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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME ~~XI~~ NO. 4

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 1990

XIII

New Council Members Sworn In

by Adeline Weiner

At the reorganization meeting of the Borough Council on January 2, Howard Prezant and Kirk Rothfuss were sworn into office as members of the Council.

Mayor Leon Barth proposed a postponement of the election of Council President until after a new organizational structure could be found for Council Committees and their per-

sonnel. This was voted down 4-2. Bill Counterman and Marilyn Magnes were nominated for president and Magnes was elected, again 4-2.

A series of appointments were then announced and/or voted on [see inset on page 3, Ed.] followed by a tribute to David Bulkin by Mayor Barth, who expressed for himself and the Council his sad regret at losing so devoted a public servant and friend.

Discord on Committee Heads

Previous to the regular Council meeting, an agenda meeting on January 8 debated the question as to who was empowered to name committee heads and members. Attorney McManus advised in a letter, reported to the January 10 regular session, that the Council has the power to organize itself by majority rule. Mayor Barth stated that he had hoped to see a rapid reorganization of committees to provide for a new Council Finance Committee so that the expertise of Council member Prezant might be utilized fully.

Marilyn Magnes reported that as Council President she had consulted with individual members on both Committee organization and personnel and a consensus was reached to support the writing, within the next few months, of an administrative code and by-laws for the borough, an optional choice under state law, but

The Borough Bulletin is mailed free of charge to Roosevelt residents. Out-of-town subscriptions are \$5.00 per year.

School Costs to Rise 11.6%

by Bob Clark and Dolores Chasan

On January 11, the Roosevelt School Board approved a tentative 1990-91 budget of \$1,173,035 in total appropriations. The budget represents an 11.6 percent increase over last year. Only one month earlier the Board was projecting an 8.6 percent increase, but the budget had to be altered, in part, to accommodate increased enrollment of special education students.

One of the students will attend a communication-handicapped kindergarten class at the Drew School in East Windsor at a monthly tuition of \$450. The cost of a special bus for this child will be \$4,590 for the rest of the school year. The other student will attend a multi-handicapped kindergarten class at the Mercer County Special Education Program at the Eldridge Park School for tuition of \$687 per month. The tentative cost of special transportation for the rest of the school year for this pupil is \$2,156. However, a more expensive method may be required (up to \$5,000 allowed by the Board) if the child must spend too much time on a bus shared with the East Windsor district under a jointure agreement.

The Board asked the County Superintendent of Schools to approve a transportation cap waiver for the

1990-91 budget to meet the financial hardship brought about by the additional special education enrollment. The Board also decided to seek \$20,960 in emergency funding from the State Education Department to pay for unanticipated tuition and transportation expenses.

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Editorial Announcements

Please Put Your Name On It

During the past months, the *Bulletin* has received for publication several unattributed manuscripts. While it is our policy to try to publish everything we receive, we cannot print anything whose source is unknown. This applies to articles written under a pseudonym as well as material submitted anonymously.

Solomon Named Rabbi

by Michael Ticktin

The Board of Trustees of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt is pleased to announce that it has appointed Josef Solomon as the Congregation's Rabbi.

Rabbi Solomon, who expects to receive his formal ordination at the end of this academic year from the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York, has been a member of the Congregation ever since he moved to Roosevelt in 1981 and has served as trustee, treasurer and president of the Congregation. In his new position, he will work together with Director Shlomo Weiss in conducting religious services and will be responsible for adult education and for religious counseling.

For details about the adult education program, please call Rabbi Solomon at 443-3861.

Entertainment '90 Books Available

There are still a few *Entertainment '90* books available at \$35. All proceeds go to the Sisterhood of Roosevelt. For further information call Lynn Friedman at 448-5186.

Join Us

The *Borough Bulletin* is growing and—we hope—improving. You can be a part of it, and have fun while performing an important community service.

Several jobs are available, including Editor. Please call me at 443-5915 if you're interested.

—Mark Zuckerman

Oil Group Offers Savings

by Ed Moser

Having suffered very cold weather for part of this winter, and with February still ahead of us, people have been victimized by a sudden rise in oil prices. I want to call to the attention of Roosevelt residents a non-profit oil supply service which can save 20% or more on oil bills.

New Jersey Citizen Oil Group, a project of NJ Citizen Action, supplies oil to members at a substantial savings. It was featured recently on NBC Nightly News. For a small membership fee, anyone can join and enjoy this service. I have for the past several years, and it costs far less than the cheapest supplier around. I know. I shopped.

You can also get a service plan.

For information, call (201) 489-2525, or write to:

NJCOG
400 Main Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Readers of the Times...

Anyone interested in home delivery of the *New York Times* please call Lou Esakoff at 448-3166 after 6 PM.

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To all of our friends throughout the entire community, we want to thank you for all of your help and support during this difficult time.

The caring and concern of the town was beyond the beautiful Roosevelt tradition.

—The Bulkin Family

The *Bulletin* is published nine times a year—in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May, and June—and is distributed at the end of the month.

The deadline is the 15th of the month, except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

Please send all articles and letters in **clean typescript** (typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or as files on IBM-compatible 5-1/4" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from most word processors.

Council *(continued from page 1)*

clearly beneficial to optimal functioning. In the context of writing the code and by-laws, new bodies such as a borough finance committee could then be given adequate consideration. For the present, a finance subcommittee might be a temporary expedient.

At the regular Council meeting, Magnés offered a list of committee assignments to which all members except Mr. Prezant had agreed. Mayor Barth had noted earlier that it had been the tradition during his years in office for the Mayor to name all committee personnel and observed that the statute mentions "the Mayor and Council" but that he had not been included in the consultation process. He recommended that the Administrative Committee be divided to create a Financial Committee.

Council Committees And Others

The following committees and chairs were voted on and passed with Warren Craig absent and Howard Prezant abstaining (chair is in boldface):

- Public Property: **Alt**, Craig, Magnés
- Streets and Roads: **Counterman**, Rothfuss, Alt
- Public Utilities: **Rothfuss**, Counterman, Prezant
- Administration: **Magnés**, Prezant, Alt
- Public Safety: **Prezant**, Counterman, Craig
- Culture and Recreation: **Craig**, Magnés, Rothfuss

Other appointments announced at this time were: Richard McManus who will continue as Borough Attorney, as will William Lentz as Housing Inspector. John Ord and Harry Parker were voted down in favor of Anita Cervantes and Ed Moser for 4-year terms on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Frieda Anish was re-appointed to a two-year term as an alternate on the board. Pat Moser was named to the Welfare Board and Stuart Kaufman was chosen as the new Recycling Coordinator.

Curbside Pickup for Garbage and Recyclables

At a special session of the Council on January 3, the matter of a garbage contract which was "an incorrect award," in Mayor Barth's words, was cleared up in the presence of the two garbage collection firms involved. An agreement was reached for a twice a month curbside pick-up of both solid waste and recyclables. The question of containers for glass, aluminum and bi-metal cans will be decided under the guidance of the new Recycling Coordinator, Stuart Kaufman, but all newspapers must be tied into bundles of reasonable weight for lifting or they will be left at the curb. This service will cost the borough \$100,000 for a two year period.

Further Administrative Committee concerns were reported: a proposal for a renewal premium of \$5,540 for one million dollars of insurance for the borough was accepted. A resolution was passed to extend the agreement with SCAT for food shopping service for senior citizens. A transfer of funds

resolution was passed but questioned by Mr. Prezant as to its legality since it was part of last year's budget.

Public Works Affairs ... Water

T&M Engineers have revised the water conservation program which suggests there will not be serious problems with water allocation for the municipality. Because we have fewer than 500 service connections (households and businesses), water metering will not be mandated by the state and would prove unnecessarily costly at this time. The report states that the Roosevelt water system has enough capacity to meet peak flow requirements up through the year 2000 if population figures remain relatively stable.

Public awareness will be the key to our water conservation program, especially during dry periods of the year. Reduction of water consumption will also result in savings to all users in the long run.

Update on Waste Water Works

A report on the findings of the Smoke Testing of the sewer system was received by the Mayor and Council from T&M Associates. The major outcome appears to be that two storm drains are found to be connected to the sewer lines, unnecessarily increasing the volume of water flow into the sewer plant. Repair of the defects revealed by the testing will be incorporated into the entire sewer rehabilitation project.

Magnés, reporting for the Public Utilities Committee, stated that the Stage 2 design plans for waste water treatment project, including specifications for future construction, have been submitted to the DEP on schedule. As the agency reviews these plans, prescribed changes will be communicated to T&M, who will respond, so that by the end of two or three months the plans are expected to receive approval from DEP and the next step, bidding by construction companies, can go forward, again according to schedule.

How High the Rates?

As for what lies ahead, Magnés announced that Borough Auditor Robert

1990 Borough Appointments

Engineer: T&M Associates

Insurance: Allen and Stults

Court: Millstone Municipal Court

Municipal Court Judge: Leslie Tinkler

Court Clerk: Tina Bock

Utility Operators: Ron Suto, Ed Davis

Borough Auditors: Faccone and Bachstadt

Zoning Officer: Paul Eichler

Tax Collector and Deputy: Dolores and Barry Clark

Park Commissioners (4 year terms): Gayle Donnelly and Michelle Hillis

Planning Board:

Michael Ticktin (1 year)

Mel Friedman (4 years)

Gail Hunton (Alternate—2 years)

Marilyn Magnés (Council Representative)

continued on page 13

School Costs to Rise *(continued from page 1)*

The budget does not yet include revenue figures from state funding. State aid for next year's budget is expected to be less than last year. Final figures will not be released until late February.

Free Balance Not Available

Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman noted that the so-called "free balance" of surplus funds has been tapped to the limit—about \$40,000—to reduce the tax impact of previous budgets. Applying these funds to reduce the amount needed to be raised by taxes in the current budget would place the school district in jeopardy of not being able to fund emergency expenditures, according to Groveman. Groveman said the Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools also recommended that the free balance not be used.

The budget was submitted to the County Superintendent. If approved, it will be returned in early February to the School Board, which may refine it and make further cuts. The final budget will be published and presented at a formal public hearing in March. All taxpayers will receive a budget brochure with the new tax rate, which is contingent on state aid figures.

Taxpayers will vote to approve or disapprove the budget on April 3 during the annual school district elections. Three Board seats—presently occupied by Ed Grossman, Cathy Petrilla and Margaret Schlinski—are also up for election on that date.

Secretarial Post Upgraded

The Board upgraded the Board Secretary position to Board Secretary/Business Manager, a post held by Roseann Lozinski. The Board also decided to approve a new salary guide for the position and set Lozinski's current salary at \$27,500, the second step of the range requiring a college degree and state certification.

Groveman noted that by September, 1991, the State will mandate that all schools employ only certified school business administrators. Groveman described a number of areas in which savings attributed to Lozinski's efforts have more than compensated for any

additional salary resulting from professionalizing the position.

Lozinski reported that the administration is looking into better dental coverage for district personnel. She is also determining how much of a refund the district may receive after discovering that the school had been paying rent for several months on a copier that the district owned as a result of a lease-purchase agreement.

Groveman reported that a new law enabling teacher unions to negotiate extracurricular assignments and disciplinary measures during collective bargaining will probably not have a major impact on Roosevelt. He also related that test results showed radon levels in the school to be well within acceptable norms—and in some locations below the level customarily found outdoors. Therefore, no remediation plan will be necessary. Groveman reported that since the School Physician performs certain procedures, such as TB tests, in his private office, the school need not obtain a license as a generator of medical waste. He also indicated that the district is exempt from the new infant care leave law because of its small staff size.

Gift Fair Challenged

The Board received a letter from Alison Petrilla complaining that her kindergartner came home "in tears" after the Holiday Gift Fair, which is sponsored by the PTA. She explained that her child did not have money to make purchases along with the other children and felt left out. Petrilla also indicated that the event, occurring near the time of Christmas and Chanukah, seemed to observe a religious holiday and had "no place" during school time.

Groveman said the Gift Fair was in its second year and was generally well received. He defended the program as a "half hour of educational time" allowing the children to deal with money and make decisions. He attributed one child's lack of money to "insufficient communication." The Board decided to reply that the CSA will address the concerns expressed in the letter in time for the next Gift Fair.

Spanish Added to Curriculum

The Board approved the addition of conversational Spanish to the curriculum and revised the science curriculum. The Board also approved a new policy on "Enforcement of Drug-Free School Zones." Mandated by state law, the policies—to be adopted throughout New Jersey—set up a structure for school district/police collaboration in the event that police have to go into a school to conduct an undercover operation against drugs. Although the state Department of Education requires schools to host police drug investigations, such operations are rare.

Responding to Board concerns, the Borough Council repaired a loose guy wire supporting the town's fire and first aid siren, which sits atop the school building. The Council wrote the Board that it is seeking estimates for relocating the siren, which has been disrupting the school day more frequently since the Roosevelt First Aid Squad began to provide daytime coverage for Hightstown.

In other action, the Board approved new procedures for the pupil record directory and accessing student records. Haywood Robinson was approved as a Substitute Black Seal Custodian to operate the school's boiler and provide emergency building coverage at a rate of \$6.40 per hour. The Board approved the PTA's Third Annual Winter Carnival to be held on February 10 and a bake sale to be held on Candidates Night. There will also be a Mr. Wizard Science Assembly on March 6 and an Ice Cream Social on April 27. In addition, dates will be announced for a joint student carnival, PTA school dance and a family dance. CSA Groveman's attendance at a reading and language arts workshop was approved.

The Board received a letter from the Assignment Judge of Monmouth County thanking the district for providing community service work as part of a criminal sentence for a Roosevelt resident.

Editor's Note: In the last issue of the Bulletin, we reported that the receptionist/secretary, who has a Black Seal license, would be paid \$10/hour for substitute custodial care. The actual stipend will be \$10/day. We regret the error.

State Aid Will Have Key Impact on RPS Budget

by Harry Groveman

One of the critical components with an impact on each school district's budgetary process is the amount of State aid that district will receive. In December the State Department of Education issues every district a printout of its full State aid entitlement, or what each district will receive if the Governor's budget funds education at 100%. For example, in last year's budget full funding called for Roosevelt to receive \$340,998 in State aid. However, the final State-approved budget reduced that entitlement to \$292,995—a reduction of 16%. In simple terms, our State aid entitlement was approximately 84% of what we could have or should have received.

Not Uncommon

While last year's reduction was more severe than cuts over the past few years, it is not unusual for the approved State budget to be lower than full entitlement. In fact, I believe full funding has been achieved only once in the decade of the 80's.

This year our full State aid entitlement amounts to \$420,514 and represents a nice increase from last year. However, we do not know the percentage that will be cut back from this full funding figure, and we can only specu-

late what our actual entitlement will be. Based on everything I have seen and heard, this budget year we can anticipate that the actual 1990/91 entitlements will be at least as severely reduced as last year's entitlement, perhaps to an even lower level. Therefore, it would not be unlikely to see our entitlement reduced by \$60,000 or more.

Sometime in February we hope to receive the actual State aid dollar amounts for next year. However, because there is a new Governor this process might be delayed. Until we know these numbers it is difficult to develop a full budget picture for the community.

At the public budgetary workshop we held on the evening of December 21, I shared with the Board and those in attendance my anticipation that faced with a state entitlement shortfall, an inability to use free balance to offset the tax levy, and the fact that many budgetary increases are items that the School Board cannot control—i.e., tuition, transportation contracts and fixed costs—we can anticipate presenting a tax increase to the voters in April that is in the double-digit range.

Harry Groveman is Chief School Administrator at RPS.

Property Tax Deductions

by Michael L. Ticktin

New Jersey law allows property tax deductions for veterans, spouses of deceased veterans or service personnel and persons who are senior citizens (65 or older), permanently disabled or the spouse of a person who was eligible for a senior citizen or disabled deduction at the time of his or her death (provided that the surviving spouse was at least 55 at the time of the other spouse's death).

The deduction for a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran or service person is \$50 a year and there is no income limitation. The deduction for a senior citizen, disabled person or surviving spouse of either is \$250 a year, but the applicant must have an income (including spouse's income) of not over \$10,000, not including social security or equivalent payments.

I will be happy to provide a form to any property owner who wishes to file an application for any of these deductions. Appropriate proofs must be attached to the form when it is filed. For further information or forms, please call me at 448-0363.

Property tax deductions are provided at no cost to the Borough since the State provides full reimbursement from income tax revenue.

Michael Ticktin is Roosevelt's Tax Assessor.

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

January proved to be far from dreary for the RCNS family, as the children celebrated two special events with two very special friends.

First, our preschoolers threw a gala surprise birthday party for their morning visitor and honorary Grandpa Manny Koffler, who also acts as liaison between the synagogue and the nursery. The children entertained Manny with songs, and everyone enjoyed a birthday feast provided by Mrs. Koffler, our other synagogue liaison.

Then a few days later, David Brahinsky serenaded the youngsters and guests of all ages at our Second Annual David Brahinsky Concert/Open

House. In addition to singing along with David's wonderful songs, the children played instruments brought from home or thumped happily on coffee can drums they'd made earlier in the day with the help of Program Director Linda Liotta. Application forms for the 1990/91 RCNS year were made available to current and prospective students. Parents of children 2½ to 5 who did not attend and are interested in registering their preschoolers for next year are advised to call Linda at the school soon (426-9523) and arrange to receive our registration packet.

"Thank yous" this month go first and foremost to David Brahinsky for

sharing his talents so generously with us; to Bernarda Shahn, Bob and Alison Petrilla, Catherine Yuhas, Dick Reill, and Emily and Lewis Reid for their contributions; to our RCNS parents who made our in-house winter fundraisers so successful; and to MIRA and Congregation Anshei for their continued (and valued) support.

Next up is our Valentine's Day Candy Sale, featuring delicious homemade goodies. Call Liz Possiel (448-1485) for information if you'd like to surprise your sweetheart with some luscious sweets and help our fundraising efforts at the same time.

Awesome Astronomers

by Ilene Levine

After waiting 3 months for clear skies and a crescent moon, the third and fourth graders finally had their Astronomy Evening on December 1. Prior to that night, they had been observing the moon's phases and the moon in relation to the planets Venus and Saturn.

On the clear, crisp evening of December 1, it was most exciting to view the moon, planets and stars through the telescopes that were brought by some students and by Mike Hamilton, Stu Kaufman and Ted Prusik. In the classroom Mike Hamilton gave a lesson on astronomy and even took apart his telescope to show the students.

Adding to the fun and excitement of the evening were the pizza, pastries

and hot chocolate. Thanks to all the parents who helped make Astronomy Evening an event the children will remember for a long time.

Following is a thank-you letter written by Sarah Henry, a fourth grade student:

December 4, 1989

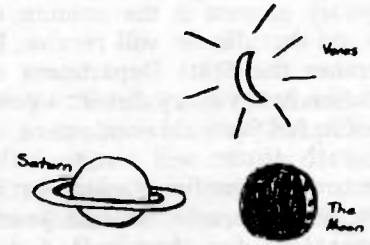
Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Thank you for coming in and sharing your telescopes with us. I really enjoyed my time looking at the stars, planets and constellations. I enjoyed drawing them too. I saw Cassiopeia, Pleiades (Seven Sisters) and Orion. I liked Betelgeuse. I also saw a crescent moon and an earthshine. I especially liked when you took your telescope apart and showed us the pieces.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Sarah Henry

Ilene Levine teaches at RPS.



Zoe Czynowski

drawing by Zoe Czynowski

RPS Video Club Produces Newscast

by Alfred Luckenbach

The Roosevelt Public School after school video club began on November 14.

Since all of the sixth grade students expressed an interest in joining the club, the first four-week cycle was open to sixth graders only.

In this program, the students gather news items; use a word processor to write, edit and print their stories; and conduct rehearsals and final videotaping of their news broadcast.

The sixth graders produced a video called "RPS '90s News" featuring local news stories about the Roosevelt Memorial, the Roosevelt Cemetery, and the Ben Shahn mural in the RPS lobby. Other news stories were about endangered species and the devastation of the Amazon rain forests. Sports and weather were also included in the newscast.

The newscast featured anchors Victoria Estok and Stefanie Miller, on-location reporters Rebecca Ord and Erica Warner, wildlife reporter Christina Henderson, sportscaster Craig Kaufman, and weather-watcher Kathy Steele.

All videotaping was performed by Rebecca Ord except for Rebecca's mural segment. That segment was taped by Erica Warner.

Once the final taped show is completed, the entire school is invited to see it. [Two of the edited news stories appear below, Ed.]

On Location

by Victoria Estok

Here we are at the bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was created by Jonathan Shahn to honor F.D.R.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the 32nd president and was in office for 12 years.

When he was 39 he was tall and slender but after his tragic illness with polio he became heavy and stocky and could never walk again.

In 1905, he married Eleanor Roosevelt with whom he remained for 40 years.

Since Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt was such a great president and his administration led to the creation of this town, the town was named after him and Mr. Jonathan Shahn created the monument in honor of him.

This monument still stands today but it is being abused. Please, if you live in Roosevelt, care for the monument. I know I do.

On Location

by Erica Warner

Do you know what is unique about the Roosevelt cemetery? The Roosevelt cemetery is one of the very few in the United States that would bury its citizens for free. Even if you lived here for 25 years and move, you're still counted a citizen and can be buried for free. Tamara Drasin Swann, a famous singer, was buried here. During the Second World War Tamara Drasin Swann entertained the soldiers. She died in a plane crash. That is where we got Tamara Drive. Another famous person buried here is Ben Shahn. He is the artist that designed the beautiful mural in the lobby. The cemetery is 53 years old. It is a very peaceful place.

Alfred Luckenbach teaches fifth and sixth grades at RPS.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

The PTA has had a busy schedule since Thanksgiving. Our Holiday Shop in November was a huge success. The children had a great time picking out small gifts for their family and friends. The teachers were very enthusiastic again this year and said this is a good learning experience for the students.

At the State PTA Convention in Atlantic City this past November, the Roosevelt PTA was honored with two awards. One was for 100% teacher membership and the other was an AIDS Recognition Award. This award was given for an AIDS Awareness Program Award that Mr. Franklin and Mrs. Howard presented at a PTA meeting last Spring. This was one of only two AIDS Recognition Awards given out in New Jersey. These awards will be presented to our PTA President, Adeenah Yeger, at the County Founders Day Program in February.

The PTA ran a bake sale on December 9 and we would like to thank Vinnie Jackson and Teresa LePore for organizing this event. We appreciate all the help we received from our bakers and supporters. A special thanks goes out to the mothers who worked at this

sale. It was awfully cold out in front of the Post Office that Saturday.

On December 20 the PTA provided refreshments for the music program that the school chorus presented to parents and friends. The hot chocolate and cookies really hit the spot.

At the January 18 PTA meeting we were pleased to have Mr. Franklin as our guest speaker. He discussed the President's Physical Fitness Program. The students will earn a badge and certificate from the President upon completion of this program.

January 24 was National School Nurse Day and the PTA was proud to honor our school nurse, Mrs. Ruth Howard, with a special gift. Mrs. Howard is always willing to help out the PTA whenever she can and we love to see her at our monthly meetings.

Our third annual Winter Carnival is coming up in February. We're making it even bigger and better than last year with lots of new games for children of all ages, pre-schoolers included! We'll also have a mini Chinese Auction, Bake Sale and 50/50. This year we're even going to have a fortune teller. The

Winter Carnival will be held on February 10 from 10 to 2. Mark your calendars for this exciting event.

The Shop-Rite Apples for Students collection is going very well. This program ends on February 17, so please be sure to send in your receipts. We'll be able to get free software programs for each classroom including the Special Education and gym classes. A special thanks go to Vinnie and George Jackson for all the work they've put into this program.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 8 PM in the school lobby.

Better Beginnings Accepting Applications

Better Beginnings is now accepting applications for its pre-school program, ages 2½ to 5. Eligibility for Better Beginnings is based on income, with a fee of \$2-\$30 per week determined by a sliding scale according to family size. Better Beginning provides success-oriented, developmental and age-appropriate activities. Building a positive self-image in a warm and caring atmosphere and encouraging independence and physical, social and cognitive growth are central to its philosophy. To apply, call (609) 448-6226 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Better Beginnings is also accepting applications for its Summer Program, for children aged six to ten. The program will begin June 25, 1990 at the Walter C. Black School in East Windsor.

This program is open to all regardless of income, and fees are based on income and family size. Discounts are given to families with more than one child enrolled.

The full day of supervised activities includes enjoyable learning experiences, meals, and trips.

To apply, call (609) 448-6226 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

—from a Better Beginnings press release

Alef Bet Families Host Parties

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

December was party time for the Alef Bet Families, who celebrated Chanukah with a festive afternoon get-together on December 23. Latkes with sour cream and applesauce were the order of the day, and the children learned about the holiday, made Chanukah menorah collages, and sang traditional songs before the feast began.

Our January meeting was a Mardi Gras Tupperware Party which the group sponsored as a fundraiser for our "home base," the Roosevelt Jewish Center. February 17 is the date set for

our next gathering—a "mystery" event—and we're starting to prepare for a gala Purim Party scheduled for Sunday morning, March 4. We'd certainly welcome any suggestions and/or help from members and non-members alike, so that this Purim can be an especially memorable one for all.

Alef Bet Families is an informal Jewish education group geared for young children and their Families, but open to everyone. Come join the fun! Call Faye Nulman (426-1192) or Alison Petrilla (426-4222) for information on upcoming events.

Support the *Bulletin*

Neighbors

A Visit To

by Adeline Weiner

Allentown, New Jersey, our neighbor eight miles to the south, is a community of some twelve hundred people, all of whom reside in an area of only a little over a half-mile square. The original village grew up around a creek and a gristmill built by Nathan Allen in 1706. It became a borough in 1889 and is currently celebrating its centennial birthday.

The Real Thing

Present-day Allentown is an attractive blend of genuine mid-New Jersey "colonial" and small business "modern." The charming, unspoiled downtown area is bounded by modest old residential streets. Over two hundred individual houses, mainly along Church Street, have been awarded the distinction of historic designation status, both state and national. Church Street recently acquired new sidewalks and street lamps by dint of a grant of \$52,000 from the County Community Development Committee. Previously, such funds were provided for two parking lots and a playground. The scenic Allentown Lake was dredged by way of a similar grant with a Green Acres park added to trim the townside shore.

The privately-owned weekly, *The Messenger Press*, covers the local scene for the Allentown-Millstone area. It serves as an information source on auctions and farm equipment as well.

Borough Government

In separate interviews with Borough Clerk H. Marie Mika and Mayor Leon Walczak, we learned there are five Republicans and one Democrat on the Borough Council who each receive \$1,500 a year for the expenses of the office. The Mayor's honorarium is \$2,650 a year. In addition to duties as Borough Clerk, Mrs. Mika is also Treasurer and Tax Collector with a staff of two other women.

The Borough employs a total of 13 full time and 17 part time workers including police and public works personnel.

Public Works Troubled Waters

Last July a severe rainstorm brought on a disastrous flooding of Indian Run Creek that put both of Allentown's water plants out of commission, although it spared the two wells. An emergency was declared and the threat of a serious water shortage was dramatically averted by hooking a mile-long water-line into Washington Township, with the volunteer aid of no fewer than nine fire companies. The water was provided by a private water utility. The bills are not all in yet, but help with an overrun of more than \$25,000 is expected.

The role of the Community's Emergency Management Committee was critical in the state's designation of the town as a "disaster area", thus qualifying it for eventual financial assistance. Water service is back to normal and a protective sandbag wall along the shore is now almost completed, with a manpower assist from inmates of the Yardville Correctional Facility.

Public Works Troubled Waste

The Allentown sewer plant, on the other hand, is under a ban from NJDEP that will require one million and a half to two million dollars to bring repairs to completion by 1992. They are in Stage 2 of the Administrative Consent Order, i.e. the submission of detailed plans for reconstruction.

As in our own case, Allentown also received a penalty for violation of waste discharge limits that was later reduced to \$2,500. Mayor Walczak had appealed to Senator Gagliano and other legislators for support in persuading the NJDEP that the "borough was not ignoring the situation but

there was only so much it could do financially," as Mr. Walczak put it. He believes that these negotiations with DEP were effective and that perhaps as a result, Allentown was selected as one of the group of municipalities in the state to be surveyed as to how the demands of NJDEP have affected the financial status of various communities.

Public Works Help Wanted

During the negotiations with the DEP, Allentown officials stressed the burden on the borough of such things as engineers' and attorneys' fees and the fact that there is no available source of state funding, such as special loans and grants. The Mayor noted that the money collected in fines went into general state revenues rather than into a special fund from which others could draw financial aid.

Mr. Walczak expressed his concern that the impact on residents was severe; that we get "less and less (assistance) from the federal government, not only on sewerage and water, but on roads and bridges as well." He expects that Allentown will be off the sewer moratorium by 1992 or before, since the borough intends to comply with all the dates assigned.

Both water and sanitation utilities are self-supporting operations, as in our own borough. The cost to residents for water usage in Allentown is \$15 for 500 cubic feet of water and .035 cents per cubic foot thereafter, per quarter. At an equivalent of 7.48 gallons per cubic foot and an estimate of 400 gallons a day on average, the rates for a household would be around \$53 a month. Sewerage rates run at \$62.50 per unit household for the quarter or \$20.83 per month, which means that the utility bill for a family would be about \$75.00 per month.

Allentown

Development Plans

With release from the ban, the borough will be able to realize its plans to build 235 new townhouse condominiums for an adult community as well as 40 new single-family houses. When completed, the borough will have used up all its available development space.

Public Safety

The heavy traffic through Allentown is a serious problem: Main Street is a thoroughfare for many cars and buses on their way to the shore and to Atlantic City casinos. The town is also a crossway for county roads 539, 526 and 524, as well as the traffic

peripheral to Interstate 195. To manage the traffic chores and other police matters, the borough has five full time police officers whose efforts have brought a high of \$14,000 in fines into the town's coffers during last August alone. Annually, the amount is around \$100,000, something under half the cost of running the department.

The borough works closely with surrounding communities where development grows apace, in order to effect cooperation on traffic problems. There is an agreement, by ordinance, with Washington Township, for example, that requires consultation on any new road construction that may affect Al-

lentown. A traffic survey of the whole area is underway in which Allentown expects to have a say as to bypass roads and re-routing of highway traffic.

Education

Allentown and Upper Freehold Township send their children to a joint regional elementary school located in Allentown. Two hundred and eleven elementary school pupils in the borough, most of whom are bused to school every day, are educated at a cost of \$4,129 a year per pupil. Eighty-two high schoolers attend school with the youth of still three other towns:

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— Side by Side —

	Allentown	Roosevelt
Statistics		
Population (approx.)	1,200	950
Area (sq. mi.)	.6	1.93
Dwellings (approx.)	600	333
Property Taxes		
Effective Tax Rate per \$100 (1988)	2.341	2.99
Total Levy (1989)	\$1,852,843	\$988,427
Average Annual Household Tax Bill (1988)	\$2,429	\$2,756
Public Utilities		
Monthly Water/Sewer Cost	(@ 400 gals./day, approx.) \$75	\$65
School		
Property Taxes for School (1989)	\$1,058,408	\$679,590
Percentage of Total Levy	57%	69%
Total Pupils (K-12)	293	141
Property Tax Dollars/Pupil	\$3,612	\$4,820
Municipal Services		
Property Taxes for Municipal Services (1989)	\$436,925	\$130,381
Percentage of Total Tax Levy	24%	13%
Borough Hall Staff (including police) [FT/PT]	13/17	2/9
Police	5	0
Garbage & Curbside Recycling (annual)	(1989) \$112,000	(1990) \$50,000

Bulletin Forum

Should We Change The Way Local Government is Elected?

*Editor's Note: This Forum was prompted by the article by Michael Ticktin. The **Bulletin** sent copies and an invitation to participate to current committee people for the two political parties, all current and recent mayors and members of the Borough Council, and to all recent unsuccessful candidates. At press time, the **Bulletin** had received responses from Ed Moser and Kirk Rothfuss. We encourage all our readers to contribute their thoughts.*

The Faulkner Act Revisited

by Michael L. Ticktin

In these pages several years ago, I wrote an article concerning the possible benefit to Roosevelt of changing the form of our municipal government to one of the nonpartisan forms available under the Optional Municipal Charter Law (NJSA 40:69A-1 et seq.), commonly known as the "Faulkner Act." At the time, the members of the Borough Council did not show any great interest in pursuing the matter, and nothing happened. The events of the recent election, however, suggest that a serious re-examination of the issue may be a good idea.

Currently Partisan in Name Only

It has become apparent that recent Roosevelt municipal politics, though partisan in form, could be characterized as either "distinctive" or "bizarre," depending on your point of view. Registered Democrats greatly outnumber registered Republicans, and the voting pattern in general elections—as reflected in most national, state and county races—continues to heavily favor the Democrats. On the local level, however, this has not necessarily been the case.

The main function of primary elections is supposed to be to narrow the field of candidates for the general election. Several times in recent Roosevelt history, including the elections of 1987 and 1989, this has not been how things have worked out. In 1987, a candidate won the Democratic nomination for mayor in a contested primary, had no Republican opposition, but lost to a write-in candidate in November. In 1989, as in 1978 and 1979, a can-

didate who won the Democratic nomination was defeated in the general election by a candidate who had lost that nomination but had won, by a write-in votes, the Republican nomination.

Needless to say, neither of these scenarios illustrates how a partisan electoral system is supposed to work. Some might argue that the answer is to persuade Democrats that they are obligated to support their party's nominee, even if they voted for someone else in the primary. The reality in Roosevelt is that a substantial number of voters seem not to view things that way. Given a second chance to vote for the person they originally voted for, they tend to do so. Since the general election, unlike the primary, is not limited to the declared adherents of one party, other people get to participate in making the choice the second time around, thereby sometimes yielding a different result. The net effect of all this is that the primary is reduced to a practice run in which the winners must win both primaries in order to be sure that they will not face the same people on the ballot in November. Even then, they cannot be sure that there will not be a write-in campaign.

Surely it is fairer both to the candidates and to the community to decide once and for all who should fill our elective offices, with all voters having the opportunity to participate, and thereby avoid many months of uncertainty for all involved.

Non-Partisan Alternatives: How They Work

The nonpartisan plans of municipal government available under the Faulkner Act provide a way to resolve this problem. Municipal elections are held the second Tuesday in May of each year and the winners take office that July first. Council terms can either run concurrently or be staggered, as they are now in Roosevelt. The mayor can either be elected by the voters, as is now the case here, or chosen annually by the council from among its members, as is done under the township committee system. There is only one round of voting (unless the municipality chooses the option of having runoffs) and all voters are able to participate in it. There is, moreover, another sense in which all get to participate: Federal employees, and State employees funded under Federal programs, barred by the Hatch Act from being candidates of a political party, are allowed to run in nonpartisan elections.

The Faulkner Act allows a form of municipal government similar in structure to our current mayor and council system. The terms of office (4 years for the mayor, 3 years for a member of council) are the same. The structure and function of the council committees and of the local boards could remain the same. The major difference is that, under the Faulkner Act, the mayor has greater power: he or she has a vote on the council, and has the sole power to appoint the council committees.

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Faulkner Act Government Has Risks

by Ed Moser

Michael Ticktin's article proposing a change in the form of Borough government to a Faulkner Act type is very provocative and stimulating. He apparently gives as his primary reason the fact that a separate, non-partisan municipal election would eliminate the contradiction which currently exists because a fiercely contested primary might simply result in the losers running on another ticket and changing the outcome in the only really meaningful election: the general election. A Municipal Election would limit the contest to one time, presumably, saving people's energy and the money of the candidates and their supporters. It would allow every registered voter to participate the first time around, and make it stick.

Faulkner Act government would also have other features: it would permit initiative, recall and referendum, and, in the Mayor and Council type of government, permit the Mayor to appoint committees. Unfortunately, the current Mayor (and there doubtless would be others) has demonstrated a

willingness to use committee appointments in a nakedly political way, to the point of wanting to appoint a committee chair despite the appointee's refusal to accept the appointment.

One way out of this would be to elect a Township Committee or similar type of government, in which the Mayor is elected from among the Committee. Another is to ask the Legislature for a more or less custom-made body which would suit our needs.

A more interesting problem is posed by other aspects of the Faulkner Act. It means an extra election day, with the additional expense of paying the Elections Board, renting the voting machine, etc. Such expenses are very small and not a real obstacle, provided they only happen once a year. But the Faulkner Act also provides for Recall, Referendum and Initiative. In Roosevelt, because of our small population, this means that as few as 45 people could cause a special election. Experience has shown that 45 voters can be found in Roosevelt to sign nearly anything by people with plenty of time

to go door-to-door. The election—which was supposed to have been the only municipal election that year—suddenly becomes the *first* municipal election.

The potential for mischief is enormous, and it could paralyze what passes for effective local government. Indeed, it may tend to weed out busy, serious, and energetic candidates. Remember, the people who serve on the Borough Council (and the School Board as well), regardless of their ability, their policies, and even their intentions, are first of all volunteers who are running because they think they have something to offer the community. By potentially turning local elections into a circus by abuse of the initiative, referendum and recall, the likelihood is that only clowns will run.

Nevertheless, the positive features of the idea are worth serious consideration, and I urge the Council to consider the creation of a Charter Study Commission.

Ed Moser recently served on the Roosevelt Borough Council.

The Faulkner Act Rebuffed

by Kirk Rothfuss

Regarding Michael Ticktin's article suggesting that Roosevelt should examine alternate forms of government under the Faulkner Act, my personal view is that Roosevelt's current form of government is working, although at times our system of primary and general elections can be somewhat frustrating.

While the Council can take the lead in consideration of an alternate form of government, I believe this first step is best left to the voters. If the voters believe a review of our current government structure is in order, 25% of the voters should petition to form the study commission.

I feel that now is not the time to consider changes to our form of government which potentially could change the current Council membership. The next two to three years may be the most critical the Borough has faced. Our sewage treatment renovation, after years of discussion and

debate, is scheduled to begin. Requests for bids are to be released, contracts signed, our streets and roads are to be cut open, we will be running without the security of our water tower during its renovation and painting for up to six weeks, construction vehicles will dominate the landscape, disruptions and inconvenience will be frequent. It will be too turbulent a time for the citizens to seriously consider the full impact of a restructure of government, and a radical change in the structure of the council in the middle of all this could be dangerous.

I believe Michael's main reason for suggesting we consider new forms of government with nonpartisan elections is due to the frustration and confusion caused by election results such as we recently experienced. As one of the candidates in the last election I agree that the situation was a frustrating one. I felt that I had to run the same campaign twice, forcing our voters to

listen to the same four candidates two times around. My initial reaction when Michael brought the idea of the Faulkner Act to my attention shortly after the general election was that it would have taken stress off of the candidates and reduced confusion. And naturally I was not happy with the second election results, as I hoped my running mate Maureen Parrott would win. But after time, I realized that ultimately the voters spoke their will by majority vote, even if we went about it in an unusual way. And I believe in the future the Republican party in Roosevelt will run candidates in the primary, offering more choices to the voters in both the primary and general elections.

Regarding the issue of the Mayor's power under our current form of government and under the Faulkner act, I believe each voter must decide if he or she is satisfied with the outcome

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Ticktin (continued from page 10)

Initiative, Referendum, and Recall

A common feature of all Faulkner Act forms of government, whether partisan or nonpartisan, is provision for initiative, referendum and recall.

Initiative, which has become well-known because of its frequent use at the state level in California, is the introduction of ordinances by petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the votes cast at the last legislative (i.e., NJ Assembly) election. These measures would be placed on the ballot for consideration by all voters at a regular or special election. If an initiative is approved, it takes effect just as it would have had it been passed by the council.

Referendum allows a number of voters equal to at least 15% of the votes cast at the last legislative election, by petition, to keep an ordinance passed by the council from taking effect until approved at an election. There are limits to what can be the subject of an initiative or a referendum. The most important is that ordinances affecting land use (e.g., changes to the municipal zoning ordinance) cannot be subject to referendum or initiative.

Recall allows at least 25% of the registered voters to petition to have the voters decide whether to remove for cause an elected official who has served at least one year of his or her term.

How It Can Be Done

A change to a Faulkner Act form of government can be initiated in two ways:

Either the council or 25% of the registered voters, by petition, can bring the question of whether or not to form a charter study commission before the voters who, if they agree, also vote in the members of the commission. The commission then prepares a report. If it recommends a change in the form of government, the recommended change is presented to the voters for their approval.

Alternatively, 25% of the registered voters can petition directly for adoption of a new form of government and

the form thus proposed is presented to the voters.

If a nonpartisan form of government is either recommended by a charter study commission or petitioned for, the question of whether to adopt it is voted upon at a general (November), municipal (May), or special election held not less than 60 days, nor more than 120 days, after the recommendation or the petition is filed with the municipal clerk. If the change is approved, the new elected officials are chosen on the second Tuesday in the following May and take office at noon on that July first.

Should we decide to change the form of our government, the terms of all elected officials would end as of July 1. In order to continue to serve, those currently in these positions would have to stand for re-election. If we were to choose a new mayor and six council members with staggered terms in this manner, the mayor would begin a four-year term and two council members would serve for a year, two for two years, and two for three years. Who would get what term would be determined by drawing lots. Thereafter, all council members other than the mayor (who, under this plan, is counted as a member of the council) would be elected for three-year terms. All ordinances not inconsistent with the new form of government would continue in effect, but municipal officials and employees not having tenure of office under any State law would vacate their offices and have to be reappointed in order to continue.

If we in Roosevelt were to change to a Faulkner Act form of government, we would probably only do so to take advantage of the nonpartisan option. It is unlikely that we would choose anything other than the Small Municipality form (designed for, and limited to, municipalities with populations under 12,000) and it would probably be unwise to complicate the issue by including in the proposal any changes in the way the mayor is elected, in the size of the council, or in the system of staggered terms. Such changes can always be made at a later date if there is any compelling reason

to make them. Any studying that has to be done probably can be done by the council, with public hearings and other forms of citizen participation. While the council cannot place a proposal that it endorses on the ballot, it can support the gathering of the signatures of the necessary 25% of the registered voters, which should not be too hard to get if there is widespread sentiment in favor of the change. If this were done, the question could be voted upon next November. If approved, nonpartisan municipal elections could be held on May 14, 1991.

In Use Elsewhere

The Faulkner Act is not an untried innovation. It has been in effect since 1950. It was extensively amended in 1981 to allow for greater flexibility, including the option for staggered terms under the nonpartisan forms.

Forty-five percent of the State's population live in the 110 municipalities governed under the Faulkner Act as of January 1, 1987. Of these 45—including such cities as Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Camden, and Paterson, as well as many smaller municipalities—are under nonpartisan forms. Three of these nonpartisan municipalities have adopted the Small Municipality plan. They are Berlin Township in Camden County and Island Heights and Stafford in Ocean County.

Anyone who fears that having nonpartisan local elections diminishes a municipality's influence in partisan politics at other levels of government should bear in mind the concurrent success under both electoral systems of such people as Mayor/Senator Frank Graves of Paterson and Mayor/Assemblyman George Otlowksi of Perth Amboy.

A booklet containing the text of the Faulkner Act, as amended, with annotations and explanatory material, is available for \$5.00 from the County and Municipal Government Study Commission, 115 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625. A copy is available at the Borough Clerk's office for those who wish to read it there.

Rothfuss

(continued from page 11)

of this year's Council reorganization. The Council and Mayor went through uncomfortable times as the question of who holds responsibility for committee appointments was discussed for the second year in a row. It was settled this year. At Mayor Barth's suggestion the Mayor and Council asked for a legal opinion on the question from our Borough Attorney. The opinion clarified that under our current form of government the Council, not the Mayor, has the power of Committee appointment. To Mayor Barth and the citizens in town who would prefer that this power rest with the Mayor, this was understandably a disappointment.

Last year, when it was still incorrectly assumed that the Mayor has appointment power, the committee appointments the Mayor proposed were unsatisfactory to the majority of Council members. A majority of unhappy, unsatisfied Council members is not a very healthy state of affairs. This year the majority of Council members are satisfied with their committee assignments.

On the issues of Initiative, Referendum and Recall, I have no problem with Recall. If an elected official commits a wrongful act, so be it. Out he or she goes.

But I have serious problems with Initiative and Referendum. I believe that a big advantage to Roosevelt of being so small is that the people cannot be bypassed in the decision-making process. When a controversial ordinance is being considered, word gets around fast. The recent noise ordinance is a case in point. In Roosevelt, issues of real concern cannot quietly be acted upon by council while the voters are not looking.

Based on my opinions above, I must leave the decision to initiate changes to our form of government to the people, where it belongs.

Kirk Rothfuss is a member of the Roosevelt Borough Council.

**What do you think?
Write the Bulletin.**

Council

(continued from page 3)

Bachstadt is preparing a five-year projection of costs for the entire sewer rehabilitation program, including an estimate of operating and maintenance costs. Based on his findings, the sums of money still to be borrowed and repaid will be determined, all of which in turn will provide the basis for calculating the monthly rate for each resident. Magnes warns that the figure for future sewer services will represent a substantial increase over the present rate.

Nurko Road Grant to Cost Money

Bill Counterman, Chair of Streets and Roads, announced the approval of a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation of \$113,000 for improvements to Nurko Road. The engineering design costs, however, must be taken from borough funds. Mr. Counterman said the amount involved should not exceed \$14,200 and this was agreed to by the Council.

Recycling News

by Stuart Kaufman

Just a brief note from your new Recycling Coordinator on the coming changes in the way we recycle. The drop-off site by the Borough Hall has been closed. There will be curbside pick-up. We hope that it will be in full swing in as short a time as possible. As of this writing details have not been worked out completely.

You can expect to have recyclables picked up twice a month, and the ground rules are: all glass in one container, all aluminum and bi-metal cans in one container, and newspapers must be tied—not bagged. I know it's going to be an inconvenience, but it will become easier and cleaner in a short while.

There will be a mailer sent out soon with full details. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me in the evening at 443-4921, or during the day leave a message at 443-4049. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Stuart Kaufman is Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator.

Jewelry Sale Benefits Womanspace

by Dolores Chasan

With the support of the community, the jewelry sale held at the local synagogue to benefit Womanspace was a huge success. Pearl Seligman, who conceived the idea, was assisted by Jeanette Koffler, Amanda Slamm, Dolores Chasan, Ann Goodman, Rose Murphy, Jasper Shahn, Jon Shahn, and Ralph Seligman.

Six hundred dollars was donated to this organization, which serves women and children in crisis who have been physically or emotionally abused. The shelter program offers safe, emergency housing. A trained staff maintains a 24-hour hotline: (609) 394-4000. Counseling and advocacy services are also available. For these services call 394-0136.

In the past year, Womanspace has been able to provide services for six hundred people. Unfortunately, an almost equal number have not been served because of funding limitations.

The organization can always use additional support. In addition to needing monetary contributions, they have an ongoing need for clothing, household goods, and personal care supplies. Call Womanspace at 394-9000 and arrangements can be made for pick-up. Their office is located at 1860 Brunswick Ave. in Lawrenceville.

Local Assessor Heads County Association

by Mark Zuckerman

Borough Assessor Michael Ticktin has been elected President of the Monmouth County Assessors Association for 1990. Part of the job involves representing the Monmouth assessors on the executive committee of the Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey.

The Monmouth County Assessors Association, which consists of 29 assessors serving 53 municipalities, is the second largest county assessors association in the State.

Minutes Ago

It's Always Either One or the Other

by Arthur Shapiro

It seems to me that when we grew up in Roosevelt, whenever we had choices it was always between two things. If you needed a doctor to make a housecall, only two would come to "The Homesteads" (Roosevelt) from Hightstown: Dr. Cox or Dr. Leshin. If you needed medicine, there were two drug stores: Cunningham's or Goldstein's. For milk, there were two dairies: Decker's and Conover's. For swimming, there were two lakes: Etra and Perrineville. For bread, there were two bread trucks: Tip Top and Bond. And, in Roosevelt, there were two major egg dealers: Homestead Farms (owned by Izzy Oblas) and Mondlin Farms (owned by Buck Mondlin).

The other day, Dave Spelkoman called to tell me that he and Mark Kleinman had just returned from Florida, visiting Kenny Mondlin (Buck's son), who told them a funny story that can only be appreciated fully by a Rooseveltian.

It seems that Kenny was recently in Bogota, Colombia on a business deal appraising some artwork. In order to get to the airport on time for his flight

home, he was told by his friends to make sure he got a taxi driver who could speak English. Kenny's friends also warned that Colombian cab drivers are known for ingratiating themselves with their fares through friendly small talk with the hope of getting a bigger tip. "They'll tell you anything to make you like them," he was cautioned.

Arriving at the hotel's taxi stand, Kenny yelled, "Anyone here speak English?" "I do," said a driver with a thick accent. "You got the job," said Kenny. "Take me to the airport!" As they loaded the cab, Kenny said his goodbyes and they were off.

A few miles from the hotel, the driver, looking in the rearview mirror asks, "Where you from?" Not wanting to give too much information, Kenny answers, "The United States." "Oh!" says the driver, "the United States. I know it very well! Where in the United States?" Kenny's answer, "The East Coast." "Oh!" says the driver, "The East Coast. I know it very well, too! What state?" "New Jersey," says Kenny.

"New Jersey," says the driver, "I know New Jersey very well!"

Now Kenny, being from Roosevelt, is a natural *kibitzer*. Having been hooked, he naturally wants to drag it out to see how far this guy is going to take it. So when the cabbie asks "Where in New Jersey?" Kenny replies, "Monmouth County." "I know it very well! What town?" Kenny, who loves a good joke, says, "Roosevelt—It's right between Clarksburg and Etra!"

"Roosevelt, Clarksburg and Etra," says the driver. "I know them very well, too! Wonderful towns!" As Kenny is totally cracking up at this guy's line, the cabbie asks, "What's your name?" Kenny answers, "Kenny Mondlin." "Mondlin," says the driver. "I also know that name! It's very well known in that area!" Not being able to believe how far this guy is going for a tip, Kenny finally decides to put him on the spot. "And just how do you know the name Mondlin?" he inquires, as they pull into the airport. Without batting an eye or turning around, the cabbie nonchalantly answers in his thick accent, "I drove for Oblas."

by Helga Wisowaty

December Meeting

Jeanette presided over the December meeting and informed us that there is a possibility that distribution of commodities will be discontinued due to lack of transportation. Also, Roosevelt is neglected in cases of people coming home from the hospital and needing care: Monmouth County Office of Social Services supplied help some years ago, but that also is not available now.

Nettie DeVito offered to contact Chris Smith about both of these problems. Jeanette also told us about

SHARE, a unique food organization. Individuals of all ages are eligible. A \$12 per month payment buys \$40 worth of food if those participating put in 2 hours a month helping to distribute the food. Clarksburg and Roosevelt might be able to get together to take advantage of this opportunity. More information to follow later.

When our regular meeting adjourned the members surprised Jeanette with gifts from Millie and me and a "Money-Tree" from all the members. Thelma expressed her feelings of

affection and respect and Nick DeVito presented the tree.

The friendships we make here are one of the ties that bind. To quote a friend of mine: "Friendship fills the smallest moment with a world of happiness." How true! We are now leaving 1989 behind and our best wishes go out for Happy Holidays and a very good New Year and New Decade.

Millie and Helga were hostesses with the great help we always get from Gus Chasan.

Senior

The Next Generation

Dogging It

by Debbie Nahmias

I have had the opportunity to ponder owning a dog in Roosevelt lately since my family just adopted a new dog: Trixi. (Yes, that is Trixi without an e).

It has been a long time since we've been dog owners in Roosevelt—five years to be precise. Our first dog, Chuga, was put to sleep; she was getting old and sick and we felt it was her time to go on. And in that time I had forgotten what owning a dog in Roosevelt really means.

It doesn't mean that you have just one "best friend." For in all the walking, in all the midnight runs to the street so your dog doesn't do-what-she-has-to-do on your new living room couch, you befriend others who own dogs and who have a strong relationship with a furry-faced friend just like you do. And this common thread among you and your neighbors becomes a topic of conversation. While you stand there in the freezing cold or the pouring rain comparing notes

about "doggie do's and don'ts" your dog smells the other—sniffs out the territory to make sure it's all right—and before you know it, your dog has made a friend, too.

I didn't realize how strong the bond between dogs can be until we had to put Chuga to sleep. Every night, right before the 11 o'clock news, the Katz' dog Shadow used to pay a nightly visit, creeping around the side of our house and standing on the other side of the sliding glass door until Chuga would greet her. The two of them would stare each other down until one would break the stare first, and then Shadow would go on her merry way. For weeks after Chuga died, Shadow would pay her nightly visits, always looking lost and forlorn when Chuga wasn't there to greet her. After a while, Shadow learned that Chuga wouldn't be there any more, but she never seemed the same.

Then there are the street checks you do before you let the dog go outside so your animal doesn't become breakfast for some 80-pound stray; talking to your dog in the middle of the street saying "No Trixi, Mr. and Mrs. So and So don't like it when dogs go to the bathroom on their lawn"; and the stupid vocabulary that your dog learns, whether it be from your family or from its previous owners. (Our four year old Trixi doesn't go "out" or "to the bathroom"—she goes "peepers.")

And in the weekly visits to the Post Office to get the mail on Saturday mornings, people stop you and ask you about your dog. And then this neighbor, this new member of the community, or the man that you have known since you've been three, begins to tell you about their dog. Whether it's the dog that they own now, or the one that they had when they were seventeen, it will always be their dog. And you know exactly what they mean.

News

January Meeting

At the January meeting, Jeanette brought up many things available to us and discussed various projects we were interested in that may be difficult for us to pursue, one being the SHARE program.

Our luncheon on December 9 was wonderful. The food was delicious and the play *Any Wednesday* held our attention with great acting.

Following up on the December meeting, we found out that commodities are available but the transportation to get them to Senior

Citizens, etc. is not. A few members are receiving medical help (after illness or operations). Doctors can give a patient the number to call to request help.

A program called "Your Senior Connection" provides help for household needs. There is a one-time charge of \$20. They can be contacted at 67 Main Street, Manasquan, NJ 08736, and their toll-free telephone number is 1-800-822-0567. Charges for work done by this organization are much less than if done by private companies.

Leo Libove has been in the hospital in New York. Our prayers are with him.

We extend our sympathy to David Bulkin's widow Mollie, and to his family. We'll miss seeing Dave. Harry DiGiorgio had a brief hospital stay and is at home and doing well.

We are looking forward to trips during 1990. They are always a pleasure for all of us.

Marguerita Blake and Betty Perrine were our hostesses for the January meeting, and everything was delicious.

Helga Wisowaty is Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens.

Outdoors Around the Assunpink

Dressing for the Wild:

by Dennis Connaughton

On a bright, windless April day some years ago, Bob Smith and I loaded our boat and set out to do some trout and early bass fishing on Spruce Run Reservoir.

Since the day was rather warm (in the mid-sixties) I had dressed in my traditional fishing outfit: jeans, T-shirt, a light hooded sweatshirt and denim jacket. Bob, on the other hand, wore his usual wool shirt and down vest.

With high hopes of success, we proceeded to motor out to a spot on the far side of the lake that, we had been told, had been very productive recently.

We had fished for about an hour when we noticed a squall line approaching us rapidly from across the lake. Within minutes a day that had seemed more like May than April had the look and feel of a bad day in early March.

As the squall line passed through, it dumped a fair amount of rain on the two of us. The warm spring sunshine had been replaced by a thickening canopy of clouds and as the wind whipped across the lake the temperature, which had been in the mid-sixties at the onset of our trip, dropped into the high forties, leaving us cold, wet and thoroughly miserable.

Reluctantly we pulled anchor and began to motor back with our small electric engine. The return ride across the lake was a far cry from the pleasant sail we had had earlier that day. The wind-whipped waves made the going slow and treacherous in our little boat and the spray soaked us even further, chilling us to the bone.

In all it took us over an hour to return across the lake to the truck, and by the time we arrived I was totally soaked, shivering violently and beginning to realize that I was on the threshold of hypothermia.

Bob, on the other hand—although wet, disgusted and cursing the lake, the day, and nature in general with astounding creativity—seemed largely unaffected by his exposure to wind, water, and cold.

Later, I began to wonder about what I had been doing wrong, or more to the point, what Bob had been doing right.

First off, I was wearing light cotton clothing. I might have been quite a bit more comfortable if I had just thought to bring a simple poncho.

Second was the fact that I should have dressed for the season, not the day! As April weather is known for its capriciousness, I should have taken this into account.

My cotton clothing, while fine for later in the season, is almost useless when wet. Wool, because of its ability to keep you warm even when it's wet, would have been a far better choice. When combined with a nylon shell it cuts the wind most effectively. In retrospect I found that it is far easier to open a heavy shirt when you are overheated than it is to search for warm clothing in a small boat in the driving rain.

Third, and most important, I did not check the weather report!

In my excitement and haste in preparing for this trip I had completely forgotten about the nature of Spring weather. If I had bothered to check, I would have been surprised to find that a cold front was predicted to drop down from Canada that day bringing with it plenty of wind and rain.

My lack of preparedness had turned what should have been a relaxing spring fishing trip into a situation that was miserable at best and at worst possibly life-threatening.

You see, through a chain of events that included my own mistakes plus a little inclement weather, I had almost fallen into hypothermia. Another hour or so in that boat, if our motor had failed for instance, and I might have been in serious trouble.

Hypothermia

Normal body temperature is 98.6° Fahrenheit. Hypothermia occurs when the body's inner core temperature falls below this level.

The first sign of hypothermia is uncontrollable shivering as the body strives to replace its lost heat. Unless the victim is warmed immediately, the shivering will increase, the victim's speech will become slurred and his or her muscles will stiffen. This is closely followed by impairment of judgement, a cessation of shivering, unconsciousness and, finally, death as the core temperature drops below 80° F.

Now most people will tend to think of hypothermia as a problem associated with deep winter or arctic expeditions. The truth is, in our region anyway, that the majority of reported cases occur in reasonably warm (30° to 50°) weather. Additionally, the single most frequent cause of hypothermia in the North-East is due to boating accidents. (When you are immersed in forty-degree water, your life expectancy can be as short as fifteen minutes.) So, aside from boating accidents, the main reason for hypothermia is either wet clothing or a failure to dress for the weather.

This is especially true of Spring or Fall, when weather can be unpredictable, because in deep winter we generally know what we are about to face and dress accordingly.

For this reason, it is important to take into account the type of activity that you will be engaged in when dressing for the out-of-doors.

Remember that perspiration, an unavoidable by-product of exertion, can soak you every bit as thoroughly as a good rainfall and chill you just as quickly. For instance, a cross country skier may feel quite comfortable or even uncomfortably warm during a day's trek. However at the end of the afternoon, without the proper clothing, that same skier, tired and sweaty, may feel chilled and may even become a candidate for hypothermia. The trick then is to plan your day's activities in advance and dress accordingly.

Stay Comfortable Out of Doors

Layering: Maintaining the Comfort Zone

The concept of "layering" is a principle that outdoorsmen have used for generations.

When "layering," instead of wearing one or two bulky garments for warmth, you add any number of lighter garments until the proper degree of comfort is reached. In this manner you may remove or add layers of clothing as the day progresses or as your exertions may require and still not hinder your ability to move about.

For example, a heavy down parka and a light shirt may provide all the warmth necessary in the most frigid of temperatures. Chop a little wood in that coat though, and you're bound to end up sweating and uncomfortable.

Use the "layering" principle instead and you simply remove an outer layer or two, such as a shell or light coat, while you are working. When you are finished, simply put them back on again and you've remained at your comfort level throughout the job. No sweat!

The First Layer

The most important layer is that which is closest to the skin.

In late Spring, Summer, or early Fall, cotton will suffice, but in Winter your choice of undergarments is critical.

You see, as you perspire, cotton, unlike wool or synthetics, collapses against the body and instead of acting as a warming agent actually speeds up the cooling process.

So, depending upon the outdoor activities that you will engage in, other choices may be more suitable.

Today we have a vast array of both natural and synthetic fibers to choose from. Polyester, Polypropylene (used by the military), Thinsulate micro-fibers and various natural and natural/synthetic blends fill out the list.

The important qualities to look for in choosing any inner garment are the capacity to wick moisture off the body and retain warming capabilities while still being comfortable.

Wool, the old standby for years, is in my experience unsurpassed in keeping the body warm and dry.

However it is itchy and therefore uncomfortable so these days I stick to synthetics for my inner layer.

Additional Layers

Everyone has their favorite shirt. Mine is a wool Maine Guide's shirt that Donna gave to me for Christmas many, many years ago.

I have worn that shirt on summer camping trips to the mountains and in sub-zero temperatures, stock still in a deer stand. That shirt has never let me down and that says a lot for the versatility of wool.

When I feel overly warm I simply unbutton the shirt and roll up the sleeves. When I am chilled I do the reverse. And, with its natural water-repellency, I have stayed warm through mist, spray and even an occasional light rain.

The only shortcoming I have found is that wool, by its nature, has an enemy in the wind. So I sometimes find it necessary to add a windproof shell to complete the layering process.

Cotton chamois is also a particular favorite of mine. Chamois, with its tight weave, is almost impervious to wind and insects. A chamois shirt also does well under the loose fit of a Maine Guide's shirt and adds considerable warmth.

By itself it is rugged enough to endure three seasons and the only problem that I have with chamois shirts is when I have to put them away when the really warm weather comes around.

Trousers and Jackets

For hunting, fishing, mountaineering, hiking or just puttering around the yard, the best cloth ever developed would have to be denim.

You can't argue with denim. Denim is rugged and durable yet has a fit and feel that can't be duplicated. Denim soils hard and cleans easily and is capable of taking the worst punishment you can dish out. Denim is probably the



drawing by Peter Rossi

continued on page 19

Love of Words

The Archbishop Is

by Josef G. Solomon

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is amazingly insensitive to evil in the world in which he lives. He is certainly sensitive to the evils done to black people in South Africa—and he is right. Horrible things are being done to black people there, by the government and by other black people. But Bishop Tutu makes some amazing statements about other situations. I refer in particular to his comments about the situation in the Middle East. Of course, the bishop is not alone in this. The very fact that when someone says "Middle East" everyone thinks "Israel" tells you that. Why doesn't the term "Middle East" cause people to think of Syrian President Assad, who caused the murder of 10,000 of his own subjects in Hama? Isn't Syria in the Middle East? There are other examples, but let us continue.

Dr. King

Just ten days before Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed, he spoke before the Rabbinical Alliance, the organization of Conservative rabbis in America. In his speech, he said, "I see Israel, and never mind saying it, as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land almost can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy." (quoted in the January 8, 1990 issue of *Near East Report*). These words represented the same view of Israel that Dr. King always had—and expressed. Dr. King's support for Israel was unwavering.

And then there's the archbishop. He traveled throughout Israel and the territories, and saw only evil, and evil perpetrated only by Israel. The logical absurdity of his position obviously bothered him not at all. Here he was, travelling freely throughout the length and breadth of Israel and the territories, something he couldn't even do in his own country, and all he saw was evil Israelis. Incidentally, he refused to meet with any Israeli leaders except

the Minister of Religion. He wandered about, and saw only what he wanted to see.

Does Anybody Care?

Ordinarily, nobody would care, but his status as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize confers considerable public attention on everything he says and does. When he compares Israel's treatment of the Arabs to South Africa's treatment of its blacks, many of his listeners will take his words at face value. He is thus propagating a lie—and thus perpetrating evil himself. The Bible tells us not to walk up and down the land as a talebearer, but that is exactly what he did. He looked at Palestinians throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at Israeli soldiers and civilians, and all he saw was the Israeli response.

He never troubled his mind to wonder why Israel was doing anything at all to the Palestinians, after twenty years of mostly ignoring them. What had changed?

He didn't care.

An Example of Hutzpa

He even went so far as to call upon Israelis to forgive the Nazis. (There has been no report that he himself has forgiven the South African government.) When he was criticized for this outrageous remark, his response was even more outrageous: "If I am accused, as I am often accused, of being anti-Semitic, tough luck." That's a man of the cloth? What total irresponsibility!

And why would anyone accuse Tutu of being an anti-Semite? Well, for starters, he equated Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with apartheid in South Africa. This may be the time to point out that in two years of a general uprising in an area perhaps half the size of New Jersey, the evil, bigoted, murderous Israelis have killed about as many

civilians as our own good-guys Charley Company did in one day in one town. The town, of course, was My Lai.

Remember Lt. Calley?

Only one person was ever even tried for the murders at My Lai; he was convicted, but the presiding judge decided that it wouldn't be fair to be harsh with Lt. Calley, when no one else was even charged—including Calley's immediate superior, Captain Medina.

In many countries, beastliness is government policy and, when not actually rewarded, is not punished, either. In Israel, beastliness is not government policy. It happens sometimes, but when it does, Israel reacts. Soldiers are tried for mistreating people; some soldiers have gone to jail; as I write this, a colonel is about to be tried for ordering his men to break bones. You may remember that soldiers in the US Army sometimes threw Vietnamese out of a helicopter gun-ship; no one was ever tried for these murders.

In South Africa, of course, nobody in the army or the government even dreamed of court martialling a soldier for killing blacks—and they have been murdering blacks for generations. Yet Tutu said, "We are aware that the Israeli government is very sensitive over suggestions that it treats Palestinians the way the South African government has treated black South Africans, but our faith compels us to state what we perceive to be the truth." Tutu knows better. He knows that what he is saying is a vicious lie, yet he continues to say it.

In the midst of his criticism of Israel, Archbishop Tutu has never criticized the Arabs for their decades of terrorism against Israel. Arabs throw hand-grenades into a civilian market; Tutu doesn't notice. Arabs take over a school, and murder children; Tutu doesn't notice. Arabs murder eleven Israeli Olympic athletes; Tutu doesn't

Too Too Arch

notice. What does he notice? Jews. Dr. King called that anti-Semitism; it is.

A Small Amount of History

Why is Israel in the West Bank? Because in 1967, during the Six-Day War, when Israel promised King Hussein they would not attack Jordan if he did not attack Israel, he attacked. He promptly lost all the West Bank—which he had illegally annexed in 1949. Most countries had refused to

recognize his annexation. Incidentally, nobody demanded that Palestinians should have an independent state then. Just for the record, there never in all recorded history has been an independent Palestinian Arab State. The only times Palestine has been independent were when it was a Jewish state. It's worth remembering.

To quote from the January 20, 1990 issue of *The New Republic*, "The blacks of South Africa have suffered much

worse, surely, than a relatively benign occupation that resulted from a war of self-defense, and that has been actively opposed from its inception by substantial segments of the occupying population. Indeed, the argument for territorial compromise—it is advanced by approximately half of Israel—is made precisely to prevent the situation in the territories from turning South African." And Tutu doesn't see any difference. It's worth remembering.

Outdoors Around the Assunpink

(continued from page 17)

most practical fabric ever developed and when you find yourself going through really rough terrain, like driving deer through swamp and briars, you simply use a higher grade of denim such as Carhart or Brush Buster: they're almost like wearing armor.

Of course there are exceptions to the rule. Denim is made of cotton and as such is useless in heavy snow. In this case heavy wool trousers and a heavy wool jacket or perhaps synthetics would be more appropriate.

Outer Layers

An outer layer may consist of anything from a light nylon shell to an arctic style down parka, depending on weather conditions. With sufficient underlayers I can generally stay warm with just a down vest or denim jacket in temperatures down to about 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

I do however, favor a government issue field jacket for colder weather because, while it's not very warm on its own, the field jacket's loose fit allows for plenty of layering underneath

and it is fairly wind- and water-resistant. It will keep you warm.

For extremely cold temperatures I will switch to a down parka or insulated coveralls. For deer hunting this year Donna bought me a set of Carhart arctic coveralls and I am completely sold on them. Not only do they keep me warm as toast, but as mentioned before I find I can walk through the roughest briars without a scratch.

As with anything else, use your own judgement in selecting outdoor clothing. Hunters may need blaze oranges or camouflage, skiers may need clothing that is more fashionable. The choice is yours.

One important note: The human body loses much of its heat, I have been told, via the head. This is why you will seldom see an outdoorsman without a hat. A good wool hat and a pair of gloves are worth their weight in gold in the woods. So make a habit of packing them whenever you venture out.

Footwear

Nothing can ruin an outing faster than cold, wet, tired feet. Observing

some ice fishermen the other day, I noticed a fellow, obviously inexperienced, who was out on the ice wearing a pair of sneakers. This poor fisherman could not keep one foot on the ice for any length of time and, as I watched, he seemed to do a strange dance as first one foot came up and then the other.

While sneakers are great footwear for many sporting endeavors, I have to stress that they have absolutely no place in the bush regardless of the season!

Instead, buy yourself a good pair of hiking or hunting boots. You will find that, if properly cared for, they will last a very long time and can endure amazingly rough punishment while keeping your feet safe from the rigors of outdoor life.

Adventure awaits us outside whether it is deep winter or high summer. So plan your trip well, check the weather and dress accordingly.

Now open that door and smell the fresh air! It sure beats watching TV!

— Arts in

Brad Hill's Holiday Spirit Piano Concert

by Laurie Altman

The Roosevelt Arts Project's December concert took place at the Borough Hall, featuring Brad Hill. An East Windsor resident, Brad Hill is a warm, sensitive, and creative musician who, in addition to maintaining a busy performance career, is also establishing himself as a composer. Recent projects have included a lovely score for storyteller Susan Danoff's recent recording, as well as a beautifully-wrought score for the Spenser Library recording of Poe's *Fall of the House of Usher*, which was heard on Halloween night.

Brad's program in Roosevelt was broad and eclectic, featuring seven of his own pieces, as well as one each by Gordon James and Laurie Altman. In

addition, he performed his own stirring rendition of Gershwin's *Summer-time*, and a haunting and warm final selection of Christmas music. As icing on the cake he included three classical selections: Ravel's *Pavane for a Dead Princess*, Chopin's *Ballade in G Minor* and the *A Minor Waltz*, and Edward MacDowell's *To a Wild Rose*.

Brad's own music (notably such pieces as *The Wanderer* or *Whispers of the Moon*) is always sensitive and compelling. Woven with a richly textured harmonic palette, his music touches you with its warm, haunting and meditative character, carrying you along with his recurrent use of *ostinato* accompaniments, twists and turns of

keys, expressive phrasings, and diverse stylistic piano approaches such as walking bass, modal playing, full-bodied two-hand technique, and swinging, bluesy lines. He is at every turn a very special, creative artist who infuses his music with his vision and voice, and communicates it beautifully to the audience.

One final note: Brad, quite unexpectedly, played a very early piece of mine, *Nathalie's Waltz*, which has always been one of my personal favorites. I was treated to an inspired interpretation. Thank you Brad, not only for that piece, but for the entire evening of rich and varied musical pleasures.

RAP at Peddie: Roosevelt String Band

On Saturday, February 3 at 8:00 PM, the Roosevelt String Band will present a program entitled "Folk Songs of the 1960s" at Geiger-Reeves Hall in the new Richard L. Swig Arts Center of the Peddie School on South Main Street in Hightstown. This is the second event in the Peddie School's presentation of the Roosevelt Arts Project.

The program will follow the evolution of '60s folk music as it developed such themes as freedom, democracy, social justice, peace, love, and just plain fun. The band will invite the audience to sing along on many of the songs.

The Roosevelt String Band consists of five members, each of whom resides in Roosevelt:

David Brahinsky, guitar and vocals: folk singer, songwriter, storyteller who has performed throughout the East Coast, has appeared on radio and television, and teaches at two local colleges. He has performed for Young Audiences of New Jersey and currently performs as a single act for The Shoe-

string Players of New Brunswick. He has produced two cassettes and teaches guitar and singing in his studio in Roosevelt.

Paul Prestopino, guitar, banjo, mandolin, dobro: virtuoso musician who spent seven years accompanying the Chad Mitchell trio, has played live with John Denver, and recorded with numerous artists from the folk idiom (Denver; Peter, Paul and Mary; Tom Paxton; Judy Collins; Loudon Wainwright III) as well as pop and rock-and-roll (Aerosmith; Edgar Winter; Johnny Winter; Rick Deringer; Graham Parker). For the past nine years he has played New England Contradance and English Country Dance music with the band "Hold The Mustard".

Ed Cedar, bass, fiddle: graduate of the Berklee College of Music who has played in a wide variety of music ensembles from folk groups and rock bands to symphony orchestras. He teaches music in the South Brunswick school system, working on high-

tech/traditional music integration. He also is currently heavily involved with composing and private teaching in his multi-track/midi recording studio in Roosevelt and plays local club dates.

John Parrott, piano, jug, vocals: has been playing professionally for fifteen years. He helped to initiate the Memphis Country Blues Festivals in the early 1960s and has been playing the blues ever since. He has played with Peter Stampfel, Luke Faust, B. B. King, Robert Palmer, and Piano Red, among others.

Warren Craig, guitar, vocals: has been playing guitar and singing for the past fifteen years. He has operated several "open stages" in the Princeton area which have become popular meeting places for folk musicians. He, like John Parrott, joins the Roosevelt String Band for the first time this year.

Admission for the concert is \$6; (Senior Citizens, \$3). For further information, please call 443-6898 or 443-1898.

—From a Peddie School Press Release

Roosevelt —

Altman's Soul Transfigured RAP's First Peddie Concert

by Bob Mueller

If ever a concert of music can be said to exalt a musician's soul, then Laurie Altman's recent concert has reached that pinnacle of perfection. Held in the new Peddie Arts Center and sponsored by the Roosevelt Arts Project, this unusual theatrical/musical concert highlighted the problems and possibilities of being an artist in this modern age. It is unusual indeed when, in the weakness of maturity, a person can extend his childlike soul to enclose new, silken, unconscious feelings, and have them reach out to an audience to supply them with the beginnings again of something permanent and beautiful.

Music is unique in the arts for doing this. It has the necessary abstract bodily influence to touch us through vibrations in the ear; we sit in the audience and are wrapped around with sounds that penetrate us physically; our memories are made to vibrate with human feelings we all have experienced and innocently forgotten. And Laurie Altman the composer and pianist, when he forces his music into deep musical aims, reaches into the trammels, pains, hopes, lights and darkneses of his inner experiences, is dramatically able to lead us to the highest levels of artistic devotion.

What more proof do we need that Laurie is bravely—almost heroically—baring his soul when he composes a piece entitled *You Know...You Should Have Been an English Teacher* for cello and actor. Here is an attempt to consciously prod the nefarious reasons for "doing art" when "doing the family thing" is expected of you. But Laurie denigrates himself: a beautiful father and husband with a lovely, understanding wife and four children who never suffered the artist garret existence and have turned into beautiful

people themselves. Tirelessly plodding through the mire of hours and hours of piano lessons and teaching a raft of people, both young and old, Laurie has stayed in the clouds and managed to turn out, and continue to produce, a body of musical work of which he can be proud.

We are lucky to have such an artist in our midst who can try to explain to the world for us artists what being an artist means, at the same time at which he amazes with his musical beauty. To do this he borrowed sometimes from the letters of Vincent Van Gogh and other times from the sensitivities of Sylvia Plath—two tortured artists at another pole from most artists, but expressing a certain hidden fear all of us artists experience.

Briefly, the concert began with four Preludes for piano, deftly played by Phyllis Alpert Lehrer, who has had an extensive performance career and heads the department of piano at Westminster Choir College. These pieces, begun in 1983, were written for classical pianists interested in written jazz piano works (Laurie's *doppelganger* in music). She was joined at the piano by Ena Bronstein Barton, also from the Choir College, to render four Piano Poems, creating a beautiful sound of exchanging powers and centers of concern as their four hands alternately captured the theme and relaxed into accompanying counterpoint. The four pieces are each based on different scales: a Bartok-like symmetrical; a Japanese Kumoi; a Hungarian major; and an Indian raga.

Next came *You Know...You Should Have Been an English Teacher*. Chris Osander was the Altman surrogate, a young actor who is presently a junior at Brown University majoring in

theater arts—and he looked and theatrically became the part, rendering Laurie's innermost feelings and thoughts about a career in music with natural understanding and patent expression (closing with words drawn from Van Gogh's letters to his brother Theo). Underlining and integrating the spoken part was the moody and mellifluous cello, played with unusual sensitivity and insight by Elizabeth Thompson who studied with Bernard Greenhouse and at Oberlin college. The cello was a natural accompaniment of abstract struggle and self-evident apotheosis for the rich contextual explanations of the spoken words.

The final piece for the first half of the concert was called *Monologues* for soprano and piano. Laurie sat down at the piano and brought a new life to the instrument; and Judith Nicosia Civitano literally became Sylvia Plath in this mini-opera. Ms. Civitano teaches voice at Rutgers and has performed opera extensively, and it showed: her singing was warm and powerful, sweet and understanding. The piece was truly a wonderful and evocative event: focussing on Sylvia Plath's joys and self-doubts, affirming her commitment to poetry while at the same time rendering her anguished self in all of its torment. Performed as a stage piece, with Ms. Civitano sitting before a typewriter, Nicosia Civitano sings from memory. Altman has de-emphasized the doomed Plath's down side and focussed on her unrelenting willingness to pay any price to write poetry.

Finally, after an intermission, Katherine Hannauer and Phyllis Alpert Lehrer played Altman's brilliant *Sonata for Violin and Piano*. This piece

continued on following page

— Arts in Roosevelt —

Roosevelt Art Going to Russia

by Bob Mueller

The work of three Roosevelt artists will be included in a show that will travel to Russia. Art by Robert Mueller, Bernarda Bryson Shahn and Sol Libsohn was picked by the Soviet Arts Exchange committee of the Trenton Arts Workshop Association (TAWA) to be included in an art show that will be sent throughout Russia this year. TAWA recently sponsored the visit of four prominent Soviet artists to this country.

The artists, who stayed in private homes for a month, were Juri Orekhov, Secretary for Sculptors, Union of Soviet Artists; painter Vladimir Stelmashonok, Chairman of the Byelorussian Artists Union; painter Vadim Kulakov, Secretary for Monumentalists; and painter Farkhad Chalilov, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Artists Union. They also toured the studios of Roosevelt, and visited many US

museums, cities and scenic attractions from New York to Washington, DC.

TAWA is also going to send a small group of American artists to Russia this summer.

In order to help defray the cost of this American exchange program TAWA is holding a fundraiser in April. Contributions are welcome in the form of art or money to help with the expenses of both the travelling exhibition and transporting the American artists to Russia. Contact Mel Leipsig at 393-2408, or call Bob Mueller at 448-2605, if you would like to contribute something for the fundraiser.

TAWA is to be congratulated for their work on behalf of New Jersey artists. They arranged with the Union of Soviet Artists for an four-year exchange program of artists and exhibitions between the Union of Soviet Artists and artists in New Jersey. This grew out of a sister-cities agreement

between Trenton and the Lenin District in Moscow set up by Shelly Zeiger and the late Mayor Arthur Holland, and arranged by TAWA president Frank Simons and Gary Saretzky, who did the actual negotiating in Moscow.

The artists being sent to Russia will live in Soviet homes and have an opportunity to visit many Russian cities and museums as well as to meet Russian artists in their studios. After they return to America they will give slide lectures about their adventures in Russia. Additionally, TAWA will hold an exhibition of ten artists from the Union of Soviet Artists next summer at Ellarslie, the City Museum of Trenton located in Cadwalader Park. The important efforts of TAWA should be supported by us all, particularly in this time of *glasnost* when the voices of the Russian art community are struggling to be heard throughout the country.

Altman's Soul (continued from previous page)

was another personal statement, motivated by the illness of Olivier Altman, his son, who was stricken with cancer in 1987 (now in remission). Two outside movements are duets, framing two solo inner movements in which the awkward, tragic pain of a solitary violin is countered with the understanding of rich familial pianistic sympathy. This sublime idea, reminiscent of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto where the old disinterested wisdom of an orchestra is tamed by the piano's misery antidote, was given poignant purpose by the instrumentalists.

Katherine Hannauer is a young upcoming violinist who performs extensively in recitals and orchestras; she handled the complicated music with great simplicity and beauty, turning the / violin voice into a spoken sound of phenomenal range of expressive and humanistic capacity.

New Setting for RAP

All future Roosevelt Arts Projects performing concerts will be held in the Peddie School Arts Center (including the February 3 concert of *Folk Songs of the '60s* performed by the Roosevelt String Band [see page 20, Ed.]).

This new arrangement came about when Albert T. Viola, the Arts Center's director, learned of the ongoing concerts and art exhibitions held in Roosevelt. He enthusiastically offered both the Arts Center and its extensive publicity capabilities.

Certainly the turnout for Laurie's concert (I would estimate over five hundred people), attests to the value of holding the Roosevelt Arts Project activities there, although two future more intimate presentations will still be held in our Roosevelt Borough Hall.

Deadline Extended for Dodge Foundation Grant to RAP

by Bob Mueller

The Roosevelt Arts Project has been given a grant by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for an Arts-In-Education Program through which it will place Roosevelt artists from many disciplines in secondary schools, arts organizations and colleges for lectures, workshops, performances, master classes, panel discussions and other interdisciplinary offerings.

If you have a project that you think would be interesting for this audience, please prepare a proposal and submit it to Jacob Landau by the end of February. It should include the form of the presentation, the content, the audience you want to reach, costs and equipment needed. Please remember to add a brief biographical synopsis of the participants.

For further information, call Jay Landau or Judith Trachtenberg.

Mueller Going to Russia

by Mark Zuckerman

Roosevelt artist Bob Mueller recently learned that he is among the six delegates chosen to go to Russia sometime this summer under the auspices of the Trenton Artists Workshop Association (TAWA). He will be living in Russian homes for a month, travelling around the country as a representative American artist, and visiting the studios of Russian artists.

Afterward, he and his fellow delegates will give presentations of their experiences to schools and communities in the US.

Mueller says he is "excited and flattered" that he has been chosen for the Soviet Exchange project.

More details of the trip will be given in future issues.

A Visit to Allentown

(continued from page 9)

Millstone, Washington Township, and Plumstead, at an individual cost of \$5,858 for the year.

The state figure per pupil per year for all Allentown children is \$5,255 (Regional School Board Office).

Mayor Walczak is critical of the lack of accountability he sees in the educational system. He is indignant that the New Jersey State budget for education is, according to the mayor, \$7 billion out of a property tax total of \$13 billion, and that locally, school costs account for 60% of the borough budget.

Residents on fixed incomes, he says, need to get a break so they aren't forced to move out of town. He considers a voucher system highly desirable as a way of creating competitive conditions between schools, between teachers, and between administrators. He believes such a measure would decrease costs and increase accountability on all levels: to children, to parents, and to the community.

Taxation

The effective tax rate for Allentown was \$ 2.341 per \$100 in 1988 (NJ Division of Taxation). The total tax levy was \$1,852,843. Mrs. Mika estimated that the average household annual tax bill for 1988 was \$2,440.

Solid Waste Collection

The budget item for garbage service is \$112,000 a year for once a week collection, but that includes a once-a-week curbside pick-up of recyclables. Recycling receives major attention by way of an attractive quarterly newsletter called the *Allentown Recycler* that reports in full on an apparently successful program. In addition to discussing the whys and hows of targeted items (corrugated cardboard, high

grade paper and leaves, as well as cans, glass and newspapers), the newsletter gives hints such as using a magnet to test the content of the metal in cans: the aluminum ones don't stick.

Small Town Blues

In summing up the chief problems of the borough, Borough Clerk Mika and Mayor Walczak both expressed the thought that the steadily mounting demands from the State without any aid in funding the increased costs puts a heavy burden on municipal government.

The Mayor, who works as an instructor in computer software for Unisys Corporation in Dayton, observed that such events as meetings of the Mayor's Association or state seminars for municipal leaders are commonly held during the day, which means, of course, that they are geared to big city people. The County, he says, tries to be helpful—especially in regional affairs—and has directed, for instance, that the County Planning Board work with a group of five mayors, including Allentown's, on the effects of development in the surrounding area.

Mr. Walczak believes that it is important to keep residents well informed since they don't always realize how expensive it is to run the borough: all the little and big costs, from the court system and the police to garbage collection and recycling; from street lights and local assistance to the several attorneys' fees; from payment to the zoning officer to that of the construction code official. Everyone should understand where the money goes so that the borough government itself is seen to uphold the best standards of accountability.

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Bulletin Classified

The **Bulletin** publishes free of charge classified listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin**, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40 per year, \$5.00 per issue).

ARTICLES FOR SALE	HELP WANTED (CONT.)	HUMAN SERVICES
<p>Childcraft Crib for Sale, \$150 Excellent Condition Call Lynn at 448-0059</p>	<p>Tutors Wanted to help with free tutoring program for Roosevelt students. A rewarding way to help the children of our community Call Mary King at 448-5096</p>	<p>Attention Roosevelt Students Would you like some extra help in math, algebra, geometry, etc.? Free Tutoring is Available Call Mary King 448-5096</p>
<p>ARTS</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENTS/CONSTRUCTION</p>	<p>MUSIC INSTRUCTION</p>
<p>Bob Husth Artist • Photographer Box 142, Local 08555 426-9153</p>	<p>Air Conditioning • Heating Refrigeration Tom Hague & Son Sales • Service • Installations Free Estimates Energy Specialists Custom Sheetmetal Work 448-5424</p>	<p>Guitar Instruction, ages 7 and up David Brahinsky 443-1898</p>
<p>New from Carnegie-Mellon University <i>Land That Wasn't Ours</i> Poems by David Keller \$9.20 ppd. from Spring Church Books PO Box 127, Spring Church, PA 15686</p>	<p>Complete Bathroom Remodeling Tile Installation Tal Littman 448-2221</p>	<p>PET CARE</p>
<p>Now Available on Cassette: David Brahinsky's <i>Takshaka!</i> Songs & Stories for Children of All Ages <i>How Endless It Is, and How Good</i> Original Songs for Adults \$9.00 per cassette, post paid Phone 443-1898 or write Box 88, Local and place your order</p>	<p>Custom Plus General Contractors, Inc. Roosevelt, NJ Small Job to Total Construction Roofing • Wood Decks • Patios Additions • Renovations Bathrooms & Kitchens Remodeled Custom Closets • Insulation Installed Formica Major & Minor Repairs References Available • Fully Insured Free Estimates • Certified Contractor 10% Senior Citizen Discount 448-9136</p>	<p>"TLC" Grooming Salon Dog & Cat Grooming by Appointment No Tranquilizers Used Pick Up & Delivery Available Call 443-6218</p>
<p>AUTOMOBILE SERVICING</p>	<p>Gary Edelstein Cabinetmaker 443-3216</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE</p>
<p>Roosevelt Auto & Truck Service Quality Car Care 7 AM-6 PM Mon-Fri • 8 AM-3 PM Sat 448-0198</p>	<p>E. Rich General Contractors Custom Work • Repairs Everything Under Your Roof Free Estimates References Supplied Harry • Edna 426-4949</p>	<p>Adlerman, Click & Co. Realtors & Insurers, est. 1927 Has Sold More Houses in Roosevelt Than any Other Broker May We Help You Sell Yours at the Best Possible Price? Rooseveltians Serving Roosevelt: Mel A. Adlerman Milton Sadowsky (448-2380) Ruth Sadowsky (448-2380) Marilyn Magnes (448-6402) Sam Adlerman (448-0396) Alice Lifland</p>
<p>BABYSITTING/DAYCARE</p>	<p>Peter Wikoff General Carpentry</p>	<p>Grace Kaufman Your Roosevelt Realtor Associate at Weidel Realtors 448-6200 (office) • 443-4049 (evenings)</p>
<p>Traci Connaughton • Age 15 443-6736</p>	<p>Repairs • Additions • Remodeling New Kitchens Installed Windows & Doors Replaced Many Years' Experience in Roosevelt Local References Furnished on Request 259-7940</p>	<p>RESTAURANTS/TAKE-OUT</p>
<p>Daycare in my Roosevelt Home Full Time • \$80/Wk • Limited Space Call Maureen Jensen at 448-0015</p>	<p>Business Services</p>	<p>Rossi's Pizza, Deli & Liquor Store Hot & Cold Subs • Pizza Calzones • Pasta Other Fine Italian Dishes Catering & Party Tray Available Limited Seating in Back Room Open Mon. 6:30 AM - 7:00 PM (pizza closed on Mondays) Tues.-Thurs., Sun.: 6:30 AM - 10 PM Fri. & Sat.: 6:30 AM - 11:00 PM 443-5111 • 443-5522</p>
<p>BUSINESS SERVICES</p>	<p>Data Processing Consulting PC & Main Frame Richard Dalin 448-9299</p>	<p>Classified Deadline is the 15th</p>
<p>HELP WANTED</p>	<p>Full & Part Time Jobs within walking distance Mailing Services • Data Entry Advancement Opportunities Informal Atmosphere Ideal Part-Time Work for Students, Homemakers & Seniors MIRA, The Factory, Oscar Drive 443-4495</p>	

				<p>1</p> <p>Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Debra Allen, Pres. (448-6978) Bulletin Staff MIRA, 7:30 PM Mark Zuckerman, Editor (443-5915)</p>					
						<p>3</p> <p>Arts Project Roosevelt String Band Peddie School 8:00 PM</p>			
		<p>4</p>		<p>5</p> <p>Deborah Borough Hall 2:00 PM Frieda Rockoff, Pres. (448-0674)</p>		<p>6</p> <p>Senior Citizens Borough Hall 2:00 PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach, chair (448-4616)</p>			
				<p>8</p> <p>Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Debra Allen, Pres. (448-6978) Zoning Board Boro Hall, 8 PM Lou Esakoff, Chair (448-3166)</p>					
		<p>11</p>		<p>12</p> <p>Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)</p>		<p>13</p> <p>First Aid Squad Drill Borough Hall 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias, Pres. (443-5920)</p>		<p>14</p> <p>Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)</p>	
				<p>15</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>Blood Drive Borough Hall 6-9 PM PTA RPS, 7:30 PM Adeenah Yeger, President (443-5848)</p>					
<p>18</p>		<p>19 No School at RPS</p> <p>Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Tickin, Pres. (448-0363)</p>		<p>20 No School at RPS</p>		<p>21 No School at RPS</p>		<p>22 No School at RPS</p>	
		<p>23 No School at RPS</p>		<p>24</p>					
<p>25</p>		<p>26</p>		<p>27</p> <p>First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias, Pres. (443-5920)</p>		<p>28</p>			

There are free exercise classes for residents at the Borough Hall each Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
The RPS Library is open each Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 PM (Margaret Schlinski, Librarian)

Is your organization having a meeting or event? Write the **Bulletin** (Box 221, Local) or call Helga Wisowaty (448-0049)