

# Bulletin

24

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May 2001

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

### Hearings on PCD II and Budget Concluded; Action Deferred

By Michael Ticktin

The April 9 meeting of the Borough Council largely consisted of two hearings, one on the 2001 annual budget and the other a continuation of the hearing at the March meeting on the proposed repeal of the PCD II ordinances, which allow clustered residential development in the northern agricultural area of the Borough.

The Council, with the assistance of Chief Financial Officer Robbin Kirk, auditor Jerry Stankowicz and attorney Doug Kovats, answered various questions raised by members of the public. Aside from Nona Sherak's standing objection to the use of public funds to support the summer day camp program, no objections were raised to the budget, which promises a further reduction in the municipal tax

rate. Action was deferred until the next meeting, however, because of the need to adjust the utilities portion of the budget to reflect the fact that the Borough is not renewing its contract with Applied Wastewater Services and has opted, instead, to hire as employees the individuals who

*Continued on Page 4*

### NOTTERMAN TRACT SOLD TO GREEN ACRES!

As we go to press, the *BULLETIN* has learned that the New Jersey Green Acres Program has acquired the Notterman tract. For earlier developments, see the Planning Board report.

### Five Candidates Seek Council Seats

By Michael Ticktin

Five residents have filed as candidates for Borough Council seats to be filled in the November election. There are no primary contests.

Running for the two three-year seats are Democrats Pat Moser and Elly Shapiro. Facing them will be Republicans Stu Kaufman and Joe Zahora.

Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes, who was appointed to an unexpired term in March, is running unopposed for the right to serve the final year of that term. ■

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ROOSEVELT SCHOOL DATES:

April 26	Board of Education Meeting, reorganization
May 15	7:00 p.m., Arts Night
May 17	Early Dismissal, professional development
May 18	Board of Education, retreat
May 23	Career Day
May 30	1:30 p.m., Kindergarten Orientation

(Board meetings in May are not available until after the reorganization meeting.)



A belated thank you to Fletcher Grayson for the two illustrations he was able to retrieve from the Internet for Bob Clark's story of his famous ancestors in the April edition.



Be sure to check the calendar about the big pick-up on May 2nd. Notice that it is on a WEDNESDAY rather than the usual Monday. Remember to put out items on Tuesday night (not before) as the pick-up begins at 6 a.m. on Wednesday morning.



Thank you to the eight who responded to our appeal in last month's edition. But what happened to the rest of you who have not made a contribution as yet? Please believe OUR NEED IS CRITICAL! We look forward to hearing from you.



I try to live one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once.

Jennifer Unlimited

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Breaking Bread & Calendar art by Deirdre Sheean

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# PLANNING BOARD NEWS

## Court Upholds Planning Board

By Bob Clark

Planning Board members reported at their April 4 meeting that Superior Court Judge William Gilroy had decided on March 28 to uphold the Board's October 1999 denial of an application by the Matzel and Mumford Organization to create 65 residential building lots on the 110-acre Notterman tract. The property's owners, Daniel and Abby Notterman, had sued the Board in Superior Court. A two-hour trial, based on the record before the Board and arguments by attorneys, took place before Judge Gilroy on November 14. In mid-2000, the Nottermans had rejected a written settlement proposal submitted to them by the Board.

According to Board members at the courthouse, the Judge spent about an hour reading the rationale for his decision. The Judge decided the Board's pro bono consultant, Alan Mallach, was not in conflict, as the Nottermans had contended, simply because he was also a trustee of the Fund for Roosevelt. The Fund is a non-profit organization that has been arranging the purchase of development rights elsewhere in town. Also, the Board's rejection of variances from the 100-ft. buffer requirement was proper, according to Judge Gilroy, because such buffers are an integral part of Roosevelt's historic green belt concept. Board Attorney Michele Donato said the Judge seemed to appreciate the historic aspects of the Borough's land use plan. She said she emphasized the point at the behest of Mayor Michael Hamilton, who, in turn, credited Ralph Seligman.

Ms. Donato and several Board members called for reconsideration of the zoning governing the Notterman tract, which lies between the Solar Village and the Cemetery. Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton said extensive wetlands on the property, combined with increased maximum density authorized by the former Borough Council, led the applicant to try to squeeze too many lots into the northwest corner of the tract. This also caused some of the proposed lots to infringe on buffer areas.

Ms. Hunton thanked Ms. Donato, on behalf of the Board, for the work leading to the courtroom success. Ms. Donato said she would order a tape of the decision. The Nottermans have a May 12 deadline for appealing Judge Gilroy's ruling to the Appellate Division. They, or a developer, also could submit a new application to the Planning Board more in keeping with the settlement proposal previously offered by the Board. A full public hearing would

have to be held on any new application, and the Board would not have to adhere to its settlement proposal, which remains unavailable to the public.

Ms. Donato expressed concern about her standing among lawyers if the Board were to release to the public the settlement proposal after the Nottermans' attorney came to expect that it would be known only to the Nottermans and the Board for an indefinite period. When pressed as to the basis for any ethical or legal concern, she said the issue would need researching - at a cost she did not specify. Some Board members indicated Ms. Donato's concern about the effect of the Nottermans' attorney's expectations of confidentiality conflicted with the letter and spirit of the Open Public Meetings Act. The statute appears to call for release to the public of matters decided in closed session as soon as the authorized reasons for secrecy no longer apply. Members present unanimously decided to have Ms. Donato write a letter to the Nottermans' attorney asking for permission to release the Board's settlement proposal to the public. Councilmen Neil Marko and Mark Roberts were absent. After the May 12 deadline for appealing Judge Gilroy's decision, the Board will again consider the issue, depending on the response from the Notterman's attorney.

On April 16, the Board held a special meeting to consider Mr. Mallach's draft of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for the Borough's Master Plan. Mr. Seligman also supplemented the draft with census and other demographic information. The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) has determined that Roosevelt's fair share of the regional need for low and moderate income housing is 33 units. If the Borough does not file with COAH a plan for how it intends to achieve its fair share, it may be susceptible to "builder's remedy" lawsuits that could lead to uncontrolled development.

Mr. Mallach pointed out that Roosevelt would receive credit for 20 units of subsidized housing at the Solar Village. Therefore, the town must propose to COAH a plan for creating 13 more units. Not more than half of the units could be built outside of Roosevelt, but the Borough would then have to enter into a regional contribution agreement with another town that would agree to provide the housing within its boundaries in return for a payment

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

have been running the plants on behalf of Applied Wastewater.

When the Mayor and Council reopened the hearing on the proposed PCD II repeal ordinance, there was discussion of a purported public opinion survey that was done at the behest of US Home. Ann Baker denounced the survey as a "push poll," meaning one in which the questions are slanted in such a way as to get respondents to give answers that will support the position of the sponsor of the poll. Other residents spoke of how they quickly realized that this was not an objective poll and refused to answer further. When Tim Fisher of US Home sought to testify as to the results of the poll, he was told by Mayor Michael Hamilton that his comments were out of order, since they were not addressed to the subject of the proposed ordinance.

Controversy arose during the course of the hearing over the role of Councilman Harry Parker. Mr. Parker's house is on Oscar Drive, within 200 feet of the land affected by the proposed repealer ordinance. As such, he is regarded as an interested party who is entitled to formal notice of the hearing. For that same reason, however, municipal attorney Doug Kovats advised Mr. Parker and the rest of the Council that, based on applicable case law, Mr. Parker could not participate in the discussion of the ordinance as a member of the Council. Indeed, the ordinance was pro-

posed twice because Mr. Parker had voted on it the first time. (He voted against it.) Mr. Parker took exception to this ruling, claiming that Council members in the same situation had voted in previous years. Mayor Hamilton allowed Mr. Parker to speak only as a member of the public, though Mr. Kovats said at the end of the discussion that he found Mr. Parker's participation as a member of the public while sitting at the Council table to be improper. Nona Sherak's demand from the audience that another legal opinion be sought was disregarded.

At the end of the hearing, Mayor Hamilton announced that he would entertain a motion to defer action on the proposed repealer ordinance in order to allow time for further action by the Planning Board. That action would involve the approval of a housing element and affordable housing fair share plan for submission to the Council on Affordable Housing by the Council, along with a petition for substantive certification. This is necessary in order to protect the Borough from litigation by builders who might seek to build far more units than the zoning ordinance would allow. Since the PCD II ordinances contain an affordable housing component, it is necessary to at least be in the process of replacing that component before any repeal of the ordinance. The motion to defer action was duly made and passed unanimously. ■

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## PLANNING BOARD

of \$25,000 per unit from Roosevelt. The Board discussed several alternatives at length. The Borough could mandate that any Notterman tract developer provide for a certain number of low and moderate income housing. It could construct such units on the site of the defunct service station. It could engage a non-profit organization to rehabilitate existing houses that the Borough would acquire by condemnation proceedings. Lastly, Roosevelt could purchase from the Nottermans sufficient land to expand the Solar Village. Mr. Seligman suggested Roosevelt might test whether its historic designation exempts it from COAH requirements.

The Board rejected the gas station option because of the uncertainty of environmental and cost factors. Finally a motion passed to authorize Mr. Mallach to finalize a draft that would require any developer of the Notterman tract to dedicate up to seven units to low and moderate income housing. The Borough also would commit to attempt to create or hire a non-profit organization to rehabilitate

another six units to meet the Fair Share obligation. Lastly, if the second method proved unfeasible, the Borough would finance units to be located elsewhere under a regional contribution agreement with another town.

Voting in favor of the motion were Mayor Hamilton, Chairwoman Hunton, Mr. Seligman, Kate John-Alder, Michael Ticktin, Jane Rothfuss and David Ticktin. Councilman Marko voted against the motion. He said he preferred meeting the entire obligation with a regional contribution agreement. Mr. Roberts and Joseph Zahora were absent.

Mr. Mallach, assisted by Mr. Seligman and Councilwoman Marilyn Magnes, will finalize the body and appendices of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan in time for a public hearing and final vote by the Planning Board at its May 2 meeting. If the Board approves, the document would go to the Council, which would then have to decide whether to submit it to COAH for certification. ■

# 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."

**B**ills, Bills, Bills ... Shortly after beginning my term as Mayor, almost a year and a half ago, I was handed several bulging manila folders which contained bills for me to sign. There were phone bills and utility bills, bills for work involved with the operation of the water and sewer plants, plumbing and electrical bills, bills for chemicals, six hundred dollars here, eleven hundred and forty dollars there, on and on it went.

After the initial sticker shock, I settled into carefully going through each bill and plaguing Borough officials and Councilpersons with questions like, "Why is this expenditure necessary? Who ordered this repair? Isn't there a less expensive way to do this?" etc. I felt like a nuisance, but I learned that when lots of questions are asked, we can begin to plug up the holes in the money bucket. By the way, we ended the year with a fuller bucket ... almost \$100,000 more surplus in our Borough bank accounts than the year before.

**Costs of Development (PCD-1)** ... In 1999, the year before I took office, the Matzel & Mumford Corporation filed a plan to build 65 houses in the Notterman tract (near the cemetery) as permitted by the newly amended PCD-1 ordinance. Originally the tract was zoned for 54 houses but under pressure from the developer the Council amended the zoning to allow 65 units, a much higher density than the rest of the town.

**As required by state law**, hearings were held before the Planning Board where extensive testimony was given by the Borough engineer, planning consultants, and other professionals and consultants, related to our ability to accommodate this proposed development. Extensive testimony was given by our Borough engineer and other consultants and the process was overseen by our Planning Board attorney. The process, required by state law, resulted in many billable expenses.

New Jersey State law also requires the developer to pay for the cost of its application to the Planning Board. Matzel

& Mumford's application to the Roosevelt Planning Board cost the Borough of Roosevelt in excess of \$60,000. However, to date, the Matzel & Mumford Corp. has paid only \$30,000 of the monies due to the Borough. At this point in time, Roosevelt taxpayers have been left to pay more than \$30,000 in costs related to this developer's application to the Planning Board.

**Collecting the Money Owed to Our Taxpayers** ... I have forwarded an accounting of the Matzel & Mumford bills to our Borough Attorney, Doug Kovats, requesting his legal opinion regarding the recovery of the money owed to the Borough. His opinion was that the Borough has a valid cause of action and he recommended a procedure to follow to collect the money due us.

**Notterman vs. Borough of Roosevelt Planning Board** ... The Nottermans filed an action in Superior Court, seeking a reversal of the Planning Board's denial of the Matzel & Mumford Corporation's application to build 65 houses in the Notterman tract. The lawsuit was based upon their allegation that the ordinance under which they were denied is unduly restrictive and violated their rights to develop their land.

On March 28, 2001 Judge Gilroy issued a decision from the bench in Freehold ruling in favor of the Roosevelt Planning Board's denial of an application by Matzel & Mumford to build 65 units on the Notterman tract (near the Roosevelt cemetery). The small remaining issue of the challenge to the Borough's ordinance (as a regulatory taking of property) remains to be adjudicated.

I have instructed Ed Schmirer, the special legal council for the Borough on the Notterman litigation, to file suit to collect the \$30,000 owed to our taxpayers. It seems that developers do not always uphold their state mandated obligation to pay for their costs, and when they do not, they too will be sued. ■

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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

Dale Weinbach

I'm delighted to announce that the school budget passed by a wide margin, and thank you for your support. Linda Grayson, Linda Silverstein and Lauralynne Cokely will continue to serve the next term on the Board. Board meetings are always open to the public, and Board members welcome your questions or concerns in this open forum. Procedurally, the audience is invited to address any agenda item. Should anyone wish to address the Board with a specific item, please call Karen Minutolo or me at the school so that the item can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

At the Board meeting of April 5, the Board voted to implement a full day kindergarten program in September, 2001. Plans are underway to assure that the Roosevelt kindergarten program will continue to provide the best possible education experience for Roosevelt youngsters. The staff and I look forward to having the kindergartners join us for the full day.

One of the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards is known as Cross-Content Workplace Readiness Standards. Although elementary school may seem early for this standard, it is believed that districts should start building these concepts into their program at the K-4 level. Appropriate objectives include: to foster positive work habits, identify career interests, understand the use of tech-

nology, the ability to use critical thinking, problem-solving and decision making skills, and the application of safety principles.

We are planning a Career Day at Roosevelt. We are reaching out to community members to come and spend some time in school on May 23 to share their careers with students. If you would like to participate in Career Day, please call the school secretary, Kathy Dileo, at 448-2798. Although we will be limited in the number of presenters, we would like to have a wide variety of career choices to share with the children.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 15, the students will be having an interactive Arts Night. Anyone who attends that evening will be able to create some art projects, hear some of our young musicians, and meet some very special artists who will step out of a time machine to join us.

Our standardized testing program will be conducted the first week of May. Students in grade 4 take the state ESPA test (Elementary School Proficiency Assessment). In grades 2, 3, 5 and 6, students take the Terra Nova test. This is a standardized test similar in format to the state test. Test results help the staff plan and improve curriculum, as well as provide information for individual students. ■

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## RCNS News

By Ginny Weber

May is a busy month at our school. We are continuing a tradition we started three years ago. On May 3rd, we are having our mini-march for cystic fibrosis. It is so important for the children to realize that they can help sick children. A day of many special activities is planned.

Our class will also celebrate Cinco de Mayo and learn many interesting things about Mexico. Our projects will include pinatas and maracas.

We are planning a very special trip to the Wonder Museum this month. I'm sure it will prove to be a day of adventure for all.

Pet week is this month also. The children learn about different kinds of pets and how much care they require. A pet show culminates our week. Each child may bring a pet to show and share with the class.

Other May activities include projects about insects and their importance, and caterpillars and their metamorphosis into butterflies. We will also study pond life including turtles and frogs.

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers! The children will make special Mother's Day gifts for their moms. We will also see why each of the children's moms is so special to them. ■

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## Tons of Talent at R.P.S.

By Linda Silverstein

The youth of Roosevelt turned out in numbers on a recent Spring evening, March 31, to demonstrate both their creativity and their production abilities. The R.P.S. sixth grade class, under the very able direction of classroom teacher Cindy Allred, presented The Second Annual Sixth Grade Talent Show to a packed house in the school's gym. It was "standing room only" as the show got under way.

Proud parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors - you name it - held their breath, steadied their cameras, laughed and cheered as their children took the stage. From kindergartners to recent R.P.S. graduates, every one of the three dozen or so performers showed remarkable calmness and stage presence. The acts numbered 21 in all, with talents ranging from piano and voice solos to modern lip sync/dance renditions to gymnastics and comedy skits. The production "crew", the 6th grade class, did a fine job of announcing the acts/performers and assisting

their peers onto and off of the stage in a very orderly and professional manner. The grand finale was a magic act that literally brought the audience to their feet, as toilet paper and huge lightweight balls sailed over heads and taunted all to participate. Without a doubt, the children enjoyed this "hands-on" approach. Their large grins, laughter and squeals - not to mention red cheeks and damp heads - were proof that all had a great time!

This successful event was beneficial in another way. It served as a fund-raiser for the 6th grade year-end class trip. Mrs. Allred guided the students throughout the school year in fundraising activities and in detailed planning for this special day. A daylong excursion into New York City, culminating with a Broadway/Off Broadway show, is scheduled for June. Thanks to many of you, these kids will have a "day to remember" as their days at R.P.S. come to a close. Hats off to all! ■

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## Senior Citizens News

By Herb Johnson

At the club's April 3 meeting, it was decided to have the box lunch on May 18 rather than on May 25 because some members would be away for the Memorial Day weekend.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 1 to begin at 1 p.m. Seniors may come to the Borough Hall at 12:30 to have blood pressure taken by the Monmouth County Visiting Nurse.

Toby Levin was host for dessert and beverage following the business meeting.

### SOME EVENTS FOR SENIORS:

On Wednesday April 4 at 1:30 p.m., eight members of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club went to the Trenton War Memorial building to attend the Salute to Ella Fitzgerald by the Nelson Riddle Orchestra with singer Charmaine Neville.

### EVENTS TO COME:

The Garden State Cultural Center Fund offers free tickets to seniors and school children in New Jersey for six "On The Road Performances" this year, in various locations

and six "Performances for Seniors" between May 11 and June 28 at the PNC Band Arts Center in Holmdel, and five more for seniors in the fall of 2001, at 1:30 p.m.

Transportation to these events is a concern. For the April 4 event in Trenton, two members of the club offered to drive their cars to the event with three passengers. Getting a SCAT bus to Holmdel last fall cost fifty dollars. The Club is reluctant to request one again but the Borough Council agreed to cover the cost of at least one for this year. Consequently, the club requested 14 tickets (14 people can be transported in a small SCAT bus) for the June 28 performance of Bob Newhart and the Mary DeRose Orchestra.

If tickets are not available for that show, the alternate shows requested were Brenda Lee on May 11, Bobby Rydell on May 18 and "A Tribute to Nat King Cole" by his brother Freddy Cole on June 14. Any senior resident in New Jersey may call the Garden States Arts Fund Center and request tickets to these 1:30 performances in Holmdel. The telephone number is 743-443-9200. Also, two classical performances will be offered at 8:00 p.m.: Wynton Marsalis on June 21 and the New York Philharmonic on July 17. ■

## Herb Johnson Honored by Coalition for Peace Action

By Jane Rothfuss

On March 25, I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Membership Dinner and gathering of the Coalition for Peace Action in Princeton, New Jersey. I attended, along with a large contingent of proud Johnson family members, to honor Roosevelt resident Herb Johnson as he received a special recognition award for his work with the Coalition.

Readers of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin are most likely familiar with Herb as a long time volunteer for The Bulletin, as the former reporter on Borough Council meetings, as current president of the seniors group, or as an active commentator on town affairs. But Herb has also been extremely active for over two decades in another pursuit that has taken him all over the state and the country. Twenty-two years ago, Herb was profoundly influenced by the writings of Dr. Helen Caldicott, and a major goal of Herb's life became making life safe from nuclear weapons and helping find ways for people to live in peace.

The Coalition for Peace Action's stated goals include "working for the global abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking." For fifteen years Herb has worked with the Coalition in many capacities, including serving on its steering committee as President of the Roosevelt Chapter of the Coalition. Herb has decided it's time to retire from this position, and therefore was selected as one of five honorees. His award plaque reads "With gratitude and appreciation for helping carry the olive branch." When presenting this to Herb, the Reverend Robert Moore, director of the Coalition for Peace Action, called Herb a "trooper for peace" willing to do anything and everything they or he would think of to further the goals of the coalition. As examples, Reverend Moore said Herb organized buses for the major Nuclear Freeze demonstration, then the following Monday participated in a blockade in New York of the five nuclear power embassy buildings. According to Moore, Herb has handed out thousands of flyers, made hundreds of phone calls, has gone on numerous trips to

Washington, D.C. to lobby and demonstrate, and even used his carpentry skills in a last minute rescue of a demonstration by constructing a speaker platform overnight. Herb has served on boards at both the state and national levels. He co-founded three chapters of the coalition, including the Freehold area, shore area and Roosevelt. Finally, according to Moore, Herb knew how to make peace work fun, often being the last off the dance floor at parties and celebrations.

On accepting his award, Herb thanked many people and shared how important his work has been to his life. He also shared a song he wrote in 1968 that has become a family favorite. The song, about a father's dream for a better world for his children and all the children of the world, is called "Hand in Hand." As I joined with other attendees in singing along with Herb and his family, I hoped that the words to his song could come true someday. Certainly no one can say that Herb Johnson did not do his part to bring about a safer, more peaceful world for us all.

For more information about the Coalition for Peace Action, call 609-924-5022 or visit the website [www.peace-coalition.org](http://www.peace-coalition.org). Volunteers are also needed to represent Roosevelt in the Coalition. For more information on Roosevelt's chapter, contact Herb Johnson at 443-1947. ■

### About: Two Square 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



## Two Square Miles of Stories

### A Love Story

By Pearl Seligman

I would open the door to her house. I did not knock or ring the bell. I would call out Mama, Mama. No answer. She was not in the kitchen nor in the living room. She was alone on the double bed in the widowed bedroom, wearing her flowered cotton housedress, curled around a spread of pictures. My father, my brother, me, long dead old friends and family. Pictures from two continents and almost a century away. She was living with them in her real world ...cooking, cleaning, working, talking, laughing, dancing, sewing, angry, crying, tired, hurt, napping, kissing, slapping. Busy. Alive.

She was eighty when she stood in the doorway of the bedroom in my house and told me how she had married my father. She had never said a word about it - life was a consuming daily affair, too intense for backflashes. But now that was over, my father was dead, and the pictures on the bed demanded their say. The story she told was the dust of time transformed into the brick of memory.

Mama grew up in a border village in Romania. She was a skilled seamstress in her twenties when she met my father. Still in his Russian army uniform, he had fled across the border to avoid being shot when the communists came to power. He had friends and relatives in her village and they set about finding him a wife so that he could remain in the country. Without a Romanian wife, he would be returned to Russia and death.



Photo by Sol Libsohn - 1949

They picked out a cousin to be his bride, but he saw my mother. Once, when she was sick, he came to her house and offered to pay for a doctor. Tall and handsome in his uniform he alarmed her parents. Who is this *shaigetz*, this young man not of our religion, they demanded to know. No, he is a Jewish boy, my mother told them.

Mama sewed for a woman who had been bedridden for some years, since the death of her young son. She said to my mother, you will marry him. How can I, Mama asked, I have no wedding dress, no dowry, no money to make a wedding. It will happen, said the invalid, we will do it and I myself will lead you to the *chupah*. Look in the wardrobe. There is my blue satin dress. I will wear it to your wedding.

And it did happen. My mother wore a wedding dress loaned to her by a gentile girl. She had sewn it for the girl's wedding three weeks earlier.

Friends and relatives supplied the dowry and the wedding. Dressed and waiting to be led to the ceremony, Mama was seated on the bed in her one-room house. She looked out of the window and saw the bedridden woman leaning on her husband's arm as she walked down the path to lead my mother to the *chupah*, where my father was waiting.

In arguments with my father, my mother would fling at him the name of the man she could have married, a suitor he had never met who had surely been her chance for a better life. At a reunion of immigrants from their village in New York a tiny, bald, eye-glassed man in his fifties came up to her. Sonyitchka, he said, peering at her face. That's him?, my father asked, laughing. My father had all his hair and most of his teeth and wore glasses only to read until he died at seventy. My mother never mentioned the old suitor again. ■

## Roosevelt Reunions

By former resident, Carla Appel

Early in 1998 a couple of us ex-Rooseveltians got tired of seeing each other only at funerals. We'd grown up in Roosevelt, our parents had been friends (or enemies) there for long enough that our ties to each other were old, strong and complex enough for us to want to keep from losing each other.

We talked Sara and Paul Prestopino into letting us have an everybody-bring-something dinner at their house. From Maine, Abby Shahn, from Boston, Marguerite Goldberg, from Amherst, Rachel Folsom (with Lizzy and Robby Moll), from New York, Willa Appel (with Ben Gershon) and Charlotte Phillips (with Oli Fein), from D.C., Elinor Phillips and Carla Appel (with John Nesbitt) joined Sara and Paul, and Jonny and Jeb Shahn. We were lucky to have Louise Rosskam, Liz Prestopino, Sol Libsohn and Bess Tremper, and Bernarda Shahn representing our parents' generation. We also had ham, lasagna, humus, apple crumble, and chocolate cake, lots of talk and some photo snapping. I and others were happy to see all these old friends together, pleased enough to want to do it again.

But where? The Prestopinos' hospitality had already been imposed upon. Who else's arm could be twisted to lend us a house for a day and an evening, large enough for our

mob and with a few spare beds if necessary? Marguerite actually volunteered her nice big old house in Jamaica Plains, Boston suburb, for a reunion this past October. This time it was Marguerite, Sara and Paul, Carla, all three Phillips sisters including Laramie (with Theodore Palmer) from Oregon, Joey Datz (with Janis) from Virginia, and Rachel Folsom's family including Marcia and most especially, Mary from Colorado, Mary whose sweet husky voice I remember from when we were kids. It was a freezing, bright day. Some of us took a walk around Jamaica Pond; the Phillipses visited the Arnold Arboretum. Some of us cooked in Marguerite's kitchen. All of us stuffed ourselves and yakked and looked at slides of Rachel's paintings. Rachel's daughter Lizzy refused to be photographed herself but took group photos of all of us, using all our cameras in turn.

For me it was comforting to find that I still like the people I liked when I was 10. In some cases I appreciate them more now because I can no longer take them for granted. I guess some others felt this way, because a number of people thought the reunion was too short, that we could not properly span our circa 20 year hiatus from one another in an afternoon and an evening. We are thinking about a re-reunion this coming fall. For information, contact Joey Datz, telephone: 703-590-4262.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

To the Editor:

In the last week of March, many inhabitants of Roosevelt received a call from a polling organization (based in San Antonio, Texas) asking us if we would participate in a poll on New Jersey politics. The pollster, who refused to name the client who had commissioned the poll, said that our telephone numbers were selected at random and that the polltaker did not even know our names. When he said that it would take only a few minutes, many of us consented.

This was our introduction to a "push poll." A push poll is not an honest attempt to acquire information. It is designed to push a certain point of view (or a candidate, or a party). Now there is nothing wrong with pushing a particular line. What is wrong is to disguise it as information gathering and to pretend that it is an objective and impartial poll. So, for example, when the caller said that it was a poll on New Jersey politics, it was untrue. The call was really concerned with Roosevelt Borough, and, while Roosevelt is still part of New Jersey, it was somewhat disingenuous to describe the questions as concerned with any other part of New Jersey. The polltaker might as well have said the poll concerned American politics, or northeastern politics or any other technically true, but misleading, subdivision.

Similarly with the false assertion that our telephone numbers were selected randomly. Since everyone called lived in Roosevelt, and nearly everyone in Roosevelt was called, there was nothing random about the selection of the telephone numbers, except maybe the order in which they were called.

So before we have begun, we have two false or misleading statements. It doesn't give much of a feeling of confidence in what's coming.

In fact, the American Association for Public Opinion Polls (the trade association for public opinion polling) has written the following: A "push poll" is a telemarketing technique in which telephone calls are used to canvass potential voters, feeding them false or misleading "information" ... under the pretense of taking a poll to see how this "information" affects voter preferences. In fact, the intent is not to measure public opinion but to manipulate it.

As you know, there has been an active campaign on the part of one or more developers, to build at least 250 units of adult housing on the farmland north of Oscar Drive, east of Route 571. This new development would have three times as many homes per acre as current Roosevelt housing.

The first two questions were about Mayor Hamilton and the Borough Council (excellent, good, not so good, poor).

Then began the stacked questions.

\* Give the priority of the following Borough issues. Acquiring open space, repairing the aging water system or reducing taxes. Never mind that the **Borough is not contemplating acquiring any new open space, but is actively reducing taxes.**

\* There were suggestions that the developer would rebuild the water plant (easy to promise - and how much of the water plant: the whole town or just the new portion?)

\* Then there were several questions that started with, if you could have a 40% tax reduction, and on and on. What is the basis for this 40% tax cut? **No one knows with certainty what impact a large development would have on our taxes.** U.S. Homes, after having reduced the number of proposed new homes from 325 to 250, is still talking about a 40% tax reduction. Doesn't the amount change with the number of homes? Would it still be 40% if they reduced the number to 25 new homes? There is no responsible public official who argues that there will be any tax cut from a development, much less an astounding 40%. (U.S. Homes' representative has put forward a 40% reduction on a \$180,000 home. How many of us live in \$180,000 homes?)

\* One of the questions read something like, "Are you aware that there was a referendum in which the **majority of voters favored development?**" In fact there was a referendum, and in fact about 40% of the electorate favored **no development.** The other 60% were split over four or five propositions, which ranged from 10 acre residential to large development. The least support was for the one favoring large development. So, in fact we can see that the overwhelming majority voted for extremely limited development or none at all.

Polling is an expensive proposition. It can cost \$500 per call. This is how seriously the client wants to influence your opinion.

The desperation of the developers, and their willingness to use every trick in the book and to invent new ones, should put Roosevelt's citizens on their guard. If they are right, why are their methods so wrong? ■

Ed Moser

# 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

## NEW ARRIVALS:

Ryan Robert Vest was born February 9, 2001. Congratulations to his parents, Wynn and Steven Vest and big sister Logan of Tamara Drive. The proud grandparents are Bert and Ellen Margulies of Lake Drive.

Courtney Lucienne Carduner was born March 7, 2001. Congratulations to her parents, Brian and Victoria Carduner of Rochdale. The proud grandparents are Robert and Judy Carduner of Manasquan and Ron and Jan Albrecht of Sterling, N.J.

## FOND FAREWELL TO:

Josette Altman of Pine Drive died on March 29th. Josette was the wife of Laurie Altman and mother of daughter Nathalie, and sons Colin, Dylan and Olivier. Josette was born and raised in Paris, France, where she studied and worked in the atelier of Jean Souverbie, a cubist painter. Josette moved to New York in the early 60's and then to Roosevelt in the mid 60's. Her work has been in numerous shows in the U.S. and abroad. Her last show was at Peddie School where she exhibited works of brilliant color inspired by a trip to Alaska. A painting from her series *Concert on Canvas* hangs in Rossi's deli.

David Harmon, brother of Connie Herrstrom of Farm Lane, died on March 15th. David was pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church of Queens Village, New York for 26 years. His ministry was enriched by an abiding love of music and fine musical talent which was enjoyed by his congregation, a veritable United Nations including people of diverse age, class and race. During his 32 year career in the ministry he established the Sunshine Nursery School and directed summer camp and Vacation Bible School.

David Irwin, formerly of Roosevelt, died in March in Boca Raton, Florida. David was a partner in Hightstown Lumber. He moved to Roosevelt with his wife Lillian shortly after World War II. Lillian is remembered as an exceptional math teacher who taught at RPS almost 25 years.

Ilse Reisenfeld died on April 7th. Ilse and her husband Walter moved to Roosevelt in the early 60's after their farm and house in Jackson burnt down. They lived here

nearly twenty years before moving to Freehold. Ilse started teaching kindergarten at the Roosevelt Public School before moving to town and eventually taught all grades music. She loved music and was the heart of the Roosevelt Community Band, a group of adults and children who performed together and led off the 4th of July parade. Walter assisted their son Joe in running Joe's shop, a newspaper and candy store, which was on the site of Rossi's deli. There is a photograph of Joe's Shop on the wall there.

Aglaia (Lea) Zagoreos, fiancée of Kim Dexheimer of Roosevelt, died on March 21st. She grew up in Hightstown and after high school won a full scholarship to the Julliard School for voice. Her voice had an unusual eight octave range and her true love was singing. She performed in New York and Bucks County and frequently sang the lead at Rider College while she was still in high school. Her family formerly owned the Hightstown Diner.

## FROM CAMPUS:

Abigail Rose, daughter of Merle and Irv Rose, will graduate May 18th from MCP Hahnemann Medical School and then will receive her Masters of Public Health from Harvard on June 7th. Abigail moved to Roosevelt with her parents at age 3 and left in 1986 when she went to Cornell. After serving two years in the Peace Corps in Cameroon, West Africa she returned to the U.S. to work under Donna Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, doing research on preventive medicine. She then decided to go to medical school. Abigail considers her life in Roosevelt with its rich cultural, social and political history to have been influential in who she is and in fostering her commitment to helping others.

Merle Rose will retire this year from teaching at Princeton High School after 24 wonderful years there.

## FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

Mollie Petrilla travelled to Spain with a group of students from the high school for a two week visit. She spent 3 days in Madrid, and the rest of the time she lived with a family in Valencia. Each student lived with a different family and all are required to speak only Spanish during the visit. She went to school with the daughter in her host family and visited local sites.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Band members Eric Cokeley, and Hannah Stinson and chorus members Lindsay Possiel, Christina Septak, Tina Vasseur and chaperone Kathi Vasseur travelled to England during the Spring break. The group performed in one concert in London and performed in a parade and concerts at Harrogate as part of an International Youth Music Festival called Perform Europe.

Haley Reibold has been selected to be an American Red Cross staff member participating in a one week Leadership Development Training course at Ursinus College this summer. Approximately 200 students were selected to attend from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. ■

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.

## ROOSEVELT BLOOD DRIVE

by Marilyn Magnes

Once again the Central Jersey Blood Center commended Roosevelt for a very successful Blood Drive. On a rainy, cold evening over 37 potential donors came to the Borough Hall. Twenty-five units were collected. Lois Hunt, Dolores Chasan and Natale Warner attended to the registration procedures and served refreshments that were provided by Kelly Mitchell, Alice McBride, Diana Moore and Florence Johnson. Our next drive will be held in September. ■

# *Watch your Speed!*



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

# WEATHER ALMANAC

## Broonzy Meets Spring

By Ron Filepp

Last November, just before Thanksgiving, we got a new kitten. I found him on the side of the road while I was walking in the Assunpink one cold windy night. He was either lost from his mother or abandoned by his owner. I found him by following his cry, a sound so big and plaintive we decided to name him after blues singer Big Bill Broonzy. He was so small I carried him home in the palm of my hand. He willingly went along for the ride. The next day the vet told us Broonzy was about five weeks old and healthy.

Broonzy met spring for the first time on April 9. That was the warmest day of the year through the middle of April. The high temperature for the day was 78.3 degrees. When Robin and I got home from work we opened the windows and Broonzy was right there with his nose against the screen. For the next few hours, he ran from window to window to smell the flowers, the earth and other scents of spring. He listened to the birds and the chorus of peeping frogs coming from the vernal pond that forms in the woods behind our property each spring after heavy rains. When the birds would swoop close to the window, he ducked.

We left the windows open long after the temperature turned chilly just to watch his excitement, and when a thunderstorm came through that night he watched and listened with apparent wonder and fear. It was an exciting night for man, woman and beast as we all celebrated the first temperate evening of spring.

### Low March Highs Hot News

March 2001 went down in the record books as the only March on record in which the high temperature on any day of the month did not reach 60 degrees or greater anywhere in New Jersey. The highest temperature in March in Roosevelt was 58.5 degrees. That was also the highest temperature in February. Last year March brought four days with temperatures in the seventies and many days in the sixties.

*Continued on Page 15*

### March 15 - April 15, 2001

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	56.7	30.7	43.7	0.00
16	58.5	38.5	48.5	0.35
17	50.4	39.0	44.7	0.29
18	47.8	35.8	41.8	0.10
19	53.2	29.5	41.4	0.00
20	56.8	28.2	42.5	0.00
21	44.4	41.2	42.8	0.00
22	47.1	39.6	43.4	1.25
23	57.9	38.7	48.3	0.25
24	54.0	36.0	45.0	0.00
25	46.0	27.7	36.9	0.00
26	43.0	30.2	36.6	0.00
27	43.5	21.2	32.4	0.08
28	47.7	23.5	35.6	0.00
29	53.4	29.3	41.4	0.00
30	45.1	39.0	42.1	1.35
31	50.2	32.9	41.6	1.10
1	51.8	39.2	45.5	0.00
2	54.3	38.5	46.4	0.00
3	59.7	31.1	45.4	0.00
4	56.5	35.1	45.8	0.00
5	61.5	32.4	47.0	0.00
6	55.2	41.7	48.5	0.00
7	54.9	43.2	49.1	0.20
8	50.4	41.2	45.8	0.24
9	78.3	45.9	62.1	0.00
10	69.1	50.7	59.9	0.49
11	52.3	45.5	48.9	0.00
12	68.9	47.3	58.1	0.50
13	71.6	50.9	61.3	0.05
14	66.2	42.6	54.4	0.00
15	68.4	40.8	54.6	0.00
Total Precipitation				6.25

### Weather Event

If you were wondering just how hot it can get in New Jersey in May, just look back to May 31, 1895. On that day the high temperature recorded in Blairstown and Paterson was 102 degrees.

### Weather Word

Bermuda High - The semi-permanent atmospheric subtropical high pressure system over the North Atlantic Ocean, so named especially when it is located in the western part of the ocean, near Bermuda.

# NATURAL ROOSEVELT

## Earth Day, 2001—Volunteering Kids, Historic Trees, Global Warming, Litter, and Dobsonflies.

by Rod Tulloss

**A** period of five days, April 19-22, 2001, saw several Earth Day activities in Roosevelt.

On Thursday morning, Dr. Tom Ombrello of the Union County College Historic Tree Project delivered seven seedlings from historic New Jersey trees. Dr. Ombrello's on-going project is to grow seedlings from the seeds of historic trees and distribute them to schools just before Earth Day each year. The delivery to Roosevelt Public School was coordinated by our principal and CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach, and the Fund for Roosevelt.

Two of the seedlings are from a Black Walnut that was a mature tree when George Washington tied his horse to it during the Revolutionary War. Washington was stopping to visit a relative of his wife in the household of one Timothy Ball. The old tree is now called the Timothy Ball Black Walnut. Two seedlings are from a large Pitch Pine that grows by the Carranza Memorial in the Pine Barrens. This memorial was funded by money raised by Mexican school children after Emilio Carranza (the "Mexican Lindbergh") crashed in the Pine Barrens in 1928. The parent tree of our little pines serves as shelter for an annual ceremony honoring Carranza.

Dr. Ombrello also supplied seedlings of a Yellow Buckeye and a Horsechestnut that were from Liberty Hall, home of New Jersey's first governor, William Livingston. The

Horsechestnut was planted by the future governor's daughter, Susan Livingston, before their house was built in 1770!

The seventh seedling comes from an acorn of the Tennent White Oak. This massive tree in the cemetery in Tennent was large enough to shade many of the wounded from the Battle of Monmouth. Most Rooseveltians have driven by this tree, but many have never stopped to think that George Washington and Molly Pitcher also probably passed by it.

A committee of fifth graders helped to put these trees into a temporary nursery area protected from deer on Saturday, April 21. The committee includes Samantha Cedar, Tommy Septak, Sarah Tulloss, Larry Van Brunt, and Joe Zahora. Mat Stinson also put in a lot of work digging holes for the trees. The fenced mini-nursery is near the butterfly garden on the southwest corner of the school. The Fifth grade will continue the project by laying out the sites for final planting of the trees on the school grounds and will care for the trees until they hand the job over to a new committee next year.

Dr. Ombrello promises us that next year we will get a seedling from the Salem White Oak, a very ancient tree that now grows in the Salem Friend's Meeting House cemetery. John Fenwick signed a treaty with the local Native Americans near this tree before 1675! (Fenwick is also known for having bought half of New Jersey for \$5,000!) The treaty is one of the very few made with Native Americans that was not broken. Is it a coincidence that Salem County is the only county in New Jersey in which no colonist was ever killed by a Native American?

On Friday, April 20, Mrs. Gagliardi and the second grade class presented some of the birds of Roosevelt in a school assembly. At the end of the assembly, all the students sang an Earth Day song. The assembly also featured a presentation on Global Warming and solar heating by Victoria Estok, the most recently elected Trustee of the Fund for Roosevelt. All the children received suggestions as to how they could do their part to combat Global Warming.

### WEATHER ALMANAC

*Continued from Page 14*

This year only February had an average monthly temperature that veered far from normal. The average monthly temperature for January was 0.4 degrees above normal. February's average was 3.1 degrees higher than usual and March was very close to normal at 40.3 degrees, just .2 degrees above normal.

It certainly seems like we've had wetter weather than usual in 2001 so far. But, at mid-April, with nearly one-third of the year behind us, only 2.76 inches more precipitation than normal for the year to date has fallen. ■

*Continued on Page 18*



## Chocolate Mint Celebration Brownie Cake

By Connie Herrstrom

**F**or over 20 years this brownie cake has been my birthday and anniversary mainstay. Satisfying the deepest chocolate cravings, it's simple to make, elegant to serve, and easy to store. The hint of mint intensifies the chocolate, and the sea green crème de menthe complements the bittersweet frosting's satiny black.

A versatile and expandable recipe, I've made it for parties of 5 and 75. Simply make more pans of the basic brownie, arrange them on foil-covered cardboard and slather with the mint icing and chocolate glaze. Starting with my daughter's 11th birthday, I began a tradition of shaping the cake as numbers, which served all occasions, including most recently my parents' 60th wedding anniversary, and it became my brother's favorite. He loved to keep part of his number, such as the 0 from 40, in the freezer and carve a slice or two from it throughout the next year, until I made a new one for him. (The frosted scraps left over from the numbers are a treat in themselves, a bonus for you or others before serving the cake. You can eat your cake and have it too!) I also freeze some and when company surprises, I take a piece out and cut thin slices, which thaw quickly. Even the most weight-conscious guest doesn't hesitate to take just one slice, and then one more, and then °

### Cake Layer

1. Beat together the following:

\* 1/2 cup butter

\* 1 cup granulated sugar

\* 4 eggs

\* 1 cup flour

\* 1/2 teaspoon salt

\* 1 teaspoon vanilla

\* 16-oz. can chocolate syrup.

2. Pour into a 9" x 13" greased pan.

3. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes (or longer) and cool.

### Mint Icing

1. Beat together the following:

\* 2 cups confectioner's sugar

\* 2 tablespoons crème de menthe

\* 1/2 cup softened or melted butter.

2. Spread evenly over cooled cake.

### Chocolate Glaze

1. Melt together:

\* 6 oz. package chocolate chips

\* 6 tablespoons butter.

2. Cool a few minutes and spread over the mint icing.

You can chill and cut into squares for traditional brownies. Or you can double the recipe, as I prefer, and serve this as a layered cake. When making a layered cake, cut out the shape you want and, after it has cooled, spread part of the mint icing over it. Next, cut an identical second layer and place on top of the iced layer. Cover the whole with the mint icing, then pour the melted chocolate glaze over the top and let it drizzle down the sides, allowing some of the mint icing to show. ■



# 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.

## 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. ■

## MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT



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

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## NATURAL ROOSEVELT

*Continued from Page 15*

Sunday featured both the annual Spring Clean-up followed by lunch at the Borough Hall and the first Biological Assessment of Stream Quality in Roosevelt. A particularly large number of children turned out for the clean-up, and this provided additional joyous spirit to the beautiful sunny day. Among the workers were most of the members and leaders of Roosevelt's Girl Scout Troop 1904.

The workers for the Biological Assessment were young volunteers from our neighboring community of Millstone; they included Robbie Lancaster (a third grade student at RPS) and his older brother Ryan. Ryan is planning to use the data collected for a school science project. Other volunteers were Jason Viglianti, Michael Massiha, and Bryan Lancaster (father of Ryan and Robbie). The volunteers were led by Shaun Herman and Jessica Milrose, biologists, who are working as Americorps volunteers for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and the Regional Planning Partnership (Princeton). The event was sponsored by the Roosevelt Borough Environmental Commission and the Fund for Roosevelt. The assessment covered about 100 feet of Empty Box Brook just west of Rochdale Avenue.

Biological Assessment of stream quality is based upon the fact that the collection of snails, worms, insect larvae, etc.

that is found in a stream can indicate how polluted a stream is. The group of animals of interest are backboneless creatures big enough to see--the "macroinvertebrates." For example, a Rat-Tailed Maggot Larva (disgusting name!) will only be found if raw sewage is present. On the other hand, the larvae of caddisflies, mayflies, and stoneflies are very intolerant of polluted water and are a good indicator of less damaged water quality. Biological assessment does not take into account degradation by siltation and other factors present in Roosevelt streams. These are assessed in a different manner. What was the general result of the first study? The number of different organisms in different zoological families indicated the stream does not lack diversity of life, and larvae of pollution sensitive organisms were found--two good signs. Two creatures that really impressed the volunteers were a large dragonfly larva that appeared just about to molt into an adult and a large dobsonfly larva that was a fast moving and voracious predator--in fact, such a predator that it would have eaten the rest of the day's sample of critters if it hadn't been separated from them!

In future columns, I will report on the results of continuing Biological Assessment. I am very impressed both with the set of working materials that Mr. Herman can transport to a local working group and with the energies, quick learning, and dedication of the young volunteers. ■

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**“ The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.”**

**- Erma Bombeck**

*This poem was read at the memorial for Josette Altman who died on March 29.*

## HER DAYS SMEARED AND CRACKED

By David Sten Herrstrom

Her days smeared and cracked on the palette  
He composes leaps impossible for the human voice  
Suspends some notes beyond endurance,  
The holding on of an earth-listener  
Like the geologist who found  
The other half of a hill  
A lifetime later and miles to the south.

Days sink like bones into his tar-pit nights.  
Bronze slabs of dawn stacked against the darkness  
Crush a cat next door. Its ragged screams  
Catch on the piano strings.  
Her arctic-sun paintings are restive.  
His melodies promise things that her reds cover up.

At the center of his piano, the tense  
Rest is mute as rock. The rads  
Demand a sacrifice. They take her hair  
Take her legs from her and  
He gives his arms to her and legs and notes falling.

Face to face on the floor, a blood-red sun behind,  
He is not a musician. She is not a painter.  
Miles from home, they are refugees  
Listening to a distant river drowning in its own bed.

for Laurie & Josette

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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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Exercise for all ages  
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Call June Counterman 448-3182

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Roosevelt Residents Since 1937

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#### ROSSI'S: PIZZA, DELI AND PACKAGED GOODS

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Wed.- Thurs 6 am - 7 pm  
Friday 6 am - 10 pm  
Saturday 6 am - 8 pm

#### HIGHTSTOWN KOSHER MEATS

Meats - Deli - Catering  
Michael's Plaza, 405 Mercer St.,  
Hightstown 609-448-5222



### May Calendar of Events

Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, 448-3713 or email: kirkjane@juno.com.

- |    |        |               |                                                                                             |
|----|--------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Tues.  | 1 p.m.        | Seniors Meeting, Herb Johnson, 448-1947.                                                    |
|    |        | 6 p.m.        | ITEMS FOR BIG GARBAGE PICK UP CAN BE PUT OUT AT YOUR CURB.                                  |
| 2  | Wed.   | 6 a.m.        | BIG GARBAGE PICK UP DAY - call the Borough Hall, 448-0539.                                  |
|    |        | 8 p.m.        | Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Gail Hunton, 426-4338.                                |
| 7  | Mon.   | PTA 7:30 p.m. | Teacher Appreciation Week Begins. Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227. |
| 9  | Wed.   |               | <b>RECYCLE</b>                                                                              |
| 12 | Sat.   | 1-2 p.m.      | Free Rabies Clinic - call Borough Hall for more information, 448-0539.                      |
| 13 | Sun.   |               | Mother's Day.                                                                               |
| 14 | Mon.   | 7:30 p.m.     | Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 448-5227.                                   |
| 15 | Tues.  | 7 p.m.        | Arts Night, Roosevelt Public School.                                                        |
| 17 | Thurs. | 12:30 p.m.    | RPS Early Dismissal, Professional Development.                                              |
|    |        | 8 p.m.        | Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 448-5096.             |
| 18 | Fri.   |               | Board of Education Retreat.                                                                 |

- |    |      |           |                                                                                        |
|----|------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 | Sat. | 8 p.m.    | RAP performance - Computer Chamber Music, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867. |
| 21 | Mon. | 7:30 p.m. | Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, President Harry Parker, 448-5619.            |
|    |      | 7:30 p.m. | Synagogue Board Meeting, Neil Marko, 443-6818,                                         |
| 23 | Wed. |           | <b>RECYCLE</b><br>RPS: Career Day.                                                     |
| 28 | Mon. |           | Memorial Day, Roosevelt Public School closed.                                          |
| 30 | Wed. | 1:30 p.m. | Kindergarten Orientation, RPS.                                                         |

### June Calendar of Events - the first Week of the month

- |   |       |           |                                                           |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Mon.  | 7:30 p.m. | Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 448-5227. |
| 5 | Tues. | 7:30 p.m. | PTA Meeting, RPS, President JoAnne Parker, 448-5619.      |
| 6 | Wed.  |           | <b>RECYCLE</b>                                            |

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