

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

News

Number 27

CELEBRATING

SRH&P SOCIETY
15th ANNIVERSARY
 1988-2003

2004 MEETINGS

APRIL 28

JUNE 23

SEPTEMBER 22

NOVEMBER 17

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the South River Museum (formally known as the War Memorial building) located at 64-66 Main Street, South River.

For more information visit our website at: www.rootswb.com/~njsrhps/, or call us at 732-613-3078.

SRH&PS Officers

Marilyn Anastasio
President

Karen Satterthwaite
Vice President

Hank Dziemian
Treasurer

JoAnn Devlin
Secretary

2004 Corporate Sponsors

Appleby Insurance Agency, Inc.

Conklin United Methodist Church

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Moshe Aaron Yeshiva H.S.

South River Appliance

Ria Mar Bar & Restaurant

Witty's Discount Liquors

President's Message

by Marilyn Anastasio

The South River Historical & Preservation Society would like to thank you for your interest, help, and support. South River's rich history will be maintained at the South River Museum on Main Street.

South River residents who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us are listed on the monuments in front of the museum. In their memory, we are having the monuments restored and preserved. We look forward to you joining us in this endeavor.

Christmas at the Museum

Thanks to the efforts of Karen Satterthwaite and Ann Rafano the museum looked truly festive for the holidays. Featured were antique toys and a feather tree kindly donated by member Eleanor Eppinger.



PROJECT RESTORATION: SR War Memorial Fundraiser Slated for March 21st

In fitting tribute to those who served in the Armed Forces from South River and died in service, the war memorials had been erected. Time and weather have taken their toll on these monuments.

In an effort to raise funds to restore and maintain these structures, a special event will be held **SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004, 2-5 p.m.** at the American Legion Hall on Whitehead Avenue. Reservations are available at \$5.00 per person. A reservation/donation form is inside this newsletter.

The program planned includes a display of memorabilia from WWI, WWII, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict, a sharing of memories, as well as music and light refreshments. Local veterans and enlisted personnel are welcome to attend in uniform. The American Legion has generously donated their hall for the affair.

Anyone interested in donating or loaning memorabilia, participating in the program, etc. should contact Joann Smith-Goepfert at 732-254-2341 or Donna Rafano at 732-254-7322. *"Lest We Forget"*... Join us in this worthwhile project.

November 19th Annual Meeting Highlights— Celebrating 15 Years!

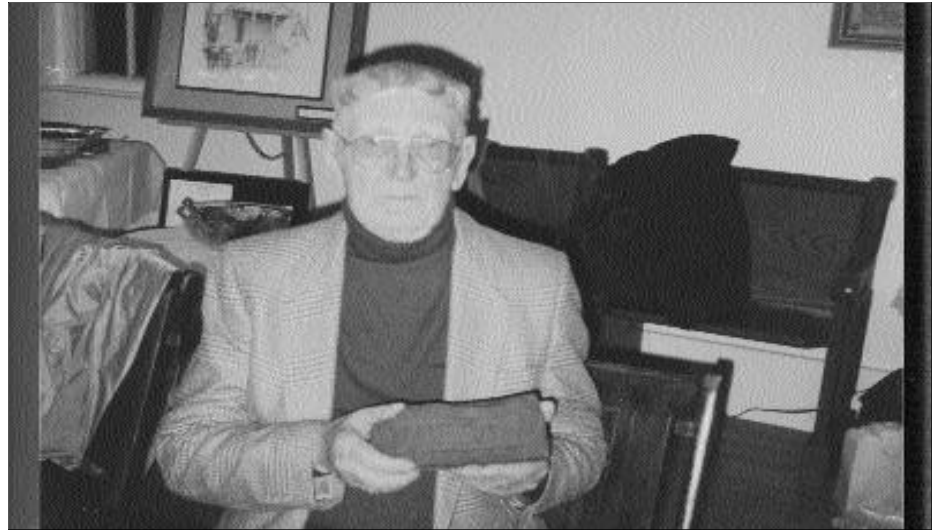
Forty-three members ventured out on the cold, rainy night of November 19, 2003 and were treated to a catered dinner and program celebrating the Society's 15th Anniversary.

Guest speaker was SR H&PS member and lifelong resident of South River, Walter Mrozek. Through photos and memories shared, we learned what life was like in South River in the first half of the 20th century.

Mr. Mrozek recalled brickyard workers were recruited from abroad, often from Poland and Russia. His father was one of these recruits. He was given a house near the river and worked for Bissett's Brick Company. During that time, Bissett's Pond was excavated for clay for brick making.

Other interesting highlights of his discussion include:

- There are now only two brick company houses still standing.
- Glazed bricks made by South River's American Enamel Brick & Tile Company were used in building the tunnels into New York.
- Over the years, areas of South River came to be known by nicknames engendered by the immigrant populations who resided there. They were "Little Poland," "Russian Alley," "Hunkytown," (Italians and Hungarians), and the "English Section" (called that because they



Walter Mrozek reminisces about his childhood memories on the South River.

didn't speak Polish, Russian, Italian, or Hungarian)!

- South River had bootleg rumrunners. They used a burned out brick factory and transported goods in and out by boat.

Mr. Mrozek presented the Society with a medallion, a program, and a Book of Thanksgiving commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the St. Mary of Ostrabrama Church which was celebrated November 16, 2003.

The business portion of the evening followed.

- Marilyn Anastasio and Hank Dziemian have agreed to continue in their current positions as President and Treasurer. Karen Satterthwaite and Jo Ann Devlin have agreed to serve as Vice-President and Secretary respectively. Four new Trustees were installed: Martin Adler, Dick Meyers, Art Londensky and Elaine Sicknick.



Original founding Trustees of the Society: Woodis and Warren Booraem, Ann and Bob Rafano.

- Four of the original founding trustees of the SR H&PS were in attendance: Woodis Booraem, Warren Booraem, Ann Rafano and Robert Rafano.
- Ann Rafano was presented with a lifetime membership award in recognition of her role in starting the Society and for her active participation over the past 15 years.
- Woodis and Warren Booraem, descendants of the Willett family who founded South River, presented the Society with checks totaling \$5,000 on behalf of the Booraem family. They expressed their hope of seeing both the Washington Monumental Cemetery and the Jonathan Booraem house (the oldest house in South River) located at 29 Reid Street placed on the Historic Register.



In Memoriam

The Executive Board and members of the SRH&P Society offer our condolences to the families of:

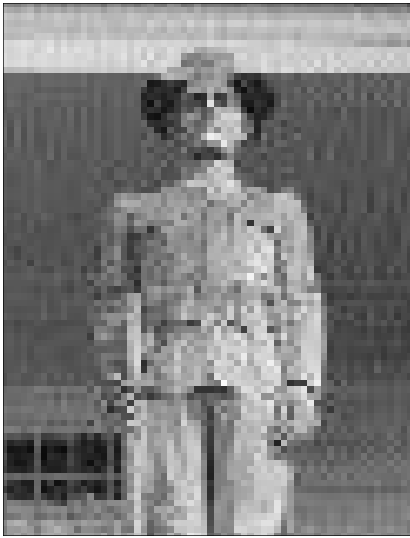
Florence C. Price

Daniel L. Golden

Leo Cannon

PROJECT RESTORATION:

Time to take a closer look at South River's War Memorial Monuments...



The South River WWI Memorial

This soldier's monument was made by the L.L. Manning Co. in March of 1926 and cost \$1,089.00. A bronze plaque was made for the doughboy in May of 1926 by J.E. Steimmer Bronze Works at the cost of \$395.

The inscription on the dough boy reads as follows:

***IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE
OF SOUTH RIVER N.J.
WHO IN THE SPIRIT OF
SELF SACRIFICE
ENROLLED THEMSELVES IN
THE SERVICE OF THEIR
COUNTRY
1914 WORLD WAR 1919***

The inscription on the bronze plaque reads:

DIED IN SERVICE

WISLENTY BONCAREWICZ

FRANK FRANDSEN

DAVID GECELIK

STEVE LEVANDOSKY

THOMAS LYONS

CONRAD SCHMITT

WILLIAM A. SCHMITZER

JOSEPH A. SHEPSCO

MICHAELSHUPLEK

HENRY WENZEL

JOHN YARAMCHUCK

The South River World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Conflict Memorial

This monument was inspired by a roster of soldiers who perished in WWII that was given to the South River War Memorial Free Public Library Association in 1949. In 1956 Ted Appleby, then Borough Attorney, requested permission to erect the monument on the front lawn of the library.

The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

***A GRATEFUL
COMMUNITY HOLDS
THESE NAMES IN
HONORED MEMORY.
THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN WORLD WAR II AND
THE KOREAN WAR
FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE.
GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST.
"GREATER LOVE HATH
NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT
AMAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR
HIS FRIENDS
ST. JOHN 15:13***

WORLD WAR II—

CHARLES ANASIEWICZ
MILTON ARMSTRONG
STEPHEN W. BALAZS
EDMUND P. BRATUS
THOMAS BOVE
THEODORE BOYT
CHESTER CISLO
EDWARD DABKOWSKI

MICHAEL J. DIETRICK
PETER DWARESKI
JOHN FISEZI
JOHN FISHER
ADOLPH GERSTACKER
FRANK T. GODLEWSKI
JOSEPH GONDEK
HENRY S. GRODZKI
EDWARD GWODIEWICZ
JOSEPH HORVATH
JAMES J. HILL
JOSEPH A. JABLONSKI
ANTON JOSEFOWICZ
PETER KONDRATYK
JOHN KRAVEHENCK
ALBERT KREMPECK
LEONARD R. LANGFELD
MICHAEL LAWNICK
MICHAEL B. LONCZAK
KENNETH W. MARK
STEPHEN MEDVAR
GEORGE MEYERS
ALEX OCSKAYE
ANDREW ORSAG
JOSEPH PANCIERA
JOSEPH J. PISINSKI
WALTER POKLIKUHA
JOSEPH POLGAR
ALEX K. POLOZ
JOHN REHO
KENNETH N. SCHERER
JOSEPH R. SEPP
SHELDON SHEINFINE
WALTER SILOWKA
JOSEPH L. STASIAK
LOUIS SOKE



NICHOLAS L. SUSKEVICH
HAROLD O. THOMAS
CLIFFORD VANDERHOOF
ELMER VAN ZANT
STANLEY WAXMUNDISKY
HUGH L. WETZEL
CASIMIR WILCZYNSKI
CHARLES WILSON
STANLEY L. WOOD
BERNARD YATES
MICHAEL ZALEWSKI
MICHAEL P. ZAUNEROWICZ

KOREAN CONFLICT—

WILLIAM A. CECKOWSKI

VIETNAM CONFLICT—

GEORGE EPPINGER
AARON GLYNN
ANDREW IVAN
RONALD WYATT



South River
Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.



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

2004 SRH&PS APPLICATION FORM

Please check one: New Renewal Gift (from _____)

Please print your name clearly as it should appear on membership listing:

Name: (Mr., Mrs. Ms.) _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: (____) _____

Additional contribution (optional) \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Cash Check (Please make check payable to "SRH&PS, Inc.")

Send your application and dues payment to: **Candice Lewandoski**
60 Hillside Avenue
South River, NJ 08882

My company has a matching gift program. My company: _____
My company's address: _____

As a tax-exempt corporation, the SRH&PS, Inc. is eligible to receive matching gifts. If your employer participates in such a program, please send matching gift forms with your membership donation. The Society's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

I'd like information about volunteering at the Old School Baptist Church Museum

I suggest you send a copy of this application to: _____

I would like to donate an additional amount of \$ _____ towards the restoration of the SR War Memorial Monuments
Please make my donation in honor of/ in memory of _____ who served in the _____ war/conflict

ANNUAL DUE CATEGORIES

- Adults* \$5.00
- Students \$1.00
- Family* \$15.00
- Business/Corporate \$25.00
- Lifetime (Individual) \$250.00

* For multiple memberships, please list additional names on back of this form