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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XIII NO. 9

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 1990

XIII

Council Asks for Time Only Our Delays Count?

by Adeline Weiner

At the regular Borough Council meeting on June 13, the vexing question of meeting the DEP deadline of February 1992 reappeared. Kirk Rothfuss, Borough Utility Chair reported on the status of the wetlands "hitch" to our schedule.

In addition to the possible shortfall of funds for a sufficient repair to our massive flow problem, there are also the delays caused by DEP itself, the latest being a slowdown in receiving a permit from the Freshwater Wetlands division, and an improper demand for an 10 year contract for sludge removal. Both of these are being resolved at this time, very likely due to our complaints to the visiting DEP officers last month, according to Rothfuss.

DEP Delay

Still there is the fact of a series of delays brought on by DEP, starting with our original plans submitted by T & M Engineers last January, that were to be reviewed in three months. After a brief exchange of comments in March and April, the permit was promised for June 8, and has not yet arrived. This constitutes a review period of 6 months rather than one of three months.

More DEP Delay

At the same time last January, an application for a freshwater wetlands permit was submitted, but it was not until after April 24 that the Borough was informed that DEP requires a donation of substitute land for land that the expanded plant will use. This transaction has since required time for negotiating, for surveying, and for limit delineating, all processes that also cost money. The Council, at this session, agreed to authorize the \$8,000 for payment of the mandated donation by DEP.

On June 4, T & M Engineers sent a formal request for an extension of time to be granted to the completion date to
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Ticktin to Edit Bulletin

by Mark Zuckerman

Michael L. Ticktin was elected **Bulletin** Editor by the Board of Trustees of Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. at its annual meeting on June 17. Ticktin, whose term lasts one year starting July 1, succeeds Mark Zuckerman, who will become Managing Editor. Robin Carroll was elected Treasurer.

Dennis Connaughton and Lillian Warren, who served during this past volume as Managing Editor and Treasurer, respectively, will remain on the Board of Trustees. They replace Adeline Weiner and David Brahinsky as at-large trustees.

How They Ran winners are in boldface Democrats

Council, Full Term	
Stuart Kaufman	103
Lee Allen	99
Rose Murphy	96
Council, One-Year Term	
Peter Warren	111
County Committee	
Joe Solomon	162
Ann Baker	131
Republicans	
County Committee	
Shirley Eichler	5
Peter Rossi	3

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mailed free of charge to
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are \$5.00 per year.

Remember to Return Your Survey

see centerfold

Bulletin Board

Old Fashioned Fourth

by Bill Counterman

Come one, come all to this lively, patriotic, traditional Roosevelt event. It will be held this year on Wednesday, July 4, with a rain date of Sunday, July 8. It will give new residents and visitors an opportunity to get to know Roosevelt and the old timers to reminisce and share Roosevelt fellowship.

The events of the day begin with a run-a-thon that starts at 8 AM from the corner of Rochdale Avenue and Tamara Drive. There will be a 1 mile course for those under 12 years of age and a 4.4 mile course for those over 12. All participants will receive a certificate. A parade will start from the same corner at 2 PM. Marching groups, organizations, decorated bicycles: everyone is invited to join the parade. The parade route will be around Tamara Drive to Pine Drive, Pine Drive to Rochdale Avenue, then down Rochdale Avenue to the War Memorial Rock. After a brief ceremony, a free picnic will begin. Hot dogs, birch beer, iced tea, iced water, etc. will be in generous supply and free to all. The decorated bicycles will be judged with prizes for the winners and recognition for all. There will be various games available with supervised games for the children. Music prepared especially for this event will be presented by several musical groups in the Roosevelt Memorial Amphitheater. 50/50 tickets will be on sale to help defray the expenses. Everyone is asked to refrain from bringing fireworks as it is dangerous and illegal and will be prosecuted accordingly.

Please bring your own chair and enjoy an old fashioned Roosevelt Fourth of July. If you wish to help with this event or have any question, please contact June or Bill Counterman at 448-3182.

Dog Census Taker Wanted

by Nancy Warnick

For more information, please call the Borough office, 609-448-0539.

Nancy Warnick is Deputy Borough Clerk.

Roosevelt Players to Hold "Our Town" Auditions

by Margaret Schlinski

The Roosevelt Players are holding auditions for Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. There are twenty-two parts. Teenagers are welcome. There are a number of parts for young thespians.

The play will be directed by Mary DeAngelis and produced by Margaret Schlinski.

Auditions will be held in a relaxed atmosphere in Margaret Schlinski's back yard at 22 S. Rochdale Avenue on Sunday evening, July 8 at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested and wish to read the script before auditions you can call Margaret at 443-5180 for a copy.

Proceeds from *Our Town* will go toward our stage. We already have a beautiful new curtain.

Production is slated for October. You can count on it!

Senior Citizens' News

by Helga Wisowaty

Jeanette presided at this meeting and distributed many pamphlets concerning various illnesses to which seniors are prone.

Twenty seven members attended our luncheon at "Kountry Kitchen" and enjoyed it very much (used to be "Paul and Nancy's Chinese Restaurant").

We discussed the "Share" project (which sounds good but depends on location and volunteers). We received food distribution on June 14.

We'll cancel our picnic and go to lunch this year instead.

Ethel Friedman and Lil Weisenfeld were our hostesses. Thelma baked a delicious cake for the birthday people in June. Gus furnished lovely flowers for this festive occasion.

Helga Wisowaty is Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club.

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

Published by
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.
Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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Adeline Weiner, Mark Zuckerman

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Front page drawing, calendar art, and
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Typesetting facilities donated by MIRA

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. is a
New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

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" or 3 1/2" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from most word processors.

Council (continued from page 1)

coincide with the additional time needed to obtain the necessary permits.

Takes Two To Tango

The point was raised in discussion by Council member Jim Alt that the Consent Order was agreed on by two parties—the Borough and the NJDEP—and compliance should justly be required of each side. When Rothfuss recommended later on that the Council seek help from the Public Advocate's Office, Council member Warren Craig suggested that this matter of DEP's responsibility as a party to the Consent Order might well be a legal issue of interest to that body.

Water For Gardens, Plus

Rothfuss announced that the interior painting of the water tank will be finished in three or four weeks, at which time the water emergency can be lifted. Mayor Barth wished to warn residents through the **Borough Bulletin** that there will be a strong taste and smell of chlorine when the tank goes on line again, but will in time disappear with water use.

East Windsor Connection Out

There was a further report by Rothfuss and Council member Howard Prezant on an inquiry made to the East Windsor Municipal Utility Authority on the feasibility of tying into their system.

The obstacles apparently are formidable. The time needed just to get agreement from all parties concerned would be a major problem. In addition, the economics involved become prohibitive: in ballpark figures, it would cost more than a million and a half dollars for the expansion of the East Windsor plant alone. The cost of pumping the sewage over to the plant would have to include demolition of our plant, construction of a pump station, construction of six miles of force main with several chemical installations along the way and more in odor control, all costing perhaps another \$2.5 million. This is aside from the fact that both communities are scheduled to be in compliance with their consent order goals by early 1992, making a joint project an impossibility. Had

there been enough time, the proposal would have had merit but "time was not in our favor," said Prezant.

DEP Concedes on Sludge Pact

Our Borough Attorney, Richard McManus, was informed by DEP that the 10 year contract for sludge removal will not be insisted on and that a 5 year contract is acceptable. This resulted from McManus' informing the DEP that 10 year contracts are permissible only with private but not with public entities.

Solar Villagers Cry "Foul"

Roosevelt Senior Citizens Housing Corporation, the organization of Solar Village residents, appealed to the Council for review of their "astonishing" 46% increase in monthly utility charges. From a fee of \$1,430 a month to \$3,080, residents who have been struggling to pay their water/sewer rate find it not only "inconceivable," according to Doris Dempster, administrator of the corporation, but due to their status as a government-subsidized project, they consider it to be against government regulations.

Rothfuss, as Utility Chair, was designated to answer that this problem is community-wide and no reversal is possible without relief to the whole.

Public Meeting?

Marilyn Magnes, Administrative chair, raised the matter of the popular petition for a public meeting with DEP representatives, attorneys, engineers *et al*, to inform residents fully on the present situation regarding utility rates. Magnes stated that the plan had been to get the necessary figures and then to press for a meeting with the DEP Commissioner before calling a public gathering. The meeting with the Commissioner was in the works with the help of State Senator Bennett but was displaced by the visit of the six DEP officials at a relatively inaccessible time for residents to attend. Her question to the Council was "should we still pursue the original meeting?"

Council member Bill Counterman said that the Sunday morning meeting held in Borough Hall on June 9

probably offered "some relief" but was unofficial. There was the consideration of the cost involved since the attorney, engineer etc., charge fees, as well as the expense of advertising and publicity. Others thought such a Council-sponsored meeting would be educational and provide information as to the history of the problem and provide an account of how local officials have responded since environmental legislation began in the 1970's.

When Magnes asked who would prepare this history, no one responded. It was decided to postpone the question in order to get some feedback as to whether such a meeting is still needed.

Other actions taken were:

1. An ordinance regarding participation in the Community Development program in the County was passed.

2. A resolution to authorize application for recycling tonnage and a bonus grant was adopted.

3. Authorization of an application to the Department of Transportation for state aid to roads, to go to improvements on Lake Drive and Spruce Lane and alternatively, on Eleanor Lane was agreed on.

4. Emergency funds to repair storm drains on Lake Drive and a payment of \$2,126 to National Irrigation was approved.

5. Authorization for attendance at a School Grade-crossing Training course for Rose Murphy and Margaret Schlinski was passed.

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to Return
Your Survey**

**Support the
Bulletin**

School Board Sets Objectives

by Bob Clark

At press time the Roosevelt School Board and its teachers had not concluded labor negotiations. Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman gave a "conservative projection" of 84 students in RPS next year. Meanwhile, the Board heard reports that the 1989-90 school year's official objectives had been met and selected new objectives for the 1990-91 year.

CSA Groveman reported success in increasing student use of computers, including fifth and sixth graders' application of word processing to their writing projects. He also indicated that a thriving afterschool enrichment program had been achieved involving art, chorus, video, literature, fitness and folk dance programs. Finally, a revised math curriculum was implemented and supplemented with extra assistance and reinforcement of skills. The comparative national test scores of a group of second graders indicated considerable improvement by RPS students.

Three new objectives will be reported to the County School Superintendent for the 1990-91 school year, and a fourth will be implemented on an informal basis. A new spelling program based on individualized attention and teaching spelling as a developmental process will attempt to achieve statistically significant spelling gains. An AIDS education component will be added to the school's health and family life curriculum.

A research skills program will be developed and implemented as part of RPS's library program. Although the objective will apply to the entire school, a specific goal will be to assist nonclassified fifth and sixth graders to realize a 10 percent gain on the reference skill section of the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. Finally, although not an official objective, a "peacemaking" program, designed by Naomi Drew, will be added to the kindergarten through second grade curriculum. Improvements in communication, cooperation and conflict resolution will be measured.

Commenting on Governor Jim Florio's pending school aid program, Groveman noted that, as originally

proposed, Roosevelt would receive about the same amount of aid in the coming school year as it did last year and then considerably more the following year. He cautioned, however, that "a lot of things are not clear," especially if the legislation is rushed to passage. He noted that, although Roosevelt is "at the fringe of districts that do OK" financially under the Florio plan, it could wind up on the negative side like many other districts if forced to bear the cost of pensions at the local level.

Referring to another pending bill which would establish a fund for school revitalization and construction, Groveman said the district could obtain 90 percent state funding for qualified projects if the bill passes. Potential projects might include a new roof, a replacement boiler, the construction of additional office and classroom space and the addition of facilities for a nursery school program. Groveman warned, however, that the district would "have to commit money for architect fees, preparation of specifications and bonding in order to play the game."

Plant Upgrades Approved

Based on quotes from contractors, the Board authorized CSA Groveman to spend up to \$5,000 to upgrade the electrical wiring and circuit panel box located in the main corridor. The Board also authorized Groveman to have the gymnasium and stage floors repaired and refinished at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Groveman added that maintenance and summer help would paint two classrooms, repair the lighting in the gym, paint all steel doors, clean the gymnasium walls, clean all classrooms and wash all carpets.

Meanwhile, the new stage curtains have been installed. Board member John Ord reported that the Millstone/Roosevelt Little League had cleaned up and refurbished the baseball diamond.

A proposal to install drop ceilings in two classrooms at a cost of up to \$6,000 was defeated by a tie vote—Board President Debra Allen and members Susan Raufer, Jan Plumb and John Ord voting in favor of the

proposal and members Edward Grossman, Robert Petrilla, Edward Goetzmann and Catherine Petrilla voting against it. Member Margaret Schlinski was absent. The proposal would have been the first stage of a plan to conserve energy costs and improve lighting in classrooms, presently deemed "marginally adequate." An additional \$4,000 would have been needed to redo the lighting in the two classrooms.

Robert Petrilla suggested checking with an architect, electrical contractor or utility consultant to determine how to obtain better lighting without a drop ceiling. Goetzmann, describing himself as ordinarily "a champion of upgrades to the Roosevelt school," said that in this case the expenditure was "not necessary." Catherine Petrilla cautioned that the Board could lose its investment if roof leaks recurred. Finally, Grossman stated he might support the proposal if figures could be presented which indicated how long it would take to recoup the expense through reduced heating costs.

The Board amended the 1990-91 school calendar [see *May Bulletin*, p. 5, Ed.] to change the dates of the second set of parent conferences from February 12 and 13 to February 26 and 27.

The Board appointed Groveman and Ord as its representatives on the Borough's Emergency Planning Committee. Groveman reported that he had already met with Mayor Leon Barth and Councilman Bill Counterman to discuss the school district's role in coping with local emergencies.

A motion to authorize the bus company hired to transport Roosevelt students to East Windsor to park the bus on RPS property when not in use was tabled. Board members noted that the Zoning Board was considering whether to grant the bus driver a variance to park the bus in her driveway on Tamara Drive. In addition, they expressed concern about Board liability and insurance costs, as well as the Board's own compliance with the zoning ordinance.

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Space Seeds for RPS Students

by Ilene Levine

Since March, the third through sixth graders at Roosevelt Public School have been participating in the SEEDS project sponsored by NASA and Park Seed Company. This project was designed to offer students a hands-on experiment to study the effects of long-term space exposure on tomato seeds.

Six years ago, NASA put 2.5 million tomato seeds onto the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) satellite and kept a control group on earth. The plan had been to retrieve the seeds one year later and send those and the earth-based seeds to students around the country to grow.

One of NASA's goals was to give students the opportunity to implement a one-of-a-kind experiment. Another was to see if the long exposure to cosmic radiation would cause mutations in the fruits.

After a long delay, the LDEF was finally recovered. Our school received the seeds in March, and the students immediately planted them. Since then, the students have been responsible for tracking their experimental space and earth-based control seeds. They have made weekly records of the plants' height, width, number of leaves, and other observations. They have drawn pictures of their plants. They have also made charts and graphs showing comparisons of the experimental and control plants.

This summer, the students will grow their tomato plants at home. Some will continue making observations, counting leaves, flowers, and fruits. Hopefully, we will have new seeds to sow in the Spring from the tomatoes we grow this summer. The results of our experiment will be sent to NASA.

Special thanks to Stephen Estenes for guiding us along the way and for donating supplies for the project.

Ilene Levine teaches third and fourth grades at RPS.

RPS Graduation

by Carol Miller

Saturday, June 16, brought another graduation for Roosevelt Public School. Those graduating were Victoria Estok, Christina Henderson, Craig Kaufman, Stefanie Miller, Rebecca Ord, Kathleen Steel and Erica Warner. Each student gave a speech reflecting on their years at RPS.

The graduating class sang "The Wind Beneath My Wings," dedicated to their parents. They were accompanied by Jonathan Hockman on piano.

The after school chorus sang "Come Follow Me" and "Stand By Me." Then the school band played "Billboard March" with guest accompaniment by Mr. Groveman on clarinet and Mr. Luckenbach on drums.

Mr. Luckenbach, sixth grade instructor, reflected on the "Teachable Moments" he has had with the class of 1990, and how teachers use each moment and every event to present a lesson to their students.

Mrs. Bonnie Strapp (former third grade teacher at RPS) was guest speaker. She proved Mr. Luckenbach's "Teachable Moments" by bringing a vocabulary lesson for the graduating class. Mrs. Strapp challenged the students to *commence* a new school life, to *assimilate* and *analyze* their new ideas, and to *tolerate* those ideas differing from their own.

Mr. Groveman also addressed the students. He pointed out that although they were exchanging a comfortable school life for a new and different one, it too would soon become as comfortable.

Academic and Citizenship awards were received by Victoria Estok, Christina Henderson and Rebecca Ord. These awards were presented by Francis Bard, Helen Barth and Harry Groveman.

Diplomas were presented to the graduates by Debra Allen, President of the Board of Education. Adeenah Yeger, President of the PTA, presented each graduate with the traditional RPS dragon from the PTA.

After the graduation the traditional cake made by the graduating class was served in the school lobby.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

It's hard to believe that this school year has come to an end. The last meeting for the 1989-90 school year was held on June 14. The new slate of officers for the coming year was elected. They are: Adeenah Yeger, President; Vinnie Jackson, Vice-President; Shelley Hatzfeld, Secretary; and Liz Possiel, Treasurer.

We also have selected a Fundraising Committee, which will organize during the summer to investigate various fundraising projects for the coming year. This Committee consists of Eileen Warner (Chair), Shelley Hatzfeld and Lorraine Reimbold. Lorraine is also heading up our new Program Committee. She will be looking into different programs for our PTA meetings to make them more informative to the public.

Our end of the year activities included Field Day when we provided ice pops for the kids to enjoy. We also gave out school pennants with the school dragon on them for all the students. Mr. Groveman was presented with a ceramic dragon in appreciation for all the support he has given the PTA throughout the school year.

We would like to take this time to thank Teresa Lepore, who is our head room mother, for all the work she has done during the year. It really is quite a job organizing all of the room mothers together and arranging all of the special events that go on during the year. Teresa also does all the art work for us and for that we are truly grateful. We would like to also thank all of the room mothers for all the work they have done for us throughout the year and all the calls they have had to make on our behalf.

We want to thank all of the parents and townspeople who have supported us during the year, including all of the businesses that donate to our Winter Carnival. Thanks again!

Congratulations to the 1990 RPS Graduates. We hope they have a wonderful time in the Rogers School. We are looking forward to our next year serving the students at RPS. Have a safe and happy summer. See you in September!

School Board *(continued from page 4)*

Fitness Test Results Announced

Results of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Testing Program were reported. 53 percent of RPS students taking the tests passed at least three of the five events. Two students earned the President's Physical Fitness Award by surpassing 85 percent of all children in the nation. Sixteen students earned the National Physical Fitness Award by surpassing 50 percent of all children. Approximately one third of the pupils taking the test earned an award. The report by Groveman and Physical Education and Health Teacher Arthur Franklin stated:

"The testing has shown that the students at RPS are receiving ample opportunities to develop abdominal strength and endurance, heart/lung endurance and flexibility. Based on the results measuring agility and upper body strength and endurance, more consideration will be given to activities that enhance these components in the succeeding years at RPS."

Groveman announced that on June 20 a "moving up" assembly would be held at the school. After a performance by the afterschool theater club, every student would receive an award and depart the gymnasium with his or her new teacher. Groveman noted that all students had advanced to the next grade. He said that he hoped the assembly would become an annual tradition.

Groveman expressed his appreciation for the PTA's activities during the 1989-90 school year. He reported, "They truly do impact on enriching the school program." The Board unanimously accepted the PTA's gift of a 20" color television, and Board President Allen wrote a letter of thanks.

On a negative note, Groveman related that some time between Friday, June 1 and Monday, June 4 someone surreptitiously entered the school and stole \$200 from School Business Administrator Roseann Lozinski's desk. He reported that steps have been taken to better secure the school and petty cash.

Lozinski reported that the Finance Committee would compare insurance costs and coverages from three insurance carriers. She indicated that several students living at the far end of

Pine Drive might require an extension of the bus route that could lead to a cost change and inability to renew the bus contract for a third year. The Finance Committee will recommend which copying machine to purchase after considering proposals. The old copier will be retained as a back-up as long as possible.

Donna Ernstein Graduates

Donna R. Ernstein, daughter of Edith and Saul Ernstein of Roosevelt, graduated from Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey on Sunday, May 27, 1990. She received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. While Donna was a Senior, she was the President of the Monmouth College Mathematics Honor Society. She also was awarded the Mathematics Award which is given to the graduating senior with the highest mathematics grade point average. Now Donna is an Assistant Systems Analyst for UNISYS.

Daniel Emmans to Attend Brandeis

Daniel Emmans, grandson of Paul and Shirley Eichler, will be attending Brandeis University, in Waltham, Massachusetts in the Fall. He will be pursuing an academic career and will be playing soccer for the Judges.

Daniel, who is a June graduate of Woodstown High School, received many accolades for his leadership and soccer abilities during his high school career.

He was a Rotary Youth Delegate to RYLA, a Close-Up Delegate, an alternate to Boys State, a representative to SODAT and a two-term President of SDD. Daniel was named to many All Star Teams including first team all South Jersey and was named his area's Tri-County Player of the Year. He also led his team to the Tri-County Championship this past fall.

Daniel is the son of Ruth and Scott Emmans, formerly of Roosevelt.

Omnia Mutantur...

by Peter Warren

Ordained... Josef Solomon, on June 4 in New York as Rabbi by the Academy for Jewish Religion; he is now studying for his Masters degree at Jewish Theological Seminary.

Married... Debra Friedman, a third generation Rooseveltian, to John Lenart, by Mayor Leon Barth on June 3, at her parents' home on Pine Drive;

Honored... Ed Murphy, by the New Jersey Senate and Assembly, the Board of chosen Freeholders of Bergen County, and the Bergen County Central Trades and Labor Council, as outstanding New Jersey labor leader of the year;

Graduated... from HHS, Michael Antosky, Jennifer Block, William Bowker, Matthew Dalin, Justin Goetzmann, Jack Guyette, Daniel Jaeger, Angel Lenz, Kathleen Murphy, Craig Skillman, Sheri Suk (also with an AA in Cosmetology at MCCC) and Robert Warnick;

Died... David Bulkin, five-term Councilman; During his long residence in Roosevelt, Dave was also an election official for many years, a member of the School Board and a fireman; Molly plans to join relatives in Nevada;

Switched... from North Valley Road, Eitan & Karen Grunwald to Eleanor Lane, Bruce and Lorraine Reibold to Lake Drive;

Moved Out... Jim & Diane Dulicai, transferred by Mobil Oil to Virginia; Bob Prezant transferred to Atlanta by Amoco; Professor Saliba Sarsar of Monmouth College, to the Jersey Coast; Ed & Ellie Schmalzbach, transferred to Florida;

Moved In... Raymond Solomon & Teresa Schiller and Rebecca (age 7) to the Dulicai house; Jeff & Jessica (nee Hecht, and also third generation Rooseveltian) Hunt to the Sarsar house; Paul & Peggy Gerling to their own house off School Lane;

Visiting... Manuelle Haeringer, age 16, born in Cote d'Ivoire and living in St. Romain-en-Diois, France.

Love of Life

Is There Such a Thing as Predestination?

by Josef G. Solomon

For many, many years—thousands of years, probably—there has been debate about whether people have free will, or whether everything is already predestined. There certainly are theological arguments involved: If everything a person does has been predestined, then how can a just Judge punish anyone for sinning? After all, the sinner had no choice.

However, you will not be surprised to learn that my intention here is something much lighter than theology—although related to it. In particular, what occupies my attention this month is my path to the rabbinate.

Considering that my father was a rabbi, and his father was a rabbi (and it probably goes back several generations further), one might have expected that my path would have taken me directly to rabbinical school at an early age—especially if there is such a thing as predestination. Who could more surely be predestined for the rabbinate than someone on the end of such a line?

Nonetheless, I managed to avoid it for the longest time! My path seemed to head directly away from the rabbinate, and toward the hard sciences. I got an undergraduate degree in mathematics, and a graduate degree in physics, and spent several decades working in the fields of physics, computers, and engineering. Most of my professional career was spent at RCA (R.I.P.). I spent five years in the Electronic Systems Division (i.e., computers), and seven years in the Astro-Electronics Division in East Windsor (which designs and builds satellites). Between the first two hitches at RCA was a two-year stint in high-energy physics at the University of Pennsylvania. Between the last two was an extended period—eleven years—as an independent computer consultant. It's hard to get farther from the rabbinate than that.

And it isn't as though the rabbinate was nagging at me all those years. In fact, it never even entered my mind until less than four years ago. Parenthetically, there are only two people in my experience who went about their

work singing. One was my father, the other was my advisor in graduate school. It's hard to argue against the theory that people who go about their work singing are happy. My father enjoyed his chosen career. While it is true that I frequently didn't enjoy mine, it still never occurred to me to leave mine and join his.

And then he died. While struggling to come to terms with his mortality, I found myself coming to terms with my own. At last, I decided that I was in the wrong line of work. It took me less than a year to decide what the "right" line of work was. The realization that I wanted to be a rabbi was quite a surprise.

For all those years, there had never been the slightest hint of a hint that the rabbinate was my destined career. As a matter of fact, there had been no hint that anything was my destined career. I had just gone on doing what seemed reasonable at the time. Now, of course, it no longer seemed reasonable.

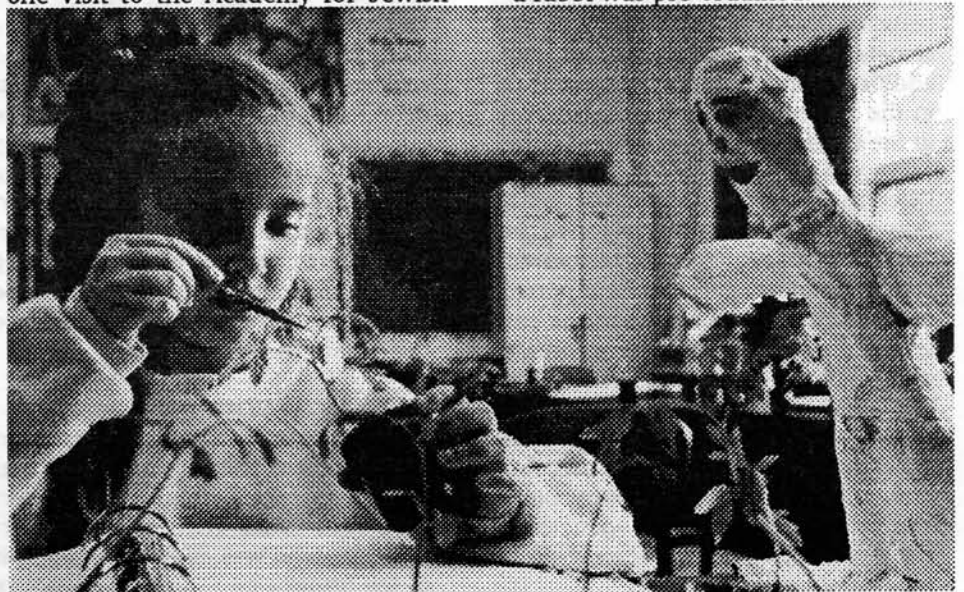
Well, then, inasmuch as the only thing that now seemed reasonable was rabbinical school, that's where I went. First, of course, I had to find—and recognize—the right school for me. That didn't take too long. I visited several schools and rabbis but, with one visit to the Academy for Jewish

Religion, I knew that This is the place. Since my first day there, I have had the time of my life. On Monday, June 4, the Academy ordained me as a rabbi. By an amusing coincidence, that very same day also saw the beginning of my graduate studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where I will go for another Master's degree, at least, and possibly all the way to a doctorate.

It was very nice of my youngest son to graduate from college at just the right time to make it possible for me to take an immense cut in my income, and begin rabbinical school at the exact time I was ready to. On the other hand, one can just as well say that that, too, was predestined. Interestingly enough, he started law school the same day I started rabbinical school. He was graduated June 12, eight days after my ordination.

Have I proved the existence of predestination? Certainly not, although perhaps I have given you something to think about. Well, then, is there any further evidence to present? There is one more item that may help.

Considering that I have (with considerable difficulty) finished the normally four-year program in three years, let's just say that my becoming a rabbi was pre-ordained.



Katie Alfare counts the leaves on her tomato plant.
photograph by Ilene Levine

Viewpoint

Thinking About The Future: Some Reflections on the Size of Roosevelt

by Michael L. Ticktin

One of the things that has, for many years, distinguished the Roosevelt Planning Board from its counterparts in many other municipalities is that, with the low volume of applications that it has to deal with, it actually has time to plan; and has among its members, and among others in the community who come to its meetings, a group of people who are seriously interested in the future of the community and in achieving a proper balance among the social, historical, environmental and economic concerns that must be taken into account in any realistic plan.

A crucial element in any plan is an estimate of the size of the community once it is all "built-out"—that is, once everything that has been planned for is built. There are now 332 dwelling units, that is houses and apartments. (There were 333, but two of them were recently combined by their owner into a single house). There is room for another 16 units in our current residential (R-40 and R-100) zones and up to 76 may be built, under current zoning, on the "Notterman tract" between North Valley Road and the cemetery. This adds up to 424. Any additional development will have to be in the agricultural zones, particularly in the nearly 500 acres north of Oscar Drive and a line extending from Oscar Drive to the west. (A small portion of that acreage is currently zoned industrial.) Given the development taking place or approved in adjoining portions of Millstone, both to the east and to the west, and the clear interest of most of the landowners in developing rather than farming, the question is not whether the land should go from agricultural to residential use, but rather, when, with how many units, with what provision for open space preservation, and with what type of housing.

Model in Place

As I have previously mentioned, I think there is a general consensus on the Planning Board that the plan that has been incorporated into the zoning ordinance for the development of the "Notterman tract" can serve as a model for the northern agricultural area.

Since planning is a process of figuring out how to get somewhere, it is a great help in planning to know where it is you want to go. As the Cheshire Cat pointed out to Alice, if you don't have your destination established, then it doesn't matter which way you go. What is our destination?

Taking Guidance From Philosophers

One source to which we may look for guidance is Aristotle. In chapter 4 of his *Politics*, written over 2300 years ago, he states that the optimum population for the citizens of a community is "the greatest surveyable number required for achieving a life of self-sufficiency." By "surveyable," he means small enough so that all of the members can know one another. By "self-sufficiency," he means large enough to provide the material and spiritual elements of a good life for its members. Applying these principles to our situation, I think we must recognize the need to achieve economies of scale and provide necessary public services at a cost that is not unduly burdensome to people, while not losing the small community character and the sense of historic continuity and respect for the environment.

In Keeping With Founders

For a more recent source of guidance, we may consider a letter written by Jersey Homesteads project manager Max Blitzer to Albert Einstein, who was an active supporter of the project, on August 23, 1935. In

this letter, quoted in Lord and Johnstone's "A Place on Earth: A Critical Appraisal of Subsistence Homesteads" (U.S. Government Printing Office: 1942), Mr. Blitzer wrote: "I was in Washington last week and the officials there discussed with me the possibility of enlarging the colony to take care eventually of perhaps as many as five hundred families. I believe this is entirely feasible and believe that industries can be brought out to Hightstown (meaning the "Hightstown project," i.e. Jersey Homesteads) to provide employment for that many men. However, if this expansion is undertaken, I feel that the colony should not be one hundred percent Jewish, as was contemplated for the two hundred families. I believe that the additional three hundred families should come from all races and creeds, and should represent a cross-section of the population in the metropolitan area. Among other things, it may be possible for us to demonstrate that the various races can live together in harmony and cooperate effectively in social as well as economic endeavors."

Max Blitzer's vision of social harmony certainly seems to have been realized. Perhaps his population projection is equally realistic, at least as a starting point, as we focus on the issue of ultimate size.

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Viewpoint

Home Rule and Clean Water

by Mark Zuckerman

The principle of home rule, which in New Jersey predates the founding of our nation, is largely responsible for the diversity and strength of our small towns. Because of home rule, many small New Jersey towns have developed a singular reputation which attracts even from afar the kind of recognition normally enjoyed by cities. Monmouth County has its full share of these, and among them is Roosevelt.

We in Roosevelt, as do those in other towns, work hard to make home rule succeed. Local government is accomplished by unpaid volunteers in their spare time. Since our total population barely exceeds 900, the combined membership of the Borough Council, School Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board is roughly 5% of the resident adults. Add to this the membership of all the other volunteer organizations—each dedicated to the nourishment of an essential aspect of our quality of life—and the involvement surpasses 20%. When crises occur—and there have been several during the past few years—these ranks are augmented by many other volunteers willing to lend their special knowledge and training.

There Are Limits

However, despite this generous outpouring of energy, there are reasonable limits to both the scope of projects undertaken locally and the speed with which they can be realized.

For example, it would be ridiculous for the State of New Jersey to require that Monmouth County, without any outside assistance, plan, build, launch, and pay for a space station. Insult would be piled onto injury by the imposition of a third of a billion dollar penalty should this space station not be orbiting and operational within two years. Would it not be reasonable to question the enlightenment of a state government which could act like this, even if it were responding to federal requirements?

To Roosevelt, these circumstances are not at all fanciful. The technical and financial burden of our DEP-mandated sewerage improvement program, relative to the size of the local population, is roughly on a scale with the fantastic Monmouth County Space Program. There is an exorbitant fine to be imposed if we fail to complete the project by the start of 1992. And all that DEP offers in justification for these Draconian measures are sanctimonious remarks about their responsibility to enforce the federal Clean Water Act and about the principle of home rule which makes municipalities solely responsible for devising the means of compliance.

Clean Water Isn't the Issue

No one in Roosevelt is against clean water. Our environmental consciousness is second to none. Residents recognize the need to upgrade our antiquated system, and are willing to pay reasonable costs. No one in local government has evaded responsibility. Yet DEP responds as if Roosevelt were some malicious criminal polluter deserving of severe punitive action. Home rule, supposedly the proud mode of New Jersey governance, is being used as the instrument of punishment.

Imagine how different things would be if DEP had taken as its mission the accommodation of the Clean Water Act with the tradition of home rule, effecting a partnership rather than an adversarial relationship with the communities involved. They would have made available to smaller communities the assistance of consulting engineers to help guide their renovation plans and avoid costly pitfalls. They would have appointed ombudsmen to help small communities prevent bureaucratic delays and waive inappropriate regulations. They would have sought out small communities to offer funding assistance. There are, after all, approximately seven full-time

employees of DEP for every county and municipality in New Jersey.

Instead, DEP has taken the dual approach of the stern crusader and the inefficient government bureaucracy, meting out swift decrees and punishments with one hand and administrative roadblocks with the other. Their response to a problem seems to be to keep throwing more lawyers at it.

On more than one occasion I have heard members of Council contemplate the need for a full-time representative of the Borough just to deal with DEP—this in a government with only a handful of part-time employees. The Council member chairing the Public Utilities Committee is devoting 20 hours a week, and it just isn't enough.

But the true contempt by DEP for home rule is illustrated by a recent meeting between six senior DEP officials and the Roosevelt Borough Council. DEP insisted that the meeting take place during the day—its business hours—rather than at night—during the Council's business hours. Members of Council and the attending public had to take time off from their jobs to be there.

Not the First Time

My disillusionment with DEP began when I served on our local emergency planning committee. I was appointed because a member of the local media was needed, and I edited our monthly newspaper. As with the Clean Water Act, DEP was called upon to implement federal legislation—this time, the Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act. This act established 4,000 local emergency planning districts nationwide. Because of the principle of home rule, each county and municipality in New Jersey—approximately 600 in all—was declared to be a local emergency planning district and charged with framing an emergency management plan.

continued on following page

June, 1940—June, 1990: Putting Things in Perspective

by Michael L. Ticktin

Serious as the fiscal problems of our community may be, it may be a source of some comfort to put them in perspective. To that end, we present, for your inspiration, the following words of Winston Churchill, delivered fifty years ago this month as the Nazis overran France, leaving Britain to fight on alone:

"I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone. At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty's Government—every man of them. That is the will of Parliament and the nation. The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength. Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end; we shall fight in France; we shall fight on the seas and oceans; we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air; we shall defend our Island; whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches; we shall fight on the landing grounds; we shall fight in the fields and in the streets; we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender; and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

—June 4, 1940

"...However matters may go in France or with the French Government, or other French governments, we in this Island and in the British Empire will never lose our sense of comradeship with the French people. If we are now called upon to endure what they have been suffering, we shall emulate their courage, and if final victory rewards our toils they shall share the gains, aye, and freedom shall be restored to all. We abate noth-

ing of our just demands; not one jot or tittle do we recede. Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Dutch, Belgians have joined their causes to our own. All these shall be restored.

What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

—June 18, 1940

Home Rule and Clean Water *(continued from previous page)*

The federal guidelines made the work of these committees sound interesting, important, and fun. The DEP checklists—which appeared to be drafted by law school fresh-outs—were largely irrelevant, confusing, and onerous. True to form, DEP made no accommodation for small communities, once again defeating the

true spirit of the law by its method of enforcement. The widespread reaction—though not in Roosevelt—was to photocopy the plan of another municipality and pass it off as your own (sometimes not bothering to change the name of the town).

The risk DEP runs with its enforcement of the Clean Water Act is greater.

Unless the responsibility placed on each community is feasible, local government may just give up in exhaustion. Then we will have neither clean water nor home rule.

I just hope we'll have the County Space Station built in time.

Picture Gallery

by Donna Kaufman

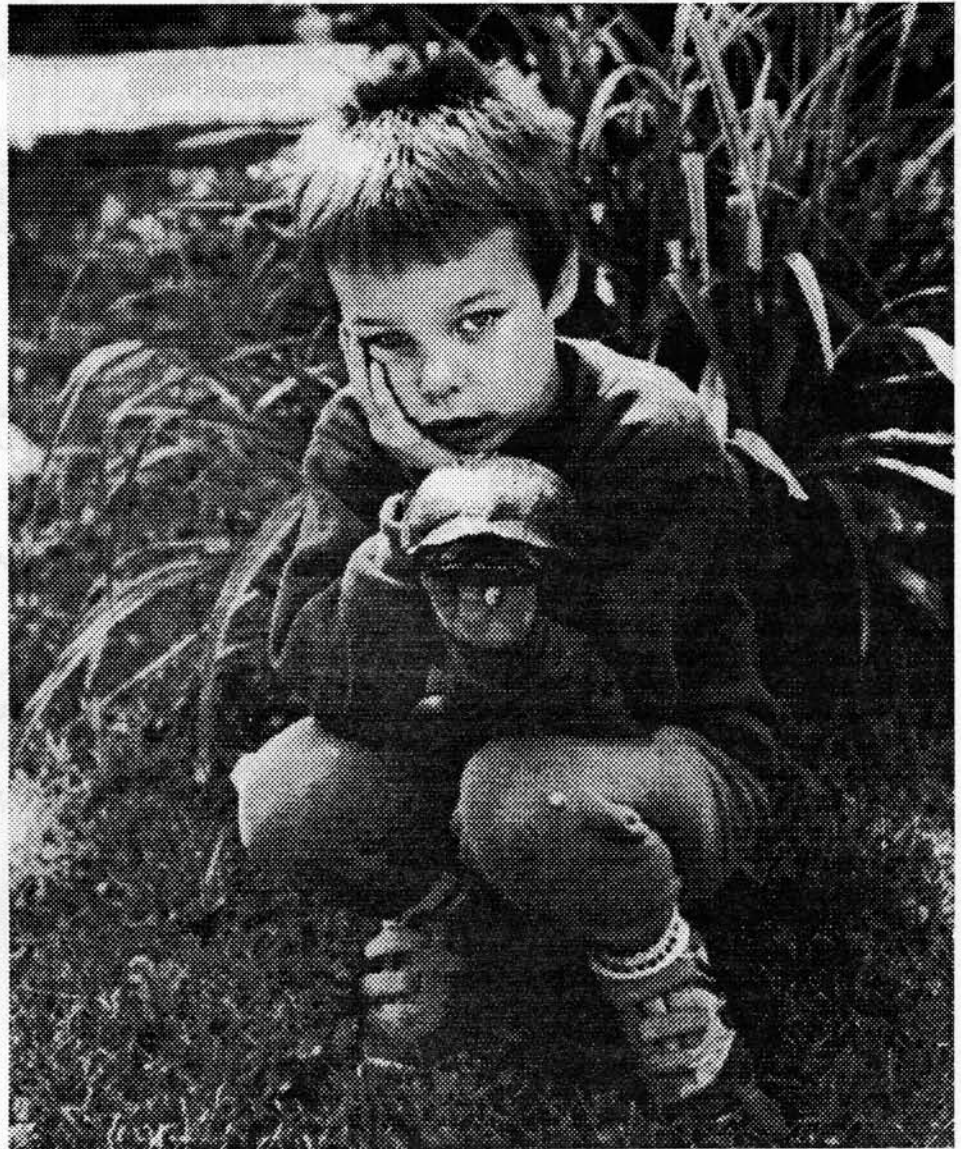
**Clockwise from
the right:**

**Jacob Estenes,
Turtle Enthusiast**

**1990 Graduates
(l.-r.):**

**Rebecca Ord,
Craig Kaufman,
Stephanie Miller,
Erica Warner,
Christina
Henderson, Kathy
Steele, Vicki Estok**

**Sean Conover,
"Wack A Do 200"
Performer**



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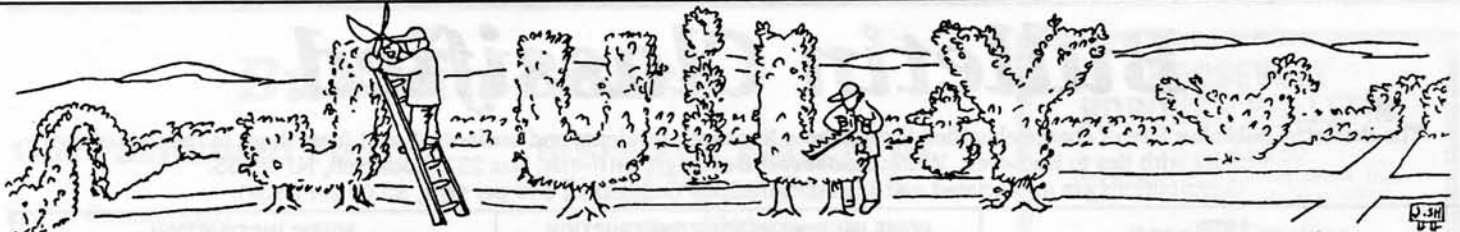
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1 Residents' Meeting Sewer Crisis Borough Hall 11:30 AM	2 Food Co-op Ordering 8 Sch Ln, 7:30 PM Judith Goetzmann (448-4948)	3	4 Independence Day Celebration see page 2	5 Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Debra Allen, Pres. (448-6978) Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach, chair (448-4616)	6	7
8	9 Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)	10	11 Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)	12 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)	13	14
15	16 Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Tickin, Pres. (448-0363)	17 Food Co-op Distribution Borough Hall Bobbi Teich (448-5036)	18 First Aid Squad BoroughHall 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias, Pres. (443-5290)	19 Citizens' Letter Writing Borough Hall 7:30 PM	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Citizens' Letter Writing Borough Hall 7:30 PM	27	28
29	30	31 First Aid Squad BoroughHall 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias, Pres. (443-5290)				

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)