

Bulletin

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Engineering Study of Water Tower Indicates Need for Immediate Repair or Replacement; Refinancing May Alleviate Financial Burden

By Michael Ticktin

Speaking to the Council at its January 22 meeting, Borough Engineer Carmela Roberts reported that a recent inspection of the water tower by engineering consultants found that it was in poor condition and needed to be either substantially repaired or replaced, since it is no longer functioning properly.

Ms. Roberts subsequently summarized her recommendations in a letter that was intended to be read at the February 14 meeting, but could not be read at that time because the meeting was cancelled due to the weather. According to Councilman Bob Silverstein, chairman of the Utilities committee, the letter recounted the progress that has been made in upgrading the wells and the water treatment plant, but pointed out that the other components of the water system, namely the water storage tank and the piping distribution system, are of equal importance in the delivery of drinking water in adequate quantity and of adequate quality, and these two components have not received the necessary attention over the course of the last 70 years.

In her letter, Ms. Roberts stated that the water tank has a capacity of 85,000 gallons. However, average daily demand is 110,000 gallons. Peak storage, emergency storage and fire demand storage are all based on a percentage of average daily demand. Applying the accepted formula, an area with an average daily demand of 110,000 gallons should be served by a 200,000-gallon tank. She said that the cost of sandblasting and repainting the tank would be \$300,000, while the total cost of repair might reach \$500,000. The alternative, replacement of the tank with a new 200,000 gallon tank, would cost an estimated \$690,000. She stated that it was the advice of the engineering consultants that the tank be replaced, since the cost of repair was more than 40% of the cost of replacement, and repair would only extend the life of the tank by 15 to 20 years.

Ms. Roberts also stated that the high iron content of the water is due to accumulation of iron deposits on the inside surfaces of the water mains. Iron levels are normal when

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Planning Board News	3	Recreation Programs	10
From the Mayor	4	Town Topics	11
In Memoriam	4	Breaking Bread	15
School News	5	Roosevelt Arts Project	17
Environmental Commission	7	Supporters and Contributors	18
Two Square Miles of Stories	9	Business Sponsors	19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To repeat, the *Bulletin* schedule is issued every month from October through July, other than January, August, and September. The new season begins in October of each year.

Parents of young children! Pre-school & kindergarten registration will take place at the school on March 12 and 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to read enclosure.

NOTE! New dates and times for the Council meetings. They will be the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Come and see what's happening!

Thanks to those of you who have made generous contributions to our paper. But we need to hear from those who haven't done so as yet. WE NEED YOU!

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.

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

The Roosevelt Borough *Bulletin* is published monthly except August, September, and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555 609-448-2701

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Clark, Karyn Grunwald,
Kevin McNally, Michael Ticktin,
Bess Tremper

EDITOR

Michael Ticktin

MANAGING EDITOR

Bess Tremper

TREASURER

Kevin McNally

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Elsbeth Battel	Judith McNally
Judy Bell	Shari Payson
Frances Duckett	Jack Rindt
Ron Filepp	Jane Rothfuss
Brad Garton	Clare Sacharoff
Robin Gould	Eric Schubiger
Florence Johnson	David Schwendeman
Manuela & Mark McCusker	Michael Ticktin

BUSINESS

Kevin McNally

PRODUCTION

Louise Baranowitz	Diane Klein
Ron Filepp	Judy Nahmias
Cynthia Imbrie	Eleanor Pedersen
Florie & Herb Johnson	Clare Sacharoff
Jane Kiersnowski	Bess Tremper

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Karyn Grunwald

ARTWORK

Calendar & Breaking Bread Art
by Shan Ellentuck

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

Board Approves Sideyard Variance

At its meeting of February 13, the Planning Board unanimously granted a variance to Alexandra Strauss, the new owner of the property at 20 South Rochdale Avenue, to build an addition and add a peaked roof 23 feet and four inches from the adjoining property, instead of the 25 feet required by the ordinance. The reason that the hardship variance was granted was the existing building is only 23 feet, four inches from the property line and following the existing line of the building would make the building more attractive, thus enhancing property values, while, at the same time, there would

be no expansion into any actual sideyard and thus no obstruction of the view between the houses.

Redevelopment of this property has been a matter of concern to the municipality since it was included in the list of redevelopment area properties by virtue of having been abandoned after being gutted by fire in 2000. As one of five designated redevelopment area properties, it was subject to being taken by the municipality through eminent domain if no private owner could and would restore it to use. ■

Continued from Page 1

the water leaves the plant, but they are elevated as a result of passing through the distribution system. She recommended that the Borough undertake a program to clean and cement line the water pipes. The construction cost for this work would be around \$1,300,000. Neither this cost estimate, nor the ones for the water tank, include fees for permitting, grant administration and engineering, which would add 20 to 30 percent.

Mr. Silverstein stated that the Ms. Roberts and the Borough's financial advisors would be looking into funding options for these projects. Ms. Roberts said that the projects might be eligible for a loan at a rate of 2% from the Department of Environmental Protection. According to Mr. Silverstein, if it were possible to refinance existing utility debt as part of the same borrowing, the annual cost of servicing the existing debt could be substantially reduced, thus mitigating the impact of the additional debt on the Borough and its ratepayers. ■

OPEN SPACE IN ROOSEVELT

By Michael Ticktin

In case you have ever wondered how much public parkland and preserved farmland there is in Roosevelt, the following statistics should be of interest to you:

Of the 661.49 acres in the R/Ag400 zone, 240.85 acres (approximately 19% of total acreage) has been acquired in recent years by the State of New Jersey (Assumpink Wildlife Management Area) or Monmouth County (Perrineville Lake Park), and 261.92 acres (approximately 21% of total acreage) was acquired by the Fund for Roosevelt, preserved, and deeded

as preserved farmland within the last four years. In addition, 130 acres of parkland is owned by the Borough of Roosevelt (approximately 10% of total acreage), most of which was conveyed by the Federal government in 1947, subject to a right of reversion in the event the land is ever used for nonpublic purposes, and 127.07 acres (approximately 10% of total acreage) was acquired by the State of New Jersey in the early 1960s as part of the Assumpink Wildlife Management Area.

Thus, the total area of preserved farmland and publicly-owned park-

land is 758.84 acres, or approximately 61% of total acreage, roughly one-sixth of which is Borough-owned, one-half of which is State or County-owned, and one-third of which is preserved farmland that is privately-owned. The remaining 39% includes roads, school property, municipal utility property, the municipal cemetery and the municipal building, as well as all privately owned property not on preserved farmland. ■

From the Mayor

The following is an excerpt from *Tomorrow a New World*, referring to Jersey Homesteads (now known as Roosevelt):

“The homesteaders had developed a close bond of kinship. In the community everyone knew everyone else, and house doors were never locked. The homesteaders were proud of their new homes and very happy about the opportunities offered by the commu-

nity. Numerous social organizations were quickly organized; in fact the community was almost over organized, with some meeting occurring almost every night. In 1939, there were only three adult members of the organized homesteaders who did not belong to one or another of the community organizations. When economic necessity forced homesteaders to move, they always mourned the loss of friends and the

By Elsbeth Battel

pleasant social life. Jersey Homesteads, as much as any other New Deal community, was a well defined social organism, with a character and soul all its own.”

So much of this continues to be true today. We are lucky to have such a place to live and raise families. So come out today- join a group or an organization and experience the best Roosevelt has to offer. ■

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

Nineteen people attended the Feb. 6th meeting. Shari Payson, principal of the Roosevelt Public School addressed the group. She introduced herself and invited the members to a school presentation Friday - Feb. 9th at 8:30 p.m. Ilene Levine would explain a science award she received followed by the culmination of a Spelling Bee by the students. She also

invited interested people to meet at 6:00 p.m., Feb. 20th to discuss expanded use of the school library.

The seniors voted to eliminate this month's trip because of unpredictable weather conditions.

Peddie School presented *Pippin*, a school production, Feb. 18th at 8:00 p.m. There would be volunteer drivers for this event.

By Clare Sacharoff

On Feb. 23rd at 12:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall, there was a pizza luncheon.

On the 20th of Feb. between 10 and 11 a.m. a bagel breakfast was served at the Solar Village for all seniors in the community.

Beth Johnson was the hostess for Feb. and Louise Prezant will be the hostess for the March 6th meeting. ■

In Memoriam

Miriam Bell was born April 27, 1923 in Brooklyn, NY and died January 11, 2007 in Queens, NY

Graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology and went on to a career in pattern making for such high-end clothing makers as McGregor and Liz Claiborne.

Married Benjamin Bell; the two of them had two daughters, Judy, a technical writer in Los Angeles, CA and Susie, an art movie theater manager in San Francisco.

Took classes at the New School for Social Research in NYC, where she studied under, and became friends with Gregorio Prestopino, who introduced them to Roosevelt.

She has been a talented and constantly evolving artist through the course of her life. Her early oil paintings are richly colored and emotionally evocative; she later focussed on printmaking, in particular etching and lithography. Her prints use nature as their inspiration – winter New Jersey trees stand solemn before a

gray sky; blades of dried grass imprinted onto rice paper become a semi-abstract swirling design.

She printed and took classes for many years at the Manhattan Graphics Center, a printmaking workshop in lower Manhattan, where she was a “key holder” and on the Board of Directors.

Miriam was a true New Yorker to the end. Her impeccable taste, keen eye, and fine mind led her to an almost obsessive exploration of the art, food, movies, theater, and dance that the city offers. Her enthusiasm for New York City was wide-reaching and generous – she loved nothing more than sharing a new, delicious restaurant find or a particularly lovely art exhibit with friends.

She also loved to travel, particularly to Italy, France, and Mexico, and she collected a wide array of friends from around the world. Her home was always open to visitors from other countries,

and to relatives needing a temporary abode in New York City. She studied French and Italian for many years, both for love of the languages and to better communicate while traveling.

She was generous in act and in spirit. When a friend was ailing, she unflinchingly trudged around town getting them what they needed and visiting them. As a regular volunteer at HANAC, the local Astoria Senior Center, she donated time and possessions, plus was the impetus for many of their organized group trips. In addition, she was a regular contributor to progressive organizations that help society's under-represented.

Miriam had a full life, and shared her spirit and talent with all who knew her. She will be missed by all.

By Judy Bell

The Bells spent weekends at their home in Roosevelt for many years. ■

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

The school year is flying by. We just celebrated the 100th Day of School with a fun filled morning of activities centering around 100. Our kindergarten and first grade teachers, Ms. Larisa Bondy and Mrs. Liz Gagliardi, organized this annual event and the kindergartners and first graders facilitated the activities. All of the students in the school had an opportunity to participate. It's amazing how many activities can be created using the number 100.

We are busy with many other diverse projects and programs. Our goal is to enrich the lives of our students and impact achievement daily. The annual Spelling Bee took place on February 9th. Mrs. Ronnie Levine and Mrs. Susan Goldfond did an outstanding job preparing the students. Please join me in congratulating Amber Nolan, sixth grade student, and winner of the Spelling Bee. She will represent Roosevelt Public School in the Monmouth County Spelling Bee in March.

Ms. Ilene Levine, Mr. Scot Gershman, and Ms. Barbara Atwood coordinated a family night to share the 5th grade students' ecology projects. The students showcased their vivariums (terrariums with pets), facilitated Keynote presentations and shared their knowledge of their environments and their pets with family, community and board members. It was a fantastic evening. NJEA Close Up filmed the event, which will air Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. on (NJN), on April 16th & 21st and May 14th & 19th.

On February 21st the students had a visit from Abraham Lincoln, a.k.a. Herb Johnson. Mr. Johnson delighted the students with tales of Abe Lincoln.

The younger children actually thought he was Honest Abe.

Thanks to Mr. Kaufman and the support of the school community, the Hoop-A-Thon was a huge success. The money that was raised will go towards next year's Field Day.

Our PTA is working hard for the school's annual Winter Carnival/Silent Auction. This is a wonderful time to bring youngsters of all ages to participate in the games, and take a chance to win something special at the auction. The carnival is planned for Saturday morning, March 3rd.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration will take place at the school on March 13th and March 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (See insert for details.) A formal orientation will take place in May.

We are always seeking traditional and non-traditional ways to raise money for the school to enhance our students' education. One such way is a program sponsored by Target. When you use your Target Card or Target Visa, Roosevelt Public School

receives a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation. We have received about \$200.00 so far. The money enables us to provide additional assemblies, school activities and events for the students. If you have not yet registered for this program, please stop by a Target store or register on line at www.target.com/tcoe. Thank you for your support.

The state mandated assessments are quickly approaching. New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), the assessment tool utilized for students in third through seventh grades will be administered the weeks of March 12th and March 19th. Our third and fourth graders will take the test the week of March 19th and our fifth and our sixth graders will be taking the assessment the week of March 12th. (Kreps' schedule for their sixth and seventh grade assessment may be different.) New Jersey Proficiency Assessment of State Standards (NJ PASS) will be administered to students

Continued on Page 6

March 2007 School Dates

- March 2** Read Across America, Early Dismissal
- March 3** Winter Carnival
- March 6 & 8**..... Early Dismissal/Conferences
- March 8** Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- March 12 - 15**..... NJ ASK 5 & 6
- March 14** PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- March 19 - 22**..... NJ ASK 3 & 4
- March 22** Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- March 23** Pizza Day

SCHOOL NEWS

Continued from Page 5

in first and second grades. Students have been practicing in class to help them become acclimated to the guidelines and format of the assessments. A handbook explaining the specific components of NJ ASK 3-7 was sent home with the students. The NJ ASK is only one indicator of a student's academic achievement. It is used as a tool to help create instructional objectives and activities that meet the educational needs of each student.

Additionally, the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will be administered the week of March 5th and the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) will be administered the week of March 12th.

School budget time is upon us. The board finance committee meets regularly to identify the budgetary needs of the school. The committee reviews the school budget item by item, line by line and creates a budget that reflects the community, school and board's goals, objectives and values. This painstaking effort is what enables us to keep our budget well balanced and consistent from year to year. Our board has a history of fiscal responsibility that should be a model throughout the state.

Please stop by the school should you have any questions and concerns.

Stay warm. ■



Did you know that this is Board Member Recognition Month? In closing the January 25th meeting of the Roosevelt School Board, principal Shari Payson took the opportunity to thank the board members for being a cohesive, caring board and also for always putting the students first. Special thanks went to Jill Lipoti, who is retiring after six or more years.

In observing the meeting, the first I had attended in a long time, I definitely saw evidence of our current school board's being cohesive and caring. They were also efficient, covering a bewildering amount of territory in the shortest possible time—from such frivolities as describing “Schoolhouse Hooky” and “Spirit Week,” during which students enjoyed a “crazy hair day” and dressed spuds as Mr. and Mrs. Potato-head, to necessary business such as requiring Verizon to repair the school alarm system and paying over forty thousand dollars in bills.

Over the years our school boards, always unpaid, have given countless hours to insure the quality that makes our school what it is. To a large degree, we owe not only our children's welfare and our relatively crime-free status, but also our property values to them.

One of the salient announcements to come out of the January 25th meeting was that Roosevelt students are to be eligible to apply to a charter school in Mercer County, which plans a Juilliard-like curriculum in the arts. Ninth and Tenth graders would be offered five hours of academics and three of a concentration—music, fine arts, theatre or dance. The school's location (still undecided) will be near Alexander Rd. or in Lawrenceville. Busing may or may not be pro-

vided. According to Mr. Presutti, tuitions would be free to students; the Roosevelt School Board would pay it.

Roosevelt School is now accepting applications for substitute teachers.

The School Board Election will be April 17, to vote on the candidates and the budget. The Finance Committee meets in February. A preliminary budget goes to the county in March and, when approved, a summary is shown to the public.

Plans are under way to revise the school's report card, not just tweak it. According to Ms. Payson this should be done so the cards will better represent the curriculum. This may not occur until September.

Ms. Payson would like the school library to resume evening hours if there is interest. Let her know if you would like to see this happen.

The “first reading” of state rules that ban foods of “minimum nutritional value from being served on school grounds was made and the definitions discussed. Since Roosevelt has no cafeteria, this law will have little impact, but board members wondered about birthday parties, the Halloween Party and the Fourth of July Picnic. (“Cupcakes do not have sugar as the main ingredient. Does this mean they're OK?”) In the board's view, the rules' language needed further definition.

The school's alarm system has been fixed. Plans have been made to complete repairs to the bathroom stalls. Karen Minutolo said that upgrades to the pre-K room and the nurse's room will cost \$6800 in aggregate—a saving of \$100, if undertaken promptly. Pre-K play equipment has been ordered, and articles by school board members who attended the retreat will be posted on the website. ■

First Black Bear.... Then Beaver Now Coyote?In Roosevelt?....Yes!

I love this column! It gives me a chance or excuse to talk about natural history which is my passion. Although I must somehow tie it into the Roosevelt environment so here goes.

Thirty-four years ago, I was in the last graduating class from the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science – Rutgers University. Five years later a large mammal was hit by a car on Route one near the College Farm Road entrance to what is now called Cook College. The critter was brought to my taxidermy studio and identified as a coyote. The pelt was sold as a coyote and we still have the skull in our collection. Since then coyotes have continued to spread throughout the state.

Two years ago John Towle reported hearing coyote near the cemetery in the evening hours, And on Sunday morning, February 4, 2007, Bob Petrilla reported seeing a coyote, in full light, in his backyard on Pine drive. They are here now and could present a greater concern than any other wild critters (except maybe ticks!).

Some travel in packs and some roam as singles. They are very secretive yet getting bolder. Coyote have been known to kill and eat small dogs and other small pets and farm animals. And just recently a nearby county reported catching a rabid animal. So please continue to report coyote sightings (a photo would be fantastic!) and never leave young children and small pets outside alone

The Roosevelt Mural

The progress on the MURAL is phenomenal. Well over thirty Rooseveltians attended the last 'in town' MURAL workshop to finish carving un-fired clay tiles and painting on the appropriate colored glazes. The results were amazing.

Many species of plants and animals with intimate ties to our town will be represented. Easily recognizable images will lend themselves to stories for years to come once the MURAL is installed on the wall of Borough Hall. It will be yet another jewel in the crown of our unique town and another testament to the artistic talent of the people who live here.

Arbor Day and RPS

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission wants to continue to collaborate with the school children and teachers at RPS to celebrate Arbor Day with some activities that highlight our natural environment. Please contact any member of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission or staff at RPS if you have any ideas or would like to participate. Thank you.

And finally a 'tip of the hat' to Ms. Ilene Levine and her science students at RPS. Each of her students adopted a small pet animal and created a vivarium with all the necessary creature comforts. The children learned all about their new pets and gave a special presentation at the school that was taped for broadcast by News 12 New Jersey. A special grant was won by Ms. Ilene that helped to support the project and enabled the students to learn about environments different from their own as well as the responsibility to take care of another living creature. Congratulations to all participants!

Please remember to listen for wood frogs this winter. Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. on March 21, 2007. Everyone is welcomed to attend, and I will try to bring a mounted coyote for all to see.

If anyone has a newsworthy nature note of interest 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. ■

RESIDENTS!

This is your newspaper. We would be happy to hear from you either in the form of letters or articles which we would be pleased to include in our publication each month.

That's what this paper is for — to help us to get to know one another as well as to let you know what is happening in the town.

Let us know what you think, what you do.

How about it?



Greenbelt Gossip

Nature's beauty, function and interconnectedness are revealed through each of her seasons. March stands as the boundary between winter's fading and the promise of spring. In the ground, still covered by last fall's sheddings, small plant heads can be seen cautiously emerging. One of the first wildflowers in and around Roosevelt to send up its bloom is the skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). Despite its unattractive name, the skunk cabbage has remarkable qualities that warrant closer scrutiny.

The native eastern skunk cabbage is in the Arum family (*Araceae*), as is the jack-in-the-pulpit. Skunk cabbage is a perennial. The seeds germinate on the surface, and the rootstock is, initially, entirely on the surface. As the roots grow and contract, the plant is pulled down into the ground, becoming very securely anchored with time. A fully-grown skunk cabbage has a truly massive root system that makes it extremely difficult to dig out. The leaves grow from the top of a thick, round stem called a rootstock, or rhizome. From the buried portion of this rootstock, many roots grow in all directions, with fibrous rootlets near the tips. These numerous roots pull the plant even further into the ground, not only because they contract, but also because they are wrinkled in a repeating, ring-like pattern.

The eastern skunk cabbage can be seen growing near the edges of swamps, woods and streams. It needs a wet area to function efficiently and, in areas often in need of it, helps prevent erosion with its massive root system. Whereas skunk cabbage wants muddy roots all year round, it won't tolerate having its crown under water. Trying to stay ahead of the shade that will be produced by the trees soon to leaf out, skunk cabbage shows its flower-to-be, which is called a spathe, and a cone-shaped furl of leaves. Both of these were

produced during the previous summer. The streaked and mottled purple, hood-like spathe wraps around itself to form a space that encloses a spherical head of flowers called the spadix.

This hood-like spathe functions as a bud, holding and protecting the flower as it emerges from the ground. Even when the flowers are in full bloom, they are still encased in the spathe. Only by peeking inside the narrow opening can one see the flower head. This flower



Skunk cabbage emerging by the Woodland Trail near Rochdale Ave. 2-4-07

head is about two centimeters in diameter and consists of many small, tightly packed individual flowers. What is so fascinating (and just plain awesome!) about the skunk cabbage is its ability to create and hold heat. It accomplishes this amazing feat through respiration... the oxidation of carbohydrates that have been stored since last summer in the rhizome. This oxidation occurs during the spathe's very rapid growth, triggered by the now longer days at winter's end. The resultant heat produced by this growth helps melt any surrounding ice and snow. Even more miraculous, a warmer internal temperature is maintained within the spathe, contrasting up to thirty six degrees with the plant's surroundings. This is accomplished due to the composition of the above-ground parts of the skunk cabbage: mostly water and air (rather than fibrous cellulose). The resulting air pockets in the spathe's walls make excellent insulators, holding in much of the heat. Also, the spathe's dark-

colored walls help absorb solar radiation. Additionally, the vortex shape enables cold air to flow into its wide opening and toward the bottom, where it warms before finally exiting through the narrower opening. The heat, plus a faint, pungent, somewhat skunk-like odor, attracts pollinators, particularly flies, and provides night shelter for early season insects, such as honey bees, gnats and spiders. Some believe that the unfortunate few insects that drown in the spathe's internal moisture and accumulate in its base provide nutrients for the plant, but most botanists do not think that the skunk cabbage's primary function is trapping insects.

Skunk cabbage plants do not only interact with various insects and other arthropods. Some mammals and birds consume skunk cabbage during its initial growth stages, seemingly deterred by its odor or by the calcium oxalate crystals contained in its several parts, which produce an intensely acrid burning sensation if eaten raw. Among these are black bears, wild turkeys and Canada geese. Squirrels are fond of the seed, as are ruffed grouse, ring necked pheasants and bobwhite. Skunk cabbage root is one of the wild plants that has been called "Indian potato." Some Native Americans boiled or dried the leaves to mediate the effects of the calcium oxalate crystals. They used it medicinally for internal and external disorders, such as itching and influenza, and cosmetically, in combination with other herbs, to tattoo the skin.

Beginning in late April, bright green leaves will start to unfurl when the outside temperatures no longer signal a danger from frost damage. The leaves can reach up to 3 feet in length. Since the leaf cone was made with the last summer's sun, it needs only air and water to unfold. Skunk cabbage leaves lack the thick, waxy substance that

Continued on Page 13

The Steppes to Roosevelt

A Melding of Two Frontier Peoples in Philadelphia

Nurturing, selfless love, compassion... -expressed and demonstrated by remarkable women of disparate origins, these have been the trail signs guiding my family through the years, leading me to a life in Roosevelt.

My maternal grandmother, Anna Wolchek, was the daughter of sharecropping peasants living in the Don River region of Ukraine. Her family's circumstances, like those of so many others struggling in Russia through the years preceding the 1905 Revolution, had become increasingly untenable. At sixteen, she was sent away to America to work as a nursemaid for distant relations living in Philadelphia. She traveled by cart from the interior to the Black Sea port of Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula of southern Ukraine, there to depart her steppe homeland forever.

My grandfather, Mykola Smalyga, was a Cossack of the Terek Host. Their fortress villages, or "stanitsas", along the Terek River were the last outposts and first defenses of the chronically turbulent southern Imperial Russian frontier for three centuries. The border had, by my grandfather's time, moved considerably south of the Terek, allowing the Smalyga family to more or less peacefully concern itself with livestock husbandry and the care of the family vineyards. However, upon reaching the age of eighteen in 1904, my grandfather faced an obligation he chose to avoid: twenty years of military service required by the government of every able-bodied male Cossack. The Russo-Japanese War had begun in February, and his imminent call-up would certainly mean leaving his beloved Terek and Caucasus for war in the east. Mykola fled his home, lands and



My Mother and Father

family, determining to immigrate to America. Eluding his brother-Cossack pursuers, he reached the shores of the Black Sea, where he secured passage on a vessel bound for Sevastopol. There, Anna Wolchek and Mykola Smalyga, unknown to one another, booked passage on a ship bound for Liverpool, England, where they then sailed for America aboard the Haverford, of the American Line. They completed their journey by disembarking on the South Philadelphia wharves, having become acquainted and romantically involved en route. They were married in the examination room of the Washington Avenue Federal Immigration Building, to expedite my grandmother's entry, as younger single women were then, under certain conditions, denied entry.

My grandparents moved in with the Czarny family in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. Anna served them as maid and nanny. Mykola, in spite of his initially knowing no English, found all of the gainful employment he could handle at the stables situated in nearby Fairmount Park (I have been told that he was more than gifted in all things equestrian). In several years, following the birth of my uncle, Michael, the couple found they had sufficient

funds to purchase a working-class row house in the Ukrainian enclave of Philadelphia's Nicetown neighborhood. Shortly after, my mother, Cornelia was born... -their last child. My robustly healthy grandfather became suddenly ill on October 1, 1918. The then-named Spanish influenza pandemic had reached Philadelphia. He died before twenty-four hours had passed. Anna Smalyga managed, though alone through the ensuing years, to provide her family with sustenance, support and love.

The McCuskers made it to Philadelphia almost two hundred years (-circa 1740) before the Smalygas. Originally a family of Scottish "Border Reivers" (i.e., border raiders living on the Anglo-Scottish frontier) named MacOscraig, the family was removed to the Ulster Plantation in Northern Ireland (becoming "Ulster Scots") in the early years of the seventeenth century for the purpose of Protestant colonization. Ironically, as Presbyterians, they later suffered with Irish Catholics under the Penal Laws, which granted full rights and advantages only to Anglicans. In the mid-eighteenth century, two brothers, Edward and George McCusker, sailed to the American colonies after having arranged to indenture themselves to a Philadelphia merchant for a seven year period. They found their situation in the new world promising, serving the Carleys, a family of Philadelphia hatters. Both brothers married, each having several children. After fulfilling their seven year servitude obligations, they outfitted themselves for life on the frontier. The brothers and their families trekked to Pennsylvania's lower

Continued on Page 14

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular Yoga program this winter 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 winter season. 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.** through the winter. 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, March 10th, 7:00 p.m. “How To Eat Fried Worms”

How to Eat Fried Worms tells the story of Billy (Luke Benward), an eleven-year-old who inadvertently challenges the town bully, Joe Guire (Adam Hicks), on his first day at a new school. To save face and earn the respect of his new classmates, Billy agrees to a bet that will determine his fate at the school - whether or not he can eat ten worms in one day. As the pressure mounts, he must summon heroic strength to keep his five-year-old brother from blabbing, his weak stomach from betraying him, and his big mouth from getting him into more trouble than he’s already in.

Community Dance – “Dancing With the Stars”

Residents are invited to a Community Dance Night on March 31st at the Roosevelt School, from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. This special event will be led and DJ’d by Candace Woodward-Clough. Candace has extensive training in Ballroom Dance, Jazz, Tap, Acting and Singing. She has acted, danced in or choreographed several Off-Broadway and summer stock productions, as well as movies, soap operas and videos.

The night will start with an hour of brief instruction of various types of dances, based upon the interest of those in attendance. The remaining two hours will be devoted to an open dance party! No dance experience is required – adults and children are welcomed. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Foreign Films

The Recreation Department invites all area residents to Borough Hall on March 25th at 7:30 p.m. for another edition of our Foreign Film series. Please contact the Recreation Department for further details.

Summer Camp Program

The Roosevelt Recreation Department will once again be partnering with the Millstone Recreation Department to provide a comprehensive Summer Camp program. Specific details and registration information will be available in April.

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! ■

Walkers!

Be visible on the
road at night.
Wear reflective
clothing.

Roosevelt Arts Project Event Review: The Thirties January 20, 2007

by Brad Garton

The Roosevelt Arts Project The Thirties organized and curated by Alan Mallach was an exercise in revision for me. When I first heard of Alan's plans, I thought (sarcastically) "oh great, a bunch of dopey music from an angst-ridden era... just what I really need." However, as the day unfolded I was surprised by the resonances between that decade and our contemporary situation. I'm not sure this is a good thing, but the music and poetry we heard on January 20 certainly was.

My perspective-shift actually began earlier in the afternoon. Alan had asked me to prepare some pre-recorded background music to play as people entered Borough Hall, to help establish a 'thirties frame of mind.' As I scoured the web for snippets of FDR speeches, Hitler vitriol, advertisements for Betty Crocker products and leavened them with music ranging from the rousing *Happy Days are Here Again* to the sultry *Stormy Weather*, my deepening appreciation for the contradictions and subtleties of the era began to undermine my superficial preconceptions.

Alan and his co-conspirators did not disappoint in chasing after these features. The evening was opened by RAP President David Herrstrom, and hearing him echo FDR's "call to arms" with President Roosevelt's portrait in the background made me ache for that kind of leadership. If only we could be inspired again! Alan then took the floor to outline the course of the evening: folk tunes, poetry, concert tunes, popular/theater music, and a final folkish conclusion. A marvelously typical blend of what makes our town so fascinating.

The first round of folk music was

beautifully handled by Paul Prestopino and David Brahinsky. You know, there were parts where Paul on the mandolin was melding so well with David's guitar that I wish I had a recording I could loop and play for hours and hours. The music sparkled, and I think everyone in the room (about 50+ people in attendance) felt a powerful connection with the proxy musicians from the 1930s. Paul ended the set with what he called the "ur-rap" (as in hip-hop, not RAP) piece *Talking Dust Bowl Blues* by Woody Guthrie. What fun!

David Herrstrom then took the stage with a captivating poetry reading. I've heard David read a lot over the years, but this was an exceptional performance. His passion for the poetry was vividly apparent. He also gave us an insight into the motivations and socio-political context behind the texts. These poets were at war! Words like "totalizing" and "dictatorship" unfortunately fell easily out of the intellectual and artistic scene. But, as David quoted from Gertrude Stein, the poetry was great "in spite of ourselves." And it was, thanks in large part to David's compelling performance of a wide range of poetic approaches.

The 'concert music' slice of the 1930s was ably handled by Alan at the piano, playing selections from composers Virgil Thomson and Aaron Copland. The rearrangement/revision for me in this case had specifically to do with the composers. In my experience, Thomson was always the more avant-garde composer, but the selections Alan chose completely inverted this relationship. The three "portraits" of Thomson's (he did a large number of "musical portraits" of people he knew, such as Picasso and Gertrude Stein) were surprisingly conservative, elegant and spare in their material, while the extended Copland *Piano Variations* was a tour-de-force of early musical modernity. As related by Alan, one

musical critic of the time had this to say about the piece: "Mr. Copland, always a composer of radical tendencies, has ... thumbed his nose at all those aesthetic attributes which have hitherto been considered essential to the creation of music." History has obviously changed our perspective, and I found both the Thomson works and the Copland piece deeply satisfying.

After a brief poetry interlude again by David Herrstrom – boy did he have fun reading those poems! — Karyn Grunwald and Alan Mallach performed a selection of Gershwin songs. Such hopeful tunes, in such a troubled time! There is a real danger in presenting these songs nowadays that they may come across as maudlin or oversentimentalized. Karyn sang them with such...honesty...that they were absolutely delightful. It was obvious that she really loved these songs, and that was clearly communicated to the audience. They made me happy! I'll bet that's the social role she played c. 1935, too.

The evening ended by cycling back to the folk-tune genre, with Ron Orlando joined by Paul Prestopino. Ron performed a new song with some purported link to Roosevelt, but I didn't quite get that connection. It didn't matter, the music was lovely.

And of course there was a final sing-along. I have a terrible confession to make: I really hate sing-alongs. Something about the 'enforced camaraderie' of the enterprise bugs my stoic leave-me-alone Midwestern nature. The 30's pieces chosen for singing-along were also almost laughable in their follow-along difficulty, with musically engaging but challenging melodic twists and turns that had the audience randomly wandering about in pitch-space. As I listened semi-bemused to people attempting to predict the

Continued on Page 12

RAP REVIEW: THE THIRTIES JANUARY 20, 2007

Continued from Page 11

convoluted pitch trajectory, the final revision/rearrangement lesson of the evening dawned on me. Everyone was trying to do this! The community was cooperating, even in a simple sing-along task. That's the strong resonance between now and the 1930s. Times are bleak now, and times were bleak (with more horrors in store) in 1931. People came together, however, in a shared and common endeavor, and the world was made better. A powerful lesson to learn, and taught in a most pleasurable way.

REVIEW: Residents Shine at Open Mic Event

By Judith McNally

Strings of white lights made a stage at the Open Mic Night at the Borough Hall, Saturday, February 3. Sponsored by the Roosevelt Arts Project, the Hall was filled with round tables with red and white checkered tablecloths to set the mood for an evening's entertainment. Master of ceremonies, Jim Hayden, wore a tux and the night was ready to begin.

First up was Michael Ticktin, who sang *a cappella* and with gusto, selections from the International Brigade and the Spanish Civil War. He sang in both Spanish and German, with brief historical introductions to each piece.

Next was Eleanor Lewis, who resides in Princeton and is a former art student of Deirdre Sheehan. Ms. Lewis is a retired trial lawyer who has exchanged arguing for comedy. She delivered a flawless, original comic monologue.

Then we heard a series of monologues from former Roosevelt resident Neil Selden, with actor Mary McClean. The monologues, from Selden's play, *A Long Way From Home* were eloquent and soul searching. They included the voices of a homeless woman, a revolutionary priest and a young policeman. An award winning playwright and poet, Mr. Selden is directing his first feature film.

Following was poet Nate Kostar, a junior at Rutgers University. He performed from memory three poems inspired by travels in Costa Rica, New Orleans, and his personal life. This rousing and refreshing young voice was both deeply honest and humorous. Mr. Kostar is a frequent performer at the New Yorican Café in New York.

Next was Pat Sackowitz, who played a few piano selections with her pleasing, gentle touch. She has always wanted to play piano and began taking private lessons when she retired a few years ago. She even played some boogie woogie piano.

Then we heard from Ron Sackowitz, a fine blues artist on guitar. He sang a 1932 anti-war song, and the folk song, "It Takes a Worried Man." For his third song, "Stranger Here" he was joined by harmonica player Chris Martin. Mr. Sackowitz is a second generation Rooseveltian.

Intermission followed with refreshments and a chance to congratulate the performers who had appeared thus far.

Following was Herb Johnson, with his guitar. First he read a Scottish poem by Alexander Anderson from 1847, with full Scottish brogue on some of the phrases. Then he sang a song he wrote in 1968, a song of a peaceful world where people "walk through this world hand in hand." Mr. Johnson ended with a song about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Next we were treated to an exciting new Latin jazz band featuring Roosevelt residents Ron Kostar and Claudia Luongo, with friends Bob Marsely on percussion and Tara Buzash on keyboard. The band, called Madoris, played Latin and jazz standards such as "Autumn Leaves", "These Are a Few of my Favorite Things", "Besame Mucho", and "Summertime".

Following Madoris, was Angel Cloughly singing three songs. David

Brahinsky accompanied Ms. Cloughly on her first two songs, including an audience sing-along. Her third song, a smoothly done version of Joni Mitchell's *Twisted*, was performed *a cappella*.

Chris Martin wrapped up the evening as a sign-up performer, presenting soulful soloing on harmonica and guitar.

The entire event was co-organized by Deirdre Sheehan and Judy Nahmias. Look for next year's third annual Open Mic Night – you might surprise yourself, and find yourself up on stage, too!

Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training & Response News

By Jack Rindt, Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training Officer

In the month of November, the squad handled 12 first aid calls. Five were medical emergencies and two were fire stand-bys. Seven were mutual aid calls to Millstone Twp. We responded to one medical emergency and four motor vehicle accidents.

For the training in November, the squad did classroom and hands-on activities about how to operate fire extinguishers. With training, all the EMTs were able to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs). With the holidays, the squad did no training in December.

In the month of December, the squad responded to two first aid calls. Both calls were in Roosevelt, one medical emergency and one fire stand-by.

The squad responded to 127 emergencies from January 1 to December 31, 2006.

In the month of January, the squad responded to 12 first aid calls. In Roosevelt, eight were medical emergencies, three were fire stand-bys and one in Millstone Township was a motor

Continued on Page 13

ROOSEVELT FIRST AID SQUAD TRAINING & RESPONSE NEWS

Continued from Page 12
vehicle accident (MVA).

As of January 1 to January 31, the squad responded to 12 first aid emergencies.

The training that the squad attended was driver training for the new ambulance.

If anyone or group is in need of any kind of first aid training, please contact a squad member so that we can schedule that training.

On Sunday, March 25, 2007, the squad will be hosting a CPR/AED class for anyone wishing to receive this certification. Both classes are offered through the American Red Cross. The cost for the class will be \$35.00 per person. Checks should be made out to Roosevelt First Aid Squad. If anyone is interested, please contact any squad member. We will start taking names after March 18, 2007.

The squad has started to put away funds for the new ambulance. Any contributions for the new ambulance would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate that your contribution is for the new ambulance fund. Please make out checks to Roosevelt First Aid Squad and send them to P.O. Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. The First Aid Squad is always thankful when anything can be contributed. A second ambulance in town will help insure that one will always be around.

The squad would like to thank all the families and friends of the Borough of Roosevelt in supporting the First Aid Squad with your donations: Silvia Raines, Claudia Luongo, Neil Persh & Lynn Lawson, Irma & Lou Esakoff, Anne & Ben Johnson, Jane Lawlor and Diana Klein – in memory of Freda Hepner. **Thank you to all.**

This year has been a good one for the squad. With your donations the squad was able to buy two new state-of-the-

art defibrillators and other equipment needed to outfit the second ambulance that was donated to us from MONOC back in September 2006. Both ambulances are now in service and equipped.

Just a reminder to all residents: make sure your **house number** on your house is large enough to be seen from the road. This helps all emergency services and the New Jersey State Police in finding your home in an emergency.

Do you want to be challenged, help your community, maybe start a career or just help people? Join the Roosevelt First Aid Squad: **We Need Members!**

If you are a senior in high school looking at community colleges, or are looking to go back to school for that degree, now, with the NJ State Volunteer Tuition Credit Program, you can. By becoming an active EMT, you can be eligible for free tuition up to \$2,400 per year.

If you would like to join the First Aid Squad, you can contact any squad member. Stop in during our business meeting on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall, or the second Sunday of each month when we hold our monthly training, which starts at 10:00 a.m.

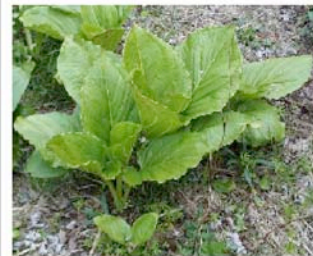
The squad has only six Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at this time. We are always looking for new members to join and **we pay for all training.** New members can join at the age of 16 and become New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Becoming an Emergency Medical Technician with the Roosevelt First Aid Squad could lead to a paying position with a career ambulance company.

In case of an emergency, dial 911.

Thank you. ■

GREENBELT GOSSIP

Continued from Page 8



All parts of the skunk cabbage, when injured in some way, smell very like a skunk. It's a great plant to show kids, but be careful not to step on other life forms when taking a closer look.

most plants use to keep moisture in. Instead, the skunk cabbage is always hard at work pumping water up and out as humidity dictates. By

mid-summer, the skunk cabbage has formed the leaf cone and spathes for the next year. The long, mature leaves no longer receive enough sun (due to the shade from the forest canopy) to produce more food than they use, and so develop holes as they begin to deflate until they droop and break off into a slimy pile on the ground. The spathe is now gone, and a fruit cluster that has been exposed to the air has turned red-to-black. This fruit will either fall, disintegrate or be eaten by birds or woodland rodents.

Although authorities are not in accord concerning the skunk cabbage's maximum life span, they do agree that small plants with two to three leaves are a few years old, while ones that are four feet



high with many leaves are decades old. So when hiking Roosevelt's trails this month, look for the magic of skunk cabbage in its various stages and no longer be deterred by its name or odor as you remember the spathe's unique world hidden within. It is an ideal plant to remind us that we can't judge a book by only its cover or name.

"We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden."
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe ■

GREENBELT GOSSIP

Continued from Page 9

Susquehanna Valley to begin a new life. They cleared land, built cabins and sowed their first crops. They were all dead, save one, before they could enjoy their first harvest. In 1757, Indians, raiding through the valley, killed all but one of these McCuskers. James McCusker, the son of George, aged 10 at the time of the attack, survived by hiding in a brush-filled depression in the forest floor. James worked his way back to the only other home he had known: that of the Philadelphia Carleys. In an act of compassion, the matriarch of the Carley clan, Hannah, adopted James in all but name. James' descendants, remaining in Philadelphia, prospered for well over a century while in close association with the Carleys, all in the business of manufacturing and selling hats. Then came the Panic of 1873... both families lost everything, and, those that could, took whatever work was available. The ensuing six years of economic depression relegated the Philadelphia McCuskers, again, to a tenuous working-class existence.

-fast-forward to the first decade of the twentieth century. My grandfather, James Carley McCusker (many male descendants of James McCusker, my grandfather and father among them, have been given the middle name of Carley as a gesture of gratitude and respect) was a file clerk, living in Irish South Philadelphia. He married Anne Rowanne, a laundress. Five years after my father, Joseph Carley McCusker, was born, my grandfather disappeared. Anne McCusker supported and nurtured my father, taking in laundry and hiring out as a maid, parenting as best she could a boy embittered by a father's unexplained absence. My father went to work as a full-time messenger at age eleven at the firm of N. W. Ayer & Son, working through his many years there as messenger, compositor, proof reader and purchasing agent.

By studying at night, my mother had become a skilled stenographer, and at the beginning of the Second World War was employed at the central offices of Sears, Roebuck & Co. as a secretary. In 1942, the U.S. Army Air Corps became my father's second employer. He met my mother at a U.S.O. dance. They married very shortly after, as the war discouraged lengthy courtships. From 1942 through 1945, my father worked as an Air Corps base quartermaster in the Pacific theater, primarily in India.

Upon my father's return to Philadelphia and civilian life, my parents purchased a recently constructed row home in Philadelphia's Olney neighborhood. I was born in 1952, their only child. As both of my parents held full-time jobs to maintain our middle-class lifestyle, my maternal grandmother, Anna Smalyga, was my primary daytime caregiver and guardian from infancy through late adolescence. I could never have wished for better. Her loving presence nourished us all.

When N. W. Ayer & Son relocated to New York City in the sixties, my father's job went with them. He was never again fully employed. My mother sought and procured a more financially rewarding position; my grandmother took a night-shift assembly job in a local factory. In this way we persevered. Despite our difficulties, my mother and grandmother imbued me with a very dry sort of humor that has often proved to be among my most treasured possessions.

In 1969, I received a full scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania. I moved into my dorm room less than a month after returning from "3 Days of Peace and Music" near Bethel, New York, at the "Woodstock Music & Art Fair". Actually, for me, it was more like a month of toil and music, as I had been working on sound stage construction, etc., with the Hog Farm commune and others since

mid-July. In 1974, I wrote and was awarded a federal grant for the funding of an experimental pre-indictment probationary program for nonviolent first offenders. I worked as a Philadelphia Probation Office counselor and administrator from 1975 through 1977. Largely to support a lifestyle comprised of much less-than-profitable pursuits, like playing the blues, I accepted what I thought would be a temporary position in 1980 with the General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), working with cable television distribution electronics. Twenty six years later, I am working there still as a non-linear phenomena subject matter expert. Had I not remained in the Delaware valley, I would never have met, through a friend, my wife Manuela. We immediately fell deeply in love, married and settled in South Jersey. Through our years together, we nurtured our mutual connections with art, music, nature and self-evolution. Our lives were further enriched as we raised and learned from our son, Nathaniel Marks. Manuela's friends and studies involved us with Mercer and Monmouth Counties, and especially Roosevelt. These and other factors led us to move, seven years ago, to neighboring East Windsor (we were seeking a home in Roosevelt, but time constraints made this prohibitive). In 2005, we unexpectedly learned that a home on Pine Drive had been renovated and was for sale. The house's size accommodated our wishes to expand our artistic pursuits. We made a quick decision to buy, and only through Manuela's efficiency and fortitude were we able to accomplish our transition from East Windsor to Roosevelt in one month. We enjoy and embrace our town's natural beauty, its artistic and cultural expressions, and the friendships, old and new, that Roosevelt offers us. ■



Irish Soda Bread

My mom always made Irish bread for St. Patrick's Day so I followed suit with our family. On different holidays I would make our meals the color of the day. Red for Valentine's Day, for example; beets, red mashed potatoes, hamburgers, cranberry sauce cut into heart shapes and Danish dessert. The children loved it and there always were clean plates! Now our grandchildren get the benefit of the custom at their homes! It makes me happy to know they are enjoying "fun meals" together. When I make Irish bread I usually add green vegetable color to the mix.

2 cups flour
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt



1 c. buttermilk
1 tbsp. caraway seeds
1 – 2 tbsp. margarine or butter
1/2 c. raisins
(plump in hot water)

Mix dry ingredients and seeds (for extra moistness, cut in margarine), blend in milk and fold in raisins. Sprinkle hands with flour and form dough into two loaves (it will be a bit lumpy looking). Bake at 400° for 15 minutes, then 350° for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown and loaf sounds hollow when thumped. Spread some butter on top while warm to give the loaf a shiny glazed appearance.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued a report stating that the global average land and ocean surface temperatures for January 2007 is the highest for any January on record. The National Climatic Data Center map "Temperature Anomalies January 2007", shows areas that reported above normal average January temperatures in red. The regions that were cooler are shown in blue. Most of the Northern Hemisphere displays red. Much higher than normal temperatures stretched from Alaska and Canada, through the central and eastern US, Western and Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and the expanse of countries that made up the former Soviet Union, and onward to most of China and Southeast Asia.

The largest region of blue was in the western United States. You may recall the high number of winter storms that brought snow to New Mexico, Arizona and especially Oklahoma.

Of course, January is only one month and temperatures began to drop to more seasonal levels in the second half of the month in our area. But for the entire month in Roosevelt, the average temperature for January 2007 was 37.8 degrees. That's over seven and a half degrees above normal. There were 842-degree days this January. One thousand and eighty-five is normal.

Along with the higher than normal temperatures came higher than normal precipitation. We had 4.49 inches of precipitation in January. That's about three-quarters of an inch above normal. As for snow, an average January brings about seven inches to our area. It may be hard

to believe, but we weren't far off the mark. Just under an inch of snow fell on the twenty-second. Four inches of snow fell on January 29, and there was a dusting of about a third of an inch on the thirty-first.

Most of the snow from the January 29 snowfall was gone quickly because of the above freezing temperatures that day and the days that followed.

Our biggest storm for the winter as of February 17, happened on St. Valentine's Day. I think of it as the St. Valentine's "Massacre". The precipitation was complex. There was snow, sleet, a little freezing rain and rain. We were left with about 2.25-inches of this frozen conglomerate on the ground. If you didn't clean the material off your driveway the day of the storm and no one drove on your driveway that day, you found you had a new relatively smooth but crusty-enough-to-walk-on-without-too-much-risk-of-slipping thick layer capable of sustaining the weight of you and your car.

Weather Word

Sleet is defined as pellets of ice composed of frozen or mostly frozen raindrops or refrozen partially melted snowflakes. These pellets of ice usually bounce after hitting the ground or other hard surfaces.

Freezing rain is rain that falls as a liquid but freezes into glaze upon contact with the ground. ■

Jan. 15 - Feb. 15, 2007

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip	Degree Days
15	55.0	42.4	48.7	0.15	16.3
16	61.2	33.4	47.3	0.00	17.7
17	33.8	18.5	26.2	0.00	38.9
18	38.3	19.0	28.7	0.00	36.4
19	42.6	31.5	37.1	0.03	28.0
20	36.5	24.8	30.7	0.15	34.4
21	32.0	17.6	24.8	0.00	40.2
22	34.9	23.5	29.2	0.08	35.8
23	39.4	31.3	35.4	0.00	29.7
24	40.8	25.5	33.2	0.00	31.9
25	37.8	24.1	31.0	0.00	34.1
26	25.2	10.6	17.9	0.00	47.1
27	39.0	22.6	30.8	0.00	34.2
28	44.8	33.6	39.2	0.00	25.8
29	34.5	19.6	27.1	0.19	38.0
30	37.8	14.2	26.0	0.00	39.0
31	35.1	21.7	28.4	0.00	36.6
1	38.1	20.3	29.2	0.00	35.8
2	41.2	30.7	36.0	0.00	29.1
3	34.7	22.3	28.5	0.15	36.5
4	28.9	17.6	23.3	0.00	41.8
5	17.8	10.0	13.9	0.00	51.1
6	21.9	10.4	16.2	0.00	48.9
7	24.6	12.9	18.8	0.00	46.3
8	27.5	13.6	20.6	0.00	44.5
9	31.1	16.7	23.9	0.00	41.1
10	33.6	18.5	26.1	0.00	39.0
11	32.4	12.9	22.7	0.00	42.4
12	41.7	21.0	31.4	0.00	33.7
13	34.2	22.6	28.4	0.00	36.6
14	33.8	22.3	28.1	0.22	37.0
15	23.9	13.8	18.9	0.00	46.2
Total Precipitation				0.97	
Total Degree Days					1173.2

Roosevelt Arts Project

RAP

20th Anniversary
1987-2007

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

Eleanor Gallery, the Factory Hall Gallery

FACES OF ROOSEVELT - NOW & THEN

Drawings and selected sculptures by Jonathan Shahn in the Factory Hallway Gallery, and the Eleanor Gallery both days.

Saturday, March 10

8 p.m. in Borough Hall.

ROOSEVELT POETS

Featuring poets, Wes Czyzewski, Scott Carpenter, David Herrstrom, Ron Koster and Judith McNally

Saturday, April 14, 2007

8 p.m. in Borough Hall

DIGITAL SOUNDS AND ART

Original Sounds and Art by Brad Garton and Wiska Radkiewicz

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

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND WILL INCLUDE:

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

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

EXHIBIT OF ROOSEVELT ARTISTS

Friday, 5 - 7:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 12 - 5 p.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.

Help us make the 20th Anniversary spectacular!

We are looking for ART and Artists to participate in the RAP 20th Anniversary weekend. Artwork will be exhibited in the Eleanor Gallery and the Factory Hall Gallery. ALL interested welcomed.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, contact Jim Hayden at 609-918-1233, jimdesigns@aol.com or Tristen Herrstrom at 609-466-9466, therrstrom@patmedia.net. ■

SUPPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS
2006 - 2007

Contributions received after February 19 will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

Susan Schwartz & Jim Alt	Judith & Edward Goetzmann	Elizabeth & Gregg Possiel
Louise Anish & Family	Lorraine & Tim Hartley	Bill Presuti
Aaron Ashkenazy	James Hayden	Michael & Peach Pryzchocki
Carol Watchler & Ann Baker	Anne Heyden	Silvia & Calden Raines, Jr.
Louise Baranowitz	Al Hepner (In memory of Freda Hepner)	Diane & Claude Rocchia
Naomi & David Brahinsky	Constance & David Herrstrom	Marguerite Rosenthal
Miriam Bell	Cynthia Imbrie	Mary Ann Rossi
Charlotte & Ota Bondy	Sheila & Phillip Jaeger	Clare & Leonard Sacharoff
Jacqueline A. Carpenter	Anna & Ben Johnson	Ruth Schwartz
Tristan Herrstrom & Scott Carpenter	Florrie & Herb Johnson	Helen Seitz
Dolores & Howard Chasan	Jane & Michael Kiersnowsky	Abby Shahn
Maureen & Robert Clark	Diana Klein	Jean & Jonathan Shahn
Susan & Robb Clyne	Koffler Family	Lucretia & Sanford Silverman
June & Bill Counterman	Kosa Family	Betty Sinha
Elise & Paul Cousineau	Lynn Lawson & Neil Persh	Judy Stryker
Ezio Criglia	Betty Leech	Emily & Stephen Taylor
Gail Hunton & Wieslaw Czyzewski	Claudia Luongo	Marilyn & Michael Ticktin
Janis & Joseph Datz	Mary Macher	Amy & Steven Tremper
Deborah Daub	Robin Gould & Alan Mallach	Mary & Rod Tulloss
M.K. Drury	Susanne Margolis	The Vasseurs
Frances Duckett	Manuela & Mark McCusker	Laura Vigiano
Virginia North Edwards	Judith & Kevin McNally	Marilyn Magnes & Peter Vince
Lottie Sackowitz-Eisner	Pat & Edwin Moser	Larissa Bondy & Eric Vuole
Irma & Louis Esakoff	Diana & Robert Mueller	Alexandra Bonfonte Warren
Janice Fine & David Donnelly	Teri Nachtman	The Warner Family
Lynn & Melvin Fishman	Judith & Norman Nahmias	Nancy & Ralph Warnick
Ellen & Robert Francis	Ng Family	Judith & Robert Weinberg
Sadie & Joseph Fraschilla	Jane & John Ord	Elizabeth Weiner
Sylvia Gale	Laramie Palmer	Paula & Anthony Wisowaty
Joline Gallegor	Shari Payson	Zohora Family
The Garton Family	Eleanor Pedersen	Judith & Mark Zuckerman
Rosa Giletti	Maria del Piano	

BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and business, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Borough *Bulletin*, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40.00/year, \$50.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month.

AUTOMOBILE SERVICING

COMPACT KARS

3 Trenton Lakewood Road,
Clarksburg, NJ 08510
Complete Mechanical & Auto Collision
Repairs/24Hr. Towing/Select Used Cars
609-259-6373

LANE TIRE CENTER

Complete Auto Care Center
All Work Guaranteed/Foreign & Domestic
387 Mercer St., Hightstown
448-9500

BANK

AMERICA FIRST BANK
The *Bulletin* Bank

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION, ET AL

COLORBLINDS DESIGN

Interior Design Service
Specialize in Windows
10% Discount to Roosevelt Residents
Nona Sherak 448-2797

GREG DEFOE

Handyman Service

Interior/Exterior Painting
Complete home repairs and renovations
Fully insured

PROMPT RESPONSE GUARANTEED

80 Pine Drive, Roosevelt, NJ 08555
609-448-4883 cell: 609-577-4081
gdefoe123@comcast.net

EAST WINDSOR FLOOR COVERING

We've got your entire floor covering needs
****WOOD**VINYL**TILE**CERAMIC****
Wall-to-Wall Carpets, 888 Area Rugs
Two locations to serve you better
East Windsor Hamilton
609-443-6999 609-890-6111

MICHAEL D. PRYZCHOCKI, GENERAL CONTRACTOR, INC.

Small Job to Total Construction.
Roofing, Additions.
Renovations – Bathroom, Kitchens,
Remodeling – Major and Minor Repairs.
References Available. Fully Insured,
Free Estimates, Certified Contractor.
10% Senior Citizen Discount 448-2180
N.J. Lic. #13VH01307200

ARTHUR R. STINSON CONSTRUCTION

Since 1982 Specializing in Home Addition,
Bathrooms & Kitchens & Finished Basements
Brick & Concrete Patios-Stamped Concrete
Free Estimates State License
448-0154 #13VH00923900
Fax 448-1122 Fully Insured

TOM ORLANDO PLUMBING & HEATING

Master Plumber's License #12179
Fully Insured & Bonded
Total Bathroom Renovation
Sewer Line or Water Service Replacement
Hot Water Boiler Replacement or Repair
Repair Faucets, Toilets, Hose Bibbs, etc.
609-903-6488

SPECIALTIES

R & A PETRILLA

Old books & papers purchased & appraised
(established 1970)
609-426-4999

CUSTOMIZED COMPUTER SERVICES

Virus cleaning, Computer training.
Specializing in home networks to share
your internet connection, printers, files
with 2 or more computers.
Wired and wireless networks installed.
Roosevelt home page space and design
donated, see at www.web2sons.org.
Bob Francis
Contact sales@web2sons.com or
call 609-448-4064.

BH SKY ASSOCIATES

BUSINESS CONSULTING

Increase YOUR Revenues by doing
business with the government!
Call Michelle Hermelee at 609-632-0338 or
visit www.bhskyassociates.com
for more information!

PET SITTER

Fully Insured
609-448-8682
Discount to Roosevelt Residents
Jaymie Witherspoon

FAST ACTION PLUMBING

Sewer and Drain Cleaning
"We will Beat any Written Estimate"
Master Plumbers License #10359
Call (732) 766-8791

MUSIC

GUITAR INSTRUCTION

Age 7 & up
David Brahinsky: 443-1898
STORYTELLING & FOLK SINGING
AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES.

PERSONAL CARE

TAI CHI CLASSES

Relaxation & Balance for all ages
Wednesday morning – 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Wednesday night – 7 to 8:30 p.m.
At the Borough Hall
Call June Counterman 448-3182

HOMETOWNE APPRAISAL, LLC

Residential & Commercial Real Estate
Appraisals
www.hometowneappraisals.com
1-877-481-6956

Over ten years experience in Real Estate
Ann Marie Boryeskne
Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser
#42RC00168400

Serving the entire Garden State
(609) 371-8155 office
(609) 249-2486 fax

Htappraisals@comcast.net

Thinking of Making a Move?
Let the experts at Weichert Realtors help!
Please call
ELIZABETH HUANG MAJORCZYK
Weichert Referral Associates
(800) 937-6777 - Office
(732) 299-6007 - Cell phone

RESTAURANT/TAKEOUT

Mamita's (formerly Rossi's)

Deli, Subs, Pizza, Salads,
Columbian & Italian Specialties
1 N. Rochdale Ave., Roosevelt, NJ
Business Hours:

Mon thru Fri – 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sat – 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We bake our own breads.

Phone Orders: 609-443-5111

Patronize our business
sponsors. Most of them are
our neighbors.



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

March

2	Fri		Read Across America RPS Early Dismissal - Teacher In-Service	
3	Sat	10:30 am	RPS PTA Winter Carnival Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850
5	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701
6	Tues		RPS Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences	
		12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
7	Wed		RECYCLE	
8	Thurs		RPS Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences	
		7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Bd Mtg Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
10	Sat	1-5 pm	RAP Program, Faces of Roosevelt by Jonathan Shahn	Boro Hall (See RAP Page)
		8 pm	RAP Program, Roosevelt Poets	Boro Hall (See RAP Page)
11	Sun		Daylight Savings Time Begins	
		10 am	First Aid Squad Training Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
		1-5 pm	RAP Program, Faces of Roosevelt by Jonathan Shahn	Boro Hall (See RAP Page)
12	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701
			NJ ASK - Grades 5 & 6 March 12 - 15	RPS
13	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Jane Rothfuss, Chair	Boro Hall 448-3713
14	Wed	7:30 pm	PTA Meeting Kelly Mitchell, President	RPS 426-9850

19	Mon		NJ ASK - Grades 3 & 4 March 19 - 22	RPS
20	Tues	7:30 pm	First Aid Squad Business Mtg Jack Rindt	Boro Hall 448-9475
21	Wed		RECYCLE	
		7:30 pm	Environmtl Com. Mtg Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Boro Hall 443-6204
22	Thurs	7:30 pm	Roosevelt School Bd Mtg Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
23	Fri		RPS Pizza Day	
26	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Beth Battel, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-7701

April Preview

2	Mon		RPS Closed - Spring Break 4/2 - 4/9	
3	Tues	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Boro Hall 448-0351
4	Wed		RECYCLE	
6	Fri		Good Friday	
8	Sun		Easter	

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
P.O. Box 221
Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0211

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roosevelt, NJ
Permit No, 6

PRSRT STD
Postal Customer
Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221