



Bulletin



Volume 46 Number 2

June 2023

T H E P O E T R Y I S S U E

Poetry is unnecessary but we can't live without it. Someone once (about 3,000 years ago) wrote a poem in the sand, and then the tide came in and erased it. And then the tide went out and left anomalous geographical shapes in the sand.

Voila, Poetry!

And this process continued and will continue for as long as the ocean advances and recedes and people walk and talk and insist on expressing their (our) ideas and feelings in images and sounds and beats. (Amen!) (a-men!). Poetry is a condensed, supercharged language form that travels light but leaves an indelible impression. It is, as someone once said, "News that stays News."

--Ron Kostar

Welcome to the 7th Annual Poetry Issue of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin.

by Rick Pressler

The number seven feels auspicious, possessing special significance in mythology, religion, literature, music, astrology, and New York baseball history (Mickey Mantle! Ed Kranepool!). Miles Davis's "Seven Steps to Heaven" was always a touchstone among the Jazz standards of my early years. It remains to be seen whether this Issue #7 will live up to the numerological hype, but I am hopeful.

Within these pages are a wide range of voices coming from poets of all ages and backgrounds. Our youngest writers come to us from the third grade class at Roosevelt Public School, and our presumed oldest turned 93 last March. In addition to our wonderful Roosevelt poets, who were the inspiration for this annual issue, we have included a generous sampling of other New Jersey (and New Jersey-adjacent) writers who bring their own diverse perspectives and poetic music into the mix.

It is much to our regret that we cannot publish nearly all the poetry we received—from our local students alone we received enough work for four Poetry Issues. After some thoughtful consultation among our editorial staff we have decided to publish a sample of the student work, leaving the remainder to be included in future issues. I apologize for the disappointment of our young poets whose work does not appear here, but please give us a few months to get you into print.

Reading through the dozens of poems, one after the other, is like riding a fast train through a changing landscape. Not all these poems bring us to happy places, and some of them may leave us mystified, in a state of unknowing that can be disconcerting. But as the train glides along, I am confident you will find much to enjoy—so read on! Many thanks to all our poets, especially our local Roosevelt poets, who have generously shared their work and made this publication possible.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 44th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. Issues run 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.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text with in the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Please include images as separate files.
- 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.
- 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, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at www.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org., the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to rpressler32@gmail.com.

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Help Wanted!

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., is a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

A Summer Day

I think that it's a perfect day to go to the beach.

The sun is shining and I like the sand in between my feet.

We will need sunscreen for the excruciating heat.

When we get there we will hear the seagulls tweet.

My mom thinks my idea is sweet and agrees

When we step in the water the little fish flee

Me and my mom like to play in the sea

And enjoy the Tennessee beach

We hear the seagulls screech

We give them a cracker each

We decide we've had a good day at the beach

And we should finally leave

We pack up our stuff and left

And turned back to reflect

But we kept the seashells we collected

The beach was better than we expected

-Jannah Strauli-Ellis, 5th Grade

Jannah Strauli-Ellis is the first recipient of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Bess Tremper Young Writers Award, which recognizes a Roosevelt Public School student whose work over the course of the school year has demonstrated a passion for writing.

Green Prophet

Think about it
this entire tree, its tallness
its celebration of sheer

green unfoldingness,
a prophet unaware
that does not

make words and scatter
them among us
but stands
steadfast in a single spot

on our planet
sending silent messages
over root nerves
to his forest family

and to us, raising
its leaves and waving
to catch our eyes

who're just walking by
seeing its family
as ornaments
or dollars in the world,

yet one day
will know
they were prophets.

--David Sten Herrstrom

Afterglow

Winter gray warms me
Like a merino sweater

Dusk and I share the same wardrobe
Wicking our way to the horizon

Even my dreams are wooly
With constant alarms

Climbing bell towers that sway

Losing my way in major cities

Their stone flanks oblivious
To the existential crisis
No guide book can solve

by Wes Czyzewski

Light walks in the door, welcome guest
for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Then says it has to go elsewhere,
but stays to watch the sunset,
and leaves, just before dark.

_____JM_____

Judith McNally

THE TABLE

delivery came on the on table
serrated splinters etched into mammas
fleshly thighs
blood seeped front and rear
her insides slid out
feet first

BORN

my head is small, my limbs are long
we lay together tethered in the umbilical cord
leaking afterbirth
separated with the butchering knife

FREE

left breast is mine
close to her heart
she empties the right in masters boy
my belly half empty

BONDAGE

the table gutted stained with family
solid from base to top
structured from oak and pine
branch legs 6 inches thick
focal point grounded in mud
Sunday's an altar get saved pray eat
mother chops bake washes
a birthing table hospital and deathbed
hammered battered spit and fucked on
our sacred possession

OWNERSHIP

Emancipation blew in one December
table dug up from the dirt floor
upside down we carry all
one blanket 2 pots a shirt a skirt
our table suitcase shelter from the rain
and our first fire in

FREEDOM

--Juanita Kirton

as it goes

it trickles seemingly like
pins and needles all over
your skin, even under,

it penetrates a
toothpick like prick
through each pore,

splintering halfway
plugging the holes,
it builds, builds

and builds, your body,
bigger and rounder,
air looking for the red

neon sign in this confusing,
dark, uninviting space,
created by people and

a man I do not know, but
still, I could hear his casket
closing with a pop. like

bubblegum, and this man,
now dead, now sleeping in a
funeral bed rests, rests, rests,

as for the rest of us, we are
unsettled at best;

-- Amanda Rodriguez



JUST TO KNOW

- for Ellen

1

In the green world
up here in this treehouse

I know what is holding me up—
the tree lifting me, placing me.

What down there,
earthly ones, holds you up?

2

I am looking up at leaves.
I am looking down at leaves.

This world I find myself afloat in,
am I rising or am I sinking?

Written in Ellen's treehouse during the Garden Tour Saturday.

--David Sten Herrstrom

Illiteracy

Said the grammarian with a frown,
“Our English language was the crown
Of languages, both east and west.
Acclaimed worldwide. It was the best,
A premier tongue, t’was always classed.
But that, alas, was in times past.”
Its reputation has gone down,
Diminished is the poor pronoun,
Compacted without great ado,
The subject word, the naked “who”
(A symbol of our doom and gloom)
For the objective pronoun, “whom.”
It’s as the literate have feared:
The vital “whom” has disappeared.

--George Sturm

I HAVE NO WORDS

for torn flesh shattered bodies cries for help
hearts bleed
no words for terror-stricken children mothers' arms empty
waiting police
no words for fire drills atomic bomb drills lock down active shooter drills
teachers with guns
no words for blown-up dreams political ineptitude
recurring behaviors
no words
no words to explain the losses tragedies horrendous horrific gruesome
no words for spoken and unspoken failures
silence = death in death gagged
no words to amend the 1791 Second Amendment
i love my country where to secure refuge
movie theatre church grocery store nightclub an elementary a high school college
a school...
no words for teddy bear balloons flowers candles prayers a shoe
tears
no words for collective numbness dazed frozen faces wagging tongues homilies
forgive me forgive us

No words ulcers in my throat time is up

--Juanita Kirton

Halfness

I hear a half-song
I hear a half-laugh
I feel a half-hit
I feel a half-kiss
I taste a half-cake
I drink a half-drink
My lover lives in halves too.

-- Amanda Rodriguez

Half of you keeps flying that way

This is where my soul finds me
This is where the music plays jauntingly free, the green leads to a forever green
As amber lines are swallowed whole by the flat needles in the distance
Flashing lights of another boy's pen
I'm looking forward to the black setting in tonight
Pipes of a bygone era
Let your legs hang and dangle
Half of you keeps flying that way

--Gus Vuolle

ROSA ROSE

Gentle her intense
Being in our lives.
Her smiles, petals of presence
We loved and love us yet.

As Rosa passed, her smiles
Rose and live here now,
As we pass down life's aisles.
Her petals settling upon us.

for Rosa

THIS SMILE IN THE WORLD

for Rosa

Yes, graceful grit,
both in life that was and death that is,
her smile that leaves her body
as she lives before and within us yet.

Smile intensely gentle,
the light that parts from her now
as it entered all she met,
lighting their smile and entering us yet.

-- David Sten Herrstrom



My Tree

My tall pine tree
Stand taller than all

Its color doesn't change
Even in the fall

It sings to the birds
Hums a tune to the bees

As it sheds its needles
All over me

Its branches sway
Its strong branches let go of the
pine cones in its shaggy hair

I smell the sweet sap and feel the
sticky bark from under my fingers

I feel grateful as can be
Sitting under my pine tree

—Farrah Schack, 3rd grade



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Bulletin Introduces Award Honoring Bess Tremper, Former Managing Editor and Long Time Roosevelt Resident

The *Bulletin's* Board of Trustees has established the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Bess Tremper Young Writers Award in honor of the publication's long time Managing Editor who passed away in 2014. The award will be given out during the Roosevelt Public School graduation to a graduating fifth-grade student who has demonstrated a notable passion for writing.

Jannah Strauli-Ellis is the first recipient of the award.



Local Artist Receives State Fellowship Grant

By Rick Pressler

Roosevelt resident Cecelia Ticktin recently received a 2023 Individual Artist Fellowship in the category of screenwriting from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Fellowships are awarded to practicing New Jersey artists through an anonymous, competitive application process to help them pursue their artistic goals.



Born and raised in Roosevelt, Cecelia is a writer/actor who recently toured the country as the Elphaba Standby in the musical *Wicked*. She has worked with notable directors including Julie Andrews, Lonny Price, and Scott Schwartz. Her writing has been recognized by Sundance, STOWE Story Labs, The Sidewalk Film Festival, and PANO.

Note to Artists: Applications for the 2024 grants are now available on the Council's web site: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Individual-Artist-Fellowship-Application-Now-Open-.html?soid=1117482190155&aid=fncIctzocfA>

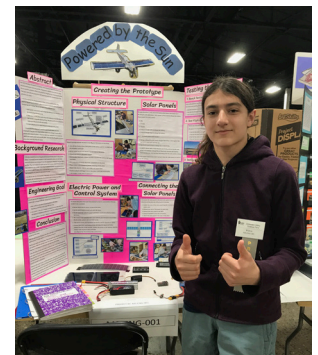


Congratulations to Sam Vo for receiving the Girl Scout Silver Award for her project cleaning up Rising Sun Lake and educating local youth about pollution.

Congratulations to the graduating 5th graders!

5th Grade Students graduating from Roosevelt Public School

Niko Theodorakakos	Superintendent School Spirit Award
Ivan Headley	Mayor's Leadership Award
Jayden Seijas	RPS Board of Education Award for Creativity
Logan Culver	Environmental Commission Award
Thomas Davenport	Fund for Roosevelt Environmental Award
Eliana Liebowitz	RAP Art Award
Victoria Frier	Emily Silverstein for a Better World Award
Jude Trujillo	Sarah Tulloss Memorial Good Friend Award
Kendall LeCompte	Clare Sacharoff Academic Excellence Award
Jannah Strauli-Ellis	Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Bess Tremper Young Writers Award
Anna Lee Sheenan	RPS Teachers' Most Improved Award
Charlie Hubiak	Happy Helper Award



Congratulations to Willow Pressler for receiving 1st place in the Middle School Engineering category at the regional Delaware Valley Science Fair in Pennsylvania.

Sitting in the Out-/field

Always
somewhere within a five foot circle
there is one blade moving.
Sometimes just one, but
one. From wind or
because someone put it down, and it's getting up.

Last night
on a blade thin as possible,
a lightning bug twirled,
flat, black, redhead
acrobat—
made one blade dance
with his neon
on.

vii.6.76
Princeton

--Rod Tulloss, from *Selected Poems: 1969-1976*

may my heart always be open to little
birds who are the secrets of living
whatever they sing is better than to know
and if men should not hear them men are old

may my mind stroll about hungry
and fearless and thirsty and supple
for even if it's sunday may i be wrong
for whenever men are right they are not young

and may myself do nothing usefully
and love yourself so more than truly
there's never been such a fool who could fail
pulling all the sky over him with one smile

--e.e. cummings

Cheap Tattoo

This weekend I blew seventy bucks
On a cheap tattoo,
'Mom' written in a heart
With an arrow going through.

Ten minutes of buzzing
And staring at the ground,
My favorite part was
The lack of conversation.

My mom told me this was her favorite
Piece that I've gotten done,
As if this was considered art
Unlike the other ones.

She thought holding my hand
Would hold her place in this world,
In me,
But I've always preferred both of my hands

Free.

But this reservation on my arm
Somehow undid motherhood's defeat,
And reversed time
To when I couldn't cross the street.

When she asks "Does it ever hurt?"
I know she means the needle,
But I still said,
"Yes."

-- Amanda Rodriguez

Weeping Willow

After April showers, the Weeping Willow starts to thrive in May,
As the wind blows, the Weeping Willow's branches calmly sway.

Although the Weeping Willow is a symbol of grief,
Its flowing long branches will provide a hiding spot for you to be at peace.



Not only do I love peering through the branches and wrapping them around my neck like a scarf,
The whippoorwill hides inside the tree.

The whippoorwill sings its song as if it is screaming its name,
Its song is as jumpy as a jack in the box.

All spring and summer long, the weeping willow is harmless and a beauty of nature.
However, then comes winter the weeping willows leaves fall to the ground and those weeping
branches turn into thrashing whips of wood.

-Blake LeCompte, 3rd grade

★

**JULY FIRST FRIDAY
RED, WHITE
AND BLUE**

At Chisholm's • 13 Homestead Lane
July 7, 2023 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Bring swim suit
Bring Food and Drink to Share

Issue/ Problem	Call
Power outage	JCP&L - 1-888-544-4877 1-888-LIGHTSS
Telephone outage	Your telephone provider (phone # is on your bill)
Loose or lost dog	Borough Hall 609-448-0539, EXT 0
Road obstruction	911
Trees down	911
Health Emergency	911
Comcast outage	1-800-XFINITY (1-800-934-6489)
FioS outage	(800) 837-4966
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

Culture

What people do. The thoughts they think.
The common values that they share.
What they produce. Their interlink.
The pauper and the billionaire.
The farmer and industrialist.
The law judge and the jury.
The bear hug and the iron fist.
The love song and the fury.
The way they vote. The way they play.
The things they learn in school.
What parents to their children say
About the Golden Rule.

These attributes and dozens more
Provide us with some sketchy hints
As to our make-up and our lore
Like D.N.A. or fingerprints.
But that's not all we need to know:
More than a moment's candid shot,
Remembrances of long ago
Retained and ne'er forgot
Of who was who, and what they did,
Atrocious or sublime,
Enduring, like the pyramid,
To symbolize their time.

February 12, 2010

--George Sturm

Marginalia

Leafing through foxed texts
On their way to the recycling bin

I'm surprised by the enthusiasm
I once had for ideas and crafty phrasings

Agreeing with them as a validation of sorts
Being on the right track in that printed silence

by Wes Czyzewski

Good and bad

Different spirits all around
They follow the people throughout the town

Some are good some are bad
No matter what, some will make you sad

Each soul has a story
Telling it to you will put them in their glory

Most of them want no harm
They want to win you over with their charm

--Kenneth Seijas, 3rd grade

By Steve Taylor

The Grass that's not a Grass

This month's article highlights native species that we need to encourage, Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass, (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*).

The *Sisyrinchium* is a genus of flowering plants related to iris that are native to the New World. There are over 200 species, but the species most common



Flower and seed pod

here is the Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass. It is fairly common east of the Mississippi and into Canada. When not in bloom, it looks like a clump of some sort of grass, but when the flowers appear; it clearly isn't. The six-petaled blue flowers with a yellow throat appear on the branching grass-like stems. The flowers are about a half an inch across and are followed by seedpods that look like little balls. These perennials like moist but not wet, poor soil. They may spread from seed, but they don't stray far from the parent plant. Look for these in bloom from May to July.

Like many natives, several species of blue-eyed grass seeds and plants are commercially available. Most are very similar. Some Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass plants have been selected for larger flowers, and there is a strain that has white flowers instead of the typical blue.



Blue-eyed Grass - *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

photo S Taylor

References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisyrinchium>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisyrinchium_angustifolium

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SIAN3

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission would like to remind our fellow citizens of a few recycling tips. All of the following information (and more) can be found in the "Recycling 101" article written by Steve Taylor in the March 2019 Bulletin.

- Number 5 plastic is now recyclable in Roosevelt. These items are made from Polypropylene (PP) and are marked with a number "5". Common items made from number 5 plastic include: yogurt cups, sour cream containers, baby wipes boxes and bottle caps.
- **Please remember:** Recycling is not the only way to reduce your environmental impact. Many containers can be upcycled or reused.
- **Please remember:** Only aluminum cans and tin cans (tin cans with aluminum lids) can be recycled (after rinsing)
- **Please remember:** Aluminum foil, trays, roasting pans, cookware and scrap metal cannot be recycled.
- **Please remember:** Do not "wishcycle". This is the practice of tossing questionable items in the recycling bin, hoping they can be recycled.
- **Please remember:** Please leave at least 3 feet between your garbage can and recycling container(s).

The Lovely Tree

One morning there was a tree
with so many apples all over it
The tree had birds chirping a lovely song
called "Memories".

There were like five blooming pink flowers with butterflies
shady like your in a room with the shades closed
all different colored leaves
red, orange and even yellow.

A tree that looked like a heart
that had a tire swing
A ladder needed to get on

place to mellow.

-Isabella Nicole Lorraine Hollingsworth, 3rd grade

Trees

Trees are gift givers
Giving food like colorful apples.

Letting beautiful bugs crawl over them
Like babies crawl on knees.

Letting people swing swiftly on their branches
Like children swing on a swing set.

Green leaves feeding hungry caterpillars
Who grow fat and become butterflies.

Giving happy shade to people and animals
A cold, windy place to rest.

-Genesis Mayorga, 3rd grade

The Tree

Once a lonely tree was in the woods at winter time
That morning a girl went into the woods
The girl went and bumped into the tree
The tree was looking so warm because it was in
clothes
The tree said "Ouch"
The girl said, "Sorry that I bumped into you"
The girl screamed as loud as a wolf howling
The tree said, "Shhh, you don't have to be afraid"
The girl comes down and said "Sorry for screaming"
Together they play every day as the wind blows

-Hailey Green, 3rd grade

Blue Spruce

The spruce was as big as a truck
The needles were humongous.

The tree was so big the bird could not fly to its top
The bird was blue and flew and flew until it reached the near tip.

The tree was watching him and started to cry.
The tree was so happy it sighed

The tree had flowers
A very deep purple

The tree's needles were blue like the sky

The tree was happy forever
With a new friend by its side.

-Daniel Ruotolo-Lahens, 3rd grade

Cadence

Lying on the ground
Watching chipmunks scurry by
My awesome k-9

-Farrah Schack,
3rd grade



The Wonders of Color

Black, brown, blue, yellow
Oh, all the things you can write
Oh what a delight

-Cooper Barrett,
4th grade



The Dark Wood

Up in the dark wood
A tree stands tall and mighty
The bird will soon fly

-Eliana Leibowitz,
5th grade



Summer Love

Summer spring breezes
Love is around constantly
Sunflowers are back

-Kenny Seijas
3rd grade



Artistic Roosevelt

Roosevelt means life
Art is written in our name
People paint our world

-Delaney Hopf, 4th grade



Brown Buck

The brown buck is big
It defends against hunters
The buck is scary

-Nolan Harland,
3rd grade



Burning Sun

Very hot and bright
Giant star way up in space
Fire making light

-Aidan DeFoe,
3rd grade



Spider

Crawling on the floor
Goes through small spaces and cracks
Miniscule spider

-Aiden DeFoe,
3rd grade



Spring

Cool and humid air
Little buds begin to bloom
Spring rain starts to fall

-Kendall LeCompte,
5th grade



Beautiful Butterfly

Faster than a snap
Small beautiful fuzzy wings
Looking for nectar.

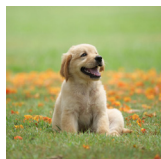
-Kenneth Sesjas
3rd Grade



My Dog

My little furry
He goes bark bark all the time
With little small paws

-Chloe Zaradkiewicz,
4th grade



Flowers

Fills the air with joy
The sun comes out and they bloom
Makes the world brighter

-Anna Lee Sheenan,
5th grade



Busy Bumblebee

He is a big bee
He does not sting anyone
Yellow and black bee

Aria Hopcroft,
3rd grade





NEWSLETTER

THE NEWS

Congratulations to RPS 5th Grade Class of 2023! Good luck in 6th grade!

As students head into summer for a long and well deserved break, the Foundation would like to thank all faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to the students. Your commitment is much appreciated. While we will miss seeing Dr. Barry daily, she will continue on as our Superintendent, and will be supervising our new principal, Mrs. Gina Morrone. The Foundation looks forward to partnering with Mrs. Morrone next school year.

The Foundation looks forward to planning more fundraising events for the 2023-2024 academic year. Donations can be made any time by visiting our website www.rpsef.org. We remain committed to our mission in providing academic opportunities for RPS students in the 2023-2024 school year. Have a safe and restful summer break!



Above: During March's Visiting Artist Series, students created a mural representing RPS.

Below: A praying mantis statue welcomed grades K & 1 to their Insectropolis field trip in April.



GRANT UPDATES

Through generous donations, the following grants were approved between 2/23-6/9:

- Insectropolis trip transportation & guided tour grades K & 1
- Popcorn Park Animal Refuge entrance fee grades K, 1, & 2
- Lee Turkey Farm transportation grades K, 1, & 2
- Leveled Classroom Reader Books grade 1
- Visiting Artist program grades Pre-K through 5th
 - March: Ani Roskam, Muralist (3 sessions)
 - May: Cheri Rose Katz, Opera Singer (2 sessions)

THANK YOU DONORS AND SUPPORTERS!

HISTORY OF RPSEF

You may know what RPSEF does for our students, but you may not know how RPSEF began. Back in 2013-2014, there were big cuts in both state and federal aid to education. The RPS Board of Education was looking for ways to continue providing the students with trips, assemblies, and activities to enrich their learning, which could no longer be funded by the school budget. Natalie Warner and Assenka Oksiloff from the BOE called a meeting to ask if our community could create a non-profit Education Foundation. At that point, approximately 200 out of 590 N.J. districts had established such foundations to provide needed supplementary funds. In true Roosevelt fashion, parents, teachers, and residents went to work on winning a grant to cover expenses for training the fledgling group. We wrote our by-laws, application for non-profit status, and we were so happy when we were successful in winning the grant and got the foundation running.

Three of the founders, Anna Johnson, Debbie Visconti and Mary Tulloss, are still on the board of trustees. We now have four wonderful new members, Julie Christeas, Corin Schack, Stephanie Pinney, and Naomi Weinshenker. Judith Goetzmann is our esteemed BOE Representative. We continue striving to fulfill our mission in providing funding to support RPS, to inspire all students to do their best in becoming independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators, and lifelong learners.

Mary Tulloss, RPSEF President

Right: RPS Dragon Pals letter writing program is underway.

The mailbox is located in the school lobby.



EVENT RECAP

May: TGI Friday's Dine to Donate: \$507.00
June: Four Boys Ice Cream Fundraiser: \$165.00
Stefan Martin Fundraiser: Prints are still available.
Email rpsefdn@gmail.com if interested.

STAY TUNED

Customized School Supply Boxes for the 2023-2024 school year will soon be available through a link provided on the RPS school website www.rps1.org. Stay tuned for Dr. Barry's note home!

Visionary Blake

By George Sturm

Visionary. Both a noun and an adjective. Merriam-Webster tells the tale:

vi-sion-ar-y | 'viZHə, nerē | adjective

1 (especially of a person) thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom: a visionary leader.

- archaic (of a plan or idea) not practical.

2 relating to or able to see visions in a dream or trance, or as a supernatural apparition: a visionary experience.

- archaic existing only in a vision or in the imagination.

noun (plural visionaries)

a person with original ideas about what the future will or could be like: he is a visionary keen on policy-making.

It need not, I think, be only about the future although it might be. The trigger words are “imagination or wisdom.” Some of the endowed, the special ones, the chosen ones, are simple and easily comprehended. Others are hidden, masked, complex so as to be entangled by only a few who are themselves at least “mini-visionaries” in their understanding and in their willingness and determination to share their perception with a wider world.

A good example of the latter type I have in mind is William Blake (1757-1827). Poet, painter, engraver, and philosopher, he was widely regarded as mentally challenged by many of his peers. Even today he is not regarded by many as being among the great Titans of any medium.

And yet...

Contemplating Blake's poetry and prose, and even his paintings and sketches, one often stubs toes with a type of mysticism that evades immediate comprehension. He seems to transport the most tangible objects, both material and ideological, into a universal mist, a hazy landscape of abstraction that leaves the reader or viewer puzzled and yet intrigued: What is he saying? Am I meant to take him literally? If not, what is he analogizing? I can't say for sure, but everything he suggests is pregnant with possibilities. Just look at his illuminated collections, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul).

Were I to single out any characteristic that might best describe the property of Blake's work, be it literary or visual, I would, without a moment's hesitation, say: Imagination. And his is a unique imagination, fused throughout with the mystery of mysticism. For me it is akin somehow to the inexplicable feeling I derive in hearing the late string quartets of Beethoven, a composer who died in the same year as Blake and who, just like Blake, is often cited as a precursor of Romanticism.

Our dreams, they say, reveal much about who we are. They, too, are a mysterious mixture of the real and the imagined. No artist I know is more dreamlike and open to possibilities than is William Blake.

September 4, 2020

The Tyger

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies,
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare sieze [sic] the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

--William Blake, (1757 – 1827)

Eternity

He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in Eternity's sun rise.

--William Blake (1757 – 1827)

WALKING

Walking, simply walking,
not counting my steps,
paying no more attention
to the street than do
my empty pockets. Walking,
just walking
into the wind and sun,
minding nothing
in our troubled world,
reveling in my luck,
when out of nowhere
on this everyday day,
as if it had never happened
ever before —
light embraces me.

--David Sten Herrstrom

Going to the Beach

I woke up this morning
And jumped out of bed
I got on my clothes
And placed a clip on my head

My family and I went to the beach
I felt cold water running down my cheek
I love playing in the sun
It is so much fun

We went out to dinner
And I thought about how I hate winter
Summer is so much better
When you are wetter

When we were tired
We finally went home
I lay in my bed
And thought in my head

Summer is almost over
The clovers will dye
The wind will become brutal
And the animals will hide

--Kendall LeCompte, 5th grade

What's it all about... the Great Outdoors!

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Roosevelt Adventure Camp is back in 2023!

We are so excited for another summer
outside exploring all of the beautiful
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When?

Day Camp 7 weeks: 7/5- 8/18, Mon- Fri 9AM-1PM
Teen Club 6 Weeks: 7/11- 8/17, Tues & Thurs 2PM-5PM
Flexible Hours and Weekly Commitments Available

Who?

Day Camp- Campers entering 1st-7th grade
Teen Club- 7th to 11th grade

Where?

Rotating Locations around greater Roosevelt and the Assunpink
Wildlife Management Area

Registration and other family forms available at
RooseveltAdventures.com

Contact gus@rooseveltadventures or 609-462-3041 for any questions

**This is a program run by Roosevelt Adventures and is not
affiliated with Roosevelt Borough.**

ONE THING

- A There's something I don't understand.
- B Only one thing?
- A It's about charisma, and how it gets doled out.
- B How could anyone know?
- A Because for instance athletic ability gets endowed in some people. Or musical ability. Or brilliance, for some minds. Why charisma, when it so easily falls to the wrong person?
- B Leadership needs it.
- A But why not reserve it for those who will turn out to be good leaders – instead of the evil ones; the dictators, leaders of cults, the ladies men?
- B The gift would appear to be arbitrary. Or maybe it falls into the wrong hands as a reminder to all that power gets misused.
- A Who needs a reminder? The bad ones rot inside like pumpkins left out too long in the Fall. Visible for all to see.
- B Exteriors can be deceiving.
- A You think my question is impossible to answer?
- B No; I just don't think I've been given the brilliance it would take to come up with an answer.
- A I should ask someone else?
- B Who else would you pick?
- A My vacuum cleaner.
- B Your what?
- A My vacuum cleaner – it seems to pick up on everything.

##

-- Judith McNally

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.



Local youth Lois Pressler
standing beside her 7-foot
tall chamomile plant.

Light in the Cracks

Did I wait today? Will I wait tomorrow?
The slipping suns aren't given their borrowed
Long walks with a good friend
One who knows meaning when words don't make sense Hoping
for something clear, something near, but that's always been silly
An aching of fears and loves came quickly
Stuck in the gut when it's not supposed to
Buck up and remember what the ghosts would tell you
They are the voices I try to keep, deep in my head
I wish reminders weren't needed, but short days are dead
There and now, gifts around
Where the days rays fade the rocks into clay
Where the breath deepens, where the snow sinks
When the rain picks up, but you needed a drink
Sticky fingers still contrive what's glowing inside
Cause cracks in the wall can't always be bad
A woman told me they let the light in
She can't stop fighting
Herself, and the beast in her heart
Of lost days and the silent dark
Cause a hand on the chest-yep, still here
Why me? Why not? It could deepen this fear
If you let it
If you regret it
If you said that you forget it
Cause life wasn't always like this
Before stray wires and podium liars
Food and love and rest stuck out
Meeting makers, scolding takers, turning at a shout
Let's stop looking for an ending
Start feeling our sounds
Senses aren't to be taken for granted, they're the last truth around
So sit, and breathe, and breathe again
Monsters can't find you when candles stay lit at both ends
Or, get up, get out, toss up your fate
You've been good or you've been great?
There's that crack again, the one with the yellow behind
Today? It's enough, plenty
Tomorrow, it's for tomorrow to find

-- Gus Vuolle

Sign Up for Code Red!!

Receive emergency notifications From the borough.

Have the notifications go to your landline, cell, or both!

Sign up by going to www.RooseveltNJ.us

Stay safe! Stay informed!

Tree Removal Permits

Roosevelt Residents: tree removal requires a permit per Borough Ordinance 20-08. You can find the permit on the Borough website under the FORMS tab (<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/forms-home-page>). When you click on the link for the permit a copy of the ordinance is also attached.

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.

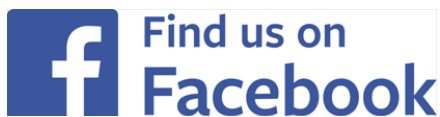
Public Health Emergency?
 You can call the
 Monmouth County
 Board of Health 24/7 at
 732-431-7456

Roosevelt Borough's website:
www.rooseveltnj.us
 Register for e-news on the home
 page and get email communica-
 tions from the borough. You can
 view and pay your property taxes
 and water/sewer bill on-line.

When mailing anything to
 Roosevelt Borough, please use P.O.
 Box 128. This includes property
 tax payments and water/sewer
 payments.

Borough Mailing Instructions

When mailing anything to Roosevelt
 Borough, please use P.O. Box 128.
 This includes property tax payments
 and water/sewer payments.



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 nization's event posted to our
 Facebook page,
 please send event details to
[rooseveltbulletin submissions@
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Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Roosevelt, NJ

Why is locally grown food important?

- It tastes better because it's picked when fresh, not harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.
- It's better for your health because fresh food contains more nutrients.
- It's better for the environment because it maintains open space and promotes sustainable practices.
- It's better for the community because it supports and creates a connection with local farm families.
- It's better for the climate because it reduces carbon emissions from long-haul transport of food.

In Roosevelt, locally grown food is available at Mendies Farm, which operates a roadside stand and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture, where members buy a share of the produce grown on the farm). The farm is owned and managed by Roosevelt residents Lawrence and Heidi Mendies.

Mendies Family Farm; Farm Stand and CSA

65 N Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ
 609-820-8809
<http://www.mendiesfarm.com/>

In neighboring towns, locations offering locally grown food include:

Produce Paradise: (roadside stand) Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, on the Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road, by the large sycamore trees.

Fun Fridays in Hightstown: 6/21 – 9/19 that takes place every 3rd Friday. Along with locally grown produce, there will also be food trucks, craft vendors and live music. Location: Association Park, Grant Ave, Hightstown, NJ
 Operated by Hightstown Parks and Recreation <https://www.hightstownborough.com/events/fun-fridays-2/>

Appelget Family Farm
 135 Conover Rd., West Windsor, NJ
 609-902-8372
<https://www.appelgetfarm.com/>

Windsor Farm and Market
 1202 Windsor Road, Windsor, NJ
 (609) 443-9379
<https://www.windsorfarmandmarket.com/>

Robbinsville Farmers Market 6/25-8/27 Tuesdays, 3:30-7:00 pm
 The Shoppes at Foxmoor
 1095 Washington Blvd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691
 Robbinsville Farmers Market Contact:
 Kevin Holt, kholt@robbinsville.net
 609-259-3600 x1131

Corner-Copia
 619 Mercer Street
 Hightstown, New Jersey 08520
 (609) 208-9116
<http://www.corner-copia.com/farm-market/>

Lee Turkey Farm
 201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ 8520
 609-448-0629
<https://www.leeturkeyfarm.com/>

KJD Farm, LLC
 1510 Old York Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
 (609) 977-5937

Windy Acres Farm & CSA
 214 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ
 Amy Giovanelli
 (609) 722-2122
 Farm market is open to general public located at 214 Windsor Rd, Robbinsville NJ 08691. Open 5 days. Starting early June 4 thru October 1, 2019. Hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am to 4: 00 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.
<http://windyacresfarmllc.com/>

You can pay your
 Water/Sewer Bill and
 Taxes on-line
 Go to
www.rooseveltnj.us

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Please clean-
 up after your
 dog.



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.

Public Health Emergency?
 You can call the
 Monmouth County
 Board of Health 24/7 at
 732-431-7456

SCHEHERAZAD

- A Well King, so far I've told you three-hundred and fifty-eight stories. Do I really have to tell you a thousand and one?
- B Only if you want to keep your head on.
- A I do, but I'm not even close, and I'm running out of stories.
- B A deal is a deal. A thousand and one.
- A O.K. Once upon a time, there was a very demanding king. And the king – instead of tending to his duties – had an insatiable appetite for stories. Day and night.
- B He must have had a very good attention span.
- A In fact, instead of requiring payments of rice from the peasants, he insisted on a story each year, from each farmer.
- B That's no way to run a kingdom.
- A So the peasants – none of whom could read or write – took to reciting tales from their own lives, and when they ran out of true stories, they started making ones up.
- B Out of thin air?
- A They told about dragons—
- B I'd like to hear about that!
- A Sorry – that one's not in public domain.
- B Then what else did they tell about?
- A Damsels – you know, the ones in distress, on a bad hair day.
- B Did they get eaten alive?
- A Oh no. Dragons don't like the taste of hair spray.
- B What do dragons eat?
- A Junk food, mostly. Or, as a delicacy, eels if they can find them. Sometimes there are eels in the moats around castles.
- B What if the dragons get thirsty?
- A The moats, again. Unless that's where the servants dump the chamber pots.
- B Then what?
- A Oh, leftover blood from the maidens who didn't get rescued.
- B Do you think I could have a dragon? As a pet – for myself? For when you're not around.
- A You really miss me?
- B To tell you the truth, I've grown quite fond of you.
- A Oh?
- B In fact, if I have to behead you, I'd be quite at a loss.
- A Does that mean I can stop now, after three-hundred and fifty-eight stories?
- B Absolutely not.
- A But if you're that fond of me—
- B I have to have some excuse to keep you. With me. Alive.

##

--Judith McNally

Contributors to the Bulletin 2022/2023

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare	Anne Hayden	Petrillo family
Sam & Nicole Ashburner	Al Hepner	Gregg & Elizabeth Possiel
Wisam Atieh	Constance & David Herrstrom	Richard & Hope Pressler
Robin & Robert Axel	Daniel Hoffman &	Sara & Paul Prestopino
Richard & Janet Bernardin	Assenka Oksiloff	Steve & Peggy Ring
Linda Block	Louise and David Hoffman	Merle & Irv Rose
Marvin & Karen Block	Gail Hunton & Wes Czyzewski	Kirk and Jane Rothfuss
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Thank you for your generosity!

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P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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Wednesday 9:30 am – 11 am
Thursday 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
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RECYCLING DATES

June 7, 21
July 5, 19

PRSR STD
Postal Customer
Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

JUNE


- 7 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 13 Tues. Roosevelt Public School Graduation.

- 18 Sun. Father's Day

- 19 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
See online agenda for details:
<https://rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 20 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting
Borough Hall
<https://rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/planning-zoning-board>
Robert Atwood, Chair

- 21 Weds. Recycling Pickup 


- 21 Weds.. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall
<https://rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission>
Ellen Silverman, Chair

- 22 Thurs. 6:00 pm RPS Board of Education
Roosevelt Public School
Ken LeCompte, President

JULY

- 3 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
See online agenda for details:
<https://rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor


- 4 Tues. Independence Day

- 5 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 7 Fri. 6:00-9:00 July First Friday
13 Homestead Lane
Bring food and drink to share
mcguffsiverman@gmail.com

- 17 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Borough Hall
See online agenda for details:
<https://rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 18 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting
Borough Hall
<https://rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/planning-zoning-board>
Robert Atwood, Chair

- 19 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 19 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
Borough Hall
<https://rooseveltnj.us/boards-commissions/environmental-commission>
Ellen Silverman, Chair

- 27 Thurs. 7:00 pm RPS Board of Education,
Roosevelt Public School
Ken LeCompte, President

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.

Zoning Officer
Housing Inspector

Jeremy Kuipers

email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us phone: 609-448-0539

Office Hours: Monday 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Inspection Hours: Monday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Roosevelt Board of Education's website contains complete school calendar information: www.rps1.org.

Please send notice of your events to the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin at P.O. Box 221 or email to RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com.