

Volume 43 Number 6 June 2020

# THE POETRY ISSUE

Tow that we're mainly travelling in our heads, consider these poems as a can of alphabet soup, as zoomless trips to the noosphere where we can enjoyably pass the time.

--Wes Czyzewski

## Primary Election Postponed to July 7

Governor Phil Murphy has signed an Executive Order postponing the June 2020 Primary Election to July 7, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The election includes primaries for President, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and county and municipal elections, as well as county committee elections in Monmouth County.

The statutory Primary Election deadlines that were scheduled to occur after April 11 will be changed and calculated by using the July 7 election date. This does not affect any deadlines that have already passed with the exception of the deadline for change of party affiliation which is moved to May 13. Based on the new Primary Election date of July 7, the voter registration deadline for the election will be June 16, and the deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by mail will be June 30.

For more information, visit the Elections Website at MonmouthCountyVotes.com or call the County Clerk's Elections Division at 732-431-7790.

## Welcome to the Fourth Annual Bulletin Poetry Issue

As in previous years, we've received a strong response from our local poets, and their voices and styles are as diverse, surprising, and evocative as ever. We have a few poems that engage with topical issues, some that are suggestive of them, and more that evoke times and places completely outside the current moment. My sense is that for many poets and writers the impact of the pandemic, the protests and rallies, and the tragic violence we face as a society is still forming its expression...is still undergoing a process of distillation in all those imaginations. It is a rare writer or poet who can capture a moment in the moment—one has to be quick and confident and willing to take a risk. I would not be surprised to receive many more poems addressing the events of today in the months ahead.

Rick Pressler Managing Editor

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Borough Council News	3
From the Mayor	4
Poems	5-15, 17

Environmental Commission	6
Borough Birds	7
Roosevelt Public School	14

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 43rd edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running 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 rooseveltbulletinsubmissions@gmail. com. For short messages, you can also use the contact form on our web site, which will go to the same address.
- Send your submission as a Microsoft Word attachment or as plain text within the body of your email.
- Please limit your letters to 500 words (about one page in MS Word). We will edit letters for length when necessary. Longer letters may be published in full on the Bulletin web site.
- Please include images as separate files. If you have multiple files, please put them into a zip file, if possible. Please submit only JPEG images.
- 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. (So, for example, a submission received on January 16th would be printed in March.)
- 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.

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly, except August and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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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.

# Council Amends Rental Housing License Ordinance; Proposes Zoning Amendments Regarding Pods and Bond Ordinances for Utility and Road Work on School Lane and Farm Lane

Mayor Eulogizes Lennie Sacharoff, Longtime Roosevelt Resident, Council Member and War Hero

by Michael Ticktin

The two May Council meetings, as well as meetings of the Environmental Commission and Planning Board, were conducted virtually, using Zoom technology. Information concerning the procedure to be used by members of the public seeking to attend the meetings can be found on the Borough's webpage, at www.rooseveltnj.us.

At the May 11 meeting, the Council proposed an amendment to Chapter 10 of the Borough Code, entitled "Housing," to authorize the housing inspector to issue the annual licenses required for all rental properties, subject to a right of appeal to the Council in the event of a denial. The amendment was adopted at the May 26 meeting. Under the ordinance, in order to get a license, or have a license renewed, the owner of a rented house must pay a fee of \$100 and have an inspection performed by the housing inspector to ensure compliance with code. Prior to the amendment, the issuance of the license, once approved by the housing inspector, was voted upon by the Council, but the Council determined that this added step was not necessary.

Also at the May 11 meeting, the Council approved the following resolutions: (1) a re-adoption for three years of the agreement with Monmouth County to participate in the Community Development Block Grant program under the County's auspices; (2) authorizing the Borough Engineer to review the existing stormwater ordinance to ensure compliance with current rules of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; (3) authorizing the Borough Engineer to make a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for improvements to Pine Drive between Tamara Drive and North Rochdale Avenue; (4) awarding a contract for cleaning and examination of sewer mains under Farm Lane and School Lane; (5) approving settlement of a lawsuit brought by Hilltop Swim Club regarding utility fees; and (6) a resolution extending the grace period for the payment without interest of 2nd quarter property taxes until June 1, 2020.

At the May 26 meeting, in addition to approving the amendment to the rental housing ordinance, the Council

Continued on Page 4

# **Please Support the Bulletin**

The Bulletin is the only publication covering the news of our town. It is our only source of information about what's happening in local government, the school, and our local civic organizations. It provides a forum, through the Letters to the Editor, for anyone to express their opinions on the issues important to the community, and it is committed to featuring the writing—memoirs, poetry, articles of general interest—of all community members willing to share their work. If you value these services that the Bulletin provides, please help us to continue publication.

Any contributions you could make at this time, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. Many of those listed on our Contributors page last donated at this time in 2019, and we would greatly appreciate if you would renew your support at this time. If every household that receives the Bulletin contributed as little as \$10 each year, that would provide sufficient revenue to keep us going.

Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. The Bulletin is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contributions may be tax deductible.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

--Kevin McNally, Treasurer and Board Member

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Continued from Page 3

also proposed two bond ordinances, for roadwork and utility improvements to Farm Land and School Lane. The proposed ordinances, due to receive final reading on June 8, would authorize \$160,000 in bonds and notes for the roadwork and \$695,000 in bonds and notes for replacement of water mains and inspection of sewer mains.

Also proposed at the May 26 meeting was an amendment to the zoning ordinance establishing standards for portable on-demand storage containers in residential areas. The ordinance would apply to portable temporary storage containers, trailers, storage units and portable structures, with or without axles or wheels and without a foundation, designed and used for storage, and would establish rules for placement, maximum size, fees and permits, time and enforcement.

Also at the May 11 meeting, Mayor Peggy Malkin noted the passing at age 97, in Washington State where he lived with his son, of long-time Roosevelt resident Lennie

Sacharoff. Mr. Sacharoff, who was always a quiet, unassuming man, served on the Borough Council during the 1970s--if I may inject a personal note, I am glad to say that I had the pleasure of serving with him during my first term on the Council--and was the husband of Claire Sacharoff, a much-beloved teacher in the Roosevelt Public School. As Mayor Malkin noted, Lennie was also a war hero. As a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, he had parachuted behind enemy lines in Normandy on D-Day and later parachuted into Nijmegen, Holland, thus participating in the liberation of that country as well. On the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994, he went back to Normandy and was very moved by the gratitude shown by the French people he met to the men who had participated in their liberation. He spoke of visiting the farm where he had landed and being shown where the farmer had written his name and those of his fellow parachutists on the wall of his barn in tribute to their valor, something that he greatly appreciated.



# From the Mayor

by Peggy Malkin

Hello Neighbors,

I hope this finds everyone healthy, safe and in good spirits.

It has been a trying three months, as we all know. Luckily, in Roosevelt we only have six confirmed cases of COVID-19, and that number has remained the same for quite some time. As I walk and drive around town, I'm pleased to see almost everyone following certain basic rules, such as the wearing of masks and keeping socially distant. I hope by the time you're reading this our lockdown has been lifted and some semblance of normalcy has returned.

That said, it is upsetting to report that Roosevelt Summer Camp had to be cancelled for the 2020 summer. At first, we were optimistic that perhaps a short program could be instituted later in the summer, but that doesn't seem feasible now.

Additionally, unfortunately, the Roosevelt 4th of July picnic will be cancelled this year as well.

The Independence Day celebration is a time-honored tradition in Roosevelt. It has taken place every year since the inception of the town. The original Roosevelt settlers were extremely grateful to the Federal government for providing them the opportunity to begin a new life, in this remote beautiful area of New Jersey.

To express their appreciation, they held a large scale celebration on the 4th, complete with a parade, picnic, music, and other festivities. This tradition has continued right through present day. It's very disappointing that due

to the coronavirus it will have to be cancelled this year. We have many new families in town and I was hoping they would join us for the first time. It would have been a good opportunity to get to know their neighbors and participate in the wonderful celebration we still hold- as a way to show our patriotism, and gratitude, and say Happy Birthday to our country.

I'm hoping we may be able to have a modified outdoor get-together at the end of the summer, or early fall. That, of course, is up in the air at this point.

I'm sure everyone has noticed all the roadwork taking place on a few of our streets. We were lucky enough to receive a great deal of grant money, and so have been able to begin to replace our aging infrastructure. We have three more streets that are slated to begin work in 2021 and beyond.

I hope the roadwork hasn't inconvenienced anyone too

Finally, official notices will be sent out, but I wanted to remind everyone that the Primary Election has been moved to July 7th. This will be primarily a mail-in ballot election. There will be a polling place at the Borough Hall, but it will be for disabled persons only. There won't be a booth of any kind. Any person who comes to the Borough Hall who is not disabled will be given a provisional ballot. These are State mandated regulations. So be on the look-out for your mail-in ballot, and please continue another Roosevelt tradition-having the highest voter turnout in Monmouth County! Please mail your ballot in in a timely manner.

I wish for everyone a happy relaxing summer with lots of good weather!

Peggy

#### Reflection on COVID-19

Until today, Tuesday, May 26, 2020, I hadn't known anyone who'd died of COVID-19, yet a 100,000 Americans have died of it.

Last week, three casual friends and I planned to walk around our local park, in a socially distant manner. One of the walkers quipped inquiringly about our not seemingly having COVID-19. I quipped back that since not one of us was Black or a native Spanish speaker, he was likely correct. The walk and talk ensued quickly in a different direction. I was left to my own political devices. I haven't slept well since that day.

In spite of the numbers, I know no one who's died of the coronavirus. How is it possible that I know no one who's died of the coronavirus? COVID-19 and the quarantine have kept me ignorant and safe. How can it be that I know no one?

How is it that so many of us in our cultural mishmash have fallen, And I know no one?

The epicenter is only a few miles away and now I just know one I read the newspaper through and through and I just know one I sorrowfully listen to the news for weeks and know just one I've lived eighty-four years and I know only one I've worked in industry and taught for years and I know only one More than eighty people showed at my eightieth, but I know only one The news is finally revealing why I only know one

I live in the wrong zip code

I work in a different mode

I earn enough so I can stand six feet away from my multi-cultural mass I don't have to rub elbows with the covid class

Had I written this yesterday, I'd have known no one.

\$

--Al Hepner

P.S. On Tuesday, I learned of my old friend and neighbor, Lennie Sacharoff.

## Vines

Plant like your life depends on it: your future, rising in a bean-vine, Jack.

-- Ron Kostar

#### Kokinshu 330

Staring at the snow
I see flowers
coming from the sky.
Above the clouds
there must lie spring.
Kiyohara no Fukayabu

#### Kokinshu 57

Each spring sets out the same shapes, the same scents but with our old age we walk into a wholly different thing.

Ki no Tomonori

#### Kokinshu 283

The autumn leaves in Tatsuta River flow in great confusion.
As you cross you may wind up woven in brocade.

Anonymous

Translated by Emily Saunders Nguyen from the Kokinshu, an anthology of Japanese poetry published in the year 905.

# Roosevelt Senior Citizens Housing Corporation

1-17 North Valley Road PO Box 535

Due to public health concerns, the 2020 annual meeting to elect the board of the Solar Village has been postponed until the COVID-19 crisis is over. The current board will be maintained until the annual meeting is held.

Join other good neighbors at

# ROOSEVELT SOLAR VILLAGE

North Valley Road, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

- One and Two Bedroom Units for Adults Age 62+ Years Old
- Some Units Available for Disabled Individuals 18+ Years Old
  - Rent is Based on Income & Eligibility Requirements
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### **Coneflowers**

This month's article highlights a native species that we should encourage, coneflowers (Echinacea).

Coneflowers are native perennial daises, and although they are not native to New Jersey, these midwestern flowers are favorites of pollinators and hummingbirds. The genus Echinacea gets its name is from the Greek echinos, meaning spine, which it shares with the spiny sea urchin. The spiny seed heads are a favorite of blue jays, cardinals, and goldfinches. There are many native coneflower populations throughout central



Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)

North America. Just like people who use DNA testing to determine their heritage, scientists have used coneflower DNA to determine that there are ten distinct species.

Most coneflowers have flowers in various shades of purple, except for one with yellow flowers. It looks much like its distant cousin, the black-eyed Susan. Coneflowers bloom all summer long. They are drought tolerant and not fussy about the soil type. They need sun to bloom well, but will tolerate some shade. According to Rutgers University, coneflowers are seldom severely damaged by deer. Numerous selections and hybrids are commercially available as seeds or potted plants. The color range in these is much greater than that of their wild parents. There are whites, reds, pinks, oranges and bi-colors. Choose your hybrids carefully, some of the plants with double flowers don't provide nectar, and others lack pollen and don't yield seeds. The seedlings of others may not resemble their parents. So, you may be in for a surprise as the plants spread, which adds interest to the garden. Other selections and hybrids are stable and yield seedlings with similar flowers. Plant some. If they are happy, you may even have some to cut and brighten your table. And, the flocks of goldfinches that descend on your garden will be an added joy.

#### References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Echinacea

https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/echinacea-purpurea/

https://www.thespruce.com/ top-coneflower-varieties-1315807

https://njaes.rutgers.edu/ deer-resistant-plants/?search=echinacea&submit=Search

## The Quetzal

Drinking margaritas two nights in a row and washing my hands while swearing

I will heed the good doctor's warnings and the simplicity of each day.

And hold time in my hands and whittle it into something with volume and legitimacy.

Into a wooden bird, let's say - then animate her with fierce tropical hues!

There, friend, I set down my offering where its blazing colors may quiet the pathogens

as it soars like a Quetzal above the smoldering Pyre.

-- Ron Kostar

#### Tree Hut

In sweetness, in sadness, we live day to day, Stepping over a drunk on the sidewalk Who lashes out with a sock to my calf, Ignoring the news when it's all too much, Biting a lip at the sight of trashing, graffiti, Saying hello to a deer in the backyard - Living like a yo yo spewing beauty, despair - Do go gently, into that next moment, night. The neighbors are building a tree hut - Climb up with me there, my friend, And we will go softly, hand in hand Through these days.

6-4-20

Judith McNally

#### **Northern Cardinal**



This is an easy one, right? The Northern Cardinal is a large songbird with a short, very thick bill, long tail and a prominent crest (like a Mohawk). Male cardinals are very easy to spot with their bright red feathers, while the females are a muted brown all over. Both have an orange-red bill and black feathers immediately surrounding the bill. They will nest in low trees and shrubs and can be found perching here most often. Male Cardinals can be seen feeding females during their breeding season (March to July) and are monogamous. Males will aggressively defend their nesting area from other males. They can often be seen chasing each other through yards at this time of the year. The Northern Cardinal is the state bird of seven different states.

#### White-throated Sparrow



The White-throated Sparrow is a large sparrow with a prominent bill, round head and long, thin tail. These Sparrows are mostly grey and brown all over. Their large head is highlighted by both a white throat and a yellow marker near the eye. White-throated Sparrows stay low to the ground, searching through leaves in search of food (seeds and insects mostly). You can also find them in bushes as well, particularly in spring when they eat new buds. These birds are important when it comes to reforesting burnt or destroyed woodlands. Look for them near the Roosevelt

Cemetery in particular when those fields are cleared and burnt each year.



## Red Bellied Woodpecker

This is one of the most common woodpeckers around Roosevelt and very easy to spot. I have observed this bird many times on the Woodland Trail in particular. The Red Bellied Woodpecker has a striking back that is marked with a black and white pattern, a bright red cap and pale belly. Despite the name, their red belly is not often visible while being observed in the wild. Their patterned back and red cap are the distinctive markers to

look for. The Red Bellied Woodpecker eats mostly insects found on tree bark but will also eat seeds, berries and nuts. They do not primarily drill into trees for the insects that make up part of their diet. I was surprised to see these birds at my feeders but they will visit now and then. They often make a mess of things because they are slightly too large for most commercial feeders.

I have often wondered why woodpeckers do not suffer from head injuries. I found a great article from LiveScience. com that answers this question. Woodpeckers have dense muscles in their neck and skull that provide them with protection against the force of their own drilling. Neck muscles contract while striking a tree to provide the force while muscles surrounding its brain absorb the impact. "These muscles act like a protective helmet for the brain. Unlike the human brain, the woodpecker's brain is tightly confined by muscles in the skull and a compressible bone. This keeps the woodpecker brain from jiggling around when the bird is stabbing away at a tree trunk. A millisecond before making impact, a woodpecker contracts its neck muscles. Then, it closes its thick inner eyelid. The eyelid acts like a seat belt for the eye," writes Corey Binns of LiveScience.

To learn more about birds in our area, visit allaboutbirds.com and download the Merlin app (both from The Cornell Lab). I also used the article "Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?" from the LiveScience website for this article.

(as inspired by Al...)

So, we're still here – as a species – In need of some semblance of communication -Meanwhile a little high on caffeine, A little happy, despite all, In my new Earth Shoes -Taking me back to places Not so somber, not sole old rut Of unwanted memories. And speaking of old, just offered A free keyboard to an eighty-something Year-old who says thanks but Doesn't want disappointment A second time at his age. First I say, 'But whatever happened To "Never-Too-Late?" Does it disappear with the years? Does it wrap around a tree trunk -A trumpet vine so thickened with age, It's too thick to cut?

But then again, I could never learn To do lay-up shots, even if You offered me a free basketball!

4-22-20 Judith McNally

#### from LIGHT YEAR

8.

I bent over and saw light
where the body had been lying.
They asked me why I cried
and I said Chance has taken
my friend, and I do not know
where in the lightweb
of the universe she has laid him.
And I turned, and the light said,
Look within yourself.

32.

Turning my head slightly
as I sit in the sun,
I'm startled by the chunk
of shadow in my lap.

102.

Turning onto Wall Street, I walk toward the East River. Massive doubloon of dawn gates the end of the street. It shines down the edifice canyon caressing every edge.

I pass a man on the sidewalk stretched under cardboard, try hard to convince myself that the dawn is for him.

123.

Seven notes of sun sound from the flower garden as a crow flashes by, that black packet of night.

They walk silently with me, which I feared would bore you while waiting for them to stir the spacious distance until time nods, and their orchestra plays in the chamber of your brain. And you see, see

forest of green pine under cyan sky.

-- David Sten Herrstrom

## Sign Up for Code Red!!

Receive emergency notifications From the borough.

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

Sign up by going to www.Rooseveltnj.Us

Stay safe! Stay informed!

#### Infusion

her voice flirted like the disobedience of sidewalk chalk art

the breeze affluent as sunrise

returned
with the precision
of a
boomerang

silent lotus

Ofrom the archive Listening To Love www.silentlotus.net

Happenstance

it was the clutter of the unseen that turned wanderers into pilgrims & unmasked loiterers as savants.....

her accent attractive as she focused on the seashells that reside at low tide

silent lotus

Ofrom the archive Listening To Love www.silentlotus.net

## A Memoir of Theater in Roosevelt

by Frances G. Duckett

Dedicated to the memory of Tessie List

Part One 1970 - 1971

I arrived in Roosevelt in 1969, having located an affordable rental. I knew no one from town, but was drawn by the friendly attitudes of residents. I met people through my kids.

Tessie List was one of the first people I met, and she introduced me to Margaret List, and before I knew it I found myself seated at a long table on the RPS stage with five other women rehearsing Arthur Kopit's "Chamber Music," in which asylum inmates, each identifying herself as a famous person, go through a session of mandatory group therapy. I was dragooned into this piece of inspired silliness by Margaret; she was short one woman.

Each of us was to design her own costume. As "The woman with the gavel" (S.B. Anthony) I fielded a long tweed skirt, a navy work shirt, and one of Steve's neckties. Claire Sacharoff, as Amelia Earhart, wore an authentic leather aviator's helmet. Judith Goetzman as Osa Johnson sported a plastic tommy gun. Although I had never aspired to act, I found it fun, and the audience found it funny. For me, that was the start of The Roosevelt Players.

Shortly after that, Margaret started an activity for children after school. It was free, and most of the children involved were from 8 to



12 years old. Children's Theater workshop's first production based on a children's book by William Steig, was entitled "Monsters and Marigolds." An Island, inhabited by monsters, is invaded by flowers. The children developed the plot, characters, dialog and stage business, and wrote their own songs, assisted by composer Laurie Altman, in much the same way as Robert Altman had his actors do in the film "Nashville." The play, and the songs, were short. Many monsters were boys, including Ben List, Chris Martin and Billy Klein.

I remember sitting on the gym floor during some of the development for this show. Act One consisted of a series of skits involving the monsters. Two that particularly amused me were a confrontation between two monster pet owners and their leashed pets, and a song by a two-headed monster (played by the Brady sisters) entitled Two Heads are Better Than One!

Whereas almost no effort had been made to stage "Chamber Music," this play had a set, a huge plywood mountain constructed by Ed Schlinski and

painted by myself. I was also called upon to install the curtain (dredged up from RPS storage). This required death-defying ladder work, but we could then open the curtain for the start of the second act.

Backstage, Catherine Duckett and Rachel Mueller readied large monster head puppets,

Continued on Page 10

The Sound of the Storm

I am in love with the sound of the storm, how the rain falls so gently you can hear a mother reading bedtime stories to her child, or erupts in war, clouds firing crystal bullets at the ground.

I am in love with its sadness, every raindrop, a tear, and the sky like the dark flecks in your eyes.

I am in love with the surprise—shotgun thunder, flash of light—how once startled, we pause, reflect, sit together.

And how it begins, suddenly, like a drunken argument, until nothing is left dry, then stops

and a butterfly beats her wings as if it stopped for her alone to reclaim the sky.

--Nathaniel Kostar

Where the Blue Begins

"I am not free—
And it may be
Life is too tight around my shins;
For, unlike you,
I can't break through
A truant where the blue begins.

"Out of the very element
Of bondage, that here holds me pent,
I'll make my furious sonnet:
I'll turn my noose
To tightrope use
And madly dance upon it.

"So I will take
My leash, and make
A wilder and more subtle fleeing
And I shall be
More escapading and more free
Than you have ever dreamed of being!"

--Christopher Morley

#### A Memoir of Theater in Roosevelt

Continued from Page 9

whose mouths opened and closed. The curtain rose to reveal a baby flower, kneeling center stage and crying her eyes out. This was followed by Dawn Imbrie as the Queen of all the Flora with her excellent song, and a chorus of older girls.

In Part Two I will describe subsequent efforts by this all volunteer set of amateurs.

#### Gold

Is the best color ever known, and like a throne.

Always shines,

through the times.

Nice to polish,

looks flawless.

Similar to silver and bronze,

Gold is best to me.

It's usually made as a cross, which is nice.

-- Hailey Whittington.

#### Ecuador Haiku Blues



Kevlar vests drying On a Quito parking deck Railing and chain link fence

Up in the Andes Warbler from NJ Wags a feather

Earthquake reminds me Of window-rattling Shelling from Ft Dix

Ants evacuate
In a brown stream
Lugging pale larvae

Black-mantled tamarins Climb the Cecropia tree For staged banana breakfasts

Tin roof pops In the morning sun And afternoon rain

Birders besiege
The hummingbird feeders
With spotting scopes and telephoto lenses

Gravel road rises
To Pacto Sumaco
Where fat clouds are tethered

Following a waterfall
On lichened wooden steps
Our rain coats bright as parrots

Taken for a wildlife inspector Hiking without binoculars In birding country

#### Blue

Blue is the sound of the ocean waves crashing in the hot sun.

Blue is the endless sky that meets the ground.

Blue is the pinstripes on my baseball uniform.

Blue is the feathers on a blue jay soaring through the sky.

Blue is the color of my tongue after the ice cream truck came.

Blue is the color of the bagged cotton candy that sways on the boardwalk.

Blue is the soft pillow that I fall asleep on every night.

Blue is the ice cold water I pour in my mouth.

Blue is the faded wash of my favorite jeans.

Blue is the shimmery shine of my lucky fishing lure.

--Johnny Petrillo

# Color Poems from Ms. Gazzani's 3rd Grade Roosevelt Public School Students



Painting by Zachary Pressler

Escaping the rain
Walking stick with a curled tail
Slips between floor boards

San Isidro Falls No pot shards no Inca gold Plenty of Andean mud

Bird guide Lev rescues A window-stunned hummingbird Wedged in the porch decking Expecting a puma
All I see is a fat beetle
Eager to make it home

Bromeliads block the trail
Dropped by spectacled bears
Who feed on the soft underbark

Near the equator Stars are disguised as nightjars And Baywatch reruns

Climbing used tire stairs Through the cloud forest Even the treads are mossy! Thunder surrounds us
Trip cameras cover the trails
Only tapirs complain



Rain after dark Flows in runnels Down to the Amazon

Wes Czyzewski

Pink, Pink, it doesn't stink It makes me dream of ice cream, I think.

It makes me wonder what's for dessert
Will it have rainbow sprinkles and land on my shirt?

Ribbons, flowers, and bubble gum I think pink is really fun.

It makes me think of sweets, It makes me think of rosy cheeks.

Pink is an awesome color to be I hope you love pink just like me!

-- Hailey Suk

Aqua

Aqua is the color of the ocean's water of a beautiful island.

It is also the color

of relaxation, and family time.

Aqua is the color of crystals

in beautiful caves.

It also reminds me of summer time with my family

splashing in the crystal clear pool on hot summer days.

Aqua is a color of times on the beach with sand between my little toes.

This color is the fresh and clean summer air early in the morning.

Aqua is my favorite color.

-- Yasmeen Atieh

Blue

makes me feel like I'm on the beach with a cool breeze in the sun.

Swimming In the ocean with nice fish

Whale watching on a boat

Sun tanning while looking at the nice blue sky

Having a blue drink

Running across the sand

Looking for seashells in the white sand Being on vacation.

-- Ryan Arroyo

Silver

Silver makes me happy.

I love silver because its shiny.

Silver makes me feel that I can do my homework better.

Silver makes me focus.

Silver makes me feel good because it's not a bad color.

Silver makes me shine.

Silver makes me calm.

--Noah Lopez

#### WHEEL OF TIME

November's leaves are pools of light on the ground shining and scattering in the wind.

When you fall, you fall swiftly while I am still ankle deep in dream.

It is afternoon.

I have determined to leave the morning-precarious, balanced on birdsong.

You back off like blue Into a cloudless sky —your every gesture a tailored goodbye.

I left all the doors of the past wide open. Winds sweep through, destroying all but keeping you.

It is easy to be pressed too far into autumn moving like color through the leaf.

--Emily Saunders Nguyen



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements. Follow the Bulletin on Facebook: www.facebook.com/
RooseveltBoroughBulletin

If you would like your organization's event posted to the Bulletin's Facebook page, please send event details to rooseveltbulletinsubmissions@gmail.com.

## Pornography

I retire early And dream about pornography, But with a vagueness of gesture and desire That renders the images chaste.

The periodic slats
Of crumpled Venetian blinds reveal
The motel parking lot,
Merciless with astringent sunlight,
Like a scene from a 1970s movie set in Hollywood, California,
At the height of its vapid decline and decay.

I recognize those streets-Their late-night exhaustion,
The rehearsals complete or abandoned,
The women shuffling back to stucco-clad apartments
Beside strip malls that embrace their asphalt peninsulas
Like the arms of a chair,
Their laps filled with regrets and dusty faded cars.

I stand at the corner, where
My whole body is enthralled
By the turning of a woman's head.
She is looking back towards a word spoken in farewell,
The graceful tension in the tendons of her slender neck
Suggest a thwarted desire,
Or a misunderstanding, or

A moment's intension missed for lack of attention. She is quickly losing interest, and I am, too, But I dream of her sadly furnished apartment And her ambivalent, distracted flirtation.

This aching knows no limit,
And there is no release to be found
In the sun-choked planes of a crumbling LA street,
Or in the trapped fluorescent glow of an all-night Quickie Mart.
It hasn't rained for weeks,

And the dust lies thick on the mailboxes and the hoods of cars. This heat will not break, and

We can only move on—slouching with a vague sense of loss Towards a lurid sunset on a worn out coast.

In my pornographic dream

You speak only enough to tell me that none of this matters:

Not the ache, the strain,

The shame of always looking back expectedly at an unsettled past With a handyman's eye towards fixing it.

Yet from within that past,

Claimed but poorly understood,

The lack of completion sustains an enduring source of desire— Undermined, elusive, but intact;

Its haunted energy propelling me forward

Towards another dream.

-- Reggie Brinks

The Golden Age of Dreams

You dream a wooded valley, The green hills climbed by trees, The land drifting away Like a hazy ocean breeze.

Nights of lucid solitude, Resolve into morning's fade; A point was made and made again, Repeated like music, In an endless refrain.

Warm tides pull away from drifting sand, A hand holds a hand, A voice holds a voice, Spare words make rest in the angriest heart.

No notice is given:
Every last thought assumes its costumed place
Like the shuffling of covered chairs.
Every sense awakens, aroused by
The familiar and unfamiliar,

The knowing and not

Knowing,

Aside and inside,

Undeterred by any new absence

Or the departing tide of exhausted dreams.

Here are some regards for your almost remembered riches:
A cathedral of memory with organ sounds
Played on the speaker of a phone.
The story and the twilight advance
As you retrace your steps in summer-lit streets,
Burdened by the weight of the disappointing sun,

And drawn by cries of ballgames played or resumed.

The parade is leaving anon,
Brass and banana,
Box and bough,
And just beyond your reach...
A golden ring to quench despair.

You thought we were almost there, Before the age of dreams.

--G. Rosen

Poem to Old Friends Who Have Never Met

When I'm not wishing I could find a unicorn I wish all our old friends knew each other The very least they deserve is the pleasure of each other's company

We'd go down by the river and the rocks would hum with this rich collection of men & women They would look around and see themselves no longer isolated

no longer points in the darkness pointing nowhere

but as links in a magnificent chain of impossible flowers girdling the world and their talk (they are all talkers) would burst like spray in the sunlight

and I would smile saying nothing with a bottle of beer in my hand and a small white bird banging in my heart

~ Peter Meinke

Blue

Blue reminds me of God

when I look in the sky

The color is all over the sea

and we see the blue whales jumping.

Blue is the feeling you get

When something bad happens and you're sad

But blue roses

make you feel so much better.

I see the blue bottle of medicine

going into my stomach

when I'm sick.

-- Samantha Drab

Noosphere

[ˈnōəˌsfir]

noun - piural noun: noospheres

a postulated sphere or stage of evolutionary development dominated by consciousness, the mind, and interpersonal relationships (frequently with reference to the writings of Teilhard de Chardin).

RATTLING (a prose poem)

The wind is gusting so strongly that it's noisy, and I do like my quiet. Even a thought can be noisy, rattling around in an empty mind. I'll be 70 in June, and how hard I've worked to just "be." It doesn't always work; sometimes the thoughts will still come And rattle in the calm. But I have tools now to still them. One from the Dalai Lama: When arguing, do not bring up the past. One from Eleanor Roosevelt: No one can make you feel bad About yourself unless you let them. And sunshine – that helps, too. And chocolate, if all else fails. Plus time – the same thought Will get boring, then out it goes. For all these I am grateful. And grateful too that I have choices – to rattle or not – while The tree limbs are tossed and churned without choice. As the wind blows, so do they go. I sit in stillness.

4-19-20 Judith McNally



# CHECK OUT THE BOROUGH'S WEBSITE:

#### www.rooseveltnj.us

Register for e-news on the home page and get email communications from the borough. You can now view and pay your property taxes and utilities bill on-line. Just go to our website at www.rooseveltnj.us

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

# **Borough Mailing Instructions**

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

# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

24-Hour Hotline - 1-877-927-6337

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

# **Adventure Learning Sessions in Roosevelt**

What? Bike Rides, Trail Walks, Outdoor Skills, Leadership Skills, Creative Arts, Community Education presented by the Leadership Learning Classroom

Learning Classroom

When? Starting July 6th, Monday-Thursday, 1-3 Hours per day

Who? Students entering 1st-9th Grade from Roosevelt AND the surrounding communities

Where? Rotating Locations around Roosevelt and Assunpink Wildlife Management Area

How to Contact/Book? Email Gus@leadershiplearningclassroom.com or Call (609)-462-3041

This is a program run by Leadership Learning Classroom and is not affiliated with Roosevelt Boro.

#### TWEAKING THE WAIT

Monday

All day (!) sunset behind the pine. Maples have stolen the colors of fire.

Tuesday

Remember when we went out to Mute Point?

The Moment's plucking of the String of Time--

Now I am lost—not knowing where you are.

Thursday

For all the world like an iron,

using steam on each surface,

the Cold presses the rivers and lakes

flattening out the ripples until the surfaces are white and solid.

#### Blue

Blue is the beautiful summer sky laying in the grass looking at the clouds Blue, like the ocean wave crashing on the warm sand spending the day playing in the water Blue is the feeling you get when you're sad and the only thing that helps is a hug Blue Italian ices you buy from the ice cream truck the sweet tasty treat gives you cool feelings Blue baby birds sings from their nest I whistle back to try to talk to them Blue denim shorts my favorite summer attire Blue, which is my favorite color reminds me of love and of hope especially when I'm with my friends and family.

-- Lily Marmora

#### UNTIL THE SURFACES ARE WHITE AND SOLID

Monday

Night, her continual blueprints—

Tuesday

Five o'clock p.m. and the day still not born. Its features haven't yet begun to surface.

Friday

This morning birds are flocking over the house again, and I am reading about Kingdoms in Bali. The Puppeteer has fallen like the drumbeat to the ground.

Thursday

I dreamed I was a circle and someone was gently pressing on my sides, turning me into a polygon.

#### IN THE PERIPHERY

Tuesday

Fresh-Face and Close-Up-Tight were fighting.
Fresh-Face wafted me here wafted me there. Close-Up-Tight circled around as a compass arm circles on its point.

Wednesday

Like the tumbleweed of dream ...four score and all I've seen.

Thursday

The moment is a comma, dividing the future from the past

- —holding off the weight of what follows by embracing what has been—
- --Emily Saunders Nguyen

## ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL

# Roosevelt Public School is on the list of 2020 most endangered historic sites in New Jersey

Since state budget cuts were announced that threatened to close RPS, and way before becoming a RPS school board member last January, Michael Ticktin has actively sought creative ways to save our school and - I say with extreme gratitude - since his appointment, he has not stopped!

A week ago, Michael sent me an invitation to make a presentation at Preservation NJ about Roosevelt. Frankly, I had no knowledge of the group, but agreed to do so. Last Thursday via Zoom, the group revealed 10 sites in New Jersey that

deserve acclaim and preservation and RPS was on it.

I was thrilled to represent RPS, along with Michael Ticktin, to share our history as a community school along with our current status - including our designation as the top elementary school in Monmouth County and spotlight at Morven - and to invite the other attendees to visit.

Our budget woes and uncertain future were well known before the COVID-19 crisis; all school leaders expect the current situation to exacerbate our pre-existing conBy Mary Robinson Cohen, Superintendent and Principal Roosevelt Public School

cerns. I, however, am hopeful that as more people learn about our unique history and current academic excellence that we will find a way to preserve our treasure.

I was delighted to see an article in Sunday's paper about the group and their list of the most endangered historic sites in New Jersey in 2020; for more information, please see this link to NJ.com: https://www.nj.com/news/2020/05/here-are-njs-10-most-endangered-historic-sites-for-2020.html

#### News from the School Garden

As you read in the April Bulletin, Roosevelt Public School was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant that was applied for by the RPS Green Team. The grant funds cover expansion of our school garden and a new deer exclusion fence, among other things. The flower and herb gardens are usually planted by students on Earth Day and the vegetable gardens are planted, tended and harvested by members of the Garden and Cooking clubs. Unfortunately, the students were not able to participate in these activities this spring, but a lot of work has taken place and we would like to thank the following

volunteers and others who have contributed so much to the garden in spite of our quarantine restrictions. The following families cleaned up the garden on March 14th and got things ready for the new raised beds and spring planting:

Barrett Family Biello Family Leibowitz Family LeCompte Family Lopez Family Petrillo Family Sheenan Family

Steve Taylor (Garden Guru and

head of the RPS Green Team) rototilled the garden, built and painted the new raised beds, designed the garden plan and installed the fence. Thanks also to Emily Taylor for building the beds and assisting Steve with all the projects.

## By Mary Tulloss



Mike Sheenan obtained and delivered donated topsoil and mulch from A&M Farm Markets and equipment from KJD farms (shout out to them).

Home Depot Pro-Desk staff spent a lot of time on calls with us to get the material delivered.

The RPS Education Foundation funds the Garden and Cooking Clubs.

Please stop by and enjoy the garden when you are out walking around town.

Submitted by Mary Tulloss on behalf of the RPS Green Team--Natalie Biello, Mary Cohen, Kathy Faunce, Donna Gazzani, Steve Taylor, Mary Tulloss.



#### MIRROR

In the mirror, you are free to leave any time

to go elsewhere, and to come back, changed.

QUARRELS BETWEEN US

Many a woman has gathered up the threads,

the thimble of emotions to protect her from the hard core of day.

Another evening slips past the sun.

The butler, balancing trays of dreams,

rises out of distilled waters of sleep.

Elbow-deep in her own preoccupations

the moon washes the shoreline.

Everything waits on beauty.

-- Emily Saunders Nguyen



Strawberries

I've tired of the news. What about strawberries And burgeoning green?

What about less of what We've been told we So urgently needed? What about more of Hearing the birdsong, Breathing the lilacs, Munching the earliest Of strawberries.

4-27-20 Judith McNally

See the Tulip Fields not ten miles away in Cream Ridge, NJ, with the burgeoning green.



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

#### STAY CONNECTED!

Roosevelt Public School Board Of Education is creating an email distribution list for meeting agendas and information. If you would like to be added to this list, which will be used in a BCC format, please email: RPSBOE@gmail.com.

#### Recall

The waitress winces with each step, tears caught in her lashes as eyes squeeze shut. Her belly protruding, she steps gingerly. I ask where the pain is, gesturing to her feet, there?

She nods, and again as I point toward her arch. I have the answer, the fire in my feet relived from pregnancy years ago, but I cannot translate the pain or its remedy into her language.

As I dream of our vacation dinner interrupted by the recognition of pain, recalled, a gnawing grows in my stomach, intensifies into tight knot, until I wake curled on my side, stomach turning over, over, for a friend in pain, body memory intruding, unfaded despite decades, of toxic drugs that ate at cells until acid churned on acid, burning empty within me.

I clutch the tightness, to push it down, inside, away, but here, awake, now, the pain is not chemo, not in the stomach. You ask me to describe it, I can't. But I try, and you recognize this sensation, bring me chalky tablets that make the pain go away.

Still I cannot sleep, consumed by sensation unnamed, unnamable, unabated—the ache for my friend who misread his pain, whose broken rib was more, much more, a cancer that spread in quiet, hidden within and beyond that fractured cage, and my knowing what it feels like, my wakeful night knotted in unworded worry, grows long and longer as my chest calms and I know that no simple pills will offer him such easy remedy.

--Ann Wallace

# Contributors to the Bulletin 2019/2020

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

Mary & Carlo Alfare 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 Jacquline Carpenter Susan & Robert Cayne Maureen & Bob Clark Keith & Patricia Clayton William & June Counterman Paul & Elise Cousineau Kay Drury Frances Duckett Lou & Irma Esakoff **Judith Goetzmann** Jay & Ann Goldman Len & Michele Guye-Hillis

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Thank you for your generosity!
Send in a contribution today.
Please send contributions to:
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P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

#### **Become Part of the Bulletin Team!**

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is a fully volunteer effort of its writers, editors, layout artist, and distribution captain. We would like to expand our team.

We offer an excellent work environment (your home) and terrific benefits (people actually do say thank you a lot). The only requirements are that you must be able to send your material via email and translate all your work into Esperanto (actually, the Esperanto is optional).

Calendar Editor – Prepare monthly calendar. Takes about 2 hours if you do it carefully. We have an MS Word template you can just fill in for the routine stuff, and we can steer you towards reliable sources for the other stuff. A great way to find out what's going on in the Borough!

Roving Reporter – 4 hours a month – Write short features that focus on Roosevelt-specific themes.

#### **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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#### PERSONAL CARE

TAI CHI CLASSES Roosevelt Boro Hall Wednesday 9:30 am – 11 am Thursday 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm June Counterman 609-448-3182

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JUNE					
3		7:00 pm	conducted by video conference. See online agenda for details:		
	https://www.rooseveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda				
8	Mon.		Big Garbage Pickup!		
8 h	Mon.	•	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: cnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes Peggy Malkin, Mayor		
10	Weds.		Recycling Pickup		
17		•	Environmental Commission, conducted by video conference. See agenda for details: seveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes		
21	Sun.		Father's Day		
	Mon.	-	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details: tnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes		
			Peggy Malkin, Mayor		
24	Weds.		Recycling Pickup		
25	Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, by video conference. Ken LeCompte, President		

# Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement, and Housing Inspector

Jeremy Kuipers

email: zoning@rooseveltnj.us

Office Hours: Mon. 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Inspection Hours: Mon. 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

609-448-0539

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

JULY			
4	Sat.		4th of July
7	Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, meeting conducted by video conference. See online agenda for details:
	https://	/www.roo	seveltnj.us/planning-board-agenda
8	Weds.		Recycling Pickup
	Mon.	-	Council Meeting, by video conference. See online agenda for details:
]	https://www.rooseveltnj.us/government/council-agendas-minutes Peggy Malkin, Mayor		
15	Weds.	7:00 pm	Environmental Commission, conducted by video conference. See agenda for details:
	https://www.rooseveltnj.us/ec-agendas-minutes		
22	Weds.		Recycling Pickup
23	Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, by video conference Ken LeCompte, President
27	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			

## **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.