

HAPPY
New Year
2024

**Serving The
Bayshore Area
Since 1991**

The South Amboy/Sayreville **TIMES**

This issue is
dedicated to
*Eugene Malik
*Robert "Bob" Poetsch



December 23, 2023 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 33 Issue 3



Sayreville Recreation Department Meet and Greet with Santa!



The Sayreville Recreation Advisory Board held a Holiday Meet and Greet with Santa at the Mickey Sedlak Recreation Center. (Photo by Phyllis Stratton)

Dad Daughter Dance

South Amboy - Sayreville Rotary club's 19th annual dad-daughter dance will be held on Friday, February 9, 2024. It will be at VFW hall located on Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville starting at 7pm. Cost is \$60 for dad and daughter. Additional daughters are \$25 each. Reservations are now being accepted by contacting Greg at 732-721-0400 or greg@customfinancial.org.



Kindness At Christmas

By Tom Burkard
c.2015

Try a random act of kindness
This Christmas
A little kindness goes a long way
It can make someone smile
Brighten their spirit
On maybe their darkest day
Kindness at Christmas
Keep it in mind
Show a little love and caring
Give someone your time.

Remembering Pearl Harbor

(Photos by Mary Szaro)



Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post 62 of South Amboy veterans pictured prior to the tossing of the wreath into the Raritan Bay, at the Pearl Harbor Memorial service are (l-r) Jan Williams, Gary Poland, Tom Noble, Past Commander Bob "Zak" Sekerak.

Photo right: Tom Noble tosses a beautiful memorial wreath into the water.



Fundraiser Benefit

The South Amboy Knights Of Columbus are sponsoring a fundraiser benefit to assist Mark Fitzgibbons a Brother Knight and his family during his recovery. It is scheduled for January 12th at 6:00 pm at 308 4th Street South Amboy NJ 08879. Dinner and dessert is being offered. Cost is \$15. Live entertainment. Please contact Gary Lattanzi at (732) 512-8923 for more information. Open to all who wish to help in this worthy cause.



Next Issue January 27th -- Deadlines January 15th
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Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post 62 of South Amboy and their Auxiliary members are pictured at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service, prior to the wreath being tossed into the Raritan Bay. (Photo Submitted)

Pallone Announces South Amboy Ferry Will Receive over \$6 Million

Washington, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) recently announced that South Amboy will receive \$6,018,000 to construct a floating dock system for the city's intermodal passenger ferry terminal. The funding comes from the Passenger Ferry Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

"It's great to see South Amboy receive more federal funding to support the city's new passenger ferry. The floating dock system will make the ferry more accessible to passengers and bolster the dock's resilience against fluctuating tides and flooding events," Pallone said. "The South Amboy ferry is already giving residents a new way to commute between Central Jersey and New York City, and I'm going to continue to work to improve transportation infrastructure in our state."

Pallone joined state and local leaders for the launch of the ferry in October. He advocated for \$5.3 million in federal funding that was previously awarded from the FTA in support of the city's passenger ferry.

South Amboy Middle High School Fundraiser

The South Amboy Middle High School Class of 2029 is selling Route 9 Community Discount Cards. The purchase price is \$20 per card. The class of 2029 will earn \$10 per card sold. This money will help fund or defray the cost of activities during their time at SAMHS.

Please consider purchasing one or many to help the Class of 2029. For more information, use this link. <https://route9community.com/participating-businesses/> or if you have any questions or would like to purchase a card, please contact: The Class of 2029 Advisor, Mr. Scott Loprete (cloprete@sapublicschools.com).

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Mark Fitzgibbons Benefit Dinner
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Columbiettes Taste Of Italy Dinner
Friday January 19th 6 PM

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St. Stan's Holiday Tuition Discount Promotion

St. Stan's is excited to offer new families a special promotion on tuition and registration!

Any new family that registers before January 26th 2024 will receive a \$500 discount on tuition, as well as, free registration. What could be a better way to celebrate the holidays than giving the gift of Catholic Education! Act fast and don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity. We at St. Stanislaus Kostka School want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -A.S....

THE TIMES

The South Amboy/ Sayreville Serving The Bayshore Area

• The "Good News" Newspaper •

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- Who wrote the monthly column, Hoffman Happenings for The SA Times in the 1990's?
a. April Pluskota b. John Magilacuddy c. Mary Jones
- This was a popular Sayreville nightclub on Rt. 35 in the Morgan Section?
a. The Playpen b. The Royal Mano c. Club Abyss
- Appointed to South Amboy's Redevelopment Agency in '06?
a. Johnny Chompash b. Evelyn Solerno c. Melvin Rosado
- Top vote-getter in the 2002 Sayreville election for council?
a. Frank Makransky b. Dennis Grobelny c. Vincent Zacaro Jr.
- Where in South Amboy is Talkin' Heads located?
a. South Broadway b. North Pine Ave. c. Main St.
- Sayreville's Recreation Director in 2002?
a. Jerry Ust b. Mickey Sedlak c. John McCormack
- Grand Marshal of South Amboy's St. Patrick's Parade in '06?
a. Leo McCabe b. John T. O'Leary c. Fred Henry
- Back in '02, this racing collectibles shop was located on Rt. 35 North in Morgan?
a. The Winners Circle b. Jojo's c. Hot Rods & More
- This renowned movie star was in South Amboy for the shooting of the movie "Crackers"?
a. Robert DeNiro b. Johnny Legend c. Vincent D'Onofrio
- In '13, the "Songs For Sayreville" Benefit organized by Clem Skarzynski, helped Sayreville lives and homes that were devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2012? Where was the event held?
a. Sayreville Bar b. The Brick House c. Bello's Family Restaurant

Answers
1a 2c 3c 4a 5a 6b 7a 8b 9c 10c.



**Business
Spotlight**
Fine Wine & Grill



Jay Patel (r) owner of Fine Wine & Grill in South Amboy is pictured with two of his staff members, Meghan (l) and Anita Patel (c). (Photo/Story by Tom Burkard)

Jay Patel, owner of Fine Wine & Grill in South Amboy is a true success story in the business world. Back in 1997, he started working as a stock boy at Krauszer's on Broadway in South Amboy across from Amboy Bank.

Fast forward to 2003, after hard work, determination, and dedication, Patel purchased the former Tarallo's building on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy, which is now Fine Wine & Grill. Not only did he bring plenty of experience in all phases of the business, but a certain finesse that has enabled him to become one of the most-liked and highly-respected business leaders in the City of South Amboy.

Jay really loves the South Amboy community, and said that "We, at Fine Wine & Grill, are always ready to support and help the community, with almost all organizations and charities. We appreciate this community." Fine Wine & Grill also sponsors sports teams for the youth of South Amboy. So many people have noticed Jay's commitment to helping within the City, and this year he received a beautiful

Appreciation Award from the South Amboy Police Department.

Fine Wine & Grill features a huge deli, liquors, beer, and a large selection of Bourbon and Wines. In addition, they offer excellent selections of delicious sandwiches and also a tasty breakfast. While you're in the store, don't forget your lottery tickets. The staff has plenty of experience, and is friendly, courteous, and very helpful to all patrons.

Jay said "South Amboy is very helpful from the mayor, council and everyone. This community has given me lots of friends and some are now like my own family."

Jay Patel has a great philosophy and said, "Just do your own thing. Don't expect anything in return. God is always watching us."

Stop in and say hello to Jay and his outstanding staff at 717 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy.

*Note: See the Fine Wine & Grill's beautiful Christmas/New Year's advertisement in this issue, offering many great bargains for the holiday season!

Dowdell Library News

Keep your 2024 resolutions afloat and stop by the Dowdell Library to see what we're offering!

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for **Reading Rascals** on Thursday January 11 and 25 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the **After School Fun Club** on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm including **Lego Mania** on January 17 and a **Pokémon Card Swap** on January 31. This month includes **Existing Dungeons & Dragons** players will meet on Thursday, January 18 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Are you a **Dungeon Master** looking to run your own adventure? Contact us at comments@dowdell.org.

Kids and Teens! Come to the library to take part in our annual **March Madness Contest** happening from January 2 to the 31. Every participant (ages 4 to 18) gets three shots a day for a chance to win a NBA basketball.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for **Teen Hangout** to play some fun video games on Friday January 5, 12, and 19 from 3:00 to 4:00pm and for trivia on Friday January 26 from 3:00 to 4:00pm.

Adults and Teens! grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks! Drop in for the **Crocheting and Knitting Circle** on Mondays

from 3:30-5 pm and 6:30-8 pm.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 29 from 10:30-11:30 am. Snow date is on Wednesday, January 31 at the same time. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing Camilla at Camilla.comercarruthers@rwjbh.org. For a complete list of the classes, please visit dowdell.org.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

The Dowdell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm. Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12-4 pm. Connect with us on social media. Email us at comments@dowdell.org.

The Library will be closed on Monday January 1 for the New Year's Holiday. Happy New Year!

South Amboy City Officials

60 Years Ago

1963-Mayor-Joseph Charmello; Councilman-At-Large-Richard Schultz; Councilman 1st Ward-Eugene Szeszko; Councilman 2nd Ward-Fred Henry; Councilman 3rd Ward-John Howley; Councilman 4th Ward-P. Joseph Rush; Chief

of Police-John T. Gleason; City Solicitor-John Mullane; Tax Collector-Mary Wenzel; Supt. Board of Public Works-Michael Nagel; Fire Chief-Chester Jankowski; City Clerk-John J. Triggs.



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Yearbook-South Amboy 1998

By Tom Burkard

Bill Beattie was the principal. . . Some of his fine faculty consisted of: Mrs. Charmello, Mr. Walker, Mrs. Bulbin, Miss Gallagher, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Mikulak, and Mrs. Shine. . . The yearbook was dedicated to Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Farrell, and in memory of Brian Sabo. . . Some of the Class of '98 members were: Joseph Barney III, Jeffrey Bouchard, Jennifer Bratton, Victor Cancel, Jessica Cooney, Rachel Drake, Shannon Healy, Justin Ingstrup, Lona Jensen, Peter Kaminski, Aneta Karwasz, Aneta Micula, Richard Morse, Tina Palmer, Kevin Raymond, Shawn Ryan, Kelly Scarfi, Nicole Storzum, Thomas Tylek, John Trotter, Francis Villig, Brian Zarzyczny, Eugne Zebrowski III, Stansilaw Gromadzki, Craig McDonel, Anthony Flaherty, David Seban. . . On the social scene, Kevin Cushing and Shannan Collins were chosen King & Queen of "Homecoming '97." . . Spirit Week was a blast for all, and the musical, "Grease" packed the house. . . The grads will never forget their senior class trip on Feb. 26, 1998 to Medieval Times. . . There were plenty of clubs and groups at SAHS including History; Quill & Scroll; Literary Magazine; Honor Society and many more. . . Sonja Svenningsen was president of the Student Council. . . Jacquelyn Cottrell was senior class president. . . Some of the talented senior athletes were: Alyson Britt, Kelly Colfer, Shannan Collins, Jason Cross, Kevin Cushing, Lisa Dagnino, Erin Henry, Meredith Hess, Thomas Hetzel, Brian Hickey, Peter Hoadley Jr., Andrew Hyslop, Joy Kuczbanski, Rachel Ludlow, Michael Niestemski, Robert Nuzzie, Ryan Rone, Sue Rowley, Vincent Sendziak, Steven Silva, Alicia Stephanick. . . A few interesting nicknames of the '98 grads were: Slappy, Sonny, Couch, Wildflower, Merri, Hoot, and Boris. . . The South Amboy High School Class of 1998 was truly a group of real "good kids" with bright futures.



Do you remember this Christmas assembly held at South Amboy Elementary School? In the top picture, we can only identify Principal Chester Zamorski welcoming the crowd. The teacher on the far left, could possibly be Miss Colucci? If you know what year this was, possibly in the 1980's, let us know. Also if you know anyone else in either photo, please drop us a line with the names. Send to: satimes@aol.com.

Congratulations!



At a recent Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 of Sayreville meeting, Joseph Myers (l) was presented a certificate for 55 Years of Continuous Service, and Carmen Delikat(r) was presented a certificate for 10 Years of Continuous Service. Post Commander Joel Bloom (c) presented both awards.



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Amboy Bank's Annual Food Drive



Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank President & CEO (l) is pictured with Anahita Feltz, Old Bridge Food Bank Manager.

Amboy Bank Held Annual Food Drive

Amboy Bank once again held its annual food drive during November, collecting gift cards and shelf stable foods across all 22 local branches throughout Monmouth and Middlesex counties, as well as its administrative office headquartered in Old Bridge. After decades of holding its Food Drive, this year's number of donations did not disappoint. The Old Bridge Food Bank sends a truck to the Amboy Bank Administration Headquarters to pick up the food donations every year and Manager of the Food Bank, Anahita Feltz, commented on the wide variety of food donations included, as well as how many gift cards to local grocery store chains were included as well.

While food donations are always welcome, the gift cards allow the Food Bank to distribute immediate relief and funds to families that may be facing critical times. Food donations items are commonly associated to shelf stable foods like rice, beans and oats, but with the advent of a wider variety of healthy choices that are also shelf stable, people interested in donating to food banks

are also encouraged to keep in mind some variety as families and individuals facing food insecurity enjoy variety and choices in their diets and meals just like anyone else.

In addition to the truckload of food donations and gift cards picked up by the Old Bridge Food Bank, many of the 22 Amboy branches throughout Middlesex and Monmouth counties have had longstanding partnerships with local food banks in their neighborhoods for years and selects the organization they donate the many collected items to every year, including over 15 other food banks like Care and Share Sayreville Food Bank, Lunch Break of Red Bank and Elijah's Promise to name a few. Said Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank's President and CEO, "The work that Old Bridge Food Bank and the other local food banks provide to the communities our customers, neighbors and friends live and work in is a part of why the area has continued to thrive. We are so thankful for the Amboy Bank clients, branches and employees' ongoing generosity in securing donations to ensure we are able to help the members of our community in need."

For more information on Amboy Bank and their partnership with local food banks, please visit AmboyBank.com or stop by any Branch.



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Taste Of Italy

The South Amboy Columbiettes are sponsoring a Taste of Italy Dinner, 308 4th St, So Amboy, NJ, on Jan 19, 2024 6 p.m. \$20 dinner and dessert, with live music by The Cellar Dwellers. There will also be a cash bar. Please call Vicki to reserve your spot at the Italian table 732-598-6910!

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted to you. Thank you. -M.M.

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PAL Program has employed another student with disabilities, fulfilling its key mission. A Pathways to Adult Living Program (PAL) program student, Michael Ciaccio of Spotswood, who completed the program in June, has been hired as a full-time employee at the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) in Piscataway. Earlier this year, Ciaccio received the Rebecca S. McDonald Award from the New Jersey Transition Coordinators Network. The award is given to a student who has been successful in activities, overcoming obstacles, motivation and achievement in any area of transition from school to adult life. The various aspects can include independent living, self-advocacy, postsecondary planning, paid or unpaid employment, and/or participation in the Individualized Education Plan. Ciaccio is the third student from the PAL program to receive this award since the program began in 2017. Congratulations and best of luck always, Michael! (Photo/info submitted by (Pathways to Adult Living Program (PAL)). (Photo/Info Submitted)

Happy Holidays



The Sacred Heart Seniors were recently entertained by 49 third graders from the Harry S. Truman Elementary School in Parlin. The children sang holiday songs under the direction of music teacher Jennifer Rice. (Photo/Info by Steve Schmid)

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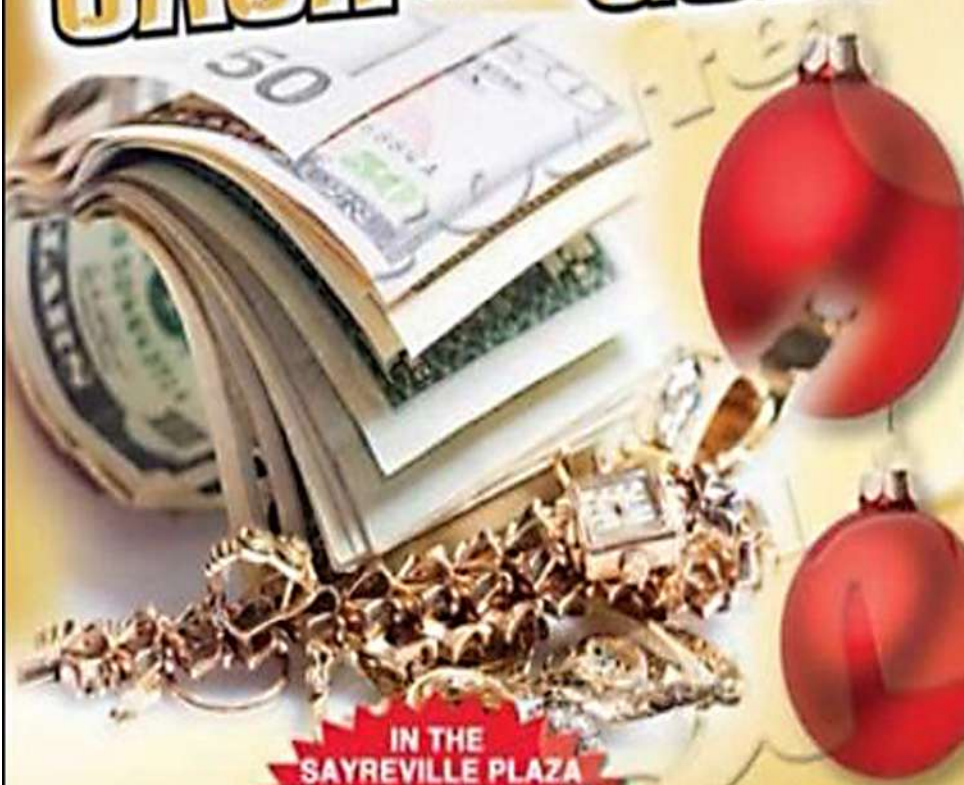
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The Smoke Column

ByEx-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS.

In the fire service we train in how to use our apparatus, tools, equipment, and in different scenarios that we expect to occur. We practice crawling on our knees through smokey atmospheres and how to carry someone to safety and away from the fire and heat. We continue to train for whatever scenario we respond to, be it an insignificant event or a major conflagration. We train to be proficient in all aspects of firefighting and rescues. But do we train to deal with the residents in our communities when they are experiencing the worst day of their lives? They are calling us for help, for whatever reason, and they may be very excited and unable to communicate valuable information to us. When we arrive on scene and witness the situation, we already have a plan of attack in mind. But there is one area of training that most firefighters are lacking and that is dealing with individuals that cannot communicate with us or may become afraid of us. How do we deal with individuals who have autism? Firefighters should be aware that people with autism can't be identified by appearance. They look the same as anyone else. They're identified by their behaviors. Some people with autism do not have a typical range of sensations and may not feel the cold, heat, or pain in a typical manner. They may be hypo or hypersensitive. They may show an unusually painful response that could include laughter, humming, singing, and removing clothing. Speak in short clear phrases such as, "Get In", "Sit Down", or "Wait Here." If you can get their name then use that for each direction you give, they may not make eye contact with you. It may take a while for you to get an answer if at all. How prevalent is autism in the United States? In

2021, the CDC reported that approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls. 31% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability. Someone with autism is 7 times more likely to have an encounter with emergency services. Some point in your career, you will encounter Autism either personally or professionally. What can we do as first responders to help the situation when we encounter a person with autism during an emergency situation? Speak calmly, allow time for a response to questions or directions, repeat the request or words, talk in short and direct phrases, and make one request at a time. Use calm body language, avoid abrupt moves or actions. Do not crowd the person, allow as much room as possible. Avoid waving arms or using a lot of hand gestures. Do not pat their shoulders or touch their face unless necessary for examination or removing them to a safe location. Do not attempt to stop repetitive motions unless they are potentially harmful to themselves or others. Do not leave unattended or unsupervised. Be alert to sudden attempts to re-enter a burning dwelling or occupancy to retrieve pets or items of security such as toys, stuffed animals, or blankets. When responding to a known location where autistic children are present, it is advisable to shut down all emergency strobe/warning lights and sirens as these may exacerbate the situation. Unfortunately, in most of our responses we may not be aware that an autistic person is involved in our emergency call. Always keep that thought in the back of your mind when responding, how will you react?

Memorial Christmas Tree lighting



On December 8th members of South Amboy Fire Dept Protection Engine Co 6 held their annual Memorial Christmas Tree lighting honoring firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2023. The tree is adorned with red lights and ornaments, with names of the fallen firefighters. 81 firefighters died in the line of duty as of this date with 7 from New Jersey. Fr. Stanley Gromadzki SAFD chaplain blessed the tree. A special ornament for recently deceased member Robert Noble was also placed on the tree. Special thanks to Jess Honimar for making the ornaments. (Photos/info by Jamie Norek)



The Brian O'Connor School of Music All Star Band performed their Christmas Rock Show at the Veterans Hospital in Menlo Park on Dec 9th for their 21st concert at that facility. All the players and singers were in prime form. The band rocked and the Vets and the crowd loved every minute of it. The performers are as follows: (front row) Nathan Messenger, Brian O'Connor, Jayden Adackapara. (second row) Michael Ramirez, Caroline Grace, Monica Boehler, Pranav Aggarwal and Joseph Figueredo. (back row) Sean Rappleyea, Anuraag Godavari, Abhiram Godavari, Lance Kennedy, Matt Boehler and Jake Wells. Brianoconnormusic.com (Photo/Info Submitted)

#1 Pop Songs
December 25

- 2020-All I Want For Christmas-Mariah Carey
- 2013-The Monster-Eminem feat. Rihanna
- 2007-No One-Alicia Keys
- 1997-Candle In The Wind 1997-Elton John
- 1984-Like A Virgin-Madonna
- 1971-Brand New Key-Melanie
- 1969-Leaving On A Jet Plane
- Peter, Paul & Mary
- 1958-The Chipmunk Song-David Saville

#1 Country Songs
December 25

- 2021-Fancy Like-Walker Hayes
- 2015-Die A Happy Man-Thomas Rhett
- 2008-Roll With Me-Montgomery Gentry
- 1994-Pickup Man-Joe Diffie
- 1988-When You Say Nothing At All
- Keith Whitley
- 1977-Here You Come Again-Dolly Parton
- 1966-There Goes My Everything
- Jack Greene
- 1959-El Paso-Marty Robbins



By Tom Burkard

Dance Crazes

- 1.Macarena
- 2.C'mon and Swim
- 3.The Horse
- 4.The Twist
- 5.The Mouse
- 6.Twist and Shout
- 7.Peppermint Twist
- 8.Barefootin'
- 9.Twistin' The Night Away
- 10.The Loco-Motion
- 11.Cool Jerk
- 12.Hitch Hike
- 13.Tighten Up
- 14.The Wah Watusi
- 15.Alley Cat
- 16.The Stroll

- a.Little Eva
- b.Chubby Checker
- c.Joey Dee/The Starlites
- d.Marvin Gaye
- e.Robert Parker
- f.Cliff Nobles & Co.
- g.Soupy Sales
- h.The Diamonds
- i.Bent Fabric
- j.The Beatles
- k.Los Del Rio
- l.Sam Cooke
- m.The Orlons
- n.Bobby Freeman
- o.The Capitols
- p.Archie Bell/The Drells



Answers

1k2n 3f 4b 5g 6j 7c 8e 9l 10a 11o 12d 13p 14m 15i 16h.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -T.B..

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -S.R.



By Tom Burkard

Christmas Songs Trivia

- 1.Do They Know It's Christmas
- 2.Run Rudolph Run
- 3.White Christmas
- 4.Holly Jolly Christmas
- 5.Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
- 6.Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer
- 7.Little St. Nick
- 8.Happy Christmas
- 9.Feliz Navidad
- 10.Blue Christmas

- a.Bing Crosby
- b.Chuck Berry
- c.John Lennon & Yoko Ono
- d.Burl Ives
- e.Band Aid
- f.Jose Feliciano
- g.The Beach Boys
- h.Gene Autry
- i.Bruce Springsteen
- j.Elvis Presley

Answers

1e 2b 3a 4d 5f 6h 7g 8c 9f 10j.

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



November Who is it?

Last month's mystery man was a young Tony Iommi of Black Sabbath fame.. The following knew it was him: Mark Moniello, Pete McIntyre, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pat Sullivan, Edna Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Betty Leveille, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr , Dane Colburn.



Tony Iommi



Ozzy Osbourn (l) and Tony Iommi (r) performing in Black Sabbath



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UPCOMING
ZOOM EVENTS

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Will or a Trust?"
1/9/24 at 10AM

"Legal updates for 2024"
2/6/24 at 10AM

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Living Wills

Elder law
Probate & Administration
Special Needs Trusts



The Vintage Car Contest

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Ever see or ride in one of these cars? We are only looking for the make, send your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 15th.

November Vintage Car

Last month’s vintage car was a 1958 Pontiac Chieftain. The following got it right: Mark Moniello, Ed English, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, John & JoAnn French, Pat Scully, Laurie Loftus, Steve Laskiewicz, A. Quigley, Walter Starzec Jr , Pete McIntyre, Pat Sullivan, Edna Pilch, , Dane Colburn.



1958 Pontiac Chieftain



Remember This T.V. Show?



MyFavorite Martian

Last month’s show was My Favorite Martian starring Bill Bixby and Ray Walston.

The following readers knew the show: Mark Moniello, Ed English, Pete McIntyre, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pat Sullivan, Anne & John Erbetta, Edna Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Betty Leveille, John & JoAnn French, Pat Scully, Laurie Loftus, Walter Starzec Jr , Dane Colburn.

We would love to hear from you!



or



or Guestbook



From

**Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year To All**

**Mayor Fred A. &
Linda Henry and Family**

The SA Times
Past Christmas Issue
Front Page News

5 Years Ago
2018

Sayreville Democratic Councilman Ricci Melendez announced his resignation... The Sayreville Bombers football powerhouse captured two championships: CJ Group V, and also Group 5 NJSIAA Orthopaedic Bowl, in which they beat undefeated Williamstown, 14-7.

10 Years Ago
2013

Luke A. Lovely Post 62 member Bill Garnett tossed the wreath into the Raritan Bay at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service on Dec. 7th... Mary Ann Matarangolo was elected President of the South Amboy Seniors for 2014-2015... The City of South Amboy mourned the passing of the popular, former Councilman/Fire Chief John Szatkowski.

20 Years Ago
2003

Richard Kosmoski of Parlin was re-elected President of the New Jersey Volunteer Fire Chiefs... Chester Zamorski passed away and was remembered for his many years (1967-84) as Principal of South Amboy Elementary School, and also for being very active in his community... Green

Tree Chemical Technologies Inc., formerly Hercules, shutdown and left 100 workers unemployed.

25 Years Ago
1998

U.S. presidential candidate Bill Bradley paid a visit to the South Amboy Boat Club for an election rally to support Senator Frank Pallone... George Francy, Author of a new book, South Amboy was interviewed by The SA Times Publisher Tom Burkard... Borough of Sayreville Superintendent of Water and Sewer Dept. Alvin Jolly retired after 28 years... Paul DeSarno was sworn in to fill the unexpired term of former Sayreville Councilman Joseph DiBella.

30 Years Ago
1993

South Amboy's \$350 million plan to develop the city waterfront was unveiled to the public... South Amboy's Jim Sarno saved a heart attack victim's life... The Borough of Sayreville adopted an ordinance to make President Park Independent Fire Co., Sayreville's fourth fire company. The agreement established President Park Co. as of January 1, 1994.

The Christmas Countdown

By Tom Burkard
c. 2010

It's the Christmas countdown. As the big day draws near
The Christmas countdown. The happiest time of the year
Shoppers scurry all around.

As large snowflakes fall to the ground

Kids are waiting for that special sight.

Of the man in red with a beard snowy white

Just watching the calendar every day

'Til December 25th comes our way

It's the Christmas countdown.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From The
Officers & Members Of
South Amboy
Knights Of Columbus
#426



"Keep Christ In Christmas"

New Members Welcome!

Join Today!

Call 732-721-2025

We would like to thank all of you who
have visited the hall in the last year.

We hope to see you again next year
and also want to wish you, your family,
first responders and essential workers
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy
Healthy and Safe New Year.



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Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez

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Protection Firefighters Honored

(Photos/story by Jamie Norek)



On December 9th, at a dinner held at South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426, members of Protection Engine Co.6 of the South Amboy Fire Dept. honored their own along with family, friends, state and local officials. Sean O'Connor served as the Master of Ceremonies. Pictured (l-r) Thomas Szatkowski, State of NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Larry Parsons. Szatkowski and Parsons were honored for 50 years of service to the SAFD Protection Engine Co. 6. They also received resolutions from Speaker Coughlin, SA City Council President Mickey Gross, and NJ State Exempt Firefighters Association. John Fedorka, and Protection presented tokens of appreciation to each of the 5 honorees.



The OLV Senior Group

Would Like To Wish
Everyone A Very
Merry Christmas
&
A Happy and Holy
New Year



President -Teri Yetsko
Vice President - Finita Shicoff
Secretary - Patricia Mancini
Treasurer - Carmen Delikat

The Birth of That
Little Baby Boy

By Albert Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
C.1989

He is the reason for this
season of Christmas
He is the reason for this
season of joy
There'd be no santa,
there'd be no presents,
Without His presence. . .
And the birth of that little baby boy.
There are silver bells
and candy canes
Christmas trees with railroad trains
There are carols piped
thru shopping malls
Colored lights to deck the halls
Christmas cards and flowers
Red Cookies made of gingerbread
There are hopes of snow
with stockings hung
Toasts of cheer and party fun
He is the reason for this
season of Christmas
He is the reason for this
season of joy
There'd be no Santa, there'd be no
presents, without His presence. . .
And the birth of that little baby boy.
Hearts are tickled, eyes aglow
Everywhere this magic flows
All due to one Nativity
And done the wiser it should be
He is the reason for this
season of Christmas
He is the reason for this
season of joy
There'd be no santa,
there'd be no presents,
without His presence. . .
And the birth of that little baby boy.
Happy Birthday Jesus.

Christmas Town
U.S.A.

By Tom Burkard
C.2022

When December rolls around
And snow starts falling
To the ground
Seems the world awakens
To the Christmas sounds
At Christmas Town U.S.A.
Where people are happy
And love is all around
It's so cool, it's so fine
In this hometown of mine
Everything's OK At Christmas
Town U.S.A.
Wishing Christmas was everyday
At Christmas Town U.S.A.
Watching Christmas
classics on TV
Seeing good old Christmas shows
Like they still should be
And Christmas music is
everywhere you go
You just can't help it
If you get caught in the flow
Of so much spirit and
Christmas cheer
It's such a happy place
This time of year
At Christmas Town U.S.A.
It's so cool, it's so fine
In this hometown of mine
Everything's OK At Christmas
Town U.S.A.
Wishing Christmas was everyday
At Christmas Town U.S.A

Waiting To Find Out If They Are On
The Nice List



Good news they all made the NICE list! (Photo by Phyllis Stratton)



American flags flew in front of St. Stan's School from mid November to mid December. The US flags were part of the third annual Flags For Heroes fundraiser sponsored by local residents, businesses, faculty members, veterans groups and other nonprofit organizations. (Photo/Info by Steve Schmid)



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the Parlin DuPont Credit Union
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Happy Holidays and
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Seasons Greetings from the City of South Amboy

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MICHAEL GROSS
Council President

ANTHONY CONRAD
Councilman-At-Large

ZUSETTE DATO
Councilwoman

THOMAS REILLY
Councilman

BRIAN McLAUGHLIN
Councilman

DEBORAH BROOKS
City Clerk

DAVID S. KALES
Business Administrator

DANIEL BALKA
Finance Director

DARREN LaVIGNE
Chief of Police

FRANCIS M. WOMACK
Law Director

KELLY WOLFF
Municipal Court Administrator

JOHN DRAGOTTA
Fire Chief

LEONARD MOFFA
Public Works Superintendent

JOANNE KATKO
Tax Collector

ELAINE GABER
Library Director



St. Stan's School
(Photos/Info Submitted)



The 8th Graders received their class rings on December 8th. These rings represent the bond each student has to the school and Catholic Education.



Santa had some 8th Grade elves stay after school to deck the halls, and the principal's office!



Students and Faculty gather together to send Christmas cards to different members of the community as a way to spread Christmas Cheer!



The 1st Graders in Dr. Seuss Club wish you all a Merry Grinchmas!

South Amboy
Tree Lighting/Emergency Vehicle Parade
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Santa Claus waves to the huge crowd as he arrives at City Hall.



South Amboy City Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross (r) presents the first place trophy to Capt. Pat Rourke, of the Enterprise Snorkel Co. No. 1 Truck 8.



Firefighters Harry Ward (l) and Roy Dragotta, both members of Enterprise Snorkel Co. 8 proudly display the first place trophy for the best decorated in the Emergency Vehicle Parade →



Members of the South Amboy First Aid Squad are pictured following the Tree Lighting/Emergency Vehicle Parade.



All of the South Amboy emergency vehicles were beautifully decorated for the parade.

South Amboy Tree Lighting/Emergency Vehicle Parade

Continued
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Pictured are the volunteers who gave out countless hot chocolates and cookies to everyone at the event.



South Amboy First Aid all decked out for the parade!



The South Amboy-Sayreville Girl Scouts singing Christmas carols on the steps of the South Amboy City Hall.

St. Stan's Christmas Bazaar

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



A volunteer worker stands by a fun Santa game that many children enjoyed.



Volunteers at the Cake Wheel had a very busy day.



OLV Christmas Bazaar

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Santa Claus visited with this group of happy children.



Santa and Mrs. Claus are pictured at the great event.



There were many vendors and games at the OLV Christmas Bazaar, and this one offered beautiful paintings.



The Lottery Ticket Tree was a popular game of chance.



An inflatable Santa greeted people as they entered the Bazaar.



City of South Amboy Department of Public Works
2024 Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule
(Dates are tentative due to inclement weather)

New Years Eve	Monday	January 1st will be picked up Wednesday January 3rd
Martin Luther King Day	Monday	January 15th will be picked up Wednesday January 17th
Lincolns Birthday	Monday	February 12th will be picked up Wednesday February 14th
Presidents Day	Monday	February 19th will be picked up Wednesday February 21st
Good Friday	Friday	March 29th will be picked up Wednesday March 27th
Memorial Day	Monday	May 27th will be picked up Wednesday May 29th
Independence Day	Thursday	July 4th will be picked up Wednesday July 3rd
Labor Day	Monday	September 2nd will be picked up Wednesday September 4th
Columbus Day	Monday	October 14th will be picked up Wednesday October 16th
Election Day	Tuesday	November 5th will be picked Wednesday November 6th
Veterans Day	Monday	November 11th will be picked Wednesday November 13th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 28th will be picked up Wednesday November 27th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	November 29th will be picked up that day

2024 Bulk Pickup Schedule

Please Note the following changes:
No Construction/Hazmat materials or tires.

ALL BOXSPRING MATTRESSES MUST BE BAGGED OR THEY WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

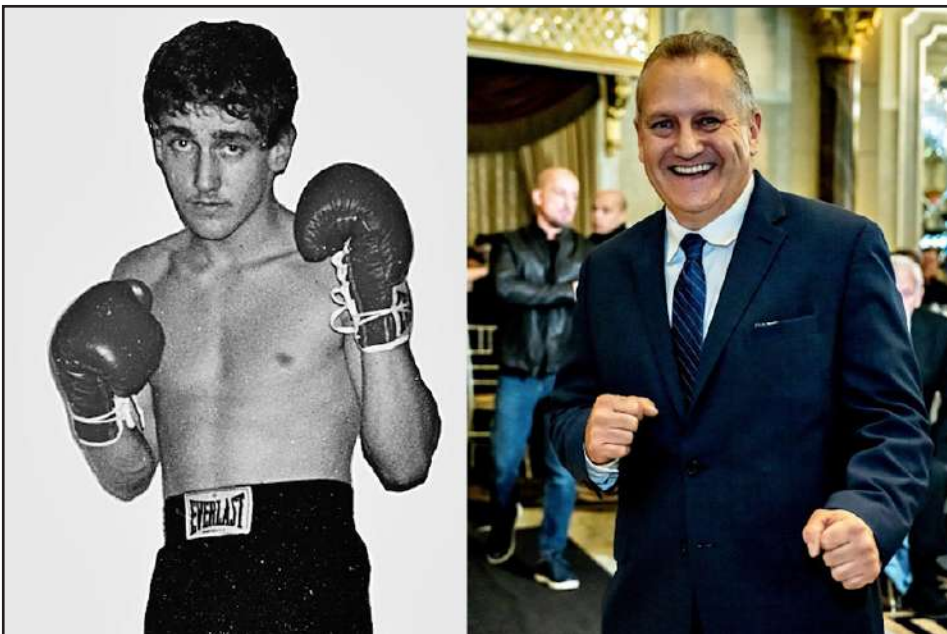
NO MORE THAN 10 ITEMS

Items must be bundled, bagged or canned

If your trash pick up is <u>Monday</u> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <u>Tuesday</u> (*Broadway included) - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <u>Thursday</u> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:	If your trash pick up is <u>Friday</u> —your bulk pick up days are Wednesday:
February 7th	February 14th	February 21st	February 28th
April 3rd	April 10th	April 17th	April 24th
June 5th	June 12th	June 19th	June 26th
August 7th	August 14th	August 21st	August 28th
October 2nd	October 9th	October 16th	October 23rd

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER & UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Bulk drop off will be scheduled every 3rd Saturday between 7am-11am



Joe Botti to be Induced in National Boxing Hall of Fame Class of 2024.

The National Boxing Hall of Fame has released its list of legends to be inducted in 2024. Among those selected is Strategic Academy of Sayreville N.J. 's head boxing coach, Joe Botti. "When I received the call from the Hall of Fame's director that I was selected I was speechless. It truly is a once in a lifetime honor," said Botti. Botti is no stranger to awards as he was previously selected Trainer of the Year by the New Jersey Golden Gloves and was enshrined in the N.J. Boxing Hall of Fame in November of 2023. Botti will be the only 2024 inductee from New Jersey.

Botti has been involved in the sport of boxing for 46 years. He has been a fighter, trainer, manager, gym owner, promoter and author. Botti ran one of the most successful boxing gyms in the United States, from 1989 to 2013. Amateurs, professionals, world ranked boxers as well as world champions frequented Botti's gym. In 2022 Botti returned to training boxers at the Strategic Academy in Sayreville, NJ after the gym's long time boxing trainer, Dan Doyle, moved to Florida. Botti admits, "The most enjoyable part of teaching for me is taking a kid that knows nothing about the sport and guiding him to his first amateur and professional victory." Botti's fighters have been showcased on all the major networks from HBO, Showtime, ESPN to the MSG network. Botti is a retired police Captain. "Although training successful fighters is very exciting," Botti states, "the most satisfying thing for me is when I run into a former fighter years later and he tells me how boxing saved his life. Being a boxing coach is like being a surrogate father."

Botti not only trains males to fight, in

1994 he became the first promoter in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area to match two female boxers against each other. "U.S.A. amateur boxing had just legalized female boxing," Botti recalled, "and I decided to put a female match on one of my amateur shows. I had to use two females from my own gym because I couldn't find any other female fighters to match them against." Botti recalled that other trainers in the male dominated sport tried to stop him from putting the bout on. "Quite a few friends in the sport kept telling me that I was going to ruin boxing. The night of the show the venue was packed. It was standing room only and national television came to cover the event. The funny thing is, after the successful bout, most of the trainers who were giving me a hard time started training females themselves," Botti recalls with a laugh.

Botti has written two books on the sport; Thunder & Lightning: The Fighting Gatti Brothers, which chronicles the lives and boxing careers of world champion Arturo Gatti and his brother Joe. Botti also wrote a book titled Joe Jennette: Boxing's Ironman which details the career and struggles of biracial boxer Joe Jennette, who competed from 1904 to 1922, and competed in the longest boxing match of the 20th Century. Botti is currently working on his third tome on colorful boxing promoter Don Elbaum.

Botti will be enshrined on April 24, 2024 in San Clemente, California along with "Sugar" Shane Mosley, Marco Antonio Barrera, Ronald "Winky" Wright, Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti [posthumously] among others.

Surprise Visit



For 23 years I've been a member of St. Mary's South Amboy Choir. We are always looking for new members, no experience necessary, but a bird? It flew into church Sat. 11/18 and finally flew out the church front doors the following day, due to the quick thinking of our Choir Director and another choir member. Thanks Jody and Linda! (Photos/info by Diane Tighe)





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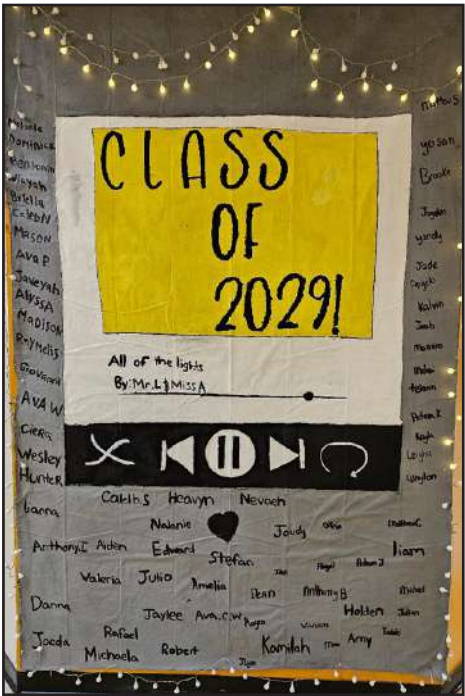
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Spirit Week Banners At South Amboy Middle/High School 2023



6TH Grade



7TH Grade



8TH Grade



9TH Grade

One of the Spirit Week events has each grade designing and creating a banner that reflects the personality of each class. This year the 8th grade and 12th grade took top honors. (Photos/Info Submitted)



10TH Grade



11TH Grade



12TH Grade



Merry Christmas from
South Amboy American Legion
Luke A. Lovely Post #62



At this time of the year when we are safely at home spending time with our families let us remember those who do not have that luxury since they are away fighting to keep America safe. Even with the letters, care packages and the occasional phone call that our men and women in the Armed Forces receive they will be especially lonely and will miss their families more now than at any other time of the year. Please keep them and their families in your hearts and prayers during this holiday season! If you know of a family that will be celebrating without a loved one please reach out to them to see if there is anything that you can do to help make their Christmas brighter. In order to show your appreciation to the Veterans at home shake their hand and thank them for serving this great Country that we live in when you see them on the street or while out shopping.



Law Enforcement Memorial Tree Lighting



On December 6th members of SA PBA 63 and South Amboy Police Dept. gathered along with friends, families and community members for the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Christmas Tree lighting. The tree, adorned with blue lights and ornaments, is done in honor of all law enforcement officers and K-9's who died in the line Duty in the United States in 2023. PBA President Christopher Norek addressed the gathering and explained the meaning of the tree and thanked all that contributed and supported the project. Mayor Fred Henry honored all law enforcement officers, for what they do everyday, protecting our citizens, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The tree is located at the intersection of Main St and David St. (Photo/story by Jamie Norek)

Christmas Wigilia

By Bob Olenczak Olin

What is this Polish thing called Wigilia? Does it wiggle? Does it have something to do with worms? No it doesn't!! Wigilia has nothing to do with worms or anything else that wiggles.

First of all the Polish pronunciation of the word is Vigilia. A W sounds like a V in English. The rest of the word is phonetic. The Polish language is very phonetic once you learn the pronunciation of a few letters with some special effects.

So what is Wigilia (Vigilia)? It is a Polish custom that is observed each year on December 24th., Christmas Eve. It is time to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus Christ. And that is what Christmas is all about, celebrating the birth of Jesus. In Poland it is a three day affair with the third day of celebration is called Boxing Day, (St. Stephen's Day). Why do they call it Boxing Day? You will have to do on your own.

Yes, Christmas is also a time of giving gifts to those in one's lives both family and friends. This is the same custom that started with Jesus when the 3 Wise Men saw the star of Bethlehem that guided them to the manger. The 3 Magi's Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar brought Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh.

As we Poles like to do, Christmas Eve is celebrated with food just like the next two days. But Christmas Eve is a meatless meal. You will find this meal throughout Poland but now in many areas of the United States.

The first Polish Settlement in the United States was in Texas back in 1851. Its name is Panna Maria which translates to Mother Mary, mother of Jesus. You will find them celebrating Wigilia at the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria.

Go a few miles north and you will be in Czystochowa, Texas (they spell it Cestohowa). The Texas tongue probably could not accommodate the pronunciation. There is a little hook on the bottom of the e, one of those special words. The Czen almost sounds like Churn and sta (sound like the beginning of stop) hova is phonetic. Both Cities were settled by Poles from Upper Silesia.

You will also find Poles having Wigilia

meals at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, Franklin Wisconsin, American Polish Center in Troy, Michigan, the Polish American Cultural Center in Cleveland, Ohio and even at the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center in Binghamton, New York

Or you may have a Wigilia meal at the Polish Heritage Center in Ashton, Nebraska like my late wife Sue and I had while visiting Sue's daughter Beth in Kearney, Nebraska. Sue and I are life members of the Polish Heritage Center in Ashton.

And a few miles from Aston Nebraska is Loop City, the Polish Capital of Nebraska. Each year, for a week, they celebrate Polish Heritage. They have a parade, a variety of displays, games and of course Polish food like golumpki, (stuffed cabbage) czarnina (duck Soup), chicken soup, pierogi and a variety of desserts.

But getting back to the food of Wigilia. As I indicated it is meatless and it is considered the culmination of the Advent Season. I remember my mother preparing some type of fish, mushrooms (gryby), pierogi (potato & cheese, prune, sauerkraut), nalesniki (crepes with potchese), peas and cabbage, potato pancakes, herring in a cream sauce which you ate with a bite of a boiled potato.

Sue and I always did Wigilia each year here in California and celebrated by offering a piece of a wafer (Oplatek) to each person with a wish for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

I am a member of the Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc. and by the time this article is published I would have celebrated Wigilia at the club.

The club also celebrates Polish heritage each year in September with a Polish fair that showcases Polish food and Polish heritage with music and dances. As you can see, Poles are all over our country from coast to coast.

I hope everyone in South Amboy has had a wonderful Christmas and if you are Polish and celebrate Christmas Eve with Wigilia you have celebrated the birth of Jesus in a way that Poles have done for centuries. Warm regards from California.

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Where in NJ?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this building and where it is? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 15th.

Last month's mystery location was West Arlington, the building was Pizzaland which was shown on the hit T.V/ series The Sopranos. The following got it tight:Ed English, Pete McIntyre, Edna Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Betty Leveille, Pat Scully, Mark Moniello, Walter Starzec Jr .



November Where in NJ?
Pizzaland, West Arlington

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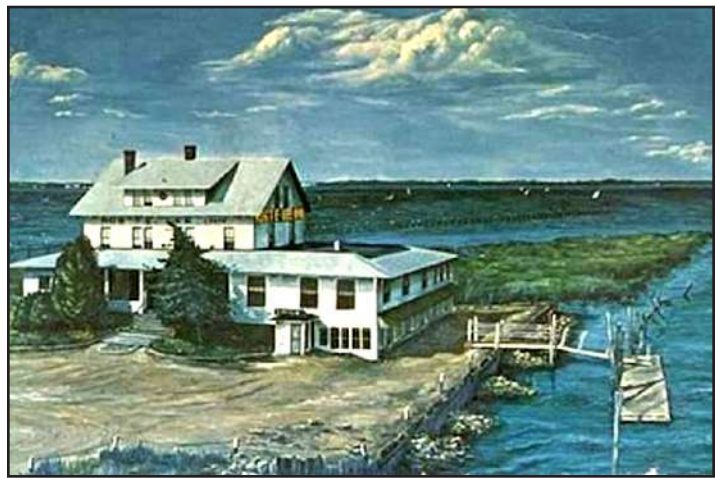
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WWW.?



Does this look familiar to you? The business was located in either South Amboy or Sayreville. Send your answers in to: satimes@aol.com by January 15th. Good luck!

November WWW.? was Priscilla Jewelry, Washington Rd., Sayreville
Winners-Dennis Quinlan, Mary Agnes Morris, Mark Moniello, Ed English, Pete McIntyre, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Eleanore Westerholm, Don Zrebiec, Edna Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Bob Siebert, Betty Leveille, John & JoAnn French, Joan Gorczyca, Pat Scully, Laurie Loftus, Steve Laskiewicz, Walter Starzec Jr, Lisa Grankowski, Barb Bockus, Dane Colburn.

November WWW.? Priscilla Jewelry, Washington Rd., Sayreville



WHAT IS IT?????

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Any idea what this is? Tis the season to use one.awbs your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 15th.

November What Is It?

Last month’s mystery item was a football kicking tee. The following got it right::Suzy Kiefer, Mark Moniello, Ed English, Pete McIntyre, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pat Sullivan, Amy White, Edna Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Betty Leveille, Pat Scully, Laurie Loftus, Walter Starzec Jr , Chelle Martin, Dane Colburn.

Incorrect Answer-”The item is used by baseball pitchers to kick their foot in place from sliding all over on the pitcher’s mound.”



Football Kicking Tee

South Amboy Arts Alliance Holiday '23 Issue Tis the Season to Reflect

The South Amboy Arts Alliance has reviewed its programming and considered your wishes as well as our program successes. There are many artistic venues that we have not delved into, but we do need individuals with the skills and a desire to bring them to our community. We do continue to look for artists and presenters to offer the arts to our community. Since most of our programming began as one day events, we recognize that some of our programs can be offered once a day or a month. Acoustic Friday, and Sip ‘n Dip will be offered once a month while One Block Off of Broadway will begin their additions in the spring for their Summertime Performance. Starting in the New Year you will be able to enjoy:

- Acoustic Friday every 3rd Friday
- Sip ‘n Dip every 2nd Friday
- Adult’s Crafts
- Children’s Crafts
- Children’s Drawing & Painting
- Drawing Circle (12-Adult): Evening @ 6:30
- Children’s Violin Lessons using Suzuki Method

For information and your interest. Please contact: SAarts141@gmail.com or Call: 732-727-4600 x5971.



Fun At The South Amboy Arts Alliance Gallery



Arts and crafts were enjoyed at the gallery the night of the tree lighting. (Photos/info submitted)

Cookies Are Not Just For Eating

By Saturday Zammit

It seems as though any time you visit a website nowadays, an annoying pop-up asks if you would "consent to cookies". What does that mean? Maybe you have heard on the news that cookies track you, or take your data, or maybe you just click "accept" without even thinking about it (I know I do!). But a cookie is just a small piece of information a website automatically saves on your computer. A cookie can be very useful and make a website easier to use. For example, cookies are what remind your web browser to keep you logged into Facebook after you shut off your computer. Cookies are also responsible for showing you ads that

are personalized just for you. Websites have been using cookies since the Internet began. Some states, however, have started to pass laws about how websites can use cookies without your permission. Those states want you to know that the website is using cookies, how they are using them, and that you can ask the website to stop using them. If a website gives you a "consent to cookies" pop-up, it's because they want to comply with these laws and give you those options. So next time you get a popup, click for "more info" and you'll be able to see what cookies that website is using, or even ask them to stop.

Prayer to St. Jude
Saint Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of impossible causes, walk through my house and take away my worries and any illnesses. Please watch over and heal my family & friends, in the Name of Jesus. Amen. S.P., M.S, P.S., S.S., B.S.,.

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By Robert W. Eginton

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**Wish Everyone A
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**



Pat Douglas & The Bombers

By Tom Burkard

Pat Douglas, who grew up on Kathleen Place in the Melrose section of Sayreville has led a most interesting life. From his South Amboy Little Fellas League days when he played with the Daylight Bakery team to the present as player/manager of two championship caliber men’s softball teams, the Vintage Bombers, and also the Prime Time Bombers, he has accomplished so much. In addition, Pat and his softball teams have raised thousands of dollars by organizing fundraisers through the years for kids with cancer.

Pat and his two older brothers, Steve and Scott grew up loving baseball like so many other local kids did years ago. The Melrose section of Sayreville was loaded with standout athletes such as Steve Makwinski, Bill D’Amico, Bruce Buckiewicz, Mike Kosmoski, Jay Buckiewicz, Johnny Kozak, Andy and Les Wilson, Fran Fee, Ed Covell, and Ed Skarzynski. Pat said “The Sayreville/ South Amboy area was a great place to grow up in, and my brothers and I felt like we belonged to both towns. Sayreville kids from Melrose and also Tom Kelly from Evelyn Terrace were allowed to play in South Amboy. We owe thanks to South Amboy’s Recreation Director Johnny Zdanewicz for letting us play.”

In 1968, the Douglas brothers Steve, Scott and Pat were part of a history-making Daylight Bakery Little Fellas League team that was the first in history to have an unbeaten season, as they captured the championship. Steve, who was a senior at Sayreville War Memorial HS at the time, was the manager of this now legendary club. Makwinski was the ace pitcher, who went on to a phenomenal high school, and college baseball and basketball career. Following his pitching days with the Sayreville Bombers, he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals baseball club, but opted to attend FDU. Steve and Scott helped Makwinski in his earlier days as a pitcher, especially with his pitching control.

Pat had a couple of great memories of the ‘68 team, and said, “My brother Steve coached/managed Scott and me, and it was like we won the championship together. Bruce Buckiewicz, who was 15 or 16 at the time was an assistant coach, and my dad also coached the team.” Pat shared a humorous recollection, saying “I was the center fielder, and when Steve was pitching, I dug a hole with my spikes, because when he pitched, I never had a ball hit out there.” Pat will never forget the final game, which he played a huge part in, and recalled, “In the final game, Jay Buckiewicz hit a single to right field, and I tripled him in, and Makwinski singled me in, and we won the title, 2-0.”

The Douglas boys were close, and Pat stated “My brothers influenced who I rooted for, and I looked up to them as good examples,

especially Steve. Scott and I were always on the same page. We lost a mentor and friend when Steve died.”

Melrose also had some very talented musicians back in the day including the Fee brothers Fran and Tim, the Standowski brothers Rich and Bob, Emerson Jones, Joe Schien, Mike Melnick, and Drew Cross. Fran Fee is still currently rocking with the Clem & Friends Band, while Pat Douglas played keyboards and said, “I took organ lessons for a couple years.” It seems like he has always been musically inclined, and it is probably the reason that he lists singing Karaoke as one of his favorite hobbies.

So, when did the softball craze really hit Pat? He worked at Rutgers University for 36 years prior to retirement, and while there, he was asked by a coworker to help her organize a softball game. When it didn’t work out, and they were the only two who showed at the softball field, they played catch, and “that’s when I got the idea,” he said. “In the summer of 2013, I called Timmy Reardon and asked him to help me organize a team, and between the 2 of us, we got a bunch of guys, 2 teams for an alumni game. I managed one team and Timmy managed the other. We lost by 1 run. After that game, Dennis Ahern sent a message on Facebook and wanted to keep it going, so we got guys from the alumni game, and others to practice. I looked for a 50’s and Over League online, and contacted the Middlesex County Senior Over 50 Years League for the 2014 season, which was our first. We had no official team name at that point, so I asked all the players to suggest a name. Scott Kominkiewicz came up with the name Vintage Bombers, and that has stuck with us ever since.”

The team had a tough year in their initial season turning in a (4-26) record, but Douglas, an excellent judge of talent “got better players,” the next year, and the Bombers won the C Division title, but bowed in the playoffs in the Middlesex County Over 50 League. In ‘16, “We went to the finals in the B Division, and came close. That was the year Chuck Prusakowski came on board, and batted a fantastic .800.” Prusakowski, not too long ago was selected to the prestigious Softball Hall of Fame, in addition to being chosen the greatest Slow Pitch Softball Player in the history of South Amboy/Sayreville by a special committee for The South Amboy-Sayreville Times newspaper.

In 2017, the Vintage Bombers picked up another legendary softball superstar, first baseman Steve Samra. In 10 seasons since the team started playing competitively, they have captured 4 Division titles, 2 in B Division, and 1 in the A. They have made 6 appearances in the finals. This year, they lost a heartbreaker in the final inning of the championship game. Pat said, “I’m proud

of these guys and everyone who has ever played for me. It makes me very happy just to have such great players call me coach.”

Coach Douglas is a very busy man, and in 2018, he started another team, the Prime Time Bombers. This talented ballclub plays at the Old Bridge fields. Billy D’Amico was with me from the start of both teams, and is still with me. “Mak” Steve Makwinski played a couple of seasons for both teams. Our Prime Time Bombers won the championship in 2022, and are always near the top, said Douglas. Pat also heaped praise on Ed Last, who was “My assistant coach for 9 years, and kept perfect stats. He stepped down this past season.” In addition, Douglas praised his fans, saying “I appreciate our fans that show up often, and cheer us on.”

He also said that “My biggest thrill in sports is the hundreds of friendships I have made that would not have been possible had it not been for softball. Not only among my teammates and those associated with the Bombers, but throughout the leagues I play in. I count myself blessed. If I had to name one reason why I continue to do this, it would be friendships. I think that is really the reason any of us do it.”

Following the season, Pat organizes and runs an annual banquet for the players and others. They recently held their 10th annual banquet at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus Hall, and 70 people attended.

Coach Pat Douglas and all his talented, dedicated and generous softball players have not only excelled on the field, but also with their wonderful charity works. Since 2015, they have raised thousands of dollars with their fundraiser for Camp Quality, an organization for children with cancer. Their goal is to help “kids to be kids again.” Youngsters are sent for a 5-day summer camp.

Congratulations to Pat Douglas, and all of his teammates on the Vintage Bombers, and Prime Time Bombers softball teams on their great success, and also their dedicated and caring humanitarian efforts for the less



Pat Douglas, Coach of the Vintage Bombers and also Prime Time Bombers powerhouse men’s softball teams, poses proudly with his grandchildren. (Photo submitted)

fortunate in the world.

*Pat Douglas Notebook

Pat and his wife of 42 years, Karen, have 2 children and 3 grandchildren...He said that his biggest thrill in baseball was when “I was 10 years old and winning the South Amboy Little Fellas League championship with my brothers on the Daylight Bakery team, and being the first of only 2 teams in history to go undefeated for the entire ‘68 season”...In softball, the biggest thrill was winning the B Division title our first one in 2017. The second biggest was winning the A Division in ‘21...

His main hobbies are Karaoke, Writing, and especially “playing with my amazing grandchildren. We watch them often and they are a joy for Karen and I. They love their MiMi and G-pa”...His favorite baseball team is the New York Yankees...Favorite all-time baseball player-Roy White...Favorite current player-Aaron Judge.

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Stuck In The Chimney

By Tom Burkard
c. 2014

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He may not show
He’s stuck in the chimney
Guess you didn’t know
He’s gotta get out
Or the kids will pout
Christmas won’t be the same
without him
Just won’t be the same this year
But, hey kids have no fear
The fire truck is here
And if that won’t work
They’ll get a crane
Yes, it may seem a bit insane
Let’s hope it doesn’t rain
Santa’s stuck in the chimney
Who’s gonna bring the gifts
For you and me
Let’s get him out
Get Santa Claus free.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.



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By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

The year ends with Striped Bass fishing still on the slow side off Raritan Bay beaches. Outside of some fish caught at the Spy House in Belford, it's only a few fish here and there. I didn't see that many people at Cliffwood, Keansburg and other spots that I visited. The people I spoke to had only a few bites. It's a different story out in the ocean as party and private boats are doing very well with Stripers, all on jigs. As usual some are too big or too small with that new Slot limit, but enough of 23-to-31-inch keepers are being caught. There are some big Bluefish in the ten pound plus range that made a sudden appearance mixed with the Stripers. Stripers are also being caught in the surf at Island Beach and LBI and into the back bay area. The season closes at the New Year until March 1st for both river and bay, but the ocean remains open. There is a good possibility that ocean fishing will continue well past New Years Day before the winter weather slows that fishing up. Blackfish are still very good on party boats and at Barnegat Inlet rocks and bulkheads.

Fresh Water

Winter Trout stocking in lakes has taken place. Spring Lake is a likely place to try. There are still holdover Trout in upstate streams. Winter weather will upset fishing, but if you can get out, there are fish to be caught. Stokes Sport Shop mentions that there are Walleyes in the deep sections of the Delaware River.



Catch Any Fish Lately?

Let The SA Times and its readers share in your good day of fishing. Why not show it to everyone?

Send a photo of you and your catch with a caption including your name and town, type of fish, when and where you caught it, the length and weight if you wish, or any other pertinent information. Please make sure it's a clear picture and we will be glad to publish it in The SA Times for FREE!

Email your photo/caption to: satimes@aol.com.

Sayreville Library News

Snow Day Favorites with Vanessa (Virtual)

Tuesday, Jan. 9 @6PM

Who doesn't love a warm treat on a cold snowy day? Come join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish, for another fun cooking demonstration. From cozy soups to satisfying hot chocolates and more. Those chilly winter days will warm right up with these new recipes. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Mindful Yoga

Tuesdays in January @6:30PM

Come join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic yoga class is open to all levels of experience. This class is designed for stress relief. Participants should be able to get down to the floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Trivia with Dan

Monday, Jan. 29 @6:30PM

Sayreville's most exciting game show returns. Dan Vetrano, our own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast, is once again cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game. Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112 No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.

Champions



Congratulations to the Sure-Hit Home Improvements Men's softball team from South Amboy on winning the Greater Middlesex County Fall Weekday championship. This Sure-Hit team won the best of 3 series to capture the title. The games were played at the Warren Park complex in Woodbridge on November 7th. The champs are pictured as follows: Top row (l-r) Matt Ryan with son Matthew, Mario Batista, Tom Crohan, Jared Mundy, Jake Fasano, Dave Matthews, Mike Kosinski, Christian Geant. Bottom row (l-r) Joe Sepelyak, John Scafidi, Ryan Shereyka, Shawn Johnson, Brian DeJoy. (Photo/info submitted)



Red Bank Catholic HS freshman soccer standout, Samantha Mierzwiak of South Amboy is pictured blocking a kick, as she helps the Caseys to victory. Samantha has had an outstanding season, and looks forward to leading her team to continued success. (Photo submitted)



College Notebook

Ashley Sofilkanich of South Amboy is a talented freshman forward at Bucknell University, and was recently selected PenFed Credit Union Women's Basketball Rookie of the Week. While playing against St. Joseph's, she pumped in 18 points on 8-for 11 shooting, had 5 rebounds, 2 blocks and 1 steal. In the Cornell game, Ashley fired in a career-high of 22 points, ripped 9 rebounds and had 4 blocked shots. She is a graduate of St. John Vianney HS, Holmdel. Congratulations, Ashley!



Santa says "shhh" as to not wake the sleeping children.



This original 1910 postcard is almost 125 years old, and wishes everyone "A Happy New Year."

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Christmas Calling
Again

By Tom Burkard
C. 2023

It's Christmas calling again
For a world filled with peace
Where everyone
can be friends
It's Christmas calling again
Where families
come together
And make their lives
So much better
It's Christmas
calling again
When the old can
feel young again
And remember
the good times
Way back when
It's Christmas
calling again
There's holiday songs
on the radio
Pretty decorations
Everywhere you go
It's Christmas calling again
Telephone calls and
Christmas cards
From far away
Seem to pour in
every day
It's Christmas
calling again
There's a white
Christmas treat
As snow falls to the ground
Everyone is so happy
So much love all around
It's Christmas calling again.

What Exit?



This month we are again looking for the
NJ Turnpike exit that will get you to this
month's Where In NJ. Send your answer to
satimes@aol.com by January 15th.

What Exit?
By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

November What Exit:
Last months exit was the NJ
Turnpike exit 15w, the following got it
right: Ed English, Pete McIntyre, Edna
Pilch, Gary Feret, Jim Malkiewicz, Betty
Leveille, Pat Scully, Mark Moniello,
Walter Starzec Jr .

Last month we missed Betty
Leveille and Mark Moniello who had
the correct answer.



The Local Sports Memory Machine

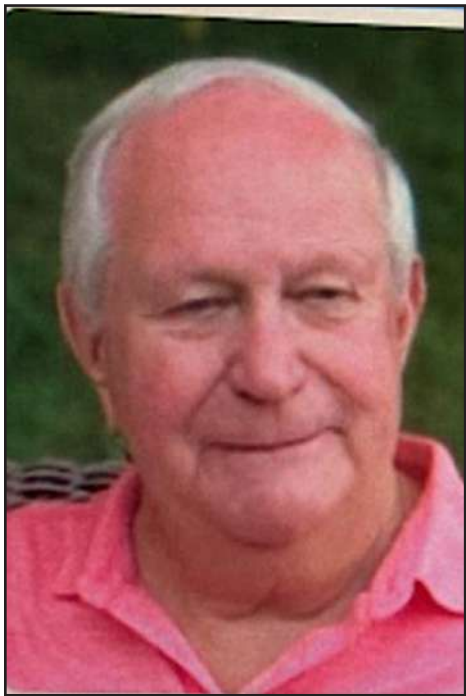
By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1959-The talented Sacred Heart CYO High School boys basketball team, under the fine coaching of Jim Inman and Joe Kuran captured the first half and second half championships in the strong Amboy Area CYO League, and finished with a superb (16-1) record. Pictured seated (l-r) Frank Eskra, Robert Dobrzynski, Ray Zera, Ron Kukulski, Ted Bodziak. Standing (l-r) John Kampo, Don Fitzsimmons, Carl Malik, Len Blaszkza, Ed Pietraszka, Gerald Malyszko.

Bob Poetsch Remembered



Robert “Bob” Poetsch, 78, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 15. An outstanding basketball and baseball player for the Hoffman HS team, in the early 1960’s, he went on to a fine career as a Physical Education teacher for over 30 years, and was a highly-successful basketball coach on the high school level. He was loved by so many, and affectionately called “Coach Poetsch” by former players and friends.

He was Hoffman’s top scorer in 1960-61 with 267 points and a 14.8 scoring avg., but the team had a tough season going (3-16). As a senior, in 61-62, he also topped the Purple & Gold with over 300 points and averaged 16 ppg.



The Cheerleaders-Long Ago



Early 1940’s-This is a rare photo of one of the first Sayreville varsity cheerleader squad. Pictured seated (l-r) Felicia Mytnick, Frank Hagar, Shirley Quaid. Standing (l-r) Elaine Mytnick, Principal John E. Lyons, Virginia Grover.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, thou who art all knowing - Who brightens every path that I may reach my ideal - Thou givest me the divine gift of forgiving and forgetting wrongs done unto me and who in every instant of my life art with me. I'd like in this short dialogue to affirm my gratitude for all your blessings and reaffirm once again that I never want to part from thee though illusions of material things abound. My desire is to be with thee and all my loved ones in perpetual grace. Thank you for our mercy on me and mine. Persons should pray 3 consecutive days without revealing petition. Within 3 days grace will be obtained regardless of how difficult the petition may be. Publish this prayer once the petition has been attained. Thank you Holy Spirit. -S.S..

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a “prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times.” Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. M.L..

Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I import you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. -M.S., S.S., N,P, S,P

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I import you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. -M.L., L.F, C.E., D.E., L.E., N.E.

Glory Days In Local Sports

1963-Sayreville boys basketball team topped Matawan, 52-41. Steve Gozora tossed in 14 points, and Jeff Osowski 13...1977-The Governors of Hoffman opened their season with a 65-58 victory over East Brunswick Tech. Bob Clayton topped the scoring with 22 points, and Jim Bright popped in 14. 1980-Hoffman mauled Monroe, 69-51 in boys basketball. Bill Lewis fired in 31 points, and John Dragotta scored 19, and hauled down 26 rebounds for the Guvs...1998-St. Mary’s Lady Eagles basketball team jolted JFK, 67-55. Jacqui DuBois led the Blue & Gold with 24 points, and Heather Baumlin added 16.

2004-The Cardinal McCarrick football squad shocked Highland Park, 28-27. Will Manley broke loose for 3 touchdown runs, and fired a 15-yard TD pass to Kyle Furey. Mike Domenichetti had 3 receptions for 69 yards...

2009-Sayreville opened its football season with a hard-fought 29-26 victory over Brick Memorial. Quarterback Joe Geiger fired 4 touchdown passes and totaled 272 yards in the air. Delon Stephenson caught 2 TD passes, both from 62-yards, and David Milewski had a 64-yard TD reception. Alex Yanuzzelli added a 2-point conversion.

City Series-Eagles vs. Guvs Moments Of Glory

Boys Basketball

10 Years Ago

Dec. 2013 (Fundraiser for 2 students battling cancer)

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary’s 74 South Amboy 70 (Overtime). Sky Harris topped the Eagles (0-1) with 24 points, 17 rebounds, 4 blocks, and 3 steals. McCarrick also received plenty of help from freshman Ryan O’Leary who had 10 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 blocks. Aaron Lewis scored 10 and had 10 assists. Keyshawn Roache scored 10, and Many Warren scored 9 coming off the bench, and 6 of the team's 9 points in OT. Guvs (0-1) center Joe Fruncillo took game scoring honors with 31 points, and Steve Herdman scored 17.

25 Years Ago

1998-Game #1

St. Mary’s 69 South Amboy 45-Eddie McCabe and Tom Rizzo scored 14 points apiece, and Nick Sas 12. Ed Behnen of SA took game’s scoring laurels with 17, and Kevin Cushing hit for 11 points.

40 Years Ago

1983-Game #2

Hoffman 62 St. Mary’s 58 (Overtime)-Ron Brown was top scorer in the game with 22 points, and teammate Peter Smith added 18 for the Guvs. Soph Joe Byrne paced the Saints with 21 points, and Sean Regan tossed in 17.

50 Years Ago

1973-Game #1

St. Mary’s 67 Hoffman 55-Austin O’Malley of the Eagles (5-6) topped all scorers with 24 points, followed by Rich Krzyzanowski with 21. Teammate Joe Kolakowski ripped 14 rebounds, and Jeff Sprague racked up 11 assists. John Szatkowski and Henry Wortley paced the Purple & Gold (0-11) with 14 points apiece.

60 Years Ago

1963-Game #1

St. Mary’s 70 Hoffman 63-Tom Farrell topped the Blue & Gold (7-1) with 22 points and 20 rebounds. Jack Kreiger added 13 points, Art O’Donnell 12, and Jay Derent 10. Hoffman’s (2-2) John Lange was the top scorer in the game with 26 points. Teammates Jerry Drill and Ken Wahler scored 16 and 10 points respectively.

**Note: Hoffman went on to win the NJSIAA Group 1 State Championship.*

75 Years Ago

1948-Game #1

Hoffman 41 St. Mary’s 39-In a major upset, the Governors shocked the unbeaten Eagles (6-0) of St. Mary’s. Ray Wisniewski pumped in 14 points, Jimmy Burkard 12, and John “Skeets” Skarzynski 10 for the winners. Ray

Stockton scored 9 and Johnny O’Brien 8 for the Saints.

80 Years Ago

1943

St. Mary’s 33 Hoffman 26-Dan Fuller led the Eagles with 11 points, and Jonason scored 9 for Hoffman.

Girls Basketball

10 Years Ago

2013 (Fundraiser game for two students with serious illnesses)

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary’s 38 South Amboy 34-Brittany Clayton and Madison McNally led the Lady Saints (0-0) with 9 points apiece, and Shannon McCleery scored 8. Lady Guvs (0-1) Amanda LaVigne copped game scoring honors with 11 points, and Shana Anderson scored 9.

20 Years Ago

2003-Game #1

Cardinal McCarrick 62 South Amboy 19-Erin Kilduff scored as many points as the Lady Guvs (9-7), 19 to pace the Lady Eagles (17-2). Meghan Langan also excelled with 12 points, 13 rebounds, and 6 blocks, while Alicia Dombrowski also scored 12 points. Kiersten McCarthy led the Lady Governors with 8 points.

25 Years Ago

1998-Game #1

St. Mary’s 71 South Amboy 34-Laurie Ust and Courtney Kowal each scored 11 points to top the Lady Eagles. Kim Peterson took game scoring laurels with 16 for the Lady Guvs.

30 Years Ago

1993

St. Mary’s 51 Hoffman 49-Sophomore Shannon Kemble connected on a clutch, 15-foot jump shot with 0:07 left to give the Blue & Gold the huge victory. Rosalie LaRosa led the Lady Saints with 10 points and 9 rebounds, while Jen Silvestri tossed in 9. Kristy Parfianowicz burned the nets for 26 points, and Karen McNerny scored 10 for the Lady Guvs.

40 Years Ago

1983

Hoffman 42 St. Mary’s 40-Barbara McCabe was the top scorer in the game with 16 points for Hoffman (12-1), while teammate Kim Reick scored 10. Mary Jean Sibia pumped in 15 for St. Mary’s.

45 Years Ago

1978 Game #1

St. Mary’s 52 Hoffman 33-Kathy Redling paced the winners with 30 points, and teammate Ann Noble added 10. Jamie White topped the Purple & Gold with 14 points, and JoAnn Cadigan tossed in 10.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1997

Sport-Boys Basketball

Teams-St. Mary’s vs. South Amboy in the South Amboy Tournament Championship

Recap-The Eagles topped tournament host South Amboy, 64-53 to capture the title. Tourney MVP Nick Sas fired in 18 points. Teammates Eddie McCabe hit for 13, Tom Boychuk 12, Billy Oels 11 and Tom Rizzo 10, as all 5 starters cracked double figures. Kevin Cushing topped the Guvs with 23 points, followed by Ed Behnen 20, and Matt Martins 10.

Player-of-the-Game-Nick Sas.

Christmas Time

It’s Christmas time
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single town
It’s hard to believe
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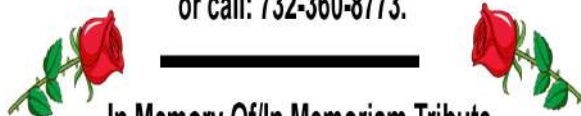
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Remember your dear loved ones who have passed on through the years by placing an In Memory Of / In Memoriam Tribute ad (with or without a photo). Art work (flowers/religious theme) will be included.

For pricing contact the above e-mail or phone.

In Memoriam

Zigmunt “Ziggy” Czaplinski, 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 25. Before retiring, he was a Lieutenant with the New Jersey State Police for over 25 years. Eugene Malik, 94, of Sayreville died on Dec. 7. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, and active at Sacred Heart Church, where he was a past Eucharistic Minister, usher, and member of both the Holy Name Society and also the Catholic War Veterans.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -B.S..

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -R.S, A.S., L.P., H.S., L.S., E.P.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, thou who art all knowing - Who brightens every path that I may reach my ideal - Thou givest me the divine gift of forgiving and forgetting wrongs done unto me and who in every instant of my life art with me. I'd like in this short dialogue to affirm my gratitude for all your blessings and reaffirm once again that I never want to part from thee though illusions of material things abound. My desire is to be with thee and all my loved ones in perpetual grace. Thank you for our mercy on me and mine. Persons should pray 3 consecutive days without revealing petition. Within 3 days grace will be obtained regardless of how difficult the petition may be. Publish this prayer once the petition has been attained. Thank you Holy Spirit. -B.S..

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY



Scouts honor an American Hero by placing a Holiday wreath on his grave.



Wreaths representing each branch of the military are placed at the Veterans Monument.



American Legion past Commander salutes a fallen Veteran after placing a Memorial Wreath.



The American legion Honor Guard fires a volley of shots in honor of the fallen.

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club once again sponsored the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at the Sacred Heart Cemetery. Each year this ceremony grows in participants and in the number of wreaths placed on the Veteran’s graves. This year there were over 240 wreaths placed on the graves of America’s Heroes. Jeff Pawlowski of the South Amboy/ Sayreville Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard conducted the ceremony which began at exactly 12:00 noon as were over two-thousand similar ceremonies being conducted at the same time across America. Each branch of the military was recognized by placing a memorial wreath on the monument by a Veteran of their respective branch of service. The American Legion Honor Guard fired a volley of rifle rounds followed by the playing of TAPS in honor of our deceased Veterans. Veterans and volunteers from the community then gathered up the donated wreaths and went throughout the cemetery placing them on Veterans graves as they read off the name of each Veteran they were honoring. These wreaths were all donated by the South Amboy/ Sayreville Rotary Club and individuals and were trucked down by refrigerated tractor trailers. These trailers, loaded with wreaths, then continued to make their way to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, to honor hundreds of thousands of American Veterans. (Photos/Info submitted by staff writer Rich Kosmoski)

Obituaries

Chevalier, Barbara, 86, of South Amboy died on Nov. 25.

Contegiacomo, Anthony “Tony,” 73, of Parlin died on Nov. 27.

Czaplinski, Zigmunt “Ziggy,” R., 84, of Sayreville died on Nov. 25.

Dera, Irena, 91, of South Amboy died on Dec. 3.

Flanagan, Marijane “Susie,” 82, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 25.

Lovely, Kathleen Kriss, 81, formerly of South Amboy/Morgan died on Nov. 24.

Malik, Eugene, 94, of Sayreville died on Dec. 7.

Mancini, Grace J., 63, of South Amboy died on Nov. 25.

Mastorio, Joseph, 72, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 26.

Montanaro, Jordan M., 79, of Parlin died on Nov. 28.

Mulvanerton, Joseph M., 61, of South Amboy died on Nov. 27.

Nafpliotis, Amelia, 80, of Sayreville died on Dec. 5.

Papola, Patsy B. 94, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 30.

Pazur, Beverly D., 85, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 23.

Pennisi, Teresa S., 98, of Sayreville died on Dec. 8.

Petner, Stephen, 72, of Parlin died on Dec. 10.

Poetsch, Robert “Bob,” 78, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 15.

Riley, Michael, E. 65, of South Amboy died on Dec. 4.

Santana, Evelyn, 64, of Parlin died on Nov. 28.

Wierzbowski, Leszek, 68, of Parlin died on Dec. 1.

Zamouzakis, Vasilios, 74, of Sayreville died on Nov. 26.

Ziobron, Janina, 71, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 6.

Theresa M. Bringhurst Klimchak

Theresa M. Bringhurst Klimchak, 95, of South Amboy died on Wednesday November 8, 2023 at home. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 7 years old, she and her 2 brothers moved to South Amboy with the help of Governor Hoffman where she was raised by her Aunt Liz Campbell. Theresa graduated from St. Mary’s Elementary and High Schools and enjoyed meeting with her Class of 1946 classmates at reunions and for lunch once a month. She worked at General Cable Corp. in Perth Amboy where she met the love of her life, Mike, and they were married in St. Mary’s Church in 1954, where they were both lifelong members. Theresa loved children and worked for many years at St. Mary Elementary School’s latchkey program, until its closure in 2007 and she was 80 years old, where she was fondly known as “Miss Theresa”.

More recently, Theresa discovered her love of flying and took many trips to Florida for the holidays and throughout the year. She was also a volunteer for many years at Mount St. Mary’s Christmas Bazaar in



Watchung.

Theresa was deeply devoted to her family. She was lovingly referred to as “Nanny” by her 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Daughter of the late John and Mary “Mae” Charlton Bringhurst she is also predeceased by her husband Michael Klimchak in 1996. She is survived by her son Michael F. Klimchak; her daughter Elizabeth Kaskiw; her grandchildren Michael C. Klimchak, Bryan Klimchak and his wife Erin, Matthew Klimchak and his wife Danielle, Scott Klimchak and his wife Gina, Jennifer Kaskiw and Joanna Espailat and her husband Frank and her great-grandchildren Tessa, Nora, Cooper, Evelyn, Vivian, Scotty and Navy.

Funeral services and interment in Christ Church Cemetery, South Amboy were private under the direction of The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to McAuley Hall Healthcare Center, 1633 US-22, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Kathleen A. Kriss Lovely

Kathleen A. Kriss Lovely, 81, of Manalapan died on Friday November 24, 2023 at Reformed Church Home, Old Bridge, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Perth Amboy she moved to South Amboy in 1950 and settled in Morgan in 1968 before moving to Manalapan in 2020. Before retiring in 2002 she was employed by the New Jersey Highway Authority, Woodbridge for 20 years. She was a member of St. Mary’s R.C. Church, South Amboy, the Our Lady of Victories Senior Citizens and the Game Club at Covered Bridge. Kathy and Jim loved to travel around the world and explore new and exciting countries, in particular the Canary Islands. She loved to cruise, trying different martinis from every bar.

Daughter of the late Joseph and



Anna Kovacs Kriss she is also predeceased by her son James P. Lovely in 2007. She is survived by her husband James B. Lovely; her daughters Kathleen Burns, her husband Robert and her son Samuel Patrick Lynch and Jessica Jennings, her husband Brian and her son Kristopher James Jennings and her brother Joseph A. Kriss and his wife Trina and their children

Funeral services were held on Thursday November 30, 2023 at 9:45am from The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by a 10:30 am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary’s Church. Interment was held in Christ Church Cemetery, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

There is truly only one thing that can be done once.....your loved one deserves the best!



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"Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones."

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -A.G.

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