



Bulletin



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June 2024

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

Public Poetry, Brought to You by...Your Neighbors

By Rick Pressler
Managing Editor

*It's the combination of the intimate and the public
that I find so exciting about being poet laureate.*

Rita Dove

As I consider the diverse poems comprising this year's Poetry Issue, I am struck by the collision of the private and the public, the particular and the universal, the intimate and the merely personal. We have, in this nation, a tradition of poet laureates at every level of government, and a history of public poetry that seeks to imagine and represent that which defines us as Americans.

How and why do we integrate poetry into some of our most solemn and weighty public observances? I'm thinking of Amanda Gorman's *The Hill We Climb* at the inauguration of President Biden, John Ashberry's *Pyrography* composed in honor of the Bicentennial in 1976, and even Walt Whitman's riff on our nation's aspirational unity and essential incompleteness from more than a hundred years earlier in *Thou Mother with Thy Equal Brood*. These poems may be generations apart and represent different worlds of language, but they all succeed in posing public questions on a national scale. Here's Amanda Gorman:

We've braved the belly of the beast
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
of what just is
Isn't always just-ice
And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it

Somehow we do it
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished.

Gorman's notion of "...a nation that isn't broken/but simply unfinished" trails back through history as a recurring theme in our national self conception. We see it in John Ashberry's *Pyrography*, a poem commissioned by the U.S. Department of the Interior to commemorate America's two-hundredth birthday. Forty-four years ahead of Amanda Gorman, Ashberry raises the same issue—this time as a question:

The land wasn't immediately appealing; we built it
Partly over with fake ruins, in the image of ourselves:
An arch that terminates in mid-keystone, a crumbling stone pier
For laundresses, an open-air theater, never completed
And only partially designed. How are we to inhabit
This space from which the fourth wall is invariably missing,
As in a stage-set or dollhouse, except by staying as we are,
In lost profile, facing the stars, with dozens of as yet
Unrealized projects, and a strict sense
Of time running out, of evening presenting
The tactfully folded-over bill? ...

A hundred years earlier, and less than a decade after the end of the Civil War, Ashberry's missing fourth wall is well known to Whitman, a poet who both embraced and sought to explain the nation he famously denotes "ship of Democracy":

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 47th 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!

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Thou wonder world yet undefined, unform'd, neither do I define thee,
How can I pierce the impenetrable blank of the future?
I feel thy ominous greatness evil as well as good...

Whitman's "impenetrable blank of the future," Ashberry's "...space from which the fourth wall is invariably missing," and Gorman's "...nation that isn't broken/but simply unfinished" all raise, with the full force of their poetry, what may be the perfect question as we approach the Fourth of July: What are we to make of this work in progress known as America?

Who better to ponder this than our poets?

Poetry can, at its best, express our most important questions with an economy of language that cuts straight to an emotional core. Even the most intimate poems—those imagined as deeply personal statements of sense and sensibility—can strike chords that reverberate in the public consciousness. Whether our attention is directed outward or inward, once the poem is revealed it becomes part of a larger, public conversation.

How many of us walk around with poems ringing in our brains? Judging from this month's Bulletin, quite a few. It has been our purpose over the past eight June Poetry Issues to tap into the abundant poetic well flowing under Roosevelt's woodlands, lawns, and driveways. Poetry is never far beneath the surface of our beloved borough—please consider the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* Poetry Issue as our own small excavation project designed to bring more of it to light.

WRESTLING WITH AN ANGEL

I dip the claws
of recalcitrant cat,
inking them again,
then scratch at last
the intricate script.
In my dream we

may be friends.

– David Sten Herrstrom

HARD TIMES AND ICEBOUND STREETS

Hard Times and icebound streets
Folks without enough to eat
Or the strength to drag their feet
Drift from door to door

Folks taught to be so dumb
They can't tell where the good life comes from
Or there's a time when spending ends
Or what goes up must fall
Cause some god's or some man's gonna make it all right
You tell the kids when they sleep at night
If grown folks believe that's right
We ain't got no chance at all

In these Hard Times and icebound streets
Folks without enough to eat
Or the strength to drag their feet
Drift from door to door

A million years folks have longed
For a place they all belong
Kings and gods and jobs and songs
Never changed a thing
The way it is is the way it is
It ain't mine or hers or yours or his
Money can't buy a world for the kids
If the way it is goes on

It's a big joke say something cute
Human beings they live like brutes
Don't you worry cause it ain't no use
Let the freedom bells ring

On these hard times and icebound streets
Folks without enough to eat
Or the strength to drag their feet
Drift from door to door

Make a law that ain't no law
Take this sweet life clause by clause
Take it all and never pause
For tomorrow we shall die
But there's something inside a man
To get up and try again and again
Little kids with hungry grins
They'll be the next to try

These hard times and icebound streets
Folks without enough to eat
Or the strength to drag their feet
Drift from door to door.

John H. Parrott, III

Copyright 1982

HANDS

Hands...

Touch the lips to blow a kiss
Lovingly prepare a family dish
Cross the fingers to make a wish
Point to that, or there, or this

Hands...

Gesture and speak what words will not say
Stretch towards the sky to welcome the day
Toss around toys for games and for play
Press close together to reverently pray

Hands...

Wiggle and waggle for yes and for no
Wave to say goodbye and hello
Clap loud to cheer ole' and bravo!
Grab nice and tight and never let go

Hands...

Reach out to comfort, and reassure fears
Wipe away gently a sweet baby's tears
Pull loved ones closer - warm, safe, and near
Weather and age from use through the years

Hands...

Silently salute with respect, honor, and dignity
Raise fists for fighting, or show strength in unity
Extend two fingers for peace, or proudly proclaim victory
Entwine together to share love, friendship, and sympathy

Hands...

Birth the best of mankind's ingenuity
To create magnificent marvels of wonder and beauty
And construct deadly devices of destructive utility
Inflicting the worst of insane, inhumane cruelty

Hands throw and break
And make mistakes
And sometimes hit, and cause heartache

Hands nurse the sick
And nurture the small
And somehow manage to do it all

When will we learn, when will we understand
We all hold each other in the world of our hands
We can love, or abuse
Which will we choose?
It matters how we use
Our
Hands

- Claudia Luongo

12-21-23

BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt Mayor & Council
are pleased to announce our annual...



4th of July Celebration



Thursday, July 4th

Roosevelt Public School

Noon - 4pm

Join friends and family for this FREE annual event.
The fun includes a bike parade, music by "Danny and Kim," food,
tai chi demonstration, inflatables, a miniature golf course, magic
with "Magic Mike," a petting zoo and old-time games.

All food and activities are FREE, but residents are welcomed to
bring your own food and refreshments! Pets also welcome!

Volunteers Needed! Please email recreation@rooseveltnj.us



THE PARTY

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

While our absent friends defend themselves
against charges
of sanity

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

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

– David Sten Herrstrom

Songs are Thoughts

Songs are thoughts, sung out with the breath when people are moved by great forces & ordinary speech no longer suffices. Man is moved just like the ice floe sailing here and there in the current. His thoughts are driven by a flowing force when he feels joy, when he feels fear, when he feels sorrow. Thoughts can wash over him like a flood, making his breath come in gasps & heart throb. Something like an abatement in the weather will keep him thawed up. and then it will happen that we, who always think we are small, will feel still smaller. And we will fear to use words. But it will happen that the words we need will come of themselves. When the words we want to use shoot up of themselves - we get a new song.

– Orpingalik, Nersilik Eskimo in “Technicians of the Sacred,” edited by Jerome Rothenberg

Another Sunset

Drawing in the dark
Things fold into themselves
Like origami cranes

Last thoughts last acts last
As long as the turntable spins
Across the Scottish highlands

Memory only prolongs this hoax

That there are other worlds
Other realities or else nothing
But dust miraculously recycling

Yet here we are again at our windows
Admiring that most ordinary cycle
As an afterthought when
It has no identity but
Its ongoing glow

Always setting somewhere
No matter who’s watching

– Wes Czyzewski



THE VIEW

- A What are you doing lately?
- B Learning to be patient.
- A I meant like concrete activity.
- B Learning patience; that's my new activity.
- A How so?
- B I wait for flowers to open. I see a bird on a branch and wait for it to chirp.
- A You're kidding.
- B No. I'm not. I'm working up to being patient with other people. Like with someone who takes too much time at the drive-up window at the pharmacy.
- A Other people? That's the hardest of all.
- B I know; that's why I'm working up to it.
- A Doesn't something else come first?
- B Like what?
- A Like being patient with yourself.
- B Oh. That's so far out of reach, I can't even begin to know where to start. Like reaching for the highest apple on the tree, without a ladder.
- A Ladders aren't that hard to come by. In fact, I have one I don't use, if you'd like to borrow it.
- B How many rungs?
- A I never counted. Life is too short to count rungs on a ladder. It would take too much patience.
- B See what I mean?
- A What?
- B It could be beautiful – counting the rungs. The first rung – just starting out in life, without a clue as to how to proceed. Then the second rung – when you get inklings of maybe how to live a life – or at least begin to look around and find someone good to model yourself after, for a while, until you get to the third rung, and start to think for yourself, even if no one else is travelling the same path. And then—
- A O.K. The fourth rung – that's for not looking back, so you don't fall down into the past, and make the same mistakes all over again?
- B You get the general idea, yes.
- A And the fifth rung? What's that for?
- B That's for patience.
- A Patience...
- B Yes – while you figure out how in the world to make sense of rung number six.
- A This, I take it, is for what's known as the "sixth sense?"
- B And then the seventh – otherwise known as heaven on earth.
- A Come to think of it, I can picture my ladder now, and it does have eight rungs. That's the very top one. What do you do when you get to the top?
- B Simple.
- A Oh? What then?
- B What then? You just enjoy the view – three hundred sixty degrees all around you, above and below – and ever so deep within.

Judith McNally



THE GARBAGE MAN

I am a hard working guy
I work eight hours a day
But every time I do my job
I hear somebody say
There goes that filthy old fellow
We're ashamed to look at him
And we'll be glad when he gets done
The dirty old garbage man
The dirty old garbage man

I park by the new Mercedes and walk around to the back
Then carry Kotexes and coffee grinds hygienically wrapped in a sack
And I throw them in my growling old truck and carry back the can
And I don't shave but twice a week
The dirty old garbage man
The dirty old garbage man

Whenever I go to the corner to buy myself a drink
Everybody looks at me, you'd think that I stink
"It sure is hot," they tell me, "Don't stand so close to the fan"
They're ashamed they need a man like me
The dirty old garbage man
The dirty old garbage man

When I die and go to heaven, should I stand before the throne
I wonder if the Lord on high will care what I have on
Or will he smile at me in glory and offer a welcome hand
Saying, "Thank you for a job well done,
you dirty old garbage man."

- John H. Parrott, III
Copyright 1982

WHOLEMOON

End of lane,
amber moon
offering all
asking nothing,

asphalt bowing.

- David Sten Herrstrom

Paper Shredding

Is it time for you to dispose of confidential documents and old files? Bring your documents to be shredded on location in the mobile truck. Don't be a target of identity theft!

Each location is opened to all Monmouth County Residents!

*July 15
Joe Palaia Park, Whalepond Rd.,
Ocean Twp.

Aug. 10
1 Aberdeen Square, Aberdeen Twp.

Aug. 24
Borough Hall, 47 Broad St.,
Eatontown

All events are 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. unless the trucks fill first.

* July 15 is scheduled on a Monday from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

If trucks fill before time, then the event will be stopped!

Remove large binder clips. Staples and paper clips can remain. Limit of 1 00lbs.

Free service to Monmouth County Residents Only.

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www.visitmonmouth.com

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the graduating 5th graders



Congratulations to the 5th grade award winners

Milana Pavlushkin - Mayor's Leadership Award
Delaney Hopf - Environmental Commission Award
Dylan Whittington - RAP Art Award
Joaquin Melamed - Emily Silverstein for a Better World Award
Isaiah Larane - Sarah Tulloss Memorial Good Friend Award

Senior Corner

By Adrienne Cheshier

Yes, indeed, Senior Group is really back, meeting monthly and doing lots of stuff.

Join us, follow us, and just keep track! We always have lunch, sometimes we eat out.

Chili cook-offs, boat rides in the bay. Entertainment and fun without a doubt!

We are a special group, that's for sure. Come see for yourself so you will know.
Conversations and camaraderie can be a wonderful cure!

Adrienne Cheshier
609.664.6763

LOVE IS

She looks so pretty
She's brushing her hair back
His heart overflows
Whenever he watches her
The way that she says his
Name when she's happy
Love is the small things in the world.

He has a way of
Drinking his coffee
That makes her heart feel like
She's home at last
He rubs on her neck as
She sits at the table
Love is the small things in the world.

All of the things that seem so important
So soon are in the past
All of the little things of the moment
These are the things that
Make up a lifetime
These are the things that last.

The sound of her breathing
Sleeping beside you
Whenever he tries to fix something broken
Tomorrow is never
Promised to people
Love is the small things in the world.

- John H. Parrott, III
Copyright 2005

ONE AXIOM OF CAT

When cat brushes through the airs
that settle this world
choosing her way upon the lawn

the world remains
furrowed
so we can walk across.

- David Sten Herrstrom

Professor Imagist

The man walking
with the lectern
in hand
with the big nose
with the valuable price
is grinning or grimacing
depending
on your point of view
as he wonders
about
the hair on his bald head
facing the sun
his eyes in an awful squint
finds the moment
he could not capture
as he opens the door
to descend the stairs

- Stephen Ring

Small Joy

Somehow like Dorothy's scarecrow
I'll miss the night sky most

Tall luminous presence that makes my neck ache

I marvel at its geometry when I take out the trash
Lingering curbside at this galactic expansion

As light from another life reaches mine

- Wes Czyzewski

Hearing Voices

Most of my conversations are one sided
I let books do the talking
Or geese rising from a half frozen lake
The moon tunneling through space
Jaws unhinging in the cemetery
Keys leaving locks like hair pulled from a brush
Some arboreal sighing between seasons
The list goes on obsessively
You get the idea
& all in a language
I was once fluent in
Moored in that amniotic sea
Overhearing muffled fragments
Drifting in from beyond the dock

- Wes Czyzewski

The Green Woods
(a poem about home)

In mid-May, the green in the town I grew up in
is nothing like her eyes or that village in the Alps.
There is no blue — just green on green on green.

It is home-green like baseball diamonds & tomato leaves,
green like mini-golf turf & poker table felt,
nostalgia & rain, a bed of pine-needles,
sadness.

It is green like moss on the rocks,
like the feel of a memory
when the breeze blew her hair
against a backdrop of maples and pines
as we sped back from Atlantic City —

In mid-May, the green in the town I grew up in
is green on green like the ocean is water on water,
word on word, wave on wave, leaf on leaf —
green-lipstick, 1999 green.

- Nathaniel Kostar

A MESSAGE FROM JCP&L
6/7/24:

Please be advised, in approximately seven (7) days - on/around June 12, 2024, weather permitting, Chesapeake Bay Helicopters will be returning to the JCP&L region to begin performing fall routine patrols on all JCP&L transmission lines, 115kV - 500kV. These inspections are expected to take approximately one (1) week to complete.



PSALM 725

O blush of sky, O tetrarch of rock, sun insisting like a con, O moon prophecy,
reflector and fader of lives, O, you with no face in your mirror face,
O sun sifting through my fingers, O you of bubbling radiance,
O this morning overflow, O you who feel no emptiness, O
closer one closer but farther & farther, O beyond. I sit.
O you who know I live in light's waverhood
on this vast accident of earth.

- David Sten Herrstrom

POEVENT

by Frances Duckett

Roosevelt Arts Project, May, 2024

The Poevent at the Borough Hall on Saturday, April 27 began at 7:30 p.m. with the entrance of four RPS students, each carrying a contribution. Their appearance was a breath of fresh air in a room filled with persons over 50. The hall was 3/4 full, and miked, thanks to Joe Tramell, with Judith McNally at the piano. Proceedings were filmed by Eric Vuolle. We were told that the film would be available to view on the bulletin's website.

The students, each of whom had brought two poems, read first. Notable was a moving and well constructed poem about adopting a feral cat. Next on the program was a series of micrologues, all written by Judith McNally. She has been writing them for years. Each is a dialogue between two persons, mundane but insightful and often concluding with absurd, funny punch lines. These had been rehearsed,

and were ably presented by Judith and Kevin McNally, assisted by playwright Robert Axel and actress and director Judith Goetzman. Their excellent readings breathed life into the material. Micrologues are more theatre than poetry, although they share similar subject matter. All four of the readers were veterans of years of creative theater in Roosevelt.

After a brief intermission with refreshments, two amateurs from the audience read poems. Then part 2 of the program began, an innovative series of poems by David Herrstrom, each associated with a picture, which was held up for the audience to view. I would say that the poet was rapping off the images, which included a robot juggler, a

broken ladder, a dragon sculpture and metal wheels. In conclusion, Wieslaw Czyzewski read a few short pieces. His work is always a pleasure to hear.

The young poets were Blake LeCompte, Delaney Hopf, Farrah Schack, and Chloe Zaradkiewicz.



Poetry in Music, Music of Poetry

By George Sturm

As an erstwhile composer, I was particularly interested in why some composers preferred setting the poems of one poet over and over again, rather than other, perhaps better known poets. My curiosity led me to both the text of extended choral works and to art songs for voice and piano. What was it about these poets' works that so attracted musical settings?

My inquiry began with the lyrics to the immortal songs (Lieder) of Schubert. Reading these texts alone led me to shake my head in disbelief: It seemed to me that many of these verses were primitive, sugary, and banal to the point of embarrassment. The poets' very names might have evaporated from posterity—and yet, Schubert's adding the music gave their poems a ticket to immortality.

So what was it about these poems?

Well, to begin with, they were simple. Without being the least bit abstract, obtuse, or artificial, they evoked images that Schubert could paint in music. Just think about the babbling brook in "Die Forelle" (The Trout) or the spectacular hoofbeats of the galloping horse in "Erlkönig" (Earl King) and you'll immediately know what I mean.

At the same time, the sound of syllables served as a musical aphrodisiac to composers—not that the language needed to be "poetic" and "flowery." Just the opposite. When I was a teenager, I successfully set to music a simple lyric of Shelley's and, encouraged by the outcome, thought I would write an extended choral setting of that poet's "Ode to the West Wind." But I soon abandoned the project when I realized that the words themselves were so musical that the addition of music would

actually reduce, not enhance, the effectiveness of the poem.

Among contemporary composers whose musical settings have been outstandingly noteworthy, I cite Ned Rorem, Virgil Thomson, and Samuel Barber; and among the poets whose work has found its way to music repeatedly have been James Agee, Sylvia Plath, and e.e. cummings.

I should also mention the words for music theater works. Strangely enough, the ones that most immediately come to mind are those for which the composers served also as their own lyricists: Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and Stephen Sondheim. Keep in mind that instant comprehension is a must for stage works, and a quick glance at what Sondheim himself has written about the use of language—others' as well as his own—is an indispensable read.

May 6, 2024



From the Foundation

Congratulations to the RPS 5th Grade Class of 2024! We wish you the best as you continue your education in a new environment. We hope the foundation you received at RPS guides you towards your successful futures!

Spring blossomed with exciting experiences for RPS students and staff. Class trips, a growing garden, a new recycling program, and more classroom supplies all will benefit RPS students immensely thanks to donor generosity and support. Foundation Trustees, RPS students and staff deeply appreciate your investment in the education of Roosevelt students! We wish all RPS students, staff, and families a safe and relaxing summer break.

-RPSEF Trustees



*Left: K & 1st Grade students visited Insectropolis in Toms River
Right: RPS's Library received 54 new books for its collection.*



Flexible Seating Grant

"This past school year I have had the privilege to incorporate flexible seating with support from the Roosevelt Public School Education Foundation. As the new special education teacher for the building, I was eager to share my positive experience with this approach. Flexible seating supports different learning styles in the classroom and fosters student choice, comfort, and engagement. For example, I offer students the choice of working on a yoga ball, wobble stool, standing desk, stool, or stationary bike. Providing students with several seating options during the day gives them the autonomy to choose the best spot to help them learn. All options allow for movement, flexibility, and ownership of their learning space. It is important for students to feel that the classroom is more than just the teacher's space but theirs as well. I am extremely grateful to the RPSEF for this grant and look forward to utilizing these resources to benefit all students' needs in the classroom." -Megan McMichael, Special Education Teacher



Above: Flexible seating allows for various learning setting options.



RPS Garden/Cooking Club Grant

"Teaching is a gift of the heart. There aren't many professions that can plant a seed, cultivate it, and watch it grow to produce wonderful things. This is what happens at RPS, in and out of the classroom. We are fortunate that our school garden provides our students the ability to support academic achievement, develop a healthy lifestyle, sustain their environment, and help them develop a sense of community. Just like teaching, gardening requires patience, problem-solving, and perseverance. However, there is a bonus to what our students are experiencing, it is the joy of cooking what we harvest. When the third through fifth grade students sign up for the garden/cooking club they get to experience all the pleasure that comes with tending to our garden. This year, the students have made and created their own salad dressing, enjoyed butternut squash in a variety of ways, baked cookies and experimented with seeds. This club has an outstanding community member who volunteers his time to help our children develop a lifelong hobby, Mr. Stephen Taylor. With the generous funding from RPSEF, we have raised herb beds that add flavor and spice to the program. I extend my heartfelt thanks to RPSEF for their invaluable support and belief in the vision of this project. Together, we provided the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and contribute towards building a healthier, more sustainable future." -Donna Gazzani, 3rd Grade Teacher



*Left: An extended Pollinator Garden with new plantings.
Right: New cooking supplies to make delicious smoothies.*



Grant Updates

- Visiting Artist Program (Grades PreK through 5th)
 - *March: Marcelo Melamed, Woodworking
 - *April: Drawing & Tracing
- RPS Library welcomed 54 new books
- 4th grade classroom installed a world map
- 2nd grade 11 blank books for autobiography projects
- 2nd grade 11 bound books for class yearbook
- Garden/Cooking Club planted new pollinator garden plants & purchased new kitchen supplies
- School Recycling & Composting program managed by the 5th grade safety patrol welcomes new containers
- 4th grade trip to NJ State House & Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, NJ
- K & 1st grade annual trip to Insectropolis, Toms River
- 2nd & 3rd grade buddy trip to bowling alley

Fundraiser Updates

- T.G.I. Friday's RPSEF Fundraiser: \$221.38
- Roosevelt Litter Pick Up Day: \$200.00

Bread

We seldom had enough bread
Or dough, either back then or cash
So one day we started making chairs
And soon one room filled up with chairs, so many chairs!
And we painted them different colors
(But mostly the colors of the forest and the ocean)
And now?
We're still a little short on bread on dough
But we have a house filled with beautiful chairs

– Ron Kostar

742.

Climb-dance with blues and with whites,
mosaic tiles
shouting out alley-street steps
under the sun.

Facing each one here in this one
time in this one life
of mine in this Lisbon of tiles
peculiar to one light in the street within me.

– David Sten Herrstrom

Summer Solstice

Centuries have glided by.
Stars and planets in the sky
Have twinkled the millennium down
Their celestial golden crown.

Shakespeare must have got it right In describing summer night:
Magical celestial beam.
Was it real or just a dream?

Mankind, on a bender bent,
Centuries of merriment,
All humanity ablaze Celebrating summer days.

But--and it is a dreadful but--
Pessimist or total nut,
Gloom and doomsday a reporter-- “Woe, the days are getting shorter. Why hilarity and cheer?
Soon the winter will be here.”

June 21, 2023

George Sturm

Spring

Sprouting plants
Pink, purple flowers
Rain, rain go away
Ice cream trucks playing a tune
Nature erupts
Green grass ready to cut

-Eli Beck,
3rd grade

Summer

Summer is bright and hot
Unlike winter and fall which it is not
I like to swim in the pool,
It keeps me nice and cool,
Eating cold ice cream makes me drool.
Jumping on a trampoline,
Like I am a bouncing bean.

-Charlie Mastriana,
3rd grade

Opposite Poem

Up
High, sky
Flying, floating, climbing
Being free, being low
Walking, sitting, gardening
Low, floor
Down

-Alexander Larnae,
3rd grade



Hop

Hop, hop, hop
The grasshopper
hops onto
Eli's desk
to learn some
Math!

-Sarah Nipe,
3rd grade

Lime Green

Lime green looks like the grass that people tell gamers to touch
Lime green sounds like leaves waving in the wind
Lime green smells like sour limeade
Lime green feels like getting the answer correct on a test
Lime green tastes like my big limes
Lime green is the land God gave us.

-Lydon Giske,
3rd grade

Red

Red
Red is a chair being slammed on the floor
Red is the face of my mom if I get a bad grade
Red smells like a soft and lovely rose
Red feels smooth like a piece of chocolate filling
Red is a loud scissor snapping against paper
Red taste like sour, sugary candy strips

-Aiden Pavlushkin,
3rd grade

Orange

Orange looks like a freshly picked orange peeled on a Saturday
Orange sounds like someone saying "Juicy"
Orange smells like a hot sunny day on Mother's Day
Orange feels like the bumpy skin on an orange
Orange tastes like orange juice
Orange is my favorite color

-Wyatt Hilburn,
3rd grade

Pink

Pink
Plink looks like a heart on Valentine's Day
Pink sounds like bubble gum popping
Pink smells like a carnation blooming
Pink feels like a smooth blanket
Pink tastes like cotton candy sizzling on
my tongue
Pink is love

-Wesley Fox,
3rd grade

Blue

Blue looks like the sky on a sunny day
Blue sounds like the ocean waves crashing against the shore
Blue smells like the fresh air that I inhale every time I go outside
Blue feels like a day when I am sad
Blue taste like raindrops that fall on my tongue
Blue is the river flowing in a peaceful way

-Paige Sheenan,
3rd grade

At the County Park

After a polite warning
He pedaled past me
In slow motion on a fat tire bike

He had a German accent
And wore tight fitting gear
That displayed an ample girth

We met again in the parking lot
And he had a trivia question for me
As he leaned in close over his handlebars

Did I happen know which county park
Had a view of the World Trade Center

I pointed my thumb back towards Pine Hill
Which I'd just hiked and he smiled
As if we shared a great secret

- Wes Czyzewski



Roosevelt Adventures Summer Programs 2024

Roosevelt Adventure Camp & Teen Exploration Club

We are so excited for another summer outside exploring all of the beautiful trails, lakes, parks, streams, and forests of our amazing community. Sign-up today!

What?

Bike Rides, Trail Walks, Kayak Explorations, Outdoor Skill Development, Leadership Skills, Creative Arts, Community Education, Team Building Challenges, and Traditional Camp Games led by experienced counselors from your community

When?

Camp: 7/1 - 8/16, Mon- Fri 9AM-1PM

Club: 7/9- 8/175 Tues & Thurs 2PM-5PM

Flexible Hours and Weekly Commitments Available

Who?

Camp- Campers entering 1st-7th grade

Club- Teens entering 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.com or 609-462-3041 for any questions

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

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
Water Emergencies	H2O Services 609-259-8888
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

RUNNING UNDER WATER

Last full moon of the year

last night, sheltered over though,
hanging lazy, shuttered on the top
croppings of the palms,
dancing above the sparks
popping Indian River.

Diffused black clouds

like forgotten good ideas
camouflage the lunar smile she
wears so only shadows
can be heard in this
undiffused dream we
neither escape nor create;
the sun explodes
should anyone try.

– Bill Barrett

12.29.23

April

Peepers are peeping in the swamp
Bare trees are stretching and yawning
The woods are rustling
The wind genuflecting
And then all this popping!
The popping of thousands of tiny yellow buds
As everything living leans into the sun

– Ron Kostar

Fog

You see it in the movies
Usually at night and thick as soup
Moving menacingly or as Carl saw it
Nimbly on little cat feet

The fog I love descends like a cloud

You can feel its moistness
As you steer between streets
Or trees or doorways

Better to be inside with a book
Than navigating that gray stasis

A haunting erasure of color and shape
A blurred version of what's always
Brewing there on some molecular level

That mind game of now you see it
And now you actually can't recall
Whether it was a particle or a wave

– Wes Czyzewski



My pop the cop (My dad)

My dad he was a fastidious man ~
He would rotate the dishes as fast as one can ~
Shoes—never allowed and always have hands at your side ~
Or you may just get a whack on your back or your hide ~
Never make dirt on walls or floor he said ~
Always I did follow – or even stay one step ahead ~
For his punishments – I could not bear ~
Never cross his words – I would not dare ~
Growing up in an atmosphere of serious scorn ~
Always kept me thinking – what may come in the next day morn!

– Adrienne C.



Watercolor by Zach Pressler

Election Day in Roosevelt

Election Day in Roosevelt is always a Big Deal~
We are truly civic minded and that is for real~

We come together and make sure we vote~
We do know how important it is - yes - make a note~

November is going to be the Big one - come to Boro Hall~
We will be here all day - it's our duty - it's our call~

We wanna do a shout-out to the people who gave us some sweets~
You are truly the best—we do love all your treats~
Ana, Ana's mom and June too~
Nancy and Ralph and Pattie to name a few~

Roosevelt always has more voters than any other town~
Please let's keep it that way—it's a win-win all around!

See you in November.



– Adrienne C.

BRUISED APPLE BLUES

Baby let me be your slow food.
I want, I want to be your slow food.
Baby in your everlovin' mood.

I want to hear your slow food sigh.
I want to be your slow food sigh.
Baby leg & thigh, leg & thigh.

Take my finger baby, take my hand.
Take all my fingers, my whole damn hand.
You don't want no fast food man.

– David Sten Herrstrom

I am in mourning everyday

grieving before the dying
anticipating the last touch
the last kiss
the last goodbye

I, bereft
can't stand the standing
sitting
lounging and muted play

no humor
no ice cream
no waves to wade

all the gratitude
that fills my plate
 heaped in spoonfuls
 heaped in nourishing victuals

appreciation of the life lived in the bountiful
all the lives touched that touch me
 that reflect my seed.

my love lying next to my insecure pillows;
 she tosses in her graceful aging.
 the punctuation of pain
 does not defy her vivre - her élan vital

those intimates who were seeded by our plow
ski snowing hills, furnish upstairs, downstairs homes
 wear colorful scarves, knit wondrous rugs of stability;
 they shoulder the water poured in wooden barrels,
 their burdens balanced with youthful resilience

the mourning says goodbye to sprouted seedlings, grown into trees tall with branches

I pace the day like a prowler
 grafting modules of the moment
 to hoard
 to pocket
 in preparation for the thief of light.

the decades tumble down my upstairs down
the holding close, the losing grip.

the decades' lesson is to count on hope.

this grief is on the table of plenty
stored videos of a life well-lived
stuffed albums of smiling moments.

inevitable mourning impales my spirit
my thirst for creative brushstrokes across the canvas
my phrases yet to spray the page
my sense memory liberated in a play rehearsal.

anticipated grief is
the cat burglar mounting my vinyl siding
permeating my dwelling
stealing my eyes

each nighttime punctuates a conclusion -
I lay, contemptuous of sleep to prolong the light.

No, I taunt the darkness, lest I slip away.

NO -

I'll not say goodbye while still on shore;
the ship is yet not sailing, the tickets unsold
there is the land I stand on
rock solid,
yet slippery as the ice-capped snow.

- Robert Axel
4/12/2024

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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happenings, events and announc-
ments.

[www.facebook.com/
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If you would like your orga-
nization's event posted to our
Facebook page,
please send event details to
[rooseveltbulletin submissions@
gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com).



**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

Noodles is my rescue pitfall dog and I write about him.

Noodles survived the worst any human could do to a dog. Found torn and bloody, skin and bones, and freezing on a cold February day. He survived and I am gifted with him every day. He is a medal of honor winner for surviving the human tragedy.

My Dog

Just inside the door
In the middle of the floor
In your lap
We can nap
Always there when you have a snack
You call me names
Give me that wretched bath
I don't care
We make us laugh
Bending over and calling me sweet
Handing over my favorite treat
I am in your head
I own your heart
I love your face when I pass a fart
I drooled and wiggle and sometimes bark
I love our trips to the park
Rub my belly and pet me more
I am your dog
Right here for you
Excuse me if I chewed on your shoe
I need you and you need me
On that point we both agree
I can't resist you
You can't resist me
Enough of the poetry
It's time for a snack and a pee.....

Medal of Honor

I survived
They tried to change my heart
I survived
They made me fight for my life
I survived
Injured and alone
I survived
Being abused and enslaved
I survived
Being betrayed by humans
I survived
I have a strong heart
I survived
Being abandoned and thrown to the streets
I survived
In snow with no shelter or heat
I survived
Being bloodied and froze
I survived
I was so sad and blue
I survived
Can I ever trust again
I survived
And then I met you
You came and shared your heart
A treat and face to face love
You saw into my soul
I survived
I have a home now too
My name is Noodles
I survived
So I could be forever
With you

-Dave Parsons

Contributors to the Bulletin 2023/2024

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

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Sam & Nicole Ashburner
Wisam Atieh
Robin & Robert Axel
Richard & Janet Bernardin
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Marvin & Karen Block
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Thank you for your generosity!

Send in a contribution today.

Please send contributions to:

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P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

BUSINESS SPONSORS

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

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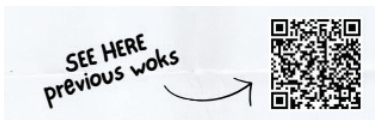
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Roosevelt Students:
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Call Mary Tulloss (Retired H.s. Teacher)
For Appt.: 609-448-5096
Tutoring Provided At No Charge
In Loving Memory Of Sarah Tulloss.

PERSONAL CARE

Tai Chi Classes

Roosevelt Boro Hall
Wednesday 9:30 Am – 11 Am
Thursday 6:00 Pm – 7:30 Pm
June Counterman 609-448-3182

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317 Forsgate Dr., Monroe Twp., Nj 08831
| (609) 655-7788

Kiddie Academy Of Upper Freehold

5 Allyson Way, Allentown, Nj-609-208-2530
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Postal Customer
Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

JUNE

5	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
6	Thurs.	Roosevelt Public School 5th Grade Graduation
16	Sun.	Father's Day
17	Mon. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
18	Tues. 7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
18	Tues.	Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal
19	Weds.	Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal
19	Weds. 7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
19	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
19	Weds.	Juneteenth
20	Thurs..	Roosevelt Public School Early Dismissal Last Day of School
27	Thurs. 6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President

JULY

1	Mon. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
3	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
4	Thurs.	Independence Day
4	Thurs. 12:00 - 4:00	Roosevelt Independence Day Celebration Roosevelt Public School Volunteers Needed! Please email recreation@rooseveltnj.us
15	Mon. 7:00 pm	Council Meeting Borough Hall Peggy Malkin, Mayor
16	Tues. 7:00 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall
17	Weds. 7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall
17	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 
25	Thurs. 6:00 pm	RPS Board of Education Ken LeCompte, President
31	Weds.	Recycling Pickup 

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

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

Office Hours:
Mondays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Inspection Hours:
Mondays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
<https://rooseveltnj.us/other-government/zoning-officer>

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



RECYCLING DATES

June 5, 19
July 3, 17, 31

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.