

# HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

## News

Number 23

**NEXT MEETING:****April 23th at 7 p.m.**

Our April 23th program will feature South River sculptor, Blaise Batko. He will give a sneak preview of his most recent project—the South River September 11th Memorial. Mr. Batko has made a name for himself by designing many of the 9/11 memorials in the tri-state area. We are honored to have him share his work with us.

Please join us on April 23rd at the Old School Baptist Church Museum (War Memorial Building), 64-66 Main Street in South River.

**2003 Meeting Dates:**

JUNE 25

SEPTEMBER 24

NOVEMBER 19

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

President

**Donna Rafano**

Vice President

**Hank Dziemian**

Treasurer

**Stephanie Bartz**

Secretary

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

I hope that as you read our newsletter, the sweet smells of Spring are surrounding you.

Although the Winter weather was cold and snowy, our museum was warm and inviting. We had another Friday evening (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.) work session at the museum. Steady progress was made toward organizing our collections. Two high school students, Christy Fic and Lauren Zdziarski, volunteered to work on the Washington Monumental Cemetery project for their Girl Scout Gold Award. Our chairpersons positions have been filled for 2003. We applied for a grant to initiate our cataloging project which is a priority for 2003. Membership

increased with renewals, new, family, and business members. THANK YOU!

Remember, there is always a place for you in the Society and at the museum. Whatever you enjoy doing: listening to our programs, cataloging our items, filing our correspondence, researching your own information or a topic of interest, looking at our displays, writing for the newsletter, inputting information for our web site and/ or our collections, or "cleaning" either inside or outside the museum, we have a place for you. Leave a message at (732) 613-3078 and we will be in touch!

**A Look back at Our November Annual Meeting...**

*Editors Note: Due to the unavailability of photographs from our Annual Meeting in November 2002, we are happy to announce that they have been recovered. We thought you might enjoy looking back...*

On the right, Vice President Donna Rafano presents Earl Wenger, former South River Historian and past SRH&P Society president with a Lifetime Membership. Below on the left, Iris Schmitt shows a 150 year old mug from Germany used in Albert Schmitt's barber-shop. And below to the right, Doris Miller reads a document from the John Fitzpatrick collection.



### February 26th Highlights—

*Joe Butewicz shared his vast knowledge of antique glassware.*

For those of us who attended our February meeting, Joe Butewicz of the New Jersey Antique Bottle Club, made it worthwhile coming out on a cold winter evening.

Mr. Butewicz began collecting bottles in the early 1970s. Mr. Butewicz's in-depth knowledge of early American and European pottery and glassware astounded us. The presentation included several power point presentations with details of specific digs. Mr. Butewicz had a display of early 19th century pottery, pewter, and bottles. The artifacts revealed a glimpse of New Brunswick's early settlers.

Mr. Butewicz is well known around the country for his expertise. We were fortunate to have a fellow South "Riverite" share many wonderful stories of what it was like discovering such gems buried in the clay. After the program, our members were given the opportunity to purchase some of the bottles and vases from his collections.



*Joe Butewicz displays some items which he found at the New Brunswick digs in 2001.*

### Cemetery project is brought back to life—

*Two high school freshmen volunteer to help*

In 1991, a group of volunteers under Ken Roginski's leadership, began work at the Washington Monumental Cemetery located on Hillside Avenue. Their goal was to identify all of the monuments in the cemetery with family and stone information. The results were to be put on a computer database so that people would be able to easily access the information. Now, this project will be revived. The project will get help from two high school students.

In order to obtain their Girl Scout Gold Award, Christy Fic and Lauren Zdziarski have volunteered their time to work on the cemetery project. They will be presenting their project to the Delaware Raritan Girl Scout Council Board for approval. Once the Girl Scout Council approves the project, Christy and Lauren will begin working. Ken Roginski has offered his assistance and will be available to answer any questions the students may have.

### Art Exhibit at the Old School Baptist Church Museum slated for May 4th

Local artist

**DARRYL DAVID JENSEN**

will be exhibiting his work on  
Sunday, May 4th  
from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Jensen is a member of the  
South River Cultural Arts and  
Heritage Commission.

Admission is free and refreshments  
will be served.

### In Memoriam

The Executive Board and members of  
the South River Historical & Preservation  
Society offer our condolences to the  
families of:

**Kenneth Arianas**

**William DeVoe**

### Membership

2003 SRH&PS membership as of April 1, 2003 is 216

Please support our 2003 Corporate Sponsors:

- Applyby Insurance Agency, Inc.
- First Saving
- Laffin Chevrolet
- The Ria Mar Restaurant
- Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School
- Polish Army Veterans Association of America
- Gerri's Hair Designers
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### Students' virtual historic tour gets great reviews—

*Below is a sampling of great responses sent to the SRH&P Society and students (via our website) by people:*

**John Gavel** of Melbourne, FLA

Date: 01-17-2003

Comments: I grew up at 26 Washington Road on the Sayreville side of the South River bridge in the 50's having been born in 1947 when my parents lived on Reid St. The site brought back a lot of pleasant memories; buying my first paperback book for 35 cents in a drug store on Main Street, picking up hard rolls and jelly doughnuts from the bakery by the Russian church and then the Sunday newspaper at Becker's, catching nightcrawler's on the Whitehead mansion lawn to go fishing with, the hitching post by the doctor's office on Main, Boyce's Diner and many, many others. I'm a medically retired Air Force Officer and sometimes a trip to the "golden past" makes a day more pleasant. Thanks!

**Rob Biro** of Santa Monica, CA

Date: 10-28-2002

Comments: I thoroughly enjoy looking at the archives, great job comparing then and now. Keep up the terrific work.

**Jacob Nenichka** of South River, NJ

Date: 10-14-2002

Comments: Is the old Image of the home at 138 Jackson St mirrored?

**Richard Meyers** of Princeton, NJ

Date: 07-16-2002

Comments:

As a S.R. native whose Peterson ancestors first came to the area in the late 1700's, I truly enjoyed the tour. Thanks very much for the time and effort you invested. The finished product is something you can be proud of.

**John M. Holod** of Las Vegas, NV

Date: 07-10-2002

Comments: A message to Ms.Carney. I remember when you started at SRHS. I was in the class of '68. You were my history teacher senior year. It is nice to see that you stayed and that you have completed this great project. I actually wound up with a degree in American History from Brown University.

You can be very proud of this page and the kids you are working with. Great job, keep up the good work.

And, Thank You for being a great teacher.

John M. Holod,



*This is a sample of a page from the students' virtual tour which is located on our website.*

**Daryl Chordas** of South River, NJ

Date: 05-19-2002

Comments:

I really enjoyed the tour!

P.S. Please tell Mrs. Carney I said Hi.

**Mary Ann Hoffman**

of South River, NJ (and proud of it!)

Date: 12-12-2001

Comments: Guys:

What a great site, congratulations on this accomplishment. I look forward to seeing my house at 279 Main Street on this page one day.

And greetings to Mrs. Carney, one of the greatest teachers I had at SRHS!

Keep up the great work, and publicize it more. The residents of South River should know about the great work you are doing.

Regards, Mary Ann

## Museum Information

### *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. Volunteers are needed.

The Society would like to thank all of 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 it is displayed in the museum.

### *LAST CHANCE for 2003 Calendars*

The 2003 South River calendars are **still** on sale, but quantities are limited. Calendars are available at the museum (first Sunday of each month) and at Rafano and Wood Law Office at 129 Main Street, Main Street Florist at 181 Main Street, the Borough Clerk's Office (entrance on Washington Street) or by calling the museum at 732-613-3078. A calendar is \$6.00.

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

For more information about the Society or the Old School Baptist Church Museum call 732-613-3078.

### *2003 Membership*

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



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

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64-66 Main Street  
P.O. Box 545  
South River, New Jersey 08882

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

**Do you remember?**

### **SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON**

**“Around her neck she wore a yellow ribbon,  
She wore it in the springtime and in the month of May,  
And if you ask her why the heck she wore it,  
She wore it for her lover who was far far away . . . .”**

*1961 Mitch Miller version*

Versions of this song appear as early as the 1800s, and it has been registered for copyright several times. The song becomes popular again usually during wartime. Groups also like to change the words to fit a particular situation (e.g., the Ashford Air Cadets sing “She wore it for the airman who was far far away”). The word “soldier,” often appears most frequently instead of “lover” in many versions of the song. To find out more about “She Wore a Yellow Ribbon,” including its precursor, “All round my hat I wears a green villow,” visit the American Folklife Center, The Library of Congress, at [http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ribbons/ribbons\\_81.html](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ribbons/ribbons_81.html)

**The South River Historical & Preservation Society wishes  
a safe and speedy return of U.S. troops overseas.**