

# HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

Number 20

NEWS

**NEXT MEETING:**

**September 25th  
at 7 p.m.**

For our September program, we welcome Suzanne Buffalino, a South River resident, who will share her knowledge of historic costumes.

Ms. Buffalino specializes in historic and theatrical costuming supplies.

Please join us on the 25th and learn just how your clothing evolved in to what it is today!

As always admission is free.

**2002-2003  
MEETING DATES:**

SEPTEMBER 25

NOVEMBER 20

FEBRUARY 26

APRIL 24

**SRH&PS Officers:**

**Marilyn Anastasio**  
President

**Donna Rafano**  
Vice President

**Paul Goepfert**  
Treasurer

**Stephanie Bartz**  
Secretary

**President's Message**

*by Marilyn Anastasio*

The gentle rain at the beginning of September brought a sense of comfort and calm. September will never be the same. We will remember the people of 9/11 because they walked among us.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of Joann and Paul Goepfert, South River will remember the people and events of 9/11 with a piece from the WTC. The Goepferts traveled to New York and received a part of the building. The item was photographed, numbered, and the destination to the Old School Baptist Church was catalogued at the WTC site by their staff. An appropriate place will be selected at the museum for the WTC donation.

With the start of school, routines return. Thanks to the endeavors of Pack 83 and their leader Mrs. Klimscak, the scouts will be both learning and helping at the OSBC. September 29 (rain or shine) will be "Scouts Day." Their monthly pack meeting will be held at the museum with their objective to learn more about the museum and to clean up the grounds around the museum. Certainly the day promises to be a productive one for all involved.

If you would like to join us, please do. If you have an idea for the museum or a "South River" item that you would like to share with others, please contact us. We would not exist without you.

**September 11, 2002.**

*One year later — we remember.*

Over the past twelve months we have all experienced many emotions. We have tried to continue our lives as we did before September 11, 2001. But no matter how hard we try, we all know that the world changed on that beautiful September day one year ago. There were no words to describe how each of us felt, how each of us managed to get through the day as we watched our televisions in horror at the events that unfolded.

On Wednesday, September 11, 2002 South River gathered together to pay tribute to those lost last September 11th and to commend those who volunteered in rescue and recovery efforts. Councilman Art Londensky opened the ceremony, and later introduced speakers Freeholder Chris Rafano and Mayor Robert Szegeti. Leading us in prayer were various members of the local churches and synagogue. South River Girl and Boy Scouts recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Leo Surak, Commander of American Legion Post No. 214, presented a special flag to the Mayor. Councilman Tele Koukourdelis read a local student's poem and invited all to light candles, despite the wind. The ceremony concluded appropriately by singing *God Bless America* sang by Dolly Currie.



*Leo Surak helps Mayor Szegeti and Councilman Dave Sliker hang the special flag saying "We honor those who serve."*



*Councilman Art Londensky announces artist Blaze Batko has been commissioned to design the SR September 11th memorial.*

## June 26th Meeting —

*A look at New Jersey's lighthouses*

If you attended June's meeting, you'll never look at a lighthouse the same! The Society welcomed Ray Vliet from the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, who with his wife Ilse, opened our eyes to the great spectrum of historic lighthouses found throughout our state. His program featured the video, *The Eye of the Mariner*, a documentary that gave us a closer look at the majestic lighthouses of Sandy Hook, Twin Lights, Sea Girt, Barnegat, Tucker Island, Absecon, Hereford Inlet, Cape May, East Point, Finns Point Range and various other shoal lights. Mr. Vliet brought along a map with miniature lighthouse figurines to illustrate

the locations of the lighthouses. He ended his discussion by inviting us all down to visit the Twin Lights in Atlantic Highlands and the Sandy Hook lighthouse just a few miles away.

The New Jersey Lighthouse Society is sponsoring a Lighthouse Challenge on October 19th and 20th. The Challenge is a road rally in which the object is to visit eleven lighthouses in a matter of two days. So for all you sea dogs with a love of the New Jersey coast — go get'em! For more information about the Challenge go to [www.njlhs@burlco.org](http://www.njlhs@burlco.org).



*Ray Vliet and his wife Ilse show off their map of New Jersey lighthouses.*

## Recent Acquisitions

- A 2002 South River Elementary School yearbook was donated by the SR Elementary PTA.
- A small oval platter formerly owned by Ann Major was donated by Melissa Durovich. The platter was given out at a local theater thought to be called the Olympia.
- Dolores Stavish donated seven linen and lace handkerchiefs produced at the Middlesex Lace Company on Martin Street.

## Museum Information

### Announcements:

The 2003 South River Calendar is now available. The pictures include a Willett School Safety Patrol, Campbell School 8th grade class, Ladies' Garment Workers, river scenes, local bands and other interesting photographs.

Calendars are available at the museum on the first Sunday of each month and during Cruise Nights (September 19th and October 17th), on Heritage Day (September 28), at Rafano and Wood (129 Main Street), at Main Street Florist, the and at Borough Clerk's Office (entrance on Washington Street) or by calling the museum at 732-613-3078.

### Need a Gift?

The SRH&P Society has the following items available for purchase:

- **Calendars** (2003 and past years are available) . . . \$6.00
- **Commemorative Book:**  
In Celebration of South River's 275th Anniversary . . . . . \$15.00
- **T-Shirt** . . . . . \$ 7.00
- **Cap** . . . . . \$ 5.00
- **T-Shirt & Cap** . . . . . \$10.00
- **Holiday Ball** . . . . . \$3.00
- **Wooden Plaques**  
(from original columns) . . \$10.00

## In Memoriam

### MARY A. WEIS

We are saddened by the death on July 2, 2002 of Mary Allgair Weis who was a founding trustee of the South River Historical & Preservation Society. A life-long resident whose knowledge of South River's history and subsequent "who's who" were great and her willingness to share the information with us was typical of her ability and desire to cooperate.

Mary was a member of the Holy Trinity Episcopal church and was one of its most dedicated workers.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, William A. Weis, a teacher in the South River School District; her daughter Mary Anne Frank, her parents, Ethel Durham and William A. Allgair, former Mayor of South River and a brother, Dr. William A. Allgair.

Two sons and daughters-in-law, William Weis, Jr. and JoAnn and Robert C. Weis and Pamela, and seven grandchildren survive her.

### Visit the Old School Baptist Church Museum

The museum is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Come and share your past with us. Admission is free.

**Volunteers are needed.** If you are interested in becoming a docent at the museum call (732) 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/)

To become a member contact Candice Lewandoski at (732) 613-3078.

## “Spotlight” on the museum

by Earl Wenger

As you enter the Old School Baptist Church Museum to the right of the door you will find one of our most unusual treasures. There sits an enormous coal/gas fired range. The stove's heating surface has four pot positions over the coal firebox and four over the gas burners. There is a main oven adjacent to the coal firebox and two smaller overhead gas fired ovens. A unique feature links the range to South River's past. There is

a 2" x 7" indent in the narrow apron just beneath the main oven door. It contains a cast iron name plate with the name "S. Davidovitz, South River, NJ." Woodis Booraem says there was a Davidovitz Furniture Store on Ferry Street at one time.

The range was donated to the Society by Helene Schrader, who purchased a house on Roosevelt Street and found it in the basement.



## A Hot Summer Night —

*Cruise Night makes its debut*

August 22nd's Cruise Night was a success! There were classic cars of all sizes, motorcycles of all kinds, and the streets were filled with curious crowds. The SRH&PS was there too. Doris Miller, Emily Miller and Ann Rafano promoted the Society at a table outside the museum. Doris Miller showed off her pristine 1966 Chevy Nova (original paint and sales sticker).

If you missed last month's fun, plan to join us on September 19th on Main Street in South River for the second Cruise Night. The museum will be open. Please "stop in" and see our displays.



Doris Miller shows off her fire engine red 1966 Chevy Nova.



Emily Miller and Ann Rafano welcomed over 25 visitors to the museum on Cruise night.



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

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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
BULK RATE  
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SOUTH RIVER, NJ  
08882



**WE WILL REMEMBER  
ALL OF OUR HEROES,  
NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS  
AND LOVED ONES WHOSE  
LIVES WERE LOST ON  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.  
IN OUR LOSS,  
LET US FIND COMFORT.  
IN OUR ANGER,  
LET US FIND RESOLVE.  
IN OUR MEMORIES,  
LET US FIND COURAGE.**

**WE WILL NOT FORGET...**