

# Bulletin

24

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March 2001

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

### Council Proposes Repeal of PCD II Ordinances

By Michael Ticktin

At its February meeting, in a move with potentially far reaching implications for the future of the Borough, the Council voted to introduce an amendment to the zoning ordinance that would repeal both the 1996 amendment creating the Planned Community Development (PCD II) zone in the northern area of the Borough and the 1997 amendment allowing retirement housing at a higher density in that zone. Voting for the introduction were Council members Neil Marko, who introduced it, Jeff Hunt and Judith Trachtenberg. Voting in opposition was Councilman Harry Parker, who expressed surprise at the amendatory ordinance and protested the speed with which it had been introduced. Mr. Parker had been unable to attend the agenda meeting the previous week, at which the introduction of the ordinance had been discussed. He remarked that he had picked the wrong week to be away.

The original PCD II amendment was passed on the premise that clustered development of part of the northern area had to be allowed since that appeared to be the

only feasible way of ensuring preservation of the greater part of the land. While that amendment enjoyed broad support from both supporters and opponents of development, that consensus broke down when the Council adopted the subsequent ordinance allowing considerably more intensive development of retirement housing.

The retirement community amendment was adopted after many appearances before the Council and Planning Board of Sydney Israel, a Rumson real estate agent working with the US Homes Corporation. Mr. Israel and Tim Fisher, an employee of US Homes, were in the audience during this meeting. They had come as a follow-up to a letter from John Halleran, Esq., attorney for US Homes, asking that the Council enter into negotiations on developer contributions towards the improvement of the municipal utility systems in conjunction with a forthcoming application to build the retirement community. Ironically, the developer's decision to proceed coincided with the coming to power of a Council majority opposed to that development. It also follows a change in State funding policy that has made it possible for municipalities and nonprofit groups to acquire either land or development rights in order to preserve open space and farmland in perpetuity, an option not available when the PCD ordinances were passed. One such group, the Fund for Roosevelt, Inc., has

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PLEASE NOTE:

If you plan to attend, due to an error, the EVENING OF POETRY WAS LISTED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD WHEN THE CORRECT DATE IS SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH.

## ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL EVENTS:

An open forum to discuss full day Kindergarten - March 14, 7:30 p.m.

PTA Winter Carnival - Saturday, March 3rd. ■



## BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 29TH

Our last drive was very successful. Thirty-two units were collected from the 44 potential donors. The success was also due to the over fifteen volunteers who helped with registration, refreshments and recruitment. Our next drive will be held on March 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall. The Central Jersey Blood Bank has once again requested that appointments be made to reduce waiting time. Volunteers will be at the Post Office prior to the drive for sign-up or you can call Marilyn Magnes at 448-6402 at any time before March 29th.

Volunteers are needed to coordinate the three committees: recruitment, registration and refreshments. If you can help with these tasks please call Marilyn. Let's make this drive even more successful than the last! ■



Dear friends and neighbors,

I want to thank everyone for sharing with his family and me our great sorrow at the loss of Sol Libsohn who died on January 21. The outpouring of telephone calls and letters have been a great source of comfort to us.

As so many of you have said, all of us, especially I have been privileged and enriched to have known this remarkable man. We shall all miss him very much.

Sincerely,  
Bess Tremper

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Breaking Bread art by  
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# FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

New Jersey Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5), states that "the mayor shall be the head of the municipal government" and "shall recommend to the Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough."

**F**inances Because school costs consume 75 cents of each property tax dollar, I have continued to work with the School Board and other Roosevelt citizens to press the State for more financial aid for our school. By working together, we have achieved significant results. Last year we were able to obtain an additional \$93,000 in school aid as well as a \$25,000 public works grant, which helped reduce property taxes. This year, the School Board received \$100,000 more in State aid. This should translate again into tax relief for Roosevelt taxpayers. These are the kind of results that can only be achieved when citizens and public bodies work together toward a common goal.

**Proposed Zoning Changes** We are in need of a systematic review of our Borough ordinances in order to address inconsistencies, ambiguities, and contradictions. Allowing inconsistencies to remain in place can be dangerous and can result in lawsuits. Inconsistencies occur over time when State laws change, when new information is received and when ordinances no longer conform to actual practice. Ordinances need to be reviewed or codified on a regular basis so that they are legal and enforceable. In January of this year, I gave our ordinance books to our Borough Attorney, Douglas Kovats to begin this review process. For these reasons, many ordinances will be eliminated or changed in the months ahead beginning with the PCD-2 Zoning

Ordinance.

History of the PCD-2 Zoning Ordinance the following is a short history of the PCD-2 zoning:

- **In 1937**, when the Borough was established, the zoning of our northern 500 acres (both sides of Rte 571 between Elys Corner and Oscar Drive) was agricultural.
- **In 1978**, the Council approved our first Master Plan with the agricultural zoning as an integral part of our planning. The agricultural zoning is and has always been in place on this land.

- **In 1997**, the Council added the PCD-2 ordinance. It allowed up to 114 units of clustered housing to be built in the northern 500 acres as a "conditional use" for that zone.

- **In 1998**, the PCD-2 Ordinance was amended by the Council in response to a request from U.S. Home, a developer interested in building a 350-unit retirement community in this zone. The zoning in the northern 500 acres had been made "complex" by the addition of several layers of zoning. The amended ordinance allowed single-family houses on 10-acres or two conditional uses: up to 114-units of clustered houses, or a 350-unit adult (senior) community.

- **In 1999**, the Fund for Roosevelt was established to preserve farmland and open-space. At the end of 1999, the Planning Board approved the Master Plan Reexamination Report which noted that the land use regulations governing the northern 500 acres had become "complex" by the addition of the PCD-2 overlay zone to the existing agricultural zoning. The report questioned the retention of the planned retirement community option and recommended that this option be reviewed.

- **In 2000**, advisors to the Planning Board noted that sections of the PCD ordinances should be updated because of the availability of more detailed maps indicating that there might be much less buildable land than previously thought, and because of recent studies regarding our very limited infrastructure capacity. Due to the efforts of the Fund for Roosevelt, by the end of 2000 the Roosevelt Borough Council unanimously approved the agricultural conservation of approximately half of the northern-500 acres covered by the PCD-2 ordinance.

- \* **In 2001**, Roosevelt received, for the first time, highly detailed GIS (Geographic Information System) maps of the borough. The maps are computer generated and embody images from aerial photography.

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

*Continued from Page 3*

They contain a detailed delineation of wetlands, stream courses, and their corridors on a single map of the Borough with overlays of existing structures and property boundaries shown. The GIS maps accurately show a much more extensive network of environmentally sensitive wetlands throughout Roosevelt than previously indicated on the existing maps of the town.

An Ordinance to Repeal the PCD-2 Zoning Ordinance was on the Councils February 5, 2001 agenda for introduction during the February 12, 2001 Action meeting. During the action meeting, the Council voted (3 to 1) to introduce the ordinance (Trachtenberg, Hunt and Marko voting in favor, Parker voting against, Towle and Vasseur were absent).

Several days after the meeting our Borough Attorney, Douglas Kovats, advised the Mayor and Council that Councilman Parker should have abstained from voting on and discussing the ordinance. Councilman Parker owns property within 200 feet of the area affected by this change in ordinance, and this may represent a conflict of interest. For this reason, the ordinance will be reintroduced on February 26 at 7:30 P.M. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64, the Planning Board has 35 days to consider this ordinance and advise the Council accordingly on this matter.

The Public Hearing and second reading of the ordinance will be held on Monday, March 12, 2001 at 7:30 P.M. at the Roosevelt Borough Hall All interested parties will be heard at this time regarding "Borough Of Roosevelt Ordinance #97-28, An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinances Of The Borough Of Roosevelt, New Jersey To Provide For The Removal Of The PCD-II And PCDII/PRCD Conditional Uses From The R-AG Zone" If approved upon second reading, the conditional uses added in 1997 and 1998 will be removed, and the permitted uses in the agricultural zone will remain unaffected.

I will continue to rely upon your suggestions and support.

Michael B. Hamilton, Mayor  
Phone: 443-5227  
e-mail: mham82@home.com ■

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

already contracted to buy most of the land in the northern area west of Rochdale Avenue. It will resell the land, subject to a conservation easement, to new owners who will use it for farming. The proposed ordinance now goes to the Planning Board for review. A public hearing will be held at the March 12 Council meeting, after which the Council will be able to take further action on the ordinance.

Also introduced at the meeting was an ordinance to allow the Borough to borrow funds for the repair of well #3, which is currently out of service. It is necessary that these repairs be done as soon as possible in order to assure that the Borough will continue to have an adequate supply of water. A hearing on this ordinance will also be held at the March 12 meeting.

Councilman Parker reported that interviews would be held for the position of zoning and code enforcement officer. John Reuter, who had resigned the position, has agreed to keep serving until a successor is appointed. Mr. Parker also reported that plans are proceeding for the repair of North Valley Road between Eleanor Lane and Oscar Drive. The total cost will be \$155,000, of which \$125,000 will be paid by the State and \$30,000 by the Borough.

In the public portion of the meeting, Board of education member Jill Lipoti invited the Council to join the Board at an informal social meeting at the school on February 28. Since majorities of both boards were expected to be present, the meeting will be an open public meeting, to which the public was invited as well.

In response to a question from Bob Francis concerning plans for the abandoned gas station, Mayor Hamilton stated that there was general agreement on the Council that the problem should be addressed this year.

In a brief comment, Mr. Fisher of US Homes advised the Council that, "if PCD II continues to exist," his company would be happy to work with the Council. ■

**Are you taking advantage of the Roosevelt Library in our school?  
To keep it alive, it needs to be used.  
As CSA Weinbach has said:  
"A town library would be a terrible thing to lose!"**

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# PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE PCD-II AND PCD-II/PRCD CONDITIONAL  
USES FROM THE R-AG ZONE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roosevelt as follows:

Section 1. Those portions of an Ordinance entitled Borough of Roosevelt Ordinance #97-23 an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt, New Jersey at Paragraph 3 in its entirety, Paragraph 4 in its entirety, together with the attached schedule identified as "Schedule of Building Standards for PCD-II District" and Diagram entitled "PCD-II Map Developable Areas" adopted December 30, 1996, are hereby repealed.

Section 2. Ordinance entitled Ordinance No. 97-24, an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt adopted December 30, 1998 is hereby repealed.

Section 3. Within the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt, New Jersey (codified with the minutes through December 16, 1996; no amendment in 1997; amendments of 1998 and beyond are not included in the text) amend as follows:

At Article IV, District Use and Development Regulations, paragraph 4.500, District Regulations at "District R-AG/PCD, Conditional Uses," to revise as follows:

**Conditional Uses:**

Summer camps  
Private or Public Swimming Pool Clubs  
Private schools  
Houses of Worship  
Planned Community Developments (PCD-II R/AG 400)  
Conforming to the standards of SEC. 7.487 through 7.490\*

Section 4. At Article VII, Conditional Use Permits, delete in their entirety: Section 7.487, "Statement of Purpose;" 7.488, "Development Standards for PCD-II;" 7.489, "Development Standards for Particular Uses," 7.490, "Standards for Open Space."

\* Language underlined shall be removed.

Section 5. Delete that portion of the Ordinance following 7.490 setting forth Schedule of Building standards for PCD-II District inclusive of footnotes as well as diagram attached to schedule entitled PCD-II Map Developable Areas, in their entirety.

Section 6. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are superseded and repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

Section 7. If any Section, subparagraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, such decision shall not invalidate the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall be effective upon final adoption and publication as required by law.

Adopted:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Hamilton, Mayor

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# PLANNING BOARD NEWS

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## Board, Consultant Outline Master Plan

By Bob Clark

The Roosevelt Planning Board and its planning consultant, Michael Sullivan of the firm of Clarke Caton Hintz, discussed guidelines for preparation of an updated Master Plan at the Board's February 7 meeting. Most Board members stressed the need to avoid relying on development to resolve the twin problems of high tax rates and utility fees. The State government's unfair classification of Roosevelt for school aid decisions bore the brunt of blame for the Borough's fiscal difficulties.

Board member Joseph Zahora said the plan should consider allowing development in order "to spread costs over a larger basis," but member Ralph Seligman emphasized that "residential development does not pay." Mr. Seligman noted, "People stay in Roosevelt because of communality and tranquility." He said development, particularly on a large scale, would risk the loss of these advantageous social factors.

Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton said hard numbers that would confirm the financial impact of development eluded the town's planners in the past. Member Michael Ticktin said that, if the Borough Council repeals the planned community development ordinance governing development of the Borough's northern 500 acres, then the master plan should recommend options for the preservation of open space in the area. Although the Fund for Roosevelt is using Funding Preservation Funding to keep agricultural and wooded property intact west of Route 571, the area east of 571 would still be subject to residential development on 10-acre lots.

Member Kate John-Alder decried the fact that few original Roosevelt houses retain their historic architectural form. She said the Borough should look for State funds to encourage home improvements in keeping with historic architectural styles. Ms. John-Alder also urged the preservation of natural views in the town's gateways and the "walkability" of Roosevelt. She added that she would prefer to preserve all of the remaining open space. While noting that the plan should not turn its back on senior housing, she declared that such housing's density should be restricted.

Mayor Michael Hamilton, who also serves on the Planning Board, said the plan should recognize that the public school is "the heart and soul of Roosevelt." Neil

Marko, the Council's representative on the Board, urged some consideration of methods to reduce light and noise pollution. Mayor Hamilton said the Borough should take title to the abandoned service station property. Mr. Sullivan said the plan should consider how the site could be used if redeveloped as a State-funded "brownfield" site.

Mr. Seligman asked whether a master plan committee would be formed. Ms. Hunton said one would be necessary.

The Board adopted 41 pages of rules prepared by Board Attorney Michele Donato. The rules govern duties of the Board's members and advisers, ethics, application and hearing procedures, fees, public participation and other topics. The Board carried its review of parking ordinances over until its March 7 meeting.

At the Bulletin's deadline, Superior Court Judge William Gilroy still had not decided the lawsuit filed against the Board by Daniel and Abby Notterman. The Nottermans disputed the Board's October 1999 denial of an application by the Matzel and Mumford Organization to carve out 65 residential building lots on the Nottermans' 110-acre tract located between the Solar Village and the Cemetery. A two-hour trial took place on November 14 after the Nottermans rejected a written settlement proposal submitted by the Board to the Nottermans in mid-2000. The proposal remains secret, although the court would not consider it in reaching a decision. The Nottermans' attorney objected to its release to the public. At the Board's January 3 meeting, Ms. Hunton said she would ask Ms. Donato to attend the February 7 meeting to discuss whether the settlement proposal should be released to the public after Judge Gilroy decides the case. On February 7, Ms. Hunton said Ms. Donato had been unable to attend. ■

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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## From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

The Board of Education is considering a full day kindergarten program for September, 2001. The Board is reviewing a plethora of research on full day versus half-day kindergarten that has been conducted over the past twenty years. For the most part, research supports full day kindergarten, pointing out that the majority of five year olds in the United States today are more accustomed to being away from home much of the day, more aware of the world around them, and more likely to spend much of the day with peers than were children of previous generations. In addition, the NJEA (New Jersey Education Association) Delegate Assembly, in recommendation #9, reaffirms their recommendation that "All districts in New Jersey shall make available full-day kindergarten..."

An open forum on the issue of full day kindergarten is being planned for the evening of March 14, at 7:30, in the school. At this time, Jamie Cvecich, our kindergarten teacher, and other educators, will be available to discuss full day kindergarten and respond to any questions or concerns from community members. Feel free to attend.

The volunteer center of Monmouth County has announced its First Annual Scholarship Award of \$1,000 each for two high school seniors. Contestants for this award must be Monmouth County residents who have

demonstrated volunteer leadership within the community. Students are invited to apply for \$1,000 to be used towards the furthering education institution of their choice. Applications can be obtained in my office at Roosevelt Public School.. I encourage graduating seniors to apply.

We are all looking forward to the PTA Winter Carnival, which will be held in the school on Saturday, March 3. There will be games, prizes, refreshments and a Chinese auction. This is a fun event for children young and old.

The finance committee of the Board of Education is in the process of preparing the school budget for the 2001-2002 school year. A reduced tax rate is anticipated due to increased state aid, reduced tuition rates and continued financial fiscal responsibility by the Board and administration. More information will be made available in the budget summary.

We are quickly approaching the time of year when our ten graduating sixth graders will be selling boosters for their school yearbook. With a limited number of students, these boys and girls have had to be diligent in their fund raising attempts. They are doing a fabulous job, and the community support for their efforts is appreciated. ■

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## RCNS News

By Ginny Weber

We know March comes in like a lion, so we are making lions to greet the month. We will also observe the weather changes that occur in March such as warmer temperatures and windy weather. At the end of the month, we will make spring lambs.

Since March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday, we will make a Cat In The Hat project. Our class will also dedicate the week to some of our favorite authors, such as Eric Carle and Leo Lionni, as well as Dr. Seuss.

The children will also make rainbows this month and learn how to make rainbows by bending light using a prism. The students will experiment by mixing different colors of paint to make a new color.

To usher in the spring season, the children will make projects about the first signs of spring. These will include daffodils, pussy willows and robins.

Our students will learn how to keep healthy by eating nutritious foods and getting enough rest and exercise. Activities to test our senses will be a great deal of fun for the students. We will also make x-rays and talk about our bones.

We will culminate our month's activities with a week at the circus. The three-ring circus will be an excellent tool in teaching how to group objects. The students will also make elephants and acrobats.

Our school is participating in the Book-It program. We are keeping track of the books we read at school and at home for March and April. The children will receive certificates for free personal pizzas each month for their efforts.

Our pancake breakfast will be held Sunday, March 11 from 9-12. Please come and join us for a wonderful breakfast! ■



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Two Squares Miles of Stories

### Three Sisters

By Greg McGrath

**M**y lovely grandmother, Anne Bilbo, was like my second mother after my father died and my mother went back to work. My grandmother came to the United States from County Mayo, Ireland in the late 1800's at the age of eighteen. She left Ireland in place of Mariah, one of her sisters, who decided at the last minute not to go to America because she met a man she could marry. Eventually three of her sisters came to the U.S., but Mariah stayed home. My grandmother took care of children for the more affluent in Trenton, and married John Malone, who worked on the Reading Railroad. They had six children. Andrew, Frances and Catherine died suddenly and quite young within two weeks of each other. My mother, the oldest child, who would become a nurse, would later think that they had died due to faulty vaccinations.

The remaining children, Ellen (The Queen, my mother), Anna May (Auntsy), and Margaret (Margareteen), were very close while growing up, even more so, I'm sure, because of the untimely deaths of their brother and sisters and the effect this had on their mother. They were all married in their twenties. Anna May did not have any children, but loved and gave gifts to all the children of her sisters. Ellen gave birth to two children: myself and my sister Joan Ann, who is three years older than I and has two grown children. My Aunt Margaret had three children. The sisters were always together, never living more than five miles away from each other all their



lives, in both Trenton and Yardley, PA. They and their husbands always went to parties and on trips together, and enjoyed each other's company as their picture shows.

The other photo shows my parents: James McGrath and Ellen Malone. My father was one of eleven children, a closely-knit family like my mother's. However, his parents were born in this country of Irish parents. He died at forty-nine years of age, when I was fourteen. Although I didn't get to see him much, usually late after his work, I did enjoy whatever time we did have together.

In their seventies, the sisters all decided to move to Crestwood Village, a senior citizen area in Whiting. They continued to travel together and to see each other daily. However, toward the end of their lives, Margaret and Anna May

rebelled against Ellen, "The Queen", periodically not speaking to her. Their oldest sister had gotten her nickname from dressing well and from always having been rather bossy, maybe because of the responsibilities she had to take on when her siblings died.

When my wife Dina, my mother and I went to Ireland about four years ago, we met the County Mayo relatives whom I had only heard about. We visited the land where my grandmother was born, and we drank from a spring at the edge of the field. All that remains of her family's house is a low line of stone, with a haunting view of a black mountain in the distance, the same view she saw every day of her life there. In a graveyard we got to by way of a rock strewn field, I lingered by a tombstone with the inscription, Mariah. My grandmother's sister is still close to home. ■





## In Memoriam

Sol Libsohn, 1914 - 2001

By Kristin Libsohn Tarnas

Even though I lived across North America and a jag out into the Pacific, many miles away from Roosevelt, New Jersey, in Hawaii, Jean and Sol always made me feel that I was a beloved granddaughter. During my visits, Sol and I often played together when Jean was away at work. One of my favorite activities was swimming in Clara Levinson's pool. I enjoyed the absence of waves that allowed me to manipulate myself in the water instead of being pushed around by ocean currents. One afternoon I landed in an unfortunate manner. I was bleeding all over the place. Clara gushed dramatically which turned Sol sour so we left her assistance and headed quickly for home. It actually was not that painful and I did not start to cry until Sol mentioned "stitches". Then I bawled at the thought of the needle. Sol thought for a moment and then did some creative Band-Aid work and tra-la, we were both happy. Besides swimming, we danced, explored for flowers, hunted for poison ivy, spied on wild animals and conducted orchestras in the living room.

We did not only play together, we were serious people. We got up in the morning, ate corn flakes and frosted flakes without milk (until my mother found out) and watched the morning news. We sometimes had eggs for breakfast. Burnt-butter scrambled eggs were his specialty. Jean assured me that only Sol could make these special eggs and then she moved out of the small kitchen to make room for his grandeur. He showed me each time, the precise moment of butter-burning when the eggs should be added to the pan, when the burning was just so (a bit past common sense but not to the point of one who forgot the pan was on). "Just so," he would say, "do you see when that is?"

You might not have thought we could go on with our day after such a sensational morning, but we were serious people and were on our way to work. "Work" was going to the school where he was teaching photography. We had brought lunch and drinks in thermos bottles. In his classroom, we opened our steaming drinks - I had my hot chocolate and he had his coffee. When he was teaching, he was calm and mostly serious, obviously comfort-

able in this role. The students studied the photographs they had taken of nude people in black and white, smooth and unimposing. To my kid's eyes, the photos were much too naked to be looked at and talked about in such an academic way, without at least one giggle. The discussion of lights and lines all seemed to be avoiding the issue of "Hey, look, she's naked!" But I gave up on them and went back to my hot chocolate.

Even when Sol's bristly kisses trembled against my cheek and his dance steps slowed or wavered, he presented himself with pride and confidence - with style. Even when his shaking hands made turbulence out of morning coffee and challenged his paintbrush to a duel with a straight line, he drank his coffee passionately and made beautiful, graceful lines.

I thank Sol for my eyes and my sons' eyes. They save up steam to seduce someone to dance and play, to harmonize, to express the things we are not able to say, those many, many deep and delicate things that would not find a place in lectures, debates or ranting.

Although as a grownup, living in Hawaii, I saw him rarely, he continued to be very much a part of my life. He would call very often, wanting to know everything that was going on in our lives. He was an active and much loved part of my family and me.

The very simple funeral service at his grave in the Roosevelt cemetery was attended by the many mourners who had braved the remaining snow, ice and mud on that day. It was followed by a memorial service in the meeting room of the Borough Hall, which was filled to capacity. I listened to the many people who spontaneously talked about my grandfather, their love and admiration for him and even told stories about their relationships with him through the many years he had lived in Roosevelt.

I, as well as so many others will miss him very much. We will always remember the creative, vital, cultivated man he was. I feel privileged and fortunate to be one of his granddaughters. ■

## Senior Citizen News

By Herb Johnson

The Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club held its February Business Meeting on Friday, February 9th at the Roosevelt Borough Hall. The date was changed from the usual first Tuesday to Monday because the forecast was for snow. A potluck covered dish lunch was held as planned before the business. Seventeen members were present.

The club decided to express its gratitude to Helga Wisowaty for her many years of faithful service to the club as its secretary and member of the Executive Board.

President Gerry Millar reported on the monthly meeting of Monmouth County senior clubs' coordinators. She described several of the scams that have been committed against senior citizens in New Jersey. The club

agreed to get a State representative to give a 30-minute presentation on scams against seniors for the next business meeting.

The next box lunch at 12:30 will be at the Solar Village club meeting room on Friday, March 30. The next third Thursday trip to a mall was on February 20 when the club members went to the Ames Shopping Center and the Chinese Buffet on Sloane Avenue and Quaker Bridge Road.

Membership Director Thelma Thompson turned \$40 into the Treasurer for membership dues from 20 people.

All Roosevelt citizens over 55 years of age are welcomed to come to the next regular business meeting at the Borough Hall at 1:00 p.m., March 6. ■

## It's The Year of The Snake

By Frances Duckett

Mrs. June Counterman and her Tai Chi students celebrated the Chinese New Year at their Dojo (The Borough Hall) with a party dinner. The table was graced by a large and delicious snake made of bread, and groaned with potluck Chinese dishes.

Dinner was followed by demonstrations, including the "first paragraph" of the short form of Tai Chi, by Mrs. Counterman. Tai Chi is a Chinese form of exercise, a slow, ritualized series of movements based on the martial arts. It increases balance, strength and circulation despite the fact that it is gentle and easy to do. Done by an expert, it is also beautiful to watch.

The bulk of the program was provided by visiting karate black belt Mr. Don Nash. He was very knowledgeable about the history and evolution of martial arts, particularly Ishanru (which I may not be spelling correctly). Ishanru developed in Okinawa from Indian and Chinese roots, and was exported to Japan only in 1922. Mr. Nash demonstrated unarmed combat routines and techniques with weapons, including the bow, daggers and a weapon closely resembling a police baton.

Tai Chi classes welcome new students, including seniors. They are reasonable in price. If interested call 448-3182 or drop in to visit at the Borough Hall.

Happy New Year! ■

### About Two Squares Miles Of Stories

Everyone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project - find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information telephone:  
Robin Gould 448-4616  
Marilyn Magnes 448-6402  
Pearl Seligman 448-2340

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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## Annual Report

by Rod Tulloss

In 2000, the Borough of Roosevelt's Environmental Commission took the step of participating in the budgeting process by providing (for the first time in recent history) a prioritized plan of action to the Borough Council along with expected costs of each item. This year the Council is requesting this input as part of their budget management process. Other than the expenses for recording and corresponding secretary, the total funds available in the 2000 budget were \$5,200. This funding was not fully expended. Given the circumstances, this was the appropriate thing to do. I will discuss the reasons for under-spending below.

At its scheduled meeting on January 17, 2001, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a year-end report to the mayor. This report was previously discussed in the November 2000 regular meeting. The report details ten project areas. In one case, a project was not completed because of failure of a contractor to complete the task. No Borough funds were expended on that project. In all other cases, the degree of success or failure was determined by available volunteer resources. The Commission was not successful in developing sufficient resources - an issue that must be carefully examined and re-addressed in 2001.

The public is invited to attend Commission meetings, which will move to the third Thursday of the month this year (please note!).

The format of the remainder of this report is as follows: Each project title is followed by a brief description or motivation for the project, then a report on the project results is provided.

1. Collection of wood yard waste and removal of same from Borough Lands.

To reduce the danger of a wildfire endangering property in the Borough, it is necessary to reduce or eliminate dumping of wood in Borough owned land.

On several occasions, dumpsters were placed in town at selected locations. Citizens took advantage of the dumpsters to dispose of wood, yard waste. Compliance with the requirement that no garbage or metal (e.g., nails) be mixed in with the wood was 100%.

The strip of woods on the northeast corner of Rochdale and Lake was largely cleared of dumped wood waste.

The area of dumping on the forest path terminating at the bicycle/walking path segment of Valley Road was cleared of wood waste and has been maintained clear once a sign describing the situation was placed at the site (essentially 100% compliance with the sign). [Materials for the sign and its construction were donated by Susan Dermody and Rod Tulloss.]

Dumped wood removal from Tamara opposite the end of Elm Court was incomplete due to the number of available volunteers. Dumping has resumed at this site (no sign).

Volunteers removed considerable dumped wood on the south side of Pine Drive between the last house on that side of the street and the sewage treatment facility. However, dumping has resumed there also (no sign).

It is proposed that dumpsters be used for volunteer clean-up of dumped wood (around Borough Hall, along Pine Drive and Tamara drives). The volunteer efforts will need to be coordinated with the presence of the dumpster(s). The activity should be no more frequent than once a month and scheduled in cool times of year in order to maximize the volunteer turn out. Perhaps t-shirts and food should be provided as well.

2. Completion of Borough tree/forest survey in accord with state grant from 1999 (application successful)

This State supported survey was to be backed by a grant of \$2,000 to reimburse Borough costs. An arborist was identified to perform the task for the available funds and in the available time.

Members of the Commission met with the expert arborist to establish the details of the job. An incomplete draft of a plan was submitted. Despite repeated contacts by both chair and vice-chair of the Commission, the expert failed to complete even a draft of the report required. The grant lapsed. No Borough funds were expended.

*Continued on Page 12*



*Continued from Page 11*

3. "No Dumping" signs.

The Commission proposed placement of a total of 15 "No Dumping" signs in the Borough at sites where dumping is demonstrably occurring and where the conditions promote illegal dumping (opening in edge of woods, for example).

This project had coordination difficulties. To save almost all of the projected funds, volunteer labor was chosen as the approach and wooden signs similar to those found in state parks were designed by members of the Commission. Three attractive signs were made by David Parsons whom the Commission thanks for his effort. The Environmental Commission recommends that ordinances regarding dumping and other damage to lands under Borough stewardship be clarified and, if necessary, strengthened. This signage project should be pursued in 2001.

4. Trailhead signs for Roosevelt Woodland Trail.

One wooden sign of the style used in state parks was to be designed and installed at the western end of the trail running from the sewage treatment plant to Tamara Drive.

Two signs were made by David Parsons. The cost of the signs was reduced by donation of labor from David and Commission members. These will be installed at the two ends of the trail running from Tamara Drive to the sewer treatment facility. Four to six more signs will be needed eventually, and some additional information may be desirable on signs already made. This project should be extended in 2001.

[By the way, Roosevelt's trails were designated "Millennium Trails" last year. This gives Roosevelt another favorable mention on the worldwide web and allows us to label our trails with small Millennium Trails plaques. We will be notified of the availability of national funds for trail building and maintenance and trail related events in Roosevelt can be listed on a website of the American Hiking Society. A congratulatory letter from now-Senator Hilary Clinton is framed and hung in the Borough Hall.]

5. Lumber for additional boardwalk segments for Roosevelt Woodland Trail.

This project was to provide additional boardwalk segments to make the wettest areas of the existing nature trail more easily crossed.

Additional bridging pieces were completed and installed along the Roosevelt Woodland Trail extending the area covered eastward from the sewage treatment facility.

Already existing material was used. No funds were expended. The task was accomplished almost single-handedly by Commission member Wayne Cokeley.

In 2001, the area of the Roosevelt Woodland trails prepared for ease of public access should be extended to Rochdale Avenue, should include the trail from the school to the Pine and Tamara Drive triangle, and (if possible) should include the path from Valley Road to Rochdale properly terminated at Rochdale.

The following items were not part of the original plan:

6. Field guides for Roosevelt Public School.

At the end of 2000, \$150 of Environmental Commission funds was authorized by unanimous vote of the Commission to be spent for a complete set of the Golden Book field guides to be donated to the Roosevelt Public School library. In addition, a number of the adult field guides of the same publisher were to be obtained.

The order for these books was placed in 2000, but they have not yet been received. Ed Moser and David Schwendeman selected the books and obtained a good discount price on them.

7. Biodiversity.

With the aid of several volunteers, the list of plants occurring within the Borough has been doubled. In April, Rod Tulloss found the first threatened plant recorded for the Borough, the Blunt-lobed Grape Fern (*Botrychium oneidense*).

The two most notable volunteer botanists were from out of town: Karl Anderson, a botanist widely known in New Jersey who has carried out many plant surveys, and Linda Kelly, both of the Audubon Society's Rancocas Nature Center in Mount Holly.

A draft plant list for Roosevelt can be seen at [http://pluto.njcc.com/~ret/Roosevelt/flora\\_.html](http://pluto.njcc.com/~ret/Roosevelt/flora_.html)

8. Possibility of growing some endangered plants in Roosevelt.

*Continued on Page 13*

## The Ellarslie Trio - Spanning Continents

By Judith McNally

Pianist and composer Alan Mallach opened the Roosevelt Arts Project event, February 3, 2001 with a dedication of the concert to the memory of Sol Libsohn, the renowned photographer and beloved Roosevelt resident who passed away a week prior. Mr. Mallach performed his own composition "Slow Music," in thoughtful phrases of warm tribute. We heard majesty, joy and grace. We can only look forward to more original compositions by Mr. Mallach.

He was then joined by violinist Cindy Ogulnick and cellist Erika Phillips, for the Trio No. 44 in E major by Haydn. The ensemble's unison was immediately apparent, with a fine tuned balance among the three performers. We were held in suspense until each passing resolution, with smooth transitions throughout. And what delight as we heard an opening theme repeated, yet spoken differently this time. Haydn was well served, speaking of tributes to masters.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

*Continued from Page 12*

Specimens of two plants for experimental planting in wetland areas that suffer from a paucity of native species. These plants were:

(1) Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), a plant endangered in New Jersey with distinctive leaves that are shaped like a two bladed axe and narrow almost to a point in the middle (where the stem is attached)

(2) Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*), a wetland plant endangered in New Jersey with tall stems topped by a cluster of pink blossoms.

Both plants survived well. The Swamp Pink grew many new stems after planting. Both plants should be checked for blooms in 2001.

If the plants continue to thrive, it may be appropriate to investigate further removal of the Japanese Stilt Grass that fills much of our new wetlands and replacement of this invasive with rare, threatened, or endangered native plants.

It has been suggested that the Borough could receive state funding for acting as a nursery for endangered wetland plants. This suggestion will be pursued in 2001. ■

The trio's playing was delicate and clean, strong and sure. The performers were also a pleasure to watch, with just enough body movement to enhance the music. Their pleasure was genuine, and sustained. (How many thousands of hours of individual practice through the years had preceded this performance?!)

In the trio's second movement, we also heard some walking bass lines from Mr. Mallach on piano that would have done any modern day jazz bass player proud. Later in that same movement, Ms. Phillips gave us more of those walking bass lines, this time on cello. Ms. Ogulnick shone in numerous solo passages in the third movement.

We also enjoyed the camaraderie evident among the three performers. I heard this same trio perform in the fall of 2000. Time has only brought them polish, confidence and finesse.

The program moved on to "The Four Seasons of the Tango" by Brazilian composer Astor Piazzollo. Of this suite, the trio performed "Winter" and "Spring." The first of the two was lyrical and passionate. From the cello we heard mournful tones (of a love lost, perhaps?). Then the violinist took up the same theme.

In "Spring," the composer gave us spritely piano lines, punctuated by violin and cello lines first staccato then languorous, woven together by the joy of the evening. This is a piece that really swings, and the packed house loved it.

After intermission, we heard the Brahms' revised version of his Trio No. 1. Mr. Mallach noted that Brahms was "a composing perfectionist," who destroyed most of his early compositions written in his early twenties. In this piece, the performance grew yet more relaxed. The musicians rose above their instruments and sang for us in flights of togetherness, intricate call and response (were we in church listening to gospel singers rocking their way through the Allegro movement?). It was indeed the Borough Hall, with three musicians very much in their element, and at peace with their full dynamic range.

I took no copious notes in the second half of the evening. I just sat back and enjoyed it. Mr. Mallach was aided by his alert page-turner, Ms. Diane Sterner, and recording engineer, Ed Cedar. Our loving applause earned us a playful and delightful encore, the Scherzo from Beethoven's Trio No. 1.

We give our thanks to you, O Musicians, who begin where these words leave off.

Sol did so love his music. ■

# WEATHER ALMANAC

## 2000: From the Averages to the Extremes

Ron Filepp

**H**ow did Roosevelt fare with the averages in 2000? The average temperature for the entire year in Roosevelt was 54.0 degrees. The normal annual average is 53.9 degrees. Two months in 2000, February and March had average temperatures far above normal. February was 5.4 degrees above normal and March 5.8 degrees. December was the only month with an average temperature far below normal. December's average temperature was 4.8 degrees below normal. The hottest day of the year was June 11 when the mercury rose to 95.5. The coldest day of the year was January 22. That day the temperature fell to 2.5 degrees.

Roosevelt had well above average precipitation in 2000 with 50.96 inches of total annual precipitation. The normal average is 44.39 inches. We had an extra 6.57 inches of precipitation last year! You may recall the summer of 2000 as damp and cool. In reality, June was warmer than normal. July and August temperatures were just a little below normal. The many cloudy and damp days gave the impression that it was cooler than temperature readings alone indicate.

All three months of summer had above normal rainfall. However, it was September that brought the most rain of any month in 2000. The total for the month was 8.64 inches. That's 4.65 inches over normal for September. February, March, April and October were the only months with below normal precipitation. The dry conditions of October along with the damp conditions of the summer and September lead to a vibrant display of fall colors.

The color that has predominated on the ground in Roosevelt this winter was white. If the Old Farmer's Almanac is correct, you won't want to put the snow shovels away just yet. The Almanac says we will see more snow in March than in all of December, January and February. If that prediction comes true, over 28.75 inches of the white stuff will fall in March.

### March Weather Event

On March 13 and 14, 1993 the "Storm of the Century" made its way through Roosevelt and the rest of the East Coast. The huge snow storm featured high winds, thunder, barometric pressure readings that were among the lowest ever recorded in such a storm, and a total snowfall of about 10 to 12 inches. ■

### January 15 - February 15, 2001

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	39.6	34.2	36.9	0.34
16	43.7	33.8	38.8	0.00
17	44.4	27.0	35.7	0.00
18	38.7	25.0	31.9	0.00
19	40.5	33.8	37.2	0.25
20	37.8	31.8	34.8	1.25
21	32.2	22.1	27.2	0.70
22	33.6	11.3	22.5	0.00
23	34.5	11.1	22.8	0.00
24	40.5	17.2	28.9	0.00
25	40.8	21.4	31.1	0.00
26	34.5	15.4	25.0	0.00
27	40.6	27.0	33.8	0.00
28	36.7	24.6	30.7	0.00
29	38.3	18.0	28.2	0.00
30	52.9	32.0	42.5	0.00
31	50.0	31.5	40.8	0.65
1	49.1	31.3	40.2	0.00
2	49.5	32.2	40.9	0.00
3	35.6	25.0	30.3	0.00
4	43.0	18.5	30.8	0.00
5	37.0	28.4	32.7	1.30
6	44.6	31.6	38.1	0.00
7	43.3	31.3	37.3	0.00
8	41.9	23.9	32.9	0.00
9	55.9	32.5	44.2	0.00
10	58.5	33.6	46.1	0.05
11	33.8	21.9	27.9	0.00
12	37.0	18.0	27.5	0.00
13	48.7	32.2	40.5	0.10
14	50.0	30.9	40.5	0.00
15	48.2	40.3	44.3	0.05
Total Precipitation		4.69		

### Weather Word

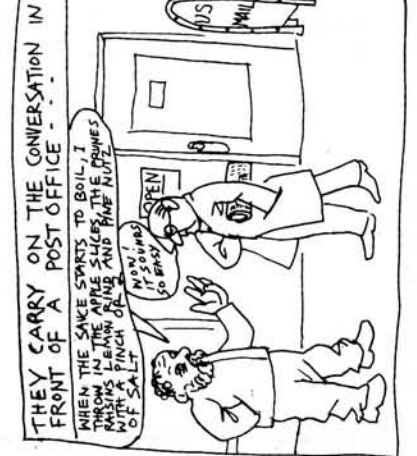
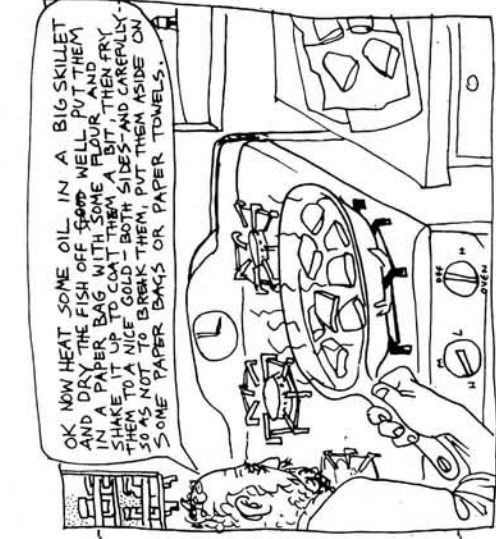
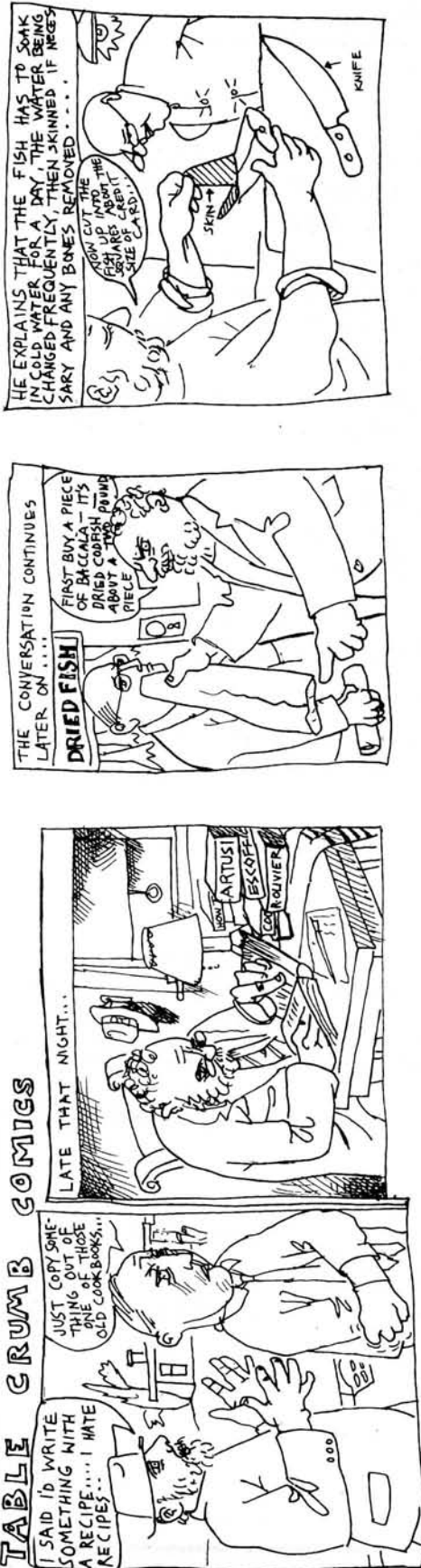
**Warning** - a product issued by the local National Weather Service office when a particular weather hazard is either imminent or has been reported. A warning indicates the need to take action to protect life and property. The type of hazard is reflected in the type of warning (e.g., tornado warning, blizzard warning). Source: Oklahoma Climatological Survey



# BREAKING BREAD

By Jonathan Shahn

## TABLE GRUMB COMICS



# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Items for this column can be submitted to Mary Tulloss by phone 448-5096,  
mail: P.O. Box 57, or email: mtulloss@njcc.com.

By Mary Tulloss

## FOND FAREWELL TO:

Sara Samberg died on January 17th. Sara was the mother of Adeenah Yeger of Lake Drive and Reenah Petrics of Pine Drive.

## WELCOME HOME TO:

Christina Henderson, former child-resident, and William Catalino who moved into their home on Tamara Drive. Christina is the sister of Franklin Mitchell of Farm Lane.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Robert and Kellie Warnick for the birth of their daughter, Isabella Grace. Robert is the son of Ralph and Nancy Warnick of Homestead Lane.

## IN THE ARTS:

Mark Zuckerman's "Proverbs for Four at Fifty" has been recorded by the Gregg Smith Singers on the Living Artists label.

## FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

Elizabeth Lawson and Eric Cokeley were on the honor roll for the first marking period. Apologies to Elizabeth and Eric for leaving them off the list published last month.

Molly Petrilla's audition on clarinet landed her a spot in the prestigious All-State Wood Ensemble. She currently ranks fifth in the state on clarinet.

Hannah Stinson is student director of the upcoming performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's State Fair to be performed March 9, 10 and 11. Molly Petrilla will be playing in the pit orchestra.

Brandan Tyers competed in the Mercer County Wrestling Tournament and placed 6th in the 103 pound weight class.

Nate Kostar and Molly Petrilla received Presidential Physical Fitness Awards this fall.

## FROM PEDDIE SCHOOL:

Ina Clark completed her first term with honors.

## FROM KREPS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Meredith Lawson is on the drill team.

Items for this column can be submitted to Mary Tulloss by phone 448-5096, mail P.O. Box 57, or email mtulloss@njcc.com.

If you or a neighbor has recently moved to town, please let this reporter know so that a welcome can appear in this column. Also, if your son or daughter in college has some news from campus please let me know. Thank you.

Be aware of what's going on:

Attend the monthly Council and  
Planning Board meetings.

Be Involved !

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# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

## 2000-2001 SEASON

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 2000-2001 calendar of events, featuring a wonderfully varied array of readings and performances, concerts and exhibit of the works of Roosevelt artists.

All events, with the exception of the art exhibit, take place at the Borough Hall and will begin at 8:00 p.m. At most events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$6.00, just \$4.00 for students and seniors. This year, we will ask \$10/\$5.00 for admission to the Roosevelt String Band concert. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.

Exhibitions Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission sponsored joint exhibitions of Roosevelt artists at two locations and a lecture by Dr. Arthur Shapiro.:

### **Saturday February 3**

The Ellarslie Trio After the string quartet, music for the trio of piano, violin and cello is the heart of the chamber music repertoire, with nearly every important composer since Haydn writing music for that combination. The Ellarslie Trio, with Roosevelt resident and RAP regular, Alan Mallach, piano, Erika Phillips, cello and Cindy Ogulnick, viola, will present a concert of classical and romantic music for a piano trio culminating in one of the unchallenged masterpieces of the trio repertoire, Johannes Brahms' magisterial Trio No. 1 in B Major.

### **Sunday March 4**

An Evening of Poetry - Join the Roosevelt poets for an evening of "mud time" revelations, with musical accompaniment.

### **Friday & Saturday April 27 & 28**

Roosevelt string Band - in concert. Back for its fourteenth annual concert, the Roosevelt string Band, featuring Paul Prestopino, David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Judy Trachtenberg and Howie Jacobson, will perform a wide variety of folk music to make you laugh, cry, think, reminisce, learn new songs and sing along with your favorites.

### **Saturday May 19**

Computer Chamber Music - Join Roosevelt resident Brad Garton and his colleagues from the Columbia University Computer Music Center for an evening of relaxed "chamber music" created with new digital signal processing techniques and experimental music -performance interface technologies. Of particular interest will be a set of pieces using the ambient acoustic environment of Roosevelt Borough as a foundation for musical expression.

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



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**THE BULLETIN is pleased to accept articles having to do in any way with the Borough of Roosevelt, including literary works by local residents and others with ties to the community. However, due to the fact that this is a non-profit publication that is dependent upon public contributions, articles designed to promote the sale of products or services for profit cannot be accepted.**

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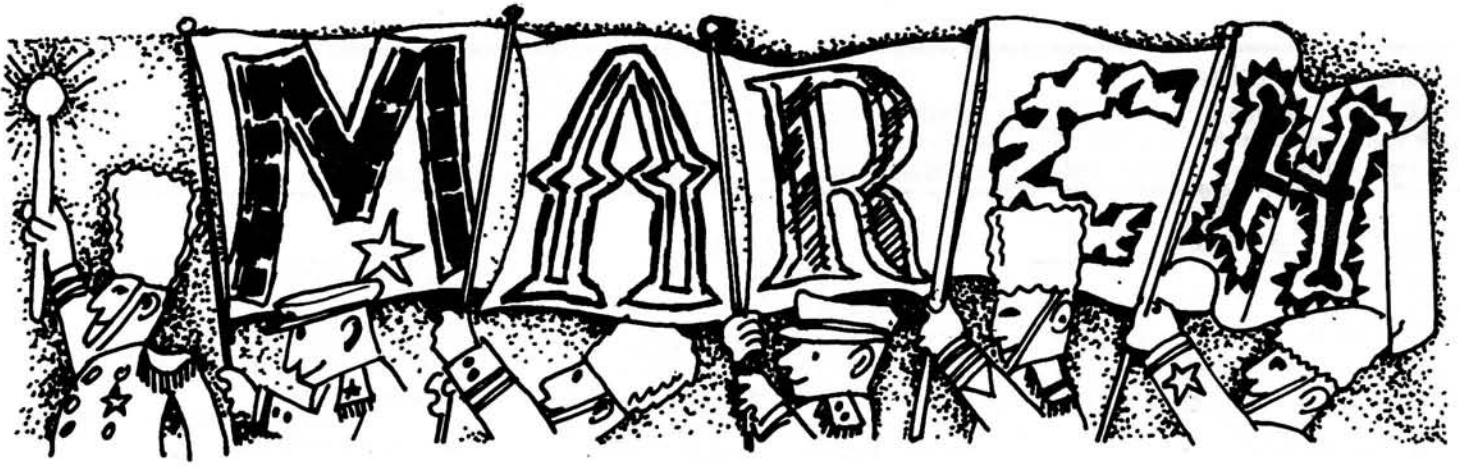
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RPS Computer Lab Open Wednesday evenings.

2	Fri.	RPS closed	Professional day - teachers
3	Sat.	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	PTA Winter Carnival, RPS, Kelly Mitchell, 426-9850
4	Sun.	8 p.m.	RAP program, Borough Hall - An Evening of Poetry, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867
5	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council agenda meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
6	Tues.	1 p.m.	Blood pressure check
		2 p.m.	Seniors meeting, Herb Johnson, 443-1947
7	Wed.	8 p.m.	Planning Board meeting, Borough Hall, Gail Hunton, 426-4338
8	Thurs.	7:15 p.m.	Anshei Roosevelt - Purim Magillah reading & party, Shalom Gittler, 490-0751
12	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council action meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton
13	Tues.	7:30 p.m.	PTA meeting, RPS, President Joanne Parker, 448-5619
14	Wed.		RECYCLE
15	Thurs.	8 p.m.	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall, Rod Tulloss, 448-5096
16	Fri.		RPS pizza day
19	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committees meeting, Borough Hall

		7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board meeting, Neil Marko, 443-6818
21	Wed.		RPS four hour session - professional development - teachers
22	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 448-4440
26	Mon.	7:30p.m.	Council Committees meeting, Borough Hall, Harry Parker, 448-5619
28	Wed.		RECYCLE
30	Fri.		RPS pizza day
<b>April</b>			
2	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council agenda meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
3	Tues.	1 p.m.	Blood pressure check
		2 p.m.	Seniors meeting

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