

Next issue:
April 23-24

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Swinging Fund-Raiser Marietta Clark and Rod Ferrone perform a swing tap to *King Porter Stomp* next Saturday night (April 17) in the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance fund-raiser event, 7:00-11:00 p.m. Tickets and reservations are available at 371-4449.

RIRA Gears for Southpoint Fight Rivercross & Residents Assn Also Oppose MiniCondos

The Common Council of the Residents Association (RIRA) and the Rivercross Board weighed in this week against the planned second-story expansion of the three Manhattan-side minischools into two-story condominiums.

At the same time, the RIRA Council voted at its Wednesday night meeting to start fund-raising for possible legal battles against the minischools, the SSJ hotel plan for Southpoint, and potentially other development plans put forward under Dr. Jerome Blue’s administration at the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC).

The RIRA vote against the second-story expansion of the minischools paralleled a Rivercross Board resolution opposing the development as a blow to quality of life. The resolution said the planned development would also “disturb the structure of income

levels on the Island, and obstruct the views of dozens of apartments and thousands of residents and pedestrians.” RIRA is requesting that the RIOC Board table the condos plan and take the time to develop alternative uses for the buildings within their present single-story form.

Also worried that a RIOC Board vote might be imminent on plans for two 25-story hotels on designated open space at Southpoint, RIRA authorized establishment of a separate bank account, and fund-raising, to mount legal battles

against such development. The move was spurred, in part, by a letter to *The WIRE* (see page 2) discussed at the meeting.

The RIOC Board meeting scheduled for Thursday was postponed, however, to Wednesday, April 21, at 11:00 a.m.

To date, about \$1,000 has been pledged to the legal war chest. Common Council delegate Judith Berdy, who has taken on the fund-raising effort, says an announcement will be made soon on specific fund-raising plans, and on where donations may be sent.

Lease and Master Plan – Focal Points In a Struggle for the Island’s Soul

News Analysis by Dick Lutz

It is talcum dry – contorted lawyerspeak that insults the very idea of language.

But the Lease by which New York State holds proprietorship of Roosevelt Island, and the General Development Plan that rides as its slightly less linguistically chal-

lenged sidekick, may be the agents by which a gentler and more idealistic past imposes its will on these more recent, cash-sensitive times.

Whether the General Development Plan (GDP) is merely a “loose collection of ideas,” the assertion of RIOC lawyer Barbara Espejo, or

“our constitution,” as it is described by resident advocate Shirley Margolin, the lines it scribes in the soil of Roosevelt Island have the potential to become legal barricades where Islanders might mount a defense against what they see as misguided overdevelopment.

The Words – What They May Mean

Deciphering the tortured verbiage of the Lease and GDP is, in the end, a matter for professionals in the shallows and depths of real estate law, yet there is a certain cold common sense that struggles for acknowledgment in its words.

For a start, *Lessee shall use and occupy the Leased Premises in the manner and for the purposes described in the General Development Plan...* Such language appears unambiguously to incorporate the GDP as part of the terms of the Lease between City and State. Lawyers may one day play games with the language, but on the face of it, the GDP’s elevation to status of binding covenant seems clear.

Excerpts from three sections appear to make the definition and destiny of Southpoint clear:

The public facilities are... public open spaces... a Waterfront Promenade suitable for use by emergency vehicles... Open Space Areas to be developed as parks... The Open Space Areas will be developed to serve residents of the City as a whole, as well as the residents of the Island.

The Open Space Areas are: ... Southpoint Park, approximately ten acres south of Goldwater Memorial Hospital at the south end of the Island, containing three landmarks, the Strecker Laboratory, the main building of the old City Hospital and the former Small Pox Hospital.

Attorneys Robert Chira and James Kaufman provided assistance in preparation of these articles, as did Linda Heimer. Kaufman and Heimer are members of the Common Council of the Residents Association.

The Contenders – What Are Their Chances?

When Attorney Barbara Gordon Espejo calls the GDP a “loose collection of ideas,” the phrase seems intended to suggest that there are obvious gaps open for the insertion of other, newer ideas – ideas more in line with the present development-driven disposition of RIOC. But it has become something of a mantra, as well, as though repetition by those in the power structure – and it is being repeated – can imbue it with credibility and paint the GDP itself as needing an injection of present-day thinking.

It seems clear that Attorney Espejo’s assignment is to find a path through the GDP for RIOC President Jerry Blue, and perhaps for the RIOC Board, and then for the developers of choice. Whether she can find a clear path may depend on the resources and resolve of those who see the GDP differently – as an impassible barrier to any development not specifically anticipated when the Lease and GDP were created.

As the language of the Lease specifies, any disagreement about the use of Roosevelt Island’s land is to go to arbitration. But for that to happen, at least one of the the signatories – City or State – must identify a dispute and act on it. Arbitration doesn’t just happen; it must be invoked.

That’s where City Councilmember Gifford Miller comes in. Islanders opposed to a taking of most of Southpoint for a commercial hotel and conference center look to him to bring the City’s legal forces to bear against the twin 25-story towers – to have those forces defend Southpoint.

But there are complications. The Lease mentions the *Board of Estimate* as a City entity that must assent to changes in the Lease or GDP. When the Board of Estimate was eliminated a few years ago, some of its functions fell to the Mayor, some to the City Council. Nobody’s dead certain about where this matter would

See **Words**, page 3

See **Forces**, page 3

Again, Mayor Cuts AVAC

For the second City budget in a row, Mayor Rudy Giuliani has cut funds for operation of AVAC, the Island’s system that transports refuse underground to a central point where it is compacted and prepared for off-Island disposal.

The system allows the Island to avoid heavy garbage-truck traffic, as well as dumpsters on Main Street. At Wednesday night’s RIRA Common Council meeting, Ron Schuppert pointed out that without the AVAC system, the Island would acquire an immediate sanitary and health problem, with garbage stored in buildings and on the street.

The Common Council unanimously voted a resolution urging the Mayor to restore the AVAC system to the City budget, pointing out that the AVAC system is less costly than the standard alternative of City garbage trucks making periodic collections. The Council urged residents to write letters to the Mayor at City Hall. (Related editorial, page 2.)

Eastwood Beats Rent Hike; Rivercross Gets 4% Boost

DHCR has denied a rent increase for Eastwood residents, and approved a maintenance increase for Rivercross.

Eastwood

The Eastwood Building Committee (EBC) beat back a management request for a rent increase from \$191.93 per room to \$211.59/room at a hearing February 11. Ron Vass of the Committee credited “the finest oral presentation in years” by EBC’s accountant, Jeff Resnick, and the skills of Doryne Isley and Thelma MacIntosh, who head the management team for Eastwood, Westview, and Island House.

In an announcement to residents, EBC called on residents to attend its next meeting (Thursday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.) to vote for officers and join a campaign to improve Public Safety performance in the building.

Rivercross

Rivercross, meanwhile, was granted a 4.09% maintenance increase after DHCR reviewed a Board request for 5.5%.

The increase had been opposed by a group asking for higher surcharges on residents whose income exceeds DHCR guidelines. DHCR responded by giving the Board six months to come up with a recommendation on a change in the surcharge schedule. The cooperative imposes a maximum of 10%.

The group is reportedly planning legal action to force DHCR to bring Rivercross in line with other Mitchell-Lama buildings of the Rivercross type, all of which impose legal-maximum 50% surcharges on all residents who opt not to provide proof of income. (Related letter, page 2.)

Tram Operator Suspended After Incident with Student

Tram operator John Rivera was suspended last week after an altercation with a 14-year-old student who had forgotten his Tramway pass.

According to the boy, whose mother has asked that his name be withheld, he was forced to wait an hour in the cold while his 13-year-old sister brought him money to purchase a token. “He came out of the booth and tried to pull her out,” the boy told *The WIRE*, indicating that Rivera expected the sister to pay a return fare. In response, the boy reported passing a crude remark to Rivera, after which, “He attempted to grab me and scratched me. The second time, he grabbed my neck and started choking me.” The boy reported his sister was terrified and in tears.

The siblings reported the matter to their parents and a complaint was filed with the 114th Precinct.

In a conversation with *The WIRE*, Rivera denied touching the sister, and said the first physical contact with the boy occurred when the boy grabbed his arm. He admitted, “I grabbed his shirt,” but denied choking the boy. Rivera has filed a statement with Tramway management.

Pages of Thought and Opinion

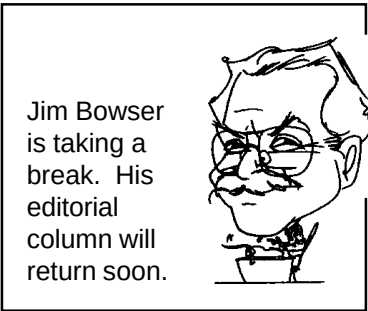
RIOC's Sell-Out Math

If you've ever wondered about the value the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation places on you, as a resident, its recent actions provide a useful guide.

RIOC President Jerry Blue is pushing a proposal to convert the riverfront minischools into expensive condominiums in a project that would provide RIOC with income of \$250,000 a year. Trouble is, they'd add a second floor and degrade the view from several apartments in Rivercross, Island House, and Westview.

One knowledgeable observer has put the number of apartments whose views would be adversely affected at a minimum of 16, observing that 16 wealthy newcomers would gain views at the expense of 16 existing resident families.

If you do the math, you'll know the price at which RIOC is willing to sell you out: \$250,000 divided by 16 (or more) puts the value of all your apartment's occupants, in Jerry Blue's eyes, at a total of \$15,625 a year. Maximum.



Those 100 Families

Of late, much has been made of "the 100 Families." Some time ago, RIOC Board member David Kraut spoke of them in a *WIRE* guest-shot as the key residents who are concerned, active, involved – as the people who care enough to put some of themselves into the Island's future.



Ed Rademaker, as part of his overall charge of racism levied against all who oppose Jerry Blue's mismanagement at RIOC, somehow transmuted these solid citizens into a wilful group with selfish motives. In *The New York Times*, he accused them of being "educated," among other offenses.

There are far more than 100, of course, but if Rademaker wants to turn involvement and caring into a sin, let us all become part of this band of 100 sinners, and soon. The invisible badge of the *Roosevelt Island 100* can be worn with pride.

AVAC Redux

Once again, Mayor Rudy Giuliani has pulled the budgetary plug on Roosevelt Island's garbage-disposal system. Without AVAC, we'd soon have a rat problem, as garbage accumulated in buildings, then on the street, waiting for the traditional kind of pickup by truck that serves the rest of the City.

With AVAC, we have a lower-cost system that's quiet (no garbage trucks on Main Street), less smelly, safer, and esthetically suited to the Island.

Giuliani, who's had a year to learn why it was a bad idea to cut AVAC from the budget last year, needs to hear from Islanders: Call **788-9600**, then key 1 to record your view; or fax him at 406-3587. The mailing address is City Hall, New York, NY 10007.

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Letters

To the Editor:

If we want to stop these school condominium conversions we'd better do something right now. This is a train heading straight down a railroad at 100 miles an hour. RIOC is ready to sign this deal in the next few days and if we don't stop it now, construction will begin. Once construction starts, our ability to stop the project is significantly reduced and even if we do stop it, there will be construction equipment left around, buildings partially demolished, concrete forms put up and left in place, etc., all until the case is finally resolved.

The only way to solve this problem is litigation. Wringing of hands at town meetings, telling developers they're not welcome, and asserting that our rights will somehow be abridged does no good. Nobody cares about the first and third ones and if developers only developed where they were welcome the earth would be a desert.

We need a legal defense fund right now. It should contain enough

money to enlist the services of one of the top legal real estate firms in New York, preferably one who works for one of the major real estate organizations like Trump, Macklowe and others. These guys know their business and can file a suit on grounds that the courts will consider reasonable. If the courts believe we have a reasonable chance of prevailing in the law suit, they may choose to issue an injunction which will stop construction until the case is adjudicated. This could mean a delay of as much as two years, during which time we can get other ammunition together to fight this.

Consider what will happen if we don't. RIOC and the developer say that 16 apartments will have their views affected "in some way." A simple walk down the West promenade shows anyone how nonsensically low that number is. Most important of all, whatever the number is, those people will have their views changed for the worse. In compensation for that reduction in

view these people will get absolutely nothing, ever. In addition to that, if anybody thinks the promenade will still be around as we know it today they better get a reality check. RIOC will simply redefine the promenade as the narrow area running directly along the river. They'll then redefine the upper promenade (the roadway) as having always been designated for vehicular traffic but simply not used because the need wasn't there. Bottom line: Welcome condos, goodbye promenade.

This whole thing has no merit but will *absolutely happen* starting within the next 30 days if we don't do something legal right now.

I'm pledging \$500 to get it started. By the way, my apartment isn't even in the line of sight that's going to be affected but lots more of you who don't realize it are going to be negatively affected in a big way for the rest of the time you live here.

Let's act now before it's too late.
Name Withheld by Request

Richmond McCurnin
Assistant Commissioner, DHCR
Dear Mr. McCurnin:

As up-the-street neighbors of Rivercross, we were shocked to learn (via the article in the March 12 *Main Street WIRE*) of the limits placed on surcharges. As the representative tenant organization for Westview and Island House, we are unclear as to why Rivercross has not been following surcharge procedures set forth by the Private Housing Finance Law (PHFL). There are many residents in our buildings, too, whose income places them above the financial parameters for occupancy in our buildings. Through the collection of and scrutiny of income affidavits, these renters are surcharged to the maximum allowable by PHFL. Obviously, these charges are then reflected in the total income of the building. Is there a particular reason that different guidelines are in place for the operation of Rivercross? Are we not all middle-income Mitchell-Lama housing projects? Is there a significant difference, regarding the application of surcharging procedures, between rental and cooperative buildings?

We recognize the efforts DHCR made to assist our buildings to become Mitchell-Lama the way it "ought" to be, and trust the agency's knowledge and expertise to resolve these issues in Rivercross.

Audrey Berman, Chair
Westview/Island House Task Force

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 wordprocessing 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.**



Voices for Self-Governance at the Maple Tree Group's recent classical vocal concert included, rear: Gregorio Rangel, Lorraine Davidson, Anastasia Ponomarev, Craig Tessler; middle row: Linda Richter, Sherie Helstien, Trudy Wodinsky; front: David Mayfield (pianist), George Maldonado. Helstien, a Manhattan Park resident, organized the concert.

Singers Boost Self-Governance Fund; Auction Fund-Raiser Seeks Donations

The Island's Maple Tree Group is putting together a goods and services auction as a follow-up fundraiser to its concert three weekends ago. The group is taking donations of services as diverse as two hours of grocery shopping, culinary services, babysitting; and

goods of all kinds: Exercise machines, homemade pillows, furniture, and more. The auction is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 23. Donations and pledges are being taken by Vicki Feinmel at **223-1108**, Sherie Helstien at **935-7534**, or Fay Vass, **755-4089**.

History and Social Studies were my least favorite subjects throughout my education. It wasn't until I had to teach them as part of an elementary school curriculum that, in making them interesting for my students, they became interesting to me. It is one of life's ironies that years later, I would seek and welcome the role of Vice President Government Relations on the RIRA Common Council, thereby becoming immersed in government, politics and perhaps even helping to alter the course of history a little – Roosevelt Island history, that is.

Thorndike Barnhart tells us that *government* is “the ruling of a country, state, district, or other area; *direction* of the affairs of state... a *system* of ruling.” According to the RIRA constitution, I and the committee I chair are responsible for establishing and maintaining ongoing relations with local, state, and federal officeholders.

Consequently, I see my committee's role as not only communicating with government officials, but also joining with others to try to influence direction and governmental policy – even *change* the system to represent the best interests of Roosevelt Island and its residents. To that end, most of my communications of late

have regarded the State's planned development of the Island and the issue of self-governance.

One of the rewards of the job is working with responsive and dedicated elected representatives. U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney has long been an active advocate for the Island. She served on RISC (Roosevelt Island Safety Coalition), the group I put together in 1993. Her influence helped us obtain the cameras and annunciators now operating in our two local subway stations. More recently, she and City Councilmember Gifford Miller, along with Assemblymember Pete Grannis, have met with RIOC President Jerome Blue on several occasions to ask that he be more responsive to the community. They have protested the State's zero appropriations of funds to the Island and have lobbied for appropriate use of Southpoint parkland.

If Roosevelt Island had a Hollywood-style walk of political fame, Gifford Miller's footprints would be all over it. He has done much for us and now, in his new seat on the City Council's Land Use Committee, he is determined to avoid inappropriately grandiose commercial development of Southpoint.

Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields is just getting to know the complexity that is Roosevelt Island. She attended the February Town Meeting on development sponsored by Gifford Miller, and has promised to work with our other elected officials on why the services we receive are not in line with the taxes we pay.

Pete Grannis would probably have a bodyprint on the Island's walk of fame. He, Tony Morenzi, Peter Newell and the rest of Pete's staff have put in countless hours on self-governance for Roosevelt Island. Pete has introduced legislation that will give us truly representative governance of the Island, and replace political appointees with professional municipal management. In February, RIRA passed a Resolution to actively support the Grannis Bill – obviously responding to the overwhelming vote in favor of it on last November's ballot question.

State Senator Olga Mendez has also pledged her support for self-governance legislation. We're grateful, and we're counting on her influence to garner votes for the bill in the State Senate.

Meetings with DHCR Commissioner Joseph Lynch have been fruitful, as well, and we continue to look to him for guidance regarding the State's perspective.

As we work on issues of importance to the Island, RIRA's Government Relations Committee is making contact with Senator Charles Schumer's office, as well as that of NYC Comptroller Alan Hevesi. If anyone can provide entree to other government officials you think could be helpful or to pro bono legal assistance, please leave a note for me at the Rivercross door station.

We're grateful for the support of all our elected officials. Unfortunately, much of the power they would normally bring to bear for us is lost in the present system in which RIOC and the State can and do make decisions that affect our lives with little concern for the views of our elected representatives – or, for that matter, the elected Common Council of the Residents Association.

On TV recently, Governor George Pataki expressed support for small government and communities run by the people. The test will be to see if that support extends to Roosevelt Island, because he might soon have a bill before him that will challenge the State to give us just that. Roosevelt Islanders deserve to have democracy and not to be just a profit-making enterprise for the State of New York.

I wish to thank my Government Relations Committee for their ongoing efforts and my fellow residents for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I will continue to do so until the end of my term or until events unfold here that prove our fight for democracy has been worthwhile. Ten years from now, I hope I will be able to say, “I really love history – Roosevelt Island history, that is.”

Words from page 1

Lighthouse and Southpoint Parks at the ends of the Island will offer sitting and picnic areas at the edge of the water. Other parks will be landscaped to enhance existing topography and growth. The letter of this provision can be met in any hotel development, of course; the GDP doesn't explicitly forbid other uses.

And for good measure: *The entire waterfront of the Island will be reserved for pedestrians and cyclists on a Waterfront Promenade suitable for use by emergency vehicles.* (This latter might serve to protect the promenade from conversion to private parking or access if the minischools condos are built and sold – but only if a party with standing makes the case.)

In a common-sense reading, it's clear the Lease and GDP contemplated an Island more for people than for commerce – that those who created it were creating a haven. But it's slight ambiguities could become major loopholes in litigation. Attorney Jim Kaufman says, on the other hand, that “There's enough language in there to provide a significant comfort level for a plaintiff in an injunctive action.”

And some important language regarding possible disagreements: *In the event of any dispute with respect to any matter in this Lease, such dispute shall be determined in the City of New York by arbitration...*

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 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, 8:00 p.m. Reservations, information: **371-4449**.

Fri.-Sat., Apr. 23-24, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Apr. 16; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Apr. 19; bag materials due Apr. 21. **Future issues:** May 8 (Mother's Day issue), May 22; June 12 (Father's Day issue); July 3 (Fourth of July/Fireworks/Business cards issue), July 31; Aug. 28 (Labor Day/Back-to-School issue); Sept. 11 (Rosh Hashanah issue), Sept. 25; Oct. 9, Oct. 23 (Halloween issue); Nov. 6, Nov. 20 (Thanksgiving/Business Cards issue); Dec. 4, Dec. 18 (Christmas/New Year issue); Jan. 8, 2000; Jan. 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**.

Thur., Apr. 29, Former Mayor David Dinkens and Assemblymember Pete Grannis will be co-**Principals for a Day** at PS/IS 217.

Wed., May 5, 7:30 p.m., Meeting of the **Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Wed., May 5, 8:00 p.m., Energetic Healing Course, Westview Community Room, 625 Main Street. (First Wednesdays each month through August.)

Thur., May 6, 7:00 p.m., RIOC Evening Board of Directors Meeting.

Sun., May 23, Auction on the River, goods and services auction to raise funds for self-governance effort.

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 **Putting on a Show**, Play-Comedy Workshop (every Mon. & Fri.)
12:45 **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

Tuesdays

9-10 **Korean/English Class**
1:30 **Bingo and Games**

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

10:00 **Tai Chi**
12:30 **Movie**

Fridays

10:00 **Creative Arts**
10:00 **English as 2nd Language** (conversation)
10:00 **Blood Pressure Screening** (to 11:30)
12:30 **Putting on a Show**, Play-Comedy Workshop

Special Events

Mon., Apr. 12, **MetroCard Bus**, 10:00-12:00
Tue., Apr. 13, **Free Tax Counseling**, 10:00
Tue., Apr. 13, **General Meeting**, 8:00 p.m.
Wed., Apr. 21, **Atlantic City Trip** (RISA)
Thur., Apr. 22, **Beauty Workshop**, 12:30
Fri., Apr. 23, **Volunteer/Birthday Party**, 12:30
Mon., Apr. 26, **MetroCard Bus**, 10:00-12:00
Wed., Apr. 28, **Medication Safety Lecture**, 12:30



Linda Heimer

Forces Contend on the Island's Future from page 1

fall, and the Council might be reluctant to test the matter – and possibly sustain a loss of power, perhaps even setting some dreaded precedent.

Attorney and long-time resident Robert Chira believes a court might readily see that, in originally specifying approval by the Board of Estimate, the Lease was calling for involvement of a legislative body, not just the Mayor. There's no predicting what would happen in a courtroom, however, and Espejo claims the Mayor alone has acted for the City in some past modifications of the GDP.

And the City Law Department is traditionally reluctant to take on battles it isn't reasonably sure it can win. Nobody yet has a reading on how much City Law would trust the Lease-GDP combination as the underpinning of a case.

But Gifford Miller is firm: “The GDP is part of the Lease,” he says. “If RIOC is to do something that is not contemplated as part of the GDP, they must seek an amendment to the GDP, which must be approved by the City of New York. Regardless of what [Espejo] says, that part is extremely clear.” Miller goes on to say, “The City Council is not likely to look kindly on taking space that was planned as open space – space that the State has had an obligation to develop as part of the plan – and turn it over to the highest bidder. We're talking about one of the most precious spaces left in the City of New York. The City has an absolute right and obligation to insure that this kind of extraordinary waste of public space doesn't happen.” Miller says taking Southpoint is every bit as unacceptable as doing the same thing to the Great Lawn or the Statue of Liberty. “This is an important pub-

lic space. The State's delay is no excuse for their destruction of Southpoint now.”

As determined as Miller is to prevent development that flies in the face of the GDP, to be effective in this cause he would have to bring the City Council along with him. As a member of its Land Use Committee, he may have the clout to do that. Then again, much could hinge on the willingness of the City Law Department to enter the fray actively.

A Role for Residents

Thus, residents who oppose commercialization of Southpoint – because they believe in the value of parkland, or because they fear the shift-change traffic such a hotel complex would generate, or for whatever reason – those residents may become a kind of first trip-wire of defense. They presumably would not be bound by the Lease terms providing for arbitration between the parties to the Lease, and could gain standing in court if operating out of a formal vote by the elected members of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA).

But litigation is costly. Many thousands of dollars are likely to be needed before such a battle is over, even if the only cost accumulates in expenses, as in a pro bono case. And the money for legal activity on the *other* side of such a battle is significant: Not only would the State be involved, but the potential Southpoint developer, SSJ, would have much at stake. For SSJ, big legal fees would be a minor tax-deductible investment in the overall scheme of things.

Could residents actually *win* if represented with some clever lawyering by the right firm? A careful

reading of the Lease and GDP suggests they could – even that it might be likely. But they might not have to win. Conceivably, delay could



Councilmember Gifford Miller

be a valuable weapon. A good lawyer, tossing tacks in the road, could slow down the development forces. With enough delay, there will be a new Governor in Albany, and perhaps a new set of priorities as regards development and parkland.

From the perspective of the GDP purists, then, there is a case to be made for a legal fund – money to fight, and maybe win – but certainly to delay.

As yet, RIRA has no litigation war chest, but Wednesday night its Common Council voted to establish one and raise funds.

For now, all the eggs are in another basket – relying on the City, Councilmember Gifford Miller, and an undetermined level of City interest in holding the State to the terms of its Lease for Roosevelt Island.



other
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Listen to what ROOSEVELT ISLAND RESIDENTS have to say about MONTAUK CREDIT UNION!

"MONTAUK CREDIT UNION is small with a personal atmosphere. There are no fees for a low balance in the savings account and no charges for checks."

-Ellen Levy

"I chose MONTAUK CREDIT UNION on Roosevelt Island because it's convenient to my home. MONTAUK C.U. offers greater banking privileges than other banks do. The staff is extremely courteous, knowledgeable, professional and most importantly, attentive to my banking needs. I deeply appreciate them and am glad I joined!"

-Bruce Bell

"MONTAUK C.U. has personalized service with a smile. It's convenient and has reasonable charges for services. It has a small-town banking atmosphere and the bank contributes to the community."

-Guy W. Midkiff

"Liberal checking and savings policy. Instead of bank charges, we get interest on our accounts. Professional and courteous attention to our banking needs. Convenience of cheerful banking on the Island!"

-Bernard Silverman

yet
^

IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER OF THE CREDIT UNION, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Montauk Credit Union – Your Financial Neighbor

559 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Phone (212) 643-3900, Fax (212) 588-1123

ALL MEMBER ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA

APARTMENT SHARE on Roosevelt Island

Share one furnished bedroom (or unfurnished bedroom) in 3-bedroom apartment – with 2 single adult female sisters in Westview. Huge, sunny bedroom: ceiling-to-floor window; huge closet. Great view of Manhattan and East River. Grass and trees right outside window. Own bathroom, utilities included. Females only – quiet, neat, non-smoking. We have a cat.

Rent range: \$800-\$900/month (negotiable).

Please call Janet or Jean on (212) 308-5167 7:30-9:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or after 11:00 a.m. or later on weekends. We have an answering machine.

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Accepting most major credit cards
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1163 2nd Av (betw. 61st & 62nd)
(212) 755-5559



J & M SHOE REPAIR

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Easter: A Celebration of the Season

Come celebrate with Music for the coming Millennium!

Join us for a special Musical Service, Sunday April 18th at 8:00 pm in the Main Chapel.
Our FIRST Ever Easter musical service will feature Choral Music by our specially expanded Choir as well as Congregational Hymn Singing.

Also, on Saturday April 17th, beginning at noon in front of the Church, we will be registering children for the Island's only Sunday School. Free prizes!

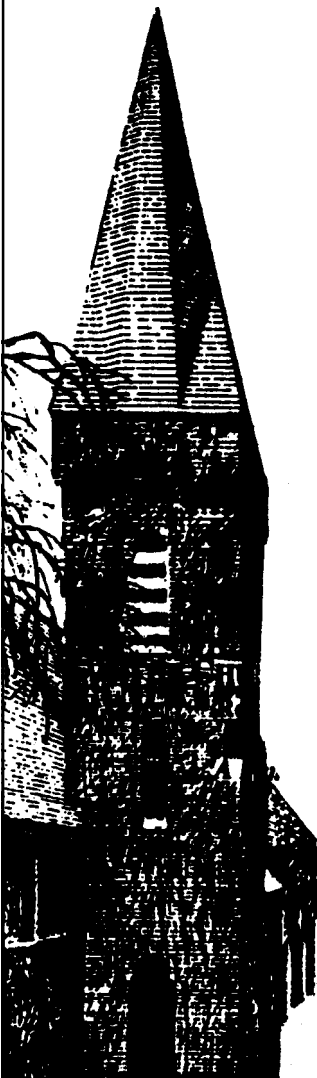
The Church of the Good Shepherd is a Protestant Ecumenical Episcopal congregation and a family of God for all believers and seekers. (That means that you do not have to be an Episcopalian, a Protestant or even a Christian to worship with us. We welcome all believers and seekers.)

Don't forget:

OUR MAIN MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS
SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:50 am with Vicar's Prayers.
The Main Service begins promptly at 10:00 am.

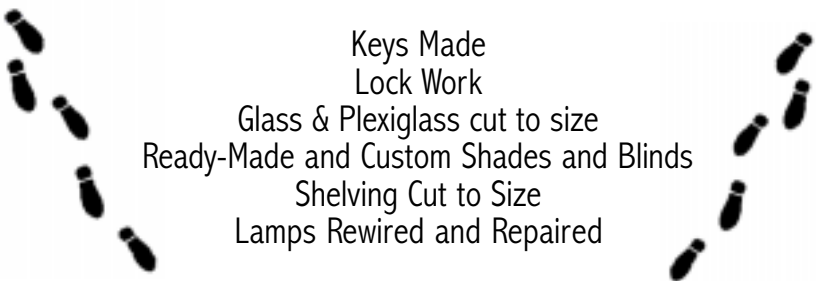
Every Tuesday at 8:00 pm our Bible Fellowship Study group meets, downstairs in the Oval Room. If you've always wanted to come to know your Lord better through the Bible, join us! No obligation.

FOR INFORMATION CALL (212) 486-0529
OLIVER T. CHAPIN, VICAR



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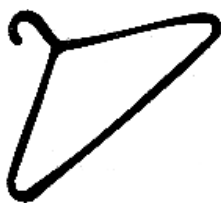
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ROOSEVELT ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY will meet April 14 at 536 Main Street Community Room at 7:45 p.m. Bring lots of B/W pictures, 5x7 or larger for handcoloring lesson. All welcome. For more information, call **752-5034**

NORDICTRACK PRO MODEL – Includes electronics package – \$750 list. Like new. Asking \$500 or best offer. Call Sherie or Matt, **935-7534**

ACUPUNCTURE on ROOSEVELT ISLAND – NYS license, treating low back pain, headaches, joint pain, anxiety, depression, menstrual/menopause symptoms, chronic asthma, gastrointestinal disorders, and more. Barbara Pittman **388-7313**

INDEPENDENT BROKERS NEEDED – Show people how to save up to 80% on dental work. This is not insurance. Incredible Home-Based business. Call **800-675-5155**, access code **01**.

DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER on ROOSEVELT ISLAND – Position available, 30 hours daytime, no weekends, long term. Must be friendly, competent and computer literate. Call Dr. Itskowitch at **752-9758**

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

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

CAT SITTER available on RI. My home or yours. References provided. Eugenie (212) **223-0157**

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

EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING – Prompt service. (212) **935-7510**. Beeper 1-917-483-1020

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

BURN CALORIES – Sierra Aerobic Conditioner (same idea as Nordic Track). Includes electronic motivator (tracks miles, calories burned, speed, etc.). Sturdy, folds away neatly. Little-used. Originally \$500. Asking \$125 or b/o. **832-3456**

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Mussels	Cooked Shrimp	Striped Sea Bass
Lobster Tail	Flounder	Trout
Lobster meat	Whiting	Sea Trout
Oysters	Sole	Catfish
Conch meat	Salmon	Kingfish
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Sun. – 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Service to and from anywhere - Manhattan & Queens our specialty

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Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff

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SWING!

Our annual Spring Gala is on

Saturday, April 17 7-11 p.m.



\$20 Cover



Solid entertainment



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Rug cuttin'



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Come spin a honey & knock back a beer- proceeds provide scholarships and equipment. So bring your crazy baby or come solo... you're so money, man!

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the video store,
under the red awning.



For more
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371-4449

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Allergist

501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Tuesday • 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

***Do not wait until last minute for camp check-up.
Please make your appointment now.***

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed,
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Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

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32B-J Members

Dr. Resnick is on the
panel of the Building
Services Health Fund.
Call the Fund at (212)
388-3900 to schedule
your first appointment

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Family.

Come on in.

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Caterina

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SPORTSWIRE

WIRE sports reporter position *still* open

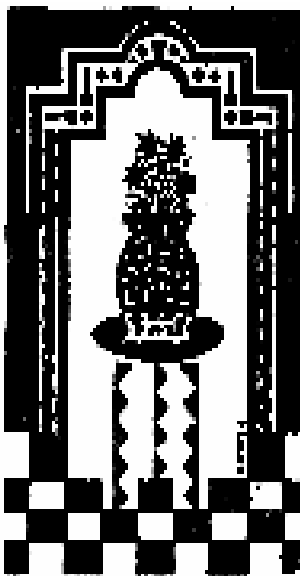
If you're interested in handling this valuable volunteer contribution to the Island community, or would like to propose a candidate, please call **826-9055**.

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Carpentry
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Closet Design

Ellen Levy
Interior Decorator
531 Main Street

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page 8 to come
from RIYP