Thank you for coming this evening! For those attending in person, fill out the sign-in sheet on the cabinet and grab a seat. If you have a beverage, please take a coaster.

For those online, the presentation will begin soon.

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Remembering “Herstory” Celebrating the Impact of Women in South Brunswick

A South Brunswick Historical Society Presentation
March 2026

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Carol Barrett

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- First won seat on township council in 1998
  - Inched passed Frank Antisell by three votes
- Became deputy mayor of South Brunswick and served in council positions until 2009
- Chosen to serve on Middlesex county freeholder position in 2009
- As a longtime worker in local and county government, Barrett had first begun as a county clerk
- Supported the purchase of the Van Dyke farm for preservation in 2009

Andrea Brachfeld

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- Notable jazz and latin flautist
- Longtime resident of South Brunswick Township, living in Kendall Park
- Released 10 albums/records over her career with the most recent “Evolution” coming in 2022 (according to her website)
- Played hundreds of shows well into mid-2025
- Also a longtime educator and member of a variety of music groups
- Most recently moved to Baltimore to be closer to family

Mya Breitbart

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- 1996 graduate of South Brunswick High School
- Member of rec basketball teams in the late 1980s (Central Post)
- Received a PhD in Cellular Biology from San Diego State University in 2006
- Now a Distinguished University Professor of Biological Oceanography at the University of South Florida
- Named member of “Brilliant 10” by Popular Science Magazine in 2013, honoring 10 emerging scientists in their respective fields

Ethel Emens

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- Born in Jamesburg in 1890
- Ethel moved to Monmouth Junction where she lived for 89 years
- Operated a general store with her husband T. Clifford
- Served as the treasurer of the Miller Memorial Presbyterian Church for 40 years
- Known for her “4 rules to live by:”
  - Live day by day
  - Do first things first
  - Accept your condition
  - And learn to live with it

Elizabeth Endres

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- Grew up in Brooklyn, NY
- Endres was a 25 year resident of South Brunswick
- Lived in the Kendall Park neighborhood
- Known for her artistic ability
  - Member of the National Woodcarvers Association (Central Post 1971). Also created using watercolors and oils.
- As a self-proclaimed naturalist, Endres took inspiration from her travels (Central Post 1971)
- Passed away in 2002 and was honored with a tribute at the Senior Center

Staff photo by John Keating

Elizabeth Endres poses with the work she had on display at the Wetherill Historic Site last month.

Vimala Glade

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- South Brunswick resident and artist who used her art to help with pain caused by arthritis
- Came to town in 1993
- Self taught painter who began “scribbling” with pencil during her childhood years in Orissa, India
- “Through teaching… Ms. Gade feels she can help others overcome their difficulties and think positively just as she has” (Patch 2005).

JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ South Brunswick artist Vimala Gade poses with her work, which is on display through the end of the month at the North Brunswick Government and Community Complex.

Archana Joglekar

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- Indian actress and classical dancer
- Active from 1987-2012
- Has held multiple lead and background roles in 19 films and movies (Wikipedia)
- Founder and CEO of Archana Arts, a Kathak dance academy
  - 3 locations in New Jersey
- Provides opportunities for individuals to learn more about history and culture through dance

Dorothy Kohrherr

South Brunswick PUBLIC LIBRARY
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- Came to South Brunswick in 1985
- Over 35 year teaching career
- Taught Social Studies, primarily at Crossroads Middle School
- Was presented with multiple awards for her efforts to make learning exciting
- Ms. Kohrherr said the project is designed to leach her students that "they are individuals who are important in history. History is people and what people do." (Central Post 1997)

Staff photo by Bernadette Yannacci

Crossroads teacher Dorothy Kohrherr and eighth-grader Kelly Andrews admire the T-shirt Ms. Kohrherr received from the school for being honored by Disney with an American Teacher Award.

Virginia “Ginny” Kraft

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- Renowned educator, musician, and performing arts leader in South Brunswick
- Began working in South Brunswick in the early 1980s
- Taught for over 30 years in the High School
- Known as the “Voice of South Brunswick”
- Led multiple groups to award winning performances including the SBHS choirs, marching band, winterguard, and Pirandello Players

Mary Leck

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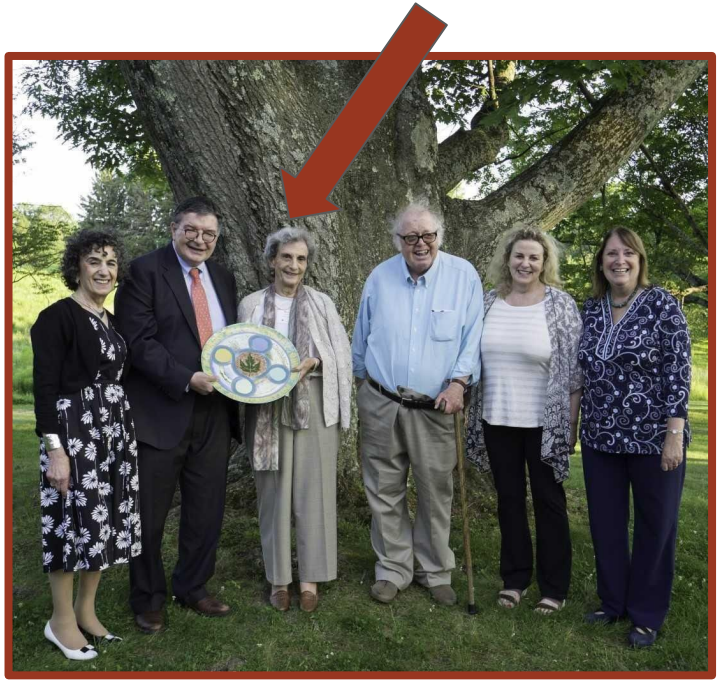
- Local photographer, artist, and outdoor enthusiast
- Longtime supporter of the Abbott Marshlands located in Hamilton Township
- The marshlands organization named an award in her honor
- 30+ years of teaching experience
- Emeritus Professor of Biology at Rider University



Elaine McGrath

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- Joined South Brunswick in 1997 as the new Athletic Director at SBHS
- Oversaw countless GMC and State Championships
- Said one of her early challenges was organizing the size of SBHS athletics (Sentinel 1997)
- Retired in the early 2020s
- Selected to the DAANJ (Director of Athletic Association of New Jersey) Hall of Fame in March 2025 among numerous other awards and honors over her career

Ann McKendrick

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- Born in South Brunswick in 1923
- Owned Ann's Market on Davidsons Mill Road
- Ann worked on her farm all her life
- Sold vegetables and flowers well into her 80s
- Had two pet peacocks
- “It's a lot of work but not if you like what you do” (Sentinel, 2005)

Daphne Powell

South Brunswick PUBLIC LIBRARY
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- Professional Pianist
- Came to Monmouth Junction in 1984 to live in South Brunswick
- Worked with the Friends of the Library for 17 years
- Helped instruct residents who needed help learning English
- Sponsored and adopted her son Zoltan Borbely from Hungary in 1959
- 30+ year career at Mason Gross School of Arts
- Passed in 2005 and was honored through a concert series in her name

Sherry Rubel

South Brunswick PUBLIC LIBRARY
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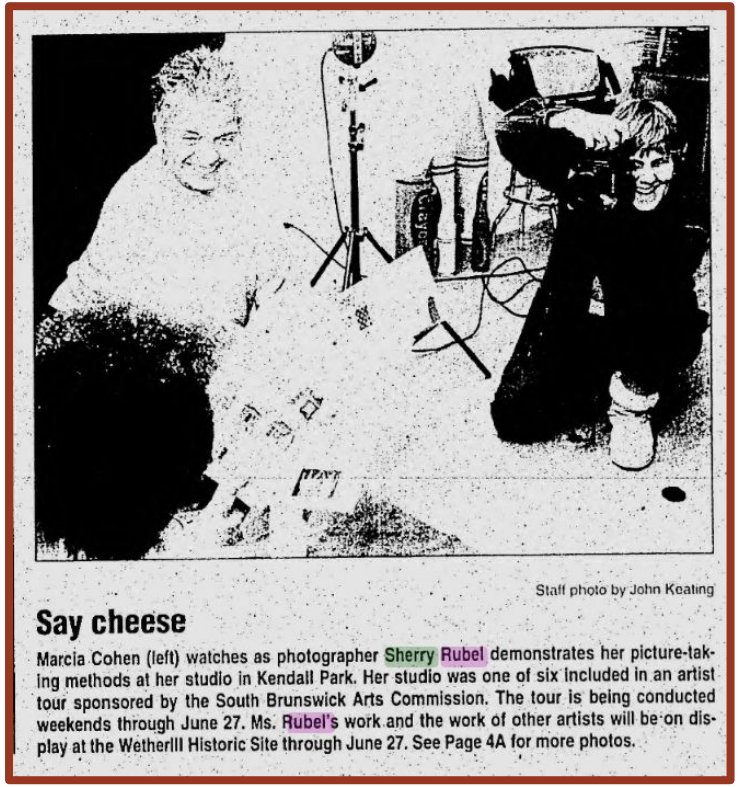
- Kendall Park resident
- Professional photographer who has worked with the South Brunswick Arts Commission as well as a number of other organizations
- Founded the non-profit Revival Village to help support homeless communities in New Jersey
- Recognized for her work “Tent City” which focused on Lakewood, New Jersey



Staff photo by John Keating

Say cheese

Marcia Cohen (left) watches as photographer Sherry Rubel demonstrates her picture-taking methods at her studio in Kendall Park. Her studio was one of six included in an artist tour sponsored by the South Brunswick Arts Commission. The tour is being conducted weekends through June 27. Ms. Rubel's work and the work of other artists will be on display at the Wetherill Historic Site through June 27. See Page 4A for more photos.

Kathy Thorpe

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- Began working in the township in 1973
- Former township clerk who was elected to the Municipal Clerks Educational Foundation in 1997
- Retired to pursue this role after 27 years in the township
- Able to meet with former president Ronald Reagan during his early election campaigns
- Advocate for education relating to clerk positions and obtained numerous advanced titles throughout her career

Staff photo by John Keating
Township Clerk Kathy Thorpe in her office at the municipal building.

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Thank you!
Any questions?