

## President's Message by Dick Meyers

Having seen Marilyn Anastasio's byline in this column for so long, I'll find it strange (as will you, I imagine) to now see mine, instead. But perhaps I can help all of us feel more at ease more quickly if I take a bit of space to introduce myself.

I'm proud to be a South River native and a member of the last graduating class (1961) from the old high school on Thomas St., the very same street where my third great grandfather, Moses Peterson, lived and, in 1875, died. His sons, including my second great grandfather, Stephen, were boatmen on the South River, so perhaps it was genetic predisposition that compelled me to spend five years in the Navy following graduation.

After being discharged, I was in and out of South River until I left for good in the late 1970s and moved to Paterson, much closer to the school where I was then teaching, Rutgers-Newark. In 1988, though, I took a position at my current school, Ocean County College, and soon thereafter moved to

Princeton, where my wife (Judy Zinis, SRHS '62) and I still live.

How then, you might wonder, after being absent from South River for over a quarter-century, did I get involved with the SRH&PS? Five years ago, I came to the Museum to do some genealogical research on my great grandfather, Alvie Peterson, who was fire chief during the conflagration of 1908, and I returned...and returned...and returned.... Since I was spending so much time here, I guess Marilyn figured I might as well do some work, so she recruited me first as a Trustee and then as her VP.

And now, as President, I have no grand scheme for my tenure, but I do consider continuity important: the Society has been moving in a very positive direction, and I certainly want to maintain that momentum. Through its members, the Society exists as a living, breathing organism that will, like all organisms, evolve. Precisely how, I can't say, but given

a) Brian's November presentation

on the Armstrong family history, b) Catherine Medich's February presentation on "Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor," and c) my own passion for genealogy, I expect that the Museum will become more useful and more user-friendly for family history researchers. You may have noticed that Stephanie (like myself, a member of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey) is already moving our website in that direction.

Ultimately, however, it is you, the members, who will determine the Society's direction. I'd like to hear your thoughts on what we should or should not be doing, on what we're doing well and what can be improved upon. To facilitate matters, I've prepared a brief questionnaire you'll find inserted in this issue of the newsletter.

I hope to hear from you, and I'm looking forward to a very productive, very successful year.

Peace.

## BENEVOLENT BENEFACTORS

The SRH&PS graciously accepted donations from Edward W. Price and Walter B. Woronowicz, who each gave \$10,000 to the South River Museum.

Edward W. Price, SRH&PS Life Member, named the South River Historical & Preservation Society a beneficiary in his will. The Executive Board of the SRH&PS will develop project ideas for the proper use of the bequest.

Walter B. Woronowicz, SRH&PS member, made a donation in memory of his parents, John and Cecilia Woronowicz. Mr. Woronowicz would like to see his contribution dedicated for the restoration of the Old School Baptist Church Cemetery located behind the South River Museum. In appreciation, the Society presented Mr. Woronowicz with a signed, limited edition print of the Old School Baptist Church by renowned artist Joseph Csatari.



*SRH&PS President Dick Meyers (l.) presents Walter B. Woronowicz (r.) with a Joseph Csatari rendering of the former Old School Baptist Church, now the South River Museum.*

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## Annual Meeting--November 17th

At the Annual Meeting of the SRH&PS, thirty-three members of the Society enjoyed the presentation by Quentin Emerson Armstrong and Brian Armstrong. This father and son pair provided an interesting look at the history of the David Armstrong family in South River.

Highlights of the program included a discussion of contributions by family members to both the civic and business progress made in South River during the last 100 years.

To conclude the program, Quentin and Brian called to the front their relatives in attendance, who accounted for nearly 25% of the audience! Below, from left to right, in the back row, Tim and David Armstrong (sons of Harold and Helen Armstrong); in the front row, Helen Clayton Armstrong, Janice Armstrong (daughter of Quentin), Quentin Armstrong, Brian Armstrong, Cliff Gordon (son of Quentin's sister, Carole Armstrong Gordon), and Harold Armstrong.



## Please mark your calendar...

### 2006 SRH&PS Meetings (Wednesdays):

**April 26, June 28, September 27, November 15**

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the South River Museum (formerly known as the Old School Baptist Church), located at 64-66 Main Street, South River. For more information, please visit us on the Internet at [www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/) or call us at (732)613-3078.

## Special Acknowledgments:

### 2006 Contributors: (from 1/06 to 2/06)

Alice & Anthony Agnone  
Katherine M. Bitow  
Margaret & Donald Calnan  
Eleanor Eppinger  
Louise Fitzpatrick  
Marie Gardner  
Elaine & Ronald Grygo  
Mark Haney  
Douglas E. Heine  
Bruce Meyers  
Lorraine Nisonoff  
Marley & John O'Neill  
Barbara & Melvin Petersen  
Jennie & Brian Racek

Richard Reichenbach  
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Joanne & Michele Senko  
Gladys & Charles Sicknick  
Alexis & John Stashkevetch  
Betsy & Norman Triznadel  
May & John Weck  
Barbara Westergaard  
Mary Zarski  
Jean Zdziarski

### Business/Corporate Members: (from 1/06-2/06)

Brown & Brown Metro. Inc.  
South River Italian American  
Club

### Contributions in Memory of: (from 1/06 to 2/06)

Joseph Aschettino by Anthony  
and Ann Aschettino  
Chris Dincuff by Joan and Amy  
Dincuff and Beth Dincuff  
Charleston  
Theresa McIlvaine by William J.  
McIlvaine  
Bert Palo, SRHS Teacher, by Sy  
Palo  
Edna & Andrew Sicknick and  
Winnie Starr by June Sicknick  
Whetstone  
John Turall and Edward Price by  
Carol Prato

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## Will Stoffers, Eagle Award Recipient

On January 7, 2005, at the South River Knights of Columbus, Will Stoffers and four members of Boy Scout Troop 83 received their Eagle Awards. Dick Meyers and Marilyn Anastasio attended the ceremony to represent the SRH&PS because Will's project was the cataloging of the final sections of the Washington Monumental Cemetery on Hillside Avenue in South River.

Members of the SRH&PS initiated the project in the 1990s by making sketches and collecting the information recorded on the gravestones. Christy Fic and Lauren Zdziarski completed other sections of the cemetery for their Girl Scout Gold Award. Will Stoffers completed the cemetery project and compiled the information on a disk for the Society and for the families who have loved ones buried at the cemetery. The SRH&PS appreciates the work and dedication of all who were involved.



*Above, a gathering of "eagles" (l. to r.):  
SR Mayor Szegeti, Mr. Stoffers, Congressman  
Holt, Will Stoffers, Senator Menendez, EB  
Mayor Leary*

## SOUTH RIVER HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

**Commemorative 200<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Old School Baptist  
Church Ornament** (South River  
Museum) - \$10.00

**Wooden Plaque of the Old  
School Baptist Church** (made  
from timber from the original por-  
tico columns) - \$10.00

**Old School Baptist Church  
Note Cards with Envelopes**  
(features an early photo of the  
OSBC) Set of 5 cards - \$2.50; Set  
of 10 cards - \$4.00

**2006 SRH&PS Calendar**  
(current and previous years) -  
\$6.00

**Old School Baptist Church  
print by Joseph Csatar**  
(numbered limited edition print  
13" x 15 3/4", unframed, includes  
brief biography of the artist and  
history of the Old School Baptist  
Church building) - \$25.00



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[www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/)

## 2006 SRH&PS Membership Application Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  New  Renewal  Gift (from \_\_\_\_\_)

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

**Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.):** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Initial Last

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues 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

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

Send your application and dues payment to: **SRH&PS Membership  
P.O. Box 446  
South River, NJ 08882** (All dues and contributions are tax-deductible)

My company has a matching gift program. Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 would like to donate an additional amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
This gift is  in honor of  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Gifts will be recognized in our newsletter.