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ROOSEVELT
BOROUGH



BULLETIN

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Issues and Debate

On 'Setting Precedents'

by Peter Berlinrut

The Issue

Principles are necessary to human communities. They bring whatever order and justice rules life and prevents chaos. That is why so much argument goes into the choice of what principles we should live and be guided by. One such principle which has stood up well to the test of time is that of 'setting a precedent.'

Derived from English common law (which is the source of our system of laws) it actually goes back to earliest man; it just couldn't be more bedrock simple if a community says something is right or wrong for you, it has to apply the same rule for me. It is wrong for you to drive on the left side of the road in this country; it is also wrong for me. And if it is illegal to be married to two mates at the same time for you, it has to be the same for me and everybody else. Hence the great caution about setting a precedent: if a community rules one way for A, it has to do the same for B, C, and D.

The difficulty arises in the possibility that something

that A wants to do carries no harm or ill consequences to the community but if B, C, D, and everybody else does it, it would be quite objectionable. For example, if Mrs. Cadwallader, lacking a laundry dryer, hung out her wash on a line strung up on her front lawn, we might think her charmingly eccentric and let it go at that. But if everybody else fell into that habit, it might become quite unsightly. And we might decide to pass an ordinance against it. In short, we can't let someone do something questionable on the possibility that if everyone else did it, it would be objectionable and contrary to the interests of the community.

So far, so good. The danger of setting a precedent by ruling in a certain way in a given situation, is a real one. Intelligent people are fully alerted to it. The trouble arises when people invoke the principle where it doesn't apply. Or, putting it more conservatively, where the chances of its applying are mathematically close to negligible. I have served in

numerous social offices of one sort or another and if I have heard that principle invoked irrelevantly once, I have heard it a thousand times. Often comes that moment in a discussion of how to rule a given situation when someone brightly speaks up, "Oh, we may be creating a dangerous precedent!" There is that error of invoking a good principle in the wrong time and place and thereby making it a bad principle. Which is detrimental to justice.

Where and what then is the fallacy? The fallacy is in the fact that we're not creating any precedent when we rule in a situation that isn't likely to recur. Or, putting it more exactly, a situation that has certain features of a highly specific nature, making it only one of its kind.

I am going to cite two examples of that in Roosevelt history. I want to avoid any unnecessary controversy so I emphasize one thing: I cite these instances not to argue that the decisions were wrong or unwise (that is still debatable) but only that the principle of 'setting a precedent' didn't apply and was almost entirely irrelevant.

Some years ago, a man who was then a resident, applied for a variance from our zoning rule that any new houses had to be at least twenty-five feet from their side boundaries. This man owned a lot on which he proposed to build a house that would be only thirteen feet from one of his side boundaries but fully twenty-five feet from the other. He had good reasons for his wish which I won't take the time or space to set forth here.

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Arthur Shapiro...Minutes Ago
Elly Shapiro...Features
Joe Solomon...Love of Words
Peter Warren...Features
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Helga Wisowaty...Senior News
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Entire Staff...Collating

The policy of the Bulletin is open expression of ideas and opinions. The authors have sole responsibility for content. The Bulletin is open to discussion, disagreement and commentary through letters to the Editor, or interested persons may submit articles to be considered for publication.

THE ROOSEVELT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Announces that "tot finder" and "Invalid finder" window stickers, as well as home fire safety check lists, are available at the Borough Hall

The unique feature of his lot was that it abutted common land on the side for which he wanted a variance. (The land behind his lot was also common land). It was a lot that was one of a kind; the variance would not have affected any neighbor nor the appearance of the street nor any imaginable interest of the town.

I was then Building Inspector and I recommended that the variance be granted. The man would have his wish based on a real need, nobody and nothing would be a loser, so why not? My recommendation went unheeded.

Sure enough, in the course of the deliberations someone came out with the honorific cliché, "we may be creating a dangerous precedent"! I sat there, asking myself, a precedent for what? I had no special brief for the man and if anyone had advanced reasonable arguments for denying the variance, I would have been persuaded. But to have recourse to a principle that didn't apply!!

Now the second instance: it happened more recently when a resident appeared before the Planning Board wanting site approval for a storage shed. The difficulty was that it was not on his land. It sat within his lateral boundaries but was beyond the rear border, on common land. He had come across it, found it in dilapidated condition, restored it and now wanted his use of it legalized.

It was a curious phenomenon. I couldn't recall any similar one in the thirty-one years I have lived in Roosevelt and I couldn't imagine any such occurring in the future. Since the man had invested himself and his labor in restoring the shed, I moved that permission

be given him to use the shed for the duration of his ownership of the property, but that it be removed when he sold it or upon his demise.

I was voted down by all my colleagues. Let me state plainly, I am not questioning their decision or suggesting I was right. I believe our first obligation was to do generous justice to this situation, not worrying about legalistic technicalities.

Justice has to come first; the legal mechanisms that express it have to follow, not vice-versa. But that isn't the real point here. The point I want to bring out is that at one fateful moment in our deliberations, sure enough, someone said, "We mustn't permit this, we don't want to create a bad precedent!"

Again I was stopped dead in my mental tracks and led to ask in wonder, what bad precedent? For what and in what way? This situation had never occurred before in the history of the town and was unlikely to recur. Wasn't it our duty therefore to administer the most intelligent and generous justice we could on the merits and issues of the situation, taking into consideration the interests of the town and its future, the neighbors and the man involved and whatever else might be relevant? Isn't that what makes a community human and gives it added cohesiveness?

A PARABLE

Let me conclude with a little parable I am inventing for the occasion which I hope will clinch my point. I was once walking up Oscar Drive and wandered off into the woods and came across the most sensational and wierdest thing I ever

saw: a two-headed dog lying on the ground, evidently badly spent and hungry. His eyes rolled imploringly at me and I couldn't resist: I coaxed him to follow me home where I gave him some cat food and water which he lapped up with both mouths rapidly indeed, considering his depleted state. In fact, he was on his third dish when my neighbor, a thoughtful and cautious man came up and studied the scene. Finally he said, "Berlinrut, I hope you know what you're doing, feeding that poor dog. You're creating a bad precedent. You'll probably soon have every two-headed dog in town begging for food at your door."

Let us never set bad precedents.

VOTE NOV. 6



Art Fair

This year, as in years past, the Annual Roosevelt Art and Craft Fair will take place the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On November 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. artists and artisans will display their talents in the school gym. Several local artists will also have their studios open and will share a percentage of their sales with the First Aid Squad.

A tempting variety of food will again be available so plan to have lunch and snack while at the fair.

A donation of \$1.00 per person will be collected at the door (Senior Citizens, \$.50). Children under 12 are admitted free and must be accompanied by an adult. Supervised activities will be provided for the children and should hold their interest while parents browse.

Community response to this endeavor is tremendous. We appreciate the donations of baked goods and the help given by so many townspeople. Please call any squad member if you would like to assist us again this year.

(Editor's Note: The Art Fair is sponsored and managed by the Roosevelt First Aid Squad.)

Weekend with Eleanor Roosevelt

by Gladys Nadler

In this town that was born in 1936 as the only triple cooperative community in the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, who would have been 100 years old October 11th, lives on. It was here that she made one of her last public appearances when she spoke at a memorial meeting for her husband when the head of Franklin Delano Roosevelt was unveiled in 1962, the year she died. It is here that local old-timers recall the support and inspiration she gave to make possible the building of this town by the New Deal government.

The spirit of "the first lady of the world" pervaded Eleanor Roosevelt weekend October 13 and 14 in local events at the school that showed the connection between this great woman's life and the history of the town of Roosevelt.

At the meeting Sunday that climaxed borough activities commemorating Eleanor Roosevelt's 100th birthday, 225 people heard Bernarda Shahn describe the first lady as a guiding spirit in the founding of this and similar towns under the New Deal government's resettlement program.

In the school library, a collection of Eleanor Roosevelt memorabilia culled by Evelyn Datz depicted in photographs and newspaper clippings Mrs. Roosevelt's activities in providing decent housing, in the veterans' bonus march, in combating hunger, and in promoting rights in the United Nations. Items describing the history of the town of Roosevelt that included Mrs. Roosevelt's personal appearances here gave the exhibit a special local pertinence.

Even square-dancing, a favorite pastime of Mrs. Roosevelt, was included when, on Saturday night, more than a hundred people came to swing their partners as directed by caller Steve Schnur and "Hold the Mustard," consisting of Dan Beerbohm, clarinet and tin whistle player; Barbara Greenberg, fiddle, Paul Prestopino, banjo and guitar; and Eric Scott, piano.

Introducing the program and speakers Sunday afternoon, Mayor Freda Hepner announced that the Mayor and Borough Council had declared this Eleanor Roosevelt Weekend and had sponsored the activities. Weekend events were planned and implemented by many volunteers (see list of names elsewhere in this issue.) and coordinated jointly by Mrs. Shahn and Marilyn Magnes.

In a simple, moving ceremony, Ms. Magnes presented four plaques to original town settlers who still live here: Gus and Morris Chasan. Rose Lachman (accepted for her by her daughter, Edith Ernstein), Fay and Leo Libove, and Sylvia Nadler. The plaque was a frieze depicting Mrs. Roosevelt's head in profile and carved by Jonathan Shahn, sculptor.

Recalling how she and her husband Ben first met Mrs. Roosevelt when they went to Washington to participate in a New Deal program that

enabled artists, writers, and musicians to work during the depression, Mrs. Shahn stressed the first lady's dedication to projects to alleviate living conditions during that period.

"The effect that she had on people -it remade their lives for them." she said.

Speaking of how later, after the death of Franklin, Eleanor, representing the United States in the United Nations, strove to push through the Declaration of Human Rights, Mrs. Shahn called on the audience to "dedicate ourselves to an ideal what was so dear to her, human rights" in her honor.

Juliana Roosevelt, great granddaughter of Eleanor and Franklin and national surrogate for the Mondale Ferraro campaign, said she felt saddened by a recent trip to Pennsylvania, where she saw unemployment, soup kitchens, even breadlines, the same as Eleanor Roosevelt saw in her time.: She said that her great grandmother had told her that the most important thing she could do in her life was "to touch other lives." She told how people shared stories that revealed their feeling that the time they spent with Eleanor was "the moment when they were the most important people in the world." In closing, Ms. Roosevelt said that the best way for the audience to honor the memory of her great-grandparents would be to vote in the coming election "and give them the kind of victory they would have liked."

Lois Smith, actress, recreated the personality and even the high-pitched voice of Eleanor Roosevelt in readings from her autobiographical writings collected and organized by Leslie Weiner.

Joan Wright, director of the New Jersey Division on Women, praised

Mrs. Roosevelt as a woman ahead of her time who championed the participation of women in government, She announced that in recognition of Eleanor's hundredth birthday, Governor Kean had signed a proclamation declaring October 11, 1984 Eleanor Roosevelt Day.

In her talk, Ernestine Bradley, professor comparative literature at Montclair State College, and wife of Senator Bill Bradley, commented that long before the ERA campaign, Mrs. Roosevelt demanded equal pay for equal work "I think our generation has it easier because of her. We can look at her as a role model. She was an independent woman without appearing harsh or fierce," Mrs. Bradley said.

Commenting about Mrs. Roosevelt's humanitarian spirit, she added that the next president will appoint four or five supreme court judges, and urged voters to "send to the White House a president who will appoint judges in this spirit."

Throughout the program, speeches were interspersed with musical selections. The Roosevelt Chorus, directed by Laurie Altman and accompanied by Alan Mallach at the piano, sang madrigals by Morley, di Lasso Purcell, and Vecchi. Laurie Altman sang and played folk songs, Mr. Brahinsky concluded with a song he had written with lyrics by Neil Selden, honoring Eleanor Roosevelt.

After the meeting, the planning committee entertained the speakers with a wine and cheese party at the home of Aaron and Evelyn Datz.

Besides co-ordinators Marilyn Magnes and Bernarda Shahn, the planning committee for Eleanor Roosevelt weekend included Adeline Weiner, in charge of the program; Evelyn Datz, exhibition of memorabilia; Ann Baker, publicity, Frieda Anish, refreshments; Carol Zaliski and Felipe Unger, decorations; Carol Watchler, council liaison; Jonathan Shahn, art; and Laurie Altman, music.

During an interview, Ms. Magnes said that the proceeds from the sale of Jonathan Shahn's drawing of Eleanor Roosevelt will cover the cost of weekend activities in excess of the \$500 contributed by the Mayor and Borough Council. Any money that remains after expenses are paid will be set aside for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the town of Roosevelt two years from now, she said, revealing that the committee plans to commission Jonathan Shan to carve a bust of Eleanor Roosevelt for the town for that occasion.

Asked about her personal reasons for participating in planning the weekend events, Ms. Magnes spoke of having grown up seeing Mrs. Roosevelt as a woman leader with humanitarian ideals.

"Her life was a model for many of us who grew up in those years. I saw her as a leader at a time when we didn't see many women in the national and international arena. Her participation played a part in my own development," she said.

First Aid Honors Past Members

On September 23, the First Aid Squad let somebody else do the catering for a change. The occasion was the Instalment and Recognition Dinner.

Our first task was to swear in the new officers:

President: Alana Porter
 Vice President: Bill Counterman
 Secretary: Steve Scalph
 Treasurer: Harold Melvin
 Captain: Elizabeth Johnson
 First Lt.: Helen Barth
 Second Lt.: Jessie Norris
 Training Officer: June Counterman

Our second task and the prime reason for the dinner was to honor past and present members who have "been there" when needed. The following received certificates of appreciation and nameplates to indicate their honored position on the squad:

Bill Counterman and Harold Melvin: Life Members. Marvin Block, Mollie Bulkin, Joe Drapola, Alan and Selma Oblas, Faith Penalver, Nat Richter, and Jack Yudin: Retired Life Members. Richard Goldstein: Honorary Life Member.

The dinner was catered by the Handicapped Children's Committee of the Hightstown Elks who did and do an excellent job. Our Thanks go to them and especially to the Elks kitchen staff and waitresses who helped make the evening such an enjoyable one.

The squad would also like to take this opportunity to thank all past squad members who, along with those mentioned above, enable the squad to be what it is today.

Council News***Mystery Enlivens Mild Session***

By: Aaron Datz

A proposed modification to the Borough's fence ordinance enlivened an otherwise mild council meeting, which was faced with a minor mystery. Just as the Council appeared ready to pass the new ordinance, Bob Clark and Mel Friedman objected, stating that the ordinance submitted to the Council by the Planning Board was not the same as the one the Council was about to enact. A puzzled Mayor Freda Hepner averred that the copy of the ordinance was given to her by Friedman himself (Vice-Chair of the Planning Board); that it was the only one she knew of, and that no changes had been made by her or by the Council. As of this writing, the mystery remains unsolved.

Lou Essakoff stated that the program of recycling of paper, etc. had hit a snag because there has been difficulty in tying down a contractor. The ordinance was passed with the starting date left off.

There was some discussion regarding the disposition of the oral history and other town memorabilia. A decision as to whether Rutgers University should be allowed to establish an archive or to insist that it all remain in Roosevelt was put off for some time, pending further discussion.

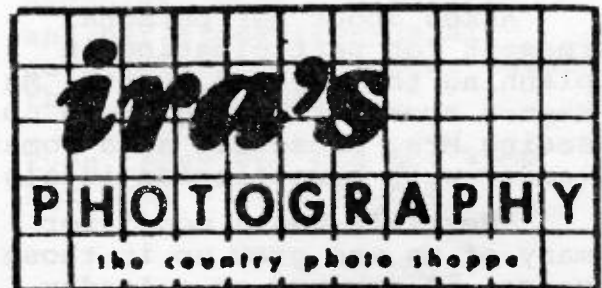
OTHER ITEMS: The Council increased subdivision review fees; approved a contract for snow removal; and established a requirement for an affidavit establishing cemetery eligibility and set penalties for non-compliance with the rules.

Harold Haught, as the new building inspector, was appointed to the Planning Board, replacing Peter Berlinrut.

Carolyn Trevolise was appointed as an additional assistant tax assessor.

There was a complaint from Ellen Martin regarding dumping off Oser Drive. The Mayor will investigate.

All votes taken by the Council were unanimous, proof of the mildness of the session.



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From the Mayor

We Vote Our Pocketbooks

It is an old saw that we Americans vote our pocketbooks. I guess this means that despite the realities of nuclear war, a huge federal budget deficit and a host of untended human and environmental needs, we will elect the candidate for president who offers immediate personal economic gratification. Somehow, I feel offended by that assumption. I think I'm a more intelligent voter than that. In fact, I think most people I know take a more long range view and search for candidates who offer realistic proposals for the future as well as practical mature solutions to present problems.

However, even if we are going to vote our pocketbooks, let's look at how our pocketbooks are being affected by this administration. It is not news to anyone that Roosevelt is a small village in an era that glorifies buzz words like "growth" and "development". It is not even news that we struggle to maintain our borough and its facilities in a fiscally responsible manner. What may be new to some people is that we are not truly isolated and unaffected by what "big" government does.

For example; the present administration in Washington has a commitment to block grant funding. This means that federal funding for a variety of programs is filtered through states, and in New Jersey that means through counties, as well. Therefore, three levels of bureaucratic paper work and salaries have been paid for before any money is realized for actual work on sewers and roads and water

systems. Not only is this incredibly costly, but the opportunities for political skullduggery are also triplicated. Think about the dollars lost by our borough and how that affects your local taxes.

Another example is in the Environmental Protection Agency. The media have reported the scandals of Ms. Anne Burford and Co., but how does that affect our pocketbooks? Well, the State wants to clean up toxic waste dumps, but the federal government has not supported the effort. In Roosevelt, our garbage collection fees doubled last year, but we still are subject to the same environmental dangers as we were a year ago. The toxic dumps have not been closed or cleaned and we do not yet know what next year's garbage costs will be.

Reliable reports indicate our educational systems need a great deal of improvement. However, aid for schools is cut at the same time that regulations for upgrading programs are passed. Again, our pocketbooks in Roosevelt are hit; most of our local tax dollars support our school.

It's true that we received home-owners rebates from the state. In no way did this pay for increased costs in local taxes. In no way did the small reductions most of us received in federal income taxes, compensate for our decreased services in education, medical facilities, library services, and a host of other human needs.

Rooseveltians are traditionally voters. Our Borough Clerk told me that we have had

a record number of new voter registrations this year. We know that we want to use our ballots carefully and thoughtfully. We will look at our pocketbooks and look at each of the candidates' pledges. We will look at party platforms and the philosophies they espouse. We will make decisions based on all the factors that we know will affect our future and the future of our children. That will be how we vote our pocketbooks!!!

- Freda Hepner

Don't Forget to VOTE!

R.P.S. STUDENTS STUDY THE LIFE OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

On Friday, October 12, the students at Roosevelt Public School in grades 1-8 spent a full day studying the life of Eleanor Roosevelt in honor of her 100th birthday. A video tape presentation of Mrs. Roosevelt's life sparked many lively discussions. The pupils in grades 3-8 viewed the tape which showed actual photographs of Mrs. Roosevelt as it presented her biography.

Many pupils expressed great interest in her childhood. The many problems she faced served as a springboard for discussion. After viewing several of the discussions, Dr. Sussman stated, "This film enabled the children to identify personally with Mrs. Roosevelt. They felt a closeness to her as a child. Many of her trials and tribulations have taken place either in their homes or in the homes of children they know. As a result, she became more than just a name.



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RASPBERRIES

By: Mary Jane Berlinrut

So many people have asked me how to handle raspberry plants, I thought a word here might be in order. My plants are an everbearing variety, Heritage, which means they have two crops, the first in early summer starting shortly after the end of the strawberry season, and a second in fall starting about mid-September. In my experience the fall one is heavier, the berries bigger and more flavorsome, but I'll allow subjectivity may tinge this estimate, since this late efflorescence, as it were, comes along when everything else is ending, or already finished.

Still, the evidence is that I began picking about September 15; at first there was only a cup or so every other day, but by the end of the month, the berries were ripening so fast we had more than enough for two good servings every night and some over to share with friends. And, on October 2nd, I had enough to make jam again--I'd made one batch in July--which takes 3 quarts, if you remove the seeds (2 quarts if you don't). That's luxury in my book!

And to have all this is so easy. All raspberries seem to require is humusy, well-drained soil and plenty of

moisture. My patch is along one side of my vegetable garden where they get the advantage of my sprinkler system for most of the season. The only time it's necessary to water them specially is during a dry spell in Fall. If they don't get enough then, the berries are apt to fall apart when you touch them and the canes will be so brittle, the heavy fruiting ends may break off if you handle them too roughly when picking.

A small hazard in this late picking: with so few other pollen-bearing blossoms opening at the time, the raspberries are apt to be full of bees. The bees, however, are generally intent on their pollen gathering and I can report that though I've disturbed many a grazing bee, I've never been stung. The only insect I've ever been assaulted by in the raspberry patch was a preying mantis that mistook my fingers for an approaching dinner. But discovering its error, it quickly folded its arms on its chest to remain there glaring at me fixedly and evilly as I continued picking. Japanese beetles are supposed to be a problem in the raspberry patch, but for reasons unknown there have never been many in mine.

But, back to their culture. The biggest chore with rasp-

berries is pruning and that's no big deal at all. Young plants set out in the spring will probably not bear at all the first summer--some people remove any blossoms that form so they can't. They should, however, have at least a small crop the first fall. By the end of that first season, they will have produced sturdy canes, either erect or drooping under the weight of the fruit borne at their ends. These I cut back, in late winter or early spring, about half way.

The next spring new shoots will come out from the leaf axils of the shortened canes, and these will bear fruit in July. At the same time, new canes will have been coming up from the roots; these, as with the first new plants, will be the ones that bear in September, to be cut back afterwards for spring fruiting. One can actually do the pruning any time after the growing season is over but I tend to think about it till the days are beginning to grow longer again and a hint of spring calls me out. It's easier to see what you're doing then, as well, because those canes that have borne twice will probably have died back altogether and can be spotted more quickly. These should now be cut down right to the ground. Those which fruited for the first time in the fall--usually long, scraggly ones--should then be cut to about 3 feet, or whatever height is convenient for you. This is all you have to do, but for good measure I usually scratch in some bone meal after the spring clean-up and spread compost or composted manure over that.

And so it goes; each year you cut out those canes that have borne twice while your patch

will be continuously replenished with new plants from the original roots. However, these roots themselves spread by underground runners and you will in time have a considerably larger raspberry patch than you bargained for. My original 12 or 18 plants have become a thick hedge about twenty-five feet long with new plants coming up all over the place, in the grass, among the vegetables. These new plants make great gifts for garden-minded friends.

There's a problem, though, in finding people ready to take them at the time you're inspired to dig them out. Many a time I've had them dug and waiting, under obligation to keep them in good condition till they're out of my hands, only to have the donees fail to show. So now I just dig them up when it's convenient for me and dispose of them as noxious weeds. (Incidentally, should any of you out there like a few roots, call me come spring. I'll be glad to give you some, if you will pick them up when they are dug.) A final word, therefore, is: put your patch somewhere where its incursions won't be troublesome.

So Fall comes on apace. The signs are all there, despite the mild period we're presently enjoying. First geese went racketting over on October 2nd, a murky chilly day with lots of fast-moving dark clouds piling in from the North. This single advance squadron was followed the next couple of days by several scattered ones and on the 6th, I noted in my journal: many flights all day today, including a couple after dark... this must be D-Day.

Fall color deepens too. Sumac, virginia creeper, and

poison ivy flame along the woods' and roads' edges, over fences, up trees and telephone poles. The big maple outside my window which started to turn at its twig-tips a couple of weeks ago is by now a towering tongue of bronzy-gold. To stand outside beneath it is to be bathed in a shower of golden light.

But don't just stand there! There's much to be done--get those bulbs in; pull out the spent stalks of annuals and vegetables; cut back the perennials that are finished; gather up and clean the scattered tools, while the weather is fine and you can do it at your leisure. Don't let yourself be fooled into thinking there's plenty of time. For if you let it go till the last minute, some of it won't get done and there'll be that much more to do in spring when time does press.

MARRIAGE NOTE

Chava Beinlin and Yeshaya Gelrod were married October 14 in Eugene, Ore. Chava is the daughter of David and Dottie Beinlin of Roosevelt. She will receive her masters degree in landscape architecture in February. Yeshaya expects to complete his studies in law at the University of Oregon in May 1985.

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


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NEED HELP TO VOTE?

If you need transportation to the Borough Hall on November 6 to cast your ballot, or if you would like someone to sit with your small children while you vote, call Ellie Bermowitz, 448-2856.





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Self Help

A Place Where It's Okay to be Hurting

By Lee and Neil Selden

A problem-solving workshop in human relations, as well as group-leader training, will be open to all on Monday, November 5th 7:30 PM at 40 Tamara Drive, the home of Lee and Neil Selden

"In open questioning and honest struggle to face reality, it is likely that a sense of community will develop--community based not on a common creed nor on unchanging ritual, but on the personal ties of individuals who have become deeply related to one another as they attempt to comprehend and to face, as living human beings, the mysteries of existence."

Carl Rogers

I had always known that at last I would take this road, but yesterday I did not know it would be today.

A person is responsible for his actions and not his feelings. A feeling is a biological reaction of the body, beyond the dictates of the age. The ego's role is to perceive feeling, not to judge or control it. What is within control is action. A healthy person is able to contain his feelings until an appropriate occasion arises for their expression. This produces responsible behavior."

Alexander Lowen

We are here because there is no refuge, finally, from ourselves. Until a person confronts himself in the eyes and hearts of others, he is running. Until he suffers them to share his secrets, he has no safety from them. Where else but in our common ground can we find such a mirror? Here, together, a person can at last appear clearly to himself: not as the giant of his dreams, nor the dwarf of his fears, but as a human being; part of the whole with a share in its purposes, alive in ourselves and others.

"Let us assume for the purpose of discussion that it is possible to eliminate every defensive

position in the personality. How would a healthy person function?.....All impulses would flow from the heart, which is to say that the person would put his heart into everything he does. This means he loves doing whatever he does, whether it is work, play or sex. He would also respond emotionally in all situations: his responses would always have a feeling base. He could be angry, sad, frightened or joyful depending on the situation. These feelings would represent genuine responses since they would be free from contamination by suppressed emotions stemming from childhood experiences. And since his muscular layer would be free from chronic tensions, his actions and movement would be graceful and effective. On the one hand, they would reflect his feelings, and on the other, they would be subject to the control of his ego, thus appropriate and coordinated. The basic quality of the person would be one of ease as opposed to dis-ease; his basic mood would be one of well-being. He would be joyful or sorrowful as circumstances dictated, but in all his responses he would be a healthy person."

Alexander Lowen

"Pain, if properly attended to, answers our most crucial questions, even those we did not consciously frame. Pain avoidance, or even failure to recognize its purpose, separates us from health, intuition and the dynamic change inherent in growth."

Ward.

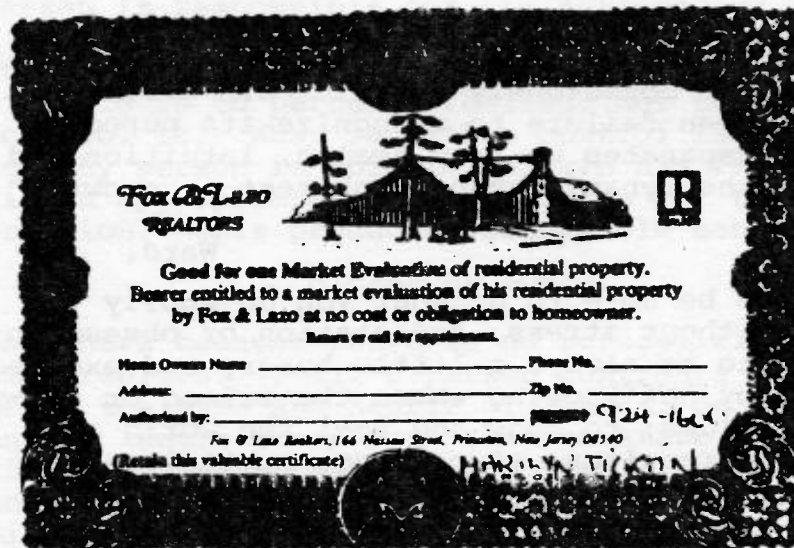
To be able to do what you do wholly yet without stress, expectation or obsession: to be always a little hungry and excited by not knowing where the friend or enemy bides; to know and feel the world as miraculous, stupendous, mysterious, unfathomable.

The aim of our Human Relations Self-Help Network is to develop a core of people interested in helping each other (and our community) grow in the ability to live responsibly, to give love and feel the giving, to love and feel the love one receives, and feel self-worth; and to use ourselves as agents of change and support for individuals in crisis or those undergoing difficult phases of life.

We try to provide a setting where long-suppressed good and bad feelings are encouraged to find responsible outlets, instead of warping our relationships with others. We train ourselves to help each other with our emotional problems and to seek help in constructive ways from friends and family. We allow others to experience us as real people with real problems and real weaknesses as well as strengths and accomplishments.

Each of us must find his/her own internal authority and to do this we must dare to see ourselves as others see us. But we are not here to act out our hostilities on each other in the name of honest confrontation. We are here to help one another learn more about ourselves, to discover more existential attitudes, to practice new and liberating behaviors, and to use our growing awareness and sensitivity for the improvement of our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

Responsible concern is a key to this kind of help we strive toward. Responsible concern does not mean mere sympathy. It means caring enough about someone to find a way to help him toward happiness and growth. It means direct and honest confrontation. It means respecting others enough not to let them hide from themselves. People--including children-- are stronger than we think; they don't fall apart when encountering the truth; more than likely they start putting themselves together, if they know we care and will go on caring.




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Neighbors

Time to Reap and Time to Sow

A secret measure of success in life may well be the number of hours spent in sleep. Those of us who need a full night's measure had better face the awful truth: we may never really make it. Mel Friedman is of the nocturnal breed who is up at two or three AM doing good and useful things like radio-hamming, computer-tinkering, and book-case building. This tireless do-er-without-sleep is also a dedicated jogger, which, right there, adds up to enough activity for any three all-night sleepers.

But Mel has also, at 43, managed to become chief executive officer, for the last three years, of a large institution in the NJ Department of Human Services, the Veteran's Memorial Home in Menlo Park. He describes his job as administering a mini-society of 388 patients, 402 staff (including five full time physicians and 200 nurses) countless tradespeople, six unions and a budget of seven-and-a-half million dollars.

A Roosevelt boy, bred and buttered, Mel made a rapid ascent from high-school teacher to Director of Education in the Johnstone Training Center in Bordentown to his present post, achieving along the way, both Masters and Doctoral degrees. He feels that he interested his superiors chiefly because of his specialization and contribution in the field of labor relations.

As head of the Veteran's Home, Mel has concentrated on building a competent staff whose members he encourages to make independent decisions. He's proud that the beeper he wears (operative in three states) rarely buzzes these days in contrast to the frequent calls he received early on. The current patient population of veterans, all of whom enter as permanent residents, tends to consist more and more of World War II personnel, including spouses and even a few Gold Star Mothers. (There are 18 unsegregated families in residence). A favorite project is an innovative program of treatment for 38 Alzheimer Disease victims who are to be kept as restraint-free as possible. It is now Administrator Friedman who sighs as he explains how difficult it is to arrange firm but gentle controls for these confused, erratic patients.

What personally interests Mel Friedman, the professional, is, yes, the running of an efficient facility, but also the principles of organization that are best applied to enterprises of this sort. Superior productivity, he believes, requires high levels of morale and even idealism. These can be won only through active participation of all parties concerned. He is an advocate of a theory of "integration" whereby groups in contention can achieve such a meeting of minds

chat will ultimately lead to optimal gains and compromises for everyone. This process he says, ruefully, has worked for all but one recalcitrant union.

Regarding community activity, Mel says he prefers to keep a "low profile" as he goes about his share of community chores. There are years of service behind him, in positions of leadership on the School Board, in the Synagogue, on the Planning Board (of which he has been Chair for two years) and not least, as he says, in the Pine Valley Swim Club. Clearly, Mel has time enough and more for all his interests, large and small, since he is one of the lucky ones who sleep little and do much.

By Adeline Weiner

- BRESSLER APPOINTED -

Rosalind L. Bressler, wife of Martin Bressler, who grew up in Roosevelt, and daughter-in-law of Morris and the late Masha Bressler, early settlers in Roosevelt, has been appointed by Newark Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson as Corporation Council.

She has been Assistant Corporation Counsel since 1975, has worked with Newark's Central Planning Board, the municipal Council and the office of the Business Administrator. She has acted as Legal Advisor to the City on matters relating to the Newark Board of Education, the Human Rights Commission, the Affirmative Action Review Council and other city authorities.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Molly Fay, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, was born on Saturday, October 13th. Her parents are Bob and Allison Edwards Petrillo of Pine Drive. She is the granddaughter of Virginia Edwards of Roosevelt,



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Is It HEROES We Need, or Just Us?

by Stavro Danilov

Heroes, at one time more prevalent, are presently lacking. Is it that they are dead or have they chosen anonymity? American leadership, once able to command its citizens' respect, is fast losing its substance and magic. Most Americans seem to be facing the future with little probing of their destination or real destiny. Political, economic, social and religious uncertainties make it extremely difficult, and often useless, for the average individual to know, let alone understand, the implications of tomorrow. Living from day-to-day and tackling issues as they arise tend to be more practical and less taxing on cerebral processes. Of course, "Prayer is the answer!" There is a suspicion, however, that heaven's computers have gone awry, angelic operators being just a little higher than man.

The United States is experiencing a series of crises and critical changes. Such times are crucial for all concerned because the country takes on a dim and dubious shape in the eyes of its citizens. The solution rests with leaders and citizens alike jointly acting in a common endeavor based upon the union of both private and public interests, and not with restrictive covenants and unrelenting dogmatic principles.

Restrictive covenants and unrelenting dogmas can only stifle the human spirit and imagination, whether they are political or religious in nature. Their assertions limit knowledge and human understanding, and transform a nation, a civilization, into a regiment of ghosts. A cursory look at recent occurrences in the land of the ayatollahs and mullahs

or that of the Czars clearly indicates the extent to which dogma-induced regimes turn their people into either obedient ghosts or tortured ghosts.

To sit in judgment on one's neighbor because he/she is of a different color, creed, or ethnic background constitutes the beginning of human depravity. To persecute others on account of their thoughts or their concepts of human rights is to equate justice with sin. To deny people the minimum requirements of human survival and self-actualization in the name of cutting expenses, expanding lavish programs a hundred times more costly which can lead only to the destruction of humanity, is the ultimate blasphemy.

More than the individual on the street, who is deeply concerned, leadership is needed to speak the simple truth. We have gone too far. You are welcome, my fellow human being, to the privacy of your tent and we to ours. Our style may differ but that difference should not guarantee that we bathe each other's domain in blood. Surely, the "enemy's" threat must be met. But the enemy considers us his enemy and the progression of the contest degenerates into the tragic fiasco of children arguing, "My father can beat your father, yah, yah, yah."

The abundance of human and natural resources, the many opportunities and tremendous talent, and the democratic political system which characterize the United States will remain weak in the absence of a political community that takes as its initial purpose the incorporation of both private and public interests. It

is through such an incorporation that citizens and leaders become conscious of their potentials, and hence, their limitations. The implication is that society can continue to exist only if it fully understands itself, and that any political community is impossible in a world in which humans lose touch with each other.

A common purpose and a coherent program are *de rigueur* in a time of crises. Americans must learn how to become active forces in all aspects of their life. They should not be separated from their ideas nor should their ideas be divorced from any public forum. Such a division can only exacerbate the problem by generating negative and long lasting consequences.

Seventy years have elapsed since Khalil Gibran wrote an article called "The New Frontier" and inquired: "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country." It is time for all concerned to ask: "What are we all going to do for our country, and the world to keep the human spirit alive?" Utopian perhaps, but such a condition would preclude the need for heroes as all would enjoy that exalted state.

**The Roosevelt Bulletin
is printed courtesy of
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OBITUARY

JEAN LIBSOHN

Roosevelt lost one of its special people when Jean Libsohn died on October 13th after a long illness.

Jean (nee Shepard) was born in Neosho, Missouri on September 12, 1906, and was brought up in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Her mother actively fought the Ku Klux Klan in Oklahoma at a time when it was a dangerous activity. This was a determining factor in Jean's awareness of social injustice and was a spur for the rest of her life.

After two years at college in Santa Barbara, California, she moved to Oklahoma City; then a stint as a counselor in a camp in North Carolina, and she wound up in New York, where she met her husband, Sol. Even though she lived in Roosevelt for many years and loved our town, Jean never lost her love for New York City.

At the graveside services, George Levinson gave a moving and eloquent eulogy. Jean's husband Sol, their daughters Sara and Laurie, their granddaughters Peri and Kristin, and her close friends all gave voice to the great love they had for her.

Even those who did not know her well will miss her.

Aaron Datz

Principal's Letter

The public's confidence in its schools has taken a dramatic upswing, according to the results of "The 16th Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," published in the September issue of Phi Delta Kappan.

"Americans have also become significantly more favorably disposed toward public school teachers and administrators," explained Dr. George Gallup, the survey's author. "A final indicator that reveals an increase in favorable feelings toward the schools is the public's increased willingness to pay the price (higher taxes) for public education."

In the nationwide survey of 1,515 adults during May 1984, 42 percent of the respondents gave their local public schools grades of A or B (on a scale of A, B, C, D or Fail), an increase of 11 points over 1983 results. Among those surveyed who have children in the public schools the ratings were even higher; 52 percent gave A or B grades to the schools.

The public's regard for the teachers and administrators of their local schools, meanwhile, increased significantly since 1981, Gallup reported. Half the respondents gave A or B ratings to their communities' teachers, compared to 39 percent in 1981. Once again, parents of public school students provided even higher ratings to local educators, with 58 percent awarding the two highest grades. Attitudes toward principals and school administrators also improved significantly since 1981, according to the survey. Forty-seven percent of all respondents (parents and nonparents) graded

their local administrators at A or B, an 11-point increase since 1981.

For the first time the poll asked respondents to rate their local boards of education. More than 40 percent gave their local school board a grade of A or B; parents of public school students provided slightly higher ratings. "Parents with children now enrolled in either public or non-public schools rate school boards only slightly lower than they rate the schools themselves," reported Gallup.

"Parents" received the lowest ratings of any public school constituency in the survey. Stated Gallup: "Parents of children now attending the public schools are not too pleased with the way public school parents are bringing up their children. In fact, they give themselves, collectively, lower marks for the way they are doing their job than they give teachers and school administrators. Only 39 percent gave parents a grade of A or B. This contrasts with a figure of 58 percent for the teachers and 54 percent for principals and other school administrators."

Eighty-two percent of the respondents said that "developing the best educational system in the world" was "very important" in determining the nation's future strength.

Respondents strongly favored increasing the amount and difficulty of homework and schoolwork and employing nationally standardized tests

for high school graduation. Yet, a majority opposed longer school days and school years and tougher college admission standards.

"Lack of discipline" was again most often cited and "the biggest problem" confronting the local public schools, followed by "use of drugs," "poor curriculum/poor standards," "lack of proper financial support," and "difficulty getting good teachers."

--Stanley Sussman



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Letter to the Editor

I am writing in the hope of thanking, through your publication, a local citizen for his assistance in a time of need.

This morning (Friday, September 28 -- Ed.) at around 0830 hrs. there was a motor vehicle accident at the junction of Windsor-Perrineville Road and North Rochdale. Whilst the First Aid Squads from both Roosevelt and Millstone worked on the casualties of the accident, this unknown (to me at any rate) carried out the not simple task of directing the traffic around the 2 disabled vehicles, the 2 ambulances and various other parked transport.

The aid this gentleman gave, whilst unasked for, assisted both First Aid Squads and gave them the chance to work on the patients without having to worry about further accident.

I was unable to thank the man at the scene of the accident (one way or another we were all too busy), but hope that my feelings will find their way, with your help, to his door.

Whoever you were,

-- Thank You --

Andy Hazell

THANKS

Clara Levinson would like to thank the person who was kind enough to mail the letters she dropped in the street. This typical Roosevelt act is greatly appreciated.

THE ANIMALS SLEEPING

Each morning they wake to discover
 who they are, with no memory
 but expectation. If they are happy
 they see someone they knew.
 Everything needed
 they carry with them or you
 do. There are no regrets.
 When it is cold
 they sleep curled
 around themselves
 like the memories of fossil snails
 mollusks, Eohippus the earliest horse.

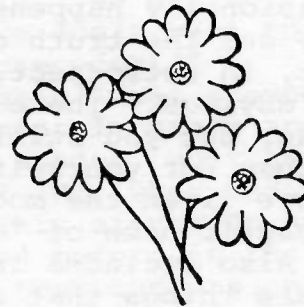
by David Keller

CORRECTIONS

The Editors regret that two errors appeared in the September issue.

The correct number to call to report an emergency is
 446-2040

The factory building mentioned in the Council News article is owned by Mrs. Bard, not Mrs. Barth



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Love of Words

Words To Live By

by Josef Solomon

Yes, indeed, dear reader, there is more to life than words. But words are an important part of life--an important part of my life, anyway. Presented here is a collection of words to live by. Some of these maxims are original with me, some are not. Some are serious; some are funny. My favorite is one from my mother. That one is being saved for last.

Cosmic Truths

It occasionally happens that I suddenly see the truth of something that, in retrospect, should have been obvious. These things are obvious, but you still have to learn them for yourself. To these I have given the moderately sarcastic name of "Cosmic Truths". Also included in that category are things that are not at all obvious (except in retrospect), but really are important. Cosmic Truths are distinguished here by being numbered and indented.

As a first example, in a time of crisis for me, I learned that

(1) Pain hurts.

On a more-mundane level, I also learned that Cotton Shrinks. (it was a nice hat, but it doesn't fit any more, since I made the mistake of putting it through the dryer.) When he heard of my discovery, a friend who had been similarly situated laughed and informed me it is also true that Beans Burn. As a commentary on "Togetherness", an idea promoted

years ago by a certain magazine, I offer, "The family that stays together frays together". Also, "Incest is something the whole family can do together." Here's another example:

(2) Crises don't come at convenient times. If they do, they're not crises.

As a matter of fact, at that same time, years ago, I encountered some words to live by that really impressed me:

If you love something,
let it go free
If it comes back, it is
yours forever
If it does not, it never
was.

(Just for the record, I did--and it didn't.) Nonetheless, that advice was comforting, and at a time when I needed it. Very recently, however, I saw a parody of the above exhortation:

If you love something, let
it go free
If it does not come back,
track it down and kill it.

LOOK AROUND YOU

You can find good ideas all around you. If you have had-it-up-to-here with your own offspring, consider the advice written on certain containers: Climb into the kids' playpen, and Keep Out of Reach of Children. Are you worried about your teen-age daughter? Tell her to read the label on the salad-dressing: Keep Cool But Do Not Freeze.

THINK ABOUT IT

As an example of words not to live by, ignore those promoters of fantastic contests. They will offer you anything-but don't listen to them when they tell you to Void Where Prohibited. If you do what they say, you'll only get in trouble. To borrow a phrase from a friend of mine: That kind of trouble I don't need right now.

Although I consider myself a theoreticker, rather than an experimenter, here is another Cosmic Truth empirically learned

(3) Someone can tell you the same thing every hour on the hour. If you're not ready to hear it, you're not going to hear it.

This is hard to believe, if you haven't experienced it. It's true, though--and it's the reason for listing these ideas as Cosmic Truths.

A bizarre description of our society just drifted to the surface of my cerebral cortex. In the eighth grade, someone informed me that, "Every man has his wife, but the iceman has his pick." Those are not words to live by, of course--unless you want to end up like Jimmy Kelly, whose epitaph reads:


Here lies Jimmy Kelly
He surely had his day
He lived the life of Riley
While Riley was away

There's a marvelous line from Mad Magazine of some years ago. The context in which the advice was given escapes me, but "Before falling in love with a pair of bright eyes, make sure it isn't the sun shining through the back of her head." I gleefully went around reciting that to people, and one person even

had a comback. He said, "Or yours."

And now the promised words from my mother. Apparently, it isn't too common now, but in my youth there was a proverb, "Laugh, and the world laughs with you. Cry, and you cry alone." My mother has a version of that proverb that fascinates me. I consider it a Cosmic Truth--not because it's my mother (of course not), but because of its universality. It really says a great deal about how one should react to adversity.

(4) "Laugh, and the world laughs with you. Cry, and your husband laughs with somebody else's wife."



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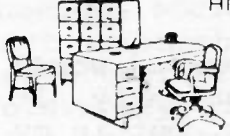
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