

Bulletin

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Renowned Ben Shahn Mural Imperiled in Sale of Federal Building

by Rick Pressler

Preservationists are racing against time to save the Wilbur J. Cohen Federal Building, a historic structure housing a collection of murals so significant that the site has been dubbed the “Sistine Chapel of New Deal Art.” The 85-year-old building, located just blocks from the U.S. Capitol, is likely to be demolished following a push to expedite its sale, threatening to turn rare masterpieces by American icons Ben Shahn and Philip Guston into rubble. Constructed in 1940 to house the Social Security Board, the building features ten artworks commissioned by the U.S. Treasury Department to employ artists during the Great Depression. The collection includes sculptures by Harlem Renaissance figure Richmond Barthé and frescoes by Seymour Fogel. However, the building’s crown jewels are the massive murals by Shahn and Guston. Shahn’s “The Meaning of Social Security” is widely considered the most significant work of New Deal public art in Washington, depicting the dignity of labor and the promise of government support.

The art is in immediate peril because it is integral to the building’s structure. Shahn’s work is a dry fresco, and Guston’s “Reconstruction and the Wellbeing of the Family” is adhered directly to the wall. Conservationists warn that removing them would be “extremely difficult and costly,” especially as one of the walls supporting Shahn’s fresco may be load-bearing.



Photo Credit: Carol M. Highsmith
“The Meaning of Social Security”

Despite the building’s status on the National Register of Historic Places, it was designated for “accelerated disposal” following a clause inserted into an unrelated water infra-

structure bill by Senator Joni Ernst. This legislative move, signed days before the previous presidential transition, allows the sale to proceed without substantial public input. Reports indicate that the Trump administration has sought to bypass standard General Services Administration (GSA) procedures to solicit bids for the demolition of the Cohen and three other historic buildings.

The site’s economic realities make preservation difficult. The building has not been renovated since opening in 1940, and the GSA estimates a full modernization would cost nearly \$1 billion. Because few private developers would undertake such an expense, critics argue that privatizing the property is virtually synonymous with demolishing it to sell the land.

The nonprofit Living New Deal has launched a petition to halt the disposal, demanding “transparency, respect, and public participation”. While federal protections are being challenged, preservationists hope that strict local District of Columbia landmark laws, which require a rigorous review process for demolition, may provide a legal firewall to save the structure.

Concerned residents can contact their US representatives and senators, as well as contact Living New Deal (<https://livingnewdeal.org/>).

Note: This article was prepared with assistance from NotebookLM, an artificial intelligence tool provided by Google.



Photo Credit: Carol M. Highsmith “The Meaning of Social Security”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 49th edition of *The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*, an all-volunteer publication serving the borough of Roosevelt, NJ. We welcome submissions for news items, information of local interest, letters to the editor, poetry, and visual arts. We ask all contributors to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Send submissions to the email rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Include images as separate files in jpg format.

It's natural that people have second thoughts about what they've written, but we want to discourage multiple submissions of the same thing whenever possible. When necessary, the revised version should be clearly labeled as a revision.

We reserve the right to edit in accordance with our publication standards and policies, and to include items as space permits.

The *Bulletin* board members are thrilled to see that people are utilizing the *Bulletin* as a forum for communicating about our community's most critical issues. We are grateful that Roosevelt has supported this publication for so many decades by contributing both financially and intellectually. We are committed to providing you with the best publication possible.

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

The MEALS ON WHEELS program delivers prepared meals to Roosevelt seniors who need this assistance. Though meals are provided free of charge to recipients, the cost to the program is \$2.50 per meal. Donations to help cover these costs May be sent to Interfaith Neighbors, 810 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

An archive of past *Bulletin* issues can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman.

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PLEASE SEND IN A CONTRIBUTION TODAY. *WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.*

Please send contributions to: Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Roosevelt Borough Joins the Assunpink Creek and Upper Millstone Watershed Regional Work Groups

by Hilary Wilder

You probably remember from your middle-school geology class that a watershed area is defined by all the creeks, brooks, rivers, stormwater run-off, etc., that feed into a major river or water body. Roosevelt is part of two watershed areas: the Assunpink—which flows west towards Trenton, and the Upper Millstone – which flows north towards Manville. Fun fact: as seen on the map below, you can stand in the driveway of Mendies Farm and straddle the divide with one foot in a headwater area of the Delaware River (via Assunpink Creek), and the other in a headwater area of the Raritan River (via Rocky Brook). And another fun fact: our upstream neighbor, Millstone Township, with some of the highest elevation points in Monmouth County, has seven watershed areas within its borders, so rain/snow that falls there contributes to the Delaware and Raritan Rivers as well as Barnegat Bay via Toms River.

In 2024 the NJ-DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) mandated that every municipality, regardless of size, create a Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) and meet Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) guidelines for the water it releases downstream, based (in very broad terms) on:

Quality:

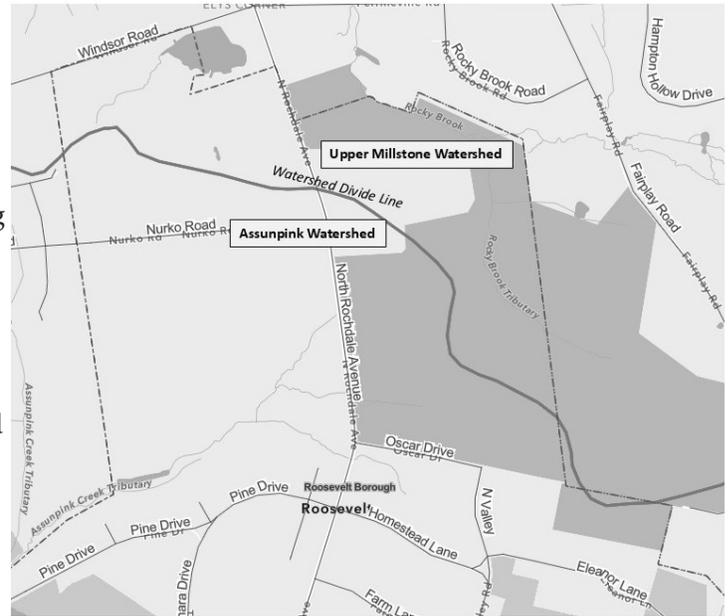
Is the water free of toxic chemicals from industries, sewage systems, harmful fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides (from farms and lawns), run-off from roadways and rooftops, etc.? Pollutants in the water impact the health and well-being of the people and wildlife within our community and those downstream of us. In many New Jersey waterbodies, a limit on acceptable pollution (called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL) has been calculated by the NJ-DEP. This includes Rocky Brook, which is part of the Upper Millstone Watershed and

has tributaries in the northeast corner of Roosevelt.

Quantity:

Will the water, particularly during a storm, cause catastrophic flooding downstream that can kill people or wash out roads, infrastructure, and building foundations, etc.? This is of particular concern as so-called ‘hundred-year’ storms are happening more frequently and with greater intensity in NJ. And as we continue to build big structures with roofs and pave more land, we create even more impervious surfaces - resulting in less ground absorbing the stormwater while increasing the intensity and speed of stormwater flow.

As a second part of WIP, the NJ-DEP requires that each municipality develop a Watershed Assessment Report by the end of 2026, which identifies actions that could be taken to improve the quality and quantity aspects of the water in each watershed area within their boundaries. Since watershed areas typically cover multiple municipalities, a regional approach makes the most sense and being part a regional solution will make it easier to identify projects that have a bigger impact than if just working within a single municipality. For example, if a flooding situation is found in Trenton, it might be cheaper and more effective for the regional group to follow the Assunpink upstream and create better water retention and absorption areas in Roosevelt rather than asking Trentonians to put their houses on stilts. In January, the Borough Council agreed to join the Assunpink Creek



Watershed work group, which is spearheaded by the Watershed Institute, to be part of their regional report. This will give us access to the expertise at Princeton Hydro, more recognition with the NJ-DEP (which is encouraging a regional approach), and, as a double bonus, the group was awarded a state grant to pay for it – so free for us! The Borough Council more recently voted to join a similar regional work group for the Upper Millstone watershed area that is in the process of being assembled by the Watershed Institute.

Once the assessment reports for the watershed groups are complete, each will be presented for feedback to residents of all the municipalities that are part of the respective regional group, so be on the lookout for announcements of these public hearings later in the year.



56 Pine Drive

by Alexandra Bonfante-Warren

My father, Peter Beach Warren, and my stepmother, Ana Lillian Columna de Warren, bought the house at 56 Pine Drive, Block 2, Lot 56, on November 20, 1967, from Abraham and Sadie Slovik, elderly tailors. Peter was forty-five, Lillian was thirty-six, and I was sixteen. Mrs. Slovik took me out to the vacant lot next door, where Tom Hague's house is now, showed me the sorrel growing there, and taught me how to make sorrel soup—delicious! Roosevelt called the house the Slovik house for a good ten years after Daddy and Lillian moved in. So much life in that house and in the town, there's no way to talk about it all, all the friends, neighbors, family, visitors, contractors. How to mention this one and not that one.

Peter's mother lived between Princeton and Lawrenceville, so Roosevelt was close, and Peter was very attracted to Roosevelt's history and its artistic and musical personality. Peter and Lillian became friends for life with Mel and Lynn Friedman, their neighbors in the attached house, 58 Pine Drive, where the Caynes live now.

Peter and Lillian came back from Africa with Niari, a sinuous and sweet black cat, the first of the beloved animals at 56 Pine Drive. Then there were the Persians, Tokay and Jolie, and the first of the rescue dogs, Sean. Sean's first snowfall: ecstatic in deep, radiant white snow, jumping straight up out of a drift higher than him, pure black against brilliant white. There was Kisuko, the Congo Gray, who loved to dance to "What a Feeling." There was Mr. Glub, a very big goldfish who would half jump out of the water to greet Lillian, and the last two cats, two tigers,



Kisuko, the Congo Gray & friend

whose names I don't remember. There was Tati, Peter's adored and adoring cocker spaniel—"The Blonde," as Lillian called her, followed by another loving cocker, Coco.

I came out from New York for weekends. One of my favorite early Roosevelt memories is of sitting on the big blue couch in the living room, smoking Parliaments with Lillian and watching *Dark Shadows* together. Barnabas Collins! And bicycling around town.

Early on, Peter and Lillian turned the garage into a foyer and closets, and later a study for Lillian; they moved the boiler and water heater to the other end of the house, to make room for a closet in one of the bedrooms; like many homes built until the 1930s or '40s, 56 Pine Drive didn't have closets. In the late '60s or early '70s, the Friedmans and the Warrens put a pitched roof on their house.

I spent most of 1968–69, the year after high school, in Roosevelt. I answered phones at a real-estate company on 571 and worked odd jobs in New York. I went to the Hilltop pool. I met Mitchel Yudin there; we always called each other on our birthdays (mine, October 3, his, October 8). Maybe Hallie Carmen and I

spent only one sun-filled afternoon in her kitchen drinking tea and eating matzoh with margarine, but it's one of those memories that extends forever.

It was the late 1960s: I painted one wall of my bedroom in mustard-colored sand paint, the doors in Chinese red enamel, and the moldings in deep purple enamel. I listened to *Blood, Sweat, and Tears*



Sean in front of 56 Pine Drive

and Dylan's Nashville Skyline. We heard music at Nat Williams's; Winnie Winston played the banjo gorgeously.

In the post office, there's a picture of a demonstration; that's me in the gas mask. Behind me are Daddy and Lillian. Yvonne, the assistant postmistress, remembers it, a successful protest against a toxic-waste incinerator.

Lillian and Peter went to Morocco in the early '70s. Lillian brought back finely crafted things. She turned the



Peter Beach Warren and kitten

entry/mud room into a tented dining room, using up-to-the-minute '70s-style striped fabrics. She was a terrific cook and entertained with flair. As she served, dressed in some fabulous caftan, she urged us to be French, that is, to start eating as soon as served, out of respect for the person who prepared the dish. Sitting at the table with her guests between courses, she would invite us to be Spanish—and light up a cigarette.

In the mid-1970s, Lillian stayed in Roosevelt while Peter traveled, so she could pursue a major renovation in the kitchen and living room. There was a built-in sound system, vinyl on the walls, and a bay built out for plants. In the kitchen, new cabinets, a pantry, and a cat door into the closet where the cat litter was. Meanwhile, Lillian got her Associate of Arts degree at Mercer County Community College.

In the early '80s, Peter and Lillian lived in Egypt, which they loved, and Lillian received her Bachelor of Arts degree from American University in Cairo. She had grown up bilingual, speaking English and Spanish. In her West African travels, she had picked up French. Back from Egypt, she went to work in the Hightstown High School Language Lab, with joy. She knew how to make the many students newly arrived from outside the United States feel more than just welcome—an essential part of their new community. She was a born teacher, a gift she would take to Roosevelt Elementary in the 1990s, teaching Spanish to the tinies. Still today, people remember learning Spanish with Mrs. Warren. Daddy retired in the mid-'90s and was finally able to stay in Roosevelt, read, write, walk The Blonde and then Coco, and visit with his friends.

Daddy died on November 3, 2001, and Lillian on December 10, 2004. The memorial for Lillian and Peter



56 Pine Drive now



Ana Lillian Columna
de Warren

Monique, the Caynes' wonderful cat and sidewalk supervisor, who would come trotting around the side of the house as I arrived. It was wrenching to dismantle all that life, especially Lillian's library, so many books I could have spent the rest of my life reading. New parquet; red tile, in memory of Lillian's Caribbean roots; new bathroom; refreshed kitchen. My mother gave me the patio in the back. In 2008 I buried Daddy and Lillian's double urn.

Ani Roskam gave me a ride to the monument maker in Hightstown and helped design Daddy and Lillian's headstone. It came out differently than I had envisioned. When I complained to Ani, she observed, "You can sit on it and have

was at the school where Lillian had taught with such zest. From 2004 to 2007, I renovated the house, with an assist from

a sandwich." And bask in the serenity of the Roosevelt cemetery at the top of the hill.

*

I live in a fifth-floor walk-up on West 75th Street in Manhattan. I told a friend that climbing the stairs was getting a little old. He replied, "They're not getting old." It was time to sell 56 Pine Drive. Bert Ellentuck introduced me to Irma, and Irma and Zaza bought the house, where they live with their children, Sophia and Nicholas. The story of how they came to Roosevelt is a good one, but it's theirs to tell.

Is it really gonna snow ~
Oh how fun - but I still do not know ~
That icy cold feel of it through my fingers and all ~
Can I mold it in my hands - make a Big snowball ~
We all wait all year for a true snow day ~
If only it will appear - like a glowing blanket - I do say ~
It glistens - it shines - and its all aglow ~
I am seeing it - right here and below ~
Everything feels like its gonna be a go ~
Get the sled ready - I am gonna flow ~
Snow - snow - will you come and will you stay ~
This is the time - this is the season - we wanna just play ~
We have the best hill - its right down the street ~
I can feel the Big rush - from my head to my feet ~
Life can be such pure joy - a great Big treat ~
Snow adds more fun - this we can not beat ~
December has gone and January needs a Big snow ~
Enjoy it when it comes - cause we truly never know !!!

Adrienne Cheshier

At Olivia's

by Ron Kostar

Some yesterday ago in August, I came out of a voice lesson all riled up—singing for an hour can do that to you—and I thought and felt “ice cream,” so I headed towards one of my favorite stands on Route 33, it's called Olivia's, for a black raspberry cone. It was summer.

At Olivia's, a bright young man, who I assumed was a bright young college student, took my order and then disappeared to dig the hard ice cream from a vat, and when I saw it was going to take him a while, I walked around to the back of the stand to look for a bathroom that wasn't there, and so I returned to the window.

“What was that song you were singing?” the kid with very bright eyes and shiny white teeth asked, his face radiating openness and curiosity.

“Oh, that's an old Billie Holiday tune called ‘Back in Your Own Backyard’ ... I just came out of a voice lesson, and I'm all riled up,” I said. “After singing for an hour, the world looks bright and dynamic and in order—I'm happy to be alive!”

We got talking.

He said he plays the guitar and spins records as a DJ. I told him I play in a couple of bands, including one that plays Gypsy music, and I invited him to come see us play in a local restaurant. Since I was the only customer, we kept talking. We agreed that music is wonderful, and he went a step further and said that “music is life,” and as he did, I was struck by how young and eager he looked — so exuberant, beatific, beautiful! — so much so that I felt moved to tell him something he might not know.

“Do you know who Django Reinhardt was?” He shook his head.

“He was a Gypsy from Belgium who, among other things, liked to gamble and fish, and he moved to France during World War II to try to outrun the Nazis, but when it got too

hot, he moved to England and then to America. But that's not really what I wanted to tell you.”

“What I wanted to tell you is that Django Reinhardt only had two fingers on his left hand... He had been badly burned in a fire as a teenager...But despite having only two fingers on one hand, he could play the Gypsy guitar like nobody else!”

My cone was starting to melt.

“He could play like nobody else...so fast and precise! And imaginative! You might want to listen to him. You might want to check him out.”

As I was leaving, he pulled out his cell phone.

What happened next?

I might say that I came back two weeks later, after another voice lesson, but the kid wasn't there, and when I asked another college student who was attending the stand what happened to him, she said that he had quit Olivia's and joined a band — a Gypsy band! — and they were traveling around the East Coast playing in coffee houses and festivals. But that didn't happen.

What did happen, in reality, was that I found a table and ate my ice cream and felt at one with the world for a while, and the kid googled Django Reinhardt and listened to some tunes until a line of customers formed, and then he dipped cones and made sundaes until 9 or 10 pm.

That's what happened—that was the reality of it—and for some reason that was enough.

walk to save money
write to join the singing
of the birds

— Jesse Glass

Winter Days

A snow day, a snow day
A dressed from head to toe day
A got no place to go day

A nothing much to do day
A think I'll make some stew day

A maybe stay in bed day
A guess I'll bake some bread day

A sit and watch it blow day
A share the embers' glow day

A time to shovel snow day
A no more snow tomorrow day

— Steve Taylor

Basho in Sesenheim

Frog in Stone
(not certain
how he got
There)--

croaks for the
Sky
licks the dust
for Water,

listens for a
Fly.

— Jesse Glass

in the flooded field
a tree top
full of egrets

— Jesse Glass



ROOSEVELT ADVENTURES

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

ROOSEVELT ADVENTURE CAMP

when? Monday - Friday
9am-2pm
(JUN 29th - AUG 21st)

who? Campers entering 1st to 7th grade

where? Rotating Locations around Roosevelt and the Assunpink Wildlife Area

AFTERCAMP CREW

when? Monday - Friday
2pm-5:30pm
(JUN 29th - AUG 21st)

who? Campers entering 1st to 7th grade

where? Roosevelt Public School

TEEN EXPLORATION CLUB

when? Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:30pm-5:30pm
(JUL 7th - AUG 13th)

who? Teens entering 7th to 11th grade

where? Rotating Locations around Roosevelt and the Assunpink Wildlife Area

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This program is run by Roosevelt Adventures and is not affiliated with the Roosevelt Borough

Elizabeth & John

By Albert Hepner

(Continued from the January issue.)

During one of their heated discussions, she recommended that on one of his evenings off from class he come to one of her meetings. He looked around the room during the meeting and noticed that no Black women were present and only one other man. He could understand the absence of many men but not that of Black women. Concurrently, one of the proposals being made reminded him that a decade earlier, the emerging Black movement had made several positive strides and found their methods not only workable but acceptable by the mainstream. He innocently asked the group if they remembered the occasions when the Black movement availed itself of those organizational methods and didn't they think that it would work for the women's movement? The retort, by Elizabeth no less, was that the Women's movement was only interested in evincing its own approach to gender equality.

It became clear to both of them that their agendas were at odds; he was interested in elevating the status of all oppressed workers, and she was

intent on dissolving the monarchy as it stood, and only indirectly on helping John's cause. To John, her inability to see that class struggle transcends all movements and is related regardless of the cause, nay, because of the causes distanced them irrevocably. If class distinctions did not prevail, he thought, women would likely not suffer the existing sexual and gender prejudices. When women and men could earn the exact same wage for the task and how well it's done rather than their pay reflect their gender, then a measure of equality might reign. She gulped at his choice of word. For a moment, she thought he'd discovered something about her background, although she was sure that nothing she'd fancied for the women or its movement betrayed her background. She felt certain that she'd learned and felt a need for women's equality on the job and perhaps in her marriage to John. Equality did not mean women had to copy what men or the civil rights movement had done: equality could only be achieved if women came to conclusions that were reached within their own vacuum, not as an appendage to existing ethos that

was questionable in the first place anyway. Yet, as nearly as John wanted to think that she had really belonged to the oppressors' class, it never reached the royal "we" class.

Perhaps the ensuing fractious bickering stemmed more from Elizabeth needing John less to monitor Phoebe, who was about to graduate elementary school and was safe in their Westchester hamlet. He had been a wonderful surrogate father; he'd taken care of her as if she'd been his, never insinuating himself as more than a loving mentor. The thorn that stuck with Elizabeth was being reminded incessantly that she behaved like an aristocratic brat who'd found a preoccupation that would merely repeat what men had done for ages and would now be accepted but called women's work. The slow evaporation of their earlier metaphysical love came crashing down when Elizabeth discovered that John was having an affair with one of the most committed women in their branch of NOW.

Liliana had become, or so Elizabeth thought, a close friend who

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Substitute Teacher Job Posting

Roosevelt Public School

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Roosevelt, NJ

Seeking reliable and caring Substitute Teachers to support our classrooms on an as-needed basis. Our small, close-knit school community values inclusion, collaboration, and creating a positive learning environment for all students.

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Phone: 609-448-2798



helped her transition from British habits to Americanize. She also had helped find those women who needed support and would join the NOW group; she was the sister she never felt she had had. Now her husband and lover had seduced the one woman she felt understood the dilemma and trauma women endured at the hands of men. Elizabeth had not to the manor been born for nothing. All the strength one needs to deal with such a distraught situation came to the fore; it shook her to the core. Suddenly she felt her physical stature grow from under her and hoist her an inch or two. Her head began to tilt back, keeping her chin and nose above the crowd. What frightened her most was not so much that she thought she now looked like her mother, but that she probably felt like her mother: above it all?

Painting rooms and portraits did not amount to an adequate living, so Elizabeth, the social worker born with tactile tact, threw John out of the house she'd really paid for. He decided not to contest the divorce for he was sure that he'd be uncomfortable with the money half the house's proceeds would get him. He quietly moved out and rented an apartment out of town until his paramour left her husband and had John move in.

John began the solitary walks he would take until his dying days as soon as he moved in with Liliana. Life and its social disappointments were passing him by with hardly a change. There seemed not to be any social consciousness in the fabric of American life. All that characterized the American dream increased the dissolution of what might have been support for the underclass. Legislators were more concerned with giving the affluent more affluence, which could only come from the middle class; hence, the mildly poor could only

THE PARTY

A cat, all aimlessness and grave allowance,
is a rumor.

We wait.

While our absent friends defend themselves
against charges
of sanity

The cat appears, well-groomed with its air
of worldlessness.

Hushed

Like before lift-off, we celebrate this one
one white
small thing.

– David Sten Herrstrom

become less rich and struggle more to make ends meet, thus be poorer. The distribution of wealth prevalent in Britain, which at one time had instituted Social Democratic parameters that protected the unemployable, the unemployed, and the working poor, were being done away with in Britain. In the States, where John had thought he and friends would be able to begin establishing safeguards, those protections not only didn't materialize but were apparently never going to be part of the social fabric.

John found that his solitary long walks reflected the dearth of compassion for his point of view. They also opened vistas that he could include

in his panoramic scenes, in which he demonstrated the struggles of individuals by placing their deformed facial expressions and crippled bodies somewhere within his otherwise beautiful landscapes. The stage is set but life cripples its good looks. Liliana was a good life companion who saw the deleterious effect humans were capable of. They both enjoyed the arts but found American politics destructive, so they spent their free time voting to change it.

Phoebe, the product of an earlier alliance had been raised primarily by John. He'd never intended to jaundice her attitude about life but he had.

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WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ROOSEVELT?

Have something that is special to you? Maybe the reason you moved here or stayed? Perhaps something you discovered recently or something you know has always been here. If you have a "favorite" from living here, please submit it to Rooseveltbulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After years of enduring painful arthritis, I had my right knee replaced on 1/5. I had read that the first 2 weeks of recovery would be challenging, and now I can attest to the same. In true Roosevelt fashion, our friends and neighbors stepped up with hearty, nourishing meals to help us through. Kevin and I are so grateful for your kind words and delicious dishes that warmed our bellies and our hearts. Generosity invites abundance for the giver as well as the recipient; may your kindnesses be returned to you tenfold.

With love,

Sharyn and Kevin Walz

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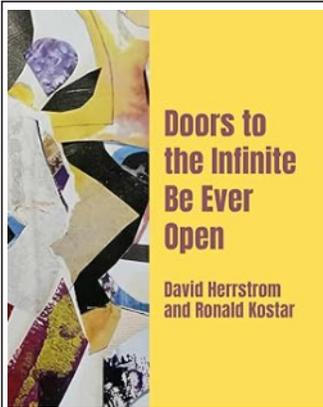
Public Health Emergency?

You can call the

Monmouth County

Board of Health 24/7 at

732-431-7456



Rooseveltians in Print

Poet David Herrstrom and poet/musician/artist Ron Kostar have collaborated on a new book of poems and collages *Doors to the Infinite Be Ever Open*. The book is available on Amazon.com.

Both Herrstrom and Kostar are frequent contributors to the Bulletin, having published dozens of poems and other pieces over the years, and have provided invaluable assistance to this publication in the wrangling of poets for the annual Poetry Issue. Stay tuned for a review in a coming issue.

Elizabeth & John

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She walked the earth as gracefully as Elizabeth did. She was tall and slender and maintained a grace that had escaped her mother by choice. Elizabeth had worked for years at stepping more decidedly on each British cobble stone rather than regally slithering forward. Phoebe, who had worked hard at retaining her British accent, somehow had reinvented the Royal cadence her mother gave up. Although Elizabeth smiled every time Phoebe walked so gracefully past her, it shocked her to think that perhaps it was all genetic after all, and she had not really graduated into ordinary personhood.

Phoebe studied hard and mastered the high school requirements so well that she managed to get a full scholarship to Yale, her second choice.

She knew she'd fit in physically better there, but she felt her politics lent themselves better to Harvard, or even Columbia. The school proved too challenging in that most of its pedagogy leaned toward improving the capitalist status quo, i.e., make Wall Street Wall Avenue or Wall Boulevard. All she'd ever wanted was to find out what she and those she loved could do about improving poor people's lot. She was certain that four years of dedicated study on political systems would help her decide on a course of action. John had persuaded her that avarice and perniciousness were learned traits rather than inherited ones, and that compassion and cooperation could also be learned and made more attractive and self-fulfilling. Instead, the discussions in most of her courses

argued for brazen attention to one's own financial evolution as the only *métier* out there. At the end of her first year, during a party that evoked her utter dissatisfaction with the progress and direction of her life, she drank excessively after taking several pain killers. She fainted and no one paid attention to the beautiful, lanky blonde seemingly asleep on one of the sorority house couches. At five in the morning, when the working poor came in to clean the mess the scholastic rich had left behind, they couldn't wake her. She was assumed dead of an overdose.

Elizabeth never formed another relationship with another man. She continued her social work diligently and decorated her Briarcliff Manor apartment Royally.

The Roosevelt Arts Project

The Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) is a collaborative venture of friends and neighbors in and around Roosevelt, New Jersey. Bringing together artists in a variety of media, our mission is to foster collaboration and present their work to the public. Founded in 1986 by the nationally known artists, Bernarda Bryson Shahn and Jacob Landau, and others including writers and musicians, the Roosevelt Arts Project presents a series of annual programs. This varied series premieres new works by Roosevelt playwrights, painters and potters, folk singers, poets, and composers, as well as experimental collaborations.

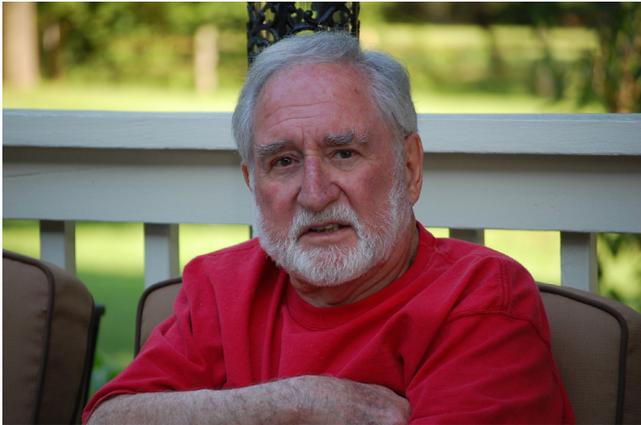
DATE/TIME	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday, February 21, 7:30 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	Brahms and Friends From his early friendship with Robert and Clara Schumann throughout his life, Johannes Brahms collected admirers and friends, many of whom were distinguished composers in their own right. Pianist Alan Mallach will play music by Brahms and both Schumann's, along with music by less well-known composers, interspersed with his insightful and enjoyable commentary.
Saturday, March 7 11 AM to 4 PM and Sunday, March 8 11 AM to 3 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	Collage! Join us in the Borough Hall for a two-day celebration of collage featuring works by Roosevelt artists and other talented local makers. In an era of material abundance, rapid change, and limited attention spans, collage has emerged as an art form uniquely suited to our times. The flexible definition of collage, the wide range of available materials, and the impulse to cut, paste, and reassemble life's fragments into new forms, has produced a variety of voices and approaches to collage-making.
Saturday, April 11, 3:00 PM	Borough Hall	Tuning the Alphabet Poems by Roosevelt poets.
Saturday, April 25, 7:30 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	"Cracking the Code: The Fascinating World of Chickens" A multi-media presentation exploring the biology, behavior and significance of chickens, from their evolutionary history and domestication to their role in agriculture and sustainability today. Come and be prepared to learn surprising facts about these intelligent birds and their impact on our world.
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 PM	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	The Roosevelt String Band This year's Roosevelt String Band show will feature songs to lift and strengthen our spirits during these troublesome times. The band will include Ed Cedar on guitar, mandolin and fiddle, Joe Pepitone on bass, Nancy Wilson on vocals, Guy DeRosa on harmonicas, Noemi Bolton on guitar, banjo-uke and vocals and David Brahinsky on guitar and vocals.
Sunday, June 7, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Communitywide	Garden & Art Tour The urge to create, with brush, chisel, or trowel, generating beauty, raising food crops, and creating spaces for quiet reflection thrives in Roosevelt. Visit the gardens of some of Roosevelt's most passionate gardeners and artists and see their creativity in its natural habitat. A map of participating gardens will be available on the RAP website closer to the event.
Sunday, June 28th at 6 pm	Borough Hall 33 North Rochdale Ave. Roosevelt, NJ	"Common Ground" Musical Celebration All are invited to join us in celebrating the beauty of Summer and the community we share. With familiar sing-alongs, and fresh original songs both heartfelt and playful, featuring Gabe and the Saks Family Band, The Knockabouts - George and Cherie, and more.

Visit our website: www.rooseveltartsproject

Suggested donation of \$10 for all events (unless indicated) to support RAP, the Roosevelt Arts Program

Lou Esakoff

Long-time Roosevelt resident and Borough Council member Lou Esakoff passed away on December 27 at the age of 94. Lou was a valued and beloved member of the community, serving not only on the Council, but on the Board of Education years ago. A fuller account of his life by his daughter Lauren will appear in the March Bulletin.



WHOLEMOON

End of lane,
amber moon
offering all
asking nothing,

asphalt bowing.

– David Sten Herrstrom



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements.

www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin

If you would like your organization's event posted to our Facebook page, please send event details to rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.

THE SIGH

From our neighbor's balcony through the trees
I hear a single peacock
cry at what or for what I wonder.

Or simply a peacock's sigh

from darkness down in his body that's taken days
to free itself now asking
what am I doing in this world?

Maybe he's tired of hearing the cacophony
of birds in the trees all around
their chirping and cheeping and cheering.

Plebeians pouring notes

into the trees and air
as if asking to be congratulated and
asking me what am I doing in this noisy world?

Wood world that they know
could care less. Now we know why
Master Peacock is just keeping colors to himself.

— David Sten Herrstrom

SENIOR CORNER

Coming Home

Seniors last month came home and all ~
 We go so many places - but nothing beats our Boro Hall ~
 We bring our own food and enjoy our time ~
 We get to be together - which is really just fine ~
 Its almost like having the comfort of your own yard ~
 We get to sit back - relax - and not have to be on guard ~
 We do a little business - even when its a short one ~
 We get to see our new schedule for 2026 - excited about the fun ~
 We are so glad we did join - and sign ~
 A decision for some (like me) - that took some time ~
 A decision now - I am so glad - we did do ~
 This month we saw a play - and had lunch too ~
 We see lots of friends - some old and some new ~
 We come together - while we are doing whatever it is we do ~
 There is so much planned for 2026 ~
 It is good to know - that we are right there - in the mix ~
 If you can come with us - then you shall see ~

— Adrienne Cheshier

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 For reporting spills, hazardous discharges,
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RECYCLING DATES

February 11 & 25

March 11 & 25

My Woodman

by Ron Kostar

My Woodman of two decades, the guy who drops off two or three cords a year to keep our woodstove burning, suddenly seems to be having second thoughts about being a Woodman.

For years, his family owned six acres and two modest houses at the edge of a remote, non-descript field, and then a Senior Retirement development came in, quickly followed by a WaWa and a 500-unit condominium complex, and B---'s phone started ringing and offers poured in.

To make a short story shorter, B--- sold everything and said goodbye, and now he's "living the life."

When I called him in October, he apologized for being out of wood, which in the past was unheard of. And when I called him again before Christmas, he picked up his phone in Kansas, where he was deer hunting. And when I called him again today, he said he was towing a boat to Fort Lauderdale and wouldn't be back until next week when he would bring me wood [and he will], because he's a reliable friend who has been my Woodman for years and has dropped off dry cords in all kinds of inclement weather.

But now, after swinging three times and missing, I'm starting to realize that my Woodman's days of cutting, splitting, loading, and delivering firewood, which is hard work, are probably numbered.

After all, my Woodman has hit oil. He's a millionaire.

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Road obstruction	911 / State Police 609-584-5000
Trees down	911 / State Police 609-584-5000
Health Emergency	911
Comcast outage	1-800-COMCAST
FioS outage	(800) 837-4966
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

Contributors to the Bulletin

Contributions received after the 15th of the month will appear in the next Bulletin.

Carlo & Mary Alfare	Albert Hepner	Alison Petrilla
Robin & Robert Axel	Constance & David Herrstrom	Greg & Elizabeth Possiel
Elsbeth Battel	Louise and David Hoffman	Richard & Hope Pressler
Richard & Janet Bernardin	Gail Hunton & Wes Czyzewski	The Raines Family
Linda Block	Henry & Kate John-Alder	Heriberto Ramirez
Bondy/Vuolle Family	Anna & Ben Johnson	Irving & Amanda Rose
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna	Ingrid Jordan	Kirk and Jane Rothfuss
Jacqueline Carpenter	Doreen Kirchner	Susan Schwartz & Jim Alt
Susan & Robert Cayne	Kosa family	Fred & Linda Septak
Cherie Chelst	Ron & Deirdre Kostar	Jeb Shahn
Cheshier family	Bonnie Z. Koury	Linda Smith & Michael Szewczyk
June Counterman	Lynn Lawson	Sokolow Family
Walter & Linsey Coyoy	Stephen Lombardo & Kristine Wellington	Michael & Marilyn Ticktin
Ana Debevec	Claudia Luongo & Ken Maffeo	Mary & Rod Tulloss
Kay Drury	David Luongo	Kevin and Sharyn Walz
Frances Duckett	Steven & Mary Macher	Alexandra Bonfante Warren
Burt Ellentuck	Julia & Jim McArdle	Ralph & Nancy Warnick
Louis Esakoff	Alan Mallach	Judith Weinberg
Judith Goetzmann	Michael Merritt & Hilary Wilder	Naomi & Michael Weinshenker
Jay & Anna Goldman	The Murray Family	Frank Wiesinger & Theresa Secks
Alicia & Joel Gonzalez	Terri Nachtman	Joe & Diane Zahora
Michael Hamilton	Jodi & Dave Parsons	Tony & Gail Zelenak
Anne Hayden		Mark & Judith Zuckerman

Thank you for your generosity! Send in a contribution today. Please send contributions to:
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Collage Exhibit

The 2026 Collage exhibit is coming up on March 7 and 8. The show is sponsored by RAP [the Roosevelt Arts Project] and will take place in Borough Hall. Please contact Ron Kostar if you'd like to participate and submit up to two works. It should be a fun weekend and may even be a Happening!

This by way of a definition: "Collage, from the French: coller, "to glue", or "to stick together," is a technique of art creation, primarily used in the visual arts by which art results from an assembly of different forms, thus creating a new whole.

A collage may include magazine and newspaper clippings, paint, bits of colored or handmade papers, portions of previous art works or texts, photographs and other found objects, glued to a piece of paper, wood or canvas.

The origin of collage can be traced back hundreds of years, but this technique made a dramatic appearance in the early 20th century with the DADAists and Surrealists." -Wikipedia

Please - no pieces that are "just" paintings or drawings, as this is a collage exhibit.

The important dates are:

By Feb 15 - let me know if you'd like to participate

March 6th - evening - drop off works at Borough Hall or at 18 Pine Drive

March 7th and 8th - exhibit runs in BH from 11 - 4 pm n Saturday and 11 - 3 pm on Sunday

March 8 - pick up works after 3 pm

If you have any questions, please email Ron Kostar at rkostar1@hotmail

Due to the cost of staging the exhibit, RAP reserves the right to take a tiny commission of 10% on all sales.

BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Bulletin, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$50.00/year, \$60.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month

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F E B R U A R Y

2 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
11 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
12 Thurs.		Parent Teacher Evening Conferences Melvin H Kreps
13 Fri.		Early Dismissal - Roosevelt Public School
16 Mon.		President's Day School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS
17 Tues.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
18 Weds.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
19 Thurs.		Parent Teacher Evening Conferences Hightstown High School
21 Sat.	7:30	Brahms and Friends A Roosevelt Arts Project Event Borough Hall Pianist Alan Mallach will play a program of music by Brahms, Schumann, and others with commentary.
25 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
25 Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
26 Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President

Zoning Officer,
Housing Inspector
Jeremy Kuipers
email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us
phone: 609-448-0539, ext. 7

Code Enforcement
Officer
Ed Szbanz
code@rooseveltnj.us
609-448-0539, ext. 8

Office Hours:
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Please send events to the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin at
P.O. Box 221 or
email to RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com.

M A R C H

2 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
7 Sat.	11:00 - 4:00	Collage! A Roosevelt Arts Project Event Borough Hall A two-day celebration of collage featuring works by Roosevelt artists and other talented local makers.
8 Sun.	11:00 - 3:00	Collage! A Roosevelt Arts Project Event Borough Hall
11 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
12 Thurs.		Parent Teacher Evening Conferences Melvin H Kreps
16 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
17 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
18 Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
20 Fri.		School Closed - RPS, MHK, HHS
24 Tues.		Evening Parent Conferences - RPS
25 Weds.		Recycling Pickup 
26 Thur		Early Dismissal - RPS Parent Conferences
26 Thurs.	6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
27 Fri.		Early Dismissal - RPS, MHK, HHS
30 Mon - Fri.		April 3 Spring Break School Closed RPS, MHK, HHS

Construction and Permits

The Construction Official has Borough hours on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Questions regarding building permits should be directed to:
Department of Community Affairs - 609-567-3653
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.