

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Photos: Frank Farence

RIRA President Patrick Stewart faced TV cameras after Tuesday’s appearance at a Transit Authority meeting.

Subway Cut Starting; TA to Allow Some Walking Transfers

by Matthew M. Katz

Roosevelt Island’s 15-month cutback in subway service starts Sunday (February 22). That, and other transit matters, were the target of some twenty Roosevelt Islanders who appeared Tuesday at a meeting of the MTA’s NYC Transit Committee.

Because the Island’s specific concerns were not on the agenda, the delegation was given just two minutes to present its case.

Given just two minutes to speak for the group, Residents Association President Patrick Stewart decried the service cutback, and pressed for the Metrocard for the Tramway, as well as rail-to-rail transfers. Such transfers would allow single-fare transfers from one subway line to another.

The Transit Authority has subsequently announced that walking transfers will be implemented, starting Sunday, between the Q-line station at 63rd and Lexington, and the Lexington-line station at 59th Street. No other walking transfers are currently contemplated, but they have not been ruled out. (See related letter, page 3.)

Transit Authority President Lawrence Reuter told the Island delegation that discussions are still being conducted between RIOC and the TA regarding Metrocard for the Tramway.

The protest appearance garnered some television coverage for the group, including NY1 (Time Warner Cable news, on channel 1) and WPIX/11.



Several members of Roosevelt Island’s Korean community were part of the delegation to Tuesday’s Transit Authority Meeting. The sign, referring to service cuts, reads “Free the Roosevelt Island 8,000.”

Blue Presents Break-Even RIOC Budget, Takes Flack on Facts, Style, Substance

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) has drawn up a balanced fiscal 1998-99 budget in line with claims of “self-sufficiency” for Roosevelt Island, but its President continues to take heat for his policies, administrative style, and even some of his facts.

In his first public appearance since a Town Meeting demanded his removal, RIOC President Jerome Blue took criticism for “buying friends” with the Island’s public purpose funds and for being “too secretive” in RIOC operations. But Blue put forward a steady-as-you-go budget for fiscal 1998-99 with few major changes from last year.

The February 10 session, billed as a “President’s Meeting,” was a kind of state of the Island report, announced as an opportunity for discussion of the RIOC budget, conversion of the Library to a branch of the New York Public Library, privatization of Rivercross, and the Counseling in Schools program.

The financial plan was approved two days later at the RIOC Board of Directors meeting, but allocation of public purpose funds for the Counseling in Schools program was tabled. The Board asked for additional evidence that the counseling program is actively seeking outside funding for its activities; it provides in-school counseling for Island families without health insurance to cover such costs.

Blue announced a conditional agreement with the Rivercross committee working on privatization of the cooperative. Under the plan, RIOC will extend the Rivercross ground lease to the year 2068 – a change necessary for the building to seek a new mortgage in going private – and RIOC will receive \$250,000 a year additional ground rent until 2006, when Rivercross tax payments will be adjusted to the level that would be paid by a building developed without State assistance.

Residents used the noontime meeting as an opportunity to criticize Blue on a variety of counts. A contentious session, it appeared to be a follow-on to the venting at the evening Town Meeting held a week earlier, attended by almost 500 residents.

Joan Christianson, a member of the Residents Association Common Council, made one of the more impassioned speeches attacking Blue, beginning with a criticism of his failure to provide bus transportation while the Tramway was out of service after the January 27 crane-cabin collision: “I’ve been here for 20 years. [For the first time, during the recent Tram downtime] I saw people in wheelchairs, stuck in the subway. Parents had to take children into the city [for school].” Christianson continued, “All you care about is money. We resent you and your administration. There’s no communication. You totally disregard us. Wednesday night at the Town Meeting your absence was so apparent. You weren’t there to explain. You totally shut down.”

Other criticisms included:

- Figures. A presentation of Tramway ridership suggested loads as low as 36 riders “per hour” (instead of “per cabin-trip”) during the evening rush. Though Blue acknowledged at the President’s Meeting that the “riders per cabin/hour” figures were incorrect, he defended them two days later at the RIOC Board meeting. It is not known if the wording was corrected in the final submission of the budget plan to the State.

- The time of the meeting. Christianson pointed out that most working residents are prevented from participating when meetings are held in daytime hours on a weekday. Rivercross resident Raye Schwartz told Blue, “A car is provided for you by the State. It behooves you to be here when necessary [for evening meetings].”
- Secrecy. “RIOC is far too secretive,” said RIOC Board member David Kraut, an Island resident, adding, “This administration shoots itself in the foot.”
- Blue’s request for Island Public Purpose Funds for bus service during the Tram’s post-accident downtime was criticized. The funds are earmarked for seeding social service projects for residents, but Blue faxed RIOC Board members asking to use the funds for bus service. The bus service was finally funded from other sources, but started a week after the accident rather than immediately, and consisted of only a six-passenger van.
- Lack of a breakdown on the RIOC payroll of \$4,079,388. Blue promised a breakdown for the next day. However, when Christianson visited the RIOC office to pick up the information, she was asked to complete a form to request the data under the Freedom of

Shuttle Schedule

	21 st St Jamaica	Woodside 64 th St	59 th St Lex Ave	63 rd St Lex Ave
	To Manhattan +			
Roosevelt Island	10 →	11 →	12 →	13
	36 →	33 →	31 →	44
	14 →	13 →	11 →	04
	← From Manhattan			
	11 ←	12 ←	13 ←	14 ←
	13 ←	31 ←	33 ←	44 ←
	14 ←	13 ←	11 ←	04 ←

Shuttles, running 24 hours a day, will be shorter six-car trains. They will not board at the extreme ends of platforms.

Information Law. Such requests are typically processed over a period of weeks.

- An increase in Motorgate parking rates, already levied by RIOC and its co-owners of the garage, despite budget figures showing fees will produce revenues \$738,000 higher than expenses for the facility.

In a dialog over the delay of provision for New York Public Library takeover of the Island’s Library, currently volunteer-operated, David Bauer of the Library Board—who also heads the Maple Tree Group, which has produced proposed legislation to do away with RIOC in its present form – asked, “Why is this [library transition] taking so long?” That led to a heated conversation in which RIOC Board member Kraut indicated he was in charge of the matter for RIOC, but had heard nothing from the Library Board. Someone in the audience shouted, “You should ask.” Kraut responded by saying, “No, people should come to me.” RIRA Vice President Ron Schuppert countered, “You should get out of your position if you have to wait for people to come to you,” and Bauer added, “This [delay] makes us look like fools. Something is wrong here.”

Kraut responded by asking for specifics, and Bauer continued, “We have put together long lists. Everything has been itemized. What more can we do? If people from the State want to step aside from their responsibilities, perhaps they should do it in a formal way and let residents run the island.” Blue was defended by Archie Seale, owner of the Grog Shop: “Dr. Blue has a lot on his plate.”

In another exchange, Bauer criticized Blue further: “It’s been two years under your administration. This meeting is an opportunity to vent and that’s OK, but until the State says it will provide all that is needed until there’s a population of 20,000, we’d be better off making the decisions ourselves. This is something the State has to recognize. It’s a recurring unhappiness.”

Deputy Commissioner Jones responded by saying, “The state hasn’t abrogated its fiduciary responsibility,” but Bauer countered, “You’ve cut us adrift.”

River Music to Honor Black History Month

A River Music concert will honor Black History Month on Friday (February 27).

The Naomi Music Ensemble – Grace Hinds, soprano, Clinton Ingram, tenor, and Gwendolyn Bynum, piano – will perform in concert at 8:00 p.m. Friday, February 27 at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The program will feature selections in tribute to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., spirituals and the music of African-American composers.

Admission is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors).

The Naomi Music Ensemble made its New York debut at CAMI (Columbia Artists Management, Inc.) Hall in 1996 and has appeared at New York’s Trinity Church Noonday Concert series, as well as many other venues around the city.

Soprano Grace Hinds was introduced internationally as a member of the Hinds Sisters Trio at the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds by Giancarlo Menotti and has appeared

with the Rome, Netherlands, Kentucky, Omaha, and Bronx Opera companies. She was chosen by Philip Glass and Robert Wilson to appear in the world premiere of the opera *The Civil Wars*, and was soprano soloist in Dave Brubeck’s *To Hope*.



Clinton Ingram, tenor

Hinds has been heard on radio and television including New York’s WQXR.

Tenor Clinton Ingram was originally introduced on the River Music Series in June, 1996, in a program of love songs and spirituals. He recently



Grace Hinds, soprano

debuted in the role of Crabman in *Porgy and Bess* at the Teatro Real, the royal opera house of Madrid, Spain. Among his operatic credits are appearances with the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera, and Tulsa, Calgary, and Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera companies. He has recorded the role of Don Arias on Columbia Records, *Le Cid* by Massenet with Plácido Domingo and Grace Bumbry, and recently returned from Korea as tenor soloist with the Spiritual Singers of Harlem, and from Sweden as conductor of the New York Labor Chorus.

Pianist Gwendolyn Bynum serves as Music Director and accompanist for international recording artist Bonnie Gatling, teaches at the Harlem Theatre Company, and is Director of the United Negro College Fund Chorus.

The River Music series is now entering its fifth season of presenting classical, jazz and world music concerts under auspices of Cabrini Parish.

Pages of Opinion

A Novel Approach

There is a technique in writing, particularly in novel writing, called foreshadowing, by which the author plants signposts for the reader as to the eventual ending of the story. I should have realized the cold wind blowing across Good Shepherd Plaza one day recently was warning me that I might as well stay home. But the bright sun had lured me out and so I went to what was labeled a President’s Report meeting called by Jerome Blue of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, who had invited what at first appeared to be almost 100 people to the session.

On closer inspection, however, the list of invitees was considerably shortened when one realized some names there were included as many as three, four or even five times. Apparently an outdated list was mixed in with recent additions; it might help if members of the RIOC staff sometimes would mingle with the rest of us.

The agenda said that discussion would focus on the Budget, Library, Rivercross Privatization, and Counseling in Schools. And eventually all of those items were raised, with budget figures, as might be expected, getting most of the attention, especially from some very sharp members of the audience, who asked pointed questions despite having had little time to absorb the material since it was distributed only when the meeting opened. (See news stories on this and a subsequent RIOC meeting.)

However, the session soon turned into one that we all have come to expect when Blue is queried closely about his or RIOC’s actions. Stalling. A request that questions be submitted in writing, which never are responded to. Or “We’ll have to get back to you.”

And, as usual, for the rest of the meeting, Blue was the target of enmity and, in some cases, outright insults, from several members of the audience.

Afterward, someone asked me: “Why does he continue to take this?” I explained that it was his job and that he was being very well paid for it; some \$125,000 a year plus benefits, as I recall. At least that was the latest salary reported to us. When Blue first came here in June (13th!) of 1996, his pay was set at \$115,000; that of Jean Lerman, the previous RIOC president, was about \$92,000 when she left the job.

Now, did you learn your writing lesson, foreshadowing, for today? Remember that I started out by telling you the sun had tricked me. Then, that the meeting I was headed for was called by Jerome Blue, who arrived here on the 13th. You should have known that not much would be accomplished there and that the session likely would have most of the attendees from the Island renewing their vows to work for Blue’s replacement here.

The only thing is that I still don’t have a happy ending for this tale. I suppose that it will have to be continued another day. Watch for: MEETING 2! Opening soon in your neighborhood! Gee, do you suppose it might star Sandra Bullock?!!!



It’s happened *again*. A Roosevelt Islander has labeled all who oppose Jerry Blue’s mismanagement at RIOC “racist.” Specifically, Lisa Knox’s words were that she “can only construe” the opposition to Jerry Blue’s RIOC management is “racally motivated.” Same turkey, different dressing.

Knox and three co-signers of her letter to DHCR Commissioner Joseph Lynch (see *Letters*) also suggested those who oppose Blue are a “minority.” This dismisses nearly 500 residents who demanded Blue’s departure in the February 4 Town Meeting, forgets the representative views of the elected members of the RIRA Common Council, and ignores the fact that those who would agree with the four – either on the racism charge or on Blue’s effectiveness – can probably be counted on two hands and couple of toes. But there is something far worse about Knox’s letter: *She read it in a RIOC Board meeting*. And nobody at the front of the room – not Lynch, not Blue, not one member of the Board – took exception to this accusation being cast so freely upon so many who live here.

Should Lynch have objected? Well, a few minutes later he *did* object when RIRA President Patrick Stewart put forth the pledge that opposition to Blue will continue until he has left Roosevelt Island. Lynch’s response: “I don’t believe it serves this Board to take personal issues against members of the staff here... There should be some civility.” So we have the Commissioner of DHCR tacitly *endorsing* a charge of “racial motivation” against every resident who opposes Blue, while upbraiding the President of the Residents Association for associating Blue’s name and person with RIOC management tactics.

Astounding. If, to these events, we add cancellation of a meeting Lynch was to hold the next day (already a month past

the promised schedule) with Stewart and two other Islanders, we have a formula that suggests... ..suggests the Governor and Sen. Al D’Amato are circling the wagons... that they’ve authorized tactics of this kind in defense of Blue. It would appear Pataki has sent out the word that he will brook no criticism of Blue in his administration, on pain of dismissal. That’s not far-fetched: Lynch’s predecessor was fired when

he wrote Pataki calling Blue a disaster waiting to happen.

From here, it looks like Pataki’s orders are: Stall those Roosevelt Island people until after the election. Knox’s charge – that opposition to Blue is motivated by race – is patently absurd. Yet it’s now in RIOC Board minutes, unchallenged.

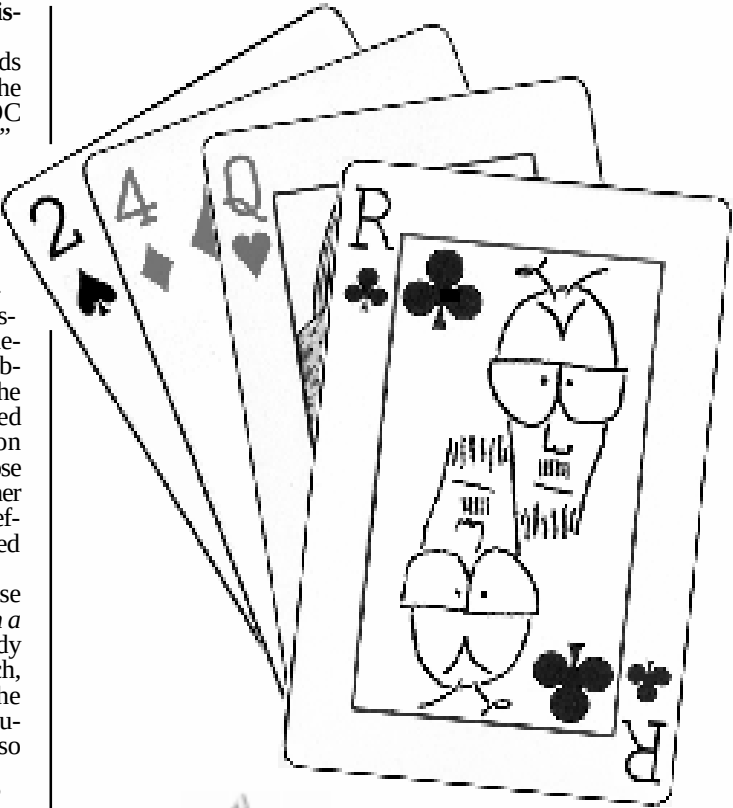
And isn’t it simply amazing that in attempting a defense of Blue, his allies do not address his actual performance? Knox praised him, for example, because “stores are occupied” and “services remain intact.” She didn’t defend his week-long refusal to put on alternate transport for the disabled when the Tramway went down, or his attempt to raid public purpose funds for it, or his attempt to take over the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, or his attempts to gouge Little League for field time, or his attempt last year to cut Tramway hours, or his failure to negotiate Metrocard transfers to and from the Tramway. Or *any* of the considerable number of things for which he is quite reasonably criticized.

Instead, she and her co-signers – and earlier, Jessie Rademaker, all apparently with Blue’s encouragement – spewed a charge of **racist** against all who criticize the current management at RIOC.

Shame on them. Shame.

-DL

Bad deal



Sleeve card

Letters

To the Editor: Jerome Blue is an insult to this Island. No console operators at the Tramway adds injury to insult. **Mary Cavanaugh**

To the Editor: This Island is named after Franklin D. Roosevelt. If he were alive and living here and there was no Tram, he couldn’t get out. **Richard C. Wade**

To Joseph Lynch, Acting Commissioner, DHCR: We are writing to you to express our deep concern and strong disagreement with the ravings of a vocal minority of individuals who have been posturing and creating disharmony and rancor in our neighborhood. Our views are distinctly contrary to theirs and we would like to meet with you to discuss the ramifications and seek a remedy to still the unrest.

In particular we are bothered by the “Blue must go” rhetoric which we can only construe as racially motivated since the present RIOC administration really does appear to be handling RI matters well. We certainly remember the former administration’s indiscretions and this same group’s remarkable silence! Clearly the present RIOC is carrying out the self sufficiency mandate which was part of the original master plan and Governor Pataki’s stated mandate for Roosevelt Island. Stores are occupied, services remain intact, more public safety officers are on the job, projects are under way (Southtown, MiniSchool refurbishment, library, etc.), MTA tram negotiations are in progress, social service programs have been funded, grounds seem to be up-kept and there are even some giveaways (350 free student tram passes, a shopping bus, and late night tram hours, etc.). It is most impressive that all of the above is being done with a \$0 state subsidy.

Though we look forward to even greater resident input in the self suf-

ficiency planning for Roosevelt Island, at present we are pleased with the job that Dr. Blue is doing and we truly feel that he should be congratulated. However, after meeting with various groups we feel it is imperative that we meet with you to voice our support and work with you to heal this community.

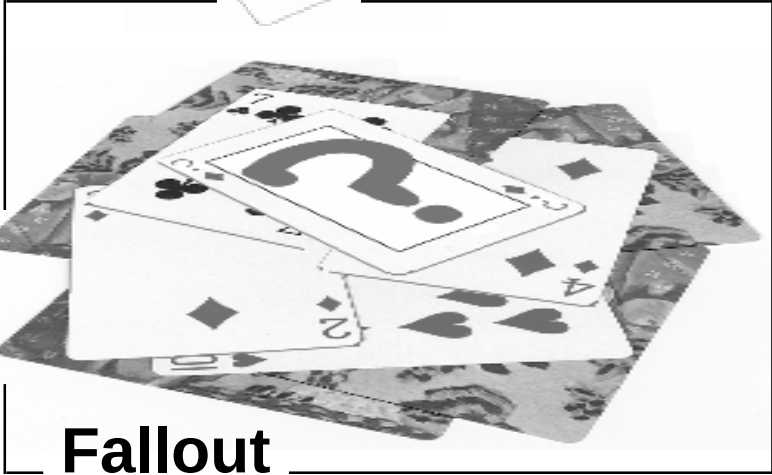
**Lisa Knox
Linda Warren
Dorothy Donald
Archie Seale**

To John Catsimatidis Gristede’s / Big Apple Markets: I was surprised by your Letter to the Editor in the February 7 issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. The *Comparison Shopper* feature of *The Wire* has always shown Sloan’s/Gristedes to be non-competitive with local stores, and apparently your conversion to a “Megastore” has not changed your pricing policy. I’m happy to see every brand of cold cereal and cookie known to man, but I would prefer to find a yellow pepper at less than \$4.99 a pound and a lamb chop I can afford. As long as I can buy yellow peppers for 99 cents a pound and domestic red peppers for between \$1.29 & \$1.49 a pound at Fairway I will not buy yours (*not* identified as Holland, by the way) for four times as much.

I noticed that your usual full-page ad in *The WIRE* was replaced in the same issue by a Trade Fair ad. I do hope you haven’t pulled it in a fit of pique over Ms. Lublin’s article. As an ethical piece of journalism, *The Wire* must not allow its business side to affect the objectivity of its news material. Therefore, you must expect the chips to fall where they may, and you should continue to support Roosevelt Island’s only source of unbiased information by continuing to purchase advertising.

Along with the other area stores, Costco is competitive, Mr. Catsimatidis, and you must compete

**This letter continued on page 7
Additional letters on pages 3 & 7**



Fallout



Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
531 Main St., Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Saturday, February 21, 1998

Editorial (212) **826-9055**
Advertising **751-8214**
Fax **755-2540**

in association with
Website NYC10044

Jim Bowser - Editor
Dick Lutz - Managing Editor
Copy Editor - Sharon Bermon
Advertising Manager - Ellen Levy
Circulation Manager - George Rubin
Founding Publisher - Jack Resnick

Sophia Adams, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Audrey Berman, Kitty Berman, Maurice Bleifeld, Nancy Cruickshank, Pearl Cooper, Chip Damsel, Morris Diamond, Riquelma Espanol, Claire Friedland, Ben Haberman, Sherie Helstien, Peter Kaplan, Matthew Katz, Nina Lublin, Joan Matula, Clarissa McClary, Chris Mendis, Myrna Mendis, Julia Palermo, Jeff Palmer, Frances Salten, Ron Schuppert, Pearl Thomas, Kay Thompson

Letters

Needed: Walking Transfers on West Side

To the Editor:
I have faxed the following letter to the MTA and elected officials. Steve Straus of the MTA told me that we must show that a large segment of riders are requesting the solution described, in order for the MTA to make service changes. Therefore, I urge those residents who want treatment equal to that being given Upper East Side travelers to fax a copy of my letter to Mr. Straus at **718-488-6538** and notify me via fax to (212) **935-2852** (not after 10 p.m., please).
Unfortunately, the MTA has no idea how many of us use the Upper West Side subway lines. Unless we let our voices be heard, we will continue to be the group most inconvenienced by the 15-month shuttle service.

Mary Coonan

To Steve Straus, MTA
Fax 718 **488-6538**
130 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
I just heard the announcement on the NY1 television channel that the MTA will allow Roosevelt Island commuters to transfer train to train between the 63rd Street at Lexington Avenue station and the Lexington Avenue station at 59th Street, beginning February 22. While we appreciate this consideration and accommodation of the MTA, it only helps the East Side commuters, it does not provide for commuters to the upper West Side.

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to officials, and will consider publication *Name Withheld* basis, but the writer's name, address, and telephone number must be provided. **Preferred methods of submission:** IBM-compatible 3.5-inch floppy disk (any wordprocessing software) left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*; by ASCII text email (72260.20@compuserve.com); or typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. **All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.**

A walking transfer between 57th Street and 7th Avenue (N train station) and 57th Street and 8th Avenue (Columbus Circle station) would help Upper West Side commuters connect with six train lines, the 1, 9, B, D, A and C trains. Without it, we will have to travel south (the opposite direction) 15-23 blocks to a station at Times Square or 34th Street to connect with a third train and begin traveling north toward our final destination. In other words, Roosevelt Island commuters with Upper West Side destinations are the most inconvenienced by the service changes and would benefit most by train-to-train transfers. I therefore request that you provide the same train-to-train walking transfers on the West side that you are allowing East Side commuters.
Until my request receives attention and approval, my 6-days-per-week commute will be lengthened and highly inconvenient. Would you please recommend whom else I can call or write proposing equal treatment of the West Side commuters? I am certain that I represent at least 50% of the Roosevelt Island residents. I can be reached Monday, Tuesday and Fridays at **799-7171**, Wednesdays and Thursdays at **935-2852**. A response can also be faxed to my home telephone at **935-2852**.
Your prompt attention and response will be greatly appreciated.

Mary Coonan

We're in for more than a year of massive transportation inconvenience with the subway track repair and infrequent shuttle service. It seems to me that if RIOC were run by an administration with any real concern for the residents, or if that administration reported to a Governor with any real consideration for his citizens, some solution could be negotiated between these two New York State entities that would provide the necessary relief to its citizens.



Patrick Stewart

When we talk about MTA costs or RIOC costs, we are talking about which pocket the State pulls its money from – bottom line: it is still the State's money. And if it's the State's money, it's your money.
Public transportation is a State obligation; even our current State government recognizes that.

It was, after all, the State of New York that chose to establish this State-run community here on an island in a river in the city. It was the State which chose, admirably, to subsidize this Island community specifically for large elderly and disabled populations, and to promise safe, affordable housing to middle-income families.

The MTA is a state agency composed of three independent authorities: the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, and the New York City Transit Authority (great name for a New York State agency!), which operates the New York City subway and bus systems.

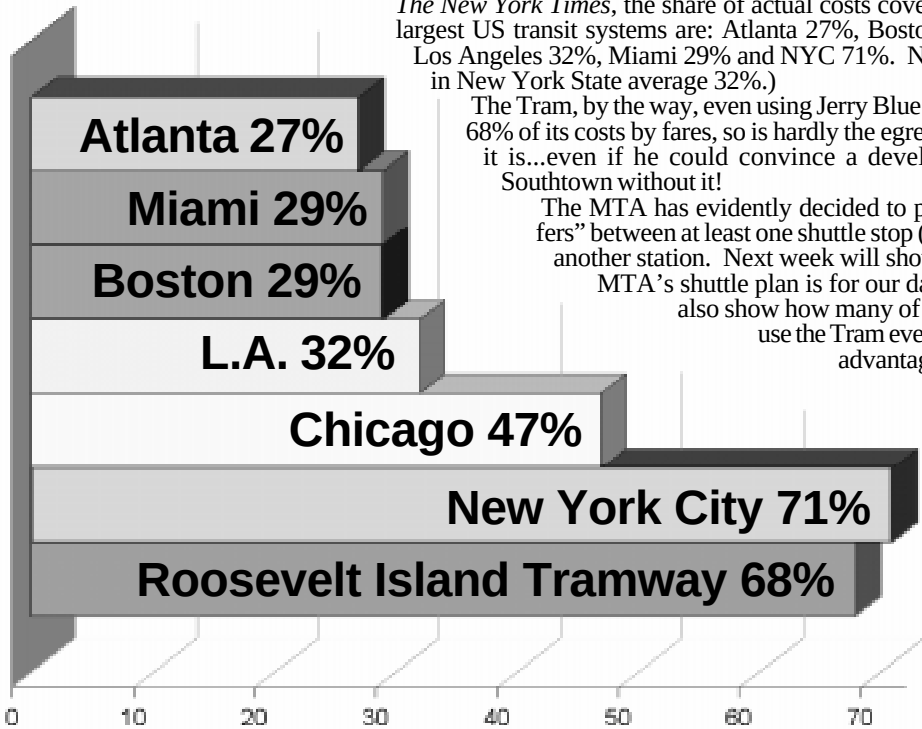
According to the New York State Department of Transportation, DOT distributes over \$1 billion annually in State Mass Transportation Operating Assistance to approximately 130 transit operators throughout the state. New York State transit systems carry nearly one-third of the nation's transit riders and provide nearly one-quarter of transit services nationwide. Some 88% of that entire State ridership is on the MTA system in the City of New York.

All public transit operating costs are covered to some extent by fares. NYC Transit fares are twice as high as others in this regard. (According to *The New York Times*, the share of actual costs covered by fares for the six largest US transit systems are: Atlanta 27%, Boston 29%, Chicago 47%, Los Angeles 32%, Miami 29% and NYC 71%. Non-metro-area systems in New York State average 32%.)

The Tram, by the way, even using Jerry Blue's own numbers, covers 68% of its costs by fares, so is hardly the egregious burden he claims it is...even if he could convince a developer to try to market Southtown without it!

The MTA has evidently decided to provide "walking transfers" between at least one shuttle stop (63rd & Lexington) and another station. Next week will show us how workable the MTA's shuttle plan is for our daily commuters. It will also show how many of our commuters elect to use the Tram even without the Metrocard advantage.

For the MTA and RIOC not to be able to come to some agreement over a mechanism for a transfer between the Tram and the subway for their marooned Island population is a disgrace.



Fare-box support: When compared with transit systems in other major cities, as well as with New York City's overall system, Roosevelt Island's Aerial Tramway scores high in the share of its operating cost covered by passenger fares. Except for the Tramway, the rest of each system's operating budget comes from tax dollars appropriated to subsidize it.

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland • 317-8523

Through March 15, Windows on Welfare Photo Exhibit. Photos by Dannielle B. Hayes of Welfare (Roosevelt) Island in 1968. Fridays 8-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1-5 p.m.

Washington's 266th Birthday Ball, Abigail Adams Smith Museum (421 East 61st St.), Sunday, February 22, 2-4 p.m. \$5 (members & children, \$3). Steuben House Dancers perform the General's favorite English country dances and popular 18th Century music played on period instruments. Information/reservations, **838-6878**.

Mon., Feb. 23, Roosevelt Island Toastmasters Mid-Season Open House Meeting, 8:00 p.m. For information call **935-3017**.

Fri., Feb. 27, River Music - The Naomi Music Ensemble, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Grace Hinds, soprano; Clinton Ingram, tenor; Gwendolyn Bynum, piano. Music of African-American composers, spirituals, concert arias and duets including selections in tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. \$8. Students & seniors, \$6. **929-8263**.

Mon., Mar. 2, City Council Speaker Peter Vallone with **Councilmember Gifford Miller,** 7:00 p.m., Senior Center (546 Main Street). Transit and other issues of interest to residents of Roosevelt Island. All residents welcome.

Wed., Mar. 4, meeting of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public invited, and invited to make comments during the public session at the beginning of the meeting. For information, **317-3223**.

Fri.-Sat., Mar 6-7, next scheduled issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. Deadlines: Advertising in the paper, Fri., Feb. 27; in *The Bag* (stuffers), Mon., Mar. 2. Future issues March 20, April 3, 17, and thereafter generally every two weeks. **Phone/fax** for news, (212) **826-9055/755-2540**; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) **751-8214/755-2540**; phone & fax for events, **317-8523**.

Fax or phone event information to **317-8523**. Please provide a phone number for follow-up.

At the Senior Center

Every week:

Stay Well (Exercise), Mondays 10-11 a.m., Wednesdays 9:30-10 a.m.

Bingo, Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.

English Classes, Mon. 12-1 p.m., Wed. 9:30-10 a.m., Fri, 10-11 a.m.

Arts & Crafts, Mon. 12:45-2:30 p.m.

Scheduled activities & events:

Tuesdays, 10-12 a.m. & 1-3 p.m., **Tax help**

Public Safety Blotter

February 5 – Various charges, 546 Main Street. The Public Safety Department (PSD) arrested two males for criminal trespass, criminal possession of marijuana and resisting arrest in a stairwell about 3:30 p.m. Several vials of marijuana and \$109 in cash were vouchered at the 114th Precinct. The accused allegedly in possession of the controlled substance is a resident youth, Jahi Young, 17, of 510 Main Street.

February 5 – Two charges, 552 Main Street. PSD arrested Darrish Brumidge, 22, of 560 Main Street, for Obstruction of Governmental Administration and Disorderly Conduct, when he attempted to enter the PSD office where two prisoners were being processed after being arrested minutes earlier.

February 9 – Criminal Mis-chief, 540 Main Street. A housing company servicer phoned the PSD to report that one or more unknown persons had cut the rubber lids on detergent dispenser covers in three washing machines on a third-floor laundry room.

February 12 – Burglary, 580 Main Street. A youth called PSD to report a burglary in a 7th-floor apartment. Officers responded and found no forced entry. However, the door to the youth's mother's bedroom had been forced open. Reportedly taken from the apartment was jewelry valued at \$20,000; \$300 in cash and a Nintendo game. PSD and the 114th Precinct Burglary Squad detectives are conducting the investigation.

Marcus Play In Florida Premiere

Milt Marcus has a play opening this month. The longtime Island resident's drama, *The Gardens of Frau Hess*, will have its premiere at the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton, Florida, on February 22. It is set in Germany in 1944, and is a dramatic interpretation of a true event which deals with Ilse Hess, wife of Rudolph Hess, and a Jewish gardener sent to work for her. They are thrown together by a twist of fate into a strange and seductive relationship. The play portrays two powerful forces in opposition, and the intimate nature that binds them.

The cast stars Patricia Hodges and Ken Kliban, both actors with numerous credits on and off Broadway and film. The director is John Henry Davis, who directed (among other works) *Papa*, with Len Cariou, seen last year off-Broadway. *The Gardens Of Frau Hess* will run to April 5th. Marcus is hoping for additional stagings of the play, possibly including New York, and a film. Milt says he's already at work on another play: "There's this guy who's running a little country, kind of like a little island, and...."



Taking a break during rehearsal are, from left, playwright Milt Marcus, Director John Henry Davis and cast members Patricia Hodges and Ken Kliban.

**full page MTA ad on
hand to be pasted in
here**

2ND AVENUE AT 60TH STREET

THE HEALTHY ITALIAN

FAVIA

Ristorante & Bar

Lite Italian Cuisine

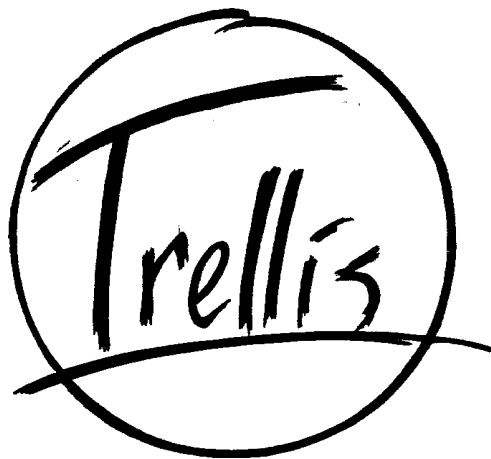
Grilled • Baked • Less Oil • Fresh Taste

"Some of the best pizza in Manhattan—Up there with John's, Lombardi's and Patsy's, and better than the upper east side Totorio's—made in a mid-town Italian restaurant! It's not just good. It's a standard setter! I enjoyed the baked-not-fried chicken Parmigiana (\$9.95) and linguine Bolognese (\$8.50)."

-NY Daily News



(212) 223-9115



13) FETUCCINI MONTEBELLO - tossed with spinach, chunks of chicken breast, and fresh tomatoes in garlic sauce \$ 9.25

Have you tried the pasta menu here at Trellis?

Here's what one steady customer had to say after breaking out of his burger-and-fries habit to try the new offerings we feature. We asked him to write it down.

A good portion, but a "lite" dining experience with a nice mix of satisfying tastes — just the right amount of garlic sauce, the body of fresh spinach, and the appeal of a satisfying amount of grilled chicken — and the pasta done just right. I'm done with burgers (as good as they are at Trellis). This is my new favorite!

Come in and try Fettuccine Montebello yourself. But before you order, check out all the other new offerings we've put on the menu. There's something there you'll make *your* new favorite.

*At the heart of the community,
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

We deliver - Call 752-1517 - It's free



1590 York Avenue
(212) 249-PETS (249-7387)
or 301 East 76th Street

(212) 734-7051

Free delivery (Sat. only) - \$30 minimum

Full line of supplies & cat foods

Fax (212) 249-7450

Sale

	Regular	Sale
Everclean Litter Box	11.99	9.99
Everclean Jugs	5.99	3.99

Hill's Science Diet - feline

20 lb maintenance or lite	30.99	25.99
Case 14oz all flavors	30.99	24.99
Case 5.5oz all flavors	17.99	14.99

Free lint remover refill with orders over \$100

Sale ends 3/20/98

The Church of the Good Shepherd

ASH WEDNESDAY Service will take place on February 25th at 8:00 p.m., in the Lower Community Room.

Interested in Confirmation? A Confirmation class for adults and older teens begins Tuesday, February 24th at 6:45 p.m. in the Oval Room.

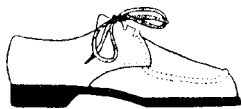
Join our growing **Adult Bible Fellowship** and unlock the mysteries and gifts of the Bible. The group meets each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in the Oval Room.

The Island's only **Sunday School**, for children of all ages, begins at 8:30 a.m. with videos; Sunday School classes start at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Good Shepherd **Sunday Worship Services** are at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Chapel. Our Sermons are currently focusing on the meaning of being a Christian on Roosevelt Island in 1998.

We are a Protestant, Episcopal, Ecumenical congregation, and we welcome all believers and seekers.

For more information about Church of the Good Shepherd Services and Programs, call the Rev. Oliver Chapin (212) 486-0529



We repair all kinds of shoes

Expert on cowboy boots, luggage, pocketbooks

Accepting most major credit cards

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1163 2nd Av (betw. 61st & 62nd)

(212) 755-5559

J & M SHOE REPAIR



TINA'S ARTISTIC HAIR SALON

with over 15 years of professional service to clients around the world, cordially invites you to her posh 59th Street location where you will experience talented stylists working together for your personal care.

Special Combination Offer

Personal consultation	Skin Analysis
Aveda Shampoo Massage	Color Consultation
Aveda Deep Conditioning Treatment	European Facial
Individual Hair Design or Cut	Make-up Application
30% Off Chemical Work	Manicure or Pedicure
highlights, lowlights, perms, tints, straightening	Eyebrow Wax, Lip Wax

Over \$300 value for \$75

By appointment only
209 East 59th Street between 2nd & 3rd
759-1999 / 308-3549

STOP YOUR FOOT PAIN NOW

Expert Foot Care in Your Home

Dr. Paul Betschart, a Board Certified Podiatrist, is making house calls in your area. Dr. Betschart has received the highest level of training in his specialty. He continually expands his expertise through continued education and clinical research. Dr. Betschart is actively involved in the education of students and doctors at several teaching hospitals. He uses the most advanced techniques for the relief of **Heel Pain, Ingrown Nails, Nail Fungus, Corns and Callouses, Bunions, Hammer Toes, Injuries and Diabetic Foot Problems.** Let his gentle hands help your tender feet **today.**

Call Today For Your Free Initial In-Home Consultation
Most Insurance plans, including **Medicare**, accepted

212 995-1500
Call today

BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!

We offer free orthodontic consultations to children and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island. Please call for an appointment.

Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff

200 W. 57th Street
212 757-2285

501 Main Street
212 752-8722

ROBERT MICHELS PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER

755-7322 or (917) 284-9171
ACSM & ACE Certified, Insured

13 Years Experience • Island Resident

FREE consultation *and* workout

Pizza

We deliver

The Capri

Italian Pizzeria & Restaurant
Main Street, Roosevelt Island
(212) 688-4702(3)

Lunch Buffet

Hot or Cold \$4.00

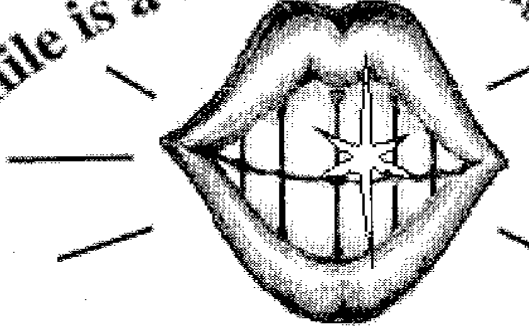
Choose from
Fish • Chicken • Veal • Pasta • Beef • Vegetable

Every day a different selection!

We do catering

Pizza

A Smile is a Terrible Thing to Waste!!



Quality Dentistry for Children and Adults
Lawrence M Itskowitch, DDS, PC
752-8722
501 Main Street, Roosevelt Island
Mon & Fri 9-6, Tue & Wed 12-9, Thur 3-7
Dental Insurance Accepted Towards Payment

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.
Board Certified Pediatrician and Allergist

Douglas Waite, M.D.
Board Certified Pediatrician

501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

Office Hours
Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday • 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Wednesday & Friday • 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed, by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics. We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents. Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

SPORTSWIRE

The WIRE’s sports reporter position is open. If you’re interested in handling this valuable volunteer contribution to the Roosevelt Island community, or would like to propose a candidate, please call **826-9055**.

Letters from page 2

like anyone else if you want Roosevelt Island’s business. A big beautiful store is lovely, but no substitute for competitive prices and well-maintained produce.

Matthew M. Katz

To the Editor:

Isn’t it wonderful that we now have such a huge, well-stocked “mega” store on Roosevelt Island? Wide aisles, huge selection, fresh products, a bakery and a deli. Wow! Everything a consumer could ask for in one convenient location. Prices are a little higher, but I’m willing to pay a bit more for the quality and selection.

Then why do I dread going into the place? Gristede’s has done a remarkable face-lift of the old Sloan’s, but didn’t finish the job. They didn’t go in and exorcise the plague that has cursed innocent shoppers for as long as I can remember: bad attitude, lousy customer service and shoddy appearance.

I prayed for new checkers when I heard about the renovation. But it is not to be. I have noticed some new employees, but they seem to have been dredged up from the same pit as all those who came before. I will say there are one or two employees who have had a friendly word, but this is very rare indeed. (You know who you are and I appreciate your courtesy.)

Oh, I could tell some stories. Stories about waiting in line. Stories about watching other shoppers who were behind me in line only moments before, walking out, groceries in hand while I am waiting for a lethargic checker to finish a loud conversation with the stockboy. I have actually waited for a checker to finish eating a muffin (at her register) before I was allowed to pay and go home.

Well, I’ve complained to the manager numerous times. And I feel sorry for him, because I think he does care, but what can one man do?

I witnessed this community successfully come together and demand the Tram be put back into service. I think we can do the same thing in regards to this “Mega” problem. These rude employees of Gristede’s have the attitude that they are doing us a favor. **Wrong.** We pay their salaries.

I’m not saying we should boycott Gristede’s. I believe a simple “I’m mad as hell” postcard to Gristede’s Main Offices might do the trick. Let’s demand that we be treated with the respect we deserve. I’d like to be greeted by a smiling, well-dressed employee when I walk into the store. Not someone who looks as though he wandered in looking for a handout. And a simple “Thank You” for spending my hard-earned money at their establishment when I leave. Is that too much to ask?

Gristede’s employees, start earning your paychecks.

The address for Gristede’s management is 823 11th Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

John Hamlin

To Gifford Miller, Member of City Council:

It is very heartening to see that our Representative is so interested in Island affairs and takes the time and trouble to attend meetings, lobby government officials and write letters to the press.

You clearly have access to the press and it’s such a cliché nowadays to talk about the power of the media, but nevertheless things can really change through media pressure. Would it not be helpful to raise awareness about Roosevelt Island, not just in terms of the tram accident, but as the location of a great social experiment that was, for the most part, working very well until recently?

There’s so much that could be said about the special design and layout of the buildings, allowing plenty of green space, keeping cars out of pedestrian areas, giving access to handicapped people and providing one of the few opportunities to walk beside the river in the City. Care was taken to engage a top-flight architect who went on to design the fascinating Miro museum in Barcelona.

Much more could be said about the wonderful mix of nationalities, ethnic groups and socio-economic levels on the Island. So many districts of New York City are home to one or other particular ethnic group, but this is not the case with Roosevelt Island. We have come from all over the U.S. and indeed all over the world. We have varying levels of education, a wide range of jobs, low and high income levels, but we live together harmoniously, welded into one community. This has been somewhat threatened by the recent introduction of racial issues into what is otherwise a legitimate community debate over Dr. Blue’s management of the Island. Nevertheless, the Island’s community remains cohesive and strong.

Surely in these divisive times such a successful multi-cultural community is worth saving and nurturing? But no, the budget has been cut, services have been allowed to deteriorate and we have been put at the mercy of an official who apparently knows little and cares less about the community he runs.

So can you interest either the print press or a feature television program such as 20/20 or 60 Minutes in doing a piece about the Island? Perhaps if people, including Governor George Pataki, really knew the positive aspects of the Island, rather than just hearing the complaints and problems, there might be a different attitude, and a broader political consensus regarding the importance of maintaining Roosevelt Island.

With very best wishes and in hope that you will think my suggestion worthwhile.

Vicky Haeri

Classified

751-8214

TUTORING in mathematics and physics; all levels by university professor. American curriculum taught in English, programme Francais enseigne en Francais. **371-6510**

MODERN MAGIC - A beginner’s course in modern magic (youngsters and adults) is starting on the Island. Call **371-6510** (10-12 a.m., 6-8 p.m. for registration).

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPY Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificate available. (212) **759-9042**

WORD PROCESSING & EDITING SERVICES; Manuscripts, curricula vitae & resumes, theses & term papers, business correspondence, etc. Call Jacqueline at (212) **909-6368**

EXPERT PAINTER, Island references, **751-8214**

EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING. Prompt service. **718-358-8882.** Beeper 1-917-483-1020

RETIREMENT DREAM Double-wide mobile home, adult park, Ocala, FL, *Money Magazine’s* 5th most desirable place to live in the USA. Central heat/ac, 2 baths, lg master bdrm, 2nd bdrm, lg lvrm, dinrm, famrm, many closets, screened porch, lg carport, utility shed. Recreational program includes clubhouse, social hall, 2 lg pools, tennis, shuffleboard, bocci, cards, dancing, yoga, hiking, bingo, billiards, more. \$270 lot rent includes paved & lighted streets, water, sewer, lawn mowing, 2x/week trash pickup. \$18K unfurn / \$21K furn. Call owner at **352-629-5096**

MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE — Ongoing registration for dance and theatre classes. **371-4449.** Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE daily or when needed by long-term resident on Roosevelt Island. Snacks, play, homework supervision. Evenings, weekend sitting also. Eugenie “Another Mother” (212) **223-0157**

FULL-TIME BABY-SITTER: I am seeking an Island resident for a full-time baby-sitting position for a 3-year-old boy. Must be enthusiastic, reliable and available to work evenings. Call Lynette **243-7600, ext 256** Monday-Friday between 1pm & 3pm only.

CLOSET SPECIALIST - Designs, Accessories, Installations. Double your closet space. Free estimate. (212) **751-8214**

Classified

751-8214



Roosevelt Island Cleaners

FAST, EFFICIENT
RELIABLE, COURTEOUS

*New State of the Art
Dry Cleaning Machine
To Serve You Better*

**Your Neighborhood Cleaners
We Deliver**

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

571 Main Street

758-1778

Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified
Specialist in Adult Medicine
(Internal Medicine)

832-2310

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

Roosevelt Island's New Deal
MONTAUK CREDIT UNION
OPEN TO ALL

Savings Accounts = 4.00%
with an APY of 4.06%

Checking Accounts = 2.00%
APY of 2.02% (with balances over \$500)

Share Certificates (CDs) & Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
1 Year = 5.75% • 2 Years = 6.00% • 3 Years = 6.25% • 4 Years = 6.50% • 5 Years = 6.75%

Additional Services

- ATM Cards
- Money Orders
- Cashier Checks
- Certified Checks
- MON-TALK 24-Hour Telephone Teller
- New & Used Vehicle Loans
- Secured and Personal Loans
- Long Distance Toll-Free Number
- Direct Deposit/Payroll Deduction
- Residential Mortgages
- FREE Notary Service (for members)
- Custodial Accounts

VISIT OUR OFFICE TODAY • 559 MAIN STREET • (212) 643-3900
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. • Thursday special hours 12:00 noon-7:30 p.m.

YOUR SAVINGS FEDERALLY INSURED TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA
(National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency)

TWIN CAR SERVICE
936-6666

**We have been providing quality service to
Roosevelt Island residents for over 20 years**

TWIN is licensed by the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission
(Base#865)
All drivers are Taxi & Limousine Commission approved
24-hour service, 365 days a year
Service to and from anywhere - Manhattan & Queens our specialty

SERVICE INFORMATION

Hourly rate available
Airport Service
Flat rates from \$12
Accounts Welcome
Comfortable A/C sedans

**AIRPORTS WELCOME
HOME SPECIAL**

Save \$7 from JFK
Save \$2 from LGA

Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express



**DOMINICK
CALDERONI**
ATTORNEY AT LAW

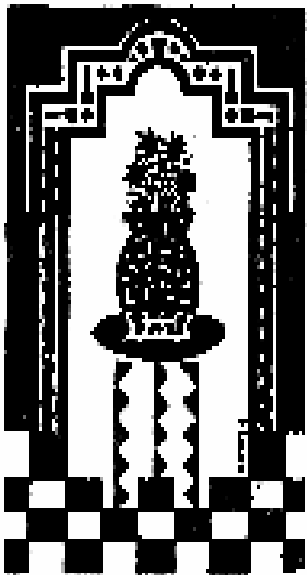
**ACCIDENTS • DIVORCE • BANKRUPTCY
WILLS & ESTATES • OTHER LEGAL MATTERS**

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT HOME,
OFFICE OR HOSPITAL**

(718)
319-1400

KLEIN CALDERONI & SANTUCCI, LLP

Give your apartment a lift
HOME SHOPPING SERVICE
Let me do your legwork



**BUDGET FRIENDLY
TIME SAVING**

*Furniture
Upholstery, Slipcovers
Wallpaper & Fabric
Carpet & Area Rugs
All Window Treatments
Floor & Terrace Tiles
Lighting
Carpentry
Kitchen Renovation
Paint & Faux Finishes
All Accessories
Closet Design*

Ellen Levy
*Interior Decorator
531 Main Street*

751-8214

**STEINWAY
MOVING & STORAGE**

Local Packing **718-278-9090** Long Distance
Just 5 minutes from Main Street Overseas
Since 1926
Need extra storage space? 5x7 as low as \$50 per month
1 hour free on pick up with this ad