



Spring Lake Historical Society, Inc.

Newsletter

November 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Report On Fiscal Year July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

HOW HAS THE SPRING LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SERVED THE COMMUNITY OVER THE PAST YEAR?

The Spring Lake Historical Society was very active again this year with its research, interest in the Museum displays, and sale of items. Weekly there were research questions on homes or history. The Visitors' book showed an increase in the people who visited the Museum, increasing by more than 25% over the previous year. The House Tour added to the amount of the number of people over last year also. Comments were very positive about the Museum and the quality of it.

More appointments to visit were made, including a Newcomer's group organized by Syd Whalley with a reception for the group. A Book Club sponsored by Susan Erbe met for their meeting in the Conference Room of the Museum. A Continuing Adult Education group from Midland Park spent a day in Spring Lake and made a visit to the SLHS Museum a big part of their trip (the video of the short history of the town was very popular with them.)



HOW WERE YOUTH GROUPS SERVED BY THE SLHS?

Sisters Academy in Asbury Park chose the SLHS Museum visit as a field trip for the 4th Grade in January of this year. The students participated in the Treasure Hunt activity, played the game of identifying items that were out of place, and had their picture taken.

HW Mountz School sent their 7th Grade students to the Museum in April as part of the MUST program (MOUNTZ UNITES SENIORS AND STUDENTS) These students also participated in the Treasure Hunt and had the group picture taken. A Girl Scout Troop approached the Society for research and was introduced to the Museum.

FOR WHOM DOES THE SLHS OFFER ITS CONDOLENCES UPON THEIR PASSING?

The family of Margaret (Edna) Paradis shared with us her love of Spring Lake history, and the Society is so grateful for her volunteer work over the years as a knowledgeable docent. She will be missed.

Barbara (Bobbi) Gille was a big supporter of the SLHS with her generous monetary donations in the name of the Albright Foundation. Her father, Dr. Albright, had been a prominent doctor, involved in the treatment of victims of the Morro Castle disaster and on the staff at the Ann May Hospital when it was in Spring Lake. He had stories about many happenings in Spring Lake and much of his Spring Lake history knowledge was passed on to his daughters, Bobbi and Mary Lou, his stories remain in our files.

Rev. Ray DuBois, husband of our historian Bonnie DuBois, was a faithful attendee at our meetings and offered so much of his time to different projects in the community. His dedicated work is now part of the history of Spring Lake.

HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE OUR FUNDRAISERS?

Last July, the SLHS spearheaded, along with the Garden Club of Spring Lake, a night at the Community House Theatre. The final dress rehearsal of the show, Peter Pan, of which both organizations received the proceeds, was well attended. This gave us some funds that balanced what we formerly made from our bus trips into NY. We thank you for your support.

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President's Message

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The 43rd Annual House Tour took place on June 6 of this year and proved very successful again. The weather turned beautiful that day and the homes and other sites were outstanding. We are so grateful to the five homeowners who went out of their way to open up their beautiful houses for touring as well as the Essex and Sussex for showing their two open floors. St. Andrew's United Methodist Church created a wedding décor, complete with a vintage wedding dress that added so much to the beauty of their church. Numerous visitors from the tour took advantage of viewing the Museum. The Sundae Times offered a free ice-cream treat and the Scone Pony gave out a pastry delight. Wander Bar once again poured a greatly appreciated free moctail to tour goers. It takes so much donation of time and effort by many whom I wish to thank: Pat Barry for granting the use of the Community House Brown Room for the Pre Tour reception for hostesses and the committee members who staged the lovely party; REMAX REVOLUTION for underwriting the ticket printing cost; Kate & Co., J.McLaughlin, and Bain's Spring Lake Hardware for selling tickets; the head hostesses and their docents for staffing the homes and sites; the crew who helped set up, take down, set out refreshments and man ticket sales at the train station; and, especially the board members and our office manager who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the tour such a success.

WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS?

Bonnie DuBois and her committee reviewed six outstanding applications for the two SLHS scholarships that were awarded. One qualification to receive an award requires the seniors making themselves aware of the history of Spring Lake via studying and reporting on the displays in the Museum or writing an essay about the history, either about an important person or an historic event. The Spring Lake Historical Society awards \$1000 each to Sean Galvin for his essay on Devine Park and Jordyn Talucci's writing on HW Mountz School's history. All six applicants had outstanding grade point averages and extracurricular participation but the accuracy of the information on the historic site ruled the decision.

The Elizabeth Saklas Nursing Continuing Education Scholarship, offered by Pete Saklas in memory of his wife is awarded this year to Stephanie A. Zumbo and was presented by Pete Sakalas.

WHAT WAS THE EXCITING FALL GENERAL MEETING'S TOPIC?

In part because of the merging of Spring Lake Independent Fire Co. #1 and Goodwill Fire Co. #2 plus October being fire prevention month, in early November the Society engaged historians Don Brahn, Jr. and Gayle Brown to speak – Don on Goodwill #2 and Gayle on Fire Co. #1. Don gave a video presentation and Gayle more of a story relating format. Artifacts were laid out on the tables at Duggan Hall for people's perusal. The program was well attended and well received. Thank you both for your participation.

WHAT DOES OUR MUSEUM HAVE TO OFFER?

The Changing Exhibit Gallery has three main displays of history; ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRING LAKE – 1892; MAYORS – ARCHITECTS OF SPRING LAKE; and 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRING LAKE COMMUNITY HOUSE. We have a wonderful sign at the Municipal Building stating our changed summer schedule to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 -12 and winter schedule, Sundays, 1:30 – 3:30, Thursdays, 10 – 12. Also, we offer knowledgeable docents to staff our open hours. On sale at the Museum are the popular coasters with landmark places on them or beach badge emblems, replicated South End decorative tiles, flags, notecards, shirts, and other SLHS logo items.

WHO ARE THE HARD WORKING PERSONS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIETY?

I wish to acknowledge the following dedicated officers/trustees and chair persons who offer so much of their time and knowledge to keep this organization viable. All believe in the mission of the Society and take to task the work to be done.

WHO IS? Vice President (jokes he will take a bullet for the president); Produces decorative tiles to be sold; Liaison with the Borough; Newsletter; Posters; Education Chair; House Tour (John McGlinchy)

WHO IS? Treasurer; Technology; Newsletter; Trouble shooter; House Tour (Bob Drasheff)

WHO IS? Recording Secretary; Website; Liaison to the Borough; House Tour (Priscilla Reilly)

WHO IS? Corresponding Secretary; Historic Sites Plaque; Newsletter; Library acquisitions; Editing; House Tour (Stephanie Mc Murray)

The 2024 Annual House Tour

203 Monmouth Avenue



The intersection of Monmouth and Second Avenues has been a key crossroads in the history of Spring Lake since the Borough's formative decades in the 1870s and 1880s. The stately, newly built home at 203 Monmouth on the southwest corner, more than rises to the challenge of blending the demands of contemporary living with the look and feel of nearby icons of Victorian life and leisure, including the historic Hewlitt Wellington Hotel across the street. The home's owners, veterans of having previously restored two nearby Victorians, wanted this new home to reflect the feeling of having been part of the streetscape for decades.

The classic element of historic Mid-Atlantic seaside architecture is the wrap around front porch. This spacious veranda welcomes visitors to enjoy the sea breezes that come off the near-by Ocean and lake. Close your eyes and you can almost hear the horse-drawn buggies passing beneath the rustling leaves of the tree lined street.

The stained-wood double front doors open onto a spacious floor plan with a den on the right and dining room to the left, its focal point being the fireplace. All first floor rooms are at least partly visible from the entrance. Many windows and windowed doors allow for a very airy feeling. A formal living room abuts the dining room to the rear and shares the fireplace. Continuing through the living room leads one to the very extensive sized kitchen and a more informal family room to the right. A large kitchen island offers plentiful room for eating and food preparation. White walls are evident throughout the home complemented by contemporary resort style furnishings and accents of corals and seashore colors. Traditional moldings and wood paneling decorate the walls and ceilings to add an elegant touch.

Adding a contemporary twist to the Upstairs, Downstairs social stratification of the Victorian Era, open staircases in both the front and back of the house provide ease of passage to all levels. Downstairs, a wooden sculpture adorns the wall by the bar area, and the bar's base itself is a beautifully finished wood. Both items are made from the beech tree that grew in the yard where this new house now stands. The grandmother in the former home asked that the tree be saved in some way. This is how her favor was cleverly granted. This floor also accommodates a bedroom, bath, gym and recreation room. A wine cellar fits the curved contours of the base of the corner turret clearly visible on the third floor.

The second and third floors offer multiple bedrooms and baths that accommodate the many guests that this family entertains, particularly in the summer. Providing continuity with the first floor décor, white walls, accented with coastal colors dominate, with sculptured moldings and wood wall paneling providing added depth to the rooms and hallways. The wide balcony on the second floor offers beautiful views of the lake. On the third floor, the bedroom adjoining the turret offers panoramic views of the lake, ocean and surrounding areas.

In the secluded back yard, a beautiful swimming pool and pool house provide added "down at the shore" ambiance. The owners have truly made this a wonderful Spring Lake home.

100 Vroom Avenue



The style of the house is traditional old Spring Lake. The spirit of the home is a welcoming retreat for their large family and many friends. These were the owners wishes when they designed their home built in 2003. Both have been achieved with elegance and extreme attention to detail.

Stone pedestals with columns support the front porch with circular pavilions at either end. The entry foyer with its marble, medallion floor and ceremonial staircase offers a view of the garden beyond. To the right is the formal Dining Room, with Schoenback chandeliers. To the left is an elegant Music Room.

There are many living areas within the home. A conscious decision by the owners was to favor comfortable groupings and to diffuse large gatherings. The main floor has a Family Room and an informal dining area adjacent to a stunningly modern Kitchen. The "Heraldry Hall" is a Game Room with true family crests over the bar and in the stained glass windows. A Den, paneled in cherry and mahogany is next to stairs leading downstairs.

The cellar is highlighted by The Theater, a replica of the 1930's with rich woodwork, luxuriant burgundy tones for the walls, carpet, upholstered movie recliners, and velvet stage curtain. Details abound: "Now Showing" signs and posters, a candy bar, lights with "Exit" sign original to Asbury Park's Mayfair Theater. Next to the theater is a Rumpus Room with stage and a comfortable seating area. This vast area is to quote the owner: "Something for everybody".

At the west end, stairs return us to the main floor and the Hearth Room with its stone fireplace, twenty foot ceiling and walls of diamond pane windows. The stairs continue up to the second floor with five individually designed bedrooms. At the landing is a comfortable Common Room, from which we can access a third floor garret Bedroom nautically styled and a bridge leading to a guest suite over the Garage. The charming bridge also enriches the exterior architectural style of this amazing home.

This home is a true reflection of the owners' wishes. They were dedicated to making it truly a shore home and in so doing have thoughtfully used an architect, interior designer, and craftsmen from the immediate shore area.

The Spring Lake Historical Society is very grateful to the homeowners for their thoughtfulness in duplicating Spring Lake's architectural beauty and style in the design of their home.

301 West Lake Avenue



A true shore colonial, this gracious home has been meticulously rebuilt to its original former glory while incorporating 21st century improvements. Everything you see and don't see on the exterior is completely new and replaced damaged original materials, except the white painted stone foundation. Built in 1907, it is the last of a trio of homes with the same architecture. The two other adjacent homes at 307 and 309 West Lake were built circa 1890. Throughout this home are the diamond-shaped windows that so distinguish it and its two neighboring sister homes.

Beginning with its spacious front porch, this home encompasses some of the best views in town of the namesake Spring Lake. Through the beautiful Dutch door with diamond-paned glass, a large open living and dining area has an office nook tucked off to the left of the owner designated front door – the porch door. Notice the coffered ceiling and the original New Jersey pine floors that have been restored and stained to contrast with the brightness of the space. An attractive fireplace sets off the living room with its modern furniture. Built in contemporary china cabinets grace two corners of the dining room where originally there were built in traditional china cabinets. Conveniently, the lower parts of the cabinets house refrigeration,

The new, open kitchen off the dining area reflects the owners' love of hosting gatherings at their home and incorporates a layout that added two feet to enlarge the original kitchen space. A center island is the focal point of this very pleasing kitchen. At the back of the house, a new mudroom and large powder room replaced two small powder rooms that existed there.

A dark stained wooden railing that follows the stairs to the second floor hi-lights your ascent. On this floor there are three bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as an office and laundry room. Please notice in the office, the wood wallpaper on the ceiling in a geometric pattern that adds great depth and interest to the space. The large master bedroom suite with breath-taking lake views includes a private dressing area and bathroom.

On the third floor, in addition to a bathroom, are three more bedrooms including a large bunk room with four beds and a trundle which is sure to delight their children for years to come! The ceilings following the lines of the roof eaves create interest and give a cozy feeling to the third floor sleeping spaces. Once again, the attractive diamond-paned windows offer such delightful views of the lake.

Out the back door, a new patio with ample space for al fresco meals, shaded by a pergola leads to a relaxing yard area.

307 West Lake Avenue



This turn of the 20th century home epitomizes the charm and elegance of a truly historic home that resulted from careful maintenance and restoring of a colonial revival seashore adaptive home. The inviting front porch offers a casual extra summer room with outstanding views of the lake and a welcoming entrance with its beautiful diamond paned front door. New wooden siding and dark green shutters say to the visitor this is a traditional façade that never goes out of style.

Stepping through the door, one is greeted by the airy feeling and ample lighting that is evident, thanks to the many diamond paned windows seen throughout the house. A formal living room on the left has a fireplace as a focal point and soft colored furnishings hi-lite the "beachy" feeling the owners have tried to impart to the whole living space. On the right a large dining room displays coffered ceilings and two built in corner china cabinets. The beach theme is emphasized in the display within the china cabinets. Traditional wooden moldings make these rooms so appealing; yet, the simple lines of the furnishings create a wonderful mix of styles.

A relatively new addition created an enlarged kitchen with a breakfast nook and coffered ceiling overhead. The exquisite white cabinets have just enough molding design to blend so well with the original molding of the home. A step down at the back of the kitchen allows one to exit the back door from the mudroom. A family room to the east of the kitchen is part of the addition, and its many windows allow extensive views of the backyard area. A small hall in between the kitchen and the family room allow easy egress between the front rooms and the addition; plus, the hall houses closets and a powder room.

A nice open staircase on the side of the living room fireplace takes one up to the four bedrooms and three baths that make up the second floor. Continuing with the pastel painted rooms and the ample amount of diamond paned windows, an atmosphere of space and an outdoors feeling is created. The views of the lake, especially from the master bedroom suite, encourage self-indulgence of this relaxing space.

Ascending more steps, one rises to the charming third floor of this home. Once again, ample natural lighting is on this third floor and simple furnishings make for comfort and relaxation. Coziness also comes to mind as the eaves cutting into the ceilings give architectural interest to the "loft" feeling of the rooms. A thought as one exits the home should be that all three floors offer so much delight and beauty currently shared by multiple generations of this family that one can only say that the house remains a Spring Lake gathering place elevated by its historical details.

422 Ludlow Avenue



Providing all the comforts of home for more than a century, this circa 1920 house has been refashioned inside and out while remaining true to its historical roots. The front porch was expanded to wrap around the west side, meeting the owner's needs for a large and attractive space for relaxing and enjoying the sunset. Just as the porch expanded the house's horizontal profile, a steeply pitched roof above the two dormers provides height and curb appeal as visitors approach the welcoming Ludlow Avenue entrance.

Inside, a spacious living room and the old stone fireplace on the west wall speak to decades of hospitality. This front part of the house has been preserved in its original form, including the beautiful open staircase. A bedroom occupies the front of the house as well. Note the lovely botanical screen prints above the bed. The owners have chosen light colored walls and light wooden flooring that so enhance the "newness" of this historic home. From the living room, one can pass into the beautiful dining room and witness the expansion of it that was achieved by converting a small sunroom as part of the dining room. Notice the built in cabinets in both the living and dining rooms. The artist owner has chosen "clean" furniture lines, but the eclectic furnishings also reflect the house, a blend of the old and the new. Much refinishing of older furniture has been completed by the artist owner.

Light colored walls and wooden flooring enhance the contemporary feel of this historic home. The beautiful dining room also gained a more modern, spacious feel with the addition of a small sunroom that had been treated as a separate living space in the original design. Built in cabinets are featured in both the living and dining rooms. Eclectic furnishings reflect the house, a blend of the old and the new. The owner, an artist, refinished much of the older furniture, and describes the overall furnishings as a "clean" look. A family room with an attractive fireplace was added to the back of the house, providing ample views of the pool and backyard. Adjoining the family room is the handsome cathedral ceiling kitchen with an island and a freestanding arched cabinet off to the side. Diamond paned windows give added architectural interest to the room. Adjacent to the kitchen is a laundry/mud room space, a very practical use for a small part of the new addition.

The second floor offers four wonderful bedrooms, with the front bedrooms showcasing the dormers' diamond paned windows. The sloping eaves of the dormers add interest and a cozy feeling to the rooms. The owners love and appreciation for an older home is surely evident here!

The history of this previous owner's family home includes the successful and beloved mayor of Spring Lake Borough, Mayor Andrew Raffetto, 1975 – 1982. During Mayor Raffetto's time in office he governed over two well-known events: namely the beginning of the famous Spring Lake Five Mile Run in 1978 and the celebration of the Bicentennial of our country in 1976, from which he also authorized the establishment of the Spring Lake Historical Society.

The Essex and Sussex - 700 Ocean Avenue



The Essex and Sussex Hotel started out as two separate cottages and part of ten surf cottages in the Hasting Square Co., dating back to 1881. The two largest cottages sat on the corners of Essex Avenue and Sussex Avenue, and were aptly named the Essex Hotel and Sussex Hotel. A disastrous fire in 1900 destroyed the Essex Hotel along with other commercial properties in the area; subsequently, investors purchased the property on the ocean and built the Essex & Sussex Hotel in 1914. It became one of the grand Spring Lake hotels. It survived as a hotel for nearly eighty years, but was sold and lingered in disrepair. After almost twenty years of restoration, reconfiguration, and settlements with the Borough, the Essex and Sussex luxury apartments became available for purchase as adult living condominiums.

In 2002, a VIP Reception marked its Grand Opening. The front entrance is bedecked with a portico and four-story columns facing First Avenue. Apartments are sized from studios to luxurious suites, with balconies affording glorious views of the ocean, Spring Lake, and the historic St. Catharine Church. Each of the 165 units features dentil and crown ceiling molding, marble bathrooms, 24 hour Concierge/Valet service, and an abundance of amenities usually associated with hotel living. The 1914 Lounge features a bar, fireplace, and baby grand piano, with weekly supper club style entertainment. There is also a private dining room off the 1914 lounge. The wood-paneled Billiard Room, Library, Media Center, Card and Chess Rooms, and Bistro all share space on the massive Terrace Level with the Solarium overlooking the Ocean. The original fireplace is fully restored as is the original Austrian Crystal Chandelier after being rescued. But nothing can compare to the magnificence of the original hotel dining room, painstakingly restored to its ballroom beauty. This beautiful Essex & Sussex landmark sits proudly on Ocean Avenue in Spring Lake for all to enjoy and perhaps reminisce about its glorious past.

Museum – Municipal Building (Fifth & Warren Avenues)



The Classical Revival building in which the Museum is located was originally built as a public school in 1897 with six desks for grades 1-8. Owing to town and area growth and school overcrowding, a new school with ten classrooms was erected in 1922 on Tuttle Avenue. Many of the visible beautiful decorative interior elements are not relics from

the building's academic past but from 1923 when the structure was extensively remodeled as a Masonic Lodge. In 1943, the building was repurchased by the Borough for use as its Municipal Building. The Spring Lake Historical Society moved into the second floor of the building in 1979. The Museum is open Sundays 1:30-3:30 & Thursdays 10:00-12:00; or by appointment at 732-449-0772. It is closed mid-December to April.

Scone Pony



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St. Andrew's United Methodist Church 907 Fourth Avenue



St. Andrews United Methodist Church traces its roots to the desire among early residents for a Protestant Sunday School. The first meeting of the Community Protestant Sunday School was held in 1880 in what was then the local post office, a few blocks away at 203 West Lake

Avenue. The church school outgrew its initial location and two others over the next few years as demand for weekly religious instruction increased. Several prominent citizens, including future Mayor O.H. Brown, determined that it was time to create what would become Spring Lake's first year-round church. The cornerstone of St. Andrew's was laid in August 1887 at the corner of Fourth and West Lake Avenues, and the church, known originally as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Spring Lake, opened a year later in August, 1888.

Built by local carpenter and builder Herman Reichwein, St. Andrews is an eclectic building, drawing from among styles as diverse as Gothic, Queen Anne and Tudor Revival. The Church has recently undergone an extensive and painstaking renovation. Among the many projects undertaken in recent years, the original clapboard siding, featuring flat board strap work, has been completely restored as well as the fish scale shingles. During the process of this renovation, the removal of aluminum siding revealed several windows that had been completely over. In the interior of the Church, a series of square stained glass windows representing images of the Trinity have been removed, restored and re-hung. Also, the trefoil windows of the castellated bell tower have been restored. The original chestnut paneling was also restored. St. Andrew's Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A particularly lovely recent enhancement of the Church property is the Meditation Garden and Labyrinth located between the Church and Wesley Hall, the church school and community center that was added in 1966. The Garden's granite benches encourage a contemplative respite from the demands of the moment.

Much effort has been put into making St. Andrew's a welcoming site.

The Sundae Times - 17 Atlantic Avenue



The "Sundae Times" ice cream parlor is situated in a structure that was erected shortly after the disastrous 1900 Spring Lake Beach fire which destroyed the original Monmouth Hotel and most of the south end commercial district. The present building housed the D. H. Hills Drug Co. for several decades and that pharmacy was open for business only in the summer. Later it was a popular ice cream parlor known as "Peterson's". The "Sundae Times" is a delightful "old-new" part of Spring Lake's ambiance.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Left to right are Sean Galvin, Stephanie Zumbo and Jordyn Talucci.

Jordyn Talucci

The Spring Lake Historical Society was very pleased to offer a scholarship to Jordyn Talucci. A recent graduate of Trinity Hall High School, all of Jordyn's high school classwork was in Advanced Placement courses and honor's courses. It was a rigorous course load, and Jordyn maintained a 4.0 cumulative average throughout her four years at Trinity Hall. Her academic honors include the Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction Award, the National Merit Commended Scholar Award, and a Trinity Hall Scholarship.

Assistant Head of Student Programs at Trinity Hall, Alyssa Morreale calls Jordyn an academic superstar because she is capable of comprehending, analyzing, and communicating on the highest level. Ms. Morreale feels that much of the reason for Jordyn's outstanding success is the result of her initiative and determination. When Jordyn has an idea, she won't stop until she sees it through, usually taking it much farther than she had originally intended. These outstanding qualities resulted in the publishing of her children's book, *I am Mother Nature*. Initially, Jordyn wished to educate children about care for the environment. Her passion and initiative grew to the writing, illustrating, and publishing of a children's book. She also created a Nature Story Walk and an environmental curriculum for young children.

Nicole Sadowski, the STEM teacher at Trinity Hall, sees Jordyn as a student whose genuine curiosity has made her a top performer in class, a student who embraces new ideas, and a student with a passion for problem solving.

At Trinity Hall, Jordyn was the Junior Class president, an Academic Council Representative, Co-Founder and Mindfulness Programmer of the Wellness Club, a member of the Environment Club, a member of the Cultural Club, a calculus and biology peer tutor, and an Advisory Program leader.

Jordyn's community service includes founding an ocean conservation organization, Love Ur Ocean, semi-annual beach cleanups, a camp counselor and environmental educator at Slide Ranch, a summer assistant CCD teacher at St. Catharine's School, and for the past 3 years, leader of the annual school supply drive through Interfaith Neighbors.

Amazingly, Jordyn also finds time for employment. She has worked as a camp counselor with Spring Lake Recreation, and as a floor manager at the Warm Shop. In the summer of 2020, she created the Outdoor Craft and Create Summer Camp.

In September Jordyn began her first year at Duke University where she will study Marine Science and Conservation. Jordyn is well on her way to making the world a better place.

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Scholarships

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Sean Galvin

A recent graduate of Christian Brother's Academy, Sean has maintained a cumulative GPA of 99.1485, earning first honors every semester.

Sean is an excellent student who is both highly motivated and bright. At CBA, Sean gained a reputation for diligence and hard work. Freshman year, he was in the geometry/algebra II accelerated class. Over the summer, following freshman year, he took a Pre-Cal Honors course so that he could take AP Calculus AB sophomore year. His final grade in that class was 102.

Math teacher, James Speidel considers Sean not only an excellent student, but also a honorable young man who is respected by both his peers and the faculty at CBA. Alicia Ver Boven, Chair of the World Language Department finds Sean to be a well-rounded young man who takes his studies seriously and who has a strong set of values. He is always kind and polite and willing to help others.

Sean has received numerous academic awards. Sophomore year, he became a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Junior year, he was awarded the Spanish Seal of Bi-literacy, was inducted into the National Honor Society and was recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction. During his senior year, Sean was awarded the Senior Excellence in Spanish award and was a National Merit Commended Scholar.

At CBA, Sean participated in the Scholars Program and presented two independent research projects to the CBA faculty. He was also a member of the Math Team, the Chess Team and Peer Ministry. He participated in the Model United Nations, tutored underclassmen, and served as part of a team of teachers, administrators and one other student to review all aspects of CBA with the goal of remaining a National Blue Ribbon School.

Sean was a member of the CBA varsity Soccer team and the MLS Soccer Club.

Sean is a very busy young man, but he still makes time for volunteer work. Working with CLOnet, he studied the pH levels, clarity, and dissolved oxygen of Spring Lake and reported his findings to Monmouth University researchers. He founded Save Our Seniors which provides help with grocery shopping, snow shoveling, cleaning, garden work, other chores for senior citizens who need help. He has worked on donation drives for the SPCA animal shelter and for the pediatric Unit at Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

Despite his busy schedule, Sean does find time for the beach because for the last three years he has worked as a badge checker.

In September, Sean began his freshman year at Cornell University, where he will study biological sciences with the goal of becoming a pediatric surgeon. In the near future, he will be helping and making a difference in the lives of his young patients.

Elizabeth A. Saklas Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Stephanie Zumbo

This year the Spring Lake Historical Society awarded its Elizabeth A. Saklas Memorial Nursing Scholarship to Stephanie Zumbo. Stephanie received her diploma as a registered nurse from Holy Name School of Nursing and later earned her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Western Governors University.

Stephanie is passionate about nursing. She is the kind of nurse that everyone wishes to have by their side when recovering from illness or surgery. She cares about her patients, and works tirelessly to give them the best care possible. After more than three decades of nursing experience in varied settings meeting the multiple needs of her patients, Stephanie wishes to mentor new nurses as they pursue what she considers to be the most rewarding career. As a mentor, she brings experience as a nurse in the intensive care unit, the telemetry unit, the medical surgical unit, and endoscopy unit of hospitals as well as experience in home care.

While working with the Same Day Surgery Team at Ocean University Medical Center, Nurse Lindsey Kelly noticed Stephanie's ability to teach and help the new nurses. Stephanie wishes to devote her time fully to teaching new nurses. She has enrolled in the Drexel University program to pursue her dream of educating the next generation of nurses. Stephanie is saddened by how many new nurses leave the bedside of patients within a year. She wants to help new nurses discover the joy and fulfillment that nursing brings and to help ensure that nurses remain committed to this special calling. Stephanie is earning outstanding grades in the Drexel University program. The Saklas family and the Historical Society wish Stephanie the very best as she continues working on her masters degree in Nursing, and continues to inspire the next generation of nurses.

“There’s Still a Feeling that Spring Lake is a Special Place”



Erbe children circa 1956, Joe, Susan, Michael, Timmy, Stephen and Patty



Erbe family circa 1980's Stephen (who is now deceased), Michael, Timmy, Patty, Joe, and Susan.

Long-time borough council member Joe Erbe’s family roots in the Spring Lake area reach back more than a century. Born in 1950, Joe rode the Baby Boom wave of large families and jammed classrooms in the local Catholic and public schools.

While both of his parents emphasized the importance of education and community involvement, Joe models his commitment to public service on that of his father as well as his uncle. Joseph Sr. joined the Spring Lake Board of Education in the late 1960s and was known to generations of Spring Lake children as Mr. Erbe, the beach manager.

Joe’s uncle Harry Erbe extended the family tradition of serving the community. He won a seat on the borough council in 1974 and succeeded Andrew Raffetto as Mayor in 1982, retiring in 1989 for personal reasons. The fact that his uncle served as a Democrat in a town where Republicans hold a large majority is a “testament to Spring Lake’s political independence,” Joe said.

“There’s still a feeling that Spring Lake is a special place and people are incredibly proud about living here and being part of the community. And being active. Even though we’ve lost some population, there’s still a lot of volunteerism and good things like that going on,” Joe said in a recent interview for the Historical Society archives, edited excerpts of which are included below:

Q: What are some of your earliest memories as a boy?

A: Being downtown when I was a kid. I was born in 1950. So in the mid- to late 50s I would just walk downtown from our home at 420 Morris to get a loaf of bread for my mother or something. There was a thriving community down there of businesses. They were very friendly and it was a great atmosphere. For instance, there was a little A&P on Washington and Third. Everybody knew everybody. It was a butcher. It was a grocery store. And literally, they would have these long hooks, and if you wanted a box of Corn Flakes, they grabbed it from way up there and brought it down. And then they would go in the back and replace it so they can do it again.

Another favorite was Voorhees Bakery at Washington and Third where the McGowan Agency is now. I loved the donuts. They had sugar donuts, they had donuts with icing on them, they had cinnamon rolls. That was a special place for us to go every Sunday. After we went to church, we went to the bakery and I got donuts.

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Erbe Family

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The 5&10, now Bain's Hardware, was a very popular spot for kids. Baseball cards were a huge thing back then, and that's where we used to go to get our cards and wait for the new ones to come out. Not sure I ever had a Mickey Mantle, but we were always hoping. In the fall we would get our Halloween costumes and stuff there.

In school, it was St. Catharine's for me. This was the Baby Boom. The peak of the Baby Boom monster. There were so many large families, some with 10 or more kids. I had five siblings and my brother passed. My father's brothers also had five or six or seven kids. So we had a lot of cousins in the neighborhood. It was just hundreds and hundreds of kids.

Classes were very crowded. I'm guessing we had maybe 80-some kids in my kindergarten, in St. Margaret's basement where the school held kindergarten at the time. One teacher for the 80 kids. Sister Rose was the nun teaching us and boy, she was tough as nails. The ruler definitely got your attention. Just a no-nonsense type of, "keep quiet so I can teach you" approach. She taught my father, who was born in 1925. But then she also taught my nieces. So three generations of Erbes went through Sister Rose.

"We All Lived for the Summer"

As kids, we all lived for summer. The last day of school we'd all go jump in the ocean and that was the beginning of summer. Not in our school uniforms. No, we usually had our bathing suits on underneath our uniforms on the last day.

Q: You were a South Ender. Did you ever go to the North End to swim?

A: I did. Two or three times a year. They didn't throw rocks at you or anything, but there was a wall there of sorts, let's put it that way. You were South End or North End.

I spent hours and hours and hours on the beach and probably shouldn't have. I had a few cases of sun poisoning, right? The interesting thing about summer is we would meet the summer kids, whose families came for the summer, and we would make friends with them, and some of them are lifelong friends. So that was fun, too.

My father was the beach manager, but he was always at the South End. He didn't have a counterpart at the North End pavilion, but he would walk to the north end at least once a day to show his face. They had people in the office there, that kind of thing, and there was a lifeguard there who was always chief of the lifeguards.

I was a lifeguard for many years and that was great. I loved it. Even though my father was the boss, he was great. We worked 40 hours a week. My starting salary as a lifeguard was \$11 a day. I think I finally got up to the huge sum of \$20 a day. You didn't really need much money back then, it was a simpler time. Women at the time used to cover up if they left the beach and went on the boardwalk. Neck to knee they used to call it. I think there generally was more modesty back then. Every once in a while, there'd be somebody who would undo their strap while they were sunbathing or something and you know, that raised a few eyebrows.

Mary Martin (who was playing Peter Pan on Broadway at the time) came to the beach one day. My father was talking to her and got her on the beach and everything and supposedly she just undid the back strap to her top and laid down and didn't expose anything except for her back. But, you know, it was an absolute scandal!

By Scott McMurray

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