

Bulletin

Volume 34 Number 7

May 2008

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

By Bob Clark and Michael Ticktin

Bill Schmelling to Resign as Administrator in May

Mayor Beth Battel began the April 14 meeting of the Borough Council by making an announcement “of sad note” that Bill Schmelling would be departing from the Borough Administrator position in May. Mr. Schmelling will, however, be continuing as Zoning Officer. He has accepted a new, full-time job, and is also resigning as Administrator of the Borough of Helmetta.

Naomi Brahinsky and Dierdre Sheean, speaking on behalf of the Roosevelt Arts Project, requested Council approval to affix to an outside wall of the municipal building a commemorative plaque acknowledging those who contributed to the creation last year of the new mural on the building. According to Ms. Sheean, approximately 200 residents, of various ages, worked on the mural, under the supervision of artist Katherine Hackl. A booklet relating the creative process and the stories behind the scenes depicted on the mural would be available. Local architect Tim Hartley volunteered to design lighting so that the mural might be visible at night. Articles in the *Borough Bulletin* would highlight some of the stories. The proposed plaque would measure about one foot by three feet.

Councilman Kirk Rothfuss, chairman of the Community Development Committee, agreed to have his committee meet with RAP representatives and to seek comments from Council members before making a recommendation involving details of the formal approval to the full Council. Mrs.

Brahinsky noted that the Council had previously approved the concept of a commemorative plaque and said certain donors had been advised that their contributions would be acknowledged on a plaque. A motion to approve the plaque was tabled until the next Council meeting.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign “Uniform Guidelines for Security Screening” for the Millstone/Roosevelt Municipal Court passed unanimously.

The Council unanimously introduced Ordinance 29-10, which would increase the fee for the Borough’s only retail liquor distribution license to \$1,225 in keeping with the 20% annual increase permitted by State law. Municipal Attorney Richard Shaklee said that, since the license has been inactive for two full yearly license cycles, the licensee would have to petition the State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control to reactivate it.

After a second reading and public hearing, the Council unanimously approved Ordinance 233, which would permit the Borough to exceed municipal budget appropriation limits by up to 3.5%, if necessary. This would amount to \$6,403.

Mayor Battel reported that she had met with the Mayor and Administrator of Millstone regarding possible inter-local agreements and planned to meet with officials of Upper Freehold and other nearby communities regarding the same subject.

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

School News	4	Recreation	15
Town Topics	5	Weather Almanac	16
Senior News	5	Breaking Bread	17
Two Square Miles of Stories	7	Roosevelt Arts Project	18
Greenbelt Gossip	9	Business Sponsors	19
Environmental Commission News	11	Calendar	20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're back! There is a *Bulletin* every month from now on through July, 2008.

Incidentally, while we received contributions from many of you, for which we thank you, we do need to hear from more of you.

PLEASE HELP US! Other than your contributions we have no other means of paying our postage and printing costs which are our only expenses.

PLEASE HELP US! We need you!

If you want to contact the *Bulletin*, please look at our masthead to the right with our address and telephone number as shown.

NOTE! New dates and times for the Council meetings. They are the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Come and see what's happening!

Please report any bear sightings to:
State Bureau of Wildlife Management
Kim Tinnes
Wildlife Control
609-259-7955

As well as to David Schwendeman, 443-6204



Parents: It has come to our attention that many children as well as teenagers have been playing in the streets. Before there is an accident because of on-coming cars, please make sure that this practice is stopped.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs. Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

We have received several contributions as a result of last month's appeal. Thank you. But we need more! Please Help us!

Spring Roosevelt Clean Community Day Sunday, May 18

Meet at the Post Office at 10 a.m. for assignments
Refreshments to follow at Michelle and Lenny's house,
24 North Rochdale Avenue.

Let's usher in spring by cleaning up the town. Everyone
is welcome! Thanks!
—Ron Kostar

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From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

Administrator Bill Schmelling has resigned his position as Administrator as of April, to take a full time position elsewhere. We are sorry to lose him in this capacity as he has been a great help and source of advice to the town. He will remain as Zoning Officer and continue to serve on the Planning Board in the Municipal Official position.

Last month, I met with Nancy Grbelja, Mayor of Millstone, to discuss the feasibility of shared services to better serve our communities and control expenses.

Upper Freehold is also seeking allies to combat rising costs, lessening State aid and growing needs. The idea of joint emergency services, was discussed, as well as recycling pick-up, public works, shared administrative services, etc.

As for police coverage, without a figure from the State estimating fees for continued State Police services, the comparison of the costs of a regional police force is impossible.

We will continue to seek solutions to these and other questions.

Beth Battel ■

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 1

Councilman Bob Silverstein, chairman of the Utilities Committee, reported that although the Lake Drive sewer lift station had failed, the emergency notification system had worked, and operators had responded in time to prevent any backups into the basements of houses on Lake Drive. He said cleaning of the settling tank at the water plant had been scheduled, to be followed by hydrant flushing. He noted the status of repairs to the water line on Maple Court and the sewer line on Pine Dr. and said repaving would occur next week, and that residents had made favorable comments about the cooperativeness of the contractor.

Speaking as liaison to the Environmental Commission, Mr. Silverstein said the Commission intended to recommend adding leaves to the ordinance prohibiting dumping on public lands. He added that Monmouth County planned to send an official to provide information to Borough residents about composting.

He further noted that 2/3 of the wood chipping by Allen's Tree Service had occurred on the 14th and the rest would take place on the 15th. He said beautification at the defunct service station would not qualify for Clean Communities funding, according to Chief Financial Officer George Lang.

Councilwoman Arlene Stinson, the Council representative on the Planning Board, reported that Planning Board Attorney Michele Donato had suggested delaying any changes to Ordinance 123 regarding demolition of original houses until she could craft a revised historic preservation ordinance addressing various legal issues. She will coordinate her efforts with Mr. Shaklee. The Council unanimously moved to authorize the Planning Board to proceed with the review by their respective attorneys.

Administrator Schmelling said arrangements were being made to have a metal recycling company locate a dumpster at the Municipal Building parking lot for Big Trash Day. The

contractor would pay the Borough for scrap metal, including lawn mowers, deposited in the dumpster by residents. He said that, in response to his request to reduce costs, Engineer Roberts had indicated that \$27,000 could be saved on the Pine Drive storm sewer restoration project by reducing the size of piping from 18" to 15" diameter and using vertical curbing instead of gutters. He said he would instruct Roberts to proceed with those methods.

The Council unanimously moved to approve Mr. Schmelling's recommendation that Sewer Operator Toby Moore be authorized up to \$1,000 to search for a vendor capable of replacing the ancient grit chamber at the sewer plant.

Mr. Schmelling also said that a large, recurring pothole on Nurko Rd. would be dealt with by replacing a section of Nurko Rd., instead of filling in the pothole, in order to have a lasting repair. He said they are still working

Continued on Page 11

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are needed to keep our publication going. Contributions are tax deductible

PLEASE NOTE: Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the BULLETIN. We will be pleased to continue sending them the BULLETIN when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

What an exciting morning we had at RPS on April 11th thanks to Mrs. Rochelle Shipman, Postmistress of the Roosevelt Post Office. Mrs. Shipman facilitated a fabulous school-wide program to commemorate the new Forever Stamp and to pay tribute to Roosevelt Public School. Pre-K, kindergarten and first graders learned about Franklin Delano Roosevelt and colored a picture of him. Second and third graders wrote essays entitled, "Why I Like to Live in Roosevelt." Fourth and fifth graders wrote essays about why they felt the Liberty Bell was chosen to represent the new Forever Stamp and what it meant to them. One student from each grade was selected to receive a beautiful gift basket. Congratulations to Anna Murray, Katie Murray, Emily Ng, Lacey Hickey, Benjamin Donnelly-Fine, and Louis Togna. The winning pictures and essays are on display at the post office and the four winning essays are featured below.

In addition to the contest, Mrs. Helen Barth presented the history of Roosevelt and the mural. This was the "kick off" for the 6th grader's Roosevelt Projects. Each year the sixth grade students become very involved in creating a meaningful project that explores some area of the Roosevelt community. The projects will be on display in June. The post office will present an award to one of our graduates for their project.

The students and staff, along with Dave Schwendeman and the Environmental Commission celebrated "Planting The Seeds for Success" for Arbor Day/Earth Day. The day began with a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new butterfly garden, followed by the planting of bulbs/flowers by each student.

Please join me in welcoming Seth Ditchick, our newest board member, and welcoming back Assenka Oksiloff and Allen Newrath our incum-

bent members. Congratulations!!! Roosevelt's school budget passed. Seventy-four percent of NJ school budgets passed. Thank you to all who came out and voted.

Our annual Art Show and Spring Concert will take place on May 13th and May 22nd respectively. Jeff Klein, a local photographer, will be presenting his photographs at the show. Please join us for these wonderful activities.

RPS has a brand new logo, thanks to the artistic genius of Fletcher Grayson. Our new logo can be seen on the newsletter that was sent out in March. School tee shirts with the new logo will be on sale soon.

The week of May 5th we will celebrate National Teacher/Staff Week to honor the contributions of our teachers and staff. The National Education Association" (NEA) theme this year is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools," to draw attention to the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and conveys the hard work they do each day to make public schools great for every child.

Community members help us create a rich, nurturing educational environment in school. We are constantly relying upon our "people resources" and are grateful for the way community members complement our curriculum.

I extend an invitation to one and all to join us for Graduation on Saturday, June 14th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Why I Like Living in Roosevelt

By Emily Ng – Second Grade

I like living in Roosevelt. I like living in Roosevelt because there is a lot of open space for the plants and animals to live in. There are interesting flat roof houses that people can look at. Roosevelt is small but has everything

a town could need. There is only one school, but the school is big and has a big playground. There is a post office and its just like any other post office because people pickup mail and packages, also mail people letters. I like smelling all the fresh air in the open space. I love Roosevelt!

Roosevelt is the Best

By Lacey Hickey – Third Grade

I love living in Roosevelt so much! Roosevelt is small and peaceful. The school is so small the kids get so much more attention. Most of the roads are not main roads so you can play outside with your friends. You really cannot get lost unless you don't know Roosevelt as much as you know your hometown. We have a really nice deli and post office too. Roosevelt is full of fun-filled things, and that is why I love it so much!

Forever Stamp

By Benjamin Donnelly-Fine
– Fourth Grade

The Forever Stamp means a couple of things to me. I think it means freedom. I think that because if you have one Forever Stamp and the cost goes up, you won't have to pay more.

I think the United States Postal Service put the Liberty Bell on the stamp because they think the stamp will bring more freedom to Americans. If Americans do not have to pay more for stamps, they will have more money to buy more things to help them, like medicines and band-aids. If they do not have that freedom, they would get sick and would not be able to make money to buy medicine, band-aids or the Forever Stamp.

The USPS was smart to make this stamp. It will help people.

Continued on Page 6

**REVIEW:
JERSEY HOMESTEADS:
IN THE ARCHITECTURAL
VANGUARD, A document-
ary video by Ben Johnson
and Fletcher Grayson**

By Frances G. Duckett

The first screening of Jersey Homesteads, an event sponsored by the Roosevelt Arts Project took place at 8 p.m. April 12. The Borough Hall was full—extra chairs were brought out. Eight hours of raw footage and 887 still photographs had been edited down to 65 minutes. Many in the audience found it as good as, or superior to standard arts programming on public television.

Jersey Homesteads is also a valuable historical artefact, describing aptly how the town was planned and built. It was strengthened by narrative clips of older residents. These gave a moving and personal touch to the facts.

After the film and an intermission, three panelists led a spirited discussion. Panelists were Tim Hartley, architect, Gail Hunton, architectural historian, and Allan Mallach, town planner. Ben Johnson opened the discussion by stating that the focus of his work was “How did this place come about?”

Jersey Homesteads, as yet unnamed in 1933, was paid for out of New Deal funding to provide jobs during the great depression. Many residents

have heard the story that our houses were planned for Arizona and that somewhere in that state stands a community of Cape Cod cottages. This is false.

Benjamin Brown, who himself owned a farm on 571 and had put down foundations there, used grant money to purchase eight contiguous farms (Britten House was one) in the area of Paradise Valley (a 19th century name.) Three creeks ran through it and 571 bisected it. Perhaps inspired by the Garden City conceived in England in the 1870s, Brown planned to create a village where each family, transplanted from inner city squalor, could get an affordable house and enough land to grow food. The area was to be ringed by factories, and beyond that, a green-belt. It is the Garden City concept that distinguishes Jersey Homesteads from other government projects.

Streets were laid out and a huge factory near what is now Lake Drive was constructed to build concrete slabs. It failed. The project was over budget and subject to allegations of corruption and aspersions on the utopian socialism which inspired it. The whole idea was nearly axed more than once. However Alfred Kastner, (who was interviewed in the film) was hired and became the driving force behind the town’s completion.

The original plan was a grid. It called for 200 cottages, each with one acre, and a dam in one creek, creating a central lake. Mr. Kastner, assisted by

architect Louis Kahn changed this, deciding that cinder-block and concrete construction, as exemplified by Walter Gropius’ Bauhaus School in Dessau Germany, would be cheaper and more in keeping with their utopian idea. A Garden City model was adopted. Lot size was reduced to ½ acre and the lake was cancelled (also to save money).

Helen Barth, who came to town with her parents in 1936 at the age of three, remembers that Empty Box Creek was dammed and that she and her friends used to swim there. Arthur Shapiro recalls that people could do whatever they wanted with the land behind their houses.

There were various permutations in the housing designs: two to four bedrooms, attached, free-standing. Because of the architect’s wish to give residents large windows at their southern exposure, some houses were laid out as mirror images of others. All were modular and had a certain elegance in their proportions. It is the variations in Jersey Homestead’s housing designs that protects it from the visual sameness of a Levittown.

Allan Mallach described the plans as middle class for their day, when only 40% of U.S. citizens had interior plumbing. All Roosevelt houses had bathrooms, garages and closets! Early residents, chosen by a lottery, rented for \$16-\$19 per month. According to Sarah Prestopino, pine trees were

Continued on Page 12

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

By Ann Kassahun

The Roosevelt Senior Citizens met at noon on Tuesday, April 2, 2008 at the Borough Hall. The meeting was hosted by Ed and Pat Moser who provided a wonderful lunch, assorted goodies for dessert, and beverages enjoyed by all.

There was finalization of plans, especially car pooling, for the Saturday, April 5, 2008 lunch at Prestige Diner/ Twin Rivers and for continuing on to Mercer County Community College Kelsey Theater to attend the matinee performance of the musical, *Singing in the Rain*. Kelsey

Theater has accommodations for wheelchairs and walkers. This was a great outing!

Also the seniors will be having lunch and attending the matinee performance of the *Three Penny Opera* at Kelsey Theater on Sunday, May 4. All Roosevelt seniors are invited to attend meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at noon at the Borough Hall. Those interested in joining for fun and activities should contact Geri at 448-0351 or Alan at 443-5996. ■

WINNING ESSAYS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 4

Forever Stamp

By Louis Togna - Fifth Grade

Wow! I just read a great passage about the Forever Stamp and the Liberty Bell. I learned a lot about both. To me the Forever Stamp means a stamp that does not lose its value. Now that is what I call first class postage! I think it would be a great idea to stock up on Forever Stamps because, unlike other stamps, the Forever Stamp doesn't expire or lose its value! Therefore stocking up on Forever Stamps would be a great investment.

On the Forever Stamp, you will find a picture of the Liberty Bell, which is located in Philadelphia. I think the Liberty Bell is a great idea for the picture on the Forever Stamp because

it is a symbol of our country. Seeing the Liberty Bell on the Forever Stamp makes me feel patriotic and reminds me of Independence Day and the Revolutionary War. Chief Executive Officer John E. Potter said that the Liberty Bell was selected because it is one of the nation's most recognizable symbol associated with America independence.

I think that the Forever Stamp will make a lot of people happy because they will save a lot of money on stamps and it is a great thing to have especially if you have a pen pal.

The Forever Stamps will go on sale April twelfth but you cannot use them until the postage changes on May fourteenth. The Forever Stamp will begin at the cost of forty-one cents.

Every thing in this passage is what a Forever Stamp means to me. ■

MAY/JUNE EVENTS

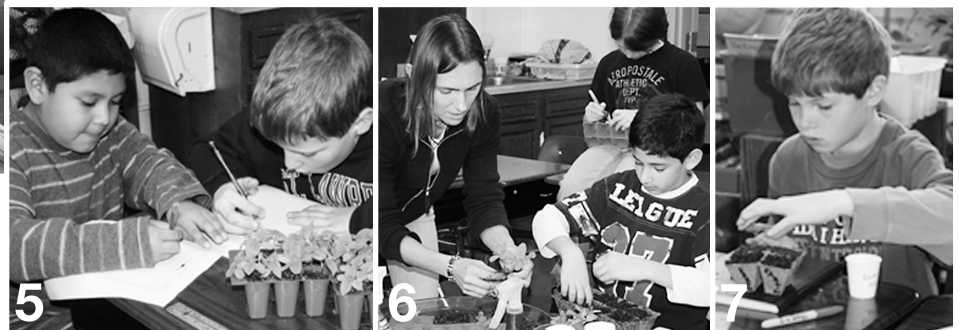
- May 1 & 3 Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher
- May 2 Pizza day
- May 3 Talent Show
- May 5-8 NJ ASK 5 & 6
- May 13 Roosevelt Public School's Art Show 7:00 p.m. Featuring photographs by Jeff Klein
- May 16 Pizza Day
- May 22 Spring Concert 7:00 p.m.
- May 26 School closed – Memorial Day
- May 27 Spelling Bee 9 a.m.
- May 29 Pre-K & Kindergarten Orientation 10 a.m.

- June 3 Field Day/ Early dismissal
- June 4 Rain date field day/ Early dismissal
- June 6 Pizza day
- June 13 Early Dismissal
- June 14 Graduation 4 p.m.
- June 16 Early Dismissal
- June 17 Early Dismissal – LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
- June 18 LAST DAY FOR STAFF



Pictures:

1. Max Vuolle and Sean Curry are helping to create an east-west line using a string and a compass. The garden, encircling the flagpole, will become a giant sundial.
2. Tom Curry is rototilling the garden.
3. Hunter Gerling is transplanting his zinnia seedlings into larger pots.
4. Tamanna Rao is surprised at how much the roots of her marigold seedlings have grown!
5. Ari Anish and Roman Hillis are observing, drawing, and writing about the sunflower plants that they are growing in the classroom.
6. Valerie Skillman is helping Benjamin Hezrony transplant his zinnias. Bryden Carr is labeling her plant containers.
7. Adam Block is planting NASA's Earth-Based and Space-Exposed Cinnamon Basil Seeds.



The School Garden

“Family Was Very Important to Both of My Parents”

On Mother’s Day morning in 1952, my family was getting ready for church. My father was sitting at the kitchen table eating breakfast, after a few hours preparing for the morning services that would take place downstairs, since we lived above the sanctuary, as well as for the afternoon services in a small church he had started some 50 miles away. My mother, who played the piano and was responsible for the music and special programs, called from another room for my father to please get her corsage out of the refrigerator. He said softly, “I can’t for I can’t do anything for myself.”

My father, at age 38, had just had a stroke that paralyzed his right side. The doctor told my mother that he would never walk or be able to preach again. My brother and I, ages 8 and 6 ½, respectively, were not allowed in the hospital in those days, and we tried to cheer her up by singing a chorus: “Why worry, when you can pray; trust Jesus, he’ll be your stay” Both my parents were dismayed by the stroke but believed it must be God’s will and that they would get through this.

And they did. Both church communities sent good wishes, money, and food, as well as organized a network to take care of my brother and me until the final outcome was known, since my mother was at the hospital for days as the damage was assessed. My

father’s income was from “free-will” offering, which means it comes from whomever and whatever is put into the offering plate each week. In our case, it meant there was no reserve for unexpected events and usually barely enough for the family of four. My parents always marveled that there was more money after my father’s illness

taken care of and even special.

By the end of the summer, my father had made a lot of progress, and by October he returned to the pulpit to preach, hailed by doctors as a “miracle man.” My parents believed it was God’s work. In this major event, as well as in many other times in their lives, they felt their faith had been rewarded.

Family was very important to both of my parents. My mother came from a large family, but for my father, it was because he didn’t feel he had much home life. Born in 1915, my father, John, was the eldest of three brothers and had the misfortune of his mother dying when he was six. The three brothers were separated among relatives for the next few years before his father paid for them to live in the Blair County Children’s Home. To this day, he dislikes coffee because he used to have to dip bread in coffee for some of his meals.

By the time my father was 16, times were hard with the Depression in full force. He went to live with his father, both sleeping in the office of where his father worked by night and cleaning up the evidence of this by day. He would tell me of folding his pants and putting them under his pillow when he slept in order to have a crease in them for the next day and eating a lot of baked bean sandwiches.

My father attended the Altoona High School in a class of over 1000 and participated in the broad jump. After school and on weekends, he had jobs like setting up pins in the bowling alley, caddying on the golf course and being available to be a partner on the tennis courts. His father counseled him not to seek employment with anything having to do with train transportation, as this seemed to have no future.

After a conversion experience in a



Above: Connie, her brother, and their parents

Right: Connie’s mother and father



than they ever had on hand before.

As soon as my brother and I got out of school, my mother who did not drive had a parishioner drive us from Iliion, NY, to Mechanicsburg, PA., to my maternal grandparents’ house, while my father was recuperating to the extent possible. My grandfather, a tinner and roofer by trade, had recently finished building his dream house next to his shop. While my mother was helping my father learn to talk, walk, and to write with his left hand, as well as taking care of my grandmother who had fallen down the cellar steps, my brother and I had a great summer and were mostly oblivious to the gravity of the situation. We climbed trees, visited cousins, watched grandfather work in his shop and his garden, and played in a tin-lined wooden pool which grandfather built for us. We felt mightily

Continued on Page 8

2 SQUARE MILES (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 7

church he attended, he set his sights on spreading this “good news”. He went to a church campground at Mahaffee where he attended services and swam in the lake. In this setting, he met two of five brothers of the Gates family from Mechanicsburg, PA. This was to be a defining moment. By the time he saved enough money for a semester, he went off to a Bible school.

My mother, Helen, was born in 1913, the second of seven children, born to Linden and Janet Pearl Gates, a devoutly religious couple, in the space of 14 years. My mother was a good student and loved music. Only she was provided music lessons and traveled by train to Harrisburg for them. My grandfather, as the train stockyards in Harrisburg/Enola began to lay off workers, established his own tinning and roofing business that still thrives.

By the age of 12, my mother was playing the piano for church services, which was to be her love for the next 78 years. After working for a few years as a bookkeeper at a publishing house in Harrisburg, called Christian Publications, my mother decided she wanted to be used in the “Lord’s” service and also enrolled in the same school in New York as my father. By this time, she had been introduced to him through her brothers but became more aware of him during their years at Nyack Missionary Training Institute. All dating was strictly chaperoned, but they managed to meet and sometimes travel with a doctor’s widow who had hired my father to tend the grounds of her house and to be her driver, while he was going to school.

My parents married as soon as they both finished school in 1940 and promptly were employed by a mission in Newark, NJ. My father, soon ordained as a Christian and Missionary Alliance minister, and my mother as

his unpaid minister of music as well as serving in many other roles, began their ministry together, which included eight churches in five states over 40 years. My mother’s piano and organ playing were sought after. And she had a unique ability to coordinate the hymns with the sermons, having hundreds of hymns in her head. Once my father retired, my mother began taking on more piano students, continuing to give lessons until her death at age 90.

My parents were very committed to their beliefs and instilled a sense of ultimate purpose in their three children. And no matter where we moved, as minister’s children, my two brothers and I felt immediately accepted in an “instant community”. From the age of two, we were included by my mother in the music and special programs of the church. The church was our life and we could participate as a family. My parents’ partnership over 63 years of marriage was inspiring.

To recreate a sense of “instant community”, my older brother chose the ministry, but for me it was Roosevelt. And throughout the years, Roosevelt has been the place to come to for family and friends.

In 1975, after my husband Dave finished graduate school and while I was working in Princeton, I had a boss who lived in Roosevelt, and when Dave and I were looking for a house, he told me of a posting on the bulletin board for a “handyman’s special”. It was an original Roosevelt design, sold by the person who purchased it from the government.

We had one child, Tristen who was entering first grade, and after a few years, the two-bedroom house seemed small. We first extended the back porch, adding a living room. In 1980, as my father was retiring from the ministry, we added a second floor to accommodate my parents. Then, my 10-year younger brother with his wife and newborn, came to stay for several months, when he was stationed at McGuire and waiting for housing.

Very shortly thereafter, my father-in-law lived with us for the last five months of his life. But my parents did not stay long, for they were needed to care for my maternal grandmother, so Dave and I were thrilled to have more space.

Most holidays were and are spent at our house, so traditions have built up around Roosevelt for the extended family. It has come full circle for my father. Some of the effects of my father’s stroke returned later in life, as he can no longer walk. After my mother’s death a few years ago, I brought my 92-year-old father to Meadow Lakes, another planned community nearby, so I can oversee his care. Each day I visit I am reminded of how unusual this place is and the community it serves. And close by, in Plainsboro, is a large (2000+ in attendance) Alliance Church where my father can still attend and be inspired. ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

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

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman	448-2340
Bess Tremper	448-2701



Greenbelt Gossip

By Manuela & Mark McCusker

As the ecological mistakes of humanity multiply and become increasingly evident, it is reassuring to see that nature is not entirely defeated. This is apparent as the warmer temperatures spur many insects into an activity. Even though most people think of insects as “pests”, most insects actually benefit man and all native species play an essential role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. For instance, insects are the principal food sources for many birds and reptiles, and bees, flies and butterflies are important pollinators of mankind’s food plants. The survival of insect-pollinated plants depends on them, and the herbivorous insects help maintain plant diversity because, without them, competitive plant species would dominate. In addition, insects are important as recyclers of nutrients from organic debris, enabling succession. However, it is important to remember that the concept “beneficial” is subjective, and defined in terms of desired outcomes from a wholly human perspective. In nature, all creatures have their niche (-the position or function of an organism in a community of plants and animals).

Spring and summer are excellent season in which to look for our local insects. They may be noticed in and around flowers, flying in the air, on and in the ground, or slightly hidden under rocks and debris. Beneficial insects provide assistance in one of three ways — as predators, parasites or pollinators. Predators control insect pests by preying upon and feeding on them. Some insect predators eat hundreds of pests in a single day, such as the flower flies, which feed on aphids. Parasitic insects lay eggs in, on or near their victims. Their larvae then feed on and eventually kill their hosts. Pollinators, like the bees, ensure the

flowering and fruiting of plants.

One of the most popular beneficial insects is the ladybug, also called the ladybird beetle. Most species of this family are predaceous both as larvae and adults. They feed chiefly on



aphids, but also eat thrips, tree lice and mealybugs. Ladybugs chew from side to side, rather than up and down as humans do. They hibernate as adults, usually under leaves and other debris (-and sometimes in out-of the-way corners in garages and sheds) in large aggregations. When hibernating, they feed on their stored fat reserves. The Asian ladybug is a species that mostly colonizes trees, but there are approximately 5,000 different kinds of ladybugs worldwide, 500 of which live in North America. A ladybug beats its wings eighty-five times per second when it flies, but usually won’t fly if the temperature is below 55 degrees. Ladybugs produce an amber, foul-tasting fluid from the joints in their legs to discourage birds and other predators from eating them. A ladybug will also fall to the ground and “play dead” as another type of defense. The spots on a ladybug fade as it grows older. It is the official state insect of Delaware,



Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio and Tennessee. (FYI: the state insect of New Jersey is the honey bee.)

Another commonly cherished and highly beneficial insect is the dragonfly. The dragonfly is estimated to have existed for at least three hundred million years, and a fossil has been discovered with a wingspan of two and one-half feet. Currently, the largest dragonfly, with a wingspan of seven and one-half inches, is found in Costa Rica. Dragonflies have eyes that contain approximately 30,000 individual lenses, and they have two sets of wings that don’t have to beat in unison, as with most other insects. A dragonfly will beat its wings at the rate of about thirty beats per second and can fly backwards, hover and perform loop-the-loops. These insects soar and dart near and over ponds or streams, and love to land on rocks to absorb their stored heat. Mosquitoes and other flies make up the largest part of their diet as they typically catch and eat them while flying. Both the adults and the aquatic, immature nymphal stages are fierce predators.

Other beneficial insects include lacewings, flower flies, soldier beetles, ground beetles, assassin bugs, lightning bugs, syrphids, braconids (parasitic wasps) and other wasps. Lacewings feed on aphids, mites, thrips, soft scales and other soft-bodied prey and thus are termed generalist predators. Adults are attracted by the odor of aphid honeydew and lay their eggs near aphid colonies. Adult flower flies, attracted by pollen- and nectar-producing plants,

Continued on Page 10

GREENBELT GOSSIP

Continued from Page 9

also love to feed on aphids. Soldier beetle larvae are carnivorous and feed on a variety of insects in the soil. Their larvae reside in damp soil, debris or loose bark. The adults are also predators, eating caterpillars, aphids and other soft-bodied insects. Ground beetles eat soil-dwelling pests, such as slugs and snails. This insect seeks cover in permanent pathways and perennial plants and will sometimes feed on pests that are on those plants. Assassin bugs are generalist predators that feed on mosquitoes, flies, caterpillars, beetles and anything else that moves.



This bug earned its name by sneaking up on and attacking its prey. They can also inflict a painful bite on humans.

The praying mantis is considered by many to be very beneficial; however, this insect will eat anything it can catch and subdue, including their own kind and members of other beneficial insect species. Interesting mantis facts include: females will usually attempt to eat the males after copulation in order, it is believed, to provide themselves with enough energy to create and deposit her ootheca (-a frothy protective egg case containing 12-400 eggs). The ootheca hardens on branches, rocks or other structures in the winter and the young emerge in the spring. A praying mantis, because of its flexible neck can look over its shoulders, giving it an unusually large field of vision. Roosevelt's praying mantis is part of a particular genus of mantids, which are a predatory group of insects in the order of Mantodea. There are at least 2,000 mantids worldwide, and 20 species are endemic to the United States.

Encouraging beneficial insects by providing suitable living conditions (-habitat) is a pest control strategy employed by farmers, wildlife management departments, plant nurseries and individual gardeners. They all take pains to attract beneficial insects and to keep them in their areas by providing shelter in the form of compatible plants, providing a water source and alternate food sources in case pest populations grow low, and by eschewing the use of any chemical pesticides. These practices have proven to be not only economically efficient, but ecologically sound as well.

Pest management in forests is more complex than in an agricultural setting. In woodlands, such as our greenbelt areas, the insect population is incredibly diverse, and their functions in the ecosystem are equally so.



Their roles range from that of benefactors to destroyers, but the beneficial insects are most abundant. Some insects feed on unhealthy trees, re-cycling the nutrients, passing them from the dying trees to the healthy ones. This maximizes the productivity of the healthy plant community. Sometimes, though, insects can destroy more wood than forest fires. This type of insect problem usually occurs in a stressed or unhealthy forest. This is another reason why it is so very important to make sure that our greenbelt areas maintain naturally balanced environmental conditions. Please remember that altering or adding debris of any kind to the greenbelt can easily upset its natural balance and cause it stress from which, one day, it may not recover.

“Through all these new, imaginative, and creative approaches to the problem of sharing our earth with other

creatures there runs a constant theme, the awareness that we are dealing with life with living populations and all their pressures and counter pressures, their surges and recessions. Only by taking account of such life forces and by cautiously seeking to guide them into channels favorable to ourselves can we hope to achieve a reasonable accommodation between the insect hordes and ourselves.

The current vogue for poisons has failed utterly to take into account these most fundamental considerations. As crude a weapon as the cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life a fabric on the one hand delicate and destructible, on the other miraculously tough and resilient, and capable of striking back in unexpected ways. These extraordinary capacities of life have been ignored by the practitioners of chemical control who have brought to their task no 'high-minded orientation,' no humility before the vast forces with which they tamper.

The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth.”

—Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1962)

—Comments and/or future topic requests?

—write the McCuskers at PO Box 131 or 3artists@comcast.net

Pictures: *Praying Mantis Egg Case*, *Praying Mantis*, *Soldier Beetle*, *Lacewing*, *Assassin Bug*, *Skimmer Dragonfly*, *A syrphid fly*.: A) Larva. B) Adult ■

DAFFODILS AND FLOWER PICK-IN

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission once again has planned to join RPS students and teachers to celebrate and promote both Earth Day and Arbor Day. This year there will be a ribbon cutting at the new butterfly garden and the planting of daffodils around the school yard. If I am allowed time to say a few words it will be this:

This is the story I heard as told by my grandmother after she just turned 93 and was resting after picking a large bouquet of daffodils

“During World War II when a person was inducted into service to defend our country, they left for four years before returning home. After his tour of duty, your uncle (US Army Air Corps) bought me a fancy expensive corsage when he returned home. I proudly wore it for a few days showing off to all my friends and then it was gone.”

“When your father came home, he brought me a dozen daffodil bulbs as a present. Not much to look at but I cheerfully planted them around the

yard. These are flowers from those original bulbs. Here it is nearly 50 years later and I’m still picking these pretty daffodils and sharing them with family and friends. To see their smiles again and again is my best reward and I think back to when my boys came home when the big war was over.”

During the flowering season, my grandmother would pick hundreds of daffodils from her yard and give them away in bouquets of twenty-five. When picking the flowers she always observed the rule of three, “pick two and leave one be—for others to see!” But most important rule of all is to get adult permission before you pick. Happy Spring!

TURTLE CROSSINGS AND WEBSITES

Two someones close to me rescued a painted turtle crossing a busy road on April 18th. Angel and Abbie later released the lucky critter at Empty Box Brook. Now is prime turtle spotting season. This is when turtles are on the move to find sandy nest sites where they can lay their eggs. If you’re sure of the direction in which a turtle

is heading, it is best to just help them across the street and let them continue their journey in familiar territory. Be very careful if the turtle is a snapper and report all such encounters to the recgreen.ning.com Website.

OUR NEXT MEETING: COMPOSTING TALK SCHEDULED

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 2008. Please note the earlier time to accommodate our guest speaker who will be discussing household composting. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is a chance for public comment and questions at the end of each meeting.

If anyone has a newsworthy nature note of interest or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204 or drop a note to PO Box 203. Please watch for future pleas for help from the Roosevelt Environmental Commission for future projects and activities. Thank you for reading this column. ■

COUNCIL (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 3

on soil removal at the service station, including continuing to wait for State approval. He said he would look into replacing the asphalt at the site of a water main break on Tamara Drive.

Councilman Jeff Ellentuck reported that he had met with Fire Company representatives regarding grants that could be applied for, including those that might pay for enlarging the building that houses the fire equipment. He said that one of the two fire trucks does not work, and the other does not

have functioning emergency flashers.

Nona Sherak thanked the Council for the work on Maple Court and praised the contractor as “exceptionally nice.” She said she took Councilman Silverstein on a tour of “Lake Nona” behind her house and both agreed it was “pretty big,” perhaps 300 ft. long. She said she now “has a witness” to the growing body of water behind her house. She called for a community meeting regarding cable service under the auspices of the Cable Advisory Committee, which she heads. Councilman Dan Hoffman and Mary Alfare are also

on the Committee. Mayor Battel agreed to appoint Rose Murphy to the Committee, on Ms. Sherak’s recommendation.

Jackie Carpenter stated that there had been a sewage overflow on Homestead Lane. She was assured that George Vasseur had checked both manholes near where she stated it had occurred. She also commented on vandalism involving the apparent hurling of white landscaping rocks at up to nine parked cars on Homestead Lane, Pine Drive and Tamara Drive over the weekend. The State Police are investigating the incidents.

JERSEY HOMESTEADS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 5

planted on the open land. These are hardly in evidence now. The woods we enjoy are seventy-two years old.

During the Q and A session, many defects of the Roosevelt houses were summarized. Roofs leaked. Long windows bled heat in winter. Ceiling vents defied heat not to rise. Dampness was endemic. Houses are less than half the square footage of their average 21st century counterpart, and never mind the garages! Actually, few people owned cars in the '30s. Mr. Mallach pointed out that partially because of these defects, past efforts to legislate for preservation were firmly rejected.

Information came out about Roosevelt in the early days. The synagogue was initially a wooden structure on Tamara Drive.- There was a dump near the cemetery.

The Ben Johnson film Jersey Homesteads did not deal with public or commercial buildings, choosing to focus on the residences that are the core of what has survived. The film is of excellent quality and very valuable historically. Naturally it is of greatest interest to those of us who live here, but it would also be instructive to any town planner or social historian.

Roosevelt First Aid Squad

By Jack Rindt, President
Roosevelt First Aid Squad

The Roosevelt First Aid Squad is looking for any and all old pictures, letters, and newspaper articles of the Squad when it first started back in 1948. We are looking to update the Squads history from the beginning to the present. The Squad is in its 60th year of service to the community and still going strong. The new

ambulance is now in service and has responded to calls.

The Squad so far this year has responded to 19 calls in town and out of town. The types of calls have included medical emergencies, mutual aid calls, and fire stand-bys.

Some of the training that the members have attended this year in town has been CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, Bloodborne Pathogens, Large Scale Incident, OSHA-NJ Right to Know and Confine Space Awareness. Each one of these classes was about four hours long and it helps the EMTs in keeping their certification current.

We can always use more members. The training is tough and we will pay for it. If anyone is interested, please contact a Squad member or stop in during our training and meetings for an application. By receiving your Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) you can help you community and have a good chance in getting started in a career as an EMT.

On Sunday June 22 the Squad will be hosting American Red Cross CPR/AED classes. These classes will be open to anyone over the age of 15. Two classes will be conducted that day. The first one will be CPR/AED for adults starting at 9 a.m. and running to 12 noon. The second class will be CPR/AED for infants and children. That class will start at 1 p.m. and run to 4 p.m. Both classes will be held at the Roosevelt Borough hall. The cost of class will be \$35.00 each or \$50.00 for both. Cash, check or money order made out to the Roosevelt First Aid Squad. Upon completion you will receive a Red Cross certification card. If any is interested contact any Squad member to save a seat.

Check your house numbers to make sure that they are large enough so Emergency Services can see them from the roadway. Remember that if you need help, just Dial 911.

Dragons in Mercer County Park Lake

By Carol Watchler

One June 1, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., a Dragon Boat Festival is being held at Mercer County Park Lake. This event, sponsored by the Machestic Dragons, a group of breast cancer survivors that draws from central New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, will benefit the Breast Cancer Resource Center housed at the Princeton YWCA.

This annual festival, titled *2008 Paddle for Pink*, encourages existing teams as well as those that come together just for this event to come out and compete in a series of races. About twenty teams are expected in the competition which will include some teams in the breast cancer survivor category and others from local communities and businesses.

Entertainment and admittance to view the event is free. There will be opportunity for individuals for a fee to join a team and enjoy the experience of racing with twenty others in a dragon boat. "Kiddie rides" will be available also for a donation. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a colorful regatta complete with intercultural entertainment at the Mercer County Park Marina area. More about the festival is available at www.paddleforpink.org.

To join a team of Roosevelt Dragons who will race in the community category, please contact Ann Baker, 609-443-8780.

Don't Miss the 2008 Farm Season

By Carol Watchler

There is still a chance to become a member of the Roosevelt Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and get a weekly pick-up of produce from our local CSA farm in Roosevelt. To get details about share sizes and sign up for a share, contact Bobbi Teich, 609-448-5036 (before 9 p.m.) or go to www.localharvest.org. ■

To the Editor,

In his letter in last month's *Bulletin*, Bert Ellentuck rebuked the idea that the Yeshiva's efforts to negotiate with public bodies to settle its recent federal lawsuit, specifically via zoning changes, could lawfully take place at private meetings. He noted that New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act ("Sunshine" Law) "prohibits private meetings except for specifically defined purposes." He concluded that since "[r]equests for re-zoning" would not fall within a Sunshine Law exception, anyone requesting re-zoning at a private meeting would be "suggesting that the Borough engage in an illegal practice which could lead to further lawsuits." Golly, just when we were trying so hard and so successfully to avoid lawsuits (well, except for those involving the recall election, the rezoning of the residential/agricultural district to permit religious complexes on 10-acre tracts, and the Yeshiva/Synagogue's action to vindicate religious liberties).

But Mr. Ellentuck's argument cannot stand up. The relevant exception that allows a lawful secret meeting is, of course, the one permitting discussion regarding pending litigation in which the public body is a party. The last time I looked, discussions of litigation included settlement proposals. Also, the Council's attorneys (and/or a committee including as many as three Council members) and the Yeshiva's attorneys (and/or other representatives of the Yeshiva) could negotiate in private, and the Council's attorneys (and/or committee) could present the results of those discussions to the full Council in private, along with their recommendations for settlement. Private settlement discussions could include proposals and potential recommendations for rezoning.

Once would-be settlers conclude in a private meeting that a zoning change would resolve litigation differ-

ences, they still would need to follow the process for zoning approvals set forth in the Municipal Land Use Law, including a public hearing on the zoning changes necessary to effectuate the settlement. If the public were to make a strong case for not having a zoning change, then the Council could side with the public and inform the Yeshiva that one of the conditions for a settlement — that is, a zoning change — would not be met. The parties then would go back to court. Following this simple, and completely legal, process would enable the Borough to avoid ruinous legal expenses while protecting its legitimate interests. Any lawsuit based on Mr. Ellentuck's contention that the Open Public Meetings Act would be violated could not be brought successfully.

Isn't the rezoning of the residential/agricultural zone to permit religious complexes on 10-acre tracts a recent example of a zoning change in Roosevelt starting out in lawful secret meetings or strategy discussions? Of course, instead of broaching the subject of zoning change to facilitate a lawsuit settlement, the idea proposed at those closed meetings or confidential discussions was to change zoning in order to strengthen the Borough's legal position in hopes of winning any lawsuit brought by the Yeshiva already located in the Borough's sole existing house of worship.

We can easily infer that that zoning change/litigation strategy was discussed initially in private at closed meetings of public bodies or in confidential discussions with some of their members because of the unusual frequency of closed meetings, as well as the hurried — some would say frantic — preparation of Planning Board recommendations and Council adoption of the zoning changes. The Council introduced the zoning changes on March 26, 2007. The Planning Board adopted a report re-examining the

Borough's Master Plan to incorporate the changes on March 29, 2007. The zoning proposal was altered with no public input and re-introduced on April 11, 2007. The Council then held a public hearing and passed the zoning changes on April 23, 2007.

We do not have to rely solely on deduction to know that those rushed zoning changes came about as a result of attorney advice at private meetings with Planning Board and Council members. Howard Cohen, Borough Special Council for the Yeshiva litigation, acknowledged publicly on the April 23, 2007 adoption date his advice that the zoning change was necessary to strengthen the Borough's position against an anticipated lawsuit by the Yeshiva. Residents Brian and Vicki Carduner, concerned about the rush and lack of full community input and the possibility that a massive religious complex might be established near their house, eventually sued the Borough in state court to overturn the new zoning.

All that hasty official action may be bad public policy. Also, the courts may find that exiling religious groups to the fringes of the community, where there are no water systems, sewer systems, sidewalks or willing sellers, while simultaneously stifling reasonable expansion of the activities of the only existing house of worship in town, would constitute exclusionary zoning in violation of state and federal law and constitutions. Regardless, one thing we can expect is that the Planning Board and Council will not be held to have violated the Sunshine Law.

Obviously, those zoning changes were a legal strategy first proposed at closed meetings or confidential communications that fell within authorized exceptions to the Sunshine Law's public meeting requirement. Similarly, proposing other zoning changes in closed meetings as a way

Continued on Page 14

In Memorium

Estelle Goozner

Estelle Goosner, 86, passed away in her sleep on April 9th after a brief illness. Since 2004, she had lived at the Hebrew Home in Rockville, MD. to be near three of her adult children.

The Goozners moved to Roosevelt in 1952 when Sidney Goozner, who died in 1995, got a job in Trenton. They had learned about the town and its progressive tradition through his colleagues in the Furrier Workers' International

Union, and thought it would be a great place to raise children.

Estelle was active in the Roosevelt Public School's Parent Teacher Association and served as an officer for many years in the local chapters of Hadassah an B'nai B'rith. Sid was elected several times to serve on the School Board. When Sid changed jobs in 1970, Estelle moved to Charlotte, N.C., where they made many friends and remained

active in Temple Israel.

She is survived by her children Alan of Alexandria, Va.; Merrill of Silver Spring, Md.; Robert of Arlington, Va.; Raphael of Charlotte; and Debra of Wilmington, N.C. She also has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was buried next to her husband in the Hebrew Cemetery in Charlotte.

Merrill Goozner ■

LETTERS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 13

to amicably resolve the lawsuit that the Yeshiva now has filed, or even to settle the Carduner lawsuit, would be exempt. In the future, a no-longer-adamant Council might even, after another public hearing as required by the Municipal Land Use Law, adopt zoning permitting reasonable expansion of Synagogue activities and an end to our litigation nightmares.

Bob Clark

To the Editor

In Bob Clark's latest letter to the *Borough Bulletin*, he makes statements and issues opinions which are incorrect.

Regarding the letter sent to the Borough by Bruce Shoulsen, attorney for the Yeshiva. It's a classic saber-shaking lawyer letter: "Do what we want or we'll sue the pants off you." That's an unmitigated threat, and Bob is doing his best to add to that threat by citing dire outcomes in selected other communities. He claims that "...the facts in Roosevelt weigh heavily against the Borough." Take heart, neighbors - the Borough has lawyers highly experienced in RLUIPA cases who think otherwise.

What are we to make of Bob's insulting statements about the Council? We certainly do not "all know", as he claims, "that the Council had no intention of entering into any good faith negotiations with the Yeshiva." Nor do we believe that "It just suckered the Yeshiva into providing a plan..." or that it "permitted an altered version of that proposal to be distributed around town...". Once again, the plan that Mr. Shoulsen sent - showing the Yeshiva's proposal to grossly expand the Synagogue property - was distributed UN-altered.

The plan/proposal was distributed by The Roosevelt Preservation Association, not by the Council, with estimates of the gross areas involved. If he believes my professional estimates are wrong, Bob should produce the engineer who prepared the drawings, or an authorized officer of the Yeshiva, to testify as to the "correct" numbers.

By the way, if Bob thinks the letter should have been made public, what's his objection to having the accompanying plan made public?

We do know that the Yeshiva, under the terms of its contract with Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, *recognized its obligation to seek variances* from the Borough of Roosevelt for its proposed operations. It now wants to sidestep the legal process and to

negotiate directly with the Council. Can you imagine your reaction if your neighbor wanted to build a big shed too close to your home, flatly refused to request a variance from the Planning Board and suggested that he and the Council members just work something out, privately, in his favor?

I think that Bob is on shaky ground when he attempts to disqualify Ms. Malkin from participating in discussions and decisions regarding the Yeshiva because she lives across the street from an *illegal* Yeshiva dormitory. As for disqualifying Jeff Ellentuck because he is my son, I assure you that we are independent thinkers and often disagree. When we do agree, it is not because he is my son.

Bob has consistently been an advocate and mouthpiece for the Yeshiva. That's his right. My right is to oppose a corporation that has degraded the life of people who live on Homestead Lane, that has defied State law - complying only when cited and fined, and has refused to abide by local laws that affect all the citizens of Roosevelt, wherever in town they may live.

Sincerely,
Bert Ellentuck

RECREATION PROGRAMS

By Eric Schubiger

The Roosevelt Recreation Department recently concluded its Indoor Hockey program for children in K – 6th Grades at the Roosevelt School. On Monday nights from November – March, over forty children participated in this very popular program. Special thanks to Bruce Reimbold and Margaret Schlinski for their willingness to give their time and efforts each week.

On Saturday, March 15th, Roosevelt was “Dancing with the Stars” at the Roosevelt School gymnasium. Ballroom dancing instructor Candace Woodward-Clough led a group in various genres of dance throughout the night. Another dance is being planned for November.

The Roosevelt School is also home to a Friday night basketball program that has been serving over twenty-five children each week. Children in 3rd – 9th Grade have been taking advan-

tage of this program. Basketball will continue on Friday nights from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. throughout the Spring season.

Adult Yoga is continuing at the Roosevelt School on Tuesday nights from 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. with instructor Kym Kulp. This program is offered to anyone ages 18+.

The Recreation Department is seeking input from the community for ideas on a family day trip this summer. Previous trips have included the George Street Playhouse, Newark Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art. Please contact the Recreation Department at 609-448-0539 with any ideas or for information.

The Recreation Department would also like to thank the Roosevelt School for allowing us to utilize the gymnasium for so many of our programs. The support of the school is critical and very much appreciated. ■

School Board Election Results

The Budget passed by a vote of 65 yes and 15 no.

Congratulations to Board Members elected to 3-year term:

Allen Newrath	68 votes
Assenka Oksiloff	63 votes
Seth Ditchik	55 votes



Meeting a Woman in the Woods

By Wes Czyzewski

Even though she was walking a dog
She looked at me as if
I had two heads
And one of them was
spouting flames

Maybe it was my look:
Hoody under a surplus shirt
Old jeans and duck bill cap
Hair a bit too long
A walking stick
that might be a weapon
The kind of guy
who throws hatchets at trees
Then nails squirrels to them
In short – a dangerous man

What a surprise to one
who fears the universe
Who dreads getting a physical
Who's been hospitalized
by a tick

Even though I stepped to the
side of the path
To let her overweight
Airedale pass
She still smiled nervously
Not quite believing
I wasn't some nightmare figure
She'd cooked up
all these years
walking in the woods alone ■

By Ron Filepp

The warmer months are upon us and for some that means taking their wood fires outdoors with them. I was talking with one of my neighbors about this recently. The outdoor fires pose more of a fire risk to surrounding property than indoor fires. Especially when it's dry. But these fires pose threats other than burning property and people. Burning wood is a very polluting activity. Here are some of the health effects that are caused by being exposed to your or your neighbors' wood smoke:

"Findings from animal studies demonstrate a reduction in disease resistance associated with wood smoke exposure. Wood smoke exposure can disrupt cellular membranes, depress immune system activity, damage the layer of cells that protect and cleanse the airways, and disrupt enzyme levels.

The health effects of wood smoke exposure include increased respiratory symptoms, increased hospital admissions for lower respiratory infections, exacerbation of asthma, and decreased breathing ability. Population studies have shown that young children, the elderly, and people with preexisting cardiopulmonary disease are most likely to be affected.

As a major contributor to particulate matter air pollution, wood smoke can also be linked directly with a variety of other particulate matter-associated health effects, including increased risks of school absenteeism, emergency room visits and hospitalizations for cardiopulmonary conditions and premature death." *The American Lung Association*

Please think twice before you set that fire.

March in Roosevelt, was both warmer and drier than normal this year. There was only about half the normal amount of precipitation. January

had about 0.5 inches less precipitation than normal. February was a very wet month. Almost five inches of precipitation fell. The first half of April has also been dry with only a quarter if the month's normal rainfall by the middle of the month. The total precipitation for 2008 through April 15 is 10.76 inches about two inches below normal.

The average temperature for March is 44.0 degrees. That's 3.3 degrees above normal and it continues the 2008 warmer than normal trend that began in January. The good news is that that trend should result in reduced usage of heating fuel. There were 650 heating degree-days in March. Normal is 755.

Weather Mystery

"Highly accurate satellite measurements revealed that a full moon slightly raises nighttime temperatures, by about 0.02C on average. This is not simply caused by the moonlight, however, because the warming is unequal across the world, and is greatest in the Polar Regions where temperatures rise by more than half a degree. But what drives such global differences remains unexplained." *Times Online* http://www.timesonline.com.uk/tol/news/weather/uk_and_roi/article3768171.ece

Weather Word

Cyclic Storm - A thunderstorm that undergoes cycles of intensification and weakening (pulses) while maintaining its individuality. Cyclic supercells are capable of producing multiple tornadoes (i.e., a tornado family) and/or several bursts of severe weather. ■

Mar 15, 2008 - Apr 15, 2008					
Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip	Degree Days
15	56.8	42.6	49.7	0.00	15.3
16	49.3	39.9	44.6	0.00	20.4
17	50.0	30.9	40.5	0.00	24.6
18	50.4	32.4	41.4	0.00	23.6
19	57.9	40.5	49.2	0.15	15.8
20	59.5	39.6	49.6	0.80	15.5
21	49.6	34.2	41.9	0.00	23.1
22	52.2	36.9	44.6	0.00	20.5
23	48.2	28.5	38.4	0.00	26.7
24	51.8	27.5	39.7	0.00	25.4
25	50.7	27.0	38.9	0.00	26.2
26	64.0	40.1	52.1	0.00	13.0
27	51.1	36.7	43.9	0.00	21.1
28	60.1	40.6	50.4	0.00	14.7
29	49.3	30.4	39.9	0.00	25.2
30	48.6	28.9	38.8	0.00	26.3
31	58.5	33.8	46.2	0.00	18.9
1	70.7	53.2	62.0	0.02	3.1
2	62.8	40.3	51.6	0.03	13.5
3	56.3	27.1	41.7	0.00	23.3
4	58.5	40.1	49.3	0.57	15.7
5	60.4	48.0	54.2	0.10	10.8
6	51.0	43.7	47.4	0.00	17.7
7	52.2	41.0	46.6	0.00	18.4
8	57.9	41.2	49.6	0.00	15.5
9	60.8	37.0	48.9	0.00	16.1
10	73.6	48.4	61.0	0.00	4.0
11	74.1	52.7	63.4	0.00	1.6
12	76.1	55.0	65.6	0.25	0.0
13	62.6	45.7	54.2	0.00	10.9
14	58.8	34.9	46.9	0.00	18.2
15	60.1	34.2	47.2	0.00	17.9
Total Precipitation				1.92	
Total Heating Degree-Days					542.1

Jansen's Delight



Years ago when Bert & I visited Stockholm we stayed in a unique hotel – a large white yacht anchored in Lake Malaren in the very heart of the city. The yacht, built in the 1920s, had originally belonged to Barbara Hutton. I think it was converted into a hotel in the '70s or '80s. Though the cabins were small, with bunk beds, and a tiny bathroom with only a miniscule shower, it was a delightfully romantic place to stay, especially at night when the boat rocked gently and starlight sprinkled the waves outside our cabin.

There was a rather formal restaurant onboard, but we preferred to eat “in town,” or at the neat little food kiosk on the quay near the yacht. One could get soup and open-faced sandwiches at the kiosk, but my favorite supper was an embellished baked potato called Jansen's Delight. This, we were told, was a traditional Swedish dish. (Though I've searched, I haven't found it in any Swedish cookbook or on any Scandinavian food Website. Maybe the young chef at the kiosk was pulling our leg. Maybe his name was Jansen!)



The recipe is simplicity itself. For each person at the table, you'll need:

- o One large Idaho potato (AKA russet or baking potato),
- o A pat of butter,
- o Two tablespoonfuls of sour cream,
- o A slice or two of smoked salmon, cut into strips (or a dollop of the scraps sold at deli counters as “lox bits”),
- o A sprinkling of chopped fresh dill,
- o Fresh ground pepper.

Scrub each potato and pierce it in several places with a fork, so it doesn't burst while it cooks. You now have a choice:

- You can bake the potato in an oven preheated to 350 degrees for 1 to 1 ¼ hours, or you can microwave it for 8 minutes. (Note: The more potatoes you cook in the microwave at one time, the longer it takes. Six potatoes will probably take 20 minutes more or less.)
- Check for doneness by jabbing the spuds with a fork.
- Split the baked potato lengthwise, squeeze it from either end to open the split, and mash the insides with the butter and a sprinkling of fresh pepper.
- Plop on the sour cream and top with the smoked salmon and the dill.
- Enjoy!

(By the way, In case you're tempted, it's still possible to stay on Barbara Hutton's yacht in Lake Malaren in Stockholm. Just Google the Malardrottningen Yacht Hotel Stockholm for full information.) ■



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2008 Season

Saturday, May 17, 2008, 2–5 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

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May 17, 2008

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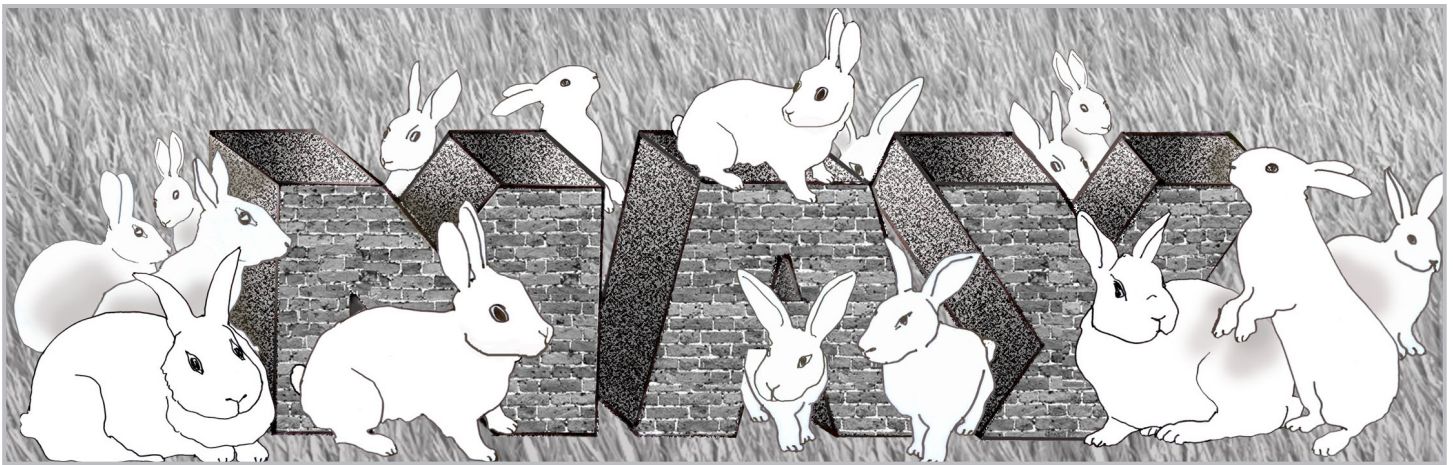
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MAY

2 Fri.	RPS Pizza Day
3 Sat.	RPS Talent Show PTA
4 Sun.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, President. 448-9475
5 Mon. – 9 Fri.	Teacher Appreciation Week, PTA
6 Tues.	12:30 p.m. Blood pressure check, Borough Hall 1:00 p.m. Seniors' Meeting, Borough Hall, Gerry Millar, President. 448-0351
7 Wed.	RECYCLE 
8 Thurs.	Book Sale at RPS, PTA
10 Sat.	Yard Sale and Plant Sale, PTA. Kacie Mixon, President. 443-9325
11 Sun.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, President. 448-9475
12 Mon.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor. 448-7701
13 Tues.	RPS Art Night PTA 7:30 p.m. Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, Chair. 448-3713
14 Wed.	7:30 p.m. PTA General Meeting, all invited. Kacie Mixon, President. 443-9325
16 Fri.	RPS Pizza Day
17 Sat.	8:00 p.m. RAP—Digital Art in Unexpected Places – Brad Garton and Wiska Radkiewicz Robin Gould. 448-4616
20 Tues.	8 p.m. Roosevelt First Aid Squad Meeting, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, President. 448-9475
21 Wed.	RECYCLE  7:30 p.m. Environmental Commission, Borough Hall, Dave Schwendeman, Chair. 443-6204
22 Thurs.	RPS Spring Concert, PTA

27 Tues 7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting,
Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor.
448-7701

**For Board of Education Meetings in May,
call RPS at 448-2798**

JUNE

2 Mon.	12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall 1:00 p.m. Seniors' Meeting, Borough Hall, Gerry Millar, President. 448-0351
3 Tues.	Primary Election, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. Borough Hall
4 Wed.	RECYCLE  RPS Field Day (Rain Date, June 4)
6 Fri.	PTA Pizza Day, RPS
8 Sun.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training, Borough Hall. Jack Rindt. President 448-9475
10 Tues.	7:30 p.m. Planning Board, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, Chair. 448-3713
11 Wed.	7:30 p.m. PTA General Meeting, all welcome. Kacie Mixon, President. 443-9325
14 Sat.	4:00 p.m. RPS Graduation
16 Mon.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor. 448-7701
17 Tues.	10:00 a.m. Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Meeting, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, President. 448-9475

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