

Bulletin

Volume 35 Number 3

December 2011

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

By Michael Ticktin

Borough to Refinance Sewer Utility Bond; Annual Savings of Approximately \$35,000 Projected; Local Democrats Win Unopposed.

At a special meeting held on November 7, the Borough Council voted to submit an application to the Local Finance Board of the Department of Community Affairs seeking approval of the issuance of \$2,250,000 in general improvement refunding bonds, to be issued through the Monmouth County Improvement Authority (MCIA) for the purpose of paying off a higher interest loan obtained in 1992 from the Farmers Home Administration (now the Rural Development Administration) of the United States Department of Agriculture to pay the cost of improvements to the sewage disposal system.

According to Councilman Jeff Ellentuck, chairman of the Utilities Committee, annual savings from this refinance will be about \$35,000, which will defray increases that would otherwise have been necessary to pay the cost of the work that has been done this year to rehabilitate the water tower. In the past, according to Councilman Ellentuck, who has been working on this project for several years, the MCIA was unable to include debt for Roosevelt in its bond issues because each municipality participating in the bond issue had to have a satisfactory rating from a rating service, and Roosevelt was too small to have such a

rating. Now, however, in the aftermath of the inadequacy of the rating services that contributed to the near implosion of the national and world financial systems over the last few years, municipalities are no longer required to provide ratings, and the MCIA's bonds are guaranteed by Monmouth County instead. Thus, the financial crisis has had at least one "silver lining," at least as far as Roosevelt is concerned.

At its regular meeting of November 14, the Council approved the ordinance, which had been introduced in October, to implement the issuance of refunding bonds in an amount not exceeding \$2,250,000. Once the Local Finance Board has given its approval, the MCIA will be able to proceed with the issuance of the bonds.

Also at the November 14 meeting, Mayor Beth Battel expressed her sorrow, and that of the community, at the passing of Ralph Seligman, long time chairman of the Planning Board and strong advocate for the preservation of Roosevelt as a model planned community exemplifying the ideals and principles of the New Deal. A memorial program honoring Mr. Seligman will be held at the Borough Hall on December 3, from 2 to 5 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 35th edition of the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*.

As usual, there were nine issues starting with October 2011 through July, 2012, leaving out January 2012.

We will do our best to make the *Bulletin* both informative and interesting with the help of our devoted writers and production people.

If you want to contact the *Bulletin*, please look at our masthead to the right with our address and telephone number as shown.



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

The Meals on Wheels program delivers prepared meals to Roosevelt seniors who need this assistance. Though meals are provided free of charge to recipients, the cost to the program is \$2.50 per meal. Donations to help cover these costs may be sent to Interfaith Neighbors, 810 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. The bus will pick you up at your home, you spend 1 ½ hours shopping, and the bus will take you home and leave your groceries at your door. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the SCAT bus Tuesday no later than 3:00 p.m. at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and your interest in going on Wednesday, the next day.

An archive of all past issues of the *Bulletin* can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at www.web2sons.org, the unofficial Roosevelt website that is maintained by Bob Francis.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

**Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs.
Are you a thoughtful neighbor?**

**A memorial program honoring Ralph Seligman
will be held at the Borough Hall on December 3,
from 2 to 5 p.m.**

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

**There will be no *Bulletin* in January.
Look for us in February!**

From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for the support you so kindly gave us during the recent elections; your endorsement means a lot to me. We will continue to try to provide Roosevelt with the best possible service for the community as we hold down taxes and water bill expenses.

One important way we are able to do this is from the abundant involvement of volunteers. At this gift-giving time of year, think of the gifts you could give yourself, your family and your borough by becoming involved in the Government, the Emergency Services, the School Board, the Arts Projects, the *Bulletin* and the many commissions and committees that are staffed by generous citizens

interested in bettering their community and their neighborhoods. In addition to giving yourself a better environment, you will have the opportunity to make new friends and to enjoy the satisfaction of being a helpful productive contributor to your own town. If you are willing to give it a try, please come to any Council meeting or a meeting of the various organizations you may wish to join. Roosevelt was created on the principles of a co-operative; please make it your New Years resolution to join us!

Happy Holidays to all!

Beth ■

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 1

Councilman Ralph Warnick reported that he was expecting to receive shortly a letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning the status of the former gas station property. He said that it was his understanding that, though the property had been sufficiently remediated to meet standards in effect at the time, DEP might impose further requirements based on more recent groundwater quality standards. Only after the letter was received and, if necessary, reviewed with environmental professionals would it

be possible for the Borough to make any decisions as to the disposition of the property.

At the recent election, Mayor Beth Battel was re-elected with 145 votes and Councilman Jeff Ellentuck was re-elected with 120 votes. Former mayor and councilman Michael Hamilton was elected to the Council seat vacated by Councilman Dan Hoffman with 130 votes. There were no other candidates on the ballot and no evidence of any organized write-in campaign. ■

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.

From the Office of CSA/Principal



Dear Roosevelt Families,

It is with great joy that I wish you seasons greeting from the Roosevelt Public School. I sincerely hope that all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We enjoyed our own little "Feast" in the gym the day before Thanksgiving.

I also would like to give a huge "Thank you" to all of our Veterans and those serving in the armed forces as we observed Veteran's Day in November.

As the year is progressing nicely we are consistently seeking innovative and creative strategies to meet the needs of all our students. We do this by meeting as a faculty to discuss Best Practices, new techniques and ideas as well as bringing in expert consultants for professional development within the classroom.

Please remember to mark your calendar regarding our December schedule:

December 23 – Early Dismissal
December 26 – 30, 2011 –
School Closed (Winter Recess)
January 14, 2012 – School Resumes

Please have a happy and safe winter break and I will see everyone in 2012!

Respectfully,
Dr. Joseph S. Campisi
CSA, Roosevelt Public School ■

"WRAP FOR ROOSEVELT"

Tuesday, December 20th, 3:00-3:45 PM, RPS Lobby

Fingers tired of wrapping for the holidays?

Come young, old or in between, the RPS Student Council is wrapping your holiday gifts for free!

The PTA provides the paper and the Student Council provides the "studentpower" to wrap your holiday gifts.

Shop at the PTA holiday gift fair first if you like, and then step over for the free gift wrap!

Or, just bring your already purchased gifts over and we will be happy to wrap!



MISSION

To educate and inspire all students to excel academically, to become independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators and lifelong learners. Roosevelt Public School nurtures and challenges the unique potential of each student so that our children will develop individual, social and civic responsibility as well as respect for themselves, each other, and the environment.*

**to achieve or exceed N.J. CCCS at all grade levels*

“The quality of our relationship is directly related to the quality of our communication.”

Key Communicator Network

In an effort to keep community members accurately informed about our school and to provide additional opportunities for citizens to express their ideas and concerns, the Roosevelt Board of Education formally approved the establishment of a Key Communicators’ Network at our October board meeting.

The ultimate purpose of the network is to eliminate rumors and pass on accurate information, in order to create a supportive environment for our school. Our plan is to share information on critical issues with the various community members in the Network. The network members will relay the information to the people with whom they come into contact on a regular basis. In turn, the members of the network are encouraged to provide feedback and share important information from the community with the

school, which would allow the administration and the Board to be more responsive and proactive. Our hope is that relevant, helpful and accurate information will flow.

After receiving feedback over the past three years from teachers, parents and community members about improving our communication skills, we have launched this program in the hope that an informed community will benefit our school’s educational program. If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact the school or one of our key communicators:

Danielle VanSalisbury
 Fran Hezrony
 Mike Hamilton
 Helen Barth
 Stacey & Brian Katz
 Daniel Hoffman (Mayor’s council appointee)
 Howie Kaufman
 Jessica Kellogg

Ad-Hoc Committee Update

On Monday, November 7, 2011, school and community members attended a meeting where they formed an ad-hoc committee, whose purpose is investigating whether our sixth Grade students should remain at the school or attend Kreps. Representative individuals interested in serving on this committee were chosen and notified of the dates for committee meetings. The ad-hoc committee will research and deliberate all pertinent information on the subject, and then offer a recommendation to the board by the end of January. Information and opinions from the public are welcome, and can be sent to

adhoc@rp1.org or shared with any of the following committee members:

Meredith Murray - Pre-K to 4
 Diane Lowrie - 5th & 6th
 Rocio Mena - Kreps parent
 Allison Mitchell - (Hightstown High School)
 Dr. Joseph Campisi - RPS Admin.
 Jeff Santanello - RPS Faculty
 Howie Kaufman - RPS Faculty
 Lori Stein - Kreps Admin.
 Beth Somer - Kreps Faculty
 Seth Ditchik – Chairperson and BOE
 Natalie Warner - BOE
 Allen Newrath - BOE
 Ed Goetzmann - BOE
 Nona Sherak - Townsperson

Vacancy

On Thursday, November 10, 2011, Eric Vuolle submitted his resignation to the Roosevelt Public School Board of Education. While he intended to fulfill his term, he explained to the Board that personal strains prevented him from continuing to serve as a member of the Board. At the Board meeting scheduled for November 17, 2011, the RPS Board will most likely accept Mr. Vuolle’s resignation, and according to policy, his resignation shall become effective. Links to our policies can be found on the RPS website (www.rps1.org) under Board of Education-Policies. The Board is seeking a resident who is interested in filling this vacancy. The term for this position ends April 2012, a term of five months. Interested residents need to contact Dr. Campisi (jcampisi@rps1.org) or Natalie Warner (rpsboe@gmail.com). ■

Each month the Roosevelt Board of Education is going to submit an article to keep the public apprised of Board goals, decisions, and activities

Ralph Seligman

Final Voyage

Ralph Seligman passed away at home surrounded by family and friends on October 30th after a long battle with heart disease. He is survived by Pearl, his wife of 62 years, his sisters Fran and Joan, and Pearl's brother Josh Hecht, his best friend and brother-in-law with whom he was proud to boast he had never had a cross word in over six decades, and Josh's wife Donna.

He is also survived by many of us to whom he was "Uncle Ralph": his nieces on Pearl's side of the family, Jessica, Melissa, and Rebecca, his sister Fran's children Kenny, Jack, Danny, Mike, James, and Robert; and his sister Joan's children Paula, Wendy, and William. In addition, he is remembered fondly by countless former children of Roosevelt: those whom he mentored, those who played and learned at his and Pearl's home, those with whom he made music, who splashed in their backyard pool, and who he always treated as more advanced in years than they were and who benefitted from his respectful affections. He was everyone's favorite uncle, as he was mine.

Ralph was born in Georgia in 1922 but grew up in Newark, N.J. during the Great Depression, the son of Ruth and Joseph Seligman. Early on, he developed the wanderlust that would come to define his early life, a love of travel, the excitement and adventure of a voyage. After leaving home to hitch-hike across the country and back, Ralph

decided to become a merchant marine, achieving Cadet status in 1942, in support of the war effort in Europe during World War II. At the time, the Merchant Marine was not considered a branch of the armed services even though its vessels carried the supplies, arms, and often troops that were essential to victory in that conflict.

Travelling in unarmed convoys across the Atlantic, merchant ships made easy prey for German U-boats and many were torpedoed and lost, events that Ralph witnessed in the wartime terror that he experienced on the high seas. Even this would not dissuade Ralph from an abiding love of being at sea, whether surrounded by the vast oceanic beauty by day, or under the endless canopy of sky by night, or lulled by the constant roll of the ship below. It would not dissuade him from learning to play the mandolin among fellow shipmate musicians who helped him develop his love for bluegrass and folk music, or developing an appreciation of a thick wool sweater, a delectable stumpy cigar, a jauntily tilted watch cap, or a warming shot of single malt, pleasures he retained an appreciation for throughout his life.

Nor would it dissuade him from attending and graduating from the Merchant Marine Academy with his first of two Bachelor's degrees, this one in Engineering. Family lore has it that the young, headstrong Ralph chose this major only because he was told by someone that he probably couldn't succeed

at it. He continued to ship out through 1950 as a ship's engineer, second class—second to none nor lacking in class, in the esteem of those who knew him.

Ralph's second degree, in Economics, was received from Berkeley when he settled in California temporarily, shipping out intermittently after the war on peacetime merchant marine voyages to Central and South America, Cuba, and points beyond. On a recent visit with Ralph, we went flying through the Panama Canal on *Google Earth* since it had been one of his favorite and most often travelled destinations; he had traversed it more than a dozen times. It was also at Berkeley that he met his bride-to-be, a young art student from his home state of New Jersey, Pearl Hecht. Pearl, an original Jersey Homesteads resident, ultimately drew Ralph to the town that had been renamed Roosevelt in 1945 to honor the recently deceased President. Immediately following his marriage to Pearl in 1949, Ralph shipped out once again.

His affinity for all things Roosevelt ran deep, but never silent. As a firmly committed New Deal Democrat, Ralph was as passionate about Franklin Roosevelt as he was about the social policy, reform, and responsibility that defined FDR's presidency. It was an outgrowth of these passions that ultimately led him to become a city planner, a profession in which he felt he could improve

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TAI CHI STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

By Frances G. Duckett

At the second annual United Fellowship of Martial Arts Hall of Fame banquet, held October 22 in Philadelphia, three of our local students, who study at the Borough Hall regularly with June Counterman, were honored. Robert Clark was named “Adult Male Taijiquan Practitioner of the Year,” Jill Lipoti “Adult Female Taijiquan Practitioner of the Year,” and Daniel Garton “Junior Male Taijiquan Martial Artist of the Year” from UFMA. This regional

organization also issues awards for kung fu and for lion and dragon dance teams.

In addition to the above awards, Jean Field, who substitutes for June in Roosevelt, was named “Taijiquan outstanding Assistant Instructor of the Year.” All of us in the class here in town enjoy working with her.

Robert Clark is a retired lawyer who took up Tai Chi to explore the mind-body connection. He has studied yang forms for seven years, including long form, short form, 13 form, fan and staff.

Jill Lipoti began Tai Chi four years ago with the short form, finding

it improved balance and lowered stress. She went on to learn the 24 form, sword, fan, and staff. She has placed first in a competition in yang short form.

Robert Clark, Jill Lipoti and Daniel Garton have performed at World Tai Chi Day at Gold’s Gym. Daniel studied TaeKwonDo and became a probationary black belt before taking up Tai Chi two and a half years ago. In a recent competition, he placed first in the 24 form.

The UFMA banquet was great and everybody had fun. ■



Award recipients:
above left: Bob Clark, *center:* Daniel Garton, *right:* Jill Lipoti, *below:* Jean Field



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RALPH (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 6

the lives of urban dwellers by making cities more hospitable, livable environments and through which he might help to preserve the rural and agricultural landscapes that surrounded them from uncontrolled and unplanned development and urban sprawl. This is, after all, the essence of the history of Jersey Homesteads/Roosevelt, NJ, born of FDR's Resettlement Administration among whose goals was to alleviate the suffering of people living in deplorable urban conditions, and to promote self-subsistent, planned communities around the country. Ralph strove to become an embodiment of that sensibility in word and deed. Ralph and Roosevelt were a perfect match.

Ralph's chosen profession led him to be a city planner for Hoboken, NJ, where he worked for the planning firm of Mayo, Lynch, as well as for several upstate New York towns including New Paltz and Plattekill. According to Grace Lynch:

His incredible work and expertise resulted in Hoboken being named a federal Model City the result of which was a renaissance of amazing scale creating hope and real improvements that impacted many, many lives in the community. Equally of note were his community school on Hoboken urban planning which pre-dated trends that were not popularly accepted until generations later, his protection of community and historic resources (New Paltz, NY), his protection of agricultural land in New York State and his use of natural resource inventories, as he was responsible for in Plattekill, NY.

And of course, he also served on the Planning Board of Roosevelt, either as a member or as Chair, for forty years. During his years as a Roosevelt resident he often commuted great distances to serve the needs of the residents of these other towns, often returning home with delicious tokens of their esteem: upstate NY apples, fresh baked breads, or the day's new mozzarella from Fiori's in Hoboken. His primary devotion was to the preservation of open space, farms, and woodland areas, and to the principles of Ebenezer Howard, the progenitor of livable, planned urban design.

One of Ralph's achievements, in which he took exceptional pride, was of having Roosevelt placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. This act alone helped save Roosevelt on at least four occasions from onslaughts by those who would have irrevocably changed the town for the worse. By giving a protective historical stature to the Boro, the Registry designation helped to defeat ill-conceived proposals for an airport, a nuclear-waste site, major development by U.S. Homes, and, most recently, the Yeshiva incursion. Thanks in part to Ralph's efforts, Roosevelt has so often been empowered to be a mouse that roars, and it continues to thrive as it was designed—a well-planned community.

Ralph was also a teacher, something about which he was particularly proud. For twenty years he was an adjunct professor of Urban Planning at Hunter College in New York, the institution from which he received his Masters in Urban Planning in 1970. He was adored by his students, a fact attested to by his many lasting relationships with

former students that endured for decades after he taught them. His tenure at Hunter ended in 1999.

That same year, the U.S. government officially recognised those merchant marines who served during wartime, awarding them Veteran status. These formerly unsung heroes were finally given the honorable recognition they so richly deserved. As it happens, the Merchant Marines had been officially subsumed in some fashion into the Coast Guard, so his official discharge lists him as a member of the armed services during the Second World War. As a pacifist, Ralph may not have appreciated this last development, but the acknowledgement meant a great deal to him nonetheless.

On the day Ralph passed away, we received a serendipitous phone call at his and Pearl's house from the Merchant Marine Academy. The call, which began as an appeal for donations, became an opportunity for us to list him in the Academy's newsletter in which the column "Final Voyage" appears listing Ralph's fellow WWII era seamen who have passed away in recent years. Ralph had often read through the column recognising the names of fallen fellow merchant seamen.

It seemed an eerily timely phone call to receive on this most sad day when Ralph—favorite uncle; mandolin-player, man's man seaman, well-travelled urban planner, nattily dressed professor, New Deal Democrat and longtime Roosevelt resident—was gone.

They had just missed him...for Uncle Ralph had shipped out on his final voyage. We will all miss him. ■

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The First Aid Squad has responded to 181 emergency calls from January 1 to October 31, 2011. In Roosevelt: emergency transports, lift assist, motor vehicle accident with a pediatric trauma and Halloween stand-by. In Millstone Twp.: Low blood pressure, respiratory, unconscious, altered mental status, syncope and a broken hip and arm.

The training for October was "Large Scale Incident," review of how to use the Triage cards that are carried on both ambulance and the S.T.A.R.T. System: Simple-Triage and Rapid Treatment.

We would like to thank all the residents of Roosevelt for their generous donations to the Squad. Without your support we could not operate. Thank You!!!

Anyone who wishes to make a donation can send it to the Roosevelt First Aid Squad at P.O. Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Remember, all donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

We are always looking for new members. We will pay for the basic training that is needed. If anyone is interested please contact any Squad member or stop in during our training for an application and an EMT training schedule. If you would like to join or receive information about becoming an EMT please e-mail FMFD7568@verizon.net.

First Aid Squad History: October 1977 Nomination of Officers – President: Nat Richter, Vice President: Ken Narod & Roy Terry, Treasurer: Harold Melvin, Secretary: Bill Counterman. November 1977, the Squad completed a CPR course. December 1977, the Squad move from the 9th district to the 23rd. district of the New Jersey First Aid Council. Jessie Norris and Helen Barth both were accepted into the Squad as members.

**Remember, if you need help,
just Dial 911.**

Health Notes:

• Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a disease of bones that leads to an increased risk of fracture. In osteoporosis the bone mineral density (BMD) is reduced, bone micro-architecture is deteriorating, and the amount and variety of proteins in bone is altered. Osteoporosis is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a bone mineral density that is 2.5 standard deviations or more below the mean peak bone mass (average of young, healthy adults) as measured by DXA; the term "established osteoporosis" includes the presence of a fragility fracture. The disease may be classified as primary type 1, primary type 2, or secondary. The form of osteoporosis most common in women after menopause is referred to as primary type 1 or postmenopausal osteoporosis. Primary type 2 osteoporosis or senile osteoporosis occurs after age 75 and is seen in both females and males at a ratio of 2:1. Finally, secondary osteoporosis may arise at any age and affects men and women equally. This form of osteoporosis results from chronic predisposing medical problems or disease, or prolonged use of medications such as glucocorticoids, when the disease is called steroid- or glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (SIOP or GIOP).

Osteoporosis risks can be reduced with lifestyle changes and sometimes medication; in people with osteoporosis, treatment may involve both. Lifestyle change includes diet and exercise, and preventing falls. Medication includes calcium, vitamin D, bisphosphonates and several others. Fall-prevention advice includes exercise to tone deambulatory muscles, proprioception-improvement exercises; equilibrium therapies may be included. Exercise with its anabolic effect, may at the same time stop or reverse osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a component of the frailty syndrome.

Signs and symptoms

Osteoporosis itself has no specific symptoms; its main consequence is the increased risk of bone fractures. Osteoporotic fractures are those that occur in situations where healthy people would not normally break a bone; they are therefore regarded as fragility fractures. Typical fragility fractures occur in the vertebral column, rib, hip, and wrist.

Falls risk

The increased risk of falling associated with aging leads to fractures of the wrist, spine and hip. The risk of falling, in turn, is increased by impaired eyesight due to any cause (e.g. glaucoma, macular degeneration), balance disorder, movement disorders (e.g. Parkinson's disease), dementia, and sarcopenia (age-related loss of skeletal muscle). Collapse (transient loss of postural tone with or without loss of consciousness) leads to a significant risk of falls; causes of syncope are manifold but may include cardiac arrhythmias (irregular heart beat), vasovagal syncope, orthostatic hypotension (abnormal drop in blood pressure on standing up) and seizures. Removal of obstacles and loose carpets in the living environment may substantially reduce falls. Those with previous falls, as well as those with a gait or balance disorder, are most at risk.

There are still houses in town that either do not have house numbers or have numbers that are too small to be seen from the street. Please check the numbers posted on your house to ensure that they are large and colorful enough so Emergency Services and State Police can see them from the road, especially at night.

Jack Rindt, EMT-D
Captain
Roosevelt First Aid Squad
FMFD7568@verizon.net

A Tribute to Ralph Seligman

by Mike Hamilton

“This curious world which we inhabit is more wonderful than it is convenient, more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used.”

~ Thoreau

This morning, as Nancy tried to leave for work, she called to me and we laughed together as we watched no fewer than eighteen-wild turkeys walk slowly across the Defoes’ front lawn then saunter into the woods across the street. She would be a bit late for work that day as our local version of the mummers’ parade blocked Pine Drive briefly but, the day started with a smile on her face and a brief but deep connection with nature and that is priceless.

Only several weeks before, as we left to meet some friends for dinner, we noticed a hulking figure in the middle of the road. At first we thought it must be much closer than it was because of its sheer size, but it was more than a few hundred yards away, in front of the Cedar’s house. As we approached in our car we saw that it was a massive, perhaps 600-lb. black bear on all-fours standing in the street looking at us. By now we were quite close to it as it sauntered slowly across Ed and Sue’s side lawn and through the back yard glancing back at us as if to say “What?”. It was a truly amazing sight after which we felt honored, and, yes, blessed, to have had a brief encounter with such a spectacular creature whom we (apparently) share the town with. We were a few minutes late for dinner with our friends but, we had a great story to tell them as well as a convenient excuse for why we were late this time.

A few weeks ago, I lost a good friend and mentor when Ralph Seligman passed away at the age of 89 years. Only a few weeks before, I met with Ralph and he had several ideas of things we should do, when we had a chance. He castigated himself for being so lazy as of late and not working harder on some of the projects he had in mind. I reminded him of everything he had accomplished, and those he inspired, all of his students and others who he mentored, who would carry on his work. Often Ralph would call me and invite me to stop by and discuss an idea he had. Almost always, Ralph’s ideas were related to finding ways to educate people about the value of good planning and matters impacting people’s quality of life.

Ralph was a man of passion and conviction and although this sometimes ruffled other’s feathers, he would stand his ground and seek to educate and enlighten others. Once when he was interviewed about his planning career which included the award winning planning of Hoboken, he was asked what he considered his biggest accomplishment in Hoboken. He replied humorously but with more than a gain of truth, “My biggest accomplishment in Hoboken was that I didn’t get arrested.” Ralph didn’t treat life as if it was a popularity contest and he didn’t shy away from conflict, he was a man of conviction whom I greatly admired.

People are complicated and Ralph taught me so many things on so many levels that it is difficult to know where to begin. Most everyone who knew and agreed with Ralph, knew that he was a teacher and a mentor. He was the kind of person who would take you under his wing and show genuine enthusiasm about you and your life and want to know all about you. For those of us who were not fortunate enough to have

that kind of attachment figure early in our lives, that was truly a precious and empowering gift. Ralph had a way of making you feel like you were the center of his attention and indeed, while with him, you were.

Ralph championed the bright women he met whose efforts were often discounted. Having three daughters myself, I unashamedly took advantage of this trait. Ralph became friends and mentors with my daughters, especially my youngest daughter Laurel who now lives in northern California. Once, Ralph was generous enough to invite Laurel and I to a tour of Hoboken with himself and the current town planner. Together we spent the whole day learning about Ralph’s influence on the design of Hoboken. We heard many colorful stories of hard work, conviction and political intrigue. We also learned about the spirit of place which Hoboken had as a port town on the Hudson River and which Ralph was able to integrate into the design of Hoboken so that it did not lose its original character, personality and charm. It was a wonderful trip where you got to know about a person’s life-work and passion. Ralph wanted to share that with Laurel and I to encourage and more than anything inspire us to do meaningful work.

Ralph admired courageous, bright, daring people who acted on their convictions. Certainly, the Roosevelt era administration was something he greatly admired. This was an administration which was both daring and creative and who wasn’t afraid of acting in new ways to solve society’s problems. The town of Roosevelt was the culmination of many such movements championed by a long line of creative and imaginative people who acted to create the brave new world which our town was a part of. Ralph taught me about those movements

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TRIBUTE TO RALPH (CONT'D.)

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and our lineage. He often bought me and others books so that we could learn more about the movements and ideas which were part of our inheritance as a community.

I had many wonderful talks with Ralph over the years. Ralph admired the courage and convictions of people who tried to make the world a better place for everyone. Indeed, he was one of those people. At the center of his world was a firm belief in the value of “communalism” of working together to make a better place for all. And so planning was in a way I suppose, the perfect profession for him and one which arose largely out of his admiration for the town’s design and unique heritage. He likened living in Roosevelt in the early days to having a feeling of being in summer camp all year round, surrounded by bright intelligent people within nature. During his professional career, Ralph was able to work in places and within organizations and groups that shared his passion for planning places where people could live life in a well-integrated way.

Ralph particularly admired people who thought and talked in terms of “oughts”. The “oughts” were responsible for a great many accomplishments in Ralph’s life and through his influence, mine. Ralph

thought that the town “ought” to be granted national and state historic status, not just as a building or two, but for its ingenious community planning. It needed to be recognized as a reminder of what daring and courageous groups of people and governments can create. He worked with others in town to see that Roosevelt was placed on the National and State Historic Register of Places in its entirety as a town.

I got to know Ralph best when I began to think that perhaps we “ought” not to develop and build so many houses in the farmland surrounding Roosevelt. Noticing another person with the “oughts”, perhaps Ralph thought we “ought” to work together. He taught me about the design and planning of Roosevelt and we worked to educate people about why we “ought” to preserve the farmland which was part of our original design. We worked with others to insure that the integrity of our original design, a town surrounded by farmland, was preserved.

Ought is a word used to express duty or moral obligation. It has elements of justness, moral rightness and propriety in it...such as when we say “we ought to look in on them, or perhaps we ought to give them a hand”. When I think of this article, I know in my heart that

Ralph would approve of it, mainly because it is not so much about him, as it is about the things that he valued and wanted to protect and preserve. I knew that this is what his tribute ought to be about.

Ralph was like a father to me, and knowing Ralph, I know that many of you had those same feelings toward him. We have lost a father and a long time protector and preserver of Roosevelt but, I am so glad that he brought me under his wing, and that I became one of his friends and students. The fact that we were friends given our 30-year age difference, is a trait exhibited by well integrated, tightly knit communities that work. Like the animals we share our town with, our deep, multifaceted, rich connections with each other regardless of age, is yet another proof that Roosevelt is a great success as a well-designed community and something worthy of our acknowledgement and protection.

I am glad that I internalized Ralph’s sense of moral obligation and duty to teach about and protect the things we value. Thank you Ralph, for being my friend and mentor over the years. ■

Community Unity is a group of residents from Hightstown, East Windsor, and Roosevelt which plans events to promote thriving, integrated communities.

Meetings held second Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, upstairs, on Rev. William Powell Dr. in Hightstown. Take Reed St. off Mechanic St.

For more information, call Steve at 609-448-3017 or Lenore at 609-448-6470.

*Now winter nights enlarge
The number of their hours,
And clouds their storms discharge
Upon the airy towers.*

*Let now the chimneys blaze,
And cups o'erflow with wine;
Let well-tuned words amaze
With harmony divine.*

by Thomas Campion

October

The globe experienced its eighth warmest October since record keeping began in 1880. Arctic sea ice extent was the second smallest extent on record for October at 23.5 percent below average.

Closer to home, October in Roosevelt was 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal. Precipitation was 1.39 inches above normal. Who will forget Halloween 2011? There was snow on the ground from a storm the day before. Three inches of the white stuff fell.

As of the middle of November, Philadelphia weather data showed that it was the wettest year on record for the city. That's probably true for Roosevelt, too. As of November 15, total precipitation in Roosevelt since January 1, 2011 was over 61 inches. The average annual precipitation here is 47.68 inches.

Winter 2011-2012

The *Old Farmers Almanac* says we'll have a wet, not white Christmas and indicates that the winter will be drier than normal, with near-normal temperatures but above-normal snowfall. The coldest periods will be in mid-December and early and mid-February. The snowiest periods will be in mid-December, mid- and late- January, and late February.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center updated its winter weather forecast on November 17. The forecast indicates equal chances for above normal, normal and below normal precipitation and temperatures for the period between December 1 and February 29.

LongRangeWeather.com maps indicate that the winter will be a little cooler and have a little more precipitation than normal.

Weather Word

YELLOW SNOW: I was browsing through the National Weather Service Glossary for an interesting Weather Word and found the term Yellow Snow. That was a surprise. OK, you probably think you know the definition. You're probably right, too, in part. Here's the full definition of Yellow Snow: Snow given a golden or yellow appearance by the presence in it of pine, cypress pollen, or anthropogenic material or animal-produced material.

Weather Humor

It was so cold that:

- Hitchhikers were holding up pictures of thumbs!
- We had to chop up the piano for firewood—but we only got two chords.
- The dogs were wearing cats!
- Richard Simmons started wearing long pants!
- A flasher rushed up to poor Mrs. Flannigan—and described himself!

Happy holidays, everyone!

October 2011

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip	Snow	Heat'g Degree Days
1	68.2	53.1	60.7	0.48	0.0	4.3
2	64.2	46.8	55.5	0.08	0.0	9.5
3	63.5	43.5	53.5	0.00	0.0	11.5
4	65.1	43.0	54.1	0.00	0.0	11.0
5	70.3	50.0	60.2	0.00	0.0	4.9
6	63.9	40.1	52.0	0.00	0.0	13.0
7	64.4	41.4	52.9	0.00	0.0	12.1
8	69.8	44.6	57.2	0.00	0.0	7.8
9	78.8	50.2	64.5	0.00	0.0	0.5
10	77.5	51.6	64.6	0.00	0.0	0.5
11	74.1	55.8	65.0	0.00	0.0	0.1
12	63.5	57.7	60.6	0.00	0.0	4.4
13	66.9	58.8	62.9	0.29	0.0	2.2
14	74.5	56.5	65.5	0.30	0.0	0.0
15	67.5	50.2	58.9	0.14	0.0	6.2
16	67.5	47.0	57.3	0.00	0.0	7.8
17	64.4	54.3	59.4	0.00	0.0	5.7
18	68.7	48.6	58.7	0.00	0.0	6.3
19	69.1	55.4	62.3	0.20	0.0	2.8
20	65.7	51.3	58.5	0.96	0.0	6.5
21	61.3	45.7	53.5	0.00	0.0	11.5
22	61.0	41.4	51.2	0.00	0.0	13.8
23	59.5	41.2	50.4	0.00	0.0	14.7
24	64.6	42.3	53.5	0.00	0.0	11.6
25	60.8	44.2	52.5	0.00	0.0	12.5
26	65.5	44.1	54.8	0.00	0.0	10.2
27	61.3	41.9	51.6	0.05	0.0	13.4
28	50.4	33.6	42.0	0.48	0.0	23.0
29	44.6	33.1	38.9	0.70	0.0	26.2
30	45.0	31.3	38.2	1.15	3.0	26.9
31	53.8	29.5	41.7	0.00	0.0	23.4
Totals			4.83	3.0	303.7	

KREPS OR RPS?

Dear Ad Hoc committee members:

As I considered the charge to the committee to make a reasoned decision about whether to send the 6th grade to Kreps rather than RPS, the considerations involved seemed to lend themselves to a rubric. Since you are all familiar with rubrics and their use in the educational system, perhaps you have already come to the same conclusion. I offer some suggestions for topical areas for exploration.

Academics

Although all 6th graders in NJ must satisfy the core curriculum, there will be some differences in the way that the needs of various students are met, either in RPS or in Kreps. For instance, what opportunities are there for challenging gifted and talented students? Are there additional course offerings in terms of electives at Kreps? Does the presence of a wider pool of students provide a greater challenge to students in terms of peer pressure? What opportunities are there for individualized instruction? Are there wider choices in foreign language instruction? What metrics will be used to measure the academic environment presented by Kreps or RPS? Is the Board in agreement that the metrics used by the State are the correct ones? What others are available?

Social Development

It has been a long held belief that friendships are formed in 6th grade among the Kreps students, which presents a challenge to RPS students who join the class in 7th grade. Is this true? What type of social environment exists at Kreps? Are there cliques? Is bullying a problem? For students who are used to a small school setting, are they overwhelmed and lost when they join the larger community in 6th grade? Does their maturity level in 7th grade present an advantage? Or are the RPS students seen as outsiders no matter when they join, since many of the Kreps students will have grown up together from earlier years. How do you measure social adjustment?

Clubs/ Athletics

What opportunities exist for participation in after school activities? Athletics? Academic team competitions? Robotics club? Foreign language speaking clubs? Band? Are all students encouraged to participate or does the larger pool of students contribute to a self selection among the students that they only participate in things they are judged to be "good at"? How important is it for RPS students to have these opportunities? Are they better being a big fish in a small pond or are they ready to rise to the challenge?

Class Size

There are numerous scholarly articles about studies conducted on the effects of class size on student achievement. A literature search of these articles could produce some excellent material for the committee's consideration.

Loss of control

While the current committee will be comparing the Kreps school as it exists today, what guarantees will be in place to ensure that key programs will not be eliminated or the structure changed? The Roosevelt BOE has no representation on the EW Board of Ed, and does not even vote for the EW board members, so there is a distinct lack of control over budget cuts or other changes which may affect the Roosevelt children. Some chance to revisit the decision should be built into the process.

Financial considerations

While you emphasized that the decision would be made based on what is "best for the children", as outlined on your poster, in this current economic climate, it would be disingenuous to say that financial considerations should be ignored. The voters of Roosevelt would find that a difficult stance. While it may not be the key driver

Continued on Page 14

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.

LETTER (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 13

behind the decision, financial considerations must be a part of your reasoned decision. Keeping some balance between educational and social advantages to children and the tax burden on Roosevelt citizens could easily be worked into a rubric that had cost as one of the considerations among many.

Survey

It was mentioned that you will be conducting a survey to obtain input from parents of past Kreps students. Sometimes surveys are only completed by people who have par-

ticular concerns, so the results can be skewed to the parents who had a particularly good or particularly bad experience with their children at Kreps. It will be important to follow up, perhaps with phone interviews, to ensure that you obtain a complete picture, even from parents who have no particular viewpoint, but can still offer perspective. Additionally, there may be individuals who wish to provide input who would not receive the survey. Careful consideration of the survey design will be necessary to ensure you have not introduced bias with the construction of the survey questions.

Before I finalized this letter, I circulated it to a few individuals and received input from two of them, which I have incorporated into the body of the letter. I wish to acknowledge the excellent suggestions that I received from Sharlene Ellentuck and Brad Garton.

I hope you will consider public opinions and input as you deliberate. Thank you for consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,

Jill Lipoti
November 11, 2011

It is getting dark earlier...

If you walk after dark, please wear light-colored clothing

... or wear some reflective gear

... or at least carry a flashlight.

Remember to walk facing traffic,

... not with the traffic coming at your back.

SEE AND BE SEEN!

Contributors to the Bulletin 2011/2012

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare
Robin & Robert Axel
Helen Barth
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren
Janet & Rich Bernardin
Irene & Bruce Block
Karen & Marvin Block
Charlotte Bondy
Bondy/Vuolle family
Susan & Robert Cayne
Maureen & Bob Clark
Elise & Paul Cousineau
Janis & Joe Datz
M. Kathleen Drury
Shan & Bert Ellentuck
Irma & Louis Esakoff
Ellen & Robert Francis
Lian Garton
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Erich Woisetschlaeger
Lydia Yohay
Zahora Family
Judith & Mark Zuckerman



Help us to fill up this page.

Thank you for your generosity!

Send in a contribution today.

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2011 - 2012 Season

Saturday, January 21, 8:00 p.m., Borough Hall

ROOSEVELT'S GOT TALENT!

Come join us for a night of storytellers, singers, musicians, and other as yet unknown talents. Call 918-0757 to be added to our roster of acts or be spontaneous & sign up the night of the show (if time allows). Open Mike Night is sure to have fun & merriment for all ages. Better than those "idol" shows, because it's live & there are no judges.

Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m., Borough Hall

MUSIC-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come help support the Roosevelt Arts Project and enjoy a morning of delectable 'down-home' Roosevelt pancakes accompanied by delightful ambient electronic/computer music supplied by Roosevelt resident Brad Garton and friends from Columbia & Princeton Universities. This event is intended as a fund-raiser for the upcoming 25th Anniversary Celebration. There is no better way to start a Sunday morning in February!

Saturday, March 24, 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall

2012: THE YEAR OF THE FATTED CALF OR HOW I STOPPED WORRYING & LEARNED TO LOVE THE NORM

YET ANOTHER CELEBRATION OF ORDINARY CONSCIOUSNESS & THE ORDINARY WORLD!

Featuring words by the usual suspects: Czyzewski, Herrstrom, Kostar, McNally & possibly other voices not yet heard or known since we're at the edge of something both Mayan & not.

Continued on Page 17

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2011 - 2012 Season

Friday and Saturday, May 4 & 5, 8:00 p.m., Borough Hall

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

The String Band (as it is known in Roosevelt) returns for its annual concert featuring mostly contemporary singer/songwriter hits, traditional folk, blues and bluegrass. Band members include David Brahinsky on vocals and guitar, Paul Prestopino on a variety of string instruments (and at least one vocal), Ed Cedar on bass and guitar, Sam Cedar on vocals and Joe Pepitone and Sarah Houtz (Kai Altair) promise to show up as well. This year's program promises to feature (as usual!) songs with deep metaphysical insights, social and political commentary, gut wrenching humor and plain fun.

Sunday, June 24, 1-5:00 p.m., Assifa Space, 40 Tamara Drive

"TALKING HEADS"

A show of portraits by Roosevelt Artists and special guest artists with live music on the patio. Come enjoy the day for a pot luck picnic, art, music, and good company!

Voluntary Contribution:

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

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://music.columbia.edu/roosevelt>. Use the link at the top of the page to sign up for our e-mail list. For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616. ■

Molasses

Sugar

Eggs

Butter

Vanilla

Salt

Pecans

Pie Crust

Molasses – Pecan Pie

Prep time: 20 min. Bake: 50 min.
Cool: several hours Oven: 350 degrees

1 C molasses
1 C sugar
4 large eggs, beaten
2 T unsalted butter, melted
1 T pure vanilla extract
Pinch of kosher salt
2 C pecan halves
1 9-inch everyday pie crust

- Preheat oven 350 degrees.
- For filling: In a large bowl stir together molasses, sugar, eggs, butter, vanilla, and salt. Evenly spread pecans in unbaked pie shell. Pour filling over pecans.
- Place pie in center rack of oven.
- Bake 50 minutes to 1 hour until firm around edges and slightly loose in center.
- Cool pie on wire rack for several hours.
- Enjoy!



T = tablespoon tsp = teaspoon C = cup

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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: \$50.00/year, \$60.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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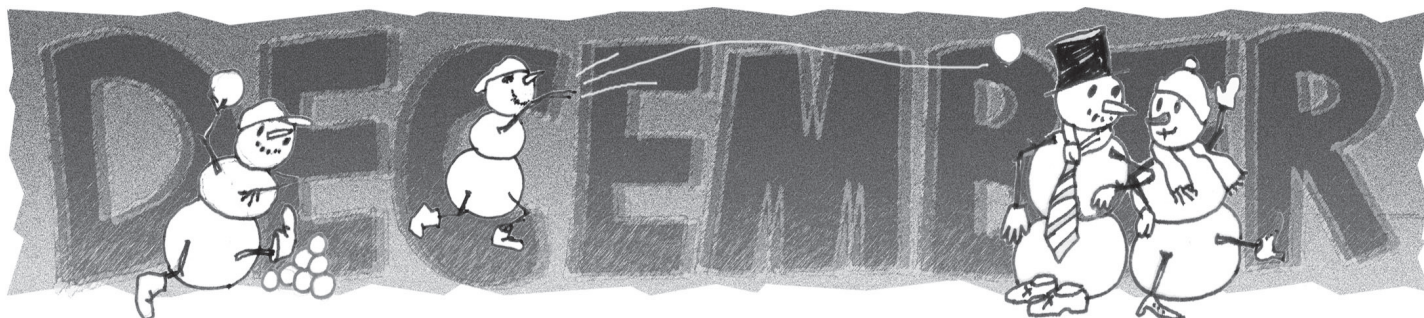
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DECEMBER 2011

6 Tues.	12:30 p.m. Blood pressure check, Borough Hall 1:00 p.m. Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Pat Moser, President, 448-4865
7 Wed.	RECYCLE 
11 Sun.	10:00 a.m. First Aid Squad, Training, Jack Rindt, Captain, 448-9475
12 Mon.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
13 Tues.	7:00 p.m. PTA, Stacy O'Donnell, President 423-8105 7:30 p.m. Planning Board, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, Chair, 448-3713
14 Wed.	7:30 p.m. Environmental Commission, Boro Hall Ann Kassahun, Secretary, 443-4155
20 Tues.	8:00 p.m. First Aid Squad, Business meeting, Jeff Klein, President, 448-0509
21 Wed.	RECYCLE 
22 Thurs.	7:30 p.m. RPS Board of Education, RPS Lobby, Natalie Warner, President, 448-2913
23 Fri.	RPS Early Dismissal
26 Mon. - 30 Fri.	School Closed, Winter Recess
27 Tues.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

Please send notice of your events to Ann Baker at P.O. Box 308 or e-mail to abnccpm@comcast.net or call 609-529-4829

JANUARY 2012

2 Mon.	RPS, School Resumes
3 Tues.	12:30 p.m. Blood pressure check, Borough Hall 1:00 p.m. Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Pat Moser, President, 448-4865
4 Wed.	RECYCLE 
8 Sun.	10:00 a.m. First Aid Squad, Training, Jack Rindt, Captain, 448-9475
9 Mon.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
10 Tues.	7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting, RPS Lobby, Stacy O'Donnell, President, 423-8105 7:30 p.m. Planning Board, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, Chair, 448-3713
11 Wed.	7:30 p.m. Environmental Commission, Boro Hall Ann Kassahun, Secretary, 443-4155
16 Mon.	School Closed, Martin Luther King National Holiday
17 Tues.	8:00 p.m. First Aid Squad, Business meeting, Jeff Klein, President, 448-0509
18 Wed.	RECYCLE 
21 Sat.	8:00 p.m. Roosevelt Arts Project, Open Mic, Borough Hall
23 Mon.	7:00 p.m. Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
26 Thurs.	7:30 p.m. RPS Board of Education, RPS Lobby, Natalie Warner, President, 448-2913