galley, who died in 1971.

She is survived by a daughter, Anna E. Galley of Green Brook.

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

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Sr. Proms, election 1902 and 1903,  
Girl Scout Gold Awards, 1902 and  
1903 Bike Rodeo, All District Con-  
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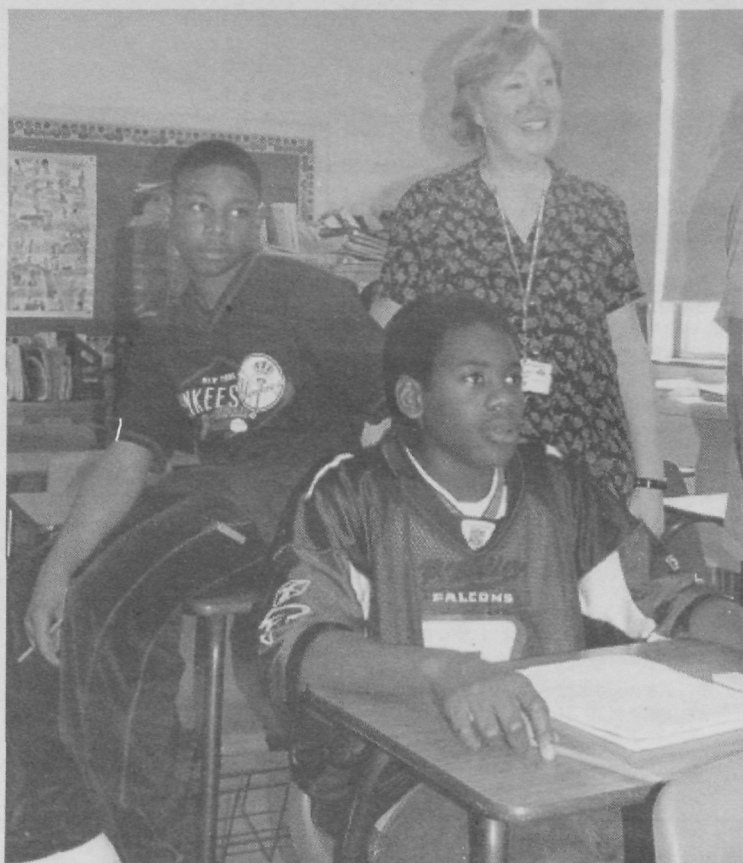
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# Middle School Students Learn Money Tips



Students in Mrs. Schwebel's Middle School math class listen to a presentation on teenage money tips.

By Patricia Abbott

Dollars and cents don't mean a lot when you are 14. Checkbooks, bank statements, credit cards and bills are years away...or are they?

Not according to South Plainfield resident Sanyika Calloway Boyce, author of the book *Teen Money Tips*. Her recent visit to the Middle School and Mrs. Schwebel's tenth period math class proved that now is the time for youths to begin learning how to successfully handle money.

After a detailed lesson on the basics of banking, it was time for some fun. Sanyika asked the students how many planned on attending college.

All 14 hands shot into the air. The college-bound students then had a chance to project themselves into their own futures, to make decisions they will make once they are 18 and out of high school. The "true cost of living" checklist began with deciding where they would live, offering choices such as at home with parents, their own apartments, sharing an apartment or living on a college campus. After each choice was a line for the projected cost. Students had to estimate expenses for gas, electricity and water as well as phone bills, including cell phones. Next up was transportation. Would they opt for a new or used car, or motorcycle, plus

insurance or use public transportation? There were approximate monthly payments to consider as well.

The list of decisions continued. From food and personal grooming to shopping, Internet service, entertainment, laundry, gas, pets, cleaning supplies and money matters—bank fees, savings etc. The students had fun "guesstimating" expenses. While discussing monthly phone charges, one student thought an average bill would be \$250 while others suggested \$36-\$80. Most of the youths did not opt to live frugally, choosing their own apartment, live sports events, new cars and satellite TV, all this while attending college and working.

The last three lines on the list began what was to become a serious reality check for the students. They totaled up their listed monthly expenses. With that rather large dollar amount in front of them they were asked, "How much money will you need to earn per hour to support yourself?" and "How many hours per week will you be able to work and go to college?" Most of the youth were startled to find they would have to work long hours at possibly menial jobs just to pay their bills. It was time to rethink their choices.

Sanyika's visit to South Plainfield Middle School was her first opportunity to work with middle school students. Her reaction to this new audience was simple and to the point. She said, "I really enjoyed it, the students were really bright and have great ideas about what they want to do in the future."

Student Jordan Leporino said, "I don't know about the other kids but for me this was a great experience. She shared one of her own experiences with us about mistakes she has made. I learned so much in those three days. This presentation showed me the value of a dollar and I know it will help

me in the future." Another student thought everyone in the school should have the chance to read the book.

Sanyika grew up in Calvert County, Maryland. She graduated Calvert High School in 1991 and Norfolk State University with a BS in Communications in 1995. She majored in Communications with a concentra-

but found that most financial advice was established for adults.

With much perseverance she worked through battles with creditors and money management issues. She began helping friends by sharing her hard won information. This, she said, sparked the idea to write books and speak to teens, college students and working adults in a real-world, down-to-earth way about money, credit and debt. Sanyika chose to self publish. She established Smart Concept Books Publishing in 2001. Her first book was "Crack Da Code, What Every College Student Need to Know About Money, Love & The Dream Job."

Students often email her with "progress reports" and updates of how they used the information in her books or the knowledge they gained from a live presentation. Sanyika has many success stories and testimonials to her credit. Most often they

share their success in getting a high interest rate reduced on a credit card or how they paid off a bill.

For more information about Sanyika Calloway Boyce visit: [www.financialfitnesscoach.com](http://www.financialfitnesscoach.com). Her books can be purchased at [www.teenmoneytips.com](http://www.teenmoneytips.com) or [www.smartconceptbooks.com](http://www.smartconceptbooks.com).

Sanyika's new "student only" website, [www.studentmoneytips.com](http://www.studentmoneytips.com), is a resource offering money tips, video clips, links and a student forum to connect with other students. Her goal is to get 5,000 students registered to the site by the end of the year.



Sanyika Calloway Boyce, author of the book *Teen Money Tips*, gives Middle School students a taste of financial reality.

tion on Public Relations. Her big dream was to move to New York City and work for a magazine or PR firm. She shared with the students an experience that literally changed her life and career. When Sanyika graduated from college she found herself \$15,000 in debt. Finding a job was not the solution. She said, "I was denied several jobs because many that I applied for came with an expense account or some sort of money management responsibility. I had no idea that my credit report would have anything to do with my employment chances."

She sought information and help

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curity benefits are taxable, what to do if you can't pay your tax, and amended returns.

More than 70 tax tips will be available, a new one for each business day until the April 15, tax deadline.

The tax tips will be available at the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) on The Newsroom page. Look for a link to them under the Topics sidebar.

Additionally, members of the

news media, tax practitioners and others who wish to receive the daily Tax Tips directly via computer may subscribe to IRS Tax Tips through the e-News Subscriptions link under the Contents sidebar on The Newsroom page of the IRS website.

Tax Tips is one of nine services available through the e-News Subscriptions list on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). A variety of other subscriptions are available

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