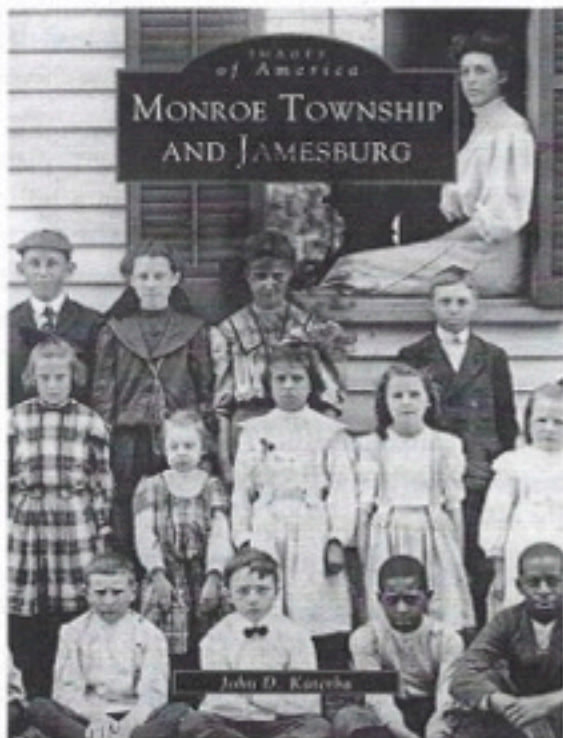


Stonebridge Men's Club

Don Marino

It is hard to believe that spring is almost here and hopefully the cold weather is behind us. This means football is over and baseball season is coming soon. However, as I write this article in early February, the Super Bowl has yet to be played. So for those whose team lost or never made it to the game, better luck next year!

Our first meeting of 2024 featured local historian John Katerba of the Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission. John was an articulate, enthusiastic and humorous presenter who spoke about and displayed many 19th and 20th century photos on the history of Monroe Township. He began by mentioning that Stonebridge was built on part of the Dey farm. His fascinating presentation highlighted numerous notable historic events including an annual ice house beginning in 1905 carved out of an icy Thompson Lake that was held for shipping to the Jersey Shore, Forsgate Airport circa 1930 located at what is now Centre Drive, Continental soldiers in 1778 serving under George Washington sleeping in Monroe the night before the Battle of Monmouth (he slept everywhere!), and James Buckelew, the founder of Jamesburg, who controlled hundreds of acres of cranberries in the area. As John graciously did not want to accept a speaker fee, a contribution was made to the Historical Society by Don Marino on behalf of the Men's Club, (see photo)



John Katerba and Don Marino

Our February 26 meeting featured music and pizza and showcased singer Jerry Spathis performing songs from the early rock'n'roll era. Our March 25 meeting will present Mitch Nathanson with an informative presentation on his book *Jim Bouton—The Life of a Baseball Original*. More on these events will appear in my next article. On April 20 we will have our annual breakfast meeting with guest speaker Bill Gillette presenting a fascinating history on the American Cowboy. Many thanks to Charlie Zeichner and his Activities Committee for engaging entertaining events for our members.

Also, mark August 5 in your calendar for our annual Charity Golf Outing. This year's event will be held at Rossmoor Community Golf Course. Also planned are our annual evening at a minor league baseball game and a day of harness racing. These are just some of the numerous events planned through the end of the year.

For those men who are not members, you are missing out on insightful and entertaining events. Why miss out on the fun evenings with your fellow residents? Anyone interested in joining the Men's Club and participating in our great activities, as well as joining our Board and being a part of putting these programs together, can email me for Board positions at www.stonebridgemensclub.com.

For membership contact Marty Leffler at membership@stonebridgemensclub.com or simply drop off a \$25 check in the Men's Club mailbox at the Clubhouse. All new members will receive a Men's Club T-shirt. For more information about the Men's Club, please visit our website at stonebridgemensclub.com. Watch for our emails on these and future events planned through the end of the year and have a great spring.