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AMBOY GUARDIAN



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Superintendent Janine Caffrey Addresses Hector Muniz Ruling

Attacks Board Member Varela - Varela Answers Back

By Joseph L. Kuchie
PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy Superintendent of Schools Janine Walker Caffrey addressed the recent court ruling on Dr. Herbert N. Richardson 21st Century Elementary School secretary Hector Muniz in an interview last Friday.

Old Bridge Municipal Court found Muniz guilty on Aug. 7 of possessing and selling alcoholic beverages on school property. He was fined \$664 and now the future of his employment in Perth Amboy is in the hands of the Board of Education.

The accusations against Muniz began back in 2012 right before the board placed Dr. Caffrey on paid administrative leave. Unable to complete her investigation, the decision was made by interim Superintendent Vivian Rodriguez to place Muniz and four other Richardson School employees on paid leave.

When she returned to work, Caffrey overturned the decision made by Rodriguez and reinstated the five employees. She said a full police report was completed and it was confirmed that nothing was found.

"Serious errors were made in my absence," Caffrey explained. "A principal, vice principal, two secretaries, and a liaison were all put on leave and it was a huge disruption to the operations of that school... we had children to care for"

Caffrey went on to say that neither she nor the board of education knew anything about Muniz's activities before the summons was served by the police department.

She explained that statute 2C:33-16, the main statute in the decision against Muniz, proved nobody in the school district had knowledge of his actions. The statute reads as follows:



**Superintendent
Dr. Janine
Walker-Caffrey**

Any person of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages, who knowingly and without the express written permission of the school board, its delegated authority, or any school principal, brings or possesses any alcoholic beverages on any property used for school purposes which is owned by any school or school board, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

"In order for Mr. Muniz to be guilty, the judge had to determine that neither the administrators, including me, nor the board knew anything about this," she said. "This was part of the 'finding of fact' that the judge read when he issued the verdict."

Susan Nieves, another secretary at Richardson School, filed a whistleblower lawsuit last year regarding the Muniz case. Nieves claimed that Muniz was selling alcohol to administrators and staff but that her supervisors "retaliated against her".

Caffrey said she cannot legally comment on the details of what Nieves has said while there is an investigation, but she did say that anyone could file a lawsuit against anyone. Her biggest concern was that many of the accusations in the case are hearsay and haven't been proven true in court, such as Nieves' claim that admin-



**Board Member
Israel Varela**

istrators turned a blind eye to what was going on.

Caffrey also commented on the scrutiny of her conduct and recent allegations made by board member Israel Varela.

She explained that multiple people have told her that Varela has been sending emails and making public comments making allegations about her that were "nasty and untrue".

"His public statements included things like 'she has been convicted of coquito' and he told people I was going to jail," Caffrey explained. "He emailed others telling them I had somehow conducted 'an illegal investigation' and some kind of 'administrative cover up'".

She found it fascinating that the last name Varela was mentioned in Muniz's court case and Israel Varela seemed to be the only one that has an issue with her conduct. She believed Varela was using the case as a way to attack her.

Varela, who has publicly taken on Caffrey on numerous occasions dating back to the beginning of her term, denied any involvement of himself or his family with Muniz.

He also said he would resign if he or anyone related to him were associated with the case,

Continued on Page 2

South Amboy's Waterfront Walkway Safety Issue Discussed on 8/7/13



People on the beach in the distance along South Amboy's damaged Waterfront *Photo by Aaron Beers

By: Joseph L. Kuchie
SOUTH AMBOY - At the 8/7/13 Council Business Meeting, there was an extensive discussion about the safety of the Waterfront Walkway.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz announced that bidding on the project would begin Aug. 22, but it was the current state of the area that was the topic of discussion.

Despite the fences and barricades that were put up at the walkway after Hurricane Sandy tore through the area, local residents continue to walk on the unstable path at all hours of the day.

Councilman Applegate want-

ed to know what was being done about the fences being knocked down and warned that residents would be hurt if the council continued to do nothing about the area.

He suggested that trespassing signs be added to the area or the fences be chained down so people couldn't get by them. Business Administrator Camille Tooker said she and Rasimowicz would look into alternatives to keep residents from using the walkway before construction begins.

The bond ordinance for the Waterfront Walkway will be discussed at the city's next council meeting on Aug. 21.

9/11 Memorial Could Cost South Amboy \$300 Annually NJ Transit Could Charge Permit Fee for Monument

By: Joseph L. Kuchie
SOUTH AMBOY - New Jersey Transit could charge South Amboy \$300 per year if a 9/11 memorial is built on the plaza outside the city's train station.

Independence Engine & Hose Co. No. 1, located next to the train station on North Broadway, came to the city with a plan for a monument to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

However, city officials

learned at last Wednesday's business meeting that NJ Transit could charge a \$300 yearly permit fee if the memorial were built on their property. That number would increase by two and a half percent annually after the first year as well.

Councilman Mickey Gross was disgusted by the possibility of the city paying to put up

Continued on Page 2

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Caffrey

Continued from Page 1

but also called for Dr. Caffrey's resignation if nobody in his family was involved.

"If it's found that I or someone in my family purchased alcohol [from Muniz], I will resign immediately," Varela said in a phone interview. "But if [Muniz] didn't mention my name, I want [Dr. Caffrey] to pack her bags and resign."

Varela also questioned the emails that Caffrey reportedly received from "multiple people", saying that he only ex-

changed messages with board members. He explained that if board members were sharing his business emails with Caffrey, they were breaking the law.

"This is confidential information that was put out to board members only," Varela said. "I don't know which board member has given that information out but that's illegal. The only way she could say that is if a board member gave her confidential information and broke the law."

As for the comments, Varela was unsure where the information was coming from but was

concerned about the information getting out.

"Sensitive materials are being leaked out by these administrators and they continue to break the law," he said. "I would like to know why these materials are getting put out there. They should not be released to general public until an investigation is done and a special meeting is heard."

Varela said he would be speaking with the board attorney regarding the released information. The fate of Muniz could be determined later this month at the next board meeting on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m.

South Amboy

Continued from Page 1

a memorial in their town. He praised the fire department for making this initiative and wanted the rest of the council to figure something out.

"Our fire department is good enough and kind enough to do what's right by having a 9/11 memorial to remember the people who were possibly using our train station that day and maybe never returned," he said. "They have the nerve to charge us \$300? That's a disgrace."

Mayor Fred Henry noted that

Wednesday was the first time any of the city's officials had heard about this permit fee. He agreed with Gross that the permit fee was unacceptable and said the city would do what it takes to get the fee waived.

"Obviously we are going to let them know this is unacceptable," Henry said. "We can start by requesting a waiver and see where we go from there."

NJ Transit spokesperson John Durso confirmed that there is a fee but also recognized that this was a special use for the property. He said that NJ Transit would be willing to work something out with South Amboy.

"While it is true that NJ Transit's standard permitting fee is \$300 for the use of NJ Transit property, clearly South Amboy's proposed construction of a 9/11 memorial qualifies as a unique circumstance," Durso said. "To that end, NJ Transit is working with South Amboy to resolve the matter in a positive fashion and further facilitate the continued development of the memorial."

Councilman Gross suggested that the council send a letter to Gov. Chris Christie to explain the situation and try to find a way to get rid of the fee. South Amboy and NJ Transit will continue to work to reach a solution and get the monument built.

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - Last chance to get a space for \$15 at the ladies auxiliary #4699 at 575 Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville, N.J. On August 24 with a rain date on August 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is to help our Veterans and members to fight cancer. Any more info call Lorraine Rock @ 609-448-2587.

Tea with Benjamin Franklin

PERTH AMBOY - Sunday, September 29, at 2 p.m at the Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy. For more info call 732-826-5527 or go to www.theproprietaryhouse.org or www.facebook.com/ProprietaryHouseMuseum One of our most popular entertainers in 2012, world-renown Ben Franklin impersonator Barry Stevens is back again with us in 2013! Guests will have a chance to meet and get their picture taken with Mr. Franklin himself, and then enjoy tea and homemade desserts in William's drawing room while watching the performance Stevens gives. It is a delightful afternoon that you won't want to miss! Admission is a suggested donation of \$10 per person.

Living-History Military Timeline

PERTH AMBOY - Sunday, September 8, from 10am-4pm at the Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy. For more info call 732-826-5527 or go to www.theproprietaryhouse.org or www.facebook.com/ProprietaryHouseMuseum .Stop by and see history come alive with re-enactors representing many different wars and time periods. Admission free, donations welcome.

Exclusive Proprietary House Ghost Hunt

PERTH AMBOY - ONE NIGHT ONLY! Saturday, October 12, from 8 p.m. -11 p.m. Join us for a very special and exclusive paranormal investigation of the historic Proprietary House! 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy Unlike our usual October ghost tours, this is an actual investigation where you are invited to bring your own equipment in to try to capture evidence! For \$20 per person, you will be given access to the basement and first floor from 8-11pm. An expert guide will show you around as we investigate and conduct EVP sessions. Light refreshments will be served. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. SPACE STRICTLY LIMITED. No one under 15 permitted (children younger than that are welcome on our normal ghost tours!) Email Greg Caggiano at nyr1199@comcast.net to reserve your spots. For more info call 732-826-5527

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Kidz Wii Club

SOUTH AMBOY - The Kidz Wii Club will meet every Monday at 1 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Outerbridge Crossing Pavement Replacement

PERTH AMBOY - Detour and Schedule Information: All Traffic Will Be Diverted To The Goethals Bridge During Closure Hours. Weekday Closures - July 9, 2013 through October 2013 - Monday through Thursday evenings 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. After Labor Day, weekday closures will begin at 9 p.m. Weekend Closures - Fridays at 11:59 p.m. through Saturdays at 7 a.m. After Labor Day, the bridge will re-open at 8 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Work is weather dependent and may be postponed due to heavy rain. There will be no closures on Saturday and Sunday evenings or holiday weekends. For more information call 511.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Skin in the Game

This editorial is reference to the letter printed on this page entitled Community Parental Forum Meeting.

The letter says it is a group forum made by students with supports of parents and other members of the community. They are also known as the “United Messengers of Peace.”

The reason I am interested in this meeting to be held Thursday, August 15 at 6 p.m. at Perth Amboy High School because it will give students a chance to voice their opinions specifically on curriculum changes. Hence the title “Skin in the Game.”

The students have invited the community, Board of Education Members, School Administrators including the Superintendent and Local Politicians to attend. I am hoping those invited find time to attend or send representatives in their place.

The core of this meeting has to do with the Honors Program being redefined.

Unlike the Board of Education Meetings, the students will be in control.

I was told those in attending will have a chance to speak and express their opinions with little restraint as long as they do it in a respectful manner. Since it is the students that will be affected by this change, they are the ones that should have the biggest and loudest voice.

It’s one thing to say, “I understand,” and another to walk in another person’s shoes. Redefining the Honor’s program can make a huge impact on the students who are involved in the classes.

The adults have had their time as students, but this is now affecting the future of the students currently enrolled in this program.

The Honors Program as of August 2012.

We went into the PAHS website and found the following criteria form which gave the

criteria for admission to this program.

The following criteria are considered when granting admission to the Perth Amboy High School University Program:

- Student in good academic standing.
- Have a B+/87% grade point average or better (for the current school year).
- Passing scores on NJASK 7, NJASK 8, and NJPASS 9.
- Have an excellent attendance record.

This is a partial listing. If you want to know more about the Honor’s Program go to the Perth Amboy Public School website for more information.

When I’ve attended the Board of Education Meetings and students spoke I was impressed with how articulate they were. I expect them to be more expressive since they will be in control.

I hope to be able to attend, but if I’m not able to, I will have representatives of the paper there.

I don’t know how this meeting will turn out or if there will be any more forthcoming. If the students achieve the outcome they want it may be an encouragement to others. *C.M.*

The Honors Program gives students a head start when attending college. Students earn college credits while in high school which saves them both money and time in college. This allows Honor Students to graduate college early, which will cut down on expenses such as student loans. If an individual has college credits it may put them on the right track in what field they are interested in pursuing. Academic Guidance is so important when going to college. With the right guidance students are able to pursue a career which they are both interested and suited for. The Honors Program gives them that advantage. *K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Statement
From
Dr. Caffrey

Your recent story regarding the Muniz case is biased and disappointing. You simply recounted a lawsuit with its allegations, along with the phrase “court documents say.” It is important for readers to know that anyone can file a civil suit for anything. No verification of facts will take place until the suit goes through a lengthy process of discovery and eventually either settlement or a determination by a judge. The suit you reference is currently going through that process, so it is inappropriate to comment on it. When you said “court documents say” you led readers to believe this was somehow a proven fact, instead of merely an allegation of one person against another.

Even more disturbing, you stated “There is a question of what Caffrey did or did not know about Muiz’ activities prior to his summons.” However,

the very finding of Muniz’ guilt leaves NO question about that. The statute in this case was 2C:33-16. This statute reads, “Any person of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages, who knowingly and without the express written permission of the school board, its delegated authority, or any school principal, brings or possesses any alcoholic beverages on any property used for school purposes which is owned by any school or school board, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense.” So, in order for Mr. Muniz to be guilty, the judge had to determine that neither the administrators (including me), nor the Board knew anything about this. This was part of the “finding of fact” that the judge read when he issued the verdict.

Let me say for the record that I had absolutely no knowledge about any of this until April, 2012, just before the BOE placed me on administrative leave. I had just begun an internal fact-finding process, which I was unable to

conclude. Had the Board not taken this highly political action against me, I would have been able to address this issue appropriately. However, in my absence it was handled by the acting superintendent in a way that is now the subject of multiple lawsuits. When I returned from leave, I made decisions based on the best information available to me at the time. As more information came available, I took other actions.

The most disturbing part of your article is that you never attempted to contact me at all. Had you done so, I would have been happy to discuss this matter with you so that your story could have been more accurate. Other publications did so, which resulted in more balanced representations of the facts. It is my hope that in the future, The Amboy Guardian will work diligently to provide facts to its readers in a way that is free from bias.

Sincerely,
Janine Caffrey

Community
Parental
Forum
Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - United Messengers Of Peace is a community group formed mainly by Students with the support of their parents and other members of the Community. The Group has its goal of identifying concerns and/or issues in the community and try to resolve them ,if possible, but in a non hostile negative setting. No politics is allowed, nor any aggressive/ negative behavior is tolerated.

Community Parental Forum Meeting: August 15, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. Perth Amboy High School Auditorium. Topic To Be Discussed: Changes Of Curriculum (Removal of Gifted & Talented program at Elementary Level, Honors Program at Middle School Level and how it affects at High School Level the removal of Honors Programs).

Members from the group will express their concerns

and afterwards the community may be able to comment on the Group’s presentation and/or on their own concerns. If anyone present could answer any questions it will be answered. To this meeting the BOE Administrators were invited to serve as Mediators, especially the Vice Principals, but Dr. Caffrey declined the request from the Group. Dr. Caffrey, Dr. Collazo, BOE Members and key people of the community were supposed to be our most important, but do to Dr. Caffrey’s decision no BOE Staff will be able to speak on behalf of the BOE. We will invite as Guests all the BOE Members, Mayor Diaz, City Council Members and the Community in general to attend this activity, as well as any media that wants to hear what the students have to say. Since it’s opened to everyone present, everyone has the opportunity to express themselves.

Whatever concerns/issues presented at this meeting shall be presented to Dr. Caffrey at another time by the Group and the Public could also address it

at another date and time, like the BOE Meeting. Since Dr. Caffrey hasn’t allowed the community in general to express themselves openly. She has only met with a small selective group of students and parents. Dr Caffrey refuses to meet with the general community unless she knows the issues to be discussed, but how can the issues be presented if no meeting is carried out...

We all don’t think the same, eventually then my concern isn’t the same as John, David nor Peter; in conclusion no one could express the concerns of another person until that person is allowed to talk.

We are also happy to let you know that our organization is properly registered here in the State of NJ as a Nonprofit Organization and the Founder of the Group is Stephanie Rodriguez. She has turned her negative experience into a positive one in favor of her hometown Perth Amboy at the age of 14 years old.

United Messengers Of Peace

Keep Those Letters Coming!
We Love to Hear From You!

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REO DINER392 AMBOY AVE.

ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

WOODBIDGE VETERINARY GROUP424 AMBOY AVE.

Attention! Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

Attention! the Perth Amboy Free Public Library Satellite Location is Located on Brighton Avenue & Sadowski Pkwy until further notice!

Knitting Circle

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Knitting Circle on the first and third Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-72 1-6060.

Volunteer Firefighters Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department: Volunteer Division needs members. Accepting men and women ages 18 years or older. Volunteers must be a Perth Amboy resident. For more information please contact 732-442-3430.

HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday's at 6 p.m. Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the hospital's Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

To register or for more information, call (732) 324-5022.

Monthly Book Club

SEWAREN - There will be a monthly book club at the Sewaren Library, 546 West Ave, Sewaren. For more info call 732-634-7571 or email sewarenlibrary@gmail.com. We are looking for adults to join a book club starting in November. Please fill out the attached form if you are interested in joining us. Day and time will be determined by interest. The first Book will be Defending Jacob by William Landay.

Kearny Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Aug. 12 City Council, Caucus 4:30 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

TUES. Aug. 13 Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

UEZ, 6 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

BID, 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

WED. Aug. 14 City Council, Regular 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Aug. 21 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

City Hall, N. Broadway

STAY INFORMED!
ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS
ALL ARE WELCOME!

STRONGER THAN THE STORM!

The Barge

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Historical Perth Amboy

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Thursday, August 22, 2013

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For more info Contact
Carolyn at 732-896-4446

Civil War Living Weekend - Parker Press
Park, Woodbridge 8/3 & 8/4/13
**Photos by Joe Bayona*



Typical surgeons equipment is displayed



Authentic Civil War Rifles on display



Brig. General John Buford (Michael D. Smith) gives a talk on the Sharps .54 Cal. Carbine, a weapon typically used by the Calvary



Gear typically carried by a civil war soldier.



Home Sweet Home To most soldiers of the Civil War, this was home for a long time.

**Sports
First Aid and
Injury
Prevention
Class**

PERTHAMBOY - The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center is offering a Sports First Aid and Injury Prevention Class Sunday, August 18, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. The class is designed for coaches and trainers and teaches how to administer basic first aid to injured or sick athletes and also how to prevent illness and injury. The class is taught in conjunction with the Emergency Care and Safety Institute / AAOS. Additionally, a CPR / Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for children and adults will be held 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$35 for either event or \$65 for both. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

**Dunk a
South Amboy
Politician and
Help the
Library**

News Release
SOUTH AMBOY - Dunk some well-known personalities of South Amboy and help the Dowdell Library at the same time. Dunk-a-Politician returns to the South Amboy Arts Festival and Street Fair held on Sunday, September 22 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Broadway. The dunk tank, one of the fair's most popular attractions, will be located at Broadway and David Street. This year's dunkees include former Mayor John O'Leary, City Councilman Mickey Gross, South Amboy High School teacher and coach Tony Gonsalves, South Amboy Y staff members Amanda Winant and James Schnell, and George Fuller, drum major for the Colonel D.B. Kelly Pipes & Drums of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.
The dunk tank is sponsored by the Dowdell Library Foundation, with additional support provided by State Assemblyman John Wisniewski and Broadway Bagels. All funds raised will be used to purchase new computers for the library. The Dowdell Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.Dowdell-Foundation.org or call (732) 316-1078.

**Retired Police Chief
Remembered
Chief Douglas A. Sprague dies at 84**

Press Release
August 7, 2013
SAYREVILLE - Retired Police Chief Douglas A. Sprague who led the Sayreville Police Department from 1984-1997 passed away at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. He was 84 year old.
A US Navy veteran, Chief Sprague was appointed to the Sayreville Police Department on June 18, 1952 serving in numerous capacities and was a Charter Member of Sayreville PBA Local 98. The capstone of his career was his appointment

as Chief of Police on June 19, 1984. He retired after 45 years of service on July 1, 1997. He is survived by his wife of 64 years Janice, and sons Detective Douglas Sprague and Detective Sergeant Jeffery Sprague and their families.
He was interred at Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Maple Place, Keyport, NJ.
In remembering Chief Sprague, Chief of Police John Zebrowski said, "In his many years of service, particularly those as Chief he left an indelible mark on this department."

**Reps. Pallone & LoBiondo:
Legalized Sports Betting Would
Benefit New Jersey's Economy
and Crack Down on
Criminal Enterprises**

News Release 8/7/13
ATLANTIC CITY - Today, New Jersey Congressmen Frank Pallone, Jr.(06) and Frank A. LoBiondo (02) joined with representatives from Atlantic City's casino industry and local elected officials on the Atlantic City Boardwalk in support of legalized sports betting. The Congressmen called for action on their legislative proposals to legalize sports wagering and argued that it will improve the city's competitiveness and benefit New Jersey's economy.
In November 2011, New Jersey voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure to allow sports wagering in New Jersey, but its enactment has been delayed due to a lawsuit filed against the State of New Jersey by the NCAA and four professional sports leagues in August of 2012. New Jersey appealed its case after the district court failed to rule in its favor, and a decision is currently pending from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.
February 2013, LoBiondo and Pallone reintroduced two bills to allow New Jersey to legally offer sports wagering, and they have called for action to change to federal sports gaming law. "New Jersey voted for and

deserves the same opportunity for sports betting which has been allowed in other states, and I hope that the court's upcoming decision puts an end to the delay that is robbing New Jerseyans of the opportunity to share in the profits of sports betting," said Congressman Pallone. "Making sports betting legal in New Jersey would not only help to stem the criminal activity associated with sports gambling, it would also pump much needed revenue into to our state by taking the gambling out of the shadows and regulating this billion dollar industry."
"Increasing competition from neighboring states and the widespread misinformation in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy the destruction in Atlantic City has put our gaming operations at a disadvantage. Sports-betting can help give our famed resort town a hand up, providing yet another unique option for patrons in addition to the quality entertainment, dining, shopping and beaches. I'm pleased Congressman Pallone, our casinos, local elected officials and an overwhelming majority of New Jersey residents agree and hope that the federal courts act in fairness to our state," said LoBiondo.

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All Trips \$30 per person

Call 732-826-4103 for other pick-ups & times

There will be Saturday Night Trips to A. C. on the First Sat. Night of Each Month at 9 p.m.

Bus leaves from 252 Smith St., Perth Amboy

Mon. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. to Sands Casino, Bethlehem, P. A.

Pick-Up locations

For Atlantic City/ Sands Casino, Bethlehem, P. A. Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Fortis, Sayreville, Old Bridge

Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446

PAHS Class of 1953 60th High School Reunion

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at The University Inn, 178 Ryders Lane, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Cost: \$40 per person, includes full lunch and drinks, Kurt Epps entertaining, profession photos, flowers. Spouses, partners, children, grand-children, other guests welcome (\$40 each)

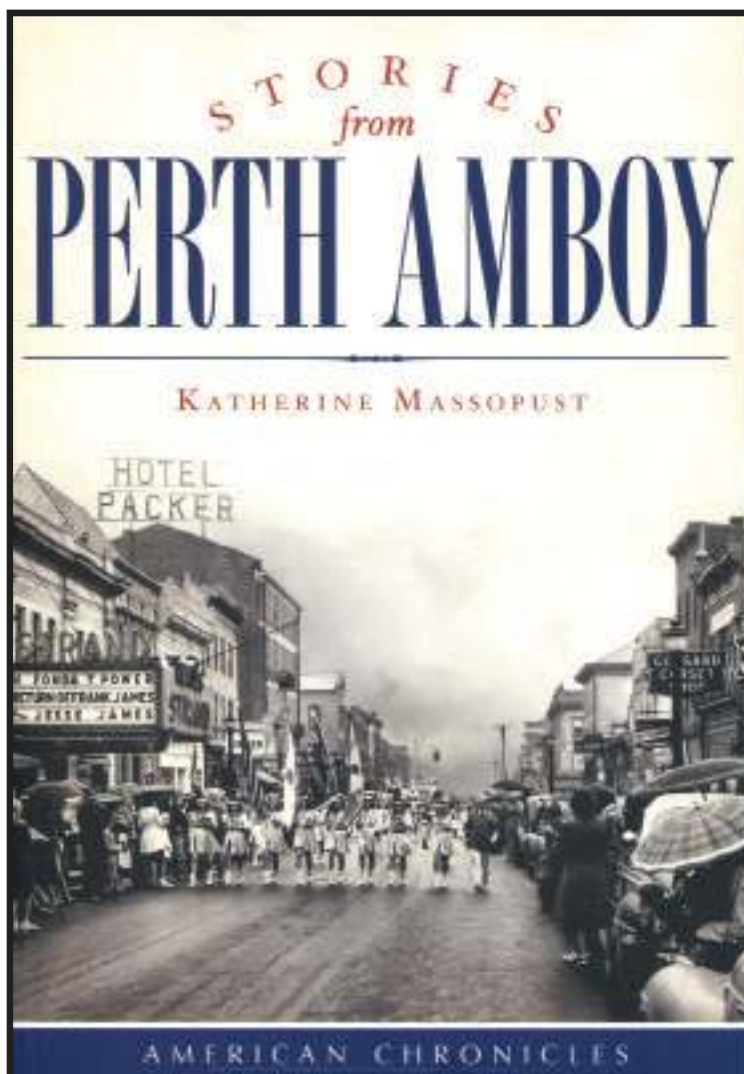
Contact person: Shirley Soos Smoyak, h. 732-548-3473; work. 848-932-4727, email: Smoyak@docs.rutgers.edu

Praise in the Park 2013

PERTH AMBOY - ALWC in partnership with the City of Perth Amboy. Office of Recreation presents: Praise in the Park: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament: age groups 10-12, 13-14, 15-17, and 18 up. Boys and Girls Welcome! Music, activities for kids, free food and refreshments! Limited registration: 12 teams for each age group so register early! First come first served. Saturday, August 17 at Rudyk Park, Perth Amboy. Registration 9:30 a.m. Game begins 11 a.m. for age group 10-12 and 13-14 game begins at 12 noon. For age group 15-17 and 18 & up. For more info call the Church office at: 200 Jefferson St. 732-826-4604 or 1 Olive St., 732-826-1690 xt 4305.

Family Picnic

SAYREIVILLE - Our Lady of Victory Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Family Picnic on Saturday September 7th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ticket prices are \$ 20 for adults 21 and up... \$ 15 for young adults 12 to 20 and 11 and under are free. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Walk in prices are \$ 5 more. Ticket prices include hamburgers, hot dogs, hot sausage dogs, BBQ chicken, salads, and CLAMS. Also included is beer, wine, soda and sangria. There will be 50/50's and door prizes. For more information please call Ed or Katie @ 732-553-1898, Charlie @ 732-432-4252 or the Council home @ 732-257-2061. The picnic grove is located at 775 Washington Rd, Parlin, directly across the street from the Parlin post office. You do not have to be a K of C member to attend this picnic.



PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy. For more info call 732-261-2610

Blood Drive

The American Legion T-Nulty Post #471 will sponsor their 2nd annual blood drive on Wednesday, August 21st from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. At the post home 25 Brown Ave., Iselin. Appointments can be made by calling the post at 732-634-9119. Walk-ins are always welcome! Come on down and help this community project be a success!

Ladies Auxiliary #4699

SAYREIVILLE - There will be monthly meeting of Ladies Auxiliary #4699 at Sayreville 575 Jernee Mill Road at 7 PM on August 27 to discuss new issue for the coming years. Please try to attend all. Auxiliary Members are invited to attended. Refreshment will be service. Any more info please call @732-264-30

Dominican Festival

PERTH AMBOY - Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 16, 17 & 18 at the Wilentz School Field, Waterfront. Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 9 p.m. More than 20 musical attractions including Pena Suazo, Alex Bueno and El Jeffrey. There will be rides, all types of food and arts and crafts vendors and a beer garden. The festival is to celebrate the restoration of the Dominican Republic Independence. Sponsored by United Dominicans of Perth Amboy. The event is produced by I.D. Entertainment, Iriving Lozada. For more info call 732-277-9330.

Ads Sell
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446

Bodyscapes 2013

WOODBIDGE - The Barron Arts Center presents its annual show featuring a collection of professional life model drawings by the Barron Life Drawing Group. The Barron Arts Center is located at 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more info call 732-634-0413.

Diabetes Class

PERTH AMBOY - Free Diabetes 101 Class, with light dinner, at Jewish Renaissance Medical Center's community room, night of Thurs. Aug. 15 to celebrate Nat'l Health Center Week. Learn how to plan your meals in a healthful way. 6 p.m. Class in English, 7 p.m. Class in Spanish. RSVP Tracy Jordan 732-376-6638

Oldies Dance

HOPELAWN - Sponsored by the Holy Name Society of Good Shepherd Parish at Most Holy Rosary Church, 625 Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn. Saturday, September 28, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hot buffet, beer, wine, soda. Music by Sounds of the Street. Donation \$40 per person. For tickets and info call Steve at 732-826-9244. No tickets sold at the door.

South Amboy Summer Concerts

SOUTH AMBOY - Free Concerts at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park located at O'Leary Boulevard starting Wednesdays in July. Concerts will start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Call 732-745-3936 for more information. Appearing on Aug. 14 - Rave on Band, The Hits of Buddy Holly, Aug. 21 is the sounds of Zydeco-A Go-Go - a New Orleans style rhythm & blues band plus '40's Jump, Jazz & Swing. August 28 - The Tim Gillis Band (The Greatest in Country Music)

Coffee Break Festival

PERTH AMBOY - The Love Your City Committee presents Coffee Break Festival with live entertainment: DJ, Jazz Band and Latin Music, Candy Bars, Desserts, Punch Juices, Iced Coffee, Hot Coffee, Organic Coffee, Arts and Crafts and more. September 28 & 29, Saturday & Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Tiki Bar, Cornucopia Cruise Line, 401 Riverview Dr., Perth Amboy. Free Admission. For more info call 732-293-0707

Edison AARP Chapter 3446

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 is sponsoring a Cape Cod package with whale watching on September 24-27. For information & reservations call Bob at 732-885-1789. For information on next seasons shows at the Paper Mill Playhouse call Doris at 732-603-8788. October 7 - Honeymoon in Vegas, December 19 - Oliver, April 24 - South Pacific, June 12 - Grease. All programs are open to non-members. For additional information visit our website at edisonaarp.org.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center is offering free blood pressure screenings Wednesday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy. High blood pressure is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of this free screening to know your pressure levels and basic steps to regulate and maintain healthy blood pressure levels.



A man and a woman in historical costumes standing in a tent. The man is wearing a dark blue jacket with gold buttons and a grey hat. The woman is wearing a dark blue dress with a white apron and a black belt. They are standing in front of a tent with a striped awning.

A man in a tuxedo and top hat is sitting on a wooden bench, leaning forward and talking to a young girl with long blonde hair wearing a blue shirt. They are outdoors in front of a large window.

A man in a military uniform, including a cap and a jacket, is sitting at a small green table outdoors. On the table are several rifles, a first aid kit with a red cross, a map, and other small items. The background shows a grassy area with some people in the distance.

A photograph of two men sitting at a table outdoors. The man on the left is older, with a white beard, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a blue jacket with white trim. The man on the right is younger, wearing a blue cap and a dark vest over a light shirt. They are both smiling. In the background, there are yellow signs with text, one of which says "Rally for the Cause".

Festival

Dominicano

AGOSTO
16-17-18

EN LA PLAYITA DE
PERTH AMBOY

2013



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**Do you or someone you know have
Old Photographs or Documents?**

The Kearny Cottage Historical Society is Looking for Old Photos and Documents of Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Woodbridge, Fords, etc. (Local Area)
For an Archiving Project - Your Photos & Documents will be scanned into digital format & returned to you.
For more info please call 732-293-1090

**St. Mary's
Class of '58
Reunion**

PERTH AMBOY - St. Mary's High School, Perth Amboy, class of '58, is holding its 55th reunion on Sept. 14th 2013 at the Forge Inn, Rt. 9 North, Woodbridge, N.J. cost \$70 per person contact: justtroub@aol.com for more info.

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One coupon per family per day.

Amboy Spotlight: Perth Amboy’s Barbara M. Skokan

Information Submitted by her daughter, Barbara I. Skokan

PERTH AMBOY - On 7/27-28 Barbara M. Skokan represented the State of New Jersey at the National Senior Games in Cleveland, Ohio.

Her opponents were represented from 49 states. She averaged 200 to win the gold medal.

Because of 3 hip replacements,1 knee replacement, and back surgery, she was only able to attend 4 National tournaments, even though she was the N.J. finalist for the last 12 years.

Her previous wins for the gold were: Pittsburgh, PA, Little Rock, Arkansas, Virgin-

ian Beach, VA and Kentucky.

Barbara was inducted into the Central Jersey Hall of Fame in 1984. The N.J. State Bowling Hall of Fame in 1991 and has been awarded the Bowling Writers Association Hall of Fame recognition in 1993.

The next qualifying tournament for the senior will be in September. The national championship next year will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Barbara M. Skokan’s highest average is 204, Highest game is 300 and Highest 3 game series is 745. She has been the CJ Women’s Singles Classic Winner for 14 years. She was the N.J. State Events Champ

in 1976 and represented New Jersey in the National All Events Tournament in Washington D.C. where Barbara M. Skokan finished 3rd in the United States.

She has competed in the N.J. State Championship team event for 5 years and the Doubles event for 2 years. Skokan has competed in the CJ County Championship team for 10 years, Doubles for 3 years and All Events for 2 years.

She was the gold medal winner of the N.J. Garden State Games for 11 years and the Governor Cup Championship for 1 year. She was the winner of the N.J. Senior Olympics (Singles) for 12 years and Mixed Doubles for 10 years.

Skokan was the winner of Seagrams Tournament in 1984.

She was 3 year World Senior Champ in Singles and Mixed Doubles in 2010, 2011 and 2012 in St. George, Utah.



National Bowling Champ - Perth Amboy’s Barbara Skokan *Photo Submitted



PASOS
PRESENTS
NEW YORK V. PERTH AMBOY
WOMAN'S BASKETBALL CHALLENGE



CRYSTAL BELLINGER BONILLA
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
"FEMALE JASON KIDD"



AMANDA SEPULVEDA
RIDER UNIVERSITY
PAHS



RHEA CODIO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
NATIONAL TEAM



CHANEL GOMEZ
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
PAHS

PASOS Woman’s Basketball Challenge

PERTH AMBOY - PASOS (Pan American School of Sports), which has been created to provide transformative opportunities in athletics and the arts for Perth Amboy youth, will hold a benefit basketball game on Thursday August 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The name of this event is: New York v. Perth Amboy Women’s Basketball Challenge. The participants are all former College Basketball players who reside in New York City and New Jersey. Many of these women have played Professional Basketball in the WNBA, Puerto Rico, Greece, Poland, Holland, Sweden, Spain, Israel, and Australia. Also participating are players who have been members of the National Women’s Basketball Teams of Puerto Rico and

Trinidad & Tobago.

These young women are all highly skilled athletes who played their sport at the highest levels and pursued higher education as well. One of our most important goals at PASOS is to connect sports and the arts with academic achievement for our youth.

Consequently, we are asking you to participate by attending this Game which is tentatively scheduled to take place at the Perth Amboy High School Gymnasium at 300 Eagle Avenue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The suggestion donation is \$5.00, which will be used to support PASOS programs in Sports and the Arts. You will also get to see some of the best athletes in the New York Metropolitan Area compete against each other.

Mural at Novak Funeral Home



PERTH AMBOY - (Above) The completed mural at Novak Funeral Home. (Right) Artist Tom Ward with Joey Diaz. The Mural shows Perth Amboy as viewed in 1920’s.

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



PERTH AMBOY - Above is the latest mural painted by well known Perth Amboy Artist Tom Ward. The scene above depicts part of Perth Amboy’s Waterfront in the 1920’s as viewed from the shoreline of Staten Island.

Ward’s murals are a part of Perth Amboy’s History. You may have passed his murals several times. Some of his murals are on display at private residences be it inside or outside. When dining at the Barge Restaurant you

will see his work of art painted on the walls in the bar and the upstairs dining area. If you are going for an ice cream at Bay-side Creamery you will see his work on the wall on the side of the building where there is outdoor dining.

Several years ago, Ward restored a mural by a well known Spanish Artist that was deteriorating on some of the buildings in the Dunlap Homes.

When you visit City Hall and enter on the Market Street entrance you will see his work

displayed in the foyer.

Mayor Wilda Diaz wanted Ward’s art to be a part of history in Perth Amboy’s Historic City Hall. If you are ever fortunate enough to be able to enter the Mayor’s Office, you will be astounded. Ward’s artwork depicting Perth Amboy’s History and Historical Sites is a story onto itself.

We are very proud of the fact that Tom Ward chose Perth Amboy to display his vast talents.

**Grand Opening Ukrainian Credit Union
Perth Amboy *Photos by Paul W. Wang**



The Ukrainian National Credit Union, Corner, Amboy & Hall Ave.



Serving the public



First Customer, Melanie Fednyshen



The staff poses for a photo

**Bingo and
Auction**

PERTH AMBOY - 1st Wednesday's of the Month - Community Breakfast & Bingo 2nd Floor Dayroom - 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Alameda Center. 303 Elm Street, Perth Amboy. 3rd Wednesdays of Month - Community Auction & Snacks. 2nd Floor Dayroom - 2:00pm. Both events are open to the public. For more info call 732-442-9540. Please RSVP to Amy or Gladys at ext. 7733.

**Class of 1972
Reunion**

PERTH AMBOY – Perth Amboy High School's Class of 1972 will hold its 40th Reunion on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Seabra's Armory, Front Street, from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Cost is \$60 per person, which includes DJ, Deluxe Buffet and Open Bar all night. For more information, call (848) 250-1982 or email tl4160@gmail.com.

**Studio B4 Art & Jazz Show at The
Terrazza, Perth Amboy 8/1/13**

**Photos by Eric Savery*



Artist Juan Valdez with Lis Mery Ramirez



The Jazz/Reggae fusion band Tequila Bamboo Entertained



Enjoying the show



Discussing the Artwork



Artwork by Juan Valdez

**Summer
Reading**



FORDS - On one hot, humid summer afternoon in July, Our Lady of Peace School in Fords, 8th grader Benjamin Nemeth concentrates on one of his summer reading books "House of Dies Drear" by Virginia Hamilton. While Ben agrees this book is a good read for his age group he will soon move onto "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach which Ben along with his fellow 8th graders will complete individual power point projects before they return to class in the fall. Ben also participated in the "Bishop's School" this past spring. **Photo Submitted*

**The Art of
Eric**

DeFrancesco

WOODBIDGE - August 16 to September 1. Reception August 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Through painting and sculpture, Eric DeFrancesco's work strives to depict the human condition. The Barron Arts Center is located at 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more info call 732-634-0413.

PASOS

PERTH AMBOY - A new Athletic and Educational program has come to Perth Amboy. PASOS will offer athletic training and participation in a variety of sports (i.e., volleyball (indoor and outdoor), basketball and indoor soccer). Additionally it will also become a center for martial arts instruction AND dance (ballet, hip hop, et al). This venture was created by Francisco Casado, former Head Volleyball Coach at Georgian Court University and New Jersey's most successful college volleyball Coach. This organization has already constructed three new volleyball courts on the Perth Amboy Waterfront Beach, and has indoor facilities across Sadowski Parkway in the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Gymnasium building. Although a number of programs have already begun, on Saturday, July 13, PASOS will hold its official Open House and hopes that you will be there to celebrate this new venture with us.

Book Review: Johnson vs. Johnson by Barbara Goldsmith

By: Carolyn Maxwell

Author Barbara Goldsmith published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York in February 1987. The book is based on the true story between the legal battle between the widow, Barbara (Basia) of Johnson & Johnson heir, J. Seward Johnson and Seward’s six children from his first two marriages. Barbara, J. Seward Johnson’s third wife was left his complete fortune of over \$500 million upon his death.

Unfortunately the book gets bogged down when Ms. Goldsmith delves too much into the relationships of Seward and his children which has no bearing on the lawsuit. There are subplots into the marriages of Johnson’s children and grandchildren dealing with murder plots, drug habits and deviant behavior. Two or three examples are fine, but Ms. Goldsmith went into overkill. Was it so important to report that at one time the children claimed to live in poverty despite their wealth when they were growing up. There were so many characters and so many different relationships going on that you needed a scorecard to keep up. I found that Ms. Goldsmith jumped around too much in this book and many of the stories from the different people she interviewed seemed out of sequence.

Ms. Goldsmith especially spent a lot of time on the childhood and relationships of Mary Lea Johnson Richards who was the oldest child of J. Seward Johnson. Mary Lea supposedly had an inappropriately close relationship with her father. She had two marriages in which one of her spouses was accused of hiring someone to kill her. She seemed to have found happiness in her third marriage to a producer, Marty Richards.

J Seward Johnson’s son, Seward Johnson Jr. was one of the other children that Ms. Goldsmith seemed to favor. Johnson Jr. was depicted as having a love/hate relationship with his father. Despite this, he longed for his father’s approval as did his sister, Mary Lea.

Interestingly enough, the City of Perth Amboy is sprinkled throughout the book. Seward Johnson’s first wife was named Ruth who was from Bermuda. Ruth’s mother was born in Perth Amboy.

Basia was a Polish immigrant that lived in Perth Amboy with a family by the name of Wyszynkis. As a matter of fact, she became engaged to a Polish Sailor named Piotr Ejsmont. Unfortunately, he died when a boat he was piloting tipped over.

Basia went to work as a

cook for the Johnsons, saved up enough money to live in a modest apartment in New York and take English classes. In the time she worked in the Johnson household, she caught Seward’s attention and summoned her back to work not as cook or chambermaid but as a art expert.

At the time Seward was married for 34 years to his second wife, Esther. Esther was the mother of his last two children: Jennifer and James. Seward married Basia when she was 34 and he was 76. This marriage took place eight days after he divorced Esther. Basia was depicted as either a guardian angel or a mean spirited woman to her husband depending on who was interviewed in the book.

Some of the lawyers on Basia Johnson’s side were depicted as intimidating some potential eyewitnesses that may be called to testify on the widow’s behalf. Throughout the book there were photos of Basia being very loving to her husband despite the 42 year age difference. There are pictures of them on the beach with her lovingly massaging his legs and feet and other photos of them in a passionate kiss.

Ironically there are also pictures of Basia and Seward’s children at affairs having a very good time. According to Basia, she and Johnson’s children got along very well as a whole until they discovered that they were left out of the will. According to the book, the main reason Seward’s children were left out of his final will was because they were set up with a trust fund. This fund would make each child individually wealthy for the rest of their lives.

Basia said because of the past behavior of some of Seward’s children, he felt that they might squander any additional money that might be left in the will. Then the gloves came off on both sides. Seward’s children accused Basia of purposely alienating them from their father while he was suffering and dying from cancer. Another aspect of the will that bothered the children especially Seward Johnson Jr. was why his father would cut Harborbranch Research out of the will. His father loved to sail and the sea and Harborbranch Oceanographic Institute was a dream come true for his dad. Employees of Seward and Basia either accused Basia of being a saint to her elderly husband or a shrew. It’s up to the reader to decide who they believed is telling the truth in this tangled web of characterizations.

Was Basia an opportunist?



Or was she someone who truly loved her elderly husband? After the suit was settled and the children each received \$6.2 million after taxes, Seward Jr. was given an extra \$8 million as an executor and a trustee. Basia received \$340 million out of the original \$500 million. Harborbranch received \$20 million.

According to the book, in 1987, the Johnson children’s net worth individually ranged from: \$38 million (J. Seward Johnson Jr.) to a high of \$106.2 million (Jennifer Johnson Duke)

Many wills were written in a short period of time. The lawyer, Nina Zagat who wrote the last few wills stood to gain a lot of money being the executor of the will, not only that she was a close friend of Basia. Zagat was the wife of the Zagat restaurant fame. Nina Zagat was granted \$1.8 million before taxes instead of \$30 million she would have received based on her life expectancy.

Basia passed away at the age of 76 in Monte Carlo in Poland in April 2013. She never remarried and she contributed a lot of money to humanitarian causes, especially in Poland, the country where she was born. She also gave seed money for St. Joseph’s Senior home in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

If you are interested in learning about the dirt that went on behind the scenes of the Johnson & Johnson family then this book is for you. But those interested in the trial dealing with the contested will, then I would recommend that you look at the internet and at articles dealing with the trial through the newspaper archives. That would include *The Daily News & The New York Post*.

As an aside I am printing two

letters: One from Perth Amboy Resident Peter Book who supplied this book to me and also a letter from Sister Mary Louise who was an administrator at St. Joseph’s Senior Residence. Her letter was originally printed in the Amboy Beacon on August 29, 2001. Part of this letter is edited.

The two letters plus other material were provided to me by Mr. Book.

Rebuttal to Mr. Book 8/29/2001

Mr. Book’s crude and highly-abusive attack on Mrs. Basia (Barbara) Plasecki Johnson (“Alternative Funding?” August 15) is unfounded. Not only is it false and degrading to her, but also this is public harassment. This is disgraceful and demeaning to Mr. Book, as a lawyer!

Barbara Johnson is a university graduate and an artist. She is an altruistic philanthropist and equestrian who does not look for publicity. She was wealthy in Poland before the war, has contributed several times to St. Stephen’s Renovation Fund, and now is finishing the entire marble flooring for St. Stephen’s.

Barbara Johnson is our greatest benefactor. She came to our rescue in 1977, when we needed the seed money to open our fundraiser campaign to build our now 20-year old St. Joseph’s Senior Residence. She graciously donated \$350,000 to begin construction. When construction was halted for lack of funds, she again donated \$350,000. Then, when we needed to pay the salaries of the workers, she donated again – altogether, \$850,000. Because of her, we have been able to give a home to 481 residents of all denominations.

Each year, Barbara holds benefits for the crippled and other children’s diseases at her



Princeton homestead, “Jonna Polana.” She also built a children’s hospital in Krakow and several children’s clinics. It is, indeed, very humiliating to even read what Mr. Book so viciously wrote when he didn’t know the true facts.

As for her love-life with Seward, knowing him as other people and I got to know him, he would not have tolerated or lived married to Barbara for 16 years (not six years as Mr. Book erroneously stated). Seward knew she loved and cared for him. Even though she had professional nurses around-the-clock for him, she herself changed and bandaged his open leg lesions and followed his doctor’s orders to the “T.” She tended to him delicately, not roughly as she said others did, because she didn’t want him to suffer needlessly. She also employed the nursing sisters because she loved Seward and wanted loving care for him.

Another fact: Mr. Book, and readers, too would be like “tigers” as Mrs. Johnson had reason to be. Coming back from a one-week absence, she found her private bath full of scum and filth. I was there and saw it! Naturally, and rightfully, she was devastated and angry!

I hope this letter teaches Mr. Book and all of us not to unjustly criticize or write such false, crude accusations before checking for the true facts.

Barbara Goldsmith’s fiction book is not the Bible. She ruined her own reputation by giving evidence how little she knows, or traveled, for she said, “She never has seen as poor or primitive a people!” Mr. Book should think twice before writing such false, offensive letters!

Sister Mary Louise, Administrator, St. Joseph’s

Continued on Page 13

Book Review

Continued from Page 12
Seniors Residence
It Started in Perth Amboy (April 9, 2013) A Change of Heart (Of his opinion of Basia Johnson from 2001)

One of the most remarkable successful stories of all time began right here in the City by the Bay with Henry (Heinrich) and Danuta Wyszynski. They resided at Market Street on the same block as the City Hall, the oldest functional municipal city hall in the country. Henry, a former Polish Army officer and diplomat, and his wife, Daunta, a well known artist and portrait painter, made Polish refugees welcome to the U.S. of A. One of them Barbara (Basia) Piasiecka lived with them until they found her a job as a cook at the J. Seward Johnson estate in Oldwick, N.J. By the way whenever I visit the Zylka Funeral Home across the street from St. Stephen's Church I marvel at the portrait Danuta painted of Tony Zylka, one of the most popular men in town.

Basia was a college graduate and not exactly a cook. So she became a chambermaid. Being very attractive young Polish girl she caught the eye of J. Seward Johnson, the younger brother of General Robert Johnson, the founder of J&J Company until it became a multi-national corporation. Seward rode along with it until he also became a billionaire.

He fell in love with Basia despite the fact that he was 42 years older. By the way, in World War I he served as a sailor in the U.S. Navy on the Eagle 48 based on the waterfront in Perth Amboy.

Apparently Seward and Basia lived an idyllic life for 12 years until he died in 1983. By terms of his will he left Basia \$450 million. His 6 kids, all mature adults, resented her although he had already made each of them multi-millionaires.

The ensuing probate battle in Manhattan was one of the biggest ever in any court. President Nixon's old law firm shared the legal fees of almost \$30 million. After many months of fighting the case was settled. Basia wound up with \$340 million.

Instead of squandering the money and living extravagantly and being involved in scandals she led a straight life helping many charities and her native country. By astute dealings in the art field she ran the money into billions thus making her one of the richest women in the world. She died in her native Poland mourned and revered by her people and the world. Rest in peace, dear Basia! Requsat in Pace!

Thank you for your courtesies.
Very truly yours,
Peter Book/a.k.a. Pedro Libro

Editors Note: Basia Johnson died on April 1, 2013 in Poland following a long illness.

Fundraising
BBQ

SAYREVILLE - The Sayreville United Methodist Church at 406 Main Street, Sayreville will be having a fundraising barbecue on Saturday, August 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is Adults: \$10, Seniors/Students: \$8, Children under 12: \$5. The dinner includes Choice of Chicken or Hamburgers or Hot Dogs plus Salad, Corn on the Cob, Beverage and Dessert. In support of our fundraising efforts, there will be a Silent Auction. BBQ Ribs and additional Baked Goods will be available for purchase. For questions or additional tickets, please contact Winsome Melvin at (732)432-9072.

Plays in the
Park

EDISON - Xanadu, Wednesday, Aug. 7 through Saturday, Aug 17. No Sundays - 8:30 p.m. Adults - \$7, Senior Citizens - \$5, Children 12 and Under Free. Plays-in-the-Park is located 1 block south of the Menlo Park Mall off of Route 1, in Edison, N.J. The turn off is called Grandview Avenue. At the top of the short hill make your first right on to Pine Drive and the Park Rangers will guide you to a parking spot. Fax:732-548-1484 • Phone: 732-548-2884. Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit less fortunate residents through M.C.C.F.O.O.D.S. This program is funded in part by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission with assistance thru a grant provided by New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept of State.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy	
WED. Aug. 14	Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
•	Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
•	St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
THURS. Aug. 15	The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
MON. Aug. 19	St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
TUES. Aug. 20	Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
•	Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
WED. Aug. 21	Simpson Seniors, 10 a.m., Williamson Hall, High St.
•	Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
•	St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
•	Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
South Amboy	
WED. Aug. 14	South Amboy Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
MON. Sept. 9	St. Mary's Seniors, noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Attn: If Your Club changes Your
Schedule due to the Holidays
Please give us two weeks notice!
732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610

Comic Book
Fair &
Exhibition

WOODBIDGE - Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street, Woodbridge on Tuesday, September 17 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 732-596-4103.

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - The Ladies Auxiliary of Sayreville #4699 of Jernee Mills Road is having a Flea Market on August 24 at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$15 a space. There is a rain date on August 25 at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This flea market is to help find a cure for Cancer and to help aid our members and veterans in our community. For more information or to reserve a space please call Lorraine Rock at 609-448-2587.

Woodbridge
Wednesdays

WOODBIDGE - Enjoy Great Music "Under the Stars" or "On the Lawn". Bring out your lawn chair and relax with live music every Wednesday. Showtime at 7:30 at Parker Press Park. FREE ADMISSION with a donation of a non-perishable food item for "We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank." Visit the Woodbridge Farmer's Market Jersey Fresh Produce, Baked Goods, BBQ, Beer & Wine Garden from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Parker Press Park, Rahway Avenue and Main Street. Free parking at NJT Parking Lot. For Inclement weather call the hotline at 732-602-6045. August 14 Amy Helm will perform. August 21 Baskery will perform.

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15

S	P	C	A		S	A	V	E		W	S	W		
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LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Swimming in Perth Amboy Beaches July 25, 1941

*Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Pubic Library

This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

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Angel on Your Shoulder

SAYREVILLE - A morning of food, music and fun. First Annual 3K Walk/Run. Rain or Shine. Kennedy Park, Saturday, September 14. Entry Fees: \$10 Pre- Registration Fee. Race Day Registration 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Event starts at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Brain Injured Children of Sayreville. In memory of Renee Lajewski. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Sayreville Food Bank. For more info call the Sayreville Dept. of Recreation 732-390-7092 www.sayreville.com

Babysitter Safety Class

EAST BRUNSWICK - Raritan Bay Medical Center is offering a Babysitter Safety Class Thursday, August 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Raritan Valley YMCA, 144 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ. This interactive class, for ages 10 to 16, focuses on first aid, household safety and the fundamentals of childcare. Cost is \$35 which includes a safety manual. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

Vendors Wanted

WOODBIDGE - Outside Flea Market Saturday 8/17/13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (8/18/13 Rain Date) Sponsored by Access Self Storage, 135 Amboy Ave., Woodbridge to benefit homeless animals. \$10 donation for each 10 x 10 space. (Tables not provided). Contact Judy after 5 p.m. 732-850-2184. Music, refreshments, hourly prize drawings plus special vendor door prize. All proceeds donated to Woodbridge Animal Shelter Volunteers.

Looking for Basketball Players and Facility

STATEN ISLAND - Samuel Jimenez, president of a basketball league over in Staten Island, NY. He is very interested in talking to someone that can help him use a facility to create a basketball league for youths and adults. He does his best as a franchise to keep these kids in church and out of the streets. That is his main goal. They would be highly appreciated something can be arranged so they can get more young adults and youths to enjoy being in a basketball league. For more info call 732-306-9943

Novena To St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God’s grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. *(Mention your request.)*

Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.

Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.

Recite the Our Father; Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. K.M. & C.M.

Mayor’s Summer Concert Series

WOODBIDGE - Enjoy Great Music “Under the Stars” or “On the Lawn”. Bring out your lawn chair and relax with the Mayor’s Summer Concert Series. Showtime at 7:30 at Woodbridge High School. FREE ADMISSION with a donation of a non-perishable food item for “We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank.” Inclement weather hotline at 732-602-6045. Monday, August 19 “Hotel California” Eagles Tribute.

Tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center’s monthly tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, August 14, at 5, 6, or 7 p.m. Newly expectant parents are invited to take the tour and learn about the maternity unit’s modern comforts designed to provide a calm and relaxing birthing experience. Participants are asked to meet in the main lobby of the hospital’s Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration required, call 1.800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

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Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. *G.T.A.*

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A Petition to St. Jude

May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. *Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.*
Thank you, St. Jude
F.M.J.

Prayer To St. Claire

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

Thanksgiving Novena

Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

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Outdoor Flea Market

Vendors wanted. 8/17/13
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date
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ACROSS

- 1 Pet rescue org.
5 Goalie's goal
9 Compass pt.
12 Untidy pile
13 Stiffly proper
14 Hurry
15 Coincidence (2
wds.)
18 "___ It Be"
(Beatles song)
19 Parts of a chain
20 It's got Seoul
23 Feds (hyph.)
25 Spherical body
26 "No problem!"
28 Like a
Bohemian

DOWN

- 32 "JAG" spin-off
34 ___ de plume
35 "___ goes
nothing!"
36 Rough cut
37 Twosomes
39 None
40 On
42 TV oldie: "F
___"
44 Glove leather
47 ___ Paulo
(Brazilian city)
48 Crude thing,
said in a nice
way
54 Not bright

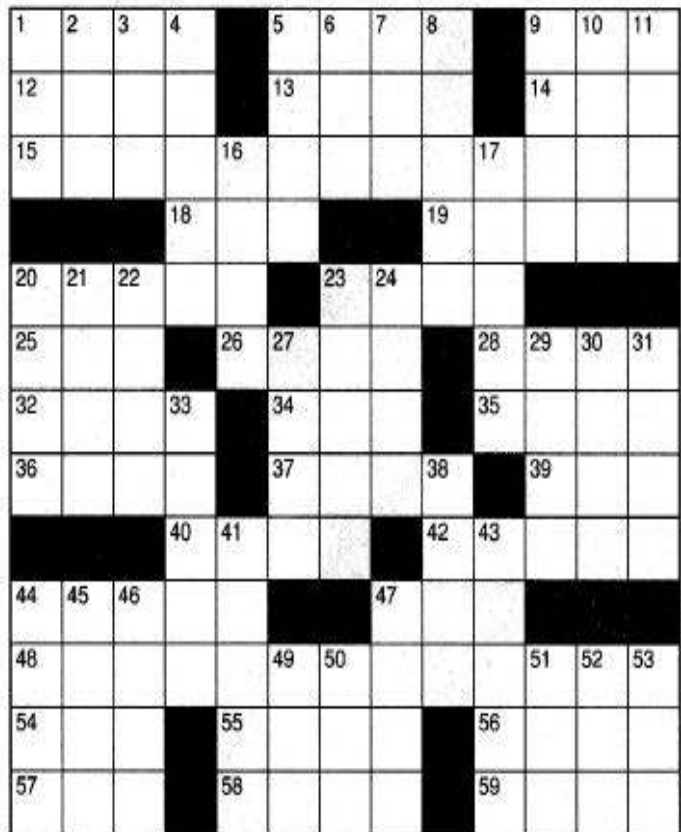
DOWN

- 55 Oodles
56 Doe
57 Pig's place
58 Fountain treat
59 Was in glee
club
1 Finger-to-lips
noise
2 Pod veggie
3 Baseball
player's
topper
4 An ___ a day...
5 Small quarrel
6 Circle segment
7 London's

Old ___

- 8 Novelist Zola
9 "Where or ___"
10 Soap's spot
11 Hoses down
16 Pro votes
17 Entertainer
Shore
20 King of the
jungle?
21 Killer whale
22 Sluggers'
successes
(abbr.)
23 Collection
24 Brief note
27 Unravel
29 Divorce town
30 The Kingston

- 31 Bark shrilly
33 Elm's offering
38 Comedian
Laurel
41 Portable
shelters
43 Streets
44 Soapy water
45 Single thing
46 TV award
47 Baseballer
Sammy
49 Likewise
50 Not Dem. or
Rep.
51 Actress
Benaderet
52 Author
Deighton
53 Measure of
work





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