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*ROOSEVELT*  
**BOROUGH**



**BULLETIN**

Published by Roosevelt P.T.A.

Vol. VIII, No.3

Roosevelt, New Jersey

Nov.-Dec. 1984

## Cemetery

# *And Bury them Among the Everyday, Indifferent Fields*

by David Keller

From its inception, many aspects of Roosevelt have been matters for heated debate and strong opinions on all sides. The cemetery is a good example, particularly in a time when the issue of church-and-state separation has been so much in the news. We are almost unique among towns in the United States in having a cemetery owned by the town itself. At the same time, death is a major concern of nearly all religions, and there are religious laws which must be taken into account. These two systems sometimes clash with each other, or with the desires of individuals and families. The results form dramas and issues for heated debate or gossip, about the living and the dead, which enlivens our history. The pain of bereaved family members and friends may cause questions concerning the wisdom or legality of various decisions.

The layout of the cemetery results from the town's early ethnic composition. The road completely encircles the Jewish area of the cemetery. On the other side of the road is a

section for "non-sectarian" use and also a private cemetery, which belongs to the local synagogue. Jewish law restricts who may be buried in the Jewish section of the cemetery though one may find several Jewish graves in the non-sectarian section. Some are from preference, some mark one way for both spouses of a mixed marriage to be buried together.

The decisions concerning the location and eligibility for burial are supposed to be made by a committee of the Borough Council, who must be guided by the religious laws that apply, as well as by municipal regulations. Perhaps, after some future disagreement, might there be a law suit to change this arrangement?

The design of the cemetery shows changes over time also, as well as in the social fabric. Originally the Jewish section was to have two alleys dividing it to separate orthodox Jews from non-orthodox. One of these running east-west, is still visible. The other, which shows on the city map of the cemetery

as perpendicular to the first, has been filled in with burials over the years. Now the orthodox and non-orthodox are not separated. Near the top of the hill is an area for infants and children. Many of the graves are identified only as Baby \_\_\_\_\_, a reminder of how frequent death at birth or before children could be named, occurred in the recent past.

Borough ordinances concerning eligibility for burial, monuments and headstones are as follows: Residents at the time of death are eligible, and their spouses, children, as well as former residents with 3 years public service to the town or 25 years residency. The uneasy partnership of secular and religious laws arises at times. Recently someone who may not meet the residency requirements was buried. If true, the town would probably ask to have the body removed. Jewish law allows a body to be disinterred and reburied only within the same locale. In this case the existence of the private, synagogue-owned cemetery may solve the problem, since that area is not limited to town residents, and the town could still maintain its rights by asking for the body's removal.

Early residents who moved away were sometimes given letters to ensure their right to burial in the municipal cemetery. Since Jewish law requires burial as soon as possible after death, it can be difficult to produce witnesses, etc. at the time of death. These letters were seen as a solution the problem at the time.

It is possible to see a lot of our history in the cemetery. Although the Borough ordinances, formulated in the late 1950's, forbid it in the future, there are several small, enclosed

#### STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

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by Inch, layout and paste-up  
Peter Berlinrut..Features  
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Peter Warren..Features  
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news  
THE ENTIRE STAFF..Collation

Editorial policy of the Borough Bulletin is to welcome open expression of ideas and opinions either in the form of articles submitted for publication or Letters to the Editors. All material should be typed, double-spaced with margins of no less than 1 1/2", on standard white typewriter paper. It is requested they be held to 3 double-spaced typewriter pages. The Editors reserve the right to reject any material they deem inappropriate.

sections. One marks the grave of Benjamin Brown, the "guiding spirit" behind Jersey Homesteads. Another enclosed section contains the Drasin family, whose daughter Tamara has a memorial urn. An entertainer during World War II, she was killed in an airplane crash which left singer Jane Froman in a wheelchair (The film of Froman's life, called With a Song in My Heart, starred Jane Wyman, first wife of President Reagan). Tamara's body was not recovered, and the enclosure and its memorial may have been the town's way of remembering her. Later her parents were buried there also.

Still another enclosure contains the Nisnevitz family (also the Bards, related by marriage). Oscar Nisnevitz, the town's first engineer, is memorialized by the factory on Valley Road bearing his name, as well as Oscar Drive. He died in World War II, and it may have been in part for his service that the council deeded the family a separate plot. In the same fashion, Susan Shahn Watts, whose grave is marked by a mosaic, was allowed to be buried.

At about the same time the first Roosevelt citizen was buried in our cemetery, another New Jerseyan wrote a play, part of which takes place in a small-town cemetery. Writing about his creation, Our Town Thornton Wilder called the play an attempt "to find value above all price for the smallest events in our daily life". In our own cemetery it is possible to read such events. If one can read Hebrew there are linkages between families to be found on tombstones. There are interesting oddities--Isidore Sackowitz' red tombstone; several with unusual decorations; a double tombstone; stones which hint at ancient tradition by the

writing set flush on the right side, as if in Hebrew; the beginnings of vandalism by the uncurious young.

There are other cemetery secrets and connections one can learn only from town residents. There are bodies that have been moved, cremations or suicides that have been overlooked. The mayors and borough clerks and council members of the past are buried here among their decisions. 'That was when Irv Flungian was mayor,' one resident might say; 'Wasn't Izzy Sackowitz clerk then?' another asks himself, or 'Was that her brother on the council?'

Even the sites for the graves, sometimes selected by family members, tell stories of how communities operate socially, of the uneasy compromise between religious and secular laws on the hillside, set among the everyday, indifferent fields.

#### 1984 ELECTION RESULTS IN ROOSEVELT

	Dem.	Rep.
Pres./Vice Pres.	295	161
Senate	373	67
Congress	271	161
County Clerk	293	101
Freeholders	289/299	99/93
Borough Council		
Levinson	307	
Seligman	287	
Leefer	240	

There were 17 names written in for council, of whom one individual received 12 votes.

There were 10 votes for minority parties. Of these, the Libertarian Party won 5 for President and 3 for Senator.



## Council News

by Aaron Datz

At the November meeting of the Borough Council it was announced that Mr. Louis Esakoff had resigned (after seven years of service) and that Lee Selden had been appointed in his place. Ms. Seldon was duly sworn in.

During the course of the meeting, it was divulged that the Fire Company, which had flushed hydrants in town periodically for 48 years, as part of their volunteer duties, demanded payment this year. Those firemen who came out for this duty were paid at the rate of \$5.00 per hour.

Sparked by a letter from Joe Solomon, there was a discussion regarding the initiating of charges to the local Synagogue for the water and sewer utilities. John Grauel protested as did Council members Metzger and Leefer. Mayor Hepner stated that the council would re-open the question.

A new substantially increased garbage collection contract for 1985 was approved. The amount, \$28,300 (for one collection a week) is about 33% higher than the current year's cost. The main reason is the increase in landfill costs. This is a continuing problem as landfill sites in New Jersey are continually being closed by the State. The expected start of a recycling program has been delayed because nobody is willing to pick up the town's recyclables because of the lack of volume.

A contract for the replacement of the Empty Box Creek trunk sewer was awarded to Harris Bros. for \$61,676, pending approval of a state loan.

An ordinance was introduced enabling the purchase of a 75'\*200' strip of land for the Farm Lane extension. The amount voted, \$4500, comes from Community Development Block Grant funds. It appears that the owner of the property, Dr. Rebecca Notterman, now wants \$6000 for the property. Because of this, the Borough will initiate condemnation proceedings.

The council gave permission to the mothers of toddlers and infants to use the Borough Hall as a play area on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 1200.

Ed Cedar was appointed chairman of the Parks Commission, replacing Rod Tulloss who resigned.

Marilyn Magnes was appointed to a vacancy on the Zoning Board.

The amendment to the fence ordinance is being sent back to the Planning Board for clarification. The mystery of the changes to the ordinance as submitted to the council remains unsolved.

Mayor Hepner remarked that Congressman Chris Smith still has not replied to any letters or phone calls from her. (See Mayor's Column, September, 1984).



## Neighbors

# Organized Labor of Love

by Adeline Weiner

Introduced to the N.J. Homesteads through the good offices of original settler Morris Chasan, the Levinsons first moved here in 1948. In a recent interview, George Levinson told us something of his busy career in the world outside our suburbia-in-the-potato-fields.

Knowing and avuncular, as well as plain-speaking and authoritative, George suggests a mixture of Walter Cronkite and Edward G. Robinson. At a time when big business is riding high and labor seems to be hiding its head in a pocket, Levinson lists as his fondest achievement his success as a leader of the teacher's union at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, where he is a full professor. "I switched sides and that gave me an advantage", he says, referring to his former position as purchasing agent and personnel director of a multi-million dollar retail clothing chain before he became vice-president in charge of grievances and contract negotiations for the American Federation of Teachers.

He tries not to boast: "No bull, our contract serves as a model for every college in the country." And no wonder: the union has apparently won not only superior financial benefits but is way out front on the matter of governance (involvement of faculty in decisions of tenure, promotion, curriculum and sabbaticals). "The degree of faculty participation we've won in governance of the school is the envy of college unions

everywhere." As grievance chief, "I'm glad to say that I was able to settle 90% of grievances at the informal stage. Only 3 or 4 ever went to formal arbitration." Aside from teaching five different courses, George's academic duties have included a term as President of the Faculty Senate and membership on the Academic Standards Committee.

The Fashion Institute of Technology, George explains, is a large complex of higher education, academic and professional, under the State University of New York (SUNY) system. With 13,000 students and a staff of hundreds, it offers several liberal arts degrees including a four year Bachelor of Fine Arts, as well as a variety of non-degree courses such as textile design, fashion photography, advertising and interior design. Levinson himself has a master's degree in economics from NYU's School of Business, taken at night school when the family lived in Brooklyn.

It was only fifteen years ago when he moved from the Diana Stores Corporation to teach at FIT where he has since received offers of full time work by both the administration and the international union. But, says George, "I was never willing to spend all my time outside the classroom." George glows when he speaks of his students: "I can be down in the blue dumps until I walk into class...it's an electric thing, a charge." He expands on his philosophy: "Sure

there are always a few dead-heads, but I believe that almost every kid can learn. If they fail, I feel responsible." Even as he contemplates retirement (George is 71), he plans to go on teaching, perhaps alternate semesters; "I've never found anything I'd rather retire to."

Future plans also include stepped-up community activity. Since the Levinson family took up permanent residence on Homestead Lane in 1950, George has served an aggregate of 23 years in office: on the Board of Education, the Borough Council, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of which he is the current chairman. This year he promised Clara, his wife, to give up teaching on Wednesday nights, "so now I can serve on the Borough Council again." (Its regular meeting is on that night).

Old friends of George's were recently discussing his protean talents, topmost being his and Clara's gift for hospitality and friendship. "George and Clara have made friendship a religion and entertaining guests an art form". They describe the Levinson's half-acre as a mini-country-club, replete with swimming, gardens, music, games, great food, good talk, much laughter. "George is pretty impressive, you know; he solves the Sunday Times crossword with a pen and never looks anything up. What's more, if he had to, he could make his living as a stand-up comic, he's such a great story teller."

This last quality George himself calls his "ham-iness", transmitted he says, to his son Joel, a working actor, and immensely useful for dealing with anyone from doubting freshmen to the big brass of Academe. If there were awards, moreover, for audience response, friends of

George Levinson would present him the Oscar, hands down. Not only can you identify his booming laugh in any size crowd, but you can bet that he will catch every last joke, even the subtlest. An author or performer can count himself lucky with George in the audience.

Most of us have thought at some time or other that the big guys who run the world are really not so very different from the people we know in every day life. We've seen the same degree of energy and smarts in friends and neighbors as goes into handling important jobs like governor, vice-president of General Motors or US Secretary of State. When this notion comes up in the interview, George answers with a fast "I agree 100%". But then it's clear he isn't thinking of himself at all. "You should meet the president of our local... there's someone who's really got the makings of a great leader." George stops a moment to consider: "On balance, I feel pretty good about my life. In every job I've ever had I've been promoted right up the ladder. I'm lucky; I feel I've had the chance to work up to my full potential, especially as a teacher and union leader. Even better, I get up every day really glad to go to work."





In My View*When I Turn my Head,  
I See the World*

by M.J.Berlinrut

As I sit here at my desk gazing out the window, it is a perfect fall day, sunny, enough chill in the air to excite the blood, puffy white clouds in a pure-blue sky, not a sound except that sort of no-sound of breezes stirring the remaining leaves on the trees. All, it would seem, is right with the world.

WHAT THE TV BRINGS

But the TV brings news from many parts of the world of murder, terror both actual and threatened, scattered small wars that could explode into catastrophe, famine. Behind the noise of gunfire, howling mobs, the crackle of burning timbers, behind the starving babies' whimper, is that pounding we hear the hooves of the Four Horsemen?

This is how I begin to feel after a session of the nightly news. Before it one's equanimity quails, in realization that what we are viewing is not just another terror show. We need to remind ourselves that the mode and meat of TV reporting is the visually dramatic, aided and abetted by the manner of the reporter's delivery.

It doesn't make the rioting and killing in India any the less terrible that, shocking as it was, it was confined to a relatively small group of people or that the area of destruction was limited. For so I heard it, indirectly, from a group of pilgrims returned from Delhi just a few days after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

They had traveled across the northwestern portion of India only a few miles south of the Punjab border (where they could have expected to run into disorders); they stayed a few days in Delhi, left from the airport there. They said, unless one went where the rioting was, one saw none of it; there was no wholesale destruction in the city; services--such as they are--still functioned

TERRORISM, THE THREAD

This was the gist, too, of later articles in the N.Y. Times as the immediate 'excitement' began to die down. But the way the news is reported to us notwithstanding, there is a thread linking events in India, in Northern Ireland, the Middle East, various capitals of the world. That thread is terrorism, the hidden enemy, that can burst out anywhere. It is easy to understand why some people believe the 'civilized' world we live in, work in, raise our children to live on in seems to be coming apart.

Civilization, however, has gone through--and survived--many bad periods. It would take a hardier optimist than I to state categorically we'll survive this one. All the same, I do believe we will. The basis for that belief? History. For none of these events is an arbitrary bolt from the blue. In their coincidence and number they can seem to be tied together, the work of a worldwide conspiracy, or, poetically speaking, warning

strikes of the Fiend that the Day Reckoning is at hand.

#### BUT IT'S ONLY A TOOL

However pleasurable titilating such thoughts may be, let's not entertain them. For there is no one power behind these occurrences, and terrorism is only a tool. Each is a separate event with a history of events that came before it, as they in turn rose out of other events before that.

The assassination of Indira Gandhi was political, the result of her Government's attack on the Golden Temple at Amritsar. That attack was called up by a series of events, the product of long-simmering grievances of the Sikhs, who want a greater part in their own government, a desire that can be traced all the way back to the Moghul emperors.

#### THE SIKHS

The history of the Sikhs as a distinctive 'nation' began in the late 15th century. Reacting against the multitude of gods and rituals and caste system of Brahmanical Hinduism and from the eye-for-an-eye aspect of Islam, the Guru Nanak founded the Sikh religion, taking different elements from the various religions of India, Christianity among them, in an attempt to bring all faiths together. (It is interesting here to note that the Guru following Nanak built the Golden Temple in 1579 on a site granted him by the Moghul emperor whose policy aimed at welding all the creeds of India into one.

That early Sikh religion was monotheistic, quietist, without ritual, against caste--all persons wishing to know God should be free to seek him regardless of their station in life. And like most, if not all, the faiths of India, it

prohibited violence "in thought, word, or deed." Several Gurus down the line, Sikhism took on a military caste (in reaction to the overlordship of the Moghuls?), established a sort of caste system within its ranks, adopted the various symbols of its separatism (the turban, the uncut hair and beard, etc.). Nanak's quietism and vision of a religiously unified India appears to have failed. History, it seems, like weather, advances by alternating waves of climate of thought.

#### VIOLENCE OR NON-VIOLENCE?

All the same the dream lives on in certain present-day sects. And the principle of non-violence remains a tenet of most Indian religions. How to reconcile that with the many violent episodes in Indian history? Is there a broken link somewhere (a 'ghost in the machine' as Arthur Koestler put it) between what the heart/mind holds to be moral and just and the cause-and-effect responses of practical daily life?

Didn't Mohandas Gandhi try to bridge that gap with the program he called Satyagraha--the application of the principle of non-violence to the problems of the industrial and political world? For a time under his leadership it worked.

Then the violent streak broke out again; Gandhi became the victim of that broken link. It's hard to understand how this deep-seated principle that allows cows to wander wherever they will, monkeys to inhabit temples, can so turn upon itself as to kill its leading exponent, powerful by virtue of the principle of non-violence.

#### RELIGION OR POLITICS?

But to try to see the present turmoil in India in terms of



religion would be wrong, according to one interviewee I heard on TV. The attack on the Temple was indeed an affront to the Sikh religion, but the decision to make it was a decision of political necessity: hadn't the Sikhs already violated its holiness by turning the Temple into an armed fortress where the terrorists took refuge within its sacred walls, in the belief the Government would never dare attack? In other words, the religious factor is being exploited to inflame a purely political situation. It would be worth our while, I think, to meditate upon this example of the dangers inherent in confusing religion with politics.

#### AND HOME AGAIN

In our relatively pacific corner of the globe, we have no grounds for panic. The troubles that assail us are mostly manageable, if we make a concerted effort to manage them. Meanwhile, the real world, that is to say the planet, rolls on untroubled by ideology.

We've had our first heavy frosts, a bit of heat in the morning feels good. The migrant birds have gone but for a scattered few; most of the leaves that are going to, have fallen. Go out and rake them up; it will soothe your nerves. The season moves irrevocably toward its day of shortest light, its night of longest dark. But the sun will come back, the days will begin to lengthen imperceptibly within a few days of reaching that nadir. At least it always has. And I believe it will continue to, with us or our descendants here to welcome it, for a long time yet to come.

#### FAMINE RELIEF

John Grauel is collecting donations for relief of the people suffering famine in Ethiopia. The famine affects 10 million people, more than 1 million of whom are children under the age of four.

"The sight of people reduced to eating grass and leaves-if either are within reach-is beyond our experience." N.Y. Times, Nov. 8, 1984.

Please send what you can. Make out checks to "John Grauel", and on the face of the check indicate it is for Ethiopian relief.

## **HAPPY CHANUKAH**



## **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



## Factory

# Industrial Operation Proposed

by Bob Clark

Hood Products, Inc. has proposed a major (by Roosevelt standards) industrial operation for the old factory located at North Valley Road and Oscar Drive. The Freehold-based corporation manufactures and distributes furniture stripping products. After informally presenting its plans for a chemical blending facility to the Borough Council, Hood Products was referred to the Planning Board to seek official approvals.

Hood began the process at the Planning Board's November 7 regular meeting by informally questioning the Board about town concerns and procedures which must be satisfied before the operation can begin. The firm's attorney, Mark Nichter, noted that Hood Products has agreed to purchase the property from its owner, Fran Bard, provided all necessary approvals can be obtained. Other Hood representatives, including its president, Erick Kasner, vice-president, Ron Langere, and expert consultant, W.E. McGakin, provided information and indicated their intention to file a formal application at a future date.

Langere indicated that the proposed factory would employ five people in a "clean" industry. He said that, although flammable liquids are used in the process, the end product is non-flammable. The plant would also repackage spray lacquers in five-gallon cans, according to Langere. He noted that the state department of environmental protection (DEP) had granted a

permit because air quality standards would be met. Langere added that DEP's Division of Water Resources did not have to issue a permit because the process would involve no discharges into the Borough's sewer system. He declared that the factory would have a sprinkler system, an explosion-proof area and a plant manager who is an experienced fire fighter. McGakin praised the process for being "batch-wise," that is, involving no generation of hazardous wastes during manufacture. Nichter indicated that he expected the Board to be concerned about potential odors, noise, spills, sewer system effects, aquifer effects, etc., and claimed that Hood would be able to satisfy those concerns.

Planning Board chairman Ralph Seligman told the Hood representatives that site plan approval would be required. Member Aaron Datz requested a flow sheet detailing the manufacturing process. It was noted that the applicant would have to demonstrate that its operation would meet zoning performance standards to qualify as non-hazardous. It would also have to satisfy relevant building code provisions. The Board indicated that it would seek its own expert advice. Member Allan Mallach said that the developer should be required to escrow funds to pay the Board's expert consultant. Seligman and Mallach said they would contact consulting firms as a prelude to hiring an expert.

## School Board News

by Herb Johnson

Here are some highlights of the fall, 1984, school board meetings: The board secretary resigned; the stenographer reneged on a deal to type the minutes of a board meeting for fifty dollars; the board bought books for a new spelling program for \$1,300; the roof over the library still leaks despite the contractor's return and retarring and now the roof drains are clogged with tar.

It seems there is little the board can do about the inability of the contractor to make his job good enough to keep the roof from leaking. The board's contracted appraisal of the roof's condition shows that moisture has weakened the rafters. Dr. Sussman reported at the second November meeting that he has received completed specifications and has sent them out for bid as the board wanted, for Rollflex type restoration of the defective 25% of the roof.

Back to highlights: The board approved of a teacher's going to Maryland and Washington D.C. to get moon rocks and training from NASA for up to \$200; the borough warned that teachers and parents would be fined for parking on School Lane by the school because such parking is dangerous to children when they leave school. Dr. Sussman reported at the November 15 meeting that he didn't have time in the two weeks since the November 1 meeting to get clarification on the borough ordinances and whether they apply to cars parked on the pavement on school property or "standing".

Newly hired were: Vocal Music Teacher Michael Berger, B.A., at \$3,042; Art Teacher Andrea Sweeney, M.A., at \$3,216;

Learning Disabilities Consultant, Joanne Cohen, M.A., at \$5,559. Ms. Cohen's assignment is for 1 1/2 days per week while the others are for 1 day per week.

Irene Block and David Keller offered to fill Howard Kaufman's term. Ms. Block was selected over Mr. Keller after 20 minute private interviews with each.

The principal reported that he had the covering on the boiler tested and found it was "encapsulated asbestos," which complied with N.J. safety standards. It is the only place asbestos could be found in the school. After Jeb Shahn mentioned that the board had been told that the architect's investigation had revealed absolutely no asbestos, and asked if there might be even more, Dr. Sussman reported that there are two other places, on pipes under the floor, which are also encapsulated. It was also reported that studies by state inspectors have shown no asbestos in any duct or in any place above the basement. The board will continue to study the situation.

The October 4 minutes were approved at the November 15 meeting, three meetings later.

At other meetings this fall five 8th grade students attended for whom Karen Johnson and Dylan Altman presented requests. Teacher Bonnie Strapp made a delightfully educational presentation about what goes on in a week of school for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Tremco roofing representative Kelsey Pegler presented a report and recommendations. The board, however, went for Rollflex.



## Letter To the Editors

Dear Editors:

I was disappointed that the October issue of the paper was printed with so many errors in my story about Eleanor Roosevelt weekend. I was particularly disturbed by the garbling of the second half of the paragraph about the musical part of the Sunday afternoon program. It should have read as follows:

...Laurie Altman and Alan Mallach played the "Sonata for Piano, Four Hands," by Poulenc. Ron Orlando and David Brahinsky accompanied by Laurie Altman sang and played folk songs. Mr. Brahinsky concluded with a song he had written with lyrics by Neil Selden honoring Eleanor Roosevelt.

I'd appreciate your printing this correction in your next issue. Thank you.

Gladys Nadler

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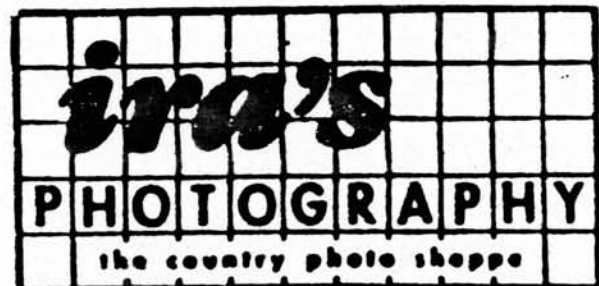
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(609) 443-8959

*References available*

### WATER TEST

A group of private citizens collected samples of Roosevelt water and had them tested by Watertest Corporation, of New Linden, New Hampshire. The water was tested for possible toxicity of many elements and chemicals. In no case were the results outside the limits of what is considered acceptable according to State requirements.

The report is available for individual perusal. Contact Becky Russell, 11 Tamara Drive.



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**ANTOSKY, KARPICK EARN ADVANCED TITLES**

Our Borough Clerk, Patricia Antosky, attended the Clerks' Institute through Rutgers University, which consisted of five courses totalling 100 class hours, and has successfully completed the required program.

She was awarded a certificate and gold pin designating her as a Registered Municipal Clerk in the state of New Jersey at the Clerks' brunch, held November 14, 1984 at the League of Municipalities Convention held in Atlantic City.

Our faithful Borough employee, Thomas Karpick, has successfully completed the required courses totalling 110 class hours and passed the state tests. He now holds each of the following titles required by the Borough: S-2 Sewage Treatment Operator, C-2 Collection System Operator, W-3 Water Supply Operator, and T-2 Water Treatment Operator.

Congratulations, Pat and Tom.

**PART TIME POSITION**

Borough of Roosevelt  
Deputy Clerk  
Please contact Borough Clerk  
Mon.-Fri., 9-2 448-0539  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**PART TIME HELP**

Person needed for lawn mowing, street and road maintenance, trainee for water and sewer plant operation, odd jobs.

If you are interested, contact the Borough Clerk, Borough Hall, Rochdale Ave., Roosevelt, N.J. Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. phone 60.

## Human Relations

### *Groups To Meet*

by Neil Selden

People, young and old, are looking for deep, intimate relationships, supportive, understanding, tolerant relationships, adaptive to the realities of a changing world, relationships that allow them to be themselves, yet nurture their urge and opportunities for self-transformation.

In most of us the split between emotions and conscious thinking begins with a parent's conditional love-- we were not rewarded for being ourselves, we were always urged to "do better" however hard we tried-- and now we find it difficult to trust that we are loved. And the chain is perpetuated when we become parents because we then find it hard to accept our own children unconditionally.

One answer lies in discovering the extent of our own programmed fears, and learning to forgive the imperfections and weaknesses in ourselves and others. We can enter into the transformative process, touch the healthy center in ourselves, know it exists in everyone, however their behavior angers or saddens or disgusts us. Consciousness transforms, forgives, creates and loves.

We hope that all the sharing and helping groups in Roosevelt can become part of one web of compassion, one fellowship where human truth and growth can be fostered, regardless of differences that often seem unbridgeable chasms.

The Problem-Solving Workshop and Leadership Training group

will meet on Monday, December 17, at 7:30pm at 40 Tamara Drive (426-0292), to continue developing individual and group skills for helping ourselves and others in psychological crisis or distress. We try to make this group a place where people can trust that their feelings and attitudes and needs will be received with understanding, respect and honesty. A special theme has been chosen for part of the coming meeting: Personal Experiences of Depression: what it is, how it feels, and possible ways out.

A Youth Group for sharing feelings, attitudes, successes, failures, and mutual respect, will meet on Thursday, December 20 at 7:00pm at 40 Tamara Drive, facilitated by Gloria Hazell, Lee and Neil Selden.

A local chapter of Families Anonymous has been meeting for the past six months every Tuesday at 8:30pm in the Roosevelt synagogue. Families Anonymous is a fellowship of relatives and friends of people involved in the abuse of mind-altering substances or exhibiting related behavioral problems, such as runaways, delinquents, etc. Any concerned person is encouraged to attend meetings. It is a self-help organization based upon an adaptation of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions first formulated by Alcoholics Anonymous.

Group discussions at Families Anonymous are built upon a specific theme, such as:



expectations, anxiety, overprotection, or better communications. As members share their own experiences--successes and failures-- those going through a particular crisis find understanding and emotional support. Attention is focused upon the feelings, attitudes, actions and reactions of family members; not upon trying to change the person involved in the unacceptable behavior. Those wishing more information, please call 443-3014.

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## Love of Words

# Pronouncing English

By Josef G. Solomon

English is supposed to be a very difficult language for foreigners to learn. In addition to the quirks of grammar found in every language (all right: except Esperanto), it is difficult to predict how a word in English is to be pronounced. Learning Spanish was a pleasure in that regard: Words are pronounced as spelled. That is not true in English. For example, how do you pronounce the letter-combination "ough"? That depends, doesn't it? Like "ow" as in "bough"; like "awff" as in "cough"; like "oh" as in "dough"--and that's using only the first three consonants in the alphabet. Admittedly, I picked the worst example I could find. Please note that it was there to be found. Like "uff" as in "rough". Or, for that matter like "oo" as in "through". Come to think of it, how do you pronounce "oo"? As in "boot"? Or as in "book"? Consider the name of the Roosevelt Food Cooperative. Each of the three words in the name has a double-o as its 2nd and 3rd letters; in each, it is pronounced differently. (None is pronounced "differently"; that's for the end of this article.)

As if that were not difficult enough, there are in English some words that you can't pronounce until you know how they are used. Is that true in any other language? (It's true in Hebrew if you leave out vowels--and, except for beginners, the vowels usually are left out.) For example is "entrance" a way into a building? Or is it what I do

to people who hear me tell stories? If it's used as a noun, it's accented on the first syllable; if it's used as a verb, it's accented on the second syllable--and the two meanings are unrelated to each other. Among other such words are "conduct", "object", "present". As far as I know, the world's record for this sort of thing is held by "slough". How is it pronounced? That depends on what it means. A snake sloughs its skin, and it rhymes with "rough". If you get angry at someone, you might slough him, and rhymes with "bough". You may find yourself in a slough of despair, and it rhymes with "through". Is there another word in English that has three pronunciations?

### You Think You've Got Troubles?

To expand on my parenthetical remark about Hebrew, the early translators of the Torah must have had an appallingly difficult time. As noted, there are no vowels in written Hebrew. Also, in the ancient scrolls, there was no space between words. And, just to make it interesting, if a word began with the same letter that ended the preceding word, sometimes the letter was printed only once. The comparison is not very meaningful, because the languages are so different, but try that with some text in English. As an example of what happens in Hebrew, the word written with the consonants that correspond to "dvr" can mean "speak", "he spoke", "word", or "thing".

On the other hand, there is the word "batter". You know how to pronounce it, but what does it mean? I came up with three meanings--right off the bat, so to speak: (1) one who hits with a bat; (2) to hit, eg., with a bat; (3) a thick liquid.

Words with the property discussed above are called homographs. That is, they are spelled the same, but (may be) pronounced differently, and they mean different things. To name a few other homographs: wind, wound, read, lead, sewer. Homographs are one kind of homonym. My article on homonyms, some months back, was actually only on homophones, another kind of homonym. However, "A Homily on Homophones" didn't have the right sound in my ears, and "A Homily on Homonyms" did. I don't know why. For those who like words derived from the Greek: It's a matter of being euphonious--which is what people say to me when I tell them I used to be an English major. (The truth is, I used to be an American corporal.)

### The Double-Letter Tells--Sometimes

One good rule for accenting English words is the double-letter. In general, if you see a double-letter, that syllable is accented. (True so far in this paragraph.) "Accented", for example. In general, but not always: "satellite", for example, or "actually". Do what you want with "bookkeeping".

The anecdote with which to close this column is the one about the foreigner who came to this country in 1943 (the year is important), with the intention of staying, and learning to speak the language like a native.

After a short while here, he announced to his friends that he was giving up and moving away, because he was convinced that he would never be able to learn how to speak English. And what discouraged him? He held up a newspaper ("Variety"?), whose headline read: "'Oklahoma' Pronounced Success".

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Martin Schwartz, D.D.S., P.A.  
Lydia Kernitsky, D.M.D.

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### CORRECTION

In the article, "First Aid honors past members" that appeared in the last Bulletin, Faith Penalver appeared in the list of retired life members. This should have said "Sivvy Gale".

Please excuse our somewhat ragged appearance, the result of our first encounter with a WORD PROCESSOR. We hope you will bear with us as we become better acquainted. Thank you.

--The Editors and Staff



## Senior Citizens

by Helga Wisowaty

In October, Ms. Karen Scott who is affiliated with Freehold Hospital, showed a film concerning the importance of nutrition, exercise, etc, not only to Seniors, but to everyone. We enjoyed the film and her visit.

Our president, Esther Pogrebin, and Sid Weisberger attended a conference at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Princeton. Governor Kean was among the speakers. The doctors and nutritionists present stressed many things particularly important to Seniors. Included were:

1. The quality of life--We are not inclined to get involved.
2. No smoking or drinking.
3. Balanced diets and exercise programs are recommended. Walking is very good for everyone.
4. Nutrition Alert: Fads and fallacies.--Be careful not to eat foods that have spoiled.
5. Prevention of problems is important. Calcium is so important-- especially to those over 40.
6. Follow your doctor's advice.

Other things on the agenda included our holiday dinner on

December 22. We'll see "A Most Happy Fella." We enjoyed the Riverfront last year so we look forward to this trip again.

The SCAT bus will take some members to the nutrition center in Freehold on a Tuesday in November, date to be decided later.

On Sunday November 4 there was a celebration at the Solar Village. Mayor Hepner, David Davies and Mr. Bennett (of Trenton) spoke.

We hope to establish a "Drop-in-center" at the Solar Village soon. It would be very pleasant for us to meet with each other once or twice a week to enjoy companionship, etc.

On November 15 a lavish covered dish luncheon was held in the Solar Village Community Room. Birdie Soifer chaired. It was a great success.

Sid Weisberger will take over Faye Libove's duties now. Faye is at home and attended this meeting looking good!

The importance of supporting the New Jersey Federation of Senior Citizens was stressed again. They have already pushed through many programs and continue to work for us.

Gus Chasan & Rose Grass were our hostesses.

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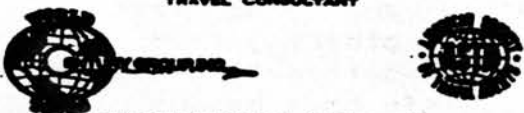
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**Story****A Ritual**

by Gloria Hazell

I peeked in the window and watched them all. Two large, two medium, one small playing with a track of some sort.

'Weird these animals', I thought, "what are they getting out of it?". Their chattering and joyous sounds came to me as I watched in awe. If only I could gain satisfaction and enjoyment from such antics. Oh, I was happy enough, I made joyous sounds sometimes, but only because it was expected of me.

I pulled myself closer to the glass trying desperately to see the secret of their enjoyment and happiness. The smallest one seemed to be getting in the way, but carried on with the chattering nevertheless. The others were getting upset with him it seemed, because they pushed him away, but still he kept up with the joyous sounds.

After a while they stopped

playing and just sat around quietly, others joined them and they began to eat. This seemed to satisfy them because the older ones fell asleep.

Just then Robin arrived beside me and asked what I was doing.

"Only watching these humans in their house," I replied. "They seem to be having a really good time today. I wonder why?"

"Dont you know? It's one of their rituals," he said. "It's called 'Christmas' or something and they tend to stick together today. You pick almost any house and you'll see them congregating together, bit like us when we migrate." he said and flew off into a nearby tree.

I watched the peaceful scene for a few seconds more, then flapped my wings, gave a quick whistle and flew off to join him!

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2. Elected to office and served in that office for a period of at least three (3) years.
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