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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 42

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

JUNE 20, 2008

## Council Responds To Residents' Pleas

Councilman Matt Anesh gave a presentation at the Monday evening Borough Council agenda meeting to help shed some light on the forthcoming speed humps slated for construction on several streets in residential neighborhoods.

The asphalt humps are raised areas designed to be safely traveled over at relatively slow speeds, as opposed to speed bumps which require more of a stop and go.

The idea of the speed humps came in response to complaints of speeding by a large number of residents in the areas of East Hendricks Boulevard and Linden Avenue, between Maple and East Fairview Avenue. These roads are typically "cut through" streets used to avoid the traffic signal at Park and Maple, and Maple and Woodland avenues.

According to Anesh, the humps have a different impact on vehicles than bumps. The humps are three to three and a half inches high and will be 12 to 14 feet in length as opposed to speed bumps which are generally three to six inches high and only one to three feet wide. Humps are designed specifically to slow vehicles down to 20 mph when they are properly placed in succession and to create a "visual impression" to impede speeding vehicles. Signage to alert motorists will be installed on the road beside the humps.

The borough intends to place three humps on the easterly end of East Hendricks Boulevard—one on Selene Terrace and one on Oxford Avenue between East Hendricks Boulevard and Maple Avenue. On the opposite side of Maple Avenue, three humps will be installed on Linden Avenue and on East Crescent Avenue between Linden and Park avenues.

Many residents in the affected areas attended the meeting and voiced

(Continued on page 6)

## Krausz's Robbed at Knife-Point

A masked man wielding a knife demanded money from a worker at Krausz's on Oak Tree Avenue shortly after 9:30 p.m. last Friday.

Jayanti Patel was counting money at the back counter when a black male, approximately 25 to 30 years of age, 5'6" tall, medium build, wearing a long-sleeved black shirt, dark jeans and a black mask covering his face entered the store.

The masked man jumped the counter holding a kitchen knife and demanded, "Give me the money and open the drawer." The assailant removed approximately \$500 from the back counter, \$160 from the cash register and \$400 from the lottery register and fled on foot toward Columbia Bank. Patel was not injured.



The 2008 Hall of Fame inductees from the left are Robert Jones, Thomas Gannon, Charles Butrico and Kenneth Abbott.

## Four Inducted Into SPHS Hall of Fame

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Wall of Fame recently added four new inductees to the 54 former SPHS graduates previously named. They are Kenneth Abbott, Class of 1979; Charles Butrico, Class of 1977; Robert Jones, Class of 1980 and Thomas Gannon, Class of 1964. The Hall of Fame was started in 1995.

The inductees were honored on June 2 with a luncheon at Flanagan's Restaurant. Superintendent Jose Negron was on hand to welcome the honorees and guests. Each inductee was introduced by high school principal Dr. Ken May, who gave a brief resume of each recipient before they received a plaque noting their placement on the SPHS Wall of Fame.

Kenneth Abbott grew up in South Plainfield and now resides in Chatham with wife, Kathie, and three daughters, Joanie, 13, Sarah, 9 and Meredith, 2. In addition to South Plainfield High School, he attended the original Grant School (now the Keystone building) and the Middle School.

Abbott attended Harvard University on a scholarship and graduated in 1983 with a B.A. in Economics (honors.) He is currently employed as marketing director, Market Risk Management at Morgan Stanley, the second largest investment bank in the world.

He has also held positions of managing director, Market Risk Management at Bank of America, Adjunct

(Continued on page 12)



Flag Day Ceremonies were held last Saturday at the Elks Lodge #2298 and the Knights of Columbus. See next week's Observer for full story.

## Student Escapes Near-Drowning at DARE Picnic

By Jane Dornick

The DARE pool party, held annually for fifth grade students at Grant Elementary School, is supposed to be a fun end-of-the-year celebration. However, the day began with a 12 year-old girl being pulled from the community pool unconscious.

The incident occurred shortly after staff and students arrived at 10 a.m. According to South Plainfield Police Lt. Charles Siedenbueg, "An alert employee noticed the youngster underwater in a shallow area and jumped in to pull her out." The pool was cleared, and he, along with lifeguard Destiny Jazikoff, checked for vitals. Approximately 45 seconds later the victim regained

consciousness and began to choke up water. Somerset Medical Center EMS, along with Mercy 6, arrived within three minutes and the girl and her teacher, Lori Chabrak, were transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

In a written statement sent home with the class, Principal Leo Whalen said, "The student went to the hospital to get checked out and is doing fine."

Superintendent Jose Negron also visited the pool several times that day and said he was in constant contact with Whalen to check on the young lady's condition. Negron said, "The pool staff, EMS and everyone involved did a tremendous job."

## Holocaust Survivor Recalls Teenage Years in Poland

By Libby Barsky

"What do you say to those who deny the Holocaust happened?" a student asked survivor Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, author of "Love in a World of Sorrow: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memoirs."

"I was there," replied Heller.

Heller, a Holocaust survivor, was invited by social studies teacher Barbara Lucas to visit South Plainfield Middle School and speak to eighth grade students after she received funding from the Joan Lavine Keats Social Justice Grant for Holocaust materials.

In her application she stressed the importance of having a survivor speak to her students. When growing up, Lucas's neighbor was a survivor who "helped me understand the need to always remember and never forget so I could teach my students the need to avoid this horrific time in history," she explained.

Heller, a petite, gray-haired grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of seven, held the complete attention of the assembled eighth grade student body, recalling the life-shattering events which began on her eighteenth birthday, September 26, 1942, when the Nazis began rounding up the Jews in her small town of Skala, Poland.

"I don't have numbers on my arm. We didn't go to camps—we [Jews in Skala] were killed on the spot. This was not a general war—it was a genocidal war—a war against Jews," said Heller.

"Hitler's hatred for Jews was officially recorded in his book, 'Mein Kampf' (My War), detailing his theories about a pure race. Hitler believed Jews were polluting the Aryan race and they had to be eliminated—even babies," said Heller.

Heller cited an example of this anti-semitic hatred in the Nazi treatment



Fanya Gottesfeld Heller

of Jews. A pregnant Jewish teacher went into labor, had her baby, then saw the infant brutally murdered by Nazi soldiers before she, too, was murdered.

Realizing the Nazi's would attack Skala, Heller's father prepared a hiding place for her family, but it wasn't secure enough. Hiding a Jew was dangerous since anyone caught harboring Jews would be killed along with their own families.

A Ukrainian guard named Jan, who had a crush on Heller, protected her and her family as much as he could, even hiding them in his family's home. But danger was everywhere and murders took place when Jews were discovered. Polish farmer Sidor Sokolowski, who had worked for Heller's father, offered to take them into his farm house on the outskirts of Skala. Sidor's wife, Marynka, opposed hiding the family. Despite Marynka's objections, Heller and her family stayed there for two years.

Heller recalls Sidor hiding them in a dark pit in the floor of the barn where there was barely enough space for two people—there were four in the family. In this cramped space, there was not enough light to see. Her father recited poetry or recalled stories from books during part of that time that time to keep them from thinking about food and their hunger. "There

(Continued on page 12)



# Council Votes to Pave Metuchen Road

The Borough Council approved two resolutions at their June 9 meeting, by a 4-2 vote, which enabled the employees from Public Works to pave a portion of Metuchen Road. The portion of roadway paved is beyond Harmich Road to the Edison border. The road is used infrequently because it is filled with potholes.

The first resolution approved the purchase of 1,000 tons of asphalt at a cost not to exceed \$47,000 and called for renting paving equipment from Stilo Escavating at a cost not to exceed \$20,575. The road has been milled and topped.

Middlesex County has announced that it will repair the bridge on Park

Avenue in Edison next year.

Council President Rob Bengivenga said that bridge repairs and possible road closing will make it difficult for emergency service vehicles to respond in a timely manner to South Plainfield residents who live off Park Avenue. By paving Metuchen Road, emergency vehicles will be able to get to those residents.

Mayor Charles Buttrico, who opposed the paving, said he had been told that the bridge will not be completely closed during repairs, and added that he had contacted Edison and they assured him their emergency vehicles would be available to the residents who live in the area.

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

### AGENDA and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.

#### BOE meetings air Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

(Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.



#### council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted. \* All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

#### Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

.....	June 23
July 7 .....	July 14
August 4 .....	August 11
September 2 (Tuesday) .....	September 8

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

#### ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

Senior Center, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7605

June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14, August 28, September 12, September 26

#### zoning board adjustments

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, \*except where noted.

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

June 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28,

September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30\*, December 11\*.

#### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

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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., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spsobserver@comcast.net. 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: spsobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 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*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

## IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

### Dear Mayor and Councilmen,

If you care about the future of the education of South Plainfield and the right to have access to knowledge and information, then you will know how disappointed we, the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees, feel from the results of the Democracy Week vote. While less than 10 percent of registered voters voted during Democracy Week, we must wonder where the 600 nay voters were during the three years of planning, surveying, holding informational meetings at the library, Borough Council meetings and monthly Library Board of Trustees meetings.

While placing the building of the new library on the Democracy Week ballot ran along political party lines, we question why such an important project would even be considered for the ballot. The reason we question this is due to the following: soon after the newly elected councilmen were seated, taxes were increased. To paraphrase the newly elected councilman, he stated that taxes would only increase \$100 per household. He further stated that he and his wife went to the movies and dinner for approximately the same amount of money and therefore, it would not be a hardship for the South Plainfield residents. With that said, why was the building of a new library even considered for the ballot when it would have cost each household in South Plainfield only \$30 per year?

Throughout the history of our country, many innovative and courageous leaders and politicians did not listen to the people, but instead made decisions for "the good of the people." One of these great leaders was a Republican, Abraham Lincoln. If it were not for Mr. Lincoln, slavery would not have been abolished and our country would have been split in two even though it was not the will of the people. Another Republican, Dwight Eisenhower, upheld the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. the Board of Education* and sent troops into Little Rock, Ark., to desegregate the schools even though it was against the will of the people in Little Rock.

The Borough of South Plainfield has given very little to the restructuring of the library. The roof needs to be repaired; employees are forced to work in cramped areas; sewer lines have backed up; and the second floor is not handicapped accessible. There has been no relief from these problems from the Borough, which does in fact

own the building.

It is disappointing to travel to other towns much smaller in population than ours and see library buildings two and three times larger than our present building. The Library Board of Trustees spent many long hours carefully planning, being cost effective and preparing plans for the future of this town. The time to build is now. If not, there will be a loss of monies already spent, monies that must be returned to us, and most importantly, a detriment to our society.

We ask that the council become innovative and plan for "the good of the people" and build the library. If it was beneficial for the people to have their taxes raised \$100 to balance a budget, then it must be just as beneficial for the people to have their taxes raised \$30 for the future of our society.

### SOUTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Dear Editor,

I was a senior in high school when our country was attacked on September 11. That day proved to me how important freedom is. I must be honest—before then I kind of took our democracy for granted. After serving in Iraq I can guarantee you I will never do that again.

That is the main reason I decided to run for Borough Council this year. I don't have all the answers, but I do know how important it is for young men and women like me to get involved in our country.

To me, the June 9 council meeting brought home how free government can work. As most people in South Plainfield know, the Republicans want to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard and the Democrats, including my running mate Chrissy Buteas and I, want to keep them off. The Republicans have the majority on the council, so it would be easy to say "why bother fighting them." In some countries, the minority wouldn't even have the right to say what they think. But that is what America is all about.

Mayor Buttrico, who is a Democrat, vetoed the Republican plan to put the trucks back. Since Republican Councilman Bengivenga has a conflict of interest because he works for one of the trucking companies, he was prohibited from voting. Therefore, the Republicans didn't have the four votes needed to overrule the Mayor and trucks won't come back for now. Democracy works! Our founding

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* does not publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spsobserver@comcast.net. 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 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

fathers knew what they were doing when they wrote the constitution. It's great to live in a country where the law protects everyone's point of view.

I couldn't be more proud to be a Democrat, the same party Mayor Buttrico and Councilmembers Petronko and Scudato belong to. I promise you that if you elect Chrissy Buteas and Franky Salerno to the council, we will work with the Mayor and all members of the council to see that everyone's voice is heard before we make a decision.

FRANKY SALERNO

### Dear Editor,

Political corruption. Most people hear that term and think of places like Chicago, Louisiana, and maybe even Jersey City. More and more, however, South Plainfield has unfortunately gotten a similar reputation because of the prior Democratic majority.

Here's the latest. Back in December, the council was voting on insurance coverage. Two insurance pools were being considered: The Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund and the Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund. Initially, the then-Democratic majority wanted the Central Jersey group. Then one day that all changed.

At the meeting where the issue was finally considered, Mayor Charles Buttrico told the council that the Middlesex group would save us more than \$100,000 because of the way the deductibles for the Central Jersey group worked. Based on these representations, the council voted for the Middlesex group. I disagreed and voted against the proposal.

After the vote, I learned the truth. I contacted the Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund and found out we were given false information. The way the deductibles worked had been misrepresented to us. Had we gone with the Central Jersey group, the town

(Continued on page 10)

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## Nominations for Grand Marshal Being Accepted

South Plainfield's 51st Annual Labor Day Parade is fast approaching. The Public Celebrations Committee is seeking nominations for honorary grand marshal. If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to South Plainfield, send the Public Celebrations Committee a letter stating your reasons why this person should be considered for honorary grand marshal. Include the candidate's name, address, evening phone number and detailed list of volunteer activities and accomplishments. The deadline for accepting nominations is July 25. Nominations may be sent to the Public Celebrations Committee, John Sorrentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

The Labor Day Parade is also a great opportunity for all to meet the community. In addition to the parade, there will be live bands and activities planned at the PAL. The evening includes a fire works display at Spring Lake Park.

Any business or organization interested in having a concession stand or informational table at the PAL grounds at the conclusion of the parade should complete an application available in Borough Hall or online at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com). Send the completed application to the Public Celebrations Committee, Debra Leporino, 170 Oakmanor Pkwy., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. For information, contact Leporino at (908) 754-6914.

In addition, parade marshals are needed to assist in the facilitation of the parade. All marshals must be 18 years or older. If interested in assisting or for further information, contact Joe Scudato at (908) 406-5920 or [jascudato@hotmail.com](mailto:jascudato@hotmail.com).

Also needed are energetic volunteers who would like to participate in the parade as a cartoon character. If interested or for information, contact Matt Anesh at [matthew\\_anesh@verizon.net](mailto:matthew_anesh@verizon.net).

If you would like to help pick out the cartoon characters that march in the parade, just log on to the *Observer* Web site, [www.sposerver.com](http://www.sposerver.com) to cast your vote for your favorites.



Poster contest winners (L-R): Kevin Hagy, Christian Shea, Troy Harzula and Christopher Scherer. Second row: James Munoz Morales and Dominik Jastrzebski. Third row: members of the Elks Lodge.

## Kennedy School Students Entered Poster Contest

It's not polite to boast, but some things just require mentioning. Alicia Vurchio's classes, with the help of Nancy Furka and their hardworking students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School have made great accomplishments this year.

Eight students submitted posters for the annual Elks Lodge #2298 poster contest. The instructors proudly announced that seven of those students have been chosen as contest winners. Seven won at the lodge level; four at the district level and one at the state level of competition. Vurchio and Furka would like to congratulate all the students who participated and the Elks Club for inviting them to participate.

pate.

Kennedy School students from Barbara Friedman's and Barbara Doerr's class also submitted entries in the poster contest. Dominik Jastrzebski, Christopher Scherer and James Munoz Morales submitted winning posters depicting Elks Lodge charities.

In another JFK event, Vurchio's students, with the help of Furka and speech teachers, Martha Klink and Peggy Monagle, performed a magic show for parents, kindergartners and district administrators. Each child learned a magic trick and memorized lines. The children looked like magicians with their high hats and homemade magic wands.

## Library Magic Show at the Senior Center

The South Plainfield Public Library is sponsoring a children's magic show, "Hocus Pocus with Joe Fisher," on Monday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave., down the street from the library.

The program is suggested for children age three and over. The program is being presented free of charge. No pre-registration is needed.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda, or visit the library's Web site at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

### CORRECTION

In the June 13 issue, the story on page 14, "Council Clash Over Truck Route Continues," the second paragraph should have read: "Butrico repeated his request to table the two resolutions. This time Bengivenga voted 'Yes' to table, stating his desire to wait for Sordillo's opinion. The council was then split, 3-3...." We regret the error.

## Ad Hoc Truck Route Committee Asks for Funds

At the June 12 Ad Hoc Truck Route Committee meeting, Mike English, who was recently appointed, was elected chairman of the committee. English then shared some of his plans and suggestions to the committee. After a discussion period the committee agreed to approach the council and request \$2,000 for a preliminary study of a new proposed route. The study will be done by DMJM+Harris Company, the firm that originally worked on the Helen Street Project.

Before the meeting, English had several meetings with committee member and engineer, Paul Kavka. Kavka has been studying the original Helen Street Project completed plans and studies done by DMJM+Harris Company. Along with English, he proposed a truck route that would begin on Helen Street and connect with Mack Place (which would have to be expanded) onto Hollywood Avenue, which would also have to be extended. It would then pass through the soccer and football fields, over The Bound Brook and connect to Metuchen Road at a grade crossing opposite Harmich Road. This route would avoid the dismal Swamp. It will ask for the least amount of fill and will also satisfy the alternate truck route requirements.

English suggested that the football complex be moved to Veterans Park.

It would accommodate two fields, a great parking facility, a future concession-bathroom-storage facility and an existing playground area. A new soccer complex could be built on a new tract of land dedicated to recreation use off of Oak Tree Avenue. There is enough property to allow for the construction of two new fields, parking facilities, a concession-bathroom-storage facility, and with room remaining for a buffer zone between residential developments.

The new truck route would be accessible only at Metuchen Road, Hollywood Avenue, Ryan Street and Helen Street. A living buffer zone should be established between the new road and the residential developments and there should be room for a dog park and other recreational facilities between the buffer zone and the residential areas.

The council agreed to give the committee \$2,000 and will formally vote on the resolution at Monday's council meeting.

The committee plans future meetings with the Recreation Department, Pop Warner and the Soccer Club to discuss these recommendations, as well as the Edison Wetlands Association, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Traffic Safety Commission.

### SOUTH PLAINFIELD GAS PRICE CHECK

Gasoline prices are rising every day. To keep our readers informed, the *Observer* will be publishing the latest price of gasoline at our local stations.

Station	Location	6/10/2008 6:00 PM	6/17/2008 6:00 PM	See Note
Jersey Oil	Park Ave & E. Golf Ave	\$3.859	\$3.859	1*
Citgo	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.879	\$3.879	
Raceway	Clinton & W. 7th	\$3.899	\$3.899	2*
Enrite	Durham & Texas	\$3.899	\$3.899	3*
Exxon	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.959	\$3.959	
Jersey Oil	Hamilton & Amboy	\$3.979	\$3.979	
Gulf	Front St. & Oak Tree Ave.	\$3.949	\$3.989	
Shell	Plainfield & Lane	\$3.989	\$3.989	
Gulf	Stelton & New Brunswick	\$3.999	\$3.999	
Lukoil	Durham & 287	\$4.099	\$4.099	
Lukoil	Hamilton & Stelton	\$4.099	\$4.099	
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# Around Town

## Fundraiser for Alyssa Ricciardi

June 21

Carrabba's Italian Grill, located at 200 U.S. Hwy. 22W in Green Brook, is hosting a fundraiser to support The Ashley Lauren Foundation for Alyssa Marie Ricciardi on Saturday, June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alyssa, who is battling to stay cancer free, is currently awaiting a kidney transplant.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 and available for purchase through June 15 by calling Maggie at (908) 464-0498 or Dana at (908) 755-6799. Make checks payable to: The Ashley Lauren Foundation.

If you would like you can mail a donation to: The Ashley Lauren Foundation for Alyssa, 41 Hwy. 34, S Suite, 103 Colts Neck, N.J. 07722.

## SPBA Meeting

June 26

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 26 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner, located on Front Street. As a member of SPBA, please feel free to offer incentives for your business at the meeting as well as be a guest speaker at our monthly meetings. This month's "Spotlight on Business" segment will be Graphix One.

Contact Debra Anne Leporino at SPBAPres@aol.com no later than Wednesday, July 3 if you would like to be a speaker or do a five-minute presentation on your company or business at the July membership meeting.

## Blackrose to Perform

June 27

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits will be performing at Tim Kerwin's Pub, located on Rt. 28 in Middlesex on Friday, June 27 at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

## Stuffed Cabbage Dinner at VFW

June 27

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will be hosting a stuffed cabbage dinner on Friday, June 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. Public is welcome. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

What's happening at the

## SENIOR CENTER

JUNE

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 24 - Hunterdon Hills Summer Musical Luncheon, bus, show - \$65

August 7-Summer Picnic - Noon All You Can Eat; Live Entertainment; \$12

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am  
Yoga 10:30-11:30am  
Art Class 11:30am

23

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Ladies Social Group 10am

24

Aerobics 8:30 am  
Computer 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
Line Dancing 10am  
Crocheting 1pm  
Tai Chi 2pm

25

Pathmark Shopping 9am  
Crafts Class 10am  
Computer Class 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
Exercise Class 1:15pm  
Bally's Trip 9am

26

Bingo 10am-2pm

27

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

## Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing

June 27

The fifth annual Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Friday, June 27 at Heron Glen Golf Course located in Ringoes. All net proceeds will go to Art's favorite charity, The Matheny School for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The cost for golf, continental breakfast, cart, prizes and barbecue lunch is \$125 per golfer.

For more information or to register, call Jim Muglia at (973) 667-2466 or E-mail Artsmemorialgolf@yahoo.com.

## Cedarcroft Vacation Bible School

June 29 - July 3

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., will have its annual vacation Bible school on Sunday, June 29 through Thursday, July 3 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. There will be Bible stories, crafts, skits, games and songs. Any child entering first through eighth grade is invited to this free event.

For info or to register, call (908) 757-7598 or visit www.cedarcroft.org.

## SPHS 1968 40th Class Reunion

July 19

The South Plainfield High School 1968 40th reunion will be held at the

American Legion on Oak Tree Avenue from 7 to 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 19. Cost is \$50 per person with a cash bar.

For information, call Bonnie Gundersen Risoli at (908) 896-7739.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Bus Trip

August 18 to 22

AARP will run a charter bus to the Hudson Valley Resort, August 18 to 22. Transport, tips, taxes, rooms, meals, use of all facilities including pool, gym, spa, games and live entertainment. Cost \$530 double occupancy.

Call (732) 752-3764 or (732) 752-8506 for registration or for further details.

## Class of 1978 30th Year Reunion

Fall 2008

The SPHS Class of 1978 reunion committee is looking for alumni interested in attending their 30th reunion this fall. E-mail your name, address and phone number to SPHS30YR@gmail.com or call (908) 755-0959 to get your name on our invitation mailing list.

## — Out of Town —

## Celebrate Life Day

June 20

The Diocese of Metuchen will sponsor the third annual Celebrate Life, a day for seniors over 55 at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, on Friday, June 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The session includes Mass at 11 a.m. Cost is \$15. Pre-registration is re-

quired by calling (732) 562-1624 or visiting www.diometuchen.org.

## Vacation Bible School

June 23-27

Children four-years-old through fifth grade are invited to a week of fun Bible adventure in the rainforest at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield from Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Each session includes an evening meal.

Please contact (908) 756-2468 for more information.

## Enhanced Well-Being & Energy Class

June 24

Enhanced Well-Being & Energy Work, LLC located at 222 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook is offering its monthly class in the Creating Your Positive Environment series: "Forgiving Ourselves." Jan Collins, M.Ed. will present the class on Tuesday, June 24 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Fee for class is \$15.

Call to register for the class, (732) 564-1120.

## Depression/Bipolar Support Group

June 25

On Wednesday, June 25 the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will hold its monthly educational meeting. Guest speaker is Laurence M. Westreich: The topic of Dr. Westreich's talk will be "Addiction and Mood Disorders."

The meeting starts at 7:45 p.m. in the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morri-

stown.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

## St. Thomas More Society Dinner

June 26

The Diocese of Metuchen St. Thomas More Society will host their third annual dinner at Pierre's on Thursday, June 26 at 6 p.m. David R. Oakley, research fellow at the Center for Thomas More Studies, the University of Dallas will be the event's guest speaker.

Tickets for the dinner are \$50 per person. All are invited.

For reservations and information, call (732) 562-2461 or visit www.dio metuchen.org.

## Vacation Bible School at Mt. Virgin

June 27-July 3

Our Lady of Mt. Virgin School, 450 Drake Ave. in Middlesex, will offer "Son World Adventure Park" themed vacation Bible school from Friday, June 27 through Thursday, July 3. There will be crafts, songs, game time and snacks each day. Fees are \$25 for one child; \$35 for two; \$45 for three or more.

Call (732) 550-3547 for information or to register.

## Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

June 29

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers is holding an open dance on Sunday, June 29 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Music by Jimmy Ray. Everyone is welcome. Admission \$10 members; \$12 guests.

For more information call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

## Pet Adoption at PetSmart

July 5 & 6

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization, will sponsor cat and kitten adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, July 5 and 6 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the PetSmart store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rt. 28 and 287. All are current with their vaccinations and litter box trained; they will be altered prior to adoption.

For low cost spay/neuter information, call at (973) 282-0890.

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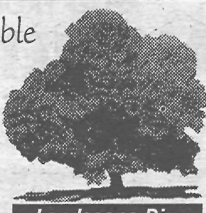
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**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. 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. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

**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: spobservers@comcast.net.

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South Plainfield Observer



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Michael Fucci and Diane Marie Cote

### Diane Marie Cote and Vincent Michael Fucci Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cote of Cherry Hill announce with joy the engagement of their daughter, Diane Marie to Vincent Michael Fucci of Franklin Park. Vincent is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fucci of South Plainfield.

Diane is a 1994 graduate of Cherry Hill High School West. She received a B.S. in elementary education from the The University of Scranton in 1998 and a MA in education technology from Rowan University in 2005. Diane is currently employed as the second grade teacher at Our Lady of Grace-Holy Rosary Regional School in Somerdale.

Vincent is a 1996 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen. He received a BA in Spanish, secondary education, and English as a Second Language at Rider University in 2000 and an Ed.M. in educational administration and supervision from Rutgers University in 2005. Vincent is currently employed as a Spanish teacher at Roselle Park High School in Roselle Park.

A July 2008 wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Franklin Park.

### Horn Elected President of the Middlesex/Somerset NJSCPA

Catherine Z. Horn, CPA, of South Plainfield, has been elected President of the Middlesex/Somerset Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) for a one-year term beginning June 18.

Horn, senior manager of human resources at Alcatel-Lucent, Murray Hill, joined the New Jersey Society of CPAs in 1982. In the Middlesex/Somerset Chapter, she has served as vice president, secretary and director. She has also served on the NJSCPA Board of Trustees as a trustee and vice president, as well as chair of the NJSCPA Human Resources Committee and the Bylaws Task Force. She

currently chairs the Planning and Committee Chairpersons committees and is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *New Jersey CPA* magazine.

Horn is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management and received a Senior Professional in Human Resources certificate. She has also earned an Organizational Development certificate. Horn is a past president of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants.

In her community, Horn is a religious education instructor at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. She has also volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America.

Horn earned her A.A.S. in accounting from Middlesex County College

room soon.

On the same day, Eileen Stellakis earned a master of arts degree in special education. While at Kean she was inducted into the Alpha Pi Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, a graduate honor society. She received a B.A. in elementary education from Rider College and then postponed teaching for 15 years while at home with her five children. She went to work when her youngest child started kindergarten.

Before coming to South Plainfield, Stellakis taught for five years as a primary math teacher at Sundance School in North Plainfield. She is now completing her eighth year in South Plainfield and is also working towards a post-graduate New Jersey Supervisors Certificate.



Ferrell and Helen McCleary

### McClearys Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Farrell and Helen McCleary of Grant Avenue will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 1.

Originally from Johnstown, Pa., they moved here almost 46 years ago to build their life together. They have been residents of South Plainfield nearly all their married life.

They raised three daughters in South Plainfield, Karen, Theresa and Chris and have five grandchildren, Courtney, Jason, Jeffrey, Tara and Cedar. They also have two wonderful sons-in-law, Russell and Lincoln.

Family and friends wish them continued love and good health.

### Nicole Aiello Admitted to Phi Zeta Kappa at FDU

Nicole Aiello has been admitted to Phi Zeta Kappa, Fairleigh Dickinson University's Junior Honor Society due to her consistently excellent academic achievement. Nicole has completed her sophomore year at FDU's Madison campus.

She is majoring in biology and completed the spring semester with a 3.98 grade point average.

Nicole has been involved in research at FDU and presented her research findings on Anaphase Promoting Complex: Discovering New Proteins Involved in Cell Division at the Northeast Regional Honor's Conference in Morristown in April.

Nicole will be studying abroad this fall, attending Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, England.

**Send Your Milestones to:**  
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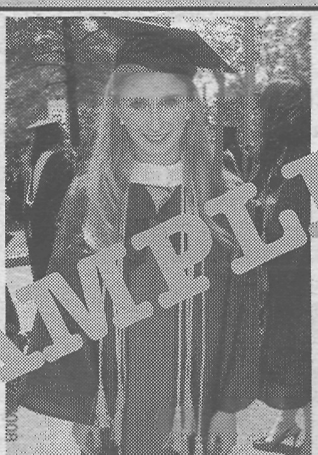
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**Elizabeth A. Levine**  
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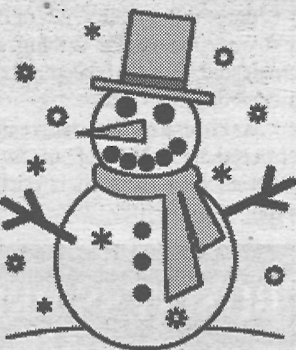
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## Car Show Slated to Become Annual Event

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad sponsored their first car, truck and bike show on June 1. It was so well attended that it is planned to become an annual event for the squad.

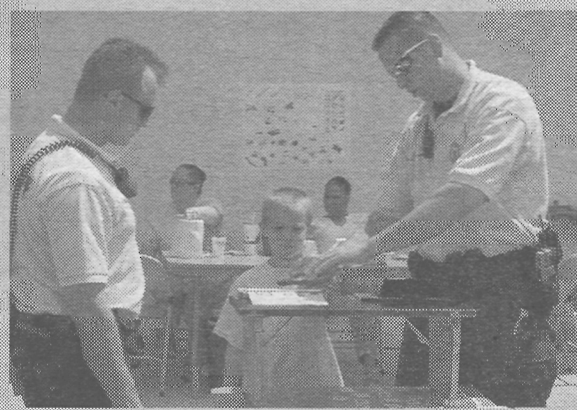
A deejay played oldies tunes as hundreds of guests wandered the rescue squad parking lot. Car enthusiasts had plenty to choose from. They viewed over 100 carefully restored classic automobiles spanning several decades, amazing 'suped up' vehicles and well-maintained motorcycles. More than 100 vehicles were registered.

The younger set enjoyed face painting, tattoos and Italian ices. Sal Severini and others served up hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks.

Trophies were awarded in several categories.

Mayor Charlie Butrico and councilmembers took time to stop by the show.

Photos courtesy of Lois Mornile



## Council Responds to Residents' Pleas

(Continued from page 1)

their concerns; however, everyone agreed that the humps would have a positive impact on speeders in their neighborhood.

An ordinance will be introduced at next week's regular council meeting authorizing preliminary construc-

tion and engineering services to be performed by T&M Associates, the borough's engineer, at a cost not to exceed \$61,600. As part of the project, the council also intends to have the entire length of Linden Avenue milled and paved and some sewer work done.

Because of their poor health, 18 Sycamore trees are also slated to be removed from Linden Avenue. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$385,000 and work may begin in August or September if the resolution is passed at the July 7 meeting.

### police report

- On June 10 Michelle Lee Angeles, 38, of Princeton was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$267 worth of various clothing.
- A W. Nassau Avenue resident reported that their fence had been damaged.
- On June 11 Sandra M. Erb, 47, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving

and failure to maintain lane.

- On June 14 an E. Crescent Parkway resident reported that their lawnmower had been taken from their front yard.

- On June 15 a Pomponio Avenue resident reported that a rock had been thrown at their bay window, shattering it.

- On June 16 Dave Stephenson, 21, of Elizabeth was arrested for failure to stop at a stop sign and two outstanding warrants.

- Jibril E. Holmes, 23, of North Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

- Marcelo B. DaSilva, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to keep right and careless driving.

- A Houston Avenue resident reported the theft of an Avalon 10-speed bike from their enclosed porch.

## Bookmarks

From the  
South Plainfield Library

By Jaimie Donnelly

Sign-up for summer reading is only a week away! This summer the theme is bugs. Do you know that the honey bee is New Jersey's state bug? Yes, there is an actual bill passed in 1974 that states this is our official bug! You can learn all about any kind of insect with the over 150 materials on bugs at the library. The library has over 50 books just on bees alone!

I have some suggestions on the subject of bees for the whole family. To understand what occurs in your backyard, check out "Are You a Bee?" by Judy Allen. To go along nicely with that book you should check out "Reading Rainbow: Life Cycle of the Honeybee" on DVD. For your little one there is the cute story, "The Very Greedy Bee" by Steve Smallman.

The library has over 200 books on insects. The weather is warm and you may be outside tending to the lawn or garden. A book to help you understand the bugs in your garden is "Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs" by Whitney Cranshaw. A great children's companion to that book is "Young Naturalist Handbook: Insect-lo-pedia" by Matthew Reinhart. Finally, if you have a young reader who has an interest in

bugs, then check out "I Like Bugs" by Margaret Wise.

Registration for summer reading begins on Monday, June 30. All ages, children to adults, are encouraged and welcomed to sign up for this free summer-long program. You may read books and magazines or listen to audio books. The more you read, the more cool prizes you receive!

For children, there will be an opportunity to read anything from picture or chapter books to magazines. There will be different prizes every week and several entertaining events. Please check out our Web site or contact Miss Linda, our children's librarian, for more information.

For young adults grades five to 12, there will be a chance to win weekly prizes and attend various events, from movie night to t-shirt decoration. The first 20 young adults to sign-up will receive a cool bag and extra tokens. Any questions about the young adult summer reading program, please contact Miss Jaimie at missjaimie@yahoo.com.

Please note there will be no story-times this week as we are preparing like a busy bee for summer reading!

Also, this is the last Sunday we will be opened until the end of August.

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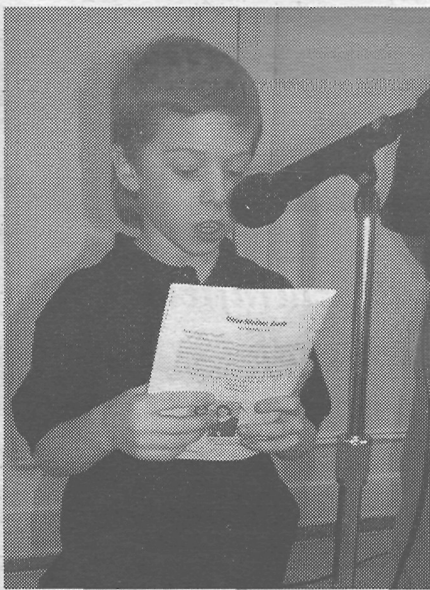
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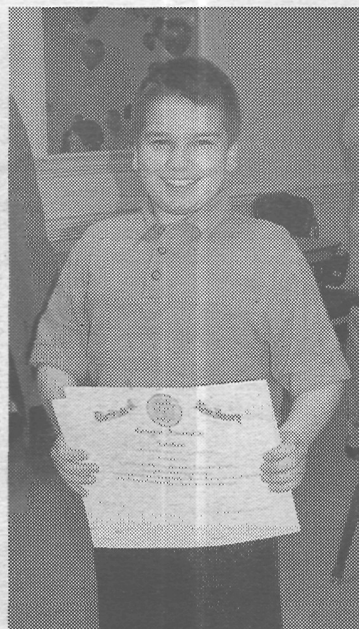
Charlie and Debbie Kurland and Emma Regan



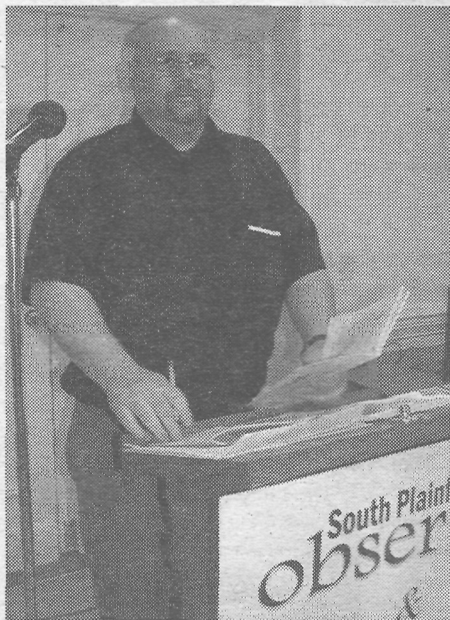
Zachary Prehn



Thalia Alfaresa and Former Mayor Dan Gallagher



Drew Catalina



Michael Bertram

## Young Authors Honored at Banquet

Junior Journalist winners from 2007-2008 were honored at a banquet held last month at the American Legion. More than 120 guests were on hand to help celebrate the accomplishments of the 26 winners.

The Junior Journalist contest, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*. Each week during the school year, a winner is selected and their picture and winning entry are published in the *Observer*. The winner also receives a dinner delivered to their home by Hometown Heros.

As each student arrived they received a book with all of the winning entries. Guests enjoyed a

buffet courtesy of Hometown Heros before the ceremonies began.

This year Charlie and Debbie Kurland presented a \$1,000 savings bond to Emma Regan, the first recipient of the The Ruth Kurland Memorial Award. The award is named after Charlie's mom, Ruth Kurland, who passed away when he was 18-years-old. She instilled in Charlie the value of reading and was very proud of the fact that she had a library card since she was four-years-old.

Former Mayor Dan Gallagher presented certificates of recognition to the Junior Journalists on behalf of Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who was unable to attend. Special guests included

Mayor Charles Butrico, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Fred Oberkehr, several principals and teachers, members of the council and BOE members.

The highlight of the evening was when each winning student read their poem or essay. Five years ago, when the first banquet was held, only a few brave souls were willing to read in front of the crowd. This year, each and every student read and everyone did a great job.

In what has become an anticipated event, Roosevelt third grade teacher Michael Bertram recited a few of his original poems.



Kaitlyn Graziano



Bob Jones, Cheryl, Megan and Kevin Hughes, Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga



Charlie and Debbie Kurland and Nancy Grennier



Emily Mazellan

## Board Approves Locations for Linen Business and Church

By Libby Barsky

At their last meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved two separate applications allowing for the conversion of existing property to different uses.

In the case of Andrzej Grygo of 334 Shevchenko Ave., the application requested the conversion of a house to an office use. The area is zoned for industrial use, but on Shevchenko Avenue there are single family homes. The argument laid out by planner Richard Lapinski was that the 32,000 square foot lot is located in an M-3 zone, and converting the house into an office is a permitted use.

Muthu Arul Avudaiyappan of

Edison is the owner of Welcome International, an import wholesale towel and linen business. The towels and linens are sold to motels and hotels throughout the country. The house would be used as office space and a second building on the property would be used as a warehouse to store the linens and towels which are delivered two times a month by six wheelers which would be onsite for no more than four hours. His company repackages the linens and puts on the bar codes to be shipped to hotel customers, usually by FedEx, which will pickup once a day.

Avudaiyappan said he and his wife and a third person would be operating the business from 9:30 a.m. to 6

p.m. Monday through Friday. There would be no deliveries at night nor will they be operating at night.

Avudaiyappan's application also requested that a bathroom be added within the rear of the building. There are no sanitary sewers on the property, only a septic system in the front of the house. If a bathroom were to be installed it would have to conform to ADA standards for the disabled.

Other conditions included that the house not be used as a residence, no signage would be allowed on the site, no storage outside, no night deliveries, that the two structures be in the same business, the septic system be tested and the results given to the board and expand the buffer to ex-

tend to the front of the warehouse.

Neighbors of the homes nearby had previously protested a more intensive business wanting to bring its operation into the neighborhood, which would have operated large machinery and planned to store it outside.

Homeowner Robert Mergner asked what assurance will there be to see that the conditions set out by the Zoning Board are enforced. Attorney William Lane answered that the borough's code official enforces the conditions.

Members of Full Gospel Pentecostal Church requested that the board allow them to place their church in the space Reverend Jesse Pringle said was once occupied by a liquor store at 2239 South Clinton Ave.

The church has 40 members and is seeking to hold services and classes in a more permanent location than what they have now—rental space on Sunday at the Ramada Inn. The building where the church would be located includes a pizza place, a deli and a Vietnamese restaurant. The adjacent building houses offices, a dialysis center and retail stores.

The church's hours would be 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday and on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. for Bible study classes.

The board granted the variance and site plan relief with the condition that no food be served and that no daycare, funerals or weddings be held at this location.

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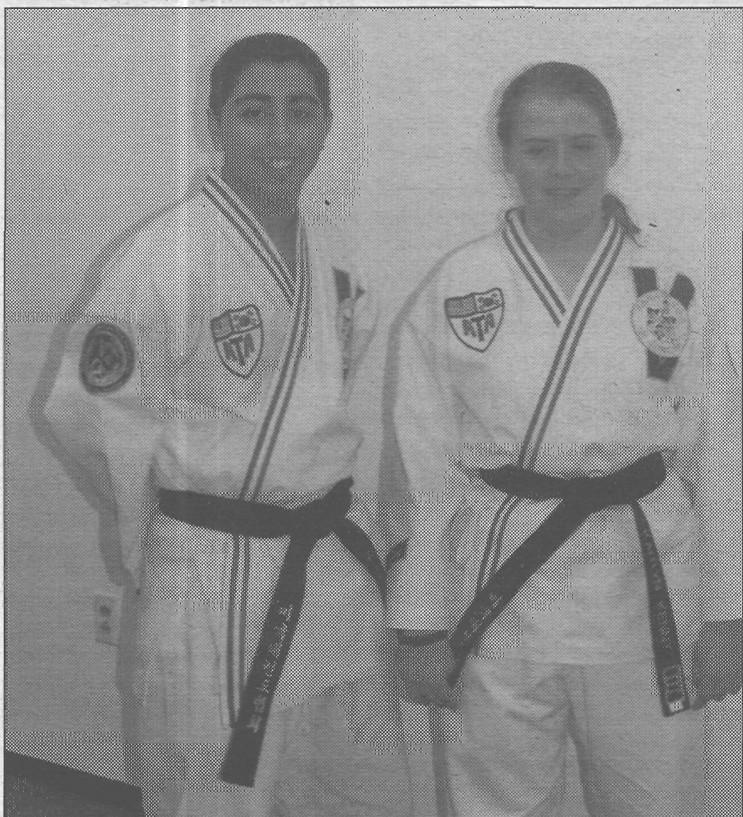
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# Sports



## Kaitlyn Kenny and Milan Taylor Achieve 3rd Degree Black Belt

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Kenny and friend Milan Taylor for achieving their third degree black belts. Kaitlyn has been learning Tae Kwon Do at the ATA Black Belt Academy in South Plainfield since she was four. She is now 13. After years of hard work, dedica-

tion, and commitment she has achieved so much. We are so proud of you Kaitlyn. Be proud of yourself and Milan. Keep up the good work in everything you do. Love Mom and Dad, Nana and Pop-Pop, and Grandma and Grandpa.

By Jack Brady

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

### "C" League Playoffs

The Red Sox had to defeat the Athletics twice in a three game span to win the 2008 "C" league title. In a thrilling final game, Jake Hoffman hit

a three-run home run with two out to give the Red Sox a walk-off 7-3 championship victory.

Congratulations to the Athletics on a great season as "C" league runner up and the Cardinals for their third place finish.

Congratulations to all our "C" league participants this year as all the boys gave 100% which makes everyone a winner!

Remember, the SPJBC picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6.

Hope everyone has a fun-filled and safe summer!



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## South Plainfield Open Golf Tournament

This year's South Plainfield Golf Association (SPGA) Open Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at Gambler Ridge Golf Club. This is the 14th annual golf tournament held for the benefit of the South Plainfield High School Golf Team. The tournament will be a scramble format again this year.

The entry fee of \$100 includes greens fee, golf cart, prizes, food and beverages. Check-in is 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided from noon to 1 p.m. There is a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Dinner and awards will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be provided throughout the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for low team score, longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the line and a special hole-in-one prize.

Registration and payment is due by July 23. Players are encouraged to sign-up early to secure a place in the tournament before all of the available slots are filled. Players can register for the tournament online at the Association's Web site at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org), or print out and mail their entry forms.

Corporate sponsorships are available. All proceeds from the event go to support the activities of the SPHS Golf Team as well as the SPGA's college scholarship program and their contribution to Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer. Each platinum sponsorship includes this year's tournament entry fees for one foursome. Gold, silver, bronze, hospitality and beverage sponsorships are also available. Sponsorship information is also available at the Web site.

For more information about the tournament, sponsorships and entry forms players should contact Tournament Director Matt Ward at (908) 754-4766, Mike Alvarez at (732) 259-0591 or Dick DeAndrea at (908) 755-1700, or visit the associations Web site at [www.spga.org](http://www.spga.org).

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Members of Team Three who made their catapult with PVC pipes, Becky Doffler, Kara Adoms and Caitlin Herriott.

## SPHS Physics Student's Catapult Project A Big Hit

By Libby Barsky

As part of their physics studies at SPHS, 42 students in Dr. Brian Panek's honors physics classes were divided into 15 teams and given the assignment of building a catapult able to perform three tasks: send a water balloon eight feet up and over a specially erected bar, throw a tennis ball 20 meters from where it was launched and aim a water balloon to hit an object five meters away.

"I'm sitting in that chair. That's their motivation to make the catapult," declared Dr. Panek. "This year a water balloon from three teams hit me and one came within inches. I'm pretty sure that 80% of the kids got within 10 feet of me and 50% were within five feet of me which is a pretty good accomplishment," he added.

It's an assignment Dr. Panek hands out every spring allowing students a few months to plan a catapult which illustrates the concepts of the transfer of energy, kinetic force, acceleration, velocity and distance relationships.

Dr. Panek called this year's students the most "hands on" of all the classes he has had that were involved in the catapult project.

"They all did a really terrific job from designing it, building it and testing it," he said. Dr. Panek added that a catapult is hard to design, because each water balloon is a different weight, shape and is affected by the wind.

Every design had to be approved by Dr. Panek before any building started.

"Even if they got help from mom and dad to put the catapult together, the students still had to put it on paper first," he explained. All 15 catapults were different.

The team of Kara Adams, Becky Doffler and Caitlin Herriott decided to build a catapult with a PVC pipe and painted it in bright colors.

Some of the catapults broke down when rubber straps snapped or wooden frames cracked. Student Sean Coffey came prepared with hammer, nails and springs and shared them when breakdowns occurred.

The catapult testing took place on



Dr. Panek giving directions for the catapult testing.

June 2. Students gathered outside on the field facing the entrance to the gym where Dr. Panek set up the perimeters of the testing area.

Before the launch the students had lunch. They each chipped in \$5 to dine on soda, pizza and ice cream cake (contributed by Dr. Panek) before testing their catapults. At 12:01 p.m. the testing began with the launching of the first water balloon.

After aiming water balloons at a seated Dr. Panek, all the testing was completed by 1:40 p.m. With lots of balloons left over, students turned their catapults on each other and fired away.

"Everyone got wet. It was a very refreshing end of the day," Dr. Panek said adding, "It was a great way to end the year."

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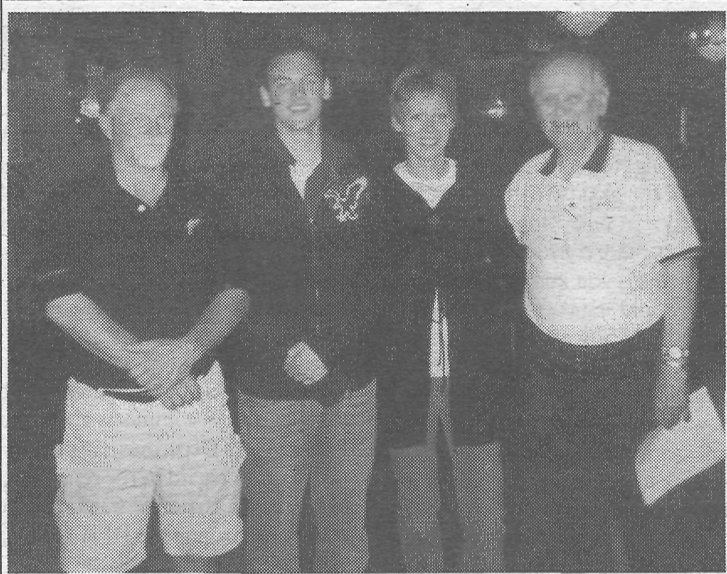
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The annual meeting of the Polish National Home was held on May 18. Thomas Kaufman was elected president. A scholarship was presented to Daniel Nastarowicz, son of Chris Nastarowicz, by Hank Stoner, chairman of the scholarship fund. Pictured (L-R) are Tom Kaufman, Daniel Nastarowicz, mom Chris and Hank Stoner.

## SCHOOL BOARD *Notes*

• South Plainfield High School Spanish teacher Mr. Pererro lost his home in North Bergen in a fire on June 10. Peer Leadership advisors Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Encineas, Ms. Marconi, Mr. Cirigliano, Mr. Genz, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Raimondo and Ms. Zurka along with club members are collecting various personal hygiene and cleaning products as well as monetary donations. Please contact the teachers if you can provide any assistance.

• Congratulations to the SPHS inductees into the Art, French, Spanish and National Honor Societies. It is a great accomplishment.

• The Music Booster dinner was held June 13 at the Italian/American Club in North Plainfield. Mr. Limyansky was the DJ for the evening. Various awards were presented. The event was attended by Principal Dr. Ken May, Asst. Principal Ralph Errico, BOE member Debbie Boyle, music directors Roger Vroom and Bruce Mikolon, the booster club board of trustees, students and parents. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Murray and family.

• The Athletic Booster Club dinner was also held at the North

Plainfield Italian/American Club on June 12. Canvas bags and blankets were given to students who lettered in various sports, depending on the number of years they were on varsity teams. Michael Alvarez and Chet Czapinski, along with their families, were awarded lifetime memberships to the club. Elizabeth Flannery and Christopher Cole received scholarships. Principal Dr. Ken May, Asst. Principal Robert Diehl, BOE members Debbie Boyle, Pio Pennisi and Tim Morgan, Booster Club President Kurt Ullom, Vice President Mickey Wrublewski, Teri Pileggi, trustees, 60 coaches and over 200 students attended the dinner. Guest speakers were Channel 12 sports anchor Bryan Denovellis and SPHS Class of 2007 graduates Megan Boyle and Danny McCreesh. MC's were Norm Loenser and Athletic Director Mike Buggy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betsy Weiss for a quick recovery.

• The SPMS eighth grade dinner dance, hosted by the PTO, is Friday, June 20, 6 to 9:30 p.m. All students need a signed permission slip to attend. Yearbooks are also available for \$25 with checks made out to the South Plainfield Middle School Activity Fund.

## Greg Heim Talks Coins at Grant Elementary School

On May 21, Greg Heim, the father of Rosalind, a student in Dana Hauck's social studies class at Grant Elementary School presented a program on the creation of coins in the year 1793. Heim, a professional coin dealer and collector, gave a fantastic presentation to the fifth grade class, which was in the process of studying the late 18th century presidencies of Washington and Adams. His presentation was full of interesting facts and information. Along with an overhead presentation he passed around coins. At the

completion of the class he gave a coin to each student from different countries in the world, which also reflected different historical periods. The students were captivated and learned a lot from Heim.

Hauck, who also teaches fifth grade English, said, "I truly appreciated all of the time and effort Mr. Heim put into this special, passionate presentation, and I know the students were equally as grateful."

Heim was also very pleased with his classroom visit. In a very complimentary letter he wrote to Principal Leo Whalen, Heim stated: "As a professional coin dealer and collector of almost 34 years, I have given presentations to groups all over the country. Never have I felt so rewarded after giving a presentation to a group of youngsters as this one. You have a real jewel in Dana Hauck. She is a teacher with unbridled enthusiasm, and it shows. My daughter, Rosalind, has benefited from this all year. The amount of knowledge these kids possessed, along with the retention of knowledge about the time period rivaled that of many adult numismatists. When the free coins were passed out, they literally went around the room in zeal showing each other their new acquisitions. It was really cool. It was my honor to come to Grant and do this."

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

June 13, 2008

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on June 12, 2008.

A. Case #07-08-Joseph and Lisa Glówacki, Block 363; Lot 6.01; Loraine Avenue and Kenneth Avenue. The applicant's request for (3) variances was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #08-08-Andrzej Grygo, Block 472; Lot 19; 334 Shevchenko Avenue. The applicant's request for (4) bulk variances and (4) waivers was GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #11-08-Full Gospel Pentecostal Church, Block 308; Lot 12.05; 2201 South Clinton Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance, (3) bulk variances and (1) waiver were GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$34.20

June 20, 2008

## Obituaries

### Maxine Lucas, 75

Mary Maxine Lucas died on Wednesday, June 11 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Forsyth County, N.C., Maxine was a true country girl who grew up in Winston-Salem on her family farm. At an early age she was instilled with true country values that would stay with her throughout her life. She settled in South Plainfield some 44 years ago from various towns in northern New Jersey.

Maxine attended the Park Beauty School in Newark and began a long career as a hairdresser. She initially worked for Levy Brothers in Elizabeth and later at their Middlesex Mall location, before joining Frank & Gloria's Beauty Salon in South Plainfield. Most recently, Maxine was working as a waitress at Sherban's Restaurant Diner.

A loving and dear grandmother, her family was very important as well as spending time gardening. She grew her own "Evening Primrose," a southern flower grown on her family farm which she brought to New Jersey to be grown around her home. Her southern roots also led to a love of county music.

Surviving is her husband of 56 years, Paul; a daughter, Paula Gomes and husband Frank; a son, Michael B. Lucas and her beloved grandchildren, Gabriella, Benjamim and Frankie B.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews in North Carolina.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to The Alzheimer's Association Northern N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Ste. 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

### Robert A. Stilo, 73

Robert A. Stilo, resident of Bellevue, Idaho and formerly of South Plainfield, died on Friday, June 13 at his ranch with his wife, Marie, at his side.

Bob was born on July 5, 1934 in

South Plainfield to Julia DeFillipo and Dominic Stilo. After graduating from St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick, Bob served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Japan.

Upon returning home from duty, he began working for his father in his family's paving business, Stilo Paving. He took over the business upon his father's retirement in 1964.

In 1977, Bob took his first vacation to Sun Valley and fell in love with Idaho. When he retired in 1997, he and wife Marie moved permanently to the Wood River Valley. As an accomplished horseman, one of his favorite pastimes was to help out some of the local ranchers on cattle drives. Bob also liked to hunt, ski and enjoy the great outdoors in the Rockies.

Bob is survived by his devoted wife of 23 years, Marie; a son, Robert Stilo, Jr. and wife Patricia of South Plainfield; three daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Jim Linkin of Largo, Fla., Laurie and Angelo Porchetta of Westfield and Melissa and Jim Santora of South Plainfield; two brothers, Leonard and wife Virginia of Beach Haven and Donald of Seattle, Wash.; a sister, Theresa and husband Rocky Matteis of Desert Hot Springs, Calif. and 10 grandchildren, Jonathan, Alyssa, Joseph, Anthony, Bobby, Julie, Katie, Natalie, Shannon and Brooke.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

The family asks that in lieu of flow-

ers, donations be made to Hospice of the Wood River Valley, P.O. Box 4320, Ketchum, Idaho 83340.

### Martha (Menaling) Campos, 89

Martha (Menaling) Campos died on Monday, June 16 at home in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Cebu, Philippines, Mrs. Campos resided in South Plainfield since 1975.

A faithful member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, Martha was a 3rd Order Carmelite and during her years in the Philippines she participated in several Catholic Women's Leagues.

In 1975, Mrs. Campos retired as principal of the local grade school in Cebu. Prior to that, she taught at St. Theresa's College and the University of San Jose also in Cebu.

She was predeceased by her husband, Lucio Diez Campos, who died in 1994 and a son, Bernardo, who died in 1990.

Surviving are seven children, Merna Hessinger of South Plainfield, Salvacion "Baby" Solano of California, Gemma Thompson of Bridgewater, Marichu Campos of Union, Marita Campos, Raul Campos and Frank Campos all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

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# INMYOPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

(Continued from page 2)

would have gotten much better insurance coverage for a slightly lower premium.

I always wondered why Butrico and the Democrats were so adamant about the Middlesex group. In my experience there has always been a link between Democratic campaign donations and borough contracts. But I also knew that insurance funds were not permitted to donate to political parties. So the push toward the Middlesex group was a mystery.

The mystery is now solved. We just learned that on October 11, 2007, about two months before the insurance vote, a PAC called the "Coalition for Government Efficiency" donated \$2,000 to the South Plainfield Democrats. Further investigation showed that attorneys for the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund donated tens of thousands of dollars to this coalition and were its primary contributors.

I'll let you decide whether the donation and the misinformation were linked. All I know is that 1) there was a concerted effort to push the council toward the Middlesex County group; 2) there was misinformation given to the council; 3) there was a large do-

nation to the Democrats; and 4) the taxpayer got the short end of the stick.

Like many decisions by the old majority, this simply doesn't pass the smell test.

**ROBERT A. BENGIVENGA, JR.,  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**To the Editor:**

America loves being loud. We helped put Quiet Riot's "Cum On Feel the Noize" on the music charts in 1981. Nintendo encouraged young gamers to "play it loud" in the 1990s. Home theater systems are a favorite purchase for technophiles.

I'm no different. I cheer at concerts and rallies. I yell at televised sports games. I've even been told I whisper loudly. So I can understand how much fun it is to turn up the volume. But there are some noises I can do without.

This month, my brother is part of South Plainfield High School's Class of 2008. I am so excited to see him and his friends get their diplomas and have the time of their lives before college starts up. But I've been to these events before, and I know that several dozen revelers are likely to bring air horns with them to blare in celebra-

tion of the seniors.

Now there are a lot of horrible things that could interrupt the graduation exercises. Some belligerent drunk could start blasting Journey's inescapable "Don't Stop Believing" on a boom box. A pack of angry dogs could get in touch with their inner Cujo and roam about the bleachers. But I'd still rank air horns above anything else in terms of sheer annoyance.

Why would anyone want to hear a bunch of detuned bleats in recognition of surviving 12 years of schooling? If that kind of tomfoolery were acceptable at any other activity on Jost Field - imagine young "Joe Kicker" missing the field goal and losing a football game to North Plainfield because of an air horn - much of the town would be up in arms. Some may view shrieking cheers to be worse, but everybody's cheering. Everybody is not bringing some kind of noisemaker to a graduation.

As annoying as the horns are to fellow audience members, they're actually worse from the field. When I graduated in 2005, it was the worst part of the ceremony - and that's certainly saying something, since you may recall it rained. And not just any rain;

I'm talking "torrential downpour from the blackest cloud in the sky" - the kind of rain that leads administrators to spontaneously truncate the ceremony rather than, you know, hastily move indoors and start over.

And even as we sat there taking on water - my cap is still bent from the precipitation - I could only think about how annoying it was that people were still blaring their horns in the rain, making it even harder to hear graduates' names being called.

Yet nobody thinks to bar air horns at the gates of Jost Field. Are guests' bags even being checked? I recall my own peers getting a hard time for the contents of their pockets, and I don't remember anyone having any terrible noisemaking devices. If simple annoyances like air horns can slip through the cracks, what's stopping guests from bringing concealed weapons, be it guns, cans of Mace or jars of angry bees?

If the SPHS administration wants to give the Class of 2008 the smooth, painless graduation ceremony the seniors all deserve, they'll do the right thing and find a way to kick air horns to the curb. Otherwise, it is up to you, the audience, to do the right thing and

leave them at home. Take it from me: most grads would rather hear celebratory cries of "Woo-hoo!" or "Yeahhhh!" rather than "squongk" or "blapppp."

**MICHAEL DUQUETTE**

**Dear Editor,**

I couldn't help but cringe after reading the mayor's comments about our Public Works Department in the *Courier News*. In regard to the resurfacing of Metuchen Road, he stated that he could not imagine the DPW doing a good job.

These types of insults do not help our town. I actually drove the Metuchen Road extension and saw what a great job our DPW did. They also did it at a cost significantly lower than the town had been paying the county to pave roads.

My advice to the mayor? Next time you get the urge to insult our hard-working borough employees, stop and think first. Get some facts, because your foolish comments in newspapers like the *Courier* not only reflect upon you, but they reflect upon our town. And South Plainfield deserves better.

**BOB JONES**

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# Four Inducted Into SPSHS Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 1)

Professor of Finance at New York University and Rutgers University, Newark. He also held numerous positions including vice president risk



**Kenneth Abbott**

advisory and derivatives marketing at Bankers Trust Company. In high school, Abbott was a National Honor Society inductee, devoted time to numerous school bands, involved in scouting since grade three and received his Eagle Award in 1978.

He was the first SPSHS student accepted to Harvard and is currently the area recruiter for the school, last year he interviewed Karla Reyes, who was the second SPSHS student accepted to Harvard in the history of the school.

His drive for excellence and determination to exceed when told he could not makes him a role model for students. A SPSHS teacher of science and math told him he would never get into Harvard and discouraged him from applying and Abbott proved this man wrong. Today he tells students that they can achieve their goals if they work hard and believe in themselves. He was nominated by his sister, Patricia Abbott.

Abbott said, "It's a great honor to be inducted into the SPSHS Hall of Fame. I think it's really important for students to realize that they can build upon the foundation SPSHS has provided them to do anything they really want to do."

**Charles Butrico**, a longtime resident of South Plainfield, was elected mayor in 2006. He resides in town with wife Sherry and three daughters,



**Charles Butrico**

Dana, 24; Kristie, 22 and Michelle, 19. He attended Kennedy Elementary School and Cedarcroft Junior High School before graduating SPSHS in 1977.

In 1997 he was awarded a certificate from Chubb Institute and continued on to Rutgers University, graduating in 1997 with a B.S. in Business Management. He is currently an account executive with Computer Sciences Corp. He is responsible for managing multi-million dollar accounts in the computer resourcing industry. His prior experience includes

director of application development, director of operations and manager of technical support with Baker and Taylor.

At the age of 19 Butrico was one of the youngest graduates from the Institute of Computer Technology and at 24 he was the youngest member of his company to be promoted to manager. He graduated from Rutgers in five years with high honors, while working full time and raising a family.

Butrico is an active member of Sacred Heart Church, Knights of Columbus and a former member of the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop producing board. He has coached T-ball and softball.

In high school he participated in the marching, concert and jazz bands and was also a member of the stage crew. He was also a member of the band, Velvet, which performed at a number of high school and middle school dances and talent shows. They also performed in surrounding towns and at the Labor Day picnic in Veterans Park in 1976.

Before being elected mayor in 2006, he had been a councilman for five years. He has been a member of the Business Advisory Group and the Planning Board since 2001. He was nominated to the Hall of Fame by Ben Rodger of South Plainfield.

Mayor Charlie Butrico said, "I am extremely proud that I grew up and went to school in South Plainfield. I am honored to have been inducted into the South Plainfield Hall of Fame and to be recognized for my contributions and achievements. I would like to thank the nominating committee for bestowing this honor on me and congratulate the other individuals that were also inducted."

**Robert Jones**, a resident of South Plainfield, attended Franklin School, the Middle School and graduated from SPSHS in 1980. He graduated from



**Robert Jones**

Rutgers University in 1985 with a major in communications with honors and a minor in theater. He was a former member of South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop. Graduate studies included Rutgers Law School-Newark.

Jones started his own business in 1996 consulting for other attorneys. He handles appeals to the N.J. Superior Court, Appellate Division, and the N.J. Supreme Court. He is an instructor at Fairleigh Dickinson University-legal research and writing. He has been a trustee and legal counsel for South

Plainfield Education Foundation since 2005. He served as chairman of the South Plainfield Republican Organization from 2003 to 2007. He has been a member of the Board of Advisors at Fairleigh Dickinson University Paralegal Studies program since 1999 and Board of Trustees at Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch, 1991-1998.

Jones earned his law degree at night while working full time. He was nominated by fellow Board of Education member Debbie Boyle.

Jones said, "I was excited when I found out I'd be inducted, and I want to thank the selection committee for choosing me. When looking at the wall and prior inductees, it is humbling. I've always been proud of SPSHS and to be recognized by my alma mater is a great feeling."

"I hope our students see that they are leaving SPSHS well prepared for all sorts of challenges. SPSHS graduates have gone on to do impressive things in business, academics, government and community service. The wall shows them just some of the things our graduates have accomplished, and hopefully it lets them know that if they work hard, don't give up, and push their limits, they too can achieve things they never expected."

**Dr. Thomas Gannon** resides in North Canton, Ohio with his wife and daughter. He attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from Montclair State University in 1964. He majored in Social Science and minored in English/Education. He received



**Thomas Gannon**

a M.A. from Montclair State in 1971, a M.Ed. from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama in 1974, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Seton Hall University 1991. His extensive work experience includes 10 years in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District as teacher, supervisor and curriculum director, middle school principal; five years in Millstone Township as superintendent; seven years in Readington Township; 12 years at Mount Union College as associate professor, professor chair and director. He has served as a coach and league officer and was president of numerous school organizations. He is active with St. Paul's Church in North Canton.

Gannon said, "... With hard work, it is possible to become successful. A key ingredient in my success was having many of my SPSHS and Montclair faculty believe in me and encourage me."

# Holocaust Survivor

(Continued from page 1)

was almost nothing to eat—dry bread and mostly rotten potatoes. Rats and lice shared the space with them," said Heller.

The lice were everywhere. "My hair constantly moved when I was there. It took a year of washing her hair with kerosene to get rid of the lice," Heller said.

Skala was a small town with 1,500 Jews. When the Red Army liberated Skala only 45 Jews remained alive and Skala didn't want them.

"They were broken people. My father disappeared during this transition and I survived with my mother and brother. We didn't want to stay in Poland and went to a displaced persons camp," said Heller. With the help of members of her extended family who managed to survive in France, Heller, her mother and brother left the camp to live in Paris.

Later she married and in 1960 she and her husband came to the United States and settled in New York.

"My eyes have seen things no hu-

man eyes should see. I found it hard to become normal," Heller said.

Through courses in psychology and undergoing her own analysis, Heller obtained a B.A. and M.A. in psychology from the New School of Social Research and became a clinical psychologist. In 1990, she began writing her memoirs, "Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memoirs" published by Krav Publishers in 1993. The book was later reissued as "Love in a World of Horror" in 2005 by Devora Publishing.

Heller cites no answer for her and her family's survival. "We had choice-less choices. I'm positive, I believe in God. We survived because of some miracle," said Heller. "I am here to put a face on the suffering," she continued, and the students said that is exactly what she did for them.

Most of the students have made visiting the Holocaust Museum a priority during their trip to Washington, D.C. said teacher Barbara Lucas.

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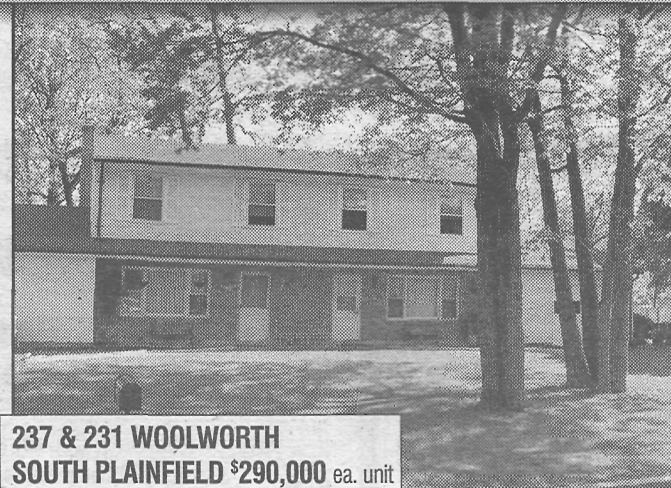
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