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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME ~~XI~~ ^{XII} NO. 4

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 1988

Roosevelt Has High Election Turnout

by Mary Alfare

525 Roosevelt residents voted in the November 8 General election: 506 at the polls, 19 by absentee ballot. Based on October 1988 registration figures, this represents a 79% turnout. Local newspaper reports of an 83% turnout were based on the July 1988 figure of 604 registered voters. 65 additional voters have registered since then.

Vote tallies are shown in the sidebar at right.

Voters in Roosevelt joined with voters statewide in approving all four State questions:

1. \$350 million bond issue for improvements to New Jersey's higher education facilities.

2. Eliminates special elections to fill vacancies in the Legislature.

3. Allows qualified veterans and disabled or senior citizens tax breaks as shareholders in cooperative or mutual housing corporations.

4. Sets a deadline of 70 days prior to Election Day for the Legislature to submit State public questions.

Also approved in Roosevelt and in Monmouth County was the County Public Question which favors the Freeholders' active encouragement of a State referendum on a "State Mandate/State Pay" amendment to the State Constitution.

Election Results

(winners are in boldface)

President

Dukakis	353
Bush	158
Others	7

Senate

Lautenberg	386
Dawkins	108
Others	5

House of Representatives

Holland	308
Smith	171
Liz Prestopino	1
Others	6

Board of Freeholders

Kramer	303
Narozanick	137

Borough Council

Counterman	413
Lipoti	354
Stuart Kaufman	8
Howard Prezant	3
Howard Chasan	2
David Bulkin	1
Jack Guyette	1
Nona Sherak	1
Ralph Seligman	1

State Question #1

Yes	349
No	71

State Question #2

Yes	301
No	93

State Question #3

Yes	346
No	72

State Question #4

Yes	338
No	48

County Question

Yes	359
No	54

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

Council Asked to Act on Toxic Waste

by Adeline Weiner

The regular Borough Council meeting for November, from which two members were absent (Magnes and Alt, who was ill) devoted attention largely to routine and administrative matters. Some time was given to the reading of letters, however, which introduced other issues, such as halting the siting of a toxic waste incinerator in Millstone Township.

Michael Kucyk, deputy mayor of Howell Township addressed a letter to the Roosevelt municipal government urging that the Council immediately activate residents to protest. He appealed for a flood of letters to local legislators (John Bennett, 31 West Main St., Freehold 07728) and to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Com-

continued on page 9

also in this issue:

Planning Board Tackles Driveways	3
School Board Swears in New Members	4
Five-Year Building Plan for RPS	4
What's Going On at RPS	5
If You Want to Run for the School Board	5
New Staff at RPS	6
RPS Olympics	6
Local Emergency Planning Committee Formed	8
Recycling Rules Changed	9
Arts in Roosevelt	10
Peter Berlinrut: A Celebration of His Life	12
Rooseveltian Wages Campaign	15
Love of Words	16
Letters	17
Supporters and Contributors	20
Classified	21
Community Calendar	22

Letter from the Editor

Thanksgiving

This issue of the *Borough Bulletin* owes its existence to Hortense Sochowitzky, who graciously and cheerfully assumed the role of Editor while I was on vacation. The number of articles submitted was unusually high—nearly 40—and the editorial burden was enormous. Honey managed the task with her usual care and attention to detail. She well deserves the appreciation of the entire community for her efforts.

Thanks are also due to Mel Friedman, who transcribed all the material into machine-readable form so that it could be typeset, and who worked with Honey in making corrections.

While the circumstances leading to the publication of this issue warrant these special recognitions, I would like to take this opportunity—appropriate to the season—to draw our readers' attention to all of our staff, whose names are listed in the masthead to the right.

This paper depends on the energies and dedication of these people. Many of them receive little credit, since they work behind the scenes—in production and business—but their efforts are essential in bringing out the paper each month.

Our writers take the time every month to cover town events, attend and relate the proceedings of public meetings, report on activities of local organizations, and share their thoughts with their neighbors. Our reporters strive to be accurate and honest, and much credit is due them for their willingness to subject their work to public scrutiny and comment.

People from outside of Roosevelt whose work has brought them into town—among them Bud Martin, who served as interim CSA at the school and as a consultant to the School Board, and the several land use experts who attended the Planning Board's workshops—have remarked on the quality of the *Bulletin*. They all pointed to the literate and informative writing, the breadth of topics covered, and the wide range of opinions expressed. They all found it extraordinary that a community of our size could produce such a publication.

Credit for this praise must be shared out equally among the people listed on our masthead, with whom it has been my privilege—and my pleasure—to serve.

Credit also is due our ever-expanding list of contributors, whose names appear near the end of this paper. Without their financial support, none of this would be possible.

This issue is our last in 1988. Next month, we hope to produce a literary supplement in conjunction with the Roosevelt Arts Project.

We shall resume normal publication with our January issue.

Next year promises to be exciting. Roosevelt will be making some important choices: the school budget and four of the nine School Board seats will be decided in April, and two Council seats will be subject to primaries in June and an election in November.

Issues of substance face the community, and the *Bulletin* is the forum in which you will find them discussed in detail.

We hope to publish profiles of the candidates for public office, and opinions from the community.

We encourage all residents to write articles, viewpoints, and letters. Better public decisions result from open public discussion. Let your neighbors—and your representatives—know what you think.

Until next year, best wishes for the holidays.

—Mark Zuckerman

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

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

It saves us a lot of work if we get articles and letters in clean, double-spaced typescript (produced on a typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or in the form of files on IBM-compatible 5-1/4" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from the following programs: Microsoft Word; Displaywrite 2, 3, & 4; Multimate; Samna Word III; WordPerfect; and WordStar. Please identify program and version.

Planning Board Tackles Driveways

by Bob Clark

At its November 2 meeting the Planning Board discussed a draft Zoning amendment that would limit off-street parking to certain types of driveways. Board members stressed that they would provide ample opportunity to receive public reaction before referring a final draft to the Borough Council. No changes could become law without Council approval following a public hearing. Even then, some driveways that would not be allowed under the new law would still be legal (as prior nonconforming uses) so long as they did not violate present zoning restrictions.

The present standards have been criticized as unclear and difficult to enforce. Board members agreed that aesthetics, safety and protecting neighbors from nuisances justified the effort to clarify the law. They seemed most concerned about the few areas in the community where residents park on their lawns, turning them into mudholes.

Based on the discussion, Board chair Alan Mallach will revise the draft to mandate some forms of improved surfaces, clearly discernible boundaries, a menu of allowable configurations appropriate for the various building styles in town and a space limitation roughly equivalent to a fully doubled driveway. Circular driveways would be allowed on lots with over 150 feet of frontage. All driveways would have to be connected to the street. A model ordinance guiding off-street parking in nonresidential areas would be incorporated into the draft.

Warren Letter Read

In other business, the Board received a lengthy letter from resident Peter Warren in which he encouraged planning "which would embrace the whole two square mile area of the Borough covering all future residential, commercial, farm, industrial and green belt development." Warren noted that the original plan for Jersey Homesteads "envisaged that our population would grow to about 500 residences" and "considered the primary school to be an integral part of the planned community that was taking shape." He urged planning that would allow the school to remain vi-

able. Warren contended that state equalization aid would increase as the number of pupils increased and would decrease as commercial or industrial rateables increased.

Farmlands Study Committee Work Applauded

Warren's letter also criticized an outline of issues prepared by Board alternate member Anita Cervantes to serve as an orientation for the out-of-town experts who participated in the Board's Farmlands Study Committee workshop held October 29. These experts—landscape architects and planners—were invited by the Committee to the workshop, which considered preservation and development options for the town's northern farmland. The experts, who donated their time to the Borough, will be composing reports to be used by the Planning Board.

The workshop was organized by Cervantes, who chairs the Farmlands Study Committee although she is an alternate member of the Planning Board. A similar workshop, also organized by Cervantes, was held last December regarding the "Notterman tract." Input from the experts attending that workshop, many of whom returned for the October workshop, was a guiding factor in the framing of the Planned Community Development (PCD) ordinance drafted by the Planning Board and ratified by the Council this summer. The PCD ordinance governs the development of the Notterman tract.

Warren, in his letter, claimed the outline—which Cervantes sent to members of the Council, School Board and the public for comment before it would be sent to the experts—represented Cervantes' personal views, contained unsupported conclusions and had never been seen or approved by other Board members before release.

Because of unexpected controversy in reaction to the circulation of the outline, Cervantes and Board Chair Mallach decided not to send the outline to the experts.

In defense of Cervantes, several Board members expressed strong approval of her activities. Several noted that she headed the Farmlands Study Committee with their blessing and that

her outline of issues was "misinterpreted." The outline had submitted opinions and conclusions that residents have stated in various publications and forums but did not represent that they were accepted by Cervantes or any other Board members. Indeed, it expressly stated that the statements were opinions of others that should stimulate discussion or study.

Council and Board member Marilyn Magnes said that Cervantes was just trying to summarize the various viewpoints that have been expressed in town. She added that written criticisms of Cervantes' efforts by Warren, School Board member Anne DeCocco and School consultant Arthur Martin were especially unfortunate since Cervantes "is one of the people most open to ideas."

Those Board members present at the workshop on October 29 praised it as giving the Board a good understanding of open space options and a beginning for the study of wetlands preservation. Mallach said the town now needs information regarding services, infrastructure, etc., to integrate with the things the workshop considered. Board member Deborah Metzger said the workshop will not result in the kind of detailed plan that was produced for the Notterman tract during the earlier workshop. Instead, it would be more like a general concept plan.

Volunteers Keep Roosevelt Clean

by Jane Kennedy

On October 16, 1988, the following people met and helped clean Roosevelt's paths and streets: Bob and Julie Huth, Warren Craig, Susan Oxford, Pat and Jim Mills, Tom Patterson, David Keller, and Joshua Ticktin. They collected 15 bags of trash which Rossi's Deli generously offered to dispose of.

Please help keep Roosevelt litter-free and encourage your children to do the same. Thank you.

School Board Swears In New Members

by Aaron Datz

Two new members of the School Board were sworn in at the regular November meeting. Bob Petrilla and Jan Plumb were chosen from a list of four applicants for the two openings, created by the resignations of John Burghardt and Lou Esakoff.

Five-Year Building Plan Presented

The departing consultant, Arthur Martin, submitted a five-year plan for the upgrading of the building. The total cost over the five years is roughly estimated at \$230,000. This figure includes the installation of a new boiler, but does not include the probable replacement of the asbestos in the ceiling [see table below, Ed].

Martin also stated that the school budget for next year will be slightly lower than the increase in the cost of living.

Martin commented on the auditor's report for the last year. The audit showed a long list of procedural irregularities which, Martin emphasized, must be eliminated. He sug-

gested an interim audit on December 1 to ensure that the changes in procedure were implemented.

High School Students to Travel to England

Margaret Katz reported that several Roosevelt members of the High School band and advanced choir are planning to join in the March trip to England, where they will perform in a number of concert halls. They are raising money by various activities to meet the expenses of the trip. Margaret Katz has been asked to act as one of the chaperones. She will pay her own way.

Katz also reported that nine children are transported to various schools (three are for special education and the others go to private schools). The total cost for the nine is \$15,000. Other transportation costs are \$21,920 for high school and \$19,919 for 7th and 8th graders.

Patricia Derderian was appointed as the Board secretary, replacing Shirley Mayer, who resigned.

Curriculum Report Outlined

Harry Groveman, the CSA, submitted a comprehensive report on the curriculum which was praised by the Board. He also reported that there is now a student government in RPS. He related the story of one of the student elections: when a first grader was elected president of her class, the other kids hugged her and she said, "Thank you for trusting me."

Historical Archive Donated

Sol Axelrod, a resident of Roosevelt from 1936-1940, whose interest in the town has never flagged, donated to the archives of RPS a box of photographs and other data dating back to the first days of the community.

School Budget Meetings Announced

Next year's school budget will be reviewed by the public at special meetings of the Board of Education on December 7 and December 14 at 7:30PM. Both dates are Wednesdays. The budget approval date is January 12 at the same hour.

Five-Year Building Plan for RPS

Project	Tot. Est. Cost	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1. Paint fence and backstop	1,000	1,000				
2. Install toilet for kindergarten	15,000		15,000			
3. Paint building and point block	20,000	10,000	10,000			
4. Emergency lighting (gymnasium)	1,000	1,000				
5. Ramp and parking for handicapped	1,000	1,000				
6. Asbestos inspection	2,500	1,000	1,500			
7. Repair sidewalks	1,000	500	500			
8. Replace stained ceiling tile	2,000		1,000	1,000		
9. Repair gym floor	5,000	500	2,000	2,500		
10. Replace and repoint brick in gym	500	500				
11. Check roof and flashing on building	17,000		2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
12. Paint corridors, reception area, classrooms	6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
13. Connect fire alarm to 24 hour monitoring	4,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
14. Install alarm in boiler room	500		500			
15. Curtains for stage	2,000		1,000	1,000		
16. Cap shower and toilet in gym office and C.S.T. office	500		500			
17. Install back flow controllers where necessary	1,000		500	500		
18. Replace outside doors with metal. Check hardware	7,000		1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
19. Repair steel lockers in classrooms before painting	1,500			500	500	500
20. Update provisions for handicapped in toilet areas	4,000			2,000	2,000	
21. Repair and stain wood paneling at stage	1,000		500	500		
22. Steel shelving and cabinets for A.V. equipment	2,000		1,000	1,000		
23. Seal macadam parking and play areas	2,000		1,000	1,000		
24. Replace boiler if necessary	75,000			25,000	50,000	
25. Separate Room-7 and library with wall	2,000			2,000		
26. Survey and replace lighting in classrooms	30,000			10,000	10,000	10,000
27. Update lavatories	25,000					25,000
TOTALS	229,500	17,500	41,000	57,000	70,500	43,500

What's Going On at RPS

by Harry Groveman

Although I've only been Chief School Administrator at Roosevelt Public School for a short period of time, I am quite encouraged about what I see. I'm even more excited about what we are starting to do. While our students have traditionally scored very well on annual state-wide exams and our classroom instructional practices are one of our true strengths, I am of the belief that educators should never be fully satisfied. In other words, a school should always be in a process of assessing what it is doing and implementing ways to do things better.

To that end, I am pleased to share with you that the faculty and I have begun an in-depth review and revision cycle for all courses of study. We have already organized and prioritized a plan of action and during the next three year period will totally revamp our curriculum. Work is already underway in the area of math, and this spring we will begin work on our science and reading curricula. Plans to review and upgrade our textbooks and supporting classroom materials have begun and coincide with each area of study being reviewed.

In addition to the work being done in the curriculum area, other areas of the school program are scheduled for review. One such area being studied currently is our report card/grading system. As part of this process, parental input will be necessary and I hope you will support our review process by completing and returning the questionnaire you'll be receiving shortly. In addition, it is extremely important to me that this community see RPS as *its* school and that suggestions for improvement, concerns over current practice, and the development of school improvement projects be generated and involve everyone so inclined.

I am equally excited to share with you that in addition to assessing, reviewing and revising programs and curriculum, we have in place and continue to develop a variety of activities to enhance the quality of experience provided to our students. In the months to come I'm sure you'll be reading more about these programs and other new programs so I thought I'd only briefly mention some of them in closing.

- Clare Sacharoff, our Basic Skills Program Coordinator, wishes to remind parents that RPS offers remediation to students having difficulty in their academics and is available to speak with you. Simply call us or stop by for an appointment.
- Maxine Shore will be initiating an enrichment program for grades 3-6 and will incorporate the development and operation of a school newspaper in addition to other activities.
- Art Franklin will be starting an afterschool fitness club for all school age children. The program which will run every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. has been developed to encourage each participant to set personal fitness goals and to earn awards for reaching their goals.
- And, last but not least, I will be meeting on a regular basis with the newly elected student council. A representative from each grade has been selected and we will hold our inaugural meeting in November.

Harry Groveman is Chief School Administrator at RPS.

RPS Adopts Anti-Discrimination Resolution

The Roosevelt Public School District has adopted a resolution which guarantees that no staff member or pupil shall be discriminated against in any manner by reason of gender, race, color, creed or handicap.

Any student or employee who alleges that there has been an incident of discrimination should report the allegation in writing to:

Ilene Levine
Affirmative Action Officer
Roosevelt Public School
School Lane
Roosevelt, NJ 08555
Telephone: 609-448-2798

If You Want to Run for the School Board...

by Mary Alfare

Residents planning to place their names on the ballot as candidates for four seats in the Roosevelt School Board election next April 4 have until 4 PM on February 9, 1989, to file nominating petitions.

Anyone seeking election to Board of Education must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be a resident of the municipality in which he/she will be elected for at least one year
- Shall not be directly or indirectly interested in any contract with or claim against the Board
- Must be able to read and write
- Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age
- Must be a qualified registered voter within the district

How to File

Nominating Petitions may be obtained from the RPS Secretary. Appropriate information at the top of the form is completed by the candidate. The petition must be signed by at least ten registered voters who are legally qualified to vote in that election. The completed petition must be notarized and filed with the School Board Secretary by 4 PM on February 9, 1989.

Four of the nine board positions will be decided in the School Board Election next April 4—three full term (3 year) seats and one unexpired term (1 year).

—Wanted—
Three people interested
in an alternate means of
educating our K-6
children.

—Purpose—
Running for
School Board.
Only serious candidates
need apply.

Call Lou Esakoff (448-3166)

New Staff at RPS

by Anne DeCocco

This month I will finish introducing our new staff members to you. Let's start with Fran Gerber, who works at RPS three days a week as a Social Worker and Supplemental Teacher. Fran received her BA from Hunter College. She majored in Anthropology with a minor in Education. She taught at the elementary level for eight years and then went on to earn her MSW from Rutgers.

Fran spends the remaining two days of her work week at New Hanover Township School in Wrightstown.

Fran resides in Hamilton Township with her husband and two children. We are very pleased to have her as part of our professional team.

Also new to RPS this year is Ann Provost. Ann is serving as the Morning Aide as well as an in-house Substitute Teacher. Last year a number of parents were concerned about the outside atmosphere while students were being dropped off and picked up. Now the parents find Ann outside each morning, ensuring that all is going smoothly and safely. She also helps with lunch and provides clerical assistance—she puts in a busy morning!

Mrs. Provost has earned over 100 credits toward her Bachelors degree in Education from Kean College. She resides in Allentown with her husband and daughter. We welcome her to RPS!

This last staff member is not really new. Lisa Simone was the Music Teacher during the 86-87 school year, but left at the end of that time. She's back this year and her students are happy to see her! Mrs. Simone puts in two hectic days each week at RPS; she teaches music to all, and provides instrumental instruction to approximately fourteen third through sixth graders. The sounds of the flute, clarinet, trumpet and saxophone waft through the halls on the days Mrs. Simone is in residence.

Mrs. Simone received her BS in Music Education from West Chester State University in Pennsylvania. She resides in Atlantic Highlands with her husband and one year old daughter. In her spare time she sings soprano with the Peninsula Opera Repertory Company in Rumson. We are fortunate to have such a talented person on our staff!

Anne DeCocco chairs the Education/Personnel Committee of the Roosevelt Board of Education.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

On October 31st the PTA was pleased to host an after-school Halloween party in the school lobby. Lee Allen chaired the proceedings and did a terrific job. The children had a wonderful time. We were lucky the weather was nice and the children were able to parade outside and show off their costumes. We appreciate all the work done by Mr. Allen and all the parents involved in the Halloween party.

The week of November 14th is American Education Week and we want to thank Adeenah Yeger for making all the banners for the school.

Our monthly PTA meeting was held on November 15th and we were happy to have as our guest speakers Ms. Grace Benson, President of the New Jersey State PTA and Ms. Margaret Zimmer, President of the Monmouth County PTA. We enjoyed their talk on

"Why PTA?" and the question and answer period was very informative.

The PTA is holding a holiday shop November 29th and 30th. This is not a fundraiser but a small store manned by volunteers which will help children make small gift purchases for family or friends. The children should enjoy purchasing these inexpensive items and wrapping them by themselves.

We would like to remind everyone that we still need volunteers for the Winter Carnival on February 11th. We know the carnival seems a long way off, but it will be here before you know it, so please come to the next PTA meeting on January 10th (7:30 PM at RPS) and help us plan for the big event! We're pleased to have as our guest speaker for the January meeting, our principal, Harry Groveman.

The PTA would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and we'll see you in January.

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

The nursery schoolers spent November continuing to learn about Americans of other times, supplementing their unit on Indians with projects centering on the Pilgrims and early colonists. The focus was on how different peoples learn to share and help each other, notes head teacher/Director Arlene Stinson. The unit culminated in a discussion of Thanksgiving—"a big party that celebrated how well people could work together." The children then hosted their own gala Thanksgiving "feast" for their parents, complete with entertainment.

The December curriculum, Arlene adds, will center on families—on both the personal and universal levels. The children will talk especially about the loving, sharing, and giving that defines family life, and will make bird feeders and clay sculptures as gifts for family members.

On a community note, the RCNS management team and staff would like to remind parents of children turning two-and-a-half that we are continuing to recruit new students for January admission. If you are interested in having your child attend our morning sessions anywhere from two to five mornings a week, please call 426-9523 to receive further information.

Since no nursery school article is complete without a list of heartfelt thank you's, this time we'd like to salute: electrician Ken Marshall and his workers for their wonderful, prompt work installing our state-mandated smoke detectors; to Louise and Howard Prezant for their ongoing aid and support; to the Roosevelt Public school for its donation of play equipment, and to Cliff and Debby Fischer for their gift of a table. We'd also like to invite all our generous neighbors to come see the new play equipment and classroom materials that your funds have enabled us to purchase for the children. We'd love to show them to you!

And finally, if anyone knows where we can buy a used A.B. Dick Blue Spirit ditto machine (even a hand-crank model is fine), please call us at 426-9523. Thanks!

Magnificent Monarchs

by Ilene Levine

This year, as in the past three years, I brought Monarch butterfly eggs in on the first day of school. The eggs were so tiny that I could not believe that butterflies would one day emerge. Every day for about three weeks, the students dutifully cleaned their caterpillars' homemade milk-carton cages, fed their caterpillars fresh milkweed, measured them, drew pictures of them, and wrote down their observations, all the while holding them, letting them climb on their hands and arms, and showing them to their friends.

The children grew quite attached to their tiny striped classroom pets. Some children even named them.

After watching several caterpillars turn into chrysalises, the students began to predict when theirs would make its change from larva to pupa. They even had the wonderful opportunity to watch a limp hanging caterpillar split its striped skin and miraculously change—first into a gyrating caterpillar-chrysalis, then a quiet beautiful jade-green chrysalis with several golden dots on it.

Because the children's attention was so carefully focused, they managed to catch those few special moments.

Two weeks passed uneventfully. Soon the chrysalises began turning clear, exposing the black and orange

wings of the metamorphosized Monarch inside. Excitement built as the children's butterflies began to emerge.

Once again the children captured the moment when one butterfly was "born" emerging from its chrysalis head first, then antennae and front legs, followed by the rest of the body, the swollen abdomen, and tiny curled-up wings. The students watched the little butterfly "hug" its cracked chrysalis. They saw it pump fluid into its wings in just a few minutes until the wings were full-sized and straight.

Immediately following the birth of the butterfly, questions abounded like an avalanche: "How does it change? How does it have enough room in its chrysalis to do all that changing? Where did the caterpillar go?"

This year we did something that we had never done before. Motivated by a student's request to tag the butterflies, and with a lot of help from his mother we ended up tagging fifteen butterflies. Small stickers having a number and "University of Toronto" printed on them were pressed onto the top of each butterfly's wing. Since we are "Research Associates" for Dr. Urquhart, a scientist who has been studying the Monarch migration pattern for many years, we will be notified if any of our butterflies are sighted.

The newly-emerged butterflies spent two days in our lampshade-and-cheesecloth classroom cage. After having been observed, held, drawn, painted, tagged, and fed honey-water, the butterflies were sent off on their journey to Mexico. The proud but sad parents said good-bye, hoping that one day they would hear about their tagged butterflies.

Perhaps the most touching moment for me this year came after a few of the butterflies emerged from their chrysalises deformed—their wings remaining curled up after they should have straightened out. The children knew that those butterflies would not fly and could not survive outside, so they decided to keep them in the classroom. Every day someone feeds the "handicapped" butterflies, and each weekend, someone takes them home to care for them.

My students never tire of raising Monarchs. Each year they ask if they can raise them again next year. Taking daily responsibility for the survival of these small insects produces a commitment and involvement. Watching each step of an entire life cycle, particularly one in which the insect completes a dramatic metamorphosis, fills the children with awe and wonder.

Butterflies are fun.

Ilene Levine teaches the third and fourth grades at RPS.

First Graders to Study Dinosaurs

by Lila Mayberg

Dinosaurs will be the focus of study during December. The class will have an opportunity to study some of the new scientific theories and originate a few of their own. The children, together with members of their families, will have the opportunity to create a dinosaur museum. This very successful happening originated with an idea from Kate Freedman, now a second grader.

The first graders are now devouring literature. *The Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Gingerbread Man* and *Pierre*, have been favorites. Many students request literature books to take home and share with their families. From a three-word beginning unfolds the miracle of first grade.

Lila Mayberg teaches first grade at RPS.

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Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
Box 221
Roosevelt, NJ 08555

RPS Olympics '88

by Mary Alfare

The warmth of the sun and the crisp Autumn air were perfect for the first RPS Olympics on November 15. All 70 students had arrived early at school, excited about participating in the three hours of athletic events.

Organized by Physical Education teacher, Arthur Franklin, "The individualized, relay, and cooperative team games were planned to give each child a chance to excel at his or her own level," while "allowing the children to learn about food sportsmanship and team unity."

Students were divided into three color teams across grade lines, K through 6. Each child won individual first, second or third place ribbons in their events, earning corresponding points for their team. Kindergarten and first grade played two goal kick ball and had a bean bag carry relay

race. Grades 2 and 3 participated in a bean bag target relay for the first round. In round 2, second graders competed in a soccer obstacle race while third graders vied for points in the 30 yard dash. For fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, 3 pin dodge ball was the event, followed by a 40 yard dash by grade level. The final event, a cooperative shoe race, saw older students stopping to help younger ones tie their shoes before dashing to the finish line.

Richard Ladue (Red Team) and Dawn Miller (White) earned an additional "Good Sportsmanship" point for their teams. Richard stopped to retrieve Dawn's out-of-control ball during the soccer obstacle race. Winning the heat, Dawn exchanged her 1st place ribbon with Richard's 2nd place one. "He'd have won if he hadn't stopped to help me," she explained.

The Red Team won Gold Medals with a total of 73 points, followed by the Blue with 69 for a Silver, and the White with 52 for a Bronze. All of the students can feel proud of their part in this competition.

Weeks of preparation preceded this very successful event. Jon Prusik and Kathy Steele designed the medals produced by 5th and 6th graders. Faculty and staff gave up their free time to aid in the effort, and Shirley Golden did a lot of behind the scenes work, according to Mr. Franklin.

Parents who came to help and cheer the young athletes on were impressed by the students' enthusiasm in the will organized event. "In England, everyone turns out for a school field day; it's a big event," stated Gloria Hazell. "I've missed that here. It's great to be a part of the school again."

Local Emergency Planning Committee Formed

by Mark Zuckerman

In accordance with State and Federal law, Mayor Leon Barth has appointed a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), whose primary task is to develop a written plan describing how the community shall respond in emergencies caused by accidents involving hazardous substances.

All municipalities and counties in New Jersey—588 jurisdictions in all—have been designated as local emergency planning districts by the State. A total of 4,000 such districts nationwide was authorized by the Federal legislation. According to the Federal schedule, all LEPCs should have had a plan filed by October 17, 1988, although to date only 70 plans have been filed in New Jersey.

In addition to maintaining a plan for hazardous materials emergencies, each LEPC is charged with serving as a local source for information about hazardous substances, their locations in town, and emergency plans of local facilities which create or process these materials.

In Roosevelt, there is little danger of a hazardous materials emergency from within the town: the only "hazardous"—as defined by the legislation—material stored in Roosevelt is a small amount of chlorine at the water works and sewer plant. The major potential dangers would come from spills of materials transported through town, or ground water or air contamination from some nearby facility. At present, no such facility exists, although the State is considering Millstone Township as a possible site for a toxic waste disposal plant.

Roosevelt's LEPC, which consists of Mayor Barth, Council members Jill Lipoti and Ed Moser, First Aid Squad officer Jack Guyette, Fire Chief Kim Dexheimer, hazardous materials expert Roger Huth, and *Bulletin* Editor Mark Zuckerman, intends to formulate an emergency response plan for all likely emergencies, not just those related to hazardous materials. The committee determined that the best way to

proceed would be to arrive at a preliminary plan by the spring, which would be updated and improved annually.

Until the preliminary plan has been filed with the State, the LEPC plans to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM at the Borough Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18. All meetings of the LEPC are open to the public, and written public input is invited. Correspondence should be addressed to the Mayor.

The LEPC hopes to have a draft plan ready by early spring, at which time copies will be made available to the public. At that time, the LEPC intends to hold public hearings on the plan.

Between now and the meeting in January, LEPC members are compiling lists of potential hazards, vulnerable areas, associated risks, and response capabilities. This is in preparation for a hazards analysis, which is on the agenda for the January meeting.

Council

continued from page 1

mission (Department of Government Protection, 28 W. State St., Trenton 08625).

It was noted that, although Nina Burghart, former Roosevelt resident who led the campaign here, has moved away, others in town will probably carry on. The Mayor mentioned our support to the Brown Fields bill (to locate incinerators where toxic waste is originally produced, i.e. North Jersey).

Council member Ed Moser suggested posting a resolution urging residents to write letters immediately. No action was taken, however.

Dear Borough

A communication from Peter Warren addressed a lengthy point-by-point complaint to the Borough Council regarding a letter recently circulated by Anita Cervantes, an alternate member of the Planning Board, as part of the preparatory work for the Planning Board's Farmlands Study Committee workshop held October 29. Mayor Barth's comments indicated that the criticism was misplaced since the Council has no connection to nor responsibility for that event [see *Planning Board Tackles Driveways*, page 3, Ed.].

A letter from David Leff advocating open meetings of Council Committees occasioned a suggestion by Mayor Barth that committees be free to decide on closed or open meetings but that an agenda meeting will receive public input only in writing.

Money Business

Major actions taken by the Borough Council were:

- A newly revised Personnel Policy document was adopted regarding such items as category of employment, performance review, vacations, sick leave, health insurance and grievance procedures.
- A contract was awarded for auxiliary power supply for the Water Treatment Plant (\$40,977).
- Authorization was given to transfer budget funds from items with

unspent surplus to under-financed items.

- \$2600 was authorized for emergency repairs to the fire truck.
- A recommendation by the Borough Engineer to reject bids on overflow pipe on the water storage tank was accepted.
- On the advice of the Borough Attorney, it was agreed to pay \$2000 storage bill and \$218.09 repair charge to Millstone Auto for the old borough truck. Ed Moser voted "no" stating he felt the claim to be a "rip-off" and that we should take the case to small claims court. The motion to pay carried 3 to 1.

Safety First

Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Jill Lipoti, reported two successful meetings of the local Emergency Planning Committee. An Emergency Management Plan is in the making: members are gathering information to determine likely emergencies such as accidents occurring from transporting of hazardous substance through town, forest fires, evacuation procedures if necessary, special assistance to elderly and handicapped residents, etc. [see *Local Emergency Planning Committee Formed*, opposite page, Ed.]

A definitive "map" locating supplies, equipment, appropriate personnel, "safety" areas and routes, will be put in place to provide essential emergency information, by March or April.

Many Thanks

Public Utilities Chair Ed Moser proposed to create a position (unpaid) of Borough Coordinator of Hydrant Flushing with appointment of Steve Yeger to that post. The excellent leadership and invaluable service performed periodically by Mr. Yeger, with Mark Bianchi assisting, was impressive, he said. Having participated along with Jill Lipoti and Ron Suto in this difficult five-hour long chore, Moser expressed a new sense of appreciation that is owed these volunteers by the whole town.

Recycling Rules Changed

by Lou Esakoff

Effective Monday, November 28, the following new recycling methods and rules will go into effect:

- All glass must be separated by color—Clear, green, brown—Barrels will be designated for each color at the recycling center.
- Aluminum will also be separated—barrels will be designated at the recycling center.
- Tin and bimetal cans are an addition and barrels will be designated at the recycling center. These containers are commonly used for tuna, vegetables, juice, pet food, etc.
- Newspapers must be tied, not bagged, and placed in the trailer provided at the recycling center.

There are no changes in the rules for cleanliness—all containers *must* be rinsed and, in the case of bimetal and tin cans, must be free of food.

Please do not leave plastic and paper bags at the recycling center.

Your cooperation is expected and appreciated.

If you have any questions—please call the Borough Hall at 448-0539 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

Lou Esakoff is Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator.

Support the Bulletin

send your contribution today to

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
Box 221
Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Art Notes

Alan Mallach's piano recital at the Princeton Unitarian Church was a resounding success. This ambitious concert, the "most ambitious concert I have ever done" included works by Moszkowski, Dussek, Bach and Chopin...Interviews with **Helen Barth**, **Gus Chasan** and **Leo Libove** are included in a new book by **Howard Simons**, former managing editor of the Washington Post and currently curator of the Neiman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard. Entitled *Jewish Times, Voices of the American Jewish Experience*, the book is published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, and was reviewed in the New York Times book Review of November 6, 1988...**Jill Wacker**, a student at Columbia University, was awarded the 1988 Barbara Mayer Wertheimer History Prize for her paper, *Heaven on Earth: Jersey Homesteads in the Early Years*. It discusses the efforts of early Rooseveltians to improve their lives during the depression years of the 1930's by providing a semi-rural alternative lifestyle. "Ms. Wacker not only discusses the settlement in terms of its place within the New Deal, and contentious relationship between the sponsors of the new town and ILGWU President David Dubinsky over the establishment of the garment factory in rural New Jersey, but she is able to reconstruct the life within the new community through oral history materials." [Quoted from *The New York State Labor History Association Newsletter* of October, 1988.]...**Sol Libsohn** is represented in an exciting show of photographs documenting *A Decade of WPA Photographs* from the 1930's, currently on view at the Museum of the City of New York, 103 St. and 5th Ave., from 10 to 5 daily, through April 9, 1989.

Arts in

Drawing Out Humanness: Landau Exhibits a Lifetime of Drawings

by Bob Mueller

A line drawing has the singular ability to cut to the heart of making a picture. There is a certain poetry in drawing that sometimes gets lost when an artist carries the idea into a more complicated medium. A drawing is the framework of all visual ideas; the skeleton of the flesh of great art. In addition, an artist's output of drawings is an unusual record of that artist's most intimate and powerful insights. To see the drawings of a lifetime spread out on the walls of a gallery is like looking inside a person's soul. If you can read them, you can read the person.

We are fortunate in this respect with Jacob Landau's large current show at the Rider College Student Center Art Gallery. Here you can see literally hundreds of drawings, made over the past fifty or so years, spread out on the walls of a beautiful gallery. Simple or complex, elegant or bold, Landau's drawings offer a wide range of emotional expression. This is a very rewarding show. It is a rare opportunity to get a broad view of Landau's evolution as an artist.

Initially, you see a young student with a rare gift of artistic visualization. Two boatyard scenes drawn while Landau was still in high school indicate his latent talent. After he entered the Philadelphia College of Art there emerges a clear focus on the human situation.

He continued his human concern with many small sketches drawn while he was serving in the armed forces during World War II. These sketches, though small, are delicate and unusually beautiful.

As you progress to Landau's Paris sojourn, when he studied at the Academies Julian and Grande Chaumier, you see a renewed focus on the inherent problems of composition. Landau's mature style is beginning to emerge in several bold compositions of human figures.

That vision began (Jacob has written) with an attempt to focus attention on the "crowding and attendant loneliness of humanity, overbuilt with an accompanying emptiness of soul" in our increasingly populous world. Figures begin to amass; throngs of humanity become thrown together; human density reaches a critical point.

"Perhaps," Jacob wrote, optimistically, "if an artist shows the ultimate horror of it all—the Holocaust, the final nuclear annihilation, we humans might begin to fight back!" Thus emerges Landau's concentrations of figures inflicted by the suffering of humanity. It is an artistic attempt to expiate the frailties of all humanity.

This vision, however, takes on an unexpected new turn in Landau's later works. We see a return to mythic ideas implicit in the old and new testaments and other visionary works. Extremely delicate, yet boldly imaginative, they have a layered intensity.

Your mind begins to work at many levels when you enter into the spirit of these drawings. Landau mixes his omniscient figure-play with lettered ideas: quotes in English and Hebrew, drawing the mind-eye across the skein of spiritual history. He unleashes a powerful force of sensual and near-erotic images in these later drawings. Jacob Landau's artistry adds up to a unique vision.

The show will be at the Rider College until December 14th, located in Lawrenceville just the other side of Route 295. Hours are from 1 to 5PM daily, and 1 to 5 Friday and Sunday (not open Saturday).

Roosevelt

Arts Project to Hold "Pianofest"

Robert E. Mueller: In the World and Not Of It

by David Brahinsky

On Saturday evening, November 12, the Roosevelt Arts Project presented its second event of the 1988-89 season, an evening with Roosevelt artist Robert E. Mueller and an exhibition of his oils and woodcuts. The exhibition remained open until Sunday, November 20 at the Roosevelt Municipal Building.

Jacob Landau, President and curator of the visual arts programs of the Arts Project, introduced the artist to a full house. Mr. Mueller, he related, served as a radio technician during World War II, studied electrical engineering at MIT and art and philosophy at NYU. He has done paintings, woodcuts, and drawings; has been (and still is) a technician, philosopher, musician, writer (of technical books, philosophical books, and a host of unpublished novels), and is, as Mr. Landau put it, "our own, home grown, Renaissance Man."

Mr. Mueller opened the evening by presenting a video created by his son Erik which, he said, explained him better than he could. The video focused on Mr. Mueller's schemas, abstractions in lines and dots, slashes and swiftly stroked dashes (the video shows him swiftly stroking) of elegant and music-like rhythm, mathematics and drawing. He explained how he had accidentally discovered how to add color to the Schema (he had done them strictly in black and white for fifteen years), likening the use of color to the use of key and tonality in music.

A second video, also by Erik Mueller, called *Schema Spilder*, utilized the Schema and music to form a kind of New-age ditty that elicited much verbal and guttural expression of surprise, delight and wonder from the audience.

The exhibition, hung that morning in the Borough Hall by Mr. Mueller and other RAP volunteers, was basically a three part vista, with a series of Schema, a number of realistic woodcuts, and at least nine or ten large abstract oils.

continued on page 14

Alan Mallach Makes the Piano Sing

by Bob Mueller

It was an extraordinary evening of piano music. We tend today to think of machines as being soulless. The piano is a machine; but Alan Mallach discovered a very real soul within its mechanism. This was obvious from the very start of the recital he gave last Saturday evening at the Unitarian Church of Princeton. Johann Sebastian Bach's *Partita No. 2 in C Minor* begins with a slow, sparse Sinfonia.

Alan told me afterwards that he began the concert with a certain degree of stage fright, not having given a major solo recital in many years. But the mood I felt he evoked in the Bach was one of intensity, concentrated rapture, near reverence.

Moving on to three of Frederic Chopin's Mazurkas, none of which was familiar to me, was as if he had taken his audience into a new room of sound. The Chopin *Ballade No. 3, Op. 47* was unusually beautiful. Playing on a concert-sized Steinway allowed Alan to rise up from the most delicate pianissimos to astounding fortes, all with a high degree of subtlety of finger movement.

continued on page 15

The first Roosevelt Pianofest will take place On December 3rd, at the Roosevelt Borough Hall, at 8 PM. At the Pianofest three of Roosevelt's better-known pianists and composers will present an entertaining and lively program of piano solos and duets, interspersed with comments and discussions. The evening will dedicate the Roosevelt Arts Project's new concert grand piano, acquired for the community earlier this fall.

Participants will include Laurie Altman, Anita Cervantes, and Alan Mallach. Altman will perform a number of his well-known Jazz compositions. Cervantes will perform a group of Brahms *Intermezzi*. Mallach will perform some of his compositions, including one or more ragtime pieces. In addition, he will give the first performance of a recently discovered 1903 piano work by Italian opera composer Pietro Mascagni, entitled *A Thought for San Francisco*. Together Altman, Mallach, and Cervantes will play a number of duets, including two little-known Romantic works, the *Polish Dances* by Moszkowski (Altman and Mallach), and Part I of the *Cradle to the Grave Suite* by Karl Reinecke (Cervantes and Mallach). Altman and Cervantes will perform a surprise work.

Laurie Altman, a pianist and composer, is a graduate of Mannes College of Music. A teacher at Westminster Choir College, his works have been performed throughout the United States and Europe, in both jazz and classical contexts. His album *For Now at Least* was one of Billboard's top jazz albums of 1983.

Pianist Anita Cervantes is a graduate of Bard College, and has concertized widely. She is well known locally as co-owner of MIRA, a direct mail firm based in the Factory in Roosevelt.

Alan Mallach, pianist and composer, premiered his *Trio for Clarinet, French Horn, and Piano* at a RAP concert last spring, and is currently writing a book about Pietro Mascagni.

Light refreshments will be served. A voluntary contribution of \$3 (\$1 for students and seniors) will be requested at the door.

Peter Berlinrut: A

by David Herrstrom

When Peter Berlinrut died October 27, he had lived in Roosevelt for thirty-five years, and I was privileged to have his friendship for the last decade. Living in Roosevelt for only a year, I had seen Peter negotiate Farm Lane every morning and afternoon for months, as regularly as a jogger, and found myself strangely drawn to this man with the pendulous earlobes and raked cap, driving so slowly you could mistake his car for a parked one. Peter was a deliberate man.

Meeting him finally, after many sightings on Farm Lane, I was astonished, yet reminded of what I already knew. He spoke in complete paragraphs. He managed to shape words in time, just as he shaped his wood sculpture in space. His phrases were precise and purposeful strokes of a keen and subtle tool for discovery. His was a measured but compassionate response to life. The philosophical stance he achieved in life, with its power to reveal and sustain, had a certain objectivity, but more that of Zen than science, whether he was building a house or a novel. Roosted in a state of solitude he called "waiting on the self," this deliberative stance informed his entire life.

Perhaps this waiting began in the hushed, high-ceilinged reading room of the Newark Public Library where he spent many hours as a teenager, mad for ideas. Having been brought from Russia at nine to a small apartment, which he shared with parents and three brothers and a sister, the reading room was perhaps a refuge as well. Attracted to ideas as he was, however, he always insisted that "images must break into the world." This meant that books were not simply a refuge but an incitement, a lever for understanding and questioning the world of the street and the small grocery store his father owned. It was the friends he met at the library who sparked ideas and were in turn sparked, who crowded into his parents' apartment, and spilled over into the Village across the river, where everyone brought candles and groceries and words. Ideas, in his view, were not worth a damn unless they broke into the world and manifested themselves in

change—a changed life, ultimately a changed world.

No surprise, then, that he leaned to progressive politics and sympathized with the Trotskyist objectives. He decided Law School was the way to begin and enrolled at New York University. The books and the freshman football team were exhilarating, but the exams straight-jacketed a restless student accustomed to the serendipitous meanderings of independent study, courtesy of the Newark Library and the group of young intellectuals it attracted. And it was free.

Peter struggled to support college tuition by forming a jazz band and playing the Catskill circuit. His boundless energy found an outlet not only in bouts of undisciplined reading and, by all accounts, brilliant all-night conversation, but now in bursts of drum riffs. To the end of his life his study contained, in addition to a beat-up typewriter, drum blocks next to his desk, companions who provided a welcome interlude in his hours of writing.

His jazz band career climaxed in Newark. The marquee lights of the theatre, where he played between features, blazed: "Ben Burley and His Orchestra." Ironically, American bureaucracy and business conspired to obscure Peter, who was known in his early years as Ben, owing to a mistake by immigration, and whose promoter changed his last name for the occasion to evoke a popular band leader of the era. Despite his brief triumph in Newark, the expense of spirit in mindless exams and of tuition proved to be too much, and Peter left college.

His attraction to progressive politics made him receptive to a number of experimental social schemes, including the single tax ideas of Bolton Hall, who advocated that property should be taxed at a fixed rate and improvements untaxed. Peter managed to scrape together a few dollars to buy a half acre of land in Free Acres, Hall's single-tax community in New Jersey's Berkley Heights township. While living in a tent on his property, Peter built his first house, a wonderful "shack," as one of his brothers fondly remembers it.

The community was congenial, politically and spiritually, having a variety of members not unlike his Newark cohort, including Michael Gold, the communist leader, and Conrad Bercovici, the sash-clad, self-proclaimed Gypsy and popular short-story writer. Another neighbor was an aspiring actor, who admired Peter's shack and asked him to build one for him. And Peter did, which is how he came to build a house for James Cagney.

With the break-up of his band, Peter turned to advertising and wrote ad copy to make a living. It was an unhappy time, however, for advertising was a meager and excruciating living. He remarked many times that no sentence of English literature was ever subject to as close a scrutiny as a single phrase of ad copy. He winced as he often remembered the marathon sessions around a conference table with the vice-presidents of everything criticizing a single sentence designed for the exalted end of selling soap.

The experience convinced him that writing for a living was antithetical to living writing. The lesson was reinforced by the dissolution of his first marriage because of incompatible expectations of the writer, different measures of success. It jolted him into realizing both that he must order his life for the real work of writing, with its requisite "waiting on the self," and that this required sacrifice.

He needed a change. He also needed a cheap place to live, preferably warm and sunny, where he could heal and gain perspective. Having been attracted for some time to the Trotskyist hope, he went off to Mexico, where Trotsky was rumored to be. In the course of the better part of a year, Peter did recuperate, and he did find Trotsky seated near the center of a small, bare room, at the end of a long hall. Peter later wrote a moving memoir of this encounter (for Harper's magazine), which occurred just before Trotsky was assassinated.

Returning to the U.S. at war, Peter was without a job. He joined the United States Air Force at thirty-nine, volunteering for the glider corp. He was stationed not far from Taos, New

Celebration of His Life

Mexico, where he soon found a community of artists and writers not unlike previous groups in Greenwich Village or Free Acres. In such kindred groups, he found a secular communion that appropriated the innerness of religion. He was to possess this all his life, an almost worshipful regard for human interaction born of "waiting on the self." It is this numinous experience of conversation that he captures in his book, **The Colloquists** (Spectrum Press, 1979).

But it was the boys from the dusty towns of Texas and the timber towns of Oregon, from California and Washington who changed his life. He taught them to fly and to navigate, and they taught the "old man" about survival, what was necessary to wrestle fear to the ground and pin it, at least briefly. He observed and loved this variety of characters on the blue desert in the western light, some of whom he would correspond with the rest of his life. Many of them, along with some harrowing experiences, he would celebrate in a memorable novel, **Meditations of Mayan** (unpublished, alas).

After the war and out of work again, Peter returned to Greenwich Village with his new wife. He wrote briefly for the Theatre Guild of the Air and saw his adaptation of **The Scarlet Letter** produced, but the lessons of advertising haunted him, and the meager pay depressed him. Consequently, he could not refuse an offer from an acquaintance of his wife's brother-in-law to come to Roosevelt and work as a contracting estimator. He had shown a flair for numbers in the Air Force, and it stood him in good stead as an estimator, which he did until his retirement. But he also managed to produce another novel, **Fanbitt** (unpublished), having learned to arrange his life for the real work.

The arrangement unraveled, however, when his wife, Ida, died of cancer after a tragic battle. "Talking out the pain," as he said, in voluminous journals brought a shape back to life, and, unfortunately, he would have more opportunities for talking out the pain. But these conversations in the

solitude of his journals broke through into the society of the world, from where healing came. He married the writer, Mary Jane Grey.

His art which was his life came from "waiting on the self," certainly, but sanity came from society, from communion with others. Peter had a gift for capacious friendship. A Jewish atheist, he carried on correspondence for decades with a Christian minister: a novelist, he treasured his long friendship with an engineer he met in the contracting business; a political liberal, he cherished weekly conversations with a local painter, who voted for Reagan. And I was lucky that he,

an old man ten years ago, extended friendship to one half his age.

Out of his experience of communion with friends, from Newark to New Mexico and finally Roosevelt, he mused one hot summer afternoon over a gin and tonic (very proud of making the best one in Roosevelt), as he sat in the breezeway he had built himself: "we borrow our sanity from each other." I know that many of us who knew him borrowed much of ours from him. We borrowed from this man of the imaginatively and compassionately ordered life, and we will continue in his debt for a long time.

Borrowers

for Peter Berlinrut

We borrow our sanity from each other.
There is no choice on this island
floating in the cool void.
We cannot imagine Crusoe without the footprints
as Crusoe the man.

Even solitude is peopled
like a stretch of beach
filling with specks of bathers and gulls.
Loneliness rests on them
our inner island their outer banks.

To borrow your phrase
we come out of silence for each other.
You bring me to conceive myself
by the very bent-downness of your forehead
a mirror of the sea
a field furrowed
from such small articulations of your hands
lending an instance of faith
in language itself gotten out of the streets.
Even our crying out
is with lent breath.

That widow next door reading
the library's large-print **Crusoe**
in the befriending of each other.
All night imagined voices keep her awake.
My shouts intrude on your islanding deafness.
And I am given for this moment
your pendulous earlobes
that punctuate the mind's listening
while you continue
voluble as the morning
utters wrens and light into the field.

—David Herrstrom

Mueller: In the World and Not Of It

continued from page 11

After showing the videos, Mr. Mueller took questions. The first was the following: How do you relate the two modes, the abstract Schema and oils and the realistic, socially relevant woodcuts? Mr. Mueller said that he felt no conflict between the two modes. "I can be in the Ivory Tower of abstraction and the Real World at the same time," he said. He added that he thought his interest in abstraction may allow him to better organize his realistic woodcuts.

Later a question that had been raised last year at the Arts Project Group Print Show helped carry the discussion of this issue further. The question had to do with the concept of a "Roosevelt Aesthetic," an aesthetic rooted in social realism, commentary and change and epitomized originally in the work of Ben Shahn. Mr. Mueller admitted that he had at one time struggled with this question, wondering what kind of art he should be making, but finally realized that he could keep up his interest both in pure abstraction, pure form, and in social realism and commentary.

His work speaks eloquently to the actuality of this realization and decision. His abstract Schema are lovely, mostly light, sometimes delicate expressions of form and rhythm. They reminded one Roosevelt musician of the Aurora Borealis. His woodcuts are rich, clear expressions of what might be called brutal or stark social reality. I am particularly affected by his ability to capture emotional and attitudinal facial and bodily expressions in this medium. His oils are just plain beautiful, gorgeous, sumptuous canvasses of line and color that sing out in shining radiance.

One questioner asked how come Mr. Mueller's oils and Schema have no titles. At first Mr. Mueller protested that they do have titles: "Number 1, number two, number three..." Eventually he stated that he thought that they didn't need titles, a statement that led to a number of questions concern-

ing Mr. Mueller's aesthetic theories (he studied aesthetics at NYU and has always been interested in this subject). But he seemed reluctant to talk about aesthetics (much as he had some years ago during another panel discussion when asked a question about his theory of beauty by this reporter).

The audience managed to elicit some philosophy, however. He said that he thinks that art is made to create the remembrance of what he called a "consciousness event." Art, for Mr. Mueller, functions as a kind of "institutionalized *deja vu*." Human nature, he said, is built on these consciousness events. He avoided further philosophical discussion by remarking, "But this is neither here nor there." Many in the audience uttered mild protestations, for they, like this reporter, wanted more from the master.

Mr. Mueller, however, was more open to discussing his art than his philosophy. He pointed out that he creates from his subconscious rather than his intellect—that the main area where his intellect plays an important role is in determining the themes he portrays in his woodcuts. The Schema, he said, he "just does"—he has done as many as 100 in a single day. (Which reminds me of a favorite Zen Buddhist tale, the one where the master attempts to draw a logo for the monastery but each time he asks the monks if his attempt will do, they reject the work. Finally, in desperation, he completes one quickly, without thinking, before the others can see him do it and of course it is "perfect").

He was asked how he related music to art and said that his art, like music, has a tonality, modulates via color and has aspects analogous to musical harmony. The lines he likened to melodic line, with repetition, rhythm, counterpoint, etc. In some paintings, for example, blue may be likened to C Major, reds and greens in others a marriage of C Major and F# Minor.

When asked about his relation to his audience, he remarked, "I am the audience," and revealed that this was his first show in 20 years. "I expect you to react the way I react," he said, and: "You don't consider the audience when you're working." He likened himself to a scientist discovering things anew for himself (and us).

When asked why he works in so many areas at once he said "I get bored easily." He admitted to being a "classic dilettante, a non-specialist," and he admitted that his life functions as a kind of statement for a mode of being and consciousness that runs counter to the current commercialism and specialization in art and nearly everything else in our world today.

When asked about his notion of success, he admitted to struggling with the question. He never had to make a living with his art and he said he was happy about this for then he could follow the inner logic of his work and not worry about whether or not it would sell. Laurie Altman said that he had learned how joyful the process of creation is from Mr. Mueller, for he seemed to obtain his greatest pleasure from simply being able to do the things he does. Yet Mr. Mueller did admit that underneath it all he felt a desire for notoriety.

His life and work speak to how well he has quieted this impulse from false ego, for he has managed to persist in his pursuit of truth and beauty in his own way. Of course, I couldn't say that he would put it this way. How would he put it? I think we'll have to look at his work to obtain the answer, for as he said art is non-discursive.

Pianofest

Next on the RAP agenda is Pianofest, an evening of piano music from ragtime to sonatas played by Roosevelt pianists Anita Cervantes, Laurie Altman, Alan Mallach and others, set for Saturday, December 3, at 8 PM at the Borough Hall.

Rooseveltian Wages Campaign

Herbert Johnson is waging a one-man campaign to change the method of electing the President of the United States. Following is the text of a letter he has sent to major newspapers all over the country. We will keep our readers apprised of responses he may receive.

Dear Editor:

An extremely important matter was overlooked by groups which tried to get our Constitution amended 8 years ago to have our nation's President be elected by popular vote. They did not show how incredibly unequal voters' power is. Many people have over three times as much power in their vote as other people have in theirs.

Almost everyone I have talked to about this has this misconception: "voters in the states with the largest populations have the most power." California has the most electoral votes, but not a share that is equal to its share of people. It has 10.4% of our nation's people but only 8.7% of the Electoral College votes. Alaska, Wyoming, Vermont, Delaware and Montana have only 1% of our nation's people but 3% of the Electoral College votes. Each voter in Alaska has 3 times more power to elect the President than each voter in 23 other states. Colorado, Nebraska, the 15 states with the least number of residents and the District of Columbia combined have the same number of

people as New York State has, but they have 72 Electoral College votes. That is twice as many as New York has. These situations are an affront to the equality of citizens.

Last week a radio talk-show host explained his view of why we keep the Electoral College system of electing the President: "It's to prevent cities from controlling the election. If we used the popular vote, the four largest cities: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Detroit have enough people to elect the president." How misinformed and misleading! They have only 6% of our population. The 40 largest cities have only 16% and the next 40 have only 2% more. (Detroit is number 5).

The main point is: one person's vote should be equal to every other person's vote, no matter if he or she lives in a city or a rural area, in a small state or a more populated one. I think we need to call on our US Senators to start the ball rolling to show the world that our democracy can correct itself to give every citizen equal power to elect our President. Small states will be reluctant to give away their extra power but they recognize that what this nation stands for is more important than provincial privileges.

Herbert M. Johnson
High School Teacher
Tel: 443-1947

Senior Citizens Meeting, November, 1988

by Helga Wisowaty

Our President, Jeanette Koffler, presided at this meeting.

Jeanette told us that we should have a distribution of commodities in December or January. She was honored at a luncheon for those volunteers who have helped with the distributions. Millie DiGiorgio suggested that our December meeting be a Chanukah-Christmas party. Everyone agreed.

We welcomed Esther Marton to this meeting. The Martons left Roosevelt about seven years ago. They had lived here for many years and left good friends behind. It was pleasant catching up on their news and telling her ours. Esther is Jeanette's sister.

Gus Chasan and Thelma Thompson were our hostesses.

Helga Wisowaty is the Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club.

Mallach Makes the Piano Sing

continued from page 11

By the beginning of the second half I forgot that human fingers were moving over mechanical keys. I heard waves of sound, little delicate washes of music, and looked up, not expecting to find fingers on a keyboard—but there they were! Digits doing their work! This was true especially as Alan played difficult pieces to play—this was no easy recital, even for the greatest. Alan did them real justice.

The three waltzes of Moritz Moszkowski took me into a realm of pure dance and song. Music took over my consciousness, as I sat there in that church, worshipping on my own special altar of art.

The recital ended with Johann Ludwig Dussek's last piano sonata, Op. 77, entitled *L'invocation*, written contemporaneously with Beethoven's *Appassionata*. Alan noted that Dussek's music was the music famous composers like Schubert and Brahms were brought up on. This complex romantic music stood quite alone in my mind, and certainly deserves to be played more. Alan's playing was superb, and any thought of the music's difficulty was completely out of mind in the magnificent rendition he gave. One could almost quote an old review of Dussek's early recitals and apply them to Alan Mallach's playing: "There was something magical about the way in which [Alan Mallach] with all of his charming grace of manner, through his wonderful touch, extorted from the instrument delicious and at the same time emphatic tones."

I do not think I have ever enjoyed a concert more. One wonders if Alan had indeed made the right choice to relegate music to a secondary profession (although in his capacity as a land-use planner and affordable-housing advocate they say he is a virtuoso in his own right).

Alan will return to the Roosevelt concert stage as part of the Arts Project's "Pianofest" to be held on Saturday, December 3, at 8 PM at the Borough Hall.

Love of Words

Four More Years

by Josef G. Solomon

The election campaign is over, but it was such a delightful experience, I'm sure you haven't had enough of it. So this month's column is about political slogans, mostly those used in presidential campaigns.

There have been some famous slogans in American political history. Over a hundred years ago, the race seemed to be close until the Republican campaign chief referred to the Democratic party of "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion," thus neatly suggesting, in only three words, that Democrats were Catholics, drunkards, and Confederates. Alas, that was a gentler time: The people were so offended by his remark that they elected the Democratic candidate—not in spite of the accusation, but because of it. Several campaigns ago, the Republican campaign chief referred to the Democratic party as the party of "acid, amnesty, and abortion." Those of us who knew political history hoped that the same thing would happen again: It didn't. The Republican candidate was elected.

Take it Away, Voters!

In 1952, one Democratic slogan, at least, was based on the idea that the country was in pretty good shape—which it was. The slogan was, "Don't let them take it away." But they did, and General Eisenhower was swept into office. His own slogan helped a lot, too. The Korean War was still going on then, and he said, "If I am elected, I will go to Korea." That did it—even though his opponent, Governor Adlai Stevenson retorted, "If I am elected, I'll send him to Korea." If I remember correctly, his retort never even made the newspapers. I never heard about it until years later.

Horse Trading

During one of Franklin Roosevelt's re-election campaigns (you do remember FDR, don't you? There's a town named for him.), his slogan was, "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream." We didn't.

John F. Kennedy campaigned in 1960 on the slogan of "The New Frontier." The frontier was not clearly defined, but he won. In politics, as in advertising (are they still different activities?), "new" is important. If you're trying to win at a time when everything is falling apart, you say you're "new." If you're trying to win at a time when everything is fine, you say you're "new," but you'll keep things going the way they are. I know that's contradictory, but voters have never been bothered about trivia like that.

There was a time when we were quarreling with Canada about where the border should be. You may know that the border is mostly at forty-nine degrees north latitude. The radicals (of left or right—I don't remember) in the United States were calling for the border to be set at fifty-four degrees, forty minutes north latitude—much, much farther north than it is. Their slogan was, "Fifty-four forty or fight." Neither happened.

Alfalfa Bill and His Son

One of the first governors of Oklahoma—and maybe he was the very first—was a splendid demagogue named Bill Murray, always called Alfalfa Bill. He was still alive in the early 1950's, when I was in Oklahoma City, but I never saw him, although one of my friends came back to the barracks and told of hearing Alfalfa Bill give a virulently anti-Semitic speech. As was common at the beginning of the century, Alfalfa Bill had very little formal education. His son Johnston, however, had been very well educated. When Johnston ran for governor, he knew that the people of Oklahoma would never vote for, say, a Harvard man. So he campaigned on the slogan that he was one of them—"Just Plain Folks." The accent, by the way, is on "Folks." He won.

An Illegitimate Charge

When Grover Cleveland ran for president, the Republican party found out that he had once sired an il-

legitimate child. This did not require any great detective work, inasmuch as Cleveland always acknowledged the child as his, and was indeed supporting the child. Nonetheless, the Republicans tried out, "Maw, Maw, where's my Paw? Gone to the White House, haw, haw, haw!" But they were right—he did go to the White House. Twice, in fact. If you're ever on a quiz program, and the subject is American presidents, listen for a question that starts, "Who was the only man..." There aren't many such questions. One is, "Who was the only man ever elected to two non-consecutive terms?" It was Grover Cleveland, in 1884 and 1892. The only other such question I can think of right now is, "Who was the only man ever to serve as President and as Chief Justice?" It was William Howard Taft. Come to think of it, Taft was the only president who weighed over 300 pounds. Aren't you glad to learn things like that?

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— Letters —

To the Editor:

There are some interesting facts in the Saga of the Switchel proposal that are finally coming to light, and may help many in Roosevelt understand the actions taken by the Borough Council.

It is important to understand that the purchase option for the Beer-Kugler tract was entered into in late summer of 1987. And yet, the Planning Board was not approached with a proposal until late March of this year. This left only six months for Switchel to present its proposal and make a compelling case so that the Planning Board and the Council would agree to re-zone the parcel of land in question. Why did Switchel take so long to approach Borough officials?

When the purchase option was picked up by Switchel, there were efforts made to meet with then-Mayor Freda Hepner without the knowledge of the Planning Board or the Council. Mayor Hepner told Switchel that they did not need to meet with her, they needed to bring a proposal to the Planning Board.

It would have been inappropriate, if not improper for the Mayor to hold such a secret meeting. If such a meeting had later come to light it would have raised questions about whether the Mayor had been made an offer to "facilitate" the proposal with the Planning Board. That is why these matters fall under the Open Public Meetings Act.

Now that we know this is how Switchel wanted to operate, it is not surprising that a secret meeting was recently set up among Switchel, the Mayor, and a select group of people in Roosevelt, to discuss ways in which the developers might resume their plans for the Beer-Kugler tract without having to comply with the stipulations of the Borough Council. How many other secret meetings had taken place after Mayor Barth's election last year?

It would seem likely that Switchel's patrons in Roosevelt, i.e., those who would benefit from the sale of the Beer-Kugler tract, realized that Ed Moser, the candidate for Mayor last year, would respond as Mayor Hepner had to any suggestion that the Mayor and the developer could settle this matter between themselves and present the Planning Board and Council with a *fait accompli*. Thus it was in

their interest to see that Ed Moser was not elected.

An adversarial group already existed who could function as the catalyst to "citizen outrage" about some alleged issue facing the town. It was not difficult to generate concern about the actions of the Council regarding the necessary repairs to the sewer plant. Many people had probably paid little attention to what the Council was grappling with, and could be persuaded to accept the Citizens Group's interpretation of what was going on.

Combined with other opponents of the Mayor and Council, and some long-standing friendships to which the Barths are certainly entitled, the votes of these additional citizens were sufficient to give Mayor Barth a 20-point margin of victory. This was not a vote for a person who had "proved his worth in two previous terms in office," as a recent campaign flyer distributed by Mary Alfare, Donna Suk, Dave Savage, and Peter Warren asserted. This was a vote by a special interest group that had found a way to mislead a sufficient amount of the electorate.

All that some people needed to know was that Barth had supported earlier development proposals. Anyone who believes that development is the solution to the problems facing Roosevelt would vote for the person who could smooth the developer's path.

There are obviously some in Roosevelt who have chosen to treat the election of Mayor Barth as some sort of unique mandate to do whatever he thinks is best for our town. Lee Allen seems to believe that Barth should have a free hand to meet with whomever he wants and to make whatever decisions he wants. Barth is somehow above the Sunshine Law.

The Council, also elected, should do nothing more than rubber-stamp those decisions. If they are unwilling to do that, if they stand in the way of the Mayor's wishes, the Council should be removed. The Citizens' Group, the Mayor, and those who will benefit from the sale and development of the Beer-Kugler tract discussed ways to remove the Council at their secret meeting in October.

If you wonder what this constant agitation against the Council by the

Citizens' Group is all about, why they are creating an "issue per meeting" to attack Council members, the explanation seems clear. They need to discredit each Council member in some way so that they will be able to defeat them at election time. They need the votes to re-zone.

We must remember that the present goal of the developers and real estate interests may only be to get a zoning change—not to construct the plan Switchel presented. If the land is re-zoned, the present owners can sell it for a nice profit, the real estate interests can take their commissions, and Switchel can turn around and sell the land to another developer.

Then the Borough of Roosevelt is faced with another proposal from an entirely different developer. And the proposed housing will be more expensive than what Switchel is projecting, because the land will have been more costly to the developer.

I recommend that every person in Roosevelt weigh carefully everything the Citizens' Group says. Call Council members to check on the accuracy of what you hear and read from the Citizens' Group. Attend Council meetings to find out for yourself. If you are unwilling to allow elected officials to pull the wool over your eyes, you should be just as critical of what a special interest group is stating as fact.

Because of all of this, there has been little by way of a rational discussion of the future of Roosevelt. In a town of this size we should be able to conduct such an inquiry involving every citizen who is concerned. We don't need the static created by the adversarial politics of the Citizens' Group. We need facts and understanding.

Ann Baker

Ann Baker is the Democratic Party Committeewoman for Roosevelt.

**The Bulletin
tries to print
all letters it receives**

**address correspondence to:
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
Box 221
Roosevelt, NJ 08555**

— Letters —

To the Editor:

In October John and Nina Burghardt moved to Hopewell after ten years in Roosevelt. Many people here admire and appreciate what they did for our town.

An article in last month's Borough Bulletin, related how 60 people attended a gathering to honor John for his five years on the School Board. There was no public announcement of the event, so some people who missed it regretted not showing their respect for the great volunteer service John gave to Roosevelt.

Nina Burghardt's volunteer services were also greatly appreciated. She did not wish to be interviewed, saying that she did what many people do for their community. We believe her contributions should be publicly acknowledged. She has been the leader coordinating Roosevelt's cooperation with Millstone, Jackson and Upper Freehold Townships' resistance to the Toxic Waste Incinerator proposed for placement six miles from our town. She drove to Freehold to pick up surplus food that was given to Rooseveltians in need. She led a 4-H Cooking and Crafts Club, participated in Roosevelt's Food Coop, attended Borough Council meetings to request action on water purity, dangers of toxic incineration, and other community matters. John and Nina Burghardt always shared good spirit with people they knew in Roosevelt and we shall miss them and their family.

Herb Johnson

To the Editor:

I sent the following letter to the Mayor and Council, and would like to make its contents public:

Effective December 31, 1988, I resign my position as Recycling Coordinator for the Borough.

I am prepared to see us through the changes that are occurring now, and if need be, assist the new appointee to get through the rough spots if there are any after January.

I thank the Council for their wholehearted support of recycling which helped bring the program to the level of success that we achieved. Also, we must not forget the community, whose participation is the envy of the county.

Lou Esakoff

To the Editor:

I have lived in Roosevelt for about twenty two years. I have four children who have grown up or are growing up here. My husband is buried here and if all goes right I will be too.

The twenty two years that I have lived here I have spent with the children of Roosevelt through our school, community and PTA programs including creative theater, youth groups, summer camp and in the library. I am a member of the Roosevelt Board of Education and I am the morning crossing guard. Many people in the community know me. Most of the children do. There are, however, many new families who do not.

It certainly distressed me when I read Mr. and Mrs. Haemmerle's letter in the last issue of the *Bulletin*. It distressed me when I read Anita Cervantes' viewpoint *An Education for the School Board*. I feel that our school and our children are being dismissed as an expense that can be discarded without too much loss to the community. I resent that people think they can dismiss so easily what I and many community members and teachers have put so much time, work and commitment into.

There is dissatisfaction with the high cost of education. This is understandable but it is not unique to Roosevelt. It is everywhere. I am writing not to dispute the amount. I am writing because it is vital that you know what a valuable commodity you have purchased.

In the years I have been connected with Roosevelt Public School there have been good times and bad times. The school has slumped and it has excelled but no matter what, there was the wonderful legacy of our children that committed us as a community to our school. We sanded the floors, painted the classrooms, put in the playground equipment, picked up garbage, trimmed hedges and pitched in when our school needed us.

That has not changed. What has changed is a serious conflict of interest regarding our school. People have always grumbled about footing the bill for education once their children have outgrown the process. There's nothing new in that—but don't think you can

drop into the school one time, attend one board meeting and condemn a system because someone was declared rude or the furniture wasn't ultra modern. That's mighty slim evidence for a hanging.

As I've said before, our school has had its rough times as well as its good ones. One of the reasons I joined the School Board was that our school needed help. Other parents worked equally as hard to regain and return the school to its children, teachers and community. Many of you know in depth to what I am referring.

In the last five months Bud Martin, our interim principal, saved us thousands of dollars with his creativity and expertise. He has brought the school up to state code. We have hired an enthusiastic new school administrator, Harry Groveman, who confirms what many of us have known for years; that we have the most dedicated group of teachers he's ever seen in one school. We are lucky to have such dedicated teachers who have stayed because our school is so special and have thereby made it even more so. The new teachers can sense this unity and have added their best to this success.

What I want to impress upon you is that when our school is good, it's very very good. The best! Nowhere can you buy better. Nowhere. Sending our seventh and eighth grades out was the right move. At the right time. By eleven years of age children need broader horizons, different experiences and a larger society to interact with.

We have many hardworking parents who also pay taxes and believe in Roosevelt as a family community. They've proved this with their nursery school and their strength to pull us through a dark and destructive period in our public school. We should work with them, know what they're doing for our town, support them. Without a doubt children are here to stay. They are our link to the future and we're not about to give them away. How well we educate and nurture them will decide how long we survive as a human race. Roosevelt children are the future of Roosevelt.

Margaret Schlinksi
448-5180

Margaret Schlinksi is a member of the Roosevelt Board of Education.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

I write this to respond to Margaret Schlinski's letter which is, at least in part, a response to the *Viewpoint* I had in the **Bulletin** last month.

I wrote what I did because I saw something occur in a local governing body which I found upsetting. I did not write to criticize the Roosevelt Public School, and I tried to include language that would make that clear. In fact, I went to some trouble to make clear that I wasn't even picking on the School Board. For example, my second paragraph said: "I think there's an even chance that some people will think I'm picking on the School Board in this *Viewpoint* article. What happened at the School Board meeting the other night was bad enough that I felt compelled to write this article, but I'd like to state as strongly as I can that the feelings I express here apply equally to all bodies of local government."

I also said, "I anticipate that some will say, in defense of the School Board, that they work hard and long. So they do. So, I think, do most public servants in Roosevelt. I don't mean to sound harsh or unsympathetic, but that goes with the territory, and everyone serving in any public office here knows that and knew it going in."

"It does not, however, go with the territory of being a citizen that the public servants who spend your tax dollars can walk out on you while you're speaking in a public meeting. That is, in my view, simply indefensible. You can apologize for it, but I cannot in my wildest dreams think of any way to defend it."

I just don't see how that could have prompted the feeling Margaret expresses that "our school and our children are being dismissed as an expense that can be discarded without too much loss to the community" and that "people think they can dismiss so easily what [she] and many community members and teachers have put so much time, work and commitment into." Did I say that? I re-read my *Viewpoint* and I don't think so.

I'm disturbed that Margaret seems to feel that because of what I wrote, we're on opposite sides of a fence. Because I criticized something that happened at one School Board meeting, does that mean I'm branded as being

against RPS? For heaven's sake, that's like saying that if I criticize something that happens at a Council meeting, or disagree with my Senator, I'm against the institutions of the Council and the US Senate—and that's just silly.

It can't possibly be true that if I disagree with the School Board on one issue I'm immediately assumed to be at odds with them on everything—can it?

Of course I think it's important to support our school. But I feel strongly that RPS is not the same as the School Board; in fact, isn't that why we have elections for the School Board and not, for example, for our teachers? I also feel strongly that it's a mistake to extend my blind support to *any* governing body: call it a Sixties upbringing, skeptical temperament, or what you will, I think that only leads to trouble. In fact, it can lead to the kind of "dark and destructive period" to which Margaret refers, which we experienced under our previous CSA.

Margaret is one person in this community who really puts her energies and her involvement where her mouth is. I like and respect that involvement and find it enormously valuable. Knowing and respecting her involvement as I do, I think she should take care not to discourage the input and involvement of others: the good and the bad, that which is easy to hear and that which isn't. Otherwise, I fear that people may become afraid to speak out for fear of being branded as anti-RPS.

I couldn't agree with Margaret's letter more when she says, "Without a doubt children are here to stay. They are our link to the future and we're not about to give them away. How well we educate and nurture them will decide how long we survive as a human race." Hear, hear! This is exactly the argument I use when people ask me why it is that, being childless, I'm as concerned as I am with the education of our children: because I believe that these children belong to all of us, they are all of our futures. If we go complacently along without involving ourselves in their education, we'll have only ourselves to blame for whatever bitter fruit their stunted vines may bear.

One word about Ed and Paula Haemmerle's letter—while I sympathize with their plight, I agree with Margaret that it's not unique. Many

other people in other communities are experiencing the same pinch. Perhaps, given the just-passed holiday, we should all be grateful that we have *somewhere* to live. I also think that they'll quickly discover, when their 2-1/2-year-old starts going to school, that it's not the age of the desks and chairs that matters, it's the quality of the instruction. My personal feeling is that you could have a state-of-the-art school building with ultra-high-tech equipment, and if you didn't have an instructional staff with brains, knowledge of subject matter, and a love of the learning process, you'd have worse than nothing: you'd have the illusion that your kids were getting a terrific education when in fact it was all surface glitter.

Anita Cervantes

To the Editor:

When the four candidates were interviewed for the openings on the School Board, one of the questions that was asked outraged me. It was if the applicant would support the Board to the public even if he disagreed with a Board decision.

Obviously if a decision is reached, Board members must abide by it. However, must they be muzzled so that they may not raise an issue with the public? I am aware that the School Board Association favors this position. However, I believe that this is an undemocratic requirement.

To put it another way, if a law were passed by the legislature, although the minority members would be required to abide by it they would also be restrained from supporting their position with their constituents.

Aaron Datz

Note:

We have received a communication from Peter Warren to the effect that he no longer wishes to be associated with the **Borough Bulletin**. At his request, we have removed his name from the masthead.

—Editor and Staff

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DECEMBER



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						Arts Project Pianofest Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach (448-4616)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Congregation Anshei Potato Latke Party Synagogue 2:30 PM Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363)	Deborah Borough Hall 2:00 PM Frieda Rockoff, Pres. (448-0674)	Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2 PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach, chair (448-4616)	Board of Education Budget Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Board Pres. (448-9385)	Board of Education Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Zoning Board Boro Hall, 8 PM Lou Esakoff, Chair (448-3166)		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Carol Watchler, Council President (448-5215)	Bookmobile Post Office 7:30 PM-8:20 PM	Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM Board of Education Budget Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM	Board of Education Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Board Pres. (448-9385)		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363)	Blood Pressure Check Solar Village Community Room, 1 PM-3 PM Nursery School Arlene Stinson, Director (426-9523)	First Aid Squad Drill Borough Hall 7:30 PM Nancy Bauerle, Pres. (448-8275)		Half Day at RPS	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	No School at RPS	No School at RPS Bookmobile Post Office 7:30 PM-8:20 PM PTA RPS, 7:30 PM Carol Zaleski, Pres. (448-5089) First Aid Squad Boro Hall, 7:30 PM	No School at RPS	No School at RPS	No School at RPS	No School at RPS

There are free exercise classes for residents at the Borough Hall each Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
 The RPS Library will be open each Tuesday and Thursday evening, hours to be announced

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