

Next issue:
June 11-12

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044

Mayor Giuliani: *I'd Be Happy to Work With You to Liberate Roosevelt Island*



Mayor Rudy Giuliani came to Roosevelt Island for a Town Hall Meeting Thursday night. He seemed to enjoy thoroughly his role as ringmaster, fielding a variety of questions from Island residents and passing them on to his entourage of two dozen commissioners and aides. Though he expressed sympathy with a number of the concerns raised by Islanders, he had few solutions for the Island's problems, pointing out repeatedly that the State of New York, not the City of New York, is in control here. Nonetheless, he toyed with the idea of taking over from the State, asking Residents Association President Patrick Stewart, "What would it take for the City to take over complete jurisdiction?"

"That is my dream," Stewart said. "I would like to be able to say to the citizens of Roosevelt Island that we are in discussions with the City about returning to the City, where we should be in the first place." Before asking Stewart to discuss the matter with his Corporation Counsel, the Mayor asked Stewart, "If there were a petition drive...?" "I could get 6,000 signatures," Stewart responded, and the audience applauded the exchange. Neal Weissman, an 18-year resident, asked the Mayor outright, "When are you going to do your part to get rid of Dr. [Jerome] Blue [President of RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation]?" Giuliani responded, "I can't solve these problems for you. That's a decision made by the Governor. The City should have more control over the property... When it doesn't, the government is too far away and it doesn't make much sense." He went on to compare his lack of power over Roosevelt Island matters with his lack of control of the City's school system.

Public Safety

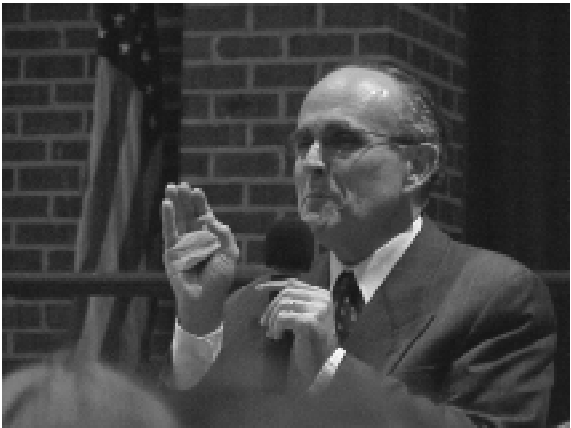
The Mayor seemed even less eager to deal with the matter of crime and policing, however. When a member of the Common Council of the Residents Association, Linda Heimer, said, "We feel like orphans here. I hope you can adopt us on at least some of these issues." As she started talking about Island crime, the Mayor interrupted her: "The one thing I know about our crime

statistics," he said, "is that crime is down here." When he added, "Maybe it isn't being reported to us," the audience applauded to indicate he'd hit upon the reason for low crime statistics. Giuliani went on to quote statistics indicating reductions in murder, burglary, robbery, grand larceny, a 15.9 percent reduction in major felonies. "I think you may be saying that to me to get some attention," he concluded.

But residents weren't about to let the Mayor – or Public Safety – off that hook. On statistics, Heimer said, "There is some fancy footwork being done [on reporting]." Dierdre Breslin related an incident in which, one day after she reported being mugged, there was no record of her report. Byron Gaspard and Heimer spoke of drug dens in Eastwood, Gaspard saying, "We have apartments selling drugs. We have drug-related crimes. Whoever is giving you those statistics is not telling you the truth."

Southpoint

Longtime resident Shirley Margolin raised the question of Southpoint development. "We are very concerned that the Roosevelt



Island Operation Corporation is about to hand over Southpoint to Marriott and SSJ," she said, and Giuliani asked her to step up to have a conversation with Parks Commissioner Henry Stern.

On other development, Housing Management Chief Doryne Isley asked the Mayor about the mini-schools, which RIOC wants to turn over for development into two-story condominium residences. "I really don't understand why, when the mini-schools are going to be needed by the Board of Education, they would be turned over," Giuliani offered little hope: "I don't get to run the School System," he said, adding, "It's not a Mayoral agency. You've got to go tell Rudy Crew. I can't give you any confidence that I can solve it for you."

Isley also asked about the Island AVAC garbage-removal system, See **Mayor**, page 4

Angelino Hopes To Vote On Minicondos June 22

It appears the RIOC Board's Committee on Planning and Development may vote on the proposed conversion of Manhattan-side mini-schools into two-story condominiums in time for the matter to come before the RIOC Board at its July 8 meeting. At a meeting of the committee this week, its Chair, Frank Angelino, told members that he hopes to take a vote June 22. According to those attending the Tuesday night meeting, it appears the committee could tie, or vote its OK for the project when it meets June 22. A question of whether the RIOC Board's original conditional selection of developer Diane Wilson for the project was invalid because the original presentation did not mention a second-floor addition, was answered by RIOC attorney Bar-

bara Espejo, who said the original conditional selection covered the possibility of an added story. The point is controversial because the RIOC Board's original resolution contained specific language accepting the structures as proposed at that time. The resolution read, in part, "Having reviewed the Environmental Assessment Form prepared by... Warren & Panzer... the Directors hereby find, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, that the proposed actions will have no significant impact on the environment, and accordingly, that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared." The Environmental Assessment on which the resolution is based, in turn, answers "no" to several questions that might have See **Minicondos**, page 6

RIRA Urges Surcharge Parity at Rivercross

After an hour-long debate and Q-A session Monday night, the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) passed a resolution urging that the cooperative's surcharge schedule be brought into line with that imposed on residents of Westview, Island House, and Eastwood. In the debate, John Weatherhead, President of the Rivercross Board, and Fran Dym, Chair of the building's Committee for Maintenance and Privatization Fair Play, argued opposite sides. The Council's vote favored a modified form of a resolution proposed by Dym, 15 to 0, with 3 abstaining. The resolution has no legal effect. The State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) is currently considering a revised surcharge schedule for Rivercross, but is said to be holding a decision until after a Board of Directors election to be concluded Tuesday (May 25). All current members of the Board are running for reelection. There are five challengers, all of whom have become identified in some measure with the Fair Play Committee's position. In the debate Monday night, Weatherhead referred to the group as a "slate" put forward by Dym; See **Rivercross**, page 6

Oak Soon Hong Honored in Korea

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

"They were surprised that I was still alive," laughed Oak Soon Hong, Roosevelt Island's 82-year-old Senior, when asked about her recent three-day visit to Korea, her native country, to be honored at the 50th-anniversary celebration of the Korean National Nurses Association. On April 27, she was discovered, invited, and, four days later, she was flying to Seoul, where she was acclaimed and honored as the first Chief of the Korean government Ministry of Health's Bureau of Nursing Affairs, as well as the organizer and first president of the Korean Nurses Association. It was only in 1948 that Korea had become independent. Before 1945, the country had been under strict Japanese control. "Those were difficult times," Hong recalled. "We were punished if we didn't speak Japanese even at home and we were all given Japanese names. Mine was changed to Yoshi-ko Songko. But despite the repression, they couldn't stifle Korean longing for freedom." In 1949, as the 31-year-old Chief, she led the Korean National Nurses Association in becoming a member



of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). "We had lots of help from the American Military Government in Korea," Hong conceded, "especially from Mildred Lucka, who was our American Advisor. There was so much hardship after the war, but she was the one who helped me bring our professional nurses up to higher nursing standards. It was really such a proud moment when, at the 1949 ICN Congress in Stockholm, the Korean flag, carried by our nurses,

was for the first time presented to an international organization." It was the 50th anniversary of that event that was celebrated on May 3, 1999, in Seoul, South Korea. "It was so very exciting for me, I got quite emotional at times," confessed Hong. "But I was surprised that I was the only person at the flower-bedecked headtable who was dressed in a traditional Korean outfit. All of the distinguished ministers and guests, including the current ICN President from Denmark, were in Western clothes. I don't think there are many people in South Korea today who remember much about their cultural heritage. They all seem to be reaching for the Western way of doing things." When asked whether she gave a speech, her eyes twinkled and she said: "I felt like I came from another planet, everyone in the audience was so very young. I told them how I had watched the Korean Nurses Association grow and then become a member of the ICN fifty years ago. Then I suggested to the audience that for the next 50 years the Korean Nurses Association's growth and development were going to be their responsibility."

The Mayor’s Island of Opportunity

Imagine yourself as the Mayor of New York City, a regular guy named Rudy Giuliani. You have a reputation for getting things done, though with a hand just a mite high. Out there in the rest of the State, they think of you as just another part, albeit an important one, of the pure craziness that is Gotham-Gomorrah-by-the-Sea.

You’re in perpetual off-and-on conflict with the Governor, another regular guy who happens to be a member of your party. And you want to run for the U.S. Senate.

Let’s see: What can you do to look good out there in Watertown, Dunkirk, Brocton, Silver Creek, and Jamestown? Here’s a thought:

How about standing up to the Governor by pre-empting one of his own campaign planks – parkland. Challenge the administration in Albany to use the most valuable remaining parkland in both City and State wisely. Tell him that Southpoint, far from becoming the home of a twin-tower hotel that would turn small-town Roosevelt Island into just another chunk of the overcommercialized Big Apple, should become a place of calm and contemplation for all the people of the City, the State, and the world.

What’s great about this is that you, as the Mayor of New York and the keeper of its treasures, have the power to make it stick. You have a Lease, a General Development Plan, and an Island of residents – all on your side.

Do this, and you can point to yourself as the small-town environmental candidate who saved one small town in the heart of your larger community from being overpowered by the actions of a runaway appointee of the Governor. And chances are the Governor, weary of his uncontrollable RIOCI President, will sign on quickly. He might even up the ante.

More important for you as a candidate and statesman-in-waiting, you improve your chances in the hundreds of towns and villages out there where people revere their parks. You’ll pick up some of the tree-hugger vote. *What an opportunity!*

You know what else? It just happens to be the right thing to do.

MetroOrphans

Joyce Mincheff reports that when Mayor Giuliani’s signers for the hearing-impaired left the Island Thursday night, they had a perplexing moment at the Tramway. “Where do we put our MetroCard?” asked one.

Joyce told them the Tramway is the only part of the City’s transportation system without MetroCard, and suggested they remind the Mayor of that.

The signers’ response: “That’s outrageous.”
How well we know.

DL



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Cash:
\$ 6,895
Pledges:
\$11,030
Total:
\$17,925

The Residents Association Legal Fund is growing. If your pledge or contribution is represented in the figures above, congratulations on exercising proactive citizenship through this important fund.



The need for the Legal Fund is illustrated by the RIOCI sleight-of-hand reported on page 1 of this *WIRE* – having gotten a go-ahead for minicondo development based on environmental claims about a one-floor conversion, RIOCI then proceeded to endorse a second-floor addition, its attorney claiming that the answers in an official Environmental Assessment still apply.

Given that RIOCI could vote a “go” on this project on June 10, immediate availability of significant funding to hire legal clout is critical.

So if you are not represented in the numbers above, just a reminder...



Letters

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, May 18, I was riding home from the subway on the #2 shuttle bus. We had a new driver, someone who was filling in, who drove relatively safely and slowly with a very packed bus. However, after he made the stop across from Westview, he took off and never observed any of the two or three stop signs on the way toward Gristede’s. He literally whizzed by them. As he approached Gristede’s, I suggested to him that he was supposed to stop at those signs, but I met with total silence. When he stopped at Gristede’s, I asked his name and again asked why he had not stopped at the signs. His response was not just total silence – he looked away from me, out his window. I informed him then that his non-response and his dangerous driving would be noted with RIOCI, Public Safety, and with the Manager at the garage.

When I got home, I called Public Safety. I told the officer on duty what had happened and that I wanted to file a complaint. His response was rather defensive. He said he would be unable to create a summons because one of the points on the document is that the officer filing the summons has to witness the grievance. I never asked for a summons; I made it clear to the officer that what I wanted was for an officer to get on this driver’s bus and reacquaint the driver with the rules of the road and see that he follow them. I also wanted the officer to inform the manager in charge at the garage of this driver’s arrogance and misbehavior behind the wheel.

A short time later, I walked over to the bus garage to speak with the Manager, who was quite courteous. He confirmed that he had indeed received a call from Public Safety about the driver. He said he had spoken to the driver. In the garage, I saw the driver on break, and asked his name once again. He responded by saying, “It is none of your damn business.”

I don’t wish to vilify this driver, whose name turned out be be Burt (not to be confused with one of

Your business card in the July 4 WIRE

See page 4

our long-time drivers of the same name) or cause him to lose his job. He was actually quite pleasant when we were all struggling to get onto a packed bus at the subway. I merely want him to be more aware of his responsibilities while driving on Main Street and to be clear about the hazards of driving through stop signs where kids are generally free, comfortable, and sometimes forgetful about darting out into the street.

I’d be interested in seeing if anyone else on a bus that this fellow is driving has experienced any similar behavior. I was told that my complaint had been logged.

Sherie Helstien

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) 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.**

Donation and Pledge Form

I pledge a total of \$_____ to SOS (Save Open Spaces), the Roosevelt Island Defense Fund. I will contribute as checked below.

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Please pledge what you can for the future: \$_____

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☐ monthly in 12 payments over the next year, starting (date) _____

☐ quarterly in 4 payments over the next year, starting (date) _____

Bill me at the address below.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Please check below any item that applies:

☐ I am willing to help solicit funds. Contact me to help.

☐ I prefer not to solicit funds, but I’d like to help in other ways. Contact me.

☐ Call me for another contribution if it’s needed.

Suggested pledge/contribution total is the equivalent of one month’s rent. Whatever you can afford, please give what you can now, and pledge what you can for the ongoing campaign. (Contributions are not tax-deductible.)

This form can be sent by mail to:
Roosevelt Island Defense Fund
PO Box 175
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Or drop off form & contributions at:
Montauk Credit Union
559 Main Street

One of the first things you learn in this job is that democracy is messy. If you want pure efficiency, you should definitely opt for a monarchy... or better yet, a police state.

The difficulty with democracy is that it necessitates listening to the other guy. What an inconvenience! Just as your mind is made up, firm as firm, here comes someone else with a differing point of view, and usually some bothersome facts supporting what she's saying. And when she's through, up pops another, who's coming at it from an entirely separate angle that you had innocently overlooked completely.

Some nights, most nights, it seems to take forever. Some nights I've noticed a tear in the eye of the recording secretary while she rubs her wrist. Some nights, I must admit, my fingers itch for the handle of the gavel, and I've been known to wander off in my mind's eye to the long distant past when those past Stewarts (undoubtedly those *other* Stewarts) were Kings of the realm, and had only to say, "Now, this is the way it's going to be."

And then I remember that the last one to wear that crown was be-headed for saying just that.

The problem is that nothing else but democracy ever really works in the long run, no matter how hard you try to get around it. Here in America, we're too used to the luxury of government with the consent of the governed to stand for anything else for long. On Roosevelt Island we can watch that working, not only ward to ward, as is done in the rest of the country, but literally building by building, neighbor electing neighbor to a Common Council that then commits to finding common solutions to our common problems.

Very seldom can RIRA declare a unanimous conclusion at the outset on any given matter. But even more seldom do we fail to reach a conclusion that all agree is the best solution given all the evidence we've heard. And never have we said, "Well it's clear we'll never reach an agreement, so let's all go home and let someone else worry about it."

Without question, my job is the easiest. It's always the Council members themselves who have done the time-consuming, yeoman-like work of gathering the facts, researching new material and old, chasing down City and State officials, meeting in committees, and then turning that work into a coherent presentation to convince their fellow Council members of the soundness of their conclusions.

Not one of them takes the job lightly. Not one of them says, "Let the other guy do it." And, most importantly, not one of them refuses out of hand to listen to an opposite point of view, no matter who is expressing

it. Which is why it works, and how it works.

Come to think of it, it may also be exactly the reason why the current management of RIOC is *not* working. No matter how often we make it patently clear to RIOC that the residents of Roosevelt Island will not simply sit

RIRA President's Column

back while some self-appointed royalist decides what he'd like to do with and to our community, RIOC still remains convinced they do not have to listen.

RIOC's three-year stymie is beginning to draw some attention, however. That very real stymie has cost the State of New York some very important revenue, and will cost it a great deal more before we've done. And there are people on the State level who are very much aware of that, simply because they are listening. In the end, I predict, the community's voice will be heeded, as it has with each and every prior management of RIOC.

RIOC likes to hand-pick five or six people, hold a meeting in their offices, and then claim they've had the input of the community. Well, it's just not that easy, as anyone who has ever participated in any public service will understand. Whether it's RIRA or the PTA or the Seniors Association, or the State Assembly, or the US Congress, consensus is not so easily reached, unless you're willing to live in a vacuum, or sacrifice the equal rights of your neighbors.

By the way, I've taken some heat lately because I was not willing to get behind the fund-raising campaign for a very necessary Legal Defense Fund for our upcoming battles, particularly over Southpoint. I simply do not believe it is right that RIRA ask you to part with your hard-earned money for this fund until the Common Council is ready to tell you exactly what we can do with this fund, what we plan to do with it and exactly why. And because democracy is messy, and sometimes slower than we all would like, the committees of the Common Council who are involved in this project have not yet finished the necessary extensive groundwork, legal and otherwise, that would allow us yet to spell out each of those details for you.

Because I am not a King, I cannot forbid others outside of RIRA to continue to solicit or collect contributions to this fund. They are being collected by well-meaning people with the best of intentions, who each have agreed that the fund will be solely in RIRA's control, and who sincerely believe that I am being over-scrupulous. Well, perhaps I am. Meanwhile, be assured that all money that has been collected to date is being held by RIRA in a secured account, and that it will not be spent until we have the community's agreement to do so.

Because that's the way it works, and that's what you put each of us onto the Common Council to do, and that's what we intend to do. RIRA's job is to work for the good of the community, the entire community, and, thanks to the dedication of the remarkable people you have sent to the Common Council, that job is being done tirelessly and thoroughly and with a commitment that will not rest until the job is done.



Patrick Stewart

Sunday Concert Will Be Tribute to Josephine Laudadio

A concert of new classical music will be dedicated to Josephine Laudadio on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The late manager of Rivercross had helped arrange for the performance of the music by a resident of the building, Michael Margolies.

The concert is free, performed by students of the Mannes College of Music.

Margolies, who is an English teacher, started writing music ten years ago. A former student, Renee Rodriguez, "discovered" him and was instrumental in having the National Guard commission some compositions. The U.S. Navy followed.

Rodriguez is producing the concert, which is coordinated by Marilyn Engstler, Housing Management's Director of Community Relations.



Margolies

Josephine Laudadio

The untimely death Friday, May 14, of Josephine Laudadio, a brilliant young rising star in management circles of New York real estate, has left a deep sense of sadness and loss in the Roosevelt Island community, where she had been the General Manager of Rivercross for the past two years.

Brian Peters, of Rose Associates, who had known and worked with Ms. Laudadio for over 6 years and was directly responsible for the position she held at her death, stated that she had tremendous potential in her field. A graduate of Brooklyn College and Cornell with degrees in Accounting and Property Management, she held high-level positions before coming to Roosevelt Island, including Account Executive with the Insignia Group, where she was directly responsible for over 900 apartments and 25,000 square feet of commercial space.

She is survived by her mother and two brothers, Michael and Frank. She was involved in the community life of Roosevelt Island and was considered a member of the family of the building she managed and the Island at large. Her loss was overwhelmingly mourned in a memorial service and funeral on Wednesday in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.



COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Sat., May 22, Mother Cabrini Flea Market, Good Shepherd Plaza.

Sat., May 22, 1:00 p.m., NY Junior Tennis League Family Carnival, Octagon Park courts. Free; everybody welcome.

Sun., May 23, 1:00 p.m., Senior Day at the Senior Center. Information, 750-3952.

Sun., May 23, 4:00 p.m., Spring Concert, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Classical compositions of Island resident Michael R. Margolies, performed by students of the Mannes College of Music, dedicated to memory of Josephine Laudadio. Admission free.

Tues., May 25, 7:00 p.m., Election of PTA Officers at PS/IS 217, and election of parent members of the School Leadership Team, a new group that will plan the school's educational programs.

Thur., June 3, 7:30 p.m., Roosevelt Island Greens spring meeting, Island House Community Room. Information: 838-8029.

Sat., June 5, 10:00 a.m., Spring Tree Walk, with State Forester Michael Curley and Maurice Bleifeld of the Roosevelt Island Tree Board, starting from the bell in Good Shepherd Plaza. Free.

Wed., June 9, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., June 10, 11:00 a.m., RIOC Board of Directors meeting. Members of the community may speak during the public session by registering in advance with RIOC, 591 Main Street.

Sat., June 12, Mother Cabrini Flea Market, Good Shepherd Plaza.

Fri.-Sat., June 11-12, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., June 4; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., June 7; bag materials due June 10. **Future issues:** 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, **317-8523**.

Sat., June 12, 7:00 p.m., Sensational Seniors Fashion Show, Senior Center, 546 Main Street. Refreshments and door prizes. Donation \$5. **750-3952**.

Sat., June 19, all day, Third Annual Roosevelt Island Day. Information, **838-4747**.

Wed., July 7, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., July 8, 11:00 a.m., RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Sat., July 17, Mother Cabrini Flea Market, Good Shepherd Plaza.

Sat., July 31, Mother Cabrini Flea Market, Good Shepherd Plaza.

Wed., August 11, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., August 12, 11:00 a.m., RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Sat., August 28, Mother Cabrini Flea Market, Good Shepherd Plaza

At the Senior Center Every week

Mondays

9:00 **Stay Well** (exercise)
10:00 **English as 2nd Language** (Beginner)
10:00 **Computer Class**
12:30 **Line Dancing** (*new*)
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)
12:30 **Games**
12:30 **Provocative Discussion Group**
(starts June 2)

Thursdays

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

Fridays

10:00 **English as 2nd Language** (conversation)
10:00 **Creative Arts**
10:30 **Blood Pressure Screening** (to 11:30)
12:30 **Line Dancing** (*new*)

Special Events

Sun., May 23, **Senior Day Celebration**, 1:00 p.m.

Thur., May 27, **Consumer Fraud Lecture**, 12:30 p.m.

Mon., May 31, **Memorial Day**, *closed*

Fri., June 4, **Fire Safety Lecture**, 12:30 p.m.

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

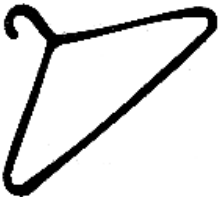
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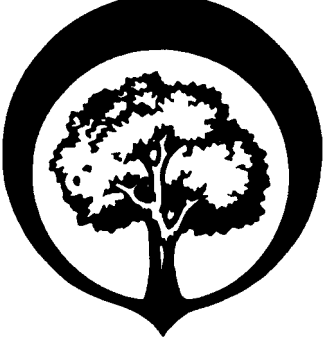

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Thank you for supporting *The Main Street WIRE*, Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper.

Spring Tree Walk June 5
A Spring Tree Walk scheduled by the
Roosevelt Island Tree Board for Saturday,
June 5, will feature healthy elm trees that are
considered endangered elsewhere in the
country because of Dutch elm disease. The
walk will start at 10:00 a.m. at the bell in
Good Shepherd Plaza, under the guidance
of State Forester Michael Curley, who will
identify the various trees along the route and
will elaborate on their ecological qualities.
Along the way, Maurice Bleifeld, Tree
Board Chair, will describe the process by
which the Island was awarded the Tree City
USA designation, by the National Arbor Day
Foundation, for the sixth consecutive year.
The Tree Walk is free.


TREE CITY USA®

Mayor from page 1
suggesting that this year, for the first time, the Island came closer than ever before to the
brink of losing the system and getting garbage trucks in its place. "It's going to stay in the
budget," the Mayor said. It's in the budget and it's not going to be taken out."
MetroCard
Rivercross resident Fran Dym asked the Mayor about MetroCard for the Tramway, and again
heard the Mayor point out that he lacks control of the relevant agency. "But we'll try to help you
out," he said. "We'll see what we can do with the MTA Board."
Landmarks
Judy Berdy, an officer of the Island's Historical Society, spoke of concerns about Blackwell
House and other Island landmarks she says are being neglected by RIOC. Giuliani's an-
swer once again dealt with his lack of power, as he quoted a memo from the relevant Com-
missioner: "The Landmarks Commission doesn't do restoring work. We can't really force
the State to do it. We can try to embarrass them into doing it."
"Can you shame them into doing it?" Berdy asked.
"Yes, we can. But that's why I think we should look into the City getting jurisdiction
again. I will see if we can put some effort into this."
The Mayor and Berdy had an amusing colloquy about Octagon Tower, and the fact that it
was part of the first "Lunatic Asylum" in the country. "That must have been before politi-
cal correctness and euphemisms," Giuliani said.
Mitchell-Lama
Several residents raised questions about possible Mitchell-Lama buy-outs, but the Mayor
said, "I'm not so sure we should [do something about buy-outs]. I'm not so sure they're
evading the law." The Mayor's Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner
told Byron Gaspard, "We think it will move slowly rather than faster. We think this is an
issue people need to keep a proper perspective on."
Governance
On the question of jurisdiction, Giuliani told Laurence Brodsky, "I'm very much in favor
of the City controlling our own destiny... Ultimately, you'll be better off when you can
touch it, scream at it, deal with it. The Commissioners are accessible... You're much better
off moving more of this back to the City. We'll try."
Malcolm Cohen told the Mayor, "What we're looking for here is democracy," and an
escape from the "bureaucratic quagmire" that is RIOC. The Mayor got his best laugh of the
evening when he responded, "I would be very happy to work with you to liberate Roosevelt
Island." He said he would put Corporation Counsel Mike Hess to work on the question.



other

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-Bruce Bell

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-Guy W. Midkiff

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-Bernard Silverman

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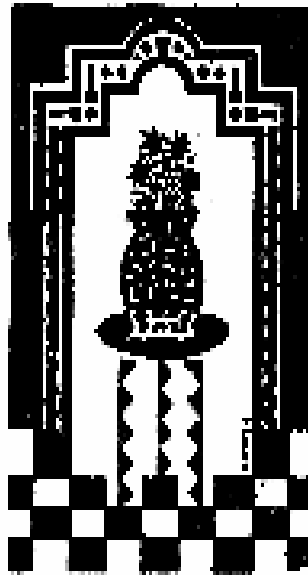
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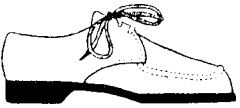
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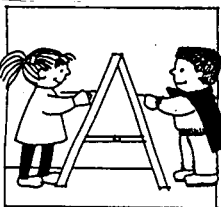
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Maple Tree Auction Raises \$3,447 for Self-Governance Push



Ron Roth and Ron Vass served as auctioneers as the Maple Tree Group (MTG) raised \$3,447 (and still counting) last week in its event at the Senior Center. The funds are to be used to advance the group's legislation, which seeks to replace Island management by non-resident Governor's appointees with a locally-elected Resident Board empowered to hire professional management. Vicki Feinmel, Sherie Helstien and Fay Vass organized the event with the help of a half-dozen other MTG members. The group meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at PS/IS 217.

Minicondos from page 1

been answered "yes," had a second floor been part of the original plan. Such questions include, "Will proposed action affect aesthetic resources?" The phrase, "affect aesthetic resources," is defined as including "the elimination or significant screening of scenic views known to be important to the area."

The Environmental Assessment, in which "no" answers are the basis for a decision to forego an Environmental Impact Statement, also asks, "Will proposed action affect the character of the existing community?" This is defined, in part, as including, "Proposed action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals," and, "Proposed action will set an important precedent for future projects." Those opposing the project have suggested that the addition to the Island of

residents able to purchase half-million-dollar condominium residences will affect the character of the community.

Espejo advised the committee that the "no" answers were accurate under procedures for preparing an Environmental Assessment.

In a drive to head off the addition of a second floor, or even a single-floor conversion of the schools, members of the Roosevelt Island community have sought alternative uses. Some have pointed out that the City school system is likely to need the classroom space when Southtown is completed, citing an April letter in which the School Construction Working Group and the Pratt Center say they are "very excited about the possibility that [the mini-school] space could be available" for classroom use.

The Angelino committee is scheduled to walk through the mini-schools Wednesday, June 2, as part of its advisory process.

Rivercross from page 1

Dym denied they are an organized slate, and most of the challengers professed independence in their candidacy statements.

For 20 years, the Rivercross surcharge schedule has scaled to a maximum of ten percent for cooperators whose income exceeds DHCR guidelines for Mitchell-Lama housing. Figures used by the building's Board of Directors in recent discussions put the number of apartment owners paying a surcharge at about 120 (out of 364 apartments). Of the 120, about half pay the maximum surcharge — either because their reported income exceeds the high end of the surcharge index, or because they opt not to provide certification of their income.

A two-bedroom apartment with four occupants or fewer, carrying maintenance charges of \$1,205 per month, is typically not surcharged until household income exceeds \$112,770. The maximum surcharge of ten percent is imposed only when income reaches 146 percent of that amount, or \$164,600. At present, the ten percent maximum surcharge results in a monthly maintenance bill of about \$1,330 for such an apartment; with a 50 percent cap, the same apartment on a maximum surcharge schedule would pay about \$1,800 a month.

The Fair Play committee contends that, when cooperators with the highest incomes pay surcharges limited to ten percent, the 40 percent they're not paying must be made up by higher maintenance charges on all apartments. Dym calculated that a recent maintenance increase of about four percent would have been unne-

cessary were the surcharge schedule consistent with practice in the rest of New York State.

While the Rivercross Board of Directors has indicated a willingness to increase the surcharge schedule (though not necessarily to a 50 percent maximum), it has contended that it is impossible to foresee the economic effect of higher surcharges, since some higher-income residents might move out if facing increased cost. Calling the issue "divisive" in Monday night's discussion, Weatherhead also cited the action by the Fair Play Committee as destructive to a "collegiality" enjoyed by the cooperative as a whole, and its Board, over the years.

The Fair Play committee had earlier raised an unrelated issue having to do with allocation of building shares, contending that small apartments carry a disproportionately high assignment of shares, while large apartments carry a disproportionately low number of shares. Because monthly maintenance is based on shares assigned to an apartment, the share allocations have a direct bearing on each cooperator's monthly costs.

The allocation issue is on a back burner for the moment, with the immediate contention centering on the surcharge issue. But Dym claims that the combination of share allocations and a low surcharge schedule puts an unfair burden on low-income residents, which she says is contrary to the intent of the Mitchell-Lama law. Board members have claimed that a low schedule of surcharges makes for stability in the building, keeping it attractive for higher-income shareholders, and that, after two decades of standing practice, higher-income shareholders should not be hit with a sudden, radical increase in surcharges.

SPORTSWIRE

by Ralph Hennen

BASEBALL Last Saturday morning (May 15), Harold Burrows led his Dodgers onto the field with a 5-0 standing. Down two pitchers and tired from Friday night's outstanding win, the Dodgers, with Lemar Burrows, Jose Marte, David Marcus and Eric Miranda pitching, managed to tie the game 6-6 against the Orioles.

Friday night, the Dodgers trounced Yorkville 5-0 with Roger Eckstein pitching 17 strikeouts, a near-shutout. The Orioles turned the tables in their second game of the doubleheader when they beat the Cardinals 5-1. Jovier Falcon pitched a near-shutout game, with only one run scored. Brandon Steuber and Gordon Williams showed strong batting skills as they helped bring the Orioles score to 5.

The "majors" standings are:

Orioles (Team 1)	2-3-1
Cardinals (Team 2)	0-5
Dodgers (Team 3)	5-0-1

In the "minors" the Dodgers beat the Brewers and the Orioles won over the Cardinals.

The "minors" standings are:

Orioles (Team 1)	3-0
Brewers (Team 2)	1-2
Dodgers (Team 3)	1-2
Cardinals (Team 4)	1-2



TENNIS Roosevelt Island's tennis season opened officially on May 1 with the start of Ladder play, a system in which players challenge others of a similar skill level, and climb or descend a playing ladder based on wins and losses. The top 20 ladder positions are currently held by:

Jan Buenner
Hanitra Rabeson
Michael Kolba
Carlos Braune
J.B. Jones
Rivo Rabeson
Jean Barut
Randy Lustig
Justin Rodriguez
Atul Gokhale
Nick Arvanitis
Paul Rechani
James Doran
Joern Kornhuber
Andrea Cuccolini
John Dougherty
Dick Fitzpatrick
Karin Jacobson
Arthur Alderman
Atsumi Kolba



Fidel Ramirez,
former Ladder Champ



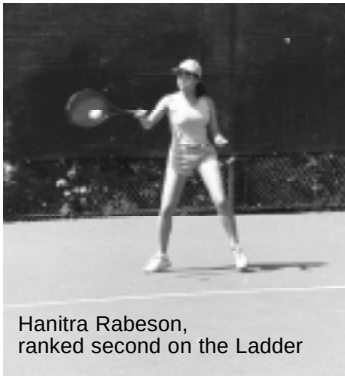
J.B. Jones,
ranked fifth on the Ladder

Ladder play leads up to trophy play in two classes (A and B) in the Fall.

For participants, Island tennis is a social experience, a learning experience, and a competitive challenge. The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association (RITA) organizes several outdoor tennis events for all levels of players, as well as holiday picnics and barbecues on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. The picnics are a chance for informal play against neighbors. They're free for RITA members and \$5 for non-members.

The club runs informal doubles matches Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Six courts are available seven days a week, sunrise to 11:00 p.m.

Play on the Octagon Park courts requires a permit available by application at the Public Safety office on Main Street. RITA membership is a requirement for the organized events, with a membership charge that covers trophies and the cost of social activities. For more information contact RITA President Jan Buenner at **469-3107** or Vice President Michael Kolba at **980-3811**.



Hanitra Rabeson,
ranked second on the Ladder

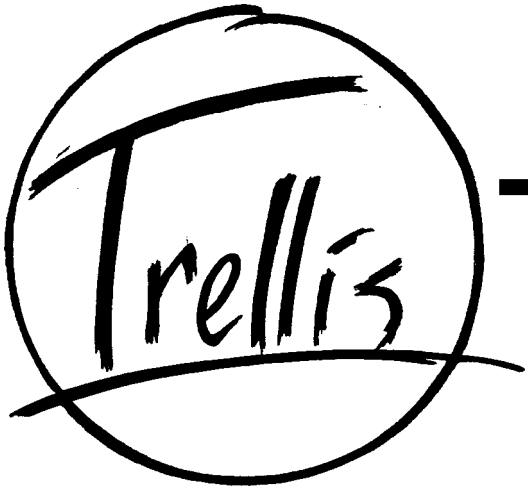
Junior Tennis Carnival Today

The second annual New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL) Family Carnival is set for 1:00 p.m. today (Saturday, May 22) at the Octagon Park courts.

Activities are planned that are intended to encourage newcomers, young and old, to the sport and give NYJTL participants a chance to show off their newfound skills for their families. Carnival-goers do not have to be NYJTL players to join in the fun.

Prizes for activities have been provided through the support of Assemblymember Pete Grannis and City Councilmember Gifford Miller. Use of the courts has been donated by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

The free NYJTL Spring and Summer tennis program for children 8 to 18 is held each weekday, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Pee-Wees, ages 6 and 7, play on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30. All programs are conducted at the Octagon Park courts.



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