



# Bulletin



Volume 41 Number 7

April 2018

## Borough Responds to Severe Weather, Sewer Plant Concerns, Grant Money Awarded for Nurko Road & Elm Court

By Sharyn Walz

Mayor Malkin opened the March 12th Council meeting with an update on the Borough's response to recent winter storms. Among the measures taken, the Borough Hall was open to residents who lost power, and coffee and food were made available. Public Works employees cleared the borough of branches, snow, and downed wires.

In response to a recent inquiry, Mayor Malkin reported that all recycling containers (#1-7) are accepted by the borough's recycling company, with the exception of take-out food containers, which are #6.

The Borough Engineer, Carmella Roberts reported discussing the condition of the water and sewer plants with the NJDEP Enforcement Officer in response to letters from DEP. There are no current violations at the water plant, but there are some actionable items, regarding missed sampling, removal of iron sludge, and replacement fencing. The Borough will need to institute a post-chlorination system, and the Engineer recommended that we stop using chlorine gas, as it is not considered safe. The water plant is in good condition, as it was upgraded three years ago, but needs regular maintenance.

With regards to the sewer plant, the Engineer reported that the Borough will need to focus on construction items that were deficient during inspection. The sewer plant needs a good review in order to determine which long term items need to be done. The Borough still needs to notify the public about the release of chemicals that occurred last August, and the Engineer will work with DEP to determine the appropriate wording.

Correspondence included a letter notifying the Borough of a \$350,000 grant awarded for improvements to Nurko Road and Elm Court. The second letter was a resignation from Toby Moore, the Borough's licensed sewer operator. Toby's resignation letter was accepted by the Council, with Councilmembers Hamilton and Trammell expressing appreciation for Toby's hard work and dedication.

Councilmember Parker reported having good communication and cooperation with the Office of Emergency Management during the recent storms. Allen's Tree Service did a drive-through and provided a list of pending tree issues, along with an estimate of \$1400. Public Works employees were able to complete the work and save the Borough resources. Councilmember Hamilton noted that additional equipment is needed: a snowblower, chainsaws, limb-cutters, etc.

Councilmember Trammell noted that there was a sewer blockage due to paper towels being flushed into the sewer system, and reminded residents not to flush any paper other than toilet paper. So-called "flushable" wipes may indeed be flushable, but sewage treatment systems, ours included, are not designed to handle them and they cause the equipment to malfunction.

It was reported that JCP&L has been very responsive to Roosevelt in recent years. Councilmember Hamilton reported that all emergency generators were operational during the power outages.

Public Comments: Bob Clark requested that information about the sewer treatment plant and DEP concerns be

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 41st edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

### Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Submission Process

The Bulletin welcomes 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 your submission to the email [rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com). For short messages, you can also use the contact form on our web site, which will go to the same address.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email.
- Please limit your letters to 500 words (about one page in MS Word). We will edit letters for length when necessary. Longer letters may be published in full on the Bulletin web site.
- Please include images as separate files. If you have multiple files, please put them into a zip file, if possible. Please submit only JPEG images.
- The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (e.g., January 15 for the February issue). Submissions received after the 15th will normally be printed in the issue following the one currently in production. (So, for example, a submission received on January 16th would be printed in March.)
- Most submissions will also be added to the Bulletin web site. Allow up to one week for submissions to appear online after publication of the print edition.
- Please name your files with your last name, or the name of your organization, and the month.

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 this is necessary, the revised version should be clearly named as a revision.

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. And it is impressive 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—your support of our submission guidelines will enable our volunteers to most effectively meet that goal.

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

**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.

An archive of all past issues of the Bulletin can be found online at [www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm](http://www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm), courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at [www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org](http://www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org), the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to [rpessler32@gmail.com](mailto:rpessler32@gmail.com).

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly, except August and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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## THE HUM

for David Massey

Driving home, I crave the classical station.  
A concerto's world-edge I want to feel in flesh,  
the cello touching that unfelt hum of the universe.  
Or is it a fly, large as a cat, filling my car,  
or I am inside the cello's body?

Standing at your bedside, we cannot touch.  
Mine is dangerous. Standing beside you,  
I feel the deep beneath, the floor trembling in desire  
as a helicopter passes over to settle  
on the roof of the trauma center.

To his last string quartet Shubert added a cello  
that found the depths of the ravine in which he settled  
his body. And died. Now someone  
brings the cello close to their body like a lover,  
accepts its shivering.

Their arm over hollow trembling, thrusting  
to and fro across its body. From inside come the cries  
of your body out of darkness clutching itself,  
moans of all in our broken world  
dragging heart-break like a shadow.

--David Sten Herrstrom

## Senior Group Meetings

The Senior Citizen Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Borough Hall.

At 1:30 pm we frequently have guests who speak about a variety of topics, generally applicable to everyone. Finances, health, and safety in the home are a few examples. Notices will be on the bulletin board at the P.O. All residents are welcome to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Thank you.  
Geraldine Millar  
President, Seniors

## County Division of Transportation

### Expands Hours

The Monmouth County Division of Transportation is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, October 2, 2017, SCAT transportation services will be expanding its hours of operation. For further information, please call 732.431.6480 ext.1. This change may be able to accommodate your transportation needs, including:

- Medical
- Share-Ride
- Dialysis
- College Classes
- Disabled Work
- And much more,,,



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements. Follow the Bulletin on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin](http://www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin)

If you would like your organization's event posted to the Bulletin's Facebook page, please send event details to [rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com).

## THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are very much 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.

In order to save on postage, we would encourage non-residents who have computers to subscribe to the *Bulletin* online at [www.boroughbulletin.org](http://www.boroughbulletin.org) in lieu of receiving a paper copy. Donations from readers, wherever they may be, and regardless of the medium in which they read the *Bulletin*, are still very much welcome, since we could not publish without your support.

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

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made available to the public so that residents can do their own research. Mayor Malkin agreed to have the information posted to the Borough website.

The March 26th Council meeting was kept as brief as possible out of deference to Councilmember Hamilton, who is grieving the recent loss of his beloved wife, Nancy. Mayor Malkin opened the meeting with kind sentiments for Nancy and the Hamilton family. Financial-based resolutions were passed to pay the bills and authorize temporary emergency appropriations for operating costs.

**CHECK OUT THE BOROUGH'S  
NEW WEBSITE:**

**[www.rooseveltnj.us](http://www.rooseveltnj.us)**

**REGISTER FOR E-NEWS ON THE  
HOME PAGE AND GET EMAIL  
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE  
BOROUGH.**

**YOU CAN NOW VIEW AND PAY  
YOUR PROPERTY TAXES AND  
UTILITIES BILL ON-LINE. JUST  
GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT**

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**STAY INFORMED!**

**RECEIVE EMERGENCY  
NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE  
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GO TO YOUR LANDLINE, OR  
CELL, OR BOTH!**

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Nancy

Nancy disappeared into the woods  
Her steps sweetened by light  
(fire and light)

And as she passed into an opening  
(a clear-lit glen)

Her eyes opened startled and wide

For around a fire sat three stout souls  
Pounding on round skin-drums  
And from one silver flute rose treble notes  
That danced above the tops of the trees

Nancy blinked her sparkling blue eyes  
For she could not believe  
Ancient drummers had traveled so far  
To play in suburban woods like these

But she sat down on that spongy log  
And swayed to their earthy beat  
And when she could no longer contain her joy  
She rose and moved her feet

Nancy danced in the light-drenched glen  
Made greener by her grace  
Until she rose with the notes of the flute  
And disappeared above the trees

Ron Kostar, 4/2018

**New Jersey**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**24-Hour Hotline**

**1-877-WARNDEP or**

**1-877-927-6337**

**For reporting spills,  
hazardous discharges, and other  
environmental emergencies.**

# Roosevelt Arts Project Events for 2018

## The Roosevelt String Band in Concert—ONE NIGHT ONLY

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 8:00 PM

This year we plan a PP&M extravaganza (that's Peter, Paul and Mary in case you missed the folk revival), with David Brahinsky, Paul Prestopino, Ed and Sam Cedar, Howie Jacobson, and Nancy Wilson. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person; \$5 for seniors and students.

All events take place at Borough Hall, 33 North Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

### Perusing the Day's Received E-mail Subject Headings: (a Found Poem)

What a day!  
Question for You  
Arts Funding – What's Next?  
Just wondering  
What a day! (kidney transplant updates)  
Official details on Arts Funding Released  
The third time is not a charm...  
Your knee doctor...  
Do you happen to have a chainsaw?  
Driving directions to your new place  
New + Now – Matisse & Membership  
Why?  
Suggestions for Jewish songs for Sing-Along  
Congrats on your film being accepted!  
Lunch outing this Friday?  
Info on lawmakers' addresses  
Music tonight around 7?  
Possible gig spots  
My website is launched!  
A Significant Step Forward  
Macaroon recipe from Aunt Jane  
Thank you for a lovely day!  
BON VOYAGE

--Judith McNally



by Zachary Pressler

## All Town Spring Litter Pick-Up Day

Date: Sunday, May 6th

Time: Meet at 10 am at the  
Post Office

Donuts and coffee and  
pick-up supplies will be  
offered

Finish by noon or 1 pm

With a brunch at Lenny  
Hillis and Michelle  
Guye-Hillis' on 24 N  
Rochdale Ave to follow!

### REMINDER FOR RECYCLING:



Always leave at least 3 feet between your garbage can and recyclable container(s). The arm that lifts the garbage can needs enough room to operate so it can avoid knocking over other containers.

### Parking Reminder

Please park your vehicles in the right direction only. Parking on the wrong side of the street or in the wrong direction makes your vehicle difficult for oncoming traffic to see, especially in foggy or dark conditions. Vehicles parked on the wrong side of the street are subject to towing.



**Things are Heating up in the New RPS Kitchen**

By Mary Tulloss

The Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation is delighted to be able to provide an oven/stove for use by RPS students. Third grade teacher, Donna Gazzani, explained in her grant application that there are many occasions when cooking can supplement and enhance the school curriculum, including:

- returning from a trip to the cranberry bog to create recipes using one of New Jersey's most important crops
- making dishes to share at the school wide Thanksgiving meal
- being introduced to a lifetime skill
- learning about cooking healthy

meals and incorporating vegetables and herbs grown in the school garden

- students in kindergarten making foods
- that are in the regional setting of books they read
- finding a real life use for fractions!
- appreciating the products of their work

An after school enrichment program called "Cooking with Class"



has already begun. It is thanks to our community's donations and attendance at fundraisers that we are able to offer programs like these for our children. Thank you so much for your support.

Mary Tulloss, President  
Roosevelt Public School Education  
Foundation



**Free Health Services Available from the Monmouth County Health Department;  
State-funded Lead Safe Home Remediation Grants also Available**

by Michael Ticktin

The Borough of Roosevelt is one of the 26 municipalities in which health services are provided by the Monmouth County Health Department. Free or low-cost services provided by the Health Department to residents of the 26 municipalities include the following:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * free eye screenings and testing for body-mass index, diabetes, cholesterol and bone density | * well child physicals                                  |
| * healthy travel vaccinations   | * STDI clinics  |
| * hypertension screening  | * tuberculosis program                                  |
| * child immunizations   | * women's health, including mammography and pap testing |
| * adult immunizations   | * health education                                      |

Make an appointment, call the Health Department at (732) 431-7456.

Any owner of a house built before 1978 who is concerned about the possible presence of lead paint, and whose household income does not exceed 80% of the median for Monmouth County, adjusted for household size, can apply for assistance under the Department of Community Affairs Lead-Safe Home Remediation Pilot Grant Program by contacting the Community Affairs and Resource Center at (732) 774-3282. 80% of median household income for Monmouth County ranges from \$46,300 for a single- person household to \$87,300 for an eight-person household.

Dear Roosevelt Community:

The FC Monmouth soccer team is conducting a mascot contest: please submit your vote for our Roosevelt Candidate: Helena LeCompte  
FC Monmouth has a new men's soccer team playing in the National Premier Soccer League. They decided to have a county-wide school contest for students to share ideas about what they think the mascot should be.

Only eleven students were selected from all over Monmouth County by a panel of judges. One of our students, Helena LeCompte, has been chosen to represent her third grade class at RPS. If her mascot drawing is chosen, there will be special recognition at the first game, the third grade teacher will receive tickets to the first game, the third grade class will receive season tickets, and Helena will also receive the FC Monmouth team jersey.

Please vote on the FC Monmouth mascot page for Helena LeCompte before May 5th.

I would like to thank the students that participated in this contest. Your drawings were well thought out and very creative and your teachers are proud of each of you.

Warm regards,  
Wendy Witlieb  
Art and Technology STEAM teacher

## FC Monmouth Mascot Contest: Submit Your Vote



Please vote:  
[fcmonmouth.com/mascot](http://fcmonmouth.com/mascot) Helena is entry #7.

From FC Monmouth:

Dozens of schools across the County were creative, worked hard and shared with us ideas about what they think the Mascot should be for our new men's soccer team playing in the National Premier Soccer League. The brilliant designer who wins this competition will be announced at and receive special recognition during half time of the 1st game of the season Saturday May 12, 2018 6pm at Count Basie Park in Red Bank.

We were impressed by the creativity and hard work from all the students, but our judges had the tough job to select six schools with various quality submissions that will be featured on this website for voting until May 5th when we count the votes. So click on each picture below to see a bigger version, review all submissions, please vote once and share with your network to also vote on the design that you think represents Monmouth County and our new team. See you on the 12th to learn about our winner! Any questions? Feel free to contact us at [mascot@fcmonmouth.com](mailto:mascot@fcmonmouth.com).

At Sandy Hook

I pick a spot between the lighthouse  
& the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge

Next to a piping plover nesting site

The New York skyline shrinks into haze  
Smaller than a container ship  
Heading back to Japan  
Its deck stacked with bright red boxes

Instead of beachcombing  
I drowse listening to the surf

Along the bayshore coves ruined gun batteries  
Covered by graffiti collapse on the sand

A solitary osprey guards the tidal wetland  
Now that the Nike missiles have been hauled off for scrap

Wes Czyzewski



## PTA Newsletter March/April 2018

### PTA News

#### SPRING CARNIVAL

Our spring carnival is quickly approaching and will be held April 21, 2018. In order to make this event a success, we need volunteers to run games and food concessions. Volunteering for games is a great way for older siblings to earn community service hours for Scouts, National Honors Society or Confirmations. Also, it's not limited to PTA members, if you have a friend or family member willing to lend a hand for two or three hours, please have them contact us! We will be posting a volunteer sign up over Spring Break.

The Tricky Tray Raffle, traditionally held as part of the Carnival is the largest fundraiser the PTA holds each year. Please consider making a donation of a new or unused item to add to our raffle.

Do you own a business or a direct sales business? This is the perfect way to get your name out there, so everyone can see your products.

We have over \$4,000 in prizes so far this year! We have received some great donations including an American Girl Doll, theater tickets, restaurant gift certificates and many other awesome prizes. We will also be running a 50/50! This event is open to the public, so please help us spread the word! We will also be holding an offsite raffle for (4) Disney World Park Hopper Passes (a \$600 value) which will go on sale the day of the Carnival. The grand prize drawing will be held after the Spring Concert on May 15, 2018. We encourage you to spread the word and help us sell tickets to friends and family! The tickets will be sold for \$5 each.

#### STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

This year Staff Appreciation is being celebrated

May 7-11th.

We are going to do a Superhero Theme this year as teachers and the staff are our SUPERHEROS!

The schedule for this year:

Sun. May 6th	Door Decorating
Mon. May 7th	Breakfast(Pre K-2nd )
Tue. May 8th	Superhero Supplies
Wed. May 9th	Sweet Snacks (3rd-6th)
Thu. May 10th	Words of Inspiration
Fri. May 11 th	Staff lunch

#### TRENTON THUNDER NIGHT OUT

Join students and family for a great night of fun and baseball on June 5th. Kids eat FREE.

Our 6th grade graduates will be recognized on the field before the game! All 6th graders will receive a free ticket to the game compliments of the PTA. Take advantage of our pre-sale cost of \$10.00 per ticket until April 30th. All tickets purchased after April 30th will be full price at \$12.00.

Need more details email: Katie Jawidzik @ calliesmom09@gmail.com.

A Special Thank You to Kate Murphy! As some of you may know Kate has stepped down as our amazing Pizza Ninja, and she will be greatly missed. But a HUGE thank you goes to Kate for being our pizza ninja over the past 2 years. Pizza day won't be the same without you!



### Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Report: April gave the treasurers report, with a full accounting of all deposits and expenditures.\*

Schoolhouse Hooky was well received by all who attended, it was our largest expenditure to date and cost more than \$500 for vendors, supplies and food for the day.

Fundraising report: At February's meeting it was discussed that we have several upcoming expenses, including 6th grade graduation, agendas and folders, and without knowing exactly how much money the carnival brings it, we may want to table planning the dance until after Carnival Proceeds have been determined. We may have to find a low-cost or free DJ for the evening, it is tentatively planned for June 2nd.

Carnival planning is in full swing with separate planning meetings taking place, a full budget has been created for food and games. We also received our gambling permit from the NJLG-CCC and our raffle licenses have been submitted to the Borough (approved as of 3/27).

New business: We have approval to run a 50/50 the night of the Spring Concert.

We ordered SMENCILS to sell at Parent Teacher Conferences for \$1 each. We discussed several ideas for Mother's Day and Father's Day fundraisers which we will implement next year. We ask that all class parties ensure there is a healthy snack option available for the students. The BOGO Book Fair has been scheduled for May 16-18th.

\* documents submitted available to members in good standing upon request





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UPCOMING PIZZA DAYS

April 11 & 25

May 9 & 23

NEXT PTA MEETINGS

April 11 @ 7pm

Carnival meeting

May 8 @7pm

Last Meeting of this School Year

Congratulations to 1st & 2nd Grades for winning the Snowball Fight Contest!

Thank you for everyone for participating, you have helped earn more than \$280 for our school this year!

For more information, and the latest on PTA events follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rpspta/>



Spring  
Carnival  
April 21,  
2018

Borough of Roosevelt

PO Box 128

Roosevelt New Jersey 08555

Phone: 609 448 0539

Fax: 609 448 8716

recreation@rooseveltnj.us



# Camp Roosevelt

(For children entering 1st grade through 7th grade)

*“Community-Friendship-Respect”*

The Borough of Roosevelt is proud to offer Camp Roosevelt, led daily by Larisa Bondy and Gus Vuolle. The camp is based on the motto “Community – Friendship – Respect.” This program will offer traditional camp activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, trips and special themed events, but with an additional emphasis on community based activities, outdoor skill building and exploration.

The program will run for six (6) weeks from Monday, July 9 – Friday, August 17 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost of the program is \$450 per child. An After Camp program also will be available from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at an additional cost of \$290 dollars per child. A few short bus trips are being planned which may require an additional fee. A camp calendar will be provided on the first day of the program.

A \$100 deposit is due for Camp Roosevelt and a \$50 deposit is due for After Camp upon registration, with the balance due by June 22. This is not an additional registration fee. The deposit simply assures us the amount of children attending for proper planning. Deposits will be refunded only if the program is canceled. We will only offer the program if enough children register. A parent/guardian packet of information will be available in June and must be completed and returned on the first day your child attends the program.

Registration forms are available at Borough Hall. For any questions leave a phone message for Eric Schubager, the recreation director, at Borough Hall (609-448 0539), or contact Larisa Bondy at [Larisabondy@verizon.net](mailto:Larisabondy@verizon.net).

Join other good neighbors at

## ROOSEVELT SOLAR VILLAGE

North Valley Road, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

- One and Two Bedroom Units for Adults Age 62+ Years Old
- Some Units Available for Disabled Individuals 18+ Years Old
  - Rent is Based on Income & Eligibility Requirements
  - Parking available • On-site Maintenance

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 609.371.1350**

Managed by: Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey



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## New Invasive Species

With the introduction of imported crops, the potential for introducing a new threat has recently appeared. *Pastus vulgaris* is a shrub native to North Africa. These shrubs are multi-stemmed with simple serrated leaves about 1" wide and about 2" long with a tan indumentum on the underside. It has white half-inch five-petaled flowers in clusters of 8-10. It has never been very common in its native habitat, since the Pastus Weevil, *Anthonomus pastus*, infests the fruit and consumes most of the seeds, severely limiting the plant's spread and rendering the fruit inedible. However, in about 800 AD, a

seedless mutation that produced a long, thin starchy fruit was identified and named *Pastus gracili*. It is rarely attacked by the weevil. These seedless plants were propagated by rooting cuttings and cultivated much like seedless grapes and bananas.

*Pastus gracili* and later *Pastus prae-gracilis* were cultivated in groves in Italy and throughout the Mediterranean for centuries. In 1787, Thomas Jefferson sent *Pastus gracili* cuttings back to Monticello. In the early 1800's, commercial orchards were established in Long Island. For many years, these orchards provided

a reliable supply of the long slender fruit. In 2005, a branch mutation reverted to the progenitor's characteristic fruit with seeds. Migrating birds found the ripening fruit and dispersed the seed from Long Island to Florida. With nothing to control it, *Pastus vulgaris* has been spreading rampantly in recent years, making it the latest species to invade the US.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Vo\\_wkxH9dU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Vo_wkxH9dU)

Be on the lookout for this aggressive plant.

## This Month on the Woodland Trail

by Steve Taylor

On the trail again

I just can't wait to get on the trail again

If you are suffering from cabin fever, or if you are thinking of doing something about the after effects of all those holiday meals, or if you have avoided walking the trails through the alternating gloom and blinding brightness of a frigid winter, now is the time to hit the trails. The first flowers of spring are in full bloom. But, you may have to look hard for them. They are at ground level in wetlands, some are purple and some are striped or spotted green and purple. At about 5 inches tall, these are the flowers of the skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*. Well technically, they are not the flowers but the spathe, which shelters the cluster of tiny flowers that rest inside. The flow-

ers have a pungent odor. To put it bluntly; they stink. Skunk cabbages are arums like their famous, giant, stinky cousin, the Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*). News of its blooming in botanical gardens occasionally makes the news. Skunk cabbages' fetid smell attracts flies and other pollinators. You may not have thought about it, but most plants are 'cold blooded'. The skunk cabbage is 'hot blooded', thermogenic. Their flowers can be 27-63 °F warmer than their surroundings. The warmth helps disperse their scent and melts the late snows around the flowers. This strange plant exhibits another curious trait. Instead of growing taller, each year the contractile roots pull the plant deeper into the ground. As the weather warms, the leaves will unfurl and expand eventually reaching 15-21 in long and 12-15 in wide. Their scent

makes them unattractive to deer. Additionally, the foliage is toxic because it contains crystals of calcium oxalate. In the fall, the leaves die back to reveal only a dark, 2-inch fruit lying on the ground, until next year.

So take to the trails and see what you can discover.

State Tree Give-Away  
The State Forest Service's New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign is handing out seedlings in communities around the state as part of a continuing effort to replace trees that were lost in Superstorm Sandy. For more information, see [http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2014/03/christie\\_administration\\_announ\\_3.html](http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2014/03/christie_administration_announ_3.html).

## Yucca

Continuing our series of articles highlighting the native species that we need to encourage, this month we spotlight the Yucca.

You may have seen Yucca (aka Yuca) in the produce department at the grocery store. Despite this long-standing misnomer, these tubers are not true Yuccas. They are actually tubers from the cassava plant (*Manihot esculenta*), a tropical food plant that is also the source of tapioca. True Yuccas are, for the most part, natives of the North America's western deserts and plains. There is one that is native to the east coast including New Jersey, *Yucca filamentosa*. It is known by a variety of names: Adam's needle, common yucca, Spanish bayonet, bear-grass, needle-palm, silk-grass, and spoon-leaf yucca. Unfortunately, many other species are also known by these same names. We'll stick with the scientific name to avoid any confusion. *Yucca filamentosa* gets its name from the white, thready filaments along the



*Yucca filamentosa* showing filaments along the leaf margins  
Photo: S. Taylor

margins of its 2-foot long leaves that sprout from the base of this evergreen plant. If you look, you may see a few of them growing around town or by the roadsides. These are tough plants. Some sources list its hardiness as zone 4a, hardy to -25 to -30 °F. We are in zone 6b, -5 to 0 °F. As an aside, the Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) is hardy to Zone 5. It gets pretty cold in the desert!

Although *Yucca filamentosa* is in the Century-plant family, you won't have to wait a hundred years to enjoy the flowers. From May to July, hummingbirds and butterflies and assorted beetles visit the creamy white flowers that hang from the 4-6 foot tall spike. When the flowers are spent, the flower spike should be cut off just above the leaves. This helps preserve the plant's vigor and shortens the time until the next bloom. Once a plant has bloomed, the next blooms will come from the new 'pups' that sprout from around its base. In time, a single plant will create a small cluster of plants. Besides their flowers, these plants have other uses. If you are feeling creative, the fibrous leaves can be woven into baskets.

*Yucca filamentosa* plants are not too fussy about their location, as long as they don't get too much shade or water. They are happy in sandy soil or clay, they tolerate a wide range of soil pH, and they grow well in moist or dry soil. They do not require particularly rich soil. Best of all they are fairly resistant to deer and rabbits.



*Yucca filamentosa*

Deer nibbled a few leaves from mine about 10 years ago, but they haven't snacked on mine since.

There is a fair amount of variability in *Yucca filamentosa*. Some people classify plants with droopy leaves as a separate species, *Yucca flaccida*, others simply regard them as variants of *Yucca filamentosa*. That said, *Yucca filamentosa* have been commercially available for a long time. In addition to the typical species type, a number of colorful selections (Golden Sword, Garland's Gold, Ivory Tower, Color Guard, and Bright Edge) are available from nurseries. Other North American native yucca species are occasionally for sale at local nurseries, so read the label.

References:

Genus Yucca  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucca>

Search for *Yucca filamentosa* at:  
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>  
<https://www.wildflower.org>



**Part 1:****Roosevelt to the Southern Hemisphere and back in Eighty Days**

By Al Hepner

Getting ready for a trip around the world is like getting ready for an acting part. Many years ago I fancied myself a serious amateur actor. I remember that my best performances always came after I'd been so nervous before going on stage that I nearly became paralyzed. But I persevered and flourished. The times I walked on stage full of confidence, I bombed. Well, if the anxiety and exhilaration I was feeling on this pre-first flight day was any indication, this trip would be a fantastic success. It would not be because I packed so well; actually, my freneticism kept me from packing consistently. It could have been that I would have had many more bottoms than tops, as well as freeze in London, where I intended to dump a heavy jacket I should have thrown out a long time ago. I thought it would wind up at Heathrow Airport before I'd board for Africa. The overstuffed bags had little chance of making it past Livingstone, Zambia. I guessed they sold suitcases there. I promise not to dwell on my clothing line, for anyone that knows me knows only too well the fashion plate I'm not.

January 10, 2008, on the way to London

Jaya, my seat mate on the plane was only the second anarchist I'd ever met; she was a Swedish/American redhead with dual citizenship who lived in London. We discussed politics, which is always interesting with an anarchist. I was in my forties when I went back to college and before I discovered that

national delininations were only a few hundred years old. I had been raised in Belgium with a King and it seems that everything I was taught would benefit a King and his subjects, which included well defined borders. Hence our discussions on education were as interesting as any new ideas seem to be. It felt so good to start out speaking to a stranger with such uncharacteristic opinions; it seemed a precursor to this trip of the Southern Hemisphere where I was sure people must be standing on their heads or have odd opinions of the Northern folks. Like any other healthy adventurous strangers, we also talked about ourselves. We were both delighted to have found a responsive conversationalist. After we got off at Heathrow, we kept bumping into each other in the airport and later on in the subway. She helped me maneuver my first underground ride. When I finally got to Oxford Circus with my four bags weighing over 100 lbs, two Bobbies proceeded to give me the wrong directions to the hotel; two more compounded the problem by sending me even further away from my intended destination. After a three-mile-walk and some help from a decent store keeper, I found it. I asked the front desk clerk if I needed to carry a passport in London. It took me three tries before she understood the word passport. And I think I speak English. It was the first time I questioned whether I should have left Roosevelt, where everybody understands passport even though you don't need one.

**Part 2:****Roosevelt to the Southern Hemisphere and Back in Eighty Days**

The First Few Days in London,  
January 15, 2008

A full English breakfast buffet may not be the healthiest but if you're looking for protein with beans, it works well when it's buffet style. I woke with an awful cramp. I could not straighten my right hand; I still couldn't two days later, and I still couldn't write in my journal effortlessly. It was one of my concerns since I had thought of this trip: what if I got ill? How could I go on without opening my right hand; what would come next; would my left hand be affected; should I go to Africa this way; could I shlep the suitcases?

I had to find a way to go on. It was the suitcase, of course—I couldn't open my hand because I had shlepped the suitcases for ever. Winter in London, like in Belgium, is often rainy and the wind keeps the umbrella inside out most of the time, which is not making my hand feel any better. (I include Belgium not so much because I grew up there, but because Evelyn Datz, a former Roosevelt resident told me how she discovered that she and her husband, Aaron, were in Belgium while traveling in a train from Paris to Brussels. The train was so crowded that they had to stand in the vestibule all the way. At a given moment, a man standing next to them speaking with a clipped British accent said, "We must be in Belgium." The Datzs asked him how he knew. "It's cloudy and about to rain," he said.) Despite the unruly umbrella, I made it to the Modern Tate Museum, where Juan Munoz's works were displayed. "Juan Munoz (1953-2001) is regarded as one of the foremost sculptors and

Continued on Page 13



Continued from Page 12

installation artists of the late twentieth century. Exploring themes of interior space, muteness and absence; his art is renowned for situation figures within elaborate or complex architectural settings.” This retrospective of his work was extremely interesting. He depicts situations, colonial days, for example, with photographs, and draws caricatures of the principal person beneath the photograph as he perceives him and as, I for one, might extrapolate all the intended perspectives of colonialists; a face with pig lips, for example. All his sculptures give us a sense of what else the person or situation reminds us of, but always with a political framework.

The main exhibition was of Louise Bourgeois’s work, an artist who wasn’t widely recognized and accepted for most of her 96 years. She had sculpted, drawn, painted, printed and mounted installations. Three-dimensional works had been her main approach; she uses a wide range of materials. “Much of her work is motivated by her exploration of personal memories and the psychological states of trauma and anxiety. Though the sources of her imagery are autobiographical, her ... sculptures also communicate universal concerns and emotions.” To me, she was reacting to the effects her tyrannical father and cheating husband had on her. They may be the organic form her cells take. Her imagination abounds. The video doesn’t present her as particularly pleasant, but certainly as a determined person. A must see.

The Tate Modern also had an interesting exhibition on the ground floor, which seemed to be the entrance to a former garage. The whole length of the 500-foot

building had a crack on the floor that appeared to be the result of a small earthquake. It is called Doris Salcedo’s *Shibboleth*. ” A shibboleth, (as you all know) is a word used as a test for detecting people from another district or country by their pronunciation, (which explains why the hotel clerk couldn’t catch on to my pronunciation of passport) a word or sound very difficult for foreigners to pronounce correctly. It is, therefore, a way of separating one people from another.”

This from the Bible, is a way of detecting people crossing the Jordan who couldn’t pronounce “sh.” They were captured and executed. The crack represents the distance and division used to separate and divide peoples through history and it is a reminder of the everlasting wounds created by the other not able to pronounce “sh.” That Friday night I went to see “The History Boyz,” a depiction of English public school and the direction education is taking; measurability or nothing. The professor that wants education dies in a motorcycle accident as living education has. Well acted and presented. If any of the above comes or returns to the States, it would be well worth seeing any or all of it. In case you wonder why I’ve includ-

ed my impressions of art from the Tate; it’s two-fold. One, it was probably because I lived in Roosevelt (the reputed West Bank of Paris) that I even considered visiting the Tate; and, two, it’s because you’re reading the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin that I’ve left it in. It’s your punishment. I know I’ve spoiled you all. Don’t expect these detailed impressions again. It’s only because I wasn’t well that I was not out there practicing for Africa. I’ll be back.

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#### A WAVE OF THE HAND for David G. Massey

Why I stride into the hospital  
confident as light  
seems as much an irony and mystery to me  
as mutant cells marauding a body  
bent on their death.

Yesterday I tried to make  
the single coin of light tossed to me by one leaf  
from a bank of weeds  
worth a single damn.

And a rustle in the bushes as I pass  
means nothing to a walker up cemetery path.

Moving today as if with purpose  
through the children’s wing to your bed,  
I’m stopped by a stringless harp,  
a harp that mocks.

I reach into its emptiness. Notes glitter  
like gifts. I hold them  
close. Dead space  
made alive by one wave of my hand in the air  
as if waiting done, meaning come.

---David Sten Herrstrom

# Contributors to the Bulletin 2017/2018

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare	Al Hepner	Allen Newrath
James Alt & Susan Schwartz	Constance &	The Ng Family
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Elsbeth Battel	Assenka Oksiloff	Bob & Alison Petrilla
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**A P R I L**

- 3 Tues. 12:30 pm Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall

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- 3 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Borough Hall

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- 4 Weds. Recycling Pickup ♻️

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- 7 Sat. 8:00 pm **One Sock Missing: A Poetry Reading The Roosevelt Poets, Borough Hall**

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- 9 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor

---

- 17 Tues. 7:00 pm Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President

---

- 18 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall,

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- 18 Weds. Recycling Pickup ♻️

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- 21 Sat. Spring Carnival Roosevelt Public School

---

- 23 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor

---

- 26 Thurs. 7:30 pm RPS Board of Education, Ken LeCompte, President

**M A Y**

- 1 Tues. 12:30 pm Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall

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- 1 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Borough Hall

---

- 2 Weds. Recycling Pickup ♻️

---

- 12 Sat. 8:00 pm **Roosevelt String Band in Concert, Borough Hall**

---

- 14 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor

---

- 15 Tues. 7:00 pm Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, John Vo, President

---

- 16 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall,

---

- 18 Weds. Recycling Pickup ♻️

---

- 20 Sat. **Roosevelt Arts Project Annual General Meeting Roosevelt Public School**

---

- 28 Mon. Memorial Day – RPS & Borough Offices Closed

---

- 29 Tues. 7:00 pm Council Meeting, Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor

---

- 31 Thurs. 7:30 pm RPS Board of Education, Ken LeCompte, President

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April 4, 18  
May 2, 18

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