

Fall 2016—Spring 2017



Volume 14 Issue 4

Website:

www.spfk12.org/alumni

Inside this issue:

Alumni Scholarships...

Award recipients

SPFHS Sports Spotlight

Raiders' Soccer

Steven Mayer...

A call for a Scholarship in

Education in his honor

Hall of Fame Inductees

Alumni success stories

Moonglowers Alumni

The band plays on...

Class Reunion...

'97 20th set for October

Around Town

Bowcraft, Downtown

Scotch Plains Renovation?

Children's Garden

Buy a brick to save the
butterflies (and revitalize a

learning center at

Brunner School!)

Do You Remember?

How many of these Scotch
Plains-Fanwood landmarks
and events can you recall?

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SPFHS

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association Newsletter

SPFHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ACCOMPLISHED SENIORS

Submitted by M Loberfeld and L. Swidersky

Through a generous donation of \$1,500 from the class of 1976 and an additional anonymous alumnus contribution of \$1,000 in "honor of the greatest generation," the Alumni Association has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to deserving SPFHS seniors.

Scholarship recipient **Callen Leahy** wants to major in Psychology and hopes to be a Criminal Psychologist (maybe even join the FBI) to work directly with victims of abduction.

Senior **Taylor Sirchio** is committed to doing wildlife and conservation field work, and plans a major in Zoology.

Gianna Januszanis will receive a scholarship in her pursuit of her goal of being a Veterinarian. She loves animals and has been a volunteer at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. She has worked with children in the Beyond School Explorers, and loves culture, language, and the arts.

The Alumni Association is also awarding a scholarship to **Kiera DeProspero**. Her goal is to become a Physical Therapist to heal victims of accidents or surgeries and help them restore their mobility, health and dignity.

All 2017 recipients have a parent or parents who are Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School alumni, and all have expressed pride in their school years and are looking forward to a challenging, rewarding future.

2016 award recipients included **John Marquardt**, who plans to pursue a career in Forensic Science. He hopes to become a Forensic Biologist, remaining behind the scenes in a lab where medicine, technology and psychology will assist in solving crimes. In high school, he was an editor for the FANSOTIAN and volunteered at the Fanwood Recycling Center and the Scotch Plains Public Library. John is the son of John Marquardt, SPFHS class of '81.

Rachael Lambert worked on the FANSCOTIAN and was a member of Winterguard. In addition, she was elected to the Italian Honor Society and the National Honor Society. Rachel is pursuing a degree at Susquehanna University in Advertising and Marketing Communications and hopes to follow a career in photography and journalism for a magazine.

Rachael's parents are also SPFHS graduates: Her father, James Lambert is a 1982 grad and her mother, Janet Wylie, is class of '84.

(See more scholarship stories on Page 3)

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT ON SOCCER: A SEASON OF OOHS, AHHS AND OH, SO CLOSE!



Raider boys defeat Elizabeth on a sunny September Saturday and win #700 for coach Tom Breznitsky.



For the girls, it was lucky number 7 as they won their seventh consecutive Union County Tournament title over Oak Knoll.

It started out as it often has for a program with a winning tradition—full of hope and promise, with some returning “veteran” seniors. **For the boys**, one of the first major coups was a win over an excellent Elizabeth team, handing coach Tom Breznitsky his 700th victory as a coach in his 42 years with the SPF soccer program

From that point, there were plenty of wins, including some that were decisive (6-0 over Plainfield and 7-1 over Johnson) and a few that were squeakers (a 1-0 over Johnson and a 1-0 over Summit). And then, there was arch-rival Westfield, who defeated the Raiders in two out of three meetings, including the Union County Tournament. The Raiders got their revenge, though. After the Blue Devils were bumped by Bridgewater-Raritan, eliminating them from the North Jersey Section 2, Group 4 competition, the Raiders turned around and defeated Bridgewater-Raritan to win the tournament and go on to defeat Kearny, earning their spot the Group 4 finals.

Unfortunately, that was the end of the line as the Raiders went down, 1-0, on a controversial play, losing to Hunterdon Central. Overall, a great season ending with a 22-4 record.

The Raider girls had an exceptional run. They left opponents with goose eggs on their side of the score sheet an astonishing 14 times, in addition to a scoreless tie with Westfield’s Blue Devils.

A Westfield loss to Oak Knoll in the Union County Tournament left the door open for a 7th straight Union County Tournament title, and the Raiders did not disappoint, defeating the Royals in overtime 1-0 to claim the crown.

Still on a roll, the girls went on to beat outstanding teams from Franklin, Elizabeth, and Watchung Hills on their way to the Group 4 final. After an unbeaten season, the girls finally met their match in a tough team from Ridge. Tied 0-0 in regulation, they lost in penalty kicks, ending their hopes for another title. They had an outstanding 18-0-4 record to end the season.

Best of luck to both the girls’ and boys’ teams in the 2017 season, and especially to those seniors who will continue their soccer careers in college or in a club team



SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND DONORS, AWARDS MORE THAN \$143,000 TO DESERVING SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD STUDENTS

Nearly 100 high school and college students are now the beneficiaries of the generosity of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, as well as scholarships awarded by other groups and individuals.

\$26,000 was distributed among college and high school students who demonstrated academic achievement and had financial need through the **Dollars for Students Campaign**. High school recipients included Brianna Bennett, Isabella Bernardo, Nolan Kearns, Rachael Lambert, Matthew Schewitzer, Nikola Segulin, Hannah Simon, Nicholas Stone and Victoria Williams. College students included Nada, Michael Auda, Jackson Cochran-Carney, Colleen Farrell, Emily Fidlow, Alexander Karakis, Victoria Karakis, Amanda Mach and Caitlin Mahoney.

Many students benefitted from funds in the form of Memorials entrusted by individuals and families to the Foundation. (*Names of Memorials are in parentheses*): Gabriela MacPherson (Jim Alfano); Erin O'Connor (Adrian Andrews); Mariel Sass (Joyce and Leonard Bergman); Grace Lesce (George Bryan); Jenni Zakarin (Karen and Joseph Franzone); Jordan Belford and Gabriella DiLollo (Trina and Arthur Harrison); Kaavya Krishna-Kumar and Mercy Villcis (William and Ruth Linge); Zoe Verrico (William McGinn); Gabriela MacPherson and Anne Pierce (Courtney Pierce); Tyler O'Brien and Samantha Gorman (James O'Hara Powers); Annemarie Kearns (Dr. Murial Ramsden); Jacob Brown (Terry and Arlene Riegel Fund); Stav Shadmi (James Sochan); Allison Busa (Jeffrey Spring); Michael Wright and Mary Catherine Stovall (Franklin Maine and Helen McConnell Spooner, Maria Duque, and George Voget).

Organizations and local businesses also granted scholarships to students who met specific criteria. Recipients included: Dominic Gannon and Ally Flynn (Besson Family); Kyle Coupe (Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill); Ethan Graham (Mauro and Rulene DiFrancesco); Mariel Sass (Frank DiNizo); Paige Crandall (Donna Doremus); Kiersten Swaak (Friday's Place); Jackie Gallo (Girl Scouts); Joseph Griffith and Rebecca Mehorter (Joan and Robert Gordon); Caroline Babbis (Doris Koues) Chloe Cimino (John and Marie Losavio); Nancy Canevari (Henry McFarlin); Mark Mital (Tom Montagna, Follow Your Dream); Emily Morris (Katherine Newcomer); Rohan Suresh (Dr. Robert V. Scalera); Olivia Roberts (School One Retired Elementary Educators and Staff); Emily Boyle (SPFHS Italian Honor Society); Michael Wright (Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ice Hockey Association).

Through the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and the Rotary Garbe Foundation, scholarship funds were made available for: Four-year scholarships from the Rotary Garbe Foundation to Matthew Auda, Alexander Guevara, Maxwell Kearns (2016); Alaina Frank, Steven Davies, Roland Crystal (2015); Michael Auda, Hansel Romero, Brian Deutschmeister (2014); Olivia Nelson, Taylor Swaak, Michael Rempter (2013). From the William Mullin Memorial, also awarded for four years, scholarships to Mariel Weigel (2016); Sasha Lofton (2015); Amy Palumbo (2014). For four years from the Ethel Perkins Memorial to Noah Bernstein (2016); Emily Fidlow (2015); Yi Pu Lin (2014); Jonathan Miksis (2013). The David Ringle Memorial Valedictorian Award went to Emily Boyle and the Salutatorian Award went to Kara Foley. Wilson Shek was awarded a scholarship from the Robert Krause Memorial, and Rachel Gudowitz won the Dr. Richard Dobyns Turnaround Award.

Every PTA in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district contributes to students who have attended their schools.

This year, the following PTA Council Scholarships were awarded: From Manya Ungar to Shona Jain and Mary Catherine Stovall; from Dr. Carol Choye to Shay Blechinger-Slocum; From Health and Wellness to Samantha Broder. SPFHS PTA Scholarships went to Brett Mayers from Robert Adams, Jr.; Dr. Terry K. Riegel to Bridget Van Natta; the Park Middle School McTB Scholarships to Daniel Zheng and Geneva Rata; the Terrill Middle School John C. Foulka Scholarships to Richard Dazzo and Sarah Davis; Brunner Elementary School-Dr. Albert DeSousa Memorial Scholarships to Samiksha Vittalraj and Brunner PTA Scholarships to Jonathan Kriney and Courtney Dreyfus; J. Ackerman Coles Elementary Scholarship-Carl M. Kumpf to Josh Axelrod and Jessica Vialaverino and Carol Patten Memorial to Matt Halpin; Evergreen Elementary Scholarships-Dr. Beverlee Kaminetzky to Sabrina Khan, Kehs-Aakjer Memorialto Caroline Ringel and Chickie Giraud Memorial to Abraham Elseht; McGinn Elementary Mariana Cassidy Excellence Awards to Stav Shadmi and Megan Lau; and School One Elementary Scholarship-James V. Cerasa to Allison Gara and Jeffrey Grysko to Dakota Halma.

Scholarships are made possible through grants and donations both large and small from organizations, businesses, institutions and individuals, such as the contribution from Gloria DiFrancesco McGowan ('47) in memory of Roland Ackerman ('47). For more information on the Foundation, visit the website at www.spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

A CALL FOR A STEVEN MAYER SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN HONOR OF A LIFE WELL-SERVED

Submitted by Dr. Martin S. Krautter, '69

Steven Mayer, Class of '81, was struck and killed while jogging with his dog on the morning of Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in Robbinsville, New Jersey. He was a beloved native of Scotch Plains, graduate of Messiah College, and earned a Master's and PhD from Rutgers University.



Steven excelled in his chosen field of education as the Superintendent of the Robbinsville school district. He was not only outstanding in his profession, he also encouraged others to choose a career in education. It has been said of Steven, "I will miss his spirit, his leadership, his energy and his passion for the students of Robbinsville and everyone he worked with." And, "Steven was so full of life and a genuinely nice guy."

Those who knew him added that he was "our inspiration, our role model, our hero." "Such a beautiful man. **He was always smiling.**" Moreover, "he always had a smile on his face and [was always] enthusiastic about helping in every front."

Looking back over the comments regarding his tragic death, I couldn't help but to look back to his yearbook and see, as a young man, what he looked like at that time in his life—and what we all, too, shared with him when we graduated: his yearbook picture.

It turns out that he and six other formed and participate in the school Bible Club, a tradition which I think our class of 1969 started, and of which I wish I had been a part of back then, and a club I hope will always continue. As one 1981 SPFHS Bible Club member said, "To God be the glory." Others quoted Scripture, saying "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." Another quoted Isaiah where, in my Bible, the verse reads: "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall."

Still another Bible Club member wisely said, "**What you are is God's gift to you; what you make of it is your gift to God.**" **Finally, another member had great insight when she said, "Sometimes the perfect gift to give in a cheery little smile."**

When we graduate from SFFHS, most of us charge out into life desiring to do something great! Our parents cry when we leave home for the first time—some may rejoice! Still, we move on, most of us with our family's support, "to make our mark," as my grandfather used to say. We pass quizzes and tests, write many term papers, make it to our assigned classes and when we graduate, move on to our first job. We may marry and have families—all the time not knowing where or when our greatness may come; that moment in time when others are deeply touched by what we might say.

Life is so unpredictable. For many of the Bible Club members who added their insightful comments next to their graduation pictures in 1981—that may have been their moment in life when they touched so many in light of Steven's life well lived for the Lord. I know their words touched my heart. **In loving memory and in honor of Dr. Steven Mayer's life, I, Dr. Martin S. Krautter, would like to call the SPFHS alumni to begin a Scholarship Fund in his name for the purpose of assisting students pursuing an undergraduate or advanced degree in education.**

Dr. Martin S. Krautter is Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Deer Lodge, Montana. He is a 1969 graduate of SPFHS and son of Don and Jean Krautter, past owners of Krautter's Garden Center in Fanwood. To reach Dr. Krautter regarding this article, email: krautter12@bresnan.net

Lions Club Award to Connor Dombrowski

2016 graduate of SPFHS and Union County Vo-Tech, Connor Dombrowski, was awarded the Lion's Club George Church Prize. The prize is given to a resident of Scotch Plains or Fanwood who has excelled in automotive studies at UCVTS and receives recommendations from the faculty. Connor plans a career in the automotive industry as a diesel I mechanic.

Ani Hsu Obrock Receives Alexander Award

A 2016 SPFHS graduate been awarded the Alexander Award by the First Congregational Church of Westfield. Bestowed upon a high school senior who has made a significant contribution to the life of the church., Ani was recognized for her dedication as an assistant teacher, youth group member and organizer. Ani is currently attending the University of Vermont.

ACCOMPLISHED SPFHS GRADUATES INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME IN NOVEMBER CEREMONY

Submitted by Michael Loberfield, '97

On November 15, 2016, the public was inspired by the stories of six Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School alumni.

Moria Cappio, '98, is VP for Early Childhood Programs at the Children's Aid Society in New York City, a nonprofit whose mission is to support children who are living in poverty. She has also been involved with Sister Pat's Camp for cancer for over twenty years.

Cappio was very fond of the Adopt-a-Cop that visited her elementary school as part of the DARE program. As Head Start director in East Harlem, Cappio arranged for a police officer in uniform to read to young children with family members present. "That year as a community we did some incredible work around building positive relationships between the police and the immigrant community. We facilitated open dialogue, joint activities, we ate together, played together, all in the spirit of breaking down barriers to learn more about the other....it's a good reminder of how important it is to have respectful conversations with people that are different, in order to gain understanding and to move forward."

Cappio currently works with in the South Bronx, the poorest Congressional district in the country. Working with Children's Aid Society, Cappio is committed "to work towards supporting others so that they might have access to all the opportunities like the ones I had."

Cappio is grateful to the SPF school district and her parents. "My parents instilled in me and my two sisters the belief that we could do anything, and that they would always be there to support us and to love us" reflected Cappio. Looking back, I am in awe of my parents, for how they always prioritized our family, how they always helped us overcome any obstacle, and how they've always been beside us as

we go after our dreams

Cynthia Sayer, '74, is an international jazz banjoist who is a member of the National Four String Banjo Hall of Fame, and has performed at the White House. "When I saw the [SPFHS] Moonglowers, and I saw the drums swinging in the Jazz Band, I wanted a drum set. I had a fight with my parents for two weeks, and they said 'no' 'too loud' 'too much racket', and I was very headstrong about it, and one day I came home from school and there was this banjo on my bed. I knew immediately it was a bribe, I knew I would never get my drums, and I thought, 'Okay, I'll play this thing, you know, whatever', and you know the strangest accidents lead to your life...I stumbled across this," marvels Sayer.

"When I decided that I was in love with jazz, that world was...exclusively male. There weren't a lot of [women] colleagues for me to hang out with" reflects Sayer. Sayer took lessons with Patty Fischer. "I think I was taking lessons from her at the beginning just because I had never met a grown woman in the arts before, and she was a huge role model to me. "One of the most memorable tours I had last year was going through China and playing jazz with one of my bands for people who had never heard this music before", Sayer recalls.

Sayer credits her educational background for her love of learning. "I had a lot of interests and the SPF education system allowed me to be challenged and engaged, and made a difference to me, and made a difference to my choices. I feel like the environment and the support that I got here (in the SPF school district) really gave me a sense of perseverance and following through", she says. "I hope that the way that I can be a reminder to SPFHS students is that if you let yourself explore and find your interests and passions, and give yourself a chance to be guided by them, and most of all if to persevere, whatever it

is... it really makes a difference in making your life more rewarding".

In a letter from Hawaii, Michael Antal's widow, Ann, reflected upon an experience that showed Antal's heart. "Science was always Michael's passion", wrote Ann Antal. "He told me that when he was in kindergarten the teacher had the boys and girls line up in separate lines to visit the lavatory. Michael was so excited and happy, but he had misunderstood. He thought the children were going to visit the laboratory. So, you see, science was always in his blood."

Antal graduated from SPFHS in 1965. "The patent for which he was most proud of was for the flash carbonization process which produced high yields of charcoal. Michael proved that charcoal can play a role in arresting global warming [by sequestering carbon dioxide and reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels]. Charcoal is the renewable equivalent of coal, but unlike coal, charcoal has no mercury or sulfur so it is environmentally friendly."

Ann Antal concluded, "Michael...was indeed a very fine human being with a sense of humor. He had a deep love for life, a sweet humbleness, and an intense love for humanity".

Marc Shaiman '74, was in London and unable to attend the ceremony, but delivered a taped video message. Skip Ungar spoke about Shaiman. Ungar's late wife, Manya, first met Shaiman when he auditioned for a theater program at the age of ten. "He told her he wanted to play the piano for the musical. He demonstrated his ability by putting his back to the piano and playing it", said Ungar. "He got the job." Shaiman worked with Manya Ungar for five years. Later on, as a teenager, "Marc went to New York and while trying to get a job playing piano in a bar, he met some girls....they were working with a woman by the name of
(Continued on Page 6...)

(Inductees, cont'd from page 5....)

Bette Midler on the SNL TV show. Midler got him the job as a backup pianist on the show. When the regular pianist left, he got that job. When Midler and Rob Reiner decided to go to LA, they took Marc with them, and that is how he became involved with movies.”

John Bernard Riley, '71, is an accomplished jazz drummer and has played drums since he was in fourth grade at Coles Elementary. Riley remarked that in the last six months he has had the honor and privilege of playing in eight countries throughout the world in addition to the United States, "playing concerts and discussing music with professionals and students in all of these envi-

ronments.” Riley says his music teachers “gave me the foundation that allowed these things to happen.”

Marie DiFrancesco Leppert, '44, spoke about the late **Dr. Christian Lambersten, class of '34, invented the SCUBA** (Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), and was noted by his cohorts as having a hands-on approach in training American commandos in how to use his invention during WW II. “He really did not have to go on these missions, but he did so,” pointed out Leppert. Early on, the Navy had shown little interest in Lambertsen's invention; but Lambertsen did not give up, pitching his idea to the Office of Strategic Studies, which liked the idea and partnered with Lam-

bertsen. After the War, Lambertsen taught at the University of Pennsylvania for more than forty years.

In reflecting upon the inductees' stories, it was stated, “I think tonight shows that you never know where your influence is going to go...The impact of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School has had a ripple effect that is constantly expanding.”

Dr. David Heisey, principal of SPFHS, praised the inductees: "We see you as role models for our current and future students.”

For information on all thirty members of the Hall of Fame, and to nominate an alumni, please visit the Scotch Plains- Fanwood HS Alumni Association's website at: www.spfk12.org/alumni

They Will Be Missed: In Memory of Friends and Classmates

For more up-to-date information, visit the **Scotch Plains-Fanwood Alumni Memorial Page on Facebook**

Jean (Tyrolf) Groszmann '47

May 3, 2017

H. Robert Merko '47

Nov. 10, 2016

Louise (Christie) Piekarski '47

Nov. 12, 2016

John Appezzato '53

Oct.4, 2016

Walter McNeil '54

Nov. 16, 2016

Annetta (Checchio) Johnson '55

Dec. 27, 2016

Grace M. Hamlette '56

Jan. 8, 2016

Richard “Rocky” Flora '57

Jul. 11, 2016

Sandra Laitala '59

Mar. 14, 2016

Judith (Sabo) Robertson '59

Oct. 15, 2016

Dr. Barbara “Bobbi” Sutherland '66

Nov.13, 2016

Edward “Eddie” Lambertsen '67

Jan. 27, 2016

Michael Hurtack '67

Jun. 30, 2016

Clark Carson '69

May 3, 2017

Jim O'Donnell '69

May 4, 2107

James Samuelson '69

Nov. 21, 2016

John Gallagher Jr. '70

Mar. 2, 2017

Tom Krett '70

Mar. 4, 2017

Cyndi (Shewmaker) Rhodes '71

Jun. 6, 2016

Donna (Capone) Romano '71

Jun. 29, 2016

“Denise” (Walker) Anderson '73

Apr. 13, 2016

Kathleen Dudash '73

April 12, 2016

William Jacobs '75

Mar. 20, 2016

Gerard “Gerry” Reilly '75

Jan. 15, 2016

David McCann '76

Jan. 21, 2016

Dr. Robert Grill '78

May 11, 2017

Christopher “Chris” Burke '79

Feb., 2016

James Lynch '79

Apr. 19, 2016

Douglas “Doug” Siegel '79

Feb. 15, 2017

Oliver “Ollie” Haworth '80

Nov. 27, 2016

Margaret (Glynn) Musum '80

Jan. 18, 2016

Steven Mayer '81

Apr. 19, 2016

Donald M. Checchio '83

Mar. 16, 2016

David Cook '83

Apr. 16, 2017

Matthew Ponzio '92

Dec. 16, 2016

William “Billy” Jacobs '08

Dec. 1, 2016

Glow On: SPFH's Alumni Jazz Band Emerges, With Mr. Turturiello at the Helm

Submitted by Caryn Feder '04 (the band's drummer!)

Many high schools have their own jazz band, some even have two (like we have had for a long time). But not every high school can say they have the oldest continuously operating high school jazz band in New Jersey; only we can with our Moonglowers. Back in the 1940s, the group was started by students and directed by the instrumental music director at the time, Edward Wojnarowski. They organized a school assembly, and when the curtain opened they performed Benny Goodman's "Moonglow", and thus the Moonglowers were born.

A photo of the 1942 Moonglowers in the Culmen shows a drummer, female vocalist Lucy Dinizo, a pianist, and trombones, trumpets, and saxophonists. When Mr. Turturiello took over the Moonglowers, it was a very different picture. The drummer had Christmas lights strung to his set, the bass player had a double-neck bass, and the guitar player had two Marshall double-stack amplifiers. As Mr. Turturiello recalls, "we were loud." Back then, the administration only required that the group practice for 30 minutes a week, but this soon changed.



Mr. Turturiello with 2004 SPFH grads and now alumni band members Rup Chattopadhyay and Caryn Feder (hey, that's me!).

The new "tune" became "practice, practice, practice," resulting in some excellent jazz musicians. Mr. Thomas has since taken over the Moonglowers at the high school, following Mr. T's retirement in the spring of 2016. The group typically rehearses seven times a week, up to 11 hours a week; usually meeting Monday through Friday at 6:45 AM, as well as two nights a week for two hours. Their dedication has proven fruitful for the group.



The SPFH Jazz Alumni Band performed recently at The Crossroads in Garwood.

Back in the 40s, the Moonglowers only played at lunch and at proms. In the last 20 years, the Moonglowers have consistently placed in the top two in annual Festivals of Music department-wide competition. In 1990, after winning numerous competitions, they were named the "McDonald's Tri-State Champions" and went on to play on WBGO Jazz Radio, perform at the Village Vanguard with the Brecker Brothers, and have Bobby Watson, the McDonald's Jazz Musician of the year, come to SPFH and be a guest clinician.

Today, the SPFH jazz flag is still held high. As Mr. Thomas carries on the Moonglowers at the school, alums like myself and the goofy guy Rup next to me in the picture (who was in a rock band with me for four years, Falling Stars, our records are still for sale on CDBaby.com, nudge, nudge) have the opportunity to keep our talents sharp and perform with fellow alumni under Mr. T's direction. Recent shows have included The Crossroads and a special charity performance held at the Grand Summit Hotel to benefit the Brooke Healey Pediatric Center Foundation. The group also most recently performed as a guest band at Chatham Middle School's adjudicated festival in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month.

So, what is next for the SPFH Alumni Jazz Band? Stay tuned!!!



CALLING ALL '97 GRADS...

Announcing a 20th (!) reunion for the SPFHS class of '97.

When: October 7, 2017, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Where: Darby Road Restaurant & Pub,
450 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains

Who: You, your spouse or significant other, and your fellow friends and classmates.

The event will include three-course dinner, complimentary adult house beverage, free commemorative T-shirt and lots of great memories in the making. For additional information and to purchase tickets, please visit:

www.eventbrite.com/e/scotch-plains-fanwood-high-school-class-of-1997-reunion-tickets-33824306411?aff=es2

AROUND TOWN: WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITIES

End of an era? Bowcraft is to Scotch Plains what the Flagship is to Union: A Route 22 landmark that's been around seemingly forever. As a part of the community since the 1940s, it has been the site of many a birthday party, family gathering and first dates. So, it came as a shock when it was announced in September of 2016 that the property had been sold. According to reports, the site would be "razed to build 190 apartments and 10 townhouses, with 41 affordable units included." Not so fast, say the owners of Bowcraft, The amusement park has not been sold to date, and was open for business as of this spring. To paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of Bowcraft's demise seem to have been greatly exaggerated. So far, at least.

Fanwood has it made in the shade. For the 24th consecutive year, Fanwood has been officially designated a "Tree City USA."

Is downtown Scotch Plains about to get a facelift? According to an article in the May 25th edition of *The Scotch Plains Fanwood Times*, the planning board is preparing to do a "preliminary investigation into redeveloping a large portion of the downtown business district." The area comprises approximately 19 acres and focuses on "Park Avenue from East Second Street to Grand Street; East Second Street from Park Avenue to Flanders Avenue; Senger Place and Westfield Avenue: Bartle Avenue and Grand Street from Park Avenue to Forest Road." Criteria will include "design, signage, zoning, parking and affordable housing."

BUY A BRICK, SAVE A MONARCH

Originally designated a Monarch Waystation in the 1990s, a place that "provides resources necessary for monarch (butterflies) to produce successive generations and sustain their migration," the *Brunner Children's Garden* is selling brick pavers help revitalize this special place.



According to Brunner Elementary School Principal Scott Bortnick, "the revitalized garden will preserve habitat for pollinators, provide a place of visual splendor, and become a learning space that enriches curriculum."

Besides that, who doesn't love the majestic monarchs?

The sale of the pavers is running through September 1 or until all bricks have been sold. To order a paver installed in your name or in honor of a loved one, *send an email to brunnergarden@outlook.com or visit www.bricksrus.com/order/brunnergarden.*

DO YOU REMEMBER...

- ◆ Snuffy's and Snuffy Juniors?
- ◆ Terry-Lou Zoo?
- ◆ When Terrill and Park were junior highs, not middle schools?
- ◆ Or going back, when Park was the original high school?
- ◆ Listening to the radio to see if school was closed for a snow day?
- ◆ Split sessions?
- ◆ When Shackamaxon was an elementary school?
- ◆ The old School One?
- ◆ La Grande school?
- ◆ Those gym uniforms from the '50s, '60s and '70s? (Ugh!)
- ◆ Bonfire pep rallies?