

Bulletin

Volume 44 Number 5

April 2022

Board of Education Sponsors Study for Future of Roosevelt Public School, State Aid Increased for Next School Year

by Rick Pressler

Anticipating reduced state funding and ongoing pressure from the state to regionalize, the Roosevelt Board of Education contracted with the law firm Porzio, Bromberg & Newman in 2021 to conduct a study examining different potential scenarios for the district’s future. The report was presented at the Board meeting on December 8.

Also at that meeting, the Board adopted a resolution, written by member Michael Ticktin, confirming that the school would not be closed without the voters actively deciding to do so, and that the historic school property, in any event, would not be transferred to any entity other than the Borough of Roosevelt in order to keep it under local control.

More recently at its March meeting, the Board announced that State aid to Roosevelt is actually increasing by over \$50,000 for the coming year. It is not known whether this will be the trend in future years, or whether the state will resume the use of funding cuts to pressure small school districts to merge or regionalize.

In a subsequent interview, Board President Ken LeCompte indicated, “With the additional funding the Board for right now can take a wait-and-see approach. Having completed the study, the board has a responsibility

to use the information to put together a contingency plan for the future, but it can be put on the shelf for now.” He added, “We are no longer in a situation where immediate action is needed.”

The December study identified the district’s and community’s long term goals that were informing the entire process:

- maintaining educational quality;
- maintaining educational continuity for students (both Roosevelt and interdistrict choice students);
- minimizing impact on taxpayers;
- minimizing impact on staff;
- preserving the Roosevelt School building and mural.

Four options were addressed in the study:

- (1) maintain the status quo, which consists of a sending relationship with East Windsor Regional, in which Roosevelt students in grades 6 through 12 attend the regional district’s schools;
- (2) expand Roosevelt’s current sending-receiving relationship with East Windsor Regional into a PK-12 sending-receiving relationship, which would make Roosevelt a non-operating school district;

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Ben Shahn’s Roosevelt/Jersey Homesteads Mural in Roosevelt Public School - Photograph from Roosevelt Arts Project

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 44th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. Issues run from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Submission Process

The Bulletin welcomes submissions for news items, information of local interest, letters to the editor, poetry, and visual arts. We ask all contributors to adhere to the following submission guidelines:

- Send your submission to the email: rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text with in the body of your email. Please do not send PDFs.
- Please include images as separate files.
- The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (e.g., January 15 for the February issue). Submissions received after the 15th will normally be printed in the issue following the one currently in production.
- Most submissions will also be added to the Bulletin web site. Allow up to one week for submissions to appear online after publication of the print edition.
- Please name your files with your last name, or the name of your organization, and the month.

It's natural that people have second thoughts about what they've written, but we want to discourage multiple submissions of the same thing, whenever possible. When this is necessary, the revised version should be clearly named as a revision.

The Bulletin board members are thrilled to see that people are utilizing the Bulletin as a forum for communicating about our community's most critical issues. And it is impressive that Roosevelt has supported this publication for so many decades by contributing both financially and intellectually. We are committed to providing you with the best publication possible—your support of our submission guidelines will enable our volunteers to most effectively meet that goal.

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 and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and where you wish to go.

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.rooseveltboroughbulletin.org., the official website of the Borough Bulletin. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please send your request to rpressler32@gmail.com.

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(3) form a regional school district with Millstone Township to educate in-district grades PK-8 and then send students in grades 9-12 to Upper Freehold Regional and/or East Windsor Regional (i.e., Hightstown High School); or

(4) convert to a charter school.

Any decision to merge with another district would require approval from the New Jersey Department of Education. Likewise, a charter school application would ultimately require approval from the Commissioner. The study examined each option in light of several criteria:

- racial/demographic impact on the various school districts (this is an important consideration for the state);
- financial sustainability of the model;
- tax impacts on residents of all affected communities; and

- educational impacts on Roosevelt students.

The consultants concluded that each of the proposed reconfigurations would meet New Jersey’s educational requirements and would provide an opportunity for a thorough and efficient education for all the Roosevelt students as well as the students of the other impacted communities. In addition, given the consultant’s analysis, all of the reconfiguration scenarios are financially viable although some provide more benefits to taxpayers than others.

However, the study did identify risks associated with certain of the scenarios: “...creating a regional school district with Millstone for grades K-8 will present potential difficulties regarding Roosevelt secondary students attending a less diverse environment. In addition, there is a risk with pursuing

the charter school scenario in that the maximum building enrollment, which is necessary to maintain a viable budget, may not be achievable over time and the charter school may then be at risk of failure.”

For now, the additional funding for the 2022 – 2023 school year has alleviated the need for immediate action. However, as educational policy around regionalization continues to churn in Trenton, Roosevelt may find itself once again considering its options.



Watercolor by Zachary Pressler

Local Election Results from Last November

by Michael Ticktin

The winning candidates for the Borough Council and the Board of Education were certified by the Monmouth County Clerk back in November. For the record...

Incumbent Democratic Council members Robert Atwood and Steven Macher, with 245 and 244 votes respectively, defeated Republican Jason Whittington, who received 112 votes, for the two full three-year Council seats, while Constance Herrstrom, who was appointed to the Council in August, received 63 write-in votes to win the unexpired seat that became vacant upon the resignation of former Councilman Chad Vroman, who moved out of Roosevelt.

While no candidates were on the ballot for the three three-year seats on the Board of Education, the persons receiving the most write-in votes were incumbents Michael Ticktin with 27, David Schembry with 21 and Katherine Hamilton with 16. Ms. Hamilton, however, resigned from the Board at the end of the special meeting held on November 11 because she will be moving out of Roosevelt, so she will not be accepting election for that reason. Heather Giske, with 13 votes, received the next highest number.

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are very much 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.

In order to save on postage, we would encourage non-residents who have computers to subscribe to the *Bulletin* online at www.boroughbulletin.org in lieu of receiving a paper copy.

Donations from readers, wherever they may be, and regardless of the medium in which they read the *Bulletin*, are still very much welcome, since we could not publish without your support.

PLEASE SEND IN A CONTRIBUTION TODAY. *WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.*

Please send contributions to: Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

BEASTS IN THE STREET

Halfway through breakfast I saw the dinosaurs.
Massive beasts moving in our street as if an army detachment,
one like a boulder with crawler feet. I blinked. I wasn't still asleep. Invaders
determined to take our town.
Teeth big as polished hooves sticking out of a gaping mouth
ready to gobble up in one bite a whole family,
my pregnant neighbor, her asthmatic boy.

They moved with gravely serious intent as if on a deadly mission,
large square eyes in their skulls,
like windows on a terrible future held in their heads
for half a lifetime.
Their flesh hard as steel, color of ancient lemons.

I can't stop looking. And one of them
unfolded a huge knuckled arm toward my house, at its end an open mouth
big as a closet. I'm about to run
into the woods behind my house, pretend to be a tree.

Had to shake myself. I'd never seen these dinosaurs
in my dinosaur books. Why? Mutant specious
escaped from a lab? Unlikely.
So, I had to look into my own body, yes,
saw the terrors of my time
shuddering within me. Explosions, child ripped by shrapnel frags.

And then I looked out my window again.
These dinosaurs, really, were not threatening.
In fact, I found them strangely
comforting. Gentle power radiating from their bodies,
each moving with the grace of a swan,
having a calm metal confidence as if in a dance to its own slow music.
Their beeps like bird chirps,
bodies now become everyday bulldozers and backhoes.

I found them shivering me
with secret delight and guilt, here at home in a peaceful kitchen,
sipping my coffee.

-- David Sten Herrstrom



PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Roosevelt Public School School Year 2022-2023

Registration for pre-school and kindergarten is currently taking place at Roosevelt Public School. The registration forms along with the health form can be emailed to your home.

Pre-school students must be 3 years old and toilet trained to start in September 2021; otherwise they can register/start when they turn 3 years old throughout the school year.

Preschool fees are as follows:

Roosevelt residents - \$3,250/year or \$325/month

Out of district students - \$4,000/year or \$400/month

Students who turn five on or before October 1, 2022 are eligible for entrance into kindergarten in September 2022.

An official birth certificate with the raised seal is required for registration. A photocopy of the birth certificate will be made when you register your child.

Proof of Residency is also required. This can be a copy of a tax bill, bank statement, driver's license, or utility bill **with address.**

All students must have the appropriate immunizations to begin school in September 2022. This information will be provided when you register your child.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 609-448-2798.

A Partridge Not in a Pear Tree

This month's article highlights a native species that can be found in the Roosevelt woods, the Partridgeberry.

During the winter months most of our native plants become difficult to identify. But there is one that you can easily recognize, the partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*). During the winter, this diminutive evergreen creeper is easily recognized by its dark green leaves with pale-green veins and bright red berries. The leaves occur in pairs along the vine. It is usually found in



Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) - 3 Jun 2020

Photo: S T

areas where leaves do not collect. The perennial vines are only an inch or so high, and if they are covered with fallen leaves, they may die off. A plant may cover a couple of square feet as it creeps across the ground sending roots down as it goes. It has a wide range from northeastern Canada to the Gulf and west to the Mississippi and Texas.

In the spring, the plants bear quarter-inch, waxy white trumpet-shaped flowers in pairs. The flowers have four petals that are fuzzy on the inside and smooth on the outside. Curiously, the pair of flowers are fused at the base and form a single red fruit. The fruit bears two marks where the flowers were attached. Search for it, next time you walk our trail.

Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) makes a great terrarium plant. It is



Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)

Ron Filepp Woodland Trail, Roosevelt, NJ - 6 Nov 2021

Photo: S Taylor

available online, but lingonberries (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) are also known as partridgeberries. Use the scientific name or check the picture when you search. Caveat emptor.

References:

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/mitchella_repens.shtml

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MIRE

Recycling Guide

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission would like to remind our fellow citizens of a few recycling tips. All of the following information (and more) can be found in the "Recycling 101" article written by Steve Taylor in the March 2019 Bulletin.

Please remember: Do not put items inside of plastic bags in the recycling container; keep them loose. Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores.

Please remember: Most clean paper can be put out for recycling

Please remember: Do not tie up cardboard, magazines or newspaper in bundles. Keep them loose.

Please remember: Do not recycle paper that is contaminated by food, oil or pet waste. Paper used for household projects (paint, cleaners etc.) cannot be recycled either.

Please remember: Our recycling service only handles two types of plastic. Items marked with a 1 (such as soda or water bottles) or 2 are eligible (detergent bottles with the caps removed).

Wintergreen - Part 1

This month's article highlights a native species that can be found in the Roosevelt woods, the Wintergreen.

Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is a short, spreading evergreen ground-cover. It grows only four to seven inches tall. The plant may spread to cover an area of several square yards. Wintergreen is common in the eastern half of the US, except Florida, and all of eastern Canada. Also called eastern teaberry, it has many other names--unfortunately they are not unique to *Gaultheria procumbens*, which leads



Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
12 Jan 2022 Photo S Taylor

to much confusion. In 1999, it became the State Herb of Maine; a testament to its qualities. The best way to identify the plant is to crush the leaves to release the wintergreen aroma of methyl salicylate. If you are of a certain age, you might remember teaberry gum or the teaberry shuffle... but I digress.

In the winter, you may find it with pea-sized bright red berries. In the winter, the glossy leaves take on a reddish tinge. In the late spring and summer, it bears tiny white (rarely pink) bell-shaped flowers typical of ericaceous plants like its cousins blueberries and andromeda. Like them, it prefers the acidic soil of our woods. It tolerates deep shade, but it does better with a little more sun. Look for it along our trail.

Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) plants are readily available online. Besides the typical species plants, there are several named selections: *Gaultheria Berry Cascade*TM, *Winter Splash*TM (a white/pink variegated



Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
12 Jan 2022 Photo S Taylor

selection), *Redwood*[®], *Peppermint Pearl* (white fruit), and *Cherry Berries*.

References:

<https://www.thespruce.com/grow-wintergreen-plants-for-a-splash-of-winter-color-4685614>

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/gaupro/all.html>

Issue/ Problem	Call
Power outage	JCP&L - 1-888-544-4877
Telephone outage	Your telephone provider (phone # is on your bill)
Loose or lost dog	Animal Ctrl: 609-234-4862 or State Police 609-584-5000
Road obstruction	911 /State Police 609-584-5000
Trees down	911 /State Police 609-584-5000
Health Emergency	911
Comcast outage	1-800-COMCAST
FIoS outage	(800) 837-4966
Wildlife Issues	877-927-6337

Attention Roosevelt Residents

The general speed limit on Borough roads is 25 mph except route 571, Windsor Road and Nurko Road.

School Lane is 15 mph from Pine Drive to Roosevelt Public School.

New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection

24-Hour Hotline

1-877-WARNDEP or

1-877-927-6337

For reporting spills, hazardous discharges, and other environmental emergencies.

LETTERS

To our neighbors:

The future of the Roosevelt First Aid Squad is dimming. Last year we did a quick poll asking if the residents wanted the RFAS to be part of EMS for the Borough. In spite of the overwhelming positive response (over 80 yes and only 3 no), also despite correspondence with the Borough requesting a response, there was no effort by the Mayor or Council to respond. I did have a communication with one Borough Council member in December at the School Board meeting, and he even followed that up with an email, but since then he has not responded at all, even after my repeated attempts to contact him. I would like to think positively about that brief communication but I wonder if it was a real effort or if it was just to temporarily placate us.

We find it most depressing and un-neighborly that the Mayor and Council will not even communicate with us about this, but maybe that that was just the plan.

So at this point, unless the residents can convince the Mayor and Council that they just do not want \$100,000 of tax money being spent to sell us off to

Millstone, and they want some community involvement, then it is likely that we will not be continuing. The Mayor and Council are dismantling the town piece by piece, I am sure that there is more destruction to come. You need to call or email or go see the Mayor and Council and tell them that you want a First Aid Squad, you want community involvement, and you don't want Roosevelt to be just a spot on a map.

Feel free to contact me or any other member if you want or need more information.

Neil Marko
Roosevelt First Aid Squad
neil@rooseveltfas.org



Watercolor by Sam Vo

Sign Up for Code Red!!

Receive emergency notifications

From the borough.

**Have the notifications go to your landline, or
cell, or both!**

Sign up by going to www.Rooseveltnj.us

Stay safe! Stay informed!

Public Health Emergency?
You can call the
Monmouth County
Board of Health 24/7 at
732-431-7456

Power Outages

In the event outages occur due to severe weather, customers without power are encouraged to report their outage by calling 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877), clicking the "Report Outage" link on www.firstenergycorp.com, or by texting out to 544487.

Customers should immediately report downed wires to 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) or call their local police department. JCP&L reminds customers to stay away from downed wires, even if they believe they are no longer carrying electricity. Extra caution should be used in areas where downed lines are tangled with trees or other debris. Motorists are cautioned to treat intersections with inoperable traffic signals as four-way stops.

JCP&L customers can subscribe to email and text message alert notifications to receive weather updates in advance of major storms and updates on scheduled or extended power outages. Visit www.firstenergycorp.com/connect to enroll.

Follow JCP&L on Twitter @JCP_L, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JCPandL or online at www.jcp-l.com



Roosevelt Adventures – (609) 462 3041 – gus@rooseveltadventures.com



Roosevelt Adventure Camp and Teen Exploration Club in 2022! Register Today!

Roosevelt Adventure Camp is back in 2022! We are so excited for another summer outside exploring all of the beautiful trails, lakes, parks, streams, and forests of our amazing town! Once again, we will be busy on Bike Rides, Trail Walks, Kayak Explorations, Outdoor Skill Development, Leadership Skills, Creative Arts, Community Education, Teambuilding Challenges, and Traditional Camp Games led by experienced counselors from your community

This summer we are starting our first Teen Exploration and Adventure Club for older students and campers interested in taking their outdoor skills and experiences to the next level! Branching off of some of our Roosevelt Adventure Camp experiences, the Exploration and Adventure Club is for campers looking to expand their adventures, learn advanced outdoor skills, and participate in challenging activities to inspire and develop confidence, social-emotional tools, and personal growth. Using our kayaks, bikes, and legs, we are excited to explore all the corners of our community and the surrounding wilderness with our older crew!

When? Available 6 weeks

Day Camp- Monday through Friday, July 5th -August 12th (No Camp 7/4), 9AM-1PM

Teen Exploration Club- Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 7th to August 16th, 10AM-2PM

Flexible Hours and Weekly Commitments Available

Who? Day Camp- Campers entering 1st-7th grade

Teen Exploration Club- Campers entering 7th to 10th grade

Where? Rotating Locations around greater Roosevelt and the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area

How does the registration/payment work? Please register your camper(s) with a \$100 deposit/camper to reserve their spot and schedule the dates using the Registration sheet as soon as you know what your family is interested in. This allows us to best plan our activities and counselor schedules in a timely manner. Your deposit will be applied to the last week booked on your schedule and can be returned in the event of any cancellation. The remaining camper dues will be invoiced to you bi-weekly (3 times/season). The bi-weekly billing allows for easier accounting in the event of weather cancellations.

What will the lessons and activities be like? Pulling from our combination of active social-emotional and teambuilding activities, wilderness education, and summer camp experiences, we will be customizing each adventure experience to best fit your camper and your camper's group's personal interests and passions. Your camper will be outside, moving around, collaborating, competing, learning, and being challenged!

What is the cost? Suggested pricing will be determined on a sliding scale with the days/week table listed below.

Family discounts include 25% off for a second camper and 50% any additional camper(s). SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE! NO CAMPER/FAMILY WILL EVER BE TURNED AWAY!

Roosevelt Adventure Day Camp Suggested Cost Scale

Days/wk	1	2	3	4	5
Suggested Cost (\$) p/Wk	68	116	150	176	200

For more details, registration, information, or inquiries visit

Rooseveltadventures.com or contact via

Gus@rooseveltadventures.com * (609)-462-3041

Dr. Eleanor Vo

by Rick Pressler

Roosevelt resident and noted forensic psychiatrist Eleanor Vo passed away on December 21 after a sudden illness. She is survived by her husband John Vo, mother Joan Justen, daughters Rhiannon and Sam, stepson James, her brother Lewis Justen of Ohio, and countless friends and colleagues.

Eleanor was a well established forensic psychiatrist and a much sought after expert in the field. She graduated with a BA from the University of South Florida and then received her MD from the university's College of Medicine. She completed her Internship, Residency, and Fellowship in Psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey / Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

In addition to maintaining a private psychiatry practice in Ewing, Eleanor served as a Clinical Psychiatrist at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and Capital Health Regional Medical Center. As a consulting physician, she frequently provided expert testimony in court proceedings. Locally, Eleanor served with distinction as the medical officer for the Roosevelt First Aid Squad.

Eleanor grew up in Illinois and Florida, moving north to complete her education at UMDNJ. She met her husband John through a happy online mishap—she thought she was connecting with a different John through an online forum, but met her husband to be, instead. They quickly recognized that the hand of fate had intervened to provide an amazing opportunity for a life together.

Prior to attending medical school, Eleanor became well known as a DJ in Florida—"DJ Peanut"—specializing in Techno and Rave styles of music. She was inspired to pursue psychiatry after seeing the impact of mental illness on people around her.

As a neighbor, Eleanor was generous with her medical expertise, readily

providing care to neighbors—especially children—for the minor bumps and scrapes along the way. In addition, she was a part of the Roosevelt First Aid Squad response for more serious injuries and illnesses, often showing up alongside the EMTs, prepared to offer comfort and save lives.

Eleanor's loss is keenly felt among her family and friends on Farm Lane and elsewhere. But the continued presence of her wonderful children and loving family will remain a testament to her brilliant intellect and generous spirit.



Mel Adlerman

Original settler Mel A. Adlerman died on February 20, 2022 in his home in Monroe Township. He was born on May 8, 1931, in Princeton, to Mac and Rose White Adlerman. Mel was raised in Roosevelt, and attended the local elementary school and The Peddie School in Hightstown.

Mel graduated with a major in insurance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, one of only two schools in the US that offered this degree at the time. He was inducted into the US Army and honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Upon leaving the army, Mel formally joined his father's insurance business, The Adlerman Agency, later called Adlerman Click & Co. He had

unofficially joined his father's business six years earlier at the age of 16 selling polio insurance when the community was in great need of protection from this dreaded illness. Mel served as senior managing partner of the family firm until selling the business in 1998 at which point he re-started his father's Adlerman Agency.

In 1956 Mel met his loving wife and life partner, Gloria Katz, who he married in April 1957. At the time of his death, Mel and Gloria were two months from their 65th wedding anniversary. They had three children, Sam (Robbyn), Abby (Brian) and Danny (Kim), who they raised in Roosevelt, a community that was near and dear to Mel's heart. Mel was known to many people personally and professionally as a mentor and caring friend.

Of the many fine qualities that reflect on Mel, he was a family man through and through. His legacy lives on through his own heartfelt relationships with his wife, three children, ten grandchildren (Adam, Jonathan, Benjamin, Sarah, Zach, Everest, Josh, Maxx, Hannah, and Lucas) and two great grandchildren (Norah and Aidan), as well as his extended family and countless friends. His memory will indeed be a blessing.



Watercolor by Sam Vo

Standing at the Gate

I was standing inside the gated convent in Namur, Belgium in 1945, watching the Maqui, Belgian resistance fighters, fighting back the German troops out of Namur. I wasn't quite ten years old. As a child, a Jew hiding from the Nazis, I had been hidden in the convent for two years. This, we were told, was evidence that we were going to be liberated. Despite the machine gun fire going on in the streets, the screaming of delight from the children and nuns was still discernible over the gun fire. Most of us were jumping with joy at the prospect of freedom.

I am still not sure why the preceding three years of hiding and somberness of feeling alone didn't elevate me to any kind of jump for joy. I only remember standing on a gate crossbar so my short physique could see the action, smiling but nevertheless still not feeling that anything had changed or would. The years of hiding in a church, on farms, in several gentile households, in an orphanage, and then in a convent

had taken its toll, I guess.

I have never forgotten that what remained pervasive in my mind at that momentous time was that nothing would change. I stood there hanging on to the gate bars in a reverie after the Germans had been pushed back by the Maquis and out of sight. Through ten years of therapy, a rather successful and happy family life, I never deciphered the epiphany I experienced at those gates. This naive ten-year-old decided that he would always be alone and would die alone.

Despite that, I can't say that I've lived less than a rich family life, achieved a reasonably successful business, and managed to complete a good education.

Yet that moment stayed with me and periodically reared its questionable head, why. When I was asked to comment on how I feel about this untenable period, both political and health wise, the moment at the gate returned. Covid 19 has not replaced Nazism, but

By Albert Hepner

the resulting conditions gave Covid a parallel framework for me. I've self-quarantined for most of the day. I still venture out to the post office to get my mail, to the local supermarket to get groceries, visit my significant other, and venture onto a tennis court. I have not suffered what hundreds, nay, thousands of people have experienced since 2020. It has only reminded me what it was like to be *persona non grata*. Sick with no medical services, kept at a distance by other people, and knowing and thinking that people were isolated constantly to survive. Poverty today equates being Jewish during religious pandemics. The news clearly suggests that those suffering the most with disease and hunger are the poor. All I can imagine are hundreds of thousands of people in the richest country in the world, hanging on to some convent gate looking out and believing that there is no way out. I guess, Ukraine's current dilemma is what reminded me of my experience at the gate.

American Life in Poetry Column 889

By Kwame Dawes

Marianne Chan, in her riddle of a poem, "Momotaro in the Philippines", reminds us of how the world contracts by migration, by communication technology, and by trade, and how every culture finds a way to make sense of the cultures that somehow find their way into their worlds. Momotaro is best known as the boy hero birthed from the seed of a peach in Japanese folklore. For Filipino-American poet, Chan, peaches evoke alienness: Europe, cans, boy-heroes, Japan, and America—peaches are part of the global world of trade. Her "peach girl" becomes a counter-hero. She is not "a warrior, no hero". She loves and she stingily consumes delicious peaches for her survival. I find her defiant self-awareness strangely comforting.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2020 by Marianne Chan, "Momotaro in the Philippines" from *All Heathens* (Sarabande Books, 2020.) Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation.

Momotaro in the Philippines By Marianne Chan

Here, peaches come from boxes
that smell like Europe, from cans
made of a tin-coated steel.
I lie with the peaches soaking in
saccharine darkness until freed.
I don't recognize the children
who run toward me. Their faces
like the feathers on the feet
of birds. Their slippers repeating that
melancholic drone. "Wake up," they say.
"Wake up." And as I rise from
the dreamy fluid-oh, the America,
which preserves me -I press
my sticky forehead on your sun-
freckled hand. I love you, am sorry,
am not a warrior, no hero. I
fight for nothing, am stingy. I ate
all the peaches from the can
from the box from which I came.

What's In YOUR Water(shed)?

Report of Roosevelt's StreamWatch Chemical Action Team

Did you know your watershed address is Empty Box Brook, Assunpink Creek, Delaware River, even though your mail arrives at your PO Box in Roosevelt Borough, Monmouth County, New Jersey?

Roosevelt's Empty Box Brook, alongside the Roosevelt nature trail, empties into Assunpink Creek, which first runs northwest then turns southwest into Trenton, from where it enters the Delaware River. All of the land that these waterways travel through is part of New Jersey's Northwest Water Region.

New Jersey has five watershed regions, shaped by its hills and valleys and based on the direction water moves over and through its land. These watershed regions are not determined by county or municipal boundaries, but are separated by the land's natural ridges and areas of elevated land, called divides.

Water runs into streams and rivers from the land's surface due to snow-

melt, rainwater, and springs (surface water), but also filters through the soil into waterways as groundwater. As this happens, surface and groundwater supplies are renewed and can be used for drinking water. However, as the water flows over and through the land, it picks up pollutants from natural sources and human activity, and this can be made worse depending on how the land has been altered by humans. The concentration of impurities, the speed and volume of water, the grade of the land, and the materials the water flows over or through all affect how well nature can maintain good water quality. In addition, pollutants can be put directly into waterways via pipes that discharge pollutants; this can be done legally under a permit issued under the Clean Water Act and the New Jersey Discharge Elimination System.

The water quality of Empty Box Brook, which enters Roosevelt from Millstone southeast of the cemetery

by Jane Rothfuss

and empties into the Assunpink Creek west of the sewage treatment plant beyond the end of Pine Drive, is being monitored by volunteers as part of a citizen science program run by the Watershed Institute, located in Pennington. Mary Tulloss, Kirk Rothfuss, and Jane Rothfuss have been trained to conduct monthly chemical testing and make qualitative observations of the stream, with the data going to the Watershed Institute's StreamWatch program.

We plan to share our StreamWatch results with the community here in the Borough Bulletin, hopefully each month. In the future, we will highlight some of the sampling parameters to explain their importance in monitoring the health of our stream. We hope to increase Rooseveltians' understanding of the sources of water pollution and how we can help protect our stream and our watershed address, beginning right here at home.

Rocking it in Roosevelt!

There are some new Spring themed rocks around today...



Join Us at Facebook group: Rocking it in Roosevelt!
- Be Kind To One Another



2022 Stream Clean Ups

Join us on our 16th annual Stream Cleanups on April 23 & 24!

Over the years, thousands of volunteers have removed more than 125,000 pounds of trash with the help of 6,300 enthusiastic volunteers, helping to make our watersheds healthier, protect our environment and beautify our communities! Take home a Stream Cleanup t-shirt as a memento.

Pre-registration is required this year again to keep everyone safe and healthy!

To register go to <https://thewatershed.org/stream-cleanups/>

There are seven stream clean ups on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 - 11:00.

Village Park in Cranbury

Etra Lake Park in East Windsor

Memorial Park in Hightstown

Lawrence Nature Center in Lawrence

Colonial Lake Park in Lawrence

Community Garden in Monroe

Roosevelt meeting at the Post Office parking lot.

There are two stream clean ups on Sunday, April 24th from 9:00 - 11:00.

Montgomery Veteran's Park in Montgomery

Hilltop Park in Princeton

Join us and volunteer to help remove trash, litter, and debris from local rivers and streams at our 16th Annual Stream Cleanup. Our cleanup events are a great way to get outside, improve the scenic beauty of our region and positively impact our wildlife habitat.

We appreciate the continued support of our generous sponsors who make our cleanups possible. Bloomberg, Colgate Palmolive, Lilly, American Rivers, and New Jersey Clean Communities have provided volunteers and resources.

Rain or shine event. Please bring your own gloves and (reusable!) water bottle. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are suggested for woodier areas.

This is an in-person program. Masks and social distancing are optional. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend with all children.

“Virtual” stream cleanups are also available! Rather than join the group at a pre-determined site, you may choose to pick up trash wherever you like. Just snap a few pics and let us know where you are cleaning up with our online form to share your cleanup spot on the Watershed community map. Learn more here: thewatershed.org/stream-cleanups

Contact E-Mail: ospildooren@thewatershed.org

Cancellation Policy

Please let us know if you are unable to attend. We may be able to offer your spot to someone else.

The Rise and Fall of Benedict Arnold - Part One

By Sam Ashburner

Benedict Arnold was one of the American colonies' greatest generals. From the earliest stages of the American Revolution, Arnold was at the forefront of the army. Arnold captured Fort Ticonderoga just days after the first shots of the war were fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19 1775. From there, Arnold marched against all odds to Quebec where the capture of the city failed but his military prowess shined in a successful retreat. Arnold again was the star at Valcour Island and later Saratoga, his most famous victory.

Arnold's devotion to the military cause of the American Revolution made him one of the most revered officers of George Washington's Continental Army. Nonetheless, history remembers Arnold for his deceit. Arnold is known as a traitor, a turncoat and an ungrateful soldier. In this multi part series we will explore Arnold's rise to fame through his action on the battlefield and his fall from grace off the battlefield.

Before the war of Revolution began in the American colonies, Arnold was a shipping merchant in Connecticut. The intolerable taxing acts of the British Parliament directly affected Arnold's business in the West Indies and Canada. Arnold was not the only merchant who depended on trade with these territories. Trade, along with smuggling, was the heart of colonial commerce. Arnold learned in January of 1766 that a sailor he employed, Peter Boles, had met with a British customs officer to inquire about turning Arnold in for smuggling goods. Arnold took it upon himself to chastise Boles by lashing Boles and dragging him to the edge of town. The story of Arnold and Boles isn't mentioned to highlight the cruelty of Arnold, but to show how he wouldn't let anyone stand in his way of increasing his wealth and social standing. If Boles had run to the authorities then his business would have crumbled, so Arnold took action.

The Boston Massacre in March of 1770 outraged Arnold, who was an of-

ficer in the Connecticut militia. Arnold reacted to the events in a letter, "Good God, are the Americans all asleep, and tamely yielding up their liberties, or are they all turned philosophers, that they do not take immediate vengeance on such miscreants?"

The immediate action Arnold speaks of is military action. Arnold arrived at Cambridge in April of 1775 where the Continental Army was massing, although at the present time it was in its infant stages under the command of George Washington. Arnold proposed to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety that he be given a force to take Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. Arnold knew this fort was key to blocking any British advance that would use the body of water as transportation.

On May 3rd 1775 Arnold was made a Massachusetts colonel and received permission to raise 400 men and take Fort Ticonderoga. Arnold, along with Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, set out for Ticonderoga on separate expeditions commissioned by two separate states. Ethan Allen for Vermont and Arnold for Massachusetts. On May 11th Ticonderoga was safely under the control of Allen and Arnold. In his report to Albany, Allen made little note of Arnold's role in taking the fort. To make matters more complicated, Allen's report was rightfully made out to the authorities in Albany but Arnold's subsequent complaints were made to the authorities of Massachusetts, who sent him on the expedition. These separate bodies could not determine who was in charge, who had a right to be at Ticonderoga, or who rightfully led the expedition.

Arnold was not interested in the politics of the Revolution, only the glory to be seized on the battlefield and the social advantages that came with it. Days after the capture of Ticonderoga, Arnold led 100 men on a venture down to St. John's where they captured an armed sloop along with a British sergeant and twelve soldiers who were

garrisoned there. If Arnold could not be in command on land, he was sure to make himself in command on the water.

Arnold was given full command of Ticonderoga in early June but soon after an officer from Connecticut was to take command of the fort from Arnold. He responded to the transfer by calling it "a most disgraceful reflection" on his abilities and service. Arnold's ensuing letter to Congress explained the improvements he brought upon the fort as well as a list of complaints against Allen and his Green Mountain Boys. Some members of Congress saw a hero and a leader but others saw a complainer and agitator. From this point on, Arnold's reputation among the powerful men in Congress would remain divided.

This transfer of command led to a remarkable development in Arnold's allegiance to the Revolution. A Connecticut committeeman wrote to Governor Jonathon Trumbull and reported that Arnold threatened to return to the British the ships he had seized from them. The story from the men involved was that Arnold ordered a number of sympathetic soldiers to hold others against their will at bayonet point. Arnold thoroughly denied the events. It is debated whether Arnold ever made this threat or took anyone prisoner, but the story it would affect his reputation and the level of trust he would be given by the authorities. Arnold made his way to Cambridge on July 5th to settle his accounts with the Massachusetts Legislature. At the very least, they were suspicious of Arnold's spending of public and private funds.

So far, Arnold had proven to be a complicated character. His bravery and moxie made him admirable. His carelessness with money and oversensitivity created doubts. He wanted glory but maybe for the wrong reasons. Where did his true loyalties lie? With self or country?

With Fort Ticonderoga and Lake Champlain now under control of the

Continued on Page 15

Continental Army, the next phase of the Revolution was underway. Washington and Congress devised a plan to invade parts of Canada to eliminate the British ability to reassign troops from the north. Command of the invasion force was put under Richard Montgomery. Arnold proposed the idea of a supporting force aimed at the city of Quebec. Washington supported the idea and tabbed Arnold to command the newly named Kennebec expedition.

Arnold's planned route took them directly through largely uncharted Maine forest. The task in front of Arnold was as follows, "conduct more than a thousand troops with provisions and equipment more than four hundred miles through the wilderness, up one major river and down another, over portages and chains of mountains." Before setting out, Washington had a meeting with Arnold regarding his conduct. Washington reminded Arnold that once he met up with Montgomery's army in Canada he was not to deem himself as a separate command. He was also warned to "avoid all contention about rank. In such a cause, every post is honorable in which a man can serve his country." Washington clearly had heard and understood the rumors of Arnold's conduct at Ticonderoga.

As the expedition moved north, they met many challenges which Arnold was able to overcome. He led advance parties to cut and mark trails, stayed at difficult portages to ensure safe crossing for everyone, and on Oc-

tober 23, 1775, held an officers meeting to discuss the expedition's current status. Many of his soldiers were cold, hungry and physically unprepared for the final approach to Quebec. Arnold decided to send part of the expedition back and bring supplies to the front while he and a small detachment went ahead of everyone to purchase additional supplies and bring them back.

George Morrison was a member of Arnold's Kennebec expedition and often referred to Arnold as "our gallant Colonel" in his journal. Arnold's forward expedition to gain provisions for his troops was met with success. He was able to send back live cattle and five hundred pounds of flour. Arnold's expedition also gained 40 Native Americans to aid them in navigation. This is a fine example of Arnold leading by example and inspiring his men to continue on their daunting task.

Weeks later, a majority of Arnold's force made camp at Pointe Levis, situated across the St. Lawrence River from Quebec. Here Arnold was supposed to wait for the Kennebec Expedition's main leader, Richard Montgomery, so the full force could overwhelm the city. Arnold did not do that. Instead, he crossed the St. Lawrence River in an attempt to surprise the British and take the city himself. In Arnold's letters to Montgomery and Washington prior to the crossing, he assured them of his ability to "evade" the ships and make a quiet landing. Arnold's report to Montgomery after the crossing read as follows: "I happily effected (the

crossing) between 9 and 4 in the morning without being discovered, until my party of 500 men were nearly all over, when a frigate's barge coming up, discovered our landing and prevented our surprising the town."

Arnold scrambled up the cliffs and arrived outside of the city walls on the Plains of Abraham. At this point in our story, we've seen how

Benedict Arnold was a bit like Jekyll and Hyde. His courage and tenacity made him a fine leader. He took action when necessary and could inspire his soldiers to accomplish great tasks. But he was excessively eager to prove himself and makes rushed decisions. Was he trustworthy? Washington and Congress were still unsure.

In the next edition of "The Rise and Fall of Benedict Arnold" I will evaluate Arnold's role in the battles of Quebec, Valcour Island and Saratoga.

Questions? BoroughBirds@gmail.com

Tree Removal Permits

Roosevelt Residents: tree removal requires a permit per Borough Ordinance 20-08. You can find the permit on the Borough website under the FORMS tab (<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/forms-home-page>). When you click on the link for the permit a copy of the ordinance is also attached.

Parking Reminder

Please park your vehicles in the right direction only. Parking on the wrong side of the street or in the wrong direction makes your vehicle difficult for oncoming traffic to see, especially in foggy or dark conditions. Vehicles parked on the wrong side of the street are subject to towing.



Watercolor by Sam Vo

W o r d R I f f s

P O E T S



Photo by David Teich

W o r d z R i f f z R i f f z W o r d z

The Roosevelt Arts Project presents: Word Riffs

Saturday, **April 30**, 8:00 PM

Roosevelt Borough Hall

Come hear some kind of sounds headed your way—

riff along with 5 Roosevelt Poets

as they break loose from the alphabet ...

Riffin' n' jammin' for your ever-lovin' ears.

(suggested donation of \$5 per person, vaccination required)



Ink on paper by Zachary Pressler

Roosevelt Borough's website:

www.rooseveltnj.us

Register for e-news on the home page and get email communications from the borough. You can view and pay your property taxes and water/sewer bill on-line.

When mailing anything to Roosevelt Borough, please use P.O. Box 128. This includes property tax payments and water/sewer payments.

Borough Mailing Instructions

When mailing anything to Roosevelt Borough, please use P.O. Box 128. This includes property tax payments and water/sewer payments.



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements.

www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoroughBulletin

If you would like your organization's event posted to our Facebook page, please send event details to

rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com.



Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Roosevelt, NJ

Why is locally grown food important?

- It tastes better because it's picked when fresh, not harvested in advance for long-distance shipping.
- It's better for your health because fresh food contains more nutrients.
- It's better for the environment because it maintains open space and promotes sustainable practices.
- It's better for the community because it supports and creates a connection with local farm families.
- It's better for the climate because it reduces carbon emissions from long-haul transport of food.

In Roosevelt, locally grown food is available at Mendies Farm, which operates a roadside stand and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture, where members buy a share of the produce grown on the farm). The farm is owned and managed by Roosevelt residents Lawrence and Heidi Mendies.

Mendies Family Farm; Farm Stand and CSA

65 N Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, NJ

609-820-8809

<http://www.mendiesfarm.com/>

In neighboring towns, locations offering locally grown food include:

Produce Paradise: (roadside stand) Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, on the Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road, by the large sycamore trees.

Fun Fridays in Hightstown: 6/21 – 9/19 that takes place every 3rd Friday. Along with locally grown produce, there will also be food trucks, craft vendors and live music. Location: Association Park, Grant Ave, Hightstown, NJ
Operated by Hightstown Parks and Recreation <https://www.hightstownborough.com/events/fun-fridays-2/>

Appelget Family Farm

135 Conover Rd., West Windsor, NJ

609-902-8372

<https://www.appelgetfarm.com/>

Windsor Farm and Market

1202 Windsor Road, Windsor, NJ

(609) 443-9379

<https://www.windsorfarmandmarket.com/>

Robbinsville Farmers Market 6/25-8/27 Tuesdays, 3:30-7:00 pm

The Shoppes at Foxmoor

1095 Washington Blvd, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Robbinsville Farmers Market Contact:

Kevin Holt, kholt@robbinsville.net

609-259-3600 x1131

Corner-Copia

619 Mercer Street

Hightstown, New Jersey 08520

(609) 208-9116

<http://www.corner-copia.com/farm-market/>

Lee Turkey Farm

201 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ 8520

609-448-0629

<https://www.leeturkeyfarm.com/>

KJD Farm, LLC

1510 Old York Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

(609) 977-5937

Windy Acres Farm & CSA

214 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ

Amy Giovanelli

(609) 722-2122

Farm market is open to general public located at 214 Windsor Rd, Robbinsville NJ 08691. Open 5 days. Starting early June 4 thru October 1, 2019. Hours of operation: Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.

<http://windyacresfarmllc.com/>

You can pay your
Water/Sewer Bill and
Taxes on-line
Go to
www.rooseveltnj.us

REMINDER FOR RECYCLING:



Always leave at least 3 feet between your garbage can and recyclable container(s). The arm that lifts the garbage can needs enough room to operate so it can avoid knocking over other containers.

BE A GOOD
NEIGHBOR
Please clean-up after your dog.



Contributors to the Bulletin 2021 / 2022

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

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Sam & Nicole Ashburner
Robin & Robert Axel
Richard & Janet Bernardin
Linda Block
Marvin & Karen Block
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna
Charlotte Bondy
Bondy/Vuole family
Jacqueline Carpenter
Susan & Robert Cayne
Maureen & Bob Clark
Keith & Patricia Clayton
William and June Counterman
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Help us to fill up this page.

Thank you for your generosity!

Send in a contribution today.

Please send contributions to:

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.

P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt 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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June Counterterm 609-448-3182

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MAY 11, 25

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A P R I L

- 12 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board, meeting
conducted by video conference.
See online agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda>

- 13 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 18 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting,
by video conference.
See online agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 20 Weds.. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
conducted by video conference.
See agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes>

- 22 Fri. Earth Day

- 27 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 28 Thurs. 7:30 pm RPS Board of Education,
by video conference
Ken LeCompte, President

- 30 Sat. 8:00 pm The Roosevelt Arts Project
presents: Word Riffs, featuring
5 Roosevelt Poets.
Roosevelt Borough Hall.
Suggested donation \$5.**

M A Y

- 2 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting,
by video conference.
See online agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 8 Sun. Mother's Day

- 10 Tues. 7:00 pm Planning Board, meeting
conducted by video conference.
See online agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda>

- 11 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 16 Mon. 7:00 pm Council Meeting,
by video conference.
See online agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes>
Peggy Malkin, Mayor

- 18 Weds. 7:00 pm Environmental Commission,
conducted by video conference.
See agenda for details:
<https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes>

- 25 Weds. Recycling Pickup 

- 26 Thurs. 7:00 pm RPS Board of Education,
by video conference
Ken LeCompte, President

- 30 Mon.. 5:37am Memorial Day

Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement,
and Housing Inspector
Jeremy Kuipers
email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us phone: 609-448-0539

Vacation the week of 4/18/22 - 4/22/22

Effective 4/25/22 - 6/29/22

Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Inspection Hours: Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Effective 7/13/22 - 6/29/22

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Inspection Hours: Tuesdays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Please send notice of your events to the
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin at P.O. Box 221 or
email to RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com.

Construction and Permits
The Construction Official has
Borough hours on
Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
Questions regarding building permits
should be directed to:
Department of Community Affairs -
609-567-3653
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Roosevelt Board of Education's
website contains complete school
calendar information: www.rps1.org.