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# ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XVIII NO. 1

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 1993

## Borough Council Report

XVII

### Council Votes Slight Cuts In Utility Rates Budget Still On the Rise New Cemetery Rules

by Adeline Weiner

Meetings of the Borough Council during the summer have been marked by recurring dissension over policies bearing on the budget and water/sewer systems. An ordinance introduced in August to reduce the utility rate by \$5.00 a month was challenged by Council President and Finance Chairman Howard Prezant because, according to his financial projections and those of others who assisted him, a serious deficit would result. In his opinion "the Mayor is playing politics" at the expense of future solvency.

Mayor Lee Allen defended the ordinance by citing a sufficient surplus of unexpended funds to allow for this small reduction in the hope that even if major cuts are not possible, at least, whenever possible, the rate ought to be reduced gradually over time. After long discussion, the majority of Council members voted for immediate passage, with Mr. Prezant stating

that he was strongly opposed. He was joined by Council member Peter Warren.

#### The Gray Water Question

Another point of contention over several meetings was the issue of commercialization of the Roosevelt waste water facility for gaining new revenues. In a recent letter, Mr. Warren again stated his objections to processing outside septage. His points are that the sewer plant is still under a DEPE ban; there will be possible opposition in town to trucking the stuff through the streets, and he doubts there is a sufficient supply of gray water available. He also disputes the projected earnings that have ranged from \$140,000 a year to \$90,000 of gross earnings. Although his arguments seem to call into question the entire undertaking, Mr. Warren then suggests a "more realistic" gross figure of \$58,750.

Mrs. Rose Murphy, Borough Utility Chairwoman, along with Mayor Allen and Councilman Stuart Kaufman, answered these assertions by pointing out that the application to lift the ban is now in the works and removal of the ban is expected at any moment. They claim there is good evidence of a strong demand for gray water treatment and that all precautions will be taken regarding transport through town. A resolution to ask Applied Waste Water Technology (AWT), the Borough's engineering service to draw up a plan of procedure, at a cost of \$1,500, was put on hold because DEPE has agreed to provide a group of consultant experts to discuss the matter with members of the Council early next month.

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## BulletinBoard

### Tourists Arriving

Preparations are being made to receive Manhattan's 92nd Street Y bus tour to Jersey Homesteads / Roosevelt on Sunday October 31: showing the Shahn mural at RPS, opening artists' studios, and mounting historic and environmental displays at the Borough Hall. Other ideas?

### New Historic Council Projects

The Jersey Homesteads Historic District Advisory Council has revived the old 1979-82 Oral History Project. Twenty-six interviews on tape are being reviewed by Dan Skye for audibility, one tape is being transcribed by Teresa Lepore; 30 transcripts are being copy edited by Hortense Sochowitzky. We need more transcribers.

The JHHDAC is also locating the towns and cities in Eastern Europe - and elsewhere - whence past and present residents - or their parents - emigrated to Jersey Homesteads / Roosevelt: out-of-town readers may send information to the Bulletin - see questionnaire this issue. Residents who haven't yet been contacted may phone Art Shapiro or Peter Warren with information.

The JHHDAC has been asked to submit a suitable photograph ("early sites, buildings, celebrations, graduations, weddings") for the Monmouth County Genealogy Club 1995.

Lastly, the JHHDAC is participating in Millstone's sesquicentennial celebration in 1994, showing four

houses dating from the 1840's.

### CDBG Home Repairs Grants

The first two grants under the CDBG home repair program - of nine requested between April 1991 and April 1993 - are being implemented; additional funds may be available next spring.

### Honoring Benjamin Brown

The World Zionist Organization will conduct a ground breaking ceremony on the RPS grounds on November 11 for the eventual erection of a monument honoring Benjamin Brown, founder of Jersey Homesteads.

### Origins Questionnaire

If you lived in Jersey Homesteads before 1946 or Roosevelt since 1946 and were born abroad or have parents who were born abroad (whether or not they lived here), we would appreciate your answering this questionnaire and mailing it to the Bulletin.

1. Your name.
2. Years you lived in Jersey Homesteads or Roosevelt.
3. Foreign city and country if you were born abroad.
4. Foreign city and country if your father was born abroad.
5. Foreign city and country if your mother was born abroad.

### ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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## Planning Board News

By Bob Clark

The Roosevelt Planning Board spent much of its meeting time during the summer considering a conditional use application in a residential district. The Board finally permitted Board member Jeffrey Hunt to use an auxiliary structure in the rear yard of his Homestead Lane home to conduct educational seminars for potential psychotherapy clients. The approval was granted at the Board's September 8 meeting by a 4-2 vote, with Mr. Hunt participating in the discussion as an applicant rather than a Board member and not taking part in the vote. The approval was given over the objection of several Homestead Lane residents, and the discussion left Board members wondering whether the time had come to review zoning standards governing occupations in homes and conditional uses in auxiliary buildings.

Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton said there are numerous similar structures in town currently or previously used as artist studios. She noted that without an influx of artists proportionate to the numbers historically associated with the Borough, the Board could receive substantially more applications seeking to use the separate buildings for non-studio occupations.

Only six Board members voted on the application out of the nine who participated in the September 8 discussion. Members Deborah Metzger, Michael Ticktin and Paul Henry did not vote because each was absent from at least one of the meetings at which the application was discussed and had not listened to tape recordings of missed meetings. Melvin Friedman did not attend any of the summer meetings. Of those eligible to vote, Chairwoman Hunton, Mayor Lee Allen, Councilman Stuart Kaufman and Bertram Ellentuck voted to permit the use with certain conditions, and Harry Parker

and David Leff voted against it.

The conditions for the permit were (1) a Board-approved landscaping plan for vegetation or fencing to screen the pathway to the auxiliary building from the next door neighbor, (2) a limit of 10 participants per seminar, (3) no more than six seminars per year, and (4) a letter from the construction code enforcement official indicating that a certificate of occupancy was either granted or unnecessary.

In his original application in July, Mr. Hunt sought to practice psychotherapy in the auxiliary building two or three nights per week, as well as to conduct periodic Saturday seminars. He had been conducting such a practice until complaints to the Zoning Officer led to a cease and desist notice. Mr. Hunt then applied for a permit in order to comply with the ordinance. The use of the auxiliary building for the occupation, instead of his home, required an application for a conditional use permit. Mr. Hunt said he did not consider it to be professionally appropriate to use his home for the sessions, although he noted that participants would have to use toilet facilities in his house.

The original application was opposed at the July 14 meeting by Ralph Warnick, whose house is attached to Mr. Hunt's home, and Jacqueline Carpenter, the neighbor on the other side. Ms. Carpenter was represented by attorney Alan Kaplan. Other residents expressing opposition or concerns were Howard Chasan, Bernard and Florence Leefer, Peggy Malkin, James Carnevale and Joy Marko. Concerns included traffic, parking, infringement of privacy, changing of the residential character of the neighborhood, difficulty of enforcing the conditions, and the conduct of actual and potential clients.

Mr. Hunt tried to reassure opponents that his clients were not a threat to the community and, in some instances, could come from Roosevelt.

He described them as people with emotional or marital problems, depressed persons or recovering alcoholics. He said those with more severe afflictions, such as non-alcoholic drug addictions, required "a more intensive setting," such as The Princeton House, where Mr. Hunt conducts a separate practice. Mr. Hunt added that he would not acquire any clients from The Princeton House.

Mr. Hunt announced at the Board's August 11 meeting that he planned to modify his application. By the September 8 meeting, he had reapplied for permission to use the auxiliary building solely for the seminars. He said some of the concerns raised by his neighbors were "quite real" and he was primarily interested in remaining "in peace" with them. He stated that Mr. Warnick and Mr. Carnevale had indicated that they had no objections to the new application. The Leeferes, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Malkin and Mr. Chasan expressed their continued opposition at the September 8 meeting.

Mr. Hunt's partner, Thomas Perrin, will help Mr. Hunt conduct the seminars. In response to concerns about the type of people the seminars would bring to the community, he stated, "Our clients are welcome in our homes." He noted that he "once had a lot of clients in Roosevelt." He added that he and Mr. Hunt are trying to build a private [psychotherapy] practice from the ground up" and would establish a location elsewhere when their efforts prove successful.

The Roosevelt Zoning Ordinance defines "home occupation" as "any profession, trade or other endeavor carried on for profit in a dwelling unit which use is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the principal structure as a dwelling, gives no external evidence of non-residential use, involves no more than one employee, generates no nuisance factors and does not require more parking at any given

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## From The Editors

After a long, hot summer, the Bulletin is back in business, ready to begin publication of the 1993-94 volume of our paper.

Results of the survey in which you were asked to let us know "how we're doin'" indicated that we have been given quite good grades. Readers like to read most of the features we listed, with highest marks going to Council News, Community News, Arts in Roosevelt and Letters, with School Board and Planning Board News not far behind. Additionally, interest was shown in doing more articles on Roosevelt history as well as our residents, past and present and

finally, many are interested in outdoor activity articles.

We are happy to know of the esteem in which our Bulletin is held and will continue to do our best to please. But -- if we are to satisfy your interests, we need community members to come forward to share their thoughts with all of us both in the form of letters and articles. **Writers: Come Forward, We Need You!**

And finally, as always, please send in your 1993-94 contributions to keep us solvent.

Both material and contributions should be sent to our P.O. Box 221.

## Announcements

### Remembering Aaron

A memorial meeting to honor Aaron Datz, longtime Roosevelt resident who died on June 16, 1993 in Laguna Hills, California, to which the Datzes had moved in 1991, will be held on Sunday, October 10 at 4 p.m. at the Roosevelt Borough Hall.

Evelyn and her son, Joey will attend.

### Calendar Changes

Please be sure to contact Jane Rothfuss, 448-3713, for any changes or additions to the Calendar by the 15th of the month for the following month's issue.

### Beginner Yoga

Yoga At Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, New Session!

A Beginners' Hatha Yoga class will be offered at the synagogue once again. The course will include gentle stretching exercises, instruction in relaxation and breathing techniques and classic hatha yoga postures and other topics related to Yoga.

Hatha Yoga can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Hatha yoga postures are very different from other forms of physical exercise. Unlike calisthenics and some sports which emphasize stamina and vigorous muscular activity - offer to the point of exhaustion - Hatha Yoga postures encourage concentration, perseverance and steady progress. They can be practiced by young and old, healthy and unhealthy, strong and weak.

The instructor is Roosevelt resident Deborah Metzger, who has been trained at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. Deborah is also a certified Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapist.

The class will be held at the synagogue on Wednesdays, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., beginning Wednesday, October 13. Fee for the eight week session is \$45.00 for Synagogue members, \$55.00 for non-members or \$9.00 per single class. For registration and information about this and other classes held in Princeton and Trenton, call Deborah at 443-3759.

## Nursery School News

by Sandra, Wolk, Head Teacher

We're off to a great start! The children and I have spent some time getting to know each other. The first few weeks we concentrated on our social skills of sharing, taking turns, following directions and listening. We have been practicing these skills as we make our way through the various learning centers in the classroom.

In October, we will continue our journey through the alphabet by learning the letters "B", "G", and "H" in honor of Halloween. Our colors for the month are orange and black.

Fire Safety will be the topic during Fire Prevention Week. Big Bird's Fire Drill Poem will teach us the importance of fire drills and we will continue to practice them throughout the year.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Pumpkin Patch as well as making our own Halloween costumes. We hope everyone has a safe and fun-filled Halloween.

Save  
The  
Future.

**RECYCLE!**

Recycling Dates for  
July are  
the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>



## Letter From The CSA

Frances Lobman, Ed. D.  
Chief School Administrator

The 1993-94 school year has begun amid some changes, some predictable, some not so predictable. Predictably, we have new kindergarten students, sixteen in fact. Three other newcomers have joined us in other grades. The School's total population is now 92, six more than last June's 86 and 23 more than the 69 enrolled just five years ago. Unpredictably, we have had to fill four part-time positions and one full-time position for the 1993-94 school year.

**Winni Repetti** joins us as our new fourth grade teacher. A mother of five, Winni has moved through the ranks from motherhood to cafeteria

aide, secretarial aide, school aide, and substitute teacher. These experiences inspired Winni to earn her teaching credentials at Monmouth College more than twenty years after earning her BA at Douglass College. We are glad she did. **Kim Wolf**, our kindergarten teacher, is a graduate of the University of Delaware, where she was a Dean's List student. Kim has earned dual certification in Early Childhood and Special Education. Her teaching experience, gained in Pennsylvania, has been at the pre-school and kindergarten levels. Patience and communication are two priorities with her. **Patricia (Pat) Klahre**, after marriage and three children, graduated from Ramapo College. Seven years later, she began her art certification studies at Monmouth College and expects to receive her Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) this Spring. She has filled in as a long-term substitute teacher in near by public schools and has a current part-time position as an art teacher in

a non-public school in Princeton. Pat derives great satisfaction from seeing children express themselves through the visual arts. **Stacy Bravman** earned a BA in psychology from Rutgers University and a Master of Social Work (MSW) from Fordham University. While pursuing her MSW, Stacy gained intern experience as a support counselor in a school setting and as a clinical social worker in a non-school setting. In addition, she served as a behavior counselor for a major weight-loss company. Stacy is energetic, enthusiastic and caring. **Joy Marko** earned a BA in biology from Rutgers University and a BS in nursing (with RN certification) from Columbia University. She has worked in neonatal care for most of her career and now wants to work with children in a school setting because she enjoys the teaching side of her profession. Joy, a Roosevelt resident, is married and has

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## PTA News

By Allison Edwards Petrilla

To America's kids, Labor Day signals "The Day of Doom", but even before school opened on September 7, the PTA had its first event of the year "in the bag". The hardworking members hosted a gala Welcome Back luncheon for all RPS staffers 'way back on September 2! Then once the students were back, the group kicked off its first fundraiser of the season -- a sale of gift wrap, nut-and-snack mixes, and "rainbow cling" window decorations. Proceeds from this 2-week affair were earmarked to pay for this year's assemblies for RPS students.

The PTA's first official meeting this year, the traditional "membership tea", took place on September 22, and then members once again

manned the refreshment tables at Back-to-School Night on September 27.

October's events will be just as diverse. First, member parents will help with the annual school picture-taking sessions on October 11, which will include "family photo" sessions in the evening. Then, following the monthly meeting on October 13, the PTA will sponsor the first of the school assemblies: Ozzie Tollefson's "Children of the Sun" presentation on October 14. Mr. Tollefson, a smash hit at previous assemblies, tells us that this year's show will demonstrate how we can all live happily in a multicultural society, and he adds that RPS students will be his premiere audience for this particular production. All interested Rooseveltians are invited to attend.

Hot on Ozzie's Heels, the PTA will again take center stage, this time

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### Dates For the October Calendar

#### October 13

PTA meeting - at RPS - 8 p.m.

#### October 14

Assembly "Children of the Sun" - at RPS - morning hours

#### October 17

PTA Spaghetti Dinner - 3-7 p.m. - Borough Hall

#### October 20 - 21

PTA Scholastic Book Sale - at RPS - school & evening hours

## Letters

When my husband and I first moved to Roosevelt eight years ago, we wanted to become involved. We were quickly turned off by the things we experienced at meetings (Board of Education, Council, and Planning Board). We were appalled at how the council and board members treated each other as well as the public. Many times, more time was spent arguing than on anything productive. We decided to turn our energy towards fund raising for our church, school, and other varying interests. This winter when some of our friends approached us about getting involved we did so

with some trepidation. But we finally realized that we were no longer "the newcomers" (these words alone totally turn me off - just because someone is new does not mean they lack knowledge or understanding or concern; we all pay taxes). We felt that perhaps we could do something positive.

After meeting with many people in the community we felt that there was a definite need for some positive energy. I and others did research, wrote letters and attended meetings with our state and federal legislators. We found that Assemblymen Singer and Cottrell and Rep. Chris Smith, as well as the county Superintendent of Education are more than willing to

help Roosevelt in any way that they can. They just need to be invited to do so. Let's face it we can use anyone in our corner who is willing to help. They also have access to everything and anything that one needs to know. Our local officials (I sincerely thank anyone who volunteers their time and energy to what is sometimes a thankless job) are only part-time and I would hope to assume that they would not feel threatened by such help.

After mulling over all of this gathered information the last few months, I have a few things that I feel are necessary for the survival of our town.

1. Someone on the council should be in monthly contact with our county, state and federal officials.

2. We need a survey of all voters to see how they feel about the school, development, and any other concerns of our officials.

3. Perhaps we could form a foundation as they have in other towns. Its purpose would be to raise funds for the school or special town projects.

4. Our local officials must use the town's own resources, such as it's people, to help. Example - I have suggested to both the council and school board to make the public aware of legislation which will affect Roosevelt. Perhaps make a place on the bulletin board or have a place in the Bulletin for this. Then we, as citizens, can write a

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### Schedule Change Public Notice

In accordance with the Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, The Roosevelt Board of Education at the September 2, 1993 meeting authorized the following meetings rescheduled, and to be held in the Roosevelt Public School at 7:30 P.M.

#### AGENDA

Thursday, May 6, 1993  
 Thursday, June 3, 1993  
 Thursday, July 1, 1993  
 Thursday, August 5, 1993  
 Thursday, Sept. 2, 1993  
 \*Friday, Oct. 8, 1993  
 \*Friday, Nov. 5, 1993  
 \*Friday, Dec. 3, 1993  
 Thursday, Jan. 6, 1994  
 Thursday, Feb. 3, 1994  
 Thursday, March 3, 1994  
 Thursday, April 7, 1994

#### REGULAR

Thursday, May 20, 1993  
 Thursday, June 17, 1993  
 Thursday, July 15, 1993  
 Thursday, August 19, 1993  
 \* Monday, Sept. 20, 1993  
 \* Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1993  
 \* Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1993  
 \* Friday, Dec. 17, 1993  
 Thursday, Jan. 20, 1994  
 Thursday, Feb. 17, 1994  
 Thursday, March 17, 1994  
 Thursday, April 21, 1994

Formal Action may be taken at the Agenda Meetings when the nature of a resolution requires immediate Board Action. Formal Action will be taken at all Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board.

Unforeseen circumstances may force the rescheduling of these meetings. In such case, Notice will be given as provided in the Open Public Meetings Act.

Debra Leigh Allen  
 Board Secretary/Business Administrator

### Fall Litter Pick-up

Tired of litter on the roadside? Make a difference. Come and join us on Sunday, October 24, at 10:00 in front of the Post Office as we meet for our semiannual litter pick-up. Afterwards, there will be good food at Lenny and Michele Hillis-Guye's.

This event is sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Communities Grant. For additional information, call Michele Hillis-Guye at 426-9393 or Gayle Donnelly at 426-1315

## Roosevelt Weather Almanac

by Ron Filepp

How hot was the Summer of '93 in Roosevelt? Too darn hot, but not as hot as the temperatures you may have heard for Newark, New York or Philadelphia. Newark is notorious for having higher temperature readings than the surrounding area. The director of Newark International Airport's weather station is Gene Hathaway. He said in an interview in the New York Times that the higher temperature readings are the result of the location of the weather station's instruments on what he calls a "heat island." The instruments are located on an 8 by 10 yard strip of grass surrounded by a paved parking lot. Hathaway says there should be at least 100 feet of grass around the instruments. He says the station's instruments usually read at least one or two degrees higher than they should. Others say the higher temperatures have to do with the topography of the area.

Temperatures in large cities like New York and Philadelphia are not representative of our temperatures either. There the streets and buildings retain heat resulting in temperature readings a few degrees higher than those taken outside of the cities.

In Roosevelt we had 23 days of temperatures reaching 90 degrees or above. That represents one quarter of the days that make up the meteorological summer of June, July and August. The highest temperature this summer was 99 degrees. It was recorded on July 10th during the 11-day heat wave that started on 4th of July weekend. WCBS radio weather reports said this was the second hottest summer on record, only the summer of 1966 was hotter.

Rainfall for the same period measured 13.09 inches in Roosevelt. On average the three months bring us 12.30 inches. So, despite our brown lawns into early September, we had almost .80 inches more rain than an

average summer. Most of the rain (7.22 inches) came in heavy downpours allowing much of the water to runoff and do little long term good for our lawns or gardens. This and excessive evaporation from the higher than normal temperatures may explain what appeared to be a summer with less than normal precipitation in our area.

July offered a good example of a month with much rain over only a few days. Virtually all the rain in July fell on three days. Yet, it was the wettest month of the summer (5.57 inches) with about 1.25 more inches of rain than an average July brings. July 19th saw the greatest rainfall of the summer with 2.55 inches.

The end of our summer brought the threat of our weather being influenced by a hurricane. The last days of August were filled with reports about Hurricane Emily. She hit the coast of North Carolina and then was encouraged by an approaching cold front to take a right turn and head out to sea. We didn't get rain or wind from the storm. Did you know that hurricanes go by different names in other parts of the world? Some of the names include: typhoons, baquiros, Bengal cyclones and in Australia hurricanes are called willy-willies. In Guatemala the Indians called the god of stormy weather "Hunrakan."

The next weather related events to watch for are the changing colors of

the leaves and Indian Summer. Cool dry conditions bring the most dramatic display of colors from the trees. If you're waiting for Indian Summer keep in mind that despite the occasional spell of warm weather in October an "official" Indian Summer does not arrive until there has been a frost. The first frost usually occurs between the middle of October and the middle of November.

If you want to keep a romantic notion of what causes Indian Summer don't read the rest of this paragraph. Indian Summer is the result of a high pressure system that stalls over an area, a temperature inversion occurs that can trap air pollution close to the ground. This can create unhealthy levels of smog. You just had to know didn't you.

A vacation interrupted Roosevelt weather observations for September. Watch for the return of the temperature table next month.

New Jersey Weather Event: Starting on October 10, 1804 a hurricane with gale winds and snow swept from New Jersey to Maine.

### Weather Word:

**Air mass:** A large body of air with relatively uniform characteristics, such as temperature and humidity.

Source: The Weather Book  
by Jack Williams

The deadline for submissions of material to the Bulletin is the 15th of the month, except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

Please send all articles and letters in clean typescript, or as ASCII files on 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 inch diskettes to:  
The Bulletin, P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

## Borough Council Report

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In this connection, the costs of a contract with AWS to train, supervise and provide a licensed operator three days a week have come under reconsideration, at the urging of Mr. Warren. Plans have been made to reduce the service one day at a time until the contract is terminated at the end of the year, at which time the Borough will be obliged, under DEPE regulations, to hire another licensed operator.

### Visit From A Utility Buyer

At the suggestion from Paula Haemmerle of Eleanor Lane, the Council at its September session, heard a presentation by representatives of the New Jersey American Water System. This nation-wide company proposed to examine the possibility of purchasing and running the Roosevelt water and sewer plants with a view to reducing utility charges. Their spokesmen, led by Mr. Roy Mundy II, expressed great confidence regarding water services in contrast to waste-water systems with which they have had less experience. They could not project an estimate of possible savings until an audit of all aspects of the installations, which they would perform free of charge, was completed, including land values, the value of building and equipment, the cost of labor and materials and above all the original debt incurred in the rehabilitation of the sewer plant. They suggested that savings might be had through their access to wholesale supply sources; by virtue of their staff of expert operators, and possibly through creating a broader base of operations involving neighboring communities. The Council voted to request an audit and a report within the six weeks the visitors stipulated would be necessary.

### Background on the Budget

On July 12, the council passed the budget for 1993 after a lengthy public debate by residents and Council mem-

bers. The main subject was the sudden huge jump in the tax rate. Bert Ellentuck characterized the 30% rise in appropriations as being out of conformity with what is going on in the outside world. He was critical of the idea that government should be run like a business. He urged us to remember that we are a small, rateable-poor community and should act like one. Other speakers complained of the high tax rate as being incompatible with their level of income and deplored their decreased chances of selling their homes.... One resident called the new tax a trap for senior residents whose life savings were tied up in their homes but now faced losing everything if they couldn't meet their tax and utility bills.

The Mayor and some Council members offered the explanation that the increase was mainly due to the insistence by the state to use up the Borough surplus during the past three years. In 1992, the tax rate was below 10 cents per \$100. assessed value, which removed the cap restriction for this year. The 1993 budget therefore must try to make up the necessary reserve against future financial shortfalls. After a long-debated motion to postpone was defeated, the resolution to accept the 1993 budget was passed with four "ayes," one "no" (Warren) and one abstention (Prezant).

### Worse is Yet To Come

It now turns out, however, that a new addition to the already onerous tax rate is in view. The current budget does not reflect the actual level of taxation necessary to meet the budget requirements of the School Board. The Board is waiting for approval from the State Department of Education of the budget that was submitted after its defeat in the June vote. Without State approval of a cap waiver, also voted down, the Council could not determine the true level of taxes for the year. It is estimated that a still further rise of about 30 cents per \$100 as-

essed value or several hundred dollars more per household will be sought. If State approval is received the tax bill will be revised for the rest of the year or the increase will be put over to next year's budget.

### The Trip To Atlantic City

Earlier in the summer, Mr. Warren, supported by Mr. Prezant, challenged, in the "interest of the taxpayer", an expenditure of \$2000 to cover the expenses of Borough officials' November attendance at the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City. He and Mr. Prezant questioned their need to attend at all, then the length of the 5-day stay and especially the use of a suite of rooms.

Other Council members defended the need to attend such events for the important contacts made with State and community officials and for the valuable information gathered on various little known funding grants etc. It was anticipated, they said, that the final bill would be less than the allotted amount. The motion passed 4 to 2.

### The State of Streets and Road Repair

The current report on the street repair program has the completion of paving for Farm Lane set for the end of September. The delay has been due to several unfortunate mishaps regarding the installation of fire hydrants. The Council agreed to award a contract for reconstruction of Eleanor Lane, Tamara Drive, Elm Court and Brown Street. In reply to a group of Eleanor Lane residents who came to protest the present condition of the road, Public Property Chairman Stuart Kaufman promised that the work on Eleanor Lane will begin by the end of September or the beginning of October and will be completed within a month. Some modification of the original project will be necessary to bring the work within funding limits

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## Our Post Office

By Leslie Weiner

The heartbeat of our town is the post office. It's where we introduce ourselves to new neighbors and meet with old ones. It gives us a place to go in the morning. It provides us with a modest sort of lottery -- in addition to the unwelcome and uninteresting junk mail, it throws up an occasional or regular negotiable check as well as personal letters. Within its clean spacious confines, the exchange of gossip is not only acceptable but legitimate. On good days a post card from an old friend finds its way into our box. Using the elevated desk to lean against strikes one as an entirely comfortable posture to write replies (see Hemingway). A brief note on the front glass door informs us if we are still among the living. A respectful quiet pervades the common area which contains our private boxes. There are 690 boxes which respond to individual keys.

The Roosevelt Post Office is, alas, a second-class office. This rating is arrived at by revenues and work credits. We had been a first-class office but our status was diminished by the unfortunate moving last spring by our

largest mailer, MIRA, a genuine loss to the community for other reasons as well. Our postmaster, Gerry Millar, is not too pleased with our revised rating. "Second-class is not the best place to be because when they close post offices they look at second- and third-class offices," she says balefully. This of course is another reason why we have to urge President Clinton to get his economic program clarified and functioning. We have no door-to-door delivery here because we do not meet the criteria of 2,500 people or 750 deliveries. This should not be regarded as a calamity; the fact that we can meet and hang out and shoot the breeze in our post office more than offsets the absence of door-to-door delivery. If a poll were taken we'd probably show our willingness to fetch our neighbors' mail once we've informed the people behind the counter.

Here are facts which might prove useful:

The box lobby hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Window hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Most of our mail arrives at 7:15 a.m. and is put into boxes by 10:00 a.m. No mail leaves Roosevelt at that

time. At 2:00 p.m. we receive another batch of incoming mail; then the driver takes our outgoing mail. He comes again at 4:45 and takes away our last outgoing mail.

Our walk-in weekly revenue is approximately \$1,800.

Incoming mail is about 4,500 pieces daily; outgoing approximately 500 pieces daily.

In 1936 the Post Office was in a private home which was the first "municipal building" on Nurko Road and moved later to 4 Homestead Lane. In 1957 the Post Office leased a small building adjacent to its present location. This latter site was removed when the Post Office occupied the present building in 1983.

In 1940 Sylvia Shaken was appointed our first Postmaster.

In 1943 Edna Sarasky was named Acting Postmaster.

In 1944 Bessie Blutstein became our second Postmaster.

In 1967 Sarah Goldberg was named our third Postmaster.

In 1979 Geraldine Millar became our fourth Postmaster - (and remains so).

Kim Dexheimer is currently a clerk and Kathy Vasseur is a casual, replacing Diana Klein, who retired in March of this year after many years of distinguished service.

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## Senior Citizens' News

### September 7, 1993 - Meeting

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

Larry Calanough from the Crime Prevention Office of the Monmouth County Police Academy, joined us at this meeting to give us a lot of information on crime prevention. For example, here are some of his suggestions for robbery prevention; lock your car, put your shopping in the car trunk, try to park close to stores in a well-lighted

area, and keep your keys in your pocket, not in a hard to get area like your purse. He also told us that on page 11 of the phone book there is information about what to do if you have an obscene phone call. He gave everyone a whistle and crime prevention literature. We all enjoyed his visit.

At the next meeting, on October 5th, there will be a chance to get your ears tested as well as blood pressure exams. We will also discuss our many plans to help raise money for our treasury.

Helen, "Gus" and Diane were the birthday people this month. Debbie Carter and Diane Klein were our hostesses. They provided a great spread.

## Planning Board News

*(Continued from Page 3)*

time than for two vehicles." Home occupations are, by the ordinance's definition, "conducted entirely within the principal structure." Nonetheless, the zoning requirements governing home occupations may apply to Mr. Hunt's applications because a separate zoning requirement provides that "work buildings or studios located separately on the same lot shall ... meet the requirements of ... home occupations." The building must also meet the requirements of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code.

General standards for conditional use permits require that the proposed use will (a) "not interfere with public welfare or convenience," (b) "be in harmony with the appropriate and orderly development of the district in which it is located," (c) "not hinder the appropriate development and use of adjacent land and buildings," (d) "not be more objectionable to nearby properties by reason of noise ... or other characteristics" than permitted uses, and (e) have "suitably screened" parking areas "of adequate size for the particular use." Board members expressed concern that these standards do not provide sufficient guidance for permit decisions. The parking standard, in particular, seems to encourage off-street parking and additional driveways, things that would pose problems in a residential setting. More-

over, any off-street parking would contradict the ordinance's mandate that "[no] separate accessory building on the same lot [in residential districts] shall be served by a driveway." It was pointed out that artists who periodically open their studios to the public are not required to provide off-street parking, which would be an eyesore when not in use.

The Board unanimously appointed Michele R. Donato to be the new Board Attorney. She was recommended by Ms. Hunton, who praised her expertise in land use, environmental and preservation law. In a letter to the Board, Ms. Donato wrote that she would charge her "courtesy rate" to municipalities, \$100 per hour. She noted that she would not charge for travel time if her presence was required at regular meetings. The Roosevelt Board Attorney does not routinely attend meetings.

At the August 11 meeting, Ms. Hunton suggested that the Board seek consulting assistance so that the draft Fiscal Impact Study of development or non-development can be made into a "readable narrative." Mr. Tickin recommended holding off until the School District determines whether it will regionalize with another district. The Board also discussed the potential need for a progress report and updated statistics for Professor David Listokin's formulas.

## Letter From The CSA

*(Continued from Page 5)*

three children.

These are our teachers. Parents had the opportunity of meeting them on Back-to-School-Night in September. If you would like to meet our new staff members, please call and I'll arrange for a visit.

**Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.** Last Spring, the Environmental Commission donated nine red cedar trees to Liberty Science Center. And then the Commission thought of us. Largely through the efforts of **Chris Travis and Jim Carnevale**, the Liberty Science Center is providing free admission and lunch space to one busload of students as well as one chaperone for every five students (their requirement). We are hiring the biggest school bus available with a seating capacity of 54. There are 50 students in grades 3 through 6: some chaperones will follow by car. **Diana Moore**, our bus driver, is donating her driving time and will serve as one of the chaperones. Members of the Environmental Commission have been invited to serve as chaperones as well. A very generous benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated \$200. for the cost of transportation upon learning that the field trip resources for Roosevelt Public School were severely cut during budget development. The date for our exciting trip to Liberty Science Center is set for October 25.

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## Environmentally Speaking.....

by Gloria Hazell

We are moving to pastures new; Minnesota to be exact, to a town even smaller than Roosevelt, but before I leave in a couple of days I just have to write a piece for the Bulletin about our time here.

When we arrived in town almost 12 years ago, we had only been in the States a few months. We had lived for a short while in Kendall Park, which we found to be very cold and unfriendly. We were green from England and I felt that this new culture was going to be very hard to adopt to. I wanted to go back to the loving arms of family, friends and homeland. Then I found Roosevelt....

The first person that I met here was Dolores Chasan; I was looking at the house that she had to rent. Dolores is a great advocate of this town, she's so warm and friendly. Mind you, I thought that she was a fluke as up to that point the only Americans I had met had been not exactly hostile, but very unfriendly. Later Andy and I went for a coffee at the deli and guess who we met? Reverend John. We sat enthralled, listening to his wonderful stories, but we were somewhat dubious - was this man for real? At that point though we came to the decision that Roosevelt and it's people had character which appealed to us, and so we moved into the Homestead Lane house.

Back then, Di Scalph lived a few houses away from us. She was also from England, which helped me. She understood my feelings and answered questions which I would have been afraid to ask a local. I gradually eased into the American way of life.

During the years, we went headlong into involving ourselves with the town's voluntary organizations. From 4H and Kids' sports teams to the First Aid Squad (take it easy, Guyettes!) and Fire Department (Thanks Kim!). My favorite 'extracurricular' though was always the Bulletin. Along the line, I've done pasteup and layout, labeling and mailing, writing the articles, and Managing Editor. The whole thing was fun and has been a real education on how a small paper works, and how to write better. I had good teachers including David, Honey, Addy, Bob, and Lillian and I thank you all for being such an inspiration. It is due to you that I now write and publish my own environmental magazine.

Remembering our time in Roosevelt is both sweet and sour, but on the whole the memories are positive. Our first July 4th, Thanksgiving and Halloween, we don't do that stuff in England! The graduations each year; the get-togethers at the Monument, and the jam sessions at some

of those get-togethers. All of the meetings we attended at the Borough Hall, the school, the Seldens, the Altmans and the Teichs. The nature walks in the woods during the day, and the strolls on Oscar Drive at night with only each other and the dogs for company, we were however, always escorted by the music of birds, crickets and cicadas or the glow of lightning bugs. Also there were the turkey buzzards taking their constitutional each morning and afternoon, and the deer making the most of our made-to-order back yard and Andrew being fed by neighbors in the true tradition of Jersey Homesteads. Andy's night-guard duty for the Art Fair and the quiet people who joined him there. Magical times. I also think fondly of moments spent with Augusta Chasan, and of her delight when she rides the fire truck on the Independence Day parade. She is one of the sweetest people that I have ever met and I feel very lucky to have known her.

Did you know that there are angels living in this small town? We didn't either until Andy was out of work a few years ago. We had nothing, and couldn't get benefits because of our immigration status. It was a scary time for all of us... But, often outside our door appeared a bag full of food, not only for us but for the animals too. We don't know where some of these heart gifts came from, but we will never forget them. Thank you to all of those who cared, you know who you are, even if we don't.

There are a few people who have become very close to us as a family, and I will mention you by name, although not in any particular order. Maryanne and Ray Henderson, and family, who have been our neighbors in Farm Lane since 1984. We couldn't have wished for better people next to us. Thanks for being there, and giving us your friendship. Bobbi and Dave Teich, what can I say guys, except that we love you both. Lillian and Peter Warren, we will miss you. Boxing Day will never be the same again! As we leave this unique place, we are sad to move away from our friends, but you will all be in our memories and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

I would love to say goodbye personally to those Rooseveltians who have had an impact on our lives, but I know I will miss someone out, there have been so many. So instead I will say it in this article. 'Farewell, to you all from Gloria, Andy (Red Fox), Petula, Andrew and Jennifer Hazell. (John is staying here, JEM Lawn Service, folks!). We have enjoyed our time in your small haven from the crazy world, thank you for accepting us, and showing us what real Americans are like.

## Letters

*(Continued from Page 6)*

letter or even send a post card to our legislators stating our position. This would take very little time and expense on our part. They do pay attention, especially if there is volume mail.

5. Continue to look for ways to lower water and sewer bills. I do give the mayor my support on two things he said at the tax meeting. (I was surprised by how few people turned out for this). First, when asked why the council did not change anything on the defeated school budget he said (not a direct quote) that their first responsibility is for the quality of education that the children receive and that they felt that by trimming any more that it would have a negative impact on the children. I feel that we all must heed these words and think of the children for they are our future. I also feel that we must help those less fortunate and those who have walked these paths before us, our senior citizens. After all we were all once children and God-willing we will some day be senior citizens. In response to being questioned as to why the town does not pursue businesses and development, the Mayor responded (not a quote) by saying how the town has been split on these issues for years and until he knew the consensus of the voters they could do nothing.

Concerning the future of the school I have done research, attended meetings, talked with people from other communities, visited other schools, and looked over their curriculum. We do pay a high price for our children's education and no, there isn't a lot of "fat" in the budget. My research shows that the children are getting their basics. There are not a lot of extras, but my children went to St Gregory's and the only way we got the extras was through fund-raising and volunteering our time. We also pay a high price to Hightstown- E. Windsor but the variety of studies and opportunities offered

are many, it is up to the children to take full advantage of them. After we get our regionalization studies back then we must do our homework to compare what is offered by each district and how it affects the community as well as the children. Bear in mind we can only grow so much, whereas our surrounding areas have more available land and that Millstone is already putting together building plans for the school. One also has to wonder why a large bus load of Millstone children ride all the way to Notre Dame high school instead of Allentown. I visited and compared local high schools (Monroe included). On paper, there is no comparison to what our children are currently offered. Some people have suggested becoming a total sending district and if this is their feeling then it too should be looked into (more officially, not just numbers thrown together quickly). If we do decide to keep things the way they are then we have to find ways to lessen the burden on the tax-payers. This could be done by forming a foundation, as I have already mentioned, and by controlled growth and development of the community.

Once again we must find out how everyone feels about controlled development. I feel that if the majority is in favor then it is up to our elected officials to contact the land owners and find out their plans for their land (keeping in mind the Master Plan). If the owners of the "Notterman Tract" have no plans on selling, then perhaps it is time to revise the plan. In coordination with this we need a complete impact study. We cannot overload our sewer system nor can we find ourselves having to add onto the school. Then we must pursue builders. We do have a lot to offer. We are a quiet, safe, friendly community, where children can walk to school. Where else nowadays can this be found? Someone had expressed concern that the town would lose its

character if development came in. I don't think this would happen if things are controlled. The alternatives of what could happen to this town if taxes continue to rise are not real comfortable. I know that we could not continue to live here.

I have been impressed with the way meetings are now conducted. My husband and I now feel comfortable attending and participating in them.

We must all work together on these issues. I am willing to do my share as I'm sure many others are, we only need to be asked.

Sincerely,  
Teri Nachtman

## PTA News

*(Continued from Page 5)*

hosting an all-ages spaghetti dinner at the Borough Hall. Paula Haemmerle is chairing this big fundraiser, and the event will run from 3-7 p.m. and will include "early bird" specials and senior citizen discounts. More information will be posted on the bulletin board, and flyers will be distributed as the date draws near, but for now, just mark your calendars for October 17, and prepare your tastebuds for another treat from those terrific PTA cooks!

The annual Scholastic Book Sale will cap this month's events and on October 20 and 21, Joanne Parker and her PTA crew will be on hand during school and evening hours to help RPS kids -- and their parents -- choose from this year's newest books.

As a final note, PTA President Adeenah Yeger is pleased to announce that the PTA has chosen a theme for its special activities during the '93-'94 school year. "Health and Safety" will be in the spotlight for the next 10 months, and the group hopes to host related events for parents as well as for students.



## Borough Council Report

(Continued from Page 8)

but the area bordered by residences will be constructed as planned, while the rest of the work must wait for spring.

### Pollution on Rochdale Avenue

The Council is giving considerable attention to the matter of the Roosevelt Auto and Truck Service property. As our Borough Attorney John Ross summarizes the problem, Monmouth County Board of Health has identified and warned of a series of violations including a continuing discharge from underground storage tanks. DEPE had already issued a warning to the same effect but there was no move on the part of the owners to comply with either notice.

If the Borough were to foreclose its tax lien on the property, remediation of the site (at an estimated cost of \$128,000) might then become the Borough's responsibility. Mr. Ross has informed the Council that recent State legislation makes it possible to protect the Borough from liability and also provides funding (grants or Loans) for the remediation. Mr. Ross is presently making application under this law.

### New Cemetery Rules

An amendment to the cemetery ordinance was adopted that allows interment for persons who have maintained residence in the borough for 20 years (formerly 25 years). This also holds for residents who were elected to and served in local office for three years, including in both groups, the spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age. These conditions are to be sworn to by affidavit by next of kin. False statements or failure to remove the remains of improperly interred persons will be punishable by fines of not less than \$200 or more than

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## Hiroshima Day Observances

by Herb Johnson

Roosevelt had its thirteenth annual commemoration of Hiroshima Day on August 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall. Dr. George Temmer, former Director of Rutgers University's Nuclear Physics Laboratory, spoke about his experiences related to the first use of nuclear weapons, and the progress made since then toward ending the danger of a world nuclear holocaust. Judith McNally read a poem she wrote for this day. Cynthia Jay, accompanied on the piano by Anita Cervantes, sang five appropriate and moving songs by Kurt Weill and others. Four Rooseveltians presented a dramatic reading of selections staged by Bess Tremper and Adie Weiner. Kevin McNally presided. He also read a petition for President Clinton to continue initiatives to stop nuclear testing and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Dr. Temmer told about his personal involvement with efforts to control nuclear weapons since 1945. In 1943 and 1944 he was a graduate student at Berkely University, getting a Master's degree in physics, while a deeply respected professor, J. Robert Oppenheimer, was often missing from the campus. Temmer was in the Navy, getting training in radar, on August 6, 1945, when he heard the news that an atomic bomb had destroyed a large Japanese city. He realized then what Oppenheimer and other physicists had been working on and created. Temmer's volunteer work since 1980 when he helped found the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament, with it and as a physicist at Rutgers and leading workshops in several European countries, was described. He told about some of the intricacies of getting political leaders of the U.S. and other nations to support sound nuclear policies. Before answering about ten ques-

tions from the audience, he spoke about reasons for optimism, and reasons for all "inhabitants of the 'blue planet' to renew efforts to make this a livable and peaceful world."

The dramatic reading concluded the program. The readers were: Lillian Warren, Rod Tulloss, Herb Johnson and ninth grader Kristen Yarber. They dramatized the following: 1. Conversations of crew members of the Enola Gay as it flew toward and over Hiroshima. 2. A petition by 64 scientists to president Truman 4 weeks before the atomic bomb was dropped, recommending a United Nations viewing of the awesome power of the weapon. 3. Two telephone calls by a Japanese reporter near Hiroshima. 4. Recollections by students, a seventh grade boy and a tenth grade boy, who resided on the outskirts of Hiroshima when it had been bombed six years prior. 5. The narrative of a Nagasaki father, three weeks after his city was destroyed, about the search he and his wife and three daughters made for the couples' only surviving son, who was a medical student. 6. Part of a late July, 1993 New York Times editorial which concluded, "Mr. Clinton's moratorium on testing may make America safer than all the tests... that the nuclear labs can dream up."

It seemed that everyone present in the nearly packed Borough Hall was deeply moved and delighted by the program. They signed the petition and contributed to cover the expenses for printing the flyers designed by Jon Shahn and then distributed to every house in Roosevelt by Evelyn Edelstein, Lorraine Reimbold and members of their families.

## Letters

Dear Editor:

In response to Peter Warren's letter in the June 93 Bulletin I, too, would like to see more than 10% (I believe the number is lower) of the residents of Roosevelt get involved in our town and attend more meetings to understand what is going on, and why decisions are being made. I share Peter's concern over the ever increasing taxes keeping anyone from being able to afford to move into our town. Yes, we need many more people to get involved, yet after the last 6 months that I have personally made a concerted effort to attend every council meeting, I see clearly why there are so few people actively involved.

On Monday, September 13, 1993; after 2 months of "whining" to the council....at very short notice (no time to inform the public to have a large attendance), Mr. Roy Munday and associates from the New Jersey American Water Company were invited to attend a council meeting. They were given approximately one hour to talk and answer questions. Their brief presentation was an overview of the New Jersey American Water Company, the largest utility company in NJ, operating utilities in 14 of 21 counties; also listed on the NY stock exchange. The reason the Citizens Action Committee pushed to have them come speak (under the guidance and direction of Assemblyman Robert Singer) was to discuss possible options for water and sewerage service to Roosevelt, including the benefits of privatizing our water and sewerage plants. When the need arises for a new well as Peter pointed out, the cost would be spread out over all their customers, not just the residents of Roosevelt as it has always been. Perhaps there is a more efficient and economical way for us to operate our utilities? The NJ American Water

Company's sole business is the operation of utilities; they are experts in a very scientific field which changes every day.

At the conclusion of a very informative presentation, Mr. Munday said at no expense to the Boro of Roosevelt, the NJ American Water Company upon invitation to do so by the council would come in and do a six-week audit of our present utilities' conditions, all physical assets as well as an in depth study of our financial reports going way back into the Roosevelt archives. Then, they would report back to the council and public and give their status report of our plants, future needs and financial accountability. Mr. Munday stated at the meeting and on numerous conversations I had with him prior to his coming to Roosevelt that most times that they have taken over small town utilities, it has cut costs considerably. Several times, their audits have found towns to be in much better shape financially than they were budgeted for. Most importantly, future costs for improvements could be spread among millions of NJ American Water Company users. Wouldn't it be more fair for each household to be metered? Should a senior citizen pay the same monthly bill as a family of 4-6? Wouldn't it make more economic sense to consider letting experts handle our utilities, having answers at their fingertips, eliminating costs for outside consulting firms? Our plants could be operated as a business, and NJ American Water Company or whoever would take us over would be added to our greatly needed rateable taxpaying base. Furthermore, it was said by one of the council members that the council probably spends 80% of their time dealing with the day to day utility problems, etc. Think of how many other worthwhile issues the council could spend that valuable time on. Perhaps the impact study could finally see the light of day and action could take place, ultimately finding new ways to offset

Roosevelt's taxes.

After the NJ American Water Company's 9/13 presentation, Rose Murphy made a motion which was accepted by the Council to invite the company back to do their audit. Yet, at the 9/19 utility committee meeting, when a resident asked if such a letter had gone out yet, the reply was no....we first need to check this company out better.

I do not understand the way in which the council acts as "Public Servants" when a motion is passed, and then renegged. Is this the Council's way of inviting the public to take a more active role in the community? I am not an easily intimidated person and persevere on issues I feel important. But, many other Roosevelt residents that I have had the pleasure of speaking to over the last 6 months have expressed their reasons for becoming inactive at public meetings is the very thing I am speaking of today. You can't claim to be public servants if you cannot open your ears and act in the best interests of the residents...even if the Council does not personally agree with the residents, look into it!! Is there some reason why the Council chooses not to have an audit of our water & sewerage plants? Has the Council ever looked into the possibility of selling our plants and divorcing ourselves from a problem that is bigger than we are capable of handling?

In closing I am not personally sold on having our utilities taken over by a private company. There are many, many questions to be answered and concerns to be addressed. None of these concerns can be answered or discussed until we have a professional audit to see what shape we are really in. I feel it is in our best interest to always look for new ways to make ourselves better, not to stick our heads in the sand and be afraid to confront new ideas.

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# Benjamin Brown, His Life Before Roosevelt

## Partial Review of "New Deal, New Life" Michael Shally-Jensen's Doctorate Thesis\*

by Bob Mueller

This interesting and scholarly doctorate thesis is concerned with the evolution of Roosevelt (then Jersey Homesteads), from its conception in 1933 until the failure of the garment factory and farm in 1938. It therefore covers a period in the life of Roosevelt long since gone, and way before most of us arrived and settled here. It abounds in many interesting facts and anecdotes. Since I knew little about our founding father Benjamin Brown, other than a few tales that had become quite vague and almost mythical in my mind, I was most interested in the actual facts about how he came to conceive the idea for the original cooperative. I will concentrate here on his background and many previous ventures in communal living that are covered in great detail by Michael Shally-Jensen in his book.

Benjamin Brown (ne Lipshitz) was born in 1885 in the shtetl of Krejopol in Odessa, Russia. He immigrated to the United States in 1901 and worked first as an itinerant peddler out of Philadelphia. He came under the influence of a Reform Rabbi named Joseph Krauskopf, a reformer who wanted to get Jews out of the ghettos in the cities and "back to the land." Krauskopf contended that Judaism was originally agricultural and not urban; that peddling, tailoring and money lending were expedient and not inherent Jewish activities. Krauskopf went to Russia and visited with Tolstoy, who was in his utopian period, educating and assisting peasants. The Israeli kibbutz evolved from this idea, attempting to reinvigorate Jewish life by

a return to its roots; and so did Benjamin Brown's idealism and obsessive drive to establish a Jewish agricultural commune of his own evolve from this germ.

Under Rabbi Krauskopf's influence the young immigrant worked part time as a farm laborer on farms around Philadelphia. He reported in his oral autobiography years later that working the land gave him a "spiritual conversion" and led him to change his name to Brown (I speculate because of the color of earth?). In 1907 he tried to get a loan from the Jewish Agricultural Society to start a colony; when this did not materialize, he pooled resources with a friend and bought acreage outside Philadelphia. On a "peddling trip" that took him to Oklahoma he was inspired by the open plains and unspoiled western United States. Returning east he wrote an article in a journal called, "The New Life" espousing his views. He held meetings and enlisted recruits and discovered his power to "hypnotize people with his oratory." Drawn in by his inspiration a group of converts decided to begin a socialist "agricultural colony somewhere in the west." The prospectus for this community was very similar to that later used to form Roosevelt: 150 people, each contributing \$300, raising sufficient capital to interest more investors; but the dreams were much broader then, expanding from farms to many diverse capitalistic ventures.

Through his connections in 1910 Rabbi Krauskopf convinced the governor of Utah to offer 6,000 acres in

connection with a Federal land grant program for his protege's project. Utah was essentially a Mormon state with many similar agrarian ventures. Accordingly, a small group of men (twelve in all) went to Clarion, Utah, and with great spirit and inspirational devotion they set about trying to work their land and establish a new way of life. In his thesis Michael Shally-Jensen points out that a similar pioneering spirit and emotional enthusiasm bordering on inspirational joy was evident during the early days of the kibbutzim.

The Jewish community in Clarion, Utah existed for 4 years. While it strove for economic independence, using Brown's penchant for PR and his "peddler" talents to try to sell the idea and to attract new settlers, it failed and went into bankruptcy some time after 1914. Brown remained on a tract of land settling as a farmer and dairy manager. Ten years later (during which time he married and began a family) he was honored by gentiles for his service as a president and general manager of the Utah and Idaho Poultry Producers, and was extolled as an "exceptional Jew." This honor started him to rethink his life, and he decided a "return to my people" was in order. He accepted a job in New York City as the eastern representative for the western states poultry cooperatives.

The connection with the Roosevelt administration seems to be through a personal friend of Brown's, a professor of agricultural economics at Montana State College. Michael Shally-

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Jensen recounts Brown's visit to Russia, before Roosevelt (Jersey Homesteads) comes into existence as an idea. Brown accompanied his friend professor M.L. Wilson to a city in Siberia called Birobidzhan. They were financed by wealthy New York City Russian Jewish immigrants who were concerned that Communism would liquidate the Jewish merchants and middle class. The Soviets planned to move several hundred thousand city Jews to the vast Siberian plains to produce agricultural products and exploit the mineral resources in the area, encouraging "Jewish Capitalists" in the United States to support the idea.

On returning to the United States Brown, with an influential writer Chaim Zhitlovsky, formed the Provisional Commission for the Establishment of Jewish Farm Settlements in the United States. They received support from the National Worker's Alliance, the Workmen's Circle, and the United Hebrew Trades according to Michael Shally-Jensen, all American left-oriented or radical-leaning organizations. Although short-lived, as Michael Shally-Jensen indicates, "it was the original seed from which the rural cooperative of Jersey Homesteads, New Jersey sprouted."

Brown now relocated from New York City with his wife and family to a 400-acre farm he owned in Etra (sold to the American Zionist Hechalutz--Pioneer--organization for training youth in preparation for kibbutzim in Israel). Here he invited his friends and extended family to participate in a small cooperative. He built a few small homes for the members, and they set out to farm the land. Michael Shally-Jensen reports that Brown was "like a 'father figure,' a 'very strong character guy,' a marvelous orator, forceful to the point of being 'almost a dictator.'"

One evening Benjamin Brown read in the paper that his friend, professor M. L. Wilson, was appointed director

of the Subsistence Homesteads program in the Roosevelt Administration. He decided on the spot to go to Washington to encourage him to "bring a homestead to New Jersey." He formulated a detailed proposal to draw skilled needletrade workers from New York, Philadelphia, Jersey City to work on a to-be built factory, and to till a cooperative farm and other cooperative ventures, have a library and school for the children, all in a mutually-interdependent and democratically managed community. Washington agreed, gave their final approval in December 1933 when Jersey Homesteads, Inc. was incorporated, and the rest is history.

There are many very interesting facts and anecdotes in Michael Shally-Jensen's book. He dispels many myths behind the misadventures of the early disaster-filled years of Jersey Homesteads. Everyone, having paid their \$500 and subscribed to the communal idea, considered themselves bosses, and demanded a say in every decision--it was not uncommon for those early meetings to go well into the night.

Benjamin Brown was a near-messianic leader around whom controversy and disagreement swirled like a tornado. Before reading Shally-Jensen's book I vaguely understood the problem between the factory and the garment union. When David Dubinsky entered the scene, as head of the ILGWU under whose auspices contracts had to be arranged for the proposed factory, these two charismatic leaders inevitably clashed in their competition for power. David Dubinsky opposed the idea and initially waged a battle against what he saw as a possible "sweatshop in the woods" whose workers would be devoid of union representation. Additionally, he was concerned that jobs would be taken away from workers in the "rag canyons" of New York City. He expressed the idea that Benjamin

Brown was exploiting Albert Einstein who supported the idea. Although Dubinsky was flattered that Albert Einstein paid him a visit to argue Jersey Homestead's case, he still resisted, remarking, "Professor Einstein, when it comes to the theory of relativity, you are the professor, but when it comes to the garment industry I am the professor." Finally, however, David Dubinsky gave in, mostly under pressure from the government to "bring the matter to a rapid solution."

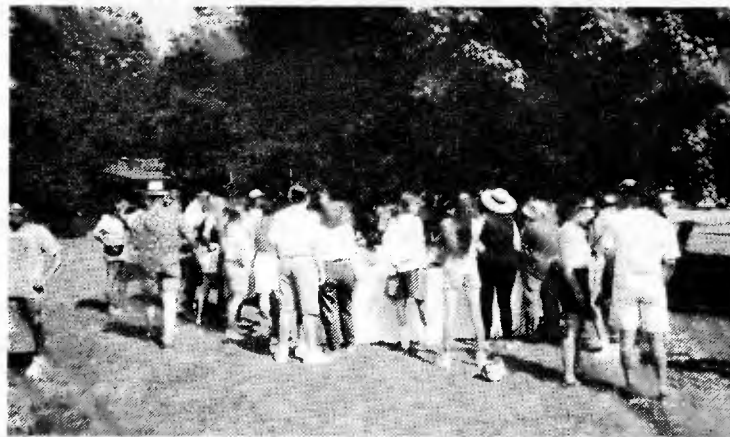
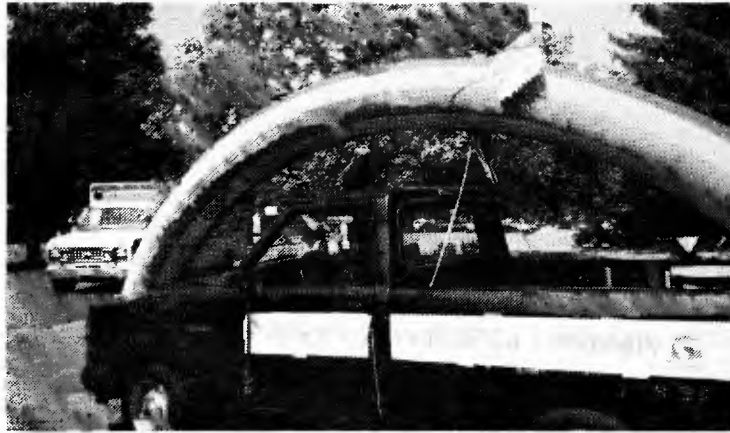
The book refers to actual documents of the time, to many oral interviews from the early settlers, and to numerous other books and articles written about our town. Reading through forty pages of notes of references is a fascinating adventure in the history of Roosevelt. Michael Shally-Jensen's doctorate dissertation in anthropology (Princeton University) applies many theories and paradigms current in the discipline, especially the work of Kenneth Burke. With erudition and sensitivity Michael Shally-Jensen reveals the many Jewish cultural and historical influences upon the early visionaries who settled our town. I recommend that anyone interested in the history of Jersey Homesteads/Roosevelt get a copy and plow in.

---

\* Michael Shally-Jensen, *New Deal, New Life: Culture and History of a Jewish Cooperative Colony in New Jersey, 1933-39*, June 1992, available from UMI University Microfilms International, 800-521-0600.



## 4th of July Celebration



by Ellen Silverman

The summer is over but some good times remain in our memory. One of the best times for me was the 4th of July Celebration. Many people put in a lot of work to make the day a success and it was a smash hit in my book.

From the first planning meeting on March 28, through the various meetings and work parties up until the 4th many hands and heads worked together to make this event a success.

The day started off with the races. Both the over 12 (at 8:00) and the under 12 year old runners (9:00) set a strong pace for the day. Henry John-Alder won the 4 mile race, Kerry Dooley won the 2 mile race and Sean Parker won the under 12 race. A Nature walk took place at 9:00, Wayne Cokeley at the lead. The Pet Show was a smashing success with the organizers and judges, Susan Schwartz and Diane Rocchia meeting and admiring almost all the animals and their humans in town.

Then at 2:00 the parade began, with the decorated bikes, trikes, strollers, walkers and floats whirled down Tamara Dr., up Pine Dr. and on to Rochdale Ave. to the school yard. The theme of the parade's float decorating contest was "A Clean Environment" and the floats in the parade were all imaginative and well thought out interpretations. It was a hard job for the judges Margaret Schlinski, Lillian Warren, and Kevin and Judith McNally to decide but in the end the Goldman's "Recycle Rex" won.

With mayor Lee Allen's speech, the picnic began. Steve Steinberg and his crew made sure that there were hot dogs, drinks and watermelon enough for everyone. There were games to play, art and 50/50 raffles tickets to buy and booths providing information for many of the community's clubs and groups. Bernarda Shahn gave a lecture on Ben Shahn's Mural. RAP provided paper and markers for a town mural which was made by the picnic participants. This Mural is on display at the Borough Hall for those who would like to view it. The Environmental Commission presented an informative display of Roosevelt and also information from the Rutgers study of Roosevelt's resources. The day was also enhanced by the music of the three wonderful bands during the picnic.

A celebration like this takes a lot of volunteers to put together and the job they did was great. Thank you for the wonderful 4th of July memory. Thanks also go to the support we received from Clean Community and the Council.

## Roosevelt Arts Project 1993-1994 Season

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1993-1994 calendar of events, featuring two artists never presented before by RAP, the premiere of a new play by Leslie Weiner, a group show by Roosevelt visual artists and the return of your favorite musicians and poets.

At all events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$5.00, only \$3.00 for students and seniors. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.

Sunday	October 24, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. Borough Hall	Roy Meriwether -Pianist
Saturday	November 13, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	Piano/Poetry Fest II
Saturday	December 11, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	John Parrott in Concert
Sunday	January 9, 1994 at 3:00 p.m. Peddie School	Boris Zarankin -Classical Pianist
Saturday	February 5, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Peddie School	Laurie Altman - Jazz
Sunday	March 13, 1994 at 5:00 p.m. Roosevelt Factory Hall	Art at the Factory - The Artist as Social Commentator
Saturday	April 16, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Peddie School	Roosevelt String Band - Songs of Freedom
Saturday	May 7, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	Grant - A New play by Leslie Weiner.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances and exhibits. For additional information, call David Herrstrom, RAP President at 443-4421 or any of the RAP trustees or artists.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible in part by your support and a generous grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

## *Tempora Mutantur ... Everything Changes ...*

by Peter Warren

**New Kids on the Block...** Alexandra (McBride) Carr; Joshua Scott Fischer; Danzic Vincent Green; Jake Edward Monroe; Jamey Silverstein; Alexander Velasquez, Augustus Vuolle; Larry Van Brunt III, age 3.

**Moving In...** Larry Jr. and Katherine Van Brunt, to School Lane; Kevin Conley and Lisa Chappell to the Summers house on Pine Drive.

**Return of the Native...** Stefan Martin, to the Beinen house on South Rochdale; Jim Steele, to his parents' house on Pine Drive; John Hazell and friend to the Hazell house on Farm Lane.

**Moving Out...** Andy, Gloria and Petula Hazell, to Minnesota; Bob & Christina Somma; Homer & Linda Steele, to North Carolina; Morton Rotgard, to the West Coast; Bill & Kim Summers, to the Adirondacks.

**On the Market...** As of September 15, 19 houses for sale.

**College-Bound...** Dustin Warnick, to Virginia Polytechnic.

**Middle School Honor Role...** Avery Cayne, Jessica Hague, Sarah Henry, Lisa Miller, Kristen Unger, Meira Yeger.

**On Safari...** The Friedmans and the Nahmias, by car to Canada to meet the Barths for dinner in Toronto; the DeMalvilains, by ship to Canada; Danny Jaeger, to France and Germany; The Nederlands, to Montana;; Ken Rich, to England to visit Natt Hazell; Len Sacharoff, to New Orleans; Evelyn Schlinski to a Wyoming ranch; the Seligmans, to Australia to visit former resident Josh Hecht; Bess Tremper ;and Sol Libsohn, to Paris and Provence.

**Sovereignty Changes...** The 1.93 square mile area which is now Roosevelt (Jersey Homesteads from 1936 to 1945) was formerly part of Millstone Township; before that, (together with Millstone), part of Upper Freehold Township; and before that, (together with upper Freehold), part of Freehold Township.

**Loveliest Garden...** Thermon and Helen McKoy's on Farm Lane.

**Loveliest Insect...** Abe Schlinski's milkweed-bourne caterpillars which will hatch into Monarch Butterflies.

**Loveliest (and Only) Fountain...** Michael and Linda Block's on Lake Drive.

**Opera Lovers...** Eighteen Roosevelt amateurs will enjoy the Boheme Opera's October 24 performance of Faust at Trenton's War Memorial Theatre.

**First Couple...** Married by the Mayor in Jersey Homesteads, Jack and Frieda Rockoff, in August 1940.

**Observed...** On Pine Drive, by Wayne Cokeley and fellow chelonophiles, a genuine, live wood turtle.

**Replaced...** Street signs, and painted, Borough Hall, by summer youth work program, directed by Ed Davis, Superintendent of Public Works.

**Violent Crimes...** (Murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) in Roosevelt, 1992: None; Cases of burglary, larceny, car theft: 8.

**Shot...** In June by out-of-town BB gunners in RPS yard, Roosevelt kid; assailants forbidden by court to return to Roosevelt.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Tempora Mutantur ... Everything Changes ...*

**Debunked...** Prostitution rumor, by joint State Police/Borough Council July investigation.

**Lead and Copper...** Tested (and found lacking) in town water supply, at no cost, through Environmental Commission / County Department of Health cooperation; Allentown gets \$7,500 cost estimate to do same.

**Completed...** Farm Lane Construction.

**Flowing...** June, July, August: Sewage 160,000 149,000 and 138,000 gpd respectively (DEPE ceiling 250,000 gpd); water 162,000 155,000 and 144,000 respectively.



I've got to  
get home in  
time for my

## Roosevelt Community Television

Tuesday, 6-6:30 PM, on Storer Cable Channel 8

### Letters

*(Continued from page 14)*

Peter, you are right...we need many more people to get involved in our town to make it a better, more affordable and desirable place to live. Mayor and Council, it is said that Benjamin Brown, our founder, died in 1939 penniless and of a broken heart. Roosevelt then was plagued by infighting and managerial inexperience. Let's encourage more community commitment, and set aside our personal feelings when they stand in the way of progress.

Paula Haemmerle  
Citizens Action Committee

Don't Speed in Town!  
Pas si Vite, Alors!  
Nicht zu schnell  
fahren, bitte!  
Lente, lente currite!

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**Borough Council Report***(Continued from Page 13)*

\$1000. Imprisonment and/or community service are also possible penalties.

Another new rule will prevent hunters' use of the cemetery for parking their cars. The ordinance states that no car must be left unattended. Cars will be considered "attended" only if persons are present on cemetery grounds. Violations are subject to penalties of \$50 or imprisonment up to 15 days or both. Every day's violation will be counted as a separate offense. Signs are being prepared for posting at the cemetery.

**Visible House Numbers Mandated**

An ordinance introduced by David Donnelly, Health and Safety Chairmen, requires a clear display of numbers on houses and other buildings to assist emergency services personnel to locate the person in need. This requirement arises in conjunction with the recent activation of the county-wide 911 emergency service.

Specifications call for the numbers to be in Arabic Numerals; to be a minimum of 3 inches high and mounted so as to be visible from the street. There will be a \$25 fine for a first violation and up to \$200 for subsequent ones.

**Other Council Business**

Some minor matters that came before the Council during the past months were the receipt of \$286.78, the tonnage grant for recycled material (our reward); the acquisition of a purchase order computer system for \$380; approval of a contract for janitorial services for the rest of the year for \$150 per month. The council is looking for a replacement for retiring Zoning Officer, Paul Eichler, by January.

James Carnival and Bert Ellentuck were appointed to serve on Regional Environmental Councils, the Inner Coastal Plain and Panhandle Regions respectively.

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## 1993 - 1994

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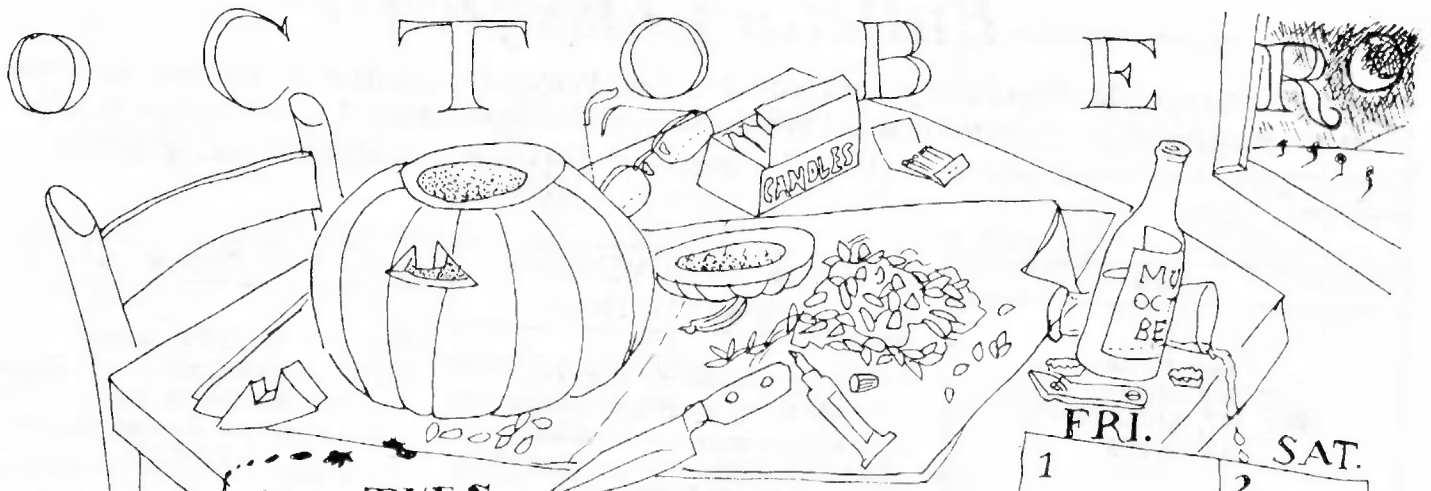
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3		4 7:30 PM COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING BORO HALL L. ALLEN MAYOR 448 6978		5 6 PM ROOSEVELT COMM. TV. CABLE CH. 8 1 PM BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK - BORO HALL 2 PM - ROOSEVELT SENIOR CITIZENS - BORO HALL J. KOFFLER - 448 2259 7:30 PM FIRST AID SQ. BORO HALL SUSAN OXFORD, PRES 443 0525		6 RECYCLABLES 8:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION BORO HALL JIM CARNAVALE CHMN. 426 1728		7		8 SIMCHAT TORAH 7:30 BOARD OF ED. AGENDA MTG. ROOSEVELT PUB. SCHOOL - M. HAMILTON PRES. 443 5227		9	
10		11 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED BIG GARBAGE PICK-UP DAY 7:30 BORO COUNCIL ACTION MTG. L. ALLEN, MAYOR 448 6978		12 6:00 PM ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY T.V. CABLE CHANNEL 8		13 7:00 PM YOGA CLASS SYNAGOGUE D. METZGER 443 3759 8 PM PLANNING B.D. MTG. BOROUGH HALL GAIL HUNTON CHAIR. 426 4338 8 PM PTA MEETIN' R.P.S. ADEENAH YEGER PRES. 443 5848		14 9 AM R.P.S. P.T.A. ASSEMBLY "LIVING IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY" A. YEGER. 443 5848		15		16	
17 4-7 PM PTA SPAGHETTI DINNER - PAULA HAEMMERLE 443 5187		18		19 6 PM ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY T.V. CABLE CHANNEL 8		20 RECYCLABLES 7:30 PM BD. OF ED. BUSINESS MTG. R.P.S. - M. HAMILTON, PRES 443 5227 7 PM YOGA CLASS SYNAGOGUE - D. METZGER 443 3759 SCHOOL HOURS - PTA CHILDRENS BOOK FAIR - R.P.S. - A. YEGER 443 5848		21 PTA CHILDRENS BOOK FAIR SCHOOL HOURS + 6:30 - 8 PM. R.P.S. ADEENAH YEGER 443 5848		22		23	
24 7 PM - BORO HALL RAP JAZZ PROGRAM - ROY MERIWETHER SEMI-ANNUAL LITTER PICK-UP - POST OFFICE !! PARKING LOT !! 10 AM GAYLE DONNELLY 426 1315		25 7:30 PM BOROUGH COUNCIL MTG'S (COMMITTEES) BOROUGH HALL		26 6:00 PM ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV. CABLE CHANNEL 8 BY JSH		27 7 PM YOGA CLASS SYNAGOGUE D. METZGER 443 3759		28		29		30	
31 HALLOWEEN END OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME - "TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME"													

