

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION NEWS

Number 21

NEXT MEETING:

**November 20th
at 7 p.m.
Annual Meeting**

As in the past, this month marks the close of our year. Once again we will hold yearly elections of officers at the meeting. It has become a tradition that the Board of Trustees provide dinner for the membership.

We ask everyone to bring in items (photos, antiques, jewelry, etc..) of historic or personal interest to share with the group for the annual "Show & Tell."

Please join us for this annual feast and share with us a "piece" of your history.

2003 Meeting Dates:

FEBRUARY 26

APRIL 23

JUNE 25

SEPTEMBER 24

NOVEMBER 19

SRH&PS Officers

Marilyn Anastasio

President

Donna Rafano

Vice President

Paul Goepfert

Treasurer

Stephanie Bartz

Secretary

President's Message

by Marilyn Anastasio

Our museum's been a busy place this season. On September 29, Pack 83—scouts and parents—armed with rakes, gloves, and energy, arrived to clean up the cemetery, to level the ground on one side of the museum and put down stones, to weed the flower beds, and to pick up debris. After a snack, the scouts and parents were given a tour of the inside of the museum. All participants seemed satisfied with the truly productive day.

An "older generation" volunteered their services, too. The "South River Students for the Enhancement of the Community"—a group of South River High School students under the leadership of Rick Rosenberg—volunteered to help restore the antique folding chairs which are housed at the museum.

Ken Roginski, an active member of the South River Historical & Preservation Society, researched and purchased the materials needed for the restoration.

On Sunday, October 26, the high school students converted our museum and the front lawn into their workshop. The project required several return visits.

The results are fantastic! The double-seated wooden chairs, which had been used at the former Middle School (Thomas Street), and Campbell School (David Street), have been refurbished. They add to the ambience of the Old School Baptist Church Museum.

Our gratitude to Pack 83 and the SRHS students for their efforts inside and out!

We are proud of our community's youth and encourage their support in keeping the history of South River alive through their participation at our museum and in our Society.

The November meeting is our annual meeting. The trustees invite you to join us at 7 p.m. for a potluck dinner followed by our annual "Show and Tell" exchange.

Ken Roginski gives South River students a lesson on restoration.

Restoration expert, Ken Roginski, joined forces with South River Students for the Enhancement of the Community (SRSEC) to restore the chairs at the museum. This is how they did it:

Ken Roginski's Restoration Process

1. Wiped down the chairs with paint thinner to remove grime and old wax
2. Applied refinisher to cover up scratches.
3. Applied one (1) coat of shellac mixed with denatured alcohol to re-amalgamate (melt and revive) the original finish while preserving the patina.



Ken Roginski gives the SRSEC students step by step instructions on the process of refinishing the old school chairs.

4. Finally, coated with paste wax to protect the finish.

September 25th Meeting Highlights — *Suzanne Buffalino presented a unique history*

September's program began as a bit of a mystery when Donna Rafano introduced Suzanne Buffalino, owner of Grand Garb, a historic costume supply company. Mrs. Buffalino spoke about the history of the "corset". Her presentation covered the evolution of the corset from the earliest times to the present day. Mrs. Buffalino included samples of pieces and types of materials used in making corsets, as well as a collection of patterns and books illustrating corsets throughout history. The program emphasized that corsets were created not only for function, but fashion as well. Interestingly, the corset has changed very little over time, except for the material from which it is made. One thing is certain—whether worn on the inside or on the outside, the corset is here to stay! For more information about historic costumes and supplies, contact Suzanne Buffalino at www.historicsupply.com or call 732-390-0506.



Suzanne Buffalino shows examples of the corset's early history.



Shown above are the different materials used in the construction of corsets over the years.

Membership

FINAL 2002 MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

214 Members
(includes 16 Students)
4 Honorary Trustees

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

For more information call 732-613-3078.
See our membership application on page 4.
Fill it out and get a head start on next year!

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.

The Society would like to thank all its contributors for their generous donations. **Please remember to include your name, address and phone number on any item that you donate,** so we can properly identify the object when displayed in the museum.

2003 CALENDAR ARE ON SALE NOW!

The 2003 South River calendars is now available. The 2003 calendar includes pictures of the 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 at Rafano and Wood Law Office (129 Main

Street), Main Street Florist, the Borough Clerk's Office (entrance on Washington Street) or by calling the museum at 732-613-3078.

For more information about the South River Historical & Preservation Society visit our website at: www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/. For more information call 732-613-3078.

2002 SOUTH RIVER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The SRH&PS Executive Board and Trustees would like to thank the members listed below for their continued support and dedication to the Society.

Martin Adler	JoAnn Devlin	Raymond Laffin	Amy Rafano-Tansey
Alice Agnone	Carol DeVoe	Evelyn Larson	Kristina Reyes
Anthony Agnone	Charles DeVoe	Meredith Larson	Louis Rezem, Jr.
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Marilyn Anastasio	Nelson DeVoe	John Lenhart	Walter Rice
Thomas Anastasio	Regina DeVoe	Candice Lewandoski	Irene "Debby" Richter
Louise Andersen	William DeVoe	Barbara Lindsay	Claudia Rocha
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Patricia Bongiovi	Arthur Garboski	Kathleen Molchan	Joann Smith-Goepfert
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Walter Boyler	James Genecki	Dorothy Oliver	Robert Szegeti
Karen Bradford	Paul Goepfert	Michael Ondre	Michael Szewczyk
Christine Brasno	William Goepfert	John O'Neill	Ronald Szymanski
Henrietta Brasno	Barbara Goff	Marley O'Neill	Edward Timko
Jason Brasno	Frederick Goff	Gregory Palaski	Mary Timko
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Irene Buga	Ashley Graf	Philip Peter	Eliane Verloove
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Tanya Davis	Jennifer Krempecki	Donna Rafano	Debbie Zemann
Julia Devine	Marion Kutawski	Robert Rafano	Jean Zimmerman



Visit our website at: www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/

Looking Back in Time

Do you know this poem?

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

But did you know.....

“Trees” was first published in 1913, when author Joyce Kilmer (1886–1918) was 27 years old. A New Brunswick, New Jersey, native, Kilmer attended Rutgers University for a time and was a graduate of Columbia. He died in 1918 by German gunfire in the second Battle of the Marne. To learn more about Joyce Kilmer go to www.risingdove.com.

