

# HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION NEWS

Number 15

## Next Meeting: SEPT. 26th, 7pm

Do you remember the banner which was hanging across Main Street in 1944?

Can you fill in these blanks? KATH\_\_\_\_\_  
\_E P B U R N or HOTEL  
P \_\_\_ S H I N G

If you can or can't, you will enjoy the meeting we have planned.

With the help of a matching grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, museum activities for the "young" and the "young at heart" were developed. It was our hope that learning more about the museum and South River can be educational and entertaining. The evening will be devoted to a "Historic Hunt" and the first time showing of a video of the building and grounds.

**Next Meeting Date:**  
NOVEMBER 28

### SRH&PS Officers

**Donna Rafano**  
President

**Paul Goepfert**  
Vice President

**Edwin Roginski**  
Treasurer

**Stephanie Bartz**  
Secretary

## SOUTH RIVER GATHERS FOR AN INTERFAITH "PRAYER OF HOPE" SERVICE

*to remember and pray for the victims and survivors of the September 11th attack.*



*On behalf of the South River Historical & Preservation Society, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the victims of the September 11th tragedy. Our hearts and prayers are with you. May we comfort each other in this time of sadness, and always remember how precious life is.*

*Donna Rafano, SRH&PS President*

**June 27th Meeting Highlights -**  
*Community Problem Solving students wowed us with their historic tour website.*

At our last meeting in June, not a word was spoken by the fifty-eight who attended, as the high school Community Problem Solving(CPS) team presented their outstanding Historic Tour website. Present were Society members, Board of Education members Borough council members and parents. The "tour" was amazing! Marilyn Anastasio introduced the student s who presented the Historic Tour. Catarina Pedreiro, explained some of the background of the project. 1895 pictures of South River were paired them with 2000 pictures of the same location. Artur Virginas spoke about the challenges of getting the pictures onto the web page. Paul Framheim explained some of the

technical aspects of creating the website. Meghan Singagliese talked about having placed second in the state-wide CPS Competition.

The Historic Tour began with 1851 R. Van Dyke Reid Map containing locations plotted on the map. The viewer could select a location on the map which would show the 1895 image of the house which then transformed into the current view of the house.

Graphical, it is a work of art, skillfully designed and created with the audience and time period in mind. The use of color and type treatment are terrific!



High School CPS students who presented the Historic Tour to the Society

Dr. Jack Ambrogi, Superintendent of Schools, and Ron Grygo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, addressed the crowd commending the students for their wonderful work, and applauded all those involved in the great success of the project.

You can view the Historic Tour on our website: [www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/).



Members of the audience and students listen to the introduction of the evening's program.



Mayor Robert Szegeti, Robert Bodnar, BOE member and Paul Migut socialize during the refreshments part of the meeting.

**Recent Donations**

Joe Schall donated copies of tow school photos belonging to his aunt, Grace Lukach.

Mike Juerewicz donated three bricks made by the American Enamel Brick and Tile Company

Richard Pucci, Mayor of Monroe donated a blueprint map of Washington Park (South River) dated 1914.

Eddie Pulambo donated her time and made a basketful of red, white and blue ribbon corsages for the Society to hand out on Heritage Day held on September 22.

**Donations Welcome.** Please let us know if you have any "South River" items that you would like to donate or loan to the Historical Society.

**In Memorium**

*The Executive Board and members of the Historical Society extend their sincere sympathy to the families of former members who have passed away since the publication of the last newsletter.*

**MILDRED B. MCHOSE**  
**WILLIAM SCHWARZ**

**A SPECIAL EVENT**

**Celebrating Arts & Humanities Month/New Jersey - October 2001**  
**John Frazee, Sculptor, 1790 - 1852**

*"To Jane, the wife of my Youth" by John Frazee*

*This program is in conjunction with various presentation throughout the state of new Jersey. The theme of the state program is "Buried in New Jersey." Communities will cameo residents who have contributed to the culture and history of New Jersey,*

South River will present John Frazee, portrayed by an actor, will speak of how his wife, Jane, failed to flea the cholera epidemic in 1832. He will show visitors the urn he carved for his wife. The urn is located in the cemetery behind the Old School Baptist Church. John Frazee will summarize his life and why he became known as the "Father of American Sculpture."

**Background:** John Frazee was born in Rahway, New Jersey in 1790. His works date from about 1808. On July 19, 1813, he married Jane Probasco, daughter of Garret Probasco of Spotswood, New

Jersey. In 1818, he and his brother William, opened a marble cutting shop in New York City for the production of decorative pieces such as tombstones, mantles, and memorials. His portrait bust of John Well, 1824, is considered to be the first carved bust made by an American. Frazee sculpted figures with realistic features. Frazee was elected a member of the American Academy of the Fine Arts in 1824.

During the 1830s, Frazee was in a partnership with Robert E. Launitz, Frazee directed the building of the Customs House in New York from 1834 to 1840 and, it is assumed, was responsible for much of the sculptural embellishments there. His works can be found at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and the Boston Athenaeum.



The young artist, John Frazee and his bride Jane Probasco of Spotswood.

Frazee died on February 24, 1852, and is buried in Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery in a grave marked only with a small marble stone containing his name and the dates of this birth and death .

**Please join us on October 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Old School Baptist Church Museum.**

**Announcements**

**Victorian Funeral Exhibit & Tour**  
 Saturday, October 27 and Sunday October 28 from 5:30 - 9:00 at 19 Lincoln Place, Freehold, NJ.

Enter an authentically restored historic house and step back into Victorian times when the mortality rate was high and death was part of everyday life.

On your tour you will visit a reinacted Mourning room, see a display of 19th century Coffins, and an Embalming room, as you learn about Victorian Funeral Customs, etc. An admission fee will be charged.

**Historic Cemetery Tour**  
 October 20-21 from 5:00 - 8:30. Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Old Bridge Turnpike, East Brunswick, NJ.

Walk through a candle lit Victorian Cemetery as reinactors historically tell

and show artifacts of the accomplishments of those at rest there.

Fee \$5.00. Last year attendance was 700. Volunteers needed, call Mark 432-7588.

**Main Street New Jersey**  
 MSNJ continues to move forward with the 2001 — Downtown Revitalization. A great program being developed for our upcoming "Promoting Downtown" session on October 23-24, 2001 which will include: Day 1: Sylvia Allen will be our featured presenter again, focusing on the creation of a marketing plan for your commercial district. Kirk LeCompte will wrap up by sharing the how-to's of creating award-winning local program web sites. Day 2: of this session will highlight the creation of a whole promotion strategy for your district. Kent Burnes will lead an intensive whole-day workshop on how to create and implement a balanced, compre-

hensive and effective campaign that ties into the organizational, economic and design areas of the revitalization effort. For more information contact Jef Buehler, Main Street New Jersey, PO Box 806, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 633-9769 or by e-mail [msnj@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:msnj@dca.state.nj.us)

**Visit the Old School Baptist Church Museum**  
 The museum is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Volunteers are need. For more information call 613-3078.

For more information about the South River Historical & Preservation Society visit our website at: [www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/) For more information about becoming a member of the SRH&PS please call **Woodis Booraem** at 257-0365.



**South River  
Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.**

129 Main Street,  
South River, New Jersey 08882

*However gradual the course of history, there must always be the day, even an hour and minute, when some significant action is performed for the first or last time.*

*~ Peter Quennell ~*

**THE STAR SPANGLE BANNER** By Francis Scott Key

O! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's  
last gleaming—  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through  
the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so  
gallantly streaming!  
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was  
still there;  
O! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On that shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence  
reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;  
'Tis the star-spangled banner; O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul  
footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or gloom of the grave;  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-  
rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved  
us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto—*"In God is our trust"*;  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.