

Next issue:
March 12-13

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Roosevelt Island's northernmost landmark is once again a lighthouse in every sense of the word. Newly restored and reilluminated, it was the centerpiece jewel in the necklace of the Triboro Bridge Wednesday night at dusk.

Lynch Names Committee Members

Thirteen Island residents have been named to advisory committees of the RIOC Board by DHCR Commissioner Joseph Lynch. Lynch also named seven non-residents associated with RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, or DHCR, the State's Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

Embattled RIOC President Jerome Blue will be a member of both committees, which presum-

ably will have a stronger role in advising on Roosevelt Island's future than existing committees of residents, hand-picked by Blue, which largely favor his policies. On one of the committees, Blue will find himself serving in an equal capacity with Patrick Stewart, President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), who has led resident opposition to Blue's management of Roosevelt Island.

Unhappy with Eastwood Safety, Vass Hints Rent Strike in 2000

"I'm giving you one year to come back with some kind of program that will respond to our needs."

The subject was the Island's Public Safety Department, the setting a DHCR hearing on a rent increase for Eastwood, and the speaker Ron Vass, a former RIOC Board member who was echoing the sentiments of several residents who appeared to ask for more bang for their rental buck – and for a small increase, if any.

"We in Eastwood contribute \$382,000 a year to Public Safety," Vass said. "The contract we now have was written 20 years ago. It doesn't cover our needs today." Vass was asking for better vertical patrolling of Eastwood.

"We're closing laundry rooms. People are afraid to walk in the corridors at night. Hordes of young men are tramping around. There is no Public Safety presence. When we holler, an extra guard walks through for a week or two, then nothing." At this comment, Vass was applauded by other Eastwood residents who had come to have their complaints heard.

Several, who asked that *The WIRE* withhold their names, fearing retaliation, spoke of drug deals in Eastwood hallways. The Rev. Oliver Chapin supported their sto-

ries, saying, "The drug delivery is very real." Another resident claimed UPS shipments of drugs to Eastwood are common. Chapin said, "People are afraid."

Vass hinted that he might organize a rent strike, in a year, if there's no satisfactory resolution of the concerns about Public Safety and vertical patrols of Eastwood. At the same time, he praised Doryne Isley's management team at Eastwood, saying, "We have never had a better management group. We know that things are better than ever before." Vass asked for a meeting in six months to hear about progress in improving Public Safety.



Ron Vass, speaking at an Eastwood Rent Determination hearing earlier this month. Vicki Feinmel listened.

Committee chairs are members of the RIOC Board – Frank Angelino for Capital Planning and Development, and Frank McKenna for Strategic Planning.

The committees will meet for the first time on Wednesday.

Resident members of the **Capital Planning and Development** committee include:

- **Patrick Stewart.**
- **Mary Camper-Titsingh**, a retiree who is an active member of the Maple Tree Group, which has been forging legislation to give residents more say in Island management.
- **Laurence Parness**, a 20-year Island resident and 30-year employee of the City Department of Planning as Director of Technical Review. Parness told *The WIRE*, "I think I can contribute in a way that will benefit both the Island and the State, and the residents. The kind of experience I've had in reviewing projects at City Planning will support that, both from my professional background, and as an Island resident."
- **Mark Diamond**, an architect and long-time resident.
- **Byron Gaspard**, an elected delegate to the RIRA Common Council, who has been critical of Public Safety's performance, particularly in Eastwood.
- **Jeffrey Hochman**, also a member of the RIRA Council, who works for the City Department of Design and Construction with responsibility for City-owned structures in the health field. Hochman teaches urban sociology at LaGuardia Community College.

Non-resident members, in addition to Angelino and Blue, are:

- **Nancy Reuss**, a member of the RIOC Board.
- **Joan Dawson**, also on the RIOC Board.

Resident members of the **Strategic Planning** Committee include:

See **Lynch**, page 6

Second-Story Expansion

Monday Meeting on Plan To Convert MiniSchools Into Luxury Condos

Residents will hear about a plan to convert the Island's west-side mini-schools to luxury condominiums in a meeting Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

The plan will add a second floor to each of the mini-schools. It appears to call for fencing off some surrounding area for exclusive use by the condo buyers.

Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) President Jerome Blue had scheduled the matter for a vote by the RIOC Board of Directors two weeks ago, but the vote was delayed when residents complained of having too little information, too late, about the plan. It is now scheduled for Board action on Thursday, March 11.

Prior to RIOC's February Board meeting, Blue made technical drawings available at the RIOC office and sent a letter to selected members of the community to ask for comments. But the drawings included no elevation, access was limited to RIOC office hours, cop-

groups asked questions about the infrastructure of the adjacent buildings and other matters. Blue responded with two sheets of answers that failed to satisfy the groups. To the question, "What effect will smoke from the proposed fireplaces have on surrounding apartments?" RIOC responded, "Any fireplaces and chimneys will be built to New

York City building code standards and not present any danger to the surrounding areas." While addressing the matter of "danger," the answer failed to satisfy concerns about use of nearby balconies.

Conscious that residents bear the cost of the Island's security force, one

group asked, "What contribution to Public Safety will be required for the building owners?" RIOC's complete response was, "The lease provides for security payments," providing no specifics.

RIOC reported that ground rent for the structures would be "approximately \$250,000." Blue has been seeking ways to turn the Island's non-revenue-producing



View from the Island House courtyard shows the one-floor mini-school that would become a two-story structure under the conversion planned by Diane Wilson of Corporate Realty Partners. The line approximates the top of the proposed second floor.

ies were not readily available, and comments were due in only a few days. Blue's request for comments also did not reveal the plan to increase the height of the buildings, leading some resident leaders to charge Blue was again engaging in "stealth development."

Resident leaders mobilized. Three groups – the Residents Association Planning Committee, the Island House Ownership Committee, and the Westview/Island House Task Force – commented by submitting questions about the project.

Aside from the concerns about some views being blocked, the

areas into sources of cash flow.

Other questions and RIOC answers:

- "What... contribution to the Public Purpose Fund has been planned?"

"The renovation of the mini-schools will in itself provide a great public purpose. Contributions in excess of rent would not be appropriate considering the size and scope of this project."

- "How many existing apartments will have views blocked and to what extent?"

Two apartments in Island House See **Mini-Schools**, page 6

All-Day Fun: African Heritage Celebration today (Sat.) 10-5 at 546 Main Street

Pages of Thought and Opinion

Heartfelt Emotions

The advent of Valentine’s Day saw me ailing and so not able to write a column for that issue. Now you are stuck reading what I had intended to be in that day’s *WIRE*, plus some new things that have come up.

First off, greetings were to be expressed to two old friends who recently have moved off the Island without my being able to say goodbye to them. One’s name will be familiar to most of you, that of Father Joseph Gorman, longtime pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church here.

A gentle man, ready to greet everyone on Main Street, usually by name whether or not a parishioner, and always available, I’ve been told, when called in time of need. In my own case, I looked up one day from a hospital bed to see him standing there, unsummoned, but a welcome visitor. We will miss him.

A Correction Person

For years, Frances Salten has waged a ceaseless war here to teach both local and national writers and speakers how to use non-gender-specific terms of address. Many of you probably will recall her rising at Rivercross shareholder or Town Meetings to remind the person speaking of the politically-correct word that should have been used for reference. When Frances volunteered some years ago as a *WIRE* proofreader, we welcomed her with open arms. We open them with great regret at her departure. We wish her well.

Don’t Forget Us

Congratulations are in order for Commissioner Joseph Lynch of DHCR. We are certain with his new title will come increased duties greater than those he already faced as an “Acting.” We hope he still has the time to chair the RIOC meetings and continue the work his presence here has meant to us. The committees forming at his suggestion should give Islanders more input into what ultimately will be built here.

Don’t You Forget

Have a light breakfast today (Saturday) because there will be lots of good food to eat at the Senior Center, 546 Main Street. The occasion marks the official celebration here of Black History Month. The festivities start at 10:00 a.m. and continue to 5:00 p.m. Included are children’s activities, live entertainment, lectures, a book mart, a percussion workshop, and a Caribbean food court.

In addition to the RI Senior Association, the sponsors are Housing Management, PS/IS 217 PTA and Collective Artists’ Expo. See you there.

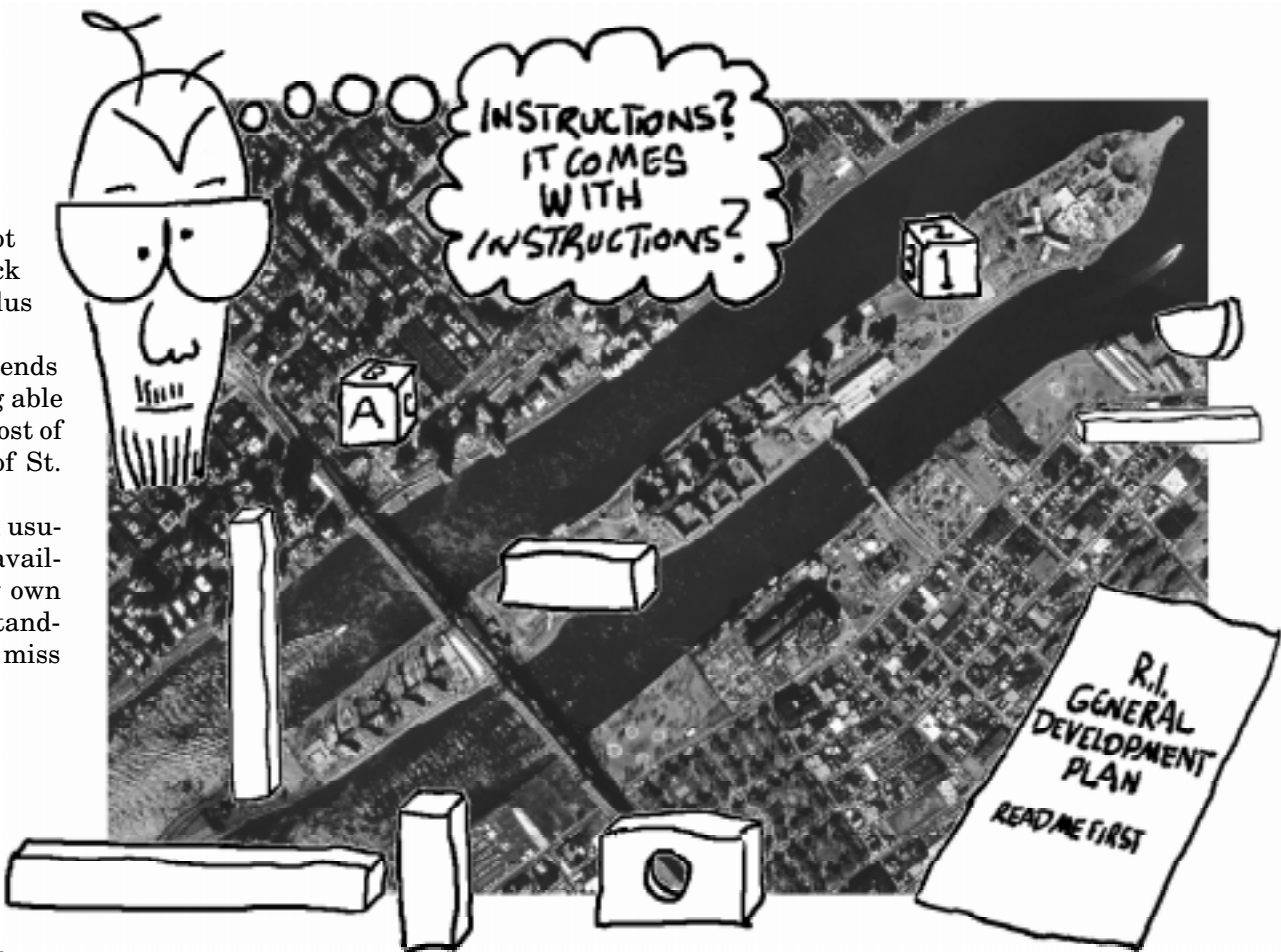
You Never Know

Years ago, an actor friend phoned me from the West Coast to say that someone he had known while appearing in London soon would be arriving in Manhattan. Since it was her first trip here, he’d told her to call me, for he knew I enjoyed showing visitors around the city. Okay? I agreed and asked her name. “Muna,” he replied, then added, “Princess Muna. She’s the wife of King Hussein of Jordan.” That was my initial meeting with Muna, as she insisted I call her, and a long-term friendship was established. Subsequently, when she took a house in Connecticut to be close to the school her older son was attending, Muna invited us to visit her so we could meet both of her sons.

It was an enjoyable outing and the boys, Abdullah and Hassan, were typical brothers. Abdullah was the know-it-all adviser to Hassan, a real charmer even at that early age. Now, King Abdullah will be called upon to play both roles: knowledgeable and charming to other heads of state if he truly wants to be the peacemaker his father was.

Welcome Visitors

Pre-Valentine Day cheer arrived at my home in the guise of Elle Anderson, well-known former bartender at the Back Page here, and, for some time, *The WIRE’s* movie critic. Elle had traded in both to pursue her own career in films – her latest, *Gloria* with Sharon Stone. Previously, she was in *Donnie Brasco* and *Thinner*. Next to arrive was my beloved Sarah with daughter, Yolanda. Just call me “Grandpa.”



Letters

To the Editor:

After the February 10 Town Meeting with Assemblymember Pete Grannis, Councilmember Gifford Miller, and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, I see only one option for Roosevelt Island: Self-governance. And the sooner the better.

The only real option left for Roosevelt Island is to go on its own. In the past, DHCR and the State of New York tried to manage Roosevelt Island as well as they could, but in the end nothing beats the residing-owner in managing his or her own home properly!

Now, after nearly three years of navigation without a rudder, we have an empty hull and an impenetrable Captain. This has rendered all the previous commitments and rights that DHCR and the State of New York exercised on Roosevelt Island, and over Roosevelt Islanders, null and void.

That is not to say that DHCR should not be involved in supervising, checking and helping a newly-constituted Roosevelt Island Community.

But after the Town Meeting and the absences of both DHCR Commissioner Lynch and State Senator Olga Mendez, I feel doubtful about the two planning committees created by Lynch. Are they just a bone thrown to make us wait endlessly for what we rightly deserve?

I ask every resident of this unique Island to get involved with the affairs of the Island now, and to help with the legislation for Island Self-Governance that Assemblymember Pete Grannis has prepared.

Managing one’s own home is always better than leaving it to a

headless, impenetrable, and absent entity that you did not choose, and have no power to change when your house might sink, and you with it.

Laurence-Marie Brodsky

To the Editor:

It’s been three months since Al Weinstein’s passing, and Roosevelt Island still doesn’t feel the same. I somehow still find myself expecting to see him pop up at some unexpected moment, ready to shake my hand, ask me how I’m doing. “What’s new?”

I was out of the country when he died, and, sadly, I missed the memorial service.

In many ways, Al reminded me of my own father – both of similar generation and background – old world gentlemen in the finest sense, concerned and compassionate. Al really cared about people, and when he asked how you were doing, he meant it – a rare quality it seems, these days.

I don’t think I need to go into all

his other outstanding attributes – they have been written about eloquently and extensively by my neighbors. I think that he would have appreciated that – as adept as he was in articulating for us emotions and causes so deeply felt by most of us. He was our voice, after all, timelessly fighting our battles for us.

No, Roosevelt Island will never be the same without Al – but how fortunate we were to have had him. Now that he is gone, his long shadow lingers. In his memory and as his legacy, I hope we can continue along his path – to seek and find in our everyday lives voices of compassion, caring, kindness and respect towards one another, which can translate into meaningful action. These are the fibers of a community’s cloth which, if all pulled together, can strengthen, protect and enhance each and all of us.

Thank you, Al Weinstein. You will live in our hearts.

Deborah Beck



The WIRE

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Editorial (212) **826-9055**
Urgent news **917-353-1647**
Advertising **751-8214**
Fax **755-2540**

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Editor – Jim Bowser
Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Chief Feature Writer – Anusha Shrivastava
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Advertising Manager – Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – George Rubin, Sherie Helstien
Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials, and will consider publication on a *Name Withheld* basis, but the writer’s name, address, and telephone number must be provided. **Preferred methods of submission:** PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk (any word-processing software now in common use) left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*; to 72260.20@compuserve.com by ASCII text e-mail; or typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street, or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. We cannot take dictation of letters by telephone. **All letters subject to editing for length and clarity.**

Sophia Adams, Amy Ambrosino, Russell Aragon, Rafael Asenjo, Sonia Asenjo, Sarmistha Banergi, David Bauer, Judy Berdy, Steve Bessenof, Lawrence Brodsky, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Graham Cannon, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Pearl Cooper, Shirley Cruz, Ruth Davidson, Morris Diamond, Arlise Ellis, Norm Ellis, Riquelmis Espanol, Zinnat Farooq, Enrique Fernandez, Zoraida Fonseca, John Friedel, Claire Friedland, Karen Ganzi, Kevin Gates, Atul Golchale, Elba Gomez, Ben Haberman, Margaret Harley, Teresa Hasing, Linda Heimer, John Hennessey, Asija Jilani, Sharon Jones, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Wendy Kennedy, Curtis Lowery, Nina Lublin, Lena Lutz, Hazel Lynch, Clarissa McCraley, Donny McIntyre, Merle McLean, Myrna Mendis, Jill Milner, Terry Moses, Bruce Munsch, Louise Munsch, Sandra Narine, Juan Nieves, Nancy Olivera, Mildred Poydras, Joan Raimone, Steve Raimone, Margery Rubin, Beryl Seaforth, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Marilyn Sherman, Stuart Solway, Velda Sosa, Victor Sosa, George Spelvin, Joyce Speziale, Karen Stewart, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Maggie Warner, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

I realize that not everyone has followed the Island development story through all of its various twists and turns, so I thought I might lay out a stripped-down summary so that you, as individual residents, will be prepared to decide whether you wish to become more involved as things move forward.

There are four entirely separate development projects pending, which total over one billion, one hundred million dollars. They are, in order of the likelihood of their happening: the mini-school conversions, the Eldercare facility, Southtown, and the development of Southpoint as a Marriott hotel/resort and conference center.

RIRA
President's
Column

The school project converts the 3 existing mini-schools on the west side of our Island to luxury condominiums. The development was originally presented as a conversion of the existing structures only, and the recent attempt to add a second story to the buildings will inevitably delay this

project. But if it does go through, it is likely to happen this year.

The Eldercare facility is currently positioned just south of the Queensboro Bridge, where Sportspark now stands. Most of Sportspark will be demolished and the swimming pool incorporated into the new building. The facility consists of a single structure with a 31-story tower. Construction is estimated for two years plus.

The general sentiment is that this facility would be better placed within the confines of Southtown, the whole of which extends from the soccer field just past Rivercross to the open fields just across the street from the Tram. The developers of Southtown, however, have shown little enthusiasm for this idea.

The development of Southtown has been planned for 20 years. It was intended to have been almost a clone of the original development, providing affordable middle-class housing. Times have changed, and today it is slated to become fair market apartment housing, and perhaps condominiums, for approximately 5,000 people. The construction will happen serially. When the first building is completed another will be built. There will be several buildings in all. Construction will probably continue for six to eight years, and could begin as early as this year.

The Marriott project at Southpoint is also planned to begin with one large 26-story tower, and then followed by a second twin tower. Construction is estimated to continue over a ten-year period.

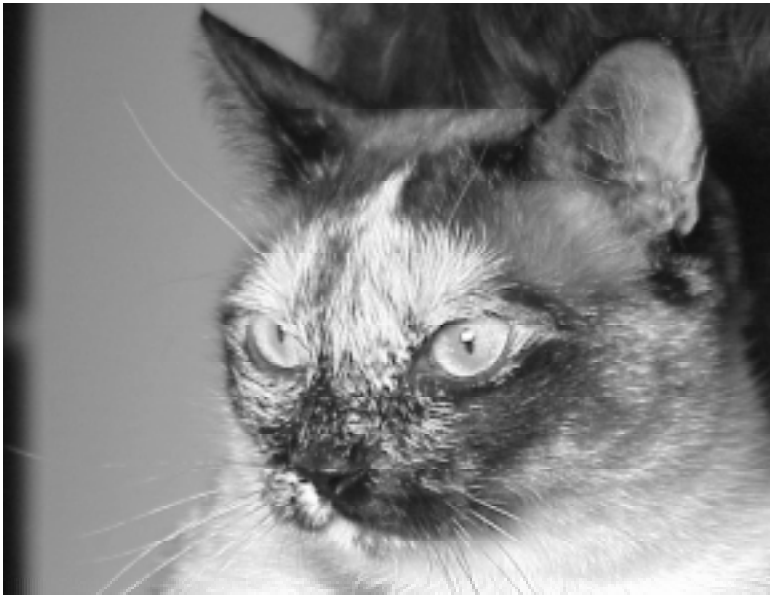
There are many difficulties facing the Marriott project, which is the single proposal of the four which RIRA finds wholly objectionable. The conversion of parkland to commercial property would have to be approved by the Mayor and by the City Council, first of all, and there are many serious Island traffic issues. The completed project would offer no employment opportunities to Island residents, since Marriott provides its own personnel.

The Southtown construction will have serious infrastructure impact on the Island, and the current management of RIOC has failed to negotiate terms whereby the developers would bear the cost of the infrastructure demands. This means that RIOC will have to seek agreement that the State will bear these costs, which will be substantial. The developers have flatly refused to consider the use of barges for construction purposes, and would use Main Street instead.

I do not intend here to discuss the relative merits of each of these projects, many of which have been discussed before, both in my columns and elsewhere in *The WIRE*. What I hope to do instead is to ask you to think about the impact that the daily use of Main Street as a heavy-construction conveyer belt will have on our community. Main Street was, after all, constructed for no vehicular traffic at all, other than the small electric mini-busses. Its original intended use was as a pedestrian mall. It is constructed over both the water lines and the AVAC system. Anyone living in an apartment facing Main Street will tell you that the street has a canyon effect, magnifying noise considerably.

It behooves us, as each of these projects draws closer, to consider what precautions must be taken to keep our existing community livable while the Island is developed for the future.

We might, for instance, consider asking the State to provide Queens-side ferry service for construction trucks and equipment. I'm sure that many of you can offer additional suggestions. We will need your help and your support.



Guest Shot Tatiana, the Coler therapy cat (who lets Judith Berdy live with her), will appear on the *Sunday Today* programs (local and national) on March 7. She has invited Warren Eckstein of the Bide-A-Wee organization to appear with her. Tatiana cut her publicity teeth with a story in the January 23 issue of *The WIRE*.



Patrick Stewart



Korea Central Daily

Mrs. Til Bong Kim, Tae Woo Lee, Kyu Kon Lee; Doryne Isley and Thelma McIntosh of Housing Management; Oak Soon Hong

Island's Koreans Organize Lunar New Year Event

Roosevelt Island Seniors celebrated the Asian Lunar New Year at mid-month. The party, organized by RISA, was undertaken by the Korean Senior community of Roosevelt Island. The colorful Lunar New Year celebration was attended by over 200 Island seniors of many nationalities.

Members of the Island's Korean community worked hard to make it a memorable evening, sharing the culture of their homeland and their traditional food with the seniors of other nationalities.

Among the items on the program was the "Sea Bai," the New Year bow or greeting, performed by young Korean children dressed in colorful clothing, as well as traditional singing and dancing. Oak Soon Hong, "den mother" to the Senior Korean community here, led the party with help from the rest of the Island's Koreans.

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friendland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sat., Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., **African-American Heritage Celebration**, 546 Main Street (Senior Center), including Caribbean Food Court, Book Mart, special story hour for young children, lectures, videos, dance, and music.

Mon., Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m., **RIOC Community Meeting on Mini-Schools Development** proposal, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Mon., Mar. 1, immediately following RIOC Mini-Schools meeting, **Maple Tree Group** session, about 8:00 p.m., PS/IS 217 cafeteria.

Wed., Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m., open meeting of the **Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, downstairs.

Thur., Mar. 11, 11:00 a.m., meeting of the **Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation Board of Directors**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Future meetings scheduled (all Thursdays) 11:00 a.m. Apr. 8; 7:00 p.m. May 13; 11:00 a.m. June 10, July 8, August 12, Sept. 9; 7:00 p.m. Oct. 14; 11:00 a.m. Nov. 11, Dec. 9. Members of the community who wish to address the Board are asked to register in advance by calling **832-4540**.

Fri.-Sat., Mar. 12-13, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Mar. 5; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Mar. 8. **Future issues:** March 27 (Easter issue); Apr. 10, 24; May 8 (Mother's Day issue), 22; June 12 (Father's Day issue); July 3 (Fourth of July/Fireworks/Business cards issue), 31; Aug. 28 (Labor Day/Back-to-School issue); Sept. 11 (Rosh Hashanah issue), 25; Oct. 9, 23 (Halloween issue); Nov. 6, 20 (Thanksgiving/Business Cards issue); Dec. 4, 18 (Christmas/New Year issue); Jan. 8, 22, 2000. Advertisers wishing to be included in unscheduled **EXTRA** editions, *without notice at the time*, are invited to call **826-9055** to make their interest known. **Phone/fax** for news, (212) **826-9055/755-2540**; urgent/breaking news, 917-353-1647; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) **751-8214/755-2540**; phone/fax to list your Island organization's event here without charge, **317-8523**.

Mon., Mar. 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Historical Society exhibit opening, **Portrait of a Changing Island: 19th-21st Century Maps**; dedication of **Arlene Atkinson Historical Reference Archive**, Cultural Center, 548 Main Street.

Thur., Mar. 25, Precinct-Community Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center, 546 Main Street.

At the Senior Center Every week

Mondays

- 9:00 **Stay Well** (exercise)
- 10:00 **English as 2nd Language (Beginner)**
- 10:00 **Computer Class**
- 12:00 **English as 2nd Language (Intermediate)**
- 12:30 **Arts & Crafts**

Tuesdays

- 9-10 **Korean/English Class**
- 10-11 **Blood Pressure Screening**
- 10-11 **Free Tax Counseling** (also 12:30-4)
- 12:30 **Bingo**

Wednesdays

- 9:00 **Stay Well** (Stretch)
- 10:00 **English as 2nd Language** (Beginner)
- 11:00 **English as 2nd Language** (Intermediate)
- 12:30 **Lotto** (Games)

Thursdays

- 10:00 **Tai Chi**
- 10:30 **Crafts Program**
- 12:30 **Movie**

Fridays

- 10-11 **English as 2nd** (conversation & written)
- 10:00 **Billiards/Pool Table Open**
- 10:00 **English as 2nd Language**
- 10:30 **Blood Pressure Screening** (to 11:30)

Saturdays

- 7:30 **Bingo & Games**

Special Events

Sat., Feb 27, 9-4, **Black History Month Celebration**, including events throughout the day at the Senior Center, 546 Main Street. Live Entertainment, Caribbean Food Court, Storytelling, Book Mart, Lectures, Percussion Workshop, Children's Activities.

Fri., Mar. 5, 10:30, **Nutritionist on Eye Health**.

Mon., Mar. 8, 10-12, **Metrocard Bus**

Fri., Mar. 12, 12:15, **VNS Choice** program for long term health care at home.

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-Damon LaScot

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-Judith Arond

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-Joan Blumberg

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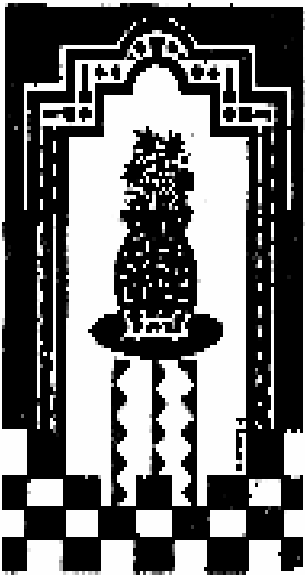
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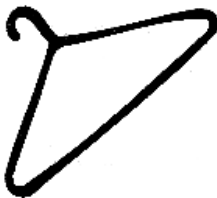
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J & M SHOE REPAIR

With gratitude to God for a life well spent,

*The Church Family at The Redeemed Christian Church of God
announces the passing away of our dear sister in Christ:*

Mrs. Pauline Winckler

Who slept in the Lord on December 25, 1998,
and has since been buried
at her home country of Namibia.

May her good soul Rest in Peace.

A short memorial service will be held in
celebration of her life at The Church House on
Sunday, March 21, 1999 beginning at 5:00 prompt.
Family, Friends and Neighbors of the Roosevelt
Island community are all invited to attend this
function in honor of dear sister Pauline.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God
International Chapel
851 Main Street (near Coler Hospital)
Roosevelt Island, New York

Pastor Olu Obed
Tel: (212) 758-6557



Barbara



Ali



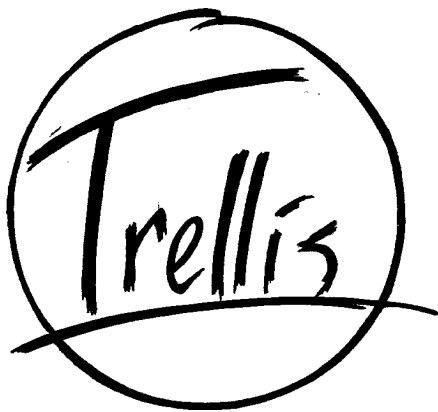
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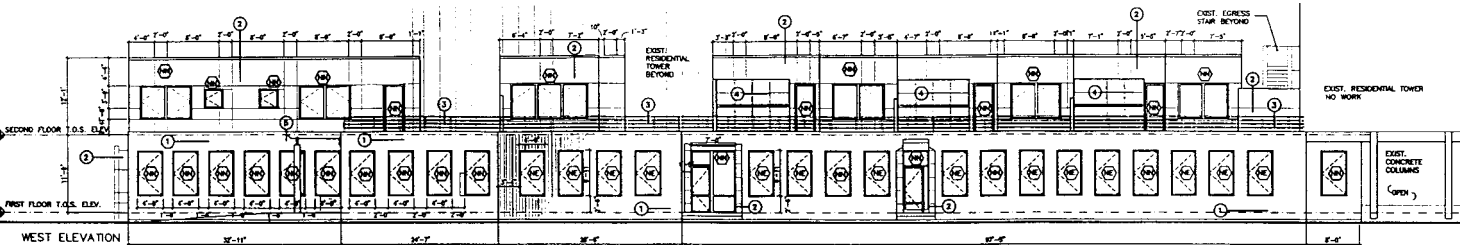


Rivercross mini-school, as seen from within the building's courtyard, would gain a second floor under the condo conversion plan to be described Monday at a 6:30 p.m. meeting. RIOC has claimed no views will be affected in the case of Rivercross.

Mini-Schools from page 1
and two apartments in Westview may have a slight diminution of view.

• “The proposal has not been reviewed by RIOC’s Planning Committee (see related story, page 1).”
“December 11, 1997, the mini-school conversion proposal was conditionally approved by the RIOC Board of Directors.”

• “How will additional residences impact on... the AVAC system?”
“An environmental assessment has been performed, and there will be no impact.”
The lack of detail in RIOC’s answers produced strong resistance to any vote on the project, and led to the scheduling of Monday’s 6:30 meeting. In a Thursday conversation with *The WIRE*, RIRA President Patrick Stewart expressed dismay over



Lynch from page 1

- **David Bauer**, organizer of the Maple Tree Group. Bauer told *The WIRE*, “This is a positive step forward for resident participation in Island affairs.”
- **Robert Chira**, an attorney who is a long-time Island resident.
- **Joan Christianson**, First Vice President of RIRA.
- **John Miller**, a retired United Nations staffer who has been active in Island affairs.
- **Lois Ruderman**, a DHCR employee who managed Rivercross briefly in the early 1980’s.
- **Susan Whitaker**, Chair of the Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations, who was named by Mayor Giuliani (along with Patrick Stewart) to the RIOC Board of Directors over a year ago, and recently was invited by Lynch to attend RIOC Board meetings on a non-voting basis.
- **David Kraut**, a former RIRA President who is currently the only resident with a vote on the RIOC Board.

Non-resident members, in addition to McKenna and Blue, are:

- **Darryl Seavey**, a member of Lynch’s staff at DHCR.
- **Otis Jones**, Lynch’s Deputy, who was actively concerned with Roosevelt Island matters until a year ago, when he was assigned other duties at DHCR – a move Island activists considered an attempt to get Jones out of the line of fire when his apparent sympathies for resident concerns appeared to conflict with Blue’s policies.

The Strategic Planning Committee is expected to focus on Island development, providing “a consistent, comprehensive, community-sensitive and economically-feasible planning process, so that the ... community may achieve the quality of life and self-sufficiency needed for the Island to prosper,” according to the original announcement from Lynch. Capital Planning and Development is to “advise the Board [of RIOC] on all planning and development activities, including ... Southtown, Southpoint, [mini-]schools conversion, infrastructure, and assisted living.”

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Blue’s handling of the matter and recalled the general acceptance the project had received before the two-story plan became known. “Jerry Blue does his usual sleaze thing,” Stewart said. “He cannot leave well-enough alone. He’s always got to get the extra nickel out of it.”

At this month’s RIOC Board meeting, Island House resident Ken McDermotroe told the RIOC Board, “We’re very mad. This

will affect our leaseholds. No notice was given to us. It was an unrealistic deadline. Three days notice is unreasonable. This should be referred to the new planning committee before you even entertain approval of it.”

Kitty Berman told the Board, “We received a notice under our doors from Doryne Isley [of Housing Management], dated January 26, and if it hadn’t been for that flyer we would have received no notice at all. One week is too short a notice.”

Technical diagram at left shows second floor added to the mini-school at Island House. Developer Diane Wilson of Corporate Realty Partners says an elevation – an architectural rendering – will be available for examination at the community meeting on the project, being held Monday at 6:30 in Good Shepherd Chapel.

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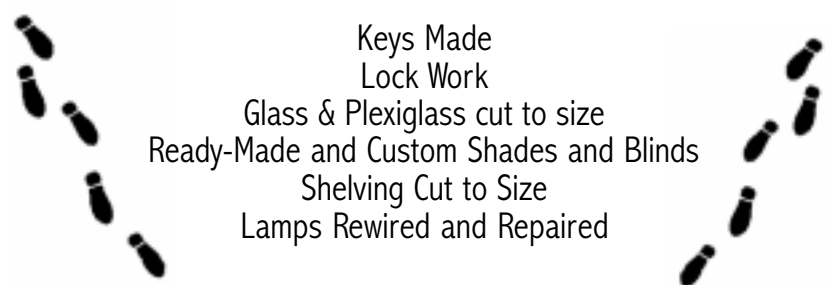
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PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY will meet March 3 in the Island House community room at 7:45 p.m. Bring your pictures, 8x10 or larger, neatly mounted on light material for possible show on Main Street. Visit to the darkroom. For more information, call **752-5034**

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YOUTH PAGE

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YOUTH CENTER SWIM PROGRAM A ROOSEVELT ISLAND SPLASH!

Peering through water-soaked glasses, Vladimir Moraru, a swim instructor for the Roosevelt Island Youth Center, queries an eight-year-old Mark Spitz wannabe. “How many can you pick up?” Moraru asks, holding up a fistful of colorful submersible weights. The boy signals an ambitious “four” then splashes both feet over his head to direct his stubbornly cork-like body under the water’s surface. The boy’s fear of the water disappears as he focuses on the challenge while Moraru stations himself a reassuring arm’s-length away.

Over 50 children currently participate in the free swimming lessons provided each Saturday at the SportsPark pool. “I love it!” responds Kristle Pizzari, a 5th grader who lives in Eastwood, when asked about her lessons. “This is my second class and I’m learning a lot!” Her younger brother Kenny eagerly reports on his new-found skill. “I learned the flutter kick and the jelly-fish float.” A broad smile brightens his face, “Oh yeah, I can push off and glide too!!”



“Most of our students are at Level I and II” says Will Martinez, Head Swim Instructor for the program. Martinez has taught swimming for nearly 20 years and credits swim-



ming with helping him regain mobility after a serious motorcycle accident. No stranger to children’s behavior, Martinez is an Assistant Truant Officer at Martin Van Buren High School.

Both Martinez and Moraru are Certified Water Safety Instructors, the highest swimming certification awarded by the American Red Cross. Moraru is an accomplished competitor and a former National Swim Champion from Rumania where he earned a Master’s Degree in Physical Education, was a gym instructor, and coached swimming and water polo. Moraru and his family currently live on Roosevelt Island.

Participants in the swim program will achieve Red Cross certification as they pass proficiency testing at various levels. Although the current program is filled to capacity, plans are being considered to offer the program again during the Spring with an expanded enrollment.

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Teen Hoops in Three-Way Tie

Blues defeated Greens this week in a 59-58 squeaker, catapulting them out of the cellar and into a three-way tie for second place in the teen boy’s league.

League leaders, the Yellows, enjoy a comfortable 3-win margin. The Yellow’s strength centers on Ron Artest, a 10th grader and the brother of Daniel Artest, Center Forward for the St. John’s Red Storm.



Play-off games for the teen boys are set for March 18th at 7:15 and 8:30 p.m. The championship will be played at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 22nd. All games are played at the PS/IS 217 gym.

Edgar Holley, Recreational Director for the Beacon Program, coordinates the basketball league for 15-17-year-old boys each Monday night. Teams are made up of 8 players with a limited number of openings.

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