

Bulletin

Volume 31 Number 3

December 2006

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Mayor and Council Members Pay Tribute to Former Mayor Freda Hepner; Revised Zoning Ordinance Still Pending

By Michael Ticktin

Mayor Beth Battel opened the November 13 meeting of the Borough Council by announcing, with deep regret, the death on November 8 of former Mayor Freda Hepner. Mayor Hepner, who was elected in 1983 and served for four years, was the first woman to hold the office. Councilmen Jeff Ellentuck and Michael Hamilton paid tribute to Mrs. Hepner, Mr. Hamilton saying how it was always clear, even to those who might have disagreed with her on a specific issue, how she was always motivated by a strong love for the community and a concern for the wellbeing of all of its residents.

Reporting for the Administration committee, Councilwoman Pat Moser recommended deferring action on the senior citizen transportation agreement with Monmouth County until we have assurance that we will have reasonable advance notice of cancellations and changes in schedule, so that there will be no recurrences of recent incidents where the seniors have waited for a bus that never showed up, or where the bus came at a time when no one was expecting it.

Councilman Michael Hamilton, chairman of the Finance committee, reported that he had met on October 20 with the Borough's financial professionals and that they were reviewing the escrow requirements and fees established by municipal ordinances and would make recommendations for changes so that fees and escrow deposits would cover expenses. He reported that the professionals were awaiting November water usage figures before recommendations for changes in the fee structure and that one change being considered was to make the sewerage component of the utility fee vary based on water usage, just as the smaller water component of the fee already does. (Some municipalities that use this method, like the Princetons, base the sewerage fee on water use during cold weather, when such use is more likely to be limited to uses involving return of the water through the sewer system.) He also said that it was the recommendation of the professionals, from their fiscal standpoint, that the Borough sell the former gas station as soon as it is able to do so. (The Planning Board had recommended that any decision to sell the property

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember — as usual, there is no January *Bulletin*. The next issue will appear in early February.

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



As well as to David Schwendeman, 443-6204

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

Be a good citizen and attend the Borough Council Meetings on the first three Mondays in the month at 7 p.m.

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

"terrific feeling of community"
Borough Bulletin

**ROOSEVELT'S
2nd Annual
Open Mic Cafe!**

Saturday, February 3, 2007
8 p.m. in the BOROUGH HALL

"impressive array of performances"
Borough Bulletin

ROOSEVELT RESIDENTS, PAST AND PRESENT, AGES 13 THROUGH ADULT! We're looking forward to another successful Open Mic Cafe so if you like to perform in an informal cafe atmosphere (singing, music, poetry, comedy etc.) please fill out the form below and mail it to either

JUDY NAHMIAS DEIRDRE SHEEAN
P.O. Box 206 P.O. Box 620
Roosevelt, NJ 08555 Roosevelt, NJ 08555
609-443-5290 609-443-4179

or

you can also email the information to:
deirdresheean@hotmail.com
judynahmias@comcast.net

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ NJ 08555
email address: _____
Phone Number: _____

A short description of your performance
(performance should be kept to 10 min.)

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Freda Hepner, a long time resident who was our mayor from 1984-1987, died on November 8th.

In Memoriam

By Bess Tremper

I attended her and Al's 40th wedding anniversary party at least twelve years ago and have always remembered the wonderful speech one of her daughters gave in which she described each of her parents as being a "mensch."

This is a German/Jewish word which means "person" but is often used as her daughter did to mean a very special kind of person who is not only very bright, but also one who is very thoughtful, helpful and much aware of the needs of others. At the funeral, for example, one of the daughters said her mother was her best friend.

There are so many examples of the kind of people the Hepners are. For one, they actually spent two summers in China teaching English. When we started our book club here in town, Freda was much involved, having been a college English instructor.

Everyone in Roosevelt who has known Freda is so sad at her loss. We shall all miss her a great deal and send our sincere condolences to her family.

A Few Words About My Mother, Freda Hepner...

By Mindy Hepner

Her first language was Yiddish. Her second language was English, which she apparently mastered – judging by her eventual professorship. She was an effective writer and inspiring speaker. In both languages, appropriate usage was important to her. When we were children, she convinced us that cursing was extremely gauche, as it was an obvious manifestation of a poor vocabulary.

She loved to talk. As an active child, I couldn't sit still long enough to really listen to all she had to say. As a sed-

entary adult, I had a bit more *zitsfleish* and was better equipped to appreciate her passionate recounting of events in the past and the present – stories that were fascinating even when they weren't about me.

She had an opinion about almost everything (a trait I'm told she passed along to her daughters). Often her evaluation of situations and issues was right on target – after all, she was a very smart woman. And even when I didn't quite agree with her view on something, I would still want to hear where she stood – not just because she was my mother but also because she was a woman of valor.

More than a talker, she was a doer.

She talked to us about feminism and, when I wanted to play basketball on the formerly all-boys team at Roosevelt Public School, she was in the stands to cheer me on. When I bought a share in the First Women's Bank and was invited to shareholders' opening day, she took me to New York for the event. She sat by my side while a TV station interviewed me as the youngest shareholder in the new bank.

She saw everything through a Jewish lens and talked about what it means to be an ardent secular Jew. She wanted us to have a Jewish education and sent us to the Princeton Jewish Center but we all knew it didn't quite fit the bill. So instead of moaning about it, she started a secular Jewish school in New Brunswick which continues to this day.

She talked about the goings-on in Roosevelt – a keen observer of the community to the end. But she didn't just talk about the town; she served the town. She was a school board member when we were children and later

became the first woman mayor.

She had her personal challenges as we all do, but she made the most of her lot in life and encouraged her family to do the same. Her final battle with cancer was just one testament of her strength, her courage, her total rejection of self-pity and her commitment to giving one's all. Over the last 22 months, I told her that I imagined her with big red boxing gloves on her hands – continually beating back the cancer – Pow! Pow! Pow!

She was proud of us and, more importantly, loved us. It helps us to know that when she died, she knew that we loved her, too.

By Amy Hepner

There are so many words that I can say about my mother - besides her being the best mother she could be in the eyes of the youngest child. She was smart, a conversationalist, a believer in being Jewish, a teacher in all different ways, a fighter. She worked really hard at raising a family, helping the family business and starting her own career as an English professor. She gave me a lot of strength to keep on going.

"Freda Hepner: An Appreciation"

By Alison Edwards Petrilla

I've just returned from Freda Hepner's funeral and still feel struck by the variety of people — all ages, Rooseveltians and non-Rooseveltians — who came to honor her memory. A number of women spoke about the crucial role she played as their "support system" during their child-rearing years, some folks mentioned her profound dedication to *yiddishkeit*, a few mentioned that she had actually performed their wedding ceremonies during her term

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From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

The Council and I were sickened to learn of a paint-ball attack upon the house on North Rochdale Ave. (Rt. 571) this week, where the Yeshiva students are housed. Around midnight Sunday night, individuals driving a vehicle described as a large, black, four wheel drive pick-up drove up onto the lawn of the house and fired 60 to 70 rounds of paint ball pellets, striking the house occupied by children. This act has crossed over the line from the other incidents of vandalism that have taken place elsewhere in town to acts of malice and assault. We provide our full support and cooperation to the State Police for the prosecution of the perpetrators to

the full extent of the law, including the use of "hate crime" provisions of the State criminal statutes. Regardless of where these persons came from, and we fervently hope they were not Roosevelt people, we all need to come together to condemn this cowardly act. If anyone is aware of any information that could help with this investigation, please contact Borough Administrator Schmeling (609-448-0539) and the State Police (609- 584-5000, ext 5297)

Several of you have contacted the Borough Hall regarding the moving of the siren. We realize it is very close to some homes, and is loud and annoying when it sounds. We are working on moving it back to the center of town,

but that has required engineering studies, seeking bids, finding the land and evaluating proposals. You haven't been forgotten, and we will get it moved as soon as is bureaucratically possible. The question has arisen about the elimination of the siren in favor of pagers or other personal devices. The emergency services have found such devices to be unreliable throughout the town, and therefore unacceptable for now.

Congratulations to our new Council person Arlene Stinson and our re-elected officials, Councilman Jeff Ellentuck and Councilman Bob Silverstein. Thank you to all people who volunteer their time and energies for the good of the town in so many ways. ■

IN MEMORIAM

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as mayor here. I didn't trust myself to speak then, but now I'd like to share a few of my Freda memories, memories which she started creating when I was a young teenager.

The Hepners moved into the house on the corner of School Lane just when I was getting ready for my eighth grade graduation from RPS. I didn't know them well yet, but they came to my graduation party and presented me with a flowered umbrella. Within a few months the "young couple down the street" became a staple in our lives, and my family's closeness to them outlasted even that seemingly indestructible graduation gift.

Al quickly became "Uncle Al" to my brother Alan and me, and we were quickly captivated by his wit and sparkle and liveliness. It took a little longer to get to know Freda, but even at that age I could recognize and admire the magnitude of her love for Al. She egged him on to tell anecdotes that she must have heard a hundred times before,--yet she always responded to them as if they were as new to her as they were to us. While Al was the raconteur, Freda's

incisive intelligence and analytical mind soon made her an indispensable part of the "Hepner team magic." They were so different as individuals, and at the same time, such a loyal, unified couple.

I became a regular babysitter for the three terrific Hepner girls, Susie, Mindy, and Amy. The fact that the Hepners traveled to New York regularly and stayed out late doing exciting things was a real inspiration to me during those years, since it seemed to prove that you could be from Roosevelt and still have a life in the larger world. And their frequent trips to cultural activities kept reminding me that a life of the mind can continue and flourish, even when a couple has three kids and lives in a tiny town.

The Hepners were always involved in causes--political and social--another lesson to me in my teen years. And they stayed active right up to this day. Among her many roles, Freda served as mayor of Roosevelt--and did that difficult job characteristically efficiently and intelligently. Later, I found that even at the tensest local meetings, I always felt relieved when I saw Freda raise her

hand to speak--now we'd get to the heart of the matter. We'd also probably hear some insightful, creative ideas for solutions, from a perspective many of us had never even considered. She was a master of cutting through the b.s., and her remarkable mind, coupled with that calm, measured speaking style, guaranteed that her take on any issue was well worth listening to.

The Hepners' commitment to Jewish causes and Zionism also deeply impressed me. Just recently Freda told my mom that she would have liked to move to Israel if she had been given more time. During one boring high school summer, I got the idea that I should learn Yiddish, and my Dad, whose first language it was, suggested that I ask Freda to teach me, since she spoke "the most beautiful classical Yiddish" of anyone he knew. I asked, she agreed, and I had a wonderful summer, not only learning Yiddish from a superb teacher, but getting better acquainted with Freda, too--one of my first adult friends.

The Hepners were there for us during

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From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

As usual, November and December are very busy months at RPS. It was wonderful to see parents, guardians and community members during American Education Week. The school community was invited to the school to see students and teachers in action during a regular working day. My sincere thanks to all our staff members who planned presentations and activities for our parents and guests.

Our school wide Thanksgiving assembly took place on November 22nd. The fifth and sixth graders performed a play titled, *The Eagle and The Turkey*. Families and the PTA donated food and decorations for our Thanksgiving feast. Staff and students spent countless hours preparing for the day. It was worth it; the play was outstanding and the food was delicious. There was standing room only. Thank you to everyone that helped make this day such a huge success.

The PTA's annual holiday gift shop will take place on December 6th and 7th. The gift shop will be open in the evening on December 7th. This popular event allows the students to purchase gifts within their budget, for friends and family. During regular school hours, PTA parents help students select that special gift. They also provide gift-wrapping services for students. Their efforts, as usual, really contribute to the welfare of our children, and are greatly appreciated.

One of our favorite events is the Winter Concert. The concert is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. However, the date may be changed due to the fact that Kreps' concert is on the same night. We hope that you are able to attend. Details are forthcoming.

During the holiday season and throughout the year, it is important to teach children the importance of giving. This month our Student Council sponsored a very successful food drive and one of our former students sponsored a coat drive. The food will be donated to a local food bank. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

The annual sixth grade pie sale was a tremendous success. They raised over \$2,000.00. Again, thank you for your support.

With the possibility of inclement weather and school closings, an emergency phone chain is in place for students in grades K-12. In addition, school delayed openings or closings will be announced on News 12 New Jersey, 101.5 FM radio, and WABC TV. They will also be posted on the school web site under the events link. Just a reminder, the web address is www.rps1.org.

Local News

School safety is always at the forefront of educational policy, but extensive safety measures have recently been implemented in all schools due to the tragedies that have occurred over the last few years. Governor Corzine announced his Strategic Actions for Violence Elimination (SAVE) plan, which sets the ground work for school safety. Last month, I wrote about the measures that Roosevelt School were implementing to increase safety in the school to insure the safety of our students and staff. We already comply with most of the initiatives that are spelled out in the SAVE plan.

School safety is not the only safety concern in town. This month, I would like to take the opportunity to write

about pedestrian and bicycle safety and vandalism. The headlines in the November 16, 2006 edition of the *Examiner* read, "Roosevelt Concerned With Speeding and Vandalism." Last year the headlines read, "Roosevelt Named Number One Place to Live in NJ" by NJ Monthly Magazine. There are two separate concerns in this article, speeding and vandalism. Children and residents walk out and about town all hours of the day and night. In the morning and the afternoon, RPS students walk and ride their bicycles to and from school, and the middle and high school students walk to bus stops. I see groups of walkers and people exercising at various hours of the day and evening. To assure the safety of our children, residents, and visitors, please adhere to the rules of the road, and posted speed limits.

I would like to share a few statistics. Approximately 5,900 pedestrians are killed by automobiles every year... 84,000 suffer nonfatal injuries. Almost one-third of these victims are children under the age of 15 yet they represent only about fifteen percent of the U.S. population. (<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/pedstrns.htm>)

By following the few safety tips listed below, you can protect yourself and your children.

- It is critical to teach children to look left right left before crossing streets.
- Cross only at designated crossings. Entering traffic mid-block or from between parked cars is dangerous.
- Teach children to never dart out into traffic.
- Pedestrians do have the right

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of way, but must be aware of oncoming vehicles and make judgments accordingly.

In 1998, 203 children ages 14 and under died in bicycle-related crashes. An estimated 140,000 children are treated each year in emergency rooms for head injuries sustained while bicycling. Bicycle helmets have been shown to significantly reduce the risk of head and brain injury. It is estimated that as many as seven out of every eight bicycle related fatalities among children could have been prevented with a bicycle helmet.

- A helmet should be worn every time you ride a bike, scooter, skateboard or in-line skate. It is also important to wear the appropriate helmet when skiing or snowboarding.
- As a parent, you should set a good example by always wearing a helmet yourself. (Remember, actions speak louder than words!)
- Young riders should ride on sidewalks or safe areas only. Teens may ride in the street after they learn the rules of the road. In either case, make sure your children know what areas you permit them to ride their bikes.
- For young children:
Never ride at dusk or at night.
When entering a sidewalk, path or driveway, stop completely. Look left, right and left again.
Walk, don't ride your bicycle across the street.
Cross only at the street corner, not mid-block.
- For teens and adults:
When riding in the street, obey all traffic signals and laws.
Ride with the traffic flow, not against it.

Always stop at stop signs and stop lights.

Use the correct hand signals when turning to let drivers know your intent.

The school, along with the borough, has been experiencing an increase in vandalism. Both the Roosevelt councilmen/women and the Board of Education have asked the New Jersey State Police to increase their patrol. It was suggested in the article that residents drive through the cemetery (where the vandalism is taking place), to discourage people from using it as a hangout. I am going to ask the same of residents on behalf of the school. Please take a moment to drive around the circle in the school. While I do not want to discourage school children and teens from using the school as a meeting place, I do want to discourage improprieties.

State News

The Department of Education is actively working to implement NJ

Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJ SMART), a comprehensive data warehouse, student level data reporting, and statewide student identification (SID) system. Both Governor Corzine and the Legislature have indicated that a statewide student database to support the tracking of student academic outcomes is a crucial need as well as a top priority for New Jersey. The steps required to develop this repository are taking place in several phases over the next twelve months.

NJ SMART was initiated several years ago for three primary reasons:

- New Jersey's public education system must become more evidence-based where progress toward instructional goals are measured and monitored.
- Major regulatory changes, such as the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), require states and districts to collect greater quantities of data to meet increasingly intensive reporting requirements.

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Dec. 2006 - Jan. 2007 School Dates	
Dec 6 & 7	PTA Holiday Gift Fair
Dec 8	Pizza Day
Dec 14	Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Dec 15	Early Dismissal
Dec 21	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Dec 22	Early Dismissal/Fabulous Friday
Dec 25 - 1/1	Winter Break
Jan 2	School Reopens
Jan 12	Schoolhouse Hooky
Jan 15	School Closed
Jan 24	Early Dismissal

Everybody Loved My Father/ How My Family Got Here

If you were to ask my two older sisters to tell this tale, you'd most likely get a different version. I am the third daughter of Robert and Maline Monk, who moved to Jersey Homesteads, 10 Coop Circle and now 10 Tamara Dr., in the summer of 1946. Virginia and Mary Ann, my sisters were 4 and 2 years old.

Bob and Maline met through her older sister, Mary who worked with Bob at "The State House." My father, being the great outdoorsman, entertained celebrities who visited our state.

A little cultural background on my parents:

Bob was born to Christopher and Agnes Monk in Trenton. My grandfather came from the coal mines in Pittsburgh, PA. from a German family that had been in this country for some generations. My Grandmother, born of Robert and Lindsey Fulton, was the oldest of three daughters. My great-grandparents immigrated to this country from Scotland to New York where Agnes was born. My father, the oldest sibling to Donald, Stewart (Great-grandmother's maiden name) and Virginia, was born and raised in Trenton.

My mother, also born and raised in Trenton, was the second of four daughters: Mary, Maline, Rose and Stella. Her parents, Gioseppe and Maria DiFranco immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s from Sicily and Bologna. Gioseppe and Maria LaBella met and married here. Over the years, my grandfather returned to Italy to sell lands and to bring both families here to America. Mom, born Carmella DiFranco, had a cousin

Carmella, nicknamed Carmel. Her family then nicknamed her Melli. Not speaking our language when she entered first grade, her teacher Miss Lee (my middle name) misunderstood and documented Melli's name as Maline, thus she was forever called. Maline was most definitely rooted in an Italian, Catholic culture, raised in an Italian neighborhood.

As I stated, my Aunt Mary and father worked together and Dad asked her to go dancing. Needing a chaperone, she requested that he ask someone to go with her younger sister, Maline. Upon arriving at the DiFranco home, all was lost and Bob fell in love with my blond, blue large-eyed, very shapely mother who could not have cared less for him. In spite of that, they married in five months.

During their *long* courtship, Grandmother Maria, asked if Bob was Catholic. Maline didn't know. Maria went upstairs one day after Bob came calling and carried a large crucifix down. My dad, con that he was, kissed the feet of Jesus and low-and-behold, his future mother-in-law declared him, silently to her daughter, to be Catholic.

One week before their marriage, Maline was walking with her sister Rose and Bob's sister, Virginia on their way to the rectory to arrange the wedding. My mother stated how happy she was that Bob was Catholic. After all, he wasn't Italian so one out of two was good. However, Aunt Virginia stopped short and informed her that he was indeed a very Baptist man who taught Sunday school.

Well.....too late, Maline was in love with this bad boy. In order for

the priest to marry them, they would need to be married in the rectory, as Bob was not Catholic. My grandfather declared that no daughter of his was going to be married outside the house of God. The following week they were married in my dad's church and then had their vows blessed by her priest.

Did I say that my mother's entire family loved Bob? What was there not to love, he loved them equally. For five years they lived with them – in my mother's neighborhood.

Roosevelt: Bob was familiar with this area while it was still a part of Millstone Township. He was "the great hunter" and knew these woods, farms and its people well. He also worked for the company that hauled the concrete and steel used to build Jersey Homesteads. He knew of this land before he was married and while he also worked for the state. A few of his co-workers at Scott Brothers Trucking Co. (division of the Pennsylvania Railroad) settled here as well: the Terrys, Parrs, Buotes and Symons.

During their courtship, Bob took Maline on a few *very long rides* from Trenton, through the woods, on dirt roads to visit his friends. Mrs. Symons stated to me that when all the co-workers met my mother, and knowing my father well, they could not believe what a beauty he had caught, what an innocent, what a lady.

On weekends, Bob took Maline around her Italian neighborhood to look at houses to buy. For a long time, they searched and she loved many of the houses, surrounded by all that she had ever known – her culture, her family.

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TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

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Finally, one day in 1946, Bob came home and announced that he bought a house. Maline excitedly jumped into the car to see which one of those homes was now theirs. My father took her on a *very long ride*..... away from her family, her culture, to a place where there were no buses to go down town. There were no telephones or televisions, no paved roads, not even a radio, no museum and no live performances, no Italian spoken.

All of my their family members thought Jersey Homesteads was "Heaven On Earth". They loved it here and visited every weekend, staying overnight with them and my two sisters. My grandfather learned to drive while my Aunt Stella, still a young girl, rode her bike all the way out here. This was a vacation from the city.

Mom made the best of things. She became active in the school when Virginia and Mary Ann entered RPS, joined the PTA, had teachers and principals over for dinners and neighbors in for coffee. She learned to play cards with those neighbors and even learned that a knish was just a ravioli and Jesus a nice Jewish boy (for her also the Messiah).

Over the 55 years of living here, her family members died and neighbors did likewise, or as most, moved away. She hoped that she would one day move back to her home in Trenton. Many cousins still lived there, and she continued to remember it as it was. She still hoped, but Dad loved it here always. Bob had his hunting, fishing and he did socialize with everyone here, his gardening, his friends, and places he socialized in. He was always

wonderful to the neighbors, their children, active in the community and remained loved by my mother's family and their neighbors. He was never lonely, this was his home, his heaven on earth and he never planned on living anywhere else.

In 1950, I was their surprise. Poor Mary Ann ceased to be the baby, which must have been a shock. So, I grew up here, married and conceived my first son, Robert, under the same roof as I. Ralph, Robert and I moved away for a few years, but moved back in 1978 along with our second son, Dustin. My home, 10 Tamara Drive, holds many wonderful memories for me. Someone else lives there now and it looks different. In spite of that, I can still see my mother standing at the kitchen sink window or imagine her on the phone through the vestibule window. I see my dad in the garage or mowing his lawn, walking outside to feed his hunting dogs, pushing a plow through the garden.....

Ralph and I are still here where the goose flies. ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

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

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman 448-2340

Bess Tremper 448-2701

By Clare Sacharoff

Eighteen people attended the Nov. 6th meeting. In the near future a representative from Hightstown Pharmacy will address the group. The pharmacy is willing to deliver prescriptions to Roosevelt, which might be something to explore.

On Nov. 17th flu shots were given between 1:30 and 2:30 to all eligible participants at the Borough Hall. Insurance cards were necessary.

Twenty people attended a production at the George St. Playhouse in New Brunswick on Nov. 8th. This show stars Jack Klugman. The bus left the Roosevelt school at 12:30 p.m. and returned approximately 5:00 p.m.

On Nov. 21, there was a trip to East Windsor Garden Buffet followed by a movie. Volunteer drivers picked up people at 11:00 a.m.

On Dec. 5th for our regular meeting each member will provide a covered dish for a group luncheon followed by our meeting.

Shirley Sokolow provided delicious home-baked refreshments at our last meeting. ■



Dear Neighbors,

While many Rooseveltians are concerned with the future of our town because of a perceived threat from "outsiders" and state legislators who would like to see New Jersey's small towns consolidated, many of us are blind to a threat posed by our own residents.

Over the past year, Roosevelt Public School has been repeatedly vandalized. A window was broken; bricks in the amphitheatre were crushed, chunks of clay mud have been splattered on the building, new basketball nets are slowly being destroyed, school doors were repaired after a recent break-in, and the play equipment being stored

for our pre-kindergarten program was destroyed by an intentionally set fire. Our costs to repair this damage have reached into the thousands of dollars...dollars we will all be expected to repay in the form of increased school taxes in future budgets.

In a town of less than 1,000 people, vandalism is an even greater disgrace than in other neighborhoods. In a town that prides itself on its community involvement and neighborly attitudes, vandalism is a smack in the face to those values. And in a town that hosts community litter pick-ups twice a year, vandalism goes beyond disrespecting our property that is being ruined; it disrespects each and every

individual who works hard to keep our town beautiful and flourishing.

If you are the vandal, STOP. If you know who the vandals are, report it (anonymously if you must). If you suspect your child might be involved, take actions. If you are walker in town, please take a moment to check in on our school. It is the responsibility to teach this value to our next generation of Rooseveltians, whether they are our own children or not. Otherwise, we will all be victims... of higher taxes, lower property values and a lessening sense of community. This is the real threat facing Roosevelt today.

Sincerely,

Meredith Murray

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE

By David Schwendeman

Ready for Winter?

What happened to Autumn? Is it me or did the Fall just zip by faster than ever! Snow will be here before you know it. My snow shovel is out of storage and handy.

I find it a good time of year to watch for animal tracks after a snowfall. The footprints give proof to the types and species of animals that live around us during the winter months. Some tracks show animal interactions and tell a story. Small mammal tracks such as those of the white-footed mouse that go on for a while but then suddenly disappear show that the small mouse may have been picked up by an owl feeding at night.

One year I saw what looked like a shovel being dragged through the woods in the snow but no human footprints. No footprints at all. I was puzzled. I followed the trail for a while and saw the trail go under a few fallen logs without disturbing the snow on

top of the log. Then it hit me. A beaver! The dragging tail, broad and flat, obscured the animal's footprints leaving just the tail drag trail. Pretty cool. This was 25 years ago when beaver were just starting to take up residence in Rising Sun Lake. Now they are quite plentiful in Central New Jersey.

Let me know of unusual tracks you may see in the snow this winter. Better yet make a sketch in your Nature Journal noting the date, time and place.

Clogged Street Sewers

If you see a clogged sewer on your street, please unclog it or report it. Clogged street sewers can cause water to back up into the street. This causes a mess and if it freezes it can be extremely hazardous to walkers. We have a small public works staff and if we each do a little extra to help it would be a good thing.

Hunting Season Awareness – Be Safe

Remember to wear bright orange in the woods, fields and hunting areas around town. Perhaps it may be best to avoid the deep woods at this time of year except on Sundays. Sundays are still safe ie. No Hunting is allowed on Sundays in New Jersey! Please note too that hunting is allowed on the former Notterman Tract, the grassy fields near Eleanor Lane and the Cemetery.

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. on December 20, 2006. Everyone is welcome to attend. If anyone has a newsworthy nature note or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204 or drop a note to PO Box 203. Thank you for reading this column. ■

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular Yoga program this Fall at the Roosevelt School. Classes will be instructed by Kym Kulp, a certified Yoga Instructor who teaches at The Peddie School and throughout the area. While yoga mats will be provided, participants are welcome to bring their own. Classes will be offered on Tuesday nights from **6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Walk-in fee is \$10.00 per class. Program will continue throughout the fall and winter seasons. Please contact 609-448-0539, x3 for an updated schedule.

Youth Floor Hockey

The Roosevelt Recreation Department is sponsoring a youth **Indoor Floor Hockey** program at the Roosevelt Public School on Tuesday nights from **8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.** beginning on November 28th. Program will not run on days that school is not

in session. The program is open to students in **1st – 8th Grades.**

Students will not be able to participate unless a registration form is completed and signed by a parent/guardian. There is no cost for this program.

Movie Night

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to the Roosevelt Public School grounds to enjoy free movies on the “big screen” on select Saturday nights. Movie titles are subject to change. Please contact (609) 448-0539, x3 for updated information and movie titles.

Saturday, December 16th, 7:00 p.m. “The Shaggy Dog”

Tim Allen transforms from family dad to family dog and back again in this update of the Disney comedy. It all begins when workaholic Deputy D.A. Dave Douglas (Allen) takes on a case involving an animal labora-

tory — one that will take him away yet again from his wife and kids, who already yearn for his all-too-distracted attention. But when Dave is accidentally infected with a top-secret, genetic-mutation serum, everything he thought he knew about being himself and his family changes.

Teen Nights

The Recreation Department is asking for your help in coordinating a “Teen Night” program one night per week throughout the school year. The program will include various activities for students in 6th – 10th grades. Please contact (609) 448-0539, x3 with your ideas for the program.

For further information on any Recreation Department programs, please contact **(609) 448-0539, x3.** The Recreation Department is also looking for volunteers, ideas for new programs, activities, and trips. Please let us know what you would like to see offered to our community! ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 9

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed primarily to the owners of the original Roosevelt homes. I am interested in the architecture of Roosevelt today as well as the original homes of approximately 70 years ago. I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in a photography project to document this architecture.

The goal is to photograph the street-facing facades of all of the original 198 housing units of our town. All photographs will be taken from the street. In those few cases where shrubbery or some other obstruction blocks the view of your home from the street, I will obtain your permission in person before coming onto your property to photograph. This would generate a

record of what these structures look like in 2006. The hope is that this project would be repeated at 5 or 10 year intervals to produce an historical record.

Also, 5 of the 198 homes that most closely resemble the 5 original basic house types would be photographed more extensively, with permission of those owners obtained in person.

As a board member of RAP (Roosevelt Arts Project) I recently presented the plan for this project to that board. The board approved the general concept of possibly including photographs of the five homes as part of the history display at RAP’s 20th anniversary celebration (May 4-6, 2007). It is also possible that these images might evolve

into a separate show about Roosevelt’s architecture at some later date. The photographs of all 198 homes would be incorporated into RAP’s database as an historical record and also shared with the town historian.

This is a documentation project only. The objective is to complete all of the photographing by the end of December. I’m doing this because of my personal interest in this subject but my hope is that this pictorial record will also be of some educational and historical value to the community.

If you have any questions about this project please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ben Johnson ■

An Opera By Roosevelt Artists To Be Presented At Rutgers

By David Herrstrom

An opera by Mark Zuckerman with libretto by David Herrstrom will be presented at Rutgers University on Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM. Act I of the two-act *The Outlaw and the King* will be performed by the Opera Workshop at the Mason Gross School, Rutgers University, Schare Recital Hall, Maryott Music Building. Admission is free.

The opera is centered on the triangle of King Saul, David, and Jonathan, though the story requires no knowledge of the biblical one familiar to many. In our time when the monarchy is gasping for breath, if not defunct, what possible relevance could an old story about a late bronze-age Israeli king have? Why would we care about the conflict between King Saul and his demons, or between the king and his upstart favorite, David, who ultimately turns guerrilla warrior and displaces him?

The answer to both questions is that this tragic story, where the bonds of love are rent by the necessity of self-creation and the demands of succession, is one woven into the fabric of our families and society. It is a familiar story of psychological conflict and incipient violence. The personal struggle for power only too often becomes a political struggle that affects us all. Once power is gained, it becomes entitlement, as if granted by the fates themselves. And in our age we know well the dangers of identifying one's own will with God's.

By turns quiet and tumultuous, seductive and threatening, Mark Zuckerman's powerful music wonderfully expresses conflicts as old as the human heart. And he has gathered a superb ensemble of singers to give life

to words and music, with Peter Ludwig as Saul, Michael Ashby as David, Justin Johnson as Jonathan, and Charles Schneider as Zerubbabel, Saul's faithful armor bearer, as well as a chorus of women as Hannagail (Bethany Reeves, Adrienne Alexander, Patrice Jegou), supported by Cristina Pato on the piano. Pamela Gilmore is the director of the Rutgers Opera Workshop, assisted by Judith Nicosia.

To get to the Schare Recital Hall in the Maryott Music Building on the Cook College campus of Rutgers in New Brunswick from Route 18: take the George Street exit. Maryott is the first building on the right. To park, take the first right turn off George Street; parking lots are to your left. Park and walk down past the Nicholas Music Center to Maryott. Schare Recital Hall is on the second floor.

If you're interested in seeing *The Outlaw and the King* but can't make the performance Friday, feel free to attend the dress rehearsal at 5:30 PM the previous evening, Thursday, December 14. For more information, including the libretto and bios of the singers, go to <http://www.mazicmusic.com/OutlawAndKing.htm>.

WHERE FUN MEETS CLAY: The Community Mural

By Judith McNally

There's still time to join in the fun and satisfaction of making the Roosevelt Community mural! Residents are invited to meet in the Roosevelt School gym, Saturday, December 11 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to transfer drawings of flora and fauna onto clay.

The process is fun and simple. Katherine Hackl, Lambertville tile artist, provides a slab of leather hard clay for each person. Using a wooden stylus, the outline of the drawing is

pressed into the clay. Next the excess clay is cut away. Other tools, also provided, help in adding details, and then a wide variety of glazes are available to brush onto the clay for color. Katherine is available at all times for help and added friendly suggestions.

All ages are welcome, including school children and senior citizens. (Children 11 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.)

Here's more good news. For anyone unable to attend the Fall Saturday sessions, an all new series of workshops is scheduled to start in January, 2007, on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons, this time meeting in the Roosevelt Borough Hall.

Be sure to mark your calendars ahead of time for these new dates:

Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m.
to 9 p.m.

Sunday, January 21, 12:30 p.m.
to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m.
to 9 p.m.

Sunday, February 18, 12:30 p.m.
to 2:30 p.m.

For more information about participating, please contact Deirdre Sheean, 443-4179, deirdresheean@hotmail.com or Barbara Atwood, 918-0757, barbatwood@comcast.net.

In an effort to expand the size of the mural – the Roosevelt Arts Project's gift to the town – contributions of any amount are welcome. Every \$300 adds another square foot. RAP has provided the seed money for the 8' long by 3' high mural. Checks should be made out to the Roosevelt Arts Project and mailed to P.O. Box 88, 1 Clarksburg Road, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. For more information about making tax deductible contributions, please contact Naomi Brahinsky at 443-1898.

Come join the fun!

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A DAY OF THE DEAD REVIEW

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A Day of the Dead Review

By Margaret Schlinski

Having had a successful, critically acclaimed first season, Roosevelt's own Eleanor gallery has begun its second year with an exciting celebration of Mexico's *Dia de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead.

Roosevelt resident James Hayden's gallery held a two day exhibit which featured music by the group, *Mexico Beyond Mariachi*, dancers, poetry, a procession, and an elaborately decorated altar, or *Ofrenda*. Instrumental in bringing this exhibit and show to our town was Mexican born, New Jerseyan Noe Dominguez.

Though the main symbols of this tradition are skulls and skeletons, its tone is upbeat and life affirming. Celebrated in Mexico between October 31st and November 2nd, it is a time when, it is believed, deceased ancestors return for a visit with loved ones. Marigolds known as the "flower of the dead" are used to attract the departed through its scent and draw them back.

The Eleanor gallery was transformed with multi-colored, delicate tissue cutouts of dancing skeletons and other traditional motifs. The altar was placed under a canopy of netting which supported flowers. The *Ofrenda* was laden with sweets, dried fruits, ethnic and special foods. There were candies and toys to tempt back the spirits of lost children. There were similar enticements for the adults who had passed: playing cards; food; cigarettes; tequila; and other enjoyments of a good life. Pictures of particular relatives adorned the altar as well. It was breathtaking and comforting at the same time.

After visiting the *Ofrenda*, "the living" went down the hall of the factory to the loading dock, where a small stage was set up to resemble a Mexican barrio. There, we were part of the music,

dance and songs lifting our hearts to welcome the souls of the departed. Mexico Beyond Mariachi performed many diverse ethnic dances. Three of which stand out as favorites. From the Yucatan province came the tray dance, with trays balanced on the heads of the brightly costumed dancers, one from Chiapas, the Alcaraban, and yet another, the Caracol, which was danced with shells that clicked and clacked as the bare feet of the dancers pounded the floor! We were in an entirely different culture and place and if I were a spirit, as I plan to be one day, THIS is where I'd want to be. Noe Dominguez and his two dancers were lively and exciting. The costumes were beautiful, the steps precise and fluid, the musicians and singers talented. I have been in theater many years and I can say that rarely have I felt such strong energy between performers and audience as I did that evening.

On Sunday, we were all back for the *Borrechera*, or procession. It was too cold to go to the cemetery, so we left from the gallery travelling to the triangle at the end of Homestead Lane and back. The procession was centered around a cardboard coffin carried on the shoulders of the poets as the rest of us sang songs and passed around tequila! The day was blustery with autumn leaves blowing about us as we walked and sang. Mr Dominguez' niece was dressed as a young (but more beautiful) Frida Kahlo and his nephew and student were skeletons in hoods. They spun about the marchers as we continued our joyous noise making. I felt like I was in a Fellini or a Bergman film and wished more unsuspecting Rooseveltians would see us and share in the mystic adventure. When we returned to the gallery the coffin was opened, a blanket was spread, and grapes, bananas, figs, and bread were passed out to be shared, while poets

Ron Kostar, Judith McNally, and Dave Herrstrom read poetry by Mexican Jaime Sabines to us.

After it all, I went to the graveyard, driven by friends Kevin and Judith McNally and left a can of sardines on my husband's gravestone. The experience for me was total. I don't think I ever felt closer to my dead loved ones than I did on these two days. It was an unbelievable event.

Thank you RAP, Jim Hayden, and Thank You, Noe Dominguez from all of us dead or alive!

Jacob Landau Exhibit & Music Review (Saturday reception)

By Jim Hayden

It seems fitting that previous Open Studio Exhibits and Shows held at Jacob Landau's dome on Lake Drive, have generally been held in November. A truly transitional Autumnal month, sometimes cold and uncomfortable, yet sometimes unexpectedly pleasant and warm. And at the Fifth Annual Jacob Landau Open Studio Show, November 11th, hosted by Rosa Giletti and the Roosevelt Arts Project, guests enjoyed the unusual day of beautiful weather and inside their conversations and attitudes reflected the warmth of the day.

This year's exhibit was entitled, Jacob Landau: Visionary/Humanist. The exhibit contained much artwork, including examples of his "Kingdom of Dreams" suite as well as artwork done for stained glass windows in the Prophetic Quest series (of 10 windows) designed for the Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Landau's work was in abundance, his prolific work always surprises.

The Saturday reception was full of

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

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for private redevelopment be made only after the Council had determined that it would not be needed for public purposes. However, as various Council members explained, the decision can only be made after the tanks are removed and the extent of any contamination under the tanks has been determined. Borough Administrator Bill Schmeling told the Council that the contractor who is going to be removing the tanks is ready to do so as soon as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gives its approval. Mr. Hamilton also said that his committee is looking into the feasibility of getting a van or bus or otherwise arranging for transportation for seniors and others who need to get to doctors in Princeton or elsewhere in the area. The committee is also considering the alternatives that may exist for trash pick-up when the current contract expires next year.

Councilman Bob Silverstein, chairman of the Utilities committee, reported that a new sludge pump was being installed at the sewage treatment plant. He also noted that there had been six incidents of leakage at water meters that were apparently due to improper installation. In each case, the cost to the Borough to make the repairs was between \$800 and \$1,000. Mr. Silverstein said that the Borough had to absorb this cost because the warranties on the meters had expired, but Councilman Jeff Ellentuck questioned whether any warranty on the installation work had expired as well, and asked that the Borough document the problem and consider bringing a lawsuit for negligent installation, which would not be affected by the expiration of any warranty. Mr. Silverstein also said that an appeal by the municipal engineer, Carmela Roberts, of a DEP order to comply with more restrictive phosphorus discharge standards had

been unsuccessful and that upgrades to the sewerage treatment system would have to be made. Mayor Battel asked that the committee provide information to the Fire Department as to which hydrants are either not working at all or not providing adequate pressure. Mr. Silverstein also reported, in his capacity as representative on the Environmental Commission, that Ed Moser had resigned as coordinator of the siltation grant project for Empty Box Brook due to health reasons. He also said that there would be a single wood pick-up scheduled for the spring, that a sugar maple, the tree chosen by vote of the students as part of an Arbor Day project, had been planted at the veterans' stone on the school grounds, that the school wanted to work with the Environmental Commission to have the students map vegetation on the school grounds, and that signage was being ordered for the extension of the trail along Empty Box Brook east of Valley Road to the cemetery.

Reporting for the Community Development committee, Councilman Jeff Ellentuck, who was sworn in at the meeting after having been elected to complete the unexpired term to which he had previously been appointed when Beth Battel was elected as mayor and vacated her Council seat, said that the agreement with Marci Hamilton, Esq. for legal services in connection with litigation involving religion and zoning issues was being revised to provide for payment of her \$10,000 fee in three equal installments. Mr. Ellentuck also stated that his committee was not yet ready to release a revised zoning ordinance text, since he wanted it to be reviewed first by "reliable counsel." Councilman Hamilton pointed out that the Planning Board had requested the Council to proceed expeditiously to adopt an ordinance drafted by Planning Board member Tim Hartley,

in consultation with Tom Thomas, the Board's planning consultant, that would consolidate the existing zoning ordinances and resolve confusion over the actual text that had become evident in the course of the appeal of the Roosevelt Preservation Association against the refusal of Bob Francis, the former zoning officer, to issue a violation notice to Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah and Congregation Anshei Roosevelt over use of the synagogue. When the draft ordinance was brought before the Council for review, Bert Ellentuck, the head of the Roosevelt Preservation Association, pointed out errors in the existing ordinances that he felt ought to be corrected in any consolidated ordinance. It has been the intention of the Planning Board to have the consolidated ordinance in place quickly and then to work on amendments, while Councilman Ellentuck has taken the position, consistent with that of his father, a former mayor, that revisions should be made before any text is adopted. Councilman Ellentuck said that he would support Council consideration of a revised ordinance once a new municipal attorney in whom he could have confidence had approved it. He also recommended making it possible for the Council to address issues more quickly by scheduling two action meetings a month.

Councilwoman Peggy Malkin, chairwoman of the Environment, Health and Safety committee, expressed great concern about the problem of speeding, particularly on Homestead Lane, which does not yet have any speed humps. She said that there had been an incident where a child was grazed by a passing car, fortunately not getting hurt. There was an incident where a car was observed disregarding the stop sign at the intersection of Homestead Lane and Rochdale Avenue and nearly

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A DAY OF THE DEAD REVIEW

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familiar faces, who come together, it seems, each year to discuss and enjoy Landau's art. New faces added along the way, who now enjoy and appreciate Jacob's work, also seemed satisfied. With each year, art is displayed and there is always something new to see or be seen. Landau's art can be looked upon multiple times, and the viewer catches something new each time they do. His expression of the human form and imagery connect us. Sometimes familiar, sometimes unavoidably exposed. And although his abstraction of form at times, can be unnerving, it is the human element expressed and recognized, pleasant or not. His work is about humanity, the beauty, the struggle, life and death, the sacred and the profane. But paramount is the Human Spirit and its ability to help us to understand the grand expanse of life. The transition of life. He truly was a humanist and visionary.

Complimenting Landau's various media was a concert later in the evening by Roosevelt's own David Brahinsky. Brahinsky is always a pleasure to hear in any incarnation. Whether with the String Band, solo, or with this intimate group. David was joined by Sara Houtman and Mark McKusker to create a fine trio. Brahinsky played an amped acoustic guitar, Mark the harmonica, and of course Sara's own instrument, her incredibly clear and resonant voice. David started the set of about 16 songs with *Fort Worth Blues*, a song written by Steve Earl. Mark accompanied on the harmonica to lend it a prison feel. Next the classic, *House of the Rising Sun* set the audience alight. On *Tecumseh Valley*, Sara joined and her crisp and strong voice was clarion throughout the dome. Sara stayed for *Anything You Need but Me*, a song by Nancy Griffith, that was introduced to David by the late Judith Trachtenburg. *The Foggy,*

Foggy Dew, a not so politically correct tune got the crowd chuckling and singing along. It was followed by *Angels*, another Nancy Griffith song, with Sara again joining in - setting the sweet, strong, sharp and sincere tone of the song. *Killing the Blues*, *Home Away From Home*, and *Cloud Factory* followed. *Cloud Factory*, by June Tabor, was a wonderful tale about a cloud factory worker and the importance of dreams. A modern Neil Young song, *Living with War*, added to the depth of the evenings music. *Where I can Change My Clothes*, *Avalon Blues*, *Love & Happiness for You*, *Handsome Molly*, and *Sir Eglamore* rounded out the set. Sir Eglamore being a traditional knight and dragon story, but upbeat and fun. The ensemble finished the evening with an encore. *Letter from Heaven*, another offbeat, quirky song was chock full of characters from Music and Pop culture including, the Angel Gabriel, Miles Davis and Elvis, just to name a few. At the completion, the trio was treated to a standing ovation. A great ending to a great afternoon & night at the Landau dome. Humanity, sharing, understanding and music, all of which help feed the soul.

Thanks again to Rosa Giletti and RAP for the opportunity to see and enjoy a great artist's works while educating ourselves in a wonderful atmosphere of creativity and warmth. It makes the transition of fall to winter a bit easier. ■

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, SHARI PAYSON

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- NJDOE is committed to providing better information to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and other stakeholders, to simplify data reporting requirements, and to increase administrative efficiency through the use of technology.

This means that districts will have access to assessment reports that will allow easy monitoring and comparison of critical performance measures. A local datamart offers the chance to bring district varied data sources together in an integrated warehouse, allowing staff access to linked student data; and once the SID is implemented, districts will be able to track students and their performance more effectively over time even as they transfer in and out of districts. These activities are providing the foundation for a more comprehensive system of data reporting and student performance management.

The database not only includes academic outcomes, but students' health information as well. Letters were sent home with students requesting specific information. If you have not yet sent in the complete paperwork, please send it in ASAP. This will ensure that RPS is able to provide the Department of Education and Health Department the information that they require in a timely manner.

With the holiday's rapidly approaching, let us be the first to extend to you and your family a warm Season's Greetings and express how fortunate we are to be able to work with such special students, families and staff. I wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year, filled with love, peace and understanding. ■

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hitting passing cars. Administrator Schmeling will contact Hightstown, with whom we have an interlocal agreement on road maintenance, to see if arrangements can be made to have speed humps installed on Homestead Lane next time there is road work going on in either municipality and asphalt is available.

Councilman Hamilton, reporting in his capacity as Council representative on the Planning Board, stated that the scheduled November 20 meeting of the Board to hear the appeals concerning the use of the properties at 53 North Rochdale Avenue and 18 Homestead Lane as dormitories was being postponed due to unavailability of the Board's attorney. He said that there would be a special meeting of the Board on November 28 to discuss proposed parking requirements and also urged that there be a meeting of Council and Planning Board members to discuss the revised zoning ordinance.

Mayor Battel, reporting as representative to the Board of Education, said that she and Councilman Hamilton had met with school officials to discuss sharing of services and ideas for youth recreation. She also said that they were pleased to see that enhanced security measures are in effect at the school. Administrator Schmeling added that the municipal engineer would be preparing an application for a "Safe Route to School" grant that could be used to install sidewalks.

In the public portion, Nona Sherak called upon the Council to do what it can to stop Comcast from eliminating access to Philadelphia stations. Apparently, cable operators are not obligated to offer access to more than one set of channels and the Monmouth – Mercer line is regarded as the border between the New York and Philadelphia TV viewing

areas. She characterized Comcast as "sneaky," saying that they drop channels without notice. On another subject, she reported having witnessed drivers disregarding the stop sign at the intersection of Nurko Road and Rochdale Avenue and urged the Council to install "rough road" pavement to make drivers slow down and stop. Also, in the public portion, Bert Ellentuck urged all Council members to read any proposed zoning ordinance carefully before voting on it and Melissa Branco, speaking as a representative of the Roosevelt Preservation Association, asked what would happen next, now that the Planning Board has ruled that the former zoning officer was incorrect in not citing the use of the synagogue by Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah as a violation. Mayor Battel told her that the next step was that the Planning Board would vote on a memorializing resolution once it was prepared by the Board's attorney.

The Council then adopted resolutions (1) awarding a contract for the purchase of Klenphos for the water treatment plant, (2) approving a change order in the amount of \$3,925.15 and awarding a contract for asphalt in the amount of \$122,047, both as part of the Lake Drive reconstruction project, (3) adjusting the utility bill for 3 Maple Court, where there had been excess water consumption due to the faulty installation of the meter previously discussed, (4) setting fees for recreation fees and activities, (5) endorsing the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application for 2005, including appointment of Greg Possiel as recycling coordinator, and (6) amending the personnel policy to comply with recommendations of the Monmouth County Joint Insurance Fund. ■

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my father's illness and they never stopped coming to visit, even when he was terminal. And I think my parents were there for them when they had to face hard times. It was a deep friendship and almost inter-generational, since Al and Freda were nearly 20 years younger than my Dad.

It's so difficult to imagine School Lane without Freda in that house on the corner. While I think the Hepners still considered themselves "New Yorkers" even years after they'd moved here, to me they typify what was and still is best in Roosevelt, with their world-awareness, their willingness to get involved, their wonderful kindness when trouble struck others, and their bravery when it struck them.

In Memory of Freda Hepner

By Carol Watchler

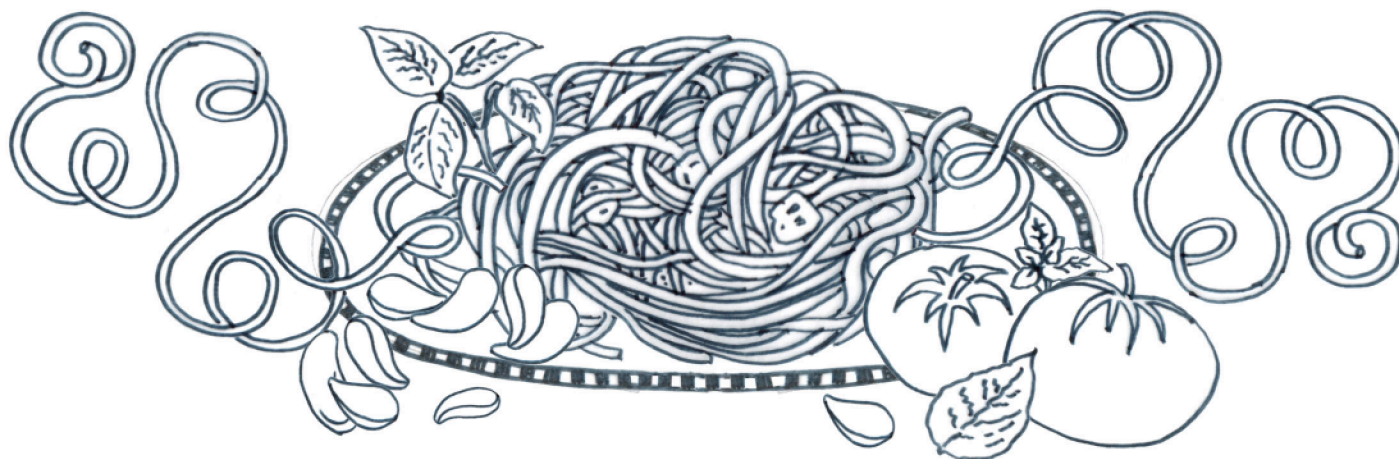
Back in 1983 when Ann and I were still recent newcomers to Roosevelt and knew Freda Hepner from a few social gatherings and participation in the Eleanor Roosevelt chapter of NOW, I recall one morning when Freda was making visits to homes in town to announce her candidacy for the position of Mayor. I learned shortly afterward that there was an open Council seat and, on the strength of realizing that joining the Council would mean working with Freda, I decided to run.

Both of us stepped into a lot of work and, though I can't relate specific instances, I have a strong recollection of her presence—chairing the agenda meetings and regular Council meetings. I can hear her voice and feel her style of leadership and I can tell you that it was firm and fair.

Since land use issues were at the heart of Borough government then as now, I do recall an instance in which Freda clearly did not accept wining and dining from a potential developer. She was very adamant that the good of Roosevelt was the thing that influenced her decisions and nothing else.

I am sorry that Roosevelt has lost Freda and sad that I have lost a friend. ■

Pasta with Fresh Tomatoes, Basil & Sautéed Garlic Cloves



I am always mooching around looking for new recipes to try. I have found interesting and tasty recipes in the Borough Bulletin, my friends' kitchens, the New York Times food section on Wednesday, and even AARP's magazine – although most of them don't sound very interesting. I like recipes that leave me guessing what the results will be – sometimes what sounds yummy on paper doesn't meet my taste test. I also appreciate recipes that take some concentration and mystery the first time I try it, and after that can accommodate some simple changes.

This is a recipe I came across a year ago in the New York Times in an article on one of the great delectations in the human diet – garlic. I was totally ignorant that you could buy a jar of whole, peeled cloves of garlic. What a wonder-

20 – 30 peeled garlic cloves
 ½ C good extra virgin olive oil
 4 medium ripe tomatoes or small can
 of diced tomatoes, partially drained

In a small to medium skillet heat oil over a medium-low flame. Add the garlic cloves and sprinkle with salt. Adjust heat so garlic just sizzles. Saute, turning garlic so it browns evenly and gradually becomes golden brown.

Chop the tomatoes into bite-sized pieces and put in a large bowl with all the juice. (I have found a 14.5 oz. can of diced tomatoes works just fine when tomatoes are not in season). Add ¾ of the shredded basil and ¾ of the garlic with all of its

ful discovery. They can be used in many recipes where there is an emphasis on definite garlic flavor. And they spare the busy cook the tedium of peeling many cloves. Just open a jar and, voila, dozens of whole cloves at your disposal.

In this recipe, the basic preparation is to sauté the cloves in olive oil, browning them all over in a skillet until they are tender when forked. The oil will splash, and if hot, can give the cook a bit of a burn, so be careful. Avoid turning the heat under the skillet up too high, to prevent the cloves from burning quickly without becoming tender. After you have used the sautéed cloves a few times and determined that you really like them, you can sauté the whole jar and keep them at the ready in your refrigerator.

1 C washed, dried and shredded fresh basil
 long pasta, in the amount you need for the
 people at the meal you are preparing

oil. Add freshly-ground black pepper and a pinch of salt. At this point, I prefer to let the combination sit on the counter for at least 30 minutes so that the ingredients absorb the other flavors. When nearly ready to serve the meal, cook the pasta to your taste. Drain and toss in the bowl with the basil, garlic and tomatoes. When mixed, add the remainder of the sautéed garlic and shredded basil and serve immediately.

Serves 3 - 6 ■

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

Twentieth Anniversary Season 2006 –2007

Saturday, December 9, 2006, 12-5 p.m. reception at the Eleanor gallery.

Sunday, December 10, 2006, exhibit continues, 12-5 p.m., also December 16th, 17th, and 23rd

THE ART OF ROBERT MUELLER- SCHEMA WATERCOLORS

Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 8p.m. in Borough Hall

THE THIRTIES:

A celebration of the art, music, and poetry of the days when Roosevelt was President and Jersey Homesteads was founded. With performances by David Brahinsky, Alan Mallach and others.

Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 8p.m. in Borough Hall

OPEN MIC CAFE

Roosevelt residents, past and present, 13 and older are invited to sing, read, tell stories, do comedy, or play an instrument. To register, phone Deirdre Sheean (443-4179) or Judy Nahmias (443-5290). (See page 22.)

Saturday, March 10, and Sunday, March 11, 2007, 1p.m. to 5p.m..

Eleanor Gallery, the factory, and Borough Hall.

FACES OF ROOSEVELT - NOW & THEN

Drawings and a few sculptures by Jonathan Shahn

Saturday, March 10, at 8p.m. in Borough Hall.

ROOSEVELT POETS

Saturday, April 14, 2007

8 p.m. in Borough Hall

DIGITAL SOUNDS AND ART

Friday, May 4, Saturday, May 5, Sunday, May 6, 2007

3 p.m. in Borough Hall

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND WILL INCLUDE:

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

Friday & Saturday at 8p.m. in Borough Hall

EXHIBIT OF ROOSEVELT ARTISTS

Friday, 7- 9 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 12-5p.m. at the Eleanor Gallery

GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Sunday at 12:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. starting at Borough Hall

DEDICATION OF THE ROOSEVELT MOSAIC

Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Borough Hall

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 or \$10 per adult. For the String Band \$10 per adult, \$5 for seniors and children.

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://music.columbia.edu/roosevelt>. There is a link at the top of the page to the site where people can sign up to be on our e-mail list.

For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616. ■

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2006 - 2007

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Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, Box 122, 448-3713 or e-mail: kirkjane@juno.com

December

4	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Boro Hall 448-4865
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 448-7701
5	Tues	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
6	Wed		PTA Holiday Gift Fair Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850
7	Thurs		PTA Holiday Gift Fair Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850
8	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
9	Sat	12-5 pm	RAP Program Art of Robert Mueller (See RAP Page)	Eleanor Gallery
10	Sun	10 am	First Aid Squad Training Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
		12-5 pm	RAP Program Art of Robert Mueller (See RAP Page)	Eleanor Gallery
11	Mon	7:30 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701
12	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Ralph Seligman	Boro Hall 448-2340
13	Wed		RECYCLE	
14	Thurs		RPS Winter Concert Shari Payson, Principal	RPS 426-9850
15	Fri		RPS Early Dismissal	
			Hanukkah begins at sundown	
16	Sat	7 pm	Rec Dept Movie - <i>The Shaggy Dog</i>	RPS
18	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Boro Hall 448-4865
19	Tues	7:30 pm	First Aid Squad Business Mtg Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
20	Wed	7:30 pm	Environmtl Com. Mtg Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Boro Hall 443-6204
21	Thurs	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
22	Fri		RPS Early Dismissal-Winter Recess Begins	
25	Mon		Christmas Day	
26	Tues		Kwanza Begins	
27	Wed		RECYCLE	

January 2007 Preview

1	Mon		New Year's Day	
2	Tues		RPS Resumes Classes	
		12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
8	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Boro Hall 448-4865
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 448-7701
9	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Ralph Seligman	Boro Hall 448-2340
10	Wed		RECYCLE	
		7:30 pm	PTA Meeting Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850
11	Thurs	7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Board Meeting Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
12	Fri		PTA Schoolhouse Hooky Day Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850
14	Sun	10 am	First Aid Squad Training Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
15	Mon		RPS Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
16	Tues	7:30 pm	First Aid Squad Bus. Mtg. Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
17	Wed	7:30 pm	Environmtl Com. Mtg Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Boro Hall 443-6204
19	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
20	Sat	8 pm	RAP Program, "The Thirties" Borough Hall(See RAP Page)	
22	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Mtg Pat Moser, President	Boro Hall 448-4865
24	Wed		RECYCLE	
			RPS Early Dismissal-Teacher In-Service	
25	Thurs	7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Board Meeting Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462

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