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# The South Amboy/Sayreville **TIMES**

This issue is dedicated to

- \*Yvonne Coyle
- \*Joseph Kolakowski
- \*Richard Moran
- \*Carmen F. Spezzi Sr.
- \*Elaine Zonak



June 29, 2024

The "Good News" Newspaper

Vol. 33 Issue 9

## Tribute To A Dear Friend & Pillar In Our Community

By Clem Skarzynski



**Carmen F. Spezzi Sr.**  
October 4, 1951 - May 21, 2024

This tribute, which should've been the easiest one I've ever written, has become the hardest!

Even, lying in bed at nite, when your thoughts are their clearest and concise and memories are pouring out, it's still an unexpected challenge! Then it hit me! Where and how do you begin to chronicle a person with such God given qualities? "LOVE"... the key word in living life as God wants us to! And, Carmen F. Spezzi Sr. had it working, all his life..Friendship, Help, compassion, understanding, a smile, a joke, Listening, offering his thoughts to whoever needed them, and the most Important with all love means.. He never judged! He left that to God. Carmen was there for everyone in his community and beyond, and I the writer, saw these qualities in him when we were "Kids"..Oh the stories I had to "omit" here of our times together at Spezzi's Pizza Galleria, when every once in

*Continued on page 22*



Sister Mary Gomolka recently received the Legacy Award as a founding member of the Sister Rose Thering Education in Jewish-Christian Studies. The grand gala was held at Seton Hall University. Congratulations to Sister Mary, who is a South Amboy native! God Bless! (Photo/info courtesy of Al & Shelly Gomolka)

## Sayreville Election Results

**Sayreville Borough Council**

Democrats-Mary Novak 1,692 votes, Vincent Conti 1,420.

Republicans-Stanley Synarski 1,334, Christina Sitaca 1,308. (Sitaca will replace Christian Onuoha who will not be running in November.

Novak and Conti will be facing Synarski and Sitaca in the November election.

## South Amboy Election Results

**Council Ward 1**

Democrats-Lawrence "Larry" Lenahan 196 votes, Brian McLaughlin 110.

**Council Ward 2**

Democrat-Thomas Reilly 134  
Republican-none

**Council Ward 3**

Democrat-Zusette Dato 209  
Republican-none.



South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 Past Grand Knights are pictured with Chaplain Rev. Fr. Stanley Gromadzki. (L-R) Ken Smetana, Jack Mieczkowski, Ray Suchcicki, Gary Lattanzi, Jordan Drevelus, Marty Lampart, and Les Wilson. (Photo/info by Nancy Smetana)

## Knights Celebrate 125 Years in South Amboy

By Jordan Drevelus

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 has been a part of the South Amboy Community for so long that it may come as a shock that they have been present in the community for as long as they have. After 125 years, the Knights decided to throw a formal Mass, dinner and reception which took place on Sunday, May 19th, 2024, at Sacred Heart Church. Over 100 people gathered in celebration following the Mass which was celebrated by chaplain Rev. Fr. Stanley Gromadzki of Sacred Heart and Rev. Fr. John Alvarado who is a retired priest that assists the local parishes.

it is the 426th council founded out of all those councils. While others have folded, Council #426 has prospered and become a force for good. The Knights were recognized on their anniversary for all that they do by the City of South Amboy and the House of Representatives of the United States via Hon. Frank Pallone. It was noted that the organization stands for the community through charity, unity, and fraternity in all their community service work which benefits many who live in the South Amboy/Sayreville area. The Knights wish to thank everyone for their support and for the continued opportunity to help the community whenever possible.

Council #426 is one of over 16,000 councils of the Knights of Columbus worldwide. The number 426 indicates that

## Congratulations



Congratulations to Tyler Simko of South Amboy who graduated in May from Harvard University with a PHD where he studied Government and Data Science. He also was awarded for the best Dissertation in Government and a University wide teaching award teaching college students and master students at the Harvard Kennedy School. His PHD was advised by Kosuke Imai, a Professor of Government and Statistics. Tyler previously graduated from Princeton University where he studied Politics, Statistics and Machine Learning. Tyler will soon start as a Professor at the University of Michigan. Tyler was a graduate of South Amboy High School and while attending Princeton University was President of the South Amboy Board of Education. Way to Go Tyler! Much Success in your future endeavors!

## Tuesday Tunes In The Park

Tuesday Tunes In The Park will present Kenny K & The Way at Kennedy Park, Sayreville on July 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The band features Sayreville's own Kenny K and Colie Brice on the keys. Don't miss this show! Come on out and "Get in the Way" with Kenny K & The Way!

## Sayreville Memorial Day Parade



Sgt. Major Robert Bruce of VFW Post 4599 served as Grand Marshal of the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade, along with Grand Marshal Ed Strek (not pictured) of American Legion Post 211.

## St. Mary's HS 50th Reunion

St. Mary's HS Class of 1974 will hold their 50th Reunion on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 6-10 pm at the Gran Centurions in Clark, NJ.

For complete details, contact Mike Klimchak at 908-419-9593 or e-mail at: mfklimchak@yahoo.com

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Staff Sergeant Joseph Szaro, Commander of the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 of South Amboy, is congratulated by New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin on May 24th at Senator Vitale's Veterans Recognition Program; A Grateful Nation Remembers. (Photo Submitted)

## 24th Annual Car Show-Aug. 4th

Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1 at 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, will host their 24th Annual Car Show on Sunday, Aug. 4th with a rain date of Aug. 11th. The spectacular event will take place on Broadway, and admission is FREE to the General Public.

Vehicle Registration and lineup will be held on Broadway by the firehouse. Advanced entry fee is \$5 per vehicle, and day of show entry is \$20. Pre-registration deadline is July 31. Be sure to stop by and taste their firehouse burgers! \$2 Domestic Draft Pints at RTB Lounge for all registered participants (over 21 years old) with wrist band. There will also be raffles & 50/50's;

music by Jukebox Jimmy and Richie the Flash; prizes & giveaways.

Awards & Trophies: Sponsor Award Trophies; Chief's Trophy; Fans Choice of Trophies; Mayor's Trophy. There will be blacktop parking, and also no judging of Vehicles.

For more information and mail registrations to: Mike Toth, 14 Haven Terr., Parlin, NJ 08859. Call Mike at: 908-930-3497 or Email: IndependenceFD@SouthAmboyNJ.gov.

The Antique & Classic Cars Flea Market is fun for the whole family, so don't miss it! Wanted: Car Vendors only! Early entry fee \$20, Day of show \$25.

### 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 -M.G...

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### ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank You St. Jude. -RS, AS, LP, HS, LS, EP, IP

### MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign, if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, tv, picture or receive roses. Must promise publication. M.L...

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

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# TIMES

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- President of South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary in 2004?  
a. Greg Wyzkowski b. Joe Kurzawski c. Lois Morriss
- Sayreville first and only female Mayor who was elected in 1969?  
a. Mary "Peggy" Kerr b. Suzanne "Suzee" Sisk c. Anna Hrabosky
- Commander of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, South Amboy in 1993?  
a. Tom Ust b. Bill "Smokey" Ryan c. Jimmy Jonas
- Grand Marshal of the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade in '14?  
a. Jack Brown b. Henry Wasilewski c. Ed Streck
- Prior to his passing in '04, he was known as "South Amboy's Historian"?  
a. John Gerdanski b. Bill Marshall c. Linda Allisen
- In 2015 was elected Committee Chairman of the Sayreville GOP?  
a. Art Rittenhouse b. David Lewis c. Ken Kreismer
- In '04, where was The Dugout located in South Amboy?  
a. South Stevens Ave. b. North Broadway c. Bordentown Ave.
- In '94, Spotlights Hair Design was located in Parlin. Where?  
a. Main St. b. Pulaski Ave. c. Ernston Rd.
- Where was the South Amboy Jewelry Store located in '14?  
a. Route 35 b. South Pine Ave. c. North Broadway
- Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in 2019?  
a. Rev. Kenneth Murphy b. Msgr. John Richards c. Rev. Casimir Bosinski



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

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**FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY**



For many of us, summer is one of the best times of the year. School is out, our graduating students will be moving on to new and exciting phases of their lives, and there is plenty for all of us to do in our community over the next few months. To all our graduates, I wish you a heartfelt congratulations. As you move forward into the next phase of your education or career, know that your community is proud of you and believes you can accomplish great things with the knowledge you have acquired. Graduation is a time to share your success not only with fellow students, but also with family and friends who have supported you on your academic journey. Remember to enjoy your summer and spend time with them when you can.

Our City has ensured there will be plenty for all of us to enjoy as summer gets underway. The Raritan Bay Waterfront Park will host a series of concerts every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning on June 26. The schedule is as follows: June 26, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (special start time of 7:30 p.m.); July 10, Danny V's 52nd St. Band; July 17, Sounds of the Street; July 24, The Wood Vibrations; July 31, Garden State Groove; August 7, Zydeco a-go-go; August 14, Parkway Soul; August 21, Underwater Airlines; August 28, Perry Brothers.

The South Amboy Arts Alliance will present The Wedding Singer at South Amboy Middle High School on July 25,

26, and 27 at 7:30 pm. We hope to see you there supporting our local thespians and artists.

For younger children, the City is offering a new and expanded Arts Program beginning on July 1 and running until July 26. You can sign up at the South Amboy Senior Center. Financial assistance also is available for qualifying families. Activities include: Dibble Dabble Art Studio, Rizzo's Wildlife, IPlay America, Urban Air, bowling, Rollerskating at Roller magic, First Responders' Day, and a variety of field days and theme days.

Finally, National Night Out returns on Tuesday, August 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the South Amboy Middle High School parking lot. The event will include food, music, and activities.

**Happy Independence Day to all!**

Respectfully  
**Tom Reilly**  
 2nd Ward Councilman  
 City of South Amboy

**Dowdell Library News**

**Drop in to see what summer has brought to the Dowdell Library!**

Come by to see The Kootz Band perform live at the Dowdell library on Tuesday, July 9 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Also, be sure to stop in for the Eyes of the Wild Animal Program on Thursday, July 25 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm to hang out with some cute and cuddly friends.

Parents with Toddlers and Kids! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler/Kids Thursday Play Dates on Thursday July 11 and 18 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at summer programs with Ms. Maryanne on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm for Insect and Bird Crafts, Wooden Airplane crafts and contests, Chalk Art, and Rainbow Cloud Crafts.

Also, don't miss out on Food Explorers with Ms. Maryanne on Monday, July 15 at 1:00 pm. Registration is required!

Don't forget! The Children's Summer Club is occurring from June 1 to August 14. Each kid ages 0-5 who reads 15 books will receive a prize. The child, ages 6-12, who has the most library visits will receive a grand prize.

Kids and Teens! Existing Dungeons & Dragons players will meet on Thursday, July 11 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. If you are a new player looking to join a future session please contact us at comments@dowdell.org.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace for teen programs on Tuesday July 16, 23, and 30 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm for Jeopardy!, Test Kitchen, and Rock Painting.

Also don't miss out on Teen Drop in Video Games on Tuesday, July 2 and 3 and Fridays in July from 1:30 to 3:00 pm and on the last four Mondays in July from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Don't forget! The Teen Summer Club is running from June 1 to August 19. The teen with the most library visits will receive a grand prize!

Adults! Come in for morning programs on Monday, July 8, 15, and 22 from 10:30 to 12:00 pm for Name that Oldies Tune!, Crafty 3D Pens, and Murder Mystery Board Game.

Also, drop in for Crafty 3D Pens on Thursday, July 18 from 6:30 to 7:45.

Stop by for Mah Jong Mondays from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Adults, make sure to enter the weekly raffle every time you check out library materials for an opportunity to win prizes!

The Senior Book Club will be on Monday, July 29 from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Make sure to enter the weekly raffle every time you check out library materials for an opportunity to win prizes!

Coming soon in August! Don't miss out on a chance to Meet Kody the Horse on Monday, August 5 at 5:00 pm sharp! Giveaways will be handed out to the first 100 children! A Celebrity Story Time, fun video, and a new book launch party will also be held for Terri Abbatiello. Also, Family Sports Day will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 pm. Don't forget to wear the gear of your favorite sports team! Stadium snacks will be available. The drawing for the Children's Scooter will take place on August 13! The drawing for the Teen bicycle will take place on August 15! Join us for a Celebrity Story Time and Martial Arts Demonstration featuring the Satori Academy of Martial Arts on Thursday, August 22 at 6:30 pm. The drawing for the Back to School Backpack will take place on August 22!

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in July at 1:00 pm. Additionally, there is a Financial Tips for the Current Economy program occurring on the 1st Tuesday in July at 1:00 pm

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.

Dowdell Library's Summer hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Connect with us on social media.

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## Yearbook-Sayreville 1989

By Tom Burkard

In early September 1988, the Sayreville War Memorial HS (SWMHS) Class of 1989 was returning to its final school year, and probably listening to the cool #1 hit of the day, "Sweet Child O' Mine by Guns N' Roses, which got plenty of airplay. Rita Whitney was the principal and some of the faculty included: Christine Kwiatkowski, Coleen Boyle, Carol McCormack, Kim Enright, Jerry Carney, Robert Cress, Ann Juliano, Leanore Vozza, Peter Vala, Patricia Feltz, Lynn Paul, Patricia Haltli. Student Council members were Jackie Piatek, President, Charlie Del Gatto, VP, Gina Caruso, Sec., J.J. Damato, Treas. Deanna Boll was Senior Class President... Rjat Shah was President of the National Honor Society and also Editor-In-Chief of the school newspaper. Glen Venezio was Editor-In-Chief of the literary magazine. Lisa Stoddard was President of S.A.D.D. and also the Catering Club. Sue Ferraro and Kimberly Stefani were Drum Majorettes for the Sayreville Marching Bomber Band. Some senior class members selected randomly: Sharon Adams, Christopher Balon, Edward Bolk, Jenifer Caso, Karen Chin, Gregg Conlon, Derek Czernikowski, Joseph DeMartino, Aimee Derent, Maryann Dieker, Kelli Diffin, Joseph Denuto, Michelle Doughty, Christine Dunworth, Chris Dzergoski, Michael Elia, Peter Ewtushek, Michael Fioretti, Richard Fingerlin, Bernadette Gabriel, Diane Gallagher, Steve Goldie, Janeen Gondek, Kim Hogaboom, Dorothea Hourihan, Jeffrey Huguenin, Dennis Jacko, Marc Januszak, Michelle Kabara, Brandon Kaboski, Brian Kehoe, Jacquelin Kelly, Hugh Klitzke, Doreen Knable, Deborah Koerner, Michelle Koons, Pamela Kotula, Carol Krzyzkowski, Bryan Kuntne, Renee Kurzawa, Karen Laikowski, Edward Lake, James Leak, Han-Sok Lee, Richard Magielnicki, John Marullo, Stacey Malik, Michael McCormack, Catherine McDermott, Kevin Murtha, Scott Muller, Kelly Nakielny, Debbie Mussara, Todd Pachkowski, Jennifer O'Hara, Deidre Patch, Edward Prysak, Paul Pinaha, Megan Rathbun, Jamal Reynolds, Donald Rolzhausen, Jodi Rosenblum, Melissa Rudowsky, Michael Sheedy, Jose Sola, Tara Scully, Lisa Schaaf, James Spaulding, Edward Stevens, Judy Soltis, Margaret Sumski, Jeffrey Szatkowski, Catherine Turk, Ginger Wistuba, Christine Wong, Jennifer Zrebiec, Kim Zera, Lisa Zak. Big news in '89: The Berlin Wall came down and Communism fell in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, and Romania... Nolan Ryan recorded his 5,000th strikeout... Pete Rose was suspended from baseball for gambling... President Bush sent troops to Panama to topple General Noriega from power... While back at (SWMHS) the most successful sports teams and their records were: Golf (19-3-1); Girls Tennis ((13-6); Baseball (11-7); Softball (7-5-1). At graduation time 1989, the top song in the nation was "Forever Your Girl" by Paula Abdul.. Sayreville War Memorial HS Class of '89 featured many very special and gifted young adults with bright futures ahead.

### Old Friends



Three Harold G. Hoffman High School Class of 1971 graduates recently ran into each other at Java Dave's Coffee, 110 North Broadway in South Amboy, where they enjoyed the great coffee, and reminiscing about the good old days. Pictured (l-r) Pete Dobrzynski, Mike Tingle, and Dennis Yanoski. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

### Upcoming At The South Amboy Elks

South Amboy Elks located at 601 Washington Ave. South Amboy will be hosting many exciting events. The first is our biannual blood drive with REDCROSS. To make an appointment, simply log on to [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), click donate, put in South Amboy's zip code of 08879, choose South Amboy Elks, and pick your time slot for July 12th from 1-6pm.

On July 13th and 14th we will collect food and toiletries to SUPPORT OUR LOCAL VETERANS. In our Independence for Veterans drive. We will be delivering these items to South Amboy, Sayreville, & Perth Amboy veterans in need. Drop off is at our lodge. The list is long and can be found on the South Amboy Facebook page. If you bring your donation to the breakfast on July 14th, we will give you \$2.00 off the price of your breakfast.

Next we have our monthly Buffet Breakfast on July 14th from 9-11:30am \$12.00 pp and includes all you can eat scrambled eggs, made to order omelets, pancakes, French toast, Bacon, sausage, potatoes, coffee juice and more. You really can't beat that price!

On Thursday July 25th we will be having our Thanksgiving in July dinner. The time is 5:30 to 7:30pm. This is by reservation only and sells out quickly. Do not wait to call! It is a dinner of fresh roasted turkey, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, cranberry sauce, dessert & coffee. The price is \$20.00 per person. Call for reservations to 732-727-7170. Please leave your name and phone number so we can call you back and confirm your reservation.

Some upcoming future events to look out for are a Drive Through BBQ, Monday August 5th from 4-7pm, with fresh BBQ whole or half chickens, and homemade salads in various sizes. Beat the heat and let us do the cooking. Next is our Polish night Wednesday Aug 14th from 5:30-7:30pm. Featuring stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes and more.

Future super events are Sunday August 18th, Wind Creek Casino Bus Trip. Bus leaves the lot at 9:30 am, 6 hours at the casino/shops Return home by 7pm. \$50 per person with a \$25 pay back, snacks on the bus inc. Call Lori to Reserve. 732-763-6232.

Sunday November 10th from 4:30-6:30 we will be having a Veterans Spaghetti Dinner for \$15.00. The menu includes Spaghetti, meatball, sausage, salad, Bread & dessert. All profits will be donated to Stars & Stripes Transitional Housing / South Amboy American Legion.

Finally, one more bus trip on Saturday March 9th, 2025 to Sight and Sound in Lancaster PA. to see NOAH. Bus leaves at 9:30 am, lunch will be at noon at Shady Maple, the show is at 3pm and return home at 8pm. The cost is \$170.00 please contact Lori at 732-763-6232 to reserve your spot.





Patriots left to right are: Kenny Hyslop, Zach Doring & Audrey Gagnon.

### Navy Seal Foundation Fundraiser

Sean's Pub, Sayreville on June 29  
(Article/photo submitted)

Three local patriots will participate in a rigorous 3 mile Swim from Liberty State Park NJ/Statue of Liberty across the Hudson River to Lower Manhattan NYC followed by a ceremony at the Freedom Tower in their support of the Navy Seal Foundation, who provide for our American Warriors, fallen, active & retired. In order to participate they need to raise \$2,000 each.

Zach Doring of Sayreville along with Audrey Gagnon of South Amboy are no strangers to fundraising for our veterans. This will be Zach's 3rd year in the swim, Audrey's 2nd year, and Ken Hyslop, also of Sayreville has joined in with his support for his 1st year. These 3 have recently returned from Boston where they had a warm up swimming event, 3 miles in Boston Harbor. 300 people will

swim this year to show their support.

The fundraising event will be at Sean's Pub, Saturday, June 29th 2 pm to 7pm. There will be a Tricky Tray til 5:30pm, food, other fun stuff & live music by the "Seven Stone" featuring Classic Rock. No Cover. Please consider attending and donating. to be a part of our patriotic support for our military!

We'd like to shout out to Two local businesses, owners and staff of "Tap and Growler" and "Sean's Pub" where the June 29th event is being held, who have been instrumental in our participation in the swim over the last 3 years, and we are grateful for their unending support.

To learn more about the swim please go to: <https://impact.navysealfoundation.org/event/2024-nyc-seal-swim/e559597>



### 65 Years and Counting



Pauline Rydzewski (Kitty) & Leon Letts were married at Sacred Heart Church in South Amboy, NJ on May 23, 1959. Kitty was born in Neptune but soon settled in South Amboy when her family moved down the street from Leon and his family. They met and the rest as they say is history. Leon, a lifelong resident, was a volunteer firefighter for many years serving Independence Fire Company. He retired from PSE&G after 37 years. Kitty worked as a legal secretary and bookkeeper for several businesses and was a member of the Lions Club. They have two daughters Ann Marie & husband Bob (Lovuolo) of Nazareth, PA and Mary Ann & husband Paul (Colchin) of Colorado Springs, CO. and grandchildren Justin Lovuolo, Chris & wife Karen Lovuolo; Rachel Chargualaf & husband JJ, and Andrew & his wife Haley Colchin.

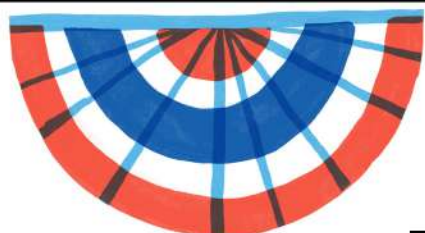
**We want to wish them a very happy 65th Wedding Anniversary. STO LAT!**

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## The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS.

In previous articles I mentioned the risks and dangers associated with Lithium-Ion (LI) batteries and some of the devices that use these batteries and have caused deadly fires. In New York City alone, eighteen people were killed as a result of LI fires in 2023. These batteries can explode and/or erupt in fire at any time whether they are being charged, discharged, in use or not. LI batteries are the way of life today as they power just about everyone of our portable devices such as laptops, phones, watches, scooters, earbuds, hearing aids, smoke & CO detectors, automobiles, and the list goes on with more devices constantly being added. If a battery failure did occur in your home, there is a good chance that you would survive and the amount of damage would depend on the size of the fire and how quickly the situation was managed. In some cases, there may be a warning such as a metallic/plastic odor emanating from the device before it explodes. What would be the consequences if one of these portable devices malfunctions when being transported on an airplane in flight? Fires on airplanes are extremely rare for the number of flights that occur, but when they do occur, they could be disastrous. Historically, fires on planes have previously been the result of a mechanical or electrical problem with the aircraft itself or one of the engines. There is now a new concern for the airline industry and it is one that the airline passenger must assume most of the responsibility. Thermal events on airplanes have been increasing over the past ten years. The cause is portable rechargeable devices powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These devices have caused over five hundred thermal events on planes since 2006. But bringing a laptop, cell phone, e-cigarette, on a plane is a widespread practice. For some reason, the year 2016 saw a dramatic increase in LI battery events which more than doubled since the previous year. In 2016, as a response to a growing number of fire events, both Lithium Metal and Lithium-Ion batteries are banned from the cargo areas of passenger planes. This has resulted in a marked decrease in battery fires occurring in cargo areas. Even with smoke detectors and suppression systems installed in cargo areas, it is still difficult to recognize a fire that erupts and even more difficult to suppress the fire. These cargo areas are not readily accessible from the passenger compartment. If a fire occurs in the passenger compartment, it could be recognized quickly and an aggressive attempt could be made to control it. Some airlines are now carrying fire containment bags on their aircraft which are designed to contain fire from a portable handheld device. So far, these bags have worked with good success but they are not yet mandatory throughout the airline industry. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) published a document implying that with an uncontrolled fire on a plane, the pilot has less than 19 minutes before the cabin becomes untenable. How quickly could a pilot get to and land at an airport in that short amount of time? So, let us go back to the responsibility of each and every passenger on a plane to do their due diligence when traveling. Do not allow your portable rechargeable devices to be checked into the cargo area. Ensure that your devices and batteries are in good working order. If you have difficulty installing the battery in your device or it is feeling excessively warm when charging or has an odor, it may be an indication that the battery is internally defective. Most airline check-in apps have prompts that ask passengers to confirm that they are not carrying LI batteries in their checked-in baggage. Do your part and everyone will arrive at their destination safely.

**PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY**

O holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. -S.S.



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## Save the Dates

### SWMHS 'Class of 1975' 50th Reunion Celebration

On Friday, June 27, 2025, Sayreville War Memorial High School 'Class of 1975' will be celebrating their 50th reunion. It will be held at Forsgate Country Club, 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831. The event will be from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

There is a tour scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025 at Sayreville War Memorial High School, 820 Washington Road, Parlin, NJ 08859, for the class to revisit their Alma Mater and take a walk down memory lane. All are asked to meet in the parking lot no later than 5:15 PM and the tour will start promptly at 5:30 PM for approximately one-hour. After the tour a get-together will immediately follow (location to be determined).

All questions should be directed to the Committee at [SWMHS1975@gmail.com](mailto:SWMHS1975@gmail.com)



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JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 2024



## City of South Amboy Auctioning Off '90s Ambulance (Perfect for Road Trips), Proceeds to Help Local Community

(Photo/info submitted)

With the summer travel season here, New Jerseyans are now in the market for road trip vehicle options. The City of South Amboy, New Jersey, is currently auctioning off a 1996 Ford Ambulance. This vehicle can be converted into the ultimate camper for road trips! This online auction is open to the public at [municibid.com](http://municibid.com) and ends Tuesday, July 2nd. New Jerseyites are able to bid in this government auction online, 24/7, on Municibid.

Why is this auction important? All of the proceeds from this auction will go right back into improving the City of South Amboy's local community. 100% of the proceeds from this auction goes back to City of South Amboy. These funds can be used for road maintenance, setting up local events for residents, community programs, public safety initiatives, and more!

This ambulance has a 7.3 Powerstroke

motor and 3-Speed Automatic | 4-Speed Automatic transmission. Travel enthusiasts and DIY fanatics would have a blast converting this ambulance into the road trip vessel of their dreams! Upcycling has exploded in popularity over the years, and it is now being seen all over the automotive space. Creative visionaries are now refurbishing vehicles like ambulances that are no longer being used and repurposing them by giving them a completely new look and life. The winning bidder can customize the ambulance to their heart's desire by adding a kitchen area, sleeping area, TV, a meditation space, and more.

Check out this article about a football fan who turned an ambulance he won on Municibid into the ultimate tailgate vehicle for Patriots games: <https://blog.municibid.com/how-one-man-converted-an-ambulance-into-a-tailgate-vehicle-masterpiece/>



## Sayreville Fire Department Annual Memorial Day Services

On May 27, 2024, the Sayreville Fire Department conducted their annual Memorial Day services where they paid tribute to those members who had answered their final alarm since last Memorial Day. The families of those being honored were invited to place a personalized memorial paver in honor of their relative. Michelle Roman had an outstanding performance singing the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The Sayreville Fire Department Exempts Association would like to thank everyone who participated in these ceremonies including Father John Alvarado, Michelle Roman, Mayor O'Brien, the South River Fire Department, and the South Amboy Fire Department.



Right: Ex-Chief Rich Kosmoski, Master of Ceremonies, stands alongside Fr. John Alvarado who gave the Invocation and Benediction during the services.



Members of the Sayreville Fire Department stand in tribute to their fallen brothers.

### Congratulations Rich Kosmoski

The officers and members of the President Park Fire Company #1 wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our own, beloved Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski on the occasion of his 50 years of distinguished service to the Sayreville Fire Department and the community which it serves.

We thank him for his service, his leadership, his knowledge, and most of all his friendship. 50 down, 50 to go Kozzy!

President Park Fire Co. #1  
Sayreville, NJ Fire Department



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**Thank you**

**The Rone Family would like to Thank everyone who participated in the 6th Riley's Touch A Truck Fundraiser, benefitting the Hugh Riley Rone Scholarship Fund, Especially Coach Dan Poulsen and The South Amboy High School Baseball Team and Softball Team. Whether you donated, provided a truck, was a sponsor, volunteered your time or came out for a fun day with your family, it means the world to us. We hope you had fun and look forward to doing it again next year!**

**Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients:**

**Vera Bacsoka, Benjamin Hernandez, Isaiah Mercado, Jake Eberle, Alexandra Kross, Olivia Gulick, Charles Murray, Mary Kate Brew, Saniya Baytops, and Venice Barrett**

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| All American Ford   | Diane Harrison                             | Lenahan Chiropractic                        | Sayreville PBA #98  |
| Amboy Bank  | Eddie McKeon                               | Local 825 Operating Engineers               | Smith Family  |
| Amano Pizza   | Ed Cetnar                                  | Lori Jepsen                                 | South Amboy AOH   |
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| Brian McLaughlin  | George Fuller                              | Michael Kurtz                               | South Amboy Police Department   |
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| Central Jersey Medical Center   | Industrial Welding Supply                  | Morgan Printing                             | Tap N Growler Bar & Grill   |
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**Be A Winner At Dowdell Library!**

Don't miss out on Dowdell Library's fun-filled summer contests for kids and teens!  
**Kids! Win a Scooter!** Visit the library June 1-August 13 for a chance to win. The participant with the most visits will win. The scooter is recommended for kids age 3-12 with a maximum weight of 110 pounds. The drawing will take place during the Family Sports Night on Tuesday, August 13.  
**Teens! Win a bike!** Visit the library June 1-August 15 for a chance to win. The participant with the most visits will win. Teens aged 13-17 can participate. The drawing will take place on Thursday, August 15.

Win a back to school backpack! Ask us about details. Drawing will take place on Thursday, August 22.  
 Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org). The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.  
*Dowdell Library has Summer hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Connect with us on social media.*



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**"Cause Chevy didn't make a 327 in '55, the 327 didn't come out till '62. And it wasn't offered in the Bel Air with a four-barrel carb till '64. However, in 1964, the correct ignition timing would be four degrees before top-dead-center." -Mona Lisa Vito**



**Sadie Pope Dowdell Public Library**  
 South Amboy, N.J.





### St. Stan's School

(Photos/Info Submitted)  
 As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, St. Stanislaus Kostka School would like to congratulate the three graduating classes of 2024! We are so proud of all the hard work and dedication shown by the faculty and students! Have a wonderful summer!



### Flag Day In South Amboy

(Photos courtesy of Mary Szaro)



Members of the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 of South Amboy are pictured prior to the flag retirement service on the beach near Raritan Bay.



Flags are pictured during retirement service.

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## Flag Day In Sayreville

(Article/Photos Submitted)

On Flag Day, June 14, 2024, members of American Legion Honor Guard saluted thousands of retired American flags from throughout the Borough of Sayreville. These flags were flown on businesses, schools, municipal buildings, offices, and homes. They are being retired. It is also fitting that a proper retirement ceremony is conducted which is being done by The Sayreville American Legion Post 211.



Members of the Honor Guard salute the thousands of American flags before they are retired.



American flags being ritually retired during the ceremony.

## Torch Run For Special Olympics



On June 7th members of South Amboy Police Dept. ran in the 41th annual NJ Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. These officers along with members of Sayreville Police Dept. along with hundreds of law enforcement officers from around the state in raising money and awareness for the Special Olympics. Both departments finished their leg of the run on top of the Rt 35 Victory bridge where the torch was passed to members of Perth Amboy Police Dept. (Photo/Info by Jamie Norek)

## Memorial Day Ceremony



Pastor Father Stan and the Sacred Heart crew following the Memorial Day ceremony at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Parlin. (Photo/info submitted by Jan Williams)

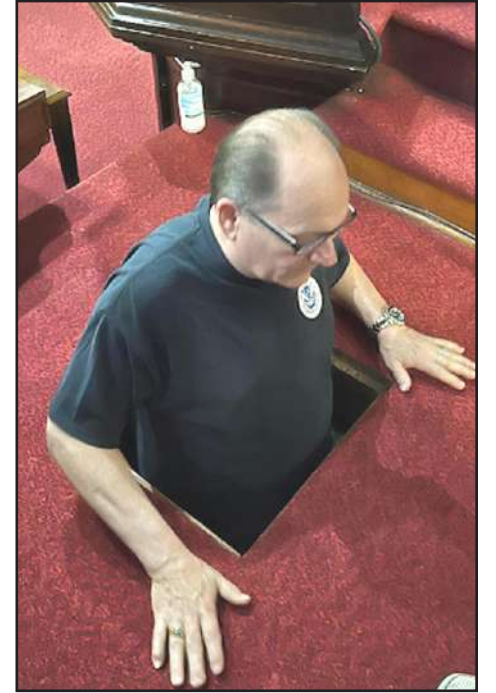
## Historic Crypt Explored

By Jordan Drevelus

Underneath one of the most historic buildings in South Amboy lies a crypt with just as much historical wealth as the building which towers above it. Beneath a small hole in the choir of Christ Episcopal Church lies the crypt which was built to house the deceased members of the historically famous Stevens Family. The Stevens family, while known as a family of inventors and boat racers, had a residence in South Amboy called Stevensdale. They built Christ Church, originally named Saint Stephen's Church, as their place of worship. Years before, a tunnel led from Stevensdale into the crypt for easy access to the church. Years later, a church extension was added, and the crypt's entrance was covered by the new altar and choir. This addition left a small hole for access and its use for future casket burials impossible. In the crypt lie members of the Stevens and Conover families including John Cox Stevens and Commodore Thomas A. Conover.

In May, the parish historian Kurt Kvist, representing the vestry of Christ Church, along with parish organist Jordan Drevelus, representing the parish staff and the Rev. Ann Urinoski, the Priest-in-Charge, welcomed the Historical Society of South Amboy to

the church for a tour. President Mary Szaro of the Historical Society of South Amboy, led a short meeting before Kurt went into the immense history of the building and the crypt was accessed. Many went into the crypt but not all could fit due to the small space (pictured). One member who did make it into the crypt reported a ripped pair of new jeans!



Kurt Kvist Entering Crypt.



Meeting at Christ Church. (Photos by Mary Szaro)

## Talk Of The Towns



Congratulations to Kristi Kulcsar of South Amboy, who recently graduated from Centenary University with a master's degree in Happiness Studies. Kristi and her fellow graduates (students from NJ and as far away as Vietnam, Iran, South Africa) made world history on May 1, 2024 as the first graduating class of the first Happiness Studies masters program in the world. Congratulations Kristi!

## Sayreville Fire Department Annual Memorial Day Services

On May 27, 2024, the Sayreville Fire Department conducted their annual Memorial Day services where they paid tribute to those members who had answered their final alarm since last Memorial Day. The families of those being honored were invited to place a personalized memorial paver in honor of their relative. Michelle Roman had an outstanding performance singing the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The Sayreville Fire Department Exempts Association would like to thank everyone who participated in these ceremonies including Father John Alvarado, Michelle Roman, Mayor O'Brien, the South River Fire Department, and the South Amboy Fire Department.





## SOUTH AMBOY FIRE DEPT/ FIRST AID SQUAD MEMORIAL SERVICES

(Photos by Jamie Norek)



Memorial Wreath placed at the First Aid Squad.



The wreath is placed in front of the firefighter statue on Broadway.

## NJHS School Grounds Clean Up



The National Junior Honor Society celebrated its 8th Annual School Grounds Clean Up at South Amboy Middle High School on June 5, 2024. Donations were provided by Dieker Farms, Ms. Keegan, Training and Development Specialist for Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) that assisted the 8th graders on Earth Day and the Janitorial Staff at SAMHS. Every year the new members are welcomed with open arms for their first major community service project, and the 9th graders are applauded for all the hard work they achieved as members for the last three years. (Photos/Info Submitted)



Commander Joe Szaro (l) and others are pictured at the Memorial Day Service /Re-Dedication of Barkalow Street Park in South Amboy. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

## Sparky Autographs Old Photo



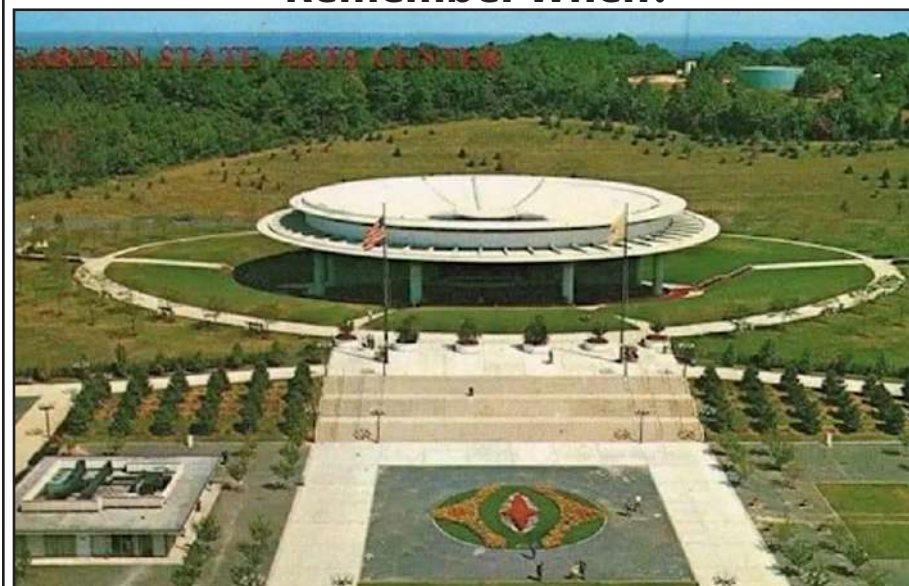
Ed English of Morgan recently met Yankee great Sparky Lyle, 1977 A.L. Cy Young Award winner, at the Somerset Patriots game on June 2nd. Ed was at a meet-and-greet with Sparky in order to get his autograph on this photo from 1986 picturing (l-r) Sparky, Andy Hulsart, Mickey Mantle and Ed English. The photo was taken at a brunch in Atlantic City.

## T-Ball Is So Exhausting!!



It must have been extra innings! (Photo submitted)

## Remember When?



The grand opening date for the Garden State Arts Center now known as the PNC Arts Center was June 12 1968.

## South Amboy Town Wide Yard Sale

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



This family on Pupek Road, was kept busy throughout the day.

Most yard sales had umbrellas to keep the red-hot sun off workers and customers. The temperatures reached in the high 90's. →



Yard Sales were plentiful ← on Connors Drive.



Some friendly negotiations at this yard sale. (Photo by Brian Stratton) →





### Sayreville Memorial Day Parade

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Fire Department.



Members/Officers of the South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary.



The Sayreville Historical Society with their patriotic float.



State of New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (r) is pictured marching with Sayreville Council members.



The American flag was proudly displayed and waved throughout the parade.



Sayreville GOP Chairperson Karen Bailey-Bebert waves to the crowd.



St. Stan's School.

### St. Stan's Carnival

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien (c) meets with 2024 Ms. New Jersey Senior America Lenore Cibelli-Lambert of Sayreville and her husband Al.



Lisa Grover (l) gives information on St. Stan's School.



Youngsters had plenty of rides to choose from and lots of fun.



The cake stand is always one of the most popular stops at the carnival.



Singer/guitarist Andrew Lobby entertained the crowd on Thursday night.



Sayreville Police Officers A. Ahmed (l) and K. Holon were on duty.



The volunteers at the cake stand did an excellent job!



### First Annual American Legion Post #62 Community Memorial Picnic

(Photos by Mary Szarzo)



### Memorial Day Ceremonies in South Amboy

(Photos by Mary Szarzo)



Veterans Memorial on Bordentown Ave.



American Legion Post #62 Site.

**SAYREVILLE RECREATION**

# SAYREVILLE'S Independence Day Celebration

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29**  
(rain date: June 30)  
4:00 PM - 9:30 PM  
KENNEDY PARK

**FAMILY FUN - LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS -  
FACE PAINTING - FIREWORKS**



# Food Truck Festival

(Photos by Scott Stratton)



**ENTERPRISE  
FIRE COMPANY  
TRUCK 8**



The large crowd enjoyed the day.



Plenty of food truck choices.



The petting zoo was a big hit.



Ron Randazzo in the dunk tank!

## Legion Honor Guard at Emma Arleth School



On Friday, May 17, 2024, members of the Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard paid a visit to the Emma Arleth School in Sayreville. During this annual visit, members of the Honor Guard demonstrated the proper flag folding technique to the students. The meaning of each fold was read out as the flag was folded. Following the folding demonstration, each class was given the opportunity to fold the flag correctly.

Past Commander Rich Kosmoski discussed the wording of the ceremonial presentation of the flag which is presented to the next of kin. He performed the ceremony as if he was presenting a fallen veteran's casket flag.



Honor Guard members gather after the ceremony for refreshments.

## 50th Annual Awards Ceremony of the 200 Club of Middlesex County



It's not every day we get to acknowledge the effort of our officers, and recently at the 50th Annual Awards Ceremony of the 200 Club of Middlesex County, four of our Sayreville officers were recognized for their bravery, dedication, and call to duty. Detective Sergeant Noble and Detective Morales received the Meritorious Service Award for their extensive hard work and investigative efforts over the course of several months which led to the arrest of Rashid Ali Bynum. Bynum was ultimately charged with murdering our own Borough Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour. Patrol Officers Krzyzanowski and Mendes received the Meritorious Service Award for their heroic actions in saving the life of a woman that was trying to harm herself by jumping off of the Victory Bridge. Officers leaned over the railing and were able to successfully pull her back to safety. We hold our officers to the highest standard and we thank them for their bravery, commitment and dedication to their oath of office and to the Borough of Sayreville. (Photo/story submitted)

### Statement from the Diocese of Camden

Statement of the Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA, on the announcement of Most Rev. Joseph Williams appointment as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Camden

The Diocese of Metuchen welcomes this morning's news from our Holy Father, Pope Francis, of the appointment of the Most Reverend Joseph Williams as the Coadjutor Bishop of Camden.

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are wonderful people dedicated to the Church, deepening their friendship with Christ and spreading His love throughout South Jersey. Bishop Williams will find himself well supported by the generous clergy and religious in bringing God's mercy

to the people of the diocese. Indeed, Bishop Sullivan's devoted leadership, a true blessing, will serve as a guiding light for his new coadjutor bishop.

The Holy Father has given the Camden Diocese a wonderful gift in Bishop Williams, who brings a pastor's heart focused on Christ and the service of all His people. All of us in the Diocese of Metuchen join together in praying for Bishop Williams and the faithful of the Diocese of Camden. I personally look forward to collaborating with our new Bishop in serving the good people of New Jersey.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe be near and intercede for him and all of us.

Ad multos Annos! Bishop Williams!

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South Amboy



## South Amboy Knights Honor Members of the Community

By Jordan Drevelus

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 recently selected its yearly honorees which are selected based on service to the community as well as their commitment to faith in action. The honorees are as follows:

**Knight of the Year - Tom D'Amico:** Tom is a pillar of the community who owns A & L Provisions. He serves as an usher at Sacred Heart Church and goes out of his way to help his parish as well as the Knights. Tom was known as the "greatest Knight who isn't a Knight" because, even while he was not a Knight, he still helped with fundraisers and events. His work ethic has made him indispensable to Council #426.

**Knight of the Year - Steve Szabo PGK:** Steve Szabo is relatively new to South Amboy and its council of Knights but was Grand Knight of the Edison Knights a few years ago. He is always working hard behind the scenes to make sure that advertisements for events are placed and ensuring that the Knights stay on task. Steve also served as membership director and helped earn Council #426 the prestigious Double Star Council Award.

**Family of the Year - Ray Suchcicki/ Family:** The Ray Suchcicki family are long time members of Sacred Heart Church and the South Amboy / Sayreville Community. Ray is a Knight who is involved in the care of council property and in running trips. He also serves as an usher for Sacred Heart Church. Ray's wife, Toni, a Columbiette, serves Sacred Heart Parish as one of the principal members of their tricky tray committee. Tom, Raeanne, and Christa, Ray and Toni's children, have followed in their parents' footsteps holding the same values of service.

**Good Samaritan of the Year - Bill Edmundson:** Bill is a member of several local organizations but never seeks recognition for his efforts. He has personally run a number of food drives which have benefited local pantries. In addition, he serves as an usher at Sacred Heart Church and has helped the church plow snow numerous times. In all of these things, Bill did not brag nor publish his good deeds but continued to help those in need. For all his good works, he is Samaritan of the Year.



Knight of the Year - Steve Szabo.



Knight of the Year - Tom D'Amico



Double Star Council Award, Family of the Year - Ray Suchcicki and Family.



## RECOVERY CENTERS OF AMERICA AT RARITAN BAY APPOINTS NEW CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Caitlin Moore returns to leading northern New Jersey addiction recovery center to oversee direction of all substance abuse services

Recovery Centers of America (RCA) at Raritan Bay, a drug and alcohol addiction treatment facility serving communities throughout Northern New Jersey and Southern New York State, today announced the appointment of Caitlin Moore as its new clinical director. Moore, who directed admissions during her 2019-2021 tenure at the facility, returns to oversee all therapeutic functions and services provided by the therapists within their programs. She will also be responsible for program development, training of clinical staff and maintaining professional relationships with collateral agencies.

"I am thrilled to welcome Caitlin Moore back to RCA at Raritan Bay to lead our clinical team, a decision that highlights RCA's strength as both a care provider and an employer," said LeoDante Ognibene, chief executive officer of RCA at Raritan Bay. "With almost a decade of experience in the recovery industry, she will greatly impact the Raritan Bay community, helping us to fulfill our mission of saving lives."

A licensed professional counselor (LPC), a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor (LCADC) and a certified clinical supervisor (CCS), Moore comes back to RCA holding supervisory roles at various addiction treatment centers in the Garden State. She concluded her previous stint at RCA of Raritan Bay as director of admissions and utilization review.

"I am honored to rejoin my talented and caring RCA at Raritan Bay family, where I started as an intern," said Moore. "All of my training and experience has led me back here, to an organization I know through experience is committed to helping those in



Caitlin Moore

our community achieve and maintain long-term sobriety."

The behavioral health leader earned her master's degree in mental health counseling and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, both from Monmouth University. Moore is currently enrolled in the Counseling and Supervision Ph.D. program at Kean University.

RCA at Raritan Bay's caring team of experts are highly focused on saving and improving the lives of those suffering from addiction to substances such as alcohol, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, Xanax, methamphetamine, prescription drugs and others. No matter the form of one's struggles with substance abuse, RCA at Raritan Bay provides the life skills needed to move forward, free from drugs and alcohol. The Raritan Bay site is an inclusive and safe treatment option to begin a patient's journey to addiction recovery.

If you or your loved one are struggling with addiction or mental health issues associated with addiction, the staff at Recovery Centers of America is here to help. Call 1-844-5-RCA-NOW (844-572-2669) for help today.

## Long Ago In South Amboy



1981-Pictured are five of the most well-known, loved and respected dignitaries in the history of South Amboy. In photo (l-r) former Mayor William "Doc" O'Leary, former Mayor Richard Schultz, former Councilman Frank "Box" Zebro, former Councilman/New York Yankees baseball star Allie Clark, former Mayor J. Thomas Cross. (Photo was taken by the late and great legendary photographer James Tedesco).



Lukas Pagan recently celebrated his PreK graduation from Sayreville's Jesse Selover School. Congratulations Lukas!



## 15 Years Ago In The Times

### A Little Bit Of Daylight Bakery History

By Carol Doucha Eckenfelder



An undated photo of the inside of Daylight Bakery shows the huge selection of cakes, cookies and other baked delights. Owner, Edna Doucha is pictured on the left. (Photo courtesy of Carol Doucha Eckenfelder)

*\*My parents were the original owners of the bakery, and I thought I would give your readers a little bit of Daylight Bakery history. I have always been proud of the success my parents achieved building the business from bottom up. It was a very demanding business to run, and they had few vacations in their working years. If a baker did not show up for the night shift, my dad had to step in and work both the day and night shifts. Mom worked tirelessly running the shop, but she still found time to be a mother to my 2 sisters, Pat and Judy, and to me. She was a volunteer driver for the Motor Corps during WWII, Vice-President of the PTA, a member of the Women's Club, top notch bowler and on and on. They are a hard act to follow.*

#### Daylight Bakery History

Our family is saddened to learn of the closing of Daylight Bakery. My father and mother, Otto and Edna Doucha were the original owners of the bakery, which opened its doors for business on Dec. 1, 1933. They were both 24 years old at that time and had married only 4 days prior to the grand opening of the bakery. Mom and dad had wanted to own their own business, and an opportunity arose when they were able to purchase used bakery equipment from a bankrupt bakery in Bloomfield. With the help of mom and friends, dad personally set up the ovens, benches, display cases and whatever else was used in the bakery. They opened for business during a severe snowstorm. Needless to say, they had very little business on their grand opening day and sold the goods that would spoil to a local chicken farmer for 50 cents a bag. A loaf of bread sold for 10 cents and a

dozen hard rolls were 24 cents. After paying their bills, they had \$20 left to cover their payroll at the end of the week. The rest is history. Their bakery was a success from the beginning. Mom took care of the front end of the business dealing with the customers and finances, and dad was the master bread maker, pastry man and cake decorator. He won the National Grand Yeast Award, taking 1st place in the state for his bread. He also ran cake decorating classes for his employees to insure they met his high standards. It was a partnership that worked for them throughout their 55 years of marriage.

After the explosion in 1950, mom and dad really never closed the store. They supplied food for the rescue workers that evening, and opened for business later the next day. How they managed, I'll never know. Like the rest of the residents of the town, we suffered severe damage to our store and apartment. Dad had his injuries bandaged, and he boarded up where the plate glass windows once were, swept up the debris from fallen ceilings and continued baking for the town. They sold the bakery in 1951, but never forgot the warmth of the people of South Amboy.

My personal favorites were numerous; however, dad made a wonderful sugar cookie that I'm still trying to replicate. His pastries and desserts were influenced by his Austrian heritage, and he took great pride in using the finest ingredients in his baked goods. His cake decorating was always a work of art.

Our mother Edna, resides at Navesink Harbor, now known as the Atrium at Navesink, in Red Bank. She will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Dec. 12, 2009.

#### Daylight Bakery Memories

Former South Amboy resident Betty Silvaney of Pennsylvania writes, "Sorry to hear Daylight Bakery closed. I was a regular customer in the 50's for their "crumb buns." Loved the Napoleons and eclairs too!

Patricia Fitzmorris Kearney also of Pennsylvania said, "I cannot believe Daylight Bakery is closed. They did have some great treats there! They had the BEST cherry turnovers-half moon shaped with crumbs on top. My mom always loved their Russian coffee cake, and no childhood birthday would have been complete without a birthday cake from there."

Jim Phillips of South Amboy recalled, "As a kid going to the back door of the bakery after hours to buy "day old" rye bread. Mr. Otto Ducha, the owner always gave me a treat. The Ducha Family lived above the bakery. Otto had an elaborate train layout. He sold the bakery after the explosion to Mieso. They moved to Keyport and ran a hardware store there."

Missy Sumski DiMauro formerly of Sayreville and now residing in Myrtle Beach, SC, remembered, "My father Stanley Sumski, started buying my mother's birthday cake at Daylight Bakery when they were dating, and did so every year until 1988,

which was the birthday before we moved to Cape May, and before my father's passing in 1990. They were married in 1958. That's 30 years of cakes! My mother, Carole Joy Kurtz Sumski, is a "Christmas Baby" as her birthday is Dec. 23. Every year, while I was little, and I know for my 3 older brothers as well, my dad would have to "take a ride" on Dec. 23. Dad would get the cake and we kids would get some cut out cookies. Of course, my mother always asked where we got the cookies, as if she didn't know. But she played along as we all enjoyed the sprinkled sugar cookies and devoured the delicious strawberry filled birthday cake that my mother was forever "surprised" at receiving. Those are memories that time cannot take away, and I thank you so much for the opportunity to share ours."

Jim Gray of South Amboy, who lived on lower David St. recalled that, "The baker put donuts by the screen door in the back to cool off, and one day, a couple of us opened the door and grabbed some jelly donuts, and the baker chased us down the railroad tracks, and never caught us. Steve made the best donuts ever. A few years later, I married the baker's daughter, Rose."

## Who is it?

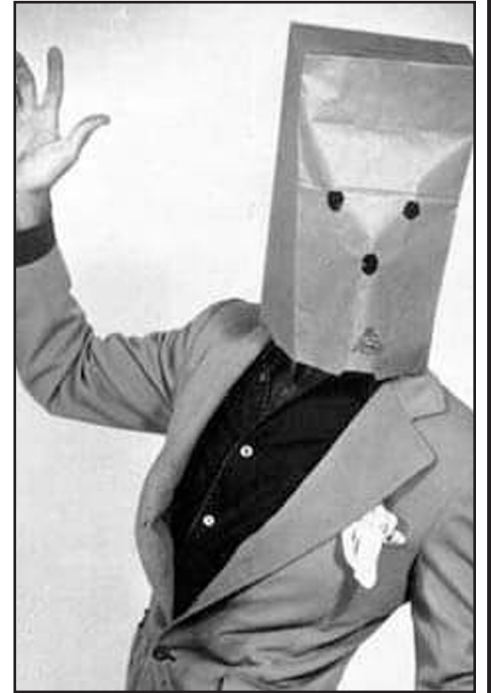
By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



This may be a tough one! Can you identify this mystery man? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 15th.



Last month's mystery man was none other than Murray Langston who portrayed the Unknown Comic on The Gong Show. The following knew who it was: Anne Szatkowski Bruno Szatkowski and Fred Leppig, Ed Basile, Thomas Harrigan, Edna Pilch, Steve Laskiewicz, Betty Leville, JoAnn & John French, Dora H. Siebert, Dermot Scales, Ed English, Nanci Deverin, Bruce Grankowski, Mark Moniello, Laurie and Gary Lortus, Walter Starzec Jr, Pat Scully, Dane Colburn, Joe Ballo, Gary Feret.



May Who is it?

Murray Langston-the Unknown Comic-The Gong Show

## Speaker Craig J. Coughlin Joins Food Security Leaders for Feeding NJ Conference

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin today welcomed attendees to the Feeding NJ Conference, convened by Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), FoodBank of South Jersey, Fulfill, Mercer Street Friends, and Norwescap.

The conference brought 300 participants to Rutgers University from over 100 non-profits around the state, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and other local food assistance organizations. Experts, advocates, and volunteers attended sessions with topics ranging from fundraising to "farm-to-pantry" partnerships with local farmers. They shared knowledge and discussed strategies for improving services and increasing capacity around the state.

"I am very proud of our record in New Jersey, innovating and leading the nation in the fight against food insecurity, the issue closest to my heart," said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). "We are blessed with talented, tireless advocates for our neighbors in need. Events like Feeding NJ showcase that talent and give the people on the frontlines the opportunity to coordinate their work and support one another. We have increased investment to scale up these efforts and have seen real results in every corner of the state."

As part of today's event, facilitators discussed expanded programs and new initiatives centered on the experiences of those seeking services.

"New Jersey is a national leader in the creation and implementation of innovative, neighbor-centered approaches to addressing food insecurity, like choice models and a focus on the healthiest options," said Elizabeth McCarthy, President & CEO of the CFBNJ. "I'm proud that, for a second year, Feeding New Jersey has brought together our state's most steadfast advocates, from food banks to local organizations to government leaders. Together, we can pool our knowledge

and resources to amplify our impact and make a lasting difference for our neighbors in need."

State aid for food banks has risen over 400% in the last four years with state support to ensure local farmers and businesses have easier access to make donations as well. The New Jersey Food and Hunger Grant Program has provided funds for local food banks to purchase van fleets to transport excess food from restaurants and grocers that would have otherwise been wasted.

Under Speaker Coughlin's leadership, the state legislature has prioritized increased funding for various efforts to fight food insecurity. Other actions taken by the legislature include:

- Guaranteeing a minimum monthly payment of \$95 to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, which mostly benefits children, seniors, and veterans. The action was taken after federal funding lapsed.
- Passing a new law sponsored by Speaker Coughlin, which expands student eligibility for free school breakfast and lunch. Starting in September, an additional 60,000 children will have access to nutritious meals at school.
- Established the Food Desert Relief Act program to provide a quarter of a billion dollars in tax credits to attract and support a first or second supermarket in the state's 50 most food insecure communities.

"Every New Jerseyan benefits when our neighbors have access to nutritious food," added Speaker Coughlin. "From better education outcomes for our kids, to lower unemployment numbers for adults, and dignity for seniors, this is about meeting our moral obligation and securing a stronger future for our entire state."



## Brian O'Connor School of Music All Star Band



The Brian O'Connor School of Music All Star Band performed on May 18th at the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park. Everyone had a great time as usual, and the band was smokin' hot! This was the group's 22nd concert performing at that facility. (Front row) Pranav Aggarwal, Nathan Messenger, Brian O'Connor, Jayden Adackapara and Monica Boehler. (2nd row) Caroline Grace, Abhiram Godavari, Joseph Figueredo and Jake Wells. (3rd row) Chris Schaaf, Anuraag Godavari, Lance Kennedy and Matt Boehler. (Photo/info courtesy of brianconnormusic.com) (Photo/Info Submitted)

### #1 Pop Hits-June 29

- 2021-Butter-BTS
- 2014-Fancy-Iggy Azalea
- 2006-Do I Make You Proud-Taylor Hicks
- 1994-I Swear-All-4-One
- 1983-Flashdance (What A Feeling)  
-Irene Cara
- 1977-Gonna Fly Now (Theme From Rocky)  
-Bill Conti
- 1969-Love Theme From Romeo & Juliet  
-Henry Mancini

### #1 Country Hits June 29

- 2021-Whiskey Lullaby-Dierks Bentley
- 2015-Girl Crush-Little Big Town
- 2004-If You Ever Stop Loving Me  
-Montgomery Gentry
- 1997-It's Your Love-Tim McGraw/Faith Hill
- 1985-She Keeps The Home Fires Burning  
-Ronnie Milsap
- 1975-Lizzie & The Rainman-Tanya Tucker
- 1966-There Goes My Everything  
-Jack Greene

### One Hit Wonders

55 Years Ago

- 1969-Cinnamon-Derek; The Worst That Could Happen-The Brooklyn Bridge; Stand By Your Man-Tammy Wynette; Hot Smoke & Sassafras-Bubble Puppy; Gimme Gimme Good Lovin'-Crazy Elephant; Oh Happy Day-Edwin Hawkins Singers; Love (Can Make You Happy)-Mercy; Morning Girl-Neon Philharmonic; More Today Than Yesterday-The Spiral Staircase; Israelites-Desmond Dekker & The Aces; 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; Polk Salad Annie-Tony Joe White; Get Together-The Youngbloods; Tracy-The Cuff Links; Baby It's You-Smith; Smile A Little Smile For Me-The Flying Machine; Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye-Steam.



### Elvis in the Building



Sayreville's own Richie Santa, one of the most popular Elvis Tribute Artists (ETA) in the U.S.A., is shown at a recent nearby performance, where he thrilled the crowd with his amazing voice and stage presence. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

### Vendors Wanted

We are looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on September 14, 2024. The time is 8am to 2pm. The rain date is September 21, 2024. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are available for \$20.00 for one space, \$30.00 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$8.00. No food vendors please. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

### Sayreville Seniors Thursday Club



Ladies of the Sayreville Seniors Thursday Club are pictured at the 44th Anniversary celebration of the Thursday Club. President Mary Ann Spisso seated (far right), and Joan Lehockey standing (far right) both retired following the meeting after serving as dedicated and caring officers for 10 and 11 years respectively. (Photo/info submitted)

## The Wedding Singer

SA Arts Alliance & A Block Off Broadway Productions Present 'The Wedding Singer: A Musical Comedy'

The South Amboy Arts Alliance and A Block Off Broadway Productions are thrilled to announce their upcoming production of the hit musical comedy, The Wedding Singer. Based on the beloved 1998 film starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, this high-energy show promises to deliver laughter, romance, and 80s nostalgia to audiences of all ages.

Set in 1985, The Wedding Singer follows the story of Robbie Hart, New Jersey's favorite wedding singer, who is left heartbroken at the altar. Just when Robbie loses all hope in love, he meets Julia, a charming waitress engaged to a wealthy but shallow Wall Street broker. As romance blooms and hilarity ensues, Robbie must navigate his feelings and find his way back to love and music.

Performance Dates:

July 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 PM

Location: South Amboy Middle/High School Auditorium, 200 Governor Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879

**Ticket Information:** Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at abobproductions.org. Prices are as follows: Adults: \$18.00, Children (ages 16 and under): \$15.00, Seniors: \$15.00.

**About A Block Off Broadway Productions:**

A Block Off Broadway Productions is a premier community theatre company dedicated to bringing high-quality, entertaining, and thought-provoking productions to the South Amboy area. With a passion for the performing arts, A Block Off Broadway Productions strives to foster local talent and provide unforgettable experiences for audiences.

**Content Advisory:**

Please note that The Wedding Singer is rated PG-13 for some mature content and themes. Parental guidance is suggested for children under the age of 13. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Email: abobproductions@gmail.com, Facebook: A Block Off Broadway, Instagram: @AbobProductions, YouTube: AbobwayProductions, TikTok: @AbobProductions



## High/Higher

1. Rocky Mountain High
2. Higher and Higher
3. Higher Love
4. Ain't No Mountain High Enough
5. The Tide Is High
6. I Want To Take You Higher
7. Hi-Heel Sneakers
8. Higher Ground
9. Eight Miles High
10. She's So High

- a. Stevie Wonder
- b. Blondie
- c. Steve Winwood
- d. John Denver
- e. Sly & The Family Stone
- f. Jackie Wilson
- g. Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell
- h. The Byrds
- i. Tommy Tucker
- j. Tal Bachman

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

### SAVE THE DATE

South Amboy Arts & The City of South Amboy present: ARTSFEST '24!

Sharing Our Cultures through the Arts. September 8th (Rain Date 9/15). Interested Artists, Crafters, Performers, Non-Profits, Businesses, Food Vendors & Volunteers Call 732-727-4600x5971 or email SAarts141@gmail.com.



### Calling All SWMHS Class of '75 Alumni

Be sure to update your current - email / phone number / mailing address so we are able to inform you about our upcoming 50th Year Reunion Celebration in 2025. Please send your current information to: SWMHS1975@gmail.com.

You can also join our Facebook page, 'Sayreville War Memorial High School Class of 1975', for up-to-date information as it becomes available.



Congratulations on a job well done! Mary Ann Spisso, who retired after 10 years as President of the Sayreville Seniors Thursday Club is pictured at the 44th Anniversary Celebration of the Thursday Club. The theme of the party was "The 50's." (Photo/info submitted)





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**Fishing Flashes**  
 By Teo "Weebles" Weber

**Salt Water**  
 Fluke fishing has turned out to be good. Some keepers have been caught in the surf along the entire state. Party boats have been doing well in the ocean and Raritan Bay. The back bay areas at LBI have been producing keepers with some Weakfish too. The surf at Island Beach and LBI gave up quite a few big Bluefish up to 10 pounds. Bluefish have moved inside Manasquan and Barnegat Inlet giving shore fisherman a thrill. There was a good Black Drum bite at LBI and Island Beach, but the Bluefish even bit off hooked baited with clam and that fishing has ended. Sea Bass fishing is very good on the party boats with many 10 fish limits. Ling and a few Blackfish are mixed in. Striped Bass, some keepers and some over and under the slot limit, are being caught mostly in the ocean. Locally I have checked Cliffwood and Keansburg beaches a few times but did not see anyone catch anything except for one short Striper and a few missed bites. There are quite a few people out trying their luck. Bluefish may slow up any day now.

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**Fresh Water**  
 Trout Fishing turned out to be good statewide. My wife and I returned to the lower Pequest River in mid-May. I caught 2 on lures and she caught her 6 limit catch on the old reliable worm. One of these was a Rainbow about 18 inches. We returned to the same area on the Memorial Day weekend with me losing 3 and she again caught her limit of 6. We returned to our favorite spot in early June with me losing one. She pulled out 3 Trout and a large eel, yuck! After June 1st the trout limit is 4. Lakes, ponds and rivers statewide offer good warm water fishing for Bass, Pickerel, Catfish and Panfish. The Shad run in the Delaware River is over.

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**Blinded By The Beautiful Sun**  
 By Al Gomolka Jr.  
 Times Poet Laureate  
 c.2008

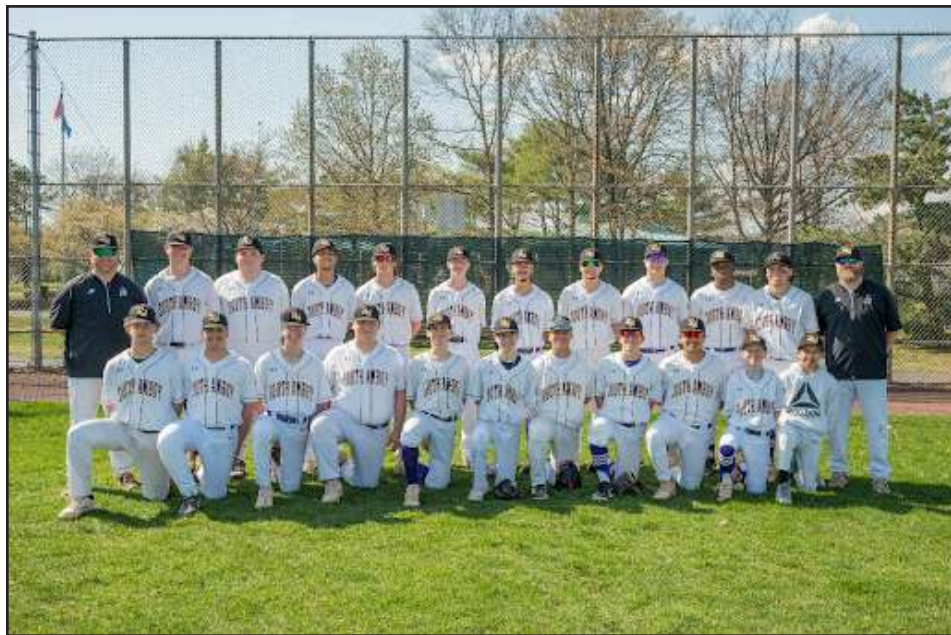
I'm blinded by the beautiful sun  
 Blinded by this beautiful sun  
 Praying as this new morn's begun  
 As I walk on my way  
 On a glorious day  
 I'm blinded by the beautiful sun  
 Warming its world as it comes  
 I find it inspiring and fun  
 As I walk on my way  
 Let life bring what it may  
 My hands have to rim both my eyes  
 As the brightness beams out of the sky  
 Greeting everyone to arise  
 At the start of this day  
 As I walk on my way  
 I'm blinded by the beautiful sun  
 Blinded by this beautiful sun  
 Feeling like I've already won  
 The gift of this day  
 By its radiant rays



# High School Sports

By Tom Burkard

## Gold Division Champions



2024 was an outstanding year for the South Amboy Governors boys baseball team, who turned in an overall (14-5) record and a perfect (9-0) in the Gold Division to capture the championship under Coach Dan Poulsen.

## 2024 Final Team Leaders

### Baseball

**South Amboy (14-5), (9-0) Gold Division Champions**-Coach Dan Poulsen

#### Batting

**Runs**-Jeremy Vasquez 32, Benjamin Smith 19, Diego Colon 17, Benjamin Hernandez 17, Wesleyan Morel-Sanchez 17; **Hits**-Vasquez 34, Colon 20, Hernandez 17, Nigel Johnson 17; **RBI**-Colon 21, Vasquez 19; **Doubles**-Colon 9, Vasquez 6; **Triples**-Vasquez 9; **Home Runs**-Vasquez 3, Colon 1, B. Smith 1; **Avg.**-Vasquez .596, Johnson .395, Colon .385, Hernandez .370; **Stolen Bases**-Vasquez 25, Colon 11, Johnson 10.

#### Pitching

**Innings Pitched**-Micah Nemeth 50 Giro Castaldo 32.2; **Strikeouts**-Nemeth 47, Castaldo 24; **ERA**-Nemeth 1.96, Castaldo 3.00.

**Sayreville (12-13) Coach Timothy Ballard**

#### Batting

**Runs**-Jake Romanello 19, Jack Zapotieczny 13, Chase Cannan 13; **Hits**-Romanello 27, Michael Robinson 21, Moe Hedderman 20, Thomas Schlaline 19; **RBI**-Robinson 21, Hedderman 14, Schlaline 13; **Doubles**-Romanello 7, Hedderman 7; **Triples**-Romanello 2; **Home Runs**-Jaydon Stio 1; **Avg.**-Romanello .329, Robinson .300, Justin Marrero .296, Canaan .290.

#### Pitching

**Innings Pitched**-Schlaline 41, Hedderman 40.1, Logan Kaufman 33; **Strikeouts**-Hedderman 50, Schlaline 42, Kaufman 34; **ERA**-Hedderman 3.30, Schlaline 3.76, Kaufman 4.67.

### Softball

**Sayreville (13-8) Coach Amanda Moken**

#### Batting

**Runs**-Caydence Barton 28, Rose Joseph 20, Josephine Vanore 17; **Hits**-Barton 24, Vanore 24, Joseph 20, Hailey Kilpatrick 20; **RBI**-Joseph 21, Vanore 20; **Doubles**-Barton 6, Vanore 6, Joseph 5; **Triples**-Barton 1, Jillian Bourbeau 1; **Home Runs**-Barton 2, Infante 2, Joseph 2, Vanore 2, Sara Williamson 1; **Avg.**-Barton .395, Vanore .375, Kilpatrick .345, Joseph .328, Mya Infante .321, Bourbeau .302.

#### Pitching

**Innings Pitched**-Vanore 93.1, Barton 28.1; **Strikeouts**-Vanore 90, Barton 42; **ERA**-Barton 1.24, Vanore 2.77.

**South Amboy (6-12) Coach Lindsay Durant**

#### Batting

**Runs**-Sarah McLaughlin 33, Emma Kalantis 27, Gwen Kalantis 27, Mia Pina 25; **Hits**-McLaughlin 23, Sophie Hernandez 22, G. Kalantis 20; **RBI**-Hernandez 26, G. Kalantis 26, E. Kalantis 23; **Doubles**-Hernandez 6, G. Kalantis 5, E. Kalantis 5; **Triples**-E. Kalantis 5, G. Kalantis 3; **Home Runs**-None; **Stolen Bases**-McLaughlin 11, Pina 8; **Avg.**-E. Kalantis .429, G. Kalantis .417, Hernandez .400, McLaughlin .390, Berry Janeece .359, Pina .358.

#### Pitching

**Innings Pitched**-Hernandez 69.2, McLaughlin 21.2; **Strikeouts**-Hernandez 76, McLaughlin 20; **ERA**-McLaughlin 2.58, Hernandez 7.94.

## South Amboy HS Runners CJ Group 1 Results

(Article submitted)

On Friday and Saturday, the Guvs and Lady Guvs Track Team spent a grueling 2 days competing in the NJSIAA CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP 1 TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS held at Hillsborough High School. (And I get out of breath driving to Hillsborough).

The following are the FINALS results of our South Amboy competitors. Kudos to all our student athletes that competed during the 2 days.

**(If I missed anything or anyone, I apologize).**

**\*(PR) = Personal Record.**

**BOYS 800 METER RUN:**

14. Kcen Ventura 2:13.82 (PR), 18. Sebastian Roessle 2:16.02 (PR), 32. Jimmy Mercado 2:26.92

**BOYS 400 METER DASH**

6. John Kelly 53.94  
21. Keith Pitsios 59.32 (PR)

**BOYS 4X800 METER RELAY**

5. South Amboy "A" 9:31.55 (Sebastian Roessle, Kcen Ventura, Thomas Canon, Jimmy Mercado)

**BOYS 200 METER DASH**

19. Brandon Ojo 24.57 (PR)  
28. Gavin Rubin 25.48 (PR)  
38. Ryan Russo 26.61

**BOYS 1600 METER RUN**

19. Ethan Russo 5:33.31  
22. Jimmy Mercado 5:46.45

**BOYS 4X400 METER RELAY**

7. South Amboy "A" 3:43.43 (Brandon Ojo, John Kelly, Mario Garcete, Malique Hodge)

**GIRLS 800 METER RUN**

12. Gabby Evanski 2:42.73  
23. Ola Slomiany 3:12.22

**GIRLS 400 METER DASH**

15. Ashley Moreira Burgos 1:08.83  
22. Oluwapamilerim Zannou 1:11.68 (PR)

**GIRLS 200 METER DASH**

22. Oluwapamilerim Zannou 30.17 (PR)  
32. Dina Bashir 32.52 (PR)

**GIRLS 1600 METER RUN**

11. Gabby Evanski 6:22.07 (PR)

**GIRLS 4X400 METER RELAY**

9. South Amboy "A" 4:47.26 (Sienna Cabral, Eleny Aleman, Oluwapamilerim Zannou, Ashley Moreira Burgos).



## College Notebook

Madison Szatkowski (Sayreville) has had an outstanding softball season for Middlesex College (24-7). The talented first baseman played in 30 games, scored 37 runs, 47 hits, 12 doubles, 3 triples, 1 home run, 38 RBI, and a fine .490 batting avg...Catcher Hunter Almeida (Sayreville) has seen lots of action for the Middlesex College baseball team (35-22). In 39 games, he scored 20 runs, 20 hits, 20 RBI and batted .196.

## Guvs Bow in GMC Final

The #1 seed South Amboy dropped a heartbreaking 1-0 battle to #2 seed Carteret in the Greater Middlesex County Invitational Tournament championship game. Micah Nemeth took the tough setback despite firing a 2-hitter, while striking out 4. Jeremy Vasquez hit a two-bagger for the Guvs.

## Bombers Fall In CJ Group 4

The Sayreville Bombers girls softball squad dropped a 7-1 contest to West Windsor-Plainsboro North in the first round of CJ Group 4 play. Sayreville's only 2 hits in the game were by Josephine Vanore and Mya Infante. Coach Amanda Moken's club finished with a fine (13-8) record for 2024.

## Wyzykowski Selected Coach Of The Year

Coach Greg Wyzykowski guided his Baruch College men's tennis team to the conference championship, and was selected Coach of the Year. He recently completed his 27th year of coaching at the college level, and has been at the helm of Baruch College for 7 years. Last fall, his women's tennis

## State Baseball Tourney Recap

South Amboy-In CJ Group 1 First Round action, the Governors blasted Keansburg, 12-1 in 5 innings. Freshman ace pitcher Micah Nemeth fired a 1-hitter, struck out 7, and also belted a single and double to drive in 2 runs. Diego Colon ripped a 3-run double and stole a base, Nigel Johnson added 3 singles and a stolen base, Jeremy Vasquez hit a single and triple while notching a stolen base, and Daniel Evanski stroked a 2-run single...

In the quarterfinals, a surprisingly powerful Middlesex club ended the South Amboy dream of a state title, by topping our locals 14-4. Jeremy Vasquez laced 3 hits and stole a base, and Benjamin Hernandez drilled a single and double for Coach Dan Poulsen's talented Guvs team that finished with a fine (14-5) record, and a perfect (9-0) to capture the Gold Division championship.

Sayreville-In the opening round of CJ Group 4 play, the Bombers nipped Hightstown, 4-3. Jake Romanello ripped a double and triple and had an RBI, Michael Robinson hit a 2-run single, Thomas Schlaline added an RBI single. Logan Kaufman notched the victory in relief...

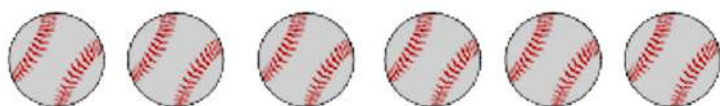
Old Bridge ended the Sayreville season with a 4-0 win over the Bombers, who garnered only 1 hit by Jaydon Stio.

squad captured the conference crown, and Wyzykowski was chosen Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. Both of his teams earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament that was held on May 10th. Congratulations, Greg, on a job extremely well-done!

## Congratulations River Dogs!



On Sunday 6/16/24 the 12U SBC River Dogs won the spring USABL 12U Central East Championship. (Photo Submitted)



## Three Bombers On All-White Team

Three Sayreville Bombers baseball standouts were selected to the 2024 GMC All-White Division Team; Senior captain centerfielder Jake Romanello, junior captain catcher Michael Robinson, and junior captain pitcher/first baseman Thomas Schlaline. Congratulations on a great season!

## Vasquez Selected Player Of The Year

(info submitted)

South Amboy Guvs phenomenal baseball player, Jeremy Vasquez turned in an incredible season, and was selected the Greater Middlesex Conference Gold Division Baseball Player of the Year.

The talented junior turned in an eye popping Junior baseball season by notching off-the-charts stats in 19 games: BA -.596; Hits-34; Runs-32; RBI -19; Triples-9 (#1 In the state of NJ); Home Runs-3; Stolen Bases-25.

According to one area baseball expert, "He plays the smoothest center field that I've seen in a long time."

In addition to leading the state in triples, all the above numbers are near the top of the conference leaderboard, and on the state leaderboard.

Jeremy will start his senior year next season only 26 hits shy of 100 for his HS career.

Also joining Jeremy as selections to the All-GMC Gold Division Team were his teammates: Micah Nemeth (Fr), Diego Colon (So), Ben Hernandez (Sr), Ben Smith (Jr).

Congratulations to Coach Dan Poulsen and his team on a fantastic season. The Governors finished the 2024 campaign with a (14-5) record. They were Gold Division Champions with a perfect (9-0) division record.

They finished 2nd in the GMC Invitational, losing to Carteret, 1-0 in the finals.



## Keyport Tops Lady Guvs

In a 1st Round CJ Group 1 contest, the Keyport girls softball team blasted the Lady Guvs of South Amboy, 13-0. Our locals were no-hit, as they finished out the campaign with a (6-12) mark under Coach Lindsay Durant.




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 1976 South Amboy Little Fellas League Enterprise 12 K of C 5-Ron Brown had 3 hits and a homer, while Tony Camporeale drilled 3 hits.  
 First Aid 11 Daylight Bakery 1-Joe Szaro blasted a home run.  
 Jo-Tom's 10 Modern Trans 2-Winning pitcher Mike Carney struck out 13, and also got 4 hits. Andy Pipala ripped 3 hits and had 4 RBI.  
 1969 South Amboy Babe Ruth League Mechanicsville 6 Raritan River Railroad 2-Glen Gerding was the winning pitcher.  
 South Amboy Trust 16 Independence 2-Winning pitcher Jim Keegan had 11 strikeouts. Bill D'Amico, Keegan and Pete Mancini had 2 hits apiece.  
 1967 Carleton League  
 St. Bernadette's Twins 3 South Amboy 2-This was the first Carleton game in history, and Tom Kelly, who went on to Major League Baseball fame by guiding the Minnesota Twins to World Series titles in 1987 and 1991, blasted 2 long home runs for South Amboy. South Amboy 3 Old Bridge Colts 2-Dan Hansell fired a 4-hitter and was the winning pitcher. He also belted a double, and Nick Charmello also hammered a two-base hit.

**50 Years Ago**  
 1974-Steve Makwinski fired his second no-hitter of the year to lead Sayreville to a 4-0 victory over JFK in the MCCBT. He struck out 14, and also starred at the plate by drilling 2 singles and driving in a run.

**75 Years Ago**  
 1949-(Opening Day, Game 1, City Series) St. Mary's nipped Hoffman, 7-6 in 9 innings. Winning pitcher Bob Kenny struck out 11 and tossed a 7-hitter. Bill "Biff" McKeon singled in "Arky" DiMattia with the game-winning run in the bottom of the 9th. Jack Vail stroked an RBI single. McKeon and Vail both finished with 2 hits apiece for the Eagles.

**Trail of Trials**  
 By Al Gomolka Jr.  
 Times Poet Laureate  
 c. 1995  
 Life is a trail of trials  
 We" by nature  
 Do not envision trials  
 as having value  
 But trials are "our"  
 way-to-means  
 It is in the way  
 "we" handle trials  
 Not letting trials rule "us"  
 Attitude, vision, and  
 expression with these trials  
 That "we" all  
 will experience  
 Purifies "our" spirit  
 Which enhances  
 "our" light  
 Or darkens "our" souls  
 Storms will always  
 be brewing  
 Battles are impending  
 The devil will  
 always attack  
 Trials, trials, trials  
 Pray 'til one  
 trial is over  
 And look forward  
 to living for a new one  
 Until "our" trail  
 of trials has ended  
 At heaven.

**Sayreville Seniors Bus Trip Scheduled**  
 The Sayreville Seniors have scheduled a Bus Trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for the musical, "Always Patsy Cline." Based on a true story of Patsy's Career as Country Music's superb songstress, the musical will feature all of her greatest hits, and a "down home good time!" Cost is \$140.00 per person, which includes transportation, dinner, show, and gratuities. Show Date-August 4, 2024. Contact Carmen @732-254-9425. Deadline for sign up is July 21, 2024.



# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



Mystery Photo—This is a vintage photo of the Morgan Athletic Club baseball team. The only information available is the last names of the players. Pictured bottom row (l-r) Kvist, Clark, Letts, Manaker, Hartman, Bailey, Quinlan. Top row (l-r) Lauratana, Palmer, Henshaw, Rehfuss, Pierson. If anyone has any information on this team at all, such as players first names and of course the year this was taken, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: satimes@aol.com. Based on other photos we have viewed that appear to be from this time period, an educated guess would be that this team picture was taken in the late 1920's. (Photo/names courtesy of Claire Kuhn)

## 6 Home Runs In One Game!

25 Years Ago

May 9, 1999-It's hard to believe, but a collegiate baseball player by the name of Marshall McDougall, playing for Florida State against the University of Maryland, blasted 6 consecutive home runs in one game! In the first inning he lined a single, and then proceeded to set an NCAA record that may last forever by orbiting the 6 dingers in a

row. His amazing stats in the 26-2 romp over Maryland were: At Bats-7; Hits-7; RBI-16; Home Runs-6; Total Bases-25.

\*You can see the video of this unbelievable and awesome power display on youtube.com. Just type in the name Marshall McDougall.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

1962-Joe Pohl, St. Mary's ace pitcher fired a no-hitter and struck out 15 as the Eagles pounded Perth Amboy St. Mary's, 11-0. Catcher Lou Nanna blasted a 3-run homer...1974-Sayreville topped Woodbridge, 5-1 in baseball play. Winning pitcher Steve Makwinski tossed an 8-hitter. Ray Megill unloaded a 2-run homer, Scott Jenkins a 2-run single, and Ray Borup a two-base hit...1982-St. Mary's girls softball squad nipped Hoffman, 3-2. Winning pitcher Eileen Reilly fired a 2-hitter, while Eleanor Wykpisz and Bridget Beshada stroked RBI singles... 1998-In 1st round GMCT girls softball

action, South Amboy defeated Highland Park, 9-7. Kim Peterson ripped 2 singles a double, and knocked in 2 runs. Sue Rowley hit a single and double to support winning pitcher Nicole Magnifico...2007-Sayreville stopped Carteret, 10-4 in baseball action. Nick Ruzala had a perfect 4-for-4 day with 2 doubles and 3 RBI. Tom Berardi was the winning pitcher and fanned 5...2019-Rafael Albarran and Gwen Kennedy became the first freshmen in South Amboy HS history to win county championships in track & field. Albarran captured the 1600m in 4:46, and Kennedy won the 3200m in 13:01.

## 10 Years Ago

2014-Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's girls softball team defeated South Amboy, 7-4. Winning pitcher Jackie Riley allowed 1 hit and struck out 10 in 4.2 innings pitched. She also blasted a single, double and homer to drive in 3 runs. Kelsey Edwards stroked 3 hits, Victoria Zayas hit a single, and double to knock in a run, and sophomore Brinn Hemingway had a perfect 2-for-2. The Lady Guvs were led by frosh phenom Alissa Bikowski, who ripped a single and double.

## 25 Years Ago

1999-The Bombers of Sayreville golf team downed St. Mary's, 218-286. Rusty Thomsen finished 1st with a fine 36. He was followed by teammates Dave Kuczynski 42, Pat Jensen 43, Keith Tomlinson 48, Paul Carbonaro 49. The Eagles golfers scores were: Casey Woods 52, Kurt Gorman 54, Craig Kierst 57, Jay Peine 61, Chris Guilliano 62.

## Kolakowski, Callahan Remembered

Joe Kolakowski and Beth Anne Callahan, two outstanding local high school athletes in the 1970's recently passed away. Joe Kolakowski died on May 11th. Back in '75, he became the first St. Mary's basketball player in history to haul in 1,000 rebounds in his career. He was also an excellent baseball player for the Eagles. Joe went on to a superb career in college, and while starring for Stockton State, scored over 1,000 points.

Beth Anne Callahan was an outstanding pitcher for Sayreville War Memorial HS in the late 70's. She held the school record for the best ERA for many years, and was the recipient of many accolades and awards for her terrific career.

## T.H.E. Game

Sport-Baseball  
Year-2007

Teams-South Amboy vs. Cardinal McCarrick  
Recap-Winning pitcher Brian Seres dominated the Eagles, by striking out 16 batters to lead the Guvs to a 3-0 shutout victory of their hometown rivals. David Tucka belted a single and RBI triple, and Joe Bongiorno added a two-base hit.

Player-of-the-Game-Brian Seres, South Amboy.



## WWW.?



Can you identify this local building? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 15th.

## Last month's WWW.? was Ye Old Spye Inn located in Morgan.

The following got it right: Jay Seyglinski, Jean Parente, Edna Pilch, Georgianna McDonald, Steve Laskiewicz, Betty Leveille, JoAnn & John French, Don Zrebiec, Ed English, Jeff Deverin, Laurie and Gary Lortus, Walter Starzec Jr., Pat Scully, Lisa Grankowski, Dane Colburn, Joe Ballo, Barb Bockus, Gary Feret.

Ye Old Spye Inn was located at the foot of Old Spye Road in the Morgan section of Sayreville. Its started as the home of the Morgan Clan in 1703. It was later turned into a Tavern. Unfortunately very little remained of the 273 year old building after the fire in 1976 destroyed it.



May WWW.?  
Ye Old Spye Inn  
Morgan

## Champions!



Samantha Mierzwiak of South Amboy and her team NJ Premier FC 2008 have won back to back National Championship Soccer Association State Cup Titles. NJ Premier defeated STA FC 3-0 in the final to capture the State Cup. Next in store for NJ Premier is that they will be traveling to the Netherlands in late June, to play a series of matches against Pro Level competition from that country. (Photos/Info Submitted)





### Advice From A Wise Man

By Robert W. Eginton

*A wise man once said to me  
If I heed this very advice,  
To do things right the first time  
Then I won't have to do them twice.  
To take pride in all the things that I do,  
Don't hold a grudge, or be quick to judge  
What others think of you.  
I was taught to live my life  
A certain kind of way,  
Never put off until tomorrow  
What you can do today.  
And don't ever be afraid to pray,  
Be prepared for tomorrow,  
Because tomorrow is on its way.  
I assured this wise man  
That I would heed what he had to say  
Then I said,  
'Thank you Dad,'  
For I am glad,  
That I had the chance,  
To talk with you today.  
\*This poem was written in honor of Robert's dad.*

### Where Is The Tomato Pie Sign?

By Ray Downs

The Gay 90's a local tavern located at 267 Second Street in South Amboy right behind Saint Mary's Church was a roaring 20's type of tavern with a small kitchen and a piano behind the bar for all to sing along with during the 50-60-70's and even the 80's on Friday and Saturday nights. It also was known for its famous thin crusted PIZZA PIE or as it was also called TOMATO PIE at that time.

There has been some discussion as to where did the tomato pie sign go, and does anybody know who may have it?

It was a double sign made of 1/2" plywood painted gray around the edges with a black border around a white interior with RED letters. One side said TOMATO PIES and the other side said PIZZA PIES with two spotlights on the sign so you could see from Stevens Avenue.

If anyone has information on the sign e-mail: [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com).



#### 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 -L.P..

### Tribute from page 1

awhile Carmen would again ask me to "attend Undertakers School" (yeah, that's what they were called back then), with him, with that smart guy's smile he had, laughing the entire time, because he knew what my answer to that was. Uh, can't print it here. When he began his internship working for Matt Malisiewski, Carmen always "offered" me the chance to join him, again with that wise guy laugh! Carmen's ability to sense the need to help people was unmatched, and at such a young age! But, his ability to pass that "LOVE" onto others was so natural, because once you met Carmen, you knew Carmen! Whether it's been years or just a day, a moment with Carmen convinced you that yes, he's real! Ya need help? Carmen's there either as a friend, a helping hand, emotionally and financially. His membership in the countless local schools, churches, and organizations were just endless! He had a special gift of "LOVE" in his Resume!

When Carmen approached me at my retirement with that "smile" and asked, "o.k. are you ready to come work for me," I was humbled and accepted. That's when I really saw firsthand Carmen's true concerns for the families he was helping at the most vulnerable times of their lives, without a doubt, the hardest part of a Funeral Directors job. It's a process that takes a "Special Person" with the natural ability to do so, and Carmen always made it a point to be with the family all thru the wake and funeral process. Again, there's that "LOVE" showing up again! I've been blessed with Carmen's friendship for most of my life, and now with his family and amazing staff at the Spezzi/Maliszewski Funeral Homes, and the "LOVE" that Carmen brought and taught, to his children and staff, is there everyday. Even though Carmen is gone, there is no doubt he's watching over them all, because they have all "learned well" from him! Truly "A PILLAR IN HIS COMMUNITY" and beyond! Carmen, you've followed God's lead throughout your life. "LOVE" He knows that, as does your family, countless friends, and yes, even though there are members of our community who never met or knew Carmen, they benefited from his philanthropy, driven by His "LOVE," and never needing to be personally recognized, and for certain, his children and staff will carry on that legacy! For that Carmen we'll always remember you. Now, you, Carmen, "Rest in Peace". Well Deserved! We love You "C"!

And to, Christine, Meaghen, Carmen Jr., Moira, Paul Kulakis, Meghan Wisniewski, Ed Simmons, "Elizabeth" Cancilla, and Carmen's #1 man "Jash" Ruzicki, the legacy continues! And to Camille Spezzi, and Matt Marini and all the beautiful children and grandchildren, may God Bless you all!

#### Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua

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

#### PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

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

#### 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..

#### St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayers 9 times a day. Say it for 9 days. By the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, St. Jude. PS, B.S.



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### In Memoriam

Rita Adamecs Sheehan, 75, formerly of South Amboy died on May 5. Elaine Zonak, 87, of Parlin died on June 6. A very fine lady, she was a dedicated worker at Foodtown in South Amboy for 10 years prior to retiring. She was the daughter of the first South Amboy firefighter to die while fighting a fire, Thomas

Adamecs. Yvonne Coyle, 97, of Sayreville died on June 8. She was a wonderful lady, who in her younger days, along with her sister were talented professional singers, entertaining throughout the area. In addition, they were recorded in professional studios.

### Richard Moran

Richard Moran, 80, of South Amboy died on Wednesday May 29, 2024 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. A United States Air Force and Air National Guard veteran he was employed by Conrail as a police officer until retiring in 1988 and then as a security officer at JFK Hospital, Edison. He was a member of St. Stephen's Lodge #63, the American Legion Post 62, South Amboy, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, serving as Grand Marshal in 2016 and was honored as South Amboy Irish American Association Irishman of the Year in 2012. Rich was also a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church, South Amboy and the South Amboy Zoning Board.



William, Jr., James and Francis Moran; his sisters Margaret La Tourette and Catherine Murphy and his K-9 Bandit. He is survived by his wife Catherine Russell Moran; his son and daughter-in-law Sean and Ryan Moran; his daughter and son-in-law Lorrie and Joe Aloyo; his sisters Eileen Werner and her husband Carl, Mary Raber, Jacqueline Jones and her husband Samuel and Joann Janik and her husband James;

Son of the late William and Eileen Ryan Moran he is also predeceased by his son Andrew Moran in 2011; his brothers

his grandchildren Kristin and Rebecca Mahoney, Chelsea Nebus, and Maisie and Rory Moran; his great-grandchildren Mason and Colin Nunez; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy First Aid Squad, P.O. Box 328, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. P.S & B.S..



**Obituaries**

Aleski, Richard S., 80, formerly of Sayreville died on June 4.  
 Callahan, Beth Anne, 63, formerly of Sayreville died on May 23.  
 Coyle, Yvonne, 97, of Sayreville died on June 8.  
 Eshleman, Mark T., 61, of South Amboy died on June 10.  
 Gibson, Eleanor M., 60, of South Amboy died on May 28.  
 Grimaldi, Brian P., 54, formerly of South Amboy died on May 7.  
 Harrigan, James J. III, 77, formerly of South Amboy died on June 13.  
 Holt, Arvid K., 93, of Morgan died on June 2.  
 Janosko, Stephen L., 86, of Sayreville died on June 17.  
 Kolakowski, Joseph, 66, of South Amboy died on May 11.  
 Konopka, Shirley A., 88, of Sayreville died on June 10.  
 Kovach, Carl J., 80, of Parlin died on June 14.  
 Lakomy, Patryk K., 21, of Sayreville died on June 8.  
 Marciano, James A., 29, of South Amboy died on June 12.

McCarthy, Gertrude H., 75, of South Amboy died on May 31.  
 Mento, Catherine "Cathy," 62, of Sayreville died on May 16.  
 Montanez, Jose, 84, of South Amboy died on May 31.  
 Moran, Richard, 80, of South Amboy died on May 29.  
 Mulligan, Joseph R., 88, of Sayreville died on June 11.  
 Ponti, Raffaele E. "Ralph," 90, of South Amboy died on May 19.  
 Pulwin, Jerzy S., 75, of Sayreville died on June 18.  
 Sheehan, Rita Adamecs, 75, formerly of South Amboy died on May 5.  
 Soto, Carmen G., 93, of Parlin died on June 15.  
 Spezzi, Carmen F., 72, of Sayreville died on May 21.  
 Szymanski, Gloria, 97, of Sayreville died on May 12.  
 Vass, Colleen S., 72, of Sayreville died on June 19.  
 Wolfinger, Mandy L., 36, of Sayreville died on May 12.  
 Zajac, Mary Lou Lagoda, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on May 3.

**Arvid Karl Holt**

February 14, 1931 – June 2, 2024

Arvid Karl Holt of the Morgan section of Sayreville transitioned to his heavenly home on June 2, 2024 after a dynamic and fun-filled life of 93 years. Arvid was a man of faith, a family man, a full-blooded Norwegian and a proud Navy veteran who loved his country and all it stands for.

Arvid was born in the back bedroom of his family home in Tottenville, Staten Island, N.Y. Arvid was a two-sport star athlete (basketball and baseball) at Tottenville High School and upon graduation he left his family, friends and familiar surroundings to begin his enlistment in the United States Navy serving during the Korean War aboard the U.S.S. Worcester.

In January 1955, he married the beautiful Evangeline (Peggy) O'Shea, who he met at Tottenville High School. They lovingly raised their family of four children—three boys (Walter, Thomas and Paul) and one girl (Jeanne)—in Sayreville, NJ.

Arvid worked in the transportation and logistics fields eventually retiring from Bell Atlantic (Verizon). During his career Arvid established a work/life balance as his days were filled attending school and athletic events with his children and taking time to swim, sing, garden and golf (three registered holes in one after age 68).

Following his retirement, Arvid worked for 25 years with Park America and the City of South Amboy at the South Amboy train station where he joyfully assisted commuters in embracing their workday.

Arvid was a man of God, who professed his faith and set an example for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that will guide them all their lives. He loved his Savior, the Lord Jesus, with all his heart, and he loved God's word. Though he was a humble, gentle man, Arvid loved competition. Arvid was an active member of the Perth Amboy, Parlin and South Amboy Y.M.C.A., Frog Hollow Swim Club, Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Barber Shop singing groups, Coach for the Morgan AA Little League and referee for the Sayreville Recreation basketball leagues. Many wanted to be his partner for horseshoes and not many wanted to face him in paddleball. Arvid was a church soloist, organist, choir member and Food Bank volunteer recently at the First Presbyterian Church in South Amboy NJ and former member of Grace Lutheran Church in Perth Amboy, NJ and

Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Perth Amboy and Iselin.

Son of the late Axel and Johanna Holt, Arvid was predeceased by his beloved wife Peggy, and his brothers Harold, Birger and Rolf. Arvid was a loving husband and father and an adoring grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of ten. He is survived by his loving children: Jeanne Stahlecker and her husband Paul of Easton, PA; Walter Holt and his wife Colleen of Sinking Spring, PA, Thomas Holt and his wife Jackie of Spring Lake, NJ and Paul Holt of South Amboy, NJ. In addition, Arvid is survived by his precious grandchildren, Shannon Ventre (Ralph), Ryan Thomas Holt, Kirsten Dugan (Jon), Matthew Holt (Shannon), Kevin Holt (Bria), Katie Granite (Phil), Ryan Patrick Holt, Gary Holt (Stephanie), DeAnne Overholt (Joe), Kenny Holt (Mackenzie), Paul Holt (Melissa), Tara Stahlecker and Craig Stahlecker. He also had ten great grandchildren who were the light of his life, Ralph, Luca and Collette Ventre, AJ, Amelia and Lillian Holt, Margot Dugan, Hayden Overholt and Skylar and Runa Holt. Arvid will be forever remembered by his children, and grandchildren, as well as by his beloved in-laws, and many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and countless friends who gave him a tremendous amount of love throughout his lifetime.

A special note of thanks to Dr. Harold McKenna, his physician and friend for over 40 years.

Even at age 93, Arvid had the exceptional ability to make everyone and anyone he came in contact with to feel loved and appreciated and he thought of every experience from his childhood, his navy days, his work experiences, his travels, and his life with his family as a Blessing from God.

Arvid Holt, a remarkable, loving man with a positive and optimistic attitude who will be deeply missed.

Relatives and friends are invited to the First Presbyterian Church in South Amboy, NJ, on July 13, 2024 at 10:00 am for a celebration of Arvid's life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Arvid's memory to the First Presbyterian Church in South Amboy. Arrangements are under the direction and care of Matthew Freeman and Aftercare Cremation Service, 241 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

**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 -J.B.

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