

Bulletin

Volume 32 Number 3

December 2007

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

by Michael Ticktin

Borough and Planning Board Seek Dismissal of Yeshiva's Lawsuit; Eagle Scout Tim Collins Thanked for Completion of the Woodland Trail

Attorneys representing the Borough and the Planning Board have filed a motion to dismiss the Federal civil rights complaint brought by Congregation Yeshivas Me'on Hatorah and Congregation Anshei Roosevelt. In their motion, attorneys Howard Cohen, Michele Donato and Marci Hamilton assert that the Federal Court lacks jurisdiction over the plaintiffs' Federal claims because those claims are not yet ripe for Federal adjudication, inasmuch as the plaintiffs have never filed a variance application or received a final land use decision. They also assert that the adoption of Ordinance 97-36, which allows houses of worship, schools and dormitories as permitted uses in the R/Ag-400 district, is an accommodation of religious organizations that should protect the municipality from liability under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). The motion is scheduled to be heard by the Federal District Court on December 13.

The Council began its meeting of November 14 (deferred from the usual Monday date because of Veterans Day) by presenting a plaque expressing the Borough's appreciation to Eagle Scout Tim Collins of Millstone for his contribution to the community. Mr. Collins, along with other

scouts acting under his leadership, built the last section of the Woodland Trail across Roosevelt, the section from Valley Road to the Cemetery. In addition to clearing brush, removing fallen trees blocking the way and marking the trail with logs and paint on trees, he made and installed wooden bridges over wet areas and benches along the way. All of this was done at no cost to the Borough. Mayor Beth Battel, in presenting the plaque, invited all residents to walk the trail in order to fully appreciate the natural beauty of our town, which Mr. Collins has made more accessible to us.

Also at that meeting, Councilman Bob Silverstein, reporting for the Utilities Committee, stated that the complaints of several residents of excessive water billing had been investigated by the checking of the meters and that, in all cases, the meters had been found to be accurate. He pointed out that repair of any leakage beyond the meter is the responsibility of the property owner, not of the Borough.

At the October 22 meeting, the Council approved a resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation for legal expenses in the amount of \$61,000. Councilwoman Peggy Malkin stated that this resolution would require approval by the Local Finance Board in the Department of

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A REMINDER:

As usual, there will be no January, 2008 *Bulletin*. See you in February, 2008.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

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

We want to welcome a new member to our staff. She is Mary Macher who lives on Farm Lane. She replaces Karyn Grunwald as our Graphic Designer.

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

Please report any bear sightings to:
State Bureau of Wildlife Management
Kim Tinnes
Wildlife Control
609-259-7955
As well as to David Schwendeman, 443-6204



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

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

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Scott Carpenter
Bob Clark
Bert Ellentuck
Jeff Ellentuck
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McCusker
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GRAPHIC DESIGN

Mary Macher

ARTWORK

Calendar Art
by Shan Ellentuck

Breaking Bread Art
by Jonathan Shahn

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From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

Thanks to all of you who came out to vote on November 6th. A democracy is only viable when the populace participates in the election process.

Please feel welcome to go beyond just voting by coming to Council and Planning Board meetings and voicing your opinions and suggestions about current issues before these public bodies. Your input is important, and may help to decide questions that directly affect your life in Roosevelt. For instance, the Planning Board will

be working with our planning consultant, Tom Thomas, on updating the parking ordinances to keep pace with the growth of the number of cars in town. Ordinances which were written when most households had only one or two cars are no longer adequate for today's needs, but, on the other hand, to preserve the quality of the neighborhood, we can't have people paving over their entire front yards, turning the town into one big parking lot. Finding the right balance in the ordinance is the key, as is enforcing the law once it is enacted.

Congratulations to the new Council person-elect, Kirk Rothfuss, and to returning Council person Peggy Malkin on her re-election. I also wish to thank you for the expression of confidence that you have shown by re-electing me. I pledge that we will continue to work together in the best interest of the community.

— Beth Battel ■

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D.)

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Community Affairs in order to take effect. Also at that meeting, Councilwoman Pat Moser asked for the installation of a streetlight at the eastern end of Farm Lane, where it dead-ends next to the Solar Village. Borough Clerk Krystyna Bieracka said that Administrator Bill Schmeling was working on getting it installed by JCP&L.

Mayor Battel ended the November 14 meeting by welcoming Councilman-elect Kirk Rothfuss, who was elected this year along with Councilwoman Malkin and Mayor Battel and will take office in January, replacing Councilwoman Moser. This marks a return to the Council for Mr. Rothfuss, who previously served between 1990 and 1991. ■

County Adds Brottman Property to County Park

by Michael Ticktin

On October 31, Monmouth County closed title on the 29-acre property on North Rochdale Avenue formerly owned by Paul Brottman. As the result of the addition of this property to the 131-acre tract formerly owned by Murray Beer that the County purchased last year, there are now 160 acres in the Roosevelt portion of Perrineville Lake County Park. An additional 261 acres in the northern agricultural area of the Borough are subject to farmland preservation restrictions as a result of land acquisition and re-sale by the Fund for Roosevelt, Inc. As a result of these public and nonprofit land acquisitions, there remain only 54 acres in the northern agricultural area, divided among four properties, that can potentially be developed. ■

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

As usual, November and December are very busy months. During American Education Week, families were invited to visit the school and see students and teachers in action during the course of a regular school day. It's exciting to share the wonderful teaching/learning experiences with our school community. Another outstanding event was our annual Thanksgiving feast. New this year, was Roosevelt Thanksgiving Day Parade. All classes created a float centering on the themes of giving, friends and things they are thankful for. This culminated in a wonderful feast. Thank you to our parents who donated food and to the teachers and staff who planned and prepared for this event. Additionally, our sixth graders are proving to be resourceful entrepreneurs as exemplified by their successful pie and bulb sales. The sixth grade class will have other special fundraisers this year and they are grateful for your continued support.

The PTA's annual holiday gift shop took place on November 27 and 28th. This popular event enabled students to purchase gifts within their budget, for friends and family. During regular school hours, PTA parents help students select that special gift. Their efforts, as usual, really contribute to the welfare of our children, and are greatly appreciated. The PTA will be sponsoring a wreath-making workshop on December 8th. Please join us for this fun-filled event.

One of my favorite events is the Winter Concert, which will take place on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. It is a magical event where kindergarteners through sixth graders have the opportunity to sing, play their instruments and share their musical talents. We hope to have standing room only. All are invited.

During the holiday season and throughout the year, it is important to

teach children the importance of giving. This month our Student Council sponsored a very successful food collection. The food will be donated to a local food bank. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

With the possibility of inclement weather and school closings, an emergency phone chain is in place for students in grades K-12. In addition, school delayed openings or closings will be announced on News 12 New Jersey, 101.5 FM radio, and 97.5 WPST. They will also be posted on the school web site under the events link. Just a reminder, the web address is www.rps1.org.

As I reported last month, the Board approved revisions to the Conduct/Discipline Policy, the Cell Phone Policy, and the Pupil Safety Policy. Last month I wrote about the revisions to the Conduct/Discipline Policy, which included electronic bullying. This month article encapsulates the other 2 policies. The Cell Phone Policy details when students may use their cell phones. In summary, students may bring their cell phones to school but they must be left in their lockers and/or backpacks. Students may not use their cell phones anytime during the course of the day prior to 3:00 p.m. If a child is attending an after school activity, they may not use their cell phones until after the activity is over. The Board and I respectfully ask that children use the school phone to call their parents/guardians.

Our Arrival and Dismissal procedures have been updated as well. These are part of the mandates contained in our School Safety Policy. Below are the Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

Arrival Procedures

1. Children who walk to school or who are transported by parents/guardians may arrive after 8:05 a.m. On-site supervision is provided at

8:05 a.m. and not before that time.

2. For those students walking to school, please cross only at the designated crosswalks where crossing guards are present. Crossing guards are located at Farm Lane and Route 571 and at Pine Drive and School Lane.

3. Please drop children off at the curb. If you are going to leave your car, please park in the available parking spaces. Do not park along the circle or yellow curb.

4. Homeroom begins promptly at 8:20 a.m.

5. If a child arrives at school after the 8:30 a.m. late bell, the child must be signed in by a parent/guardian at the front office.

6. During a delayed opening, on-site supervision is provided at 9:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off prior to that time. All other arrival/dismissal procedures apply.

Dismissal Procedures Students

1. Kindergarten students will be dismissed 5 minutes before the rest of the school (2:40 p.m.). They will wait with their teacher until their families arrive and will then be dismissed.

2. Pre-kindergarten students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. and will wait with the teacher and/or teaching assistant until their families arrive.

3. On days that the school has a 12:30 p.m. dismissal, both pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will be dismissed 5 minutes before the rest of the school.

3a. For those students walking home from school, please cross only at the designated crosswalks where crossing guards are present. Crossing guards are located at Farm Lane and Route 571 and at Pine Drive and School Lane.

4. Students will please **walk on the sidewalk (not run)** to their cars or home.

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PRINCIPAL (CONT'D.)

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5. On shortened days, all children will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. The school grounds are unsupervised after 12:30 p.m. All other arrival/dismissal procedures apply.

6. If a parent/guardian is late picking up their child, the child will remain in the main office until the parent/guardian arrives.

7. Students attending the aftercare program will be escorted to the gym at the end of each school day.

Parents / Guardians

1. Please pick children up at the curb, not along the circle. If you are going to leave your car, please park in available parking spaces in the parking lot, not along the circle or yellow curb. The curbs are for pick up and drop off only.

2. If you are the first car in line, please loop around the circle and pull up to the end of the painted yellow line. This will allow more cars to pull up closer to the school, enabling a quicker and smoother dismissal.

3. Please pull up directly behind the car in front of you as dismissal progresses, to maximize the use of available space.

4. Please stop only along the yellow

line, rather than diagonally as you come around the circle. There is not enough room for the cars that are behind you to pass safely.

5. If a child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent/guardian or Roosevelt designee, written notification is required from the child's legal parent/guardian.

6. Students will not be released to anyone or excused from school unless written authorization is provided.

Children who walk/bike home from school will be unsupervised on school grounds should they remain after 2:45 p.m. Supervision is NOT provided on the school grounds after school.

Please feel free to stop by the school to read the full text version of each of the policies.

The staff and students at Roosevelt Public School join me in offering season's greetings and in wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season and New Year!

Sincerely,
Shari Payson



DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

12/5 – PTA Meeting 7:30 pm

12/8 – Wreath Making
10 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

12/18 – Winter Concert
7:00 pm – All are invited.

12/20 – BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
—————

12/24-1/1 – School Closed
—————

1/2 – School Resumes

1/9 – PTA Meeting

1/10 – BOE 7:30 p.m.

1/21 – School Closed

1/24 – BOE Meeting 7:30 p.m.



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.

Thousands of miles (kilometers) of stories in a memorable journey

By Carol Wachtler

I promised to report about my trip to Australia as a breast cancer survivor (BCS) dragon boat paddler. I joined five teammates from central New Jersey to make up a full team of 20 paddlers with the Rainbow Dragons from the Rainbow Region north of Sydney in Australia. We were one of 73 BCS teams competing in this international Dragons Abreast in Australia 2007 regatta held at Lake Kawana in Caloundra, Queensland.

We all came home with a medal from this race—everybody's a winner—but it was inspiring to see how the teams have each forged a floating support system. The "Brave Hearts" team from the Albury/Wodonga area in Australia surprised themselves and earned praise from all by building their own dragon boat. This beautiful example of craftspersonship is truly a work of dedication and collaboration. The Dragons Abreast in Australia event program book and an even more detailed volume written by the event committee titled "*A Dragon's Tale*" is filled with heartening stories.

The winning team out of the series of 500 meter heats over the weekend was Brisbane, Australia's, "Missabittatitti," who were uniformly coiffed in iridescent green wigs as they walked in the parade on the opening day. These women who survived cancer treatment are no strangers to the need for a temporary wig, but they decided to turn this experience into a bit of humor in their parade costumes.

A friend asked me whether we had a chance to meet children in Australia. Children from schools along the "sunshine coast" had made a banner for each team, including the Machestic Dragons team which we represented, to carry in the parade. The citizens of Caloundra

lined the sidewalks and cheered as we paraded down the main street and along the Pacific Ocean boardwalk. I was delighted to see the excited children viewing the marching teams and I wondered if they contributed to the creation of some of those banners.

The 33 Australian and 18 Canadian teams dominated the scene at this event but it was fun to see other USA participants and meet the Italian team who provided great entertainment in the closing event with a brightly costumed Tarantella. The international flavor was also enhanced for some members of my group who connected with women they had paddled with in Germany in 2005. I was delighted to meet the Singapore team and bring greetings from the director of our Princeton Breast Cancer Resource Center who was fondly remembered for her work at helping a team to form in that country.

Always a highlight in dragon boat festivals which have BCS teams participating is the "Flowers on the Water" ceremony where the dragon boats line up in a flotilla joined hand to hand by the ten rows of paddlers in each boat. In our Dragons Abreast in Australia event, the twelve boats, which are used six at a time in the races, were not enough to carry all the participants so representatives from each team were chosen to be on the water in the boats. The rest of us lined the shores and our flowers were handfuls of rose petals which, like the flowers tossed by the women in the boats, were meant to signify all those whom we remember in these races, those in the struggle through breast cancer treatment, those persons we have lost to breast cancer, and all the survivors. The time of silence followed by the display of tossed flowers spreading out over the water is a powerful emotional moment. You can see this ceremony in a short video at http://www.dragonsabreast.com.au/Australia_2007/video.htm.

After the conclusion of the festival, many of us travelers headed north to the warmer city of Cairns, a stepping off point for visitors' delights on Australia's sunshine coast. We had already been enchanted by the early morning bird calls and seen kangaroos, crocodiles and koalas at the Australia Zoo, but had the chance again to go to the rainforest and learn more about this sensitive environment. The day trip to the rainforest also brought us a chance to see a program of Aboriginal people's music and dance. I could not have imagined a didgeridoo until I saw it and learned that it is the trunk of a narrow tree hallowed out by termites. I got a chance to try my ability, but even with my trombone experience in a past life, I really had to work to get the low steady sound of the skilled players.

A peak moment for me was the boat trip out to a station at the Great Barrier Reef. We had the chance to snorkel close to the platform, go into a submersible to view the reef, or join a marine biologist for a further swim out to snorkel near the reef. I decided to review my snorkeling skills in the morning and join the advanced snorkeling trip after lunch. The results in both cases were marvelous. (I would say breathtaking, but I was using all the breath and concentration that I had to coordinate the snorkeling process.) The reef is varied and colorful and full of life. I was glad that the operators of this trip were part of a greater effort to preserve the ecologically critical reef and permit a very carefully controlled opportunity for visitors to see this wonder.

A few days in Sydney gave a chance to appreciate that extensive harbor and learn the history of the Western world's introduction to Australia. Our tour guide through the city frequently showed off the humor that is

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Thousands (CONT'D.)

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a trademark of Australian people. One other predominant feature that was clear to me in this trip is the heightened environmental consciousness and policies that are part of this land.

Far too soon I had to pack up all my memories and a few reminder tokens and head to Roosevelt where I can add this trip to our two square miles of stories. ■

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS: 30 YEARS OF THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

By Bob Clark

The *New York Times* famously claims to provide “All the News That’s Fit to Print.” Relative to its size, I dare say, Roosevelt probably has enjoyed more coverage in those august pages than any other community in America. Nonetheless, we still clamor for more news about our community than the *Times*, or any other publication not derived from Roosevelt, is capable or willing to provide. Fortunately, this crucial need has been satisfied for most of Jersey Homesteads’ (now Roosevelt’s) existence by a series of nonprofit publications financed by donations and written and assembled by volunteers.

The latest of those publications, the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*, has come continuously, and free of charge, to every Roosevelt household for 30 years now. Building on the foundation of such beneficial and astute local periodicals as the *Roosevelt News*, the founders of the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* began publishing on July 12, 1977, under the name *Roosevelt Tabloid*. By the fourth issue on October 11, 1977, the newspaper’s founders had selected the name *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*. In October of this year, we wrote that we were publishing the first issue of “Volume 32,” although we really were just beginning our 31st volume (the error occurred in the April 1992 issue

and continues to the present day).

The most important aspect of the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* (RBB) is that it is not an official organ of the government, as is the case with most community newsletters. Thus, it contains all the news that fits within the confines of the limited number of pages permitted by its modest, donated budget. No denomination’s religious news is excluded, and all candidates may make their pitches. Iconoclasts, gadflies, skeptics, critics and would-be leaders may express themselves. The writers are neither controlled nor censored by the powers that be in the community. Anyone neither profane nor defamatory, who respects space limitations and does not spam the limited pages with material irrelevant to Roosevelt or its past, present or future denizens, can contribute.

Over the years, collegiality has developed among the staff members of the RBB, even when they sometimes differed. This is well illustrated by the following exchange of letters between the late Adeline Weiner and me.

4-5-95

Dear Addie,

I wrote a couple of articles for the current issue of the *Bulletin*. This made me reflect, as usual, about what a thankless task it is. And that reflection prompted appreciation for you, who for so many years were a mainstay of the *Bulletin*, both as a writer and a board member. I flipped through some back issues and saw your by-line on the front page month after month.

I understand, as well as anyone, how much work went into all those articles, which were all so thorough and adept. Therefore, I want to express belated thanks to you for all that you did for the *Bulletin* through the years. Issues of the *Bulletin* will be kept (I have a complete set) and preserved, and they will become part of the history of an historic place. You can take credit for a good deal of that.

Although we have not always agreed, I have felt mutual respect grow as we

served the *Bulletin* year after year. I have heard that you are ill and trust that you have been facing that hardship with the same determination that enabled you to churn out articles in time for publication.

I think of you often and with appreciation.

Regards, Bob

4-12-95

Dear Bob,

Just as I was thinking to call you to say how much I liked your article on the “toxic waste” meeting — so clear and precise — I got your letter.

I think that letter is one of the nicest things ever to happen to me. It means a lot to hear that someone else knows how much effort it takes to try to make things — well, clear & precise. I feel truly honored & gratified by your thoughtful message. Thank you, my friend.

Addie Weiner

P.S. My health deteriorates but quite slowly — which is both good & bad, I guess. Thanks for asking.

Editor’s note: Adeline (Addie) Weiner died a short time later and left some money to her beloved Bulletin. ■

DAVID BRAHINSKY & FRIENDS CONCERT, LANDAU STUDIO EVENT 11/10/07 Review

By Scott Carpenter

Filling the tiny Landau studio dome with rousing, bluesy, folksy tunes; David Brahinsky & Friends provided the perfect coda to RAP’s 6th Annual Jacob Landau Studio Event, held on November 10.

Amid an exhibit showcasing both the vast universe of Jacob’s works as well as the latest efforts from the students of Monmouth University’s PrintShop, the crowd shoe-horned themselves into their seats. Their energy palpable in the air, perhaps the residue of a

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Roosevelt: How It Began

In 1933, during the depression, a group of New York garment workers who made coats and suits for a living met to discuss how to better their lives. They had invited Benjamin Brown, who was organizing cooperatives, to meet with them. The workers drew up preliminary plans for a garment workers' cooperative and declared themselves an organization called *The Workers' Aim Association*.

The plan soon ran into opposition. Republican congressmen complained that the idea was socialistic. The workers' own union leader of the International Garment Workers' Union, David Dubinsky, opposed the plan out of fear that the cooperative would compete with garment industry jobs in the city.

But *Workers' Aim* also had supporters including Albert Einstein, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, and of course, Benjamin Brown.

As the story goes, after Einstein went to see Dubinsky and tried to convince him to support the cooperative, the union leader said, "Dr. Einstein is the smartest man in the world, but what does he know about coats and suits?"

However, Dubinsky eventually was won over and approved the plan.

Despite much controversy, the federal government eventually gave the project piecemeal financial backing and then took over the construction of the project, hiring WPA workers led by Irving Plungian, who later ran his own building contractor's business from his own Roosevelt home and served as mayor for several terms.

The planners bought eight farms comprising 1,260 acres on which to build the cooperative community. To design the town and houses, they hired architect Alfred Kastner of Philadelphia.

Jersey Homesteads was planned and

built as a Greenbelt community, with clusters of houses alternating with woods throughout the town. The original plan continues today. Each house stands on a half acre lot adjacent to wooded open land. The original two hundred houses were built on concrete slabs with cinder block walls, flat roofs, and spacious rooms with lots of windows for that time.

The town was and is horseshoe-shaped, with the school in the center and across the street from the post office and store. The water tower and sewage disposal plant are near the outskirts.

Each family paid \$500 to join the cooperative. The plan was for 160 people to work in the garment factory. In addition, forty people would be hired to work on the farm with Leo Libov, who had a college degree in agriculture, in charge. Since the garment industry is seasonal, the planners reasoned that the garment workers would work on the farm during the slow season.

Coming from crowded New York City streets and apartments, the early settlers were thrilled with their new spacious surroundings and the rural setting. There were problems at first. The earliest settlers described the scene as inundated with mud because the streets had not yet been paved. But they also told of how people helped each other, shared when necessary, and how a lively social life quickly developed, with numerous house parties and organization.

Reflecting the ethnic composition of the garment industry at that time, 95% of Jersey Homesteads's original settlers were Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

After much controversy and building delays, the first seven homesteaders moved in on July 10, 1936. Interviewed during the late 1960's,

Sonia Hecht recalled those early days with ambivalence.

"People came to look at the project," she said, "but it was a dump! All yellow mud - you couldn't get out of town. We didn't have screens until September... no doors in the houses...no refrigerator...it was a terrible time. Plungian (Irving Plungian, construction foreman) brought in an old box, so all the members used one refrigerator. Sometimes things got mixed up, It was fun."

Two thousand people attended the factory dedication on August 2, 1936. In his speech, Benjamin Brown explained the meaning of the tripod on the factory door. The tripod was a symbol of the triple cooperative - industrial (the factory), agricultural (the farm and orchard), and consumer (grocery, a tea room, and dental and medical care for one dollar a visit).

But the garment factory was in trouble before it began. The cooperative was to lease the building from the government for one thousand dollars a year and take ownership after five years. The homesteaders had paid \$60,000 (120 families at \$500 each) to operate the three cooperatives and were to share in the profits.

However, because completion of the houses was delayed, by the time enough garment workers had moved in to run the factory, it was too late to meet the first season's orders worth two million dollars.

The second factory season opened with a \$50,000 government loan, but the big New York department stores whose orders had not been filled took their business elsewhere.

When the *Farm Security Agency*, which took over the project in 1937, refused further financial support because of "unfair competition" with

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private industry, Benjamin Brown obtained a private loan and the homesteaders began to market Jersey Homesteads products to other cooperatives. There was a flurry of hope in the cooperative movement, but again the season ended in a loss.

With the factory unable to provide enough jobs, there were never more than 120 homesteaders at any one time. Only some time after the Farm Security Administration began to lease vacant houses to non-homesteaders in 1938 were the two hundred houses fully occupied.

Farm production, started with the aid of the New Jersey Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, yielded a profit at first, but the Depression and internal problems frustrated success. Only seven full time farmers worked for the Agricultural Cooperative Association, and it was difficult to convince garment workers who earned union wages of forty-five dollars a week to pick potatoes for twenty-five cents an hour during the slow season in the garment industry.

Leo Libove, one of the eleven members of the agricultural co-op's Board of Directors on which garment workers outnumbered farmers six to five, could be outvoted, despite his agricultural expertise.

"I'd tell them how much fertilizer we needed," he said, "and if money was short, they'd tell me to make do with half that amount."

When Jersey Homesteads was incorporated as a borough May 29, 1937, the community elected a mayor and a six-member Borough Council. A Board of Education ran the school, which opened for the 1937-1938 school year.

The houses were rented to the homesteaders for about \$18 a month. The cooperative factory lasted only three years, until 1939. In 1946 and 1947, the Federal Public Housing Authority sold the houses to the tenants for \$3,800 to \$4,200. All the rent a tenant had paid was credited to the price of the house.

After the death in 1945 of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the town honored him by renaming itself Roosevelt. Years later, in 1962, the town built a Roosevelt Memorial adjacent to the school with the woods in the background. Centered by a prominent bust of FDR created by sculptor Jonathan Shahn, the area included an amphitheater with stadium seating and is used by the community for school graduations, concerts, and other outdoor public events. Eleanor Roosevelt, in one of her last public appearances, was the main speaker at the opening of the Memorial.

The dream that became a cooperative community survives today in the memories of old-timers and in a mural by Ben Shahn that stands ten feet high and occupies the width of a forty-four foot wall in the town's

school lobby and library.

Painted in 1937 and 1938 under federal Farm Security Administration auspices, the mural depicts the origins of Jersey Homesteads, the Greenbelt community in central New Jersey that later became Roosevelt.

"Looking at the mural from left to right," Ben Shahn said when interviewed in 1967, "you see that it begins with the socio-economic and political reasons why people emigrated to this country during that period...at the end of the mural they organized into a cooperative."

Today, looking at the end of the mural on the right, we see the original planners sitting at a table that holds a blueprint of their planned community. Except for a few minor changes, the basic layout is the same as the map of Roosevelt today.

As for the town itself, the triple cooperative is gone, and most people commute to their jobs. Nevertheless, we can see, in the way people care about and are willing to help each other when needed, that the old cooperative spirit is still here and part of the town's identity. ■

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 about your family's background.

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman 448-2340

Bess Tremper 448-2701



Greenbelt Gossip

By Manuela & Mark McCusker

Cold weather not only washes a new look over our landscape, but also signals many animals to begin their own winter changes. What does this entail, and where do all these animals go? Many head for warmer climates, while others get ready for winter by growing a thicker coat of fur and/or entering a state of hibernation.

Hibernation is really different from sleep, and there are different types of hibernation. A “true” hibernator appears to be dead, because the animal’s heart rate, breathing and other metabolic functions drastically slow down. Its body temperature drops to nearly that of the surrounding environment. Unlike sleep, with true hibernation, it takes a long time for the animal to wake up. “True” Hibernation is not the same as torpor, which involves a shortened period of hibernation when an animal’s heart rate slows down and body temperature drops, but the animal is able to wake up more rapidly and move around quickly.

Scientists have found a special substance in the blood of hibernating animals called HIT (Hibernation Inducement Trigger). Little is presently known about HIT, but when scientists took the blood from a hibernating squirrel and injected it into an active squirrel during the spring, the active squirrel then went into a state of hibernation. Without this ability to become dormant during the winter, many animals would not be able to survive the physiological conditions imposed by that season. Even some species that don’t contend with harsh winters bed down for months at a time, such as mice, who daily enter a state of torpor when food is in limited supply and temperatures are lower.

Many small birds spend nights year-round in a state of torpor.

Hibernation, however, is more widespread among the mammals. Bedding down in this way for the winter takes preparation, and most animals begin in the fall. One way they do this is by eating more than the usual amount of food. Their bodies will live off body fat, enabling the animal to retain its muscle. This special fat, called brown



fat, is found across the back and shoulders, close to the animal’s organs. This brown fat works faster to deliver quick energy to an animal coming out of hibernation. When an animal resumes normal activity after “waking” from hibernation, it is thinner, but still strong due to muscle retention. For instance, a bear will lose from 15-40 percent of its body weight. However, the bear is able to replenish itself during hibernation by using the nitrogen stored in its urea to build new protein. Warm-blooded hibernators include badgers, bats, chipmunks, dormice, fat-tailed lemurs, hedgehogs, night-hawks, poor-wills, raccoons, ground squirrels, groundhogs, woodchucks, skunks, swifts and bears.

Cold-blooded hibernators begin hibernation when the cold weather causes their body temperatures to

drop. A cold-blooded hibernator’s temperature fluctuates with the air temperatures around it. These hibernators will wake up when the air temperature warms enough for them to resume regular activity. Some cold-blooded hibernators are earthworms, frogs and toads, lizards, mud turtles, snails and snakes. In reptiles, the process is more accurately called “brumation.” In cold temperatures, their body metabolism

slows down to the point where little energy is used. The reptile remains awake, but is very sluggish. For many reptiles, hibernation is necessary for breeding. The

cooling period stimulates ovulation and the production of sperm.

Here are some interesting and amazing facts on individual hibernators...

A woodchuck’s heart rate goes from 80 beats a minute, when active, to 4 or 5 beats a minute when in hibernation, and its body temperature drops from 98 degrees to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. The woodchuck’s incisors, which usually grow continuously and are kept short by its gnawing, will stop growing during hibernation.

The little brown bat, when hibernating, wakes up from time to time to urinate, drink and mate. Uninterrupted hibernation for little brown bats averages between 12 and 19 days but may last as long as 93 days. Moisture from cave walls and condensation droplets on their fur are the usual source of

Continued on Page 12

GREENBELT GOSSIP

Continued from Page 11

water during hibernation.

Raccoons will lose almost half of their weight by the end of hibernation.

When air temperatures drop below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, the raccoon will go to its den to hibernate. Dens are usually in hollow trees and logs, and more than one raccoon typically occupies a den. Sometimes they use the ground burrows of other animals for winter hibernation.

Bears are not "true" hibernators because they easily awaken. (FYI-never approach a hibernating bear. It is not safe!) Skunks, raccoons and opossums are also in this group. These animals breathe more slowly and their body temperatures drop, but they wake up to forage between winter snows. When skunks hibernate, they plug up the opening of the den to prevent heat loss. A bear does something called "delayed implantation" during its hibernation. The female bear will carry around a fertilized egg inside her for many months. Amazingly, the egg will not attach itself to the bear's uterine wall until some sort of body signal is given. Once the signal occurs, it will develop into a fetus. This gives the bear cub the maximum chance of survival.

Box turtles go into hibernation in October or November. To hibernate, they burrow as far as two-feet deep into loose earth, mud, stream bot-



toms, old stump holes, or mammal burrows. They may return to the same place to hibernate in successive years and sometimes more than one turtle hibernates in the same hibernacula (-a hibernating animal's winter quarters).

Ovulation and spermatogenesis will not occur without adequate seasonal cooling. Hormones other than those connected with reproduction may also be affected by hibernation, and box turtles that are not allowed to hibernate (such as those in captivity) experience a progressive physical and mental decline.

Some toads have hibernated for as long as three years.

Frogs dig holes or find cracks in logs or rock areas. They have a lot of glucose in their bodies which keeps them from freezing. Half-frozen frogs regularly thaw out and live, undamaged. Some frogs hibernate under water. These don't breathe and get their oxygen from the water through their skin.

Some moths and skipper butterflies (Lepidopterans) in New Jersey enter a state of reduced metabolism called diapause, in which their body systems all but shut down. They may enter diapause in any life stage, depending on the species. Ladybugs also experience diapause after they have fattened up for winter by eating plenty of aphids. Then they hide in buildings, or under

logs, rocks or piles of leaves.

Rare cases of human hibernation?--In 1999 after being submerged in icy water for more than an hour, a Norwegian skier with no heartbeat and a body temperature of 57 degrees Fahrenheit recovered. In 2001 a Canadian toddler, Erika Nordby, nearly froze to death in 11 degree temperatures. Even though her heart had stopped beating for two hours and her body temperature was 61 degrees, she recovered after suffering frostbite and did not require any amputations. Scientists, funded by medical firms, propelled by a mixture of profit-seeking and a quest for knowledge, are trying to find a way to induce hibernation in humans.

They believe that metabolic flexibility can be used to enhance trauma care and surgical outcome and might buy time for people who are waiting for an organ transplant. Meanwhile, nature continues to amaze us as she provides the tools for the necessary adaptations in her varied and individual life-cycles.

"There is a fullness of all things, even of sleep and love." --Homer, *The Iliad*

-Comments and/or Future topic requests? --write the McCuskers at PO Box 131 or 3artists@comcast.net

Photos:

Hibernating bear, hibernating Chipmunk, hibernating turtle

"There is a fullness of all things,
even of sleep and love."

--Homer, *The Iliad*

Roosevelt Woodland Trail

Eagle Scout Tim Collins of BSA Troop 116 (Millstone) achieved the "Eagle Rank" for his planning and creating the final section of the Roosevelt Woodland Trail. His successful efforts were introduced by Robert Silverstein to the Roosevelt Borough Council and recognized by Mayor Beth Battel with a formal proclamation at the November 14th meeting.

An article by Jennifer Kohlhepp in *The Examiner* (Nov. 14, 2007) also tells his story. Thanks again Tim and BSA Troop 116.

Hunting Season Continues

Just another reminder that hunting is allowed near the Roosevelt Woodland Trail section "A" (Water Treatment Plant to Tamara Drive) and section "D" (Solar Village to the Cemetery). Always wear hunter safety orange when walking near these areas. No one is allowed to hunt or carry guns or bows on Sunday so Sundays are SAFE DAYS. Please report those who violate hunting rules and regulations.

Is Roosevelt Wetter?

Have you noticed more wet areas around town? It may not be your imagination. I have noticed "swamp creep" myself and more wet areas along the trails in town. Also I have noticed that water is not flowing freely through the three Empty Box Brook culverts. Why?

Well, it could be the melting of the polar ice caps due to excessive carbon emissions--global warming--or it could be that the beavers are back!

A duck-hunting friend of mine was working the back of Lake Assunpink in early November and saw several dams and two very large beaver. He

said it looked like the dams raised the water table at least five feet! That may explain some of our ground water woes. Even though we may like the beaver, we will have to ask the Department of Fish and Game to help remedy the situation. Sundays in December may be a good time to see the dams and maybe live wild beaver before they are removed. Take a camera and share your observations. Thank you.

New Deli Owners Promote Conservation!

It seems I was left out of another info loop. The Roosevelt Deli has been open under new ownership since the beginning of November and I didn't know it. New Deli owners John and Amy Block will also open the Deli Sunday mornings and they will carry most newspapers and fresh bagels. How is this about conservation or environmentally relevant? I, for one, am a creature of habit. Every Sunday for years I have been driving to Hightstown for the Sunday paper and bagels. I would often meet other Rooseveltians and lament the lack of such service in town. Now, for a limited trial period, the Blocks have revived the service thus catering to my weekly addiction.

Now, just imagine, no, really calculate how much gas consumption, emissions, money and time will be saved by shopping in town. But, if they don't sell enough to be profitable they will abandon Sunday openings. Let's all chip in to help the environment and conserve gasoline and shop the Deli on Sundays. Heck, I may even walk to the store and get some exercise as well. It's a win-win situation for everyone. Support and shop the Roosevelt Deli with me and help

conserve and save our environment! Once again I thank you.

Taxidermy Talk Reviewed

The October RAP program - The Art of Taxidermy was attended by about 40 adults which, I was told, was a respectable showing. I had a good time and I think the audience did as well. Only those who came to the talk were invited to visit my studio in Milltown to see many more wonders of the natural world. But if you show proof of Roosevelt residency, you are also welcome. Visitors may also bring friends. It's a perfect quick field trip for curious children as well. Please call 732-828-0249 to make sure I will be there and I will give you the twenty-five cent tour for free.

Our Next Meeting

If anyone has a newsworthy nature note of interest or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204 or drop a note to PO Box 203. Please watch for future pleas for help from the Roosevelt Environmental Commission for future projects and activities.

Thank you for reading this column.

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm on December 21, 2007. Everyone is welcome to attend

WISHING YOU ALL A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY CHANUKAH AND
A HAPPY, HEALTHY 2008

- NEW YEAR!

To: The Editor

Re: A FINE MESS letter from Bob Clark

Mr. Clark's jeremiad in the *Bulletin* is an elaborate fabrication of truth, half-truth, un-truth and opinion masquerading as fact. The single truth is that the Borough is being forced to spend an inordinate amount of money defending its lawful ordinances against a group which considers itself above the law. Consider the history:

1. The Zoning Officer issued his opinion that the private school operating in the synagogue Anshei Roosevelt did not need a variance for its activities.

2. The Roosevelt Preservation Association lodged an appeal, in accordance with New Jersey statutes, to the Planning Board, to have the decision of the Zoning Officer overturned.

3. Planning Board hearings were held on this appeal. During these hearings, Mr. Clark introduced a letter from Mr. Bruce Shoulson, Attorney for the Yeshiva, in which Shoulson promises that the Borough will suffer extreme financial hardship unless the Borough accommodates his client's requests.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NO LIST OF REQUESTS HAS EVER BEEN OFFICIALLY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING BOARD

4. After tedious hearings, the Board reversed the Zoning Officer's original decision and determined that the Yeshiva does not have any automatic entitlement to operate but is a non-conforming use and MUST SEEK a conditional use variance.

5. Since that decision, the Yeshiva and the synagogue have made no effort to present their plans to the Planning Board as required by law; they have increased the number of students in attendance at the Homestead Lane buildings; they have converted residences into dormitories in defiance of borough ordinances and state law (and have been fined by the state

for these infractions) and they have instituted baseless suits against borough officials and private citizens in an attempt to harass, intimidate, and pauperize those who object to their illegal activities.

Mr. Clark refers to a "reasonable settlement." Settlements require offer and counter offer. WHAT OFFER HAS THE YESHIVA MADE?

While Mr. Clark doesn't think 60 or more students running a 16-hour-a-day school and dormitories in the middle of a residential neighborhood are disruptive, the families who live on Homestead Lane beg to differ exceedingly with him.

This is not a religious contest or an RLUIPA case. This is an issue between those who believe that the purpose of Zoning Ordinances are as stated in the preamble to our and other communities' ordinances:

"to protect and promote public health, safety, morals, comfort, convenience, and the general welfare of the people."

Mr. Clark also stoops to slander by innuendo when he makes reference to "Council members (who) put their own personal interests above our collective interest." Mr. Clark, a lawyer, knows that if he names names he opens himself to legal actions for slander against him, but his failure to name names is just an act of cowardice.

Mr. Clark appears to be of the opinion that the residents of Homestead Lane do not have the right to the quiet enjoyment of their property. I believe that he is wrong and I strongly believe that the Courts will uphold that right.

Bert Ellentuck

Dear Editor:

I have read various articles regarding the debate about our water tower, including reports in the *Borough Bulletin*. I would like to take this opportunity to dispel seven of the

misstatements and misconceptions regarding the water tower issue. I would also like to make some additional observations about why some of us are not in a rush to replace our water tower when repair is an option.

As you may know, Roosevelt requested to borrow up to a total of \$3,500,000, inclusive of engineering fees, for two water system projects. The first project is the repair or replacement of our water tower and the second project is the relining of some of our water pipes. These are initial base estimates and are not based on actual bids. The water tower request is based on the results of an inspection by Liquid Engineering, a specialty engineering firm hired by the Borough's prior Council.

The Council's Finance Committee has requested an engineering study of the structure that supports our water tank. We think this is very reasonable in light of the money that Roosevelt is being asked to spend on a new water tank and related fees, which we may not need.

I start by correcting some misconceptions, misstatements and confusion:

1. It has been said that the last engineering study was an in-depth investigation of the water tank. The fact is that Liquid Engineering focused primarily on the tank bowl. They only did a visual, and inconclusive, inspection of the supporting structure. While there are some questions regarding the bowl study, it is just as important that we get an accurate picture of the condition of the supporting structure.

2. Liquid Engineering did not conclude that the water tank must be replaced immediately or that disaster would ensue. Omitting the suggestions regarding security and screening, they stated:

"Recommend utility budget for a blast and recoat on the tank inte-

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LETTERS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 14

rior, or consider replacement due to age and limited capacity.” (Meaning: Clean and paint it and think about getting a new one).

“Recommendation would be to implement a maintenance program that consists of power washing the tank exterior with an industry approved anti-fungal solution and completing coating repairs as necessary. This will extend the coating life and improve aesthetics.” (Meaning: Wash it and paint it and make it look nice).

“At a minimum the tank should be inspected every 3-5 years to monitor and document general condition of reservoir.” (Emphasis added).

3. The DEP does not require Roosevelt to have a larger water tank. In fact, years ago the DEP considered our needs and issued us a waiver that specifically exempts us from having to expand our capacity. Virtually all of Roosevelt’s land is either built or preserved. After the US Homes case, it is unlikely that substantial development requiring water connections will be built in the Borough, which means that the number of ratepayers is unlikely to increase substantially. Any DEP regulations that might require a larger tank will only apply IF we decide to replace our water tank instead of repairing it. By way of analogy, many houses originally built in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century (including many Roosevelt houses) would have to be built to different specifications if built today. That fact does not affect their usefulness or utility, nor justify replacing them.

4. Our annual water restrictions are not based on the size of our water tank, nor are they based on drought conditions. They are enacted each year in the spirit of ecology and good preservation policy and in solidarity with those towns in New Jersey that have restrictions based on need. Further, a larger tank will not enable us to get

more water from the ground in the event of a real drought and so would buy only a day of additional water.

5. It is true that the cost of a 200,000 gallon tank is not much more than the cost of a 100,000 gallon tank on a relative basis. However, both may be un-needed and are likely to be a lot more expensive than the cost of repair and maintenance. Please note that a Porsche is not much more expensive than a Mercedes, but most of us have neither.

Reduced rate loans are available to the Borough whether we choose to repair or replace. They are not limited to new construction.

Despite stated concerns that our current water tank may not have sufficient pressure for fire department needs, which have changed little in the last 70 years, our Borough engineer recently confirmed that the pressure is more than sufficient.

Roosevelt residents pay some of the highest water and sewer rates in the state and country. Almost all of the most recent homes in the Borough use wells. This fact means they do not, and will not, participate in the expenses of the water system. The cost of a new tower will be shared only among the 350 or so families who pay now. This will affect our residents directly and harshly and will make it even more difficult to sell homes in Roosevelt at a reasonable price.

As of March 2007, the Borough had \$2,192,000 principal outstanding under loans from the mid 1990’s at a rate of 6.375% and \$191,000 principal outstanding at a rate of 5%. Current annual debt service is approximately \$195,000 per year, of which approximately \$149,000 comprises interest. Why not consider paying off some of our existing debt before deciding that it is ok to pay another couple of million dollars? If we can get an additional 12 or 15 years of use, we will be out from under the current debt burden.

While we requested the right to borrow funds for these projects, we are not required to complete them this year or in any future year. Further, it was our

understanding that the Borough would be entitled to free engineering services due to the size and historic nature of the Borough. Unfortunately, we were recently advised that we applied too late to obtain these services for free in the upcoming year. The amount of money that the State estimates Roosevelt will need to pay in engineering fees is substantial

The price of a new water tank is not likely to increase in the coming years relative to other price indices. As a result, we will not pay more for a new tank if we choose to replace the tank in five or ten or twenty years.

In view of the small size of our Borough, the amount of our existing water and sewer debt, the unlikelihood of substantial additional development, and the limited number of ratepayers to support additional debt, I believe we should proceed deliberately and carefully before agreeing to build a new water tower.

Sincerely,
Jeff Ellentuck

To the Editor:

Mark Twain wrote a story called “The Man That Corrupted Hadleysburg.” He portrays a delightful small town, filled with righteous citizens, which knows no crime and no tension . . . Until a stranger shows up and offers people things they hadn’t dreamt of before. The people of Hadleysburg, now that they know what’s available, and how to get it, grab with both hands, and Hadleysburg, having been tempted, falls.

Something under 2 years ago, Roosevelt was named the “best town in New Jersey” for its “communality”. So many good Rooseveltians (including me) were pleased, even proud, of the designation, and we bragged about it under the right circumstances. Today, that vaunted communality stands tattered and somewhat naked, with a little stink of hypocrisy emanating from the corpse. All because a group of Orthodox Jews (conveniently and inauspiciously labeled in some quarters “the black hats”) brought to

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By Ron Filepp

I remember fondly the dark cold cloudy winter days of my youth when my father, brother and I would cut down dead trees in the forest behind our house for firewood. The work was hard but satisfying. They say wood heats twice, once when you cut it and once when you burn it. But wood heats more than twice.

First, there's the felling of the tree. When it was just my brother and I cutting down the trees we would use axes. When my father was with us, we used a large two-man handsaw. My dad, an engineer, knew a saw was more efficient than an axe. But for us, the saw lacked drama. Swinging axes, now that's dramatic.

The next time wood heats you is when you remove the branches and cut logs. For this task the saw, be it hand or chain, was a clear winner over an axe. It's much faster and you get nice flat ends that are very handy to stand the logs on end for splitting. Hauling logs out of the woods for splitting will keep you warm, too. Splitting and stacking will also work up a sweat.

For me, the two best parts of the wood burning experience were being outside splitting the logs and sitting in front of the fireplace enjoying the fire. Splitting logs is solitary work that leaves lots of time for reverie. And reverie comes easily after the physical work gets the endorphins pumping.

Our Roosevelt home has neither a fireplace nor a wood burning stove. We now know how awfully polluting and unhealthy it is to burn wood, even in a high efficiency "low" emission stove. A wood stove is 1000 times dirtier than a modern gas furnace and 500 times dirtier than an oil furnace. That's why after cutting down a dead and half-fallen tree a few years ago I did not

offer the split logs to anyone.

I felled the tree for safety's sake and then cut it into logs and split the logs in a fit of nostalgia. I stacked the logs just as in days of old. With the glow of perspiration on my face, I went into my house, turned down the temperature on the gas furnace, gazed out at the stack of split logs and knew I was doing better by the environment and my neighbors.

Residential wood burning is a large contributor to poor air quality during the winter. Among the dangerous pollutants in wood smoke are the global warming pollutant carbon dioxide. Other wood smoke pollutants include:

1. Carbon Monoxide (CO) - Exposure can cause long-term health problems, dizziness, confusion, severe headache, unconsciousness and even death.

2. Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) - impairs the respiratory system and its ability to fight infection. It also combines with VOCs to make ozone and with water vapor to form acid rain.

3. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - Evaporated carbon compounds which react with **Oxides of Nitrogen** in sunlight to form ozone. Ozone injures the lungs and makes breathing difficult, especially in children and exercising adults. NOx and VOCs also form particulate matter through reactions in the atmosphere.

4. Toxic Pollutants - Wood smoke also contains VOCs which include toxic and/or cancer-causing substances,

such as benzene, formaldehyde and benzo-a-pyrene, a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH). Manufactured fireplace logs, for instance, are not recommended for burning because they produce toxic fumes, including PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

5. Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) are very small droplets of condensed organic vapors of wood tar and gases. These particles are a result of unburned fuel and have a diameter of 10 microns or smaller (the diameter of a human hair is about 50 to 100 microns), which allows them to be inhaled into the lungs. Exposure to PM10 aggravates a number of respiratory illnesses.

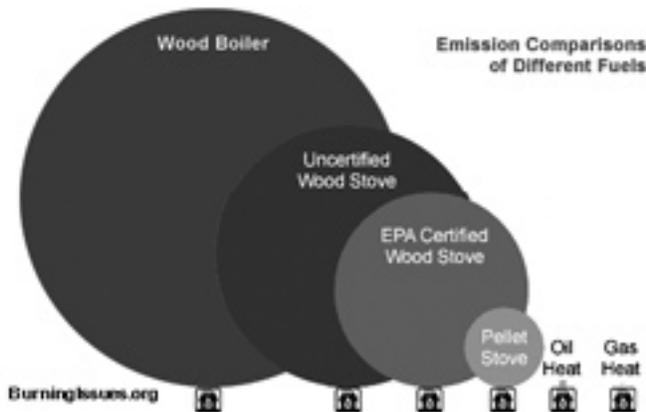
6. PM10 includes a smaller group of particles called **PM2.5**, particles with diameters of 2.5 microns and less. These finer particles pose an increased health risk because they can lodge deep in the lungs and contain substances that are particularly harmful to human health, contributing to lung diseases and cancer. Exposure to PM2.5 may even cause early death in people with existing heart and lung disease.

List from: *Cal/EPA Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division, Compliance Assistance Program*

If wood burners don't care about their neighbors' health, they should at least consider their family's health. High levels of smoke pollutants are found in many homes with wood burning stoves and fireplaces.

Weather Words

Surface temperature inversions play a major role in air quality, especially during the winter when these inversions are the strongest. The warm air above cooler air acts like a lid, suppressing vertical mixing and trapping the cooler air at the surface. As pollutants from vehicles, fireplaces, and industry are emitted into the air, the inversion traps these pollutants near the ground, leading to poor air quality. *Information from the EPA*



WEATHER (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 16

Oct 15 - Nov 15, 2007

| Day | High | Low | Avg | Precip | Degree Days |
|----------------------------|------|------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| 15 | 64.6 | 42.3 | 53.5 | 0.00 | 11.6 |
| 16 | 68.0 | 50.2 | 59.1 | 0.00 | 5.9 |
| 17 | 72.7 | 53.8 | 63.3 | 0.00 | 1.8 |
| 18 | 75.7 | 58.1 | 66.9 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 19 | 74.7 | 65.1 | 69.9 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 20 | 70.0 | 53.4 | 61.7 | 0.44 | 3.3 |
| 21 | 69.8 | 47.3 | 58.6 | 0.00 | 6.5 |
| 22 | 72.7 | 52.7 | 62.7 | 0.00 | 2.3 |
| 23 | 77.0 | 61.5 | 69.3 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 24 | 69.1 | 57.6 | 63.4 | 0.00 | 1.7 |
| 25 | 57.9 | 51.1 | 54.5 | 0.63 | 10.5 |
| 26 | 60.4 | 53.6 | 57.0 | 0.10 | 8.0 |
| 27 | 70.0 | 55.0 | 62.5 | 0.94 | 2.5 |
| 28 | 56.3 | 45.9 | 51.1 | 0.30 | 13.9 |
| 29 | 51.6 | 32.5 | 42.1 | 0.00 | 23.0 |
| 30 | 59.2 | 37.0 | 48.1 | 0.00 | 16.9 |
| 31 | 62.2 | 39.0 | 50.6 | 0.00 | 14.4 |
| 1 | 66.0 | 46.6 | 56.3 | 0.00 | 8.7 |
| 2 | 54.3 | 36.0 | 45.2 | 0.00 | 19.9 |
| 3 | 53.2 | 44.6 | 48.9 | 0.00 | 16.1 |
| 4 | 56.5 | 37.8 | 47.2 | 0.00 | 17.9 |
| 5 | 54.9 | 35.1 | 45.0 | 0.00 | 20.0 |
| 6 | 51.4 | 39.7 | 45.6 | 0.32 | 19.5 |
| 7 | 49.5 | 32.9 | 41.2 | 0.00 | 23.8 |
| 8 | 44.6 | 27.1 | 35.9 | 0.00 | 29.2 |
| 9 | 48.4 | 30.4 | 39.4 | 0.00 | 25.6 |
| 10 | 46.8 | 38.3 | 42.6 | 0.10 | 22.5 |
| 11 | 46.8 | 28.6 | 37.7 | 0.00 | 27.3 |
| 12 | 52.3 | 31.1 | 41.7 | 0.00 | 23.3 |
| 13 | 57.7 | 40.3 | 49.0 | 0.16 | 16.0 |
| 14 | 58.5 | 36.3 | 47.4 | 0.09 | 17.6 |
| 15 | 61.5 | 41.7 | 51.6 | 0.00 | 13.4 |
| Total Precipitation | | | 3.08 | | |
| Total Degree-Days | | | | | 422.6 |

Concert Review (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 8

day spent in discovery of the wonders their neighbors held in store for them at the various open studio tours held throughout town, they came to the concert wanting a show. They were not disappointed.

With a voice like good whiskey, David kicked things into gear with a Brownie McGee tune lamenting his lady's lowdown ways. The band's energy rose to match the crowd's and we could see that indeed, a great night was in store for all. And yet still, I was surprised. Not by the locomotion of David's voice, nor by the smooth pull of the bass line by Joe Pepitone. No, I was flabbergasted by the disembodied harmonica sounds rising seemingly from behind the studio's spiral staircase. Musically-talented studio trolls perhaps? (In my defense, I was in obstructed-view seating such that any musician stage right was for me, well, obstructed) I shifted in my seat a little and saw Guy DeRosa wailing away on the blues harp, bending notes as if he were on a slide guitar, giving the piece new dimensions – wow.

The group went into back-to-back tour de force mode as Sarah Houtz took center stage for “Young James”, a traditional Irish song. I've used “soaring” too many times in the past when describing Sarah's singing for it to have the proper effect so instead I will add stuff like: textured, captivating, and really good.

These thoughts from the opening two songs came into sharp relief a little later when the group covered “The Great Divide” by Janis Ian. For me, “Divide” is on paper an average at best song that became a wonderful duet between Sarah and Guy as Sarah injected life into the quiet, rabble-raising words and set the jumping off point for Guy's harmonica to play off them.

Next up, David led us into Chris

Smither's “Origin of Species” which mined an apparently rich seam of Bible humor in the crowd. Later in the show David gave us our laughs again with the angular, spoken word “I Don't Want to Have a Nice Day” lines of Greg Brown.

Meanwhile, Joe, familiar to the audience for his vocals and guitar work with the String Band but here brandishing only his bass, did the heavy lifting on songs such as Pete Seeger's “Empty Pocket Blues” and Smither's “Shilling for the Blues” providing solid foundation and inciting much of the head bopping seen amongst the crowd. And throughout almost every song, Guy's blues harp roared; amplifying and sharpening one moment, providing mood and resonance the next.

Songs such as “What You Gonna Do About Annie” and “Cactus Tree” were great, all round, tight tunes that the band hit out of the park. Both songs showcased the depth and breadth of Sarah's vocal expression. Hauntingly plaintive in the first, catching the moods of dreams in the other.

In a great touch, the band wrapped up with a cover of Lee Hays' “Good Man”, allowed Joe his only opportunity to dust off his vocal chops as he and Sarah sang the dismissive wife's chorus, their lines crashing over those of her drunken fool husband, sung by David.

And with that, the band put the exclamation point on what turned out to be a wonderful day for Roosevelt arts. Whether touring current artists' studios, revisiting a departed friend's striking genius, or settling in for a night of unforgettable blues and folk music, truly there was something for everyone. This town should be proud. ■

BREAKING BREAD

by
REBECCA REUTER

“That only took, like -- seven minutes!” My sister is astonished.

She has been rhapsodizing about a bakery she visited almost daily while staying in San Francisco, some fabulous spot with perfect cappuccino and heart-breaking desserts. The crusty little rolls! The chocolate pots de crème! Oh yes, the pots de crème.... Her gaze drifts westward and I know she is thinking of leaving me. She licks her lips and says it again, “pots de crème” I can almost see her dessert-loving soul begin to cleave away and rise on a spice-scented wind, wafting toward another coast. And the talk of crispy pastries, cinnamon snows and mellow sauces has me sucking my cheeks, too, and dreaming of a chocolate elsewhere. We need something to hold us down, to glue us into the Jersey here and now – something rich and solid and immediate. She’s still saying the words “pots de crème” and I’ve already got out the milk and sugar, a stub of butter and a box of cornstarch, and I’m groping the darkness at the back of the pantry for a chocolate bar or a tin of cocoa to coax into a pudding. “Pudding?” She’s dubious. I understand; it sounds dumb, so flabby-cornstarchy-mundane-undelicious. Even the word sounds dumb. “Puh-ding,” I say as I turn on the gas. “Pud-thing,” I think as I warm the milk and whisk the cornstarch. “Poo-ding.” We’re still deciding whether it’s even worthwhile, but I’m already spooning it into little glasses and carrying it to the table. We’ve barely committed to the idea of pudding and she’s saying, “That only took, like -- seven minutes!” We’re still thinking how only something really superb and slightly exotic could break through this soggy east-coast autumn gloom as we’re dipping the tips of our teaspoons into the silky steaming chocolate. It’s warm. It smells delicious. When we bend our heads down over the warm glasses every breath comes back to us as if from a faraway place, breaking warm and fragrant through a cinnamon-chocolate fog to greet us where we are. “Seven minutes,” she says, “not bad.”



pudding: You Could Do Worse

4 cups milk
1/3 cup cornstarch
1/3 cup unsweetened
cocoa powder
1/2 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 or 2 ounces of
Bittersweet chocolate,
chopped up
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tablespoon butter

Heat the milk in a saucepan over fairly low heat.

In a medium bowl, use a whisk to mix together the cornstarch, cocoa, sugar and salt.

When the milk is hot, pour about 2/3 cup of it into the bowl with the dry ingredients and whisk it well to make a smooth mixture.

Start whisking the milk over medium heat, and keep whisking while you pour in the cocoa mixture.

Keep whisking until the pudding thickens. Once it gets noticeably thicker, turn off the heat and add the chopped chocolate and vanilla extract. When the chocolate has mostly melted, add the butter and stir until everything has melted. The pudding will continue to thicken off the heat.

Pour into 4 small cups.

Make tea or coffee while the pudding cools a bit. Serve warm with a sprinkle of cinnamon, if you like.

How to whisk pudding and sauces: It's not necessary to whisk vigorously, as you would do if you were beating eggs or whipping cream. The goal is just to keep the mixture from sticking to the bottom of the pan and getting lumpy. Move the whisk as if you were using it to erase the entire bottom of the saucepan, erasing quickly from side to side as you gradually move down the whole bottom surface. When you've covered the entire bottom, whisk a few times in a circle around the edge of the pan, then start erasing again. Just keep this up till your pudding or sauce is thickened.

LETTERS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 15

town their desire to build a yeshiva, and because some residents, for reasons ranging from outright bigotry to concern about their neighbors' property values, decided to oppose their arrival.

Now some full disclosure is warranted. I have never been a member of any synagogue, temple, church or other religious group of any profession. My experiences within the bounds of such institutions have been limited to weddings (not enough of them), funerals (too many), bar/bas mitzvahs, and the like, and very occasional sight-seeing. I am the grandson and son of atheists, and the father of a fourth generation. I must also confess that I did not welcome the yeshiva people, and have sometimes wished they had not come here in the first place.

But that, of course, is not the issue. The community doesn't get the opportunity for a referendum on every new homeowner or business operator. People have had goats, horses, egg-packing and any number of other kinds of business, white collar and blue, much of which goes on behind high fences and inside "residential" extensions, frequently to the despair of their neighbors. The issue really is how Roosevelt accommodated itself to the newcomers, and vice versa.

The first thing was the establishment of a committee whose officers duly signed letters which Bert Ellentuck, the gray eminence, grand strategist, and main tactician behind the Roosevelt Preservation Association (RPA), as well as the neighboring landowner, in fact wrote. I know because one of the signers admitted she had no idea of what was in the propaganda piece. Bert had done the letter as he always did, and she had signed it without reading it.

The members of the RPA (I call it the "Roosevelt Purity Association") and some of their supporters are not shy about throwing their weight around: in at least two instances I know of, Planning Board members were subjected to intimidation if they didn't vote with the RPA. No physical threats, of course, but your kid can't play with mine because of your vote. People who have been neighbors for decades suddenly stop speaking with one another. The town that was known for its communality is suddenly the town that chose up sides: Hadleysburg-on-the-Assunpink.

The Borough Council is deeply, though unevenly, divided. There are at least two yeshiva-phobe true believers, at least two who go along to get along, one member who is generally anti-yeshiva, and the lone consistent dissenter, who thinks the issue should have been negotiated before a court battle commenced.

The Council hired a \$500/hour lawyer along with a \$275/hour local sidekick lawyer at the taxpayers' expense. The Borough Council appropriated \$75,000 for legal fees in 2007. That was all used up by September. The Borough stays solvent only if the law firms postpone their billing until next year. Meanwhile, water and sewage pipes in the Borough are rotting away. The 70-odd-year-old water tower is deteriorating to the point that it needs hundreds of thousands of dollars just to repair it, and then hope that it will hang on. It may need total replacement that, with repair of the pipes, might cost in excess of a million dollars. (This may have an anti-yeshiva slant as well: the Council majority is reluctant to get a new water tower because a new water tower at proper capacity would provide sufficient water for the yeshiva

boys, as well as for the whole town. Better, they believe, to make repairs on the old tower even though they might not last long, than to improve the town's water supply permanently because that would benefit the enemy yeshiva.)

While the Council dithers with the question of what to do about the water tower, the Borough has at least five different law firms working on the yeshiva litigation. It is preparing to retain a sixth. If the yeshiva wins the current discrimination lawsuit against the Borough, the Borough will have to pay damages to the yeshiva, and also pay the yeshiva's lawyers for winning the case. That could amount to anywhere from several hundreds of thousands of dollars to over a million, that will come out of our taxes. On the other hand, if the Borough prevails, the yeshiva will not be liable for the town's legal costs, and because the yeshiva is the plaintiff, the Borough would be unlikely to collect any damages.

So we are in a lose-lose situation. We have to pay if we win, and we have to pay even more if we lose. Then there will be the water-sewer repairs. They won't go away. There is a possibility that our property taxes will double. Why didn't anyone have enough sense to talk to the yeshiva people before it got to this?

Ed Moser

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2007 - 2008 Season

Saturday, December 8, 2007, Opening, at 1-5 p.m. reception at the Eleanor Gallery on N. Valley Road
Sunday, December 9, 2007, art exhibit continues, 1-5 p.m., also December 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd

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Saturday, January 19, 2008, at 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall

OPEN MIC CAFE

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Saturday, February 9, 2008, at 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

THE ROOSEVELT POETS

Saturday, March 15, 2008, at 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

ALAN MALLACH PERFORMS PIANO MUSIC OF THE FRENCH ROMANTIC ERA

Saturday, April 12, 2008, at 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

JERSEY HOMESTEADS: IN THE ARCHITECTURAL VANGUARD
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Presented by Ben Johnson

Friday, April 25, 2008, 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

Saturday, April 26, 2008, 8 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

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Saturday, May 17, 2008, 2-5 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

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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. ■

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deirdresheean@hotmail.com

Judy Nahmias
P.O. Box 206
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8:00 P.M. at Borough Hall**

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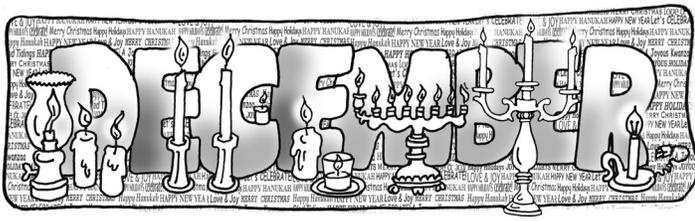
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3 Mon – 7:00 PM Council Action Meeting, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

4 Tues – 12:30 PM Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall

1 PM Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall,
Gerry Millar, President, 448-0351

Hanukkah begins at Sundown

7:30 PM – Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall,
Jane Rothfuss, Chair, 448-3713

5 Wed – Hanukkah

PTA Holiday Gift Fair , RPS during school hours,
Casey Nixon, President, 443-9325

7:30 PM PTA Meeting, RPS,
Casey Nixon, President, 443-9325

6 Thur – PTA Holiday Gift Fair , RPS,
Casey Nixon, President, 443-9325

7 Fri – RPS Pizza Day

8 Sat – RAP Program, Robert Mueller Selections
opening reception, Eleanor Gallery, 1-5 PM,
Robin Gould 448-4616

9 Sun – 10 AM – First Aid Squad Training, Borough Hall,
Jack Rindt, 448-9475

1-5 PM Robert Mueller Selections, Eleanor Gallery,
Robin Gould 448-4616

12 Wed – RECYCLE 

15 Sat – 1-5 PM Robert Mueller Selections, Eleanor Gallery,
Robin Gould 448-4616

16 Sun – 1-5 PM Robert Mueller Selections, Eleanor Gallery,
Robin Gould 448-4616

17 Mon – 7:00 PM Council Action Meeting,
Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

18 Tues – 7:30 PM – First Aid Squad Business Meeting,
Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, 448-9475

7:30 PM- RPS Winter Concert,
Shari Payson, Principal, 448-2798

19 Wed – 7:30 PM Environmental Commission Mtg,
Dave Schwendeman, Chair, 443-6204

21 Fri – RPS Pizza Day

22 Sat – 1-5 PM Robert Mueller Selections, Eleanor Gallery,
Robin Gould 448-4616

23 Sun – 1-5 PM Robert Mueller Selections, Eleanor Gallery,
Robin Gould 448-4616

24 Mon– RPS closed – Winter Break

25 Tues– Christmas Day

26 Wed– RECYCLE 

January

1 Tues – New Year's Day

2 Wed – RPS classes resume

7 Mon – 7:00 PM – Reorganization Meeting, Borough Hall
Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

8 Tues – 12:30 PM Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall

- 1 PM Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall,
Gerry Millar, President, 448-0351

7:30 PM – Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall,
Jane Rothfuss, Chair, 448-3713

9 Wed – RECYCLE 

7:30 PM PTA Meeting, RPS,
Casey Nixon, President, 443-9325

13 Sun – 10 AM – First Aid Squad Training, Borough Hall,
Jack Rindt, 448-9475

15 Tues - 7:30 PM – First Aid Squad Business Meeting,
Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, 448-9475

16 Wed- 7:30 PM Environmental Commission Mtg,
Dave Schwendeman, Chair, 443-6204

19 Sat – 8 PM – RAP Program, Open Mic Café, Borough Hall,
Robin Gould 448-4616

21 Mon – Martin Luther King Day

RPS Closed

23 Wed– RECYCLE 

February

1 Fri – PTA Schoolhouse Hooky, RPS,
Casey Nixon, President, 443-9325

6 Wed - RECYCLE 

9 Sat – 8 PM – RAP Program, Roosevelt Poets, Borough
Hall, Robin Gould 448-4616

15 Fri – RPS Closed

18 Mon – RPS Closed – Presidents' Day

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