

# Bulletin

Volume 34 Number 5

March 2008

**BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS**

by Michael Ticktin

## Borough to Increase Revenue as Second Cellular Company Signs Water Tower Lease

At its February 11 meeting, the Borough Council adopted a resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement with Verizon Wireless for construction of a wireless antenna system on the water tower property. Since Cingular already has a non-exclusive lease allowing it to use the water tower for its wireless antenna system, the new lease will increase total revenue from use of the water tower by cellular companies from \$28,000/year to over \$50,000/year. That revenue, which has been applied to the utilities budget, is approximately the same as the utility payments made by the owners of 30 houses, or nearly one-tenth the users.

Reporting for the Utilities Committee, Councilman Bob Silverstein discussed how future fee increases might be structured so as to impose any added costs on those who use more water. This could be done by lowering the threshold at which payments exceeding the minimum charge would apply. That threshold is now 12,000 gallons every two months. Analysis of current usage indicates that 51% of households use under 9,000 gallons, 22% use between 9,000 and 12,000 gallons, 13% use between 12,000 and 15,000 gallons, and 14% use over 15,000 gallons. Lowering the threshold to 9,000 gallons would thus increase the percent-

age of households paying more the minimum from 27% to 49%. The Council decided against taking any action to change fees at this time.

Mr. Silverstein also reported that two individuals who were required by the courts to perform community service have been doing interior painting at the water plant, thus saving the Borough approximately \$4,500 in labor costs. In his capacity as Council representative on the Environmental Commission, he further reported that Manuela McCusker would be launching a website for the Commission. The web address is RECGreen@ning.com.

Councilwoman Arlene Stinson, reporting for the Administration Committee, stated that she had met with Borough Administrator Bill Schmeling and Borough Clerk Krys Olejnik in order to get a fuller understanding of what their jobs entailed. She expressed appreciation for the fine work that both of them do every day for the Borough. She also met with Recreation Director Eric Shubiger, whom she commended for his work on developing a community information brochure that will be available for public distribution.

Administrator Schmeling reported that he was working with the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust Fund to secure

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're back! There will be a *Bulletin* every month from now on through July, 2008.

Incidentally, while we received contributions from many of you, for which we thank you, we do need to hear from more of you.

PLEASE HELP US! Other than your contributions we have no other means of paying our postage and printing costs which are our only expenses.

PLEASE HELP US! We need you!

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

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?

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

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Calendar and Breaking Bread Art  
by Shan Ellentuck

Roosevelt Borough *Bulletin*, Inc. is a

*Continued from Page 1*

funding for work on the water tower, be it replacement or reconstruction, as the Council may decide, and on the replacement of water lines. He will also be meeting with members of the staff of Congressman Chris Smith's office to work on legislation to allow the Rural Development Administration (RDA)--formerly the Farmers Home Administration--of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to refinance existing loans, which is something that they do not now have authority to do. The Borough, like many other municipalities around the country that have financed infrastructure projects through RDA, would be able to reduce rates if it could refinance the debt at a lower rate of interest.

Councilwoman Peggy Malkin, reporting for the Finance Committee, asked that all requests for appropriations in the 2008 budget be submitted by March 12. She suggested using Clean Community funds to make payments to orga-

nizations, such as scout troops, that would provide people to help clean up debris at the former gas station, which is now owned by the Borough. She also paid tribute to the late Herb Johnson for the service he had rendered to the community for so many years, in so many ways, including reporting on Council news for the *Bulletin* and serving on the First Aid Squad.

Councilman Jeff Ellentuck, reporting for the Public Safety Committee, expressed satisfaction that the East Windsor, Hightstown and State Police had apprehended three youths whom they have charged with having defaced the FDR Memorial, as well as a monument in Hightstown, the Roosevelt post office, and street signs in East Windsor. He also paid tribute to the late Jim Carnevale for his years of service to the community, including service with the PTA and on the Environmental Commission. ■

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## **Roosevelt Environmental Commission Joins the Worldwide Web**

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission is proud to announce that it has created a social network page: <http://recgreen.ning.com/> where residents and friends can share observations, concerns, suggestions & read REC news, updates, related information & links

To participate, visit: <http://recgreen.ning.com/>

1. Click on the words "Sign Up" in the top right hand corner
2. Type your name and create your own password. (All other info is optional.)

Signing up entitles you to: navigate all the pages on the site AND create your own member page—an easy process as "ning" guides you along. Your member page allows you to customize its appearance, keep a blog, dialog with other members, add text and photos, contribute to discussions and invite friends to join.

\*\*Confused about how to sign up or create your member page?—don't let that stop you, call Manuela McCusker (REC page creator), 918-1895

----house calls might even be an option. ■

### **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

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## From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

March is a busy time in education. The month begins with the administration of the NJ ASK 3 & 4 assessments and ends with the presentation of the school budget at the March 27th board meeting.

NJASK assesses student achievement in the knowledge and skills defined by the New Jersey Core Curriculum in language arts literacy, mathematics, and science. Under the provisions of the federal legislation No Child Left Behind (NCLB), every state is required to administer annual standards-based assessment to all children in grades 3 through 8. The expectation is that each state will provide tests that are based on that state's content standards and that assess students' critical thinking skills in three content areas: language arts literacy, mathematics and science.

NJ ASK 3 & 4 will be administered March 10th-14th, over a three-day period for grade 3 and a four-day period for grade 4. The assessments consist of two types of questions, multiple choice and open-ended where students give a short or long written response. Students are also required to write a story about a picture and write a personal narrative in response to a poem.

NJ ASK 5 & 6 will take place May 5th-8th and NJ ASK 7 & 8 will take place April 28th- 30th and May 1st. Additional information along with sample assessment questions may be found by accessing the links below:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/es/> - NJ ASK 3 & 4

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/ms/> - NJ ASK 5-8

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/hs/> - HSPA – High School Proficiency Assessment

Scores are received in June and will be used as one of many tools to help assess Roosevelt's curriculum and instructional practices and to ensure

that we are exceeding the educational needs of our students.

The board secretary Karen Minutolo, and the finance committee of the board of education are in the process of preparing the school budget for the 2008-2009 school year. As usual, the members [of the board of education] are working diligently to create a fiscally sound budget that supports the educational goals of the district and maintains an optimal learning environment within the financial constraints of this year's State deficit. The budget hearing is open to the public for discussion and review on March 27th. Should you have any further questions regarding the budget, please feel free to call Karen Minutolo or me. You are urged to vote for the school budget and for new board members on April 17th.

State aid and property taxes are the two major sources that fund public education. Additional funds can sometimes be obtained through grants, endowments, donations, and partnerships with businesses. Anyone who has any thoughts regarding means to procure school funds is welcome to contact me. I am ready to investigate and pursue all avenues.

School House Hooky, the 100th Day of School, and the Fitness A-Thon took place in February. We were fortunate to have Roosevelt residents facilitate two of the activities for School House Hooky Day. Brad Garton shared his musical expertise by discussing the role of the composer and by creating an interactive workshop demonstrating how to use sounds and symbols to conduct/construct music. Dr. Garton used the computer to show the students how to "look" at different sounds and to demonstrate how sound can be displayed using digital analysis. Students also participated in an art workshop

hosted by Barbara Atwood. Students created a tunnel book, which is a book that has accordion sides and no spine. The pages are made of paper cut outs so the reader can view through the holes, with an almost telescopic effect. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the day. Special thanks are extended to Larisa Bondy for coordinating the program and to Eric Vuolle and Debbie Curry for helping with the activities. We also celebrated the 100th Day of School. This was the first opportunity for kindergartners and first graders to facilitate activities for the older students. Thank you to Larisa Bondy and Donna Gazzani for the wonderful day. The Fitness A-Thon, an extension of our physical education/health curriculum, helps to raise money for Field Day. Thank you Howard Kaufman for coordinating this event.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration will take place March 18th and 19th for students entering pre-k/kindergarten in September 2008. Children that will be three years old on or before October 1, 2008 are eligible for pre-k and children that will be five years old on or before October 1, 2008 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If anyone knows of pre-k/kindergarten students, please get the word out to their parents.

We are also accepting registration for non-resident tuition students. If you know of anyone that is looking to enroll their child/ren in a school outside their home district, please have them contact the school.

As always, should you have questions or concerns, please stop by and meet with me.

Sincerely,  
Shari Payson



*Continued on Page 5*

**Roosevelt CSA still has openings for 2008**

by Carol Watchler

Roosevelt Community Supported Agriculture reminds everyone interested in being a shareholder for the 2008 season to send your membership as soon as possible. Roosevelt CSA is listed on the Local Harvest website at <http://www.localharvest.org/csadrops.jsp?id=16716>.

For 2008: A small share which feeds 1-2 persons is \$350 for the season and the large share which feeds 3+ is \$550.

Make checks payable to Lloyd Dave Burlew and mail to Bobbi Teich, P.O. Box 246, Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0246. Include your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. Shares in the Roosevelt CSA are offered on a first come/first served basis, so be sure to sign up right away to avoid being placed on the wait list for the following season.

For further information call Tara Keegan at 609-477-0467 or Farmer Dave at [JerseyFarmhouse@aol.com](mailto:JerseyFarmhouse@aol.com).

**REVIEW:  
ROOSEVELT ARTS  
PROJECT**

**February 9, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.  
Borough Hall**

**ALL ROADS LEAD TO NERUDA**

by Ann Kassahun

What an evening of poetry, music and movement! The seating in the Borough Hall large meeting room was circular with only three tiny lamps and miner's caps worn by the cast of poets casting soft illumination and shadows designed to create a ritualistic, relaxed atmosphere to direct the audience towards the words and actions accompanying the poetry. The talented

artists who prepared and participated in this event were David Herrstrom, Ron Kostar, Wes Czyzewski, Scott Carpenter, Judith McNally, Kevin McNally, Angel Cloughly [sound], Deidre Sheean [props], Brad Garton and John Coltrane [contributed music], and David Schwendeman [camera].

The scene set, David Herrstrom explained that we had come to celebrate the great Chilean poet, Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto, pseudonum Pablo Neruda, who was born in 1904, published a book at age nineteen called *Twenty Poems of Love and One Ode of Desperation*, and became an overnight success loved all over South America. He served in the consular service in the Far East, went to Spain in 1934 where his house became a gathering place for poets and artists, later was elected a senator in Chile and hounded by the right-wing government. In the 1950s he began his great series of "Odes to Simple Things" [*Odas Elementales*] and won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1971. He died in 1973. But why read Neruda now? Because after years of Chile enduring an imperial presidency that waged illegal war, rewarded the rich, abandoned the poor, we see Neruda as a well of compassion, a person who cared for the simple things.

A guest was introduced, Eugene Howard, who read several poems. Then our own poets read poems touching on many subjects such as "Fleas interest me so much...", "Ode to Coffee," "Peace Talk," "Meeting a woman in the woods...", "My father's expressions," "Yet Another Ultrasound," "Joyful noise" and "How neatly the cat sleeps..."

After the intermission, Ron Kostar explained further that Neruda was a Socialist and avid supporter of the democratically-elected President Allende, came from Indian ancestry, and was much beloved by his countrymen. Once 50,000 people came to one of his poetry readings. Then we heard soft music, the sound of the sea,

low and then the sound rising and falling. Our artists performed in the dim light with their miner's lights on. We listened to several readings on space, the atmosphere, sun, sky, early days, etc. There were props of a fish, a bird, a monkey and stars. Then came beautiful Spanish guitar music and David Herrstrom read Neruda in Spanish with English translation. How beautiful it sounded in its native language! Neruda's "Odes to Simple Things" showed beauty in items like the artichoke "dressed for war," the tomato "star of the earth, offers its gift of fiery color," and the spud or potato.

The evening was magical, like an extended dreamscape. Be sure to attend when our talented poets perform again. It was a wonderful evening!

**PRINCIPAL (CONT'D.)**

*Continued from Page 4*

**MARCH EVENTS**

- 3/1 Winter Carnival
- 3/7 Pizza Day
- 3/10-3/13 NJ ASK 3 & 4
- 3/12 PTA Meeting 7:30 pm
- 3/13 BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
- 3/18 & 19 Pre-Kindergarten/  
Kindergarten  
Registration
- 3/21-3/28 School Closed  
Spring Break
- 3/27 BOE Meeting –  
Budget Hearing 7:30 pm
- 3/31 School Resumes

**APRIL EVENTS**

- 4/1 & 4/3 Early Dismissals –  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences
- 4/4 Pizza Day



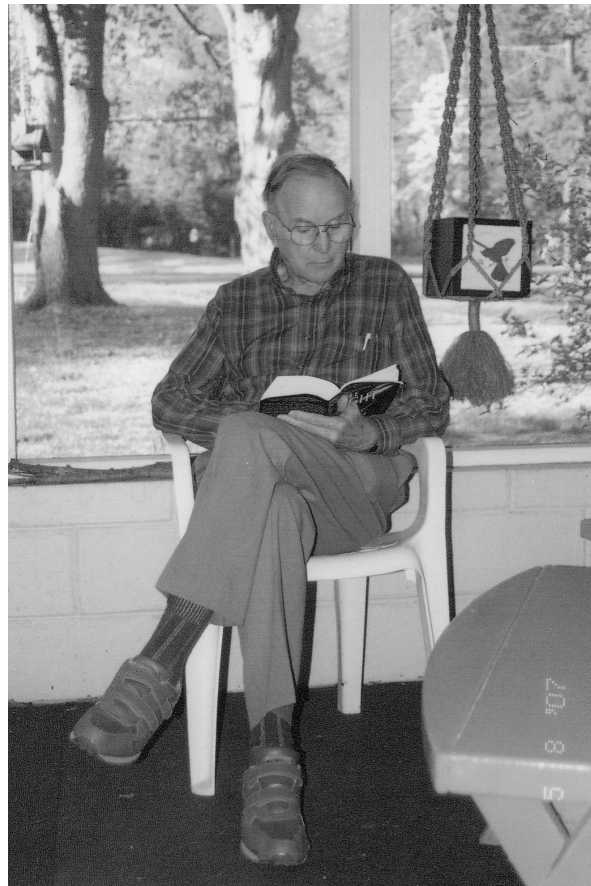
# In Memorium

## Herb Johnson

Herb was born January 1, 1928 to Earl and Anna Johnson in Tarrytown, N.Y., and graduated from City College of New York in 1950. He married Florence McCarty in 1951 and began to raise a family. Herb's greatest joys were the births and relationships with his children, Lezlie, Evelyn, Virginia, Steven, Jennifer, Daniel and William. He encouraged and guided them everyday in words and actions. Herb devoted his life towards leaving the world a better place, being active in peace, disarmament and civil rights' causes all of his life. He marched on Washington and came home inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and never stopped working towards this dream. For more than 20 years, he was an active member of the Coalition for Peace Action, in Princeton, N.J., where he was honored with an award in 2001. Additional recent activities included singing with the Solidarity Singers, and working with prisoners in the Alternatives to Violence Project.

Herb lived in Roosevelt for the past 24 years and was actively involved in his community; serving on the Roosevelt First Aid Squad, contributing to the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*, reporting on Council meetings for many years; contributing his artistic talent to the new mural on Roosevelt's Borough Hall; participating in the Roosevelt Nuclear Disarmament Group, the Roosevelt Seniors Group, and many other school and community functions. Herb was a good neighbor in every sense of the word and will be sorely missed by many.

Herb was a YMCA Director, Union Carpenter, and then a teacher at East Brunswick Vocational School for the



last 18 years of his career. Always a learner, he taught himself to play the guitar so he could sing with his kids, was an amateur astronomer, bird watcher, naturalist, singer/songwriter, Senior Triathlete competitor, and all-around handyman. In his retirement he became an Abraham Lincoln presenter, traveling to Lincoln conferences and speaking at many functions. Herb and Florie loved to travel together, traversing the country several times on road trips, reading to each other to pass the miles.

Herb would have loved the Memorial Meeting for him on Saturday, February 2nd at the School, led by Bob Silversteinn. About two hundred people attended this wonderful tribute to him. There was music sung by the Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey Union Council, prayers

and remembrances by his family and friends, followed by refreshments.

Many of us will miss the man who helped up in so many ways. I truly believe he knew more people in town than anyone else did. He would approach strangers saying, "I'm Herb Johnson. What's your name?" and that would begin a new friendship.

We are all the better for having known him and we send our sincerest condolences to his wife Florence and the rest of his family.

Bess Tremper

### **A Memorial Service was held at the School**

Steve Johnson, Herb's son, opened his remarks by expressing Herb's family's gratitude for the outpouring of love and support. The town of Roosevelt and the many friendships his father made while living there played an important role in his life and he also expressed how comforting it is to know that his mom is surrounded by such caring neighbors.

Steve read the poem, "If", by Rudyard Kipling, that he had to memorize and recite in front of his fifth grade class. He felt that the poem typified his Dad of what was important to him and how he lived his life.

He closed his remarks by saying that his Dad was a special man, leaving big shoes to fill, but asked the audience to try to follow in his footsteps, and have his work and his values live on, through us. He

# A Town of Nine

I was born in the house my uncle designed, in a small town in the very small, land of Atoria. You will not find Atoria on Mapquest or Google Maps and no, it's not near Atlantis. Atoria was a real place except the name was created by my three brothers and me. Growing up in the real town of South Hackensack in northern NJ, my siblings created our new world from three adjoining back yards. In the middle was our yard, the Atwood yard, on one side was my cousins' yard, the Iannucci yard & on the other side was the Orbach yard. The name, Atoria, an amalgamation of the first two letters of each family's last name was chosen by a secret ballot vote. Growing up with three brothers & one sister, two cousins on one side of us & two children on the other, we outnumbered the adults, so why not have our own land. The three properties that made up Atoria made a place for almost any kind of activity, sometimes dangerous, always with a sense of imagination.

Atoria had all the attributes of a real town. A two car garage became the Lincoln Tunnel, while a narrow path next to the garage became the George Washington Bridge. Other areas were dedicated to other Presidents such as Kennedy Way and Coolidge Park. We built a club house for town meetings, circulated a newspaper (the *At's Gazette*) and even elected officials. Each summer we would vote on a president & a vice president. If I remember correctly, everyone ran at least once & each of us got a turn at being elected. In a copy of the gazette I still have, there is a headline story about my youngest brother, Michael, being impeached as president. There is no reason given & I can't remember what he could have done. It couldn't have been too important since, being

president or vice president didn't give the person any special authority, just the prestige of the title.

Everything we did was done by a democratic voting process. When it was time to play, we would all write down our choice of activity & the votes were counted. Usually, some team sport was chosen. An afternoon of four on four wiffleball or touch football would be interspersed with a jump in the pool. Other days were spent riding bicycles from one end of the block to the other, pretending we were cars in traffic. At some point, one of us, playing policeman, would pull somebody over and take them to jail for some minor road infraction. Going from one corner to the other soon proved limiting, so we would ask daily (sometimes hourly) if we could go around the entire block. Eventually my mother gave in. We packed up canteens of water & a few snacks for the big ten minute walk & headed out. At one point we could see our house from the other block & there was our mother waving out the kitchen window. We were excited to have reached the halfway point & our mother knew we were safe.

When Atoria wasn't a sports field or bicycle highway, it could be a battlefield for GI Joe or simply a place to run around and explore. There were many times when there would be seven or eight of us hiding in trees or creeping along the border fence. We could be pretending to be in the army, escaping from a prison or lost on an island. Most of these times there were no rules; everyone seemed to just follow someone else. A few times we did make the rule that no one could go in our houses, unless you had to use the bathroom. When we got hungry, we

were only allowed to eat what we could gather from around the yard. Growing in the yard were wild blueberries & mulberries that we gathered & mixed with cherries, pears & grapes that my grandfather had planted. These were the only things we would eat, at least until dinner time. One time when my brothers & I camped out in our backyard, we tried this "no inside" rule. Instead of picking fruits, we ate nothing but Pop-Tarts. I'm not sure how many of us became sick, but I know Pop-Tarts never tasted the same.

There were times when cousins & neighbors weren't around and Atoria was only populated by my siblings. It was during these times that some of our more adventurous activities would take place. Our time growing up was a time of great exploration. We had men landing on the moon, daredevils attempting record breaking stunts and for us a time to invent & explore.

Once again Atoria would be transformed. Emulating Evel Kneival, it would become a motorcycle stunt proving ground. We would spend the day devising ramps that we would jump. Each successive ramp was a little higher or a little further apart than the one before. The most dangerous stunt we attempted was jumping over a pan of burning gasoline after we had poured gasoline on our tires. (WARNING DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME). At another time our yard would become a mini version of NASA. We didn't make a life size rocket, we made rockets for ants. My older brother coined the term "antronaut" for our brave explorers. We would spend hours with tin cans, electrical tape & firecrackers trying to put together the most efficient spaceship. Some antronauts gave their lives for their country, but they were buried

*Continued on Page 8*

## 2 SQUARE MILES (CONT'D.)

*Continued from Page 7*

with honors. Our finest achievement was a two stage rocket. Made from two soda cans, the rocket shot up in the air for about 20 feet before a second firecracker was ignited by a delayed fuse. This explosion separated the command capsule which floated down to earth with a plastic bag parachute. There was much cheering in the "streets".

Not all of our activities involved fire or explosives. During the course of three summers Atoria became the "on location" stage for our experiments in independent film making. Way back then, that meant filming with real film & doing all our own special effects & hands on editing. My older brother, Ed, wrote most of the scripts and we each added our own ideas as well taking on all of the acting roles. Our first film, we titled, No Tip for the Paperboy, a simple story of the shooting of a local paperboy who seems to have been paid twice in one week. The storyline required that my brother Frank as the paperboy get shot in the face through a glass door & then fall down a small flight of stairs. After some brainstorming we came up with throwing a sheet of ice at my brother's face as the glass. When it came time for the stairs scene, Ed actually took over as stunt man & we filmed the fall from as many angles as possible. After editing the different angles, the two second fall is extended to about two minutes in the movie.

As Nixon became more prevalent in the news and even became a headline in our own Gazette, we decided to make a political satire. We called our second film, "Campaign '76". This film was the longest of our movies an even included a mocking patriotic commercial about a red, white and blue toilet seat. The basic story is about a politician who is given a task by the Mob. The politician, being naturally corrupt, misunderstands what he should get. Throughout the movie, several people are killed with the politician finally being assassinated. One of the more memorable scenes was having one of brother's head being run over by a truck. This required some actual shots of a truck coming down our street, editing the scene to a close up of a tire going over his head & finally showing our version of his squashed face. A face made up of a wig, bologna, ping pong balls, broken glasses and lots of ketchup. So long as no one got hurt we were supported by our parents to be as creative as we wanted. Even my 70 year old grandmother, who lived downstairs from us, helped out behind the scenes for one shot. For this scene we needed a female to sit in a window. Since my cousin wasn't available & our sister too young, my youngest brother took on the role. As we were fitting him with oranges under a dress, our grandmother started to say in broken Italian-English, "What you do"? We thought she wasn't going to be happy about our brother dressing as a girl. Instead she shuffled into her kitchen and brought out two grapefruits, telling us to use them instead. She was a

great hands on producer.

After these two films, our mother implored us to make a film with "not so much killing" in it, so we tried our hands at a comedy called "Let's have a party". Basically, it was one nerds experience at a "hip" party. We tried some simple gags with having people disappear & actually scratching on the developed film to have radioactive fruit punch. It was funny, to us, but we always considered "Campaign 76" to be our masterpiece. We always thought we might make another film, but as we grew older, girlfriends and college took the place of hanging out in Atoria.

Atoria's lands have since been sold and we have all moved to new towns with new families, but the memories and experiences of those times have helped expand Atoria's borders within each of us. ■

### About Two Square Miles Of Stories

Everyone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project—find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information telephone:

Pearl Seligman 448-2340

Bess Tremper 448-2701

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# Greenbelt Gossip

By Manuela & Mark McCusker

Late March is a delightful time, filled with the promise of warmer breezes, fresh green foliage, preliminary floral colors and increased bird, animal and insect activity. Roosevelt is very fortunate to be surrounded by greenbelt and park land, where nature can be observed as it undergoes the season's changes. To the careful observer, each day offers an array of various greens and shapes, as leaves begin to form on plants.

Leaves are the most diverse and most active organs of a plant. They come in various shapes: tubular, feathery, needle-like, cupped or smooth... and they may be sticky, fragrant or waxy. They range in size from that of a pinhead to those almost 65 feet long, the largest plant leaf being the *Raffia Palm*, an African native, its leaves having a recorded maximum length of 64.99 feet. The leaves of an individual plant can range in number from millions to only one produced in the entire life of a plant. The *Monophyllaea singularis*, an Asian species, has only one leaf from which grow multiple delicate flower stalks.

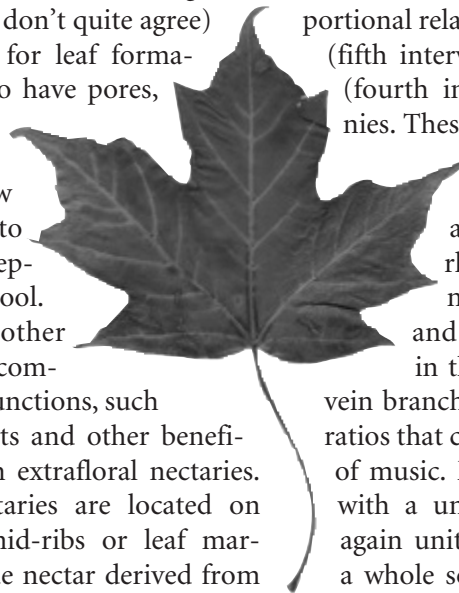
The *Welwitschia mirabilis*, or Tree Tumbo, with a life-span of 450 to 1,500 years, produces only two leaves. This Southern African plant's leaves may exceed lengths of 27 feet.



Plant leaves begin as small bulges at the shoot apex, known as a leaf butress or primordium. The

leaf butress consists of 100 to 300 cells. It is formed by cellular division directly below its emerging area, and this consistent activity of cellular division produces the final completed shape of the leaf. Protein stimulation, as a result of environmental changes, may (-scientists don't quite agree) be the catalyst for leaf formation. Leaves also have pores, called stomata, on their surfaces that allow water vapor to escape, thus keeping the plant cool. Leaves have other intriguing, not commonly known functions, such as attracting ants and other beneficial insects with extrafloral nectaries. Extrafloral nectaries are located on leaf petioles, mid-ribs or leaf margins. They exude nectar derived from phloem sap. They are extremely beneficial to the plant, as the attracted ants fiercely defend it from foraging herbivores.

As a leaf unfolds during its growth, veins can be seen growing from the leaf's petiole, the stem connecting the leaf to the plant. The petiole connects the blade to the stem and contains the conducting tissue that transports water and dissolved substances, including sugars synthesized in photosynthesis. One of the fascinating aspects of nature is its harmonic



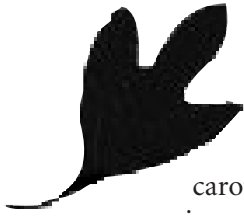
patterns. An example may be found in the growth pattern of a leaf's veins. The starting points of the veins along the midrib, as in a lilac leaf, group themselves in a harmonic order, like organ pipes. The distances between consecutive veins fall within the proportional relationships to the diapente (fifth interval) and the diatessaron (fourth interval) musical harmonies. These relationships show that the growth patterns of many leaf shapes such as those of the bloodleaf, rhododendron, or Japanese maple are harmonious and energetically opposite, in that their large and small vein branches are formed in similar ratios that create the root harmonies of music. Maybe nature is in tune with a universal song as it once again unites the different parts of a whole so that each preserves its own identity, yet blends into the greater pattern of the whole. —such beauty is the essence of soul.

A plant's leaf color also reveals wonders. Chlorophyll is the most important photosynthetic pigment, enabling photosynthesis. In most plants, the leaf is the primary site of photosynthesis, a series of chemical reactions in which carbon dioxide and water are combined to produce carbohydrates (sugars) and oxygen. Chlorophyll is located in leaf cell structures called chloroplasts and absorbs light throughout the visible range. However, it absorbs green wavelengths poorly. Instead, it reflects the green wavelengths of light, and that is

*Continued on Page 10*

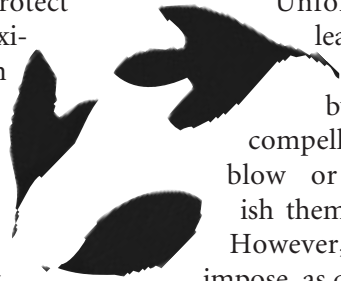
## GREENBELT GOSSIP

Continued from Page 9



why most plant tissues appear green. Two other groups of pigments present are carotenoids and anthocyanins. Carotenoids play a vital role in the photosynthetic reaction center. They participate in the energy-transfer process and protect the reaction center from auto-oxidation. Anthocyanins have been shown to act as a “sunscreen”, protecting cells from high-light damage by absorbing blue-green light. Since there is so much chlorophyll production in the summer months, it masks the leaves’ other pigments. As the daylight shortens in the fall, and as deciduous plant leaves develop little “walls” at the base of each leaf to shut off its water supply, chlorophyll production slows and eventually stops. When this occurs, leaves with an abundance of carotenoids will appear yellow, orange and brown, while those with an abundance of anthocyanins will appear red and purple. It is interesting to note that since temperature and moisture influence fall foliage, no two autumnal seasons are ever the

same. Additionally, if deciduous tree leaves did not fall, the water in the leaves would freeze, causing the cells in the leaves to burst. Deciduous tree leaves fall as a protective measure, since it enables the tree to be less heavy when coated with ice, there then being much less surface area. This also spares the tree from being damaged or killed by high winter winds, since deciduous trees are not anchored by deep tap roots, as are many evergreens.



Unfortunately, fallen leaves are perceived as a nuisance by many, who feel compelled to rake, bag, blow or otherwise banish them from their sight. However, nature doesn’t impose, as do people, labels of “good” or “bad”; it only concerns itself with function. Dead leaves are welcomed by termites, soil mites, bacteria and fungi as they transform the fallen leaves into extremely valuable nutrients for the soil, thus completing a leaf’s functional cycle.

Please remember as you embark on yard spring clean-up that it is not ecologically sound (or legal) to dump leaves in the greenbelt, as it creates conditions that are not only entirely unnatural, but damaging as well. Leaf-dumping may well

promote the spread of invasive plants, introduce harmful chemicals and kill fragile native plants. Nature tries to maintain a balance; the best we can hope to do is to support this effort.

To see a world in a grain of sand  
and heaven in a wild flower,  
hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.

– William Blake

-Comments and/or future topic requests?

–write the McCuskers at PO Box 131 or 3artists@comcast.net

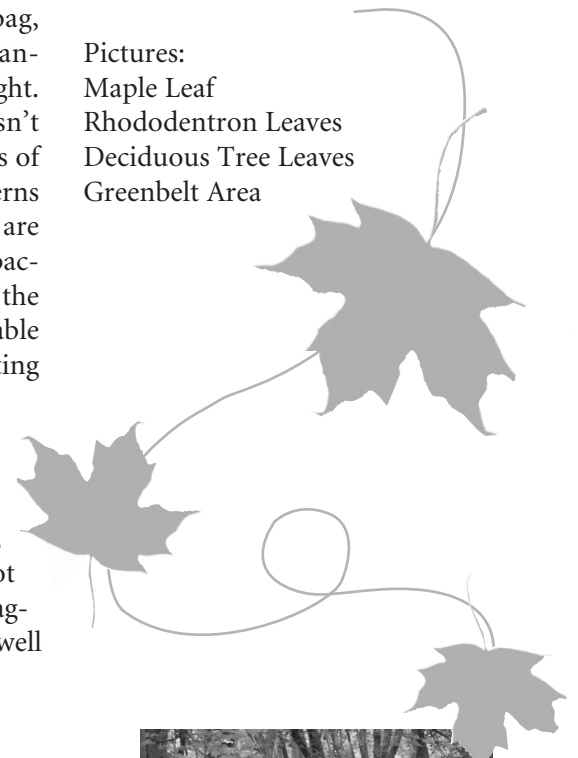
Pictures:

Maple Leaf

Rhododendron Leaves

Deciduous Tree Leaves

Greenbelt Area



“To see a world in a grain of sand  
and heaven in a wild flower,  
hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.”

—WILLIAM BLAKE, *Auguries of Innocence*



## IN MEMORIAM

Dear Readers, the Roosevelt Environmental Commission lost two special friends this past January 2008.

Herb Johnson often attended our meetings and offered great suggestions and comments. He also volunteered to help with our many projects. He was a regular participant of the semi-annual litter pick-ups and it was a privilege to partner with him for the camaraderie. Just this last summer he shared the heat and bugs and knee-deep swamps with 25-30 other younger volunteers as we worked to restore a section of Empty Box Brook. Herb and his wife Florence seemed to attend every play, lecture, ceremony or RAP Program and it was always a pleasure to see and talk to them.

Jim Carnevale served as chairman of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission when I first started nearly twenty years ago. He was a superior leader and grant-getter for the commission and our environmental causes. He also promoted the teaching of animals and nature to children both privately and as owner/manager of the Wonder Museum. Our daughters are friends and we shared many RPS moments together.

Both men are to be admired for their volunteer efforts, community service and over-all enthusiasm for things Roosevelt. They will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences go out to their families.

## ARBOR DAY SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT

Every so often we are able to partner with the Roosevelt community and share an event of an environmental nature. Two years ago we celebrated

Arbor Day with RPS students, teachers, friends and relatives.

The day was special and remembered for the many activities. Trees seedlings were planted by the students in the school yard and even the teachers helped! (LOL). Stories about trees were written and read by the sixth graders. Then the whole school voted for an official school tree to be planted by the RPS sign.

This year, if we can generate the necessary enthusiasm, we would like to stage a similar day of events celebrating TREES. Put on your thinking caps and get your suggestions to me via e-mail, phone, snail mail and/or word of mouth. Sadly, I do not respond to text messaging at this time since I don't know how, oh, and I don't have a cell phone! Arbor Day is officially celebrated on the last Friday of April (this year April 25th) in New Jersey.

## NEW Environmental Commission WEB PAGE : [recgreen.ning.com](http://recgreen.ning.com)

This is really cool! Check out this website, explore and let me know what you think. I'd like to see a Roosevelt Woodland Trail species sighting list and comments about the trail. There are many possibilities. We will eventually link to the Roosevelt Natural Resource Inventory where anyone can be credited with identifying plant and animal species found within our boundaries.

I talked to some RPS students recently who would like to start a nature group and use the trails as part of their activities. I support them 100% and pledged our help. Through this website they could keep track of members, post notices of activities and members can have their own bulletin board.

Possibilities are endless. I hope visitors and participators to this website spend an equal amount of time outdoors on the trail as inside on the computer! Let's see how it evolves.

## 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 March 19, 2008. I plan to bring my frog and toad recordings so we can all hear what a wood frog and others sound like. Everyone is welcome to attend. ■

### 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.

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## HERB (CONT'D.)

*Continued from Page 6*

implored the audience to be involved in their communities, or take a role in a cause that they are passionate about; and, lastly, to remember to let those around them know just how much they love and appreciate them, in all ways and often.

### Jennifer's Memories

by Jennifer Johnson-Cicalese

I'm Jennifer, Dad's youngest daughter. While struggling to find the words that I wanted to share today about my dad, we found this poem in his papers. I had written it in his birthday card in 1989. I thought it was appropriate for today.

#### My Father's Voice

Falling asleep to the strumming of a guitar and my father's voice.

A voice so stern it shakes you to your boots and lets you know he's serious,

Yet also so loving you feel like one of the most special people in the world.

A happy and excited voice with unbounded enthusiasm,

A voice that every animal seems to listen to and know here's a friend,

The voice he reserves for my mother and the way he says her name.

The sense of sound can evoke powerful emotions,

Especially when it comes to my father's voice.

I also feel compelled to acknowledge the wonderful team that my dad was a part of, a team of two, my Mom and Dad. It's going to be hard for my mom but I feel comforted knowing that she's living in this wonderful community of Roosevelt. I know you'll all keep an eye on her.

### Memories of Uncle Herb

by Herb's Niece, Lynn Blakeslee

For those of you who do not know me, I am one of Herb's nieces. Florie is my mother's sister. Therefore, if it weren't for my Aunt Florie's excellent choice in a life partner, I would never have had the joy of having Herbert Johnson in my life as my uncle. So I would like to start by saying, "thank you Aunt Florie for bringing Herbert Johnson into mine and my family's lives. We have all been bettered by knowing and loving him."

Two weeks before Uncle Herb had his heart attack, I had bought a birthday card for him in honor of his eightieth birthday. Anyone who knows me knows that I am a hopeless procrastinator, so as luck would have it, I never wrote out and sent the card to Uncle Herb. After his passing, while contemplating how I could put my feelings about Uncle Herb into words, I happened to come across the card and I was struck by the succinctness with which the card summed up my feelings about my Uncle. It read:

Good Man

Great Friend

Admired Uncle

Is there no end to the things you do well? Happy Birthday.

As we have heard today, there is no end to the things that Uncle Herb did well.

Herbert Johnson was a very unique individual and to know him was to love him.

He never missed an opportunity to learn about any topic which peaked his interest. You could start a conversation with him and before you knew it he would be pulling out the world almanac, a dictionary or some other reference material to explore the topic in more depth. I believe it was prob-

ably his love of learning that led to his role of becoming an Abraham Lincoln presenter (a role he did so well)

He was also passionate about his political causes. I have many happy memories of traveling to Washington DC for the day to participate in one demonstration or another with Uncle Herb and Aunt Florie and whoever else was around to participate. Aunt Florie would pack enough goodies to feed a charter bus, and Uncle Herb would always find a parking place that no one else could find or fit into. Then as a family we would march on Washington.

But Uncle Herb was not just a high profile, big event protester. He would take a stand for what he believed, in every day life, whenever he saw an injustice and with any person or entity he felt he should, or could enlighten. When living in Freehold Boro, he took a stand against the bigoted mayor and town council on issues regarding race relations, restrictive loitering ordinances and other policies. He was thrown out of at least a couple of meetings because he refused to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance in protest to their narrow minded ways. Being thrown out ended, however, when Aunt Florie packed up the Johnson clan and joined Uncle Herb in protest at the meeting. It was a bit more difficult for the Mayor to justify throwing out a mother and 6 children than it had been to eject a sole protester. As we all know he continued his efforts for peace and civil rights all of his life.

In my memory, Uncle Herb was also the first "dog whisperer", a talent that has been clearly bestowed upon his daughter Lezlie. I always remember him being able to communicate with animals on a different level than the rest of us. Whether it was soothing an anxious dog or very realistically neigh-

*Continued on Page 13*



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## HERB (CONT'D.)

*Continued from Page 12*

ing to a horse in a farmer's field, he had an innate ability with animals. One of mine and my brother's favorite memories was when Uncle Herb jumped on the bare back of a grazing horse while the family was picnicking down by the river. He took off riding the horse with no bridle and of course, no saddle. This happened more than once. My brother and father recall an occasion during a guys camping trip where he did the same thing, but then he didn't return for a while. Everyone was concerned. He came back to the campsite an hour or so later, with a bump on his head and reported that the horse went under a low branch, knocked him off, he hit his head, and actually lost consciousness. In my mind, Uncle Herb was almost like a cowboy when it came to his ability with horses, which to a horse crazy little girl made him cooler than cool in my eyes.

As many of you also know, Uncle Herb was also quite an athlete, even into his senior years. In 1989, Uncle Herb and I went on a bicycle trip out west. It was at times a rather grueling trip through the Grand Tetons, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. There were many times when the guide's notes grossly underestimated the mileage we were doing that day (50 miles was really 70 miles, gently rolling terrain was actually a climb over a mountain pass), but Uncle Herb, who was then 61, persevered through it all. I will admit I took the sag wagon a couple of times, but Uncle Herb was one of the only people who never took the sag wagon once. He earned the admiration of the entire group.

Uncle Herb was also a very resourceful handyman in addition to his wonderful carpentry skills. He could fix almost anything. Not necessarily in a manner that others would

think of, but he would get the job done. One time, the Johnson and Norcia families were coming back from a trip to New York City on the New Jersey Turnpike. The trusty Johnson station wagon started losing its tailpipe. My brother remembers looking in the back and saying "Uncle Herb there are sparks flying from the back of the car." No problem for Herbert Johnson. He simply got out of the car, took off his belt, used it to tie up the tail pipe and away we all went.

Uncle Herb was also a skilled singer and songwriter. I have many memories of him entertaining us kids with one of his many songs. One of my favorites was "I know an old lady who swallowed a fly" in which he ended the song with a dramatic singing of the final line "I know an old lady who swallowed a horse, she's dead of course."

Of course, another favorite was the song he wrote "A Father's Dream" which you have heard sung today by the Solidarity Singers.

Most of all, Uncle Herb was always there to lend a listening ear, to offer wise advice or to just let you know how much he loved and supported you. Uncle Herb (and Aunt Florie) have given me so much love and support as I have made my way into and through adulthood that I can never thank either one of them enough.

Uncle Herb we will miss and love you always, your niece, Lynn

### **A Memory of Herb**

by Peggy Malkin

Herb Johnson was a special person, and all of us who knew him were so saddened by his death. This is a story I think really typifies who Herb was.

Man years ago when my son Nick was about 12 years old, he was study-

ing the Holocaust. He was reading voraciously and watching the History Channel endlessly. One day, apropos of nothing in particular at the moment, he came into the room where I was. "You know, Mom, he said, "I think if there was a Holocaust again, here, the one person in town I know would hide us is Herb Johnson." I was taken aback for a second since I hadn't been thinking about it. "Nick," I replied, "I completely agree." I then looked for Herb, as I thought he should be aware of a compliment of such magnitude, and how Nick felt about him. A few days later I saw him and recounted just what Nick said. Herb just looked at me and said nothing. I wasn't sure what was happening. And then, he began to cry. Tears welled up and began spilling out. He never said a word. He nodded his head, touched my hand, and walked away. Such a compassionate man.

### **Compassion and Love**

by Dan Johnson  
Son of Herb Johnson

Firm is the Oak that stands tall in the daylight

Soft is the Willow that sways in the evening breeze

Gentle is the hand that soothes the crying child

Strong is the person who stands for justice

True is the heart that works for peace

Honest is the mind that reacts with

compassion and love toward life. ■

To: The Editor

In response to Bob Clark's letter of February 2008, we need to get some facts straight.

Mr. Clark is not correct that Federal law automatically trumps local ordinances. Our local ordinances stand unless and until a court of law decides otherwise.

RLUIPA (the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act) is the Federal law which is being held over our heads as the final word on whether or not Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah can run a boarding school for teenage boys, based in the Roosevelt synagogue. Good news - RLUIPA has been challenged in the courts by a number of other communities - successfully!

It's disturbing that the Borough is continually accused of being unwilling to negotiate with the Yeshiva. There is simply no basis for negotiation until the Yeshiva goes through the normal legal process of applying for permission to operate a school in town.

Back to basics: Our local zoning ordinance says that the Yeshiva needs a variance to operate a school in the synagogue. (It also needs variances to operate dormitories for the students.) The normal and lawful action on the part of the Yeshiva would be to go before the Planning Board to request such variances.

The Yeshiva has not done so. However, in July, 2006, Bruce Shoulson, attorney for Yeshiva Me'on Hatorah sent a letter to the Council essentially threatening a lawsuit against the town unless the synagogue property was rezoned to allow the yeshiva to expand and to allow for the boys to be boarded on the school site. This letter was kept confidential by the Council.

In early September Mr. Clark decided, unilaterally, to give this confidential letter to the press, and to

read it aloud at an open Council meeting. That is what I was referring to when I said he "introduced" Mr. Shoulson's letter.

Along with Mr. Shoulson's letter came an elaborate, professionally prepared "concept plan" dated 6/29/2006. That's the plan you may remember seeing posted on the bulletin board and displayed on placards around town, showing a huge multi-story addition to the synagogue, as well an addition to the house next door that tripled its size.

The fact that the plan was made public, making Roosevelt citizens aware of possible decisions that would have a major impact on their neighborhoods and their lives, was no more a "breach of trust", as Mr. Clark styled it, than was his making public the accompanying letter.

Now Mr. Clark implies that this concept plan is NOT the actual proposal of the Yeshiva. So, why was it sent to the Council? Was this what was supposed to have "jump-started negotiations"? And more importantly, what IS their actual proposal? The public would dearly like to know.

Here's some more interesting information:

The lease between the Yeshiva and Congregation Anshei Roosevelt states that the Yeshiva "...acknowledges and agrees that it shall be responsible for obtaining any required Certificate of Occupancy and all other necessary approvals from the Borough of Roosevelt to operate the facilities herein. Tenant further acknowledges and agrees that it shall not operate their business until such time as any required Certificate of Occupancy and all other necessary approvals have been obtained."

(2) In addition, the initial four year lease specifies that it "...shall automatically become twenty-five years as of the date that all necessary governmental approvals are received for the uses described hereafter: synagogue, religious

school, dormitory, kitchen, classrooms, and all uses related thereto..."

Clearly, both the Congregation and the Yeshiva knew that zoning approvals and variances would be required. However, rather than applying for the "necessary approvals", as any of us ordinary citizens would do, they simply forged ahead as if zoning laws and contractual obligations didn't apply to them.

Now the Yeshiva has sued the Borough for harassment and for interfering with its rights as a religious organization. The State of New Jersey may have "harassed" it for housing students in buildings grossly unfit to be used as dormitories, but the Borough has done nothing, I'm sorry to say. The Yeshiva is in full swing.

It is my opinion that the Yeshiva never intended to deal in good faith with the community but expects to achieve its goals by intimidation. In this it has been abetted by the Executive Board of the Congregation, which extended the four year lease to twenty five years, without the approval of the congregation as a whole.

If the Yeshiva really wishes to have an "amicable relationship with its neighbors and with the municipality" as Mr. Shoulson's letter states, its administrators should go to the Planning Board and request variances so that they can legally use the synagogue as a full time school and use private homes as dormitories. If the Planning Board turns them down, they can work to negotiate a plan that would be acceptable to the community. If that fails, then they can sue.

Finally, to clean up just a few of Mr. Clark's misstatements of facts:

I never opposed a variance for the Nursery School because of parking or any other issues. I've lived next to the synagogue for over 40 years and have never before complained about or opposed anything that went on in that building. Check the minutes.

*Continued on Page 15*

## LETTERS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 14

I strongly disapprove of anonymous letters. I don't know who sent one to Mr. Clark and I'm certainly not responsible, directly or indirectly, for his receiving it.

Jeff Ellentuck and Peggy Malkin are not members of the Roosevelt Preservation Association and never have been.

I'm confounded by Mr. Clark's claim that I have "a gripe with freedom of speech as well as freedom of religion". First of all, nobody, least of all, me, is stopping anybody - either directly or through intimidation, shame, mockery or with generous cash payments - from saying what they want to say. What do you think all these letters in the *Bulletin* are about, if not about freedom of speech and freedom to dissent?

Secondly, the idea that I'm trying to keep people from practicing their religion is absurd. What I am trying very, very hard, to do is to stop a private organization from operating a commercial enterprise, a boarding school for a large number of out-of-town teenage boys, in a quiet residential neighborhood, in defiance of local ordinances.

Get it through your head - this is a zoning issue.

Bert Ellentuck

To the Editor:

Paul Heller of 12 Homestead Lane, who disagreed with my letter in the December 2007 *Bulletin*, can be forgiven for being factually challenged since he only recently moved into town. Part of the problem is the relentless obfuscation of the facts by the Roosevelt Purity Association. He makes oblique and unexplained reference to "THAT PESKY RULE OF LAW" which I take to mean the Zoning Ordinance. It is because of "that pesky rule of law" that I have taken my position on the Yeshiva. Heller

is making assumptions about what I think and what my attitudes are instead of taking me at my word, or even, for goodness' sake, asking me. When someone tries to destroy or undermine the US Constitution, I find that my "ox is gored," ( in his own words).

The mayor and Council have announced their unwillingness to negotiate with the Yeshiva except in public, at a Council meeting. Is this the "hand of compromise" that Heller asserts was offered the Yeshiva? Anyone who has experience in negotiation knows that it cannot be done in a public forum. Otherwise you get both sides posturing for their constituencies instead of making and considering serious proposals. That goes whether it is in Trenton, "here in Brooklyn" (in Heller's words), or in Roosevelt.

I also have a nice house on Rochdale Avenue which I might consider trading, as Heller suggests. We have some noisy adolescents (and children of other ages) walking by (noisiness is a happy condition of childhood), along with dump trucks, farm equipment, tractor-trailers, endless cars and trucks, and rallies of upwards of a hundred motorcycles roaring by at different times. I think Homestead Lane is quieter.

What may be necessary is a degree of tolerance, something like that shown by townspeople towards the big ugly recreational vehicles that have been in Heller's driveway for years and years.

As far as speeding is concerned, you don't have to be a rabbi (or even Jewish) to speed in Roosevelt. Since 1964, when I moved here, speeding has been a problem, although it may have been concentrated on Homestead Lane and 571, and always caused by "someone else."

Ed Moser



### Sunday in Stowe

by Wes Czyzewski

Last week climbing Hogback  
Mountain  
My wife's knees gave out  
halfway  
So I went on alone like a  
yellow Lab  
With a bandanna around  
its neck  
Leaping over exposed roots  
Squatting in rock pools to  
cool off  
Then rolling on my back at  
the summit  
Belly bared to the sky to the  
other peaks  
And to any higher authority  
Who might be leaning on  
an elbow  
To take a passing glance at this  
sideshow below



Patronize

our business sponsors.

Most of them are

our neighbors.

By Ron Filepp

**An Apology**

I have an apology, but by the time you read this column in March a couple of weeks after it was written, an *amende honorable* may not be necessary. That would not displease me entirely. My apology is to all the snow lovers in Roosevelt and here it is: I have done you wrong. I have purchased a snow blower. Admittedly, it was a few years ago and it's hard to determine if the blame lies entirely with me. Perhaps it is the cumulative effect of a number of Roosevelt snow blower buyers. The effect, of course, is the lack of snow this winter. Only about an inch or two has fallen as of this writing.

Some of you may applaud our purchases, pleased that they have saved you from digging out this winter. But that praise will not satisfy. I bought the blower when my hip and my heart were no longer enthused with the prospect of digging out. I had dug enough snow and attained a level of skill in the profession that more than met my lifetime expectations.

Still, my winter soul needs snow. One good storm would be enough. Not so I can use the blower, though I would. But so I can feel that there is still a chance that 100 years from now, when I am long gone, snow will blanket our borough and state from time to time and slow us down enough to enjoy nature's beauty and strength. So seldom do we seem so completely at its mercy.

**2007 By The Numbers**

Last year's precipitation total was very close to the 30-year average annual total precipitation. In 2007 forty-seven-and-a-half inches of precipitation fell. The 30-year average is 47.68 inches per year. One month brought nearly 20% of the year's total precipitation. In April almost nine-

and-a-half inches of rain fell. Well over twice the normal amount of rain for the month. The day with the most precipitation was also in April. Over four inches of that fell on April 16.

Although 9.5 inches of rain is a lot of precipitation, the month with the most precipitation in our area was July 1987 when over twelve inches of rain fell. The highest rainfall for one day was 7.16 inches on August 27, 1971. A quick look through my records indicates that we had about 13 inches of snow and/or ice in 2007.

The average temperature for 2007 was well above normal. It was 54.5 degrees, two-point-three degrees above normal. There were about 10% fewer Heating Degree-Days and over 50% more than normal Cooling Degree-Days for the year. Despite the fact that the average temperature for 2007 was 2.3 degrees above normal, there was only one heat wave. That occurred in July from the ninth through the eleventh. The warmer than normal average temperature for 2007 seems to be the result of warmer nights more than higher daytime temperatures. The average daytime high for the year was 1.3-degrees above normal but the average nightly low was 3.1 degrees above normal.

The highest temperature for the year was 94.5 degrees. The temperature reached that mark on two days, July 10 and August 8. The lowest temperature was 9.3, recorded on March 8. That's a little late in the year for the lowest temperature. It came during a four-day stretch of cold weather that started on March 6 and ended on March 10.

**Weather Word**

Corrasion is the abrasive action of wind-borne material, especially sand, dust, and ice crystals; a form of weathering or wind corrosion.

Jan 15, 2008 - Feb 15, 2008

Day	High	Low	Avg	Degree Precip Days	
15	41.2	31.1	36.2	0.20	28.9
16	39.7	27.0	33.4	0.00	31.7
17	38.0	24.4	31.2	0.00	33.8
18	46.0	34.0	40.0	0.00	25.0
19	40.6	30.4	35.5	0.00	29.5
20	34.0	17.8	25.9	0.00	39.1
21	27.7	14.7	21.2	0.00	43.8
22	39.2	17.6	28.4	0.00	36.6
23	39.1	26.6	32.9	0.00	32.2
24	36.0	19.2	27.6	0.00	37.4
25	32.9	17.6	25.3	0.00	39.8
26	38.3	24.8	31.6	0.00	33.5
27	38.7	26.8	32.8	0.00	32.3
28	41.0	23.0	32.0	0.00	33.0
29	41.2	24.1	32.7	0.00	32.4
30	47.3	32.5	39.9	0.55	25.1
31	38.3	23.5	30.9	0.00	34.1
1	45.5	25.9	35.7	0.00	29.3
2	43.0	28.0	35.5	1.67	29.5
3	48.4	26.1	37.3	0.00	27.8
4	43.9	37.4	40.7	0.00	24.4
5	58.3	41.2	49.8	0.09	15.3
6	70.2	44.8	57.5	0.04	7.5
7	64.8	41.9	53.4	0.24	11.7
8	48.4	34.7	41.6	0.06	23.5
9	47.3	30.7	39.0	0.00	26.0
10	45.5	25.0	35.3	0.00	29.8
11	26.1	11.8	19.0	0.00	46.1
12	34.2	16.2	25.2	0.00	39.8
13	55.2	33.8	44.5	0.82	20.5
14	39.9	29.3	34.6	1.15	30.4
15	51.1	28.9	40.0	0.00	25.0
<b>Total Precipitation</b>			<b>4.82</b>		
<b>Total Degree-Days</b>				<b>954.1</b>	



The original recipe for this stew was an Italian clam soup, but over the years in our kitchen it has morphed into a delicious fish and/or shellfish stew that's more or less related to cioppino or boulliabaise. It always has – at a minimum - clams and some firm white fish, such as cod, grouper, monkfish or John Dory, but I often add mussels, shelled shrimp, or even scallops. Sometimes I boil up some small new potatoes, in their skins, drain them and toss them into the stew just before serving.

This a great dish for guests. It takes well under an hour to make and if the group keeps growing, it's easy to throw in more fish to feed the crowd. No time for that? Keep the stew a little on the thick side and serve it over pasta!



## Lickety-Split Seafood Stew

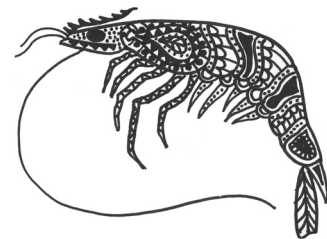
Serves 6 to 10 – or more if you throw in more ingredients!

40 littleneck clams, the smaller, the better  
 1 ½ pounds of whatever firm white fish looks good in the seafood case and, better yet, is on sale.  
 1/3 cup of olive oil  
 ½ cup chopped onion  
 4 cloves of garlic, minced  
 8–10 anchovies, chopped  
 6 basil leaves, chopped, or 1 tspn dried  
 3 Tbspn of parsley, minced  
 1 tspn oregano

1 tspn crushed fennel seeds  
 1 teaspoon leaf saffron chopped (optional)  
 1 can of tomato paste  
 1 cup dry white wine  
 2 cups of fish stock or water, or one cup of clam juice and one cup water

Optional: A splash of Pernod (or any licorice-flavored liqueur such as Anisette, Sambuca, or pastis.)  
 Salt & fresh ground pepper

- o Rinse the clams well under cold running water to rid them of any grit.
- o Heat the oil in a large kettle. Add onion.
- o Sauté over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, for 3 or 4 minutes.
- o Add garlic, and continue cooking until the onion is wilted.
- o Add the anchovies, basil, parsley, oregano, fennel, and saffron.
- o Sauté, stirring, about 5 minutes.
- o Add the tomato paste and wine.
- o Cut the fish into 1 ½" chunks and toss in the pot.
- o Now start adding more liquids (fish stock or water, or clam juice and water) until the stew is the desired consistency. If you want it more like soup, just add more liquid. It's all very ad hoc.
- o Stir, and simmer 5 minutes longer.
- o Add clams to the pot (along with those optional scallops, shelled shrimps and/or scrubbed, de-bearded mussels).
- o Cover and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, and shaking the kettle occasionally until all the clams open (5-10 minutes). I like to move clams to a bowl on the counter, as they open, so they don't get overcooked.
- o Stir in a splash of Pernod or other licorice-flavored liqueur to the sauce, if desired.
- o Salt & pepper to taste.



Serve this with lots of crunchy Italian or French bread to soak up the marvelous juices.

# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

## 2008 Season

---

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

**ALAN MALLACH PERFORMS PIANO MUSIC OF THE FRENCH ROMANTIC ERA  
Including Saint-Saens, Faure, Debussy, and Cesar Frank**

---

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

**JERSEY HOMESTEADS: IN THE ARCHITECTURAL VANGUARD**  
A documentary/video made by Ben Johnson and Fletcher Grayson.  
Presented by Ben Johnson, this documentary explores the  
architectural history of the original Roosevelt houses.

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

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

**THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND**

Come join David Brahinsky, Paul Prestopino, Ed Cedar, Joe Pepitone,  
Sarah Houtz and friends for the 21st annual concert of the Roosevelt  
String Band

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

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sign up for our e-mail list. For further

information call Robin Gould at

(609) 448-4616. ■

**DO YOU HAVE IDEAS**

**FOR THE**

**2009 SEASON?**

RAP is looking for your input at the  
next Board Meeting.

Join us at 10:30 AM on April 12th at  
the Borough Hall.

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

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Please send your events to Ann Baker, P.O. Box 308,  
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## MARCH

1 Sat	10 a.m.–1 p.m.	PTA Winter Carnival, at RPS, Kacie Mixon, President, 443-9325
4 Tue	12:30 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall
	1 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, Gerry Millar, President, 448-0351
5 Wed		RECYCLE 
7 Fri		RPS Pizza Day
10 Mon	7:00 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
11 Tue	7:30 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, chair 448-3713
12 Wed	7:00 p.m.	PTA Executive Meeting,
	7:30 p.m.	General Meeting, Kacie Mixon, 443-9325
13 Thur	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Linda Grayson, President, 443-6462
15 Sat	8:00 p.m.	Roosevelt Arts Project, Borough Hall, Alan Mallach Performs Piano Music of the French Romantic Period, Robin Gould, 448-4616
18 Tue	8:00 p.m.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad Business Meeting, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, 448-9475
		Pre K/K Registration, RPS
19 Wed		RECYCLE 
		Pre K/K Registration, RPS
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Dave Schwendeman, Chair 443-6204
21 – 28		Spring Break, School Closed

24 Mon	7:00 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
25 Wed	7:00 p.m.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, 448-9475
27 Thur	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Linda Grayson, President 443-6462

## APRIL

1 Tue	12:30 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall, Gerry Millar, President, 448-0351
2 Wed		RECYCLE 
4 Fri		RPS Pizza Day
7 Mon	4:00 p.m.	Deadline for filing petition to run for political office
14 Mon	7:00 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701
15 Tue		School Board Elections

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