

# ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

Volume <sup>22</sup>~~23~~ Number 6

April 1999

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

### Municipal Budget Approved

by Herb Johnson

Roosevelt Borough officials present at the March 8 meeting of the Borough Council for the Municipal Budget Public Hearing and 18 other agenda matters were Mayor Lee Allen, five members of the Council, Borough Clerk Krystyna Bieracka-Olejnik, Borough Attorney John Ross, Chief Financial Officer Ed Debevec and Accountant Gerard Stankiewicz. Twenty-one members of the public were present during most of the nearly three-hour meeting.

After roll call, the Council approved of the minutes for the Agenda Meetings and Regular Meetings in January and February, the Special Meeting on

December 30 and the Reorganization meeting on January 4. Next the Mayor gave the names of senders and the subjects of eleven correspondences, three of which were from Roosevelt residents, and six of which were from state, county or municipal government bodies or agencies. One was from Congress person Bob Franks and the other was from Remington & Vernick Engineers.

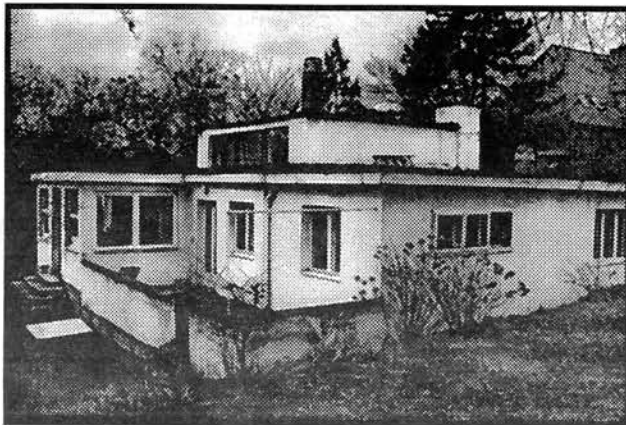
Reports were next. Mayor Allen said he met with other mayors at a meeting hosted by the New Jersey League of Municipalities for the purpose of learning ways to reduce municipal expenses by using shared expenses. He made no recommendations for any that seemed possible for Roosevelt. Trooper Reinhart and Council woman Rose D. Murphy gave no reports as they were not present. The following members of the Borough Council gave Committee

Reports: 1. Harry Parker, for Administration, said he is taking steps to amend the requirement that Borough employees be residents of Roosevelt; 2. John Towle, for Finance, said the 1999 Budget and an amendment would be presented for final approval; 3. George Vasseur, for Public Works, said he is working on getting an emergency, natural gas-powered generator installed for the

*Continued on Page 8*

**The May Bulletin  
may be our last  
Bulletin!**

**See page 2 for details**



**Where  
is this  
house  
located?**

**See page 13.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PLANNING BOARD NEWS	3
SENIOR NEWS	3
SCHOOL NEWS	4 - 5
LETTERS	6
LOOSE LEAVES	7
WEATHER ALMANAC	9 - 10
OUR TOWN	11 - 15
NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES	16
RAP	17
POETS' NIGHT	18
BREAKING BREAD	19

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## An Urgent Appeal

We've said it before and we need to say it again. Without the help of our readers, the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* cannot exist!

We are beginning to experience real financial problems. In fact, at this moment, we have enough money to produce this and the May issues. To be more specific, to put out the Bulletin each month, it costs in the neighborhood of \$550: about \$ 475 to \$ 500 for typing and printing and about \$ 60 for postage which includes out-of-town subscriptions. Our printer, The Prints of Windsor, gives us a 25% discount from the bill each month which helps a little. All else is volunteered.

When we pay the expenses related to this and the May issues, we will have a balance of a little over \$ 100 and, unless we receive contributions from those of you who have as yet not made one, or those who have already done so or can do a little bit more, as well as possibly some who could manage a moderate grant, we will not be able to go on publishing this year.

If the Bulletin is important to you WE NEED YOU NOW!

## CLEAN COMMUNITIES LITTER PICK-UP

LITTER PICK-UP IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 11.  
PARTICIPANTS ARE TO MEET AT THE POST OFFICE AT 10:00 A.M.

THE LITTER PICK-UP AND LUNCHEON ARE PAID FOR BY A STATE  
GRANT FOR CLEAN COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT THE HOME OF  
MICHELE AND LEONARD GUYE-HILLIS.

PLEASE REMEMBER, THE LUNCHEON IS MEANT FOR THOSE WHO  
GENEROUSLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PICK-UP AND SERVES AS A  
THANK YOU FOR THEIR TIME.

## REMINDER:

BE A CONSIDERATE NEIGHBOR...

- PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.
- LEASH YOUR DOG.
- DO NOT ALLOW HIM/HER TO RUN LOOSE
- LEASHES CANNOT BE LONGER THAN 8 FEET.
- GET YOUR DOG LICENSED.

DOG LICENSES FOR APRIL:

Altered: \$14.20  
Unaltered: \$17.20

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# PLANNING BOARD NEWS

## Applicant Seeks 65 Houses for Notterman Tract

by Bob Clark

In the largest formal development application in the history of Roosevelt, the Matzel & Mumford Organization (M&M) of Hazlet submitted preliminary subdivision plans for the 109-acre property owned by Daniel and Abby Notterman. The application, filed with the Planning Board on February 11, requests a subdivision containing 65 single-family, detached building lots and the preservation of the balance of the tract, 84.5 acres, as permanent open space. (The original Jersey Homesteads development was larger, of course, but the U.S. government

would not have had to apply to the Millstone Township Planning Board, even if it had existed in the 1930s.)

The application calls for a large, contiguous area of open space in the forest and wetlands surrounding Empty Box Brook and the agricultural field south of the Cemetery. In keeping with informal discussions with the Planning Board regarding its informal proposal of mid-1998, M&M removed seven building lots and a new road from steeply sloping woods across from the triangle on North Valley Road. Consequently, the only entrance to the development from North Valley Road would be a further

extension of Farm Lane. M&M also shifted several lots in the central part of the property to accommodate wetland boundaries. The formal application would relocate 13 of the lots eliminated from the informal sketch to the area where the project would connect to Eleanor Lane between the existing homes on that road and the Cemetery. Seven of those 13 lots would lie along a proposed horseshoe-shaped road north of Eleanor Lane.

Under the Municipal Land Use Law, Borough officials must determine whether the application is complete before additional deadlines are set for the conclusion of formal hearings and substantive review. The statute requires the conclusion of the completeness review within 45 days of filing. In a March 8 letter, M&M's attorney, Thomas Farino, Jr., advised Alan Mallach, the Planning Board's Planning Consultant, that M&M consented to an additional 45 days for the completeness review. Mr. Farino asked the Board to expedite the completeness review as M&M "would like to begin the formal hearing process sometime during the month of April."

At its March 10 regular monthly meeting, the Planning Board unanimously authorized Borough Engineer James DeMuro to make recommendations to the Board regarding the completeness of the M&M application. The Board itself will make the final determination of completeness.

On March 5, Mr. Mallach and the Planning Board's Master Plan Committee recommended that the Board retain the firm of Clarke Caton Hintz of West Trenton as planning consultants. The firm would help prepare

*Continued on Page 20*

**April 1999 • Bulletin 3**

## Senior Citizen News

by Helga Wisowaty

At our meeting of March 1st, we were informed that John Wanet, is now the Director of the Monmouth County Office on Aging. Their telephone number is 800-246-9292. To put something in the "Senior News Liner" publication, call Mr. Wanet.

We have many activities each month. For example, once a week on Tuesday, we are taken by bus to shop at Ames and then for lunch at a restaurant. On the third Tuesday in March, we went to lunch at a Chinese Restaurant on Quaker Bridge Road. And on March 30th, we had our usual box lunch at the Community Room in Solar Village.

Upcoming events include:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Saturday, May 17          | Spaghetti dinner in the Senior Community room in Clarksburg, \$4.  |
| May 9 through the 23rd    | There will be a showing of Arts at Thompson Park. If you're interested in showing, be in touch with them before. |
| June 10, Senior Olympics. | More information to come. ■  |

*Continued on Page 20*

**April 1999 • Bulletin 3**

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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## From RPS: The Office of the Interim Chief School Administrator

Richard S. Messner

**A**t the end of February, the Roosevelt School again initiated a Writers-in-the-School Program (WITS). Cathy Doty was the coordinator of the program and she was excellent. She encouraged our students in writing prose and poetry within the framework of their environment. The program presented our students an opportunity to use their minds in developing ideas through words. The WITS Program was funded by our PTA. A great big thank you to them for providing an excellent program.

We received a technology grant of approximately \$65,000 from the New Jersey Department of Education. The grant period starts April 1, 1999 and runs through March 31, 2000. It will train teachers to use technology in the curriculum. It will train the art teacher to teach art history and graphic arts using the technology. It will also allow the

community to come into the school one day a week to be trained in accessing and using the internet. Finally, this grant will help us purchase computers, servers and upgrade our software. In addition, we will be able to set up a WEB page.

On March 11, 1999, in our lobby, we participated in the "World's Largest Concert." A television was set up and our students participated with those students on TV by singing various songs. Many other school districts also participated in this venture. Mrs. Heather Philhower, our music teacher, coordinated the program. Our students and staff enjoyed the program.

Recently we had an in-service day for our faculty. The Everyday Math workshop was conducted by Dr. Beverly Finnegan, supervisor of mathematics and basic skills at the East Brunswick School District. The presentation was excellent. Dr. Finnegan provided materials and information and made suggestions on how we can improve our teaching and methods with regard to the program. There was constant dialogue which made for a very informative and successful in-service program. ■

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## RCNS: April Newsletter

by Ginny Weber

**S**pring is in full swing at Roosevelt Nursery School. We're doing many activities for April Showers, including learning about the water cycle and the importance of rain. We're also doing our best to keep our Earth clean for everyone. We are making litter bags to remind everyone not to litter our neighborhoods. What fun we have making "recycled masterpieces" from our trash!

We are also discussing our community helpers and other occupations this month. It's interesting to find out what occupations intrigue the children and what they would like to be when they grow up.

Our parents are planning a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, April 18th, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to benefit our school. The children are making pasta decorations for the

dinner. Ticket prices are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Take-out service will also be available.

Since warm weather is here again, we are spending lots of time outdoors. We would appreciate any donations or reasonably priced playground equipment in good condition.

If anyone would like to get more information about the spaghetti dinner or would like to donate playground equipment, please call the nursery school at 426-9523. Thanks to everyone for your continued support so that our nursery school continues to be the best it can be for our children!

On April 29th, RCNS is participating in a mini march for cystic fibrosis. If anyone would like to come and cheer us on, our "march" will begin at 10 a.m. at our school. The children will try to get an understanding that some children are sick and need their help to live happy lives like them. ■

# SCHOOL NEWS

## School Board News

by Nancy Hamilton

The March 25th meeting of the Board of Education was a combined board meeting and budget hearing. The meeting was called to order at about 7:45 by President Lauralynne Cokeley. All members of the Board were present except for Mrs. Silverman. Assemblyman Joseph Malone, who had been invited to meet with the finance committee prior to the Board meeting, stayed for the very beginning of the public portion. Also in attendance was Councilman John Towle. In anticipation of a good turnout, the meeting was held in the gym of the school.

There was some discussion about possible reasons for the low turnout. Mrs. Cokeley suggested that the budget presentation be an informal one. Mr. Towle requested a copy of the com-

plete budget for his review.

The reasons for the increase in this year's proposed budget were reviewed. One significant factor affecting the budget is that more students are entering the East Windsor district on a tuition basis than are graduating out of East Windsor. According to current projections, this could be a one-year increase that should level off as high school graduating classes become larger.

Another reason for this year's increase is the unavailability of reserve funds. In previous years, the State required that districts use up reserves in order to provide tax relief for its residents. This year, our district is faced with a shortfall that must be replenished. These reserves are necessary in the event of an emergency (i.e., heating repair) and are an essential part of all

school districts' budgets.

The School Board continues to investigate ways to offset a tax increase by obtaining revenue from other sources. The meeting earlier that evening with Assemblyman Malone, raised the possibility of a change in our District Factor Grouping (DFG) which could result in more state aid. This rating is determined by a formula, which measures the socioeconomic status of a district. Because ours is a small district, results are easily skewed. In fact, our DFG is on par with towns such as Rumson and Colts Neck. East Windsor and Millstone have lower ratings and are therefore entitled to more state aid. Our Chief School Administrator will follow up this meeting with a letter to Assemblyman Malone. Mr. Towle has a connection with State Senator DiFrancesco and will also ask him for assistance.

Aside from budget business, Mr. Towle reported that the siren on the school will be removed. The appointment of a School Board - Planning Board liaison was discussed.

The Board voted to adopt the budget at a vote of six to two. Mr. John-Alder voted against the budget because of his concerns that budget summary had not yet been mailed out. Mr. Ticktin also voted no, stating that the budget itself was lean and prudent but so heavily loaded with state mandates that it becomes an unfair and unconstitutional way to fund the school. It was decided to send the budget summary out as quickly as possible and to invite the public to another budget workshop as part of the next Board meeting.

*Continued on Page 18*

## PTA

by Ellen Silverman

The Winter Carnival, held on February 27, was a great success this year in part because of the wonderful donations to the Chinese Auction. A big "Thank You!" goes to all the classroom parents for their donations to the specialty baskets. Another big "Thank You!" goes to the businesses and individuals who donated items:

K & B Tattooing	Minute Maid (Hightstown)
Country Accents (Hightstown)	Rossi's (Roosevelt)
Anthony Vincent Salon (E. Windsor)	Agway (Hightstown)
Americana Diner (E. Windsor)	H & H Gas (Hightstown)
Black Forest Acres (E. Windsor)	Regal Cinemas (E. Windsor)
Tony Z's Pizza & Pasta (E. Windsor)	Tom Hague & Son (Roosevelt)
Rick's Saddle Shop (Hightstown)	Jim's Barber Shop (Hightstown)
The Cheshier Family	The Jackson Family
	The Moore Family

**Get out your blue suede shoes and come join us on  
April 23rd. for the School Dance.**



# LETTERS

**T**his morning - March 11th - I filed to run as Republican candidate for mayor next November. Since I am retired, I can devote full time to the duties of mayor. I would be delighted to be joined by two people - of either party - who would run for Council in November.

My qualifications: four years on the Council, the only non-Planning Board member whose contribution to the 1978 master plan was singled out for praise and, over the years, have frequently helped the community in one way or another.

Lillian and I moved to Roosevelt in 1967 and have lived here ever since except when we were working abroad. I graduated from Princeton in 1948 after three years in the war as an American Field Service ambulance driver in the Middle East and Europe. My subsequent career was divided

between being a corporate economist and working overseas in economic development.

During the next four years, the mayor will be occupied with facilitating the implantation of two large-scale residential developments which will more than double our present population. He should be a liaison with the public. He should propose useful ideas to the Borough Council - particularly for reducing property taxes - and work effectively and loyally with Council members.

If you choose me in the primary election to-be, as a candidate for mayor in November, I will propose a number of measures - a platform, in other words - for your consideration and discuss them with you between April and November.

Peter B. Warren

## **POETS, PAINTERS, PERFORMANCE ARTISTS, COMPOSERS, SCULPTORS, DRAMATISTS, MULTIMEDIA ARTISTS, ETC.**

### **THE ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT WANTS**

# **YOU !**

The Roosevelt Arts Project is now planning its 1999-2000 season of events. Proposals for programs that can be presented at Borough Hall or other locations within the community are invited from local artists, or from artists living outside Roosevelt but with a strong connection to the community. If you have an event that you would like to present next season, please send a written proposal to

The Roosevelt Arts Project  
P.O. Box 5  
Roosevelt, New Jersey 08555

If you have any questions, please call David Herrstrom at 443-4421.

Proposals must be received by April 30 to be considered for next season.

# LOOSE LEAVES

## The New Reader is E-Rater

by Ron Kostar

The Educational Testing Service (ETS), for whom many readers and I have been scoring essays for years, recently gave birth to a computer program that can read and score essays faster than the average human being can blink his eyes, while, reportedly, also maintaining a very high agreement rate with human readers.

Said computer has been christened the "e-rater", in deference to perhaps its only function in life, which is to rate essays. E-rater will be gainfully employed by ETS by the beginning of this month.

Apparently, the folks at ETS have had concerns about human scoring for some time now. "Scoring essays manually," we read in a recent institution publication, "is costly and time consuming. In addition, the subjectivity inherent to human reader scoring has been an ongoing problem."

Consequently, for the past five years ETS researchers have been exploring the use of "advanced computational linguistics techniques for automatically scoring a variety of constructed writing responses." This research only recently culminated in the implementation of a prototype automatic scoring system, dubbed e-rater.

And, what will e-rater be looking for when he "sits" down and reads student essays? Supposedly, the hyperanalytical, super-quick rater has been programmed to evaluate the syntactical, rhetorical and topical sophistication of an essay. Like human readers,

e-rater will rate an essay according to its "overall impression", practicing what's known as "holistic scoring", and will assign it a score based on a 1 to 6 point scale.

Evidently e-rater, like trained human readers, will be capable of identifying an essay that "stays on the topic of a prompt, has a strong, coherent and well-organized argument structure, and displays variety in both syntactical structure and vocabulary usage." Excellent essays will be assigned the score of 6, lesser essays anything as low as a 1 or 2.

Some questions about e-rater's ability remain unanswered, however -potentially troublesome questions. Can e-rater be tricked into rewarding logical, smoothly connected gibberish, or red herrings, for instance; and, will he assign disproportionate weight to grammatical, spelling and other "superficial" errors, at least according to the tenets of holistic scorers? Perhaps most importantly, will e-rater recognize the subtleties and implications inherent to good writing and reward the writers accordingly?

And, just how will parents respond when they find out that their son's or daughter's choice of college is affected by an e-rater generated score?

How the answers to these questions unfold should prove to be interesting.

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Meanwhile, the morale among veteran ETS readers, many of whom have cut their teeth and sacrificed their eyes at the altar of ETS, isn't that high these days, though the responses of individual readers have varied.

Some readers have transformed their anxiety and anger into black humor,

while others have advocated more subversive means.

At one recent funereal reading, questions and concerns were hurled around a lunch table about topics as varied as e-rater's qualifications; his (in)ability to teach a college course (which remains a prerequisite for human readers); and, whether said rater would be able to sustain his objectivity and competence during the course of a typical, grueling scoring day. Other human readers, many rummy-eyed and visibly upset, made snide remarks about e-rater's social life, or lack thereof; his lack of experience in the quote unquote real world; and, his (for some reason everyone assumed he was masculine) inability to "write as much as one word, or coin one phrase."

"What would e-rater know about surviving, much less thriving, in a college classroom?" one cynical professor hissed.

Among the neo-Luddite consultants, some of whom carried canes and others umbrellas, there was talk of open rebellion. Threats, of, at the very least, picketing ETS or subverting the project before it even got started, by stuffing bagels and pizza and salad down e-rater's equivalent of a mouth.

Other, more satirically inclined readers speculated loudly about e-rater's whereabouts; what he might look like, and if he ever slept. And, whether another e-rater, same shape but different program, was "slouching somewhere near Bethlehem waiting to be born."

Needless to say, on the day I was reading, no one invited e-rater to lunch or regretted that he wasn't there.

*Continued on Page 21*

## Borough Council News

*Continued from Page 1*

Borough Hall at a cost of under \$20,000; 4. Michael Stiles and Paul Hoogsteden said there was no report for Environmental - Health & Safety or for Community Development. Reports from representatives to some Roosevelt entities were next: (1) Mr. Parker said the Planning Board had received two preliminary proposals, one for the Notterman Tract and one for the PCD-2 zoned area east of Route 537, (2) Mr. Stiles said the Environmental Commission did not meet, and (3) Mr. Towle said he confirmed to the Board of Education that the Borough Council would remove the siren from the roof of the school before the Board has the roof repaired.

During the first Public Portion of the meeting, twelve Roosevelt residents made comments. Bert Ellentuck began by asking if the February Borough Bulletin report of the 1998 Current Fund surplus being \$415,000 was true. The Mayor confirmed it and quickly added that \$370,000 may someday need to be given to the Roosevelt School Board, due to the State requiring municipalities to hold back six months of monies collected for school boards about seven years ago. He did not agree with the suggestion that this year might be a good time to give all or half of the "withheld school board money" to the Board so that it would not have to ask for a large tax increase. The money is earning about 3.5 percent interest so that the Borough can put more into reserves each year without having to raise the municipal tax rate.

Mr. Ellentuck then asked Mayor Allen if the new tax map was sent to the Planning Board as he had stated in February. Michael Ticktin explained that the map went to the Borough Clerk, the County Tax Board and the Borough's Tax Assessor.

Nona Sherak reported that the utility company employee told her he refuses to use the blow-off valve installed at the end of the Borough's water lines on Maple Court, even though the Mayor and Council said it would be used to help provide clean water to residents there.

Vincent Vignuolo asked where new sirens would be installed when the siren was removed from the school roof. Mr. Towle said it was not certain that any siren was needed. Mr. Vignuolo said a siren is essential because fire fighters in Roosevelt are not always within hearing distance of their two-way radio pagers. He asked if the Council approved of having fire trucks operated out of the garages behind the Borough Hall. Mr. Vasseur said yes.

Neil Marko said that when he offered six months ago to help the Borough prepare for possible disasters on January 1, 2000, the Mayor had stated he would notify Mr. Marko when a Y2K Commission was formed. The Mayor explained that he and the Council had taken steps to spare Roosevelt. Mr. Marko said he just learned from the telephone company that half of Roosevelt's telephones would not operate if power was cut off from the Bell Atlantic boxes by the Borough Hall. He urged the Mayor to have an emergency power line available to provide adequate power for those boxes, from the Borough's emergency generator, in case of a Y2K failure that may last for days.

Pearl Seligman and others asked Borough officials to diminish the danger caused by signs blocking vision of traffic at Ely's Corner, the biggest being the sign announcing where the Lions' Club has meetings.

Michael Hamilton warned that the

deserted gasoline station's garage door has been open. Borough Attorney Ross said he notified Trooper Reinhart about it a few weeks ago. Mr. Hamilton responded that he spoke with Trooper Reinhart also, "just this week," and he does not believe that is under his jurisdiction. Mayor Allen said he would contact the County Health Department about the hazard because the Borough has no right to do anything to the property since it is still privately owned. In response to the question if the Borough has plans to possess the property, the Mayor said the Borough is staying away from that because of the risk of third party suits. Michael Ticktin asked if the Borough could form a redevelopment agency, or could work with a nonprofit corporation, which could take possession of the garage at the time the Borough foreclosed on the garage property, thereby safeguarding the Borough from suits.

Marilyn Magnes inquired how the Borough could afford to build a new well and water tower for any new development, how it might be financed before the new homeowners pay for hook-up fees. Mr. Towle said the developer could be required by contract to pay for the developer's share before the work starts. Ms. Magnes asked if the Borough can borrow by selling bonds. Borough Accountant Stankiewicz said the Borough can borrow up to 3.5 percent of its total assessed valuation and it is now at the 1.4 percent level. Sol Libsohn urged Borough officials to negotiate in favor of residents of Roosevelt. Gladys Nadler said developers sometimes pay all of the costs of some improvements.

Anita Roskam, Ms. Sherak and Messrs. Ellentuck and Marko made other remarks about Borough problems before Michael Block raised the

*Continued on Page 10*



# ROOSEVELT WEATHER ALMANAC

by Ron Filepp

**A**t the beginning of March, I was wondering if the season would bring one significant snowstorm. Yes, there had been a few minor snow events. There was one day off from work when a January storm dropped four inches. And, on a couple of occasions television news programs showed frantic shoppers in grocery store checkout lines before forecasts of snow storms turned out to be exaggerated.

Finally, near the middle of the March forecasts of a large storm heading our way held the hope of significant snow accumulation. There had been other such forecasts during the winter. But, significant snowfall always stayed to the north, south or west of our region. I took some offense by this fact. Imagine, nearly a foot of snow fell in Washington, D. C. and not a flake way up north in New Jersey. So, when heavy snow fell on March 14, 1999 it was a welcome sight.

The storm started with rain that gradually turned to snow. The snow fell like cotton being thrown from an invisible cotton gin. The great machine lay above the thick gray clouds spewing big hunks of white fiber. The fibers came down from on high in a large arc that must have originated at the mouth of the machine.

Science tells us that snow falls at a speed between one and five miles per hour. This snow was falling very slowly. Each flake was its own parachute. Standing under the falling crystalline clumps, eyes blinking in anticipation of a ticklish landing, I felt as though the snow and overcast sky could smother an inattentive observer.

By about 11 that night the heavy snow was almost five inches deep. The branches of bushes and trees bowed under the weight of the snow. Some areas of the state lost power com-

pletely when overburdened power cables snapped. In Roosevelt, while some areas shared the same fate, in other parts there were just a few occasions when lights flickered and it seemed as though power would be lost but wasn't.

The next morning before off loading the cars of their white cargo, I measured the snow at 6.5 inches — the deepest snowfall of the season to date. While digging I noticed the snow had a distinct blue hue.

## Winter '98/'99

Total snowfall for the season, as of March 15, was 15.25 inches. That's 8.75 inches below average snowfall, but much more than we had in the winter of '97/'98. Only 2.5 inches of the white stuff fell then. Two-and-a-half inches of snow fell in December 1998 and January 1999 brought two snowfalls, four inches fell on the eighth and a half an inch fell on the fourteenth. February 8 one inch fell and February 26 brought .75 inches.

Lest you think it's been a long time since we've had a snowy winter, don't forget the winter of '95/'96 when over eighty-one inches of snow fell. During that winter, the Blizzard of '96 in January dumped 26 inches of snow in Roosevelt. Parts of the state got 35 inches of snow from that storm.

Overall last winter was warm and wet. The average temperature for the winter of '98/'99 is 38 degrees. The normal average is 32.4. And, while we didn't receive a normal accumulation of snow last winter, we did have above normal precipitation. The total precipitation for the three winter months of December, January and February was 11.93 inches, — 1.98 inches greater than normal. Most of the winter's precipitation fell in January — almost two-and-a-half times the normal monthly precipitation fell that month. Both December and February had below normal precipitation. ■

## Weather Word

A "supercell" is a fierce thunderstorm that can last for hours. One supercell can produce a series of strong tornadoes.

## Weather Event

The warmest temperature ever recorded in New Jersey during April was 98 degrees. The date was April 18, 1896. The second hottest April day also occurred on the 18th. The year was 1976 when the mercury topped out at 97 degrees.

## Borough Council News

*Continued from Page 8*

last question during the first public portion of the meeting: Can the Notterman Tract development be delayed until the PCD-2 development pays its share of the new water tower costs, in order to spare the Borough the expense of financing the costs for work which must be done for the 65 new houses which will not reimburse the Borough much for the water tower? Mayor Allen explained that it could not be done.

Under OLD BUSINESS, the Council held public hearings on the 1999 Municipal Budget and on two ordinances which were introduced in February, and it gave unanimous final approval to both ordinances and to three resolutions related to the budget. Ordinance #188 establishes a code of disorderly conduct, listing 14 categories of conduct which can be adjudged to be disorderly. Many questions and objections were raised but the Borough Attorney explained that it is much less serious to be found guilty of violating a Borough ordinance than to be found guilty of violating a state law, and every category of this ordinance's disorderly conduct code is covered by a State law. Three of the weaknesses in the ordinance which was first introduced last June had been corrected. Ordinance #192 allows the Mayor and Council to increase the nearly 61 percent of last year's budgeted appropriations, which were covered by the Local Government CAP Law, more than this year's certified 1.5 percent index rate for increases. It allows the Borough to increase them the maximum amount, 5 percent, i.e. by \$23,372 rather than by \$7,011.

The first of the three Old Business resolutions passed was #37 of 1999. It was an amendment to allow Miscellaneous Revenues to be increased by \$1,100 and Receipts from Delinquent Taxes to be reduced by the same amount. Resolution #39 declared that the budget would not be submitted, for the second year in a row, to the State for annual budget examination. Resolution #38 approved of adopting the 1999 Municipal Budget. The public hearing which proceeded the vote was an hour long.

The budget which was offered to the public at the meeting included 36 sheets. A few people complained that some sheets were missing. At least six sheets of the Current Fund budget which the Council and the accountant had were not included. Sheets one, two and three, and sheets 31 through 33 were not included. They were described at last year's budget hearing as

*Continued on Page 13*

### February 15-March 15, 1999

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	44.0	19.5	31.8	0.00
16	58.0	29.0	43.5	0.00
17	49.5	32.0	40.8	0.00
18	48.0	45.0	46.5	0.45
19	47.0	35.0	41.0	0.79
20	44.0	30.5	37.3	0.00
21	39.0	26.0	32.5	0.00
22	30.0	16.5	23.3	0.00
23	33.0	15.0	24.0	0.00
24	39.5	24.0	31.8	0.00
25	45.0	23.0	34.0	0.00
26	47.0	31.0	39.0	0.05
27	49.5	26.0	37.8	0.00
28	52.5	42.0	47.3	0.00
1	49.0	40.0	44.5	0.89
2	49.0	32.0	40.5	0.00
3	62.0	31.0	46.5	0.00
4	40.0	35.0	37.5	0.30
5	46.0	28.0	37.0	0.00
6	50.0	30.0	40.0	0.00
7	35.0	22.0	28.5	0.55
8	37.0	19.0	28.0	0.00
9	40.0	19.5	29.8	0.00
10	44.0	31.0	37.5	0.00
11	44.0	26.0	35.0	0.00
12	36.0	27.0	31.5	0.00
13	39.0	27.0	33.0	0.00
14	49.0	33.0	41.0	0.00
15	44.0	34.0	39.0	0.55

Total Precipitation 3.58

# OUR TOWN

## Farmland Preservation Explained

by Bob Clark

**A**t the request of a newly formed group of Rooseveltians, two Monmouth County officials explained New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program to two local farmers on March 17. Karen Fedosh, Program Administrator for the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board, and Jessica Purvis, Assistant Administrator, described the application process to Wallace and Wayne Wong, who own a 30-acre oriental vegetable farm in Roosevelt. The farm borders the northern side of Nurko Road and the western side of Route 571. The *Fund for Roosevelt*, a nonprofit corporation created to preserve open space in town, called the meeting to inform Borough farmers about the program.

The state government will provide \$98 million over the next 10 years to support the purchase of farmland development rights through the Department of Agriculture and other open space through the Department of Environmental Protection. Voters approved the sale of bonds to fund the grants in a referendum last November. The state, counties and municipalities share the cost of acquiring development rights under the Farmland Preservation Program. Each county administers the program for purchases within its own territory.

The deadline for farmers to apply under the current cycle was March 31. *Fund for Roosevelt* members Rod Tulloss, Marilyn Magnes and Michael Ticktin indicated that several other Roosevelt farmers were aware of the program. Ms. Fedosh said the infusion of new money could enable the program to fund more than one application cycle per year. The county also can send as many applications as it wants to the state for final consideration. Previously, each county could submit no more than seven applications, according to Ms. Fedosh.

The county and state use a complex point system to select farms for the purchase of development rights. If the program chooses his land, the farmer receives its development value minus its value as farmable property. Two independent appraisals determine the values. The landowner receives an infusion of cash into the farming operation that may help to keep it going through subsequent generations of farmers. Meanwhile, no one may develop the property at any time in the future.

The program is voluntary. Each applicant must participate in the farmland assessment program. If farmers with adjacent tracts participate, the chances for application approval improve. Adjacent farms in Millstone Township could provide the additional acreage that would make a Roosevelt farmer's application attractive to the program. Ms. Fedosh said that in the past the smallest farm approved for the program in Monmouth County has been 36 acres. She noted, however, that the program could preserve smaller farms in order to take advantage of the new funding. ■

**Spring is Here!**



**Watch your Speed!**



**The speed limit on most streets in Roosevelt  
is 25 mph, on  
School Lane it is 15 mph.**



# The Hightstown Gazette

An Independent Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the People of Hightstown and East Windsor

HIGHTSTOWN GAZETTE, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, 1998

## Part II: THE STORY OF ROOSEVELT

### The First Settlers

*Herewith the second half of the article from The Hightstown Gazette. The first half appeared last month.*

#### The First Night

After the departure of the newsreel operators, the reporters and government officials, the settlers decided that it was time to have supper. All the food they had brought with them was pooled and then parceled out to the families in cooperative style.

After each family had eaten in their own home, the new residents went from house to house, singing and dancing and getting better acquainted, until after midnight.

#### The First Day

The arduous work of getting household goods to rights and celebrating their arrival led most of the adults to sleep most of Saturday. But not the children. They were up early for a romp in their own fields and woods.

#### A Party

Saturday night a big party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Snyder, who live in house number one. Although there are only 25 persons in the first seven families, there were about 150 persons at this affair. Some of them represented seven other families living in temporary quarters

until their new houses are ready for occupancy and others came from Jewish colonies in this section.

#### The First Sunday

With thousands of cars rolling along the main highway through the villages, the first families spent the day quietly entertaining friends from New York City. They were not molested by the sightseers as deputy sheriffs kept the autos moving by the inhabited section.

An interesting two hours was spent Sunday afternoon visiting in the homes of the seven families. All of the women and children were exceedingly happy to be in the country and in their own homes. For two years they have been waiting for this opportunity.

When Mrs. Snyder was asked how she liked her new home, she replied, "Don't ask me or I'll go into hysterics. I like all the emptiness, the green fields, the green trees and the air. We have such a neighborly feeling and everybody is overjoyed."

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Garber, parents of Jerald, 3 years old, and Aileen, 9, several of their new neighbors and visitors were enjoying themselves in the large living room. Mrs. Garber expressed herself as liking the "freedom of dress" and the "freedom of action." Mr. Garber was more interested at the time in buying fresh eggs at 35 cents a dozen from a nearby poultryman who was delivering eggs.

Little Jerald was awake early in the morning, and before the others were up, left the house in his pajamas for a tour of the woods.

George Hecht, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hecht, was devoting most of his time with a whistle to warn people to keep off his grass, although he did not like the mosquitoes. His sister, Pearl, wanted to walk.

Calvin Rappaport, 7, passes his time chasing rabbits because he was told he could keep one if he caught it. The youngster did catch a yellow butterfly, but when he opened his hand to show the wonder to his mother, it flew away. Mrs. Rappaport exclaimed on the spacious rooms in her home and extolled its beauties as compared to three tiny holes the family occupied when in the Bronx. ■

**MONMOUTH COUNTY  
LIBRARY  
ROOSEVELT BRANCH**

**HOURS:  
MONDAY:  
7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.**

**350 NEW BOOKS  
HAVE BEEN ADDED  
TO THE COLLECTION  
WITH MORE TO  
COME.**

**COME AND BROWSE!**

## "Roosevelt House" Prototype on the UNESCO World Heritage List

by Michael Ticktin

The Borough of Roosevelt, as most residents are probably aware, is listed on the National and State registers of historic places as the Jersey Homesteads Historic District. In addition to being one of the earliest examples of clustered development, and to having been the site of a unique Jewish agricultural-industrial cooperative community (to quote the tombstone of founder Benjamin Brown), the community was also deemed to be of historic importance because of its nearly 200 "Roosevelt houses" designed and built in the Bauhaus style.

The Bauhaus movement sought to take art out of the exclusive realm of the elite and use it to enhance the lives of working people through the design of buildings, furniture and household implements that would be both functional and aesthetically pleasing. The roles of the artist and of the craftsman were to be blended. The movement flourished in Germany during the period of the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) and, because of its internationalist and Social Democratic orientation, was suppressed by the Nazis after they came to power.

From 1919 to 1925, the Bauhaus was located in Weimar. It was there, in 1923, that the Haus am Horn, designed by the painter Georg Muche (1895-1987), was built. Aside from the European-style windows, its design (see picture on page 1) should be quite familiar to Roosevelt residents.

In 1996, the Haus am Horn was one of

five Bauhaus sites to be placed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. According to the certificate issued by UNESCO, "inscription on this List confirms the exceptional and universal value of a cultural or natural site which requires protection for the benefit of all humanity." The WHL designation of the Bauhaus buildings was based on "the specific art-historical development in Germany in the beginning of the 20th century and the worldwide importance of the Bauhaus ideas for the fundamental renewal of architecture, the visual and applied arts and industrial design." In the designation, the Haus am Horn was specifically cited as "an experiment of the original 'Growing House' concept for a single family; the flat-roofed building, constructed of white plastered concrete blocks, is not only a monument to experimentation with modern technologies, but also the first practical statement of the Bauhaus ideas concerning architecture; today the house is the only surviving architectural structure of this educational institution in Weimar."

Let us hope that knowledge of this historic linkage to a recognized World Heritage List site will give all Rooseveltians a renewed sense of pride in the distinctive architecture of our community, an architecture that, it should be noted, was meant for a climate quite similar to our own. Let us also hope that this knowledge will put to rest, for once and for all, the silly legend about the houses having been meant for Arizona and the plans having been switched. ■

## Borough Council News

*Continued from Page 10*

very helpful explanatory sheets, showing how surpluses were determined, how much is received as "unanticipated revenues," such as interest from money market accounts and other matters.

Mr. Ellentuck asked over twenty questions about amounts and meanings of line items on many sheets. Near the mid-point of his questions, Mr. Ellentuck exclaimed, "You could lower many of these

amounts budgeted for expenses and you would still not lower the taxes!" Mayor Allen replied, "You are absolutely correct, but we could lower the taxes, and the next year you would be hit by a double whammy like you are having to pay for the school this year because the State made them lower their surplus." Marilyn Magnes interjected, "That is not what happened with the school." The Mayor said, "Understood." Mr. Ellentuck declared then, "I am not sure I accept that explanation because with all the surplus we roll every year, we roll a little more each year..." The Mayor interrupted, saying, "We only had \$50,000 worth of surplus last year." Stunned, Mr. Ellentuck responded, "Well, if that is all we had, that is not enough, if that is what it really was." Mayor Allen had confirmed during the first public portion of the meeting that last year's current fund surplus was \$415,000. His statement at this point, to counter Mr. Ellentuck's argument that he could not accept the Mayor's explanation because of large surpluses which increase each year, seemed baffling, but later the Mayor explained what "Surplus" means to him. The 1998 surplus of \$415,000 was made possible partly because the budget included an income item of \$350,000 as a portion of the 1997 surplus which was assigned for 1998 rev-

*Continued on Page 20*

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# OUR TOWN

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## Roosevelt Arts Project: Website

by Judith Trachtenberg

The Roosevelt Arts Project website continues to grow, with some 66 Roosevelt artists represented in its Directory listing of current artists. This listing includes links to examples of the artistry of those listed, as well as listings of upcoming public events featuring different artists, and there are even links to the commercial websites of those artists who have taken to the WorldWideWeb as a way to market and disseminate their work. Columbia University continues in the role of the website's beneficent sponsor, where we may be found at <http://woof.music.columbia.edu/~roosevlt/>. If by some unfortunate omission, you have not been listed in the Directory of Artists, you should contact either David Herrstrom or Richard A. Lloyd, and we'll see about getting you included. Also, we are ready to assist artists with converting information to being presentable on the Web, and if there are those with any audio snippets of music or literature, we can call upon the assistance of Brad Garton to help with translating your audio into sound files that can be listened to on the Web.

The website also features information about past artists, and will shortly be able to feature a rendition of Ben Shahn's mural on-line. In addition, we have endeavored to present something of an historical perspective for those visiting the site, with material about Roosevelt's past and present, including Ron Filepp's monthly weather almanac. There's even been one reported instance of a resident artist being contacted by a long-out-of-touch relative, who happened to be browsing the Web for their name! And several months back, the folks at Bell Atlantic Internet Solutions advised us that they were including the RAP website within its Internet Access Service as a "best of the net" site. For further information, you're invited to contact Richard A. Lloyd at 443-8206 or David Herrstrom at 443-4421.

Remember, too, to watch for information about the Arts Exchange and our regular performances during the coming spring. The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible entirely by your support. Donations given to the Roosevelt Arts Project, other than for admission to an event, are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. Thank you for your support of the arts in Roosevelt. ■

## MAJOR EXHIBIT OF THE WORKS OF JACOB LANDAU

There will be a significant show of the works of  
Jacob Landau,  
with an emphasis on his prints.

April 11 through June 27, 1999  
at  
Woodmere Art Museum  
9201 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Please call the museum at 215- 247-0476  
for details, times, directions and information on how to obtain a catalogue.

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# OUR TOWN

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## A Chat With Arthur Shapiro

by Gladys Nadler

**W**e Rooseveltians know him as "Art," our neighbor, town historian, storyteller par excellence, natural humorist, and old timer who grew up in this place when it was still called Jersey Homesteads.

To people in the education field, he is Dr. Shapiro, associate professor of special education at Kean college, prolific writer, speaker, and advocate in his field of expertise.

Arthur Shapiro's first professional book, *Everybody Belongs: Changing Negative Attitudes Toward Classmates With Disabilities*, was published last month by Garland Publishing, Inc.

"People with disabilities have their own civil rights movement," Mr. Shapiro said in a recent interview. School children learn from attitudes in society to define people by their disabilities instead of seeing them as people with many characteristics, including their disabilities, he continued. Art cited from literature and other media examples that foster prejudice, how the villains so often has a disability by which he or she is defined - the humped back of Richard III, or the many movie villains in wheelchairs. These and many other stereotypes give children a message that people with disabilities are bad and should be kept at a distance, said Mr. Shapiro.

In his book, he advocates a policy of "supportive inclusion." He would place children with disabilities in regular classes with a classroom teacher and a special education teacher to

work with the children with disabilities as needed, he explained. This would give regular pupils a chance to get to know their classmates as children who can become friends instead of defining them by their disabilities, he said. The children with disabilities, in turn, can learn the language of their peers and gain self esteem as positive relationships develop in the classroom.

There is much, much more, and it's all there in *"Everybody Belongs..."* This well researched book may be a textbook for teachers, but it is so well written and readable that non-teachers could also find it a good read.

Speaking about his career, Art said that in a way, "it has been cyclical. I graduated from Roosevelt Public School and started teaching there and my children went there," he said. "I've taught at every school I went to:" RPS, Hightstown High School, Rider University (where he got his BA), Trenton State (MA) and Rutgers (ED.D). He worked fifteen years for the NJ State Department of Education as a special education county supervisor, then as regional director.

Since 1986, Art has been teaching at Kean, where he also supervises student teachers. He also teaches part time at Rutgers. "I love teaching college," he said.

Art's enthusiasm comes through as he talks about his professional and other activities, his family, local activities and hobbies.

In his field of special education, besides his teaching, writing (many articles and chapters in books), public

speaking, advocacy and consulting, he also does a TV program called "Equal Access" once a month on CTN.

In Roosevelt, he is the Local Historian and is active in the Roosevelt Arts Project.

His wife Elly, a registered nurse, sells cancer diagnostic services to HMO's. At the same time, she has been working toward a master's degree in Health Care Administration from Ionia College and will get her degree in May with a straight "A" average. "I'm so proud of her!" Art said.

A saxophone player in his youth, Art still plays occasionally. Related to this activity, he has become a collector of all things related to the saxophone. He has filled a basement room in his house with drawings, paintings and photographs of people playing the saxophone. On shelves, in cabinets around the room are numerous whimsical figurines of sax players made of twisted wire, ceramic, wood and other materials. Art, who has lived in Roosevelt most of his life since he was two years old (He's now 60), again lit up when asked about his children. They're both married. Erik, a TV writer, has two children and lives in Passaic. Mindy, 32, is in a master's degree program in child development in Somerville, Massachusetts, where she lives.

A busy life, I thought. "Oh, yes," he said, "I also wrote a children's book with Elly, *The Name's The Same*. "It teaches kids about homonyms and rhymes. I did the pictures." ■

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

by Mary Alfare

## MOVING OUT:

Larry and Cynthia Horowitz to Millstone.

## MOVING OVER:

The Jon Block family to the former Horowitz house on Lake Drive.

## MOVING IN:

Welcome to our new neighbors who just moved into the former Jon Block house on Lake Drive - Julio and Silda Banegas with their children Edwin Guzman ( age 16), and Karina (9) and Jessenia (4) Banegas.

## FOND FAREWELL TO:

Catherine Reilly, mother of Maureen Clark and grandmother of Ina, who died on March 7 at the age of 89. Condolences to her family and friends.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Roosevelt Public Library needs volunteers to staff the library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday evenings on a rotating basis. Call Helen Barth at 448-2798 if you can give some time.

The First Aid Squad needs members. The squad pays for training. For information call Captain Herb Johnson at 443-1947.

For information on joining the Roosevelt Fire Department, contact Chief Kim Dexheimer or leave a message at the Borough Hall, 448-0539.

Volunteer drivers needed: If you could volunteer a couple of hours occasionally to drive a senior citizen to a non-emergency medical appointment, please call Mary Alfare at 443-4243.

## FROM KREPS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

2nd Marking Period Honor Roll: Grade 8 - Wesley John-Alder and Christopher Wong; Grade 7 - Avery Axel, Josh Butler, Erik Cokeley, Brian Davis, Lian Garton, Deirdre Lloyd, Lindsay Possiel and Tina Vasseur.

## FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH:

2nd Marking Period High Honors: Grade 12 - Kathleen Alfare; Grade 11 - Joanna Giordano; Grade 10 - Hannah Stinson; and, Grade 9 - Molly Petrilla.

Honor Roll: Grade 12 - Jessica Hamilton and Susan Skillman; Grade 11 - Elizabeth Carroll, Jeanette Castro and Sean Parker; Grade 10 - Adam Axel, Naomi Cayne, Joseph Cheshier, Ryan Cybert, Justin Parrott and Victoria Taylor; Grade 9 - Shaun Conover, Haley Reibold and Sarah Skillman.

The excellent March 12-14 production of *Guys and Dolls* was well represented by participation of Roosevelt students: Joanna Giordano was one of the Hot Box Dolls as well as part of the Make-up Crew. Playing in the Pit Orchestra were Kathleen Alfare on flute (also part of Make-up Crew); Molly Petrilla on clarinet and Brian Taylor on trombone; Hannah Stinson was a Cast Note Writer and Make-up Crew assistant head; Liz Possiel, Sarah Skillman and Susan Skillman worked on the Costume Crew; Vicki Taylor was part of the Set Construction Crew.

To have items included in this column, call Mary Alfare at 443-4243 or mail to P.O. Box 58, 08555. Please include contact name and phone number. ■

## Major Exhibit of the Works of Jacob Landau

April 11 - June 27, 1999

Woodmere Art Museum  
call 215-247-0476 for details

## WANTED:

Person or organization to help organize and operate a food concession stand during the Roosevelt Arts Festival to be held in the Roosevelt Public School May 22 and 23.

You will be a key part of what promises to be an exciting event. This is an important Roosevelt happening. We need your help!!

For more information call Deirdre at 443-5191.



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# Roosevelt Arts Project 1998-1999 Season

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The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce the remaining events in our 1998-1999 season:

Watch for flyers and additional details in the *Bulletin*.

## **Friday and Saturday April 16 and 17 Roosevelt String Band**

A perennial favorite, in concert for two nights - at the Borough Hall.

## **Saturday and Sunday May 22 and 23 Roosevelt Festival of the Arts**

A two-day celebration of the Arts in Roosevelt with art exhibitions, studio tours, music, poetry, crafts, refreshments and lots more at the Roosevelt Public School.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting performances, exhibits and events.

To assure that there is seating for all who come to any Borough event, the Roosevelt Arts Project has purchased and donated 45 more folding chairs to add to those it donated in the past for use by local residents at the Borough Hall.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible entirely by your support. Donations given to the Roosevelt Arts Project, other than for admission to an event, are tax-deductible. We appreciate your continuing support of our efforts to bring the highest quality art and performances to Roosevelt. ■



## **MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT**

The Roosevelt Arts Project proudly offers for sale our beautiful three-panel reproduction of the Ben Shahn mural from our school. The postcards are available for \$2.00 each and a small number of flat, unfolded copies, suitable for framing, are available for \$10.00 each. All proceeds go to the Roosevelt Arts Project to cover the cost of these cards, enable us to produce future postcards in our Roosevelt arts series and to support RAP exhibits and events. Cards are available at the Borough Hall or by calling Robin Middleman at 426-4583, Deborah Metzger at 443-3759 or Judith Trachtenberg at 426-8867. The Roosevelt Arts Project is a tax exempt cultural organization funded exclusively by admissions and donations. RAP appreciates your support. ■

# POETS' NIGHT: March 13, 1999

## STEPHEN

*Judith McNally commented, before she read this piece at the Roosevelt Arts Project Poets' Night, "I had the unmitigated gall to write this - my take on James Joyce's Ulysses."*

Slowly descending the staircase, I was reminded of the toothpaste between my teeth only minutes ago, which led me to think of the ship shaped soap and brush ceramic piece my aunt had sent me long ago, the ship no longer being in ship-shape shape, for there were several cracks in the piece now, one extending from aft to fore, and another down the middle. But still the piece held together.

I had been thinking by the third stair rung of all that lay before me that day, trying all the while to stay in the here and now of the present. I was after all on my way to an ashram for my first time, and chose to arrive in presentable condition, which meant passing up several pubs along the way so as not to be turned away, as opposed to being turned toward the truth, which I now felt was not in the places where I was heretofore accustomed to seeking it, but indeed perhaps elsewhere.

Because of the funeral I had to attend, and a wedding shortly thereafter, plus theater tickets to try and refund, as I wholly expected to be spending the night at the ashram, I could not proceed directly there. These commitments required me to be two people at once - one of them attending Western functions, while the other prepared for peace of mind. I feared I should arrive spiritually dishevelled, at the very least.

It was therefore with great caution that I slowed my speed and descended now to the fourth stair rung, and from there, my day would proceed I knew not how. ■

## School Board News

*Continued from Page 5*

(This meeting is on April 8; elections are on April 20th.) There was also discussion about activities that could encourage a larger voter turnout. Such activities were felt to be beyond the purview of the Board.

The budget hearing portion of the meeting was adjourned and the regular business meeting was called to order. Mr. Messner reported on

school wide events such as art night and kindergarten registration. Teacher contract negotiations are in process. The Board plans to meet with Senator Singer regarding funding concerns as well as with the East Windsor Board of Education to finalize tuition contracts.

The bills were presented and approved. The school's roof is being

repaired which requires a budget transfer. Financial considerations of strep testing in the school were discussed. Other committee reports proceeded as usual, with a demonstration by Mr. Tickin of the need for a new ladder. The condition of an old oil tank will be assessed on March 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. ■

## Review:

### Local Poets Take Us To Another World

by Deirdre Lloyd

*Deirdre is a seventh-grade student at Kreps Middle School.*

On Saturday, March 13, at the Borough Hall, the Roosevelt Arst Project (RAP) gave a poetry reading. There was also an interlude with Celtic harp music and a reception. There were a lot of people who came and that was good news for RAP, the poets and the audience.

In the first half, Judith McNally, Dina Coe and Rod Tulloss read. Judith read some dialogues and asked Rod to read a monologue called *Ring*. They were funny and well written. Dina Coe read a poem called *On Her First Trip*. It takes place in Guiana. It felt like you were in another world. The poem was great. Rod Tulloss read the *Muffler and the Law*. It was hilarious and very good. Brian Oshwald played a pipe and a Celtic harp during the interlude.

In the second half of the program, Wes Cyzewski read *Pigroast*, also a Baby Boomer poem, a love poem and a death poem. *Pigroast* had very good detail. Dave Herrstrom read *Ode to a Mocking-bird*, *Heron Visitations*, *Bus Pace* and *Visible Writings*. *Visible Writings* was also read in Spanish by Anita Cervantes. Scott Carpenter read two untitled poems.

Overall, everybody was great. I think this poetry reading was a success. ■

# BREAKING BREAD

Several years ago I was put to the challenge of planning a dinner that would satisfy the "Meat and Potato" types as well as the "Vegetarians". I didn't want to do both - that would have meant more kitchen time and lots of juggling and cleaning. Most important, these were my friends coming in from out of town and I wanted to spend my time with them, not in the kitchen. So it had to be different to capture the meat lovers, simple to serve, something I could prepare in advance and allow me to have fun. After much thought I decided on Falafel with \*Tahini Sauce. My meal also included Hummus, Eggplant Salad, Israeli Vegetable Salad, Zehug (a Hot Pepper-Garlic Chutney), a variety of olives and a fresh fruit salad. I knew it would be thumbs up for the veggy eaters, and I hoped it would satisfy my meat-eating friends. It did.

By the way, I made everything the day before. Before serving, I heated the fried falafel balls in a 350°F pre-heated oven for about 10 minutes.

\* Tahini Sauce is also used in the Hummus and Eggplant Salad.

Here is the recipe for Falafel, and Tahini Sauce and how to put it together.

## Falafel

Serves about 10

12 oz. (2 cups) dried raw chickpeas (do not use canned)  
2 medium heads garlic (22 - 24 cloves), peeled (if your not into garlic, feel free to cut back to 10 -15 cloves)  
1 medium onion  
1/4 cup small parsley sprigs (optional)  
2 tablespoons small sprigs fresh cilantro (optional)  
1 slice stale white bread, crust removed  
2 tablespoons ground coriander  
2 tablespoons ground cumin  
2 1/2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons ground black pepper  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
6 cups vegetable oil, for frying

For Sandwich: Pita, lettuce, tomato, onion, and Tahini Sauce, hot sauce

Soak chickpeas overnight or for 12 hours in water, generously cover because they grow; drain in a colander and rinse.

In a food processor mince garlic; remove. Mince onion, remove. Dry processor. Mince garlic, parsley, and cilantro; remove. Sprinkle bread with about 1 tablespoon water, then squeeze dry. Grind chickpeas and bread in processor in batches. Add onion, garlic, parsley, cilantro, ground coriander, cumin, salt, pepper, flour, and baking powder.

Knead thoroughly with hands to mix very well. (Mixture can be kept in refrigerator for 2 days.)

To shape falafel, squeeze 1 tablespoon of mixture to compact it, then press into a ball. Roll lightly between your palms to give it a smooth shape.

Heat oil to about 350°F. Add about one-fourth to one-third of the falafel balls. Slide them into the hot oil near surface to avoid being splashed. Fry for about 2 minutes until the balls are a deep golden brown and the coating is crisp. Drain briefly on paper towel. Serve hot.

To serve falafel in sandwiches, use either a half or whole pita for each serving. If using a whole pita, cut off a thin strip near one edge to make a pocket. Put in a few falafel balls, top with salad, and spoon in a little (or a lot) of the Tahini Sauce and some hot sauce (or Zehug) if you want to kick it up a notch.

Keep the Tahini Sauce and hot sauce handy.

## Tahini Sauce

1/2 cup tahini (sesame paste)  
1/2 cup water  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons fresh strained lemon juice  
3 large garlic cloves, minced  
pinch of cayenne (optional)

In a medium bowl, stir tahini to blend in its own oil. Stir in 1/2 cup water. Add salt, lemon juice, garlic, and cayenne. If sauce is too thick, gradually stir in more water. Taste, add more salt or lemon juice if desired. (Tahini Sauce can be kept 2 days in refrigerator. It will thicken, so mix in a little water before serving.) ■

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## Planning Board News

*Continued from Page 3*

the long-awaited Master Plan Reexamination Report, including housing, utility, and conservation or open space elements. It also would review development applications, with those services paid from developer escrow fees. After some initial confusion as to whether the Board or the Borough Council should engage the firm, the Board decided that it could authorize a contract. Mr. Mallach will continue to work with the Board as planning advisor and will provide overall supervision of the consulting firm's work.

The Board unanimously recommended that the Council adopt the landscape ordinance drafted by resident Kate John-Alder and reviewed by a committee consisting of Ms. John-Alder, Board members Bert Ellentuck, Gail Hunton and Mark Roberts, and resident Timothy Hartley. The Board asked that the ordinance include a recommendation from its Attorney, Michele Donato, to append requirements for a landscape plan to the checklist for completeness required for development applications.

Mr. Mallach reviewed some of the concepts behind the planned community development ordinance governing development of 500 acres of northern farmland (PCD II).

He emphasized that the ordinance aims to preserve rural views and the natural environment to the extent possible. He called the informal "concept plan" and sketch submitted by U.S. Home Corp. of Freehold at the Board's February meeting a "trial balloon" to determine whether Borough officials are serious about preserving views and buffers mandated by PCD II. Along with wetlands, such requirements restrict the number of units that U.S. Home can build in its proposed adult community east of Route 571. Having contracts with two landowners, U.S. Home in February proposed a 290-unit project that included homes in two pods near Route 571 places not authorized for construction by PCDII.

In a letter dated February 11, Gregg Pesciotta, the attorney for Paul Brottman, the owner of about 30 acres in the area east of Route 571, said his client had joined the two landowners already under contract with U.S. Home. However, the addition of Mr. Brottman's land to the project may not compensate for any loss of units necessary to preserve rural views encountered when entering Roosevelt from the North. This is so because much of Mr. Brottman's property lies in wetland areas. Even if three other owners

*Continued on Page 21*

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## Borough Council News

*Continued from Page 13*

enues. As a result, the Mayor sees the "true surplus" for 1998 as the difference between the two amounts, in this case \$65,000. His "\$50,000" statement was based on his guess that \$370,000 of 1997 surplus was used and the 1998 surplus was about \$420,000. Mr. Ellentuck and others asked many other questions, and made comments on how to make the budget more understandable.

Under NEW BUSINESS, the Council passed five resolutions unanimously, tabled one and then passed four motions. Mr. Hoogsteden opposed the aerial spray treatment to exterminate mosquitos, but others approved of authorizing the County's agency to spray. George Vasseur was approved as

a new member of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Department. Angel Cloughly was granted the use of the Borough Hall for a women's group meeting on Sunday, April 18 or 25, and the Mayor was authorized to sign an agreement with the Monmouth County DOT for additional transportation services for senior and disabled residents. The resolutions requested an exemption in appointing a Principal Public Works Manager, awarded a contract for removing liquid sludge, endorsed Governor Whitman's Direct Property Tax Relief Program, and supported Senate Bill S-1421, which was not described.

In the final part of the meeting, two questions were raised. Michael

Hamilton asked why the Council was having a joint meeting with the Planning Board and if the Council might take any action. John Towle said the Council was invited to sit in on the Board's meeting and hear professional reviews of plans for projects in PCD-1 and PCD-2 properties and for preserving open spaces. Neil Marko asked why \$20,000 was needed for an emergency generator. Mr. Vasseur explained that it would be mounted behind the rear garages, be baffled to reduce the noise it would make when running, have natural gas lines run to it and have heavy cables run from it to the Borough Hall. The Mayor then adjourned the meeting. ■

## Planning Board News

*Continued from Page 20*

with smaller acreage joined the project, they might add only a few more units to the total that U.S. Home could build. The units the three tracts could add are limited by view requirements, wetlands and the nearby power line easement.

Attendance by the public jumped to about 25, in part because the Council decided to hold a special meeting at the same time and location as the Planning Board. Members of the public asked Council members whether they were as resolved as certain Planning Board members to insist on adherence to PCD II requirements. Mayor Lee Allen, who also sits on the Planning Board, repeated his desire that the developers should present a plan likely to keep the entire Borough qualified to remain on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Michael Hamilton said he remained concerned about reduced traffic safety

resulting from additional cars in an adult community. Mayor Allen said a consultant selected by Borough officials would do an impact study paid for by funds placed in escrow by the developer. Mr. Mallach said the study should be a cumulative analysis, considering traffic impact from both the proposed adult community and the 65 single-family homes proposed for the Notterman tract.

Rod Tulloss said he had founded a non-profit corporation, *Fund for Roosevelt*, to examine the acquisition of open space. He noted that Judith Trachtenberg helped with the incorporation. He added that Michael Tickin is the Treasurer and Gail Hunton is on the Board. Mr. Tulloss invited the owners of northern farmland to meet with Monmouth County land preservation officials and members of *Fund for Roosevelt* on March 17.

During the special Council meeting

on March 10, Council member John Towle said he was satisfied that the Planning Board would accomplish those things that concerned Council members. The Council may ratify the Planning Board's hiring of a planning consultant at its next meeting. Council member Rose Murphy asked if the Planning Board had any ideas about preserving remaining land in the PCD II zone. Board Chairman Joseph Zahora said the Board would deal with the issue in the conservation or open space element of the revised Master Plan.

The Planning Board tabled Mr. Zahora's proposed resolution to go into closed session to discuss appointment of an engineer to review development applications. Mr. Mallach said that if no real controversy existed over whether the Planning Board should retain its own engineer to review applications, he would obtain a list of qualified firms. ■

## Loose Leaves

*Continued from Page 7*

But, all the talk didn't really seem to matter and I'm sure that e-rater didn't care. What DOES matter is that as of April 1st, e-rater started reading essays faster than a human reader can snap his/her fingers. Computerized scoring appears here to stay, which also means that a downsized number of retained readers will remain struggling to keep up with him.

The invention of e-rater is another example of human ingenuity moving technology, another step forward; which, in turn, to use an old but relevant phrase, again "revolutionizes the means of production" and necessitates that we, the readers of the world, either adapt or die out.

My initial knee-jerk reaction was that ETS, like any business, brought in e-rater just to save money, but actually this may not be the case. After all, though he will not have to be paid, fed or compensated for car mileage, e-rater certainly didn't come cheaply, ETS having sunk millions into his conception.

One only hopes that ETS is right in speculating that e-rater will give student essays a fairer, more scientific reading than human readers. That e-rater, unlike Melville's Turkey and Nippers, and some veteran readers, will give every essay an "objective" reading (if reading can in fact be "objective") after lunch. ■

## RECYCLING DATES

APR. 14 • APR. 28 • MAY 12 • MAY 26 • JUNE 9 • JUNE 23

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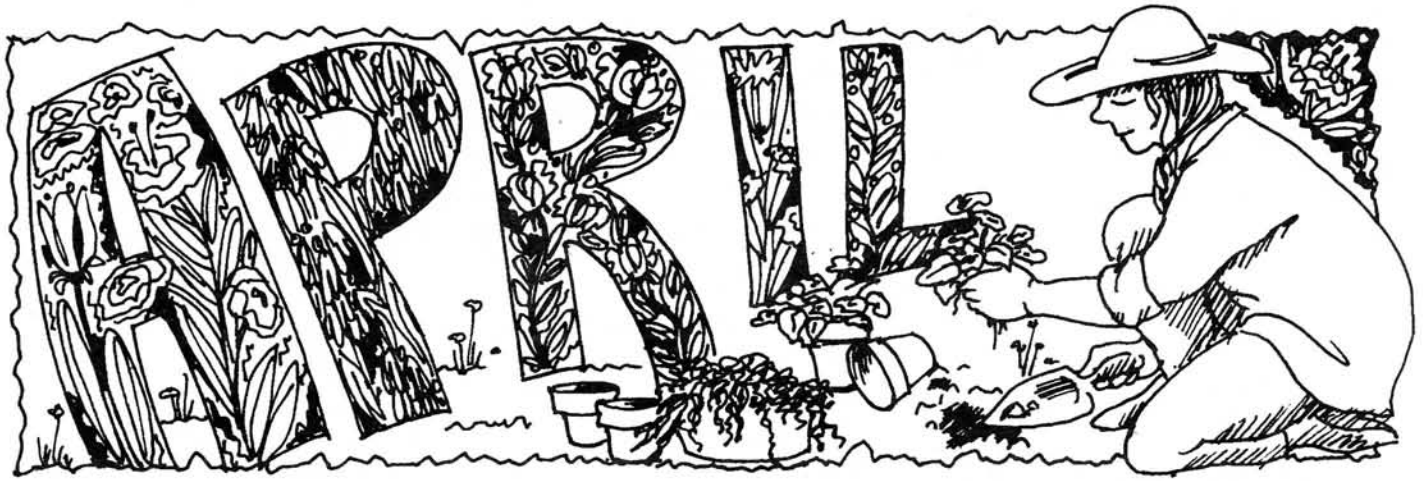
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1	Thurs.	RPS closed-Spring Vacation	19	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Synogue Board Meeting, Michael Ticktin, 448-0363
2	Fri.	RPS closed-Spring Vacation	20	Tues.	2:30 p.m.	RPS Four-Hour Session Professional Development School Budget/Elections - Borough Hall
5	Mon.	7:30 p.m. Council Agenda Meeting, Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185.	21	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Wayne Cokeley, 443-6287
6	Tues.	1:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Check 2:00 p.m. Seniors Meeting	22	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Lauralynne Cokely, Pres. 443-6287
8	Thurs.	7:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Lauralynne Cokely, Pres. 443-6287	26	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185
11	<del>Sat</del> <i>Sun</i>	10:00 a.m. Clean Communities Litter Pick Up, Dianna Moore, Coordinator, 448-5745	28	Wed.		<b>RECYCLING</b>
12	Mon.	7:30 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185	MAY			
14	Wed.	<b>RECYCLING</b> 8:00 p.m. Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Joseph Zahora, 426-4187	3	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185
16	Fri.	8:00 p.m. RAP Program - Roosevelt String Band, Borough Hall, Robin Middleman, 426-4583	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           NON-PROFIT ORG.            U.S. Postage            PAID            Roosevelt, NJ            Permit No, 6         </div>			
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