

**Meetings
for
1998**

February
25

April
22

June
24

September
23

November
18

All meetings will be held on Wednesdays at the South River Public Library on Appleby Ave. at 7:00 p.m.

After the business meeting and program, refreshments will be served.

1997 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at the Conklin United Methodist Church Auditorium at 7:00 p.m..

The annual election of Officers and Trustees will take place during the business meeting.

All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Please bring something for "Show and Tell" which you would like to share with everyone. (We always like to look at pictures and artifacts of South River and hear the tales of our town.)

This year the Trustees are planning

a "different menu" for the meeting. We would like you to come and enjoy dinner with us. The Trustees are going to bring a "favorite" dish to share with the membership. It is our hope that you will want to come

and get a "taste" of what we are doing.

We would like to share some time with you. Come to the meeting so that we may let you know what is happening with your organization.

**C O M E
FOR FUN,
FOOD AND
FRIENDS!**

Nominees for Office:

**President
Robert Rafano
Vice-President
Marilyn Anastasio
Secretary
Ann C. Rafano
Treasurer
Paul Goepfert**

**Nominees for
Trustees:**

**JoAnn Goepfert
Doris Miller**

**Annual
Meeting
November 19**

**1998
CALENDARS
AVAILABLE**

The 1998 calendar reverts to use of turn-of-the-century photos after this year's interruption which focused on the schools of South River.

Photos in the 1998 calendar include:

January - Rockshine & Luithardt Store, Main & Thomas Streets

February - The Offenbengers by their Confectionery Store, Ferry Street, circa 1900

March - Main and Jackson Streets

*April - Willett sisters
May - Post Office, Main St., 1908*

*June - Prospect Street
July - Trolley car on Causeway*

August - Causeway Bridge, 1914

September - Stephen & Main Streets

October - Miller's brickyard with buggy

November - Samuel Gordon's residence

December - Frazee Urn

The calendar is a great holiday gift for that special South Riverite.

Membership

by Woodis Booraem

As of November 1, 1997, the Society has 125 members, compared to 118 members for 1996.

If you join now, the membership is good through December 1998.

Please call Woodis Booraem, 257-0365

IN MEMORIAM

Four members have passed away during the 1997 year:

GLADYS BOORAEM BENN -

A lifelong resident, she was a direct descendant of Samuel Willett, founder of South River. Gladys was a former Trustee of the Historical Society and served as the Grand Marshal of the parade as part of the 275th Anniversary of the founding of South River in 1995.

DR. MAXWELL GOLDEN -

Raised in South River, he was a former President of the Lions Club, and was active in dental organizations and the Boy Scouts. "Max" served as the

school dentist for 40 years and retired after 50 years in practice.

JAMES FAIRWEATHER -

Retired from DuPont Photo Products in Parlin, he was chairperson of the South River Local Assistance Board and was on the Board of Directors of "Elijah's Promise" which is a soup kitchen in New Brunswick.

KATHERINE R. SPAULSBURY -

Kate was a lifelong resident of South River and worked for many years at Personal Products. She came out of retirement to work in the office of Dr. William Allgair.



The Frazee Urn has been restored and returned to the Old School Baptist Church cemetery.

SR's Craft Fair - October 4

The Society's exhibit at the Craft Fair & Car Rally on Main Street drew considerable attention. Sales of the '98 calendars (66), 275th Anniversary Books, and other memorabilia amounted to \$600.

The Armstrong Album of 1895-1905 photos of South River drew constant attention. Duplicate copies allowed more visi-

tors to our table the opportunity to enjoy the album.

The latest acquired artifact was displayed. It was a small forge and blower used in J.C. Boehm's Blacksmith & Wheelwright Shop which was located at the corner of Washington and Gordon Streets as early as the 1890's. The forge had

been donated to the Society by Robert and Ruth Dane just before their move to Florida.

Doris Miller, a Society member, was pleased to display her 1966 Chevy Nova alongside the Society's table.

Thanks Doris and to all who stopped by our table to make a purchase and share a memory.

UPDATE: OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST CHURCH

by Robert Rafano

On November 19, 1991, the Old School Baptist Church was placed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. On January 7, 1992, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SUCCESS AT LAST!

Now the task of rehabilitation, restoration and preservation...

Through the continued efforts of our organization, the Mayor and Council hired Herbert J. Githens, historical architect, of Montclair, New Jersey to prepare an historical survey of the site and seek funds from the NJ Historic Trust through a Matching Grant Application.

Success came in July 1995, when we were notified that our application to the NJ Historic Trust had been approved. The Borough of South River and the NJ Historic Trust would equally fund the renovations to the site in the amount of \$420,000.

The process of finalizing plans, drawings, and details of the actual work to be done had begun. After many meetings- one of which was attend by this

writer and other members of our Society- with the NJ Historic Trust, the project plans received final approval from the NJ Historic Trust. The Borough was authorized to seek competitive bids to start the project.

END OF GOOD NEWS.

NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS!

It was difficult getting contractors with preservation experience to bid the job. After much hard work by Herb Githens, the Borough received three bids for the project. One bid was almost twice the amount of funds authorized. It was in excess of \$700,000. None of the bids submitted were even close to the \$420,000 allocated for OSBC renovation completion.

PROBLEM: A percentage of the Trust funds must be used before the end of this calendar year or we lose the grant money.

Through the cooperative efforts of the Mayor, Council and Herb Githens and with the persistent encouragement of this writer,

the project could be excised that did not necessarily require significant historic experience to complete.

On October 29, 1997, the Mayor and Council awarded the contract for the installation of a new roof, repair to the king truss, construction of a new mechanical shed and demolition of portions of the inside. It is necessary that all of this work be done before the end of this year.

Mr. Githens is currently seeking authorization for additional funds from the NJ Historic Trust.

To end on a brighter note, the restoration of the Frazee urn has been completed and the urn and fencing have been returned to its site in the cemetery behind the OSBC. We must seriously think of moving the urn into the building in order to preserve it for the future.

Let's all keep working together and let's hope that 1998 is the year we see the OSBC completed and our museum opened.

"Some good news and some bad news..."

**South River Historical &
Preservation Society, Inc.
129 Main Street
South River, New Jersey
08882**

Remember...

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m..

SHOPPING?

**Here are some shopping ideas for people who love
South River.**

**275 Anniversary Book - \$15.00
1998 Calendar - \$5.00
Holiday Ball - \$6.00**

*South River
memorbilia is
a perfect gift
for the young
and "young
at heart".*

**All of the items are on sale at:
Main Street Florist, 181 Main Street
Rafano and Wood, 129 Main Street
Edward's Barber Shop, 76 Main Street
South River Pharmacy, 123 Main Street
Designer and Consignor Boutique, 54 Main Street**