

Next issue:
April 9-10

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Mary McCatty and Kelly King teach MST&DA swing classes

MST In Swing-Theme Fund-Raiser

by Kevin Gates

It is an unassuming alley off an unassuming street. The cat in the zoot suit looks over his shoulder, making sure no squares are around. Seeing that all is clear, he saunters down the staircase that leads to the swinging speakeasy.

It is a scene that has taken place countless times on both sides of the East River. Now it will happen in the middle, as the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance presents the Annual Spring Gala on Saturday, April 17th, at 8:00 p.m. This year, the event has a swing theme. And you don't even have to wear a zoot suit.

While the focus of The Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance (MST&DA) over the years has been primarily on acting, dancing and singing lessons for kids from second grade through high school, the operation run by Nancy Howe has provided classes for people of all ages and abilities. In addition to mounting several plays every year starring kids, MST&DA has focused on providing instructors of the high quality one would expect in Manhattan, but at a price more suited to Roosevelt Island.

To keep the wheels turning, MST&DA has two fund-raisers each year: the adult show in December, and the Gala in Spring.

MST&DA hopes to top last year's Country and Western Gala with this year's swing event. Couples are welcome, of course, but the word is there will be plenty of cool cats and sweet honeys there waiting to swing with those who attend the show.

In addition to dancing (by dancers at all skill levels), great food, and excellent company, MST&DA will be celebrating the release of a CD by Quinn Lemley, backed by MST&DA's resident Musical Director, Bob McDowell, and his combo. There will also be a live performance of swing-era tunes by the Jive Sisters, and Anita Michael will perform songs from her cabaret act, *A Hairdresser Looks at Her Roots*. "Game show host" John Calder will test the audience's musical knowledge, and there will be a raffle.

Zoot suits are optional.

For reservations and information: 371-4449.

Minischools Addition Fine-Tuned For RIOC Board's Consideration

"How many are against this proposal?" A forest of hands.

"How many are for it?" No hands.

A week ago Tuesday, an hour and 49 minutes into a community meeting on a developer's proposal to turn the Island's waterfront minischools into condominiums, Frank Angelino asked for that informal vote. Angelino chairs the new committee set up by Commissioner Joseph Lynch, of the State's Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), to advise the Board of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) on development. The vote by the 165 residents attending the meeting followed an extended series of resident questions and statements, almost all plainly hostile to the idea of adding a second story to the buildings.

This past Tuesday, Angelino chaired a working meeting of the advisory committee. According to those attending, its primary business was fine-tuning the proposal for a vote, possibly at the RIOC Board meeting Thursday, April 8 (11:00 a.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd). The most significant change reported by committee members was consideration of a height reduction of the 12-foot second stories by about four inches.

The following reports cover the two meetings.

Tuesday, March 16

The Community Meeting

"It's the position of counsel that no amendment to the General Development Plan is required," said Attorney Barbara Espejo, who has worked on the minischools matter for RIOC. "The GDP is [just] a loose collection of ideas," said Frank Angelino, repeating an Espejo comment made two weeks earlier at the initial meeting of RIOC's new advisory committees.

The case for the condo expansion presented to the community meeting Tuesday, March 16, held that the impact on the views and quality of life of existing Island residents would be minimal. Dr. Jerome Blue, President of RIOC, told those attending the meeting that the minischools are in a state of disrepair and that the developer's proposal would mean \$250,000 a year in income to RIOC. Asked about the possibility there might be construction beyond addition of a second floor, Espejo said, "We will recommend to the Board that there be no construction beyond the second floor."

Resident opposition to second-floor additions was nearly monolithic, but there was also resistance to the idea of expanding the Island's population by adding 16 families each prepared to spend half a million dollars or more on residences.

Views

Residents told the meeting they had identified several apartments whose views would be adversely affected by the expansions. Historical Society President Judith Berdy suggested construction of full-size mock-ups of the additions to provide an actual demonstration of developer claims that impact would be minimal. Developer Diane Wilson said the idea would be considered.

A Wilson comment that the project's impact on existing apartments would be "insignificant" brought a retort from resident Deirdre Breslin, whose says the view from her second-floor Westview apartment would be severely impacted. "I do not consider myself nor my quality of life 'insignificant,' nor do I consider anybody at this meeting 'insignificant.'" Upon

See **Community**, page 3

Tuesday, March 23

The Advisory Committee

At one point during Tuesday's meeting of RIOC's development advisory committee, resident Marc Diamond pointed out that expanding the minischools will adversely affect views of at least 16 families – the same number of units that would be added by the planned conversion. He went on to add that, as a result, RIOC would gain income of only \$250,000 – only \$150,000 more

than an earlier plan would have produced without changing any views.

Diamond also presented a series of concerns about the viability of the Wilson project: Lack of automobile access to entrances, leading to walks of up to hundreds of feet, uncovered, from street to entrances; outdoor walks of up to 150 feet to



Deirdre Breslin: "I do not consider myself or my quality of life, or anyone here, 'insignificant.'"

AVAC receptacles to dispose of garbage; a difficult trade-off between views and privacy for ground-level dwellings fronting the promenade; and interior plans with awkward layouts – all "features not usually associated with a 'luxury' floor plan."

Afterward, Diamond told *The WIRE* that in the meeting, "They minimized how important the loss of views will be." He plans to make a model to illustrate view problems. In one instance, skylights not quite five feet tall will be removed, but replaced with two second-story structures about 12 feet tall that will create a "view corridor" for the affected Westview apartments.

Jeff Hochman, another resident member of the committee, said, "It's no-rules. I have a large problem with the process because it is very ill-defined and has many gaps compared to the New York City process. We have no zoning, no community board approval, no ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Process)." Emphasizing that he was speaking only for himself, Hochman said, "I think it's a terrible idea. It's going

See **Committee**, page 3

Resident Plays Emergency Midwife, Then Faces Worry, Expense

Quint Spitzer, a seven-year Island resident, delivered a baby to a homeless woman in the subway station at Lexington Avenue and 63rd Street on Monday, March 15. *The WIRE* asked him to tell the story of what happened that day, and since. This is his account, which mentions his wife, Elizabeth, an actress, and his two sons – Thomas, who is four and a half years old, and William, who is nearly two.

by Quint Spitzer

At about 7:30 p.m., I was on my way home from a job and was catching the subway at the Lex and 63rd station. I got there a little before 8:00 o'clock, garment bag in one hand and *Daily News* in the other.



As I got to the token booth level, I heard a lady yelling to the token booth clerk that there was a woman in labor at the lower level. I learned later that the woman talking to the clerk was Vicki, a checkout clerk at Gristede's.

I swiped my MetroCard, got into the elevator, and went down to the platform. As soon as the elevator opened, I could hear the woman screaming. I started toward her, and by the time I got within 40 feet I was running. As I reached her, I threw my bag and paper down. She was lying on a dirty blanket. Someone had already pulled her pants down, and her ex-boyfriend was standing there.

I knelt down by her head, and got her to breathe a little more evenly, trying to remember the Lamaze training I had before the birth of my first son. I got Vicki and the ex-boyfriend to hold her hands, moved around to the other end, and, as I knelt down, I could see that the baby's head was already crowning. I told the mother that the baby was coming, that we were going to have to do this now... I got her to focus on me. I started looking around for something to receive the baby, and I remembered my *Daily News* against the wall.

At this point I think I started barking orders at people. I shouted to Vicki to give me the newspaper. She brought it to me. I got it under

the baby's head and delivered the baby the rest of the way. It happened pretty quickly. There wasn't much time between my arrival and the baby's arrival. I unwrapped the umbilical cord from around the baby's neck, and then I swiped my finger through his mouth to make sure his airway was open.

At that point the baby started to cry, but only for five or ten seconds. Then he calmed down.

I put my thumb on the baby's chest to make sure his heart was still beating. At about that time, a train pulled in, the doors opened, and I had a crowd standing there. I asked for a bottle of water to rinse

See **Spitzer**, page 2

Pages of Thought and Opinion

The New Nature of Unity

It's far easier to unite *against* something than it is to unite *for* something. Uniting isn't the problem. The problem is finding the *something* that's an attractive centerpiece for a strong majority to be *for*.

Just over two years ago, a few months into Jerome Blue's tenure as President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, there was a Residents Association election and near-immediate, near-complete unity *against* a ludicrous series of decisions that demonstrated Blue's complete inability and unwillingness to work with residents to fashion a future for the Island.

Blue was easy to be against, and there was no shortage of leadership – or followers – in denouncing his high-handed methods and bankrupt anti-resident moves.

But back then, the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association was caught a bit flat-footed. As easy as it was to oppose Blue, there was nothing on the flip side of that card – no affirmative program. Busy reacting to Blue and heading him off at the pass, RIRA's volunteer resources were severely stretched, and the Common Council had almost no working time to fashion a program based on something more than reactive opposition.

By the end of those two years, RIRA was looking worn and weary. Some Council members were discouraged to the point of being tempted to concede a victory to their frustration over their determination, and just give up. But with the anti-Blue sentiment as glue and a series of hold-the-line victories, Patrick Stewart kept it all together through last November's election. After November, new blood came aboard and the Common Council as a whole was re-energized.

The election was a great boost for RIRA, and for centering on an *affirmative program* crafted from the remnants of dismay over Blue's continued presence. Not only was Patrick Stewart re-elected in a firm community repudiation of Blue, but his personal victory went fist-in-glove with a triumph of avalanche proportions for RIRA's resolution calling for self-governance for Roosevelt Island: **In an election that drew more voters than the average U.S. Presidential election, 92 percent of those casting ballots endorsed the idea of self-governance.**

In one stroke, the Island's residents had a double-dose of unity: Patrick Stewart as the symbol of opposition to Blue, and self-governance as the constructive program for replacing Blue-style political appointees with professional management. At last, there was some reasonable prospect for replacing a politically-appointed RIOC Board with an elected Board of Residents.

There was, at last, a constructive program.

Last month, both the re-elected members of the RIRA Common Council and its newly-elected members demonstrated their affinity for such a positive program by voting with near-unanimity to back the Pete Grannis legislation that offers a clear route to resident control of this Island's future. Not one delegate voted against the concept, or the specifics, as the Council approved a resolution to apply full RIRA effort on behalf of the Grannis bill's conception of self-governance. No wonder – the residents who had elected Patrick Stewart and the Common Council delegates had made known the depth of their desire to take a hand in Island governance with that 92% mandate.

So now there is a plan, positive prospects, and a program in place.

As RIRA and the Maple Tree Group put their efforts behind the drive for democratic rule of Roosevelt Island, residents will be offered the opportunity to help in various ways, and we can anticipate that many will step forward, get in common harness, and pull together for a better future for Roosevelt Island.

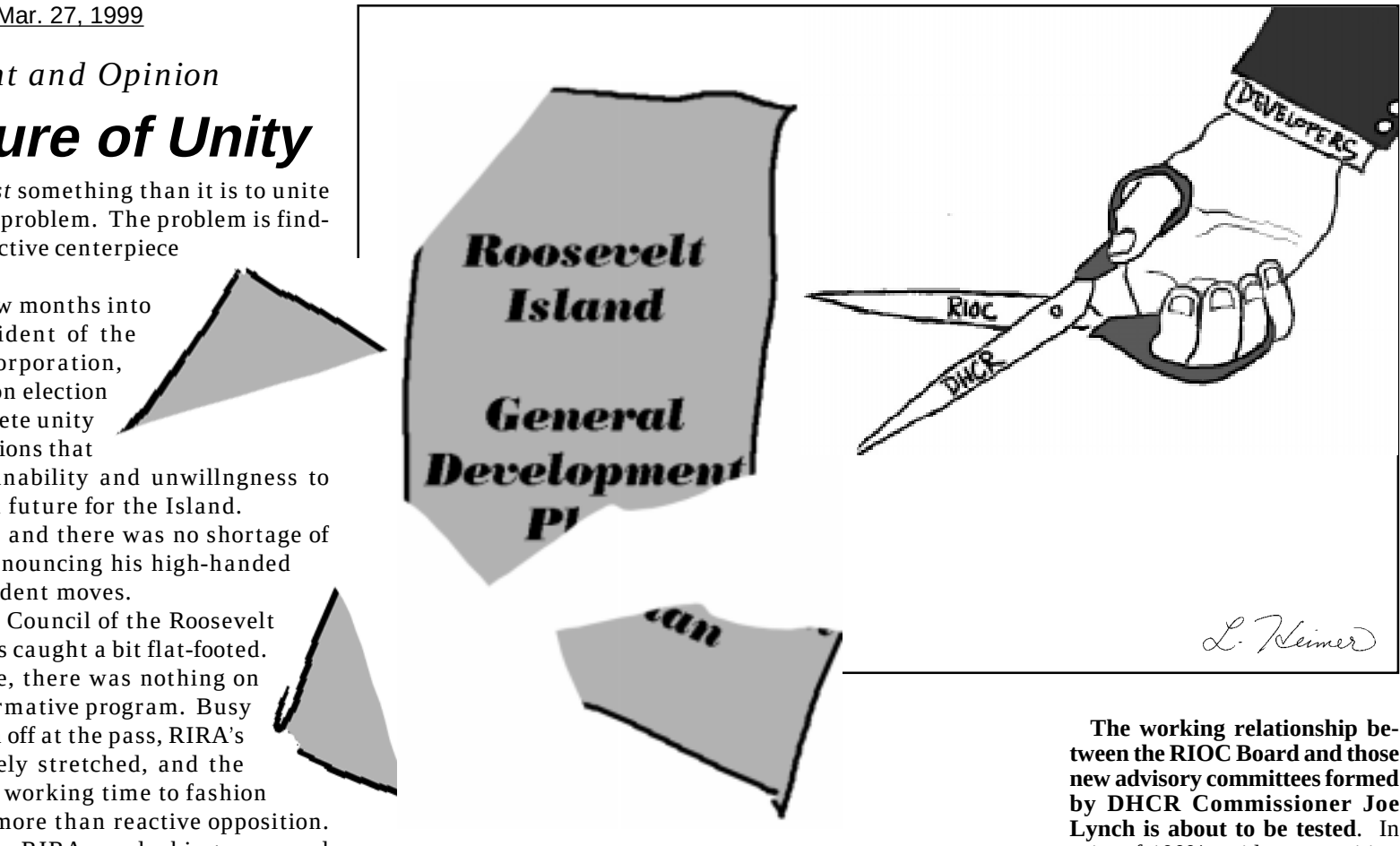
There was a grand start last weekend, for example, when nearly 100 residents attended the Maple Tree Group's stirring concert to raise funds for a coming mail campaign to make the Island's needs known State-wide, and to press for helping hands in the Legislature. Both artists and residents were generous, as were RIRA First VP Joan Christianson and many other volunteers, and over \$1,500 was raised.

There will be further efforts, and with good reason:

Here on Roosevelt Island, we've achieved something uncommon in a community's political life: Unity behind a positive program.

The program has open arms for all, and great hope for the Island's future riding on it.

DL



The working relationship between the RIOC Board and those new advisory committees formed by DHCR Commissioner Joe Lynch is about to be tested. In spite of 100% resident opposition in a community meeting a week ago Tuesday, it appears RIOC may be on course to give the minischools condo expansion a green light at its April 8 Board meeting.

Not only that, but the SSJ proposal to put a twin-tower hotel on

island observer

commercialized Southpoint parkland may also be moving through the system, despite near-total resident opposition.

The test? Whether these committees are window-dressing or something real that provides a voice, with appropriate leverage, for the people here who must live with the results of RIOC decisions.

If either plan moves forward, given the clearly expressed opposition of residents, resident members of those advisory committees should consider mass resignation.

media, and with their kind thoughts and prayers. People are stopping me on the street and telling me they're praying for me. We've been very blessed and very pleased with our neighbors.

I didn't stop to think about it until after it was over. But by far the easiest part of this whole thing was delivering that baby. You get into that situation and you just do what must be done. You don't stop to think, "I'm unemployed right now, and I don't have any insurance, and how will this affect us having another child?" You just help someone who needs help.

As soon as my wife and I get a little distance from this experience we want to try to do two things – get the ball rolling on some sort of hotline for Good Samaritans, so that people who do a good deed will have a number they can call to get some help or at least pointed toward people who can help them. The most frustrating thing for us has been the morass of miscommunication and misinformation we've come up against in trying to track down the medicine and needed information. The other thing we want to do is set up something for the baby. We're not sure just yet what form this will take, but we'd like the little boy to have something to commemorate his unique beginning in this world.

My wife and I just want to say a giant "Thank You" to everyone on the Island who has responded in such a positive and caring way. We're very grateful.

Spitzer from page 1

the baby off. The first bottle put into my hands was cold, so I shouted for a warmer bottle. Somebody had one that was luke-warm, so I rinsed off the baby's head, then got him completely wrapped up so he wasn't cold. I wanted to cut the umbilical cord, but I had nothing to cut it with, so I stayed where I was, squatting and holding the baby until EMS showed up about ten minutes later.

After I delivered the baby, I realized I had an open abrasion on my knuckle that I had gotten that morning when I was serving at a wine tasting at the Stanhope Hotel, and that my hands were now covered in the mother's amniotic fluid and blood.

EMS showed up about then and took over. At that point, I was given a pair of gloves to put on. One EMS guy held the blanket under the baby, asked me to strip off the remaining newspaper, and he got the baby wrapped up in a clean blanket. The other EMS guy cut the umbilical. One of them then took the baby upstairs. At that point, the other EMS guy and I and one of the cops, who had just arrived, put the mother in a wheelchair and took her upstairs. They got the mother and the baby into the ambulance, put me in the cop's emergency truck, and we all went to the hospital.

We got the mother checked in upstairs at maternity. Then I finally had something to smile about. Her friend suggested that she name the baby Lexington, after the station where he was born. The mother looked at me and said, "No, I'm going to name the boy after him." I don't know if they did or not, but it was a nice thought.

At that point, they took me down to the emergency room, got me cleaned up, and gave my hands an iodine bath. The doctors came by about 45 minutes later, listened to my account, checked out my hands, and immediately prescribed HAART therapy – that's Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy.

They had given me the first two doses of the HAART therapy, and immunized me against hepatitis B, then prescribed a shot of hepatitis B immune globulin, but they didn't have any at the hospital. That's when things started getting tense for my wife and me. We were informed that there was a national shortage of the serum, and started calling hospitals all over the city, only to be met with rudeness and hostility because we were calling on our own behalf and weren't doc-

tors. All we were told was that I needed to take it as soon as possible, but we weren't able to get any definitive information as to what the exact window of opportunity was.

My wife had a personal contact with a senator in Washington, D.C., and got things moving there. She also got on the phone with a prominent surgeon from New Orleans, and at this point we thought we had actually found the medication, and had made arrangements for it to be shipped to us. But the next morning we were told that the shortage was a result of the manufacturers recalling the serum to reformulate it. Back to square one.

I checked with my son's school, PS/IS 217, to see if they had any contacts with the Department of Health, and Melody Specker started making calls for us. Then the PTA went into action (Diane and MaryLyn – thank you) and through their contacts we were finally able to make the right contact with the Mayor's office, and consequently through the Department of Health were able to get the immune globulin.

The head of patient services at New York Presbyterian Hospital had been encouraging the woman to be tested for HIV and hepatitis, and to release the results of those tests to me. The woman agreed to it and her results came back negative. So a big load was lifted from us. There's still a little doubt because the mother could have contracted HIV within the last three weeks before the birth, so I'll have to continue the HAART treatment for another month.

The support of the community has been wonderful. Bigelow Pharmacy has been so helpful in procuring the medicines, and the family of the Good Shepherd has been very supportive, for which we are very, very grateful. Friends have made calls on our behalf to the

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.**

Well, we’re only a few days into Spring and only a week away from Daylight Savings Time, Easter and Passover. Flowers may not be bursting out everywhere, but there are kids on the Plaza in the afternoons, and the Old Reliables, my favorite bushes on the Island, that grow beneath the windows of the hallway between the entrance at 555 and the elevators in 575, have leaves unfurling more eagerly every day.

RIRA President’s Column

You have no idea how I love those bushes. With their full western exposure, buds begin to open before the end of February, and each year they are my talisman that if I simply keep trudging along, Spring and the sun and the kids will come back.

Zoe’s got a haircut and new Easter shoes, and she tells me she’s now an expert on the big-kid swings in the toddler playground. Her mother reports that even more safety bars are missing on the equipment than at the end of the summer, and that the Seahorse and Duck look more like drunken sailors than toddler rides.

She tells me it would help a great deal if a sign were posted, clearly stating that the equipment is only for toddlers, and that older children belong in the Blackwell Playground, so that the toddlers can play safely. Zoe, who has all the makings of a Cruise Director, says that there should be a sign “just like McDonalds’s, so if you’re bigger than the line you can’t go in and play.”

Duly notified, I will write a letter to RIOC requesting a sign and the long overdue replacement of the safety bars. And, not that I lack confidence in the timeliness of RIOC’s attention to such matters, I also want to take this opportunity to state publicly that I believe it is time that Public Purpose Funds were used to enhance the older play areas, if RIOC fails to do so. It is simply not fair that the children should suffer because RIOC continues to neglect its responsibility.

And, lest I be accused of failing to be evenhanded, the equipment behind Island House, which is the responsibility of Housing Management, is in no better shape than the toddler playground. I hereby put them on public notice, as well, that the neglect of safety equipment cannot be tolerated. But, hopefully, they will be quicker to react than RIOC.

While RIRA may not initiate a request for Public Purpose Funds, we will heartily endorse any expenditure that will make a genuine contribution to the lives of the Island’s children.

Speaking of Public Purpose Funds, I am concerned that the amount currently available as reported by RIOC is seriously less than should be there. I am finalizing a request, with documentation, of an in-depth audit of the account. My report will be submitted for the next RIOC Board meeting. I’ve been making the request for an audit for over two years to no avail, but have reason to hope that the time is ripe for this issue to be given the appropriate attention.

I suppose that one small component of my growing confidence is, indeed, that it *is* Spring, and time for a renewal of all energies. But, in truth, I also sense in the RIOC Board itself the same stirring to life that is, to me, being echoed by the return of Spring, and not the other way around.

The President’s Column is going to try something new for Spring as well. For the next six issues of *The WIRE*, I have asked that the six Chairs of the standing committees of the Common Council each bring you up to date on his or her committee’s work. The next column will be done by Graham Cannon, who is the Common Council’s Director of Communications. Graham, who was Madeleine Albright’s Communications Secretary until she left the UN to become Secretary of State, is always compelling to listen to, no matter what his topic.

Graham will then be followed by Linda Heimer, Vice President of Government Relations; Jim Kaufman, Vice President of Island Services; Byron Gaspard, Vice President of Social, Cultural and Educational Services; Joan Brooks, Vice President of Housing; and Jeff Hochman and Judy Berdy, Co-Vice Presidents of Planning. Each of them will do his or her individual areas of responsibility far greater service than I could.

Not that I will promise to be entirely quiet. I’ll be introducing each of them, for one thing, and I doubt I’ll be able to keep myself entirely reticent on current affairs, although I’ll try my best. Meanwhile, Happy Easter! Happy Passover! Joyous Spring!

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COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friendland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sun., Apr. 4, 10 a.m., Roosevelt Island Art Association. Live model. **421-5939.**

Wed., Apr. 7, 8:00 p.m., Meeting of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association **Common Council**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public welcome to address the Council during public comments session at the beginning of the meeting.

Thur., Apr. 8, 11:00 a.m., RIOC Board Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Residents wishing to address the Board are asked to register in advance by calling RIOC.

Fri.-Sat., Apr. 9-10, Easter issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Apr. 2; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Apr. 5. **Future issues:** Apr. 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**.

Weekend of April 10, subway service down.
Sun., Apr. 11, 4:00 p.m., Party for Father Joseph Gorman, open to all, including non-parishioners, Manhattan Park Theater. To volunteer, contribute, or attend, call for information: **759-8336** or **759-5461**.

Sat., Apr. 17, Swing Gala Fund Raiser, Main Street Theatre. Reservations, information: **371-4449**.

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 and Games**
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
10:30 **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**

Letters

To the Editor:

Last Thursday, late in the afternoon, I had the misfortune of being involved in an accident on one of our Roosevelt Island buses. Main Street traffic was at its worst, since a city bus was stalled and holding up anything that was trying to move.

I boarded the Island bus at the Westview site, paid my fare and moved back to look for a seat when I was suddenly hurled to the floor as the bus driver stopped short to avoid hitting something in the middle of the road. I fell on my right side, which was hurt as I fell. To further compound my pain was the fact that eight weeks before, I had undergone heart surgery and I was fearful of what had happened. I could not get up in spite of the en-

couragement of those who wanted to help. Eventually, I was able to get up and was escorted off the bus and left to my own devices as the security officers involved themselves with traffic.

While I understand that traffic is part of their job, I believe taking care of those involved in an accident should also be attended to at the same time considering the possibility of critical problems. A good neighbor came to my assistance and helped me cross the street to the Security Office to await the EMS ambulance.

Lack of communication and coordination among the officers caused me great discomfort. I had no apparent critical symptoms. They were sympathetic but unconcerned. When EMS finally arrived, checked me and

spoke to my doctor, they insisted that I go to the emergency room at the hospital since I am on a blood-thinning drug. Since then, I have been confined to my home, for the most part, severely bruised.

I feel compelled to bring this before the community, to prevail upon the powers that be, to revise, coordinate and improve the training of our security people. Hopefully, then they could assume all areas of responsibility in a given situation and follow up to the best of their ability. Revising our training programs can only be an improvement in the quality of life here on Roosevelt Island, both for the residents and our security force, and can upgrade the mutual respect we should have for one another.

Rhoda Jacklin

Community from page 1

reflection, perhaps I consider this plan ‘insignificant,’ and I urge members of the committee to vote against this plan and to use the minischools for something more important and meaningful to the community.”

Criticisms of the plan extended to concerns about emissions from gas-burning fireplaces and noise from “garbage-can-sized” air conditioning units (“not noticeable,” according to Vincent Arcuri of Morse Diesel, the company hired to bird-dog the project for RIOC).

Demographics

Longtime resident Shirley Margolin voiced questions about the status of the Island’s General Development Plan. “The original agreement was that 30% [of residents] would be low-income, one third of those elderly; 25% would be moderate income; 20% middle-income. It certainly was never contemplated that we would have half-million-dollar condos here. And that is the issue of the GDP – our ‘constitution’ – is this really a legal document we can count on? Or is that simply being thrown out the window? It’s a very sad time.” Extended applause followed her statement in one of several demonstrations of resident sentiment during the meeting.

Espejo responded that figures in the GDP are “limits,” not mandates, restating her interpretation of the plan as a flexible guide.

Process

At one point during the March 16 session, a Rivercross resident told the committee, “I’ve lived here since 1977. You’re going to destroy my view.” Voicing a question on many minds, she said, “I’d like to know if we have a vote, or whether this is going to take place, come hither, come yon.”

Committee from page 1

to hurt the views of many people in the three buildings.” Turning to marketing viability, Hochman asked, “Is there a marketing study? Will anybody spend \$500,000-plus for a ground floor abutting the promenade?” He added, “It changes the context of the Island, since we are for low, moderate, and upper-middle-class. A \$600,000 price tag goes a little bit beyond it.”

There was no vote taken at the meeting. RIRA Common Council member Linda Heimer, who attended the meeting as a substitute for a committee member out of town, said there was “no discussion of the comments or vote taken at the community meeting” until she brought it up. “They were proceeding as though the March 16 vote had no significance,” she said later.

Six of seven residents indicated opposition to the development. Lisa Knox, a supporter of Blue’s administration at RIOC, was the exception.

Diamond told *The WIRE*, “All this for only \$250,000 annually for RIOC – small compared to the budget and the income from Southtown. It’s so pointless to build a permanent project that hurts and angers the community to solve a temporary RIOC income problem.”

After reflecting on his feeling that the project is not a viable luxury development, Diamond added, “The worst situation would be if the units don’t sell, and rent at a loss. Instead of the win-win situation Diane Wilson says she always seeks, we’ll have a lose-lose situation.”

Angelino has told residents it’s possible the RIOC Board will vote on the project at its April 8 meeting.

Southpoint Hotels

The advisory committee also heard a presentation on RIOC’s proposal to permit construction of a twin-tower hotel at Southpoint, which also may come up for consideration at the RIOC Board meeting.

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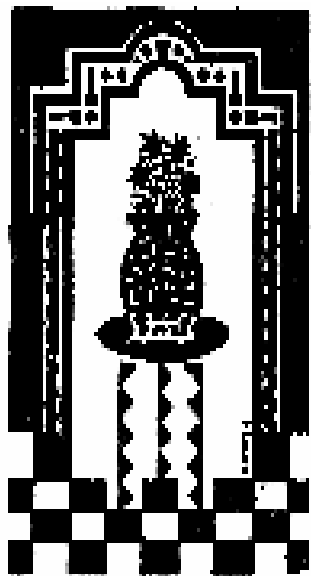
-Bernard Silverman

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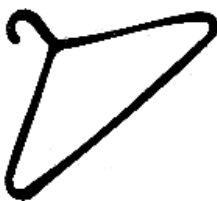
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SPECIAL SERVICE: This year we are having our first ever **Easter Season Musical Service, Sunday April 18th at 8:00 pm in the Main Chapel**, with congregational singing and a special program by our expanded choir. **Music for the coming Millennium**

PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 28th): JOIN US AT 10:00 AM FOR THE SERVICE THAT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK. MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION WILL READ THE POWERFUL AND INSPIRING STORY OF THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST. OUR CHOIR WILL SING, AND PALMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED. At 1:45pm volunteers meet to go to Coler Hospital to help patients get to the Protestant Worship Service.

TUESDAY MARCH 30th: Our regular Tuesday night Bible group. Come and explore for yourself the Biblical foundation of our Christian faith. Every Tuesday at 8:00 pm downstairs in the Oval Room.

HOLY THURSDAY (APRIL 1): PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE WHICH CHRIST COMMANDED, AT 8:00 PM IN THE LOWER COMMUNITY ROOM. OUR YOUTH AND ADULT CHOIR WILL SING.

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 2): SERVICE AT 8:00 PM, MAIN CHAPEL. MUSIC BY OUR CHOIR.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE RETIRING SATURDAY NIGHT!!!*

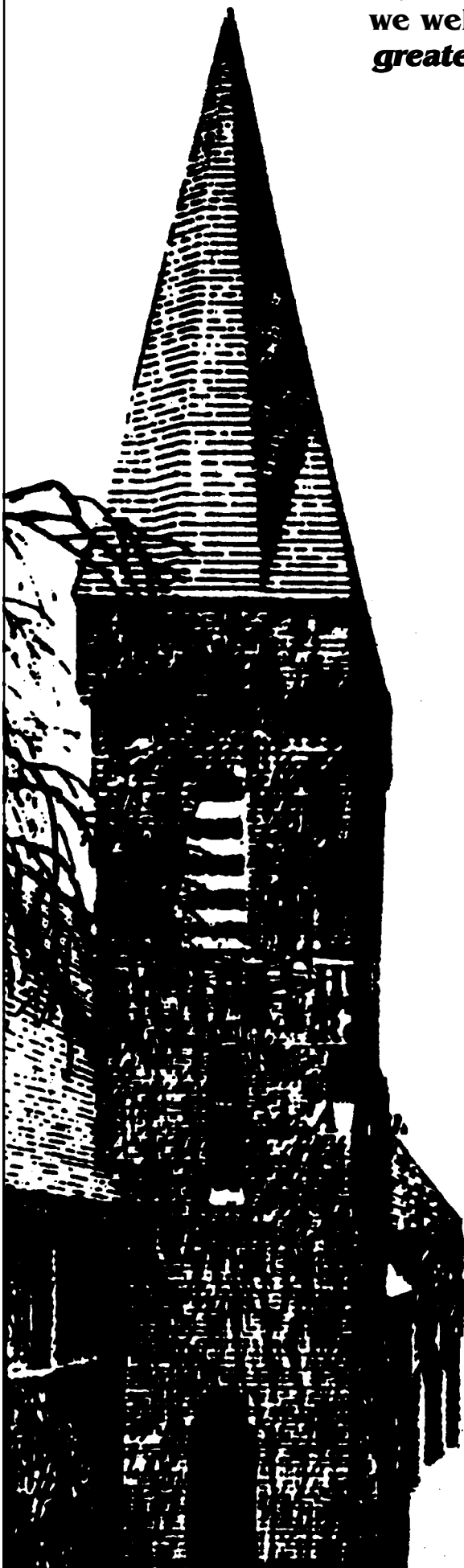
EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 4th):

- 8:45 AM: OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS WITH DONUTS AND MILK FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLERS.
- 9:00: SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH CHOIR.

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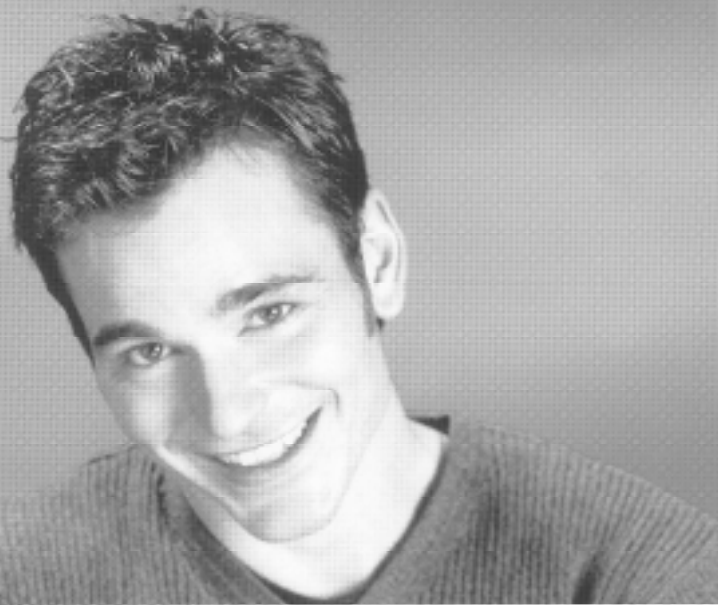
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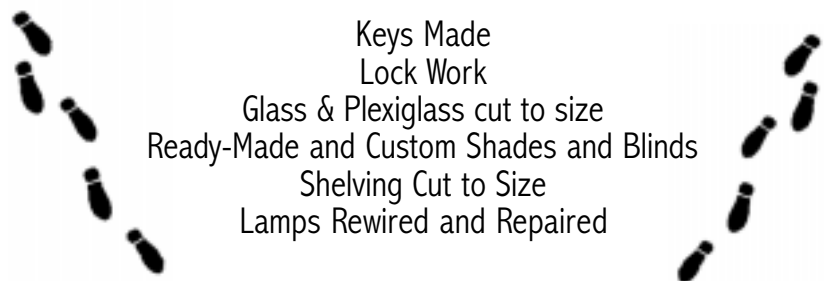


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