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In Memory Of A Special Person And Friend

By Clem Skarzynski



Former Sayreville Police Officer Charles "Chip" Blazas, 64, of Parlin died on Dec. 20. The popular policeman was a patrolman for 20 years in the Borough, and served as past president of PBA 98.

Every once and awhile, and really not enough, we are "blessed" to meet and become friends with someone who really is "special" and so influential in our lives, and sometimes we don't realize just how special that person really was, until he or she is no longer with us. And, what's really amazing is how that person can "affect" so many others lives too! I first met "Chip" Blazas many years ago, when he was the D.A.R.E. Officer for the Sayreville Police Dept. I had the previous pleasure of working with D.A.R.E. Officer Mr. Joe Meyers when my daughter Jessica was in Middle School, and was so impressed by his work with the kids! After Jess had finished school, and was heading to college, is when I met "Chip" Blazas. He had just finished "creating" the new "D.A.R.E." car and was displaying it at car shows, and locally. Being a "motorhead," Chip and I

just hit it off! We always saw each other as the years went by, and once again, I was so impressed by his work with the children of our schools, of how dedicated he was to their safety, and their knowledge of the dangers that were around them everyday in the form of drugs and alcohol! And, it didn't stop there. Chip also was a coach and Past President of the Sayreville Leprechauns for over 20 years! His 13 years in the D.A.R.E. Program were a testament to his pride in his work with "His Kids," as he called them! Chip also worked in the SAFE Program, the Youth Council, and was the liaison for the Domestic Violence Response Team, but his passion was "His Kids!" Following "Chip's" retirement from the Sayreville Police Dept., is when I really learned of his dedication and concern for "His Kids." Working with me at the Spezzi Funeral Homes, "Chip" would always be so, very concerned when one of "His Kids" would be a statistic to the very "dangers" he would speak to them about, and how truly hurt he was. He was that way with everyone he met. He was always ready to go "out of his way" for anyone no matter what your need was! His care and concern for "His Kids" was constant, and his love for his family was beyond compare! I know myself and my wife Kathy, who gave "Chip" her favorite pair of Red Reading Glasses, so he could read the menu at Spezzi's annual Holiday Party, along with the entire staff at the Spezzi Funeral Homes, will miss him dearly. He was "Special" in our hearts, and The "Gang at Krauszers" where Chip and I, and the rest of the "retirees" always had our "Morning Coffee" will truly miss him as well. Chip, from all of us at Spezzi's and Krauszer's, we'll never forget you, thank you for making us feel loved, and I'll never forget your "Words of Wisdom" for times when things weren't going so well. "Clem, that's why they make Coors Light, and in your case, "Johnnie Walker Red!" Rest well Chip! God has gotten a beautiful Soul!



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (l) is sworn into office by Speaker Craig Coughlin (r), as his wife Linda Henry holds the Bible on Jan. 2nd. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Borough Clerk, Theresa Farbaniec swears in Kevin Krushinski as the 2019 Sayreville Fire Chief while his wife Jennifer holds the bible. (Photo/Info Submitted)



Mayor Fred Henry (l) swears in new South Amboy Fire Chief Brian Tierney on January 1st, as his family proudly looks on. Tierney is a 24-year member of Progressive Fire Co. In addition, many friends and fellow firefighters were present at City Hall for the big day. Mayor Henry then swore in each chief into their respective positions, and thanked the 2018 outgoing Fire Chief Michael Toth for a job well done, also thanking the volunteer firefighters and first aiders for their dedication to duty. Sworn in as 1st Assistant Chief was Robert O'Connor, a 20-year member of Mechanicsville Hose Co., and 2nd Assistant Chief Andrew Bielak, a 15-year member of Enterprise Hook & Ladder. Also present were City Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross, council persons Christine Noble, Tom Reilly, and Brian McLaughlin. Congratulations and best of luck to all the chiefs in 2019! (Photo/story submitted)

Gasiewski Reaches Milestone!



South Amboy High School Vice Principal/Athletic Director Frank Zalocki (l) presents Kyle Gasiewski (r) with his 1000 point ball. Kyle scored his 1000th point on January 3rd. See story and more photos on page 17. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Senape Named Coordinator

The City of South Amboy named employee Erin Senape the Clean Communities Coordinator for South Amboy. Erin recently completed a course at Rutgers University, and was certified for the position. In addition, she will be getting her Recycling Coordinator diploma in May. Congratulations Erin!

This Issue Is Dedicated In Memory Of Robert "Bob" Bloodgood Gary Cottrell Mark Wolenski





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<p>2 3 Large Cheese Pizzas 1 - 2 Liter Soda \$33.99 (Plus Tax) With coupon only Limit 1 per customer - Exp. 3-1-19 coupons cannot be combined, use only 1 at a time Must Present Coupon At Time Of Order</p>	<p>4 Pickup Only One Large 16" Pizza (Round) \$10.99 (Plus Tax) With coupon only Limit 1 per customer - Exp. 3-1-19 coupons cannot be combined, use only 1 at a time Must Present Coupon At Time Of Order</p>

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Janet Kern (l) and Cathy Housman (r) from the "Friends of South Amboy" present a check to Chris "Stretch" Szatkowski (2nd from left) from the Basketball fundraiser held in December. Also pictured are Chris' wife Linda and daughter Leah. (Photo/info Submitted)



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Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Wiater Retires From Roosevelt Care Center

Denise Wiater of South Amboy retired recently after 37 years of dedicated service at Roosevelt Care Center in Edison. Congratulations Denise on a job well-done, and may you enjoy a wonderful retirement!

Hand Car Wash Detail Center

The recently opened South Amboy Hand Car Wash & Detail Center features outstanding services for cleaning your cars. Located at 2087 Rt. 35 South in South Amboy, it is located nearby, and you can count on these hard workers to make your cars sparkle like new!

Be Bold, Get Cold

Bishop Ahr High School's 6th Annual Polar Plunge sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The more cash, the more teacher's splash! Date: Sunday, January 27, 2019 Time: In the Water at 1pm Place: Sea Bright Municipal Beach by Tommy's Tavern, Sea Bright, NJ. Visit: bgahs.org/polarplunge to either register to participate or make a donation.

South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee To Honor Grand Marshals at Annual Dinner

The Saint Patrick's Day Committee welcomes you to join them as they honor this year's Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal's on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 7pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 271 Second Street, South Amboy.

Honorees include: Grand Marshal: Christine Noble, South Amboy Councilwoman at Large; Deputy Grand Marshal: Mike Toth 2018 South Amboy Fire Chief; Honorary Grand Marshal: Mark Rasimowicz, City Engineer of South Amboy and Perth Amboy; Yolanda Flores, Vice President and Director of Sales at the Rosengarten Development Corp., Perth Amboy and Dr. Jorge Gonzalez-Gomez, President of the South Amboy Business Association will be recognized as Special Honored Guests.

Tickets for the Grand Marshal's Annual Dinner are \$40 per person (includes dinner, beer, wine and soda) and are available at the door. Tickets must be purchased in advance at any of the following locations:

Main Liquors (533 Main St. So. Amboy, The Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall and the South Amboy YMCA (200 John O'Leary Blvd. So. Amboy).

Sayreville Principal Retires

Long time Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) principal James Brown officially retired on January 1st. He began working in the Sayreville School District in 2000, as vice principal at SWMHS, and in 2001 became principal, where he remained until his recent retirement. Brown accomplished many great things at the high school, and will be remembered for his hard work, dedication and loyalty to the school. Best of luck always, James!

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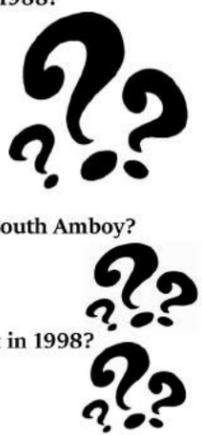
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Pleasant little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1. Selected Middlesex County Guidance Counselor of the Year for 1988?
a. Jeanne Polinski b. Richard Gore c. Sister Valerian
2. St. Mary's Grammar School Principal from 1984-1989?
a. Mr. Eyerman b. Claire Armstrong c. Sister M. Cosmas Purcell
3. Retired in 1999 as the Sayreville Housing Authority Director?
a. Tony Travisano b. Jamal Abaguande c. Mike Perranoski
4. The Sayreville War Memorial HS Christmas Play in 2000?
a. White Christmas b. Bells Of St. Mary's c. It's A Wonderful Life
5. In 2000, the Commander of DAV Benyei-Connors Chapter 67, South Amboy?
a. John Perconte b. Paul Cobb c. Wayne Winfield
6. President of Morgan First Aid in '98?
a. Joseph Scanlon b. Fred Jones c. Alex Brigiani
7. South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 Grand Knight in 1998?
a. Mike Mooney b. Fred Whiteley c. Gene Chodkiewicz
8. What section of Sayreville was the Dutch Boy Tank located?
a. Melrose b. President Park c. Morgan
9. The 1967-68 Grand Knight for South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426?
a. Gene Armstrong b. Lou Meszaros c. Bill McAndrew
10. In 1984, this furniture store was located in the Morgan section of Sayreville?
a. Pine & Oak b. Tip Top c. Sun Valley

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



Business Of The Month
Medina Tire Service



The Medina Family, owners of Medina Tire Service are pictured (l-r) Frank, Francine, Minki and Daniel. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Medina Tire Service is a third generation family owned and operated business. The company's origin dates back to 1967 when Frank's father, a Cuban immigrant, opened "The House of Flats" in Newark New Jersey. Frank learned every aspect of the tire business from his father, from being a young boy pushing a broom, to a teenager changing tires and performing wheel alignments. By the time Frank was a young man and in a management position, his dad had locations in Newark, Paterson, Jersey City, and Hoboken.

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, Frank decided to branch into the truck tire industry and in 1984 he opened Medina Tire Service, a mobile truck tire business.

Today Medina Tire Service continues to service the trucking industry but Frank has brought his 45 years of knowledge and his family to a new location, here in South Amboy. Frank continued with the family tradition and has his son Danny, his daughter Minki, and his wife Francine all working together with one goal in mind,

building a long lasting relationship with the community. Medina Tire Service is TIA certified and they offer all major brand tires including Michelin, BF Goodrich, Goodyear, Cooper and Bridgestone. Their tires are always priced competitively, so their customers can purchase their tires when they need them and never have to wait for a holiday or weekend sale event. Medina Tire services include: flat repairs, spin balance, oil changes, all brake service, wheel alignments, rims and rim repair, heating and air conditioning, TPMS and preventative maintenance. They're located at 7070 Route 35 North South Amboy and are open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All major credit cards are accepted. To make an appointment, call 732-442-3300. So the next time you're in need of tires, or your vehicle needs some maintenance, stop in at Medina Tire Service, have a cup of coffee in the newly renovated waiting room, and experience customer care with an old fashioned flair with Frank, Francine, Danny, and Minki. You'll be glad you did.

VFW Post 4699 Auxiliary 4th Annual Classic Rock / Oldies Night Dinner Dance

The Sayreville VFW Post 4699 has announced their date for their 4th annual Support the Troops Dinner Dance Fundraiser as Saturday, April 6th, 2019, at the Post Home, 575 Jernee Mill Road. Doors open at 6pm, with an Open Bar and Buffet Dinner. Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Live Music from "Clem and Friends" playing your favorite Oldies and Classic Rock from the 50's thru the 70's from 7:30 to 10:30pm. For Tix, call

Carmen at 732-254-9425 or Val at 732-727-0174..Please come out to support our Troops, and have a great nite of getting together with friends, great music, and for a great cause! Mark your new calendars and set the date. We've had a great time and crowd every year, and the Post and Troops need your support. More info to follow in upcoming issues of the Times. Thank You for your Support.

Dad - Daughter Dance

Dads, Uncles, Grandads, Step Dads... have you spent quality time with your special little lady? Bring that special girl to the South Amboy-Sayreville rotarys 14th annual dad-daughter dance on Friday, February 8, 2019. From 7-10pm It will be held at VFW hall located on Jernee Mill road, Sayreville. \$60 per couple \$25 each additional special

girl if payment is received by January 18, 2019. \$10 extra in cash at the door if space permits. For more information contact Greg at 732-721-0400, greg@customfinancial.org.



Gas prices have been steadily dropping in New Jersey, but are still over \$3 per gallon in California. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Pictured following swearing in ceremonies at City Hall on Jan. 2nd (l-r) Councilwoman Christine Noble, Mayor Fred Henry, and Councilman Michael "Mickey" Gross." (Photo by Tom Burkard)

**Valentine's Day
 Rose Sale**

Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1 is holding a Valentine's Day Rose Sale on Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Independence Firehouse 127-129 North Broadway, South Amboy. Cash only sales are as follows: 1 dozen red roses-\$20; 1 dozen color roses-\$15; 2 dozen color roses \$25. Please come out and support your local Firemen.

**Pancake Breakfast
 Buffet-Feb. 3**

The South Amboy Elks will hold a Pancake Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy. A buffet of pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, potatoes, sweets, breads, coffee, tea & juice will be available. Cost is \$9 p/p, \$5-kids under 7 years old. Proceeds will benefit the South Amboy Elks general fund, and or the Wildwood fund.

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Yearbook-Hoffman 1969

By Len Ambroziak

The Class of '69 will never forget the sudden loss of "Our Principal," James Croddick. It was a shock to us all. Besides being our administrator, he was a local guy, who was a pleasure to be around for teachers and students alike. The "Notre Livre" (yearbook) was dedicated to Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski, a graduate of Monmouth College. What a great yearbook photo of him with the "Divas" of our day gathered around him, as he was washing some pans in Miss Bishop's Home Ec class. Some other dedicated teachers that year were: Richard Klein, John Kovaleski, Jean Miskiewicz, Michael Poll, George Virgilio, Elnora Dexheimer, David Inman, Francis Cialone, George Mahoney, John Moran, Robert Bloodgood, Louisita Reese, Lynn Search, Miriam Hollfelder, John Zdanewicz and Woody McCarthy, Angela Charmello, and school nurse Joanne Donnelly R.N. Eugene Dobrzynski was superintendent and Adam Martin our principal. Our senior class officers were President Kathy Rufus, Eugene Kaboski, Jane Casterline, and Judy Thoma. The yearbook staff consisted of Mary Roberts, Cathy Brown, Sue Ann Jonason. The school play, "Charley's Uncle," directed by Michael Olczak, was a great success. The investment club was chaired by Mr. Oleyar and included Kathy Lyons, Anne Zdziarski RN, Matthew Gonsalves, Rita Chlebicki RN, Donald Clayton PE, Gary Rossman, Greg Kosovich. Popular local hangouts for the 69ers were Mike's Corner, The Wall on South Stevens Ave., Joe Smoke's Corner, and a few

teens visited popular St. Mary's hangouts, Frank Prasnal's, and The Jug. In addition, the "Submarine Races" at the Boat Club were always a popular attraction. Some of the members of the great H.G. Hoffman HS Class of '69 included: Cathy Brown, Ruth Ann Brown, Donna Buickerood, Denise Clark, John Corvino, John "Skippy" Costanzo, Ken DeLucia, Dawn Dennis, Geraldine Estelle, Kathy Gregor, Billy Gawenus, Linda Holton, Mark Gershon, Vicki Jorgensen, Peter Hogan, Gerald Kijowski, Gail Kristalyn, Thomas Knable, Donald Ludlow, Kathy Lyons, John "Jackie" Mason, Anne Marie Maxfield, Frank Mioduszewski, Donna Meyers, James Moran, Linda Pappa, Mark Norek, Carol Pirk, Bernie Poulson, Mary Ellen Prusakowski, Frank Starosciak, John Strzykalski, Mary Lou Ruszczyk, Kenny Szatkowski, Beverly Samuelson, Richard Tanchyk, Laura Scully, Barbara Shackelton, Christine Sieber, Ann Tabaszewski, Linda Thomsen, Darlene Vargas, and our long time married couples, Geraldine Estelle & Franny Freeman, and Carol Whitcomb & Tom Gecek, and yours truly, Len Ambroziak. Senior varsity letter winners for 1969 were Frank Chonsky, Michele Cross, Claire Kwiatkowski, Mary Ann Wisniewski, Kathy Kach, Linda Larson, Michael Boychuk, Kenny Blaha, Gail Kolb, Janie Kukulski, Jack Bloodgood, Jimmy Tingle, Jimmy Lyons, Denise Jedwabnik. Jorgensen and Kwiatkowski were featured speakers at the graduation on June 19, 1969. The best of luck to this slice of the Baby Boomer generation in the future!

Divided By A Common Language

By Steve Schmid

If you're planning a trip to England this year, you should be aware thereof the difference between American and British English. For instance, if you ride an elevator, you're on a lift in England. Pants are called trousers. Cookies are biscuits. If you ride the subway in England, you are riding the underground. An underground passageway here is a subway there. A fight in England is a row and a to complain is to grouse. When you're on vacation, you're on holiday. In transportation, a truck is a lorry, a traffic circle is a rotary, a divided highway is a dual

carriageway, a rail car is a carriage. If you call someone on the phone, you are ringing them. If you mail a letter to someone, you're putting it in the post. A telephone booth is a call box. If you are fired from your job, you are sacked. When you're looking for a job, you don't send a resume, you send a CV. If you need a take out dinner, you should say take away in England. The good news is despite these different word meanings, an American is easily understood in England. The British people are very friendly to Americans. You feel right at home.

Senior Trip to Doolan's Doo Wop to Disco

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to Doolan's on March 28, 2019 to the Doo Wop to Disco Show. The price of \$90.00 includes the show, bus transportation, bus gratuity, one hour open bar, salad, choice of pasta or soup, choice of sirloin of beef,

chicken marsala, crusted filet of salmon, dessert, coffee or tea and wine and soda during lunch, along with taxes and gratuities. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Carmen at 732-254-9425

Coach Bingo

Feeling Lucky? Come enjoy a fun evening of coach bingo on Friday, February 8, 2019, for the third annual Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police coach bingo/tricky tray.

game), coffee, tea and dessert. There will also be a 50/50. All guests are invited to bring their own food and refreshments. For tickets please call Gina at 732-432-8361. See you there!! The event will be held at St. Stan's School, 221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person which includes 12 games of bingo(3 boards per

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South Amboy Board of Education members (l-r) Lynn Kasics, Paula Taggart and John Dragota were sworn in at the Board's reorganization meeting earlier this month. All three were re-elected to the Board in November. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

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LABATT ICE 12oz. CANS, 30PK.....	\$15.99

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PENNSYLVANIA STYLE LIGHT&LAGER.....	\$15.99
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Pictured on Jan. 1st at South Amboy City Hall following the swearing in ceremony for Fire Chief are (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, Fire Chief Brian Tierney, 1st Assistant Fire Chief Bob O'Connor, and 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Bielak. (Photo submitted)

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The Park People decorated the Christmas tree at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in South Amboy/Sayreville this year in memory of their good friend, the beloved Fran Kurtz, who passed away last summer. (Photo/info courtesy of Mary Ann Matarangolo)

To Realize The Value

(Author Unknown)

To realize the value of a sister or brother
Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of 10 years
Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of 4 years
Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of 1 year
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of 9 months
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of 1 month
Ask a mother who has given birth To a premature baby.

To realize the value of 1 week
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of 1 minute
Ask a person Who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of 1 second
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.
Treasure every moment you have.
You will treasure it even more when
You can share it with someone special.
To realize the value of a friend or family member
Lose one.
Remember...Hold on tight to the ones you love!

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OLV February Meeting

The OLV Senior Group will hold their February Meeting on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 1:00PM in Monsignor Dalton Hall. After our business meeting, cake and coffee will be served. Non-perishable food donations for St. Vincent de Paul will be accepted at all meetings. For further information contact Teri at 732-727-7639.

Valentine Flower Sale

The Sacred Heart Rosary Society will be offering several choices of Valentine bouquets at \$10 each on Saturday, February 9 from 3:30 to 5:30PM and Sunday, February 10 from 7:30AM to 1PM in front of Memorial Hall, 529 Washington Avenue, across from Sacred Heart Church.

Brighten your home or express your love with beautiful, long lasting, vibrantly colored Valentine flowers.

For more information, call Virginia at 732-721-1521.

Holiday Entertainment Trip To Lancaster

Sacred Heart Seniors are sponsoring a 3 day 2 night trip from November 6 - 8 to beautiful Lancaster Pennsylvania for a Holiday Entertainment Extravaganza. Cost of \$409 includes round trip motor coach transportation, tickets for "The Miracle Of Christmas" at the Sight and Sound Theatre and "Joy To The World" at the American

Fitness Classes to Benefit Knights of Columbus 2061

The 20/20/20 class runs from 2/4/19 til 5/6/19, 6:30pm-7:30pm 10 classes for \$80, at Knights of Columbus in Sayreville. This class is a total body workout 20 minutes of Cardio/Strength/yoga & pilates. You would need to bring a mat, set of weights and water. Part of the proceeds benefit The Knights of Columbus 2061.

For more information please contact Denise Morgan-healthandfitnesswithdenise@gmail.com or call 732-525-9536.

Take the Plunge!

Ready to take a challenge for a good cause? Come join us at the Polar Plunge for Catholic Schools week 2019. OLV will be participating in the Annual AOH Polar Plunge to support Catholic Education. If you are ready to dive into the ocean, you are more than welcome to meet us at Sea Bright Municipal Beach on Sunday January 27, 2019. Don't want to get into the frigid water? That's ok too, you can donate to have someone else take the plunge, or just come

Music Theatre. The trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including a family style dinner and a smorgasbord dinner. The trip includes shopping at Tanger Outlets and a visit to the old western Kitchen Kettle Village. You'll also get a souvenir gift. Luggage handling, taxes, and gratuities, are included.

join us on the sideline and cheer us on with your friends!

All proceeds collected go to the school to help assist with Catholic Education expenses, so 100% of your donation will greatly help OLV. If you would like more information contact: Maria Holovacko 732-307-0002. Or go to the school website <https://olvnj.com> and Facebook page <https://Facebook.com/ourladyofvictories>



The Sayreville Housing Authority recently presented Jorge Gonzalez Gomez a resolution thanking him for his countless hours of service to the agency and the residents of the Borough of Sayreville from January 2006 to September 2018. Jorge Gonzalez Gomez served as Commissioner and Trustee throughout his tenure with the Housing Authority. Jorge and his family recently relocated to South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) during the presentation of the Resolution are Trustees Doug Cowan, Tony Travisano, Jorge Gonzalez Gomez, Chairman Kenneth Olchasky, Director Douglas Dzema, Commissioners Art Rittenhouse and Ronald Green. (Photo/Info Submitted)

THIS FEBRUARY, FEEL THE LOVE AT THE SADIE POPE DOWDELL LIBRARY!

February may be the shortest month of the year, but South Amboy's Dowdell Library wants to make every minute of it count! Show a little love and join your friendly neighborhood librarians for an amazing slate of mid-winter programs and events!

Tax season is once again upon us, and the library is happy to offer its services to those who welcome a helping hand while preparing their returns. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Contact the library for additional information about this valuable service!

Need help troubleshooting or learning to use your computer, phone, tablet, e-reader, or other device? Stop by the library! Our ongoing Digital Café program offers tech assistance three times weekly: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm, and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Parents, grandparents, and caregivers: give yourself the gift of some much-needed R&R by bringing your little ones to the Dowdell's twice-weekly toddler programs! Every Monday from 1pm to 2pm, join us for Tiny Tots Storytime, where beautiful books come to life and creative kids construct clever crafts. Looking for something a bit less structured? Stop by on Wednesdays between 1pm and 2pm for Toddler Magnet Fun, where your young ward can build with colorful magnetic shapes while listening to infant-friendly music.

Kids, teens, and tweens: whether you're a bleeding-heart romantic or a cold-blooded cynic, the Dowdell wants to see you at its (Anti-)Valentine's Day Party! Running from 3:30pm to 5:30pm on Thursday, February 14, these dueling events are guaranteed to reveal what your heart truly wants.

Students: looking for something to do with your President's Day off? Put your creative chops to the test at the Dowdell's first-ever Sadie's Studio Design Extravaganza, running from 1pm to 4pm on Friday, February 15. Stretch your critical thinking skills and imagination as you design extraordinary projects for extraordinary characters! Each group of participants will select a character, choose a design project, create something extraordinary, and present their work to an

Book Sale

The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library will host a BOOK SALE on Saturday, January 19 and Sunday, January 20 from 1:00-3:30PM. Grab some great deals on hardcover and paperback titles! The Sayreville Library is located at 1050 Washington Rd., Parlin.

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.

eager audience of librarian-critics. (Prizes will be awarded!)

Calling all young readers! The Dowdell's new T(w)een Books and Bites reading group will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, February 19 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Swing by to stuff your face, flap your gums, speak your mind, and maybe—just maybe—have a bit of unexpected fun.

Parents, odds are you've heard the word "mindfulness" somewhere before, but you're busy—why not let your kids explain it to you? Next month, the Dowdell will host two back-to-back weeks of youth-centric Mindfulness and Mud Cakes! On Thursday, February 21 and Thursday, February 28, teens and tweens can attain inner peace with an hour of guided meditation from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, then sugar-rush their way out of nirvana with Make-It-Yourself Mud Cakes from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

An estimated one in four teens will experience a mental health problem during 2019, and that's okay. Sometimes, you just need someone to talk to, and your local library is here to listen.

On Monday, February 25 at 3:30pm, the Dowdell will host Time to Talk, a forum for stigma-free discussion of mental wellness and well-being. However you're feeling, young folks between ages ten and twenty are strongly encouraged to join this important discussion.

In the same vein, young patrons are invited to (Almost) Anything Goes: Safe Space Discussions on Tuesday, February 26 at 3:30pm. No matter who you are, where you're from, or who you love, your community deserves to hear your voice. Come talk about anything—literally anything—in a controlled environment governed by confidentiality, empathy, and respect.

Curious what else is going on at your local library? (We can never fit everything here!) Stop by in-person or visit our website to view adult and children's activity calendars, which are updated on a monthly basis.

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.

Pasta Fundraiser January 25

South Amboy Columbiettes will hold their annual pasta fundraising dinner Friday January 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. before Open Mic at the Knights of Columbus Columbian Hall, 308 Fourth Street.

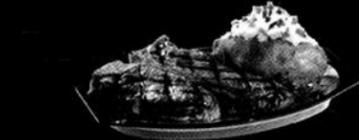
Proceeds will benefit the food pantries at Sacred Heart and St. Mary Churches. Cost is \$10 for adult prepaid reservations or \$12 at the door. \$5 for children age 3 to 12 and under 2 are free. Call 732-407-3295 for reservations or 732-721-2025 (Knights of Columbus answering machine.)

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Northshore Sea Bright was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. The business, now in its 36th year, is located at 1127 Ocean Ave. in Sea Bright, and is owned by St. Mary's H.S. Class of 1966 alumnus Brian George. The store features the finest in menswear, womenswear, prepsters, furnishings and footwear.



The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) was recently visited by an entourage of Super Heroes. On Thursday, December 20, 2018 PRAHD welcomed the "Let's Be Heroes" of Brick, NJ. Owner Chris Donnelly (Princeton Police Officer) as Superman, Shannon Connelly as Wonder Woman, Jamie Murray as Batman and Kyle Tintle as Spiderman presented the children of PRAHD's after school program with toys for Christmas. Earlier in the day "Let's Be Heroes" touched the lives of countless children when they visited Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center and St. Peter's University Hospital making an alike lasting impressions and toy presentations. All the children went home elated with the visit and the toys. The Super Heroes promised to come back for PRAHD's Three Kings Day Celebration. This special visit was mediated by Sheila Gonzalez of Fittings by Sheila Mastectomy Boutique in South Amboy who is the daughter of Dr. Jorge Gonzalez Gomez who serves on PRAHD's Board of Directors.. (Photo/info submitted)

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OLV Wreaths Across America



Our Lady of Victories Catholic Kids Club is pictured with members of the VFW Post #4699 after participating in Wreaths Across America on Dec. 15. (Photo courtesy of Jillian Leonard)

Senior Christmas Trip to Lancaster

The OLV Senior Group is planning a Christmas trip to Lancaster on November 6 -7, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$355.00 which includes a delicious lunch on day 1 at Shady Maple where you can fit in some pre-Christmas shopping. Next, the group will enjoy a matinee at the American Music Theater's show, Joy to the World. There will be a late check at the Fulton Steamboat Inn with dinner at the restaurant. Guests can then enjoy the amenities of the

hotel. On day two there will be a late check out after breakfast. Shopping at the outlets is the next item of fun. Lunch will be on your own. Bus pick-up at the outlets will bring you to the afternoon show at Sight and Sound, the Miracle of Christmas. After the show the group will enjoy a family style dinner at Hersey Farm Restaurant before returning home. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Teri at 732-742-1320.

FIRST AIRSHIP OVER NJ LANDS NEAR SOUTH AMBOY-JUNE 1910

By Jerry Pizzillo
Historical Society of South Amboy

In June of 1910, the New York Times and the Philadelphia Ledger hosted a contest to fly from New York to Philadelphia and back for a prize of \$10,000.00. Charles K. Hamilton from New Britain CT undertook the task to make this historic first flight as no other aeroplane (this was how it was spelled in early aviation) took flight over the skies of New Jersey. This flight came only seven years after the Wright Brothers made their first successful air flight at Kitty Hawk NC.

Charles K. Hamilton was known as the "Crazy Man of the Air". He was a hot air balloonist and parachute jumper. He received the "Crazy Man" name as he was noted for his perilous crash landings, broken bones, taking off in inclement weather and other dangerous aerial events. He learned his craft as a student of Glenn Curtiss, famous airplane pioneer.

On June 10, 1910, Hamilton took off from Governors Island, NY at 7:36 AM. His route to Philly was to follow the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks to his first destination. A chase train was provided by the Pennsylvania Railroad where Hamilton's mother and sister were on board. His flight to Philly took 1 hour and 52 minutes with an average speed of 48 MPH at 500 feet.

After a two-hour layover to refuel, aid oil and let the engine cool, the Crazy Man took off back to New York at 11:33 AM.

During his return trip he experienced

engine trouble over Metuchen. As his concern was on his aircraft he became confused and started to follow the Lehigh Valley Tracks, not the PRR Main Line tracks. As he approached Perth Amboy, two of his four spark plugs failed and the pilot knew he had to land his craft. He spotted the marshy meadows on the south side of the Raritan Bay, by the then County Bridge (Victory Bridge today). At 12:54 PM he made the landing only to realize that the meadow was a field of knee deep muddy ditches and tall swamp grass. Realizing the condition of the place he landed at, he immediately tried several times to get the machine back in the air. As the mud and tall grass clung to the bicycle tires he failed to take off. Again, he tried to take off, but his prop struck a stake and broke the propeller. At this point a large crowd assembled to observe this historic moment and lend aid. Thomas Bulger of the Raritan Hotel at Mechanicsville was the first to reach the stricken plane. As others arrived to help, Hamilton gave one of the men a \$10 bill to get two spark plugs, as the man left, Hamilton yelled to the man to "Keep the Change." A telegram was sent to Governors Island for a new propeller. The prop arrived in record time by boat and special train. The machine was fixed and moved to more stable ground for the take off. At 6:17 PM Hamilton successfully took off and landed back at Governor's Island at 6:40 PM, winning the \$10,000.00 cash prize.



C.K. Hamilton
"Crazy Man Of
The Air"



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Tickets may be purchased at any of the following locations:

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AOH Hall (271 Second Street, South Amboy)

South Amboy YMCA (200 John O'Leary Blvd, South Amboy)

FREE IRISH CONCERT

Friday March 15, 2019

At The South Amboy Community Theatre

7pm (Doors Open at 6:30pm)

Featuring:

Seamus Kennedy

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A South Amboy Polish Story

By John "Flip" Phillips

A couple of months ago I wrote a story called "A South Amboy Irish Story." I was asked if there would be a South Amboy Polish Story. So, with the help of family (my cousin Bobby "Bear" and his son Scott Kominkiewicz), and a lot of memory, I was able to put the following story together. So, I hope you find it an interesting read of a small piece of South Amboy history.

Sometime at the end of the 1800s, Francis (Frank) and Anastasia (Anna) Kominkiewicz made the journey from Poland to America to begin a new life. Their story gets a little complicated here because the entry documents say that their last residence was in Kalisz, Russia. At the time they came over from the "Old Country," Poland did not even exist as a country. For many, many years Poland was partitioned and ruled by Russia, Prussia or Austria (The Habsburg Monarchy). Kalisz is in central Poland, about one hundred miles southwest of Warsaw. It was founded in the 9th century, and is reported to be the oldest town in Poland. Today, it has a population of over 100,000. Frank and Anna were not young when they came over. Frank was born in 1860 and Anna in 1868. And, when they settled in South Amboy is still unclear. But they eventually settled in the "Pleasant Little City," and the Kominkiewicz family took roots. My mom told me she had a total of 17 brothers and sisters. Then again, I heard it was "only" 11. So, I really don't know the exact number. Since my mom was the next to the youngest being born on March 17, 1913, (a Polish girl born on St Patrick's Day), there must have been children born to Frank and Anna in the old country. I don't know if any made the journey across the "pond" with them, but probably a few did. The only aunts and uncles I remember were: Aunts, Frances and Vera, and uncles Stanley (a WW1 Navy vet), Felix, Thomas, Alex, Walter and Francis. Counting my mom, Josephine (Josie) that makes 9 here in America. I can't get to 11 or 17. She did tell me that one brother died when he was a young man, but this is only memory talking. So, that brings the number to 10. I had lots of aunts and uncles, but we were never a close family except for my uncle Frankie. I liked him, he and aunt Helen had a car when they lived in South Amboy, and would take us to Keansburg in the summer. That was a big deal! Uncle Frank was the youngest, so he and my mom were close, and my brother Joey and I were close in our early years with our cousins Bobby (Bear) and Ronnie. What complicated trying to gather information on the family is that several of my uncles went under the name Schultz not Kominkiewicz. I really don't why, but I can guess.

I don't remember much about my grandmother. She died when I was around 7 years old. However, I do remember the day she died in 1945. I was there when she passed away. She died at home on lower Henry Street at 5:15 in the afternoon, she was 77 years old. I remember hearing the church bells ringing at the Sacred Heart Church. One of my uncles told me they were ringing for her. And, I'll never forget the flower arrangement that had a clock with 5:15 on it. (I think it came from my uncle Frankie). Yes, I remember this because the viewing was at the house, and I sat quietly while people came to pay their respects. I remember with a smile that she always "encouraged" me to eat Czarna, a Polish soup made of duck blood, terrible!! I have not tasted any since then.

My Grandfather I remember Pop because he lived with us off and on until he died in 1953. He lived with us on lower David Street, and when we moved to the housing project, he went with us where he passed away. I think

he worked at the local coal docks, but he was long retired when I knew him. Let's say he was "old country" with unusual habits. We did not have central heat when we lived on David Street, only an oil stove in the kitchen. So, in the winter he would put bricks on the stove to heat up, and then rap them in a towel and take them to bed to keep his feet warm. It was cold in all the bedrooms in the winter, so we had Pierzyna's (big feather bed covers) to keep us warm, and they did. Pop built a shed (we called it a Schunka) in the backyard, and once the warm weather arrived that's where he lived while taking care of his garden until the Fall. When he wanted something from the store he would say: Hey boy, go down to Brownies and get me a pack of Wings cigarettes. Brownies was a store at the end of Henry Street near the bay. If you lived in South Amboy back in those days, I am sure you remember it. There you could buy 15 cents worth of boloney or cheese, and Tasty Cakes and a Coke cost a nickel. He always gave me and my brother Joey fifty cents when we went back to school. He was a strong-willed man and he lived to the age of 93.

My Mom-The Polish girl with an Irish holiday for a birthday and an Irishman for a husband. I remember how focused she was to make sure her three "boys" (Jimmy, Johnny and Joey) had the best of everything that she could give. In today's world she would be considered a single mom. She managed the house, paid the bills, did the shopping, cooking, bought our clothes and made sure we went to church and school. She worked hard as a "button hole" operator for Harry Finkelstein's ladies garment factory on upper Broadway near Briggs Chevrolet. She used to work evenings and would bring my brother Joey and me to the factory where we "helped" the janitor for a quarter and a Coke. When we lived below the tracks on David Street, Joey and I would sometimes jump the back fence (into the Quinlan's yard) to go to Julius's tavern on Augusta Street to get her a pitcher of beer. Yes, we were served because we were regulars, and this was the Bowery. When we re-jumped the back fence with the beer and got home, we got a "taste" of the brew. My mom used to say it would make us sleep, and I guess she needed a rest. I've said this before, she "insisted" I play the accordion for which I am grateful, and she didn't give in to my "nagging" to quit. She wanted me to graduate from St. Mary's high school and I did. When I picked a course in high school to major in that a lot of my friends were taking the nuns would not let me have it. So, we went to the convent to settle the issue. The nuns were waiting for us, and after they said their piece, she hit me on the head and that was that. I took College Prep. And, as usual the nuns and my mom were right, it helped me when I finally went to college at night (8 years) after I got married to my Iris, 56 years and counting. She tried very hard to convince me not to join the Marine Corps, but I did. When I graduated from "boot camp" and called to tell her I made it she said: "Johnny, I never thought you could do it". She finally got some personal happiness when she married again after divorcing my dad. She married Bill Lauritsen, a good man who was a perfect partner, he took her everywhere until he passed away. My mom died at age 89 in 2002. I think of her a lot now days as time moves on. As she used to say: Time and tide waits for no one!

And, so it goes. Just another South Amboy story. There are probably many more out there waiting to be told. I would be happy if my "tales" give some "old timers" the inspiration to tell their South Amboy Story. Again: Time and tide waits for no one.

Senior Trip to Doolan's Rock & Roll Show

The OLV Seniors is sponsoring a trip to Doolan's Happy Days Under the Rock & Roll Boardwalk on June 12, 2019. The price of \$90.00 includes the show, bus transportation, bus gratuity, one hour open bar, salad or soup, roast loin of pork, Caribbean chicken, honey

glazed salmon, dessert and tea or coffee, and wine and soda during dinner along with taxes and gratuities. For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Carmen at 732-254-9425.

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1958 Revisited

By Elaine Holton Scott

The way of life in 1958 would just about be unrecognizable to young people today. In fact, they'd probably be more at home living on Mars than living in the world of 61 years ago. Even those of us who were alive back then sometime get shocked when we remember how different it all used to be... different in just about everything. Revisiting 1958 is very much like visiting an antique shop with its displays of dusty memorabilia left over from another time and place.

Sixty one years after 1958, we are able to live in a temperature controlled environments just by pressing a switch. We can buy groceries and meal ingredients and have it all delivered right to our door, without stepping outside. We're able to buy frozen meals to nuke in the microwave, or go to one of the countless restaurants and fast food places which seem to keep multiplying like rabbits. In 1958, most people were still shopping at mom and pop type grocery stores and if you had lived on the other side of the Hole-In-The-Wall, often took the Marathon bus to get to them. Back then, when the average size of a television screen was 14 inches, just the idea of changing channels without moving from your chair, "downloading" shows to watch on something called a computer, and a ridiculous thing called a cell phone able to take photos and videos would have made us laugh because it was so "stupid." Six decades ago, TV sets without picture tubes would have seemed like fodder for the old show, Inner Sanctum, in black and white of course. In 1958, the "man in the moon" had nothing at all to do with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, while airline travel was mostly for the military and the super wealthy, and surely not on jumbo jets as we know today. In 1958, there were no Uber drivers, no

electric cars, no portable radios, no FM radio stations, no hair blowers (which was a good thing because there weren't any electrical outlets in bathrooms), no air conditioners that I can remember, no child proof medicine bottles, and no thermal cold weather clothing. Possibly, the closest to hi-tech would have been the heavy metal portable typewriters which needed carbon paper to make copies... and when there was a problem with a machine, a typewriter repairman was needed to fix it.

Back in those years before plastic began taking over our world, credit cards, fax machines, scanners, dryers, dishwashers, supermarkets, food processors, color TV, drip coffee makers, and television sets without picture tubes, the ice man would be seen delivering ice for the kitchen ice boxes that were still being used, and so, too, the coalman, with his skin permanently stained from the coal, as he made his deliveries to people with coal furnaces. At the same time since this was during the years known as the Cold War with the USSR, disbanded now for 28 years, children like myself were having air raid drills regularly in school, and lots of bomb shelters were being built in backyards across the country.

In 1958, God was still a part of our Pledge of Allegiance, and an integral part of American life. People honored the flag and gave respect to all of our military who had fought to preserve it. Not to do so, would have been considered treason and "corrected" very swiftly. Unlike today, laws weren't made to be broken in the days of 61 years ago.

***Are you old enough to remember an egg shelf in every refrigerator, carpet beaters, rabbit ears wrapped in foil for better TV reception, wringer washing machines, and penny loafers?

South Amboy Businesses In 1958

South Amboy-Raritan Diner; Tybor Liquor Store located on Pine Ave. became Pine Liquors and later Who's Booze; Sisko's Shell Service was located on the corner of Bordentown Ave. & South Broadway, and later became Jim Ostrander's, Pillar's, and Frank's Automotive; Abbatiello Pizzeria; Frank's Supermarket which became Foodtown; S. Boyes Rug Cleaning; Swan

Hill Ice & Coal; Eugene A. Morris (Paint/Wallpaper); Gus Potts Delicatessen; Jan Bros. General Excavating Contractors; Adam Lovely Plumbing & Heating; The Honey Bear; Eagle Package Liquor Co. later became Bill Brown's, and then Olde Towne Deli; Nebus Market; Julie's Beauty Parlor; Gomolka's Auto Body, and many, many more

Gone Fishin'



In the beginning of December, Sadie Pope Dowdell Library Director, Elaine Gaber, was in Islamorada in the Florida Keys, and caught a variety of fish! The first day she caught an 80 lb. Sailfish on a spinner rod using 30 lb. test line; she used Ballyhoo for bait just inshore of Alligator Reef. The following day, she caught a 30 lb. Mahi Mahi on a spinner rod using 20 lb. test line; she used Ballyhoo for bait just offshore of Alligator Reef. Other fish she caught included Blackfin Tuna, Kingfish, Barracuda, Spanish Mackerel, Bar Jacks and Skipjack Tuna. (Photos/Info Submitted)

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Registration Open for Middlesex County College Continuing Education Courses

Middlesex County College is offering numerous Continuing Education courses this Spring semester.

“We offer certificates and courses that can lead to new careers, such as those in our Allied Health programs,” said Alberta Jaeger, interim director of Lifelong Learning. “Many students who take our courses in Phlebotomy, EKG, Medical Assisting, Medical Coding and Billing, Pharmacy Technician and others are able to move toward a more fulfilling career in the healthcare industry. We also have certificates and programs that enhance skills in other industries, such as business and computer technology, and programs in Construction and Industrial and Electrical Maintenance.”

Continuing Education Certificates in Project Management, Human Resources, Supply Chain Management, and Six Sigma Green Belt offer students the opportunity to upgrade their business management skills, which may lead to new job opportunities or promotions. While Continuing Education offers traditional computer training in Microsoft Office, unique programs in COBOL and a PHP Programming/Database Certificate are also offered for those who want to enhance their computer programming and web development skills.

Culinary demonstration courses are offered throughout the semester showing how delicious and nutritious meals can be created and include a generous tasting of food prepared by the chef along with a copy of the recipes. Hands-on cooking and baking courses are also offered.

“Cook side-by-side with a professional chef and learn from an expert,” Ms. Jaeger said.

Thinking about retirement? MCC’s Continuing Education Department offers courses in understanding Social Security, Medicare, and Financial Strategies for a Successful Retirement. New this semester is a course on how to better manage your life after you retire, Designing Your Retirement – Act Two. Already retired? Take a course that will bring out your creativity, such as Watercolors, Ceramics, Drawing and Sketching, Photography, and Creative Writing.

Test Preparation, ESL, American Sign Language, Spanish and other courses are also available. While courses are offered throughout the Spring semester, some begin in January. Contact 732-906-2556 or visit the MCC website, <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/continuing-education/> for specific course and registration information.

February Trip to Sands Casino

The OLV Senior Group will sponsor a trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Sunday, February 17, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$35. You will receive a \$25 gaming voucher. The bus will leave the OLV lower parking lot at 1 PM and return approximately at 8 PM. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Carmen at 732-254-9425.



Open Mic January 25

South Amboy Knights of Columbus resume their Friday Open Mic series Friday January 25 at the Knights of Columbus at 308 Fourth St. Everyone who is in a group or is a solo performer is invited. Refreshments are available. The Open Mic will begin around 8 p.m. after the pasta fundraiser. For more information call 732-721-2025.

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..

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The Sayreville Public Library seeks a PT Security Guard

SORA certification is a must. Experience interacting with teens is a plus. Responsibilities include confronting persons suspected of theft, vandalism or unacceptable behavior, patrolling library grounds and the building. Schedule is M-F, 2-6 PM. Salary starts at \$12.86 and is commensurate with experience. Includes prorated vacation, sick and holiday pay. To submit an application, please visit Sayreville.com and click on the employment opportunities button.

Winter Again

by Al Gomolka Jr.
 Times Poet Laureate
 c. 1993

It's cold, it's frigid,
 It's winter again
 Long nights, cloudy days,
 boredom sets in
 Fervor was seen flying South
 Now passion, stay with me,
 Don't fester or freeze ...
 Warm up by expecting
 The newborn spring breeze
 It is time to relax from the
 mayhem of heat
 And let summer thoughts
 melt the snow's apathy
 Hibernation's not bad with
 the right attitude
 So it's winter again,
 let's get into the mood!



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Resolutions

(Author Unknown)
 The New Year's here
 So what's your deal?
 Gonna go on a diet
 And lose some weight?
 That'll be great!
 Now let's get real
 You promise not to cuss
 It's not hard to do
 So what's the fuss?
 You'll always be on time
 And never late
 Yeah, that's great
 But it's the same old line
 Maybe you'll stop smoking
 But let's be honest
 And stop your joking
 Everyone has resolutions
 Some are tough
 Some may be fun
 Just do your thing
 Until you've won.



These South Amboy high school students will be attending the Annual Peer Leadership Conference sponsored by our local Elks Club. Nashari Payano (l), Lance Pierce (c) and Selina Maisonnnett (r) will represent SAHS with hundreds of other kids from throughout the state. Lance attended last year and so impressed the organizers that he was asked to come back as a counselor. (Photo/Info Submitted)

The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, MS

Starting off the new year in the fire service is always a challenging experience, this year is no different. New fire chiefs have been preparing to take over as the leader of their respective fire departments for the past two years serving as assistant chiefs. They will now have the responsibility of keeping their firefighters safe while they are performing dangerous tasks and for protecting the residents of their communities. Along with the new chiefs come new company officers who will lead their individual companies under the direction of the department chief.

In an interview with the 2019 Chief of the Sayreville Fire Department, Kevin Krushinski, he expressed his ideas and concerns for the year and what led up to him attaining the position of Chief. He began volunteering at age 16 when he joined the junior programs in the South River Fire Department and the East Brunswick Rescue Squad. While in high school, he completed his EMT training and his Fire 1 & 2 training. His family has a long history in the Sayreville FD where his great grandfather, Otto Krug, along with other family members were charter members of the SFD. The first fire chief of the SFD was his great uncle, Noel Bissett. His grandfather, Willis Krug was a member of Engine Co.#1 and now, Kevin's son Dylan is a member of President Park Fire Co.#1. Kevin started working his way to becoming chief back in 1999 serving in the many positions of a company officer. He attended many additional classes on becoming a fire service leader. While serving as "The Chief" family life is always chaotic with the constant on-the-go to something or someplace. This is where an understanding family is important. His most memorable fire was back in 2001 when he received a valor award for rescuing a person from a burning apartment who had survived the fire because of his actions. Chief Krushinski looks forward to 2019 and working with the dedicated officers and members of the SFD. He plans to focus on firefighter safety and health initiatives with

regards to reducing carcinogen exposure and extensive training for the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC). In addition to serving as chief, Kevin is also Chairman of the NJ State Fire Safety Commission and serves as the co-chair for the state's Youth Fire Intervention Advisory Council.

South Amboy Fire Department's Chief for 2019 is Brian Tierney. Chief Tierney has been a first responder since he was 16 years old and became a member of the Morgan First Aid Squad. The Chief joined the fire department in 1991, gained experience and worked his way up the ladder and became a Lieutenant in 2006 and proceeded on to Captain in 2008. He held the rank of Captain for two terms gaining experience and knowledge that will become beneficial in his capacity as Chief. Brian became the second assistant chief in 2017, first assistant chief in 2018, and now becomes the Chief of the Department. Brian is married to his lovely wife Teri since 2000 and they have four children. His oldest son Raymond, following in his father's footsteps, is also a member of the fire department. His two daughters, Bryanna and Victoria, are also first responders as they are both cadets in the South Amboy First Aid Squad. Victoria is also enrolled in the explorer program with the fire department. Unfortunately, youngest son Nicholas is too young to join either of these groups but has his mind set on joining the fire department when he becomes of age.

Chief Tierney works as a communications operator, starting first with the South Amboy Police Department in 1999, then with the Sayreville Police Department in 2000. The Chief has unselfishly dedicated his year as Chief to serving the residents of South Amboy, the members of the fire department, and to those in need of help to the best of his ability.

I would like to express my best wishes to both Chiefs as they assume their command and leadership responsibilities. Stay Safe and Everyone Goes Home!

Former Local Businesses 25 Years Ago - 1994

South Amboy-Olde Towne Deli; Landmark Tavern & Cafe; The Suncatcher; Raritan VCR; Dr. Robert Bennett (Dentist); Bev's Cozy Corner Bar; Gulick's Gas Station; Who's Booze T/A Pine Liquors; Who's Subs?...and More; Robert A. Point Attorney-at-Law; T & J Carpets; Albern's Seafood; Broadway Coiffures; The Movie Machine; Dot's Luncheonette; Gabriel's Tire

& Auto Center; Oak Tree Ceramics; Gee-Wiz Insurance Brokerage; Dugout Sports Cafe; Beauty Plus (Beauty Parlor); SA Pub.

Sayreville-Sugar Bear Wear; More's Jewelers; Vince's Main St. Rental & Sales; The Gallagher Insurance Agency; Sayreville Bar; Gianna's.

Morgan-Crab Atlantic; Uncle Lai's Smorgasbord Restaurant.

Trip to Cape May

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to Cape May on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$145 which includes a narrated cruise, Tea Luncheon at the Emlen Physick Estate, guided tour of Cape May, shopping time bus transportation and bus driver gratuity. For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Finita at 732-721-5081.

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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"IDEAS"ON "SMOOTH JAZZ" ALIVE IN SAYREVILLE

By Clem Skarzynski



Raymond Lake, (aka Ray Standowski), yes, brother of Rockdaddys and "Clem and Friends keyboardist, Richie Standowski, grew up listening to all types of music, pretty much like all of us "children of the 60's." And, like all of us, was constantly encouraged by our parents to continue our "thirst for musical knowledge." Ray's musical journey began at a really early age of 4, playing music, or church choir sitting next to that "Beautiful Pipe Organ." Being a "self taught" or "learn by ear" musician till age 9, Ray began his music studies with local well known organist, Leslie Hank. As the years went by, Ray got into his own writing and composing on cassette decks, and began overdubbing and adding layers of different Instruments to give the composition the sound of a full orchestra or band. Ray then began his formal training in Classical and Jazz Studies with numerous teachers such as, Connie Atkinson (Bill Evans Trio), and Juliet Abrahamson (Royal School of Music London), and began playing in local bands. Ray also studied

musical composition, arranging and theory at MCC, where he was the soloist on the Hammond B3 (im certain a lot of you rockers out there remember the Infamous B3), used in just about every Rock and Roll song ever made! Like all of us musicians, Ray had his "influences," Keith Emerson from ELP. In fact, that's about the time I met Ray, when him and local Rockdaddys founder/ drummer Tim Fee, were doing a duo thing with some awesome original Jazz and freestyle Rock infused bits that were composed and written by Ray, and drummer Tim. He had really impressed me with his freestyle ability that flowed with Ray's compositions. They blended well together. Ray worked all the available keyboards. The B3, Piano, Mini-Moog, and Synths, and Tim's "Open Style "of drumming just easily blended with it all. Ray just recently finished and released his debut album, which he himself plays all the instruments heard on the tracks, began in his studio in the fall of 2018. He used all of his new compositions and used all of the latest technology and Ideas to make this album unique. With all the ease of recording today, along with producing and distribution, Ray put all of those sources and his creative skills, along with his extensive knowledge of the keyboard and "IDEAS" was born! Driving rhythms, super "hooks"and great, great solo work make this album a blend of fresh Jazz with a creative new style."IDEAS" is available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Google Play and all other streaming services and stores worldwide. Visit Raymondlake.com for more info. Great work Ray!

One Hit Wonders-50 Years Ago

1969-Lo Mucho Que Te Quiero (The More I Love You)-Rene & Rene; Cinnamon-Derek; The Worst That Could Happen-The Brooklyn Bridge; Stand By Your Man-Tammy Wynette; The Letter-The Arbors; Hot Smoke & Sasafrass-Bubble Puppy; Gimme Gimme Good Lovin'-The Crazy Elephant; Oh Happy Day-Edwin Hawkins Singers; Love (Can Make You Happy)-Mercy; Morning Girl-The Neon Philharmonic; More Today Than Yesterday-The Spiral Staircase; Israelites-Desmond Dekker & The Aces; Black Pearl-Sonny Charles & The

Checkmates, LTD.; In The Year 2525-Zager & Evans; Color Him Father-The Winstons; My Pledge Of Love-Joe Jeffrey Group; Yesterday, When I Was Young-Roy Clark; Quentin's Theme-Charles Randolph Green Sounde; Polk Salad Annie-Tony Joe White; Get Together-The Youngbloods; When I Die-Motherlode; Tracy-The Cufflinks; Jealous Kind Of Fella-Garland Green; Baby It's You-Smith; Smile A Little Smile For Me-The Flying Machine; Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye-Steam.

Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Hello all, and wishing you a "Rocking New Year" with a year of new musical experiences for all. The band "Northstar" is getting a new line up going for the New Year, with bookings starting March 23rd, at Ryan's Pub, and future dates at The General Saloon. I'll keep you posted with their shows as they come available. Great new set lists with an array of 80's-90's Classic Rock, and throwbacks to the 70's also! Nice mix, go give 'em a listen, and ask guitarist Joe D. for some Van Halen. He plays it quite well! Next "Open Mic" at S.A.Knights scheduled for Friday, January 25th, which is also their Annual Spaghetti Dinner Benefit. Stop by, grab some "Pasta," then listen to what the "Open Mic" has for entertainment. Clem and Friends had a great time at last year's event, which also included a Birthday Bash for 'Rockdaddys' bassist, and owner of Basement Audio Sound Systems, Mr.Emerson Jones! Wow,where'd that year go? Johnny Maestro Tribute Band working out at Fractured Axe Rehearsal Studio, and looking to get out on the road by

April. "Clem and Friends" guitarist, Mr. Mr. Rick Jackson, and saxman, Mr. Jerry Mokar are doing the guitar and horn/vocal work for the Maestro Band also. Ya gotta hear the vocal/musical mix these guys put out! Sweet! Again, i'll let you "doo-woppers"out there know when these guys are doing a local show. Speaking of, "Clem and Friends" gearing up for the 4th Annual" Support the Troops Benefit, Classic Rock/Oldies Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Sayreville VFW Post 4699 Auxiliary on April 6th! Put the date on your calendar NOW! We've had a great time at the event the last 3 years, and the troops need your support, so,make a date of it. Spread the word, bring friends. Great people, food and music. Tix are only \$50 per person, and includes dinner, complete open bar, and live music from 7:30 to 10:30. Doors will open at 6pm! Check out the SA Times for more info as we get closer to the date. For tix..call Carmen at 732-254-9425 or Val at 732-727-0174.

#1 Pop Hits-Jan. 19

- 2009-Just Dance-Lady GaGa with Colby O'Donis
- 1994-Hero-Mariah Carey
- 1989-My Prerogative-Bobby Brown
- 1974>Show And Tell-Al Wilson
- 1969-I Heard It Through The Grapevine -Marvin Gaye
- 1959-Smoke Gets In Your Eyes-The Platters

#1 Country Hits Jan. 19

- 2004-There Goes My Life-Kenny Chesney
- 1999-Right On The Money-Alan Jackson
- 1984-Slow Burn-T.G. Sheppard
- 1979-Lady Lay Down-John Conlee
- 1964-Love's Gonna Live Here-Buck Owens
- 1959-Billy Bayou-Jim Reeves

Flashback: 1987

St. Mary's Battle Of The Bands
The talented band, "Morbid Sin," captured the \$400 1st prize as the best band.

The group also won in 1985. Does anyone know the members of this group or have a photo to share? Please let us know.



Williams Honor Holiday Bash!



Bill Mattsson and Karen Kline (far left) owners of Mattsson's Auto Tech hosted an incredible evening of music, food and fun at the Columbian Club #426 on December 15th. Karen and Bill transformed the hall into a Winter Wonderland. Country Duo Williams Honor, Reagan Richards (3rd from let) and Gordon Brown (far right) performed to the packed room playing their own hits that included "No Umbrella" which hit number 27 on the country charts. Pictured between Reagan and Gordon are members of the Old Bridge based punk rock band Fence. (Photo Submitted)



Reagan Richards (l) and Gordon Brown (r) aka country duo Williams Honor perform at the Columbian Club #426. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Walter Krzyzkowski (c) formerly of Parlin is pictured with Reagan Richards (l) and Gordon Brown (r) at the Williams Honor private show at the Knights of Columbus in South Amboy recently. Richards and Brown make up Williams Honor, the group that opened for Bon Jovi at Madison Square Garden in '18. (Photo/info submitted by Walter Krzyzkowski)

MUSIC TRIVIA

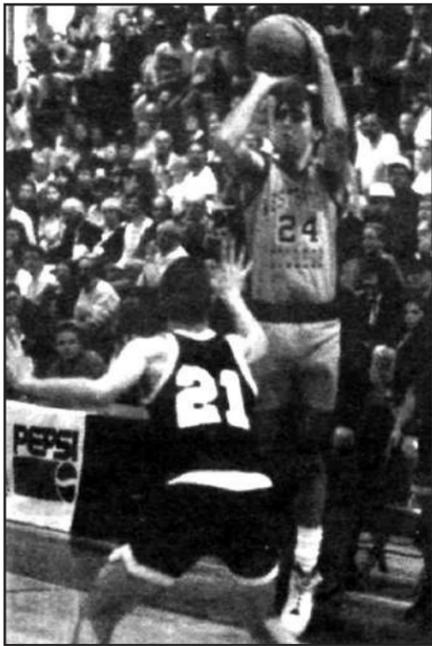
By Tom Burkard

By The Numbers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. __ Beechwood 4-5789 | a.Chicago |
| 2. __ 1999 | b.Prince |
| 3. __ Eight Days A Week | c.Tommy Tutone |
| 4. __ 25 Or 6 to 4 | d.Kiss |
| 5. __ Christine Sixteen | e.The Byrds |
| 6. __ 8675309 | f.Paul Simon |
| 7. __ Eight Miles High | g.Lionel Richie |
| 8. __ 18 And Life | h.Skid Row |
| 9. __ Three Times A Lady | i.The Beatles |
| 10. __ 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover | j.The Marvelettes |

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

25 Years Ago



Flashback-1994 Kuhn Cracks 1,000 at Westbrook College

Former Hoffman great, Gary Kuhn became Westbrook College's second 1,000 point scorer in history, by firing in a 3-pointer with 3:38 left in the first half in a 123-56 shellacking over Notre Dame College before a packed hometown crowd at the Westbrook campus in Portland, Maine. Kuhn finished his memorable evening with 19 points, including (5) 3-pointers. The junior ace is currently average 11.8 ppg. for the mighty Westbrook, now (15-1). While starring for Hoffman, Gary led the county in scoring for two consecutive years, and was a 1,000 point scorer in high school as well!

College Notebook

Marques Townes (St. Joseph's/Cardinal McCarrick) is starring for Loyola-Chicago (7-6). He is averaging 12.8 ppg., 5.4 rebounds, and leads the team with 49 assists, 3.8... Jehyve Floyd (Sayreville) tops Holy Cross (9-4) with 5.7 rebounds per game, and blocks 37, while scoring 8.4 ppg...Corey Taite (Sayreville) continues his outstanding play at Goldey-Beacom College (5-6). He once again leads the team in scoring with an awesome 20.5 avg., steals-19, and free throw %-.889, and grabs 5.1 rebounds per outing... Ryan O'Leary (Sayreville) has seen limited action for Rider U. (5-7)...Sean Rappleyea (St. Joseph's), a Sayreville resident has appeared in 6 hockey games for the U. of Alabama Huntsville (3-17).

Sayreville Wrestlers Cop Two Titles

By Tom Burkard

Coach Marcus Ivy's talented Sayreville Bombers wrestling team captured the prestigious Bear Invitational topping 13 other high schools by notching 173.5 points. The locals nearest competitor was Somerville, who took second place with a 152.0. Wrestling without 4 starters, who failed to make the weight, Sayreville proved its wrestling depth by overcoming the odds to win their second championship of the season which was less than a month old.

Benedict Arthur brought home the only individual crown, winning the 285-pound class in outstanding form, as he won 3 falls

in only a total of 4 minutes and 34 seconds. Second place finishers for the Bombers were Savon Kirksey (195), and Joseph Porcaro (220). Third place wrestlers were Darren Figueroa (126), Trevor Mastorio (138), and Marcos Moreira (152).

Sayreville opened its season by winning the Old Bridge Icebreaker Tournament by having top three finishers in 9 weight categories. The champions were Figueroa (126), Nino Oneta (170), and Arthur (285). The following copped 2nd place: Dylan Acevedo (106), Mastorio (138), Elijah Ade-Festus (170), and Kirksey (220).



School Sports

By Tom Burkard

Girls Basketball

Sayreville (3-4) Top scorers-Jackie Ventricelli 90 points, Lyssandra Delacosta 76, Stephanie Van Note 69.

South Amboy (1-7) Top scorers-Faith Nemeth 94, Julie Olivieri 67, Alexis Calisti 37.

Boys Basketball

South Amboy (4-4) Top scorers- Kyle Gasiewski 186 points, Joshua Jimenez 65, Steve Pena 60.

Sayreville (2-5) Top scorers- Jaijuan Macklin 72 points, Kaieme Byers 54, Luca Ventricelli 33.

Wrestling

Sayreville (10-0)-Coach Marcus Ivy has once again put together a real powerhouse, and with talent from top to bottom on their roster, the Bombers have two team championships already this season. The top wrestlers include Benedict Arthur, Savon Kirksey, Joseph Porcaro, Darren Figueroa, Trevor Mastorio, Marcos Moreira, Nino Oreta, Dylan Acevedo, Elijah Ade-Festus.

O'Brien Advances With Rays

Riley O'Brien is working his way to the big leagues in baseball with the Tampa Bay Rays. The 6-4, 170-pound flame-throwing right handed pitcher had a banner season in 2018 with two different clubs in the Rays farm system, Charlotte in the Florida League, and Bowling Green in the Midwest League. His combined record was (8-4) with a 2.75 ERA, and he struck out 103 batters in 88.1 innings. His proud grandfather, is the legendary John O'Brien, who starred at St. Mary's HS in South Amboy back in '48, and went on to become world famous in basketball and baseball at Seattle University, and played Major League Baseball. John's twin brother, the late Ed, made the siblings one of the most renowned twins in the world in the early 1950's. John recently told us that his grandson Riley "Is throwing the ball at 98 miles per hour, and was invited to early Spring Training with the parent Tampa team. Riley and his brother Ian work out with the 2018 American League Cy Young Award winner, Blake Snell."

Over 5000 points!



Pictured are five members of the South Amboy High School 1000 point club. (l-r) Joe Fruncillo, Steve Herdman, Kyle Gasiewski, Joe Chamello and Kim Gundrum. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



Kyle Gasiewski is joined at the center court by his family just after scoring his 1000th career point. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Gasiewski Scores 1000th Point

By Tom Burkard

South Amboy HS super senior, Kyle Gasiewski poured in 28 points and became the 15th boys basketball player in Hoffman/South Amboy Governors history to reach the lofty milestone, as SA romped over Roselle Park, 69-46. He reached the 1,000 point scoring mark on a driving layup late in the game, and the on floor celebration began for this happy and memorable occasion. The game ball will placed in the huge trophy case alongside other basketball greats who accomplished the same outstanding feat.

Gasiewski is having a brilliant year, averaging 23.1 points per game, with a career-high of 32 against Perth Amboy Tech in a season-opening 65-62 setback. He also pumped in 30 points, as the Guvs fell to Highland Park, 64-60. Kyle has a career average of 17.3, and in 59 contests, has hit double figures in 49.

Congratulations Kyle on this tremendous accomplishment, and may you have continued success for the rest of the hoops season, and of course in baseball!

*Hoffman South Amboy boys basketball 1,000 point scoring members: Curt Wood, Billy Clayton, Gary Lange, Bob Clayton, Frank Kuziemski, Peter Smith, Gary Kuhn, Ed Behnen, Nick Shaw, Brian

Seres, Joe Bartlinski, Joe Charmello, Steve Herdman, Joe Fruncillo, Kyle Gasiewski.



South Amboy Governor Kyle Gasiewski drives to the basket to score his 1000th career point. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



"AT&T...The Next Best Thing to Being There"

By Elaine Holton Scott & John "Flip" Phillips

There's a beginning to every story, even a story about telephones "back in the old days." This one really began at the end of October 2018 when John "Flip" Phillips, the wonderful story teller for the SATimes, sent me an email, which included the following message:

"Something to think about for a future story for you: The Telephone in S.A. From the Party Line system...if you heard someone talking when you wanted to make a call you got off until it was clear. Sometimes you would listen in until someone told you to get off the line...kids! Then the operator (located next to the S.A. Trust Company on Augusta Street) would place your call (our Party Line was 0754R...and if you had a private #, WOW! They had some \$'s to spare. Telephone booths were all over town...a nickel a call...when

your time was up, the operator would ask for another nickel. Sometimes, you would recognize the operator's voice and start a short conversation. Different times. I bet you could bring us up to the present in a good story, The Telephone in S.A....start to now. John"

I quickly replied with my own memories, along with the realization John and I should "partner up":

"Our" phone number (when I was living with my aunt and uncle, Marge and Bill Slover, at 417 Conover Street in Mechanicsville) was SA1-2841. Then PA1-2841, before it ended up being 721-2841. I remember the Party Line. My God...when my Uncle Bill wanted to make a call and someone was on there, he'd get mad..."Get the hell off the phone!" he'd yell. When I

was small, I remember the 5 cent call...then it went up to a dime before heading up to 25 cents. I also remember young guys (like you, no offense) stealing the phone books, attached by chains, from the telephone booths...the reason: to show off trying to rip them in half. Crushing the tin soda cans with one hand was for the little boys to do. Maybe one day we could do a piece for the paper together."

In rereading the messages, it appears John and I had written the "SA Telephone story without even realizing it. What's left is a little bit of telephone history:

*Alexander Graham Bell applied for and received a patent, #174,465, for his telephone on March 7, 1876...only hours before Elisha Gray applied for his own. If ever there was bad luck, this was it for Elisha.

*In the Citizen, dated July 9, 1910, the

second to the oldest Citizen available online on the Dowdell Library website, there was an advertisement by the NY Telephone Company... "Keeping in touch with home." Sort of has the same "feel" to it as the slogan: "AT&T...the next best thing to being there" over 50 years later. (The NY Telephone Co. would become Bell Telephone.)

*The library also has the Telephone Directory for 1925-1926 online. I found my great grandmother was listed: Mary Slover (widow) r417 Conover, Mechanicsville, S.A." Phone numbers had either an "r" or an "h" preceding the numbers, which were the people's house numbers. I believe the letters were the telephone exchanges. In the 1940's, the Area Codes would start denoting the routing numbers.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



60 Years Ago-The 1958-59 Hoffman Governors basketball team is pictured standing (l-r) Assistant Coach Jim Croddick, Dennis White, Dave Inman, Tom Adams, Charlie Bloodgood, George Reick, Coach Eugene "Jimmy" Dobrzynski. Kneeling (l-r) ?, Jim Reick, Bob Poetsch.



1964-St. Mary's 7th-8th Grade basketball team captured the Raritan Bay Area C.Y.O. championship, and are pictured presenting the trophy to Principal Sister Mary Beata. In the photo (l-r) Reggie Carney, Gerry Carney, Leo Dohan, Coach Al Zegan, Sister Beata, Jim McCloud, Father Brembos, and Mark Bratus. All of the young players pictured went on to outstanding athletic careers in high school and beyond.

Glory Days In Local Sports

1955-Red Bank Catholic trounced the St. Mary's Eagles boys basketball team, 73-46 despite Marty Metzger's 27 points. 1963-Hoffman mauled Monmouth Regional 69-50, as John Lange burned the nets for 21 points. Dennis Wood scored 13, Manny Formoso 13, Jerry Drill 12, and Ken Wahler 10. 1979-Sayreville boys clubbed Colonia, 73-49 in hoops play. Ralph Novak scored 25, Dan Osborne 20, Vinnie Servedio 10. 1980-John Dragotta fired in a short jump

shot in the third overtime to give Hoffman a thrilling 59-57 win over Green Brook. Bob Aucone and Greg Seres scored 16 points apiece and Dragotta finished with 11. 1996-Sayreville boys opened their basketball season with an easy 70-53 romp over Edison. Leland Norris pumped in 22 points, John Farinick and Marcin Ziobrin scored 14 apiece. 2002-Cardinal McCarrick eased by Spotswood, 50-47, as Kaitlyn Katko poured in 25 points and had 8 steals.

Top 5 Boys Basketball Teams In St. Mary's/ McCarrick History

By Ed Twomey

2002-03- Coach Joe Lewis (23-6); Best Players-Mika Wilson, Billy Wagner; Accomplishments-The only Eagle team to win both the county and state (Parochial B) titles in the same year.

1979-80-Coach Bob Howarth (25-3); Best Players-Paul Fecskovics, Dan Kudelka; Accomplishments-Best winning percentage in school history; Parochial B South Champs.

1941-42-Coach John Zdanewicz (22-8); Best Players-John "Bing" Miller, Johnny

Zebro; Accomplishment-Group III Catholic State Champs.

1930-31-Coach Charlie Eppinger (18-6); Best Players-Joe McGonigle, Frank "Hank" Bulman; Accomplishments-Trenton Diocesan Champs, County Catholic Schools Champs.

1947-48-Coach Reggie Carney (18-8); Best Players-John O'Brien, Ray Stockton; Accomplishment-Catholic Schools State Champs.

Golden Memory

1968-Mark Abbatiello recalled being the batboy for the Hoffman Governors varsity baseball team. "We were playing St. Mary's in the City Series at Veterans Field, and it was a packed house, loaded with scouts. I remember we won the game, and Mr. Z., (John

Zdanewicz, Hoffman coach) intentionally walked Tom Kelly in his first 2 at bats. In Kelly's third at bat, with the bases loaded, he hit a shot up the middle, and the pitcher, Curt Wood got it to retire Kelly."

50 Years Ago

1969-In Game 2 of the City Series, St. Mary's (SM) breezed to a sweep over archrival Hoffman (H), 76-44. The Eagles led 13-6 after one quarter, and 30-18 at the half, as Ted Krzyzanowski pumped in 10 before the break. The Saints were paced by the Krzyzanowski brothers Ted, who poured in 20 points, and George with 16. Larry Kurzawa was top point man for the Guvs with 14.

St. Mary's 76
T. Krzyzanowski 20 G. Krzyzanowski 16 Mark Bratus 8 Jim McCloud 8 Bob Howarth 6 Jim Day 2 Bob "Rex" Paulukiewicz 2 John Kibbler 2.

Hoffman
Kurzawa 14 Frank Chonsky 8 Jerry Disbrow 6 Jimmy Lyons 5 Jim Tingle 4 Ron Croddick 3 Jimmy Croddick 2 Danny Paone 2.

10 Years Ago

2009-Sayreville boys' top bowler Brian Nicholas received many awards including being selected to the following; 1st Team All-Area, Home News Tribune; 1st Team All-Central Jersey, Star Ledger; 2nd Team All-State All Groups, Star Ledger.

Back In Those College Days

Late 1950's-Jim Murray (St. Mary's) basketball at Rider College; Ron Kuran (Sayreville) basketball at Christian Brothers College, Memphis, TN; Jim Smelas (St. Mary's) basketball at St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, MD.

Siblings Who Played Varsity Sports

Many siblings, brothers and sisters played varsity sports for high schools (mostly local) through the years. A lot of families had 2 siblings that played, but more than that were tougher to find. The following is a list compiled of at least 3 or more from a family:

5 Siblings

McKeon-Michael, Tim, David, Cindy, Mary Ann-all played for Sayreville.
Nemeth-Jack, Jim, Carl, Kevin, Sam-all played for Hoffman.
Szatkowski-Ed, Hoffman; Don, Blackwood; Tom, Hoffman; John, Hoffman; Joanne, Hoffman; Steve, Hoffman.

4 Siblings

Clayton- Harry, Billy, Bob, all played for Hoffman; John, Sayreville.
Croddick-Jim, Ron, Norine, Dottie-all played for Hoffman.
Gumprecht-Scott, Dave, Doug, Amy-all played for Hoffman.
Lange-John, Tom, Gary, Charlie-all played for Hoffman.
Lewis-Dan, Bill, Joe, Maryanne-all played for Hoffman.
Neumann-Rudy Jr., Randy, Judy, Barbara-all played for Hoffman.
O'Leary-Tom, Flossie, Bill, June-all played for St. Mary's.
Rone-Regan, Ryan, Randy, Riley-all played for South Amboy.
Ruszala-Frank, Tony, Tom, John-all played for St. Mary's.
Ust-Al, St. Mary's; Lynn, Hoffman; Jeff, Bishop Ahr; Barbara, Hoffman or South Amboy.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1988

Sport-Girls Basketball

Teams-St. Mary's (18-2) vs. Metuchen (18-5) in the quarterfinals of the GMCT.
Recap-Under rookie Coach Anthony Bozzella, the Saints trailed by 17 at halftime, but battled back, and captured a thrilling victory, as Jenine Barella fired in a 25-foot 3-pointer to win it, 63-62. Barella paved the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds, Jen Noble scored 16, Judy Paczkowski 13, Michelle Mancuso 6, Kim Harkins 6, Jo Ellen Paczkowski 2.

Player-of-the-Game-Jenine Barella

3 Siblings

Bloodgood-Jack, Hoffman; Ruth, Hoffman; Tim, Hoffman/Monroe.
Durski-Janet, St. Mary's; Ray Jr., St. Joseph's; Leeann, St. Mary's.
Kreiger-Jack, St. Mary's; Brian and Wayne played for Sayreville.
Krzyzanowski-Ted, George, Rich-all played for St. Mary's.
Kuhn-Roger, Brian, Gary-all played for Hoffman.
Kuziemski-Kris, Jen, played for Hoffman; Mike played for Bishop Ahr.
Newcomb-Melanie, Maribeth, Jane-all played for St. Mary's.
O'Brien-John, Ed, Jim-all played for St. Mary's.
O'Connor-Ed, Tom, Sean-all played for St. Mary's.
O'Leary-Jack (Croydon Hall), Bill (Croydon Hall), Tom (St. Mary's).
Paczkowski-Judy, Jo Ellen, Frank-all played for St. Mary's.
Phillips-Jim-played for Hoffman; Joe and John-played for St. Mary's.
Popowski-Terry, Sherry, Rick-all played for Sayreville.
Reilly-Tom, Eileen, Janice-all played for St. Mary's.
Spiecker-Kevin, Darryl, Scott-all played for Sayreville.
*We're sure this list is incomplete, so please let us know who we missed, and if there are any names listed here that did not compete in high school varsity sports.

90 Years Ago



1928-29-Pictured is a vintage photo of the South Amboy HS boys varsity basketball team. (l-r) Mgr. Malcom Kirk, Eugene "Jimmy" Dobrzynski, Norman Fox, Milton Newmark, Manvel Applegate, Angelo Nicorvo, Andrew Peterson, William Kurtz, Fred Reese, Ansel Morriss, Capt. (Photo/names courtesy of Bill Kurtz)

Saints Won City Title

1929-After South Amboy (SA), under coach Jim Tustin nipped St. Mary's (SM), 29-28 in Game 1 of the City Series, The Saints came back to win the next two with their local rivals and capture the City Championship. There was no recap in our research for Game 1, but the following will describe games 2 and 3.

Game #2-St. Mary's topped South Amboy 30-22 at the SA Gym. John Grimes fired in 15 points to lead SM. Joe McGonigle scored 6, Ed Carroll 5, Lou Lagoda 4, and Walling did not score. Ansel Morriss topped SA with 9 points, followed by Fox 6, Milt Newmark 3, Bill Kurtz 2, Adams 2. Other

SA players who did not score were Fred Reese, Gene "Jimmy" Dobrzynski, and Angelo Nicorvo.

Game #3-In the deciding Game 3, the Saints prevailed, 35-27, as Ed Carroll and Joe McGonigle scored 9 apiece to pave the way. Ansel Morriss copped game scoring honors with 10 points for SA.

Game 3
St. Mary's 35
Carroll 9 McGonigle 9 Grimes 7 Walling 6 Lagoda 4.
South Amboy 27
Morriss 10 Dobrzynski 6 Fox 4 Kurtz 2 Reese 2 Adams 2 Newmark 1.

Down Memory Lane: A Story of South Amboy, NJ.-The O'Brien/McKeon Brothers

By Bill "Biff" McKeon

Back in 1942 a South Amboy businessman, Aloysius Joseph McKeon formed the McKeon's Boys Club, enabling many South Amboy/Sayreville young boys the opportunity to ignite the spark, for their future endeavors in baseball/basketball. From this group of young boys came the O'Brien twin Brothers, Eddie and Jackie O'Brien, and the McKeon Brothers Bill "Biff," and Jack "Trader Jack" McKeon.

The O'Brien Brothers would continue their baseball/basketball careers with St. Mary's High School South Amboy, NJ, when after graduating were offered scholarships to Seattle University, where Jackie "Shots" O'Brien would become the first college basketball player to score over 1,000 points in (1) basketball season. The story is even better considering that Jackie O'Brien was only 5'9" and played center, where he had the unique ability to jump/leap into a shooting position, and stay/float at this level before descending, which allowed him to shoot over players whose height was 6' 5" plus. Eddie/Jackie O'Brien, who played baseball and basketball at Seattle University, upon graduation signed a professional baseball contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, becoming Major League Baseball players. Before achieving major league status the O'Brien brothers played baseball for St. Mary's HS, South Amboy All Stars (New Jersey under 18 year olds amateur champs that qualified for the AAABA Johnstown, PA. Tournament), South Amboy Briggs Semi Pro (New Jersey/New York Regional Baseball Champs qualifying for the Wichita, KS. National Tournament), South Amboy City League Baseball Champs-Jerome's Tavern, Seattle University.

The McKeon Brothers (Bill/Jack) also played basketball/baseball for St. Mary's HS (Eagles), where both were selected/honored to be named to the New Jersey All-State High School Baseball Team, whereupon they also played baseball for the South Amboy All Stars, SA Briggs Baseball Team, Jerome's Tavern. Jack McKeon accepted a baseball scholarship to Holy Cross College where he attended for (1) year before signing a professional baseball contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. Jack would at the young age of 19 while playing for the Greenville Pirates in the Alabama State Professional Baseball League assume the role of Interim Manager for the 1949 Baseball season. Jack McKeon after winning over 1,000 minor league games would later become the Major League Manager for the Kansas City Royals/ Cincinnati Reds/ Oakland Athletics/ San Diego Padres/Florida Marlins, leading the Florida Marlins to the 2003 World Series Championship. Jack McKeon was also the San Diego Padres General Manager guiding them to the 1984

National League Championship. He was honored in being named the Major League Manager of the Year several times. Jack McKeon is the only Professional Baseball Manager to win over 1,000 Minor League and 1,000 Major League games. Jack also coach the U.S. Air Force Sampson N.Y. baseball team to the United States Air Force Championship.

Bill "Biff" McKeon selected a different road after graduating from St. Mary's HS. where he was selected to NJ. All-State Baseball Teams in 1949 and 1950, and continued the McKeon tradition of playing baseball for the SA All Stars/SA Briggs/Jerome Tavern teams. Bill signed a Professional Baseball contract with Boston Braves organization playing for the Welch, WV. Miners, winning the 1952 Championship, and being selected on the 1952 Appalachian League All-Star Team. Bill "Biff" in 1955 was the runner-up for the Most Valuable Baseball Player in Europe (Stars/Stripes Military Newspaper), after coaching the team to the US. Army European Championship.

Both the O'Brien Brothers Eddie/Jackie, and the McKeon Brothers Bill/Jack were honored in being named to their St. Mary' High School Athletic Hall of Fame, as well as the prestigious (AAABA) All-American Amateur Baseball Association Hall of Fame. Eddie/Jackie O'Brien are Seattle U. grads, while Jack "Trader Jack" McKeon is an Elon University grad, and Bill "Biff" McKeon is a Seton Hall University graduate.

Edward (Eddie) O'Brien is now playing for Our Lord's Heaven Basketball/Baseball League.

Eddie/Jackie O'Brien stayed in Seattle, Washington after their college graduation, and they married local girls whereas, the McKeon brothers Jack, who was playing in Burlington, North Carolina married one of Burlington's beautiful girls Carol Insley, and they now reside in Elon Village, NC. Bill " Biff " after returning from the US. Army in 1956, played for the Evansville Braves (1956/57 Three I League Champs) Indiana, where he met and married one of Evansville's pearls Betty Jean Unfried, who was the sister of Evansville Braves (1955/56) left fielder/ Evansville College football star quarterback Joe Unfried.

South Amboy, New Jersey the hub of talented baseball in the 1940's early 1950's, opened the door for the O'Brien/McKeon Brothers. God Bless and THANK YOU to the following who helped the brothers obtain their many accomplishments; Jerry Connors, George Spiecker, Bob Hennessey, Leo Kedzierski, Ray Stockton, Buddy Larkin, Bob/ Roy Bennett, Vince Abbatiello, and Coaches Chet Meinzer, Rickie/Smokey Ryan, Charlie Eppinger.

YMCA ANNOUNCES DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge and South Amboy has announced that it is offering a Diabetes Prevention Program to people who are at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes. The program helps individuals adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles by eating healthier, increasing physical activity and losing a modest amount of weight in order to reduce their chances of developing the disease.

The program is a 12-month lifestyle behavior intervention with 25 sessions delivered over the course of one year. The group meets at the Edison YMCA from 6:30

PM to 7:30 PM, starting Tuesday, March 19th, 2019 and ends on March 17th, 2020.

Participants should check with their health insurance provider as the program may be a covered expense. Participants may also be eligible for YMCA financial assistance. Participants do not need to be members of the Y to enroll.

For more information about the program, financial assistance, or to see if you qualify, contact the Diabetes Prevention Program's Program Coordinator, Joyce Madee, at 732-316-8213 or email her at ydpp@ymcaofmewsa.org

Actors Who Went From TV To Star In Movies

By Debbie Carling

Leonardo DeCaprio-Growing Pains... The Aviator; Johnny Depp-21 Jump Street...Pirates of the Caribbean; Denzell Washington-Hill St. Blues...John Q...Tom Hanks-Bosom Buddies...Forest Gump; Danny DeVito-Taxi...Throw Mama From The Train; Christopher Lloyd-Taxi...Back To The Future; Ron Howard-The Andy Griffith Show...American Graffiti; Jackie Gleason-The Honeymooners...The Hustler; Art Carney-The Honeymooners...Harry and

Tonto; Jennifer Aniston-Friends...Horrible Bosses; George Clooney-Facts of Life... Ocean's Eleven; John Travolta-Welcome Back Cotter...Saturday Night Fever; Steve Carell-The Office...40-Year Old Virgin; Alan Alda-MASH...What Women Want; Michael J. Fox-Family Ties...Back To The Future; Matthew Perry-Friends...Fools Rush In; Ted Dansen-Cheers...Three Men and a Baby; Tom Selleck-Magnum P.I...Mr. Baseball.



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Champions!



Congratulations to the Sure-Hit Home Improvements men's softball team from South Amboy for winning the Monroe Twp. Sunday Morning Softball Championship. This is the 6th consecutive year that the team has captured the crown by winning 2 straight in the best of 3 series. The games were played at the Thompson Park complex in Monroe Twp. on November 11th. The champs are pictured as follows: Top row (l-r) Joe Sepelyak, Christian Geant, Tim Adams, Vincent Spitaletto, Dave Masi, Team sponsor-Thomas Ryan, Matt Ryan with son Matthew. Bottom row (l-r) Joe Smith, Brian DeJoy, Jim Abbatiello, Brian Seres, Brian Clarke.



Congratulations to the Sure-Hit Home Improvements men's softball team from South Amboy for winning the Greater Middlesex County Fall Weekday Championship. This Sure-Hit team went undefeated in their quest to capture the crown. The games were played at the Middlesex County Warren Park Complex in Woodbridge on November 20th. The champs are pictured as follows: Top row (l-r) Randy Grider, Kevin Rivera, Matt Ryan with son Matthew, Justin Amedeo, Team sponsor-Thomas Ryan, Rich Guerra, Dave Hockaday, Christian Geant, Dave Masi, Greg Sekac. Bottom row (l-r) Joe Cesaro, Joe Sepelyak, Brian DeJoy, Jim Abbatiello.



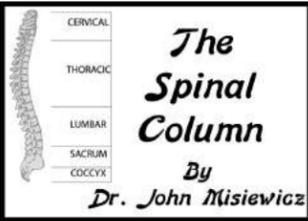
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Dorland's Medical Dictionary defines health as "a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." Our experience has shown that the majority of people in the world do not know what health really is. Most are prepared to link up symptoms to health in that if they "feel well," they are healthy and if they are in pain, or have some kind of symptoms, they are sick. It is our job to make you understand the meaning of true health.

Chiropractors understand that most Americans are brought up in a household that follows the "medical model". It is our desire to educate you so that you will question your own past beliefs about health and search for the truth. The truth to us (chiropractors) seems quite evident. To the extent that your body is able to have a properly functioning nervous system without interference, that is the extent that you are healthy. Remembering that your nervous system controls every single function of the body. In other words, symptoms are your body's alarm system, designed to inform you that you have some form of nerve interference that the body is not able to deal with on its own.

The avenue through which the body does all of this miraculous work is through the nervous system; it is the "electrical system" that joins the body together as a whole. The inborn wisdom of your body completes all of the tasks necessary to sustain life by using the nervous system to communicate with every cell in your body. No cell in your body is just floating around with its own ideas and how it wants to behave. This organization in the body is doing precise, that every cell functions in harmony with the ones around it in order to complete specific tasks. This design allows for no independent action.

We have discovered that if our nervous systems aren't expressing themselves perfectly, then our bodies will be functioning at less than one hundred percent. Enjoying health seems to be perceived by most as a privilege that is saved for the fortunate few, when in reality it should be experienced by the vast majority. I want you to realize that from this day forth, it is time to treat your health as the utmost priority, whether you are one minute old, or on hundred years old. We all only get one turn at life. It is my sincere desire to have you live that life with one hundred percent health. By eating correctly, exercising, getting enough sleep, drinking plenty of water, keeping your spine in correct alignment, and nervous system functioning, you will enjoy the greatest gift of all...you are as healthy as you're designed to be.

5 Bombers Selected To First Team

Five standout members of the Sayreville Bombers championship football team were selected to the Home News Tribune's All-Greater Middlesex Conference first team. The first team choices were: offense-quarterback Mark Whitford, senior athlete-Connor Holmes, senior athlete-Jacari Carter. Chosen for defense: defensive lineman-Benedict Arthur, linebacker-Conner Anthony. Congratulations to all on a stellar season!

Senior Trip to the River Lady

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to the River Lady, a delightful luncheon cruise on July 30, 2019. The price of the trip is \$120 which includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, 2 1/2 hour cruise with a full historical commentary and a delectable lunch, and all taxes and gratuities, and snacks on the bus. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Finita at 732-721-5081.



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Grounding Yourself in the "Pleasant Little City" Part 1

By Retired Colonel Dan Cheeseman

I was asked to write this article many years ago by The SA Times publisher, Tom Burkard. This is my story telling the lessons in life for a South Amboy kid, who left in the summer of 1967. The fundamentals in which I was grounded in, from growing up in South Amboy (SA) stayed with me for life. This is about my parents, my nuns and priests, my family, my friends, not Dan – it's about SA and how it made Dan be what he is!

The Early Years- I am the son of Patricia and Frank Cheeseman. I grew up in South Amboy and was raised at 226 John St. It was a great and a safe place to grow up. My dad "Trip", was a great athlete, and WW2 Navy Combat Vet. My mom was one of the smartest people I ever knew, and she worked on Wall St in a legal office during WW2. They were devout Catholics and lived the "church." There were 5 of us- Dan, Bill, Fran, Frank and Mary. Our John Street address was the home of my Cheeseman grandparents, Frank Sr. and Mary. We all have done great things. I grew up to go to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), on to flying B-52s and C-130's and finished as a Colonel in the Minnesota Air National Guard (MNANG), and as Chief Engineer on US Space projects. Bill was grounded in SA and became a police officer and detective. Fran went to St Mary's and St. Elizabeth's,

and on to DuPont where she became a group president. Frank followed me to USAFA and flew A-10's, and is now a captain for United Airlines. Mary the youngest, went to St. Mary's, on to St Elizabeth's, and is now a head nurse at a shore hospital. All five of us owe our success to mom and dad, and to many others from the Pleasant Little City that impacted life in America the last 50 years. Recently, I have been involved in communicating with my classmates at St Mary's. When I look at my classmates we had many success stories – business leaders, doctors, teachers, lawyers. Every one of us had an impact on society. Why is that? Boldly I am going to say it was the fundamentals of St Mary's, the love of our parents and the Pleasant Little City that cared about kids. Our civic leaders like Doc O'Leary, Col Dave Kelly, Monsignor Sullivan, Fred Henry, Doctor Hoffman all cared about all the kids in SA. I must mention the Fire Dept., First Aid, Police and the Knights, etc.

St Mary's and the Sisters of Mercy and the lay teachers had a profound effect on me.

Learned to Study – going to a place like the USAFA was going to be challenge for me. But in 9th Grade, I decided I was going to be a Combat Pilot. I read stories of WW2 Aces, Gen. Jimmy Stuart, Billy Mitchell,

Robin Olds. Little did I know that Gen. Olds would be my Commandant at USAFA! In grade school, I was not a great student, nor the brightest, but a student that studied and studied, and had a high C low B average. I could never crack the egg to excellence, which is what I needed for the USAFA. Taking the tests for college, I was just a little low, and a miracle happened. Sister Thomas Marie O'Leary, a relative, figured out I had a reading problem. I was reversing letters, reading past words. Sister David from St Mary's worked with me and "boom" the world lighted up, now I absorbed all the words into my brain. Those were the days before special education. Just 1 on 1 with teachers that cared. I had an Aunt Marge who was part of our extended family, and taught me how to memorize which is critical for a USAFA environment and flying.

On To U.S. Air Force Academy

Discipline at St Mary's was important. When I was a Doolie cadet at USAFA, a first classman was training me. After about 30 minutes he said "Cheeseman had enough? – I said no sir. I went to St Mary's. He cracked, not I, and he went on to be a 3 star general and we were friends for a long time.

So the Sisters of Mercy of South Amboy had a profound effect on me. Science and Math!

Yearning to learn and impact of science—From my early years I had a quest to learn about science and engineering. I would build weather stations, small telescopes and small flyable airplanes, rockets. I had radios listening to the approach at Newark airport and could not get enough. We had great science and math instructors at St Mary's including Sister Amadeo, Sister Celeste, Sister Theodore, Sister Monica Marie, Sister Dominic. When I went to Air Force, I validated 2 years of math and basic physics and chemistry. Downside, I went right into 3rd Class work. Good and bad. But the nuns gave me a basis of learning that served me well. **End Of Part 1 Part 2 Coming in February issue!**



Colonel Dan Cheeseman



One of many planes flown by Col. Cheeseman

Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

It's the Weeblemeister again wishing all of you a great fishing year for 2019. Our fishing picture looks like this. Winter Flounder season is closed until March, so is Striped Bass fishing in all bays and rivers. It was just about nonexistent in Raritan Bay. The ocean is open to Bass fishing. At LBI and Island Beach, quite a few short Bass are being caught on jigs and lures. There are very few keepers. Blackfish on the party boats is good at time when the boats can get out. Some Blackfish are big, ranging from 10 to 14 pounds. There are Ling at the Mud Hole and an occasional Cod. There are hardly any Mackerel or Whiting. As of now, no new regulations have been put out for the Fluke quota for New Jersey. No ove fishing was recorded for 2018. So maybe we may get a break in the total catch for 2019?

Fresh Water

Holdover Rainbow Trout are available when the rain lets up and you can still fish for Trout. Rain every few days keeps the water level up high making fishing difficult, especially for stream fishing. So I went down to Spring Lake one Saturday to try my luck in mid December. I fished the whole lake casting lures. I missed one and caught one Rainbow about 15 inches. I saw one angler with his limit of 4 trout all about 15 to 16 inches. Other than that, the heavy rains are ruining just about everything.



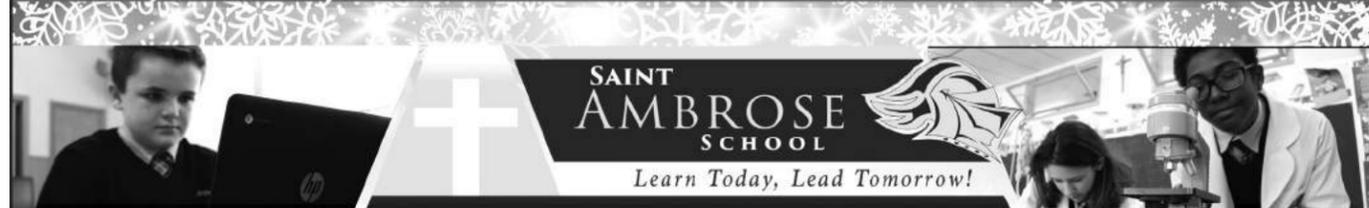
Did You Know?

Former Morgan resident and Sayreville War Memorial HS graduate Rusty Thomsen was one of the youngest bowlers ever inducted into the New Jersey State Bowling Hall of Fame? Rusty was the Middlesex County boys bowling champion in 1998 for Sayreville, and what's amazing about that feat was the Bombers did not have an official bowling team at the time! Congratulations, Rusty!

Senior Trip to Christmas Lights in Dyker Heights

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to the Christmas Lights in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn NY. On Friday, December 6, 2019. The price of the trip is \$145.00 which includes bus transportation, bus gratuity, dinner at Tommaso Restaurant, guided tour of the Dyker Heights Neighborhood, all taxes and gratuities. For further information or to reserve a seat please call Finita at 732-721-5081.

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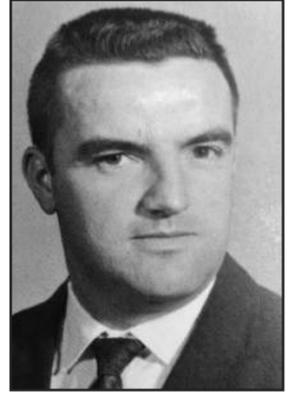
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Robert Bloodgood



Formerly of South Amboy, Robert Bloodgood, 80 passed away, surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday January 8, 2019. Bob was born in South Amboy, NJ. After graduation from the South Amboy School District, and receiving his BA and MA in education, he embraced a career as Industrial Arts teacher, Principal and Superintendent of his beloved Alma Mater.

At Hoffman HS, he was a standout athlete, and married his high school sweetheart, Betty Lou. Together they had four children, enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Bob had a deep respect for the Atlantic Ocean where he boated, fished and resided beachfront.

Bob was a master woodworker, and a lifelong Yankees fan. As an avid golfer Bob enjoyed numerous courses during his travels, however, Pelican Sound, Estero Florida where he enjoyed his retired years golfing with his many friends was dearest to his heart.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Betty Lou, their children Glenn, Denise, (Gerald), Sharon, Mark (Victoria) and 13 grandchildren. "Children are the only form of immortality that we can be sure of" - Peter Ustinov

Mark Wolenski



Mark Wolenski, 62 of Perth Amboy, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at his residence.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to the Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, 419 Barclay Street, Perth Amboy.

Mark was employed by the South Amboy Board of Education in the Facilities Maintenance Department. Mark was an avid reader and was always willing to lend his technical expertise to any situation. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Trip to Grounds for Sculpture

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton New Jersey. The cost of the trip which is \$145 includes a guided tour of the grounds with individual time on your own to enjoy, luncheon at the Rat's Restaurant, bus transportation, bus gratuity, and snacks on the bus. For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Finita at 732-721-5081.

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.S..



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Quinlan Wins WWW.? and Where in NJ Titles

Dennis Quinlan is the winner of the 2018 WWW.? contest by getting all 12 monthly pictures and a perfect 7 points on our new bonus addition for 19 out of a possible 19 points! He also got 10 out of 12 of The Where in NJ photos to top all of our readers.



He may not live around here anymore, but he is originally from South Amboy, really knows the area, and can't wait each month until The SA Times is posted up online at our www.thesatimes.com website. Dennis enjoys the local news, but his favorite monthly feature is the WWW.? Mystery Photo Contest. For a guy that's been out of the South Amboy-Sayreville area for almost 7 years, and living in Tennessee, he has a great memory and is usually one of the first contestants to submit his answer, and was 100% correct for 2018.

Quinlan said that "In Tennessee, I see the farms and mountains from my yard, but always think about South Amboy. I still think about it as home, and think about the old days, growing up in the 60's and 70's, playing Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball, and joining the Enterprise Hook & Ladder Fire Department in 1979, where I was a member until the early 90's." Dennis was a Lieutenant in 1982 & 1983, and Captain in 1984. I read The SA Times from cover to cover to see what's going on in town, and really enjoy the old sports stories, and especially enjoyed the feature nostalgic article from a few years

Champions Through The Years

2008-Marian Mills 2009-W. Tom Kross 2010-W. Tom Kross 2011-W. Tom Kross 2012-Co-Champs-Pat & Bill Scully; Peggy Yuhas 2013-Co-Champs-Pat & Bill Scully; W. Tom Kross 2014-Tri-Champs-Pat & Bill Scully; Lisa Grankowski; Joan Fulham 2015-Multi-Champs-W. Tom Kross; Pat & Bill Scully; Lisa Grankowski; Joan

ago about Summertime In South Amboy."

Dennis grew up in South Amboy, and moved to Manasquan, NJ in 2012, after retiring from the Middlesex County Parks Dept. following 25 years of service. A huge New York Yankee fan, who idolized Thurman Munson, Quinlan attributes his Photo Contest success because "I spent a lot of time around town in South Amboy, and riding around in Sayreville when I worked for the Middlesex County Road Dept. out of Sayreville, and got to see most of the buildings and businesses in both towns."

How does it feel to be the champion for 2018, Dennis? "It feels good to win the title. Sometimes the photos are easy to identify, and other times more difficult. The November picture of Frank's Automotive Service was a little tricky and the hardest one of the year.

The battle for the crown was not an easy one for Quinlan, as 5 other contestants missed tying him by 1 point. Tied for 2nd place with 18 points was Lisa Grankowski, Marie & Ed English, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, and Steve Laskiewicz. The rest of the Top 21 contestants was as follows: W. Tom Kross 17, Peggy & Steve Yuhas 17, Chuck Pickard 16, Elizabeth Leveille 16, Dennis & Kathy O'Leary 16, Pat & Bill Scully 15, Jim Malkiewicz 13, Gerry Sherry 13, Jack & Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss 13, Leon Credico 12, Nancy Berry 11, Joan Fulham 11, Estelle Pluskota 10, Joan Gorczyca 10, Mary Agnes Morris 10. There were many contestants who had 1-9 answers correct. Congratulations to all who participated in our WWW.? Mystery Photo Contest, and best of luck in 2019!

Fulham; Mary Agnes Morris; Don Zrebiec 2016-Multi-Champs-W. Tom Kross; Pat & Bill Scully; Lisa Grankowski; Joan Fulham; Mary Agnes Morris; Elizabeth Leveille; Gerry Sherry; Walter Starzec Jr.; Gary Feret 2017-Pat & Bill Scully, 2018-Dennis Quinlan.

Where in New Jersey?



This months Where in NJ could hold your your fortunes. Send your answers to satimes@aol.com by February 11th. Good luck!

December Information Where in New Jersey?

By Brian & Phyllis Stratton

The Where in NJ for December was the Shark River Inlet Bridge located in Belmar. Shark River Draw is a moveable bridge over the Shark River Inlet, an inlet at the mouth of the Shark River in the towns of Belmar and Avon-by-the-Sea Monmouth County, New Jersey United States just west of the Atlantic Ocean.

The bascule bridge carries NJ Transit Rail Operations North Jersey Coast Line between the Bradley Beach and Belmar stations. The bridge was built in 1937 by the New York and Long Branch Railroad. It underwent major rehabilitation in 2013-2014.

Where in NJ winners for December were Marie English, Ed English, Marlene Letwenski, Dennis Quinlan, Jack & Keith Piskorski and Lorraine Krauss, Pat & Bill



December - Where in New Jersey?
Shark River Draw Bridge



Scully, Dane Colburn, Stephen Laskiewicz, Mark Moniello, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Elizabeth Leveille, Gary Feret, An incorrect answer said it was the Morgan Bridge.

Letters To The Editor

Love the November Paper!

That is the Hand Car Wash & Detailing Center on Rt. 35. I went there and used the coupon in the paper, and got the Special for half price. Great Job! A full hand wash service & detail & the owner was very friendly.

Dennis O'Leary
Sayreville



Tom,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I very much recall the game you mentioned last month in your monthly column "T.H.E. Game." I think Hoffman got out to a 9-0 lead; the gym was packed, and it got hot, although it was cold outside. The atmosphere was intense. The rivalry between Hoffman and St. Mary's was great. Everyone knew each other. While the teams played hard, they did not hate each other, or

use a lot of cheap or dirty play. Remember how we used to sit at the top of the bleachers behind the visitors bench? It was generally you, me, Brian Conlon, Ed McKavanagh sometimes Jimmy Keays, Mike Holovacko Richie Gran and Jim Sorrentino would sit with us at times.

After the game, I vividly recall standing outside the gym as people were coming out. Half were happy, and half were sad, but not angry. I recall saying that the Perth Amboy Evening News would put this game on the front page. Then, someone came up and said "Brian Taylor scored 84 points tonight over at Perth Amboy." And, I quickly said, "We'll be lucky if they put our game in a little box on the sports page."

"Pistol" Pete McIntyre
(Formerly of Morgan)
St. Mary's HS Class of '69

WWW.?



Do you know what this structure is? Send your answer in to: thesatimes@aol.com. Good luck! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

WWW.? Winners For December

What a great year we have had our December winners are Pat & Bill Scully, Leon Credico, W Tom Kross, Marlene Letwenski, Marie English, Ed English, Dennis O'Leary, Gerry Sherry, George F. Kern III, Dennis Quinlan, Joan Gorczyca, Chuck Pickard, Joan Fulham, Dane

Colburn, Mark Moniello, Lisa Grankowski, Mary Agnes Morris, Gary Feret, Stephen Laskiewicz, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Elizabeth Leveille, Bogey Maslowski.

Bogey recalled that "My father Ed Maslowski built the place in 1976, and it was called Stanley's Car Wash."



December-WWW.?
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Obituaries

Bello, Stevie, 25, of Parlin died on Jan. 4.
 Bello, Samuel, 90, of Parlin died on Jan. 5.
 Blazas, Charles "Chip," 64, of Parlin died on Dec. 20.
 Bloodgood, Robert "Bob," 80, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 8.
 Cannon, Glenn J., 61, of Parlin died on Dec. 16.
 Caputo, Philip J., 77, of South Amboy died on Jan. 8.
 Ciecko, Rita D. "Lefty" Kulesa, 82, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 26.
 Cottrell, Gary T., 65, of South Amboy died on Jan. 11.
 Cuddihy, Joseph, 96, of Sayreville died on Dec. 30.
 Curran, Janet N. Trinley, 88, formerly of South Amboy died on July 26, 2018.
 De Gisi, Joyce, 89, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29.
 De Lieto, Frank, 88, of South Amboy died on Dec. 15.
 Dowdell, Bryan P., 57, of Parlin died on Dec. 23.
 Gecek, Matthew, 38, of Sayreville died on Dec. 26.
 Gehrum, Marian, 61, of Sayreville died on Dec. 4.
 Gordon, Michael F., 65, of South Amboy died on Jan. 10.
 Halperin, Jean M. Corvino, 93, of South Amboy died on Dec. 29.
 Juliano, Denise A., 55, of Parlin died on Dec. 14.
 Kenny, Ann "Nancy" O'Connor, 86, of South Amboy died on Dec. 17.
 Koprowicz, Maria "Boska," 73, of Parlin died on Dec. 27.
 La Vecchia, Sebastian M., 91, of Sayreville died on Jan. 10.
 Litarowich, Maria, 79, of Parlin died on Dec. 12.
 Lowe, Wendell E., 84, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 14.
 McGuire, Arlene 77, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 4.
 Mickiewicz, Pauline, 93, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 4.
 Mitsock, Thomas E., 95, of Parlin died on Dec. 22.
 Nardone, Edward, 86, formerly of Parlin died on Dec. 31.
 Raimo, Theresa, 87, of Sayreville died on Dec. 15.
 Remlinger, Gary C., 73, of Parlin died on Jan. 1.
 Stefani, Paul S., 65, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 17.
 Stricker, Gerald "Jerry," 67, of South Amboy died on Dec. 24.
 Wolenski, Mark, 62 of Perth Amboy died on Jan. 10.

Happy Birthday In Heaven!



In loving memory of
Ronald S. Gorczyca
 Jan. 22, 1934
 June 27, 2005

*We think of you in silence
 We often speak your name
 But all we have are memories
 And your picture in a frame
 Your resting place we visit
 And put flowers there with care
 But no one knows the heartache,
 As we turn and leave you there
 Not a day goes by
 That you are not in our thoughts.*
Wife Marge, Children & Grandchildren

Thomas E. Mitsock

Thomas E. Mitsock, age 95 of the Parlin section of Sayreville passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 22nd at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge. Born in Freeland, PA he has resided in Parlin for 63 years. Before his retirement in 1987, Thomas was employed as an assembly line worker for General Motors in Linden for 33 years. He was a US Army Veteran serving in WWII, a member of the St Stans Seniors and the Sayreville Seniors Thursday Club and Carving Club.

He is predeceased by his parents John and Anna and his siblings John, Joseph

and Margaret Martishek. Surviving are his beloved wife of 72 years, Pauline Yurish Mitsock, his children and their spouses Thomas Jr and Kathleen Mitsock of Newport, NC, John Mitsock and Sally Hess of Richmond, VA and Melanie and Jeffrey Post of Flemington, his grandchildren and their spouses Damian and Jennifer Mitsock and Justine and Jeffrey Pepe, his great-grandchildren Logan, Morgan, Cameron, Sophia and Fiona, his brother Michael of Plains, PA and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home, 15 Cherry

Lane, Parlin with a Mass at St Bernadette RC Church in Parlin. Burial was at Holy Cross Burial Park in East Brunswick.

Memorial donations may be made in Thomas' name to Fisher House Foundation (Fisherhouse.org), 12300 Twinbrook Pkwy, Suite 410, Rockville, MD, 20852.

Letters of condolence, may be found at www.spezzifuneralhome.com



PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER
 (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.



In Memoriam



Ann "Nancy" Kenny, 86, of South Amboy died on Dec. 17. Prior to retiring, she worked at National Lead, DuPont, and Foodtown. Paul Stefani, 65, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 17. He was the former owner of Sunnyside Up Diner in Sayreville. Thomas Mitsock, 95, of Parlin died on Dec. 22. He was a great guy, and World War II veteran, in addition to being an active member of St. Stan's Seniors and Sayreville Seniors Thursday Club, and Caring Club. Gerald "Jerry" Stricker, 67, of South Amboy died on Dec. 24. He was a pipefitter at DuPont before retiring. Maria "Boska" Kaprowicz, 73, of Parlin died on

Dec. 27. She and her husband John owned and operated Royal Bakery in Parlin for 40 years, and her son "Ziggy" worked there many years until passing away. Maria was a wonderful lady, who always donated her time and talent to others in the community, including churches, schools, centers, police stations, and neighbors. She was Past President of ZPA in Perth Amboy, and as President of the United Poles of America, welcomed many dignitaries including President Ronald Regan and Pope John Paul II. In addition, she once served as Middlesex County's Grand Marshal in the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City.

Gary Cottrell

Gary T. Cottrell, 65, of South Amboy died on Friday January 11, 2019 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. Before retiring he was employed as a paramedic at JFK Medical Center, Edison. A veteran of the U.S. Navy he was a member of American Legion Post 62, South Amboy. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, South Amboy as well as Boy Scout Troop 91, Cub Pack 91 and the St. Stephen's Masonic Lodge #63, South Amboy. He was also an active EMT with the South Amboy First Aid Squad. Son of the late Thomas and Shirley Renigar Cottrell he is survived by his wife Christine Randall Cottrell; his daughters



Jacquelyn Oshman of South Amboy and Kimberly Barna and her husband Gregory of South Amboy; his sisters Betsy Cottrell and Gloria Pulliam of Georgia; his grandchildren Scott, Gavin, Gregory and Alyssa and his sisters-in-law Kathy Nemeth and her husband Lou and Beverly Straffi and her husband Ben. Funeral services were held on Wednesday January 16, 2019 at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. Donations may be made to the South Amboy First Aid Squad, PO Box 328, South Amboy, NJ 08879 or the Camp Dill Foundation, 3 Strek Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can achieve my goal, you who gave me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life are with me, I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal joy and thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. M.S.

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.S.

George Ernest Scharpf 78

Amboy Bank Chairman/President and CEO

George Ernest Scharpf passed peacefully on Friday, January 4, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. He will be remembered for his generosity, leadership and interest in people.

He led by example—at the bank, in the community and at home. His accomplishments as CEO of Amboy Bank were only surpassed by his success as a father and husband. He wanted to win—but never at the expense of his deeply-held values of honesty, integrity, loyalty, and a sense of fair-play. For over 50 years at Amboy, he was available to clients in good times, and more importantly, in tough times. Clients appreciated his advice, but valued his old-school banker style even more—when you left a meeting with George, you knew where you stood, and the terms of the deal were set. Like his father, his word was his bond.

Born in St. Vincent Hospital in New York City in 1940, George was one of four children of Ernest and Theresa Scharpf. He was raised in Queens, NY, loved music and math and at one point was a Brooklyn ballroom dance champion. He attended LaSalle Academy, which he would later return to as a member of the Board of Trustees.

George graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1962 and received his MBA in 1969 from New York University.

He started his career at Price Waterhouse & Company as a Public Accountant followed by serving in the United States Army as a 1st lieutenant. While stationed in Germany in 1965, he met his wife, Patricia Murtagh. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the



Army Reserves in 1990.

George began his Amboy career in 1969 becoming a Director of Amboy Bank in 1979 and President and Chief Executive Officer in 1981. In 1995 he was elected Chairman of the Board. Over the 50 year span he led the growth of the bank from \$39 million to \$2.3 billion in assets. He was known as an innovator in banking with a great passion for the industry. His banking and leadership style reflected his belief in people and giving them a chance to meet their full potential. George thought his greatest success was not the company he built, but the employees and

people in his community that he helped.

Outside of Amboy, George served on numerous boards including the University of Notre Dame's Advisory Council for the Mendoza College of Business since 2004. He held leadership positions in the banking industry including Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, NJ Banking Association, and American Banking Association.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Murtagh Scharpf, sister Margarite DiSepio (Joe), three children: Gregory (Ashley), Eric (Colleen), Elizabeth (Sarita), four grandchildren, and hundreds of people he helped through a lifetime of service as a community banker.

A private memorial is planned in the future. For condolences, please visit <https://tributes.com/georgescharpf>.

In lieu of flowers, donations to La Salle Academy <https://lasalleacademy.org/> 215 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10003 would be appreciated.

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*As New Year Dawns May It Lead You
To The Path Of Beautiful Tomorrows.*

*I Wish You Happiness And
Blessings Of The New Year.*

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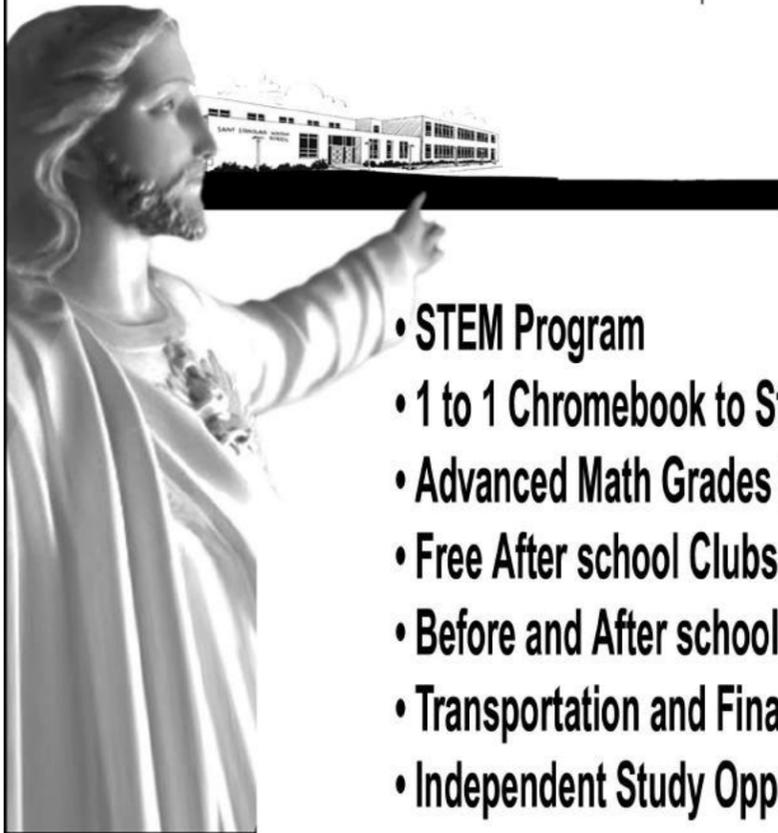
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The three wise men bring gifts to the "Baby Jesus" at the Christmas Play at St. Stan's School.



Fifth grade student, Sophia Krupinski (right), reaches high to place her ornament on the Jesse Tree at St. Stan's School.



Rev. Kenneth Murphy presents the newly installed altar servers for St. Stan's Church.



First grade student, Gianna Delgado talks intensely to Santa during the HSA Christmas breakfast at St. Stan's School.



*St. Stan's School held a toy drive for the Helping Hands Ministry in Perth Amboy. Pictured is the third grade class who helped bring the toys to the front lobby for pick up.
Photo credit: Rosanda Grau*