

Next scheduled issue
November 7

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

in association with **Website NYC10044**



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com
Kuni Noubissi pauses in his play for some help from Mom with an errant shoestring. He was one of many taking advantage of last weekend's mild weather. Kuni, who is 15 months old, spent the time establishing a personal relationship with his soccer ball. More of his antics on page 6.

Candidates Night Tuesday

- President**
Patrick Stewart **i**
- First Vice-President**
Joan Christianson
Frank Farance
Ronald Schuppert **i**
- Common Council**
2 River Road (1)
Kathie Niederhoffer
- 4 River Road** (1)
(No candidates filed)
- 10-40 River Road** (8)
Jeremy Burns
Sherie Helstien **i**
Matthew Katz **i**
Tom Shaker
Harry Small **i**
- 546 Main Street** (2)
Joan Matula **i**
Mary Lou Risley
- Eastwood** (8)
Gwen Almo-Duvar **i**
Joan Christianson **i**
Vicki Feinmel **i**
Byron Gaspard **i**
Walter Hill **i**
James Kaufman **i**
- Island House** (4)
Judith Berdy **i**
Joan Brooks **i**
Graham Cannon
Frank Farance **i**
- Rivercross** (3)
Malcolm Cohen **i**
Linda Heimer
Jeff Hochman **i**
Ron Schuppert
Al Weinstein **i**
- Westview** (3)
Ken Diebner
Zakieh Wazani **i**

Patrick Stewart is so far unopposed in his bid for a second term as President of the Residents Association (RIRA), but a three-way race has developed for the Vice-Presidency. In the list at left, **i** indicates incumbent, and buildings are listed with their allowed number of Common Council delegates.

Additional candidates for Common Council are expected to file before the Tuesday midnight deadline. Information is available at **308-0479**.

Candidates will make their cases at RIRA’s traditional Candidates Night Tuesday (October 27) at 7:30 at Good Shepherd Chapel.

It is hard to believe she is 82 years old. Oak Soon Hong, whose first name means Jade in the Korean language, is as perky, wrinkle-free and vigorous as most women half her age. She is a channel for inter-communication between the more than one hundred Korean families and the broader community living on Roosevelt Island. She’s a participant as well as a leader, active at community meetings.

“I’m so happy to be a useful person,” she says with twinkling eyes. A resident here since 1994, she translates notices and bulletins into the Korean language, acts as an interpreter when needed, makes arrangements for transportation, doctor and hospital visits for Korean seniors, and tries to smooth misunderstandings caused by cultural differences. Her calendar is filled with volunteer activities on the Island.

It seems she has been “a useful person” all of her long life. Born in 1916 in Kaeson, North Korea, just across the 38th parallel border established after the Korean War of 1950-53, she was educated in Ameri-

Town Meeting Monday

Assemblymember Grannis to Discuss Legislation for Island Self-Governance

Should residents have a voice in the governance of Roosevelt Island? Or not?

Assemblymember Pete Grannis will answer questions about the prospects for Roosevelt Island self-governance at a Town Meeting Monday night (October 26) at 8:00 at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The session will consider his proposed legislation, which would turn Island management over to a governing

Grannis? In addition to casting votes on that question, residents will elect the President and Vice-President of RIRA, as well as members of the Common Council representing the Island’s residential buildings. (See separate story, this page).

As written, the Grannis legislation provides for a board of five residents, but that number and other elements of the bill could change in committee as the bill’s specifics become the subject of political bargaining.

ward a resident role in management would require a change in the law, creating a new entity. The present RIOC administration, under Dr. Jerome Blue, has refused to recognize the Residents Association as duly-elected representatives of Island residents.

It became clear, says Bauer, that “the Island administration has grown increasingly autocratic and high-handed. The present Island administration may be somewhat worse in

How to vote in the RIRA election

Voting is open to all Island residents over 18, regardless of citizenship or voting registration. Poll workers will have building rosters, but if you have reason to believe you may not be listed, you may demonstrate residency by bringing a bill or other document addressed to you at your Roosevelt Island address.

Poll hours are 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at PS/IS 217 on Tuesday. The polling place and hours are the same as for the general election.

providing the public services needed by residents, but all the State appointees over the years have had problems with the idea of being public servants for all the people of the Island.

Actually, all concerned concede the Grannis legislation faces difficulty in Albany. The course is largely uncharted, since there has been no previous effort to bring about self-government for the Island. Monday night’s Town Meeting is also expected to consider ways residents can work together to increase its chances.

administration in Albany seems to want the Island to stand on its own two feet. This legislation will bring that about.” Bauer suggested that the Republican administration in Albany, presuming it survives the election, should favor the Grannis legislation, because it fits the Republican philosophy of returning government to local citizens.

Public Safety Seeks Halloween Helpers

Working toward a safe Halloween, Public Safety is signing up volunteers for stints of one or two hours accompanying officers. Forms are available at the Public Safety office, and are due by Monday (October 26).

Islanders

Koreans’ Bridge Between Cultures: Oak Soon Hong

by Mary Camper-Titsingh
and Mickey Karpeles Bauer



can missionary schools from kindergarten through high school. She earned a B.A. degree in social work and was awarded a Master’s degree in Nursing at Kyung Hee University in Seoul. In 1967, she became the Dean of the school’s College of Nursing.

She was the first Korean woman to win a scholarship to an Australian post-graduate school of nursing. During two years in Melbourne, Australia, she perfected the English she had first learned in her high school in Korea. There, also, a course in infant welfare sparked her life-long interest in the plight of orphan children.

She and her husband had five children of their own, but the problems of Eurasian children born of unions between Korean women and soldiers of the United Nations peacekeeping force stationed in South Korea after the end of the Korean War concerned her deeply. Those children and their mothers were destitute and outcasts in their society.

Some American soldiers had taken a few of the children to the US as houseboys and servants and a few

See **Hong**, page 6

Put Your Business Card in the Thanksgiving **WIRE**

Do it to promote your business or service, or just to support your community newspaper – see page 3

Pages of Thought and Opinion

What About Us?

Among the multitudinous campaign messages flashed before us in what seems a lifetime already, there is one repeated endlessly for Governor George Pataki in which he reminds us how many acres of New York State have been set aside for use by us and future generations. And the best is yet to come, he says.

My plea to the Governor is that he doesn't take any of our parkland away, as present plans call for, to add it somewhere else. What if Octagon Park were to suddenly appear in the totals for Nassau County or Southpoint added to those listed in Albany? Not the best for us, Governor.

Never Too Late

During the past week or so, a number of people have commented favorably on my mention of Sammy and Lillian Rodriguez in the last issue. At the same time, several asked why I hadn't reminded everyone that this is Hispanic Heritage Month.

Frankly, I forgot, despite a note to myself to include it in the item, prompted by TV coverage. Fortunately, it isn't too late. Unfortunately, the Hispanics on Roosevelt Island, in recent years, have not been able to organize themselves, as they once were, and to make their feelings known to the administration and elected politicians.

It's a Treat

Trust Marilyn Engstler to once again come up with a full day of Halloween activities for children of all ages. Our Director of Community Relations has scheduled events beginning at 11 a.m. and concluding at 11 p.m., under sponsorship of all of the housing companies here. I have it from a secret source that Marilyn's costume for the whole day will be that of a harried heroine.

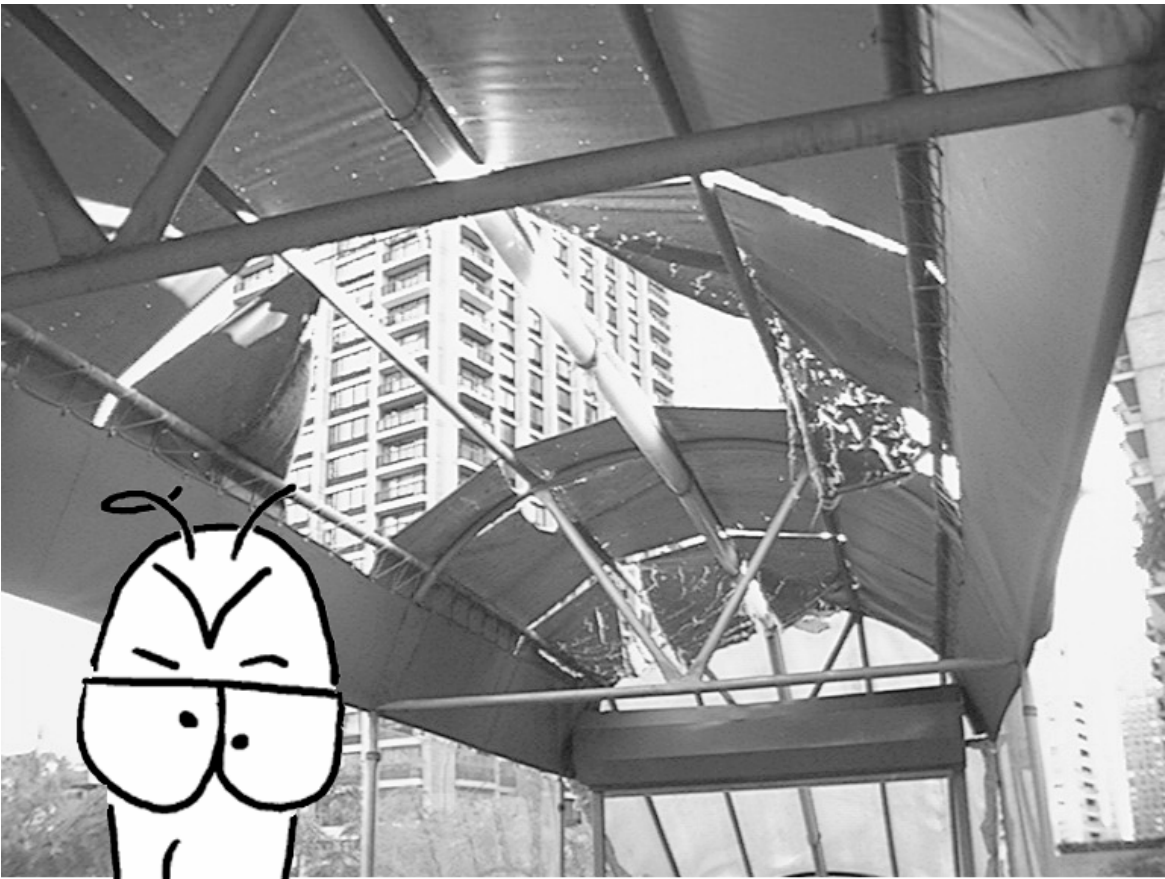
Call 718-468-3994

In recent days, I have heard several people complain that while those involved in RIRA, RIOC, RICO, etc., spend days, weeks, months, even years arguing, some just to hear themselves speak, there is a far more serious issue facing the Island that seems to be ignored. And it is growing daily, they claim. **Drugs.**

They cite seeing youths openly using or buying, even selling, at all hours, day and night. They claim to know the cars driven by the bigger suppliers and often where they park, allegedly for many hours on Main Street, in some cases.

Asked why they don't report their observations to Public Safety or police from the 114th Precinct, they say they don't trust either unit. The reason: They believe that some of those officers know about the drug trafficking here and don't do anything about it, so they don't know whom to confide in these days.

Here is a number that should be safe, I am told, and there should be action taken to follow up your report. It is **718-468-3994.**



Hello. My name is Dr. Jerome Blue. Welcome to the Roosevelt Island Tramway. Every day in every way, Roosevelt Island is better than ever. Please look around and notice how everything we do meets the same high standard.

Letters

To the Editor:

Facts first about an incident that might change my outlook on life on Roosevelt Island.

On Sunday October 18, around 4:00 p.m., I decided to ride my older son's bicycle a few times around our Island. A few weeks before, on Yom Kippur, my husband had done the same thing on foot and noticed that the gate that has kept the southern tip of the Island forbidden to Islanders, except on the Fourth of July, was wide open with no sign of any human in the vicinity. He had come back enchanted by his lonely foray into that barren place with the magnificent ruins of the old hospital and the breathtaking view of the Big Apple. He suggested

that I should do the same, reminding me that this part of the Island is also the property of the City and the State of New York, by that meaning that as taxpayers we should be entitled to visit it as we are entitled to visit the rest of the Island.

the ruins, and as I arrived at the pointed tip I noticed a female silhouette further down, and a male towering above her. As I looked closer I saw that the male was a Public Safety officer (I learned subsequently from his signature on the summonses he

Editor's Note: This letter was received too close to deadline to ask Public Safety for a response. A response will be requested and will be published next issue if provided. However, the last time Public Safety was asked for information on an incident, the response came from Jerome Blue, President of RIOC. It provided no information.

filled out and confirmed by a female security co-worker the next day that this was Officer Mays), and the female an English tourist holding a map of the Island. He was adamantly asking for her papers. He saw me and called to me.

I did not go that day, but did this past Sunday.

The gate was open as I arrived before the sun started to descend on the silhouette of the most striking skyscrapers of Manhattan. I rode past

Smiling, I got off my bike and right away he barked at me, demanding my identification. I told him that as an Island resident for 15 years I was not carrying identification with me since

See Letters, page 3

It's all about positioning.

Shall the present governance of Roosevelt Island, consisting of political appointees, be replaced by a popularly-elected Board of Residents empowered to hire professional management, as proposed in legislation introduced in the New York State Legislature by Assemblymember Pete Grannis?

It's all about positioning.

Roosevelt Island's Drive for Democracy movement knows the legislation Pete Grannis has proposed will be subject to the political process: horse-trading, compromise, lobbying, arm-twisting, and more.

That's why the question that will appear on the RIRA ballot November 3 is general – an effort to assess sentiment among residents for

whatever on-the-job trial-and-error training the appointee needs. That's called RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, a "public benefit corporation" of New York State.

The replacement **Roosevelt Island Community** will also be a State public benefit corporation, still a creation of the State, and the Island still a State responsibility.

If the Grannis legislation passes as written, here's what will change:

- **The governing Board will be composed of Island residents.**
- **That Board's members will be elected by Island residents.**
- **That Board will hire professional management.**
- **The community will gain a voice willing to ask the State, and capable of making the case in a demand on the State, for the funds that are needed to get Roosevelt Island back on track.**

And everything else will be the same: RIOC's assets and revenue streams pass to the new entity, and the State will still bear primary responsibility for the Island. (The present RIOC administration not only refuses to ask for State funds – it won't even take what's offered.)

But it's all about positioning: If the vote a week from Tuesday is strongly in favor of participatory democracy, it calls attention to the

fact that we don't have democratic participation now, and to the fact that we are ruled by Albany appointees who don't even live here. And it is part of a swell of support that will be needed to *position* the Drive for Democracy for the coming

TOWN MEETING PETE GRANNIS MONDAY 8 PM

horse-trading, lobbying, compromise, and arm-twisting.

It's simple: It has to mean something to us before it will mean something to the legislature.

It's simple: Whatever we get, by virtue of positioning and pushing, is bound to be better than what we have now.

It's simple: Look around. If you like the decay and deterioration you see and sense, forget to vote November 3, or vote no to endorse the present state of affairs. **If you want Island leaders to be positioned to demand something better, vote yes.**

In the meantime, come to the Town Meeting Monday night at the Chapel. If you have no questions, come anyway to learn what you can do to help *position* Roosevelt Island for a better future.

DL



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a change from present Island management to a democratized system in which Island residents *elect* a governing board of **Island residents** empowered to hire **professional community management**.

The present system is pure patronage politics: A political patron selects a non-resident crony to run this place, and appoints a rubber-stamp Board that will sit still for

There's a wonderfully funny line that goes around most election years, quoting an old Maine Yankee woman. Someone had asked her for whom she was voting in the upcoming statewide election, and she replied, "Oh, I never vote – it only encourages them."

We laugh because we can so identify with her point of view, especially in these days of the Starrgate media phenomena, broken up only by the endlessly fatuous political commercials of an election year. Even if, unlike our friend in Maine, we don't think that the politicians are fools, they certainly give us every indication that they believe we are fools.

It's so easy to be turned off by it all. Whether it's the result of disillusionment or apathy, the outcome is the same. We wash our hands of the whole mess and let someone else worry about it.

But the price of apathy gets higher each year, as we have reason to know on Roosevelt Island. It's almost impossible to sustain the level of commitment needed to prevent the politicians from getting away with putting their private agendas before the community welfare.

Sometimes I think it's all a very clever Public Relations campaign on the part of the politicians – fill us with enough disgust for what is obviously such palpable nonsense and we'll stay away from the voting booths, and thereby turn the whole business over to the people with enough money to win. That way only the people who actually believe the ads will vote. Whatever is actually going on with the American voter, the effect is the same as if this fantasy were true.

Only 38% of qualified voters voted in the last Presidential election. Six out of ten stayed home. In the last Gubernatorial election, only six people in each polling place in New York State voting the other way would have changed the outcome of the election for Governor. *Only six people* in each neighborhood out of over five million votes cast statewide!

We would all like to be voting with enthusiasm for a candidate we truly believe in, but that isn't always possible. Sometimes it is only possible to vote against someone, or to choose what we believe to be the lesser of two evils.

On Roosevelt Island, the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association is the only body elected solely to represent you in dealing with the New York state agency that manages our community. **Every Roosevelt Island resident over the age of 18 is allowed to vote in this election, which is held at the same polling place, the Island school, in which the statewide election is held. You do not need to be a citizen of the United States to cast your RIRA vote. You do not need to be a registered voter in the state of New York.** The people running for Council seats are your neighbors, each from your individual buildings, who are willing to give up a considerable amount of time and energy working for the good of the community.

Over the centuries, thousands of people have fought and died for the right to vote in free elections. From wars of independence, to the women's suffrage movement, to the struggle against apartheid, the right to vote has been seen as a necessary part of freedom and equality. Before we won universal suffrage, our lawmakers were chosen by royalty, the rich and the church, or were appointed by the rulers of other states. If someone threatened to take the right to vote away from you, you most probably would be ready to go to war again.

If you don't exercise that right, what good is having it?
Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

RIRA President's Column



Patrick Stewart

Letters from page 2

I was out for a Sunday jaunt on my bike. He insisted, and I insisted in turn that this was ridiculous. Then he said that I was trespassing, and that he wanted my name so he could give me a summons. I politely but very firmly refused to give my name and my address without first speaking to a real police officer or to my lawyer, but still he insisted. I told him that the gate had been open for weeks. I asked him to let the young English woman go, which he did, after some resistance to the idea. As I continued to refuse to give my name he called a security car with three men inside, and once they arrived he told them that I was trespassing and refusing to identify myself. He was very menacing, and I felt less and less secure with regard to providing any information whatsoever under the circumstances, until I had spoken to a real police officer. They refused to honor my request. I asked them for the last time to let me go, insisting that the gate had been open for weeks. The security officer who had first accosted me then became more and more menacing and irate and after making eye contact with his superior, Mr. Rios, he proceeded to push me very forcibly by thrusting his hands against my chest, squeezing my arms very forcibly to the point

where I was feeling excruciating pain, twisting my arms behind my back, throwing me against the side of the security car, and as I protested that this was an absurd and unlawful way to proceed, over my protestations he handcuffed me with my hands squeezed behind my back with extremely tight handcuffs that left marks on both hands for at least a day, which marks were witnessed by my husband, two sons, and by my lawyer the following day, as well as by the Public Safety officers themselves, since after the event my husband and I returned to the office to allow the officers involved to see the injury. The perpetrators looked blankly, smirked, and showed complete and utter indifference. While I was being handcuffed by the first officer, two of the three stood by and smirked and smiled. Mr. Rios looked embarrassed but after having tacitly given the order did nothing but stand by observing with the others. My bicycle was stashed in the trunk of their car and I was taken to the Security office, handcuffed, and left in a small room in the back, still handcuffed, for interrogation by Mr. Rios.

I asked again to speak to a real police officer from Queens or my lawyer. Both requests were again

See Letters, page 6

Don't be left out... Everybody will be in it...

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Cards will run slightly reduced to 3.3w x 1.8h. The word **retired** will be added, if you specify.
You may write additional information on your card, if appropriate to indicate the nature of your work.

Deadline: Fri., Nov. 13 (publication date Nov. 21)
Send it in now while you're thinking about it,
and show your support for *The WIRE*

If you prefer not to publish a business card but would like to support *The WIRE*, contribute \$20 and have your name on a list that will accompany the business cards. **Thank you for supporting *The Main Street WIRE*.**

COMING UP

compiled by Claire Friedland • phone/fax 317-8523

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m., Time-Warner Cable channel 34, **Charlie's House**, produced by the Roosevelt Island Youth Program.

Mon., Oct. 26, Town Meeting with Assemblymember Pete Grannis, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. **Q&A on proposed legislation for local self-governance of Roosevelt Island.**

Mon., Oct. 26, 8:00 p.m., Open House, **Toastmasters.** Information: 751-9577.

Tue., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., RIRA Candidates Night. Candidates for the Residents Association Presidency, Vice-Presidency, and Common Council.

Sat., Oct. 31, 10:00-3:00, Fabulous Fall Fair '98, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Community Room.

**Special note:
Free Flu Shots
November 6**

(see listing below)

Sat., Oct. 31, 11:00 a.m., Halloween Parade, assembling at Blackwell House, followed by **Festivity Center** at 11:30 in the basketball court at Tony Capobianco Field (under the nearby ramp if it rains).

Sat., Oct. 31, 7:00 p.m. (to 11:00 p.m.), Masquerade Ball, Manhattan Park Theatre Club. Adults \$5, Children (must be accompanied by an adult), \$3.

Sun., Nov. 1, 10:00 a.m., Roosevelt Island Art Association, live model. For information: 421-5939.

Tue., Nov. 3, Election Day. All Roosevelt Island residents over 18, including those not citizens of the United States or New York, are eligible to vote in the election for members of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), and on the ballot question regarding self-government for Roosevelt Island. 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., PS/IS 217.

Wed., Nov. 4, 7:45 p.m., Photographic Society meeting, Island House Community Room.

Wed., Nov. 4, 8:00 p.m., Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Fri., Nov. 6, Free Flu Shots, Senior Center, 546 Main Street. Open to all residents except children.

Fax or phone event information to 317-8523. Please provide a phone number for follow-up. There is no charge for listing Island events here.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 6-7, next scheduled issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. Deadlines: Advertising in the paper, Fri., Oct. 30; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 2. **Future issues:** November 21; December 5, 19; January 9, thereafter generally every two weeks. **Unscheduled extra editions** may be published as news and advertising support warrant; advertisers who would like to be included in one

or more **extra** editions, *without advance notice at the time*, are invited to call **826-9055** to make their interest known. **Plan now to include your business card in the November 21 Thanksgiving issue.** Phone/fax for news, (212) 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) 755-8214/755-2540; phone & fax to list your Island organization's event without charge, **317-8523** (provide call-back number for possible follow-up).

Mon., Nov. 9, Toastmasters. Visitors welcome. Information: 751-9577.

Thur., Nov. 10, Weight Watchers, first meeting of a series of 10. Lower Chapel, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$130. Information: Marilyn Engstler, 838-4747.



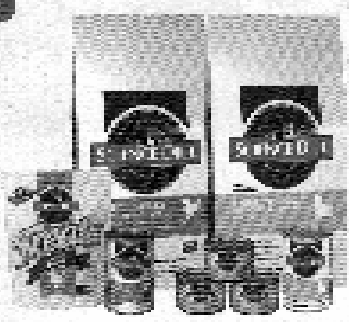
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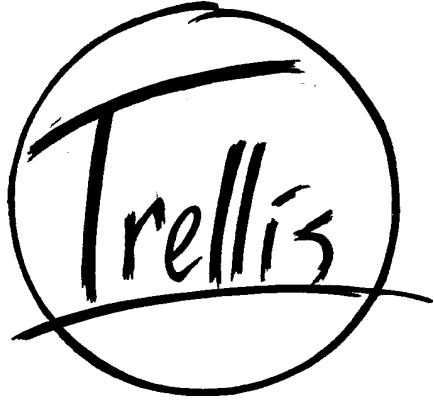


*Maximum savings may apply. See limitations on the back.

Triumph End of Summer Sale

	Regular	Sale
3 oz Feline All Flavors	11.49	9.49
3 oz Kitten (less active)	11.49	9.99
6 oz Kitten (less active)	16.99	13.49
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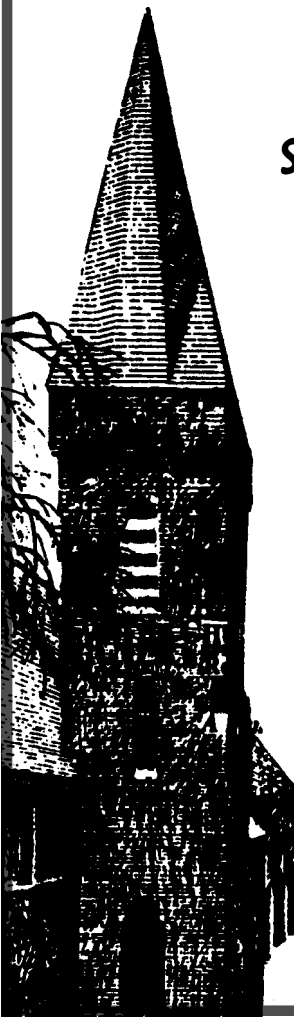


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November 3rd. With the
Democrats unable to mount a
credible challenge to Governor
Pataki, invest your vote in making
a difference in the future.**

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**"He is running for Governor on
the Green Party ticket, and this
becomes the only legitimate
political movement in New York
State at this time."**

-Jimmy Breslin

Hong from page 1



And they're all over 70 Members of Roosevelt Island's senior Korean community. Back row, Chi H. Kim, K. H. Ahn, M. Y. O, Jung Moon; front row, Mrs. Chi. H. Kim, Mrs. K. H. Ahn, and Oak Soon Hong.

civilians came to Korea to adopt such children. But the growing prevalence of proxy adoptions and the lack of supervision caused the Korean government to ask Mrs. Hong to establish the Korean Child Placement Service in 1954. At that time, she was head of the Nursing Affairs Bureau, where she had been successful in improving nursing standards, pioneering work that was recognized with the Florence Nightingale Award by the International Red Cross. Until 1961, hundreds of Eurasian children were adopted through the Korean Child Placement Service and many of their mothers are still in contact with Mrs. Hong, who can report that their children's lives are good in America.

In 1971, unhappy with the South Korean government, the Hong family moved to Rochester, New York. Three of their children were studying in the US, and the other two wanted to join them. Her husband was made an invalid by surgery that went awry in 1973. He died in 1988.

By 1975, all members of the Hong family had become U.S. citizens. Mrs. Hong worked as a teacher at the Mohawk Valley Community College. Her five children are all professionals. Two have PhD degrees, and they have provided her with five grandchildren.

"In 1991 I visited Roosevelt Island with a friend and I liked it here," she says, and she moved to 546 Main Street when an apartment became available. As soon as she moved in, she began volunteering at St. Vincent's Hospital, but found that she could be even more useful volunteering on Roosevelt Island. "I

became sort of a dormitory matron for Korean seniors here," she says, modestly deprecating her contribution. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association, she tries to "be a bridge with members of our community and prevent the misunderstandings that often arise from cultural differences."

Mrs. Hong's busy volunteer schedule does not allow much time for personal amusements, but she enjoys visits with her five grandchildren and knitting and



In 1967, Oak Soon Hong was Dean of the College of Nursing of Kyung Hee University, Seoul.

crocheting. Her specialty is tiny crocheted angels that she dips into sugar water to stiffen them. "If dipped in starch," she warns, "they will turn brown." They are gifts to all of her friends and relatives, who hang them as decorations on their Christmas trees each year.

Project Seeks RI Cat-Lovers to Assist Seniors With Their Pets

Island seniors who may be having trouble caring for their cats are the beneficiaries of a new program called the Pets Project. That program is now seeking Island volunteers to service a growing client population here.

Volunteers give as little as an hour a week to assist senior cat owners. The program, sponsored by the Jewish Association of Services for the Aged, pairs the volunteers with senior pet owners who need the help. Services include litter box cleaning, brushing, and occasional transportation to a veterinarian.

Islanders willing to help are asked to call Helene Ebenstein at 273-5254.

Volunteer for *The WIRE*

The Main Street WIRE relies on many Island volunteers to fill important jobs in the distribution process, and there's a role for **you** if you're willing to help. On Fridays, when *The WIRE* comes off the press, we have a stuffing crew at work from about 9:00 a.m. to about 2:45 p.m. (lunch is provided). Later on Fridays (and early Saturday), volunteers deliver the newspaper to every apartment door on the Island, as well as to merchants, the hospitals, and other locations. It's hard work, but an important service to the community. If you'd like to join this dedicated group, please call **935-6043**, or 935-7534, or 826-9055. (Leave your number if a machine answers, and we'll call you back.)

Letters from page 3 (starts on 2)

ignored and denied. When I began to speak of a lawsuit, Mr. Rios and Mr. Mays obviously found this very funny and laughed, mentioning a double summons and even the possibility of my going to jail. I confronted Mr. Rios, who was the most receptive of the four even if he had given the order, and asked him if he would have liked his wife, mother or girlfriend to have been treated as I had been treated and he admitted that No, of course he would *not* have liked his wife, mother or girlfriend to have been so treated. Because of the menacing and sadistic reference to jail, I very reluctantly gave my home telephone number. I say reluctantly, because after such abominable treatment I did not wish to offer any information to these men. At that point my handcuffs were removed. My husband arrived after a considerable interval and told me that he watched Mr. Mays fill out two summonses – one for trespassing and one for disorderly conduct. When my husband demanded to know why I had been handcuffed, Mays blithely announced that it was for my own safety and his. At no point had I done anything but verbally and politely contest their treatment of me, so the question of Mays' self-protection seems completely absurd. How could a man who is almost twice as tall as I, and in addition having the support of three male colleagues, speak of having to protect himself from me especially since all the physical abuse and negligence stemmed from him? At any rate, my husband entered the back room to take me home and was told with a kind of absurd illogic and pitiful effort at self-vindication and vindication of his fellow workers by Mr. Rios that all this could have been avoided if I had given my name. In other words, because I did not give my name, Mays had the right to push me, twist my arm, scratch me, and handcuff me forcibly and painfully and humiliate me. For merely taking a Sunday ride I underwent such treatment while the persons who burned one of Security's cars and caused severe injuries among three security officers have not yet been punished nor has any coherent statement of the consequences of such a horrendous act been issued by the Operation Corporation. As Island residents we pay the salaries of these men and have a right to be treated respectfully and to be kept informed of whatever real criminal acts are perpetrated against us and against them. Instead of being our friends and protectors, which is why security has been established, we find ourselves constantly in an adversarial relationship with them. This must change.

What I will never forget is the calm, unruffled, smirking indifference of officer Mays with regard to his violent treatment of me; the total absence of any remorse or attempt at apology. This becomes even more conspicuous in the face of the feeble admission by Mr. Rios, Mays's superior who had given the go-ahead for the treatment I received, that he would not permit such acts to be perpetrated against a female member of his own family. As the sergeant in charge that night, Mr. Rios should have behaved completely differently. He stood by as an act of gratuitous and criminal violence was perpetrated against me. I hope no other Island resident has to endure such treatment – and certainly never, never, for taking a mere, innocent Sunday bike ride on a calm and beautiful Sunday afternoon – a bike ride on a piece of land that is New York State parkland – which means that it is land that belongs to all of us as citizens to enjoy.

A 15-Year Resident
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The Joy of Being 15 Months Old and a Soccer Star: It's all play, so the distraction of a helicopter overhead is perfectly OK. Even the grown-up soccer players need occasional equipment checks, don't they? Kuni Noubissi paused in his private game for his mother, Genevieve, to retie his shoe (photo on page 1). Last weekend's sunshine and comfortable temperatures brought dozens out to enjoy the Island and the antics of kids like Kuni.

Photos: Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

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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**.

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SITTER NEEDED for adorable 6-year-old girl in Astoria. Older teenager preferable. Will pay for car service. **909-6368**.

SHAPE UP! Whether you've just gained a few pounds on summer vacation or are chronically "weight-challenged," the perfect opportunity to do something about it is coming to Roosevelt Island. Weight-Watchers will sponsor a 10-week program on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 (location to be announced), if 18 or more residents register. So encourage your friends and yourself to make what could be a life-changing call to Marilyn Engstler at **838-4747** for more information.

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

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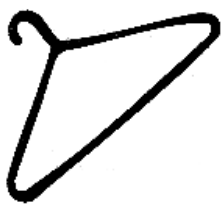
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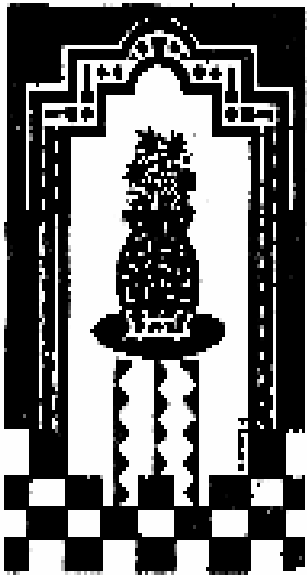
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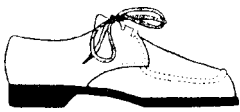
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