

# HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Number 18

NEWS

**NEXT MEETING:**

**April 24th  
at 7 p.m.**

As our young soldiers fight terrorism in Afghanistan, we will look back at South River's memories of War War II. Our program will be an open discussion honoring and remembering our local veterans and family members who defended our country and who received a special "Welcome Home" from the residents of South River back in 1946.

Please join us and enjoy this unusual look back in time.

**2002 Meeting Dates:**

APRIL 24

JUNE 26

SEPTEMBER 25

NOVEMBER 20

**SRH&PS Officers****Marilyn Anastasio**

President

**Donna Rafano**

Vice President

**Paul Goepfert**

Treasurer

**Stephanie Bartz**

Secretary

**President's Message***by Marilyn Anastasio*

As you know, the museum is open the first Sunday of every month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Our open house on April 7th was particularly exciting. Several adults, the Girl Scout Cadette Troop 1169, and the Girl Scout Junior Troop 1856 made the day unique. The Girl Scouts were preparing to take a Girl Scout Brownie Troop on tour of the museum. In addition, the Girl Scouts made cemetery stone rubbings, helped Earl Wenger put the pieces of the police station ceiling decoration back together, and interviewed Adam Zdrodowski about his memories of South River. When the Brownies arrived, the Girl Scouts gave the Brownies a tour of the museum and the grounds. The Girl Scouts read interviews of South River residents. (At our April 24th general membership meeting, the Girl Scouts will present

a booklet of the interviews to the museum.) Under the leadership of Debbie Zemann, the Girl Scouts are utilizing their time at the Old School Baptist Church completing various activities as they work towards fulfilling the requirements of their Silver Award Project.

It is thrilling to see adults and children working at the museum to collect and preserve the history of South River. It is the hope of the Society that all ages of South River residents will find the museum a place to share past memories, present interests, and future hopes for South River. Our museum and its programs are accessible and relevant. Your participation and involvement in our programs keep our Old School Baptist Church viable and vital.

**Calling all South River Veterans of WW II.**

The SR Historical & Preservation Society is seeking veterans who served in World War II, to participate in our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, April 24th. If you are a veteran, a family member of a veteran, or someone who remembers South River's "Welcome Home Celebration" back in 1946, we invite you to attend our next meeting. Share your memories, tell a story, bring a photograph, or just reflect and listen.

Do you remember South River's "Honor Roll?" (See more about it inside this issue). We would love to hear about it from you.

Please be our guest and share your memories and experiences with us, as we look back and remember what you did for our country to preserve our freedom.

**We would be honored by your presence.**

**WE WANT YOU****TO JOIN US!***April 24th at 7:00 pm*

The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at the War Memorial Building, 64-66 Main Street in South River. Refreshments will be served after the program

### February 27th Meeting Highlights - *A wonderful glimpse of the life of John Frazee*

There's nothing like a great piece of theatre to start off our 2002 Society meeting schedule! Our February meeting was attended by 34 members. Young and old enjoyed the second performance of a skit written by Marilyn Anastasio about John Frazee and his wife, Jane. The dialogue began with Jane, portrayed by Karyn Migut, who introduced herself to the audience, gave a little background about her life with John (played by Bob Rafano), and told how the famous couple fled to South River in the hopes of finding safety from the cholera epidemic raging in New York City in 1832. The dialogue was not only educational but very entertaining. We all learned about John Frazee's life — as he struggled to survive the death of his young wife, raised his five children, while he continued to work and earn his famed title "Father of American Sculpture." Hats off again to Karyn and Bob who for the second time, portrayed their parts as Jane and John Frazee effortlessly and eloquently. Bravo!



*Karyn Migut introduces herself to the audience as young Jane Frazee, wife of John.*



*Actors Karyn and Bob bring to life the heart-warming story of Jane and John Frazee.*



*The audience enjoys the Frazee skit which reveals his hardships.*

## Recent Donations

The SR Historical & Preservation Society would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations:

Kenneth Arianas  
Alberta Bargloski  
Norman & Betsy Triznadel  
Raymond J. Laffin  
Judith G. Smith (matching gift from J&J)  
Curtis and Rosemary Booraem  
Leo Cannon

First Savings Bank  
Yeshiva High School of  
Central New Jersey  
South River Appliance

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

**185 Members**  
**16 Student**  
**4 Honorary Trustees**

## Museum Information

### **Old School Baptist Church Museum**

The museum is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers are need.

For more information about the South River Historical & Preservation Society visit our website at: [www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/).

To become a member contact Candice Lewandoski at 60 Hillside Avenue, South River, NJ 08882.

For more information call 732-613-3078.

## Woodis and Warren Booraem are honored for their years of service to the SR Historical Society

The SRH&P Society presented Woodis and Warren Booraem with a life-time membership for their dedication and service to Society as co-chairs of the membership committee. For over twelve years they have been the constant force that has kept the Society moving forward and growing to what it is today

Mayor Robert Szegeti also honored the Booraems for their dedication and service to the Society and to the town by presenting them with a proclamation from the Mayor and Borough Council.



*Mayor Robert Szegeti presents Woodis and Warren Booraem with a proclamation from the Mayor and Council.*

## Museum Visitors



Girl Scout Cadette Troop #1169 share their knowledge of the museum with other local Junior Girl Scout and Brownie Troops. A good time was had by all!





The World War II and Korean War monument stands in front of the Old School Baptist Church.

### **Welcome Home GI Joes**

To all GI Joes who have returned from the different theatres of war, the people of South River bid each of you  
**“A WARM WELCOME HOME.”**

While serving your country on far flung battle fields it is certain a mental picture of your Home and Friends and of the DEAR OLD TOWN never faded from your memory, because it was inspirational; it helped you forget the many hardships of war and the imminent battle dangers to which you were constantly exposed.

Yes, and while hiding in fox holes or charging the enemy or dodging death dealing missiles you often, no doubt, hummed or whistled — “be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home.”

***But, Joe, you are home now!  
How glad you are!  
How glad we are!***

In reality you can whistle or hum the same old tune and open a certain door and rest on your favorite chair; it’s you home, Joe, that not so long ago your dreamed about and hoped to see again and to hear therein the voices of those you love.

All this is true with hundreds of you, but we bow our head in HONORABLE

Excerpts from the 1946 Homecoming program booklet

## **HOME COMING CELEBRATION Veterans of World War II**

*June 30th, July 1st and 2nd, 1946*

*South River, New Jersey*

SORROW because many of our brave lads will not enjoy with us the “Home Coming Celebration.” They are sleeping in foreign fields and in the depths of the sea, South River’s priceless sacrifice on the alters of “WORLD PEACE.”

... Business was suspended and flags were displayed in front of stores and private homes near Borough Hall. Business and private cars detoured willingly through side streets so their rumblings would not mar the solemnity of the occasion. It was a civilian salute to the boys who had been called to the colors and were taking their first step toward meeting the enemy that would destroy American principles; that would subject us to the rule of Nazism, Fascism or Shintoism or their thrice detrimental combination of cruel leadership.

Never before in the history of South River had such determination been displayed to “back up the boys.” No “stone” that would yield one degree of patriotic enthusiasm was left unturned. War stamps and bonds were purchased to support the government’s war program, and in each War Bond and Victory Bond drive South River exceeded its assigned quota. The High School through the sale of bonds and stamps paid for a bomber. The grammar schools and the Parochial Schools purchased enough stamps and bonds to buy thousands of dollars worth of war equipment. The town folks helped the government by purchasing stamps and bonds that the boys would be equipped with war materials, and would be comfortable in the home camps and abroad. Scores of people wrote cheerful letters to long lists of South River service men and women. All kinds of gifts and remembrances were sent within military regulations. The post office was busy in keeping the service mail going out.

Then, too, the people opened a U.S.O. on Main Street. It was well managed by groups of women representing civic and church organizations. Those in charge knew how to make visiting servicemen happy and comfortable.

Entertainments were provided, dances were arranged, tasty lunches were served and all with a “God Bless You” willingness. It was “home for the boys away from home.” In return some place was caring for the South River boys away from their homes.

Yes, the war clouds hung heavy over the little borough but at no time did discouraging news on the progress of the war ever “get the home folks down.” Yea, verily, such news acted as a stimulus to greater effort, greater sacrifice and more prayers for the boys over there. The slogan was: “Nothing is too good for our boys in arms.” This declaration was never forgotten; it was never neglected.

As time passed on, our G.I. Joes were missed by their club buddies, by their class mates, their church members, the old sand lot baseball team, their fishing trip friends and from other rendezvous about town. No boy was forgotten!

The Lions Club designed and erected an ornamental honor roll at Stephen and Main Streets, and on it was printed the name of each boy and each girl who served in the armed forces of the United States. The list grew from time to time as new contingents were sent to the training camps, noble defenders of the Red, the White and Blue. A touch of sadness and regretful reflection soon appeared in the form of GOLD STARS placed opposite the names of heroic sons who had paid the bitter price of war “the supreme sacrifice that government of the people, by the people,

## Looking Back in Time

for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

The surrounding grounds were beautifully laid out and ornamented with pine trees through whose branches the winds played mournful tunes as though nature itself had been saddened by the passing of South River's noble sons. There were tones of assurance, too, that on the battle fronts were a thousand and more South River lads defending the truth, protecting our American rights and struggling to preserve our Democratic Form of Government.

Thousands of people have stopped to read the list of names. Yes, the tears of sorrowing relatives and friends have hallowed the ground on which they fell.

Verily, the corner of Main and Stephen Streets will be known as South River's hallowed spot, and from it should be



*The Honor Roll was located downtown on the corner of Main and Stephen Streets.*

flown to the breeze forever and a day “The Star Spangled Banner” symbolic of the courage, the bravery, the truth, the sacrifice of fifty-six sons who were sacrificed on the altars of war; that from their shed blood would rise a stronger nation and lasting peace among the nations of the world.

What a contribution for our little borough of ten thousand inhabitants to offer for the preservation of AMERICAN FREEDOM!

*True heroism was displayed by loved ones at home. No complaints were offered. Sadness was expressed and remorse was keenly displayed by those who could not hold back their sentimental feelings over the loss of a stalwart son, a dear brother or father, a kind relative, a faithful friend or a worthy pal — all of them noble sons of South River.*

## Program of Events for the South River 1946 Home Coming Celebration:

### SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1946 -

#### Thanksgiving and Memorial

7:00 to 12:00 Noon -

Special Veterans' Thanksgiving Church Services at all South River Churches

3:00 P.M. at Campbell School Stadium - David Street

Memorial Services in recognition of departed Veterans.

Music combined South River Choirs.

Memorial Addresses by three representatives of South River Clergy.

Presentation of Gold Star Pins.

Taps.

### JULY 1, 1946 - MONDAY -

#### Parade and Dance Day

12:00 Noon -

Closing of Stores, Business Establishments and Factories.

6:00 P.M.

Veterans' Home-Coming Parade (Parade from at Upper Whitehead Ave. at 5:30 P.M.)

All South River Veterans of World War II, Civic, Fraternal and Religious Organizations, etc., invited to Participate.

8:30 P.M. - Main Street (Between Obert and Ferry Streets)

National Folk Dances

9:30 P.M.

Block Dance

Refreshments on Sale by General Committee.

### JULY 2, 1946 - TUESDAY -

#### Community Night

8:00 P.M. - Campbell School Stadium - David Street

Band Concert

Stunt Flying

Parachute Jump

Acknowledgement and Awards

Address

Vaudeville Entertainment

11:00 P.M.

Fireworks Display

#### FINALE

Kindly note: The expenses of the entire celebration have been assumed by the Borough of South River, by action of the Mayor and Borough Council.

Moneys derived from the sale of the Memorial Program and the sale of refreshments at the events will be placed in a fund for a permanent memorial project.

GENERAL COMMITTEE



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

129 Main Street,  
South River, New Jersey 08882

Visit our website at: [www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/)

**In Memoriam of the South River residents lost in World War II:**

Charles Anasiewicz	Edward Gwodiewicz	Stephen Medvar	Sheldon Sheinfine
Milton Armstrong	Joseph Horvath	George Meyers	Walter Silowka
Stephen Balazs	James Hill	Alex Ocskaye	Joseph Stasiak
Edmund Bratus	Joseph Jablonski	Andrew Orsag	Louis Soke
Thomas Bove	Anton Jozefowicz	Joseph Panciera	Nicholas Suskevich
Dr. Theodore Boyt	Peter Kondratyk	Joseph Pisinski	Harold Thomas
Chester Cislo	John Kravehenck	Walter Poklikuha	Clifford Vanderhoof
Edward Dabkowski	Albert Krempecki	Joseph Polgar	Elmer Van Zant
Michael Detrick	Leonard Langfled	Alex Poloz	Stanley Waxmundsky
Peter Dwareski	Michael Lawnick	John Reho	Hugh Wetzel
John Fisezi	Michael Lonczak	Kenneth Scherer	Casimir Wilczynski
John Fisher	Kenneth Mark	Joseph Seppi	Charles Wilson
Adolph Gerstacker			Stanley Wood
Frank Godlewski			Bernard Yates
Joseph Gondek			Michael Zalewski
Henry Grodzki			Mike Zaunerowicz

*In memory that will stronger grow  
Throughout the coming years,  
We dedicate this program  
To OUR BOYS' who can't be here.*