

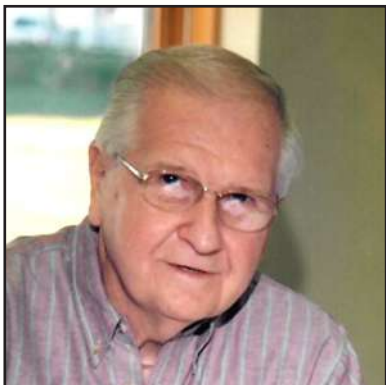


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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is  
dedicated to**  
\*Walter Dusko  
\*Joseph Juliano  
\*Bernadine Kapica  
\*Gerard "Jerry" Pizzillo  
\*Edgar Runkel  
\*Ernest Smoyak  
\*Raymond "Butch" Tomaszewski  
\*Kathleen Dooling Vigilante

**January 27, 2024 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 33 Issue 4**



**Raymond "Butch" Tomaszewski**



**Kathleen Dooling Vigilante**



**Gerard "Jerry" Pizzillo Sr.**

## **South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade Honors 2024 Grand Marshal And Deputy Grand Marshal**

The South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day Committee will host a Grand Marshal's Dinner honoring its 2024 Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Grand Marquis, 1550 US-9 Old Bridge. Tickets may be purchased at \$100.00 per person and will include an open bar, cocktail hour and seated dinner. The members of the South Amboy D. B. Kelly Pipes and Drums will be special honored guests. Open to the public, interested parties may inquire as to ticket purchases or how to donate to the event may contact the parade committee at [saparade6@gmail.com](mailto:saparade6@gmail.com).

Michael "Mickey" Gross, a well-known and respected resident of South Amboy, will serve as Grand Marshal. Employed by the County of Middlesex for 40 plus years, Mr. Gross currently holds the position of Environmental Health Division Head within the Department of Public Health and Safety. Mr. Gross has been active in local politics, serving on the South Amboy City Council for over 12 years where he currently holds the position of Council President as well as a member of the city's zoning board.

A big man with a big heart Mr. Gross is a strong believer in giving back to his community through volunteerism and lending his talents to community organizations.

Keasbey resident Yolanda Flores

*Continued on page 3*

## **Locals Mourn 3 Shining Stars**

**By Tom Burkard**

The City of South Amboy and Borough of Sayreville are in mourning over the passing away of three of their finest, highly-respected and loved citizens. Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski, 88, died on Jan. 13. He was a teacher/varsity basketball coach for many, many years at Hoffman HS. Ray, who was a graduate of Hoffman in the mid-1950's, starred on the basketball team, and following graduation went on to Monmouth College, where he became the college's first 1,000 point scorer in history. He later had a long and illustrious career as one of the greatest varsity basketball coaches of all-time for Hoffman/South Amboy High School. His team racked up an estimated 200 plus victories, and captured the 1967 Central Jersey Group 1 championship. He also coached several 1,000 point scorers including basketball legends Curt Wood, Billy Clayton, Gary Lange, Frank Kuziowski, and Bob Clayton. "Butch" was also the South Amboy Democratic Chairman for many years, and also served as an assistant to Recreation Director John Zdanewicz.

Kathleen "Kathy" Dooling Vigilante, 68, of South Amboy died on Jan. 14. She was the

Municipal Clerk for the City of South Amboy until retiring in 2014. Kathleen also served as committeewoman and Mayor's secretary. She was always very helpful to all, and a kind-hearted lady who will be sadly missed.

Gerard "Jerry" Pizzillo Sr. 71, of Parlin, the former Police Chief of South Amboy died on January 14. Jerry was always helpful, caring, dedicated and hard-working in everything he was involved in. A '70 graduate of St. Mary's HS, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he proudly served his country. Jerry later went into the law enforcement field, and worked his way up through the ranks to become South Amboy Police Chief in 2003, a position he held until he retired. He was always a very active and contributing member of The Historical Society of South Amboy, and instrumental in obtaining historical markers from Middlesex County to be placed at different locations, where major events happened many years ago in the City of South Amboy. Jerry was also an outstanding actor, and portrayed many local historical figures at different events through the years. He was currently a Code

Enforcement Officer. Jerry truly loved his country and was so proud to be an American. He was also very proud to be a Marine and Police Officer, and was a member of PBA Local 63. In addition, he was a Model A enthusiast. Jerry was without a doubt one of the most patriotic men I have ever met, and his pride really showed in November, 2022, when the Veterans Plaza on Bordentown Ave. was dedicated. He was very involved, working side-by-side with city workers and local veterans during the construction of the beautiful Plaza. In addition, he was an eloquent speaker, and served as Master of Ceremonies at many historical, veterans, and police related events.

"Butch," "Kathy," and "Jerry" were all very special and wonderful people— 3 Shining Stars, who touched so many lives in such positive ways, and definitely made the world a better place to live in. We were truly blessed to have known them, and our prayers and sincere condolences are extended to their families.

## **THANK YOU**

**On behalf of the Friends of South Amboy we would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our charity games on December 16th. With your support we can assist city residents in need. A special thank you goes out to all the sponsors, participating teams and the South Amboy Board of Education.**

## **O'Brien Sworn In As Mayor in Sayreville**



Republican Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and council members are sworn in on New Year's Day. O'Brien who served as Mayor for 20 years is back in the top seat after sitting out for 4 years. (Photo/info submitted)



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry swears in new Fire Chief Timothy Gay, as his wife holds the Bible, and family members proudly look on.

## **South Amboy Fire Chiefs Sworn In**

**(Photo/story by Jamie Norek)**

2024 Chief of Department Timothy Gay (Progressive Engine 9), 1st Assistant Chief Rafael Albarran (Mechanicsville Engine 10) and 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Kelly (Enterprise Truck 8) were sworn into their respective offices on New Year's Day at 12

noon in front of family, friends and fellow firefighters. Mayor Henry congratulated the new chiefs and thanked them for their dedication to the city. He also thanked outgoing Chief John Dragotta for a job well done in 2023.

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Pictured (l-r) at the New Year's Day Swearing-In ceremony are: Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Councilman Michael Colaci, GOP Chairwoman Karen Bailey Bebert, Councilwoman Donna Roberts, Councilman John Zebrowski, Councilman Stanley "Stash" Synarski. (Photo Submitted)

## Summary of all Contests For 2023

### WWW.?

**First Place with 12 correct answers:**  
Barbara Bockus, Betty Leveille, Gary Feret, Lisa Grankowski, Pat Scully, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

**Second Place with 11 correct answers:**  
Dane Colburn, Dennis Quinlan, Don Zrebiec, Edna Pilch, John & JoAnn French, Lynn Loy, Mary Agnes Morris, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Third Place with 10 correct answers:**  
Ed English, Mark Moniello, Pete McIntyre, Stephen Laskiewicz.

### What is It?

**First Place with 13 correct answers:**  
Gary Feret

**Second Place with 12 correct answers:**  
Edna Pilch, Mark Moniello, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Third Place with 11 correct answers:**  
Betty Leveille.

### Where in NJ?

**First Place with 12 correct answers:**  
Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Second Place with 11 correct answers:**  
Mark Moniello, Pat Scully.

**Third Place with 10 correct answers:**  
Gary Feret.

### What Exit?

**First Place with 10 correct answers:**  
Betty Leveille, Gary Feret, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Second Place with 8 correct answers:**  
Edna Pilch, Mark Moniello.

**Third Place with 6 correct answers:**  
John & JoAnn French, Thomas Harrigan.

### Who Is It?

**First Place with 11 correct answers:**  
Betty Leveille, Dane Colburn, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Second Place with 10 correct answers:**  
Edna Pilch, Gary Feret.

**Third Place with 9 correct answers:**  
John & JoAnn French, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Mark Moniello.

### Vintage Cars

**First Place with 12 correct answers:**  
Gary Feret, John & JoAnn French, Mark Moniello.

**Second Place with 11 correct answers:**  
Dane Colburn, Edna Pilch, Walter Starzec Jr.

**Third Place with 10 correct answers:**  
Betty Leveille, Ed English, Pat Scully.

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**Publisher**  
Tom Burkard

**Feature Writers**  
Teo Weber  
Clem Skarzynski  
Steve Schmid  
John Phillips  
Richard Kosmoski

**Associate Publisher**  
Brian Stratton

**Layout Design**  
Phyllis Stratton

**Photographer**  
Jamie Norek


**Poet Laureate**  
Albert Gomolka Jr.

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- Who was the only Sayreville person to serve as Senator?  
a. Anthony Popowski b. James Zagata c. Randy Corman
- Kare Paint was located in South Amboy back in '84 at?  
a. North Broadway b. South Feltus St. c. First St.
- Named Clean Communities Coordinator for the City of South Amboy in 2019?  
a. Mary Haskins b. Erin Senape c. James Mentkiewicz
- Sayreville's Fire Chief in 2019?  
a. Kevin Krushinski b. Anthony Giardello c. Steve Janovich
- In 2014, this pizza business was located on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy?  
a. SA Pizza b. LaMont's Pizza c. Hillcrest Pizza/Restaurant
- This longtime Sayreville War Memorial HS principal retired in 2019?  
a. Mary Macilvaine b. Jamaal Jone c. James Brown
- Grand Marshal of the '14 St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Amboy?  
a. Msgr. John Gordon b. Col. John O'Connell c. Assemblyman Craig Coughlin
- Sayreville Borough Council President in 2008?  
a. Kenneth Kelly b. Dennis Grobelny c. Rory Zach
- In 2014, the former Foodtown in South Amboy was now called?  
a. Albie's Food b. Key Food c. South Amboy Foods & Liquors
- Sayreville's Fire Chief in 2009?  
a. Tony Jackowski b. John Dunne c. Cliff Mapes
- South Amboy's Fire Chief in 2014?  
a. Mike Gerałowski b. Steve Szatkowski c. Brett Coyle
- Where was Covello's Italian-Seafood Restaurant located in 2009?  
a. Rt. 35 North, Morgan b. Rt. 9 South, Sayreville c. Washington Rd., Sayreville



Answers  
1c 2c 3b 4a 5a 6c 7a 8b 9b 10a 11c 12a.



**Business  
Spotlight**

**Monaghan House**  
(Story/Photos Submitted)



The outstanding staff at Monaghan House includes (l-r) Front: Courtney, Dee, Owner Nicole, Kat, Toni. Back: Oscar and Jaheem.

The Monaghan House is a woman owned bar and grill located on 400 S Pine Ave, South Amboy, NJ 08879. Monaghan House offers an inclusive atmosphere, where all walks of life are welcomed. We have a full kitchen and bar, catering to all. We offer gluten free, vegan, vegetarian and non alcoholic food and beverages, as well as catering and hosting parties. The Monaghan House was bought by Nicole

Olin. Nicole, a former behavioral therapist, decided to move to South Amboy and take over the beloved treasure we all have come to love. We offer live music every Friday and Saturday. Find out more on our website! [www.themonaghanhouse.com](http://www.themonaghanhouse.com). We are also on Instagram and Facebook! Come in and give us a try, or even try us again. We can't wait to have you.



In photo (l-r) Toni, manager, Nicole, owner, Joseph, manager.

**New South Amboy Fire Chiefs**



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (r) is pictured with the new Fire Chiefs following the swearing-in ceremony on New Year's Day at City Hall. Pictured (l-r) 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Kelly, Chief Timothy Gay, and 1st Assistant Chief Rafael Albarran. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

**St. Patrick's Day** continued from page 1

will serve as Deputy Grand Marshal. Her dedication to her city, clients, family, and committee members has been an inspiration to all. This hard-working unsung individual was born and raised in Perth Amboy and is employed by Keller Williams by the Bay Realty where she holds the position of manager and broker. Ms. Flores is also the owner of American Pride Bait and Tackle, Perth Amboy. An active volunteer in both Perth Amboy and South Amboy, Ms. Flores

lends her talents to Celebrate Perth Amboy Inc.-Celebrate our Stars & Stripes for the past nine years, Ms. Flores holds the title of logistics coordinator which requires her to work closely with the Cities of Perth Amboy and South Amboy, as well as multiple city departments culminating in the spectacular Independence Day Celebration and Festival attended and enjoyed by over 10,000 Perth Amboy and South Amboy residents.

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## Yearbook-St. Mary's 1989

By Tom Burkard

St. Mary's HS Class of 1989 returned to the Augusta St. school for its final year in Sept. 1988, and probably enjoyed listening to the #1 hit of the day, "Sweet Child O' Mine by Guns & Roses on their car radios on the way in. Principal John Gloss, Asst. Principal Sister Ann Marie, and some of the faculty including Jim Davidson, Debra Gulick, Sr. Veronica Murray, Sue Burns, Sr. Kateri, Sr. Mary Therese, Sara Shipman, and Sharon Kedish, and others helped to keep the students morale up day-in and day-out. The yearbook's theme was "A Circle of Friends," and the Editor was Gerri Panigrosso. Tributes in the publication were given to teachers Janet Scordinsky and James Ross. Chris Petricek was Editor of "Reflections," and Lucy Stoney was Editor of the "Eagle Press." A few important events happening in '89 included the U.S. under the direction of new President George Bush invaded Panama and toppled General Noriega from power; An earthquake in San Francisco killed 67 people; Pete Rose was banned from baseball for life for gambling on baseball. While back at St. Mary's HS, students heavy activity schedule saw them bury a time capsule to be opened in 25 years; the 2nd Annual Christmas Concert; The Christmas Ball "Mistletoe Magic," and the school play, "South Pacific." Mai Ling Chan was President of the Senior Senate and also the Honor Society. Other 89'ers randomly selected from the graduating class of 80, included: Annette Aponte, Charles Ditta, Warren Eberle, Maureen Finnegan, Gerald Freeman, Gloria Gatto, Carol Jane Kelly, Sharon Manion, Maria Nebus, Barbara Mankowski, Karin Noll, Karen O'Keefe, Anthony Russo, Marlene Townsend, Christine Vellanti, Josette Browning, Boris Espinosa, Daniel Kous, Jennifer Korabiak, Robert Price, Glenn Vignola. Other memorable events during the school year included: Bishop Hughes blessing the new chapel in the high school; Flavian the Hypnotist; Retreat; the Christmas Party; Senior Halfway Week; the Senior Talent Show. Many fine senior athletes made their marks at St. Mary's including: Janine Barella, Kim Harkins, Tyrus Hicks, Mark Jefferys, Thomas Kovaleski, Matthew Leahy, Keith Lodzinski, Dawn McCabe, Judith Paczkowski, Shannon Palomo, Keith Paladino, William Wykpisz, Kathryn O'Toole, Robert Ferraro, Nancy Godlesky, Joseph McGuire. St. Mary's Class of '89 seemed like a really great group of young adults, who were close-knit and a real "Circle of Friends."

### FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

A new year is upon us. I hope all of you were able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends, plan big things for the year ahead, and—perhaps most importantly—reflect on the year that was. I know many of us dread the dark, dreary, and cold days that await us after the holidays. Even so, I hope you will keep in mind that the new year brings new opportunities and possibilities, and that the warm days of spring are not far away.

I believe I speak for our entire City Council in stating that we too are reflecting on the past year and thinking constantly about the great things to come for our City. As I have said before, it is an honor and privilege to serve the people of the Second Ward. The Council members and I are excited and ready to work on the grand ideas and important issues contemplated throughout this past year. Our front-and-center priorities include improving our downtown, maintaining a high degree of public safety, and continuing to build a vibrant and strong community. Our future is bright and we are poised for great things in the year ahead.


In keeping with the theme of reflecting on the year that was, I want to thank our outgoing fire chief, John Dragotta, for his dedication and commitment to our city. Independence Fire Company will be hosting a testimonial dinner in his honor on March 1, 2024 at the Grand Marquis on Route 9 in Old Bridge. Please contact Roger Kuhn for tickets or to purchase an advertisement. Roger can be reached at 732-407-3417

Looking ahead to spring, the South Amboy St. Patrick's day parade will be held on Sunday, March 17th. The parade begins at 2 p.m. Councilman at Large Michael "Mickey" Gross will serve as the Grand Marshal, and a celebratory dinner will be held on Friday, February 2 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. Tickets are \$100 per person and will include an open bar, cocktail hour, and seated dinner. The members of the South Amboy Col. D.B. Kelly Pipes and Drums will be the special honored guests. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact the parade committee at [saparade6@gmail.com](mailto:saparade6@gmail.com).

Finally, the month of January is designated as National Blood Donor Month. There is a noted decline in blood donations during the winter months, and a corresponding rise in the risk of blood shortages. To donate blood and to help ensure that this lifesaving resource is available to patients, please call 732-235-8100 ext. 221. A very special thanks to St. Mary's church, the South Amboy YMCA, and the South Amboy Elks Club for hosting these events in the past.

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

### Happy Holidays!



Senior citizens from South Amboy are pictured at the recent Christmas party hosted by the Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center. (Photo submitted)





Trish Fitzgibbons (l) and her daughter Erin, are pictured at the SA Knights recent fundraiser for her husband Mark. (Photo/info by Steve Schmid)

SA Knights Benefit For Fitzgibbons Family

By Steve Schmid

A large crowd of about one hundred people turned out January 12, at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hall. The people came despite an approaching rainstorm, to a fundraiser for Sayreville resident and brother Knight Mark Fitzgibbons. Council 426 Past Grand Knight and state District Deputy Gary Lattanzi organized the event and thanked brother Knights and sister Columbiettes for their help in the benefit, which raised money for

Mark to help pay medical bills resulting from several bouts of cancer. Trish Fitzgibbons, Mark's wife, and their daughter Erin, stood in front of the crowd and Trish said she was extremely grateful for this support from the community. She praised Council 426 for organizing the benefit and thanked people who attended. Sadly, Mark passed away the next morning at the age of 63. Please keep Mark and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Sayreville Library News

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, Feb. 20 @1PM

This Month: My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3: the continuing adventures of the Portokalos family. Starring Nia Vardalos and John Corbett.

Rated PG-13/1 hr 32 mins

Refreshments provided

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Kitchens and Bathrooms with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

Tuesday, Feb. 27@6PM

Jamie Novak, best selling author of "Keep This Toss That" is back with another decluttering seminar.

This time: Learn how to tackle the kitchen

and bathroom. Find some new ways to keep two of the busiest rooms in the house, clean and free of clutter.

This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.

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This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.

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OLV Columbiettes-‘Design a Wine’ Glass Craft Night – JANUARY 30

The OLV Columbiettes are hosting a “Design a Wine” Glass Event on January 30, 2024 at 7 pm at the Knights of Columbus at 775 Washington Road, Parlin. Doors will open at 6 pm. For \$25 per person, you will receive two stemless glasses, selected permanent stencils, and instructions. You can purchase extra glasses for \$5 as well. This will be a fun event of creating glasses, spending time with your friends, and enjoying snacks. Please bring your own snacks. Desserts, coffee, tea and water will be included. A

CASH Bar will be available. No outside beverages are allowed. If possible, please bring a non-perishable item for the local food pantry.

Stencils available will be flip flops, butterfly, flower, snowflake, shamrock, script name, monogram and initial. Please contact Sarah at 732-690-2860 or Liza at 732-672-6804 to reserve your seat, stencil or just ask questions. We look forward to spending a fun evening with you!!!

Walk To Bethlehem

(Photos/info by Lois Ann Smith)



First Presbyterian Church Pastor Reverend John Mottley delivers a Christmas message to participants in the annual Walk To Bethlehem in South Amboy.



St. Mary Star of the Sea Pastor Father Guy Selvester welcomes people in the annual Walk To Bethlehem held in South Amboy.

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A black and white photograph of the exterior of the Priscilla Jewelry store. The store has a sign that says "Priscilla Jewelry" and another sign that says "JEWELRY REPAIR & RESIZE". The store is located on a street corner.

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## February at the South Amboy Elks

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delights, select beverages and a fun filled night of music, and dancing. A cash bar will be available also, where we will offer our Voodoo Punch drink special. On Sunday, February 18th from 9-11am treat your sweetheart to breakfast! Our Sweethearts Breakfast will consist of a made to order omelet station where you can get your eggs fried or sunny side up too. Followed by the classics in buffet style: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Pancakes, Hash Browns, Bacon, & Sausage. Breakfast Breads, sweets, Juice, and Coffee are also included. The price is \$12.00 per person. Reservations for tables of 8 or more are highly recommended for both events.

## Wind Creek Trip March 3

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### The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, B.A., M.S.

Eventually it will be in YOUR town. I am talking about those gigantic warehouses that are popping up everywhere. With more and more people shopping online, there is a need for locally placed warehouses to store and distribute products. For the fire service, this could be the catastrophic event no one wants to have occur. Some of these new warehouses are a quarter mile long or longer. It is not necessarily the building itself that is the concern but the products stored inside these massive structures and if the fire suppression systems are adequate should a fire occur. Is the sprinkler suppression system designed and installed properly and capable of handling any fire that may occur? Unfortunately, this is not always the case. On June 21st, 1982, K-Mart's 1.2 million square foot warehouse in Falls Township, Pennsylvania was totally destroyed by fire. The fire in this one-story, 1250 foot (quarter mile) long by 1000-foot-wide distribution warehouse caused \$113 in damages. The fire was determined to be accidental and started when a carton of carburetor cleaner fell to the ground from a stored pallet. As the carton hit the ground, one or more of the cans under pressure ruptured, spraying the liquid cleaner around the area of a moving forklift truck. It was determined that an electrical spark from the forklift ignited the flammable liquid vapors. The fire suppression system was activated but was quickly overwhelmed due to the large amount of flammable liquids stored in the facility. It was estimated that over 580,000 cans of petroleum distillate-based aerosols and 480,000 cans of alcohol-based aerosols were stored in the facility. One of the major factors that resulted in the total loss of the warehouse was an unintentional open door in the fire-protection wall. This open door allowed the fire to spread to the area of the warehouse where general merchandise was being stored. Other products stored in this facility were butane lighter fluids, paint, propane tanks, and small arms ammunition.

When aerosol cans are exposed to fire, they rupture along the seams, and using propane and butane as propellants, they can fly through the air leaving a blazing trail of fire in their wake. Fire was able to spread in all directions as cans traveling at rocket speeds had no sense of direction. Fire sprinkler suppression systems are designed to suppress a fire in its initial stages. In this case, the massive amount of flammable liquids quickly overwhelmed that sprinkler system. Another concern is the water used to fight the fire that becomes contaminated from the hazardous materials involved in the fire. Where was the runoff going? Did it seep into the ground where wells and aquifers are located or into the storm drains that feed into the rivers, lakes and bays and pollute them? With that being said, look throughout your community for new construction (existing ones too) of massive-sized warehouses. Take a moment and think of what might be stored in those warehouses and the quantities. Will there be any unauthorized storage of materials that at times may overwhelm the fire suppression system? Those may be the cases when we hear the property manager say, "I didn't think it would cause a fire or I only intended to store it there for a few days and I didn't think there would be a problem." These are the times when unexpected incidents occur and can lead to disaster. Who is the watchdog over these massive facilities? How will the first responders be made aware of the diverse types and quantities of hazardous materials stored in these warehouses? Are our firefighting resources adequate to manage a K-Mart warehouse type fire in our community?

### 65 Years Ago

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### UPCOMING ZOOM EVENTS

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

**"What is a NFA Gun Trust?"**  
**3/5/24 at 10AM**

Call to Register



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Cheerleading Champions

(Photos/information submitted)

2023 was an historical cheer season for the Sayreville Jr. Bombers! All three teams were outstanding! Competing in the '23 AYC National Championships all three teams took top honors and excelled.



Sayreville Jr. Bombers Cheerleading:  
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Sayreville Jr. Bombers Cheerleading:  
D10 Cheer - 3rd place



Sayreville Jr. Bombers Cheerleading:  
D12 Cheer - 1st place National Champions

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this famous drummer? Chances are you heard him play on many hit songs. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Feb, 10th.



December Who is it?

Last month we received more incorrect answers than correct! Many readers said it was Natalie Wood in Miracle on 34th street, It was in fact Marlene Lyden who played The Dutch Girl in the same movie. The following got it right: Phyllis Nappi, Pat Scully, Sonia Iglesias, JoAnn & John French, Betty Leveille, Nanci Deverin, Ed Bender.



Marlene Lyden

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Where in NJ?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



December Where in NJ?  
Newark, NJ  
(The Prudential Building)

Winners: Pat Scully, Mark Moniello, JoAnn & John French, Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch, Thomas Harrigan, Walter Starzec Jr., Dane Colburn.

We are taking a break and this contest will appear occasionally throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us!

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What Exit?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

December What Exit:

13A Winners: JoAnn & John French, Walter Starzec Jr.  
We are taking a break and this contest will appear occasionally throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us!





Snow and sleet fell by the Rollermagic skating arena during the early part of the January 6 storm. (Photos by Steve Schmid)



This large tree was downed by the storm.

Three Winter Storms In New Year

By Steve Schmid

The new year came in like a lion with three strong winter storms. The first one arrived January 6 with snow, sleet, and rain. The wintry mix caused slippery roads and sidewalks. The slushy accumulation of an inch slowed people attending Saturday church services or who dined out. Drivers had to use caution. The snow and sleet changed to heavy rain and ended January 10. Areas in Sussex and Warren county received up to a foot of snow. Central Jersey frequently is a battleground with snow north and rain south in winter storms. The second and more powerful storm came January 9 with another bout of heavy rain and powerful winds continuing overnight. Torrential rain caused local flooding and winds caused scattered

power outages. The winds uprooted some trees including one that disrupted Sayreville traffic on Bordentown Ave. between Route 9 and Ernston Rd. The nasty weather resulted in delayed school openings in Sayreville, South Amboy, Perth Amboy, Carteret, Spotswood, and other towns. The third storm arrived January 12 and once again featured heavy rain and strong winds continuing overnight. Fortunately this one was a quick hitter and was over by sunrise. The coldest air of the season followed with temperatures falling to below freezing with gusty winds and chances of snow. The three winter storms produced about six inches of rain between them. We are looking forward to spring which arrives on March 19.

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# The Road To The ‘84 State Championship

By Pete Smith

On June 9, 1984 Hoffman High School won the Group 1 State Championship. As the 40th anniversary approaches, a look back is worthwhile. The journey of the championship team started in 1976 in the 9 and 10 year old South Amboy Little Fellas All Star team. The 9-and 10-year-old all-stars typically played the Fords tournament. The South Amboy team was good, but was undone by Jeff Kipila and Iselin. Iselin was a nemesis throughout the 1976-1983 period. Jeff was drafted by the Angels and made it to triple A. In the tournament knockout stages, Jeff homered to put Iselin ahead and eliminate South Amboy for good in the double elimination tourney. The 11-12 year old team includes the core members who would go on to the state championship win at Hoffman. Since this was age-group rather than class level, some of the guys that were a grade ahead were on the team including Jimmy Beshada, and John McQuade. The players were Steve Martin, Pete Smith, Mark Thompson, Carson Bloodgood, John McQuade, Kevin Gorczyca, Wilbur O’Leary, Jeff Pacansky, Billy Bright, Joe Lewis, Jimmy Beshada, Kenny Huryk, Craig Gorczyca, John “Skeets” Skarzynski. Coaches were Pat Leonard (his son was the bat boy), Joe Pacansky’s dad, and Coach Wence.

South Amboy made the Middlesex County Freeholders championship. The game was against Iselin... of course. South Amboy went ahead 3-2 in extra innings. With two outs, Jeff Kipila comes up with one runner on. South Amboy had learned. We walked Kipila. The next batter hit a pop fly to right that should have been the final out. Unfortunately, two runs were scored. South Amboy loses to Iselin 4-3. The team was bitter. Next up was the 15-year-old Junior Baseball (Babe Ruth) Middlesex County Freeholders Tournament. The coaches were James Beshada, Alan Pasztornyicky, and Michael Leonard. The players included Ned Faircloth, Pete Smith, Mark Thompson, James Shaw, Jimmy Beshada, Kevin Gorczyca, John Skarzynski, John McQuade, Jeff Pacansky, Carson Bloodgood, Mike Toth, Steve Martin, Joe Lewis, Billy Bright. The tournament was a grind. In the first game, South Amboy beat Edison’s B team 8-6 and Mark Thompson picked up the win. This game was closer than it should have been. Next up, John Skarzynski picked up a dominant win with 4 and 2/3 innings pitched and Mark Thompson picked up the save with 2 and 1/3 innings. The formula was repeated with a 8-3 win over Colonia with Skeets throwing 5 innings and Mark saving the game with 2 innings. In the semi-final, against New Brunswick, Mark Thompson went 7 innings with 14K’s and a 6-2 victory. The atmosphere of this game was intense. South Amboy was up 5-0 going into the 6th inning. A bad call led to a runner called safe and Mark lost his no-hitter. This shook the confidence and lead to two earned runs allowed. We recovered and closed out the game. The final was set: Edison A versus South Amboy. Edison was feeling confident given our underperformance versus Edison B. We were a bit disappointed that Iselin was not in the final.... A little more on that later. South Amboy lost the coin flip and went down 1-2-3 in the top of the first. Edison scored a run in the first and maintained the lead for 3 more innings. Joe DeSantis from Edison had a good fastball/curveball combination. In the top of the 4th South Amboy scored a run and loaded the bases with one out. Mark Thompson was next up. Mark struck out leaving the bases loaded and two outs. Pete Smith stepped to the plate and lined a 2-run base hit up the middle for the lead. South Amboy was ahead for good. In the bottom of the 4th, Kevin Gorczyca was playing center and made an over the shoulder catch reminiscent of Willie Mays. In the 6th inning, Edison’s pitchers could not find the plate and we scored 5 runs on walks. South Amboy completed a 9-1 victory and claimed the 15-year-old Middlesex County championship. At this point, the team members moved onto high school. The age group competition was sunset. The class year and high school selection prevails. Throughout this period, 1976-1981, Billy Bright, Kevin Gorczyca,

John Skarzynski, Pete Smith and Mark Thompson played nearly every game together. You might call these 5 guys South Amboy’s own Fab Five. These five guys wound up as seniors on the 1984 Hoffman baseball team. The full team is shown in the picture. The team was coached by first year head coach George Krzyzanowski. Also, the assistant coach was Fred Henry who taught English. To finish up the acknowledgement of our nemesis, Iselin– Hoffman played Iselin again in 1983, our junior season. We lost as Skeets was exhausted from pitching the bulk of the innings that year. Mark Thompson sat out the year. In our senior year, we had Iselin scheduled. Iselin canceled the game. Hoffman took that as the ultimate atonement. Coming into the 1984 season, a News Tribune preview highlighted that Hoffman had won or shared in the Central Valley Conference title the preceding 6 years and claimed that the 1984 team was the best yet. Hoffman finished the season at (19-3). Hoffman entered the state tournament as the Central Valley Conference Champions. In the State Group 1 tournament, Hoffman had several byes based on an outstanding regular season record. Hoffman faced Metuchen and the dangerous hitter Adrian Farris. We won 3-0 on Mark Thompson’s strong outing. Mark got Adrian to line out twice. Hoffman avoided the distraction of prom night. Hoffman moved on to the Central Jersey final and faced Bound Brook at North Brunswick. It was a tough outing where Skeets went 9 innings and we claimed a 4-3 win in extra innings. There were no pitch counts in those days. In this game, Billy Bright homered in the 5th. In the 9th, Billy doubled with one out and moved to third on Stan Zawacki’s infield single. With two outs, Kevin Gorczyca singled home the winning run. Hoffman moved onto the State Semi final and faced Woodstown at Bordentown High School. This was a more comfortable 5-2 win, with Mark Thompson going the distance. Mark tossed a 3-hitter and homered. Randy Stratton and Pete Smith contributed RBI singles. This set up the final at Princeton.

### State Championship Game

Hoffman faced Emerson Boro with Skeets on the mound. Emerson Borough was ranked 12th in the Star Ledger state rankings and finished 19th. Emerson finished the season (29-3) and won the State Championship in 1982 and six times all together. The game was tied 0-0 until the top of the 4th. With one out, Skeets drew a walk. Pete Smith blooped a single to right. Mark Thompson drove a double to right scoring two runs. Mark was caught at third trying to stretch a triple.

### First 2 runs scored

In the top of the 6th, Pete Smith singled again, and moved to second on a throwing error. Pete advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a passed ball to give Skeets a 3-0 lead heading into the bottom of the 6th. Skeets closed out the bottom of the 6th and 7th for a 3-0 victory.

### Third run scored

Skeets finished the day with one strike out and no walks and 13 fly ball outs. After the game, Emerson Borough coach Larry Ennis said, “We’ve never been handled this easily all season.” George Krzyzanowski said, “It’ll take me a long time to get rid of this great feeling.” Hoffman was left out of the final poll and still feels slighted by the final Star Ledger rankings. Skeets allowed 3 hits on the day. He retired the side in order 5 of the 7 innings.

### Memories/Quotes

**John Attardi’s** “fondest memories were how the team was such good friends as well as the long days of running 10-drills (foul pole to foul pole sprints) that prepared us for the special season.”

**Bob Gallery** remembered, “Winning, beating that team from the North with all the hoopla” Bob also added that the players coached first and third base, and would sometimes, call for sacrifice bunts and hit and runs

**Scott Gumprecht** reminisced, “I was so proud and humbled to be part of that team.”

**Coach Fred Henry** remembered “the

# 40 Years Ago



1984 Group I State Champions

The Hoffman Governors boys baseball team captured the NJSIAA Group 1 State championship. Pictured bottom row (l-r) Bill Bright, Peter Smith, Rich Brown, Andy Moran, Randy Stratton, Tom Skarzynski. Middle row (l-r) Mark Thompson, John Attardi, Scott Gumprecht, Stanley Zawacki, Jim McCabe, Joe Samuelson. Top row (l-r) Coach George Krzyzanowski, Joe Ramer, Dave Gumprecht, Rob Ruskuski, Bob Gallery, John “Skeets” Skarzynski, Kevin Gorczyca, Assistant Coach Fred Henry.

major desire to win and two of the best pitchers in the state, timely hitting.....the concentration level in the state championship game. Also, there was a philosophy of team and intensity from each of the members.”

**Coach Krzyzanowski** commented, “The championship was a game of unsung heroes who came through at the right time for the win. With John Skarzynski taking the pitching chores, he kept his poise and held Emerson Borough scoreless for a 3-0 win. This was a group of young individuals who took the challenge and came out victorious . Proud to be their coach.”

**Rob Ruskuski said**, “I remember the tunes on the bus on road trips. Skeets had the boombox. What a great bunch of characters we had.”

**John Skarzynski** said “it was the best team and best group of guys I ever played with”

**Pete Smith** remembered “Everyone contributed. Some examples included: Jimmy McCabe, getting a key hit versus Dunellen to keep us undefeated. Andy Moran led the team in batting average early in the season. Richie Brown stealing bases.”

**Randy Stratton** called it, “our miracle season” and added, “We had a great pitching staff led by Mark Thompson and John Skeets. The infield defense was solid and the outfield was fast and nothing got past us (especially at Vet’s). The run through the State Tournament was fun. We had a lot of doubters especially when we made it to the championship game versus Emerson. Emerson had made several previous appearances. We weren’t going to let that get to us and we showed up to play. Skeets threw a masterful gem and we won. We are forever Hoffman High 1984 NJ State Champs.”

Some anecdotes: Along the way, this group successfully competed with several major leaguers/draftees including Eric Young Jr who now coaches in the major leagues, Greg Burlingame, Dave Meads. We beat Dave Meads, 1-0 (in 11 innings)...Kevin Gorczyca was drafted by the San Diego Padres...State Championship Players that Rest in Peace: Andy Moran, Tom Skarzynski, Stan Zawacki.

**\*The ‘84 Governors are hoping to march in the South Amboy St. Patrick’s Day Parade. For more information and details, contact Pete Smith at: 908-300-1756.**



The jubilant ‘84 NJSIAA Group 1 state champion, Hoffman HS is pictured celebrating immediately after capturing the title. (Photo courtesy of Fred Henry)

# Local Couples in Diocese Celebrate Anniversaries

By Steve Schmid

Several couples from local churches recently observed important anniversaries at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen. Bishop James Checchio honored the couples at the Silver & Gold evening prayer service. Celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary were James and Bridget Bourke of St. Bernadette Church, Parlin. Celebrating their 50th anniversary were Frank and Eileen Brylinski of Sacred Heart, South Amboy, and Stephen and Nancy Pacich of St. Mary,

South Amboy. Stephen and Nancy now live in Barnegat.

Tom and Mary Ann Weber of St. Stan’s Church, Sayreville also celebrated their 50th anniversary. Celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary were Joseph and Susan Chesakis of St. Mary, South Amboy, and James and Lisa Flores of St. Bernadette, Parlin. The South Amboy Sayreville Times congratulates these couples for their many years of marriage.



Breakfast With Santa Claus  
(Photos/info by Steve Schmid)



Santa Claus greets young children at the annual Breakfast With Santa held at the Knights of Columbus in South Amboy.



Alana and Liam Hourahan, grandchildren of South Amboy Knights of Columbus member Ed Vassallo, visit Santa Claus at the annual Breakfast With Santa held at the K of C hall.



Santa Claus is assisted by his loyal elf Yolanda Flores, of South Amboy. Council 426 Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Jordan Drevelus is also there to help along with a youngster.



Sayreville cousins Ryder Darway and Archer Christiansen are sitting with Santa Claus at the annual Breakfast With Santa held recently at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus

Sayreville Student  
Receives Scholarship

Sayreville War Memorial High School student Lilly Kwasikumah from Sayreville was awarded the Arthur and Elana Panos Scholarship on December 25, 2023. Funded by TA Wapakoneta, whose mission is to support the importance of education for the next generation of pioneers This scholarship seeks to support those who not only have an entrepreneurial spirit but are also guided by their faith. Congratulations, Lilly!

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

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..

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  
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



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The Game of South Amboy, New Jersey board game was sold throughout the area around 1989 as a fundraiser for the athletes at Hoffman High School. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Remember The Game Of  
South Amboy, New Jersey?  
By Tom Burkard

If you were around “The Pleasant Little City” of South Amboy, NJ around 1989, you probably heard of, or maybe even purchased a board game (Yes, board games were popular back then, believe it or not) called The Game Of South Amboy, New Jersey.

The idea to produce a board game was the brainchild of Hoffman HS teacher/coach Tony Gonsalves, who said, “I noticed an ad in a newspaper, and at that time we were always looking to raise a few bucks here or there, and our girls basketball team was all the rage back then, and I figured coach Reggie Carney could use a few extra dollars for his team. Tony and Reggie both agreed that it was a great idea, and would be a good way to raise funds for Hoffman’s athletic teams. “The money we made from the sales went toward typical things such as extra equipment, camps for the athletes, etc.,” said Gonsalves.

The game was finally produced in July 1989, and was a big success with most local businesses happy to donate to have their business name on the game board. In addition, the first 200 families to purchase the game for \$20 each, would also have their names on the board.

Gonsalves said, “Bordering the board game would be the names of the first 200 families who purchased the game. I don’t remember how many games were sold exactly, but easily over 200. Needless to say, the fundraiser was a tremendous success.”

He went on to describe the game saying, “The main area of the board game featured notable South Amboy landmarks such as the original Dowdell Library, City Hall, the Hole-in-the-Wall, and Hoffman High School. It would also highlight the success of both the amazing girls basketball team “The ladies of the 80’s” and boys soccer team.”

Coaches Gonsalves and Carney worked

very hard to organize their players, students and others to solicit advertising and also to actually sell the game throughout the community. Their dedication to the fundraising project for the Hoffman HS athletic teams paid off, and it is estimated that approximately \$3,000 was raised.

“We solicited local businesses to purchase a space on the board, and they in turn would receive a free game,” according to Gonsalves. Many of the businesses of ‘89 that are featured on the game board include: Foodtown, R & R Printing, Olde Towne Deli, Amboy Ports Of Call Travel, Ziggy’s Pub, Pillar’s Auto Repair, Gee Wiz Insurance Brokerage, Albern’s Seafood, Sayrebrooke Veterinary Hospital, J.A.G.’s White Eagle Tavern, Robert McGowan, Attorney-at-Law, J.J. Harrigan & Co. Inc., Mag’s Subs, A-1 Service, Holden Jewelers, Wood Motor City, Center Deli & Liquors, T. Dempsey & Sons Inc., C-K Family Deli, Pine Liquors, Cornerstone Builders, The D.J. G’s, Rugcraft Inc, Miller, Bergen & Welsh Lumber Co., Larry’s Service Station, James F. Cleary & Associates, T.R.A. Heating & Air Conditioning, Baranowski’s Market, South Amboy Florist, Antiquity Piano Co., Landmark Tavern & Cafe, Chevrolet Geo, Marcy Dental Inc.

The following businesses were also featured on the game board, and are still doing well today: The Gundrum Service, Monaghan House, Raritan Bay Federal Credit Union, Lagoda’s Saloon, and Midtown Florist.

\*Does anyone out there in readership land still have a copy of this game? Please let us know, and also if you have a special memory about The Game of South Amboy, New Jersey feel free to share it with SA Times readers.

We would love to hear from you!



or



or





WWW.?

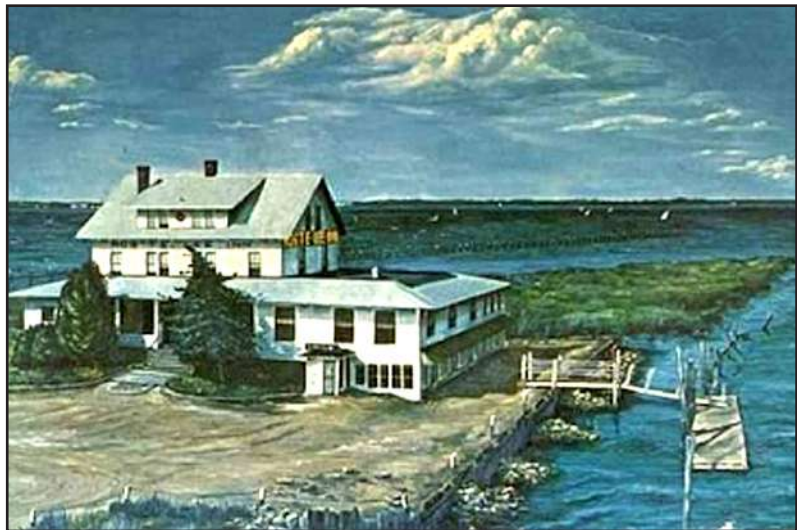


Does this former local business look familiar to you? It was located in Sayreville or South Amboy. Send your answers in to: [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com) Feb. 10th. (Photo submitted)

Last month's WWW.? was a picture of the Robert E. Lee Restaurant that was located near the Morgan Creek. The following correctly identified the structure.

Winners: Dr. Jorge Gonzalez-Gomez, Patti Tengelics, Pat Scully, Mary Agnes Morris, Suzy Kiefer, Paul Conlon, Debra Cameron, John Meleski, Gary Feret, Mark Moniello, JoAnn & John French, Marlene Letwenski, Lynn Loy, Betty Leveille, Jay Seyglinski, Jack Hefelfinger, Cathy & Johnny B, Ken Piscitelli, Bruce Grankowski, Dennis & Kathy OLeary, Donna & Ed Szkodny, Adele O'Hara, Frances Kosanovich, Dennis Mccloud, Joe Rall, Dennis Quinlan, Eleanore Westerholm, Don Zrebiec, Edna Pilch, Kristi Kulcsar, Joan Gorczyca, Anne Szatkowski, Nanci Deverin, Thomas Harrigan, Barb Bockus, Ed Bender, Walter Starzec Jr., Lisa Grankowski, Pete McIntyre, Ed English, Stan Paczkowski, Stephen Laskiewicz, Dane Colburn, Helen Dowling Green, Amy White, Chelle Martin, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

Last month we missed Lynn Loy who had the correct answer. Sorry!



December WWW?  
Robert E. Lee

LETTERS

**From The Readers:**  
**Brian/Tom-** This month's picture is the Robert E. Lee. That was quite a fire the night it burnt down, I remember you could see the glow of the flames as soon as we turned off Bordentown Ave. onto Pine. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you guys, your families and Staff of the SA Times.  
**Dennis Quinlan**

Painting of the Robert E. Lee Inn, Morgan NJ. Credited to Snooky Wynegar. This painting hung in the inn.  
**Eleanore Westerholm**

The restaurant in Morgan that burned down "Robert E. Lee Inn" previously known as Cady's House of Seafood (built in 1920) and burned down in April 1986.  
**Dr. Jorge Gonzalez-Gomez**

Toys For Tots Success Story  
(Photo/Info submitted)



Former South Amboy resident Rich Schnyderite and his wife Patti collected 93 full Toys For Tots boxes of toys and 114 bicycles! This is done on behalf of Patti's business, Parkwood Kennels. This was their 7th year of doing this, and it just keeps growing bigger every year. On Friday Dec 22, everything was relayed to the Marines at Toys For Tots for distribution. Also on the same night at 10:15 PM Channel 12 news featured their pictures for their segment of Positively New Jersey. Congratulations Rich and Patti on your very successful Toys For Tots endeavor for children in need! Great job!



Remember This T.V. Show?



**TV Show: Chips**  
Winners: Pat Scully, John Meleski, Gary Feret, Mark Moniello, JoAnn & John French, Betty Leveille, Jeanmarie Podolak, Bruce Grankowski, Eleanore Westerholm, Edna Pilch, Nanci Deverin, Thomas Harrigan, Ed Bender, Walter Starzec Jr., Pete McIntyre, Ed English, Dane Colburn, Anne & John Erbetta, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

We are taking a break and this contest will appear occassionally throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us!

WHAT IS IT?????

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



**What Is It? December: Multi Color Rotating Spotlight**  
**Winners:** Pat Scully, John Meleski, Gary Feret, Mark Moniello, JoAnn & John French, Lynn Loy, Betty Leveille, Sharon Rappleyea, Cathy & Johnny B, Bruce Grankowski, Joe Tortora, Patti Tengelics, John Scarfi, Eleanore Westerholm, Edna Pilch, Adele O'Hara, Nanci Deverin, Thomas Harrigan, Ed Bender, Walter Starzec Jr., Pete McIntyre, Ed English, Amy White, Chelle Martin, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

We are taking a break and this contest will appear occassionally throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us!

The Vintage Car Contest

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



**Vintage Car December? Chrysler**  
**Winners:** Lois Lebbing, Pat Scully, Mark Moniello, Gary Feret, JoAnn & John French, Barry Nielsen, Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch, Walter Starzec Jr., Pete McIntyre, Ed English, Stephen Laskiewicz, Dane Colburn, Laurie & Gary Loftus. We are taking a break and this contest will appear occassionally throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us!

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Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

A look back at an awesome 2023  
By Clem Skarzynski

Hello Rock n Rollers. Well, here we are going into a New Year once again. They're zipping by faster with each passing Year! So, gotta look back on the year2023, and to remember all that made it "fun"and successful for me and the Bandmates from "The Clem and Friends Band. "My sincere thanks goes out to all who helped make this past year so successful for us! The Sayreville Rec Dept.Director, Brian VanDongen, Jeffery Schnitzer, and Cheryl McQuade. The O.L.V.Carnival staff, Brian and Tony Jackowski, Dan and Annette Hockenjos, Jean Jackowski, Chris Bardsley, and Maura Samuel, and the Sayreville Parks Supervisor, Rich Poplowski, and his staff, Charlie, Wayne, Rich, Ed, Connor and Ryan. The "Blast from the Past"Car Show, the annual "Sayreville Day," are only a fraction of the Boro's yearly events organized by the Boro's Rec Dept., and Brian Van Dongen's Staff!" The Clem and Friends Band"just performed in their 20th year at Sayreville Day alone! 18 years with the Car Show too, allowing us to continue, thanks to the late Jerry Ust for giving us the "go-ahead"to do the show. Speaking of Jerry, our thanks go to the staff at St.Stan's for also allowing us to honor him, the past 2 years, at their annual Halloween Car Show with a"Best in Show" yearly trophy, in Jerry's name, presented by Eileen Ust and family, along with the same for St.Stan's photographer, the late Tommy Samuel, with a "Best in ShowTrophy, presented every year by Tom's Brothers, Michael and David Samuel. As a Band, we thank all of you who make this possible for us to share our joy of music at these events. And who makes the band sound as good as we can be? None other than Emerson and Amy Jones from Basement Audio Sound! for over 20 plus years, they've worked tirelessly on each show to give us the best sound possible, putting in hours of work to do so! Thanks Em, Amy.. My Sincerest thanks go out to the members of"The Clem and Friends Band"whom I've been blessed with all these years, who have been there for me and each other, to make such awesome music together. Thank YouFran, Craig, Jim, Matt, Dave, and Scott. You're special friends and outstanding musicians with big hearts! The band has had other members, Rich Standowski, Dave Silva, Pat Mara, TimKelly, and several others, who have done the same over the years. I've got to mention former Drummer Mr. Tim Fee,has been the "catalyst"of this group for years, and our prior group "The Rockdaddys". He kept "pushing the buttons" and "talking the trash"that kept us older rockers on our toes. He made us perform our best everytime we got onstage! Ofcourse, him being the "youngest in group"we let him get away with it, plus us "old guys"had to teach him the "correct"way

Acoustic Friday February 16

By Jerry Smith

On February 16, 2024, the South Amboy Arts Alliance continues its popular Acoustic Friday program with performances by Sadie Pepitone and Craig Shorie. Sadie Pepitone is a singer/songwriter/ keyboardist who cites Jewel, Avril Lavigne, Michelle Branch. Pink Floyd, and Queen as her musical influences. In 2019, she released her first ep entitled "Synchronicity." In 2021, she released a single called "Falling into Fall" about her love for the autumn season. More recently, Sadie released a single called "Cigarette Smoke." Currently, she is working on new music in the studio. Craig Shorie originally trained as a classical pianist and has been lead guitarist for the Rounders and backup to the Holy Model

South Amboy Middle High School Fundraiser

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

to play,"the old guys" Rock n Roll! Tim's musical expertise lies in Progressive Rock, but he had no problem backing us with our "Classic Rock/Oldies mix, so thanks Tim, for your talent, and your positive beliefs in the group. Over the years there were so many talented local musicians, I've brought into the band, and shared the stage time with everyone else. Besides, I needed all that talent to make me sound good! So,at Tim's insistence, he came up with changing the band's name to "The Clem and Friends Band". So, the band's name is all his idea.. which brought about anywhere from 5 to 12 members of the group to use as needed, and they come from all over N.J. and Upstate NY! Tim, unique Idea on the name! Thank You! The door is always open for you to do a show or 2, if you decide to give the "sabbatical"a break Tim. And of course, to the many local musicians who became a part of the "Family"over the years ,thank you! And on that note..The "Band" is losing our Keyboardist/Vocalist"Scott Lee Bishop, to his "move "to upstate N.Y.and his dream home! Scott, we all thank you for your talent and friendship, and wish you well, also, the doors open for you if ya decide to come back to Jersey! Scott's Keyboards will be replaced as our "Multi Talented Tenor Saxman, Craig Hoek will take on the double duty of keys and sax..the talent this guy's got is endless! Thanks "C"! And most important, endless thanks go out to Mr.Tom Burkard and Brian Stratton from The S.A.Times newspaper, for being there for us over the entire 20 plus years with pics, and allowing me, the writer space for my column. You guys have been there for EVERY SHOW we've ever done..Thanks are not enough! Your paper is "Priceless" as are your friendships!. So, many thanks to ALL who have made "Clem and Friends Band"so much fun to be a part of, especially, Eileen Ust's 5 year old granddaughter, Ella Cook, who came up onstage at the St.Stan's 2023 car show and gave the band and the crowd the best rendition of the 1961 Classic Oldie,"What's your Name" the "doo-wops"never sounded better, and she practiced that for a year before coming onstage! Now that's really wanting to be a "star"! Hey Mom Janet, before ya know it Ella will be insisting on a "Limo" to drive her around! And to Riley Wisniewski and Alana Foster, Sayreville Day 2023 for their dance routines to "Wooly Bully"and "Great Balls of Fire" such onstage presence! It's unexpected surprises like those that we the band love and appreciate and make it fun. Thank you girls! Coming up...possible shows in Feb/March timeline being discussed, till then we'll be in my basement rehearsal space making new music. Till next column, wishing you all a Blessed, Happy, Peaceful New Year, with lots of "Rock 'n Roll thrown in!

Rounders. He played at the gallery one year ago in February, 2023 with a performance that was very well received. It is a pleasure to welcome Craig back. SA Arts is located at 141 N. Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is \$5.00, and complementary light refreshments will be offered. The Alliance seeks interested acoustic-oriented performers of any genre for future performances. For additional information, contact SA Arts at 732-727-4600, extension 5971 or by email at SAarts141@gmail.com. Watch for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.

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

Christmas Videos/ Songs Shoot Out The Top 12

The following Christmas songs/videos had the most views on our Facebook page: 1-Peace On Earth/The Little Drummer Boy-Bing Crosby/David Bowie; 2-Holly Jolly Christmas-Burl Ives; 3-Jingle Bell Rock-Gary Lewis/The Playboys; 4-White Christmas-Bing Crosby; 5-Do You Hear What I Hear?-The Celtic Women; 6-Run Rudolph Run-Lynyrd Skynyrd; 7-Oh Come All Ye Faithful-Bing Crosby; 8-It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas-Bing Crosby; 9-The Christmas Song-Nat King Cole; 10-It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year-Andy Williams; 11-The Little Drummer Boy-Harry Simeone Chorale; 12-Blue Christmas-Elvis Presley.

#1 Pop Songs January 27

- 2019-Without Me-Halsey
- 2009-Just Dance-Lady GaGa/Colby O'Donis
- 2004-Hey Ya!-OutKast
- 1990-How Am I Supposed To Live With You-Michael Bolton
- 1986-That's What Friends Are For -Dionne & Friends
- 1974-You're Sixteen-Ringo Starr
- 1969-I Heard It Through The Grapevine -Marvin Gaye

#1 Country Songs January 27

- 2014-Something In The Water -Carrie Underwood
- 2006-Jesus, Take The Wheel -Carrie Underwood
- 1998-Just To See You Smile-Tim McGraw
- 1985-(There's A) Fire In The Night-Alabama
- 1977-I Can't Believe She Gives It All To Me-Conway Twitty
- 1964-Love's Gonna Live Here-Buck Owens

THE SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE ROTARY CLUB

By Mike Poll

The South Amboy Rotary Club was chartered in 1924 by Rotary International. The Borough of Sayreville was added to this charter in the 1990's. Rotary International is one of the largest service organizations in the world, currently consisting of 46,000 clubs and a membership of over 1,400,000. Our motto is "Service Above Self." Each Rotary Club has a goal of providing service to those in need, of promoting integrity, and of advancing world understanding and peace. The first Rotary Club was started in 1905 by four Chicago businessmen. The members chose the name Rotary because initially they rotated the weekly meetings to one another's offices. Rotary International has worked with the United Nations since it was founded in 1945. One of the main international goals is the eradication of polio from the face of the




Former South Amboy resident Joe Bellia (l), a world-renowned drummer/percussionist, is pictured with the great Peter Noone, leader of the fabulous Herman's Hermits. Joe is a member of The Weeklings rock band, whose new album, "Raspberry Park" has just been released. In addition, their first single, "All The Cash In The World," can be seen on you tube, and it really sounds like a big hit! Noone will be singing on the album as well. (Photo submitted)

One Hit Wonders 50 Years Ago

1974-Americans-Byron MacGregor; I Love-Tom T. Hall; Seasons In The Sun-Terry Jacks; Rock On-David Essex; My Sweet Lady-Cliff DeYoung; The Lord's Prayer-Sister Janet Mead; The Entertainer-Marvin Hamlisch; Please Come To Boston-Dave Loggins; The Night Chicago Died-Paper Lace; Beach Baby-First Class; Hang On In There Baby-Johnny Bristol; Life Is A Rock (But The Radio Rolled Me)-Reunion; I Can Help-Billy Swan; Kung Fu Fighting-Carl Douglas.

Earth. Polio is a crippling childhood disease. This effort is called Polio Plus. The local Rotary Club and other clubs form the basis of RI. Each local club has a President, Secretary and Treasurer and tries to help local families and individuals in need of assistance, state-wide projects, national crises and international problems. The Rotary Foundation transforms donations into service projects both close to home and around the world. Since its founding over 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than 4 billion dollars on life-changing, sustainable projects. The purpose of the Foundation is to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace by improving health, education, the environment and alleviating poverty. For more information and to learn how you can join the men and women in your community, please visit Rotary.org.



By Tom Burkard

1.Through The Years

2.In The Year 2525

3.Year Of The Cat

4.I'd Wait A Million Years

5.The Living Years

6.Reeling In The Years

7.All Those Years Ago

8.Still Crazy After All Those Years

9.Holding Back The Years

10.It Was A Very Good Year

11.New Year's Day

12.Golden Years

13.Seven Year Ache

Year-Years

a.David Bowie

b.Al Stewart

c.Mike & The Mechanics

d.Zager & Evans

e.Kenny Rogers

f.Frank Sinatra

g.The Grass Roots

h.U2

i.Rosanne Cash

j.Paul Simon

k.George Harrison

lSimply Red

m.Steely Dan

Answers

1e 2d 3b 4g 5c 6m 7k 8j 9l 10t 11h 12a 13l.





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## Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



**Salt Water**  
First the "Weeblemeister" once again wishes all a great fishing year for 2024. The year ended with bay beach fishing for Striped Bass on the slow side. The best spot, if there is any, is Spy Harbor area near Belford. I checked Keansburg a few times and the people I spoke to did not even get a bite. The same for Cliffwood and Lawrence Harbor. I checked Perth Amboy at the Victory Bridge, I checked almost daily, but the results were much the same. Raritan Bay, other rivers, and bays are now closed for the winter months until March 1st for Striped Bass and Winter Flounder. It's a different story in the open ocean where fishing is open year-round. Strippers have been caught in the surf at Island Beach and LBI. Boaters are still catching them. Fishing should continue until winter storms disrupt things. Blackfishing is still good at the rocks at Barnegat Light. Party and charter boats are doing OK. There are fewer fish, but many are over 10 pounds. The largest I heard of was over 14 pounds. There have been Ling and very few Cod also caught. Later on, White Perch can be caught in Toms River and Barnegat Bay.

**Fresh Water**  
There is no ice at all currently, so ice fishing is not feasible. Holdover Trout statewide are a possibility. The recent heavy rains will scatter and move the fish around. At the Round Valley Reservoir, fishing near the boat ramp is a good bet for shore fishing, otherwise fishing for Bass, Pickerel and Panfish will be slow because of wintry weather.

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## Catch Any Fish Lately?

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

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

## Kenny K. Visits S.A.

(Photo/story by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville's own rock 'n' roller Kenny Kurczeski, (r) who happens to be the leader of the band, Kenny K. & The Way, stopped in to visit his good friend, Efren Castro, owner of Java Dave's Coffee in South Amboy, and gave him a beautiful new t-shirt. Kenny told us that the band has been very busy performing at live venues, and also working on a new album. Local fans can't wait until it is released!



## School Sports

By Tom Burkard

### Boys Basketball

Team Leaders (As of Jan. 19)

Sayreville (10-4) Coach John Wojcik

**Points**-Sam Jones 220, Chidi Chukwurah 211, Keitha Shuler 170, Jayce Green 146, Mario Pinto 110; **Rebounds**-Shuler 118, Chukwurah 97, S. Jones 73; **Assists**-Green 90, Jones 30, Shuler 23; **Steals**-Green 20, Pinto 17, Shuler 17, S. Jones 16; **Blocks**-Chukwurah 7, Shuler 5.

South Amboy (9-5) Coach Matt Wiater

**Points**-Gavin Pelkey 244, Jake Eberle 181, Jaden Eagan 151, John Kelly 143; **Rebounds**-G. Pelkey 114, Eberle 103, John Kelly 99; **Assists**-Jaden Eagan 42, G. Pelkey 41, Vaughn Pelkey 34; **Steals**-G. Pelkey 53, Kelly 22; **Blocks**-Eberle 31, Kelly 10.

### Girls Basketball

Team Leaders (As of Jan.19)

South Amboy (3-9) Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr.

**Points**-Emma Kalantis 107, Olivia Rivera 71, Sarah McLaughlin 52; **Rebounds**-E. Kalantis 108, Gwen Kalantis 57, Olivia Gulick 51; **Assists**-Rivera 31, E. Kalantis 15; **Steals**-Rivera 42, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 25, E. Kalantis 21, Blocks-Gulick 9, G. Kalantis 7, E. Kalantis 6.

Sayreville (1-13) Coach Janet Cook

**Points**-Angelina Sepulveda 71, Kaylee Elizarov 46, Daniella Verlingo 38; **Rebounds**-Sepulveda 66, Floakemi Akinokun 60; **Assists**-Sepulveda 8; **Steals**-Dyanna Sharpe 16, Sepulveda 11.

### Wrestling

Sayreville (5-3) Coach Matthew Van Doren

The top wrestlers and their won-lost records are:

285 lbs.-Connor Walsh (8-0), 5 pins; 190 lbs.-Bryce Bouchard (7-0), 4 pins; 120 lbs.-Robert Fritz (5-2), 4 pins; 157 lbs.-Michael Zawnczkowski (5-2), 3 pins; 150 lbs.-Carmine Galante (5-2), 2 pins; 132 lbs.-Logan Skulski (4-3), 2 pins; 138 lbs.-John Metz (4-3), 1 pin; 215 lbs.-Kacper Trzeciak (3-1).

## Bombers 2nd In Elizabeth Tourney

The Sayreville Bombers wrestling team captured 2nd place in the Minuteman Classic Tournament in Elizabeth on Jan. 6. Colonia captured the championship in the tourney which featured 10 teams, by scoring a 154.5, while Sayreville came in with 136.

Our locals had one gold medal winner, freshman Robert Fritz, who won the (120 lbs.) crown by taking a 12-8 decision over Matt Weinbrenner of Edison. Silver medalists for 2nd place were (157) Michael Zaun, and (285) Connor Walsh. (190) Bryce Bouchard, and (215) Sean Sylvester brought home bronze medals for finishing 3rd.

## Sayreville Tops South Plainfield

For the first time in Sayreville history the Bombers wrestling team defeated old nemesis South Plainfield by a score of 36-34. Winning individual matches for Sayreville were John Metz, Carmine Galante, Michael Zaunczkowski, Logan Appleby, Sean Sylvester, and Bryce Bouchard, who had the quickest pin of the day in 1:10.

## Bombers Stop Woodbridge

The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team copped their third straight win by downing Woodbridge, 78-64. Keithan Shuler paved the way with 24 points and 12 rebounds, while Sam Jones scored 20 and grabbed 9 rebounds. Chidi Chukwurah added 13 points and 8 rebounds.

## Lady Guvs Rip East Brunswick

South Amboy girls basketball squad blasted East Brunswick Magnet, 40-11 behind Olivia Gulick, who scored 12 points and ripped 12 rebounds, and Emma Kalantis 9 points and 7 rebounds.

## South Amboy Downs Magnet

The Governors of South Amboy defeated East Brunswick Magnet, 65-56 in boys hoops. Gavin Pelkey led the scoring brigade with 27 points and also had 9 rebounds. Freshman John Kelly pumped in 21 points and hauled down 10 rebounds.

## Sadlocha, Zamraki All-GMC

Sayreville senior soccer standouts Eric Sadlocha and Adam Zamraki were selected to the All-GMC Boys Soccer team. They were also picked for the All-White Division along with senior Will Garnett. Laila Stevenson, a junior forward was picked for All-GMC Girls. Chosen for the All-White Division Girls were Stevenson, Isabelle Deolivcira, Alyssa Marley, Shriya Meda. Coach of the Year was Sayreville's Jill McGarry.

## South Amboy Wins Sportsmanship Award

The South Amboy girls soccer team captured the Sportsmanship Award by the GMC for the Gold Division. All-Gold selections for the girls were Eleny Lenor Aleman, Ashley Moreira-Burgos, and Anna Szczepanik.



## O'Brien Traded To Cards

Riley O'Brien, who is the grandson of former South Amboy Major League Baseball star John O'Brien, had an outstanding 2023 season with the Seattle Mariners AAA affiliate Tacoma. Riley pitched in 51 games, and a total of 55 innings, while striking out an amazing 86 batters. He also notched 15 saves, had a 2.29 ERA, and held opposing hitters to a miniscule .188 avg., while compiling a (2-5) record out of the bullpen. For his fine efforts, he was selected to the AAA All-Star team for the year. Surprisingly, he was traded by the Mariners in November to the St. Louis Cardinals, and is projected to be back in Major League Baseball in 2024. The 6-5 righthander throws in the high 90's, and has hit 98 m.p.h on the radar gun. Best of luck Riley!

## Pro Basketball Report

Former Cardinal McCarrick/St. Joseph's HS standout, Marques Townes, is playing professional basketball for a Czech Republic club, BK Opava. Townes is off to a great start and is averaging 16.5 points per game, but has only seen limited action, playing just 26 minutes per outing.

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.



Samantha Mierzwiak



Thomas Mierzwiak

## The Future Looks Bright For The Mierzwiak Family

By Tom Burkard

Thomas and Samantha Mierzwiak of South Amboy are really making big names for themselves in sports. Samantha is a freshman at Red Bank Catholic HS, and starred on the girls soccer team. In addition she also plays for NJ Premier FC 2008 out of Somerset, NJ, and the team won the State Cup and was voted top team in NJ and also # 1 in the region.

Thomas, an 8th grader at St. James Middle School in Red Bank, competed in an early off-season football showcase

presented by NUC Sports/Boardwalk Blasts 7 x 7 Football Club, in which the talented lefty quarterback was selected MVP. He is considered a 2028 Prospect, and showed why he's considered one of the area's best upcoming young quarterbacks. The 5-10, 135 lbs., lefty quarterback has room to grow, but his football future is looking very bright. In addition, Thomas plays basketball and baseball at St. James Middle School in Red Bank, and also basketball for St. Bernadette's in Sayreville.

## Don Larsen's World Series Perfect Game

By Joe Jaskowiak  
(California Correspondent)

Recently, I had the extreme fortune to watch the kinescope version of Game 5 of the 1956 World Series with Yankee Don Larsen's perfect game against the Brooklyn Dodgers on the MLB channel. Using a no-windup delivery, which was very unusual at the time, Larsen mowed down 27 Dodgers in a row to achieve a 2-0 victory over Sal "The Barber" Maglie, who also pitched a complete game.

Unbelievably, a total of 15 players, managers, umpires, and announcers who were involved in that contest are now in the Baseball Hall of Fame, such as Mickey Mantle, who contributed a homer and a back-handed, running catch of a line drive that saved the perfecto, and who could forget Yogi Berra leaping into Don Larsen's arms after Larsen struck out Dale Mitchell to end the contest?

There was only one announcer in the booth with no color man, and regular season announcers were provided by the teams participating in the Series, not a major network. Hall of Famers Mel Allen and Vince Scully split the play-by-play for half of the game each. There were no instant replays because that technology was not available at that time.

The game was played in the afternoon, not at night, and it took only 2 hours and 6

minutes. When you looked at the TV, there was no display indicating the score, the number of and speed of the pitches, how many men were on base, and the ball and strike count. No one was mentioning the pitch count because in those days, starting pitchers were expected to try and pitch a complete game.

Not every player was wearing a batting helmet or batting glove. Their pants were not pulled down over the backs of their black spikes, not brightly-colored Nikes. Their baggy pants exposed their stirrup socks up to their knees, so that the home plate umpire had an idea what part of their strike zone was. The hitters "pumped" the bat back and forth before the pitch, whereas today, hitters use other methods like flexing their bat up and down over their shoulder to use as a timing mechanism.

All in all, it was cool to watch such a replay and it brought back many fond memories.

\*Note: Joe "Jesk" Jaskowiak is a '68 graduate of St. Mary's HS, and was a talented catcher on the Eagles varsity baseball team. He has been residing in California for many years, and is still a real baseball aficionado, who attends as many Angels games as possible. Thanks for the great article, "Jesk."

## South Amboy Elks Lenten Dinners.

The South Amboy Elks, located at 601 Washington Ave.; South Amboy will be having their annual Lenten Fish Dinners again. The dinners will run every Friday during Lent starting on February 16th. Dinner hours are 5:30-7:30. We will be offering a wide variety of entrees including broiled options. Take out is available by calling 732-727-7170 and leaving a message with your name and number. A Member will call you back to take your order. Please note that fried entrees taste much better when you dine in. Our cash bar will be open, and a special of \$3.00 p.p. unlimited soda will be available. All our seafood is portion weighed, seasoned, breaded, and cooked in house. Look for our Feb. Facebook page and flyers for more information. Thank you in advance for your support.

## Just Another Day

By Robert Eginton

A yellow sun  
up in the sky,  
It waits until the night  
To watch the  
stars go by  
A silver moon  
lights up the night  
Then fades away  
To see the morning light...  
Just another day.  
I get out of my bed,  
Put on my shoes,  
Adjust my senses  
As I read the  
morning news,  
Collect my things,  
walk out the door,  
I'm off to face  
Another work day war...  
Just another day.





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### 15 Years Ago Rosario Was Scoring Champ

2008-09-Julio Rosario of Cardinal McCarrick HS captured the Middlesex County scoring crown by firing in 610 points, a 22.3 avg. For his standout season, he was a 1st team All-Middlesex selection in the Star Ledger, and also 2nd Team All-State, All-Schools, 2nd Team All-Non-Public Schools, and also the Star Ledger's Middlesex County Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

### T.H.E. Game

Year: 2021  
Sport: Boys Basketball  
Teams: Sayreville vs. Piscataway Tech in the GMCT Consolation Bracket of Jackson Pond.

Recap: The Bombers had no problem pounding Piscataway Tech, 71-56 for their first win of the season. Aidan Ryan topped the scoring parade with 21 points, and Stephen Farley chipped in with 14.

Player-of-the-Game: Aidan Ryan.

### 60 Years Ago... Guvs Fall In Semis

The Hoffman Governors (12-8) once again advanced to the state semifinal boys basketball game, but this time bowed to a powerful Wildwood (17-3) squad, 66-50 before a huge crowd of 1,285 at Manasquan HS. Dennis Wood poured in 20 points, and Chet Meinzer 10 for the Hoffman contingent.



Former South Amboy resident Barbara Brower enjoys reading the Christmas/New Year's edition of The South Amboy-Sayreville Times. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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### My Heart Cries Out

By Al Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate  
c.2002

May it hold true  
That humbleness  
exceeds fame  
Rather I be  
looked upon  
For my generosity  
and integrity  
Than to be exalted  
For my actions  
or belongings.

### Sayreville Knights and Columbiettes Fish Fry

The OLV Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes are hosting the Lenten Take-Out Fish Fry starting on February 14 (Ash Wednesday). This event is located at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus, 775 Washington Road (across from the Parlin Post Office). The menu includes Fried Flounder Platters (\$15), Fried Shrimp Platters (\$15) and Fried Combo Platters (\$16); all which include Salad, Vegetable, French Fries & Dessert. Also available are Fish Sandwiches (\$11); which include French Fries only.

This year's Fish Fry dates are February 14, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. The dinner is from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This is a take-out only dinner and we are unable to take phone orders. We hope to see you soon!

We would love  
to hear from  
you!



or



or



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# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives-In Memoriam



1967-The CJ Group I champion Hoffman Governors boys basketball team is pictured with Coach Ray “Butch” Tomaszewski (holding the basketball), who passed away on January 13th, and will always be remembered. The Guvs (l-r) Bob Morgan (manager), Bill Clayton, Bob Rock, Curt Wood, Bob Keegan, Greg Havlusch, Bill Keegan, Edwin Witkowski, Frank Chonsky, Tom Lange, Leo Dohan.

## Where Have You Gone, John Dennen?

By Tom Burkard

Former South Amboy resident and graduate of St. Mary’s HS Class of 1963, John Dennen is a Professor in the School of Economics and Business Administration (SEBA) Accounting at St. Mary’s College of California. Professor Dennen teaches Finance & Accounting in the Master's Degree Program.

Dennen retired a few years ago from his position as CFO of a very large international corporation. He said, “I have been very blessed and lucky in my career, as it required me to travel all over the world, to more than 100 countries. John said that his 3 favorite countries to visit are 1.

Thailand, 2. Holland (The Netherlands), and 3. China.

Thailand-”I have traveled many times to Bangkok for work. The weather, nightlife, and food were great. Bangkok is a very exciting city that never sleeps, and while there I went to the King's Palace, the Bridge over the River Kwai, and visited Krong Siem Reap in Cambodia, which was magnificent. There are also many beautiful ocean resorts in Thailand. It is also one of my favorite countries, as my wife is Thai (I met her in Thailand), and we were married there, and also have a house there. Holland (The Netherlands)-I worked in Rotterdam for a few years and lived in a town named Vassenaar which was about 30 minutes from Amsterdam. The people there are very direct and honest, and the social life was great. I enjoyed going to the World Court in The Hague, visiting Anne Frank’s House and seeing the Rijksmuseum (Van Gogh). As a part of my job, I needed to travel to many other countries in Europe, which was also a great opportunity. The Indonesian food and Dutch cheeses were fantastic...In addition to the Heineken and Grolsch beers. China-I have been to China many times for business and pleasure, primarily Hong Kong, Shanghai,



and Beijing. In addition, the college I teach at also sent me to China to teach in a master’s degree program there. Therefore, I had the opportunity to see China from both a business and educational perspective, and made many friends there. China has a great history and many impressive historical sights to visit, and it also has great food and great people. I have many memories from China.”

Although living in California, John has never lost his love for South Amboy. “I’m very happy to say that I feel very lucky to have grown up in South Amboy, and I still tell everyone how lucky

I was to have lived and grown up there.” John, who was a star player on the 1962 St. Mary’s CYO Basketball champions, also played on the ‘63 and ‘64 teams. In addition, he was a contributing member to the now legendary ‘63 St. Mary’s HS Parochial B state championship baseball squad. “I had a great group of teammates and friends as a result of playing sports.”

“As far as St. Mary’s and South Amboy go, the things I remember most were the great education and preparation for the future that I received at St. Mary’s, and the friendships that I made while attending St. Mary’s, and growing up in South Amboy. I often think about growing up in South Amboy, and cherish and share those memories with my family and friends. I truly believe that it is primarily because of the discipline, education, and experiences I had as a youth in South Amboy, that enabled me to have the life that I have had. South Amboy will always have a special place in my heart and my mind, and I would never trade it for anything.”

John comes back to South Amboy as often as possible to visit his brother Gene Dennen.

## 15 Years Ago Charmello Tops County

2008-09-South Amboy HS junior Joe Charmello topped all of Middlesex County hoopsters in 3-point field goals, by pouring in 66 for the season. In addition, he was #2 in scoring avg. with a 19.1, and #5 in total points with 440.

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.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

1953-Sayreville stopped Carteret, 52-42. Joe Rudy fired in 15 points, and John Callahan 12... 1963-Hoffman beat Matawan, 67-62. The scoring leaders were Jerry Drill with 22 points, Manny Formoso 15, John Lange 13, Ken Wahler 13... M1978-Hoffman nipped Somerset Vo-Tech, 65-64. The Guvs scoring attack was led by Bob Clayton with 20 points, Jim Bright 16, Guido Sessa 12 and Bill Lewis 10 points... 1983-St. Mary’s girls basketball team annihilated East Brunswick Tech, 67-16. Karen Waltz scored 19 points, Eleanor Wykpisz 14, and Mary Jean Sibilia hauled in 17 rebounds... 1993-Hoffman boys basketball team defeated Keansburg, 60-56 in overtime. Mike Russo popped in 4 key points to help the Guvs to the hard-fought win. Freshman Bobby Maher led the scoring with 17 points, Gary Colfer tossed in 14, and Rob Thomas 10 points... 2005-The Sayreville boys basketball team opened the season with a 66-62 victory over North Brunswick. Kofi Genfi paved the way with 19 points and 9 rebounds, and was followed by Bryan Champagne 16 points, Kasper Wilusz 14, and Tom Robinson 10... 2013-Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary’s girls basketball team nipped South Amboy, 38-34 in the Lady Eagles first game of the year. Brittany Clayton topped the Blue & Gold with 9 points, and Shannon McCleery added 8. Lady Guvs’ Amanda LaVigne took game scoring laurels with 11 points, and Shana Anderson added 9.

## 80 Years Ago Wortley Sets Scoring Record

1944-John Wortley poured in 19 points to set a new single-game scoring record for Sayreville HS. The Bombers trounced Rutgers Prep, 47-28.

## C.Y.O. Champions



1962 Champions-St. Mary’s HS CYO Amboy Area Basketball League playoff champions included: Bottom row (l-r) George Keenan, Tom Ryan, Bob Monaghan, George Stramback, Gerry O’Connor. Top row (l-r) Bill Henry, John Norek, Father Brembos (Athletic Moderator), John Dennen, Pete Waters. Several players and Coach Jim O’Connell were missing from the photo.

## 3 Years Ago-Van Note Scores 1,000th Point

Sayreville girls basketball standout, Stephanie Van Note joined the elite 1,000 points scoring club by firing in a career-high 30 points to lead the Bombers to a 55-50 victory over Edison.

## The 1967 Cheerleaders



1967-St. Mary’s HS varsity cheerleaders (listed in columns from l-r, top to bottom) Column 1-Prudence Zalewski, Donna Scalamoni, Khristine Mataranglo-Co-Captain; Column 2-Patricia Burke, Karen Colucci, Frances Coy, Catherine Zrebiec; Column 3-Joan Wisniewski, Noreen Whitson, Monica Hrankowski-Co-Captain. (Photo/names submitted) (Photo/names submitted)

## 55 Years Ago Eagles Win Christmas Tourney

1969-St. Mary’s, the host team of the Msgr. Sullivan Christmas Basketball Tournament, captured the championship over crosstown rival Hoffman, 77-63. Nick Charmello topped the scoring with 25 points, hitting on 9-of-15 floor shots, and pulled down 8 rebounds while dishing out 6 assists. George Krzyzanowski fired in 22 points. The Guvs were led by Larry Kurzawa with 15 points, Dan Paone 10, and Jim Croddick 10. Charmello and Krzyzanowski were selected co-MVP’s of the tournament.



# St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick vs. Sayreville Basketball Through The Years

## Boys 10 Years Ago 2014 Game 1

Sayreville (8-2) won their 7th straight game of the year, by downing Cardinal McCarrick (2-5), by a score of 59-46. Jehyve Floyd took game scoring laurels with 18 points. Teammates Corey Taite added 14, and Malik Pressley 12. Pop Brown led the Eagles with 10 points, and was followed closely by Sky Harris 9, Keyshawn Roache 9 and Dan Carty 9 points.

## 40 Years Ago 1984

In a game played at the Meadowlands Arena, the Byrne Brothers, Jim and Joe ganged up on Sayreville, leading St. Mary's to an easy 60-42 triumph. Jim Byrne was top scorer with 14 points, while Joe added 1.

## Girls 15 Years Ago 2009 Game 2

Cardinal McCarrick (15-1) ripped Sayreville (11-5), 72-54. Chrissy Keir paved the way

# Hoffman vs. Sayreville Basketball Through The Years

## Boys 40 Years Ago 1984

Hoffman (16-7) blasted the Bombers, 77-52. Peter Smith had a huge game as he poured in 32 points and hauled down 14 rebounds. Joe Lewis, Pat Leonard, and Billy Bright tossed in 12 points apiece for the Guvs.

## 50 Years Ago 1974

Sayreville (15-5) hammered Hoffman (4-15), 89-61. Steve Makwinski took game scoring honors with 24 points, and was followed by teammates Wayne Kreiger 18, Ray Borup 17, and John Wojcik 12 points. The Governors were led by Tom Suau with 17 points, Henry "Hank" Wortley 14, and Joe "Moose" McCarthy 12 points.

## 70 Years Ago 1954

Coach John Gutkowski's Sayreville (13-3) Bombers won their 8th straight game by dropping Hoffman (8-5), 73-61. Sayreville center Stan Kojkowski was the game's high scorer with 20 points. His other teammates in double figures were Dick Kurczeski with 19 points, John Callahan 14 and Bob Shorosky 12. The Guvs were led by Gary Stratton and Fred Rose who fired in 17 points apiece. Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski added 12 points and Frank Grimley 10 for Hoffman.

## 75 Years Ago 1949-2nd Annual Sayreville Invitational Tournament Championship Game

Sayreville blasted Hoffman, 60-39 to capture the title. Four Bombers were in double figures: Frank Mytnick scored 15 points, Ben Zaleski 12, Rudy Balaskiewicz 11, and Ed Mosakowski 10 points. John "Skeets" Skarzynski topped the Guvs with 9 points.

## 80 Years Ago 1944 Group 1 State Tournament Game

Sayreville (13-8) and heavily-favored over

with 21 points, 10 assists, and 3 steals. Olivia Gorczynski pumped in 15 points. Sydney Ransom scored 6 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. Lanie Andrews scored 13 and Jessica Kitrys 11 for the Bombers.

## 25 Years Ago 1999 GMC Tournament (1st Round)

St. Mary's (16-5) had no problem defeating Sayreville (2-18), 70-46. Jacqui DuBois led the way with 18 points, followed by Kaitlyn Katko with 14., and Kate Kurzawa 10 tallies for the Saints.

## 40 Years Ago 1984 Middlesex County Tournament (1st Round)

Sayreville downed St. Mary's, 46-40. The score was tied at 28-28 after 3 quarters, and the highly-rated Bombers came back strong to outscore the Lady Eagles, 18-12 in the final frame to seal the victory. Mary Jean Sibilia and Eleanor Wykpisz scored 14 points apiece for the Blue & Gold.

Hoffman had a real dog-fight on their hands, but won a thriller, 25-22. Coach Bill Colucci's club was led by John Wortley with 8 points, Johnny Johansen 7 and Homer Dill 6 points. Jimmy Croddick took game scoring laurels with 13 points for the Guvs, while teammate Mel Sprague added 5.

## Girls 25 Years Ago 1999

Heavily-favored South Amboy (14-3) blasted Sayreville (2-17), 77-51. The Lady Guvs scoring was paced by Regan Rone 24 points, Kristen English 21, and Kim Peterson 18 points. Lisa Halmo pumped in 21 and Sarah Dovidauskas 12 for the Bombers.

## 30 Years Ago 1994 St. Mary's Tournament (1st Round Game)

Dana Feltz fired in 27 points to lead the Bombers to a 46-35 triumph over Hoffman. Kristy Parfianowicz, making her first start of the season for the Lady Guvs poured in 30 points in a fine losing effort.

## 30 Years Ago 1994 GMCT (1st Round Game)

Sayreville annihilated Hoffman, 60-21. The Bombers balanced scoring attack was led by Dana Feltz with 14 points, Brianne Vazquez 13, and Stephanie Allocco 12 points. Kristy Parfianowicz topped the Purple & Gold with 11 points.

## 45 Years Ago 1979

Sayreville (15-6) came back strong in the second half to defeat Hoffman (20-2), 61-52. Mona Hickson and Sue Malaspina paved the way to victory with 14 points apiece, and Cindy Allman added 10. Mary Chris Moskal led the Lady Guvs with 13 points, Sue Check tossed in 11 and Carol Akerman had 9 points for Hoffman.

## Gerard Pizzillo, Sr.

Gerard D. Pizzillo, Sr., 71, of Parlin died on Sunday January 14, 2024 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. Born in Jersey City he served as Chief of the South Amboy Police Department until retiring in 2003 and recently served as a Code Enforcement Officer. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, he was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church, South Amboy and was an active member and supporter of the South Amboy Historical Society and PBA Local 63. Jerry was also an avid Model A enthusiast. He was a devoted family man, and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren.



Pizzillo and his fiancée Nicole Pastor and Joseph Pizzillo; his mother Adeline DeTommaso Pizzillo; his sister Patricia Kodada and her husband Ernest; his granddaughter Sophie; his grandsons Thomas, Jr. Giacomo and Nicolas; his German Shepherd Sadie; many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday January 20, 2024 at 9:15am from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by a 10am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy Historical Society, 141 North Broadway, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

Son of the late Pasquale Pizzillo he is survived by his loving wife Susan Kemble Pizzillo; his sons Gerard D. Pizzillo, Jr.; James Pizzillo and his wife Chelsea; Thomas

## Ernest A. Smoyak

Ernest A. Smoyak, age 81, of Parlin, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 15, 2024 at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Perth Amboy, he had lived in Fords before moving to Parlin 55 years ago. Ernie was a proud US Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam Era. He was also the proud owner and operator of J & E Automotive Analysis in Rahway for many years. In his off time and retirement, Ernie enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a communicant of St. Bernadette's RC Church in Parlin.

He is predeceased by his parents Joseph and Bertha. Surviving are his beloved wife of 55 years Evelyn Novakowski

Smoyak, his loving children Christopher and his wife Rosa, Bethany Smoyak and her husband Jon Bennett, his cherished grandchildren Zackary, Samantha, Maren and Vivienne, his brother Edward, his sister Donna Angelucci and her husband Lou, his nephew Michael Angelucci and his wife Jenny, his great-nephews and great niece Mike Jr., Sarah, and Nicholas and many loving cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

Funeral services were held by Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home 15 Cherry Lane with Mass at St. Bernadette's RC Church in Parlin. Burial followed at Forest Green Park Cemetery in Morganville.

## Kathleen Dooling Vigilante

Kathleen Dooling Vigilante, 68, of South Amboy died on Sunday January 14, 2024 at Roosevelt Care Center, Old Bridge. Born in Perth Amboy she was employed as the Municipal Clerk for the City of South Amboy until retiring in 2014 and also served as a committeewoman and Mayor's secretary. She was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church, South Amboy.

Daughter of the late Edward and Joan Keenan Dooling, she is also predeceased by her husband Joseph P. Vigilante in 2006. She is survived by her son Joseph E. Vigilante; her daughter Lisa Shymko; her brother

Edward Dooling and his wife Doreen; her sister Patricia Shaw; her grandchildren Evan and Siobhan Shymko and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were on Friday January 19, 2024 at 9:15 am from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy, followed by a 10 am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church. Interment was at Christ Church Cemetery, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Make A Wish Foundation.

## Dowdell Library News

Show the Dowdell Library some love and stop by the library to see what is happening this month!

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Reading Rascals on Thursday, February 8 and 22 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the After School Fun Club on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm including a Valentine's Day craft on February 14 and Comic Club on February 28. Existing Dungeons & Dragons players will meet on Thursday, February 8 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Are you a Dungeon Master looking to run your own adventure? Contact us at comments@dowdell.org.

Kids and Teens! Come to the library to take part in the annual March Madness Contest happening from February 1 to the 29. Every participant (ages 4 to 18) gets three shots a day for a chance to win a NBA basketball. This month, enter the Valentine's Day Contest where those who participate have the opportunity to guess the number of Hershey Kisses that are in the jar. Also, don't miss out on the Video Game Contest happening on Fridays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Teens! Join Ms. Grace and make a fun Mental Health craft on Tuesday, February 13 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Adults and Teens! Grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks! Drop in for the Crocheting and Knitting Circle on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Adults! Every time you check out library materials until February 12 you can enter the Valentine's Day Raffle to have a chance to win a restaurant gift certificate and chocolates as well. Also, don't miss the Chinese New Year Bingo Celebration happening on Friday, February 16 from 10:30 to 11:30am.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, February 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Snow date is on Wednesday, February 28 at the same time. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

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

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. The Dowdell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm. Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12-4 pm. Connect with us on social media. Email us at comments@dowdell.org. The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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Obituaries

Aitken, Carol A. Simon, 80, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 30.

Anderson, Peter A., 85, of Parlin died on Dec. 29.

Brickman, Harry J. Sr., 74, of Sayreville died on Jan. 10.

Campbell, Mary A., 80, of Parlin died on Dec. 23.

Duggan, Joseph E., 72, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20.

Dusko, Walter J., 73, of Sayreville died on Jan. 17.

Fiorentino, Michael A., 70, of Sayreville died on Jan. 13.

Fitzgibbons, Mark, 63, of Sayreville died on Jan. 13.

Gay, Sandra, 76, of South Amboy died on Jan. 15.

Gondek, Stacey Ane, 56, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 18.

Hornyak, Ellen F. Nunn, 82, of South Amboy died on Jan. 6.

Juliano, Joseph V., 75, of Sayreville died on Jan. 4.

Jurkiewicz, Victoria, 56, of Sayreville died on Dec. 20.

Kapica, Bernadine B. Kuchta, 98, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29.

Kiernan, Jane A., 82, of Parlin died on Jan. 1.

Malanowski, Lois F. Jankowski, 86, of South Amboy died on Dec. 13.

Marsch, Robert E., 66, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 18.

Morrissey, Jayne P., 62, of Parlin died on Jan. 2.

Nieratko, David J., 79, of Sayreville died on Jan. 17.

Novak, Barbara, 73, of South Amboy died on Dec. 18.

Pizzillo, Gerard D. “Jerry” Sr., 71, of Parlin died on Jan. 14.

Pollando, Thomas, 74, of Sayreville died on Dec. 14.

Runkel, Edgar, 95, of Parlin died on Jan. 15.

Seeger, Eileen, 57, of Sayreville died on Jan. 5.

Smoyak, Ernest A., 81, of Parlin died on Jan. 15.

Strugala, Edward, 80, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 23.

Tomaszewski, Raymond “Butch,” 88, of South Amboy died on Jan. 13.

Uszczak-Cuevas, Nancy Kroeger, 88, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 27.

Van Allen, JoAnne, 65, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20.

Vigilante, Kathleen Dooling, 68, of South Amboy died on Jan. 14.

Wagner, Richard R., 72, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 23.

Wawerczak, Ruth, 91, of South Amboy died on Dec. 13.

Woronowicz, Natalie Jackowski, 93, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 7.

Zagata, Frank P., 97, of Sayreville died on Dec. 23.

Zezenski, Elizabeth L. Blaszk, 83, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 8.

In Memoriam

Lois Malanowski, 86, of South Amboy died on Dec. 13. She was a teacher for the Borough of Sayreville and also Sacred Heart School and retired in 1998. Stacey Gondek, 56, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 18. She was the owner/operator of Confectionately Yours in Franklin Park. Joseph Duggan, 72, of South Amboy died on Dec. 20. He was a Lance Corporal USMC, who served in combat in Vietnam. Edward Strugala, 80, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 23. His family owned Frank’s Market in Sayreville. Bernadine Kuchta Kapica, 98, of Sayreville died on Dec. 29. She was employed by the Sayreville Recreation Dept. as an umpire/scorekeeper for many years before retiring, and prior to that was a 3rd grade teacher for 17 years at St. Stanislaus Kostka School. Frank Zagata, 97, of Sayreville died on Dec. 23. Many years ago, he was the machine shop teacher at Sayreville HS. Peter Anderson, 85, of Parlin died on Dec. 29. He was a Math/Science teacher and department supervisor at Perth Amboy HS. Peter was also a former President of Sayreville Lions Club. Joseph Juliano, 75, of Sayreville died on Jan. 4. He was the owner/operator of Julian’s Garage in Sayreville after taking over for his father. Joe was a truly wonderful guy, who was always there to help someone when they were down on their luck, and was highly-respected and admired throughout the local communities. God Bless Joe. Eileen Seeger, 57, of Sayreville died on Jan. 5. She was employed by the Sayreville Board of Education for over 20 years. Walter “Wally” J. Dusko, 73, of Sayreville died on Jan. 17. He was a great guy, who loved softball, and played on many teams, especially in Sayreville. He was also a fierce competitor and good player. Edgar Runkel, 95, of Sayreville died on Jan. 15. He coached Bishop Ahr HS golf team for 15 years, and was very active as a coach and officer of many different local sports organizations. Edgar was also a founding member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Sayreville.

Raymond Tomaszewski

Raymond Stephen “Butch” Tomaszewski, 88, of South Amboy died on Saturday January 13, 2024 at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. Born in South Amboy, he lived there all his life. Before retiring he was employed as a teacher and varsity coach at South Amboy High School. A member of Christ Episcopal Church, South Amboy, he was also a member of the Lions Club, the Monmouth University Alumni, and the South Amboy Housing Authority. Son of the late Stella and Stephen



Tomaszewski he is survived by his wife Joyce Coan Tomaszewski; his daughter and son-in-law Jaclyn and Christopher Tinney; his granddaughter, his pride and joy, Audrey and many very close nieces, nephews and friends. A Requiem Eucharist was celebrated on Thursday January 18, 2024 at 11am at Christ Episcopal Church, 220 Main Street, South Amboy, which was followed by entombment in St. Joseph Cemetery Mausoleum, Keyport.

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..

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. PS & B.S..

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



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As new years may come and as new years may go, they are all pieces of time all in a row. As we live our life, each second and every minute, we know we are privileged to have what we have. Our appreciation never ends, for our greatest blessings are,our family and our friends.

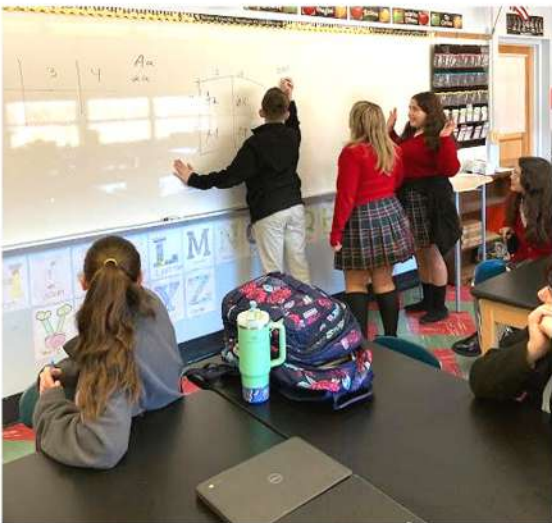
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# St. Stan’s School

The students at St. Stanislaus Kostka School are eager to learn and see what the new year has in store for them! The students also welcomed missionary Luke Fuller to come into their classes and speak about his journey to becoming a priest.



# Sayreville Councilmen Sworn In

(Photos/Info submitted)



Councilman John Zebrowski, pictured with his family, is sworn in by Senator Joe Vitale.



Councilman Michael Colaci is sworn in by Senator Joe Vitale, as his family proudly looks on.

# Sayreville Fire Chiefs Sworn In

(Photos/Info submitted)



Vincent Waranowicz, Jr.-Fire Chief



Anthony Mercado 1st Assistant Chief



Richard Masterson 2nd Assistant Chief