

Bulletin

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Discusses Post Office Access and New Water Rates

By Michael Ticktin

Issues concerning the Roosevelt post office were once again a major subject of discussion at the October meeting of the Borough Council. Mayor Neil Marko asked the Council to work with the Postal Service to increase access. The post office lobby is usually closed at 5:00 or shortly thereafter, thus making it impossible for people who come home from work after that to pick up their mail that day.

In a letter to the Mayor and Council, a representative of the Postal Service proposed that the Borough and the Postal Service jointly pay any increased costs that would be incurred in order to keep the post office open longer each day. Councilman Michael Hamilton disagreed, saying that it is the responsibility of the Postal Service to make sure that people can get their mail in a timely manner, and that it would be unfair to impose any part of the cost on Roosevelt taxpayers. He further stated that it would not be all that expensive to install an entry card system. Councilman Daniel Hoffman suggested that the most cost-effective way to provide more hours of access would be to stagger the hours of the post office staff so that at least one employee would be there later and would be able to keep the post office open. Mr. Hamilton offered the additional alternative of having outside boxes, similar to those typically found

in new multifamily housing complexes, placed outside the post office, as an option for those inconvenienced by post office hours. Mayor Marko characterized the Postal Service as being "receptive and open" and expressed the hope that a mutually acceptable solution might be found.

In reporting for the utilities committee, Councilman Jeff Hunt announced that the utilities and finance committees would be meeting jointly with Chief Financial Officer George Lang, Tax and Utilities Collector Sam Cannizzaro, Auditor Jerry Stankiewicz and Public Works Superintendent Toby Moore to devise a new water rate schedule, to take effect at the beginning of 2005 when the Borough is required, under an order issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to have consumption-based billing in effect. Mr. Hunt stated that the surplus in the utilities account had declined to the point where an increase in revenue was necessary and some increase in the base rate was therefore unavoidable. He did say, however, that the Borough might earn additional money for the utilities budget through the processing of "graywater" and septic waste and through higher payments by those using large amounts of water, and that this addi-

Continued on Page 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Planning Board News	3	Two Square Miles of Stories	10
From the Mayor	4	Breaking Bread	18
From the Office of CSA, Dale Weinbach	5	Weather Almanac	19
RCNS October & November Newsletter	6	Roosevelt Arts Project	21
Environmental Commission News	7	Supporters and Contributors	22
Waterworks	8	Business Sponsors	23
Letters to the Editor	9	Calendar	24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BI-ANNUAL LITTER PICK UP

Come cleanup Roosevelt with us!

Sunday, November 7th

Meet at 10 a.m. in front of the Post Office.

Party to follow at Leny and Michele Hillis, telephone; 426-9323.

Organized by Clean Community Organization

The Fall Curbside Wood Pick Up will begin Monday, November 29th. Branches can be up to 6" in diameter, 8' in length. No leaves, grass, or bamboo, and please do not bundle branches.

Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School will hold its annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday, November 14th from 4 - 7 p.m. at Borough Hall.

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

Are you using our library at the school? It is open every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

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Affordable Housing Options Remain Uncertain

Prompted by Mayor Neil Marko, the Planning Board decided on October 12 to supply the Borough Council with more reasoning on affordable housing options. Attempting to steer the Council away from accessory use apartments and toward activation of a regional contribution agreement (RCA) with Asbury Park, the Board voted to ask its Planning Consultant, Tom Thomas, to draft a Housing Element for the Master Plan and a Fair Share Plan for low and moderate-income housing that would call for the RCA option. Meanwhile, Board member Ed Moser volunteered to draft a letter to the Council giving reasons for preferring an RCA over accessory use apartments. To achieve the RCA option for Roosevelt, the Board would have to persuade the Council to abandon its position, unanimously expressed at the Council's October 11 meeting, favoring accessory use apartments over an RCA. Mayor Marko said he would rather Roosevelt used an RCA but could not vote for his preference at the Council meeting because the Mayor only votes to break ties among Council members.

The controversy affects how Roosevelt will meet its eight-unit affordable housing obligation, which was mandated by the State Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). Without a plan on file with COAH by early next year, the Borough might be subject to so-called "builder's remedy" lawsuits asking the courts to satisfy the town's affordable housing obligation as part of larger, market-rate housing developments.

The two debated alternatives relate to just three of the eight affordable

housing units for which the Borough must plan. The Council accepted the Board's recommendation that Roosevelt finalize an agreement with Princeton-based Community Options, Inc. to develop a group home on a new lot created in the portion of the property occupied by the abandoned service station that is north of the existing house. Community Options provides housing and employment support in seven states for more than 1,300 adults with developmental disabilities. The organization would build a three-bedroom home for three male or female ambulatory adult individuals. Michael Ticktin, Chairman of the Board's Redevelopment Committee, said the rental status of the three units in the proposed facility would enable the Borough to obtain credit for five affordable dwellings.

At its September 14 meeting, the Board recommended that the Council satisfy the remaining three units of the Borough's affordable housing obligation with either an RCA or accessory use apartments. Under the RCA option, Roosevelt would pay \$75,000 (\$25,000 for each unit) to Asbury Park in return for that city's commitment to provide three units of affordable housing in Asbury Park. Under the accessory use option, auxiliary apartments could be built onto three existing homes in Roosevelt. The Borough would assist the construction by providing \$30,000 (\$10,000 for each unit) in grants to the homeowners who would construct the apartments. Mr. Ticktin said a private firm, Housing Services, Inc., would charge \$2,000 per unit and a \$3,000 to \$5,000 up-front fee to screen potential

apartment residents as to eligibility for affordable housing and to perform other management functions. He said he would obtain more information about the firm's services.

According to Mayor Marko, the Council voted unanimously on October 11 to utilize the accessory apartments option instead of an RCA. He said Council members felt auxiliary apartments in Roosevelt would be more in keeping with Roosevelt's egalitarian roots than farming out affordable housing units to Asbury Park. In addition, it would cost less than the RCA option. But Mayor Marko noted, "Historically, the Borough has shied away from [permitting] people [to have] apartments in their homes. He said that auxiliary apartments would raise a host of concerns that would bother the town on a recurring basis, while an RCA would resolve the issue more immediately and conclusively. He added that the finality would be worth the extra money.

Board member Jane Rothfuss said she was concerned about the impact of accessory apartments on neighbors, appearance problems, structures approaching the limits of lot-line setbacks, and parking problems resulting from cars associated with additional households. Board Chairman Ralph Seligman said auxiliary apartments might adversely affect the transferability of houses. He added that the precedent could create problems if in the future "another care-nothing administration" came into power in town. He said, "My anxiety is what it will be in perpetuity."

Continued on Page 20

From the Mayor

“The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) was created by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 as the State Legislature’s response to a series of New Jersey Supreme Court cases known as the Mount Laurel decisions. The Supreme Court established a constitutional obligation for each of the 566 municipalities in the state to establish a realistic opportunity for the provision of fair share low and moderate income housing obligations, generally through land use and zoning powers.” (<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/coah/about.shtml>)

The Council and the Planning Board were quite busy this past month with some far-reaching work. Decisions will soon be made that could affect Roosevelt for quite some time. These involve COAH and how we satisfy our Fair Share obligation. For the current round, our remaining obligation is eight. Now this means many things. For most of us, it is somewhat of a mystery that we really don’t want to be bothered about. COAH and how we satisfy our obligations will however, have an effect on us all. The most straightforward way it will have an effect is that each unit will cost us something. Now that does not always mean that we will have to pay directly, although it very well may mean that. It may mean instead that we have to do other things to satisfy our obligation. One of those things occurred this past month.

As you may or may not know, the Borough took ownership of the gas station. After taking ownership, the Borough proceeded to subdivide the property into two lots. We then contacted several organizations that run group homes. After discussing the

issue with these organizations, the Borough Council and the Planning Board has decided that we would be very well served by partnering with one of those organizations, Community Options, and have them build a group home on the newly created lot. This will not cost the Borough any out of pocket expense, except for the expenses associated with COAH filings and Master Plan revisions.

The Community Options proposal is great. The Borough will sell the property to Community Options for a token amount and there will be restrictions on the use of the property. In return, Community Options will build a group home for three disabled individuals. While I don’t want to minimize the positive aspects of the Borough of Roosevelt providing housing for three disabled citizens, the best part of this is that the Borough actually will get credit for five units of our outstanding COAH obligation.

So what about the remaining obligation of three units? The Council and the Planning Board are grappling with this issue currently. For up to the minute info about that, come to the Council meetings.

In addition to this good news, the Council is also working on preparing ordinances for parking and for the never-ending feral cat story. Stay tuned for more information about those topics.

I recently had a conversation with Mayor Mironov of East Windsor. The topic was the road construction that seems to go on forever. I had called her because of a complaint I had about Ward Street, which was the detour for Milford Road. Ward Street itself

was closed and now the detour was through Hightstown! Well I am happy to report that Ward Street construction is now finished and that Milford will be completed by Thanksgiving. I can’t wait.

In closing, I would like to remind all of you that your Borough Council and I would like to hear from you. We have meetings the first three Monday’s of each month. The first Monday is a committee meeting at 7 p.m. followed by an Agenda meeting at 8. The next Monday is our Action meeting at 7 p.m.. The third Monday is another committee meeting at 7 p.m.. You are all welcome and encouraged to come to all. If you can’t make a meeting, perhaps you want to email us. My email is mayor@borough.roosevelt.nj.us or you can reach the Council by emailing council@borough.roosevelt.nj.us. If you want, you can call me at the Borough Hall (448-0539) and press 1.

Tidbit of information: When Jersey Homesteads first came into existence, we were actually part of Millstone Township. The formation of a separate municipality was never part of the original plan. Very soon after the homesteaders made their way here, it became apparent that there was a clash of cultures between the Jersey Homesteads community and Millstone Township. On May 29, 1937, the Governor signed a law establishing the Borough of Jersey Homesteads. (Source: Roosevelt, New Jersey The First 50 Years) ■

From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

The Roosevelt Public School grounds look just beautiful and quite picturesque in the autumn. The school yard is colorful, and the deer even stay out when the students are outside playing. I hope that everyone who considers the playground as the town park (as it is) will treat the grounds with respect. We often find litter that has been left overnight and includes broken glass. Let's all work together to keep the school grounds safe and beautiful!

Speaking of safety, school safety continues to be a priority within our district, and across the county. Schools, although considered "soft" targets, are also seen as vulnerable places. We may think that "It would never happen here," but we must act as if something could happen at any given time. In other words, we plan for the worst as we hope for the best. Safety plans also provide reaction to acts of nature, and any other event that is sudden. All municipalities are required to submit safety plans to the County Office of Emergency Management. To this end, I have met with the safety committee of the Borough. We are collaborating to create a plan that includes the school. All involved are committed to keeping the residents of Roosevelt safe and secure.

Our classes are all involved with the upcoming presidential election. This is an opportunity for students to learn to read newspapers, analyze media programs, and get involved with discussions about candidates. On election day, students will vote for representatives from their classrooms to the student council. In this way, we hope to show them the importance of voting and the way the system works in this country. I hope everyone who can, will set an example by voting, and bring your children with you so they

can see this process in action.

The volunteer library committee held a meeting in October. As you know, the Roosevelt library is open to the public on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. As attendance during this evening is often low, the volunteers discussed the actual need to have the library open in the evening. We plan to send a survey out to Roosevelt residents. In the meantime, if you have feelings about the continuation of the library evening, please let me know. Call me at 448-2798, or email me at dweinbach@RPS1.org. Should we stay open on Wednesday evenings despite the low turnout? Should we switch to a late afternoon opening; 4:00-6:30? We need to know what people want and need so we can provide the best service.

The special education two year self assessment process began with a staff training on October 11. A presentation regarding this process is scheduled at our open public portion of the Board of Education meeting on November 18. All are invited to attend.

October 22 will be the last day that Joy Marko, school nurse, will be at Roosevelt. We thank Joy for her 12 years of dedicated service to the staff, students, and parents at school. Naturally we wish Joy all the best in her next career move. ■

By Clare Sacharoff

Flu shots were given Oct. 21st at the Borough Hall between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to Seniors. They were advised to bring along their Medicare cards.

The November meeting was held Monday, Nov. 1st instead of Nov. 2nd due to Election Day. All members were encouraged to vote.

On October 19th the Seniors enjoyed walking through Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck and viewing as well as buying all the colorful Fall fruit and vegetables together with the variety of home baked pies.

On Oct. 10th we all watched a production of "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" at the Kelsey Theater at Mercer County College. Several senior drivers picked up passengers and we partook of a luncheon at the Hunan House in Hightstown before the show.

Our regular box lunch was held the last Friday of the month which fell on October 29th this year.

Halloween was Sunday the 31st when we all changed our clocks back one hour.

Pat Moser was hostess for the November meeting. ■

November School Dates

- Nov. 4 & 5** School closed
- Nov. 8 & 9** PTA Book Fair
- Nov. 12**..... Pizza
- Nov. 15**..... PTA Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18**..... Board of Ed Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 24**..... Early dismissal

RCNS October & November Newsletter

By Ginny Weber

Our Little Hearts Day Camp was a great success in its first year. One highlight of the summer was our weekly trips to places such as Princeton Airport, Turkey Swamp Park, Thompson Park, Monroe Library, and Allaire State Park. The children also enjoyed doing special projects like making Wild West picture frames for their "cowboy or cowgirl" pictures and making their own tie dye shirts. Hopefully, next summer will be even more fun.

Our school year got off to a great start. Many children already became friends during camp so they looked forward to seeing each other again. In September, we visited Dairy Queen to celebrate the invention of the ice cream cone. It was fun to see how ice cream is made, but the best part is eating it! At the end of the month we made applesauce to celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day.

During October, the class learned about fire safety. We planned a trip to the Clarksburg Fire House. The children love to see the fire engines and try on some of the firefighters' heavy equipment.

The children enjoyed our annual trip to Westhaven farm for a hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick their favorite pumpkins. They also learned how pumpkins grow.

In anticipation of Halloween our class made friendly ghosts, "haunted" houses, and candy corn. The children also learned how spiders live and they made "spider-webs." Our Halloween party was held at the Borough Hall. There were games and Halloween treats for the children to enjoy. Maybe some neighbors saw us parade to the Borough Hall in our Halloween costumes!

Our class is having a special election this month so that we can learn how elections work. We will also find out about "Uncle Sam," our flag, and other things that represent our country.

The children always wonder what happens to animals in winter. We will discuss migration, hibernation, and camouflage as a means of survival for animals.

To get a better understanding of the thanksgiving holiday, the children will see how the Pilgrims and Indians lived and helped each other. It's a perfect time to show how people could be so different and yet get along so well. If you want to know how to cook the best Thanksgiving turkey. Just ask one of the RCNS students. They are sure to have some great ideas! ■

ADDRESS BY GOOZNER, Former
Roosevelt Resident

By Judith McNally

Merrill Goozner, award-winning investigative journalist and currently Director of the Integrity in Science Project, Washington, D.C., spoke at the Roosevelt Public School, Saturday afternoon, October 16. The former Roosevelt resident, who recognized many in the audience, said, "I think there is real choice for this country." If Bush wins, he said, "the public is endorsing a kind of fear....That's pretty scary."

He went on to say, "We have an administration that will stop at nothing – literally nothing – to achieve their political end." "The Iraq war," Goozner added, "is about oil. And Kerry is saying, 'It's going to be different if I get elected.'"

Goozner, former Chief Asia correspondent for *The Chicago Tribune*, spoke on a wide range of topics involving health care and the dynamics of medical technology, plus social and environmental justice.

"On the domestic side, the health care system is going to be a major issue in the next decade. If Bush wins," said Goozner, "you'll be on welfare instead of getting a Social Security check." He asked, "Do you create systems that level the playing field, or do you create systems that reproduce all the inequalities that you lived with all your working life? I vote in favor of having more equality."

"There are ways," he concluded, "to feel at peace again in this country, with the proper leadership."

Goozner's current position is with the prestigious Washington D.C. watchdog organization, the Center

Continued on Page 14

By David Schwendeman

THE ROOSEVELT WOODLAND TRAIL - SECTION 'C' PROJECT CONTINUES!

Meetings continued this summer between the Roosevelt Environmental Commission and Creative Habitat regarding special plantings in the 'C' Section of the Roosevelt Woodland Trail. This is the part between Rochdale, with an entrance near Rossi's, and the Solar Village. A special grant was received to plan and plant a variety of native species in the flooded areas and restore areas damaged by run-off from the former Notterman tract.

Wood debris will once again be picked up and/or chipped curbside on November 29 and 30. We are trying to avoid indiscriminate dumping and help homeowners take care of woody yard waste. This will be for natural wood only. No lumber, leaves or other non-woody plants will be picked up.

The question of how to dispose of bamboo was asked recently. It cannot be chipped, and dumping at the end of Pine Drive is now being discouraged. If anyone has a suggestion, I will be glad to post it in next month's Bulletin.

Next meeting of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission is Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at the Borough Hall. All are welcome. And thanks for reading this column! ■

Continued from Page 1

tional revenue, once the amount is known, could be used as a basis for future adjustments to the base rate.

Mayor Marko also raised, once again, the issue of the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Roosevelt. He said that he has once again seen minors illegally using them on the streets and that he wants to get a draft ordinance based on a draft considered, but not adopted, in Millstone "back on track."

Councilwoman Pat Moser, speaking as the Council representative to the Senior Citizens' Organization, told the Council that seniors were not coming to Council meetings because they cannot hear what is being said. Mayor Marko said that the Council had looked into the possibility of having a microphone, but that any benefit of doing so did not justify the cost. Mrs. Moser also reported that the sidewalks in the Solar Village are in terrible condition and that there had been three falling incidents. In response, Michael Ticktin suggested that Housing Inspector Ed Goetzmann be asked to enforce the applicable provision of the International Property Maintenance Code in order to address the problem. Mrs. Moser also announced that the Monmouth County Office on Aging would be issuing health condition insignias, similar to those distributed for placement on refrigerators, for automobile glove compartments. The reason for doing this is that, in an emergency, first responders need to know of any health conditions that might affect a person injured in an accident.

In other business, the Council tabled for further review a revised Administrative Code ordinance and passed a revised salary ordinance establishing ranges for certain positions. Resolutions applying to the

Division of Local Government Services for exemption from the requirement to appoint a Principal Public Works Manager, authorizing refund of overpaid taxes, hiring Kelly Mitchell as an emergency temporary helper in the Public Works Department, and approving a change order concerning a speed bump for Pine Drive were approved, as were motions approving the use of the Borough Hall by the Roosevelt Nursery School for a Halloween Party and a Pasta Night fundraiser and by Diedra Pizzarelli for her daughter's birthday party.

The Council also discussed the letter it received from the Planning Board asking whether the Council preferred to provide three of the affordable housing units, required in accordance with the rules of the Council on Affordable Housing, to be provided through a program allowing up to three accessory apartments to be added to existing houses in Roosevelt or through a Regional Contribution Agreement (RCA) with Asbury Park. The Council unanimously recommended the accessory apartment option, with Councilmen Michael Hamilton pointing out the financial benefit of paying \$10,000 per unit, for a maximum of three units, to any homeowners who might actually build accessory apartments, as against paying \$75,000 to Asbury Park, and Councilman Jeff Hunt declaring that shifting the obligation to actually provide the affordable housing to another municipality would be contrary to the spirit in which Jersey Homesteads (now Roosevelt) was created. Mayor Neil Marko, who can only vote when there is a tie, argued for the RCA option, claiming that it would be better for Roosevelt to make the payments and be done with the matter. ■

We've Got Some Good News and Some Bad News for You!

First the good news...

In the last two years, your Utilities department has completed numerous major projects which have significantly improved the condition of our infrastructure and have put us in compliance with Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

These improvements include replacement of both pumps in our two wells, replacement of aged booster and inflow pumps at the water and sewage treatment plants, replacement of ancient meters which were inaccurately measuring the outflow from the water plant and inflow and outflow at the sewage treatment plant, and metering of every user of municipal water user in the town. The advent of metering and the consumption-based billing it will support were not initiated by your Council but rather are required by the Department of Environmental Protection as a means to conservation.

A positive result of the new meters at the two plants is that it has become apparent that we now have the proven capacity to allow for treatment of gray-water, a potentially lucrative process in which we would treat septica and other waste water from outside users.

Hopefully, another beneficial result of the town-wide metering will be that it will encourage conservation of water, which turns out not to be an endless resource as once thought. Furthermore, we will be basing the water portion of your water/sewer bill on your consumption in the near

future. Right now the water portion of your bill is \$27, the rest being the sewer portion. The sewer portion is comparatively large due to the debt service on the improvements made to the plant nearly 15 years ago.

Beginning in January (unless we prevail in a request to the DEP for a delay to collect additional data), a multi-tier system for charging



residents for their water use will take effect. There will be a base rate, and as many as three increasingly expensive tiered rates above it for usage in excess of the base rate amount of water. A mailing to all municipal water users that will detail this new billing system will follow shortly once we have finalized the process. Please take note: consumption-based billing is a requirement, a reality, and will begin in the near future, so look for ways to conserve beforehand and fix any

leaks now.

New income sources for our budget have been developed: the Water/Sewer budget already receives \$21,000 per year from AT&T for the use of our water tower for cell phone equipment. In addition, the aforementioned gray-water treatment project will generate a significant amount, although it is too soon to project just how much.

Finally, the additional fees generated by those people who use large amounts of water will also add to our budget.

And now the bad news...

As a result of the tremendous expenses incurred over the last two years due to the decay of our aging systems and the State mandate to meter all users, the Water/Sewer budget is in a precarious position. The budget has always had a surplus built into it for emergencies, which is a standard procedure for such budgets. Unfortunately, that surplus, which has dwindled slowly over several years, was nearly wiped out this last year due to expensive repairs and replacements. We have been advised by our financial professionals, in the strongest of terms, that this situation must be rectified with increased revenues. Since we cannot accurately estimate the positive impact of either the graywater or consumption billing incomes, we have been advised to raise the Water/Sewer base rate as well.

Okay, there, I said it. Believe me: this is the last thing any member of this Council would want to do. Putting this in context however, it

Continued on Page 16

To the Editor:

The Roosevelt, Post Office— Let Me Say This About That

To begin, I would like to share the following address, provided to me by a neighbor...

Mr. Vito Setta, District Manager
United States Postal Service
21 Kilmer Road
Edison, NJ 08899-9998

This information was posted on the bulletin board near the Post Office for anyone who might care to contribute his or her 37 cents to the subject, but somebody (who shall be nameless) took the notice down.

Secondly, I'd like to tell a story, which IS relevant, although it might not seem so at first. Last Christmas I hurried to dispatch a gift to my daughter in Seoul, to give her holiday a touch of home. I included the Korean zipcode, but, unbeknownst to me, the Seoul Post Office had changed her zip. Nevertheless they did deliver the package—a little late, but they found her. I was very grateful for the courtesy. Should not the same courtesy be extended to foreigners who send to the United States? I am told that a package from Germany, addressed to the street, and including the nine-digit zipcode was returned to its country of origin—a costly and unnecessary thing to do.

When I lived in France, in 1957-58, there was no government, per se. Yet the bureaucracy ran on, secure in the notion that no matter how obnoxious the workers were, their clients could not sack them. The French called this "L'esprit fonctionnaire."

The postal staff at Roosevelt share this arrogance. To a complaint that magazines (already paid for) were not being delivered, the response was (and I quote) "not any more!" What happened to "Nor rain, nor snow, nor

gloom of night..."? We don't even have one weekday evening when the P.O. is open late enough for commuters to get their mail. They need to hire a minion to get it.

Incoming mail has not been the only problem. I had to cancel a check and drive a replacement to Plainsboro because I was certain the original had gone astray—it had been in transit more than ten business days. Two days afterward, the correctly addressed original arrived there. In early summer, a resident sent a parcel to overseas. It disappeared completely.

My final point is very personal. A sales slip, addressed correctly in every respect, was returned to my brokerage, causing a trading hold to be placed on my account. As a result I lost a profitable trade. This happened twice. I can think of two reasons for these correctly addressed (as was confirmed by the brokerage) items to be returned:

Gross negligence
Malice, because I had complained.

Choose which you please—it's not a pretty picture.

Seriously, Frances G. Duckett

Reply to Frances Duckett from the Manager of the Post Office Operations - South

Dear Ms. Duckett,

I am writing on behalf of the Central New Jersey District Manager/Executive-in-Charge Vito Cetta.

I have read your letter addressed to Mr. Cetta, dated October 3, 2004 regarding your concerns at the Roosevelt Post Office. Let me try to address them.

You mention that the lobby hours have been cut. The Postmaster will investigate if the post office is properly equipped for installation of a security card access to the lobby. This would enable customers to use their

own personal security cards to gain access to the lobby and the post office boxes. This idea was considered in the past but was shelved because the glass windows must be shatter-proof. The postmaster will look into the cost and feasibility of such a task.

Also, I have spoken to the postmaster to consider changing the hours for lobby access. Ms. Hirtelen will be monitoring the lobby to determine when the largest influx of customers occurs, morning or evening. The results will determine the change in lobby hours. The postmaster has agreed to do whatever is possible to improve customer satisfaction at Roosevelt Post Office.

To address your complaint concerning delayed mail, it is difficult to determine the root cause of delayed or returned letters. The organization is in business to serve the customer and when that doesn't happen, we fail. On behalf of the Postal Service I want to express my sincere apology for any inconvenience the delay(s) may have caused you. Processing millions of pieces every day can result in mail being missent or delayed. However, there is no excuse and we must make every effort to get every piece of mail delivered on time, every day.

Thank you for your letter. The Postal Service appreciates customers who take the time to voice their concerns.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Fascio

9 Taylor Mills Rd.

Englishtown, N.J. 07726-9992

732 446-6630

Dear Editor,

September 27, 2004

Unfortunately this will miss the October edition of the Bulletin, but I wanted to take the time to write and

Continued on Page 17

From Eastern Europe to the United States

My parents and grandparents came from two of the main areas of Ashkenazic Jewish settlement: Ukraine and Lithuania. My maternal grandparents grew up in semi-rural Lithuania, in the Kaunas region. My grandmother grew up speaking with varying degrees of fluency Yiddish, Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and German, although she never had formal schooling as a child. My grandfather came from a different town, and had little formal education other than cheder, a Jewish religious school where boys learned to read Hebrew, and were taught prayers and other religious rituals. He became a watchmaker.

Both my grandparents independently became members of the General Jewish Workers League, known as the Bund. The activities in which they participated were illegal, and one time around the Russian Revolution of 1905, my grandmother's brother was arrested by the czarist police for distributing illegal literature. If searched and found with leaflets, my uncle could have faced a jail sentence or exile. My grandmother immediately started screaming and ran over to him, threw her arms around him and began carrying on. In the meantime, my uncle was able to slip his leaflets into her voluminous skirts (1905, remem-



Dorothy and Sol Moser

ber) while the policemen pulled her away, along with the evidence. They later released my Uncle Jake.

The Bund organization needed a leader, and the town needed a watchmaker, so they recruited a watchmaker from a nearby town, the man who became my grandfather. My grandparents developed a relationship and fell in love. Then one night, while the events of 1905 were playing out, a bullet cracked near grandpa's ear. He decided that it was prudent to shake the dust of the Russian Empire, and so emigrated to the United States. Within a year, he had sent for my grandmother. They set up house, got married and soon after, my mother was born in their apartment on Hester Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. That house no longer exists, because it was between Christie

and Allen Streets, where there is currently a park running from Canal Street to Houston (in New York City, that is pronounced "Howstun.")

My grandfather had a shop at 79 Christie Street for many years. I remember going in there in the 1940's. (The postal service in those years was so exquisite that one of grandpa's friends tried an experiment: he sent a letter to "M. Cohen/Watchmaker/New York, NY" and

it was delivered.) The neighborhood was a mixture mainly of Jews and Italians. For some reason, at least in New York, they seemed to go together, and in my own neighborhood in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, I was nearly eight before I realized that there was anyone other than Jews and Italians.

My mother grew up speaking only Yiddish until she was five. She really didn't learn English until she went to school. Then she learned it very well, and spoke two languages without an accent in either one. Until she died at age 90, two years ago, she still spoke a beautiful and comfortable Yiddish, although she was less than proficient at reading and writing that language.

Continued on Page 11

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 10

My grandmother's closest neighbor on the Lower East Side was an Italian immigrant woman. Neither woman spoke the other's language, and neither knew English at the time. Yet somehow they had a secret of communication, and knew what the other needed and wanted, and how to satisfy requests. Remarkable.

My grandparents involved themselves in Jewish cultural affairs and left-wing politics. Despite the lack of formal education, both my grandparents were literate in Yiddish, and then in English when they came here. My grandmother was active in her reading circle. She and a group of like-minded women would select a book, newspaper or magazine (most often in Yiddish) and take turns reading to the group, and then they would discuss it. I didn't realize what a striking thing that reading circle was when I was a child and saw it going on: a group of immigrant women informing themselves of developments in politics, culture, literature, history, and world affairs.

During the early 1940's, I used to pass my grandparents on the street occasionally when they were going to night school. They had regular notebooks like the ones I used in school, and textbooks under their arms. They were studying for their citizenship tests (which they passed with flying colors). I was a dumb kid, and didn't know enough to take proper pride in their achievements, as now I do. And, incidentally, there was never any question about whether they would vote. They always did, and there were plenty of obstacles. You had to register every time you voted, which meant standing in line maybe 10 days before each election. The registration lines were longer and much slower than the voting lines. Permanent registra-

tion didn't exist until some time after World War II.

My father came here in the early 1920's. He and his sister came from a town in the Ukraine named Stavishch. They were they youngest of what I believe were seven children. My paternal grandfather died before my father was ten. My grandmother died within the year. The family suffered a catastrophe. His eldest brother was off fighting in the Red Army in the civil war. (For Jews, there wasn't much choice: the Whites, or anti-Communists, were also murderously anti-Jewish, especially in the Ukraine.) The next children either were beginning families or were unable to take care of themselves. My father and my Aunt Goldie were put under the care of a relative who had a visa for the United States. Tragically her own two children, a boy and a girl, died before they left. So my Aunt Matleh took my father and Aunt Goldie to America as her children.

But she couldn't bring them up here: she had no English and needed assistance herself. My father and Aunt Goldie were farmed out to relatives, sometimes together, usually separately. My father landed with his cousins, the Weintraubs, in the Bronx. One of them was a schoolteacher (he later became a principal). When my father was learning English, the teacher didn't permit him to get away with a mispronounced word. He would stop my father and make him say it over and over until he got it right. Predictably, some of my father's biggest trouble was in pronouncing "th". One of the consequences of this rigorous training was that my father spoke English essentially without an accent.

When my father started school here, he was given a test to place him. Obviously he couldn't read or write

English and had no experience with the Latin alphabet, which we use. His experience was with the Cyrillic and the Hebrew. But that was only one problem: He had been to a Russian school, and was taught to make European numbers. That meant that a 1 looked like a 7, and the seven had a short horizontal line through it, unlike anything in the English-speaking world. His arithmetic test answers were so bad, he was put in first grade at age 10. To understand the irony of this, you have to know that my father had great native ability with arithmetic. He could do complicated transactions, add up columns of figures, multiply and divide fair-sized numbers, all in his head. Of course, his test answers were correct, but he had misinterpreted the numbers. And his teachers either didn't have the wit or the interest to find out what was going on with a 10-year old from a foreign country.

My father used to sell newspapers on the IRT subway in New York. He could still remember the "newsy" patter as an adult, and rattle off the names of six or eight newspapers that he carried. His formal education ended at about fifth grade, and he went to work essentially full time. Education authorities weren't all that interested in immigrant children who dropped out of school (I don't think much has changed). But my father was an autodidact: he read voraciously, ferociously, everything that came to hand (at that point he was comfortable reading only in English, although he could manage with difficulty Yiddish and Russian). He read Tolstoy, Turgenev, Jack London (a big favorite). Mark Twain, Dickens, H. G. Wells, Will and Ariel Durant (historians of that

Continued on Page 12

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 11

period), George Bernard Shaw, Marx, Lenin, Henry George, Upton Sinclair and Sinclair Lewis, *anything* available. He would occasionally (until I learned to expect it) amaze me with his knowledge and understanding of American history.

He became successively an apprentice plumber and a retail food worker. He became active in the Food Workers Industrial Union, a left-wing attempt to organize retail workers. Unfortunately, despite some local victories, the FWIU was some 25 or thirty years before its time. The American Federation of Labor was opposed to organizing unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and actively opposed attempts to form industrial unions. It remained for the CIO (first the Committee, then the Congress for Industrial Organization) to carry on the great organizing drives of the thirties and forties. My father himself ultimately went into the wholesale produce business for perhaps thirty years, and then went into business as a beer and soda wholesaler.

My parents were members of, and probably met in, the Young Communist League. The YCL was not as outlandish in the twenties and thirties as it may sound today. It was where a lot of young people went who were active, interested in current events, eager to contribute to the solution of social and economic problems, and they reputedly had some good dances. My parents courted for a pretty long time, by today's standards, and got married in May, 1932. When my mother became pregnant with me, some idiot local commissar, drunk on the illusion of power, had her expelled from the YCL for conceiving without permission. I was born in July of 1933, also without permission.

Because of their background, we used to sing labor songs around the house. One of them was the labor anthem, "Solidarity Forever." As a pre-schooler, I did not know what "solidarity" meant. My parents' names were Sol and Dorothy, so naturally, it turned out that Ralph Chaplin composed "Sol and Dorothy Forever."

My parents were active in the International Workers Order (IWO), a lovely organization which was primarily an insurance group. It offered working people low cost life insurance. Some of its officers and members were also members of the Communist Party, but its primary function was to make available the insurance policies. It was put out of business during the McCarthy hysteria in the fifties by the NY State Insurance Department. The legal underpinnings of the decision were very weak, and there was almost no attempt to disguise its political nature. Thousands of people who had life insurance were left uninsured, unless they wanted to pay substantially higher premiums demanded by commercial insurers.

One of the things the IWO did during its 20 or so years of existence was to encourage the formation of ethnically based cultural groups. The proportion of European immigrants at that time was very high, especially on the coasts and in big cities of the North and mid-west. So the IWO started a Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, a Russian society, a Ukrainian society, an Italian society, a Frederick Douglass society, a Cervantes society, and on. They used to have young people doing ethnic dance and musical performances, and run after-school schools to teach various foreign languages and cultures; among these were Yiddish schools that my sister

and I attended.

I was a poor student, since I was the only one in my class who came from a primarily English-speaking home, and Yiddish was really a foreign language to me. I came from the kind of home in which my parents spoke Yiddish so the kids wouldn't understand (sound familiar?). But it was a primary goal that their children learn Yiddish in a formal setting. I barely scraped by, becoming very good and accurate at the Hebrew script, but lagging in reading the printing. Part of that, of course, was my lack of vocabulary. I could read the words and sound them out, but about half of them (generally the important half) had no meaning for me. It was only later, in graduate school, when I had to do a paper on Jewish labor in Pittsburgh from 1905-1914, that I sharpened up my reading skills. I was helped by the fact that I was familiar with the subject material, and had an idea what to expect. My Yiddish skills are actually better now than when I was studying it, and I can manage an occasional story by I. L. Peretz, or Sholem Aleichem. My sister also went to the shule, or school, and reputedly speaks a pretty good Yiddish.

One of my mother's best and most devoted contributions was her activity in the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs, which started as an IWO spin-off, but took on a life of its own until the late 1980's, when it died along with most of its members and supporters. It was a national organization, if you understand that "national" meant New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston for a while, and California.

Emma Lazarus (1849-1877) was an

Continued on Page 13

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 12

American born Jew of German ancestry. She started writing poetry in her teens, and became fairly well known. She was welcomed into the Boston circle around Emerson, and wrote a number of plays, lots of poems, and some prose pieces. Among the poems was the sonnet, "The New Colossus," which is engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty. In it, she contrasts the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, with the New Colossus of Liberty.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes
command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

(The reference to "twin cities" is New York and Brooklyn, until 1898 a separate city, and the borough in which I was born.) The "Emmas", as we sometimes called them, used to have outings at what is now Liberty Island, and picnic at the base of the Statue, holding commemorative ceremonies. My mother loved the Emmas, and she kept their books and was their national Secretary until the end of the group.

I once read "The New Colossus" in a speech class in high school. Of course, I didn't bring to it the understanding I have today, but it was a good

introduction to the students, and to me in public speaking. The teacher, a homegrown native-born fascist by the name of Adelaide Canning, disapproved of it, and manifested that disapproval by her manner, but held her tongue. Another time, I was describing the book, *The American*, by Howard Fast, which was a novelized biography of John Peter Altgeld, a governor of Illinois. She stopped me in the middle and told me to sit down, and raved about books which have the stench of the stable and everything filthy in them. The class, for once, was shocked. Miss Canning realized her mistake the next class, and apologized(?), saying that Moser had stood up like a good American and used his freedom of speech, and that she had interrupted me (not to mention that I was completing an assignment). But she distinctly lost that one.

My father died in 1993 at 82, of accumulated heart problems, and my mother died two years ago, basically of being ninety. She had suffered a stroke around 1992, which had seriously limited her mobility.

The Jewish Branches

Like most of the Jews residing in the United States, and in Roosevelt, I am descended from Ashkenazi Jews. "Ashkenazi" (the adjective, Ashkenazim; the plural noun) comes from the Hebrew word for "Germany", and signifies that before the 17th Century, European Jews lived primarily in Germany, France (the Ashkenazim), and Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands. These last were called Sephardic (from the Hebrew Sepharad, Spain). There are also North African and other "oriental" Jews, relatively few of whom migrated

to this country, and are thus not being considered.

There are distinct differences in religious ritual, customs, languages, and the dialects of Hebrew which they spoke (and often still speak). Sephardic Jews developed a language called Ladino, which is basically early modern Spanish, with some Hebrew words. Ashkenazic Jews developed Yiddish out of 14th and 15th Century Old High German (*Hochdeutsch*), which was an ancestor tongue both to Yiddish and to modern standard German. It is written in Hebrew letters, and contains Hebrew, Russian, and, since it migrated to North America, English words and expressions.

Primarily in the 17th Century, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Russian landlords and rulers invited German Jews to make their way into Eastern Europe to form a middle class. At the time, with few exceptions, most inhabitants of Eastern Europe were peasants or aristocrats, along with some hangers-on, various retainers and soldiers. A Jewish middle class would serve two important needs: It would create a business class, and it would provide an identifiable group of outsiders against whom endemic anger and resistance to the oppression by those very same landlords and rulers could be directed. The Jews of most European countries were not given citizen status until the 19th and 20th Centuries. (Revolutionary France led the way in the late 18th Century, while England, the mythical home of equality and democracy, waited until the mid-nineteenth century.)

Within the Russian empire,

Continued on Page 16

REVIEWS

Continued from Page 6

for Science in the Public Interest.

The event, organized by the Roosevelt Democratic Committee and chaired by Pat Moser, included fundraising for the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

REVIEWS

Tying the Past to the Present: The Third Annual Jacob Landau Studio Event

by Scott D. Carpenter

Fall, that glorious peacock of a season, is a perfect time for taking stock, reflecting on where we've been and looking down the road to what is coming next. History's glow reconnects us, keeping our memories alive while tomorrow's promises, keeping us moving forward, are as much a part of autumn as apple cider, brilliant changes on the trees or trick-or-treating under a homemade costume. After all, it is no coincidence that Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings and of gates and doors, was worshipped during harvest at this time of year.

During the weekend of October 9th and 10th, the doors were opened at 30 Lake Drive to a uniquely Roosevelt celebration of past and present – the Third Annual Jacob Landau Studio Event. As the second installment of the Roosevelt Arts Project's 2004-2005 season, the event showcased works for sale, in various media, by Roosevelt artists past and present. Wood cuts, oil paintings, photography and sculpture shared space and got cozy while visitors mingled and wandered through the dome studio. On Saturday evening, after the opening reception, we were treated to a concert given David Brahinsky and friends. The exhibition continued on Sunday with a talk given by David Herrstrom on the works of Jacob Landau.

Upon first entering the studio, visitors

were greeted with a visual rush from some of the grand titans of Roosevelt's artistic scene. As my father, Dave, a first time visitor to the studio, remarked, "All of the works seemed to explode off the walls with action and movement!" First and foremost were dozens of original Jacob Landau's pieces, many of which have rarely been in the public eye. Chief among these was the woodcut for a piece commissioned by the TV Guide and several drawings Jacob had completed as illustrations for Benjamin Apel's book, *Man and Magic*.

Continuing along the studio walls, Sol Libsohn and Bernarda Bryson Shahn also took their rightful place in the hall of fame wing of the exhibit with Bernarda's elegant etchings capturing your eyes immediately and then Sol's evocative photographs, riveting and inescapable, leaving you hard pressed to close those eyes and shake free of his images.

The visual buffet continued throughout the rear half of the dome, where the present group of Roosevelt artists, many of whom well on their way to hall of fame status, had their works up for display. The large back wall was a colorful host of mixed media expression.

Peter Vince mined two divergent themes, portraits of tropical plants and studies of the human form with his collection of acrylic paintings. Personal favorites include two studies of human figures, a distorted grouping in his Bosch Study, and a rather bawdy collection in his Rubens Study. Alongside Peter's work were a gaggle of photographs by Tristen Herrström and a stand of Leon Sitarchuk's oil paintings. Tristen's compositions of simple, everyday objects were rich in texture. Her piece *Distressed Boat* captured the exasperated, tired façade of an old fishing boat docked out in the water, leaving us with the texture of salty, peeled paint

in our mouths. Leon's vibrant oils provided him with ample opportunity to expand his character studies, but it was his rendering of a quiet village scene that seemed most intriguing with its rich, yet subtle colors.

Flanking these works were the truly mixed media of Robert Mueller and the participatory clay and precious metal sculptures by Gabrielle Balon. Robert's works took from a wide range of techniques and implements: oils and acrylics, watercolors and pen and ink lines were all at play. Taken together all of his pieces formed a sort of visual meandering through shapes and thoughts. Minimalist and intellectual, the Schema series was most appealing, representing an evolution for Robert that originated in the 1950's during his college years. Gabrielle's *Earthshaker* set was quite wonderful. She created clay, metal and stone rattles (think a child's toy only with more texture and depth) that were indeed pieces to a chess set. Each piece giving the set a complete package of touch, sight and sound as the game is played; marvelous.

Continuing the panorama were the beaded sculptures created by Amanda Slamm. Amanda's works involve beads of varying degrees of opacity and surface texture and weaving to create different patterns. The turquoise and purples and blues reacted differently to the light depending on where you stand in relation to the piece. She is able to weave them in such a way as to create a sense of flow and of draping, as if the piece you are seeing isn't made of glass beads but rather fine silk hung over the back of a chair.

Jim Hayden showed us two sides of his artistic self, both through his acrylic paintings and his objet d'art, the *Jim Chair*, a white wire mesh chair with

Continued on Page 15

REVIEWS

Continued from Page 14

a colorful array of tie backs. Of even greater impact was Jim's Tribute & Inspiration acrylic painting wherein he used a drawing of Jacob's as a jumping off point for his own fresh, updated take on the subject.

Displayed together as well as mingled here and there with the other artists' works were the sculptured forms created by Naomi Brahinsky. The subtle, wizened effect she achieves on the surfaces of her pottery makes us feel as though we are looking at artifacts as ancient as the earth itself. Most delightful were her globe forms, which seemed to add a dimension of gravity to themselves.

Saturday evening continued after the opening reception with a short concert given by David Brahinsky, accompanied by Sarah Houtz and Joe Pepitone. The trio played before a throng of listeners, wedged in every nook of the studio space. From the ceiling of the dome hung several mobiles, crafted from copper and silver pieces by Myron Wasserman, a Philadelphia artist of outdoor sculpture and a former student of Jacob's. The effect of the band playing underneath these floating constellations, flanked on all sides by this stunning visual backdrop, capped off the evening perfectly, as David and Sarah led us through their varied set of tunes, sassy and lively as well as subdued, almost lingering, while Joe's precise, well placed bass notes kept everything in line. We could not have asked for a better sendoff into the night.

By this point the weekend was only halfway to home. The exhibition continued on Sunday afternoon, during which time David Herrstrom discussed Jacob Landau and his art and some of what he considers to be essential tools for understanding Jacob's works.

David used several pieces of Jacob's from the exhibit to illustrate the sto-

rytelling aspect of his works, and to force us to look into the often startling imagery he would employ as he used the human form as a vehicle to the imagination and as a witness to the pain and injustice that many suffer. David's insightful command of the works and enthusiasm for the vision helped connect the audience to Jacob and hopefully inspired a deeper understanding of one of Roosevelt's gifted artists.

After David's discussion, the weekend wrapped up with a dinner honoring Jacob at the Basil's Legends Grille over at the East Windsor Days Inn on Rt. 33. Jacob had been a frequent patron of Basil's and it was quite fitting that the dinner tribute be held at his favorite local restaurant.

These two days provided us with the time together, among friends and neighbors, to listen to great music, remember some of our artists of yesterday, see what those of today are accomplishing right now and hopefully catch a glimpse of what is yet to come: truly a brilliant way in which to spend an October weekend in Roosevelt.

Roosevelt Town Historian Speaks

by Gladys Nadler

He is our town historian, a storyteller, educator, collector of artifacts, author, and lots more. On September 18, Arthur Shapiro told a Roosevelt Borough Hall packed with former and current local residents, about the history of this town that was built in 1936 as Jersey Homesteads. Sponsored by the Roosevelt Arts Project, the program was illustrated by slides.

Some of us who have lived here for many years delight in hearing the same stories over and over again. Mr. Shapiro pulled them all together for us in his own charming way. The slides and comments by old-timers,

like former resident Fran Bard and Judy Weinberg (née Libove), further enriched the experience.

Mr. Shapiro related how this town was completed and officially established as Jersey Homestead in 1937, and was designated as a historic district in 1991. After the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945, the town was renamed in honor of the president whose administration had hired the WPA workers who built it.

Benjamin Brown, who lived from 1885-1939, was known as the town's founding father. He is credited with having advocated and organized his idea for a garment workers' cooperative community. The original design for the Bauhaus style architecture was by Alfred Kastner, who asked Ben Shahn to come to paint the mural in the school. Architect Louis Kahn designed Roosevelt Public School, which was one of the first schools he built, Mr. Shapiro said.

Jersey Homesteads was built as a triple cooperative symbolized by a tripod placed in front of the factory owned jointly by the garment workers who operated it. Leo Libove, Judy's father, ran the farm. The third part of the triple co-op was the commissariat, which included a tearoom.

Ninety percent of the original settlers were Jews from Eastern Europe, Mr. Shapiro said. At one time after the town was formed, there were thirty-two organizations here. At the end of the co-op days, the government sold Jersey Homesteads to the town for one dollar. In 1962, Eleanor Roosevelt came and spoke at the dedication of the Roosevelt Memorial.

Mr. Shapiro also mentioned others who advocated for the building of Jersey Homesteads, including Mrs.

Continued on Page 20

WATER WORKS!

Continued from Page 8

should be noted that there has been no increase in the rate since before Mayor Hamilton's administration. Nonetheless, an increase in Water/Sewer rates seems inevitable in the near future. In addition, those who use excessive amounts of water will incur additional fees. Please accept my assurance that every possible way to avoid this increase has been examined; the costs of repairing our aging infrastructure were simply too much to be supported by the present rate. At the time of this writing, a \$10 per month base rate increase seems likely.

Finally, please be clear about this: the increase in base rate is a result of our repair and replacement costs, which were unavoidable. The separate change in rates based on consumption was mandated by the State and was also unavoidable. The new meters are extremely accurate and will reflect the water used by each household precisely. When consumption-based billing begins, your bills will reflect this fairly and accurately. We are taking every possible step to insure that the net effect of these changes will be minimal on low volume users such as our senior residents. More details will surely follow in this column and by direct mail.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the Borough Hall (press the Utilities option), or come to a Council meeting – first, second, or third Mondays each month.

Thank you. ■

TWO SQUARE MILES OF STORIES

Continued from Page 13

including eastern Poland, Ukraine, Byelorussia and Lithuania, there was established a "Pale of Settlement" within which Jews could live freely. Outside of it, they had to have special permission.

The first Jews in America were mainly Spanish and Portuguese Sephardim. They migrated to Brazil, but in 1653, when the Inquisition was allowed into Brazil by the Portuguese government, the Jews fled to Dutch-owned Nieuw Amsterdam. There, Jews could exercise freedom to practice their religion (without citizenship). Names like Seixas, Mendosa, Spinoza, and Touro were common "Jewish" names. The first synagogue in North America that is still in use was founded in Newport, RI, about 250 years ago.

Later, towards the end of the 18th Century, migration of German Jews started, and built up through the 19th Century, until it waned and was overwhelmed by Eastern European Jews from Russia, Poland, the Ukraine, Lithuania, Romania, and what was

then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. These Jews were mostly Ashkenazim, and are in large part the ancestors of most of the Jews currently in the U.S. ■

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

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are needed to keep our publication going. Contributions are tax deductible.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the BULLETIN.

We will be pleased to continue sending them the BULLETIN when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 17

let the town know what a wonderful time my children had this past summer at the "New & Improved" RCERC Summer Camp. For anyone who shied away from sending your child(ren) due to their past camp experience, I want you to know, they missed out on a lot of fun. My two girls, Jessie, 8 and Lacey, 5 had the greatest time this summer. The camp was wonderful and provided plenty of fun things for them to do everyday. Tuesdays and Thursdays, weather permitting, they were able to swim at the Pine Valley Swim Club and every Friday they went on a field trip. The field trips were the best part of the week according to my kids; they went to a different place each week and had more fun as the weeks went on. While back at the school, their days were filled with lots of activities, which included gym, computers and art. My girls especially loved every Wednesday when Linda Schuster came to make special pop up cards, which I have all over my house. They also, in RPS tradition hosted Pizza days from Rossi's, as well as each week offered a different special lunch, such as Taco Bell, Wendy's, KFC and more. These were custom ordered for each child at an addition minimal charge.

On that note, I want to formally thank Mr. Jeff Santinello, Mrs. Barbara Atwood, Mrs. Linda Schuster, Tina Vasseur, Brandon Tyers, Emily Silverstein, Devin Kostar, Sam Husth, Jonah Atwood, Travis Gobel and Casey Wolfe for making this past summer so incredibly special for my children. I would also like to include in my thanks, Eric Schubiger without whom this new camp would not have been offered.

Thank you again, Jessie & Lacey

cannot wait to see what next summer has in store.

Sincerely, Geryl Hickey

Dear Editor:

One in three women will become a victim of violence during her lifetime, based strictly on her gender. This violence against women is a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels. One of the most important ways to combat this violence is to raise awareness regarding the issues and help to empower women and provide them gender equality.

During the upcoming weeks, organizations throughout the world will be focused on a campaign called "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence". This campaign originated with the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Global Leadership in 1991. The campaign encompasses important dates starting with November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and ends with December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights.

November 25 is the anniversary of the death of the Mirabal sisters in the Dominican Republic, under the dictator Rafael Trujillo. The sisters, politically active with their husbands against the Trujillo regime were bludgeoned en route to visiting their jailed spouses. The brutality of the killing was one of the events that brought down this despot.

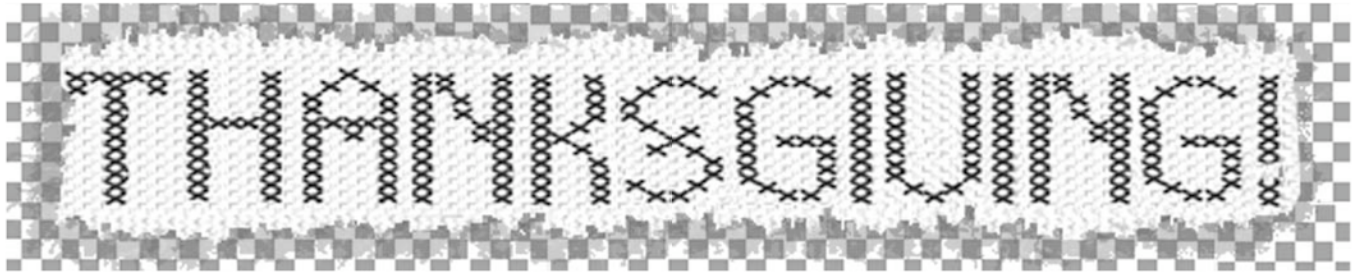
December 1 is International AIDS Day. Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, according to the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University,

one sponsor of this campaign. This year the AIDS crisis throughout the world, but especially in Africa, has brought this additional focus to the campaign. The days continue with December 6, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. On that date, a man named Marc Lepine opened fire at the University of Montreal School of Engineering, killing 14 women and wounding 13 others, including 4 men. The letter left behind by the deranged gunman blamed women for his rejection from the Ecole, which he wanted to attend. The 16 days end with December 10th, International Human Rights Day.

We can each, in our own way, be activists. The theme for this year's campaign is "For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: No More Violence". This campaign, with its over 1700 organization participation worldwide allows us to demonstrate the solidarity of peoples around the world organizing against violence against women.

Respectfully,
Elly J. Shapiro ■





I like to grow my own herbs. When I roast a turkey or a chicken I like to baste it in herb butter. I melt 2 Tbs of butter and then add 1 tsp each of sage, thyme and rosemary. In addition to this basting mixture I sprinkle the cavity of the bird with onion powder, garlic pepper and salt.

The garlic pepper and onion powder can also be sprinkled on the outside of the bird. I also sprinkle paprika on the outside of the bird.

My family enjoys sausage stuffing. To make the sausage stuffing use 1 lb of sweet Italian sausage. Slice the casing discard the casing and crumble the sausage into a coated frying pan. Sauté for about 3 minutes, remove sausage with a slotted spoon and add to your favorite stuffing mix. Stove top stuffing can be substituted. Stuffing can be stuffed into the bird or baked in a casserole.

The following recipes may help you through the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Pumpkin Bread

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 8 T. butter, softened | 1/2 c. water | 1 tsp. cloves |
| 2 1/2 c. white sugar | 2 c. pumpkin, cooked | 1 tsp. salt |
| 4 eggs | 2 tsp. baking soda | 3 c. flour |
| 1/2 c. raisins | 1/2 tsp. baking powder | |
| 1/2 c. nuts, chopped | 1 tsp. cinnamon | |

Blend butter and sugar. Add eggs, raisins, nuts, water and pumpkin, blend well. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into 2 large greased bread pans. Bake at 350° for 50 - 60 minutes. Use toothpick to check if finished. Delicious topped with cool whip or cream cheese frosting.

Best Ever Carrots

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 4 c. carrots, sliced & cooked | 1/2 c. celery | 1 c. cheese, shredded |
| 1/4 c. butter | 1/4 c. flour | 1 c. cracker crumbs |
| 1/2 c. onion | 2 c. milk | |
| | 1 tsp. mustard | |

Sauté the onion and celery in the butter. Add the flour, milk and mustard. In a casserole dish alternate the carrots and the thickened sauce. Top with the cheese and crumb mixture. Bake at 350° for 1/2 hour. Serves 6 or 8,

Turkey Bake

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 8 slices white bread 1" cubes | 2 c. Swiss cheese | 2 c. milk |
| 2 c. turkey cooked and diced | 1/4 c. onion | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1 Tsp. butter | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| | 3 eggs, lightly beaten | |

Arrange half the bread cubes in the bottom of a well-buttered 9" square baking dish. Spread turkey over the bread and cover with shredded cheese. In a small skillet, sauté the onion in butter, spread over cheese and top with remaining bread cubes. Mix eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour over layers. Bake at 325° for 40 minutes or until crusty and brown.

Pumpkin Frost

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 14 oz. ginger snaps, rolled till finely crushed | 4 c. vanilla ice cream, softened |
| 1/2 stick butter, melted | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1 c. canned pumpkin | 1/4 tsp. cinnamon |
| 1/2 c. sugar | 1/8 tsp. nutmeg |
| | 1/2 c. chopped nuts |

Add the crumbs to the butter. Press into the bottom of a well greased 9" x 13" pan, reserving 1/4 cup for topping. Combine remaining ingredients, mix thoroughly. Pour over crumbs. Sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Freeze until firm. Cut into squares and serve. ■

Saturday, January 20, 2001 was a dark rainy and chilly day in Washington, D.C. It was inauguration day for the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush. In May, a few months after his inauguration, Bush reflected on his ascendance to the presidency stating, "There's no question that the minute I got elected, the storm clouds on the horizon were getting nearly overhead." Fact and fancy merged easily into Bush's repertoire early in his first term. While his allusion to hard times has played out, it is clear that he is deluded with a notion that he was elected.

It could have been the pralines and cream flavored ice-cream (Bush's favorite ice-cream flavor) that the President may have been eating later in May that got him to thinking about how the weather would help his friends in the pursuit of money. In a speech in Conestoga, Pennsylvania Bush spoke about how cold weather would help protect the tundra from destruction. He said, "The explorationists are willing to only move equipment during the winter, which means they'll be on ice roads, and remove the equipment as the ice begins to melt, so that the fragile tundra is protected."

The president showed himself to be a flip-flopper on the weather when he said in February 2001, "In terms of the CO² (carbon dioxide a cause

of the greenhouse effect) issue... We will not do anything that harms our economy, because, first things first, are the people who live in America." But if the people of America are a first thing in the president's priorities why did he say, referring to the Kyoto Accord in April 2001, "First, we would not accept a treaty that would not have been ratified, nor a treaty that I thought made sense for the country"? If it doesn't make sense, he's for it!? Perhaps that explains a statement he made in Trenton on September 24, 2002. "We need an energy bill that encourages consumption." Although, that could make sense if you were trying to help the oil companies or thought putting more CO² and pollutants in the air makes sense.

Here's one last weather-related quip from the president from a July 2000 interview with Ted Koppel. Koppel: "So (Dick Cheney) is your lightning rod?" Bush: "More than that, he's my sounding rod."

A happy Thanksgiving to all and -as Bush suggests- for dessert "We ought to make the pie higher."

Weather Word

Winward is the direction from which the wind is blowing. Also, the upwind side of an object. The opposite of the downwind or leeward side. ■

September 15 - October 15, 2004

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	76.5	59.0	67.8	0.00
16	78.4	65.7	72.1	0.35
17	80.8	63.3	72.1	0.00
18	76.3	59.5	67.9	0.19
19	65.1	49.6	57.4	0.10
20	68.2	43.9	56.1	0.00
21	75.4	49.3	62.4	0.00
22	79.2	50.2	64.7	0.00
23	80.8	57.0	68.9	0.00
24	75.6	56.3	66.0	0.00
25	76.1	51.8	64.0	0.00
26	78.0	59.4	68.7	0.00
27	77.4	54.9	66.2	0.00
28	78.4	64.4	71.4	0.15
29	68.7	59.9	64.3	4.90
30	65.8	52.2	59.0	0.05
1	70.0	48.9	59.5	0.10
2	69.1	54.5	61.8	0.00
3	65.8	53.2	59.5	0.00
4	70.9	46.2	58.6	0.00
5	60.6	43.5	52.1	0.00
6	61.5	36.3	48.9	0.00
7	70.2	14.0	42.1	0.00
8	73.0	47.8	60.4	0.00
9	72.3	53.8	63.1	0.00
10	69.3	54.1	61.7	0.00
11	62.4	44.1	53.3	0.00
12	62.6	38.8	50.7	0.00
13	65.5	37.2	51.4	0.00
14	64.0	45.9	55.0	0.00
15	68.7	52.3	60.5	0.26
Total Precipitation	5.46"			

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued from Page 3

Mr. Ticktin said it would be unusual for the Board to recommend, as it did in September, that the Council select either the RCA option or the auxiliary apartment option and then decline to plan for the RCA option after the Council selected it. He said this could cause confusion and consternation among Council members. Beth Battel, the Council's representative on the Planning Board, voted with Mr. Ticktin in favor of having Planning Consultant Thomas draft a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan that would provide for accessory apartments. However, the proposed resolution was defeated when Chairman Seligman, Mayor Marko, Ms. Rothfuss, Mr. Moser and Mary Ann Rossi voted against it. Ms. Battel and Mr. Ticktin then joined the five others in unanimously authorizing Mr. Thomas to draft a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan that would provide for an RCA option.

During the public portion of the meeting, Richard Annunziata, the owner of to the 151-acre, agriculturally preserved farm south of Nurko Road, said he needed a letter confirming that he would be permitted to construct his personal residence on a one-acre portion of the tract. The Board referred Mr. Annunziata to the new Zoning Officer, Patrick Hynes, to obtain a letter that would satisfy the Building Inspector that the proposed house would not violate any setback requirements or other zoning restrictions. The Board also referred Mr. Annunziata to the Fund for Roosevelt and the County Agricultural Board, which are aware of deed restrictions designating where a residence for the farm may be located. Mr. Annunziata, who intends to apply for permission to develop equestrian facilities on the farm, said he now believes it would be "a bad idea" to

locate quarters for grooms on the property. He has not yet submitted a formal application to the Board. His engineer, Donald DiMarzio, did send the Board a copy of a Notice of Application for a Letter of Interpretation of wetlands and other environmental factors that was sent on behalf of Mr. Annunziata to the State Department of Environmental Protection.

Councilwoman Battel reported that the Council requested that the Board prepare recommendations for parking restrictions on Borough roads and municipal property. The Board referred the request to its Parking Committee. Ms. Rothfuss chairs the Committee. Other members are Mr. Seligman, Mr. Moser, David Ticktin and Timothy Hartley.

Michael Ticktin reported that he had talked to Millstone Township Mayor Nancy Grbelja about an inter-local agreement that would place 15 acres of land now in Roosevelt within the jurisdiction of Millstone. The tract, which fronts on the south side of Witches Hollow Road, could be purchased by Millstone as a park. This would be consistent with the Monmouth County Parks System's plans to make the road into a bicycle path, according to Mayor Marko. The path could form part of a proposed bikeway planned to run from Trenton to Point Pleasant. Mr. Ticktin said Mayor Grbelja "is favorably disposed to the idea." He said the six siblings who own the property would have to take the initiative to petition both towns to enter into the inter-local agreement. Witches Hollow connects to Oscar Drive in Roosevelt a few hundred feet east of North Valley Road. The northern side of Witches Hollow Road is in Millstone Township. ■

REVIEWS

Continued from Page 15

Roosevelt and Albert Einstein. He spoke of the artists who came later, including Gregorio Prestopino, David Stone Martin, then his son Stefan; also Jacob Landau, Sol Libsohn, Louise and Ed Roskam. As our town historian commented, Roosevelt has always attracted (and produced) interesting people.

Yes, the September RAP meeting was feel-good event, thanks to Arthur Shapiro. ■

**Are you taking
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ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2004-2005 SEASON

Saturday, November 6, 2004

8 p.m. at the Borough Hall

“COOL WOMEN READ THEIR POETRY”

Cool women are not only cool but wise, beginning years ago, meeting to look at each other's work and powerfully create it as art. We never thought we would become bards, yet our experience leads us to become speakers of our lives and the lives of others. We are Eloise Bruce, Carolyn Foote Edelman, Joyce Greenberg Lott, Lois Marie Harrod, Betty Bonham Lies, Judith Michaels and Penelope Scambly Schott. Come share our words, our stories, and our experiences.



Saturday, December 11, 2004

8 p.m. at the Borough Hall

ALAN MALLACH PERFORMS PIANO MUSIC OF THE 1910'S

The 1910's were a time of musical upheaval, with romanticism, modernism and nationalism challenging one another against a backdrop of war and revolution. Alan Mallach, pianist, will perform works by composers such as Bartok, Prokofiev, Debussy, Satie, Mompou and Rachmaninov, adding his own enlightening commentary on the composers and their times.



Saturday, January 8, 2005

8 p.m. at the Borough Hall (In the event of snow, this program will take place on January 15)

RON ORLANDO AND FRIENDS

Ron Orlando and his friends will perform American roots music including cuts from his new CD, "Jasper, Texas."

Saturday, February 12, 2005

8 p.m. at the Borough Hall

ROOSEVELT POETS CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER.

Sunday, March 6, 2005

2 p.m. concert is a joint presentation of RAP and CAPPs at the Swig Art Center, Peddie School

THE NEW JERSEY SAXOPHONE QUARTET PLAYS MUSIC OF MARK ZUCKERMAN

Saturday, April 2, 2005

SOUNDSCAPES AND LANDSCAPES, WITH BRAD GARTON AND KATE JOHN-ALDER

Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, 2005

8 p.m. at the Borough Hall

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NOTE CHANGE OF DATES

May 2005 (Date TBD)

A SCREENING OF THE FILM MY ARCHITECT ABOUT LOUIS KAHN

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All events are at Roosevelt Borough Hall in the Municipal Building on Route 571 except where otherwise noted.

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 per adult except for Mark Zuckerman tickets at Peddie School in advance call 490-7550 or at the

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NOVEMBER

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

Every Wednesday 7 - 8:30 p.m., Library open at RPS.

Saturdays 7:30 p.m., Movies at RPS, Call Rec Commission 448-0539 or Check Bulletin Board

November

1	Mon	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check Borough Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 609-448-0351
		7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Borough Hall Mike Hamilton, President 609-443-5227
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall Neil Marko, Mayor 609-443-6818
2	Tues		Election Day Voting at Borough Hall 6 am - 8 pm
3	Wed		RECYCLE
4	Thurs		RPS Closed NJEA Convention
5	Fri		RPS Closed NJEA Convention
6	Sat	8 pm	RAP Program "Cool Women Read Their Poetry" (see RAP Page)
8	Mon	7:30 pm	Council Action Meeting Borough Hall Mike Hamilton, President 609-443-5227
		School Hours	PTA Book Fair RPS Larisa Bondy, PTA President 609-443-7430
9	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Borough Hall Ralph Seligman, Chairman 609-448-2340
		School Hours	PTA Book Fair RPS Larisa Bondy, PTA President 609-443-7430
11	Thurs		Veteran's Day
12	Fri		RPS Pizza Day
15	Mon	7:30 pm	Council Committee Meeting Borough Hall Mike Hamilton, President 609-443-5227
		7:30 pm	PTA Meeting RPS Larisa Bondy, PTA President 609-443-7430

17	Wed		RECYCLE
18	Thurs	7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting RPS Jill Lipoti, President 448-9214
		7:30 pm	Synagogue Board Meeting Neil Marko 609-443-6818
		7:30 pm	Environmental Commission Meeting Borough Hall David Schwendeman, Chairman 609-443-6204
24	Wed		RPS Thanksgiving School Performance Early Dismissal
25	Thurs		Thanksgiving RPS Closed
26	Fri		RPS Closed

December

1	Wed		PTA Holiday Gift Fair RPS
2	Fri		PTA Holiday Gift Fair RPS
3	Fri		RPS Pizza Day
6	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Borough Hall Mike Hamilton, President 609-443-5227
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall Neil Marko, Mayor 609-443-6818
7	Tues	12:30 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check Borough Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 609-448-0351
			Hannukah begins at sundown
8	Wed		Hannukah
11	Sat	8 pm	RAP Program Allan Mallach Borough Hall (see RAP Page)

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